

Chapter 7

Plate Numbers 4000-4999

Plate number 4000 was assigned to the 2c Washington shield sheet stamp in November, 1907 and plate number 4999 was assigned to the 1c Franklin sheet stamp of the series of 1908 in February, 1909. Again, as in each previous group of 1000 plate numbers, a new usage record was set. The 14 months of the 4000 series eclipsed the old record by 3 months. Part of the reason was the transition from the 2nd Bureau series to the third Bureau series, the Washington-Franklin series of 1908. Collector interest in the plates of the 1902 issue still lagged and this contributes to the 4000 series being one of the most difficult sections to collect. But positive changes were ahead. The issue of 1908 sparked new interest in plate numbers and all plates from the 1908 issue were found, even the scourge of the 1902 issue - the booklet plates.

755 of the 952 plates to press in this series were the last plates of the 2nd Bureau series. Actually, around 10 years later, the \$2 and \$5 stamps were reissued and became the perf 10 variety. These stamps should be considered part of the 2nd Bureau series because there was no change in the stamp design.

The 1c Franklin saw 224 plates to press. The earlier trends continue with many of these plates being scarce. Twenty-four of these sheets are known imperforate. The 1c Franklin booklet required 4 plates and one is unreported; the other 3 are rare.

The 2c Washington die II variety exists in the last of the 2c Washington plates. 225 plates were used to print the die II stamp and, for me, the die II plates are easier than the die I plates because of a real piece of luck I had a couple of years ago. I went to a stamp bourse and began asking dealers what they had available in earlier plate numbers. A dealer from the east coast pulled out an old album. I was astonished to see page after page of 2nd Bureau 1c and 2c plates mounted in consecutive number order. I needed over half the numbers so I bought the entire lot. The album had plates from around 4200 to the end of the series. I quickly asked where the rest of the collection was but this was all the dealer had. The collection appeared to have been assembled when the stamps were current and was missing only a few items. There were even a couple of plate singles from the booklet plates! You never know when you will stumble across a treasure. And I was able to share my luck with a fellow collector who was also chasing these rarities. Six of these die II plates are known imperforate.

The 2c Washington die I used 208 plates and many are very tough. Sixteen of these plates are known in imperforate condition. The 2c booklet plate total is 50 and 11 of these are unreported with most of the rest being great rarities.

The 4c Grant used 12 plates, the 5c Lincoln 8 plates, and the 6c Garfield 4 plates. Of these, the real tough items are the 6c Garfield. In my experience, the Garfield plates are

rare. Plates 4073 and 4075, used to print the 5c Lincoln stamp, are also known imperforate and are scarce and expensive.

The 2c Lincoln stamp of 1909 is in the 4000 series and 8 plates were used with all being easy to obtain. These 8 plates each have a small star printed to the left of the plate number. This star is known as the solid star and appears only on two other plates which were used to print the 1c Franklin and 2c Washington stamps of the 3rd Bureau series. The eight 2c Lincoln plates are available in perforated and imperforate condition and the first four plates also printed the blue paper variety. Four plates were used for the 10c green special delivery, the famous winged helmet, and these plates are not difficult.

Collector interest in plates returned with a blast with the start of the third Bureau series. 185 plates were used to kick off this new regular issue and all are reported. Collectors even began to find and save the booklet plates so these are no longer the great rarities. But it is not an easy job to find all 185 of these plates. Some are very scarce but the problems are, as usual, in the 1c and 2c values. The 1c Franklin plate 4980 and the 2c Washington plate 4988 each have the small solid star to the left of the plate number. These two plates are not rare, but they are expensive because this particular imprint type was used only once on each stamp. All of the higher value plates are relatively easy to locate. The 1c through the 5c values exist imperforate and plate number copies of these varieties make interesting additions to any collection.

So the dark age (in terms of availability) in plate number collecting seems to be ending with a resurgence in collector enthusiasm. The 5000 series will tell if collectors can maintain the renewed interest. But first, we will take one more look back at the entire second Bureau series. Are things as grim as they may seem? See the next chapter for the gripping answer.

