

Exhibit Synopsis

Eskimo

Arctic Peoples of the Ice and Snow

Exhibit Theme

The subject of the Eskimo produces an immediate vision of man in heavy furs, isolated in the northern climes of ice surrounded by unfriendly polar bears. The Eskimo is much more. Discovered, forgotten and rediscovered, they present as great a puzzle as any living culture to the lay person and scientist. The exhibit presents the Eskimo as we know him today through modern research.

Exhibit Scope

Exhibit coverage includes evidence of the Eskimo's prehistoric ancestors, physical characteristics, geographic locations, cultures, technology, everyday life and modern research.

Philatelic Elements

Elements are an important part of this exhibit and care has been taken to include as many as possible. Philatelically inspired items are minimized and mint or commercially used materials make up the majority of pieces. The following material types are included:

Postage Stamps - definitive, commemorative, first class, airmail, semi-postal, Coil Stamp, Booklet Stamp, Self-adhesive, Souvenir Sheet, Margin Inscription Block, Plate Numbers, Perforation Variety, First Day Cover, Official Penalty Clause Postal Stationery, Commemorative Hand Cancel, Script Cancel, Machine Advertising Slogan Cancel, Postage Meter Indicia, Domestic and International Destinations and Rates. Philatelically inspired items are minimized and commercial usages favored.

Material Availability

Postal materials with 'identifiable' designs of the Eskimo and their artifacts are represented on the postal materials of very few countries. The sum of items does not justify a two frame exhibit and is a serious challenge for the exhibitor. Most postage stamps and postal stationery issued to date, cancels, advertising or commemorative hand and machine cancel designs, as well as pictorial postage meters are represented. Inclusion of stamp and stationery issues associated with bona-fide stamp issuing governments has been observed.

Highlights (matted in dark blue)

- Perforation variety of Canadian Airmail issue (only recorded example)
- Packet Card with Greenland 9Kr pair commemorative issue
- Smithsonian 'Bureau of Ethnology' penalty cover (1893 (few recorded)
- Smithsonian 'Bureau of American Ethnology' penalty cover 1903 (only recorded example)

(Rarity is determined through research of the exhibitor and experts in Canadian and Penalty fields)

Literature References

The Eskimos - Ernest S. Burch, 1988, University of Oklahoma Press, OK; First edition

People of the Ice and Snow: The Native Americans, 1999, Time-Life Books

People of the Arctic, 1958, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. (DVD)

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eskimo>