

Palm Beach Stamp Club Newsletter



June 2025

There is a good reason June is so popular for weddings. In addition to nearly perfect weather, the month of June is considered auspicious for weddings because it is named after Juno, the Roman Goddess of marriage, home, and family.

June 6th marks the 81st anniversary of D-Day, the Allied invasion at Normandy, France; June 14th is Flag Day, commemorating the adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777; June 15th is Father's Day - a day celebrated each year on the third Sunday in June to honor one's father, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. Be sure to remember Dad on June 15th; and finally, we celebrate Summer Solstice on June 20th, the first day of summer and longest daylight of the year.

Regards, Michael Swope

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US Scott #4867

**Meetings: 1:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays**

**Mid-County Senior Center
3680 Lake Worth Road
Lake Worth, Florida 33461**

www.palmbeachstamp.club

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June 2025

Virtual Philately
@ THE HUB



The Hub @ Stamp School, part of the upcoming Stamp School platform, is a free online community that engages collectors from across the globe with expert insights and engaging discussions, creating a vibrant, inclusive space to connect and contribute to the future of the hobby. Whether you're an experienced collector or just starting out, The Hub @ Stamp School is the place to be! The APS Education Department is now accepting applications from philatelists ready to seize this opportunity and help shape this groundbreaking platform.

President Richard Kaye made a power-point presentation, "The Joy of Stamp Collecting" on May 10th at the Palm Beach County Library, Lantana Branch. Richard said the presentation went well with both adults and youngsters. Hopefully the club will receive new membership requests.

Our May 13th meeting featured a presentation by Keith Lichtman on preserving postal history covers and Dan Maddalino discussed first flight covers at our May 27th meeting. Club members are urged to share their philatelic interests at meetings.

The Embassy Suites Hotel at 1601 Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach, 33406, has been selected as the venue for our club's Fall stamp show on Saturday, November 1, 2025. See the show flyer on the club website.

Thanks to Mike Rogers for donating stamps in a "club lot" for our May 27th auction. Finally, please welcome new club member Louis Conter to our ranks.



June 7th, Florida Stamps Dealers Association, Orlando Summer Stamp Show at the Maitland Civic Center, Saturday, 10:00 – 3:30. 641 Maitland Avenue South, Maitland 32751.

June 8th, Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show at the Azan Shrine Center, Sunday 9:30-3:00. Melbourne, 32935.

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Oscar the Grouch

Pat Hensley

June 1st is Oscar the Grouch Day. If you were around in the 70s, like I was, you would have heard about Oscar the Grouch.

In 2019, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sesame Street, the United States Postal Service released a special set of Forever stamps featuring 16 beloved characters from the show. One of these stamps showcased Oscar the Grouch, the grumpy green Muppet who lives in a trash can. The stamp was designed by art director Derry Noyes using a photograph of Oscar. It was officially released on June 22, 2019, during a ceremony in Detroit, Michigan, as part of the "Sesame Street Road Trip"—a celebration event held in 10 cities across the U.S.



The Oscar the Grouch stamp was part of a pane of 16 stamps, each featuring a different character from Sesame Street, such as Big Bird, Elmo, and Cookie Monster. These stamps were issued as Forever stamps. A total of 62 million of these stamps were printed by Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. The back of the stamp pane displayed special artwork celebrating the show's 50th anniversary.

Oscar the Grouch is a fuzzy green character from the children's TV show Sesame Street. He lives in a trash can and loves everything dirty, messy, and smelly! Unlike most of the friendly characters on the show, Oscar is grumpy and enjoys complaining. But even though he seems mean, Oscar teaches kids that it's okay to have different feelings and that everyone is unique in their own way. He even has a pet worm named "Slimey" and lots of strange things in his trash can home.

Oscar was first seen on Sesame Street when the show started in 1969. He was originally orange, but he later became green. He was created by Jim Henson and played by puppeteer Caroll Spinney for many years. Even though Oscar doesn't like being happy, he's an important part of Sesame Street because he helps show that people can be different and still be part of a community. He's grouchy, but deep down, he has a big heart!

