

A R

Domestic US (RRR)

This is **version 1.2**. I suggest reading the A R book (<http://www.rfrajola.com/dh2019/1ar.pdf>) first, for a general description of worldwide A R. Internation U S A R can be downloaded from Richard Frajola's site <http://www.rfrajola.com/DH2019/2ar.pdf>

The other exhibits, mini- & micro-, are also downloadable from there, <http://www.rfrajola.com/exhibits.htm>

Higher resolution pdfs are possible but require a DVD; please contact me if interested.

Comments, suggestions, contributions welcomed.

There are many more covers and more A R cards.

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Domestic US AR (RRR): exhibit synopsis

DOMESTIC US RRR (*return receipt*, as AR is and was known in the US) service began 1 July 1863. There was no charge per se; instead it was compulsory on registered matter. (For domestic US AR, we use one of the US terms, **RRR**, *return receipt requested*.) The post office had a pad with registration receipts attached to their counterpart return receipt (as illustrated in this exhibit). At the time of registration, the receipt would be filled out and handed back to the sender; the return receipt would be partially filled out, and sent either attached (usually with gum) to the registered letter, probably more frequently (based on examples), sent separately but in the same mailing. When the letter was delivered, the recipient would sign the return receipt, it would be put in a covering envelope, and sent back to the office of origin. Thereupon the return receipt would be given to the sender, frequently with the covering envelope. In case of non-delivery, the letter with attached form would be returned to sender.

At its onset in 1863, domestic US return receipt service (as it was known) was compulsory, and the fee was included in the registration fee (which was relatively high). It became a free option (on domestic registered mail) in 1910, and then a fee was instituted in 1925. As both a free and a chargeable service, it was extremely popular, and US RRR material is very common. The RRR cards (distinct from those used for international service) are extremely common, except perhaps for the year 1879, or for use with registered packages. The very earliest uses of the forms (1863) are rare, despite the fact that every single registered domestic item would have had one.

Insurance on parcel post became possible in 1913, and return receipt service was also available on this class of mail (at the same rates as on registered matter).

There were also elaborations of return receipt, available only on domestic registered mail. These include *restricted delivery* (delivery only to the addressee, not just anyone at that address), and the very expensive *showing address where delivered*. The first was initially a free option; it existed from as early as 1884, becoming chargeable in 1934. Both required return receipt as a prerequisite.

Timeline

- In **1863**, return receipt service became compulsory on domestic registered mail. The return receipts themselves were small square printed forms, to be returned under cover; typically, the covering envelopes were for any official mail, not specifically for RRR forms. Although it appears that in most cases, the form was sent separately from the registered letter, there are a few covers for which the form was attached to the letter.
- In **mid-1879**, forms were largely replaced by RRR cards, that is, postcard-size cards, which did not require a covering envelope. RRR forms continued to be used (sparingly) for at least two years.
- **Until 1910**, registered letters were not marked in any way to indicate that return receipt service applied, as it was automatic. However, in July 1910, RRR became a free option on registered mail. All the sender had to do was endorse the registered letter with the impolite *return receipt demanded*, which had been in use for international AR since the G P U/UPU period began [Possibly based on an ignorance of French: *demander* means *to request*, not *to demand*.] Many variants of this wording occurred, both in manuscript and in handstamp form, but the version that eventually became most popular and later official was *return receipt requested*.
- In **1913**, parcels could be sent with insurance, and all insured matter was eligible for RRR service (with the same fee schedule, so until 1925 was a free option).
- In **1925**, RRR service finally required a fee (the US had been one of the very few entities worldwide to have no fees for RRR or AR). Several elaborations of RRR service eventually became chargeable as well.
- **Restricted delivery** (registered letter to be given to *addressee only*, or *personal delivery*) is found on an 1884 letter (shown here), preceding by almost ten years the known documentation for it (in an 1892 postal guide). It was available from at least **1884** and likely earlier, and required RRR service as a prerequisite (this became meaningful only from 1910, since RRR was compulsory prior to that year). It was a free option on mail sent with RRR until a fee was imposed in 1934.
- Another elaboration of RRR service is *showing address where delivered*. This was available at an additional 20¢ over the RRR fee, beginning in **1931**. It and restricted delivery are frequently seen together on the same cover.

Organization of the domestic section: Forms and covering envelopes. We begin with the early RRR forms (second earliest known, 1864) and their covering envelopes (earliest known, 1865). The rather drab RRR cards were introduced in 1879, and we show form and card from Fargo (ND) bracketting the change. We also show a registered letter with its RRR form, and a slightly later registered cover with its RRR card. (It is very difficult to find both together.)

RRR covers On 11 July 1910, RRR became a free option on registered mail (as opposed to compulsory). This meant that some endorsement or handstamp indicating the service was required. We show what is so far the earliest recorded use on domestic mail (in the normal period), 18 July, as well as a use a month later with an apparently previously unrecorded experimental registration label at Elizabeth (NJ).

On 15 April 1925, extensive rate changes occurred, including for the first time, a charge on RRR service. We have an example from the second day of this rate.

Official (penalty) mail This subsection concerns the combination of RRR with mail from (federal) government offices. It begins with a 1911 use of postal savings stamps on postal savings system stationery (1910–14). For other departments, domestic postage was free, and if the office were located in Washington, registration was free. When RRR became chargeable, all government offices were required to pay the RRR fee.

Insured mail with RRR When insurance became available on parcel post, and later on third class, RRR was possible, with the same fee structure as for registered mail. It is difficult to find examples, but we show a few, e.g., a first-year official parcel tag, and a remarkable 1942 parcel post wrapper between quartermasters requiring 70½¢ postage (unfortunately, the sender had no half-cent stamps, so it is overpaid).

Restricted delivery [H4] Also known as *deliver to addressee only* or *personal delivery*, or some other variant, this was a service available to senders. We show by far the earliest known use (1884); references from 1892 are known. We show the earliest (thus far) known handstamp for the service. In addition, an insured item with restricted delivery is exhibited (this is the only example of this combination that I have seen).

In case the addressee refused to sign for a registered letter with restricted delivery (as opposed to being signed for by an agent), then it was returned to sender. We have two examples, refused by Henry Ford and by Wendell Willkie (the latter just after having been nominated as Republican presidential candidate), both marked, *Refused on account of personal delivery restriction*.

Showing address In 1931, a very expensive elaboration of RRR became available, *Showing address where delivered*; at a time when registration was 15¢ and RRR was 3¢, this service cost 20¢ (and required RRR). Examples include a combination of showing address and restricted delivery in the period when the latter was chargeable.

Airmail & RRR We show examples of RRR covers sent by air from the first two periods in which registration was permitted on air mail.

Extra indemnity with RRR Beginning 1923, there was only one extra level of indemnity. This expanded in 1928 to indemnity up to \$1000, and finally unlimited indemnity became available in 1932. Perhaps the star of this section is the massively franked cover with an estimated \$300000 in indemnity (owing to an arithmetic error, we cannot be sure what was intended) with 39 dollar stamps, in the first month that this supplemental indemnity became available. We also have the usual money bag tags with RRR, with ludicrously high frankings, including a block of six of the fourth bureau \$5. We also show a possibly unique (1920) example of insured mail treated as registered on a package to the Treasury.

RRR & postage due Registered covers rarely arrive with postage due, all the less so RRR covers. We present examples that obviously slipped by and were subsequently charged; in one case, a letter was dropped in the mail box with no stamps applied at all, but requesting all the usual services, including showing address (it should have been returned to sender, but was allowed to continue and charged single deficiency). More reasonable examples include an extra cent charged for forwarding to a destination requiring more postage.

Forwarding to foreign destinations Domestic RRR covers could be forwarded abroad if they were fully prepaid (as they almost always were) at no extra charge. We have an example.

Fraudulent activities & AR Some covers were returned to sender, because they were addressed to people known to be engaging in fraudulent activities. We show one addressed domestically and two to foreign destinations turned back at New York (1936 to Canada, and 1937 to Ireland).

Domestic RRR wreck The one known example (1931) of this combination is illustrated.

Inquiry and after-the-fact Both extremely rare for the U S, we have an example of an inquiry card, and a after-the-fact

R R R card, both from 1935.

Return of R R R card by air This required airmail postage on the card. 1940s uses are rare. Permitted from 1938, a 1943 example, possibly the earliest, is shown.



Hundreds (or thousands) of different R R R handstamps exist

Those shown here range over 1910–40, at actual size. Usually in shades of purple or red. Some are clearly made of rubber.

[For both international and domestic rates, see the US international exhibit.](#)

RRR forms

To be returned under cover

RETURN REGISTERED LETTER RECEIPT.

NOTE.—This return receipt, after being signed by the party to whom the letter or package which accompanies it is delivered, must be immediately enclosed to the Postmaster at the office where it originated.

Should the registered letter not be delivered, this receipt must be forwarded with it, in due course, to the Dead Letter Office.

No. 11 Oct 25th 1864.

Mailed at Burlington Iowa

by David Rover

a letter addressed to Treasurer & Recorder Quincy
Adams Co. Iowa

Stamp here the office and date of delivery

Received the above described letter.

Sign here Alex Ramsey



RRR form, 4 June 1864. For a registered letter mailed from Philadelphia to Como (IL), properly signed by recipient. Manuscript date mark at Como. *Second earliest US RRR form of which I am aware.*

RRR forms

Return Registered Letter Receipt.

NOTE.—This return receipt, after being signed by the party to whom the letter or package which accompanies it is delivered, must be immediately enclosed to the Postmaster at New York.

Should the registered letter not be delivered, this receipt must be forwarded with it, in due course, to the Dead Letter Office.

No. *3480* . 1869

Mailed at **NEW YORK, N. Y.**, by *J. Cummings, 91 Gold St.*

a letter addressed to *I. Nichols*
Herrick Centre, Pa.

Stamp here the Office and date of delivery.

Received the above-described letter.

Stamp here the Office and date of delivery.

Sign here } *Ira Nichols*

New York RRR form, January 1869. Specially printed for the New York office for 1869. For a registered letter from NY to Herrick Centre (PA).

RETURN REGISTERED LETTER BILL.

NOTE.—This return receipt, after being signed by the party to whom the letter or package which accompanies it is delivered, must be immediately enclosed to the Postmaster at the office where it originated.

Should the registered letter not be delivered, this receipt must be forwarded with it, in due course, to the Dead Letter Office.

No. *2* . *Oct 9, 1871.*

Mailed at *Montville, Maine*

by *Josiah Pearson*

a letter addressed to *M. Wagner & Co.*

Stamp here the office and date of delivery.

Received the above described letter.

Stamp here the office and date of delivery.

Sign here } *M. Wagner & Co.*

Printing error, October 1871. Mistakenly worded **BILL** (for receipt). For registered letter (reg'n number 2), Montville (ME) to Marshall (MI).

Forms with their covering envelope

US RRR forms were returned under cover to the postmaster at the office of origin, who then forwarded them to the sender of the registered letter.

RETURN REGISTERED LETTER RECEIPT.

NOTE.—This return receipt, after being signed by the party to whom the letter or package which accompanies it is delivered, must be immediately enclosed to the Postmaster at the office where it originated.
Should the registered letter not be delivered, this receipt must be forwarded with it, in due course, to the Dead Letter Office.

No. 17 Date Dec 13 1865

Mailed at Kittanning Penna

by J. E. Meredith

a letter addressed to J. S. Retzer Esq
Harrisburg Penna

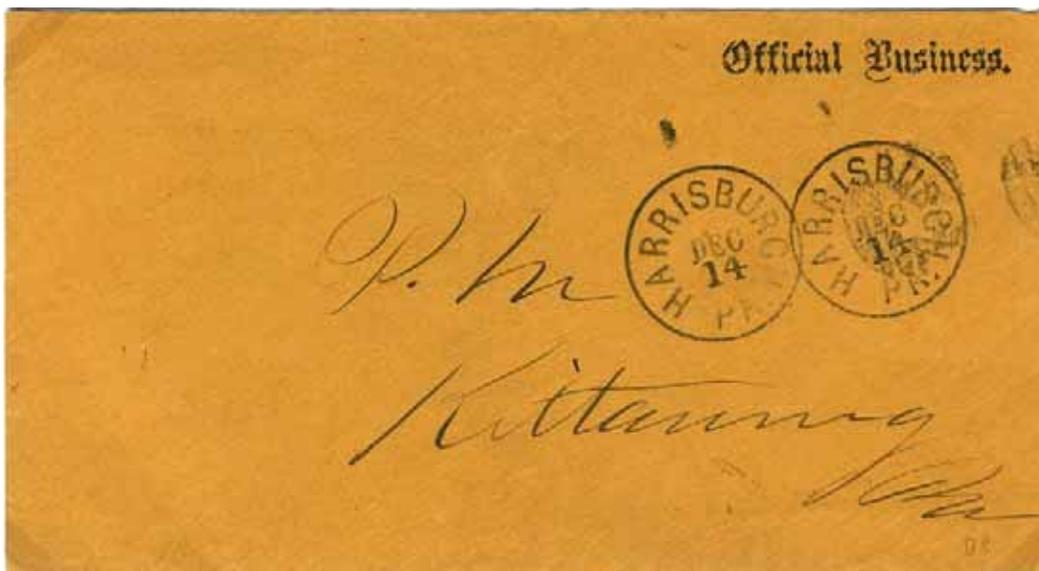
Stamp here the office and date of delivery

Received the above described letter.

Sign here } James P. Barr
per Am. Marier



Return receipt with covering envelope, 1865. Early example, with simple official envelope. For registered letter from Kittanning (PA) to Harrisburg.



Forms with their covering envelope

RETURN REGISTERED-LETTER RECEIPT.

NOTE. This return receipt, after being signed by the party to whom the letter or package which accompanies it is delivered, must be immediately inclosed to the Postmaster at the office where it originated.
Should the registered letter not be delivered, this receipt must be forwarded with it, in due course, to the Dead-Letter Office.

No. 2 Oct 6, 1876.

Mailed at Clear Creek Chaut Co NY
by A Saunders
a letter addressed to Thornton & Bro
Girard Pa

Stamp here the office and date of delivery.

Received the above-described letter.

Sign here. } Thornton Brothers



New York–Pennsylvania, 1876. Official post office stamp issued 1873. Registered letter #2 (numbering restarted every quarter) from Clear Creek (NY) to Girard (PA).

Reg. Bus.

PA.

Postmaster, Clear Creek

County, NY

OFFICIAL.

This Envelope is to be used only for Post-Office Business.



Forms with their covering envelope

RETURN REGISTERED-LETTER RECEIPT.

NOTE.—This return receipt, after being signed by the party to whom the letter or package which accompanies it is delivered, must be immediately inclosed to the Postmaster at the office where it originated.

Should the registered letter not be delivered, this receipt must be forwarded with it, in due course, to the Dead-Letter Office.

No. 2 Aug 8th, 1878.

Mailed at Sullivan Co Pa
by C. W. Palmer
a letter addressed to Lyman Brown
49 Warren St New York

Stamp here the office and date of delivery.

Received the above-described letter.

Lyman Brown
Sign }
here } Wm. J. McDonald

NEW YORK, N.Y.
AUG 10 1878

Sullivan (PA) to New York, 1878. For registered letter #2.

Registered Business.

NEW YORK
AUG 12 1878
2 30 PM

OFFICIAL
3
POSTAGE

Postmaster, Sullivan

Topi **County,**

OFFICIAL.
This Envelope is to be used only for
Post-Office Business.

PO

Registration and return receipts for a registered letter

This blank is to be filled up at the mailing office and given to the person who presents the letter for registration.

RECEIPT FOR A REGISTERED LETTER.

No. 9081 **MAY 28 1879** **REGISTERED.** 1879

Post Office, _____ Received _____

of *Mary Demobla*

a letter addressed to *Mrs W. P. Demobla*

Galena Ind *Galena Ind* P. M.

RETURN REGISTERED-LETTER RECEIPT.

Notice.—This return receipt, after being signed by the party to whom the letter or package which accompanies it is delivered, must be immediately inclosed to the Postmaster at the office where it originated.
Should the registered letter not be delivered, this receipt must be forwarded with it, in due course, to the Post-Office.

No. 9081 **MAY 20 1879** **REGISTERED.** 1879

Mailed at _____

by *Mary Demobla*

a letter addressed to *Mrs W. P. Demobla*

Galena Ind

Stamp here the office and date of delivery.

Received the above-described letter.

Sign here. } *Mrs W. P. Demobla*

Return receipt & receipt forms, June 1879. Showing how forms were situated in post office pad.

For a registered letter Philadelphia to Galena (PA). Both filled out when registered letter was mailed; RRR form was then attached to the letter, & later returned under cover after being signed by the recipient.

Registered cover with accompanying R R R form

Despite the ubiquity of R R R forms, this is the only known example of a domestic U S registered cover with its R R R form. For most registered covers, it is probably true that the forms were sent separately (not attached) to the destination post office.



New York to Jefferson Valley (NY), 1869. Postage of 3¢ domestic plus 15¢ registration (rate commenced January 1869). Both cover and form refer to registration number 740. Form had been attached by glue.

The item had not been signed for on the form—usually this means non-delivery—but here there are no return-to-sender marks. We conclude that the item was delivered but the attached form was ignored.

RETURN REGISTERED LETTER RECEIPT.	
<small>NOTE.—This return receipt, after being signed by the party to whom the letter or package which accompanies it is delivered, must be immediately enclosed to the Postmaster at the office where it originated. Should the registered letter not be delivered, this receipt must be forwarded with it, in due course, to the Dead Letter Office.</small>	
No. <u>740</u>	NEW YORK, <u>186</u>
Mailed at _____	DEC 22
by <u>Geo F. Hartman</u>	<u>383 N. 37</u>
a letter addressed to <u>John Griffin</u>	
	<u>Jeff. Valley N. Y.</u>
Stamp here the office and date of delivery.	Received the above described letter.
Sign } here. }	

RRR cards introduced 1879

The thin paper forms were replaced by cards ca June–September 1879 (this applied to many other official forms as well); these were mailed as post cards, not under cover. Forms are known used as late as 1881.

The form and card below, returned from Fargo (Dakota Territory), bracket the changeover.

RETURN REGISTERED-LETTER RECEIPT.

NOTE.—This return receipt, after being signed by the party to whom the letter or package which accompanies it is delivered, must be immediately inclosed to the Postmaster at the office where it originated.
Should the registered letter not be delivered, this receipt must be forwarded with it, in due course, to the Dead-Letter Office.

No. 111 Sept. 16, 1879.

Mailed at Atwater Postage Co Ohio

by P. M. H.

a letter addressed to J. G. Wood

Trainer - Cass & Park

Stamp here the office and date of delivery.

FARGO
SEP
20
1879
D.A.C.

Received the above-described letter.

Sign here. } A. Harwood

Generic RRR form, September 1879. For a registered letter from Atwater (OH) to Fargo.

When the registered letter or parcel accompanying this card is delivered, the Postmaster will require signature to the receipt on the other side, also on his record of registered deliveries, and mail this card without cover to address below.
A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law for using this card for other than official business.

Post Office Department.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS. Post Office at Atwater

RETURN TO:

Name of Sender P. M. H.

Street and Number, or Post Office Box. } Atwater

Post Office at Postage

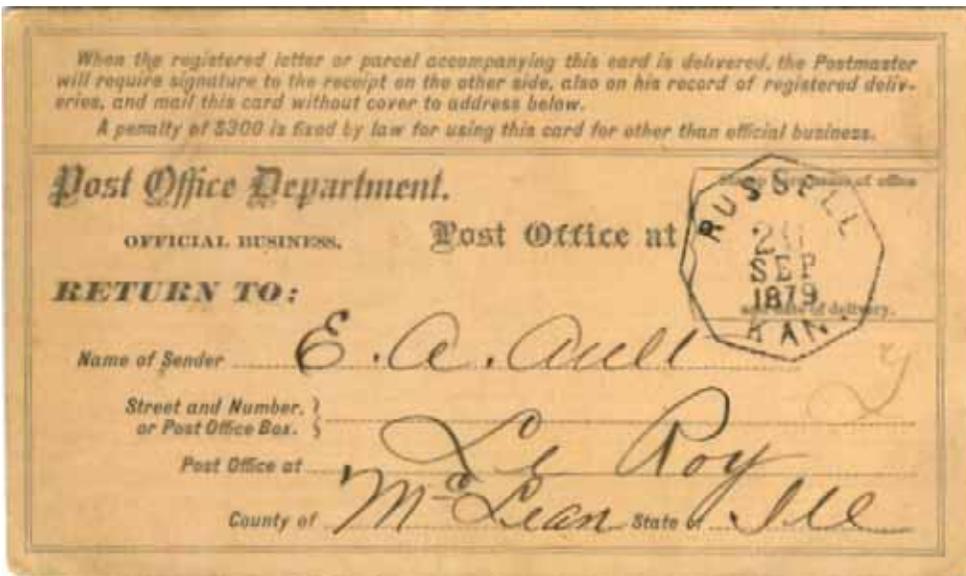
County of Portage State of Ohio

Stamp here the name of post office and date of delivery.

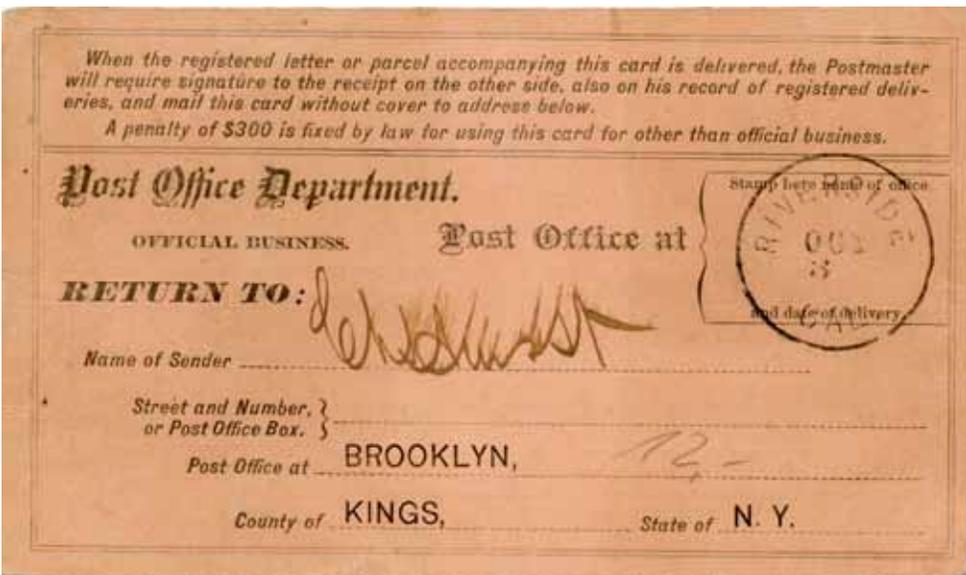
ATWATER
SEP
30
1879
D.A.C.

Generic RRR card, March 1881. Part of the same correspondence.

