

Postal and Treasury Savings Stamp Systems: The War Years

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Abstract

The Postal and Treasury Savings Stamp Systems and their associated stamps (and collection certificates and booklets) played an integral role in our country's history during the twentieth century, especially during both World Wars. These savings stamp systems were in existence, in one form or another, from 1911 through 1970 – about sixty years. The Postal Savings Account System was officially abolished in 1966, but the sale of savings stamps for bond purchase continued until 1970. These systems raised billions of dollars for the government while giving the saver a fair, secure return on their money. The importance of these savings stamp systems to the war efforts cannot be over emphasized. They allowed everyone in the country, rich or poor, young or old to save and contribute to the war effort. School children saved pennies and brought stamps, workers brought stamps every payday, people took their change from store purchases in stamps – every where one looked there were reminders to contribute to the war effort through the purchase of war and postal savings stamps. The stamps were a convenient method to accumulate, a little bit at a time, the necessary money to buy savings certificates. This article traces the development of the Postal and Treasury Savings Stamp systems throughout their history with emphasis on the World War I and World War II periods.

1. Introduction

After nearly forty years of struggle the United States Postal Savings System was finally created in 1910 by Congress. Postal Savings bills were introduced many times into Congress, but they were always defeated by coalitions of bankers and money brokers, especially from the western states and territories where they had monopolies on money lending.

Finally, the Postal Savings System in the United States was created in 1910 by an act of Congress entitled “An Act to Establish Postal Savings Depositories for Depositing Savings at Interest with the Security of the Government for Repayment There of, and for other purposes.” This act was approved on June 25, 1910 and was further amended by Section 5 of an Act of Congress approved on March 4, 1911. In accordance with these acts, individual post offices, post office branches, and postal stations were designated as Postal Savings Depositories [1]. Officially in operation on January 1, 1911, the Postal Savings System was established for three primary reasons: 1) to attract savings of a large number of immigrants who were accustomed to savings at Post Offices in their own country; 2) banks were not regulated and their stability was always in questions, thus many people did not trust banks and they hoarded money (i.e. kept their savings in cash) making localized supply of money scarce; and 3) even if banks were honest and stable, they did not exist in many rural areas (but these areas did have post offices).

On March 26, 1911, the first Postal Savings Banks in the United States were established. The system was inaugurated with one post office in each of 19 states. On the following day, 25 additional offices in twenty-five other states were established. The original 44 offices chosen were selected based on their efficiency record. Table 1 lists the original 44 postal savings banks [2]. The people of the United States greeted the postal savings system with great enthusiasm. There were 400 depositories in operation by June 30, 1911 and 12,820 offices in operation only two years later with over \$33 million dollars on deposit.

Table 1: Listing of the 44 Original Postal Savings Banks [2]

Opened 3/26/1911		Opened 3/27/1911	
Globe, AZ	Middleboro, KY	Astabula, OH	Larimie, WY
Anaconda, MT	New Iberia, LA	Berlin, NH	Manitowish, WI
Ansonia, CT	Olympia, WA	Bristol, RI	Montpelier, VT
Bessmer, AL	Oroville, CA	Cahoes, NY	Nebraska, NE
Brunswick, GA	Pekin, IL	Carson City, NV	Newbury, SC
Cour d' Lane, ID	Pittsburg, KA	Clifton Forge, VA	Norwood, MA
Decorah, IO	Princeton, IN	Deadwood, SD	Port Arthur, TX
Dover, DE	Rumbord, ME	Dubois, PA	Provo, UT
Kalamath Falls, OR	Stuttgart, AR	Frostburg, MD	Raton, NM
Leadville, CO		Grafton, WV	Rutherford, NJ
		Guyman, OK	Salisbury, NC
		Houghton, MI	Wahpeton, ND
		Johnson City, TN	

An account could be opened by any person ten years of age or older, and each person was limited to one account. Deposits could only be made in even dollar amounts. No account could exceed a maximum of five hundred dollars, exclusive of accumulated interest. Later in 1916, this limit was raised to \$1000 and to \$2500 in 1918. When a person applied to open an account, the postmaster or his representative would carefully fill out an application on envelope Form PS 300 as shown in Figure 1. Form PS 300 served several functions. It combined the depositor's application to open an account, with a simple ledger record of his deposits and withdrawals showing the balance to his credit, and provided a receptacle in which the postmaster filed the duplicates of all certificates (see below) issued to the depositor.

Form 300

Form 301

Figure 1. Postal savings account application and record forms

On receipt of a deposit, the postmaster prepared in duplicate a postal-savings certificate(s) covering the amount of the deposit. The depositor was required to sign the duplicate certificate, after which the postmaster gave the depositor the original as evidence of his deposit. The duplicate was retained by the postmaster as part of his record and filed in envelope Form PS 300. Each depositor was provided with a Depositor's Envelope, Form PS 301, in

which he was to keep his certificate(s) of deposit. Imprinted on Form PS 301, in addition to depositor instructions, was a blank ledger record for keeping tract of his deposits and withdrawals. An example of envelope Form PS 301 is also shown in Figure 1.



Figure 2 Examples of a Postal Savings Deposit Certificate and its duplicate

Certificates of deposit were supplied to the postmaster in duplicate in fixed denominations of one, two, five, ten, twenty, fifty, and one hundred dollars. Each certificate had a serial number and contained blank spaces, in which before issue to the depositor, the postmaster entered the name of the depository office, the date of issue, the date on which interest begins, the number of the depositor's account, and the name of the depositor. As the account dollar limit was raised to \$2,500, certificates of deposits for \$200 and \$500 were made available. Certificates series of different designs were issued in 1911, 1913, 1917, 1939 and 1954. An example of a certificate from the 1917 series and a duplicate from the 1911 series are shown in Figure 2. Certificates themselves from the 1911 and 1913 Series are extremely rare.

2. Initial Postal Savings Stamps

As mentioned above, deposits into postal savings accounts had to be made in whole dollar amounts. To allow savers of modest means to accumulate the necessary dollar to deposit into a postal savings account, the system introduced the first postal savings stamp as shown in Figure 3 on January 3, 1911. The stamp (Scott No. PS1 [3]) was orange in color with a central denomination of 10-cents. The stamps were printed on double line USPS watermarked paper and were perforated 12. Plate numbers for PS1 are listed in Table 2. To accumulate the requisite dollar, a savings card was made available and is shown in Figure 3.



10-cent Orange

10-cent Blue

Figure 3. First two Postal Savings stamps. PS1 on left and PS4 on the right

The card (Scott No. PS2) was 136 mm x 79 mm in size and was printed in orange ink on buff card stock with 18 cards to the sheet in a 3 wide by 6 high format. The card sheet plate numbers are given in Table 2. It already had one 10-cent stamp imprinted on the card and sold for 10-cents. The saver then affixed nine PS1 stamps to make a total of \$1.00. The card was then accepted by the postmaster for a dollar deposit in the saver's postal savings account. The saver essentially exchanged the filled card for a \$1.00 certificate of deposit. To prevent the fraudulent use of the filled card, the postmaster cancelled the filled card upon receipt. The cancel covered the entire card with large wavy stripes, the word cancelled and a blank space in the center for a date stamp. A cancelled (PS2) card is illustrated in Figure 4.

As was customary at the time, the first savings stamps were printed in sheets of 400 (divided into panes of 100) with two different vertical spacings between stamp designs (nominally 2 mm and 3 mm). During the period from 1909 to 1917 the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was experimenting with variable spacing to accommodate or compensate for uneven shrinkage of the paper after it had been moistened in the printing process. It was observed that upon drying the shrinkage was greater on the outer edges of the sheet, thus, if the outer vertical rows of stamps were given greater initial spacing, it would compensate for the increased shrinkage and produce a better centered more evenly perforated sheet. On these experimental plates the six outer vertical rows of stamps on each side of the plate had 3 mm between the stamps and the rest of the sheet had 2 mm spacing. Thus, one can find pairs or blocks of PS1 with nominally 2 mm or 3 mm spacing between the vertical rows.



Figure 4. Savings Cards for the 10-cent orange (PS1) Savings Stamp

A new 10-cent stamp (Scott No. PS4) was issued on August 11, 1911 without prior announcement. This stamp was deep blue in color as shown in Figure 3 and was printed on single line watermarked paper instead of the double line watermarked paper used for the first stamp issue. The blue stamp was printed using the same plates as the previous orange stamp including identical marginal markings (open star and Plate Number), thus both two and three millimeter blocks of PS4 can be found. Figure 5 shows two plateblocks (No. 5504 and No. 5505) with their typical marginal markings. At least 3 distinct blue shades exist. Why was the color abruptly changed from orange to blue? Speculation exists [4] that it was done to avoid confusion with the current 10-cent stamp which at the time was yellow in color.



Figure 5. Two PS4 plateblocks with Bureau of Engraving and Printing Imprint XII with open star and plate numbers. [5]

To go along with the new blue 10-cent savings stamp, a blue deposit card (Scott No. PS5) was introduced. This card is identical to the previous orange card, but slightly smaller in size, being 133 mm x 78 mm. The preprinted stamp is deep blue in color. An illustration of this blue card is given in Figure 6. A completely filled and cancelled card is also shown in Figure 6. The full card wavy cancellation device was again used. Depositors were allowed to fill PS2 and PS5 cards with orange (PS1) or deep blue (PS4) stamps and/or combinations of both orange and deep blue stamps and cards.

**Table 2: Plate Numbers of Postal Savings Stamps
Scott Nos. PS1 to PS 5**

Scott No.	Value	Color	Type	Plate Number	Number Printed
PS1	10¢	Orange	Stamp	5504, 5505, 5506, 5507, (5698, 5700, 5703, 5704) ^a	71,387,599 ^b
PS2	10¢	Orange	Card	5579, 5580, 5582, 5583, 5584, 5586, 5587, 5588, 5589, 5583, 5594, 5597, 5695, 5701, 5702, (5746, 5752, 5758, 5765) ^c	Unknown ^d
PS4	10¢	Blue	Stamp	5504, 5505, 5506, 5507, (5698, 5700, 5703, 5704) ^e	20,000,000
PS5	10¢	Blue	Card	5579, 5580, 5582, 5583, 5584, 5586, 5587, 5588, 5589, 5583, 5594, 5597, 5695, 5701, 5702, (5746, 5752, 5758, 5765) ^c	Unknown

^a The plate numbers in parenthesis were listed by Lindquist, but do not appear in Scott. Wiley [2] said they were put to press “but once” between October 18 and October 27, 1911. Durland [5] says no stamps from these plates were issued.

^b As of 1914 only 32,643,999 had been issued to post offices [2].

^c The plate numbers in parenthesis were not sent to press as of 1914 [2].

^d By 1914 a total of 6,164,599 had been printed and 3,360,199 sent to post offices [2]. The mix between orange and blue is unknown.

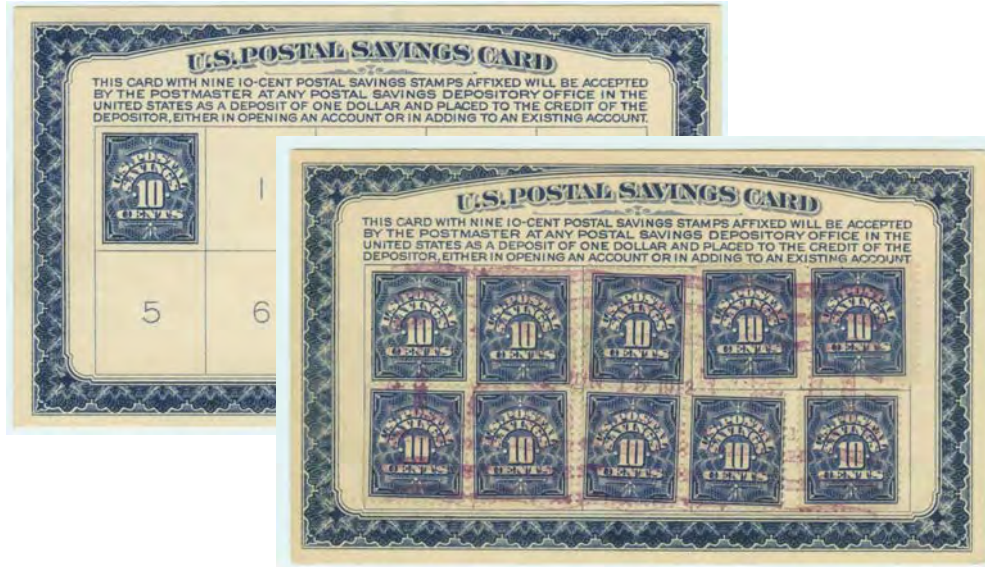


Figure 6. Collection Cards for the 10-cent blue postal savings stamp (PS2). Upper card mint with one imprinted PS2. Lower card is used cancelled with large way line cancel and the date.

