



The United States SPECIALIST

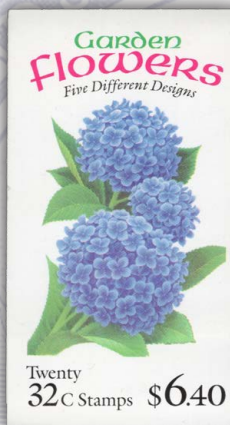
for the Collector of Postage & Revenue Stamp Issues of the United States

WHOLE NUMBER 1156



**1938 Bi-Color
Airmail Stamp:
FDR, Farley,
and National
Air Mail Week,
Part IV**

**The Monthly
Random Booklet:
BK231 Fall
Flowers**



— and —

Great Americans Issue Part XXV— Aerogramme Rates;
Luxembourg Overrun Countries, & more.



United States Stamp Society Publications

Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting

Second Edition



*Rodney A. Juell, Lynn R. Batdorf
& Steven J. Rod, Editors*



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Show	Winner	Exhibit
Sarasota N.S.E. (FL)	David Mayo	U.S. 2¢ Columbians of 1893
Southeast Stamp Expo (GA)	Charles O'Brien III	U.S. Sesquicentennial Exposition 1926
San Diego S.S. (CA)	Bill DiPaolo	The Prexy Coils
St. Louis S.E. (MO)	Vicky Hadley	The Kansas–Nebraska Overprints
G.P. March Party (OH)	John Lighthouse	Using the Documents of Commerce to Fund the Civil War, 1862–1872

President's Awards (Local and Regional Shows)

Show	Winner	Exhibit
Toledo S.E. (OH)	Jack R. Perry	A Study of the US 3-cent Washington Stamp of 1861–1868
Rockford 2-3-4 S.E. (IL)	Bob Crossman	John Butterfield's Overland Mail Company
Springpex (VA)	Gannon Sugimura	Echoes of a Vanished Country
Kazoopex (MI)	Steve Chaffin	U.S. Postal Markings 1851–1861

Show Awards Chairs, please note: The USSS Gold Statue of Freedom Medal is sent automatically to all APS World Series of Philately (WSP) shows. The USSS Silver President's Award medal is available upon request to all local and regional shows.

For more information, to request an award or if you have won a USSS award and have not seen it listed in *The United States Specialist*, please write to Denise Stotts, P.O. Box 690042, Houston, TX 77269-0042, or e-mail stottsjd@swbell.net. (Some shows fail to send in the follow-up report.)



From The Booklets and Booklet Panes Committee

The Monthly Random Booklet: BK231 Fall Flowers

by Dieter R. Kohler, PhD

USSS # 12538



Figure 1. Dark and light BK231 front covers.

Introduction

The previous article described the first issue in a series of four booklets featuring seasonal garden flowers. Most of the features discussed for the spring flowers issue also apply to the fall flowers issue, so they don't need to be repeated in this article. However, as with many other booklet issues, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) added a few quirks to this booklet, whether intentional or not. Some of the quirks require a magnifying glass to detect, and some require a uv lamp. As always, it is up to the collector whether to hunt for those obscure varieties in search of the "I want the full experience," or keep it as simple as possible without the feeling of "I'm missing something."

The Cover

The cover of BK231 features a colorful arrangement of garden flowers blossoming in the fall. As with the spring flowers booklet, there are dark and light blue cover varieties.

Looking under a microscope, several changes were made to the “dark” printing by exchanging the red printing plate. There are no longer red dots in the green leaves, and the size and number of red dots are greatly reduced in the blue areas.

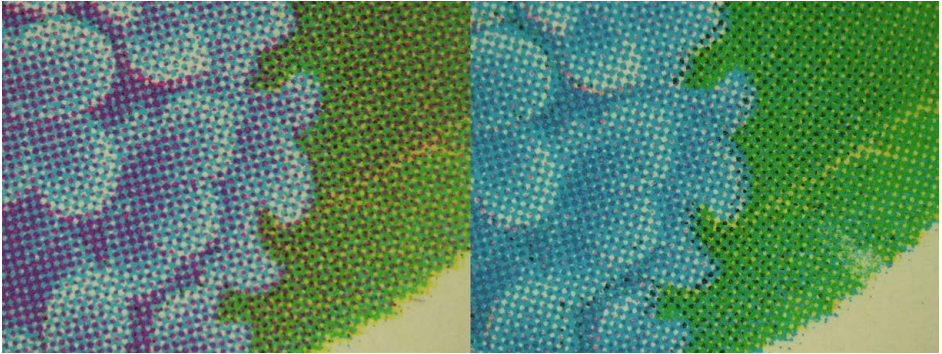


Figure 2. “Red” stamp details at left, “Red removed” stamp details at right.

The dark covers are considerably more difficult to find, so the change happened early in the printing process. The change was likely made so that the color of the hydrangea on the cover is the same blue hue as on all booklet panes.

Only plate number 2 has ever been found. Unlike in the Christmas tree booklet BK181, which was documented only with plate 1211 until a small number of booklets with plate 1111 surfaced a few years ago, a plate 1 fall flower pane or booklet has not been recorded.

Plate Layout

As with the previous two flower issues, the panes were printed on the BEP’s 902-D offset-intaglio press in five colors. The plate layout is mostly identical to the layout of the spring flowers plate.¹ The thick CRL (Cross Register Line) in the third column and the thin CRL in the fourth column were not entered as they served no purpose. An offset black “Bobst triangle” was added to the 11th pane row in column 2, so all 12 booklets A to L have a different combination of tab marks. Booklets were assembled the same way as the other garden flowers booklet issues.

Unlike with the spring and summer garden flowers booklets, the BEP was supplied with prephosphored stamp paper, so no tagging mats were used. Therefore, the panes will not show any tagging gaps along any sides. The addition of the offset black triangle differentiates booklets J from K. The removal of the thick CRL makes it far easier to see any tab marks on the third pane inside a complete booklet.

Column 2 of the plates contained all the quality and alignment control features from various designs like Bobst triangles, CC1 squares, and BEP features like the register crosses on pane 30.³ The key pane is position 30, which has a complex register mark used to match the various plates with great accuracy.

Book	Panes*	Identifying marks	Plate 2
A	4-1	Top CRL gaps on bottom pane	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	8-5	Black & Red triangles in tab of third pane	<input type="checkbox"/>
C	12-9	Red triangle in tab of third pane	<input type="checkbox"/>
D	16-13	Blue & Yellow triangles in tab of third pane	<input type="checkbox"/>
E	20-17	Black triangle in top of the tab of third pane	<input type="checkbox"/>
F	24-21	Tick mark at LL corner in tab of fourth pane	<input type="checkbox"/>
G	28-25	Tick mark at UL corner in tab of fourth pane	<input type="checkbox"/>
H	32-29	Register crosses in tab of third pane	<input type="checkbox"/>
I	36-33	Five "CC1" squares in tab of third pane	<input type="checkbox"/>
J	40-37	Third pane plain; unbroken CRL on rest	<input type="checkbox"/>
K	44-41	Black triangle in center of the tab of third pane	<input type="checkbox"/>
L	48-45	Bottom CRL gaps on bottom pane	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table 1. All the possible regular booklet combinations for BK231.

* Pane positions from a plate are numbered from left to right, top to bottom.



Figure 3. Tab register marks on three position 30 tabs.

Figure 3 shows three panes where the intaglio black cross has wandered around a little. The register crosses allow us to determine the order in which the five colors were printed. The color cross also demonstrates the extreme precision of how well the offset plates were aligned. The sequence of colors is explained in Figure 4.

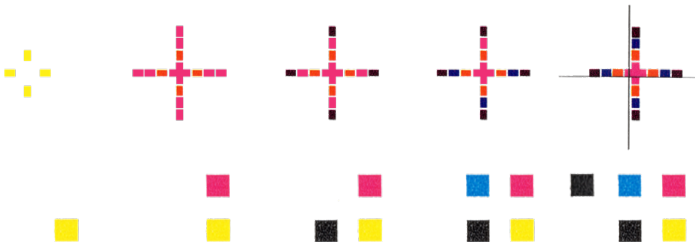


Figure 4. Color printing sequence from left to right.
At top: register crosses on pane 30, at bottom: CC1 squares on pane 34.

The first color plate sets the reference point for all subsequent plates. In the case of the fall flowers, it is offset yellow. Four symmetric rectangles build an initial cross, and pane 34 gets its first CC1 square in yellow.

The next color is offset red. No less than 12 rectangles and a “Swiss cross” build a new, large cross centered over the yellow cross. The result is a large red cross with four orange rectangles next to the Swiss cross (as red and yellow are mixed into orange). A red CC1 square is entered above the yellow one on pane 34.

The next color is offset black. Four rectangles are placed centered on the outermost four red rectangles of the cross, which turn (mostly) black. A black CC1 square is entered to the left of the yellow square on pane 34.

The next color is offset blue. Four rectangles are placed centered on the remaining four pure red rectangles of the cross, which turn (mostly) blue. A blue CC1 square is entered above the black and to the left of the red square on pane 34.

Positions	Identifying marks	Plate 2
1	CRL with gap at top	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Plain tab with plate 2 at top edge of tab	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	CRL with plate 2 near perforations	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	LRM in tab, no CRL	<input type="checkbox"/>
5, 9, 13, 17, 29, 33, 37, 41	CRL without gap	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Intaglio Black and offset Red triangles in tab	<input type="checkbox"/>
7, 11, 15, 19, 23, 27, 31, 35, 39, 43	Plain tab with plate 2 near perforations	<input type="checkbox"/>
8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40, 44	LRM in tab, no CRL, normal plate number 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Offset Red triangle in tab	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Offset Blue and Yellow triangles in tab	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Offset Black triangle near top of tab	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Tip of “+” register mark in LL corner of tab	<input type="checkbox"/>
22, 26, 38	Plain tab with plate 2 at top edge of tab	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Tip of “+” register mark in LR corner of pane	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Tip of “+” register mark in UL corner of tab	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Tip of “+” register mark in UR corner of pane	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Offset & intaglio “+” color registration cross	<input type="checkbox"/>
34	Five small solid color “CC1” squares in the tab	<input type="checkbox"/>
42	Offset Black triangle near center of tab	<input type="checkbox"/>
45, 93*	CRL with gap at bottom, deformed plate number 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
46, 94*	Plain tab, narrow deformed plate 2 at top edge of tab	<input type="checkbox"/>
47, 95*	Plain tab with deformed plate 2 halfway in tab	<input type="checkbox"/>
48, 96*	LRM in tab, no CRL, deformed plate number 2	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table 2. All the possible pane marks.

**plate number not deformed on panes 93 to 96.*

The final color is intaglio black. A large but thin cross is entered centered on the color cross. The switch from the offset print unit to the intaglio print unit in the printer might cause some minor misalignment of the two crosses, as shown in Figure 3. Pane 34 gets an intaglio black CC1 square to the left of the blue one.

Table 2 lists all the possible pane varieties, excluding varieties that could only have happened if the panes resulted from web miscuts that included small bits of marks from a neighboring pane or from a side margin element. Technically, Table 2 should be shorter than for the previous garden flowers booklets due to the lack of tagging mats, which would have produced gaps. Hence, many pane positions would no longer have a signature tagging gap to differentiate them from ordinary positions.

Position 1–4 panes can show seam lines along the top edge, while position 45–48 panes can show seam lines along the bottom edge. The seam lines are very faint and might only show as small pieces along the edge. For unknown reasons, the BEP goofed around with the positions and shapes of the plate numbers on some pane positions, making it possible to recognize positions 45 to 48 even if they don't show the LRM gap at the bottom due to a miscut of the panes.



Figure 5. At left: Plate numbers, as seen under a digital microscope. At right: Position 93 at top, position 45 at bottom.