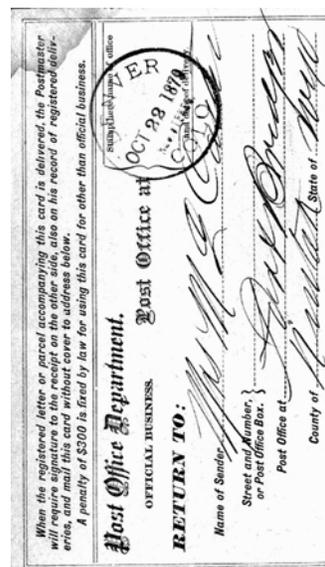
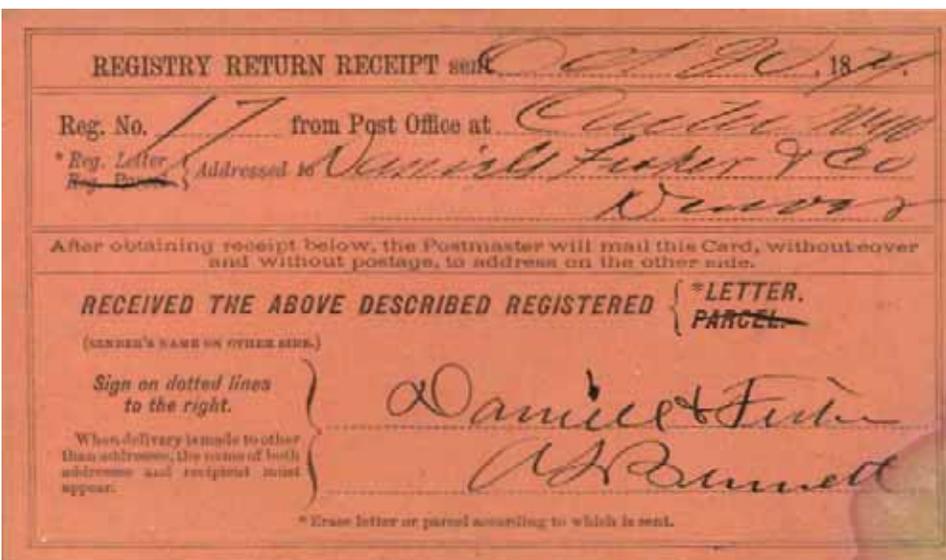
Early uses of R R R cards



Earliest known R R R card, 16 September 1879. For a registered letter from LeRoy (IL) to Russell (KS).



Brooklyn to Riverside (CA), 3 October 1879. Second earliest known R R R card. Printed for Brooklyn. *Reg. Letter is struck through, and replaced by *Reg. Parcel; use for parcels is quite a bit more difficult to find. Courtesy of Les Lanphear



New York state to Denver, 22 October 1879.

Parcel, not letter

While the generic R R R card offered a choice of registered letter or parcel, very few were parcels (far less than 1%). Here are two such, one very early, and the other from the Dayton correspondence (seller of religious artefacts).

When the registered letter or parcel accompanying this card is delivered, the Postmaster will require signature to the receipt on the other side, also on his record of registered deliveries, and mail this card without cover to address below.
A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law for using this card for other than official business.

Post Office Department.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS. Post Office at

Stamp here name of post office
JAN 10
and date of delivery.

RETURN TO: [Signature]

Name of Sender _____
Street and Number, }
or Post Office Box. }

Post Office at BROOKLYN, 1880
County of Kings, State of New York

REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT

Reg. No. [Signature]

~~*Reg. Letter~~ } Addressed to [Signature]
Reg. Parcel }

Brooklyn to La Prairie (TX), 2 January 1880. Printed card for Brooklyn. *Reg. Letter is struck through, and replaced by Reg. Parcel.

NOV 27 1896

REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT sent _____, 189 .

Reg. No. 1220 From Post Office at DAYTON, OHIO.

*Reg. ~~Letter~~ } Addressed to Madam J C Gough
Reg. Parcel } Post Office at Grand Coteau La

After obtaining receipt below, the Postmaster will mail this Card, without cover and without postage, to address on the other side.

RECEIVED THE ABOVE DESCRIBED REGISTERED ~~LETTER.~~
PARCEL.

(SENDER'S NAME ON OTHER SIDE.)

Sign on dotted lines to the right. } [Signature]

When delivery is made to other than addressee, the name of both addressee and recipient must appear.

* Erase letter or parcel according to which is sent.

Reg. No. 1220

*Reg. ~~Letter~~ } Addressed to [Signature]
Reg. Parcel }

For a registered parcel from Dayton to Grand Coteau (LA), 1896. Letter is struck through twice. Reverse shown below, along with corresponding registration receipt.

When the registered letter or parcel accompanying this card is delivered, the Postmaster will require signature to the receipt on the other side, also on his record of registered deliveries, and mail this card without cover to address below.
A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law for using this card for other than official business.

Post Office Department.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS. Post Office at

RETURN TO: [Signature]

Name of Sender _____
Street and Number, }
or Post Office Box. }

Post Office at DAYTON,
County of Montgomery, State of Ohio.

DAYTON, OHIO.

Registered Letter (No. 1220 1167
Parcel)
Received _____, 1896, from
[Signature]

addressed to Madam J C Gough
Grand Coteau La

J. C. Ely, P. M., per B

This space is reserved on counterpart for particulars connected with disposition of registered piece.

Registered cover returned with its RRR card (1888)

Only a few known pre-1910



Dakota Territory, Department of the Interior, returned to sender, with card, 1888. **Rated** 10¢ registration (no domestic fee required from Government offices). No indication of RRR, as this was automatic.



Unclear whether attached or sent separately. Registration #599 as on cover.

Noted in the docketing, Address him at Woodstock, Ontario, and on reverse:

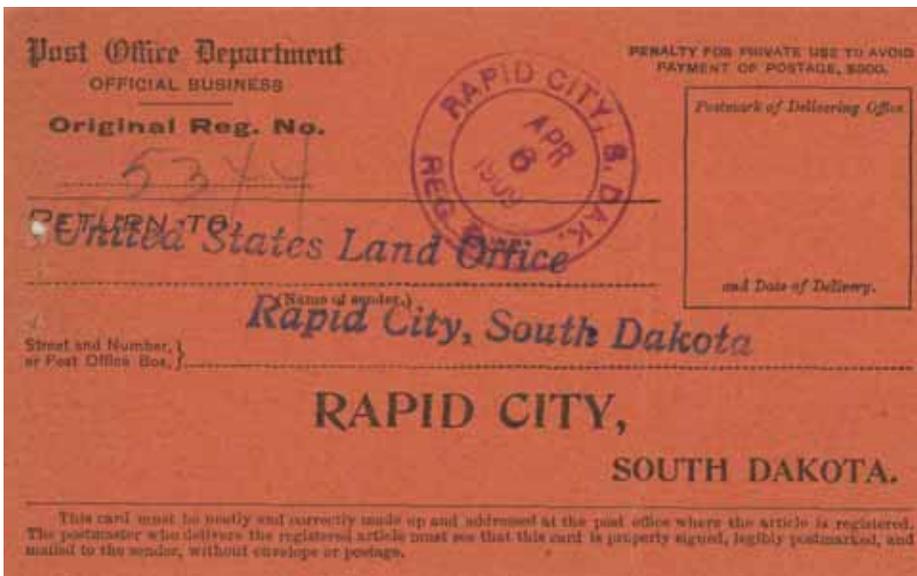
Party addressed left this County over four years ago. His present address was noted on other side.

A FOLSOM, P. M.
W. F. S. Asst.

Registered cover returned with its RRR card (1909)



Penalty cover, Rapid City–Gregory (SD), returned to sender, 1909. **Rated** 8¢ registration fee (no domestic fee from government offices). Original registration number is 5344 horizontally in pencil at left. Private handstamp: State date of delivery of letter on return mail (?)



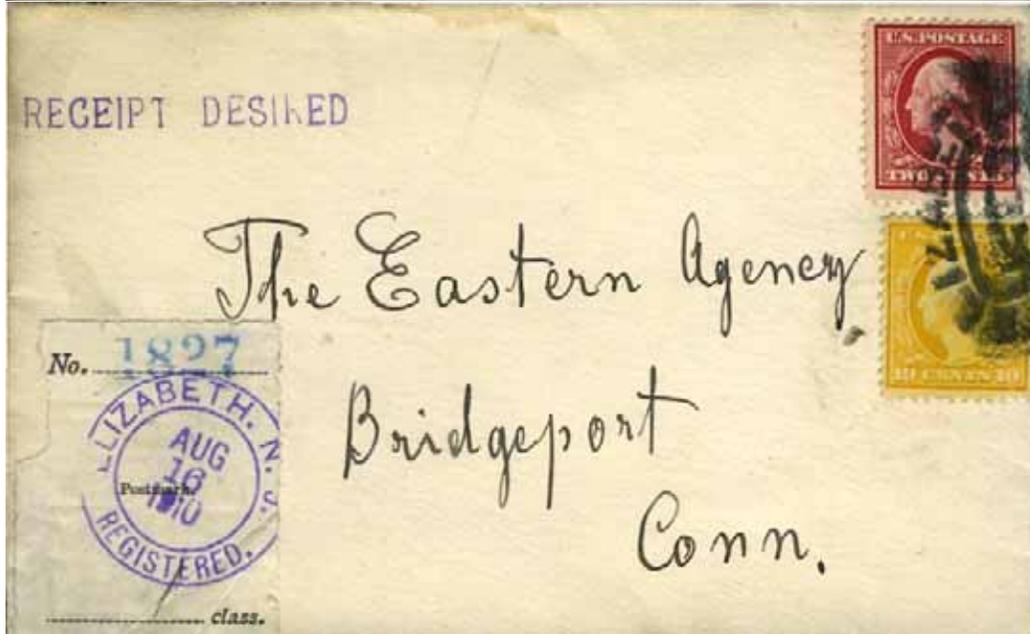
Refers to same registration number. Card attached by staples. Necessarily unsigned.

RRR becomes optional, 1910



11 July 1910, RRR became a (free) option; RRR or equivalent (official term: *return receipt demanded* until the 1920s; variants exist) had to be endorsed or stamped.

Philly-NY, 18 July 1910. Earliest normal domestic RRR-endorsed cover. Rated 10¢ reg'n & 2¢ domestic. A.R. hs usually applied to international mail. After January 1911, dated handstamps to be on reverse of reg'd letters. Perfins of Southern Railway.



Elizabeth (NJ)—Bridgeport (CN), 16 August 1910. Third earliest normal RRR-endorsed cover. Rated as above. Odd wording: RECEIPT DESIRED. Experimental registration label (1907–1910), unrecorded at Elizabeth.



Boston—Amherst, 26 August 1910. Rated as above. Tiny Return Receipt Demanded hs. No backstamps.



Registration stamp (F1) introduced

Only U.S. registration stamp; issued December 1911-13. Never demonetized; could be used only for registration fee. First month of use example appears in the official section.

Quintuple rate, 1915. Rated 10¢ registration and five times 2¢ per ounce domestic. Endorsed Registered receipt asked for. Norway Lake (ME)-Cape Elizabeth.



Registered - Norway Lake
Albin

Ms registration marking, Norway Lake.



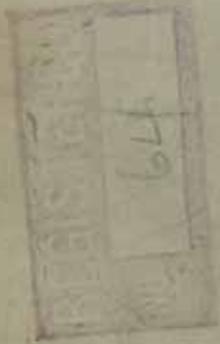
Special delivery, F1, 1913. Rated 10¢ registration, 10¢ special delivery, and 2¢ domestic—one stamp per postal service. From Salt Lake City (UT) to Berkeley (CA).

Between small towns in Ohio, 1912. From Williamsfield to Kinsman (where F1 was datestamped).



FROM
SPITZER, RORICK & CO.,
5 NASSAU STREET,
NEW YORK CITY

5049



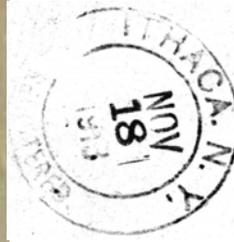
Mr. Jared Y. Newman
Savings Bank Building
Ithaca, N. Y.



Quadruple with parcel post stamp

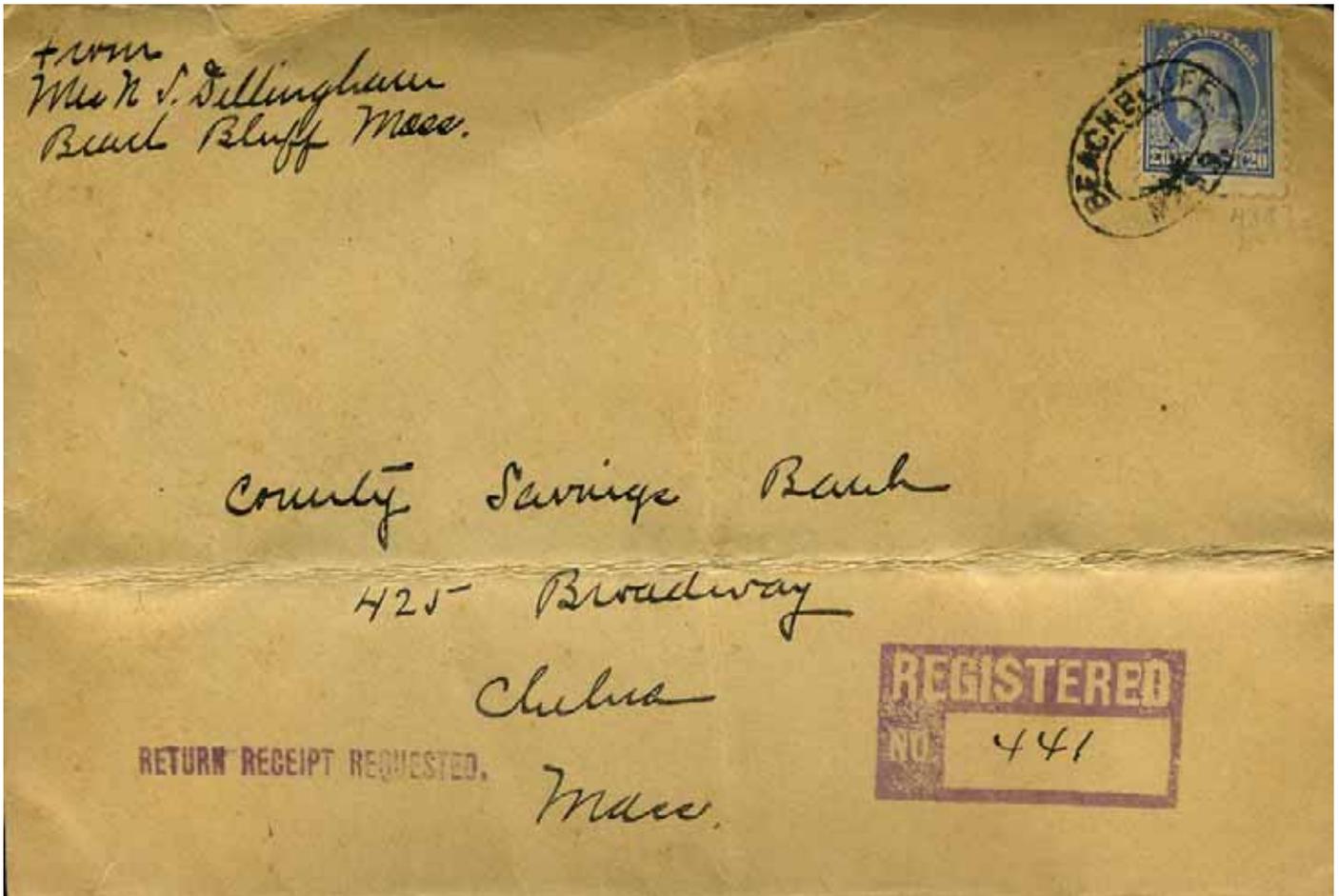
Shortly after their issue, parcel post stamps were authorized to pay any portion of postage.

New York to Ithaca, 1913. Rated 10¢ registration, and quadruple 2¢ domestic.



RETURN RECEIPT DEMANDED.

Quintuple with solo stamp



Beach Bluff-Chelsea (MA), 1916. Single 20¢ Franklin (perf 10, issued 1914-15) paying 10¢ registration fee and quintuple 2¢ per ounce domestic rate. Heavy card envelope. Same day service.



Rates change, 15 April 1925

Domestic R R R (formerly a free option) became 3¢, and registration increased to 15¢ from 10¢.



Second day of rate, triple, Concord to New York, 16 April 1925. **Rated** 15¢ registration, 3¢ R R R fee, and triple 2¢ domestic. As is often the case, stamp paying the R R R fee is on the left.

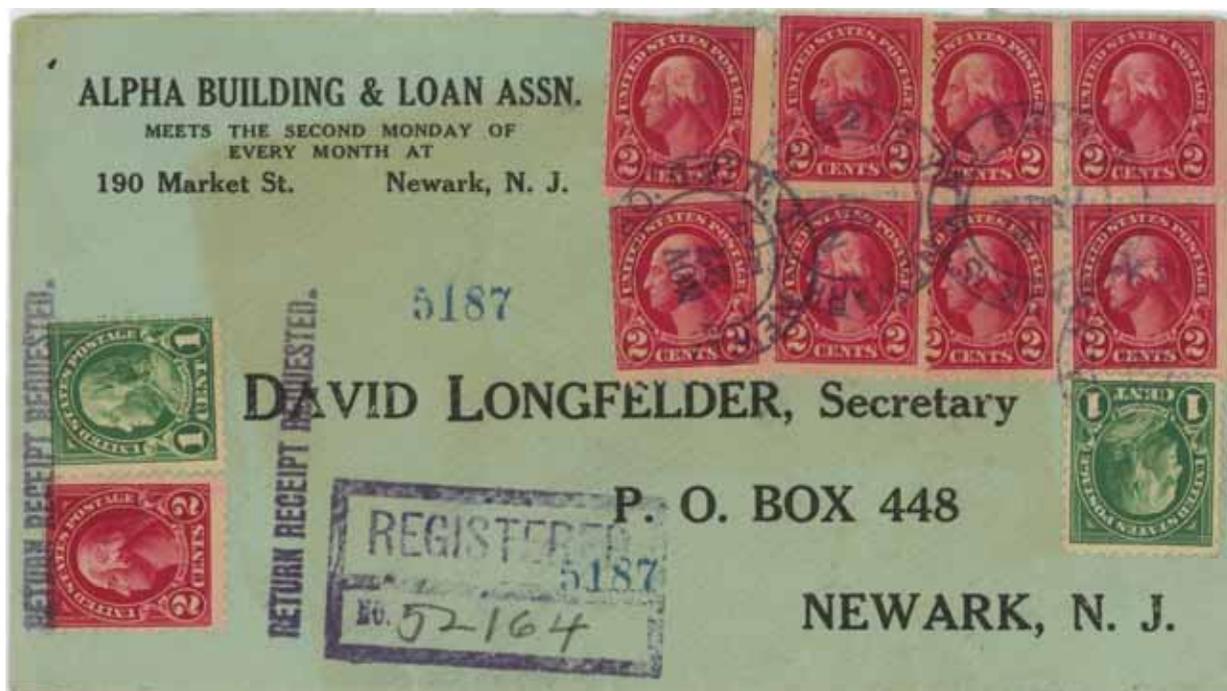


Original date on Concord handstamps is **APR 15 1925** (which would have been first day of rate!), corrected with **16**. Xmas seals (1923).

1925



New York drop letter, March 1925 (before the rate change). Four-line handstamp. Rated 10¢ registration, 2¢ drop letter, no charge for R R R.



Newark drop letter, November 1925. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ R R R, and 2¢ drop letter. Incorrectly with dated handstamp on the front of the cover.

Paid the hard way

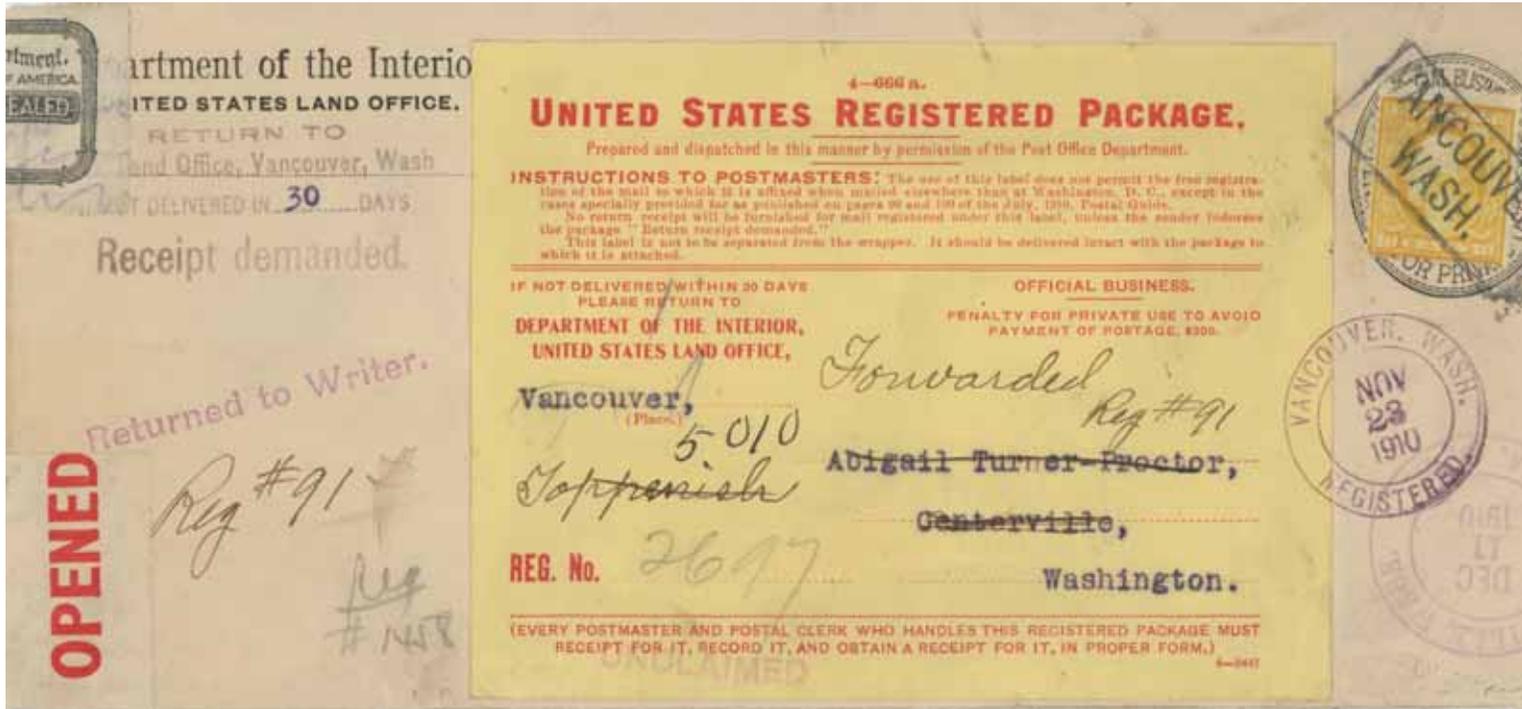


Chicago–Washington, November 1925. Very unusual medallion RETURN RECEIPT DEMANDED handstamp (private?), and Return Receipt Requested / Fee Paid. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, and 2¢ domestic.



Penalty mail

From offices outside DC, payment of the registration fee was compulsory, but domestic postage was free. When RRR became chargeable in 1925, its payment was also required on official mail.



Department of the Interior, Vancouver (WA)—Centerville, returned to sender, opened, officially sealed, returned to sender, 1910. Hand-stamped Receipt demanded. Registration fee paid by 10¢ stamp. Very unusually for small first class mail, registered package label applied; presumably, this was done in order to correct the address. Official seal goes around the reverse.



Department of the Interior, Los Angeles local, returned to sender, 1913. Handstamped Return Receipt Requested. Registration fee paid by registration stamp.

Postal savings system

The postal savings system (part of the post office) issued stamps & stationery (June 1910), rather than use penalty envelopes, possibly as an accounting measure. Their use was discontinued in 1914.



Postal savings bank to postmaster, December 1911. Drop letter mailed from Watsonville (CA) to its postmaster. Rated 10¢ registration and 2¢ domestic. With official Postal Savings stamps (O121 or O125, issued February or May 1911) and stationery (UO72, 1911).



U. S. REGISTERED PACKAGE.

Prepared and Dispatched in this manner by permission of the Post Office Department.

INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTMASTERS: The use of this Envelope does not permit the free registration of matter mailed elsewhere than at Washington, D. C., except in cases specially provided for as published on page 13 of the August, 1909, Postal Guide. No return receipt will be furnished for mail registered under cover of this Envelope, unless the sender indorses the envelope "Return receipt demanded." This Envelope is not to be separated from its enclosures. It must be delivered intact without opening.

