

Dr. Arthur K.M. Woo first exhibited his Zeppelins starting in 2004. This is a collecting area that is virtually limitless.

Originations, destinations, rates, frankings and cachets are just some of the challenges facing a collector of these colorful and historically fascinating flights.

Exhibiting this subject area is very difficult. The time period – 1930's – is modern by philatelic standards. Very little contemporary information exists for the proper rates.

The exhibiting community recognizes just how the difficult it is to display this subject matter – an entirely separate category of exhibiting just for aerophilately exists.

The 1932 and 1933 Fifth South America Zeppelin Flights

Both these flights were undertaken in the LZ127 "Graf Zeppelin". Details of the airship and details of both the actual 1932 and 1933 Fifth South American Flights are given on separate following introductory pages.

Background

With the advent of the LZ127 "Graf Zeppelin" airship the German Zeppelin company were able to look at the commercial side of the airship business and one very immediate possible benefit was to speed up communications between Europe and the Americas. In the chosen years of 1932 and 1933 transatlantic airmail was still very much in its infancy and the current airplanes still had limited ranges and were unable to fly non-stop across the Southern Atlantic Ocean. The Graf Zeppelin airship was perfectly placed to attempt to bridge this gap. Alas, its flights were limited by weather and this tended to favour flights being made in the European spring, later summer and early autumn periods to the Northern parts of Brazil. Flights in the European winter months were just not possible on safety grounds.

It must be remembered that, although the vast majority of Zeppelin mail is of a philatelic origin, one of the original ideals behind the Zeppelin flights to South America was to create a viable commercial inter-continental airmail service in the years prior to non-stop transatlantic airplane flights. The original attempts to set up the feeder service to Friedrichshafen from many different originating countries were legitimate ones with a sound commercial base.

The Exhibit

The exhibit looks, individually, at both these 1932 and 1933 flights in detail and, for both, shows examples of mail from Germany destined to South America followed by examples of most of the known origins including several rare, some extremely rare and, occasionally, odd unique acceptances. Mail posted on board the Zeppelin while in flight is also shown and this is followed by examples of mail flown back on the return flight to Friedrichshafen. For the 1933 flight additionally shown are examples of covers flown on both legs of the Rio de Janeiro round trip as well as examples of mail destined to Spain and dropped off at Seville on the return trip.

One of the great problems facing the Zeppelin collector has always been the postal rates. Regrettably, reliable information on rates tends to be the exception rather than the rule. Rates from many originating countries are simply quoted as "not being known".

With a great deal of the existing mail being philatelic in origin it has always been very difficult to know for certain whether a franking on a cover is a legitimate rate or whether it is simply an overfranked "collectors' piece". This exhibit attempts to analyze the rates where possible and for all the covers shown on the following pages rate information has been given. Where little is known these are suggested as *possible* Zeppelin surcharge rates and where back-up material from other sources or correspondences exists these are suggested as *probable* Zeppelin surcharge rates. Where definitive information on the actual published rates has been found then, of course, this has simply been quoted.

1932 Fifth South America Flight

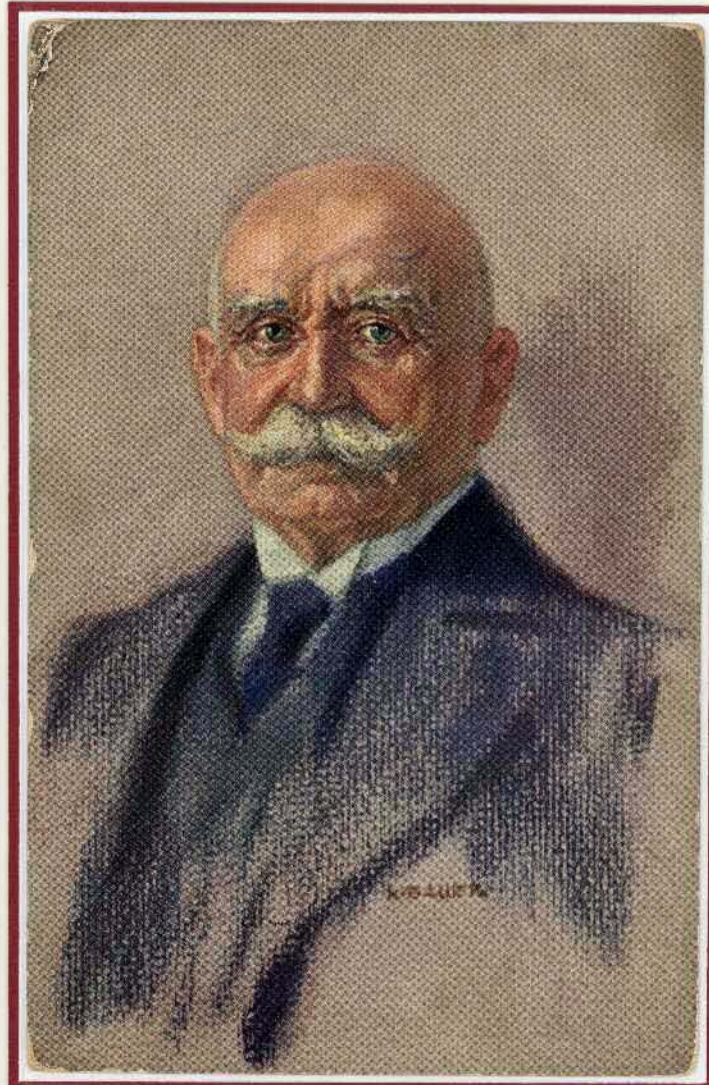
Introduction page	Frame	xx
German acceptances	Frame	xx
Accept fr other countries	Frame	xx
Mail posted on board	Frame	xx
Accept for return flight	Frame	xx

1933 Fifth South America Flight

Introduction page	Frame	xx
German acceptances	Frame	xx
Accept fr other countries	Frame	xx
Mail posted on board	Frame	xx
Mail for drop in Seville	Frame	xx
Rio de Janeiro round trip	Frame	xx
Accept for return flight	Frame	xx

1932 and 1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flights

Introduction



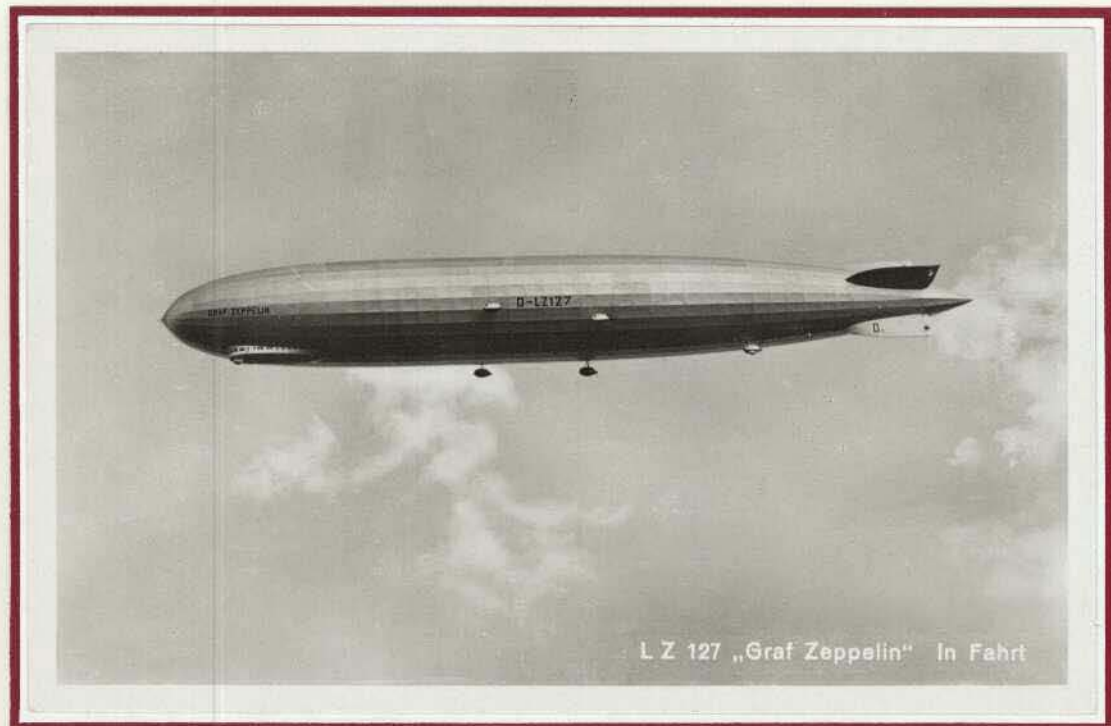
Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin

The LZ127 was christened as "Graf Zeppelin" on 8 July 1928 by Countess Hella von Brandenstein-Zeppelin. The occasion was the 90th anniversary of the birth of Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin. The maiden flight of the airship was on 18 September 1928. It was funded partly by public subscriptions with the difference being made up by the Zeppelin Company and the Government

It was constructed with a duralumin frame and a covering of doped light weight cotton and linen. It was just over 774 feet long with a diameter of 100 feet with 17 separate gas cells. It had five Maybach 12 cylinder 550 hp engines and a cruising speed of a little over 70 miles per hour

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Introduction



LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin" in flight

The 1932 Fifth South American Flight (Flight No. G273) left Friedrichshafen at 0500 GMT on Monday 29 August and it arrived in Recife (also known as Pernambuco), Brazil at 0818 GMT on Thursday 1 September. A total of 102 kg. of mail was carried.

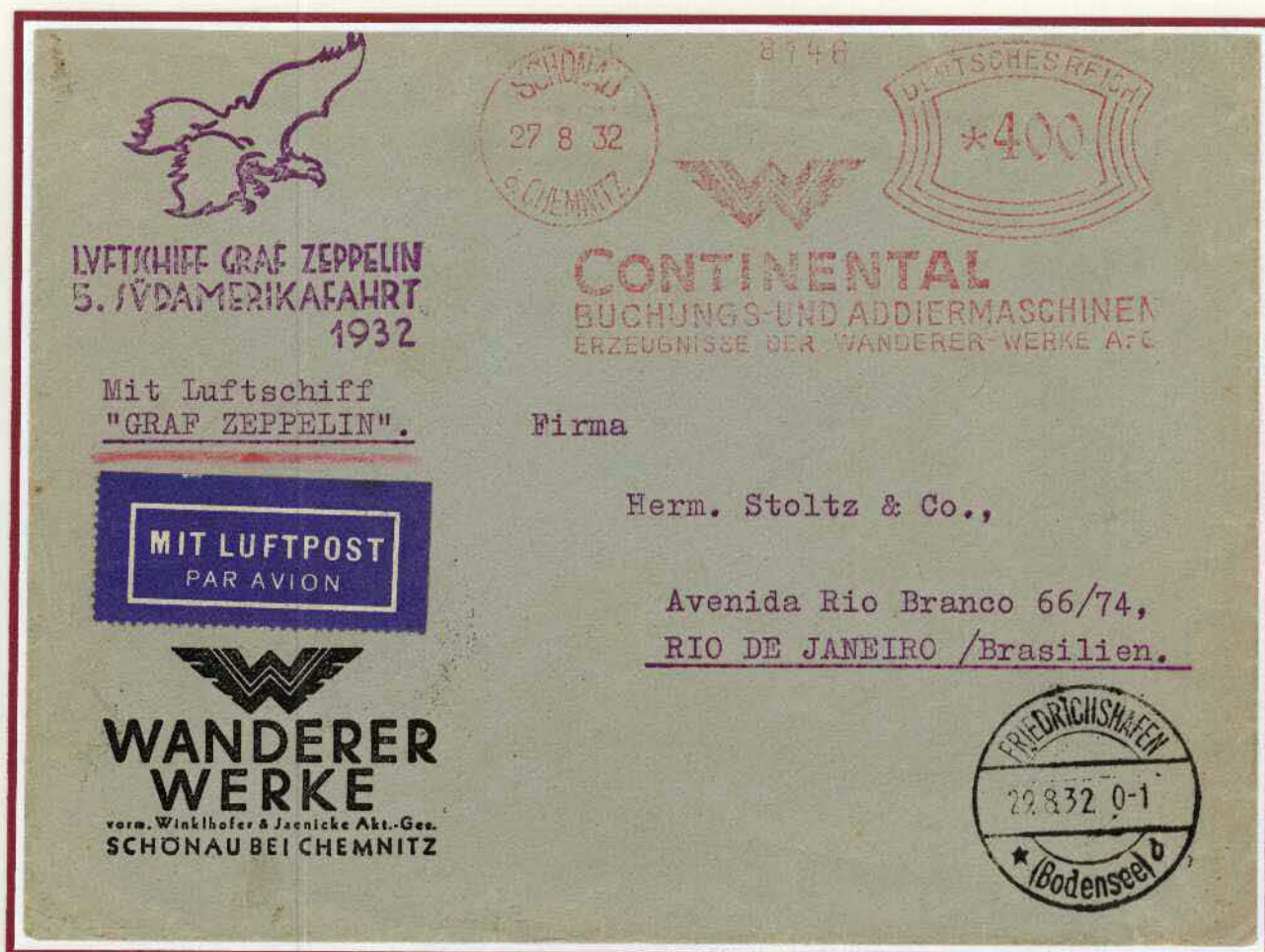
The return flight (Flight No. G274) left Recife at 1045 GMT on Saturday 3 September and arrived back at Friedrichshafen at 0432 GMT on Wednesday 7 September. A total of 94 kg of mail was carried. The actual arrival landing was delayed by fog and the mail was dropped earlier in two sacks by two parachutes at 0300 GMT

