

## Synopsis

### **“The Development and Use of Consular Bicentennial Postal Stationery 1990-1994”**

From the bimonthly *Postal Stationery*, journal of the United Postal Stationery Society

May-June, 2019, pp 115-123

**Treatment:** The article was the lead for this issue of *Postal Stationery*. It presents the complete story of how these envelopes, celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State Department’s Consular Service, came to be. The presentation is chronological, and is liberally illustrated. That portion is then followed by how the envelopes were used; both what is known and what is not.

**Originality, Significance and Research:** The article greatly expands what was known in the hobby about the need for these envelopes, how the stamped indicia was developed, how the envelopes were used, and what led to their being discontinued. The author was part of the creative process from the State Department side, but was not at liberty while still employed by the State Department to provide this level of detail to the philatelic press. The author was also acquainted with the Postal Service principals cited in the article through his work as a USPS contractor helping to produce Benjamin Franklin Stamp Club teaching material in the 1980s and 1990s. The information presented is original, authoritative, and as thorough as it can be.

The author has attempted to obtain additional information from both the Postal Service (files transferred to the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum) and from the State Department’s Consular Affairs Bureau, but has been told that relevant files were either misplaced or destroyed.

**Technical Matters and Production:** Were primarily the responsibility of the editor of *Postal Stationery*.