# United Kingdom

NE of the founding members of the GPU, and so was supposed to offer AR service with fellow GPU/UPU members. There is evidence that UK offered international service at least from 1 April 1879 (the date of universalization of AR) and no earlier than 1 July 1875, but the evidence also suggests that domestic AR service did not begin until 1891. The expression used in UK for AR was (and frequently, still is) advice of delivery.

There were several difference between international and domestic AR services offered by UK. Domestic service was cheaper; the AR forms were quite different, and (with the exception of the very first form), international forms were to be returned under cover, while the domestic forms were folded letter sheets. Moreover, international AR forms were replaced by AR cards in late 1921, while domestic AR forms continued to be used until the 1950s.

The GPO seems to have most reluctant to adopt AR service, based in part on the extremely low numbers of nineteenth and early twentieth century artefacts of AR. In the pre-Vienna period, there are three examples of outgoing international AR forms and one incoming known, as well as several incoming AR covers, but no known outgoing ones. There are several AR covering envelopes known in this period.

In the Vienna period, there are perhaps a dozen international AR forms, probably half as many domestic ones, fewer than ten outgoing AR covers, and no domestic ones known. There are actually quite a few British covering envelopes in this period, with numerous printing dates and varieties.

Post-Vienna, international AR forms become even more difficult to find (unlike the situation for almost all other major entities), but the covering envelopes become almost prolific, with various sizes and shapes. The earliest domestic AR cover is dated 1903, and in general both domestic and international UK AR covers are still fairly difficult to find well into the 1940s. On the other hand, domestic AR forms are amazingly common. Dozens of different printings are illustrated in MacKay's book [MAC].

British (international) AR cards are somewhat difficult to find, and those printed in the 1920s have an annoying habit of having turned brown from sulfurization (their original colour was probably yellow, but I can't be sure).

- The (probable) first printing AR form is print order dated 31 March 1879, and is booklet style, very similar to that of Canada's first AR form (and also a folded letter sheet), but unilingual English. The next known printing is on large card stock, and requiring a covering envelope. All subsequent ones are paper and required covering envelopes.
- Around 1900 or so, both domestic and international AR forms were enlarged to accommodate more postmarks and comments from post offices; we infer that this was to permit the forms to also serve for enquiry (for which the fees were about the same). It becomes impossible to distinguish after the fact AR service from inquiry. The international forms became foolscap size (and, for some reason, were printed on grey-blue paper).
- AR covering envelopes are small (#8 size) in the period 1883–1910s, but then we see a plethora of different sizes, often on cheap paper.
- when applicable (that is, not in the Vienna period, nor for duplicate forms), payment of AR fee in stamps on the form or card
- (International) The ratio of AR to registration fee ratio is 1¼ until about 1920–21 (for very few jurisdictions outside the British Empire and Commonwealth was the AR fee more than that of registration). Most of the larger entities had ratio 1.

#### AR timeline

#### 1 July 1875

Founding member GPU.

#### 1 April 1879

First known AR form issued, print date 31 March 1879; it is pink, and unlike all other known UK AR forms, but similar to the first forms of Canada, and of the Seychelles. Payment of AR fee on form (later, card) except during Vienna period.

#### 1891

Probable year of origin of domestic AR service.

#### late 1921

AR cards introduced for international service only (AR *forms* for domestic use continued to 1968); 1920s cards high sulphur content and browned easily.

#### 1968

Domestic AR forms replaced by domestic AR cards.

#### Notes & Observations

- In parallel with Canada, early UK is rare. There are three known outgoing AR forms in the pre-Vienna period, one incoming, and no domestic (the last is not surprising, since it appears that domestic AR was not instituted until 1891). There are no known outgoing AR covers in this period, but a couple of incoming ones exist. Several AR covering envelopes are known.
- There are probably around ten known outgoing AR covers in the Treaty of Vienna period (1892–98), but the international forms do not seem to be that rare, nor are the covering envelopes. Domestic AR forms exist in this period (these did not require covering envelopes).
- The earliest recorded domestic AR cover is dated 1903.
- There was a profusion of AR covering envelopes in various shapes, going into the 1930s.
- British AR cards were introduced in late 1921 (for international use only), and they are not common. Nor are international or domestic AR covers, but for some reason, domestic AR forms *are* common, and come in dozens of printings (see [M] for numerous illustrations).





#### UK AR handstamps

The one on the left was in standard use from 1892. The only other UK AR handstamp that I've seen appears on the right (and in only one example, used in 1938); it is larger. But a very high percentage of UK AR covers do not have the handstamp, but instead a manuscript (and the odd one has printed AR).

## Very basic British rates 1875–1971

$dates \rightarrow$	<b>≤1875</b>	99/1/1	18/06/03	20/06/01	21/06/13	22/05/29	23/05/14	40/05/01
registration <sup>i</sup>	2	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	3	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$
dom AR	2	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	3	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$
dom AR, after the fact	NA	2	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	3	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\longrightarrow$
domestic first class	1	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	1.5	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$
int AR	2.5	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	3	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\longrightarrow$
int AR, after the fact	NA	2.5	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	3	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$
UPU first class	2.5	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	3	$\rightarrow$	2.5	3
British Empire	UPU	1	1.5	2	$\rightarrow$	1.5	$\rightarrow$	2.5

$dates \rightarrow$	49/05/01	50/10/09	52/05/01	56/06/01	57/10/01	61/03/01	63/04/27	65/5/17
registration <sup>i</sup>	4	$\rightarrow$	6	12 <sup>i</sup>	12	18	21	$\rightarrow$
dom AR	3	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	6	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$
dom AR, after the fact	3	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	6	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$
domestic first class	1.5	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	3	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	4
int AR	3	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	6	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$
int AR, after the fact	3	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	6	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$
UPU first class	3	4	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	6	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$
British Empire	2.5	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	4	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$

$dates \to$	66/10/03	68/09/16
registration <sup>i</sup>	36	$\rightarrow$
dom AR	9	$\rightarrow$
dom AR, after the fact	12	$\rightarrow$
domestic first class	4	$\rightarrow$
int AR	9	$\rightarrow$
int AR, after the fact	12	$\rightarrow$
UPU first class	6	$\rightarrow$
British Empire	4	5

Covers the period up to decimalization (1971). All rates are in pence (d, for denarii). For first class mail, multiple weight rates are much more complicated; the table deals with first weight only. For more details see [Furfee]

Dating system is **year/month/day**. Printed matter, express, COD, DLO return fee, airmail, parcel post, . . . not included. Rates taken from [F], [UPU],

(i) All registration fees given for default indemnity only; domestic and international registration fees equal, except in the period 56/06/01-57/09/30 when domestic registration was 1/- and international registration was 6 d.

NA = service not available.

# United Kingdom AR: exhibit synopsis

WAS a founding member of the GPU, so that on its inception, it was supposed to offer AR service to other founding members. However, it was little used until the twentieth century. The GPO seems to have given it a less than enthusiastic welcome. For one thing, the AR fee was 25% more than the default registration fee until 1921; contrast this with the US, for which international AR was a free option on registered mail until 1925 (of course, the US had a long history of this service). For most European countries, AR and registration fees were equal.

The UK had separate treatments for international and domestic AR service: different forms and different rates. Moreover, although the international forms were replaced by cards in late 1921 (as was the case for most entitities), domestic forms persisted well into the 1970s. Domestic service seems to have become fairly popular from about the 1920s, based on the number of printings of domestic AR forms; curiously, domestic AR covers are not that readily available. In contrast, artefacts of international AR service are difficult to find, even into the 1940s, with the (mysterious) exception of AR covering envelopes, for which there are numerous printings. The exhibit is divided in two: international and domestic, with two additional pages on avis de paiement.

#### International AR

Subdivided by time period, pre-Treaty of Vienna (to 30 June 1892), Treaty of Vienna (1 July 1892–31 December 1898), and post-Treaty of Vienna (from 1 January 1899). Within the chronological divisions, we proceed by artefact: AR forms, AR covering envelopes, AR cards, and finally, AR covers. Not all of these were used in every chronological division.

#### Pre-Vienna

AR forms There are only three (or four, depending on how they are counted) reported, and all of them appear here. The first is a pink book style, to be returned as a folded letter sheet; the next two are heavy paper intended to be returned under cover, and finally, there is a domestic AR form erroneously used on international mail (underpaying the AR fee). Incoming forms from Luxembourg (1876) and Russia (1881) show mistreatment of AR service.

AR covering envelopes For returning the signed foreign AR forms to the sender of the original registered letter. The only two known examples are shown, one of which is from BPO Constantinople; these would have contained the heavy paper type forms. No incoming AR covering envelopes are known in this period.

AR covers No outgoing examples are known, but two incoming ones (from Germany and Russia) appear in the exhibit.

#### Treaty of Vienna period

In this period, the AR fee was applied to the registered covers, as the forms were usually prepared in the destination country.

AR forms Three examples of the form, unlike all those of the pre-Vienna period; returned under cover.

AR covering envelopes In this period, for returning UK forms. A representative sample of three are shown. There are at least five different printings.

AR covers Fewer than ten outgoing are suspected of existing. Two from UK, and one from BPO Constantinople appear.

#### Post-Vienna

Reverted to the original system of preparing AR forms (later cards) at the office of origin; now British stamps appear on the forms and cards, not the covers. After the fact service become available.

AR forms The forms have been enlarged to foolscap size to accommodate more postmasters remarks (so they could also be used for inquiry service), and the colour has changed to slate blue. Two are shown, one of which is after the fact.

AR covering envelopes Once again, these would have contained foreign AR forms (most commonly, of the US).

There is a large variety of printings, including a mourning cover (for Queen Victoria), in various sizes, and with different wordings; these go into the 1930s. Thirteen official ones and four provisional ones appear.

AR *cards* First printing late 1921; on poor quality card stock, probably in <u>yellow</u>, changing to <u>pinkish</u> for those printed after 1930. Ten are shown to 1956, including a *duplicate*, returned from Tuva (1939).

AR covers Range mostly over the 1920s and 1930s; includes 1906 combination AR, VD (extra indemnity on registered matter, known as *insured* in UK), and late fee, and some later insured items (one underpaid), as well as BPO Smyrna (1921).

#### Domestic AR

Subdivided by artefact: AR forms (1892–1960s), then AR covers, and within each, arranged chronologically. British domestic AR forms did not require covering envelopes, and were not replaced by cards until 1968.

AR forms One used internationally appears in the pre-Vienna international portion. An early (1892; printed 1891) use is shown. A *duplicate* form (1900) follows it. Around the turn of the century, forms were enlarged to accommodate more postmasters' comments, just as the international forms were. Then we show a range of forms to 1962 (various formats), including after-the-fact use, and forms together with their returned to sender cover.

AR covers Two with their attached form appear in the previous section. It is very difficult to find domestic British AR covers, even into the 1960s. We show uses 1903 (earliest reported), 1909, 1910, 1951, and 1967.

#### Avis de paiement

One form (1910) and one card (1940); these are the only two British avis de paiement items I'm aware of.

# British AR

SERVICE (avis de réception, advice of delivery, acknowledgment of receipt, ...) was permitted on international mail by the GPU (later UPU) in 1875. The UK had no such service until that date. The GPO was less than enthusiastic about it, and very little nineteenth century UK AR material is known.

The exhibit is divided into **international** and **domestic** services, which were treated differently; for example, the fee for this service was 2½ d for international mail and 2 d for domestic for much of the period covered.

AR forms, AR covering envelopes (used to return the signed AR forms to the sender of the registered item), AR cards, and AR covers (that is, registered envelopes sent with AR) are artefacts of the service. International service is dealt with first, then domestic; there are substantial procedural differences.

The **international** section is subdivided into the three periods, pre-Vienna (1875–1892), Treaty of Vienna period (1 July 1892–31 December 1899), and post-Vienna (1899–). Each of these subdivisions is further divided (where applicable) into AR forms, AR covering envelopes (used to return the signed AR forms to the sender of the registered item), AR cards, and AR covers, which are arranged chronologically.

- (a) Pre-Vienna UK AR material is almost nonexistent; but we show the four known UK AR forms, two incoming forms, the two known AR covering envelopes, and two incoming AR covers. No outgoing AR covers are known.
- (b) Treaty of Vienna period AR material is almost as difficult to find; we show three different printings of AR forms, several AR covering envelopes, and two of the fewer than ten known AR covers.
- (c) Post-Vienna covers a much longer range, and there is more material. Oddly, there are very few AR forms in this period; two are shown, one of which is *after the fact* (subsequent to mailing of the original registered item). On the other hand, AR covering envelopes come in a bewildering array of formats and were used into the 1930s (they contained foreign AR forms). We show fourteen official and four provisional.

AR cards (for international use only) were introduced late 1921; they are generally not easy to find. Ten are shown to 1956, including a *duplicate*, returned from Tuva. AR covers are still difficult to find; the ones shown are mostly 1920–1940, as well as a 1906 AR cover with VD and late fee.

