

ICAO AND DR. EDWARD WARNER

by Albert Pelsser

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) and was the first UN Organization having its headquarters in Montreal, Canada. ICAO was established in 1944 by 52 nations whose aim was to assure the safe, orderly and economic development of international air transport.

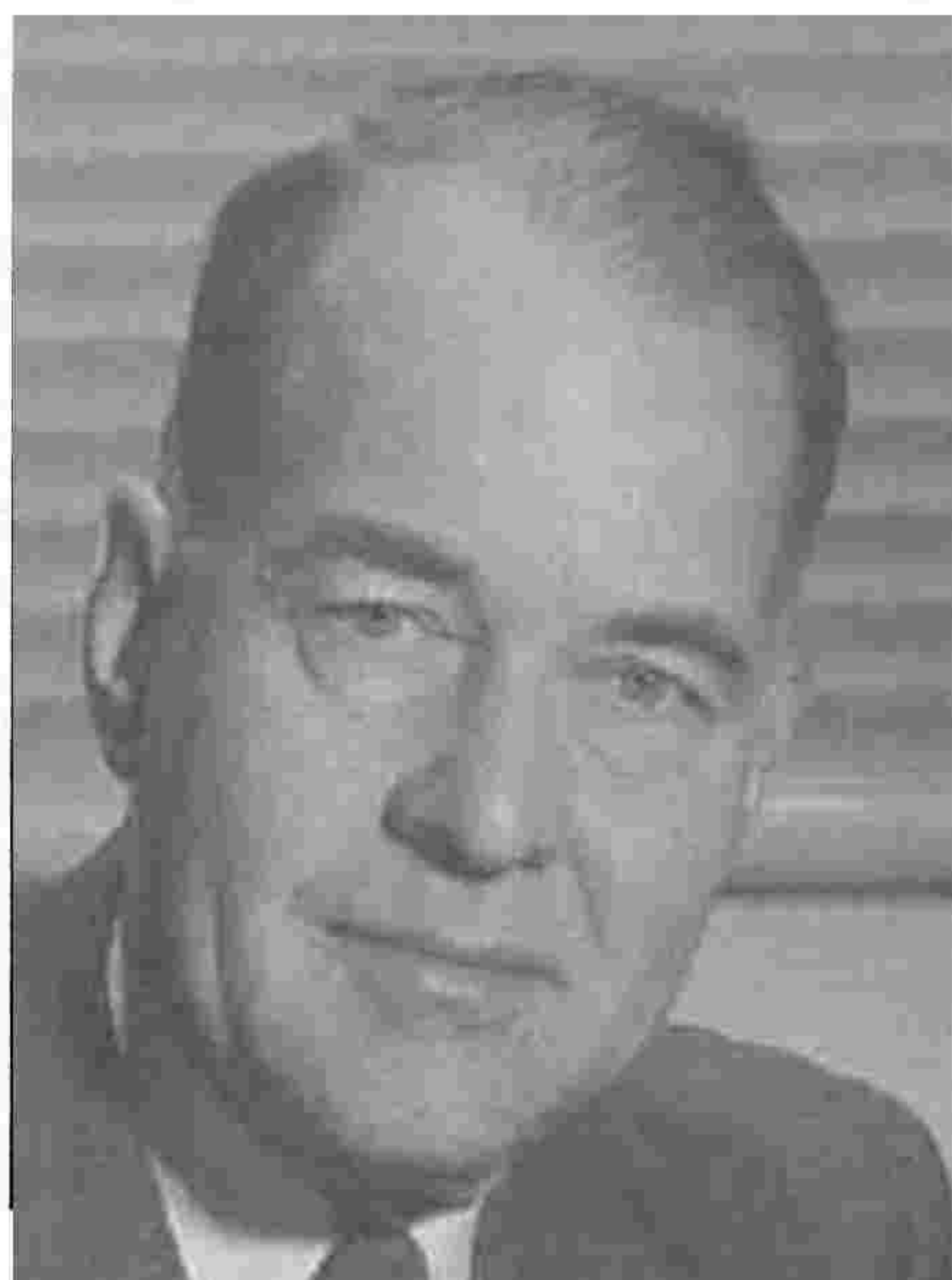


Figure 1

Dr. Edward Pearson Warner (1894-1958) was an American aviation pioneer, educator in aeronautical engineering, author, scientist and statesman. In 1944, he was Vice Chairman of the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board founded in 1938 and was a member of the U.S. Delegation to the 1944 Chicago Conference for the Convention on International Civil Aviation, which founded the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on 7 December 1944. The Convention enlisted the cooperation of nations throughout the world to assure the safe, orderly and economic development of international civil air transportation.

In June 1945, Dr. Warner (Figure 1) sat on the Canadian Preparatory Committee established to make the necessary arrangements for the first Interim Council of PICAQ, the provisional organization preceding ICAO. On 17 August 1945 during the third meeting of the opening session of the Interim Council held in the Rose Room, Windsor Hotel, Montreal, he was elected as the first President of the Council of PICAQ and then continued as President of the ICAO Council until his retirement on 18 April 1957.

