

# The Canal Zone

A philatelic journey with  
a start and end point

1904-1979





Meeting of the  
Atlantic and Pacific  
"The Kiss of the  
Oceans"

**CANAL STATISTICS**  
 Length ..... 40 miles  
 Channel } width at top... 500 to 1000 ft.  
           } width at bottom 306 to 650 ft.  
 Time of Passage } Through Canal 10 hours  
                   } Through Locks 3 hours  
           Length of crest ..... 8000 ft.  
 Gatun Dam } Extreme width ..... 2600 ft.  
               } Height above normal  
               lake level ..... 30 ft.  
 Locks } At Gatun ..... 3 double sets  
        } At Pedro Miguel 1 double set  
        } At Miraflores 2 double sets  
           Average lift 32 ft.  
           Length ..... 1000 ft.  
           Width ..... 110 ft.  
 Gaillard Cut ..... Length ..... 9 miles  
 Total number of men employed 40,000  
 Estimated total cost ..... \$375,000,000  
 Area of Canal Zone ..... 448 Sq. Miles

**CANAL STATISTICS**  
 Length ..... 40 miles  
 Channel } width at top... 500 to 1000 ft.  
           } width at bottom 306 to 650 ft.  
 Time of Passage } Through Canal 10 hours  
                   } Through Locks 3 hours  
           Length of crest ..... 8000 ft.





## **Vasco Nuñez de Balboa**

Christopher Columbus on his fourth expedition followed Panama's Atlantic Coast searching for a bay leading into the Pacific Ocean.

September 25<sup>th</sup> 1513 Balboa found a hill from which he could see both oceans and waded in the Pacific four days later

1518 trackway across the Isthmus which was preferable to the journey around Cape Horn discovered by Magellan in 1519 - 1521

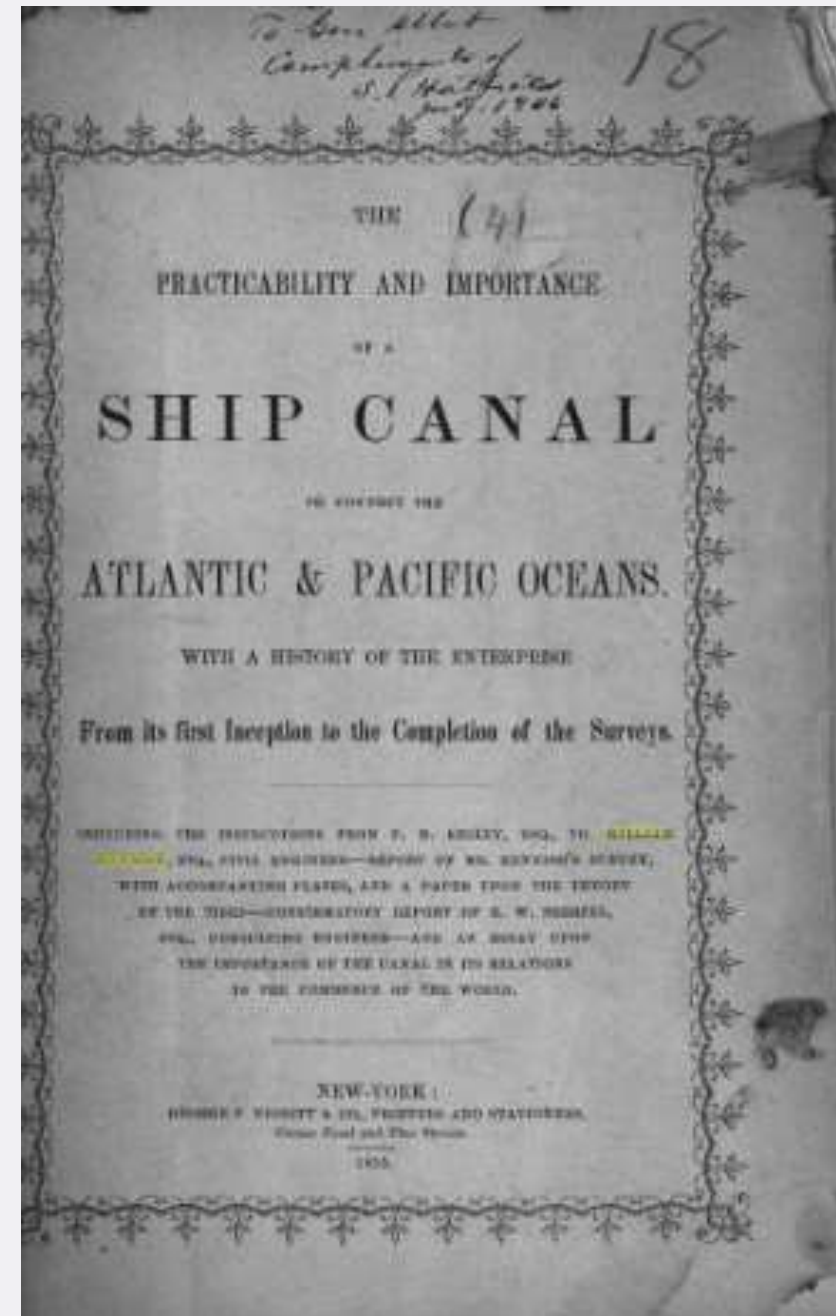


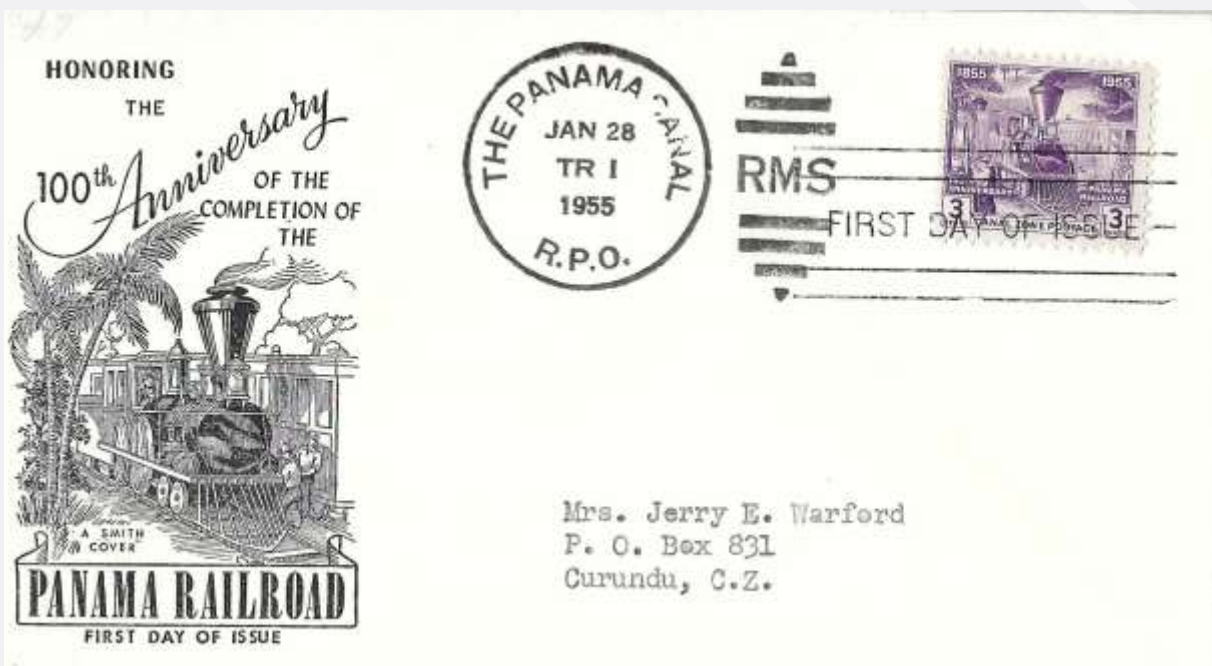
## William Kennish

Born in the Isle of Man in 1799

Served in the Royal Navy 1827 – 1832 *A treatise for concentrating the Fire of a Broadside*

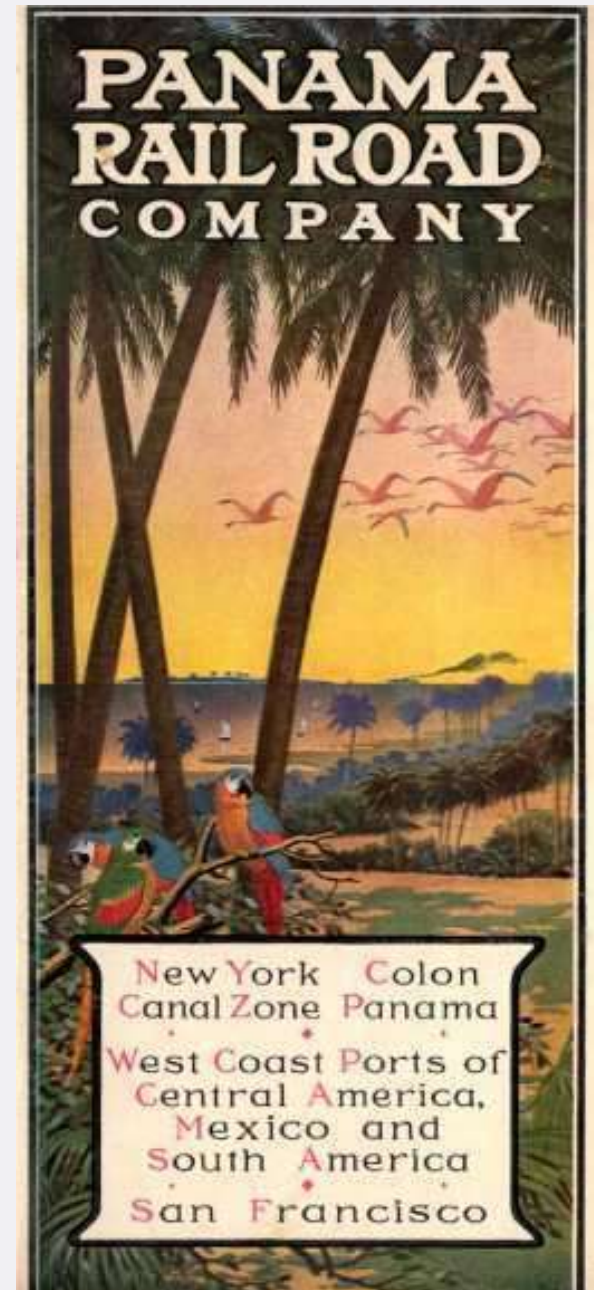
In 1849, he emigrated to America. He soon began surveying gold-bearing land in Columbia, and in 1855 planned a route for an inter-oceanic Canal for the Hope Association of New York. His report on his survey of this proposed canal route was included in *The Practicality and Importance of a Ship Canal to Connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans*, published in 1855