On the outgoing flight a feeder service was operated by Deutsche Lufthansa and this went from Berlin via Stuttgart to Friedrichshafen. Special cachets were applied to mail accepted at both Berlin and Stuttgart on this connecting flight. The last times of posting were Sunday 28 August at 1100 GMT at Berlin C2 office, at 1530 GMT at Stuttgart 1 office and at 1930 GMT at Friedrichshafen

Mail could be sent to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. On arrival there was a connecting flight operated by Sindicato Condor from Recife to Rio de Janeiro via Bahia. In turn there were then two flights: the first from Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Aires via Santos, Paragagua, Florianopolis, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul and Montevideo (mail to Paraguay was forwarded by surface from Buenos Aires); the second from Rio de Janeiro to Arica in Chile via Corumba, Puerto Suarez, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and La Paz (mail to Peru was forwarded by surface from Arica). This latter route was flown in conjunction with Lloyd Aereo Boliviano (LAB)

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

German Originations



Cover from Schonau bei Chemnitz to Rio de Janeiro with RM 4.00 meter franking. All mail on the outgoing 1932 Fifth South American Flight received the special "Condor" 'LVFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN/5. SVDAMERIKAFAHRT/1932' cachet in violet

Postal Rates

The international base rates were RM 0.15 for a postcard and RM 0.25 for a letter. The airmail surcharge rate was an additional 1.25 RM per 5 grams for Brazil or 1.50 RM per 5 grams to other countries in Latin America. Registration was an additional RM 0.30

The above cover would have weighed up to 15 grams and therefore a single RM 0.25 base rate plus a triple RM 1.25 airmail surcharge rate applied making a total of RM 4.00



Registered postcard from Osnabrück to Recife with RM 1.70 meter franking made up of RM 0.15 base rate plus RM 1.25 airmail surcharge and RM 0.30 registration



Registered cover from Friedrichshafen to Lima, Peru with RM 2.05 franking made up of RM 0.25 base rate plus RM 1.50 airmail surcharge and RM 0.30 registration



Cover from Berlin to Buenos Aires with RM 1.75 franking and postcard from Stuttgart to Pernambuco (Recife) with RM 1.40 franking showing circular 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' and 'Stuttgart-Friedrichshafen' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachets respectively. These feeder cachets are always struck in red

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Aegean Islands Origination



Registered postcard from Rhodes to Recife with Lire 9.75 franking (Lire 1.20 on the reverse side)

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Italy and its Colonies were Lire 0.75 for a postcard or Lire 1.25 for a letter (up to 20 grams). The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Lire 7.00 per 5 grams for Brazil or Lire 8.25 per 5 grams to other countries in South America. Registration was an additional Lire 1.25

The above postcard was franked with Lire 0.75 base rate plus Lire 7.00 airmail surcharge and Lire 1.25 registration fee making a total of Lire 9.00 (overpaid Lire 0.75)

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Albania Origination



Registered postcard from Tirane to Recife with a Fr. 2.65 franking
A rare origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Albania were 15 qd. for a postcard or 25 qd. for a letter (up to 20 grams). Registration was an additional 25 qd. There are no known published figures for the airmail surcharge rates for the Zeppelin flights

The above postcard was franked with a total of Fr. 2.65 which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of Fr. 2.25 per 5 grams

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Austria Originations



Registered cover from Krems a.d. Donau to Buenos Aires with a combination 104 gr. Austrian franking and RM 1.50 German franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Austria were 24 gr. for a postcard or 40 gr. for a letter (up to 20 grams). These rates were superceded on 1 September 1932. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional 200 gr. for a postcard or 250 gr. per 5 grams for a letter for Brazil / 300 gr for a postcard or 350 gr. per 5 grams for a letter to other countries in Latin America. Registration was an additional 60 gr.

The above cover was franked with Austrian 40 gr. base rate and 60 gr. registration (overpaid 4 gr.) and the German RM 1.50 paid the airmail surcharge for a letter up to 5 grams



Postcard from Vienna to Recife with 275 gr. franking and postcard from Vienna to Buenos Aires with 315 gr. franking with the latter showing circular 'Stuttgart-Friedrichshafen' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet. Neither of the two frankings appear to be entirely accurate

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Belgium Origination



Registered cover from Brussels to Pernambuco (Recife) with Fr. 16.05 franking (Fr. 9.00 on the reverse side)

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Belgium were Fr. 1.00 for a postcard or Fr. 1.75 for a letter (up to 20 grams). The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 12.50 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams destined for either Brazil or for other countries in Latin America. Registration was an additional Fr. 1.75

The above cover weighed up to 5 grams and therefore a Fr. 1.75 base rate plus Fr. 12.50 airmail surcharge and Fr. 1.75 registration applied making a total of Fr. 16.00 (overpaid Fr. 0.05)

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Cyrenaica Origination



Registered postcard from Bengasi (now in Libya, North Africa) to Recife with Lire 10.00 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Italy and its Colonies were Lire 0.75 for a postcard or Lire 1.25 for a letter (up to 20 grams). The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Lire 7.00 per 5 grams for Brazil or Lire 8.25 per 5 grams to other countries in Latin America. Registration was an additional Lire 1.25

The above postcard was franked with Lire 0.75 base rate plus Lire 7.00 airmail surcharge and a Lire 1.25 registration fee making a total of Lire 9.00 (overpaid Lire 1.00)

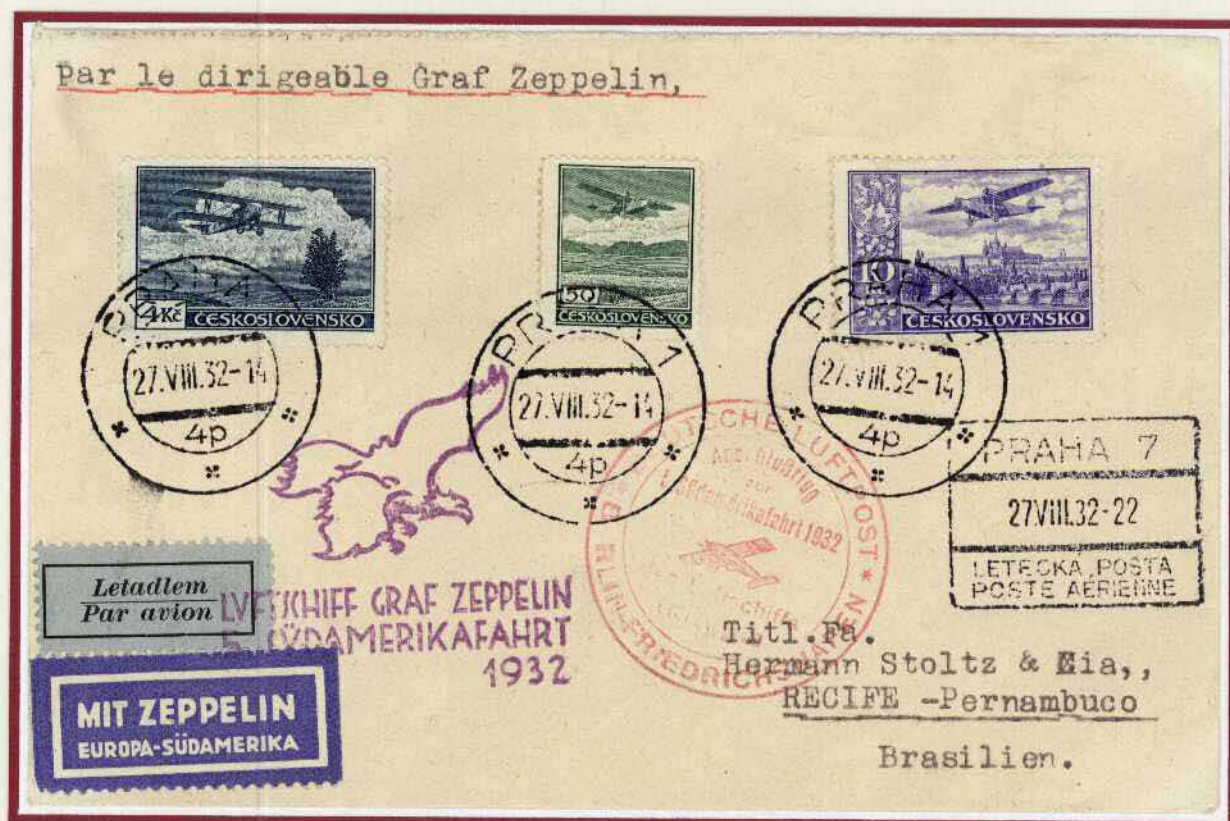
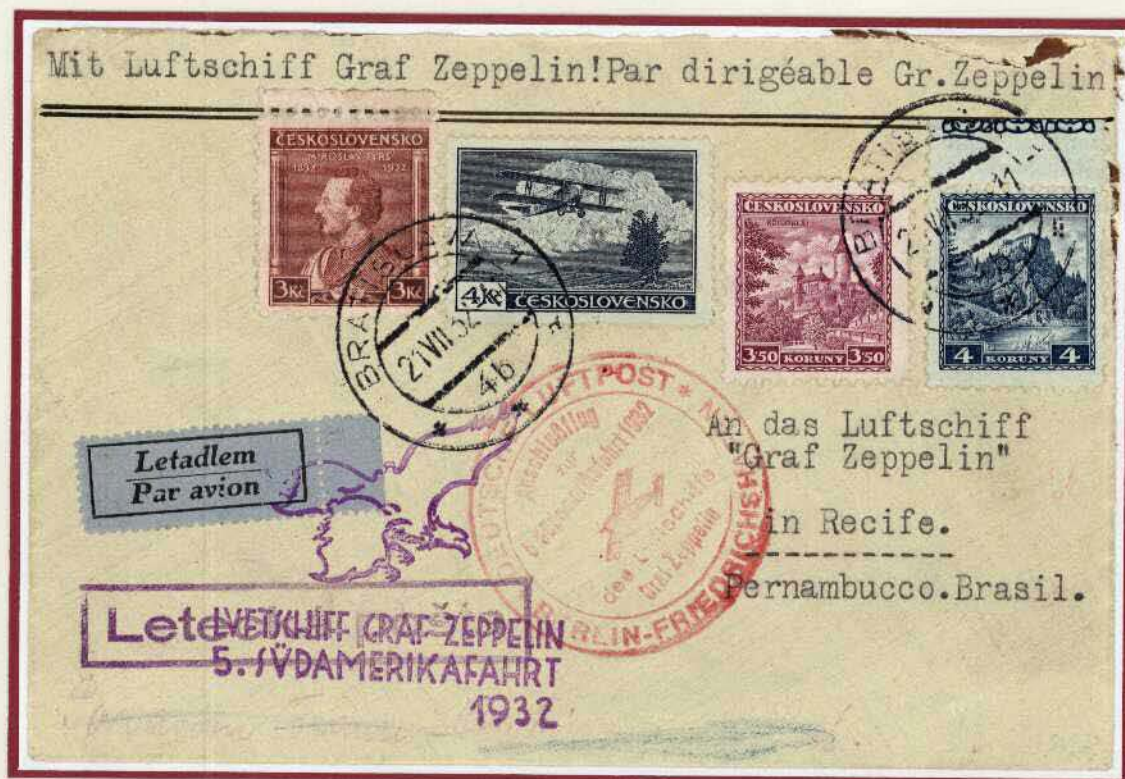
1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Cyrenaica Origination



Registered cover from Bengasi (now in Libya, North Africa) to Recife with Lire 8.75 franking (Lire 0.20 on the reverse side) showing the circular 'Stuttgart-Friedrichshafen' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

The above cover was franked with Lire 1.25 base rate plus Lire 7.00 airmail surcharge and Lire 1.25 registration fee making a total of Lire 9.50 (underpaid Lire 0.75)



Czechoslovakia Originations

Covers from Bratislava and Prague to Recife both with Kc. 14.50 frankings and both showing the circular 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachets.

