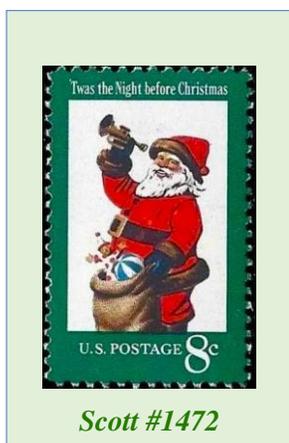




Cresthaven Stamp Club Newsletter

December 2024



Beginning in the 1930's, many customers wanted special Christmas themed postage stamps. But despite repeated requests, the Post Office balked, believing the cost of issuing stamps for use in only one season of the year would outweigh the benefits. Postal officials also feared many people would object to stamps issued for a religious holiday, however, the Postal Service has helped celebrate Christmas with festive, seasonal stamps since 1962, when it issued its first Christmas stamp.

Welcome new club members - Anthony Esposito, Mike Kohn, and Paul Weiner! Also, guest author Walter Koster has provided another interesting article for us. Warmest wishes for a merry Christmas to all!

Regards,
Michael Swope

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Chapter Affiliate #923
Membership Affiliate #81338

Meetings: 1:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Barkley Clubhouse
2605 Barkley Drive
West Palm Beach
Florida, 33415

cresthavenstamp.club



2023 APS Star Route Award

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Cresthaven Stamp Club News



December 2024



The American Topical Association “My One-Page Exhibit Program” begins its fifth year of virtual exhibiting on December 15th by expanding to 14 entry categories. The exhibit program is free to enter and open to all. ATA membership is not required to participate.

Rather than offering judging or popularity votes, the program focuses on expression, storytelling and sharing. The program’s reward is an opportunity to share new philatelic ideas and view a broad range of collecting interests. Exhibits are submitted as PDF file uploads on the ATA website during the submission period, ending February 15th.

We are once again seeking a new location for our club meetings and shows. The current administration at Barkley Villas has voted to revoke our club’s meeting privileges. President Richard Kaye made the announcement at our November 26th club meeting.

Any club member that may have a suggestion as to a suitable facility is urged to contact our president as soon as possible. Our December 10th meeting will be the last one held in Barkley. During this time of uncertainty, be sure to check the website frequently for updates and meeting locations.



Elections will be held at the December 10th meeting and President Kaye urges club members to seek positions in club leadership.

Also, please contact President Kaye if you are interested in leading a philatelic workshop or desire to make a presentation to the club.



December 6th & 7th, FLOREX 2024, 10 am at Tommy Lawrence Arena, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland, 32724

December 8th, Second Sunday Stamp Show at Azan Shrine Center, 9:30 am-3:00 pm. 1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne, 32935



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First Christmas Stamps

Walter Koster



Many collectors consider the Canadian 1898 Imperial Penny Postage issues (Scott 85 and 86), also known as “The Map Stamps,” to be the very first Christmas stamps. It’s an opinion based not on the design, but on the fact these were the first stamps created specifically to be used beginning on a Christmas Day.

The Imperial Postage Conference of 1898 in London, United Kingdom, standardized a penny postage rate for domestic and international mail within the British Empire. In Canada, the change lowered the domestic mail rate from 3¢ to 2¢, effective Christmas Day, 1898.

The American Bank Note Company in Ottawa designed a distinctive stamp to introduce the new 2¢ rate. It featured a Mercator¹ map of the world with Canada at its center. The use of straight lines for both longitude and latitude made the countries of the British Empire appear much larger than they actually were. St. Edward’s Crown, the centerpiece of the Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom, appears above the map.

The printing process was complex. The black map portion of the design was engraved, creating a sharp, crisp image that appears to be raised above the surface of the paper. In the initial printing (Scott 85) the oceans appear lavender. The land areas of Canada, India, Australia, and South Africa, along with British possessions in Africa and the islands of the Pacific, are highlighted in carmine with the color overflowing their borders.

In a later printing (Scott 86) the oceans appear blue. Some additional countries, including German South Africa, Portuguese East Africa and Borneo are highlighted in carmine, although they were not British possessions.

Electrotype plates were used to print the carmine, and lavender or blue ocean colors. Ink from metal plates was transferred to a rubber cylinder and then to the paper, making the colors appear as blotches or stains over the crisp black image of the map.

