

The Airlines of Ukraine in 1922-1941



Soviet postcard twenties, calling to contribute to the construction of aircraft Osoaviakhim.

The air network in the Ukraine region expanded rapidly during the early 1920s and late 1940s as the importance of air communication was recognized by the public, governmental and commercial enterprises. **Ukrvozdrukput'** airways absorbed the Zakavia airline and expanded its routes throughout the Ukraine and Caucasus and gradually took over the Junkers operation as the German influence in Russia faded. Governmental efforts to centralize the domestic air services produced a number of organizational changes in the early 1930s initially allowing **Dobrolet** to absorb the Ukraine air service and routes in December 1929. Further central organizational changes culminated with the formation of **Aeroflot** in the Spring of 1932 as all air operations became state-owned. New aircraft, airports and maintenance facilities improved airmail delivery throughout the Ukraine territory of the Soviet Union.

	The information related to the items exhibited which had been described in the literature	<i>L</i>
For additional information	The material exhibited by which the air postmarks had been initially identified for the first time	<i>N</i>
the exhibitor had put the	Comments and presentation of new facts made on the basis of the personal research of exhibitor	<i>KV</i>
following markings	References to the published articles of the author	<i>KV</i>

The references:

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7. K. Filobok. Air mail in Nord-West. The World of Stamps magazine. № 3 2007
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10. K. Filobok. Memory record flight Philatelie magazine № 7. 2008
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K. Filobok



Rate
from 08.05.23.
Registered airmail
in Germany
- 25
rubles.
Correct payment.

Registered letter was sent on 12.05.1923 from Kiev by rail to Moscow, further along the **airroute**: Moscow-Smolensk-Kovno-Konigsberg-Berlin, arrived 9.09. There is a handwritten inscription on cover «**Воздушное**» and a red stamp «**Mit Luftpost befördert./Konigsberg (Pr.) 1.**» attesting to the delivery of letter by plane. *The first day of receiving air correspondence.*



Rate
from 14.06.23.
Registered airmail
in Germany -
- 30
rubles.
Correct payment.

Registered letter was sent on 18.06.1923 from Kiev by rail to Moscow, further along the **airroute**: Moscow-Smolensk-Kovno-Konigsberg-Berlin, arrived 24.06. There is a handwritten inscription on cover «**Воздушное**» and a red stamp «**Mit Luftpost befördert./Konigsberg (Pr.) 1.**» attesting to the delivery of letter by plane. *Paid for with standard stamps of the RSFSR.*

Postal & passenger seaplane flights, in summer navigation along coast of Crimea, from Kerch with intermediate landings in Feodosia-Alushta-Yalta-Sevastopol-Yevpatoria-Odessa took place from 15.05 to 1.10.1924 on odd days of the month.



Rate for
USSR from
1.05.24.
Registered
letter 34 kop.
Correct payment.

Registered letter was send on 27.09.1924 along the **airroute**: Yalta- Sevastopol-Yevpatoria-Odessa, further by railway of Kharkov & by plane to Moscow, arrived 30.09. Paid for with franked by 1st airmail series of USSR.
The earliest airmail cover delivered on the territory of Ukraine.



Rate for
USSR from
15.05.32.
Registered
letter 80 kop.
Correct payment.

Registered letter was send on 27.09.1932 along the **airroute**: Yevpatoria- Sevastopol-Feodosia-Rostov, further by *by plane* to Rostov/ Don-Armavir-Mineralny Wody, arrived 1.10. There is a homemade sticker with the letter "B" (Air) and a handwritten inscription «Воздушной почтой» on the cover.

Kharkov - from 1919 to 1934 the capital of Ukraine. In the USSR it was the largest industrial, scientific and transport center.
 The first regular airmail line from Kharkov to Moscow was opened on 15.07.1925.



Rate for USSR from 1.05.25.
 Registered airletter 44 kop.
 Paid according to the previous tariff from 1.09.24.

Registered letter sent from Kharkov - telegraph office on 15.07.25 via Orel to Moscow, arrived 16.07. There is a handwritten inscription on cover «Воздушной почтой». The rate is paid by airmail stamp №269.
 The only cover described in the literature of the First flight from Kharkov.

Printing labels on letters was allowed in local postal districts. By decree of the Ministry of Post of the USSR, all inscriptions on correspondence could only be in Russian and French. Labels using Ukrainian language were withdrawn from post offices.



Rate for USSR from 11.02.26.
 Registered airletter 33 kop.
 Rate deficit is 10%.