The international base rates from Czechoslovakia were Kc. 1.50 for a postcard and Kc. 2.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Registration was an additional Kc. 2.50. These rates would suggest a probable airmail surcharge fee of Kc. 12.00 per 5 grams

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Danzig Originations



Registered cover from Danzig to Porto Alegre with G. 2.75 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Danzig were G. 0.20 for a postcard or G. 0.35 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Registration was an additional G. 0.20

The franking on the above cover and on the covers on the following two pages would suggest a probable airmail surcharge fee of G. 2.20 per 5 grams for mail to Brazil and G. 2.60 per 5 grams for mail to other Latin American countries



Registered postcard from Danzig to Curitiba in Southern Brazil with G. 2.70 franking made up of G. 0.20 base rate plus G. 0.20 registration and probable G 2.20 airmail surcharge (overpaid G. 0.10). It shows the circular 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet



Registered postcard from Danzig to Recife with G. 2.60 franking made up of G. 0.20 base rate plus G. 0.20 registration and probable G 2.20 airmail surcharge. On arrival it has been readdressed back to Friedrichshafen with added Brazilian 3\$900 franking to pay for the return trip

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Denmark Origination



Postcard from Bronshøj to Recife with Kr. 1.15 franking routed through Berlin but two days prior to the special Deutsche Lufthansa feeder flight to Friedrichshafen

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Denmark were Kr. 0.15 for a postcard or Kr. 0.25 for a letter (up to 20 grams). The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Kr. 1.00 per 5 grams for Brazil or Kr. 1.50 per 5 grams to other countries in Latin America. Registration was an additional Kr. 0.25

The above postcard weighed 5 grams and was therefore Kr. 0.15 base rate plus Kr. 1.00 airmail surcharge making a correct total of Kr. 1.15

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Finland Origination



Postcard from Helsinki to Recife with M. 21.50 franking
A rare origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Finland were M. 1.50 for a postcard or M. 2.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Registration was an additional M. 2.50

The franking on the above postcard would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of M. 20.00 per 5 grams to Brazil

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

France Origination



Registered cover from Mulhouse to Curitiba in Southern Brazil with Fr. 11.50 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from France were Fr. 0.90 for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 8.50 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams destined for either Brazil or Argentina. Registration was an additional Fr. 1.50

The above cover weighed up to 5 grams and therefore a Fr. 1.50 base rate plus Fr. 8.50 airmail surcharge and Fr. 1.50 registration applied making a correct total of Fr. 11.50

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Great Britain Originations



Registered printed matter cover from Trearddur Bay in North Wales to Buenos Aires with a 1/3½ d franking showing the circular 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

All inclusive rates were offered from Great Britain as follows:

Mail to Brazil was 10d per half ounce for printed matter, 1/9d for a postcard and 3/6d per half ounce for letters. Mail to other South American countries was 1/- per half ounce for printed matter, 2/- for a postcard and 4/- per half ounce for letters. Registration was 3d extra

The above cover was franked with 1/- for the all inclusive printed matter rate to other South American countries plus 3d for registration (overpaid ½ d)



Unsealed (printed matter rate) cover from London to Asuncion, Paraguay with 1/- franking to pay the correct inclusive rate to other South American countries. It shows the circular 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Mail destined for Paraguay travelled by surface mail after reaching Buenos Aires



Registered printed matter rate cover from Liverpool to Recife with 1/1½ d franking to pay the 10d inclusive rate to Brazil and a 3d registration fee (overpaid ½ d). It shows the circular 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Greece Origination



Registered cover from Athens to Recife with a Dr. 60 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Greece were Dr. 2.40 for a postcard and Dr. 4.00 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Registration was an additional Dr. 4.00

The franking on the above cover would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of Dr. 52.00 per 5 grams to Brazil

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Hungary Origination



Cover from Budapest to Recife with Pe. 3.00 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Hungary were Pe. 0.20 for a postcard or Pe. 0.40 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Registration was an additional Pe. 0.50

The above cover was franked with a total of Pe. 3.00 which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of Pe. 2.60 per 5 grams for a letter to Brazil

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Iceland Origination



Registered postcard from Reykjavik to Recife with Aur. 290 franking
A scarce origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Iceland were Aur. 20 for a postcard or Aur. 35 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Registration was an additional Aur. 30

The above cover was franked with a total of Aur. 290 which would suggest a probable airmail surcharge fee of Aur. 240 for a postcard to Brazil



Ireland Originations

Unsealed (printed matter rate) cover from Baile Atha Claith with 1/0½ d franking and registered cover from Dublin with 4/10d franking both to Recife and both showing the circular 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachets

The international base rates from Ireland were ½ d for printed matter and 2d for a letter (up to 20 grams). Registration was an additional 3d. These rates would suggest a probable airmail surcharge fee of 1/- per 5 grams for printed matter to Brazil and a possible airmail surcharge fee of 4/5d per 5 grams for letters to Brazil

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Italy Origination



Postcard from Rome to Buenos Aires with Lire 9.00 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Italy and its Colonies were Lire 0.75 for a postcard or Lire 1.25 for a letter (up to 20 grams). The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Lire 7.00 per 5 grams for Brazil or Lire 8.25 per 5 grams to other countries in Latin America. Registration was an additional Lire 1.25

The above postcard was franked with Lire 0.75 base rate plus Lire 8.25 airmail surcharge making a correct total of Lire 9.00

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Liechtenstein Origination



Postcard from Triesenberg to Recife with Fr. 1.90 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Liechtenstein were Fr. 0.20 for a postcard or Fr. 0.30 for a letter (up to 20 grams). The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 1.70 per 5 grams for Brazil or Fr. 2.00 per 5 grams to other countries in South America. Registration was an additional Fr. 0.40

The above postcard was therefore Fr. 0.20 base rate plus Fr. 1.70 airmail surcharge making a correct total of Fr. 1.90

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Liechtenstein Origination



Cover from Triesenberg to Sao Paulo with Fr. 2.00 franking made up of Fr. 0.30 base rate and Fr. 1.70 airmail surcharge



Registered postcard from Tripoli to Recife and registered cover from Tripoli to Buenos Aires both with Lire 10.00 frankings (with additional stamps on the reverse side of both items)

The postcard was Lire 1.00 overpaid and the cover was Lire 0.75 underpaid

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Liechtenstein Origination



Postcard from Triesenberg to Recife with Fr. 1.90 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Liechtenstein were Fr. 0.20 for a postcard or Fr. 0.30 for a letter (up to 20 grams). The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 1.70 per 5 grams for Brazil or Fr. 2.00 per 5 grams to other countries in South America. Registration was an additional Fr. 0.40

The above postcard was therefore Fr. 0.20 base rate plus Fr. 1.70 airmail surcharge making a correct total of Fr. 1.90

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Netherlands Originations



Registered cover from s'Gravenhage to Curitiba in Southern Brazil with Gld. 1.17½ franking showing the circular 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Netherlands were Gld. 0.07½ for a postcard or Gld. 0.12½ for a letter (up to 20 grams). The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Gld. 0.90 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams for Brazil or Gld. 1.00 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams for other South American countries. The printed matter rates were identical except that they had a weight allowance of 25 grams. Registration was an additional Gld. 0.15

The above cover was therefore a Gld. 0.12½ base rate plus Gld. 0.90 airmail surcharge and Gld. 0.15 registration making a correct total of Gld. 1.17½

On the following page is a cover from Assen to Sao Leopoldo (near Porto Alegre) in Brazil with correct Gld. 1.02½ franking but showing, in error, a return flight cachet. Underneath this is a registered cover from 'sGravenhage to Curitiba with Gld. 1.07½ franking (underpaid Gld. 0.10)

*Mit Luftschiff
„Graf Zeppelin“*



LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN
5. SÜDAMERIKAFAHRT
1932



Mr. Erich Wepf

Caixa Postal 2

Sao Leopoldo

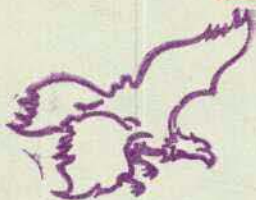
Brasil.

Inschreiben.



11132

HASLER
FRANKEERMACHINE
ADR. KOLLER & VAN OS
R'DAM-A'DAM
DEN HAAG



LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN
5. SÜDAMERIKAFAHRT
1932



Mit Luftschiff „Graf Zeppelin“



*Herrn H. Schmecker
Caixa post. 294
Curitiba - Parana (Brasil.)*



Norway Originations

Postal stationery card from Oslo to Recife and postcard from Drammen to Buenos Aires each with a correct 220 øre franking

The international base rates from Norway were 20 øre for a postcard and 30 øre for a letter (up to 20 grams). The airmail surcharge rates for the Zeppelin flight were relatively simple being 200 øre for either a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams destined to either Brazil or to another South American country. Registration was an additional 30 øre

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Poland Origination



Registered cover from Warsaw to Recife with Gr. 470 franking (Gr. 360 on the reverse side) showing the circular 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Poland were Gr. 35 for a postcard or Gr. 50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Registration was an additional Gr. 60

The franking on the above cover would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee for a letter to Brazil of Gr. 360 per 5 grams

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Romania Origination



Registered cover from Bucarest to Buenos Aires with 96 Lei franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Romania were Lei 6 for a postcard or Lei 10 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Registration was an additional Lei 10

The franking on the above cover would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee for a letter to the other South American countries beyond Brazil of Lei 76 per 5 grams

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Russia Origination



Registered postcard from Moscow to Recife with Kp. 85 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Russia were Kp. 10 for a postcard or Kp. 15 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Registration was an additional Kp. 20

The franking on the above cover would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of Kp. 55 for a postcard to Brazil

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Saar Origination



Registered printed matter rate cover from Saarbrücken to Montevideo with Fr. 13.80 franking with the Uruguayan return flight cachet applied on arrival

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Saar were Fr. 0.90 for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams) and Fr. 0.30 for printed matter (up to 50 grams). Registration was an additional Fr. 1.50

The franking on the above cover would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of Fr. 12.00 for a letter to other South American countries beyond Brazil

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

San Marino Origination



Registered postcard from San Marino to Recife with Lire 10.00 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from San Marino were Lire 0.75 for a postcard or Lire 1.25 for a letter (up to 20 grams) and Lire 0.25 for printed matter (up to 50 grams). Registration was an additional Lire 1.25

The franking on the above cover would suggest a probable airmail surcharge fee of Lire 8.00 for a postcard to Brazil. This rate is confirmed by other earlier 1932 originations from San Marino but it seems that the fee was reduced for the later 1932 flights



Sweden Originations

Registered postcard with 235 øre franking and regular cover with 225 øre franking both from Stockholm to Recife latter with circular 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

The international base rates from Sweden were 15 øre for a postcard and 25 øre for a letter (up to 20 grams). The airmail surcharge rates for the Zeppelin flight were relatively simple being 200 øre for either a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams destined to either Brazil or to another South American country. Registration was an additional 20 øre

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Switzerland Originations



Cover from Staad to Buenos Aires with Fr. 4.40 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Switzerland were 20c for a postcard or 30c for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 7½ c up to 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 1.70 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams for Brazil or Fr. 2.00 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams for other South American countries. The airmail surcharge printed matter rates were 30c higher in both instances however they had a weight allowance of 25 grams. Registration was an additional 40c

The above cover was therefore a 30c base rate plus Fr. 4.00 for a double rate airmail surcharge (up to 10 grams) (overpaid 10c)



Postcard from Romanshorn to Recife with Fr. 1.90 franking made up of 20c base rate plus Fr. 1.70 airmail surcharge to Brazil



Registered postcard from Romanshorn (with Clarens registration label) to Buenos Aires with Fr. 2.60 franking made up of 20c base rate plus 40c registration and Fr. 2.00 airmail surcharge to other South American countries

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Thailand Origination



Postcard from Bangkok endorsed 'Via Graf Zeppelin from Friedrichshafen to Pernambuco' (Recife) addressed to USA with combination 30 St. Thailand franking and RM 2.00 German franking

A very rare origination - Believed unique

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Thailand were St. 10 for a postcard or St. 15 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was St. 3 up to 50 grams. Registration was an additional St. 15

It was not possible to prepay the special airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight with Thailand stamps and it was therefore necessary to arrange for the addition of German stamps. The same rates as from Germany should have applied: RM 1.25 for a postcard or letter up to 5 grams to Brazil or RM 1.50 to other South American countries. Mail destined to the USA should not have been accepted

The above cover is backstamped in Rio de Janeiro (2 Sep) but there are no clues as to its progress after this date

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Tripolitania Originations



Registered cover from Tripoli to Rio de Janeiro with Lire 8.75 franking showing circular 'Stuttgart-Friedrichshafen' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Italy and its Colonies were Lire 0.75 for a postcard or Lire 1.25 for a letter (up to 20 grams). The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Lire 7.00 per 5 grams for Brazil or Lire 8.25 per 5 grams to other countries in South America. Registration was an additional Lire 1.25