Chapter 7-4000

		4000 Series Totals					
Series	Subject	Plate Type	Assigned	To Press	Available	Unreported	I Have
	(totals)		1000	952	952	12	
2nd Bureau Series							
1902	1c Franklin	400F	231	224	224	0	
1902	1c Franklin book	180F	12	4	4	1	
1903	2c Washington Die I	400F	209	208	208	0	
1903	2c Washington Die I book	180F	50	50	50	11	
1903	2c Washington Die II	400F	243	225	225	0	
1903	2c Washington Die II book	180F	28	20	20	0	
1902	4c Grant	400F	14	12	12	0	
1902	5c Lincoln	400F	8	8	8	0	
1902	6c Garfield	400F	4	4	4	0	
1902	8c M. Washington	(400F?)	4	0	0		
3rd Bureau Series							
1908	1c Franklin	400F	51	51	51	0	
1908	1c Franklin book	180F	4	4	4	0	
1908	2c Washington	400F	76	76	76	0	
1908	2c Washington book	180F	16	16	16	0	
1908	3c Washington	400F	4	4	4	0	
1908	4c Washington	400F	4	4	4	0	
1908	5c Washington	400F	8	8	8	0	
1908	6c Washington	400F	4	4	4	0	
1908	8c Washington	400F	4	4	4	0	
1908	10c Washington	400F	4	4	4	0	
1908	13c Washington	400F	4	4	4	0	
1908	15c Washington	400F	4	4	4	0	
1908	50c Washington	200F	1	1	1	0	
1908	\$1 Washington	200F	1	1	1	0	
Commemorative							
1909	2c Lincoln	400F	8	8	8	0	
Special Purpose Issues							
1908	10c Special Delivery	280F	4	4	4	0	



4003
2c Washington booklet
unreported

4004
2c Washington booklet
unreported



4007
2c Washington booklet
unreported

4008
2c Washington booklet
unreported









4052
2c Washington booklet
rare, not in collection



4057
2c Washington booklet
unreported



4061
2c Washington booklet
rare, not in collection

4062
2c Washington booklet
unreported





4087
2c Washington
(missing)





4107
2c Washington booklet
unreported



4109
2c Washington booklet
unreported





4121
2c Washington
not finished













4222
2c Washington
rare, not in collection

4223
2c Washington booklet
unreported







4239
2c Washington booklet
rare, not in collection



4242
2c Washington booklet
rare, not in collection



4247
2c Washington booklet
unreported

4248
2c Washington booklet
rare, not in collection





4275
2c Washington booklet
unreported



4279
2c Washington booklet
rare, not in collection



4283
2c Washington booklet
rare, not in collection



4289
2c Washington booklet
rare, not in collection

4290
1c Franklin
rare, not in collection









4357
2c Washington booklet
unreported



4374
2c Washington booklet
rare, not in collection

4375
2c Washington booklet
rare, not in collection













4478
1c Franklin
(missing)









4544
1c Franklin booklet
unreported





4553
1c Franklin booklet
rare, not in collection





4563
1c Franklin booklet
not used



4568
1c Franklin booklet
not used



4572
1c Franklin booklet
not used



4576
1c Franklin booklet
not used



4579
1c Franklin booklet
not used



4583
1c Franklin booklet
not finished



4589
1c Franklin booklet
not finished



4593
1c Franklin booklet
not finished





4613-4614
2c Washington booklet
not finished















4750
2c Washington
rare, not in collection



4762-4763
1c Franklin
not finished



4765-4766
2c Washington booklet
not finished

4767-4768
1c Franklin
not finished



4770-4771
2c Washington booklet
not finished



4773-4774
1c Franklin
not finished

4775
2c Washington booklet
not finished



4777
8c M. Washington
not finished

4778
1c Franklin
not finished

4779-4782
2c Washington
not finished

4783-85
8c M. Washington
not finished

4786
2c Washington booklet
not finished

4787
2c Washington
not finished

4788
4c Grant
not finished

4789-4793
2c Washington booklet
not finished

4794
4c Grant
not finished

4795-4802
2c Washington
not finished

Start of the
3rd Bureau Series













We have examined the enclosed item, of which a photograph is attached, and *described by the applicant* as follows:

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Cat. No.	Issue	Denom.	Color
357	1909	1¢	green

Scott's unless otherwise specified

UNUSED OG
TOP IMPRINT & PLATE NO. 4892 BLOCK OF SIX.

AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:







4912
1c Franklin
scarce, not in collection













