

Pan American Air Clippers Cross the Atlantic Ocean

By: Bob Lamb

The age of airmail kept expanding in the 1930's. Charles Lindbergh flew solo in 1927. Military parties progressed with seaplane flights. The promise of the great Zeppelins crashed in New Jersey.

Pan American and Juan Trippe had already established mail service across the Pacific and Far East. The Atlantic was waiting. Unlike the Pacific routes, many different jurisdictions were involved affecting access. Canada wanted concessions. Britain, including Bermuda, wanted reciprocity to use their ports even though they did not have the capacity or equipment. Portugal controlled access to the Azores and Lisbon. There was much haggling and diplomacy involved.



Finally, on May 20, 1939, the Yankee Clipper (B-314) made the first scheduled mail run. 112,574 pieces of mail (a lot of it philatelic) left Port Washington, NY and via the Azores and Lisbon arrived in Marseilles after a flight time of 29 hours.

The first flight carrying fare paying passengers was 11 days later when the Dixie Clipper carried 22 along the southern route. The fare was \$375 (one way) and transit time 42 hours (30 airborne). For comparison, the Queen Mary held the Blue Riband with a time of 3 days and 20 hours. The demise of the great ocean liners was foreshadowed.

On June 24, 1939, the Yankee Clipper opened the North Atlantic route from Port Washington to Shediac (New Brunswick), Botwood (Newfoundland) and Foynes (Ireland).



All too soon, World War II changed the mission, but the Clippers aided the war effort in many ways. Many dignitaries including President Roosevelt were transported to distant points.

During the war, a Southern route also opened across the Caribbean to Brazil and onto Africa. Among the varied cargos, the Clippers carried raw uranium from mines in Gabon back to the US laboratories.

The great Clippers remained in use throughout the War, but were slowly pushed aside as longer range transports carrying bigger payloads were developed. To see more, visit:

<https://www.panam.org/war-years/400-how-america-s-airline-went-to-war-2>



BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

April 2023

Alfred Carroccia

Fuzzy9600@verizon.net

APRIL NOTES

Spring has sprung! While the temperatures are still hovering at freezing, the days are getting longer, and the sun has emerged.

The Club's signature event, BUFPEX is history. Attendance at BUFPEX was again strong particularly on Saturday. Thanks to all the Club members who helped with the setting up of frames and cleanup afterwards. Thanks to all who helped at the welcome table, youth table and silent auction. Thanks to bourse chairman John Leszak who helped with bringing in out of town dealers.

With BUFPEX behind us, the Club enters the final months of the 2022-2023 Club calendar. The next order of business is the annual election of Board of Directors. The election is very important for the Club as it is the Board that governs the Club and sets the course the Club will take in the future. The Club asks its members to step up and ask "What can I do to help the Club?" The big question is - Are you willing to step up and run for a position on the Board? If so, please let one of the Officers know, so we can get you on the ballot for the May meeting!

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Thursday, April 6th: Meeting/Auction

Thursday, April 20th: Presentation

Thursday, May 11th: Meeting/Auction

At The Knights Halls, 2735 Union Road just north of William St. in Cheektowaga

Auctions begin immediately following any business and announcements beginning at 7:00 PM.

Arrive early to submit and view lots; seller deadline to submit lots is 6:30 PM

Presentations begin at 7:00 PM in Bar Room

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President: Alan Davis (ddavis504@roadrunner.com)

Vice President: Dan McNess (dmcness@mac.com)

Secretary: Al Carroccia (fuzzy9600@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Tim Carey (careystea@gmail.com)

Membership Chairman: Bob Meegan
(meegan9697@roadrunner.com)

Auction Chairman: Dan Sherwood

Auction Registrar: Kevin Suckow

Auction Assistant: Bennie Passantino

Auction Acctg: Paul Moore (paulkmoore29@gmail.com)

Advertising & Publicity Coordinator: Open

Bourse Chairman: John Leszak (coverconnection@gmail.com)

Historical & Library: Al Carroccia & Casey Kielbasa

Other Directors: Larry Cherns (katchke@hotmail.com),

Barb Kern (barb3706@aol.com)

Heidi Rust (youdafox@hotmail.com)

KEVIN SUCKOW

The Club was sad to learn that Club member and dealer Kevin Suckow passed away on March 2, 2023. Kevin joined the Club in 1991 and was a regular participant in all Club events, including BUFPEX and The Autumn Stamp Festival, and was a regular at out-of-town bourses. Kevin specialized in Canada and US stamps. In addition to stamps, Kevin was an avid fisherman. He will be missed.



