

International post-GPU/UPU

Micro- and mini-exhibits of

Austria Generalized Scandinavia Switzerland

I suggest reading the AR book (http://www.rfrajola.com/dh2019/1ar.pdf) first, for a general description of worldwide AR.

The other exhibits, mini- & micro-, are also downloadable from Richard Frajola's exhibit site, http://www.rfrajola.com/exhibits.htm

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

Comments, suggestions, contributions welcomed.

David Handelman rochelle2@sympatico.ca May 2019

AR in the Austrian Empire

USTRIA has had a long history with AR, going back to 1806, and possibly earlier, under the name Retour Recepisse. In the UPU period, we see Rückschein on covers more often. This is frequently abbreviated RS.

It comes as no surprise that plenty of international AR material exists in the UPU period, even pre-Vienna. For some reason though, I do not have any AR covers later than 1924, although this may have been due to my impression that such material should be common, so was not worth seeking out.

Large parts of the Empire have long since joined or formed other countries; so the question arises, how do I treat an entity such as Bohemia, which until the end of the first world war, was part of Austria, but became part of independent Czechoslovakia circa 1920? I decided that since these places had been part of the Austrian system for decades, in some cases, over a century, their postal system was part of that of Austria, so they should be part of this mini-exhibit. However, once they became independent or joined some other entity, they ceased to be part of Austria, and so are not part of the exhibit. Thus Austrian Bohemia is part of this exhibit, whereas Czechoslovakia will have its own micro-exhibit. (The same applies to Austrian Poland, Italy, Croatia,) Hungary, although it was part of the Austro-Hungary Empire, is not included here, and will have its own mini-exhibit.

In the pre-UPU period, Austrian Retour Recepisse forms varied considerably in size, although there seemed to be evolution towards a form wider and thinner than a postcard in size, thought still on paper, not card. Some of these were used in the UPU period for international mail. They also had postcard size forms on thin yellow paper. Somewhat later, apparently in the 1910s, square forms (about the width of a postcard, but taller) were used.

In the pre-Vienna period, stamps paying the AR fee were applied to the form, not the registered letter. Post-Vienna, the AR fee was paid on the cover (with one exception, in 1912, from the Austrian office in Jerusalem). This continued into the card era. All forms were meant to be returned in covering envelopes, or anyway, so it seems. (This is certainly the case for the square-shaped forms, which have extensive instructions on them.)

Cessation of registration of AR covering envelopes seem to have taken place by1910, although the sample size is small, and there is a 1912 covering envelope returned registered (however, in this case, the envelope was printed in 1905 with instructions to be returned as registered mail).

I have a few AR cards, but I suspect there are many more out there. One of the examples was printed in October 1921 (the month when AR cards were introduced internationally), and used in March 1922. This is extremely early. (By the way, I have a few other similar fairly early AR cards, suitable for trading for later ones.)

One interesting feature of Austrian AR covers is that often the stamp that pays the AR fee (or one of them, if there are multiples of the same stamp) is written over with *Rückschein* or *Avis de réception*. Perhaps a corollary of this is that with the exception of the example from the office in Smyrna, there do not seem to be AR handstamps in use.

AR in Austria: mini-exhibit synopsis

RGANIZED, in the usual way, AR forms, then AR covering envelopes, then AR cards, and AR covers. Each of these sections is subdivided (where applicable) in the three periods, pre-Treaty of Vienna (1875–92), Treaty of Vienna (1892–98), and post-Treaty of Vienna (1899–). There is also one avis de paiement item.

AR forms

pre-Vienna Two domestic forms used internationally surviving from the pre-GPU period, a unilingual French form returned from the US, and two later yellow forms.

Vienna One form similar to those in use pre-Vienna.

Post-Vienna One form similar to those in previous periods, and two different examples of the larger square form, one from the Austrian office in Jerusalem, and the other still adhering to an AR cover to Canada.

AR covering envelopes

One from the Vienna period; and two official and two provisional ones used 1910–12.

AR cards

A very early printing and use (October 1921 and March 1922 respectively), and a couple of other cards, one used for VD rather than a registered item.

AR covers

pre-Vienna An 1887 cover to Paris.

Vienna Two covers, to Germany, and the U s, with ms *Rückschein* on a stamp paying the AR fee. *Post-Vienna* Several covers including one from the office in Smyrna, and a couple during inflation.

Avis de paiement

1908 form for a money order issued at the Constantinople office, and paid at the Smyrna office.

Austrian international post-GPU AR service

AR forms, pre-Vienna

N. 24// Per una lettera Asccomandata impostata	presso i Citicio postate in	IE	
il giorno 18/2	gnata da quest Ufficio postale.	186	1033
I. Il diritto della presente ricavuta è sta 2. Il Destinstario dovra apporvi la data	to pagato dal Mittente.	Goralini tos June 18	-

Cles (Austrian Italy, now in Trentino, Italy) to Paris, 1883. Relic of pre-GPU period for use in Austrian Italy, entirely in Italian.

• 10 Kreuzer AR fee paid by stamp

• Likely returned in covering envelope



Jägendorf (now Krnov in Czech Republic) to New York, 1883. Postcard size form entirely in French (nothing on reverse). Ms Sent to $DLO\ 2/19/84$, datestamp FEB 23 1884; no signature, suggesting the item was returned to sender.

• 10 Kreuzer AR fee paid by stamp

• Likely returned in covering envelope

Domestic AR form used abroad, pre-Vienna



Litschau (now Licov in Czech Republic) to New York, 1885. In German on one side and Czech on the other; intended for domestic use.

• 10 Kreuzer AR fee paid by stamp

• Likely returned in covering envelope



Reverse shows Czech version.



Trau (now Trigor, Croatia; then in Austrian Dalmatia) to Ballenstedt (Harz, Germany), 1890. Bilingual German/French.

• 10 Kreuzer AR fee paid by stamp

• Likely returned in covering envelope

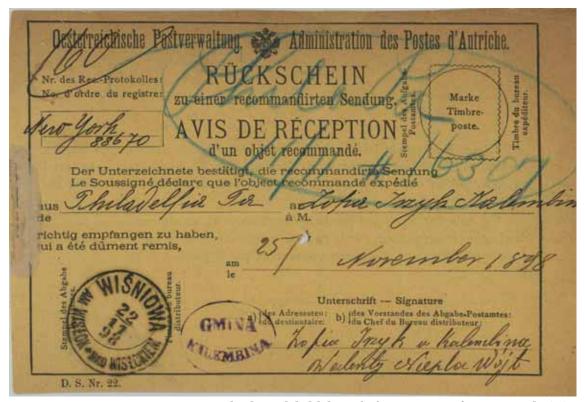


Platz Straz (now in Czech Republic) to Shakopee (MN), February 1892. Bilingual German/French. Similar to, but not identical to, the form above (for example, **D. S. Nr 22**. at lower left is outside the box, but **D. S. 22**. is inside on the form above).

• 10 Kreuzer AR fee paid by stamp

• Likely returned in covering envelope

AR form, Treaty of Vienna period



Wiśniowa (now in Strzyzów County, Poland) to Philadelphia, 1898. GMINA refers to an administrative district. Bilingual German/French. This form appears to be identical to the 1892 example.

• AR fee paid on cover, not form, in Vienna period

• Likely returned in covering envelope

AR form, post-Vienna period



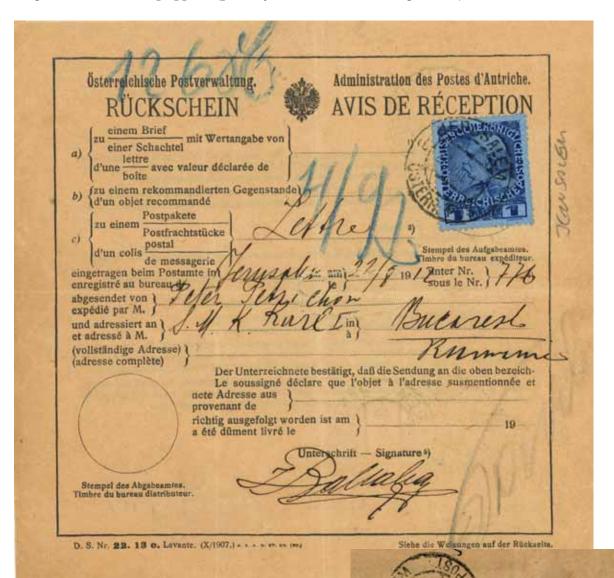
Cavareno (now in Trentino, Italy) to Central City (CO), 1904. Bilingual German/French. Differs from 1898—print data at lower left includes (Auflage 1892.)

