



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 48 No. 4 July August 2020



1984 Faroe Islands Europa Issue engraved by Czeslaw Slania (1921-2005)

From Blogspot, <https://slaniacra-zy.blogspot.com/2017/07/faroe-islands-1984-25-years-of-europa.html>

Europa: A Topical Collection

By Doug Files, DSC member

Philatelists sometimes seek new interests to expand their collections. Expanding on a longtime interest in Europe, I started to collect Europa stamps a few years ago. It can be financially perilous to start a new collection, and sometimes we avoid new interests, but I got a deal on a Europa album and then got hooked.

Europa collections are unusual in that the stamps are clearly topical. Yet, when you pursue the collection it feels more like country

collecting than topical collecting. That is, you are not seeking stamps with just airplanes or clowns or scouting. Rather, any topic can show up and you search for the stamps by country and year. That being said, leafing through an album the stamps display many colorful topics. And speaking of an Europa album brings up another point.

Europa stamps are not cheap, but they are generally affordable. The author is not aware of any regular issues that are so rare as to cause an empty space to remain in your album forever. This is in stark contrast to a U.S. album where even a wealthy collector's book would display many sadly blank spaces. In other words, the dream is within reach of *completely filling* your Europa album before you pass on to that great stamp show in the sky.

In its first few years the "European Community" took responsibility for coordinating Europa stamp issues. Then from 1960 to 1992 the series was conducted under the aegis of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT). During that period most stamps displayed the acronym "CEPT" which keen worldwide philatelists may have noted. Since 1993 the series has been organized through the PostEurop Association. CEPT continued to function but it decided to focus on telecommunications as opposed to mail.

Based in Brussels, Belgium, PostEurop is a trade association of 52 public postal systems representing 49 different European nations. Collectively, they operate 175,000 retail counters and employ 2.1 million workers. Overall PostEurop serves 800 million people, keeping

— continued on Page 6



1956 Europa Issues: Designs are similar though not identical.

Photos from <https://www.posteurop.org/History> and Ruud Vergossen Filatelie



Two French first day cancels used for the 1956 series of Europa stamps

From Phil_Ouest website, https://www.phil-ouest.com/Timbre.php?Nom_timbre=Europa_1076

Meetings and Activities
Meetings begin at 7:30 pm

Dayton Stamp Club meetings may be canceled during July and August.

DSC is waiting on Christ United Methodist Church to make a safety decision. As long as the church is closed there are no DSC meetings.

Members will be informed the Friday before the scheduled meeting date if the meeting is happening or canceled by email (or post card if you do not use email).

Please email me or call Susan Diamond or Mike Komiensky if you are uncertain before driving to church.

July 6 — Patriotic Presentation (guest speaker) to honor Independence Day

July 13—Board Meeting

July 20—Club Auction #3 (philatelic material only)

Aug 3—Media Show (subject TBD) Appoint Nominating Comm. For 2021 DSC Officers

Aug 10—Board Meeting

Aug 17—The Oddity I Couldn't Resist: share a philatelic item outside the norm of your collection

Aug 28-29 (FRI & SAT) — **AIRPEX @ IBEW HALL (F:12-6pm; Sa:10am-4pm)**

DSC NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Bill Smith, 329 East 1st St., Suite 311, Dayton, OH 45402 Phone (937) 344-3155

Newsletter email: wesjemail@gmail.com DSC email: daytonstampclub@gmail.com Website: www.daytonstampclub.com

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CLUB OFFICERS 2020



President -----	Mike Komiensky
First Vice President -----	Frank Miller
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Secretary -----	Doug Files
Treasurer -----	Dennis Rose
Chairman, Board of Directors -----	Susan Diamond



Caring for Your Treasures

by Jeff Lough, Member Wichita Stamp Club

I recently attended a presentation by a member of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic Artistic Works, like stamps and covers. The following suggestions were made:

1) Handle paper objects as little and as gently as possible. Make sure your hands are freshly washed. Never apply tape and avoid attaching paper clips or rubber bands.

2) Storage media...folders, stock books, shoe boxes...should be made of cotton rag or 100 per cent wood pulp with an alkali reserve equivalent to 2 % calcium carbonate and buffered pH of 7.5 to 10. Store newsprint and other highly acidic paper somewhere else.



