

Invalid Postage Uses in the United States

Purpose. This exhibit illustrates the numerous types of stamps, labels and stickers invalid for postage that have been used to mail letters in the United States. Some were rejected by the post office but many were not.

Background. Fox News reported in 2010 that the U. S. Postal Service lost \$134.4 million as a result of invalid postage. People sometimes use for postage whatever is handy, including savings stamps, Christmas Seals, labels distributed by non-profits, and odd stickers. People also mistakenly assume that the post office will accept for postage any US government issued stamp regardless of purpose, such as postage due and special delivery stamps. Children might use whatever suits their fancy. In addition, covers are found with fake stamps that obviously were used for philatelic purposes, amusement, or to cheat the government..

Legal Framework. Issues around validity of postage uses have existed since the US first sold stamps. The 1847 Postal Act authorized use of stamps and made it illegal to counterfeit or forge stamps. In 1853 the PMG issued an announcement that “the attempt to create other denominations, by cutting postage stamps into fractional parts, is an illegal assumption...” The 1851 Postal Act prohibited reuse of adhesive stamps. And the 1853 Postal Act prohibited reuse of stamped envelopes. One year after issuance of the first Christmas Seals, the Postmaster General declared it illegal to place Christmas Seals and other labels on the front of envelopes.

Organization. Significant covers are highlighted in a red box. The exhibit includes the following types of illegal postage (*Domestic Mail Manual Section*):

- Page 2: Postage due (604.1.3.a)
- Pages 3-4: Cut or mutilated (604.1.3.d.)
- Page 5: Foreign (604.13.6)
- Pages 6-7: Revenue and savings (604.1.3.e)
- Page 8: Precancelled (604.3.2.1.) and nondenominated (PB 21146)
- Pages 9-16: Imitations/seals/stickers (604.4.)



Ryan Iowa

1 April 1867

Stamp cut-out was reused on brown leather post card.

U. S. Adhesives

Postage Due & Special Delivery Stamps

“The following are not valid to pay postage for U. S. domestic or U.S.-originated international mail: a. Postage due, special delivery, special handling and certified mail stamps...” *Domestic Mail Manual 604.1.3.a.*

Bangor CA →
Hamilton CA
29 January 1935



Bangor Maine
11 October 1924

MS note on back:
“necessary Postage
put on by John
McLarey, Jr.—Air
Mail Clerk—South
Postal Annex—
Boston 9 Mass.”

Boston Ma →
Stockholm Sweden
10 October 1952



U. S. Adhesives

Stamped Envelopes and Post Cards

"The following are not valid to pay postage for U.S. domestic or U.S.-Originated international mail: d. U.S. stamps that are cut from stamped Envelopes, aerogrammes, or stamped cards." Domestic Mail Manual 604.1.3.d.



U. S. Army Post Service
San Francisco → Jamestown NY
31 July 1945

Chesterton IN
16 March 1893



Flushing NY →
Muscatine IA
7 March 1963

Cincinnati →
Jamestown NY
24 August 1942



Knoxville TN
9 September 1982



Greenwood NY →
Trenton NJ
20 August 1907

Foreign Stamps

Canada, Canal Zone & Costa Rica

“The following are not valid to pay postage for U.S. domestic or U.S.--originated international mail: b. Stamps of other countries.” *Domestic Mail Manual 604.1.b.*



Canton OH → Wooster OH
29 May 1985

Boston MA → Sanfield OH
18 January 1920

Boston MA → New Milford NJ
2 July 1940

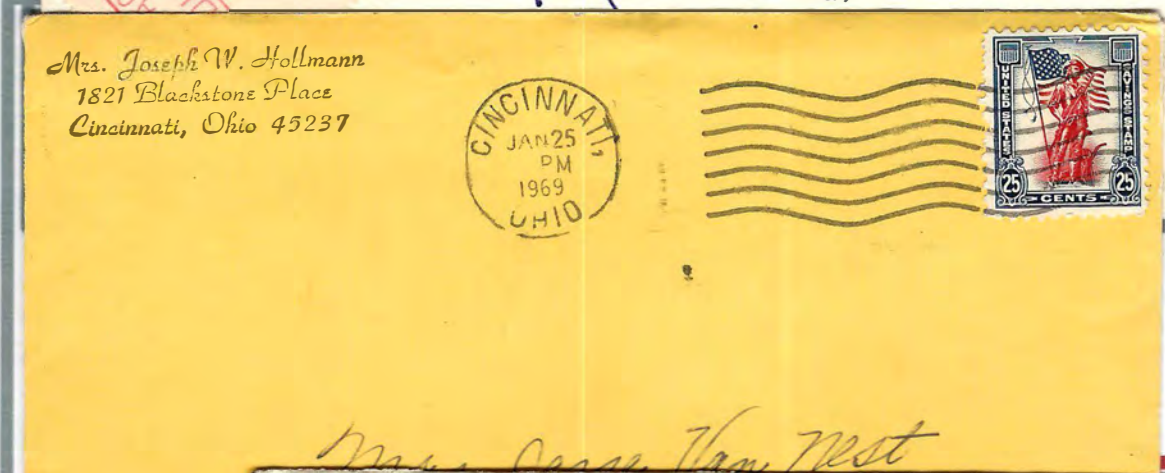


AUGUST G. E. OHTERSEN,
P. O. BOX No. 108,
NEW MILFORD,
NEW JERSEY

U. S. Adhesives

War Savings Stamps

"The following are not valid to pay postage for U.S. domestic or U.S. originated international mail: e. Nonpostage stamps, such as migratory-bird hunting and conservation stamps, U.S. savings and thrift stamps." *Domestic Mail Manual 604.1.3.e.*



