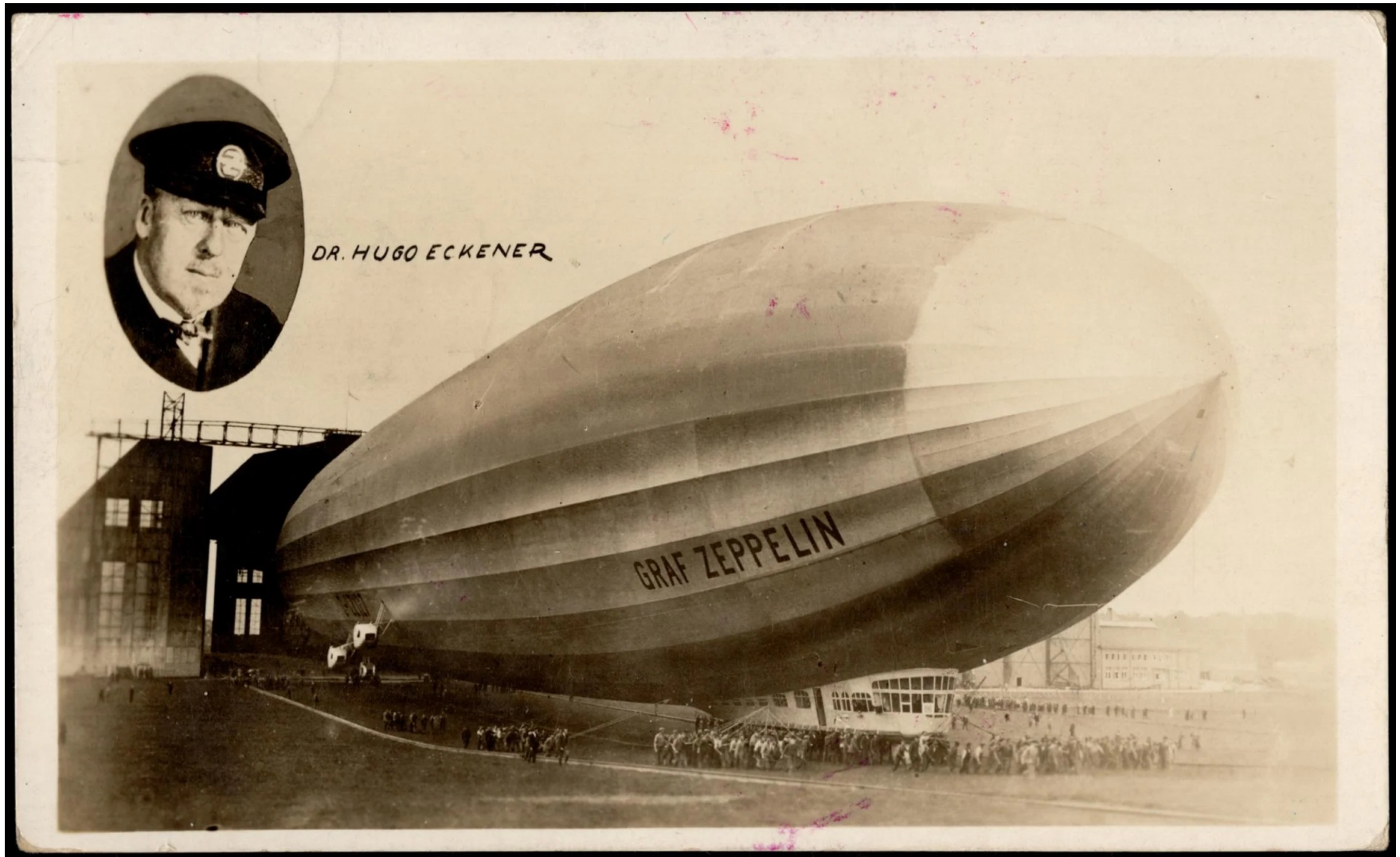


1931 ZEPPELIN MAIL

LZ-127 Graf Zeppelin

Bill duBell – Oct 20 2026



The cover that started it all for me



First Leg of the “American” Round-the-World Flight

Postmarks

Aug 5 1929 – NY NY

Aug 10 1929 – Friedrichshafen Germany

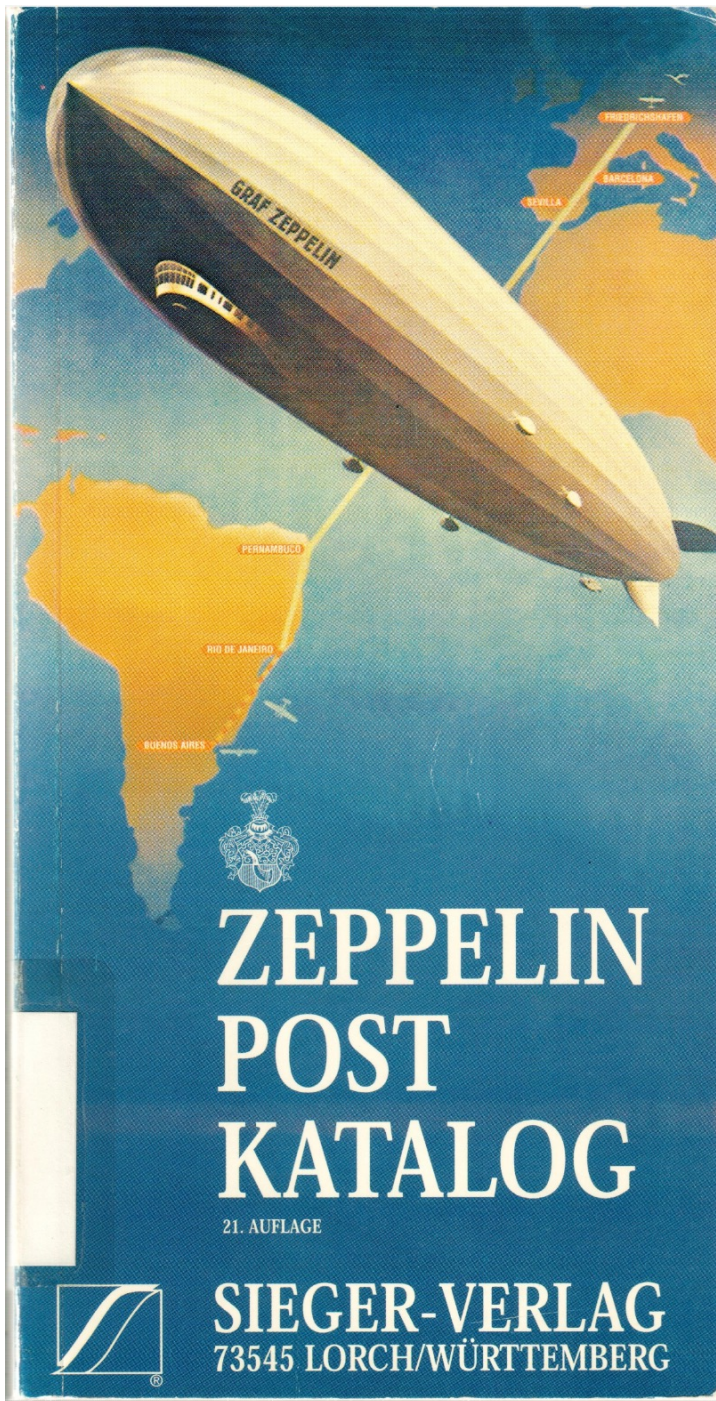


SIEGER ZEPPELIN POST KATALOG -21st Edition

Comprehensive catalog of all
commercial German Zeppelin
flights from LZ 1 through LZ 130

Borrowed from the APS Library

Source for flight numbers, dates,
postmarks & cachets



American Air Mail Society Zeppelin & Airship Catalog

You are here: [Home](#) / [Zeppelin & Airship Catalog](#)

Zeppelin & Airship Catalog

DISCOVER MORE

[Collecting Zeppelin Mail](#)
[Airship Profiles](#)
[Officers & Crew Biographies](#)
[Zeppelin & Airship Collectors](#)
[Facebook Page](#)

HELPFUL LINKS

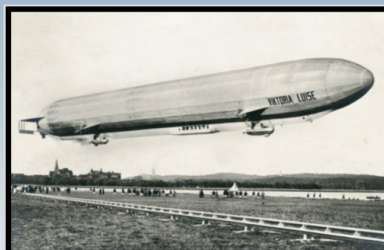
[Getting Started with the Catalog](#)
[AAMS Zeppelin Team](#)
[Resources](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the Zeppelin and Airship Catalog, sponsored by the American Air Mail Society and launched ...
[Continue Reading ...](#)

[Donate](#)

[Join](#)



Pioneer Zeppelins

2 Sections · 2
Covers/Cards



WWI Zeppelins & Airships

4 Sections · 28
Covers/Cards



Reparation Zeppelins

2 Sections · 4
Covers/Cards



LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin

10 Sections · 864
Covers/Cards



LZ 129 Hindenburg

2 Sections · 222
Covers/Cards



LZ 130 Graf Zeppelin

2 Sections · 72
Covers/Cards

Search chapters:

in:

[? Search tips](#)

<https://www.americanairmailociety.org/zeppelin-airship-catalog/>

Available to everyone with internet access at no cost



1928
8 Covers/Cards



1929
111 Covers/Cards



1930
156 Covers/Cards



1931
232 Covers/Cards



1932
161 Covers/Cards



1933
201 Covers/Cards



1934
6 Covers/Cards



1935
2 Covers/Cards



1936
2 Covers/Cards



1937
2 Covers/Cards

Search all columns:

Go

Advanced Search

Clear Search

Reset Sort