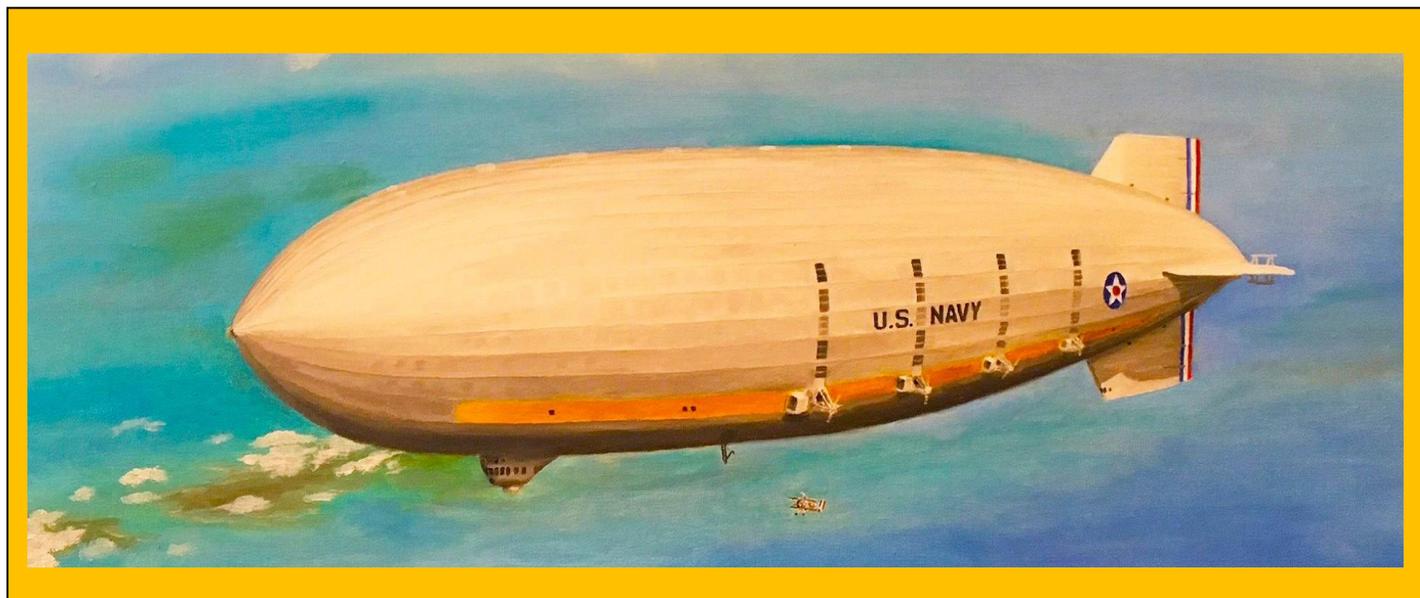
References:

- United States Postal Service. (2019). *Sesame Street Celebrates 50 Years*;
- Mystic Stamp Company. (n.d.). *5394g - 2019 First-Class Forever Stamp - Sesame Street: Oscar the Grouch*.
- United States Postal Service. (2019). *Stamp Services*.
- Sesame Workshop. (n.d.). *Oscar the Grouch*. <https://www.sesamestreet.org>
- Gikow, Louise. *Sesame Street: A Celebration - 40 Years of Life on the Street*. Black Dog & Leventhal, 2009.

USS Macon, *Last of the Navy's Dirigibles* – Part IV

Keith Lichtman

The purpose of this fourth and final article on the *U.S.S. Macon* is to document its missions through philatelic covers from November, 1934 to February, 1935.



The *Macon's* twenty-seventh flight occurred on November 5th, 1934. She left Moffett Field to welcome the fleet back to the Pacific Coast. She caught up to the fleet on November 8th and began training maneuvers. The next day, November 9th, *Macon* lead the fleet of 96 U.S. ships into Los Angeles Harbor (Cover #1). During this deployment twenty-four California cities, two naval bases, twenty U.S. Navy ships, and Tia Juana, Mexico, issued commemorative cachet covers marking her passage overhead.

Macon's next flight occurred on November 12th, when she left Moffett Field heading to Oakland, California to participate in the Armistice Day Parade. Twenty-one cities commemorated her journey. (Cover #2). The next *Macon* training flight left Moffett Field on November 20th and returned on November 22nd. *Macon* passed over forty California cities and six Navy ships that commemorated her journey. (Cover #3).

