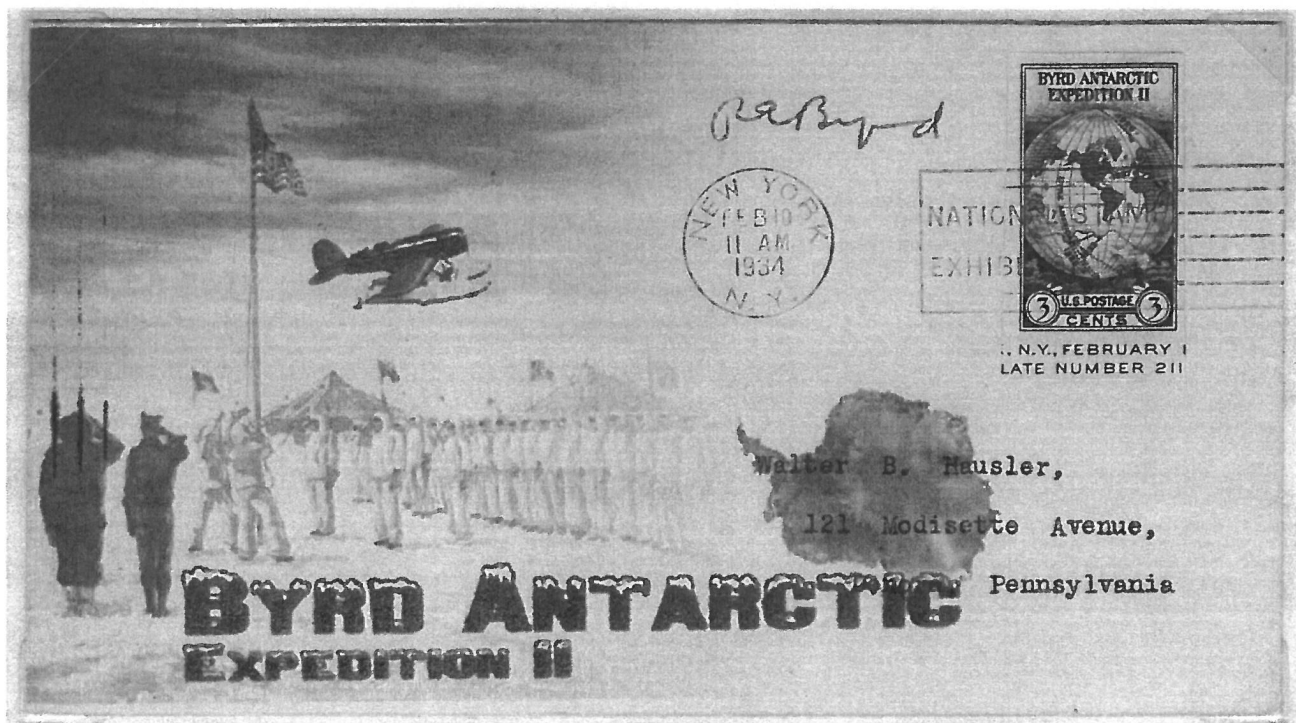


## United States - 1933-35 Byrd Antarctic Expedition Issue

Following the success of Byrd's Expedition to the Antarctic in 1928-30 plans were made to mount a second expedition to explore further the geographic and scientific features of the continent. The early 1930's were a period of economic depression in the United States and sponsorship was difficult. The US Government was unable to assist. Despite the economic climate the expedition members persevered and planned for an expedition leaving in late 1933 and returning in early 1935. This would give them two summers on the ice and the months in between. This was the second of five expeditions to Antarctica by Byrd and is often referred to as Byrd Antarctic Expedition II (or BAE II).

At a farewell meeting between President Roosevelt and Rear-Admiral Byrd, Roosevelt asked Byrd to send him a letter from Little America for his collection. Thinking further, Roosevelt suggested that a special stamp for a souvenir mail from Little America might be a good idea and suggested it to Postmaster General James A. Farley. Designs were prepared by staff of the Bureau of Engraving but President Roosevelt didn't favour any of them and devised a design showing Byrd's famous flights to each pole and his 1927 trans-Atlantic flight. The idea was developed by Bureau of Engraving artist, Victor McCloskey Jr., who is credited as the designer of the stamp as issued.

To cover the cost of transporting the mail to and from Antarctica and a fee of 50¢ was set for mail sent for postmarking at Little America. As approximately 120,000 letters were sent by collectors for postmarking at Little America, the contribution to the expedition's funds was considerable.



This exhibit follows the history of the special stamp issued for the expedition. It covers the basic stamps, varieties, Farley's presentation sheets and reprints, the National Stamp Exhibition souvenir sheet and their use on mail - ordinary, expedition and philatelic. The exhibit also explains the implications of the difficulties associated with processing mails in inhospitable conditions. After Lindbergh and Edison, Byrd was the third person to be honoured by an American stamp whilst alive.

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