



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.



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.



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.



TRANSPACIFIC

1937



China Clipper

1935



China Clipper

1937



China Clipper

For the inauguration of Pan American Clipper service to the Philippine Islands, a special 25c stamp was released on November 22, 1935. Almost two years later, on February 15, 1937, the 20c and 50c denominations were released in conjunction with the extension of the service to the China mainland.

TRANSATLANTIC

1939



Winged Globe

Similar in design to the "Winged Globe" air mails of the early 30's, this 30c denomination was issued for the establishment of Trans-Atlantic air mail service from the United States to Europe. It was first placed on sale in New York City May 16, 1939, eve of the inauguration of the new route.

AIR SPECIAL DELIVERY

1934



Great Seal of the United States (H)

1936



Great Seal of the United States (H)

The first combination adhesive to prepay two distinct types of service, this stamp . . . 6c air mail and 10c special delivery . . . was first placed on sale at the American Air Mail Society Convention in Chicago, August 30, 1934.

Similar in design to the issue released in 1934, this stamp, printed in two colors of red and blue, was placed on sale at Washington, D.C. February-10, 1936. The color improvement was to make air mail special delivery mail more distinguishable to those working the mails in our nation's post offices.

AMERICAN EAGLE

1938



American Eagle

As part of the celebration of National Air Mail Week and for greater efficiency in recognizing air mail matter from ordinary mail, this stamp was released on 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.

★ UNITED

STATES

★ AIRMAILS ★

ISSUES OF 1946-48

1946



Four Motored Transport

A reduction in domestic air mail rates to five cents per ounce resulted in the issuance of this stamp on September 25, 1946.

1948



Four Motored Transport

So that vending machines could dispense air mail postage, this coil stamp was issued January 15, 1948.

1947



Four Motored Transport

To step up production of air mail stamps to satisfy increasing demand, this smaller size air mail stamp was introduced on March 26, 1947.

1947



Plane over Pan American Union Building



Plane over New York City



Plane over San Francisco Bridge

The ten, fifteen, and twenty-five cent air mail stamps were issued in conformance with new foreign air mail rates inaugurated during the year. The ten cent value covered the rate to Central and South America, the fifteen cent value for Europe, and the twenty-five cent value for Asia, Africa, and Australia.

ALEXANDRIA

1949



Historical Buildings and Seal

Originally called Bethoven, the city of Alexandria became incorporated in 1749 under its present name. From 1790 until 1846 it was part of the District of Columbia. It is an important port on the Potomac River for shipping cotton and tobacco.

REGULAR AIR MAIL

1949



Four Motored Transport

This stamp replaced the five cent air mail issue of 1947 in compliance with the new domestic air mail rate of six cents per ounce.

WRIGHT BROTHERS

1949



Wright Brothers and Plane

This stamp was issued to commemorate the first free controlled and sustained powered flight by man, performed by the Wright Brothers — Orville and Wilbur — at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1903. This stamp was issued December 17, 1949.

AIR MAIL COIL

1949



Four Motored Transport

In conjunction with the recent air mail postal rate change, this six cent coil was issued to replace the five cent air mail coil stamp of 1948.

NEW YORK CITY

1948



Golden Anniversary Symbol

This red stamp commemorates the enactment of a new charter in 1898 that incorporated the five boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Richmond (Staten Island) into greater New York City. A map of the area is shown on the stamp.

AIR CARD STAMP

1954



American Eagle

January 1, 1949 saw the first application of a new four cent air mail postal card rate. To provide an adhesive which could be used on souvenir postal cards and other unstamped air postal cards, this four cent air mail stamp was introduced on September 3, 1954.



UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

1949



UPU Monument and Post Office Dept.



Allegory of Universal Mail Service



Plane and World

The Universal Postal Union is a confederation of most of the nations of the world for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of mail among the countries. The headquarters of the organization, which was founded in 1874, are at Berne, Switzerland. Many countries of the world issued stamps to honor the UPU on its 75th anniversary in 1949. These three air mail commemoratives are the tribute of the U. S.

DIAMOND HEAD

1952



Diamond Head, Honolulu, Hawaii

The need for a high denomination air mail stamp for use with the new air parcel post service resulted in the issuance of this 80c air mail stamp which was first placed on sale in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 26, 1952.