Mellone's Photo Encyclopedia of U.S.S. Akron & Macon Event Covers lists three cities on November 23rd and one city on November 24th that issued cachet covers honoring her passing overhead, but I cannot find any mention of her leaving or returning to Moffett Field.

On December 2nd, 1934, *Macon* departed on her thirtieth maneuvers flight with the fleet. On December 7th, she began escort duty of the fleet's 85 ships back to San Francisco Harbor and arrived at Moffett Field on December 8th. (Cover #4).

On December 17th, 1934, *Macon* made her thirty-first flight, escorting the fleet to San Francisco Bay and participating in National Aviation Day. As *Macon* cruised over the Golden Gate, she was joined by her Sparrowhawk Planes*, also known as Pennsy Planes. *Macon* returned to Moffett Field the next day. (Cover #6).

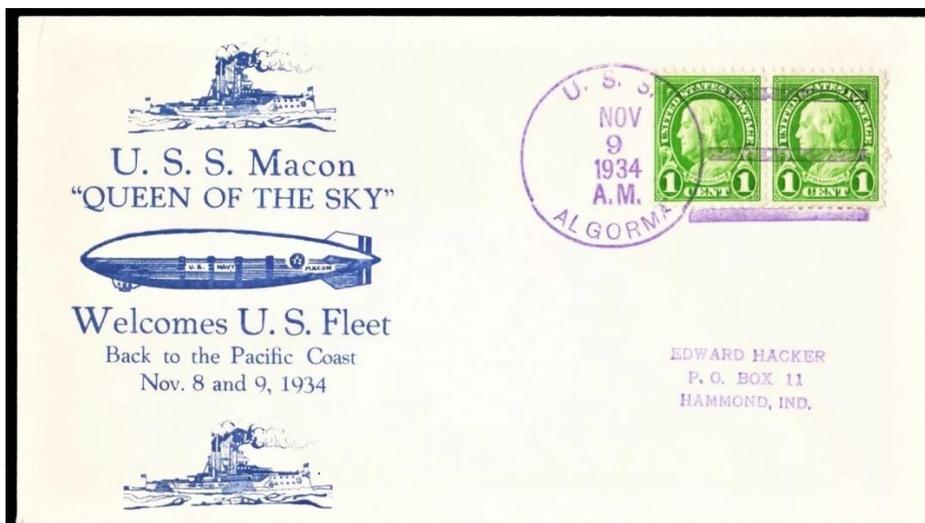
The *Macon* does not fly again until January 2nd, 1935, a 48-hour training cruise and rendezvous with the *USS Saratoga*, to test *Macon's* visibility from surface ships. Moffett Field commemorated *Macon's* early return on January 3rd. (Cover #7 & 8).

Macon's second flight of the new year occurred on January 15th, leaving Moffett Field in the morning for another training flight and fleet maneuvers off the coast of California. *Macon* returned to Moffett Field the next morning. (Cover #9).

On January 31st, *Macon* departed from Moffett Field on her thirty-fourth mission. *Macon's* training flight included testing a new beacon guide, maneuvers and gunnery practice, returning to Moffett on February 2nd. (Cover #10).

On February 11th, 1935, *Macon* set off for the last time from Moffett Field for maneuvers with the fleet. (Cover #11 & 12). The next day she encountered storm winds off Point Sur, Monterey County, California. A crosswind struck the ship with such force that previously sustained, un-repaired damage from the April transcontinental crossing, severed the upper tailfin of the ship. Pieces of the tailfin punctured the rear gas cells and the crew tried for 45 minutes to regain control of the ship without success. An SOS was radioed and the fleet responded. *Macon* came down gently into the sea, losing two of its 83 crew members. Survivors were rescued by the U.S.S. ships *Richmond*, *Concord*, and *Cincinnati*. (Cover #13).

Memorial covers were produced by many of the cities that *Macon* had overflown. Navy ships also produced memorial covers, some issued multiple designs. (Cover #14). An investigation into the crash determined that the fault belonged to the Navy for its refusal to repair the *Macon's* tail damage before it was sent out on maneuvers.



