

Jamestown 1907



Objective: This exhibit is a study of the development, production and use of the three stamp issue celebrating the tercentenary of the 1607 English settlement of Jamestown, Virginia.

Background: In early in 1903 the Virginia Historical Society petitioned the Post Office Department to issue special stamps to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Jamestown founding in conjunction with the 1907 Tercentennial Exposition at Sewell's Point, on the shores of Hampton Roads, Virginia. Unlike previous fairs, the exposition had a strong military presence and international naval participation.

In October, 1906, the Post Office Department agreed to issue 1¢ and 2¢ Jamestown commemorative stamps to meet the domestic postcard and letter rates, respectively. In March, 1907, a month before the Exposition opening, with the expected assemblage of foreign war ships in Hampton Roads, postal officials saw the need for a 5¢ stamp to meet the foreign postage letter rate.

Development: After an introduction of the stamps and the Tercentennial Exhibition, design creation is examined with a display of essay drawings, progressive die proofs, approval die proofs and posthumous die proofs. Stamp production is illustrated with plate layout & markings, paper, ink, perforation varieties, the stamp forgery, and a display of post office panes, and plate numbers.

The third section highlights the Designated First Day use of the three Jamestown stamps at the Exposition, the sending, receiving and registry postmarks used at the fairgrounds Post Office Station and the POD promotional slogan cancellations used at the surrounding cities of Portsmouth, Newport News and Norfolk.

In three sections, Domestic, UPU, and Possession & Treaty, postal use of the stamps is examined by rate and fee classifications.

The POD's departmental structure and penchant for responsibility is studied in the Transport, Handling and Accountability section covering Rural Free Delivery, Railway Mail Service, Mail matter and Auxiliary Markings. Punctuality in mail handling, evidenced by Postmarks, and Revenue Protection, by cancellation is depicted in a display of hand stamping to machine application. A study of post-Exhibition use of the Jamestown issue concludes the exhibit.

Exhibit Organization

Section 1. Essays & Proofs

- Essays Drawings
- Progressive Proofs
- Approval Proofs
- Posthumous Proofs

Section 2. Production

- Plate Markings, Varieties, Forgery
- Post Office Half-sheets
- Plate Numbers

Section 3. Jamestown Exposition

- Exposition & Great White Fleet
- Exposition Station Post Marks
- Post-Exposition Use

Section 4. Postal Rates & Fees – Domestic

- First-class
- Third & Fourth-class
- Service Fees

Section 5. Postal Rates & Fees – UPU

- Letter, Post Card
- Printed Matter, Samples
- Service Fees

Section 6. Postal Rates – Possessions & Treaty

- Possession
- Territories
- Treaty

Section 7. Mail Transport, Handling & Accountability

- Rural Free Delivery
- Railway Mail Service
- Mail Matter & Auxiliary Markings

Section 8. Postmark & Revenue Protection

- Fancy Cancels, Doane
- 4-Bar & Duplex handstamps
- Station & Sub-Station, Precancels
- Machine Postmarks & Cancels