

## SERIES OF 1926-27



*Map of United States*



*Map of United States*



*Map of United States*

By 1925, air-mail, under government sponsorship, became well established, and as an aid to civilian aviation Congress decided to place this service on a contract basis with private flying interests and established a new rate of 10¢ per ounce up to 1,000 miles, 15¢ up to 1,500 miles and 20¢ beyond this mileage. For this service, three stamps in the denominations called for above were issued during 1926-27 with the central design a relief map of the United States

## LINDBERGH 1927



*Spirit of St. Louis*

Issued to commemorate Charles A. Lindbergh's historic non-stop solo flight from New York to Paris in the famous "Spirit of St. Louis" in May of 1927, this stamp was placed on sale June 18, 1927

## BEACON 1928



*Airways Beacon*

This stamp, engraved in red and blue, represents the beacon light on Sherman Hill, in the Rocky Mountains, with a mail plane in flight at the left. It was first placed on sale July 25, 1928, the rate becoming effective on August 1st.





## WINGED GLOBE

1930



*Emblem of Air Service*

1931



*Emblem of Air Service*

1932



*Emblem of Air Service*

1934



*Emblem of Air Service*

General acceptance of this faster method of mail service resulted in a heavy demand for air-mail stamps. This caused the discontinuance of the more cumbersome bi-color issue in favor of the speedier one color design. The issues above depict the insignia of an air-mail pilot. The 5¢ violet appeared by flat plate process, perforation 11 Feb. 10, 1930 and by rotary press, perforation 10½ x 11 Aug. 19, 1931. This same design was re-issued in 8¢ olive green color on September 26, 1932 to conform with the new air rate as well as was the 6¢ Orange value of July 1, 1934. Both these values were produced by rotary press, perforation 10½ x 11.

## GRAF ZEPPELIN CENTURY OF PROGRESS FLIGHT

1933



*Zeppelin Between Germany and Chicago*

In conjunction with "A Century of Progress" Exposition in Chicago, Germany sent the Airship Graf Zeppelin as a messenger of good will. The ship carried special souvenir letters for which this 50¢ stamp was issued on Oct. 2, 1933.





★ UNITED STATES

★ AIRMAILS ★

# GRAF ZEPPELIN PAN-AMERICAN FLIGHT

1930



*Zeppelin Over Ocean*



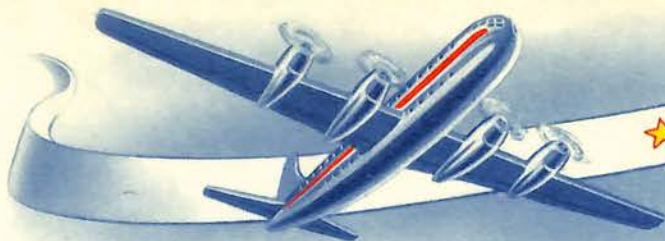
*Zeppelin Between Continents*



*Zeppelin Over Globe*

The unusual amount of interest created by the mail carrying flights of the Graf Zeppelin prompted the Post Office Department to issue a set of three stamps in connection with the Europe Pan American Flight of the ship. Cards and letters franked these postage values made the flight from the United States to Germany, Spain and Brazil. The set of three stamps was placed on sale April 19, 1930 at Washington, D. C. and at selected post offices in the forty-eight states April 21st.





## TRANSPACIFIC AIR MAIL

1937



*China Clipper*

1935



*China Clipper*

1937



*China Clipper*

For the inauguration of air-mail service from the United States to the Philippine Islands November 22, 1935, a special 25¢ stamp was issued. The 20¢ and 50¢ values were placed on sale in conjunction with revised postal rates and the extension of the route to China. First day sale was at Washington, D. C. Feb. 15, 1937.

## EAGLE

1938



*American Eagle*

As a part of the celebration of National Air-Mail Week and for greater efficiency in recognizing air-mail matter from ordinary mail, this stamp was placed on sale May 14, 1938, St. Petersburg, Fla., where the first air passenger flight was made, and Dayton, Ohio, home of the Wright Brothers, were the official first day cities.

