

## Chapter 51

### The Prominent Americans Series

The Post Office Department announced in 1965 that a new regular issue would begin to appear later in the year. I remember being surprised by this since the 1954 Liberty series was barely 11 years old and, with the 1963 rate change, new 1c and 5c stamps were issued at that time. The first stamp in the new series was the 4c Lincoln stamp issued in November, 1965, and the next stamp, the 6c Roosevelt appeared in January, 1966. The stamps in this regular issue series appeared much more slowly than had been the case in past regular issues. The rapid rate changes caused the appearance of new values on almost a yearly basis throughout the life of this issue. It is interesting to note that there was no booklet stamp version of the new 5c Washington stamp. The 1963 Washington booklet design was retained until the rate was changed to 6c. The booklet panes of this series appeared in interesting combinations with different versions for vending and over the counter sales. A second die was produced on the 15c Holmes stamp, the first occurrence of a second die on a postage stamp since the 2c Washington stamp of the 1922 series. The highest value coil in history was produced by the issuance of the \$1 O'Neill stamp in coil format in January, 1973. The high value in the series, the \$5 Moore stamp, was the first \$5 stamp produced by the rotary press. Experiments in tagging postage stamps began during this regular issue and many plates exist both tagged and untagged and some are much scarcer in one of these versions. The ZIP and MAIL EARLY marginal markings were added to these plates following plate number 29600.

The 1c Jefferson stamp was issued in sheet, booklet, and coil form in January, 1968. All 32 sheet plate numbers are easy to find. The coil was produced from 30 plates and eight are unreported. There are probably a lot fewer collectors looking for coil plate numbers now than there were in past regular issues. The booklet version was issued in the 320 and 400 subject formats and only four of 30 plates have been found. The 1c pane of eight was issued in booklets with panes of the 6c Roosevelt and the 6c Eisenhower stamps. In 1971, a 1c booklet pane of four stamps plus two labels was used in booklets containing panes of the 8c Eisenhower stamp. The four 360 subject plates used to print this booklet have been found.

The 1.25c Gallatin stamp was printed from only two plates and these are easy to find. The 2c Wright sheet stamp, issued in June, 1966, was printed from 22 plates and these are easy to find. The 2c booklet pane was issued in panes of five plus a slogan in 1968 for use in 6c Roosevelt and 6c Eisenhower vending machine booklets. These four plates are not difficult to find. A 2c Wright pane of six was issued in 1971 and used in a vending booklet with the 13c Liberty Bell Americana stamp(!) and with the 11c air mail stamp booklet. Ten plates produced the 2c pane of six and one plate is unreported and some of the others are difficult to find.

The 3c Parkman sheet stamp was printed from 12 plates. Four of these plates are known only precancelled and they are much scarcer than the eight other plates. The two scarcest plates are 37622 and 37625 and they were precancelled for use in Dallas, TX and Seattle, WA. I remember going to the post office and obtaining a permit for precancel use so I could buy these plates. Twelve plates were also used to print the 3c coil and three of these are unreported and most of the others are scarce.

The 4c Lincoln sheet stamp was printed from 31 plates and none of these are difficult. The coil stamp was printed from 14 plates with four unreported and these coil plates are scarce. The 5c Washington stamp was printed from 40 plates and the last four seem to be scarcer than the rest. In 1967, in response to negative comments about the Washington 'dirty face' design, the BEP re-engraved this stamp and the new 'clean shaven' Washington was printed from 26 plates and none of these are difficult. The coil version was printed from 145 plates with 60 unreported and most of the reported plates are difficult to find. Apparently there was no intent to produce a 'clean shaven' coil version, but somehow the new die was used to make two 'clean shaven' coil plates. These two plates do exist and are scarce.

