

The Expert's Corner

By J. Randall Shoemaker



The Grilled Issues - Part 3



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

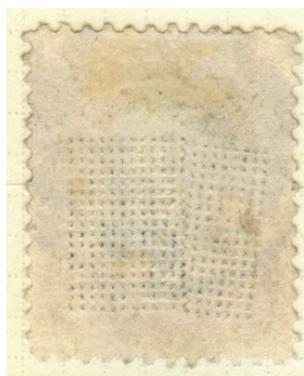


Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

Our first two Grill articles dealt with the history, production and dimensions of the Grilled Issues of 1867-1868. In our final article, I will try to cover all the interesting grill varieties that occur during the actual grilling process due to small variations that crept their way in by human error.

Let me first give credit to Richard Drews for his outstanding exhibit of the Grilled Issues that has formed the visual basis of this article. Many of these varieties are either UNIQUE or only one or two examples known. However, I feel it is important to get a real image of the genuine artifact for future reference. A picture is worth a thousand words, especially in getting a feel for some of these strange looking grills and how they were formed.

The first subset of grill varieties entail single or multiple impressions done on the same sheet. For whatever reason, the grill operator decided to re-grill the sheets more than one time. If, as some conjecture, the sheets were stacked to run in the grilling

press, maybe up to 5 or six at a time. One or more sheets may have subsequently had weak grills. To correct this, they just ran them through one or more times causing this group of varieties.

1. Single Grill – Figure 1.
2. Double Grill – Figures 2 and 3.
3. Triple Grill – Figure 4.

The second subset of grill varieties include multiple grill impressions but one grill, due to misplacement of the sheet, was split (part on one stamp and part on the adjacent stamps, either vertically or horizontally).

1. Single Quadruple Split Grill – Figure 10.
2. Single 'split' grill, either vertically or horizontally — Figures 5 and 6.
3. Double Grill, one 'split' – Figure 7.
4. Double Grill, One Quadruple 'split' – Figures 9 and 11.
5. Miracle Grill – the spacing of the double grill fits precisely



Figure 9.



Figure 10.

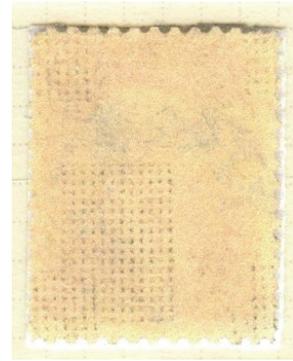


Figure 11.



Figure 12.



Figure 13.



Figure 14.



Figure 15.



Figure 17.



Figure 16.



Figure 18.

end to end or top to bottom such that it appears to be one single Giant Grill. – Figure 18.

6. Triple Grill, one ‘split’ vertically – Figure 12.

The third subset of varieties include those created by pre-grilled paper folds.

1. Accordion Grills – Figures 13 and 14.

2. ‘Butterfly’ grills – caused by diagonal or vertical paper folds before grilling — Figure 15.

The fourth subset are caused by misplacing the sheet to one side or another so much that the grills on one side or another do not even fall on the stamp at the extremes.

1. Extra Grill in selvage – Figure 16 (A complete or almost complete grill impression).

2. End Roller Grill – Figure 17 (A marginal end roller where there is a continuous grill along the edge of the stamp or the selvage).

In conclusion, I hope that you enjoyed this primer of the Grilled Issues. Becoming more familiar with this fascinating period of philately will help you gain a much larger appreciation for the complexity of our hobby. Further, the more comfortable you become, the more you will enjoy your hours of emersion in philately. Good luck and good hunting! ✉

[Editor’s Note: *J Randall Shoemaker is President of PSAG, Inc. www.psaginc.com*]