



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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Issue: May 2018

Most meetings held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting site is Berkshire Commons, 5485 Perkiomen Avenue (Route 422)

Turn north on Lincoln opposite the Dairy Queen.

Proceed 300 feet, turn left on Washington and look right of center at the stop sign.

Tuesday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m.

***The History and Scope of
Aerophilately
ALSO***

***Members bring your favorite
Aerophilately Cover to share.***

**A DVD presentation sponsored by the American
Air Mail Society from the American Philatelic Society.**

When your editor was a child there were few more exciting times than when I would get to send off a letter by airmail. It happened only a couple times and I no longer recall why (perhaps for some high-powered cereal offer), but it was the thrill to use an envelope with red and blue stripes and walk up to the postal window and pay the rich man's air mail rate like I was junior John D. Rockefeller then see the clerk to take out his rubber stamp and pound "AIR MAIL" all over the front of my envelope. Sorry those days are gone!

April Meeting:

Treasures Report:

Cash on hand \$ 67.00, VIST Current Account - \$ 1,472.19 and VIST CD - \$ 3,000.00

Attendance Drawing:

50/50 Drawing:

Aaron Heckler (not at meeting) - \$20 next meeting!!

Beth (friend of Ken Bleiler)

Foreign Air Mail Routes—by Robert Spooner

Foreign Air Mail (FAM) routes are those which were assigned to United States airlines over which mail was carried from United States points to foreign countries, except for certain operations involving Canada and Mexico. As aircraft could fly farther, faster or higher, airmail could be flown to countries further and further away from United States borders.

One example is the first United States FAM Route 1 from Key West to Havana, Cuba, about 100 miles over the horizon in the Caribbean. In 1920 it was a reasonable goal. Aircraft could cover such distances, but operators had to learn how to navigate out of sight of land on a regular schedule and with diversions around large tropical thunder storms or by flying through other poor weather conditions. A contractor was ready to accept the challenge and provided converted World War I flying boats to carry mail for the United States Post Office Department, as well as passengers. The first flight was on November 1, 1920. A special cachet was provided in Havana on the reverse of the envelopes. Five hundred pounds of regular Havana mail received preferential airmail service rather than going through a normal Florida port. Only one business letter has been described in the philatelic literature to date. Many of these covers are waiting to be found!

FAM history is alive with interesting events that affected airmail service in good as well as detrimental ways, providing challenges to the collector. Postmarks help to show changes in routing when weather or revolutions prevented landing at intended destinations. Pilot signatures show who carried the mail. Even Lindbergh carried FAM mail in the Caribbean, although his autograph on this mail is quite scarce. The American Air Mail Catalogue provides FAM information on routes, pilots, cachets, inaugural flights, changes in service, quantity of mail carried, and representative prices. There are helpful resources available for anyone who wants to get involved in collecting Foreign Air Mails.



The only business letter identified in the philatelic literature from the first flight of FAM 1, identified by the circular cachet.

The USPS has graciously decided to issue Forever Stamps on May 1st to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the US Airmail Service to coincide with our meeting!!

SEE NEXT PAGE

USPS to celebrate 100th anniversary of U.S. Airmail Service

WASHINGTON — The United States Postal Service will honor the beginning of airmail service by dedicating two United States Air Mail Forever stamps this year.

The first, depicted here in blue (below –left), commemorates the pioneering spirit of the brave pilots who first flew the mail in the early years of aviation. The first-day-of-issue ceremony will take place May 1, 2018 at 11 a.m. at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, 2 Massachusetts Ave. N.E., Washington, DC.

On May 15, 1918, in the midst of World War I, a small group of Army pilots delivered mail along a route that linked Washington, Philadelphia, and New York—initiating the world’s first regularly scheduled airmail service. The United States Post Office Department, the predecessor to the U.S. Postal Service, took charge of the U.S. Air Mail Service later that summer, operating it from Aug. 12, 1918, through Sept. 1, 1927. Airmail delivery, daily except on Sundays, became part of the fabric of the American economy and spurred growth of the nation’s aviation industry.



The second stamp, red (pictured above right), will commemorate this milestone with its first-day-of-issue to take place later this summer. Both stamps, printed in the intaglio print method — a design transferred to paper from an engraved plate — depict the type of plane typically used in the early days of airmail, a Curtiss JN-4H biplane. The biplane was also featured on the stamps originally issued in 1918 to commemorate the beginning of regularly scheduled airmail service. The stamp designs evoke that earlier period.

Background

For airmail service to succeed in the early days of flight, the Post Office had to develop profitable routes, such as between New York and Chicago, and to establish the infrastructure for safely making night flights. It set up lighted airfields and erected hundreds of airmail guide beacons between New York and San Francisco so that by 1924 regularly scheduled, transcontinental flying was possible, day and night. Airmail delivery, daily except on Sundays, became part of the fabric of the American economy and spurred the growth of the nation’s aviation industry. The United States Air Mail stamp is being issued as a Forever stamp. This Forever stamp will always be equal in value to the current First Class Mail one ounce price.

Stamp design

On the 100th anniversary of the beginning of regular airmail service, this stamp celebrates the courage of the pioneering airmail carriers and the foresight of those who fostered the new service and made it a success. The stamp, printed in intaglio, features a drawing of the type of plane typically used in the early days of airmail, a Curtiss JN4H biplane. This type of biplane was also featured on the 24 cent stamp that was issued in 1918 to commemorate the beginning of regularly scheduled airmail service. The words “UNITED STATES” and “AIR MAIL” are respectively at the top and bottom of the stamp. “EST” is an abbreviation for “established.” The stamp designer and typographer was Dan Gretta; Greg Breeding was the art director.