The ILO service cover (Figure 2) dated 14.VII.54, with a nice slogan cancel, was addressed to Dr. Edward Warner, President of ICAO Council.

On 12 October 1956, the city of Genoa, Italy,

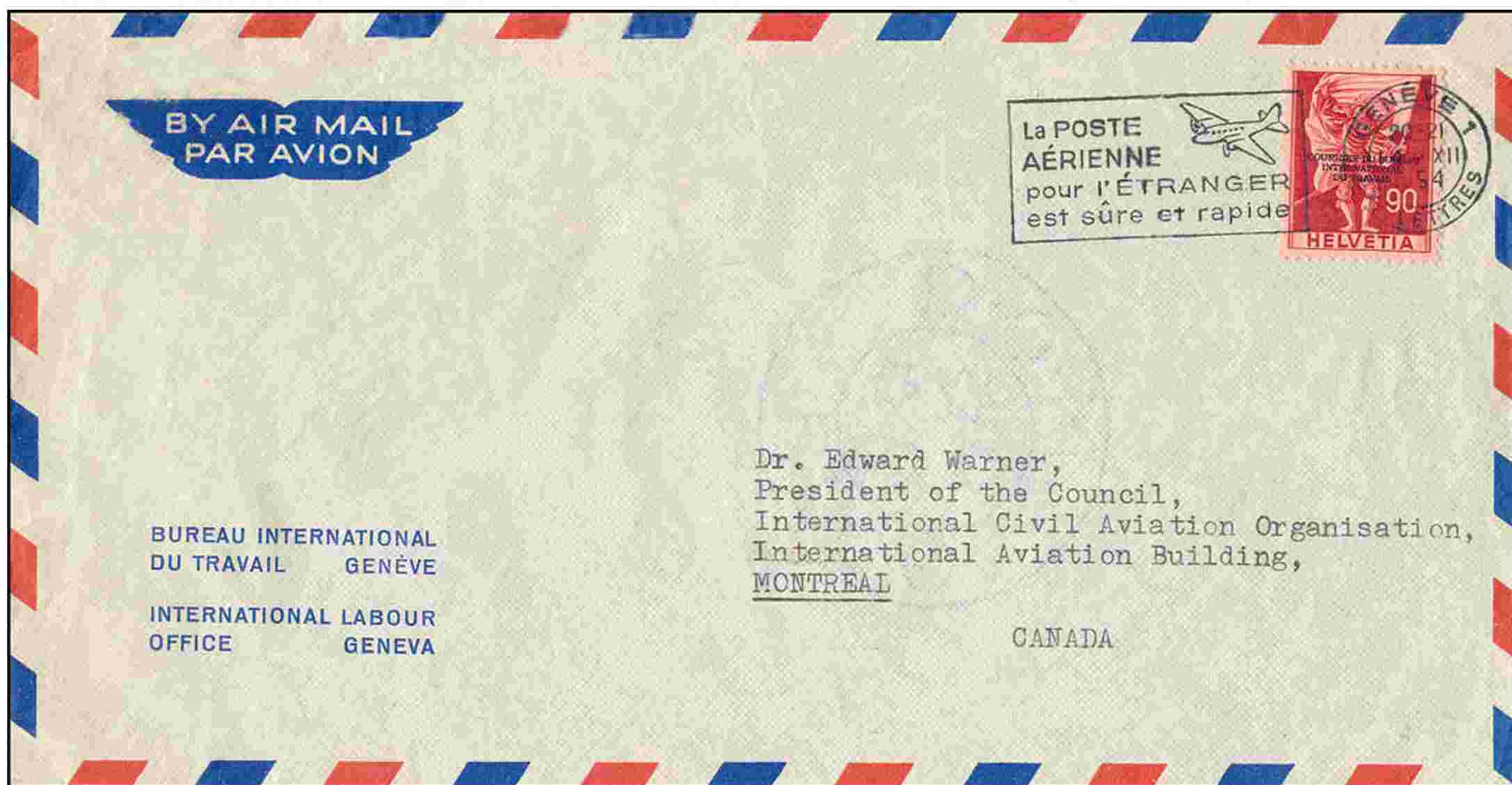


Figure 2

presented the Christopher Columbus International Communications Prize of 5 million lire to ICAO for its efforts in the development of international co-operation in air transport. On 14 December 1956, the ICAO Council decided to use these funds to pay an official tribute to Dr. Warner upon his retirement from the position of President of the Council, this tribute to be known as the "Edward Warner Award."



Figure 3

The Award consists of a solid gold medal (Figure 3) inscribed for the recipient and a certificate of recognition citing the reasons for the Award; it was established for presentation every two years until 1972, when it became an annual award. This article describes some of the Award's recipients honoured in the ICAO philatelic field.

