

Mexico

MEXICO has a similar AR profile to that of many other Latin American countries. AR forms and cards are relatively difficult to find, but covers are not. For a longish period, the AR fees were half those of registration (in contrast, for most European countries, the AR fee is close to that of registration). A feature specific to Mexico, is that in the period (approximately) 1916–22, AR was a free option on registered mail, as it was in the US for international mail 1868–1925 (a cynic would say that the registration fee was so high that AR was automatically included).

Based on (few) examples, in the pre-Vienna period, the AR fee was paid on the form, not on the registered letter. Post-Vienna (based on plenty of covers, but no forms and just one card), the AR fee was paid on the registered letter. Based on the three AR covering envelopes, registration of returning AR forms ceased some time before 1912.

There are plenty of international AR covers, beginning in the Vienna period. However, sources for rates are difficult to find, and the information they contain is often at odds with the rates found on cover (this is a polite way of saying they are wrong).

Mexican AR is interesting (in the sense of the Chinese curse), and at least for covers, is readily available. The Mexican revolution and civil war took place in the second decade of the twentieth century and their postal history developments reflect this.

I would particularly like to thank Mike Ludeman for providing images of over 40 AR covers *in the Vienna period alone*, from his collection and from the literature. Many of the latter were from auction catalogues of Schuyler-Rumsey, and they have granted permission to use them. This allowed me to show a page of covers for each year of the Vienna period. Among these are a use four days into the period, a letter card, and a post card.



Mexican AR handstamps. Top row: 1892–; second row: generic from 1901 (or earlier), 1914, 1930s, 1930s; third row: generic from 1930s, and intaglio (at least) 1934–49.

Mexican AR: exhibit synopsis

ORGANIZED, as usual, by AR forms, covering envelopes, cards, and covers, and within each of these sections, by period: pre-Vienna (ca G P U–1892), Vienna (1892–98), and post-Vienna (1899–).

In the pre-Vienna period, stamps paying the AR fee were applied to the AR form, while post-Vienna, they were applied to the registered cover. For a short period (ca 1916–1922, AR was a free option on registered matter.

AR forms Three forms, all in the pre-Vienna period, two in terrible shape. But the earlier one (1884) suggests that the AR fee was 6 centavo at the time.

AR covering envelopes Three, all dated 1912, two official, one provisional, all unregistered.

AR card Just one, but for an uninsured non-registered parcel, together with its customs declaration tag.

AR covers

Vienna period Two for each year (or part thereof) of the period; this includes the fourth day of the period, a letter card, and a post card.

post-Vienna A massive unovigintuple 1901 cover to UK; 1903 printed matter (very difficult to find with AR) to Italy; a 1914 cover mailed during the civil war, whose stamps were not recognized by the US; and some post-civil war covers challenging the dates given in the literature for rate changes. And several AR covers with airmail (1933 on, including to Canada), for which I am only guessing at the rates.

Avis de paiement A 1912 *covering envelope* for AP.

Mexican international AR service

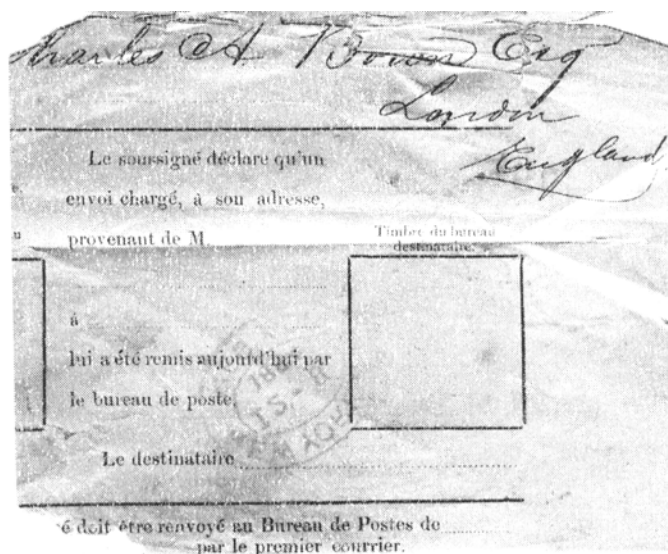
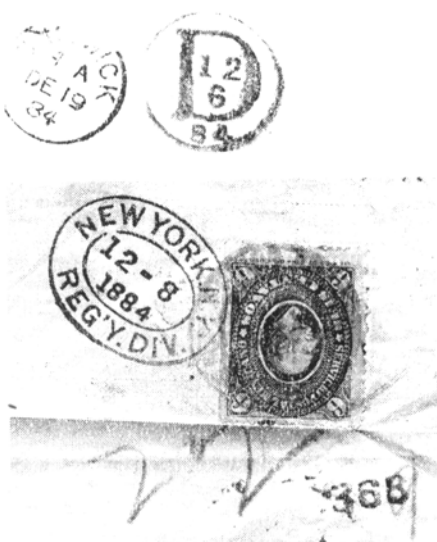
AR forms

I know of five in the pre-Vienna period, and no others in subsequent periods.