## TRANSATLANTIC

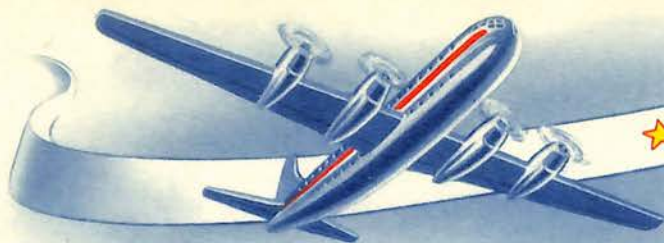
1939



*Winged Globe*

Similar in design to the "winged globe" designs of the early 30's, this 30¢ stamp was issued for the establishment of trans-Atlantic air-mail service from the United States to Europe. It was placed on sale at New York City May 16, 1939, eve of the inauguration of air service to Europe.





★ UNITED STATES ★  
★ AIRMAILS ★

## 1941 AIR MAIL SERIES



*Twin-Motor Mail Transport*



*Twin-Motor Mail Transport*



*Twin-Motor Mail Transport*



*Twin-Motor Mail Transport*



*Twin-Motor Mail Transport*



*Twin-Motor Mail Transport*

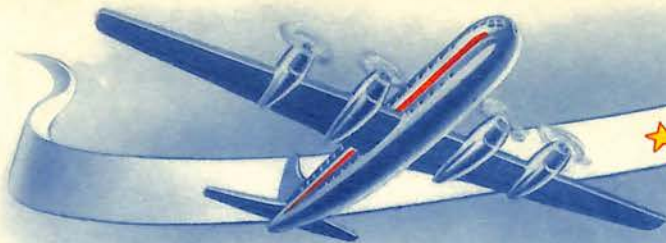
1944



*Twin-Motor Mail Transport*

In order to provide a uniform series of air mail stamps of various denominations, this set of stamps was placed on first day sale at various philatelic conventions from June to October 1941. The eight cent value was added March 21, 1944 to cover increased wartime rates. While the rate was jumped to 8¢ per ounce, the soldier rate remained at 6¢ per ounce.





## AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

1934



*Great Seal of the United States*

The first combination adhesive to prepay two distinct types of service, this stamp for 6¢ air mail and 10¢ special delivery fee was first placed on sale at the American Air Mail Society Convention August 30, 1934 at Chicago, Illinois.

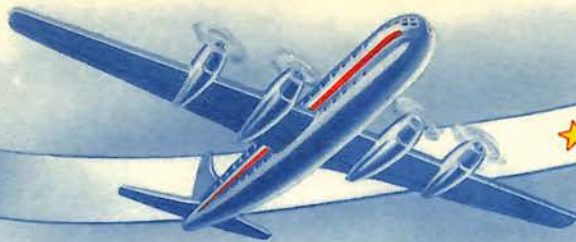
1936



*Great Seal of the United States*

Similar to the issue of 1934, this stamp, printed in red and blue, was placed on sale at Washington, D. C. Feb. 10, 1936. Its purpose was to make mail of this nature more recognizable for speedier service.





# ISSUES OF 1946 TO 1948

1948

1946



*Four Motored Transport*

A reduction in domestic air mail rates to five cents per ounce resulted in the issuance of this stamp on September 25, 1946.



*Four Motored Transport*

So that vending machines may dispense air mail postage, this coil stamp was issued January 15, 1948.

1947



*Four Motored Transport*

To step up production of air mail stamps to meet the increased demands, the small size air mail stamp was issued March 26, 1947.

1947



*Plane over Pan-American Union Bldg.*



*Plane over New York City*



*Plane over San Francisco*

The ten, fifteen, and twenty-five cent air mail stamps were issued to conform with new foreign air mail rates inaugurated during the year. The ten cent value covers the rate to Central and South America, the fifteen cent value for European mails and the twenty-five cent value for Asia, Africa, and Australia.





★ UNITED STATES ★  
★ AIRMAILS ★

## BOOKLET PANES

1927



*Spirit of St. Louis*

The 10c Lindbergh stamps were issued in booklet form to popularize the air mail service. There were two panes to a booklet which sold for sixty-one cents.

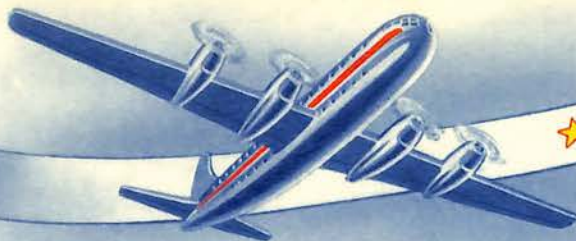
1943



*Twin-Motor Mail Transport*

The 6c air mail stamp of the 1941 series was issued March 18, 1943 in booklet pane form. It was primarily for use by the armed forces. First issued with four panes to the booklet at seventy-three cents, later in two pane booklets at thirty-seven cents.





