

Presidential Series EFOs

This stuff is just pretty!

F. Ferguson 09.2024

The Best of Errors, Freaks, and Oddities The Presidential Series of 1938

The Fifth Bureau Issue of 1938, which is commonly referred to as the Presidential Series or affectionately known as the “Praxies”, is composed of 32 face different stamps issued in 4 formats.

The following table details the printing quantities for the four different formats. With a printing quantity of 260.1 billion issued, there is an incredible wealth of material to explore. The massive amount of material guarantees that the field of Errors, Freaks, and Oddities (EFO) will be well represented with just about any EFO one can imagine.

Stamp Type	Quantity Printed
Sheet stamps	202.25 billion
Coils – Sideways	40.95 billion
Booklet panes	16.77 billion
Coils – Endways	126.35 million



Inking Issues
Perf Problems
Splices
Booklet Weirdness
Coil Crazy
Weird Stuff

Production numbers for the Presidential Series of 1938

Scott #	Value D.CCC	Sheet (stamps)	Coil End (stamps)	Coil Side (stamps)	Booklet (stamps)
803	0.005	2,028,847,800			
804	0.010	20,804,006,500	71,000,000	5,582,065,000	1,202,469,152
805	0.015	21,727,162,500	10,012,350	2,123,829,650	
806	0.020	25,038,485,700	21,680,000	4,365,471,000	360,312,400
807*	0.030	87,101,233,100	23,654,169	28,286,117,331	15,208,803,480
808	0.040	905,230,500		41,040,000	
809	0.045	275,455,900		16,235,000	
810	0.050	2,568,730,000		40,301,000	
811	0.060	3,614,501,500		476,283,000	
812	0.070	9,065,458,000			
813	0.080	12,979,898,000			
814	0.090	1,692,201,400			
815	0.100	3,849,605,900		22,065,500	
816	0.110	618,689,700			
817	0.120	664,333,800			
818	0.130	293,750,100			
819	0.140	289,860,900			
820	0.150	1,931,122,400			
821	0.160	100,598,400			
822	0.170	313,922,600			
823	0.180	170,350,800			
824	0.190	102,662,900			
825	0.200	2,719,592,600			
826	0.210	118,616,900			
827	0.220	49,878,000			
828	0.240	91,372,700			
829	0.250	1,469,132,200			
830	0.300	716,774,950			
831	0.500	615,638,040			
832	1.000	309,426,788			
833	2.000	13,571,578			
834	5.000	9,318,026			
		202,249,430,182	126,346,519	40,953,407,481	16,771,585,032
				Total Issued -->	260,100,769,214
*note for 807 Coil End production estimate					
impres*impres per plate - 13% waste=total					
181258	150.00	27,188,700			
	0.13	23,654,169			

Inking Issues

- Over-Inked
- Under-Inked
- Cleaning Solvent Spills
- Ink Spills
- Registration Problems \$1, \$2, \$5

Presidential Series of 1938



Rejoined block of 20, transition inking, ranging from severely under-inked to near normal.



Normal appearing.



Bottom margin block of four, over-inked (severely).



Margin block of four, under-inked (severely).



Reinforced block of 15, showing the effects of solvent on three stamps

Presidential Series of 1938



Plate block of four, #23408.
Severe under-inking.



Normal appearing.

Presidential Series of 1938 Production Oddities – Ink blobs/smears



Plate block of four, #23434 with a 5 mm
by 1 mm ink blob/smear created during
the production process.



Ink blob/smear measuring 18 mm by 3 mm,
created during the production process.



Margin block of 12 with large ink
blob/smear created during the production
process.



Block of four with numerous ink
blobs/smears created during the
production process.

Presidential Series of 1938



Sheet margin block of twenty-four, showing a progressive under-inking of 50% of the top and varying to moderately under-inked towards the bottom.

Presidential Series of 1938



Corner margin ink transition block of 16 that ranges from near normal to severely under-inked.

Normal Appearing.



Plate block of four, #22881, UR with a solvent spill affecting two stamps.



Plate block of four, #22877, UR under-inked (severe).

Presidential Series of 1938



Block of 10, with an ink transition from near normal color to almost albino in appearance.

With the blue rejection mark and the lack of gum, this could be printer's waste.



Block of 10, with an ink transition from severely under-inked to near normal.

Presidential Series of 1938



Corner margin block of four over-inked (heavy) [Scott 806]



Vertical transition strip of four, from severely under-inked to normal [Scott 806]

Normal Appearing [Scott 806]



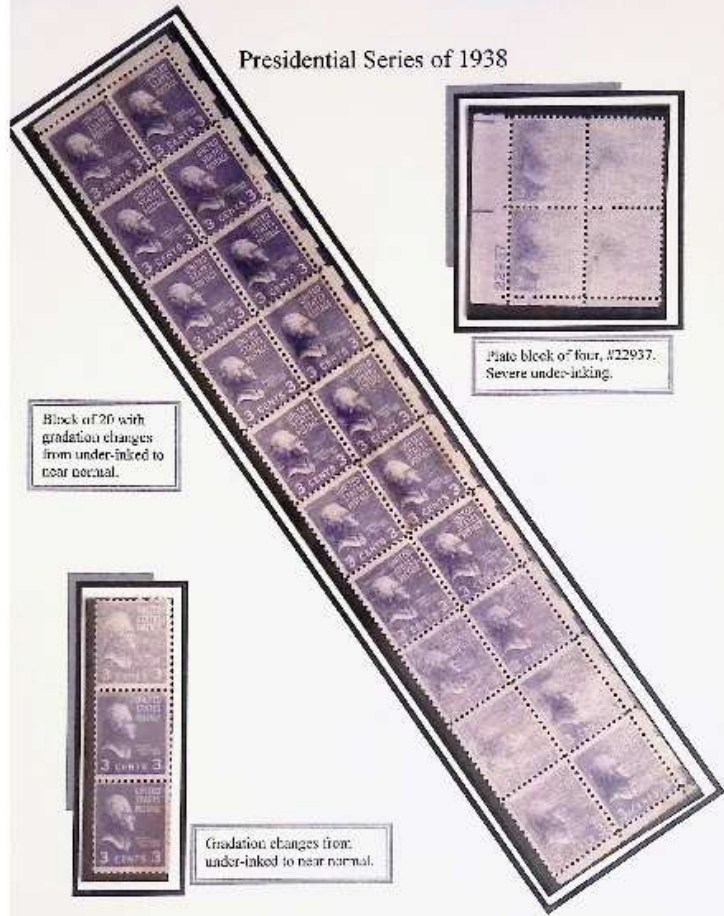
Plate Block of four #24307 under-inked (moderate) [Scott 806]



Margin block of four under-inked (severe) [Scott 806]



Presidential Series of 1938



Block of 20 with gradation changes from under-inked to near normal.



