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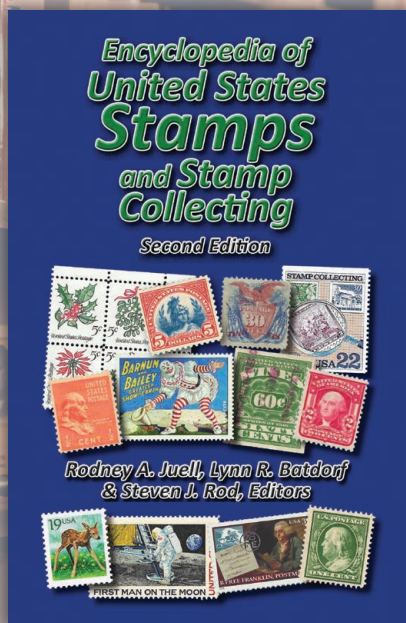
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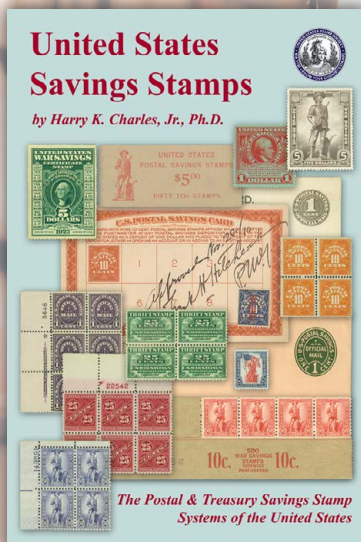
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Prologue

264 Vintage Photo of the Month

by Rodney A. Juell



Epilogue

284 Plate Number Report

by Kim D. Johnson

287 Executive Secretary's Report

by Robert Rufe

288 Classified Advertising

288 Index of Advertisers

Features

244 Great Americans Issue, Part XIII— Issues Printed on Uncoated Prephosphored Paper

by Jay Stotts

250 US Stamp Booklet Cashier Scanner Card

by Bob Trachimowicz

253 FDR and the 1927 Lindbergh Airmail Stamp, Part I

by Paul M. Holland

262 Why the Lilac Shade of Scott 376 Is Definitely Worth Looking For

by Kevin G. Lowther

266 Discovery: New Precancel City for Scott 1056

by Roland Austin

268 The Coming and Going of China Clay in BEP Printing Paper: Kaolin Content in the 2¢ Stamps of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Bureau Issues

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The Great Americans

Great Americans Issue Part XIII— Issues Printed on Uncoated Prephosphored Paper

by **Jay Stotts**

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Figure 1. Full Moon.

In the previous part of this series, we explained the switch that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) made from printing stamps and then surface printing a phosphor compound on top of the stamp images to the practice of using coated prephosphored paper. This change lasted less than a year before the Bureau made another paper change.

In 1992, the BEP started using what can be termed as uncoated prephosphored paper. With the coated prephosphored paper, the phosphor compound was mixed with a coating substance and then applied to the paper, producing a smooth, solid appearance when viewing the stamps under shortwave ultraviolet light.

We'll speculate here that the cost of producing uncoated prephosphored paper was slightly less than that of producing coated prephosphored paper because the coating compound was eliminated. The Bureau was always interested in reducing costs, so the uncoated prephosphored paper may have been financially appealing.

Viewing Mottled Prephosphored Paper

In manufacturing the uncoated prephosphored paper, the phosphor compound was not mixed with a coating compound but was applied directly to the paper. Without the coating compound, the paper surface was rough and uneven. The phosphor compound spread unevenly along the surface of the paper. Under shortwave ultraviolet light, the phosphor will appear very spotty and uneven. The term the philatelic community has adopted for this appearance is “mottled.”

To provide an analogy for the mottled appearance, consider the appearance of the surface of the moon, as shown in Figure 1. The smoother surfaces of the moon reflect sunlight evenly, while the rougher surfaces disperse the light unevenly and appear darker. When an uneven appearance of lighter and darker areas appears under shortwave ultraviolet light, the “mottled” appearance indicates that the stamp was printed on uncoated prephosphored paper.

50¢ Chester Nimitz Stamp



Figure 2. Nimitz plate block printed from Sleeve 3.

The 50¢ Chester Nimitz was printed on its third different press at the Bureau in 1992. It debuted as an I-8 Press issue in 1985 and later as an A Press issue in 1986. A new sleeve, Sleeve 3 (see Figure 2.), was prepared for the C to F family of presses. Bureau records indicate that Sleeve 3 was certified on July 8, 1991. The first stamps printed from this sleeve were printed with overall tagging, so this printing helps us determine that solid prephosphor-coated paper probably was limited to one press at the Bureau at first. In the previous part of this series, we wrote that the 23¢ Mary Cassatt stamp was first reported as printed on coated prephosphored paper on May 24, 1991.

Sleeve 3 printings of the 50¢ Nimitz stamp next appeared on uncoated prephosphored paper with a mottled appearance. The new variety is listed as number 1869e in the Scott *Specialized Catalogue*. The paper is reported as high bright with a bluish-white appearance when viewed under longwave ultraviolet light. The gum is shiny but not striated.

Additional Reissues on Uncoated Prephosphored Paper

Several popular values were printed again from 1992 through 1994, now on uncoated prephosphored paper. The United States Postal Service (USPS) did not regard such issues as “new issues,” so it didn’t provide first day of issue information. Because we can’t positively identify issue dates, the order of the values listed below may not reflect the chronological order of appearance.

We’ll start with the 23¢ Mary Cassatt stamp. The rate paid the fee for each additional ounce on domestic letters, so it was in high demand, and a new sleeve, Sleeve 3, was produced for the C to F family of presses. The uncoated paper variety was produced from

this sleeve. This variety is reported as having high bright paper characteristics and shiny gum. Figure 3 shows a Sleeve 3 plate block.

The 10¢ Red Cloud stamp appeared on uncoated prephosphored paper, and reports indicate that it was first noticed by the collecting community in the summer of 1994. It has shiny gum that is striated vertically. It was printed from Sleeve 2, the same sleeve used previously from the C to F family of presses for both over-all tagged and solid-appearing prephosphor paper. When asked, the Postal Service answered that this variety was printed in late 1993.

The \$1 Johns Hopkins stamp, which paid the \$1 return receipt fee and the certified mail fee, had additional printings on uncoated prephosphored paper. Sleeve 2, as previously introduced with the coated paper printing, was used for this issue. The paper appears high bright and fluoresces bluish-white under longwave ultraviolet light. The gum is shiny and striated.

The 75¢ Wendell Willkie stamps, which paid the three-ounce domestic letter rate, also appeared on uncoated prephosphored paper. Sleeve 1 continued to be used. This was from a press run conducted in September 1992. As with other issues printed on this paper, it exhibits the characteristic high bright fluorescence and shiny gum. The gum is striated.

The 52¢ Hubert Humphrey stamp, probably in high demand for the two-ounce

letter fee, received a new sleeve, Sleeve 2, which is shown in Figure 4. The new sleeve went to press in February 1993. In Stephen Esrati's 25th revision of his publication, *The Great Americans* (dated April 10, 2006), he picks up the story, "But something apparently went wrong because the corrected [biography dates] Plate [Sleeve] 1 was put back to press. In late 1995, stamps obtained from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service were again Plate [Sleeve] 1 (shiny gum, corrected inscription)."

So expect to find two different versions of panes found with Sleeve 1 corner numbers. There will be panes bearing the wrong biographical dates, printed on solid-appearing prephosphored paper and panes with corrected

biographical information printed on uncoated paper, appearing mottled under shortwave ultraviolet light. Sleeve 2 stamps were issued on the uncoated paper.

By this time, the domestic postcard rate was 20¢, so the Harry Truman stamp made another appearance. Sleeve 4 was made for the C to F family of presses. Figure 5 shows a



Figure 3. Cassatt stamp on uncoated prephosphored paper.



Figure 4. Humphrey stamp from Sleeve 2.



Figure 5. Truman stamp from Sleeve 4.



Figure 6. Ruth Benedict stamp.

block of the Truman stamps printed from Sleeve 4. This sleeve went to press in September 1993. The printing was on uncoated paper with shiny, diagonally striated gum.

46¢ Ruth Benedict New Issue

The postal rate of 46¢ for a one-ounce letter posted to Canada or Mexico became effective July 9, 1995, so the Bureau produced a 46¢ stamp featuring Ruth Benedict, an American anthropologist who studied cultural structure. The new stamp is shown in Figure 6. Figure 7 shows Benedict stamp marginal markings that marketed the USPS sales catalog.

Sleeve 1 went to the D Press on July 27, 1995, for 311,900 impressions. The stamp was issued on October 20, 1995, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This stamp was printed on uncoated prephosphored paper.



Figure 7. Ruth Benedict biographical data.

CC1 Squares

Sometime around 1992, small one-millimeter squares began appearing as marginal markings from the D and F presses, which had offset printing capability. The full purpose and origin of these markings remains unclear to collectors, but the name “CC1 squares” seems to emanate from a company named CC1, Inc., a manufacturer of digital automatic register controls for offset printing presses. Their equipment registers the relative accuracy of the different colors being printed in a multicolored offset printing job.

An example of CC1 square marginal markings on a booklet pane of 29¢ Garden Flowers (Scott 2833a) is shown in Figure 8, issued on April 28, 1994. There is one square



Figure 8. CC1 squares on the margin of a *Garden Flowers* booklet.

Colored CC1 squares also began to appear on mono-colored intaglio printed stamps as well, but why? Color registration relative to other colors wasn't an issue; nonetheless, these squares began to be added as localized engravings in the margins of existing printing sleeves. Figure 9 shows a CC1 square as added to Sleeve 3 of the Cassatt stamp. On these Great Americans sleeves, the square was added to both the left and right margins.

Some Great Americans stamps that showed CC1 squares were the 4¢ Flanagan (Sleeve 2), 20¢ Truman (Sleeve 4), 52¢ Humphrey (Sleeve 2) and 46¢ Benedict (Sleeve 1). Others exist as well. If you study the Humphrey Sleeve 2 printings, you'll discover that the CC1 square was relocated from adjacent to the second row of stamps to adjacent to the third row of stamps sometime during its production.

