

The Newspaper Stamps of United States.

To my mind there is no stamps more beautiful than the United States 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 55x98 mm. They consisted of the following 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 stamp was in use until 1875, when an entirely new series was brought out, consisting of twenty-four stamps (plate impression 24x35½ mm.) ranging in value from 2 cents to \$60 and may be briefly described as follows:—2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 10c black, all with figures of Liberty after Crawford's statue surmounting the dome of the capital. 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84 and 96c carmine, all with figure of Justice. The \$ 1 92 is brown, *Minnevera*

\$ 00 brown, *Goddeess of Victory*
6 00 blue, *Clio*
9 00 orange, *Minnevera*
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 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 repelled and they are now very scarce.

The reason used specimens are often seen may be explained by the fact that the Lockport, New York post office was burned some time ago and large quantities were procured at that time.

There are dangerous counterfeits made in Europe, and marked facsimile and sold at a very low price.

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