
**JAMES A. FARLEY “NATIONAL AIR MAIL
WEEK” MAY 15 – 21, 1938
FINDING GUIDE**



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Smithsonian
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COLLECTION SCOPE & CONTENT

This is a specialized collection of National Air Mail Week cachets and cacheted covers. It consists of approximately 7,350 objects arranged into thirty-five binders and organized alphabetically by state and town of origination. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of air mail service by the U.S. Post Office department, the week of May 15 – 21, 1938 was designated as National Air Mail Week.

HISTORY

Between December 1955 and December 1958, James A. Farley, Postmaster General of the United States from 1933 to 1940, gifted to the Smithsonian Museum items from his personal philatelic collection. These items were placed in the National Philatelic Collection.

Included in these gifts was an extraordinary collection of air mail covers addressed by postmasters throughout the United States to PMG James A. Farley during National Air Mail Week, May 15 -21, 1938.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

There are thirty-five black binders containing covers commemorating the “National Air Mail Week,” May 15 – 21, 1938, addressed to PMG James A. Farley, each from a different state(s) or U.S. possession.



Registered Cachet from Warsaw, Indiana from Charles W. Anglin, Acting Post Master

CONTAINER INVENTORY

Binder 1 - Object Number 0.209045.39. 98 pages with 121 covers from every State and Puerto Rico in alphabetical order with many states having multiple covers, several are autographed

Binder 2 - Object Number 0.209045.40. 4 pages of miscellaneous Farley information, 38 pages with 69 covers from Alabama towns (A – Z), 6 pages with 9 covers from Arizona towns (A – Z), 1 page with 1 cover from Alaska, 25 pages with 41 covers from Arkansas towns (A – Z), and 1 page with 1 cover from Bermuda in alphabetical order

Binder 3 - Object Number 0.209045.41. 84 pages with 177 covers from California towns (A – H) in alphabetical order

Binder 4 - Object Number 0.209045.42. 74 pages with 152 covers from California towns (I – R) in alphabetical order

Binder 5 - Object Number 0.209045.43. 52 pages with 105 covers from California towns (S – Z) and 32 pages with 63 covers from Colorado towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 6 - Object Number 0.209045.44. 54 pages with 143 covers from Connecticut towns (A – Z), 14 pages with 33 covers from Delaware towns (A – Z), 2 pages with 3 covers from the District of Columbia, and 26 pages with 43 covers from Florida towns (A – L) in alphabetical order

Binder 7 - Object Number 0.209045.45. 25 pages with 43 covers from Florida towns (L – Z), 54 pages with 84 covers from Georgia towns (A – Z), 1 page with 1 cover from Hawaii and 18 pages with 28 covers from Idaho towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 8 - Object Number 0.209045.46. 88 pages with 181 covers from Illinois towns (A – M) in alphabetical order



Cachet from Peoria, Illinois flown by Ellis G. Friedrich

Binder 9 - Object Number 0.209045.47. 61 pages with 124 covers from Illinois towns (M – Z) and 28 pages with 87 covers from Indiana towns (A – B) in alphabetical order

Binder 10 - Object Number 0.209045.48. 68 pages with 200 covers from Indiana towns (C – I) in alphabetical order

Binder 11 - Object Number 0.209045.49. 66 pages with 198 covers from Indiana towns (J – R) in alphabetical order

Binder 12 - Object Number 0.209045.50. 44 pages with 128 covers from Indiana towns (S – Z) and 31 pages with 71 covers from Iowa towns (A – C) in alphabetical order

Binder 13 - Object Number 0.209045.51. 76 pages with 162 covers from Iowa towns (D – M) in alphabetical order

Binder 14 - Object Number 0.209045.52. 57 pages with 123 covers from Iowa towns (N – Z) and 39 pages with 92 covers from Kansas towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 15 - Object Number 0.209045.53. 49 pages with 128 covers from Kentucky towns (A – Z) and 15 pages with 20 covers from Louisiana towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 16 - Object Number 0.209045.54. 96 pages with 256 covers from Maine towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 17 - Object Number 0.209045.55. 10 pages with 25 covers from Maryland towns (A – Z) and 64 pages with 156 covers from Massachusetts towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 18 - Object Number 0.209045.56. 70 pages with 131 covers from Michigan towns (A – Z) and 28 pages with 64 covers from Minnesota towns (A – H) in alphabetical order

Binder 19 - Object Number 0.209045.57. 42 pages with 102 covers from Minnesota towns (H – Z), 4 pages with 5 covers from Mississippi towns (A – Z), and 47 pages with 80 covers from Missouri towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 20 - Object Number 0.209045.58. 15 pages with 29 covers from Montana towns (A – Z) and 72 pages with 183 covers from Nebraska towns (A – R) in alphabetical order

