

## Rotary Press Coil Waste

Starting in 1918, the Bureau saved pieces of printed and perforated web too short to use for making 1¢, 2¢, and 3¢ side coils. These pieces were separated initially into panes of 170, usually along the joint line between the two plates on the press. The exhibit includes three full panes of 170, with two of them showing the joint line in the middle of the pane, instead of at the edges. Later, coil waste was also issued as panes of 70 or 100, and the resulting straight edged plate blocks will be shown.

The printed web was already perforated 10 in the cross (vertical) direction, but horizontal perforations were added to the separated panes, using the normal flat plate perforators, which used 11 gauge perforations. For the initial issue of coil waste in 1919, the perforating machines were reset to have 11 perforating wheels, so that both top and bottom margins were perforated and still present. For later issues of coil waste (which continued until 1924), however, the perforators were not reset, and the standard arrangement for perforating sheet stamps (10 perforating wheels, a cutting wheel, and 10 more perforating wheels) led to removal of the bottom margin, leaving a straight edge. Alternatively, the pane was put through the perforator offset so that no perforations were in the bottom margins. Panes with all three types of bottom margin will be shown.

The Bureau also saved pieces of printed web from 1¢ and 2¢ coils that had no perforations. These were cut into panes and perforated 11 in both directions, starting in 1921.

Coil waste continued to be issued when the Washington-Franklin series was replaced by the fourth Bureau issue, with the last coil waste issued in 1924. Examples will be shown.





Bureau of Printing and Engraving

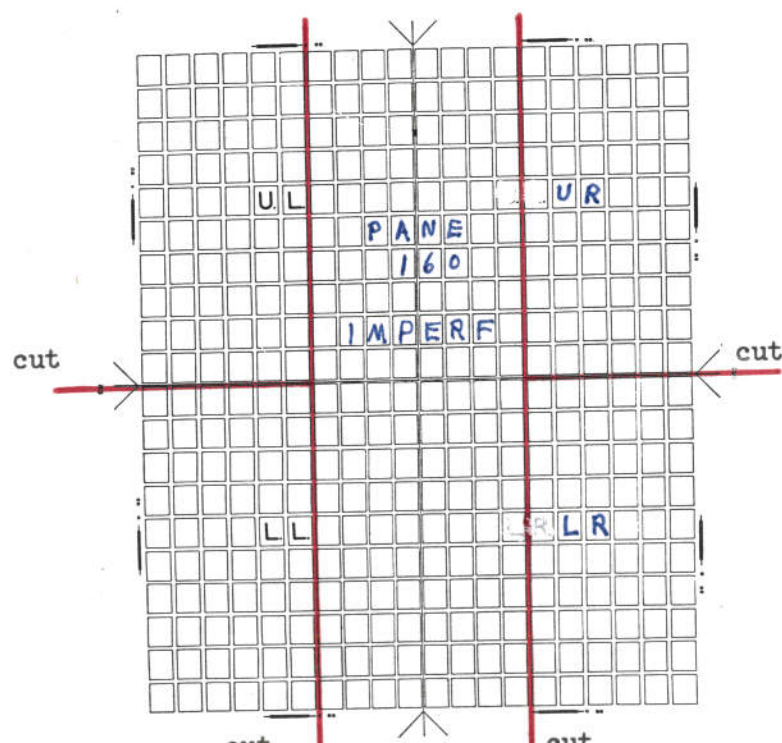


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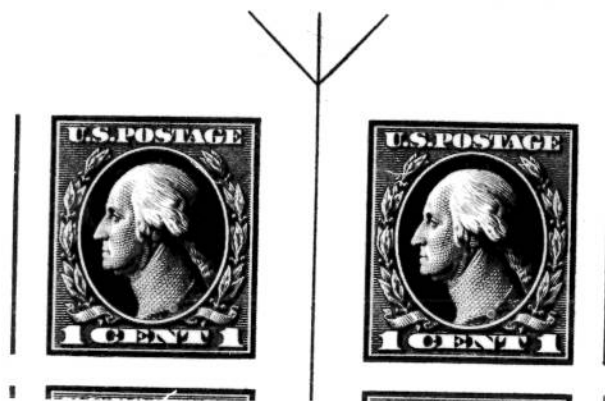
## Plate numbers on U.S. Coil Waste Issues