Returned to Mexico from London via New York, 1884. External in Spanish only, internal in French. Double circle UNION POSTAL. MEXICO. Properly signed.

- AR fee paid on form, 6 centavos (literature gives 5 cvo)
- returned as folded letter sheet



AR form, pre-Vienna

(F. NUM. 276.)

RECIBO DE PIEZAS CERTIFICADAS DIRIGIDAS A PAISES DE LA UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL

Sello de la Administracion de Correos de destino.



Núm. 4756

Recibí hoy una pieza certificada que me fué dirigida por.....

REPUBLIQUE MEXICAINE
U P U
 N° 4756
 Mexique. D. E.

R

de 188

Signature de la persona que recibe la pieza.

Direction de la pieza (Adresse de l'envoi)

Charles Warner
New York

Administration de Postes de Mexique.

Timbre du bureau expéditeur.

REGISTERED
JUN 7 1886

Le soussigné déclare qu'un envoi chargé, à son adresse, provenant de M.

à

lui a été remis aujourd'hui par le bureau de poste.

Timbre du bureau destinataire.

Le destinataire

Ce récépissé doit être renvoyé au Bureau de Postes de par le premier courrier.

1886




Returned to Mexico from New York, 1886.

- 5 cvo AR fee (agrees with literature) paid on reverse of form

Courtesy of Mike Ludeman

- returned as folded letter sheet

AR form, pre-Vienna

(F. NUM. 276.)

DE PIEZAS CERTIFICADAS DIRIGIDAS A PAISES DE LA UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL.

Administracion de Correos remitente.

Sello de la Administracion de Correos de destino.

MEXICO
4 30 12 AM
D.F.

Núm. 10.255

Recibi hoy una pieza certificada que me fue dirigida por Ignacio Yllanes

1010
1010
1010

90 a 91 de B

Finna de la persona que recibe la pieza

5. Miguel Verdugo de la Peña
Paris

Administracion de Postes du Mexique.

Timbre du bureau expéditeur.

Le soussigné déclare qu'un envoi chargé, à son adresse, provenant de M.

à lui a été remis aujourd'hui par le bureau de poste.

Timbre du bureau destinataire.

PARIS-50
84 9
JANV
91
R. MEISSONIER

LIT. DEL. TIMBRE. MEXICO.

Le destinataire Miguel Verdugo de la Peña

de Ce récépissé doit être renvoyé au Bureau de Postes par le premier courrier.



Returned to Mexico from Paris, 1890-91. Properly signed.

- AR fee paid on form, 5 centavos

- returned as folded letter sheet

AR covering envelopes

Official, post-Vienna



Mexico to Buffalo, 1912. No indication of country of origin, although obviously an official covering envelope. Printed in 1907, in a quantity of 10,000. Not registered.