3-1750

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF PENSIONS



373 Mahoning
Mr William H Morgan,
290 West Front St.,
Youngstown,
Mahoning Co Ohio.

611 Broadway
525 North

Reg. No. 582,080. 8063

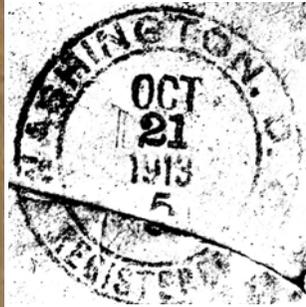
(EVERY POSTMASTER AND POSTAL CLERK WHO HANDLES THIS REGISTERED PACKAGE MUST RECEIPT FOR IT, RECORD IT, AND OBTAIN A RECEIPT FOR IT, IN PROPER FORM.)

RETURN RECEIPT DEMANDED

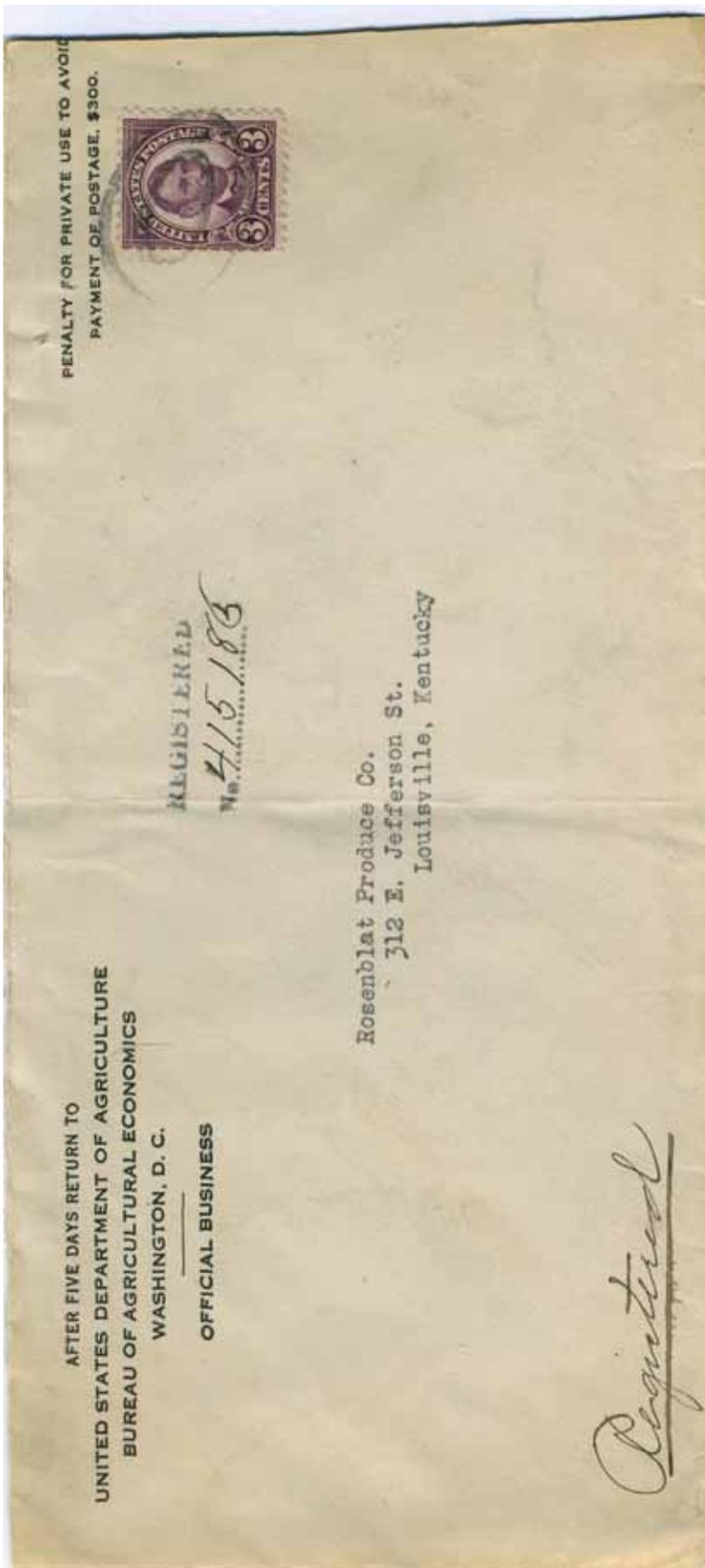
Mailed from Washington

Exempt from registration fee (in addition to domestic fee) if mailed from a government office in Washington. Payment of the R R R fee (after 1925) was still required.

Official package, DC-Youngstown (OH), 1913. Printed RETURN RECEIPT DEMANDED



From DC



Department of Agriculture, Washington—Louisville, 1930. No RRRhs or endorsements; however, 3¢ stamp pays for this service (a card would have been attached to the envelope), as the Dept of Agriculture was exempt from regular postage.



Treasury Department, Washington—Cleveland, 1926.



RETURN RECEIPT DEMANDED

U. S. REGISTERED PACKAGE.

Prepared and Dispatched in this manner by permission of the Post Office Department.

INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTMASTERS: The use of this Envelope does not permit the free registration of matter mailed elsewhere than at Washington, D. C., except in the cases specially provided for in Section 878 P. L. and Reg. 1913. No return receipt will be furnished for mail registered under cover of this Envelope, unless the sender indorses the envelope "Return receipt demanded." This Envelope is not to be separated from its enclosures. It must be delivered intact without opening.

3-1759

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF PENSIONS

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Forwarded

Mr. James J. Mc Inerney

(Co. C, 1st So. Dak. Inf.)

National Military Home.

Leavenworth, Kansas



Reg. No. 580,695

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

*Advise correspondents of your
publishers of your
correct address*

(EVERY POSTMASTER AND POSTAL CLERK WHO HANDLES THIS REGISTERED PACKAGE MUST RECEIPT FOR IT, RECORD IT,
AND OBTAIN A RECEIPT FOR IT, IN PROPER FORM.)

From DC

Covering envelope from Washington, 1928. Only the 3¢ R R R fee is chargeable, since the package is from Washington.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

579 708

Pioneer Trust & Savings Bank,
Guardian of Peter Jack,
4000 W. North Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

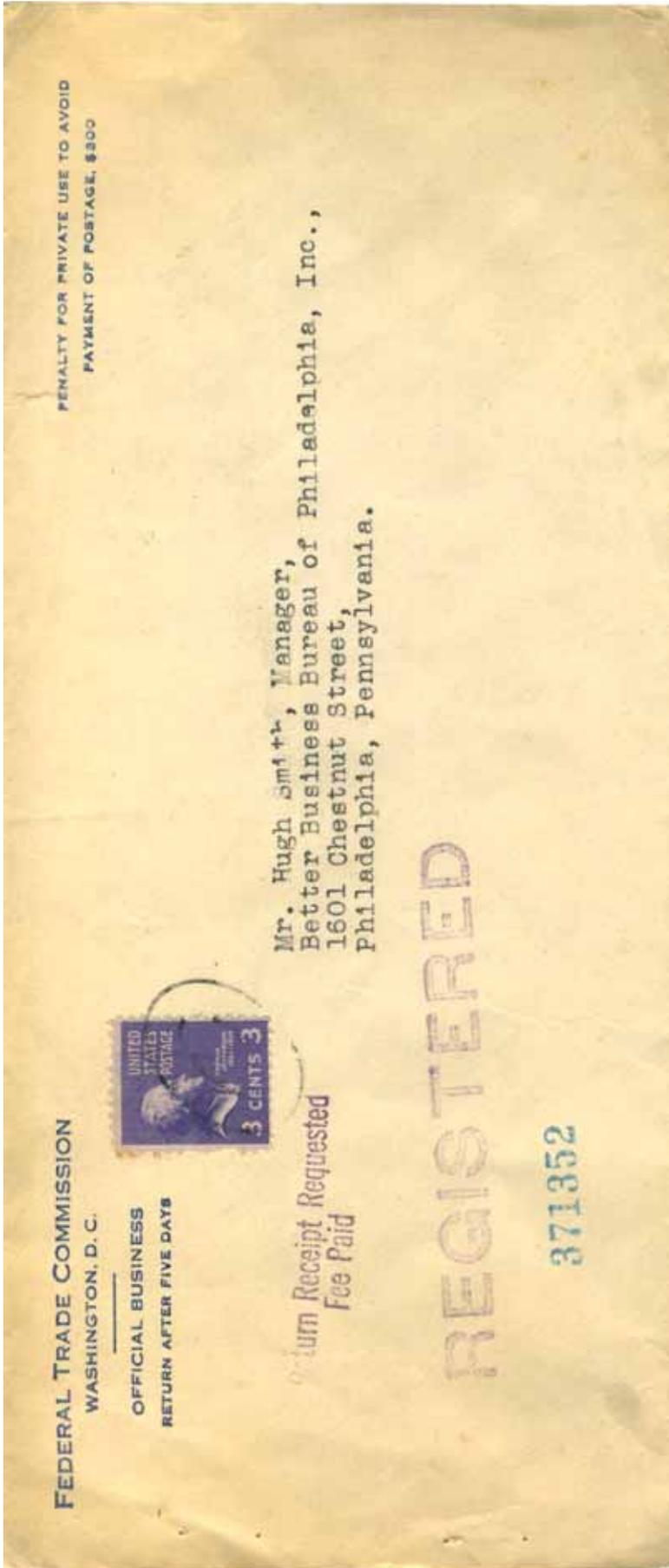


From DC

Veterans administration to Chicago, 1936.



From DC



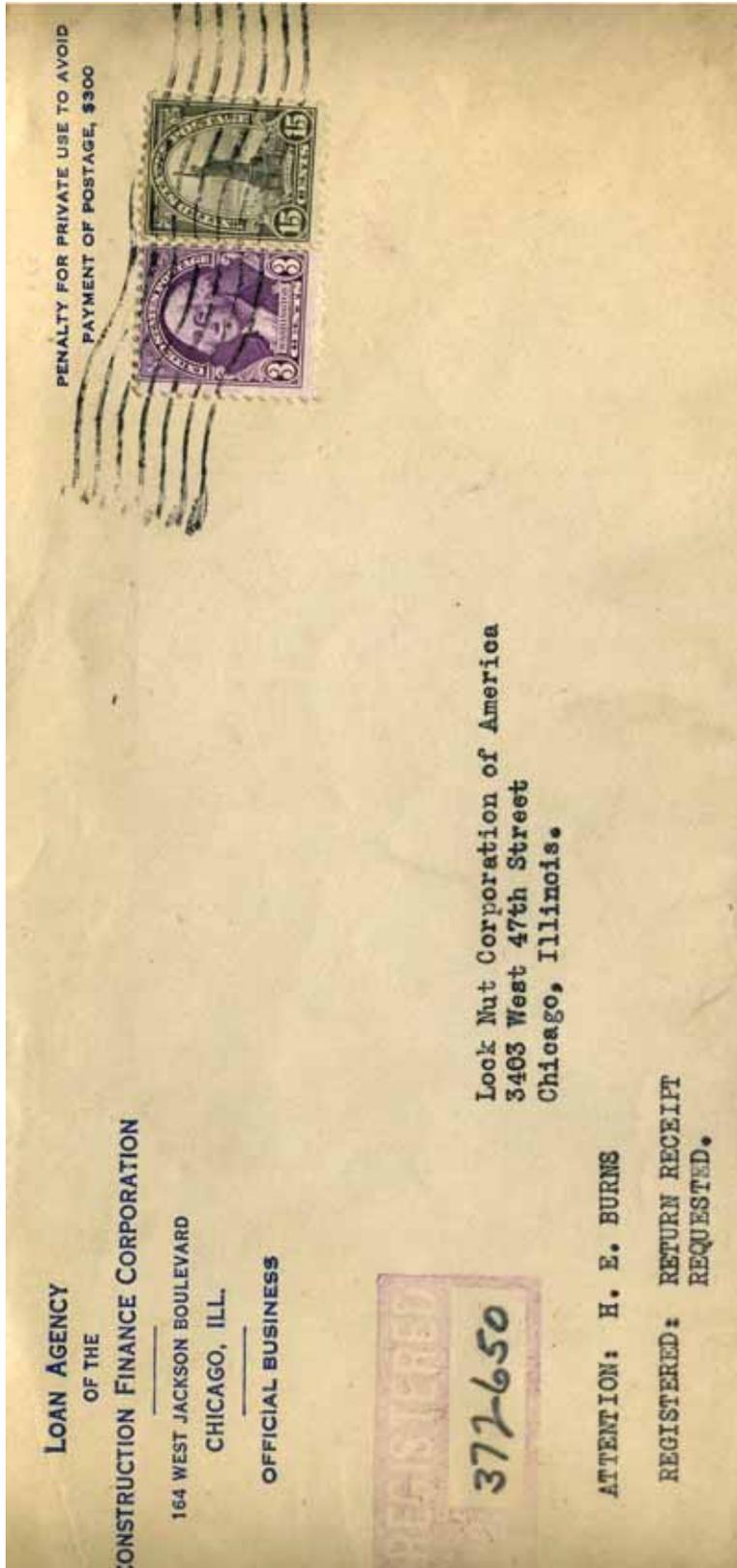
Federal Trade Commission, to Philadelphia 1939.
Rated 3¢ RRR.



Price Adjustment board—Springfield (VT), August 1944.
RRR fee rose to 4¢ in March 1944.

From outside DC

Although exempt from domestic fee, federal government mail from outside DC required payment of registration and R R R fees.



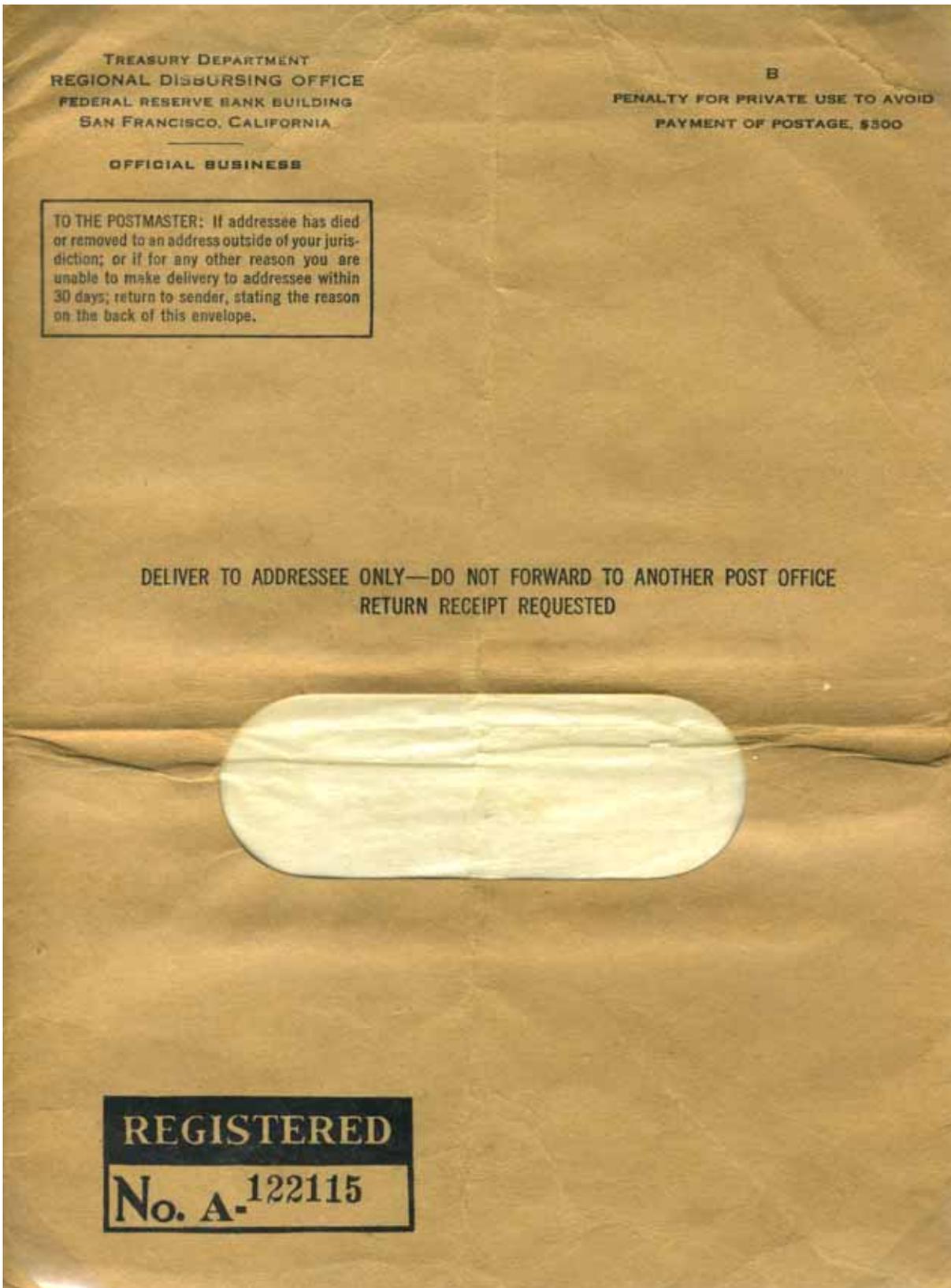
Chicago drop letter, 1936. Rated 15¢ registration fee and 3¢ R R R.



Office of Censorship, Seattle-New Orleans, 1942. Rated as at left.

An exception that *tests* the rule

Registration was free, but domestic rate, R R R, and restricted delivery should have been charged.



No postage,
San Francisco to ??, 1936.
Violates rules: R R R
must always be paid,
and gov't offices out-
side DC pay for reg-
istration.

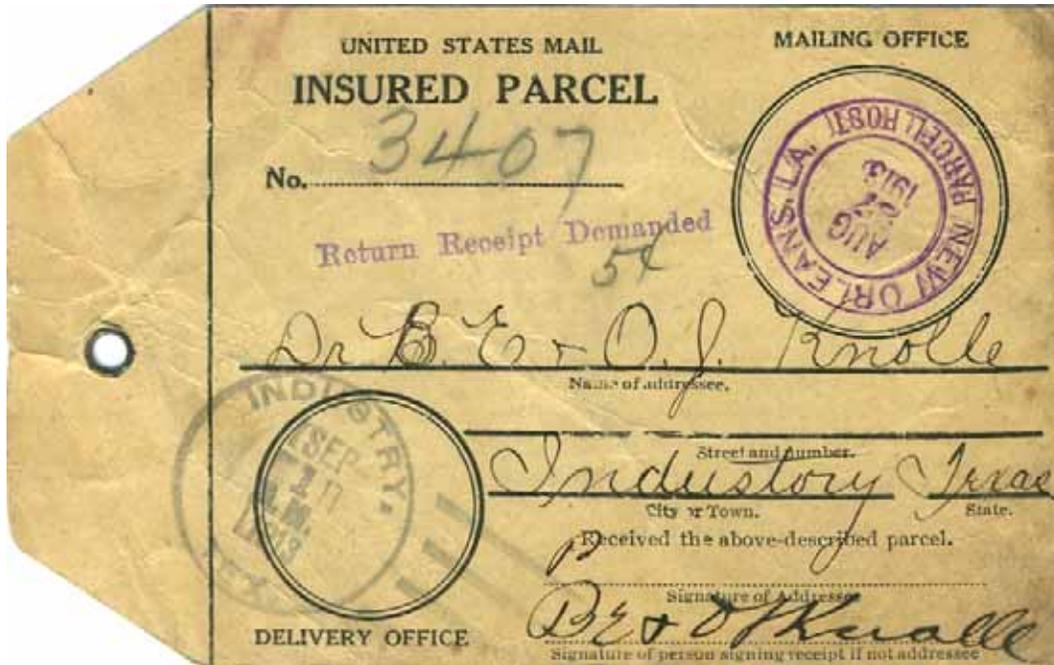
Restricted delivery
(addressee only) also
requested; should be
additional 10¢ charge.

San Francisco reg'n
section datestamp on
reverse—this cover
did go through the mail.



Insured parcel post with RRR

Insurance on domestic parcel post was introduced 1 January 1913, and immediately RRR service was available. The RRR fees are exactly the same as those on registered mail. Insured parcel post mail with RRR is seldom seen.



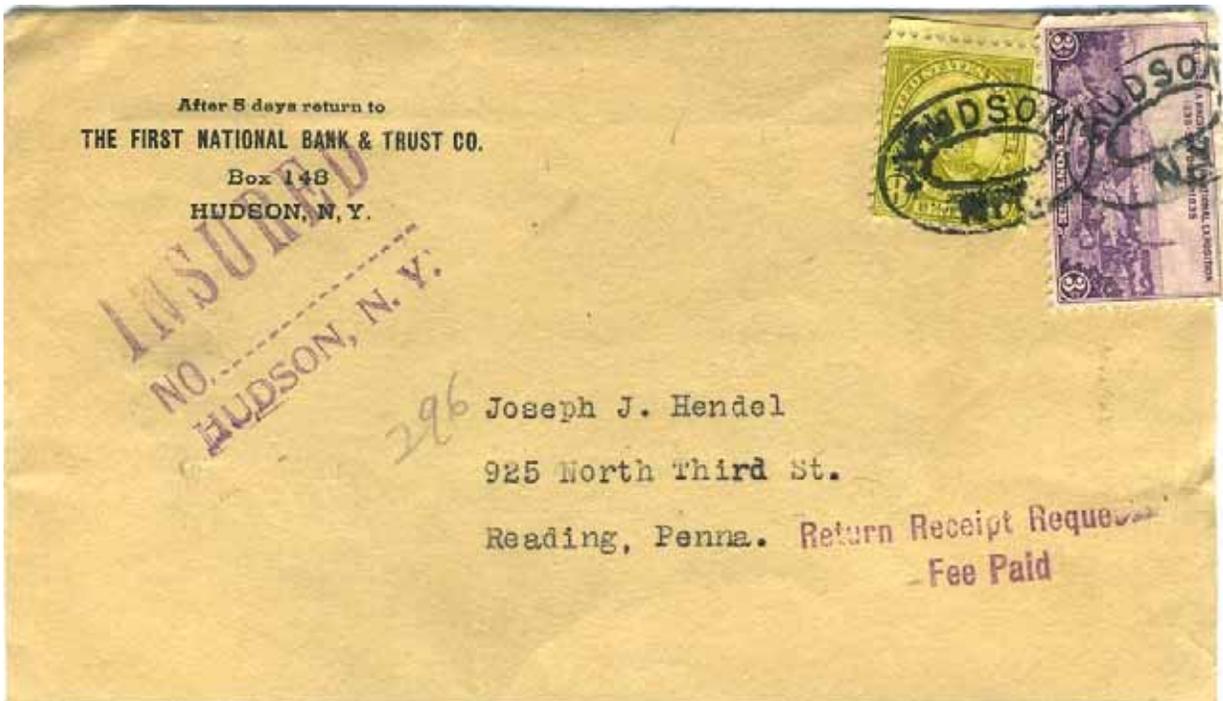
Official parcel tag, New Orleans–Industry (LA), 1913. Rated 5¢ insurance (RRR was free). Stamps would have been applied to the sender's mail tag.



Parcel tag, Mount Vernon (NY)–Alliance (OH), 1914–25. Rated 5¢ parcel post and 5¢ insurance. The stamps were issued beginning in 1914, and these rates applied until 1925. Parcel post did not require dated postmarks.

Insured third and fourth class/parcel post with RRR

Insurance was also available on third and fourth class mail. Above eight ounces, fourth class mail was referred to as parcel post. Low survival rates make these difficult to find.