Figure 5 shows the three types of plate number “2” that can be found on tabs. Most have the “clean 2” shown at left. Position 45–48 panes might show a slanted, deformed plate number as shown at right in Figure 5. If the plate number is not slanted, then the pane is located on the other half of the intaglio sleeve (positions 93–96). The “2” in the middle of Figure 5 is narrower than a normal “2” and slightly deformed, but not slanted. It can be found on position 46 panes. It looks like those plate number entries were missing on the sleeve and were entered by hand when the mistake was discovered.

Halving the Intaglio Sleeve

The intaglio sleeve was twice as high as the offset plates. That means 24 panes high by 4 panes wide. The upper half and the lower half of the sleeve have identical layout marks, so there are no additional pane tab varieties. At least, in theory. The following note can be found in Michael O. Perry’s *Folded-Style Booklet Checklist*:²

It may be possible to identify each of the sets of intaglio markings (that appear to be identical) by minor differences. Plate numbers on position 45, 46, 47, and 48 (or position 93, 94, 95, & 96) panes are deformed.

The “or” in the citation must be understood as “exclusive or,” either the top or the bottom half of the intaglio sleeve contained the deformed plate numbers. The designations “top” (positions 1–48) and “bottom” (positions 49–96) are arbitrarily chosen as the plate proof of the intaglio sleeve has not been inspected. Since we are dealing with an intaglio sleeve problem, we have to disregard any location differences coming from the offset plates.



Figure 6. Intaglio structures on a booklet pane.

Figure 6 at right shows all the intaglio elements of the pane at left. Any differences in the tab marks from the top or bottom half of the sleeve must come from some change(s) in the relative positions of those elements.

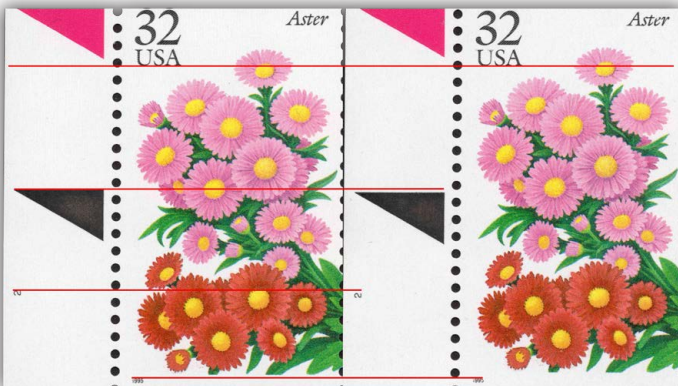


Figure 7. Position 6 and 54 panes.

Position 6 or 54 panes are the “easy” entry points as the tab contains an intaglio Bobst triangle. A red baseline is defined in Figure 7; it touches the bottom of the intaglio “USA.” This baseline must be used for any pane from any position. Looking at positions 6 and 54, we note:

- The intaglio triangle and the plate number are slightly farther away from the baseline on position 54 panes.
- The “1995” date is at the same distance in both positions.

Figure 8 shows the comparison between a position 62 and a position 14 pane. The baseline is again defined, touching the intaglio “USA.” The comparison reveals that the plate number is lower on position 62, and the “1995” is at the same distance from the

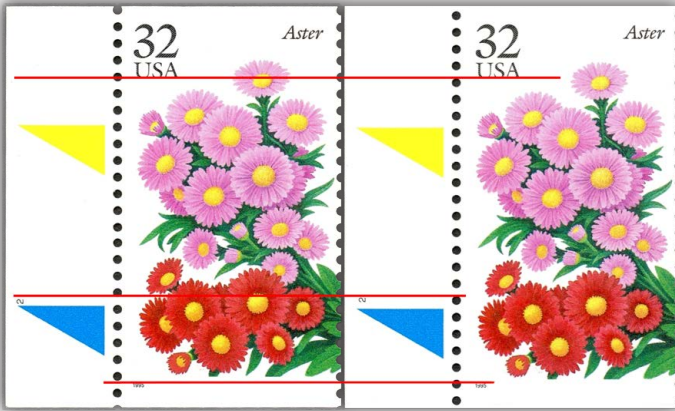


Figure 8. Position 62 and 14 panes.

baseline for both panes. If the offset plates are well aligned (which they usually are), the difference in sleeve position can easily be seen by the distance of the plate number to the blue Bobst triangle.

Positions 22 and 70 have the fewest of all intaglio marks in the tab. A comparison shows that again, the plate number on position 70 is lower than on position 22 panes. The position of the plate number is the smoking gun in the fall flower issue to differentiate between the upper and lower halves of the intaglio sleeve.



Figure 9. Position 70 and 22 panes.

As can be seen, the difference is very minute and often requires a magnifying glass. When one has only one pane, it is often impossible to decide which half of the intaglio plate the pane came from.

Reactions to UV Light

Booklet covers contain brighteners and are coated on the outside. The coating absorbs some long-wave and most of the short-wave UV light. The covers appear dull

violet under short-wave UV and show a white glow from the brightener under long-wave UV.

A new quirk appears when looking at the panes under long-wave UV light. Apparently, web rolls with different papers were supplied to the BEP, and some contained significant amounts of an optical brightener. This also happened with the paper supplied for the winter garden flowers issue.



Figure 10. Dead and high bright paper under long-wave UV illumination.

Dead web stock does not respond to long-wave UV and appears dull violet, while paper containing a brightener shows a bright, whitish glow.

The Freak Show

As with most issues using combination printers, freaks are known where the intaglio section was misaligned. These panes are almost always described as misperforated, but



Figure 11. BK231 misaligned intaglio black.

they are misaligned intaglio printings. The positions of the perforations are perfectly normal.

Missing intaglio black panes and imperforate booklet panes are known, but very rare. It took almost 20 years before the first missing intaglio black pane was reported.



Figure 12. Rare 1997c missing intaglio black pane (removed from a booklet).⁴

Conclusion

The four garden flowers issues were very popular with the public due to their colorful and nature-oriented designs. For the booklet collector, they offer a wide range of varieties to collect. Searching for all the additional odd varieties, the booklet specialists will certainly be busy for years.

References

1. Dieter R. Kohler, "The Monthly Random Booklet: BK208 Spring Flowers," *The United States Specialist* 97, no. 5 (May 2026).
2. Michael O. Perry, *Folded-Style Booklet Checklist*, Research Paper no. 2 (United States Stamp Society), <https://www.usstamps.org/download/research-paper-2-folded-style-booklet-checklist/>.
3. Robert Kitson, *The Interleaf* 11, no. 1 (March 1994).
4. Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 1359, lot 606.

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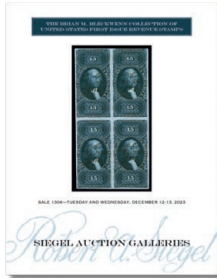
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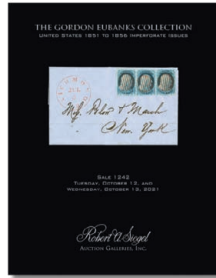
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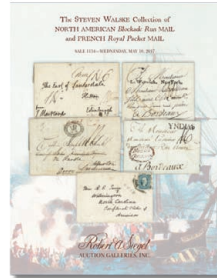
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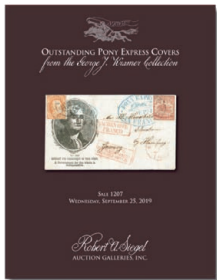
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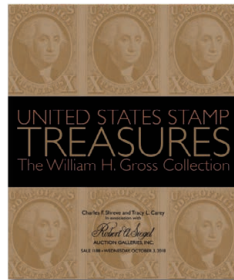
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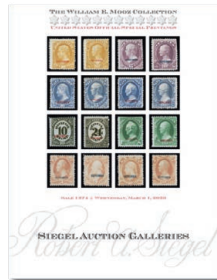
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Vintage Photo of the Month

by Rodney A. Juell

USSS # 13852 | P.O. Box 3508, Joliet, IL 60434

This month's photo, from 1934, shows Juan Trippe, the president of Pan American Airways, presenting to Postmaster General James Farley his proposal to begin a trans-Pacific air mail route.

On November 22, 1935, the first regularly scheduled trans-Pacific air mail service was inaugurated by Pan-Am. Shown nearby is a first-flight cover from a segment of that trip. Note the cover is franked with an airmail stamp issued for use on the trans-Pacific route.







From The Farley Era Committee

1938 Bi-Color Airmail Stamp: FDR, Farley, and National Air Mail Week, Part IV

by Paul M. Holland

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I continue to be fascinated by the broad scope of National Air Mail Week (NAMW), and how President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) and his Postmaster General (PMG) James A. Farley came up with the idea to both celebrate the 20th anniversary of US airmail service and promote a special week (May 15–21, 1938) for the nationwide use of airmail using a new bi-color airmail stamp. This launched the largest philatelic event of the FDR era, with Farley challenging every city, town, and hamlet in the country to create a distinctive NAMW cachet that tells something interesting about their community. Since local postmasters were political appointees at the time, there was a strong response,

and thousands of different types were produced, often exhibiting distinctive designs by a wide range of local volunteers and civic organizations. In my opinion, such NAMW cachets represent genuine Americana. The majority of my newly acquired NAMW covers are from Thursday, May 19, a day designed to provide a tantalizing glimpse of future air-mail service with special airmail flights flown by volunteer pilots utilizing local airports, farmers' fields, or blocked-off portions of country roads, where necessary.

Following my previous articles,¹⁻³ I hadn't planned to revisit NAMW so soon, but my accumulation of NAMW covers sent to PMG Farley and FDR has grown substantially, and important additional information on collecting NAMW covers has come my way. I'll begin with a large portion of the original National Air Mail Week poster shown as the frontispiece to this article. Such posters would have been displayed in post offices all around the country to encourage patrons to use airmail during this special promotional week. This example was sent to me by fellow society member Dalton Hoffman (USSS #5361), a specialist collector of material related to Fort Worth, Texas.

Regarding NAMW cover collecting, I was also contacted by another society member, David DuBois (USSS #16096), who kindly provided me with important new information on the Drabyk catalog. In particular, he alerted me to the greatly expanded listings in the final 2012 DVD version. Organized by state, this compendium is designed to include all possible NAMW communities with a structural database of 50,000+ communities, for which NAMW covers have been documented for some 12,800+ cities and towns. It also now includes covers from the James A. Farley collection at the National Postal Museum, as indicated by an asterisk in the listings. Reference images of more than 7,000 cachets and collateral material are provided, many of these in color, with Drabyk estimating that more than 9,200 different cachets were designed.⁴ It should be noted that while many of these cachets are unique, others were customized for specific towns using various generic NAMW types. Drabyk's Rarity Factors for NAMW covers range from 1 to 5+++++ for the most common to the rarest. In this article, the population figures used are taken from the 1940 census.

Perhaps the best way for me to proceed is to show a portion of the updated 2012 Drabyk listing, along with one of my newly acquired NAMW covers sent to FDR in Figure 1. This NAMW cover was mailed to FDR by the postmaster of Springfield, Vermont, on May 19, 1938. It has a boldly printed cachet sponsored by the Springfield Chamber of Commerce that touts Springfield as "The Industrial Center of Vermont." Interestingly, Springfield was in the center of the Precision Valley region, home of Vermont's machine tool industry. Signed by the postmaster, this cover used a roller cancellation (between stamps on the block) and is franked by a top plate number "arrow" block. This block shows TOP marginal imprints and alignment marks, with plate numbers bearing the prefix letter F, indicating that it came from the upper left pane of the press sheet. Shown below are listings for Springfield in the 2012 Drabyk catalog, together with a few other communities in this alphabetical listing.

