

Chapter 49

Postage Dues

Postage due stamps first appeared in 1879 with a series of seven stamps, all with a similar design which was the figure of value within an oval. The color was initially brown with a change to red brown in 1884 and a bright claret in 1891. When the BEP took over production of stamps in 1894, it instituted a new design which still employed the denomination as the central part of the design. The denomination was enclosed in an ornate frame which most people might consider an improvement over the first postage due issue. The denominations remained at seven (1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 10c, 30c, and 50c) and the color of the stamps progressed through various shades of red.

The postage due series of 1894 was in use for 36 years and the various printings of these stamps reflect the changes that occurred at the BEP over this time period. The initial printing was on unwatermarked paper which changed to the double line watermarked paper in 1895. The unwatermarked stamps are more expensive than the watermarked variety except for the 30c stamp. The next change was to single line watermarked paper in 1910 followed by a change in perforations to perf 10 around 1914. The perf 10 varieties are much scarcer than the perf 12 and the 50c value is a rarity. The perf 10 on unwatermarked paper is known only on the 1c and 2c stamps and these are expensive and scarce. The common perf 11 on unwatermarked paper came on the scene around 1917 and is the most common variety. A 1/2c postage due stamp was issued in 1925 and designated as the series 1925 postage due stamp by the BEP, but the design is the same as the 1894 issue.

Fortunately, the plate numbers used to print these stamps all occur on the cheaper varieties so the collector who wants all of the plate numbers does not have to buy all of the expensive stamps. However, having some of the scarce to rare goodies really adds spice to the presentation. The 1/2c stamp had only 5 plates to press and this is the easy item to complete in the 1894 (1925) series of dues. The 1c due had 20 plates to press in its 36 year life. The first 5 plates up through 1632 are easy to find. Plates 246 and 267 exist overprinted for use in Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines and 1632 was overprinted for a special printing of Philippines stamps. Plates 1777-80 are somewhat scarce. Plates 5510, 5522, 5534, and 5541 are available on all perf and watermark/unwatermark combinations starting with the single line watermark, plus these plates were overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. Plates 13844-45 have two types of Canal Zone overprints. The last four plates (14034-7) are hard to find. The remainder of the denominations of the issue of 1894 have some plates with these overprints and any of these items are scarce and add interest to a collection.

Forty-eight plates were required for the 2c postage due. The first plate (34) is tough to find and only occurs on the vermilion shade stamp which fluoresces under long wave UV light. Plates 1783-4 are rare and 1785-6 are very scarce. The remainder of the plates are fairly easy to locate although the last three (19083-5) are troublesome to find.

Plates 6703-6 exist in six varieties as these plates were in use with single line watermarked paper perf 12 through the unwatermarked perf 11 stamp. Additionally, these plates produced Canal Zone overprints. 2c plates in the 14000 series were overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. 2c plates 247 and 268 were overprinted for use in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. 2c plate 1099 (a very scarce plate) was overprinted for use in the Philippines.

The 3c postage due stamp was printed from 14 plates. Six of these are scarce (1631, 1787, and 20069-72). Plates 254 and 1631 (the special printing only) were overprinted for use in the Philippines. The 5c due was also printed from 14 plates. Plates 1642, 1792, and 19877-8 are scarce. 5c plates 71 and 255 were overprinted for use in Cuba and the Philippines.

The 10c due required 18 plates and two of these (15861 and 15862) are rare. Plates 1781-2 are considered scarce. 10c plate 72 exists with Cuba, Philippines and Puerto Rico overprints and 10c plate 256 was overprinted for use in Cuba. The 10c plates 5525 through 6556 exist with Canal Zone overprints. Nine plates produced the 30c due and the last four (19881-4) are scarce. Plate 73 exists with a Philippines overprint. Only seven plates were needed for the 50c due and the last two (20035-6) are scarce. 50c plate 74 was overprinted for use in the Philippines.

The postage due issue of 1930 used a frame that appears to belong with the regular issue of 1922. Once again, the denomination is the central part of the design. Two new values (\$1 and \$5) appeared in this series. This issue started out on the flat press but was changed over to the rotary press (except for the dollar values) within a year so the flat press varieties are generally much scarcer than the rotary press stamps. A conversion was made from the wet to the dry printing method in 1958. There are no rare plate numbers in this issue but many of the flat plates are scarce with the 30c and 50c issues being the most difficult. The \$1 was issued on the rotary press in 1956 and these plates are not plentiful.

