

Perfins on the 3¢ "Stuart" Washington of 1932

By Louis E. Repeta (#1481)

I have always been attracted to plate varieties and the technical side of stamp collecting. Plate varieties and EFO acquisitions started to become too costly. During the summer of 1974 I began to specialize in collecting all forms of the 3¢ "Stuart." It has been a magical journey. Specializing in a single issue or stamp series is not simply a self-imposed limitation in a field of interest, but a decision to concentrate on a specific subject.

Starting January 1, 1932, the country began to celebrate the Washington Bicentennial Year and in commemoration of this event a set of postage stamps was issued. This series consisted of 12 stamps ranging in value from ½¢ to 10¢. Each vignette depicted the likeness of George Washington reproduced from portraits by well-known artists. The most popular and most famous of all the Washington portraits was the unfinished portrait painted from life in 1796 by Gilbert Stuart. It was used on the stamp for the first class letter rate of 2¢. The portrait is often called the Athenaeum portrait because it was owned by the Boston Athenaeum, a private library. The portrait was later moved to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts where it now hangs.

The 2¢ Stuart Washington stamp was designed by Clair Aubrey Huston. The vignette was engraved by John Eissler and is considered to be the finest reproduction of Washington's

likeness. The frame was engraved by Edward M. Hall.

In early 1932 the Senate and House of Representatives were concerned about the Post Office deficit and argued about raising the postage rates as a solution. The House recommended an increase of the 2¢ first class rate to 3¢ and the Senate proposed an increase to 2½¢ supplemented with an additional general sales tax. While this debate was current several models for a 2½¢ stamp were made. One was based on the Stuart portrait and the other based on the right profile bust of Washington by Houdon. In addition, four 400-subject rotary stamp plates for the production of the ½¢ Bicentennial were made in anticipation of a possible postage rate increase from 2¢ to 2½¢. These plates never went to press.

Agreement was finally reached. The opponents of the general sales tax won out. The 1932-33 Revenue Act (Title VIII, sec. 1001) was signed by President Hoover on June 6, 1932, enacted into law and the first class letter rate was increased from 2¢ to 3¢.

A new 3¢ definitive stamp, identical in size and design to the 2¢ Washington Bicentennial stamp, except for a change in the denomination and the omission of the dates was to be issued. To expedite the manufacture of the 3¢

"Stuart," a transfer roll, number 1719, was made from the 2¢ Washington Bicentennial P.O. die number 829. The numerals and dates were removed, yielding a non-denominational transfer roll. This modified design was entered on a soft die block and new numerals and ribbon ends were engraved. The new die was then hardened and assigned number 851 by the BEP. Eighteen 3-subject transfer rolls were made and all were used to produce the 3¢ Stuart plates.

The facts that contribute to make this stamp outstanding are (1) the 3¢ Stuart design was taken bodily from a commemorative stamp; (2) both stamps represented the first class postage rate during the same year; and (3) the 3¢ Stuart was issued as the Bicentennial Celebration Year was in progress. Therefore we have a definitive stamp that embodies all the finest qualities of a commemorative and a regular issue.

I would be pleased to hear from members who can add items to the checklist that follows. I can be reached by mail at P. O. Box 16048, Charleston, SC 29412 or by e-mail at Writerro@aol.com.

A checklist of perfins on the 3¢ Stuart

A1	A263
A5	A264
A12	A267B
A18	A271
A19	A272
A39	A280
A47	A284.5
A50	A285
A57	A287
A63	A298
A69	A221-1A
A76	A221-6
A78	A221-12
A80	A221-15
A87.3	A221-21
A87.5	A221-22
A87.6	A221-25
A87.9	A221-26
A91	A221-37
A102.1	A221-38
A106	A221-41
A107	A221-44
A120	A221-44A
A121.1	A270-2
A121.3	A270-3
A134B	A270-9
A135	A270-14
A138	A270-18
A142	A270-20
A149	B3
A150	B5
A154	B7
A155	B12.9
A161	B14
A168	B15A
A172	B17
A176	B28
A176C	B34
A1781	B42
A181	B45
A184.5	B50
A187.4	B54
A187.5A	B59
A193	B74
A194	B76
A200	B77
A212	B78
A222	B81
A223	B81A
A229	B83
A230	B89
A230.5	B91
A239	B93
A247A	B97
A249	B98
A251	
A254	

