

America By Water: From Sail to Steam

Exhibit Synopsis

This thematic three-frame exhibit is an **overview** of the topic, and not intended to be exhaustive. It begins with the discovery of the "New World" as well as its exploration. It then moves onto the settlement and development of what would become the United States of America. After that the new nation earns its independence from Great Britain and then is forced to defend itself from an attempt by the British to reclaim its lost property. Then the new nation expanded inward following the waterways, both natural and man-made. Finally a new form of transportation was developed, improved, and eventually replaced the old. Thus the journey from sail to steam is complete.

This exhibit follows the paths of...

- Different parts of a ship and the tools used by navigators during this time period.
- The earliest explorations of the new continent: the Vikings and later Columbus who led the way for other Europeans.

- The colonists who settled in the wilderness to build new and better lives for themselves.
- The new nation which struggled to fight for independence against the largest military force of her day and then defended herself when they attacked again.
- Settlers who traveled inland along the easiest routes available, both natural and manmade.
- Inventors who sought to construct a faster boat and developed the steamship.
- The end of the sailing era: Clipper Ships and their uses as the last commercial sailing success.

Philatelic Elements

This exhibit contains typical elements such as used and mint modern stamps, precancels, First Day Covers, pictorial cancels, postal stationary, revenue stamps and plate blocks. When possible, cached FDC's have been replaced with period usages of the stamps on cover. (However, I still want this exhibit appeal to some of the young enthusiasts who will see it.) It has many of the original Columbian Exposition stamps as well as almost all of the reissues. The exhibit has several stampless covers that sailed on different

steamships traveling both locally and internationally. There is a cover that was carried along the Erie Canal route (left), and an international ship mail traveling from Cuba to New York City via Baltimore. Finally, a cover from Liverpool, England to New York City with dual postal rates, one for the ship and the other for the country.