Official and provisional covering envelopes, post-Vienna



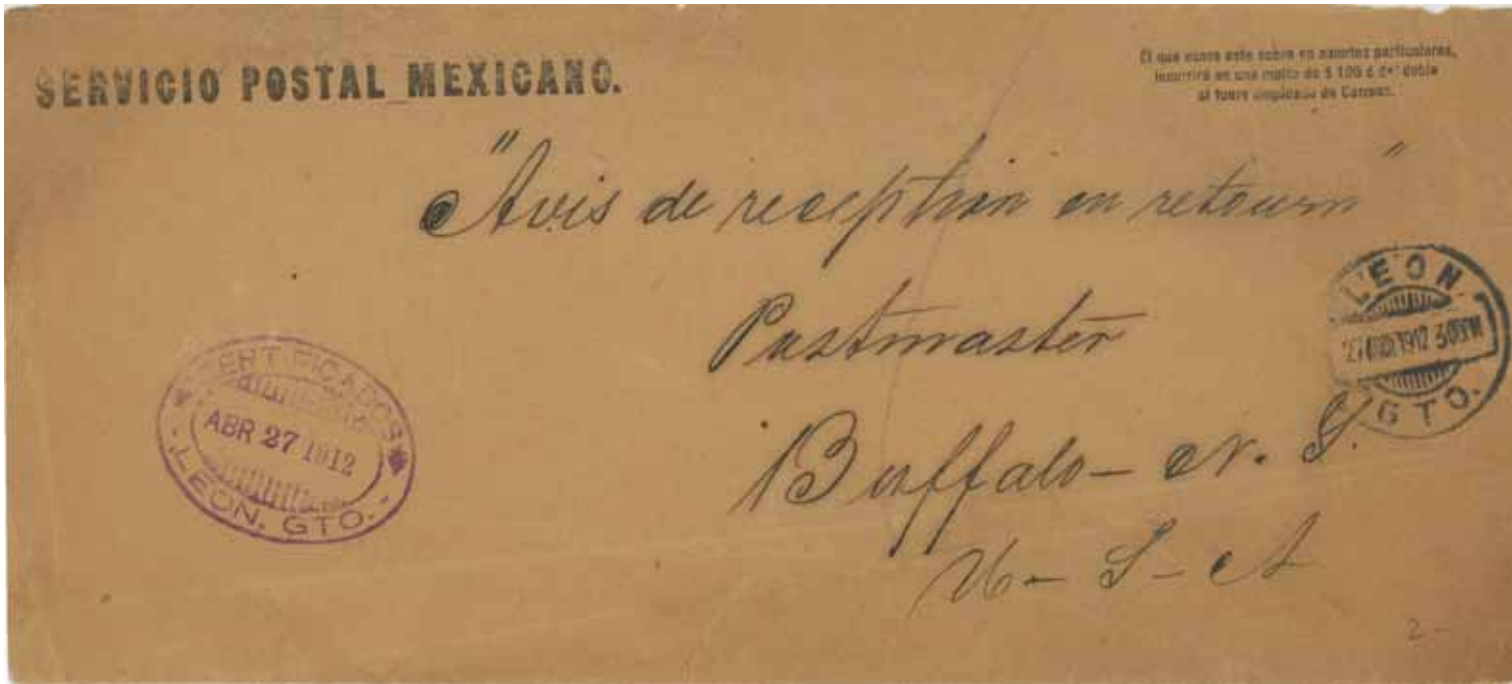
Orizaba (Veracruz) to Buffalo, 1912. Similar to preceding, but printed in 1908. Not registered.



Balancan (Tabasco) to Buffalo, 1912. Ms Return receipt (US formula, applied by Mexican postmaster). Official envelope intended for domestic use.

Generic official envelope used as AR covering envelope

Penalty envelopes



León (Guanajuato) to Buffalo, 1912.



Campeche (Campeche) to Buffalo, 1912. Ms Return receipt (US formula, applied by Mexican postmaster). Official envelope intended for domestic use.



AR card

Mexican AR cards seem to be scarce.

C
(Anversa)
(Recto)

FORMA 426

ADMINISTRACION DE CORREOS
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES

de Ciudad Obregon, Son. (1)
d (1)

Envío certificado { 5^a } (2)
Envoy certifié { } (2)

Bulto
Caja

Carta Caja Bulto
Lettre Boite Caisse

con valor declarado de.....
avec valeur déclarée de.....

Giro postal de.....
Mandat de poste de.....

registrado en la oficina de correos de
enregistré au bureau de poste de

8 Oct. 1933 con el número 640
le 8 Oct. 1933 sous le n.º

expedido por el señor A. Kux.
expédié par M.

y dirigido al señor Sr. Kleuber
et adressé à M.

San Diego Calif.

(1) El anverso lo llenará la Administración de origen.
(1) Le recto est à remplir par l'Office d'origine.

(2) Naturaleza del envío (carta, impreso, etc.)
(2) Nature de l'envoi (lettre, imprimé, etc.)

ACUSE DE RECIBO
AVIS DE RECEPTION

CORRESPONDENCIAS REGISTRADAS
AVIS DE PAGO
AVIS DE PAYERMENT

Sello de la Oficina
Timbre de l'Office
remittente del envío
expéditeur de l'envoi

CD. OBREGON SON.

Andres Kux
Apto. 175
Ciudad Obregon, Son.

(Lugar de destino)
(Lieu de destination)

(País de destino)
(Pays de destination)

SERVICIO DE
SERVICE DES
CORREOS
POSTES

(1) Lo llenará el remitente
(1) A remplir par l'expéditeur

AR card for *non-registered uninsured parcel post* from Sonora to San Diego, 1933. Accompanied the customs declaration tag below. Somewhat larger format AR card than most.

DECLARACION ADUANAL
BULTOS POSTALES ENTRE MEXICO Y

Forma 432.

Descripción del bulto	CONTENIDO	PESO		VALOR		BULTO POSTAL NUM.
		K.	G.	\$	Cs.	
Paquete	1-Cinto de Cuero	0.	220			
	AR					
	Total			\$	2.00	

Nombre y dirección del remitente } ANDRES KUX - Apto. 175
Cd. Obregon, Sonora, Mex.

Fecha de depósito Oct. 9. de 1933

Sello fechador de la Oficina de procedencia

Accompanying customs declaration tag. Parcel cards were not used between Mexico and the U.S. Packet contained a leather belt.

