

Postal History of the United States Large Numeral Postage Dues

By an Act March 3, 1879 Congress approved the use of postage due stamps in a manner to be determined by the Postmaster General. The postage due stamps were not to be valid for postage and were not to be sold to the public. Their use was intended to simplify accounting on postage due mail. The postmasters were required to affix postage due stamps to underpaid mail as a receipt for the underpayment collected. Then, the postmasters had to account for the money collected for any of the postage due stamps so used and not accounted for in stock.

The original denominations of the first United States postage due series (1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 5¢) were issued to postmasters in May 1879 to be put into use from July 1, 1879. The three high values (10¢, 30¢ and 50¢) were distributed in September 1879.

The postage due stamps were printed in various shades of brown between 1879 and 1883. In December 1883 the amount of red ink in the mix increased to the extent that the "red browns" are considered to be a separate issue. In 1891 aniline ink began to be used to print stamps in claret shades. These claret stamps fluoresce bright yellow under ultraviolet light. Starting in 1894 the large numeral series began to be replaced by the "small numeral" postage due issue. However, existing stocks of the large numeral stamps continued to be used for many years.

This exhibit is divided into two major sections, each with an introductory page. The domestic uses are shown first followed by the overseas section. The most frequently found use of postage due stamps on cover are simple overweight, short paid letters or on unsealed circular use covers. Other types of uses range from uncommon to rare. For example, there are fewer than twenty examples reported of covers bearing the 30¢ or 50¢ large numeral postage dues. Both denominations on cover, each in the three different shades, are included in this exhibit.



7 July 1879

first week use 3¢ brown

March 1896 combination use
3¢ claret & 1¢ deep claret 1894 issue

Domestic Mail

The regulations in effect regarding unpaid and insufficiently prepaid domestic mail when the postage due stamp use began on July 1, 1879 were uncomplicated. In short, letter mail (first class mail) that was posted completely unpaid was either sent to the Dead Letter Office or subject to a penalty equal to the amount of unpaid postage. Mail that was sent partially paid was subject only to postage due in the amount of the insufficiency without penalty.

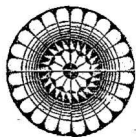
The pertinent regulations and laws that governed domestic postage due mail are noted in lined boxes as needed. The regulations for other classes of mail are also shown in similar boxes. It should be noted that the most common use of postage due stamps was on overweight first class letter mail. Postage due use on second class mail (newspapers) is almost non-existent while use on third class mail (unsealed covers containing printed matter) is relatively common. Use on fourth class mail (merchandise) was rarely used.

The Domestic Mail section is organized by class of mail as follows:

1. First Class - Unpaid, Illegal, Part Paid, Advertised, Registered, Special Delivery, Cards
2. Second Class - Forwarded Newspaper
3. Third Class - Pamphlets Returned, Circulars Returned and Forwarded, Bulk Accounting
4. Fourth Class - Merchandise Forwarded, Parcel Returned

Unpaid Drop Letter at Office Without Carrier Service

Unpaid drop letters were not to be sent to the Dead Letter Office. Instead, the amount of unpaid postage, 1¢ for offices without carrier delivery, 2¢ for offices with carrier delivery, was charged recipient as postage due.



"wheel of fortune"
cancel



14 February 1883 Dublin, Ohio drop letter at office without carrier delivery
simple deficiency of 1¢ postage, 1¢ brown postage due applied

Domestic First Class

Unpaid Drop Letters at Office with Carrier Service

Unpaid drop letters posted at offices with carrier delivery service were charged 2¢ as postage due.



22 May 1893 New York drop letter addressed to a sailor on U.S.S. *Baltimore*, office with carrier delivery simple deficiency of 2¢ postage, 2¢ claret due applied and New York backstamp



12 March 1888 Boston drop letter at office with carrier delivery simple deficiency of 2¢ postage, 2¢ red brown postage due applied and Boston backstamp

Domestic First Class

Unpaid, Double Penalty

Letters other than drop letters that were totally unpaid at origin were to be sent to the Dead Letter Office. However, if such a letter "shall by inadvertence reach its destination without such prepayment, double the prepaid rates shall be charged and collected on delivery."



ca. 1880 unpaid cover to Best P.O., Penn., no origin postmark
not sent to Dead Letter Office, rated as double deficiency due with pair 3¢ postage due



ca. 1884 Nantasket, Ma. to Boston, evidence of stamps having fallen off, not sent to Dead Letter Office
rated as double deficiency due at Boston, pair 2¢ brown postage dues with Boston red "X" cancels

Domestic First Class

Unpaid, Double Penalty

Letters other than drop letters that were totally unpaid at origin were to be sent to the Dead Letter Office. However, if such a letter "shall by inadvertence reach its destination without such prepayment, double the prepaid rates shall be charged and collected on delivery."



30 October 1883 quadruple weight cover to the Hartford, Conn. that reached destination inadvertently treated as double 6¢ postage deficiency with 10¢ and 2¢ postage dues

Domestic First Class

Illegal Use as Postage

Postage due stamps were not to be sold directly to the public and their use to pay postage was prohibited. Both of the covers below bear arrival backstamps and were not penalized.



12 March 1894 Colville to Cold Springs, Minn., illegal prepayment with pair 1¢ claret postage due accepted



22 December 1891 Dupont, Mo. to Boston, illegal prepayment with 2¢ claret postage due accepted
cover is addressed to a famous early stamp dealer, F. Trifet

Domestic First Class

Short Paid Drop Letter

Insufficiently prepaid drop letters posted at offices with carrier delivery service (two cent rate) were charged one cent postage due.



4 March 1890 Philadelphia drop letter with carrier delivery, possibly an inadvertently sealed circular simple deficiency of 1¢ postage and 1¢ red brown postage due applied tied by "Due 1" handstamp

Domestic First Class

Short Paid Double Three Cent Rate

Prior to October 1, 1883 the domestic letter rate was three cents per one-half ounce for a letter conveyed by mail. Letters paid at least one full postal rate were to be forwarded to destination, postage due if overweight.



10 January 1880 double weight cover posted on an RPO addressed to St. Louis simple deficiency of 3¢ due, postage due stamp tied by magenta "Short Paid" cancel of St. Louis



1 December 1881 double weight cover New York to Rochester, N.Y. simple deficiency of 3¢ due, "*DUE*" precancel of Rochester

Domestic First Class

Short Paid Double Two Cent Rate

On October 1, 1883 the domestic letter rate was lowered to two cents per one-half ounce for a letter conveyed by mail. After July 1, 1885 the rate was two cents per ounce.



31 March 1894 double weight cover (over one ounce) Palmer to Springfield, Mass. deficiency of 2¢ due with 2¢ claret due tied by magenta "General Delivery Springfield, Mass" datestamp



17 July 1888 triple weight cover New York to Providence, R.I. prepaid only double rate simple deficiency of 2¢ due, 2¢ red brown postage due with mute precancel of Providence

Domestic First Class

Short Paid and Forwarded

Short paid first class mail was marked and postage due stamps applied at office of arrival. No additional fee was charged for forwarding but an accounting had to be made. The intermediate office that affixed the due stamps was credited and final office that collected the due amount was debited.



5 September 1884 Leadville, Co. to Malden, Ma., overweight and short paid 2¢
2¢ due applied and then forwarded without additional charge to Charlestown, Ma.



21 June 1885 Wilmington, Del. to Boston, overweight and short paid 2¢
2¢ Boston precancel due applied and then forwarded without additional charge to So. Scituate, Ma.

Domestic First Class

Short Paid Triple Two Cent Rate

The postal regulations regarding postage due bisects is unclear. Although prohibited for prepayment of postage, they are not specifically prohibited for postage due use.



17 March 1894 triple weight cover Louisville to Lebanon, Ky. only single rate simple deficiency of 4¢ due noted, 3¢ postage due and bisected 2¢ applied at destination

the only certified non-philatelic bisect use



reverse advertising on cover

Domestic First Class

Short Paid Double Rate

Short paid first class letters were charged an amount equal to the difference correct rate and amount between paid without penalty.



27 September 1882 Hazardville, Conn.
to Springfield, Mass.

short paid 3¢ postage, 2¢ brown due
used with
1¢ regular issue used as a postage due

Domestic First Class

Short Paid



short paid by 25¢ with four 5¢ brown dues plus 1¢ and pair 2¢ red brown dues on back earliest use 1¢ red brown



8 December 1883 Washington eighteen times 2¢ rate to a Hotel (Hoffman House) in New York short paid by 25¢ with dues on reverse, note "C.O.D. 25¢" applied at the hotel

Domestic First Class

Advertised

A Post Office Order of August 15, 1879 gave the six largest post offices authorization to collect a one cent fee for advertising letters. In 1886 this limitation was lifted and all post offices were again permitted to advertise letters and collect a one cent fee.



3 September 1880 New York Advertised Due 1 Cent, 1¢ brown with New York precancel
1 November 1880 "not found" and "Unclaimed," sent to Dead Letter Office



29 May 1891 New York Advertised Due 1 Cent, 1¢ claret on inbound cover
the earliest reported use of fluorescent 1¢ claret postage due

Domestic First Class

Advertised



15 October 1887 East Cambridge, Mass. boxed "Advertised" handstamp, 1¢ red brown
5 November datestamp and "Unclaimed" handstamp



2 June 1888 Nashua, New Hampshire "Advertised" with 1¢ red brown (negative star fancy cancel)
18 June 1888 backstamp and "Unclaimed"

Domestic First Class

Steamboat Mail, Unpaid / Short Paid

Per the 1881 Postal Guide, letters received from steamboats were not liable for double penalty unless they were entirely unpaid. In no case was there doubling of the two cent fee paid to the steamboat captain.



