

15¢ JAMES BUCHANAN STAMP
of the 1938 Presidential Series

Purpose: This is a five-frame traditional exhibit showing the production and usages of the 15¢ Prexie. While the focus is on the 15¢ value, the production, rates and usages are typical of the Prexie period and would be included in any Prexie exhibit of higher values.

The Stamp: Of the values above 10¢, only the 20¢ Garfield had a larger printing. With approximately 2,000,000,000 of the 15¢ value issued to postmasters, it ranks as one of the Prexie workhorses. The stamp was particularly helpful paying airmail rates, especially to the Caribbean as well as domestic and international registry rates. Because of the 15¢ airmail rates, international solo uses are not uncommon. Domestic solo usages are much more difficult. Since for some Prexie collectors, solo usages are the Holy Grail, 19 solo usages paying proper rates and combinations are in the exhibit. However, because the focus is on usage, there is no hesitancy to use over-rated covers. For purposes here, a 28¢ rate with two 15¢ stamps would be more desirable than one 15¢ with other stamps making the rate. Convenience overpayments are noted in the text, and the use of such overpayments is done judiciously.

Organization: The exhibit has been executed on double pages, so that there are eight pages to a frame. Organization is classic for a traditional exhibit beginning with preproduction/production, then moving to usage. The general topic is identified at the top of each page, more detailed information near the piece. Where covers have multiple components to a rate, these are itemized in a small yellow box. Significant and/or interesting items are surrounded by a red box.

Omissions: Pre-production material for the Prexies is almost non-existent. The exhibit has all pre-production material known to the exhibitor for the 15¢ value. Though Scott listed, no large die proof is known. Though this stamp was widely used, some usages are elusive, but are well represented in the exhibit. While not every possible rate combination is shown, there are no significant omissions. There are no exclusively third-class usages. Weight limits on third class mail would make the usage of this stamp a large overpayment, defeating the purpose of using third class mail.

FDC's: There are no philatelic usages in the exhibit, with the exception of first day covers. The omission of FDC's would be dismissing a significant usage for this or any stamp.

Significant Pieces: While significant items are highlighted with a red box, there are some that warrant extra attention. The first production item is one of two known small die proofs. The first cover is a December 1941 cover to South Africa, paying \$1.10 airmail rate in effect for only 4 months. The second is a registration return receipt card returned from Germany by airmail. In this example, the rate is common, the usage beyond rare. The third is, currently, the only known use of a Prexie paying customs duty.

Previous Awards: This is a relatively new exhibit. This is only the second showing as a traditional exhibit. For its first showing the exhibit received a gold.