

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

Synopsis

Introduction

The Mothers of America stamp was issued after intense lobbying of President Roosevelt and Postmaster General Farley, by two strong feminists who believed in the importance of recognizing motherhood across the nation. It still remains in place, the latest celebration being 12th May 2019.

Treatment

The exhibit shows off the postal usages of the Mothers of America stamp. It is a postal history exhibit but includes a number of significant first day usages, which are integral to the existence of the stamp. It is structured on the basis of rates and services and shows both domestic and international usages.

Importance

The exhibit has taken 15 years to build and includes some clearly remarkable items, which are identified by a red border. Notable amongst these are:

- pre-first day cover (FDC) usages
- FDCs associated with people involved in the stamp's creation and design
- only known commercial cover bearing all three stamp printings
- fraudulent mail
- use of a Mothers of America stamp for postage due on mail from overseas
- use of post office emergency cancellations
- cover sent on the first day of the 6c airmail rate
- Pan American Treaty rate covers with combined postal services
- catapult mail

Despite large numbers of Mothers of America stamp being printed, very few remain today on commercial covers and interesting examples are seldom seen.

Knowledge

The exhibit has been crafted around knowledge of rates and services prevailing in the US postal service during the period. Reference is made (where appropriate) to postal laws and regulations (PL&R).

Research

In researching the postal history associated with the Mothers of America stamp, reference has been made to the following publications:

- Postage Stamps of the United States - Postmaster General, 1963
- US International Postal Rates, 1872-1996 - Wawrukiewicz and Beecher, 1996
- US Commemorative stamps of the 20th Century (volume 1) - Max Johl, 1946
- Women on United States Postage Stamps - Price Davis and Hunt, 1950
- Women as Presented on United States Stamps - McCluer, 1936