Cover #1

Two, Scott #632, regular issue, 1c Franklin postage stamps.
Cancelled on board the *USS Algorma* on November 9, 1934.



Cover #2

Two, Scott #739, Wisconsin Tercentenary issue, 3¢ postage stamps. Cancelled at Alameda, California on November 12, 1934.



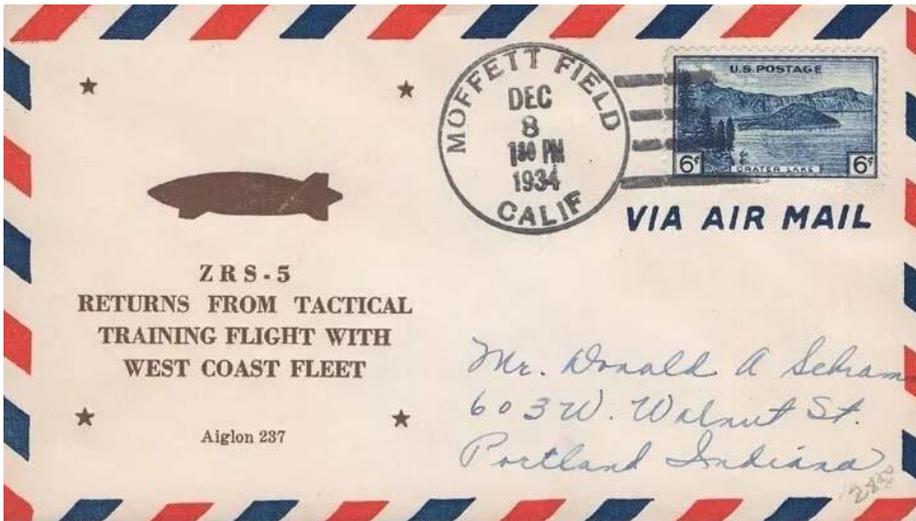
Cover #3

Two, Scott #733, Byrd Antarctic issue, 3¢ Postage stamps. Cancelled on board the *USS Portland*, November 21, 1934.



Cover #4

Scott #C19, Winged Globe, 6¢ postage stamp. Cancelled at Sunnyvale, California on December 2, 1934.



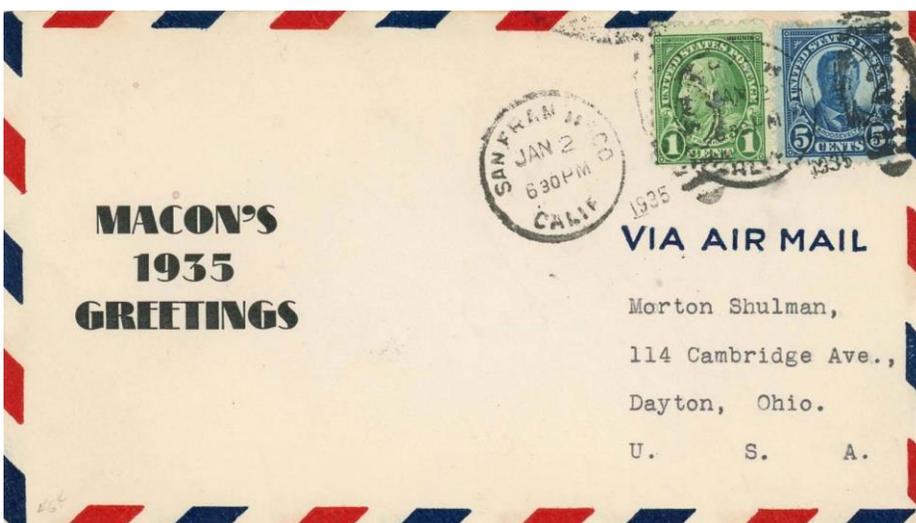
Cover #5

Scott #745, National Parks - Crater Lake, 6¢ postage stamp.
Cancelled at Moffett Field, California on December 8, 1934.