AR covers

Whereas forms and cards seem to be scarce, Mexican AR covers are all over the place (except in the pre-Vienna period).

Vienna period

During the Vienna period, the UPU rate was 10 centavos per 15 g if carried by unsubsidized steamer, half that if carried by subsidized steamer, and less to the U.S. In the vast majority of cases, carriage was by unsubsidized steamer.



Mexico to Geneva, double 4 July 1892. Purple double circle A. R. MEXICO D.F. (District Federal) handstamp. Rated 10 centavo registration, 5 cvo AR fee, and double letter rate at 10 cvo. **Three days after the Treaty of Vienna came into effect**; but Mexico had obviously adapted, with the handstamp, and payment of the AR fee on cover. *Courtesy of Mike Ludeman*



Puebla to Harriman (TN), triple, 1892. Unclear A. R. handstamp. Rated 30 centavo, made up from 10 cvo registration, 5 cvo AR, and triple 5 cvo to U.S. *Schuyler-Rumsey, sale 25, lot 2551*



Handwritten text on the right side of the postcard cover, including a list of items and their costs:

10 Kisten	500
11 Kisten	55
Posten	75
	630 = Mk 2.11

Zacatecas to Leipzig via New York, *postcard*, 1893. Generic AR in circle handstamp. Rated 10 centavo for registration, 5 cvo AR, and 3 cvo international postcard rate. Straightline **Rückschein** applied on covers to Germany via German-American Seapost (see the *Germany* exhibit for more details and examples). *Courtesy of Mike Ludeman*



Mexico to London, *double*, 1893. [Front only] Fancy city AR handstamp. Rated 10 cvo registration, 5 cvo AR, and double UPU letter rate at 10 cvo per 20 g.



Guadalajara–Buenos Aires via NY, double, 1894. Blue circled AR (upper left), under the octagonal C (Certificado, domestic registration) handstamp. Rated 10 cvo registration, 5 cvo AR, and single UPU rate at 10 cvo per 15 g. Thinly perforated ten centavo stamps.



Mexico to London, 1894. New generic type encircled A. R. handstamp. Rated as above.

Courtesy of Mike Ludeman



Mexico to Cologne, domestic *lettercard*, 1895. AR handstamp as above. Rated 10 cvo registration, 5 cvo AR, and lettercard rate of 5 cvo. With heavy **Rückschein** handstamp used on the German-American line. Courtesy of Mike Ludeman



Mexico to Nymegen (Netherlands), *stationery*, 1895. AR handstamp as above. Rated 10 cvo registration, 5 cvo AR, and UPU letter rate of 10 cvo, overpaid 5 cvo (?). Courtesy of Mike Ludeman



Silao (Guanajuato) to Dresden, 1896. Purple AR handstamp this time. Rated as usual. Two different C (certificado) domestic registration handstamps. With German (serif) Rückschein handstamp attributed to Seapost clerks.



Mexico to Hamburg, 1896. Blue A. R. handstamp, worn version the 1893 example (thin circles have merged). Rated 55 cvo, quadruple 10 cvo UPU letter rate, 10 cvo registration, and 5 cvo AR. Schuyler-Rumsey sale 25, lot 2583

1897



Merida (Yucatan) to Hamburg, 1897. Black version of AR handstamp. Rated as previously, 25 cvo. German **Rückschein** handstamp (nonserif) attributed to clerks on Seapost boats.



Mexico to Ulm, **AR handstamp on reverse only**, 1897. Very few such examples are known worldwide. Rated 25 cvo, as previously.

Courtesy of Mike Ludeman





Mexico to Lille (France), 1898. Handstamped A. R. México, D.F. Rated 10 centavo for registration, 5 cvo AR fee, and letter rate at 10 cvo. Faint French transit mark.



Cotija (Michoacán) to New York, 1898. Unusual handstamp A.R. in oval. Rated as above.