Plate block of four, #22937. Severe under-inking.



Gradation changes from under-inked to near normal.



Presidential Series of 1938
Inking oddities



Plate block of ten #23563
showing solvent spill,
which affects one stamp
nearly totally with minor
impact on the stamp to the
left.



Plate block of four #23546
Solvent spill.

Presidential Series of 1938
Inking oddities



This irregular block is made up of two horizontal strips that have been rejoined. The two purchases were made years apart from different ends of the country. The effects of solvent spill can clearly be seen in this oddity. Under normal circumstances the ink solvent is used to clean the printing plates and ready them for the production process. Sometime in the printing production process the solvent inadvertently made contact with the stamps being produced.

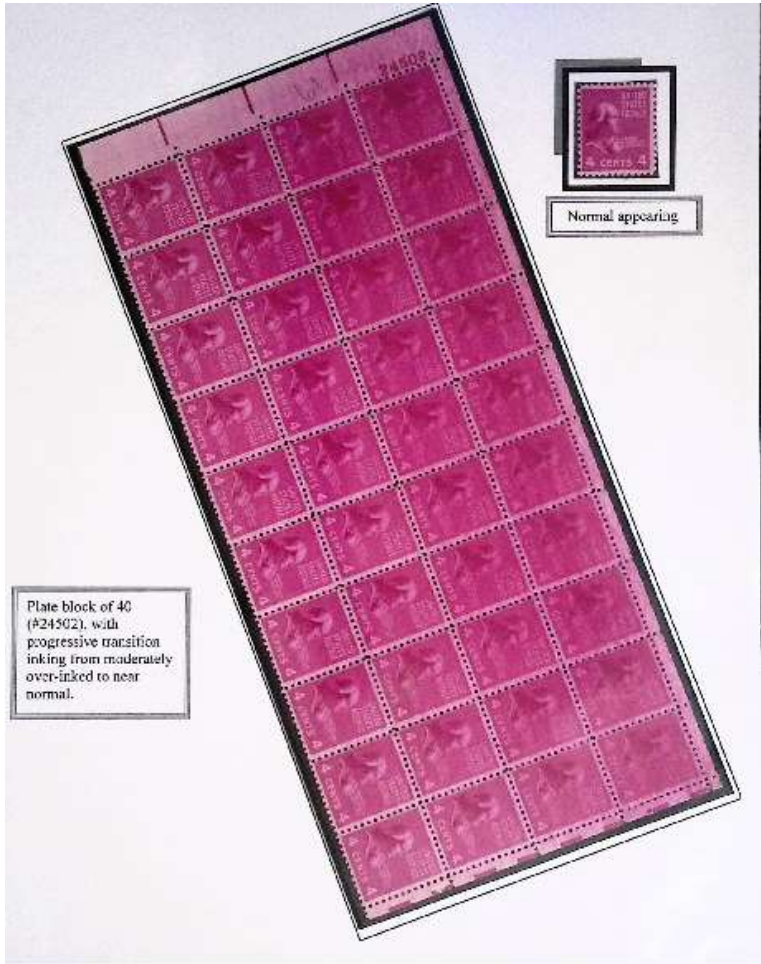


Plate block of 40 (#24502), with progressive transition inking from moderately over-inked to near normal.



Normal appearing

Presidential Series of 1938



Block of four, over-inked (heavy).



Normal Appearing.



Corner margin block of 9, ranging from near normal to moderate over-inked.



Over-inked (heavy).

Presidential Series of 1938



Block of four, over-inked (moderate).



Normal appearing.



Block of four, over-inked (moderate to heavy).

Presidential Series of 1938



Rejoined corner margin block of eight, under-inked (severely).

The two blocks of four were purchased years apart, from different sellers.



Block of four, over-inked (severe) with a minor 1 mm perf shift.



Normal appearing.



Plate block of four (#22830), under-inked (moderately).



Margin block of 8 with moderate under-inking to almost normal.

Presidential Series of 1938



Normal appearing

Block of four, under-inked (moderate), with a strong printing vertical; paper crease.



Two blocks of ten with a bad wipe and moderate over-inking.

Presidential Series of 1938
Inking oddities – Solvent Spill



Both of these pieces show the effects of a solvent spill. These pieces are dramatic from the simple fact that the stamps are virtually unrecognizable as they are almost totally blurred out of existence.



Normal Appearing.



Margin block of six,
severely over-inked.

Presidential Series of 1938



Block of four,
Over-inked (moderate).



Normal Appearing.



Corner block of four,
Over-inked (severe).



This rejoined block of ten, looks at first glance to be a solvent spill related issue, but under closer examination, it is a severely under-inked example.

Presidential Series of 1938

Normal appearing.



Block of six, moderately under-inked, with slight vertical misperfection.



Block of four,
Over-inked, (severe).



Block of four,
under-inked, (severe).

Presidential Series of 1938



These two horizontal strips of three have been re-joined into a block of six, to show the dramatic solvent spill that happened during the printing process, completely erasing the center stamps.



Margin block of six, with significant solvent spill. This block of six has been re-joined after the two pieces were purchased many years apart.



