

Synopsis

The 1901 Commemorative Stamp Series and The Pan American Exposition

- 1. Scope of the Exhibit:** Introduce viewers to the six different stamps in the 1901 Commemorative Series and the Pan-American Exposition using individual stamps, postcards, and covers, with different postal rates to various worldwide destinations. This exhibit presents stamps and philatelic material coinciding with the time period of the Pan-American Exposition, from May 1 through November 2, 1901. Some exceptions are made for covers featuring specific early Pan American Exposition advertising cancellations or covers posted to unusual destinations.
- 2. Material Organization:** I chose to present the material by chapters in a chronological manner. Beginning with the early Pan-American Exposition advertising covers and cancellations, the individual stamps, covers to various destinations and postal rates, postal cards, advertising material, and closing with material related to the assassination of President William McKinley. The chronological order will take the viewer from the pre-exposition advertising period, into the exposition, and the closing date of the exposition, with a few post-exposition covers posted to various overseas locations. I felt this was the most logical way to present the material.
- 2. Collecting Challenges:** I have been collecting general world-wide stamps for many years; however, the collecting of the Pan-American souvenir postcards, covers, and stamps began about 10 years ago. Much of the material presented has been collected over that time period from a number of sources including auction houses, E-Bay, and dealers located throughout the world. Locating quality items, and plate blocks, is difficult, much of the material is over 100 years old and minor faults are expected on postally used items. Philatelists in the 19th, and early 20th century, did not collect plate blocks, instead they focused on strips of 3 or more with plate markings. Therefore, plate blocks from this issue are very difficult to find in fine condition. Obtaining quality items, and items from unusual, or exotic, destinations is difficult and competition can be quite fierce! The financial expense of adding some items to the collection is prohibitive.
- 3. Completeness of the Subject:** Included in the exhibit are examples of each of the six different stamps, as well as blocks, plate blocks, small and large die proofs, as well as a complete Roosevelt Album Die Proof page. Concerning the souvenir postal cards, there are over 400 different cards, examples from the major series are featured. There are 21 different types of Pan-American Exposition cancellations, with many varieties. I have included 15 examples, and their varieties; however, some cancellations are extremely rare with less than 5 examples known. Examples of each of the six stamps are present on cover to various destinations, including single use as well as mixed franking. Given the prohibitive financial expenditure required to make the exhibit complete, it is as near complete as possible for this humble collector!
- 4. Exhibit History:** I am a novice in the exhibiting world, this being my second submission. I have kept this collection to myself, rarely taking it off the shelves to show a few fellow collectors. I recently presented a program to a local stamp club using this material and received many favorable comments, as well as some pressure to create an exhibit. To my knowledge, the material included in this exhibit has never been presented before.
- 5. Resource Materials:** Preparing for this exhibit I used multiple books, auction catalogs, fellow collectors and societies, as well as internet resources. While utilizing these resources I was exposed to a new facet of collecting – postal rates and categories! Although I am new to the exhibiting world and have yet to discover anything of earth shattering proportions I have discovered a number of interesting items included in this exhibit that require further research and expertizing.

6. **Material Rarity:** There are a number of scarce, or rare, items presented in this exhibit. They are identified by a light blue box surrounding the stamp, cover, or postcard.

A. There are 16 known First Day Covers with the 1-cent Fast Lake Express stamp, 8 are postcards and 8 are on covers. The example presented, 1 of 8 known covers, is damaged. (Chapter 14)

B. There are 63 known First Day Covers with the 2-cent Fast Express Locomotive. The cover presented in this exhibit is 1 of 13 known with a “Pan American Exposition” First Day Cancellation.

C. There are 8 known covers with a “Pan American Station Registry Cancellation.” Presented in this exhibit is an unrecorded example with what might be the earliest known use of the special Registry Cancellation. Research is still ongoing for this item in order to certify the earliest known use. (Chapter 15)

D. It is extremely difficult to find Plate Blocks for the six different stamps comprising the 1901 Commemorative Series of Stamps. There are a number of examples presented in this exhibit (Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 8).

E. During the printing of the 1-cent and 2-cent stamps a number of sheets were printed with the central vignette inverted. An example of the inverted 1-cent Fast Lake Express, and 4-cent Electric Automobile (Specimen) are included in this exhibit. There were 1,000 inverted 1-cent stamps printed, about 650 are known. There were 400 inverted 4-cent specimen stamps printed, 193 are known. All examples of the specimen stamp are faulty due to being mounted on boards and then removed. (Chapter 3)

F. Special Exposition Cancellations with less than 30 examples known are also presented in Chapters 2 and Chapters 9 thru 13.

G. Large and Small Die Proofs of the 1901 Commemorative Stamp Series, as well as a complete Roosevelt Album Proof page (only 85 albums were distributed, many albums were broken down leaving 5 intact albums. The individual pages were taken apart to obtain the individual proofs, complete pages are extremely rare).

H. Complete set of the 1901 Commemorative Stamp Series Specimen Stamps

I. A unique set of six covers, each posted with a single stamp, mailed from the Exposition Grounds with an Exposition Cancellation, all addressed to the same individual.

