

THE 1907 ISSUE OF U. S. ENVELOPES.

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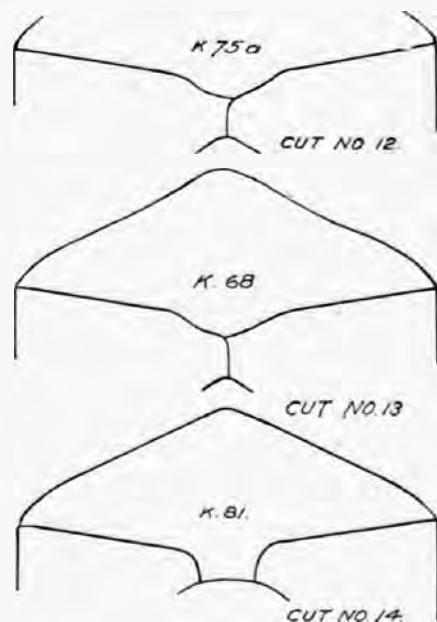
The contract for furnishing the stamped paper required by the Post Office Department during the four years beginning July 1, 1907, was awarded to the Mercantile Printing Co. of Dayton, Ohio, a corporation which had never produced a stamped envelope up to the time it received this contract.

It is therefore not at all surprising, that during the first year, while experiments were being tried, many odd and curious varieties should have been produced.

In studying stamped envelopes, collectors examine the paper, knife, watermark, die, color, and gum of each copy, and as, in this issue each one of these points has presented varieties, they will be taken up and defined in the above order, and then a check list of all the varieties known to the author will be given.

Paper:—The paper used varies greatly in quality, finish and color. White paper is found thick and thin; glazed and rough; pure white; cream white; bluish white; and grayish white; and one variety known as fibre paper because of the little threads or fibres through it. Amber paper is found in pale amber, amber; deep amber; and with fibre. Blue and buff in a variety of shades.

Knives:—The "Knife" which cuts the paper to the particular shape required for an envelope of any given size has given its name to the shape of the envelope itself, for instance, size 6 envelope is spoken of as knife 75a, meaning that knife 75a was used to cut the paper producing P. O. size 6. It will be noticed that size 5 and size 6, 1c envelopes, have the same dimensions, but that size 5 is knife 81 (see cut 14), while size 6 is knife 75a (see cut 12). Size 6 is un-gummed and made entirely for circulars, the flap to be turned in. Size 5 is used commonly for drop letters, and when so used, is sealed. The contractors by error issued some size 6 envelopes, knife 81, and also knife 68, an old knife similar to knife 75a, except that the left flap is folded over the right (see cut 13). The objection to knives 68 and 81 is that the flaps catch in passing through the automatic cancelling machines and become torn.



No. 15. WATERMARK '07-A:



No. 16. WATERMARK '07-B.

Watermark:—Two watermarks are found in this issue, known to collectors as '07A, and '07B. The former is the commoner of the two, the latter so far having been found only on certain sizes of white paper.

The distinguishing characteristic of the A watermark is the long stroke of the figure 9, which, on leaving the oval top, carries vertically down for some distance, and then swings to the left in a circular curve (see cut 15). In the B watermark, the long stroke of the 9, on leaving the oval top, swings sharply to the left, in almost a straight line (see cut 16).

Watermarks in Error:—Both the 1c green (die A) and 2c brown red (die A) wrappers are found on paper watermarked 1894, accounted for by the fact that the present contractors purchased, probably without the sanction of the authorities, some of the manila paper which an earlier contractor had left on his hands when his contract expired.

During the past year collectors discovered that some of the current issue were appearing on paper watermarked 1903. Mr. J. M. Bartels has a letter from the Department stating that they had allowed the contractors to purchase white paper which the previous contractors had left, permission being given to use this paper for printing the 1c, size 13, and 2c, sizes 5 and 13. No attention appears to have been paid to these restrictions as this watermark has been found on nearly all sizes.

Die:—The following description of the die varieties of this issue, formulated by the American Envelope Society seems to the author to be the most accurate and concise statement of the distinguishing points, so far published, and is therefore copied without alterations.



DIE A

DIE B



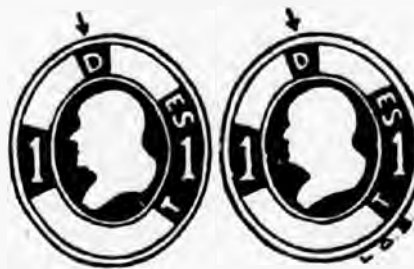
DIE A2

DIE C

TWO CENTS. Die A, oval O in "Two" (see cut 3). Die A2, two distinct bunches of hair, clearly divided, at top, each containing several rows of locks curving upwards at the right. Generally clearly embossed. This is rare in brown-red (see cut 4). Die B, round O in "TWO" (see cut 5). Die C, round O in "TWO." Fine letters. In head five scallops show prominently over the ear. Side lock curves decidedly to the right (see cut 6).

DIE VARIETIES.

ONE CENT



CUT 1

CUT 2

ONE CENT (green). Die A, wide D in "United" (see cut 1). Die B, narrow D in "United" (see cut 2).

FOUR CENTS



CUT 7

CUT 8

FOUR CENTS (black). Die A, "F" and figure "4" 1mm. apart. Wide "U" in "FOUR" (see cut 7). Die B, "F" and figure "4" 2mm. apart. Narrow "U" in "FOUR" (see cut 8).

FIVE CENTS



CUT 9

CUT 10

FIVE CENTS (blue). Die A, "F" over 2 1/2 mm. long (see cut 9). Die B, "F" less than 2 mm. long (see cut 10).