Search Results — 232 covers/cards



Show 25



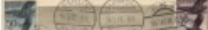
Page

3

of 10



Showing 51 to 75 of 232 covers/cards

FLIGHT NUMBER	AIRSHIP NUMBER	FLIGHT NAME	DEPARTURE DATE	DEPARTURE LOCATION	ARRIVAL DATE	ARRIVAL LOCATION	DISPATCH TYPE	VALUE
Search...	Search...	Search...	Search...	Search...	Search...	Search...	Search...	Search...
 GZ 176 a tF Hungary	LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin	Baltic Sea Year Round Flight	5/12/1931	Friedrichshafen, Germany	5/14/1931	Lubeck-Travemunde Air Field, Germany, First Landing	Transmitted Mail (Friedrichshafen Transit)	\$\$
 GZ 176 a tF Liechtenstein	LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin	Baltic Sea Year Round Flight	5/12/1931	Friedrichshafen, Germany	5/14/1931	Lubeck-Travemunde Air Field, Germany, First Landing	Transmitted Mail (Friedrichshafen Transit)	\$
 GZ 176 a tF Netherlands	LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin	Baltic Sea Year Round Flight	5/12/1931	Friedrichshafen, Germany	5/14/1931	Lubeck-Travemunde Air Field, Germany, First Landing	Transmitted Mail (Friedrichshafen Transit)	\$
 GZ 176 a tF Saar	LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin	Baltic Sea Year Round Flight	5/12/1931	Friedrichshafen, Germany	5/14/1931	Lubeck-Travemunde Air Field, Germany, First Landing	Transmitted Mail (Friedrichshafen Transit)	\$\$
 GZ 176 a tF Switzerland	LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin	Baltic Sea Year Round Flight	5/12/1931	Friedrichshafen, Germany	5/14/1931	Lubeck-Travemunde Air Field, Germany, First Landing	Transmitted Mail (Friedrichshafen Transit)	\$\$
 GZ 176 b	LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin	Baltic Sea Year Round Flight	5/14/1931	Berlin-Staaken Air Field, Germany	5/14/1931	Lubeck-Travemunde Air Field, Germany, First Landing	Berlin-Staaken Dispatch	\$
 GZ 176 b tF	LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin	Baltic Sea Year		Berlin-Staaken Air	5/14/1931	Lubeck-	Transmitted Mail	\$\$

