



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 49 No. 9 September 2021

Development of Airmail in the United States Part I - By Doug Files

Introduction

“Par Avion” and bright red and blue markings give covers a sense of adventure in the minds of philatelists. But how did all this begin in the nation where airplanes were invented?

Carrying mail by airplane began not long after the advent of powered flight in the United States. The Scott catalogue breaks airmail history into three distinct eras: the pioneer period (1911-1918), the government flight period (1918-1926) and the contract air mail period (1926-1977).

The pioneer period was mostly experimental with occasional flights at special events but no regular routes. Starting in 1918 the government hired pilots to fly most airmail and they travelled routine paths. Eight years later the government hired private airlines as contractors to handle letters that had to move across the nation quickly.

Around 1977 the concept of airmail as a separate service disappeared in the United States. After that time domestic and international mail was often carried by airplane but customers did not pay extra for the service. Mail was simply carried in the most cost-effective way – as determined by postal service administrators.

In the early 1900s it was clear that an active air transportation system could benefit the entire nation. Such a system would constitute critical infrastructure that would reap advantages for business, government and private individuals. Setting it up was costly however. Early American airlines struggled to turn a profit and no level of government wished to foot the bill.

The federal government did take some measures, though, to aid the establishment of an air transport system. One of these – perhaps the primary one – was when Congress authorized the U.S. Post Office Department to fly airmail. In 1918 with aviation burgeoning due to World War I in Europe Postmaster General Albert Burleson and his staff created a regular airmail service.

Experimental Airmail Flights

Let’s explore the Pioneer Period in greater detail, however. At an air meet on Long Island, New York in September 1911 pilot Earle Ovington carried letters. The mail bag was lodged between his legs because the aircraft had no cargo compartment. He flew his Queen aircraft from Golden City Estates to Mineola a few miles away, then

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Five-cent U.S. Air Mail Stamp (Scott #C11) issued in 1928. Image from the Washington County Historical Society, <https://wchsutah.org/aviation/navigation-arrows.php>

Meetings and Activities
Meetings begin at 7:30 pm

Sep 6 — Labor day HOLIDAY
NO MEETING

Sep 12 — Montrose Stamp Bourse, Holiday Inn—Akron West 10am to 4 pm, Massillon, 330-832-5992

Sep 13 — 7pm Board Meeting with AIRPEX Review

Sept 20—HYBRID 7:30 DSC meeting & CLUB AUCTION #4

Sept 24-25, Richmond IN, Precancel Stamp Society

Oct 4—HYBRID 7:30pm DSC Meeting and Members’ Bourse: Buy, Sell & Trade.

Oct 11 — 7pm Board Meeting

Oct 18—HYBRID 7:30 DSC meeting and program; My Other Hobby, Member Participation

Nov 1 HYBRID 7:30pm DSC Meeting and How to Evaluate (or research) a U.S. Cover

Nov 8—7pm Board Meeting (set 2022 Calendar and Budget review)

Nov 13-14—MSDA Bourse ONLY, New location TBA in Cincinnati area

Nov 15—HYBRID 7:30 DCS Meeting, Elections & Club Auction #5

Dec 6 — 6:30 pm Holiday Dinner at Local Restaurant

Dec 13 — 7pm Board Meeting

Dec 20 — NO MEETING—
ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

DSC NEWSLETTER

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#82

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#80083



Taj Mahal, Agra, India, Image free use by WestportWiki

Adventures in International Trading

By Doug Files

We collect stamps for many reasons. One strong reason is to expand our knowledge of the world. Another reason is to establish friendships. I combine these two goals by trading stamps and covers with collectors in other nations. For over 20 years I have been trading with international collectors. During this period I have greatly increased my understanding both of stamps and of the living conditions in other countries.