The above cover should be Lire 1.25 base rate plus Lire 7.00 airmail surcharge and Lire 1.25 registration fee making a total of Lire 9.50 (underpaid 0.75)

Many of the Zeppelin covers originating from Tripoli appear to be incorrectly franked often being slightly underpaid or occasionally overpaid. This may be due to the fact that many letters were sent unsealed and so could possibly qualify for base printed matter rates. However the airmail surcharge for printed matter was actually a higher minimum fee of Lire 13.75 to Brazil or Lire 16.25 to other South American countries albeit for a higher 50 grams weight limit



Registered postcard from Tripoli to Recife and registered cover from Tripoli to Buenos Aires both with Lire 10.00 frankings (with additional stamps on the reverse side of both items)

The postcard was Lire 1.00 overpaid and the cover was Lire 0.75 underpaid

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Turkey Origination



Postcard from Istanbul to Recife with 90.5 k franking showing the circular 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Turkey were 9.5 k for a postcard or 12.5 k for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 2.5 k up to 50 grams. Registration was an additional 16 k

The franking on the above cover would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee for a postcard to Brazil of 80 k (believed overpaid 1k)



Vatican Originations

Postcard with 8.75 lire franking (overpaid 0.75 lire) and registered cover with 10 lire franking (overpaid 0.50 lire) both from Vatican City to Recife or Rio de Janeiro respectively

The international base rates from Vatican were 0.75 lire for a postcard and 1.25 lire for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 0.25 lire per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rates for the Zeppelin flight were 7.00 lire for a postcard or letter up to 5 grams to Brazil or 8.25 lire to other South American countries. Registration was an additional 1.25 lire

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Mail Posted on Board



Postcard mailed on board on the outward leg to La Paz in Bolivia with RM 1.65 franking cancelled with LUFTSCHIFF / GRAF ZEPPELIN cds's (30 Aug)

Postal Rates

Mail posted on board was subject to German postal rates and both the base rate and the special airmail surcharge had to be paid

The international base rates were RM 0.15 for a postcard and RM 0.25 for a letter. Printed matter was RM 0.05 per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate was an additional 1.25 RM per 5 grams for Brazil or 1.50 RM per 5 grams to other countries in Latin America. Registration was an additional RM 0.30

The above postcard was therefore a RM 0.15 base rate plus RM 1.50 airmail surcharge to other South American countries beyond Brazil



Postcard mailed on board on the outward leg to Recife with combination RM 1.50 German franking cancelled with LUFTSCHIFF/GRAF ZEPPELIN cds (29 Aug) and 3\$900 Brazilian franking for the return trip



Postcard mailed on board on the return leg to Czechoslovakia with RM 1.40 franking cancelled with LUFTSCHIFF/GRAF ZEPPELIN cds's (3 Sep). This was a RM 0.15 base rate and RM 1.25 special airmail surcharge

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

The Return Leg from Brazil



Postcard from Rio de Janeiro to Lorch in Germany with 3\$900 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rate from Brazil to Europe was 400r for a postcard and 700r for a letter. Printed matter was 200r per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional 3\$500 for either a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams. Registration was an additional 1\$400

The above postcard was therefore a 400r base rate plus 3\$500 airmail surcharge making a correct total of 3\$900

All mail from Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay to Europe received the special "airship over airplane" cachet. The ones applied in Brazil are inscribed '1º VOO' at the bottom and the ones from Argentina and Uruguay are inscribed '1º VUELO'. They are usually struck in violet but they are also known in green from Porto Alegre in the south of Brazil.

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

The Return Leg from Brazil



Postcard from Porto Alegre to Stuttgart in Germany with 350r Varig airmail stamp for the internal airmail flight to Recife with the stamp cancelled in transit at Santa Cruz plus 3\$900 National franking for the 400r base rate for a postcard to Europe and 3\$500 for the airmail surcharge fee

The Zeppelin cachet is struck in green on the picture side.

Note the CENSURADO/SANTA CRUZ marking at the upper left side: The Sao Paulo Revolution had commenced on 9 July 1932 when a Provisional Government was set up. Action by the Federal troops eventually led to the fall of the Government on 2 October 1932



Argentina Originations

Postcard from Buenos Aires to Lorch in Germany with 82c franking and cover from Rosario to Mulheim in Germany with 1.35c franking

The international base rates from Argentina to Europe were 10c for a postcard and 15c for a letter (up to 20 grams). Registration was an additional 20c. These rates suggest a possible airmail surcharge of 72c for postcards and 1.20c for letters but further research is needed on these rates

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Chile Origination



Registered cover from Santiago to Berlin with 8p40 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rate from Chile to Europe was 40c for a postcard and 70c for a letter. Printed matter was 10c per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional 7 pesos for either a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams. Registration was an additional 70c

The above cover was therefore a 70c base rate and 70c registration plus 7 pesos airmail surcharge making a correct total of 8p40

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Cuba Origination



Cover from Havana to Hamburg endorsed 'mit Flugpost von Havana nach Rio de Janeiro. Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin nach Friedrichshafen' with combination 53c Cuba franking and 7\$700 Brazil franking

Postal Rates

The international base rate from Cuba to the Americas (including Brazil) was 2c for a postcard and 3c for a letter. Printed matter was 1c per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 10c. The airmail surcharge rate for the flight to Brazil was 50c for 10 grams

From Brazil the normal rates applied and the above franking was therefore a 700r base rate and a 7\$000 double airmail surcharge for up to 10 grams for the Zeppelin flight

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Paraguay Origination



Registered cover (label on the reverse) from Asuncion to Lorch in Germany with 24p50 franking

Postal Rates

There was an all inclusive airmail and Zeppelin rate available from Paraguay. The base rate was 22p50 for up to 5 grams and each additional 1 gram was charged 4p50 extra. Registration was an additional 2 pesos

The above cover was therefore a 22p50 base airmail rate (up to 5 grams) plus 2 pesos registration making a correct total of 24p50



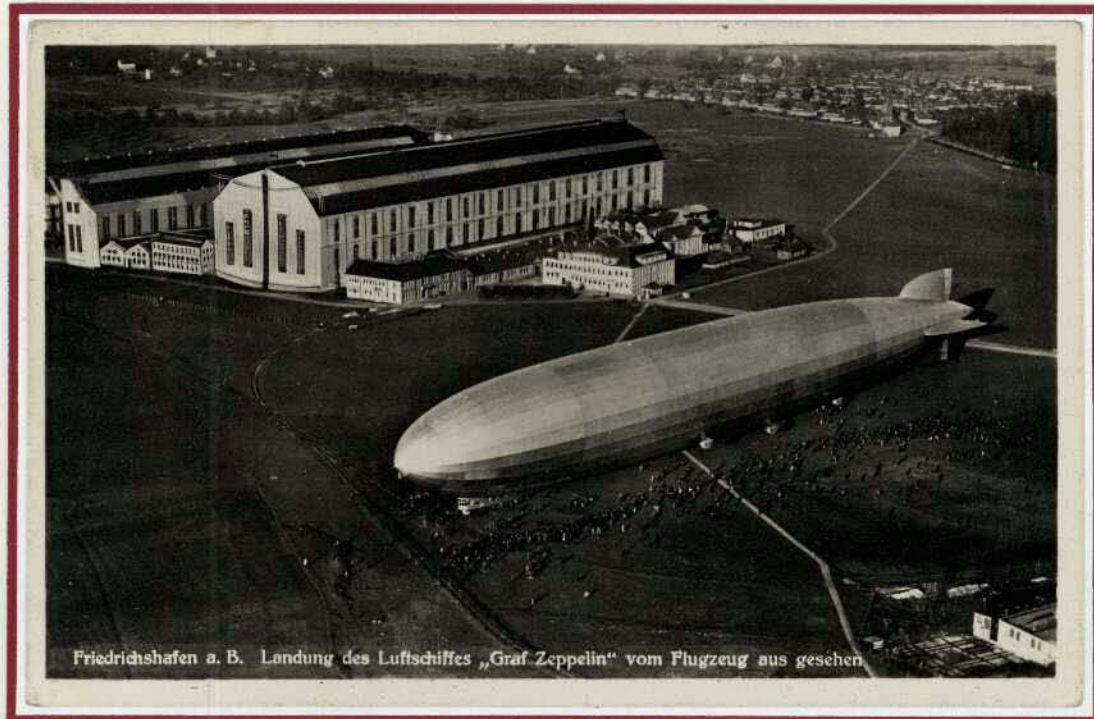
Uruguay Originations

Cover from Montevideo to San Marino with 87c franking and registered cover from Montevideo to Paris with 111c franking

The international base rates from Uruguay to Europe were 8c for a postcard and 12c for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 3c per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 24c. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight for a letter was 75c for 5 grams

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Introduction



LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin" after landing at Friedrichshafen

The 1933 Fifth South American Flight (Flight No. G327) left Friedrichshafen at 2006 GMT on Saturday 19 August and it arrived in Recife, Brazil at 2228 GMT on Tuesday 22 August. A total of 105 kg. of mail was carried. On 23-24 August the "Graf Zeppelin" undertook a Recife to Rio de Janeiro round trip

The return flight (Flight No. G330/331) was routed via Seville in Spain and left Recife at 0046 GMT on Saturday 26 August and arrived in Seville 2021 GMT on Monday 28 August. It then left Seville at 2039 GMT on the same day and arrived back in Friedrichshafen at 1340 GMT on Tuesday 29 August. A total of 90 kg of mail was carried on the first leg and 82 kg on the second

On the outgoing flight a feeder service was operated by Deutsche Lufthansa and this went from Berlin to Friedrichshafen. A special cachet was applied to mail accepted in Berlin on this connecting flight. The last times of posting were Saturday 19 August at 1130 GMT at Berlin C2 office and at 1800 GMT at Friedrichshafen

Mail could be sent to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Note that Peru had been dropped as a destination on the 1933 flights. On arrival there was a connecting flight operated by Syndicato Condor from Recife to Rio de Janeiro via Bahia. In turn there were then two flights: the first from Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Aires via Santos, Paragagua, Florianopolis, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul and Montevideo (mail to Paraguay was forwarded by surface from Buenos Aires); the second from Rio de Janeiro to Arica in Chile via Corumba, Puerto Suarez, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and La Paz. This latter route was flown in conjunction with Lloyd Aereo Boliviano

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

German Originations



Cover from Hamburg to Sao Paulo with RM 1.50 meter franking. All mail on the outgoing 1933 Fifth South American Flight received the special "Parrot" 'LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN/5. SUDAMERIKAFAHRT/1933' cachet in red

Postal Rates

The international base rates were RM 0.15 for a postcard and RM 0.25 for a letter. Printed matter was RM. 0.25 per 25 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional RM 1.25 for postcards, letters per 5 grams or printed matter per 25 grams destined for Brazil or RM 1.50 RM to other countries in South America. Registration was an additional RM 0.30

The above cover was therefore a single RM 0.25 base rate plus RM 1.25 airmail surcharge

MIT ZEPPELIN
EUROPA-SÜDAMERIKA



LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN
5. SÜDAMERIKAFAHRT
1933



SYNDICATO CONDOR LTDA!

a. c. B. Grunwald

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brasil.)