The postage due issue of 1959 retained the upper part of the frame from the 1930 issue but the central part of the design, the denomination, was applied by a precancelling process. Most plate number collectors find this set of dues to be the most interesting since each plate produced many denominations. Twenty-one plates were used to print this issue and all of these plates are easy to find. The real difficulty comes when one attempts to find each denomination for each plate number. Some of the plate number- denomination combinations are rare and many are scarce. Late in the life of this issue, printings were made using pregummed paper with 'dull' gum and many of these plate number copies are scarce and command high prices. The Durland catalog lists these varieties in detail.

The 1/2c denomination was unexpectedly removed from sale at the Philatelic Agency early in the life of the 1959 issue and few collectors had laid in supplies so this is the toughest stamp. Six plates are known on this stamp with four of them relatively common. A few plate number copies have been found from plates 26291-2 and these are rare items. The 2c, 5c, and 10c values are the only denominations known on all 21 plates. Most of these are common except 5c plate 26289 and 10c plate 35282 which are

quite scarce. The 6c and 7c dull gum plates are rare and 7c plates 26833 and 27072 are scarce items. 30c plates 26289-90 and 26833 are scarce to rare items. The 50c stamp plates 26291, 26833-4 are rare and 35282 is scarce.

The postage due stamps totaled 265 plates to press with all plates reported but these 265 plates offer a lifetime of challenges. The issue of 1894 has the rarest plates and many of these plates exist in multiple varieties. The issue of 1930 is relatively simple and completion is possible but is not easy. The issue of 1959 is easy if one requires only the plate numbers. The fun begins by trying to locate each denomination for each plate number. Many collectors have enjoyed postage due plates for over 100 years and the challenges await the interested collector.

The 38000 series is next to examine and another rate change is looming!

Chapter 49-PostageDue

		Postage Due Series Totals					
Series	Subject	Plate Type	Assigned	To Press	Available	Unreported	I Have
	(totals)		323	265	265	0	
1894	1c Postage Due	200F	9	9	9	0	
1894	1c Postage Due	400F	28	20	20	0	
1894	2c Postage Due	200F	14	14	14	0	
1894	2c Postage Due	400F	34	34	34	0	
1894	3c Postage Due	200F	4	4	4	0	
1894	3c Postage Due	400F	14	10	10	0	
1894	5c Postage Due	200F	4	4	4	0	
1894	5c Postage Due	400F	14	10	10	0	
1894	10c Postage Due	200F	5	5	5	0	
1894	10c Postage Due	400F	14	13	13	0	
1894	30c Postage Due	200F	2	1	1	0	
1894	30c Postage Due	400F	8	8	8	0	
1894	50c Postage Due	200F	2	1	1	0	
1894	50c Postage Due	400F	6	6	6	0	
1925	0.5c Postage Due	400F	9	5	5	0	
1930	0.5c Postage Due	400F	4	4	4	0	
1930	1c Postage Due	400F	8	4	4	0	
1930	2c Postage Due	400F	8	8	8	0	
1930	3c Postage Due	400F	8	4	4	0	
1930	5c Postage Due	400F	4	4	4	0	
1930	10c Postage Due	400F	4	4	4	0	
1930	30c Postage Due	400F	4	4	4	0	
1930	50c Postage Due	400F	4	4	4	0	
1930	\$1 Postage Due	400F	4	4	4	0	
1930	\$5 Postage Due	400F	4	4	4	0	
1930	0.5c Postage Due	400R	8	4	4	0	
1930	1c Postage Due	400R	12	6	6	0	
1930	2c Postage Due	400R	10	10	10	0	
1930	3c Postage Due	400R	14	12	12	0	
1930	5c Postage Due	400R	8	8	8	0	
1930	10c Postage Due	400R	8	6	6	0	
1930	30c Postage Due	400R	8	4	4	0	
1930	50c Postage Due	400R	8	4	4	0	
1930	\$1 Postage Due	400R	4	2	2	0	
1959	Postage Due	400R	24	21	21	0	