Postmasters were required to report Postal Savings Account status (money on hand, deposits, withdrawals, etc.) to the Third Assistant Postmaster General on a regular basis (monthly). To facilitate the reporting and to allow official savings system correspondence by the postmaster, a series of official stamps (Scott Nos. 0121 - 0126) were created. In addition, official postal stationery including envelopes (Scott Nos. UO70 – UO72a) and a postal card (Scott No. UZ1) were also produced. The description of these items is beyond the scope of this work. Further details of these items can be found in The Catalog of the 20th Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States [6] and United States Postal Card Catalog [7], respectively.

3. War Savings Stamps (WS1-WS6)

As Europe became embroiled in World War I and the entrance of the United States was imminent, the Treasury Department, supported strongly by the Post Office Department, began issuing \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamps and 25¢ Thrift stamps (to accumulate the money necessary to buy the War Savings Certificate stamp).



Figure 7. Two war savings stamps issued in 1917. The Scott No. WS1 25-cent Thrift stamp and the Scott No. WS2 \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamp (Series 1918). Both in Dark Green.



Figure 8. The \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamps issued in 1919 (left), 1920 (middle), and 1921 (right). (Scott Nos. WS4, WS5, and WS6, respectively).

These stamps could ultimately be redeemed for Treasury Certificates or War Bonds. The first two Treasury stamps were issued in late 1917. The 25¢ Thrift stamp (Scott No. WS1) was issued on December 1, 1917 and is illustrated in Figure 7. The \$5.00 green War Savings Certificate stamp (Scott No. WS2), features an engraved portrait of George Washington (Figure 7). The \$5.00 stamp was issued on November 17, 1917 for use in 1918. A rouletted version of this green \$5.00 George Washington stamp exists (Scott No. WS3). The remaining \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamps (Scott Nos. WS4 - WS6) were issued in subsequent years (1919 through 1921). These other \$5.00 stamps are illustrated in Figure 8. The \$5.00 values were worth \$4.00 at the beginning of their respective years and increased in value every month until they reached face value after 5 years. After this point they earned no further interest and needed to be exchanged for a Treasury Certificate or War Bond. The 25¢ Thrift stamps were issued to allow small purchasers to accumulate the \$4.00 necessary to buy a five dollar stamp. The 25¢ Thrift stamps paid no interest. The savings cards for the 25¢ Thrift stamps and the \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamps will be described as each of the stamps are discussed in detail.

National campaigns were begun to sell \$2 Billion worth of War Savings Certificate stamps, a formidable undertaking, because there was no national infrastructure to handle the sales. The Treasury Department soon set up a War Savings Organization using the Federal Reserve Districts and began marketing the thrift savings stamps widely. The Post Office was a major sales outlet, not only having savings stamp sales and registration windows (Figure 9), but also acting as mobile stamp agents with at home delivery (Figure 9). Both the War Savings Organizations and the Post Offices were highly successful and sold millions of stamps. Most of these stamps were redeemed for their cash values, and, thus, they are relatively scarce.

It should also be mentioned that for most of the period that the Postal and Treasury Savings Stamp Systems were in operation, the stamps and some of their associated savings cards could not be pictured in print because they were considered monetary instruments by the United States Government. This inability to illustrate the stamps prevented them from appearing in stamp albums and catalogs, thus reducing stamp collector interest. See the interesting commentary in the Lindquist article [4] about attempts to get this policy overturned.

Businesses supported the stamp sales drives and provided stickers and printed message in their ads, literature and on their bills exhorting the public to buy savings stamps. Fraternal and Benevolent Organizations entered into the sales campaigns supporting stamp sales and their distribution. Placards and signs were displayed in every possible location (store windows, home windows, on bill boards, in elevators, etc.) so that every citizen was fully informed of the stamp drive and encouraged to purchase stamps to their limits. The description of this almost unlimited supply of savings stamp ephemera is well beyond the scope of this work, although selected ephemera will be depicted to help understand the intensity of the stamp and bond campaigns during the World Wars.

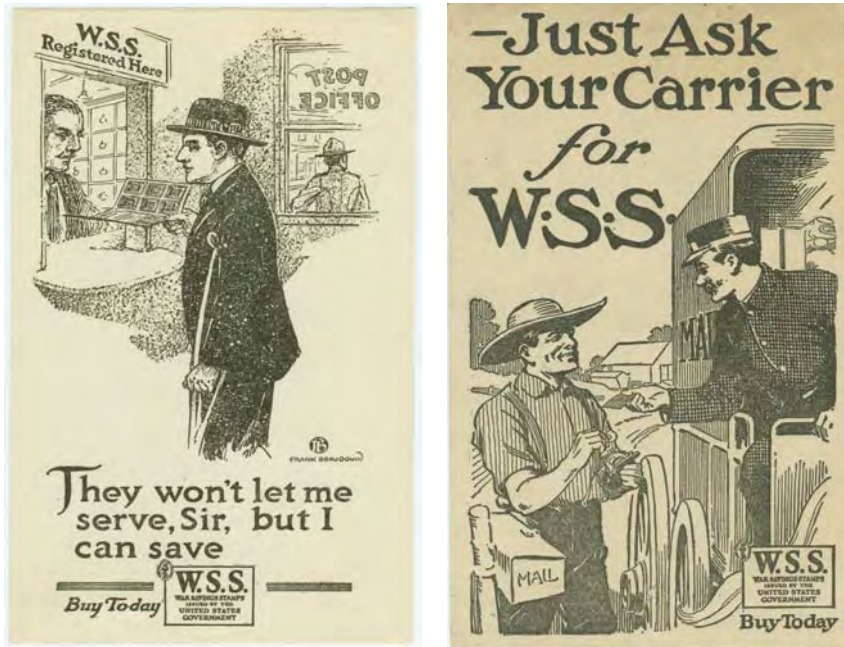


Figure 9. Cartoon poster images depicting the roles of the Post Office in the War Savings Stamp program of World War I. On the left an individual is registering or depositing his filled certificate at the Post Office and on the right a rural mail carrier is selling war savings stamps to a citizen.

**Table 3: Plate Numbers of War Savings Stamps
Scott Nos. WS1 to WS6, and TS1**

Scott No.	Value	Color	Type	Plate Number
WS1	25¢	Green	Stamp, Perf. 11	56800, 56810, 56811, 56817, 57074-57077, 57149-57152, 57336, 57382, 57395, 57396, 57399, 57443, 58801-58804, 59044, 59045, 59156, 61207-61210
WS2	\$5.00	Green	Stamp, Perf. 11	56914-56917, 57066-57073, 57145-57148, 57169-57176, 57333, 57334, 57343-57348, 58431, 58433-58438, 58726-58729, 59071, 60257-60260, 60659-60662, 60665-60668, 60846-60852, 60899, 61203-61206, 61265-61268, 61360-61367, 61388, 61435, 61502
WS3	\$5.00	Green	Stamp, Roulette 7	57066, 57071, 57145, 57147, 57148, 57175
WS4	\$5.00	Deep Blue	Stamp, Perf 11	61882-61885, 61910-61913, 61970-61972, 61997-61998, 62007-62013
WS5	\$5.00	Carmine	Stamp, Perf 11	67545-67552, 69349-69352, 69673-69675, 69677-69680, 69829
WS6	\$5.00	Orange printed on green paper	Stamp, Perf 11	73129-73136
TS1	\$1.00	Red printed on green paper	Stamp, Perf 11	763196-73203

The 25-cent “Thrift” stamp design was deep green or blue green in color and was printed from engraved plates in sheets of 300 subjects which were divided into panes of fifty stamps each. The stamps were printed on unwatermarked paper and were perforated 11. The panes contained guide lines and arrows at the beginning and end of the lines, thus producing line and arrow blocks, as well as the traditional plateblocks. For the flatplate press printed stamps, plateblocks of six or larger were the preferred collection format although in the early years plate strips of 3 were also common. Possible plate numbers for WS1 are given in Table 3. The Thrift stamp had an engraved word design “Thrift Stamp - 25¢ - Good in Payment toward U.S. War Savings Certificates – W. G. McAdoo.” W. G. McAdoo was the Secretary of the Treasury at the time of issue in late 1917. The size of the design (Figure 7) was 28 mm x 11½ mm. It was designed by C. A. Houston and engraved by the following individuals: J. C. Benzing (ornaments). M. W. Baldwin (rays), E. M. Hall (outline frame), E. M. Hull and W. B. Wells (lettering and numerals).

For the 25-cent Thrift stamp, the United States Treasury produced a bifold savings card called a “United States Government Thrift Card”. The “Thrift” card came in two major formats – large and small plus several varieties. Each Thrift card held sixteen 25-cent Thrift stamps which accumulated the required \$4.00 necessary to purchase a \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamp. An example of a filled large thrift card is shown in Figure 10. Figure 11 shows the front and back of a small thrift card (Form WS1A Government Printing Office 2-4765). This card contains McAdoo’s signature and an exchange message at the bottom on the inside. The card measures 152 mm x 109 mm open (76 mm x 109 mm folded). Figure 11 also contains the front and back of another version of the small thrift card with Carter Glass’ signature. Carter Glass replaced McAdoo as Secretary of the Treasury on December 16, 1918 so the second card pictured in Figure 11 was issued after that date. Figure 10 also illustrates the front and back of an unused large thrift card identical to the filled one on the left (GPO 2-3891). It contains McAdoo’s signature and measures 193 mm tall x 82 mm wide open and 193 mm x 41 mm closed. There is a taller variety of the large thrift card (198 mm x 82 mm open) with a design identical to the shorter large thrift card. A similar tall large thrift card exists without McAdoo’s signature. This card also does not have the words “Government Printing Office” on the inside below the table of months (see Figure 10) and may have been privately printed. Each of the stamp spaces on both the large and small thrift card contain sayings promoting savings and thrift. The sayings are the same on both the large and small thrift cards except for space number nine. On the small thrift card space nine reads “Many a mickle makes a muckle” while on the large thrift card it reads “Many a little makes a mickle”. All of the thrift cards were printed in black ink on buff card stock.

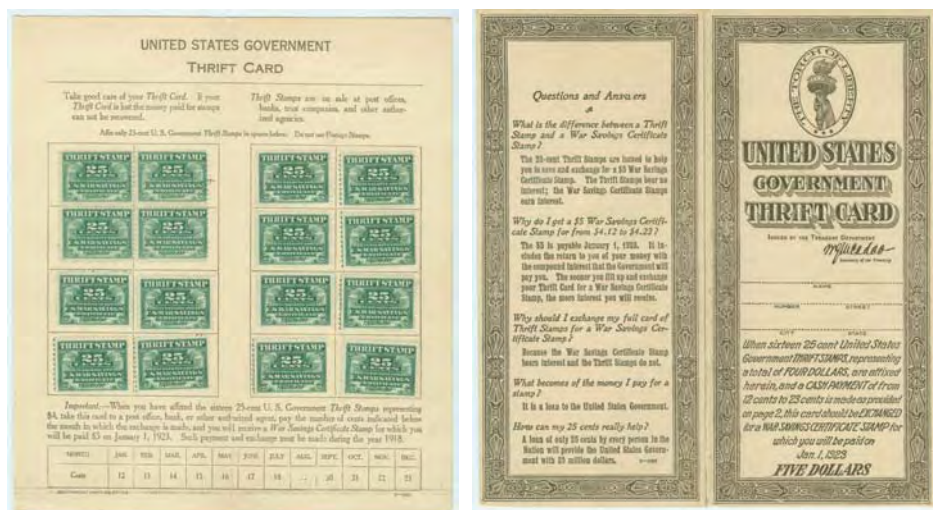


Figure 10. Interior of a filled Large Thrift Card. The Large Thrift Card held sixteen 25-cent Thrift Stamps. The card on the right is the exterior of a similar unused Large Thrift Card.



Figure 11. Small Thrift Cards. Two different Front and Back designs with a Common interior that holds sixteen 25-cent Thrift stamps.