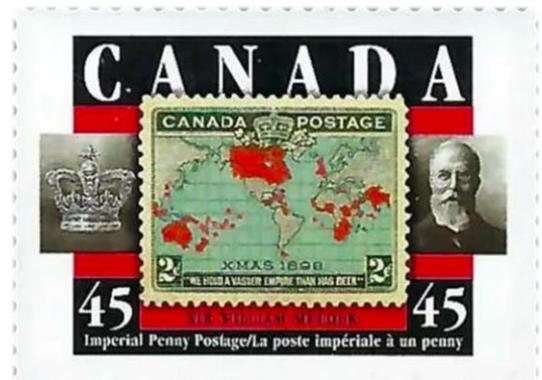


The base of the design (above) includes the inscription "We Hold A Vaster Empire Than Has Been". According to the Canadian National Historical Society the phrase is taken from "A Song of Empire", written by Sir Lewis Morris for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887.

Both stamps went on sale across Canada on December 7, 1898. The inscription "Xmas 1898" was carefully added to remind users that the new 2¢ domestic rate did not become effective until Christmas Day 1898.

One-hundred years later, in 1998, the design was seen again on the 45¢ Imperial Penny Postage Centennial stamp-on-stamp issue (Scott 1722, at right).

¹ The Mercator projection is a conformal cylindrical map projection first presented by Flemish geographer and mapmaker Gerardus Mercator in 1569. In the 18th century, it became the standard map projection for navigation due to its property of representing rhumb lines as straight lines.



Ref:
Reprinted in part from an article by the author published in Linn's Stamp News, Vol. 82, No. 4234, December 21, 2009, page 36.

Radiator & Propeller

Pat Hensley



The design for the 1923 8¢ Radiator & Propeller postage stamp (Scott #C4) was based on a photograph of the radiator and propeller of a De Havilland DH.4 aeroplane, manufactured by Airco, a Dayton-Wright company, in Dayton, Ohio. The stamp was issued on August 15, 1923, at the American Philatelic Society convention in Washington DC.

The history of airmail dates to the early 20th century when aviation was still in its infancy. The first official airmail route in the United States was established on May 15, 1918, running between Washington, D.C., and New York City. This pioneering route marked a significant shift in how mail was delivered, as it allowed for much faster transportation compared to traditional methods like trains and boats. Charles Lindbergh, who would later become famous for his transatlantic flight, was one of the early pilots involved in these flights, helping to demonstrate the potential of air mail.

The early air mail service faced numerous challenges. Pilots flew small, open-cockpit airplanes, often navigating through rough weather and difficult terrain. They relied on maps and their instincts to find their way, as navigation technology was not as advanced as it is today. Despite these obstacles, the service quickly gained popularity. By the 1920s, a network of routes was established across the country, connecting major cities and allowing quicker delivery of letters and packages.

One of the most significant developments was the transcontinental airmail route, which stretched from New York City to San Francisco. This ambitious route enabled the postal service to deliver mail across the entire country in just a few days. It played a crucial role in promoting air travel and helped to build public trust in the safety and reliability of flying. As airmail continued to expand, it transformed not only the postal system but also the way businesses operated, allowing for faster communication and commerce.

Today, air mail is an integral part of global communication, largely thanks to the innovations and risks taken by those early aviators. Their efforts laid the groundwork for the modern air mail system we rely on today, connecting people across vast distances in a matter of hours.

References:

The stamp is part of the author's collection.

"The History of Air Mail." Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

"A Brief History of Airmail." U.S. Postal Service.

"The Birth of Airmail." National Geographic.