★ UNITED STATES ★  
★ AIRMAILS ★

# 6¢ AIR MAIL COIL 1949



*Four Engine Transport*

Issued in conjunction with new air mail postage rates and replaces the 5c coil air mail stamp of 1948.

# 1949 6¢ AIR MAIL 1949



*Four Engine Transport*

This stamp replaces the 5c air mail issue of 1947 and conforms with the new air mail postage rate of 6c per ounce.

# 6¢ BOOKLET PANE 1949



*Four Engine Transport*

The 6c air mail booklet pane was issued on November 18, 1949 and was placed on first day sale at the ASDA National Postage Stamp Show held at the 71st Regiment Armory in New York City November 18-21, 1949.





## ALEXANDRIA

1949



*Historical Buildings and Seal*

Originally called Belhaven, Alexandria became incorporated in 1749 under its present name. From 1790 to 1846 it was part of the District of Columbia. It is an important port on the Potomac River for cotton and tobacco.

## GOLDEN JUBILEE

1948



*Golden Anniversary Symbol*

This stamp commemorates the enactment of a new charter incorporating the five boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx and Richmond into greater New York City.

## WRIGHT BROTHERS'

1949



*Wright Brothers and Plane*

Issued to commemorate the first free controlled and sustained powered flight by man performed by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, N. C. on December 17, 1903.

## UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

1949



*UPU Monument and Post Office Dept.*



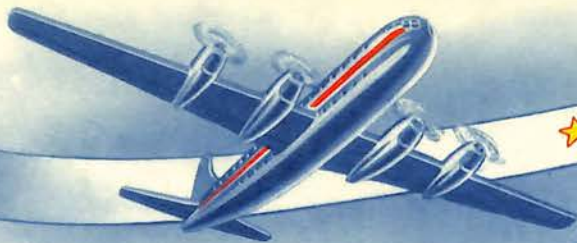
*Allegory of Universal Mail Service*



*Plane and World*

In conjunction with the nations of the world honoring the Universal Postal Union, these stamps of the 10, 15 and 25c denominations were issued by the United States. The Universal Postal Union is a confederation of most of the civilized nations of the world for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of mail between countries under treaty. The headquarters are at Berne, Switzerland.





★ UNITED STATES

★ AIRMAILS ★

## DIAMOND HEAD

1952



*Diamond Head, Honolulu, Hawaii*

The need for a high denomination air mail stamp for use with the new air parcel post service resulted in the issuance of this 80c air mail stamp which was first placed on sale in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 26, 1952.

## AVIATION PROGRESS

1953



*Wright Plane & Modern Plane*

Fifty years of aviation progress was celebrated by the aviation industry in 1953. This also marked the fiftieth anniversary of the first successful flight by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, N. C. in 1903. The stamp was issued May 29, 1953 at Dayton, Ohio.

## AIR CARD STAMP

1954



*Eagle in Flight*

January 1, 1949 saw the first application of a new 4c air mail postal card rate. To provide a special stamp that can be used on souvenir postal cards or other unstamped air postal cards, this 4c air mail stamp made an appearance September 3, 1954.





## U. S. AIR FORCE

1958



*Eagle*

Placed on sale July 31, 1958, this 5c air mail stamp was issued to cover the new air mail postage rate of 5c per ounce on air mail postcards.

1957



*Air Force Planes*

This stamp, released on August 1, 1957, commemorates the 50th anniversary of the United States Air Force as part of the National Defense System. The design features a B-52 Stratofortress in a banking position with three F-104 Starfighters in the background.

1958



*Plane*

The 7c air mail stamp shown above was issued to cover new air mail postage rates which became effective August 1, 1958. It features a silhouette view of the wing spread and fuselage of a composite jet airliner of the most advanced type.

## COIL

1958

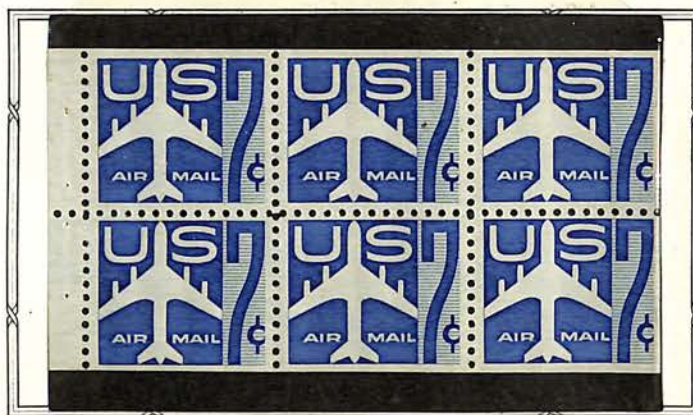


*Plane*

The 7c air mail coil stamp was issued on July 31, 1958 for use in coil vending machines and mechanical office dispensers.

