## Chapter 39

## Plate Numbers 29000-29999

Plate number 29000 was assigned to the 5c Erie Canal offset plate in February, 1967 and plate number 29999 was assigned to the 1968 6c Christmas stamp (blue plate number) in May, 1968. This was a momentous section for collectors with 1000 plate numbers assigned in just 15 months. The postage rates again increased, this time to 6c on January 7, 1968. More stamps appeared in the Prominent Americans series. The 6c Roosevelt was released in a new booklet plate size that made collecting plate numbers very difficult. But the major event for plate number collectors was the introduction of the new 9 color Huck press.

The Liberty series had 31 plates assigned and 23 plates put to press. The four 1c Jackson coil plates are tough to find. The 1963 5c Washington booklet had 11 plates to press and some of these last plates are quite scarce.

The Prominent Americans series was in control of definitives. The sheet plate numbers present no problems to collectors. The 432 subject coil plates are quite difficult as usual. The rate change resulted in booklet panes containing 8 stamps per pane. The BEP designed a 320 subject booklet plate with the plate numbers positioned so that the top plate numbers were above the booklet pane tab and the bottom plate numbers were below the bottom stamps of the pane. The production trimming resulted in almost none of these plates being found. Any examples found are either production paper foldovers or miscuttings showing only a tiny percentage of the plate number. These plate numbers are rarities. Since the only examples ever found were due to paper foldovers or large miscuttings, I consider these plates to be unavailable as are the commemorative offset plate numbers. Only one of the forty-six 320 subject booklet plates sent to press has been found. 310 Prominent Americans plates went to press with 112 unreported.

The Prominent Americans series saw the introduction of the ZIP and MAIL EARLY marginal markings starting around plate 29600.

The Giori press was used to produce the new 6c flag definitive stamp. 40 plates went to press and finding examples of all 40 is not too difficult even though the Giori plates sometimes printed relatively small numbers of impressions.

Collectors had been aware of experiments with the new 9 color Huck press for many months. The BEP warned that this press was a radical departure from what collectors had been experiencing with plate numbers. This press required 30 small plates per printing cylinder and there could be from 1 to 3 printing cylinders used. This meant that just the initial press setup using the 3 printing stations could result in a theoretical 27,000 combinations of plate numbers! The post office solicited comments from collectors about the plate numbers. These numbers could be trimmed or left on the

stamps. I wrote many letters in support of leaving the plate numbers on the printed panes. Most collectors wanted the plate numbers and the post office announced that the plate numbers would appear on the stamp panes. I was first in line at my post office on November 2, 1968 when the new Christmas stamp went on sale. I bought as many plate strips as the clerk would allow and was stunned to see 8 plate numbers spaced along the sheet margin. Plate number collectors seemed to be at a loss on how to collect this stamp. It was simple for me, I wanted just one copy of each plate number, but the matched set collectors did not know what to do. It was readily apparent that collecting all combinations and obtaining matched sets would be impossible. Some collectors just bought as many strips as possible. Many of the plate numbers were tough to find and one, blue plate 29923, is unreported. This stamp was probably the first in a series of events that soon drove many collectors from collecting plate numbers in matched sets. There will be more about this press and the 1968 Christmas stamp in the next chapter.

The BEP seemed to have abandoned the practice of multiple passes through the Giori press in favor of the combination offset-intaglio printing method. 91 of the 344 commemorative plates to press were offset plates not available to collectors. The 5c Thomas Eakins stamp was printed by the gravure method by a private printing company. The plates used are numbered in the BEP's postage stamp plate number series. 253 commemorative plates are available to collectors with one unreported. All are easy to find with the exceptions being the 1968 Christmas stamp. 73 plates were used for this stamp in the 29000 section and none are scarce except the unreported 29923, but locating them all is the challenge.

The air mail section was busy with 55 plates to press. 45 are available to collectors since the 10c 50th Anniversary of Air Mail stamp used 10 offset plates. But the new 10c air mail stamp appeared in the new 320 subject booklet format and all 10 plates used are unreported. Two postage due plates rounded out the 29000 section.