Brooklyn NY →
Goleta CA
31 June 1968

Cincinnati OH →
Englewood FL
25 January 1969



New York NY →
Lancaster P1
1 March 1945

U. S. Adhesives

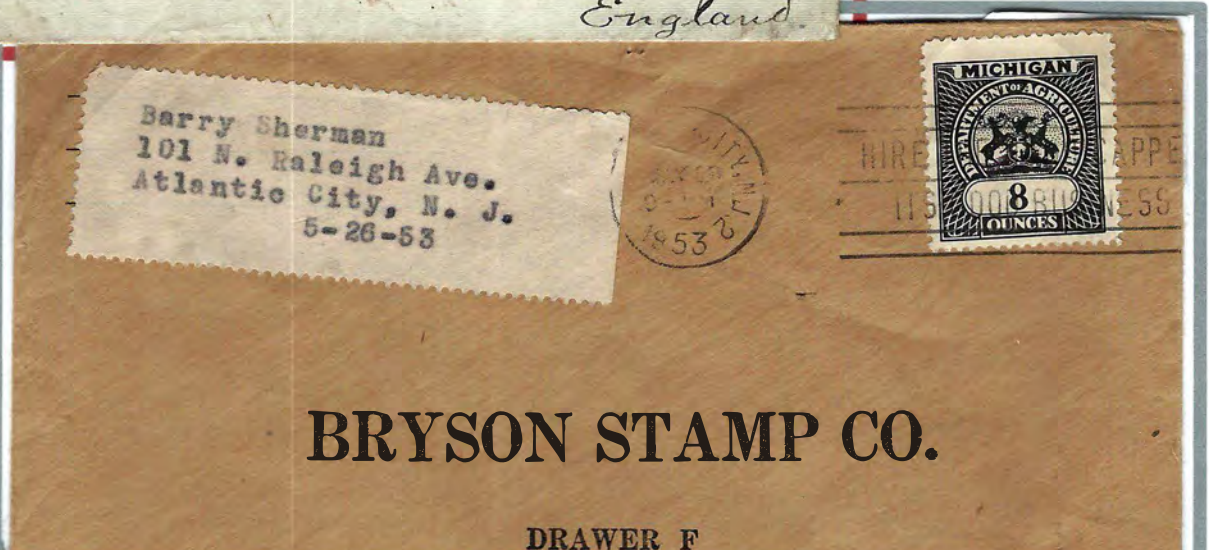
Revenue Stamps



Philatelic cover sent by prolific counterfeiter S. Allan Taylor to C. W. Viner, London editor of philatelic journals. Backstamp reads "BOSTON/DEC 14/PAID"

Boston → London
14 December 1869

Atlantic City NJ →
Rossford IO
19 May 1953



BRYSON STAMP CO.

DRAWER F

New York NY →
Buenos Ayres
14 April 1902

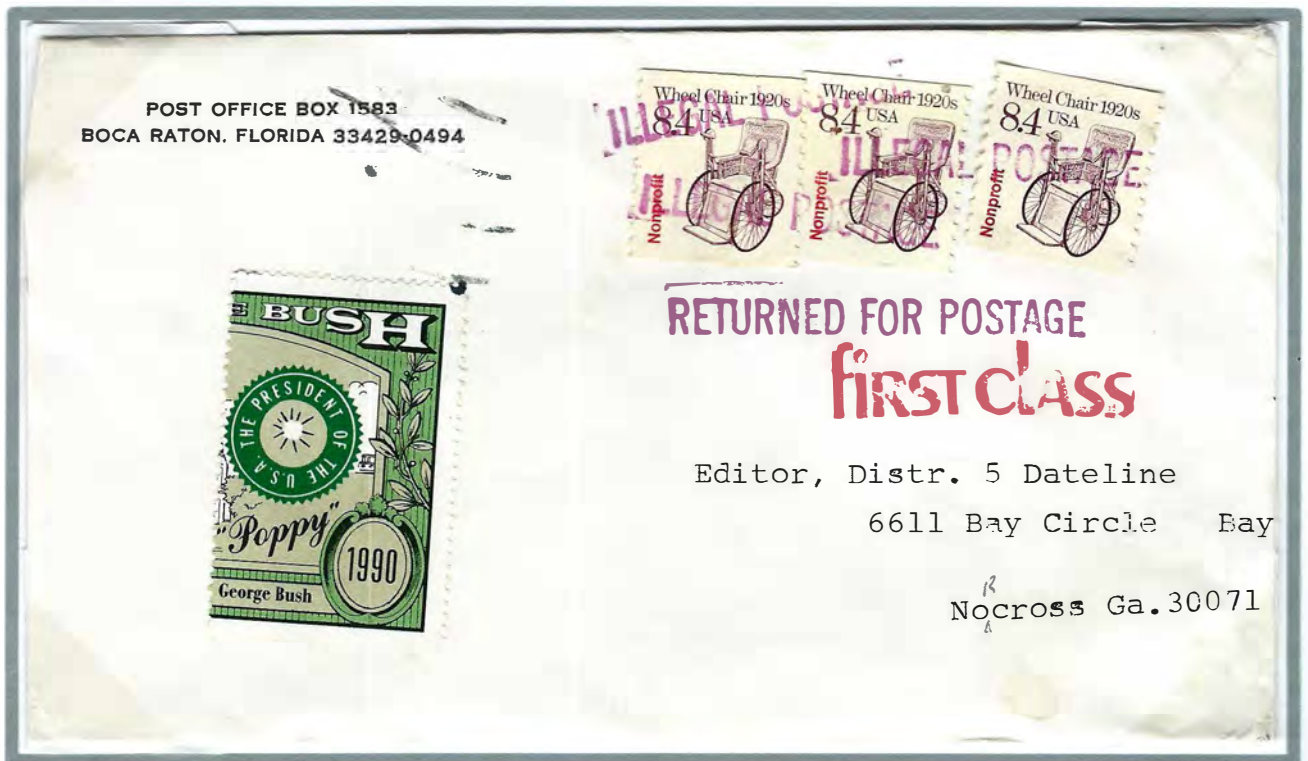


A non-denominated "stamp is intended for domestic use; it may not be used for international mail." Postal Bulletin 21148 (May 19, 1978)



Lil Compton
RI →
Cambridge
13 Sep 1985

"A person who wants to use USPS-precanceled stamps and stamped envelopes must complete Form 3615 and file it at the Post Office where mailings are to be deposited." Domestic Mail Manual 604.3.2.1.



Boca Raton →
Nocrass GA
Unknown

Nocrass Ga. 30071

"Matter bearing imitations of postage stamps, in adhesive or printed form, or private seals or stickers resembling a postage in from and design is not acceptable for mailing." Domestic Mail Manual 604.1.4.

