

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

Introduction

Historical background

Anna Jarvis, one time President of the American Mothers Clubs introduced Mother's Day in 1908. Twenty five years later Margaret McCluer, National President of the American War Mothers, suggested marking Mother's Day with a stamp.

The stamp

Postmaster General James Farley and President Roosevelt agreed the proposal. Roosevelt suggested basing the stamp on a painting by James Abbot McNeil Whistler entitled 'Arrangement in Grey and Black: The Artist's Mother'.

A stamp entitled 'Mothers of America' was duly issued on 2nd May 1934. It was printed on rotary press (perforation 11x10 1/2), flat bed (perforation 11) and in imperforate format.

Aims of the exhibit

The exhibit shows how the 3c Mothers of America stamp was launched and played its part in supporting postal rates and services. It also demonstrates its usage in conveying domestic and overseas mail.

Scope and structure of the exhibit

Significant first day usages

- celebrating the issue
- Postmaster first day greetings

Domestic mail

- first class (including problem mail)
- first class (territorial origin)
- third class
- airmail
- Supplementary services (registered and special delivery)

International mail

- Pan American Treaty rate
- postcards
- printed matter
- UPU surface
- airmail
- registered
- special delivery



FDC signed by Anna Jarvis, founder of Mother's Day.



FDC signed by Margaret N. McCluer, proposer of the stamp.



1934 registered cover from Akron, Ohio to Batavia, New York. The **only known** commercial cover bearing all three printings of the 3c Mothers of America stamps.

Postal rates during the period

Domestic mail

- first class: 3c per oz
- third class: 1½c per 2oz
- airmail: 8c per oz, later 6c per oz

International mail

- Treaty rate: 3c per 1oz
- postcard rate: 3c
- first class: 5c per 1oz plus 3c for extra oz
- printed matter: 1½c per 2oz
- airmail: various rates
- registration: 15c
- special delivery: 20c