## Chapter 24

## Plate Numbers 17000-17999

Plate 17000 was assigned to the 9c Jefferson stamp in March, 1925 but was not used. Plate 17999 was assigned to a 2c Washington side coil in November, 1925 and this plate is unreported. 1000 plates being used in slightly over 8 months seems to be a high rate of usage. Perhaps the nation was growing and using many more stamps. The BEP was still using the flat plate presses as the primary creator of postage stamps and few of these plates produced more than 40,000 impressions. Collectors today are fortunate that collectors of that era worked hard to find ample supplies of most of these plates.

The 4th Bureau series was assigned 907 of these plate numbers. 70 of these plate numbers were assigned to a new stamp, the 1/2c Nathan Hale. 49 Nathan Hale plates went to press and all seem to be easy to find. One very unusual fact about the 17000 section is that no 1c plates were assigned. The 1.5c Harding stamp had 24 flat plates assigned but none went to press. Six 1.5c rotary plates did go to press along with 7 coils of which 3 are unreported. 386 2c Washington flat plates went to press. A complete showing of these plates is difficult, but possible. In this section, all but three of the plates on the 2c, as well as some flat plates on the 12c, 15c, and 20c denominations, had a star to indicate a wide gauge plate. All stars were positioned in the sheet margin below the right side plate number on the upper right pane except for 12c plate 17421 which had a large six point star. But not all wide gauge plates were marked with stars. One set of four plates for the 11c, 25c, and the 30c values were wide gauge plates without star markings. The purpose of the wide gauge plate was to produce a better product by compensating for uneven paper shrinkage. Forty-one rotary 2c plates went to press and these as a group are tougher than the flat plates, perhaps because many saw use as precancels. Forty 2c flat booklet plates went to press and none of these is rare. Another historic first now occurred with the issuance of the first rotary press booklet plates. 17450 and 17451 produced the 2c Washington booklets. Panes cut off-center could show a part of the plate number on the rotary press booklet plates. These panes are scarce but available.

The transition to the rotary press was happening on the midrange values from 3c through the 10c. The 3c Lincoln stamp used 5 flat plates and 14 rotary plates. The rotary plates are much tougher, especially 17511 and 17512. 25,500 impressions were made from these plates but very few were found. The 4c M. Washington and the 5c Roosevelt were printed only on the rotary press with 7 and 11 plates and these are not difficult. 4 to 6 rotary plates each were used on the 6c to 10c values and some of these are not easy. The history of these early rotary plates is that they are difficult to find and the condition of the finished product is pretty sorry. Nice looking rotary plates are tough to find since most copies have perfs cutting the design at some point. The flat press was used for some of these values also. The notable scarce plates are 17468 and 17469 on the 10c Monroe.

The flat press still ruled the values above 10c. Many of these flat plates had a very limited press run and our predecessors did a great job locating most of these plates.

Only 5 commemorative plates were in this section with 4 plates used to finish the 2c Norse-American and 1 plate to finish the 2c Lexington stamps.

An enormous number of plates was used to print the 10c special delivery. These 28 plates are really tough to complete. A new stamp, the 20c special delivery, was issued in this section and the 16 flat plates used were enough for the entire issue. The last four of these plates are hard to find, but their difficulty does not approach that of the 10c plates.

A series of special handling stamps was started with the issuance of the 25c value. 8 plates went to press and these are easy. A new postage due stamp with a value of 1/2c was issued with 5 plates being used and these are quite common.

The 17000 section had 872 plates to press with 73 unreported. The coils are the big problem with few collectors locating these plates. The slow transition to the rotary press makes this a very interesting section, especially when mounted in consecutive number order. A presentation of 700 plates would be a fine achievement. The rotary press appears poised to take over stamp production. It did not happen in the 17000 section but the 18000 section may be different. The next chapter reveals the result.