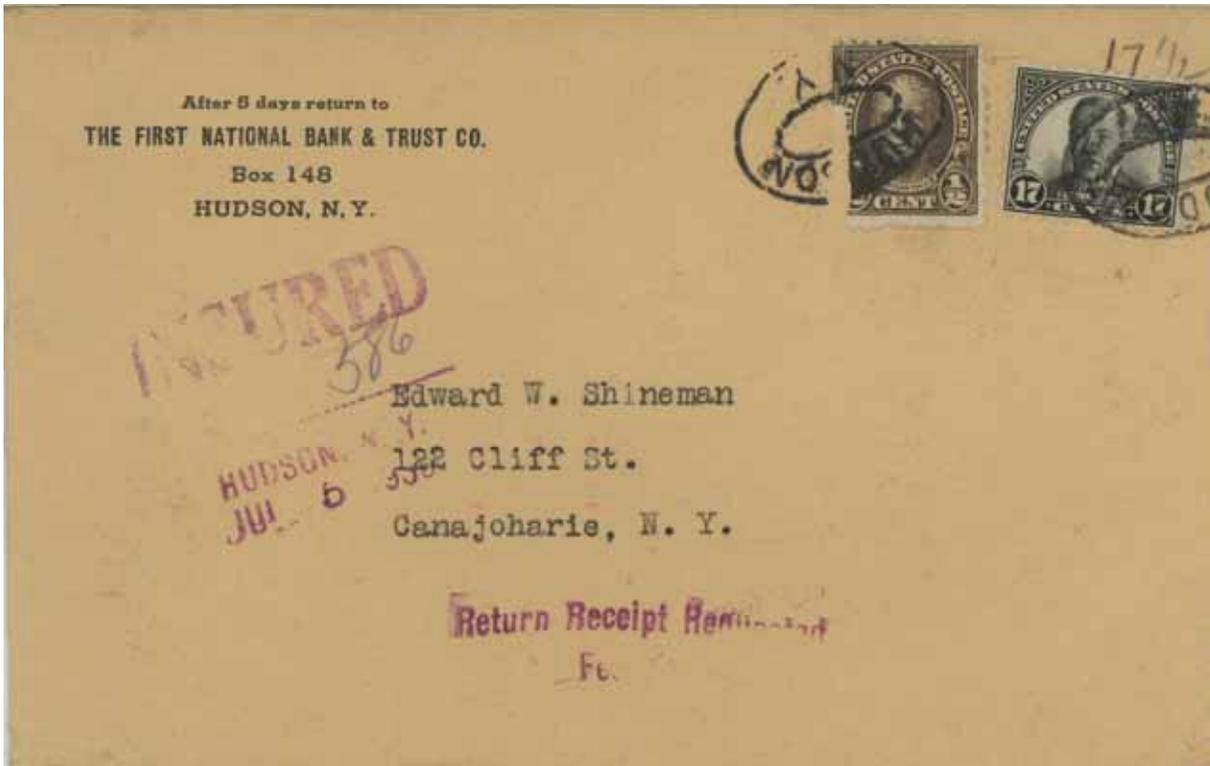


Double third class, Hudson (NY)–Reading (PA), ca 1935. Small complete clasp envelope. **Rated** double third class (at 1½¢ per two ounces, in effect 1925–49), minimal insurance (under \$5) 5¢ (1925–44), & RRR fee 3¢ (1925–44). Dumb killers & no backstamps, typical of third class mail. Right stamp issued 1935.



Portion of wrapper containing 16-pound parcel, between quartermasters, 1942. **Rated** parcel post four zones (Detroit–New York) at 10¢ first pound and 3½¢ each additional; minimal insurance 5¢, and RRR fee 3¢, totalling 70½¢, overpaid by a half cent (sender likely could not find ½¢ Prexy). Weight marked 16 #.

Insured



Probably third class, Hudson to Canajoharie (NY), post-April 1925. Complete clasp envelope. **Rated** 10¢ insurance up to \$50), 3¢ RRR fee, and triple 1½¢ third class per two ounces (this is the only rate combination that fits).



Printed matter (third class), Boston to somewhere else in Massachusetts, 1943. Despite the datestamp, this contained printed matter (unsealed), and was eligible for the third class rate. **Rated** 5¢ (minimum) insurance (up to \$5), 3¢ RRR fee, and 1½¢ third class (up to two ounces).

(8) 124



World Wide Travel

To

218 Vance Bldg

Seattle Wn



CONTENTS—BOOK

Postmaster: This parcel may be opened for postal inspection if necessary.

From

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY
AT AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY
1209 FOURTH AVE.

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

INSURED

MINIMUM FEE

RETURN RECEIPT REQUIRED
FEE PAID

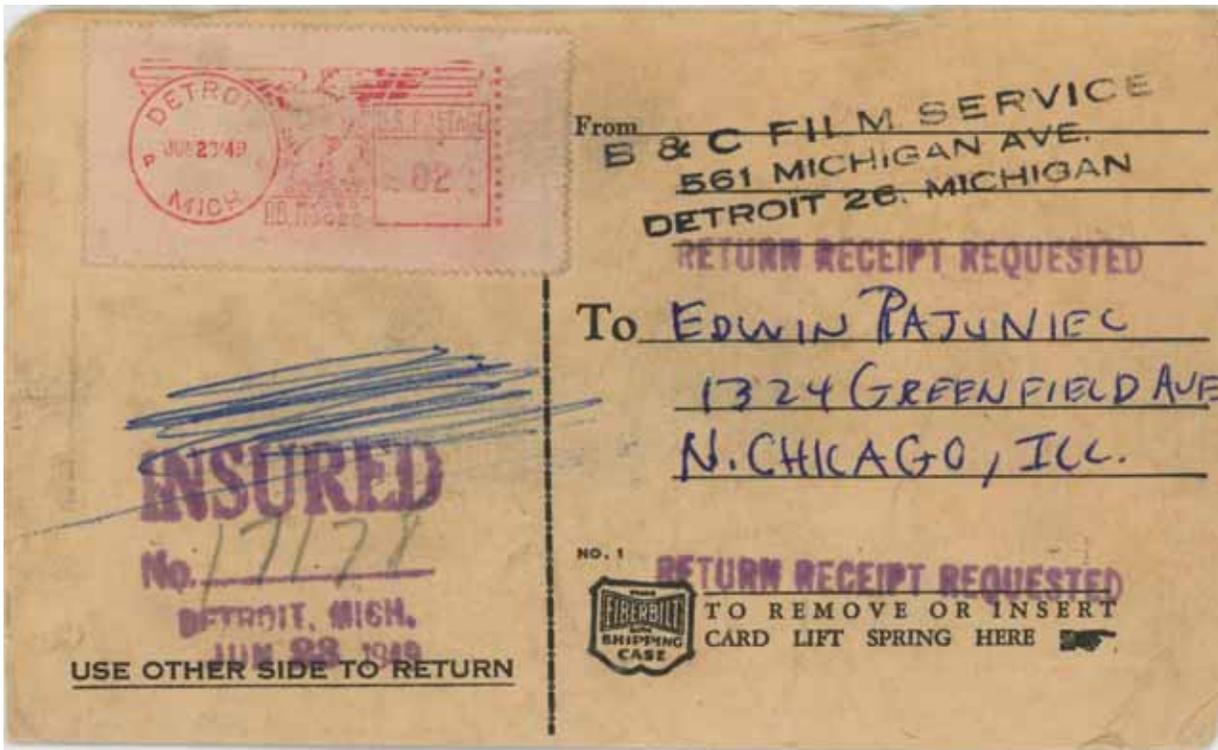
Insured book with RRR

Local third class (printed matter), Seattle, 1945.

Rated 4¢ RRR fee, minimum 3¢ insurance (covers up to \$5), and single rate third class 1½¢ (less than two ounces).

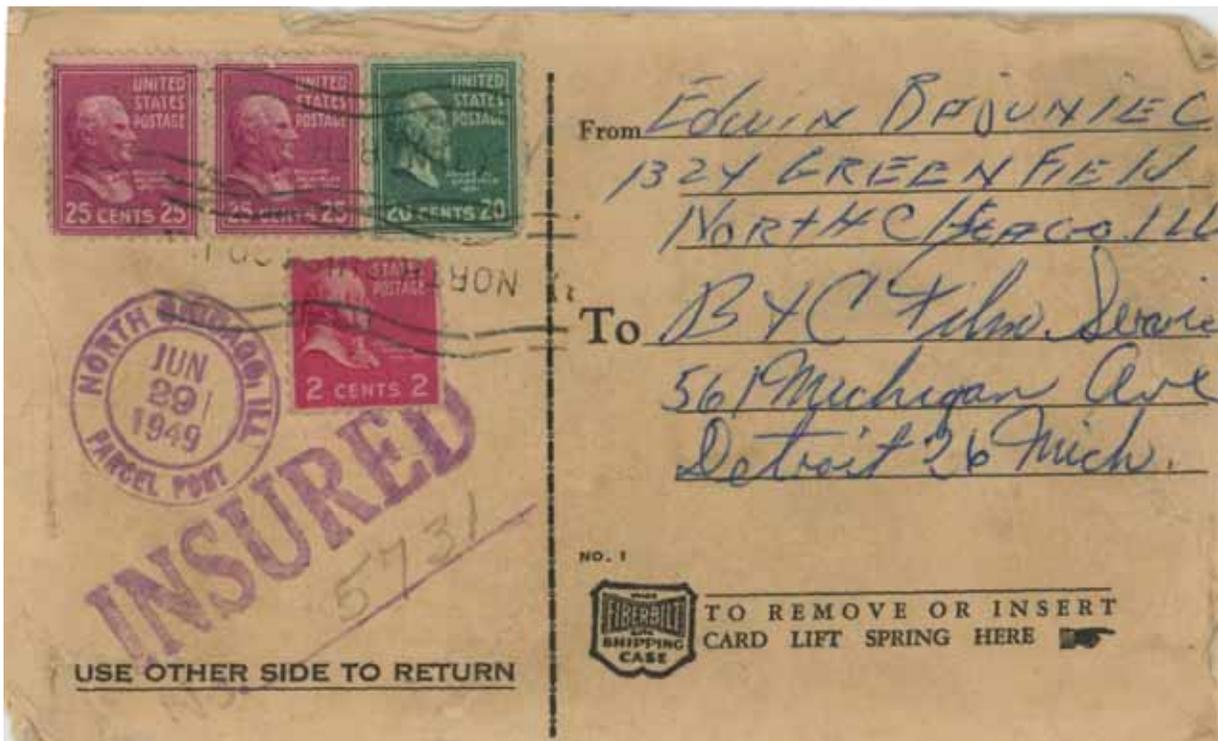
Insured parcel post with RRR

This is a double card, intended to be attached to a parcel, and then attached to a returning parcel. Only the outgoing parcel was sent with RRR.



Parcel post, Detroit–North Chicago, 23 June 1949. Zone 3 (150–300 miles). RRR fee, 3¢ (from 1 January 1949). Without additional information, it is impossible to decide between the following possibilities to make up the remaining 77¢:

- (a) 20¢ insurance (covering up to \$50), and 16 lb (or part thereof), at 13¢ for the first pound, 3¢ per additional pound up to ten pounds (thus $9 \times 3¢$), and 2.8¢ per pound over ten;
- (b) 15¢ insurance (covering up to \$25), and 18 lb.



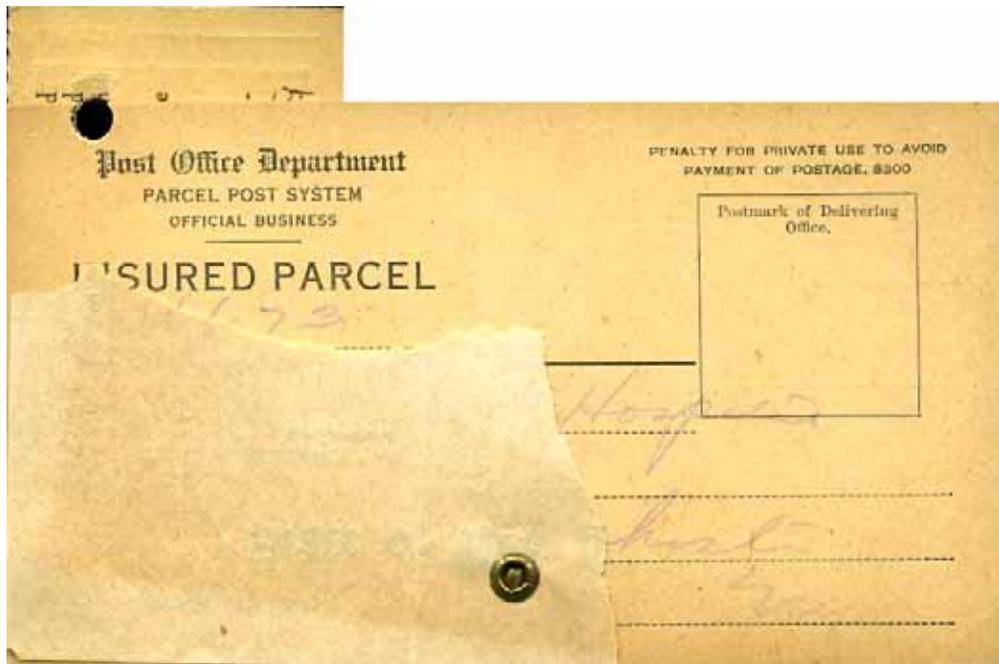
Return trip, 29 June 1949. No RRR fee, and presumably the same parcel returned, perhaps modified, but still in the same weight class, 77¢.

RRR cards for insured mail

Normal (red) RRR cards could also be used for this purpose.



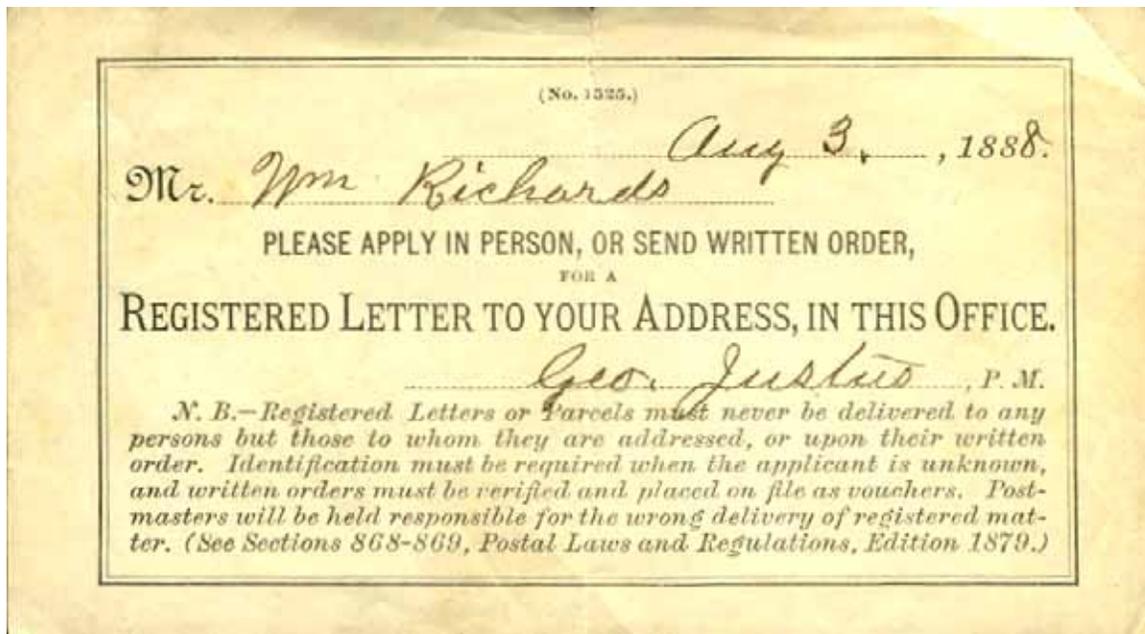
With receipt attached, for parcel delivered within Rochester, 1915.



Restricted delivery

The sender may restrict delivery of a registered letter to the addressee (or his agent); possible endorsements include *personal delivery*, *addressee only*, *personal receipt required*, and others. The earliest reference in a postal guide appears in 1892, and there are no mentions in earlier PL & R; the 1884 cover is one of two in that year, by far the earliest known.

Restricted delivery required return receipt as a prerequisite, but was otherwise free until 9 July 1934, when it required an additional 10¢, increasing to 20¢ on 26 March 1944.

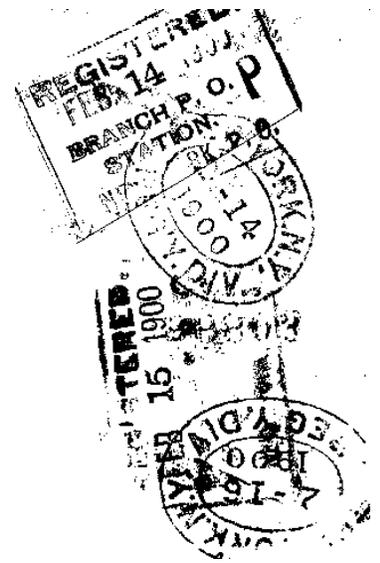


Form announcing registered letter, 1888. Registered letters were to be given only to the addressee or their agents (and the latter if there were a written order to that effect). This refers to the 1879 PL & R, which seems to suggest that a restricted delivery endorsement is unnecessary. However, the cover below is dated 1884.



Deliver personally, 1884. One of two pre-1900 examples (both from Vineland (NJ) in 1884). **Rated** 10¢ registration and double 2¢ domestic (per half-ounce, 1883–1885). Pencil ms *Opened by Nora Walsh* (at the wrong address) and returned unclaimed.

Early restricted delivery



Personal delivery only to →, 1900. Third earliest restricted delivery cover. Rated 8¢ registration and 2¢ domestic. Returned unclaimed. Contains insurance cancellation notification.



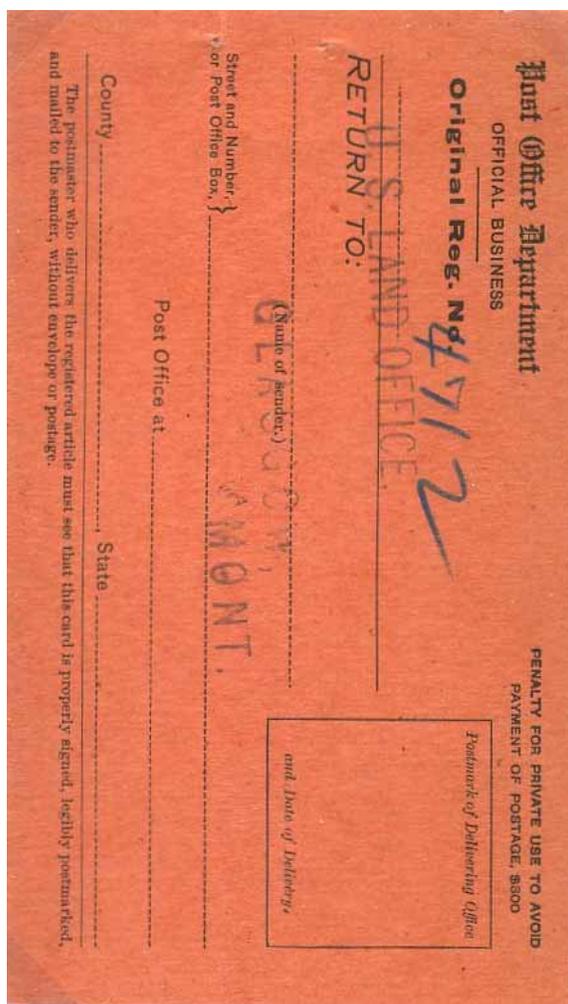
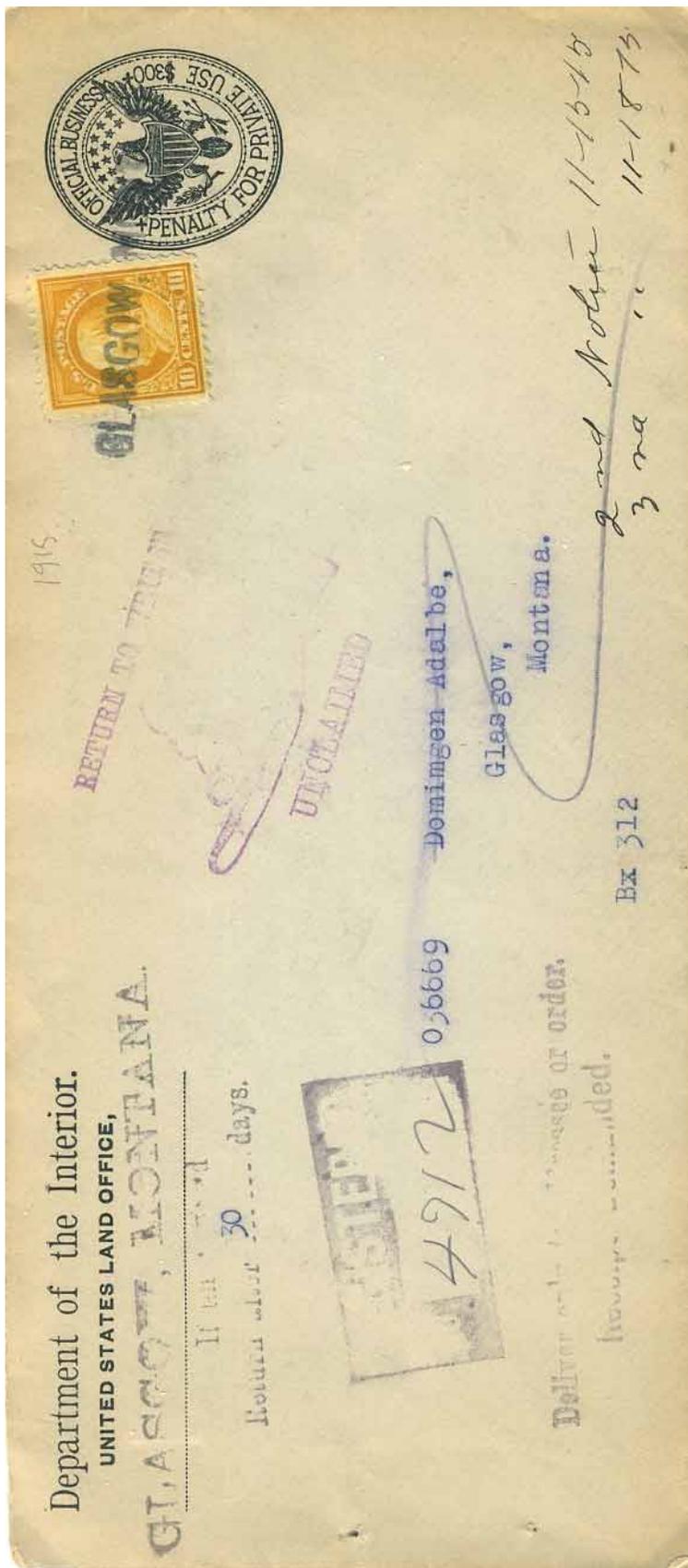
Personal receipt required, 1905. Earliest known handstamp indicating restricted delivery. Includes reference to PL & R. Rated as above. Originally drop letter within Boston, forwarded to Roxbury, and returned unclaimed.

Restricted delivery with card

Official, returned to sender, card still attached, 1915. Both card and cover refer to reg'n number 4712. Mail from government offices outside DC required only prepayment of 10¢ registration fee.

Drop letter from US Land Office in Glasgow, Montana, returned unclaimed. Enclosed letter is notice of rejection of a homesteading application.

At lower left, handstamps read:
Deliver only to addressee or order
Receipt demanded.



RRR card, originally attached by staples.

