

Trans-Atlantic Air mail
Syria to Argentina February 1943



The only cover from Syria to Argentina recorded by Picirilli. Probably carried by French LAM Damascus-Beirut-Cairo then either to Brazzaville or Lagos to connect with Pan American transatlantic flights. Earlier covers from Lebanon were routed through Brazzaville. By this date, westbound airmail from West Africa was being carried by military Air Transport Command aircraft along the existing flying boat route via Brazil and the West Indies. It is not obvious where the cover was off loaded but it was treated as 'LATI Substitute' mail and sent to San Juan for examination.

San Juan examiner 2920 and tracking numbers 716 and 1258 confirm San Juan censorship. The tracking numbers are in sequence with mail originating in Argentina in April 1943 and suggests that the journey delays occurred in transit from Syria. Cover arrived in Buenos Aires on 5 May 1943.

Franking of 109 Piastres made up of 20p foreign basic + 89p air fee, but Picirilli cannot explain this calculation. An air fee of 85p is recorded for mail Syria to Jamaica but only 60p Syria to Argentina (January 1942). Confusion reigned in the French rates!



Only one
recorded