Flight Number GZ 176 a tF Netherlands



[Chapter LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin](#) › [Section 1931](#) › **Flight Number GZ 176 a tF Netherlands**

[← Back](#)



Front

FLIGHT NUMBER	GZ 176 a tF Netherlands
AIRSHIP NUMBER	LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin
FLIGHT NAME	Baltic Sea Year Round Flight
DEPARTURE DATE	May 12, 1931
DEPARTURE LOCATION	Friedrichshafen, Germany
ARRIVAL DATE	May 14, 1931
ARRIVAL LOCATION	Lubeck-Travemunde Air Field, Germany, First Landing
DISPATCH TYPE	Transmitted Mail (Friedrichshafen Transit)
VALUE	\$

LZ-127 GRAF ZEPPELIN – 1928 to 1931

1928 - LZ-127 Graf Zeppelin begins service with 11 flights, most within Germany but with a Friedrichshafen GE to Lakehurst NJ round trip between Oct 11 and Nov 1. LZ-127 follows LZ-126 (ZR-3 USS Los Angeles), which was transferred to the United States Navy in 1924 as WWI reparations

1929 – Graf Zeppelin makes 39 flights to Europe, the Middle East **and** a northern hemisphere round-the-world tip that includes 2 stops in Lakehurst NJ and stops in Tokyo and Los Angeles

1930 - Graf Zeppelin makes 72 flights including the Pan-American round trip which includes the first flight to South America (Recife & Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and a return via Lakehurst NJ, partly financed by the US C13-C15 Graf Zeppelin issue.

1931 - Graf Zeppelin makes 73 flights on 42 itineraries: within Germany, trips to (but not necessarily stops in) Hungary, Egypt, the Baltic Sea, Switzerland, Iceland, Austria, Leningrad and the Arctic, London **and** three round trips to Recife, Brazil. For the first time since 1928 there are no flights to North America.

The flights between **1928** and **1931** established the networks and infrastructure that supported regular Graf Zeppelin service to South America until the Hindenburg disaster in 1937

In my collection I have covers or postcards from 13 of the 42 itineraries flown in 1931

All of the items shown in this presentation are part of my collection unless otherwise noted

HUNGARY

Flights 161-163

Mar 28 to 29 – Friedrichshafen to Budapest

Mar 29 - Budapest to Budapest

Mar 29 to 30 - Budapest to Friedrichshafen



Germany Ungarnfahrt Cachet

"Arrived by
Zeppelin" Cachet



Cachet for return flight from
Budapest to Friedrichshafen
- Type I (6 windows in cabin)

**Hungary C24 & C25 issued
exclusively for this Graf
Zeppelin flight
"Turul Carrying Messenger"**



GERMANY TO HUNGARY



Germany
C32

Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin - Budapest

Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin Mar 29 1931

Budapest Hungary Mar 29 1931 (72 & 741; 2 distinct postmarks)

Zeppelin Erkezett 1931 Cachet – “Arrived by Zeppelin”

HUNGARY TO GERMANY



Hungary Stamps
C24 & C25
437 (green)
450 or 453 (orange –
can only be identified
by watermark

Budapest Hungary to Dusseldorf Germany

Budapest Hungary Mar 28 1931 **62**

Friedrichshafen Germany Mar 30 1931

Type II Zeppelin Cachet – 5 windows in the cabin

BUDAPEST TO BUDAPEST: MARCH 29 1931



Hungary
&
Hungary C24
(Zeppelin Overprint)

Postmarks

Budapest 72 - Mar 27 1931

Budapest 741 – Mar 29 1931

Zeppelin Round Trip Flight Over Hungary Cachet

EGYPT

Flights 164-166

Apr 9 to 11 – Friedrichshafen to Cairo

Apr 11 - Cairo to Cairo

Apr 11 to 13 – Cairo to Friedrichshafen

C2

C3



C3a

C4

C3-4: surcharged & overprinted “Graf Zeppelin
Avril 1931” in French & Arabic

empel:



EGYPT C3 (1931) & C3a (1951)

