

# Delaware Postal History – 1732 to 1847

## Stampless to Stamped - THE SYNOPSIS

**PURPOSE & SCOPE:** This 8-frame postal history exhibit demonstrates the postal rates, markings, and routes from 1773 to the issuance of the U. S. first postage adhesive in 1847. This exhibit tells the story of the proper rates and rate periods and the movement of mail from long prior to George Washington utilizing the letters mailed from only the 1<sup>st</sup> state of the Union – Delaware.

**TREATMENT/PLAN:** 1. Analysis of all letter rates for each distance as well as the more challenging multiple rates is accomplished. 2. Unusual uses such as Way and Forwarding as well as all other auxiliary markings are shown and fully explained. 3. Ship Rates are clearly highlighted and detailed. 4. Drop and Free Franking rates are not excluded from this exhibit. 5. Numerous *only one or only a few known* to date covers are on display. 6. The overall scheme of the exhibit is rate periods in ascending rate order to enhance the understanding of rates. 7. The routes that the mail used including post roads, waterways, etc. are well described thru-out the exhibit.

Key and important items are highlighted by a **red border box**.

**IMPORTANCE:** This is the first postal history exhibit shown totally comprised of philatelic material/covers related to the **FIRST STATE**. **99%+ of the covers have never been seen before in a competitive exhibit.**

**RARITY & CONDITION:** The material in this exhibit is at least 170 years old. Considering this, the covers presented are in very good to excellent condition and should be noted none have been restored.

**KNOWLEDGE:** Every cover has been studied as well as other pertinent information related to the sender, the receiver, distances, and the originating P. O. as well as the destination(s). History and postal history are intertwined and the history of this small historical state with only three counties weaves a fascinating tale for the viewer.

**PRESENTATION:** A double page format has been utilized to add about 17% more space to enable **265** difficult to acquire covers to be shown. An attempt has been made to exclude any covers that could be duplication or not further advancing the story line. Also, the story line appears in the exhibit with the proper use of heading and key information is highlighted. The text describes the rates and the history impacts affecting the rates.

**WHY THIS EXHIBIT NOW:** The exhibitor up till this point over many years has only exhibited material (stamps and covers) from South American area countries. This is the exhibitor's first attempt after years of preparation and study to exhibit a totally U.S. exhibit and what could be apropos but to build the exhibit using the First State's Postal History? No one, based on thorough research, has exhibited the postal history of Delaware heretofore.

**NOTE:** The exhibit begins with the *earliest known* Delaware cover in private hands and ends with the uses of the U. S. first postage stamp in 1847 mailed from Delaware. Please note that no Restored Rate covers from March 31 to April 30, 1816 are included, as none are known in private hands from Delaware to date.

Listing of recommended five key references:

1. *American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume I*, Fourth Edition, David G. Phillips Publishing Co., Inc. 1985
2. *A Postal History of Delaware*, Harvey Cochran Bounds, Press of Kells, 1938
3. *Post Offices of Delaware and the District of Columbia*, Frank M. Crowder and Lawrence M. Merolla, H.J. Daugherty, 1978

4. *United States Cancellations 1845-1869*, Hubert Skinner and Amos Eno, American Philatelic Society, 1980
5. *The New Herst-Sampson Catalog, A Guide to 19<sup>th</sup> Century United States Postmarks and Cancellations*, Kenneth L. Gilman, 1989