

THE FIRST UNITED STATES POSTAL CARD ISSUE 1873-1875

The Post Office Department introduction of postal cards in 1873 proved very popular with both individuals and businesses, as they allowed brief communications at the reduced cost of only 1 cent. In fact, nearly 240,000,000 cards were sold during the two-year life of this card design.

It is the purpose of this exhibit to introduce the viewer to some of the various collecting possibilities that resulted from the need for the private contractor, Morgan Envelope Company, to produce an average of 400,000 cards per day. Areas of production difficulty included damaged printing plates, problems with the required watermarks, and paper faults.