

## Chapter 62

### Miscellaneous Stamps

My category of miscellaneous stamps consists of stamps which do not seem to fit conveniently into any of the other major categories. These include newspaper stamps, stamps printed for use in Cuba, postal savings stamps, official stamps, and a handful of others. Many of these are probably not thought of very often as plate number collectable items but as a group, or individually, these tend to be a very interesting group of plates. These will be discussed generally in the order that they appear in the BEP's postage stamp plate number series.

Newspaper stamps were first issued in 1865 and the stamps were quite large, more than twice the size of a normal commemorative stamp. The next issue in 1875 was printed by the Continental Bank Note Company and the vertical designs were of commemorative size and featured female statues. The American Bank Note Company (ABNC) took over production in 1879, and in 1894, when the BEP was awarded the stamp printing contract, the ABNC turned over the newspaper printing plates to the BEP. The BEP assigned some plate numbers to the ABNC plates that it put to press but no plate numbers were entered on these ABNC plates. The BEP did produce 17 of its own newspaper plates with denominations ranging from 1c through \$100. Some of these 17 plates are scarce to rare but completion is possible. The most difficult plate to find is the 10c plate number 269 with only three reports in the BIA plate number survey. The \$5 stamp is also available with an I.R. overprint. I would advise the interested collector to not pass by any of these plates since they are very attractive and seldom seen.

The BEP printed stamps for use in Cuba in 1899 following the end of the Spanish-American war. Sheet stamps were printed in 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 10c, and 10c special delivery denominations. All of the plates used to print these stamps are scarce and seldom seen. The 2c stamp was also issued in booklet form. These plates are rare items and no plate number copy has ever been found. The 2c booklet plate number 1323 is the only unreported plate number in this miscellaneous group of stamps. The 10c special delivery from the original plate 908 had the word 'immediata' engraved which is an incorrect spelling. A new plate, 1432, was made with the correct 'inmediata' spelling. The error version is a bit more difficult to find. Strangely, the Cuba special delivery plates seem to be more easily found than any of the other Cuba plates.

The post office issued a 10c registration stamp in 1911 and four plates were used to produce this item. These plates are not often seen and are a bit expensive but completion is not a difficult task. Apparently there was little use for a special registration stamp and four additional assigned plates were never used.

Postal savings stamps form an interesting part of the plate number saga. A 10c postal savings stamp and a 10c postal savings card with one imprinted stamp were

issued in 1910. Four sheet plates went to press and the stamps were first issued in an orange color. Then the color was changed to blue and all four plates are available in both colors. Four additional plates were sent to press but none of the printed output from these press runs was sold. The postal savings cards are also known in both colors. These cards were printed from plates in the BEP's postage stamp plate number series but the plate numbers were trimmed from the finished product and are not available. Two new 10c sheet plates (21485-6) were made and sent to press in 1936 and plate number collectors were surprised to see the return of the BEP imprint followed by a small solid star next to the plate numbers, apparently to make the finished product appear the same as the 1910 version. This was the first use of the BEP imprint since plates in the 5000 series and the last use of the imprint on postage stamp plates. A new series of postal savings stamps was issued in 1940 consisting of 10c, 25c, 50c, and \$1 values. This set was in use for only a short time and few copies were printed. The plate numbers from this series are scarce. The 1941 series of postal savings stamps added a \$5 stamp. All denominations except for the \$5 were printed on the rotary press. None of these plates is scarce but the \$5, with nine plates to press, may require some time to complete.

Postal savings official mail stamps were released in 1910. These stamps were printed in denominations of 1c, 2c, 10c, 50c, and \$1. The 2c was printed from four plates while the remainder required only one plate for each. All of these plates are scarce and worth picking up when you can find them.

A 25c special handling stamp was issued in 1925 with eight plates used and this is not an easy item to complete. New values of 10c, 15c, and 20c followed in 1928 and four plates were used for each value. These stamps were on sale almost 30 years and are available in both wet and dry printings. The 10c, 15c, and 20c plate numbers are common but getting all of the numbers in both wet and dry printings is not easy. The dry printing seems to be scarcer and the price you pay is probably a bargain when you consider the scarcity.

