



FIRST AIR MAIL SERIES

1918



Early Mail Plane



Early Mail Plane



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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.

C10a

SC 130100

100 PLANE BP

124⁰⁰





★ 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.



GRAF ZEPPELIN PAN-AMERICAN FLIGHT

1930



Graf Zeppelin over Ocean



Graf Zeppelin between Continents



Graf Zeppelin over Globe

Great interest in the mail carrying flights of the Graf Zeppelin prompted the Post Office Department to issue this set of three stamps in connection with the Europe-Pan American Flight. This was one of the more important flights of the great German airship which carried it from Germany to South America, thence to Lakehurst and back to Germany in a huge triangle. The stamps were placed on sale April 19, 1930 at Washington, D. C. and at selected post offices in the forty-eight states on April 21st.



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.

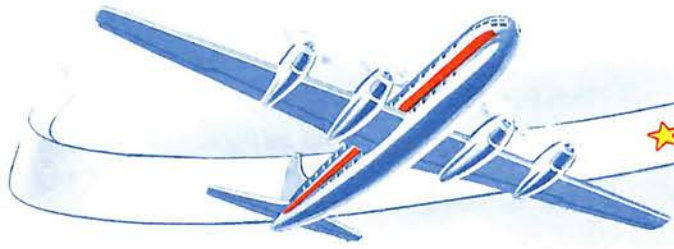
GRAF ZEPPELIN CENTURY OF PROGRESS FLIGHT

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.



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★ AIRMAILS ★

SERIES OF 1926-27

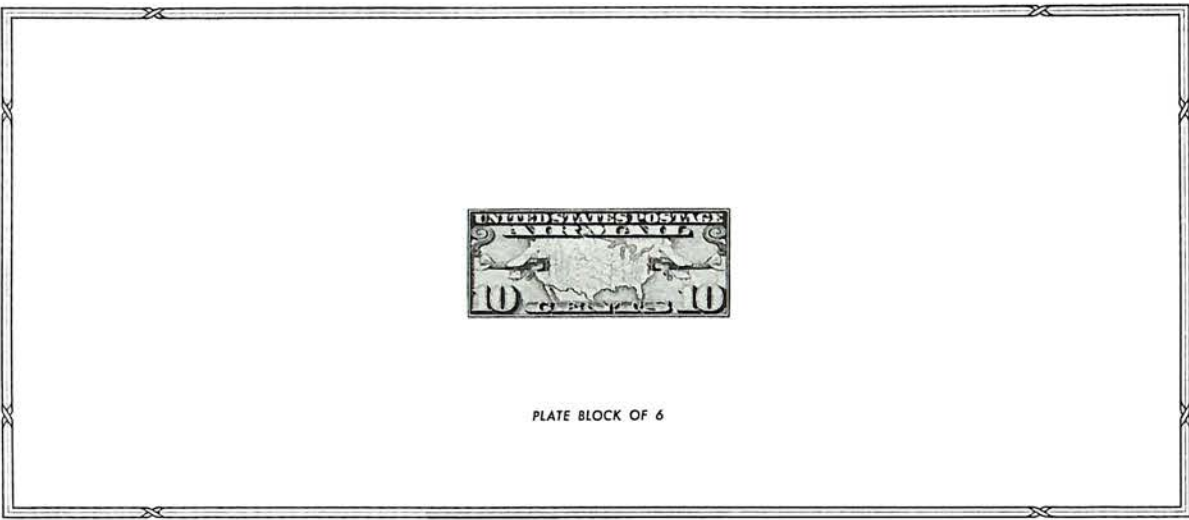


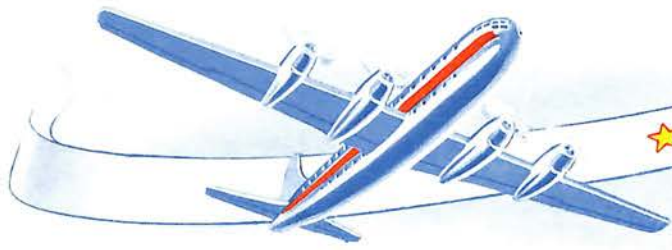
PLATE BLOCK OF 6

U. S. Map and Two Mail Planes



U. S. Map and Two Mail Planes

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 10c per ounce up to 1,000 miles, 15c up to 1,500 miles and 20c beyond 1,500 miles. Three stamps in the denominations called for above were issued during 1926-27 with the central design a relief map of the United States.



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ AIRMAILS ★

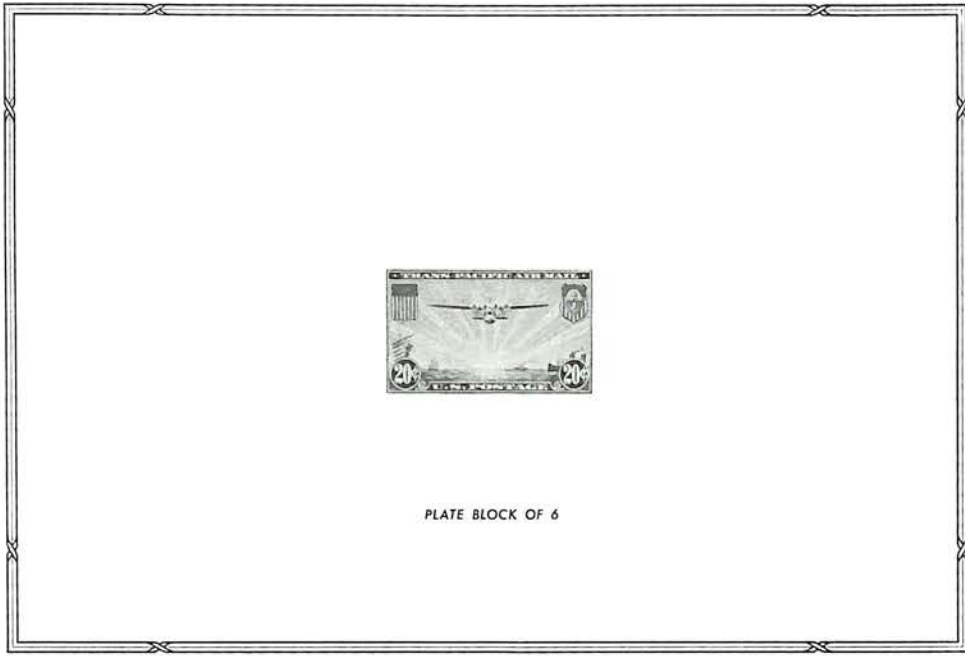


PLATE BLOCK OF 6

TRANS
PACIFIC

1937

"China Clipper" Over Pacific Ocean

The 20c and 50c trans-pacific air mail stamps were released to cover revised air rates for the extension of the service from San Francisco to China. Identical in design to the 25c denomination released in 1935, only the line "NOVEMBER 1935" was left out.



"China Clipper" Over Pacific Ocean