



GRAF ZEPPELIN
PAN-AMERICAN FLIGHT
1930
(slight color variations)





FIRST AIR MAIL SERIES

1918



Early Mail Plane



Early Mail Plane



Early Mail Plane

In May 1918, an Act of Congress placed mail carrying by plane on an officially scheduled basis with the postage rate set at 24c. The first air mail stamp was released on May 13, 1918 in connection with the inauguration of air mail service from New York to Washington, D.C. The denomination was 24c and it was this stamp that created the famous inverted airplane error. The 16c denomination was first placed on sale July 11th followed by the 6c on December 10th.

SECOND AIR MAIL SERIES

1923



Propeller



Emblem of Mail Service



Early Biplane

Released primarily for use in the new night flying service between New York and San Francisco, the 1923 air mails were placed on sale in Washington during August. The 8c denomination on the 15th, the 16c on the 17th and the 24c on the 21st. New reduced rates were put into effect on a three-zone basis at 8c per ounce per zone, with each zone approximately 1,000 miles in length across the country.

★ UNITED

STATES

★ AIRMAILS ★

MAP AIR MAILS

1926-27



Map of the United States



Map of the United States



Map of the United States

By 1925, air mail under government sponsorship became well established and as an aid to civilian aviation Congress decided to place the service on a contract basis with private flying interests. New rates were established . . . 10c per ounce up to 1,000 miles, 15c up to 1,500 miles and 20c beyond this mileage. For the new air rates three stamps were prepared and released during 1926-27 with one common design, a relief map of the United States.

LINDBERGH

1927



Spirit of St. Louis

Aviation was growing fast by 1927 with many attempts being made to cross the Atlantic non-stop. First to succeed was Charles A. Lindbergh who flew his "Spirit of St. Louis" from New York to Paris in May. This stamp, commemorating the crossing, was released June 18, 1927.

BEACON

1928



Airways Beacon

This stamp, engraved in red and blue, features the beacon light on Sherman Hill in the Rocky Mountains and a mail plane in flight. It was first placed on sale July 25, 1928 . . . the 5c Air Mail rate becoming effective on August 1st.

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WINGED GLOBE AIR MAILS

1930

FLAT PRESS



Winged Globe Emblem

1931

ROTARY PRESS



Winged Globe Emblem

1932



Winged Globe Emblem

1934



Winged Globe Emblem

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 bicolor issue in favor of the speedier printed one color design. The issues above picture the insignia of an air mail pilot. The 5c violet appeared flat plate process perforation 11 on February 10, 1930 and by rotary press perforation 10½ x 11 on August 19, 1931. The same design was issued in an 8c olive green color on September 26, 1932 to conform with the new air rate. The 6c orange, also for a rate change, appeared July 1, 1934.

Both these values were produced by rotary press, perforation 10½ x 11.

GRAF ZEPPELIN CENTURY OF PROGRESS FLIGHT

1933



Graf Zeppelin between Friedrichshafen and Chicago

Germany sent the Airship Graf Zeppelin as her messenger of good will to the CENTURY OF PROGRESS EXPOSITION in Chicago the Fall of 1933. The ship carried special souvenir letters for which the 50c stamp was issued on October 2, 1933.



MAP SERIES 1926-27



Symbol of Trans-Continental Mail Service



Symbol of Trans-Continental Mail Service

As the use of mail carrying planes became more and more popular the government continued to reduce the rate of air mail postage charges. This new set of stamps reflected the new rates as set forth in the Act of Congress of Feb 2, 1925.

MAP SERIES 1926-27



Symbol of Trans-Continental Mail Service

70-

UNITED STATES PLATE BLOCKS

LINDBERGH ISSUE - 1927



Lindbergh's Monoplane, "Spirit of St. Louis"

The wonderful development of the United States Air Mail System can be told through its stamp issues. An example of this is the special 10¢ stamp issued as a tribute to the non-stop New York to Paris flight by Charles A. Lindbergh, which paved the way for world-wide air mail coverage.

BEACON - 1928



Sherman Hill Airmail Beacon Light

This was the first of the 5¢ air mail stamps issued and illustrated the government's continued effort to give the public the lowest possible air mail rates.

187-



WINGED GLOBE SERIES



Wings and Globe—Air Mail Insignia

Printed by Flat Plate Press and perforated 11.



Wings and Globe—Air Mail Insignia

Although similar in appearance to the Flat Plate Printing, this stamp is a major variety since it was printed by a Rotary Press and is perforated $10\frac{1}{2}$ by 11.

275-

WINGED GLOBE SERIES



Wings and Globe—Air Mail Insignia



Wings and Globe—Air Mail Insignia

As the rates continued to change new issues were required to meet the demand for proper amount of postage.



15-

EAGLE AND SHIELD ISSUE - 1938



Eagle Holding Shield, Arrows and Olive Wreath

A new design issued to replace the issue of 1934.



The Transatlantic Issue celebrated the inauguration of the Transatlantic Airmail Service.

UNITED STATES PLATE BLOCKS

CENTURY OF PROGRESS ZEPPELIN ISSUE - 1933



21178

Airship "Graf Zeppelin"

Issued in connection with the flight of the Graf Zeppelin to the World's Fair in Chicago, and intended as a good-will gesture helping to publicize the event.



21178

900

TRANS-PACIFIC ISSUES - 1935-37



"China Clipper" Flying Over the Pacific



A special set of stamps created for Transpacific usage, which service was inaugurated in November 1935.

105-

TRANS-PACIFIC ISSUES - 1935-37





TWIN-MOTOR TRANSPORT SERIES - 1941-44



A25-A31 — Twin-Motored Transport Plane



The 1941-44 series of airmail stamps was issued to provide a uniform set to replace similar denominations which had been issued at various times since 1926.

874

19543



24593



A.M.F.



19557

466