The 29000 section saw 774 plates to press with 616 available to collectors which sets a new record low. 61 of these plates are unreported so a high percentage of completion is practically impossible. My personal completion percentage is lower on the 29000 section than on any other section so it could be said that this is the toughest of all the plate number sections and this is due to the booklet and coil plates. I sometimes wonder if these types of difficulties caused a lot of collectors to quit consecutive plate number collecting since so many plate numbers seemed to be unobtainable. As a collector, I found these changes exciting and challenging and I looked forward to the next new event. Actually, if you disregard the booklet and coil plates, the 29000 section is quite easy to collect. The printing advances at the BEP make this a colorful and interesting collection. Perhaps this is part of the appeal of consecutive plate number collecting. We can see the changes unfold as the numbers inch ever upward. We will inch into the next chapter to see what additional havoc the 9 color Huck press has wrought.

		29000 Seri	es Totals				
Series	Subject	Plate Type	Assigned	To Press	Available	Unreported	I Have
	(totala)		1000	774	616	61	
6th Dur	(totals) eau Series (Liberty Series)		1000	//4	616	01	
	30c Lee	400R	2	2	2	0	
	1c Jackson	400R 400R	6	6	6	0	
	1c Jackson coil	432R	4	4	4	0	
	5c Washington book (slogan 3)	360R	19	11	11	0	
1903	Sc Washington book (Slogari S)	3001	13	11	11	0	
7th Bur	eau Series (Prominent American	s)					
	1c Jefferson	400R	10	10	10	0	
	1c Jefferson book (8)	320R	14	10	1	0	
	1c Jefferson coil	432R	8	8	8	0	
	2c Wright	400R	2	2	2	0	
	2c Wright book (5)	360R	4	4	4	0	
	3c Parkman	400R	4	2	2	0	
	4c Lincoln	400R	4	2	2	0	
	4c Lincoln coil	432R	4	4	4	2	
	5c Washington redesign	400R	15	10	8	0	
	5c Washington coil	432R	56	56	56	19	
	6c Roosevelt	400F	2	0	0		
1965	6c Roosevelt	400R	43	30	30	0	
	6c Roosevelt book (8)	320R	32	32	0		
	6c Roosevelt book (5)	360R	4	4	4	0	
	6c Roosevelt end coil	432R	53	48	48	16	
1965	6c Roosevelt side coil	432R	64	63	63	23	
1965	8c Einstein	400R	2	2	2	0	
1965	10c Jackson	400R	2	2	2	0	
1965	12c Ford	400R	2	2	2	0	
1965	13c Kennedy	400R	4	4	4	0	
1965	15c Holmes	400R	2	2	2	0	
1965	20c Marshall	400R	6	5	5	0	
1965	40c Paine	400R	3	2	2	0	
1965	\$1 O'Neill	400R	3	2	2	0	
	Definitives						
1968	6c Flag	400R	44	40	40	0	
Comme	emoratives						
	5c Erie Canal	200R	2	2	2	0	
	5c Erie Canal (offset)	200L	8	7	0		
	5c Canada green	200E	8	7	5	0	
	5c Canada black	200R	33	12	12	0	
	5c Thoreau	200R	12	8	8	0	
	5c Voice of America	200R	7	4	4	0	
	5c Voice of America (offset)	200L	4	3			
	5c Christmas	200R	54	42		0	
	5c Christmas (offset)	200L	32	28			
	5c Search For Peace	200R	13	10	10	0	
1967	5c Nebraska	200R	10	8	8	0	