## BOOKLET PANE

1958



*Aircraft*

Issued July 31, 1958 at San Antonio, Texas in booklet form . . . six stamps to a full pane and two panes to a booklet.





## BALLOON JUPITER

1959



*Balloon*

This stamp commemorates the carrying of mail by the Balloon Jupiter and was released August 17, 1959, at Lafayette, Indiana. John Wise was to have made his flight on the 16th, but postponed it until the following day because of a faulty gas valve.

## PAN AMERICAN GAMES

1959



*Runner with Flaming Torch*

This 10c air mail stamp was released at Chicago, Ill., on August 27, 1959, to mark the opening there of the Pan American Games. The design illustrates a runner holding high a flaming torch.

## ALASKA STATEHOOD

1959



*Map of Alaska*

The territory of Alaska became the forty-ninth State on January 3, 1959. This stamp marks the admission to Statehood and features the "Big Dipper" and North Star as portrayed on the Alaskan flag, superimposed on a map of Alaska. The stamp is engraved in blue, matching the color of the Alaskan flag.

## 15¢ AIR MAIL

1959



*State of Liberty*

The 15c international air mail stamp, intended primarily for use on mail matter to Europe and the Middle East, features a drawing of the Statue of Liberty, with the slogan "LIBERTY FOR ALL." It was placed on first day sale November 20, 1959, during the eleventh annual National Postage Stamp Show in New York.

## HAWAII STATEHOOD

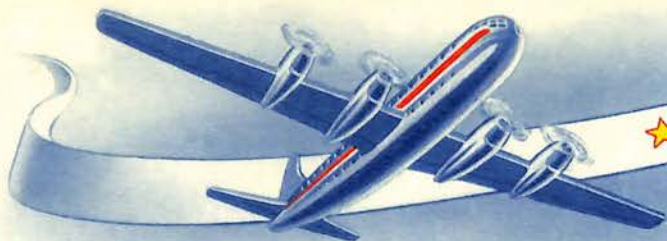
1959



*Warrior, Map & Star*

Hawaii was admitted to the Union as a State on August 21, 1959. This stamp was released to commemorate statehood and was placed on first day sale August 21st. The design was chosen in an Island-wide competition, the winner being Joseph Feher.





★ UNITED STATES

★ AIRMAILS ★

# 10¢ LIBERTY AIR MAIL

1960



*Liberty Bell*

The Liberty Bell is the symbol of America to the people to the South in the Latin American countries. For this reason, the Liberty Bell was used in this new 10c air mail design which covers the air postage rate to Central and South America.

# 7¢ FIRE RED COIL

1960



*Jet Airliner*

This new fire red air mail stamp in coil form was released October 22nd at Atlantic City, N. J.

# 25¢ LIBERTY AIR MAIL

1960



*Abraham Lincoln*

This 25c stamp features a three-quarter portrait of Abraham Lincoln with a quotation from his famous Gettysburg Address: "Of the People, By the People, For the People." The design was chosen by a survey to determine what the majority of people of the World considered as the symbol of America.

# 7¢ FIRE RED BOOKLET PANE

1960



*Jet Airliner*

The seven cent fire red air mail stamp in booklet pane form was released in St. Louis Mo., August 19th, in conjunction with the 66th annual convention and exhibition of the Society of Philatelic Americans.

# 7¢ FIRE RED AIR MAIL

1960



*Jet Airliner*

This seven cent airmail stamp in sheet form was placed on sale at Arlington, Va. on August 12, 1960, in conjunction with the annual convention of the American Air Mail Society. It was printed in a distinct shade of red as a means of facilitating the handling of air mail letters.





## LIBERTY BELL

1961



*Liberty Bell*

Issued to cover new international air mail rates, this 13c stamp paid postage on 1/2 oz. air mail letters to Bermuda, Central America (other than Mexico), the Caribbean Area and Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

## CAPITOL

1962



*Jet Airliner over Capitol*

Increases in air mail postage rates resulted in the issue of this 8c air mail stamp picturing a jet airliner flying over the United States Capitol in Washington, D. C.