POWERED FLIGHT

1953



Wright Plane & Modern Plane

This stamp, issued May 29, 1953, marks the 50th anniversary of the first successful flight by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1903. The aviation industry in 1953 celebrated in year-long observances a half-century of aviation progress.

AIR CARD STAMP

1958



American Eagle in Flight

First offered for sale on July 31, 1958, this five cent air mail stamp was issued to cover the new air mail postage rate of five cents per ounce on air mail postcards.

AIR FORCE

1957



B-52 and F-104 Planes

This stamp, released on August 1, 1957, commemorates the 50th anniversary of the United States Air Force as part of the national defense system. The design features a B-52 Stratofortress in a banking position with three F-104 Starfighters in the background.

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★ UNITED

STATES

★ AIRMAILS ★

BALLOON JUPITER

1959



Balloon and Crowd

This stamp commemorates the carrying of mail by John Wise's balloon "Jupiter"; it was released August 17, 1959 at Lafayette, Indiana. Wise was to have made his flight on August 16, 1859, but postponed it to the next day because of a faulty gas valve.

AIR MAIL DEFINITIVE

1958



Stylized Jet Plane

The blue seven cent air mail stamp shown above was issued to cover new air mail postage rates which became effective August 1, 1958. The design features a silhouette view of the wing and fuselage of a modern jet airliner.

PAN AMERICAN GAMES

1959



Runner Holding Torch

To mark the opening of the Pan American Games in Chicago, Illinois on August 17, 1959, this 10c air mail stamp was issued. The Games periodically gather together amateur athletes from the various countries of the Americas to participate in friendly sports competitions.

ALASKA STATEHOOD

1959



Big Dipper, North Star and Map

The territory of Alaska became the 49th State on January 3, 1959. The blue stamp, whose color matches that of Alaska's flag, features the Big Dipper and North Star which are portrayed on the State's flag. The stamp was issued on the day Alaska joined the Union.

AIR COIL

1958



Stylized Jet Plane

In conjunction with the issuance of the seven cent air mail stamp above, this coil variety, for use in vending machines and mechanical office dispensers, was issued on July 31, 1958.

HAWAII STATEHOOD

1959



Warrior, Map and Star

Hawaii was admitted to the Union as a State on August 21, 1959. This stamp was released on that date to commemorate the occasion. The design was selected in a competition held throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Joseph Feher created this prize-winning motif.



LIBERTY BELL

1960



Liberty Bell

A symbol of the United States to the people of Latin America, the Liberty Bell was selected as the central element of the design for this new ten cent air mail issued to pay the air postage rate to Central and South America.

STATUE OF LIBERTY

1959



Statue of Liberty

Intended primarily for use on mail to Europe and the Middle East, this fifteen cent air mail stamp features a drawing of the Statue of Liberty. It was placed on first day sale November 20, 1959.

LINCOLN

1960



Abraham Lincoln

The design of the twenty-five cent value in this series was chosen on the basis of a survey to determine what the majority of the people of the World considered as the symbol of America.

FIRE RED

1960

Jet Plane



This seven cent airmail stamp in sheet form was placed on sale at Arlington, Va. on August 12, 1960, in conjunction with the annual convention of the American Air Mail Society.

FIRE RED COIL

1960



Stylized Jet Plane

To replace the blue air mail coil stamp of 1958, this new fire red stamp in coil form was released October 22nd at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

LIBERTY BELL

1961



Liberty Bell

New international rates of thirteen cents per half ounce prompted the release of this adhesive intended for air mail service on letters to Bermuda, Central America (other than Mexico), and the Caribbean Area.

STATUE OF LIBERTY

1961



Statue of Liberty

This revised version of the fifteen cent stamp of 1959 embodies slight corrections to make it coincide with the ten and twenty-five cent denominations of the set. The orange border around the Statue of Liberty has been removed in the new issue.



CAPITOL COIL

1962

CAPITOL

1962

*Jet Airliner over Capitol*

Increases in air mail postage rates resulted in the release of this eight cent airmail stamp picturing a jet airliner flying over the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.

*Jet Airliner Over Capitol*

This coil version of the new eight cent regular air mail stamp was released on December 5, 1962. The design is the work of Henry K. Benciath.

AMERICAN EAGLE

1963

*Bald Eagle*

Along with air mail letter rate increases, the air postal card rate was raised from five to six cents. This stamp, picturing a bald eagle, was first placed on sale July 12, 1963.