Abs. B. Grunwald
Berlin S. W. 68

Caixa Postal 190

MIT LUFTPOST
PAR AVION

Einschreiben

Mit Luftschiff „GRAF ZEPPELIN“
Berlin Friedrichshafen Pernambuco



LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN
5. SÜDAMERIKAFAHRT
1933



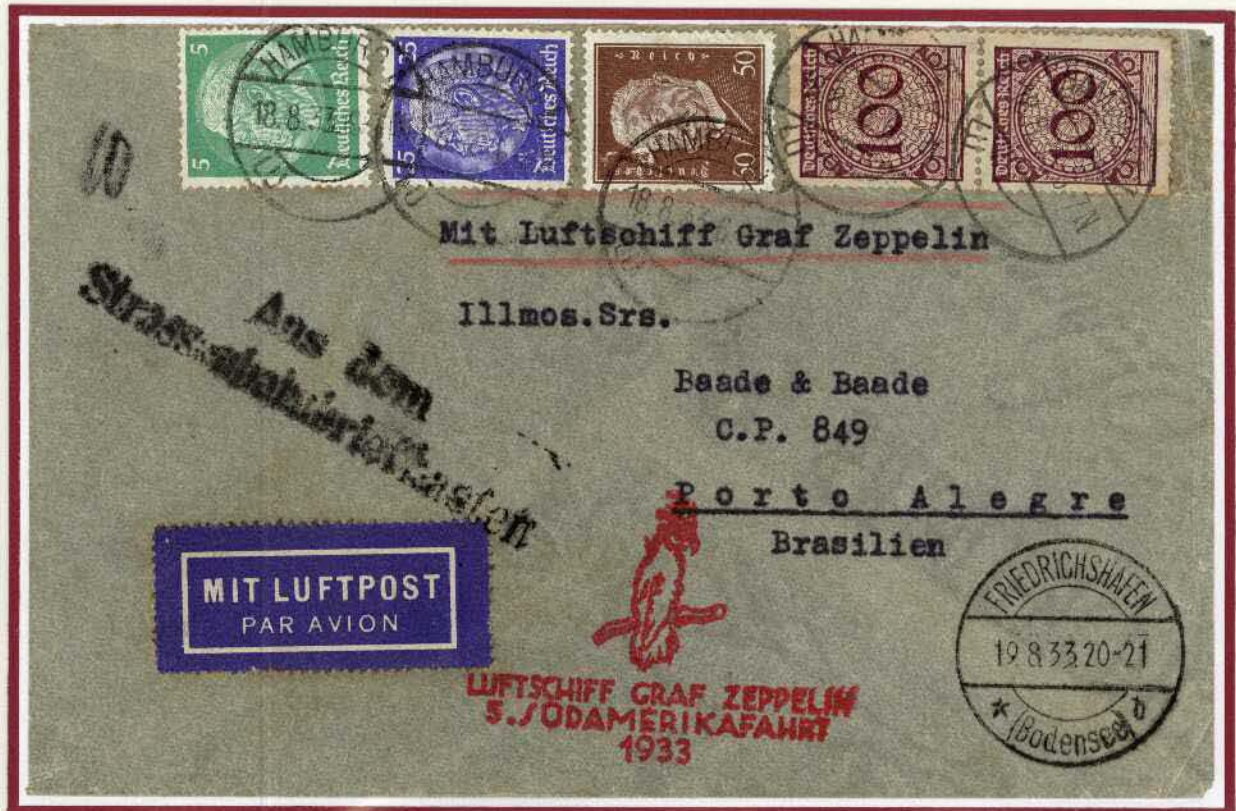
An das Luftschiff
Graf Zeppelin
Recife Pernambuco

Post card from Berlin to Rio de Janeiro with RM 1.40 franking and registered cover from Berlin to Recife with RM 2.00 franking both with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachets. This feeder cachet is always struck in red

There was no equivalent feeder cachet from Stuttgart for the 1933 Fifth South American Flight

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

German Originations



Cover from Hamburg to Porto Alegre endorsed 'Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin' with RM 2.80 franking with two line 'Aus dem Strassenbahnbriefkasten' cachet

The Hamburg streetcar service had a mailbox attached to the first car and during its various scheduled stops people could drop their mail into this box. At the streetcar's stop at the central post office the box was cleared and the mail immediately processed through the postal system. This service was especially useful for time and connection sensitive mailings. A charge of RM 0.05 was charged for this service

The above cover was a single RM 0.25 base rate plus a double RM 2.50 airmail surcharge for a letter up to 10 grams and RM 0.05 for the streetcar mail service making a correct total of RM 2.80

There was a special base rate for business papers and samples of RM 0.05 per 50 grams with a maximum weight limit of 2 kg. However, there was a minimum charge on this tariff of RM 0.25 which has been applied to the above cover. The Zeppelin surcharge rate for printed papersto other South American countries beyong Brazil was RM 1.50 for 25 grams making a correct overall franking of RM 1.75

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

German Originations



Thick card mailbag tag for the mail taken on board the Zeppelin at Friedrichshafen that was destined for Porto Alegre in southern Brazil. It shows the special Zeppelin flight cachet and a 'p. Syndicato Condor' cachet for the ongoing connection after arrival in Brazil.

Note the manuscript endorsement '2.950 kg' showing that there was just under 3 kg of mail for this destination. The tag has a Porto Alegre arrival cds on the reverse side (24 August)

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

German Originations



Cover that travelled in the Friedrichshafen to Porto Alegre mailbag

Cover from Wuppertal to Porto Alegre with RM 2.75 meter franking endorsed '7 gr.' at upper left side and with Porto Alegre arrival backstamp (24 Aug) matching that on the reverse side of the mailbag tag shown on the previous page

The above cover was a single RM 0.25 base rate plus a double RM 2.50 airmail surcharge for a letter up to 10 grams

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Aegean Islands Originations



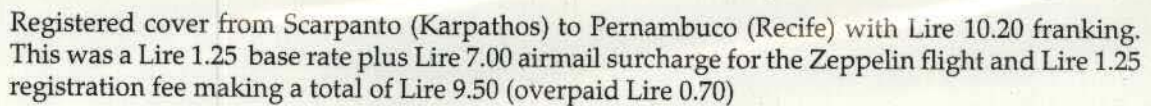
Registered postcard from Rhodes to Recife with Lire 9.25 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Italy and its Colonies were Lire 0.75 for a postcard or Lire 1.25 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Lire 0.25 per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Lire 7.00 per 5 grams for Brazil or Lire 8.25 per 5 grams to other countries in South America. Registration was an additional Lire 1.25

The above postcard was franked with Lire 0.75 base rate plus Lire 7.00 airmail surcharge and Lire 1.25 registration fee making a total of Lire 9.00 (overpaid Lire 0.25)

Aegean Islands Originations



Karpathos is a small island approximately 50 Km. south west of Rhodes

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Albania Origination



Registered unsealed (printed matter rate) cover from Shkoder to Santos with a Fr. 0.85 franking

A rare origination

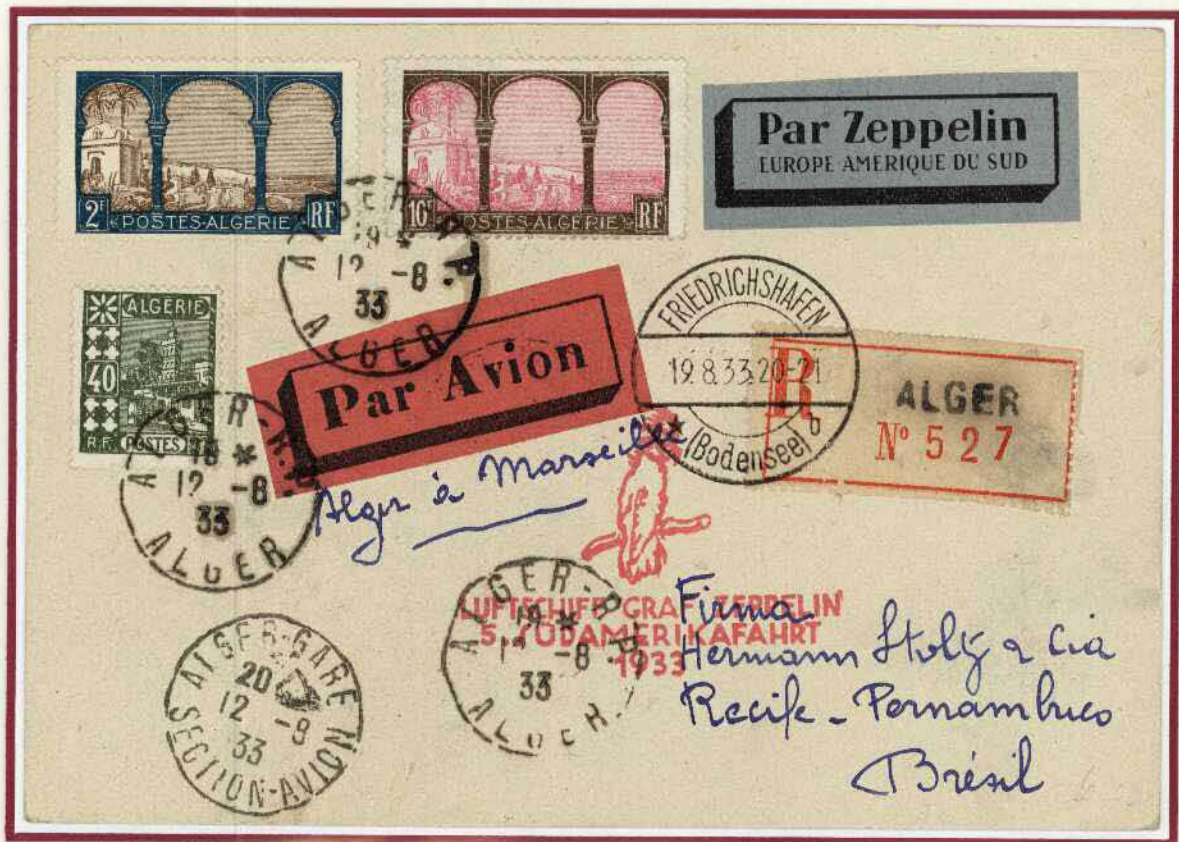
Postal Rates

The international base rates from Albania were Fr. 0.15 for a postcard or Fr. 0.25 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Fr. 0.05 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Fr. 0.25

The franking on the above cover is Fr. 0.05 for printed matter and 0.25 for registration which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of Fr. 0.55

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Algeria Origination



Registered postcard from Algiers to Recife with a Fr. 12.40 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Algeria were Fr. 0.90 for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Fr. 0.30 per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 8.50 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams destined for either Brazil or Argentina. Registration was an additional Fr. 2.00

The above postcard is Fr. 0.90 base rate and Fr. 2.00 registration plus Fr. 8.50 airmail surcharge making a total of Fr. 11.40 (overpaid Fr. 1.00)

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Andorra Origination



Registered cover from Andorra to Pernambuco (Recife) with a Fr. 12.00 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Andorra were Fr. 0.90 for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Fr. 0.30 per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 8.50 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams destined for either Brazil or Argentina. Registration was an additional Fr. 2.00

The above cover is Fr. 1.50 base rate and Fr. 2.00 registration plus Fr. 8.50 airmail surcharge making a correct total of Fr. 12.00

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Austria Origination



Registered cover from Vienna to Recife with 410 gr. Austrian franking with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Austria were 30 gr. for a postcard or 50 gr. for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 8 gr. per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional 200 gr. for a postcard or 250 gr. per 5 grams for a letter for Brazil / 300 gr for a postcard or 350 gr. per 5 grams for a letter to other countries in South America. Registration was an additional 70 gr.

The above cover is 50 gr. base rate and 70 gr. registration plus 250 gr. airmail surcharge for a letter up to 5 grams to Brazil making a total of 370 gr. (overpaid 40 gr.)

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Belgium Origination



Cover from Brussels to Recife with Fr. 14.25 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Belgium were Fr. 1.00 for a postcard or Fr. 1.75 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed mater was Fr. 0.35 per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 12.50 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams destined for either Brazil or for other countries in South America. Registration was an additional Fr. 1.75

The above cover is Fr. 1.75 base rate plus Fr. 12.50 airmail surcharge making a correct total of Fr. 14.25

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Bulgaria Origination



Registered cover from Sofia to Pernambuco (Recife) with 221 levass franking with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Bulgaria were 4 levass for a postcard or 7 levass for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 1 leva per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 7 levass

The franking on the above cover would suggest an airmail surcharge fee of 207 levass has been paid but this could well be for a higher weight step and as this is a "full set" philatelic franking it may also be overpaid. Further research is needed

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Czechoslovakia Origination



Postcard from Prague to Recife with Kc. 13.00 franking with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

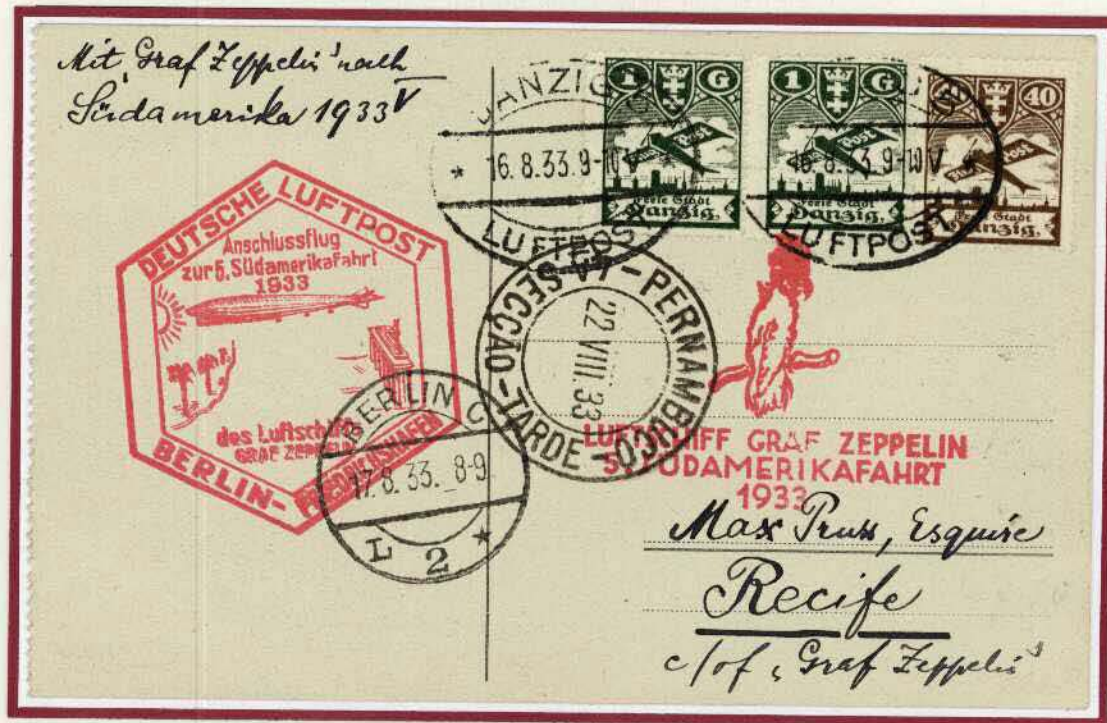
Postal Rates

The international base rates from Czechoslovakia were Kc. 1.50 for a postcard and Kc. 2.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Kc. 0.50 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Kc. 2.50.