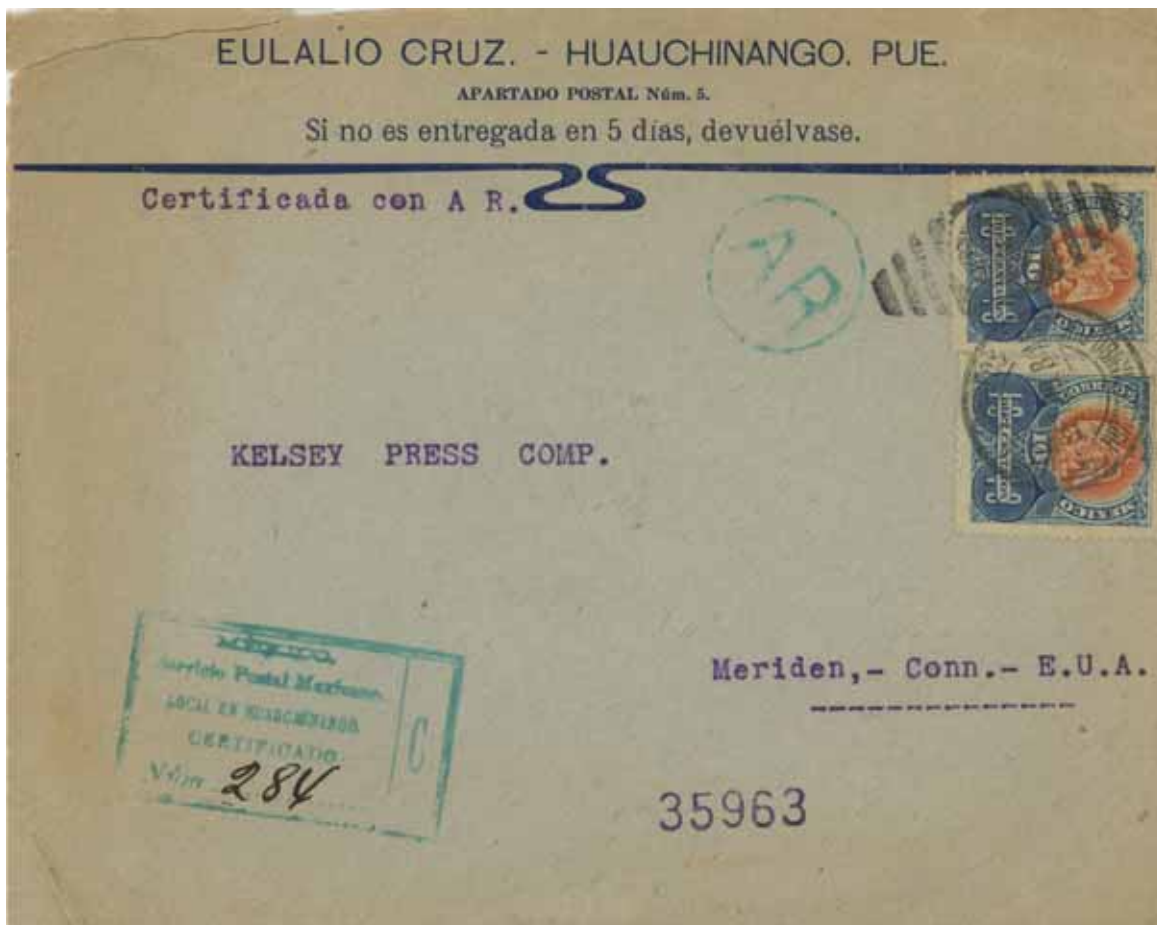
Courtesy of Mike Ludeman

AR covers, post-Vienna

Until 1916, the letter rate to the U S was 5 centavos per 20 g.



Tuxpam (Vera Cruz) to New York, 1901. Generic AR handstamp. Rated 10 centavo for registration, and 5 cvo for each of AR fee and letter rate to U S.



Huauchinango (Pueblo) to Meriden (CT), 1909. Generic AR handstamp in turquoise. Rated as above.

Massive

The envelope (made of cloth, not paper) was attached to a larger packet. Either large denomination stamps were not readily available, or this has a philatelic aspect.

Banamichi (Sonora) to London, unovigintuple rate, 1901.

Generic AR handstamp.

Rated 225 centavos, presumably made up from 5 cvo AR, 10 cvo registration, and 21 times 10 cvo unsubsidized letter rate to UPU countries, per 20 g.

Double oval reads

FRANCO EN BANAMICHI,
from a small town.

There is also a **NOGALES** datestamp.



Printed matter

A very unusual combination



Puebla to Rome, 1903. Generic AR handstamp. Rated 10 centavo for registration, 5 cvo for AR fee, and double printed matter rate at 2 cvo per 50 g.



Ms reads, *Pervenuti con ricevuta di ritorno!* (received with return receipt!). This may possibly mean that the AR form was left attached to the envelope when it was delivered.

AR covers



Mexico to Philadelphia, 1910. Generic AR handstamp. Rated 10 centavo for registration, and 5 cvo for each of AR letter rate to the U.S.

Stamps not recognized

For a short period, the US did not recognize as valid any stamps issued by the factions in the civil war. During the Mexican revolution (1910–20) and the civil war (1914–15), factions issued, stole, or overprinted stamps for their own use.



La Cananea (Sonora) to Chicago, postage due in US, April 1914. Generic AR handstamp. Rated 10 cvo registration, AR, and double rate to US, at 5 cvo per weight; paid with Transitorio stamps. The US, not recognizing them, charged what would have been the rates in the US at the time, 10¢ registration and double domestic at 2¢ per weight; the fee for AR was 0¢.