It takes some work to prepare and mail packages. If they are larger than a certain size they require a customs statement. Everyone in line at the post office has to wait while the clerk types in every detail of my address and the other collector's address. It can also be a challenge to find material that will interest my friends. In one case it took two years and 8 exchanges of material to hone my understanding of what a fellow was seeking. With patience and perseverance, though, we have been able to trade to our mutual benefit...and we still are.

some trading websites which cater to stamp collectors:

- Collectors Universe, <https://forums.collectors.com/categories/buy-sell-trade-stamps>
- 2-Clicks website, <https://www.2-clicks-stamps.com/>
- Stamp Listing.com, <http://stamplisting.com/>

I have to admit that I do not belong to any services like thAT. I have found addresses of pen pals who collect stamps by searching on Bing or Google. Alternately, you can achieve something approaching worldwide trading by selling and buying items on Hip stamp or Stamporama. Our Cincinnati member Mike Kleintank briefed us on Stamporama in an on-line club meeting in April.

Practically, how does the philatelic exchange work? Well, of course you can work it out however the two of you wish. How often to trade, what value of items to trade and so forth must be worked out with each correspondent. Be patient, as it can take some time to understand the other person's expectations, and for them to get to know your quirks.

There exist some pitfalls in dealing with international friends. Language issues, cultural differences and expectations can differ. For example, one correspondent asked me to order new issues on-line. It took that Philatelic Agency 5 months to send the order to me. They never explained why, but my friend repeatedly requested that I send the items to him immediately. Other pitfalls are financial. It can be expensive to pay international postage fees. Or there can be more serious financial difficulties. One correspondent in Africa wanted me to sponsor him to come to live in Amer-

—continued on page 3

So how do you find collectors to trade with? I find names and addresses of philatelists on various websites. Websites even exist specifically to connect stamp collectors in different nations. Listed below are



Image free use under Creative Commons, Flickr: Deoksugung Doldam-gil,

Dayton Stamp Club member Thomas Matthews is in the stamp collecting history books

Longtime stamp collector and club member Thomas Matthews passed away in early 1982. Airmail was his special interest and his collection was internationally famous.



From Dayton Stamp Club Archives

By Steven Solomon, DSC Historian

The businessman-farmer was well known because he at one time had owned a 24-cent inverted airmail error Jenny stamp, from position No. 84. Only



a single sheet of the misprinted 1918 stamps was ever found. He sold the rare stamp at an H.R. Harmer auction in November 1964 for \$15,500 to famous dealer Raymond Weill. The most recent sale of an inverted Jenny, position number 49 at auction in 2018, went for the record hammer price of \$1,350,000, with an 18 percent buyer's premium raising the total cost to \$1,593,000.

He had also owned the only known copy of the famous 1925 10-centavo black Honduras stamp, overprinted "Aero Correo 25" to convert it to an airmail stamp for a short-lived airmail service established in Honduras that year. Only four of the stamps were ever produced. Two disappeared almost immediately in Honduras. The third stamp dropped from sight several years later (Matthews spent thousands of dollars looking for the third stamp, but never found it.) The remaining copy was bought by Matthews for \$11,500 in 1959. He sold it at auction in 1961 for \$24,500 to a New Orleans dealer.



At the time of his death, his considerable collection, as well as household effects, were auctioned off at the Clark County Fairgrounds.

"Mixed in among the literature lots were mint sheet and partial sheet lots, mostly U.S., which brought mostly face value, old stamp albums, which drew spirited bidding, boxes of stamps on paper, accessories and a hundred or so first flight covers," according to an account written in the Dayton Stamp Club's newsletter by club chairman Martin Richardson.

—continued from page 2 Trading Stamps

ica. Moreover he expected me to pay for the trip. He requested \$4,000 at a time when I was still a student and \$4,000 represented all the money I lived on for a year.