The franking on the above cover is Kc. 1.50 base rate which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of Kc. 11.50 for a postcard to Brazil

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Danzig Origination



Postcard from Danzig to Recife with G. 2.40 franking with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Danzig were G. 0.20 for a postcard and G. 0.30 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was G. 0.05 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional G. 0.20

The franking on the above postcard is G. 0.20 base rate which would suggest a probable airmail surcharge fee of G. 2.20 for a postcard to Brazil

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Danzig (Polish Post Office) Origination



Registered cover from Gdansk to Pernambuco (Recife) with Gr. 4.00 (4 zloty) franking with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

A rare origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from the Polish Post Office in Danzig were Gr. 35 for a postcard and Gr. 60 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Gr. 10 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Gr. 0.60

The franking on the above cover is Gr. 0.60 base rate plus Gr. 0.60 registration fee which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of Gr. 2.80 for a letter up to 5 grams to Brazil

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Denmark Origination



Registered postal stationery envelope sent (unsealed) from Copenhagen to Recife with Kr. 1.35 franking with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Denmark were Kr. 0.15 for a postcard or Kr. 0.25 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Kr. 0.07 per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Kr. 1.00 per 5 grams for Brazil or Kr. 1.50 per 5 grams to other countries in South America. Registration was an additional Kr. 0.25

The franking on the above cover is Kr. 0.07 base rate for printed matter and Kr. 0.25 registration fee plus Kr. 1.00 airmail surcharge making a total of Kr. 1.32 (overpaid Kr. 0.03)

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Egypt Origination



Registered (unsealed) cover from Alexandria to Rio de Janeiro endorsed 'via airmail to London' and 'Printed matter' with combination of 37 mils Egypt franking and 10d British franking with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

A rare origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Egypt were 13 mils for a postcard or 20 mils for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 4 mils per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 20 mils

The franking on the above cover is 33 mils which suggests an additional airmail fee for the journey to London of 9 mils. The British 10d pays the correct all inclusive airmail surcharge for Zeppelin mail to Brazil for up to half-an-ounce of printed matter

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Eritrea Origination



Registered cover from Asmara to Pernambuco (Recife) with Lire 9.75 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Eritrea were Lire 0.75 for a postcard or Lire 1.25 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Lire 0.25 per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Lire 7.00 per 5 grams for Brazil or Lire 8.25 per 5 grams to other countries in South America. Registration was an additional Lire 1.25

The above cover was franked with Lire 1.25 base rate plus Lire 7.00 airmail surcharge and Lire 1.25 registration fee making a total of Lire 9.50 (overpaid Lire 0.25)

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Estonia Origination



Cover from Tallinn to Pernambuco (Recife) with Kr. 1.10 franking with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Estonia were Kr. 0.12 for a postcard and Kr. 20 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Kr. 0.04 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Kr. 0.20

The franking on the above cover is Kr. 0.20 base rate which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of Kr. 0.90 for a cover up to 5 grams to Brazil

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Ethiopia Origination



Registered cover from Harrar to Pernambuco (Recife) with 2Th 1g franking

A rare origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Ethiopia (1Th = 16g) were 3g for a postcard or 4g for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 1g per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 6g

The franking on the above cover is 4g base rate plus 6g registration which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge of 1Th 7g for a letter up to 5 grams to Brazil

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Finland Originations



Registered cover from Koupio to Buenos Aires with M. 27.00 franking with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Finland were M. 1.50 for a postcard and M. 2.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was M. 0.50 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional M. 2.50

The franking on the above cover is M. 2.50 base rate plus M. 2.50 registration which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of M. 22.00 for a cover up to 5 grams to other South American countries beyond Brazil



Registered postcard with M. 25.00 franking from Helsinki to Recife with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet. The franking suggests a possible M. 20.00 special airmail fee for a postcard to Brazil (overpaid M. 1.00).



Registered cover with M. 27.00 franking from Helsinki to Recife with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet. The franking suggests a possible M. 22.00 special airmail fee for a cover up to 5 grams to Brazil

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

France Origination



Registered cover (label on the reverse) from Tourcoing to Pernambuco (Recife) with a Fr. 12.00 franking (Fr. 2.00 on the reverse side)

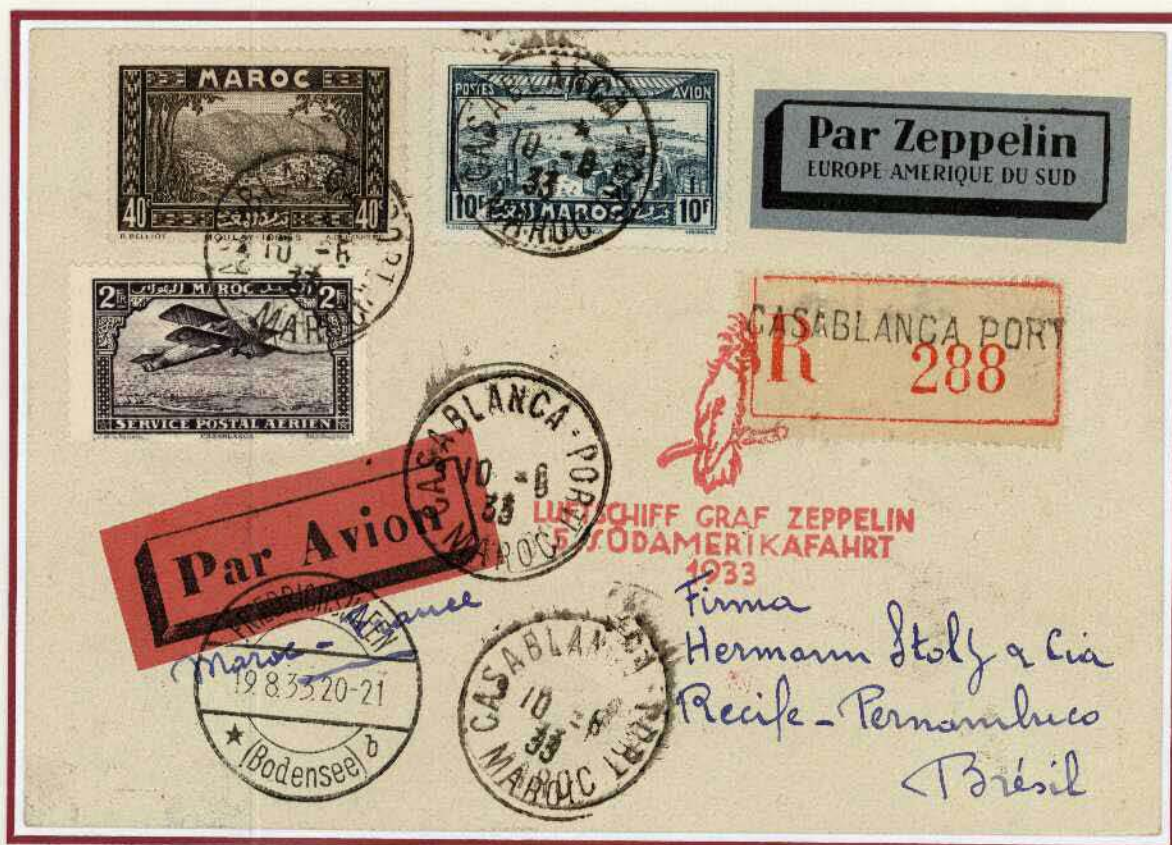
Postal Rates

The international base rates from France were Fr. 0.90 for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Fr. 0.30 per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 8.50 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams destined for either Brazil or Argentina. Registration was an additional Fr. 2.00

The above cover is Fr. 1.50 base rate and Fr. 2.00 registration plus Fr. 8.50 airmail surcharge making a correct total of Fr. 12.00

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

French Morrocco Origination



Registered postcard from Casablanca to Recife with Fr. 12.40 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from French Morocco were Fr. 0.90 for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Fr. 0.30 per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 8.50 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams destined for either Brazil or Argentina. Registration was an additional Fr. 2.00

The above cover is Fr. 0.90 base rate and Fr. 2.00 registration plus Fr. 8.50 airmail surcharge making a total of Fr. 11.40 (overpaid Fr. 1.00)

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

French Sudan Origination



Registered cover (label on reverse) from Tomboucton to Recife with Fr. 13.75 franking

A rare origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from French Sudan were Fr. 0.90 for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Fr. 0.30 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Fr. 2.00

The franking on the above cover is Fr. 1.50 base rate plus Fr. 2.00 registration which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge of Fr. 10.00 (overpaid Fr. 0.25) for a letter up to 5 grams to Brazil

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Gibraltar Originations



Registered cover (unsealed) from Gibraltar to Curitiba in Brazil with a 1/5d franking with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Gibraltar were 1½ d for a postcard or 3d for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was ½ d per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 3d

The above cover was routed via Plymouth, England (transit backstamp). It seems likely that it was treated as a letter rate from Gibraltar with a 3d base rate and 3d registration fee leaving a possible 11d balance for the airmail surcharge fee which would have been at a printed matter rate. Further research is needed

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Gibraltar Origins



Registered cover (unsealed) endorsed 'printed matter' from Gibraltar to Santos in Brazil with a 1/3d franking with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

It seems likely that this cover was treated as printed matter from Gibraltar with $\frac{1}{2}$ d base rate and 3d registration fee leaving a possible $11\frac{1}{2}$ d balance (possibly overpaid $\frac{1}{2}$ d) for the airmail surcharge fee which would also have been at a printed matter rate. This cover was originally mailed 12 days earlier than the cover on the previous page. Further research is needed

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Great Britain Originations



Cover from London to Rio de Janeiro with a 3/6d franking showing the hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

All inclusive rates for the Zeppelin service were offered from Great Britain as follows:

Mail to Brazil was 10d per half ounce for printed matter, 1/9d for a postcard and 3/6d per half ounce for letters. Mail to other South American countries was 1/- per half ounce for printed matter, 2/- for a postcard and 4/- per half ounce for letters. Registration was 3d extra

The above cover was correctly franked with 3/6d for the all inclusive basic letter rate to Brazil



Unsealed registered cover from Trearddur Bay in North Wales to Buenos Aires with correct 1/3d franking to pay the 3d registration fee plus the inclusive 1/- printed matter rate by Zeppelin service to other South American countries beyond Brazil. It shows the hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet



Unsealed cover from Cardiff to Pernambuco (Recife) flown internally in Great Britain from Cardiff to Plymouth by the Great Western Railway first airmail flight with GWR 3d airmail stamp to pay the special fee and with additional British 10d franking to pay the inclusive printed matter rate by Zeppelin service to Brazil. It shows the hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet



Greece Originations

Registered postcard to Recife with Dr. 83 franking and regular cover to USA with Dr. 98 franking (Dr. 20 on the reverse) both from Athens with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachets

The international base rates from Greece were Dr. 5 for a postcard and Dr. 8 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Dr. 1 per 50 grams. The registration fee was Dr. 8. The franking on the above would suggest a possible airmail surcharge of Dr. 70 for a postcard to Brazil and a possible airmail surcharge of Dr. 90 for a letter to South American countries beyond Brazil



Hungary Originations

Postcard from Budapest to Recife with Pe. 2.88 franking and registered postcard from Budapest to Buenos Aires with Pe. 3.88 franking. Both show the hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachets

These rates would suggest possible airmail surcharge fees of Pe. 2.60 for a postcard to Brazil and Pe. 3.10 for a postcard to South American countries beyond Brazil (both overpaid Pe. 0.08)

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Hejaz & Nejd (Saudi Arabia) Origination



Registered cover from Mecca to Pernambuco (Recife) with equivalent 25½ gr. franking

A rare origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Hejaz & Nejd were 1 gr. for a postcard and 2½ gr. for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 1 gr. per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 2½ gr.

