

Chapter 6

Plate Numbers 3000-3999

Plate number 3000 was assigned to the 1c Franklin sheet stamp in March, 1906 and plate 3999 was assigned to the 2c Washington shield booklet in November, 1907. The rate at which plates were being used was still increasing. 982 plates were sent to press and 25 of these are still unreported, all on booklet plates. The second Bureau series were assigned 944 of these and all but 7 were sent to press. The Jamestown commemorative stamp plates were assigned 52 plates and 45 of these went to press. Four plates were assigned to the 10c special delivery of 1902 and these were not used.

The 982 plates to press puts the 3000 series of plates in second place in terms of the greatest number of plates used. Most plate number collectors consider this section of 1000 plate numbers to be the most difficult of all to collect. One reason for the problem of availability is that far fewer collectors were chasing the plate numbers. Another reason is the scarcity of the booklet plates. Collectors still seemed to either not know or care about these plate numbers and as a result these booklet plates are the real rarities in the entire plate number series. Booklet plate use increased from 81 in the 2000 series to 125 in the 3000 series.

The 1c Franklin stamp saw 253 plates being used and once again in my experience the 1c stamp plates are more difficult to find than the 2c plates. An exciting find was made just a few years ago when a used copy of 1c plate 3795 was found. This was the last unreported 1c sheet plate number in the 3000 series. It is amazing that new discoveries can still be made many years after plates were used. The possibilities of making new finds are part of the appeal of plate number collecting.

The 1c Franklin booklet made its appearance in this series. Sixteen plates were used with 3 plates never reported. Four of the plates seem to appear occasionally but the rest are rare. The 1c Franklin booklet plate 3472 is unique in that the plate number is positioned over the top left stamp in the pane. All other booklet plate numbers are positioned over the top right stamp. This fact makes an already rare plate number even more interesting to the plate number and/or booklet pane specialist.

534 plates were used to print the 2c Washington. It is a really difficult task to tackle this run of plates. Many are scarce to rare. Some of these plates were made available in imperforate sheets and in some cases the imperf version is easier to locate than the perforated version.

The 2c Washington booklet plates are the greatest challenge in the second Bureau series. 109 of these plates were sent to press and 22 have never been reported. Few of these plates show more than 2 reports.

Four plates went to press for the 3c Jackson and these plates are not easy. Nine plates were used for the 5c Lincoln and this also is not easy to complete. The easiest plates are the four each used for the 8c M. Washington, the 13c Harrison, and the 15c Clay.

There are a number of the 1c Franklin and 2c Washington shield plates available in imperforate form in this section. The Canal Zone and Philippines overprints also exist on plates from the 3000 section and items such as these always spice up a collection of these plates.

The Jamestown commemorative series required 45 plates. This is the easiest commemorative series to date. Some of the 2c plates are scarce but enough were saved so that all can be found.

In some ways, plate number collectors consider this era to be the dark days of plate number collecting because most of these plates are scarce to rare. We perhaps wish our colleagues of years ago had been more thoughtful about saving copies of these plates for us. But that would have deprived us of the satisfaction we get when we can add another plate number from the infamous 3000 series to our collection.

Do these difficulties continue? We will find out when we examine the 4000 series in the next chapter.

Chapter 6-3000

		3000 Series Totals					
Series	Subject	Plate Type	Assigned	To Press	Available	Unreported	I Have
	(totals)		1000	982	982	25	
2nd Bureau Series							
1902	1c Franklin	400F	254	253	253	0	
1902	1c Franklin book	180F	16	16	16	3	
1903	2c Washington Die I	400F	540	534	534	0	
1903	2c Washington Die I book	180F	109	109	109	22	
1902	3c Jackson	400F	4	4	4	0	
1902	5c Lincoln	400F	9	9	9	0	
1902	8c M. Washington	400F	4	4	4	0	
1902	13c Harrison	400F	4	4	4	0	
1902	15c Clay	400F	4	4	4	0	
Commemorative							
1907	1c Jamestown	200F	12	9	9	0	
1907	2c Jamestown	200F	36	32	32	0	
1907	5c Jamestown	200F	4	4	4	0	
Special Purpose Issues							
1902	10c Special Delivery	100F	4	0	0		







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3165
2 Washington
not finished



3177
2 Washington
not finished



3181
2 Washington
not finished



3192
2 Washington
not finished



3195
2 Washington
not finished





3215
2 Washington booklet
unreported

3216
2 Washington booklet
unreported



3219
2 Washington booklet
rare, not in collection



3221
2 Washington booklet
rare, not in collection





3235
2 Washington booklet
unreported

3236-3237
2 Washington booklet
each unique

319g - Pos D - #3236 - See Letter

3236

319g - Pos D - #3237 - See Letter

3237

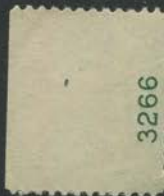


3240
2 Washington booklet
unreported



3242
2 Washington booklet
unreported























3405
2 Washington booklet
unreported

3406
2 Washington booklet
unreported





3413
2 Washington booklet
unreported

3414
2c Washington booklet
unreported



3421
2 Washington booklet
unreported

3422
2 Washington booklet
unreported





3450
2c Washington booklet
unreported





3464
2c Washington booklet
unreported





3474
1c Franklin booklet
unreported

3475
1c Franklin booklet
unreported



3479
1c Franklin booklet
unreported

3480
1c Franklin booklet
rare, not in collection









3531
2 Washington booklet
unreported







3558
1c Franklin
rare, not in collection





3573
2c Washington
rare, not in collection



3583
10c Special Delivery
not used



3585
10c Special Delivery
not used





3587



3588



3589



3590

3591
10c Special Delivery
not used



3592



359



3593



3594



3595

3596
1c Franklin
rare, not in collection

3597
10c Special Delivery
not used



3598



3599







3637
2 Washington booklet
unreported

3638
2 Washington booklet
unreported

3639
2 Washington booklet
unreported



Made in W





3666
2 Washington booklet
unreported

3667
2 Washington booklet
unreported



3670
2 Washington booklet
unreported







3706
2c Washington
rare, not in collection





3720
2c Washington
not finished



3728
2c Washington
rare, not in collection









3756
2 Washington booklet
unreported





3770
2c Jamestown
not used



3775
2c Jamestown
not used





3780
2c Jamestown
not used



3787
2c Jamestown
not used



3790
1c Franklin
rare, not in collection

3791
1c Franklin
unreported



3793
1c Franklin
rare, not in collection

3794
1c Franklin
rare, not in collection

3795
1c Franklin
rare, not in collection



3802
1c Jamestown
not used



3804
1c Jamestown
not used



3807
1c Jamestown
not used











3876
2c Washington
scarce, not in collection





3892



3893



3894



3895



3896



3897



3898



3899



3900



3901



3902



3903



3904



3905



3906



3907



3908



3909



3910



3911



3912



3923
2 Washington booklet
rare, not in collection



3927
1c Franklin
not finished





Bureau, Engraving & Printing

3944







3992
1c Franklin
rare, not in collection



