

## THE PREXIES AT WORK

At the suggestion of President Franklin Roosevelt, an avid stamp collector, the United States Post Office introduced a new series of definitive stamps in 1938. Technically known as the Fifth Bureau, over the years the stamps have become known simply as the "Prexies." The Prexies consists of thirty-two face different designs issued in a variety of colors and formats, including sheets, booklet panes as well as horizontal and vertical coils. In addition, two stamps were overprinted for emergency use in the Canal Zone.

The following ten frames show the 1938 Presidential Series by denomination in ascending face value order. Non-philatelic, commercial usages on envelopes, governmental postal cards, post cards, wrappers, forms and mailing tags have been chosen to show the wide range of domestic and international fees available from 1938 through 1959. Only Prexies or Prexies affixed to governmental cards and envelopes are shown.

Because millions of Prexies were printed, none of the stamps are considered rare. The challenge lies in showing difficult solo commercial usages and frankings paying unusual rates and fees. In addition, covers are shown related to significant historical events of the period.



20¢ Prexie prepaid the half ounce "Clipper" air mail rate (in effect April 1937 – January 1945) on this 7 December 1941 cover mailed from the U.S. Mainland to Schofield Barracks, an Army post adjacent to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.