• AR fee paid on cover

• Likely returned in covering envelope

AR form, Austrian office in Jerusalem

Larger form, with stamp applied (possibly because this is a foreign office)



Jerusalem to Bucharest, 1912. Bilingual German/French. Print data at lower left includes Levante (X/1907.)

- 1 Piastre AR fee paid on form
- Returned in *non-registered* covering envelope

a) De ple nachdem der Rückschein: a) für einen Brief oder eine Schachtel mit Wertangabe, b) einfürsekommandierten Gegonstand, c) ein Postpaket oder ein Postfrachtstück verlangt wird, ist der nicht zutreffende Teil des Vordruckes zu durchstreichen.

Biffer les parties superflues du texte imprimé, selon que l'avis est demandé pour a) une lettre ou boîte avec valeur déclarée, b) un objet recommandé c) un colis postal ou un colis de messagerie.

1) Betrag der Wertangabe.
Montant de la valeur déclarée.

2) Gattung der Sendung (Brief, Korrespondenzkarte, Geschäftspapiere, Warenprobe, Drucksache).

Nature de l'objet (lettre, carte postale, papiers d'affaire, échantillon, imprimé).

1) Gegebenenfalls Betrag der Wertangabe.
Indiquer, le cas échéant, le montant de la valeur déclarée.

4) Aufgabeamt, Datum der Kurgabe, Nummer der Eintragung.
Bureau d'origine, date du dépôt, N° d'enregistrement.

landes es verlangen, vom Beamten des Abgabeamtes zu unterzeichnen, sodann unter Kuvert mit nilchster Post an das Aufgabeamt der Sendung, auf die er sich bezieht, zurückzusenden.

Cet avis doit être siene par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par d'agent ou bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et renvoyé par le premis colorier au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

5) Dieser Rückschein ist vom Empfringer oder, wenn die Vorschriften des Bestimmungs

AR form attached to registered cover

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	45	1 激制		
Osterreichische Postverwaltung RÜCKSCHEIN au einem Briet einer Schachtel d'une lettre boite b) {zu einem rekommandierten ogens d'un objet recommande zu einem Postpakete Postfrachtstücke d'un colis de messagerie eingetragen beim Postamte in) enregistré au bureau d abgesendet von	}	AVIS DI	Stempel des Aufg Timbre du bureau unter Nr.	TION
expédié par M. J und adressiert an et adressé à M. (vollständige Adresse) (adresse complète) Der Unterze Le soussign nete Adresse aus provenant de richtig ausgefolg	t worden is	que l'objet à l'a	Harria	bezeich- onnée et
Stempel des Abgsbesmtes. Timbre du bureau distributeur.		schrift — Signatu	ire ⁵)	-19

Vienna to Victoria (BC), October 1920. Print data includes (X/1907.) Unsigned; that the cover was mailed to Canada and there are no return-to-sender markings suggest that the form was ignored by the clerk.

The large ms *R S*, indicating *Rückschein*, is commonly seen on Austrian AR covers, although in this case there are no other AR markings. Rated 7 Kronen, 20 Heller, made up of 2 Kr for each of AR, registration, and first weight UPU letter rate, plus second weight at 1,20 Kr, in effect 15 April 1920—31 January 1921.

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January Cronden.

January Cronden.

3. 102. 153 réglements qui bask de destimenter controlle de l'oplet du'il concerne.

January Cronden.

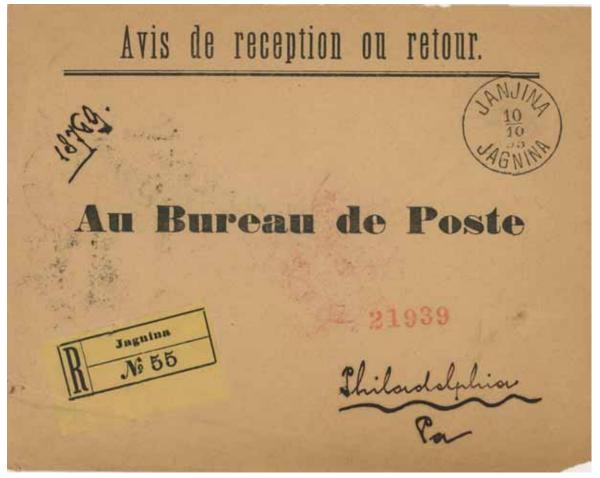
3. 102. 153 réglements qui bask que destimenter du pricean qui price qu'il concerne.

January Cronden.

January Cr

AR covering envelopes

Vienna period



Janjina (then in Austrian Dalmatia, now in Croatia) to Philadelphia, 1895. Returned as registered mail; would have contained an Austrian AR form made up for a registered letter from the US.



German-American Seapost

Covering envelopes from Austrian Poland

Both from small towns

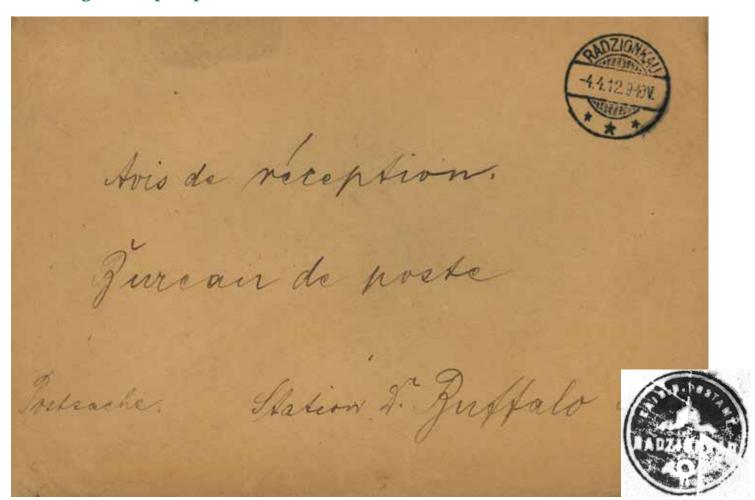
	Von (CO)
Inhalt	Nummer oder sonstige Kennzeichen
Nachfrageschreiben	
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Rückscheine	100 1/18
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D. S. Nr. 382 A. (U190	so smouth

Szczakowa (Silesia) to Buffalo, 1910. Ms RS. Multipurpose official form envelope (also for inquiry and other purposes; Rückscheine is the third one down). Returned unregistered.





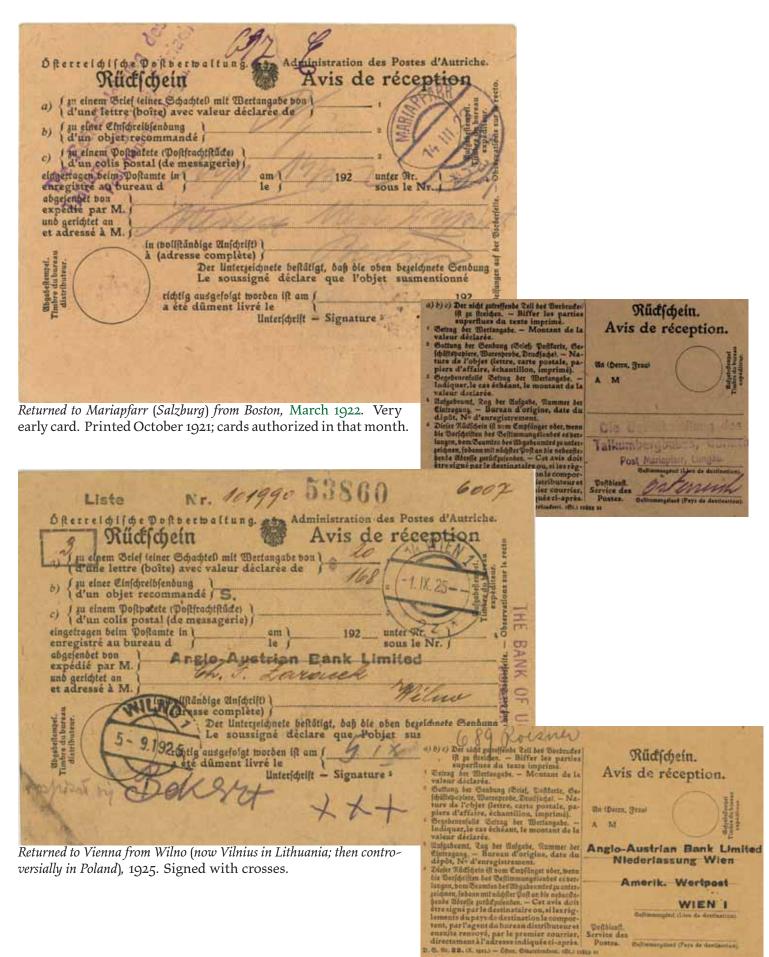
Trzciana (*Bochnia*) *to Buffalo*, May 1912. Standard Austrian covering envelope, printed 1905. Returned as registered mail; this is fairly late, but that is because they used an old form envelope, which indicated it required registration.

