

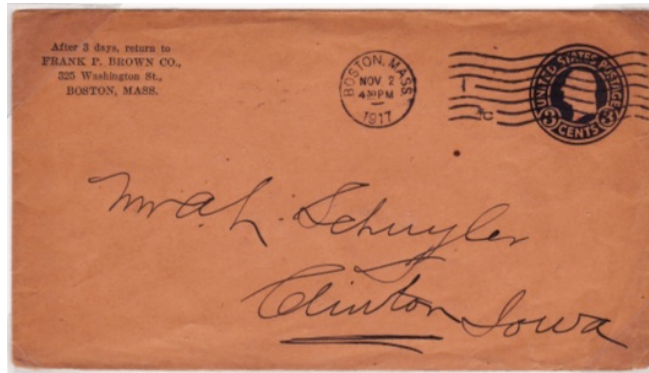
Postal History of the U.S. 3-Cent Circular Die Stamped Envelopes: Rates and Usages 1917-1960 Synopsis of Exhibit

Scope: This exhibit shows how the United States 3¢ Circular Die stamped envelopes were used in their day. Also included are 3¢ Circular Die stamped envelopes revalued to 2¢ in 1920, revalued to 4¢ in 1958, or overprinted for official Post Office Department use.

History: The exhibitor has been collecting the Circular Die postal stationery since 1985, and has been exhibiting it since 1991. His exhibit of postal history of the entire series won seven national level gold medals, five Marcus White awards, and numerous other honors. But after agreeing with several philatelic judges that his strongest pieces were the 3¢ envelopes, the exhibitor decided to pare the exhibit down to those envelopes alone.

Classification: While this exhibit may be classified as a postal stationery exhibit as well as a postal history exhibit, it presents a radical departure from the usual method of collecting and exhibiting postal stationery in two important ways. (1) As a postal history exhibit, it focuses on rates and usages, and it generally ignores die, knife, watermark, shade, and overprint varieties. (2) It includes many items that have adhesive stamps added to pay for rate increases, multiple rates, foreign mail rates, special postal services, and/or air mail.

Key items: There are so many important pieces scattered throughout the exhibit that only a handful can be mentioned here. Among them are the following:



- Earliest documented usage of any 3¢ Circular Die envelope, used on first day of 3¢ rate: 11/2/17. (See illustration above.)
- Usage from U.S. Postal Agency in Siberia, Russia. (Only 3 reported.)
- Registered usage delayed by civil war in Russia.
- Commercial usage of 3¢ carmine color error.
- Usage with unlisted New York supplementary mail postmarks.
- Alaska Star Route air crash cover. (Only 3 reported.)
- Pearl Harbor Day usage to the Philippines: 12/7/41. Returned to sender.
- Enemy civilian internee mail usage.
- Usage to an unlisted APO. Returned to sender, addressee POW.
- Discovery copy of unlisted major error: complete double impression. (Only known example.)
- Private air carrier usage from the U.S. Virgin Islands to Puerto Rico.
- Usage from American Samoa at unpublished 40¢ air mail rate.
- Usage to Canada returned to sender with **MAIL FOR THIS ADDRESS PROHIBITED** marking.
- Usage from Canadian coastal steamer in U.S. territorial waters.
- Usage to Germany intercepted en route and held by British authorities.
- Usage to German occupied Denmark intercepted en route and delayed by British authorities.
- Combined surface + air mail usage to Ceylon at 27¢ rate. (Illustrated in international "Beecher Book".)
- Combined surface + air mail usage to Siam at 28¢ rate.
- Envelope intended for 1937 return flight of the German Airship Hindenburg. 40¢ rate. Dispatched by surface mail.
- Air mail usage to Turkey rerouted via South Africa to avoid war zone.
- Usage to Israel intercepted en route and delayed by Egyptian authorities.
- Commercial in-period usage of 3¢ envelope revalued to 4¢.