.St. Basil's Cathedral, Red Square, Moscow
Image free use by Julius Silver

For me, though, the benefits of international exchange have greatly outweighed the disadvantages. Through the years I have acquired many beautiful items that cannot be found in the U.S. Moreover I have learned about the living conditions in other countries. When the pandemic spread across the world in 2020 I realized how lucky Americans were, despite our high rates of disease transmission. Here, medical care was available to the sick and our population had access to vaccines. That is not true in some countries. One friend in Eastern Europe explained recently that no covid vaccines

are available in their entire nation. A news article this spring in his country proudly announced that 5 people had been immunized (out of a population of 43 million).

One last piece of advice is to be generous and large of spirit. Some trades may seem more to your benefit and others will seem more to the other person's benefit. The trading will go smoother if you appreciate that the exchange carries intangible benefits in addition to the purely financial aspects. If you have to carefully check each parcel to make sure you are getting your money's worth, this form of exchange is probably not for you. Overall, though, you can greatly benefit and trading will enrich both your col-



Eiffel Tower, Paris, France

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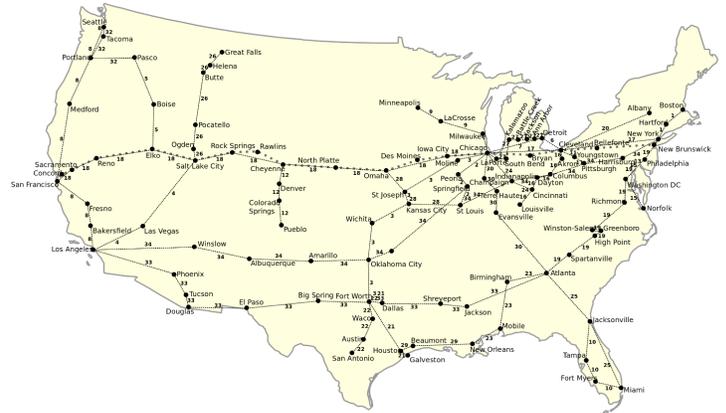
then dropped the bag from altitude. The local postal staff retrieved it and placed the mail into the regular system. Letters from this event still grace stamp collections and Ovington was called the first airmail pilot. Readers can decide how much of an achievement it was to carry a mail bag a few miles and then drop it. Somehow it doesn't seem to compare to Lindbergh's intrepid flight across the Atlantic many years later.



Earle Ovington, First American Airmail Pilot Image from the National Air and Space Museum Archives

For the next seven years airmail was carried periodically in the U.S. – often as a sideshow at festivals and air expos. The American Air Mail Society lists 97 historic

er, got lost following railroad tracks and landed in Waldorf, Maryland. Worse, he flipped his airplane upside-



U.S. Airmail Routes in 1927



Red cachet on a pioneer flight postal card dated November 2, 1916 Image from the American Air Mail Society website, <https://www.americanairmailssociety.org>

down on landing and broke it.

Despite this and other early obstacles a functional airmail service was established with 5 aircraft. Since the post office had no experience with aviation the Army's Signal Corps was tasked with operating the service. For the first year the Army supplied the pilots, 5 aircraft and all hangars, maintenance, fuel, etc.

When the first route was firmly in place other routes were added, extending airmail service from coast-to-coast two years later. Once the routes were established the Army pulled back and civilian pilots of the post office department took over the missions. In the mid-1920s the service also expanded into nighttime flying, though this necessitated the development of better navigational aids. This development is fascinating aeronautically but not philatelically so we will move on.

If readers are interested in U.S. government airmail routes the American Air Mail Catalogue is the best and most detailed resource. (Our club's copies are in the back cabinet and can be loaned out to members.) Government civilian pilots continued to fly some airmail routes for many years. Officially the last government flight is considered to be the moon landing in July 1969 when some mail was carried.

— end of Part I Part II in October DSC Newsletter

flights during this era.

The Government Flight Period

In 1918 the post office began flying regularly scheduled flights between New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, DC. This was a real innovation since no other nation in the world ran scheduled airmail flights at that time.

