

USA 1934-35 3c Mother's of America stamp - its place in postal rates, services and usages

Exhibit Synopsis

Historical background

Anna Jarvis, founder of Mother's Day Work Clubs, introduced Mother's Day in 1908. Some 26 years later and to mark the Day, a 3c commemorative stamp was issued; this followed lobbying by Margaret McCluer, one time President of American War Mothers.

Significance

Whilst the Mother's Day stamp is one amongst many commemorative stamps issued under Postmaster General James Farley, it is highly significant in being devised by a serving US President (Franklin D. Roosevelt). Roosevelt suggested using the painting by James Abbot McNeil Whistler entitled "Arrangement in Grey and Black: The Artist's Mother."

Treatment and scope

The exhibit shows how the 3c Mother's of America stamp was used on mail both domestically and overseas for the period 1934 to 1937. It is structured on the basis of four main categories - earliest usages, mail incoming to the US, domestic mail (including from territories) and international mail. It comprises two frames of 8.5" x 11" size pages.

Importance of items

The exhibit has taken 15 years to build and includes some clearly unique items. Important items are highlighted, in the exhibit, by use of a blue background and are detailed below:

- pre-first day covers - both for the 3c perforated stamp and the imperforate stamp;
- first day cover signed by the stamp design team;
- first day cover signed by Anna Jarvis;
- first day cover signed by Margaret McCluer;
- incoming cover from South Africa bearing a 3c Mother's stamp used as a postage due;
- fraudulent mail;
- cover using an emergency hand stamp due to the originating post office burning down;
- third class mailings - wrapper and bisected letter passed by the Post Office;
- cover sent on the first day of the 6c airmail rate;
- registered letter considered unique due to bearing all three printings of the 3c stamp;
- registered Treaty rate cover to Costa Rica;
- international printed matter rate on a postcard folder;
- postcard sent by catapult mail;
- double Treaty rate registered cover to the Philippines.

References

Study references include:

- Postage Stamps of the United States - Postmaster General, 1963
- US International Postal Rates, 1872-1996 - Wawrukiewicz and Beecher, 1996
- US Commemorative stamps of the Twentieth Century (volume 1) - Max Johl, 1947
- Women on United States Postage Stamps - Price Davis and Hunt, 1950
- Women as Presented on United States Stamps - McCluer, 1936