

# THE EAGLE

## THE U.S. 6¢ EAGLE AIR MAIL STAMP OF 1938



Post Office Department photographic model. Noticeable differences between the model and the completed design include the typeface used in "Air Mail" and "U.S. Postage". Differences also exist in the corner ornamentation and the background shading.

### EXHIBIT PLAN

1. PEDIGREE OF THE EAGLE
2. PRODUCTION
3. AN EAGLE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR
4. FIRST DAY USE
5. DISCOVERY OF THE IMPERFORATE EAGLE
6. NATIONAL AIR MAIL WEEK
7. USAGE
8. END OF THE EAGLE

The upcoming celebration of National Air Mail Week (NAMW) and the general dissatisfaction with the current 6¢ airmail stamp led to the design and issuance of the "Eagle" on May 14, 1938. Two first day cities were selected; Dayton, Ohio as home of the Wright Brothers; and St. Petersburg, Florida site of that year's convention of the American Air Mail Society.

Public interest in the new stamp and in NAMW was high and resulted in most towns and cities across the United States participating in the celebrations — regardless of the existence of a local airport! President Franklin Roosevelt was very interested in the design of the stamp and approved the final model himself before it was put into production.

It is the goal of this exhibit to illustrate how the Eagle was designed, produced and used in everyday use as well as show how it helped to promote airmail service in the later half of the 1930's, with an emphasis on First Day Uses.

Items of note are matted in gold