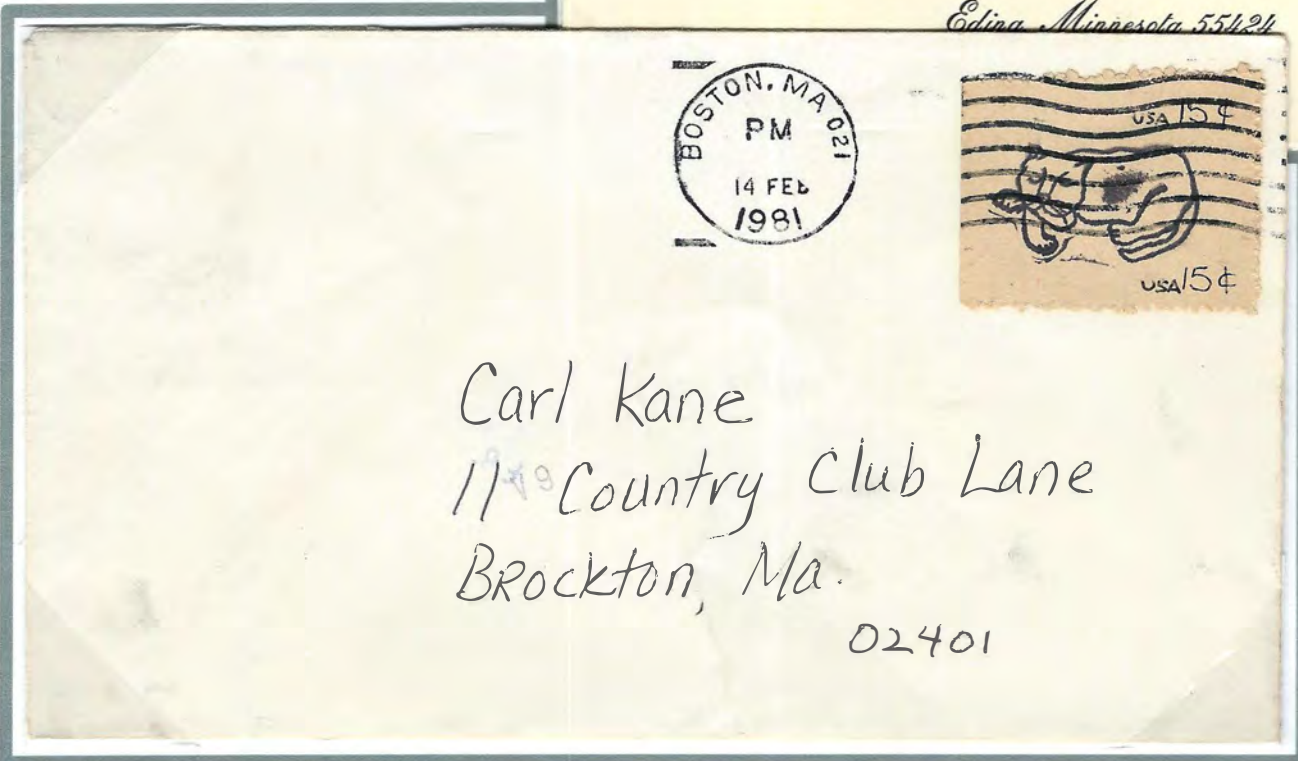


Prisoner in Texas sent letter with fake Columbian.

Beaumont TX → East Dennis MA
2 June 2006

Minneapolis MN → Edina MN
24 April 1971

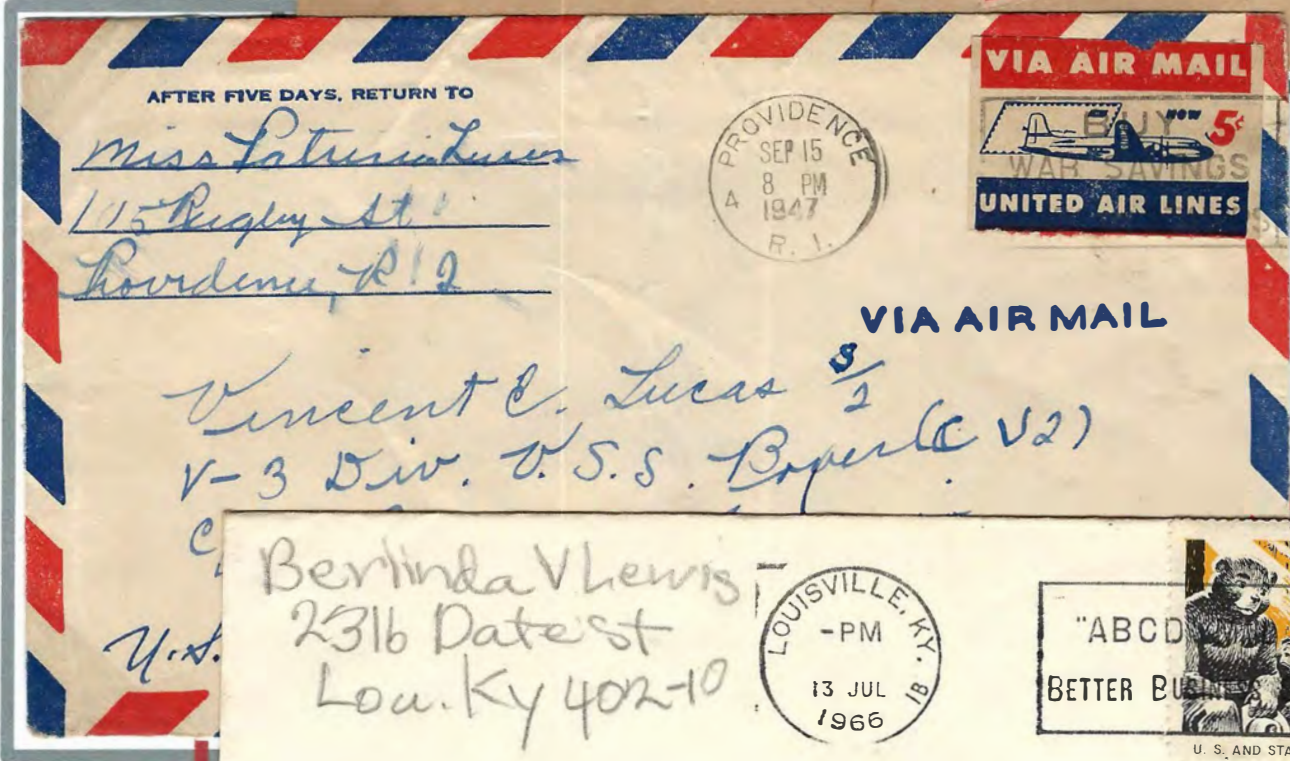
Boston MA → Brockton MA
14 February 1981



