

# SYNOPSIS

## THE U.S. PREVENT DRUG ABUSE STAMP AND ITS FIRST DAY COVERS

**Purpose:** This exhibit is intended to showcase the U.S. Prevent Drug Abuse stamp of 1971 (Scott #1438) and its first day covers. It illustrates the results of the exhibitor's 13 years of research and diligent search for material.

**Treatment/Development:** This exhibit contains most of what one would expect in a first day cover exhibit in the Illustrated Mail Division, including material on the designers of the stamp, stamp production information and material, printing freaks (color shifts, under inking, & ink smears), a paper variety, publicity material, relevant autographs, First Day Ceremony programs, FDOI cancellation varieties, government cachets, hand-drawn and hand-painted cachets, promotional FDCs, printed cachets, examples of the two recorded first cachets, unusual cachets, unique and apparently homemade cachets, unidentified cachets, stuffer cards, a selection of generic and modern add-on cachets, combination covers, intended and unusual non-first day commercial uses, and later, non-first day event covers.

Especially interesting items include:

- FDCs autographed by the stamp designer, Miggs Burroughs, and the originator of the design, K. Gardner Perine
- Personal, handwritten letter from Perine regarding stamp and design
- Previously unreported paper variety
- Stamp color freaks and shifts on & off FDCs
- Label from case of 125,000 stamps
- Original AP wire story and photo
- The Artmaster archive material
- Setoff of engraved cachet design on reverse of Fleetwood FDC
- Anderson cachet design printed upside down
- Artcraft cachet with FDOI cancel but no stamp
- Misplaced Overseas Mailer rubber stamp cachet
- Multiple FDCs with ≤35 cachets made
- Non-FD registered and special delivery commercial uses
- Later Combo FDC to Lithuania

The exhibit does **not** contain:

- Archival material on the stamp because it is not available to collectors.
- Original U.S.P.S. press releases
- Unofficial FDCs as the exhibitor has found none in 13 years of searching. Indeed, any commercial uses are difficult to find.
- For the same reason, and with one exception, the exhibit contains no "fractured" uses or special services on FDCs.

The exhibitor continues his search for these items.

**Knowledge/Study/Research:** This exhibit is the product, not simply of the exhibitor's 13-years of purchases of philatelic material, but also his research in available sources and independent study of that material. In addition to relevant information on the stamp, cachetmakers, and cachets derived from standard philatelic references and the sources listed in the bibliography, the exhibit also reflects the exhibitor's discovery of stamp printing freaks, a previously unreported FDOI machine cancel, and a previously unreported paper variety.

**Challenge/Difficulty:** As with most modern issues, several mass-produced cacheted FDCs of the drug abuse prevention stamp are readily available and included in the exhibit. However, as noted above, the exhibit also contains a number of cachets with production runs of 35 or less, including several that appear to be unique or homemade. The exhibit also contains scarce examples of cachet errors and stamp printing freaks, such as ink smears and color shifts - both mint and on FDCs. Many of the remaining items listed under Treatment/Development also are unique or difficult to find.

**Condition:** Nearly all the material is pristine, as one would expect for such modern items. The one notable exception is the FDC autographed by K. Gardner Perine, which is in poor condition but is the only one known to the exhibitor.

### **Bibliography:**

- Prevent Drug Abuse*, S.P.A. Journal 291 (Jan. 1976)
- APRL clipping/subject file on Prevent Drug Abuse Stamp