7. **Expertizing of Specific Items:** Within this exhibit are a number of items that are extremely scarce or rare. The majority of these items have expertizing certificates, due to the situation with COVID and delays in mailing and processing requests for certificates, some items do not have certificates.

8. **Quality and Condition:** I have attempted to accumulate high quality items over the years. Many of the covers and post cards presented are in fine to very fine condition, some better, some not so much. The quality of the material, specifically postally used materials, is subject to the whims of the post office, and the receiver. Covers and postcards may show small creases, bends, or stains, but nothing that should detract from the overall presentation quality of the exhibit. In a few instances, where there are less than 10 examples of an Exposition cancellation known, the cover or postal card is in such poor condition I have windowed the cancellation. Some covers may have heavy cancellations, a stamp that might have a crease or missing corner, or even registry labels placed over the stamps. In some instances, the scarcity of the material limits the availability of higher quality items. In all instances, if I had a choice, I selected only those items in the best condition for this exhibit. If I have a single example of a special postal rate, destination, or usage, that example is included in this exhibit despite the condition.

9. Item Inclusion: Within this exhibit the viewer will find material that is common as well as scarce, or rare. I decided to include all manner of material as much of the common material tells a greater part of the story of the 1901 Commemorative Stamp Series and the Pan-American Exposition.

10. Philatelic References:

A. Postal Markings of United States Expositions, by William J. Bomar, printed by David G. Phillips publishing company, inc. 666 NE 128th Street, North Miami, Florida, 1986 (Pages 69 through 83).

B. Postal Markings of United States Expositions (Third Edition), revised and updated by Dave Savadge, in 2007, available only on CD, available only from Jim Mehrer's Postal History (<http://www.postal-history.com>).

C. United States Stamps, Series of 1901, by Bernard Silberberg, printed by Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum Inc., 235 Wellesley Street, Weston, MA, 1976.

D. US Domestic Postal Rates, 1872 – 2011, Third Edition, by Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewics, published by the American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA, 2011

E. US International Postal Rates, 1872 – 1996, by Anthony S Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, published by Cama Publishing Company, Anthony S Wawrukiewicz publisher, P O Box 19730155, Portland, OR, 1996.

F. Buffalo Cinderellas, The Gentleman, The Huckster, and the Pan American Exposition, by Rick Barrett, by Rick Barrett Publishing, P O Box 66262, Houston, TX, 2018.

G. Panorama of the Pan-AM, an Illustrated Guide to Souvenirs from the Pan-American Exposition of 1901 in Buffalo, NY, compiled by Frederick M. Lavin and Michael L. Lavin, self published 2010.

H. A Collector's Guide to U.S. Machine Postmarks 1871-1925, by Russell F. Hanmer, 1989, published by David G. Phillips Publishing Co., 666 N.E. 128th St., North Miami, FL 33261

I. The United States Commemorative Stamps of the Twentieth Century, Vol I 1901 - 1935, by Max Johl, 1947, published by H. L. Linquist, 2 West 46th St., New York, NY.

THE 1901 PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION AND COMMEMORATIVE STAMP SERIES

The 1901 Pan-American Exposition was an opportunity for the United States to advertise many cultural and technological advancements to the world. Covering nearly 350 acres, the Exposition grounds included 20 main buildings and 80 minor buildings providing space for over 4,200 exhibitors. From May 1, 1901, through November 1, 1901, more than 8,000,000 visitors attended the Exposition.

The 1901 Pan-American Exposition was unique in that more varieties of publicity materials, postal cancellations and markings were produced than at any other Exposition. This exhibit introduces the viewer to a variety of early advertising covers, exposition cancellations, the 1901 commemorative postage stamps, personal and commercial covers using the commemorative postage stamps as well as souvenir covers and postal cards.



Early Larkin Soap Manufacturing Company advertising cover featuring a full color lithograph image of the Exposition grounds and buildings. A 2¢ small Bureau issue stamp is tied to the cover by a Bomar Type B01-15C Exposition cancellation. Dressed in black coat and top hat, a buffalo, the Exposition mascot, welcomes all visitors.

Exhibit Plan:

- Chapter 1: Background Information on Pan-American Exposition
- Chapter 2: The 1901 Commemorative Stamp Series
- Chapter 3: Uses of the 1¢ Stamp
- Chapter 4: Uses of the 2¢ Stamp
- Chapter 5: Uses of the 4¢ Stamp
- Chapter 6: Uses of the 5¢ Stamp
- Chapter 7: Uses of the 8¢ Stamp
- Chapter 8: Uses of the 10¢ Stamp
- Chapter 9: Multi-Franked Covers
- Chapter 10: Exposition Cancellations and Advertising Covers
- Chapter 11: McKinley Assassination

Cancellation types, descriptive titles and headings, as well as postal usages are annotated in bold.

Italics indicates personal research.

A yellow arrow is used to identify the characteristics of Exposition cancels. 

A red box is used to outline rare items.