

Aloha ... THE 80¢ DIAMOND HEAD STAMP OF 1952

Created For Air Shipment Of Flowers Or Plants From Hawaii To U.S. Mainland

SUBJECT

A traditional exhibit of the 80¢ Diamond Head stamp created to pay the air parcel post rate for shipping a pound of flowers or plants to Zone 8 (>1800 miles).

CONCEPT

When Postmaster General Jesse Donaldson visited Hilo, Hawaii in 1951, a flower grower requested an 80¢ stamp for shipping a pound of flowers or plants by air to the mainland.

DESIGN

Donaldson liked the idea. He promised the growers that he would issue an 80¢ stamp to aid them in conveniently paying, with a single stamp, the air parcel post rate for shipping a pound of flowers or plants from Hawaii to the mainland — Zone 8 (>1800 miles).



Donaldson

PRODUCTION

On March 26, 1952 — five months after the grower's request — the First Day celebration was held in Honolulu.

USAGE

Special attention is given to various usages of the stamp for its intended purpose — the air parcel post shipment of flowers and plants from Hawaii to the mainland — and to other solo and commercial usages.

DIFFICULTY OF ACQUISITION

The stamp was very expensive, so it was not used frivolously. It was primarily used on heavy commercial parcels, most of which were discarded. Exemplary usages are difficult to find and acquire.

IMPORTANCE

Only U.S. stamp issue created for a specific commercial air parcel post rate.



🌸 Postmaster General and Mrs. Jesse Donaldson arrive in Hilo, Hawaii on November 1, 1951. Photo found in newspaper's archives.

HILO TRIBUNE-HERALD

The Big Island's Family Newspaper for Over Half a Century

Exhibit Plan

STAMP

Forerunner

Concept / Design

Pre Production / Production



STAMP USAGE

First Day of Issue

Perfins / Precancels

Air Parcel Post

• To Zone 8 • International

Non Air Parcel Post

• Domestic • International

Late Usage

Significant Items
Are Framed In Maroon

🌸 = Original Research