Sheet margin block of four, over-inked (heavily).



Normal Appearing.



Margin block of six, with a significant solvent spill, affecting three of the stamps in the block.

Presidential Series of 1938



Plate block of 14, #22048, moderately under-inked.



Normal Appearing.



Sheet margin block of four, over-inked (heavily).



Margin block of 30, with transition inking from near normal to moderately under-inked to heavily over-inked.

Presidential Series of 1938



Plate block of four (#22075) with a moderate ink smear from a bad plate wipe.



Normal appearing.



Plate block of four (#22076) moderate to heavily over-inked.

Presidential Series of 1938



Block of eight, transition-inking, ranging from moderately over-inked to normal.



Normal appearing.

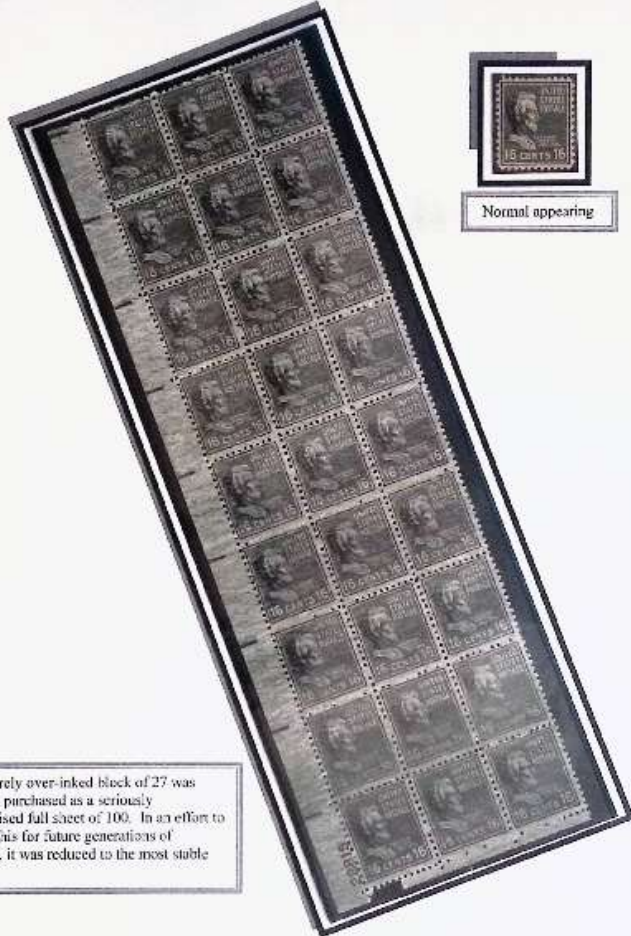


Plate block of four (#22923) under-inked, (moderate).



Vertical transition-inking pair, ranging from moderately to severely under-inked.

Presidential Series of 1938



Normal appearing

This severely over-inked block of 27 was originally purchased as a seriously compromised full sheet of 100. In an effort to preserve this for future generations of collectors, it was reduced to the most stable part.

Presidential Series of 1938
Inking oddities



Solvent spills during the production process can yield some strange results. These production anomalies are not all that common and should have been culled out in the inspection process. Normally a solvent spill would involve more than one stamp image as the solvent tended to follow gravity and run down affecting more stamps as it would spread out. This example only involves about one third of one stamp – if only it had not been separated from the stamps below, it would have been a much more visually interesting item.

Presidential Series of 1938



Sheet block of eight, gradation change from normal to moderately under-inked.



Normal appearing.



Block of 4, severely under-inked.

Presidential Series of 1938



Normal appearing



Block of 6, severely over-inked.



Block of 8 with a major solvent spill affecting six stamps.

Presidential Series of 1938



Normal appearing



Sheet margin block of four, transition fading from severely under-inked to moderate.



Plate block of four, #24699 severely under-inked.



Sheet margin block of four, severely over-inked.

Presidential Series of 1938

Color Error
Deep Ultramarine/Deep Blue/Blue



The block of 6 of the common deep ultramarine with the overlay of the deep blue, shows the difference in the colors. Another recognized color variety is found on the plate block of four, which is blue.

Presidential Series of 1938
The shifty heads -- \$1.00



Plate block of 4, with a shift in the vignette. (9 o'clock)



Plate block of 4, with a shift in the vignette. (5 o'clock)



Plate block of 4, with a shift in the vignette. (3 o'clock)

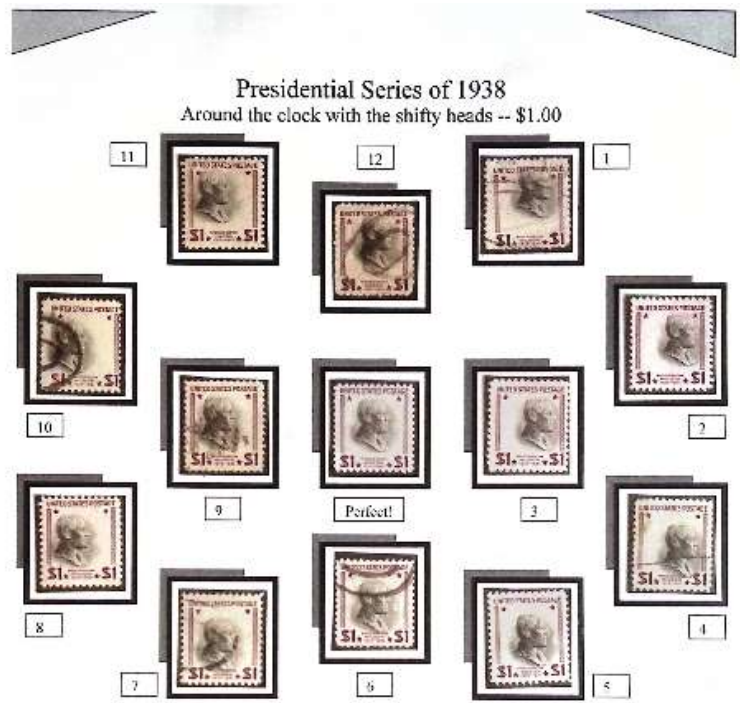


Plate strip of 3, with a major upper shift in the vignette. (12 o'clock)