The franking on the above cover would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of 20.50 gr. for a letter to Brazil

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Iceland Origination



Registered cover from Reykjavik to Recife with Aur. 305 franking showing the hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Iceland were Aur. 20 for a postcard or Aur. 35 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Aur. 7 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Aur. 30

These rates would suggest a probable airmail surcharge fee of Aur. 240 for a letter up to 5 grams to Brazil



Iraq Originations

Two unsealed registered covers (printed matter rates) from Baghdad to Recife and to Buenos Aires both endorsed 'via airmail to London' with combination 40 fils Iraq franking and 10d or 1/- British frankings respectively. Both show the hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachets

The international base rates from Iraq were 3 fils for printed matter (up to 50 grams) and 15 fils for registration which suggest an additional airmail fee for the journey to London of 22 fils. The British frankings pay the correct respective all inclusive airmail surcharges for Zeppelin mail

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Ireland Origination



Unsealed (printed matter rate) cover from Baile Atha Claith to Curitiba in Brazil with 1/0½ d franking showing the hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Ireland were 1½ d for a postcard or 2d for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was ½ d per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 3d

These rates would suggest a probable airmail surcharge fee of 1/- per half ounce for printed matter to Brazil

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Italy Origination



Postcard from Milan to Recife with Lire 7.25 franking

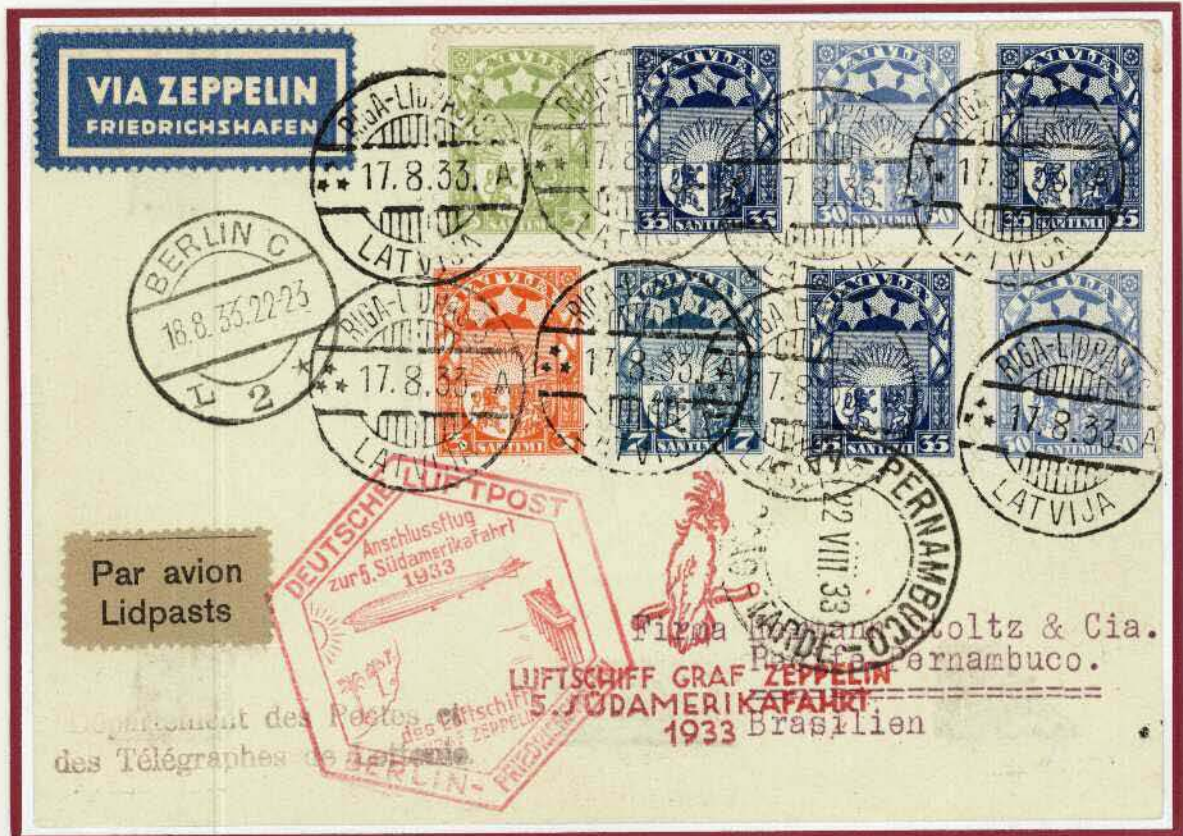
Postal Rates

The international base rates from Italy were Lire 0.75 for a postcard or Lire 1.25 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Lire 0.25 per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Lire 7.00 per 5 grams for Brazil or Lire 8.25 per 5 grams to other countries in South America. Registration was an additional Lire 1.25

The above postcard should have Lire 0.75 base rate plus Lire 7.00 airmail surcharge making a total of Lire 7.75 (underpaid Lire 0.50). However, it is a card with no message, so it is possible it was treated by the Italian post office as printed matter in which case the franking would be correct

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Latvia Origination



Postcard from Riga to Recife with 180 sant. franking showing hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

A scarce origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Latvia were 20 sant. for a postcard or 35 sant. for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 7 sant. per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 40 sant.

The franking on the above postcard is 20 sant. base rate which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee for the Zeppelin flight of 160 sant. for a postcard to Brazil

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Liechtenstein Origination



Postcard from Vaduz to Pernambuco (Recife) with Fr. 1.90 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Liechtenstein were Fr. 0.20 for a postcard or Fr. 0.30 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 7½ c per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 1.70 per 5 grams for Brazil or Fr. 2.00 per 5 grams to other countries in South America. Registration was an additional Fr. 0.40

The above postcard was therefore Fr. 0.20 base rate plus Fr. 1.70 airmail surcharge making a correct total of Fr. 1.90

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Lithuania Origination



Registered postcard from Klaipeda to Recife with 8 Litas franking showing hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

A rare origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Lithuania were 36 Centas for a postcard or 60 Centas for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 12 Centas per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 60 Centas (100 Centas = 1 Litas)

The franking on the above postcard is 36 Centas base rate plus 60 Centas registration which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee for the Zeppelin flight of 7 Litas for a postcard to Brazil (overpaid 4 Centas)

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Lithuania Originations



Registered cover from Klaipeda to Recife with 15 Litai franking showing hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

The international base rates from Lithuania of 60 Centas for a letter (up to 20 grams) and 60 Centas for registration suggests a possible airmail surcharge see of 13.80 Litai for a letter (up to 5 grams) to Brazil

A rare origination

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Luxembourg Origination



Registered cover from Luxembourg to Recife with a combination of Fr. 3.50 Luxembourg franking and RM 1.32 German franking with the latter being cancelled in transit at Berlin showing the hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Luxembourg were Fr. 1.00 for a postcard or Fr. 1.75 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 0.35 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Fr. 1.75

It was not possible to prepay the special airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight with Luxembourg stamps and it was therefore necessary to arrange for the addition of German stamps. The same rates as from Germany applied: RM 1.25 for a postcard or letter up to 5 grams to Brazil or RM 1.50 to other South American countries

The above cover is therefore correctly franked on the Luxembourg portion but overpaid RM 0.07 on the German portion of the franking

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Madagascar Origination



Registered cover from Sainte Marie to Lima in Peru with Fr. 13.50 franking

A rare origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Madagascar were Fr. 0.90 for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Fr. 0.30 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Fr. 2.00

The franking on the above cover is Fr. 1.50 base rate plus Fr. 2.00 registration which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge of Fr. 10.00 for a letter up to 5 grams to Peru

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Malta Origination



Postcard from Valletta to Recife with a 2/5½ d franking cancelled by AIR MAIL cds's

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Malta were 1½ d for a postcard or a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was ½ d per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 3d

The franking on the above postcard is 1½ d base rate which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of 2/4d for a postcard to Brazil including the airmail portion out of Malta

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Monaco Origination



Registered cover from Montecarlo to Pernambuco (Recife) with Fr. 12.00 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Monaco were Fr. 0.90 for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Fr. 0.30 per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 8.50 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams destined for either Brazil or Argentina. Registration was an additional Fr. 2.00

The franking on the above cover is Fr. 1.50 base rate plus Fr. 8.50 airmail surcharge and Fr. 2.00 registration making a correct total franking of Fr. 12.00

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Morocco Agencies - Casablanca Origination



Unsealed registered cover (printed matter rate) from Casablanca to Curitiba with 8½ d British currency franking and Fr. 2.30 French currency franking showing hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Morocco in French currency were 90c for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 30c per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Fr. 2.00

The franking on the above cover is 30c base rate plus Fr. 2.00 registration which is the correct total of Fr. 2.30 but the 8½ d British currency franking would appear to underpay the printed matter 10d per half ounce inclusive airmail surcharge fee for the Zeppelin flight to Brazil by 1½ d

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Morrocco Agencies - Tangier Origination



Registered cover endorsed 'Printed matter' from Tangiers to Pernambuco (Recife) with 1/3d British currency franking showing hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The rate from British Morocco to England was 2d for a letter (up to 20 grams) and registration was an additional 3d. From England it travelled at the 10d per half ounce all inclusive printed matter rate to Brazil for the Zeppelin flight making a correct total franking of 1/3d

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Morocco Agencies - Tangier Origination



Registered cover endorsed 'Printed matter' from Tangiers to Buenos Aires with 1/5d British currency franking showing hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The rate from British Morocco to England was 2d for a letter (up to 20 grams) and registration was an additional 3d. From England it travelled at the 1/- per half ounce all inclusive printed matter rate to other South American countries beyond Brazil for the Zeppelin flight making a correct total franking of 1/5d

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Netherlands Originations



Unsealed registered cover (printed matter rate) from Wassenaar to Bahia with Gld. 1.08 franking showing the hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Netherlands were Gld. 0.07½ for a postcard or Gld. 0.12½ for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Gld. 0.02½. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Gld. 0.90 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams for Brazil or Gld. 1.00 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams for other South American countries. The printed matter rates were identical except that they had a weight allowance of 25 grams. Registration was an additional Gld. 0.15

The above cover was therefore a Gld. 0.02½ base rate plus Gld. 0.90 airmail surcharge and Gld. 0.15 registration making a total of Gld. 1.17½ (overpaid Gld. 0.00½)

Mit Luftschiff "Graf Zeppelin" nach Südamerika!



LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN
S. JODAMERIKAFAHRT
1933



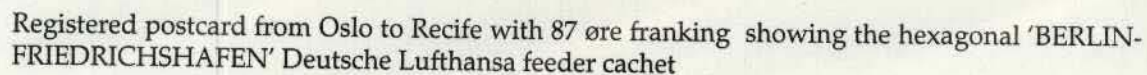
Herrn Albert Thasler
a.B. "Graf Zeppelin"
Pernambuco - Brasil.

Cover from Sheveningen to Pernambuco (Recife) with Gld. 1.02½ franking. This is a Gld. 0.12½ base rate and a Gld. 0.90 airmail surcharge



Cover from Rotterdam to Sao Paulo with Gld. 1.02½ meter franking. This is a Gld. 0.12½ base rate and a Gld. 0.90 airmail surcharge

Norway Origination



The international base rates from Norway were 20 øre for a postcard and 30 øre for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 10 øre per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 30 øre

The airmail surcharge rates for this 1933 Zeppelin flight (and other 1933 flights) appear to have been greatly reduced from the published tariff of 200 øre for a letter or postcard. The above item is marked 'Drucksache' and it may have travelled at a lower printed matter rate. More research is needed

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Poland Origination



Registered cover from Rybnik to Recife with Gr. 395 franking showing the circular 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Poland were Gr. 35 for a postcard or Gr. 50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Gr. 10 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Gr. 60

The franking on the above cover would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee for a letter to Brazil of Gr. 285 per 5 grams. However there seems to be very little regularity in rates on Zeppelin covers originating from Poland and further research is needed

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Romania Originations



Registered cover from Bucarest to Rio de Janeiro with 81 Lei franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Romania were Lei 6 for a postcard or Lei 10 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Lei 2 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Lei 10

The franking on the above cover could suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee for a letter to Brazil of Lei 51 per 5 grams, however, there seems to be very little regularity in rates on Zeppelin covers originating from Romania and further research is needed

On the following page is a registered postcard from Bucarest to Recife with a Lei 77 franking and, underneath, a registered cover from Bucarest to Rio de Janeiro with a Lei 61 franking. These rates could suggest airmail surcharge fees Lei 61 for the postcard or Lei 41 for the cover



1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Russia Origination



Registered postcard from Moscow to Recife with Kp. 165 franking showing the hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Russia were Kp. 10 for a postcard or Kp. 15 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Kp. 3 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Kp. 20

The franking on the above cover would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of Kp. 135 for a postcard to Brazil

Mit Luftschiff „Graf Zeppelin“



**LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN
S. SÜDAMERIKAFAHRT
1933**



Herrn Albert Thasler

a.B. "Graf Zeppelin"

**Mit Luftpost
Par avion**

Pernambuco,

Brasilien

~~19.8.~~ 1933 Zeppelin Südamerikafahrt

Postkarte



**LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN
S. SÜDAMERIKAFAHRT
1933**



Lucien Verwaine
Sanco Germanico de la
America del Süd

für Herrn F. Funk-Berlin.