The above photo shows one of the excavated Dead Sea Scrolls. It is printed on parchment paper from 1-100 B.C. Image provided by Unknown

3) Oversized objects should be stored flat, not rolled, or folded.

4) Limit light exposure which causes fading,

darkening, yellowing and weakened paper. Keep light levels low and eliminate daylight. Ultraviolet light is especially harmful. It is found in daylight and many fluorescent and metal halogen lamps. Keep the much safer incandescent and tungsten lights a distance away because the heat dries the paper and changes the chemical composition of the inks and dyes.

5) Paper objects should be kept in a cool, dry environment with a temperature below 72 degrees Fahrenheit and a relative humidity between 30 and 50%. Higher temperature and moisture encourage mold growth and insect activity. Climatic fluctuations cause paper to expand and contract causing weakening and buckling of paper

6) Limit exposure to industrial gases, auto emissions and heating sources. Paint, ozone from copying machines, paint, new carpets, janitorial supplies, and wooden cabinets can degrade paper.

7) After water damage it would pay for more rare or expensive items to be quickly treated by a professional paper conservator like one found in a university special collections library

For more information search: paper preservation.

Article from Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter, January 6, 2020, Vol.88, No.1.

CANADIAN STAMP NEWS

Third Annual CSN Cover Contest now accepting submissions

Canadian Stamp News has officially launched its Third Annual Cover Contest, pitting clubs and collectors from around the world against one another in a fun competition focused on philately, design and postal history.

All philatelic organizations – at the local, regional and national levels – are invited to submit a cover promoting National Stamp Collecting Month, which takes place this October in Canada. For the second year in a row, an “individual” category is also open to collectors, who can submit a cover to vie for top bragging rights among individuals.

“The competition continues to grow year over year, and *CSN* is eager to see even more covers come in the mail before this October,” said *CSN* Publisher and Editor Mike Walsh. “This year, we’re putting out a call to clubs across the country plus some in the U.S. and overseas. The more the merrier—but with the contest going worldwide, get ready for some competition.”

Altogether, there are six prizes (three for both categories), and both clubs and collectors are permitted to submit more than one design.

SEPT. 25 DEADLINE

All covers must be mailed to and received by *CSN* by Sept. 25, complete with a postmark to prove the deadline date was met. The *CSN* address is **PO Box 25009, Rose City RO, Welland, ON L3B 5V0**.

Designs can promote their club, their individual hobby or the month-long philatelic celebration of National Stamp Collecting Month, which has fallen to the wayside since its inception about 40 years ago.

All submitted entries will be posted on canadianstampnews.com on Oct. 1. People around the world will then be invited to vote for their three favourite submissions from clubs and collectors throughout October.

On Nov. 1, *CSN* will announce the three club covers and three individual covers that received the most votes. The top three

covers in each category will win \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively.

TWO YEARS RUNNING

In last year’s cover contest – the first to feature collectors’ covers – Toronto’s Harvey Shuter won the first-place prize in the individual category.

The club category was topped by the Calgary Philatelic Society, which was followed by the Waterloo Region Stamp Club in second place and the Kelowna and District Stamp Club in third. To see the full results from last year’s contest, visit canadianstampnews.com/2019covercontest. For more information about this year’s contest, visit canadianstampnews.com/2020covercontest or contact *CSN* reporter Jesse Robitaille at reporter@trajan.ca or 1-905-646-7744 (ext. 236).

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THREE EASY STEPS!

Design a cover!

Mail the cover to *CSN* (it can be mailed inside another cover/package/parcel for protection—as long as there’s a postmark on or before Sept. 25, 2020)!

Watch the votes pour in through October, and wait for the results on Nov. 1!



