

## AIR POST STAMPS

By DOUGLAS B. ARMSTRONG

### New Syrian Air Stamps

THE overprinted French postage-stamps hitherto employed in the Syrian air post service have been finally replaced by the handsome new pictorial postage stamps of that State, and of Great Lebanon, distinguished by the addition of the word "AVION" vertically inscribed in green French and Arabic characters. There is a third set for use in the territory of the Alaouites additionally overprinted with the name of that district. The four values, in each instance, are: 2 piastres sepia; 3 piastres, brown; 5 piastres, mauve; and 10 piastres, purple. The 3 and 10 piastres (Syria), together with the 10 piastres (Grand Liban), exist with the "AVION" overprint inverted.

The new journal, *L'Aero Philatelie*, publishes an interesting account of the successful flight from Deir-*ez-Zor* (Syria) to Baghdad made by Colonel Denain on April 7, 1923. Sixteen letters only were carried on this flight, which bear the Beyrout postmark of 17.4.23, and that of Baghdad 18 Apr. 23. Needless to say, these flown covers are of the greatest rarity. As a result of this experiment, a regular air line was put in operation between Damascus and Deir-*ez-Zor* on December 15, 1924.

### South African Air Post

APROPOS of the South African air post stamps recently referred to in this column, we understand that the initial printing of 90,000 sets was produced by a photo-lithographic process at the office of the *Cape Times*, where the design also originated. Future printings will be made, however, at the Union Government Printing Works, Pretoria, as previously stated.

The four values represent the surcharges for mail matter carried by air in accordance with the following tariff:—

- Inland postcards, 1*d.*; overseas postcards, 3*d.*
- Inland letters, 3*d.* per oz.; overseas letters, 6*d.* per oz.
- Inland parcels, 6*d.* per lb.; overseas parcels, 9*d.* per lb.

During the first week of the service £257 worth of air post stamps were sold, and the total amount of letters, etc., posted at Durban for other points on the air route was 1,586 for Cape Town, 390 for East London, 271 for Port Elizabeth, 46 for Mossel Bay, 24 for Oudtshoorn, and 15 for delivery on board ship.

The South African air post service has achieved an initial success, and shows every prospect of becoming a permanent institution.

### Trans-Andes Air Covers

It does not appear to be generally known that a bag of letters was carried by the aviators who successfully crossed the Andes from Buenos Aires to Mendoza in December last. All were prepaid in ordinary postage stamps of the Argentine Republic, but were impressed in addition with a distinctive cachet inscribed "Servicio Postal Aereo." The date of the flight was December 4, 1924.

### Montevideo-Rio de Janeiro Flight

ANOTHER experimental mail flight in South America took place on January 20 of this year between Montevideo and Rio de Janeiro. Flown covers were franked with the current 10c. postage stamp of Uruguay plus the 6c. aero stamp of 1924, and further struck with a cachet in purple, reading "Ensayo Postal Aereo: Montevideo-Rio de Janeiro."

### Paris-Dakar Flight Covers

A NUMBER of letters were carried by Lieuts. Arrachart and Lemaitre on their sensational flight on February 3-March 24 last: 300 covers were carried on the outward and 200 on the return journey, most bearing the signatures of one of the aviators, and numbered consecutively. In addition to the ordinary French 25c. postage stamp and the "Par Avion" label, the outward letters were impressed with an oval cachet inscribed "Raid Etampes Dakar Fevrier 1925 Avion Bréguet Renault 19. A. 2," and had affixed to them an adhesive *etiquette* showing the portraits of Captains Lemaitre and Arrachart inset on a map of the route.

Letters originating at Dakar bear the postmarks of El Golea (Constantine) and Casablanca (Morocco), in addition to that of Dakar, February 7, and Versailles, March 24. Prior to despatch they were impressed with a special cachet in five lines, lettered "Par Avion Raid Dakar Paris via Timbuctou Mission Lemaitre & Arrachart," besides the official seal of the Commandant Aéronautique A.O.F. Postage was prepaid in ordinary 25c. postage stamps of Senegal (French West Africa). The average price asked for these historic covers at present is 44s. with autograph of the pilot and 22s. without.

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1924-1925

AEROPLANES, airships, balloons and parts thereof (not shown separately before 1910). For 1910 and 1911 figures see "FLIGHT" for January 25, 1912; for 1912 and 1913, see "FLIGHT" for January 17, 1914; for 1914, see "FLIGHT" for January 15, 1915; for 1915, see "FLIGHT" for January 13, 1916; for 1916, see "FLIGHT" for January 11, 1917; for 1917, see "FLIGHT" for January 24, 1918; for 1918, see "FLIGHT" for January 16, 1919; for 1919, see "FLIGHT" for January 22, 1920; for 1920, see "FLIGHT" for January 13, 1921; for 1921, see "FLIGHT" for January 19, 1922; for 1922 see "FLIGHT" for January 18, 1923; for 1923, see "FLIGHT" for January 17, 1924; and for 1924, see "FLIGHT" for January 22, 1925.

	Imports.		Exports.		Re-Exports.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
Jan. . .	£ 2,213	£ 3,546	£ 52,239	£ 83,728	£ 2,219	£ 291
Feb. . .	920	985	26,349	85,639	335	20
Mar. . .	11,381	—	34,113	56,881	509	9,355
Apr. . .	373	321	56,998	78,041	6,014	6,732
	14,887	4,852	169,699	304,289	9,077	16,398

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

*British Legion Annual Report and Accounts, 1924.* The British Legion, 26, Eccleston Square, London, S.W. 1.

*U.S. National Advisory Committee Reports: No. 199.*—Interference Tests on an N.A.C.A. Pitot Tube. By E. G. Reid. No. 202.—The Sparking Voltage of Spark Plugs. By F. B. Silsbee. No. 203.—Accelerations in Flight. By J. H. Doolittle. No. 205.—The Effect of Changes in Compression Ratio upon Engine Performance. By S. W. Sparrow. No. 211.—Water Model Rests for Semirigid Airships. By L. B. Tuckerman. U.S. National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Navy Building, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

*Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office. April 7, 1925.* U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

*Royal Air Force Field Service Pocket Book, 1924.* Air Publication 1,081. H.M. Stationery Office, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2. Price 3s. 6*d.* net.

*Report on Civil Aviation, 1924.* Dominion of Canada Department of National Defence, Ottawa, Canada. Price 25 cent.

## AERONAUTICAL PATENT SPECIFICATIONS

Abbreviations: Cyl. = cylinder; i.c. = internal combustion; m. = motor. The numbers in brackets are those under which the Specifications will be printed and abridged, etc.

### APPLIED FOR IN 1924

Published May 21, 1925

- 1,785. A. J. YEO. Rotary engines. (232,677.)
- 2,068. FAIREY AVIATION CO., LTD., and C. R. FAIREY. Controlling-devices for aeroplanes. (232,693.)
- 4,476. H. O. SHORT. Lifting and propelling devices for aircraft. (232,732.)
- 12,278. SCHNEIDER ET CIE. Control posts of aeroplanes. (217,198.)
- 12,601. CIE. D'APPLICATIONS MECANIQUES. Shock-absorbers. (217,200.)
- 13,521. J. W. PITTS. Propellers. (232,805.)
- 16,872. A. LAMBLIN. Cooling-elements for radiators. (222,445.)
- 18,009. J. J. CALLAHAN. Propellers. (232,828.)
- 18,121. NIEUFORT ASTRA. Propellers. (232,830.)
- 26,886. CIE. D'APPLICATIONS MECANIQUES. Cages for bearings. (225,198.)

## FLIGHT

The Aircraft Engineer and Airships

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