

Pan American Test Covers

By Dave Gehringer

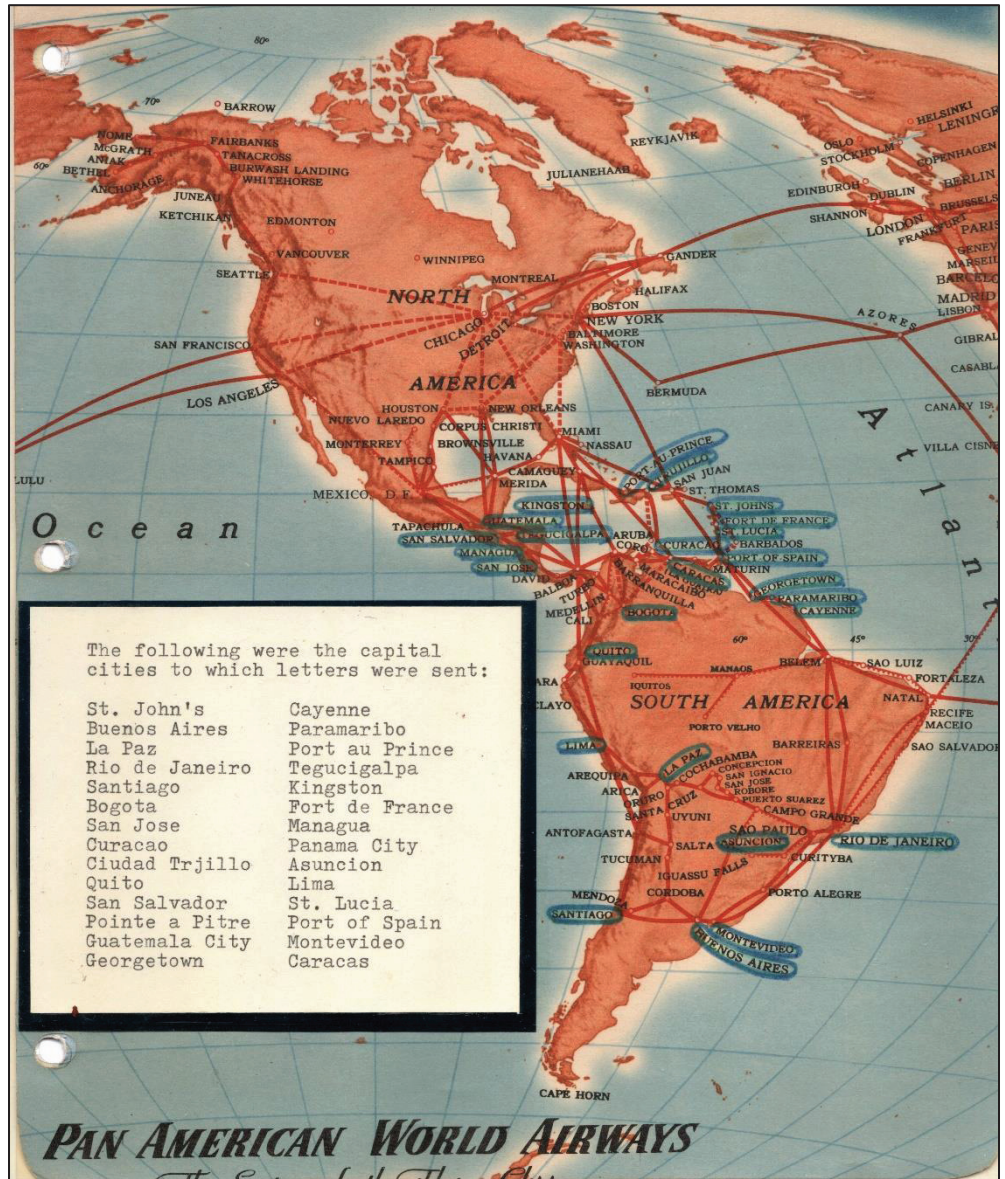
To encourage the greater use of airmail for the exchange of communications between the United States and the West Indies, Central and South America, a public test of the speed of air-mail facilities between these countries had been arranged by Pan American Airlines

For one day only on November 1, 1946, persons desiring to participate in this test could do so by addressing an envelope, prepaid with 10 cent airmail stamp to "Pan American World Airways System, Air Mail Test" at any of the capital cities of the 28 participating countries.