Restricted delivery



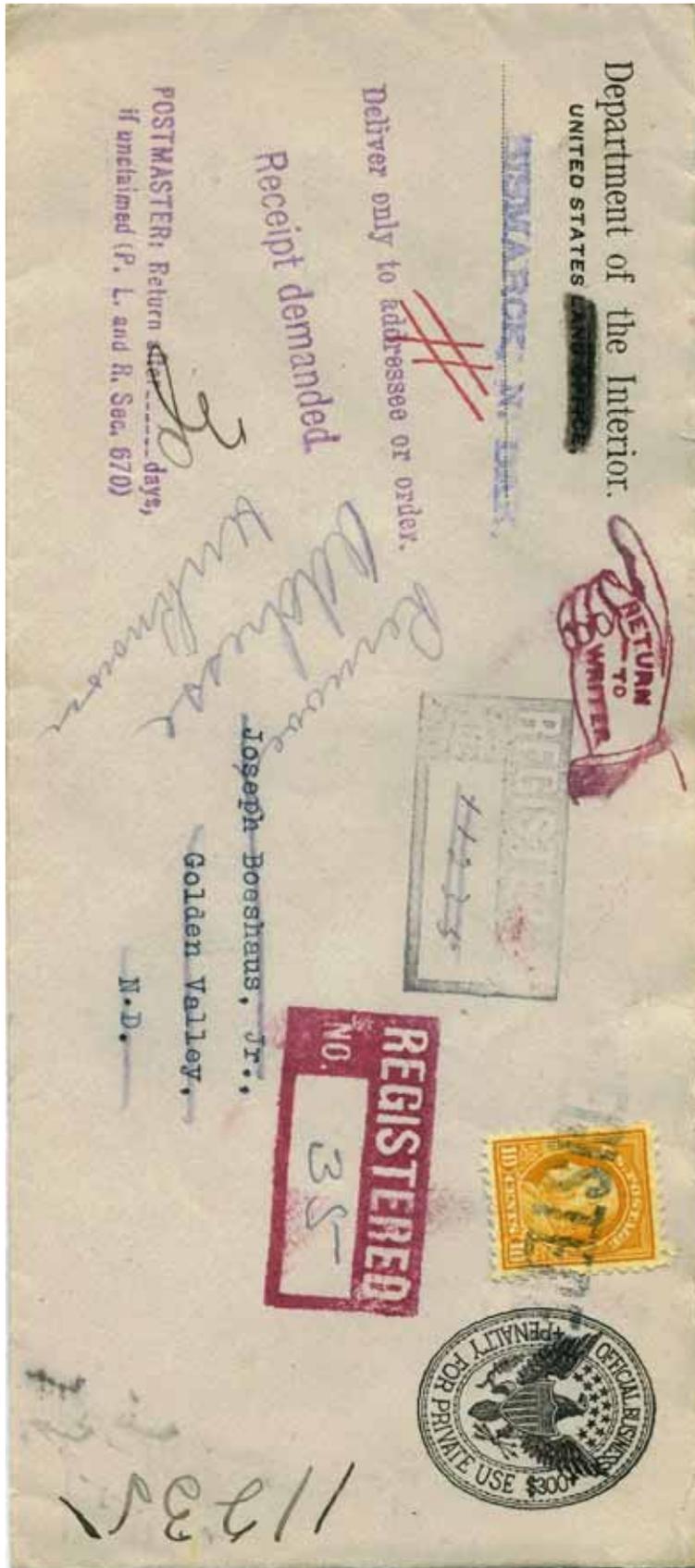
Received in damaged condition, Palmdale (CA) to Reading (PA), 1916. Rated 10¢ registration and double 2¢ domestic rate.

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Deliver to Addressee only
Received in bad condition at
Reading, Pa.



Restricted delivery, penalty covers

Standard and nonstandard restricted delivery handstamps, Department of the Interior.



Bismarck—Golden Valley (ND), 1915. Rated 10¢ registration fee. Returned to sender.



Los Angeles drop letter, 1926. Rated 15¢ registration fee and 3¢ RRR.

More restricted delivery



Boston—Santa Cruz, 8 August 1910. Second earliest normal use RRR cover, and second earliest recorded restricted delivery handstamp. On reverse, *Personal signature required*. **Rated** 10¢ registration and 2¢ domestic. Boston experimental registration label, and faint Santa Cruz clock receiver.



Los Angeles—Cincinnati, 1920. Handstamp *Deliver to addressee only*, indicating restricted delivery. Apparently double 2¢ domestic rate plus registration (10¢), overpaid by 1¢. Official seal (OX15, issued 1917) on reverse (untied).

Restricted delivery



Hagerstown (MD)–New York, returned to sender, 1923. **Rated** 10¢ registration and 2¢ domestic. **RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED** and **Deliver to addressee only**

Restricted delivery



Forwarded twice, returned to sender, 1933.

Rated 15¢ reg'n fee, 3¢ RRR, & 3¢ domestic [increased from 2¢ in 1932] (one stamp per service).

From Philadelphia to Winchester (VA) to Sheepscott (ME), and returned.



Winona MN—Oakland, May 1934.

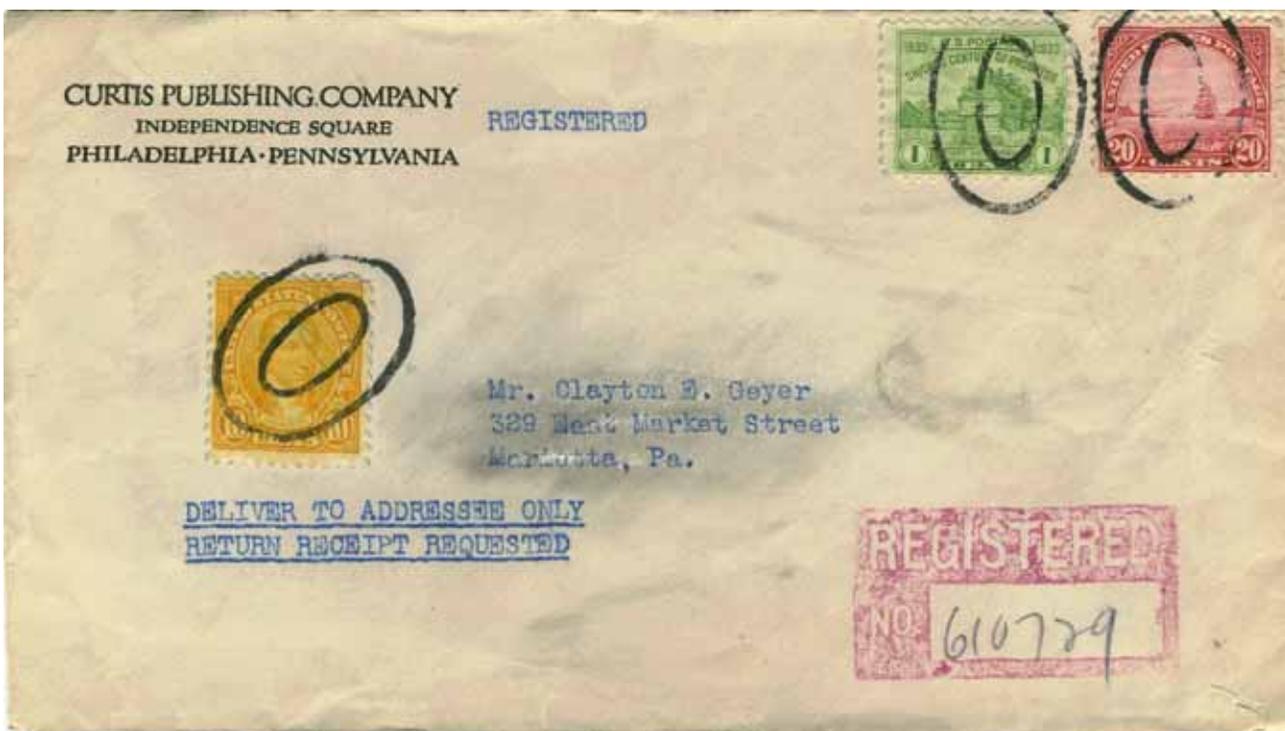
Rated as above.

Restricted delivery charged

9 July 1934, 10¢ fee for restricted delivery imposed



Madison (NEB)–Lincoln, September 1934. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 10¢ restricted delivery, & 3¢ domestic.



Philadelphia–Marietta (PA), 1936. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 10¢ restricted delivery, & 3¢ domestic.

Restricted delivery



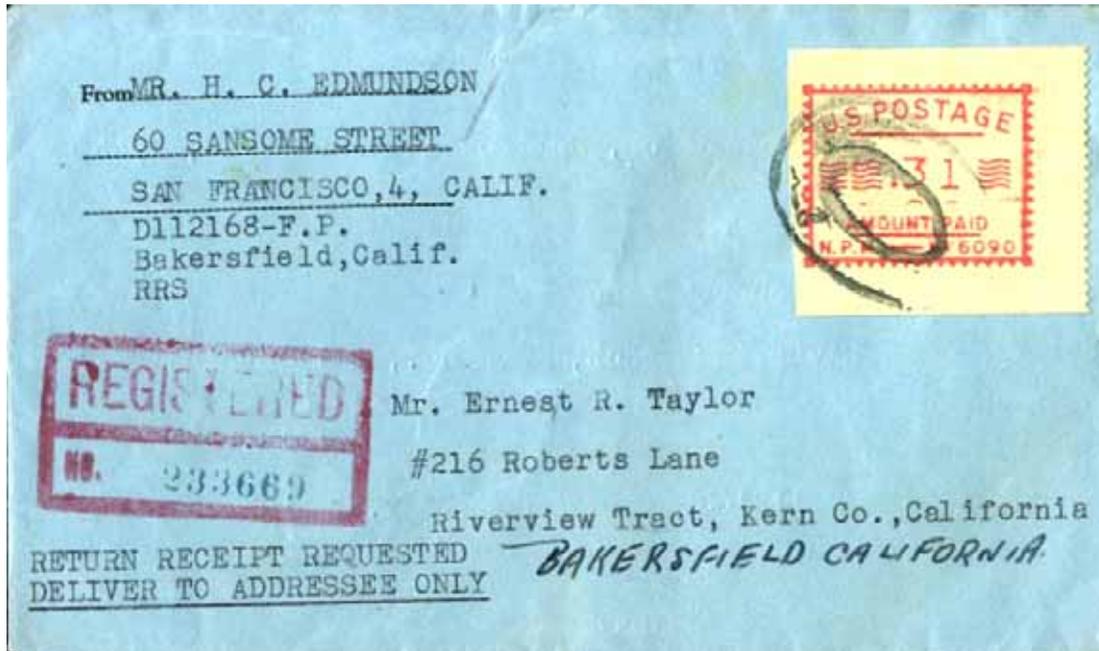
Special delivery, airmail, Danbury (CT)—Lewiston, forwarded to Livermore Falls (ME), and returned to sender, 1938. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 10¢ restricted delivery, 6¢ airmail, and 10¢ special delivery. Interesting italic handstamp,

*Deliver to Addressee
in Person*



Madison (NEB)—Lincoln, September 1934. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 10¢ restricted delivery, 10¢ special delivery, and 3¢ domestic.

Restricted delivery



Meter, January 1944. **Rated** 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 10¢ restricted delivery, & 3¢ domestic.

Meters are not commonly seen on RRR covers.

From San Francisco to Bakersfield (CA).



Misrated, 16 March 1944. RRR is a prerequisite for restricted delivery; clerk omitted 3¢ RRR fee, and there is no indication of RRR.

Restricted delivery refused

Restricted delivery required the signature of the addressee (not of an agent or employee); if the latter did not wish to sign, the letter was returned to sender. The few examples known were sent to famous people.



To *Henry Ford*, 1930. Purple handstamp **Refused on account of personal/delivery restriction**. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR fee, and 3¢ domestic.

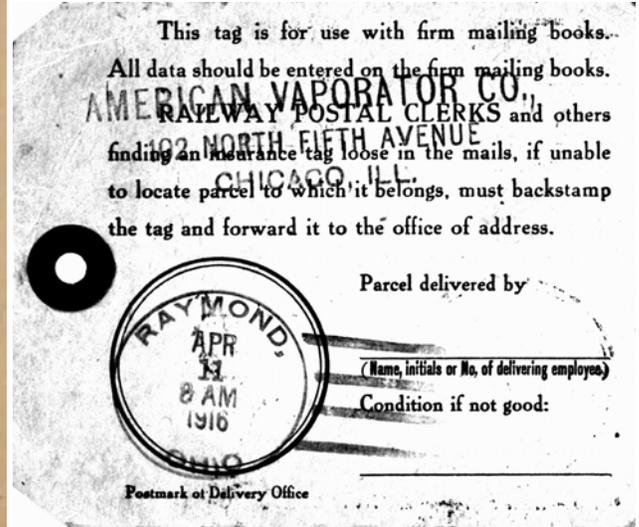
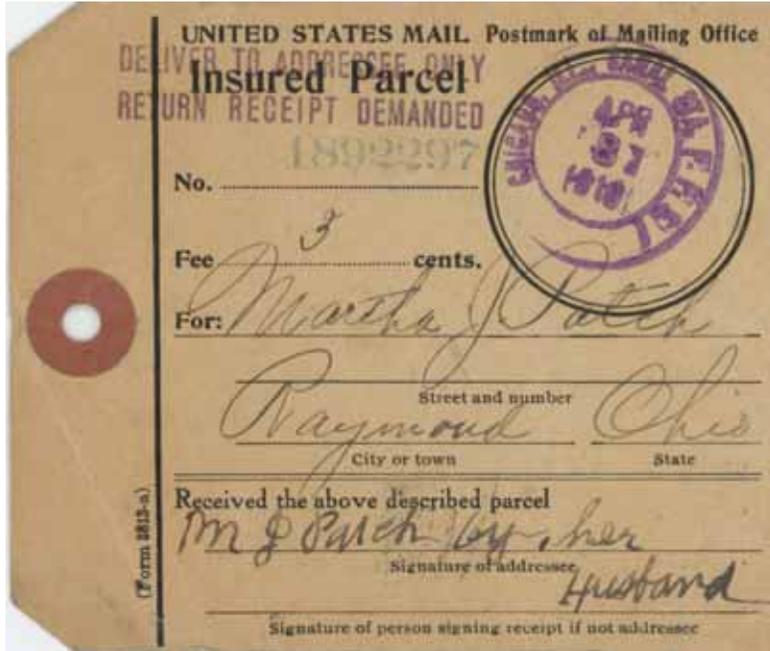
Refused on account of personal/delivery restriction



To *Wendell Willkie*, July 1940. Ms *Refused acct. restricted delivery*. Willkie had been nominated as Republican presidential candidate in late June.

Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 10¢ restricted delivery, 10¢ special delivery, and 3¢ domestic.

Weird restricted delivery



Insured (book) parcel, addressee only, 1916. Chicago to Raymond (OH). Special small (complete) tag for mailing books. RRR had been possible on insured mail since 1913, but this is the *discovery example* showing that restricted delivery was also so available.



Two handstamps meaning the same thing, 1930.

Deliver to addressee only.
Personal Receipt Demanded. } are equivalent.

Clerk likely intended to use his *Return receipt demanded*, instead of the second one.

Rated 15¢ reg'n fee, 3¢ RRR, and 2¢ domestic. From Collegeville (PA) to New Brunswick (NJ).

Restricted delivery on incoming mail

I have not found a reference indicating that restricted delivery could be applied to letters from foreign countries, but here is an example where there is a US handstamp confirming that the requested service applied.

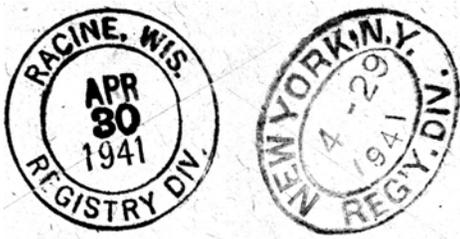
There are several known (and probably many) covers from Hungary to the US in this period with the US-style *Return receipt requested* endorsements, and sometimes *addressee only*, but I did not believe the latter could be applied.

At this time, restricted delivery was charged 10¢, whereas the Hungarian postage covered ordinary AR only.



Rimaszombat (Hungary) to Racine (WI), 1941. Ms *Deliver to Adresse only/Registered Return Receipt Requested*. In the US, the handstamp **Deliver to addressee only** was applied (this is definitely a US handstamp).

Rated .50 Pengo for each of registration and AR, and .40 P UPU letter rate.

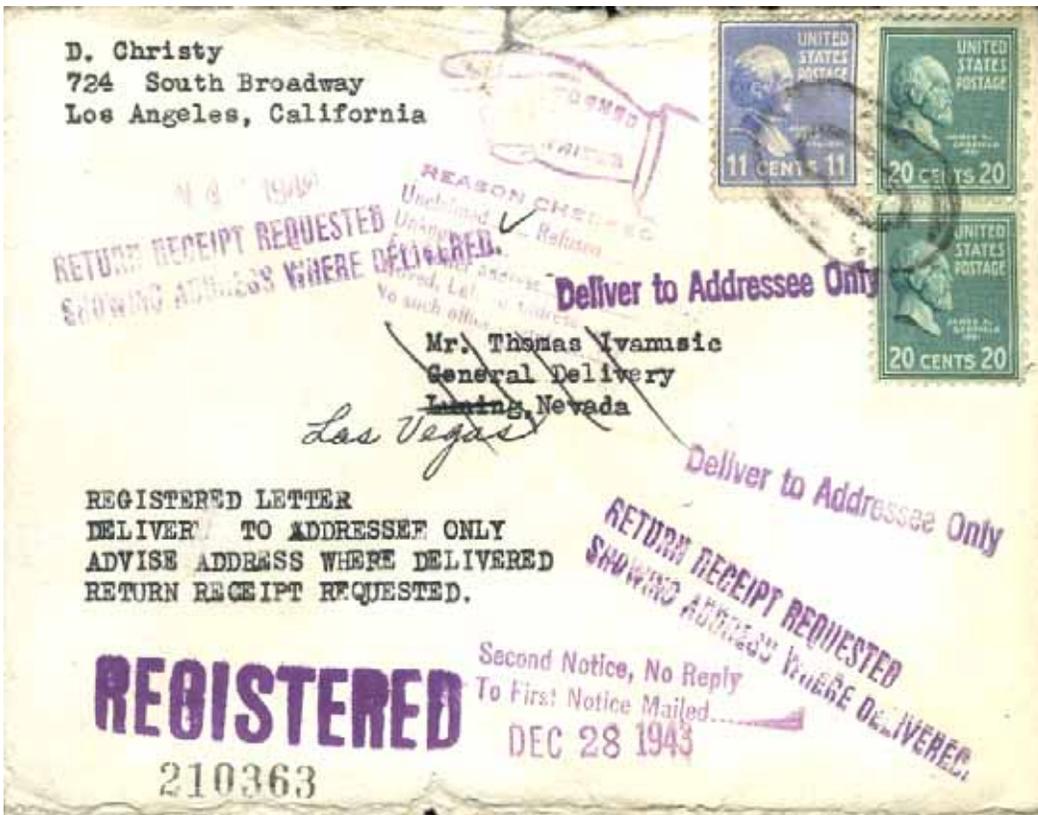


Showing address where delivered

This is another (and very expensive) service elaborating RRR (which was a prerequisite). Fee 20¢ (plus RRR fee) from 18 March 1931. Often with restricted delivery.



Newark-Long Island, 1931. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 3¢ RRR, 20¢ showing address, & 2¢ domestic. Returned to sender.



Los Angeles, forwarded to Las Vegas, with restricted delivery, May 1943. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR fee, 20¢ showing address, 3¢ domestic, and 10¢ restricted delivery. Returned to sender.

Showing address & restricted delivery combined



Belmont (MA) drop letter, 1947. **Rated** 20¢ registration, 4¢ R R R fee, 27¢ showing address (effective March 1931), and 3¢ domestic.



West Virginia to Pennsylvania, forwarded, returned, 1953. **Rated** (most rates effective 1 January 1952) 30¢ registration, 7¢ R R R fee, 24¢ showing address, and 3¢ domestic, and 20¢ restricted delivery (from April 1952).

RRR card attached by paper clip

There is fairly strong evidence that AR/R R R cards were often attached by paper clip (in this case, very tightly); staples were often used, as well; however, it is sometimes difficult to tell if these were used after return of the registered letter, by the sender.



Westmont (NJ)—Camden (NY) with showing address and restricted delivery; returned to sender, 1937. **Rated** 15¢ registration, 3¢ R R R fee, 20¢ showing address (effective March 1931), 10¢ restricted delivery, and 3¢ domestic. Original paper clip has been moved, leaving the usual rust stain.

Post Office Department
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
REGISTERED ARTICLE
No. 492
INSURED PARCEL
No. _____

Return to Dorothy Toyer
Street and Number, } 201 Stratford Ave
or Post Office Box, }
Post Office at Westmont
State N.J.

POSTMARK OF DELIVERING OFFICE

Rev. 3-24 • 5-8116

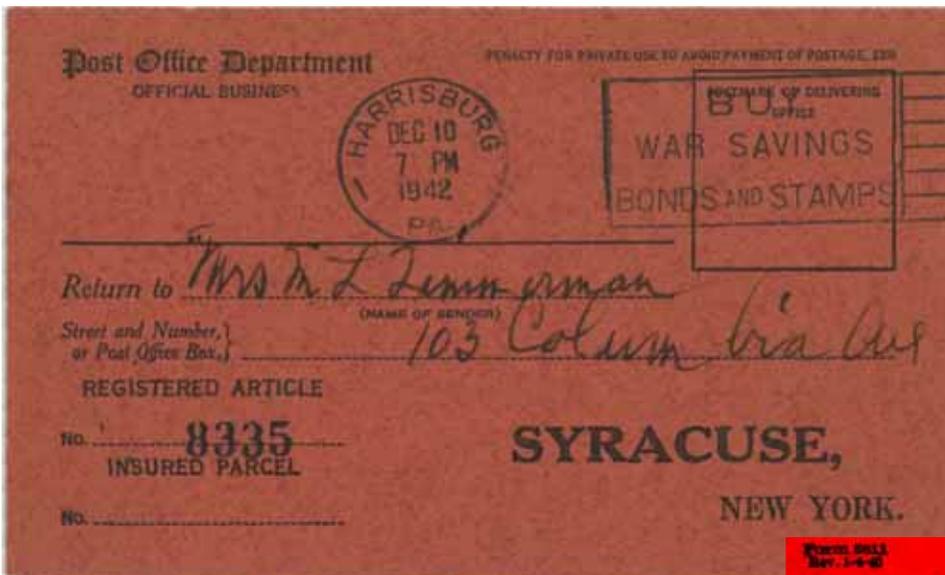
Rust stain barely noticeable at upper left.

RRR card attached, not returned to sender

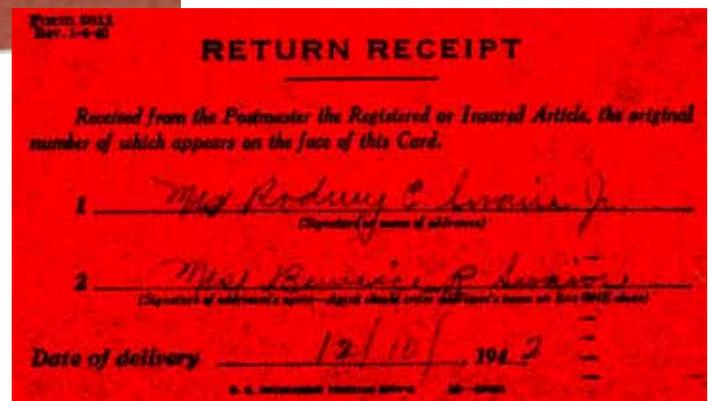
Normally, card and cover together is a result of being returned to sender. This registered cover was evidently delivered; the card signed, but not returned.



Syracuse (NY)–Harrisburg (PA), 1937. **Rated** 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR fee, and double 3¢ per ounce domestic.



Signed, but no evidence of return.



Early airmail & RRR



First airmail rate period in which registration was permitted, double rate, March 1925.

Rated 10¢ reg'n (rate changes occurred next month) plus double 8¢ per ounce single zone airmail (in effect 1 July 1924). Flown San Francisco to Cheyenne. Postmarked 5 March at Oakland and 8 March at Thermopolis (WY).

Second airmail rate period, mistakenly sent by rail, November 1925. **Rated** 15¢ reg'n, 3¢ RRR (effective April 1925), 10¢ overnight single New York–Chicago airmail, and 16¢ two zones airmail Chicago–San Francisco at 8¢ per zone.

