

THE 3c 1948 WISCONSIN STATEHOOD ISSUE

Purpose and Scope

This exhibit shows the development of the Wisconsin Statehood stamp from the initial design stages to the final product. It illustrates two rejected designs, and includes autographs of the designer and engravers. The Post Office Department (POD) announcement, all plate positions, all possible plate blocks on first day covers (FDCs), and a representative pane autographed by the Governor are shown. A predated FDC is included. The first day ceremony and cancellation data are illustrated and described. FDCs with a wide variety of cachets follow. Representative worldwide commercial usages of the stamp are exhibited.

Background

In October, 1945, the Wisconsin State Legislature established the Wisconsin State Centennial Committee (WSCC). Among its duties were to recommend a stamp to commemorate the 100th anniversary of statehood. The next month, the WSCC asked Wisconsin Senator Robert M. LaFollette to request that Postmaster General (PMG) Robert E. Hannegan issue a commemorative stamp. In January, 1947, Wisconsin Senator Alexander Wiley also wrote a letter to the PMG. Later that year, the PMG informed the WSCC that its request for a stamp was approved. WSCC chairman Dr. Ora R. Rice announced the stamp at the state fair in 1947.

The WSCC preferred a design featuring the state capitol building within an outline map of the state. Leon Peschert, a Whitewater, WI artist, offered to design a series of stamps. Bryon Jones, a University of Wisconsin (UW) staff artist, was asked to submit a sketch for the stamp.

The stamp was issued on May 29, 1948 in Madison, WI, the state capital. The first day ceremony was held in the state capital building at 3 p.m. On the first day, 1,065,293 stamps were sold. FDCs cancelled totaled 470,280.

Unusual, scarce and difficult-to-acquire items are highlighted by a green dot ().

Exhibit Plan

THE STAMP

PREDATE

FIRST DAY

CANCELLATIONS

FIRST CACHETS

ISSUE-SPECIFIC CACHETS

GENERAL-PURPOSE

CACHETS

POSTCARDS

COMBINATION FDCs

DUAL FDCs

UNCACHETED FDCs

AUTOGRAPHED FDCs

FREAK FDCs

ADD-ON CACHETS

FDCs to FOREIGN

DESTINATIONS

USAGES

Sc. 957
Knapp FDC

One-of-a-kind Dorothy Knapp cachet