

U.S. BYRD ANTARCTIC STAMP: THE PERFORATED ISSUES

This illustrated mail exhibit is a study of the 3-cent United States Little America stamp issued October 9, 1933 in Washington, D.C, and reprinted in perforated format March 15, 1935. The 1933 stamp marked the Second Antarctic Expedition of Richard E. Byrd and was intended to help defray expedition costs by offering the public the opportunity to prepare souvenir covers cancelled at the Little America post office in Antarctica by charging a service fee of fifty cents plus the face value of the stamp.

The stamp was designed by Victor S. McCloskey, Jr. based on sketches by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The exhibit begins with a study of production including design, die proofs, printing and perforation problems, and marginal markings. Next is an examination of the First Day Covers, which is the major focus of the exhibit. The FDCs cover the panorama of cachetmakers with a study of cachet varieties, autographed covers, and unofficial cancellations at other cities, onboard ships, and at railway post offices. The first cachets are shown for Albert Parsons, H. W. Holmes, Frank J. Resch, Joseph P. Ulman, and National Cachet Publishing Service. The final section of this portion of the exhibit is a reflection of non first day uses of the stamp including Little America mail, airmail rates, unusual origins, foreign destinations, and late usage.

The Postmaster General at the time, James A. Farley, requested some stamps be issued in full sheets un gummed, which he purchased for himself and a few close friends. When word reached collectors that this variety existed and appeared to be a favor item, a decision was made to reprint the National Parks set and several other recent new issues including the Byrd stamp in un gummed format and to make them available to the public in Washington on March 15, 1935. The perforated reprint forms the second part of this stamp and first day cover study. This section does not include non-FD use as the stamps were available to collectors only for three months in Washington, and the fact that they were without gum held no interest for the public.

Ralph Dyer hand-painted design on Hobby Cover Service cacheted envelope, signed by Ralph Dyer and from his personal collection. Unique. Dyer studied art and design at Cooper Union in New York and became a commercial artist and linotype operator.

Key Items have text outlined in a box.