December 1881 unpaid cover posted on steamboat arriving Baltimore, addressed to Muscatine, Iowa rated as double deficiency 3¢ postage, plus 2¢ captain's fee postage due, no advertising fee, total 8¢ due



1 July 1881 cover posted on steamboat that arrived at Baltimore, addressed to Washington prepaid correct 3¢ postage, 2¢ captain's fee due, 2¢ brown postage due applied at destination

Domestic First Class

Registered Mail, Short Paid / Illegally Paid

Postal Regulations required the use of "ordinary postage stamps" to prepay registration fees and postage. Partially prepaid covers were due the simple deficiency without penalty.



January 1881 partially prepaid registered cover (3¢ postage, 10¢ registry fee) to Wilmot Flat, N.H. prepaid only 5¢, "Due 8" simple deficiency with pair 3¢ and singles 2¢ postage dues applied at destination



9 April 1897 registered use from Paw Paw, Kentucky to Indianapolis
illegal use of postage due stamps overpaying 8¢ registry fee

Domestic First Class

Special Delivery, Unpaid / Short Paid

Partially prepaid Special Delivery covers were to be forwarded to destination with simple postage due charged at delivery office without penalty.



23 April 1889 special delivery use Concord, N.H. to Boston, special delivery stamp did not include postage simple deficiency without penalty, 2¢ postage dues applied at Boston



18 November 1894 special delivery use from Columbus, Ohio to Battle Ground, Ind. partial prepayment of double weight postage, 2¢ postage due stamp applied at destination

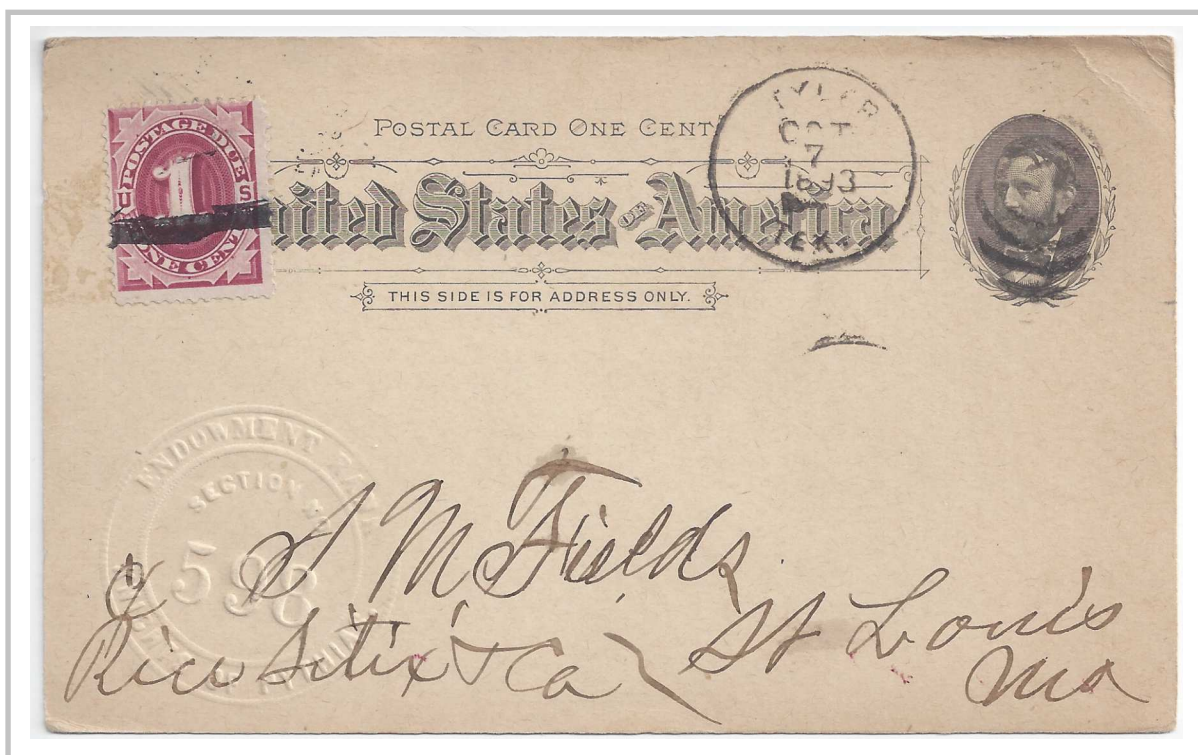
Domestic First Class

Postal Cards Upgraded to First Class

A post office regulation stipulated: *Whenever anything whatever is attached to a postal card it is thereby rendered unmailable as a postal card and can only be sent as first class matter.*



1 March 1882 postal card penalized as short paid first class because address label pasted to reverse simple deficiency without penalty, 1¢ postage due applied at Philadelphia



7 October 1893 postal card penalized as short paid first class because embossed seal impressed at lower left simple deficiency without penalty, 1¢ postage due single bar precancel applied at St. Louis

Domestic First Class

Private Postal Card Uprated to First Class

Private postal cards with writing on the reverse were treated as first class mail matter. If entirely printed on reverse, they could be sent as printed matter for one cent.



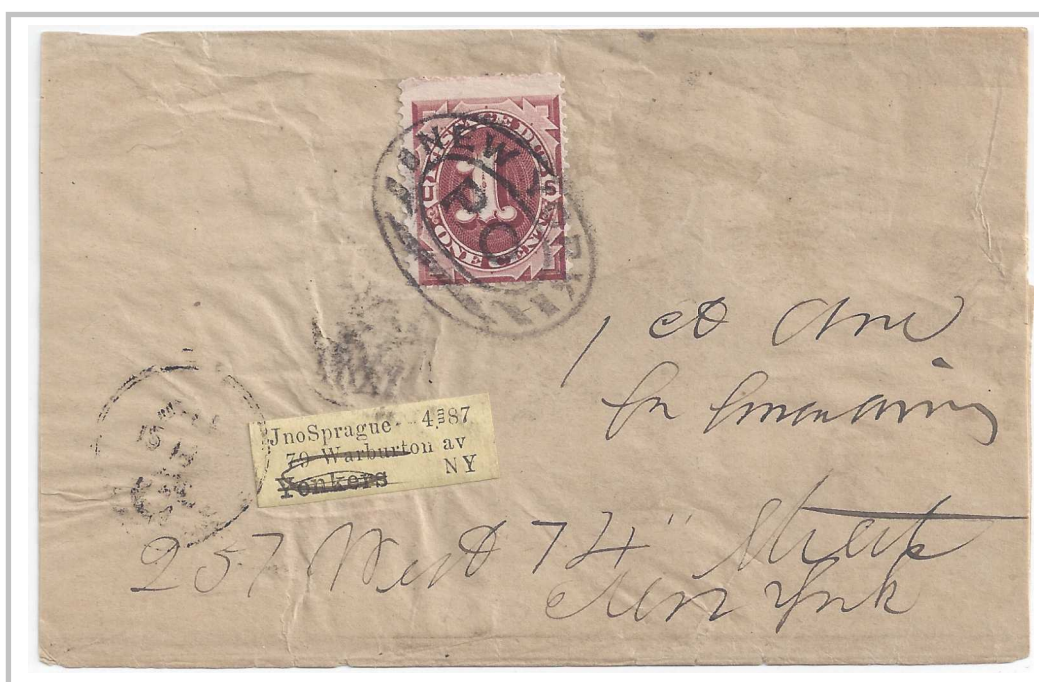
10 December 1886 private postal card penalized as short paid first class because of writing on reverse
simple deficiency without penalty, 1¢ red brown postage due applied at New York

No. 26713 New York, 10 Dec 1886
MARVIN SAFE CO.,
Gentlemen:
Please furnish me with one of your
"Registered Key Checks," price twenty-five cents. In case of loss of
keys and their return to me, I agree to pay the finder the reward
of ONE DOLLAR.
Name William S. Darrell
Address 66 Pine Street
New York
NEW YORK
IN CASE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR LOSS OF KEYS, PLEASE NOTIFY OFFICE.

Domestic Second Class

Forwarded Newspaper

As of February 1883, second class mail could no longer be forwarded free of charge. Rather, it had to be treated as if being remailed from the post office forwarding the item. The 1885 *Postal Guide* further clarified the handling and specified that postage due stamps be affixed at office of final delivery.



ca. 1892 newspaper wrapper (second class mail matter) forwarded from Yonkers, N.Y. to New York
manuscript "1ct due for forwarding" and 1¢ claret due tied at destination office

fewer than six reported examples of postage dues on second class mail

Domestic Second Class

Returned Periodical

An Act of July 16, 1894 broadened second class to include periodic publications of educational institutions. The postal rate for periodicals published less often than weekly was two cents per copy.

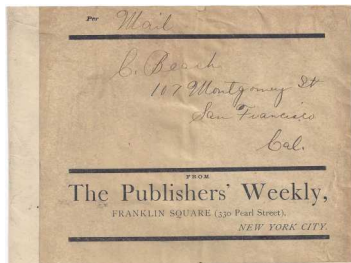


August 1894 Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy, 2¢ postal stationery wrapper to Hurricane, West Virginia boxed "Unclaimed" and returned to Pittsburgh with pair 2¢ claret due applied at destination

