

Graf Zeppelin & Hindenburg

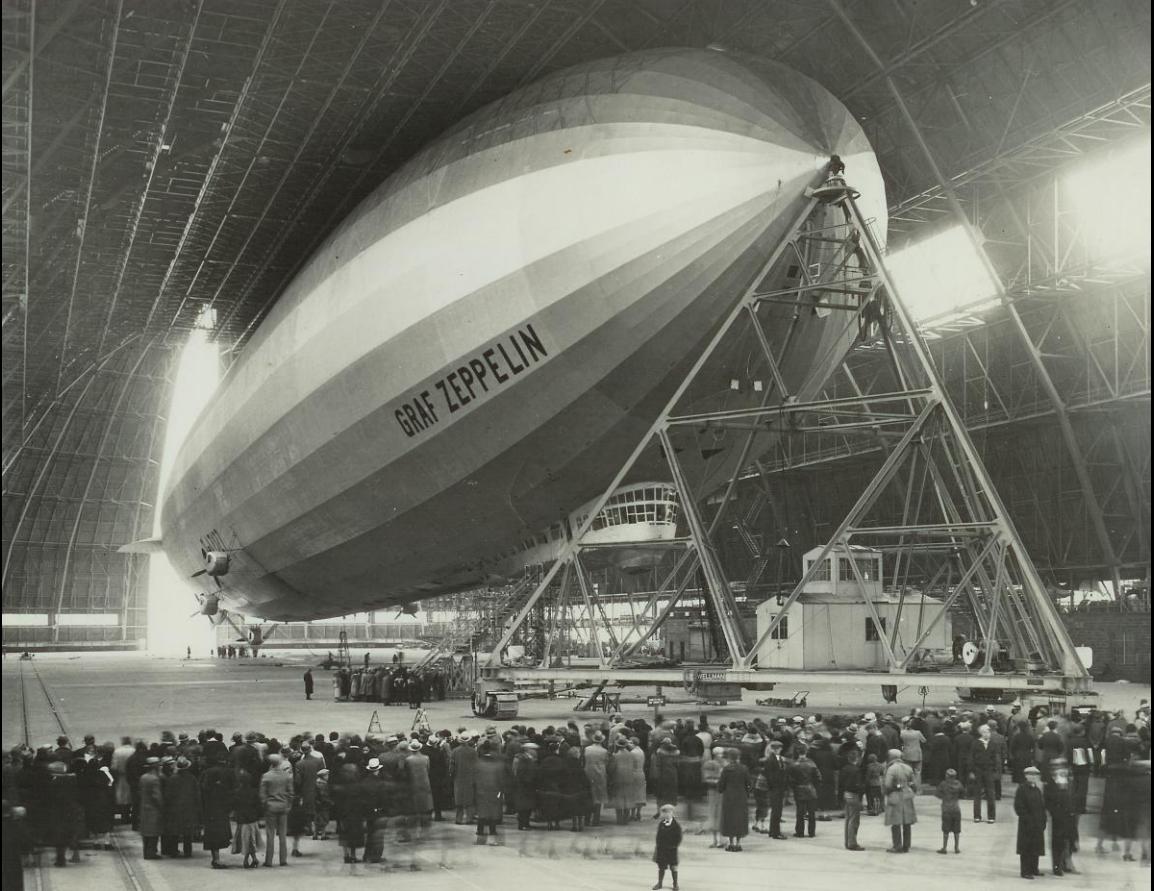
U.S. Mails

An Introduction

Cheryl Ganz

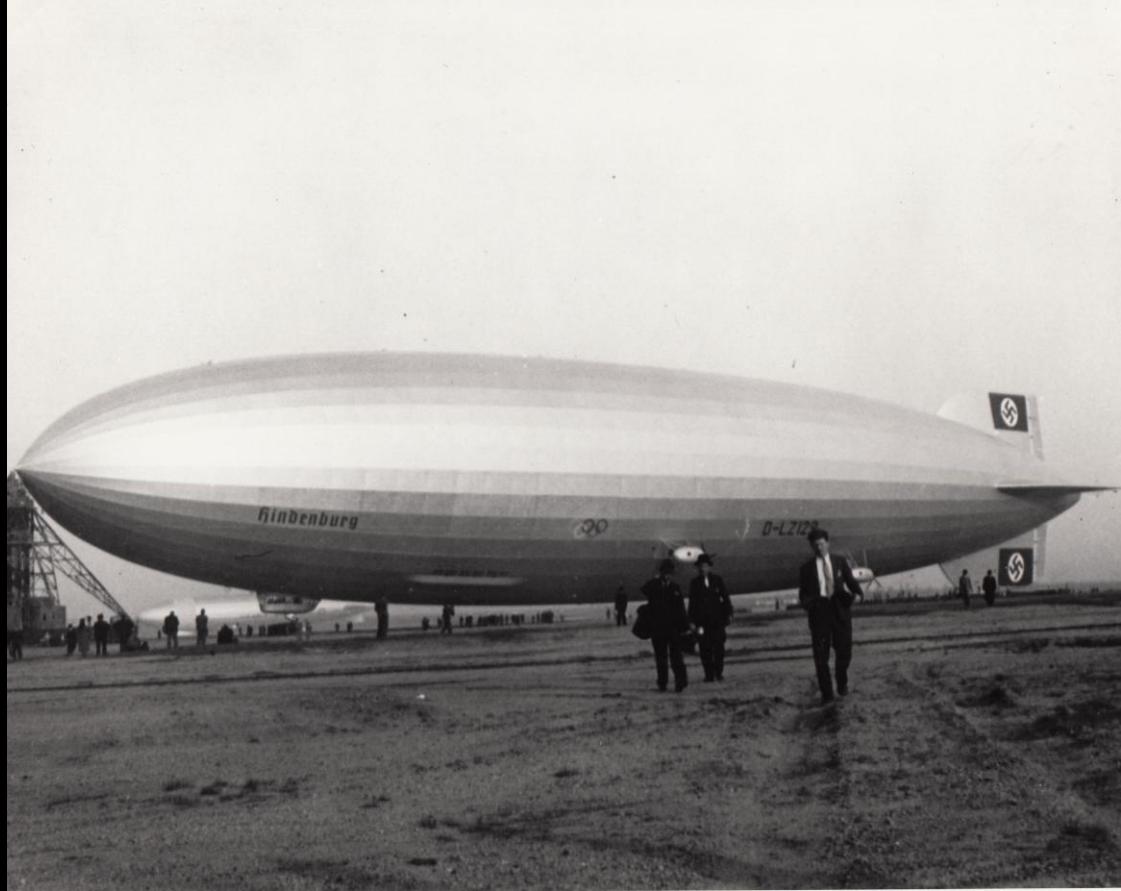
September 24, 2025

Lancaster County Philatelic Society



Graf Zeppelin -- Demonstration Flights

1928 – 1 roundtrip flight to Lakehurst NJ
1929 – World flight to Germany, Japan, Los Angeles, and Lakehurst with return to Germany
1930 – 1 flight to Lakehurst via Brazil and return to Germany
1933 – 1 flight to Miami, Akron, and Chicago via Brazil and return to Germany



Hindenburg -- First regularly scheduled, entirely by air, postal service between Europe and North America
1936 – 10 roundtrips to Lakehurst
1937 – 1 flight to Lakehurst

First, some zeppelin mail with
a Lancaster connection.



Intended for *Graf Zeppelin* 1930 Pan American flight roundtrip.



Intended for *Graf Zeppelin* 1930 Pan American flight roundtrip.

