

Usage of the 14 cent Indian 4th U.S. Bureau Issue

SUBJECT

This 14 cent value portrays Hollow Horn Bear, a Brule-Sioux orator. He engaged in resistance to the white man until 1873, when he went to the Rosebud reservation in South Dakota. He served as a spokesman for his tribe in 1889 negotiations with the U.S. Government. He died in 1913, while on a visit to Washington, D.C.

PRODUCTION

The design is from a photograph taken by De Lancey Gill on March 8, 1905. The portrait was engraved by L.S. Schofield and the frame by L. Lamasure. There were two printings, flat plate, perf. 11, issued May 1, 1923, and rotary press, perf. 11 x 10, issued September 8, 1931. The shades vary from deep blue to indigo.

USAGE

This 14 cent stamp served no specific rate but was a fill-in value. When combined with other denominations, it paid for various postal fees and services. Current between May 1, 1923, and October 6, 1938, the stamp had sales that were smaller than any of the other low values of the 4th Bureau issue. The challenge in exhibiting the 14c Indian therefore lies in its usages. This exhibit highlights significant usages including territorial and foreign air mail, catapult mail, insured and registered coverages, and multiple weight items. Solo use and multiples of five or more are exceedingly difficult to find. One each of the former (page 7) and the latter (page 8) is shown in this exhibit.

Items of special interest are bordered.