fewer than six reported examples of postage dues on second class mail

Domestic Third Class

Book Rate Uprated to First Class



address side of this
folded wrapper

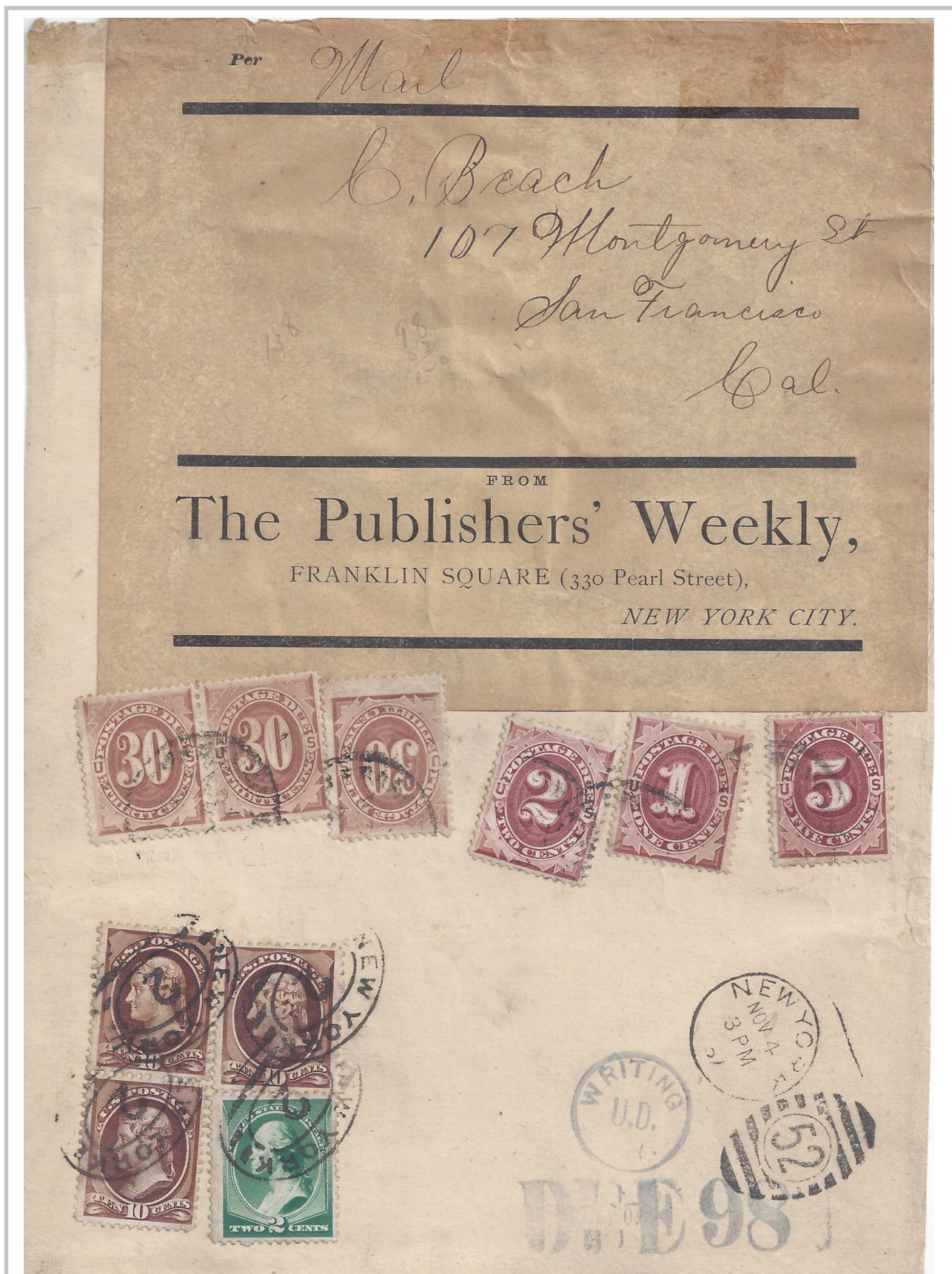
D^{NYP}O E98

"DUE N.Y.P.O." and "98" handstamps as
used by New York inspection office



4 November 1887 New York to San Francisco, mailed at maximum book rate and prepaid 32¢
inspected and found to contain writing, as previous of same date but folded down
pair and single 30¢ brown postage dues used in combination with 1¢, 2¢ and 5¢ red browns at San Francisco
three reported uses the same date to this bookseller, one is rated \$1.00 due and two are rated 98¢ due

Domestic Third Class - Book Rate Uprated to First Class



4 November 1887 New York to San Francisco, mailed at maximum book rate and prepaid 32¢ inspected and found to contain writing, rated as 65 ounces at 2¢ per ounce, deficiency of 98¢ due three 30¢ brown postage dues used in combination with 1¢, 2¢ and 5¢ red browns at San Francisco

Domestic Third Class

Forwarded Circulars



ca. 1888 unsealed envelope (third class circular) forwarded from S. Woodstock to Rutland, Vt. manuscript "1ct due for forwarding" and 1¢ brown red due tied at destination



8 April 1894 unsealed envelope (third class circular) forwarded from Washington to New Orleans "Postage due for forwarding" handstamp and 1¢ claret due tied at destination office

Domestic Third Class

Bulk Accounting of Postage Due

To speed the collection postage due when a large number of returned envelopes were received back from mass mailings, some offices used bulk accounting with the correct total amount of due stamps applied to a top cover in bundle, other covers, or some other paper as an accounting convenience.



29 January 1895 Boston, Mass., 30¢ claret postage due precancel on top cover of a bundle representing bulk accounting for thirty returned third class envelopes from a large mailing

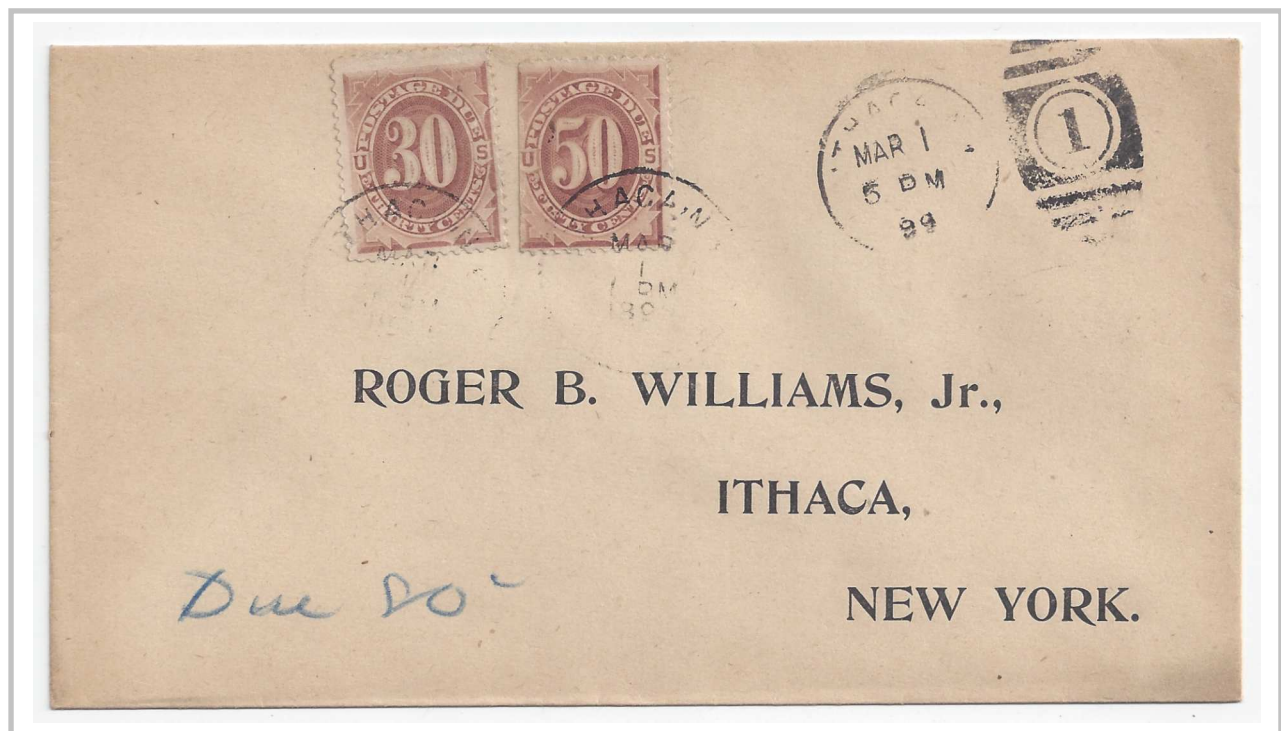
Only Reported Thirty Cents Claret on Cover

Domestic Third Class

Bulk Accounting of Postage Due



22 July 1889 Bunker Hill, Illinois, 32¢ in red brown postage due stamps on "Registry Receipt" form used as bulk accounting for an unknown number of returned items

