

The first stamps issued were of the denominations of 5 cents, and 10 cents. The 5 cents stamp had a picture of Franklin and the 10 cents the head of Washington as the principal figure in the design.

Those heads have continued to adorn the postage stamps from that day to this. The stamps first issued were a little larger than those now in use.

In 1851 the carrier system was introduced in all large cities, and a stamp of a peculiar design, costing 1 cent each and known as carriers' stamps, were issued for the purpose of providing prepaid delivery.

In that year the letter postage was reduced to 3 cents, and the old brick-dust red 3 cent stamp came in. At the same time the issue was enlarged to eight stamps, the largest denomination being 90 cents.

The portrait of Jefferson was introduced on the 5-cent stamp, but the other seven bore the heads of Washington and Franklin in different designs.

These stamps were the most popular ever issued by the department. They remained in use for ten years.

The new 3-cent stamp issued in 1861 was of a light red, and it remained in use until 1869, when there was a decided innovation in the designs of the entire issue. The new stamps were square instead of oblong, and many of them were printed in two colors, the central design being in one tone and the border in another.

The principal figure in each design was in almost every instance a representation of some mode of carrying the mails instead of the head of some departed statesman.

The 3-cent stamp was printed in blue, and the principal figure in the design was a locomotive. That issue of stamps lasted about ten months. The people clamoured so against them that in 1870 a return was made to the old designs, which were printed, however, in different colors. The 3-cent