

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD

FIRST ISSUE

Benjamin Franklin, George Washington

Plate proofs are found on both India paper and card stock. They were made from finished plates and are excellent impressions, showing sharpness and color far superior to the stamps themselves. India paper is a thin, soft, opaque paper which wrinkles when wet. Card is a plain, clear white card of good quality, which is found in different thicknesses for different printings.

Plate proofs on card of the first issue stamps were printed in sets of 500 each in 1879, 1885, 1890, January 1893 and March 1893, as component parts of complete card proof sets of most all issues to date, altogether totaling 2,500 sets. Proof experts are often able to discern which printing batch a particular proof belongs to by examining the paper upon which the proofs were printed.

Up until the early 1900's, stamp proofs were available to the stamp trade. In early days, congressmen could secure them for their constituents upon request. Thousands were distributed in this manner, creating a collecting irony of sorts: The proofs of modern U.S. stamps usually are not available, while older proofs are frequently offered for sale.

Today, proofs are retained only by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the United States Postal Service. Engravers were allowed to keep a proof for themselves long after they became unavailable for congressional requests, but those were the only copies outside of government ownership. Occasionally, a retired engraver's estate may include a proof for outside sale, but that is extremely infrequent.

Proofs are an attractive collecting example of the "art" of the stamp design as well as representing the production process and, in some cases, the political intrigue of the United States Post Office Department. For the classic stamp period through which they were produced, plate proofs present the most striking, clear and beautiful images of the issued stamps designs and, therefore, best represent the art of philately.

The plate proofs on card for the first issue designs were printed using the 1875 Reprint dies, as the original 1847 dies were destroyed in 1851.

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD

FIRST ISSUE

Benjamin Franklin, George Washington
2,500 each issued



3P4



4P4

United States Postage Stamps,

ISSUE

1847

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
FIRST PERFORATED ISSUE

Franklin, Washington, Jefferson
2,500 each issued



40P4



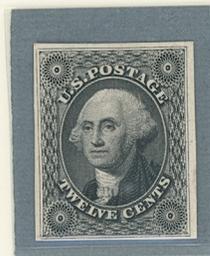
41P4



42P4



43P4



44P4



45P4



46P4



47P4

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
CIVIL WAR ERA ISSUES

Franklin, Andrew Jackson, Washington, Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln
2,500 each issued

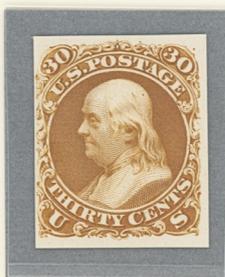
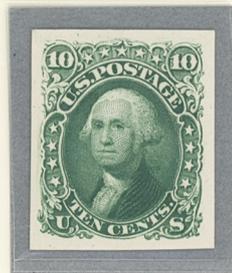
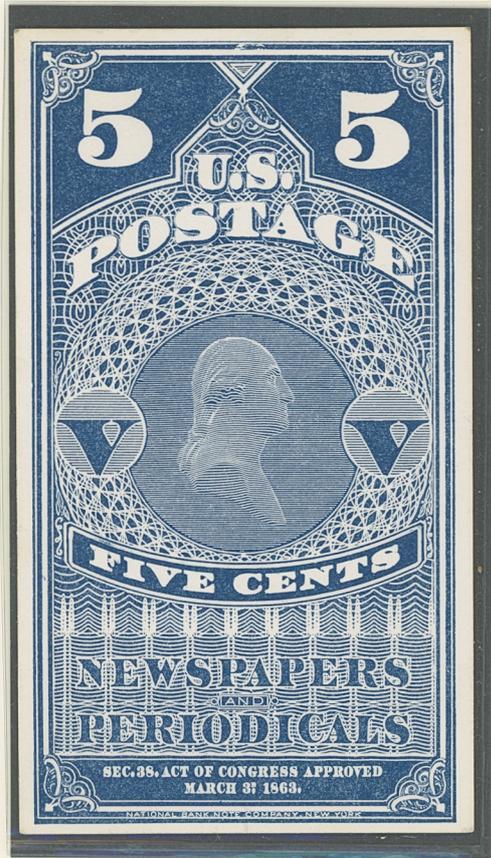