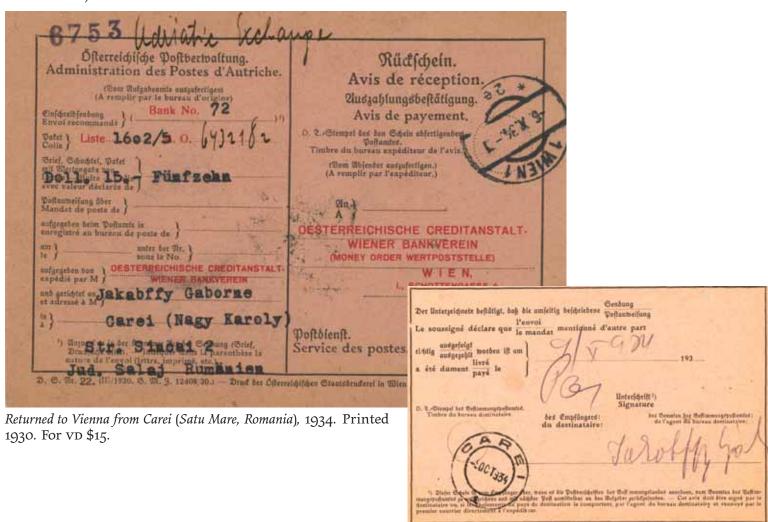


Radzionkau (Silesia; now Radzionków in Poland) to Buffalo, April 1912. Returned as unregistered mail. Town seal on reverse.



Graslitz (now in Czech Republic) to Buffalo, 1912. Returned unregistered mail. Printed 1907 without requiring registration.





AR covers

Pre- and Vienna periods



Fehring (Styria) to Amienns (France), 1887. Ms Recommandiert Retour Recepisse, the formula in use in Austria since the inception of AR, circa 1806. Rated 10 Kreuzer for each of letter rate and registration; AR fee paid on the form.





Pulkau (Lower Austria) to Stössen (Germany), 1893. Ms *Rückschein* on the stamp paying the AR fee (not unusual for Austria). Rated 10 Kreuzer for each of registration and AR, and 5 Kr to Germany.

Vienna period AR cover



Lomnitz (now Lomnice nad Luznicí, South Bohemia, Czech Republic) to Waconia (MN), 1894. Ms Rückschein on the stamp paying the AR fee. Rated 10 Kreuzer for each of registration, AR, and UPU letter rate to Us.



Post-Vienna AR covers



Innsbruck to Paris, 1900. Sender's ms *R.S.*, and official blue crayon *A.R.* Rated 25 Heller for each of registration, AR, and UPU letter rate to France.



Innsbruck to Jamaica (NY), 1908. Typescript mit Rückschein. Rated as above.

Post-Vienna AR covers



Frauenberg (Hluboká, now in South Bohemia, Czech Republic) to somewhere in the US, 1912. Printed R. S. and ms Avis de reception on the stamp paying the AR fee. Rated 25 Heller for each of registration, AR, and UPU letter rate to US.

This was an official court envelope, intended for local use. It appears to have been addressed to *PO Lourdes Howard/North America*; Us officials marked it registered (two different handstamps) and tried *Howard County* and *Elma PO* (what state?), before giving up, and marking it UNCLAIMED RETURN TO WRITER.





Tábor (now in South Bohemia, Czech Republic) to Wiesbaden (Germany), 1913. Ms crayon *RS* Rated 25 Heller for each of registration and AR, and 10 H neighbouring country letter rate to Germany.

Post-Vienna AR covers



Austrian office in Smyrna (Ottoman Empire) to Athens (OH), 1914. Handstamp **AR** Rated 1 Piastre for each of registration, AR, and UPU letter rate to US (Ottoman rates applied).



Vienna to Columbus (OH), November 1916. Ms Rückschein on stamp paying AR fee. Rated 25 Heller for each of registration, AR, and UPU letter rate to US. Both Austrian and US censorship.





Vienna to Davos Platz (Switzerland), 2 January 1919. Quickly written ms Rekommandiert & retour Rezepisse (very old spelling); blue crayon RS. Rated 105 Heller: 25 H for each of registration, AR, and UPU letter rate, plus 30 H special delivery.



Mödlung to Worcester (MA), double rate, November 1921. Red ms Registered return receipt requested (US formula), and pencil Rückschein. Rated (1 August—30 November 1921) 10 Kronen UPU first weight letter rate with 5 K for each additional, and 5 K for each of registration and AR.



Vienna to Herschel (SK), 18 January 1924. Red ms *Retour Recepisse*, and blue crayon *RS*. Rated 15000 Kronen: (1 December 1923–30 November 1924) 3000 K for each of registration and AR, and quintuple UPU letter rate at 3000 K for the first weight, and 1500 K for each additional. At upper right, With approval of the Austrian National Bank (currency controls were in place).

Avis de paiement

For a money order issued at the Austrian post office in Constantinople and cashed at the Austrian office in Smyrna.





Constantinople to Smyrna to Constantinople, 1908. The form was printed in 1888, twenty years earlier.

Generalized Scandinavia

HE title refers to the countries in and near Scandinavia: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, as well as Finland, Latvia, and Estonia. Apart from location, they all have something in common—AR material is really hard to find. For this reason, material to 1960 is included.

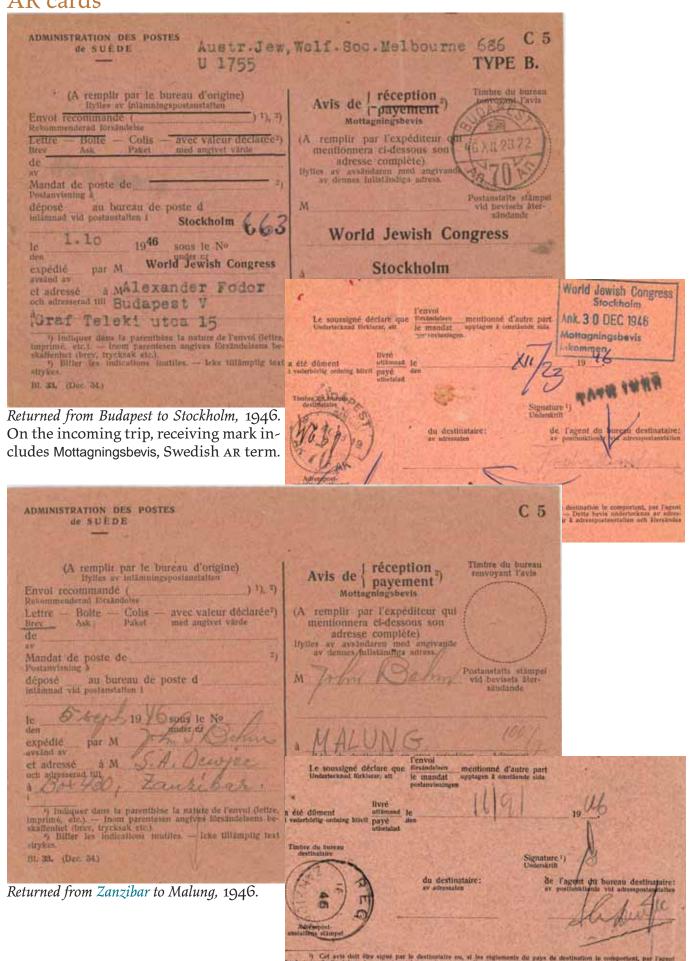
Sweden AR micro-exhibit

Service from the outset. I don't whether it even had a domestic AR system prior to that. But this is a moot point, since material is so difficult to find.