Labels

Air Mail and Smokey Bear

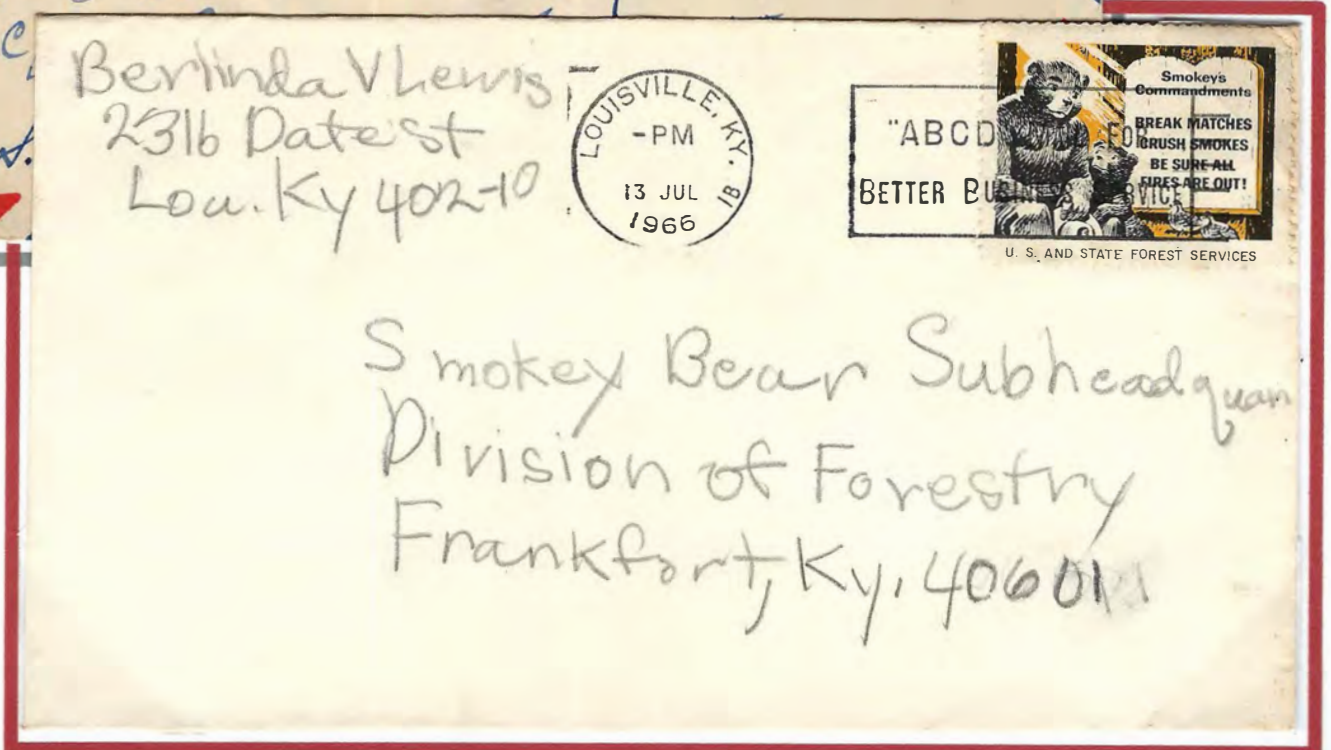
Petersborough
Northants A. →
Springfield MA
7 March 1959



Providence RI
→ San
Francisco
15 Sept 1947

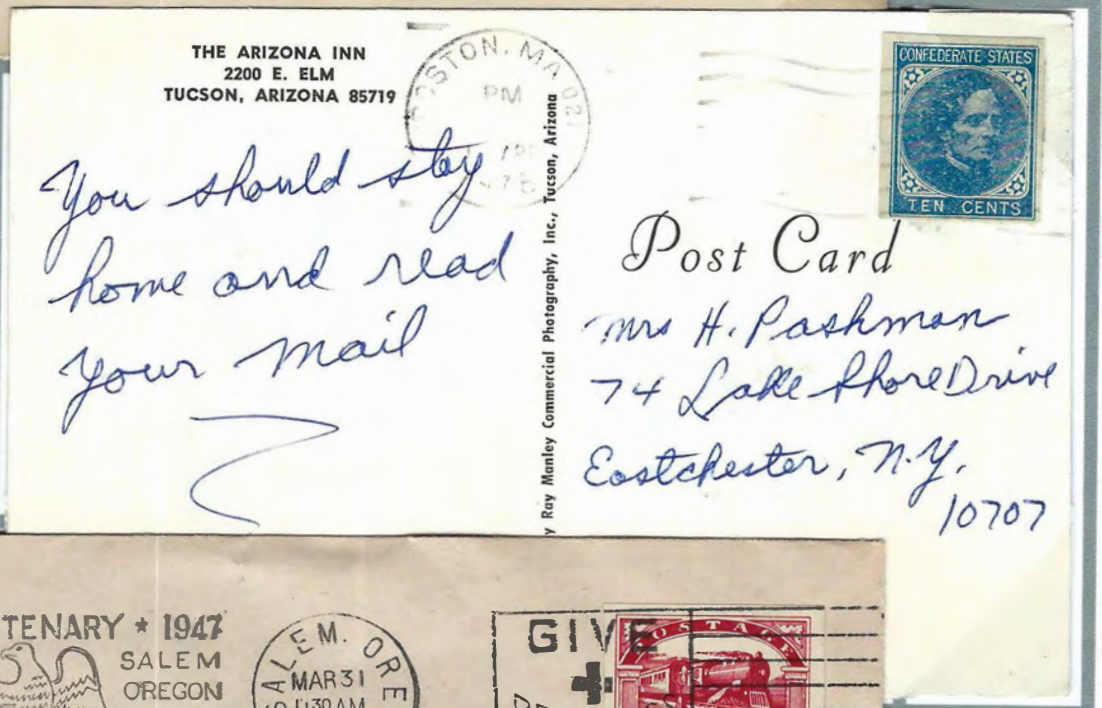
Letter to
"Smokey
Bear" with
Smokey
Bear Label.

