

The 3c 1948 Progress of Women Issue

Purpose and Treatment: This is a Traditional First Day Cover exhibit showing

- elements of design and production, as well as errors, USPD announcements, cancellation types
- First Day Covers with an emphasis on cachets of the women, pictorial cachets, as well as business corner cards and foreign destinations

Background: After the issuance of the 1936 Susan B. Anthony commemorative stamp, the Susan B. Anthony Memorial Committee of the National Woman's Party continued to ask for other stamps honoring women leaders of the suffrage movement. The Postmaster General's response was always "No."

It was not until 1948, which would be the 100th anniversary of the first women's rights convention, that the Post Office agreed to issue a commemorative stamp, acknowledging the "progress of women". Three leaders were chosen, two who had organized the Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, New York on July 19-20, 1848, and the third who had carried their goal to its completion in 1920.

Both Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized a meeting to discuss women's place in society and what rights they were denied. The result of the convention was the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments which included women's right to suffrage. Fifty-two years later the second generation of suffragists, including Carrie Chapman Catt, was in place to continue the struggle for women's right to vote. Mott had died in 1880, Stanton in 1902 and Catt in 1947. Since this was a stamp for the Progress of Women, Catt could be included and not violate the rules of death and being on a stamp.

Seneca Falls, New York was the site of the Women's Rights Convention, chosen for the first day of issue ceremony held on July 19, 1948.

Exhibit Story

- Frame 1*— Production, design of the stamp, postmark/cancellations, second day release
Frame 2, 3, 4— First Day Cover cachets, with the honored women, pictorial interpretations, Business corner cards, Foreign Destinations, Epilogue



Art Craft – founded by Washington Stamp Exchange (WSE),
first cover created for 1939 New York World's Fair stamp.

Autograph – Albert Goldman, Postmaster for New York, New York 1933–1953
Oversaw 37,000 employees handling 10 billion pieces of mail a year.

Exhibit Synopsis

The 3c 1948 Progress of Women Issue Production, First Day Covers, Postal Uses

The Stamp Issue:

For several years following the 1936 Susan B. Anthony issue, the National Woman's Party asked the Post Office to honor other leaders of the Women's Rights Movement. The answer was always, "no, not now." Finally, by working with the Women's Rights Centennial Committee of Seneca Falls, New York, the Post Office agreed to their request. The design of the stamp was suggested by Mrs. Ethel Adamson to honor Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, founders of the First Women's Rights Convention. The Post Office wanted to also include recently deceased Carrie Chapman Catt. So, the stamp then honored the Progress of Women from the July 19-20, 1848 Convention through Catt's work with the League of Women Voters. The stamp was designed by Victor S. McCloskey and engraved by Carl Arlt and John S. Edmondson of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The plates were first used on the rotary press on July 7, 1948. The first day of issue was July 19, 1948 at the site of the Seneca Falls, NY convention. First Day Sales records show 401,923 covers cancelled and 863,600 stamps sold.

Green text boxes denote chapter information

Purpose, Scope and Treatment: This is a four frame, First Day Cover exhibit in the General Class Division. Its purpose is to show elements that went into

- 1) Design, and production, (Frame 1)
 - Announcements from Post Office, including PM corner card, and 3rd Assistant PM
 - Rejected design, die proof of accepted design
 - Autographs of designer and engravers
 - Plate Blocks
 - Cancellations including unofficial and second day cancellations ((Two naval covers by Mrs. Emma Crosby, continuing the business after the death of her husband Walter Crosby).
- 2) First Day Covers (Frames 2, 3, & 4)
 - Cachets with all three names/portraits – Mott, Stanton, Catt (including autographs of NY governor, NY US Senators and descendants of Mott, Stanton and Catt)
 - Cachets with Stanton, Mott
 - Cachets with Mott only
 - Cachets with Stanton only
 - Cachets with Catt only
 - Cachets without names/portraits – Pictorial cachets
 - Business Corner Cards
 - Postal Usage to foreign destinations
 - Epilogue

Cachets of Note: Hand drawn, and/or hand painted First Day Cover include cachets by Robert Bolton, A.V. Gregory, Dorothy Knapp, E.C. Lawrence, Eric Lewis, Herman Maul, Walter Stawuszewski, Norbert C. Waldau, Mae Weigand, William Wright (Only the Knapp, Wiegand and one of the Wright cachets are listed in Mellone's Specialized Cachet Catalog of First Day Covers of the 1940's. The other cachets fall into the rare/scarc category)