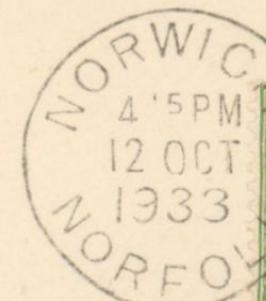
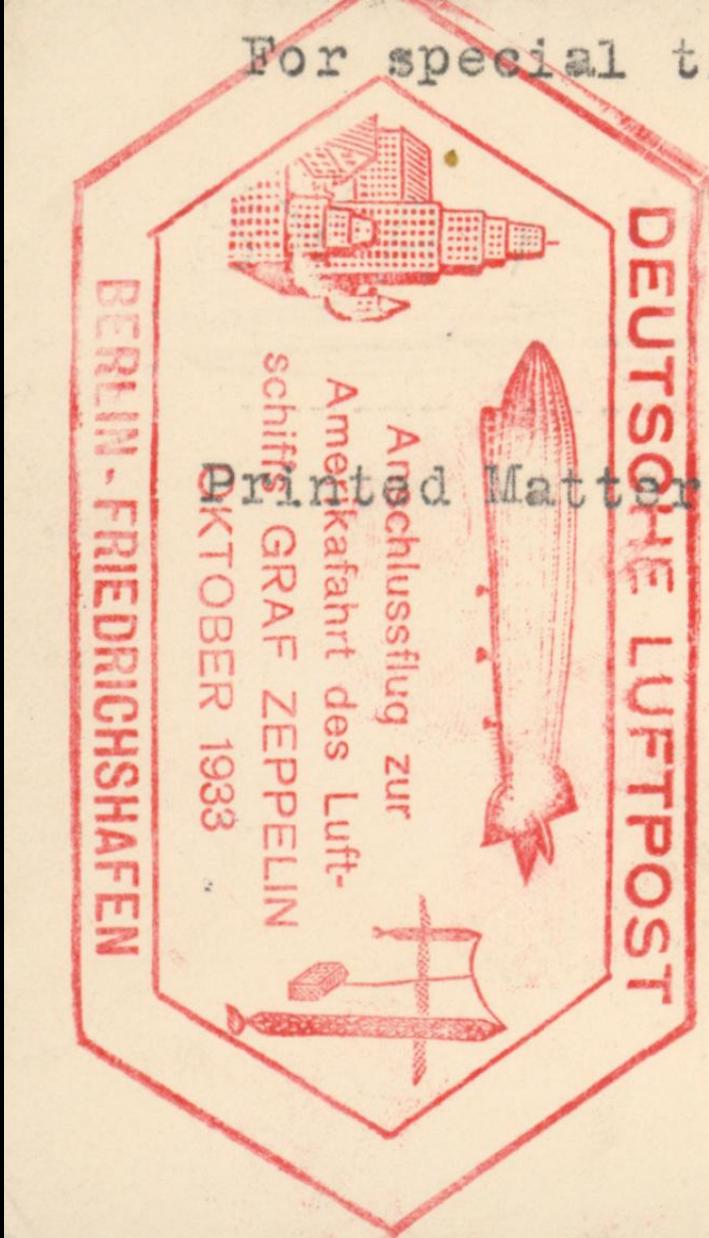
From *Postal Bulletin* 15284:

"GRAF ZEPPELIN" EUROPE-PAN AMERICA ROUND FLIGHT FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL, Washington, Apr. 26, 1930.

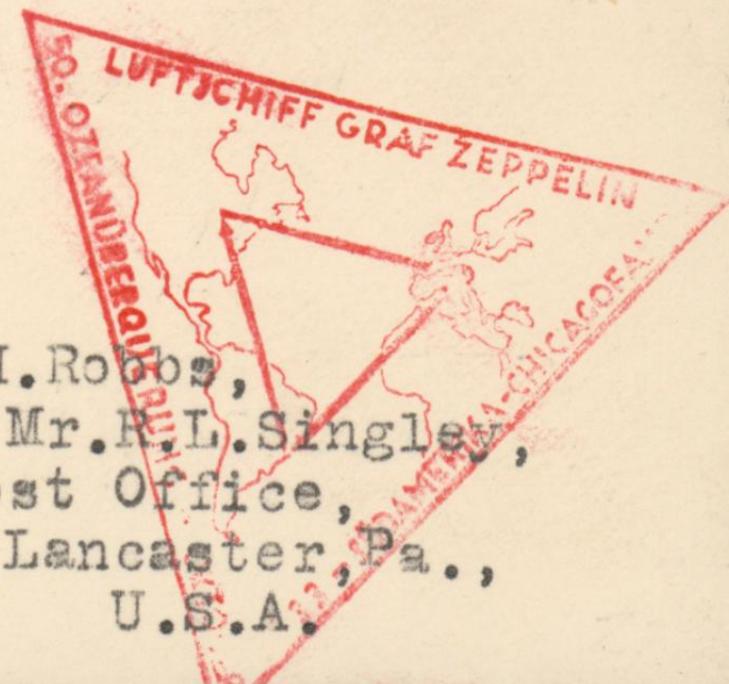
It has been brought to the attention of the department that some letters intended for dispatch by the Graf Zeppelin have been postmarked with other than black canceling ink. Section 524, Postal Laws and Regulations, re-quires that stamps on all mail matter be canceled with black canceling ink. Mail intended to go forward via Graf Zeppelin on which the stamps are not canceled with black canceling ink will not be dispatched. The attention of postmasters is further invited to the fact that section 526, Postal Laws and Regulations, prohibits the use of any special post-marking stamp, and letters bearing the impressions of any special post-marking stamp will not be dispatched on the Graf Zeppelin.

LOREL N. MORGAN, Acting First Assistant Postmaster General.

For special transmission by Airship "Graf Zeppelin".



Mr. P. H. Robbs,
c/o Mr. R. L. Singley,
Post Office,
Lancaster, Pa.,
U.S.A.



Via Berlin.

UK airplane to Berlin, plane or rail to Friedrichshafen, *Graf Zeppelin* to USA.



Rio to Miami by *Graf Zeppelin*, delivered, reprinted Akron to Friedrichshafen by zeppelin.



Officers of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Term	President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer	Sales Manager	A. P. S. Representative
May 20, 1938-						
Nov. 27, 1939	Robert Ruppin	V. W. Voris*	Rollin L. Charles	James L. Knipe	Robert H. Goodell	J. Andrew Frantz
Nov. 27, 1939-						
Oct. 20, 1940	Rollin L. Charles	James L. Knipe	Edgar W. Worrest	Richard L. Singley	Robert H. Goodell	Owen Hershey
Oct. 20, 1940-						
Oct. 23, 1941	J. Andrew Frantz	Robert H. Goodell	Edgar W. Worrest	Richard L. Singley	Donald B. Witmer*	Robert Ruppin
Oct. 23, 1941-						
Dec. 31, 1942	Robert H. Goodell	Richard L. Singley	Mabel Ruppin	Robert Ruppin	Albert F. Witmer	James L. Knipe

*Resigned

Richard L. Singley Named Winner of Walter J.

Honor Committee Unanimously Selects Past-President, Airpost Journal
Writer and Catalogue Finance Chairman

Richard L. Singley, Past President of THE AMERICAN AIR MAIL SOCIETY and constant worker for the hobby throughout the years has been named winner of the WALTER J. CONRATH MEMORIAL AWARD for the year 1945. Announcement of this choice has been made by President George D. Kingdom who serves as Chairman of the selection committee. The Walter J. Conrath Memorial Award was established in 1943 to perpetuate the memory of and to render appropriate honor to Walt Conrath, whose work for Aero-Philately was un-

HONORED



• Richard L. Singley

paralleled and whose unselfish interest in the promotion of all that was right and best for the hobby has become the inspiration of all of his associates and fellow collectors. Most readers are aware that tragedy in the form of an automobile accident took his life in May, 1942. The award has become Aero-Philately's highest recognition and most coveted honor. It has been bestowed twice before, in 1943 to GEORGE W. ANGERS and in 1944 to L. B. GATCHELL.