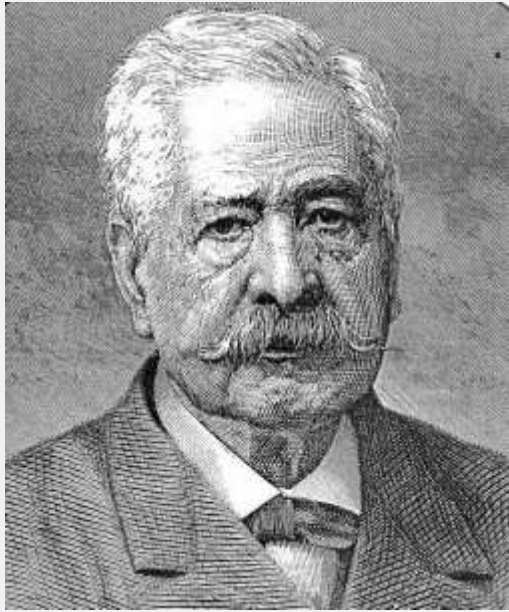


## Panama Railroad

This the world's first transcontinental railroad. It stretches 48 miles (77km) across the isthmus of Panama from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. The Panama Railway was built during the period of 1850 to 1855. The infrastructure of this functioning railroad was of vital importance to the plan to build the Panama Canal decades later. The need for the railway was inspired by the California Gold Rush. The project was begun in 1850 and the railroad was completed in 1855, with the first train running from ocean to ocean on 28th January of that year.







## **Ferdinand de Lesseps**

Born in France in 1805 and responsible for the Suez Canal which was opened on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1869

Pinnacle of French Engineering – in 1875 his first declaration about an inter oceanic canal. By end of 1881 first engineers for the *Compagnie Universelle du Canal Interoceanique* arrived in Colon to start construction of the canal. Company went bankrupt in 1889.

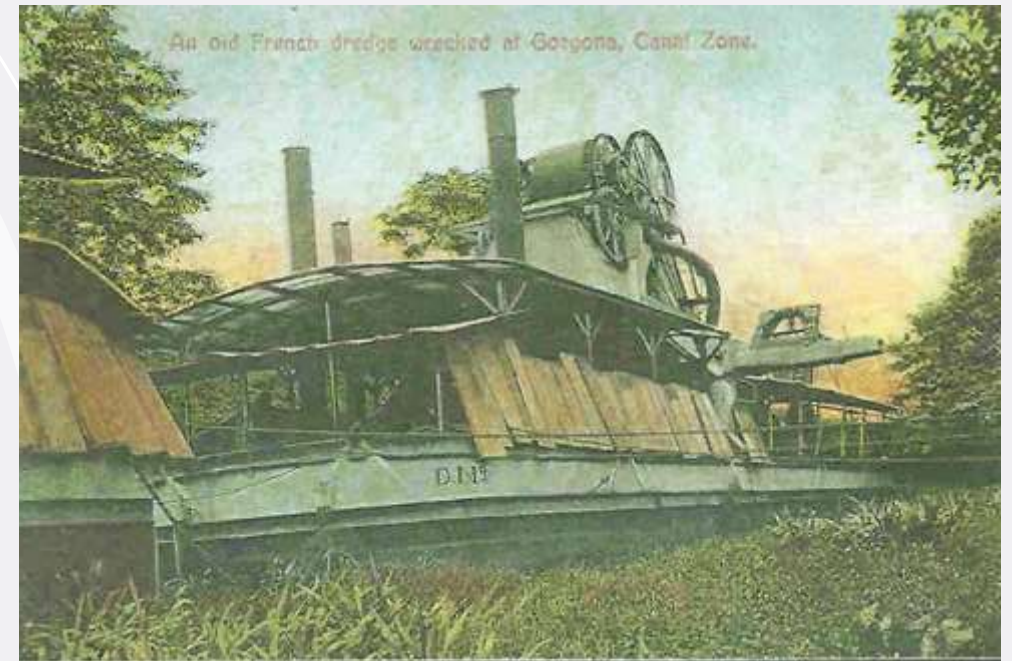
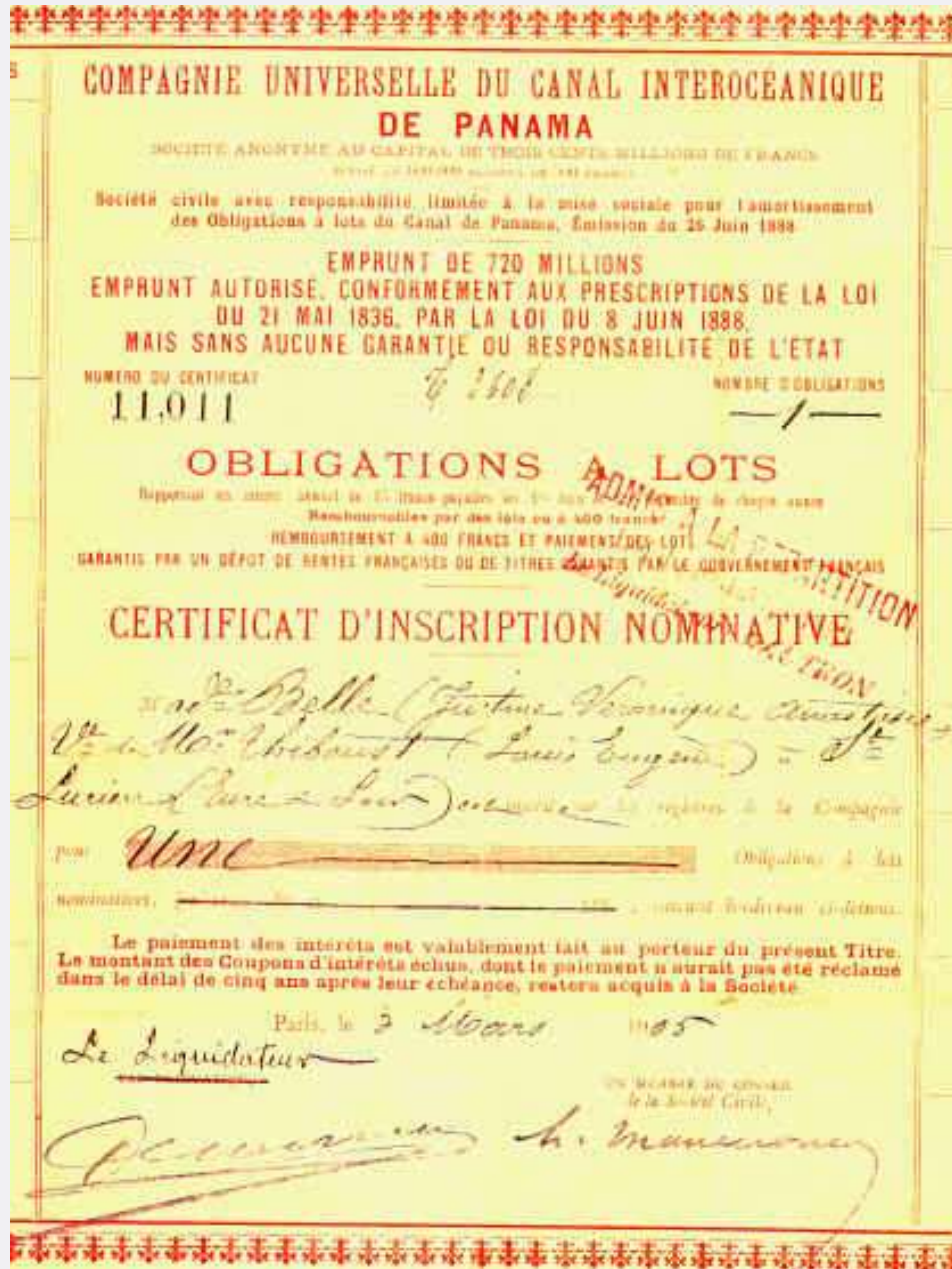
de Lesseps died in 1894, same year as the *Compagnie Nouvelle du Canal de Panamá* resumed construction of the canal.











