

Chapter 23

Plate Numbers 16000-16999

The 1c Franklin started the 16000 series by being assigned to a flat plate in July, 1924. Plate 16999 was assigned to the 1.5c Harding side coil stamp in March, 1925. Plate impression figures are available for many of the plates in the 16000 section and it is interesting to note that the flat plates produced roughly 40,000 impressions each while the rotaries printed over 100,000 impressions. It is good that the rotaries were so efficient, otherwise we would have many more elusive coil plates to chase. The 4th Bureau series flat press plates dominate this section. A new value, the 1.5c Harding stamp, was issued during this section. The rotary press did mainly coil duty. The Norse-American and Lexington commemoratives made their appearance as did a new special delivery denomination.

An end of an era was reached with the 1c Franklin as the last of the flat plates of the 1c regular issues went to press in this section. 59 1c Franklin flat plates went to press. The last plate, 16571, had only 2000 impressions and is rare with 1 report. Another late plate, 16562, had 3425 impressions and is unreported. The other 57 can be found, but not too easily. Only eleven 1c rotary plates went to press and all are common. Sixteen 1c coils went to press and eight are unreported; the others are scarce. Collectors no longer have coil waste to help with the coil plate numbers.

The new stamp in the 4th Bureau series was the 1.5c Harding and 66 flat and 16 rotary plates went to press. Both of these groups are tough to complete. The flat plate 16937 had only 2000 impressions and 3 reports in the plate survey. Check precancels for the rotary plates since some may be available only that way. 26 Harding coil plates went to press with 5 unreported. These are not as tough as the 1c Franklin coils to locate, probably since they were around in the post offices for a longer period of time.

The 2c Washington was the major user of plates in the 16000 section with 292 flat and 16 rotary sheet plates to press. There are bumps in this road to completing this group plates. Fifty-three 2c booklet plates went to press and a few of these are quite tough to locate. The biggest problem is the coil stamp. 86 plates went to press and 52 are unreported. The rest must be really tough. I have not found even one in years of looking.

The 3c Lincoln sent 18 plates to press and these present no problems. But the 3c coil is tough with 2 plates to press, 1 unreported. The 4c Martha Washington finished its career on the flat press with 12 plates to press. Plate 16369 is rare with 750 impressions and only 1 report. Four 4c rotary plates went to press and these are easy. The 8c Grant had a whopping 28 plates sent to press. Plate 16796 had only 2275 impressions and was unreported for almost 50 years until 2 plate singles were found and I believe both are precancels. Other high value plates went to press but pose no difficulties.

The 16000 series of plate numbers saw the introduction of the flat press star plates with wider spacings in the vertical gutters. After initial experiments with an intermediate spacing (2c plates 16505-08), a set of plates was made with a wider spacing (2c plates 16656-59). These plates had no special identifying markings. Subsequent wide gauge 2c plates were almost all marked with a star in the margin to ensure proper perforation, and this marking persisted until the end of the 2c Washington flat plate printing. One plate (16758) had a small star in the top position of the upper right pane. Plates 16741, 16761, and 16787 had a large six point star in the top position of the upper right pane. Seven plates were made with a large five point star in the top position of the upper right pane. Plate 16788 had a large five point star below the side plate number of the upper right pane. This was to become the standard location of the star. One 8c Grant star plate was made (16796) and the proof sheet shows a six point star to the left of the top plate number on the upper right pane. No star copies of this plate number have been found. The stars are located in the margins on a stamp adjacent to the stamp with the plate number so a plate number pair is the smallest unit showing the star and the plate number.

The 2c and 5c Norse-American commemoratives appeared toward the end of the 16000 section along with the 3 Lexington stamps. A total of 23 plates is available and all are common.

The 10c special delivery saw 8 plates to press and these can be troublesome to locate. A new 15c special delivery was issued with 8 plates and these are much easier to find.

The 16000 section had 869 plates to press and 69 were unreported. But most of these plates exist in quantities large enough to make the common plates easy to find. The challenge lies with the known tough numbers, and those coil plates. The ambitious collector should be able to locate 700 plates before approaching the brick wall. The rotary press is becoming more of a factor in stamp production now at the BEP. The 4c, 5c, 6c, and 10c stamps made their appearance on this press. It appears that this production method is almost ready to assume the major workload at the Bureau. Will it happen in the 17000 section? The next chapter will tell the tale.