The domestic section is subdivided into AR forms and AR covers (cards were not used, and covering envelopes were not required). There are many different domestic AR forms (1891–1968). We show a range, including an early (1910) *duplicate* form, as well as after the fact uses, and a couple with their accompanying AR cover. UK domestic AR covers are difficult to find, but we show the earliest reported (1903), and a few others, to 1967.

The final two pages deal with the very obscure *avis de paiement,* acknowledging payment of an international postal money order, a service analogous to, but much less frequently seen, than AR.

ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

A. Leynon & France

A. Leynon & France

General Post Office.

Coventry

Domestic inquiry form, London—Coventry, 1871. Printed form filled in by post office official: a registered letter had been delivered. This may be viewed as an extreme type of after-the-fact AR, providing evidence of delivery.

In any further correspondence on this subject, the above Number should be quoted.

General Fist Office,

24. Ang: 1871.

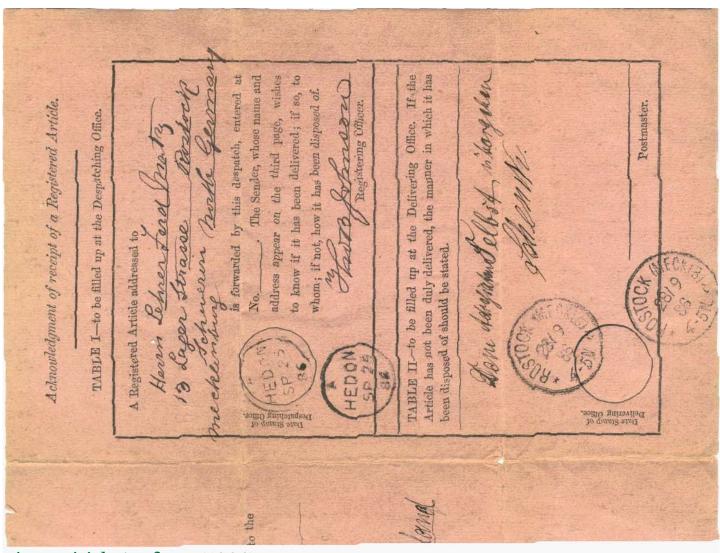
I have to inform you that the Registers Aleltes addressed to M. R. G. Lloyd, referred to in your application of the 23 and selected.

hasbeen delivered.

# UK international AR service

## Pre-Treaty of Vienna AR forms

Although UK was a founding member of the GPU (UPU from 1878), AR material is almost non-existent in the pre-Treaty of Vienna period (to 30 June 1892). AR forms were attached with gum. Three British AR forms known in this period.



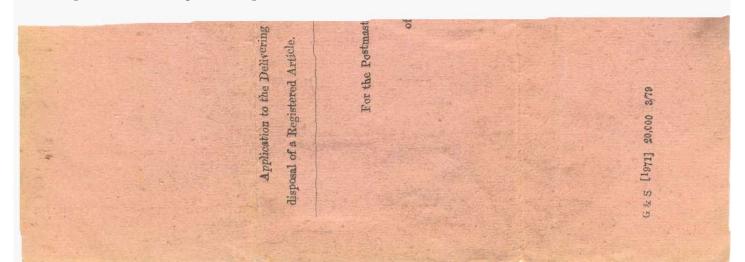
## First British AR form (1886)

Properly signed and returned from Germany. Only known example of this form.

Hedon—Rostock (Mecklenberg), 1886. Print-order date is March 1879 (in time for April 1879 change in UPU rules). Not bilingual. Discovery example: shows UK had AR service prior to 1892, contradicting the literature. Flimsy paper and book style reminiscent of French AR forms of the period.

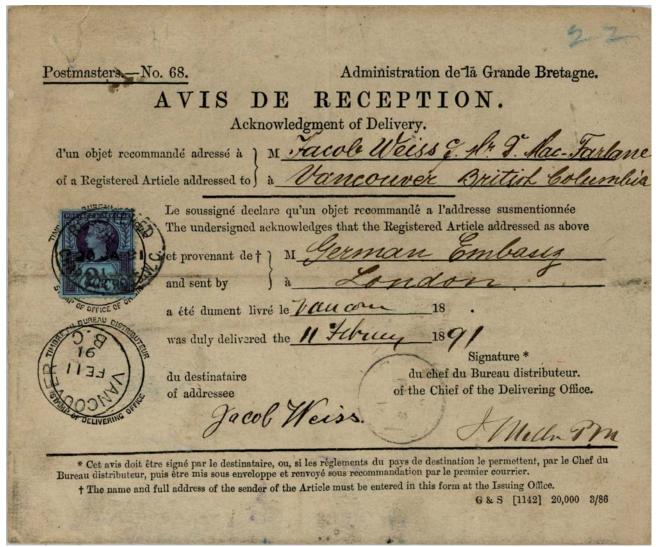
• AR fee paid on form using 2½d stamp on reverse

• Returned as folded letter sheet



#### Second British AR form (1891)

Properly signed and returned from Canada. *Only known example of this form,* and one of three reported UK AR forms in the pre-Vienna period. Differs from earlier example: required a covering envelope and is on heavy paper.



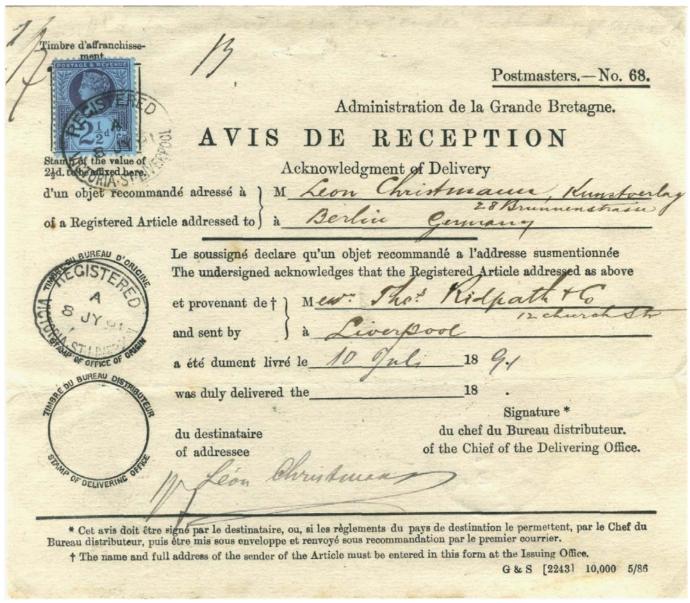
British AR form, Charing Cross (London)—Vancouver, 1891. Properly signed and datestamped in Vancouver. Heavy paper (not card stock), required a covering envelope for its return (unlike the first AR form). Print order data, 3/86 in a quantity of 20,000. This and all later UK AR forms were accorded form number 68. No markings of any sort on reverse.

- AR fee paid on form using 2½d stamp
- Returned in covering envelope

One of three known pre-Treaty of Vienna British AR forms to anywhere (all different printings).

## Third British AR form (1891)

Properly signed and returned from Germany. *Only known example of this form,* and one of three reported UK AR forms in the pre-Vienna period.



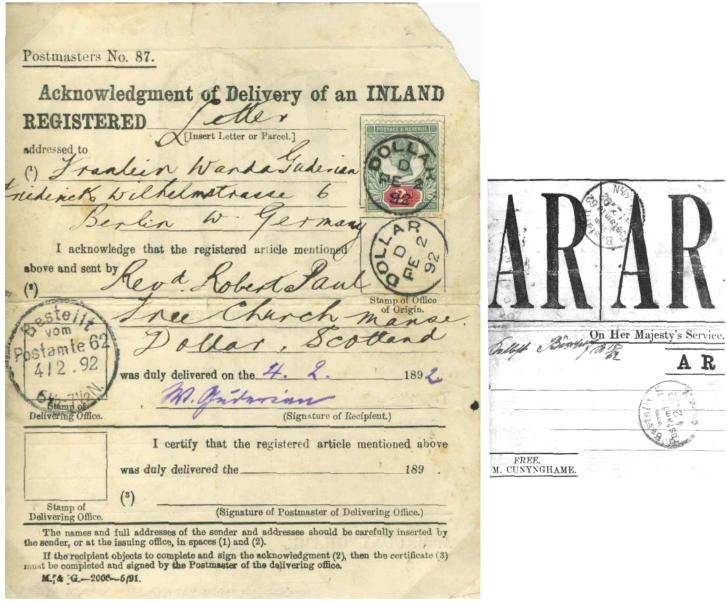
*Victoria St (Liverpool) to Berlin, 1891.* On very heavy paper, similar to the second (known) printing. Print-order date is 5/86 in quantity of 10,000.

- AR fee paid on form using  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp
- Returned in covering envelope



## Domestic (inland) British AR form used abroad (February 1892)

Improper use of form #87 (for domestic AR) to Germany; domestic AR fee paid (2d) rather than international AR fee (2½d). Underpayment was caused by inscription (hidden by stamp) of the amount for domestic service. Supports current conjecture that domestic AR service began in UK ca 1891, and this newly-issued form confused the postmaster at the small Scottish office.



Dollar (Scotland) to Germany, February 1892. Printed in a run of 2000, May 1891 (this very small quantity is consistent with domestic AR having been recently introduced). Properly signed and returned to office of origin.

- AR fee paid on form using 2d stamp on interior of form
- Domestic UK AR forms were intended to be returned as folded letter sheets, but this one was returned under cover.

## Incoming AR form *mistreated* on arrival

On delivery of the registered letter, the AR form was supposed to be signed by the recipient and returned to the sender. Owing to unfamiliarity with the service and the absence of English on most early AR forms, some were neither signed nor returned. In all likelihood, they remained attached to the letter, ignored by postal clerks.

Extremely early (1876) AR form from Luxemburg to UK (AR service mandated for UK from July 1875). Likely intended for use in German-speaking countries only (unilingual German).





London registered handstamp on reverse.

AR form, Luxemburg to London, January 1876. Earliest AR item to or from British Isles. Regrettably sent to stamp dealer, hence quasiphilatelic.

- AR fee paid on form, by rouletted 25 centimes stamp
- Intended to be returned under cover; on delivery, form ignored.

* A	vis de réception à renv	oyer d'un objet assuré
	ou recomm	
По	длежащее возвращенію увъдомленіе о полученіи	страховаю или заказнаю отправленія.
Le des	tinataire soussigné (a) Г. Лен	mucple
déclare qu	e l'objet sub à son a	dresse, originaire de (b) & doupumirous
lui a été 1 было ему выд	emis aujourd'hui par le bureau de	poste ci-dessous indiqué. ha churuin зак ждением.
(e)	lė	187 Le destinataire Получатель
(a) {1'e	om, prénom et domicile du destina expéditeur de l'objet. я, фамилія и мистожительство получателя, показ	Law & Chramis
(c) { T	limbre du bureau qui remet l'objet.	(d) Timbre du bureau d'origine de l'objet.

Sur le verso de l'avis l'expéditeur de l'objet indique son adresse détaillée.

Ha обороть увъдомленія пишется отпрасителем полный и подробный его адрест.

Bitzkaya (Russia) to Birmingham, 1881. Postmarked in UK; unsigned, ignored on delivery.

- AR fee paid on form by 7 kopek stamp
- Intended to be returned under cover.

10 10 m

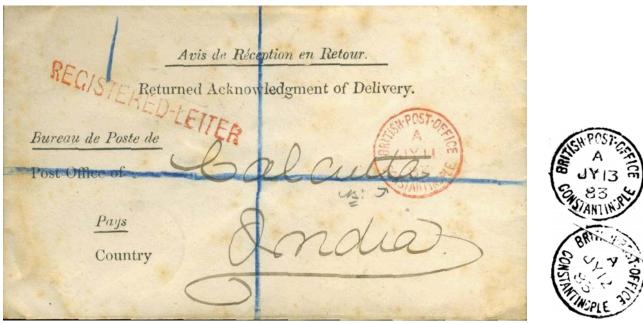
Partial strike of (postal) wagon (Russian travelling post office).

(BALASHOE)

Boxed straightline means *registered*; Birmingham registered cds in blue.

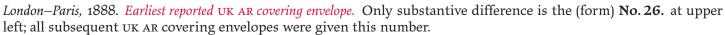
## Pre-Vienna (to 30 June 1892) covering envelopes for AR forms

For returning the AR forms of the country of origin of the registered letter. Only two pre-Vienna examples reported for UK or offices abroad.



BPO Constantinople—Calcutta, 1883. Earliest reported AR covering envelope for British possessions, colonies, or dominions. Likely the generic style used in UK at the time, with prolix description and no form number. Fourth reported use of straightline REGISTERED-LETTER handstamp at BPO Constantinople.