The \$5.00 deep green War Savings Certificate stamp (WS2) was 39 mm x 55 mm in size and was perforated 11. The design had a portrait of Washington and was inscribed with the words “\$5 and Series of 1918” as shown in Figure 7. These engraved stamps were printed with plates of 80 subjects divided into 4 panes of twenty each. The stamp was designed by C. A. Houston with the following engravers: G. F. C. Smillie (portrait), L. S. Schofield (ornaments), E. M. Hall (outline frame), and E.M. Hull and W. B. Wells (lettering and numerals). A list of possible plate numbers is given in Table 3. As mentioned above, the \$5.00 stamps could be purchased at a discount. For example, if the stamp was purchased in January 1918, it would cost \$4.12. If a person waited until December of 1918 they had to pay \$4.23. Five dollars was payable on January 1, 1923. The purchaser could either pay the entire amount in cash or turn in a filled thrift card (face value of \$4.00, sixteen 25¢ stamps) and pay the remaining few cents in cash. Lindquist [4] described an unusual cancel on a WS2. The stamp had the words “PAMENT REFUSED FOR CAUSE” stamped on it. This stamp or a duplicate is shown in Figure 12. The reason for this message can only be speculated, but Lindquist thought it was because it was presented for collection by “some person other than the one in whose name it was registered.” Stamps on valid certificates (as shown below) were cancelled usually in pen or crayon with the office number and/or registration number (of the certificate) written on each one. An example of such canceling is shown in Figure 13 on a filled \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamp collection card.



Figure 12. WS2 with unusual cancel “PAYMENT REFUSED FOR CAUSE”. The enlargement shows the cancel in detail.



Exterior: Six Cancelled
WS2 \$5.00 War Savings
Certificate Stamps



Interior: Fourteen Cancelled
WS2 \$5.00 War Savings
Certificate Stamps

Figure 13: Filled Tri-fold Certificate. Twenty cancelled \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamps (WS2).

Figure 13 and 14 illustrate the tri-fold collection certificate (WSC Form1) for the \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamp issued in 1917. The certificate held twenty stamps and measured 292.5 mm wide x 203.2 mm tall open and 77.5 mm wide x 203.2 mm tall folded and was printed with black ink on buff paper. The certificate features an engraved bald eagle on its front with the Statue of Liberty's torch on each of the twenty stamp spaces. The front and back of a filled and cancelled certificate is shown in Figure 13. An envelope given to customers to hold their war savings collection certificates is also shown in Figure 14.

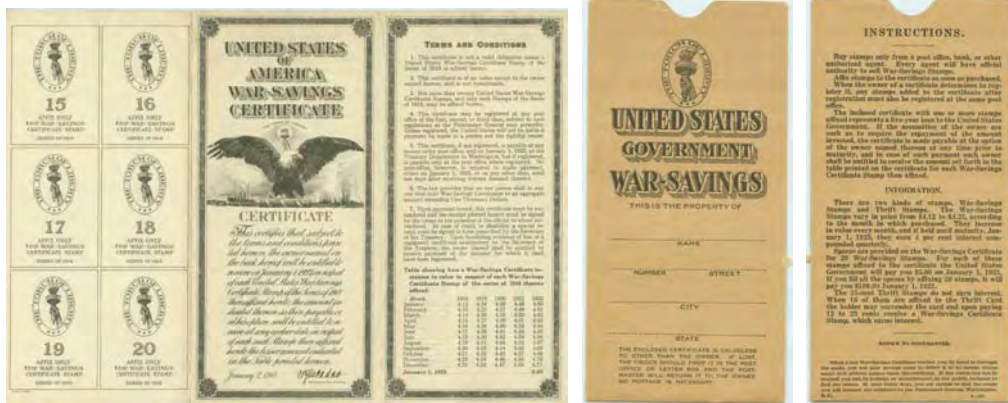


Figure 14. WS2 collection certificate and the envelope supplied for the certificate storage.

The 25-cent Thrift stamp and the \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamp of 1918 also exist as a combined specimen. As shown in Figure 15, each stamp is handstamped in violet with a double line “SPECIMEN” approximately 25 mm long by 5 mm high. Both specimen stamps are mounted on a heavy gray card which is 84 mm wide by 127 mm high.



Figure 15. Specimen stamps mounted on Small Gray Card. WS1 Specimen at the left and WS2 Specimen on the right.

As mentioned above, Scott No. WS3 is a rouletted version of WS2. It was apparently rouletted by the American Banknote Company at the request of the Assistant United States Treasurer of New York. Approximately 308,000 sheets of 80 were sent to the American Banknote Company for finishing (to be gummed and rouletted). An example of this rouletted stamp is shown in Figure 16. The inset shows the comparison between the perforations on WS2 and the rouletting of WS3. No records of plate numbers were apparently kept, but in theory all the plate numbers for WS2 shown in Table 3 could be possible. Lindquist acknowledges the existence of plate numbers 57071, 57148, and 57175, which were early numbers in the WS2 plate list (Table 3). In Table 3, the plate numbers 57066, 57145, and 57147 for WS3 have also been listed by Durland [5]. Durland does not list 57175.



Perforation 11

Roulette 7

Figure 16. Rouletted version (WS3) of the \$5.00 Deep Green War Savings Certificate stamp. Inset on the left compares the roulette separation of WS3 with the standard perforations of WS2.

The \$5.00 War Savings stamp for 1919 (Scott No. WS4) was blue in color and was issued July 3, 1919. The stamps were printed from 150-subject plates and divided into six panes of twenty-five stamps each. Possible plate numbers are given in Table 3. They were perforated 11 and printed on unwatermarked paper. The stamp was smaller than the previous issue being only 27 mm x 36 mm, and it contained a portrait of Benjamin Franklin and the customary inscription of the “\$5 and Series of 1919” as shown in Figure 8. Again, just as with WS2, the designer was Houston, Smillie engraved the portrait, Baldwin engraved the ribbon and ornament with Hall creating the lettering and outline frame. Counterfeit WS4s exist and were used to extort money from unwary savers. These stamps could be brought at a deep discount thus promising the buyer extraordinary profits when redeemed. Unfortunately, the stamps were frauds and confiscated by the government whenever they appeared for redemption. An example of a counterfeit WS4 is illustrated in Fig. 17.



Figure 17. Counterfeit WS4 War Savings Certificate stamp. Compared to the genuine stamp shown in Figure 8, the paper is beige rather than white, the engraving of Franklin’s hair has less detail, and the numbers appear less sharp

The certificate for WS4 is shown in Figure 18. It is a bi-fold engraved design measuring 195 mm x 202.2 mm open (87.5 mm x 202.2 mm folded) and is printed with blue ink on buff paper. The Series of 1919 is featured prominently on the front. An eagle’s head appears between the words “United” and “States”. Again Liberty’s torch is featured in each of the stamp spaces. Each certificate has also been given a 7 digit serial number on the front. The interior of this collection certificate is also shown in Figure 18. The author has one of these certificates in which the interior is blank. Obviously, the certificate stuck to another one as it passed through the printing press.



Exterior

Interior

Figure 18. Bi-fold Collection Certificate for the \$5.00 blue War Savings Certificate Stamp (WS4) Series of 1919.

The 1920 five dollar War Savings Certificate stamp (Scott No. WS5) was carmine in color (as shown in Figure 8) and was issued on December 11, 1919. The stamp was 36 mm x 41½ mm in size and printed with 100 subject plates (four panes of 25) on unwatermarked paper. The stamps were perforated 11 and 20 different plate numbers exist as shown in Table 3. The stamp, again, contained a portrait of Washington and was inscribed “\$5 and Series of 1920”. Houston was the designer and Smillie engraved the portrait. Benzing did the ribbons and ornaments, and Hall and Wells did the frame, numerals and lettering.

The collection certificate for the 1920 War Savings Certificate stamp resorted to the previous tri-fold design as shown in Figure 19. It measures 260 mm wide x 203 mm high open (86 mm wide x 203 mm high folded) and was printed in black ink on buff paper. The front features an eagle’s head, the “Series of 1920”, and a seven digit serial number. The interior features twenty stamp spaces marked with Liberty’s torch. One panel of the tri-fold features a beautifully engraved eagle perched on the top of a scepter. (See Figure 19.)



Figure 19. Tri-fold Collection Certificate for the \$5.00 carmine War Savings Certificate stamp (WS5) Series of 1920. Fine line engraving of eagle perched on a scepter.

The last War Savings Certificate stamp (Scott No. WS6) was issued December 21, 1920. It was a \$5.00 stamp printed in orange on green unwatermarked paper and is illustrated in Figure 8. The stamp was 39½ x 42 mm in size and perforated 11. It was printed from a 100-subject plate in four panes of twenty five. The portrait was that of Abraham Lincoln and the inscription was “\$5 and Series of 1921”. Since WS6 was the last stamp issued and World War I had been over for at least a year, few were purchased and even less exist in collector’s hands, thus making it relatively rare. Only eight plates were produced as shown in Table 3. Note at the height of the World War I (1917-1918 period) there were 83 plate numbers for WS2. WS6 was designed by Houston. Charles Burt engraved the portrait of Lincoln. Benzing was responsible for the ribbon and ornamental leaves, Myers engraved the frame, and Myers and Wells did the lettering and numerals.

Figure 20 illustrates the collection certificate supplied for WS6 or the War Savings Stamp Series of 1921. It is a tri-fold design measuring 260 mm wide x 203 mm high open (86 mm wide x 203 mm high folded) and was printed in black ink on buff paper. The front features an eagle [8] carrying the American flag and the prominent “Series of 1921”. No serial number is evident on the several certificates in the author’s possession. The interior features the cover eagle in each of the twenty spaces. One of the panels is a beautiful engraving of the Liberty Statue perched on the US Capital dome. As mentioned above, the War Bond campaigns and the sale of War Savings stamps was paramount.



Figure 20. Tri-fold Collection Certificate for the \$5.00 Orange (on Green) War Savings Certificate stamp (WS6) Series of 1921. Fine line engraving of the Liberty Statue on top of the United States Capitol Dome.

Numerous official documents that are closely related to the War Savings stamps (WS1-6) exist. Figure 21 illustrates a tri-fold post card form (138.4 mm x 238.8 mm) which was left in household mailboxes or mailed to the Head of the Household (Form WS136). This form solicited the purchase of the 25-cent Thrift stamp and the \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamp. The card pictured both a large thrift card and the tri-fold card for saving the green \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamp. The lower portion of Form WS136 was separable and could be mailed to the local postmaster requesting stamps. These stamps would then be delivered by the postal carrier who would collect the money.

Similar other mail in postcards (Form W.S. 138 and Form W.S. 138R) also exist. Form A-5 as shown in Figure 22 has a circular logo featuring Benjamin Franklin and was used to encourage participation in the National Thrift Movement. The card has spaces to order 25-cent Thrift stamps, \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamps, as well as the \$1.00 Treasury Savings Certificate stamp (see below). Note the boxed W.S.S. logo with the Statue of Liberty's torch at the lower left on the back of the mail in post card of WS136 (Figure 21). This W. S. S. logo is the symbol of the War Savings Stamp national movement and is prominently featured on most if not all of the savings stamp promotional material during WWI. Examples of the use of this logo and W.S.S. in everyday life are shown in Figures 23 to 26 which illustrate a pay envelope and flier, bill envelopes, school children's savings kit, and a set of war savings stamp party paper dolls, respectively.

HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD
To the

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICIAL BUSINESS




WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATE **THRIFT CARD**

BY BUYING WAR SAVINGS STAMPS:
(1) You help your Government by lending it your savings.
(2) You invest your savings safely at 4% compounded interest.

POSTMASTER:
Kindly have letter carrier deliver to me on (date) _____
(for which I agree to pay him on delivery) _____

\$1 U. S. WAR SAVINGS STAMPS at \$ _____ each
25c. U. S. THRIFT STAMPS at 25c. each

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

W.S.S.
We save money
and win the war.

You should paste War Savings Stamps on War Savings Certificates and Thrift Cards on Thrift Cards, the certificates and cards being furnished without additional charge. As each certificate and card is issued at the time it is issued, please order certificates with the names of the owners in the spaces below.

