



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ AIRMAILS ★

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.

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SERIES OF 1926-27



U. S. Map and Two Mail Planes

c-7



U. S. Map and Two Mail Planes

c-8

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.

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SERIES OF 1926-27



U. S. Map and Two Mail Planes

C-9

LINDBERGH

1927



Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis"

C-10



BEACON

1928

This stamp, engraved in red and blue, represents the beacon light on Sherman Hill, in the Rocky Mountains, with a mail plane flying to the left. It was first placed on sale July 25, 1928; the new 5c air rate becoming effective on August 1st.



Rocky Mountain Beacon

c-11

WINGED GLOBE

1930



Winged Globe

c-12

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 printed single color designs. These winged globe designs picture the insignia of an air mail pilot. The 5c violet appeared by flat plate process perforated 11 February 10, 1930 and by rotary press perforation 10½ x 11 August 19, 1931. This same design was re-issued in 8c olive green color September 26, 1932 to conform with the new air rate as well as was the 6c orange denomination of July 1, 1934. Both these values were produced by rotary press perforation 10½ x 11.



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 $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ 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 $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$.

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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TRANS
PACIFIC

1937



"China Clipper" Over Pacific Ocean

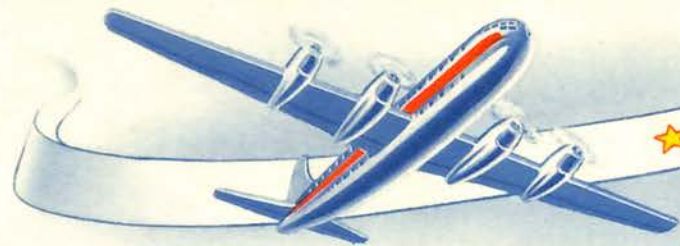
C-21

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

C-22



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AMERICAN EAGLE

1938

As a part of the celebration of National Air Mail Week and for greater efficiency in recognizing airmail 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.

TRANS ATLANTIC

1939

American Eagle C-23



Winged Globe C-24

12 Similar in design to the "winged globe" designs of the early 30's, this 30c stamp was issued to mark 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.

POSTAGE

Printed by the American Bank Note Co.

1879

Soft Porous Paper



10 C
BROWN
With
Secret Mark
(188)



90 C
CARMINE
(191)

1882



1881-82

Designs of Issue of 1873 Re-engraved



6 C
ROSE
(208)



1883



POSTAGE

Printed by the American Bank Note Co,
1887



1888



1890-93



220

420C



(228)



POSTAGE

Printed by the American Bank Note Co.

Columbian Exposition Issue

1893



240



POSTAGE

Trans-Mississippi Exposition Issue

Watermarked USPS

1898



291



(292)



(293)

POSTAGE

Pan-American Exposition Issue

Watermarked USPS

1901



POSTAGE

Watermarked USPS

1902-03



1906-08

Imperforate



315

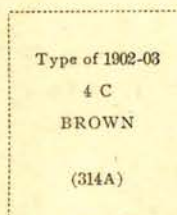
1903-06



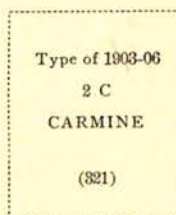
COIL STAMPS

1908

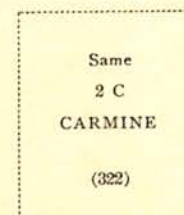
Large Oblong Perforations Vertically



Perforated 12 Horizontally



Perforated 12 Vertically



POSTAGE

Watermarked USPS

1904

Louisiana Purchase Exposition Issue



1907

Jamestown Exposition Issue



\$1
VIOLET
BROWN
(342)

POSTAGE

Watermarked USPS

1913

Panama-Pacific Exposition Issue

Perforated 12



1914-15

Perforated 10



1912-14

Perforated 12

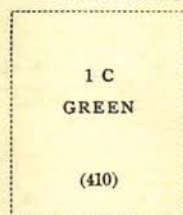


Imperforate



COIL STAMPS

Perforated 8 1/4 Horizontally



Perforated 8 1/4 Vertically



Perforated 12



POSTAGE

Unwatermarked

1929

Electric Light Golden Jubilee Issue

Flat Plate Printing
Perforated 11



Rotary Press Printing
Perforated 11x10½



Rotary Press Coil Stamp
Perforated 10 Vertically



Flat Plate Printing
Perforated 11

Sullivan Expedition Issue



Rotary Press Printing
Perforated 11x10½



Same
Overprinted

Nebr.

1 C

GREEN

(669)



3 C
VIOLET

(672)



5 C
DEEP BLUE

(674)

6 C
RED ORANGE

(675)

7 C
BLACK

(676)

8 C
OLIVE GREEN

(677)

9 C
LIGHT ROSE

(678)

10 C
ORANGE
YELLOW

(679)