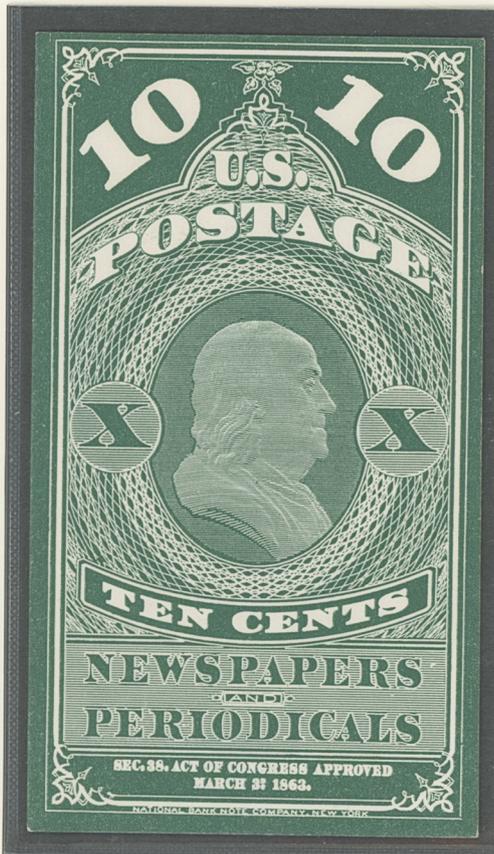
PLATE PROOFS ON CARD

FIRST NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS ISSUE

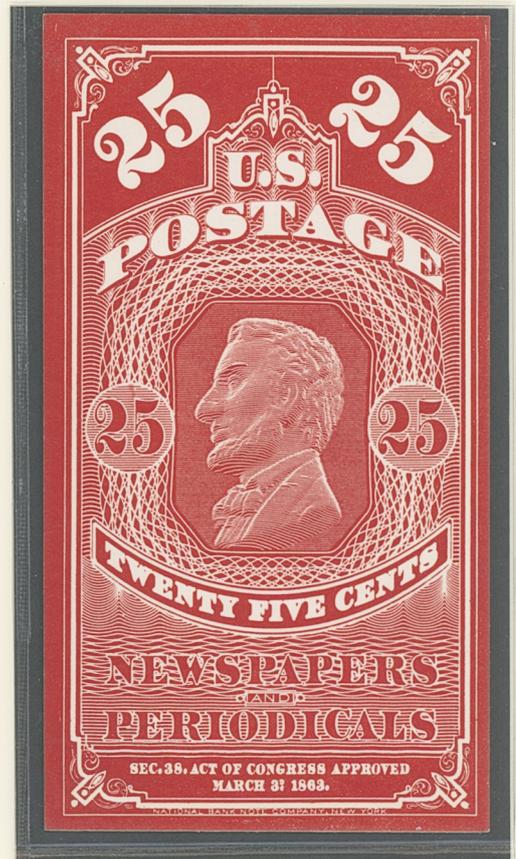
Washington, Franklin, Lincoln
2,500 each issued



(Scott No. PR4P4)



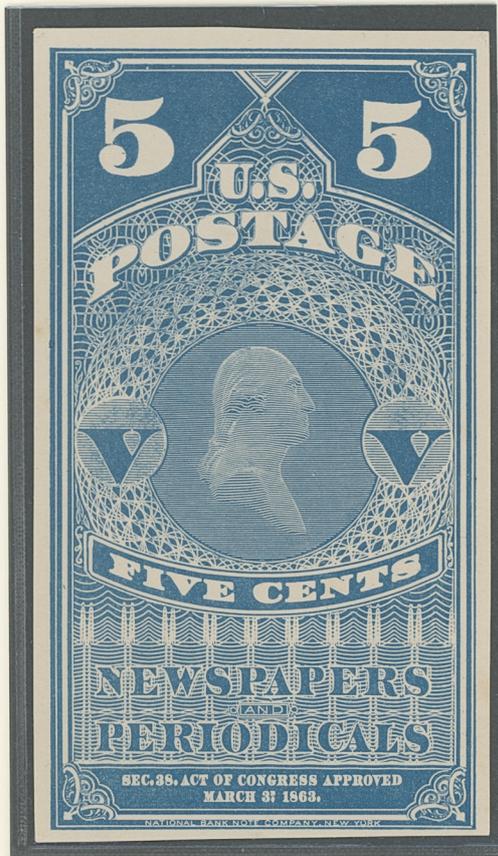
(Scott No. PR2P4)