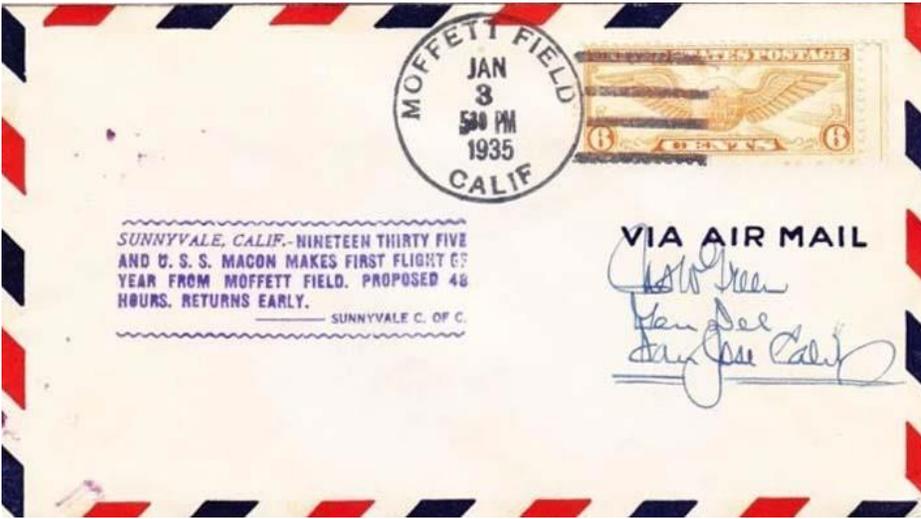
Cover #6

Scott #C12, Winged Globe, 5¢ postage stamp, w/ Scott #728, Century of Progress issue, Fort Dearborn, 1¢ postage stamp.
Cancelled on board the USS Pennsylvania, December 17, 1934.



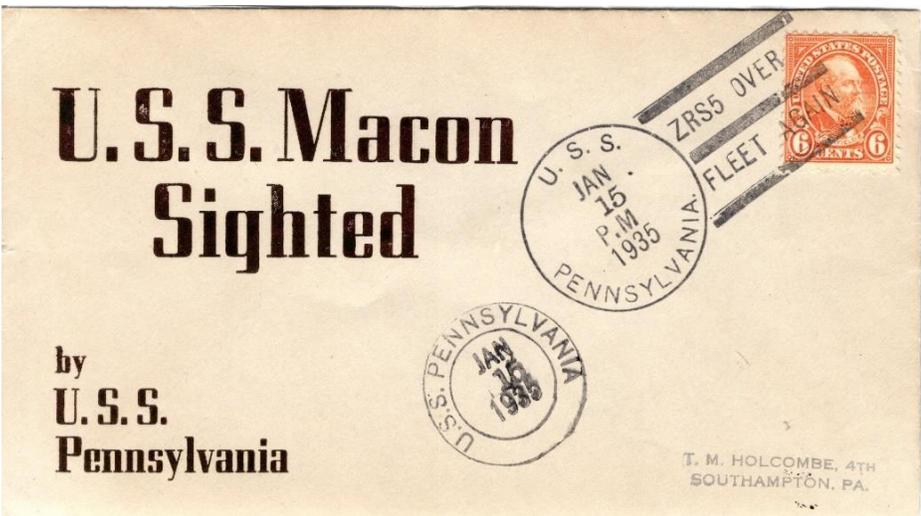
Cover #7

Scott #637, regular issue, Theodore Roosevelt, 5¢ postage stamp, w/ Scott #632, regular issue, Franklin 1¢ postage stamp.
Cancelled at San Francisco, California on January 2, 1935.



Cover #8

Scott #C19, Winged Globe, 6¢ postage stamp.
Cancelled at Moffett Field, California on January 3, 1935.



Cover #9

Scott #638, regular issue, James Garfield 6¢ postage stamp.
Cancelled on board the *USS Pennsylvania* on January 15, 1935.



Cover #10

Two, Scott #727, Peace of 1783 issue, Washington's Headquarters, 3¢ postage stamps.
Cancelled at Sunnyvale, California on January 31, 1935.