On the 15th of May two U.S. Army pilots carried airmail letters in Curtiss Jenny airplanes. The plan was for one to fly from Washington and the other to leave from New York. They would meet in Philadelphia, exchange mail bags and return to their starting points.

As is well-known in philatelic circles, the event did not transpire as planned...the best laid plans of mice and men, and all that. The New York pilot arrived in Philadelphia after an hour's flight. The Washington pilot, howev-

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USPS September 2021 USPS New Issues

DETECTING FORGERIES

Edited by Carol Costa



Happy Birthday Forever Stamp

September 9 | Toast, NC | PSA pane of 20

Each of the five letters in the word "HAPPY" is inspired by a different party decoration in the midst of a flurry of multi-colored ribbons and confetti. This stamp was designed by Lisa Catalone Castro and Rodolfo Castro, featuring a digital illustration by the latter. Ethel Kessler served as art director.



Message Monsters Forever Stamps

September 24 | Topeka, KS | Format TBD

The four fun designs on this new pane of 20 stamps are supplemented by dozens of self-adhesive accessories in the margin around the stamps. With them, you can surprise recipients with personalized cards, letters and envelopes. Decorations include hearts, hats, voice balloons, flowers and thought bubbles. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the pane with new illustrations by Elise Gravel.



Day of the Dead Forever Stamps

September 30 | El Paso, TX | Format TBD

In recent decades, Day of the Dead has caught on in the United States as a festive and increasingly popular celebration for all ages. These new stamps will be the first issued by the U.S. Postal Service to mark this holiday. Luis Fitch designed and illustrated the stamps. Antonio Alcalá was the art director.

Almost from the very day that philately began as a serious hobby, stamp collectors were plagued by forgeries. In the earliest days of our hobby, stamp collectors generally collected casually, not avidly, as many do today. They wanted examples of stamps that the catalogs told them existed, but where a genuine specimen was unavailable, most collectors did not mind adding a well-made reproduction to their albums.

As a result, forgers often sent out approval books (a penny a stamp) or packets. This practice is what accounts for the majority of forgeries currently found. This occurred primarily in the pre-1930 era. It was such a common practice that when an expert hears on the phone from a person who has inherited his great grandfather's collection listing many rarities, the expert has to caution the caller he may not have the real thing.

At times a fine philatelic library and an extensive reference collection are indispensable for detection of forgeries. Fortunately, there are ways a careful collector can evaluate suspicious stamps in his collection. Except for the work of Sperati, (famous Italian stamp forger) whose forgeries often sell for as much as the real thing, forgeries were usually made quickly and lacked many of the fine points of the original stamp.



Stamp Forger Jean Sperati

First, check your Scott catalogue. Should the stamp be water-marked? Most forgers did not use expensive watermarking paper. Is the stamp printed in the method that the catalog says it should? Most forgeries are printed by a form of lithography while many early stamps are engraved. Does the paper that the stamp is printed on match in quality and texture other values in the same set that you may have?

And lastly, a few references may be very helpful. *Album Weeds* by Rev. R. B. Earee should be a part of every serious philatelist's library. When in doubt, there is always the American Philatelic Expertizing Service (APEX) or the Philatelic Foundation, who, for a fee, issue certificates as to the genuineness of stamps.

This article is from a pamphlet issued by Earl Apfelbaum of Philadelphia, PA.

Dayton Stamp Club Member Collecting Interests

What do you collect? Common question at any meeting of stamp collectors. To assist Dayton Stamp Club members, please, complete this Member Collecting Interest Form.

Once this form is finished members will know who to talk with about auctions, trades or sales. Sharing with others who have the same collecting interest will enhance communications. The list has and will continue to be available at club meetings.

For Privacy, the list is by membership number with collection interests. To find out who the membership number represents, send an email to daytonstampclub@gmail.com or ask Susan Diamond at a meeting.