The cover of the registered letter sent on 25.07.27 from Kharkov by plane to Moscow, received on 26.07.27. There is a local airmail label in 3-languages (Ukrainian, Russian, French).



Rate of to
Central
European
countries
1.05.26.
Registered
airletter
68 kop.

International registered letter send on 12.08.1926 along the airroute Kharkov-Moscow-V. Luki-Konigsberg-Berlin-London, arrived 16.08. The cover is franked with the full series of USSR airmail №267-69 (catalog Michael). There is a red stamp in Ukrainian and French. It was withdrawn from circulation a few days later. In total, we know the number of letters with this air stamp!



Rate for
USSR from
11.02.26.
Registered
airletter 33 kop.
Correct payment.

Registered letter sent on 24.09.1927 from Moscow to Kharkow, received on 25.09. An cover with the 2nd series of USSR airmail, sent on behalf of the Soviet Philatelic Association to major philatelists.

The first regular airmail line on the Kiev-Kharkiv route has opened 1.06.1926.



Rate of to
Central
European
countries
11.05.26.
Registered
airletter 58 kop.
Correct payment.

International registered letter was sent on 22.06.1926 along the **airroute**: Kiev-Kharkov-Moscow- Smolensk-Kovno-Konigsberg-Berlin-Antvers, arrived 26.06. There is a stiker on cover «Воздушная почта/ Par avion». Paid for with franked by 1st airmail series of USSR. The earliest aircover from Kiev, known to the author.

The Postal Code in Ukraine was carried out from 1935. The digits were a code of the form "number-letter-number". At same time, the letter "U" in middle of code meant "Ukraine". 1st number was Kiev, for which numbers a postal point. "12-U-1" was "Window" for sending airmail at Central Post-Office. Introduction of ZIP-code was deemed unsuccessful 1.01.1937.



Rate of to
Central
European
countries
1.05.35.
Registered
airpostcard 55 kop.
Correct payment.

International registered postcard was sent on 19.12.1935 along the **airroute**: Kiev-Moscow-V. Luki-Konigsberg-Berlin, arrived 21.12. There is a stamp «Par avion». The postmark & registration stamp have the ZIP-code "12-U-1".

The airline Stalino - Lugansk and then through Voronezh to Moscow, opened in 1930.



Rate for
USSR from
15.05.32.
Registered
airletter 80 kop.
Correct payment.

Registered letter sent on 13.11.32 from Stalino (now Donetsk) to Moscow, received on 15.11.32. The registration stamp with the postal code "45-U-1" was a "window" for sending airmail at Central Post Office.



Rate for
USSR from
1.07.30.
Registered
airletter 70 kop.
Correct payment.

Registered letter sent on 7.10.1930 from Makeevka (now Donetsk) via Moscow (11.10) to Berlin, received on 11.10. There is a handwritten inscription «Воздушная почта» and Ukrainian a local 3- languages (Ukrainian, Russian, French) airmail label on the cover. Local label was withdrawn from Post.

The delivery of postal correspondence by Air in 1938 was carried out 5 times a week from Monday to Saturday.



Rate for
USSR from
16.02.38.
Registered air
letter 80 kop.
Correct payment.

Registered letter sent on 2.09.1938 from Simferopil via Kharkov to Moscow, received 3.09. A handwritten inscription «Авиа» on cover. The postmarks of city are *bilingual* - in Russian and Tatar (Crimean Tatar autonomy).



Rate for
USSR from
25.02.33.
Regular
postcard -
30 kop.
Correct payment.

The regular postcard was sent on 20.06.1933 from Sevastopol by land. It was *delivered* to Moscow *by plane!* This is evidenced by a special stamp "PAY in ADDITION" – for Air delivery. A handwritten inscription «Воздушной почтой» on postcard. The postmarks of city are *bilingual* - in Russian and Tatar (Crimean Tatar autonomy).

In the early 1930s, the delivery of mail by planes on "Small local airlines" began to develop. The Post actively advertised a new airmail system on its products. They began to enjoy great success among the population.



Rate for
USSR from
1.05.33.
Registered Air
postcard 50 kop.
Correct payment.

Registered postcard sent on 06.07.1933 from Berdyansk by plane to Simferopol, further traffic to Koreiz, received 09.07. A handwritten inscription «Воздушной почтой» on postcard. The postmarks of cities are bilingual: Berdyansk - in Russian & Ukrainian, Koreiz - in Russian & Tatar (Crimean Tatar autonomy).



Rate for
USSR from
1.01.38.
Registered
letter 80 kop.
Correct payment.