Binder 21 - Object Number 0.209045.59. 20 pages with 56 covers from Nebraska towns (R – Z), 3 pages with 5 covers from Nevada towns (A – Z), 10 pages with 19 covers from New Hampshire towns (A – Z), and 58 pages with 112 covers from New Jersey towns (A – M) in alphabetical order

Binder 22 - Object Number 0.209045.60. 30 pages with 56 covers from New Jersey towns (N – Z), 19 pages with 40 covers from New Mexico towns (A – Z), and 58 pages with 129 covers from New York towns (A – H) in alphabetical order

Binder 23 - Object Number 0.209045.61. 74 pages with 175 covers from New York towns (I – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 24 - Object Number 0.209045.62. 51 pages with 123 covers from North Carolina towns (A – Z) and 17 pages with 42 covers from North Dakota towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 25 - Object Number 0.209045.63. 80 pages with 195 covers from Ohio towns (A – S) in alphabetical order

Binder 26 - Object Number 0.209045.64. 24 pages with 50 covers from Ohio towns (S – Z), 33 pages with 58 covers from Oklahoma towns (A – Z), and 48 pages with 81 covers from Oregon towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 27 - Object Number 0.209045.65. 108 pages with 188 covers from Pennsylvania towns (A – M) in alphabetical order

Binder 28 - Object Number 0.209045.66. 115 pages with 207 covers from Pennsylvania towns (M – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 29 - Object Number 0.209045.67. 23 pages with 56 covers from Puerto Rico towns (A – Z), 22 pages with 59 covers from Rhode Island towns (A – Z), and 33 pages with 82 covers from South Carolina towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 30 - Object Number 0.209045.68. 21 pages with 49 covers from South Dakota towns (A – Z) and 53 pages with 141 covers from Tennessee towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 31 - Object Number 0.209045.69. 39 pages with 80 covers from Texas towns (A – Z) and 19 pages with 47 covers from Utah towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 32 - Object Number 0.209045.70. 55 pages with 164 covers from Vermont towns (A – Z) and 43 pages with 80 covers from Virginia towns (A – E) in alphabetical order

Binder 33 - Object Number 0.209045.71. 95 pages with 174 covers from Virginia towns (E – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 34 - Object Number 0.209045.72. 1 page with 1 cover from Virgin Islands, 32 pages with 83 covers from Washington State towns (A – Z), and 33 pages with 81 covers from West Virginia towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Binder 35 - Object Number 0.209045.73. 50 pages with 112 covers from Wisconsin towns (A – Z) and 16 pages with 35 covers from Wyoming towns (A – Z) in alphabetical order

Also in Accession 209045 are two volumes (16 x 22 inches bound) from communities in New York State consisting of newspaper clippings, photographs, magazine articles and miscellaneous mint cachets from National Air Mail Week.

- Volume One is 58 pages, including a copy of the first air mail letter dated May 15, 1918.
- Volume Two is 74 pages of newspaper clippings, magazine articles and photographs.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Resources found in the Smithsonian National Postal Museum Library are:

1. Farley, James A. Jim Farley's Story: The Roosevelt Years. 1948. Whittlesey House, New York. 388p.
2. Advertisements inviting proposals for carrying the mails in regulation panel or screen motor vehicles, or steamboat or other power boat routes, or on star routes in the various states from various dates between July 1, 1934 and June 30, 1944, from the Post Office Department, James A. Farley, Postmaster General.

3. Various Files in NPM library archives: Reports from state chairmen on flights made by women pilots. Radio address by James A. Farley about the achievements of National Airmail Week. General correspondence to and from James A. Farley. Correspondence about and scripts used for radio broadcasts. Printed copy of James A. Farley's radio address of 04/02/1938. Copy of a letter from Franklin Roosevelt to James A. Farley wishing success for National Air Mail Week. Letter to patron explaining why the Post Office Department could not endorse a campaign to have citizens send letters with local cachets to the President. Copy of The Postal Bulletin 04/05/1938.
4. Campaign for the Celebration of National Air Mail Week, May 15 – 21, 1938, Resume of Activities. Albert Goldman, Postmaster New York State Headquarters, New York, N.Y. 65 p.
5. History of the Air-Mail Service. (N.Y.P.O. 3-25-38). Albert Goldman, Postmaster, New York, N.Y., New York Chairman for National Air Mail Week. 11p.
6. NAMWHS Journal: National Air Mail Week, May 15-21, 1938 (CD-ROM). Drabyk, Jon E. and National Air Mail Week Historical Society, 2007.
7. The Postmaster General Does His Duty. Trenchard, Herbert A., 1996. American Philatelist (Article)

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Images are from the James A. Farley specialized collection of National Air Mail Week cachets.