

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.

Chapter 24-17000

		17000 Series Totals					
Series	Subject	Plate Type	Assigned	To Press	Available	Unreported	I Have
	(totals)		1000	872	872	73	
3rd Bureau Series							
1911	2c Washington	36F	1	0	0		
4th Bureau 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	
1922	2c Washington	400F	388	386	386	0	
1922	2c Washington	400R	42	41	41	1	
1922	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	
1922	9c Jefferson	400R	4	4	4	0	
1922	10c Monroe	400F	10	2	2	0	
1922	10c Monroe	400R	10	10	10	0	
1922	10c Monroe coil	170R	8	5	5	1	
1922	11c Hayes	400F	12	12	12	0	
1922	12c Cleveland	400F	7	7	7	0	
1922	14c Indian	400F	3	3	3	0	
1922	15c Statue of Liberty	400F	21	21	21	0	
1922	20c Golden Gate	400F	18	18	18	0	
1922	25c Niagara Falls	400F	8	4	4	0	
1922	30c Bison	400F	8	8	8	0	
1922	50c Amphitheater	400F	4	4	4	0	
Commemorative							
1925	2c Norse center	100F	5	4	4	0	
1925	2c Lexington	200F	3	1	1	0	

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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



17009-17016
1.5c Harding
not used



17021
1.5c Harding
rotary
not used



17026
1.5c Harding
side coil
rare, not in collection

17027-17028
1c Franklin
end coil
unreported





17053
.5c Hale
not used



17059-17066
1.5c Harding
not used

17067
1.5c Harding
side coil
rare, not in collection



17069
1.5c Harding
side coil
unreported

17070
1.5c Harding
side coil
not finished



17087-17094
1.5c Harding
not used



17100
25c Special Handling
not used



17104-17106
25c Special Handling
not used





17132-17134
.5c Postage Due
not used

17135-17146
25c Special Handling
not used



17157-17160
4c M. Washington
not used



17167-17174
10c Monroe
not used



17186



17187



17188



17189



17190

F 17191



17192



17193

17194

20c Special Delivery
not finished



17195



17196



17197



17198

17199



17200-17205
20c Special Delivery
not finished

17206



17208
2c Washington
not finished



F 17211



17212
20c Special Delivery
not finished

F 17213



17214



17223



17224



17231-17238
.5c Hale
not used



17247-17254
.5c Hale
not used



17259-17262
.5c Hale
not used



17271-17272
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



17275-17283
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

17284
2c Washington
rotary
unreported



17290-17291
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



17297



17298

17299

17300

17301

17302



17303

17304
2c Washington
rotary
not finished



17305

17306-17307
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



17308



17309



17310



17311



17312



17313



17314



17315

17316
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



17317



17318



17319



17320



17321



17322

17323-17324
1c Franklin book
not used



17326

17385

17327

17328

17329

17330



17331

17332

17333

17334

17335

17336



17337

17338

17339

17340

17341

17342



17343

17344

17345

17346

17347

17348



17349

17350

17351

17352

17353

17354
2c Norse American
center
not finished





17385



17386



17387



17388



17389



17390



17391



17392



17393



17394



17395



17396



17397



17398



17399



17400



17401



17402



17403



17404



17405

17406-17409
6c Garfield
not used

17410-17413
7c McKinley
not used



17414



17415



17416



17417



17434-17435
3c Lincoln
side coil
unreported



17438-17439
6c Garfield
rotary
not used





17468
10c Monroe
rare, not in collection







17502-17505
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

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





17542-17545
25c Niagara
not used

17546-17549
1.5c Harding
end coil
not used





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

17574-17575
2c Washington
side coil
unreported





17600-17601
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



17610
10c Monroe
side coil
rare, not in collection

17611-17613
10c Monroe
side coil
unreported



17633
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

17634
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

17635-17636
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



17637



17638



F 17639



17640



17641



17642



17643

17644
10c Special Delivery
rare, not in collection



17645



17646



17647



17648



17649



17651



17652



17653



F 17654



17655



17662-17665
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



17674-17675
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



17680-17681
1.5c Harding
end coil
not used





17691
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

17692
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection



17703
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

17704
2c Washington
side coil
not used





17713
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

17714
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

17715
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

17716
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection



17729
2c Washington
not finished



17738
4c M. Washington
not used



17745





17774-17777
2c Washington
side coil
unreported





17792
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

17793
2c Washington
side coil
not finished



17800-17801
2c Washington
side coil
unreported





17806-17807
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



17822
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

17823-17827
2c Washington
side coil
unreported





17846-17847
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

17859
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



17872-17873
2c Washington
side coil
unreported





17878-17879
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





17926
3c Lincoln
not used





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









17961
10c Monroe
side coil
rare, not in collection



17963
10c Monroe
side coil
unreported



17973-17974
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

17975
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

17976
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



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