

Mastodon Thigh Bone Pays Penn Academy Dues

North American mammoths and mastodons were often called 'woolly mammoths', and are either a *Mammuthus columbi*, *jeffersonii* or a *Mammuth americanum*. They lived during the ice age. Fossils are found in many states and on display in museums. They also appear on modern commemorative stamps. Postage stamps may also pay missing postage fees and are nice items, especially for a paleo-thematic collector. Combined with factors like official mail, they become ever more interesting and unusual.



American Mastodon
Mammuth americanum



Penn Academy Commemorative Issue Paid Postage Due of 3 Cents on overprinted Post Office penalty envelope

This cover from Carthage to Golden City, Missouri has a 1.5 cent imprinted indicia (postal stationery) with an overprinted penalty clause for official business. Overprinting was done by the Post Office and the envelopes could then only be used by them.

The person using this envelope to avoid postage could be fined \$300.00. Fortunately, only a 3¢ postage due fee was assessed using a copy of the 150th Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (Philadelphia) commemorative issue depicting Charles Wilson Peale (1741-1827 – painter and naturalist). A mastodon thigh bone is seen in the stamp's lower right corner.

