

## ***8¢ and 11¢ UNIFIED AIRMAIL RATE***

### ***Usages During the Prexie Era***

*1938 to September 30, 1946.*

*While the U.S. was struggling to recover from the Great Recession of the late 1920s, the U.S. Post Office was doing everything possible to promote Airmail Service, from the “Farley Follies”, new Airmail releases, Airmail inventive rates, and stamp promotions. In fact, from the beginning of U.S. and foreign airmail service, U.S. postal clerks almost needed an advanced math degree to calculate the air mail charges in the complicated rate system of zone charges, foreign surface surcharges, foreign postage, etc., needed to calculate an individual postal rate charge. To say foreign airmail rates were confusing, based on the city of mailing, was an understatement.*

*Between 1924 and 1934 numerous rate proposals were presented to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in the Hague to simplify international rates. During the period, many new provisions and rates were adapted and simplified to make it easier for consumers use airmail services and grow demand.*

*On November 23, 1934, the U.S. instituted a PLAN through the UPU testing a “UNIFIED AIRMAIL RATE” -- a discount rate to Europe. Paying this rate meant your piece of mail would travel a portion of its trip by air and a portion by land and sea--you made the choice: air in the U.S./Ground in Europe/or ground in the U.S. and air in Europe...PLUS, for 3¢ more, your mail, at half-the weight, could travel by air-ground-air again!*

*However, this arrangement would not affect FAM (Foreign Air Mail) rates to more distant destinations. For instance, FAM 14 flight rates from San Francisco to Hawaii, Manila, Manila, and Canton, China would still travel by air at 50¢-per-half-oz. The UNIFIED AIRMAIL RATE effectively allowed European mail to travel at “discount rates”-- a savings of up to 22¢! (73.3%! ) on the regular 30¢ Transatlantic cost-per-piece:*

### **8¢-per-1oz. UNIFIED AIRMAIL RATE (AIR-SEA)**

**a.) AIR MAIL WITHIN THE U.S. TO AN EAST COAST EXCHANGE OFFICE (PORT)  
- EUROPE: GROUND SERVICE TO FINAL DESTINATION IN EUROPE.**

**b.) GROUND SERVICE IN THE U.S. TO AN EAST COAST EXCHANGE OFFICE (PORT)  
- AIR MAIL SERVICE IN EUROPE (as available) TO FINAL DESTINATION.**

### **11¢-per-½oz. UNIFIED AIRMAIL RATE (AIR-SEA-AIR)**

**c.) AIR MAIL WITHIN THE U.S. TO EAST COAST EXCHANGE OFFICE (PORT)  
- SHIP MAIL: U.S. PORT TO EUROPEAN PORT -  
AIR MAIL SERVICE IN EUROPE (as available) TO FINAL DESTINATION.**