The 6c Roosevelt sheet stamp was printed from 59 plates and some of these will present problems. Plates 30976 and 31462 are known only precancelled and are scarce. Plate 30468 is also quite scarce. The 6c Roosevelt booklet panes of eight were printed from 320/400 subject plates and a surprising ten of the 80 plates used have been found thanks to production errors. Any of these plates can be considered rare. Five plates produced the vending booklet and one of these is unreported. The 6c coil was printed from 48 plates with 16 unreported, but a new design of the coil was issued just two months later and 220 plates printed the new coil with 74 of these plates unreported. The reported coil plates range from scarce to rare. Politics entered the picture and the 6c Roosevelt was replaced by the 6c Eisenhower stamp in 1970. Twelve sheet plates are easy to find as are the two 360 subject booklet plates, but only five of the twelve 400 subject book plates are known and they are rare. The coil plates of this stamps are really tough as only five of the seventeen used have been reported.

Six plates were used to print the 7c Franklin stamp and all are easy to find. The 8c Einstein stamp was printed from 16 plates and two of these, 32179-80, seem to be quite scarce. The 8c Eisenhower stamp was the stamp of choice when the rate increased to 8c in 1971. The sheet stamp was printed on the Giori press from 66 plates. Although there are no rarities, some of these plates are hard to find with plate 33446 perhaps being the scarcest. The 8c Eisenhower coil stamp was printed from 54 plates and only six of these are unreported. As late as May 30, 1998, 12 of the 8c Eisenhower coil plates were unreported. But on that date, I went to a small stamp bourse in Dallas and I asked each dealer if they had any coils with partial plate numbers. One dealer had some 8c Eisenhower coils and I bought them all since they were fairly cheap. I went home and began to try to identify the plate numbers. I was very pleasantly surprised to see that I had found four new numbers. But I was stunned to see that three of these plates had never been reported! Finding three previously unreported plate numbers in one day was certainly a new record for me and a super thrill. Once again, this proves the point that there are still discoveries to be made and the collector should always be on the lookout. For some reason, these 8c Eisenhower coil plates seemed much easier for collectors to

find than the 6c Eisenhower coil, and some of these coil plates exist with nice percentages of the plate number showing. The four 360 subject booklet plates are not too difficult. A surprising eleven of the 45 300/400 subject booklet plates have been found.

The 10c Jackson stamp was printed from 12 plates and all are easy to find. When the postage rate increased to 10c in 1974, the 10c Jefferson Memorial stamp was issued and the 20 sheet plates are easy to find. There were eight 360 subject plates for vending booklets and two of these are unreported and the other six are very scarce. The coils are extra tough on this stamp with 32 of the 64 plates unreported.

The 12c Ford, 13c Kennedy, and 14c LaGuardia stamps were printed from six, four, and four plates, and all of these are easy to find.

The 15c Holmes stamp, along with the 15c Americana flag stamp, became the primary rate stamp when the postage rate hit 15c in 1978. The die I version was printed from 24 plates and only plate 38676 is scarce. None of the eight die II plates is scarce but they are more expensive than the die I since few collectors paid much attention to the new die variety and it was mostly the matched set collectors that accumulated these die II plates. The coils are a rough group to collect with ten of the 46 die I plates unreported and 17 of the 28 die II plates unreported. None of the 34 booklet plates have been found.

The higher values of the Prominent Americans series present few problems for the collector with only the 20c Marshall having as many as 16 plates. The \$1 O'Neill stamp was printed from 12 plates and these are not easy to complete. The \$1 O'Neill was also issued in coil form and the two plates used are surprisingly easy to find.

The Prominent Americans series is a very interesting group of plates with many challenges. In addition to the tagging varieties, some of the plates are available with shiny and dry gum. There were 1427 plates to press with 1224 available and 249 unreported. A high percentage of completion is difficult because of the 249 unreported plates and because of many scarce to rare booklet and coil plates. This series was still active in 1975 when the Americana series appeared and that is the subject of the next chapter.

