

The Mellon Bank Series

This has *got* to be the largest Bank/Savings & Loan series ever produced! Any Bank collector, even a novice, will run across some. Starting in the 1960s, the Mellon Bank of Pennsylvania cranked out series after series of 30-strike covers, each cover usually bearing the address of a different branch office. My collection is far from complete, but with the kind assistance of Bob Hartman, NJ, and Bob England, PA, we've put together some numbers here that at least give you an idea of minimum sizes for each of the series, listed below...and there are quite a few of them!

SERIES I: Front-strike, 30-strikes; embossed green and gold MB on white panel [at least 69 different]

SERIES IIA: Front-strike, 30-strikes; MB+MELLON BANK on front panel [at least 27]

SERIES IIB: Similar to above, but mm reads Universal Match Corp. Pittsburgh [at least 17]

SERIES IIC: Similar to IIB, but mm reads Universal Match Pittsburgh [at least 20]

SERIES III: Front-strike, 30-strikes; embossed gold MB on gold front panel; Christmas wreath on back panel [at least 65 different]

SERIES IV: Front-strike, 30-strikes; embossed credit card on front panel [at least 64 different]

SERIES V: Front-strike, 30-strikes; vertical full-length red and white Seasons Greetings [at least 18 different]

SERIES VI: Front-strike, 30-strikes; two white candles on green back panel [at least 58 different]

SERIES VII: Front-strike, 30-strikes; Merry Christmas on ornament on green front panel [at least 22 different]

SERIES VIII: Front-strike, 30-strikes; 2 gold candles on dark green front panel [at least 60 different]

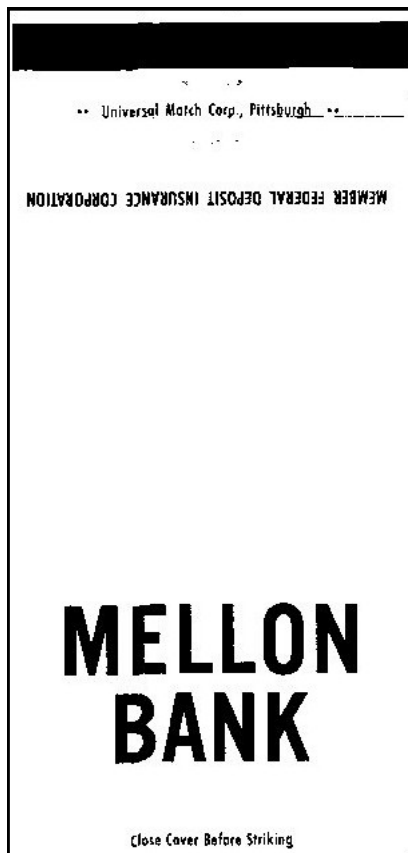
SERIES IXA: Front-strike, 30-strikes; embossed white Mellon Bank on white front panel; mm = Universal Match, Pittsburgh [at least 44 different]

SERIES IXB: Similar to IXA, but mm = Superior Match Co. Chicago USA [at least 1]

SERIES IXC: Similar to IXA, but mm = Superior Match Co., Div. Brown Company [at least 3]

SERIES X: Front-strike, 30-strikes; wreath only on front panel [at least 49 different]

SERIES XI: Front-strike, 30strikes; alternating green/white Seasons Greetings on panels and saddle [atleast 24]



- SERIES XII:** Reverse-strike, 30-strikes; snowflake only on front panel [at least 5 different]
- SERIES XIII:** Reverse-strike, 30-strikes; embossed white Mellon Bank on front panel [at least 6 different]
- SERIES XIV:** Reverse-strike, 30-strikes; red ribbon on green front and back panels [at least 13 different]
- SERIES XV:** Reverse-strike, 30-strikes; gold ribbon on red front and back panels [at least 8 different]
- SERIES XVI:** Reverse-strike, 30-strikes; green circular logo on black front panel [at least 3 different]
- SERIES XVII:** Reverse-strike, 30-strikes; Seasons Greetings plus dove on wreath on green front panel [at least 16 different]
- SERIES XVIII:** Reverse-strike, 30-strikes; Merry Christmas on ornament on green front panel [at least 1 - *I'm guessing this may be a separate series*]

...and there are at least five other miscellaneous covers, which I guess to be singles, three of which are Christmas covers.

So, all together, that makes a *minimum* of 598 covers from this bank, and that's only based on the covers that Bob and I actually have. the actual total of Mellon bank covers must be considerably larger. For example, since SERIES I has at least 69 different locations shown, there may be approximately that number in *each* of the series...h-m-m-m-m...that works out to around 1,523 covers!

I don't suppose we'll ever find out exactly how many covers Mellon bank put out over the years. Even if we all put our respective collections together and compared notes and actually came up with 1,523 covers, we'd still never know if there were other varieties out there. Also, the "69 locations" figure might vary from series to series, Since Mellon bank produced these covers over a number of years, the number of branch offices could well have fluctuated up or down with closures and expansions.

Any way you look at it, though, this group of covers is staggering. You could make a career of just collecting Mellon Bank covers, and you don't have to be a Bank collector to appreciate them. Remember, many of these covers are either embossed or Christmas issues. As a collector of both banks and Christmas covers, I'm in hog heaven...I get to put these covers in *both* collections!