Coil waste consists of sheet stamps prepared from stamps originally printed for production of coils. The first coil waste was generated in 1912. The new star plates with different spacing between the outer and inner vertical rows caused problems for the vending companies that prepared their own coil stamps from imperforate sheets. The P.O. Dept. cut imperforate sheets of 400 of the 1¢ stamp vertically so that the center 8 vertical rows gave a pane of 160 with even 2 mm spacing between the vertical rows. In August 1912, 1650 such panes were sent to N.Y. The outer 6 rows were perforated normally, which produced panes of 60, as indicated by the diagram below. These were sold in Washington, D.C. in September and October of 1912. The UL and LL panes had only side plate numbers and top and bottom imprints, while the UR and LR panes had top and bottom plate numbers as well. Although all 4 positions were initially reported, most panes that exist are LR ones. We show the LR position.



## Second Coil Waste Issue

In 1913 the Bureau of Engraving and Printing made four 1¢ and eight 2¢ flat plates specifically for end coil production. These plates had 400 subjects in L and R panes of 200, separated by a 1 cm center gutter. Plate numbers were only in the side margins, and a COIL STAMPS imprint was placed in LL and UR positions. This photo of a proof sheet shows the center gutter, guideline and arrow.



The printed sheets were cut along the vertical guideline in the center gutter, perforated horizontally, and pasted up into long rolls ten stamps wide for coil production. Since these now had a margin on both left and right sides, the coiling process worked better and avoided the unevenly spaced coil that had resulted from the use of standard flat plates with no center vertical gutter.

When the rotary press was used for production of end coils in 1915, the surplus stock of 1¢ and 2¢ sheets from these end coil plates was perforated and sold as sheet stamps.



UR plate blocks of  
all four 1¢ plates.





COIL STAMPS

6581

J.C.N.

COIL STAMPS

6582

H.M.C.

COIL STAMPS

6585

J.C.N.

COIL STAMPS

6589

H.M.C.



The LL positions show the imprint, and also the siderographer's initials when a full marginal strip was saved.



LL positions of the  
four 2¢ plates  
issued as coil  
waste. Note that  
the position of the  
imprint varies  
between the plates.



In addition to saving pieces of perforated web that were too short for coils, the Bureau also saved imperforate ends of the printed web, such as the portion originally wrapped around the take up spool of the perforator. In 1921 these were perforated on flat bed perforators and issued as coil waste. They are thus perforated 11 in both directions, in contrast to the more common coil waste which was perforated 10 vertically. These come as S30, number only, and star plates.





UR positions of the  
2¢ value. Note that  
the position of the  
imprint varies  
between plates.



The Bureau also prepared later in 1922 a special issue of coil waste that was imperforate in both top and bottom margins, and these were available from the Philatelic Agency in September. The supposition is that this was what was originally wanted when the horizontally imperforate stamps were supplied. Two sets of plate numbers are known, so there may have been two orders from the Philatelic Agency. The 1¢ plates were 13611, 13612, 13812 and 13813. Here is the second set. Notice that the straight edge on the left side of the 13812 block has been reperfed. The perfs are 10 gauge, but extend one hole too high in the margin!





On several 2¢ plates there are misplaced marginal markings.



Plate 10471 with inverted S30.



Plate 13386 with plate number farther from stamp than S30.

The 2¢ plates with imperforate top and bottom margins were 13778, 13779, 13786 and 13840. The first set of plates was at press from June 6 to 28, 1922, and the second set of plates from August 8 to September 12, 1922.





In June 1922 the Bureau prepared a special printing (or more correctly, a special issue) of 1¢ and 2¢ coil waste in panes of 170 imperforate horizontally. This issue consisted of 100 panes of each denomination, and was probably ordered by the Philatelic Agency. They fell into the hands of Edward Worden, who sold them via J. M. Bartels as agent to Eugene Costales at Scott Stamp and Coin Co. They were sold as "errors" at 50¢ each, with the first ads for them on July 8. The plates used on the 1¢ stamps were 13611 and 13612.