Kevin at his table during the Summer bourse last August

The Club sends its condolences to Kevin's family.



LORRAINE TESMER

Lorraine Tesmer, husband of Club member Irv Tesmer, passed away on March 16, 2023.



Lorraine was always by Irv's side, accompanying him to all Club events. She was a pleasant person and will be missed.



Irv & Lorraine at the Annual Club Picnic held last August

The Club sends its condolences to Irv and John Tesmer (Irv's son).

NEW MEMBER

Kristin Griffin joined the Club at BUFPEX. New to philately, she simply wrote: "Learn more" on her application. The Club welcomes Kristen and will encourage her to learn more as she begins her philatelic journey.

CASEY KIELBASA

The Club sends its well wishes and speedy recovery to Casey who is recovering from a fall. Get well Casey!!

BOARD ELECTIONS

The election for Board of Directors will be held prior to the auction on May 11. The Buffalo Stamp Club is governed by a Board of Directors comprising 12 Club members in good-standing (dues are paid). Four members are elected each year. Club officers are then elected from the Board each year. It is the Board of Directors who make decisions to keep the Club running efficiently. The Board works diligently, and together, with Club members to address any issues affecting the Club. The Board helped guide the Club during the pandemic and helped find a new home at the Knights of Columbus after the Leonard Post closed.

The position of Board member does not involve a lot of work. Most communications take place via email during the year, and the Board meets once in July to finalize the year's calendar, review finances, and discuss open issues. Compensation is \$0 but you have the satisfaction of helping the Club move forward.

The Class of 2023 whose terms are set to expire are:

Larry Cherns **Bob Meegan**
Bennie Passantino **John Vogelmann**

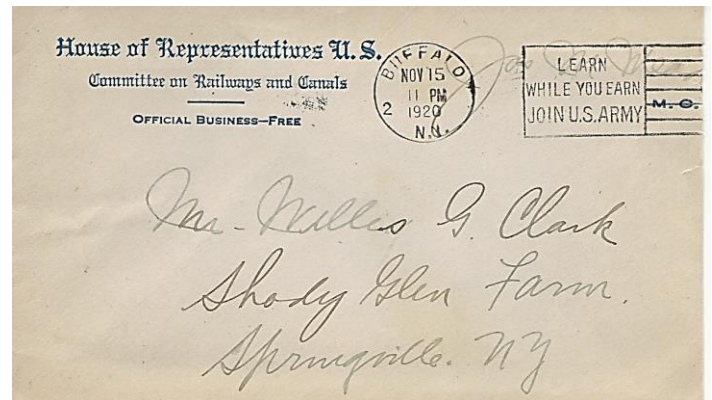
Any Club member interested, please contact Al Carroccia or Alan Davis. Thank you!

APRIL PRESENTATION

The Club still has not assigned a presenter for the April 20th presentation meeting. If you have a topic that you would like to present, please let us know. Otherwise, we will plan a "Show and Tell" evening where everyone who attends brings one or two items to pass around and talk about. Having done this in the past, it can be a very interesting and fun way to see different items from different members.

CONGRESSIONAL FREE FRANK

The right to send mail without paying postage is known as "free franking." This privilege in the US goes back to the founding fathers. It extended to Presidents, members of Congress and even postmasters. The privilege was out of control as anyone asserting authority claimed free franking privilege. Congress severely restricted the free franking authority to Presidents and members of Congress. This restriction was for official business only.



The above cover postmarked November 15, 1920 is franked with the signature of James M. Mead. Mead represented western New York in Congress from 1919 to 1938 and served on various committees. What is unique about this cover is that Mead signed his name and addressed the cover in his own handwriting. Due to the high volume of mail most congressmen had a handstamp of their signature.