Chapter 23-16000

| | | 16000 Series Totals | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|--------|
| Series | Subject | Plate Type | Assigned | To Press | Available | Unreported | I Have |
| | (totals) | | 1000 | 869 | 869 | 69 | |
| 4th Bureau Series | | | | | | | |
| 1922 | 1c Franklin | 400F | 79 | 59 | 59 | 1 | |
| 1922 | 1c Franklin | 400R | 12 | 11 | 11 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 1c Franklin book | 360F | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 1c Franklin coil | 170R | 21 | 16 | 16 | 8 | |
| 1922 | 1.5c Harding | 400F | 76 | 66 | 66 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 1.5c Harding | 400R | 16 | 16 | 16 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 1.5c Harding coil | 170R | 26 | 26 | 26 | 5 | |
| 1922 | 2c Washington | 400F | 292 | 292 | 292 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 2c Washington | 400R | 16 | 16 | 16 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 2c Washington book | 360F | 56 | 53 | 53 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 2c Washington coil | 170R | 88 | 86 | 86 | 52 | |
| 1922 | 3c Lincoln | 400F | 24 | 18 | 18 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 3c Lincoln coil | 170R | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | |
| 1922 | 4c M. Washington | 400F | 12 | 12 | 12 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 4c M. Washington | 400R | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 5c Roosevelt | 400F | 12 | 12 | 12 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 5c Roosevelt | 400R | 11 | 9 | 9 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 5c Roosevelt coil | 170R | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 6c Garfield | 400F | 13 | 10 | 10 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 6c Garfield | 400R | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 7c McKinley | 400F | 20 | 20 | 20 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 8c Grant | 400F | 32 | 28 | 28 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 10c Monroe | 400F | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 10c Monroe | 400R | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 10c Monroe coil | 170R | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | |
| 1922 | 11c Hayes | 400F | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 12c Cleveland | 400F | 6 | 5 | 5 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 14c Indian | 400F | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 20c Golden Gate | 400F | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 25c Niagara Falls | 400F | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 30c Bison | 400F | 8 | 8 | 8 | 0 | |
| Commemorative | | | | | | | |
| 1925 | 2c Norse frame | 100F | 7 | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| 1925 | 2c Norse center | 100F | 5 | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| 1925 | 5c Norse frame | 100F | 10 | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| 1925 | 5c Norse center | 100F | 8 | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| 1925 | 1c Lexington | 200F | 10 | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| 1925 | 2c Lexington | 200F | 11 | 7 | 7 | 0 | |
| 1925 | 5c Lexington | 200F | 6 | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| Special Purpose Issues | | | | | | | |
| 1922 | 10c Special Delivery | 200F | 8 | 8 | 8 | 0 | |
| 1922 | 15c Special Delivery | 200F | 36 | 8 | 8 | 0 | |



16015
1c Franklin
side coil
unreported

16016
1c Franklin
side coil
unreported



16021
1c Franklin
side coil
not used

16022
1c Franklin
side coil
unreported





16039
1c Franklin
side coil
unreported

16040
1c Franklin
side coil
not finished





16053
1c Franklin
side coil
rare, not in collection

16054
1c Franklin
side coil
unreported



16059-16060
1c Franklin
not used



16063
1c Franklin
side coil
unreported

16064
1c Franklin
side coil
rare, not in collection



16073
1c Franklin
side coil
not finished

16074
1c Franklin
side coil
rare, not in collection



16081
1c Franklin
side coil
scarce, not in collection





16109-16110
1c Franklin
side coil
unreported





16144-16145
2c Washington book
not finished



16152
2c Washington
rare, not in collection



16161-16162
1c Franklin
side coil
unreported

16163
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16164
2c Washington
side coil
unreported





16202
1c Franklin
rotary
not used

16203-16204
2c Washington
side coil
unreported





16219-16220
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



16229
2c Washington
side coil
not finished

16230
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection





16244-16246
6c Garfield
not used



16264-16265
2c Washington
side coil
unreported





16276-16279
1c Franklin book
not used



16284-16285
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



16289
2c Washington book
not finished





16300
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16301
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16302
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16303
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection





16339-16340
10c Monroe
side coil
unreported









16392
5c Roosevelt
rare, not in collection



16395
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16396-16397
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

16398
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection



16403
12c Cleveland
not finished



16411
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16412
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection



16421
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16422-16424
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

16425
3c Lincoln
side coil
unreported

16426
3c Lincoln
side coil
rare, not in collection



16435-16437
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

16438
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection





16444
5c Roosevelt
side coil
rare, not in collection



16457-16462
2c Washington
side coil
unreported





16477
5c Roosevelt
side coil
rare, not in collection



16479-16483
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

16484
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16485-16486
2c Washington
side coil
unreported





16496
5c Roosevelt
rotary
not finished



16509-16513
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

16514
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16515



16516-16517
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

16518



16519



16520



16521



16522-16525
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

F 16526



16527



16528



16529



16530



16531

16532



16533

16534



16535

16536



F 16537



16538



16539

16540



16541



16542-16545
2c Washington
side coil
unreported



16554-16555
1c Franklin
not finished



16562
1c Franklin
rare, not in collection





16571
1c Franklin
rare, not in collection

16572-16579
1c Franklin
not used



16584-16591
1c Franklin
not used



16595



16596-16599
1c Franklin book
not used

16600



16601



16602



16603



16604-16607
1c Franklin book
not used



16609-16612
1c Franklin book
not used

16613



16614







16655
5c Roosevelt
rotary
not finished



16672-16673
5c Norse-American
frame
not finished

16674-16675
5c Norse-American
center
not finished

16676
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

16677
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16678-16679
5c Norse-American
frame
not finished

16680-16681
5c Norse-American
center
not finished

16682
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16683-16685
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

16686
5c Norse-American
frame
not finished



16690
2c Norse-American
center
not finished

16691-16693
2c Norse-American
frame
not finished



16695-16696
2c Washington
side coil
unreported







16725
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16726
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

16727
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16728-16731
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

16732
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16733
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16734
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

16735
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16736
2c Washington
side coil
unreported





16766-16767
8c Grant
not used



16771-16772
3c Lincoln
not used





16777
1c Franklin
side coil
rare, not in collection

16778
1c Franklin
side coil
not finished

16779
1c Franklin
side coil
unreported

16780
1c Franklin
side coil
rare, not in collection

16781-16784
3c Lincoln
not used



16793-16794
8c Grant
not used



16796
8c Grant
rare, not in collection





16802
2c Lexington
not finished



16809-16810
2c Washington
side coil
unreported





16817-16820
1c Lexington
not used

16821
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16822
2c Washington
side coil
unreported

16823
2c Washington
side coil
rare, not in collection

16824
2c Washington
side coil
not used



16827
1c Franklin
side coil
rare, not in collection

16828
 1c Franklin
 side coil
 rare, not in collection





16853
1.5c Harding
side coil
rare, not in collection

16854
1.5c Harding
side coil
unreported



16881
1.5c Harding
side coil
(missing)

16882
1.5c Harding
side coil
rare, not in collection

16883
1.5c Harding
side coil
unreported

16884
1.5c Harding
side coil
rare, not in collection



16889-16904
15c Special Delivery
not used



16907
 1.5c Harding
 side coil
 rare, not in collection



16909
 1.5c Harding
 side coil
 rare, not in collection



16918-16919
 5c Lexington
 not used

16920-16921
 2c Lexington
 not finished

16922-16923
 1c Lexington
 not used





16937
1.5c Harding
rare, not in collection



16942
1.5c Harding
side coil
rare, not in collection

16943
1.5c Harding
side coil
rare, not in collection

16944
1.5c Harding
side coil
rare, not in collection

16945
1.5c Harding
side coil
unreported



16947
1.5c Harding
side coil
rare, not in collection



16952-16955
15c Special Delivery
not used

16956
2c Lexington
not finished



16962
5c Norse-American
frame
not finished



16964-16967
15c Special Delivery
not used



16969
1.5c Harding
not finished



16976
1.5c Harding
side coil
rare, not in collection



16978-16981
15c Special Delivery
not used



16985-16993
1.5c Harding
not used

16994
1.5c Harding
side coil
rare, not in collection

16995
1.5c Harding
side coil
unreported



16998
1.5c Harding
side coil
unreported