1967	5c Nebraska (offset)	200L	6	4	0		
	5c Davey Crockett	2002 200R	7	4	4	0	
	5c Davey Crockett (offset)	200L	4	2	0	U	
	5c Finland	200R	12	10	10	0	
	5c Space	200R	7	5	5	0	
	5c Space (offset)	2001 C	6	3	0		
	5c Eakins	200L	12	7	7	0	
	5c Urban Planning	2000 200R	8	6	6	0	
	5c Urban Planning (offset)	200L	3	2	0	0	
	5c Mississippi blue	200E	6	6	6	0	
	5c Mississippi green	200R	6	6	6	0	
	6c Illinois	200R	7	6	6	0	
	6c Illinois (offset)	2001X	9	7	0	0	
	6c Hemisfair	200L 200R	11	9	9	0	
	6c Hemisfair (offset)	2001 200L	5	5	0	0	
	\$1 Airlift	200L 200R	10	8	8	0	
	\$1 Airlift (offset)	200K 200L	3	1	0	0	
	6c Register & Vote	200L 200R	10	6	6	0	
	6c Register & Vote (offset)	200K 200L	7	4	0	0	
	6c Daniel Boone	200L 200R	8	4	0		
		200R 200L	0 2	2	-		
	6c Daniel Boone (offset)				0	0	
	6c Youth	200R	8	6	6	0	
	6c Youth (offset)	200L	2	2	0		
	6c Historic Flags	200R	5	1	1	0	
	6c Historic Flags	200L	4	2	0		
	6c Law & Order	200R	12	9	9	0	
	6c Christmas yellow	40R	44	41	24	0	
	6c Christmas blue	40R	40	17	17	1	
1968	6c Christmas brown	40R	39	32	32	0	
	I Purpose Issues						
	8c Air Mail	400R	2	2	2	0	
	8c Air Mail book slogan 3	360R	2	0	0		
	8c Alaska	200F	1	0	0		
	8c Alaska	200R	8	4	4	0	
	20c Air Mail	200F	1	0	0		
	20c Air Mail	200R	16	5	5	0	
	9c Air Mail	400R	4	0	0		
	9c Air Mail book	320R	4	0	0		
	9c Air Mail coil	432R	4	0	0		
	10c Air Mail	400R	8	8	8	0	
	10c Air Mail book (8)	320R	12	10	0		
	10c Air Mail book (5)	360R	4	4	4	0	
	10c Air Mail coil	432R	9	8	8	0	
	10c 50th Anniv. Air Mail	200R	5	4	4	0	
1968	10c 50th Anniv. Air Mail (offset)	200L	14	10	0		
1959	Postage Due	400R	2	2	2	0	