My cover in Figure 1 corresponds to the second Springfield, Vermont, entry under VT585, with a printed (PTD) cachet in blue (BLU) mailed on 19-May with INDUSTRIAL CENTER cachet, rated at rarity 2+. Other varieties with rubber-stamped (RS) cachets in various colors and dates of mailing are indicated by lower-case letters appended to the main catalog number. To put things in context, the town of Springfield had a population of



VT583	SPANKERTON									5++++
VT584	SPOONERVILLE									5++++
VT585	SPRINGFIELD	X	PTD	BLU	MINT CACHET	INDUSTRIAL CENTER				2+
	SPRINGFIELD	X	PTD	BLU	MC STD	19-May	INDUSTRIAL CENTER			2+
	SPRINGFIELD	X	PTD	BLU	MC STD	20-May	INDUSTRIAL CENTER			2+
VT585a	SPRINGFIELD	X	RS	BLU	MC STD	19-May	INDUSTRIAL CENTER			2
	SPRINGFIELD #10	X	RS	BLU	MC STD	19-May	INDUSTRIAL CENTER			2
	SPRINGFIELD	X				21-May	INDUSTRIAL CENTER			2
VT585b	SPRINGFIELD #10	X	RS	PRPL	MC STD	19-May	INDUSTRIAL CENTER			2
VT585c	SPRINGFIELD	X	RS	DLPRPL	MC STD	18-May	INDUSTRIAL CENTER			2
VT585d	SPRINGFIELD	X	RS	VIOLET	MC STD	19-May	INDUSTRIAL CENTER			2
VT586	STAMFORD									5++++
VT587	STANNARD									5++++
VT588	STARSBORO									5++++

Figure 1. Postmaster-signed NAMW cover sent to FDR from Springfield, Vermont, along with listings from the 2012 Drabek catalog.

7,720. Newly added to the 2012 version of the Drabek catalog are separate line entries for all possible post offices, even if no (uncacheted) airmail covers sent during NAMW are known. In effect, this makes the catalog a “checklist” for airmail covers to look for, with such covers being given a default rarity factor of 5+++++. Spankerton and Spoonerville, listed above Springfield, must have been very small at the time, with Spoonerville now being described simply as a residential neighborhood located within the town of Springfield. Stamford, Stannard, and Starsboro were also much smaller than Springfield, with populations of 418, 140, and 744 in the 1940 census.

I’ve also added a substantial number of Farley NAMW covers to my reference collection. I’ll begin with my cover sent to PMG Farley from St. Louis, Missouri, on the first day of NAMW, May 15, 1938. Shown in Figure 2, the printed NAMW cachet displays an airplane with contrail spelling out “Pride of Missouri,” along with a state map and a “Missouri mule.” A second rubber-stamped cachet bears a portrait of Major Albert Bond Lambert, a prominent St. Louis businessman, aviator, and benefactor. Note that the slogan cancellation itself features an airplane.

Another of my Farley NAMW covers with printed cachet, this time from Paducah, Kentucky, on May 19, is shown in Figure 3. The cachet touts four different “Million Dollar Industries” located in Paducah. These include Aroma strawberries (a special patented



Figure 2. Farley NAMW cover from St. Louis, Missouri.



Figure 3. Farley NAMW cover from Paducah, Kentucky.

variety), leaf tobacco, Claussner ladies Nylon hosiery, and Railroad Shops for the Illinois Central, a massive repair facility for steam locomotives.

In Figure 4, I show my postmaster-signed NAMW cover sent to Farley from Morristown, Tennessee. The rubber-stamped cachet touts Hamblen County as the “Only County in the United States to have Two Men Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.” Both were awarded the medal for actions in World War I in 1918. This cover is rated as rarity 5 in Drabyk, and interestingly, there is no asterisk in the Drabyk listing indicating that there is a NAMW cover from the Farley collection at the National Postal Museum.

Another of my Farley NAMW covers with a printed cachet is shown in Figure 5. From Norwalk, Connecticut, the cachet touts that Norwalk is only “Fifty-six Minutes from Grand Central” Station in New York City. There is also a red handstamp that this was the “First Air Mail Flight From Norwalk, Conn. May 19, 1938.” Curiously, the printed NAMW cachet on this cover displaying the Connecticut state seal was apparently customized for

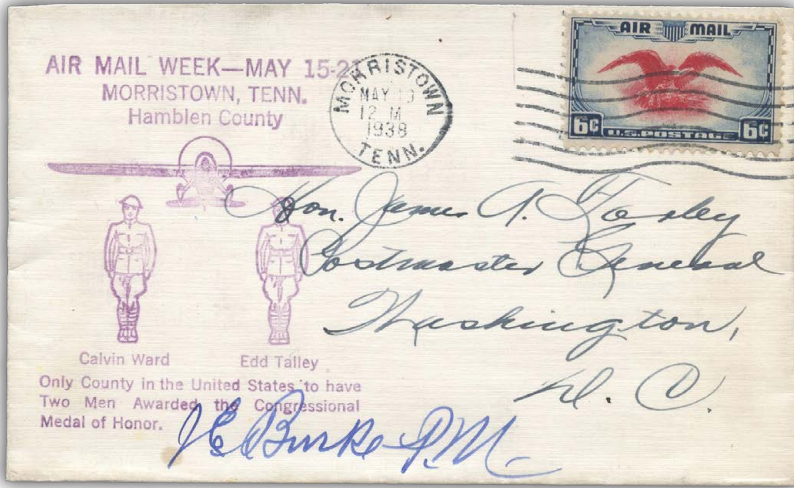


Figure 4. Postmaster-signed Farley NAMW cover from Morrystown, Tennessee.

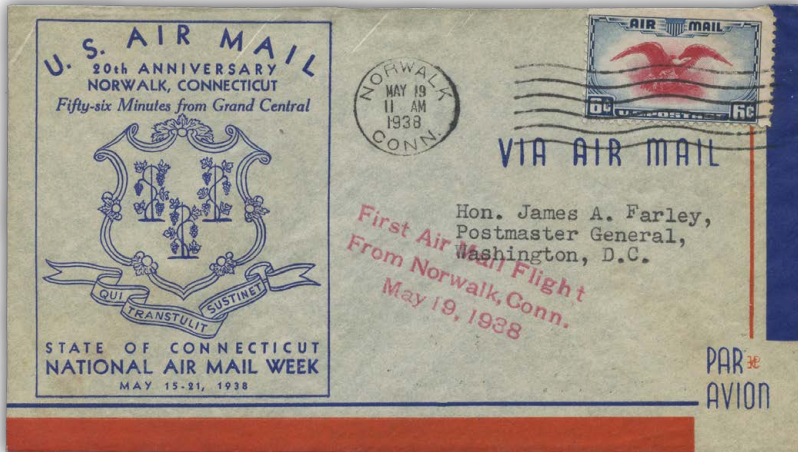


Figure 5. Farley NAMW cover from Norwalk, Connecticut.

Norwalk, as I've seen a number of others using the same design with the names of different cities and slogans substituted. This NAMW cover is rated 4+ in Drabik.

Shown in Figure 6 is another of my Farley NAMW printed cachet covers, this time from the postmaster of Waterbury, Connecticut. The cachet touts Waterbury as the "Brass Center of the World," although as stamp collectors, it's the fabulous "fancy cancels" by a much earlier Waterbury postmaster that we especially prize. This cover is rated as rarity 1+ in Drabik.

Another of my Farley NAMW covers is one sent from Bridgeport, Connecticut, on May 17, 1938. Bridgeport is the state's largest city and is often regarded as the "Industrial Capital of Connecticut." The printed cachet shows the city's seal and main post office, as seen in Figure 7.

Shown in Figure 8 is my postmaster-signed Farley NAMW cover from Hamilton, New York. The rubber-stamped cachet touts Hamilton as being on the Chenango

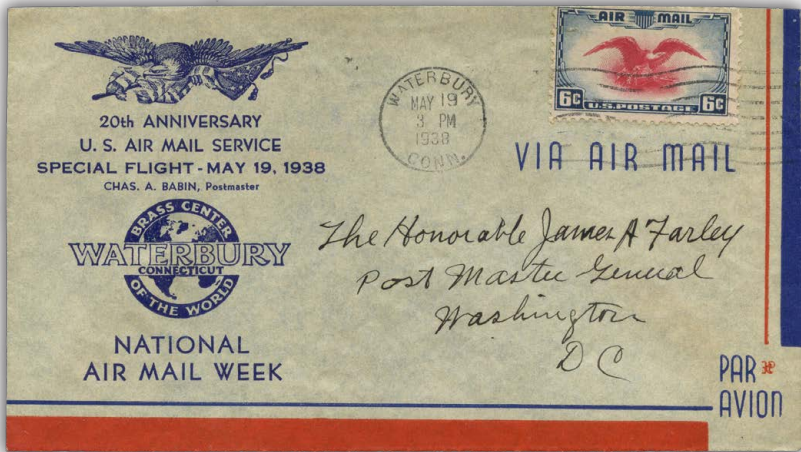


Figure 6. Farley NAMW cover from Waterbury, Connecticut.

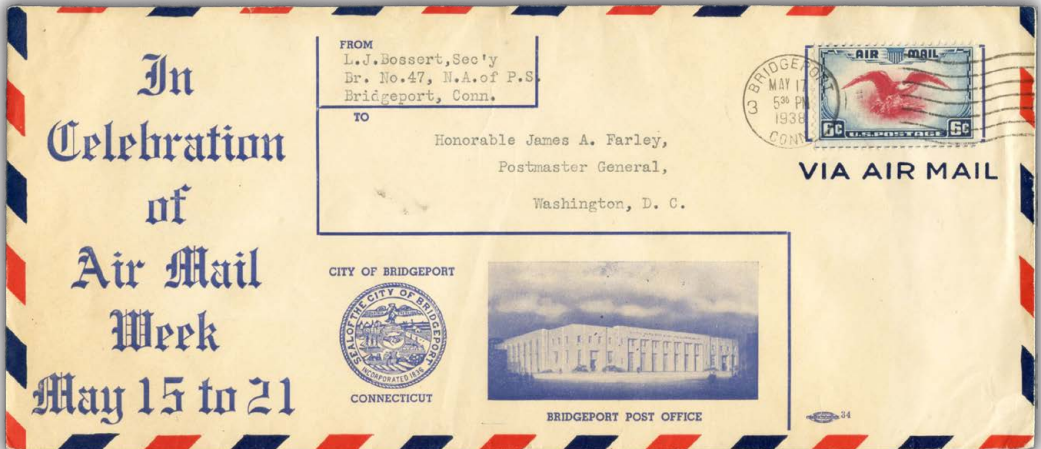


Figure 7. Farley NAMW cover from Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Trail and as the “Home of Colgate University.” An additional handstamp shows that it was sent on the “First Special Flight From Hamilton, N.Y. May 19, 1938.” At the time, the population of Hamilton was 3,618, with a Drabyk rarity factor of 2 for this cover.

I have a number of other Farley NAMW covers from New York. These include the cover sent from Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York, with a stop in Newark, New Jersey, on May 19, 1938. Shown in Figure 9, this special cover, courtesy of the Gray Envelope Mfg. Co., Inc., has a printed NAMW cachet showing the skyline of Brooklyn with an airplane. A second rubber-stamped cachet showing the Soldiers & Sailors Monument in Prospect Park has been added. The back of the envelope also touts National Air Mail Week with the slogan “SPEED is the thing! Use Air Mail.” One of the five boroughs of New York, Brooklyn’s population was 2,698,285, so not surprisingly, this cachet is relatively common with a rarity factor of 1+ in Drabyk.