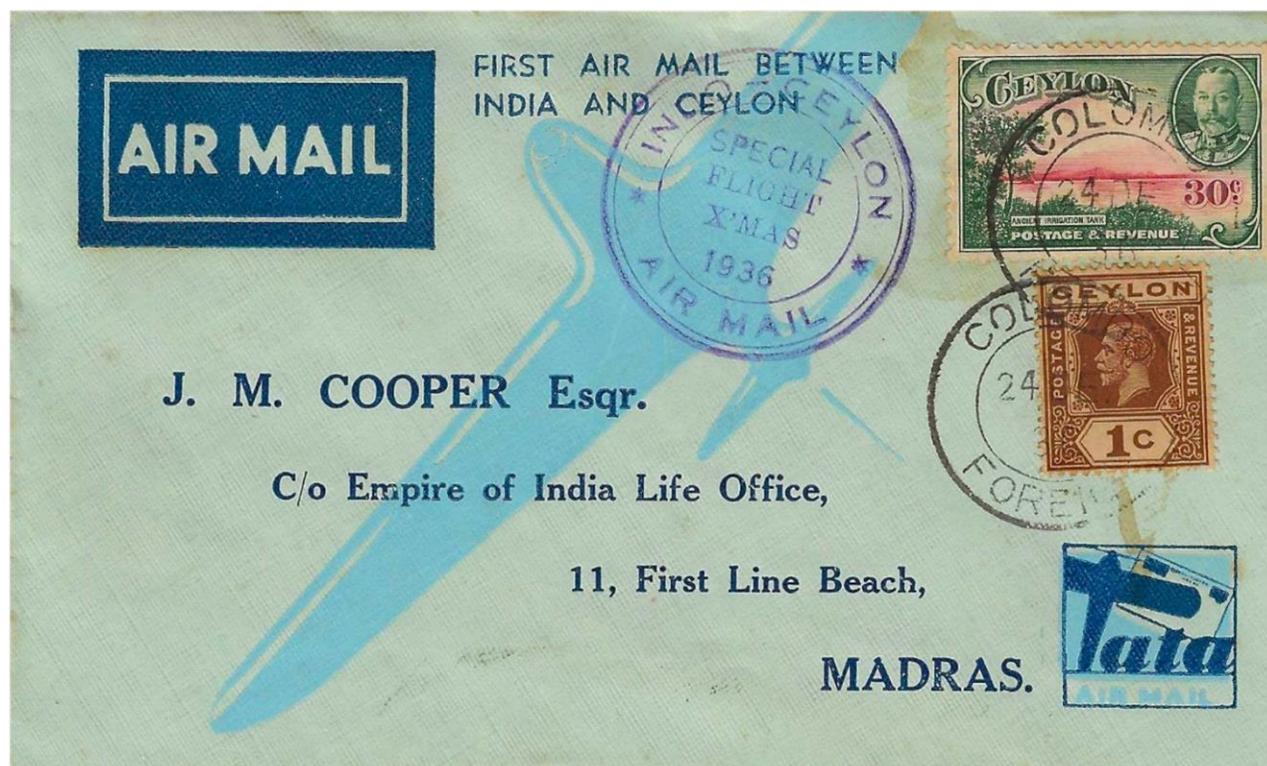
Mysticstamp.com/c4-1923-8c-radiator-propeller-dark-green

Madras, India to Colombo, Ceylon

First Official Air Mail Flight

Dan Maddalino

The first official air mail flight between Madras, India and Colombo, Ceylon, with a refueling stop at Trichinopoly, India occurred on December 23, 1936. To collectors it is known as “The Special Christmas Flight” (below)¹. And it was not without its problems.



On the afternoon of December 23, 1936, a TATA Airways Havilland Puss Moth sat on the tarmac in Madras, India waiting. Waiting. Waiting. There was to be no night flying so time was running out. The British Imperial Airways connecting flight with London’s Christmas mail for Ceylon was late. The departure time had passed, and the TATA flight had to leave without this special inbound mail. Onboard was only a small amount of mail and collector’s covers from India. This was to be the Indo-Ceylon First Air Mail Flight with great fanfare of carrying Holiday mail by air to Ceylon. Without the London mail this first air mail flight lost its luster. The plan was a single round trip to Colombo (capital of Ceylon) and back to Madras. It would knock four days off the current sea transit route. However, what it did was create six First Flight covers over a three-day span! Outbound Madras to Trichinopoly to Colombo. Inbound the reverse.

The First Flight cover (above) was for the December 24th return to Madras. It (and all others) is quite scarce as the change in flight plans caused many First Flight covers to miss their flight and

were never created. In addition, at 31¢ per cover, many collectors omitted purchasing the specially printed first flight cover for the refueling stop at Trichinopoly, India. The December 24th return flight left Colombo carrying Christmas and collector's mail and it reached Madras in time to connect with the delayed British Imperial Airway flight. So now, a second Special Flight took off returning to Colombo carrying the delayed London Christmas mail. It was now evening, and the flight was grounded. On the morning of December 25th, the TATA flight made a second return First Flight, but carried NO MAIL!²

The blue envelope was specially created by TATA & Company for this occasion. A silhouette of an airplane, preprinted AIR MAIL label, and The TATA Airways logo in shades of blue carried a preprinted address for each of the legs in both directions. The flight leaving Columbo bears a 30¢ one-way airmail stamp (SG# 376³) to Madras. The one¢ stamp (SG# 338⁴) is a WAR TAX stamp with the revenue designation omitted. The CDS is for *Colombo/ Foreign (mail)/ 24 DE/ 1936*. A circular cachet stamped *INDO-CEYLON/ AIR MAIL/ Special/ Flight/ XMAS/ 1936* are the identifying markings for the Special Christmas Flight. This is a dream cover for both First Flight collectors and Postal Historians.