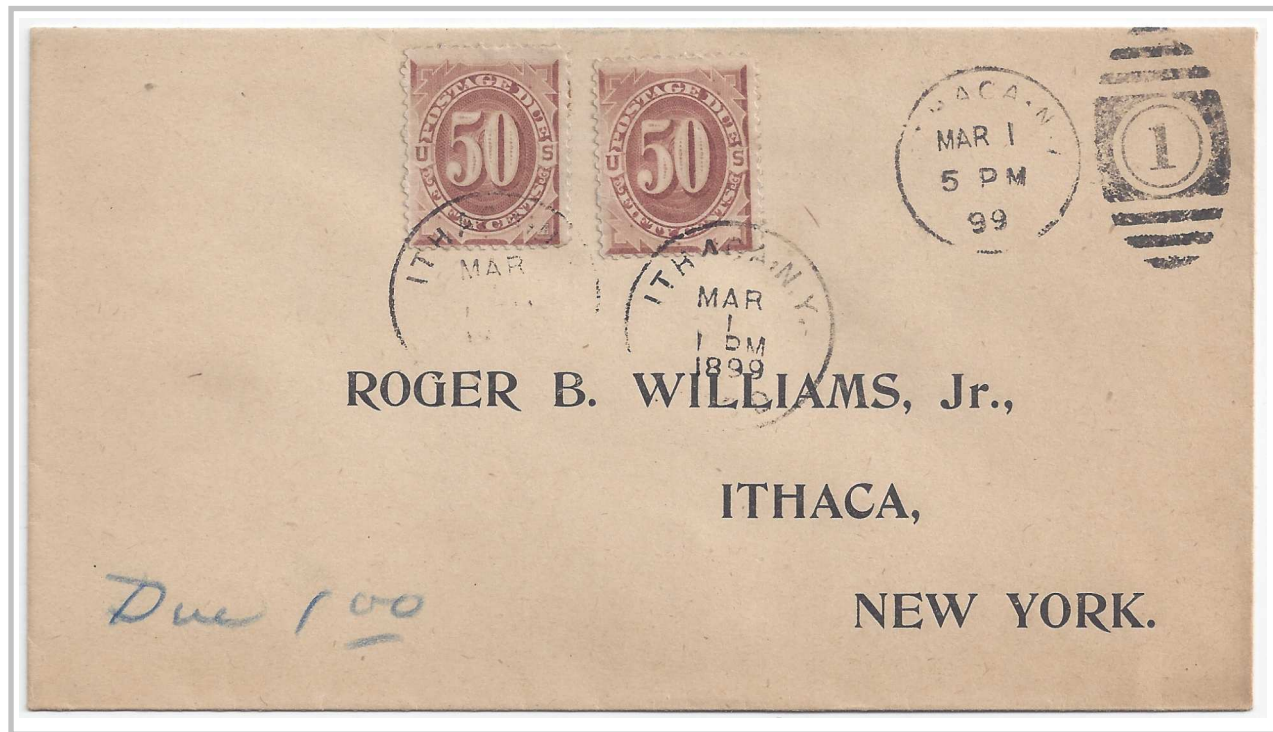


1899 Ithaca, N.Y. office, "Due 80" and with 30¢ and 50¢ brown postage dues on Williams account envelope

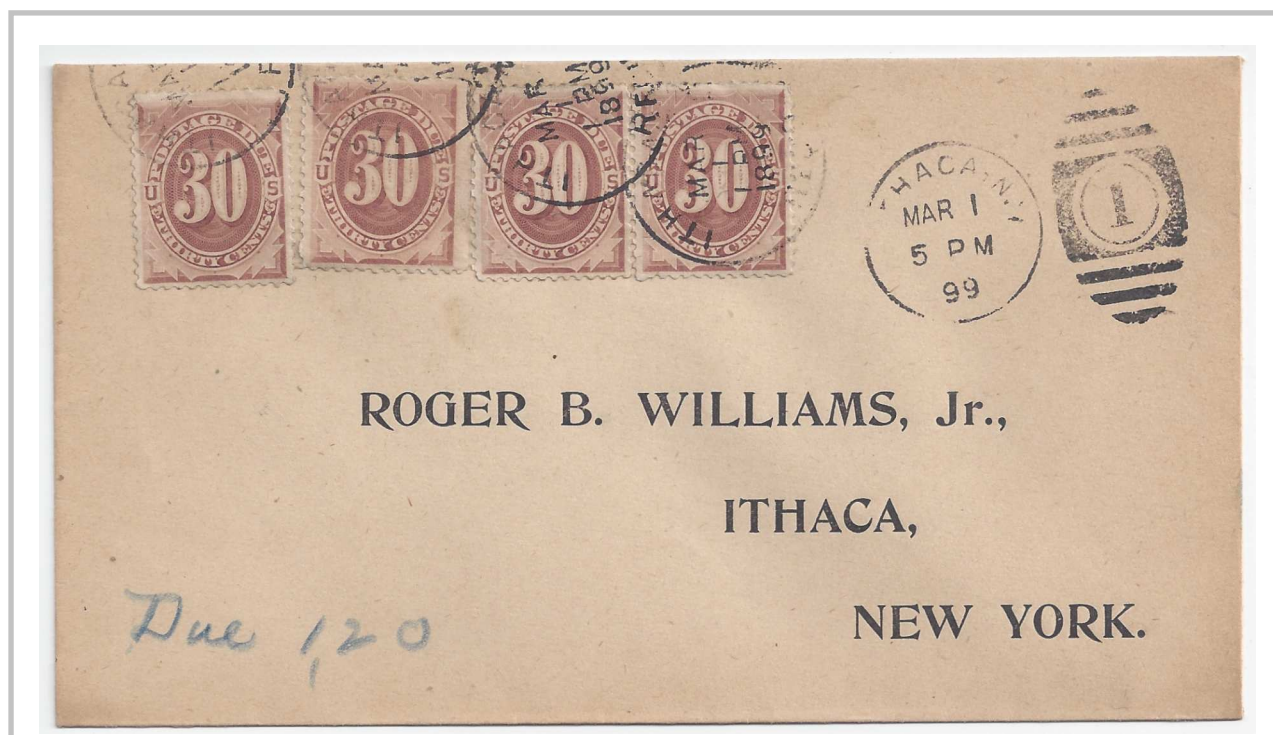
Domestic Third Class

Bulk Accounting of Postage Due

These covers, showing rare use of high denomination postage due stamps, represent postage due amounts tallied in bulk on a returned mailing to Roger Williams, President of the Bank of Ithaca, in 1899.



1899 Ithaca, N.Y. office, "Due 1.00" and with two 50¢ brown postage dues on Williams account envelope

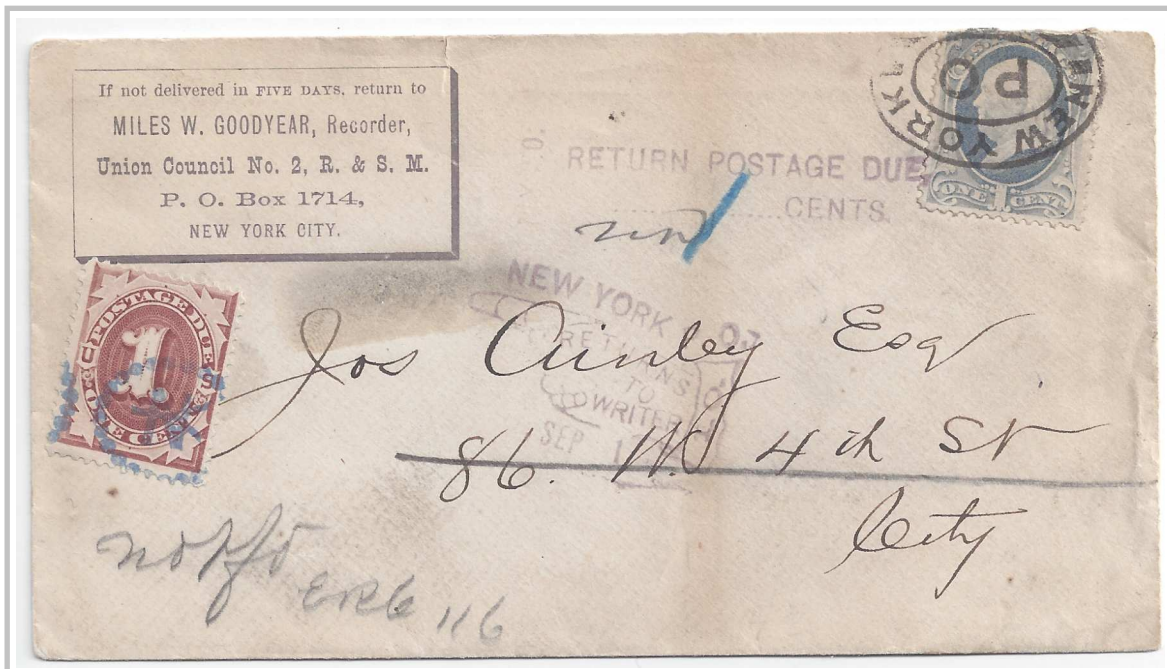


1899 Ithaca, N.Y. office, "Due 1.20" and with four 30¢ brown postage dues on Williams account envelope

Domestic Third Class

Returned Printed Circulars

From December 1884 all mail matter other than first class, which could be returned free, could be returned to sender for an additional charge equal to the postage.



September 1885 unsealed envelope (third class circular) returned from New York to New York handstamped "Return Postage Due NYPO" and pointing hand, 1¢ brown red due with New York precancel



March 1887 unsealed envelope (third class circular) returned from Youngstown, Ohio to Portland, Me. "Return Postage Due" handstamp and pointing hand, 1¢ red brown due with Portland precancel

Domestic Fourth Class

Forwarded Merchandise

As of February 1883, third and fourth class mail could no longer be forwarded free of charge. Rather, it had to be treated as if being remailed from the post office forwarding the item. The rate was therefore as originally mailed, one cent per two ounces.



ca. 1892 Photographer's clasp envelope used from New York to Lawrenceville, N.J.
forwarded to Easton, Pa. with pair 1¢ claret dues

Domestic Fourth Class

Forwarded Merchandise

As of February 1883, third and fourth class mail could no longer be forwarded free of charge. Rather, it had to be treated as if being remailed from the post office forwarding the item. The rate was therefore as originally mailed, one cent per two ounces.



ca. 1892 clasp envelope for merchandise used from New York to Louisville, Ky.
"Postage Due for Forwarding 3" handstamp, forwarded to New York, 3¢ claret due

Domestic Fourth Class

Parcel Post Uprated to First Class

1883 Postal Guide:

533. Postmasters should inform themselves as to the nature of the contents of packages of matter prepaid as for third or fourth-class matter, in order to rate them up if they contain matter subject to a higher rate of postage



January 1913 Reynoldsville, Pa. parcel post fragment to New York

"contains writing" and uprated to first class with \$1.36 due

two 50¢ red brown dues used with small numeral 30¢ and two 3¢ dues

Overseas Mail

When the postage due stamps came into use on July 1, 1879, there were approximately 70 members of the newly renamed Universal Postal Union (U.P.U.) and the majority of mail exchanged between the United States and foreign countries was done so under their regulations. This section shows postage due mail handled outside the U.P.U. regulations including ship and steamship letters as well as mail from U.P.U. members.

The U.P.U recognized three classes of mail each with their own standardized rates (letter mail, postal cards, and printed matter). However, only letter mail and postal cards exist with postage due stamps. The rate for letters to 15 grams (one-half ounce) weight was set at 25 centimes (5¢) with an additional rate due for each multiple rate to 4 ounces. The rate for postal cards was 10 centimes (2¢). Some routes were subject to a surtax to cover additional expenses incurred to convey the mails. When letter or card mail was sent entirely unpaid, or partially unpaid, a penalty amount equal to the deficiency was to be levied by the receiving country as postage due. The detailed regulations as they pertain to specific covers is included where relevant.

