

# BALTIMORE: POSTAL HISTORY FROM COLONIAL TIMES UNTIL THE UPU

The objective of this exhibit is to illustrate how the significant aspects of United States postal history from colonial times to the later 1870s can be documented using postal history material from, through and to one of our major cities: Baltimore, Maryland. Baltimore was part of the colonial postal system, was a major port, and an early railroad hub. The "National Road" west to Cumberland and the mid-west begins in Baltimore. In addition, Baltimore issued Postmaster Provisional stamps and stamped envelopes; it had a well organized carrier system and a few short-lived local posts.

The exhibit is organized into sections representing the various domestic rate periods. Ship mail and mail to foreign destinations, covered by various postal conventions, are included in the sections corresponding to the chronological domestic rate period. Each section is in approximate chronological order. Rates are emphasized in this presentation. Although markings are discussed, no systematic classification is attempted.

## DISTANCE ZONE—RATES IN STERLING

### **BRITISH COLONIAL RATES 1765 TO 1774**

Forerunner, private letter 1763, manuscript rate 1768; first type town name straightline - *pre-paid hand stamp*

### **CONSTITUTIONAL POST- 1775**

Dated town name straightline

### **CONTINENTAL CONGRESS RATES: 1775 TO 1792**

Multiple rates, including 2 ounce rate - town name straightlines - *full year dated handstamp*- inflation rate - ship - private forwarder - *free, Member 1st Congress.*

## DISTANCE ZONE—RATES IN CENTS

### **JUNE 1, 1792 - MARCH 1, 1799**

Treble and ounce rates - way letters- ship, port of arrival and beyond - free mail.

### **MARCH 2, 1799 - JANUARY 31, 1815**

Incoming ship, 11 times inland rate -7 times rate, packet to London - first CDS - paid ship letter - drop - *early forwarding agent.*

### **FEBRUARY 1, 1815 - MARCH 30, 1816**

*1st day War of 1812 rate*—ship - multiple rates.

### **MARCH 31, 1816 - APRIL 30, 1816**

*Restored rate - ship letter.*

### **MAY 1, 1816 - APRIL 30, 1825**

4 times rate to Boston - ship - 1¾ and 2¼ ounce rates - Falmouth Packet to London

### **MAY 1, 1825 - JUNE 30, 1845**

Ship - steamboat - *free, Last Signer* Declaration of Independence - railroad - *Hale & Co*, independent mail - cross border, ferriage - to France - to England - triple rate steam freight money - *Navy Agency* forwarder.

## 5¢ AND 10¢ UNIFORM RATES

### **JULY 1, 1845 - JUNE 30, 1851**

*Buchanan Provisional 5¢ on bluish - Buchanan Provisional envelope 5¢ blue - Buchanan Provisional 5¢ on white - railroad and steamer contract routes - 5¢ 1847 adhesives - 40¢ California - Mearis, Stringer & Morton, Butcher & Sandy locals - drop, plus carrier - Buchanan Provisional envelope 10¢ red - Buchanan Provisional 10¢ on white, to London - 10¢ 1847 to Nova Scotia - freight money- Retaliatory rate, to England/France.*

## 3¢ UNIFORM RATE

### **JULY 1, 1851 - MARCH 31, 1855**

Handstamp & adhesive rates - steamboat - 10¢ California rate - *Washington Branch contract route* - 1st type Carrier stamp - Way letters - printed matter - direct to France - British Treaty - Prussian Closed Mail

### **APRIL 1, 1855 - JUNE 30, 1863**

Circular - ship - *to Confederacy* interim period, *across the lines* - Davis, Grafflin's, Wiley's local post - 2nd and 3rd type Carrier stamps - compound entire, 1857/1861 regular adhesives carrier usage - *carrier 3¢ magazine rate* - British Treaty - to Brazil, French steamer - Prussian Closed mail - to Amsterdam - French Treaty 1857 - MISSENT SOUTH, EAST, WEST.

### **JULY 1, 1863 - JUNE 7, 1872**

2¢/1¢ drop - 2¢ circular - advertised 1¢ - returned 3¢ - registration - Civil War Soldier's letters - Leeds patent envelope - Incoming POW to Wests Building - Ft. McHenry POW - *Flag of Truce mail* - Baltimore Exchange Office - *depreciated currency* - quadruple 24¢ /12¢ to England - *to Calcutta* - to Italy - to Netherlands - Bremen Mail 15¢, 10¢, NGU - *NGL direct from Baltimore.*

### **JUNE 8, 1872 - 1878**

Postal cards - *Palmer & Clark experimental machine cancel* - 4 ounce 24¢ rate - to Peru, to Norway - 10¢ non-Treaty and 9¢ Treaty rate to France - 6¢ NGU - *incoming from Brazil pre-UPU.*