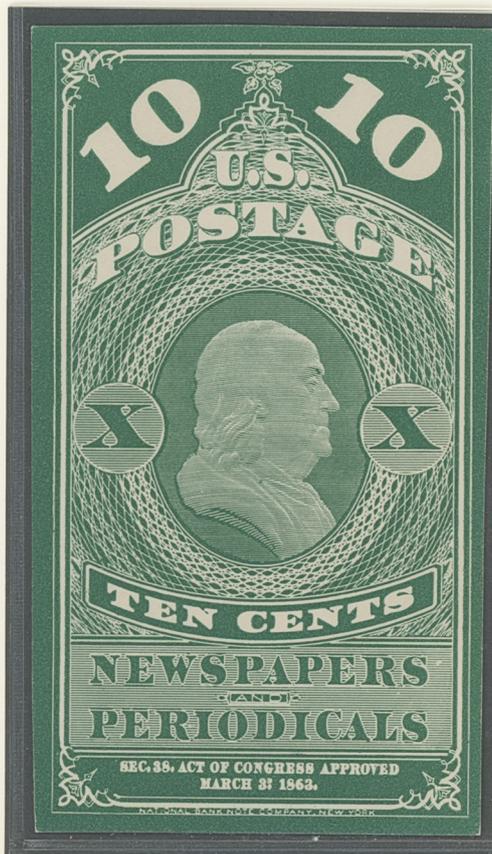
(Scott No. PR3PR)

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
FIRST NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS ISSUE

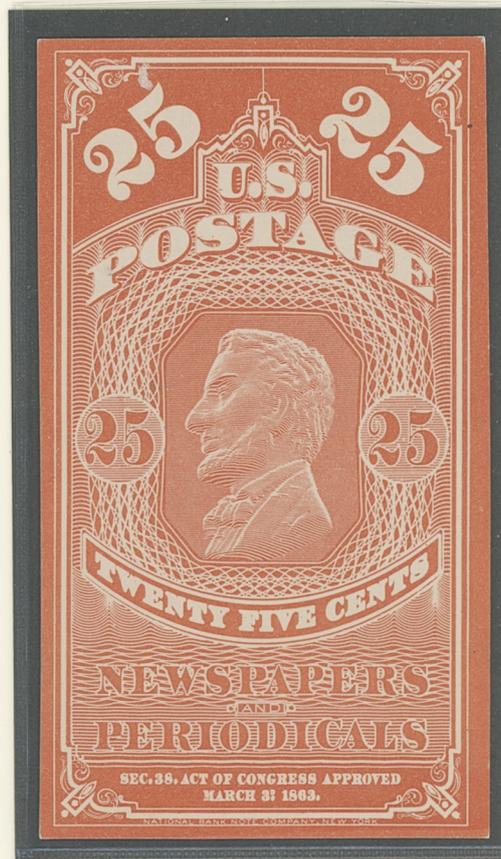
Washington, Franklin, Lincoln
2,500 each issued



(Scott No. PR5P4)



(Scott No. PR6P4)



(Scott No. PR7P4)

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD

PICTORIAL ISSUE

Franklin, Post Horse & Rider, Locomotive, Washington, Eagle & Shield, Steamship Adriatic,
Landing of Columbus, Declaration of Independence, Eagle Shield & Flags, Lincoln
2,500 each issued



INVERTED PLATE PROOFS ON CARD

PICTORIAL ISSUE

1869 15¢, 24¢, 30¢ and 90¢

100 each quantity known



Brown & Blue, 15¢
Landing of Columbus
INVERTED ERROR

(Scott No. 129P4a)

CV \$2,750



Green & Violet, 24¢
Declaration of Independence
INVERTED ERROR

(Scott No. 120P4a)