#### Pre-Vienna AR covers

No outgoing examples are known from UK in this period.



Germany to London, 1890. At top, ms Rückschein (literally, receipt back), the term in Germany for AR used since the 1830s. Rated 20Pfennig for each of registration & first weight UPU fees; AR fee would have been applied to AR form. Likely the earliest known AR cover to the UK.





Warsaw to Exeter, sextuple rate, 1891. At lower left, ms avec retour resepisse, misspelling Austrian term for AR (used from 1806) Retour Recepisse (no accents), French for return receipt. Rated 70 kopeks, made up of 10 kop for registration and six times (per 15 g) UPU rate of 10 kop; AR fee would have been paid on the AR form.

Nine wax seals on reverse contribute to the weight.

\$ 20 PC

de la part. de Charles Dehocalski rus kruera N.35

Treaty of Vienna, UK AR forms In the Treaty of Vienna period, 1 July 1892–31 December 1898, AR forms were prepared in the destination country, and so the AR fee had to be applied to the registered item.

Postmasters.—No. 68.
Administration des Postes de la Grande Bretagne. Post Office of the United Kingdom.
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY
d'un objet recommandé adressé à Monse Gougagus
of a Registered Article addressed to Mrs. Yougaud  of a Registered Article addressed to
Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionée, mis à la
The undersigned acknowledges that a Registered Article addressed as above,
poste le
DERSEY posted on the gidny of February 189 5,*
et provenant de *)
and posted at * ) da Roche O. you Vendee
a été dûment livré le 189 .
was duly delivered the /9 day of
Signature † Signature †
du destinataire, du Chef du Bureau distributeur.  of the addressee. of the Postmaster of the Delivering Office.
THE OFFICE OF SUM C. C. S.
Avant de remettre à domicile l'objet recommandé, le bureau distributeur doit inscrire à cet avis la date du dépôt à
la poste, ainsi que (en face des mots "provenant de") la désignation complète du bureau d'origine, comme indiquées par le timbre des bureau d'origine.
Before delivering the Registered Article, the delivering Office must enter on the form the date on which the article was posted, and also (opposite the words "posted at") the exact designation of the Post Office of origin, as shown by the date stamp.
† Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.
† This acknowledgment must be signed by the addressee, or, if the postal regulations of the country of destination permit, by the Postmaster of the delivering Office. It should then be enclosed in an envelope, and despatched, registered, by first Mail, to the office at which the registered article was posted.
G&S r [2660] 20,000 7/93sv

Form prepared at Jersey for registered letter from France, 1895. No backstamps. Printing of 20,000, July 1893.

Postmasters.—No. 68.
Administration des Postes de la Grande Bretagne.  Post Office of the United Kingdom.
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION  ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY
d'un objet recommandé adressé à Mr. Ernst Sells.  of a Registered Article addressed to Mantait Plane
Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionée, mis à la  The undersigned acknowledges that a Registered Article addressed as above, poste le
Avant de remettre à domicile l'objet recommandé, le bureau distributeur doit inscrire à cet avis la date du dépôt à la poste, ainsi que (en face des mots "provenant de") la désignation complète du bureau d'origine, comme indiquées par le timbre du bureau d'origine.  Before delivering the Registered Article, the delivering Office must enter on the form the date on which the article was posted, and also (opposite the words "posted at") the exact designation of the Post Office of origin, as shown by the date stamp.  † Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef du bureau distributeur. Autant que faire se peut, le destinataire sera prié de désigner le nom et l'adresse de l'expéditeur de l'objet recommandé. Le chef inscrira ces indications sur l'avis, qui sera envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne. L'avis sera mis sous enveloppe par le bureau d'échange.  † This acknowledgment must be signed by the addressee, or, if the postal regulations of the country of destination permit, by the Postmaster of the delivering Office. Whenever possible, the addressee should be asked to give the name and address of the sender of the registered article. The Postmaster should inscribe these particulars on the acknowledgment, which should then be despatched, registered, by first Mail, to the office at which the registered article was posted. The acknowledgment should be enclosed in an envelope at the office of Exchange.
G & S I 1/97—[983] 20,000 9/8/-

Postmasters.—No. 68.

Administration des Postes de la Grande Bretagne. Post Office of the United Kingdom.

## AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY

d'un objet recommandé adressé à Mr. Maria jub Harrison of a Registered Article addressed to Schurwin St 51 Nottin

9 MR98 E

et provenant de \* } Reustad
and posted at \* }

Icharwywald 195

a été dûment livré le\_

was duly delivered the 4th day of Messes

Signature †

usteett

Signature †
du destinataire
of the addressee.

of the Postmaster of the Delivering Office.

Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur

† Name and Address of the Sender Belever philosoles

&& S I [5961] 20,000 1/97sv

Form prepared at Nottingham for registered letter from Neustadt (Black Forest), Germany, 1898. No backstamps. Printing of 20,000, January 1897 but a different form from preceding.

• AR fee paid on registered letter

• Returned under cover.

<sup>•</sup> Avant de remettre à domicile l'objet recommandé, le bureau distributeur doit inscrire à cet avis la date du dépôt à ta poste, ainsi que (en face des mots "provenant de") la désignation complète du bureau d'origine, comme indiquées par le timbre du bureau d'origine.

<sup>•</sup> Before delivering the Registered Article, the delivering Office must enter on the form the date on which the article was posted, and also (opposite the words "posted at") the exact designation of the Post Office of origin, as shown by the date stamp.

<sup>†</sup> Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, on, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef du bureau distributeur. Autant que faire se peut, le destinataire sera prié de désigner le nom et l'adresse de l'expéditeur de l'objet recommandé. Le chef inscrira ces indications sur l'avis, qui sera envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne. L'avis sera mis sous enveloppe par le bureau d'échange.

<sup>†</sup> This acknowledgment must be signed by the addressee, or, if the postal regulations of the country of destination permit, by the Postmaster of the delivering Office. Whenever possible, the addressee should be asked to give the name and address of the sender of the registered article. The Postmaster should inscribe these particulars on the acknowledgment, which should then be despatched, registered, by first Mail, to the office at which the registered article was posted. The acknowledgment should be enclosed in an envelope at the office of Exchange.

Postmasters.—No. 68.
Administration des Postes de la Grande Bretagne.
Post Office of the United Kingdom.
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY
mini the and
of a Registered Article addressed to Ploughous Dalry
of a Registered Article addressed to) Web ugu Mus & alry
Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionée, mis à la
The undersigned acknowledges that a Registered Article addressed as above,
poste le 9 / 189 ,*
DE 29 posted on the 24th day of Well 1898,
et provenant de* Notar
and posted at* \ Newstadt.
a été dûment livré le
was duly delivered the 29th day of Decr 1898.
Signature + Signature +
du destinataire. du Chef du Bureau distributeur.
of the Postmaster of the Delivering Office.
Mary Straut We Alexander
* Avant de remettre à domicile l'objet recommandé, le bureau distributeur doit inscrire à cet avis la date du dépôt à la poste, ainsi que (en face des mots "provenant de") la désignation complète du bureau d'origine, comme indiquées par le timbre du bureau d'origine.
* Before delivering the Registered Article, the delivering Office must enter on the form the date on which the article was posted, and also (opposite the words "posted at") the exact designation of the Post Office of origin, as shown by the date stamp.
† Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.
† This acknowledgment must be signed by the addressee, or, if the postal regulations of the country of destination permit, by the Postmaster of the delivering Office. It should then be enclosed in an envelope, and despatched, registered, by first Mail, to the Office at which the Registered Article was posted.
M & G-1000-1-93

Form prepared at Dalry for registered letter from Neustadt, 27 December 1898 (four days before the Treaty of Vienna ceased to be valid). Printing of 1,000, January 1893.

• AR fee paid on registered letter

• Returned under cover.

## Treaty of Vienna UK covering envelopes



Hull (UK) to Quito (Ecuador), May 1894. Identical to 1888 example, thus a holdover from pre-Vienna period. Inexplicable partial crown cancels at top.

London-New Jersey, July 1894. Central wording simplified.

No. 26. Avis de Réception. Acknowledgment of Delivery Bureau de Poste de Post Office of Pays Country

London-New Jersey, 1897. Full em-space between final *n* of *Réception* and period (all others have a hair space). Only example known of this minor variation.

#### AR covers, Treaty of Vienna (1 July 1892–31 December 1898)

AR covers were now supposed to be marked *AR* or *avis de réception*, and forms prepared in the destination country. This required the AR fee to be paid on the covers. Perhaps ten British AR covers are known in this period.



Throgmorton Avenue EC (London) to New York, 1892. Standard oval UK AR hs (used for many decades). Rated 2d registration, and 2½d for each of AR fee and UPU rate, totalling 7d. Earliest reported AR cover from UK.



Double rate, to Geneva, 1894. At top, ms registered & acknowledgment prepaid, endorsed by sender at Maybury (Woking); large ms AR at lower left, applied by clerk. Rated 9½d, made up as above, but with double UPU rate.

# British Post Office Constantinople AR cover, Vienna period Open 1857–1914 and 1919–1923.



British PO Constantinople to New York, returned to sender, 1896. Standard oval AR hs. Rated 40Paras for each of registration, AR fee, & UPU rate (agree with those of the rest of Ottoman Empire). Overprinted British 2d stamps.

After travelling extensively (via London), this was sent to the DLO in New York, recorded there (upper left), the *Parti* etiquette applied, and returned to sender. The `correct" oval DLO datestamp was intended for use on letter bills.

## Post-Vienna (1 January 1899–), AR forms

With the changes in procedures resulting from the Treaty of Washington, jurisdictions could once more choose to pay the AR fee on the forms, as UK did. British AR forms were enlarged to foolscap size, to permit them to also be used as enquiry forms. Curiously, there seem to be far fewer forms known in this period than in the Vienna period. Wording had changed to *ADVICE OF DELIVERY* by this time.

IMU	
Postmasters—No. 68.	
Administration des Postes de la Grande Bretagne.	Timbre poste de 24d. et Timbre du
Post Office of the United Kingdom.	
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION	N 2Z M
ADVICE OF DELIVERY	and Stamp of Office of Origin.
Biffer, suivant le cas, l'une ou of a letter insured for	enregistré ou valeur déclarée
indications.  Strike out which- ever of these items does not apply to the case.  d'un objet recommandé of a Registered Article  d'un colis postal avec valeur déclarée de of a parcel insured for	au bureau registered or insured at the Office
de { le on the } — { sous le under l	No. }
expédié par M J. A. Mühlensheth 60 Barclay Road a Sont by	Layfon stone , (3)
et adressé à M Andus Mühlenelth (à) Shephin	germany, (1)
indications. / declare (qu'un colis postal avec valeur déclarée)	adresse susmentionnée
Strike out whichever of these items does not apply to the case.  The undersigned acknowledges that a registered article an insured parcel.	addressed as above
et provenant de Anders Miklens and posted at (5)	leth
Yolonton	ja été dûment Fras duly
livré le 1 30 Juni	19/4.

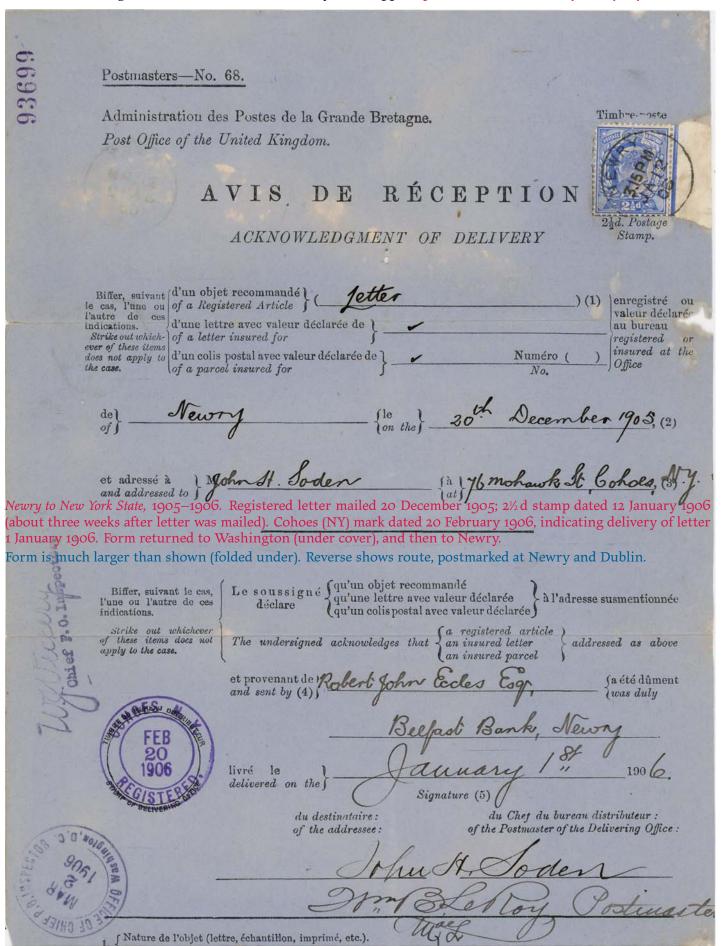
Leytonstone (London)—Stettin, June 1914. Foolscap folded under (showing two-thirds).