Dick Singley, the present winner, is the immediate Past President of the Society having completed his second term in 1944. Following custom and as provided in the By-Laws he has become a member of the Advisory Board of the Society. He is probably best known, however, for his many articles in the AIR-POST JOURNAL throughout the years, mostly on the subject of F.A.M. and related flights. He is also chairman of the Editorial Board for the F.A.M. Section of the AMERICAN AIR MAIL CATALOGUE and in addition serves in several other Sections. When it was decided to publish a new edition of the AMERICAN AIR MAIL CATALOGUE Dick shouldered the thankless task of securing the funds for such publication. The confidence he commands in Aero-philately is best attested by the fine response he has received in connection with this project.

Dick is a prolific correspondent and is probably best loved for his willingness to serve and assist any collector in their problems, no matter how juvenile or puerile the problems may be. During his administration as President the Society made continued progress. Many a member located throughout the world has

As 1945 Conrath Award

had the privilege of corresponding with him.

Dick was a very close friend of Walt Conrath, and as such his designation as the recipient of the award established to honor Walt will take on added meaning.

The Committee which made the selection was composed of George D. Kingdom, Chairman, George Angers, Grace Conrath, L. B. Gatchell, Charles P. Graddick and H. H. Griffin. President Kingdom has also announced that the award itself will take the form of a handsome hand engrossed parchment certificate and that these certificates will be first presented at the Newark, N. J., meeting of the Society this month not only to the present recipient, but to George W. Angers, the first winner, and to L. B. Gatchell, the second winner. These handsome certificates were designed by W. W. Rems and executed by A. W. Rust. They are beautifully embellished in five colors, black, red, blue, silver and gold. A reproduction of this certificate is shown on our front cover this month but, of course, it was impossible to reproduce the true beauty of same in a single color plate which cannot reflect the tones of the various colors used.

WALTER J. CONRATH MEMORIAL AWARD

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

To perpetuate the memory of WALTER J. CONRATH who contributed unselfishly to the growth and welfare of the AMERICAN AIR MAIL SOCIETY, who possessed a fearless conviction and was an unceasing advocate of every principle of right, who was an ardent and true aero-philatelist, and who made many valuable contributions to the betterment of the hobby.

It is hoped and desired that the establishment of this award will inspire others to make contributions to our Society and hobby which in time will make them eligible for this high honor.



• The Late Walter J. Conrath

BASIS OF AWARD

The WALTER J. CONRATH MEMORIAL AWARD shall be given annually to the member of the AMERICAN AIR MAIL SOCIETY who in the opinion and judgment of the Award Committee has rendered an outstanding service to the Society or who has made an outstanding contribution to the hobby of Aero-philately.

AWARD COMMITTEE

The Committee of Award to determine the recipients of the WALTER J. CONRATH MEMORIAL AWARD shall consist of these persons who have been honored by the award, and the President of the AMERICAN AIR MAIL SOCIETY.

The Chairman of the Committee shall be the President of the Society whose duty it shall be to consult the Committee and determine the recipient of the award.

Until the Committee shall be composed of five persons who have received said award, the President of the Society has appointed a committee to serve.

Graf Zeppelin Flights with U.S. Dispatches



overpaid 10 ¢



Cotton merchants

Graf Zeppelin
1928 America Flight return
 Lakehurst to Friedrichshafen
 Oct 29-Nov 1
 Letters \$1.05
 Cards 53¢

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN

NEW YORK STAMP CO.
135 WEST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK CITY

AIRMAIL

Via GRAF ZEPPELIN



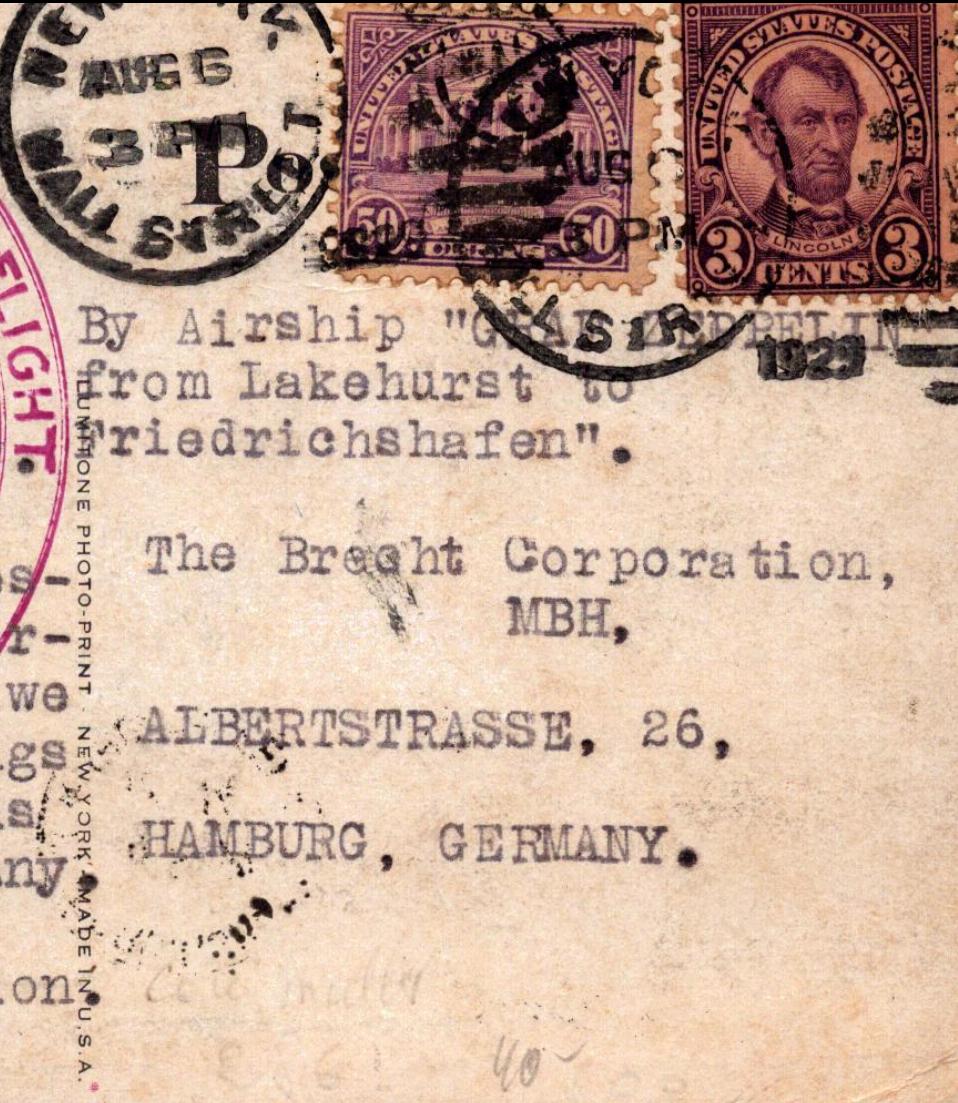
Lakehurst—Friedrichshafen North America Flight 8, October 29-November 1, 1928
Signed on front and reverse by 38 crew members, including 14 officers;
\$1 zeppelin rate + 5¢ foreign letter rate.

THE HALL OF FAME FOR GREAT AMERICANS, University Heights, New York City, erected by the gift of \$250,000 from Mrs. F. J. Shepard (Helen Gould), to the Council of New York University, in 1900, each panel of 150 in the great colonade is to be inscribed with the name of a famous American - 50 at the beginning, and 5 to be added every 5 years, until the year 2000, when the 150 inscriptions will be completed. Only those dead 25 years or more may be selected for the honor. The public may freely nominate. The 100 electors selected by the University Senate determine. Sixty-five men and women great Americans have already been chosen.

Aug. 6, 1929.

By means of the majestic queen of the air - the GRAF ZEPPELIN - we send cordial greetings to our valued friends and clients in Germany.

The Brecht Corporation.