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JACK MATHENEY'S WISH LIST

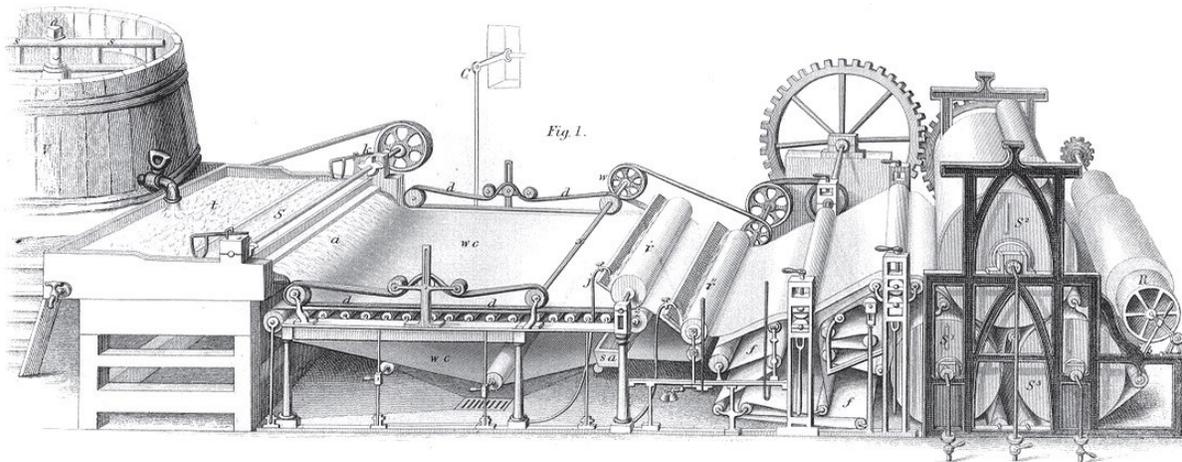
- I would like to purchase or barter for the following Stamps:
- 1.) U.S. Classics Issued Before 1939
In Any Condition, MNHOG VF-XF Or Better Preferred;
 - 2.) Japanese Occupation Stamps
All Countries Except The Philippines
 - 3.) Indochinese Definitives, Scott #s 1L1 to L62
 - 4.) Rattlesnake Island Potage Single Stamp
FDCs

Please contact me at DSC Regular or Board Meetings

Watermarks: How, Why and So What
By Dennis Callison, DSC Member

Since asking for a Corona has taken on a whole new meaning and club meetings were canceled in May, I was not able to give my talk about Watermarks. So, what follows is a written version. Let me start with a quick overview on paper production.

In the early 1800's papermaking was mechanized using a machine developed by Henry and Sealy Fourdrinier. The same process is still used today except the machinery is more advanced. The Fourdrinier process starts with a mixing vat of paper slurry called "Stuff". Stuff can contain, wood pulp, cotton, recycled paper, and chemicals for whitening, brightening, coloring, stiffing and 'whatever' mixed in water. The Stuff is poured on a continuously moving, fine wire cloth mesh (like window screen) belt which travels through the paper making machine in a loop. The water is removed from the Stuff by oscillation and shaking. Near the end of the machine is a "Dandy" roll to squeeze most of the remaining water from the paper.



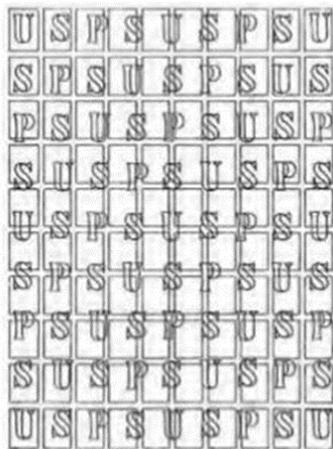
An early diagram of the Fourdrinier Machine

The Dandy roll can have a smooth surface or a surface machined with a relief design (raised) that will become a "Watermark" in the paper. The watermark area is actually slightly more compressed than the surrounding area reflecting light differently. The paper then passes through a series of additional rollers and driers to make a finished paper "Web". The paper Web is wound into large rolls for shipment to a paper finisher.

Therefore, a watermark is a part of the paper-making process. When we talk about a stamp that may or may not have a watermark, we are actually describing a stamp that was printed on two types of paper. Either intentionally or by accident.



Revenue stamp USIR Watermark



Scott illustration for Double Line Watermark

In the United States postal system, watermarked paper has been utilized for stamped envelopes since 1852. No fewer than 50 different watermarks have been used.

Postal Cards were watermarked beginning in 1873. Beginning in 1898, revenue stamps utilized the "USPS" watermark that Scott designated as "wmk191", then switched to "USIR" (Scott "wmk191R") on the battleship documentaries thru revenue stamps issued in 1962.

The first US postage stamp with a watermark began with the second printing of the first Bureau of Printing and Engraving issue of 1895. The watermark is designated "wmk191" by Scott. It is the double lined "USPS". It was used on all regular and commemorative stamps until October 1, 1910, when it switched to Scott designated "wmk190", the single lined "USPS". This was during the Washington/Franklin production period.

