

SYNOPSIS

THE GREAT AMERICAN SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 2017

TITLE PAGE The title page explains how rare the total eclipse of 2017 was to the United States. The last event occurred in 1918. The purpose of this exhibit is two fold. First to show how the US Postal System celebrated the Total Eclipse and Secondly to tell how the American citizens used this event to come together and celebrate with town festivals while safely viewing the total eclipse.

TREATMENT OF THE CONTENT The Great American Total Solar Eclipse of 2017 is celebrated through covers collected from across the continent. The covers are arranged in the order of the path of the Eclipse from west to east across America. FIVE types of covers are shown in this collection.

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- 1 FDC issued June 20th 2017 (Frame 1 page 1)
- 2 Forever Stamp issue (Frame 1 page 2)
- 3 Aug 21 2017 Solar Eclipse (Frame 1 pages 3-16) (Frame 2 pages 17-27)
- 4 Partial Eclipse Washington DC (Frame 2 page 28)
- 5 Aug 19th 2017 Science Center Stations (Frame 2 page 29)
- 6 Mail in cancels available for 3 month period (Frame 2 pages 30-31)
- 7 Covers dated Aug 21st 2017 from home communities (Frame 2 page 32)

HIGHLIGHTS

The light/heat sensitive Forever stamp (Frame 1 page 2) Stamps had to be bought in a sheet, not sold separately.

Several town/cities have covers from 2 different collectors (Frame 1 pages 3, 6, 9 and Frame 2 page 18) These covers had to be stamped on that day in person.

Letters mailed in to Post Office cancel available 3 months (Frame 2 page 30)

Covers mailed to me requiring additional postage (Frame 2 page 31)

Local collector friends who had their prepared covers cancelled in their home community (Frame 2 page 32)

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS Although there is very little in monetary value in this collection there are 40 of the 80 community cancels for Aug 21 2017. The

special cancels were issued for just one day and had to be obtained in person at the Post Office on Aug21st2017 in each community. They could not be mailed in to the Post Office. Collectors worked together trading the covers. Festivals and community activities were organized for the weekend. Vacations were used to observe the Total Eclipse. Those communities on the west coast and in the mid west appeared to be more active than those communities on the east coast of the US. The effort by the USPS to accommodate the philatelic community was enormous. Very few communities used the same Total Solar Eclipse cancel.

CREDITS The following websites were used

SPACE.com SCIENCE, ECLIPSE Wikipedia

2017 Total Solar Eclipse Path Across the US. Time