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## The Newspaper Stamps of the United States.

With the beginning of this journal I will begin a series of articles on the United States stamps in plain and simple language so that the youngest dealer cannot fail to understand what he is studying in these interesting bits of paper so dear to the philatelist heart.

To my mind there are no stamps more beautiful or interesting than the U. S. newspaper stamps. Beautiful in design and color, and interesting because so little understood and so different from anything else of the kind. The first ones were issued in 1865 and were very large stamps, the plate impression being 35x98 mm. They consisted of these denominations, 5c. blue, head of Washington, 10c. green, head of Franklin, 25c. red, head of Lincoln.

In 1867 there was another 5c. stamp (51x95 mm.) exactly like the former except there was a small margin of white on the stamp. This set was in use until 1875, when an entirely new series was brought out, consisting of twenty-four stamps (plate impression 24x

35½ mm.) ranging in value from 2 cents to \$60, and may be briefly described as follows: 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 10 c. black, all with figures of Liberty after Crawford's statue surmounting the dome of the capitol. 12, 20, 36, 48, 60, 75, 84 and 96 cent, carmine, all with figure of Justice. The 1.92 is brown man-evera, 3.00 vermilion, Goddess of Victory, 6.00 blue, Clio, 9.00 orange, Minerva, 12.00 green, Vesta 24.00 violet, Peace, 36.00 red, Commerce, 38.00 chocolate, Hebe, 60.00 violet, Minnehaha and in 1885 a 1c. stamp was added to the set with the same design as the other low values.

They are not used on newspapers, as many suppose but are pasted in a book for that purpose, and are sent to the Post Office Department with the office reports, and there they are destroyed.

Several years ago they could be procured at the different Post Offices just as you could buy ordinary stamps, but the law has been repealed and they are now very scarce.

The season used specimens are often seen, may be explained by the fact that the Lockport, N. Y. post office was burned some years ago and large quantities were pro-