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Good Time to Buy Mexican Stamps

Stamp Collector, Investment Blog Writer and Journalist Richar Lehmann wrote in Forbes magazine, “One of the most under-recognized value markets in philately has been for Mexican stamps.” Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society International (MEPSI—APS Affiliate #43) promotes Mexican stamps since 1935.



Mexico 1868
25c SC #61

MEPSI offers its members numerous handbooks and published studies. Its primary purpose is to advance the knowledge of Mexican philately. It has over 600 members in 27 countries and local chapters mainly in the southwest.

Lehmann presents two reasons for the undervalued Mexican stamps.

- Collector bias even when their research indicates that the stamps at issue are rarities and undervalued;
- Scott catalog prices have not shown price changes in higher value stamps in ten years.



Lehmann points out that “Stamp collecting may be declining in the industrialized

countries because of demographic considerations, but it is growing in the developing nations such as Mexico and it is growing among investment buyers.”

Lehmann’s investment message to the reader is “Buy Mexico philately.”



Mexico Celaya, GTO Postal Card
2 cents red to U.S

Starting a Topical Collection

Stamp collecting is a personal activity. A person collects what she/he wants, not because of some set of rules or regulations. Many collect by country. Some by the reason for the stamp being issued – revenue, air mail, Great Americans, or National Parks.

Others by the subject pictured on the stamps, trains, dogs, bridges, etc. The reasons are as varied as the number of collectors.

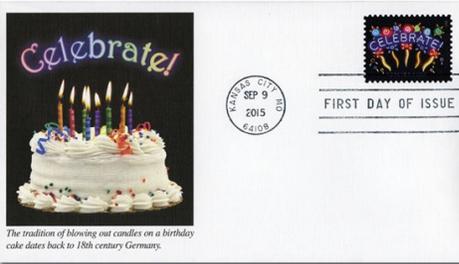
If you are thinking about building a Topical collection you might consider starting small and determine if that is your favorite way of gathering stamps. Topical collecting is also a great way to interest a young person in the hobby. They either are interested in the picture or they not. Beginning does not have to be expensive and it is possible to assemble a complete collection which can be satisfying for many.

Celebration issues could be fun topical collection. The USPS have five current issues. The first in 2007 and the most recent is February 14 of this year. They are recent and inexpensive in mint condition and easily can be found used.



US 41c Aug 17,
2007, SC #4196

A person can collect the stamps. Covers, cancellations, specific dates or cities of cancellation..



US First Day Cover 2015 Forever,
SC 5019

Sept 7—Labor Day (Church Closed) No MEETING

Sept 14—Board Meeting

Sept 21—Club Auction #4 (philatelic material only)

Oct 5 -Perfin/Precancel Study Group 6:30 pm

Oct 5—Solve My Mystery: Bring in a philatelic item you can’t ID)

Oct 12—Board Meeting (set 2021 calendar & budget review)

Oct 19—Club Members Bourse #2 (aka Sell, Buy, Trade)

Nov 2—Perfin/Precancel Study Group 6:30 pm

Nov 2—Club or Guest Speaker – TBD

Nov 9—Board Meeting

Nov 16—Club Auction #5 and Elections (philatelic material only)

Dec 7—6:30 pm—Club Holiday Dinner @ Local Restaurant

Dec 14—Board Meeting

Dec 21—NO MEETING — ENJOY the HOLIDAY SEASON!

Introduce someone to the Dayton Stamp Club. Bring a guest to the next meeting.

— continued from page 1: **Europa Stamps** them connected internally with each other and externally with the remainder of the world. It has diligently monitored the joint stamp issues for 26 years and is still going strong.

The first Europa stamps became available in September 1956. Six nations' postal organizations issued stamps with a similar design showing a tower with scaffolding around it. This indicated the countries were building a community.



First Day Cover of the German 1956 Europa Stamps

From the Stamps of the World website, http://www.stampsoftheworld.co.uk/w/images/thumb/1/19/Germany-West_1956_Europa_FDC.jpg/555px-Germany-West_1956_Europa_FDC.jpg

As early as 1959 Robin Crowley published an article in the philatelic press about the series and the discussion revolved around the fact that European cooperation was critical to avoid future wars. In the past when Europe had unified it had often been at the point of a bayonet, for example when Napoleon or Adolf Hitler conquered nations.