## LIBERTY

1961



*Statue of Liberty*

Slight corrections were made in the design of the 15c stamp released in 1959 to coincide with the 10c and 25c denominations of the set. The orange border around the Statue of Liberty has been removed in this revised issue.

## MONTGOMERY

### BLAIR

1963



*Blair, World, and Letters*

Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General under Abraham Lincoln, helped set up the first universal postal conference, held in Paris in 1863. From this meeting emerged the Universal Postal Union, a reciprocal agreement under which the nations of the world carry one another's mail.

## EAGLE

1963



*Bald Eagle*

Along with air letter mail rate increases, the air postal card rate was raised from 5c to 6c. This stamp, picturing a bald eagle, was placed on first day sale July 12, 1963.

## AMELIA EARHART

1963



*Amelia Earhart*

This stamp had its first day sale July 24, 1963, in Atchison, Kansas, Amelia Earhart's birthplace. In 1932 Miss Earhart became the first woman to fly the Atlantic solo. Five years later she was lost in the Pacific during an attempted around-the-world flight through uncharted skies.





## COIL STAMP

1962



*Jet Airliner over Capitol.*

Increases in air mail postage rates resulted in the issue of this 8c air mail stamp picturing a jet airliner flying over the United States Capitol in Washington, D. C.

## BOOKLET PANE

1962



*Jet Airliner over Capitol, Washington, D. C.*





## ALASKA

1967



*Indian Totem Pole*

Alaska was sold by Russia to the U. S. in 1867 for \$7.2 million. Many thought the territory was overpriced by the Russians and called it "Seward's Folly," referring to Secretary of State William H. Seward, who negotiated the sale. But Alaska has proved a good buy.

## GODDARD

1964



*Dr. Robert H. Goddard*

Dr. Robert H. Goddard, whose experiments date back to 1914 at Clark University, Worcester, Mass., is regarded as the father of modern rocketry. In 1926 he launched the first non-munitions rocket. By 1932, Doctor Goddard's rockets were zooming to altitudes of 2,000 feet at speeds of 500 miles per hour.

## COLUMBIA JAY

1967



*Columbia Jay*

A reproduction of John James Audubon's aquatint of the "Columbia Jay," which was brought out in 1963 as a 5-cent stamp, was used as the design of this 20-cent air mail stamp. The aquatint is owned by the National Gallery of Art.

## DEFINITIVE

1968



*Runway of 50-Stars*

The 10c Air Mail definitive was released on January 5, 1968 to cover increased postage rates. The design features an airport runway composed of fifty stars for the fifty States.

## 20¢ AIR MAIL

1968



*USA and Plane Silhouette*

A red, white and blue "USA" dominates this horizontal stamp. It was issued on November 22, in New York City, to coincide with the opening of the National Postage Stamp Show at the new Madison Square Garden.

## ANNIVERSARY

1968



*Curtiss Jenny*

Regularly scheduled air mail service began May 15, 1918, with a Washington-New York City run; this stamp commemorates the 50th anniversary of that event. Of 1,208 trips flown in air mail's first year, only 90 were not completed due to engine trouble or bad weather.

## AIRLIFT

1968



*Early American Wooden Eagle*

The One Dollar AIRLIFT postage stamp was issued April 4th at Seattle, Washington. It covers low cost rates for parcels to and from servicemen based overseas and in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.





BOOKLET  
PANES  
&  
COILS



*Runway of 50-Stars*

1968



*Runway of 50-Stars*



*Runway of 50-Stars*





## APOLLO ELEVEN

1969



*Astronaut and "Eagle" on the Moon*

Issued to commemorate man's first landing on the moon . . . by an American, Neil Armstrong. The landing took place on July 20, 1969 from the Lunar Excursion Module "Eagle" on the Sea of Tranquility. The master die for printing this issue was carried to the moon and printing of the stamps was delayed until the return of the die. First day of issue was September 9th, Michael Collins piloted the Apollo 11 spacecraft while Neil Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr. made the moon landing.

1971



*Silhouette of Plane*

George Vander Sluis, of Camillus, New York, created this design. On a red background is the silhouette in white of a plane, nose pointed upward. It was first placed on sale at Spokane, Washington, in conjunction with PIPEX, the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs exhibition on May 7th.