Color:—The 1c stamp is found printed in light and dark green. The 2c appeared first in brown-red (not red-brown as the color is sometimes erroneously called); later in carmine, both of which vary somewhat, principally in depth of color. The 4c comes in black and the 5c in dark blue. The 2c is sometimes found in a pale carmine which might be called in pink.

Gum:—Regarding gum, probably all that can be said is that one variety, 2c S. 13., die C on blue is known un-gummed, in error. Size 8, 1c white and amber can now be furnished gummed.

After 5 days, return to
JOHN WHITLEY
215 Fulton Street,
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

CUT 11. Linotype Setting

Linotype Setting:—Specialists find interest in a form of the government request printed in the upper left corner of the envelope, known as linotype setting, because set up on a linotype machine. In the regular form of request the different lines are centered one under another, while in the linotype setting, all begin under one another at the left (see cut 11). The principal interest in this setting is that it indicates the earliest printing, having been used for a few weeks only. It was soon replaced, so many complaints having been made against it.

Errors, Albinos, Etc. This issue is prolific in errors, due to carelessness or inexperience on the part of the contractors. The most collectable of these

are, in the opinion of the author, albinos, that is, envelopes which have received the embossed impression, but no color. All varieties of the one-cent have been found albino, except sizes two on white and amber, six on white, and eight on amber; and all the two cent sizes except two on amber, blue and buff and three on buff. No four or five cent sizes have been seen except the four cent size seven on white, and five cent, size five on white.

Freaks:—Of freaks there seems to be no end, and it would be useless to try to list them, as hardly any two are alike, and many of them are very minor varieties. Among the kinds of freaks which may be found, are double envelopes, that is, one envelope folded inside the other, sometimes both having the impression in color, and sometimes only the outer one; triple envelopes; envelopes with misplaced stamp, which stamp may be anywhere on the envelope, front or back; envelopes which are very much torn or damaged; partial albinos; big heads, due to worn dies, or dies which have spread; and impressions with spots of color, or spots of white, which spots may be anywhere on the stamp. One of the most interesting varieties is a watermarked envelope which has no impression of any kind on it, either embossing or color. This has been found in sizes three and five on white; of course there is no value. A few envelopes have been found on horizontally laid paper. This occurs generally on size eleven, the square size, and is due to the paper having been improperly fed into the machine. It has occurred on other sizes.

CHECK LIST

1 Cent			4 Cent		
Size	Die A	Die B	Size	Die A	Die B
2W	B	•	7W	P	B
A	B	•	A	B	B
3W	B	B	8W	B	B
A	B	•	A	B	B
5W	B	B	9W	•	B
A	B	B			
6W	B	•	5 Cent		
M	B	•		Die A	Die B
8W	B	B	Size	3W	B
A	B	B	A	R	B
11W	B	•	5W	B	B
13W	B	P	A	•	B
A	B	P			
BL	B	R			
BU	B	B			
Wrapper	P	P			
Wr. Wk. 94	P	•			

2 Cent

Size	Brown-red			Carmine		
	Die A	Die A2	Die B	Die A	Die A2	Die B
1W	B	•	•	P	P	•
2W	B	•	•	B	P	•
A	B	•	•	B	•	•
BL	B	•	•	P	•	•
BU	B	•	•	B	•	•
3W	B	•	B	B	•	P
A	R	•	•	B	R	B
BL	B	•	•	B	•	B
BU	B	•	•	B	B	B
4W	B	•	•	B	B	•
A	B	•	•	B	R	•
5W	B	B	B	B	B	P
A	R	R	B	B	R	B
BL	B	R	B	R	R	•
BU	R	R	B	R	R	•
7W	B	•	•	B	P	•
A	B	•	•	B	•	P
BL	B	•	•	B	•	•
BU	B	•	•	B	•	P
8W	B	•	B	B	•	B
A	B	•	B	R	•	P
9W	B	•	•	B	•	P
A	B	•	•	B	•	P
10W	B	•	•	B	P	•
11W	B	•	•	B	P	•
13W	B	•	B	B	B	B
A	B	•	B	R	P	P
BL	B	•	B	B	P	B
BU	B	•	B	R	•	P
14W	B	•	•	B	•	•
A	R	•	•	B	•	•
BL	B	•	•	B	R	•
BU	R	•	•	B	R	•
Wrap.	P	•	•	P	•	•
Wk. 94 P	•	•	•	O	O	O

The following varieties of watermarks and knives are known:

- 1c die A, on 1894 manila paper, Wr.
- 2c brown red, die A on 1894 manila, Wr.
- 1c die A, on 1903 white S—* 5R 6P 8 * 13B.
- 2c die A, on 1903 white S—* 2P 3P 4B 5B 7B 8R * 11B 13B 14R.
- 2c die A2 on 1903 white S—* * * * 5R * * * * 13R
- 2c die C on 1903 white S—* * 3B * * * * * *
- 1c die A on 1894 manila, K 68 S 6R
- 1c die A on 1894 manila, K 75a S 6B
- 1c die A on 1894 manila, K 81 S 6P
- 1c die A on 1907 white, K 68 S 6P
- 1c die A on 1907 white, K 81 S 6R
- 1c die A on 1907 manila, K 81 S 6B

P means, it is known plain. R means, known with government request. B means, known both ways. * (asterisk) means, may exist but has not yet been seen. O means, does not exist.

The author either has in his own collection or knows who does possess copies of all the varieties listed above and he would like to correspond with collectors or dealers having varieties not listed. As soon as additions can be verified, they will be published for the benefit of all collectors.

Since the above was written new minor varieties have appeared, apparently retouches and it is desirable that these be studied and classified at as early a date as possible.