Ink Color Changes

According to a spokesperson for the Bureau, it added a new ink supplier in 1995. Collectors of Great Americans have reported color changes for various values, notably to the \$1 Hopkins, 3¢ White, and 4¢ Flanagan stamps. But none was as dramatic as the color change in the 10¢ Red Cloud issue. Originally issued in what is cataloged as a "lake" color, the newer stamps are cataloged as "carmine." Both are shades of red, but the former is a darker shade than the latter. Figure 10 shows a block of the carmine overlaid on a block of the lake shade.

Unlike most color variances in Great Americans issues, Scott elected to list the carmine shade of the 10¢ Red Cloud stamp. It is listed as 2175e. A *Linn's Stamp News* article dated September 25, 1995, explained that "[b]ecause the color of the Red Cloud variety

for each color used during the printing process. Here, we see four offset color squares (cyan, magenta, yellow, and black) and a black intaglio square.

Apparently, the accuracy of the printing relationship of the different colors relative to one another was monitored by high-speed digital cameras. Controls and monitors allowed pressmen to monitor quality control on the fly. CC1, in 2011, claimed waste was reduced, with the use of their system, from 3.0% to 0.8% in most applications. With the Bureau's installation of a CC1 system, these small color squares began to appear in the margins of their stamps.



Figure 9. CC1 square in the margin of Sleeve 3 of the Cassatt stamp.



Figure 10. Carmine shade overlaid on lake shade.

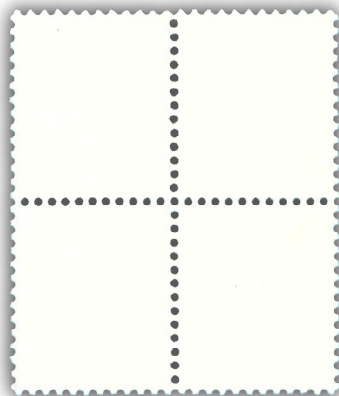


Figure 11. Red Cloud block with all color omitted.

results from a production change and is not a freak printing, the stamp was given a minor Scott number.” This stamp was printed on uncoated prephosphored paper.

To complete the listings for the 10¢ Red Cloud, a variety known as “all color omitted” appeared on solid prephosphored paper sometime before the switch to untagged prephosphored paper. This variety is listed as Scott 2175f. Figure 11 shows a block of four of the Red Cloud with an American Philatelic Society certificate of authenticity.

Contract Printers Begin Replacing BEP Production

Despite all the efforts the Bureau expended trying to minimize stamp production costs and improve quality, their days as a USPS stamp supplier were numbered as we shall see in the next installment of this series.

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Booklets and Booklet Panes

US Stamp Booklet Cashier Scanner Card

by **Bob Trachimowicz**

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Figure 1. Cashier Scanner Card

The recent articles in *The United States Specialist* reminded me of a “go-with” I obtained in the 1980s from a cashier at the now-shuttered K-Mart in Rosenberg, Texas. It is a thin plastic card, $3\frac{3}{8} \times 2\frac{1}{8} \times \frac{1}{32}$ ” or the size of a standard credit card. It has rounded corners. The front of the card displays the beach scene from the cover of the 1985 \$4.40 Sea Shell Booklet, Scott BK 147. See Figure 1. The back has an advertisement for joining the USPS Commemorative Stamp Club. However, unlike Scott BK 147, the back of the card has a USPS copyright notice, dated 1985, and also a UPC bar code. See Figure 2. It is the only example of any cards of this type for any booklets that I am aware of. Images of the front and back of Scott BK 147 are shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4.

Retailers began using bar codes for scanning items in 1974. In the 1980s, scanners were being used by many large retailers. The cashiers at the Rosenberg K-Mart kept this card in the drawer of their registers, along with booklets of Sea Shell stamps. When a customer wanted to buy a booklet of these stamps along with their other purchases, rather than manually ringing up the sale, the cashier would scan the plastic card and then



Figure 2. Back of the card in Figure 1.



Figure 3. Front cover of BK 147

give the customer the stamp booklet, which was also kept in the register drawer. As I recall, the stamp booklets were sold at face value. This scan card became obsolete with the issuance of the three Jack London booklets in 1986.

Questions surround the genesis of this plastic card. Was the card produced by the USPS for any merchants to use for retail stamp booklet sales, or did K-Mart produce this card, with its own bar code, for exclusive use in its stores? Were similar cards produced for other stamp booklets, and if so, which ones? Feedback from readers is greatly appreciated.



Figure 4. Back cover of BK 147. Note the lack of a barcode.

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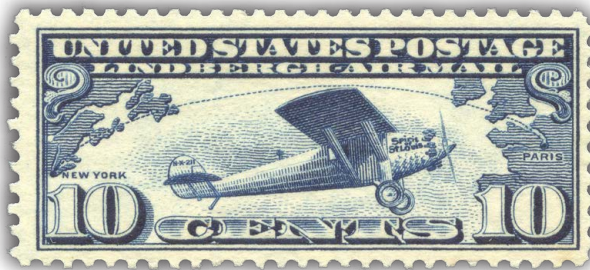


Lindbergh Airmail Stamp

FDR and the 1927 Lindbergh Airmail Stamp, Part I

by **Paul M. Holland**

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After diligent preparation and relatively little fanfare, Charles A. Lindbergh, a 25-year-old former airmail pilot, took off from New York on his historic non-stop flight to Paris early on the morning of May 20, 1927. Lindbergh had helped with the design of the custom-built single-engine Ryan NYP monoplane that he flew, dubbing it the *Spirit of St. Louis* in recognition of the businessmen who provided financial backing. It was essentially a highly efficient and reliable flying “gas tank” whose forward fuel tank was in front of the pilot, limiting visibility to side windows and an improvised periscope. After flying for 33½ hours, Lindbergh successfully landed in Paris late the following evening, and this became the most famous aviation feat of all time, winning the \$25,000 Orteig Prize against much better-financed teams of aviators.

Before his famous transatlantic flight, Lindbergh was the chief airmail pilot for Robertson Aircraft Corporation’s Contract Air Mail Route 2 (CAM-2) that began service from Chicago on April 15, 1926. He is shown loading the first sacks of airmail for the CAM-2 route onto a De Havilland DH-4 biplane in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Loading airmail for CAM-2 route onto a De Havilland DH-4 biplane.

CAM-2 routing was from Chicago to St. Louis, with stops at Peoria and Springfield, Illinois. Because stamp collectors at the time avidly collected “first flight” covers for each of the different Contract Air Mail Routes, original airmail covers that were flown by Charles Lindbergh as an airmail pilot (before he became famous) are readily available today. In fact, airmail covers flown by Lindbergh both before and after his famous transatlantic flight have become an important collecting theme, and these and related items are often referred to as “Lindberghiana.”¹

I have examples of such covers from Lindbergh’s very first official airmail flight franked with 10¢ airplane and map stamps. These bear official post office cachets that show Lindbergh leaving Chicago at 5:30 AM on April 15, 1926. This initial flight carried 87 pounds of mail, with many details on this and other Lindbergh flights provided in the *American Air Mail Catalogue*.¹ Shown in Figure 2 is my cover to Peoria, Illinois, which was the endpoint for the first official airmail leg ever flown by Lindbergh. The backstamps show a scheduled arrival around 7:00 AM. In Peoria, Lindbergh picked up an additional 23 pounds of mail.

Shown in Figure 3 is my other cover from Lindbergh’s initial southbound flight from Chicago. This continued to St. Louis, with the machine backstamp showing arrival at 10:30 am on April 15, 1926. Interestingly, this cover is addressed to the “Hussman Stamp Company,” and on the back there are later handstamps from a member of the American Air Mail Society (of which I’m also a member) certifying that this cover was “Flown by Lindbergh” and that this is “Lindberghiana.”

Lindbergh later made some return northbound CAM-2 flights on April 15, 1928. I have an example (not shown here) that was flown by Lindbergh from Springfield, Illinois, at 4:30 PM and arrived in Peoria at 5:30 PM.



Figure 2. Example of an airmail cover flown by Lindbergh on the first leg of the CAM-2 route.

Before going on to Lindbergh's famous transatlantic flight the following year, some background information would be in order. Lindbergh was the son of a United States Congressman and was raised in Little Falls, Minnesota, and Washington, DC. He had enrolled as a mechanical engineering student at the University of Wisconsin, but dropped out in 1922, during his sophomore year and moved to Nebraska, where Lindbergh was taught to fly by a veteran airmail pilot. Afterwards, Lindbergh became a barnstormer, a wing walker, and a parachutist. He joined the United States Army Air Service in 1924 and underwent military flight training. Lindbergh graduated first in his class and thus became a second lieutenant in the Air Service Reserve Corps in 1925.

Since the Army did not need additional active-duty pilots at the time, Lindbergh took a job as chief airmail pilot for the Robertson Aircraft Corporation, helping to lay out the newly organized CAM-2 airmail route. Later, while flying this route, Lindbergh twice had very close calls when, due to bad weather, equipment failure, and fuel exhaustion, he was forced to bail out at night. Not seriously injured in either of these mishaps, he became known as "Lucky Lindy," although it was clear that flying airmail under adverse conditions could be very dangerous. In the meantime, Lindbergh had been closely following progress on the Orteig Prize competition for the first successful nonstop flight between New York and Paris, especially René Fonck's September 1926 failure. From studying this, he concluded that "a nonstop flight between New York and Paris would



Figure 3. Example of an airmail cover to St. Louis flown by Lindbergh on the first day of the CAM-2 route.