On the basis of the few items I have, it appears that the AR fee was paid on the cover, not on the form or card. Sweden is also one of the very few jurisdictions that charged more for AR than for registration.

Sweden AR service

AR cards





Stockholm to US, 1933. Typewritten Avis de Réception. Rated 25 öre for each of UPU and AR fees, and 20 ö for registration.



Stockholm by air to US, 1946. Ms Avis de réception. Rated 20 ö registration, 25 ö AR fee, and 1.6 Kroner for airmail to the US.

Postcard sent with AR

From Danish Jewish refugees in Sweden to relatives in Theresienstadt concentration camp. When the Nazis overran Denmark, they immediately started to round up Jewish Danes. However, almost all managed to escape to neutral Sweden, owing to efforts by the Danish populace. A relatively small number were captured. This is a postcard between family members, from refugees who escaped, to a couple who were seized.



Stockholm to Theresienstadt, by air, 1944. Ms + avis de réception. Rated 25 öre AR, 20 ö registration, and 30 ö airmail postcard rate. Theresienstadt receiver (upper right rectangle). Nazi censorship. Two months passage.

Rallt. Heule ge he is h die dame frisoreh meine hare washen Lu lassen, aboud ge he ich Zw Girlie, margen gehe ich du Helle raus. Bald soldiche ich ein Peild von ihu. Den 21 Februar habich Juli. launsing geheilt- 11 Jahr in arbeite um golls hvillen soll es besser rem is den ner ren 11 Jahr. Esubbe hatso oft gesagt du house: Da ist arbeite gerdich bis die ersten 100 july lend das ist weightich water. asis und Ida hat en mir geschielben den lag aver melit du andern mit die beiden livi ich vertier. Ella Fischer war gestern be mir ob du le che muller, usel luce gehen rend ihr muller sugen dus see melice liebe, mullerschen und guebe von Dot.

Written in German (as required by the Nazis).

AR parcel card

A few countries permitted non-registered parcel post to be sent with AR.



For a parcel from Stockholm to Riga, 1960. Purple A.R. I have no idea what the rates are.

Denmark AR micro-exhibit

ENMARK (including Iceland and the Faroe Islands) was an original signatory to the GPU. Material is somewhat easier to find than that of Sweden, but still very difficult.

The Danish word for AR is *Modtagelsesbevis*, which is always used on domestic AR, and occasionally seen on international. It appears, based on a very limited sample, that in the non-Vienna periods, the AR fee was paid on the registered cover, not on the AR form or card.

Chapter XIII, by Henrik Mouritsen, of the book AR, *Avis de réception* (author, David Handelman; published in 2002 by the Postal History Society of Canada) contains more information, particularly on early domestic and international AR in Denmark.

Denmark AR service

AR covering envelope

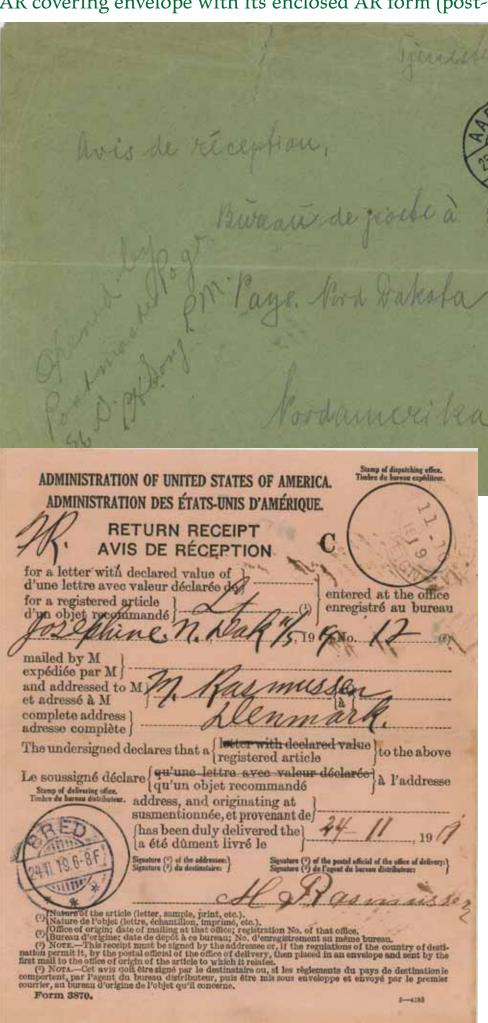
Treaty of Vienna period



Would have enclosed a signed Danish AR form for a registered cover from the US, Copenhagen to Philadelphia, 1895. I don't know of any other Danish covering envelopes used in the nineteenth century.



AR covering envelope with its enclosed AR form (post-Vienna)



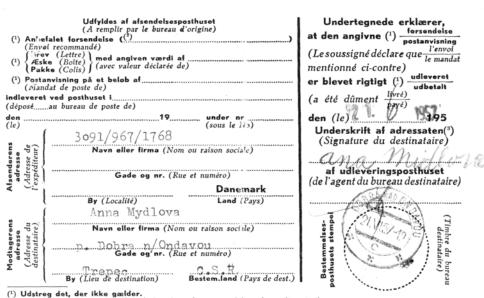
Danish provisional AR covering envelope and its enclosed USAR form, Aarup via Bred (a suburb of Copenhagen) to North Dakota, 1919. Form is properly signed. Danish word at upper right means official mail; at left, Opened by Postmaster Page, N.D. Presumably picked up at the post office by the original sender of the registered letter. Very few covering envelopes with their en-

closed AR forms are known (worldwide).

	C 5 Poststyrelsen i Danmark (Administration des Postes de Danemark)	()
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	By (Localité)	Land (Pays)
(*) Hvi _ medtagelsesbevis	et enskes tilbagesendt pr. luftpost, skal det påte	gnes tydeligt «Renvol par svien
og påklæbes luftpostet	ket. (Si le présent avis doit être renvoyé par avion, le l'étiquette "Par avion").	revetir de la mention très apparent

Returned from Dobra nad Ondavou (Czechoslovakia) to Copenhagen, 1957. Properly signed.

Based on this card (the only Danish AR card I know of!) and a couple of post-Vienna covers, it appears that for Denmark, the AR fee was applied to the registered letter, not the card or form.



(1) Udstreg det, der ikke gælder.
(2) Forsendelsens art: brev (lettre), brevkort (carte postale), tryksag (imprimé), etc.
(2) Modtagelsesbeviset skal underskrives af adressaten eller af en i henhold til bestemmelseslandets reglement dertil bemyndiget person eller, hvis dette reglement til steder det, af tjenestemanden ved udleveringsposthuset og tilbagesendes med første post direkte til afsendes an. (Cet avis doti être signé par le destinataire on par une personne y autorisée en vertu des règlements du Pays de l'estination, ou, si ces règlements le comportent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire, et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditéur).

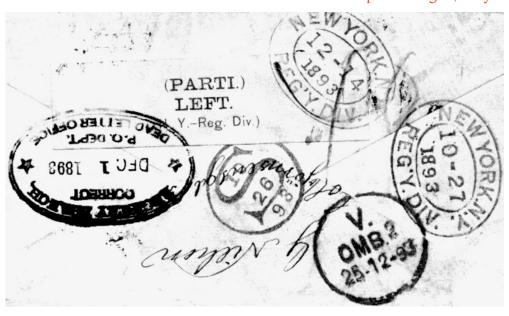
AR covers

Treaty of Vienna period



Copenhagen to New York, forwarded and returned to sender, October–December 1893. Ms Avis de reception tying 8 øre stamp. Rated 20 øre upu rate, 16 øre registration, and 8 øre AR fee (one stamp per service). Ms N.B. (Latin, nota bene) indicates the intention to register the cover (in Denmark).

One of five Danish international AR covers known prior to 1902; only one with this rate combination.