AMELIA EARHART

1963

*Amelia Earhart and Plane*

This stamp had its first day sale July 24, 1963 in Atchison, Kansas, Amelia Earhart's birthplace. In 1932 Miss Earhart became the first woman to fly the Atlantic solo. Five years later she was lost in the Pacific during an attempted around-the-world flight.

MONTGOMERY BLAIR

1963

*Blair, World and Letters*

Montgomery Blair, Lincoln's Postmaster General, helped set up the first universal postal conference, held in Paris in 1863. From this meeting emerged the Universal Postal Union, a reciprocal agreement under which the nations of the world carry each other's mail.

ALASKA PURCHASE

1967

*Totem Pole*

Alaska was sold by Russia to the U. S. in 1867 for \$7.2 million. Many thought the territory was overpriced and called it "Seward's Folly," referring to Secretary of State William H. Seward, who negotiated the sale with the Russians.





GODDARD

1964



Robert H. Goddard and Atlas Rocket

Dr. Robert H. Goddard, whose experiments date to 1914 at Clark University, Worcester, Mass., is regarded as the father of modern rocketry. In 1926 he launched the first non-munitions rocket. By 1932 his rockets were reaching altitudes of 2,000 feet at 500 m.p.h.

AUDUBON

1967



"Columbia Jays" by Audubon

A reproduction of John James Audubon's aquatint of the "Columbia Jay," which was issued in 1963 as a five cent stamp, was used as the motif of this twenty cent air mail stamp.

AIRMAIL ANNIVERSARY

1968



Curtis Jenny

Regularly scheduled air mail service began May 15, 1918 with a Washington to New York run; this stamp marks the fiftieth anniversary of the event. Of 1,208 trips flown in air mail's first year, only 90 weren't completed due to engine trouble or bad weather.

AIR MAIL DEFINITIVE

1968



Runway of Stars

The ten cent air mail definitive was released to conform with the new domestic postage rates. The design features an airport runway composed of fifty stars for the fifty States.

USA

1968



U-S-A and Plane Silhouette

A red, white and blue "USA" dominates this horizontal stamp. It was issued on November 22, in New York City, to coincide with the opening of the National Postage Stamp Show at the new Madison Square Garden.

AIR COIL

1968



Runway of Stars

This coil variety of the new airmail definitive as well as the sheet variety were issued on January 5, 1968. Both stamps feature a design by Joan Barn.

AIRLIFT

1968



Early American Wooden Eagle

The One Dollar "AIRLIFT" postage stamp was issued April 4th at Seattle, Washington. It covers low cost rates for parcels to and from servicemen based overseas and in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

MOON LANDING

1969

This jumbo size multicolor commemorates man's first landing on the moon by an American, Neil Armstrong. While Michael Collins piloted the Apollo 11 spacecraft, Neil Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr. made the Moon Landing on July 20, 1969 on the Sea of Tranquility.



The master die for printing this issue was carried to the moon on board the Lunar Excursion Module "Eagle" and the printing of the stamps was delayed until the return of the die. The design was the work of Paul Calle and the first day of issue was September 9th.

First Landing on the Moon

AIR MAIL DEFINITIVE

1971

This eleven cent stamp, in sheet and coil form, was issued May 7th at Spokane, Washington in conjunction with PIPEX, sponsored by the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs.



Stylized Jet Plane



Stylized Jet Plane

AIR MAIL COIL

1971

The design of both the sheet and coil varieties of the new eleven cent airmail features the silhouette of a plane, nose pointed upward. The art was created by George Vander Sluis, of Camillus, New York.

LIBERTY

1971



Head of Liberty

The seventeen cent air mail stamp was released on July 13th at Lakehurst Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, New Jersey. Lakehurst was chosen because it was celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding. The stamp was designed by Robert J. Jones of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

AIR CARD STAMP

1971



Stylized Jet Plane

Also designed by George Vander Sluis, this nine cent definitive was issued to satisfy the new air postal card rate. It was first placed on sale at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina on May 15.

USA

1971



U-S-A and Plane Silhouette

Except for the denomination and a slight change in colors, the stamp repeats the design of the twenty cent version it replaces. It was placed on first day sale May 21 in conjunction with NAPEX (National Philatelic Exhibition).