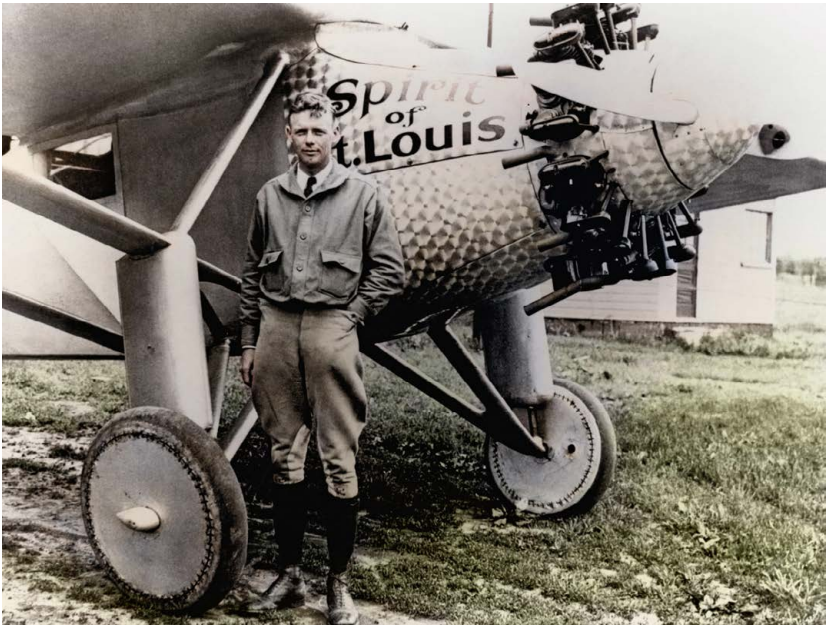


Figure 4. Lindbergh with the Spirit of St. Louis.

be less hazardous than flying mail for a single winter.” At this point, Lindbergh began seriously discussing his ideas for a New York-Paris flight with St. Louis businessmen.

Although Lindbergh and the businessmen were able to raise money to purchase a suitable airplane, all of the larger aircraft companies also insisted on selecting a pilot for the attempt. Ultimately, however, the much smaller Ryan Airline Company in San Diego agreed to design and build a single-engine, customized monoplane, working closely with Lindbergh. Named the *Spirit of St. Louis* in honor of Lindbergh’s backers, this was completed in only two months, and after some initial testing, Lindbergh flew it to New York for his transatlantic attempt. Lindbergh is shown with the *Spirit of St. Louis* in Figure 4.

Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field on Long Island, New York, early on the morning of Friday, May 20, 1927. It had been raining and the field was muddy. Carrying a very heavy load of 450 gallons of fuel, the *Spirit of St. Louis* somehow managed to clear the wires and trees at the end of the runway. Once aloft, Lindbergh headed toward Newfoundland, following a “great circle” route that ultimately passed over Ireland en route to Paris. This route minimized the distance to be flown over open ocean waters, where there were no landmarks, to about 2,000 miles. Lindbergh navigated by “dead reckoning” using an Earth inductor compass, clock, and airspeed indicator. Fortunately, errors due to wind drift largely canceled out, and he was off by only a few miles on reaching the coast of Ireland. After 33½ hours, Lindbergh finally landed in Paris at the Le Bourget Aerodrome late in the evening of Saturday, May 21, 1927. A crowd estimated at 150,000, stormed the field, surrounding the *Spirit of St. Louis*, as shown in Figure 5. Note the large registration number N-X-211 on the wing that was assigned by the government for experimental aircraft since the *Spirit of St. Louis* was a nonstandard design.



Figure 5. Arrival in Paris by Lindbergh and the *Spirit of St. Louis*.

Lindbergh's successful solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean created a worldwide sensation. On May 25, 1927, Congressman Ernest R. Ackerman, a famed stamp collector² sent a telegram to Postmaster General (PMG) Harry S. New suggesting that the Post Office Department (POD) "immediately surcharge five hundred million two-cent postage stamps 'HAIL CHARLES LINDBERGH' and sell them to the public for three cents each, the premium of one cent on each stamp to be collected for [the] Red Cross."³ However, it was found that this would require an act of Congress. The POD had also received more letters suggesting a special stamp than at any previous time in its history, and PMG Harry

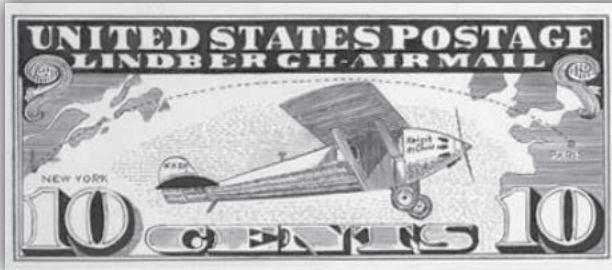


Figure 6. BEP design for 10¢ Lindbergh stamp.



Figure 7. Large die proof of 10¢ Lindbergh airmail stamp (National Postal Museum).

New decided to issue a special 10¢ airmail stamp honoring the Lindbergh flight in the same format as the airplane and map airmail stamps then in use. In the meantime, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP), “having felt certain that such a stamp would be issued,” proceeded to prepare a design without waiting for a formal POD request. An artist’s model for this was prepared by A. R. Meissner in conjunction with C. A. Huston, and is shown in Figure 6.³

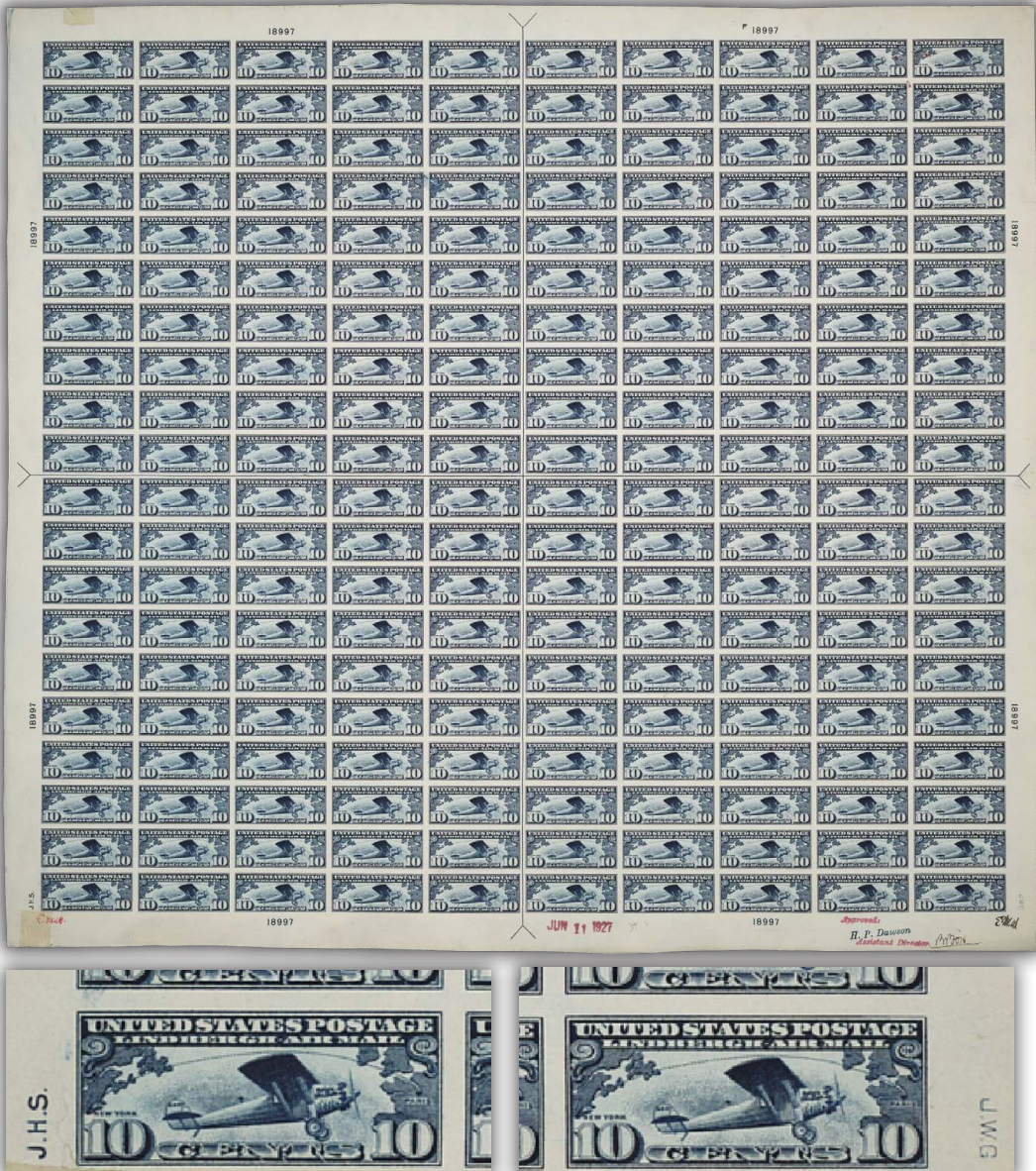


Figure 8. Plate proof of 10¢ Lindbergh airmail stamp with siderographer and plate finisher initials shown enlarged (National Postal Museum).

Things then proceeded rapidly in an all-out team effort. The model was approved on Friday, June 3, with the engraving of the master die by J. Eissler, E. Hein, E. Hall, and W. Wells completed on Monday, June 6. PMG Harry S. New approved the die proof the following day, as shown in Figure 7. Interestingly, FDR later had the only known small die proof of the Lindbergh stamp and one of the six known large die proofs (BEP control number 333053) in his personal stamp collection.⁴ The approved die was hardened on June 8, and by the morning of June 9, 1927, six transfer rolls and twelve printing plates had been prepared, with the first printing of Lindbergh airmail stamps later that same afternoon.³

A plate proof of the 10¢ Lindbergh airmail stamp from the collection at the National Postal Museum is shown in Figure 8. Note especially the presence of both siderographer and plate finisher initials in the lower left (LL) and lower right (LR) margins, shown enlarged. Siderographers were the skilled technicians who “laid out” printing plates using a transfer press and roller dies to transfer the stamp design into each position on the plate. Plate finishers then carefully removed any burrs or other flaws that were introduced during plate making. Siderographer initials appear at the LL reading upwards, and the plate finisher’s initials at the LR reading downwards. In the case of plate 18997 (shown), these are J.H.S. for John H. Silbert, Jr., and J.W.G. for James W. Gessford. Because of the frantic rush to production, plates for the 10¢ Lindbergh airmail stamp are especially complex with respect to siderographers and plate finishers, with a total of twelve printing plates produced by seven different siderographers and eleven plate finishers. Details are available in the B.I.A. Plate Number Checklist under Resources.⁵

Lindbergh and the *Spirit of St. Louis* returned to the United States aboard the USS *Memphis*, a US Navy Cruiser, arriving in Washington on June 11, 1927, where he was welcomed by President Calvin Coolidge. The first day of issue for the new 10¢ Lindbergh airmail stamp was set for “Welcoming Home Day” when Lindbergh returned to St. Louis on June 18, 1927. Other first day cities included his birthplace in Detroit, Michigan, and Little Falls, Minnesota, and Washington, DC, where Lindbergh grew up.