The Overseas Mail section is divided into sections as follows:

1. Treaty Mail
2. Steamship Mail
3. Ship Mail
4. Universal Postal Union (U.P.U.) Mail
5. Unpaid Mail from U.P.U. member countries
6. Short Paid Mail from U.P.U. member countries
7. Advertised Mail from U.P.U. member countries
8. Returned Mail from U.P.U. member countries

From a Universal Postal Union Member Country

T 25
CENTIMES.

Honolulu Taxé
25 centimes



30 July 1887 Honolulu, Hawaii to Piqua, Ohio, prepaid single rate of 5¢, short paid 5¢ doubled as penalty "T 25 Centimes" and New York's "U.S. Charge To Collect 10 Cents" handstamps, pair 5¢ red brown dues

Overseas Mail

Treaty Mail

Per a postal treaty between the United States and Great Britain, effective July 1875, a 17 cents rate was established from mail from the U.S. to Peru carried by American steamers on the Atlantic Ocean and British steamers on the Pacific Ocean. This treaty rate should have been obsolete after Peru joined the U.P.U. on April 1, 1879. However, this fact was still unpublished in July 1879 and the cover below was handled as unpaid treaty mail by both the British postal service at Panama and the U.S. post office at New York.



11 June 1879 Lima, Peru, via Panama, to Darien, Wis., insufficiently prepaid

"U.S. Charge To Collect" and "17 Cents" handstamps

3 July 1879 New York entry, strip of five 3¢ and pair 1¢ brown postage dues applied at Darien

the earliest reported use of postage dues on overseas mail

Overseas Mail

Treaty Mail

By a postal treaty between the United States and Venezuela, effective October 1866, mail arriving on U.S. steamers from Venezuela was treated under the same as domestic mail. The April 1878 *U.S. Postal Guide* reiterated this arrangement: "Domestic rates are chargeable on all correspondence received from Venezuela."



Venezuela joined U.P.U.
Jul 1, 1880

16 October 1879 Caracas, Venezuela to New York, Correos La Guaira postmark endorsed per "Barque Hornet" and carried via Curacao arriving November 14, 1879 obsolete "New York Due 3 U.S. Currency" entry postmark, 3¢ due with string of pearls precancel

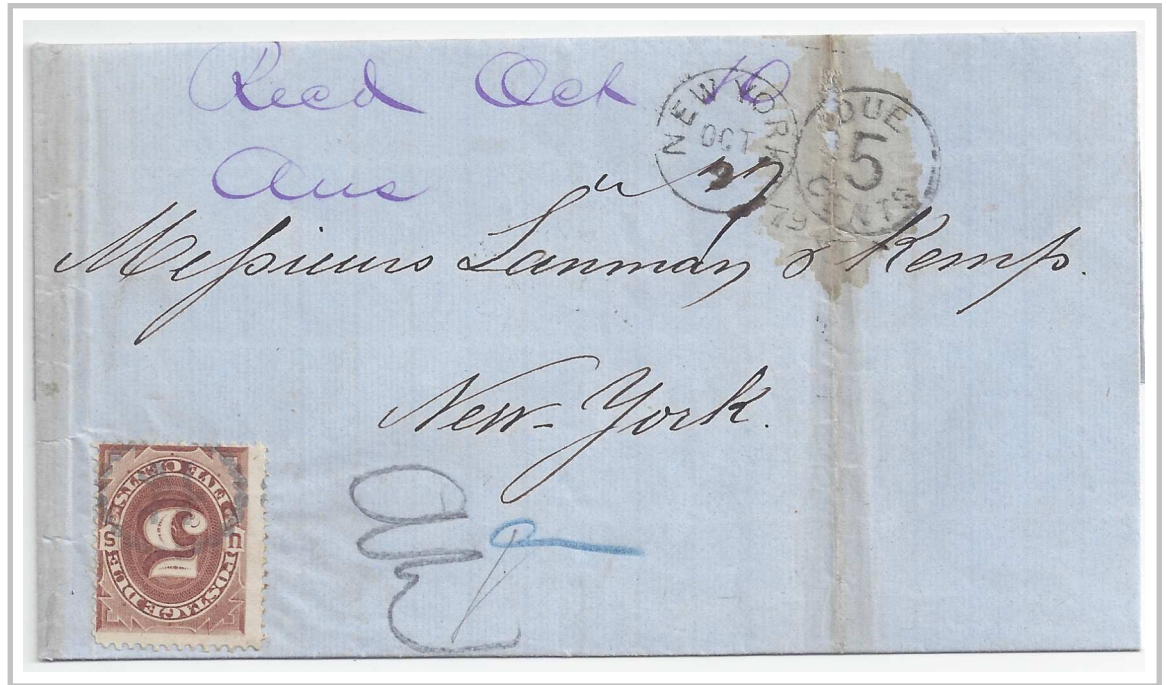
one of two reported similar uses from Venezuela

Overseas Mail

Steamship Rate

A "blanket" five cent rate applied to all mail received from non contract steamships carrying mail.

Haiti joined U.P.U.
Jul 1, 1891



22 September 1879 Gonaives, Haiti to New York by non contract steamship
9 October 1879 New York Due 5 cents entry, 5¢ brown postage due with New York precancel



South Australia joined U.P.U.
Oct 1, 1891

8 August 1887 South Australia, to Brooklyn, N.Y., South Australia outbound ship mail 6d rate prepaid
8 September 1887 Chicago "U.S. Currency 5" (due) entry and backstamp, 1¢ and pair 2¢ red brown dues

Overseas Mail

Steamship Rate

Colombia joined U.P.U.
Jul 1, 1881



June 1881 Cartagena, Colombia to East Boston, Mass.

30 June 1881 New York Due 5 cents entry, 5¢ brown postage due applied at destination



Barbadoes joined U.P.U.
Sep 1, 1881

June 1880 Barbadoes, per steamer *Flamborough*, to Washington, D.C.

8 June 1880 New York Due 5 cents entry, 3¢ and two 1¢ brown postage dues

Overseas Mail

Ship Rate

The regulations for ship letters as they appeared in appeared in the 1879 *U.S. Postal Guide*:
"Rating up Postage on Ship-Letters. - At the post-office where deposited such letters will be charged with double rates of (domestic) postage, to be collected at the office of delivery; that is to say, six cents for the single weight if mailed ...

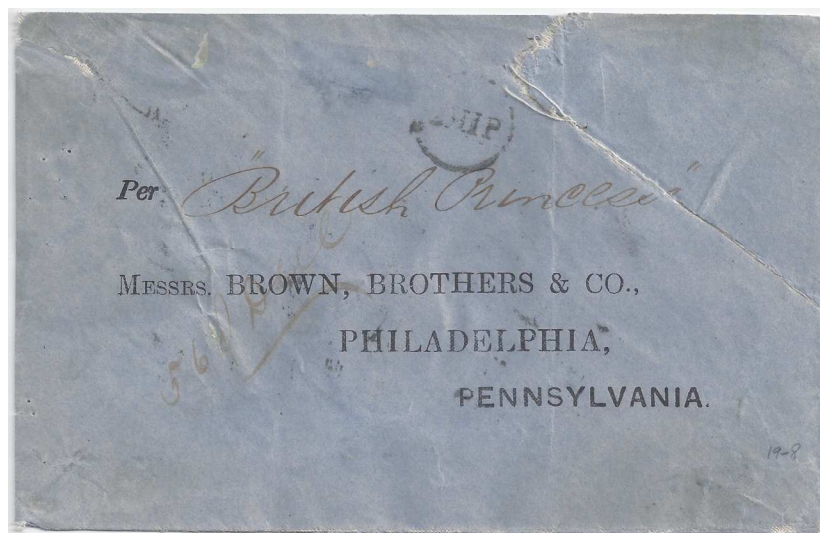


January 1883 unpaid cover entered Philadelphia as a private ship letter addressed to Boston unpaid letter subject to double 3¢ postage, "Ship Due 6" handstamp, two copies 3c due applied at Boston

Overseas Mail

Ship Rate

From the *U.S. Postal Guide*: "Rating up Postage on Ship-Letters. - At the post-office where deposited such letters will be charged with double rates of (domestic) postage, to be collected at the office of delivery ...



August 1884 from Liverpool, per steamer "British Princess" to Philadelphia arriving August 31
1 September 1884 Philadelphia "Ship" handstamp, manuscript 56¢ postage due (14 times 4¢ unpaid drop rate)
three copies 10c due, four copies 5¢ due and three copies 2¢ due (one missing now)

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Unpaid Single Rate

Unpaid mail from U.P.U. member countries was charged the U.P.U. five cent rate per one-half ounce plus a penalty equal to rate. A single rate was therefore charged 10 cents postage due.