- 3) Epilogue: Cachets depicting –
 - Because of the insistence of Elizabeth Cady Stanton that the right of suffrage be included in the *Declaration of Rights and Sentiments* approved at the Seneca Falls Convention, women began the work that would bring them not just the right to vote, but to hold public office. The first epilogue First Day Cover contains the autographs of eleven Women Representatives/Senator in the U.S. Congress from the 1940's to 2002.
 - the location of the Women's Rights Convention of 1848,
 - the plaque designating the location of the Convention,

- a postcard showing the U.S. Post Office in Seneca Falls which served as the back drop of the 1948 Centennial Celebration and location of the first day cover cancellations
- Autograph on Smartcraft cachet by First Lady Bess Truman, White House
- FDC to James Roosevelt, son of President who worked in White House
- Event Cover, Inauguration of 2nd presidential term,

Research and Study: I began collecting first day covers in 2008, using their images to be the basis of lessons for U.S. history teachers. Out of that I began to personally collect the 1936 Susan B. Anthony first day covers which then led me to all stamps/first day covers dealing with women's suffrage. This exhibit is a direct result of my collecting the 1948 Progress of Women stamp/first day covers. Using *Mellone's Specialized Cachet Catalog of First Day Covers of the 1940's*, "helped in my initial collecting of first day covers being sold online and at stamp show dealer booths. I exhibited a one frame of this stamp, using only hand drawn/painted cachets at the 2018 Americover show. The judge said the stamp subject is too big for one frame, deserves to be expanded. So, it has now been expanded to four frames.

My research started with a re-read of the APS Judging Manual and several articles from *The Path to Gold* by Steven Zwillinger and the recently published *Creating the Philatelic Exhibit Synopsis – A Master Class*, by Andrew McFarlane; next, I decided to follow the pattern of larger exhibits, showing first the production and design of the stamp, followed by first day cover cachets, then commercial usage, postal usage to foreign destinations, and an epilogue. All covers except for unofficial and second day release are first day of issue.

Information/knowledge about the stamp and cachet makers has been gathered from the following:

The Progress of Women stamp file in the National Postal Museum, Washington, D.C.

Resources at the Wineburgh Philatelic Library at the University of Texas in Dallas, Texas and the Postal Museum Library in Tucson, AZ.

"Progress of Women Commemorative Stamp," *The American Philatelist*, Feb. 28, 1949

Mellone's Specialized Cachet Catalog of First Day Covers of the 1940's compiled/edited by Mike Mellone
Mellone's First Day Cover Photo Encyclopedia of First Cachets Revealed 1923-2005 by Richard A. Monty, Wendy L. Doyle, etc.

The Complete Digitized First Days Tucson, AZ: American First Day Cover Society, 2011

Plate Number Checklist by the Bureau Issues Association

History of Machine Cancels by John R. Mason

Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau Printed Postage Stamps by Loran C. French

U.S. Domestic Postal Rates 1872-1999, 2nd Edition by Henry W. Beecher

The Postal Bulletin, June 15, 1948, Vol. LXIX, No. 19140

Universal Ship Cancellation Society website

Progress of Women, National Postal Museum online exhibit

Ancestry.com for information of cachet maker and addressee as well as the *Syracuse Standard Post* for articles on the 1948 centennial celebration and stamp release

What is missing from the exhibit:

The exhibit is missing 4 of the 52 cachets listed by Mike Mellone. I could have include many more covers in the Postal Usage section, but they would not be first day of issue. Besides the glue error, I have not located other printing flaws. I have not acquired a letter by the Postmaster since he did not send out as many as James Farley, nor a letter by the Third Assistant PM. I need to do further research with the Seneca Falls Historical Society to learn more about the first day of issue ceremony beyond what was written in the local newspapers, the days approaching the event and the day after. Was there a printed program? How many people attended, etc. Beyond the stamp sheets given by Post Office Superintendent Robert Fellers to representatives of the descendants of Stanton, Mott and Catt, I don't know what other paper document was passed out to those in attendance at the stamp release ceremony.

In Conclusion: What has helped me the most: developing personal relationships with vendors in the "stamp world"; personal relationships with other collectors through membership in the AFDCS, APS, AAPE, WE; visiting with dealers at stamp shows; talking with other exhibitors as I studied their first day cover exhibits at conventions; asking questions and listening to judges as they walked my Progress of Women exhibit; it is all about making a connection with another human beings through this incredible world of stamps.