Figure 9. First Day Cover for 10¢ Lindbergh airmail stamp.

While I don't have any favor first day covers on official Post Office Department stationery for the 10¢ Lindbergh airmail stamp, I do have an example from the collection of Edward C. Worden of Millburn, New Jersey, a prominent first day cover collector. Shown in Figure 9, this is on Worden's personal airmail stationery, postmarked in St. Louis, and is self-addressed c/o the Postmaster of Detroit, Michigan. Note that this bears the special 'Lindbergh Celebration' cachet that was applied in St. Louis.

Following this first day celebration in St. Louis, Lindbergh was promoted to colonel in the Army Air Corps, among many other honors and recognition. In Part II of this article, I plan to show various usages of the Lindbergh airmail stamp, additional covers flown by Lindbergh, some examples of Lindbergh covers sent to FDR, and briefly mention Lindbergh's impact on worldwide philately.

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From the Washington-Franklin Head Committee

Why the Lilac Shade of Scott 376 Is Definitely Worth Looking For

by Kevin G. Lowther

USSS # 14367 | ✉ klowther5@gmail.com



Figure 1. Comparison of violet shade of Scott 376 (left), the lilac shade (middle), and Scott 341 (right).

How scarce is the lilac shade of Scott 376?

The 3¢ stamp on single-line watermarked paper was issued in January 1911 in violet. Scott lists it at \$40 in mint, never-hinged condition. The comparable lilac variety lists at \$50, just 25 percent more. It can't be very scarce at that differential, especially if Scott does not endow it with a separate number.

There are two examples in my collection. The mint single in the middle of Figure 1 once resided in Larry Weiss's important holding of Washington-Franklins. I paid \$85 for it, including premium, in a 1997 Drews sale. The cover shown in Figure 2, mailed to Paris in 1912, has the 3¢ lilac in virtually the same shade. I wonder how many other Washington-Franklin specialists have a copy. Not many, I suspect.



Figure 2. Lilac shade of Scott 376 on a September 23, 1912 cover to Paris.

When the shade was first reported in the philatelic media in March 1912, it was described as lavender by Philadelphia dealer Percy McGraw Mann.¹ By the 1930s, Max G. Johl was calling it lilac—and scarce.

Lewis A. Miers, a member of the then-Bureau Issues Association, was less enthused. “The stamp is said to be an error of color as the shade closely resembles that of the 50¢ issue of 1908,” he wrote in the January 1961 *Specialist*. “These show up in dealers’ stocks occasionally and [are] not too expensive.” But then he added, “They are worth looking for.”²

Figure 1 shows, from left to right, the typical violet shade of Scott 376, the lilac version, and the normal violet 50¢ stamp (Scott 341), which Miers claimed nearly matched the lilac shade. The examples in Figure 1 do not support Miers. The only other shade listed for Scott 341 is dull violet. If anything, it is the regular violet Scott 376 which mimics the 50¢ shade, not the lilac shade, which stands out against both.

Johl was right to judge the lilac shade of Scott 376 as scarce. Miers also was right to suggest the shade is worth looking for.

Good luck.

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1. “3¢ U. S. 1908–1910 Lavender,” *Philadelphia Stamp News*, March 2, 1912.
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Precancel Stamp Society

Interested in Learning More about Precancels? Request a copy of “The ABCs of Precancel Collecting” and also receive a sample copy of the PSS Forum, the Precancel Stamp Society’s monthly journal. Contact: Frank Bird III, 1095 Pinellas Point Dr South, Apt 352, St. Petersburg, FL 33705-6377. Email: promo@precancels.com.



Vintage Photo of the Month

Woodrow Wilson in Liberty Series

by **Rodney A. Juell**

USSS #13852 | P.O. Box 3508, Joliet, IL 60434



This month's photo shows Edith Wilson, widow of President Woodrow Wilson, on January 10, 1956, receiving a presentation pane of the new 7¢ Woodrow Wilson stamp (Scott 1040) in the Liberty Series. Presenting the pane is the director of the Post Office's Division of Philately, Robert E. Fellers. Mrs. Wilson has been called, only slightly tongue-in-cheek, the first woman president of the United States, since she virtually ran the office after her husband was incapacitated by a stroke. Shown is a plate block of the stamp signed by legendary BEP designer Charles Chickering; Richard Bower who engraved the portrait; and Robert Jones who engraved the lettering.





From the 1954 Liberty Series Committee

Discovery: New Precancel City for Scott 1056

by Roland Austin

USSS # 13032 | ✉ raustin13@aol.com



It is exciting to discover an unknown variety of a stamp, especially if it has been long thought that there were no other varieties for that particular stamp to be found.

That is exactly what USSS member Herman Axelrod did!

As reported in USSS Research Paper #12 by Steven Unkrich, there were 41 known Bureau-precanceled cities on the small-hole variety of the 2½¢ Bunker Hill coil stamp: Birmingham Alabama, Los Angeles California, Pasadena California, San Francisco California, Boulder Colorado, Washington DC, Jacksonville Florida, Atlanta Georgia, Des Moines Iowa, Chicago Illinois, Brownstown Indiana, Louisville Kentucky, New Orleans Louisiana, Boston Massachusetts, Baltimore Maryland, Detroit Michigan, Grand Rapids Michigan, Minneapolis Minnesota, Saint Paul Minnesota, Kansas City Missouri, Saint Louis Missouri, Jackson Mississippi, Omaha Nebraska, Brooklyn New York, Buffalo New York, New York New York, Cincinnati Ohio, Cleveland Ohio, Dayton Ohio, Portland Oregon, Harrisburg Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, Rock Hill South Carolina, Memphis Tennessee, Austin Texas, Dallas Texas, Houston Texas, San Antonio Texas, Seattle Washington, Spokane Washington, and Milwaukee Wisconsin. Specialists believed this list was complete.

Thanks to Mr. Axelrod's discovery, there are now 42 Bureau-precanceled cities on the small-hole variety Scott 1056. Add Berkeley, California.

Figure 1. American Philatelic Expert Committee Report certifying Scott 1056 line pair precanceled "BERKELEY, CALIF." with small holes as genuine.



The new discovery is a line pair pictured in Figure 1 on the American Philatelic Society Expert Committee certificate number 245846, dated April 7, 2023, with the opinion that it is: "United States, Scott 1056, small holes, unused, full original gum, never hinged. Genuine."

According to the Precancel Stamp Society style chart, this is Bureau precancel style 71.

As stated in the Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*, the small-hole Bunker Hill coil stamps are known only in Bureau-precanceled format, accounting for their rarity. Postal regulations when these stamps were issued allowed only permit holders access to mint precanceled stamps for their use. Resale was prohibited, but collectors acquired some mint pairs; many had the gum soaked off, rendering them "used" for legal collecting, but a few were retained with original gum and made their way onto the market.

The small amount of mint, full original gum line pairs existing are so rare that the Scott Catalogue lists them with a value of \$3,000.00.

Thanks to Steven Unkrich for supplying the current list of cities.

Addendum: Mr. Axelrod later informed me that a friend of his found an additional precancel city for Scott 1056 with small holes—Miami Florida—and has obtained a certificate from the Philatelic Foundation. Thus, the city count stands at 43! Who will discover number 44?



The Coming and Going of China Clay in BEP Printing Paper: Kaolin Content in the 2¢ Stamps of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Bureau Issues

by **Harry G. Brittain, PhD**
USSS # 16446 | ✉ hgbrittain@gmail.com

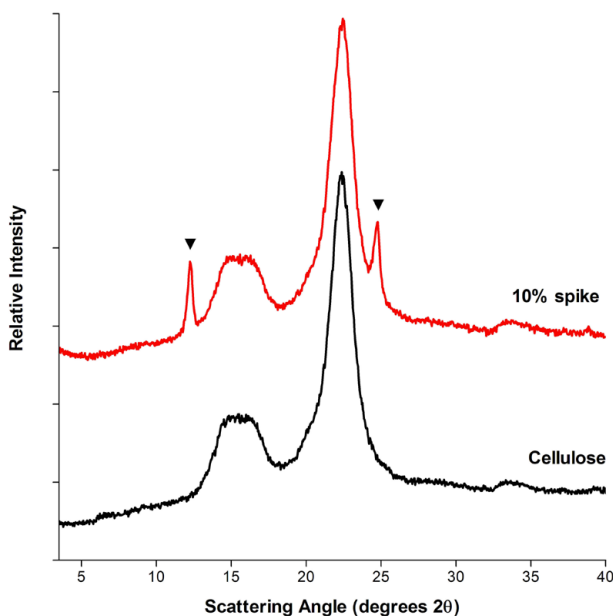


Figure 1. XRD patterns of cellulose and of cellulose that had been spiked with approximately 10% of kaolin (i.e., white or “China clay”).

In a previous paper,¹ I reported the qualitative results of studies where I used X-ray diffraction (XRD), a forensic analytical technique, to study the mineral content of paper used by the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) between 1894 and 1913. The forensic evidence demonstrated that the paper on which all stamps printed between 1894 and 1908 contained kaolin (also known as white clay or China clay) as a

filler. This work also demonstrated that all stamps printed between 1908 and 1913 were printed on paper that did not contain kaolin.

In a subsequent paper ², I developed a mathematical relationship that correlated the intensity of a particular kaolin XRD peak with the percentage of kaolin present in the analyzed stamp. This development allowed me to use the observed XRD intensities to calculate an accurate measurement of the amount of kaolin present in any given sample of stamp paper. This particular study involved the XRD characterization of 1,430 plate-numbered stamps printed between 1904 and 1908. By correlating the plate numbers of the analyzed stamps with the historical information contained in the *B.I.A. Plate Number Checklist*,³ I developed a chronology of kaolin content in the printing papers used by the BEP during this time frame.