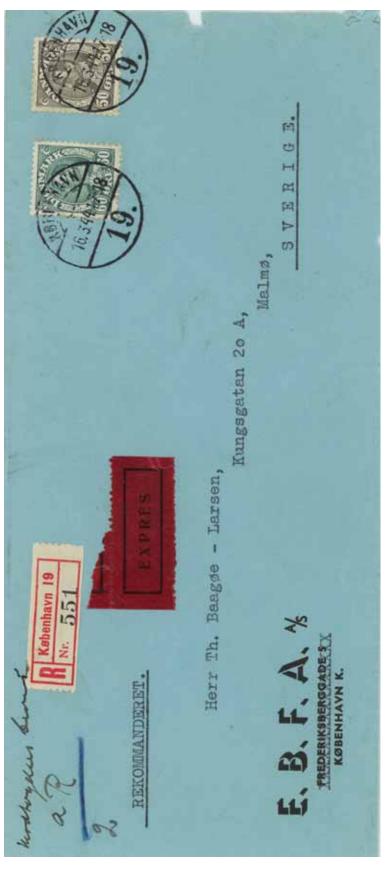


Copenhagen to Salzburg (Austria), 1919. Ms AR. Apparently misrated: 20 ö AR fee and 10 ö postcard rate; the registration fee of 15 ö should also have been charged. A long message in German, taking up all of the back.



Copenhagen to Oakland (CA) by air, double censored, 1941. Ms *Avis de réception.* Rated 30 øre for each of registration and AR, and 125 øre transatlantic airmail. Two semipostals are used.





Copenhagen to Malmø (Sweden), by air, March 1944. Ms (upper left) Modtagelsesbevis AR.

Rated 110 øre, possibly 30 øre for each of registration and AR, and presumably 50 øre for letter mail with special delivery to Sweden.



ALCOHOL: NAME OF THE PARTY OF T	itic		1 11
	_	a registered letter from Copehagen to a ship located in Kiel, 1900. Signed and postal Rated 20 øre, the same rate as subsequent AR fee, with which it appears wa	
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1		ou d'un envoi de valeur déclarée) (b)
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gine	3		
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		Den har varet unfort under No.	
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Udstreues, hois Moltagelsesbevia ikke har været forlangt.

Brev eller Æske.

(c) Description du contenn autant que possible.

Onluming om Indholdet, sagnidt muliot.

Danish West Indies AR micro-exhibit

WAS (1815–1917) a Danish colony consisting of islands in the Caribbean; it was then sold to the US, and renamed the US Virgin Islands. Based on the two covers shown here, the AR fee was paid on the form, not the registered cover.

Danish West Indies AR service

AR covers



St Thomas to US, 1914 [philatelic destination]. US style (but polite) ms Return receipt, please!. Rated 25 bit for each of registration and UPU rates. Apparently DWI charged the AR fee on the form, unlike Denmark.



Christiansted to Copenhagen, 1915. Ms AR. Possibly second weight DWI to Denmark, plus 25 bit registration.

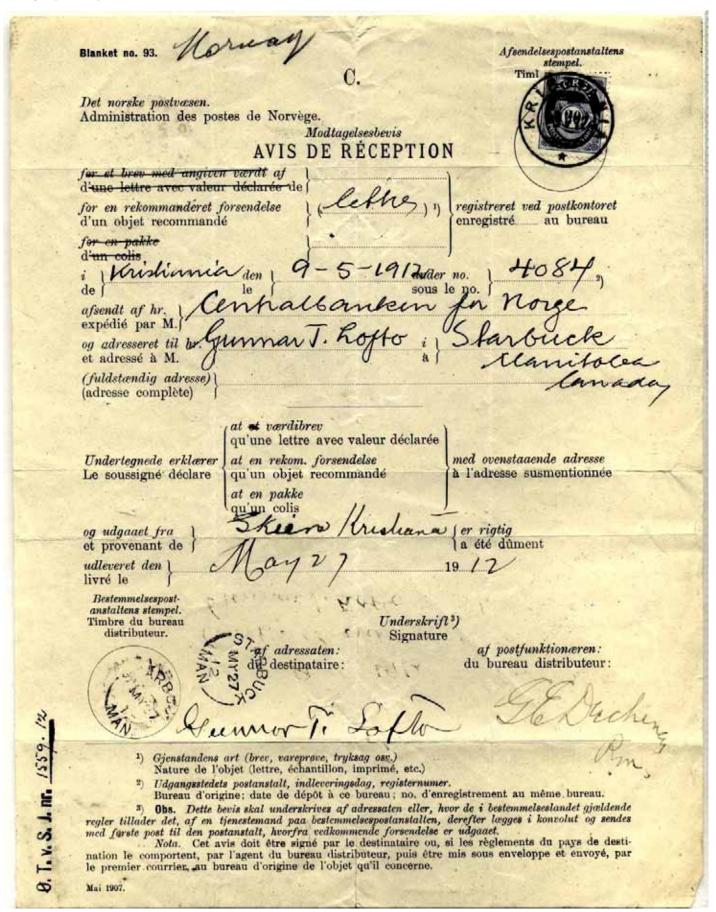
Norway AR micro-exhibit

ORWAY was in political union with Denmark for over 400 years, until 1814, when it was forced into union with Sweden. This lasted until independence in 1905. It was occupied by the Nazis 1941–45.

The Norwegian term for AR was the same as that for Denmark, *Modtagelsesbevis*. According to examples presented here, the AR fee was paid on the AR form. The AR forms were returned under cover.

Norway AR service

AR forms



Returned from Starbuck (MB) to Kristiania (Oslo), 1912. Starbuck is a tiny village.

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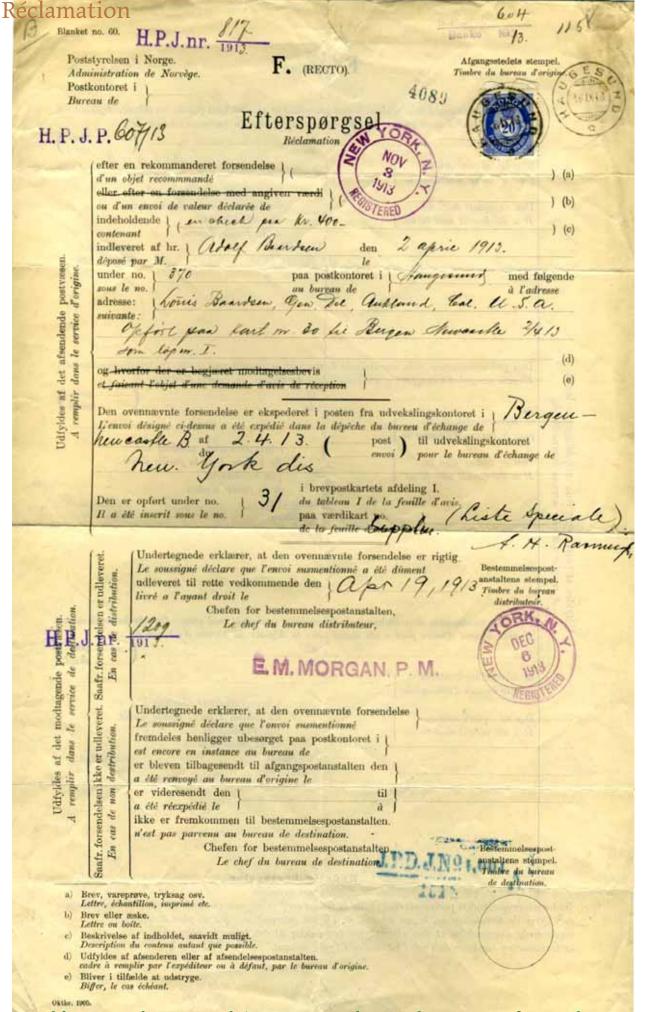
AR covering envelopes (Vienna and post-Vienna periods) Two slightly different envelopes.



Bergen to Philadelphia, 1895 (at this time, was in a union with Sweden).



Stavanger to Springfield (Ill), 1904.



Returned from New York to Haugesund via Bergen-Newcastle, December 1913. Fee of 20 ore, the same as that of AR. For a registered letter mailed in April, containing a cheque for 400 Kr. (Reduced to 80%.)