1 Show a War Savings Certificate issued to each of the following persons:

I show _____ Thrift Cards (these require no stamp). (twelve)

Side 1

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Follow Citizens—
I write to ask you to help your country.
You can do so and also help yourself in a very simple manner.
Many of us cannot fight, but everyone of us can help by saving. Every dollar saved and not spent on unnecessary things releases that amount of labor and material to make articles for our Army and Navy. When a dollar that is saved is loaned to the Government it is doubly effective.

To that end Congress has authorized the sale of War Savings Stamps and U. S. Thrift Stamps in denominations of \$1 and of 25c., respectively. Each War Savings Stamp you buy is a loan to the U. S. Government, is a direct help to every soldier and sailor who is risking his life in the war and is a safe and simple way to invest your savings.

The U. S. Government pledges its entire resources and credit to repay this loan on January 1, 1923.

\$1 stamps are sold at prices ranging from \$4.12 to \$4.23 during 1918, according to the month of purchase (as you take on each basis). For each such stamp, when added to a War Savings Certificate (see picture on back hereof), the U. S. Government will pay you \$5.00 on January 1, 1923. The difference between what you pay and \$5 is your interest. The rate averages 4% a year compounded quarterly.

25c. U. S. Thrift Stamps are sold to you if you wish to save by quarters. No interest is paid on such stamps, but when 16—namely, 16 stamps—are collected and added to a Thrift card, see picture on back hereof, they can be exchanged for a \$1 War Savings Stamp at once, post office and other authorized agencies for payment of 15c. in 25c. additional, according to the month of purchase. You then have a security which earns interest.

War Savings Stamps are a savings investment which cannot go down in value and are guaranteed by the U. S. Government to go up in value as the interest is added.

Should you want your money back before January 1, 1923, your money order paid after will, after ten days' written demand, refund to you the amount you paid for War Savings Stamps plus an added amount for each month you have held them after January 1, 1918.

Will you not give this matter your prompt consideration and speak to the members of your family as to it? I suggest that you then make up an order on the attached post card for their continued requirements of War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps. Drop the card in a mail box and the letter carrier will deliver your stamps to you.

Think as you save will you not buy regularly?

I assure you that such action on your part will be of great assistance to your country in the present war and I recommend it to a splendid savings plan.

Sincerely yours,
Myquendo
Secretary of the Treasury.

TEAR THIS CARD OFF HERE

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

This is the cost of a
U. S. WAR SAVINGS STAMP
Each one you want represents a promise of the U. S. Government to pay you
\$5.00
on January 1, 1923
when added to a War Savings Certificate.

COPIES DURING 1918
Jan. 4.12 May 38.20 Sept. 40.24
Feb. 4.13 June 4.17 Dec. 4.21
Mar. 4.24 July 4.20 Nov. 4.22
Apr. 4.25 Aug. 4.22 Dec. 4.23

Get War Savings Stamps from your post office or from your money order.

THIS CARD CAN BE MAILED FREE.

This is the cost of a
25c.
U. S. Thrift Stamp
Collect three and exchange for a War Savings Stamp.

Priority for persons, use to avoid payment of postage 2506.

To the local
POSTMASTER

Side 2

Figure 21. Form WS136 mailed to the "Head of the Household" To solicit the purchase of 25-cent Thrift stamps and the \$5.00 Green War Savings Certificate stamps. Form was separable with a mail-in post card.

Information Side

Help reduce the High Cost of Living

To aid in reducing the high cost of living and to benefit from the National Thrift Movement, I agree to practice economy in expenditures and to invest in Government Securities. Please deliver to the address below the following:

25c. Thrift Stamps at 25c. each _____

\$5. War Savings Stamps at \$ _____ each
(See Prices Below)

\$100. Treasury Savings Certificates at \$ _____ each
(See Prices Below)

\$5. W. S. S. Cost During	\$100. T. S. C. Cost During	NAME _____
Oct. \$4.21	Oct. \$84.20	
Nov. 4.22	Nov. 84.40	ADDRESS _____
Dec. 4.23	Dec. 84.60	

This card can be mailed WITHOUT POSTAGE. Your carrier will deliver your order.

FORM A-5

Stamp Side

Figure 22. Post Card Form A-5 for ordering 25-cent Thrift stamps, \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamps, and the \$1.00 Treasury Savings Certificate stamps.



Figure 23. World War I era pay envelope and an insert that extols the virtues of buying War Savings stamps. Both the envelope and the insert feature the W.S.S. logo.



Figure 24. Business Envelopes with slogan messages encouraging the purchase of War Savings stamps especially as the recipients pay their bills.



Figure 25. Penny and Nickel School Savings Books. These allowed students to accumulate enough money to buy 25-cent Thrift stamps a penny or nickel at a time. The School Kit also came with a Small Thrift Card.

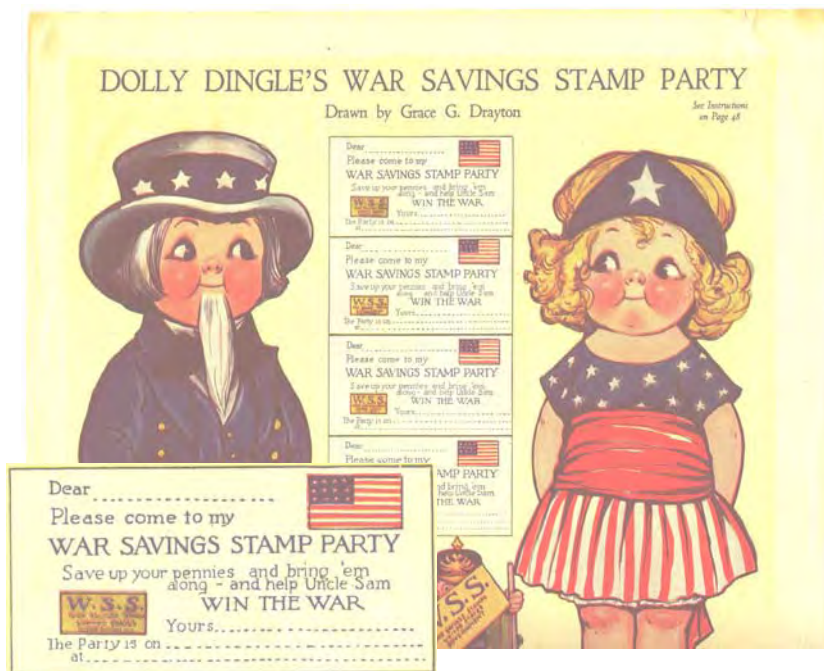


Figure 26. Dolly Dingle Paper Dolls encouraging children to hold a War Savings Stamp Party. The insert shows an enlargement of the cutout invitation. The paper dolls are from the January 1919 Issue of *Pictorial Review*. Dolly Dingle Paper Doll Series was created by Grace G. Drayton. Grace Drayton is most famous for her drawings of the "Campbell Soup Kids"

4. Treasury Stamp (TS1)

In late 1920 the Treasury Department issued a \$1.00 savings stamp (Scott No. TS1) as shown in Figure 27. It was printed in red ink on unwatermarked green paper and had a portrait of Alexander Hamilton and inscribed “Treasury Savings Stamp”. It was 33½ mm x 33½ mm in size and perforated 11. The stamp was flatplate printed using a 100-subject plate. Whether the sheet was subsequently divided into panes of 25 is unknown to this author, but it is highly likely. Plate numbers for TS1 are given in Table 3. C. A. Houston did the design, Burt engraved the portrait, and Benzing engraved the ornaments. H. I. Earle engraved the frame, and Hall and Earle did the lettering. The Treasury Savings stamp was issued early in the post-WWI period, and its sales were low. As a result, it, like the last War Savings Certificate stamp (WS6), is quite rare.

The collection certificate or card for the Treasury Savings stamp, TS1, is also illustrated in Figure 27. It is a tri-fold design printed in black ink on buff card stock (a little heavier than that used for the WS2-WS6 collection certificates). The collection certificate is 259 mm wide by 178 mm high open and 86 mm wide folded. Two versions of the Treasury Savings stamp collection card exist; one with Houston’s signature and the other with Mellon’s signature. The slightly different card with Andrew W. Mellon’s signature bears the date, December 15, 1921. David Franklin Houston was appointed Secretary of the Treasury on February 2, 1920 and the certificate bearing his name appeared with the issuance of TS1 on December 21, 1920. Houston left office on March 3, 1921 and Mellon assumed the post on March 4, 1921.

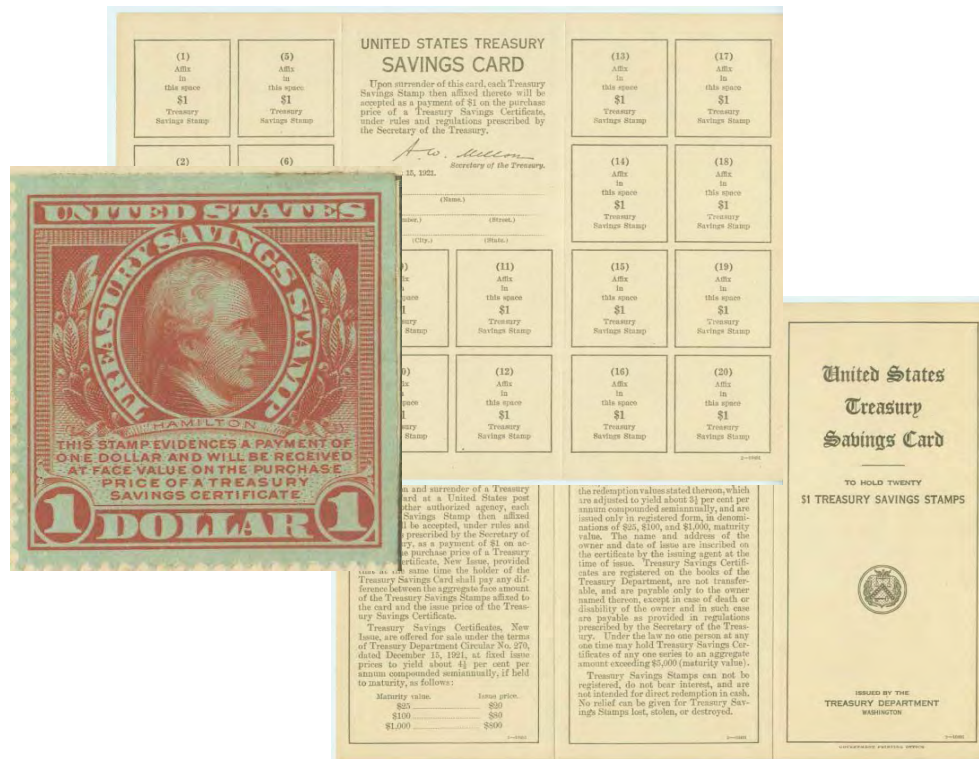


Figure 27. Treasury Savings stamp (TS1) \$1.00 red (on green) and the collection certificate. Two distinct types of collection certificates exist one with Mellon’s signature as shown and the other with Houston’s.

5. Between the World Wars

Although another postal savings stamp would not be issued until 1936, the post office department introduced a new savings deposit card in 1920. This card listed as Form PS 333 is shown in Figure 28. The front of the card does not have an imprinted stamp, but it does have spaces for ten 10¢ stamps. Each space was numbered with

outlined numerals, and it contained a slogan that encouraged savings. There was also a space between the stamps for impressing the official date stamp of the Postal Savings system, as shown on the used card in Figure 28. The back of the card contained the message “The faith of the United States is solemnly pledged to payment of deposits, with two percent interest annually. Inquire at any post office,” in 24 languages besides English. The card was printed in black ink on buff card stock and measures 51 mm x 152 mm. Each card contains a printing number 5-7449 on the bottom right of the multilingual side. Another interesting facet about the card was that it could be redeemed in cash upon presentation to the post master instead of just being accepted for deposit in a postal savings account.

