

“COMBO” FIRST DAY COVERS OF THE FOURTH BUREAU ERA

The **purpose** of this **first day cover exhibit** of combination first day covers (“**Combos**”) is to demonstrate the criteria for date of issue and the frequency of common dates **from 1922 to 1938**. In this exhibit **all covers are first day covers** and the stamps belong to the **Fourth Bureau era**.

Beginning in 1894 U.S. postage stamps were produced by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP), and the first series was continued until 1902. Those stamps are known as the First Bureau issues. Issues produced from 1902 to 1908 are the Second Bureau and 1908 to 1922 the Third Bureau. The Fourth Bureau spans the years 1922 to 1938, the early issues printed on flat plate presses, the later issues on rotary presses.

Dates of introduction of new issues are frequently tied to an anniversary like the birthday of the subject, an event such as a national philatelic convention or sometimes no stated occasion, and multiple introductions on the same date occasionally occurred. During the years of the Fourth Bureau philatelists who regularly serviced first day covers franked covers with different issues introduced on the same date. These are referred to as “combo” first day covers.

In the Fourth Bureau there are 34 dates when more than one issue was introduced, and this exhibit demonstrates 26 which I have in my collection. These “combos” are shown in the order that they were issued and postmarked.

COMBOS PLAN - CHRONOLOGICAL

PAGE 1 – Title Page	PAGE 9 – Dec 12, 1928 & May 1, 1929
PAGE 2 - Nov 11, 1922 & Jan 15, 1923	PAGE 10- May 1 & Jun 11, 1929
PAGE 3 - May 1, 1923 & May 1, 1924	PAGE 11- Apr 11 & Sep 18, 1930
PAGE 4 - Mar 19 & Apr 4, 1925	PAGE 12- Dec 1, 1930 & Jan 1, 1932
PAGE 5 - May 18, 1925 & May 29, 1926	PAGE 13- Jan 1 & Jun 16, 1932
PAGE 6 - May 29, 1926 & Mar 24, 1927	PAGE 14- Jun 16 & Aug 18, 1932
PAGE 7 – May 17 & Jun 10, 1927	PAGE 15- Aug 25, 1933 & Mar 15, 1935
PAGE 8 - Aug 3, 1927 & Aug 13, 1928	PAGE 16– Feb 15 & May 26, 1937