Seal reads LA CANANEA SONORA / CORREIOS

Civil war

Won in 1915 by the Constitutionalist.



Mexico to Detroit, December 1914. Generic AR handstamp. Rated 10 cvo registration, 5 cvo AR and letter rate to U.S. The overprint reads GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA.



Postcard, Tuxtla (Vera Cruz) to Lima, December 1915. Generic AR handstamp (faint). Rated 10 cvo registration, 5 cvo AR, and 4 cvo UPU postcard rate.

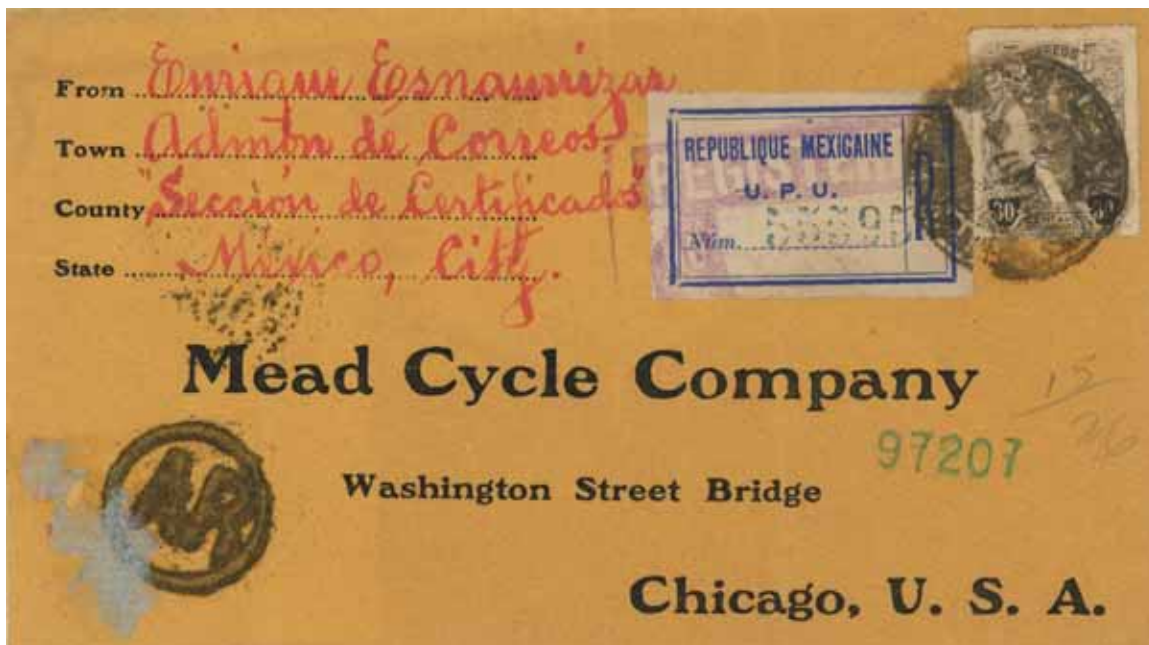
Rate changes

From 1916–22, AR is free with registration. Sporadically from 1913, registered letters have an official eagle seal (known as a *sunburst* to aficionados) on reverse; this had become universal by 1920.

In 1916, both the letter rate to the U.S., and the registration fee, rose to 20 cvo (each). W & B gives 6 July 1916 as the day of the rate increase, but the top cover is dated early in January 1916 (and an earlier one, still in January, exists with the new rate). In 1917, the letter rate to U.S. dropped from 20 cvo to 10 cvo per weight. W & B give 6 July 1917 as the date of rate change; but the bottom cover was received in Chicago on 6 June.



Veracruz to Alabama, January 1916. Generic AR handstamp. Rates increased to 20 cvo for each of letter rate to U.S. and registration; AR is now free with registration.

