

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

5/29/19

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

Scope:

- Adhesive postage due stamps allowed from July 1, 1879, to Oct. 2, 1986 (after which postage due adhesive stamps not allowed). Includes postage due meters use as introduced in 1952.
- 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 exhibit epilogue is a brief post-Oct. 2, 1986 two pages of non-adhesive postage due use.

Importance: Postage due stamps were a valuable 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.*
- *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 and Research Highlighting: **Red matting with bold information** denotes rare items.

- **One time primary research is shown as blue text.**
- *More repetitious primary research shown as italic text. The **Important Background** is thus primary research.*

Organization:

- **Blue** outlined headings identify the start and content of the five sections of the Plan.
- The five Plan 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

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