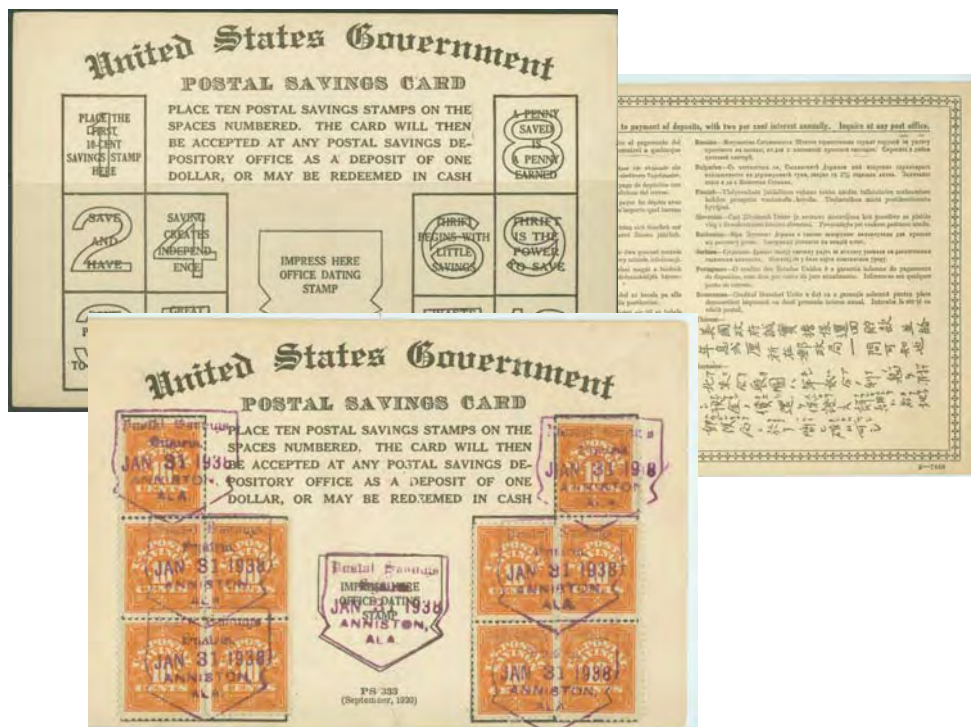


Figure 28. Multilingual Card Form PS 333 (September, 1920). Spaces for ten 10-cent Postal Savings stamps on front and instructions in 24 languages on the back. The filled card has ten PS1s and was cancelled using the special Postal Savings System date stamp.

In 1936, another 10-cent blue stamp with the same design as PS1 and PS4 was placed into service. The plates for this stamp (Scott No. PS6) contained stamps with uniform 2 mm spacing (400 stamp sheet divided into four 100-stamp panes). The plate imprint markings differ from PS4 with a solid star replacing the open star (which indicated the two types of perforations). There were two plate numbers 21485 and 21486 as shown in Figure 29. PS6 came in a distinct violet blue (Scott No. PS6a) as well as the deep blue of the previous issue. A deep blue PS6 is shown side by side with a violet blue PS6a in Figure 30.

The primary collection certificate vehicles for the PS6, just like the PS1 and PS4 before it, were the PS2 and PS5 cards and the multilingual card. PS2, PS5, and multilingual cards can be found with various mixes of PS1, PS4, and PS6 stamps.

In 1940, four new postal savings stamps (Scott Nos. PS7-PS10) with values 10¢, 25¢, 50¢ and \$1.00 respectively, were issued. The new design as shown in Figure 31 has the words “United States” at the top and “Postal Savings” at the bottom with a diagonal center band (lower left to upper right) containing the currency value cents or dollar and the numerical values in circles above and below the band. The PS7-10 stamps were flatplate printed on unwatermarked paper in sheets of 400 which were subsequently divided into panes of 100. The panes were perforated 12. The 10-cent value (PS7) was deep blue (ultramarine) in color and was designed by A.R. Meissner. E.R. Helmuth did the lettering and the frame while Alton Payne did the numerals. The 10-cent stamp had two plate numbers, 22540 and 22541, and example of which is shown in Figure 31. Initially PS7s were collected on the multilingual card. A new special savings bi-fold card (form) was created in March 1941 for the 10-cent stamp value. This card (Form PS 333/10) is shown in Figure 32. The card was printed in black ink on both yellow and

buff card stock. It measured 188 mm x 160 mm open (94 mm x 160 mm folded) and had spaces for 25 stamps for a total value of \$2.50.



Figure 29. Plateblocks of the 10-cent Blue Postal Savings Stamp (PS6) issued in 1936. Both plate numbers are shown along with solid star marginal markings indicating uniform stamp spacing on the sheet.



Figure 30. Comparison of Colors between the blue PS6 (left) and the Violet blue PS6a on the right.

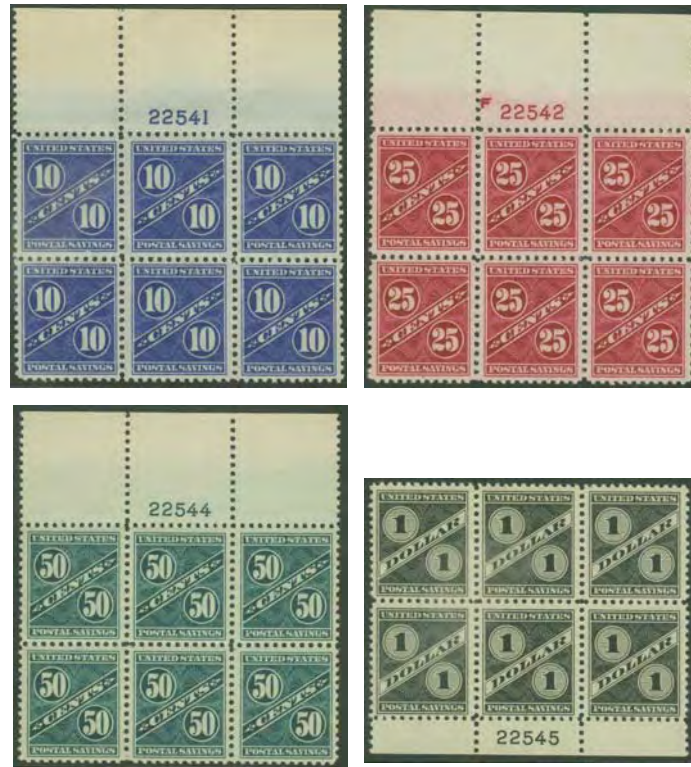


Figure 31. Postal Savings Stamp Series of 1940 (PS7-PS10) plateblocks of six.



Figure 32. Bi-fold Collection Booklets for the 1940 Series Postal Savings Stamps (10-cent to 50-cent). The two booklets on the left are PS 333 /10 (yellow and dark buff) which were not introduced until 1941 (March). The salmon booklet is PS 333-25 for the 25-cent stamp and the blue booklet for the 50-cent stamp is PS 333-50.

The 25-cent value (PS8) was deep carmine rose in color and the design and lettering was prepared by the same individuals that did the 10-cent value except that C.A. Smith did the numerals instead of Alton Payne. Two plates were created for the 25-cent value, numbers 22542 and 22543 an example of which is shown in Figure 31. The 25-cent value also had its own special savings bi-fold card (Form PS 333-25) which was salmon in color and is shown in Figure 32. The form measured 188 mm x 166 mm open (94 mm x 166 mm folded) and had spaces for 25 stamps for a total value of \$6.25.

The 50-cent value (PS9) was deep blue green in color and was designed by A. R. Meissner and fully engraved by E. R. Helmuth. There was one plate made for the 50-cent PS9 postal savings stamp with plate number 22544 as shown in Figure 31. A special bi-fold form (PS 333-50) was also created for the 50-cent value. It was blue in color (not green as reported by Lindquist [4] and measured 188 mm x 166 mm open (94 mm x 166 mm folded). The PS 333-50 form had spaces for 25 PS9 stamps for a total value of \$12.50. A PS 333-50 form is shown in Figure 32.

The dollar value (PS10) of the 1940 stamp series was gray black in color and was prepared by the same design (engraver) team that did the 50-cent value. A single plate number 22545 was used as shown in Figure 31. A special card Form PS 333-Special was created for the dollar value as shown in Figure 33. It was a simple two-sided card with the front similar to the bi-fold fronts of the 10-cent, 25-cent, and 50-cent forms. The card is 94 mm x 184 mm. The back contained 18 spaces for the dollar value stamp (PS10) and 3 spaces for 25-cent (PS8) stamps. The total value was \$18.75 which then could be used to purchase a \$25.00 United States Savings Bond.

The 1940 issue was only in use for a short period of time. Each post office was issued a relatively few stamps and all unsold stamps were ordered returned when the Defense Postal Savings Stamps made their appearance on May 1, 1941. As a result these stamps are relatively scarce with plate number blocks being difficult to find.



Figure 33. Form PS 333-Special collection card for the \$1.00 value (PS10) of the 1940 Series Postal Savings stamp. The card held 18 of the dollar stamps and three of the 25-cent value for a total of \$18.75 (the purchase price of a \$25.00 Savings Bond).

6. Defense Postal Savings Stamps

The Defense Postal Savings (Scott Nos. PS11-PS15) as shown in Figure 34 were issued by the Post Office on May 1, 1941. These stamps had values of 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1.00, and \$5.00 and when collected in appropriate amounts were redeemable in the form of Defense or War Bonds issued by the United States Treasury. The vignette of the Defense Savings Stamps was an adaptation of the Minuteman Statue by Daniel Chester French [9]. The statue stands today in Concord, Massachusetts.



Figure 34. The 1941 “America on Guard” Series of Postal Savings Stamps (PS11 to PS15). The stamp design features the “Minuteman” statue by Daniel Chester French as shown on the picture postcard.

The designer of the 1941 Defense Postal Savings stamp was Victor S. McCloskey, Jr. L.C. Kaufmann engraved the picture on the 10-cent to \$1.00 values while the \$5.00 value was engraved by C. T. Arit. On the four lower values the frames and lettering were all engraved by J.T. Vail. J.T. Vail and J.S. Edmondson engraved the numerals. J. S. Edmonson engraved the frame, lettering and numerals on the \$5.00 value.

The 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, and \$1.00 values (design size 19 mm x 22½ mm) were printed from rotary press plates of 400 subjects, divided into panes of 100. Three hundred subject plates of the 10¢ and 25¢ values were also made for binding in booklet form [10]. The 10¢ to \$1.00 value stamps were printed on unwatermarked paper and were perforated 11x10½. The \$5.00 value (design size 36 mm x 46 mm) was printed on a flatplate press from engraved plates of 100 subjects divided into four panes of 25 each. These \$5.00 stamps were printed on unwatermarked paper and were perforated 11.



Figure 35. Upper left plateblocks of the 10-cent to \$1.00 value of the 1941 Series Postal Savings stamps.

The 10-cent stamps (PS11) were rose red in color, although a carmine rose variety (Scott No. PS11a) is recognized and shades of each ranging from light to dark routinely occurred. Six different rotary press plates were made as listed in Table 4. An example of a PS11 plateblock is shown in Figure 35. Marginal blocks with Electric Eye markings at the right or left exist. The different types (Type I and Type II) of Electric Eye markings will be described below.

The booklet pane versions of the 10-cent value (Scott No. PS11b) were issued on July 30, 1941. Covers for the 10¢ booklets were printed in red on heavy brown card stock (sometimes called Kraft paper). As shown in Figure 36, the Minuteman is at the left and the wording “UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS STAMPS, \$20, TWO HUNDRED 10¢ STAMPS” is prominent in the remaining space. The wording was varied appropriately for the \$5.00 booklet. Booklets of 50 stamps for \$5.00 and 200 stamps (20 panes) for \$20 were issued. A definitive article on the booklet panes was written by Peaks in 1947 [10]. A special 300 subject plate was made for the booklet panes. Lindquist illustrated the plate layout in his article [4]. The printed and perforated sheets are normally imperforate between every other row and then cut into blocks of 10 along special imperforate gutters designed into the 300 subject plate. A typical PS11b booklet pane is shown in Figure 36.



Figure 36. The booklet pane version of the 10-cent rose red (PS 11b). Two Electric Eye types are known. Type I as shown on the next to the bottom pane and Type II as illustrated on the bottom pane. A typical complete booklet of 20 panes is shown at the top.