Assuncion (Paraguay)

Casilla de correo 673

Saar Originations

Postcards from Saarbrücken to Pernambuco (Recife) with Fr. 10.90 franking and to Asuncion, Paraguay with Fr. 13.50 franking (Fr. 8.50 on the reverse side)

The international base rates from Saar were Fr. 0.90 for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). The above postcards suggest possible airmail surcharges of Fr. 10.00 for a postcard to Brazil and Fr. 12.00 (overpaid Fr. 0.60) to other South American countries beyond Brazil

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

San Marino Origination



Postcard from San Marino to Recife with Lire 8.05 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from San Marino were Lire 0.75 for a postcard and Lire 1.25 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Lire 0.25 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Lire 1.25

The franking on the above postcard would suggest a possible airmail surcharge fee of Lire 7.30 for a postcard to Brazil. However although the rates from San Marino do seem to have dropped from the latter part of 1932 there is very little regularity in the known frankings and further research is needed

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Somali Coast Origination



Registered cover from Djibouti to Pernambuco (Recife) with Fr. 13.50 franking

A rare origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Somali Coast were Fr. 0.90 for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Fr. 0.30 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Fr. 2.00

The franking on the above cover is Fr. 1.50 base rate plus Fr. 2.00 registration which would suggest a possible airmail surcharge of Fr. 10.00 for a letter up to 5 grams to Brazil



Sweden Originations

Postcard from Lotberget with 190 øre franking and registered postcard from Stockholm with 220 øre franking both to Rio de Janeiro latter with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

The international base rates from Sweden were 15 øre for a postcard and 25 øre for a letter. Printed matter was 5 øre per 50 grams. Registration was an additional 20 øre. These rates suggest that the airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was 185 øre with the former item, the regular postcard, being 10 øre underpaid

1932 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Switzerland Originations



Registered postcard from Romanshorn to Sao Paulo with Fr. 2.20 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Switzerland were 20c for a postcard or 30c for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was 7½ c up to 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 1.70 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams for Brazil or Fr. 2.00 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams for other South American countries. The airmail surcharge printed matter rates were 30c higher in both instances however they had a weight allowance of 25 grams. Registration was an additional 40c

The above postcard should therefore be a 20c base rate plus Fr.1.70 airmail surcharge and 40c registraion making a total of Fr. 2.30 (underpaid 10c)

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Tunisia Origination



Registered postcard from Tunis to Recife with a Fr. 12.40 franking with added 'Par Avion' label with manuscript endorsement 'Tunis a Marseille' alongside

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Tunisia were Fr. 0.90 for a postcard or Fr. 1.50 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was Fr. 0.30 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional Fr. 2.00.

The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional Fr. 8.50 for a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams destined for either Brazil or Argentina. However, there was also an additional Fr. 1.00 charge for the airmail service from Tunis to Marseilles

The above cover is Fr. 0.90 base rate, Fr. 2.00 registration and Fr. 1.00 for air service from Tunis plus Fr. 8.50 airmail surcharge making a correct total of Fr. 12.40

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Yemen Origination



Registered cover from Hodeida to Pernambuco (Recife) with a B. 23 franking with hexagonal 'BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSHAFEN' Deutsche Lufthansa feeder cachet

A rare origination

Postal Rates

The international base rates from Yemen were B. 4 for a postcard or B. 6 for a letter (up to 20 grams). Printed matter was B. 1 per 50 grams. Registration was an additional B. 8

These rates would suggest a probable airmail surcharge fee of B. 9 for a letter up to 5 grams to Brazil

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Mail Posted on Board



Postcard mailed on board on the outward leg addressed back to Friedrichshafen with combination RM 1.40 German franking cancelled with LUFTSCHIFF/GRAF ZEPPELIN cds (21 Aug) and 3\$900 Brazil franking for the return trip

Postal Rates

Mail posted on board was subject to German postal rates and both the base rate and the special airmail surcharge had to be paid

The international base rates were RM 0.15 for a postcard and RM 0.25 for a letter. Printed matter was RM 0.05 per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate was an additional 1.25 RM per 5 grams for Brazil or 1.50 RM per 5 grams to other countries in Latin America. Registration was an additional RM 0.30

The above postcard was therefore a RM 0.15 base rate plus RM 1.25 airmail surcharge to Brazil



Recife to Rio de Janeiro Round Trip

Postal stationery card from Recife to Rio de Janeiro with 850r franking and cover from Rio de Janeiro to Recife with 950r franking both with special dated cachets for the respective flights

The base internal rates were 100r for a postcard and 200r for a letter. The special airmail service fee for this flight was 750r in either direction



Recife to Rio de Janeiro Round Trip

Two covers both originating from Florianópolis in the south of Brazil sent to Recife and flown to Rio de Janeiro where they were accepted on the return Zeppelin trip from Rio de Janeiro to Recife. On both the basic letter rate of 200r and the special Zeppelin airmail service of 750r has been paid though the lower cover is mistakenly 40r overfranked

The covers show the 'BRASIL-EUROPA' Zeppelin cachet applied in red and in black respectively. This would have been applied at the origination in Florianópolis. The special cachet for mail accepted in Rio de Janeiro for this flight was not used

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Recife to Seville Leg



Postcard from Rio de Janeiro to Seville in Spain with 4\$300 franking

Postal Rates

The international base rate from Brazil to Europe was 400r for a postcard and 700r for a letter. Printed matter was 200r per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight to Germany or beyond was an additional 3\$500 for either a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams. Registration was an additional 1\$400

The above postcard should therefore be a 400r base rate plus 3\$500 airmail surcharge making a total of 3\$900 which appears to be overpaid 400r. It is possible that there was an additional fee from Brazil for the drop off in Seville in which case it is likely that this is the 400r figure

All mail from Brazil to Europe received the special rectangular 'BRASIL-EUROPA' cachet and this is usually struck in violet especially from the main cities of Recife, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo though other colours do exist and these are usually applied at other, more seldom seen, originations

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Recife to Seville Leg



Cover mailed on board at the start of the return leg while the Zeppelin was still in Recife addressed to Huelva in Spain with RM 1.50 German franking cancelled with LUFTSCHIFF / GRAF ZEPPELIN cds (26 Aug). It has a Seville arrival backstamp (28 Aug)

A special circular cachet in violet 'TRANSPORTADO POR / GRAF ZEPPELIN / a. Friedrichshafen / SEVILLA 1933' was used on mail dropped off at Seville.

Postal Rates

The German rates to Seville were the normal base rates plus RM 1.25 for a postcard or letter. up to 5 grams. The above cover is RM 0.25 base rate plus RM 1.25 airmail surcharge fee

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

The Return Leg from Brazil



Cover from Rio de Janeiro to Hamburg with 36\$800 franking showing the 'BRASIL-EUROPA' cachet in violet

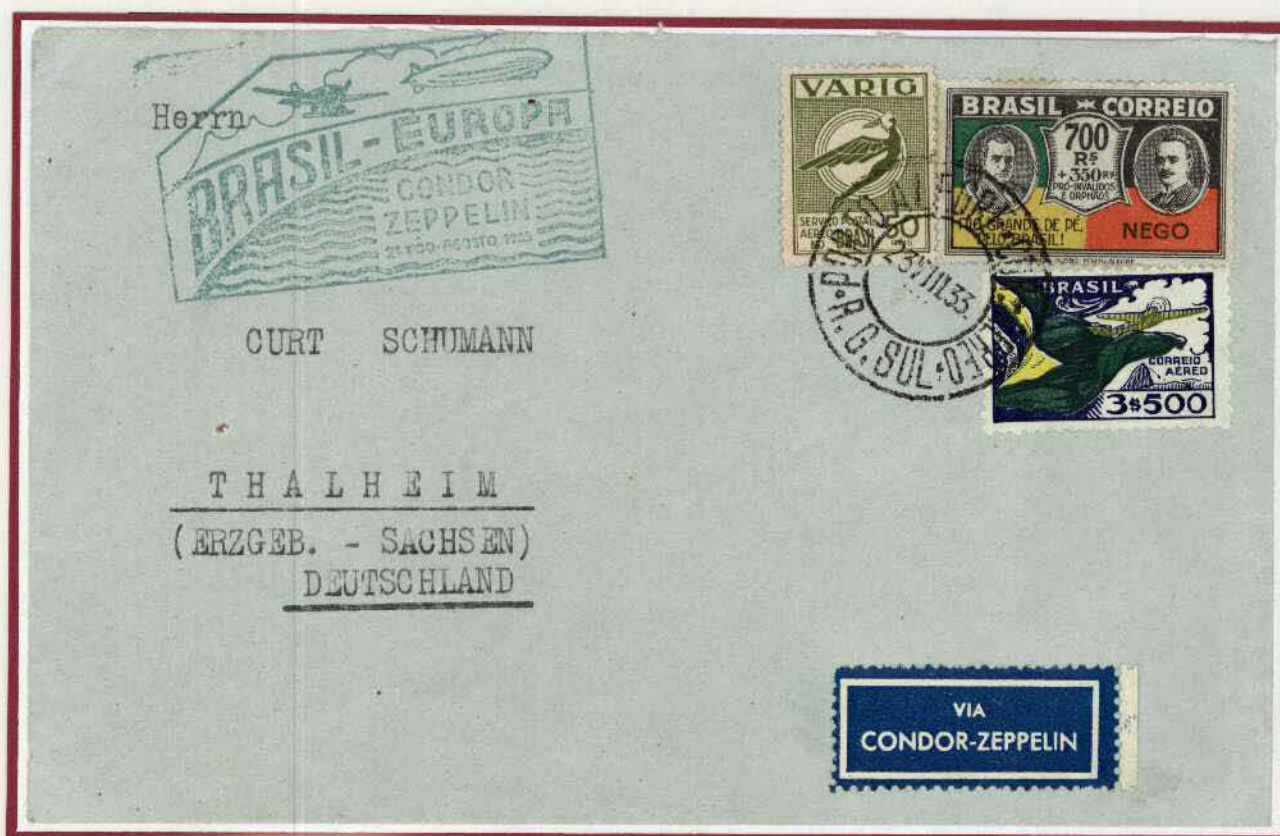
Postal Rates

The international base rate from Brazil to Europe was 400r for a postcard and 700r for a letter up to 20 grams. Additional rate steps for letters were 400r per 20 grams. Printed matter was 200r per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge rate for the Zeppelin flight was an additional 3\$500 for either a postcard or a letter up to 5 grams. Registration was an additional 1\$400

This cover must have weighed up to 50 grams and therefore the airmail surcharge fee was a ten times rate of 35\$000 and, at this up to 50 grams weight, the base fee was a triple rate where the first step was 700r and the two additional steps were 400r per 20 grams each making an overall total of 36\$500 (overpaid 300r)



Cover from Curitiba to Halle in Westfalen in Germany showing the 'BRASIL-EUROPA' cachet in yellow. It is franked with 4\$200 for the 700r base rate for a letter and 3\$500 for the airmail surcharge fee



Cover from Porto Alegreto Thalheim in Germany showing the 'BRASIL-EUROPA' cachet in green with 50r Varig airmail for the internal airmail flight plus 4\$200 National franking for the 700r base rate for a letter and 3\$500 for the airmail surcharge fee

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Paraguay Originations



Registered cover from Asuncion to Braunschweig in Germany with 27 pesos franking

Postal Rates

There was an all inclusive airmail and Zeppelin rate available from Paraguay. The base rate was 22p50 for up to 5 grams and each additional 1 gram was charged 4p50 extra. A special delivery fee (a type of registration) was also introduced: This was 3 pesos for postcards and 4p50 for letters. Zeppelin mail was deemed to be "special delivery" mail

The above cover was therefore a 22p50 base airmail rate (up to 5 grams) plus 4p50 special delivery making a total of 27 pesos

The 'BRASIL-EUROPA' cachets were usually struck in red on mail originating in Paraguay

1933 Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight

Paraguay Originations



Two postal stationery cards both from Asuncion to Lorch in Germany each with a 25p50 franking (the cards themselves have an insignificant face value) made up of 22p50 base rate and 3 pesos special delivery charge.