In 1961, the *Fédération aéronautique internationale* (FAI), the earliest organization established to regulate international aspects of aviation, was given the second Edward Warner Award in recognition of its services to civil aviation since its beginning in 1905. Founded with the aim of promoting and developing air sports in a spirit of friendship and co-operation, the FAI celebrated its 90th anniversary in 1995. See Figure 4.

In 1975, the late Captain Charles Augustus Lindbergh, USA, was the recipient of the 10th Award, in recognition of his invaluable moral and material contribution to the development of international civil aviation. He is well known for the first non-stop solo air crossing of the North Atlantic (from New York to Paris) during 20-21 May 1927 on the Ryan NYP high-wing monoplane *Spirit of St. Louis*, unveiling the potential of international air transport.

The quotation on the front of the World Federation of UN Associations cachet shown in Figure 5 is from Anne Morrow Lindbergh's response, on behalf of her late husband, to the presentation of the Edward Warner Award from ICAO on 6 November 1975.

On 28 February 1985, Sierra Leone issued a set of 4 stamps, Scott #680-683, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of ICAO and aviation pioneers. Scott #683, Figure 6, shows Lindbergh and the *Spirit of St. Louis*.

In 1976, the *Corporacion Centroamericana de Servicios de Navegacion Aerea* (COCESNA) received the Award for its efforts to increase the safety of international flights in the Central American region. COCESNA was established in February 1960 as a means to achieve a complete and rational integration of aeronautical services by the



Figure 4: This commercial cover was sent from FAI to ICAO.



Figure 5

Aeronautical Authorities of the Central American States.



Figure 6

On 26 February 1987, Honduras issued a set of 5 stamps, Scott #350-354, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the COCESNA. Scott #350 (Figure 7) depicts the Edward Warner Award medal.



Figure 7



Figure 8

In 1990, ICAO bestowed the Award posthumously on Igor Ivanovich Sikorsky. Born in Kiev, USSR, he had been a pioneer designer of both helicopters and airplanes. The first successful and practical helicopters to be designed outside Germany were those of Igor Sikorsky, i.e. the single-rotor helicopter Vought-Sikorsky 300 (or VS-300) which first flew on 14 September 1939. In doing this, Sikorsky transformed the helicopter from an experimental to a practical and useful aircraft.

On 21 December 1979, St. Thomas & Prince Islands issued a set of six stamps, Scott #528-533, related to aviation history and to commemorate the 35th anniversary of ICAO. Scott #529 (Figure 8) shows the Sikorsky VS-300.

In 1994, the ICAO Council conferred the Award to Dr. Ing. Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie, Indonesia, for his eminent contribution to aircraft design and helping to shape his country's policies in the field of civil aviation and aerospace technology.

The first day cover illustrated in Figure 9, issued on 7 December 1994 by Indonesia for the 50th anniversary of ICAO, was autographed by Dr. Habibie. The stamp shows a Douglas C.47; the aircraft tail on the cachet shows some similarities with the Fokker F-27.

In 1995, the 29th Edward Warner Award was bestowed upon Captain Elrey Berber Jeppesen, USA, for the development of international civil aviation and air navigation in particular. When flying in the early 1930s, he recorded and sketched all the landing sites, obstacles and other



Figure 9



Figure 10

significant features on the routes. This was to become the basis of the Jeppesen Airway Manuals, which are today the

standard Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) navigation reference.

The stamp of Figure 10, issued by Hungary on 13 January 1994 for the 50th anniversary of ICAO, shows a DC-2 (intended to be a DC-3) over a Jeppesen Low Altitude Enroute Chart (Budapest-Bratislava region).

Edward Warner was one of the leading figures in the development of civil aviation; he built a lasting institution through the power derived from his vast knowledge, his extraordinary passion and his infinite caution in human contacts. The Edward Warner Award is the highest honour in the world of civil aviation conferred by ICAO and recognizes individuals or institutions for their outstanding contribution to the development of international civil aviation.

CHECKLIST

Antigua & Barbuda	903	1985 Nov 18	Charles Lindbergh & Stamp-on-stamp of U.N. ICAO stamp #299
Barbuda	797	1986 Aug 12	Charles Lindbergh
Honduras	350	1987 Feb 26	Edward Warner
Hungary	3418	1994 Jan 13	Jeppesen Charts, ICAO 50th Anniversary
Libya	1227n	1984 Dec 07	Charles Lindbergh
Sierra Leone	683	1985 Feb 28	Charles Lindbergh
St. Thomas & Prince Is.	529	1979 Dec 21	Igor Sikorsky & Sikorsky VS 300
St. Thomas & Prince Is.	530	1979 Dec 21	Charles Lindbergh & Spirit of St. Louis
Turks & Caicos Is.	659	1985 Feb 21	Igor Sikorsky & 1939 Sikorsky VS 300 ✪