Some of the 10-cent booklets were perforated on all horizontal edges so that the booklet panes have perforations on the top and bottom margins, as well as through the centers. An example of a top and bottom perforated pane (Scott No. PS11c) is shown in Figure 37

The booklet panes also come with and without Electric Eye markings. On the special 300-subject booklet pane plate, Electric Eye markings were placed between the first and second vertical rows of booklet panes. Thus, if the Electric Eye markings are at the left end of the pane, it shows that the pane came from the center vertical row of panes. If the Electric Eye markings are at the right end of the pane (usually trimmed off) the pane came from the left or first vertical row of booklet panes. If the pane has no Electric Eye markings, it came from the right or third vertical row of panes. Examples of Electric Eye markings are shown on the booklet panes in Figure 36. There are two types, Type I and Type II, of Electric Eye markings on both the sheet stamps and the booklet panes. Type I panes (Figure 36 next to bottom left) come from the top of the sheet where the Electric Eye markings extend from the pane center perforations downward. In Type II panes (Figure 36 bottom) which are from the lower portion of the sheet, the Electric Eye marks extend from the pane center perforations upward. The plate numbers on the 300 subject plate were placed so that they would be in the trim waste margin. Occasionally a mistrimmed sheet yielded a pane with a partial plate number at the left [5]. Plate numbers for the 10-cent booklet panes are given in Table 4.

No coil issues of the 10¢ defense Postal Savings Stamp were printed or sold, but according to Lindquist [4] three plates were prepared with plate number 147066, 147067, and 147068.



Figure 37. Perforated edge 10-cent rose red booklet pane (PS11c). The insets show enlargements of both the top and bottom edges.

Table 4: Plate Numbers of Defense Postal Savings Stamps
Scott Nos. PS11-PS15

Scott No.	Value	Color	Type	Plate Number
PS11	10¢	Rose Red	Stamp	22714, 22715, 22722, 22723, 148245, 148246
PS11b/c	10¢	Rose Red	Stamp-B ^a	147084, 147086, 148241, 148242
PS12	25¢	Blue Green	Stamp	22716, 22717, 22724, 22725, 148247, 148248
PS12b	25¢	Blue Green	Stamp-B	147087, 147088, 148243, 148244
PS13	50¢	Ultramarine	Stamp	22718, 22719, 22726, 22727
PS14	\$1.00	Gray Black	Stamp	22720, 22728 (22727 and 22729 were made and not used) ^b
PS15	\$5.00	Sepia	Stamp	22730, 22731, 22732, 22733, 22734, 22735, 22736, 22737, 22740 (22741, 22742, 22743, 22744 were made and not used) ^b

^a Stamp-B = Booklet / Booklet Pane

^b Plate numbers listed and not used were given by Lindquist [4].

The 25-cent stamp (PS12) ranged in color from blue green to deep blue green. Six different rotary press plates were made as listed in Table 4. An example of a PS12 plateblock is shown in Figure 35. Margin blocks with Electric Eye markings at the right or left exist. The booklet pane versions of the 25-cent value (Scott No. PS12b) were issued on July 30, 1941. Booklets of 40 stamps with a face value of \$10 and 100 stamps with a face value of \$25 were available. A typical booklet is illustrated in Figure 38. The covers for the 25-cent booklets have the same design and are printed on the same paper as the 10¢ value, except they are printed in green ink instead of red and the wording has been changed to reflect the contents of the 25-cent booklet. As with the 10¢ booklet panes, both plain panes and Electric Eye panes exist, as shown in Figure 38. Both Type I and II 25-cent booklet panes exist. Just as with the 10 cent booklet panes occasional plate numbers appear due to improper trimming. Plate numbers for the 25-cent booklet panes are given in Table 4.



Figure 38. The booklet pane version of the 25-cent blue green (PS 12b). Two Electric EyeTypes are known. Type I as shown on the next to the bottom pane and Type II as illustrated on the bottom pane. A typical complete booklet of 4 panes is shown at the top.

Three plates were prepared for coil stamps, but there were never used. The numbers of these plates were 147069, 147070, and 147071 [4].

The 50-cent stamp (PS13) ranged in color from light to dark ultramarine. Four different rotary press plates were made as listed in Table 4. An example of a 50-cent plateblock is shown in Figure 35. Margin blocks with Electric Eye markings at the right or left exist.

The \$1.00 stamp (PS14) was gray black in color although some brown black versions have been found. Two different rotary press plates exist, number 22720 and 22728. A plateblock is shown in Figure 35. Again margin blocks with Electric Eye markings at the right or left are known.

The \$5.00 stamp (PS15) was sepia in color although many violet brown examples exist. Nine different flat press plates were made as listed in Table 4. As mentioned above, these were printed in sheets of 100 and divided into four panes of 25. Plate numbers appeared at the top, bottom, left, or right side of the sheet. There are two distinct top plate numbers – one a plain and the other with an “F” prefix. A top plate number block of six is shown in Figure 39.

Stamp albums in which to mount the Defense Postal Savings stamps were prepared by the Government Printing Office (GPO) or by contacts with private printing firms. Lindquist mentioned that the J. W. Clement firm of Buffalo, NY supplied millions of such booklets. The first series of booklets was a horizontal format booklet 90 mm x 140 mm. It pictured an eagle and flag (a color adaptation of the eagle [8] used during WWI) and a battleship along with the word “Defense” on its cover as shown in Figure 40. The battleship is said by many to be the USS Arizona (BB38), but it could have been its sister ship, the USS Pennsylvania (BB37) which was the flagship of the

Atlantic Fleet at the time the booklet was designed. The significance of the Arizona was not known at the time of the booklets' printing (1940). The general color theme was red, white (the paper color) and blue.



Figure 39. Plateblock of the \$5.00 Postal Savings stamp (PS15) of the 1941 Series.



Figure 40. The series of the 10-cent to \$5.00 collection booklets for the 1941 Postal Savings Stamp Series. They feature a battleship and eagle with flag on the front and as the inset illustrates the "Minuteman" on the back.

A different booklet existed for each of the five values in the Defense Postal Savings Stamp Series: 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1.00, and \$5.00. The 10-cent booklet (Form PS 333-10A) held fifty 10-cent stamps for a total of \$5.00, which could be put towards the purchase of a United States Savings Bond. The 25-cent booklet (Form PS 333-25A) held seventy-five 25-cent stamps for a filled value of \$18.75, enough money to buy a \$25 savings bond (initial cost \$18.75). The 50-cent booklet (Form PS 333-50A) held seventy-five 50-cent stamps for a filled value of \$37.50, enough money to buy at \$50 savings bond (initial cost \$37.50). The \$1.00 booklet (Form PS 333-100A) held seventy-five \$1.00 stamps for a filled value of \$75.00, enough money to buy a \$100 savings bond (initial cost \$75.00). The \$5.00 booklet (Form PS 333-500A) held fifteen \$5.00 stamps for a total filled value of \$75.00, again enough money to purchase a \$100.00 savings bonds. The savings bonds were Series E type maturing to face value in 10 years for a 2.9% compound semiannual interest rate. The back covers of all the series booklets featured the minuteman statue with the words “America on Guard” flanking the Minuteman. An example back cover for this series booklet is shown in Figure 40. Also on the back cover is the respective form number, a serial number or plate number, followed by an open star and the words, “U.S. Government Printing Office.” For all the 25¢, 50¢, \$1.00, and \$5.00 booklets in my possession (greater than 30 in number) this plate number is 301717. For the 10¢ booklet, there appear to be many different numbers and, at least, two forms of the GPO wording. These booklets were available on the first day of issue of the Defense Postal Savings Stamps. A first day cancelled 25¢ savings booklet is shown in Figure 41. May 1, 1941 was the issue date for PS11 to PS15.



Figure 41. Battleship Booklet cancelled on May 1, 1941 the First Day of Issue of the Postal Savings 1941 Stamp Series. The storage envelope for the booklet is also shown stamped “First Day of Issue”.



Figure 42. Eagle with Flag “Defense” Collection Booklets for 10-cent, 25-cent, and 50-cent savings stamps.

A second series of collection booklets were vertical in format and measured 77 mm wide x 159 mm high. They pictured an eagle and a flag as the main vignette as shown in Figure 42. Again the eagle appears to be a color adaptation of the WWI flag and eagle design used on War Savings certificates (see above). Again the word “Defense” was on the cover. This booklet existed for at least three of the five values in the Defense Postal Savings Stamp series, 10¢, 25¢, and 50¢. The \$1.00 and \$5.00 values have not been seen by this author. The Lindquist article gives an indication that these booklets existed for the entire series of values. Since the subsequent nearly identical “War” series stamp collection booklets exist for all five values, it is reasonable to believe that this initial “Defense” series did too. However, given the events of December 7, 1941, the government may have decided not to print the high values and instead bring out the high values (\$1.00 and \$5.00) in the “War” series instead.

The 10-cent booklet held one hundred eighty seven 10¢ stamps for a total of \$18.70 which with an added nickel in coin was enough to purchase a \$25 savings bond. The 25-cent and 50-cent booklets held the same amounts as the previous series leading to the purchase of \$25.00 and \$50.00 savings bonds, respectively. The back of the 25¢ and 50¢ value book contain a Minuteman and flag vignette. There are at least four different backs for the 10¢ booklets as shown in Figure 43. Each has a smaller Minuteman and flag on the left accompanied by text explaining the savings process and the purchase of bonds. Three of the booklets carry the GPO imprint indicating the year 1942 followed by the printing number 0-436258 either by itself or with a trailing letter A or B. The fourth booklet has no GPO imprint which according to Lindquist could have been produced by a private contractor.



Figure 43. The four different backs on the 10-cent Eagle with Flag “Defense” collection booklets.

The third series was almost identical to the second, but replaced the word “Defense” with “War” as shown in Figure 44. All five values in the Defense Postal Savings Stamp Series were represented. The backs of these cover booklets were slightly different than the Defense series. Transition booklets exist where the word “Defense” is over printed with “War” in blue as shown in Figure 45. Obviously this was a hurried overprint that occurred right after Pearl Harbor and before the “War” booklet series came out in 1942. It may have been privately printed.

A fourth series of savings “booklets” also exist. These are really quadra-fold cards featuring the Minuteman, with the eagle and flag, and the battleship as in the horizontal booklet “Defense” series described above. The quadra-fold cards were printed in orange, green and black on buff as shown in Figure 46. These “Save to Win” cards measured 76 mm x 156 mm folded and 305 mm x 156 mm open. These cards or albums are believed to come in all five values, 10¢, 25¢, and 50¢, \$1.00 and \$5.00, although the author has not personally seen the 10¢ value. The backs of all the albums, regardless of the value, were the same as shown in Figure 46. The interior of the 25¢ through \$5.00 have pictures of war weapons on certain stamp positions as shown in Figure 47. No GPO markings are evident on any of the album values.



Figure 47. Interior of 25-cent quadra-fold Save to Win Collection Card featuring airplanes and other weapons of war in some of the places to paste stamps.

In both the Defense and War “Eagle and Flag” vertical booklet series, the eagle’s wings were pink to light red in color. Booklets exist where the eagles wings are very pale with almost no pink color at all. These pale printings were attributed by Lindquist to the private contractors, but the author has several copies of pale eagles with the GPO imprint. A representative example is shown in Figure 48 along with a standard color for comparison. As may be expected, other errors and misprintings in the booklets exist, and are too numerous to be described in this article.



Figure 48. The printing on the wings of the eagle is very pale on some “Defense” and “War” booklets. Such booklets are called the “Pale Eagle Variety”



Figure 49. Other examples of 10-cent Defense or War Savings stamp collection booklets which were prevalent during World War II. These are believed to have been privately printed since some can be found with corporate logos on the back.

Various other 10¢ Defense, War, or Victory Savings booklets exist from the World War II era as shown in Figure 49. Albums such as these and the ones listed for the major WWII series described above were in use well into the 1950s especially prior to the new series of Savings Stamps (Scott Nos. S1-S5) issued by the Post Office Department in the 1954-1956 period and described in Section 8 below.

**Table 5: Plate Numbers of War Savings Stamp
Scott Nos. WS7-WS13**

Scott No.	Value	Color	Type	Plate Number
WS7	10¢	Rose Red	Stamp	149492-149495, 150206, 150207, 150706, 150707, 155311, 155312
WS7b	10¢	Rose Red	Stamp-B ^a	149655-149657, 150664
WS8	25¢	Dark Blue Green	Stamp	149587-149590, 150320, 150321, 150708, 150709, 155313, 155314, 155812, 155813, 156517, 156518
WS8b	25¢	Dark Blue Green	Stamp-B	149658, 149659, 149660, 150666
WS9	50¢	Deep Ultramarine	Stamp	149591-149594
WS10	\$1.00	Gray Black	Stamp	149595-149598
WS11	\$5.00	Violet Brown	Stamp	150131-150134, 150291
WS12	10¢	Rose Red	Stamp-C ^b	153286, 153287, (158288) ^c
WS13	25¢	Dark Blue Green	Stamp-C ^b	153289, 153290, (153291) ^c

^a Stamp-B = Booklet / Booklet Pane

^b Stamp-C = Coil

^c Plates made, but, apparently, not used. Lindquist [4]

7. War Savings Stamps (1942 Issue)

Late in 1942, the Treasury Department began issuing a series of War Savings stamps depicting the Minuteman statue. These stamps were similar in color to the 1941 Post Office Defense Postal Savings stamps and were eventually issued in the same denominations – 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1.00 and \$5.00 as shown in Figure 50.