OLYMPIC GAMES
1972



Skiing

This is one of a set of four stamps issued August 17, 1972 to honor the 1972 Olympics. Pierre de Coubertin, a French baron, is the father of the modern Olympics.

CITY OF REFUGE
1972



Ki'i Wooden Statue

The City of Refuge, a 180-acre park created in 1961, is an ancient sanctuary for taboo breakers or victims of war.

ELECTRONICS
1973



Audion & Audion Tube

Lee DeForest's refinements to Marconi — the Audion and Audion tube — are on this stamp. With these devices, in 1912, DeForest transmitted the human voice from Arlington, Virginia to Paris.

DEFINITIVE
1973

This stamp was issued to meet the increase in the domestic air-mail rate to 13c. Its first day sale took place on November 16, 1973 at the New York City stamp show of the American Stamp Dealers Association.



Winged Envelope



Winged Envelope

COIL
1973

This coil variety of the 13c air-mail regular was issued on December 27, 1973 in Chicago, Illinois. Nelson Grupp of New York City created the design for this definitive, which shows an envelope in flight.

STATUE OF LIBERTY
1974



Statue of Liberty

Though intended primarily for use on commercially produced aerogrammes, this stamp also could be used for mailing postcards at international rates. It was issued on January 11, 1974 at Hempstead, New York.

MOUNT RUSHMORE
1974



Mt. Rushmore Memorial

The Mt. Rushmore National Memorial, located in the Black Hills 25 miles southwest of Rapid City, South Dakota, is composed of 60-foot high heads of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt.

INTERNATIONAL AIR MAILS

1976

*Plane and Globe**Plane and Globe*

These 25c and 31c air mails were issued on January 2, 1976 at Honolulu, Hawaii to cover revised international rates. Both are symbolic designs featuring planes and globes. The stamps were modeled by Frank J. Waslick and engraved by James L. Goodbody and Gary M. Chaconas of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. Production was done in one pass through the Giori press.

WRIGHT BROTHERS

1978

*Wright Brothers and Plane**Wright Brothers, Plane, & Sbed*

These stamps mark the 75th anniversary year of Orville and Wilbur Wright's historic first powered flight. The brothers left Dayton, Ohio with their airplane on September 23, 1903, headed for Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The stamps were designed by Ken Dallison, who is noted for portraying man's achievements with machinery in drawings featuring both people and their machines.

This airmail stamp commemorating the 1980 Olympic Games was issued November 1, 1979, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The first day site was chosen because it is the headquarters city for the U.S. Olympic Committee and the site of one of two permanent Olympic training facilities in the United States.



Olympic High Jumper

OLYMPIC GAMES

1979

OCTAVE CHANUTE

1979



Octave Chanute



Octave Chanute

Octave Chanute, American engineer and aviation pioneer, is honored on these stamps, the second installment in the Pioneer Aviation Series, which were issued March 29, 1979. Chanute's work in aviation and gliding had a significant effect on the designs and work of the Wrights.



Post and "Winnie Mae"

Wiley Post was an aviation pioneer who became famous for record-making flights, scientific research, and design of a pressure suit and helmet for high-altitude flights. On these stamps, Post is pictured with the "Winnie Mae," the Lockheed Vega plane with which he was closely identified.



WILEY POST

1979



Wiley Post

TUVALU
OFFICIAL FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



75TH ANNIVERSARY
WILEY POST
FIRST SOLO FLIGHT AROUND THE WORLD



75TH

Anniversary
WILEY POST

First Solo Flight Around the World

Postage Stamp Mega-Event™

STAMPS • COVERS • POSTAL HISTORY • STATIONERY • LITERATURE • SUPPLIES



Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

BRASILIANA 79

15 a 23 de setembro - 1979



Entre os grandes pioneiros da aviação do Século 20, estavam Alberto Santos Dumont e os Irmãos Wright, Orville e Wilbur. Estes corajosos precursores foram homenageados com uma emissão de selos pela Empresa Brasileira de Correios e Telégrafos, em 1973 e, também, pelo Serviço Postal dos Estados Unidos da América, em 1978. Estes selos vão re-produzidos neste cartão que foi emitido para saudar a BRASILIANA 79.

WILLIAM F. BOLGER
POSTMASTER GENERAL



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COMMEMORATIVES

PHILIP MAZZEI

1980

*Philip Mazzei*

Philip Mazzei, who collaborated with Virginia leaders on political ideas and plans, and promoted American independence through writings published in America and in Europe, left Europe in 1773 to begin a new life in Virginia. This stamp was issued October 13, 1980 (Columbus Day).