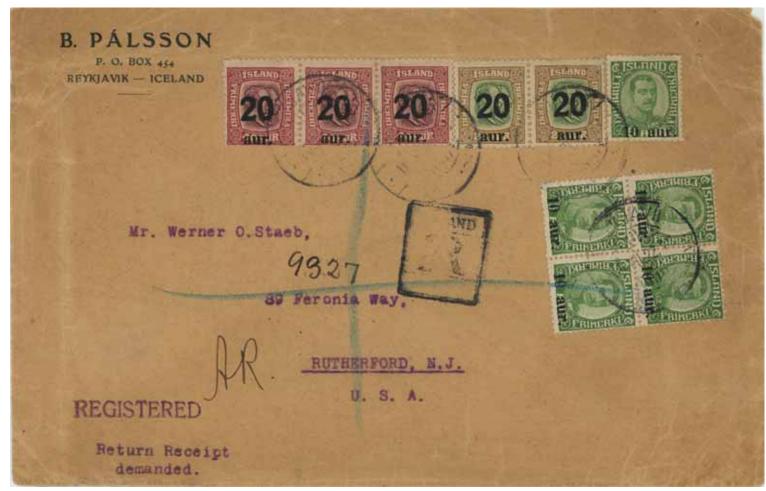
Iceland AR micro-exhibit

CELAND was a Danish colony until 1918, when it became an independent state in union with Denmark. It became a republic in 1844. Needless to say, Icelandic AR material is practically non-existent. I'm amazed that I have anything at all.

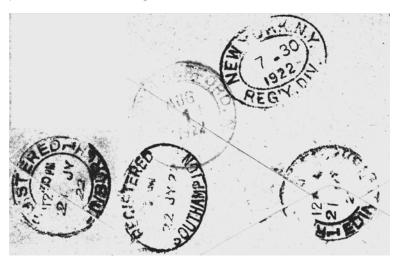
The AR fee appears to have been paid on the AR form or card, rather than on the registered cover.

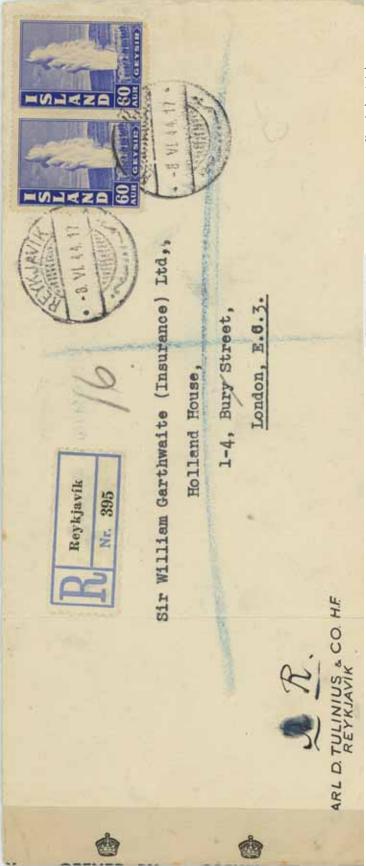
Iceland AR service

AR covers



Reyjkavík to US, 1922 [probably philatelic origin]. Registration and AR fees were 30 aur each; the UPU rate was 40 a for the first weight and 20 a for each additional. If the postage is exact, then it was quintuple rate.





Reyjkavík to London, 1944. Ms (lower left) AR. Rated 60 a for each of registration and UPU rates. (The AR fee was also 60 a, so this suggests that for Iceland, the AR fee was paid on the form or card.) British censorship.

3	EXAMINER 5656	OPENED BY EXAMINER 5656	OPEI EXA
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Finland AR micro-exhibit

INLAND is a small country in northern Europe, squeezed between Russia and Sweden. It was an autonomous Duchy within the Russian Empire 1809–1917, after which time it declared a rather shaky independence. Some parts of it were seized by the Soviet Union during World War II, during which Finland made a wrong guess about who was going to win.

According to the very limited amount of material I managed to find, the AR fee was paid on the cover, not the AR form or card. Domestically, Finland used an odd fold-out card, similar to that of Algeria; I haven't seen an example used internationally.

Finland AR service

Postcard sent with AR



Kuopio to Downington (PA), 193. Ms *Avec Avis de reception.* Rated 1.2 Marks international postcard rate and 2 M registration; apparently, the AR fee (2 M) was paid on the AR card.





Helsinki to Stockholm, by air, 1941. [probably philatelic origin] Ms Mottagningsbevis, Swedish term for AR. Registration and AR fees were 2.5 marks each, leaving 3 marks for the presumed airmail rate to neighbourhing Sweden.

Réclamation

Duplicate

A duplicate inquiry form is prepared (at the request of the sender) when the an earlier one (for the same letter) has not been returned. These are much harder to find than the usual reclamation forms. This one was mailed from Wiborg, for a letter addressed to Mombasa, Kenya; it made it to Germany, but there was no

record of the letter having been sent to Kenya from Germany. Timbre du burest d'origine.

Postiniatori latina.

Timbre du burest d'origine. RECLAMA Dn:r IV 'un envoi de valeur déclarée de labetysta, maaraarvoltaan on forsandelse med angivet va K. Gen. poststyrelsens Byrn IV 1 (6) Ink 2 8 DEC, 1925 GRUPP. 9.0. Box 75, Sombara, Tenya belong, British leter Trilleborg Cassered to 1.5 1984 to 1 more for both born discharge to the process of the process it le imonaiselle ill vederbörande den Timbre du lureau distributeur. Jakolupostiroimiston leima. Utläumingspostanstaltens stämpel. D a 2nd inscrit some le No la sableag I de la fenille d'aria. de la fenille d'escrei. Timbre & date. nie doll êle renvoyée au ciamations, Fighingfors Timbre du bureau de destination. Osoitepostitoimiston leims. Adresspostamatiem atampel. RÉPONSE DEFINITIVE LOPOLLINES VASTARS DEFINITIVE SVAR contenu autant que possible, ksestă, mikāli mabdoliists, innehâliet, să vitt mējligt. eas échéant, italia sattuvissa tapanksissa cos i förekommande fall. le cas prévu à l'article XXIX. jots tarkeitetaan Tolmitusabje-I det fall, som avses i srtikel night nachwerdar.

Wiborg—Turku—Trällsberg—Sassnitz, then pffft, and returned via Berlin and Helsinki, March 1925.
Rated 3.5 Marks, which is considerably more than the AR fee at the time, 2 M.

For a registered letter to Kenya, mailed April 1924, which probably explains why it could not be traced.

The front is shown

The front is shown at 70%, the reverse at 50%

Estonia AR micro-exhibit

STONIA is a small country in northern Europe, north of Latvia. It had been occupied by various other nations until it became independent of the Soviet Union in 1920. During World War II, it was occupied repeatedly by the Nazis and the Soviet Union, eventually becoming a puppet state of the latter. In 1991, it regained its independence.

According to the limited amount of material I managed to find, the AR fee was paid on AR forms, but not on AR cards. AR cards appear to have been introduced (replacing the forms) after 1925.

Estonia AR service

AR form and its corresponding cover

This combination is very difficult to find (worldwide). Both refer to registration number 390. Form intended to be returned under cover. Registered letter was delivered, but AR form not detached!

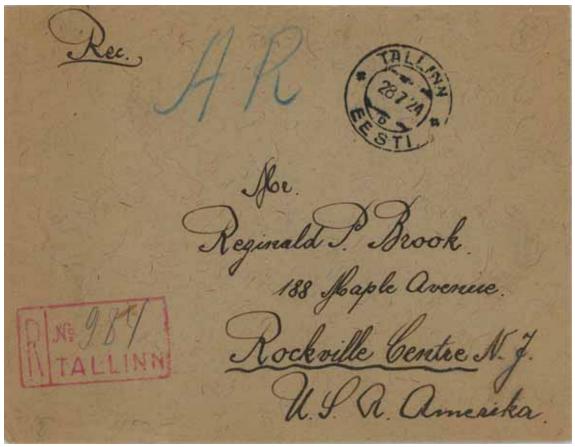


weight, 7.5 M each additional), and 15 M for registration. The AR fee, 20 M, was paid in stamps on the back of the form. Form unsigned.

Administration des Postes (A remplie par le bursau d'Estonie (Lahtenrutare ralia) Eesti Postivalitsus	AVIS DE (RECEPTION PAYEMENT) Tinther du bureau renvoyant l'avis Tretts logarisen acuture tempel
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Returned from Leningrad (St Petersberg) to Talinn, 1939. Properly signed.