My Farley NAMW cover from Watertown, New York, is shown in Figure 10. Watertown is near the Canadian border, and the rubber-stamped cachet pictures the 1000 Islands

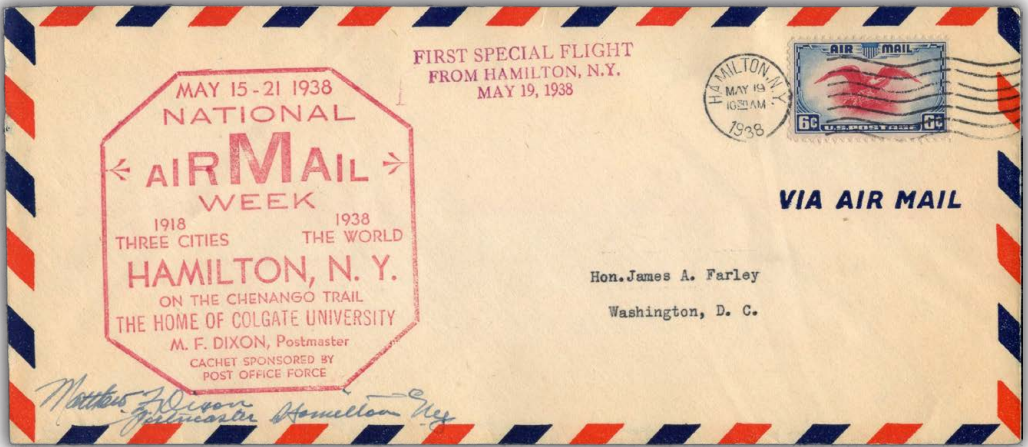


Figure 8. Postmaster-signed Farley NAMW cover from Hamilton, New York.



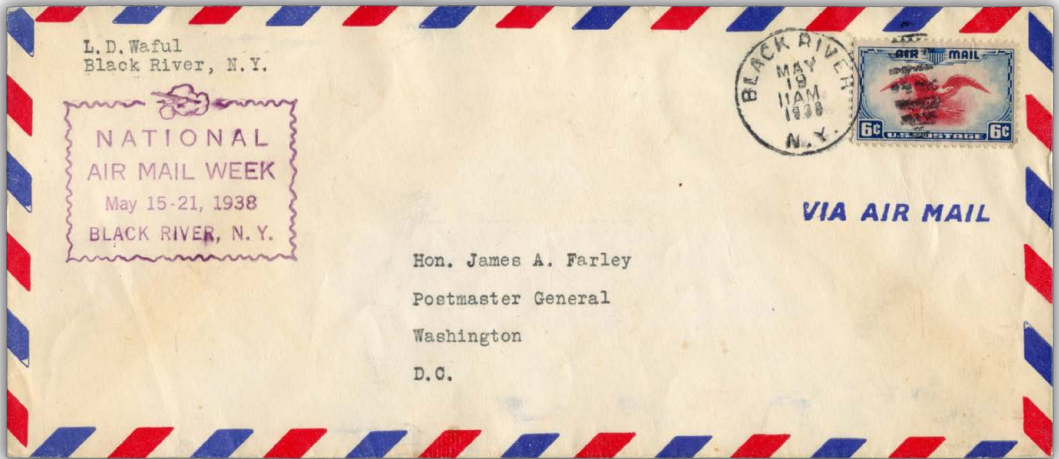
Figure 9. Farley NAMW cover from Brooklyn, New York.



Figure 10. Farley NAMW cover from Watertown, New York.

New International Bridge, which spans the St. Lawrence River and was constructed in 1937. The cachet also celebrates “100 years of Peace and Good Will” between the United States and Canada. Watertown’s population at the time was 33,385, with this cover having a Drabyk rarity rating of 2.

Next, I show my Farley NAMW cover from Black River, New York, a nearby village just east of Watertown with a population of 897. Shown in Figure 11 with a simplified NAMW cachet, this cover is rated as rarity 5 in Drabyk. Curiously, the asterisk in the Drabyk listing below suggests that my cover addressed to Farley is apparently a duplicate of the NAMW cover in the National Postal Museum’s collection.



NY209	BLACK CREEK									5+++++
NY210	BLACK RIVER*	RS	PRPL	HC	KLR	19-May	N.A.M.W.			5

Figure 11. Farley NAMW cover from Black River, New York.

A postmaster-signed NAMW cover sent to PMG Farley from Canton, New York, is shown in Figure 12. This has an unusual printed cachet in the form of a six-pointed star enclosing a nicely engraved image of the local post office. Also touted for this village of 3,018 in upstate New York is its status as the home of Silas Wright, governor of New York in 1845–46, St. Lawrence University, and the State School of Agriculture. Drabyk rates this NAMW cover as 2+.



Figure 12. Postmaster-signed Farley NAMW cover from Canton, New York.

Figure 13 shows my Farley NAMW cover from Jamaica, New York, a neighborhood in the borough of Queens. The cachet shows an early airplane in flight, celebrating Jamaica, NY as “The terminus of the first American air mail route flown by the ‘Queen Bleriot’ in 1911.” The Queen-Bleriot was an American-built aircraft based on the famous French Blériot XI monoplane, the same type used for the first flight across the English Channel in 1909. This first airmail flight was piloted by Earle Ovington on September 23, 1911. The Drabyk rating is 2.



Figure 13. Farley NAMW cover from Jamaica, New York.

My Farley NAMW cover from Ironton, Ohio, is shown in Figure 14. Ironton is located on the Ohio River and, between 1850 and 1890, was one of the world's top producers of iron, supplying the iron used to build the *USS Monitor*, the Union's Civil War iron-clad warship. However, in the 1890s as demand shifted to steel, Ironton languished. The printed NAMW cachet from the Ironton Board of Trade depicts Vesuvius Federal Park, due to open in July 1938. Named after the Vesuvius Iron Furnace, it is now known as the Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area, located in the Wayne National Forest. Ironton's population in 1940 was 15,851, and this NAMW cover is rated by Drabyk as 5+++++.

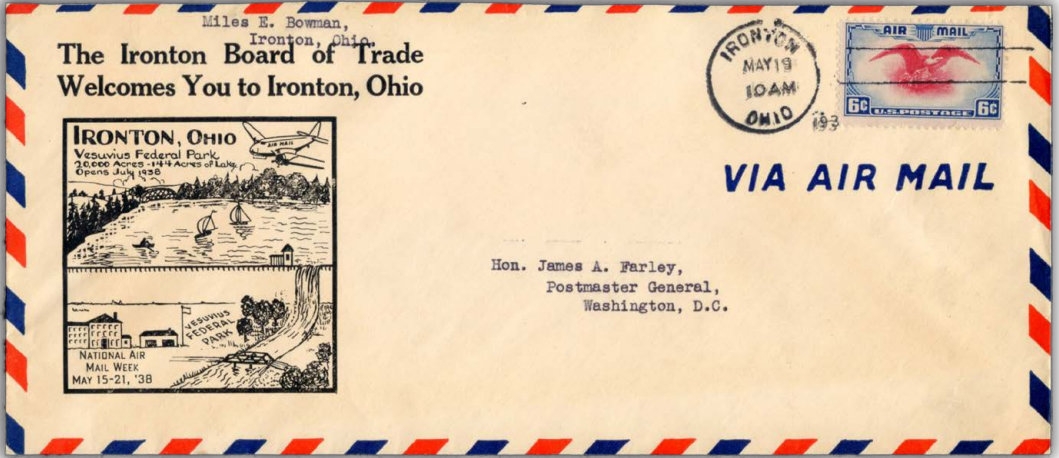


Figure 14. Farley NAMW cover from Ironton, Ohio.

Shown in Figure 15 is my Farley NAMW cover from the postmaster of Normal, Illinois, population 6,983. The printed cachet shows the new post office building dedicated March 1, 1936, presumably built by the Public Works Administration under FDR's New Deal. Also mentioned is the Illinois State Normal University, founded in 1857 as a normal



Figure 15. Farley NAMW cover from Normal, Illinois.

school for teacher-training. Normal is touted as an "Ideal Residence City of 7,000. Pure Deep Well Water. Fine Hospitals, Schools, Churches. All Civic Advantages Found in Cities of 40,000."

Shown in Figure 16 is my final example of a Farley NAMW cover, sent to him by Branch No. 4 of the National Association of Letter Carriers from Nashville, Tennessee, on May 20, 1938. The printed cachet shows "Greetings From the Air" with a photograph of the State Capitol. There is also a rubber-stamped cachet touting Nashville as "The Iris City." This NAMW cachet combination is not shown for Nashville in the Drabek catalog.

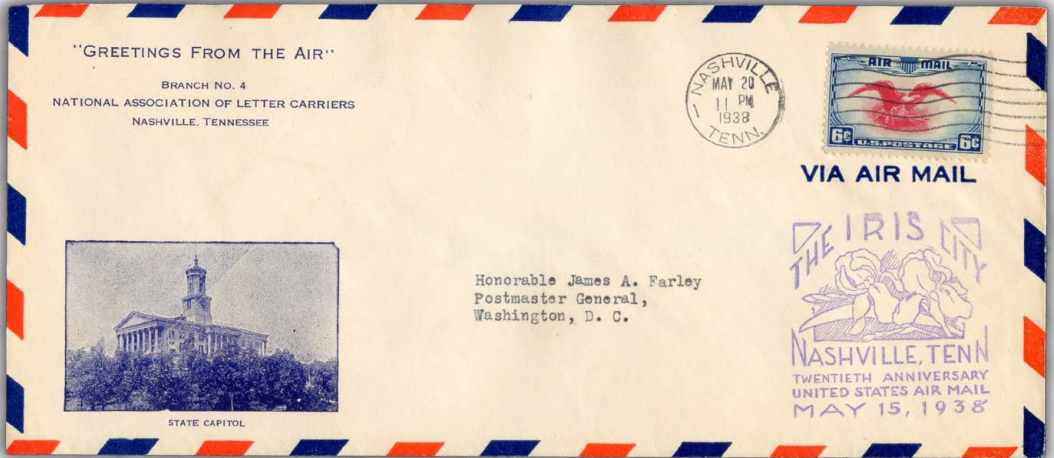


Figure 16. Farley NAMW cover from Nashville, Tennessee.

Among the substantial number of my newly acquired NAMW covers sent to FDR is the unusual postmaster-signed cover shown in Figure 17. Sent on May 15, this cover uses re-purposed official Treasury Department stationery and is signed in the corner card by



Figure 17. Postmaster-signed NAMW cover sent to FDR from Spartanburg, South Carolina.

the postmaster of Spartanburg, South Carolina. The H. R. Harmer auction backstamp clearly shows that this was retained in the President’s personal stamp collection.

Shown in Figure 18 is my NAMW cover sent to FDR from Lakeland, Florida, on May 16, 1938. This has a rubber-stamped cachet showing a view of the Civic Center, and is marked “Personal” by the sender. At the time, Lakeland had a population of 22,068.

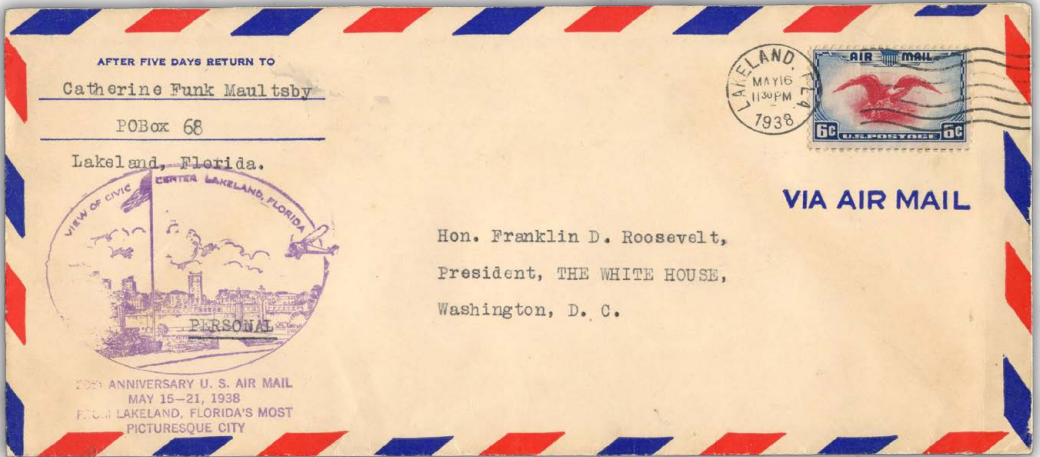


Figure 18. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Lakeland, Florida, on May 16, 1938.