The post office issued only two air mail special delivery stamps and both have the striking design of the Great Seal of the United States. The first issue in 1934 was printed in blue ink from four plates. These four plates are quite common and adding to the interest is that all four are also available in imperforate condition. The second issue in 1936 was printed in red and blue and the result is a truly beautiful stamp. Four 100 subject frame plates and eight 50 subject center plates went to press. All of these plates are common and 32 combinations exist for the combination enthusiast. It is not difficult to assemble all 32 combinations, but if you desire all of the various guide line marginal markings, it quickly becomes a very difficult (especially since some are still unreported), but fascinating task.

A 15c certified mail stamp was issued in 1955 and two plates were used. This experiment was not successful and two additional assigned plates were never used. The two used plates are very easy to find.

The BEP began printing aerogrammes in 1971 on the gravure press. Each aerogramme required multiple printing cylinders and the plate numbers were trimmed from the

finished product. But production errors did occur and paper folds and miscuts have enabled a handful of plates to fall into collector's hands. I am aware of nine plate numbers; three on the 1971 15c issue, one on the 1974 18c aerogramme, three on the 1974 22c aerogramme and one each on the 1983 30c Olympic and 1985 36c Tourism aerogrammes. Each of these production errors represent rare or unique examples of plate numbers. Plate number 41270, used to print the 36c Tourism aerogramme, is the highest real plate number known to exist.

The USPS decided in 1983 that official mail stamps were once again needed. The initial output was printed on the Giori press utilizing the concept of different denomination panes of stamps per printing plate. One set of five plates was made to print the 1c (upper left and upper right panes), the 17c (lower left pane), and the 4c (lower right pane). A second set of four plates printed the \$1 (upper left pane), the 13c (upper right pane), the \$5 (lower left pane), and the D (lower right pane). The 20c official mail stamp was produced only in coil format and the D stamp was also printed in coil form. All of these plates were made under the new plate numbering system. A 22c coil was also produced but no code numbers were entered on the stamps. None of these plates is difficult to find.

The BEP assigned a number of plates over the years for experimental and exhibition use, and for dummy coils. I am aware of only four plates available from this group and they were used to produce dummy coils from 432 subject plates. These plates are seldom seen and make an interesting addition to a plate number collection.

This miscellaneous group of stamps, for the most part, do not attract much attention from stamp collectors, but I think their novelty makes them very attractive items to collect. There are 146 plate numbers available in this group with one unreported. Some of the 145 known numbers are rare or unique, but it is possible to accumulate a large percentage of these plates and a collector who can hit the 100 mark should be quite proud of his or her achievement.

At this point, we have looked at all 41303 plates from various angles and it is time to sum it all up and to find out just how many plates are available to collectors. The long awaited answer appears in the next chapter.

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		Miscellaneous Series Totals						
Series	Subject	Plate Type	Assigned	To Press	Available Real P#	Available Code P#	Unreported	I Have
	(totals)		494	375	135	11	1	
1894	1c Newspaper	100F	2	2	2		0	
1894	2c Newspaper	100F	2	2	2		0	
1894	5c Newspaper	100F	2	2	2		0	
1894	10c Newspaper	100F	2	2	2		0	
1894	25c Newspaper	100F	2	1	1		0	
1894	50c Newspaper	100F	2	2	2		0	
1894	\$2 Newspaper	100F	2	1	1		0	
1894	\$5 Newspaper	100F	2	1	1		0	
1894	\$10 Newspaper	100F	2	1	1		0	
1894	\$20 Newspaper	100F	2	1	1		0	
1894	\$50 Newspaper	100F	2	1	1		0	
1894	\$100 Newspaper	100F	2	1	1		0	
	1c Newspaper	100F	2	1	0			
	2c Newspaper	100F	1	1	0			
	4c Newspaper	100F	1	1	0			
	6c Newspaper	100F	1	1	0			
	10c Newspaper	100F	1	1	0			
	12c Newspaper	100F	1	1	0			
	24c Newspaper	100F	1	1	0			
	36c Newspaper	100F	1	1	0			
	60c Newspaper	100F	1	1	0			
	72c Newspaper	100F	1	0	0			
	96c Newspaper	100F	1	1	0			
	\$3 Newspaper	100F	1	1	0			
	\$6 Newspaper	100F	1	1	0			
1899	1c Cuba	200F	4	4	4		0	
1899	2c Cuba	200F	4	4	4		0	
1899	2c Cuba book	180F	1	1	1		1	
1899	3c Cuba	200F	4	4	4		0	
1899	5c Cuba	200F	4	4	4		0	
1899	10c Cuba	200F	1	1	1		0	
1899	10c Cuba Special Delivery	100F	1	1	1		0	
1899	10c Cuba Special Del. redesign	100F	1	1	1		0	
1911	10c Registration	400F	8	4	4		0	
1910	10c Postal Savings	400F	10	6	6		0	
1910	10c Postal Savings card	18	19	14	0			
1940	10c Postal Savings	400F	2	2	2		0	
1940	25c Postal Savings	400F	2	2	2		0	
1940	50c Postal Savings	400F	1	1	1		0	
1940	\$1 Postal Savings	400F	1	1	1		0	
1941	10c Postal Savings	400R	4	4	4		0	
1941	25c Postal Savings	400R	4	4	4		0	
1941	50c Postal Savings	400R	4	4	4		0	