Louisville KY →
Frankfort KY
13 July 1966



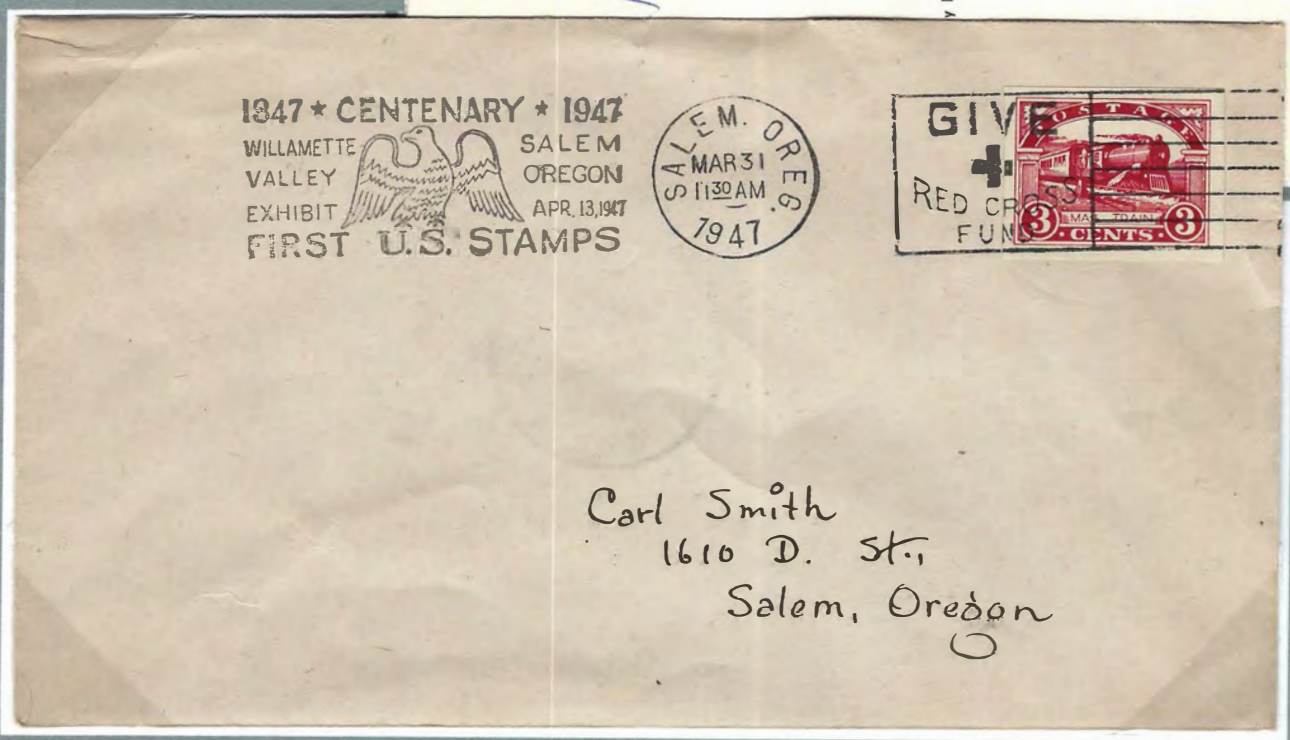


Salem OR
31 March 1947



Boston MA →
Eastchester NY
5 April 1978

Baltimore MD
23 April 1939



1947 * CENTENARY * 1947
WILLAMETTE VALLEY EXHIBIT
FIRST U.S. STAMPS

SALEM, OREG.
MAR 31 1130AM
1947

GIVE RED CROSS FUNDS
3 CENTS 8

Carl Smith
1610 D. St.
Salem, Oregon

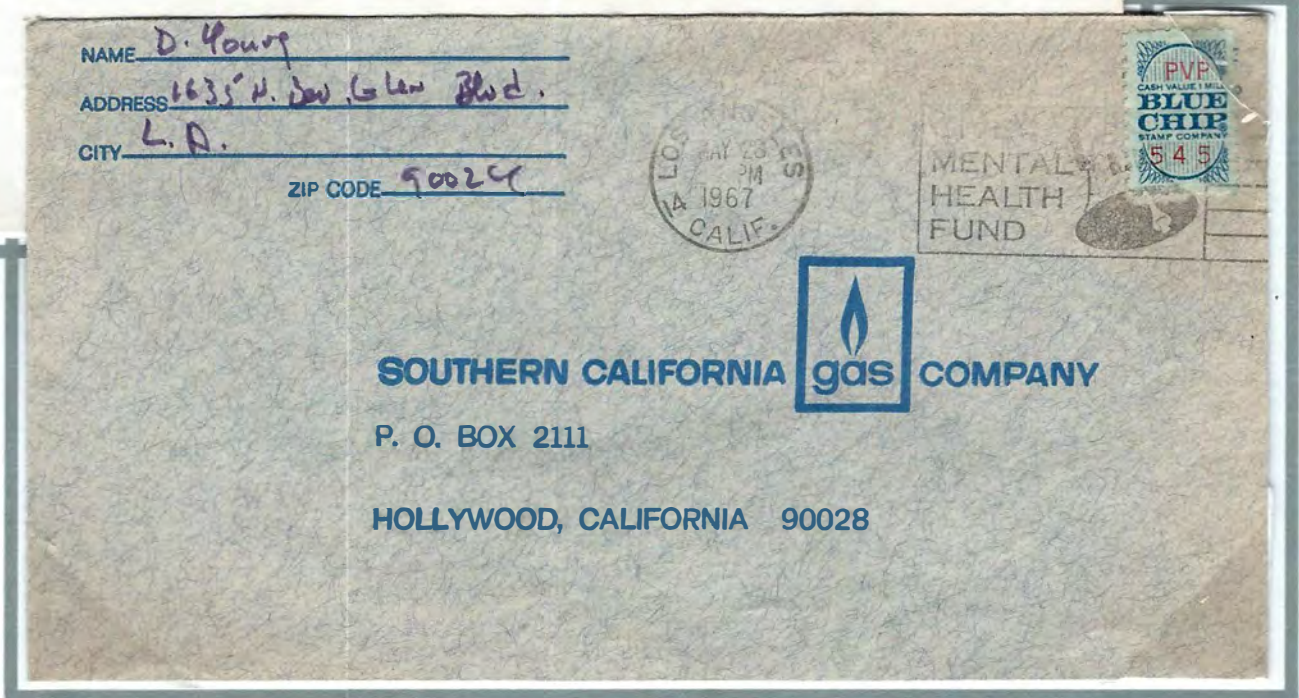
Trading Stamps

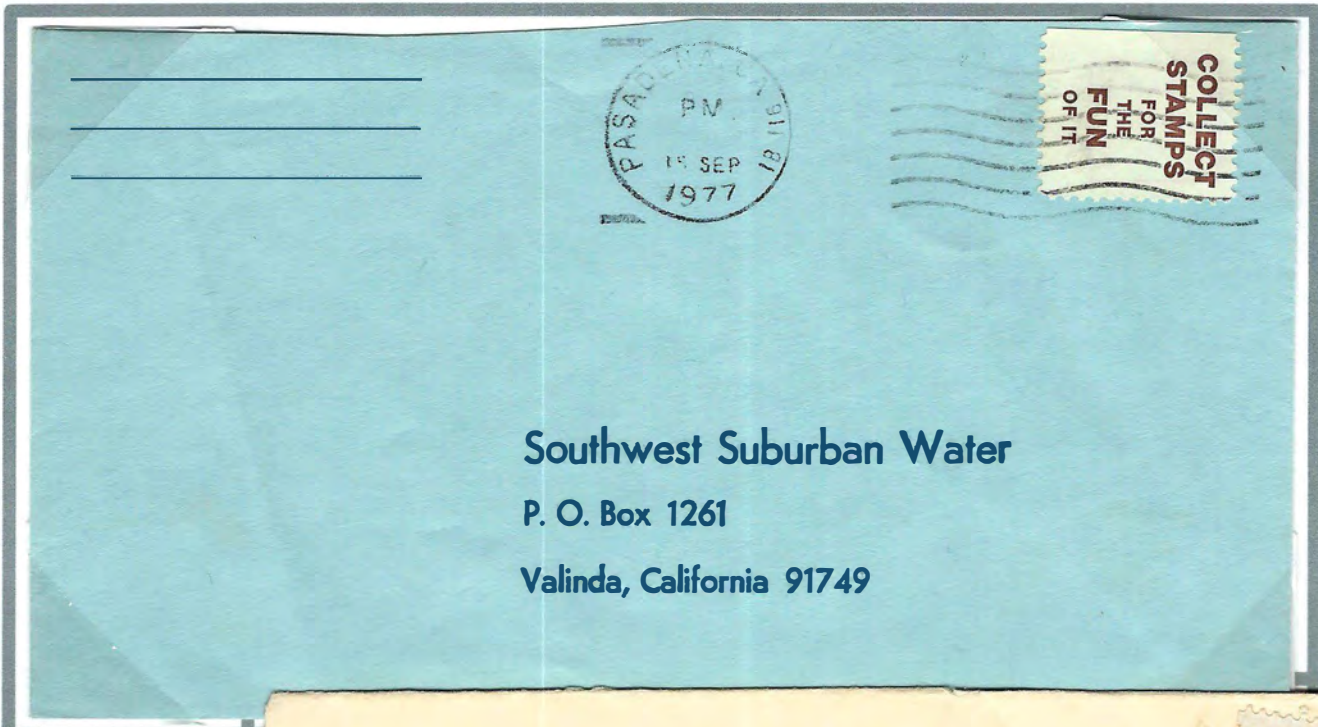
Green, Blue Chip & Triple-S Blue

Wallingford