The plate numbers on the 2¢ imperforate horizontally issue were 13740 and 13741, the latter a star plate.





When the panes of 170 were not separated along the joint line, as in the full panes of 1¢ and 2¢ coil waste shown earlier, one can obtain star blocks with the line in the center. These are moderately hard to find on the 2¢ and 3¢ values, but quite scarce on the 1¢ denomination.



Star blocks also occur on the perf 11 x 11 coil waste, although these are always perforated through the margins. The left straight edges are common on these issues.



Three cent coil waste was included in only the first batch issued in 1919, since the first class rate dropped back to 2¢, and 3¢ coils were no longer being produced. The plates were number only ones, and vertical perforations go through the margins. No 3¢ perf 11 x 11 coil waste was manufactured.



These plates had a small star over stamp 1. Here is a block showing the star.





★ 13778





☆ 13779





Initially, coil waste was issued in panes of 170 similar to those already shown. Later the Bureau at times divided these into panes of 70 and 100. If the separation was made by scissors or a paper cutter, a straight edge could result. Here are several examples from panes of 100; a few others have been noted above.



On these plates the joint line is on the left side of the pane. The cut on the right side of the pane from plate 9151 was outside of the perfs, while on 13576 it was inside.



On these blocks the joint line was on the right of the pane.



The first issues of rotary press coil waste had fully perforated top and bottom margins as well as vertical perfs crossing the top and bottom margins. The early 1¢ issues all had the plate number over stamp 9, and S30 over stamp 10. The pane below shows the arrangement, except that this pane was not separated along the joint line, which is in the middle of the pane.



8336 was the earliest  
1¢ coil waste plate.

9451 and 10688 had 1 report each  
in the BIA plate number survey.



10693 was the last 1¢ plate with vertical perfs crossing the top margin.



The later 1¢ S30 plates, starting in April 1920, had the vertical perfs not crossing the top and bottom margins. This change was made to minimize breakage of the printed web after perforation and during the coiling process.



10694 and 10695 were the first plates with vertical perfs not crossing the top margin.



On plate 13312 the left straight edge resulted from issuing coil waste in panes of 70 and 100. This would be the left edge of a pane of 100 ending on the right joint line. Plate 13315 was the last 1¢ plate with an S30 marking.

The S30 marking was dropped from coil plates, starting in August 1921, giving number only plates. The plate number was still over stamp 9.



13445 was the first 1¢ number only plate.



13448 is a rare plate, with 0 reports in BIA survey.



Until 1995, 13611 and 13612 were thought to be the last 1¢ number only plates perf 11x10. They were also used for the 1922 special issues (see below). The left straight edges show these came from panes of 100. Recently plate 13615 was discovered perf 11x10 (previously known perf 11x11); it had 1 report in the BIA plate number survey.



In March 1922 the Bureau switched the plate number to stamp 1 next to the small star used for counting purposes during coiling. This led to star plates.



13810 was the first 1¢ star plate.



13812,3 were also used for a 1922 special issue (see below).



14104 was the last 1¢ coil waste plate of the Washington-Franklin series.

The early 2¢ plates with S30 had fully perforated top and bottom margins, and the vertical perfs cross both margins. The full pane to the right originally had a bottom margin, which has been detached. It has the joint line in the middle of the pane, rather than at the edge, as was usually the case (that is probably why it was saved as a full pane). Plate number 8328 had only 1 report in the B.I.A. plate number survey.



Plate number 8327 shows the fully perfed top margin and S30 marking.



Plate 9458 had no reports in the BIA plate number survey.



10097, zero reports, and 10175, 1 report, in BIA survey.





Starting with plate 12520, the vertical perfs did not cross the margins.

Following 13388, the S30 was left off of most plates.



One later set of plates (13536-9) did receive the S30 marking.

When the S30 was left off, number only plates resulted.



13397 was the first 2¢ number only plate.



13414 had no reports in the BIA plate number survey.



13740 and 13764 were the last 2¢ number only plates. 13740 was used for a special issue in 1922 (see below). The right straight edges show that these blocks came from panes of 100 with the joint line on the left side.