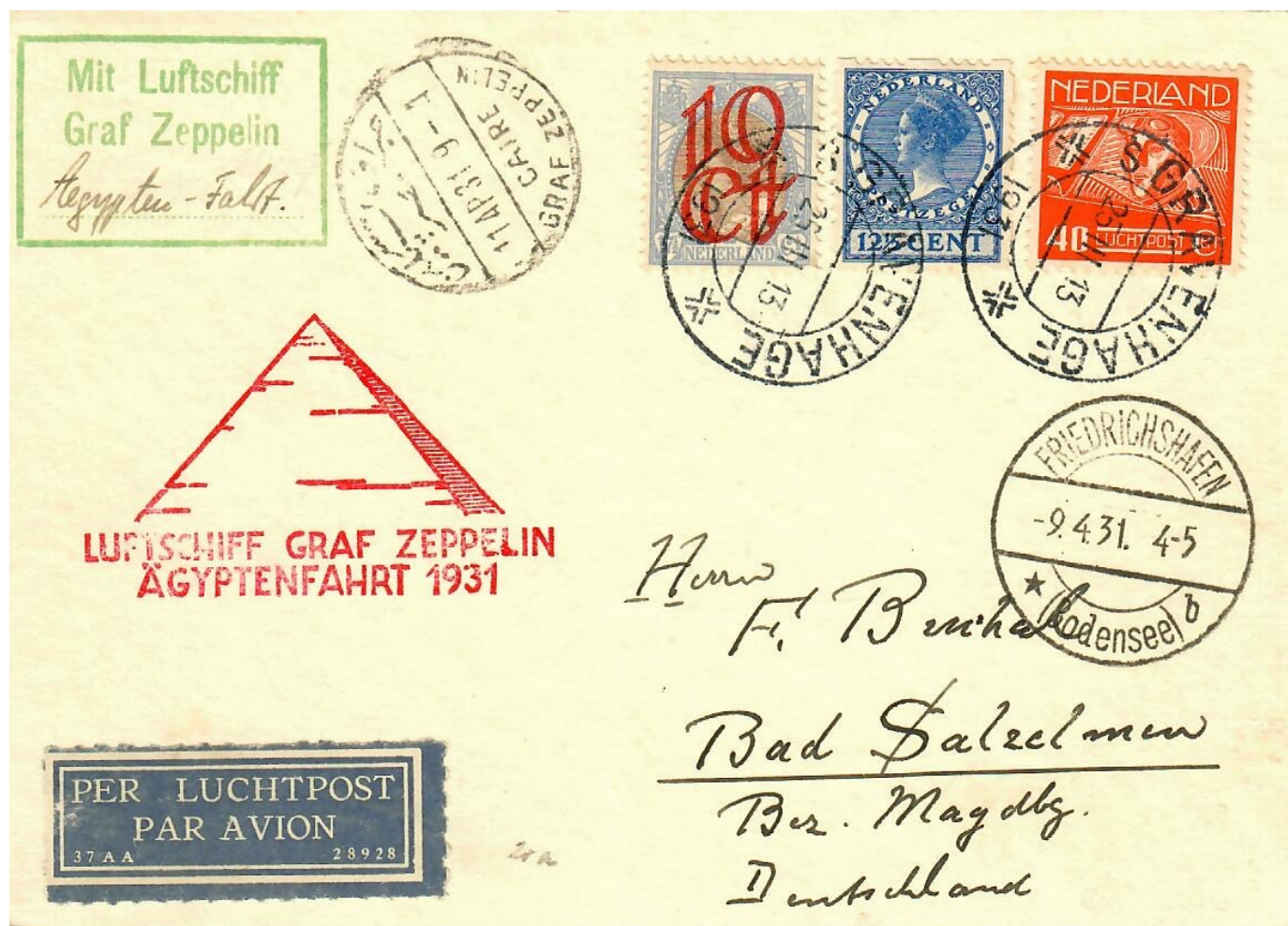
C3



C3a



THE HAGUE NETHERLANDS TO MAGDEBURG GERMANY



Netherlands
(l-r)
C22
180a*
C4

Gravenhage (The Hague) Netherlands to Magdeburg Germany

Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin –Aegyptian-Fahrt

Gravenhage Netherlands Mar 25 1931

Friedrichshafen Germany Apr 9 1931

Graf Zeppelin Cairo Egypt Apr 11 1931

(remember this card!)

Netherlands Queen Wilhelmina Issue - 1926-1939
12½ Cent Stamp Has Syncopated Perforations



180

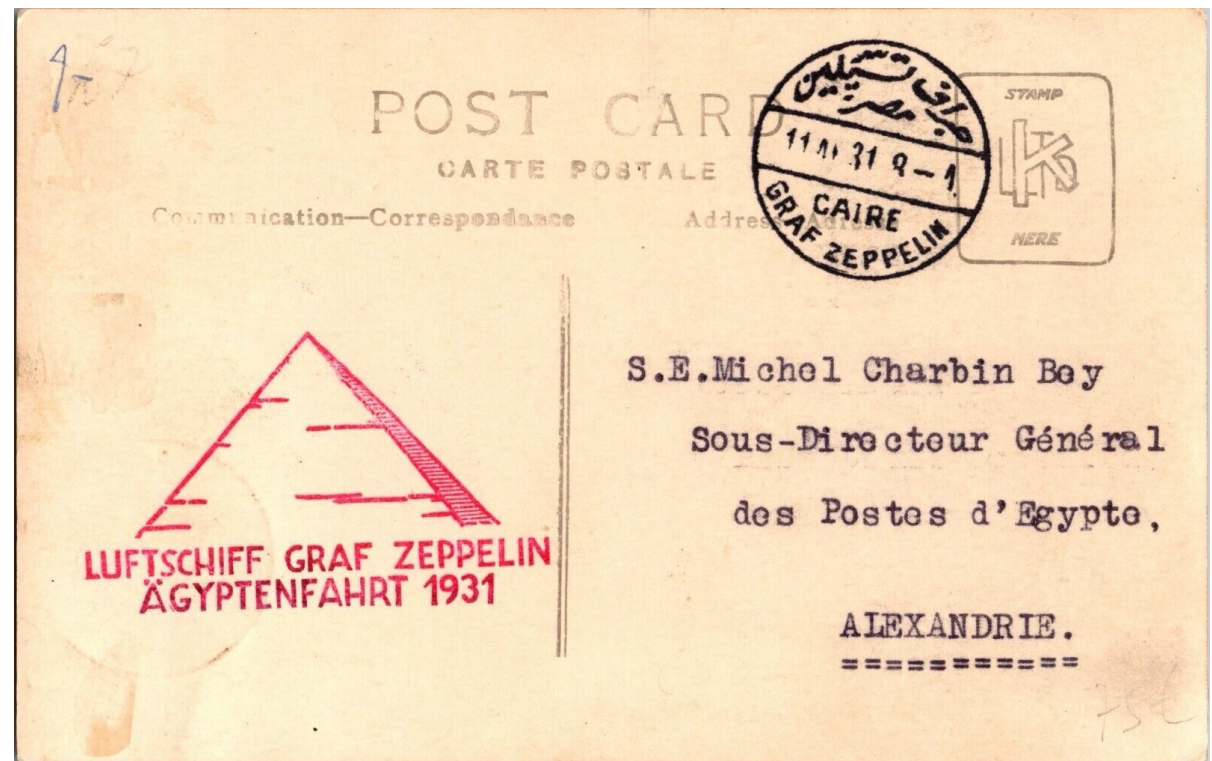


180a (from this card)
Type B – Syncopated on 4 sides

CAIRO EGYPT TO ALEXANDRIA EGYPT



Egypt C3 on a photo of Graf Zeppelin
over the Muhammad Ali Mosque in
the Citadel of Cairo



Cairo Egypt to Alexandria Egypt
Graf Zeppelin Cairo Apr 11 (Front & Back)

CAIRO EGYPT IN 1931



Picture from Cairo Zeppelin Postcard to Beirut (Bayreuth) Lebanon
(HipStamp Sales Listing)

