Persia: Early Airmail (1911-1927)

Purpose of this one frame Air Mail exhibit is to present the establishment and development of airmail service in Persia. Exhibit begins with the first airmail addressed to Persia, and ends with expansion of airmail usage by small towns and to destinations across the oceans, concluding with issuance of first airmail stamps in 1927.

Introduction – By 1900 Great Britain had established a strong foothold throughout South Persia, providing its own mail service through the port cities of the Persian Gulf. Britain's implementation of airmail service into India and Australia included service through the Gulf cities of Persia. Hence, the British pioneers had a key role in establishment of airmail in Persia. Due to lack of trust of Great Britain, Persia later teamed with Germany to establish domestic airmail routes as well as foreign routes through Russia and Germany.

Importance

- Significant to Origins of **British**, German, and **Persian** Airmail
- **ALL Earliest Recorded Airmails**:
    - Addressed to Persia [Pioneer Flight]
    - Mailed from Persia [Pioneer Flight]
    - Mailed from Persia [Commercial Flight - Indian P.O.]
    - Mailed from Persia [Commercial Flight - Persian P.O.]
- **ALL** Key Pioneer Flights; **ALL** Recorded Discovery Flights
- Airmail usage of **ALL** nine (9) Persia Issues (1922-27)

Plan		Pages
Pioneer Flights	1911-1919	1 – 4
British Commercial Flights	1922	5
Persian Commercial Flights	1922-1923	6 - 7
German / Russian Route	1924-1925	8 - 9
Survey Flights	1925	10-11
French Legation Flight	1925	12
Pahlavi Era Commercial Flights	1926-1927	13-16

PERSIA — Tabriz, Hamadan, Khaneghin, TEHRAN, Meched, Masjed Soleiman, Isfahan, Abadan, Shiraz, Bushire, Bandar Abbas, Chahbar, Karachi, Persian Gulf

Sep 1911 – Prologue to Airmail in Persia

Aerial Post Art on Cover Flap

A·D· Coronation ·1911·
FIRST U·K·AERIAL POST
By Sanction of H·M·Postmaster General

For Conveyance by Aeroplane from Windsor to London. No responsibility in respect of loss, damage, or delay, is undertaken by the Postmaster-General.

Capt. C.B.McConaghy.
I.M.S.
British Presidency
BUSHIRE
PERSIAN GULF.
INDIA

SP 18 11 Postmark Back of Cover

First leg Air Mail; remainder standard ground and sea

[Sep 16, 1911] First Airborne Letter addressed to Persia [Middle East] - UK Coronation Air Letter, mailed to **Bushire (Persia).** Standard mail service; Postage 2 ½ Pence ; Postmark FIRST UNITED KINGDOM AERIAL POST SP 16 1911 WINDSOR. Demonstrates interest of Great Britain in creating airmail in Persia. Less than 8 years after Wright Brothers' First Flight! Note: British considered Bushire as part of the British Empire!