The envelopes were mailed in "regular fashion" on Nov. 1, 1946. Upon arrival at their destination (the Pan American office), the date of receipt was stamped on the back. Return postage was paid by Pan America and mailed through regular air mail channels from each particular country.

Below are a couple of the test covers that were shown during the club presentation on Feb. 25, 2023.

Most of the covers shown were created and sent by Dorothy Schoenfield in Erie, PA. There were also a few covers created by Herman Taylor, from Port Arthur, TX. He used #10 business sized envelopes with the new 10¢ airmail stamp.



Airmail Transport Plane Series, Scott C27, issued Aug. 15, 1941, used on most test covers.





Received in Curacao, Netherlands West Indies, Nov. 2, 1946.

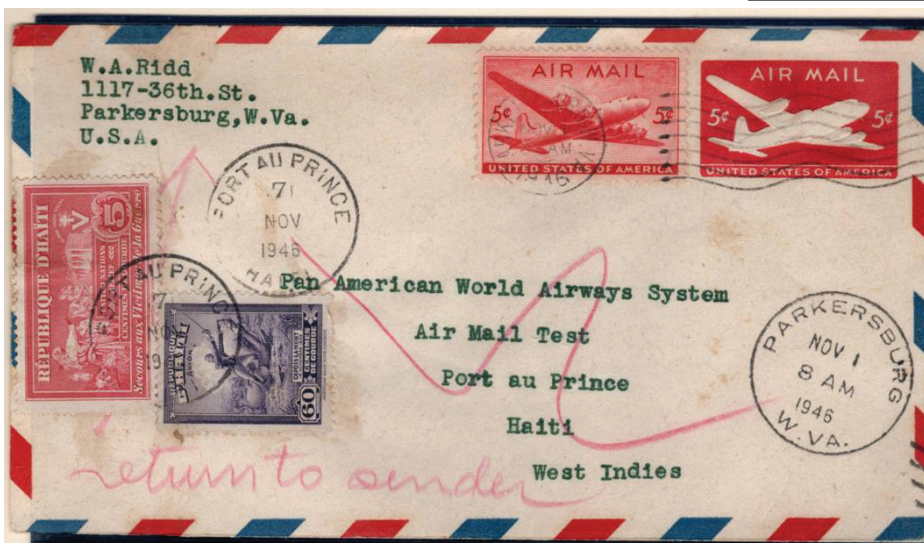
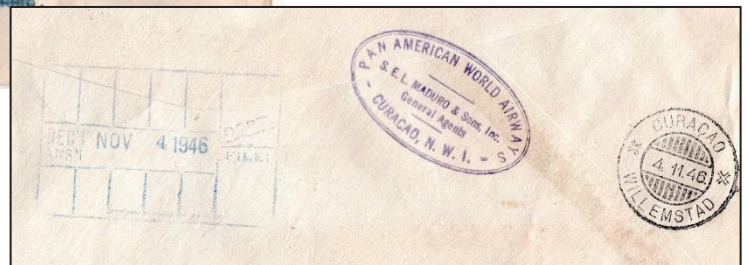
Resent and received in Erie, PA on Nov. 5, 1946.



Received in Curacao on Nov. 4, 1946.

Pan American Airways, General Agents mark is below.

Typical receiving and resending cancel on reverse. ↓



Received in Port au Prince – Nov. 4, 1946

Resent from Port au Prince and received in Parkersburg, W.Va. – Nov. 9, 1946.

Dave Gehringer is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society, and he collects U.S. naval covers with emphasis on USS Lexington and some destroyers. He also collects U.S. booklet panes and postal cards.