		17000 Ser	ies Totals				
Series	Subject	Plate Type	Assigned	To Press	Available	Unreported	l Have
		<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>				
	(totals)		1000	872	872	73	
					_		
3rd Bur	eau Series						
	2c Washington	36F	1	0	0		
4th Bur	eau Series						
1925	.5c Hale	400F	70	49	49	0	
1925	1.5c Harding	400F	24	0	0		
1925	1.5c Harding	400R	8	6	6	0	
1925	1.5c Harding coil	150R	8	2	2	2	
1925	1.5c Harding coil	170R	6	5	5	1	
	2c Washington	400F	388	386	386	0	
	2c Washington	400R	42	41	41	1	
	2c Washington book	360F	40	40	40	0	
1922	2c Washington book	360R	2	2	2	0	
1922	2c Washington coil	150R	4	4	4	2	
1922	2c Washington coil	170R	97	94	94	63	
1922	3c Lincoln	400F	6	5	5	0	
1922	3c Lincoln	400R	14	14	14	0	
1922	3c Lincoln coil	170R	6	6	6	3	
1922	4c M. Washington	400F	4	0	0		
1922	4c M. Washington	400R	8	7	7	0	
1922	4c M. Washington coil	170R	6	4	4	0	
1922	5c Roosevelt	400R	11	11	11	0	
1922	5c Roosevelt coil	170R	4	4	4	0	
1922	6c Garfield	400F	4	0	0		
1922	6c Garfield	400R	8	6	6	0	
1922	7c McKinley	400F	12	8	8	0	
1922	7c McKinley	400R	4	4	4	0	
1922	8c Grant	400F	6	6	6	0	
1922	8c Grant	400R	4	4	4	0	
1922	9c Jefferson	400F	8	4	4	0	
	9c Jefferson	400R	4	4	4	0	
	10c Monroe	400F	10	2	2	0	
	10c Monroe	400R	10	10	10	0	
	10c Monroe coil	170R	8	5		1	
	11c Hayes	400F	12	12	12	0	
	12c Cleveland	400F	7	7	7	0	
	14c Indian	400F	3	3		0	
	15c Statue of Liberty	400F	21	21		0	
	20c Golden Gate	400F	18	18	18	0	
	25c Niagara Falls	400F	8	4	4	0	
	30c Bison	400F	8	8		0	
1922	50c Amphitheater	400F	4	4	4	0	
	emorative						
	2c Norse center	100F	5	4		0	
1925	2c Lexington	200F	3	1	1	0	

Special Purpose Issues									
1922	10c Special Delivery	200F	28	28	28	0			
1922	20c Special Delivery	200F	24	16	16	0			
1925	25c Special Handling	200F	24	8	8	0			
1925	.5c Postage Due	400F	8	5	5	0			

17000-17003 9c Jefferson not used



17005-17006 2c Lexington not used 17007 1.5c Harding rotary not used







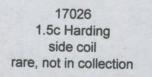
17021 1.5c Harding rotary not used











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17027-17028 1c Franklin end coil unreported



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17059-17066 1.5c Harding not used 17067 1.5c Harding side coil rare, not in collection



17069 1.5c Harding side coil unreported

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17070 1.5c Harding side coil not finished

