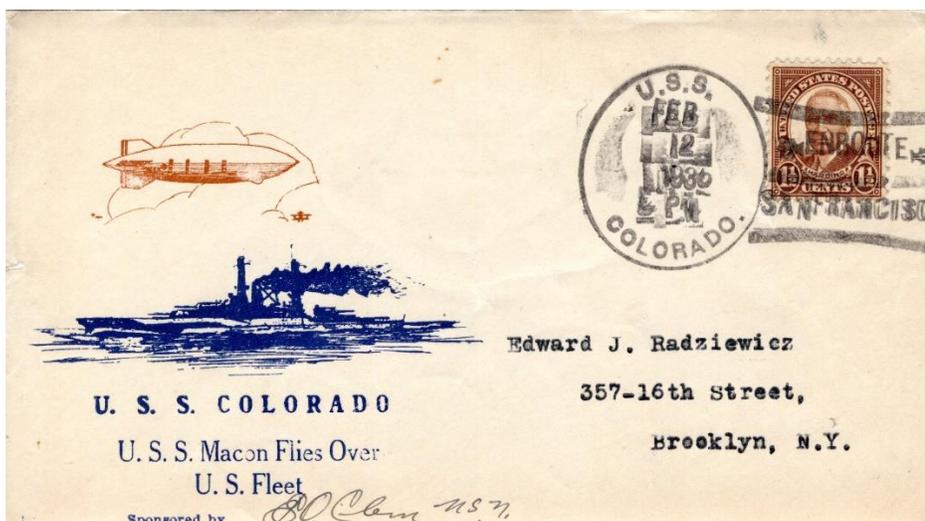
Cover #11

Two, Scott #729, Century of Progress issue, Federal Building, 3¢ postage stamps.
Cancelled at Moffett Field, California on February 11, 1935



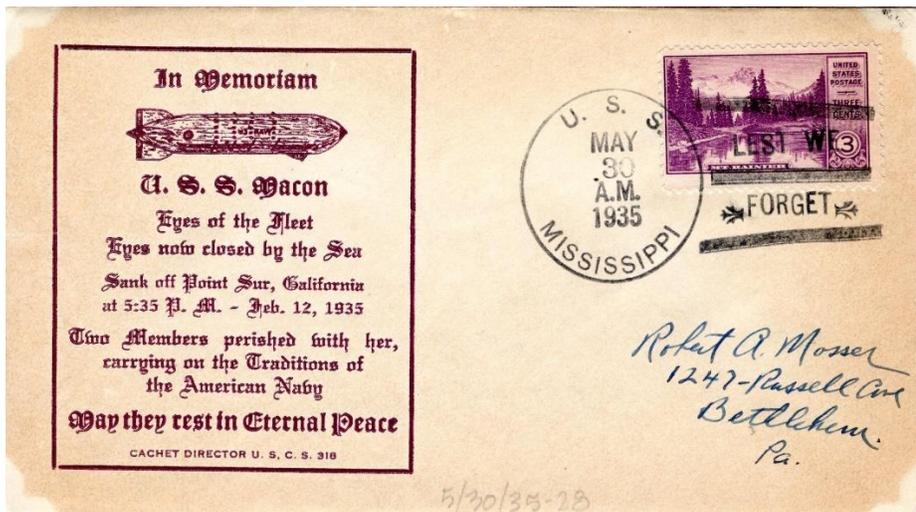
Cover #12

Scott #741, National Parks issue, Grand Canyon, 2¢ postage stamp, w/ Scott #740, National Parks issue, Yosemite – El Capitan, 1¢ postage stamp.
Dual Cancellations on board the *USS Northampton* on February 12, 1935, at sinking of the *USS Macon*.



Cover #13

Scott #684, regular issue, Warren Harding, 1½¢ postage stamp.
Cancelled on board the *USS Colorado* on February 12, 1935.



Cover #14

Scott #742, National Parks issue, Mount Rainier, 3¢ postage stamp. Cancelled on board the *USS Mississippi* on May 30, 1935.

*The Curtiss Sparrowhawks were light, 1930's era biplanes, armed as fighter aircraft, that were carried by the United States Navy airships *USS Akron* and *USS Macon*. They are an example of a "parasite fighter, a small airplane designed to be deployed from a larger aircraft such as an airship or bomber.