1971



*Head of Liberty*

The 17c air mail stamp was released on July 13th at Lakehurst Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, New Jersey. Lakehurst was chosen because it was celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding. The stamp was designed by Robert J. Jones of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

1971



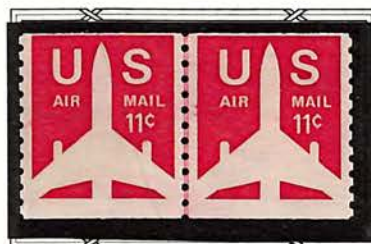
*USA and Plane*

Except for the denomination, the stamp repeats the design of the 20 cent version it replaces, although the colors are reversed. It was placed on first day sale May 21 in conjunction with NAPEX (National Philatelic Exhibition).





1971

*Silhouette of Plane**Silhouette of Plane*

This 11c stamp, in sheet, coil and booklet form, was issued May 7th at Spokane, Washington in conjunction with PIPEX, the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs. The design features the silhouette of a plane, nose pointed upward. George Vander Sluis, of Camillus, New York, created the design. Howard F. Sharpless, of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, engraved the stamp.

*Silhouette of Plane*





## CITY OF REFUGE

1972



*Ki's Wooden Statue*

The City of Refuge, a 180-acre park created in 1961, is an ancient sanctuary for taboo breakers or victims of war.

## ELECTRONICS

1973



*Audion & Audion Tube*

Lee DeForest's refinements to Marconi — the Audion and Audion tube — are on this stamp. With these devices, in 1912, DeForest transmitted the human voice from Arlington, Virginia to Paris.

## OLYMPIC GAMES

1972



*Skiing*

This is one of a set of four stamps issued August 17, 1972 to honor the 1972 Olympics. Pierre de Coubertin, a French baron, is the father of the modern Olympics.

## DEFINITIVE

1973

This stamp was issued to meet the increase in the domestic air-mail rate to 13c. Its first day sale took place on November 16, 1973 at the New York City stamp show of the American Stamp Dealers Association.



*Winged Envelope*



*Winged Envelope*

## COIL

1973

This coil variety of the 13c air-mail regular was issued on December 27, 1973 in Chicago, Illinois. Nelson Gruppo of New York City created the design for this definitive, which shows an envelope in flight.

## STATUE OF LIBERTY

1974



*Statue of Liberty*

Though intended primarily for use on commercially produced aerogrammes, this stamp also could be used for mailing postcards at international rates. It was issued on January 11, 1974 at Hempstead, New York.

## MOUNT RUSHMORE

1974



*Mt. Rushmore Memorial*

The Mt. Rushmore National Memorial, located in the Black Hills 25 miles southwest of Rapid City, South Dakota, is composed of 60-foot high heads of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt.





UNITED  
STATES  
COMMEMORATIVES







## INTERNATIONAL AIR MAILS

1976



*Plane and Globe*



*Plane and Globe*

These 25c and 31c air mails were issued on January 2, 1976 at Honolulu, Hawaii to cover revised international rates. Both are symbolic designs featuring planes and globes. The stamps were modeled by Frank J. Waslick and engraved by James L. Goodbody and Gary M. Chaconas of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. Production was done in one pass through the Giori press.

## WRIGHT BROTHERS

1978



*Wright Brothers and Plane*



*Wright Brothers, Plane, & Shed*

These stamps mark the 75th anniversary year of Orville and Wilbur Wright's historic first powered flight. The brothers left Dayton, Ohio with their airplane on September 23, 1903, headed for Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The stamps were designed by Ken Dallison, who is noted for portraying man's achievements with machinery in drawings featuring both people and their machines.





★ UNITED STATES ★  
★ AIRMAILS ★

This airmail stamp commemorating the 1980 Olympic Games was issued November 1, 1979, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The first day site was chosen because it is the headquarters city for the U.S. Olympic Committee and the site of one of two permanent Olympic training facilities in the United States.



*Olympic High Jumper*

## OLYMPIC GAMES

1979

## OCTAVE CHANUTE

1979



*Octave Chanute*



*Octave Chanute*

Octave Chanute, American engineer and aviation pioneer, is honored on these stamps, the second installment in the Pioneer Aviation Series, which were issued March 29, 1979. Chanute's work in aviation and gliding had a significant effect on the designs and work of the Wrights.



*Post and "Winnie Mae"*

Wiley Post was an aviation pioneer who became famous for record-making flights, scientific research, and design of a pressure suit and helmet for high-altitude flights. On these stamps, Post is pictured with the "Winnie Mae," the Lockheed Vega plane with which he was closely identified.



## WILEY POST

1979



*Wiley Post*