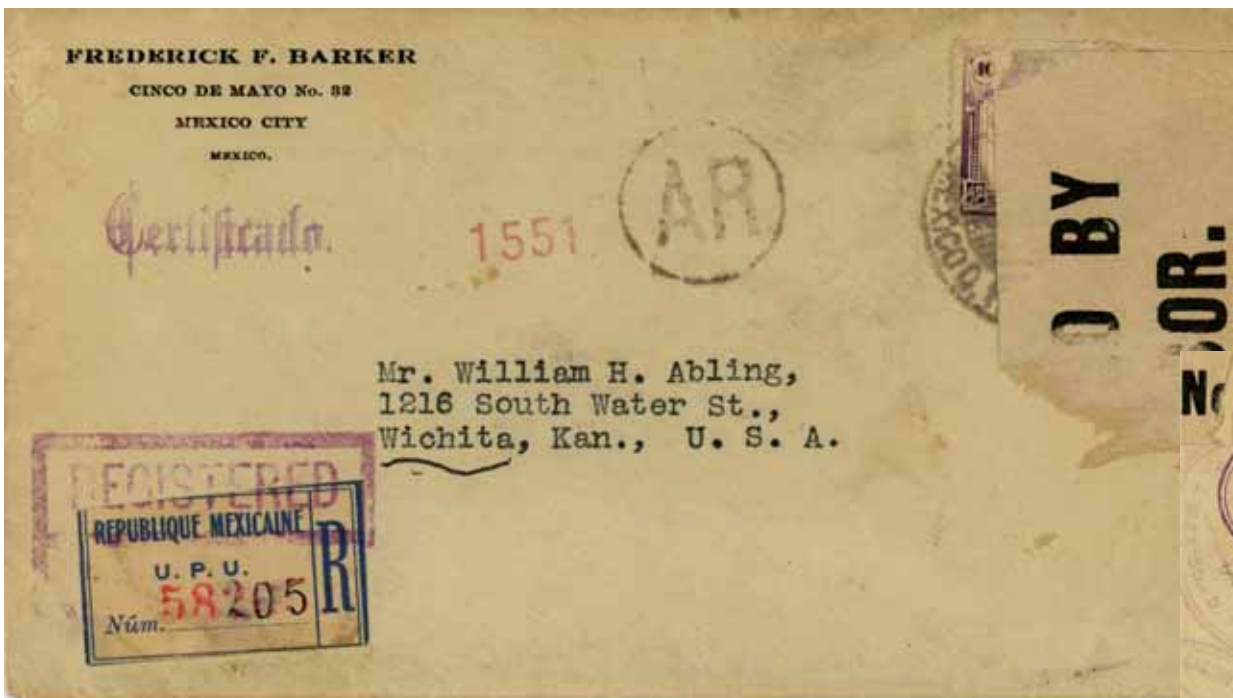


Mexico to Chicago, June 1917. Generic AR handstamp. Rated 20 centavo for registration (including AR) and 10 cvo letter rate to the U.S.

AR covers



Minatitlan (Vera Cruz) to Buffalo, December 1917. Generic AR handstamp. Rated as previous.



Mexico to Wichita (KS), 1918. Generic AR handstamp. Rated 40 centavo (single stamp): apparently double 10 cvo letter rate to US and 20 cvo registration with AR as a free option. US censor.

AR covers

It appears that some time before May 1922 (but in that year), the AR fee was once again a separate charge (not included with registration, as it had been since 1916).



Mexico to Basel (Switzerland), July 1917. Generic AR handstamp. Rated 20 cvo UPU letter rate and 20 cvo registration with AR as a free option. French military censor.



Mexico to Buffalo, May 1922. Generic AR handstamp. Rated 20 cvo registration fee, and 10 cvo for each of letter rate to U.S., and AR.

AR covers

The top cover may have erroneously been short paid.



San Luis Potosí to Dortmund (Germany), 1932–33. Modification of the generic AR handstamp. Rated 45 cvo: UPU letter rate 20 cvo, registration 20 cvo, AR fee 10 cvo, adds to 50 cvo, as on the cover below.



Juarez (Chihuahua) to Soerabaja (Dutch Indies), 1932. Generic AR handstamp. Rated as it was supposed to have been above.

AR covers

I have a good guess as what the airmail fee to Canada was in 1933.



Mexico to Montreal by air, 1933. Somewhat different A.R. handstamp (periods). Rated 80 cvo: PUAS letter rate 10 cvo, registration 20 cvo, AR fee 10 cvo, leaves 40 cvo for the supplemental air rate to Canada via the US (equivalently, 50 cvo for airmail, exactly the amount of the airmail stamp).



Mexico to New York, 1936. Generic AR handstamp. Rated 10 cvo letter rate to US, 20 cvo registration, and 10 cvo AR fee.

Airmail AR covers



Mexico to Quito, 1937. Now-generic A.R. handstamp. Rated 125 cvo in airmail stamps, and 30 cvo in regular stamps. As mail from the Ecuadorian consulate, it would have been eligible for consular PUAS rates. Presumably, at this time, registration, airmail, and AR fees had to be paid (later, they did not). So perhaps the rate combination is 20 cvo registration, 10 cvo AR fee, and 125 cvo airmail to Ecuador, the latter paid entirely by airmail stamps.



Mexico to Chicago, 1940. Now generic AR handstamp. Rated 50 cvo: apparently 20 cvo airmail letter rate to U.S., 20 cvo registration, and 10 cvo AR fee.

AR covers

I don't have a clue about the rates on these covers.