When the plate number was moved to stamp 1, this resulted in star plates. Many of these panes have imperforate bottom margins as the result of putting the pane through the perforator displaced one stamp so the bottom margin did not get perforated. This was done so the perforator did not have to be reset with 11 perforating wheels (flat plate perforators had 10 perforating wheels, a cutting wheel, and 10 more perforating wheels, so that sheets would be cut in half during perforation). Requests for imperforate margin stamps are thought to be responsible for the special printings in 1922 (see below).



13741 was the first 2¢ star plate. It was used for a special issue in 1922 (see below).



13788 had 1 report in the BIA plate number survey.



Plate 13789; 1 report in BIA survey



Plate 14057 was the last 2¢ coil waste plate of the Washington-Franklin series.



On all coil plates issued as coil waste, except for the two 2¢ S20 plates, there was a small star over stamp 1 to aid in counting during the coiling process. On the S30 and number only plates, where the plate number was over stamp 9, the star does not appear on plate blocks, and UL star blocks can be collected separately. Here are the possible types on 1¢ coil waste. On the special issues of 1922 on which plates 13611 and 13612 were used, the stars differ in position sufficiently to be distinguished. See the top marginal strips shown earlier.



Vertical perfs cross margin



Vertical perfs do not cross margin.



Imperf horizontally  
from 13611



imperf horizontally  
from 13612



imperf top margin  
from 13612



The star blocks of 2¢ perforate 11 x 10 coil waste.



Vertical perfs cross top margin.



Vertical perfs do not cross top margin.



Imperforate horizontally from plate 13740.





The UR position shows the imprint. The split arrow at the end of the horizontal guideline shows, as does a trace of the vertical arrow at the top. The 1 cm center gutter was cut off during vertical perforating of coil waste into sheets.



UR pane of the 2¢  
value, showing the  
imprint and other  
marginal markings.





These plates had plate numbers only in the side margins, and in additions had a COIL STAMPS imprint in LL and UR positions. Collectors saved mainly the plate blocks showing the imprint, and the UL pane shown here is one of only 2 currently known examples from the UL position. No LR positions are known

6581





Panes of coil waste were often cut from the printed and perforated web with scissors or a paper cutter, rather than be tearing along the perfs, leading to cuts outside the perfs as on the block of 13779 here, or inside the perfs as on the block of 13786.



This example shows the result of someone not liking a straight edge; they added fake 11 gauge perforations to the left side which cross the top margin. Why didn't they use 10 gauge perfs?



Coil waste panes not separated on the joint lines are very scarce except on the initial issue in 1919. This example is from the 1922 series.



A similar block used to exist on 1¢ Washington-Franklin coil waste, but because it did not sell, the dealer separated it on the joint line in order to sell the two blocks separately! This is a picture of what it looked like before its value was destroyed.



538 NH 225



When the series of 1922 was introduced, the Bureau continued to produce coil waste until the fall of 1924. One cent and 2¢ coil waste perforated 11 x 10 was produced from star plates, and the vertical perforations do not cross the top margin.



Two cent coil waste perforated 11 x 11 was produced in reasonable quantities, but 1¢ coil waste perforated 11 x 11 is extremely rare and no plate number examples are known. Here is the 2¢ value. Most such plate blocks have a straight edge on the left; this example was “privately” perfed on the left side, since the perfs are not the proper distance from the other vertical ones.





The first two 1¢ coil waste plates issued with imperforate top margins were 13611 and 13612. Note that the positions of the stars differ slightly, so that even without a full strip that includes the plate number, they can be identified if imperforate horizontally or with imperforate top margin.





8339

S 30





8328

S 30





☆ 13840

539





This pane illustrates a pane of 100 with a straight edge on the bottom. This pane was put through a standard flat plate perforator to add the horizontal perforations without resetting the machine to perforate the bottom margin. This was a common practice after the initial coil waste issue. This plate had only 1 report in the BIA plate number survey.







9463

S 30





This block shows the usual relationship between the star, the plate number, and the S30 marking with the joint line at the left.



Plate 12513 had 1 report in BIA plate number survey

Plate 12518 was the last one with vertical perfs crossing the margin.

