

# U.S. Customs Duties Collection, 1907-1970s

**Purpose, Scope:** The exhibit begins in 1907 because basically no examples of the customs duty collection process are known before this date. So, this exhibit shows how, from 1907-1970s, the customs department handled incoming possibly dutiable mail, collecting customs duty if owed on such matter. To do this, it identified (a) definitely dutiable matter (marking it 'Collect duty'), (b) matter that may be dutiable and must be evaluated further (marking it 'Supposed liable to customs duty'), or (c) non-dutiable matter (marking it 'PASSED FREE OF DUTY'). Since no pre-1927 examples of the (a) process are owned by anyone, only the (b) and (c) parts are shown before 1927, while all three parts are discussed in subsequent exhibit sections. However, this pre-1927 discussion is important because from 1907 to 1927 many earliest known examples of the hs/label 'Supposed to be liable to customs duty' and the hs 'PASSED FREE OF DUTY' are known and will be shown. When collected, the customs clearance fee is also discussed.

**Organization:** Each major section is introduced with important information presented with a blue background.

**Importance:** The customs duties collection process is enforced to protect a country's economy by controlling cargo entering a country. Without such protection, it is easy for a country to be financially dysfunctional. For instance, this is a major concern of our present U.S. leadership.

**Abbreviations used throughout the exhibit and Rarity Highlighting:** hs = handstamp; PDS = postage due stamp; Supposed... = Supposed liable to customs duty. Red matting with bold information = rare items.

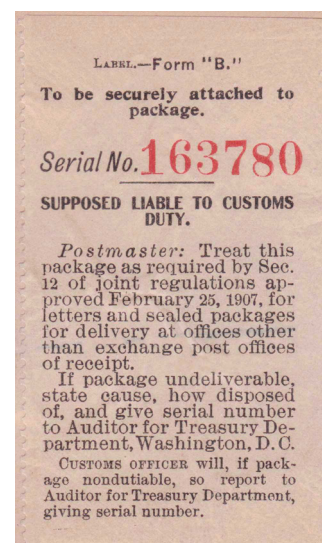
## Exhibit Plan - Collection of custom duties always attempted so not listed separately below

- 1 1907-1925: Type "A"/"B" labels, 'Supposed...' and 'PASSED FREE OF DUTY' hs, no customs clearance fee
- 2 1925-30: 'Supposed...' and 'PASSED FREE OF DUTY' hs, customs clearance fee only if duty collected
- 3 1930-57: 'Supposed...' and 'PASSED FREE OF DUTY' hs, customs clearance fee variably collected
- 4 1957-present: 'Supposed...' and 'PASSED FREE OF DUTY' hs, customs clearance fee only if duty collected
- 5 1935-1949: Customs handled foreign matter 'Supposed to contain mail / prohibited importation'
- 1941-57: Customs duty on incoming U.S. armed forces mail

## 1 1907-25: Customs duty collected but no examples known

### 1.1 Type "B" labels

*1. 1907-25: As no examples of the (a) process are owned by anyone before 1927, only the (b) and (c) parts are shown in this section (see Purpose above). Yet this limited pre-1925 discussion is important because from 1907 to 1925 many earliest known examples of the hs/label 'Supposed to be liable to customs duty' and the hs 'PASSED FREE OF DUTY' are known and shown. No type "A" labels are known to anyone. No customs clearance fee.*



May 1910 registered England to Ottumwah, Iowa letter. Chicago (custom city) correctly placed reverse "B" 'Supposed...' label as Chicago not delivery city. **Earliest known label use (references Feb. 25, 1907 regulations), unknown to Piskiewicz.**