Broad Brook, Connecticut, is a neighborhood in East Windsor (population 3,967). This illustrates how sometimes even very small communities within a larger entity produced their own NAMW cachets. My NAMW cover from here sent to FDR is shown in Figure 19. The cachet touts Broad Brook as being “Where the finest Broadleaf Tobacco is Grown.” Note that this NAMW cover is marked “Personal,” with a Drabyk rarity of 4.

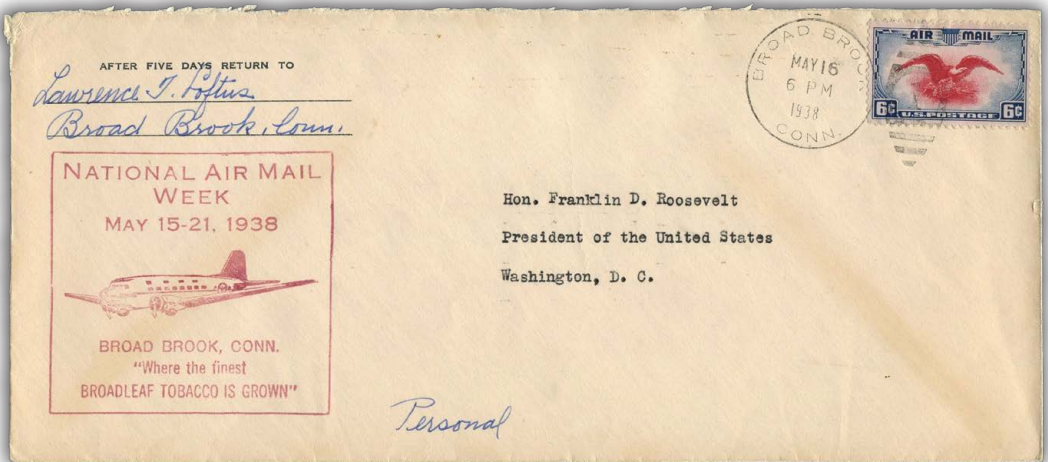


Figure 19. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Broad Brook, Connecticut, on May 16, 1938.

In Figure 20, I show my NAMW cover sent to FDR from Schuyler, Nebraska, on May 17, 1938. This has a rubber-stamped cachet showing a map of the United States that has been customized for Schuyler with the slogan “On Trans-Continental Thoroughfare Lincoln Highway-Union Pacific.” I know of many other similar NAMW “map” cachets, such as the one sent to FDR from Rushville, Nebraska, shown in Figure 15 of my NAMW Part II article.² The population of Schuyler was 2,808, and interestingly, this cover is on printed stationery of the Omaha office of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

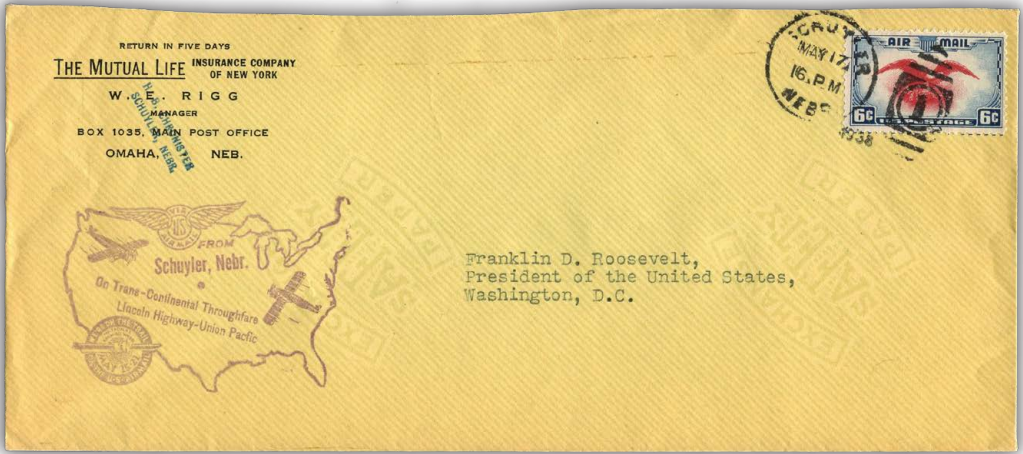


Figure 20. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Schuyler, Nebraska, on May 17, 1938.

My postmaster-signed NAMW cover sent to FDR from Visalia, California, known as the “Gateway to the Sequoias” is shown in Figure 21. This has a printed cachet showing a 1938 airplane flying over an 1851 stagecoach among giant California redwoods touted as the “Largest Trees in the World.” There are rubber stamps showing that this was included on the First Flight of airmail sent from Visalia on May 19, 1938. The cover is franked by



Figure 21. Postmaster-signed NAMW cover sent to FDR from Visalia, California.

a top margin, plate number single that shows both TOP markings along with the arrow, making it an especially attractive NAMW cover. At the time, Visalia's population was 8,904, and this cover is rated 4+ by Drabyk.

In Figure 22, I show my postmaster-signed NAMW cover sent to FDR from Santa Ana, California. Interestingly, this cover duplicates the one shown in Figure 18 of my NAMW Part III article.³ As with Farley NAMW covers, careful study indicates that duplication occurs among FDR covers, since during NAMW such covers would have been sent to both men by local postmasters, post office workers, and private citizens caught up in the enthusiasm of NAMW. I'll point out that besides the printed cachet and postmaster signature on this cover, there are additional handstamps showing this cover was carried on a special air mail flight from Santa Ana to Glendale on May 19, 1938. This combination of a printed NAMW cachet with a flight handstamp does not appear to be listed in Drabyk.

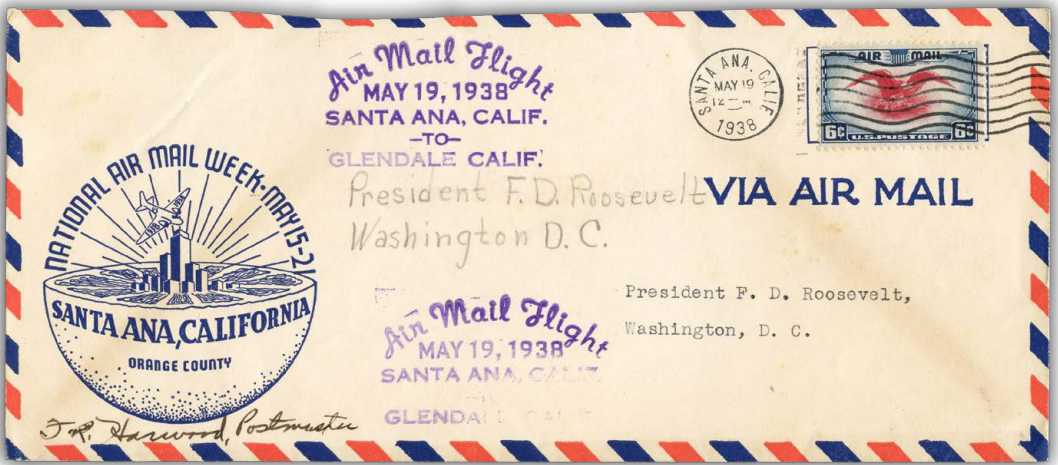


Figure 22. Postmaster-signed NAMW cover sent to FDR from Santa Ana, California.



Figure 23. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Livingston, Texas.

Shown in Figure 23 is my NAMW cover sent to FDR by the postmaster of Livingston, Texas. The nicely printed cachet highlights the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation located east of Livingston, touting it as the “Only Indian Reservation in Texas.” At the time, Livingston’s population was 1,851, and Drabyk rates this NAMW cover as 5++++.

An unusual NAMW cover sent to FDR from the local branch of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks from Meridian, Mississippi, is shown in Figure 24. The hand-stamped cachet focuses on the achievement of the Key brothers in setting a “World Endurance Flight Record” out of the Meridian airport. Fred and Al Key were aviators concerned about the likely closure of their airport and came up with a plan to generate publicity by breaking the existing flight endurance record of 23 days. At the time, air-to-air refueling was especially dangerous due to the possible ignition of spilled gasoline. With the help of a local inventor, they came up with a spill-free mid-air fueling

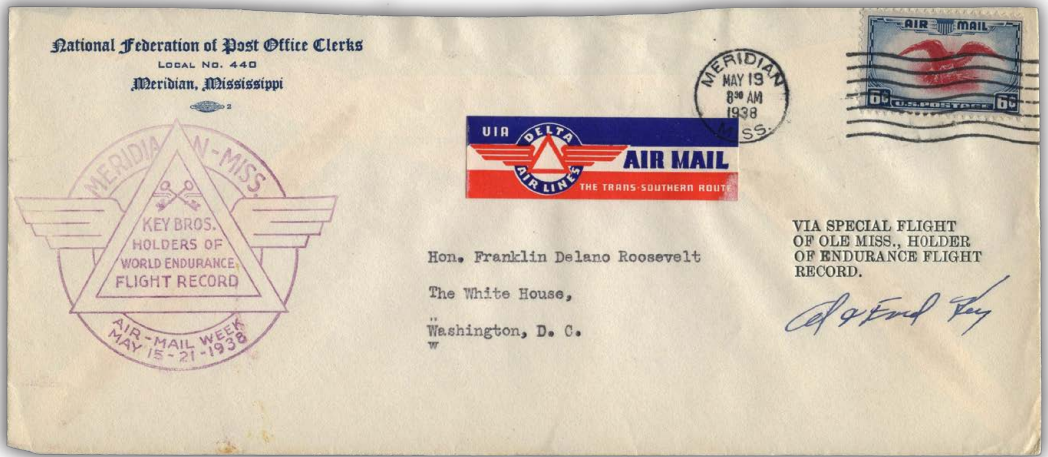


Figure 24. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Meridian, Mississippi.

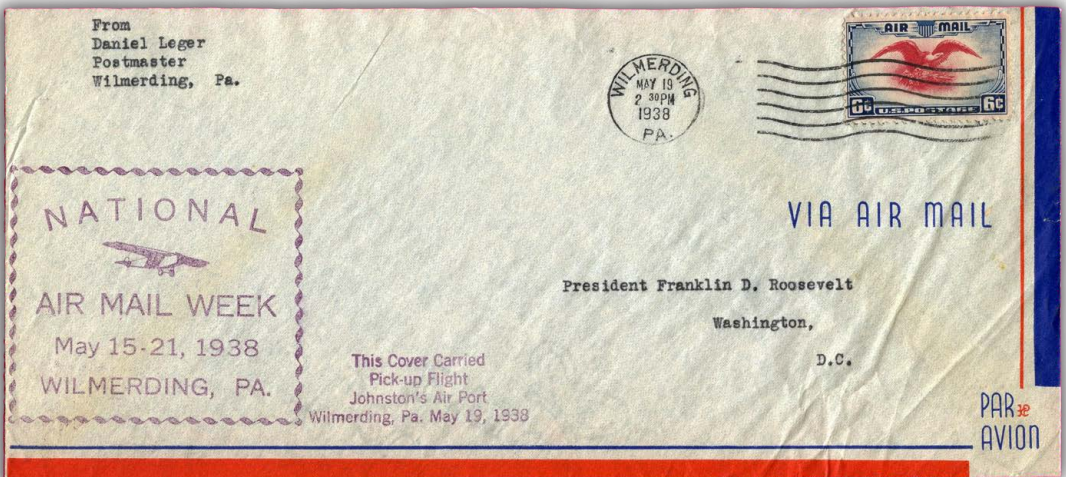


Figure 25. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Wilmerding, Pennsylvania.

scheme in which a valve on the end of a fueling nozzle was opened by a probe in the neck of the fuel tank. Using this approach, the Key brothers set a new flight endurance record of 653 hours and 34 minutes (more than 27 days) in a Curtiss Robin monoplane named *Ole Miss* in June 1935, which is now permanently displayed at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. After this historic flight, the airport in Meridian was renamed Key Field in the brothers' honor. Their mid-air refueling approach was later adopted by the US Army Air Corps, and with modifications, is still in use today. Interestingly, this NAMW cover sent to FDR appears to have been autographed by the Key brothers and has a 4++++ rating in Drabyk.