CT →
Niagara Falls
4 Sept 1969



Los Angeles CA
→ Hollywood Ca
28 May 1967



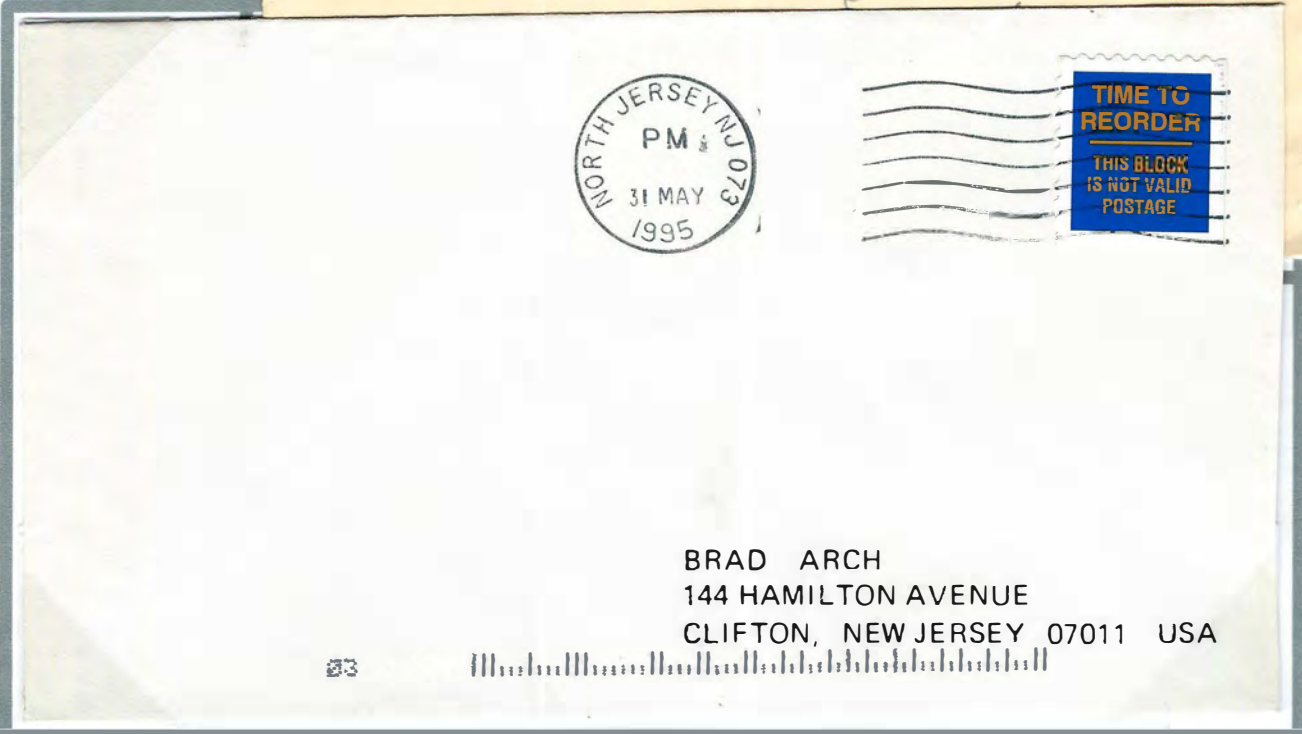


Pasaida CA →
 Valinda CA
 15 Sept 1977



Snohomish WA
 → Everett WA
 16 Nov 1964

North Jersey NJ
 → Clifton NJ
 31 May 1995



BRAD ARCH
 144 HAMILTON AVENUE
 CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY 07011 USA

St. Joseph Adoration Convent
26 Franklin Street
Danielson CT 06239 USA



Greetings



4



Twenty 37c
Self-adhesive
Stamps

\$7.40