The War Savings stamps were a balanced design with two value circles at the lower left and right, the Minuteman in the center and vertical writing of the “United States” on the left and “War Savings” on the right. The 1942 date appeared on the ribbon above the Minuteman on the 10-cent through \$5.00 values. The 1942 date was still on the ribbon when the 10¢ and 25¢ values were introduced as coil issues in 1943 and when the \$5.00 stamp was issued sometime in early 1945 (mid-February according to Sloane [11]). The delay in the introduction of the \$5.00 War Savings Stamp was due to an excess supply of the previous \$5.00 Defense stamp caused by low demand for \$5.00 values. All the 1942 series stamps were designed by W. A. Reach.



Figure 50. The 1942 “War Stamp” by the Treasury Department (WS7 to WS13). The stamp design features the “Minuteman” statue by Daniel Chester French as shown on the picture postcard in Figure 34.

The engravers for the 10 cent through \$1.00 values (Scott Nos. WS7 - WS10) were C. A. Brooks for the picture and A. W. Christensen for the numbers, frame, and lettering. The \$5.00 value was engraved by C. T. Arnt (picture), C. A. Brooks (ornaments), and J. T. Vail (numbers, frame, and lettering).

The 10¢ through \$1.00 values had a design size of 19 mm x 22½ mm and were printed from rotary press plates of 400 subjects, divided into panes of 100. Three hundred subject plates of the 10¢ and 25¢ values were also made for binding in booklet form. The 10¢ to \$1.00 values were printed on unwatermarked paper and were perforated 11 x 10½. The \$5.00 value was 36 mm x 45 mm, printed on a flatplate press from engraved plates of 100 subjects divided into four panes of 25 each. The \$5.00 stamps were printed on unwatermarked paper and were perforated 11.

The 10-cent stamp (WS7) was rose red in color, although a carmine rose (Scott No. WS7a) is recognized and shades of each ranging from light to dark routinely occurred. It was issued on October 29, 1942. Ten different rotary press plates were made as listed in Table 5. An example of a WS7 plateblock is shown in Figure 51. Marginal blocks with Electric Eye markings at the right or left exist. The different types (Type I and Type II) of Electric Eye markings will be described below in connection with the booklet panes.

The booklet pane versions (10 stamps per pane) of the 10-cent value (Scott No. WS7b), were issued on October 27, 1942. Covers for the 10-cent booklets are printed in red on heavy brown card stock, just like the previously discussed 10-cent defense series booklets. As shown in Figure 52, the Minuteman is at the left and the wording “UNITED STATES WAR SAVINGS STAMPS, \$5.00, FIFTY 10¢ STAMPS” is featured in the remaining space. The wording was varied appropriately for the \$20 booklet containing 200 stamps (20 panes). Just like the Defense Series of 1941, the 1942 series booklet panes also come with Electric Eye markings as shown in the lower portions of Figure 52. Further descriptions of the booklet panes and their Electric Eye markings can be found under the 1941 Defense Series booklets and, or course, in the definitive article by Peaks [10].

Coils of the 10¢ War Savings Stamp (Scott No. WS12) were issued August 5, 1943. They were issued in rolls of 500 with a face value of \$50.00. The coils were perforation 10 (vertical) and printed on unwatermarked paper. Three plates were prepared as listed in Table 5, but only two were used (153286 and 153287). The coils were not widely available, and they had to be purchased in full rolls of 500; thus, they were not generally available to the average saver. Figure 53 illustrates a line pair and a leader strip of four for the 10-cent coil value.



Figure 51. Plateblocks of the 10-cent to \$1.00 value of the “1942” War Savings Stamp Series.



Figure 52. The booklet pane version of the 10-cent rose red (WS 7b). Two Electric Eye Types are known. Type I as shown on the next to the bottom pane and Type II as illustrated on the bottom pane. A typical cover for a five-paned booklet is shown at the top.



Figure 53. The “1942” War Savings Stamp Series Coil Issues. A line pair and leader strip of 4 for the 10-cent rose red WS12 coil stamp are shown at the top. A line pair and leader strip of 4 for the 25-cent deep blue green WS13 coil stamp are shown at the bottom.

The 25-cent stamp (WS8) ranged in color from blue green to deep blue green. Fourteen different rotary press plates were made as listed in Table 5. A 25-cent plateblock is shown in Figure 51. Margin blocks with Electric Eye markings exist at the right or left (see booklet panes below). The booklet pane versions of the 25-cent value (Scott No. WS8b) were issued on November 6, 1942. Booklets of 40 stamps (4 panes of 10) with a face value of \$10.00 and 100 stamps (10 panes of 10) with a face value of \$25.00 were produced. The covers for the 25-cent booklets have the same design and are printed on the same paper as the 10-cent value, except they are printed in green ink instead of red and the wording appropriately changed to reflect the 25-cent stamp. An example cover is shown in Figure 54. As with the 10-cent booklet panes, both plain and Electric Eye panes exist, as shown in Figure 54. Plate numbers for the 25-cent booklet panes are given in Table 5.



Figure 54. The booklet pane version of the 25-cent dark blue green (WS 8b). Two Electric Eye Types are known. Type I as shown on the next to the bottom pane and Type II as illustrated on the bottom pane. A typical cover for a booklet of 4 panes is shown at the top.

Coils of the 25-cent War Savings stamp (Scott No. WS13) were issued August 5, 1943. They were issued in rolls of 500 with a face value of \$125. The coils were perforation 10 (vertical) and printed on unwatermarked paper. Three plates were prepared for the coils as listed in Table 5, but only two were used (153289 and 153290). Just as with the 10-cent value, they were not widely available and had to be purchased in rolls of 500, again limiting their availability. Figure 53 illustrates a line pair and a leader strip of four from the 25-cent coil value.

The 50-cent War Savings stamp (WS9) was issued on November 12, 1942 and was nominally deep ultramarine in color, although stamps can be found in both light ultramarine and ultramarine. Two different rotary press plates were made (149591 and 149592). An example of a plateblock is shown in Figure 52. Margin blocks with Electric Eye markings at the right or left exist.

The \$1.00 stamp (WS10) was issued on November 17, 1942 and was gray black in color although black brown varieties exist. Two different rotary press plates were made (149595 and 149596). An example is shown in Figure 51. Like the other War Savings stamps (WS7-WS9) margin blocks with Electric Eye markings at the right or left exist.

The \$5.00 stamp (Scott No. WS11) was issued sometime in 1945. It was violet brown in color and, as mentioned above, it was flatplate printed in sheets of 100 which were cut into four panes of 25. An example of a pane of 25 is shown in Figure 55. Five plates were ultimately prepared and used for the \$5.00 value as listed in Table 5. Plate numbers appeared at the top, bottom, left, and right side of the 100 stamp sheet. There are two distinct top plate numbers – one plain and the other with an “F” prefix in typically a smaller font. A bottom plateblock is part of the pane of 25 shown in Figure 55.



Figure 55. Pane of 25 of the \$5.00 War Savings stamps of the “1942” Series. These stamps were not issued until 1945 due to low sales and excess stock of the previous \$5.00 Defense issue.

War Savings stamps were collected in a variety of booklets as described above for the Postal Savings Defense Stamps (Battleship, Eagle and Flag (Defense and War), etc). Just as in World War I, a study of closely related ephemera is necessary to fully understand the war effort and the role that postal and war savings stamps played in financing the war effort. The role of small savers cannot be overemphasized. Fig 56 illustrates a couple of placards which were displayed in stores encouraging customers to take their change in defense (postal) savings stamps. The sign on the right actually depicts PS11.

The cover of Collier's magazine (December 26, 1942) illustrated in Figure 57 is not only interesting from the fact that it promotes the sale of war bonds and savings stamps using the traditional Minuteman poster advertisement, but it also features a “cigarette girl” selling corsages made of savings stamps (PS11) rather than the usual cigarettes and matches. This image of the “corsage girl” or “savings stamp girl” selling corsages made of savings stamps was quite common during the WWII period. The corsages, however, being relatively fragile are less common and quite difficult to find in pristine shape.



Figure 56. Part of the “Home Front” effort to promote the sale of Defense Savings Stamps. Such signs appeared in almost every store.



Figure 57. War Savings Stamps “Corsage Girl”. She is selling corsages made of war savings stamps as the “petals”. A typical corsage contained nine stamps.

Propaganda was used to defame the enemy and encourage the sale of bonds and stamps to support the war effort. An interesting propaganda piece is shown in Figure 58. It was printed sometime during WWII by a Philadelphia bank to encourage patrons to buy war bonds and stamps. In addition to private issues, the Treasury Department created postcards such as the one shown in Figure 59 to promote the sale of war bonds and stamps.



Figure 58. Propaganda piece from a Philadelphia, PA bank depicting the Axis leaders as despised animals and encouraging the Sale of War Bonds and Stamps.



Figure 59. Propaganda postcard issued by the Treasury Department (Form WSS 664).

While the War Savings stamps were readily available after the war, no new collection booklets were introduced until 1951 when the Save for Defense bifold cards as shown in Figure 60 were issued. These booklets were for collecting stamps in values of 50-cent, \$1.00, and \$5.00 values. The author has not seen either the 10¢ or 25¢ values and wonders if they exist. Some examples of other 10¢ and 25¢ collection booklets featuring the Minuteman and other vignettes are shown in Figure 61. According to the GPO numbers on the certificates, these designs started to appear in the mid-fifties. The Minuteman designs were printed in shades of blue, as well as, orange and blue.



Figure 60. The “Save for Defense” Series collection booklets introduced in 1951. Fifty cent through \$5.00 values shown along with common back design.



Figure 61. Various 10-cent and 25-cent collection booklets issued during the 1950s and 1960s.

8. Savings Stamps

The Minuteman design of the War Savings stamps was carried forward to make the Savings stamp series issued in the mid to late 1950s. The Savings stamps (Scott Nos. S1-S5) were issued in all five values of the War Savings stamp series, i.e. 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1.00, and \$5.00. The stamps at first blush appeared identical except for removal of the 1942 in the 10¢ through \$5.00 values and the replacement of the words “War Savings” with “Savings Stamp” on the right side of the stamps.

**Table 6: Plate Numbers of (Postal) Savings Stamps
Scott Nos. S1-S7**

Scott No.	Value	Color	Type	Plate Number
S1 (Wet)	10¢	Rose Red	Stamp	164991, 164992
S1a (Wet)	10¢	Rose Red	Stamp-B	168218, 165219
S1b (Dry)	10¢	Rose Red	Stamp	165917-165918, 166643-166644, 167089-167090, 168765-168766
S1c (Dry)	10¢	Rose Red	Stamp-B	165954-165955, 167001-167002
S2 (Wet)	25¢	Blue Green	Stamp	165007, 165008
S2a (Wet)	25¢	Blue Green	Stamp-B	165220, 165221
S2b (Dry)	25¢	Blue Green	Stamp	165919, 165920
S2c (Dry)	25¢	Blue Green	Stamp-B	165956, 165957
S3 (Wet)	50¢	Ultramarine	Stamp	165050, 165051
S3a (Dry)	50¢	Ultramarine	Stamp	166741, 166742, 166941, 166942
S4	\$1.00	Gray Black	Stamp	166097, 166098, 166683, 166684
S5	\$5.00	Sepia	Stamp	166068
S6	25¢	Dark Blue & Carmine	Stamp	166921, 166925, 166946
S6a	25¢	Dark Blue & Carmine	Stamp-B	166913-166916
S7	25¢	Dark Blue & Carmine	Stamp	167473, 167476, 167486, 167489, 169089
S7a	25¢	Dark Blue & Carmine	Stamp-B	167495, 167502, 167508, 167516

The 10¢ through \$1.00 values as shown in Figure 62 had a design size of 19 mm x 22½ mm and were printed from rotary press plates of 400 subjects, divided into panes of 100. The \$5.00 value was 36 mm x 46 mm and flatplate printed in sheets of 100 (subsequently divided into panes of 25). Three hundred subject plates of the 10¢ and 25¢ values were also made in booklet form. The 10¢ to \$1.00 values were printed on unwatermarked paper and were perforated 11 x 10½. The \$5.00 stamp was also printed on unwatermarked paper, but it was perforated 11. At first these stamps were wet printed, but later dry printing was used. As shall be seen below, the wet and dry printings can not only be identified by their appearance (wet printings are more dull with light ink in the clear or white areas while dry printing colors are bright and clear areas are free of ink), but also different plate numbers were used. The plate numbers for all the Savings stamps are given in Table 6.