PORT SAID EGYPT TO JERUSALEM PALESTINE



Egypt C3

Port Said Egypt to Jerusalem Palestine
 Graf Zeppelin Port Said Apr 11 1931
 Jerusalem May 7 1931



Kantara-Ferryboat connecting Africa with Asia

STETTIN POMERANIA

Flights 168-169

May 3 – Friedrichshafen to Stettin (now Szczecin, Poland)

May 3 to May 4 – Stettin to Friedrichshafen

Stettin was the capital of the Prussian province of Pomerania, hence Pommernfahrt



Germany
337
Issued
1924
Rheinstein
Castle

Postmarks

Stettin Flugplatz May 3 1931

Friedrichshafen Germany May 4 1931

Destination - Lorch/Wurttemberg (south-central Germany)

YEAR OF THE OSTSEE (BALTIC SEA)

Flights 173-178

May 12 – Friedrichshafen to Berlin-Staaken

May 13 – Staaken to Berlin-Tempelhof

May 13 – Tempelhof to Staaken

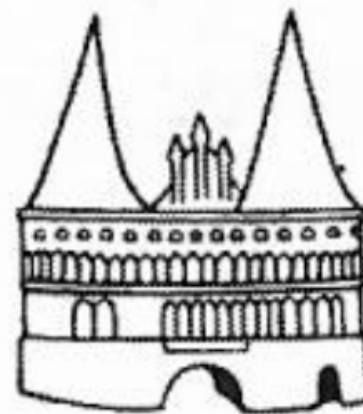
May 14 – Staaken to Travemünde (Baltic Sea Port in Lübeck Germany)

May 14 – Travemünde to Travemünde (Ostseejahr-Rundfahrt)

May 14 to 15 – Travemünde to Friedrichshafen



Holsten Gate Lübeck Germany



**LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN
OSTSEEJAHR-RUNDFAHRT 1931**

Year of the Baltic Sea Cachet

In 1928 Germany issued three stamps for use on Zeppelin flights



Germany C35 – C37 (l-r; *Graf Zeppelin Crossing Ocean*) – 1, 2 & 4RM Denominations

Issued from May 8 1928 through 1931

Reappear later with overprints for specific flights

- 1930 First Flight to South America (C38-C39)
- 1931 Polar Flight of Graf Zeppelin (C40 - C42)
- 1933 Century of Progress Chicago Flight (C43-C45)

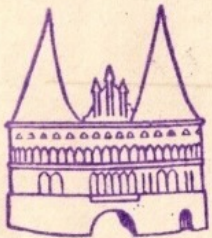
Germany C36

Dispatched from Friedrichshafen May 12

Dropped in Copenhagen (Kobenhavn Luftpost) May 14

Delivered to Barr France May 16 (ex-Zepp)

Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin



Monsieur

Robert Hungerbuhler

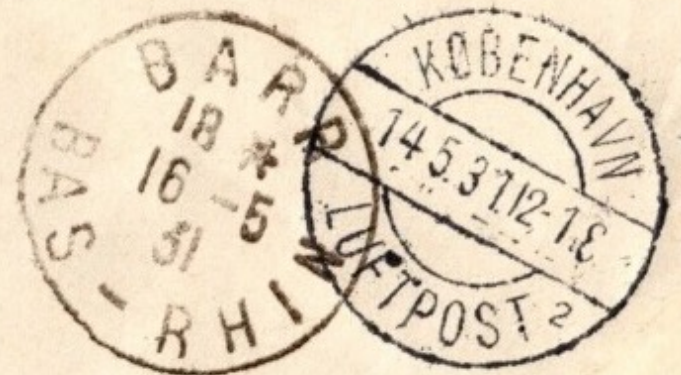


LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN
OSTSEEJAHR-RUNDFAHRT 1931



Barr Bas Rhin

France



MAGDEBURG GERMANY TO FLENSBURG GERMANY

Flights 182-183

Jun 7 – Friedrichshafen to Magdeburg

Jun 8 – Magdeburg to Friedrichshafen

Magdeburg Flughafen June 7 1931

Friedrichshafen June 8 1931

Destination Flensburg (close to Danish Border)



LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN
FAHRT NACH MAGDEBURG JUNI 1931

Magdeburg Cathedral Cachet



Germany

(l to r)

C31

377

B36



Magdeburg Cathedral
& Elba Riverfront



This card took a very inefficient route from its origin to its destination

- 1 – Magdeburg-Posted June 7 for pick-up by Graf Zeppelin
- 2-Friedrichshafen-Postmarked June 8 upon arrival of Graf Zeppelin
- 3-Flensburg-Delivered to addressee by conventional mail

German Semi-Postal Stamp **B36** (1930) for Deutsche Nothilfe



Castle of Marienwerder*
25 + 10 pf
for Deutsche Nothilfe
(German Emergency Help)

