

small ovals and arabesques were added at each corner and little scrolls at the sides. These additions, as in the case of the three cents, make the outline of stamp about rectangular.

I have not been able to find variations in the twenty-four and thirty cents stamps. As there was but one plate for each value I doubt if any changes were made in the designs. The colors differ very decidedly from those of the ordinary stamps, as will be noted later. A few slight retouches may be found on some of the twenty-four cents stamps, but I think they indicate late touching up of the plate rather than alterations on the die.

NINETY CENTS. Above the ribbon with U.S. POSTAGE the lines of the frame meet in a sort of gable, made by parallel lines of color, separated by a white space about one-half millimetre wide. To form the second type a strong point of color is added at the apex of the lower lines of the gable and a series of little dashes drawn through the centre of the white space, making a broken line of color, between and parallel to the other lines. On many of the stamps this broken line is too faint to be seen, but colored point usually stands out clearly. I think it will be agreed that the appearance of the stamp would have been improved if, instead of these microscopic marks, something more elaborate had been added to fill out the very bare upper part of the stamp.

Beyond doubt the eye is best pleased by stamps whose outlines fill out a rectangle. The designers of our earlier stamps either failed to appreciate this idea or else failed to carry it out. Thus we find in many of the stamps of the older issues an unsatisfactory barrenness and lack of completeness, notably at the corners. At the same time many of our later issues appear painfully plain and lacking in variety when compared with the graceful designs and elaborate ornamentation of the earlier issues.

The paper is very thin, hard and extremely brittle. The stamps must be handled carefully, for they are easily broken. The paper is also quite transparent and much of the designs may be seen from the backs of the stamps. The gum is very dark-brown, sometimes staining the paper. The perforation is 12, as adopted for the 1861 issue. The colors are very dark and rich and the ink heavily applied, occasionally giving a blurred appearance, though as a rule the impressions are very fine and clear.

The colors are :

FIRST TYPES.

One cent, Indigo.
Three cents, Brown-red.
Five cents, Yellow brown.
Ten cents, Dark yellow green.
Twelve cents, Gray black.
Twenty-four cents, Violet.
Thirty cents, Red orange.
Ninety cents, Dull blue.

SECOND TYPES.

Pale blue, blue, dull blue.
Pink, rose.
Brown, red brown, black brown.
Yellow green, blue green.
Gray black, jet black.
Yellow, orange.
Pale blue, blue, marine blue.

It has been my good fortune to see some large blacks of proofs of both the first and second types, and from them and some other information, I am able to quote the following list of plate numbers:

FIRST TYPES

One cent, Plate 1.
Three cents, Plate 2.
Five cents, Plate 3.
Ten cents, Plate 4.
Twelve cents, Plate 5.
Twenty-four cents, Plate 6.
Thirty cents, Plate 7.
Ninety cents, Plate 8.

SECOND TYPE.

Plate 9, 10, 22, 25, 27, 56