CV \$2,750



Ultramarine & Carmine, 30¢
Eagle, Shield & Flags
INVERTED ERROR

(Scott No. 121P4a)

CV \$2,750



Carmine & Black, 90¢
Abraham Lincoln
INVERTED ERROR

(Scott No. 122P4a)

CV \$2,750

The inverted plate proofs on card likely originated from the archives of the American Bank Note Company, held by its Vice President, Henry Mandel. Mandel and Walter Scott were jointly marketing Mandel's holdings and James Petrie, a close associate of Scott's, had good dealer relationships with European collectors. Sometime between 1900 and 1903, the Earl of Crawford purchased the complete sheets of each of the 1869 inverts as plate proofs, including the inverted 90¢ design on card, which is the only known example of this invert. Upon his death on January 31, 1914, the Earl of Crawford's collection was sold by his heirs to John Klemann of the Nassau Stamp Company, who cut each sheet of 100 inverts into one plate block of 8, two blocks of four, and 84 singles, and sold them to collectors. The inverted proofs are nearly as rare as the actual inverted stamps, and in the case of the 90¢ Abraham Lincoln, certainly a scarce and rare item, as no other inverted 90¢ examples exist other than this proof.

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD

LARGE BANK NOTE ISSUES – FIRST DESIGNS

Franklin, Jackson, Washington, Lincoln, Edward Stanton, Jefferson, Henry Clay,
Daniel Webster, Winfield Scott, Alexander Hamilton, Oliver Perry
2,500 each issued

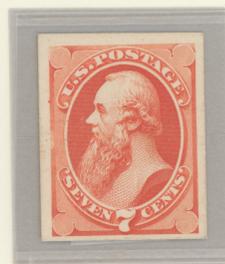


PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
LARGE BANK NOTE ISSUES – INTERIM DESIGNS

Jackson, Zachary Taylor, James Garfield, Washington
2,500 issued



PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
SECOND NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS DESIGNS

2,500 issued



PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
SECOND NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS DESIGNS

2,500 issued



PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
SECOND NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS DESIGNS

2,500 issued

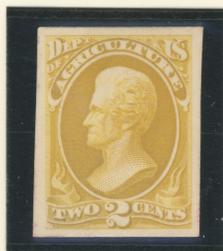


PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Franklin, Jackson, Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Clay, Webster, Scott, Hamilton



1873 1c Yellow
Benjamin Franklin
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 01P4)



1873 2c Yellow
Andrew Jackson
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 02P4)



1873 3c Yellow
George Washington
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 03P4)



1873 6c Yellow
Abraham Lincoln
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 04P4)



1873 10c Yellow
Thomas Jefferson
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 05P4)



1873 12c Yellow
Henry Clay
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 06P4)



1873 15c Yellow
Daniel Webster
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 07P4)



1873 24c Yellow
Gen. Winfield Scott
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 08P4)



1873 30c Yellow
Alexander Hamilton
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 09P4)

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Franklin, Jackson, Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson



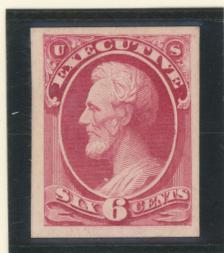
1873 1¢ Carmine
Benjamin Franklin
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 010P4)



1873 2¢ Carmine
Andrew Jackson
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 011P4)



1873 3¢ Carmine
George Washington
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 012P4)



1873 6¢ Carmine
Abraham Lincoln
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 013P4)



1873 10¢ Carmine
Thomas Jefferson
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 014P4)

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

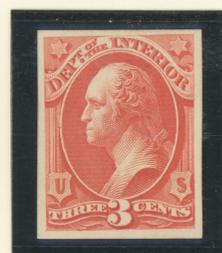
Franklin, Jackson, Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Clay, Webster, Scott, Hamilton, Perry



