

Printers and Printer Plate Number Prefixes:

We are now in the 3rd decade of the plated coil stamp. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing has printed the vast majority of these issues. However, contracted private printers increasingly began to provide PNC's until the BEP finally ceased printing for the postal service in 2005.

As you pass by these pages, you'll notice how the plate numbers have evolved.

The **BEP** used only numerals for their plates. However, there are exceptions where they used an "A" after the numerals when an unusually large number of plates were used to print an issue.



Private printers use a different format.

They have a letter as a prefix before the numerals. This can get complicated because some contractors print their own stamps, some contract out, and some do both!

Regardless of who prints and who contracts, it is the contractor's letter that is used.

Note that both Sennett Security Products and Stamp Venturers use the letter "S".

Avery Dennison for Self



Avery Dennison for
Dittler Brothers



Sennett Security Products for Self



Guilford Gravure for Self



Guilford Gravure for
Banknote Corporation Of America



Guilford Gravure for
American Bank Note Company



J.W. Ferguson & Sons for
Ashton Potter



J.W. Ferguson & Sons for
Stamp Venturers



J.W. Ferguson & Sons for
Stamp Venturers for
3M Corp.