MISSENT by New York & Pitts. RPO. Reached Long Beach four days after leaving Jersey City.



Third airmail rate period

26 January 1926–31 January 1927



Double contract air mail (CAM) & extra indemnity, July 1926. Los Angeles–Oklahoma City. **Rated** 20¢ reg'n with extra indemnity (insured up to \$50, began April 1923, and rare before 1928; only indemnity level available), 3¢ R R R fee, 20¢ for two CAM flights (Los Angeles–Salt Lake City & Chicago–Oklahoma City), & 5¢ for the government route (Salt Lake City–Chicago). Returned to sender.



Los Angeles to New York, January 1927. **Rated** as above (two CAM, one government), except ordinary (15¢) registration. Three days travel time.

More third rate airmail covers

Three zones, San Diego to Cleveland, February 1926. **Rated** 10¢ special delivery, 15¢ reg'n, 3¢ R R R, & gov't rate at 8¢ per ounce per zone: San Francisco—Cheyenne, Cheyenne—Chicago, and Chicago—New York (Cleveland is in the last leg).

The 24¢ stamp was issued for exactly this purpose. Three days travel time.

Two-line **RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED** / *Avis De Réception* handstamp designed for both domestic & international use.

Two zones, San Francisco—Milwaukee, July 1926. **Rated** as above, without the last flight.



Fourth airmail rate period

1 February 1927–30 July 1928; 10¢ per half ounce, any route



Triple rate, Newark (OH!)–Los Angeles, May 1927. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, and 3 × 10¢ per half ounce. ↓↓



Double rate, Los Angeles–Boise, December 1927. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, and 2 × 10¢ per half ounce.



Fourth and fifth airmail rate periods

1 February 1927–30 July 1928 and 1 August 1928–5 July 1932; latter is 5¢ for the first ounce, and 10¢ for each additional.



Eugene (OR)–Brownsville, June 1928. **Rated** 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 10¢ per half ounce airmail, and 10¢ special delivery. Convenience overpayment of 2¢ (stationery).



San Francisco–New York, September 1930. **Rated** 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR fee, & 5¢ for first ounce by air.

Fifth airmail rate period



Detroit–Waverly (MA), with special delivery, 1929. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 5¢ airmail, and 10¢ special delivery.



Night air mail, New York–Cleveland, September 1928. Overnight carriage. **Rated** 15¢ reg'n, 3¢ RRR, and 5¢ first ounce, overpaid 2¢.



Double rate, California–DC, 1930. **Rated** 15¢ reg'n, 3¢ RRR, 5¢ first ounce, & 10¢ second ounce airmail. Commercial cover to PMG.

Sixth airmail rate period

First ounce 8¢ (additional at 13¢) in effect 6 July 1932–30 June 1934.



With extra indemnity, September 1933. Rated 20¢ registration with indemnity to \$50 (from 1 July 1932), 3¢ RRR, and 8¢ airmail, single rate. Each service paid completely by single stamp. From DC to LA.

Cleveland to California, September 1933. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 3¢ RRR, and 8¢ airmail, single. ↓↓

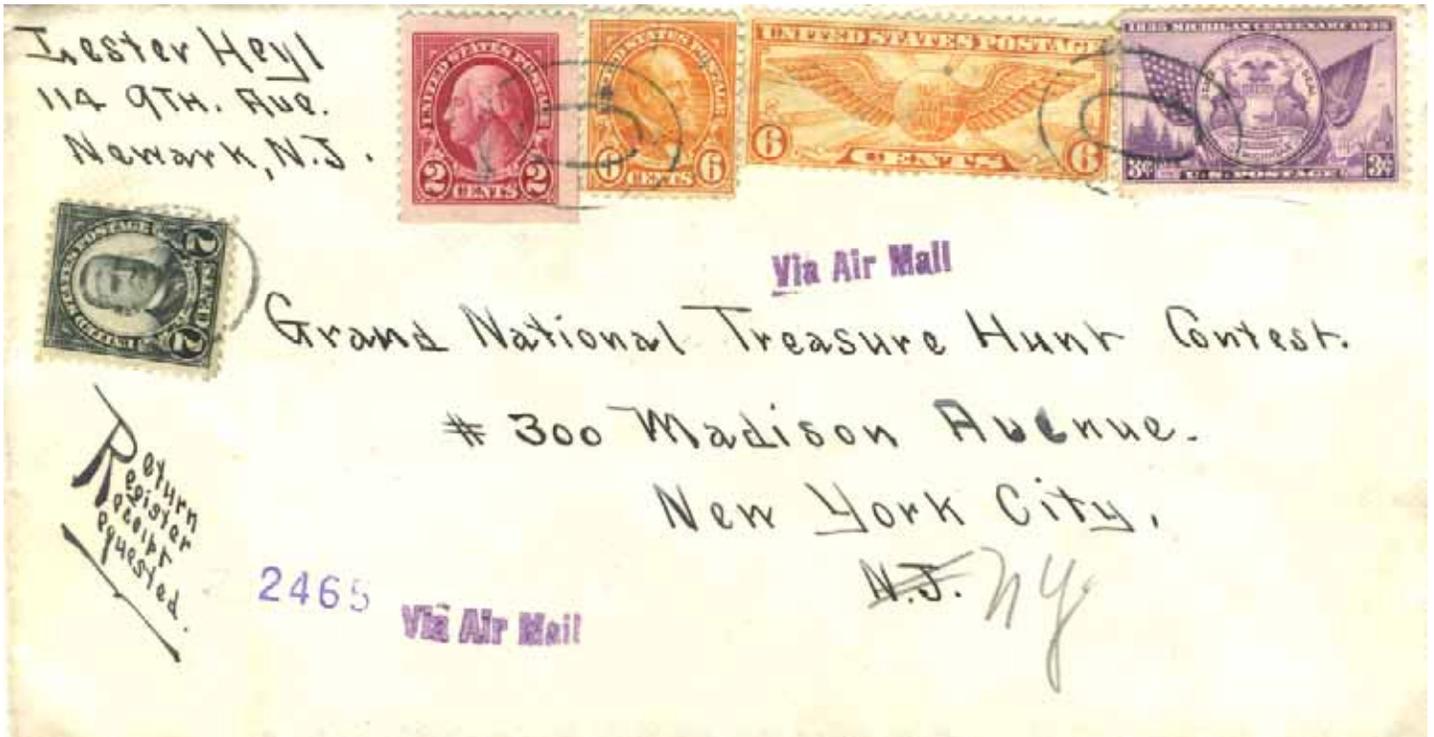


Seventh airmail rate period

6¢ per ounce, in effect 1 July 1934–25 March 1944



Third day of rate period, 3 July 1934. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR fee, 6¢ airmail, single.



Newark to New York(i), 1935. Rated as above. Unusual handwritten RRRR. Tuberculosis seal on reverse.

Seventh airmail rate period

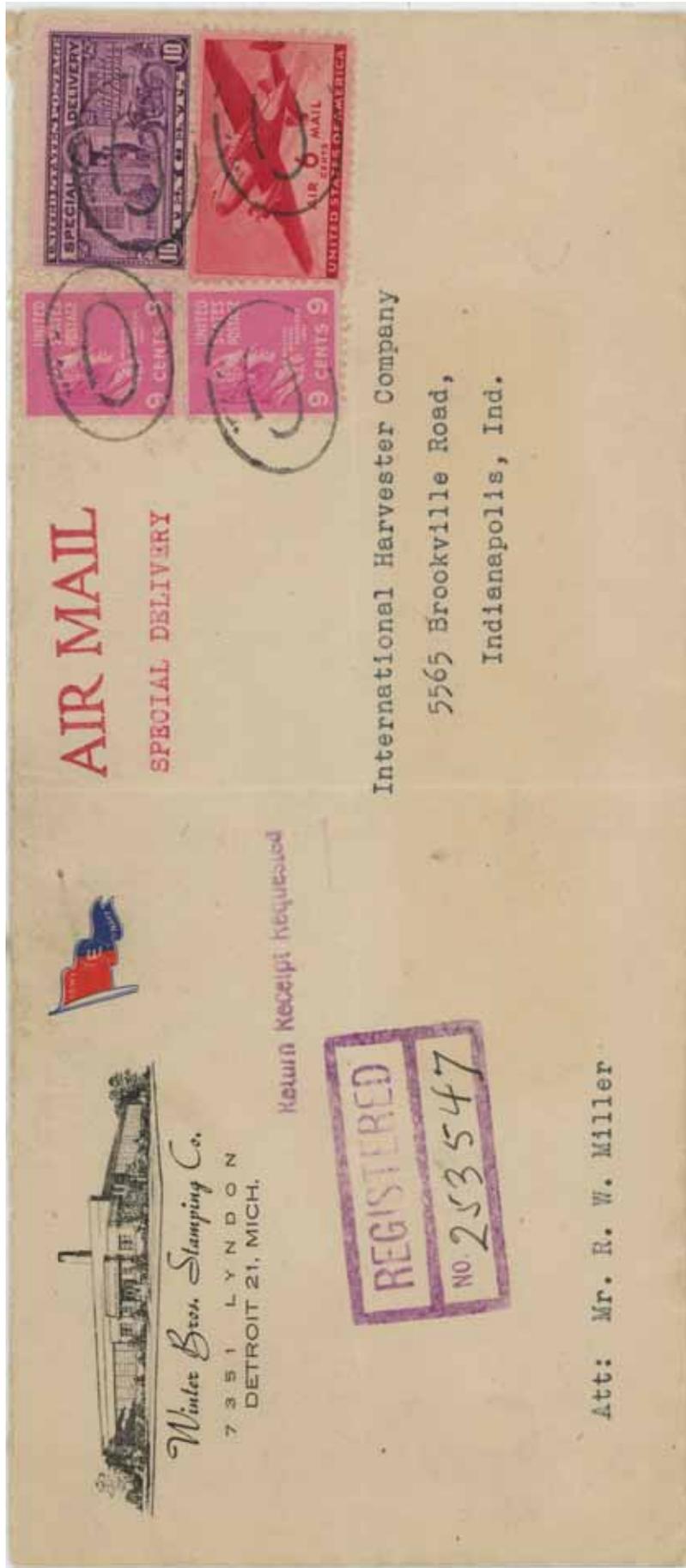


Washington to St Bonaventure (NY), 1936. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR fee, 10¢ special delivery, 10¢ restricted delivery (addressee only), and 6¢ airmail, single. Originally marked **SHOWING ADDRESS WHERE DELIVERED**, but this was struck through and covered by the 20¢ stamps. The **RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED** handstamp was also covered, but the service applied (since restricted delivery requires it).



Maylene (AL) to Honolulu, 16 February 1942. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR fee, 10¢ restricted delivery (addressee only), and 6¢ airmail. Although the airmail rate to Hawaii was 20¢ per half ounce, this was a letter to a soldier on active duty, hence domestic airmail rate of 6¢ applied.

Seventh airmail rate period



Detroit-Indianapolis, with special delivery, 28 February 1944. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 6¢ airmail, and 10¢ special delivery, the latter two paid by stamps intended for that purpose.

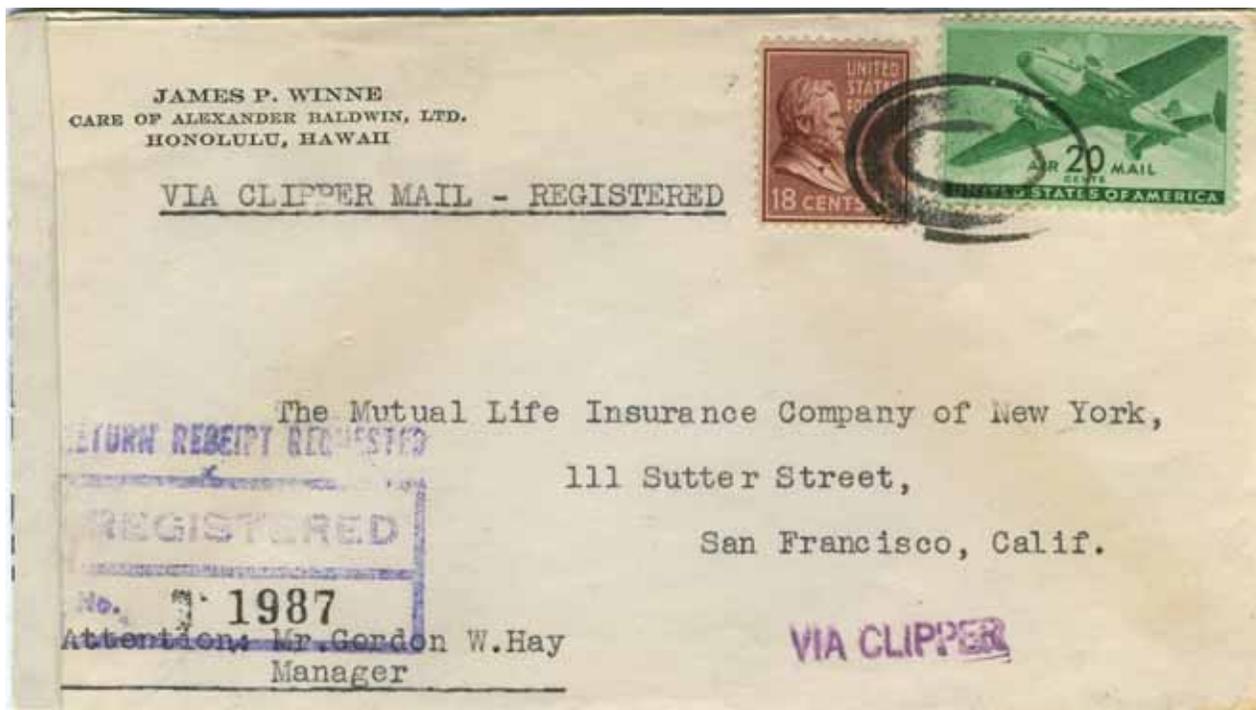


Clipper service with Hawaii

Between mainland and Hawaii per half ounce, 25¢ (from 29 October 1935), and 20¢ (21 April 1937–14 January 1945).



Double rate, 1936. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, and double 25¢ per half ounce clipper rate.
Printed air mail advice.



Honolulu–Frisco, 1942. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, and single 20¢ clipper rate.

Airmail with Hawaii



Quintuple rate, Honolulu–California, 1942. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, and five half ounces at 20¢ each. (No combination of extra indemnity and fewer multiples will make up the rate.) Censor tape at left (domestic mail from port cities could be censored).

California–Hawaii, May 1944. Rated 20¢ registration, 4¢ RRR (these two rates had increased in March), and 20¢ single clipper rate.

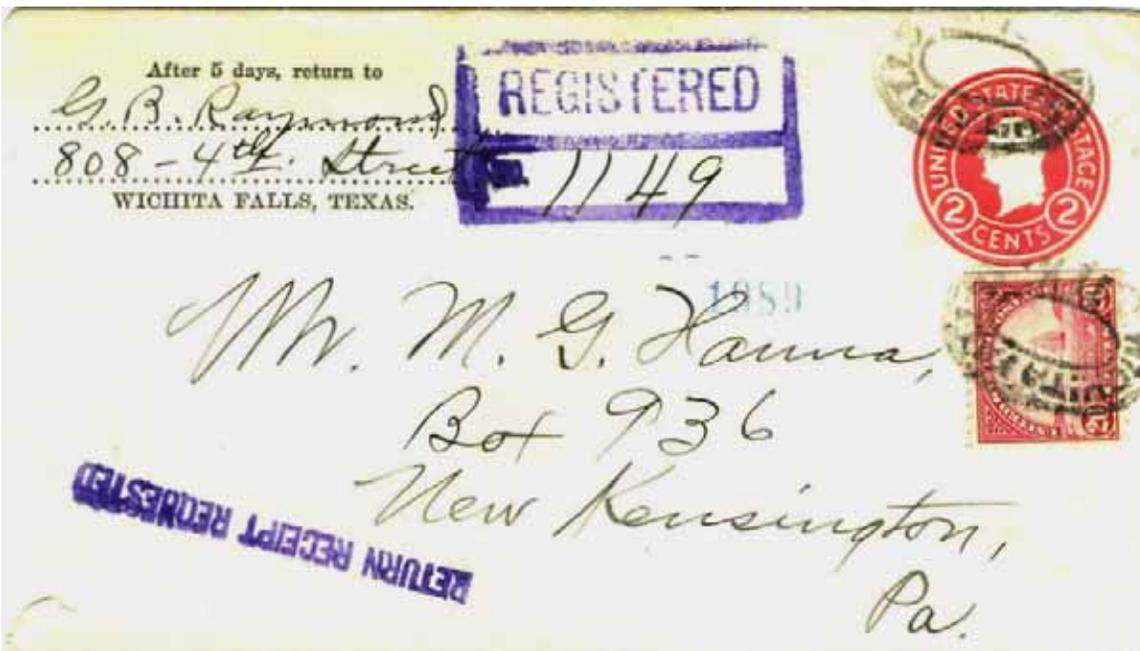
RRR handstamped before stamps applied. Censored as above. Returned to sender. ↓↓



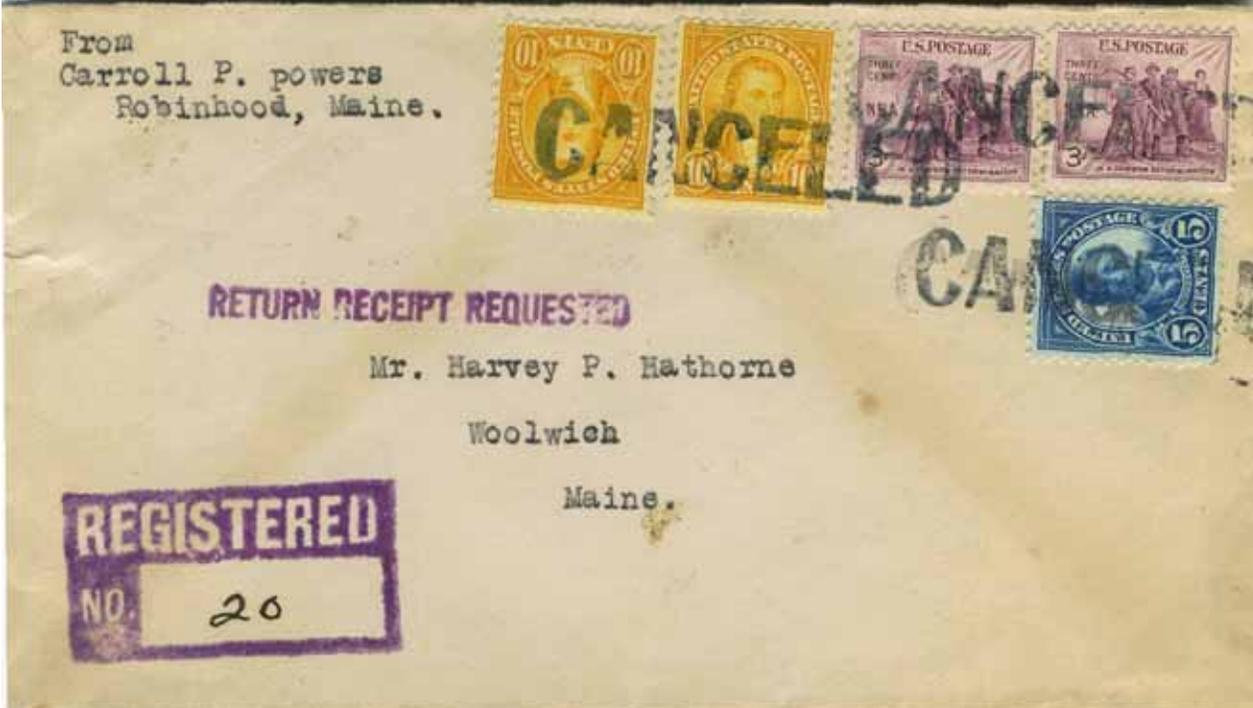
Indemnity

From 1923, (*extra*) indemnity (on reg'd mail) up to \$100 (20¢; rare); 1928, ten levels to \$1000; 1932, unlimited.

Early indemnity, 1924. Rated 2¢ domestic & 20¢ reg'n with extra indemnity.



Triple & extra indemnity, 1931. Rated 30¢ reg'n, extra indemnity (to \$200), 3¢ RRR fee, & triple 2¢ domestic. New York to Worcester.



Robinhood-Woolwich (ME), 1934. Rated (as of 1 July 1932) 25¢ reg'n with indemnity up to \$75, 3¢ RRR, & 3¢ domestic. (No other rate combination fits postage exactly.)



Extra extra indemnity with RRR

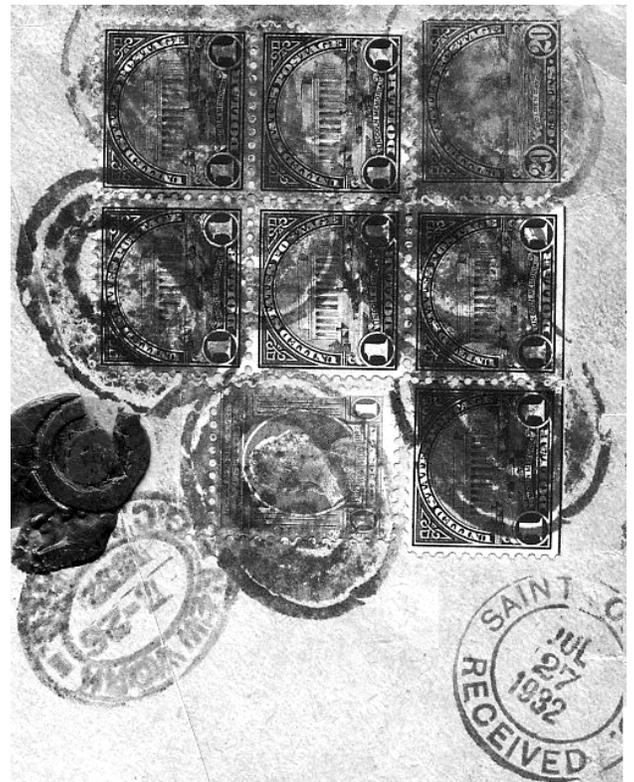
Until 1 July 1932, the maximum indemnity on registered items was \$1000. After this date, it was unlimited. Rates depended on the amount of indemnity, the weight, and the distance.

Early huge indemnity, 27 July 1932.

Rated total postage \$39.21 (33 fourth bureau \$1 stamps on the front, 6 more on reverse, and a 20¢ and a 1¢ stamp, also on reverse). Domestic postage was 3¢ per ounce (effective 6 July 1932); RRR fee was a mere 3¢.

Registration with indemnity up to \$1000 was \$1 and for 600–1400 miles (New York–St Louis), the fee for each additional \$1000 (or part thereof) in indemnity was 12¢. No combination of weight and indemnity rates will give the postage exactly (cast out threes).

Thus a clerical error was made, and we can only guess that the indemnity was somewhere in the range \$300,000–350,000.



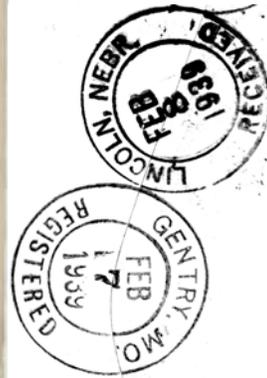
Extra indemnity with RRR

Gentry (MO)—Lincoln (Neb), 1939. Total postage \$1.03: RRR 3¢; remotely plausible is $5 \times 3\text{¢}$ (quintuple) domestic plus 85¢ registration with indemnity up to \$700. However, the envelope does not show the wear that would be associated with contents weighing five ounces.