not used

29064 5c Voice of America not used

29065 5c Canada master plate not used





29070 5c Voice of America not used

29071 5c Christmas master plate not used











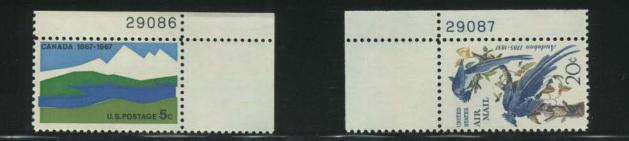


29081 5c Washington side coil rare, not in collection





29085 5c Thoreau not used













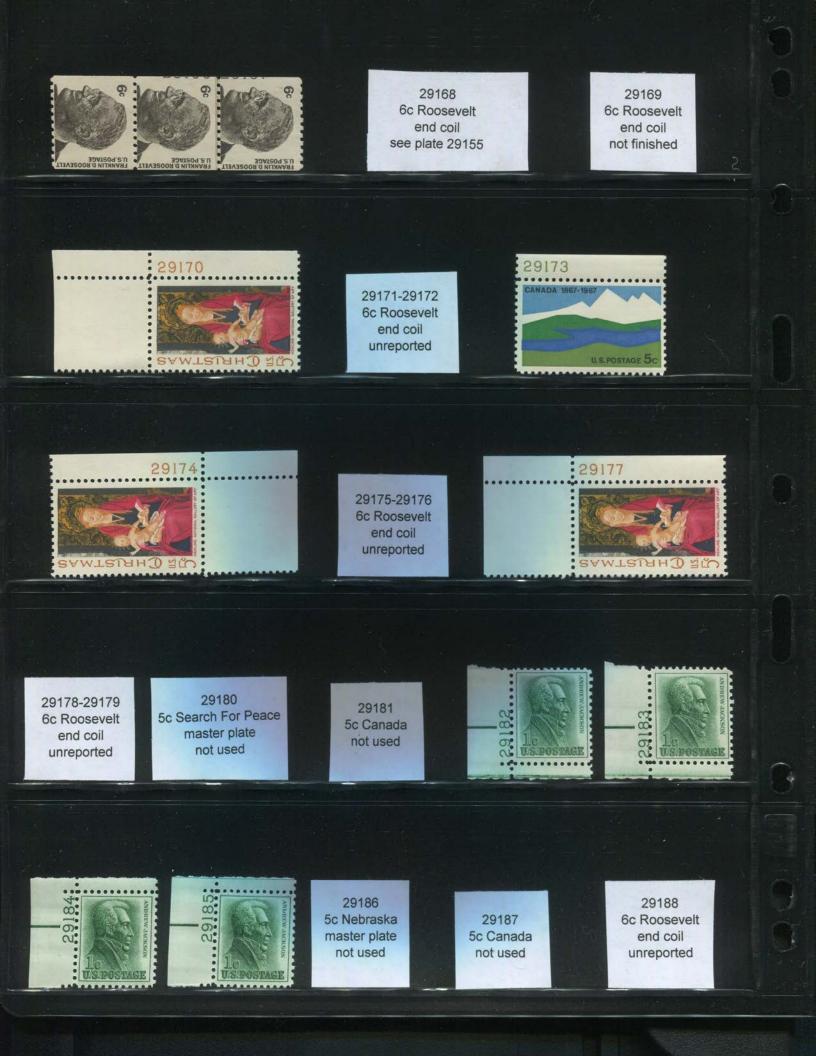


















29209 5c Search For Peace master plate not used



29215 6c Roosevelt end coil unreported



29217-29218 5c Christmas offset plates unavailable

29219-29220 5c Washington side coil unreported



















29230-29231 5c Christmas offset plates unavailable





29234 5c Search For Peace not finished

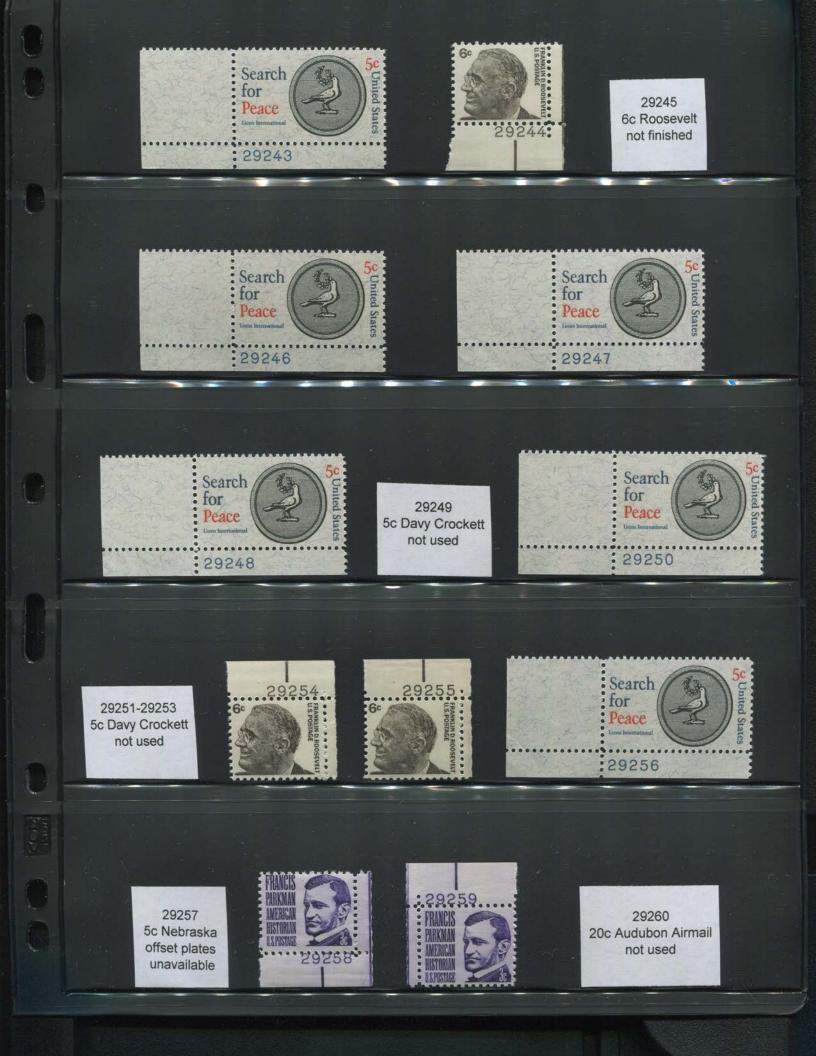


29236-29237 5c Nebraska offset plates unavailable 29238 6c Roosevelt end coil unreported