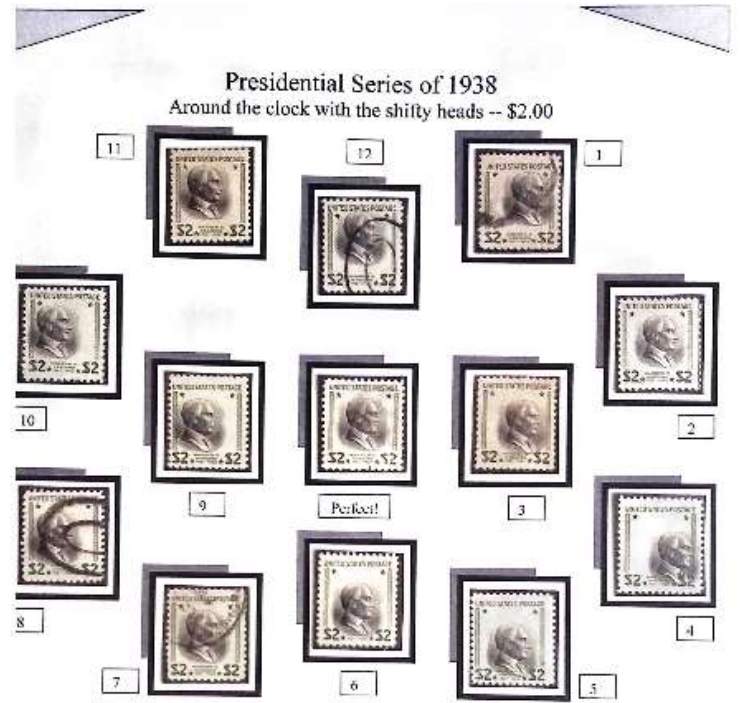
Presidential Series of 1938
The shifty head -- \$2.00



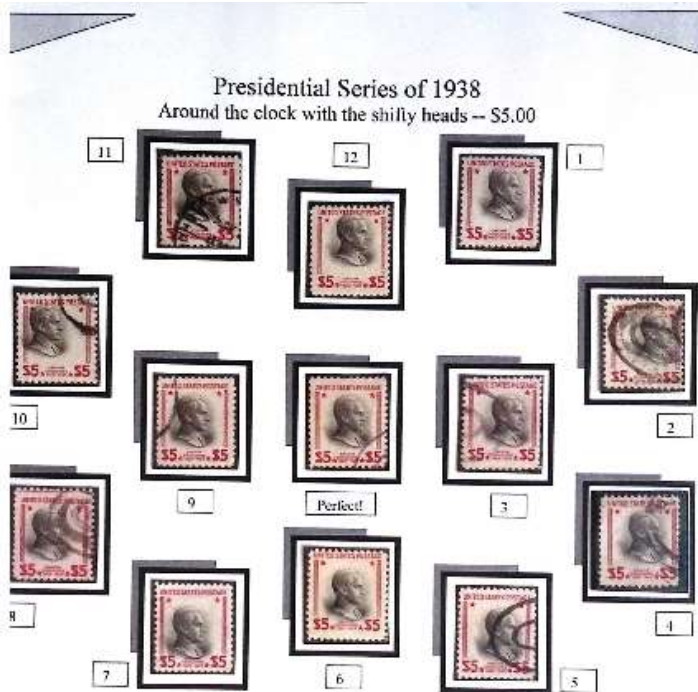
Plate block of 25 (23477UR), with a major left shift in the vignette. (10 o'clock)
Used pieces of this size are not common.



Around the clock positions with the shifting vignettes. The center stamp is a good example of what the stamp **should** look like, but due to misalignments of the vignette plate, the center shifts around in every direction!
[Scott 832]



Around the clock positions with the shifting vignettes. The center stamp is a good example of what the stamp **should** look like, but due to misalignments of the vignette plate, the center shifts around in every direction!
[Scott 833]



Around the clock positions with the shifting vignettes. The center stamp is a good example of what the stamp **should** look like, but due to misalignments of the vignette plate, the center shifts around in every direction!
[Scott 834]

Perf Issues

--- Sheet Stamps

--- Coils

--- Gutters

Presidential Series of 1938
War Perforations – Type I



The pattern for a Type I is of eleven horizontal perforation holes: -----0-0

Presidential Series of 1938
War Perforations – Type II



The pattern for a Type II is of eleven horizontal perforation holes: -----0--00

Presidential Series of 1938



Upper left plate block #23303 with crazy perfs from a paper fold that occurred in the perforation process.



Plate block of six, #23580, L.R. Crazy perforations resulting from a strong crease running through the magna paper.

Presidential Series of 1938



Plate block of 50, with a totally captured plate #22907.

The progressive vertical perforation misalignment from left to right is the result of a finishing error.

Presidential Series of 1938
War Perforations



First and second pairs have one perforation hole each. The third pair is imperforate. The fourth pair has one perforation hole. The fifth and sixth pairs have normal perforations. This is a good example of war perfs.

Presidential Series of 1938



Block of "four" with a 7 mm horizontal shift that results in a very odd-looking block.



Sheet, block of four, with a 3.5 mm horizontal perf shift.



Sheet horizontal imperforate pair.



Sheet horizontal imperforate pair Bureau precanceled. St. Louis, MO.

Presidential Series of 1938



Plate block of four with shifted vertical perf 5 mm, resulting in a 100% captured plate number.



Plate block of four with shifted vertical perf 2 mm, resulting in a 50% captured plate number.



These production anomalies can result from either paper shrinkage or from misaligned perforation wheels. There are most common on the values in the series that have the highest printing totals (for sheet formats) such as the 1, 2, 3 & 10 cent values.

