

RATES AND USAGES OF THE UNITED STATES
ONE CENT PRESIDENTIAL SERIES STAMP: 1938-1958
SYNOPSIS (REVISED APRIL 2018)

Introduction: Rather than rehash what is on the title page, please let me give you, the judges, some background information.

I am a long time exhibitor who has received more than fifty national level gold medals, two FIP large vermeils, and two Grand and one Reserve Grand Awards at WSP shows. I am also an APS accredited judge, a philatelic writer, and a former board of governors member of the Bureau Issues Association, now the United States Stamp Society. But this exhibit presented an entirely new challenge for me, and that was to create a multiframe postal history exhibit using items that all bear one particular stamp. That stamp happened to be a very common low denomination in a long running series. To be exact, I chose the 1¢ stamp of the 1938 U.S. Presidential Series.

Treatment: I organized this exhibit by rates and usages, and it thus follows the general structure of three classic gold medal Presidential Series postal history exhibits, those of Roland Rustad, Randy Neil, and Stephen Suffet. While I have made several small refinements, my one major innovation is the addition of an epilogue page which brings the exhibit to a logical close. Otherwise, if it was good enough for those Prexie Pioneers, it's good enough for me!

Importance: The stamp I selected for this exhibit is from a major country and was in use for a twenty-year period which included both World War II and the beginning of the Cold War that followed. I show many usages that document those two historically and philatelically important eras. In addition, I show the stamp postally used in all its issued formats, including joint line pairs of both the horizontal and vertical coils, as well as a full booklet pane.

Knowledge, study, and research: These should be evident from the selection of the material as well as from the write-ups. Wherever possible, I choose items that are interesting for more than just the postal rates. You will therefore see all sorts of auxiliary markings, censorship, military usages, maritime usages, usages to or from U.S. possessions, private postmarks, and more.

Are there any particular rates that I am still looking for? Yes, the 1¢ per piece rate for mailing *Congressional Record* from Washington, D.C. (none reported) and the 1¢ per kilogram rate for mailing raised printed matter for the blind (two examples reported). For the time being they are absent from the exhibit.

Rarity: Many 1¢ Prexie covers are dollar box material. You know it and I know it. But that doesn't mean that all 1¢ Prexie covers are such philatelic chaff. Many of the foreign air mail rates, for example, are difficult enough to find with any Prexie franking, but they are particularly hard to find with the 1¢ value paying part of the postage. Also, while I will not claim that the registered air mail mixed franking cover with the Lundy Island local stamp is unique, I challenge anyone to find another like it – with or without a 1¢ Prexie!

Condition: Very few covers, perhaps five at most, are philatelically contrived, and even they went through the mail. Condition is what you would expect for commercially used covers from the period. Some have wrinkles, some show signs of toning, some have been slightly reduced from opening, and some have literally gone through a war. Nevertheless, the overall condition is pretty decent, and the two or three really ratty covers are there because they are otherwise so interesting that it would be shame to leave them out.

Presentation: I have tried to keep it as simple as possible, but some items are just plain difficult to exhibit. Rather than leave them out or go to odd sized pages, I mounted them diagonally, and in couple of cases I turned them a full 90° counterclockwise. Ugly? Perhaps. But I hope you don't ding me more than a point or two while I keep searching for neat little examples of the same usages.

Past awards: This exhibit came out of the gate at the 2006 APS Spring Mega-Event, winning a Vermeil Award its first time in competition. It has since won five additional Vermeil Awards and eight Gold Awards at national level shows, the most recent Gold being at Garfield-Perry March Party 2018. It has also won five special awards, including the United States Stamp Society Statue of Freedom Award at FLOREX 2012. That's more than enough bragging for now!