**1904** – the French give up construction and hand over to the Americans

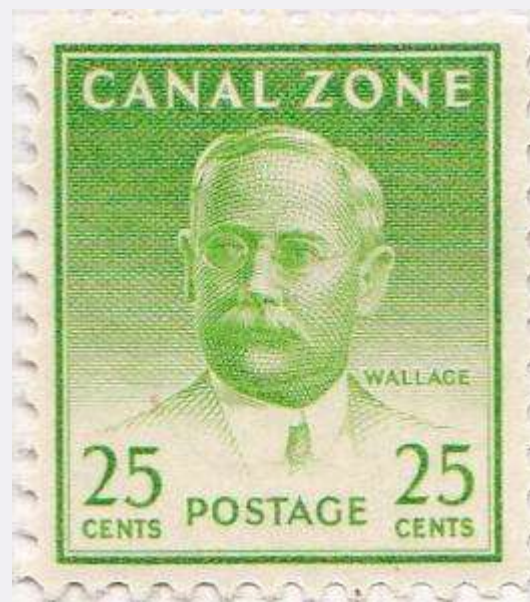




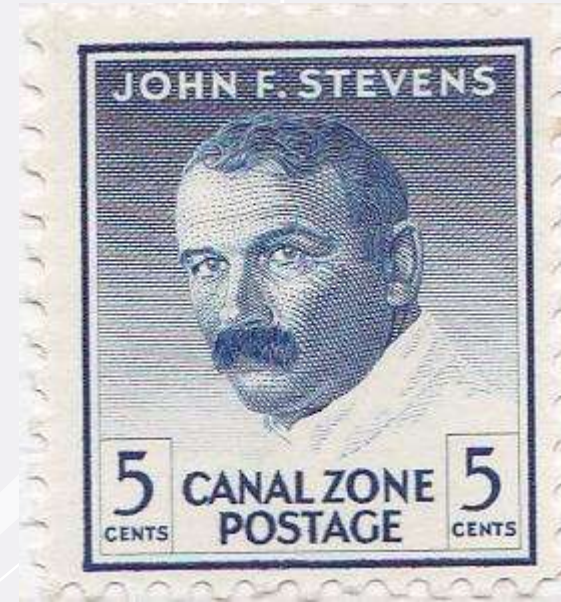




Roosevelt



Wallace



Stevens



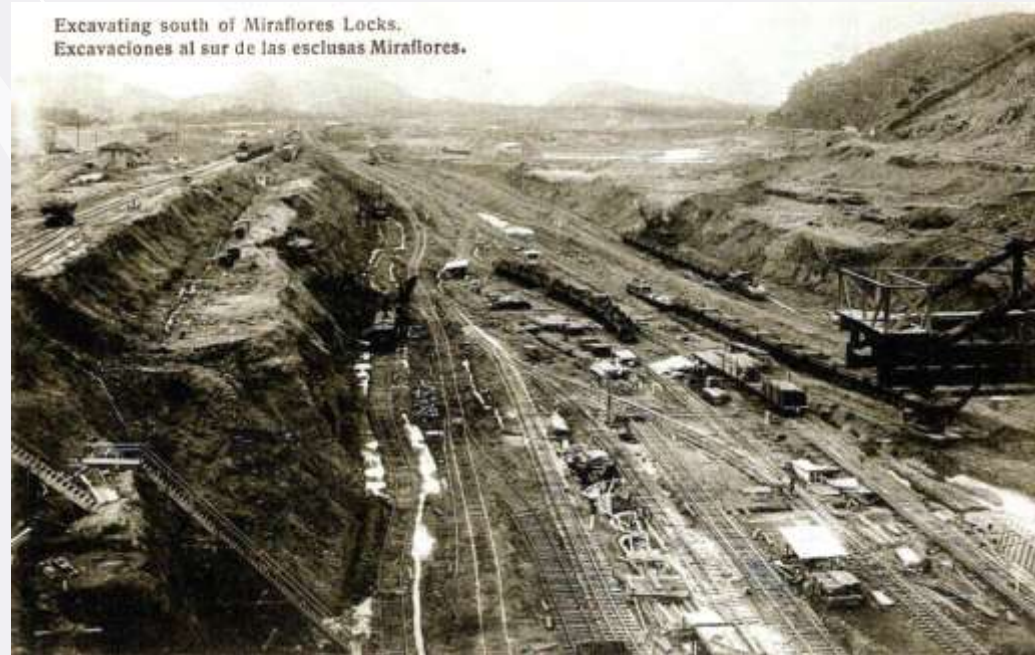
Goethals



Old French Engine on the Canal Zone, Panama.  
This Engine will be sent to the  
San Francisco Exposition, 1915.



Excavating south of Miraflores Locks.  
Excavaciones al sur de las esclusas Miraflores.



Belgium engines now being used by the New Company, Culebra.



Culebra Cul after a heavy blast, Panama.





*The steam chuff is the real canal singer.*



- Designs 10c – The Arrival of the S.S. Ancon at Cristobal in 1909  
65c – Track shifting gang in 1912  
\$1 – Rock Slide at Gold Hill in 1913  
\$2 – Moving a building in 1914  
\$3 – Floor slab of a lock on the rock foundation in 1915



2011 Barbados



## Colombia ~ Panama



Worn impression.

1887-92. Frame and map details vary. Colour shades common.

Like Perf 131.



1892-96  
Perf 12

American Bank Note Company, N.Y.

## Panama



15 x 2 1/2 mm  
overprint.

Sq 13

Sq 56

Sq 55

Type 20 overprint 13 1/2 x 1 1/2 mm.  
Reading upwards on both sides.

Overprinted 'Panama'  
Type 20, 13 1/2 x 1 1/2 mm.

Stamp printed  
the same both  
sides.

Republic of Panama. On 3rd Nov. 1903 Panama declared its independence.  
1903-1904 provisional stamps were made by handstamping  
or overprinting stamps issued under the Colombian Government.



1904

Stamps of Colombia overprinted for the Panama Republic,  
further overprinted CANAL ZONE.

Des:  
Pict:  
Value:

12

Printed by the American Bank Note Company, N.Y.





## Canal Zone Postal History

### Postal Cards

Postal Cards were placed on sale by the postal administration of the Canal Zone in February 1907. It is thought that the reason was that the early Canal employees were the originators of the expression *having a good time - wish you were here*. It is much easier to write on a card for their weekly word home than toil over a long letter in their basic and barely comfortable quarters.

The first postal card issue by the Canal Zone postal service was the carmine two centavos map of Panama printed in lithography by the American Bank Note Company. This was overprinted with *CANAL ZONE* in antique capitals in two lines reading up and the denomination 1 ct. printed between the words. The overprinting was carried out at the Isthmian Canal Commission's press. 50,000 cards printed. The earliest known use that is listed is Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1907



LX 1 with CANAL measuring 15mm, Card measurements - 14cm x 9cm

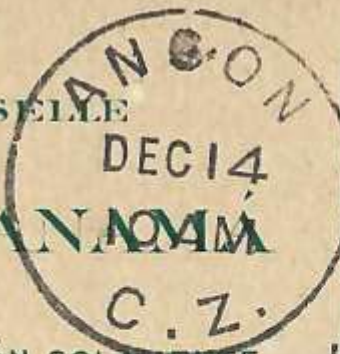




CARTE POSTALE  
Coté réservé à l'adresse

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE  
REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ

ESCRÍBASE EN ESTE LADO LA DIRECCIÓN SOLAMENTE



Mr. Curtis E. Shaw

en Huntingdon,  
Pa.

Y Á LA VUELTA LA COMUNICACIÓN  
UNIÓN POSTAL UNIVERSAL

Cristobal, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Dear Sir:—  
Yours cord received,  
and would like any of  
the older issues of U. S.  
adhesive postage stamps,  
or good Foreign, especially  
Central America, Fiji,  
Samoa & Siam. In return  
will send a fine selec-  
tion of unused C. Z., both  
common & rare, including  
minor varieties, pairs, blocks,  
strips, etc. Have several  
pairs of present issue 1/2  
C. Z. imp. between, for  
sale at \$30.00 per pair.  
Yours Truly,  
H. Richardson,  
Cristobal  
C. Z.