• AR fee paid by 2½d stamp

• Returned under cover to office of origin.

## After-the-fact AR/inquiry

UK regarded the two services as equivalent. AR form sent out *after* the registered letter had been mailed, with postmasters en route filling in dates. Possible internationally from 1899. *Only known international UK after the fact form.* 



Victoria Sta

Bureau d'origine. Office of origin.

Administration des Postes de la Grande Bretagne. Post Office of the United Kingdom.

# AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

#### ADVICE OF DELIVERY



21d. Postage Stamp and Stamp of Office of Origin.

		100	
Biffer, suivant d'une lettre avec valeur de cas, l'une ou of a lettre inverse.	éclarée de	137	enregistré ou
l'autre de ces			valeur déclarée
strike out which of a Registered Article	( letter	100	au bureau
	10000		registered or
does not apply to d'un colis postal avec valou	r déclarée de }		insured at the
the case. of a parcel insured for	The state of the state of	0	Office
		VSI.	w.35
de Victoria Station	{le on the} 2.	sous le No. \ \ \ \lander No. \}	154,(2)
expédié par M2 J. Cousin , sent by	ejo L. Jadot	Esq. 4 Bishops gak.	London. E. C
et adressé à and addressed to } M & J. De	sueger {	ats 1. Lange Soor	Haye . Holl
Biffer, suivant le cas, l'une ou l'autre de ces indications.  Strike out whichever	é {qu'une lettre avec val qu'un objet recomma qu'un colis postal avec	eur déclarée ndé valeur déclarée	smentionnée
of these items does not	d acknowledges that {	an insured letter a registered article address an insured parcel	ed as above
et provenant d	7	Victoria Sta	alin Fresh All
and posted at (5	) [	The second of the	count to the
A CHURCH			
			a été dûment
	1/		was duly
( The things to be a second to be a	, 01/	A.	100
livré le delivered on the	}	9	_190
a as negure		ture (6)	
	estinataire : e addressee :	de l'agent du bureau dis of the Postmaster of the Deliv	
tion (London) to the Hague, 1916. Three qu	ertors of form shown		
tion (London) to the Hugue, 1910. Timee qua	arters of form shown.	X, w	
JANOEL !	yourse v	- 100	
Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imp	rimé, etc.).		THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON OF T
1. Nature of article (letter, sample, printed po			
(Bureau d'origine ; date de dépôt à ce bure			
No d'enregistrement au même bureau.			
2. Office of origin; date of posting at this office			
No. of registration at the same office.		A remplir au bureau d'origine.	
3. Le nom et l'adresse complète de l'expédite	eur.	To be filled up at the Office of original	n.
Full name and full address of sender.			
4. Le nom et l'adresse complète du destinata			
Full name and full address of addressee		THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	

NOTA.—Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de

## Covering envelopes, post-Vienna (from 1 January 1899)

For returning AR forms of the country of origin. Were returned as registered matter until early 1908.



Glasgow to Baltimore, February 1901. Slightly less wide than other UK covering envelopes of the period.

Huddersfield to Cherry Town,
December 1901. Address
corrected at NY DLO. Slightly
less wide than other UK
covering envelopes of the
period.



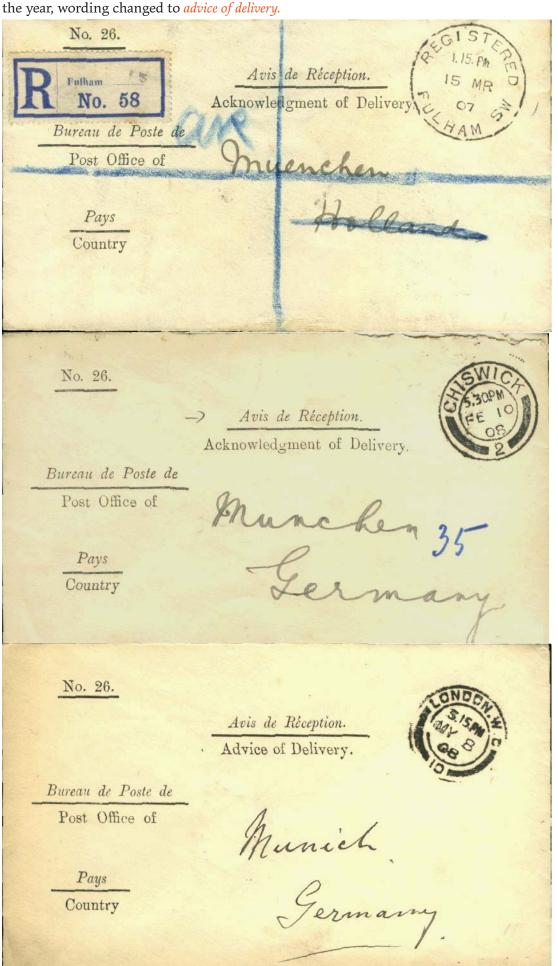
Mourning covering envelope, Norwood (London)—Virginia, June 1902. For Victoria's death (early 1901); three examples reported. British official has added the state, Va.

## Post-Vienna covering envelopes



## Returned as non-registered matter (UK)

For the UK, covering envelopes were sent registered until early 1908. The top two bracket the change; slightly later in



Registered, Fulham to Munich, 1907. Addressed to Holland but arrived at the correct Munich! Fulham registered skeleton.



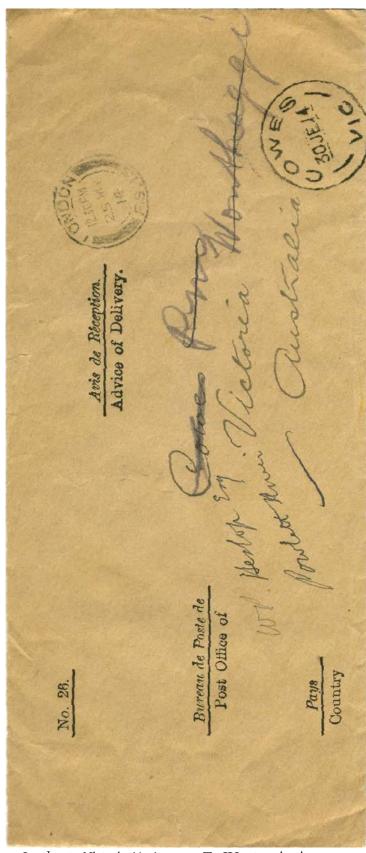
Unregistered, Chiswick to Munich, February 1908. Ms 35 refers to Munich office number.



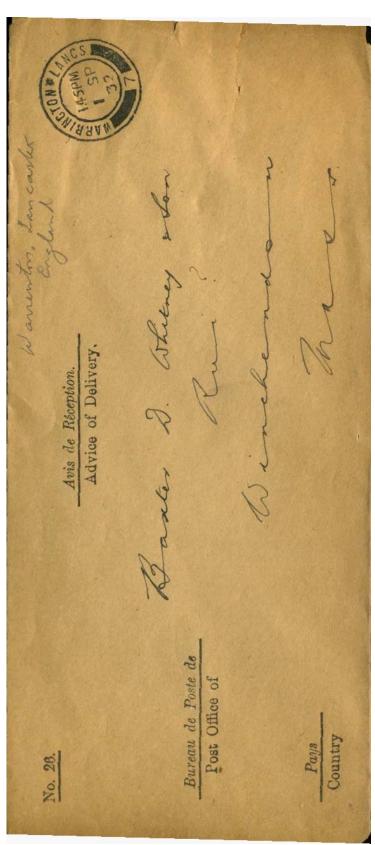
Change of wording, London–Munich, May 1908. Now Advice of Delivery.

## Change of format for UK covering envelopes

In the 1910s, a long envelope of poor quality paper was introduced, and evidently used for a long time.



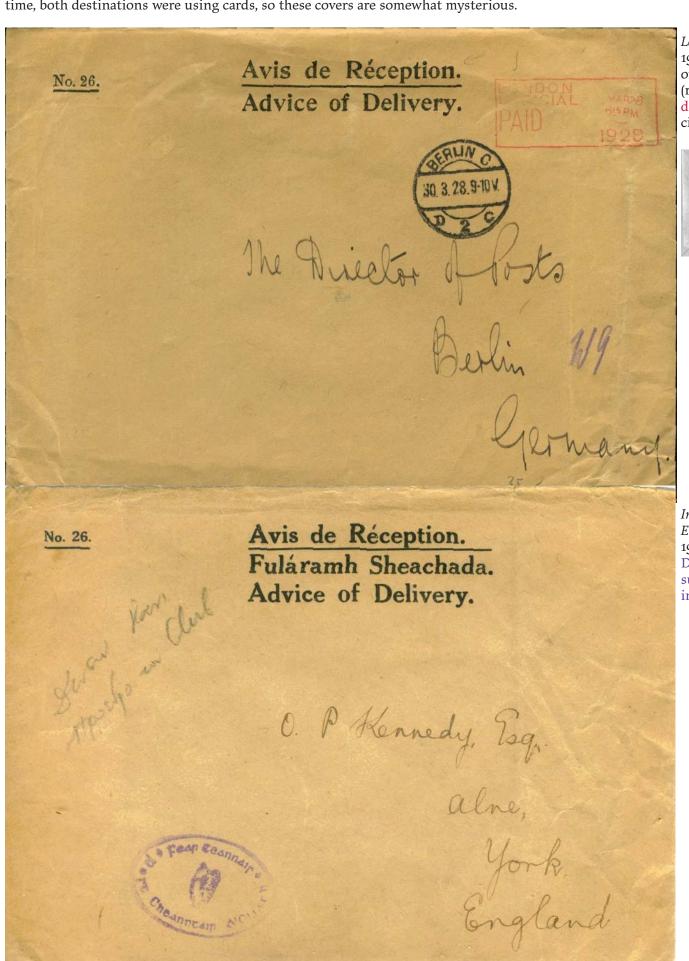
London to Victoria (Aus) 1914. To Wontaggi, via Cowes.



Lancashire to Massachussetts, 1932. Extremely late; the Us adopted AR cards (requiring no covering envelope) in 1923, but some small offices continued to use forms in the 1930s. With wording shifted to the left, examples are known in the 1920s.

#### More British Isles covering envelopes

This larger size was introduced in the UK in the 1920s, and an Irish version (after independence) also appeared. By this time, both destinations were using cards, so these covers are somewhat mysterious.



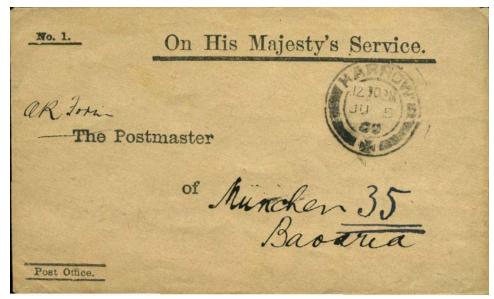
London—Berlin, 1928. Berlin official seal (rev). London official meter.



Ireland to
England, post1925. Hs:
Dublin postal
superintendent.

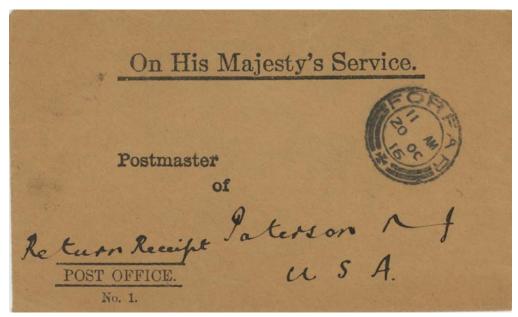
## Provisional AR covering envelopes

When postmasters did not have any government-issued AR covering envelopes, they made up their own, either on official stationery intended for other uses, or on a random envelope. Here are two prepared on **Form No. 1.** (covering envelopes were form number 26).





Official form No. 1, Harrow to Munich, 1909. Ms AR form.



Different form No. 1, Forfar (Scotland) to New Jersey, 1916. Ms Return receipt (the Us formula).

## Provisional AR covering envelopes

And here are two prepared on Form No. 2.



Form No. 2, West Bromwich to Springfield, 1903. Hs AR.



Official form No. 2, Folkestone to Munich, 1909. Ms avis de reception.

