

RATES AND USAGES OF THE UNITED STATES ONE CENT LIBERTY SERIES STAMP: 1954-1966

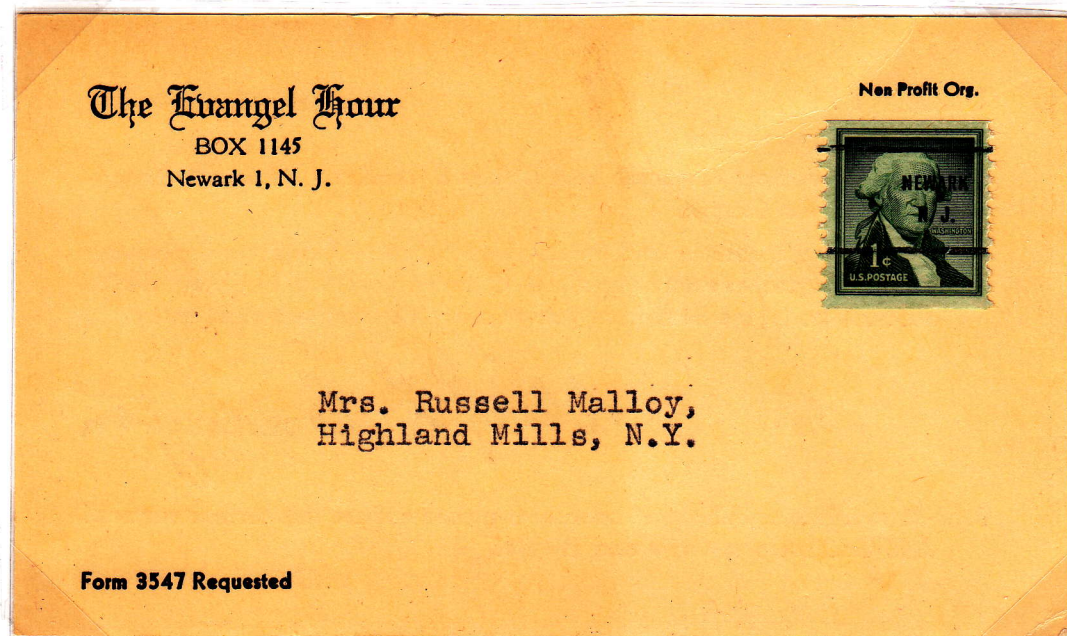
This exhibit demonstrates many of the ways the United States 1¢ Liberty Series stamp of 1954 was used in its day. In doing so, it documents much of the basic U.S. postal rate structure of the time. The U.S. Post Office Department issued a new 1¢ definitive stamp in 1963. However, some 1¢ Liberty Series stamps, particularly coil stamps, remained in commercial use for several more years, so this exhibit contains usages as late as 1966. Examples of rates that first came into effect in 1967 or later are not included.

Issued as a sheet stamp on August 26, 1954, and as a horizontal coil on October 8, 1954, the 1¢ value in the Liberty Series was primarily a utility stamp. That is, it was used mostly in multiples of itself, in conjunction with other stamps, or on postal stationery to make up various rates greater than 1¢. The only important solo use was to pay the 1¢ minimum per piece nonprofit third class bulk rate, shown below. Examples of the 1¢ per piece rate for mailing *Congressional Record* from Washington, D.C., the 1¢ per kilogram rate for raised printed matter for the blind, and the 1¢ per 4 ounces rate for newspapers and periodicals to Canada have not been reported with Liberty Series franking, and for the time being are absent from this exhibit.

As this is a postal history exhibit which focuses exclusively on rates and usages, differences between wet and dry printings are ignored, as are differences between large hole and small hole coil stamps. 1¢ Liberty Series coil stamps usages are indicated in write-ups; otherwise usages are of sheet stamps. Precancellations are described as either Bureau (applied by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at the time of production) or local (applied by local post offices). Year dates of usages are indicated whenever they can be determined by postal or nonpostal markings, dated contents, docketing, or other such evidence.

Organization

Domestic Surface Mail
Domestic Air Mail
Foreign Surface Mail
Foreign Air Mail
Miscellaneous Usages (small section)



Coil stamp with Bureau precancellation paid 1¢ nonprofit third class bulk rate. 1959.