

The Beacon Shines on Air Mail

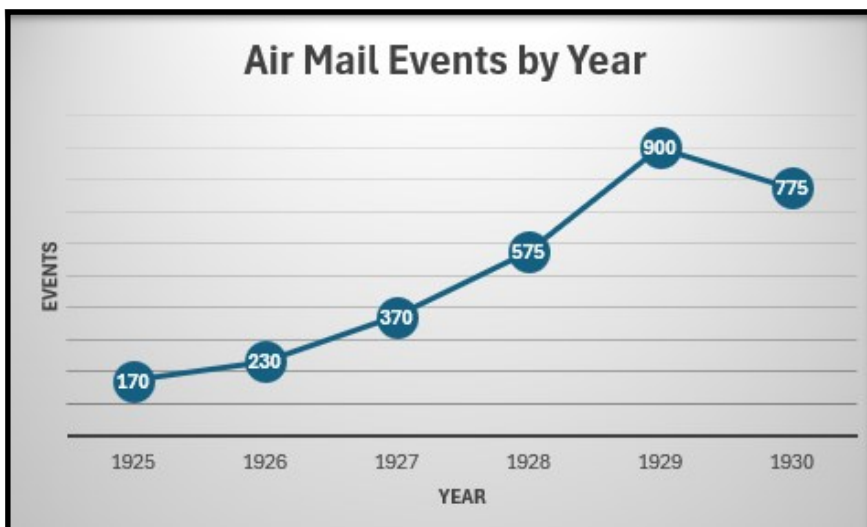
DEVELOPMENT OF AIR MAIL IN 1929

SYNOPSIS



This is a one frame exhibit that tells the story of air mail development in 1929, a pivotal year, using usages of the Beacon air mail stamp (Scott C11). It is a fitting stamp to use since its design captures the spirit of early aviation.

The exhibit shows representative, world wide uses of the Beacon stamp demonstrating the ever-growing popularity of air mail and events that supported air mail development in 1929. That year represents a peak of air mail development until trans-ocean travel became feasible by air in the mid-1930s.



Graph illustrating the growth of air events for a five year period.

Source: *American Air Mail Catalog*

Particular attention is given to service to South and Central America as well as the Caribbean. This was the period (1929) of rapid FAM growth for those areas. Also shown are examples to various European and Asian destinations. While there was no direct air service (except by Zeppelin) to those areas, there were combinations of land, sea and air services at various rates depending upon routing.

In addition to FAM and CAM usages of the period, events demonstrating the progress, experimentation and dangers of flight are also shown. There is no effort to show all flights or events, only representative usages that illustrate the story.

Some of the circumstances that made 1929 an important year are outlined on the title page of the exhibit.