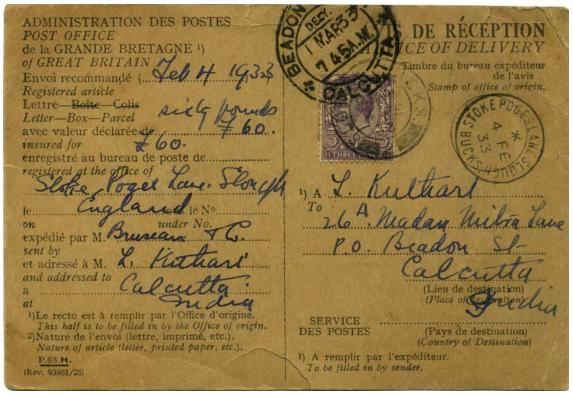
#### AR cards

UK began using AR cards for international AR (but not domestic) late 1921. They are surprisingly difficult to find. Those printed before 1930 were on poor quality card stock, and have browned considerably. They were probably originally yellow (as Canada's were).



Returned from Paris to London, 1928. Properly signed. Payment of 3 d by stamp.





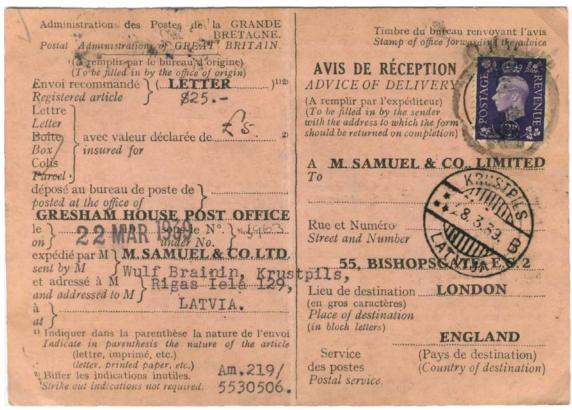
Returned from Calcutta to Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, Buckshire, 1933. Payment of 3 d by stamp. For a registered letter with indemnity up to £60 (this affected the registration fee, but not the AR fee).



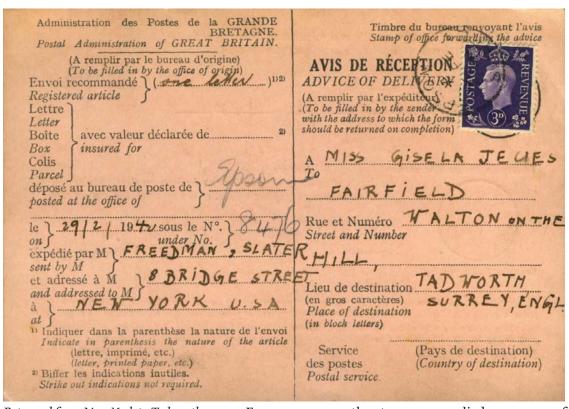
Returned from Kobe (Japan) to Sutton, Coldfield, Birmingham, 1933. For some reason, the stamp was applied on reverse of the card. Printed in 1929.

#### AR cards

Pink cards were introduced in the early 1930s.



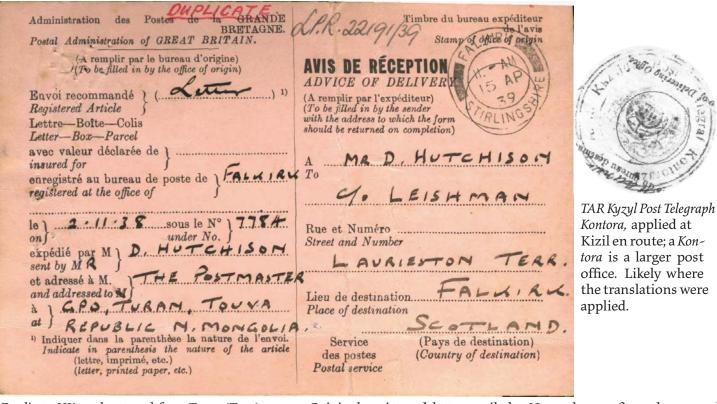
*Returned from Krustpils (Latvia) to London,* 1939. For a registered letter with indemnity up to £5. The marking on the stamp is mysterious.



Returned from New York to Tadworth, 1940. For some reason, the stamp was applied on reverse of the card. Printed in 1929.

#### Duplicate AR card

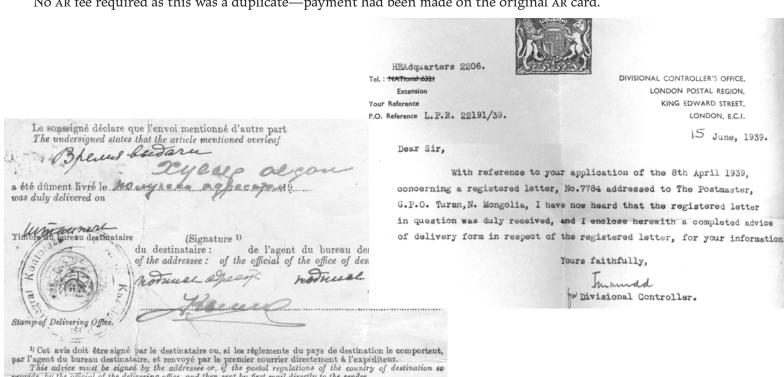
If an AR card (or form) were lost, damaged, or simply not returned, either an office of the country of origin or of destination could prepare a duplicate (replacement) card or form. Very few examples (worldwide) have been reported. This AR card was returned from Tuva (full name: Tuvan Herdsman's Republic), with a letter from the London Post Office.



Duplicate UK card returned from Turan (Tuva), 1939. Original registered letter mailed 2 November 1938; card prepared 15 April 1939 at Falkirk (Stirlingshire), addressed to the postmaster in Turan (40 km northwest of the capital, Kizil). Properly signed; returned to the LPR by 15 June (undated signature). Card printed in 1934.

No AR fee required as this was a duplicate—payment had been made on the original AR card.

provide, by the official of the delivering office, and then sent by first mail directly to the sender.



(554) Wt 16726-2261 4000(h1) 4/34 M & G Ld G 40

And the second s	All A
	Timbre du bureau renvoyant l'avis
Administration des Postes de la GRANDE BRETAGNE.	Stamp of office forwardin
Postal Administration of GREAT BRITAIN.	
(A remplir par le bureau d'origine) AVIS	DE RÉCEPTION
Envoi recommandé ) ( ETTER )1)2) ADVI	CE OF DELIVERY / 15.4
Registered article (A rem	plir par l'expéditeur)
(10 00	address to which the form
Letter   should b	e returned on completion)
Boîte avec valeur déclarée de	& S. A CHECE JECT
Colis To	Commence that a rest discount of the
Parcel	and the same of the same of
déposé au bureau de poste de	
posted at the office of SUSSEX	13 SML
	Numéro 13 services to
on under No. I Street	and Number
expédié par MR S. S. A CHECCUCCI:	The second secon
sent by M et adressé à M  •   **There is a sent by M	1/4
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	e destination. HASTWGS
à Buchten de hower metehon den gros	Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part
At Place of the parenthese la nature de l'envoi (it bloc.	
Indicate in parenthesis the vature of the article	P 1/24
Serv	ice a été dûment livré le
2) Boten les indications mutiles.	ste: 400 1952
Strike our indications not required. Postal	Timbre du destinataire:  (Signature 1)  de l'agent du bureau destinataire:
Returned from Adelaide (Australia) to Hastings, 1952. The reg	
istered letter was returned to sender (lower left, in red	
so the card is unsigned. Card printed in 1950.	Stamp of Delivering Office.
	<ol> <li>Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le com- portent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire, et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.</li> </ol>
	This advice must be signed by the addressee or, if the postal regulations of the country of destination so provide, by the official of the delivering office, and then sent by first mail directly to the sender.
	РТ# 12/60 W.H.A.S. 709/65
Administration des Postes de la	C5
GRANDE BRETAGNE	Timbre du bureau renvoyant l'avis
Postal Administration of GREAT BRITAIN	Stamp of office repairing the advice
SERVICE DES POSTES	
ON POSTAL SERVICE	ERA
AVIS DE (1) RECEP	TION
	I TO THE PARTY OF
	IVERY MENT
P.	PROTABLES
M(2) TELCHMAN CONTRACTOR	Targette M. P. Commission of the Commission of t
FHARMACIST & CHEMIST	
(2)	
(Rue et numéro)	
(Street and number)	
a 156, Cromwell Roa	d, London, S.W.7.
(Lieu de destination, en gros caractères) (Place of destination in block letters)	N (A remplir par le buread d'origine)  (To be filled in by the office of origin)  Le soussigné déclare que the item  The understand declares that (1)
( The of destriction in block letters)	(A remplir par le bureat d'origine) l'envoi
	(To be filled in by the office of origin)  Le soussigné déclare que the item  The undersigned declares that (2)
	(2) Envoi recommandé ((1) Summi pacces   le mandat   Registered item   the money order   Letter   Letter   Letter   vec valeur   mentionné ci-contre a été dûment
(1) Dicc - 12: - 3: 1	22   Envoir recommandé (til)   Sum   Parco
(1) Biffer l'indication inutile, Strike out whichever entry does not apply.	22 Envoir recommandé (til)   Suma partie
Strike out whichever entry does not apply.  (2) A remplir par l'expéditeur qui indiquera son adresse poi	29 Envoi recommandé (11) Suma partie Registrered item  [Lettre/Letter] svec valeur  [Bolte/Box   Géclarée de linured for close of the linured for deposé au bureau de poste de poste da at he office of St. Kensington  [12] Lettre/Letter   svec valeur   sve
Strike out whichever entry does not apply.  (2) A remplir par l'expéditeur qui indiquera son adresse poi	2 Benvol recommand (1) Small person Registered item (Letter Letter) (Letter Letter) (Letter Letter) (Letter Letter) (Colis Person (declare) (decla
Strike out whichever entry does not apply.	21 Envoir recommands (11) Small press Registered item (Letter Letter of the money order declare de Colis Proced in money order of deposed as bureau de poste de posted at the office of Sth Konsington  11 le 23 JUN 10 Schis le No. 3 27 of the office of which was a supplied by the office of the off
Strike out whichever entry does not apply.  (2) A remplir par l'expéditeur qui indiquera son adresse poi	12   Envoir recommands (11)   State   Participated item   Item mandat
Strike out whichever entry does not apply.  (2) A remplir par l'expéditeur qui indiquera son adresse poi	22 Denvoi recommandé (11) Suma provincia de la mandat Registred item (12) Mandat de poste de Persta money order of déposé au bureau de poste de poste da the office of 12) Mandat de poste de Denta money order for déposé au bureau de poste de poste da the office of 12 delivered poste de the office of 12 delivered poste of the office of 13 delivered poste of the office of 14 delivered poste of the office of 15 delivered poste of the office of the of

The AR fee was once again paid on the forms (later, cards), not on the cover.



Perth (Scotland) to Buffalo, 18 February 1899. Registration 2 d (paid by embossed stamp) and either double 2½ UPU rate to the US, or single rate plus AR fee mistakenly paid on cover. This was early enough after the change that the latter is a possibility.



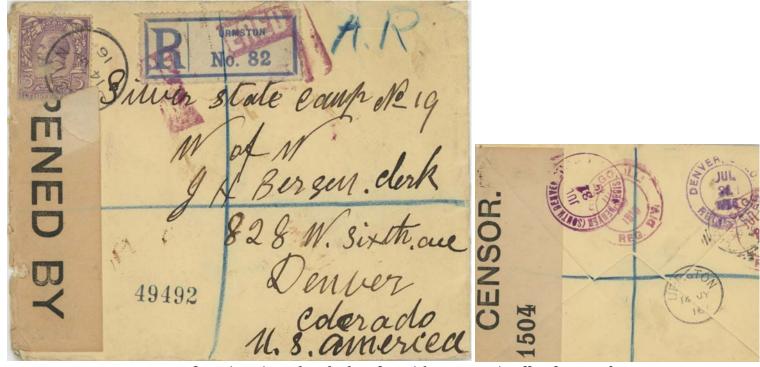
AR, VD (valeur déclarée), & late fee. Eastern District Office (London) to Paris, 1906. Rated 5d reg'n with indemnity (up to £12) [normal registration fee was 2d], 2d late fee, and 2½d UPU rate, totalling 9½d. Ms Late fee paid (upper right) and Insured for twelve pounds £12·0·0. Very unusual combination of services.

French CHARGÉ marking is an old handstamp equivalent to registered. Red wax seals (typical of UK VD covers) have been removed.

Both with blue ms *AR* marks, rather than the hammer; presumably, smaller offices were not equipped with handstamps for this obscure service.