CARTE POSTALE

Coté réservé à l'adresse

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ

ESCRÍBASE EN ESTE LADO LA DIRECCIÓN SOLAMENTE



TARJETA POST

*Solt Patent Firearms Co*  
*Hartford,*  
*en Connecticut*  
*U. S. A.*

Y Á LA VUELTA LA COMUN

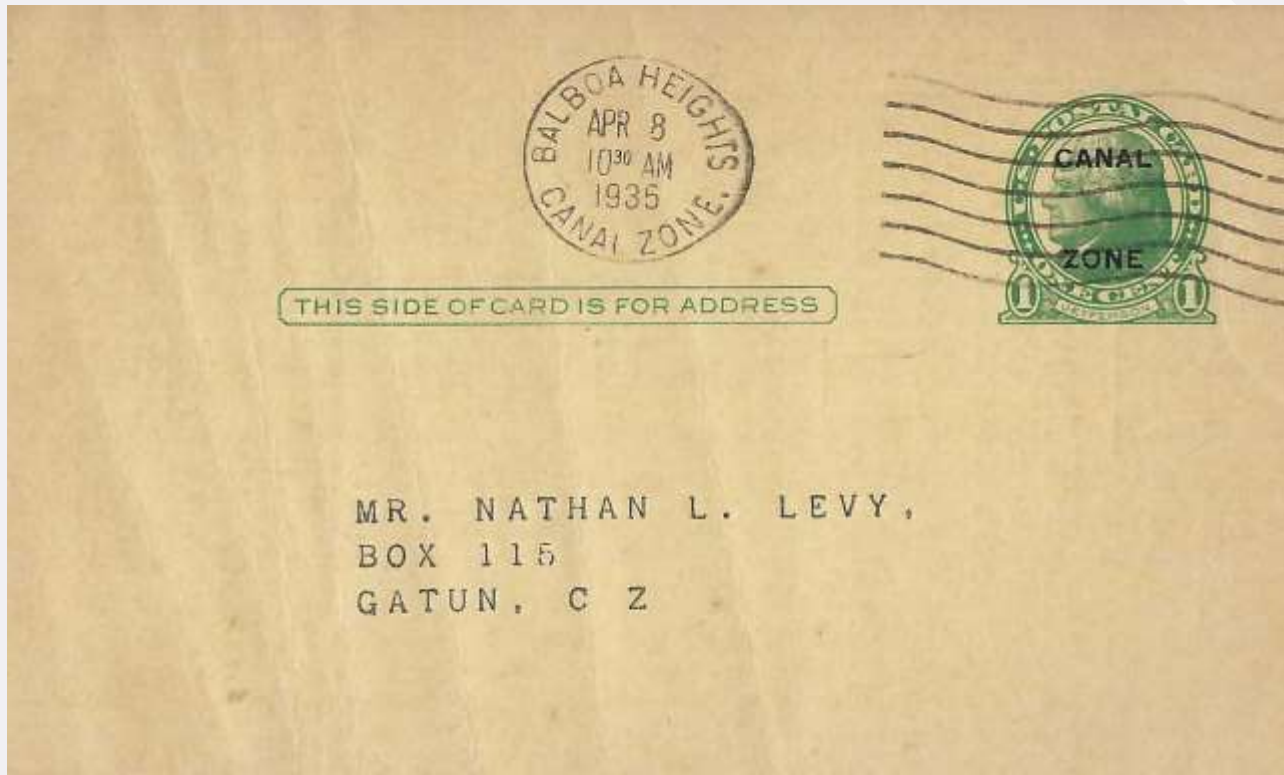
UNIÓN POSTAL UNIVERSAL

*Corozal Canal Zone*  
*Sept. 17. 1933*

*Solt Pat. Firearms Co,*  
*Sirs:*  
*Please send me the "Romance*  
*of a bolt". Have been using a ".45"*  
*for some little time and if there is*  
*any more romance about the gun I*  
*am anxious to have it.*

*Edward A. Casserly*  
*Captain Medical Corps, U. S. Army*





The ancient Arab Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine was founded on September 26<sup>th</sup> 1872, **Abou saad** in a word of Arab origin meaning good luck the same as for 100 years has been offered to a hundred Panamanian children, who without distinction by their place of origin, social class, sex or religion, have benefited from the health program of shriner hospitals for children , in North America, The Shriners of Abou saad are established in the Republic of Panama as a philanthropic entity in 1918, 100 years ago and since then we have worked to improve the quality of life of children with orthopedic problems, spine, cerebral palsy in the motor part, diseases in the bones (crystal boys), juvenile idiopathic arthritis, as well as cases of scoliosis and severe burns.

6x9

**Abou Saad Temple,**  
A. A. O., N. M. S.

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**This Well Be Another One**  
of those enjoyable  
**SHRINE SOCIAL NIGHTS**  
**At the Ancon Masonic Hall**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 13th, 1935.**

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**7:30 P.M.** Short business session, regular  
April meeting.  
**8:00 P.M.** OYSTER SUPPER. Noble Joe  
Nieset knows how to fix 'em.  
**9:00 to**  
**11:30 P.M.** Dancing and refreshments.

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**A Good Time For Everybody**  
A direct answer why Nobles and their  
ladies should leave home on Saturday  
evening, April 13th.

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**THERE WILL BE A SHRINE DANCE ON**  
**THE ATLANTIC SIDE APRIL 27th.**  
**FULL DETAILS LATER.**

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**NEXT CEREMONIAL SESSION WILL BE**  
**HELD MAY 11th.** You are on the mem-  
bership committee to get a candidate.

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**DONALD B. ISELEY,**  
Potentate.  
Attest:  
**R. G. TAYLOR,** Recorder.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

BOLIVAR AVENUE USO CLUB  
P. O. BOX 5096  
CRISTOBAL, C.Z.



The USO was founded in 1941 by Mary Ingraham in response to a request from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide morale and recreation services to U.S. uniformed military personnel. Roosevelt was elected as its honorary chairman. This request brought together six civilian organizations: the Salvation Army, YMCA, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), National Catholic Community Service, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board.

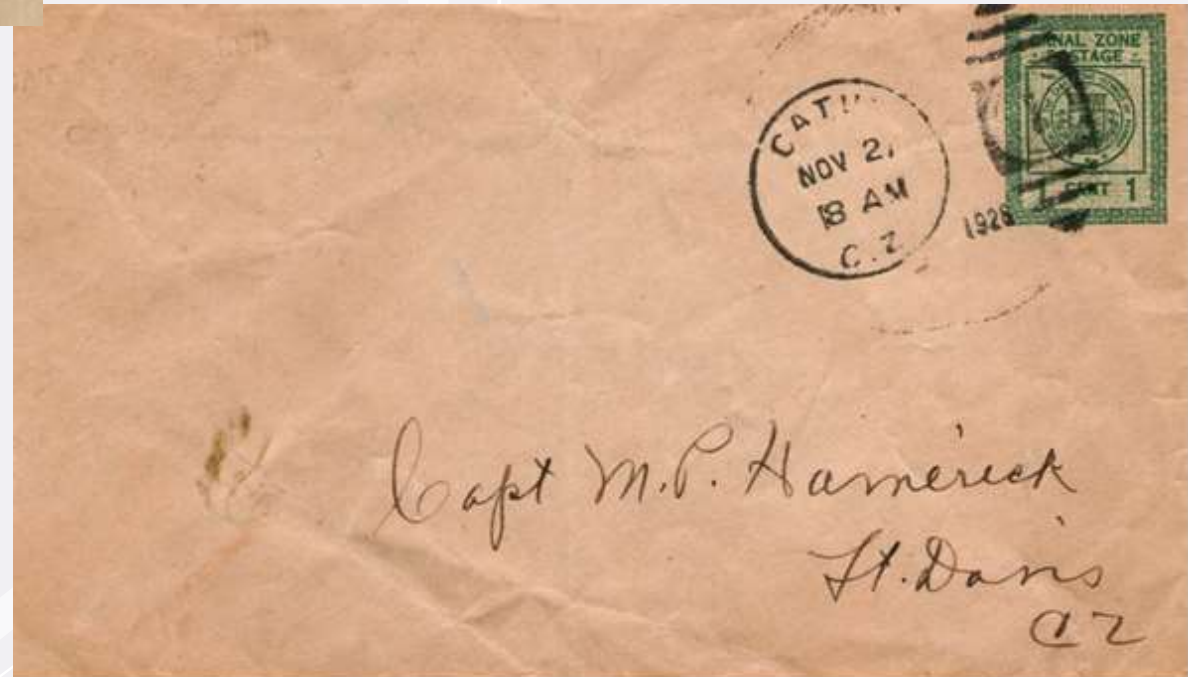
I will (will not) be present at the Service Welfare Luncheon, Thursday, August 17th. 1944 at 12 noon.



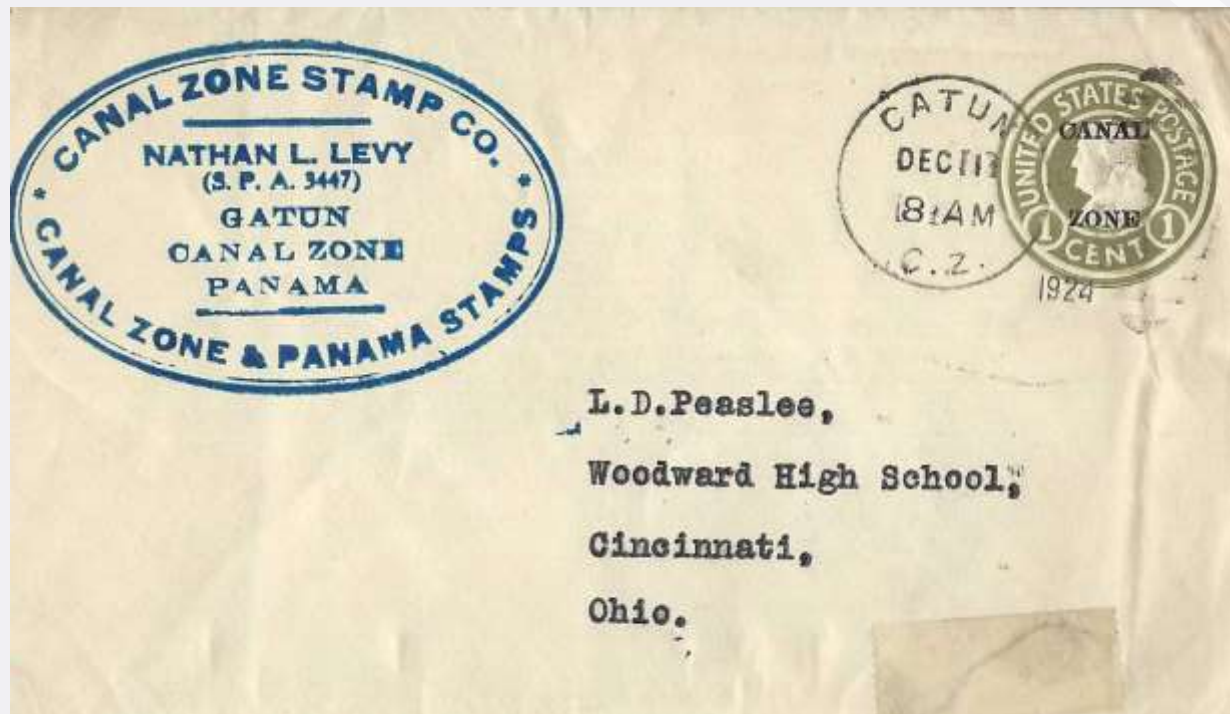


## Domestic Mail 1c Drop Letter Rate

The domestic drop letter rate was set at 1c by 1908 and lasted until it was raised to 2c on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1952. This rate represented an initial saving on 1c on the domestic surface rate, increasing to a 2c saving when the domestic letter rate was increased to 3c on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1932. The drop-letter rate applied initially only to envelopes where the origin and destination were the same CZ tone. By 1960, this rate also applied to letters between nearby CZ towns