Alternatives: (a) single (3¢) with indemnity up to \$900 (95¢) plus 2¢ supplement for declared value exceeding indemnity by $\$50^+ - 100$;

(b) double (6¢) with indemnity up to \$800 (90¢) plus 4¢ supplement for declared value exceeding indemnity by $\$200^+ - 400$;

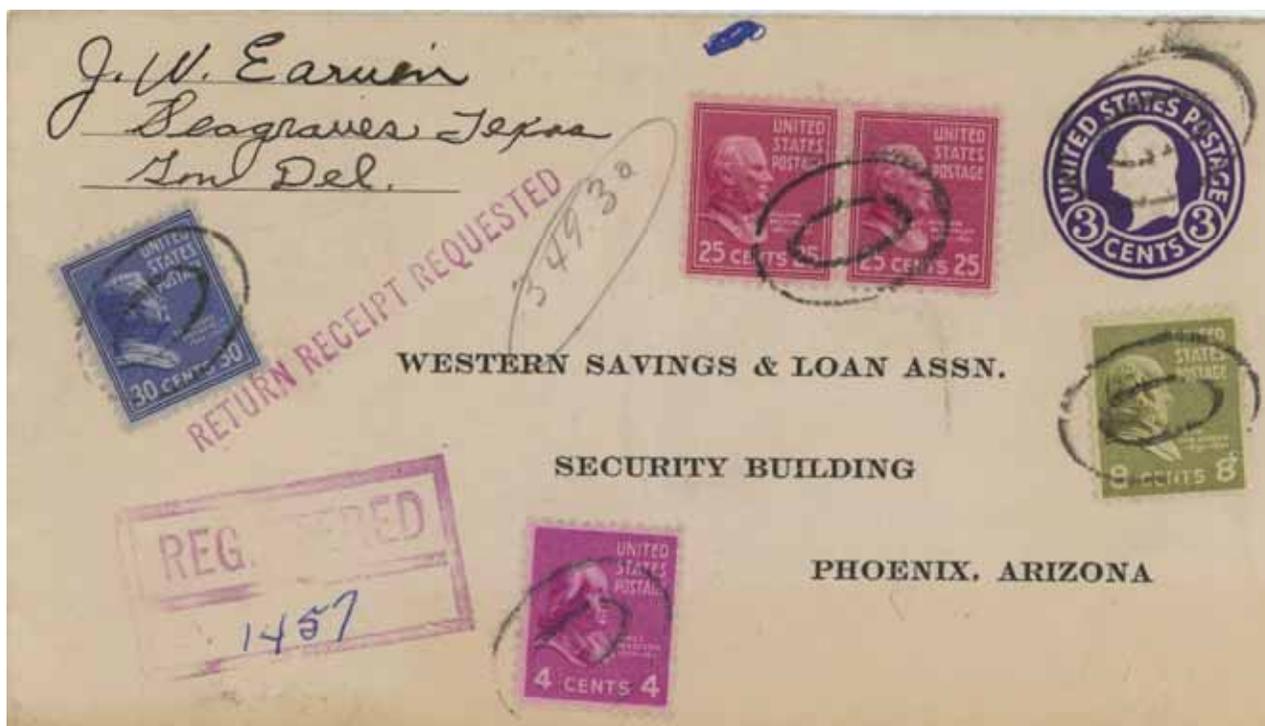
and a few other possibilities.



Extra indemnity with RRR



Orleans—Ord (Neb), 1942. Probably rated 3¢ RRR, 3¢ single domestic, and 60¢ registration with indemnity up to \$400.



Seagraves (TX)—Phoenix, September 1945. The only rate combination that is consistent with the condition of the envelope: 4¢ RRR, triple 3¢ per ounce domestic, 80¢ registration with indemnity up to \$400 (from March 1944), and 2¢ supplement from declared value exceeding indemnity by up to \$50.



AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

C. F. CHILDS AND COMPANY
141 W. Jackson Boulevard
CHICAGO

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



REGISTERED MAIL



4722

Peoples Savings and Trust Co.,

Green Bay

Wisconsin

4722

What's the rate?

Large with extra indemnity, 1933.

Rated 3¢ R R R; three possible rate combinations, in order of likelihood:

- 9 ounces by surface at 3¢ per ounce plus reg'n with indemnity up to \$300 (50¢);
- 4 ounces by air at 8¢ for first & 13¢ for each add'l ounce, and reg'n with indemnity to \$100 (30¢);
- 19 ounces by surface and reg'n with indemnity to \$50 (20¢).

Not marked airmail (although baby Zep is used); 19 ounces is excessive even for an envelope this size.



What's the rate, II?



San Juan (Puerto Rico) to Washington, airmail, with extra indemnity, 1941. Rated \$1.38, made up from 3¢ R R R, airmail from PR at 10¢ per half ounce (1929–1945), and registration with indemnity; two plausible rate combinations:

- 2 ounces (quadruple air) plus reg'n with indemnity up to \$1000 (95¢);
 - 2½ ounces (quintuple air) and reg'n with indemnity to \$700 (85¢).
- 3¢ Prexies folded over.





What's the rate, III?

San Antonio—Austin, March 1942.

Rated 3¢ RRR, 10¢ special delivery; airmail is 6¢ per ounce. Three possible rate combinations, in order of likelihood:

- one ounce and reg'n with indemnity up to \$1000 (\$1);
- 6 ounces and reg'n with indemnity to \$500 (70¢);
- 11 ounces and reg'n with indemnity to \$100 (40¢).

Envelope does not appear stressed enough to have contained 6 ounces.

Less than four months after Pearl Harbor.



What's the rate, IV?

Salladasburg (PA)—Greenville (SC), February 1942.
 Total postage \$1.76. With 3¢ RRR, leaves \$1.73 and surface letter rate is 3¢ per ounce. For the purposes of extra indemnity, this is zone 4 (300–600 miles). We also assume that the letter weighed less than 20 ounces, although it is difficult to see how a paper envelope of this size could contain more than 10 oz.

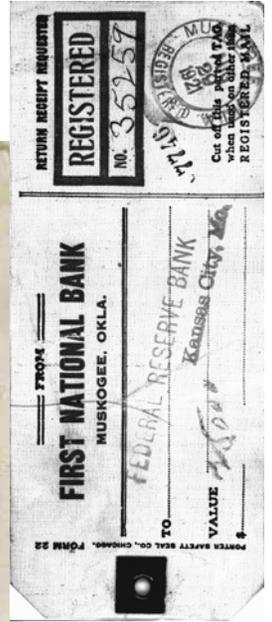
Two possible rate combinations, in order of likelihood:

- 6 ounces and reg'n with indemnity \$6000 (\$1.55);
 - 17 ounces and reg'n with indemnity \$3000 (\$1.22).
- However, it was possible to obtain indemnity with fractional parts of one thousand dollars. For example, indemnity \$4050 cost \$1.34, which together with 13 oz is possible, as well as indemnity of \$4200⁺–4400, costing \$1.37, with 12 oz, and \$4800⁺–5000⁻ (\$1.40) and 11 oz. And there are more possibilities, even involving just a few ounces.



Money bag tags

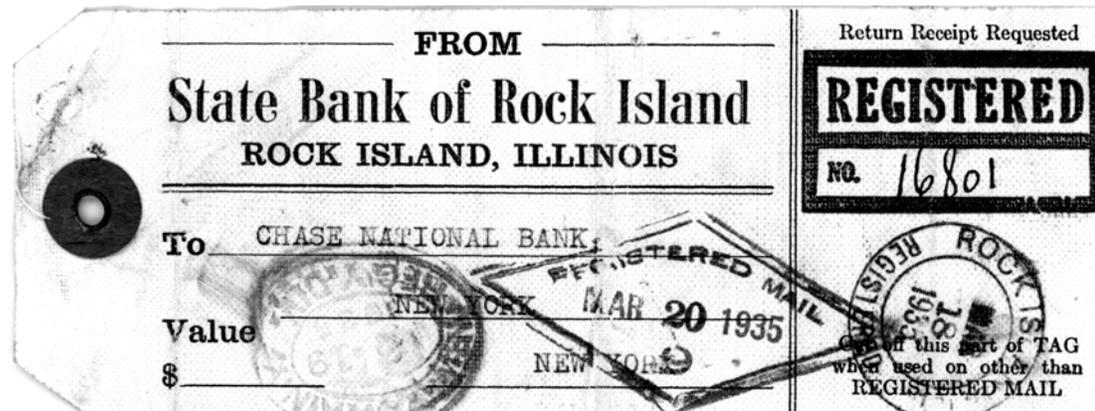
Tags on bags of money sent between financial institutions; registered first class, and usually with R R R. Until supplemental indemnity became available (1932), insurance was pointless—except on bags of cash returned to the Treasury (next page).



Muskogee—Kansas City, 1921. Rated 10¢ registration, no charge for R R R, and 148 ounces at 2¢ per ounce domestic. May have contained \$25,000.



Rockford (IL)—New York, with supplementary indemnity, 1935. Rated \$34.50; five zones: registration with indemnity up to \$1000, \$1, and 12¢ per additional \$1000; miscalculation or slight overpayment? Perhaps \$200,000 and over 300 ounces.



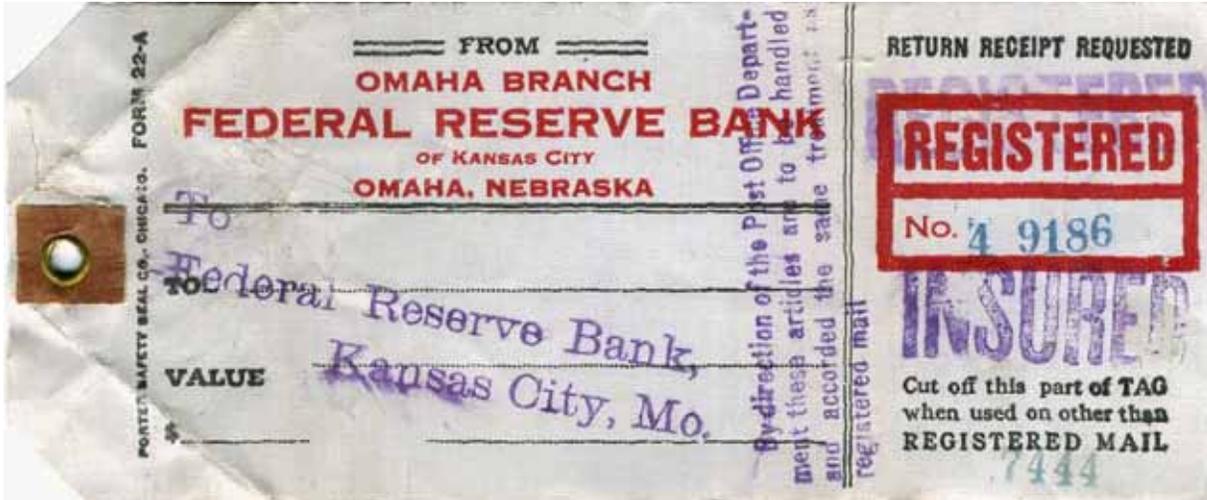
Unusual lozenge-shaped registered handstamp (applied by the addressee?)

Insured mail treated as registered; with R R R

For returning parcels of cash to the Treasury (parcel post/fourth class). POD order not yet found, predating codification in 1924 PL&R. Charged as insured mail; as either insured or registered mail, it was eligible for R R R. One of the few exceptions to the 1914 rule that fourth class material could not be registered. Purple handstamp (top) and printed (bottom)

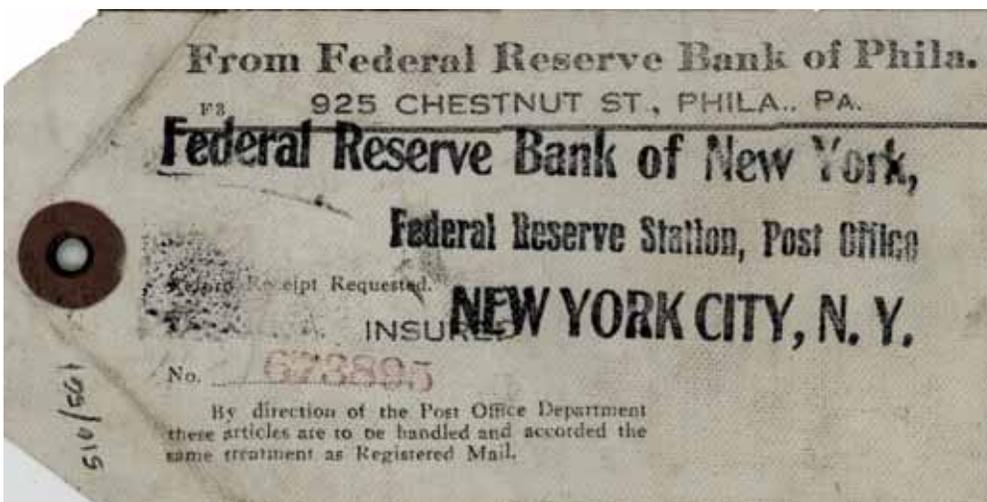
By direction of the Post Office Department these articles are to be handled and accorded the same treatment as registered mail

By direction of the Post Office Department these articles are to be handled and accorded the same treatment as Registered Mail.



Omaha–Kansas City, August 1920. Charged as insured, but treated as registered.

Rated 38¢; zone three (150–300 mi) parcel post at 6¢ for the first pound and 2¢ for each additional; indemnity could be any of 3¢, 5¢, 10¢, or 25¢ (depending on amount). The only rating that fits the postage exactly is 12 pounds (28¢) and up to \$50 indemnity (10¢); R R R was still free until 1925.



Philadelphia–New York, May 1923.

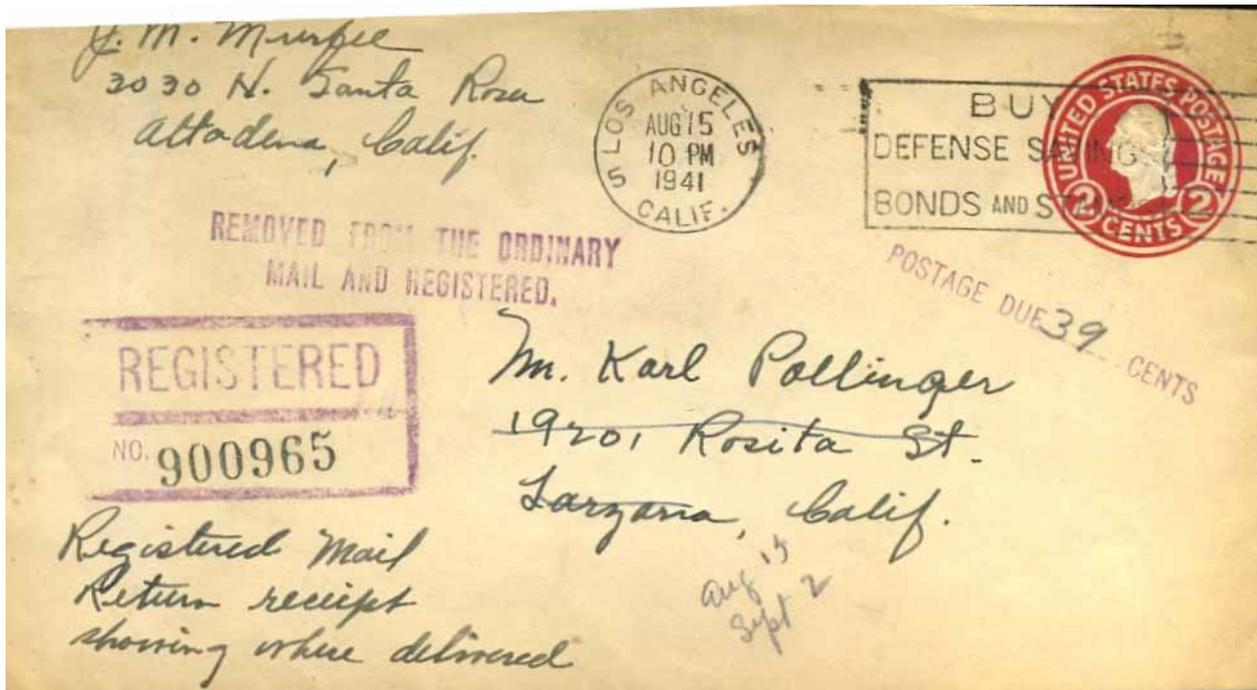
Rated 40¢; zone two (51–100 mi) parcel post at 5¢ for the first pound and 1¢ for each additional; indemnity could only be as above. There are four possible combinations, simply depending on the amount of indemnity (insurance), and there is no way to decide which applied here, because the marginal rate was 1¢ per pound. Stamps are perfins.

Postage due & RRR

RRR covers can be assessed postage due under some circumstances:

- letters intended to be registered (with RRR) dropped in the mail box with insufficient postage (although the rule was to return these to sender—this seems not to have been enforced);
- clerical error resulting in missing payment for a service;
- extra postage charged as a result of forwarding to a destination requiring more postage (for example, during the period when drop and domestic rates differed).

Single deficiency was charged on registered postage due letters.



Dropped in the mail but marked registered, etc, 1941. Sender had endorsed it registered mail/return receipt/showing where delivered, and post office obliged by charging for these services, 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, and 20¢ showing address, plus 1¢ to top up the 2¢ to pay the domestic rate.

The letter had been officially sealed, which probably led to its being removed from ordinary mail.



Missing rate, likely clerical error

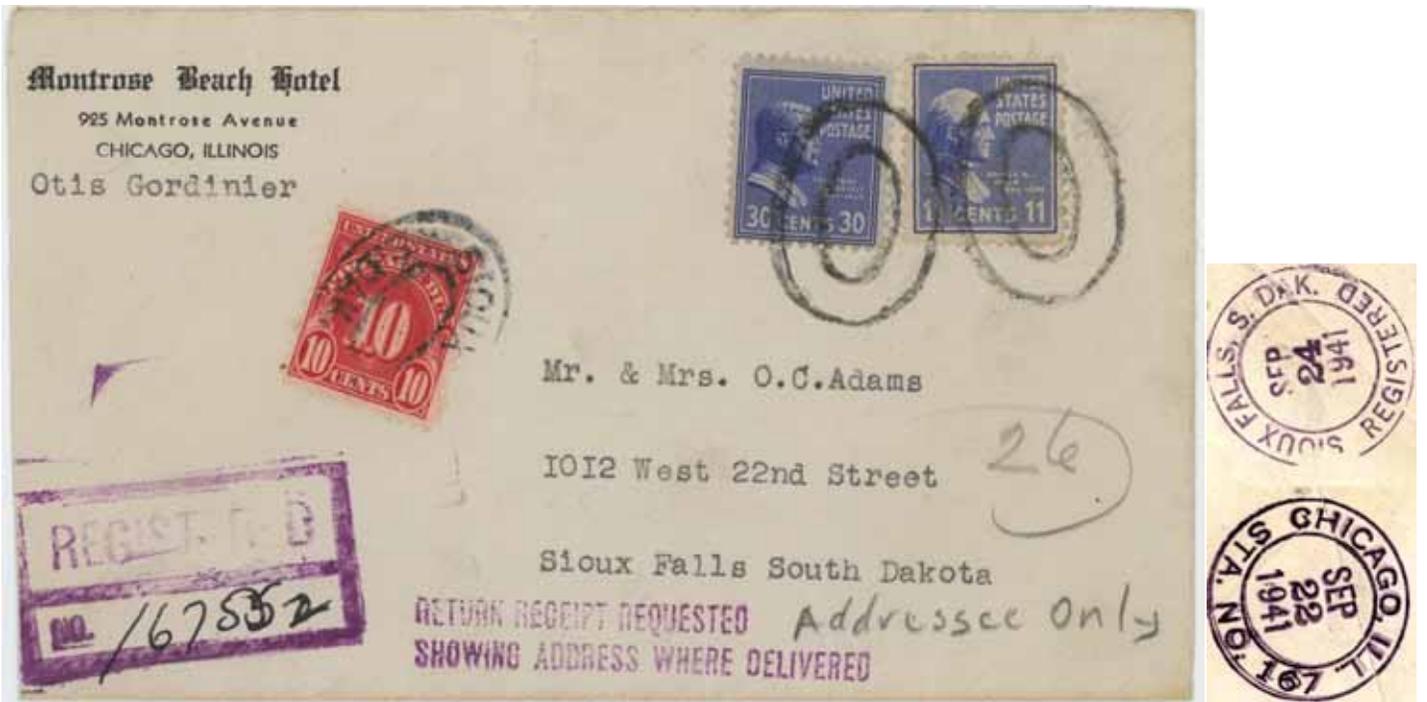


Missing restricted delivery, 1935. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, and 3¢ domestic, paid for; accepting clerk missed request for personal receipt (restricted delivery) at extreme left; this was noted later and the fee (10¢) charged.



Missing restricted delivery or special delivery, 1939. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 6¢ air mail, and 10¢ for each of restricted delivery (addressee only) and special delivery, only one of which was paid for, and charged 10¢ for the other one.

Missing rate



Chicago—Sioux Falls (SD), missing restricted delivery, 1941. **Rated** 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 20¢ showing address, and 3¢ domestic, paid for; charged 10¢ for addressee only (restricted/personal delivery).

More postage due RRR



Missing special delivery fee, 1928. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 10¢ air mail (stamp), and charged 10¢ for unpaid special delivery.

Wrong rate period, August 1926. Rate changes April 1925, sender still using old rates—10¢ registration, no charge for RRR—and due the difference, 5¢+3¢. Dropped in mail box (Found in ordinary mail).↓



Still more postage due RRR



Due as a result of forwarding, 1933. Domestic covers which were sent as drop letters (2¢ in 1933) which were forwarded outside the local delivery area (but still within the U S) were charged the difference between domestic and drop letter rates, 1¢ (in 1933).

Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 20¢ showing address, and 2¢ drop letter. Forwarded from St Louis to Pennsylvania.



Explain this, 1942. **Rated** 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, and 3¢ domestic, but short paid by 2¢, despite having been accepted by the clerk (RRR handstamp at left). Postage due stamps applied on reverse.

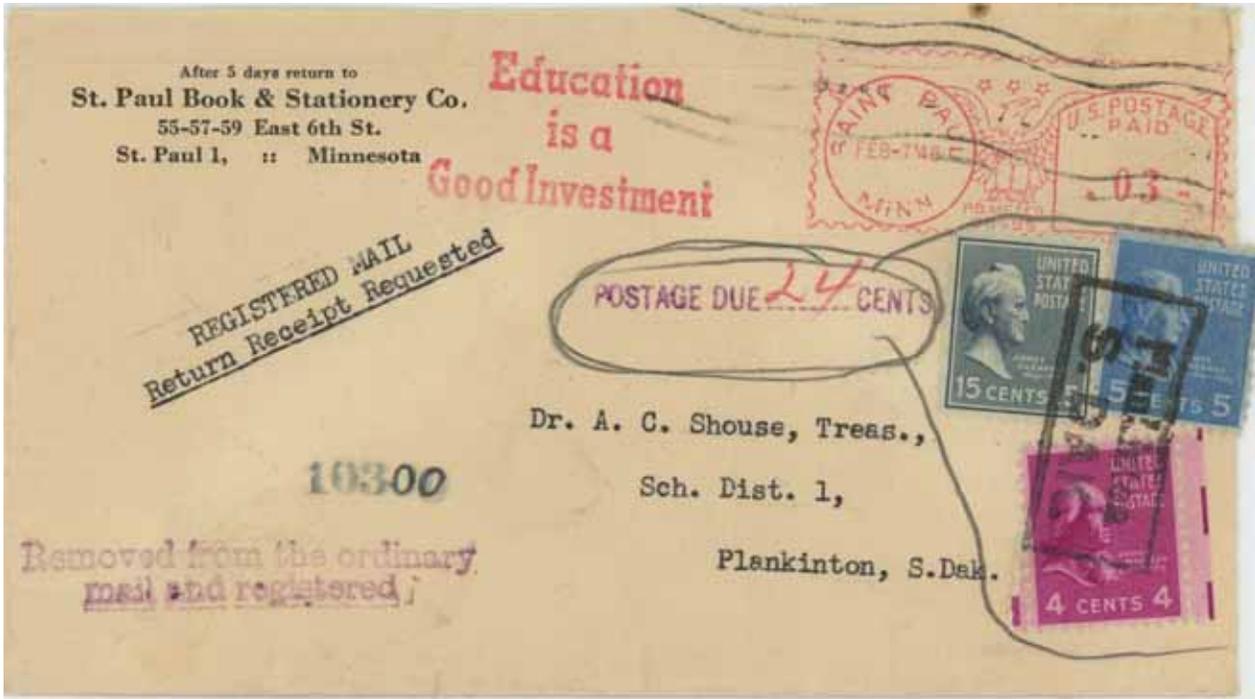
More postage due



Van Wert (Ohio) drop letter, forwarded to Altadena (CA), difference charged, 1942. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, and 2¢ drop letter; on forwarding, the domestic rate applied, so charged the difference 1¢.