Graf Zeppelin

1929 Round-the-World flight

Lakehurst - Lakehurst

August 7 to August 29

or

Friedrichshafen - Friedrichshafen

August 15 to September 4

Additional stops in Tokyo and Los Angeles

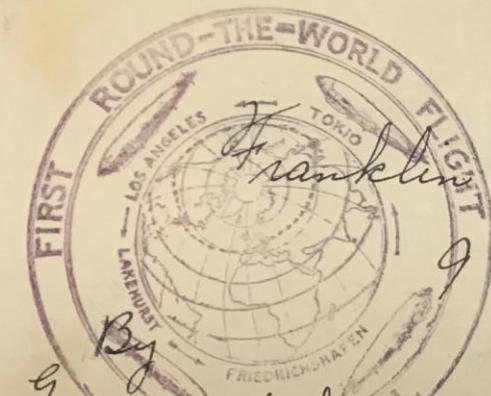
Lakehurst – Tokyo
\$2.05 letter rate

Lakehurst – Los Angeles
\$1.78 card rate, overpaid 1¢

Lakehurst – Lakehurst
\$3.55 letter rate, overpaid 10¢



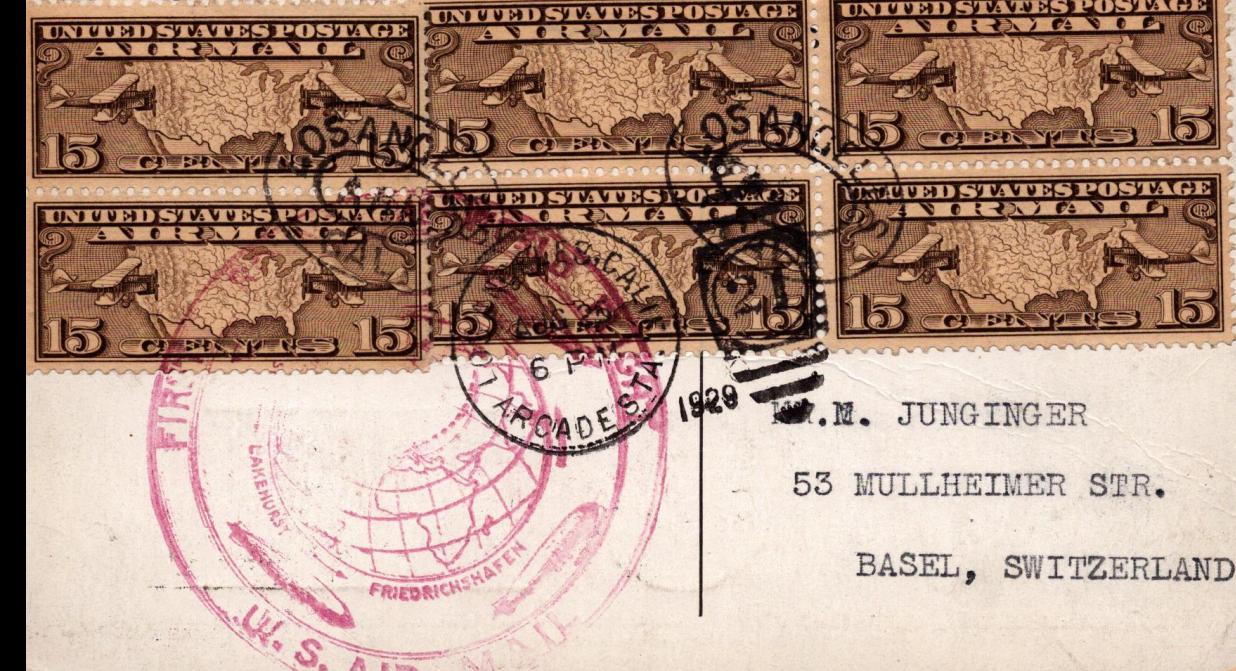
Par avion



Franklin
R. Bruns, Jr.
96 Lenox Ave.
Bronxville
New York.
By German Airship L 7-127
Los Angeles to Lakehurst



VIA GRAF ZEPPELIN



W. M. JUNGINGER

53 MULLHEIMER STR.

BASEL, SWITZERLAND



Mister Peter Ernst Weber.
8. Heliosstrasse.
Z U E R I C H 8.
SWITZERLAND.

Los Angeles - Lakehurst
60¢ letter rate

Los Angeles - Friedrichshafen
90¢ card rate

Lakehurst - Friedrichshafen
\$1.20 letter rate



Three countries visited on *Graf Zeppelin's* 1929 World flight.
Japanese cancel is August 19th in the fourth year of the emperor Hirohito's reign.

Elliott & Co.,
Box 144,
Montclair, N. J.

(REGISTER)



REGISTERED

994563

Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Elliott,
Rt # 3,
NEOSHO, Mo.



VIA AIR MAIL



Graf Zeppelin 1930 Pan American Flight, Washington DC first day of issue



Friedrichshafen - Friedrichshafen Pan American flight roundtrip, May 18 – June 6

\$3.90 letter rate with Washington DC first day dispatch to New York and by ship to Germany for the flight.

Zeppelin Mail



(NY) Friedrichshafen - Friedrichshafen
\$1.95 card rate - overpaid

Lakehurst – Friedrichshafen
65¢ card rate – wrong cachets



Via Graf Zeppelin from Lakehurst to Friedrichshafen.