1883 Riga, Russia (Latvia) to New York, 10¢ total due (5¢ rate plus 5¢ penalty)
21 Oct 1883 New York Due 10 Cents entry, 10¢ brown postage due with New York string of pearls precancel



1894 Umnaryd, Sweden to Minneapolis, Minn., 10¢ total due (5¢ rate plus 5¢ penalty)
4 May 1894 New York Due 10 Cents entry, 10¢ claret postage due with Minneapolis pen precancel

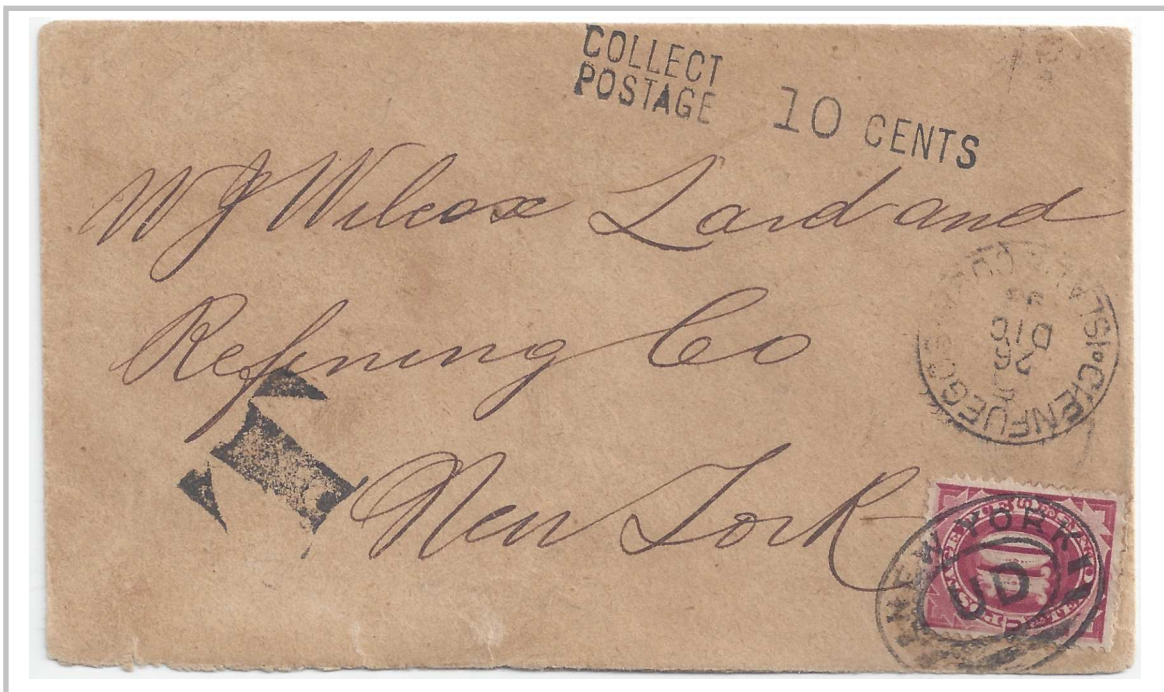
Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Unpaid Single Rate

1894 Seroc, Russia (Poland)
to Providence, 10¢ due
(5¢ rate plus penalty)



ca. 1893 Cuba to Key West
10¢ due (5¢ rate plus penalty)



1894 Cienfuegos, Cuba to New York, 10¢ due (5¢ rate plus 5¢ penalty)

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Unpaid Single Rate Plus Advertised

Prior to 1886, only the six largest post offices were authorized to collect a fee for advertising. After that date all post offices were permitted to advertise letters and collect a one cent fee. The fee for advertising applied to inbound mail from abroad as well as domestic mail.



3 June 1879 Westra Solberga, Sweden to Cherry Creek, New York

21 June 1879 New York Due 10 Cents entry, 3 July 1870 Advertised handstamp and manuscript date
no fee collected for advertising, pair 5¢ brown postage dues applied over date, **the earliest reported use**



15 April 1892 Wiska, Sweden to Luddington, Mich., 10¢ due (5¢ rate plus 5¢ penalty)

27 April 1883 New York Due 10 Cents entry, 10¢ brown claret postage due applied upon arrival in Mich.

2 June 1892 Advertised at Luddington with additional 1¢ postage due paid with 1¢ claret

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Unpaid Double Rate



T

London
Taxé

1886 Great Britain (their "T" handstamp) to Pittsburgh, 20¢ due (10¢ postage plus 10¢ penalty)
2 May 1886 New York Due 20 Cents entry, block 2¢ brown applied at Pittsburgh

T

Liverpool
Taxé



1890 Liverpool (Packet backstamp) to Washington, 20¢ due (10¢ postage plus 10¢ penalty)
2 March 1890 New York Due 20 Cents entry, two copies 10¢ red brown applied at Washington
forwarded to Boston without charge as per U.P.U. agreement

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Unpaid Triple Rate



Barranquilla, Colombia
Taxé

On unpaid and insufficiently prepaid mail from U.P.U. member countries the sending country was to mark the letter with a "T" (Taxe) handstamp to indicate postage due. Most exchange offices used a simple "T" while others included the name of their office.



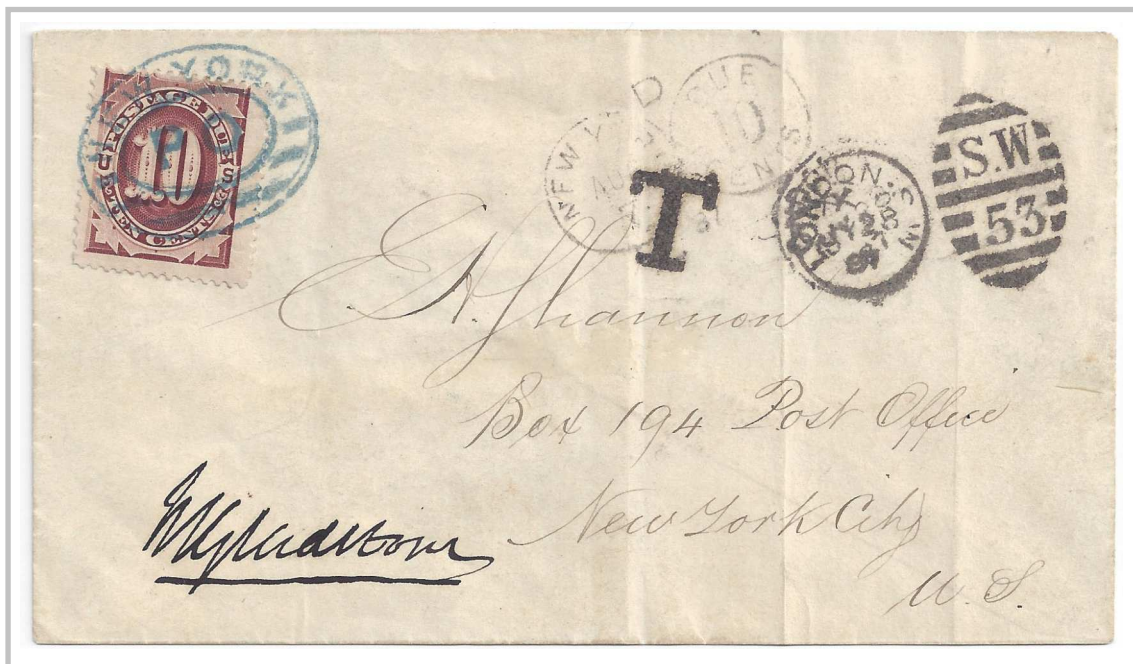
26 September 1890 Barranquilla, Colombia to New York, "Barranquilla T" handstamp, Panama transit backstamp
13 October New York entry backstamp, triple rate with 30¢ due (15¢ triple rate plus 15¢ penalty)
30¢ red brown due with New York double oval cancel

fewer than five reported uses of 30¢ red brown postage due on cover

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Unpaid, Invalid Free Frank

Although free franks may have been recognized for domestic mail in U.P.U. member countries, they had no validity for mail sent between member countries. Only official Post Office communications were free.



28 July 1887 London, William E. Gladstone free franked cover to New York, 5¢ single rate plus 5¢ penalty
7 August 1887 New York Due 10 Cents entry, 10¢ red brown postage due with blue New York oval



W. Gladstone

William E. Gladstone served four terms as Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Unpaid, Invalid Stamp



June 1891 Nuernberg, Bavaria to Detroit, Mich., attempted use of German stamp in Bavaria not recognized marked with blue crayon "0" to indicated stamp not valid, 10¢ due (5¢ rate plus 5¢ penalty) pair 5¢ claret dues with Detroit precancels, the **earliest reported use of 5¢ claret due stamps**



1885 Buenos Aires, Argentina to Wellfleet, Mass., attempted use of damaged stamp not recognized marked with blue crayon "0" to indicated stamp not valid, 10¢ due (5¢ rate plus 5¢ penalty) 9 March 1885 New York entry, "block" of five 5¢ red brown due stamps on reverse

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Unpaid, Invalid Stamp / Poste Restante



7 November 1890 San Juan del Norte, Nicaragua entered mails to Brooklyn with invalid stamps ("zeroes")
25 November 1890 New Orleans entry backstamp, double weight 20¢ due (10¢ double rate plus 10¢ penalty)



12 May 1885 Chicacole, India prepaid ½ anna to "Poste Restante" Calcutta
22 May 1885 Calcutta Sea Post Office when after redirection to Providence, R.I.
20 June 1885 New York Due 20 Cents entry, 20¢ due with pair 10¢ red brown due applied at Providence
rate was 5¢ single weight postage, plus 5¢ for poste restante service, total 10¢ plus 10¢ penalty

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Paquebot

In 1891 the U.P.U established special regulations for handling mail posted on the high seas. Under these regulations, letters posted at sea should be franked with postage stamps of the country under which the vessel is flagged. If the vessel was in a port, it was required to be franked with stamps of the port country.



Both the "T" (Taxé) handstamp and barred numeral "12" cancel were applied upon arrival at New York.



1891 San Juan del Norte, Nicaragua to Boston, entered mails in New York with entry backstamp
24 January 1891 Boston received, 8¢ due (5¢ postage plus 5¢ penalty, less 2¢ credit), paid with red brown dues

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Paquebot

Beginning in 1895 the "Paquebot" handstamp was used in conjunction with the previously employed "T" handstamp as well as the barred numeral "12" stamp canceler on this class of mail.

PAQUEBOT.
(N.Y.-2D DIV.)



1895 Kingston, Jamaica to Springfield, Ohio

10 October 1895 New York backstamp and magenta Paquebot Second Division handstamp

11 Oct 1895 Springfield received, 8¢ due (5¢ postage plus 5¢ penalty, less 2¢ credit), paid with claret dues

Imprint on reverse of cover carried on the British Atlas Line steamer "Alps" which arrived at New York from Kinston, Jamaica on October 10, 1895. Presumably letter was posted while in harbor.

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid and Advertised

The one cent fee for advertising applied to inbound mail from abroad as well as domestic mail. If, as in the case here, the letter was insufficiently prepaid, the additional advertising fee was added to the postage due amount.