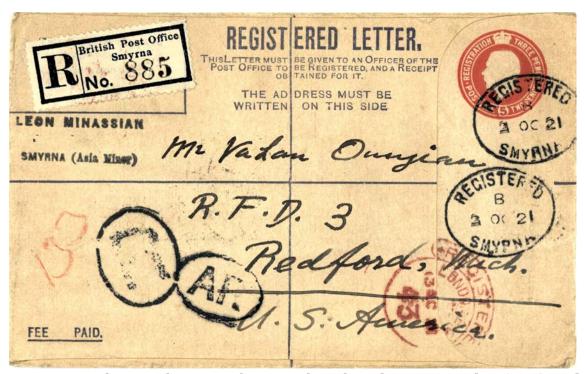
Berkhamsted to Tunis, 1912. Embossed stamp pays 3 d; total is 6 d, made up from 2 d registration, and double UPU rate at 2½ d for the first weight plus 1½ d for the second (this multiple rate was in effect from 1907.



Ormston to Denver, US censor, 1916. Registration 2 d, and 1 d preferential rate to US (in effect from 1908).

### AR cover, British Post Office Smyrna

Open 1872-1914 and 1 March 1919-30 September 1922.



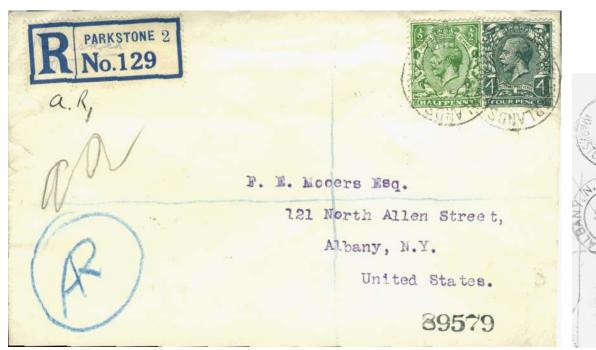
Smyrna BPO (Turkey) to Michigan, 2 October 1921. The embossed stamp pays 5 d; registration 3 d (from 13 June 1921), and 2 d preferential rate (Empire rate) to US (in effect from the same date).



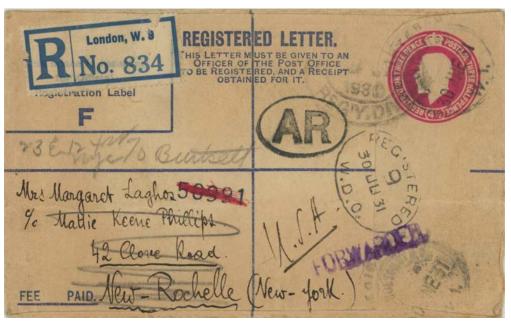
Inverted day in Redford datestamp.



Leytonstone to Shanghai, 1925. Postage of 7 d, made up from 3 d registration (from 1921), and double UPU rate at 2½ d for the first weight plus 1½ d for the second.



Parkstone to Albany, 1930. Registration 3 d, and 1½ d preferential rate to US (in effect from 1922).



London to New Rochelle and forwarded, 1931. Embossed  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d stamp pays 3 d registration and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d preferential rate to Us.



London to Hobart (Australia), 1934. Registration 3 d, and triple Empire rate at 1½ d for the first weight, and 1 d for each additional (in effect from 1923).



London to Paramaribo (Surinam), not called for, 1934. Postage of 5½ d, made up from 3 d registration, and 2½ d.



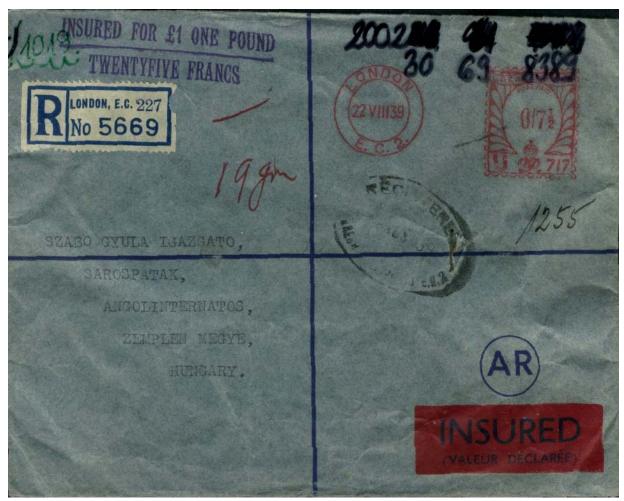
Wandsworth to Vienna, with extra indemnity, deficiency reported, 1935. Embossed stamp is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d; total is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  d. Registration with indemnity £12<sup>+</sup>-£24 (in this case, £18) was 7 d; 28 gr indicates just under an ounce (28.4 g), so single UPU rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d applied, and the cover was underpaid by 1 d. There is no indication it was charged postage due.



Charing Cross (London) to Reading (PA), 1936. Postage 4½ d, made up from 3 d registration, and 1½ d preferential rate to Us.



Regents Street (London) to Vienna, 1938. Total postage is 5½ d, made up from 3 d registration, and 2½ d upu. A faint, but larger, AR handstamp.



*London to Hungary, with extra indemnity,* 1939. Registered with minimal insurance (up to £12, here £1), 5 d; UPU rate 2½ d. Unusual *printed* AR. Very unusual for an AR cover to be metered.



London to Germany (US zone), 19 May 1949. Registration 4 d (began 1 May 1949), and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d airmail rate to Germany (reduced 1 June 1949).

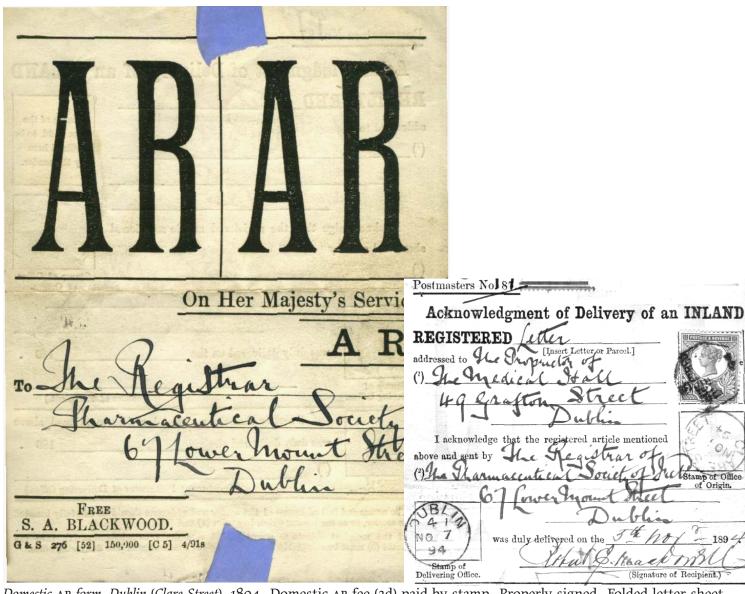
# Domestic British AR

Believed to have begun 1891, at least 12 years (and possibly 16 years) after international AR service was available in UK. Domestic AR forms are known from 1892 and were not replaced by cards until 1968. They are all of the folded letter sheet type, so did not require a covering envelope. Domestic AR fee was 2 d, a half-penny less than international AR, until 1920, whereupon domestic and international AR fees became equal (3 d), and are always paid on the form.

Around 1900, domestic AR forms were enlarged (as were the international ones) to incorporate more comments from postmasters on route—so that they could double as inquiry forms.

The earliest reported domestic British AR cover is dated 1903, and AR covers are much more difficult to find than the forms. Based on a few examples, this may be because domestic AR covers were often not marked AR.

### Domestic AR forms



Domestic AR form, Dublin (Clare Street), 1894. Domestic AR fee (2d) paid by stamp. Properly signed. Folded letter sheet (adhesive tape at top and bottom); form number 87, as are all domestic UK AR forms. Printed in 1891, quantity 150,000.

a out of		
Dupheate		
Postmasters No. 87.		
Acknowledgment of Delivery of an INLAND		
REGISTERED Letter		
[Insert Letter or Parcel.] Stamp of the value of 2d, to be affixed here		
leave t cos. by the sender.		
I acknowledge that the registered article mentioned		
above and sent by	KA	
(2) arthur J. Fernall Egg Stamp of Office		
67 for mount St David Origin.	MK	
Sign to a sign of the sign of		
was duly delivered on the	BRAL	LIEL
Stamp of Delivering Office. (Signature of Recipient.)	0-	Her Majesty's Service.
Delivering Office. (Signature of Recipient.)  I certify that the registered article mentioned above	<u> </u>	
IME was duly delivered the 28 och 189 0.0		AR
Coct on approximate	0	
Sambat Deliveing Office.  (Signature of Postmaster of Delivering Office.)		
The names and full addresses of the sender and addressee should be carefully inserted by the sender, or at the issuing office, in spaces (1) and (2).		
If the recipient objects to complete and sign the acknowledgment (2), then the	FREB H. L. CRESWELL. 5. 30,000. 8, 91, A. T. & Cv. (Ltd.)	

Duplicate AR form, Dublin—Limerick, 1900. When an AR form (attached to the registered letter) was damaged, missing, or had not been returned, the postmaster was authorized to create a *duplicate* form, at no extra charge. Examples are extremely difficult to find.

In this case, a registered letter was mailed on 27 September 1900; it had been received by the sender the next day. The duplicate form was mailed 10 October 1900, and signed by the addressee and postmaster on that date.

This was prepared by the Dublin postmaster, who noted the date the registered letter was originally sent. He had initially prepared the form in pencil, going over it later; this suggests unfamiliarity with the procedures.

The form itself differs from the earlier one; both are number 87.

### Domestic AR forms enlarged

Likely with the advent of the Treaty of Washington (effective 1 January 1899), both international and domestic AR forms were enlarged to accommodate more comments from offices on route. This was likely in order to permit the forms to also be used for inquiries on registered letters.

	Postmasters-	-No. 87.	
	Ackr	nowledgment of Delivery of an INLAND	
	REGISTE	9	
		[Insert Letter or Parcel.]	
	addressed to	2.1.01.4 0.48	
	*(1)	gerald Lambert Esgra (1 2005)	
		Auc	
V		(0 , 1 , 0 , 0 , 1 , 0 , B	
	†Posted at	Leeds M. G. on 28. 6. 1908.	
	I acknowle	edge that the registered article mentioned above Date	
	and sent by	Stamp of Office of Origin,	
	* (2)	NIT DOCUMENT OF THE OWNER.	
	O	NAI, PRO. BANK OF ENGLAND,	
		I E E D O	
	Date Stamp of		
	Delivering Office.	was duly delivered on the april 29 190 8.	
		S Walker	
in the		‡ (Signature of Recipient.)	
	D	I certify that a registered article, posted and addressed as stated above, was duly delivered to the	
	Date Stamp	Signature on	
	of Delivering Office.	the 190 .	
	Denvering Omce.	(3)	
	(Signature of Postmaster of Delivering Office.)		
	*The names and full addresses of the sender and addressee should be carefully inserted		
	by the sender, or at the issuing office, in spaces (1), (2), and (4) overleaf.  † When the form is filled up at the time of registration, the Date Stamp should be impressed in space "B," and the particulars of posting need not be inserted in writing. When the form is		
	filled up subsequently, the particulars of posting must be inserted in writing, and no impression of the Stamp should be made in space "B."		
	‡ If the recipient objects to complete and sign the acknowledgment (2), then the certificate (3) must be completed and signed by the Postmaster of the delivering office.		
	When this form does not accompany the registered article to which it refers, particulars of the mail in which the article was forwarded to the next office should be given on the other side, and the form forwarded under registered cover to the office in question. If the form is handed		
	to the Office of po	er than that at which the registered article was posted, it must be forwarded sting in order that the counterfoil of the certificate of posting may be noted	
	and particulars of despatch of the registered article furnished. When the form is completed it should be folded in three, and, after being gummed, returned as an unregistered letter to the address shewn on the back.		
	G & S 276 [535		

*Leeds—Hull,* 1908. Printed September 1905 in a quantity of 60,000. Properly signed by receiver, but not postmarked at destination.

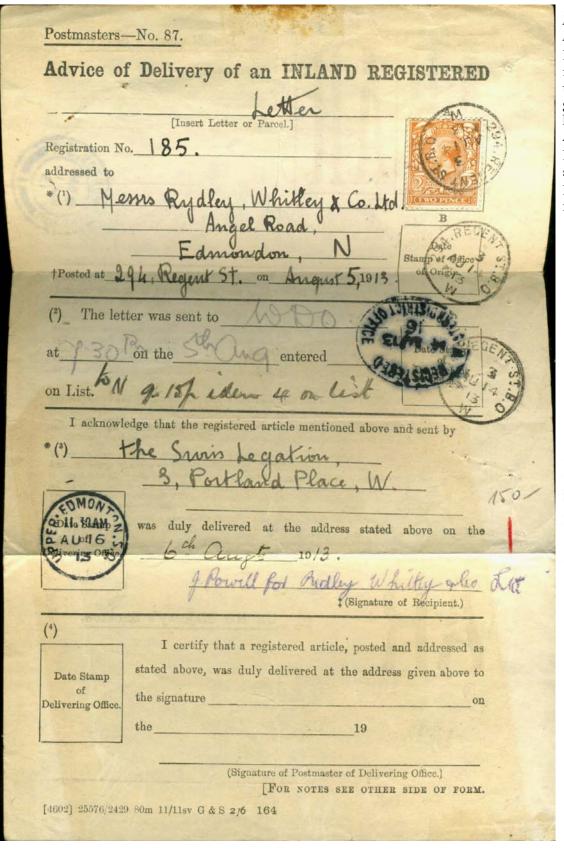
## Domestic AR form

For a registered *Parcel* (the only one I've seen).