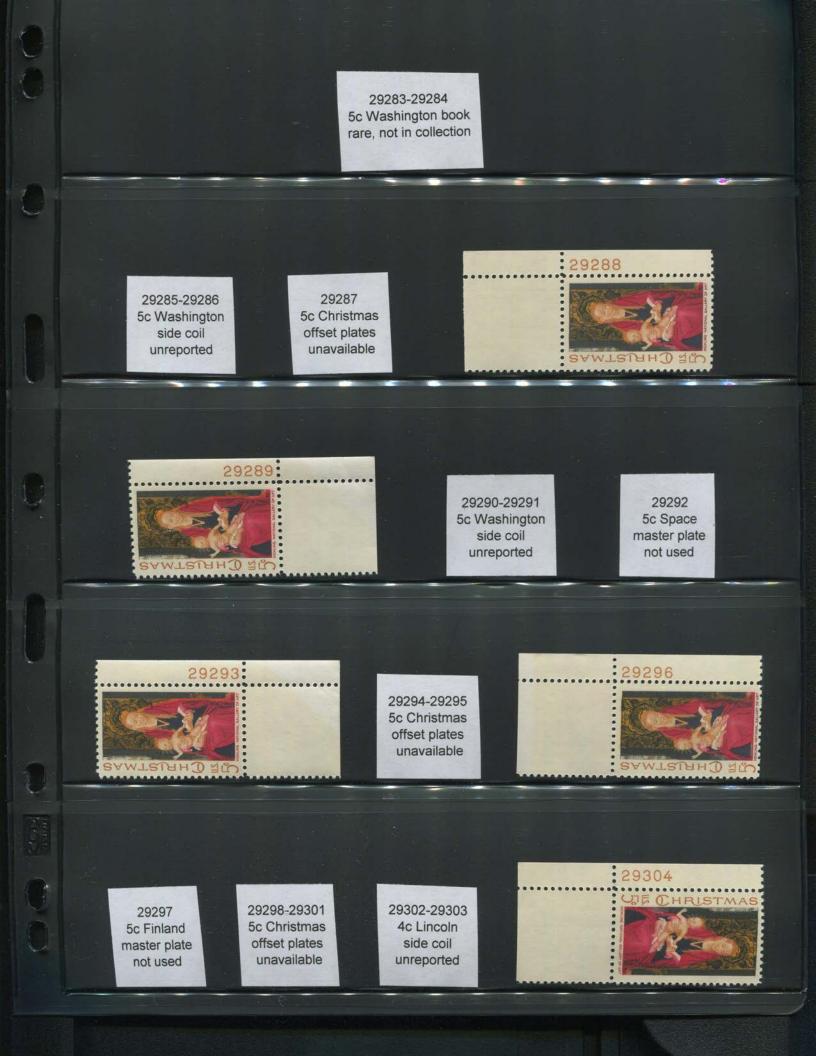
29239 Search for Peace Des International

29240-29241 5c Christmas offset plates unavailable

































5c Christmas not used 29463-29464 6c Roosevelt book unreported

29465-29466 10c Airmail book unreported





29469-29470 10c Airmail book unreported 29471 10c Airmail side coil not finished









29498-29499 6c Roosevelt book unreported

offset plates

unavailable



29502-29503 5c Christmas offset plates unavailable

29504-29507 9c Airmail not issued

29508-29509 9c Airmail book not issued

29510-29511 9c Airmail Coil not issued

29512-29513 9c Airmail book not issued

95





29561 2c Wright book rare, not in collection

29562 2c Wright book rare, not in collection



29567-29568 10c Airmail book rare, not in collection

29569 6c Roosevelt master plate not used





29575-29572 6c Roosevelt end coil



29573-29574 6c Roosevelt end coil rare, not in collection 29575 6c Roosevelt end coil see plate 29572



29577-29578 6c Roosevelt end coil unreported 29579-29581 6c Illinois offset plates unavailable



29584-29585 6c Roosevelt end coil unreported



29591-29594 6c Roosevelt not used 29595 6c Flag master plate not used

29596-29597 1c Jefferson book unreported 29598 6c Roosevelt not used 29599-29600 6c Illinois offset plates unavailable









29663-29666 6c Roosevelt end coil



29665-29664 6c Roosevelt end coil



29666 6c Roosevelt end coil see plate 29663 29667-29669 6c Roosevelt end coil 60





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6c

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EVELT



29686-29685 6c Roosevelt end coil



29687-29688 6c Roosevelt side coil rare, not in collection



29691-29692 10c 50th Anniv. Airmail offset plates unavailable 29693 6c Hemisfair master plate not used



29695 6c Roosevelt not used

29697-29696 6c Roosevelt side coil



29698-29699 6c Roosevelt book unreported 29700-29701 6c Hemisfair offset plates unavailable



29703-29704 6c Roosevelt book unreported 29705-29706 10c 50th Anniv. Airmail offset plates unavailable



rare, not in collection

not used











29822 6c Support Our Youth not used















29849 6c Roosevelt side coil rare, not in collection

29850 6c Christmas master plate not used



29852 6c Flag not used

