

THE 1947 U.S. POSTAGE STAMP CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE



Plate Block of 6 signed by the designer Leon Helguera on May 17, 1947 — the stamp's day of issue and the first day of CIPEX.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first United States postage stamp, an international philatelic exhibition was planned in New York City for May 1947. The show, nicknamed CIPEX, was to be the largest stamp show ever held with the Post Office Department as one of the largest supporters. Three postal items were released by the P.O.D. during the 9-day long show — including a 3¢ stamp on the opening day. The stamp depicted an early mode of postal transportation, an express rider, as well as modern transportation methods.

Over 30,000 collectors attended the show's opening day — over three million Centenary Commemorative stamps were sold and 712,000 first day covers were processed. As could be expected, numerous cachet varieties were produced for the issue by a vast number of cachetmakers.

Cachet variations shown in the exhibit are limited to those with design differences only. Due to space limitations, cachets printed in more than one color are shown only once and the printed colors are described in the text.

EXHIBIT PLAN

1. PRODUCTION & ISSUANCE
2. FIRST CACHETS
3. FIRST DAY USE
4. FOREIGN DESTINATIONS
5. UNOFFICIAL CITIES
6. USAGE

Items of note are matted in gold

HIGHLIGHTS

- PHOTOGRAPHIC MODELS OF PRELIMINARY ARTWORK AND PROGRESSIVE DESIGNS
- PRINTING PLATES FOR ALL FOUR ARTCRAFT CACHET VARIETIES
- ONLY LARGE DIE PROOF IN PRIVATE HANDS
- UNIQUE DOROTHY KNAPP, HERMAN MAUL & WALTER STAWUSZEWSKI HAND-PAINTED CACHETS
- FIRST DAY USES TO FRENCH INDO-CHINA, THE CANAL ZONE AND MALTA.
- LARGEST-DOCUMENTED MULTIPLE FIRST DAY USE