Postmasters-	—No. 87.	
	nowledgment of Delivery of an INLAND	
REGISTE	[Insert Letter or Parcel]	
*(1) Mis	s Rousa Jackson sender, a cancelled	
	The Holines, Date Sta	
. †Posted at	Malton on 2 de July 1909	
	ledge that the registered article mentioned above	
and sent by	A Stand of Office	
* (2)	Solicitors.	
one.	- Sociator	
6.15.PM	was duly delivered on the July 22 - 190 9.	
ellidering 22 de	was duly derivered on the fully & 2 - 190 9.	
2	L. Jackson. ‡ (Signature of Recipient.)	
D .	I certify that a registered article, posted and addressed as stated above, was duly delivered to the	
Date Stamp of	Signatureon	
Delivering Office.	the190 .	
	(Signature of Postmaster of Delivering Office.)	
by the sender, or † When the for in space "B," and filled up subseque of the Stamp shot † If the recipie (3) must be compl When this fo	and full addresses of the sender and addressee should be carefully inserted at the issuing office, in spaces (1), (2), and (4) overleaf.  In is filled up at the time of registration, the Date Stamp should be impressed to the particulars of posting need not be inserted in writing. When the form is notly, the particulars of posting must be inserted in writing, and no impression all be made in space "B."  In to bjects to complete and sign the acknowledgment (2), then the cert seate etcd and signed by the Postmaster of the delivering office.  In does not accompany the registered article to which it refers, particulars of the delivering office.	
the mail in which and the form forw in at an Office of to the Office of p and particulars of should be folded address shewn on	the article was forwarded to the next office should be given on the rarded under registered cover to the office in question. If the follower than that at which the registered article was posted, it must be sting in order that the counterfoil of the certificate of posting is despatch of the registered article furnished. When the form is in three, and, after being gummed, returned as an unregistered	On His Majesty's Strict  (*)  To AE R Source  Solr
	1909. Printed May 1904 in a quantity of 40,000.	Malton York
	and the second	
	The letter was set	nt to

### After-the-fact/inquiry domestic AR form

There was no additional charge above the AR fee for this. Inquiry and subsequent/after the fact AR are indistinguishable in this period.

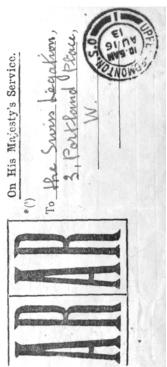


London, Regent Street—Upper Edmonton, 1913.

Form is dated 14 August 1913, and refers to registered letter mailed 5 August. Signed 16 August; the letter had been received 6 August.

Domestic AR fee paid by 2 d stamp.

Form printed November 1911 in a quantity of 80,000.

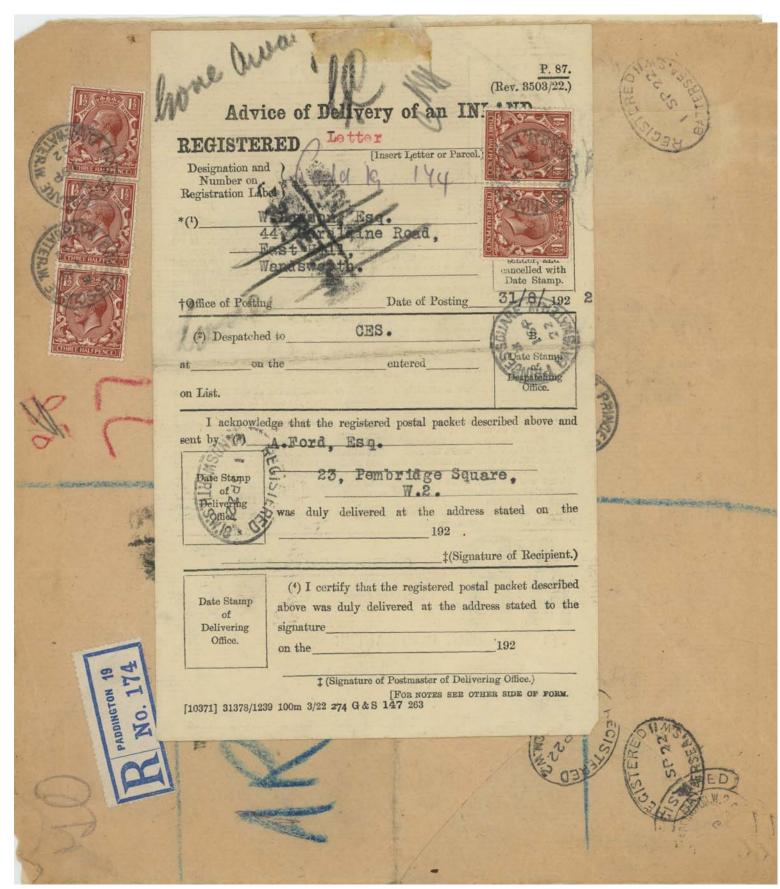


# After-the-fact/inquiry domestic AR form

Poorman St. of	
Postmasters No. 87. Laston 14	The state of the s
Advice of Delivery of an INLAND	REGIS
[Insert Letter or Parcel.]	
Designation and	12 R
Number on Registration Label	va at COVID
addressed to	Ce Ce
*(1) MN B. Al stammond	
Go Eagle stut	
Heaver Lond	
†Office of Posting Date of Posting	18 January 18.
(2) The letter was sent to V. and dang to	В
6.00	Date Stamp
at 6 S. Tagen the 18/1/18 entered	Despatching
on List. Queenstonn 112.	(S) S Place:
1 acknowledge that the registered article mentione	ed above and sent by
*(3)	and the same by
(ERED)	
Date Stamp was duly delivered at the address	s stated above on the
Destroya 19 Jany 19/8	7.
LONO	
	‡ (Signature of Recipient.)
I certify that a registered article,	noted and address of
Date Stamp stated above, was duly delivered at	
Delivering 3 to the signature A	Re address given above
the 19th January 1918	
+ The ha	a llitefeel to
- Charles - Are the base of the party of the	er of Delivering Office.)
[FOR NOTES SE (1507.)Wt.5587—619.10000.12.1915.A.T.&Co.,Ltd.	E OTHER SIDE OF FORM.
The state of the s	On His Majes orvice
<i>Queenstown—London,</i> 1916. Date of mailing of registered item was 18 January 1918; date of preparation was 15 February	Jupit ( )
1916; received at London 27 February 1918; after waiting	(9) THE POSTMASTER
a week without being signed by recipient, the postmaster signed the form (7 March).	OF Q
Form printed December 1915 in a quantity of 100,000.	Paddington

#### Domestic AR form with cover

Returned to sender; the form was subsequently glued to the front of the unfolded envelope.



*Prince's Square (Bayswater)—Wandsworth,* September 1922. Smaller form; printed March 1922 in a quantity of 100,000. Postage on the cover of 4½ d, made up from 3 d registration and 1½ domestic (from May).

w TE SIM to	-	
	P. 87. (Rev. 3503/22.)	
Advice of Delivery of an INL		
REGISTERED Letter		
Designation and Number on Registration Label  *(1) A.C. Dorman Esq.,  Rye Hill, Nunthorpe,  Yorks.	THE	
†Office of Posting Widon G. P. Date of Posting 30	7. 1925	
(2) Despatched to	B. Date Stamp	
on List.	of Despatching Office.	
I acknowledge that the registered postal packet describer by *(3)	The same transfer and the	
12, QUEENS		
Delivering S	BLEDON.	
was duly delivered at the address s	tated on the	
11111111	e of Recipient.)	On his Majesty's Service
Date Stamp of above was duly delivered at the address signature	acket described	The Town Chark,  12, Queens Road,  Wimbledon
‡ (Signature of Postmaster of Delivering [FOR NOTES SEE OTHER [7727] 25800/475 150m 1/24 274 G & S 165 239		The names and full addresses of the addressee and sender should be carefully inserted by the sender (or at the issuing office) in spaces (1) and (3) respectively. In (5) the address to which the result of the enquiry is to be sent should be similarly entered.  † When the form is filled up at the time of registration, the designation of the office of pesting and the registration number as given on the registration label must be inserted in the space at the head of the form, but the spaces, for the name of the office of pesting and the date of posting need not be filled in. When, however, the form is filled up subsequently, the registration number, the name of the office of posting and the date of posting must be inserted.

Wimbledon-Nunthorpe, 1925. Printed January 1924 in a quantity of 150,000.

## Domestic AR form, Ireland

Although Ireland was independent by this time, its domestic AR forms were very similar to those of UK, even to the extent of the form number (87). Some of the text is in Irish.

	P. 87.	
	Advice of Devery of an INLAND	No. of the Control of
	REGISTERED Letter	
.10	Designation and Number on Registration Label	
0	-(1) The Propuetor of the Solops Patrick Scully	
1	Office of Posting J2 Mountst Date of Posting	
1	(2) Despatched to Dules B.	
-	at List.  Date Stamp of Despetching Office.	
	I acknowledge that the registered postal packet described above and sent by	
	Date Stamp Pharmacenters Society of Incland Delivering was duly delivered at the Endress stated on the	
	Pelivering was duly delivered at the address stated on the Duve  (Signature of Recipient.)	
	(') I certify that the registered postal packet described above was duly delivered at the address stated to the pelivering signature	
	Om on the 192	og bendage value og tenedin.
	* (Signature of Postmaster of Delivering Office.)  [FOR NOTES SEE OTHER SIDE OF FORM.]  W1. —G 49. 50,000. 4/23. B. and N., Ltd.—Group 26.	(6) máiscir an puisc. (The Postmaster)
		OF

Dublin, 1927. Printed April 1923 in a quantity of 10,000, by a different printer.

P. 87. (Rev. 3508/22.)	
Advice of Delivery of an INLAND	
REGISTERED [Insert Letter or Parcel.]	
Number on Laylolam 6	
Registration Label) *(1) Moro alice Rix	
Swandin Movers	
Mellin Constable.	
ayestam, 1/1/98	
Interest of the same time of the series time as the parall	
(2) Despatched to B.	
Desintain	
I seknowledge that the print of the late o	
I acknowledge that the registered postal packet described above and sent by *(3)	
Marc Solding	
Delivering &	
was duly delivered at the address stated on the	
Alie Die ;(Signature of Recipient.)	
Date Stamp (4) I certify that the registered postal packet described	,,
of above was duly delivered at the address stated to the Delivering signature	Regn. No. Certificate of Posting of a Registered Postal Packet.  A Postal Packet addressed as under, upon which a Fee of Three Pence has been paid, in addition
Office. on the SALEANTEON 3HT 192 .	to the Postage ofada) has been registered and posted here this day:  Dato Stamp.
	Q Swanton hovers
[FOR NOTES SEE OTHER SIDE OF FORM. [5211] 13652/6014 100m 9/23 274 G & S 147 263	melloy constant
[5522] 25500[6011 150] 8/25 2/4 C C 3 11 205	Accepting Officer's Signature (or initials) [P.T.O.

Aylesham—Melton-Constable, 1928. Printed September 1923 in a quantity of 100,000. With receipt; Aylsham thimble.

## Domestic AR form

Change in form number, to 87H. According to MacKay

On His Majesty & Service.	P. 87.H. (Rev. 3503/22.)	
Advice of Delivery of an INI		
REGISTERED LETTER	38 11	
Designation and Number on Registration Label	addressed to	
*(1) Mrs Louisa Powell,		
45 High Street		
Burbage Wilts	3 PART B	
†Office of Posting Date of Posting	192	
(2) Despatched to	В,	
aton theentered	Date Stamp of	
on List.	Despatching Office.	
Lacknowledge that the registered postal packet described above and  Fow le Hunt & Sturton  Solicitors  Northallerton  was duly delivered at the address stated on the  192  (Signature of Recipient.)		
(4) I certify that the registered postal I		
Date Stamp of Delivering Office.  Date Stamp of above was duly delivered at the address signature on the	s stated to the	
CSignature of Head Postmaster of Delivering Office.		
[7361] 12116/333 60m 10/28 274 G & S 165 239		
[] *****/000 00m 10/20 2/4 0 0 0 100 200		

North Allerton—Burbage (Wiltshire), 1932. Printed October 1928 in a quantity of 60,000.

