

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. 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 and the plan is to focus on the stamps through five changes.

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.

1936 Since advertising was still necessary, on August 1st 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. Since this was a private issue, these stamps are considered "Cinderella's"

This is a private design with a private cancel.



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, placed on documents, sent to the State to be audited and destroyed 5 years later.

This is the new state design with a private agent cancel.



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.

This is the new state design with a State Commission seal.



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.