

The 1947 CIPEX Souvenir Sheet

Ebullience at the International Exhibition

Purpose. This illustrated mail exhibit presents the CIPEX souvenir sheet, its creation, release, first day use, later CIPEX use, domestic postal use, and foreign postal use. An analysis of first day cachet design forms the nucleus of the exhibit.

The Souvenir Sheet. The sheet was released on May 19, 1947, the third day of the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition, our fourth international show, held in New York's Grand Central Palace May 17 to 25. Both the souvenir sheet and the international exhibition produced great philatelic excitement.

Importance. Strong collector enthusiasm created a much broader array of first day items than was usual for a new stamp, a multiplicity featured throughout this display. The exhibit concludes with an in-depth showing of challenging postal uses.



Original Idea: Philatelic president FDR proposed a reissue of U.S. number one to honor the 100th anniversary of the world's first stamp in 1940, but he later nixed the idea. The model prepared for that issue became the basis for a souvenir sheet for the centenary of our own stamps seven years later.

First Day Multiplicity. A host of new, one-time, unknown, and now unlisted cachet makers came forward to produce FDCs for the "Big Show." Enthusiastic collectors applied first day cancels to souvenir sheets not only on covers but also on show items, commemorative panels, photographs, show publications, and commercial stationery.

The variety of souvenir sheet FDCs was further enriched by the use of covers with the cachets created for the postage stamp and the air mail envelope which were also released at the show. Finally, the souvenir sheet was cut up in a number of ways to add novelty to the FDCs.

Cachet Arrangement: The first day cachets are arranged by design elements. The most visually prominent element was chosen when several are shown in a cachet. Sets of cachets are grouped together in a separate chapter. FDCs with extra services, foreign destinations, and other special features are interspersed within the first day cachet chapters.

Chapters

1. The souvenir sheet.
2. The sheet and the CIPEX show.
3. First day cachet designs based on the souvenir sheet.
4. First day cachet designs based on the 3¢ stamp.
5. First day cachet designs for the centenary.
6. Non-illustrated first day cachet designs.
7. First day cachets issued in sets.
8. Non-CIPEX first day cachets.
9. Uses at CIPEX after the souvenir sheet first day.
10. Uses of the souvenir sheet after CIPEX.

Blue borders highlight important items.