**1873 1c Vermilion
Benjamin Franklin**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 015P4)



**1873 2c Vermilion
Andrew Jackson**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 016P4)



**1873 3c Vermilion
George Washington**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 017P4)



**1873 6c Vermilion
Abraham Lincoln**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 018P4)



**1873 10c Vermilion
Thomas Jefferson**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 019P4)



**1873 12c Vermilion
Henry Clay**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 020P4)



**1873 15c Vermilion
Daniel Webster**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 021P4)



**1873 24c Vermilion
Gen. Winfield Scott**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 022P4)



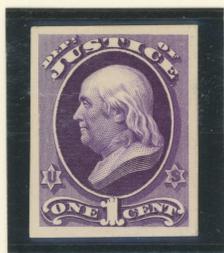
**1873 30c Vermilion
Alexander Hamilton**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 023P4)



**1873 90c Vermilion
Comm. Oliver Perry**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 024P4)

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Franklin, Jackson, Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Clay, Webster, Scott, Hamilton, Perry



1873 1¢ Purple
Benjamin Franklin
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 025P4)



1873 2¢ Purple
Andrew Jackson
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 026P4)



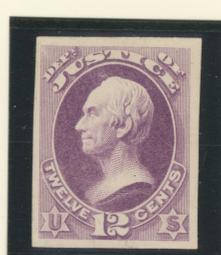
1873 3¢ Purple
George Washington
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 027P4)



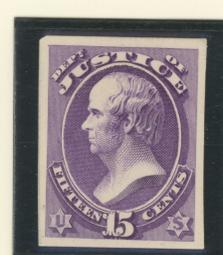
1873 6¢ Purple
Abraham Lincoln
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 028P4)



1873 10¢ Purple
Thomas Jefferson
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 029P4)



1873 12¢ Purple
Henry Clay
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 030P4)



1873 15¢ Purple
Daniel Webster
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 031P4)



1873 24¢ Purple
Gen. Winfield Scott
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 032P4)



1873 30¢ Purple
Alexander Hamilton
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 033P4)



1873 90¢ Purple
Comm. Oliver Perry
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 034P4)

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Franklin, Jackson, Washington, Lincoln, Stanton, Jefferson, Clay, Webster, Scott, Hamilton, Perry



**1873 1¢ Ultramarine
Benjamin Franklin**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 035P4)



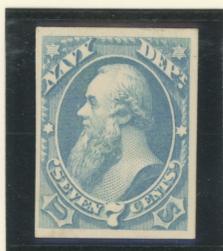
**1873 2¢ Ultramarine
Andrew Jackson**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 036P4)



**1873 3¢ Ultramarine
George Washington**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 037P4)



**1873 6¢ Ultramarine
Abraham Lincoln**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 038P4)



**1873 7¢ Ultramarine
Edward M. Stanton**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 039P4)



**1873 10¢ Ultramarine
Thomas Jefferson**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 040P4)



**1873 12¢ Ultramarine
Henry Clay**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 041P4)



**1873 15¢ Ultramarine
Daniel Webster**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 042P4)



**1873 24¢ Ultramarine
Gen. Winfield Scott**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 043P4)



**1873 30¢ Ultramarine
Alexander Hamilton**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 044P4)



**1873 90¢ Ultramarine
Comm. Oliver Perry**
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 045P4)

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT



1873 1¢ Black
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 047P4)



1873 2¢ Black
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 048P4)



1873 3¢ Black
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 049P4)



1873 6¢ Black
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 050P4)



1873 10¢ Black
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 051P4)



1873 12¢ Black
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 052P4)



1873 15¢ Black
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 053P4)



1873 24¢ Black
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 054P4)



1873 30¢ Black
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 055P4)



1873 90¢ Black
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 056P4)

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
STATE DEPARTMENT

Franklin, Jackson, Washington, Lincoln, Stanton, Jefferson, Clay



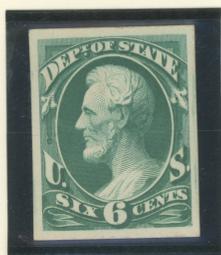
1873 1¢ Dark Green
Benjamin Franklin
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 057P4)



1873 2¢ Dark Green
Andrew Jackson
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 058P4)



1873 3¢ Dark Green
George Washington
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 059P4)



1873 6¢ Dark Green
Abraham Lincoln
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 060P4)