Another of my NAMW covers sent to FDR by a local postmaster, this time from Wilmerding, Pennsylvania, is shown in Figure 25. This has a relatively simple rubber-stamped NAMW cachet showing that this cover was carried by a Pick-up Flight from Johnston's Air Port on May 19, 1938. At the time, the population was 5,662, and this cover is rated as 3 in Drabyk.

Shown in Figure 26 is my cover sent to FDR from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. This has a more interesting locally designed rubber-stamped cachet showing the "First School House" in Waynesboro. First settled in the mid-1700s, this cachet apparently depicts the one-room schoolhouse built by the Bittinger family around 1814. In 1940, the population of Waynesboro was 10,231, and this NAMW cover has a Drabyk rating of 2.

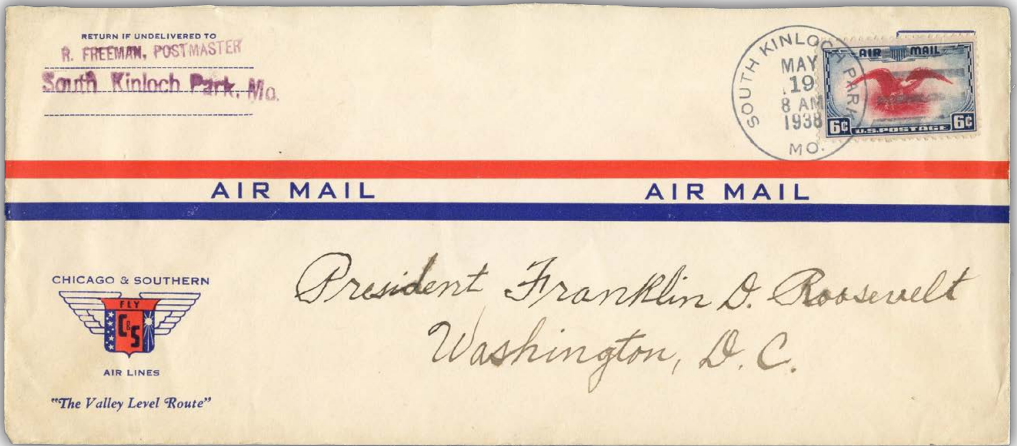


Figure 26. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

Among my NAMW covers sent to FDR by postmasters, the one from the tiny community of South Kinloch Park, Missouri, is shown in Figure 27. This is on printed airmail stationery from the Chicago & Southern Air Lines. With a slogan of "The Valley Level Route," it is rated by Drabyk as 5+++++, with the only listed example being from the PMG Farley collection at the National Postal Museum, as shown in the Drabyk listing below. This example was sent to FDR.

Another of my NAMW covers sent to FDR, this time from Bland, Missouri (population 565), is shown in Figure 28. The rubber-stamped cachet in black has the same Missouri Mule shown in the printed cachet of Figure 2, and this cachet type for Bland

is unlisted in Drabyk. Note that it is franked by an upper margin single copy of the 6c bi-color airmail stamp that clearly shows the bi-colored cross used to help ensure against inverted printing of these stamps.



MO1329	SOUTH GREENFIELD					5++++
MO1330	SOUTH					5++++
	KINLOCH PARK #10*	PLBL	RD/BLU	HC	STD	19-May CHI&SOUTHERN AIRLIN
MO1331	SOUTH RIVER					5++++

Figure 27. NAMW cover sent to FDR from South Kinloch Park, Missouri.

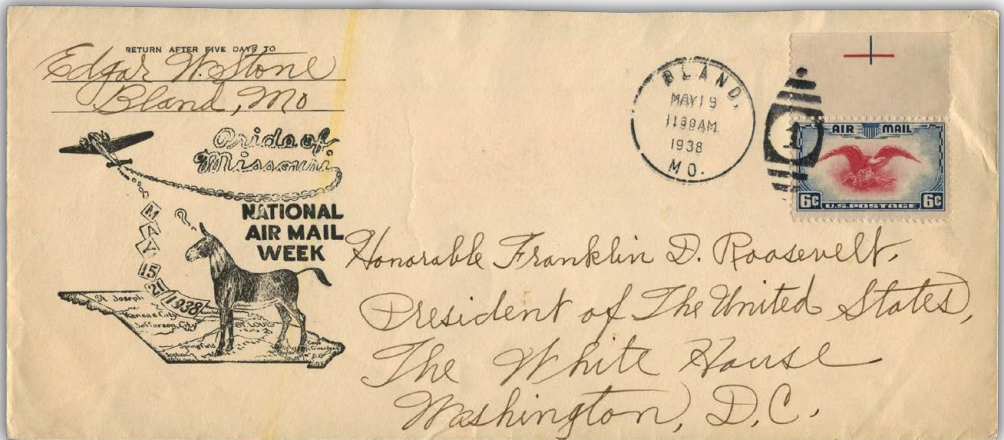


Figure 28. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Bland, Missouri.

Another of my NAMW covers sent to FDR on insurance company stationery, this time from Topeka, Kansas, is shown in Figure 29. Above the address, there is a small rubber-stamped NAMW cachet depicting an airplane flying overhead, with a dispatch rider, stage coach, steam locomotive, and ultramodern train below. Between these is the “20th Anniversary of the Air Mail” and the tiny slogan “1918 Neither Snow, nor Rain, nor Heat 1938.” This NAMW cover, marked “Personal,” is on printed stationery of

the Hussey Insurance Agency and has both a foil label and airmail etiquette attached. It has a Drabyk rating of 2.

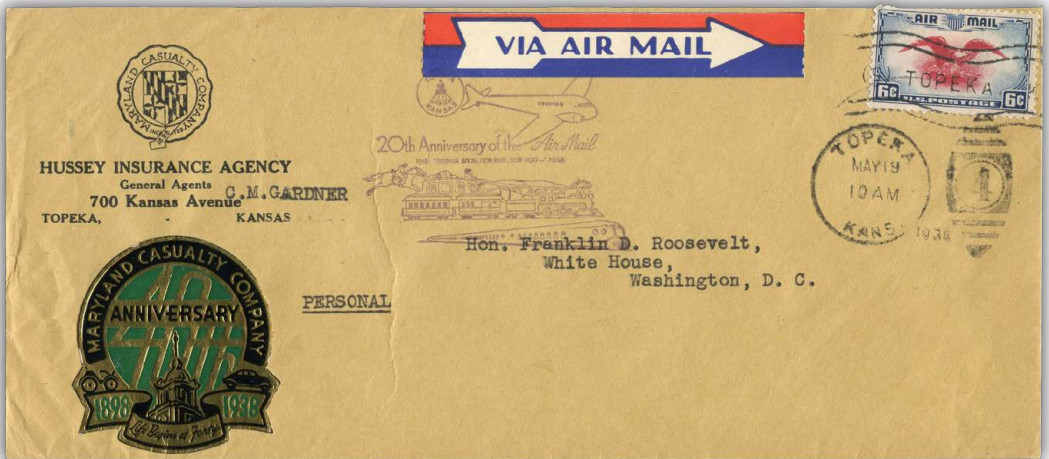


Figure 29. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Topeka, Kansas.

Shown in Figure 30 is my NAMW cover sent to FDR from East Douglas, Massachusetts. It has a sharply printed rubber-stamped cachet sponsored by John J. Quinn, the postmaster. Unlisted by Drabyk on a #10 envelope, it otherwise has a rarity rating of 5+++++. Note that this cachet is of a generic type where a small emblem and the name of a sponsor can be inserted (see for example Figure 17 in my NAMW Part II article.²) I've seen many examples of this type.

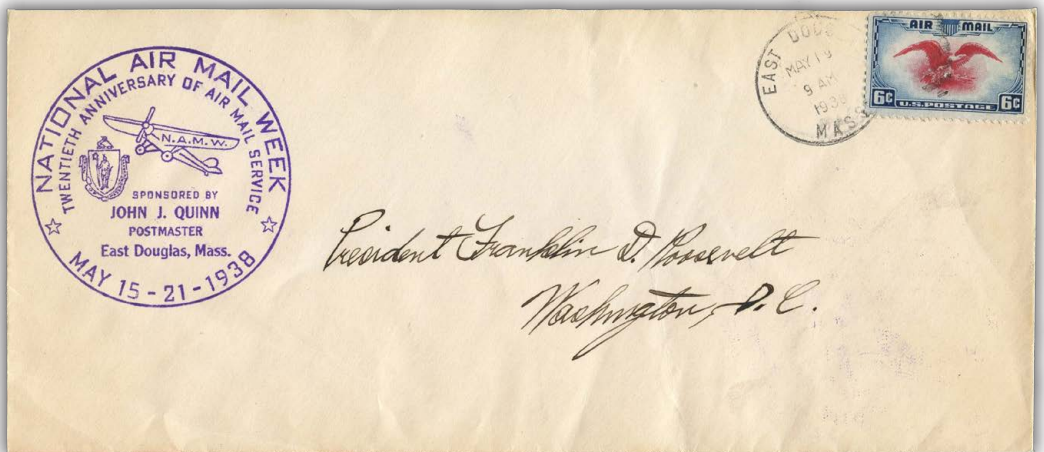


Figure 30. NAMW cover sent to FDR from East Douglas, Massachusetts.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was an especially important New Deal program, conceived of by FDR himself, and passed during the “First Hundred Days” of his presidency. It was a work-relief program for young men that provided conservation

work in National Parks, forestry, erosion control, etc., and soon became one of the most popular of all New Deal programs. Curiously, the cachet on my NAMW cover sent to FDR from Becket, Massachusetts, shown in Figure 31, was sponsored by the 120th Company of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Based in Camp S-52 located four miles west of Becket, they mainly worked in the October Mountain State Forest, the largest state forest in Massachusetts. This NAMW cover type is rated 3 by Drabyk, and in Figure 32 I show FDR visiting a CCC camp during the summer of 1933.

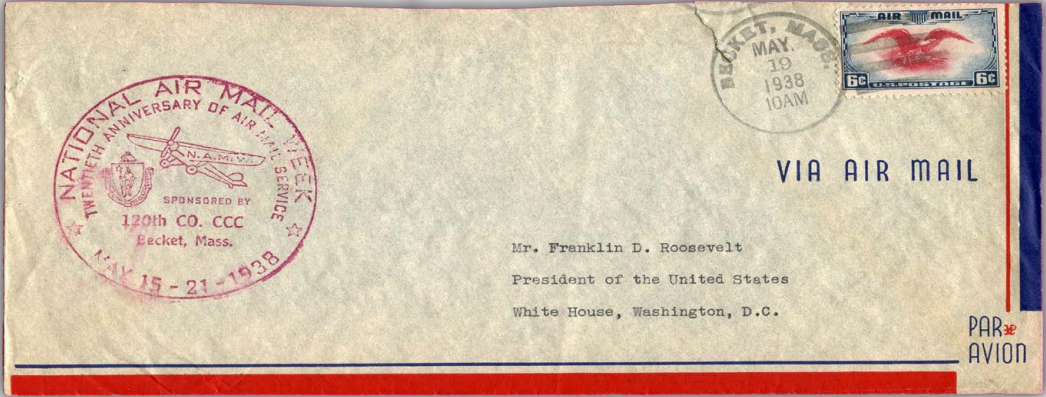


Figure 31. CCC-related NAMW cover sent to FDR from Becket, Massachusetts.



Figure 32. FDR visiting a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp in 1933.

In Figure 33, I show my NAMW cover sent to FDR on Tennessee Federation of Post Office Clerks stationery from Humboldt, Tennessee, a small city of 5,160. The locally produced cachet touts Humboldt as “Leading the South in Diversified Products” and as “Home of the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival.” Drabyk rates the rarity of this NAMW cover as 5+++++, and it is only known on #10 envelopes.

