



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

Paul Studenski Collection - Scrapbook, Volume 2 (2 of 2), 1915-1961

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 08:29:51

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

[[image - black & white photograph of stamp with an airplane and text: US Postage 24 Cents 24]] [[caption]] • FIRST Air Mail Stamp issued by the United States-nearly thirty years ago [[/caption]]

authorized demonstration flights of mail were made in every section of the land. Barnstormers followed carnivals, state fairs and circuses. Their hops, made in bamboo and fabric crates were made as stunts and when passengers could not be induced to risk a flight, these men carried souvenir mail to help defray the expenses. Folks bought them as mementos of a novel, transient "act". Little did they realize then that they were witnessing the embryonic waddling of aviation, and that those quarter souvenirs would some day be worth the price of a vacation.

On May 15, 1918, the Post Office Department inaugurated the first regular airmail service by establishing a government route between New York, Philadelphia and Washington. A special stamp was issued for the occasion: a twenty-four cent denomination for it cost that much to mail a letter 219 miles in those days. Today it costs less to send a letter 12,000 miles from Puerto Rico to Guam.

To commemorate the initial flight, the Post Office applied a distinctive cancellation to each letter carried on the opening day. The government still continues this practice whenever a new route is inaugurated, or when another city is added to an existing one. The application of such postmark, or cachet, dates from 1870, the time of the Paris Balloon posts, and makes the cover bearing one a piece readily significant and attractive to airpost

lally authorized demonstration flights of mail were made in every section of the land. Barnstormers followed carnivals, state fairs and circuses. Their hops, made in bamboo and fabric crates were made as stunts and when passengers could not be induced to risk a flight, these men carried souvenir mail to help defray the expenses. Folks bought them as mementos of a novel, transient "act." Little did they realize then that they were witnessing the embryonic waddling of aviation, and that those quarter souvenirs would some day be worth the price of a vacation.



• FIRST Air Mail Stamp issued by the United States—nearly thirty years ago.

On May 15, 1918, the Post Office Department inaugurated the first regular airmail service by establishing a government route between New York, Philadelphia and Washington. A special stamp was issued for the occasion: a twenty-four cent denomination for it cost that much to mail a letter 219 miles in those days. Today it costs less to send a letter 12,000 miles from Puerto Rico to Guam.

To commemorate the initial flight, the Post Office applied a distinctive cancellation to each letter carried on the opening day. The government still continues this practice whenever a new route is inaugurated, or when another city is added to an existing one. The application of such a postmark, or cachet, dates from 1870, the time of the Paris Balloon posts, and makes the cover bearing one a piece readily significant and attractive to airpost

Paul Studenski Collection - Scrapbook, Volume 2 (2 of 2), 1915-1961
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Mar-28-2024 08:29:51



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)