

SYNOPSIS REGISTERED MAIL EXHIBIT

This is an ambitious attempt at showing the development of registered mail in the United States from the earliest years up to 1900, the end of the classic period.

There are 8 frames each of which deals with a different time period and the usages of that period. The exhibit is meant to be read frame by frame to learn about the types of usages in that period. The text is directed to a viewer and relates to whatever covers are shown on that page.

FRAME 1 Introduction The earliest type of money letters are shown with the earliest known proof of mailing of a valuable letter. Robbed mail includes the two finest examples of this event. Alternative methods of sending money are shown by scarce covers.

FRAME 2 Unofficial Registration This subject has been discussed by the exhibitor in several articles. All of the covers shown are very rare or unique examples of the usages of this 10 year period when postmasters created this unofficial and free system of transporting valuable letters.

FRAME 3 Registration 1855-1863 The two earliest known registered letters are present. Each of the manuscript Paid 5 covers are only known examples. The only known registered label is shown. The only known CSA independent state registered cover is shown. The markings shown are often very rare, some only known examples. Usages such as numbering and dating are discussed.

FRAME 4 Registration 1863-1867 This shows many rare usages such as Civil War soldiers, patriotic covers, and many rare, some unique, REGISTERED postmarks. The particular covers have been selected to show variety in the markings covering all known types.

FRAME 5 Registration 1867-1870 Registered mail was sent in package envelopes for the rest of the century. These usages are discussed by examples. Free franks and registration is shown; these covers are rare. The largest known usage of D Grilled 3 cent stamps is shown. The payment of 20 cents registration fees by stamps is discussed and earliest known usage is shown. The registration fee changed to 15 cents in 1869 shown by examples with scarce markings. Two 1869 territorial covers are each only known examples. Transition of stamps from 1861 series, then 15 cent Lincoln, and then 1869 series stamps are all shown, some with scarce usages.

FRAME 6 Registration during Banknote issues The two most interesting developments during this period was the use of duplex numbering, a subject discovered by the exhibitor and the usage of spectacular colored registered handstamps that began in this 20 year period. The rates began with 15 cents registration, changed to 8 cents and then to 10 cents in 1875. Official stamps and registration paid by stamps on franked covers are shown. Money order postmarks are shown on registered mail. About half of the pages display examples of the 6 or 7 types of fancy registered mail postmarks, a subject not covered in the philatelic literature; it is the subject of several articles in Press at the *Chronicle*.

FRAME 7 Registration during 1890-1900 There were two rates during the small Banknote period, continuation of the 10 cents rate and 8 cents. Charged markings, package envelope markings, Post Office Department usages, and other types of usages are shown by examples.

Then the special registered postmarks some unique to this period are shown, often with duplex numbering. Between frames 6 and 7, many examples of the fancy postmarks are

presented and they are discussed by types, which has not been done before either in an article or exhibit.

FRAME 8 Foreign registration usages All of the periods of registered mail are covered by these covers, all very rare, and intended to show the treaty usages with Canada, England and German states, separately. The early usage of payment of registration by stamps is unique to this exhibit but it is an integral part of the changing rates of registration. The large subject of international labels is represented by several different usages to various parts of the world. Some pages of unusual usages ends the exhibit.

At the end of the viewing of the exhibit, it is hoped that the viewer has learned about each of the various time periods when valuable mail was carried and about representative postmarks used in each of these periods. The exhibit is a teaching exhibit, not a show and tell exhibit.