

THE AMERICANA SERIES

\$1 RUSH LAMP & CANDLEHOLDER STAMP

The Exhibit

This exhibit documents the production, errors, varieties and uses of the \$1 Americana Series regular issue stamps.

Background

The series, created to illustrate American history and culture, began in 1975, but the \$1 denomination was not issued until July 2, 1979, replacing the \$1 Eugene O'Neil stamp. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing printed the stamp. It was designed by James Schleyer of Burke, Virginia.

Production Challenges

The \$1 Candleholder stamp was printed in four colors on light gray paper. Three of the printed colors (tan, yellow and orange) were printed by a sheet-fed offset press and the brown candleholder and curved type were printed by an intaglio press. Printing difficulties, caused by using three colors and two different presses, are explored in this exhibit.

The "CIA Invert"

The most famous error of printing within the Americana series has become known as the "CIA Invert." It was discovered in 1986 by an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency who tore a stamp as he was removing it from a partial pane of 95 stamps. In attempting to repair the stamp, he noticed the candleholder and text were inverted. This key "damaged" stamp was given to stamp dealer Jacques Schiff, who purchased most of the remaining \$1 inverts.



Original discovery of the "CIA Invert." Position 96. Unique.

Uses

The \$1 denomination was issued as a "make up" rate stamp to pay excess postage on letters or parcels, and to cover costs of additional services. The exhibit shows these types of uses.

Exhibit Plan

1. Production
2. Errors & Varieties
3. Post-Production
4. Uses