

It's Not Dead, It's Just Resting

The Ten Cent Transmississippi Issue of 1898

Historical Background

Taking its cues from the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition was planned as a showcase to demonstrate how the American West was coming of age. It featured a President's day with a speech by then-President William McKinley, Buffalo Bill Cody and his Wild West Show as well as dignitaries like William Jennings Bryan. The Expo lasted from June 1 to November 1 1898 and enjoyed over 2.6 million visitors.

Significance

A series of nine postage stamps to commemorate the event was issued by the U.S. Post Office and each value depicted a scene from the development of the American West. The 10¢ value was particularly poignant as it reproduced the painting "Hardships of Emigration" by Augustus G. Heaton. It reflects the pain and determination of settlers migrating westwards.

Focus

This exhibit focuses on uses of this single commemorative stamp. Domestic rates within the U.S. and its territories, international destinations as well as special services are included. Covers with multiple copies of the issue paying the actual rate or service fee (or most of it) are preferred when selecting covers to represent each rate as these covers are by far less common.

Exhibit Organization

1. Introduction
2. Domestic and Territorial Destinations
 - a. Single and multiple letter rate
 - b. Letter rates with special services
3. International Destinations
 - a. Single and multiple letter rate
 - b. Letter rates with special services

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Challenge and Rarity

Presenting a range of covers which include as many different postal rates as possible and including special service fees is difficult. Doing so with only this value has proven to be far and away a greater challenge due to the scarcity of the covers in general and the demand in particular. This exhibit is the product of over 35 years of accumulating and studying this issue.

This is the most comprehensive exhibit of this single value ever developed.

Highlights

- Cover from Exposition Station with 10¢ value (five reported examples) - pg 1
- Privately produced bi-color using 2¢ vignette (only reported example) - pg 1
- Short set on registered cover mailed on the last day of the Exposition - pg 4
- Use in combination with proprietary stamps paying postage from Hawaii (only recorded example) - pg 6
- Use to Syria (only recorded example) - pg 7
- Use to Serbia (only recorded example) - pg 9
- Short set on registered cover to Germany - pg 11
- Use to Australia (only recorded example) - pg 12

Rarity factors are based on research of exhibitor, philatelic exhibits, the reference below and auction results.

References

The Trans-Mississippi Issue of 1898 - Randy L. Neil and Jack Rosenthal, 1997, Andrew Levitt, Danbury, CT.