NOTES:

1. Cover from the authors collection.
2. www.madrasmusings.com/vol%2020%20no%2014/when-air-mail-came-to-madras Accessed May 19, 2024
3. Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue, Bangladesh, Burma, Pakistan, & Sri Lanka, 3rd Edition (2015). Stanley Gibbons Ltd, London. page 136
4. Stanley Gibbons page 135



China's Treaty Port Stamps

Michael Rogers

James Clavell's unforgettable novel *Tai-Pan* is a vivid introduction to the Chinese treaty ports. His saga chronicles Western merchant's greed, treachery and utter disregard for the rights of the native Chinese people.

In 1840, a high Chinese government official ordered the burning of a British warehouse containing vast quantities of enslaving opium that British merchants had been bartering to the Chinese. The British were expelled to Hong Kong.

The result of the 1842 war between China and Great Britain was the Treaty of Nanking. It specified the Chinese reimburse the British for the burned opium and cede Hong Kong to British rule. It also gave British tradesmen access to the Chinese ports of Amoy, Canton, Foochow, Ningpo and Shanghai, along with land ownership at each port.

Soon other foreign powers coerced the Chinese into ceding other chunks of land: Chefoo, Chinkiang, Hankow, Hoi Hao, Kiukiang, Nanking, Swatow, Tientsin, and others. Christian missionaries and foreign diplomats arrived, accompanied by all manner of merchants. The foreigners had to provide services to promote trade, including an efficient and safe postal service.

Starting in 1893, each treaty port that issued its own postage stamps did so under the auspices of the Shanghai Postal System, which provided a uniform set of regulations.

Most of the treaty port stamp designs drew heavily upon rich mythology, symbolism, and scenery of China. Typical designs include the treaty port issues of Amoy and Wuhu shown at left. The creatures on these and other treaty port stamps symbolize longevity and good luck.



These “local post” stamps of treaty ports other than Shanghai were delisted from many stamp catalogues because of concern that they were produced primarily for stamp collectors. An examination of official postal records proves otherwise. In 1865, the Shanghai system carried more than 100,000 pieces of mail, and volume steadily rose. By 1883, the count was more than 700,00 pieces. The Shanghai postal system covered thousands of miles and by contrast, each treaty port's issues were restricted to usage from that port and could not be interchanged.

Ref: Reprinted in part from *Linn's Stamp News*, June 26, 1989.

NetStamps

Michael Swope



What are NetStamps? NetStamps are the official United States Postal Service solution for printing postage stamps from *Stamps.com* to use on postcards, letters and packages. When printing USPS postage stamps from *Stamps.com*, you must use either NetStamps sheets or rolls. NetStamps were approved by USPS on July 17, 2002 and are specially designed to work with the USPS processing systems. *Stamps.com* is an American company based in Austin, Texas, that provides internet-based mailing and shipping services.

How secure are NetStamps? The *US Mirror*, April 30, 2024 news revealed that NetStamps are vulnerable to fraud. "A woman from the San Gabriel Valley in Southern California admitted to swindling more than \$150 million from the United States Postal Service in a massive counterfeit stamp scam."

Lijuan "Angela" Chen, 51, confessed to shipping "tens of millions" of packages using fake postage as revealed by the US Attorney's Office, Central District of California. She ran her shipping business from the City of Industry, located east of downtown Los Angeles. Co-owner "Hugh" Hu, 51, helped her distribute daily shipments across America that they received from China-based e-commerce and logistics companies. Allegedly, the pair sent out more than 34 million parcels using fraudulent postage labels, dodging official postage payments from January, 2020 to May, 2023, which cost the postal service an astounding \$150 million in losses.

Hu is accused of creating fraudulent postage by printing duplicate and counterfeit *NetStamps*, which are denominated stamps with the value printed on them that can be purchased online and printed onto adhesive paper. However, when he suspected that authorities were onto his scheme, he fled to China. There, he allegedly developed a computer program to create more counterfeit postage shipping labels, leaving Chen in California to oversee their shipping warehouses.

Prosecutors claim that Hu and his associates established web portals where customers could order counterfeit Postage for their shipments. Customers would then attach the barcode they received from Hu's computer program to their packages and ship them via airmail to Chen's warehouses in Los Angeles County. Upon arrival at the warehouses, the barcodes were scanned and the program generated a counterfeit postage label for the package to be delivered by the United States Postal Service.

Ref: *The Mirror.com*, Emma Rowbottom, April 30, 2024;
Wikipedia.com