More postage due RRR



Dropped in the mailbox, 1948. Originally paid 3¢ domestic rate via meter; receiving clerk in Plankinton (SD) noted type-script REGISTERED MAIL/Return receipt requested, and charged single deficiency, 20¢ registration and 4¢ RRR fee. Single deficiency on registered matter, although it could have been returned to sender.



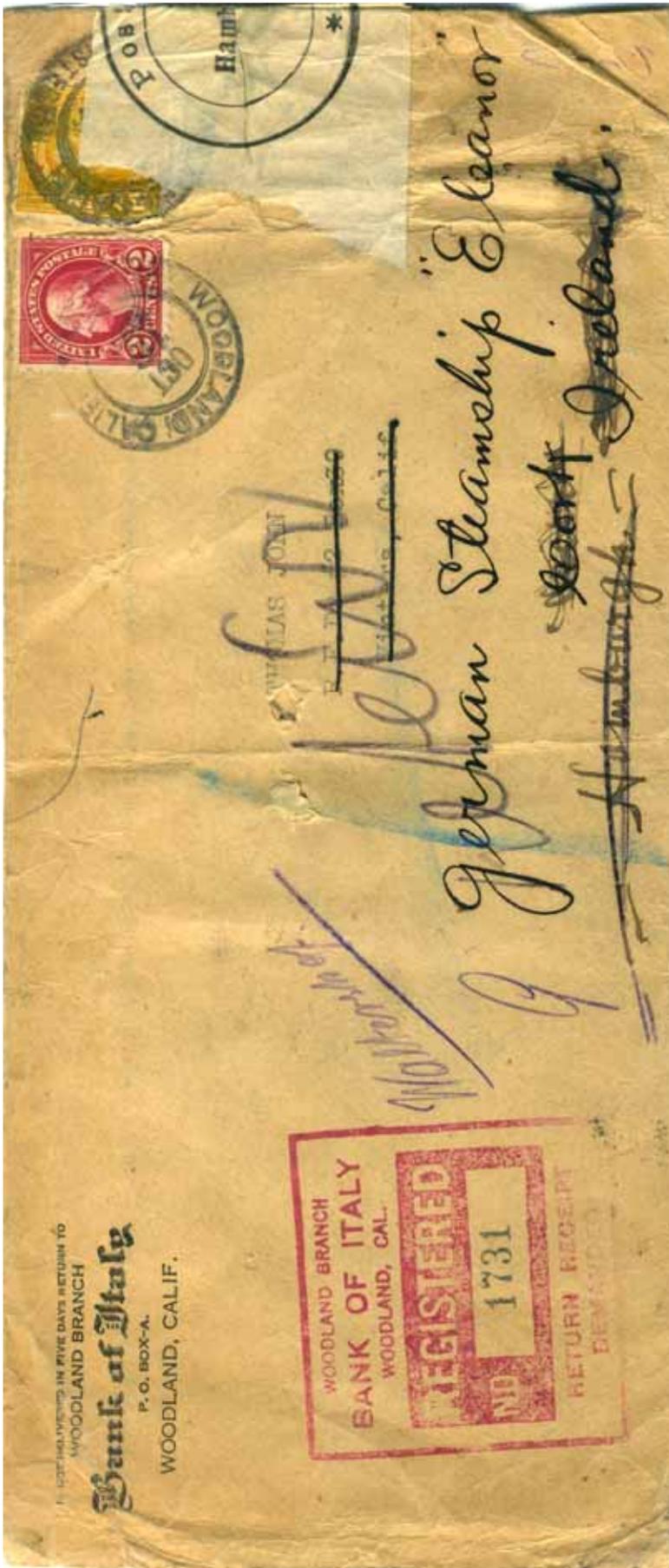
Brandon (VT)–Hampden (CT), 1951. With 33¢ postage, made up from RRR (5¢), registration 25¢, and domestic letter (3¢) rates. However, the 15¢ special delivery fee was not paid, so single deficiency was charged.



Forwarding to foreign destinations

According to US postal rules, fully prepaid domestic registered letters which were forwarded outside the country were not charged postage due (even though the international rates, e.g., postage, registration, RRR or AR fee usually exceeded the corresponding domestic ones).

California—California, forwarded to Ireland, then to Germany, & returned, 1924. Rated 10¢ reg'n (no charge for RRR) and 2¢ domestic rate, no postage due. Forwarded to the Eleanor at Cork, then to Hamburg, where numerous endorsements were applied. Finally, officially resealed and returned to sender.



Extra postage added or charged for international forwarding



Hollywood–New York, postage added, forwarded to Copenhagen, & returned 1933. **Rated** (domestic) originally 15¢ reg'n, 3¢ RRR, 8¢ air mail. 7¢ stamp added in New York, apparently to pay 5¢ UPU rate to Denmark (surface) and difference between international AR (5¢) and domestic RRR fees (3¢). Who paid the 7¢?

Bilingual *Ubekendt/inconnu* (unknown) etiquette on reverse, applied in Denmark.



Massachusetts restricted delivery, forwarded to Buenos Aires, and *improperly charged postage due*, February 1934. **Rated** (domestic) originally 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR (although not marked, it is implied by the restricted delivery handstamp, since the former required RRR), 3¢ domestic; no charge for restricted delivery until July. Charged 2¢, the difference between international AR and domestic RRR (as above). There was no difference in postage between domestic rate and the preferred rate to Argentina at the time. No evidence of collection of the amount apparently due.

On forwarding outside the country, restricted delivery became inapplicable.

Forwarded to Philippines

To sailor in CA, forwarded to USS Ranker in Manilla, March–June 1941. From Jacobs Creek (PA) to Honolulu Naval Yard to San Francisco to Bremerton Navy Yard (WA) to USS Nitro and back to San Francisco; back to Honolulu to Manilla to USS Black Hawk, and finally to Manilla again.

Postage of 24¢: registration 15¢, RRR 3¢, and double domestic letter rate, 3¢ per ounce.

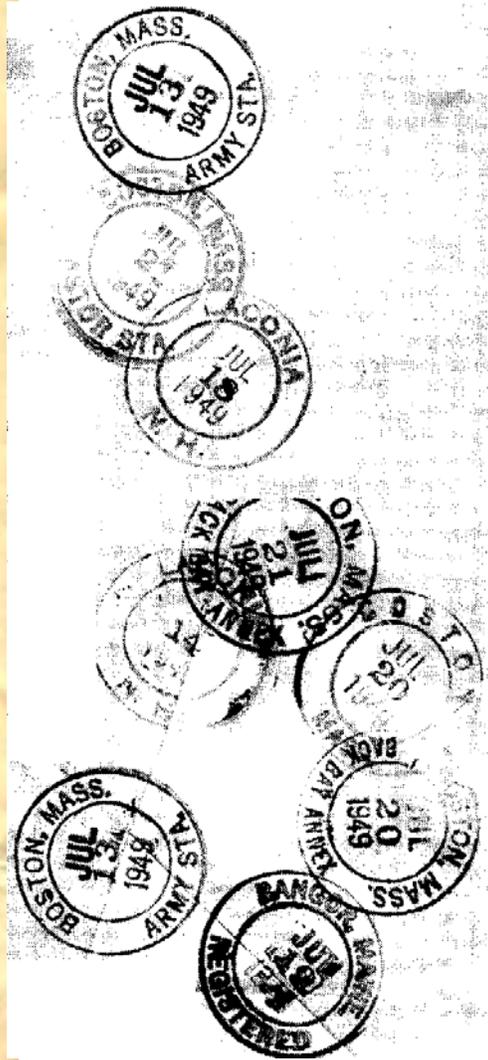


Improperly *not* forwarded to Canada

Although neither restricted delivery nor showing address would apply in Canada, this cover should have been forwarded as an AR cover, with no additional charges.

Cannot be fwded to Canada, 1949. Mailed from Boston to New Hampshire, then to have been forwarded to New Brunswick, but detoured back to sender at Bangor (ME).

Rated (domestic; effective 1 January 1949) 25¢ registration, 4¢ RRR, 27¢ showing address, 20¢ restricted delivery, and triple 3¢ domestic (totalling 85¢).





AR/RRR mail returned for fraudulent activities

Mail to known fraudsters ret'd to sender: one domestic, one in Canada, and one in Ireland. Handstamps (all applied at New York) are of different sizes.

FRAUDULENT.
Mail to this address returned by order of Postmaster-General

LA-NY, January 1925.
Rated 10¢ registration, 2¢ domestic, no RRR fee.



New York state-Canada, 1936. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR, and 3¢ to Canada. Intercepted at New York city.



Maine-Ireland, 1937. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR, & 5¢ UPU rate to Ireland. Also intercepted at New York city.

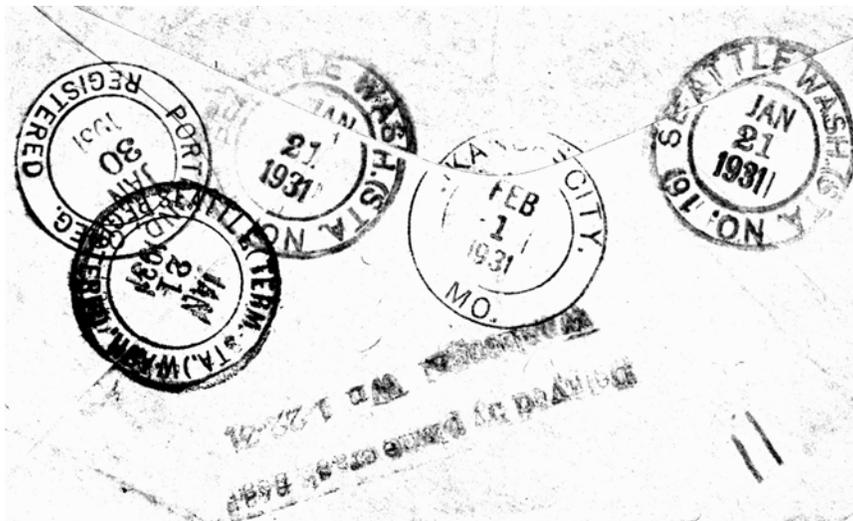
Domestic wreck RRR cover

Only known example of this combination for the us. Recovered from wreck of Seattle–Pasco CAM flight (32). On 22 January 1931, struck a cliff at Baldy Mountain, near Washougal (WA), and the plane was not found until 29th. All 250 lb of mail, water- & oil-soaked, were recovered, but pilot died. Mail was forwarded from Portland (OR) on the 30th.



Air wreck, 1931. Quasiphilatelic. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 5¢ airmail, leaving 2¢ overpayment with a 2¢ stamp; it is possible that an 8¢ stamp came off in the wreck (space to the left of the 10¢ stamp) and the letter was double rate (second ounce airmail was 10¢).

At left is *Return receipt requested/Fee paid*. There are two *different* handstamps reading **Delayed by plane crash near Washougal Wn. 1-22-31** (large and small type, two and three lines).



Domestic inquiry form concerning a registered letter

This may be regarded as an extremely late type of AR (R R R) service. *Only known example of domestic U S inquiry form prior to 1931.*

No. _____

Post Office, San Francisco, Cal.,
REGISTERED LETTER DIVISION.

San Francisco, Cal., 189____

To the P. M. at Sheep Ranch
Registry Div
Cal.

Sir:

Inquiry has been made by
W K Vandervee Co, residing
at _____ street,
for Registered { Parcel } No. 71708, addressed
to Mrs E L Bohms

It was inclosed in R. P. E. No. 51940, and
forwarded to your P. O. Dec 20 70 for
distribution and receipt acknowledged. Please state
on this sheet particulars of its receipt and disposal,
and return this circular to P. M. at San Francisco,
Cal.

Very respectfully,
W. W. Montague, P. M.
Postmaster.

11-17-04.

Postmaster San Francisco Cal
Dear Sir
Mrs E L Bohms was
Notifide Twice that Registered
Package No 71708.P. No 51940
was Here. But did not call
for it untill to Day
Yours Respectfully
A. W. Pa
P. M.
JAN 20 1903

Inquiry, San Francisco, 1903. No fee for this service until 1931.

Clerk's reply (spelling errors and all) on reverse:

Mrs EL Bohms was Notifide Twice that Registered Package No 71708.P.
No 51940 was here. But did not call for it untill to Day.

Inquiry & after-the-fact RRR

In the U S, after-the-fact RRR and inquiry are practically interchangeable (the fees were the same); the former refers to sending an RRR card after the registered (or insured) item was mail, and the latter concerns the fate of the item. The fee was 5¢ (in contrast to the usual RRR fee of 3¢) 1931-44. Both are extremely difficult to find. Two after-the-fact domestic examples are known in the Prexy period.

Form 1516
INQUIRY FOR REGISTERED INSURED O. D. } Article No. 05771 LETTER PARCEL } **Ordinary**
 Mailed at Station 413 Broadway C. by J. Hill on Dec 30 1935, 1935
 addressed to J C Hill North East Pa
 Contents: _____
REPLY: Date: _____, 1935
 If C. O. D., give money order No. _____ date _____, 1935
 If not received, state postage necessary for return _____ cents.
 Has the article been received? _____
 Description: _____
 This piece for which inquiry is made is not accounted for and is ordinary, insured, or registered; if registered, Form 363.
 5-2701

Post Office Department
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300
 POSTMARK OF OFFICE
 MAKING INQUIRY
 POSTMASTER, Station
 (OFFICE TO WHICH INQUIRY IS SENT—CROSS OUT IN REPLYING)
 POSTMASTER,
 (OFFICE MAKING INQUIRY—TO BE FILLED OUT BY OFFICE MAKING REPLY)
 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Inquiry, 1935. For a registered letter sent from New York to Pennsylvania. Not signed or processed at destination office, but handstamped *Return Receipt Requested/Fee Paid*, supporting the contention that inquiry and after-the-fact were regarded as (almost) the same.

Post Office Department
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 REGISTERED ARTICLE
 No. 35344
 INSURED PARCEL
 No. _____
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300
 5 CENTS
 POSTMARK OF DELIVERING OFFICE
 SACRAMENTO
 35
 AND DATE OF DELIVERY
 Return to Bradford Cross & Prior
 Street and Number, } (NAME OF SENDER)
 or Post Office Box, } Box 924
SACRAMENTO,
CALIFORNIA.

After-the-fact, 1935. RRR card for Sacramento drop registered letter. The ms date in cancel on front refers to the *date of delivery* of the registered item; on reverse is the ms notation *card signed 8-8-35* (8 August 1935). There is no way to determine the actual date this card was sent (other than after 8 August).

RETURN RECEIPT
 Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.
Walter H. ...
 (Signature or name of addressee.)

 (Signature of addressee's agent.)
 Date of delivery, July 1, 1935
 Form 8811
 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1935
card signed 8-8-35

Return of RRR card by air

Possible beginning in 1938, provided the sender paid the domestic airmail fee for the card (in addition to all other fees). Postage was applied to the RRR card. Very few 1940s examples are known, and this is probably the earliest.



St Paul (MN)—Fairbanks, 1943. Ordinary RRR card franked with 6¢ stamp, paying the domestic air rate. Signed in red crayon (not visible in scan) on reverse.

Form 3811
Rev. 1-4-30

RETURN RECEIPT

Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.

1 Mrs Geo Wondra
(Signature or name of addressee)

2 _____
(Signature of addressee's agent—Agent should enter addressee's name on line ONE above)

Date of delivery Feb 7, 1943

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-12421

Pretty RRR covers

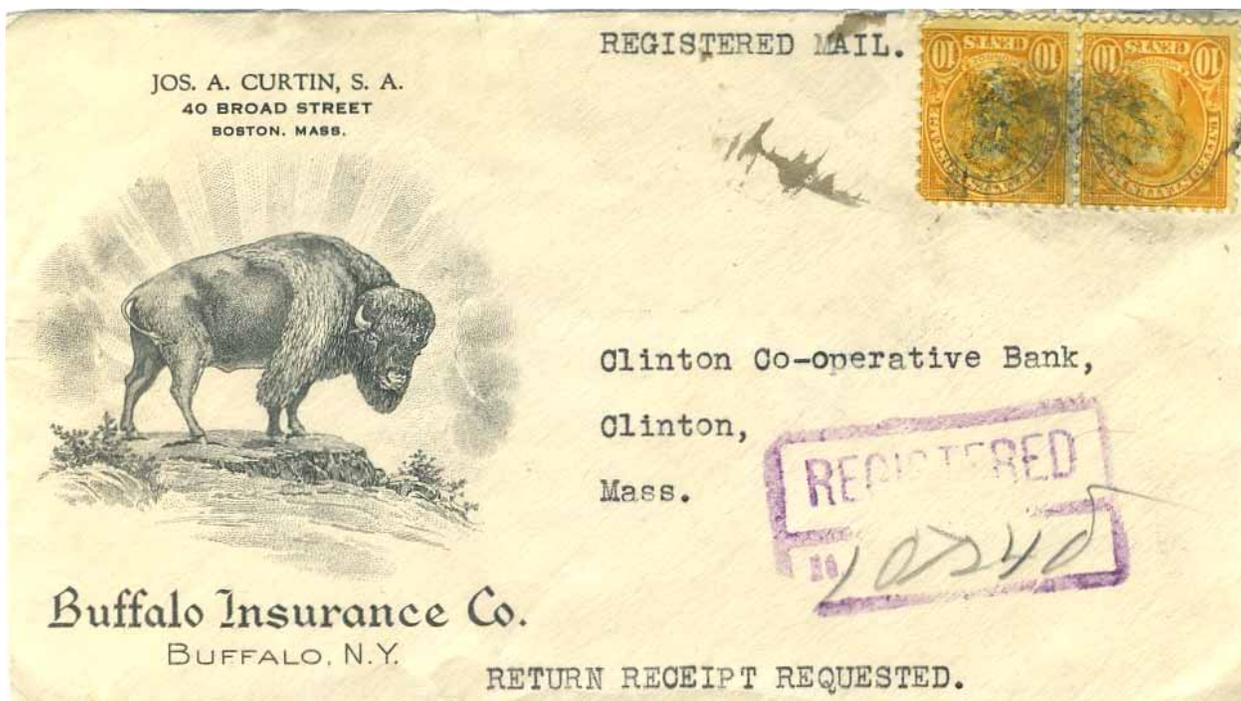
Illustrated covers have no postal history significance per se, but are nice to look at.



New York drop letter, 1916. Rated 10¢ registration and 2¢ drop or domestic letter rate. Same day delivery.



Dallas-Pennsylvania, December 1925. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR fee, and 2¢ domestic letter rate. (One stamp per service.)



Boston-Clinton (MA), 1931. **Rated** 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR fee, and 2¢ domestic letter rate.



Restricted delivery, 1940. **Rated** 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR fee, 10¢ restricted delivery (*signed by addressee only*), and 3¢ domestic letter rate.

Manuscript day and month in cds on reverse; same pen and handwriting as addressee only endorsement on front.

One stamp per service

When each service is paid exactly by one stamp (that is, one stamp pays the registration fee, another pays airmail, etc), we refer to it as *one stamp per service*. Ideally, if special purpose stamps (for airmail or special delivery, for example) exist, they should be used to pay for the corresponding service. Four services on a cover with one stamp per service is very difficult to find.



Tacoma–Beverly Hills, 1930. Registration (15¢), RRR (3¢), airmail (5¢), and special delivery (10¢). The use of stationery (albeit airmail stationery) makes this not entirely satisfactory.

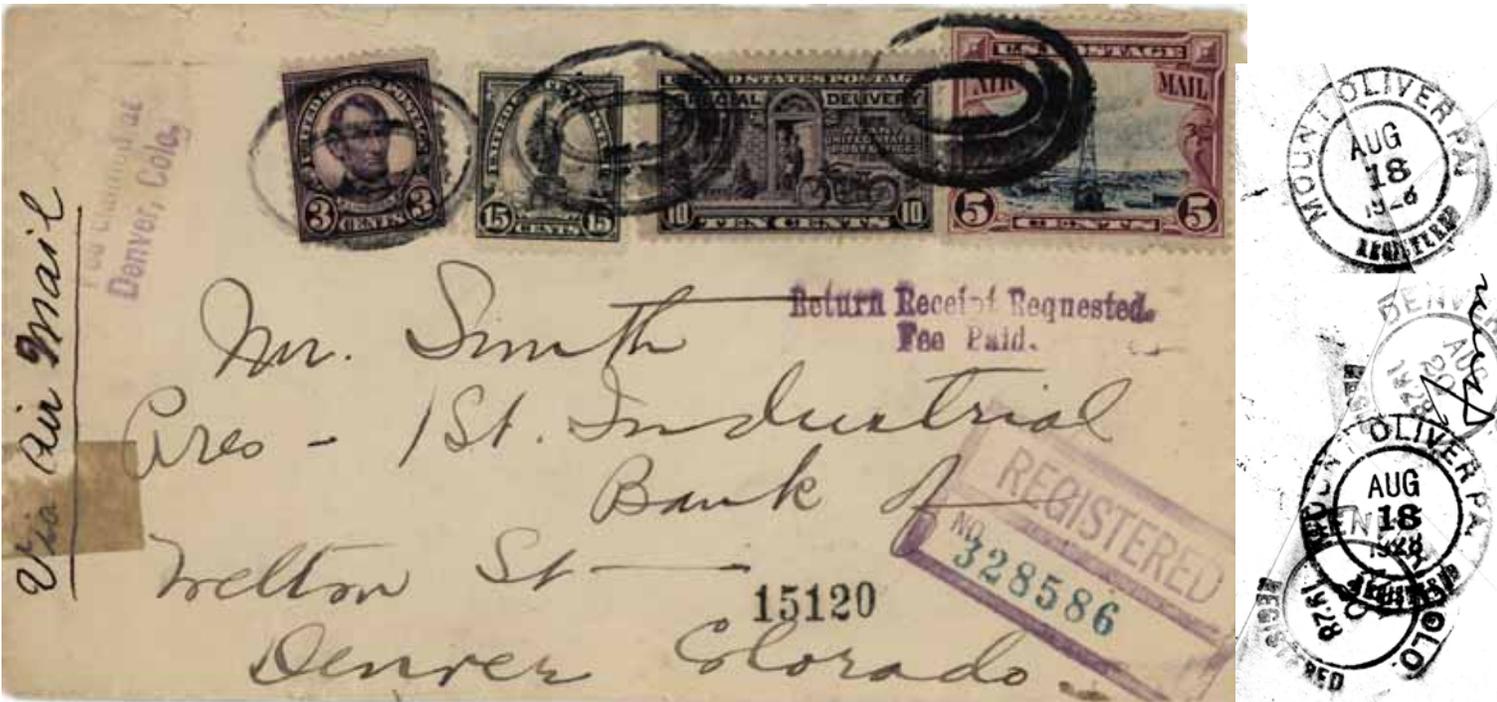


Sunflower (MS)–Millington (TN), 1931. Rated as above.

One stamp per service



Arkansas—Hartford, December 1925. Registration (15¢), RRR (3¢), domestic (2¢), and special delivery (10¢). There is no mention of special delivery on the cover, although an SD stamp is used.



Mount Oliver (PA)—Denver, 1928. Differing from the preceding only in an airmail stamp.

One stamp per service



Newark-Long Island, 1931. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 3¢ RRR, 20¢ showing address, & 2¢ domestic. Returned to sender, including interesting

No later address known to the Post Office