

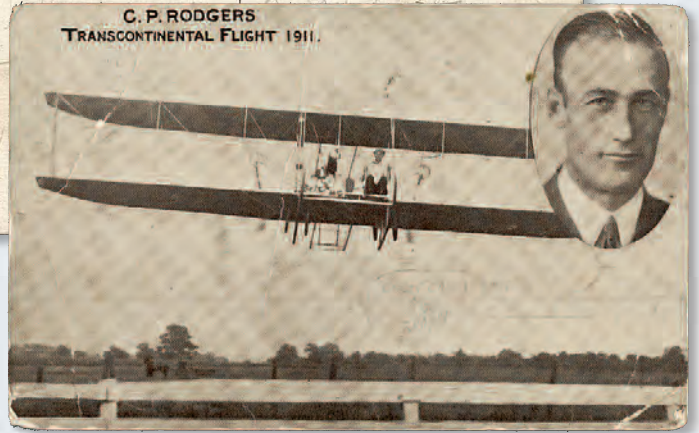
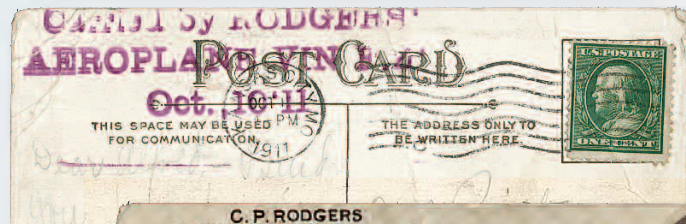
THE  
JAMES P. MYERSON COLLECTION



PIONEER FLIGHT MAIL 1910-1916

More than a century ago, pioneer aviators took to the skies in demonstration flights and competitions. Pilots risked their lives flying primitive aircraft, such as the Wright Brothers' early models, one of which is depicted on the 20¢ Parcel Post stamp issued in January 1913 (shown above).

The Myerson collection chronicles the flights from 1910 to 1916 that carried small quantities of mail—sometimes with success, and other times not. Postal officials observed and supported these early airmail flights, hoping to encourage Congress to provide funding for government airmail service, which eventually started in May 1918, one hundred years ago.



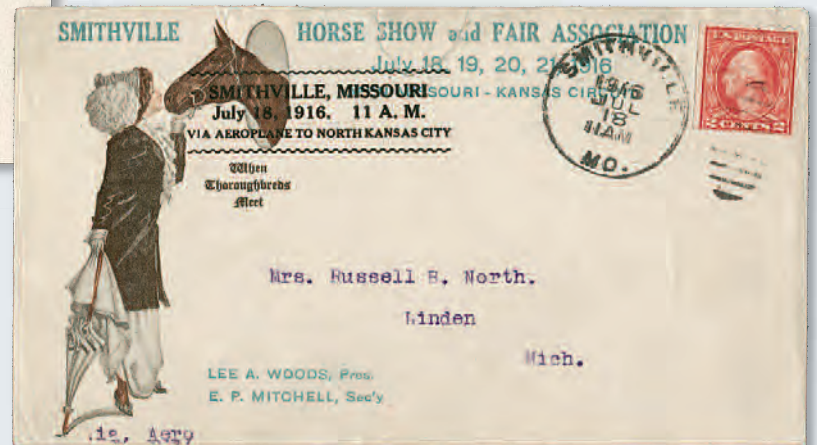
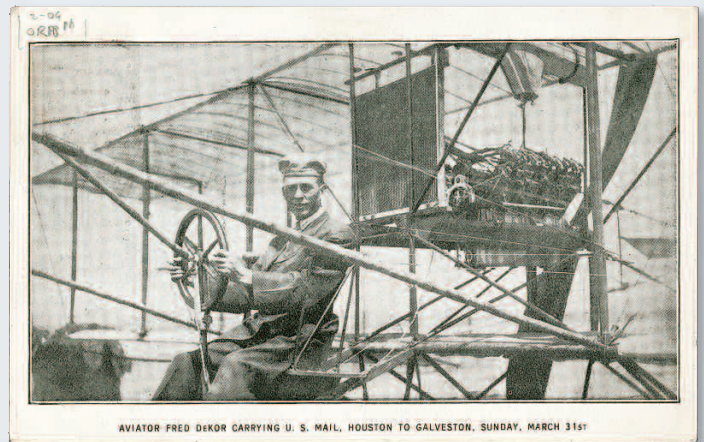
Above (both sides): A previously unreported three-line handstamp used on a picture postcard flown by Cal Rodgers during his transcontinental flight in 1911.

Left and below (both sides): On March 24 and 31, 1912, aviator Fred DeKor made two attempts to fly mail from Houston to Galveston, Texas, with the cooperation of the Houston postmaster. Neither was successful, and only two examples of mail prepared for the flights are recorded. Both are special picture postcards handstamped with the three-line dated cachet: one with the March 31 date only (shown at left), and the other with March 24 and 31 dates. Both are in the Myerson collection.



Above: On August 31, 1912, Lincoln Beachey flew mail in his Curtiss plane from the Westchester County Fair Grounds to the White Plains post office. One piece of mail from this USPOD Route 607,003 flight is recorded.

Right: As part of the Smithville Horse Show and Fair, a special flight with USPOD Route assignment 645,001 was planned for July 18, 1916. A last minute change in pilots placed Russell Brooks North at the controls. He crashed upon take-off, and the mail was handled in the normal manner. Only one example is recorded, addressed to North's wife.



SALE DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 8