## Chapter 51-7th Bureau

		7th Bureau Series Totals						
Series	Subject	Plate Type	Assigned	To Press	Available	Unreported	I Have	
	(totals)		1649	1427	1224	249		
1965	1c Jefferson	400R	38	32	32	0		
1965	1c Jefferson book (4)	360R	4	4	4	0		
1965	1c Jefferson book (8)	320R	16	16	1	0		
1965	1c Jefferson book (8)	400R	14	14	3	0		
1965	1c Jefferson coil	432R	33	30	30	8		
1965	1.25c Gallatin	400R	2	2	2	0		
1965	2c Wright	400R	22	22	22	0		
1965	2c Wright book (5) slogan 4	360R	2	2	2	0		
1965	2c Wright book (5) slogan 5	360R	2	2	2	0		
1965	2c Wright book (6)	360R	10	10	10	1		
1965	3c Parkman	400R	18	12	12	0		
1965	3c Parkman coil	432R	15	12	12	3		
1965	4c Lincoln	400R	34	31	31	0		
1965	4c Lincoln coil	432R	15	14	14	4		
1965	5c Washington	400R	38	38	38	0		
1965	5c Washington redesign	400R	38	30	28	0		
1965	5c Washington coil	432R	150	145	145	60		
1965	5c Washington coil redesign	432R	2	2	2	0		
1965	6c Roosevelt	400F	2	0	0			
1965	6c Roosevelt	400R	80	59	59	0		
1965	6c Roosevelt book (8)	320R	59	55	0			
1965	6c Roosevelt book (5)	360R	8	5	5	1		
1965	6c Roosevelt book (8)	400R	30	25	10	0		
1965	6c Roosevelt end coil	432R	53	48	48	16		
1965	6c Roosevelt side coil	432R	235	220	220	74		
1965	7c Franklin	400R	9	6	6	0		
1965	7c Franklin coil	432R	4	0	0			
1965	7c Washington	400R	2	0	0			
1965	8c Einstein	400R	22	16	16	0		
1965	10c Jackson	400R	18	12	12	0		
1965	12c Ford	400R	9	6	6	0		
1965	13c Kennedy	400R	4	4	4	0		
1965	14c LaGuardia	400R	4	4	4	0		
1965	15c Holmes Die I	400R	29	24	24	0		
1965	15c Holmes Die II	400R	10	8	8	0		
1965	15c Holmes book	288R	38	34	0			
1965	15c Holmes coil Die I	432R	50	46	46	10		
1965	15c Holmes coil Die II	432R	36	28	28	17		
1965	16c Pyle	400R	4	4	4	0		
1965	18c Blackwell	400R	4	4	4	0		
1965	20c Marshall	400R	18	16	16	0		
1965	21c Giannini	400R	8	4	4	0		
1965	25c Douglass	400R	10	8	8	0		
1965	30c Dewey	400R	4	4	4	0		
1965	40c Paine	400R	13	8	8	0		
1965	50c Stone	400R	6	6	6	0		
1965	\$1 O'Neill	400R	13	12	12	0		

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1965	\$1 O'Neill coil	432R	2	2	2	0
1965	\$5 Moore	400R	2	2	2	0
1970	6c Eisenhower	400R	19	12	12	0
1970	6c Eisenhower book	360R	4	2	2	0
1970	6c Eisenhower book	400R	17	12	5	0
1970	6c Eisenhower coil	432R	22	21	21	15
1971	8c Eisenhower	400R	78	66	66	0
1971	8c Eisenhower book	300R	13	8	1	0
1971	8c Eisenhower book	360R	6	4	4	0
1971	8c Eisenhower book	400R	41	37	11	0
1971	8c Eisenhower coil	432R	60	54	54	6
1974	10c Jefferson Memorial	400R	22	20	20	0
1974	10c Jefferson Memorial book	360R	17	8	8	2
1974	10c Jefferson Memorial book	400R	35	31	0	0
1974	10c Jefferson Memorial coil	432R	76	64	64	32