Curtiss F9C "Sparrowhawk"

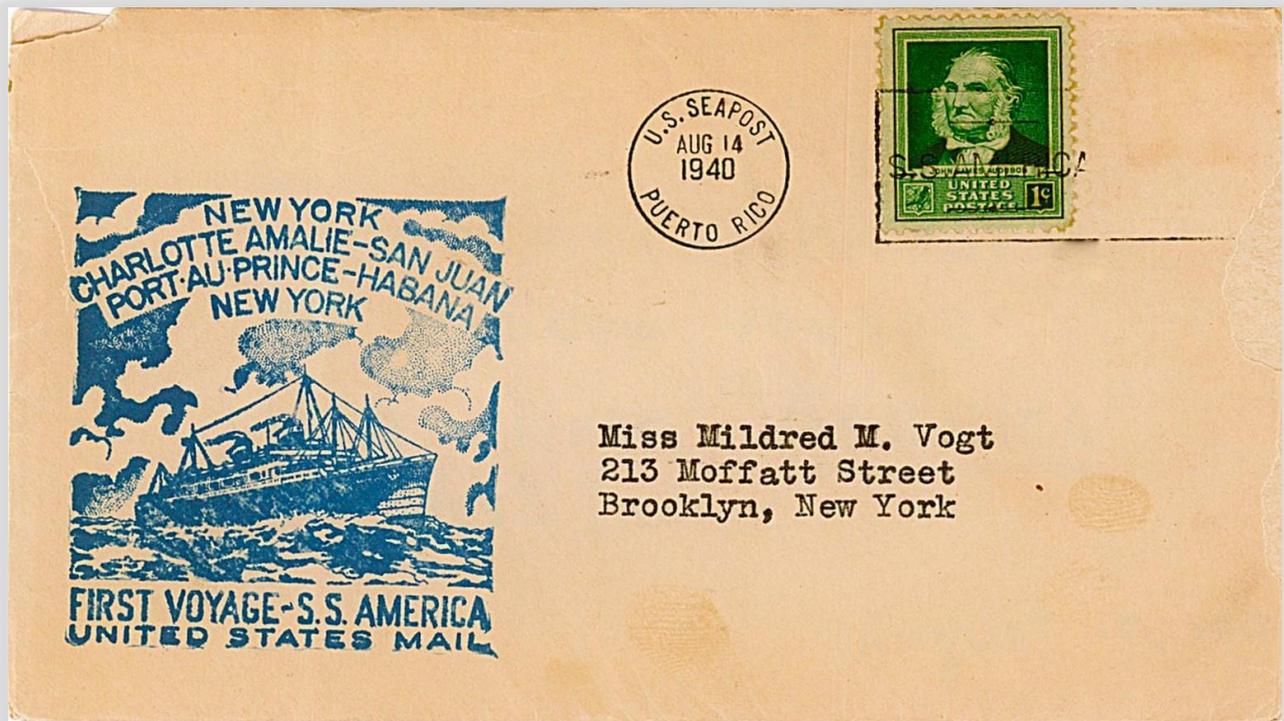
The concept of fixed-wing aircraft being carried and launched from airships was initially developed during World War I. Initially, this proposal originated in the United Kingdom, to allow British interceptors to conserve fuel by being carried to an altitude whereby they could then engage German zeppelins. The increasing use of airships in the armed forces of various countries led to variations on the idea of using aircraft with them, with major uses being for reconnaissance, extending the reach of the airship beyond the horizon, and to provide the airship with a degree of self-defense.

References:

U.S.S. Akron (ZRS-4) and U.S.S. Macon (ZRS-5), AIRSHIPS.NET; Lt. J. Gordon Vaeth, *USN Reserve, US Naval Institute, Naval History*, vol6 Number 1 March 1992; Captain Lawrence B. Brennan, *U.S. Navy (Ret.), NAVAL AIR STATION LAKEHURST, The Last Two Lakehurst US Navy Dirigibles, USS AKRON (ZRS 4) and USS MACON (ZRS 5), From the Pages of NJPH* February 2019 ~ May 2019; *Naval Cover Museum; Moffett Field 60th Anniversary, 1933-1993 pamphlet;* <https://web.archives.org/web/20080517083332/history.sandiego.edu/gen/USPics/moffett/60th.html> University of South Carolina, University Library, Digital Collection, Fox Movietone News Collection, Fox Movietone News 10/12/1934. *The Literary Digest, Dirigibles In Disrepute After Macon Loss.* 2/23/1935.

