

USAGES OF THE UNITED STATES FOUR-CENT AIR MAIL POSTAL CARD OF 1949



First day cancellation.

The United States Post Office Department issued its first air mail postal card on January 10, 1949, nine days after a 4¢ domestic air mail rate for postal and post cards went into effect. Prior to January 1, 1949, the air mail letter rate applied to postal and post cards as well as to letters. On that date, the air mail letter **increased** from 5¢ to 6¢ per ounce, while at the same time the postage required for sending a postal or post card by air mail **decreased** from 5¢ to 4¢. The 4¢ rate applied to cards sent between any two U.S. post offices, including post offices in U.S. territories and possessions, post offices aboard U.S. Navy vessels, and U.S. military post offices abroad. The rate also applied to cards sent from certain remote locations, such as U.S. stations in the Arctic and Antarctic. It also applied to cards sent from any U.S. post office to Canada or Mexico, thus making the 4¢ rate an international rate as well as a domestic rate.

This is a single frame postal history study of how the 4¢ air mail postal card was used in its day. A large majority of the usages shown in this exhibit are commercial, although some are philatelic in origin. Except for the three items on the epilogue page, July 31, 1958, serves as the cutoff date. The following day, along with many other postal rate increases, the air mail postal and post card rate rose to 5¢. By that time, production of the 4¢ air mail postal card had ended.

Organization of Exhibit

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- Domestic Usages
- International Usages
- Epilogue