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1941	\$1 Postal Savings	400R	4	2	2	0
1941	\$5 Postal Savings	100F	13	9	9	0
1910	1c Postal Savings Official Mail	400F	1	1	1	0
1910	2c Postal Savings Official Mail	400F	4	4	4	0
1910	10c Postal Savings Official Mail	400F	2	1	1	0
1910	50c Postal Savings Official Mail	400F	1	1	1	0
1910	\$1 Postal Savings Official Mail	400F	1	1	1	0
1925	25c Special Handling	200F	24	8	8	0
1928	10c Special Handling	200F	4	4	4	0
1928	15c Special Handling	200F	4	4	4	0
1928	20c Special Handling	200F	4	4	4	0
1934	16c Air Mail Special Delivery	200F	4	4	4	0
1936	16c Air Mail Spec. Del. frame	100F	4	4	4	0
1936	16c Air Mail Spec. Del. center	50F	8	8	8	0
1955	15c Certified Mail	200R	4	2	2	0
1971	15c Aerogramme	8C	39	35	3	0
1972	15c Aerogramme	8C	21	16	0	
1973	15c Aerogramme	8C	14	13	0	
1974	18c Aerogramme	8C	37	35	1	0
1974	22c Aerogramme	8C	48	44	3	0
1978	22c Aerogramme	8C	1	1	0	
1979	22c Olympic Aerogramme	8C	8	5	0	
1980	30c Aerogramme	8C	8	6	0	
1981	30c Tourism Aerogramme	8C	8	8	0	
1982	30c World Trade Aerogramme	8C	8	8	0	
1983	30c World Comm. Aerogramme	8C	16	12	0	
1983	30c Olympic Aerogramme	8C	15	13	1	0
1985	36c Lansat Aerogramme	8C	9	8	0	
1985	36c Tourism Aerogramme	8C	8	7	1	0
1983	20c Official Mail coil	936S	1	1	1	0
1983	1c, 1c, 17c, 4c Official Mail	400R	8	5	5	0
1983	\$1, 13c, \$5, D+B7 Official Mail	400R	7	4	4	0
1983	D Official Mail coil	936S	1	1	1	0
1983	14c Official Mail	400F	3	0	0	
1983	22c Official Mail coil	936S	1	1	0	
	Experimental plates		6	0	0	
	Experimental EE Dashes	400R	2	0	0	
	P.O. Exhibit	400R	2	0	0	
	P.O. Exhibit	360R	2	0	0	
	P.O. Exhibit	150R	2	0	0	
	P.O. Exhibit	170R	2	0	0	
	Non-Postal Plate	400F	4	0	0	
	Non-Postal Plate	400R	4	0	0	
	Dummy coil	432R	2	2	2	0
	Experimental		1	0	0	
	Souvenir Card		2	0	0	

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1972	Experimental Siderography		1	0	0			
1975	Dummy Coil	432R	2	2	2		0	
1922	5c Modeling	100F	1	0	0			
1922	8c Modeling	100F	1	0	0			
1922	11c Modeling	100F	1	0	0			
1922	15c Modeling	100F	1	0	0			
1922	25c Modeling	100F	1	0	0			
1922	30c Modeling	100F	1	0	0			