

WALT DISNEY'S FIRST SUPERSTAR: MICKEY MOUSE (FIVE (5) Frames – Display Division

Exhibit Title: "Walt Disney's First Superstar: Mickey Mouse"

SYNOPSIS: This exhibit centers around some of the earliest (1930s & '40s) Mickey Mouse postal artifacts, indicating the "right-from-the-start" cultural significance of Walt Disney's premier cartoon creation, plus other early U.S. and foreign "of the period" paper artifacts (original art, postcards, vintage photographs, advertising, stationery, etc.) pointing to Mickey's immediate and profound global significance! Some later (1950s – 2000) Disney postal and paper items are also included demonstrating Mickey's continuing (and growing) cultural and Disney corporate influence.

NOTE: ALL early (1930s & '40s) Mickey Mouse postal & paper items are SCARCE, especially in higher grade. Even later significant postal & paper pieces (1950s-2000) are not often seen offered on E-Bay and other auction sites or at stamp and paper shows!

EXHIBIT PLAN:

- Title Page: Mickey was a cartoon imitator of Charles Lindbergh following his (Lindbergh's) historic crossing of the Atlantic in an airplane on May 20-21, 1927 (Disney's first Mickey Mouse cartoon produced in 1928: "Plane Crazy"). However, Mickey FIRST appeared in the SOUND cartoon, "Steamboat Willie" on November 18, 1928, as "sound" originally came in when Walt was working on "Steamboat Willie", his third cartoon with Mickey. "Plane Crazy" was later released also as a sound cartoon as well.
- Mickey as "Everyman"
- Mickey as Cultural Icon
- Mickey as Walt Disney Studio/Corporate Symbol

*****NOTE: I have just added (in 2026) two VERY SPECIAL covers to this exhibit at the bottom of Panel 1! The first is a 1931 cover with the EARLIEST KNOWN corner card/stationery from the Walt Disney Studio! The second cover (below the 1931 cover) is the ONLY KNOWN MICKEY MOUSE COVER to have flown on ANY CHINA CLIPPER FLIGHT in the 1930s! It is ex. (Jon) Krupnick and was sent to the Postmaster in the Philippines! DON'T MISS these two PHILATELIC GEMS at the bottom of Panel 1!!*****

All "philatelic" items in this exhibit are surrounded by a GOLD border; other significant "display" items are surrounded by a RED border. Exhibit "highlights" (shown below) are numbered by frame & panel numbers (four panels per frame) for easier identification. "Philatelic" items are indicated with a "star" (*) in front of their Frame/Panel numbers. Some of the more important EARLY Mickey Mouse artifacts exhibited (among others) include:

1. (*) Frame 1/Panel 1 – Disney cover with hand-drawn pen & ink "of the period" depiction of Mickey as an airmail pilot (note "Mickey Mail" pouch) drawn by a skilled cartoonist reflecting Walt Disney's admiration for Charles Lindbergh's historic trans-Atlantic flight in May, 1927, which Walt imitated in his very first Mickey Mouse cartoon, "Plane Crazy" (1928)

2. (*) Frame 1/Panel 1 - Two (2) EXCEPTIONAL Airmail covers: One depicting the EARLIEST (1931) Disney Studio/Mickey stationery/corner card & THE UNIQUE Disney Studio/Mickey 1935, First Flight, China Clipper Cover!

3. Frame 1/Panel 3 – Early German brewery postcard (1931) – one of two I've seen!
4. (*) Frame 2/Panel 1 – Mickey, Texas, cover with multiple “strikes” of Mickey Mouse fancy cancel
5. (*) Frame 2/Panel 1 – Swedish “sailing” cover from Tahiti with Mickey Mouse corner card (1932)
6. (*) Frame 2/Panel 2 – Mickey New Year’s/Rose Bowl cover (1934)
7. (*) Frame 2/Panel 4 – Mickey Mouse Magazine corner card cover
8. (*) Frame 3/Panel 1 – Mickey Mouse Magazine renewal brochure & cover
9. (*) Frame 3/ Panel 3 – Earliest U.S. Mickey Mouse meter (+ “Specimen”) for Mickey’s 7th birthday (1935)
10. (*) Frame 3/Panel 4 - 2nd earliest U.S. Mickey Mouse meter for Mickey’s 8th birthday (1936)
11. Frame 4/Panel 1 - Original Floyd Gottfredson Mickey Mouse watercolor sketch
12. (*) Frame 4/Panel 2 – 4th earliest U.S. Mickey Mouse meter on National Biscuit (NBC) covers used for New York World’s Fair (1939-40) and San Francisco Exposition (1939-40)
13. (*) Frame 5/Panel 1 – WWII censored Spanish cover sent to London (1941)
14. Frame 5/Panel 1 – Earliest Walt Disney Studio Christmas card (1930) depicting Mickey (Pencils by Floyd Gottfredson; inks attributed to Earl Duvall) – only 3-4 known of which this example is in the best condition!
15. (*) Frame 5/Panel 1 – Earliest Mickey Mouse meter used in Germany by Hagelberg, an early Mickey Mouse postcard producer for the European continent
16. Frame 5/Panel 1 – Earliest Mickey Mouse fan card (1931 newspaper offer) – this example used as a postcard
17. (*) Frame 5/Panel 1 – WWII double-censored British Mickey Mouse Ltd. cover to Budapest, Hungary (1940)
18. Frame 5/Panel 2 - Early 1930s Mickey fan card SIGNED BY WALT DISNEY (VERY early Walt Disney “block” signature: 4-stroke “W” and 2-stroke “Y”)! – High 4-figure piece!
19. Frame 5/Panel 4: "Epilogue" Piece: News photo of Mickey Balloon in Macy's 1934 Thanksgiving Day Parade--the ultimate tribute to Mickey's "clout" in the 1930s? (New to exhibit)

Previous GOLD Medals: Southeastern Stamp Expo, February, 2015; APS StampShow, August, 2015; Ameristamp/Southeastern Stamp Expo, January, 2016; Southeastern Stamp Expo, January, 2017; Ameristamp, March, 2017; National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS), June, 2017; APS StampShow, 2017, Chicagopex, 2017, ROMPEX, 2019, and StampShow/NTSS, 2019 – Also, “Most Popular, Champion of Champions”, Ameristamp/Southeastern Stamp Expo, January, 2016, & "Invited Exhibit", NY2016,

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