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	C69	C315	E10	F156	G172	H165	I43.7H-8	L24
	C73	C321	E11	F157	G174	H167	J5	L25
	C83	C327	E24	F158	G177	H170	J7	L26
B103	C86	C338	E31	F158.5	G181	H172	J8	L27
B112	C90	C340	E34	F159	G183	H177	J9	L34
B114	C94	C342	E39	F161	G192	H179	J20	L36
B117	C95	C345	E43	F162	G194	H184	J24	L39
B126	C106	C353	E46	F164	G199	H186	J35	L44
B138	C117	C356.7	E49	F165	G200	H188	J43	L55-1
B140	C119	C356.10	E54	F168	G207	H189	J46	L55-3
B143	C124	C356.12	E58	F171	G208	H197	J51	L55-4
B144	C132	C362	E60	F172	G209	H201	J54	L55-5
B145	C142	C379	E63	F175	G72-1	H205	J56C	L55-7
B148	C145	C388	E66	F176	G72-2	H210	J62	L55-8
B153	C146	C393	E69	F177	G72-2A	H213	J67	L55-9
B158	C147	C395	E73	F178	G72-3	H216	J68	L60-1
B159	C149	C402	E93	F183	G72-4	H217	J69	L60-2
B160	C150	C403	E94	F187	G72-5	H232	J70	L60-9
B162	C154	C404	E99	F195	G72-7	I5	J84	L65
B163	C155	C414	E100	F201	G72-8	I9	J90	L73
B165	C158	C415	E103	F203A	G72-9	I19	J96.1	L77
B172	C159	C416	E105	F204	G72-10	I20	J96.2	L78
B177	C164	C417	E108	F212	G72-11	I22	J96.3	L84
B179	C167	C418	E114	F216	G72-13	I29	J96.4	L86
B180	C170	C420	E116	F217	G72-14	I35	J96.6	L95
B181.5	C180	C422	E119	F219	G72-15	I36	J96.7	L96
B190	C181	C423	E126	G4	G72-18	I40	J96.8	L106
B193	C183	C424	E130	G5	G72-20	I40.5	J96.9	L112
B195	C184	C425	E133	G8	G72-22	I42	J96.10	L118
B198	C188	C428	E137	G14	G72-23	I43	J96.11	L122
B207	C190	C429	F1	G16	G72-26	I45	J97	L123
B214	C195	C430	F4	G20	G72-29	I48	J99	L130
B218	C198.5	C434	F8	G22	G72-29A	I54	J107	L130.1
B219	C200	D3	F17	G24	G72-34	I67	J108.5	L131
B220	C201	D4	F18	G28	G72-37	I71	I09	L132
B225	C202	D18	F23	G30	G72-39	I72	J109.5	L136
B226	C204	D21	F27	G36	G72-40	I74	J111	L137
B231	C211	D22	F28	G38	G72-46	I75	J120	L138
B233	C216	D24	F42.5	G39	G72-48	I77.5	J144	L144
B235.3	C218	D26	F43	G50	G72-51	I78	J150	L151
B235.5	C219	D36	F48	G54	G72-52	I79	J160	L152
B238	C229	D38	F51	G57	H6	I84	J167	L153
B239	C233	D44	F58	G59	H12	I87	J169	L157
B248	C235	D49	F59	G69	H15	I88	J170	L158
B249	C236	D56	F60	G78	H20	I89	J174	L161.5
B252	C242	D57	F62	G86	H22	I90	J178B	L164
B253	C243	D61A	F63.5	G91	H39R	I91.1	J179	L168
B253.5	C246	D68	F64	G98	H41	I91.7	K4	L169
B254	C249	D73.7	F68	G99	H48	I91.10	K8	L170
B258	C251	D81	F71	G102	H51	I91.11	K10	L180
B275	C256	D82	F72	G103	H62	I91.15	K20	L182
B275.5	C258	D85	F73	G104	H63	I91.16	K21	L183
B280	C259	D88	F74	G107	H70	I92	K26	L186
B289	C262	D88A	F78	G108	H71	I94	K27	L188
B292	C263	D89	F79	G109	H73	I106	K28	L191
B295	C264	D98	F85	G112	H76	I109	K30	M8.7
B116-2	C269	D104	F86	G116	H79	I116	K31	M9
B116-5	C270	D111	F87	G118	H83.5	I117	K32	M12
B116-33	C271	D120	F110A	G119	H96	I119.5	K39	M13
C8	C272	D128	F113	G120	H97	I122	K42	M14
C16	C278	D130	F114	G128	H99	I43.7-14	K52	M16
C18	C279	D132	F116	G132	H107	I43.7-19	K54	M17
C21	C280	D133	F120	G132A	H108	I43.7-20	K60	M23
C25	C284	D140	F122	G139	H110	I43.7-21	K68A	M27
C28	C290	D146	F122A	G149	H131	I43.7B-2	L5	M28
C33	C291	D148	F123	G150	H133	I43.7B-13	L7	M33
C39	C295	D149	F124	G154	H146	I43.7B-18	L15	M41
C43	C299	D153	F125.5	G155	H158	I43.7C-7	L16	M47
C45	C302	D154	F126	G155.2A	H159.5	I43.7D-1	L20	M48
C51	C306	D155	F128	G155.3	H161	I43.7G-9	L21A	
C63	C312	E3	F134	G157	H163	I43.7G-16	L22	