OLYMPIC GAMES

1983

*Women's Gymnastics**Hurdles**Women's Basketball**Soccer*

To publicize and pay tribute to the 1984 Olympic Games, the summer events of which were held in Los Angeles, California, the U. S. Postal Service issued this block of four 28c international airmail stamps. Featured in the designs are women's gymnastics, hurdles, women's basketball, and soccer.

This stamp in the Pioneer Aviation Series honors Glenn Curtiss, an early aircraft designer and manufacturer; it was released December 30, 1980, at Hammondsport, New York, where Curtiss was born. Ken Dollison designed the stamp, which was issued in panes of fifty with six different plate numbers.



GLENN
CURTISS

1980

Glenn Curtiss



Women Fencing

OLYMPIC
GAMES

1983



Cycling



Women's Volleyball

The block of four 35c international airmail stamps commemorating the 1984 Olympic Games was issued November 4, 1983, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, during SOCOPEX, the annual philatelic exhibition of the Southern Colorado Philatelic Association.



Pole Vaulting

BLANCHE STUART SCOTT

1980



Blanche Stuart Scott

Blanche Stuart Scott was one of the first women to pilot an airplane. This airmail stamp, for use on international airmail postcards, was issued December 30, 1980, at Hammondsport, New York, where she made an early flight. Paul Colie designed the stamp, which was issued in panes of fifty with six plate numbers.



Shot Put

OLYMPIC GAMES

1983



Men's Gymnastics



Women's Swimming

These first stamps commemorating the 1984 Olympic Games were issued April 8, 1983, at Los Angeles, California, site of the 1984 Summer Olympics. Robert Peak designed them as well as all other stamps and stationery items for the international sporting event. They were printed on the gravure press.



Weightlifting



ALFRED VERVILLE

1985



Alfred V. Verville

Alfred V. Verville co-designed and produced three aircraft in the early 1920s with Lawrence Sperry. He also helped Glenn Curtiss design the Curtiss Jenny and the Curtiss twin-engine seaplane.

TRANSPACIFIC AIRMAIL

1985



China Clipper

The China Clipper is best remembered for its inaugural transpacific airmail flight in 1935. Later it played an essential part in the war effort when Pan American Airways loaned it to the U.S. Navy.

JUNIPERO SERRA

1985



Junipero Serra

In 1769 Franciscan friar Junipero Serra founded a mission at what is now San Diego, California. Subsequently he guided the founding of eight more missions, forming a base for the settlement of California.

The Sperrys—Lawrence and Elmer—revolutionized flying with such inventions as the gyro-compass, automatic pilot, retractable landing gear, and turn-and-bank and speed-and-direction indicators. Howard Koslow designed this stamp, which was issued February 13, 1985.



Lawrence & Elmer Sperry

LAWRENCE & ELMER SPERRY

1985

NEW SWEDEN

1988



Settler & Indians

This issue, designed by Goran Osterlund, marks the 350th anniversary of the settlement of New Sweden. The design is based on an illustration from a 1702 Swedish book on the American colony.

SAMUEL P. LANGLEY

1988



Samuel Langley and Aerodrome #5

Samuel P. Langley's unmanned Aerodrome #5 (1896) was the first American heavier-than-air machine to make successful free flight. His experiments inspired the Wright brothers, Glen Curtiss, and many others.

IGOR SIKORSKY

1988



Igor Sikorsky & VS-300

Igor Sikorsky designed and built three diverse types of aircraft in a career spanning more than half a century: the first helicopter, the first multi-engine airplane, and large flying boats.

FRENCH REVOLUTION

1989

Issued July 14, 1989, this stamp marks the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution, which began with the storming of the Bastille in Paris. The images in Richard Sheaff's design symbolize the revolt against King Louis XVI and the creation of a liberal democracy.



Liberty, Equality, Fraternity

AMERICA ISSUE

1989

This stamp features a carved wooden figure that is known as the "Key Marco Cat." It was found in 1896 by Frank Hamilton Cushing in Key Marco, Florida, and is an artifact of the Calusa Indians. This stamp and its companion were printed by the photogravure process.