FIRST



VIA AIR MAIL

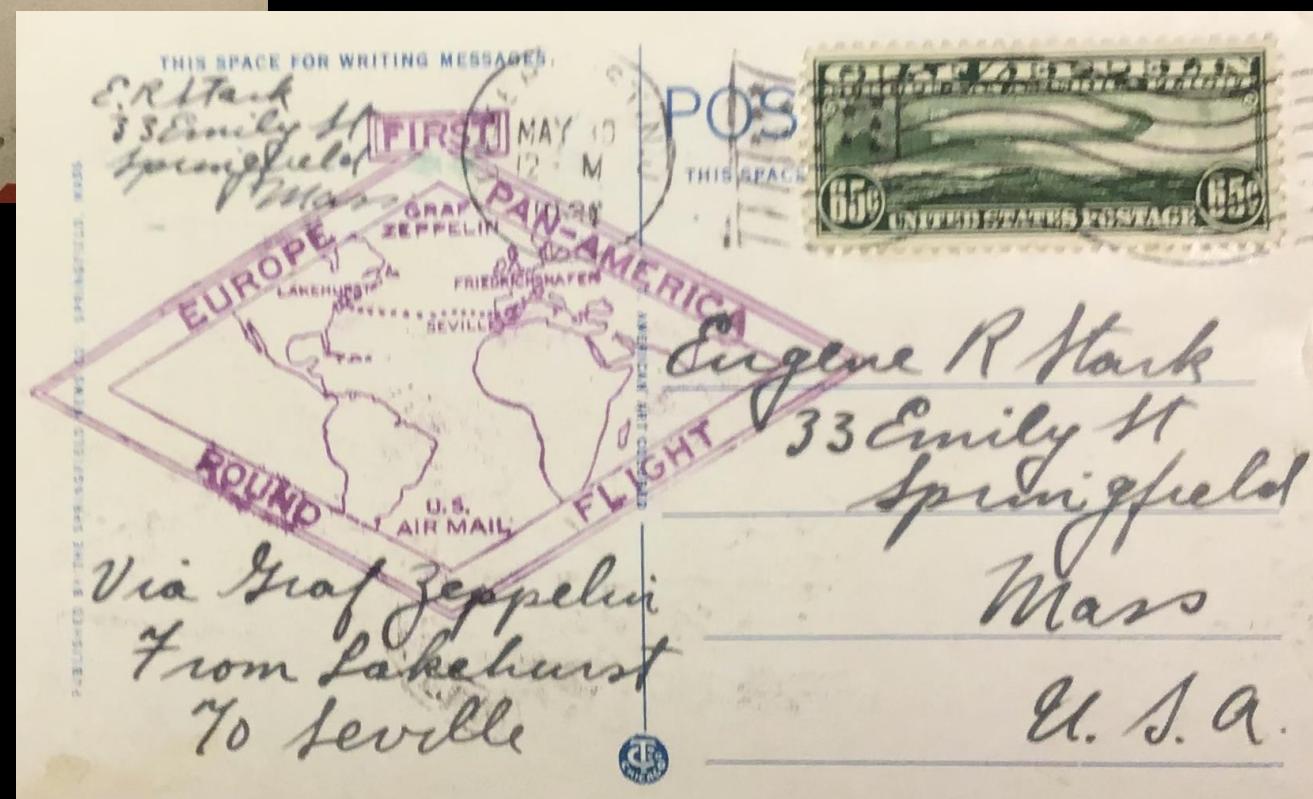
S. E. Ray,

937 South 19th St.,
Birmingham, Ala.,

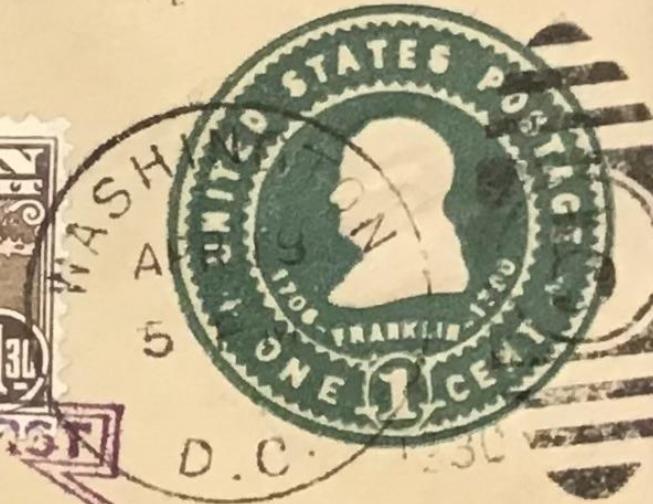
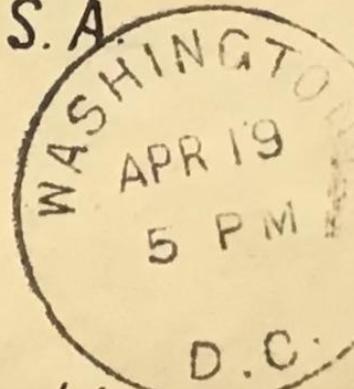
U. S. A.

Lakehurst to Friedrichshafen
\$1.30 letter rate

Lakehurst to Seville
65¢ card rate



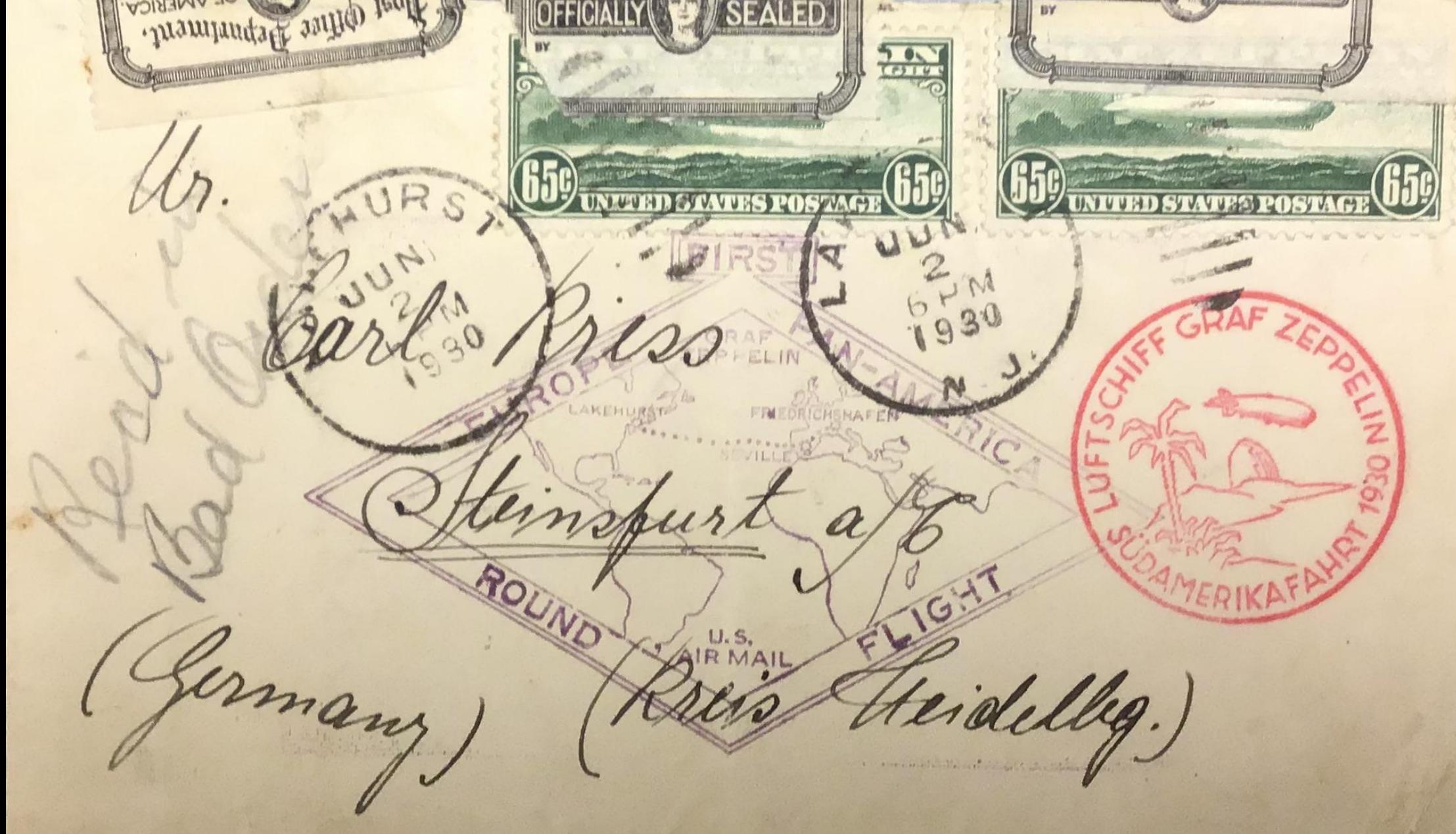
Return at once to
R. Corp,
6637 KINGSBURY Blvd.
St. Louis, Mo U.S.A.



Lakehurst – Friedrichshafen, \$1.30 letter rate, overpaid 1¢
Wrong cachet applied and erasure



Lakehurst – Friedrichshafen, \$1.30 letter rate, Panama dispatch for airmail to meet *Graf Zeppelin*.



Lakehurst – Friedrichshafen, \$1.30 letter rate with official seals and manuscript “Rec’d in Bad Order.”



Canceled in all four countries visited.



Graf Zeppelin 1933 Chicago Flight
Lakehurst—Friedrichshafen,
Chicago flights 354-355,
October 28-November 2, 1933
Letter sent from mid-ocean
with enclosure signed by crew
and passengers to President
Franklin D. Roosevelt —
no address needed;
German stamps with onboard
postmark and USA stamps
canceled with onboard cachet
(no paquebot cancel aboard).
1 known. Ex-Roosevelt.

SPECIAL FLIGHT

SPECIAL FLIGHT

SPECIAL FLIGHT



FIRST DAY ISSUE
Speeial Graf Zeppelin
AIR MAIL STAMP

VIA AIR MAIL

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—FREE

SPECIAL FLIGHT

SPECIAL FLIGHT

1933 50¢ zeppelin stamp had 5 first days!