With the computational method in hand, I then conducted a retrospective analysis of the XRD results acquired during the first two studies. In this study ⁴, I used the quantitative XRD method to develop a complete history of the kaolin content in the paper used by the BEP to print stamps between 1894 and 1904. One of the conclusions I reached was a confirmation that all of the stamps of the Third Bureau Issues were printed on paper consisting of cellulose only and did not contain kaolin as a filler compound. It is to be noted that this finding is consistent with other reports published in *The Specialist*.^{5,6}

My XRD studies into the paper on which BEP stamps were printed have continued, still using the protocol of correlating forensic analytical results with approximate printing dates as disclosed in the *B.I.A. Plate Number Checklist*.³ Through analyzing the entirety of plate-numbered 2¢ regular issue stamps in my collection, I have deduced a historical timeline of kaolin content in the paper used to print these regular issue stamps of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Bureau issues.

The database of XRD patterns that I have developed consists of 434 uniquely numbered 2¢ stamps from the First Bureau Issues (Scott numbers 248, 250, 265, 267, and 279B), 1,040 2¢ stamps from the Second Bureau Issues (Scott 301 and Scott 319), 504 2¢ stamps from the Third Bureau Issues (Scott numbers 332, 375, 406, 425, 463, 499, and 528), and 839 2¢ stamps from the Fourth Bureau Issues (Scott numbers 554, 583, 634). Thus, the results and trends described in the following sections represent the acquisition and analysis of the XRD patterns of over 2,800 stamps bearing unique plate numbers.

Since the publication of the previous papers in this series, I have acquired new and more accurate XRD instrumentation. In the interests of publishing results of the highest quality, I have re-acquired the XRD diffraction patterns of my entire series of 2¢ stamps. Only these newest results and their interpretation will be presented in the current paper.

Methodology Summary

It is well known to forensic analytical scientists that the XRD pattern of kaolin clay consists of two major peaks, observed at angles of $12.3^\circ 2\theta$, and $24.9^\circ 2\theta$.⁷ As shown in Figure 1, the XRD pattern of a stamp printed on kaolin-containing paper will consist largely of the sharp kaolin peaks superimposed onto the broad XRD bands of the cellulose component of the paper (*i.e.*, one split feature at approximately $15\text{--}16^\circ 2\theta$, and a relatively strong peak at approximately $22.5^\circ 2\theta$). Of the two peaks, the peak at $12.3^\circ 2\theta$ is more useful for quantitative analytical purposes as it is generally not overlapped by other mineral components. The method described in the previous paper ², and refined

for the current work, consists of measurement⁸ of the intensity of the kaolin peak at $12.3^\circ 2\theta$, followed by the calculation of kaolin content using a simple linear relationship.

While graphs of kaolin content as a function of plate number are highly informative, plots of kaolin content as a function of approximate stamp date would greatly facilitate an understanding of the historical sequencing in the XRD results. *The B.I.A. Plate Number Checklist*³ provides the “hardened” or “first to press” dates that are tabulated by plate and Scott number and represent a reasonable estimate of when a particular stamp was printed. However, since the dates are present in the ordinary format of month/day/year, I needed to develop a computational method to translate the ordinary date format into a decimal-based format suitable for plotting. My method makes use of the date calculation function in Microsoft Excel. This command is in the form of `DAYS360(A,B)`, where A is a reference year date and B is the actual stamp date derived from the checklist.

To illustrate the computational method, consider Scott 301, plate 1515. *The B.I.A. Checklist* lists a “first to press date” of December 8, 1902 for this stamp. Inputting $A=1/1/1902$ and $B=12/8/1902$, one finds that plate 1515 first went to press on the 337th day of the year. To obtain a stamp date suitable for plotting, one simply divides 337 by 365 (the number of days in a year) to obtain the fractional date of this stamp (i.e., 0.9233). Numerically adding the fractional date to the year of issue yields the date of the stamp in decimal form (1902.9233 in the current example). This calculation was performed for all 2557 plate-numbered stamps of the present study, enabling graphs to be developed of kaolin content as a function of stamp printing dates.

Kaolin Clay Content in Stamps of the First Bureau Issues

In 1894, the BEP assumed responsibility for the printing of postage stamps and issued a number of definitive issues. The initially released pink 2¢ stamp (Scott 248) featured the image of George Washington on the vignette. The color of the 2¢ stamp was quickly changed to carmine (Scott 250), and carmine remained the color of choice for the rest of the series. These stamps were printed on various paper types and also featured minor changes in the details of the frame around the vignette. The differences between Scott 248 and 250 and the later members of the First Bureau Issue distinguish them from the later Scott 265, 267, and 279B.

In the present work, the XRD patterns of 6 Scott 248 plate-numbered strips of three, 6 Scott 250 plate-numbered strips of three, 6 Scott 265 plate-numbered strips of three, 22 Scott 267 plate-numbered strips of three and 168 plate-numbered singles, and 38 Scott 279B plate-numbered strips of three and 188 plate-numbered singles were acquired. Thus, a total of 434 plate-numbered stamps of the First BEP series were analyzed. Representative examples of each stamp type are found in Figure 2.

Figure 3 summarizes the kaolin content detected for the analyzed stamps of the First Bureau Issues, showing the results both as a function of plate number as well as approximate printing dates. The initial Scott 248 and Scott 250 stamps were printed on paper that contained 11–16% kaolin. The different paper used to print Scott 265 contains a significantly larger amount of kaolin, ranging from 20% to 25%. While significant variations were found for the amount of kaolin in the printing paper of Scott 267 and Scott 279B, the range of kaolin was fairly consistent in the 10% to 30% range.

The historical timeline indicated one particular region of interest for the Scott 267 stamps where, for some reason, the BEP used paper with a very low amount of kaolin. The stamps beginning with plate number 426 (plate hardened, May 15, 1897) and 466 (plate hardened, June 11, 1897) were printed on paper that contained an average of only 8% kaolin, which is significantly less than the normal range of kaolin contents measured for Scott 267 Stamps.



(a) Scott 248, plate 3, first to press July 2, 1894.³



(b) Scott 250, plate 8, first to press July 7, 1894.³



(c) Scott 265, plate 124, first to press January 11, 1895.³



(d) Scott 267, plate 210, first to press October 18, 1895.³



(e) Scott 279B, plate 1309, first to press January 24, 1902.³

Figure 2. Representative examples of (a) Scott 248, (b) Scott 250, (c) Scott 265, (d) Scott 267, and (e) Scott 279B. These are the most common 2¢ stamps of the First Bureau Issue.

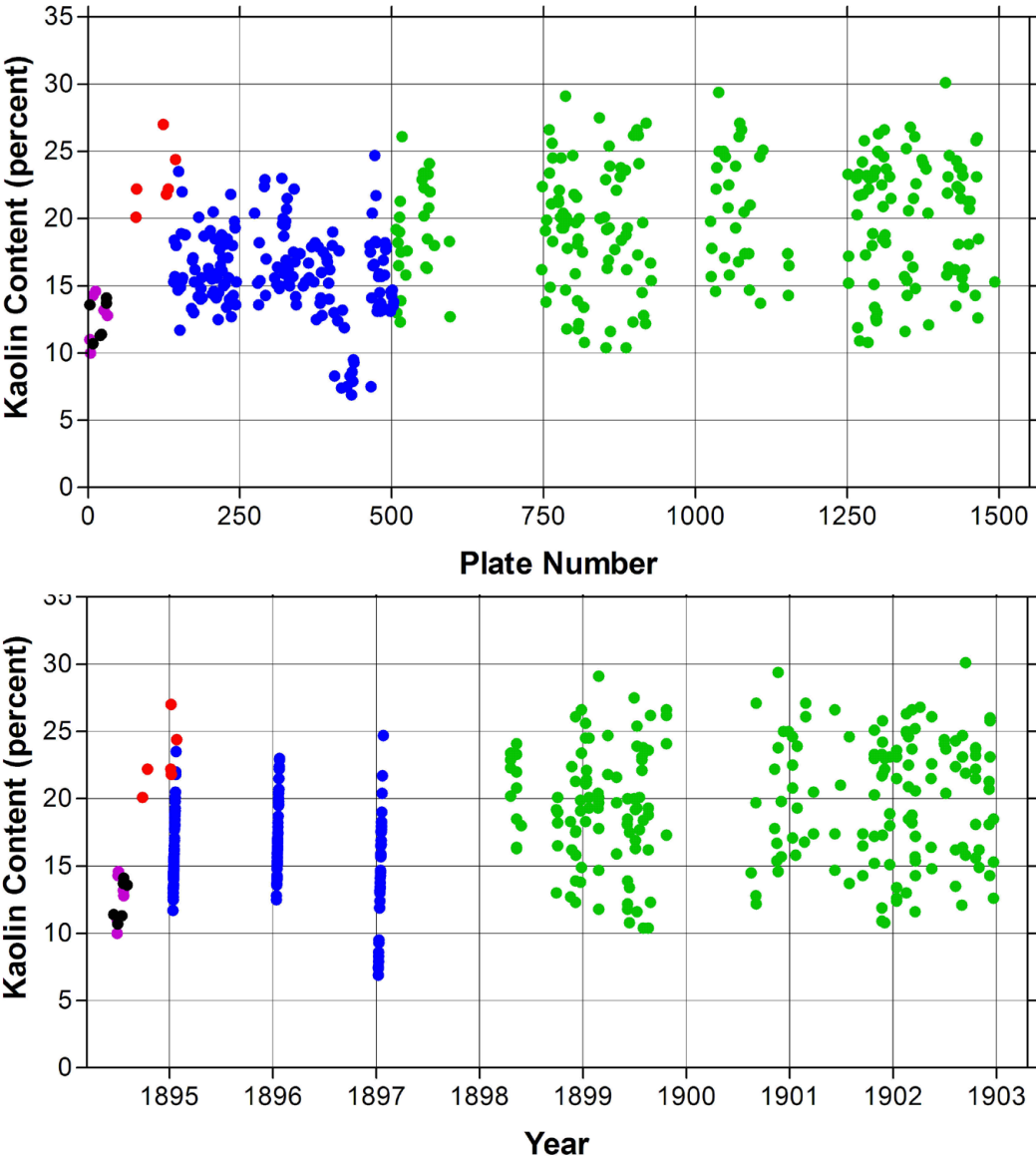


Figure 3. Summary of the kaolin content measured for the 2¢ First Bureau Series stamps, Scott 248 (black dots), 250 (red dots), 265 (blue dots), 267 (purple dots), and 279B (green dots). The uppermost plot displays the kaolin results as a function of plate number, while the lower plot shows the same data but plotted according to the date of plate hardening.