Mexico to Budapest, 1941. Older generic A.R. handstamp. Rated 75 cvo: UPU letter rate was still 20 per weight, and registration and AR were 20 cvo and 10 cvo respectively, so how do we get 75 cvo?



Mexico to Chicago by air, 1942. Newer generic AR handstamp. Rated 60 cvo in airmail stamps and 45 cvo in others: apparently 75 cvo airmail letter rate to U.S., 20 cvo registration, and 10 cvo AR fee.

Intaglio AR handstamp (Puebla)

Perhaps the only negative AR handstamp known worldwide.



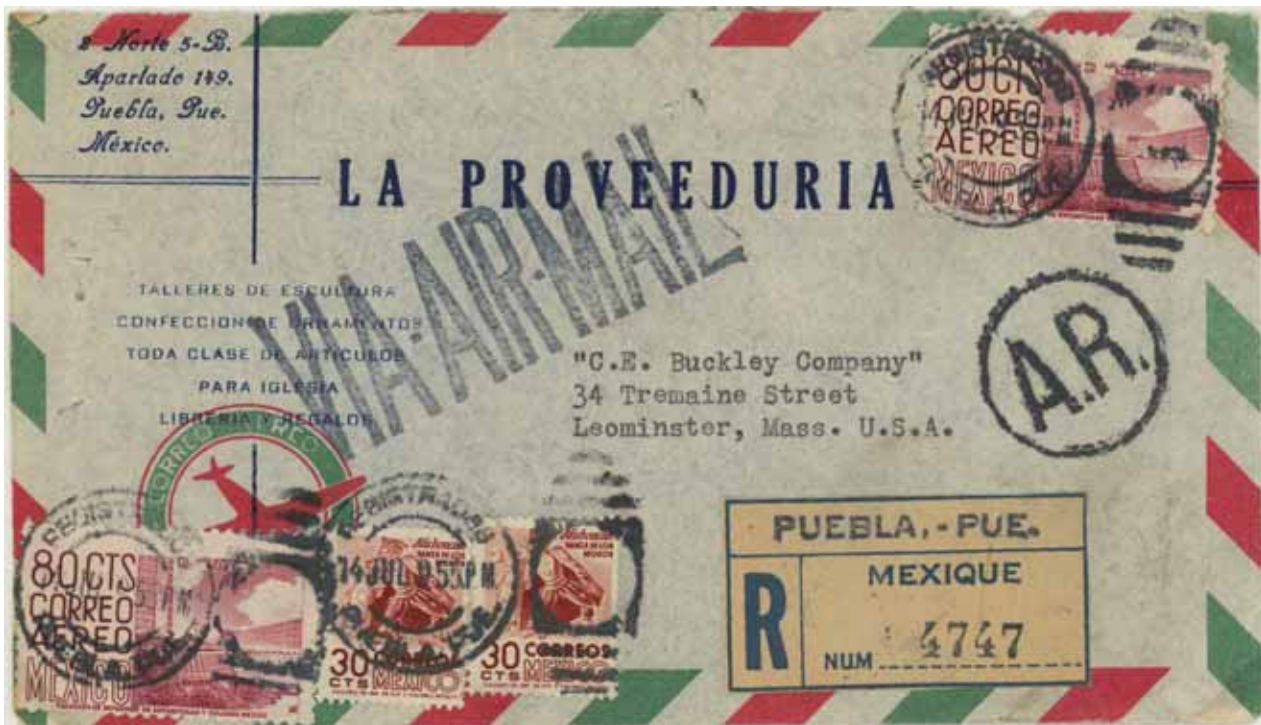
Puebla to Perth (Australia), 1934. Fancy intaglio AR handstamp. Rated 45 centavos, made up from 20 centavos registration, 10 cvo AR, and 15 cvo UPU letter rate. *Courtesy of Mike Ludeman*



Puebla to Philadelphia, August 1949. Now dark blue AR handstamp. Rates to U.S. are listed in both W & B and [UPU] at letter rate 15 cvo per 20 g, and 10 cvo for each of registration and AR. This is not consistent with the franking of 60 cvo, even for double weight.

Later airmail

Rates sources are wrong or nonexistent



Mexico to Leominster (MA) by air, 1955. Newer-generic AR handstamp. Rated 160 cvo in airmail stamps and 60 cvo in others: 160 cvo airmail letter rate to U s, and 30 cvo for each of registration & AR (latter two rates in effect since 1949).



Mexico to Toronto by air, 1957. Generic AR handstamp. Rated 110 cvo: 40 cvo for each of registration and AR—and only 30 cvo airmail to Canada? (at a time when the single airmail rate to the U s was 50 cvo)

Avis de paiement
AP covering envelope



Arizpe (Sonora) to Buffalo, 1912. One of very few AP covering envelopes known worldwide.