Thank you USPS

MIKE'S PAGES

FUTURE MEETINGS: 2018

Reading Stamp Collectors Club

May 1st : APS DVD "History and Scope of Aerophilately" Sponsored by the AAMS Members to share their own Aerophilatelic Item(s).

June 5th : Picnic / Summer Auction with Pottstown in Boyertown.. 6:00 pm start

July 3rd : The use of fake stamps in the mails of Russia. Presenter Kent Weaver

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

**May 9th : State Symbols of PA on Stamps
Presenter: Vera Felts**

June 13th : Spring Auction – Hosted by Paul Petersen

**July 11th : History of the Schuylkill Canal in PPC's -
Presenter Aaron Heckler.**

SCOPEX 2018 on Saturday June 23rd at APS in Bellefont

This is not a bus trip but a proposed joint car-pooling effort to this stamp show with Lancaster Club. The stamp show is presented by the Mt Nittany Philatelic Society. While at the APS, visit do some research at their new library or go to the store. Plenty to do for a fun day out.

We are trying to assess how many of our members will be going to give the APS a heads up. Contact Roy Baardsen if you want to sign up via email at Roykb@comcast.net or call 610-927-3435

ADVANCE NOTICE

Capital City Philatelic Society
Since 1925
FALL STAMP SHOW & BOURSE
Lower Swatara Firehouse
1350 Fulling Mill Rd., Middletown, PA 17057
Sunday, September 9, 2018, 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
Directions: **From I-81:** Take I-83 South to I-283 (to Airport/Turnpike), then I-283 East toward Lancaster. Get off Union Street Exit, turn left onto **north Union Street**. At Fulling Mill Rd., turn left, continue to Firehouse. **From the west**, take I-83 North to I-283 (Airport/Turnpike), then continue to follow the above. Use MAPQUEST or similar program for alternate routes.
*Dealers—stamps, covers & postcards *Philatelic supplies, hinges, tongs, mounts, albums *Bid Board during show times *FREE stamps for youths—our effort to get young people interested in collecting stamps!
***EASY Parking! *FREE Admission!**
Bring a friend—Come on in and look around—Ask questions—Enjoy!

THE OVERPTINT MARKET PLACE

The following have been submitted by Jon Escott. You can contact him via email jisipoo@ptd.net or phone is 610-779-8702 (home) or 610-406-8787 (cell).

Germany Scott #B23 - B27, MiNr 425Y - 429Y, 5 unused stamps Charity Coat of Arms –
Price \$20 (CV \$55.75)



* German Empire - Scott #366-384 set of 19 unused stamps 1928 -1932 Ebert
/Hindenberg
Issue - Price \$50 (CV \$ 104)



* German Empire - Scott #366-384 set of 19 used stamps 1928 -1932 Ebert / Hindenberg
Issue –

Price: \$16 (CV \$ 32)

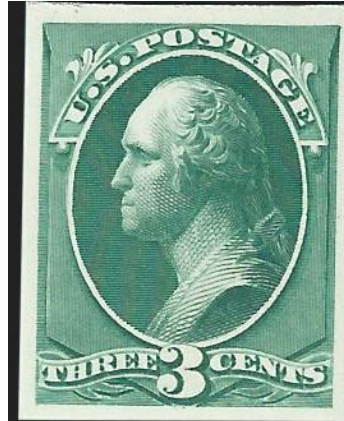
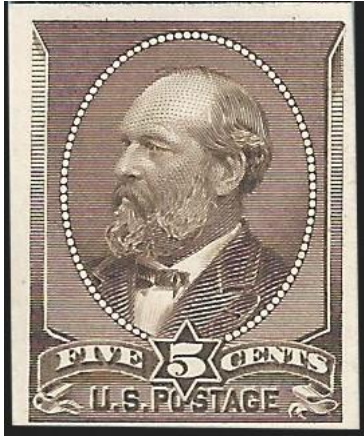


Also from Jon:

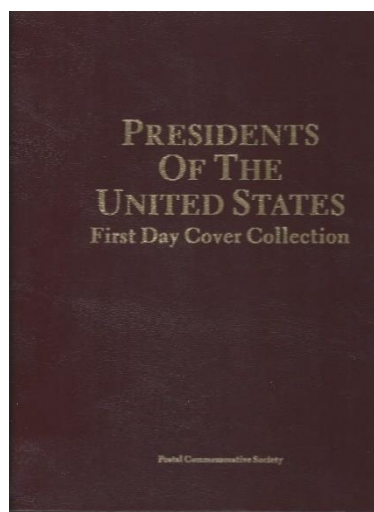
U. S. Proofs on card (see scans)

* 205P4 5c Garfield gray brown - **Price: \$8** * 207P4 3c Washington blue green - **Price: \$12**

* 210P4 2c Washington red brown - **Price: \$12** *



U. S. Presidents First Day Cover Collection 3-ring binder includes 36 covers, George Washington through Lyndon Johnson and the White House with descriptions in protective sleeves. **Price to Sell at \$18** - (50 cents per cover plus you get a free binder)



EXAMPLE ==>>>