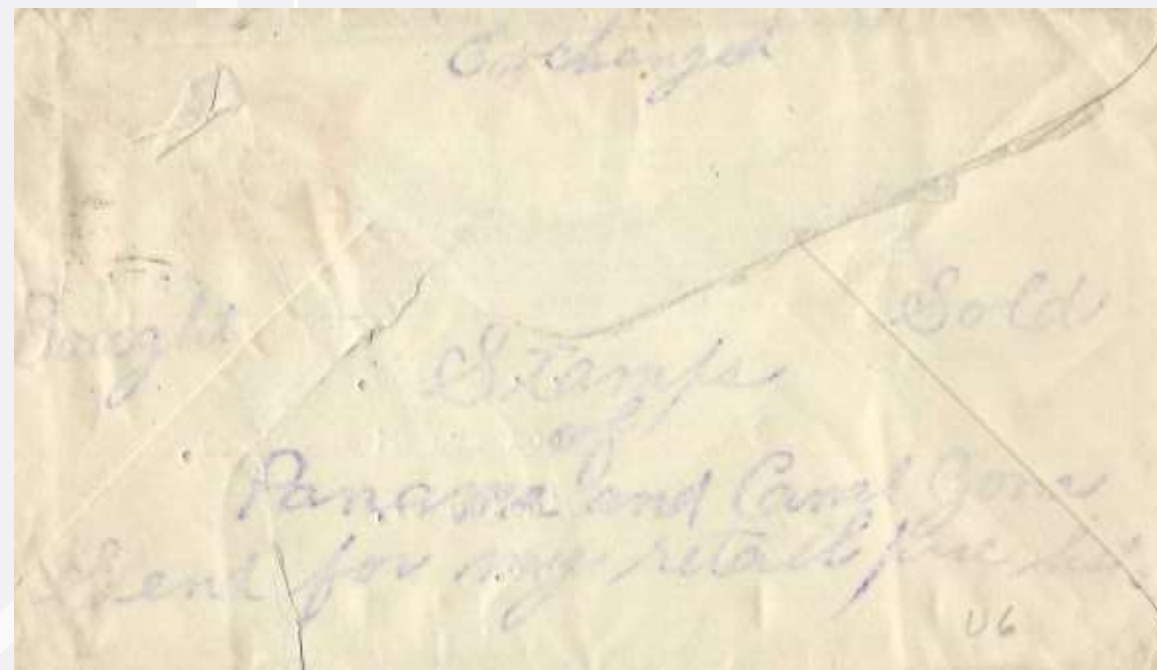




Canal Zone U6 Envelope used by the Canal Zone Stamp Company at 1c rate (maybe treat as a postcard as letter appears to have been sealed with no contents and a note on the back of the envelope).

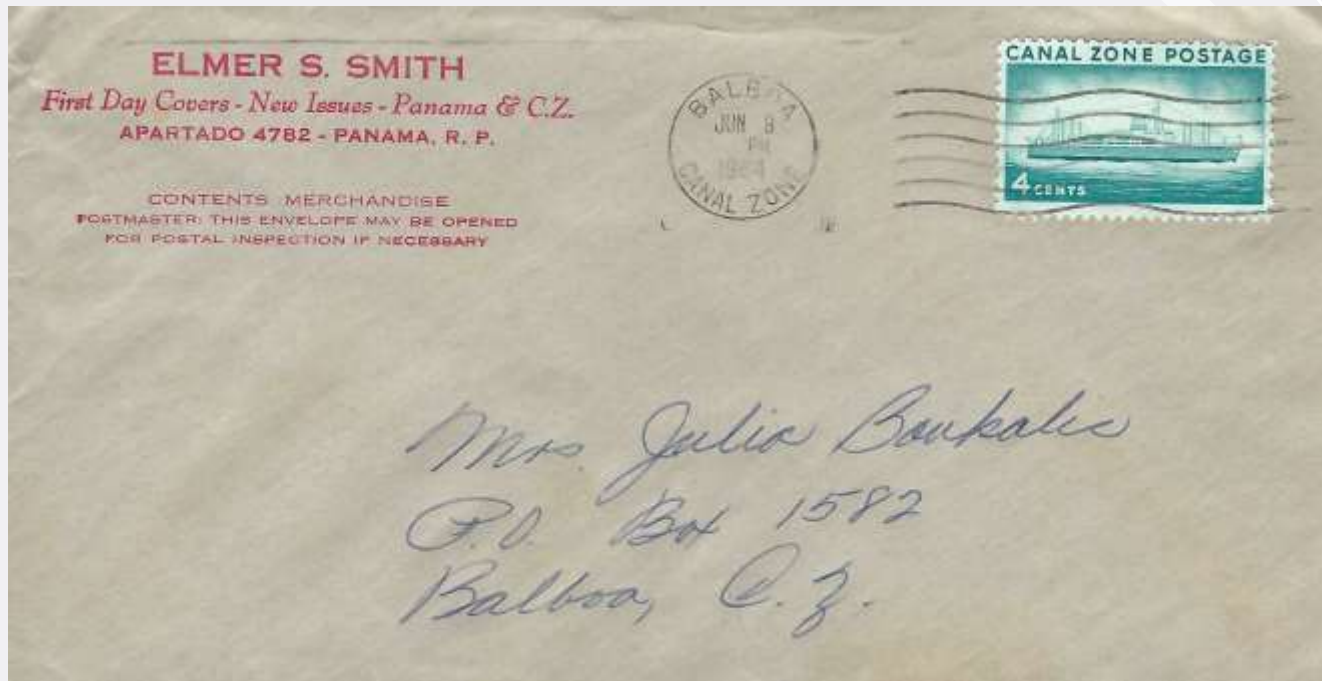
Posted Gatun 8am December 1<sup>st</sup> 1924 to Cincinnati, Ohio

25 album pages from the personal stamp collection of 32nd U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945), with pencil-inscribed annotations in the hand of FDR found throughout. The album pages, which feature over 150 stamps from Panama and Colombia, were once offered for sale at H.R. Harmer, Inc., International Stamp Auctioneers, during the spring of 1946, and are stamped accordingly. Accompanied by an original Harmer auction folder, and a transmittal envelope from the Canal Zone Government to Nathan L. Levy, a well-known Latin American stamp collector. Expected light wear including minor chipped edges, else near fine. Each album page measures 10" x 11".



From <https://www.liveauctioneers.com>





Letter from the Philatelic Dealer Elmer S Smith  
 to Mrs Julia Boukalic, P O Box 1582, Balboa  
 Posted Balboa PM June 9<sup>th</sup> 1964

Rear of envelope with a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
 OPAT Panama Anti-Tuberculosis Organization  
 OPAT ~ Organizacion Panamenta  
 Antituberculosa

### Domestic Mail 4c Drop Letter Rate

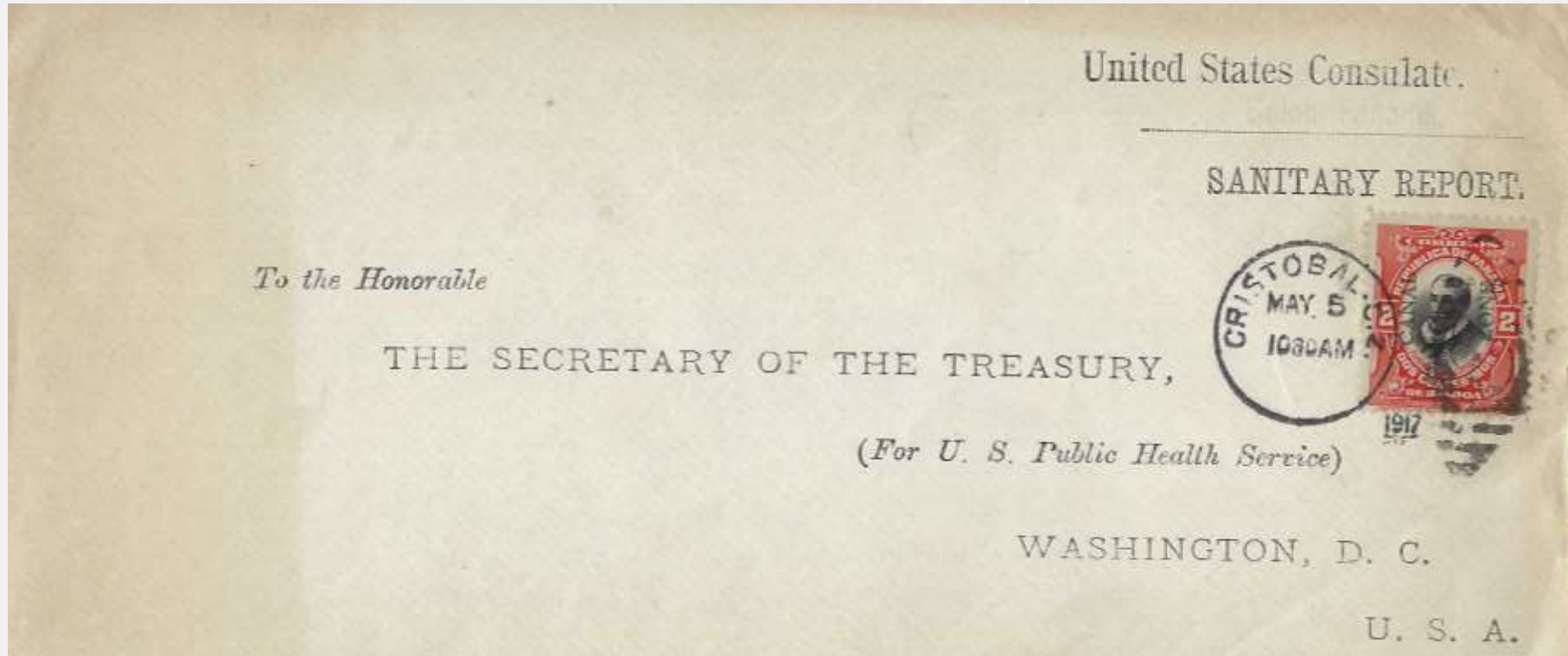
The domestic drop letter rate was increased to 4c per ounce on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1963 and remained at that rate until its increase to 5c on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1968. This rate represented a saving on 1c on the domestic surface rate.





