

SYNOPSIS OF EXHIBIT

This *Display exhibit* uses a variety of philatelic material and associated thematic material and text. The exhibit includes topic related picture post cards, ephemera and graphics to help tell the story about The Century of Progress Exposition. The exposition took place during the U.S. Great Depression. During the period of 1933-34 the country was beginning to emerge from the depression. The world celebrated the positive events of the century with the Exposition World's Fair in Chicago. The story of the Exposition unfolds for the viewer by highlighting the stamps issued and significant special events held during the fair. President Roosevelt was an avid stamp collector and the US promoted the exposition with two US commemorative stamp designs. The exhibit presents the exposition in two chapters the World's Fair and the Century of Progress Flight of the Graf Zeppelin LZ-127.

Each event was researched and event covers located. Covers were researched for both the philatelic and historical information. Historical context is provided with event covers and postcards to aid the viewer in understanding and to enhance the story. Original photos of the LZ-127 at dock at Akron, OH and the Picard's in replica of their gondola for the Stratosphere attempt are included with archive photographs to enhance the understanding of an event.

Fair organizers wanted the German Graf Zeppelin LZ-127 to visit the exposition. Hugo Eckener, the German commander, asked the US to issue a special stamp and share the postal revenue with the Zeppelin Company to offset the cost of the flight to the exposition. The Century of Progress Flight and special US 50¢ stamp would not exist without The Century of Progress Exposition. At first President Roosevelt rejected the idea of a fourth Zeppelin stamp but eventually conceded. This exhibit includes both the US issued 50¢ Graf Zeppelin stamp and German the 1RM, 2RM & 4RM Weimar Republic Zeppelin overprint issues. **Every US dispatch location to every stop of the Graf Zeppelin LZ-127 is represented with a cover as outlined in the postal bulletin.**

The exhibit contains an undocumented **Roessler event cover hand created on a typewriter on one of his 'AIR MAIL' Checkered Type No. 3 airmail envelopes addressed to a Roessler alias A.C. Roe.** Also included are additional hand made event covers that are likely one of a kind: **The USS Macon event cover done on the back flap of an envelope sold at the Exposition with a graphic by the famous artist Joseph P. Birren and an event cover of Balbo flight from Italy to the exposition. The epilogue of the exhibit includes one of the rarest of the 50¢ Zeppelin mail. Another cover that will create some interest is the Century of Progress cover addressed to Chancellor Adolph Hitler in Berlin. The cover was sent by a local Akron Business man, Ray H. Garman. The business is still active in Akron with a different owner. A cover is addressed to Friedrich William "Willy" von Meister, the Special Representative of the Zeppelin organization's activities in the U.S. is highlighted in the exhibit.**

Special Round trip postal bulletins for the Graf Zeppelin stamp were confusing. The exhibitor makes the complex postal regulations issued for the special round trip understandable using graphics, the actual bulletin and explanative text.

All five locations of the 1st Day of Issue for the 50¢ Graf Zeppelin stamp are included in the exhibit. Quantities issued of each location are unknown. The exhibit also includes covers posted on-board the LZ-127, on the first leg of the round trip addressed to Akron, OH and one on the return flight to Sevilla, Spain.

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The exhibit displays what was important and considered progress ninety one years ago. In 1933 progress was sending a ballon to the stratosphere. Ninety years later we have communications satellites zooming around the earth enabling us to watch events live on the other side of the planet. Today we can determine where we are standing at any second within a few feet and our car tells exactly how to drive from one place to another. We have landed on the moon and discuss sending men to Mars and building an exploration station. In 1933 the path for future travel and mail to transcend the globe was Lighter Than Air ships like the Zeppelins. Today we can send an email to anyplace on the globe in seconds. We now can travel across oceans in hours not days and by 2029 we plan to have supersonic planes faster than the speed of sound for personal travel.

Information sources helpful to develop the exhibit:

- Zeppelin Post Katalog, by Sieger-Verlag (in German) pp 166, 193-199
- The 1933 Chicago World's Fair, by Cheryl R. Ganz, pp 137-152
- The 20th Century Postage Stamps of the US Vol 3 pp 66-70 & Vol 4 pp 241-244, by Max G. Johl
- US Postal Bulletins, #16161, #16211, #16258, #16614, #16666, #16686 www.us-postalbulletins.com
- <https://www.airships.net/lz127-graf-zeppelin/history/> "The Century of Progress Flight to 1933 Chicago World's Fair"
- The Chicago Tribune, various articles on the Century of Progress, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-per-flash-century-progress-0526-20130526-story.html>, <http://galleries.apps.chicagotribune.com/cchi-130329-meigs-field-northerly-island-pictures/>
- Balbo Monument Chicago, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balbo_Monument
- Balloons to the Stratosphere, http://www.century-of-flight.freeola.com/new_site/balloons/stratosphere.htm
- Adams Air mail pick-up at the fair, <https://chicagology.com/centuryprogress/1933-fair66/>
- Stamps of the Century of Progress, <https://chicagology.com/centuryprogress/1933-fair21/>
- The June, 1934 Airpost Journal, page 9 of the American Airmail Society article 'The Rarest of the Century of Progress Zeppelin Mails.'
- The Akron Beacon Journal article Aug. 3, 2013 'History of South Akron' by a staff writer, compiled by Katie Beard.