

The Ways U.S. Postage Due Stamps Were Used, 1879 - 1986

8/4/18

Purpose: This exhibit shows the many ways U.S. postage due stamps were used, from July 1, 1879 until Oct. 2, 1986, during the period when adhesive due stamps allowed, indicating whether their use denoted actual due collection, and where, and when, postage due stamps placed.

Scope:

- This exhibit will show the many possible ways in which U.S. postage due stamps were used from July 1, 1879 (when adhesive postage due stamps were introduced), to Oct. 2, 1986 (after which postage due adhesive stamps not allowed). **That is, adhesive postage due stamps use limits this exhibit.**
- Rules related to postage due stamps use are presented when they help clarify a use.
- **Examples of fees paid by postage due stamps and forms used for postage due collection are limited to after 1910, as they are only known then.**
- The epilogue is examples of postage due use that continued after Oct. 2, 1986 (when only postage due meters, ordinary stamps, and Postage Validation Imprints were allowed as postage due use).

Organization: Blue outlined headings identify the five sections, their start and content (see Plan). The five section titles serve as main running headings in the exhibit. Tables found in each section subdivide them and are used as subheadings on each page (they further define items on that page). New headings **bold** when first listed, then as listed subsequently, gray.

Importance: Postage due stamps were an invaluable resource to the U.S. Post Office Department because they were used to reclaim vital lost revenues on short paid items or on receipts in order to collect vital revenues from fees.

Important Background: *Postage due stamps were only to be affixed at mailing offices when postage due was being paid (especially, in Section 4). For Plan sections 1-3, and 5 at free (carrier, city) delivery offices), postage due stamps placed on short paid or unpaid items as they reached a receiving office indicated postage due collected only if item not forwarded, undeliverable, or sent to dead letter office (that is, deliverable). At non-free delivery offices (non-carrier), postage due stamps placed only upon collection of postage due. For Plan section 4, postage due stamps placed to indicate fee collection, no matter the post office type.*

Rarity Highlighting: Red matting with bold information denotes rare items.

One-time Primary Research shown as blue text. Repetitive primary research in italics (e.g., see Important Background on this title page).

Exhibit Plan

- 1 Short paid first-class domestic uses
- 2 Short paid second-, third-, and fourth-class domestic uses
- 3 Short paid international uses
- 4 Various fees paid on receipts / delivered items
- 5 Epilogue - no adhesive postage due stamps OK but other stamp types as postage due stamps OK