1892 Russia to Newton, Kansas, mis-rated as short paid by 3k (paid correct 7k which replaced old 10k rate)
18 January 1892 New York transit and "Collect Postage 4 Cents," pair 5¢ claret dues
24 February 1892 Newton, Kansas advertised and added a 1¢ claret due for advertising fee

From the Mennonite community, Golbstadt Tavre (now Galbstadt, Ukraine), to Newton, Kansas. A statue in Newton commemorates the entry into Kansas from Russia of Turkey Red Hard Wheat by Mennonites in 1874.

Overseas Mail From U.P.U.

Short Paid Single Rate

Only domestic postage paid.



1887 London, England to Boston, prepaid 1d domestic postage, 1½d (3¢) short paid doubled
13 June 1887 Boston F.D. entry backstamp, "6" due, pair 3¢ red brown dues



13 August 1888 Stratford On Avon, England to Boston, prepaid 1d domestic postage, 1½d (3¢) short paid doubled
24 August 1888 Boston F.D. entry backstamp, pair 3¢ red brown dues

After the domestic rate was lowered to two cents in 1883, the need for three cent postage due stamps dropped. The brown stamps on hand were mostly adequate and the red brown stamps saw very limited use.

Overseas Mail From U.P.U.

Short Paid Double Rate

Only domestic double weight postage paid.



3 July 1888 London double rate to San Francisco, prepaid 2d domestic postage, 3d (6¢) short paid doubled
3 August 1888 San Francisco entry, two pairs 3¢ red brown dues on reverse

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Double Weight

Overweight, only single rate paid.



3 July 1879 Inverness, Scotland double rate to Patterson, N.J., prepaid 2½d (5¢), shortage of 5¢ doubled
17 July 1879 New York Due 10 Cents entry, pair 5¢ brown dues (**first month use, before 10¢ due printed**)

The three high value postage dues (10¢, 30¢ and 50¢) were first shipped to offices on September 19, 1879.



27 September 1879 London double rate to New York, prepaid 2½d (5¢), shortage of 5¢ doubled
7 October 1879 New York Due 10 Cents entry, 10¢ brown due (**earliest documented of a 10¢ due**)

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Double Weight

Overweight, only single rate paid.



April 1892 London double rate to Westerly, R.I., prepaid 2½d (5¢), shortage of 5¢ doubled
30 April 1892 New York Due 10 Cents entry, pair 5¢ red brown dues applied at Westerly



12 June 1889 Oldham, England double rate to Dover, N.H., prepaid 2½d (5¢), shortage of 5¢ doubled
22 June 1889 New York Due 10 Cents entry, 10¢ red brown due applied at destination

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Postal Cards



Great Britain
postal card
rate was 1d.

15 May 1893 Bettwsycoed, North Wales to New York, prepaid ½d (1¢), shortage of 1¢ doubled
24 May 1893 New York entry and "Collect Postage 2 Cents" with 2¢ claret due

Austria
postal card
rate was 5k.



24 February 1892 Waidhofen, Austria to New York, prepaid 2k (1¢), shortage of 1½¢ doubled
9 March 1892 New York entry and "Collect Postage 3 Cents" (double short payment), 3¢ claret due

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Postal Card / Invalid Card



Russia
postal card
rate was 4k.

4 April 1890 Warsaw, Russia (Poland) to New York, domestic only postage paid
28 April 1890 New York entry "Due 2 Cents" (double short payment), 2¢ red brown due

Germany
postal card
not valid in
Bavaria

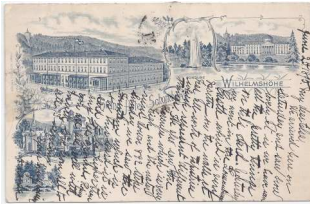


25 August 1890 Meisenheim, Bavaria to Brooklyn, German U.P.U. card invalid, rated 12½ centimes
5 September 1895 New York entry and "Collect Postage 5 Cents" (double short payment), 5¢ red brown due

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Private Post Cards

Post cards over 14 cm by 9 cm were updated to letter mail postal rates.



25 June 1895 Wilhelmshohe, Germany oversized card to New York, rated as short paid letter
 7 July 1895 New York entry and "Collect Postage 3 Cents" (double short payment), 3¢ claret due



24 September 1891 Amsterdam oversized card to Roxbury, Mass., rated as short paid letter
 5 October 1891 New York entry "Due 6 Cents" (double short payment), three 2¢ claret dues applied at Roxbury

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Over Surtaxed Route

Peru imposed a surtax on outbound mail carried via Panama and San Francisco. The surtax for the Via Panama route was 6 centavos per one-half ounce in addition to the postage. The surtax was added to the standard U.P.U. rates prior to 1905.



5 September 1888 Callao, Peru to Troy, N.Y., insufficiently prepaid for double weight
"U.S. Charge To Collect" and "22 Cents" handstamps, crayon 0.55 (centimes) due
2 October 1888 New York Foreign Dept. applied pair 10¢ and pair 2¢ red brown postage dues

The rate from Peru to U.S. was 11 centavos which included a 6 centavo surtax. This cover was overweight and charged double deficiency postage due which was equal to 55 centimes (22 cents).

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Over Surtaxed Route

Mail from British India was subject to a surtax of 1 anna over the nominal U.P.U. rate of 2 annas per one-half ounce.



31 January 1891 India to New Bedford, Mass., insufficiently prepaid 2.5 annas instead of 3 annas
"T" handstamp and crayon 6 centimes, Collect Postage 3 Cents handstamp
3 March New Bedford Received backstamp, 2¢ and 1¢ red brown postage dues

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Over Surtaxed Route

Inbound mail from Colombia was subject to a five cent surtax from 1882. The rate per one-half ounce was 5 centavos and the surtax was a 5 centavos.



1885 Honda, Colombia via U.S. Legation Bogota to New York, triple weight prepaid as single rate
9 May 1885 New York Due 20 Cents entry, (10¢ short paid plus 10¢ penalty)
pair 10¢ red brown dues with precancel, **earliest report use of 10¢ red brown dues**

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Over Surtaxed Route

Inbound mail from Ecuador was subject to a five cent surtax from 1884. The rate per one-half ounce was 5 centavos and the surtax was a further 5 centavos.



October 1890 Guayaquil, Ecuador to Alameda, Cal., "T Guayquil" handstamp and pencil 10 centimes,
incorrect postage due of 10 centimes (4 cents) marked at Guayaquil
San Francisco "Collect Postage 4 Cents handstamp"
6 November Alameda Received backstamp, two copies 2¢ red brown postage dues

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Over Surtaxed Route

The one-half ounce rate from Ecuador was 5 centavos plus a 5 centavos surtax.

October 1902 Quito, Ecuador
to San Francisco, short paid
8 March 1902 San Francisco entry
"U.S. Charges To Collect 70 Cents"
single 50¢ claret due plus two copies
1894 issue 10¢ small numeral dues

**fewer than five 50¢ claret
uses on cover known**



Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Postal Lettersheet

Domestic lettersheet used overseas.



8 February 1894 Warnsdorf, Austria to Hazleton, Penna., 5k lettersheet uprated to letter postage
New York Due 5 Cents entry, (short payment of 2½¢ doubled for 5¢ due)
pair 2¢ claret and single 1¢ dues tied at Hazleton

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Short Paid Postal Lettersheet

Domestic U.S. lettersheet used overseas and refused.



1888 Chicago to Munich, 2¢ lettersheet sent as short paid (by 3¢) letter

1 October 1888 Munich arrival and refused label, returned to Chicago as double 3¢ shortage due upon receipt at Chicago 5¢ and 1¢ red brown due stamps with wavy line precancels applied

27 November 1888 Dead Letter Office backstamp

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Advertised

A one cent fee for advertised unclaimed letters was imposed on inbound foreign mail under domestic rate guidelines.



17 April 1890 Hythe, England to **Idiot Asylum**, New York, fully prepaid single rate addressee not found at Blackwell's Island Lunatic Asylum

Randal's Island or Ward's Island Hospitals, the Insane Asylum, or the Alms House

13 May Advertised Due 1 Cent, 1¢ red brown due

3 June 1890 Dead Letter Office, Received in Bad Condition Foreign Division, Officially Sealed labels



July 1893 Strubling, Bavaria to Cincinnati, Ohio, correctly prepaid

August 1893 Advertised at Cincinnati with 1¢ due, unclaimed and returned, boxed "Retour" handstamp

Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Returned Mail

The U.P.U. regulations provided for the return of mail that could not be delivered. If outbound was short paid, postage due was collected when returned.



20 November 1889 New York to Pinar del Rio Cuba, short paid by 3¢
New York "T" and "Centimes 15 N.Y." handstamps, addressee unknown