DAYTON STAMP CLUB

To match a collection and member # to a club member, please send an email to daytonstampclub@gmail.com.

6/2021

MBR # STAMP COLLECTING AREA

86	Rotary Int'l, US, Netherlands, Windmills, Montgomery Cty (OH) Postal History
93	US Mint/Used, US Plate Blocks, Vatican City
336	US, US Ducks, UN, Canada, C. Slania (engraver), TB Christmas seals & ephemera
341	Scouts, Holograms, Liechtenstein, Lenticular, stamps with texture or scent
458	US, WW, odds and ends
466	Disney, all comics, WWI, Sports pre-1960, Mark Twain exhibit, McCook Field Exhibit, Edith Cavell Exhibit
477	
539	USA mint/used -2015, Rabbits, 10 pin bowling, Ohio history and ephemera, Norway
544	Cave/Karst related, Bats, Aviation/Aircraft, Wright Bros.
550	Australia, Belgium, France, Germany
553	1904 St Louis World's Fair
612	US Mint/Used, Germany Mint/Used
635	US
657	Greenland postal history, Worldwide postal stationery, Ireland, Italy
663	US covers, especially aviation related or advertising related, Early US pre-1940
669	US Classics, Rattlesnake Island Local Post, Military Occupation Stamps, FDR Philately and Socialist Programs, VietMinh Stamps 1945-1948
684	WW classics, esp. US, Britain, Switzerland, France
685	US First Day of Issue, Japan stamps and FDI, Phillipenes stamps and FDI
689	1.5c Presidential Prexy/M. Washington, Precancels, Perfins, Santa on Stamps, Canadian Wildlife, Machins
690	US mint/used, Black Heritage USA, UN, South Africa, Natal, Transvaal, Orange River Colony, Cape of Good Hope, Zululand
691	US, Ecuador, Cinderellas, UFOs on stamps
692	US pre 1940 mint or never used, Great Britain pre 1940, Canada pre 1940
698	Worldwide stamps, US covers (first flights, naval, space, FDCs)
694	US
674	US Classics to 1940, Germany to 1945, British Honduras to 1975, Canada to 1953, Auto racing topical
676	USA, Germany & colonies, France, Great Britain, United Nations

Attend a Dayton Stamp Club In-Person or Zoom Meeting for Chance To WIN a year's Philatelic Memberships

Each month, at the first meeting of the month, the President will draw a member's name. **IF that member is present at that meeting**, the club will pay for a **one-year philatelic organization membership** for that individual of his/her choice from the list.



Some of the organizations on the list are: the American First Day Cover Society; the American Philatelic Society; the American Revenue Association; the American Stamp Dealers Association; La Posta (postal history); Linn's Stamp News; the Precancel Society; and the United Postal Stationery Society. Other organizations may be considered, subject to approval of DSC board of directors.

Member MUST be present at that meeting!

ATTEND DSC MEETING In-Person or Zoom and RECEIVE STAMP BUCKS



Write a Classified Ad for Your Duplicates

Every Dayton Stamp Club (DSC) member is entitled to place classified ads in the newsletter. What are you looking for; a particular country, a specific year, or some missing set or part of a set? Some other club member may have the item you are seeking. If you don't ask, no one will know you are seeking that item.

Armed Forces Stamp Exchange Club



Why should you be interested in joining another stamp club? The answer is simple because the Armed Forces Stamp Exchange Club is unique when it comes to stamp clubs. AFSEC is a 60+ year old organization originally restricted to Armed Forces and government personnel but opened to everyone since the 1980s. As such, the majority of our members have lived and traveled all over the world for most of their careers. They have lived in or been to South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Japan, and the South Pacific; they have visited stamp bourses and stamp clubs throughout the world. Our members collecting interests are extremely varied which means they have duplicates/not needed stamps from all over the world. These dupes build our Exchange Circuit inventory and our quarterly auctions. Our auctions are also unique in that unlike the usual commercial auctions with mostly whole country lots with min bids of hundreds of dollars AFSEC auctions are mostly made up of 130 – 150 small lots of complete sets or the high value stamps of sets with minimum bids in the \$10 – \$40 range.