Presidential Series of 1938



Margin block of nine, with crazy perforations because of a paper crease running diagonally up -- between the third and fourth perforation holes of the left side of the second stamp on the left side of the block.



Margin block of four, with a 5mm horizontal perf shift.



Block of four, with a 5mm horizontal & 2mm vertical perf shift.



Block of four, with a 7mm horizontal perf shift and the horizontal inter-perfate gutter present.

Presidential Series of 1938
Perf Problems -- \$1.00



Sheet margin single with a stunning 6mm vertical perf.



Vertical pair imperforate horizontal between. There are 50 reported pairs (one sheet). Reverse side shows light pencil markings of 61 & 71 along with three letter initials.



Sheet pair (guideline) with a 4mm vertical perf shift.

Presidential Series of 1938
Perf Problems -- \$1.00



Corner margin block of four with crazy perforations resulting from a strong crease running through the bottom right stamp.



Corner margin block of four with (denomination, \$1.00) crazy perforations resulting from a strong open crease running through the top left stamp.

Presidential Series of 1938
Horizontal Gutter Snipes – Pieces Parts



These production oddities are caused by a misaligned cutting process, creating a horizontal gutter with between 2 mm and 8.5 mm of the next stamp on the adjacent pane.

Presidential Series of 1938



Most gutter snips are seen in the corners of a panes of 100. This piece is unusual because of the placement of the horizontal gutter snipe, making it look like a "bump" out. The strong paper crease that starts at the base of the second stamp on the left and moves diagonally to the right is denoted with the arrow.

Presidential Series of 1938 Gutters



This interesting block of 10.5 was created as result of a strong paper fold that happened after the perforating process and before the final cutting process that reduced the production sheets to the service size of 100 units. The resulting vertical gutter snipe is a dramatic visual evidence of what can go wrong in the production process. (One must wonder if the rest of the sheet survived.)



Horizontal gutter snipe with about 1/3 of the adjoining stamp from across the gutter. A strong paper fold can be seen.



Horizontal gutter snipe with 180µm of the two stamps to the right of the gutter.

This plate block of 21 with crazy perforations, which cause a strange bump out. There are three very old hinges on the back holding the piece flat. There is no physical evidence to suggest how this happened other than a short crease at the bottom of the bump out.



Presidential Series of 1938



Gutter Pair

This plate block of 22.3 contains one full gutter pair and a second large gutter saige. There are two heavy creases that allowed for the creation of this piece.

Presidential Series of 1938
Gutter Snipes



These three pieces are good examples of both horizontal and vertical gutter snipes. From observation over many years, horizontal gutter snipes are much more common than vertical examples.

Oddly enough two of these pieces have Electric Eye Markings that were intended to aid in the accuracy of the separation process of the 400 subject panes into the four, 100 stamp sheets for public distribution.



Presidential Series of 1938



This block of 21+ something, was created as result of a strong paper field that happened after the perforating process and before the final cutting process that reduced the production sheets to the service size of 100 units. The resulting horizontal gutter snipe is visual evidence of what can go wrong in the production process.

Presidential Series of 1938
Gutters



These horizontal and vertical gutter strips complement each other nicely. Neither piece shows any sign of a fold over.



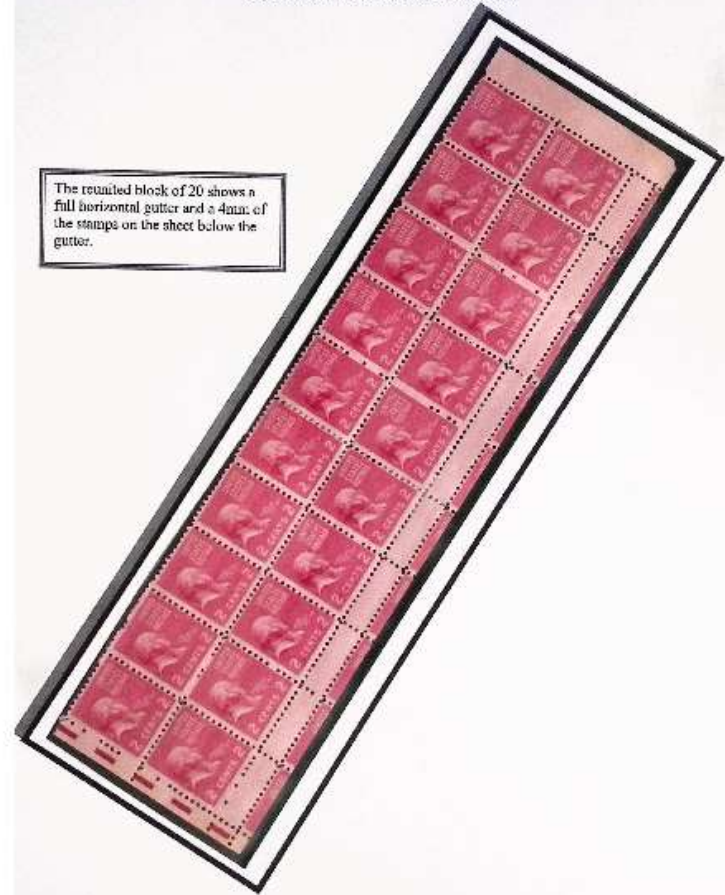
Presidential Series of 1938

The block of 20 with electric eye marks on the left margin, shows a full horizontal gutter and traces of stamps on the sheet above the gutter.



Presidential Series of 1938

The retailed block of 20 shows a full horizontal gutter and a 4mm gap of the stamps on the sheet below the gutter.



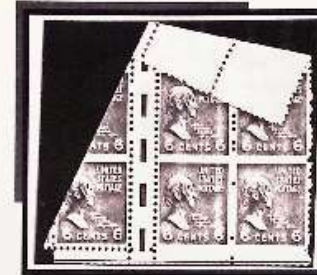
Presidential Series of 1938
Gutters

Large block, with 6 horizontal gutter
snipes.

There is NO evidence of a fold on
this block.



