

UPDATE ON THE "D.w." COVERS [Part 1] by Chris Hargreaves continued:

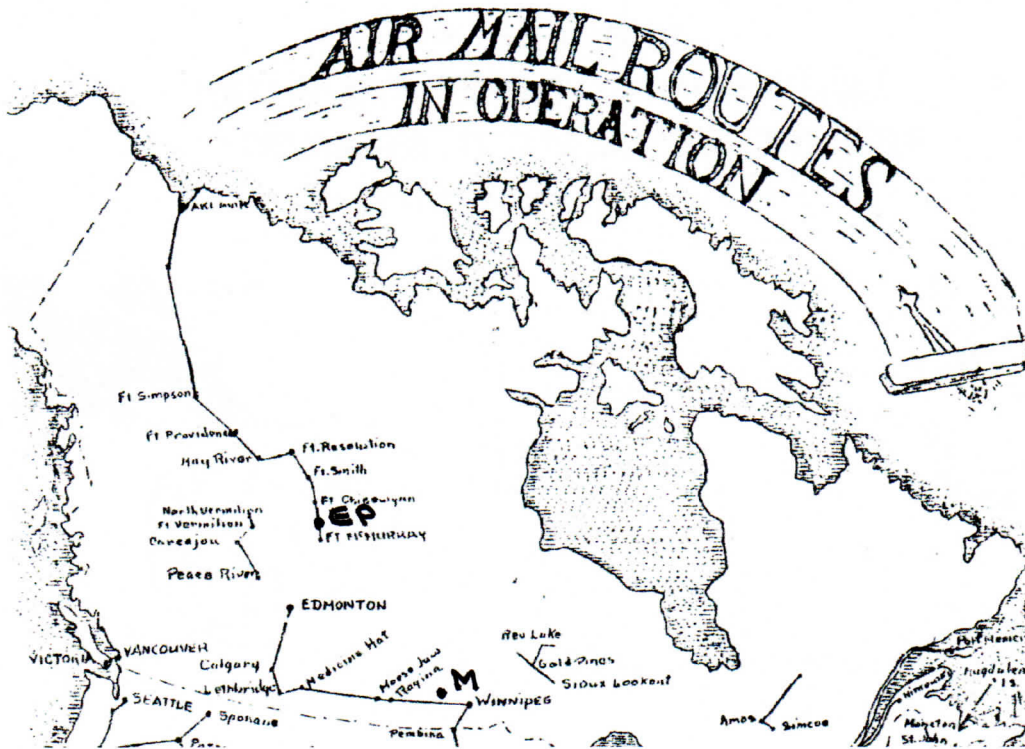


Cover #20 - From the collection of Murray Heifetz.

First Flight Cover from Embarras Portage to Fort Chipewyan. Postmarked EMBARRAS PORTAGE DE 17 31 Addressed to Minnedosa, Manitoba. Backstamped MINNEDOSA January 1st 1932.

The routing of this cover is intriguing.

In May 1931 the Canadian government had begun cutting air mail services to save money during the Depression. In August the routing of the Prairie Air Mail Service was changed. Instead of separate routes from Winnipeg to Calgary, and from Regina to Edmonton, there was now a single route from Winnipeg via Calgary to Edmonton. - The new route, and most of the Canadian airmail network, can be seen on the map below, which was part of a pamphlet distributed by the Edmonton Post Office in September 1931,



Embarras Portage was added as a new Post Office on the Fort McMurray - Aklavik airmail route in December 1831.

Cover 20 would have:

- flown north on the First Flight from Embarras Portage [EP on map] to Fort Chipewyan.
- flown south from Embarras Portage to Fort McMurray.
- travelled by train to Edmonton.
- flown to Winnipeg.
- travelled by train to Minnedosa, [M] which is approximately 200 kms west of Winnipeg; 400 kms east of Regina.

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