P. 87. <b>H.</b> (Revd. 3503/22.)	
Advice of Delivery of an INLAND REGISTERED Letter.	
Designation and Number on Registration Label	
OLD SHAMBOOL & BERTON BURST.	
†Office of Posting Wickers T Date of Posting 28 9 193 3	
at on the entered Date Stamp of Despatching Office.	
I acknowledge that the registered postal packet described above and sent by *(3) Messus. Albert Aucus  Michigan	
Date Stamp of AM Pelivering was duly delivered at the address stated on the 29 49 1933.	
(4) I certify that the registered postal packet described above was duly delivered at the address stated to the	On His Majesty's Services AM
Delivering Office. on the 193 .	*(5) To Inesas Albay Ruce
‡ (Signature of Head Postmaster of Delivering Office.)  [FOR NOTES SEE OTHER SIDE OF FORM.  29964/90 200m 4/31 274 G & S 165 239	HII - Solicitoris

Midhurst (Sussex), 1933. Printed April 1931 in a quantity of 200,000.

<b>H.</b> 222.)
a fo
the at.)
On His Majesty's Service 75°  To Hunt & Sturton.  Solicitors.  Northallerton.

North Allerton-Westbury-on-Severn (Gloucester), 1933. Printed October 1928 in a quantity of 60,000.

## Domestic AR form, after the fact

New format.

	Р.87Н.
Advice of Delivery of an	M. atra ACI
INLAND REGISTERED	
Note for Sender. Please affix 3d. postage stamp in space	
insert clearly:— In space (1) Name and address as shown on packet.	To
(3) Your own name and address. (5) overleaf: Name and address to which the complete should be sent.	d Advice form
Any necessary further particulars will be inserted by the Post C	Office.
Registration Both. 1002	
Particulars Mark Boisles	
Address (1) Shown on Branchest Farm	(THREE PENCE)
Packet Brandord m. Arm	Transit of the state of the sta
Office of Posting Date of 27/4/34	19
TOSTING	В
(2) Despatched to	Date Stamp of
aton theentered	Despatching Office.
on list.	phove and sent
I acknowledge that the registered postal packet described	above and serie
Abbus Chambers	100.00
Date Stamp of Bash	¥
Delivering Office. was duly delivered at the address stated on	On His Majesty's Service.
19.32	(°)
(Signature of Re	A T P
(4) I certify that the registered postal above was duly delivered at the addres	o H. J. Metor
signature S.M. KEEN	Alber Chambers
Denver on the awaren	13ash
(Signature of Postmaster of Delivering Gp. 628/28 JC&SLtd.	THE STREET STREET, SHALLING
and the second	

Bath—Bradford·on·Avon, 1934. Registered letter was mailed 27/9/34; form was mailed 12 November 1934, and signed the next day by the postmaster of the destination office; the registered letter had been delivered the day after it was mailed. Printed 1928(?) by a new printer.

Advice of Delivery of an (Revd. 58974/38)
INLAND REGISTERED Letter
Note for Sender. Please affix 3d. postage stamp in space A below and insert clearly:— In space (1) Name and address as shown on packet.  (3) Your own name and address if you desire this to appear.  (5) overleaf: Name and address to which the completed Advice form should be sent.  Any necessary further particulars will be inserted by the Post Office.
Registration Particulars  Address (1) Shown on Packet  Address  Ad
Office of Date of Posting Date Stamp of Despatching Office.
I acknowledge that the registered postal packet described above (and sent  by (3)  Date Stamp  of Delivering was duly delivered at the address stated on the  19  On His Majesty's Service
(Signature of Recipient)  On His Majesty's Service.  (5)
Date Stamp of Signature of Postmaster of Deliverin  Gp711/58 JC&SLtd  (4) I certify that the registered posta above was duly delivered at the addre signature on the 19 (Signature of Postmaster of Deliverin Signature O

Guildford—Woking, 1941. Printed 1938.

#### Domestic AR form with cover

No indication of AR on the cover. This may be the reason for the apparent paucity of domestic British AR covers—without the form, there is no evidence of AR service.



A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR		
1		
	Adata of Dallace for	P87H
TATE AND D	Advice of Delivery of an	(Revd. 4/46)
INLAND R	REGISTERED (Insert Letter or Parcel	
Note for Send	der. Please affix 3d. postage stamp in space	
insert c	learly:—	
In space (1) O	ffice of posting, date of posting and name an shown on packet.	d address as
,, (3) Y	our own name and address if you desire this to	appear.
,, (5) 07	verleaf: Name and address to which the comp	leted Advice
Any necessary	further particulars will be inserted by the Po	st Office.
returned s	ed postal packet proves to be undeliverable this uitably noted.	form will be
(1) Office of D	001011-11-11	H P
Posting Y	eneral test office tivespoor	ATA SO RE
Date of Y Posting	18= September 19#7	Ö N
	Mr. P. McDa well	也也多
Name and	10 Society	cancelled with
shewn on	12 Vinel Kond 19	HE PRINCE
the Packet	bookle lispoppol in	TA
7		SO S
(2)		# (2º) \$ h
Registration	1 1 11 2 2 4	
particulars	LVH 9041.	
I acknowledg	ge that the registered postal packet described abo	ove (and sent
1 000		
DY OTHE		
Date Stamp	1	
Delivering		)
Comes	was duly delivered at the address stated on the	9
	19	
	4 mc 0 /	
(Signature of	(4) I certify that the registered postal pack	of describ 3
Date Stamp	above was duly delivered at the address st	ated to the
of Delivering	signature	
Office.	on the	
	(Signature of Postmaster of Delivering Offi	ce).
) (1447) JC&SLtd Gp7	711/58	P.T.O.
		The state of the s

#### Domestic AR form with cover

No backstamps and no dated handstamps at all on the registered cover. Blue cross probably applied by sender.



ADVICE OF DELIVERY OF LETTEL.  AN INLAND REGISTERED (Insert letter or parcel)  Notes for senders:	
All that you need do is to complete section 1 in BLOCK LETTERS and write in section 4 overleaf the name and address to which you want this advice sent, when we have completed the other sections.  Then hand in the form at a Post Office or put it	
in a posting box, unfolded and unsealed.  Please do not complete section 5.	
We do not undertake to deliver to the addressee in person.  1. Name and Mrs Tean M. Anderson address on packet Hough ton Cattage  Hough ton Arundel  Sussex  Posted at Longon Chief Post Office on 4 7 3 719 52	
FOR POST OFFICE USE  2. Registration particulars ONDON. &C. 3132	
3. The Registered packet was *received at   Date Stamp of	
the above address on 19 62	
*recipient X G A X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X	ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE
*Delete if the recipient does not sign the form or when the f with the packet. †Delete if the form goes with the packet and the recipient sign When the form has been completed, fold it, stick it down and address in section 4.	To Miss AT. E. Wood  XXZ Cumberland Hot
P 87B	Marble Arch

#### Domestic UK AR covers

Much more difficult to find than the domestic AR forms. This is possibly because AR was not always stamped or written on the covers (the forms would have been attached, and these would have indicated AR service).

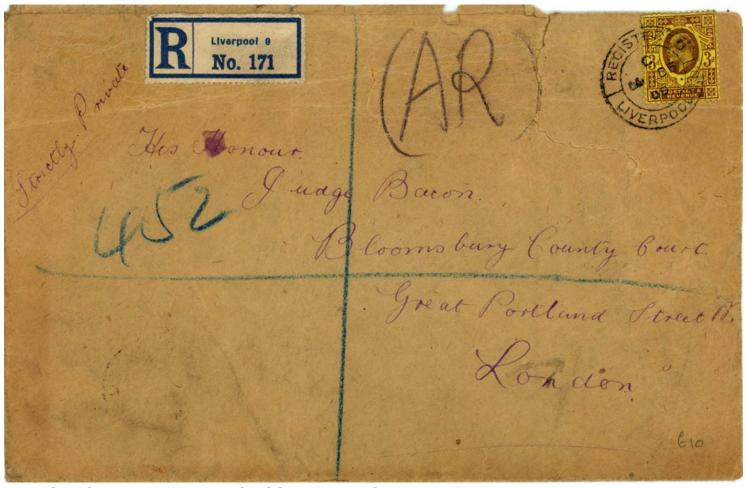


London-Leatherhead, 1903. Registration 2 d and domestic rate 1 d. Earliest reported domestic British AR cover.

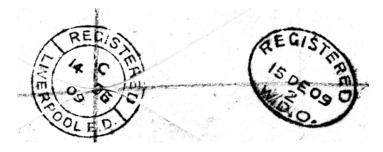


London-Leatherhead, 1910. Rated as above.

#### Domestic AR cover



Liverpool-London, 1909. Registration 2 d and domestic rate 1 d.



### Domestic AR covers

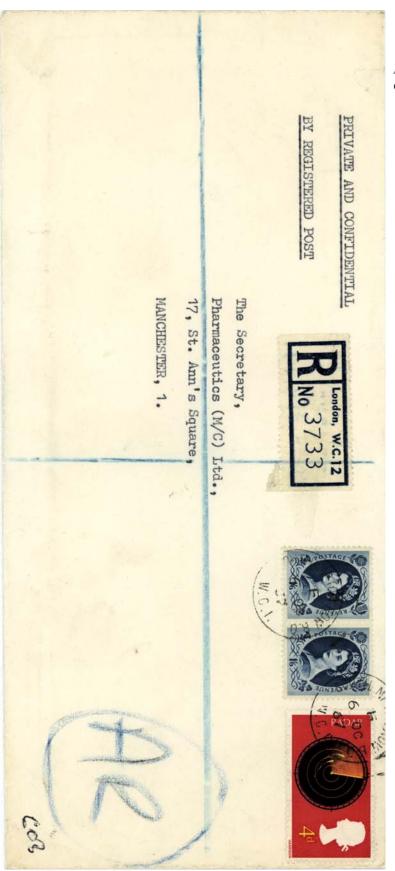


London-St Heliers (Jersey), 1923. Registration 3 d and domestic rate 1½ d. Backstamp is a Jersey circle, hit several times.



Grouville (Jersey), drop letter, returned to sender, 1951. Registration 4 d and domestic rate 2½ d.

## Domestic AR cover



 $\it London-Manchester, 1967.$  Registration 3/-, and domestic 4 d.

# Avis de paiement

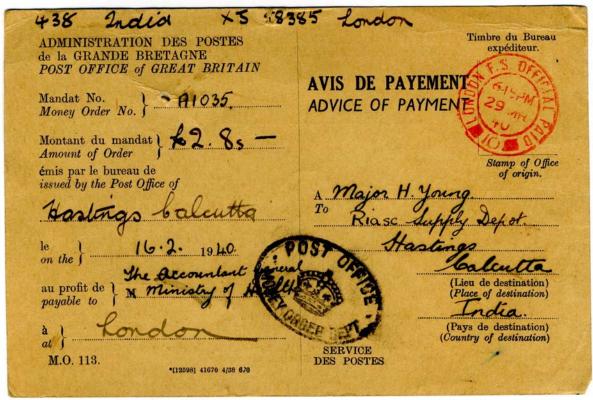
Not much is known about this service in UK (or most other places), which is the analogue of AR for payment of money orders.

	A.P2. India 94209
	Royaume-uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande.
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland
	A i l D M l D
	Avis de Payement d'un Mandat-Poste.
	Advice of Payment of a Money Order.
	- D
	Le soussigné déclare que la somme de 10 The undersigned certifies that the sum of
	montant du mandat No. 2269 émis par le bureau de the amount of Money Order No.
	Londal le 9 2 19/0, au in
	profit de Momestrus le Boulgers favour of
	a été dûment payé le 28th Yeb 1910. has been duly paid on the
	Timbre du Bureau Payeur. \ Stamp of Paying Office. \( \)
3	Signature Westell (Le Receveur. Postmaster.
	Cet avis doit être signé par le bureau payeur, puis mis sous enveloppe (This advice must be signed by the Paying Officer, enclosed in an envelope (et envoyé par le premier courrier au bureau d'origine du mandat. (and despatched by the first post to the office of origin of the order.
	G & S 740 6000/3/09—[7847] 6000 12/09sv

A de p form, UK—India, 1910. British form acknowledging payment, at Southampton·Row (London), of a money order for £10 issued in India. Properly signed, and postmarked. Seemingly the reverse of the usual worldwide practice (that the form of issuing entity accompany the money order advice); possibly a replacement form! Returned under cover.

### Avis de paiement

With no evidence whatsoever, I conjecture that a de p cards replaced forms at the same time that international AR cards replaced AR forms, late 1921.





British avis de paiement card, seemingly after-the-fact or replacement, (1940). Money order was issued at Hastings, Calcutta (India) on 16 February 1940; it was paid in London on 23 March; the card was prepared at LONDON M.O.D. (money order department; faint datestamp lower left), and postmarked at the London F.S. (foreign service) Office on 29 March, arriving 20 April.