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	N103	N113Aa-10	O49	P215	S122	S195-14	U75.3A	W112
	N104.4	N113Aa-14	O56	P220	S128	S195-24	U76	W115
	N104.5	N113AB-0	O64	P223	S131	S195-26	U77	W120
M50	N104.7	N113AB-2	O68B	P224	S137	S195-35	U77A	W122A
M60	N109	N113AB-3	O69	P227	S141	S195-37	U77.3	W138
M61	N112	N113AB-4	O70	P229	S151	S195-39	U80 U83	W142.1
M68	N121	N113AB-7	O89	P234	S154	S195-41	U88	W142.3
M99	N122	N113AB-14	O94	P235	S154.5	S195-43	U91.5	W143
M108	N123	N113ABb-1	O97	P236	S155	S195-46	U92	W147
M113	N128	N113ABb-4	O102	P243	S157	S195-48	U95	W147.5
M124	N129	N113ABb-6	O103	P244	S158	S195-51	U100	W149
M145	N129A	N113ABb-7	P10	P246	S162	S195-60	U101	W150
M148	N130	N113ABb-9	P15	P254	S163	T4	U104.4	W152
M152	N131	N113ABb-12	P17	Q1	S170	T5	U82-1	W153
M153	N135	N113ABb-13	P19	Q2	S170A	T6	U82-2	W154
M156	N137	N113B-6	P25	Q5	S172	T6A	U82-3	W166
M158	N138	N113B-7	P31	Q6	S173	T7	U82-4	W173
M159	N140	N113B-8	P37	R10	S174	T11	U82-5	W177A
M162	N142	N113B-11	P40	R34	S176	T12	U82-6	W180
M164	N145A	N113Bb-0	P41	R39	S187	T17	U82-7	W196
M181	N147	N113Bb-1	P42	R41	S191	T20.5	U82-8	W197
M184	N151	N113Bb-3A	P43	R47	S196	T24	U82-13	W198
M190	N152	N113Bb-4	P47	R51	S202	T25	U82-14	W205
M193	N153	N113Bb-5	P52	R56	S204	T28	U82-15	W207
M211	N154	N113Bb-5A	P53	R66	S216	T31	U82-18	W215
M227	N158	N113Bb-6	P55	R75	S224	T33	V1	W217
M228	N158.5	N113Bb-6A	P55A	R79	S232	T34	V1.5	W72.1
M233	N163	N113Bb-9	P55.2	R87.5	S234	T35	V5	W72.6
M237	N170	N113Bb-10	P55.4	R92	S238	T36	V6	W72.33
M241	N174	N113Bb-11	P55.7	R97	S245	T38	V16	W72.37
M246	N176	N113Bb-12	P55.75	R98	S266	T44	V24	W72.38
M248.5	N180	N113C-0	P55.11	R105	S272.9	T56	V28	W72.38B
M249	N182	N113C-5	P56	R110	S273.5	T64	W2	W72.53
M250	N188	N113C-7	P56.15	R115	S277	T77	W4	W72.56
M252	N191	N113C-9	P56.18	R121	S278	T81	W6	W72.73
