

# Washington State Apple Tax Stamp

On August, 1928, a group of growers, shippers and businessmen determined advertising was needed to promote the Washington State apple industry. The Washington State Box Apple Bureau was launched in 1929 and was paid for by the shipper. In 1934 the Washington Agricultural Adjustment Act director issued Order No 128 creating the Apple Code and stamps were issued but was later declared unconstitutional. A new program was developed in 1936 but was voluntary and not everyone participated. As a result on March 17, 1937, Washington State Governor Clarence D. Martin signed into law an act establishing the "Washington State Apple Advertising Commission."

This is a revenue exhibit showing the history of the Washington State Apple stamps from 1934 to 1961.

The exhibit will focus on the Washington State Apple stamp through the five changes from the start in 1934 to the legislature amendment in 1961.

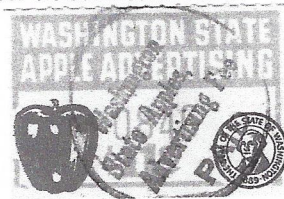
1934 The Washington Apple program was set up and a rate of 1 cent per box was charged. Late in 1934, the rate was cut to 1/2c per box and stamps were overprinted to reflect this. It was determined later that it was unconstitutional and activities were terminated. There are no known stamps on document.

1936 Since advertising was still necessary, on August 1<sup>st</sup> there was a state wide organization created called "Washington State Apples, Inc.". It was financed by the sale of stamps to be affixed to the bill of lading at the rate of 1 cent per box. This set of stamps was private issue, seldom canceled and short lived. Canceled stamps and stamps on documents/piece are fairly rare.

1937 House bill No. 617 signed by the governor March 17, 1937 was for the advertising and promotion of the state Apple industry. Stamps were issued to shippers. Stamps were placed on documents and were sent to the State to be audited and destroyed 5 years later. This makes stamps on piece fairly rare.

1942 A rate change to 1½c created a new design which was in place until 1961. Stamps were added and deleted as the rate was changed. Since documents were destroyed after 5 years this makes stamps on piece fairly rare and on documents rare.

This is the new design with a State cancel.



1961 On August 23 The Washington State Apple Commission adopted new regulations demonetizing the stamps it had issued. In place of the stamps was a "variable stamp" that had pertinent information filled in by hand thus making the Apple stamp obsolete.

Rare items are outlined in red.