Different Designs



VOIDED

POSTAGE DUE

BRAD ARCH
144 HAMILTON AVENUE
CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY 07011 USA

Hartford CT
→ Unknown
20 Apr 2005

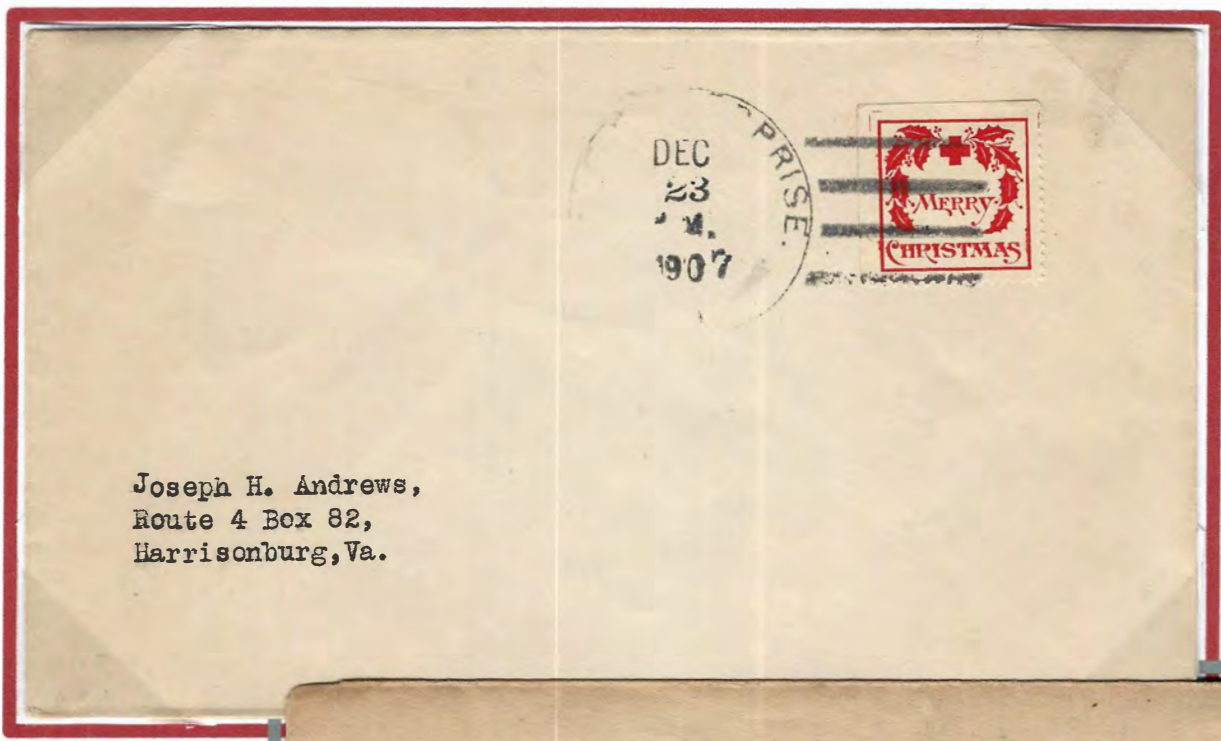
North Jersey
→ Clifton NJ
3 Oct 1991

Santa Ana CA
→ Unknown
22 Nov 2004

Jose Vargas
3436-W-Roberts DR
Santa Ana Ca. 92704



PROCESS
IMMEDIATELY



Joseph H. Andrews,
Route 4 Box 82,
Harrisonburg, Va.

First Christmas Seal issued in US, which was sold in Philadelphia and Wilmington.