Presidential Series of 1938
Gutters



This block of six with a left gutter over 2.5 of the stamps shows the electric eye plate markings. The fold-over that created this piece can be seen in a black/white scan. The block of six came from the upper right pane of 100 of the 400 unit sheet. The gutter divided the left and right half of the upper two panes of 100 each; the cutting guide line which appears between the upper two panes and the lower two is evident on the bottom of the piece.

The additional piece below, shows a right side gutter with almost exactly 1/3 of the next stamp. Once again the electric eye plate markings are seen that were intended to prevent this exact problem from occurring. It is a nice compliment to the piece above.



Presidential Series of 1938
Gutters



This horizontal gutter snip of 8, showing plate #22839 -- and the adjacent partial plate number on the above pane, has been rejoined in two spots.

Presidential Series of 1938
Gutters



These horizontal and vertical gutter snips complement each other nicely. Neither piece shows any sign of a fold over.



Presidential Series of 1938
Gutter pairs



One of the truly odd-looking items in the field of EFO material are the gutter pairs. Production problems, involving a paper crease or fold would have caused the final trimming process to have failed, thus created this unusual locking pair. Pairs can be found either with horizontal or vertical gutters.

Out of the total Presidential series of 32 face different stamps, only nine values are known with either vertical or horizontal gutter pairs. The 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 20 & 25 cent values have recognized gutter pairs. The infrequent availability and/or sales of these types of items results in many of them having dashes in the price field in the catalog.



Gutter Snipes



Splices

--- Sheet Stamps

Presidential Series of 1938



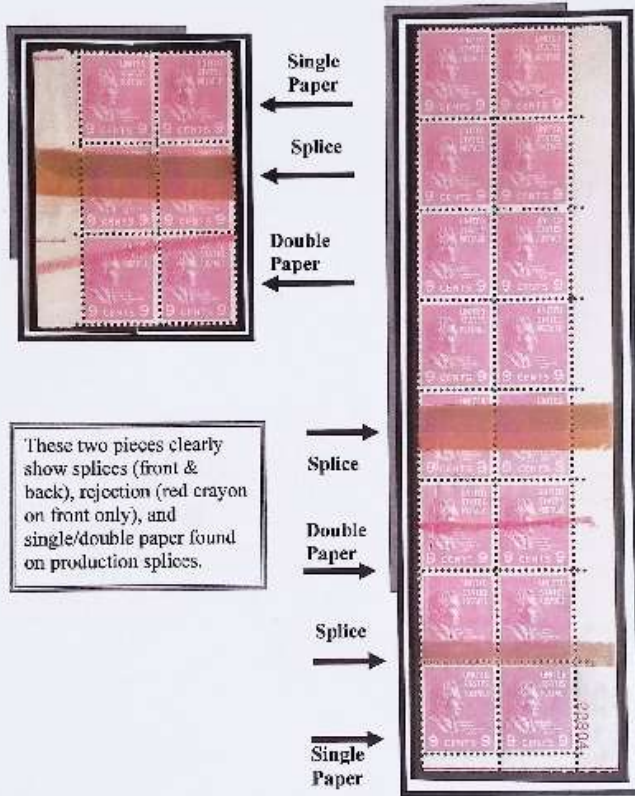
These three pieces show the use of splicing tape and the red rejection markings that are supposed to result in the material being culled from the production stream. All three pieces show the typical single/double paper that can result from a production splice.

Presidential Series of 1938

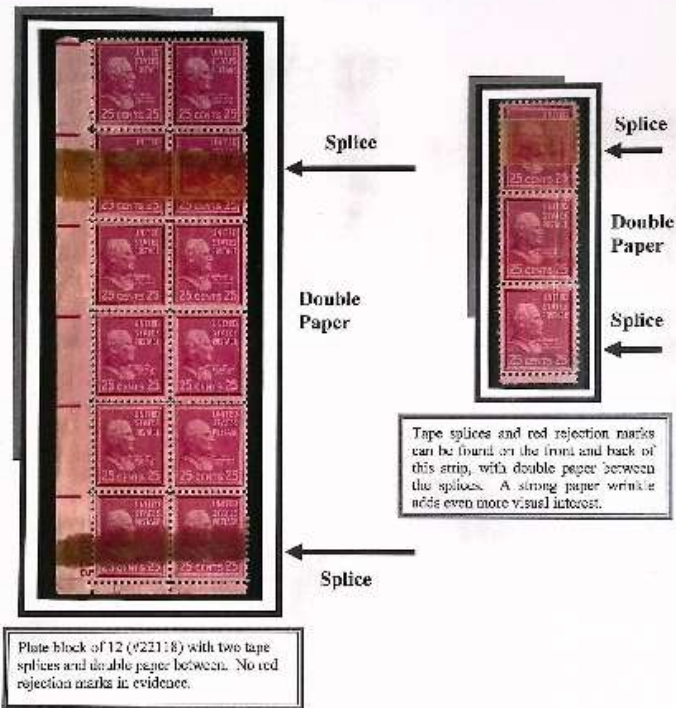


These two blocks showing splices were purchased years apart from different sellers. They appear to be from the same sheet but with at least one or two more vertical rows between them. Maybe they are still be out there to find. The search will continue.

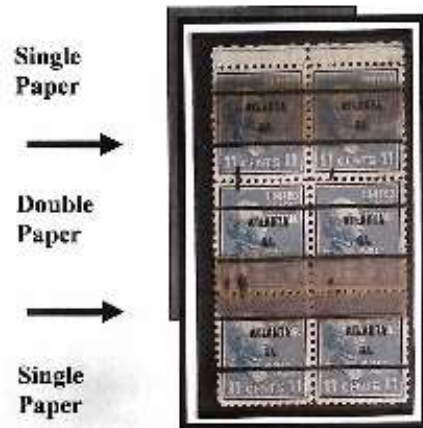
Presidential Series of 1938



Presidential Series of 1938



Presidential Series of 1938



This margin strip of block of six has no rejection markings on the front or back. The front of this block has two tape splices, while the back has none. The double paper is found below the second horizontal black line from the top and above the second horizontal line from the bottom. The remaining portion of the block is single paper.