Kaolin Clay Content in Stamps of the Second Bureau Issues

Scott 301 is the first-issued 2¢ stamp of the Second Bureau Issues. This study encompassed the analysis of 46 plate-numbered examples of this stamp. Scott 301 was subsequently replaced with a completely new design, Scott 319. Scott 319 is subdivided into categories based on the dies used to create printing plates. A total of 844

plate-numbered Die I and 150 Die II stamps were analyzed, for a total of 994 Scott 319 stamps. Representative examples of each stamp type are found in Figure 4.



(a) Scott 301, plate number 1518, first to press December 13, 1902.³



(b) Scott 319 (Die I), plate number 1834 first to press October 27, 1903.³



(c) Scott 319 (Die II), plate number 4360, first to press May 1, 1908.³

Figure 4. Representative examples of 2¢ Second Bureau Series stamps, (a) Scott 301, (b) Scott 319 Die-I, and (c) Scott 319 Die II.

Figure 5 summarizes the kaolin contents detected for all the analyzed stamps of the Second Bureau Issues. Careful examination of the two halves of the figure indicates that based on the kaolin content values, the printing history of these 2¢ stamps consisted of one interval associated with Scott 301 and eight distinct time intervals associated with Scott 319. The trends in each of these intervals will be discussed in turn.

Interval 1. All of the stamps in this interval were Scott 301. The series of 46 unique plate-numbered stamps of my collection began with plate 1515 (first to press December 8, 1902), and ended with plate 1759 (first to press October 1, 1903). Analysis of the data revealed a substantial spread in the results, with the kaolin content values ranging between 9% and 16%. Within this interval, the average kaolin content in the analyzed Scott 301 stamps was 13.5%.

Interval 2. Since the initial 2¢ stamps of the Second Bureau Issue were not well received, the Bureau began late in 1903 to issue stamps having a completely new design. These stamps are Scott 319, with the plates having been prepared using the first die, Die I.

All of the stamps within the second interval were printed on paper that contained kaolin as the filler. The analyzed stamps in my collection ran from plate 1805 (first to press October 13, 1903) through plate 2365 (first to press on December 23, 1904), and

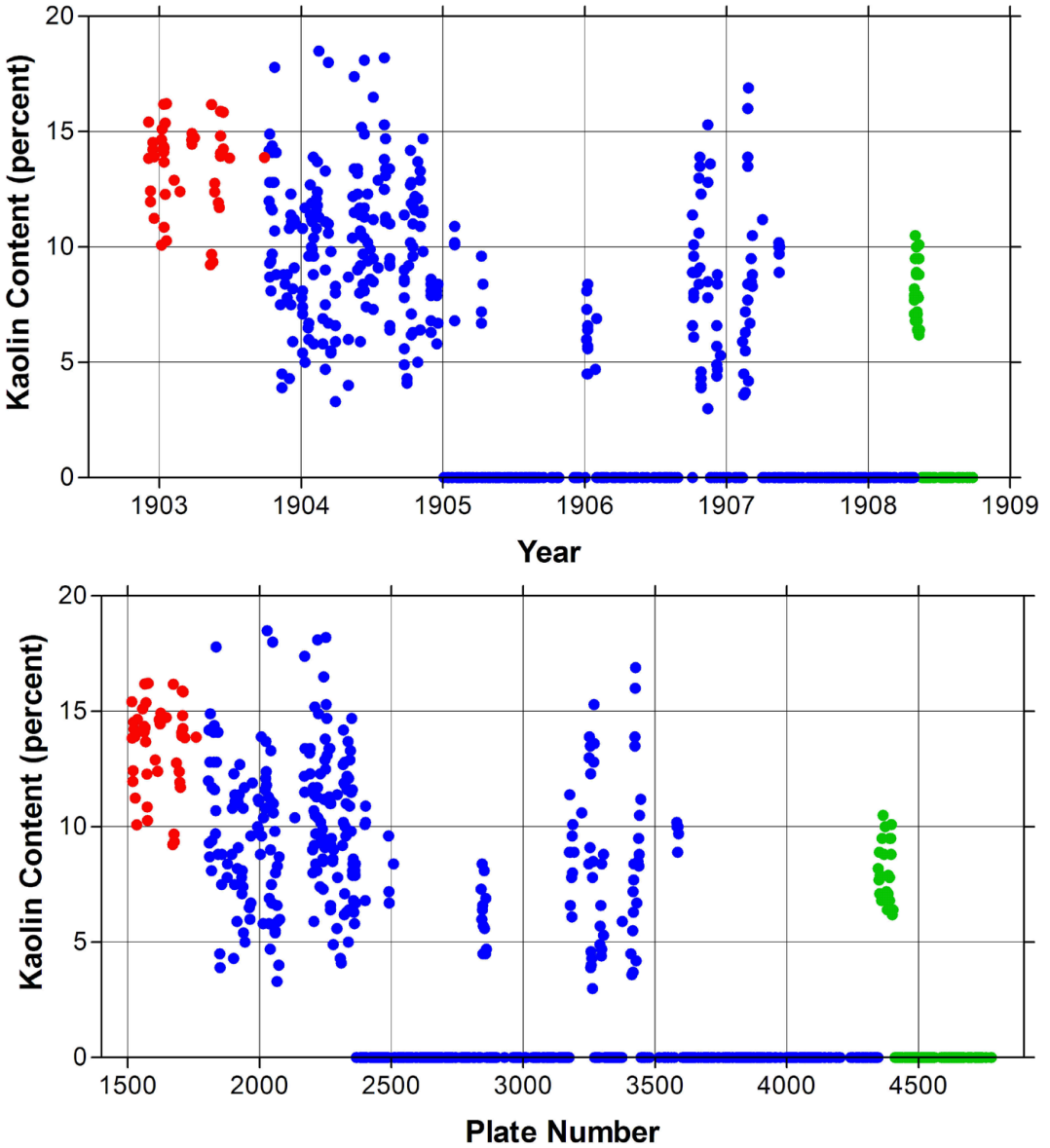


Figure 5. Summary of the kaolin content measured for the 2¢ Second Bureau Issue stamps, Scott numbers 301 (green dots), 319, Die I (red dots), and 319, Die II (blue dots). The uppermost plot displays the kaolin results as a function of plate number, while the lower plot shows the same data but plotted according to the date when the plate first went to the press.

a total of 198 plate-numbered stamps were studied. The actual kaolin content values in these stamps were quite variable, ranging from a low value of 3% to a maximum value of 19%, with an average kaolin content of 10.1%.

Interval 3. Interestingly, beginning with plate 2366 (First to press December 23, 1904) and ending with plate 2838 (First to press January 2, 1906), a total of 236 analyzed stamps were found to contain no kaolin at all. Obviously, the BEP sourced paper with a totally different composition during this interval, though it is unclear whether they did so accidentally or purposefully.

Interval 4. The stamps of this interval were relatively few in number, but represent a brief time period when the BEP used kaolin-containing printing paper once more. Here, only a total of 10 plate numbered stamps constitute Interval 4, beginning with plate 2840 (First to press December 22, 1905) and ending with plate 2857 (First to press January 8, 1906). Here, a much tighter range of kaolin content values was observed, ranging from a low value of 5% to a maximum of 8%. Within this interval, the average kaolin content was 6.0%

Interval 5. The next series of Scott 319 stamps were found to contain no kaolin at all. Here, a total of 92 plate-numbered stamps were analyzed, with plate numbers ranging from 2858 (first to press January 31, 1906) and concluding with plate 3172 (first to press October 8, 1906).

Interval 6. The 170 stamps of this interval began with plate 3174 (first to press October 8, 1906) and ended with plate 3717 (first to press August 7, 1907). What makes the stamps of Interval-6 rather interesting is the observation that 97 plate numbers were printed on kaolin-containing paper, while 73 plate numbers were printed using paper consisting only of cellulose. As evident in Figure 3, no trend in kaolin content values could be deduced within this interval, and one might conclude that the BEP obtained paper from a variety of vendors without paying too much attention to the quality of that paper.

Interval 7. The chaos of the preceding interval disappeared with the advent of a new interval consisting of 138 plate-numbered stamps beginning with plate 3724 (first to press August 14, 1907) and ending with plate 4286 (first to press April 8, 1908). All of these stamps represent the final stamps whose plates were made with Die I, and were printed on kaolin-free paper.

Interval 8. The stamps of the penultimate Scott 319 interval were printed from plates prepared using a re-engraved die, known as Die II. The stamps of this interval began with plate number 4292 (first to press April 8, 1908) and ended with plate number 4361 (first to press May 1, 1908).

What makes the stamps of this interval so interesting is that the initially produced Die II stamps were all printed on kaolin-containing paper. The spread in kaolin content was fairly modest, ranging from 6% to 11% (average value of 8.1%). Perhaps the BEP wanted to use a higher-quality printing paper for the initial series of Die II stamps.

Interval 9. However, beginning with plate 4365 (first to press May 1, 1908) and ending with the last plate in my collection (number 4776, first to press September 16, 1908), the remainder of the Scott 319 Die II stamps were printed on kaolin-free paper.

Kaolin Clay Content in Stamps of the Third Bureau Issues

The first two 2¢ sheet stamps of the Third Bureau Issues also featured the image of George Washington, Scott numbers 332 and 375. Because the denomination was written in words rather than numerals, these stamps are commonly known as the “Two Cents” type. Representative examples of Scott 332 and 375 stamps are shown in Figure 6.



(a) Scott 332, plate 5072 first to press May 12, 1909.³

(b) Scott 375, plate 5558, first to press November 16, 1910.³

Figure 6. Representative Examples of the "Two Cents" stamp types of the Third Bureau Issues, namely (a) Scott 332 and (b) Scott 375..

Upon completion of XRD studies on 111 "Two Cents" stamps, it was found that none had been printed on kaolin-containing paper. The stamps in my collection, which were studied during this portion of the work, ran from plate number 4481 (first to press June 2, 1908) through plate 5690 (first to press November 6, 1911).