Figure 62. Upper left plateblocks of the 10-cent to \$1.00 value of the Savings Stamp Series issued by the Post Office Department (1954-57).

The 10¢ savings stamp (S1) was rose red in color and was issued on November 30, 1954. At first it was wet printed using a paper with a moisture content between 15-35%. This large moisture content produced dull prints with a hint of color in the “white” regions. Soon the 10-cent savings stamps were “dry” printed on paper with a moisture content between 5-10%. The dry printings show whiter paper, have higher surface sheen, and the designs stand out more clearly than the “wet” printings. Scott gives these dry printings of the 10-cent rose red Savings stamps a separate number (Scott No. S1b). Ten different rotary press plates of 400 were made as listed in Table 6, two for the wet printings and eight for the dry printings. An example of a wet and dry printed plateblocks are shown in Figure 63.



Figure 63. Examples of the 10-cent rose red Savings stamp (S1) plateblocks in both wet (left) and dry (right) printings

The booklet pane (Scott No. S1a) versions (10 stamps per pane) of the 10-cent value of the wet printed stamps were issued on April 22, 1955. Covers for the 10-cent booklets were printed in red on heavy brown card stock, just as those of the previously discussed 10-cent Defense (1941) and War (1942) series booklets. The Minuteman is at the left and the wording “United States Savings Stamps, \$5.00, Fifty 10¢ Stamps” is featured in the remaining space as shown in Figure 64. The wording was varied appropriately for the \$20.00 booklet containing 200 stamps (20 panes). Just like the previous series the booklet panes came plain and with Electric Eye markings as shown in the left bottom portion of Figure 64. Plate numbers for the wet printed booklet panes are given in Table 6. Dry printed booklet panes (Scott No. S1c) were also printed and in greater number than their wet printed counter parts as evidenced by the larger number of plates prepared (See Table 6).



Figure 64. The booklet pane versions of the 10-cent rose red (S1a) and the 25-cent blue green (S2a). Two Electric Eye Types are known. Type I as shown on the next to the bottom 10-cent pane and Type II as illustrated on the bottom 10-cent pane. A plain and Type II electric eye pane for the 25-cent blue green are shown on the top and bottom right, respectively. A typical cover for a five-paned 10-cent booklet is also shown on the right.

The 25-cent savings stamp (S2) was blue green in color and was issued on December 30, 1954. Like its 10-cent counter part, the 25-cent stamp was both wet (S2) and dry printed (Scott No. S2b). Four different (two wet and two dry) rotary press plates of 400 were made as listed in Table 6. A plateblock is shown in Figure 62. The book pane (Scott No. 2a) version (10 stamps per pane) of the 25-cent value of the wet printed stamp were issued on April 15, 1955. Covers for the 25-cent booklets were printed in green on heavy brown card stock, just as the previously discussed 25-cent Defense and War series booklets. Booklets of 40 stamps (4 panes of 10) with a face value of \$10.00 and 100 stamps (10 panes of 10) with a face value of \$25.00 were produced. The covers for the 25-cent booklets have the same design as the 10-cent value with the wording appropriately changed to reflect the 25-cent stamps enclosed. Examples of 25-cent booklet panes are shown in Figure 64. As with the 10-cent booklet panes, both plain and Electric Eye panes exist as shown in Figure 64. Plate numbers for the booklet panes are given in Table 6. Dry printed booklet panes (Scott No. S2c) were also printed.

The 50-cent savings stamp (S3) as illustrated in Figure 62 was issued on December 31, 1956 and was nominally ultramarine in color, although both light and deep shades can be found. Two different rotary press plates were made for the wet printing while four plates were developed for the dry printed (Scott No. S3a) version.

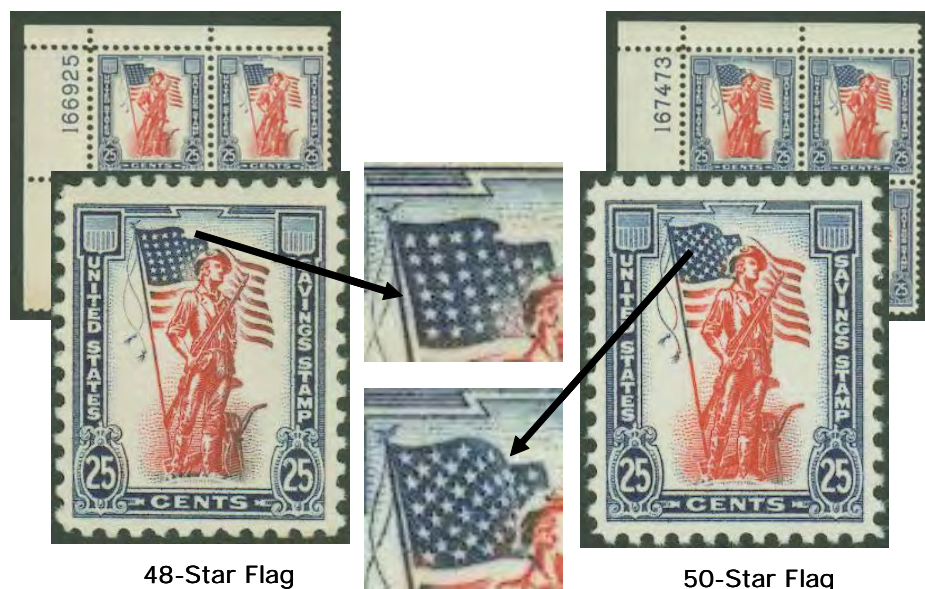
The \$1.00 stamp (S4) was issued on March 13, 1957 and was gray black in color although brownish black examples exist. Four different rotary press plates were made as listed in Table 6. An example plateblock is shown in Figure 62. Like the other Savings stamps (S1-S3), margin blocks with Electric Eye markings at the right or left exist.

The \$5.00 stamp (S5) was issued November 30, 1956. It was sepia in color and, as mentioned above, it was flatplate printed in sheets of 100 which were cut into four panes of 25 (similar to PS15 and WS11). A top plate number block of eight is shown in Figure 65. Only one plate number (166068) was used.



Figure 65. The \$5.00 Savings stamp (S5) issued in 1956 by the Post Office Department. A plateblock of 8 is illustrated.

A new 25-cent Savings stamp (Scott No. S6) was issued on November 18, 1958. It was printed on the Giori press with plates of 400 subjects cut into four panes of 100 each. The new stamp was printed in two colors (dark blue and carmine) on unwatermarked paper. It was perforated 11. The design featured the Minuteman statue and the American flag as shown in Figure 66. At the time of issue, the United States flag contained 48-stars. With the admission of Alaska and Hawaii to the Union in 1959, the design was subsequently changed to a 50-star flag. The new 50-star flag version (Scott No. S7) is also shown in Figure 66 and was issued in 1961.



48-Star Flag

50-Star Flag

Figure 66. New Minuteman Savings stamps (1958-61). The 48-star flag variety is on the left (S6) and the 50-star version is on the right (S7). The insets show the star details of both flags. Typical plateblocks of 4 are illustrated in the background.

Three plates were prepared for the 48-star flag version (S6) as shown in Table 6. The 48-star flag version also came in a booklet version (Scott No. 6a) as shown in Figure 67. Two booklet values were issued: a single pane version with a face-value of \$2.50 as shown in Figure 67, and a two pane version with a face value of \$5.00 (also shown in Figure 67). Two plates were prepared for the booklet pane versions as listed in Table 6.



Figure 67. The 48-star booklet pane (S6a) at the top left and the 50-starbooklet pane (S7a) at the left middle. The common booklet front cover is shown at the left bottom while the backs for the single pane (\$2.50 value) and double pane (\$5.00 value) booklets are shown on the right.

The 50-star flag version (S7) as shown in Figure 66 was printed from five different plates and also came in a booklet pane version (Scott No. S7a). This booklet pane is also shown in Figure 67. It was also issued in two booklet values \$2.50 and \$5.00. The booklet covers were identical to those for S6a. Four plates were prepared for the S7a booklet pane version as listed in Table 6.



Red & Blue (on White)

Red & Light Violet (on White)

Figure 68. Right stamp is an off color print of the 50-star flag (S7). The left stamp shows intended or normal colors for the stamp. The stamp on the right should have been destroyed as printer's waste.

Many misperforated varieties of the bi-colored Minuteman and flag stamps exist. A very interesting variety of S7 is shown in Figure 68. It appears light purple in color rather than blue. Apparently, this item is printers' waste

that got past the stamp quality screening process. The purple color was explained by the Treasury Department as follows [12]:

“...the blue inking roller was not fully charged with blue ink and that this roller was also contaminated with some red ink. The contamination of the roller with red ink would explain the apparent purple color and the roller not being fully charged would explain the light print...”

Eleven of these “purple” S7’s are known.

The collection booklets for the Savings stamps were varied and many carried over from World War II and the immediate postwar period (see Figures 46, 60, and 61). A new series, for 10-cent to \$5.00 values featuring the Minuteman and stars as shown in Figure 69, was issued in 1964. This was the last series featuring all five values with a consistent design, each value being in a different color (10¢ red, 25¢ blue, 50¢ gray, \$1.00 green, and \$5.00 dark brown or magenta).



Figure 69. Minuteman with Stars collection booklets issued in the mid-1960s. 10-cent to \$1.00 values shown, but the series also includes a \$5.00 value missing from the author’s collection.

The backs and interiors of each booklet are similar featuring the treasury seal and the appearance of images of famous Americans in selected spaces.

9. Summary

The Postal and Treasury Savings Stamp Systems were in existence in one form or another from about 1910 through 1970 – about 60 years. In fact, the Treasury still continues to issue bonds today long after the savings stamp systems were abandoned. The postal savings account system officially ended in 1966 with the closing of all accounts while the sale of savings stamps continued until June 30, 1970. Last day of issue cancelled collection booklets are shown in Figure 70.

Savings stamps had their greatest popularity during both world wars raising billions for the war efforts. Their importance in helping win the wars cannot be over emphasized. They provided the rallying point for every citizen on the homefront. The post office was the major sales and distribution agent along with banks. The postal savings account system filled the role of banks in many areas where banks did not exist or were not trusted. Given the costs of the current wars and the roller coaster behavior of the stock market and the insolvency of major banks, perhaps it is time for a new postal savings system where every citizen regardless of economic strata can get a fair return on their money.



Figure 70. Last Day of the Postal Savings Stamp System. Two different collection booklets, each affixed with their appropriate denomination savings stamp and a first class regular issue postage stamp. The booklet on the left is from the “Save for Defense” Series first issued in 1951 (see Figure 56 above). The booklet on the right was a new dollar value introduced in 1960.

10. References

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- [8] The Eagle Clutching the Flag was made from Miscellaneous Die No. 9918. Identified in Bureau of Engraving and Printing records as “Eagle”. According to the BEP, Miscellaneous Die No. 9918 was transferred from an engraving, Die No. 7242, by Robert Ponickau in 1909.

[9] The Statue of the Minuteman was created by Daniel Chester French and was erected in 1875 in Concord, MA. (Minuteman National Historical Park). The first stanza of Emerson's Concord Hymn is inscribed on its base.

[10] Gilbert L. Peakes, "Postal and War Savings Booklets" The Congress Book for the Thirteenth American Philatelic Congress, pp 77-82 (1947).

[11] Sloane's Column, G. T. Turner compiler and arranger. Bureau Issues Association, Inc., West Somerville, MA, pp 462-465, 1961.

[12] Letter from D. H. Payne (Acting Superintendent, Management Services Division, Department of the Treasury) to Julius Stollow dated December 9, 1977.