Registered cover sent on 27.07.37 from Alupka to Moscow, received 31.07. There is a homemade sticker with the letter "Авио" (Air) and a handwritten inscription «Авио - почта» on the cover.

"Small local airlines" Mariupol - Dnepopetrovsk was opened in 1933.



Rate of
1.05.33.
International
mail.
Registered
airletter
80 kop.
Correct payment.

Registered letter sent on 21.08.33 from Mariupol to Moscow, received on 24.08.
Cover inscribed "Vozduchnoy" and has a boxed "АВИА" handstamp.

"Small local airlines" Nikolaev - Odessa was opened in 1931.



Rate of
1.05.33.
International
mail to
Great Britan.
Regular
airletter
45 kop.
Correct payment.

The letter sent on 21.06.1931 from Nikolaev via Odessa-Moscow (23.06) and Berlin (24.06) to London.
There is an air label on cover in 2 languages (English/French). Censorship removed the 25kop. stamp - in its place the remnants of glue. The postmarks of cities are bilingual - in Russian and Ukrainian languages.

Regular airmail line on the route Nikolaev-Kharkov opened on 05.15.1933. Summer navigation flights - 2 times a week.



Rate for
USSR from
11.025.26.
Registered
letter 40 kop.
Correct payment.

The registered letter was sent on 18.07.1933 from Nikolaev by land. It was *delivered* from Moscow to Leningrad *by plane!* This is evidenced by a special air stamp "Arrived by air mail/ Leningrad / 22.VII.33".
The surcharge for delivery *by air* is not taken.



Rate of to
Central
European
countries
15.05.32.
Registered
airletter
75 kop.

International registered letter send on 31.05.1935 along the *airroute*: Nikolaev-Kharkov-Moscow-V. Luki-Konigsberg-Berlin, arrived 5.06. There is a local airstamp «Par avion/ Воздушной почтой». A homemade label with a handwritten inscription "AVIA". The letter has an *overpayment* of the tariff by 80% - the weight of the letter was from 80 to 100 grams.

"Small local airlines" Tiraspol (Capital city Moldova autonomous republic in Ukraine 1919-40) - Odessa was opened in 1933.



Arrival
Postmark
"Air mail"
on the back

The official letter sent on 09.05.33 from Tiraspol by plane via Odessa-Kharkov to Moscow, received on 12.05.



Rate for
USSR from
1.01.38.
Registered
letter 80 kop.
Correct payment.

International registered letter send on 29.06.1934 along the airroute: Odessa-Kharkov-Moscow-V. Luki-Konigsberg-Berlin-Dusseldorf, arrived 5.06. There is a local airstamp «Воздушной почтой», received on 5.07. Letter was paid for with stamp 5 kop (№453 catalog "Michel") - is a rarity in postal correspondence.

In Ukraine, since the time of Empress Catherine 2, there have been many immigrants from Europe who corresponded with their relatives. Most settlements ceased to exist during the 2nd World War. Only the letters remained...



Rate of
1.05.33.
International
mail.
Registered
airletter
80 kop.
Overpayment 17%

Registered letter sent on 22.08.1933 from village Orlovo, further by plane Dnepopetrovsk via Moscow & Berlin to Bern, received on 27.08. There is a handwritten inscription «Авиаэкспрес» & stamp “Par avion”.



Rate of
1.05.33.
International
mail.
Registered
airletter
80 kop.
Overpayment 17%

Registered letter sent on 16.06.1933 from village Vissokopolie, further by plane Dnepopetrovsk via Moscow and Berlin to Bern, received on 20.06. There is a handwritten inscription & label «Воздушная почта».



Rate for USSR from 11.02.26. Registered airletter 33 kop. Correct payment.

Registered letter sent on 21.06.1932 from Lugansk via Moscow (22.06) to Leningrad, received on 23.06. There is a handwritten inscription «Аэро-почта» and a local properly designed 2-languages (Russian/French) airtel on cover. The postmarks of cities are bilingual - in Russian and Ukrainian languages.



Rate of 1.05.33. International mail to Great Britain. Regular airletter 45 kop. Correct payment.

Registered letter sent on 20.09.1932 from Loughansk via Voronezh-Moscow to Berlin, received 23.09.32. There is a handwritten inscription «Воздушная почта» & airtel with a rebound of perforation on cover.

In 1939, new territories were annexed to the Ukrainian Republic in the west - Lviv and in the south - Chernivtsi.
 This airline began operating in February 1940.