*Example: Standard 30¢ Airmail Rate, Europe (via TransAtlantic Clipper)*













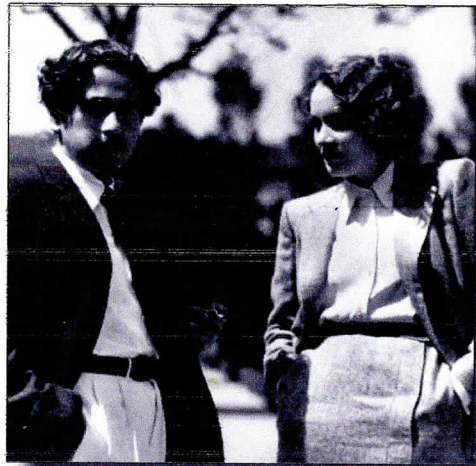


**"8¢ Rate"**

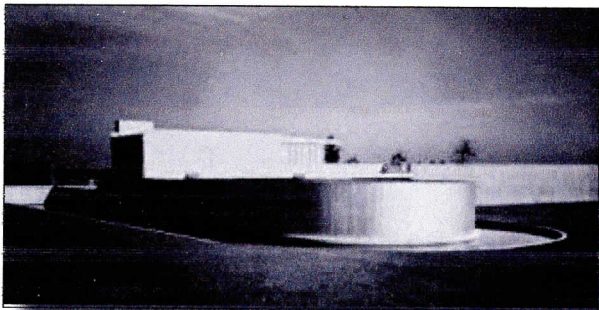
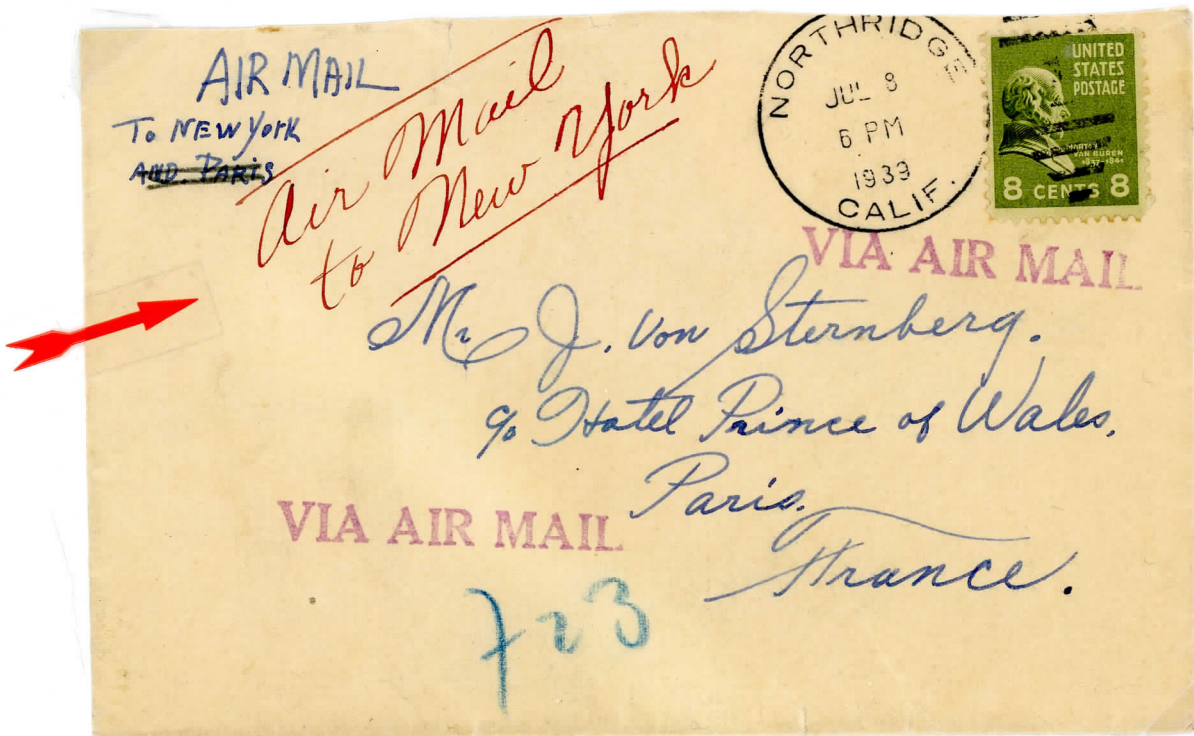
**8¢ (1 oz.) Airmail Service Within USA & Possessions  
-and Surface Service to All Countries.**  
November 23, 1934 until September 30, 1946.

**8¢ Martin Van Buren (Sc# 813)  
Solo Usage**

*The rate paid the airmail service within the U.S. and possessions,  
and surface service rate to all countries, as indicated by the hand  
written inscription in red, "AIR MAIL TO NEW YORK" and  
post office red-violet auxiliary marking "VIA AIR MAIL."*



*Josef Von Sternberg and Marlene Dietrich*



*Von Sternberg mini-mansion "CHATSWORTH" was designed by the architect Richard Neutra. Located at 10,000 Tampa Ave., the house included only one bedroom, plus bedrooms for servants, it was built in 1935 Northridge, Calif. On a plot of 13 acres, the house was demolished in 1972 to make way for a housing development.*

**NORTHRIDGE, CALIF.  
JUL 8 6 PM 1939  
TO  
PARIS, FRANCE**

*The stamp is tied by a black 30mm duplex circular datestamp with a 13mm W x 33mm H eight-bar elliptical grid killer with numerical center #2.*

*The cover is addressed to Josef. Von Sternberg, Film Director who discovered Marlene Dietrich with the return address: Chatsworth, 10,000 Tampa Ave., Northridge, Calif., verifying the cover was addressed to the famous Hollywood director.*