

Pan-Am Around the World Service 1947

By Tom Reyman

After World War II, Pan American Airways continued to expand its flight services to additional destinations. The FAM (Foreign Contract Air Mail) 14 and 18 routes were enlarged.

FAM 14 was the westbound route from San Francisco across the Pacific Ocean. Its main stops were Hawaii, Wake Island, Midway Island, then Tokyo, Japan, Shanghai and Hong Kong, China, and Bangkok, Thailand.

FAM 18 was the Eastbound route from New York across the North Atlantic, traveling through Europe to Rome and Turkey and then to the Middle East and on to India.

On June 26, 1947, Pan-Am made Calcutta, India a destination for both FAM 14 and FAM 18 as both routes were extended to that city. This event made it possible for travelers to fly around the world on one airline and to do it in either direction.



This first flight cover was sent from San Francisco on a FAM 14 Westbound flight to Calcutta. The cover cachet notes that both FAM 14 and FAM 18 were recognized as the Around-The-World routes. The postmark shows that it left San Francisco on June 26 and the backstamp indicates it arrived at Calcutta on June 30. The additional backstamp of New York on July 4 completes the FAM 14 to FAM 18 route. The mailing was finally delivered to the addressee in Sacramento.



Calcutta and New York backstamps.

Tom Reyman is a Nevada Stamp Study Society member whose collecting interests are U.S. FAM covers, general Air Mail covers, Canadian Semi-Official Air Mail stamps and covers, and Cape Breton (Nova Scotia) covers.