

# EARLY CANADIAN AIR MAIL

The aviation/airmail studies identified below are available for viewing and/or downloading by clicking on the title. Double asterisks \*\* identify those studies in which the key findings are presented in narrated mp4 video format. [Note that a few moments may be required for the larger-sized files to open.]

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**Katherine Stinson's Flights in Canada:** — an investigation of the aviatrix's exhibition flying at Canadian fairs during the **latter three summers of World War I**. Special attention is paid to her **July 9 1918** Calgary to Edmonton flight, the first time in Western Canada mail had been transported by air and first-ever flight made between any two urban centres in the west. The known covers from the flight are examined. [142 pages, 30 000 words, vintage Canadian photos & picture postcards, 24 known covers, related memorabilia, 125 pictorials, © 1109209]

**\*\* Katherine Stinson's Flights in Canada** [45 minutes, 762 MB]

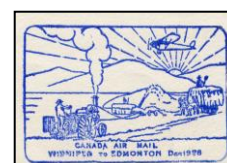


**Canada's Early Prairie Air Mail Flights:** — a brief history of the early flights leading to the eventual launch of regular air mail service across the prairies. Flights receiving attention: Katherine Stinson's **July 9 1918** inaugural mail flight, Western Canada Airways' **September 1928** survey circuit flight and later circuit flights, the **December 10 - 29 1928** experimental air mail flights, the **March 3 1930 - March 30 1932** Post Office Department contract service and final contract flight. [6 pages, 3 000 words]



**Canada's Experimental Prairie Air Mail:** — a study of the trial prairie mail flights linking Winnipeg and Regina with Calgary and with Edmonton and Saskatoon, **December 10 - 29 1928**. Daily facts about the flown legs (pilot, engineer, aircraft, mail weight, problems encountered) are charted. Eight cachet designs and five slogan cancels the Post Office used are examined. Each of the 152 legs scheduled to be flown by Western Canada Airways is assigned one of twelve classifications ranging from "complete leg flown and arrived on schedule" to "mail was carried partway by train and then transferred to plane en route for completion of the leg." The eight express mail survey circuit flights between the cities (September 13–December 7) are also investigated. [75 pages, 10 000 words, flight covers (envelopes), flight report data from the Canadian Airways Collection (MG11 A34) archived in Winnipeg, 100 pictorials]

**\*\* Canada's Experimental Prairie Air Mail** [35 minutes, 566 MB]



**Mackenzie River District Air Mail Service Album:** — a collection of photographs with explanatory captions from an album titled *Mackenzie River District Air Mail Service* created in **the 1930s** by District Postal Superintendent Major R. W. (Walter) Hale, detailing his inaugural mail flights throughout the Mackenzie River corridor and Great Slave/Great Bear Lakes region. Credit is given to C.H. (Punch) Dickins and W.R. (Wop) May for inclusion of a number of their photos. [In addition to high resolution scans of the 55 intact album pages and the 130-plus individual photos, this 275-item file displays the scans of Hale/pilot-signed covers as well as Hale/May family memorabilia.]



**[Mackenzie River District Flying Postal Inspector:](#)** — a detailed biography of Western Northwest Territories District Postal Superintendent, Major R. W. Walter Hale (1889-1950). Running away from home to join the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve—jumping ship in a foreign port—receiving the Military Cross for “conspicuous gallantry” in the Great War—carrying mail by dog team to remote northern Canadian settlements and flying with bush pilots on mail runs to outposts in oft-times very hazardous weather are but a few of the life experiences of this adventurous British émigré! Hale played a major role overseeing the inauguration of air mail delivery throughout the Great Slave/Great Bear Lakes region and Mackenzie River corridor as well as in British Columbia and Alberta. [90 pages, 27 000 words, Hale/pilot-signed covers, aviation-related monographs, maps, related memorabilia, 100 pictorials]



**\*\* [Mackenzie River District Flying Postal Inspector](#)** [50 minutes, 1.01 GB]

**[Mackenzie River District “Pilot Since Killed”:](#)** — a study of major events in the flying career of Paul B. “Paddy” Calder. The former WW I pilot was appointed to Western Canada Airways staff in 1928 and flew with the company as well as its successor, Canadian Airways, until his death at age 33 in an aircraft accident near Great Bear Lake, NWT in 1933. Two rivers in Canada’s North Country are named in his honour. [16 pages, 4 000 words, 10 flight covers]



**[Pilot Signatures, Canada:](#)** — a collection of high-resolution scans of covers signed by pilots who flew the air mail in Canada **prior to World War II**, displayed alphabetically by pilot name. Details linked to the pilot, plane and route flown are provided for a number of the covers. Letters and related items of memorabilia containing pilot signatures are also included. [300 scans, related items]



**[Canadian Air Mail Cachets:](#)** — a chronological display of the line drawing cachets that were handstamped onto the **pre-1950** inaugural air mail covers in Canada. The high-resolution digitally enhanced scans are numbered as in the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society’s catalogue, *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*. [450 cachets, related items]



Further topics of interest:

**[Canada’s Fred Jarrett – Authenticator or Forger of Air Mail?](#)**

**[The Centennial Flight of a Century-old Envelope](#)**

**[An Aerophilatelic Salute to Wop and Denny May](#)**

**[Canada's Love Affair with Katherine Stinson](#)**

**[AIR MAIL - The Board Game](#)**



The study below will be of interest to enthusiasts of worldwide aviation history. ----

**[Birdboy and Birdgirl in Japan:](#)** — an investigation of the demonstration flights that were performed in Japan by American aviators *birdboy* Art Smith and *birdgirl* Katherine Stinson in 1916/17, at which point they were recognized as the world’s two most sought-after exhibition flyers. The storyline is linked to a collection of vintage Japanese picture postcards. Caption and cachet translations help in recounting the details. Several images of the aviators’ flights in the USA and Stinson’s own flights in Canada during this same period are included. [88 pages, 10000 words, 150 pictorials inclusive of 100 vintage Japanese postcards, © 1076650]



**\*\* [Birdboy and Birdgirl in Japan](#)** [40 minutes, 650 MB]