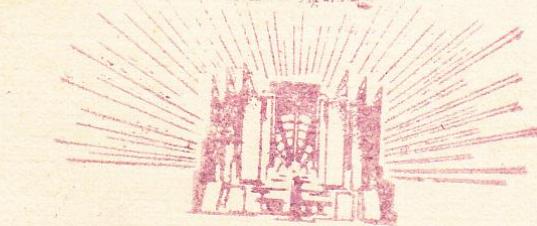
New York City	Oct 2
Akron	Oct 4
Washington DC	Oct 5
Miami	Oct 6
Chicago	Oct 7



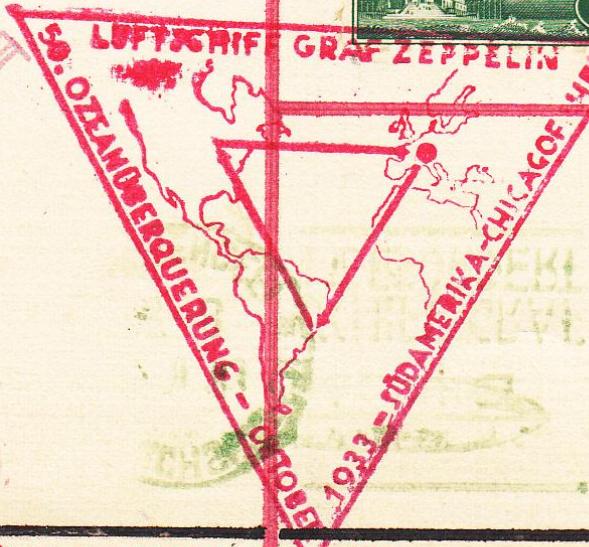


V.A.. GRAF ZEPPELIN..
FROM FRIEDRICHSHAFEN
VIA BRASILIEN TO U.S.A
AND VIA SEVILLA TO =
FRIEDRICHSHAFEN. =
ROUNDTRIP FLIGHT.

GRAF ZEPPELIN FLIGHT



TO
CENTURY OF PROGRESS
EXPOSITION
DISPATCHED FROM FRIEDRICHSHAFEN

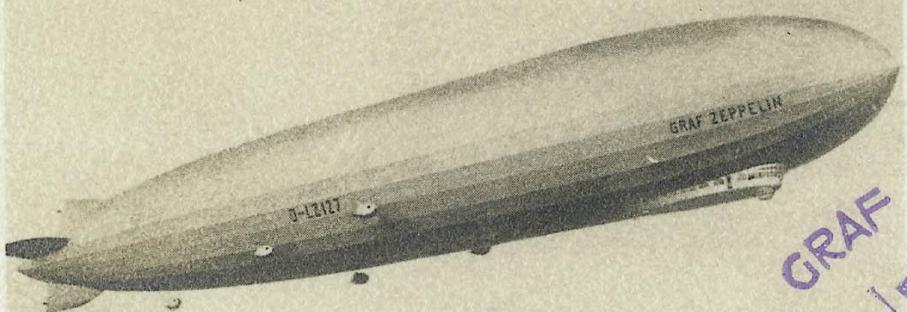


Mr. Ludwig W. Staehle
1690 3rd Avenue Apt 3
NEW YORK CITY
U.S.A.
N.Y.

(NY ship to Germany) Friedrichshafen – Friedrichshafen roundtrip, \$2 letter rate; all rates at 50¢ increments.
Ludwig Staehle cachet.

Via Graf Zeppelin
From Miami to Akron.

PAN AVION



Graf Zeppelin
In Flight

MIAMI, FLA.
OCT 23
6-PM
1933



AKRON, OHIO
OCT 25
5:30AM
1933
REG'D

GRAF ZEPPELIN FLIGHT



TO
CENTURY OF PROGRESS
EXPOSITION

DISPATCHED FROM MIAMI

Jack Bear
432 Kasota,
Cincinnati, O.

Miami – Akron, 50¢ rate; Beazell photo cachet.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

WASHINGTON

James Farley

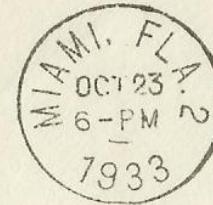
GRAF ZEPPELIN FLIGHT



TO
CENTURY OF PROGRESS
EXPOSITION

DISPATCHED FROM MIAMI

Via Graf Zeppelin -
Miami to Chicago



The President of the United States,

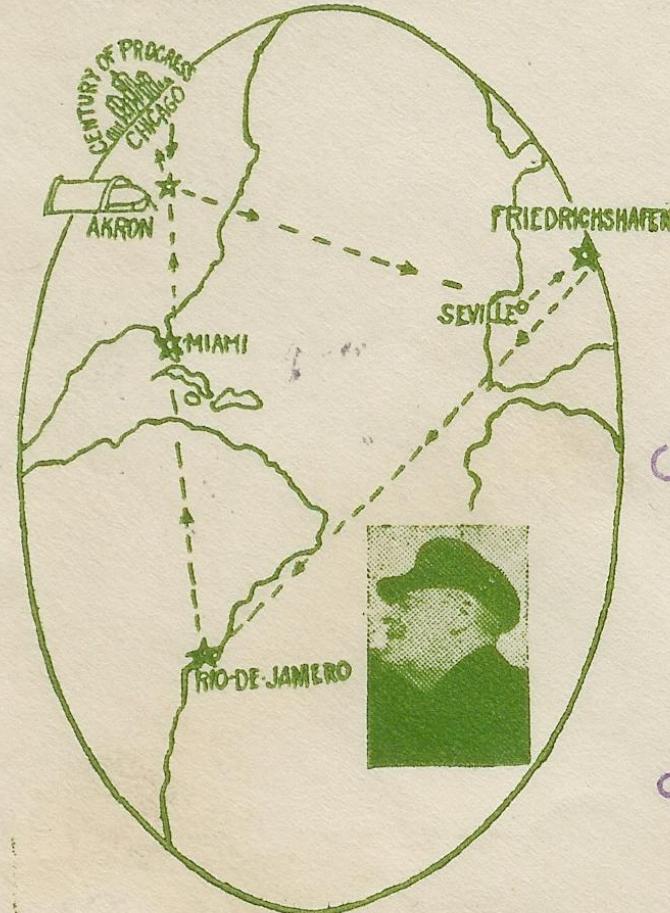
The White House,

Washington, D. C.

Miami - Chicago, Chicago flights 351-352, October 24-26, 1933

James Farley, U.S. postmaster general, mail to U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt; 50¢ rate. **1 known.**

From 478 S. Maple
Akron, O.



Via Graf Zeppelin
Akron to Chicago to Akron



Walter Poppenger
26 S. High
Akron, O.

Akron - Akron roundtrip with brief landing near Chicago, 50¢ rate; Poppenger cachet.

Hindenburg Flights with U.S. Dispatches

"Via Airship Hindenburg from Lakehurst, N.J. to
Frankfurt am Main Germany

LAKEHURST
TRANS - ATLANTIC



Par Avion
By Air Mail

FORM 2978

368



Willy edheg Harry von plen
Eugen Bensel Horst von Göbel
G. Deitschle J. Kinkles
Hans Fehl J. Kos. Leibnitz
G. Deitschle Charles Fostenbacher
J. Kinkles Charles Fostenbacher
Hans Fehl 342 New York Ave.
Horst von Göbel Newark, N. J.
Willy edheg Newark, N. J.
Hans Fehl Newark, N. J.

Lakehurst—Frankfurt, First North America flight 13, May 11-14, 1936

The first return flight had a special cachet with the 40¢ rate including sea post return. Signed by twelve crew members.

Via Airship "HINDENBURG"
From: LAKEHURST, N. J., U. S. A.
To: FRANKFURT/MAIN, GERMANY

and via "GRAF ZEPPELIN"
to South America.