### Domestic Mail to America

The Letter rate started at 2.5¢ per ounce from the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1904, falling to 2¢ per ounce on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 1908. The rate was held at 2¢ per ounce until it was raised to 3¢ per ounce on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1932.



Front of a letter for a United State Consulate's Sanitary Report sent to the Treasury Secretary for U. S. Public Health in Washington DC.

Posted Cristobal 10.30am on May 5<sup>th</sup> 1917

Stamp Used 1909-1921 2c Fernandez de Cordoba of Panama overprinted by the American Bank Note Company  
Variety **C** with serifs, **L** and **E** with vertical serifs, **A** with a pointed top and inner oval of the **O** pointing left.





## Surface Mail to Scotland

Letter posted Pedro Miguel 10am April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1939  
5c surface mail rate for an international letter  
Handwritten Cmys address 21/4/39 on rear



Modern View of Balfour Street Edinburgh.





## Surface Mail to France

Posted Cristobal 5pm February 12th 1935 to France  
at 5c per oz UPU Rate in use from 1928 to 1953  
Use of a 1928 5c Panama Canal under Construction  
Stamp

Rear of Envelope showing Sedan, Ardennes Arrival  
Stamp of 1400, 2nd March 1935







Air Mail Envelope with cachet for first flight to the USA from the Canal Zone, with 25c Air Mail Surcharge on SG108 (11/1/1929 SG 119) covering the initial 25c rate + 2c

Posted Cristobal Canal Zone 5am (10<sup>th</sup> February 1929)

Rear of above cover with additional stamps - Miami Florida 2 Arrival 12 M 13<sup>th</sup> February 1929

## First Air Mail to the United States

The first Domestic Air Mail rate for the Canal Zone was introduced on 10th February 1929 as 25c airmail surcharge in addition to the 1c postcard / 2c letter rate. An inclusive rate of 25c was introduced 40 days later, followed by a reduced rate of 20c on 1st January 1930. Canal Zone stamps were overprinted locally as the Bureau of Printing and Engraving declined to overprint US Air Mail stamps for use in the Canal Zone. There was also a 5c air in the US only rate, which covered mail sent by sea to the US and then by Air internally within the US.





The cover carries a special cachet for the first air mail flight from the Canal Zone to the USA and was posted at the initial 25c per ½oz + 2c per oz rate introduced on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 1929.

Posted Cristobal 5am February 10<sup>th</sup> 1929

Stamps – 25c surcharge on 1928 2c Goethals introduced 11<sup>th</sup> January 1929 & 1928 2c Goethals introduced 1<sup>st</sup> October 1928



Miami, Florida receiving mark of 12-m, February 13<sup>th</sup> 1929 and air mail cachet



Envelope #UC2 for first flight to the USA from the Canal Zone cachet, with additional 2c Carmine (1/10/1928 SG 108) and 25c Air Mail Surcharge on SG108 (11/1/1929 SG 119) covering the initial 25c rate + 2c and an extra 2c for additional ounces.

Posted Ancon Canal Zone 4pm (9<sup>th</sup> February 1929)



Cristobal Canal Zone 5am 10<sup>th</sup> February 1929  
Miami Florida 2 Arrival 12 M 13<sup>th</sup> February 1929  
New York N Y STA arrival 9am 15<sup>th</sup> February 1929





Charles Augustus Lindbergh was an American aviator, military officer, author, inventor, and activist. At the age of 25 in 1927, he went from obscurity as a U.S. Air Mail pilot to instantaneous world fame by winning the Orteig Prize for making a nonstop flight from New York City to Paris. Lindbergh covered the 33½-hour, 3,600-statute-mile flight alone in a purpose-built, single-engine Ryan monoplane, the Spirit of St. Louis.



The airmail rate from the Canal Zone to America was lowered to 20c per ½oz from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1930 which lasted until the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1937, when it was lowered again to 15c per ½oz.

The cover carries a special cachet for the first air mail express flight from Cristobal to Miami on May 1st 1930 that was piloted by Colonel Charles A Lindbergh

Posted Balboa Heights 3.30pm 30<sup>th</sup> April 1930

Stamp – 20c surcharge on 1928 2c Goethals introduced 31<sup>st</sup> December 1929

Reverse of the cover has a Cristobal receiving mark of 7AM 1<sup>st</sup> May 1930





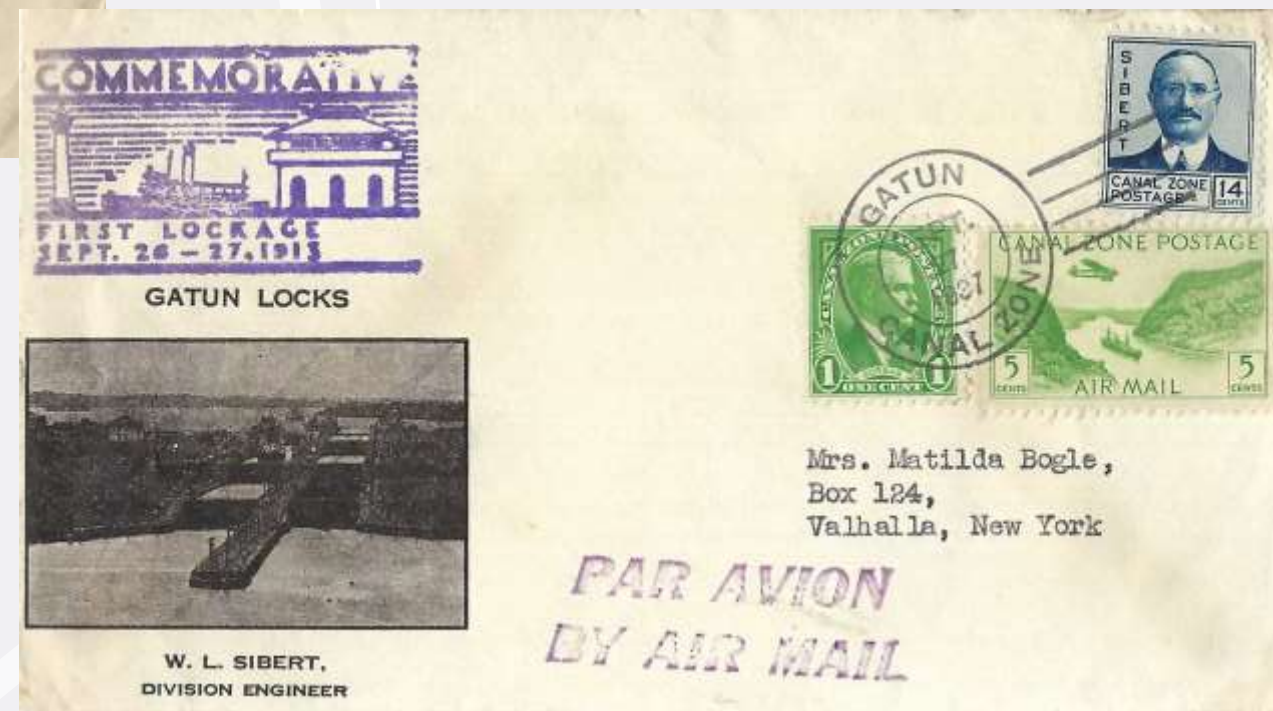
The airmail rate from the Canal Zone to America was lowered to 20c per ½oz from the 1st January 1930 which lasted until the 1st December 1937

Posted Cristobal 6am July 19<sup>th</sup> 1937, Stamps – 4x5c Canal under construction introduced 25<sup>th</sup> June 1929

Posted Gatun September 27<sup>th</sup> 1937, with special handstamp commemorating the first lockage through the Gatun Locks 1913

Stamps – 14c Sibert introduced 27<sup>th</sup> September 1937 (First Day of Issue Usage)

1c Gorgas introduced 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1928 and 5c Airmail Plane over the Canal introduced 18<sup>th</sup> November 1931



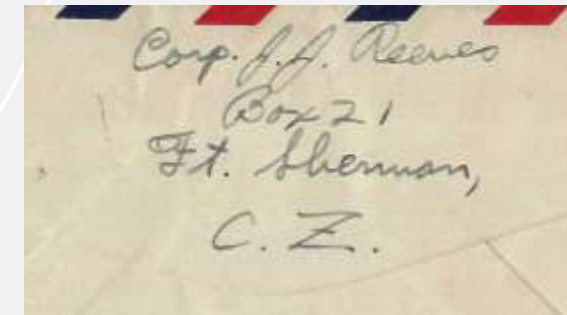




The airmail rate from the Canal Zone to America was lowered to 15c per ½oz from the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1937 which lasted until the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1945, when it was lowered again to 10c per ½oz for civilian mail.

