

# Aero Philatelist Annals

## Vols. I - XXV

July 1953 - January 1982

Compiled by John J. Smith

Edited and with Introduction by Charles J. Peterson

### A Brief History of Aero Philatelists, Inc.

Aero Philatelists, Inc. was conceived and created as an aerophilatelic society to meet the needs of collectors of air mail stamps, mint or used, the latter on and off cover. Richard S. Bohn, who later became President of The Collectors Club of New York, and George Herzog, a prominent air mail dealer, arranged the first meeting, held on October 1, 1945 at the New York Athletic Club.

Though many would later claim that they were present at that historic meeting, the minutes kept by temporary secretary Herzog indicated that, in addition to himself and Bohn, the following philatelists were there: John J. Britt, William G. Ehrmann, Bernard Fink, William H. Knemeyer, Leonard E. Livingstone, Franc Ritter and Anthony Scala.

After several organizational meetings held during the early part of 1946, the society was finally incorporated on April 12, 1946 as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of New York. The purpose of the group and the goal of its first publication, *The Aero Philatelist's News*, were stated in the society's first prospectus:

*The Aero Philatelist's News* will be a four-page 8 1/2 by 11 paper, punched for binding. The front page will contain up to the minute news in brief on prospective and actual new stamp issues so vital to all Aero Philatelists. The inside two pages will contain reports on current issues and general air mail topics.

For most of its life Aero Philatelists, Inc. remained an East Coast-based group, with many of its officers, writers, and editors situated in New York City and environs. The eventual merger of the Aero Philatelists, Inc. with the American Air Mail Society was negotiated primarily by Philip Silver and William H. Miller, Jr. on behalf of the Aero Philatelists and a consortium of AAMS officers, principally Perham C. Nahl, Robert E. Haring, Joseph L. Eisendrath, and George D. Kingdom.

### A Brief History of the Annals

The original research publication, *Aero Philatelist's News* (Smith #280)<sup>1</sup>, appeared on June 1, 1946 and was issued biweekly for many years but later appeared at infrequent intervals. Due to space limitations in the *News*, articles could only be run serially, and illustrations had to be minimized.

The need for a different format was recognized, and thus the *Aero Philatelist Annals* (Smith #260) came into being. Publication of the *News* continued for some time after the appearance of the *Annals*; it

was eventually discontinued, after a total of 585 pages extending over eight volumes had been published.<sup>2</sup> The last issue of the *News*, Volume X, Number 10, was published in November 1955.

At several points in the late 1940s and early 1950s the Aero Philatelists offered bound sets of the *Aero Philatelist's News*, and a complete run of single, unbound copies is difficult to locate.

The first issue of the *Aero Philatelist Annals* was dated July 1953. The journal was published continuously as a quarterly until the January 1971 issue (Vol. XVIII, Nos. 3/4). At this point, the publication lapsed; it had suffered a serious blow due to the death of Henry M. Goodkind, its first and only editor to that point and the driving force of the journal.

In 1973 Aero Philatelists, Inc. merged into the American Air Mail Society. Publication of the *Annals* was resumed in July 1975, as a supplement to the regular AAMS monthly journal, *The Airpost Journal (APJ)*. From that point on, the *Annals* appeared semi-annually, in January and July of each year, as a supplement to the *APJ*, until the January 1982 issue (Vol. XXV, No. 2). With that final issue, the *Annals* ceased publication as a separate entity, the *APJ* remaining as the single vehicle for the organization.

From the time of its inception until its discontinuance, the *Annals* was served by only two editors. Henry M. Goodkind was the first editor, and served until his death in August 1970. Philip Silver, who had become Assistant Editor with the October 1959 issue, worked with Louis N. Staub and Ira Seebacher during the interregnum to complete Vol. XVIII; he then formally assumed the editorship and served through the final issue.

### Scope and Format

The *Aero Philatelist Annals* was predominantly directed towards the study of air mail stamps, on a world-wide basis. This was in direct contrast to the many aerophilatelic publications, including *The Airpost Journal*, which were oriented towards air events, such as first and special flights, opening of new routes, cachets, air memorabilia, leaflets, and similar aeronautica.

To be sure, research on the stamps included a study of the flights, the covers, the rates and similar aspects, but concentration was first and foremost on the postal aspects and the stamps. As a result of this emphasis, the *Annals* became a major reference journal which is still a valuable repository of definitive articles on air mail issues.

In truth, some of the content of the *Annals* stemmed from the interests and specialties of its editors (Goodkind and Silver predominantly), as well as from some of the collections of other leaders of the organization. As major auctions occurred and important airmail material came on the market, the *Annals* responded by highlighting notable stamps and covers. One of the constant themes was the analysis of catalogue listings for airmail stamps from many countries, including previously unknown varieties or controversial items.

