

The 3¢ Connecticut Tercentenary Issue of 1935 And Its First Days

SYNOPSIS For AAPE Exhibits

PURPOSE & SCOPE: This is a multi-frame “Traditional” First Day exhibit of the 3¢ Connecticut Tercentenary stamp of 1935 (Scott #772). First Day covers shown include those postmarked on its official date of issue, April 26, 1935, as well as covers from the first day of general release (a.k.a. 2nd-day covers), mainly from Washington, D.C. The imperforate version of the design, one of four designs included in the 1936 TIPEX souvenir sheet, is NOT included in this exhibit.

TREATMENT: This exhibit will follow the “Traditional” format for First Day cover exhibits, starting with a study of the stamp, then FDCs, and ending with postal uses. See the Title Page for a more in-depth description of treatment.

COMPREHENSIVENESS: This is the most comprehensive exhibit of the Connecticut Tercentenary stamp. All aspects are presented at the highest possible level.

Starting with the image source for the Charter Oak, the photo from the 1931 Connecticut register, used by the BEP, and the lithograph from which it was taken are shown. Photo essays (ex Sol Glass), and one of two known sets of stamp-sized photo essays from the Alvin Hall collection, are followed by five different BEP essays and proofs (from the estates of the engravers and letterers). None others are known in public hands.

A whopping 95.7% of all entries and varieties in the Planty/Mellone catalog (see References) - are in the collection, as are many examples of cachets varieties not listed - **an additional 47** (29% more than the catalog). The vast majority will be shown in the exhibit, but not all (as some are rather boring to view). All listed First Cachets will be shown, as well as several discoveries. Additionally, the collection contains 70 cachets not listed in the catalog (not including, business corner cards or postcards). All of the most important finds will be shown.

Likewise, The exhibit will include most of the unofficial town cancels, RPO and ship cancels listed by Colby (see References), plus many not listed.

IMPORTANCE: While not of the “classic” FDC era, the Connecticut Tercentenary issue of 1935 enjoys the status of being issued prior to the use of the now common FDOI cancel. A number of important cachet makers created their first commercial covers for this issue, including William Grandy, O.W. Lindquist, Henry K. Manger, William Weiss and others. In all, almost 40 cachet makers are credited with releasing their first commercial cachet for this issue.

Connecticut is one of the oldest colonies, established in 1635, just 15 years after Plymouth. The Fundamental Orders, considered the world’s first constitution was drafted and ratified in 1639. Connecticut has played a key role in the development and success of the United States. This stamp reflects the great history and contributions of the state.

This exhibit is the definitive work for the Connecticut Tercentenary stamp.

KNOWLEDGE, STUDY & RESEARCH: Every aspect of the stamp, its First Day covers, and postal uses is presented in this exhibit. As a result of the depth of study on this issue, the exhibit presents many items not previously recorded, and corrects inaccuracies in past documents.

New discoveries include a proof on bond paper not yet listed by Scott, attributing the six cachets 772-42a-f to Grant & Lyon and identifying the two artists who created the cachets, proving that “Dodd” was the artist for 772-32, but that the cachet was commissioned by Andrew J. Peterson of W. C. Phillips & Company. I have identified 47 additional varieties to those listed by Planty/Mellone. Additionally, over 70 cachets and varieties not listed by Planty/Mellone have been identified and documented. Likewise, over 30 unofficial towns have been added to the list compiled by Colby. While Colby only indicates that a cancel is known for a town, this

exhibit includes examples of the varieties of each town cancel (e.g. machine, 4-bar hand stamp, duplex, etc.) greatly expanding Colby's study.

To identify all cancels used in Hartford on the First Day, I conducted a survey of covers from my collection and those of fellow collectors of the issue. This also established the relative rarity of each cancel, some with only 2-3 examples known. The study is presented in the exhibit prior to the section of cacheted covers.

A statistical analysis was conducted on the time slugs used for Machine Cancel 2, the workhorse of the cancels used, representing about 68% of all FDCs of this issue. The analysis presents an interesting story of how the postal personnel handled the onslaught of FDCs that day.

RARITY & CONDITION: What sets this exhibit apart from other exhibits of this stamp, and from other FDC exhibits (as well as any exhibit)?

This exhibit shows a large die proof, three varieties of small die proofs, including a newly discovered variety on bond paper, as well as a color trial, which is the basis for the listing in Scott. These are the only known essays and proofs in public hands. The only known Specimen of the stamp is included.

All of the rare cachets are included: the one-of-a-kind hand drawn Dorothy Knapp cachet made for Jarret, both one-of-a-kind cachets by R.M. Warren. A complete set of the four listed cachets by Beazell, plus three cachets not previously recorded, two one-of-a-kind hand drawn cachets by Torkel Gundel, two previously unreported hand drawn cachets by McIntyre, plus several new discoveries of cachets by Gordon Vieth, Richard Silliman, and Burton E. Davis. And more.

Covers included to show postal use are all contemporaneous uses. Highlights include a domestic third class insured cover, a pair used as postage due on a double-weight domestic airmail cover, a solo use from the American legation in China, a supplementary mail postcard to Germany, where both the basic rate and the supplementary mail fee are paid by Tercentenary stamps, a solo use on postcard to Africa, a block of four on a catapult mail cover, and a single paying air service from Frankfurt to Vienna on a *Hindenburg* cover.

Created over eighty-five years ago, many FDCs for this issue show signs of age: worn, tattered, stained and toned. The covers shown in this exhibit are of the best quality possible, most in pristine condition, even though the vast majority passed through the mails.

REFERENCES:

Mellone's Planty Photo Encyclopedia of Cacheted First Day Covers, Volume VIII 1935-1936, 1997 edition by Michael A. Mellone; FDC Publishing. The Connecticut Tercentenary issue is covered on pages 5-24.

Checklist of US FDC Predates and Unofficials 1922 to Mid-1936, by Robert P. Colby; published 2002 by American First Day Cover Society. See pages 34-35. Note: issue date is incorrectly stated as May 26, 1935 and "Tollan" should be "Tolland" in the list of unofficial towns.

The United States Postage Stamps of the Twentieth Century, Volume 4, by Max G. Johl; published 1938 by H.L. Lindquist. See Chapter IX, pages 153-161.

"On the Trail of Grant & Lyon" by Tony Dewey, *First Days*, Volume 64, Number 2 (March-April 2019), pp. 20-26. This is a first person account of the discovery and research concerning the cachet makers and artists for 772-42a-f.

"Dodd Was Dead" by Anthony Dewey & Peter LaPlaca, *First Days*, Volume 65, Number 5 (September-October 2020), pp. 44-48. This article identifies the source for the cachet for the "Dodd" covers, shows that Dodd was not the cachet maker, and identifies the actual sponsor of the cover and its printer.