

The Ways U.S. Postage Due Stamps Were Used, 1879 - 1986

Purpose: This exhibit shows the many ways U.S. postage due stamps (PDS) were used, from July 1, 1879 until Oct. 2, 1986, indicating whether their use denoted actual due collection, and where, and when, PDS placed.

Scope: This exhibit will show the many possible ways in which U.S. postage due stamps were used from July 1, 1879 (when adhesive PDS were introduced), to Oct. 2, 1986 (after which PD adhesive stamps not allowed). **That is, adhesive stamp PDS use limits this exhibit.** Rules related to PDS use are presented when they help clarify a use. **Examples of fees paid by PDSs and forms used for PD collection are limited to after 1913, as they are only known then.** The epilogue is examples of postage due use that continued after Oct. 2, 1986 (when only PD meters, ordinary stamps, and PVIs were allowed as PD use).

Organization: **Blue** outlined headings identify the five section beginnings (see Plan). The five section titles serve as main running headings in the exhibit. Tables found in each section subdivide them and are used as subheadings on each page (they further define items on that page). Headings **bold** then subsequently gray.

Importance: PDS were an invaluable resource to the U.S. Post Office Department because they were used to reclaim vital lost revenues on short paid items or on receipts in order to collect vital revenues from fees.

Important Background: PDSs were never to be fixed at mailing offices unless PD was being paid. For Plan sections 1-3, and 5 at free (carrier, city) delivery offices, PDS placed on short paid or unpaid items as they reached receiving office indicated PD collected only if item not forwarded, undeliverable, or sent to DLO (that is, deliverable). At non-free delivery offices (non-carrier), PDS placed only upon collection of PD. For Plan section 4, PDS placed to indicate fee collection, no matter the post office type.

Some Abbreviations used and Rarity Highlighting: PDS = postage due stamp; PD = postage due; PVI = Postage Validation Imprint; DLO = dead letter office; DLB = dead letter branch; PO = post office; hs = handstamp; SD = special delivery. **Red** matting **with bold information** denotes rare items.

Exhibit Plan

- 1 Short paid first-class domestic uses
- 2 Short paid second-, third-, and fourth-class domestic uses
- 3 Short paid international uses
- 4 Various fees paid on receipts / delivered items
- 5 Epilogue - no adhesive PDSs OK but other stamp types as PDSs OK

1 Short paid first-class domestic uses

1.1 One letter rate paid, added rate(s) due

See **Important Background** on Title Page re meaning of PDS on a short paid cover. The two tables in section 1, 1a and 1b, enumerate the numerous short paid first-class types, and these types are used as subsection running headings, first **bold** then gray.

Table 1a

No.	Various domestic letter first-class short paid types	PO PD Paid	Time Period
1.1	If one rate paid, added rate(s) due at carrier/non-carrier offices of delivery - importantly, if short paid (not unpaid) matter reached delivery office, PD at single rate	Delivery	7/1/1879 - 2/20/1978
1.2	Single rate charged on drop letter arriving at delivery office unpaid	Delivery	1/1880 - 10/8/1958
1.3	Double rate charged on non-drop matter arriving at delivery office unpaid	Delivery	1/1/1882 - 10/8/1958
1.4	Penalty - paid one rate, short paid more than one added rate - short paid amount + 1¢ penalty per short paid rate due	Delivery	7/1/1928 - 6/30/1958
1.5	Penalty - any amount (only during July 1958) - short paid amount + 5¢ penalty due	Delivery	7/1/1958 - 7/31/1958
1.6	Unpaid or insufficient (only after 11/16/74) payment - short paid amount due from addressee	Delivery	10/8/1958 - present
1.7	Form 1513 for PD collection on short paid first-class items - PDS indicated PD paid	Delivery	?8/1956 - 7/13/1960
1.8	Form 3570 for PD collection on short paid first-class items - PDS indicated PD paid	Delivery	7/14/1960 - 2/9/1978
1.9	Forwarded drop mail out of city - PDS may mean PD may or may not have been paid.	Mailing/Del.	9/1879 - 2/25/1949

Del. = delivery. Re 1.6 - insufficient payment collected only after 11/16/1974. Unpaid amount collected during entire period.