PRINTED BY THE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING



NEW YORK, N.Y., MAY 9-17, 1936
PLATE NUMBER 21558



Syndicato Condor Ltda.
for Mr. K. H. Royter,
Rua da Altandaga 5,
Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL

REGISTERED

Flown by Hindenburg North America route, intended for Graf Zeppelin to Brazil, but flown by Hindenburg to South America—twice flown

TIPEX U.S. letter 40¢ zeppelin rate + 15¢ registration = 7¢ overpaid to Frankfurt,

Hindenburg arrived too late for the 4th S.A. flight of Graf Zeppelin so held for 5th S.A. flight by Hindenburg departing Frankfurt on May 25 direct to Rio de Janeiro (May 29), letter 25 pf + 1.25 RM zeppelin rate = .25 pf overpaid.

Por CORREO AEREO
Nicaragua .. U.S.A.
Via "VON HINDENBURG"
Lakehurst to Germany.



Lakehurst—Frankfurt, First North America flight 13, May 11-14, 1936

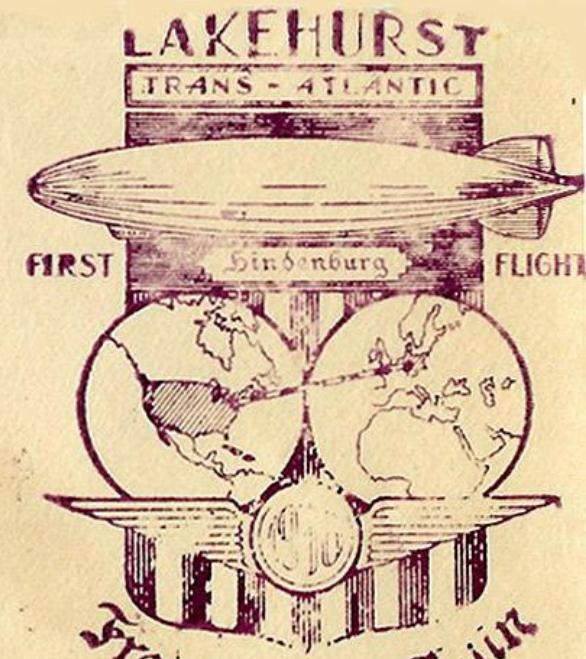
Nicaragua dispatch with mixed franking, FAM 5; 18 centavos air to New York + 40¢ zeppelin fee.

Via Airship "HINDENBURG"

From: LAKEHURST, N. J., U. S. A.

To: FRANKFURT/MAIN, GERMANY

and via AIRMAIL via London
to Melbourne, Australia



Mr. K. H. Royter,
c/o Mr. Robt. Weir, Man. Dir.
Henry H. York & Co. Pty. Ltd.
P. O. B. 4322,
Melbourne, C 1
Australia

REGISTERED
M-30790

Lakehurst—Frankfurt, First North America flight 13, May 11-14, 1936

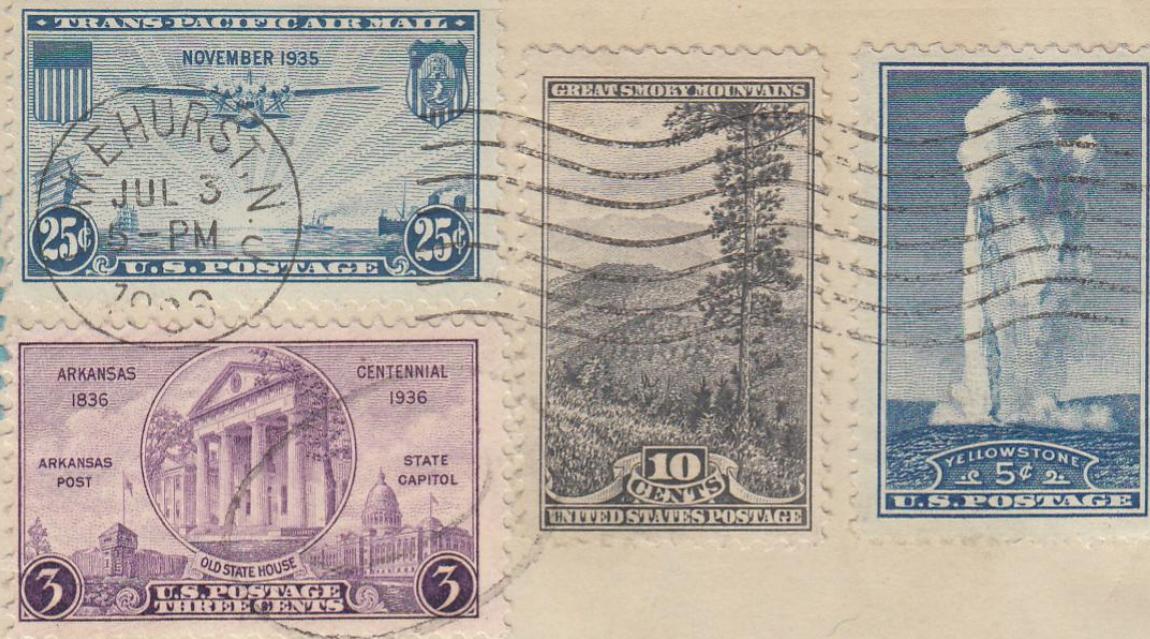
To Australia via *Hindenburgh*, air from Frankfurt to Darwin and then Melbourne;
40¢ zeppelin rate + 36¢ air to Australia + 15¢ NYC registration = 9¢ overpaid.

By Airship "Hindenburg"
Lakehurst-Frankfurt/M

FLUGPOST
Frankfurt-Prag

Par Avion
By Air Mail

FORM 2978



Mr Josef Dinnebier,
Betriebsleiter,
Niemes, Boehmen
Czechoslovakia

Lakehurst - Frankfurt, Fourth North America flight 25, July 4-6, 1936
40¢ zeppelin rate + 3¢ airmail to Prague

air mail
via Hindenburg



Mr. Ben Nelson.
Stockholm.
Limegatan 67-9 Nissar Sweden.
MAIL VIA AIRSHIP HINDENBURG

Lakehurst - Frankfurt, Eighth North America flight 42, September 21-24, 1936

"Not in Special Delivery Mail" rubber stamp added;

48¢ was insufficient to pay 40¢ Zeppelin fee + 20¢ special delivery even if special delivery stamps used for franking.

BANK OF THE MANHATTAN COMPANY
40 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