As a result of World War II, a special rate of 6c per ½oz was introduced for the Army on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1942 and extended to all military services 7 days later on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1942. The military 6c and civilian 10c rates were combined at a new 5c rate per ounce rate on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1946

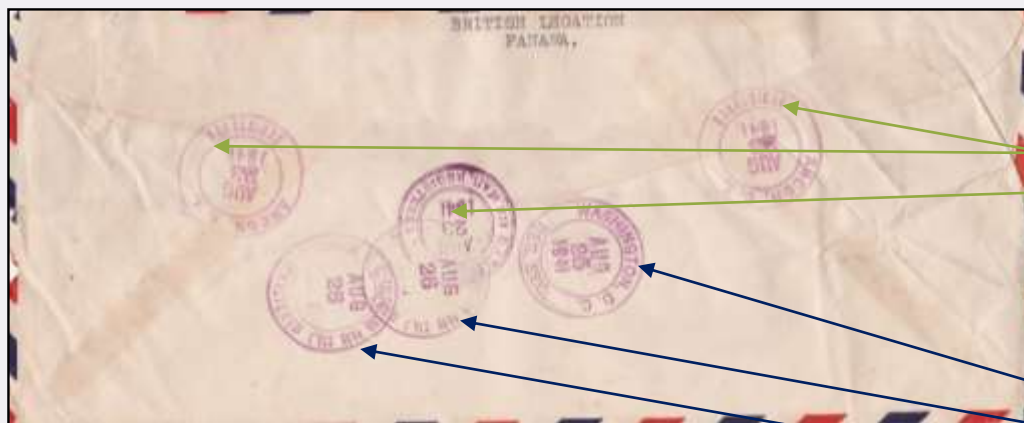
Fort Sherman is a former United States Army base in Panama, located on Toro Point at the Caribbean (northern) end of the Panama Canal, on the western bank of the Canal directly opposite Colón (which is on the eastern bank). It was the primary defensive base for the Caribbean sector of the Canal, and was also the centre for US jungle warfare training for some time. Its Pacific-side partner was Fort Amador. Both bases were turned over to Panama in 1999.





From the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1937 to 1<sup>st</sup> April 1945, the domestic air-mail rate to the United States was 15c per ½ oz. with a further 15c registration fee.

This registered letter from the British Legation in Panama was sent from Ancon via Balboa to Washington, for delivery to the British Embassy in Washington DC.



Front has a British Legation Panama Stamp and an Ancon? Registration Number 1433

Cover bears the following dated back stamps

Ancon C Z Registered August 23rd 1941 (twice)  
Balboa Air Mail Registered August 23rd 1941

The letter arrived in Washington DC on the 26th August 1941 and received two further stamps

Washington DC Reg Sec - 26th August 1941  
Washington Cleveland Park Sta Registered Single Ring - 26th August 1941  
Washington Cleveland Park Sta Registered Double Ring - 26th August 1941





The 15c per ½ oz domestic air-mail rate to the United States applied **even for official business of the Panama Canal.**

Posted at Balboa at 1PM on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 1941 15c Air Mail Plane flying over the Canal, issued on 18th November 1931

A letter from the Secretary of the Local Board of Civil Service Examiners in the Executive office of the Canal Zone to the Manager of the 11<sup>th</sup> Civil Service District in Seattle, Washington State. Public support in the United States for civil service reform strengthened following the assassination of President James Garfield. The United States Civil Service Commission was created by the Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act, which was passed into law on January 16<sup>th</sup> 1883. The commission was created to administer the civil service of the United States federal government. The law required federal government employees to be selected through competitive exams and basis of merit; it also prevented elected officials and political appointees from firing civil servants, removing civil servants from the influences of political patronage and partisan behaviour. However, the law did not apply to state and municipal governments. Effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 1978, the commission was renamed the Office of Personnel Management under the provisions of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1978 and the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978. The United States Civil service exams have since been abolished for many positions, since statistics show that they do not accurately allow hiring of minorities according to the affirmative action guidelines.



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As a result of World War II, a special rate of 6c per ½oz was introduced for the Army Only on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1942 and extended to all military 7 days later on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1942.

The military 6c and civilian 10c rates were combined at a new 5c rate per ounce rate on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1946.

Posted Cristobal 6PM, February 17<sup>th</sup> 1943,

Stamp 15c Flying Boat and scene near Fort Amador, introduced 15<sup>th</sup> July 1939 with an additional 1c Gorgas introduced 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1928

Examined by Censor 4256

Domestic Air Mail at 10c per ½ ounce rate introduced 1<sup>st</sup> April 1945 and in use until 1<sup>st</sup> October 1946

Posted Balboa 6.30AM April 30<sup>th</sup> 1945



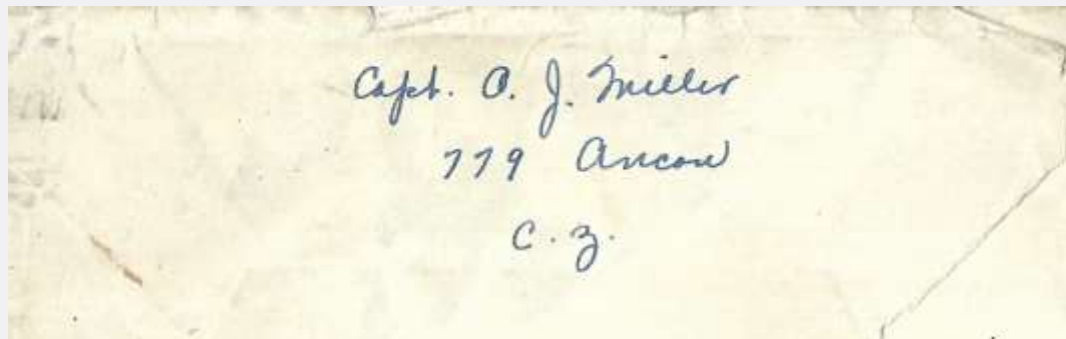
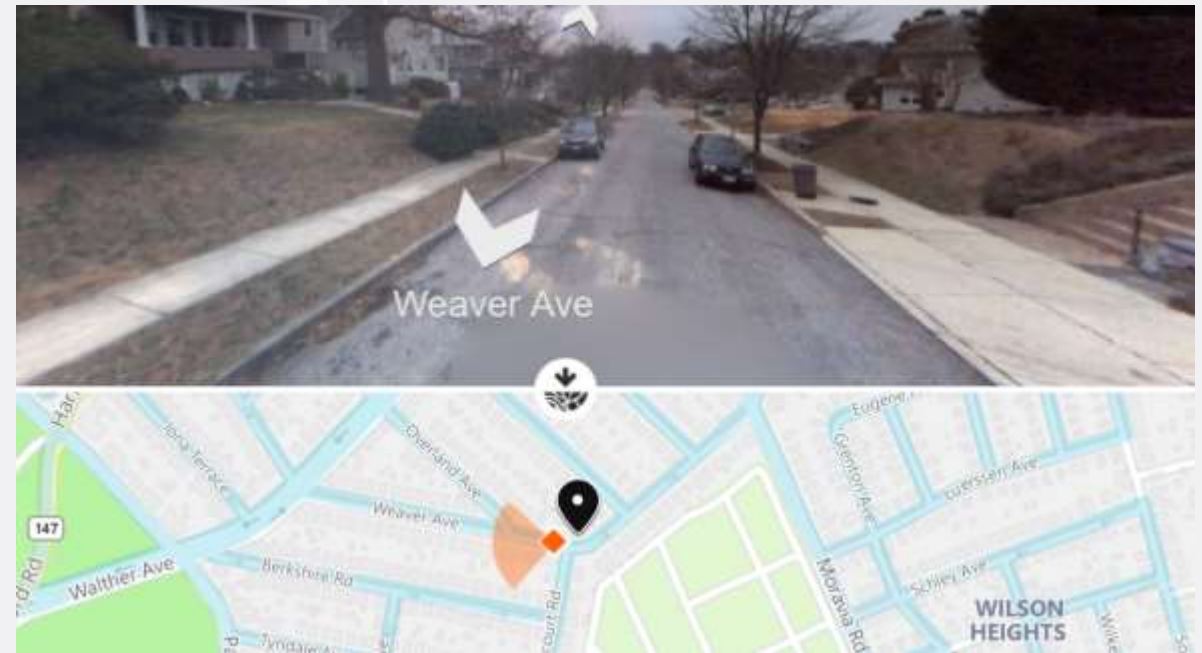




As a result of World War II, a special rate of 6c per ½oz was introduced for the Army Only on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1942 and extended to all military 7 days later on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1942.

6C Military Air Mail rate Posted at Ancon on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1942  
Handstamp Passed by US Army Examiner 00092

Google streetview of Weaver Avenue in the vicinity of 3130





Domestic Air Mail at 5c per ounce rate introduced 1st October 1946 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1948

Letter posted the First Flight from Balboa to Corpus Christi, Houston, Texas by Pan American Airways

Posted Balboa 9am December 15<sup>th</sup> 1946 with backstamp of a Corpus Christi arrival of 1PM December 16<sup>th</sup> 1946



  
Another First Flight Cover  
Carried by

*The System of the Flying Clippers*

When You Think of Air Travel Think of

***PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS***





### **Air and Surface Mail to Europe**

Until the revision of rates in 1958, it was possible to send a letter to Europe which went Air Mail to the United States and then surface mail onwards to Europe. On 1st April 1945 the rate for this Part Air service to Europe was set at 15c, whilst the normal Air Mail rate to Europe was set at 40c.