*now Kywidzyn Castle in the
Pomeranian Voivodeship
in northern Poland

ICELAND

Flight 193

Jun 30 to Jul 3 – Round trip to Iceland:
Friedrichshafen to Friedrichshafen



C9

C10

C11

Iceland 122, 126 & 127 overprinted "Zeppelin 1931" specifically for this flight



REYKJAVIK ICELAND TO BRUSSELS BELGIUM

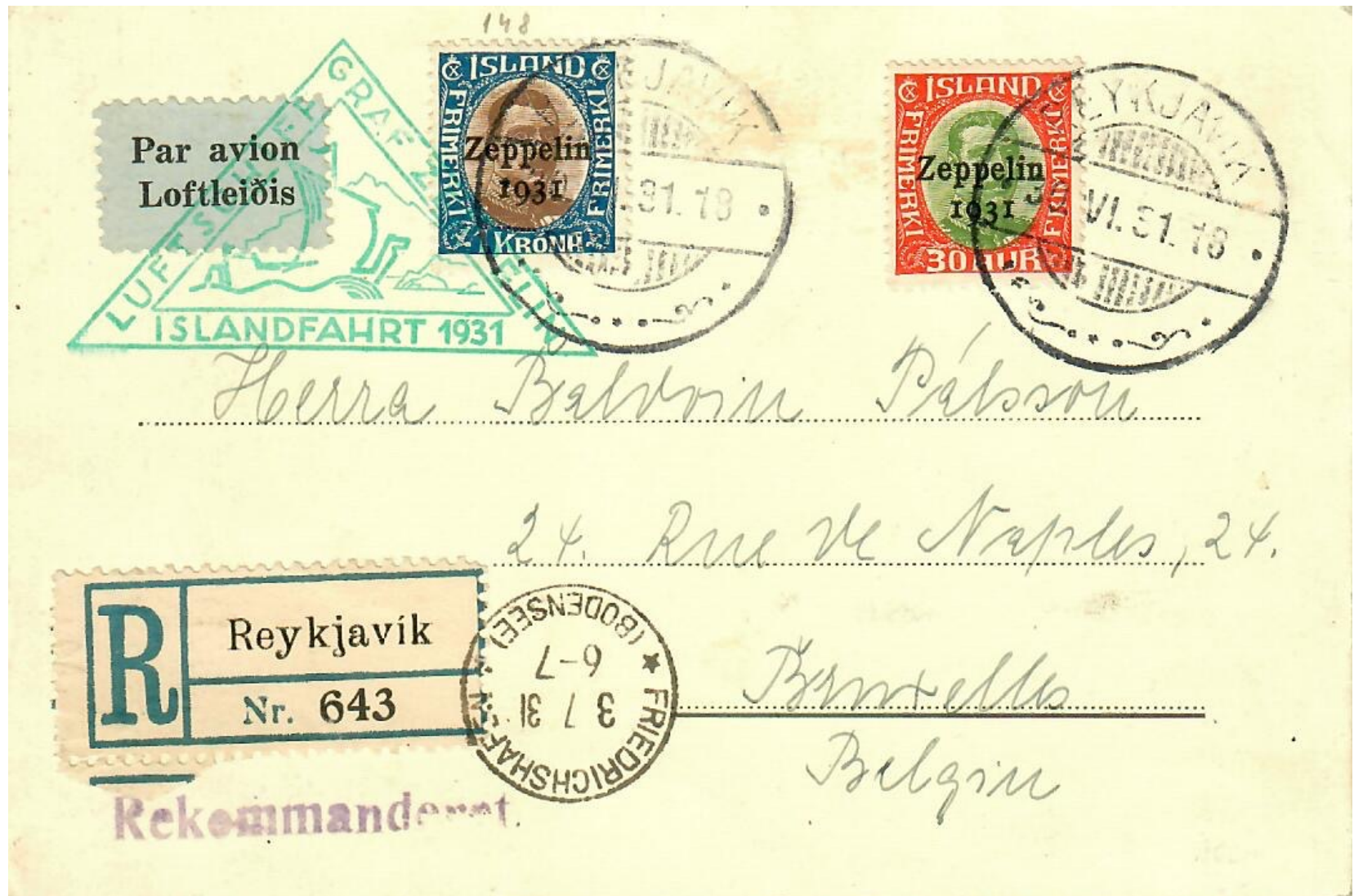
Reykjavik Iceland - June 30 1931

(Registered Reykjavik Nr 643)

Friedrichshafen Bodensee – July 3 1931

Destination Brussels Belgium

Iceland
C9 (red)
C10 (blue)
Zeppelin
Overprints



POLAR FLIGHT

Scientific mission to map poorly charted arctic areas, measure the earth's magnetic field and make meteorological observations in upper regions ($\sim 85^\circ$ N) of the Arctic

Flights 202 – 206

July 24 – Friedrichshafen to Berlin-Staaken

July 25 - Berlin-Staaken to Leningrad Russia

July 26 to 27 – Leningrad to Franz-Josef-Land (81° N 55° E) - *Soviet archipelago in the Arctic Ocean where the icebreaker Malyguin awaited*

July 27 to 30 – Franz-Joseph-Land to Berlin-Tempelhof

July 30 to 31-Berlin-Tempelhof to Friedrichshafen



Ice- Breaker *Malyguin* Postmark



Leningrad Postmark

Germany and the Soviet Union Issued Special Stamps to Finance the 1931 Polar Flight

Germany C40 – C42
“Polar-Fahrt 1931”
Overprinted on C35-37

USSR C26-29 – *Graf Zeppelin*
and Icebreaker “*Malyguin*”
Transferring Mail
also issued with perfs: C30 to C33





Airships.net – “*Graf Zeppelin’s Arctic Flight – 1931*”

POSTED IN GERMANY

Polarfahrt Friedrichshafen-Polargebiet-Friedrichshafen

Friedrichshafen Bodensee – July 24 1931

Brise-Glace Malynguin Arctique – July 27 1931

Destination Berlin-Friedenau Germany



Germany C37
Polar-Fahrt 1931
Overprint

POSTED IN LENINGRAD USSR



USSR C26

USSR C28



Registered Leningrad
Par Avion Zeppelin Leningrad July 25 1931
Brise-Glace Malynguin Arctique – July 27 1931
Destination Icebreaker Malygin North Pole

LONDON

DATES: (Flights 211 - 213)

Aug 18 – Friedrichshafen to **London Cardington**

Aug 18 to 19 - London to London

Aug 19 to 20 – London to Friedrichshafen



Netherlands

169a (1)

189b (2)

Postmarks

The Hague
Netherlands
Aug 10 1931

Friedrichshafen
Aug 18 1931

Destination
Magdeburg Germany*

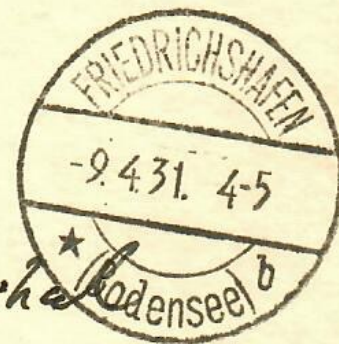
Mit Luftschiff
Graf Zeppelin
London



PER LUCHTPOST
PAR AVION
37 AA 3730



Herrn
F. Brühl
Bad Salzungen
Ber. Magdby.