SS America Carries the Mail

Juan L. Riera



The cacheted commemorative cover featured here celebrates the maiden voyage of the *SS America*, a luxurious ocean liner and cruise ship, built in 1940, as the flagship of the United States Line. It was christened on August 10, 1940, by United States First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt and departed New York harbor on August 14, 1940, bound for San Juan, Puerto Rico.

As originally designed, the ship could carry 543 in cabin class, 418 in tourist class, 241 in third class, and 643 crew members. During its lifespan the ship had nine different names - *America* on three occasions and it served as the troop transport, *USS West Point*, during World War II.

Ignominiously, two German Spies infiltrated the crew of the *SS America* before it was requisitioned by the US Navy and became the *USS West Point*. Franz Joseph Stigler worked as chief baker and Erwin Wilhelm Siegler, chief butcher. While aboard they obtained information about ship movements and military defense preparations in the Panama Canal. On May 28, 1941, while in St. Thomas, the vessel was called up for military service and ordered to Newport News, Virginia, to be handed over to the U.S. Navy. Both Spies remained with the ship as it went through the conversion to a troop transport. Both were later discovered and arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with 31 other German agents, as part of the Duquesne Spy Ring, the largest espionage conspiracy in United States history.



From the maiden voyage until it was transferred to the US Navy, *SS America* did not travel to Europe due to the outbreak of World War II, so it did Caribbean cruises. The ship would stop first at San Juan, Puerto Rico, which is the capital city of the commonwealth, largest city of the commonwealth, and second oldest European-established capital city in the Americas. The ship would stop at Charlotte Amalie, on Saint Thomas which is the Capital and largest town of the U.S. Virgin Islands, with a deep well protected harbor. The *SS America* would stop at Havana, Cuba, which is the capital and largest city in Cuba with a wonderfully protected harbor. And at Port-au-Prince, Haiti, which is the capital and most populous city in Haiti. Coincidentally, all these ports of call are U.S. possessions, or places that, the U.S. Navy/military have played a historical role in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

As you look at the image of the cover you will notice the cachet that has the ports of call of the *SS America* and that it announces that the ship carries United States mail. You will notice the cancellation of U.S. Seapost Puerto Rico dated Aug 14, 1940 - four days out of New York. You will also notice the stamp, Scott US #864 depicting poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, issued on February 16, 1940, as part of the Famous Americans series - composed of 35 stamps. According to the Mystic Stamp Company website the stamp series are Scott Catalog US #859-93, first issued in Portland, Maine. The stamp was printed by the Bureau of Engraving and printing by the rotary press method and 51, 603, 580 were produced. The stamp has 10.5 by 11 perforations and the color is Bright Blue Green as described by Mystic Stamp Company.

All and all an interesting cover acquired from a friend at the Palm Beach Stamp Club.

Scotch Post Office

Michael Swope



The featured “Colortone” linen post card was produced by Curteich Company (Chicago) for the Duval News Company, Jacksonville, Florida (c. 1950). This one-of-a-kind public message tree was located on the grounds of the oldest home in St. Augustine, Florida.

The Gonzalez-Alvarez House, also known as The Oldest House, is a historic house museum at 14 St. Francis Street in St. Augustine. With a construction history dating to about 1723, it is believed to be the oldest surviving house in St. Augustine. It was designated a United States National Historic Landmark in 1970. The house is now owned by the St. Augustine Historical Society and is open for public tours as part of the Oldest House Museum Complex. Evidence can be seen of the Spanish, British, and American occupations of St. Augustine.

The Scotch Post Office is an example of a "wish wall" or "confession wall" - a place where people can leave handwritten messages, usually for others to see and read. They provide a space for people to share their thoughts, feelings, or stories with a broader audience and foster a sense of connection and shared experience.

The post card is franked with the 2¢, carmine rose, Thomas Jefferson postage stamp (Scott #1033) and cancelled at New Smyrna Beach, Florida on December 24, 1955.



Ref: Post card from Author's collection; Staugh.com