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whether some CBNC stamps were printed on both types of paper. That is, the press operator could be working from a stack of hard white paper, and then this might have been replenished with ribbed paper, and whatever stamp he was printing at the time could then exist on both types of paper. We do not know, but it is an interesting possibility.

It is worth noting, parenthetically, that not all of the late 1875 CBNC special printing was on ribbed paper. The Franklin Carrier stamp reprint was on the same rose colored paper that was used for the original stamp and also for the first reprint. The Eagle Carrier stamp reprint was on a wove paper, and used a fluorescent ink. The rose colored paper was used for the Franklin stamp in order to keep the appearance of the original stamp. It is not known why the Eagle Carrier did not use the ribbed paper.

It is also worth mentioning that the analysis appearing in Table 1 did not include either of the second printings of the Newspaper and Periodical stamps, PR33a and PR34a. There was simply not a large enough sample of these available to have any statistical confidence in the results. □

SOME CONTEXT FOR THE 1875 SPECIAL PRINTING PROGRAM

WILLIAM E. MOOZ

Previous articles written in this series have mainly dealt with individual stamps for which there was more than one printing. Each of those articles was complete in itself, but did not discuss the relationship of the subject stamp to the program of which it was a part. Lacking was the context for the series which I have titled the 1875 Special Printing Program. This article is a short synopsis of the stamps in the program which will put the various issues of those stamps in perspective.

The data illustrated in this article were derived from several sources. In every case possible, data were taken from the “Bill Books,”¹ which are the official Post Office Department records of the expenditure of money for these stamps. These data were augmented by information published in Luff’s *The Postage Stamps of the United States*.² Other sources refer to these stamps, but Luff presents the most complete and systematic data, which he apparently obtained from Post Office Department records which were subsequently destroyed.

As has been noted in previous articles, this program began in 1875 and continued until July 16, 1884. On that date, the remaining stamps which were unsold were counted and destroyed. Luff had access to these numbers, and from these data and the Bill Book information about the numbers of stamps ordered we can calculate the number of stamps sold.

During the program, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and three printing firms participated in supplying the stamps. These firms were the Continental Bank Note Company (CBNC), the National Bank Note Company (NBNC) and the American Bank Note Company (ABNC). Each of these companies contributed characteristics to the stamps which are often important in distinguishing them from the regular issue of the stamp.

Table 1 summarizes the issues in chronological form. There was a total of 221 different individual stamps issued in the program. This is a number which may likely surprise many collectors, including U.S. specialists, and as will be seen in future articles, these include the rarest of all U.S. stamps. It would be virtually impossible for a person, regardless of wealth and dedication, to form a complete collection of them. □

¹Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, Bill Book, vol. 1, Bill Book #3, Bill Book volume 4, Stamp Division, P.O.D., GSA, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

²John K. Luff, *The Postage Stamps of the United States* (New York: Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., 1902).