In its first phase, as an independent publication, the *Annals* was a slick-paper, 6 3/4 by 9 3/4 journal with high-quality printing and exceptional illustrations. The second phase, as a supplement to the *APJ*, entailed several changes: size was reduced to that of the *APJ*, 5 1/4 by 8 1/2; printing went to offset, using the rather more cluttered, blacker *APJ* style; and the number of pages dropped per issue from an average of 28 to a total of 16 (except for the valedictory issue, which ran to 24 pages).

## Checklist

Volumes I through XVIII were issued quarterly. July was issue #1 in each volume, October issue #2, January issue #3, and April was issue #4. The pagination was continuous for each volume, with the exception of Vol. XVIII where #1 and #2 were paginated continuously through page 52 while 3/4 started again and went from pp. 1-28. (Note that cover pages are not counted, with the exception again of issue #3/4, Vol. XVIII.) The January 1971 issue is the only "double number," identified as Vol. XVIII, #3 & 4.

Volumes XIX to XXV, inclusive, list the July issue as #1 and the January issue of the following year as issue #2. Here too the numbering is continuous within each two-issue volume; as an anomaly, Vol. XX continued the pagination from Vol. XIX, covering pages 33-64. In these volumes, there is no unnumbered "cover."

Volume	#1	#2	#3	#4
I	July 1953	Oct. 1953	Jan. 1954	April 1954
II	1954	1954	1955	1955
III	1955	1955	1956	1956
IV	1956	1956	1957	1957
V	1957	1957	1958	1958
VI	1958	1958	1959	1959
VII	1959	1959	1960	1960
VIII	1960	1960	1961	1961
IX	1961	1961	1962	1962
X	1962	1962	1963	1963
XI	1963	1963	1964	1964
XII	1964	1964	1965	1965
XIII	1965	1965	1966	1966
XIV	1966	1966	1967	1967
XV	1967	1967	1968	1968
XVI	1968	1968	1969	1969
XVII	1969	1969	1970	1970
XVIII	1970	1970	1971*	

(\* Combined issue #3 & 4)

Volume	#1	#2
XIX	July 1975	Jan. 1976
XX	1976	1977
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XXIII	1979	1980
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## On the Indexing

It was initially anticipated that this index would closely follow the earlier index of *The Airpost Journal*, compiled by David H. Eyman and Frank H. Blumenthal, edited and with introduction by Charles J. Peterson, which initially appeared in the *Philatelic Literature Review*, Whole Numbers 112-114, Third and Fourth Quarters 1981 and First Quarter 1982.

However, it soon became apparent that a somewhat different approach and a different set of entries would be needed. The *APJ* dealt with events, flights, cachets, people, places, routes, aircraft; the *Annals* dealt almost exclusively with stamps. Further, *APJ* articles generally were short, emphasizing one aspect; *Annals* articles for the most part were lengthy and definitive. Thus, the two journals were complimentary, not equivalent, and the indexes of necessity reflect that difference.

Chester Smith's *Manual of Philatelic Headings*...<sup>3</sup> again served as a starting point. Relatively little use was made of cross-referencing, if it seemed probable that the title and inclusive page length of the article would be a sufficient guide to the reader. Thus, in most cases there has been no separate reference to first day covers or flight data for major articles on the stamps issued for a given event. However, where the subject is of particular interest in itself and might be lost if listed only under the primary (country) heading, a cross-reference has been provided (e.g., "Counterfeits, Fakes, and Forgeries" and "DO-X").

The entry is given by volume number, issue number, and inclusive pages; the author's name, where applicable, is shown in parentheses following the entry title, except for the "Literature" section where the name refers to the author of the publication being reviewed (reviews were for the most part unsigned, and are to be attributed to the editor). Titles are for the most part as given in the *Annals*, although some have been shortened or amplified; the *Annals* itself shows inconsistency in this regard in its tables and its annual indexes. Thus, "Some Varieties on SCADTA Covers (Jean Gravelat) XVII / 4:103-05" refers to the 3-page article by Gravelat in Vol. XVII, #4.

For convenience in citation, the 1971 "double-number" is shown as "XVIII / 3."

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1. The numbering system referred to is contained in the descriptive index by Chester M. Smith, Jr., *American Philatelic Periodicals* (State College, Pa.: American Philatelic Research Library, 1978).
  2. The Aero Philatelists, Inc., also published a small internal organ with information on organizational activities, personalities, etc., titled *Aero Philatelist's Bulletin* (Smith #270, Nos. 1-17, July 1946-May 1947).
  3. Chester M. Smith, Jr., *Manual of Philatelic Headings Used by the American Philatelic Research Library* (State College, Pa.: the Library, 1979).

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