The remainder of the 2¢ stamps of the Third Bureau Issues encompass examples of Scott 406, 425, 463, 499, and 528. These are known as the "2 Cents 2" type because the denomination is written in Arabic numerals. While most of these stamps were printed

Figure 7. Representative Examples of the "2 Cents 2" Type of the Third Bureau Series, namely (a) Scott 406, (b) Scott 425, (c) Scott 463, (d) Scott 499 prior to the issue of the offset stamps, (e) Scott 528 offset, and (f) Scott 499 subsequent to the issue of the offset stamps.



(a) Scott 406, plate 5960, first to press May 9, 1912.³



(b) Scott 425, plate 7339 first to press May 3, 1915.³



(c) Scott 463, plate 7705, first to press May 22, 1916.³



(d) Scott 499, plate 9101, first to press October 25, 1918.³



(e) Scott 528, plate 11594, first to press July 8, 1920.³



(f) Scott 499, plate 13727, first to press May 18, 1922.³

using the usual engraving method, Scott 528 was produced using a lithographic process. Representative examples of these “2 Cents 2” types are found in Figure 7.

As had been noted in the XRD analysis of the “Two Cents” stamps, the analysis of an ensemble of 393 “2 Cents 2” stamps revealed that none of these stamps had been printed on kaolin-containing paper. The stamps studied in this portion of the work spanned plate 5769 (Scott 406, first to press on December 6, 1911) and ended with plate 14019 (Scott 499, first to press on November 20, 1922).

The forensic results obtained via the XRD analysis of 504 Third Bureau Issue stamps demonstrate that *none* of the stamps from this series were printed on kaolin-containing paper. Rather, *all* were printed on paper consisting entirely of cellulose. I elected not to plot the kaolin contents for the stamps of the Third Bureau series since the plot would have been an uninteresting sequence of zeroes. These findings are in accord with previously reported results.^{5, 6}

Kaolin Clay Content in Stamps of the Fourth Bureau Issues

The 2¢ stamps of the Fourth Bureau Issue continued the practice of featuring George Washington in the vignette. This series began with stamps printed using the traditional flat plate method (Scott 554), and continued with stamps using the newer rotary press (Scott 583 and 634). The studies conducted on the Fourth Bureau Issue stamps in my col-



(a) Scott 554, plate number 14423, first to press March 31, 1923.³

(b) Scott 583, plate number 17972, first to press March 12, 1926.³

(c) Scott 634, plate number 19896, first to press January 20, 1930.³

Figure 8. Representative examples of 2¢ Fourth Bureau Issue stamps. Shown are (a) the flat-plate printed Scott 554, and the rotary press printed (b) Scott 583 and (c) 634.

lection consisted of XRD analysis of 839 uniquely plate-numbered stamps. Representative examples of these 2¢ Fourth Bureau Issue stamps are found in Figure 8.

The initial Fourth Bureau Issue stamps were printed using the flat press method that the BEP had used since it took over the business of printing postage stamps. For the present, the XRD patterns of 551 Scott 554 stamps were acquired, beginning with plate 14074 (first to press, October 26, 1922) and ending with plate 17809 (first to press, December 3, 1925). As was the case for the stamps of the Third Bureau Issue, no kaolin was detected in the paper associated with any of the analyzed Scott 554 stamps.

Similarly, the printing papers associated with the 46 Scott 583 stamps in my collection were also found not to contain any measurable kaolin content. My Scott 583 stamps began with plate 15820 (first to press December 2, 1924) and ended with plate 18947 (first to press, May 24, 1927).

XRD analysis of the 242 Scott 634 stamps in my collection yielded exceedingly interesting results that divided these stamps of the Fourth BEP Bureau Issue into two categories.

Category 1, no kaolin in the printing paper: For the 106 stamps in my collection having plate numbers 18764 (first to press, November 20, 1926) through 19380 (first to press, January 24, 1929), none of the printing papers were found to contain kaolin.

Category 2, kaolin in the printing paper: Beginning with plate number 19383 (first to press, February 5, 1929), the remaining 136 Scott 634 stamps in my collection were printed on paper that contained measurable amounts of kaolin. The use of kaolin-containing paper was continued through the last Scott 634 stamp in my collection, plate number 21689 (first to press, December 29, 1937).

Although not part of the Fourth Bureau Issue, the 2¢ stamps of the 1932 Washington Bicentennial Issue were printed contemporaneously with the latter portion of the Scott 634 printings. An example of Scott 707 is provided in Figure 9. These stamps were printed beginning with plate number 20565 (first to press August 14, 1931), and the series concluded with plate 20806 (first to press March 22, 1932). Since XRD analysis of the 47 plate-numbered Scott 707 stamps in my collection revealed that every example was printed on kaolin-containing paper, the results collected from these stamps has been included in the Fourth Bureau Issue database.

Figure 10 contains a full summary of the kaolin contents (or lack thereof) measured for the entire series of analyzed Fourth BEP Series stamps of my collection, including the Scott 707 stamps. Although the calculated amounts of kaolin in the latter stamps of the Fourth Bureau series exhibited the usual degree of variability, the kaolin contents were found to fall consistently in the 5% to 20% range. It may be noted how the kaolin content in the printing paper of the Scott 707 stamps fits within the general trend of the Scott 634 stamps, demonstrating that the use of kaolin-containing paper was not restricted to the stamps of the Fourth Bureau Issue.



Figure 9. Representative example of a 2¢ stamp from the 1932 Washington Bicentennial series, Scott 707, a rotary press stamp. Plate number 20631 was first to press October 15, 1931.³

Discussion

Figure 11 summarizes the kaolin contents that were measured for all 2¢ plate-numbered stamps of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Bureau Issues in my collection. This survey of over 2,700 stamps begins with the first 2¢ stamps issued by the BEP in the Fall of 1894 and concludes with the 2¢ stamps issued near the end of 1937. The plot also contains the XRD results obtained on the Scott 707 stamps, treated in the figure as Fourth Bureau Issue stamps.

One feature that stands out in the results shown in Figure 10 is the variability in kaolin values when that compound was used as a filler agent in the printing paper. Given that millions of stamps were being printed and that the BEP never kept large stocks of paper on hand, it would not be surprising that the BEP would have been constantly obtaining new supplies of paper. Without tight specifications of kaolin content (which would have been estimated by the mineral content in the paper), it is no wonder that

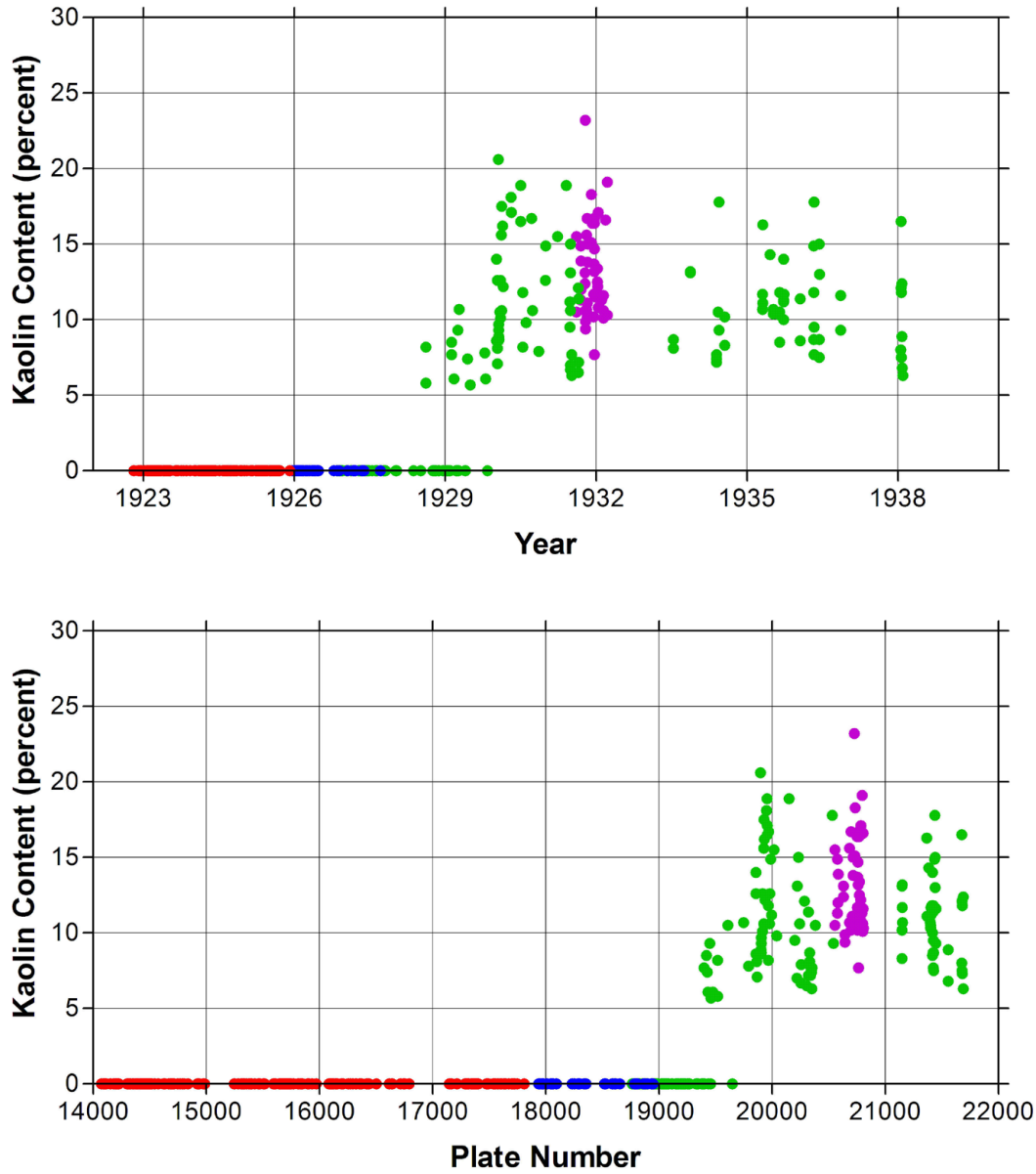


Figure 10. Summary of the kaolin content measured for the 2¢ Fourth Bureau Series stamps, Scott numbers 554 (red dots), 583 (blue dots), and 634 (green dots). Also shown are the kaolin contents measured for the included Scott 707 stamps (purple dots). The uppermost plot displays the kaolin results as a function of plate number, while the lower plot shows the same data but plotted according to the date when the plate first went to the press.

the kaolin results associated with a given BEP series presented in this paper exhibit significant quantitative variations.