In 1959 the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations took over the function of coordinating joint Europa stamp issues. From 1956 to 1973 most of the stamps shared a design each year. Some countries did not use the common design but still counted as part of the series because they employed the term "Europa". As of 1974 the joint issues demonstrated common themes but did not share the same design. The annual themes which have been featured are listed in the table below.

As the decades passed the popularity of Europa issues led more and more nations to participate. Smaller nations like Monaco and Andorra and territories such as Guernsey and Isle of Man got involved in the joint issues by the 1970s. By the 1980s 35 nations were reliably issuing Europa stamps each year. After the fall of the Berlin Wall many Eastern European countries joined the fray and by the new millennium 57 countries were issuing Europa stamps. Thus collecting recent Europa stamps requires a thicker album and leaves a thinner wallet.



1974 Germany Europa stamp showing a sculpture
Par Wilhelm Lehmbruck — scanned by NobbIP, Domaine public, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6807180>

When PostEurop took over stamp coordination from CEPT in 1993 the stamps began to show the word "Europa" in an italic script. In 2002 PostEurop started an annual contest for the best Europa stamp. Originally only postal administration officials voted but five years later the public began to choose the winner. In 2011 a new Europa logo was added, depicting a mailbox adjacent to the slanted "Europa" and it is still in place.



2016 Slovakia Europa stamp focusing on ecology. Photo from the Slovakia postal administration

Annual Europa themes

1974	Sculptures
1975	Paintings
1976	Handicrafts
1977	Landscapes
1978	Monuments
1979	Post & Telecommunications
1980	Famous People
1981	Folklore
1982	Historic Events
1983	Inventions
1984	25th Anniversary of CEPT
1985	European Music Year
1986	Nature conservation
1987	Modern architecture
1988	Transportation and communications
1989	Children's games
1990	Post offices
1991	European aerospace
1992	Voyages of discovery in America
1993	Contemporary art
1994	Great discoveries
1995	Peace and freedom
1996	Famous women
1997	Tales and legends
1998	Festivals and National Celebrations
1999	Nature reserves and parks
2000	Common Design. Tower of 6 stars
2001	Water, treasure of nature
2002	The Circus
2003	Poster art
2004	Holidays
2005	Gastronomy
2006	Integration through the eyes of Young People
2007	Scout Centenary
2008	Writing Letters

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- 2009 Astronomy
- 2010 Children Books
- 2011 Forests
- 2012 "Visit Finland" or "Visit Spain" etc.
- 2013 Van of the Postman - Postal vehicles
- 2014 Musical instruments
- 2015 Old toys
- 2016 Ecology in Europe - "Think Green"
- 2017 Castles
- 2018 Bridges
- 2019 National Birds
- 2020 Ancient Postal Routes

References

Crowley, Robin, Europa – A Fascinating Topic, Society of Philatelic Americans Journal, March 1959, pp. 335-337.

Europa, Yvert.com, <https://www.yvert.com/CT-1462-europa.aspx>

Europa Postage Stamp, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europa_postage_stamp, accessed 4 Oct 2019

Journey of the Europa Postage Stamps, PostEurop website, <https://www.posteurop.org/aboutus>, updated 4 Feb 2015, accessed 3 Oct 2019



The Oil River Protectorate and Niger Coast Protectorate

The Oil River Protectorate was established by Britain in 1884 on the delta lands of the Niger River on the West Coast of Africa. Oil here does not refer to petroleum oil but Palm Kernel Oil used as both a food and industrial lubricant. The Oil Palm trees grew throughout Nigeria. The Niger River afforded the easiest way to transport the palm oil to deep water shipping. It was important to British to monopolize the palm oil and so a protectorate was established that lasted from 1884-1893. The stamps used during this era were overprints of regular British stamps.

The Protectorate grew to include all the coastline from the French Colony of Dahomey southeast to the German Colony of Kamerun and extended up to 200 miles into the interior. In 1893 the Niger Coast Protectorate came into being until 1900. The area merged into the Southern Nigeria Protectorate January 1900.

The new Niger Coast Protectorate stamps feature the first public photo of Queen Victoria (1819-1901). She was a recluse and refused to appear in public after 1861. These images came from a photo from the Queen's 1887 Golden Jubilee, 50th anniversary of her reign.



ATA Handbook #168 Available NOW Pre-order Before Aug. 1

New Handbook covers the full spectrum of topical collecting and exhibiting.