Key Marco Cat

FUTURE MAIL

1989



Hyperionic Airliner



Mail Vehicle



Surface Rover Vehicle



Space Shuttle

These stamps were issued on November 27, 1989, at WORLD STAMP EXPO '89 in Washington, D.C., the first international stamp show directly sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service. The show was held in conjunction with the 20th Universal Postal Congress at the Washington Convention Center. The square stamps, which were designed by Ken Hodges of Los Alamitos, California, were printed set-tenant in panes of forty by a combination of the offset and intaglio process at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

FUTURE MAIL TRANSPORTATION

1989

20th Universal Postal Congress



A glimpse at several potential mail delivery methods of the future is the theme of these four stamps issued by the U.S. in commemoration of the convening of the 20th Universal Postal Congress in Washington, D.C. from November 13 through December 14, 1989. The United States, as host nation to the Congress for the first time in ninety-two years, welcomed more than 1,000 delegates from most of the member nations of the Universal Postal Union to the major international event.

© USPS 1989



Mail Transportation in the Future

The Future Mail imperforate souvenir sheet suggests what mail transportation may be like in the twenty-first century and beyond. Designed by noted aviation and aerospace artist Ken Hodges, the stamps feature a hypersonic airliner, a shuttle involved in mail transfer at a space station, a surface rover delivering to a space colony, and a hovercraft moving on a cushion of air. The souvenir sheet was released on November 24.



AMERICA ISSUE

1990



Tropical Coastline

This airmail stamp, designed by Mark Hess, depicts the natural surroundings of an American Caribbean tropical island coastline, much like the shores of the outer islands that Christopher Columbus first encountered when he and his mariners first arrived in America.

1991



People Crossing the Bering Strait

The fifth stamp in the America Issue series, this airmail was released on October 12, 1991, at Anchorage, Alaska. It commemorates the first settlers of the United States who are believed to have crossed the Bering Strait from Asia ten thousand or more years ago.

HARRIET QUIMBY

1991



Harriet Quimby & Bleriot

Harriet Quimby, a journalist and a drama critic, was the first American woman to receive a pilot's license and the first woman to fly solo across the English Channel. This Pioneers of Aviation Series stamp was designed by Howard Koslow and printed by the gravure process.

WILLIAM PIPER

1991



William Piper & Piper Cub

William Piper, who has been called by aeronautical historians "the Henry Ford of aviation" because of his development of the Piper Cub private aircraft, is commemorated on this stamp. Its denomination became the one-ounce airmail rate to Canada on February 3, 1991.

ANTARCTIC TREATY

1991



Icebreaker & Nunatak

Originally signed by twelve nations on December 1, 1959, the Antarctic Treaty went into effect eighteen months later. It essentially demilitarized the continent and preserved it for scientific research. This stamp, designed by Howard Koslow, was issued on June 21, 1991.



WILLIAM PIPER

1993



William Piper & Piper Cub

In May 1991, William T. Piper was honored with a stamp of this design printed by the American Banknote Corporation. In preparing plates for a second printing in 1993, Sennett Security Printers cropped the image closer to Piper's head creating this variety.

NIAGARA FALLS

1999



Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls, one of the greatest natural wonders of the world, is the subject of this stamp released May 12, 1999. Designed by Ethel Kessler from a photograph by Kurt Ross, the 48-cent value was intended for payment of the one half ounce letter rate to Canada.

RIO GRANDE

1999



Rio Grande

Bruce Dale's photograph of the Rio Grande from Big Bend Ranch State Park, Texas, was the basis for this design by Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Md. The stamp, valid for the postcard rate to Mexico, was printed by Avery Dennison and released July 30, 1999.

GRAND CANYON

2000



Grand Canyon

More than a mile deep and 277 miles long, the rushing waters of the Colorado River carved the Grand Canyon over a few million years. The stamp was designed by Ethel Kessler from a photograph by Tom Till of Moab, Utah, and was released January 21, 2000.

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

2001



Rocks, Grasses & Forest

Acadia National Park in Maine consists of over 45,000 acres covering several islands, and is notable for its rocky shorelines, lakes, forests and wildlife such as peregrine falcons which nest in the park's rocky cliffs. The Canada and Mexico airmail rate stamp was released May 30, 2001, at Bar Harbor, Maine.

