



TOPICAL TIDBITS

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AIRMAIL

The first U.S. airmail stamps were issued in 1918 and featured the Jenny Curtiss Biplane in three denominations. There was a 6¢ red orange, a 16¢ green, and a 24¢ carmine red and blue stamp. The stamps were printed in sheets of 100. One sheet of the 24¢ stamp issue was discovered with the airplane upside down. It was purchased in Washington, D.C. by William Robey, who immediately recognized its significance and sold it to dealer Eugene Klein of Philadelphia. Klein, in turn, sold it to Colonel Edward Green, a wealthy stamp collector. Colonel Green had the sheet broken up and he retained some of the position pieces and sold the rest of the sheet through Klein. That sheet of stamps was one of the most famous post office finds and produced one of the world's most sought after errors in U.S. history.

In September 2013, the U.S. Postal Service issued a souvenir sheet of the famous Inverted Jenny for the grand opening of the Gross Gallery at the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. The sheet features six of the Inverted Jenny stamps but with a \$2 denomination. The intaglio printing plates for the new stamps were created using proofs made from the original Inverted Jenny dies. The illustrations surrounding the sheet include the National Postal Museum in Washington D.C., the route of the first scheduled airmail service between Washington, Philadelphia, and New York; and early airmail pioneer Reuben Fleet, who was in charge of the first group of airmail pilots.



Want to expand your airmail collection? Need stamps or covers to place on the album page offered within this publication? You can get FREE air-related stamps and covers by sending a large self-addressed envelope to: MaryAnn Bowman, P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187. Specify whether you want stamps or covers. Deadline for submitting your request is April 30, 2014.

Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while trying to be the first woman to fly around the world. She and her plane were never recovered. To this day, her disappearance remains a mystery.

Read each sentence. If it is true, circle the blue letter under the T. If it is false, circle the red letter under the letter F. Next, write the circled letters in order in the first twelve boxes. Then write the uncircled letter in order in the next twelve boxes. If answered correctly, you will have a newspaper headline about Amelia Earhart.

| | | T | F |
|-----|--|---|---|
| 1. | New York City is by the ocean. | F | R |
| 2. | A hot desert covers Maine. | O | I |
| 3. | The Mississippi River flows into the Pacific Ocean. | S | R |
| 4. | The St. Lawrence River flows into the Atlantic Ocean. | S | S |
| 5. | Puerto Rico is an island. | T | A |
| 6. | Florida is always covered with snow. | T | W |
| 7. | New Orleans is the capital of the United States. | L | O |
| 8. | Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean. | M | A |
| 9. | Paris is the capital of England. | N | A |
| 10. | The Eiffel Tower is in London. | T | N |
| 11. | Hawaii was the 50 th state admitted to the Union. | A | I |
| 12. | Australia is a country and a continent. | C | C |



| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | | | | | | | |

STAMP FORTUNE TELLER

1. Cut out the square around the dotted lines.
2. Valley fold paper from corner to corner, making a triangle.
3. Valley fold the triangle from corner to corner, making a smaller triangle.
4. Unfold and turn face-down.
5. Fold the four corners to the center of the square (where the X crosses).
6. Flip the paper over.
7. Fold the four corners to the center of the square (where the X crosses).
8. Fold and unfold the bottom edge of the square up to the top.
9. Fold and unfold the left edge of the square over to the right.
10. Push the four corners of your square into the center and then slide 4 fingers into the flaps of your fortune teller.



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Orange

Blue

Green

Red

You won an all-expense paid trip around the world!

You won an inverted Jenny.

You won your own plane!

You won a complete set of mint U.S. Zeppelin stamps!

"Lucky Lindy"

Charles Lindbergh was born in 1902 in Michigan. His family moved to Minnesota where his father served as congressman. In 1918, Lindbergh entered the University of Wisconsin to study engineering. He quit his studies after two years, though, and became a stunt pilot. In 1924, he joined the Army so that he could train as a pilot. He was the best pilot of his class. He then got a job flying the mail between St. Louis and Chicago. In 1919, a hotel owner offered \$25,000 to the first aviator to fly nonstop from New York to Paris. After eight years, no one had yet claimed the prize, though many had tried. Lindbergh persuaded several businessmen to help him build a plane so that he could enter the contest. On May 20, 1927, Lindbergh took off in a plane named, "The Spirit of St. Louis." He left New York City at 7:52 a.m. and landed near Paris, France on May 21 at 10:21 p.m. Thousands of celebrants had gathered to meet him. He had flown more than 3,600 miles in 33 ½ hours. Lindbergh's heroic flight thrilled people throughout the world. He was nicknamed "Lucky Lindy" and was honored with awards, celebrations, and parades. President Calvin Coolidge gave him the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Flying Cross.



Can you help Lindbergh reach his plane
"The Spirit of St. Louis?"

Exit



Aviation Pioneers

Find the underlined words in the word search.



Harriet Quimby



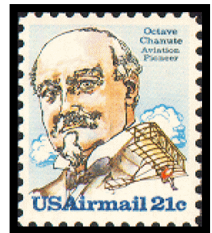
Alfred Verville



Lawrence Sperry
Elmer Sperry



Blanche Scott



Octave Chanute



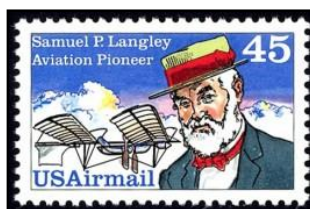
Wiley Post



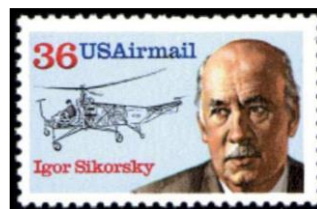
The Wright
Brothers



Glenn Curtiss



Samuel Langley



Igor Sikorsky



William Piper

Airmail