If you have bare spots in your albums you need to join AFSEC. Exchange inventories include both low and high value stamps and can cover the needs of both the novice and the specialist collector.

We are an all-volunteer organization so our expenses are kept to a minimum including our dues. Yearly dues are \$10 for digital delivery of our quarterly bulletin/auction, \$13 if you want postal delivery and \$15 to foreign countries.
COME GIVE US A TRY!!

Visit our homepage at afsecstampclub.org for additional info and Membership Application or write to:
AFSEC, ATTN: Scott Simon – President
3800 Festival Park Plaza, #E102
Chester, VA 23831

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DAYTON STAMP CLUB



Dayton Stamp Club use DS Stamp Bucks to motivate and reward DSC members for attending meeting, holding an office, volunteering to

work at various DSC activates such as AIRPEX, and writing articles for the newsletter. Each activity awards the member with the predetermined number of DSC Stamp Bucks for the activity.

The DSC Stamp Bucks have no monetary value but represent appreciate to members for working for the good of the Dayton Stamp Club.

DSC Stamp Bucks can be used for club auctions. At each of the 5 annual club auctions, there are specific items designated as DSC Stamp Bucks items. Members can ONLY use DSC Stamp Bucks to purchase these items.

At each meeting there is a DSC Stamp Buck drawing. It starts at 20 Stamp Bucks for any member name drawn AND PRESENT. If that member is not in attendance, the amount increase each month until there is a member's name drawn and present.

 The drawing on October 4 is worth  **320 DSC Stamp Bucks**

Who has the Mystery Box??



The Dayton Stamp Club Mystery Box was part of the Door Prizes. The person who “won” the Mystery Box took it home, picked out wanted material and then refilled the box with philatelic items (mostly stamps) and returned the box to the next club meeting. Then the process repeated itself.

At some time before the Covid Break, some member won the box and it has disappeared from that time on. PLEASE, check you briefcase and your stamp area at home. NO “late” charges will be accessed. Just bring it back to the next Stamp Club meeting.

—continued from page 3 Trading Stamps

lecting experience and your perspectives on the world.

References

Stamp Collectors Exchange: Guidelines for Postage Stamp Trading and Exchange, 2-clicks stamp exchange website, <https://www.2-clicks-stamps.com/article/stamp-collectors-exchange.html>, accessed 20 May 2021

**- NOTIFICATION -
PRICE INCREASE**

USPS Announces Postage Rate Increase

Info on the 2021 USPS Mailing Rate Increase (starting August 29, 2021)

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) will implement a postage rate increase for mailing services on **Sunday, August 29, 2021**.

Domestic Mailing:

This August 2021 postage rate increase is ONLY impacting mailing services (Market Dominant). Shipping rates (Competitive Products) are not being changed.

- The First Class Mail letter (1 oz.) rate for postage purchased at the Post Office will increase three cents to \$0.58 from \$0.55.
- “Metered Mail” rates for First Class Mail letters (1 oz.), which includes online postage and postage meters, will increase two cents to \$0.53. This five-cent discount compared to Post Office rates for a First Class Mail letter (1 oz.) represents a savings of 9%.
- Each additional ounce for a First Class Mail letter (Post Office and Metered Mail rates) will cost \$0.20 (no change).
- First Class Mail Flats/Large Envelopes (1 oz.) rates will increase sixteen cents to \$1.16 from \$1.00. Each additional ounce will cost \$0.20 (no change).
- Postcards will increase by four cents to \$0.40 from \$0.36.
- Certified Mail will increase by fifteen cents, to \$3.75 from \$3.60.
- Special services such as Registered Mail, Signature Confirmation and Return Receipt will also increase in August 2021.