NINE MILE PRAIRIE

2001



Tall Prairie Grass & Trees

Owned by the University of Nebraska Foundation, Nine Mile Prairie is 230 acres of virgin, never plowed, tallgrass prairie on which still grow the original prairie grasses, trees and wildlife. Denominated at the international postcard rate, the stamp was placed on sale March 6, 2001, at Lincoln, Nebraska.

MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

2001



Mount McKinley

Located in Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve, Mount McKinley was designated a national park in 1917, and at 20,320 feet, is the highest mountain in North America. Issued April 17, 2001, at Fairbanks, Alaska, the adhesive paid the rate for worldwide international airmail service.

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

2006



Bryce Canyon

Famous for spectacular 1000-foot deep amphitheaters, slot canyons, windows, fins and spires carved into the limestone of southern Utah, Bryce Canyon was named for Ebenezer Bryce, who settled near there in 1875. This stamp was issued February 24, 2006, to pay airmail postage to Canada and Mexico.

GREAT SMOKY NATIONAL PARK

2006



Great Smoky Mountains at Sunset

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, on the Tennessee and North Carolina border, has old growth forests, 10,000 known plant and animal species, and an appearance created by the area's high precipitation and humidity. The park is the subject of this February 24, 2006, international postcard rate issue.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

2006



"Gate of the Valley" in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite, in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains, has been designated a World Heritage Site for its spectacular granite cliffs, waterfalls, Giant Sequoia and diversity of species. Like all of the stamps in this series, the stamp was designed by Ethel Kessler. It was released February 24, 2006, to pay the one ounce international airmail rate.



OKEFENOKEE SWAMP

2007



Lily Pads on Pond in Okefenokee

Comprising 438,000 acres of wetlands on the Georgia-Florida border, the Okefenokee is one of the world's largest "blackwater" swamps. A photograph by Jose Azel of Lovell, Maine is featured on this Canada and Mexico letter rate adhesive released June 1, 2007, at McLean, Virginia.

HAGATNA BAY

2007



Sunset at Hagatna Bay

The center of the Spanish administration of Guam, Hagatna became the seat of government in 1898 when the island fell to the United States in the Spanish-American War. A photograph by Michael S. Yamashita of Chester, NJ, appears on this stamp issued June 1, 2007, at Barrigada, Guam.

13 MILE WOODS

2008



Sunrise on the Androscoggin River

Trout streams and old growth forest support red tailed hawks, white tailed deer and other wildlife in 13 Mile Woods on the Maine-New Hampshire border. Released May 16, 2008, at Rochester, NY, the stamp features a photograph by Jerry and Marcy Monkman of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

ST JOHN VIRGIN ISLANDS

2008



Trunk Bay

Trunk Bay in the Virgin Islands is known for its crystal clear waters, white sand beaches, abundant plant life and coral reefs. Featuring a photograph by George H.H. Huey of Prescott, Arizona, this stamp was issued May 16, 2008, at Rochester, New York and St. John, US Virgin Islands.

ZION NATIONAL PARK

2009



Layers of Sedimentary Rock

Spectacular canyons, buttes, mesas and natural arches together with great diversity of plant and animal species are features of Zion National Park in Utah's south-western corner. A photograph by Richard Cummins of Temecula, California is reproduced on this adhesive released June 28, 2009.

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

2009



Snake River Overlook at Dawn

Named for the the highest mountain in its range, Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park contains six glacial lakes, a spectacular mountain range, and a section of the Snake River. Dennis Flaherty of Bishop, California, took the photograph reproduced on this stamp issued June 28, 2009.

AMERICA TAKES FLIGHT

This Certificate of Authenticity attests to the fact that the coins and stamps in this collection are genuine United States Mint coinage and United States Postal Service Stamps.

Your collection contains a Twenty Five Cent China Clipper Air Mail Stamp from 1935; a Six Cent Eagle Air Mail Stamp from 1938; a Six Cent Transport Air-Mail Stamp from 1941 and a Six Cent Wright Brothers Air Mail Stamp from 1949. Also included is a U.S. Mint Eisenhower Dollar commemorating the Apollo Landing.

#3382

America

TAKES FLIGHT



China Clipper Air Mail Stamp
1935 - U.S. Postage, 25 - cents



Eagle Air Mail Stamp
1938 - U.S. Postage, 6 - cents



Eisenhower Dollar
1971-1978

US - America Takes Flight
C20, C25, C45, C23