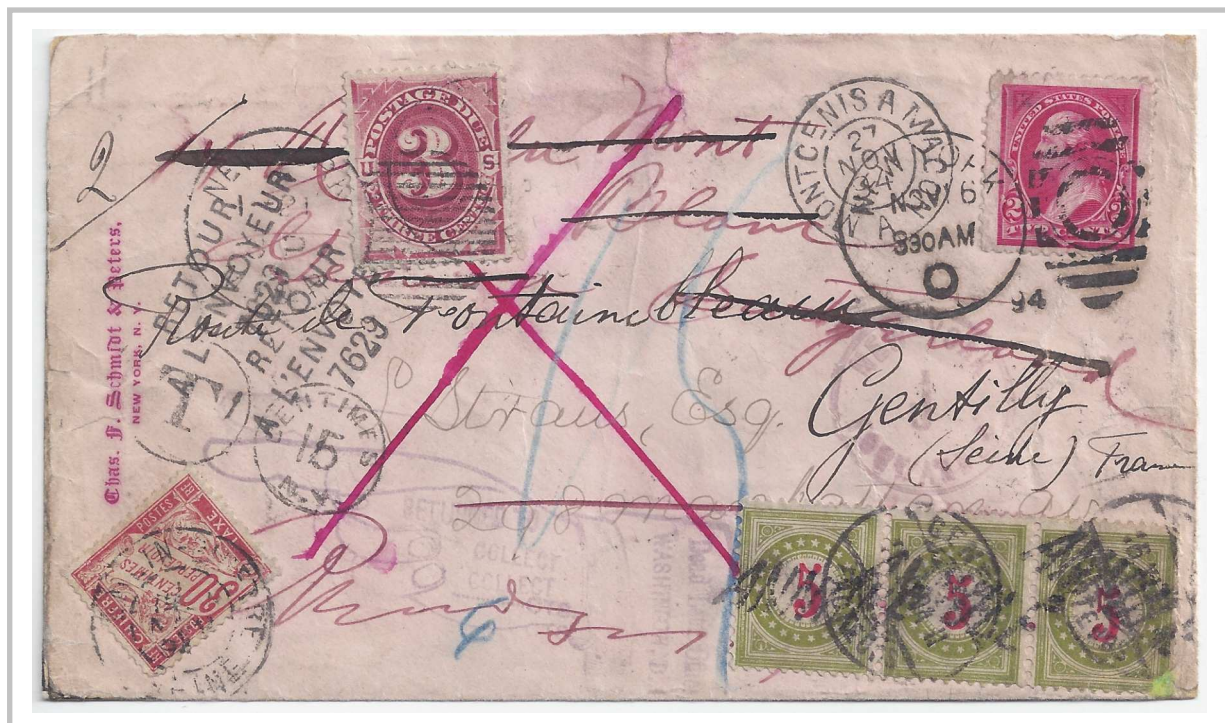
30 November 1889 returned from Pinar del Rio, strip of three 2¢ red brown dues for double deficiency



Overseas Mail from U.P.U.

Returned Mail

The U.P.U. regulations provided for the return of mail that could not be delivered. If outbound was short paid, postage due was collected when returned.



6 November 1894 New York to Geneva, Switzerland, short paid by 3¢

16 November Geneva with three copies 5¢ postage due and forwarded to France

11 December 1894 Kremil Bicetre arrival with 30¢ postage due, cover refused and returned

21 January 1895 New York entry postmark and 3¢ claret postage due (15 centimes) as endorsed Washington, D.C. Dead Letter Office handstamp and returned to New York



Domestic First Class

Short Paid

1880 short paid
quadruple rate with
three 3¢ brown dues
applied at Richmond

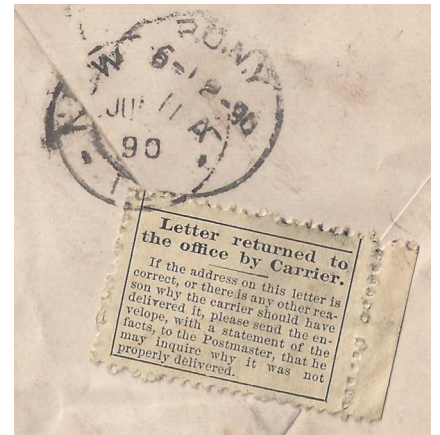


July 1879

short paid octuple postage (24¢) marked "Due 21"
with five 5¢ and a 1¢ brown dues applied in error

Domestic Uses

Advertised



May 1890 Roslyn, Queens Co, N.Y. to New York City, Carrier Office Return label on back advertised with 1¢ red brown, Money Letter Dead Letter Office handstamp and D.L.O. backstamp

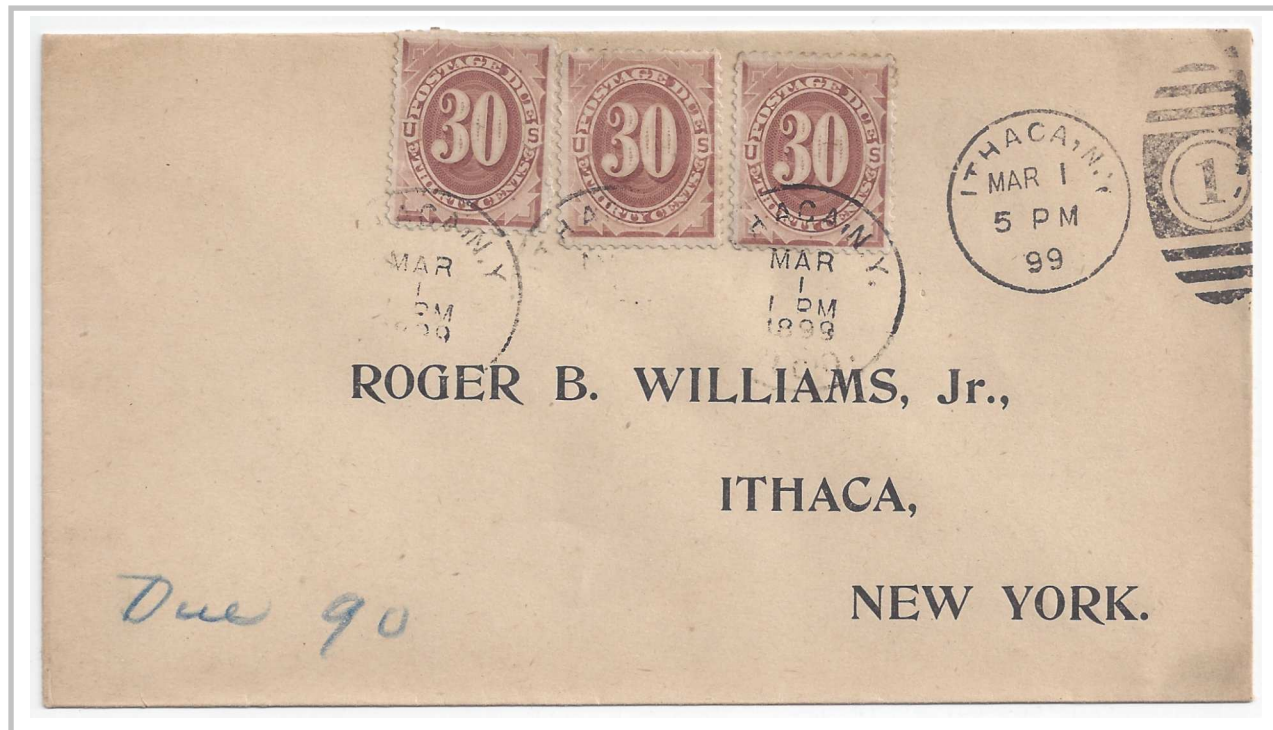


October 1884 Fitchburgh, Ma. to Boston, "Letter returned to the office by Carrier ..." label advertised with 1¢ red brown and Dead Letter Office backstamp

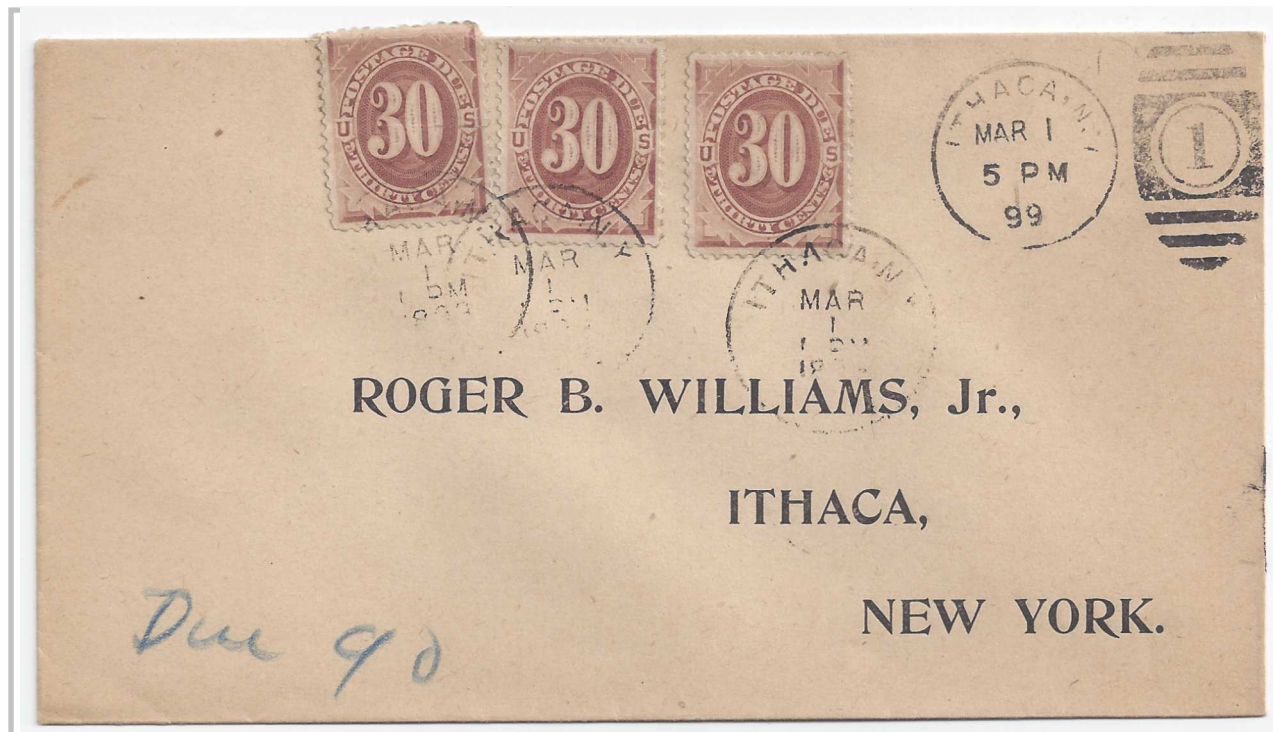
Domestic Third Class

Bulk Accounting of Postage Due

These covers, showing rare use of high denomination postage due stamps, represent postage due amounts tallied in bulk on a returned mailing to Roger Williams, President of the Bank of Ithaca, in 1899.



1899 Ithaca, N.Y. office, "Due 90" and with three 30¢ postage brown dues on Williams account envelope



1899 Ithaca, N.Y. office, "Due 90" and with three 30¢ postage brown dues on Williams account envelope