ÄGYPTENFAHRT 1931

PER LUCHTPOST
PAR AVION
37 AA 28928

Herrn
F. Brühl
Bad Salzungen
Ber. Magdby.
Deutschland

1. Südamerikafahrt

First Flight to South America Since the Pan-American Flights in June 1930

Flights 216 – 217

Aug 29 to Sep 1 – Friedrichshafen to Recife

Sep 4 to Sep 7 – Recife to Friedrichshafen



Brazil Airship Airmails & Zeppelin Overprints



C18
1929

C26
1931

C19
1929

C27
1931



POSTED IN GERMANY – ROUND TRIP



Germany
C25 (2)



Luftschiff „L. Z. 127 Graf Zeppelin“ am Ankermast.

Berlin – Friedrichshafen – Austria

Berlin Germany Aug 29 1931

Cabo Verdi (Cape Verde) Aug 31 1931

Destination Steyr, Austria

POSTED IN BRAZIL – RETURN TRIP

Postmarks

Sep 1 1931 – Brazil

Sep 7 1931 – Friedrichshafen

Destination Lorch Germany

Condor – Brazilian Airline that delivered South American mail to and from Zeppelin hub



Brazil
306 or 320 (l)
C26 (r)

First Brazil-Europe Flight Cachet

Hamburg & Switzerland

Flight 218

Sep 11 – Friedrichshafen to Friedrichshafen via Switzerland

Modern Philately Exhibit at the Hamburg Zoo (Aug 22 to 30) collected mail for the Sep 11 flight and transported it to Friedrichshafen to load on Graf Zeppelin

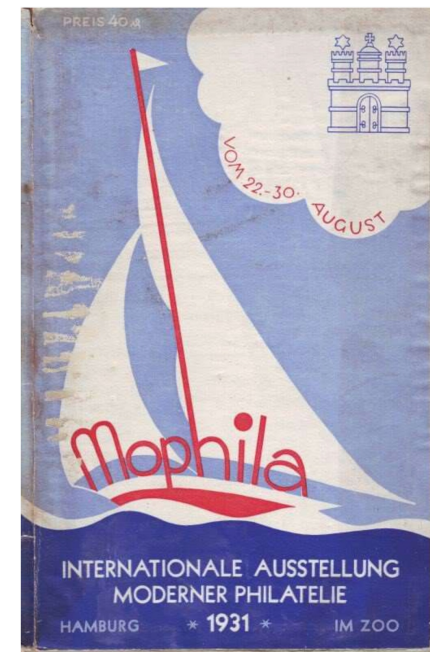


Abfertigung der Post für das Luftschiff „Graf Zeppelin“

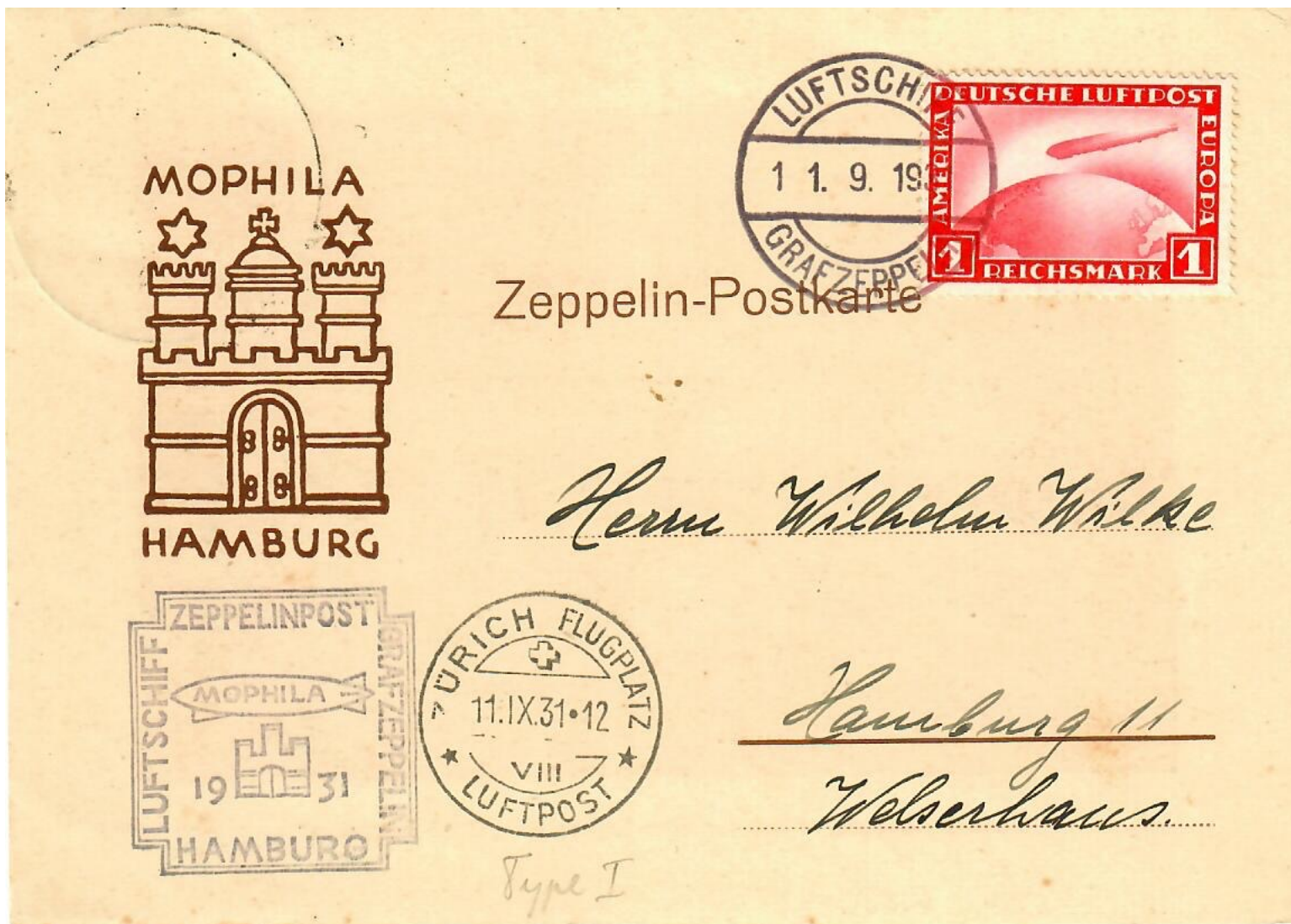
Processing of mail for the airship “Graf Zeppelin”