But when viewed in a qualitative sense (i.e., kaolin-containing or kaolin-free), the results shown in Figure 10 reveal that history can be roughly divided into three eras based on the qualitative nature of the printing paper used in each period.

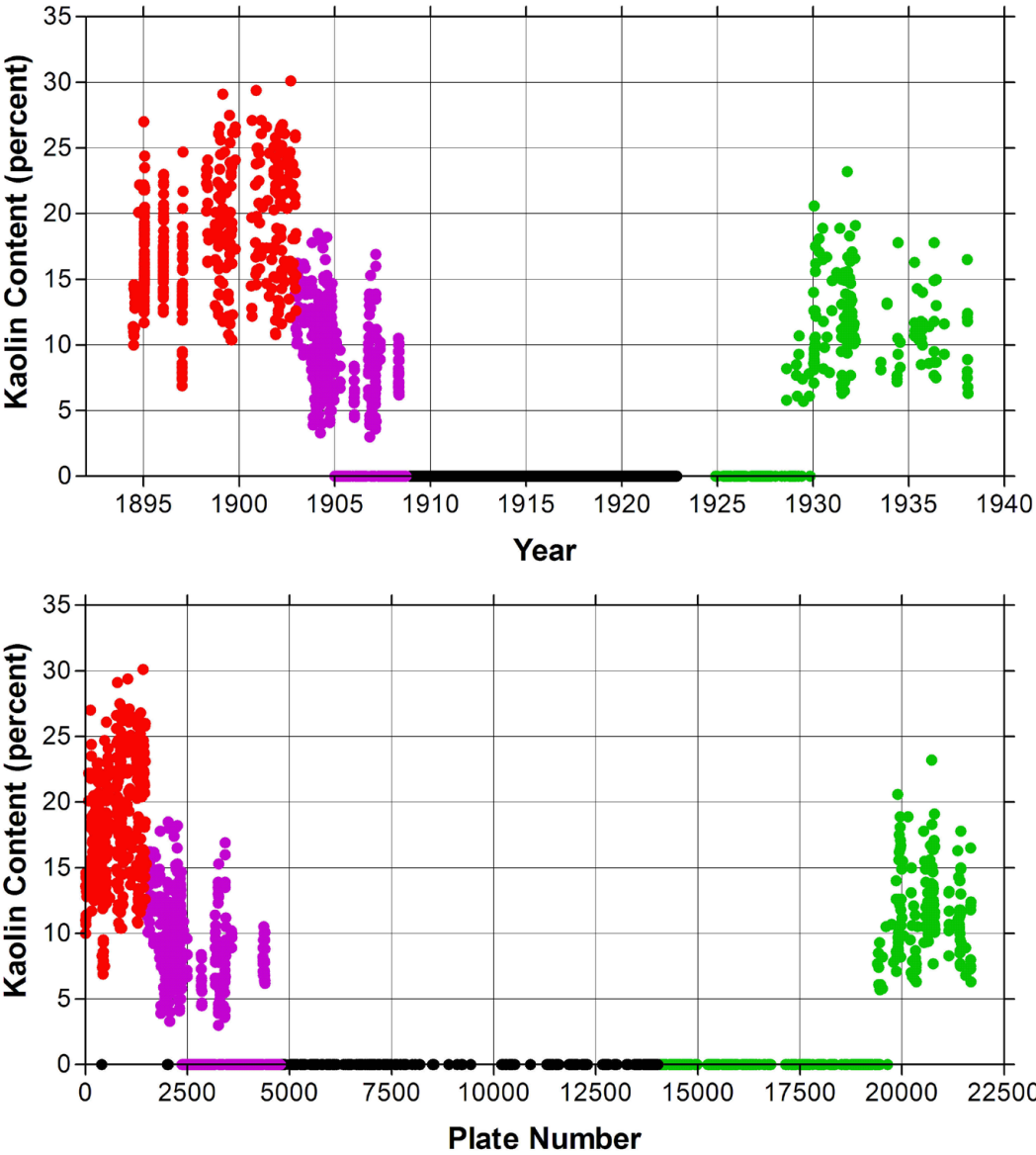


Figure 11. Comprehensive summary of the kaolin content calculated for all 2¢ plate-numbered stamps of the First (red dots), Second (purple dots), Third (black dots), and Fourth Bureau Issues (green dots). The results obtained on Scott 707 stamps have been included in the Fourth Bureau Issue category.

The first era began near the end of 1894 when the BEP issued its first stamps, all of which were printed on kaolin-containing paper. The amount of kaolin in the paper decreased significantly when BEP Second Series began to be printed, but nevertheless, all stamps printed up to approximately 1904 were printed exclusively on kaolin-containing paper. The interval spanning the middle of 1904 and the beginning of 1908 represents a time when BEP printing made use of both kaolin-containing and kaolin-free paper, but after 1908, the use of kaolin-containing paper ended.

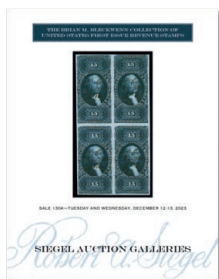
The second era ran from roughly the beginning of 1908 until the beginning of 1929 and represents the time when all of the 2¢ stamps were printed exclusively on kaolin-free paper. This time period spans the entire printing history of stamps from the Third Bureau Issues (aka, the Washington-Franklin series), and the results presented in this paper weigh strongly against the proposal that any of these stamps had been printed on “China Clay” paper. This finding, of course, is in accord with the work of Liston,⁵ who concluded, based on a limited XRD study, that no stamps of the Third Bureau Issue were on paper containing “China Clay.”

The third era begins in early 1929 and corresponds to when the BEP returned to printing stamps on kaolin-containing paper. This category of paper was used continuously until the end of 1937, when the scope of the present study ends. But, one may ask, “Is that the end of the story, or did the use of kaolin-containing paper continue?” This question will be answered in a follow-up paper that will detail the results of XRD analyses conducted on commemorative, airmail, and regular issue stamps having plate numbers between 19000 and 24911. Without giving away too much, all I will say at this time that the use of kaolin-containing paper became a regular feature of stamps printed by the Bureau between roughly 1927 and 1954. Stay tuned for the next part of the historical sequence!

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7. Duane M. Moore and Robert C. Reynolds, Jr., *X-Ray Diffraction and the Identification of Clay Minerals*, 2nd edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997, pp. 233–239.
8. The XRD diffraction patterns reported in this work were obtained using a Rigaku MiniFlex-II powder diffraction system, equipped with a vertical goniometer operating in the $2\theta/\theta$ mode, and a copper X-ray source (using the K α emission of 1.54184 Å). Each stamp was fixed in a horizontal sample holder, and was scanned over the range of 3.0 to 41.0° 2θ , at a scan rate of 2.0° 2θ /min, and using a step size of 0.01° 2θ . The intensity scale for each individual diffraction pattern was normalized so that the relative intensity of the most intense peak (namely that of the cellulose component) in the pattern equaled 100%.

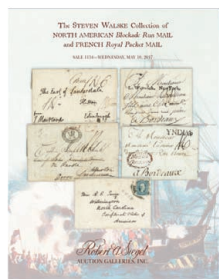
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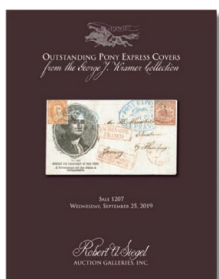
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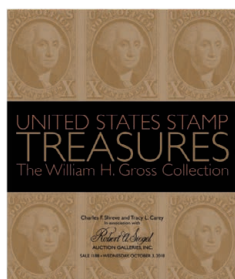
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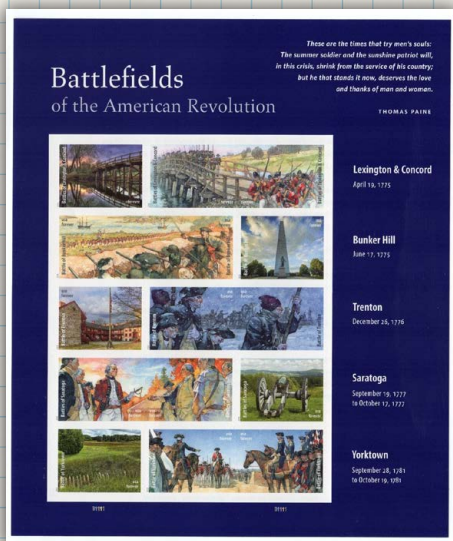




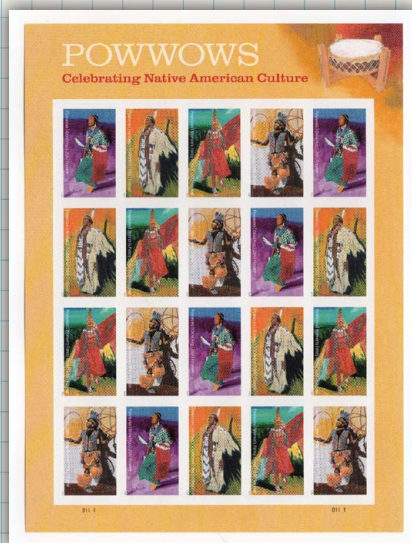
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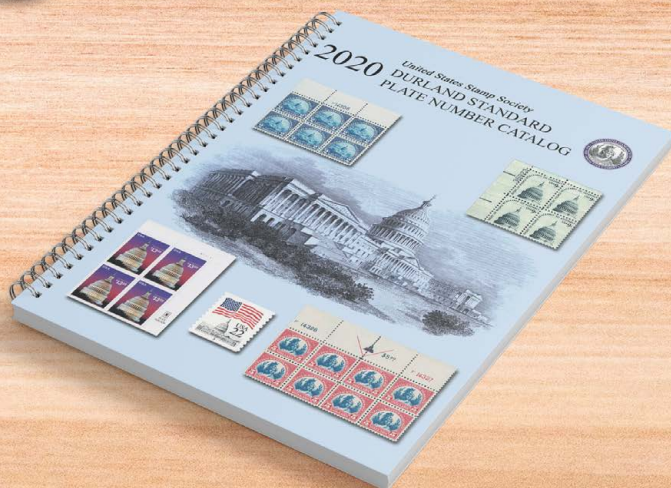
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