Presidential Series of 1938



The vertical strip of three on the right has been rejoined to the block of six, making the reconstructed block of nine. Unfortunately ravishes of time, have deteriorated the tape used to make the two bureau production splices. These pieces had to be re-joined with hinges, thus accounting for the slight mismatch in alignment. There are no red rejection marks front or back. Double paper from the top splice down, and single paper above that.

resistencia series o 198



Block of 30 (plate #24335),
with black rejection mark.

Single
Paper

Paper splice →

Double
Paper

Paper splice →

Single
Paper

Plate Block of 32
#21931 (4x8) with
single/double/single
paper and fold over.
No rejection marks,
front or back.
[Scott 807]



Presidential Series of 1938

Plate block of 30 (#22796), with red crayon rejection marks on front, and tape splice on back.
Double paper above the splice with single paper below.



Plate block of 4 (#22797), with red crayon rejection mark on front. Double paper on both sides of splice.



Presidential Series of 1938



Single Paper

Paper End

Double Paper

These blocks are examples of a production splice with the resulting single/double paper along with red crayon rejection marks. The block of six shows evidence of paper crosses.

Paper Ends

Single Paper

Double Paper

Single Paper



Booklet Weirdness

- Plate Numbers**
- Goofy cuts**
- Setup wrong (backwards)**

Presidential Series of 1938



U.I. - Plate 22009, 99%



L.R. - Plate 22009, 10%



L.L. - Plate 22009, 80%



L.R. - Plate 22009, 30% (rejoined)

Matched booklet panes of six with plate numbers.

Presidential Series of 1938



Booklet pane of six
U.L. - Plate 22010, 50%



Booklet pane of six
L.L. - Plate 22010, 60%



Booklet pane of six
L.R. - Plate 22010, 30%

Presidential Series of 1938



Booklet Pane of six
UL - Plate 22012, 60%



Booklet Pane of six
UR - Plate 22012, 20%



Booklet Pane of six
LL - Plate 22012, 60%

Presidential Series of 1938
Complete Exploded Booklet



[Scott 806b]
[BK97- BC9A]

The bottom pane is normal, while the top pane has a 5.5 mm vertical cutting error, resulting in the electric eye markings being exposed on the right side of the pane. (2.5 mm vertical gutter variety)

Presidential Series of 1938



Booklet pane of six
LL - Plate 21995, 90%



Booklet pane of six
TR - Plate 21995, 10%



Booklet pane of six
LL - Plate 21995, 90%



Booklet pane of six
LR - Plate 21995, 5%

Presidential Series of 1938



Booklet pane of six
UL - Plate 22437, 100%



Booklet pane of six
UR - Plate 22437, 90%



Booklet pane of six
LL - Plate 22437, 90%

Presidential Series of 1938
Postal used EFO, on cover



Booklet Pane of six (3mm gutter) used on cover, with 4 mm miss-cut.
Back-stamped New York April 15th at 2 a.m., and
Duluth, Minn. April 16th, at 7 a.m.
[Scott 807a]

Presidential Series of 1938
Postal used EFO, on cover



Booklet pane six, used in-period, on cover, with an 8 mm vertical mis-cut.



A full used booklet pane with
100% of plate number
22009; not common.

Presidential Series of 1938
Complete Exploded Booklet – with Plate Numbers



[Scott 807a]
[BK103 – BC9A]

This exploded booklet has all the elements represented, two panes with 70% of plate # 22973 & 22974, two panes with 50% of plate #22973 & 22974, four wax separation sheets, front cover, and back cover. The purple ID mark on the back cover of "MICHEL" is of interest, considering the oddity nature of this booklet.

Presidential Series of 1938
Complete Exploded Booklet – miscut



[BK103 – BC9A]

This exploded booklet has only 3 of the 4 panes and no wax separation sheets. Each of the panes shows a 8.5 mm vertical perf shift. Interestingly the cover and back stock, show the same offset, thus proving the act of cutting the semi-finished booklets apart was in error.

Wrong End
Staple

Presidential Series of 1938 Complete booklets with a lot of issues.



This complete booklet with two panes has a 2.5mm gutters and is stapled on the wrong side.

It should be stapled on the left through the tab ends of the panes in the booklet.

To continue the weirdness the two panes in the booklet have a 7mm vertical shift resulting in 1/3 of a stamp, a full stamp and 2/3 of a stamp from left to right.

This complete booklet with four panes has 2.5mm gutters and shows plate numbers on each pane in the upper left position.

Two panes of #22973 at 30% and two panes of #22974 at 30% make up this booklet.



Presidential Series of 1938 Dummy Test Booklet



Front cover, 2 panes, & back cover of this circa late 1940s test booklet.



While this dummy test booklet is not considered to be an error or a freak, it can be called an oddity. In the latter part of the 1940s the Bureau experimented with some new booklet cutting machines. These dummy panes were made for this purpose and used in New York to test the machine at the manufacturer's plant. How many of these survived the testing processes is unknown.

Presidential Series of 1938
Mis-cut Booklet Panes



Booklet Pane of six, with an odd bump-out, caused by a paper fold that occurred in the finishing process.

Booklet Pane of six, with a 8mm vertical perf shift resulting in a very odd looking pane. This electric eye printing shows no evidence of perf holes on the left side - where they should be.



Booklet Pane of six, with a bizarre paper fold exposing a large portion of the right margin paper and electric eye marking that should have been trimmed off - if the process had worked properly.
This very fragile piece looks like it was a result of a partial backwards foldcrease of the paper.



Booklet Pane of six with a 7 mm miss-cut. [Scott 804b]



Booklet Pane of six with a 6 mm miss-cut. [Scott 806b]



Booklet Pane of six with a 7 mm miss-cut. [Scott 807a]

These three booklet panes are miss-cut consistently in nearly the same spot, so that it appears that they could have come from the same booklet --- if there had been any such thing made!

