Appendix A: Plate Number Charts

Most chapters in this book have an associated chart that summarizes the plate number data discussed in that chapter. Each column of the charts contains a particular attribute of the postage stamp plates and each row has plate number information for a particular stamp.

The title of each chart is a description of the data in the chart such as the 6000 series of plate numbers or the Third Bureau Series. Following the title are the column headings.

The SERIES column is usually the year the BEP assigns the first plate for a stamp. All subsequent plates for the stamp retain the same series year.

The SUBJECT column contains the denomination and the subject of the stamp design. Some stamps were produced using more than one die and each die gets a separate listing. Early stamps, which were printed in two colors, required separate plates for each color. These early stamps usually had one color for the frame portion of the design and another color for the center, or vignette, portion of the design. Each of these stamps has an entry for each type of plate. Some of the more modern stamps were printed in two passes through the Giori press and a line is given to each plate type (such as Circus 1 and Circus 2). The Giori press typically required at least one flat 'master' plate per stamp subject which was used to produce the rotary printing plates. To save many lines in the charts, any master flat plates are listed as unused rotary plates. Stamps printed by the gravure method might have as many as six printing cylinders, one for each color, and all of these are lumped into one line to save space. The combination offset-intaglio stamps have two lines, one for the offset plates and another for the intaglio plates. The 1931 Yorktown was printed using two plate number layout styles. Plate blocks from the second layout have arrow lines and plate blocks from the first layout do not have these arrows. In addition, the center plates from the 2nd layout contain 50 subjects instead of the 100 subjects of the first layout. The first layout is listed as Yorktown I, the second layout is Yorktown II.

The PLATE TYPE column shows the number of stamp subjects per plate and the type of printing plate. The following codes are used: F-flat plate, R-rotary plate, (no code)-offset plate, C-gravure cylinder, L-offset plate, S-sleeve.

The ASSIGNED column contains the number of plates assigned and the TO PRESS column contains the number of plates sent to press.

The AVAILABLE column contains the number of plates that are reasonably available to collectors. Some plates that went to press are not available because all impressions were destroyed by the BEP, or the plate numbers were trimmed from the finished product. However, sometimes supposedly unavailable plate numbers are found due to production errors such as miscuts or foldovers and these found plate numbers are now available. I consider plate numbers on such items as the 320 and 400 subject rotary booklet plates to be unavailable (unless they are reported as found) since the production of these booklets resulted in few copies ever being found.

The UNREPORTED column contains the number of available plates that have not been reported by any collector. The I HAVE column can be used by the collector to record the number of plates in his or her collection.

The totals for each column containing numbers is at the top of each chart below the column headings, but before the rows of stamp plate number data.

Appendix B: Plate Number Publications

The list below contains important and authoritative sources of plate number information. The list is not a complete list of all plate number publications, but it contains publications that are sources of information for this manuscript. These publications I have found to be most helpful in learning about, and collecting, plate numbers.

Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog published by the United States Stamp Society

The Durland is the must have book for the plate number collector.

B.I.A. Plate Number Checklist Plates 1-20,000 Bureau Issues Association :Plate Number Checklist Plates 20001-41303

Technical information about each printing plate.

Napp's Numbers Volumes One, Two, Three Joseph M. Napp Grounds For Divorce Publications 5 Knollwood Drive West Orange, NJ 07052

Great information about U.S. possession plate numbers.

United States Stamp Society

Various research papers have a lot of plate number information.

Appendix C: Acknowledgements

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