Air Mail Envelope from the American Bureau of Shipping to Glasgow, with Air Mail to the United States and Surface Mail onwards.

Stamps used 1932 20c Air Mail Violet and 1928 5c blue Panama Canal under construction.

Posted Balboa Canal Zone 5.30pm January 28<sup>th</sup> 1946.

Additional postage of 10c due probably to weight of letter.



## Air and Surface Mail to Europe

Air Mail Envelope from the American Bureau of Shipping to Glasgow, with Air Mail to the United States and Surface Mail onwards.

Stamps used 1932 5c Air Mail Green and 1946 5c John F Stevens

Posted Balboa Canal Zone 4pm October 20<sup>th</sup> 1947

Note additional script 5+ to the left of the 5c Air Mail stamp marking a postage due of 5c underpayment.





### Air and Surface Mail to Europe

Air Mail Envelope from the American Bureau of Shipping to Glasgow, with Air Mail to the United States and Surface Mail onwards.

Stamps used 2x1932 5c Air Mail Green and 1946 5c John F Stevens, Posted Balboa Canal Zone 3am July 6<sup>th</sup> 1948

Letter returned to sender for an additional 20c postage (weight?)

Stamps used 2x1948 10c 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canal Zone Biological Area. Posted Balboa Canal Zone 11.30am July 7<sup>th</sup> 1948

Note Reason Checked, Returned for Additional Postage and Postage Due markings with hand writtem 20c

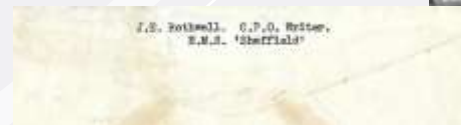


On 1<sup>st</sup> October 1946 the hodge-podge of separate rates per country was scrapped in favour of a uniform rate for air postage by region in the world. This was in parallel with a similar scheme in the U.S. Postage to the United States and Possessions along with Canada was reduced to 5c per ounce. Postage to Europe was set at 35c per ½oz, with various rates to Central & South America, Asia, Africa and Oceania. One month later on the 1<sup>st</sup> November rates to Central & South America was set at 10c per ½oz. The European Rate was reduced to 20c per ½oz and a new rate of 30c per ½oz introduced for mail to Asia, Africa and Oceania.

Envelope addressed to the British Embassy in Washington, USA at the 5c air mail rate.

Posted Balboa Canal Zone 1.30pm 6<sup>th</sup> July 1948

The letter is from C.P.O Writer J E Rothwell on board HMS Sheffield



HMS Sheffield was one of the Southampton sub class of the Town-class cruisers of the Royal Navy during the Second World War. Built by Vickers Armstrong, she was commissioned on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1937. She took part in actions against several major German warships. Unlike most Royal Navy ships of her time, her fittings were constructed from stainless steel instead of the more traditional brass. This was an attempt to reduce the amount of cleaning required on the part of the crew. Her nickname, the "Shiny Sheff", stemmed from this. She became the flagship for the reserve fleet in 1960, before being decommissioned at Faslane in 1967.







### Air Mail to England

#UC 4 Air Mail Envelope, introduced on 1st August 1958 with additional 15c and 3c to cover 25c air mail rate to England

Posted 11am October 27th 1959

Suspect the letter is from a stamp dealer in the Canal Zone to an other dealer in the UK

View of 36 Totland Road Brighton, 38 is the blue door on the downhill side

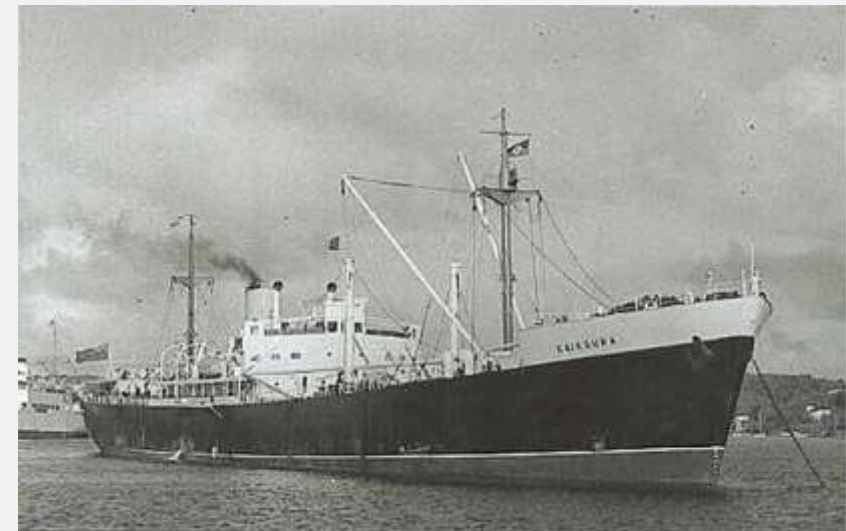




M/V Kaikoura was built by Alexander Stephen & Sons Glasgow (Yard No 556) with 4-cylinder 2 SCSA Doxford diesel engine provided by John Brown Clydebank. She was built as a cargo vessel for the New Zealand Shipping Company of London and launched on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1937.

Her official number was 165784 with a gross tonnage 5,852grt, a net tonnage of 3,432nrt and deadweight of 9,544 tons.

She was sold in 1954 to Avenue Shipping, who renamed her Tyrone and she was scrapped on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1963.



## Air Mail to Wales

Air Mail at the 1½oz rate of 5+15c to Europe introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1946

Letter was carried on MV Kaikoura from the UK, hence the used of 2x1d Channel Islands Liberation stamps and a ½d King George VI definitive to cover the UK internal Rate of 2½d per 2oz, the rate used for a *paqueboat* validity, cancelled at Cristobal 4pm November 16<sup>th</sup> 1948

Posted Cristobal 4pm November 16<sup>th</sup> 1948





## Air Mail to England

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 1958 overseas air mail rates were changed to 5c boundaries, to replace an additive method of computing rates via the US, which had been in use before the 1958 changes. UPU Air cards were charged at 15, air mail to Europe was charged at 25c for the first ½oz, 20c for each additional ½oz. Air mail to Asia was changed to 35c per ½oz.

#UC 4 Envelope posted Balboa Canal Zone at noon on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1959, at the 25c air mail rate to Europe. In addition to the UC 4 7c stamp, there is a 1951 10c Air Mail Stamp

**But where is the missing 8c's worth of stamps**



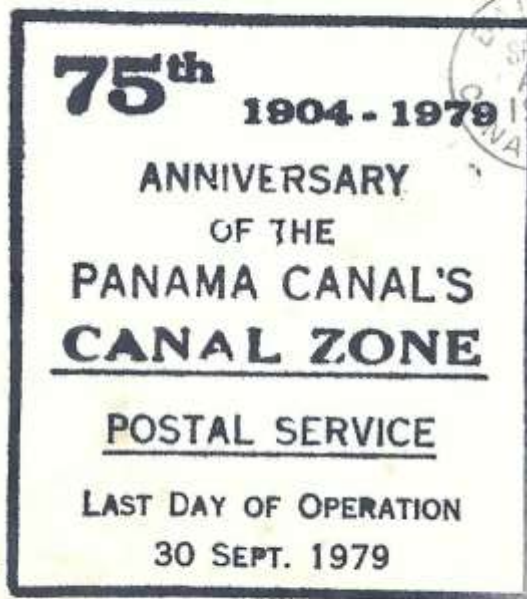
### Air Mail to England

At the same time, on 1st August 1958 overseas air mail rates were changed to 5c boundaries, to replace an additive method of computing rates via the US, which had been in use before the 1958 changes. UPU Air cards were charged at 15, air mail to Europe was charged at 25c for the first ½oz, 20c for each additional ½oz. Air mail to Asia was changed to 35c per ½oz.

#UC 4 Envelope posted Balboa Canal Zone at noon on 1st December 1959, at the 25c air mail rate to Europe. In addition to the UC 4 7c stamp, there is a 1951 10c Air Mail Stamp, **and on the rear the remaining 8c is made up with a block of the 1948 ½c definitive depicting Major General G W Davis.**







Miss Nora Farrel  
Hong Kong & Geral Dept.  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
King Charles St.  
London, SW1



*Compañía Filatélica Mundial (Panamá), Limitada*  
Teléfono 23-3223 Panamá, R. de P. Apartado Postal 6663  
Telex 3450302 (Panamá) Panamá 5, Panamá

September 27, 1979

Miss Nora Farrel  
Hong Kong & Geral Dept.  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
King Charles St.  
London SW1

Dear Miss Farrel:

This is a "Last Day Cover" postmarked on September 30, 1979, that date being the last day of operation of the Canal Zone Post Office, under the jurisdiction of the United States of America.

I have caused one envelope to be addressed to you, which envelope have been processed by the Canal Zone Post Office, and postmarked on September 30, 1979. Such envelopes, known as "Covers", are historic as you know. We have enclosed a cardboard in the envelope so that it does not get damaged.

I thought that, in view of this historic occasion, October 1st., you would like to have this envelope sent to your regular mailing address, so that you can keep it for your collection.

Hoping that you will enjoy having it, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*H. A. Vega*  
H. A. Vega

HAV:ses  
Encl.

## The End

Air Mail at 35c rate to England for a ½oz letter, introduced on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1974

Posted on the final day of operation of the Canal Zone's Postal Service 30<sup>th</sup> September 1979

Posted at Balboa AM September 30<sup>th</sup> 1979, with last day of operation slogan cancel.