Coil Crazy

- Plate Numbers (matching)**
- Leaders/Followers**

Presidential Series of 1938
Coil strips with 100% matched plate numbers



Presidential Series of 1938
Coil strips with 100% matched plate numbers



Presidential Series of 1938
Coil strips with 100% matched plate numbers



Roll of 3,000
Very Rare Find

Presidential Series of 1938
Oddities – Coil Starting Tapes



Full brown, kraft-paper starting tape, with black lettering. Roll quantity of 3,000. Early version.

Presidential Series of 1938
Oddities – Coil Starting Tapes



Full brown, kraft-paper starting tape, with black lettering. Roll quantity of 500. Early version.



Full white paper starting tape, with green lettering. Pre-cancel roll of 500. Late version.



Full white paper starting tape, with green lettering. Roll quantity of 500. Late version.

Presidential Series of 1938
Oddities – Coil Starting Tape



Full brown, kraft-paper starting tape, with black lettering. Roll quantity of 500.
Early version.

Presidential Series of 1938
Oddities – Coil Starting Tapes (kraft/cream paper)



Presidential Series of 1938
End Coils – with Plate Numbers



J.P. Star Plate,
90% of #22176(L)



J.P. 10% of
#22180(L)



J.P. 10% of
#22180(R)



J.P. 40% of
#22192(L)

These production oddities are caused by a misaligned cutting edge, that should have removed the plate number. Due to the relatively small printing quantity of end coils (126.5 million) when compared to the total printing for the whole series (260 billion) any FPO material is much more difficult to locate.

Presidential Series of 1938
Oddities



[Scott 848]
Early use, brown kraft
paper, black lettering.

Descriptive
wrappers.
Roll quantity of
500.



[Scott 848]
Late use, white paper,
green lettering.

Weird Stuff

- Slime paper
- Inverted “8” in plate number
- James Farley Signature
- Fakes
- Stuff on plate
- USIR error
- Ghost plate numbers

Presidential Series of 1938

This plate block of 28, shows evidence of being an example of slime paper. The hole in the middle of the block, shows a pattern of production tape applied to the back that suggests that there may have been a piece being held in place. That piece is long gone. In addition, this block shows several strong paper creases and has not even a trace of gum. Was this production waste?



This vertical strip of three shows a slime paper spot, but would have been visually not imperforate had there been more surrounding context saved.



Presidential Series of 1938

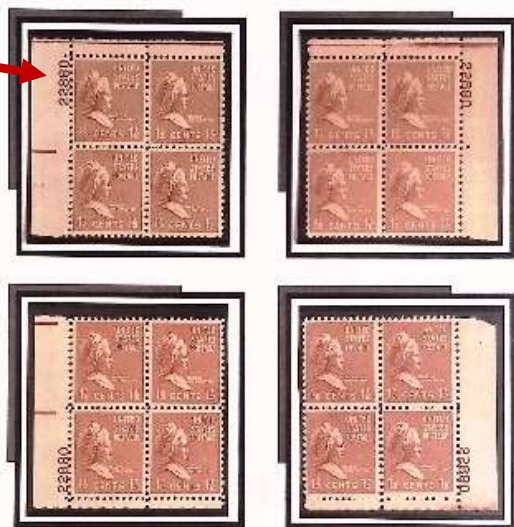


These three blocks are good examples of defective paper that are the result of a "slime spot".

The following section quoted from Roland E. Rustad's definitive work called *The Postages* states: "When paper is manufactured, bacteria can form a glob of slime in the paper pulp slurry that can stick to the sheet as it is formed. The sheet of pulp is sent through a press to squeeze the water out of it, and where the slime has adhered, the pulp is very weak, or may be washed away completely. This leaves a hole in many cases, or a spot...."

Presidential Series of 1938
Plate Number Entry Error

Inverted
"8"



Unusual — yes. Valuable — no. The second "8" of the plate number is inverted. This electric eye plate is not scarce, but it is noteworthy as it is the only plate for the entire issue to have an inverted digit. Plate 22880 was in service for just short of four years and resulted in 918,000 impressions being recorded.



Vertical plate #21961 strip of three with autograph.
[Scott 808]



Vertical plate #22005 strip of three with autograph.
[Scott 810]

While these two items are not considered errors, or freaks, they can be called oddities because of the signature of Postmaster General, James A. Farley who served from March 4, 1933 until September 10, 1940.

Presidential Series of 1938 Fakes



Genuine example.



This is the only value of the Presidential Series to be reported as counterfeited. According to Roland E. Rustad in his book "The Prexies" (pg 57), in 1949 bags containing eight million counterfeited 3¢ stamps were discovered.

The haul included sheets that were perforated, partially perforated and imperforate. These fakes have been perforated 12 instead of the normal 11 X 10.5 and do not have rotary press gum ridges.

The fakes were good enough to fool many people.

Presidential Series of 1938
Foreign Matter on Printing Plate – String!



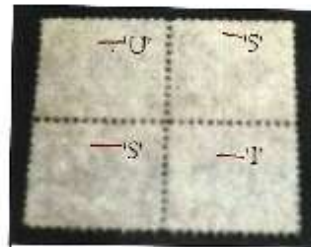
Printing anomalies are almost always unique and very striking in appearance. This block of four shows what appears to be string that interfered with the printing of the central black portrait. The production process involved two passes through the printer, the first to print the border in purple/magenta and the second to print the black center portrait. Somewhere in the process of printing of the black ink, what appears to be string was introduced onto the surface. Three of the four stamps in this block show evidence of ink exclusion because of the string.

Presidential Series of 1938
USIR Watermark Error

USIR



Stamp Tab



Bottom Top



With a production estimate of between 160,000 and 400,000 this paper use error can be found hiding in accumulations, both mint and used.

Presidential Series of 1938
Production Oddities: Ghost Plate Numbers

