

Synopsis
*New addition

The 6¢ Theodore Roosevelt Definitive Stamp 1955-1968

This traditional single-stamp exhibit presents the production and usage of the 6¢ sheet stamp of the 1954 Liberty Series.

The sequence of the exhibit is: archival material, pre-issue official publicity, production (wet and dry printings), production varieties, Bureau and local precancels, first day covers, and stamp usages through each rate period until the 6¢ Theodore Roosevelt stamp was replaced by the 6¢ Franklin D. Roosevelt stamp in the Prominent Americans Series.

Especially significant material:

- Archival design model photograph.
- Two large die proofs (only ones known in collector hands).
- Stamp multiples autographed by the designers and engravers.
- Complete matched sets of plate number blocks, both wet and dry printings.
- Postmaster General's first day cover and other unusual FDCs – domestic airmail, foreign destination. All four official FDOI cancels are included.
- Full pane of dry print precancels: the preeminent dealer in precancel stamps told us he had no recollection of seeing a 6¢ precancel pane since he began collecting in the 1970s.
- Example of insured airmail used to expedite a shipment of live leeches for medicinal use; only example of 6¢ Roosevelt used on insured airmail that these exhibitors have found in years of searching. The combination of postal insurance and airmail was seldom used with any type of postage.

*mint upper left plate block of 10 with large post-printing fold over/crease that caused major crazy perforations: a rare example of a freak on this Roosevelt issue.

Special note: One major error of the 6¢ Roosevelt is recorded, an imperforate block of four, which has not come to the market since these exhibitors began specializing in the issue. Despite a rumor to the contrary, no other genuine examples are known.

The exhibit shows non-philatelic covers comprising each rate, class, and special service period, both domestic and international, from 1954 to 1968. An abundance of origins and destinations, including territories and possessions, army and air force post offices, ships at sea, and foreign countries demonstrate the global service performed by 6¢ Roosevelt stamps.

Important note on rate periods: In this exhibit, the duration of a rate or fee is given from the date it became effective to the date the next period became effective, rather than through the last date of its period. This reflects a subtle but significant postal history fact that some have misunderstood. On the first day of a new rate, mail from the first collection that was fully paid at the old rate was regarded as properly rated and deposited at the former rate, with no postage due collected, even though postmarked on the date that the new rate became effective.

Scarce and unusual domestic rate usages include:

- live honey bee (surface with special handling) shipping tag
- live queen bee (airmail) shipping tag
- transient second class (two rate periods)
- third class with special packaging for safety matches
- library rate within Alaskan territory
- business reply mail
- air mail special delivery post card to Arctic APO destination
- parcel post special delivery
- air mail return receipt for registry.

Scarce and unusual international rate usages include:

- 1956 surface rate cover from Houston, TX to London to Christmas Island (back stamp) to a British fleet ship to London
- 1957 airmail letter from territorial Hawaii to British Columbia
- printed matter from Indiana to Canada paid by an undated (about 1957) Indianapolis local precancel
- 1958 out-of-mails (railroad lines) to Canada; treated as double letter rate in Canada
- 1959 cover forwarded with mixed franking from the Philippines
- 1960 A.O. rate (other articles) air mail cover from Chicago to Sweden
- 1962 registered surface letter from Costa Rica to Hawaii forwarded by air mail to Switzerland.

Recently these noteworthy items were added to the exhibit:

- 1959 cover to Kyoto, Japan, surface rate with two added ounces
- 1965 cover mailed to Guernsey, Channel Islands posted with a domestic first class postage meter, returned for additional postage

Also added recently is an item that may be nostalgic for some of you; take a look at frame three, row three, page three and smile.

Especially important items are mounted on deep red mats or designated by red dots.

References:

Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1999, Revised Second Edition*, Cama Publishing Company, 1999.

Ken Lawrence, C. David Eeles, and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, *The Liberty Series*, American Philatelic Society, 2007.

Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, *U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-1996*, Cama Publishing Company, 1996.