

Welcome to Miami – Or Not

By Dan Maddalino

Amelia Earhart Field was dedicated on October 26, 1947 and celebrated on this “Official Cachet” cover, sponsored by the Miami Chamber of Commerce. It has a weak but readable Miami, Fla cancel applied to a Scot #C32 airmail stamp (**Figure 1**). However, this airport was not located in Miami. It is a fact that Amelia Earhart landed here May 23, 1937 on her attempted around the world trip. It was reported in all references (official and commercial) that she landed in Miami. But she didn’t! She landed at the old Glenn Curtiss Flying School Field (Glenn Curtiss of the Curtiss-Jenny airplane fame). Curtiss gave control of his old dirt landing field and flying school to the City of Miami in 1928 prior to his death in 1930. This property is located well within the limits of Hialeah, Florida and has never been part of the City of Miami. When Miami and its Port Authority took over the airstrip the Miami Chamber of Commerce quickly painted



Figure 1: Amelia Earhart Field Dedication Cover

“MIAMI” on the roofs of the hangers (**Figure 2**). Thus giving the impression that passengers were actually arriving in Miami. At this time Miami did not have a land based airport within its city limits. The history of aviation development in Dade County has been poorly preserved. Even Official Records are in conflict with other Official Records. By 1967 the old Amelia Earhart Field was covered by homes, businesses, and strip malls. The hanger pictured in **Figure 2** was located at the present intersection of East 8 Avenue and East 49 Street, Hialeah.



Figure 2: “MIAMI” Painted on 1st Hanger Roof

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Principle Source
<http://www.airfields-freeman.com/FL/Airfields FL Miami C.htm>

[Editor’s Note: This is the second piece that Dan has provided for use in the newsletter. We present these articles in the hope of generating interesting and

membership in the Florida Postal History Society. The group has about 110 on the active roster from all over the country and includes a membership with a wide range of Florida centric interests. The Journal that comes out three times a year in full color is an outstanding production handled by Deane Briggs and Everett Parker. Please visit the website and become a member --- www.FPHSonline.com All of the Journals going back to July of 1993 are online and available for your reading and research pleasure. Please note that the current years Journals are the only ones restricted to members of the FPHS.]

Dead Letter with Triangle by Jerry Eller

A 1932 Orlando Dead Letter Branch return envelope bears a triangle marking, indicating that the Orlando Florida branch Returning Division sent back the dead letter. The 3 cent postage due stamp shows that the Orlando Florida, office collected the 3 cent return fee.

Also note the hand stamp "Second Notice July 19th, 1932." [Editor's note, it is very faint, top middle, purple ink]

The triangle geometric figure is the one that is most commonly used symbol, others are circles, squares, and the Stars of David. The triangle was used to identify an item that was sent back to the original mailer by the Returning Division of the Dead Letter Office or Branch.



Before 1917 there was only one Dead Letter Office, in Washington, D.C. and domestic returned items from it were almost always returned free. After 1917 there were anywhere from three to hundreds of Dead Letter Branches, from 1917 until 1985, returns from these offices or branches required payment of fee.

The triangle symbol indicated that the Orlando branch Returning Division returned the dead letter, while the three cent postage due stamp with a pen cancel, (Scott J72) indicates the Orlando Florida Post Office collected the return fee of 3 cents.

Sources: Linn's Stamp News; October 11, 2015 and Tony Wewrukiewicz