

**Synopsis of “Celebrating 50 Years of Airmail Service to Bermuda:  
A FDC from 1975 and Maybe One from 1925?”**

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- Publication: *First Days*  
July-August 2024  
Vol. 69, No. 4, Whole No. 477  
pp. 60-69
- Significance/  
Objective: To introduce readers of *First Days* to a seminal event in the history of airmail to Bermuda – namely, the two flights of the airship USS *Los Angeles* in 1925 – and to provide evidence supporting the existence of a Bermudian First Day Cover (FDC) carried on a flight of the *Los Angeles* from Bermuda to Lakehurst, New Jersey, April 23-24, 1925.
- Originality: The *Airpost Journal* and the *Bermuda Post* have run articles on the *Los Angeles*, but *First Days* has not. *First Days* also has not carried any articles on the Bermudian FDCs that celebrate the *Los Angeles*. Those include the FDCs with which I open and close the article (Bermuda Scott 319 from April 28, 1975, and Bermuda Scott 444 from October 13, 1983, respectively).
- In addition, an extensive search of philatelic literature uncovered no research or articles concerning the existence of a FDC for the 1-shilling “Caravel” stamp printed on olive-colored paper (Bermuda Scott 48a). Although I was unable to definitively prove that April 13, 1925, was the first day of issue for that stamp, I offer compelling circumstantial evidence.
- Research: I did extensive research into back issues of *First Days*, *Airpost Journal* and *Bermuda Post* for articles on the *Los Angeles* and the “Caravel” stamp issue. For detail on the printing varieties of the “Caravel” issue, I relied on M.H. Ludington’s *The Postal History and Stamps of Bermuda*. For my discussion of the *Los Angeles*’s flights, I partially relied on the *Airpost Journal* articles cited under “Resources,” but I also used information gleaned from contemporary sources such as *The New York Times*, *Royal Gazette*, *Colonist Daily of Bermuda*, and *The Postal Bulletin*. I also asked members of the Bermuda Collectors Society to review a draft of this article. (Note: The part of the article in *First Days* on the 1925 FDC was printed in the *Bermuda Post*, October-December 2024, Vol. 38, No. Whole No. 152, pp. 4-7.)
- Technical: The article is illustrated with 12 figures with informative captions. Citations are included under “Resources.”
- Synopsis Date: September 18, 2024.