M256	N193	N113C-10	P56.20	R121A	S282	T82	W7	W72.79
M259	N196	N113C-11	P56.21	R128	S283	T96	W7.1	W199-1
M260	N198	N113C-12	P58	R138	S284	T98	W7.3	W199-3
M264	N200	N113Cc-0	P63	R141	S285	T101	W7.4	W199-4
M268	N204A	N113Cc-2	P70	R143	S287	T114	W7.7	W199-10
M269	N205.1	N113Cc-3	P74	R153	S287.5	T118.3	W7.8	W199-11
M279	N205.2A	N113Cc-4	P78	R157	S294	T119	W7.9	W199-12
M286	N205.3	N113Cc-5	P96	S5	S295.5	T121	W7.11	W199-17
M295	N206	N113Cc-6	P102.5	S8	S308	T125	W8	W199-20
M299	N207	N113Cc-11	P110.6	S9	S310	U2	W8.1	W199-21
M300	N212	N113D-0	P114	S10	S316	U4	W8.2	W199-24
M303	N113-0	N113D-4	P120	S15	S319	U6	W9	W199-26
M310	N113-1	N113D-6	P122	S16	S320	U8	W10	Y5
N7	N113-2	N113D-6	P124	S23	S322	U11	W12	Y7
N11	N113-3	N113D-7	P126	S25	S336	U13	W13	Y8
N18	N113-8	N113D-9	P130	S27	S338.1	U23	W20	Y12
N19	N113-9	N113D-10	P131	S29	S338.2	U29	W24	Y13
N21	N113-11	N113D-11	P132A	S34	S338.3	U35	W25	Z4
N27	N113-12	N113Dd-1	P138	S38	S338.7	U36	W26	Z5
N30	N113A-2A	N113Dd-2A	P144	S55	S338.8	U38	W38A	No. 12
N34	N113A-5	N113Dd-3	P146	S56	S338.9	U39	W39	No. 13
N37	N113A-6	N113Dd-3A	P152	S59	S341	U41	W44	No. 15
N39	N113A-6A	N113Dd-4	P153	S62	S343	U43	W50	No. 18
N44	N113A-9	N113Dd-7	P154	S63	S352	U44	W52	Des. 3
N47	N113A-9A	N113Dd-11	P165	S66	S363	U46	W53	Des. 6
N52	N113A-10	11	P174	S78	S368	U47	W59	Des. 14
N53	N113A-11	N113Dd-13	P179	S83	S2.1A	U49	W60	Des. 36
N60A	N113A-12	13	P185	S86	S2.3	U53	W61	Des. 43
N61	N113A-13	O5	P192	S98	S2.4A	U54	W68	
N66	N113Aa-0	O12	P196	S99	S2.6	U55.5	W76	
N67	N113Aa-1	O22	P198	S103	S2.10	U57	W84	
N69	N113Aa-3	O32	P202A	S113	S2.16	U59	W88	
N83	N113Aa-4	O36.5	P205	S114A	S2.16A	U63	W92	
N90.5A	N113Aa-5	O38	P206	S115	S195-6	U66	W101	
N92	N113Aa-5A	O39	P208	S120	S195-9	U72A	W102	
N99	N113Aa-8	O47	P213	S121	S195-11	U73	W111	
		O48						