

Sale Name: U.S. Marshals Service Stamps Auction

LOT 3082



Seller Southern District of New York

Description

COLLECTIBLE: IRAQ, 1920, Jan. 25, Matthews & Kay England-Australia Race, Baghdad Leg. Iraq 1/2a and 1a, former tied by "Baghdad H.O. Iraq, 25 JAN 20" double-circle datestamp on cover to Bombay, sender's directive "By Aerial Mail", two clear strikes of violet "Civil Posts Iraq, Aerial" handstamps, one which ties both stamps, Bombay arrival backstamp VERY FINE AND ENORMOUSLY RARE. ONLY FIVE COVERS ARE RECORDED FROM THIS MATTHEWS & KAY RACE FROM BAGHDAD. Capt. George C. Matthews and Sgt. Thomas D. Kay were the first contestants to depart on the England-Australia race on Oct. 21, 1919. The Australian Parliament on Mar. 19, 1919 announced that an award of £10,000 was to be given to the first successful flight from England to Australia. Among other requirements, it was only open to Australians flying a British aircraft. Their fascinating journey, which had numerous delays due to plane repairs, included imprisonment by the Bolsheviks when their plane was forced down near Belgrade. They eventually managed to escape after four days. They ultimately made it close to Bali where they crashed into a banana plantation. Matthews was uninjured, Kay suffered broken ribs, but more importantly, the wings on their plane were broken beyond repair. Kimpton census no. 3 and illustrated in his book (p. 60).

Quantity: 1



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