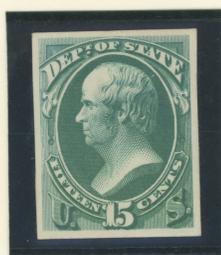
1873 7¢ Dark Green
Edward M. Stanton
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 061P4)



1873 10¢ Dark Green
Thomas Jefferson
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 062P4)



1873 12¢ Dark Green
Henry Clay
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 063P4)

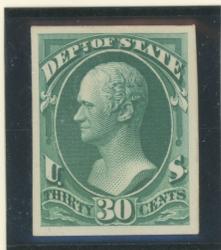


1873 15¢ Dark Green
Daniel Webster
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 064P4)



1873 24¢ Dark Green
Gen. Winfield Scott
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 065P4)

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
STATE DEPARTMENT
Webster, Scott, Hamilton, Perry, Seward



1873 30¢ Dark Green
Alexander Hamilton
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 066P4)



1873 90¢ Dark Green
Comm. Oliver Perry
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 067P4)



1873 \$2 Dark Green
William H. Seward
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 068P4)



1873 \$5 Dark Green
William H. Seward
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 069P4)



1873 \$10 Dark Green
William H. Seward
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 070P4)



1873 \$20 Dark Green
William H. Seward
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 071P4)

1873 OFFICIAL STAMPS
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Franklin, Jackson, Washington, Lincoln, Stanton, Jefferson, Clay, Webster, Scott, Hamilton, Perry



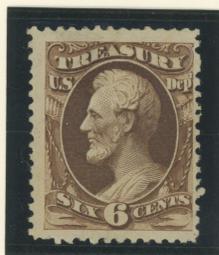
1873 1¢ Brown
Benjamin Franklin
(Scott No. 072)



1873 2¢ Brown
Andrew Jackson
(Scott No. 073)



1873 3¢ Brown
George Washington
(Scott No. 074)



1873 6¢ Brown
Abraham Lincoln
(Scott No. 075)



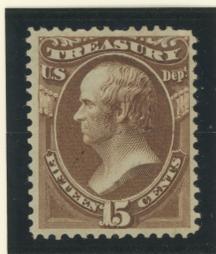
1873 7¢ Brown
Edward M. Stanton
(Scott No. 076)



1873 10¢ Brown
Thomas Jefferson
(Scott No. 077)



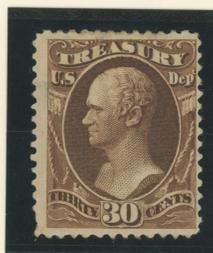
1873 12¢ Brown
Henry Clay
(Scott No. 078)



1873 15¢ Brown
Daniel Webster
(Scott No. 079)



1873 24¢ Brown
Gen. Winfield Scott
(Scott No. 080)



1873 30¢ Brown
Alexander Hamilton
(Scott No. 081)



1873 90¢ Brown
Comm. Oliver Perry
(Scott No. 082)

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD

WAR DEPARTMENT

Franklin, Jackson, Washington, Lincoln, Stanton, Jefferson, Clay, Webster, Scott, Hamilton, Perry



1873 1¢ Rose
Benjamin Franklin
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 083P4)



1873 2¢ Rose
Andrew Jackson
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 084P4)



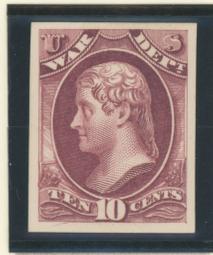
1873 3¢ Rose
George Washington
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 085P4)



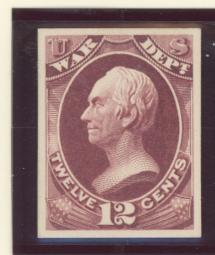
1873 6¢ Rose
Abraham Lincoln
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 086P4)



1873 7¢ Rose
Edward M. Stanton
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 087P4)



1873 10¢ Rose
Thomas Jefferson
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 088P4)



1873 12¢ Rose
Henry Clay
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 089P4)



1873 15¢ Brown
Daniel Webster
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 090P4)



1873 24¢ Brown
Gen. Winfield Scott
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 091P4)



1873 30¢ Brown
Alexander Hamilton
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 092P4)