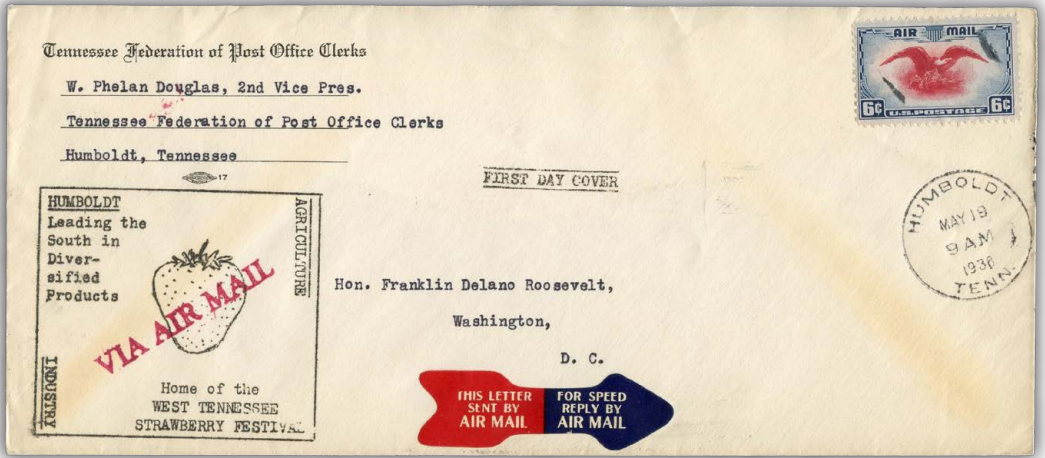


Figure 33. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Humboldt, Tennessee.

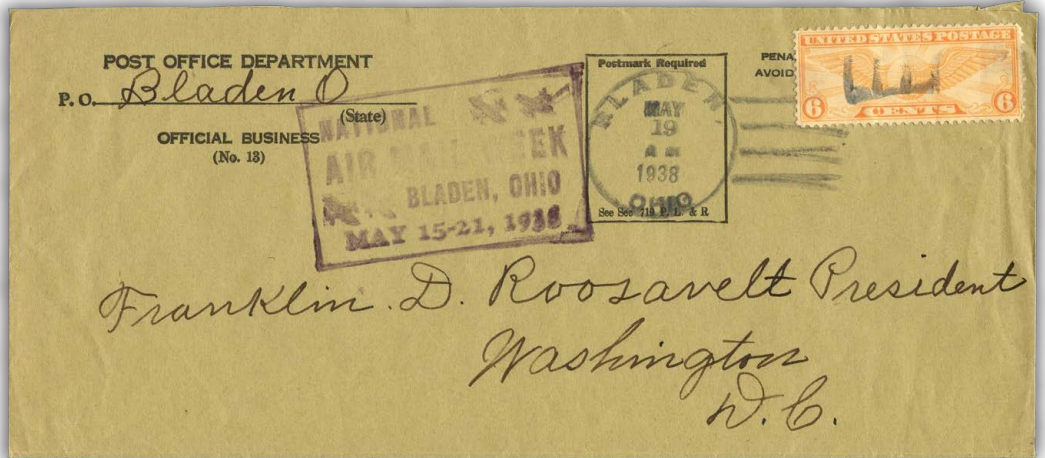


Figure 34. NAMW cover on POD stationery sent to FDR from Bladen, Ohio.



Figure 35. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Cincinnati, Ohio.

My NAMW cover sent to FDR on re-purposed official Post Office Department (POD) stationery from Bladen, Ohio, is shown in Figure 34. Note the relatively crude NAMW hand-stamped cachet, phonetic “Roosavelt” spelling, and the use of a winged globe airmail stamp. Bladen was a very small community on the Ohio River, downriver from Gallipolis.

Another of my NAMW covers sent to FDR by postal clerks, this time from Cincinnati, Ohio, is shown in Figure 35. On official Ohio Federation of Post Office Clerks stationery emblazoned with “Important:- Union News!” it has both a rubber-stamped NAMW cachet showing the dedication of the Administration Building at Cincinnati’s airport at the end of NAMW and a cachet for an American Federation of Labor-sponsored industrial exhibition at the Cincinnati Music Hall. Note that this was mailed to FDR on May 20, 1938.

In Figure 36, I show my NAMW cover sent to FDR from Johnstown, New York. On official printed stationery of the mayor of Johnstown, it bears a locally designed rubber-stamped cachet depicting the “Home of Sir William Johnson,” its colonial founder. Sir William was the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Great Britain in the colony of New York, and a major general during the Seven Years’ War in North America. Note that this was sent on the last day of NAMW, May 21, 1938. Drabek rates this as a 4, and does not list it as existing on a #10 envelope for this date.



Figure 36. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Johnstown, New York.

Finally, in Figure 37 I show what is perhaps the rarest of my cacheted NAMW covers sent to FDR. This has a simple rubber-stamped NAMW cachet and was sent to FDR from Bear Creek, Pennsylvania, on May 21, 1938. Bear Creek is a township in Luzerne County that was known for producing lumber. While Bear Creek is shown as a possible NAMW town in Drabek under PA114, no NAMW cover of any sort, even without cachet, is listed, giving it by default a rarity rating of 5++++.

Along with the numerous NAMW covers sent to Farley and FDR that I’ve shown previously, the additional examples in this article illustrate the wide variety of cachet artwork produced. Together they provide a representative sampling of the wide scope of NAMW, and when coupled with the detailed information and numerous illustrations

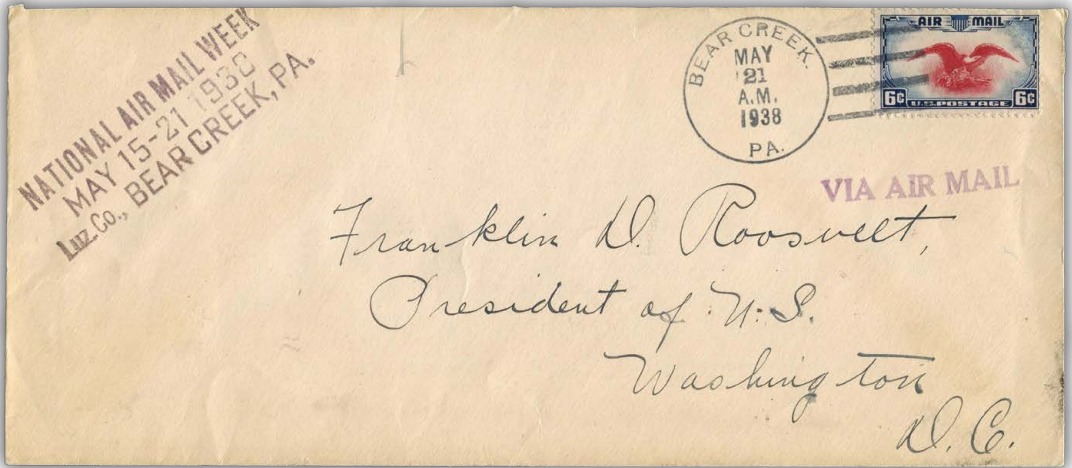


Figure 37. NAMW cover sent to FDR from Bear Creek, Pennsylvania.

in the 2012 version of the Drabek catalog⁴ provide a great resource for collectors interested in NAMW covers.

So how comprehensive is the 2012 Drabek catalog itself? To begin with, previously unlisted NAMW covers donated by PMG James A. Farley, now in the collection at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C., have been added. These come from 35 binders of NAMW material, and such Farley items are designated by an asterisk and footnote in the 2012 Drabek listings. This is a very substantial upgrade. Nonetheless, although the 2012 Drabek catalog is the most comprehensive that is available, it is clearly not complete. For example, of the 74 NAMW covers sent to FDR in my collection that I've shown in *The United States Specialist*, four are from towns that do not show any confirmed NAMW cover listings in the 2012 Drabek, even without cachet. This includes one shown in Part II from Memphis, Texas (Figure 31), that uses an advertising cachet.² There are also two shown in Part III, one from Girdletree, Maryland (Figure 4) that has a cachet from Salisbury, and another from Canoga Park (Figure 8) that uses a 1939 World's Fair cachet.³ Finally, my example from Bear Creek, Pennsylvania, shown here in Figure 37, has a simple but unique cachet. In other words, 4 of 74, or 5.4%, of my NAMW covers sent to FDR are unlisted in the 2012 version of Drabek, suggesting that, despite its excellent coverage, gaps remain and discoveries likely await the diligent collector. Note that this overview analysis does not extend to the many other varieties listed in Drabek, such as different cancellation types and dates, cachet variants, envelope sizes, or NAMW covers without cachets. This additional level of detail offers further layers of complexity for the specialist collector.

Finally, with the slogan "Receive Tomorrow's Mail Today," National Air Mail Week was a great success, with more than 16.2 million items being sent during the week of May 15–21, 1938. Perhaps more importantly, this resulted in an outpouring of authentic Americana in the form of cachet artwork that celebrated local attractions, products, and historical events linked to the numerous cities and towns participating in NAMW. This provides collectors today with fascinating mementos of a bygone era.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank fellow United States Stamp Society members Dalton Hoffman for sending me NAMW material and David DuBois for kindly providing much help with the 2012 Drabek catalog.

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2. Paul M. Holland, "1938 Bi-Color Airmail Stamp: FDR, Farley and National Air Mail Week, Part II," *The United States Specialist*, 95, no. 4 (April 2024): 170–188.
3. Paul M. Holland, "1938 Bi-Color Airmail Stamp: FDR, Farley and National Air Mail Week, Part III," *The United States Specialist*, 96, no. 5 (May 2025): 218–235.
4. Jon E. Drabek, ed. and comp., *National Air Mail Week May 15–21, 1938* (Piscataway, NJ: National Air Mail Week Historical Society, 2012), DVD.



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The Great Americans

Great Americans Issue Part XXV— Aerogramme Rates

by Jay Stotts

USSS #10921 | ✉ stottsjd@swbell.net



Figure 1. Walter Lippmann stamp applied to meet the new 45¢ aerogramme rate.

Aerogrammes are a form of airmail communication that is classified at lower postage rates than airmail letters. Aerogrammes evolved after World War II. They are typically all-inclusive, using a lightweight paper on which the sender writes a letter, then folds and seals it along the edges with gum. US government-produced aerogrammes during the Great Americans (GA) era also included a printed indicium (imprinted stamp) indicating the amount of postage required to meet the current aerogramme rate.

The mailing cost for aerogrammes was somewhat lower than that for an international letter, making them a popular alternative. For instance, in 1981, at the inception of the GA Series, the international airmail letter rate was 35¢ per half ounce to Western Hemisphere destinations or 40¢ for the same weight to the rest of the world, but an aerogramme to either cost only 30¢. Aerogrammes could not contain anything other than the sender's written message and any added postage.

Incremental Rate Changes

So, if the indicium, or imprinted stamp, provided the equivalent of the postage fee on aerogrammes, where is the tie-in for the Great Americans stamps?

As with other forms of postal communication, the Postal Service occasionally increased postage rates, and aerogrammes were no exception. Multiple times during the run of the Great Americans Series, the aerogramme rate was increased by a few cents, and GA stamps became convenient add-on frankings to uprate an aerogramme to a new rate.

Table 1 lists the aerogramme rates for the period, as well as the incremental changes each time the rate increased. Also included are the Great Americans values available to meet the incremental rate increases. If you compare the incremental increases in the aerogramme rates with the GA stamps available to meet those needs, it is clear that the United States Postal Service was not focused on providing GA low values just to meet those needs.

But we are collectors, so it is enjoyable to search for Great Americans used to fulfill such a need. Figure 1 shows a 6¢ Walter Lippmann stamp applied to meet the incremental aerogramme rate increase to 45¢, effective in February 1991. The 39¢ aerogramme shown is Scott UC61.