(Verso — Tagakülg).
Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi le mandat mentionné d'autre part a été dûme Allakirjutanu tõendab, et saadetis transfert, mis pöördel tähendatud, on korrapäraselt
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par l'agent du bureau destinataire et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur. 1) See teade tuleb kirjutada alla adressaadil, või kui sihtmaa määrused seda nõuavad— sihtasutuse ametni' ja otse saata tagasi saatjale esimese postiga.



Talinn to New York, 1924. Ms crayon AR. Rated 15 M for each of registration and UPU rates.



Latvia AR micro-exhibit

ATVIA is a small country south of Estonia. It had been part of the Russian Empire 1795–1917, and it declared independence in 1918; in 1939, it was forced into the Soviet Union, as a puppet state. In 1941, it was brutally occupied by the Nazis, and three years later was re-occupied by the Soviets (who were almost as brutal). It remained in the Soviet Union until 1991, when it declared independence (again).

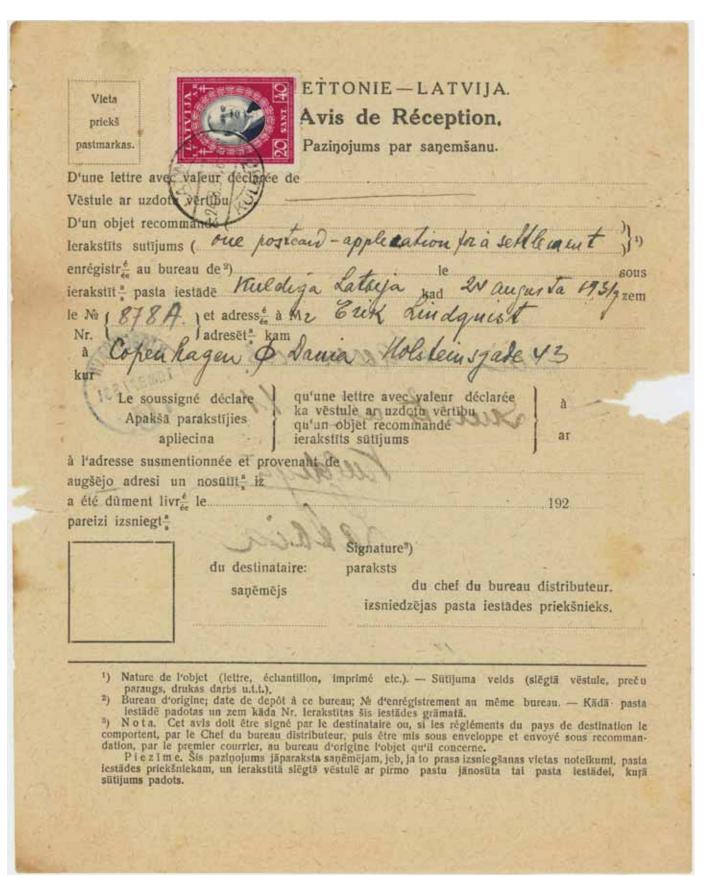
According to the limited amount of material I managed to find, the AR fee was paid on AR *form* and card, not on the registered letter. Interestingly, cards and forms seem to have been in use more or less simultaneiously, at least in the late 1920s to late 1930s. The forms may have been used only at small offices, which had not been supplied with the newer cards.

Latvia AR service

AR forms



Returned from Haysin (Podolia, Ukrainian SSR?) to Leepaja, for insured—not registered—mail, 1927. Rated 25 sentimi, AR fee (changed to 30 s the next year). With 6 kopek fiscal. Intended to be returned under cover; the instructions also say it should be sent as registered matter. Nothing on reverse.



Returned from Copenhagen to Kuldiga, 1931. Rated 40 sentimi, the AR fee; paid by 40 + 20 santimi semipostal. According to the notation on the form, this was for a registered postcard, application for a settlement. Intended to be returned under cover as registered matter. Not signed by recipient; backstamped at Copenhagen.

AR covering envelope

(Very) provisional covering envelope

Station Avis de	Remotion
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in A	nerien :
" Velgavas p. t.	ALFARA :
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umUhrwormittags Empfä	To annuage
Diefer Umichtag ift dem Überbri	nger juruckjugeben.

Returned from Springfield (MA) to Jelgawa, 1922. Ms Avis de Réception. The form envelope, obviously from a German-speaking country, was intended to be used for telegrams or wireless messages.

AR cards

The top one is used for avis de paiement.



PAZINOJUMS PAR SANEMSANU. Latvijas pasta pārvaide AVIS DE RECEPTION. Administration des postes de Lettonie PAZINOJUMS PAR IZMAKSU. Envolvecommande AVIS DE PAYEMENT. Parigojuma scentrajas Iestides Vēstule — Kustite — Paka er undelu vertibu per Pasta parvedunia par Mandat de poste de erskattt - pasta festäde (kilda) Черва фирму Mugurpuse. Verso. Apakšā parakstijies apliecina, ka - sūtijums kas minēts otrā pusē, un adreset (hum) Le soussigné declare que mentionné d'autre part Service des poi izniegts pareizi izmaksāts (kad) (Fu été dûment **) Stilliuma veids (vēstule, handerole u. t. t.) Nature de l'envoi (lettre imprime etc.)) Jairpilda süt Saņēmēja paraksts*) Signature du destinataire Saņemšanas (adreses) iestādes ierēdņa paraksts Returned from Unecha (Russia) to Riga, 1938. AR fee of 40 santimi, de l'agent du bureau destinataire paid by stamp.

Parcel card

... or a portion thereof. I haven't a clue how to figure out the rates.



Parcel card, Liepaja to Kyiv (Kiev, Ukrainian SSR), 1937. Purple Avis de Réception. handstamp. Top half of parcel card, for parcel post. Latvian postage of 6.65 Lati (equivalent at the time to about US 95¢); on reverse, Russian stamps totalling 2.5 rubles (equivalent to about US 30¢), probably paying customs fees.



AR in Switzerland

WITZERLAND had had international AR service from 1852 [M, p 148]. So one would expect there would be plenty of AR material in the GPU/UPU-period (especially since the UPU is headquartered in Bern). However, I have found next to nothing. It took more than a decade for me to find my first Swiss AR cover (1904).

And I still haven't found any forms, and very few cards. Several AR forms are illustrated in [op. cit.], but not surprisingly, the earliest Swiss international AR cover shown there is dated 1910. I haven't seen any AR covering envelopes except the three shown here. Even AR cards are difficult to find; and *card* is not exactly the right term; they are on ordinary paper, so might as well be called AR forms. However, I have located a couple of réclamation forms, one of them a *duplicate* (that is, the first attempt was not returned, so a second try was made).

Based on the very small sample size, the AR fee was paid on the form in the pre-Vienna period, but paid on the cover post-Vienna.

AR in Switzerland: micro-exhibit synopsis

O AR forms; three AR covering envelopes (all provisional, 1898–1903); two almost identical 1934 AR cards for VD rather than registered items; and a number of AR covers (1904–49), including one to Edward VIII living in exile).

Perhaps the highlight is a 1944 parcel card for a package sent with AR to Warsaw in the period between the two uprisings. And this is followed by two enormous réclamation forms (1920 and 1917), one of them a duplicate. And that's it.

Switzerland international post-GPU AR service

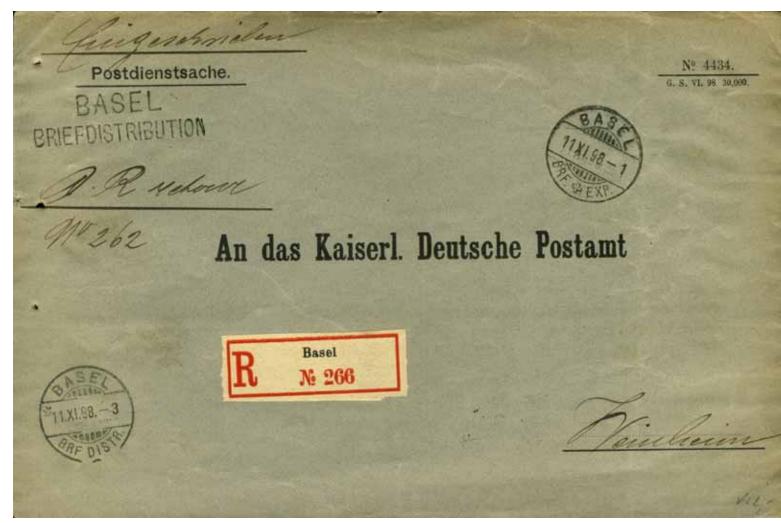
AR covering envelopes

Vienna period



Provisional, Zürich to Weinheim (Württemberg), 1898. Ms A. R. retour; sent as registered mail.