Topical Adventures- A Guide to Topical and Thematic Stamp Collecting includes acquiring, storing and displaying a collection. The chapter on exhibiting has extensive information on thematic, display and topical exhibiting and is illustrated with exhibit pages by award winning exhibitors. You may pre-order and it will be shipped to you promptly on or before Aug 1. Go to ATA: <http://americantopicalasn.org/topical-adventures/> for more information. There is an ATA member discount for pre-order purchase.

Dayton Stamp Club Newsletter

DSC Perfin Precancel Study Group First Regular Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm prior to regular meeting NO PERFIN PRECANCEL July August

ATA Ambassador DSC Member Carol Costa



Volunteers in action: Laurie Ryan and Carol Costa (ATA Ambassadors and board members) host the ATA booth at the Worthington Stamp Show (a regional show) which took place in Columbus, Ohio, on December 13 and 14, 2019.

Copied from *Topic Times* March-April 2020

Watermarks and the Washington/Franklins

The use of watermarked paper for postage stamps ended about September 1, 1916; also during the Washington/Franklin production period. So Washington/Franklins were printed on paper with double line, single line and un-watermarked papers. This is one of the reasons they are a collectors' nightmare.



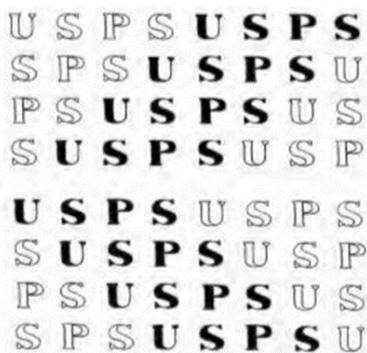
Double Line watermark on a block of Scott 332



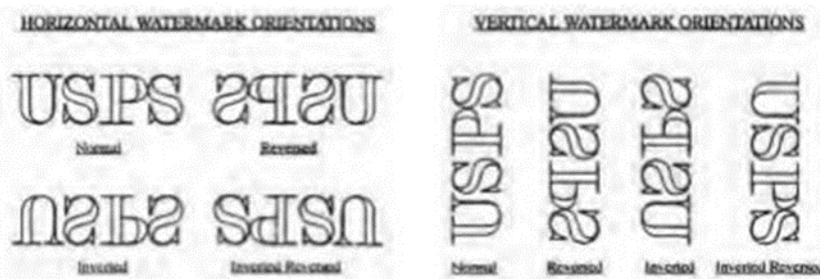
Single Line watermark on block of Scott 409

The Watermark isn't always centered in the stamps. The difficulty in determining if a single stamp has a watermark is shown in the illustration of the Scott 332 block. Only a portion of the watermark is actually on each stamp. Add a hinge mark, a light color printing and any other gum damage and identification can become nearly impossible.

In 2009, almost 100 years after watermark paper was discontinued, it was discovered that the Scott "wmk191" watermark has more than one pattern. The repeating 'USPS' pattern can be both backward or forward stepping. In addition, the pattern can be vertical or horizontal. Why? Because no one realized the patterns were different, including the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Why? It's nearly impossible to see the pattern on a single stamp. In fact it takes a block of 6 or more to fully see the pattern.



Top - Backward Stepping.



Possible Watermark orientations

The reason for the various patterns is more straightforward. The Bureau purchased paper from more than one supplier, so, there was more than one dandy roll produced. Some paper manufacturers themselves probably had more than one. The Bureau inspectors looked at the incoming paper and saw a watermark that appeared proper and passed the lot for stamp printing. In fact, recent studies have shown that the changing watermark pattern coincides with paper receipts and stamp production.

Scott added this new watermark information in the 2011 US Specialized catalog. Scott lists the catalog numbers that can have two or more of these watermark varieties. Since the number of stamps produced with each different type of watermark is currently unknown, there is no difference in catalog value. This will no doubt change in the future.

References:

- The United States Specialist Issue 955, Article: Why has it taken 100+ years to Identify the Forward-Stepping "USPS" Double Lined Watermark, by Gerald Nylander and Larry S. Weiss
- The United States Specialist Issue 954, Article: Major New Discovery: Two Patterns of "USPS" Double Line Watermark by Gerald Nylander and Larry S. Weiss
- The United States Specialist Issue 956, Article: Catalog Implications of the Existence of Two Patterns of "USPS" Double Line Watermarks by Larry S. Weiss