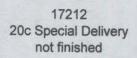




17200-17205 20c Special Delivery not finished









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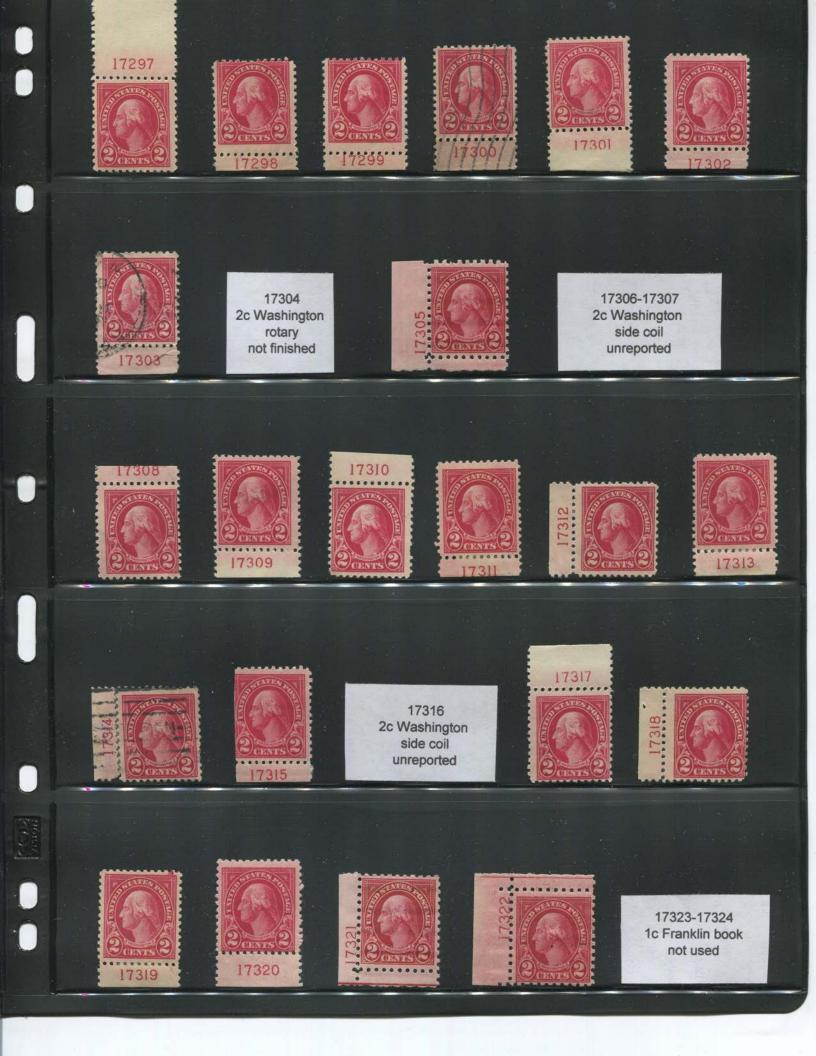




































































17506 2c Washington not finished





17509 2c Washington side coil not finished 17510 2c Washington side coil unreported

17511 3c Lincoln rotary rare, not in collection 17512 3c Lincoln rotary rare, not in collection









17517-17518 2c Washington side coil unreported









17523



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17562 2c Washington side coil rare, not in collection 17563 2c Washington side coil unreported







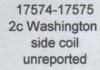






17570 2c Washington end coil rare, not in collection 17571 2c Washington end coil unreported 17572 2c Washington end coil rare, not in collection

17573 2c Washington end coil unreported

































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17792 2c Washington side coil rare, not in collection 17793 2c Washington side coil not finished





17800-17801 2c Washington side coil unreported











17852 2c Washington side coil rare, not in collection

17853 2c Washington side coil rare, not in collection









17858 2c Washington side coil rare, not in collection















17870



17872-17873 2c Washington side coil unreported















































17902-17905 2c Washington side coil unreported



17907 3c Lincoln side coil unreported

17908 3c Lincoln side coil rare, not in collection

17909 3c Lincoln side coil rare, not in collection

















936

17937 4c M. Washington side coil rare, not in collection

17938 4c M. Washington side coil rare, not in collection



17940 4c M. Washington side coil rare, not in collection











17981-17982 2c Washington side coil unreported

17983-17984 4c M. Washington side coil not used 17985 2c Washington side coil unreported

17986 2c Washington side coil rare, not in collection

17987 2c Washington side coil rare, not in collection

17988 2c Washington side coil rare, not in collection







17991-17992 2c Washington side coil unreported





17995 2c Washington side coil rare, not in collection 17996 2c Washington side coil unreported

17997 2c Washington side coil rare, not in collection

17998 2c Washington side coil rare, not in collection

17999 2c Washington side coil unreported