AR covering envelope, Vienna period



Provisional, Basel to Weinheim (Württemberg), 1898. Ms A. R. retour; sent as registered mail.



Provisional, Chaux-de-Fonds to Elgin (IL), 1903. Ms Avis de réception retour; sent as registered mail.

AR cards

Both used for VD letters



AR covers

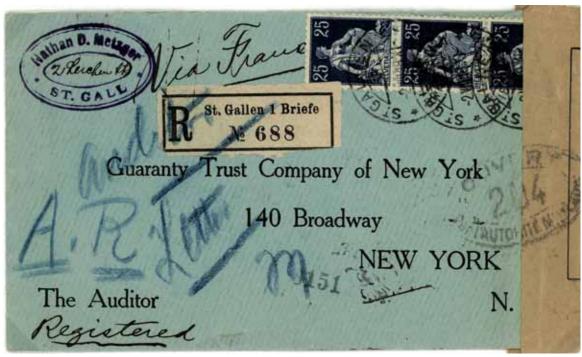
Post-Vienna



Geneva to Tata (Hungary), double, 1904. Ms A R Rated 25 centimes for each of registation, AR, and two UPU letter rates.



Zürich to Lemberg (then in Austria-Hungary, now Lviv in Ukraine), double, 31 December 1916. Blue crayon A.R. Rated 25 ctm for each of registration, AR, and first weight letter rate, plus 15 ctm for the second weight. No backstamps.

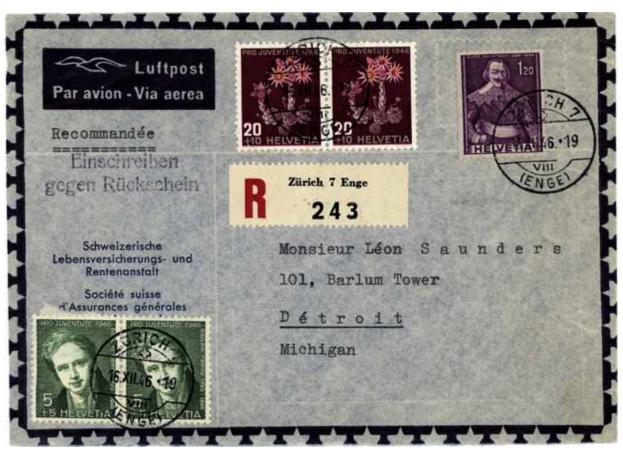


St Gallen to New York, 1918. Ms A. R Rated 25 centimes for each of registation, AR, and UPU letter rate. With French military censorship.



Chaux-de-Fondes to Waterloo (ON), double, 1918. Red crayon A R Rated 25 ctm for each of registration, AR, and first weight letter rate, plus 15 ctm for the second weight.

Post-Vienna covers



Zürich to Detroit, by air, 1946. Handstamp Einschreiben gegen Rückschein Rated 1.70 Fr: registration 30 ctm, AR fee 40 ctm, and apparently 1 F airmail to U.S. All but one of the stamps are semi-postals.



Rigi-Kaltbad (brrrr) to Paris, double, 1949. Red crayon *A R* Rated 40 ctm for each of registration, AR, and first weight letter rate, plus 25 ctm for the second weight. Addressed to ex-King Edward VIII, living in exile in France.

Parcel sent with VD, unregistered



Céligny (Geneva) to Warsaw between uprisings, 1 June 1944. Handstamp A. R. Rated 2.85 F: parcel post 2.15 F (for 1.4 kg), AR fee 40 ctm, and VD (insurance) of 30 ctm on declared value of 39 F.

Mailed after the Warsaw ghetto uprising, but before the Warsaw uprising.

The handstamp Revision is German, and refers to customs inspection of the parcel. The General Government sticker refers to customs fees (in Zlotys).



The BASEL 17/DEUTSCHE KARTTERUNGSSTELLE datestamp was reserved for mail sent via Germany; no examples had been previously seen.

OV 3 A. No. 1120. 50,000.

del guadro I del foglio d'avviso. del foglio d'urvio, del foglio di via, della lista speciale.

Réclamation

(Reduced to 75%; see also next page) Basel to Vienna, a gift or care package of chocolates, with VD of 15 F, 3 June 1920. Réclamation fee 25 ctm (equalling AR fee), paid by stamp. For a package mailed from Basel 24 April 1920. Form arrived at St Gallen 6 June;

Réclamation form, part two

Top third of reverse; the rest has no notation.

Versland 11/5 - 17/5 - 1958	
A remplir dans le service de destination Von der Bestimmungspoststelle auszufi	üllen Da riempire nel servizio di destinazione.
Die vorerwähnte Sendung ist dem Empfangsberechtigten richtig ausgehändigt wir L'envoi susmentionne a été dûment livré à l'agant droit le l'invio qui retro descritto è stato de l'annual de l'invio qui retro descritto è stato de l'annual de l'annual de destination — Il capo dell'ufficio di destinazione	orden avelle wegen verter 19 1 in Verhandlungsportuntes Stempel des Bestimmungsportuntes Timbre du bureau de destination. Bollo dell'ufficio di destinazione.
Unterschrift des Bestimmungspostamtes Le chef du bureau de destination — Il capo dell'ufficio di destinazione 13/VIII de	Sauha 200 XIII)
L'envoi susmentionné — Die vorerwähnte Sendung — L'invio qui retro descritt lagert noch bei dem Postamt in est encore en instance au bureau de	10 USLAND
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ist nachgesandt worden am a été réexpédié le – è stato rispedito il	19 à - nach - n
ist bei der Bestimmungspoststelle nicht eingegangen. n'est pas parvenu au bureau de destination. non è giunto all'ufficio di destinazione.	Stempel des Bestimmungspostamtes. Timbre du bureau de destination. Bollo dell'ufficio di destinazione.
Unterschrift des Bestimmungspostamtes EEL	
Le chef du bureau de destination — Il capo dell'ufficio di destinazione	

Contents damaged in handling—response from Vienna, 13 August (two months after réclamation form sent).

No. 1384. A. M. B. VI. 17. 20,000.

Duplicate réclamation form

(Reduced to 75%; see also next page) St Gallen to Stockholm, concerning a registered sample, 2 June 1918. At top, ms Duplicata. 1ière réclamation le 4 avril 1918 (First inquiry was sent out 4 April 1918; apparently not returned. Réclamation fee 25 ctm (equalling AR fee), paid by stamp. For a package mailed from St Gallen 17 November 1917. Form arrived at St Gallen Briefversand on 3 June; at Zürich 9 June; package was sent from there 18 November.

Form arrived in Basel 10 June; the postmaster there indicated that the letter had been forwarded to Stockholm on 19 November (continued next page).

Duplicate réclamation form, part two

Top third of reverse; the rest has no notation.

rion	Die vorerwähnte Sendung ist dem Empfangsberechtigten richtig ausgehändigt worden am L'envoi susmentionné a été dûment livré à l'ayant droit le L'invio qui retro descritto è stato regolarmente consegnato all'avente diritto il	191
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de d	Unterschrift des Bestimmungspostamtes	
En cas In case	Le chef du bureau de destination - Il capo dell'ufficio di destinazione	
1	L'envol susmentionné — Die vorerwähnte Sendung — L'invio qui retro descritto lagere noch pei dem Postant in	
ione	est encore en instance au bureau de è luttora diacente nell'ufficio di ist nach den Aufgabeott zurückgesandt worden am	
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dist	ist nachdesandt worden om 191 à nach	-a
di non distribution	ist bei der Bestimmungspoststelle nicht eingegangen. n'est pas parvenu au bureau de destination. non è giunto all'ufficio di destinazione.	Stempel des Bestimmungspostamt Timbre du burenu de destination. Bollo dell'ufficio di destinazione.
88 d	more e granto an arreso ar aestricazione.	A CHERN DIVIONAL
En cas	Unterschrift des Bestimmungspostamtes Le chef du bureau de destination — Il capo dell'ufficio di destinazione	22 JULI 19
		Broc wards

Stockholm responds 22 July, indicating that the letter did not arrive there.