1873 90¢ Brown
Comm. Oliver Perry
Issued: 2,500
(Scott No. 093P4)

PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
LARGE BANK NOTE ISSUES – FINAL DESIGNS

Franklin, Washington, Jackson, Garfield, Hamilton, Perry
2,500 issued



PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
POSTAGE DUE STAMPS – FIRST DESIGNS

Scott Nos. J22P4-J28P4
2,500 issued



PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
POSTAGE DUE STAMPS – FIRST DESIGNS

Scott Nos. J1P4-J7P4
2,500 issued



PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
POSTAGE DUE STAMPS – FIRST DESIGNS

Scott Nos. J15P4-J21P4
2,500 issued



PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
FIRST SPECIAL DELIVERY ISSUES

Running Messenger
2,500 issued



PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
SMALL BANK NOTE ISSUE

Franklin, Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant,
Garfield, William T. Sherman, Webster, Clay, Jefferson, Perry
2,500 issued



PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION ISSUE

World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago, Ill., May 1 - October 30, 1893



PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION ISSUE

World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago, Ill., May 1 - October 30, 1893



PLATE PROOFS ON CARD
COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION ISSUE

World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago, Ill., May 1 – October 30, 1893



1898 BI-COLOR PROOFS

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION ISSUE

When the Trans-Mississippi Issue was first contemplated, the Post Office Department intended to print the stamps in two colors - the frames to be in various colors according to denominations, while the center vignettes were all to be in black. The Bureau of Engraving printed 216 sets of the bi-color proofs, which represent the final design elements of the issue. Comments from reviewers advised that the vignette of the \$2 and 2¢ denominations should be swapped, because the printing volume of the 2¢ stamp would be many times greater than the \$2 and the vignette currently in the \$2 essay, *Harvesting in the West*, would be more appropriate for those large volumes than the Mississippi Bridge. The eventual stamps as issued made this change.

However, the bi-color printing of this issue had to be abandoned. The April 1898 start of the Spanish-American War required the printing of enormous quantities of revenue stamps and the facilities of the Bureau of Engraving were taxed to the utmost. The time and manpower needed for the printing stamps in two colors could not be spared; and it was necessary for the Bureau to abandon the proposed bi-color stamps in favor of stamps of single colors.

It is unfortunate that it was necessary to change the original plan because the die proofs of the bi-color issue offer full proof of their beauty.



1898 1¢ Dark Yellow Green & Black
Marquette on the Mississippi
Quantity Known: 216
(Scott No. 285-E8)

Note: This collection refers to these items as bi-color proofs. They are included in the Essays section of the Scott catalog yet described in the individual detailed listings as dies. Except for the swapping of the 2¢ and \$2 vignette dies just prior to issuance, and the word "harvesting" changing to "farming" on the 2¢ frame, these items present the exact frame and vignette dies as the issued stamps and therefore are die proofs. A die proof can represent the final design of the frame, the vignette, or both.

1898 BI-COLOR PROOFS
TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION ISSUE



1898 2¢ Dark Red & Black
Mississippi River Bridge
Quantity Known: 216
(Scott No. 286-E8)



1898 4¢ Red Orange & Black
Indian Hunting Buffalo
Quantity Known: 216
(Scott No. 287-E9)

1898 BI-COLOR PROOFS
TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION ISSUE



1898 5¢ Dim Dark Blue & Black
Fremont on Rocky Mountains
Quantity Known: 216
(Scott No. 288-E5)



1898 8¢ Dusky Red & Black
Troops Guarding Train
Quantity Known: 216
(Scott No. 289-E4)

1898 BI-COLOR PROOFS
TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION ISSUE



1898 10¢ Dull Dusky Violet Blue & Black
Hardships of Emigration
Quantity Known: 216
(Scott No. 290-E4)



1898 50¢ Dull Dusky Green-Blue-Green & Black
Western Mining Prospector
Quantity Known: 216
(Scott No. 291-E8)

