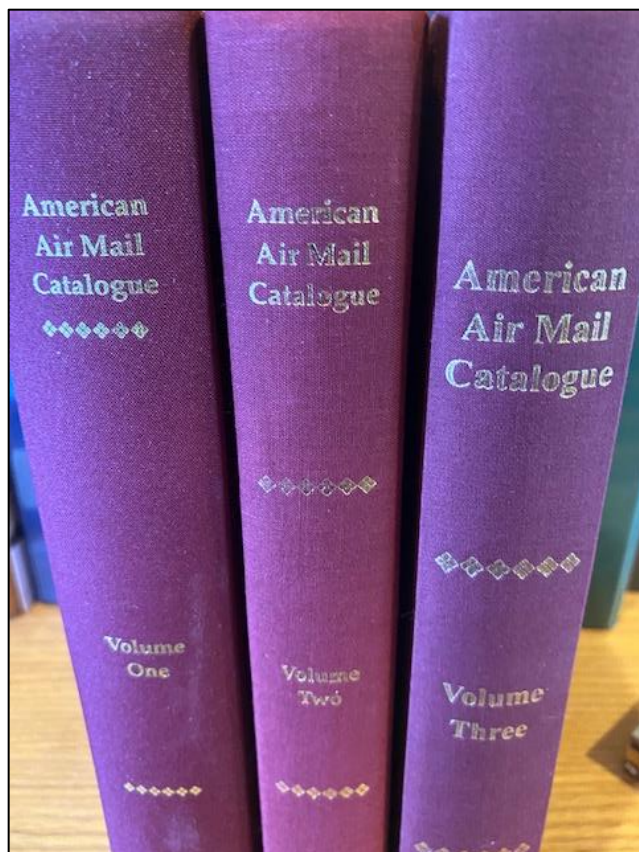


American Air Mail Catalogs

By Dave Parsons

The NSSS recently acquired 6 catalogs from the American Air Mail Society (AAMS). These consist of three volumes each for the 6th and 7th Editions of the catalogs. AAMS generously provided these reference books for only the mailing costs. The books will be part of the NSSS library and are available for loan to members. The books are in brand-new condition and the 7th Edition was published in 2017.



Volume One:

- US Contract Air Mail (CAM) Flights; Routes 1-34
- Philippine Islands
- Foreign Flag Flights

Volume Two:

- Polar Aerophilately

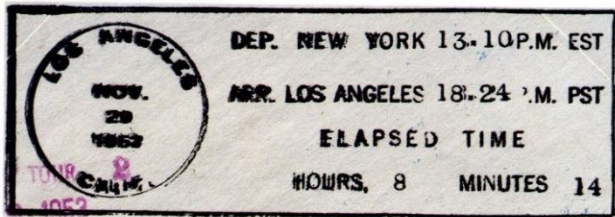
Volume Three:

- Official CAM First Flight Covers: AM Routes 1-28
- U.S. Pioneer Flights: 1910-1916
- Canal Zone Airmails: 1918-1979
- Amelia Earhart Flights
- U.S. Glider Flights
- U.S. Governmental Flights Cover

The 7th Edition has detailed route maps and color illustrations of the covers with stamps



307



307 1953, November 29 Coast-to-Coast and Return Nonstop Service

Shortly after Trans World Airlines began its first nonstop coast-to-coast service (see listing No. 304), American Airlines inaugurated its own version, advertised as the "First Official Non-Stop Coast-to-Coast Scheduled Service." The route was from New York to Los Angeles and return. Walter J. Hunt piloted the east-bound flight and Harry Clark manned the controls on the westbound flight.

Los Angeles, Nov. 29 (magenta)	(2,678 pieces)	2.00
a. Los Angeles Airfield, Nov. 29 (blue)	(7,655 pieces)	2.00
b. New York, Nov. 29 (magenta)	(3,614 pieces)	2.00
c. New York Airfield, Nov. 29 (blue)	(9,290 pieces)	2.00

After an interesting presentation by NSSS and AAMS member Tom Reyman, the author decided to delve into a stack of first flight covers.

The cover on the right was delivered to the author's father (who worked for American Airlines) in 1953 and is detailed above as #307, being a cover sent from Los Angeles to New York (with elapsed time of 7 hours and 2 minutes- thank you jet stream). Aircraft was a DC-7. Not quite as fast as the later jets.

The 6th Edition Books were published over 8 years, 1997-2004 and contain information which may not be found in the 7th edition.



NSSS members are encouraged to take a look at these catalogs to get a sense of how air mail routes were established.

Dave Parsons is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society, and his collecting interests include U.S. used and BOB, Mint U.S. Commemoratives, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, South Africa and Liberia.