

EVOLUTION OF DELAG INTERNATIONAL AIRMAIL 1909-1934.

BACKGROUND:

Deutsche Luftschiffahrts-Aktiengesellschaft (German Airship Travel Corporation) often abbreviated DELAG, was the world's first airline to use an aircraft in revenue service. DELAG was founded on November 16, 1909 and commenced operations on June 19, 1910. It operated Zeppelin rigid airships manufactured by the Luftschiffbau Zeppelin Corporation.

RESEARCH:

Published information about DELAG airmail rates is limited especially for treaty states originations. Rates changed multiple times and are often based on complex base rates and surcharges structure for multiple classes and weights of DELAG airmail. For some originations airmail rates were not yet formalized at the time of DELAG flights. Exhibitor studied postal archives documentation to determine base rates and airmail surcharges. Several discoveries were made including 5 items presented in this exhibit not recorded in Sieger and Michel catalogues.

RARITY AND CONDITION:

Exhibit includes 56 items known to exist in less than 10 examples including 8 unique postcards and covers. 100% of exhibited postcards and covers were postally used. Despite considerable rarity of many postally used covers, exhibitor exercised great care to acquire material in the best condition available.

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