Rate of
 1.05.36.
 International
 mail.
 Registered
 airletter
 2 rub. 30 kop.
 Correct payment.

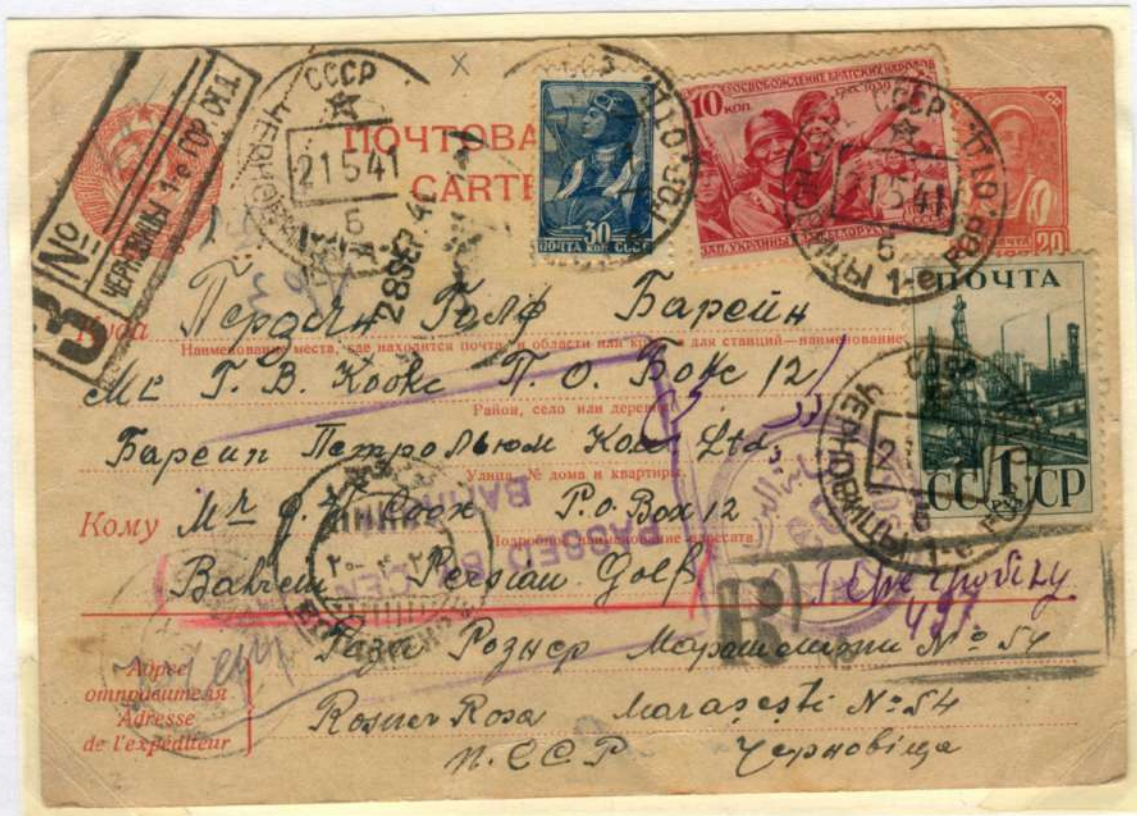
Winter flight. Registered cover sent on 24.02.40 from Lviv via Kiev-Moscow-Berlin-Venice to Rome, received 20.03.



Rate for
 USSR from
 6.02.39.
 Registered
 airletter 33 kop.
 Correct payment.

Winter flight. Registered cover sent on 24.02.40 from Lviv via Kiev to Moscow, received 28.02.
 The earliest air departure from Lviv, after joining Ukraine.

This airline began operating in May 1940.



Rate of
1.05.36.
International
mail.
Registered
airpostcard
2 rub. 10 kop.
Correct payment.

Registered postcard sent on 21.05.41 from Chernivtsi via Kiev-Moscow-Baku- Tehran-Basra in Bahrain, arrived 28.09. The postcard passed many censors of different countries. The censorship has peeled off the 50 kopeck stamp - in its place is the arrival stamp. The text is in Yiddish. *The only air correspondence from the territory of Ukraine to Bahrain described in the literature.*



Rate of
1.05.36.
International
mail.
Registered
airletter
2 rub. 30 kop.
Correct payment.

Registered cover sent on 05.05.41 from Chernivtsi via Kiev and Moscow to New York, received 07.07. The delay in the delivery of the air letter is connected with the military actions of the 2nd World War. *The only air correspondence from the territory of Ukraine to USA described in the literature.*