Figure 2 shows an earlier opportunity when a Lippmann stamp would have

Start of Rate Period	Aerogramme Rate	Incremental Increase
In Effect	22¢	N/A
1 Jan. 1981	30¢	8¢
17 Feb. 1985	36¢	6¢ Walter Lippmann
3 Apr. 1988	39¢	3¢ Henry Clay Dr. Paul D. White
3 Feb. 1991	45¢	6¢ Walter Lippmann
9 July 1995	50¢	5¢ Muñoz Marín
30 May 1999	60¢	10¢ Red Cloud

Table 1. Aerogramme rates.



Figure 2. Stravinsky and Schurz stamps were used to up-frank the 30¢ Olympics aerogramme.

covered the 6¢ rate increase in 1985, when the aerogramme fee went from 30¢ to 36¢, but in this case, the sender used a combination of two other Great Americans stamps to pay the increase. The base aerogramme is Scott UC57.

There were two convenient choices in 1988 when a new 39¢ aerogramme rate superseded the 36¢ Halley's Comet aerogramme (Scott UC60). The mailer of the aerogramme shown in Figure 3 chose to use a 3¢ Henry Clay stamp instead of a 3¢ Dr. Paul Dudley White stamp to pay the increase.

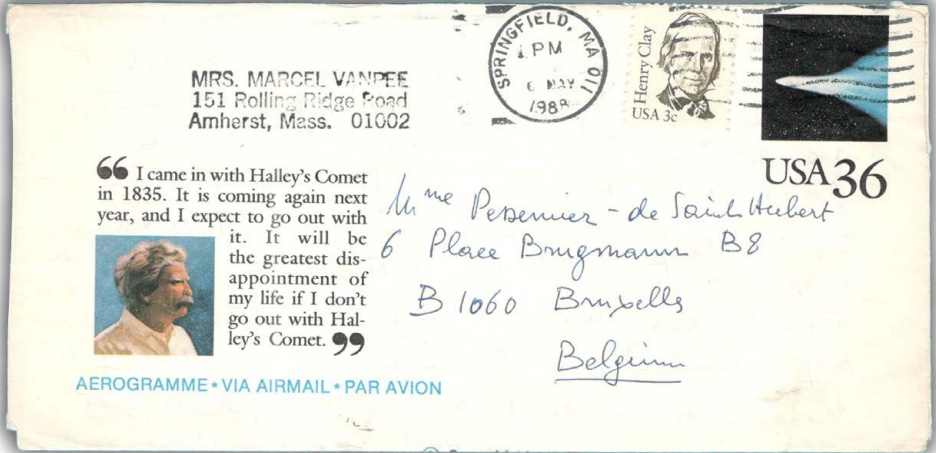


Figure 3. Henry Clay stamp was the choice to update this aerogramme to the 39¢ rate.

Of course, sometimes mailers had aerogrammes that were more than one rate increase out of date. Figure 4 shows an example where the mailer used a 30¢ aerogramme (Scott UC54, circa 1981), but posted it in 1994 when the rate had increased to 45¢. The sender used a 15¢ Cody stamp to pay the increase.

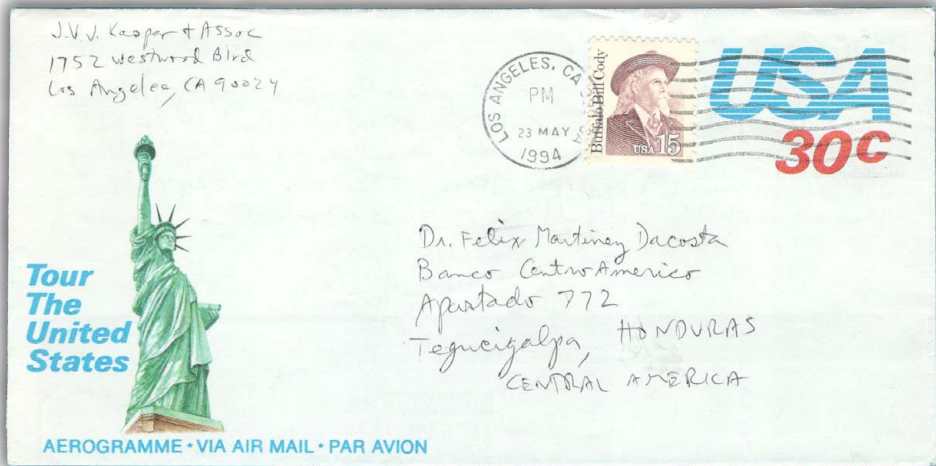


Figure 4. Cody stamp paid the 15¢ difference between the 30¢ and 45¢ aerogramme rates.

Commercially Printed Aerogrammes

Although most stamp collectors are familiar with government-printed aerogrammes, the private sector also printed and distributed aerogrammes, or “air letter” sheets. Since these aerogrammes were privately issued, they could not include an indicium to represent postage being prepaid. In such cases, the entire fee had to be paid by affixed postage.

Figure 5 shows an example. In this case, the aerogramme was distributed by Pan Am Airlines. The item was posted on October 29, 1985, to the Maldive Islands. At the time, the aerogramme rate was 36¢. To meet the rate, a 22¢ seashell definitive was combined with Clay and Partridge GA stamps for 36¢ in postage.



Figure 5. Privately printed and distributed aerogramme requiring 36¢ postage.

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The Overrun Countries Series

Margin Name Varieties on the Luxembourg Overrun Countries Stamps

by **Keith Lichtman**

USSS # 14279 | ✉ stampmankeith@gmail.com



The Overrun Countries series was printed under contract by the American Bank Note Company. Instead of using a plate number, each pane was printed with the name of the honored nation in the pane's top right margin. The Luxembourg stamp was printed in a sheet of 200 with the Netherlands stamp, the top two panes of 50 with the Luxembourg stamps and the bottom two panes of 50 with the Netherlands.

Most of the stamps in this series have the margin names in shades of black to light gray. The Luxembourg stamps appear as a shade of gray that resembles the slate-blue frame around the flag, but under magnification, they are black. It is surprisingly consistent throughout the run.

On the Luxembourg stamps, some of the margin names will have splatters of the blue ink that is used in the flag through some of the letters. None of the splatters are a plate variety; they are just a freak or oddity. See Figure 1 for an example.

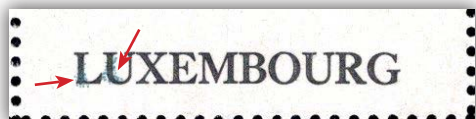


Figure 1. Splatters on the "L" and "U".

In order to identify any of the plate varieties, you must identify the type of “L” used. See Figure 2.

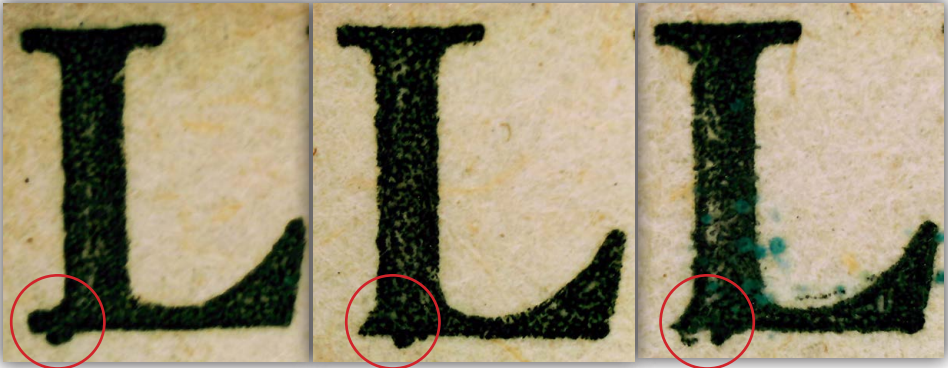


Figure 2. Types of the “L”: Left, Type L1, long left serif, one nub; Center, Type L2, short left serif, one nub; Right, Type L3, short left serif, two nubs.

Type L1 has the lower left serif long and rounded with a nub protruding under the L, closer to the left side of the vertical line. Type L2 has the lower left serif short and pointed with the nub closer to the center of the vertical line. Type L3 is similar to Type L2 but with an extra nub below the pointed serif.

There are five plate varieties found on Luxembourg.

Type 1 has a long L with one nub. The U and X are touching at the top. Found on upper right panes.

Type 2 has a short L with one nub. Found on upper left panes.

Type 2a has a short L with one nub. The U and X are touching at the top. Found on upper left panes.

Type 2b has a short L with one nub. The U and X are touching at the top and the X and E are touching at the bottom. Found on upper left panes.

Type 3 has a short L with two nubs. The U and X are touching at the top and the X and E are touching at the bottom. Found on upper left panes.

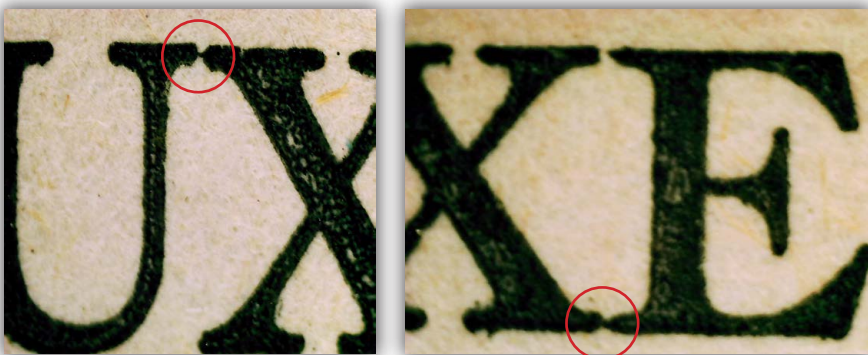


Figure 3. Left, U and X attached at top; Right, X and E attached at bottom.



Plate Number Report

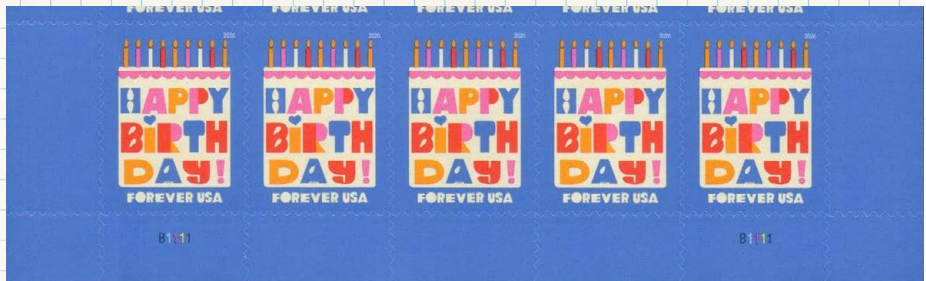
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▲ #483 3¢ Washington Coil
 Schermack III
 7272



▲ #???? Figures of the American Revolution
 B1111 † † LL LR
 2r x 2c 1,2,3,4*



▲ #???? Happy Birthday
 B1111 UL UR LL LR
 2r x 4c 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8*



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17669	Chip Reahard, Williamson, GA	ADDITIONS:	
17670	Robert Walto, South Plainfield, NJ	New members	6
	APPLICATIONS PENDING	Total	+6
17660-17665			
	NEW MEMBERS	SUBTRACTIONS:	
17654-17659		Resigned	1
		Deceased	3
		Total	-4
	RESIGNED	NET CHANGE	+2
17057	Richard Drews		
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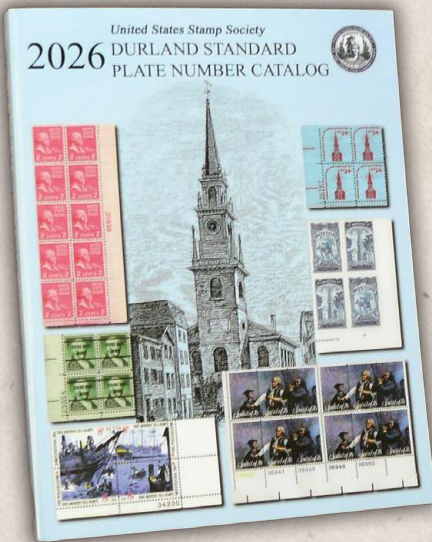
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