The Real McCoy
The Industrial Revolution

Elija McCoy
Inventor From The 1800’s
Developed Important Machinery
Known For Quality Workmanship
"The Real McCoy"

Many Tried To Imitate His Work
People Questioned, Is It Real?
Hence The Phrase,

"The Real McCoy"
Period of Tremendous Growth

Many Types Of Vending Machines Invented
Dispensed Post Cards To Gumballs
Stamp Business Provided Big Opportunity
Government Contracts
Large Demand For Stamp Affixing Devices
First Affixier to use Coiled Stamps
First Coil Vending Machine
Vending Machine Companies

- Responsible for creating many different types of private perforations
- Requested full imperforate sheets from Government
- Started the development of experimental Government coils
- Government saw opportunity to make money
Government Issued Coils

- Experimental Issues
- First constructed by hand
- Made from individual strips of ten pasted together
- Extremely rare
- Distinct color
First Government Coils

- The first coils were perforated 12
- Were made from sheet stamps
- They were hand assembled
- Sheets were cut into strips of 20 and pasted together by hand
- Took 17 workers to produce a coil roll
- Time consuming and costly
Collector Interest

• The first coils were not well received
• Regular sheet stamps had one straight edge
• Collectors disliked straight edges
• Coils with two straight edges were even less appealing
• Many of the first issue coils were not saved by collectors
Coil Production

• The perf-12 coils were too brittle and frequently broke during the coiling stage
• Changed to gauge 8.5 perforation
• Stronger paper solved the breakage problem
• The new issue was only produced in coil format
• This issue took two workers to make a coil roll.
Collector Interest

• The issue of 1910 created collector interest in coils
• Stamps only produced in coil format with 8.5 gauge perforations
• Collectors finally recognized coils as a new area to collect
• Created an interest in the first coils
Perf-12 Coils

- Many were not saved by collectors
- Majority of coils were lost or destroyed
- Created a shortage and high demand
- Resulted in a large number of fakes and forgeries being created to meet the demand of collectors
- Many different techniques used to create the fake coils
“The Real McCoy”

- Always question is it genuine ??????
- Is it “The Real McCoy”
- Over 40% of coils submitted to the Philatelic Foundation are fakes.
- Always use the “Buyer Beware” attitude in purchasing a flat plate coil.
- Request a certificate if in doubt.
Expertizing Procedure
Flat Plate Coils

- Design Type/Scott Number
- Quality Evaluation
- Coil Size
- Cut Edges
- Perforations
- Guidelines
- Watermarks
Design Type

• Take note of stamp’s denomination
• Determine perforation gauge
• Determine type of watermark
• Identify appropriate Scott number
• Determine if flat plate or rotary press
Design Type

U.S. POSTAGE
ONE CENT

U.S. POSTAGE
TWO CENTS

U.S. POSTAGE
1 CENT

U.S. POSTAGE
2 CENTS
Quality Evaluation

Is It Too Good To Be True ???
Typical Centering
The Real McCoy
Well centered examples do exist, but ??????
An overlay gauge can correctly measure the height or width of coil.
Ideal Measurement

Vertical Coils
21.5 mm wide

Horizontal Coils
25 mm high
Cut Edges

• Check for waviness
• Are cut edges parallel?
• Examine for perforation holes on cut edges.
• Any hole deformation along the cut edge?
• Look and Feel?
• Smooth or sharp cut edges?
Figure III-1. A fake coil pair of Sc.# 388 made from the imperforate, Sc.# 384. Note the waviness of the straight cuts at both top and bottom. This is not indicative of a genuine coil. Other "problems" with this pair include the gauge, the identical alignment of the three rows of fake perforations, and the shape of the individual holes.
Note, top edge with gold highlight showing waviness.
Look and Feel

Rounded and smooth

Sharp and distinct
Perforations

Measurements

8 ½ - 95

10 - 79

12 - 66

Specialist Gauge
Hole Configuration

- Hole Shape
- Hole Size
- Hole Alignment:
  a) within the row
  b) between rows
- Hole Deformation
- Perforation Tips
Hole Shape

Genuine

Fake
Hole Size

Note, the top paste-up pair is genuine. The holes on the bottom pair are too small and do not gauge correctly.
Hole Alignment

Within The Row
Hole Alignment

Between Rows
Perforation Tips

Note, fibers on tips
Guidelines

• Determine if genuine
• Guidelines are engraved just like the rest of the stamp
• Color must match exactly
• There should not be any color inside the perforation holes
Watermarks

"HORIZONTAL"  "VERTICAL"
Watermark Orientation

• All flat plate coils were printed on paper with a horizontal watermark.
• Any Washington/Franklin coil that shows a vertical watermark is made from a booklet pane.
• Vertical pairs with a genuine perforations and a guideline can be made from a booklet pane.
We have examined the enclosed item submitted by the applicant described as follows:

Country       USA  Issue 1910  Denomination  3 c
Color         violet  Cat. No. 389

of which a photograph is attached and are of the opinion that it is genuine.

For The Expert Committee
Chairman
Note, different type set

July 30, 1910

Issue 1910

Denomination

Cat. No. 389

All Catalogue numbers are Scott's unless
Beware !!!

Ingenious Minds at Work

This certificate was doctored by using white out.

They blocked out the old information and typed in the new.

The old and new type do not match.

Only accept an original document from any expertizing agency.
Adding Stamps to a Cover

The More Common Perf-8.5 Example
Examples of the rare #389 Orangeburg coil have been placed on covers that had the more common example of the perf-8.5 #394 flat plate coil.
When In Doubt

• Send it out for Certificate
• The PF, PSE, or APS
• Request a certificate if you have any questions about it being genuine.
• Any reputable dealer will back up the cost of expertization.
• If you are not sure, pass and let it go.