

Synopsis

GIVE WINGS TO YOUR MAIL

Title Page - The name of the exhibit comes from the slogan cancel on the cover "Give Wings to your Mail". In 1927 the Post Office budgeted money for air mail service and in 1928 they sold their own air mail envelopes having blue and red stripes at a 45° angle. In 1929 to identify air mail envelopes the Post Office recommended in their postal information that the envelopes be coloured. With the designs on the envelope it made it easier to pick out the air mail covers, the better the chance to get your cover on the airplane. So in fact the envelope design got your cover on the airplane so your mail was flying to your destination using airplane wings.

Treatment of the content - The air mail envelopes are for the most part organised in a chronological order from 1928 to the 80's. Some are not totally in order due to development of other characteristics such as placing some varieties of envelopes together. This makes for some being out of chronological order. Variation could be location of return address lines if any, numbers of parallelograms or company advertising logos. Some designs became very popular and one sees them appear over time throughout the exhibit, however generally they are not the exact design. Those designs would in period be called the saw tooth, diamonds and parallelograms around the outside. The exhibit is a study of the air mail envelopes not only in the variety of designs but the added philatelic information such as rates, cancels and First Flights. This added information provides more historical value to the air mail envelope and adds more interest to the cover. It is sometimes the rare designs that had the most interesting history.

Knowledge and Research - Prior to 1929 very few envelopes were designed for air mail covers. It was the private air carrier that provided mail service into remote areas. In 1928 the post office sold their own air mail designed covers found in Frame 1 page 5 and 6. The printing in the lower left corner indicates what month, day, year and the number printed. They were done in both English and French. They were not available in all post offices, only the major post offices like Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, etc. The "all up" program in 1948 provided all First Class mail up to one ounce by air mail, however to be sure that your mail went by air one could buy air mail stamps until 1968. In 1954 "All up" went to 8 ounces, by 1976 U.S.A. and International went air mail without additional fees. By the 1980's the number of air mail covers soon declined due probably to the "All up" program. It was my hope to do the first 50 years however it overflowed a little. The last domestic air mail stamp was issued in 1964. By 1968 due to the "All up" Domestic Service there was no need of air mail envelopes but one can find them used well into the 90's, the number decreasing over the years. However aerograms were sold by the Post Office for foreign mail until 1996.

References –

1. Canadian Military Postal Markings W. J. Bailey, L. Col. (ret'd)
E. R. Troop, Major (ret'd)
2. American Air Mail Catalogue Fifth Edition
3. Selected Canadian Postage Rates by Robert C. Smith
4. Air Mails of Canada 1925 – 1939 by George B. Ayrken and Walter R. Plomish
5. Canadian Aerophilatelic Society's website
6. Wikipedia

Importance –

Philatelic – The air mail envelope with its design became very important in that it was one of the recognizable things that made it possible that this piece of mail would not be left behind. In many cases mail could not be delivered if it were not for the air mail service to communities with no roads or remote mining communities.

It is somewhat a record of the history of the movement of peoples to remote areas and along with the First Flight covers added post office services in remote areas.

Exhibit - This exhibit exposes the importance of a cover to be expedited by plane because of the air mail envelope design. To be picked out as a special piece of mail. Many of the air mail envelope designed covers were used to commemorate events and the First Flights being the larger usage. One can find them used for First Day Covers, Royal Train envelopes and special events. Businesses used them for advertising such as CN, Hudson Bay Co. and Trans-Canada Airlines. Many hotels provided air mail envelopes.

Rarity, challenge, difficult of acquisition – I will have to address the rarity factor even though I have no absolute knowledge except what I think I have observed during the process of preparing this exhibit. I have not run across any books or articles directed towards information regarding such air mail envelopes. For the most part the envelopes found were from other types of collections of covers such as the First Flight covers. In two First Flight collections I realized that not all covers had an air mail design, so in knowing this it would follow that there would be less than the number of pieces that were flown, but still more than the market today demand. It seems the air mail envelope is sought after more for its other philatelic importance such as First Day Covers, censored covers, C.A.P.O., special events, commercial (hotel, air and rail) and private mailings.

Presentation - Each page has a coloured box as a reminder that each page is part of the whole. On the right of the page a few words and most will be dated to help. Below the cover the correct rate is given in different font and the cancellation information such as date and place.

In general this exhibit follows a chronological layout of the cover based on the cancel date. The aim is to provide an eye appeal to the observer to zero in on the desired area of cover and be able to place it in time.

The following things were considered and are listed in no particular order.

1. Try **not to be too wordy**, but provide knowledge and some interest.
2. Try to have the appropriate white space not too much, not too little.
3. Always striving for a variation of arrangement of covers on each page of each frame.
Each piece defines its treatment.
4. Each page where the title defines what is on the page using **3 different fonts**, titles easily read from distance, closer observation (Font 12) is used for information and Font 10 Italics for rate and cancellation information.
5. Overall try to have **a variety** of philatelic areas on the air mail design in the exhibit to enhance the visual and the story.

Highlights –

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| 1. Give Wings to your mail | Fr. 1 | Pg. 1 |
| 2. Hand drawn cachet | Fr. 1 | Pg. 3 & 4 |
| 3. A. C. Roessler | Fr. 2 | Pg. 7 |
| 4. R-100 | Fr. 2 | Pg. 12 |
| 5. Pilot signed Walker
airport air mail service | Fr. 2 | Pg. 12 |
| 6. King Edward Hotel Air mail | Fr. 4 | Pg. 1 |
| 7. Royal Visit to Winnipeg air mail cover | Fr. 4 | Pg. 15 |
| 8. Ludwig W. Staehle air mail cachet | Fr. 5 | Pg. 10 |
| 9. Censor Destination
Combination of stamps | Fr. 5 | Pg. 11 |
| 10. Destination Tristan Da Cunha | Fr. 7 | Pg. 13 |