

The Century of Progress Exposition



The postcard/graphic illustrates the theme of the Century of Progress Exposition, Unknown publisher, offset printing, blank back

This is a **four frame display treatment exhibit** of The Century of Progress Exposition held in Chicago, IL. The exposition celebrated 100 years of progress in technology of transportation in air, land and sea. The philatelic material in this exhibit is enhanced with thematic material covering the aviation, nationalism and technological progress with the world's fair special events and first day covers. It includes the special stamp issues and ephemera of 1933 & '34 fair. The exhibit will present the three U.S. Post Office stamp designs announced for the fair.

The 'A Century of Progress Flight' air mail stamp, the U.S. 50¢ Graf Zeppelin. The stamp helped to finance the flight of the German Graf Zeppelin LZ-127's visit to the fair. The stamp became known as the 'Baby Zep.' It was a one time special issue in a quantity of 4.3 million intended for use on covers mailed for the special round trip flight of the Zeppelin and first day covers. Unused stamps were to be returned for destruction by the post office. The great popularity of the 'Baby Zep' stamp and Zeppelin covers made them highly desirable. Covers with four of the 'Baby Zep' that made the round trip are of limited availability.

Event covers for the fair can vary from easily found to very difficult to find, especially hand made covers. A set of German overprint stamps made using the existing stocks of the Weimar Republic zeppelin issues of 1928-1931 just for the special zeppelin flight are included in this exhibit.

The exposition was popular with both the American and European population. When gates finally closed there had been more than 39 million visitors. The fair achieved the goal of being the first world's fair to earn a profit even as the Great Depression gripped the nation.

Exhibit Structure:

- Stamps issued for the Century of Progress
- Significant events of Century of Progress
- Visit of the Graft Zeppelin LZ-127 from Friedrichshafen, Germany
- **Items of special interest will be highlighted in red text**



Century of Progress Stamp Designs

The Century of Progress Exposition

Exhibit Plan:

1 Century of Progress World's Fair

- 1-1 Stamps of the Century of Progress
 - 1¢ Fort Dearborn and 3¢ Federal Building Issues
 - Farley Special Issues In Compliment to the APS Convention
 - U.S. Post Office Special Issue 50¢ Graf Zeppelin LZ-127 Issue
 - Weimar Republic 1RM, 2RM & 4RM Zeppelin Overprint Issue
- 1-2 World's Fair Special Events
 - Opening Day May 27, 1933
 - USS Macon Visits the Fair
 - Oct. 9 was Declared Chicago Day
 - Balbo Sea Plane Squadron from Italy to the Fair
 - Piccard-Compton Stratosphere Ascension
 - Ballon Races - The Gordon Bennett Cup
 - Fair Closes Nov. 12, 1933
- 1-3 World's Fair Extended
 - Opening Day May 26, 1934
 - New Exhibits
 - Fair Closes Oct. 31, 1934

2 Century of Progress Flight

- 2-1 Graf Zeppelin LZ-127 Flight Plan
 - U.S. Postal Bulletin No. 16258
 - Special Cachets Designed for the Flight
 - Final Flight Log
- 2.2 Flown Covers LZ127 - U.S. Dispatches
 - New York, New York
 - Miami, Florida
 - 1st Akron, Ohio Landing
 - Chicago, Illinois
 - Akron, Ohio Return Flight
- 2-3 Flown Covers LZ-127 - Other Dispatches
 - Friedrichshafen, Germany
 - Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
 - Recife (Pernambuco), Brazil
 - Posted On-Board the Graf Zeppelin
 - Epilogue



25¢ admission to Chicago World's Fair Fort Dearborn - souvenir ticket.