

AIR POST STAMPS

By DOUGLAS ARMSTRONG

For collectors of air post stamps and letters the year 1930, now drawing to its close has been one of unusual interest and activity. Upwards of 350 new varieties of aero-stamps have made their appearance as the outcome of world-wide extension of the flying post services, whilst other additions to the air post collection include souvenirs of the epoch making voyages of the dirigible "Graf Zeppelin" and the Trans-Atlantic flight by the monoplane "Columbia." More exciting still, the values of practically all air post stamps and covers have soared to heights undreamt of by their fortunate owners. New high records have been established for the standard rarities and one fresh candidate at least entered for the rarities class in the unused "Columbia" air mail stamp of Newfoundland which is already nearing the £100 mark.

Two highly successful exhibitions devoted entirely to the air post cult were held during the year in London (in June) and in Paris (in November) both of which attracted considerable attention and were well supported by air post enthusiasts from all parts of the world. A large section of the great international philatelic exhibition that took place in Berlin last September was also given over to aero-philately when one of the highest awards, the Lady's Trophy, was conferred upon the important exhibits of Miss W. Penn Gaskell, one of the English exhibitors.

Several new publications of interest to aero-philatelists have been published, including a monumental bibliography of the subject by the erudite and indefatigable Dr. Robert Paganini of Zweisimmen (Switz.). Champion's excellent bilingual *Catalogue Historique et Descriptif des Timbres de la Poste Aérienne* reached its sixth edition, whilst a concise catalogue, of government air post stamps only, appeared in England with the imprint of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. Other useful catalogues and text books appeared both in America and Europe.

British Successes at Paris Show

Exhibitors from Great Britain carried off a number of the chief awards at the first international air post exhibition organised in connection with the Exposition Aeronautique de l'Art at the Pavillon de Marsan, Paris, from November 6 to 20 inclusive. Here were assembled the cream of the world's air post collections, the display being honoured by a visit from the French President. Once again the principal prize, a gold plaque with the felicitations of the jury, fell to Miss Penn Gaskell's notable entries, together with a special trophy presented by the Federation Philatelique Francaise. Mr. R. E. R. Dalwick's exhibits received a well-deserved silver-gilt medal and those of Mr. P. Oakey, one of silver. Messrs. Noble Burrows, F. H. Vallancey, M. Davis and Francis J. Field also gained awards of various grades.

Coming Empire Air Stamps

Air post collectors no less than regular users of the air mail services are beginning to despair of there ever being a British air post stamp, proposed extensions of the system notwithstanding. Meanwhile the overseas Dominions are proving less hide-bound in their efforts to popularise their local airways. Newfoundland is on the point of introducing special air stamps of a permanent type in denominations 15 c., 50 c., and \$1 for use in her air mail service to be put in operation early in the coming year. The designs tentatively approved show in the case of the 15 cents stamp an aeroplane flying over a forest scene in winter, with figures of a postal courier and his dog team in the foreground. Alcock's Vickers-Vimy aeroplane taking off from St. John's upon the first successful Trans-Atlantic flight is to be the subject of the 50 c. vignette and a map indicating the routes followed by the principal Atlantic air flights made to or from Newfoundland that of the \$1 value.

The New Zealand post office has in active preparation a special 3d. air mail stamp, details of which are lacking however, as we write. A supply of contemporary 4d. and 1s. air mail stamps of the Union of South Africa has been expressly overprinted for provisional use in connection with the service about to be inaugurated by the Junker concern in South-West Africa pending the arrival of two definitive air stamps now being prepared in England with a picture of an aeroplane flying over Windhoek, the capital of the territory. The Sudan Government proposes to provide a special stamp for aerial correspondence carried over the impending Cape-Cairo air line, and it is probable that this example may be followed by other countries on the route. Bahamas, Jamaica, British Guiana, Barbados and Trinidad are all reported to have the issue of air post stamps under consideration at the present time.

New Issues

Latest additions to the world's air post stamps include a picturesque series from Albania with portrait of King Zogu inset upon local views in denominations 5 qind to 3 franken; set of four values in modified colours from the Dominican Republic: 30 cents provisional surcharge upon the 40 c. air post stamp of the Dutch Indies: additional denominations in the Hungarian air stamp designs of 1927: permanent set of five finely engraved vignettes from Honduras depicting an aeroplane over the Presidential Palace. An emergency 10 centavos on 25 c. air stamp of Cuba to internal air post purposes.

Answers to Correspondents

A. C. (Bristol).—The most comprehensive air stamp catalogue is that published by Maison Th. Champion, of Paris, in English and French (price 7s. 6d.), but a more simplified volume dealing with government adhesive issues only has just been published by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. (price 2s. 6d.) in English only. For a list of published works on air post collecting apply Book Department, Vallancey Press, Ltd., 15, St. Bride St., London, E.C.4. The Hon. Secretary, Aero-Philatelic Club, Mr. H. L. Hayman, 15 Upper Phillimore Gardens, W.8, will give you particulars of membership.

A Kingsford-Smith Stamp

The name of Air Commodore Kingsford-Smith is about to be added to the roll of distinguished aviators who have been honoured on stamps. A special air mail stamp is reported to be in preparation for early issue in Australia showing his famous aeroplane the "Southern Cross" surmounting the two hemispheres. Amongst those flyers to whom similar tribute has already been paid are Col. Lindbergh, Capt. Carranza, Mendez, Garay and Col. Franco.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Feldflieger. By Haupt Heydemarck. Dom-Berlag: Berlin, S.W.61. Price Rm. 6-50.

Pilot's "A" Licence. By John F. Leeming. 4th Edition. London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd. Price 3s. 6d.

Gear Tooth Grinding. The Gear Grinding Co., Ltd., Handsworth, Birmingham.

Economic Conditions in Germany to July, 1930. Department of Overseas Trade. Report by J. W. T. Thelwall, M.C., and R. P. F. Edwards, D.S.O. H.M. Stationery Office, Kingsway, London, W.C.2. Price 4s. 6d. net.

AERONAUTICAL PATENT SPECIFICATIONS

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

APPLIED FOR IN 1929

Published December 11, 1930

- 22,363. A. E. WHITE (BOEING AIRPLANE Co.). Aeroplane emergency flotation gears. (338,219.)
- 24,025. BOEING AIRPLANE Co. Oil-cooling systems for aircraft engines. (316,980.)
- 24,577. A. E. RUSSELL and BRISTOL AIRPLANE Co., LTD. Braking systems for the landing-wheels of aircraft. (338,139.)
- 33,765. SIR W. G. ARMSTRONG, WHITWORTH AIRCRAFT, LTD., and J. LLOYD. Monoplanes. (338,348.)

APPLIED FOR IN 1930

Published December 11, 1930

- 1,734. G. BOEHME. Model aeroplanes. (338,433.)
- 2,785. IMPERIAL AIRWAYS, LTD., H. L. HALL, and J. W. STIRLING. Magnetic navigation compasses. (338,441.)
- 2,775. S. G. COLINESE. Variable-thrust propeller for airships. (338,442.)

FLIGHT, The Aircraft Engineer and Airships.

36, GREAT QUEEN STREET, KINGSWAY, W.C.2.

Telephone: Holborn, 1884;
Holborn, 3211.

Telegraphic address: Truditur, Westcent, London.

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