Type II



Source-The Meter Stamp Society



Germany
C25

Postcard Pre-Printed with Mophila-Hamburg Castle Logo

Hamburg Mophila 36 Luftpost 1931 (back) Aug 29 1931

Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin Sep 11 1931

Zurich Flugplatz Luftpost Sep 11 1931

Zeppelinpost Hamburg Mophila Cachet (Type I)



MOPHILA TO 1. SÜDAMERIKAFAHRT

THE TIMELINE

Mophila Exhibition - Aug 22 to Aug 30

1.Sudamerikafahrt – Aug 29 to Sep 7

Hamburg –Switzerland Flight – Sep 11

COVER DETAILS

Hamburg Mophila 36 Luftpost 1931 - **Aug 22**

Friedrichshafen - **Aug 29**

Destination Fort Wayne Indiana USA

2 X Polar-Fahrt 1931 1 DM (Germany C40)

FROM AAMS
Zeppelin &
Airship Catalog

*As of Sun Oct 18
this is the only
Mophila item
In the Zeppelin &
Airship Catalog*



Note-This 1.Sudamerikafahrt cachet includes a special flight to Rio de Janeiro

2.Südamerikafahrt

Flights 221 – 222

Sep 18 to Sep 20– Friedricshafen to Recife

Sep 25 to Sep 28 – Recife to Friedrichshafen



POSTED IN THE NETHERLANDS – OUTBOUND TRIP

The Hague
Netherlands – Sep 14
Friedrichshafen – Sep 18
Rio de Janeiro – Sep 22

To
Rio De Janeiro Brazil



Netherlands (l-r) 175a*, C6 & C5

*syncopated perfs

3. Südamerikafahrt

Flights 229 – 231

Oct 17 to 20 – Friedrichshafen to Recife

Oct 21 to 23 – Recife to Recife

Oct 24 to 28 – Recife to Friedrichshafen



**LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN
3. SÜDAMERIKAFAHRT 1931**

Jena Germany-Oct 12
(Registered)

Friedrichshafen-Oct 17
Unknown Cancel (753)

To
Buenos Aires Argentina

Germany (l-r)

C35

328

378



Jena ,den 12. Oktober 1931.

Sehr geehrter Herr Husson !

Ich schicke Ihnen im Einverständnis mit Ihrer Schwägerin, unserer lieben alten Frau Rat Schubart, einige, im Ganzen 4 Stück, Postsachen mit dem Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin bis Pernambuco und von da mit Flugzeug bis Buenos Aires. Näheres über meine Wünsche finden Sie im Doppelbrief. Für Ihre Bemühungen zum Voraus herzlichen Dank.

Ihnen und Ihrer Familie
beste Grüße aus Deutschland

Jena, Oct 12 1931

Dear Mr. Husson,

In agreement with your sister-in-law--- **our dear, venerable "Frau Rat" Schubart** – I am sending you a few postal items (four in total) via the airship "Graf Zeppelin" to Pernambuco, and from there by airplane to Buenos Aires. You will find further details regarding my requests in the enclosed letter. Many thanks in advance for your efforts.

Best regards from Germany to you and your family.

After returning from 3.Sudamerikafahrt on October 28, Graf Zeppelin makes one more 3hr 50min flight from Friedrichshafen to Friedrichshafen on Nov 3 and ceases operations for the year

In 1932 Graf Zeppelin makes 9 South American flights and this route becomes the core of its operations into 1937. The Zeppelin company collaborates with public and private mail services in South America to distribute mail to and from the Zepelin base In Brazil

Graf Zeppelin returns from its final South American flight on May 8 1937, two days after the Hindenburg disaster.

**1932: 1st South American Return
Flight**

Paraguay to Brazil to Germany

**C74 & 77 are from Paraguay
Zeppelin issue of 1932** with
292 & 294 regular postage
issued in 1927



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THIS MATERIAL!

Sources:

My Stamp Collection

Sieger Zeppelin Post Katalog – 21st Edition (borrowed from APS library)

2019 Scott Catalogs for Brazil, Egypt, Hungary, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Paraguay, & Russia (USSR)

Michel – Zeppelin- und Flugpost-Spezial 2025/2026 Vol 1: Zeppelinpost (*NEW*)

AAMS Zeppelin & Airship Catalog (<https://www.americanairmailociety.org/zeppelin-airship-catalog/>)

HipStamp Sales Listings

Meter Stamp Society (Mophila)

Airships.net (Polarfahrt)

Commerical Zeppelin Mail – publication of the American Airmail Society

Wikipedia

Smithsonian National Postal Museum Website

Google Translate

Google AI

BOBLINGEN (SWABIA) GERMANY

DATES: (Flights 191-192)

Jun 28 – Friedrichshafen to Boblingen

Jun 28 – Boblingen to Friedrichshafen

Boblingen is in the Swabian region of southeastern Germany

Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin - June 28 1931

Boblingen Flughafen - June 28 1931

Destination Baden-Baden



Germany C36



POSTED IN BRAZIL – RETURN TRIP

Postmarks

Rio de Janeiro – Sep 23 1931

Friedrichshafen – Sep 28 1931

Destination Cottbus Germany

VIA GRAF ZEPPELIN
2. SÜDAMERIKA FAHRT 1931
BRASIL – DEUTSCHLAND

VIA CONDOR-ZEPPELIN



FR. A. KUMMER,
SCHILLERSTR. 56,
COTTBUS,
DEUTSCHLAND

Brazil
306 or 320 (l)
C26 (r)

Flughafen – Airport
Flugplatz - Airfield



Botanical Garden
Rio de Janeiro
Brazil 445

THE END