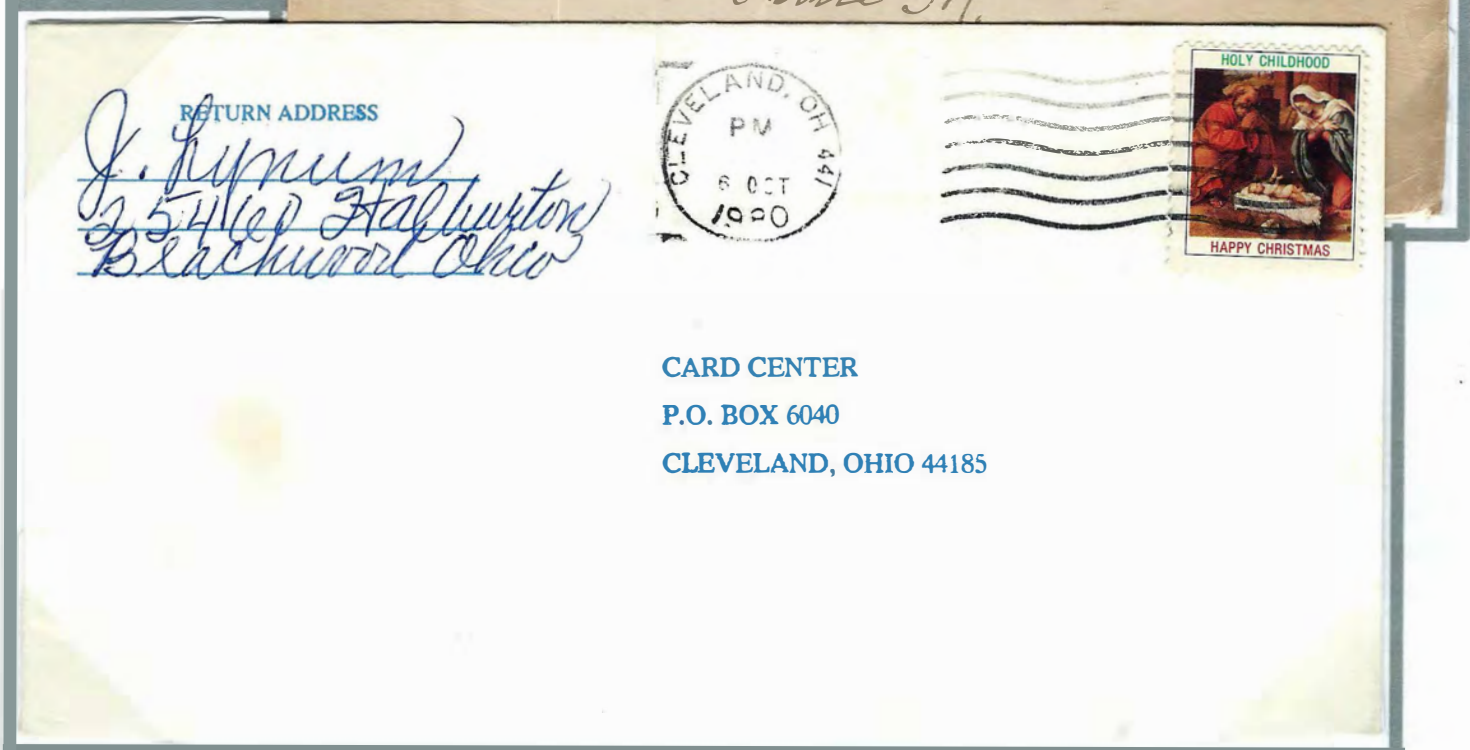
Enterprise PA →
Harrisonburg VA
23 December 1907

St. Louis MO →
Florissant MO
2 December 1920



Miss Gladys Bordon
Florissant Mo
Route 3H

Cleveland OH
6 October 1920



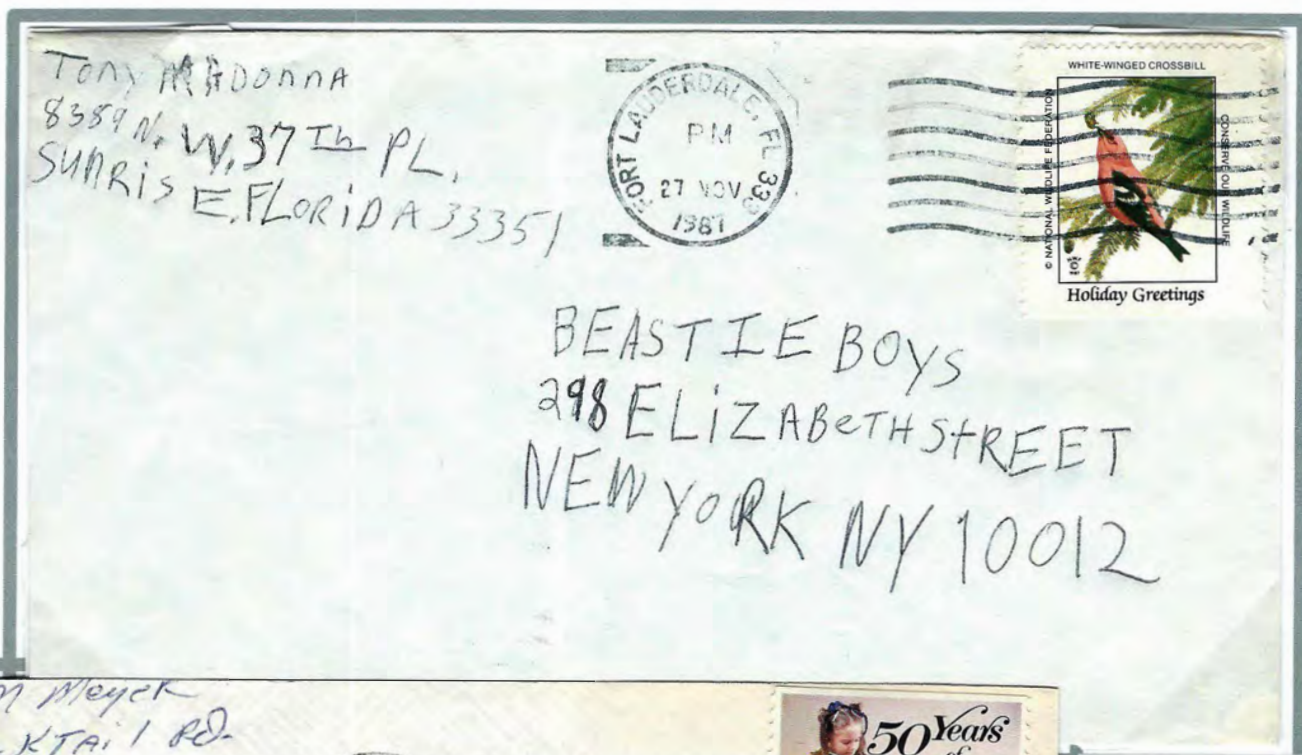
RETURN ADDRESS
J. Kupper
25410 Halburyton
Blackwood Ohio

CARD CENTER
P.O. BOX 6040
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44185

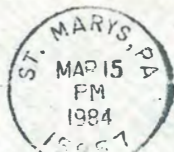
Not-For-Profit Seals

Easter Seals, Boys Town & Nat Wildlife Fed

Sunrise FL →
New York NY
27 Nov 1987



Richard M Meyer
1436 BUCKTAIL RD.
ST. MARYS, Pa. 15857



Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.
P.O. Box 1400
Johnstown Pa, 15915

St. Marys PA →
Johnstown PA
15 March 1984

NAME Stansfield
ADDRESS 9312 Earhart Ave
CITY S. A 90045



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY

P. O. BOX 879

INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90307

Long Beach LA →
Inglewood CA
20 Dec 1966