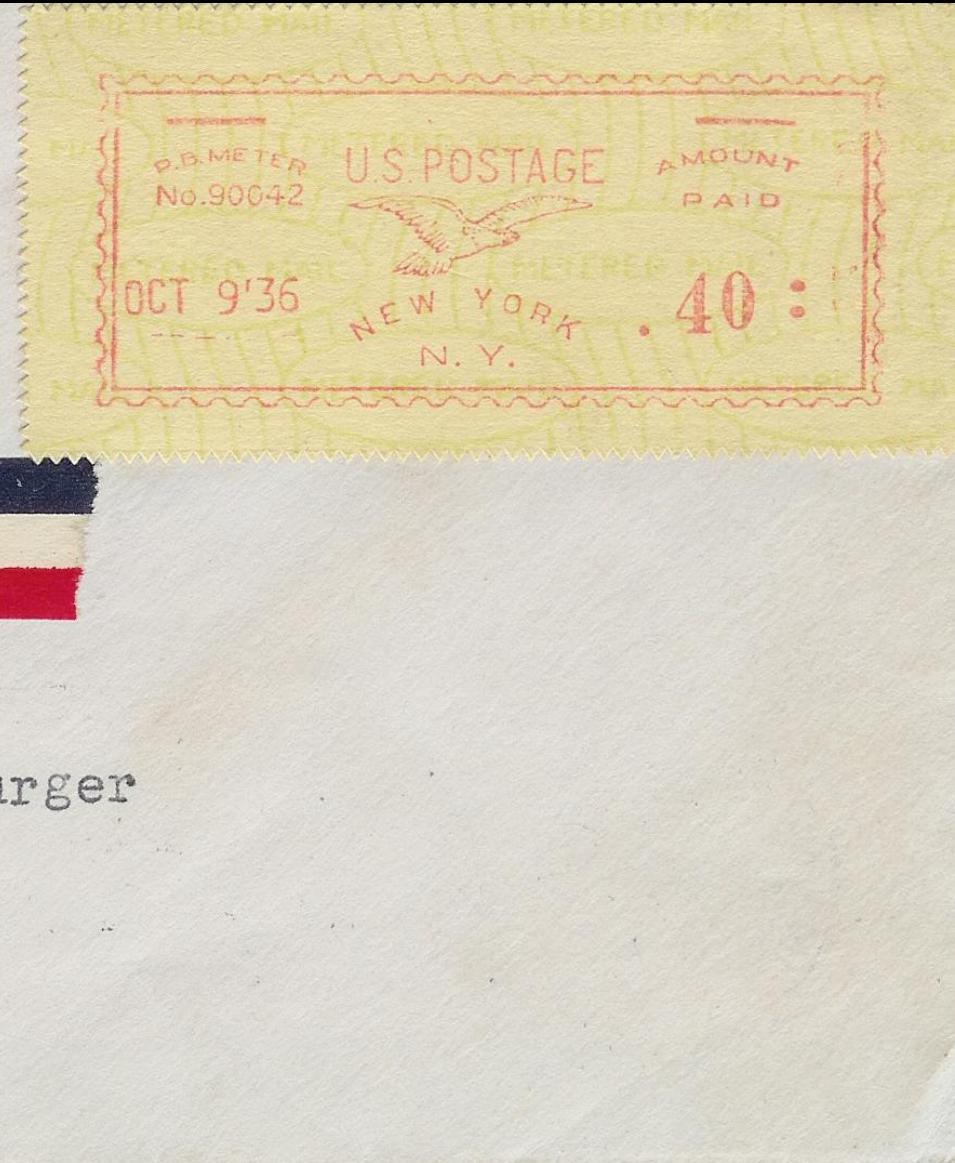
VIA "ZEPPELIN"

VIA AIR MAIL

"HINDENBURG"

Mr. Veit L. Homburger
Karlsruhe
Germany

VIA "ZEPPELIN"



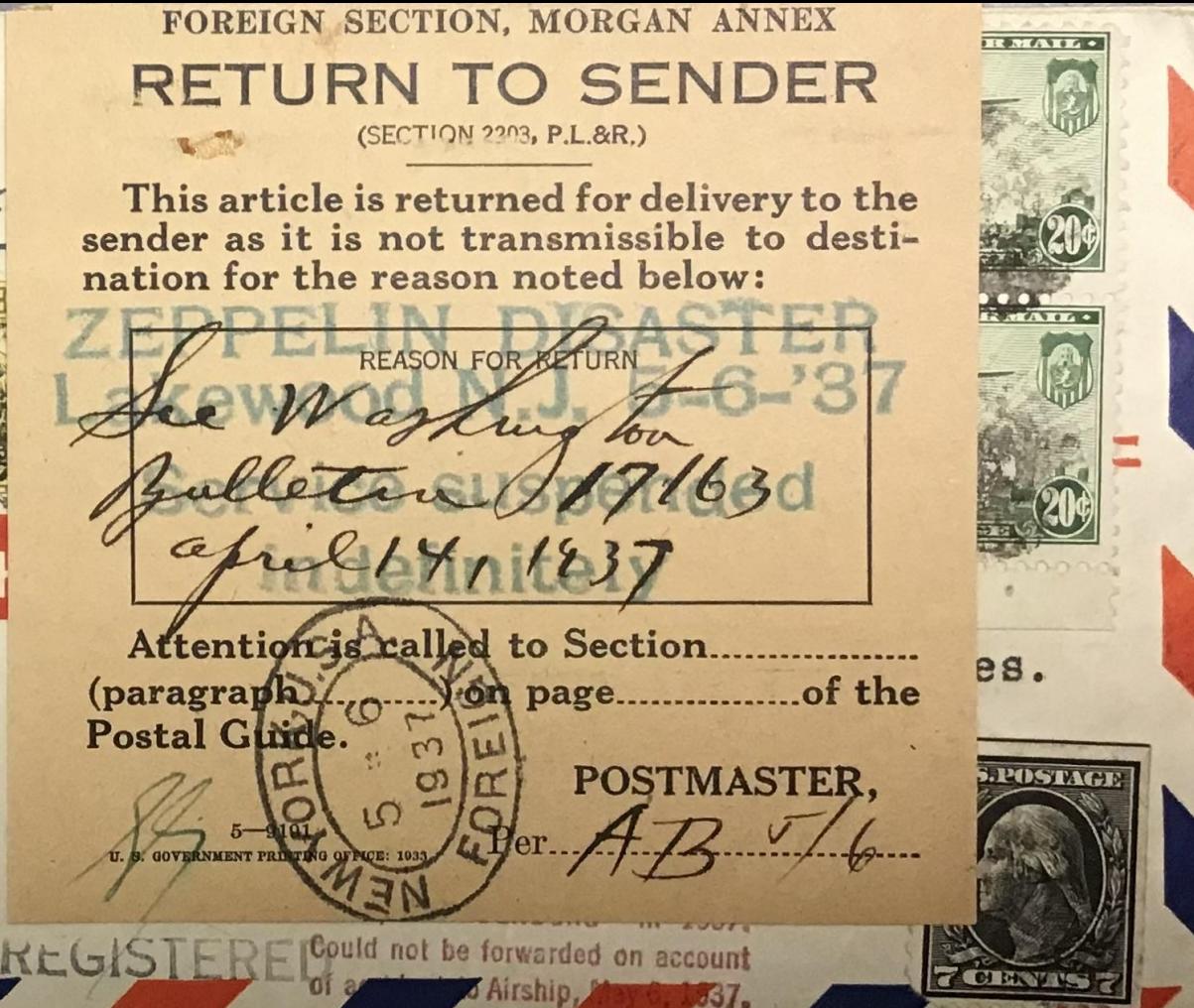
Lakehurst - Frankfurt, Tenth North America flight 47, October 10-12, 1936
Pitney Bowes "Flying Eagle" meter strip to pay 40¢ rate. 5 known.



May 6, 1937
Lakehurst NJ

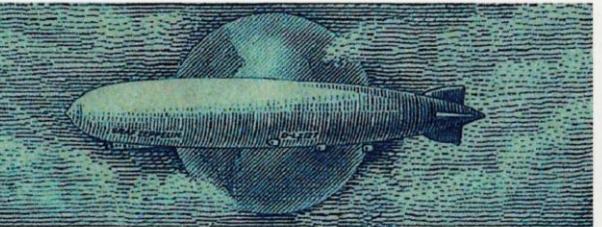


Intended for Lakehurst - Frankfurt, First North America flight 64, May, 1937





*One, if by land, two, if by sea;
And at the zeppelin meetings we will be.*



BOSTON 2026 WORLD EXPO

May 23 to 30, 2026

Boston Convention and Exhibition Center

Zeppelin & Airship Collectors Presentations at Boston 2026

Sunday May 24

Fred Reynolds,
"WWI German Airship Combat Operations
Postal History"

Monday May 25

Bob Helms,
"Collecting Zeppelin Covers for Less than the
Price of a Lunch"

Thursday May 28

Jim Hill,
"Journeys to the Land of the Midnight
Sun: *Graf Zeppelin* Arctic Flights, 1930-31"

Friday May 29

Eckhard Foerster, Cheryl Ganz, Mike Peter,
Les Selby,
"Zeppelin Experts Show and Tell"

Join our group on Facebook!



First Day of Issue



AUGUST 14, 2025
SCHAUMBURG, IL 60194



Ways to Collect Zeppelin and Airship Mail
on YouTube:
[APS Stamp Chat: Ways to Collect Zeppelin and Airship Mail](#)

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