1898 BI-COLOR PROOFS
TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION ISSUE



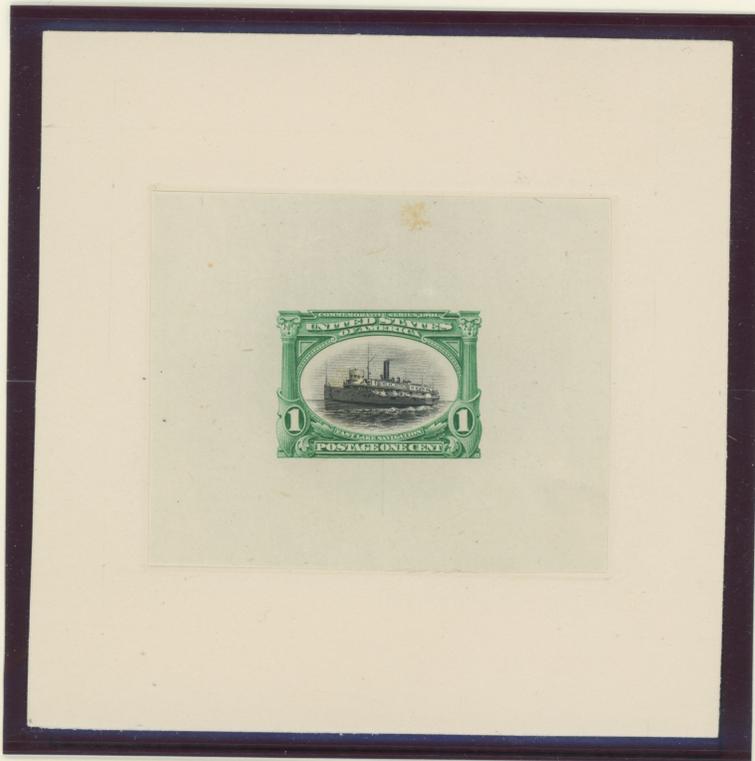
1898 \$1 Dull Violet & Black
Western Cattle in Storm
Quantity Known: 216
(Scott No. 292-E6)



1898 \$2 Dusky Red Orange & Black
Harvesting in the West
Quantity Known: 216
(Scott No. 293-E7)

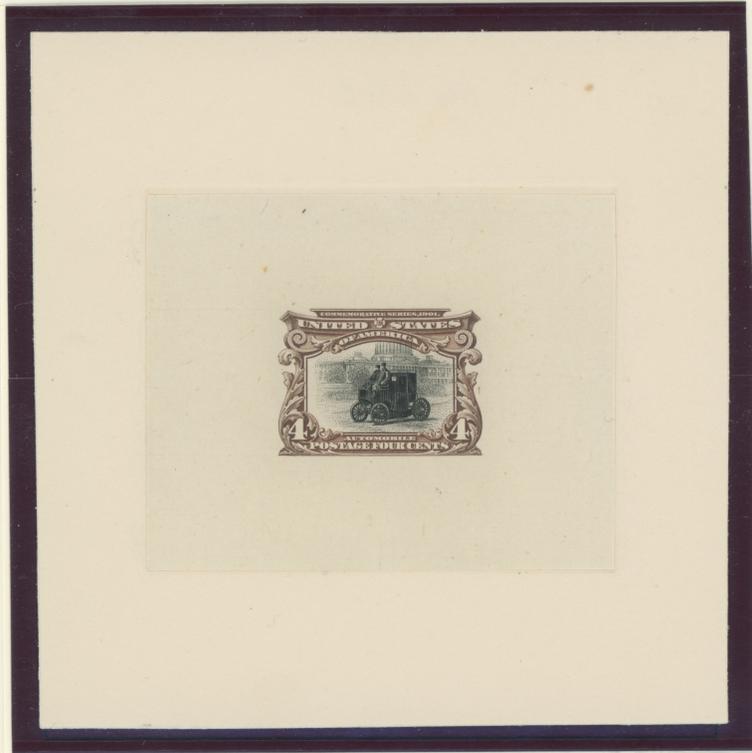
1901 LARGE DIE PROOFS
THE PAN-AMERICAN ISSUE

173 each known



1901 LARGE DIE PROOFS
THE PAN-AMERICAN ISSUE

173 each known



1901 LARGE DIE PROOFS
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173 each known

