LIGHTEN UP

ENHANCING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Smithsonian National Postal Museum
PHILATELY

“Taken from the Greek philos, loving + atelieia, exemption from (further) tax, taken as the equivalent of postage paid; the collection and study of postage stamps, postmarks, stamped envelopes...”
SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM

LOWER LEVEL OF THE POSTAL SQUARE BUILDING
WILLIAM H. GROSS STAMP GALLERY

OPENED IN 2013 WITH 7 NEW GALLERIES
• Museum envelope Improvements
• Gallery specific solutions
• Object level protection
“…any connection with outdoors contributes to prolonged visitor stays.”
(Angela Matchica 2013)
HISTORIC WINDOWS
Winter Solstice at noon
Sample window

Small aperture for testing

Mock up for historic preservation approval
POSTMASTER SUITE GALLERY

Testing denser Mecho shade

Historic DC Postmaster Suite
GALLERY SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS

Historic Lobby

Entrance to Gems Gallery
GEMS of American Philately

Like gems of the mineral world, these stamps and pieces of mail are rare and highly valued.

They tell stories about important moments in U.S. history, from the Stamp Act and the American Revolution to the Apollo 11 Moon landing. Each one conveys significant information about stamp design and production, including one of the most famous stamp printing errors ever made.

1860 PONY EXPRESS MAIL
MAIL MARKS HISTORY
LIFT UP CASES
“Wreck of the Titanic” sheet music

Before radio, middle-class households entertained themselves with a piano. Titanic sheet music appeared within days of the sinking and remained in print for years.
Pullout Drawers

Swedish Feather Letter
SMITHSONIAN ARTS AND INDUSTRY BUILDING 1900’S
GOPPION IN MILAN, ITALY
‘It could easily be a glorious Pharaonic tomb, stocked with all the sustenance a philatelist might require for the afterlife.’

(Rothstein 2013)
OBJECT LEVEL SOLUTION

SmartGlass Technology
Senator Daschle Letter & cover

On loan from the FBI
BEHIND THE BADGE EXHIBIT
I would also like to thank the great team that worked together to create the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery

Project Manager – Glen Hopkins

Architects – Cho Benn Holback

Exhibit Designers – Gallagher and Associates

Fabrication – Design and Production

And of course the ENTIRE NPM Staff

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