

# **“THE PREXIES AT WORK”**

## **SYNOPSIS**

### **PURPOSE**

To show a wide range of uncommon commercial usages for this common definitive series consisting of 32 sheet values, 16 coil varieties, two Canal Zone overprints as well as the \$1 “Dry Print” variety, portraying every non-living President at the time of issue, as well as the White House, Benjamin Franklin and Martha Washington.

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Fifth Bureau Issue or the 1938 Presidential Series (commonly known as the Prexies) was suggested by the famous philatelist Franklin D. Roosevelt. A nationwide competition was held to create the design and 1300 entries were received. The chosen design broke the tradition of classical motifs and complex ornamentation. The Prexies were used over a period of thirty years, from the late 1930's to the end of the 1950's, from the end of the Depression to the prosperity of the Fifties, through World War II and the Korean Conflict.

### **ORGANIZATION**

Commercially used covers will be presented by denomination in ascending face value order.

### **CHALLENGE**

Because 240 billion of these stamps were printed over a period of thirty years, none of the Prexies themselves are considered rare. The challenge therefore lies in showing commercial frankings paying unusual rates and fees, including uncommon rate combinations, exotic destinations, short term air mail rates, postage due usages and even an example paying wages. The exhibit contains difficult solo usages (i.e., the 11¢, 14¢, 19¢, 22¢ and \$2 values, as well as the coils and the Canal Zone overprints). The exhibit is enhanced by showing covers with links to significant people and events.