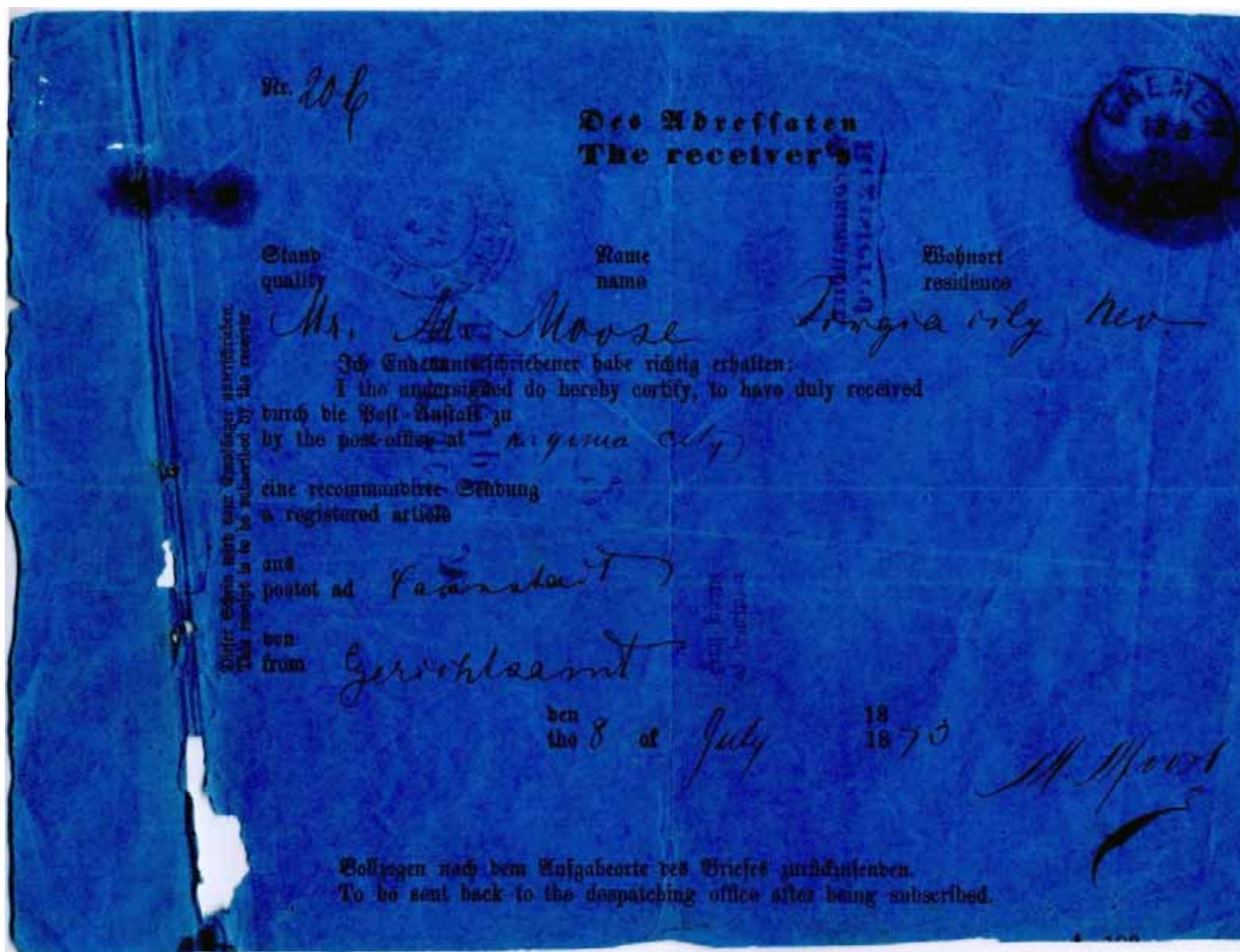


International avis de réception (AR)

From the inception of the GPU/UPU (1875), the US offered AR service to other founding members of the UPU. Starting in 1879, service was extended to all members of the UPU, as they joined. The US also had treaty arrangements with Switzerland and Germany permitting AR service as early as 1868–69. No pre-UPU international US AR forms are known, and just one to the US is recorded, are three AR covers from the US. The earliest incoming known AR form in the UPU period is 1878. AR service was available as a free option until 1925. All US AR forms required a covering envelope, but not all foreign ones did.

AR forms & covering envelopes

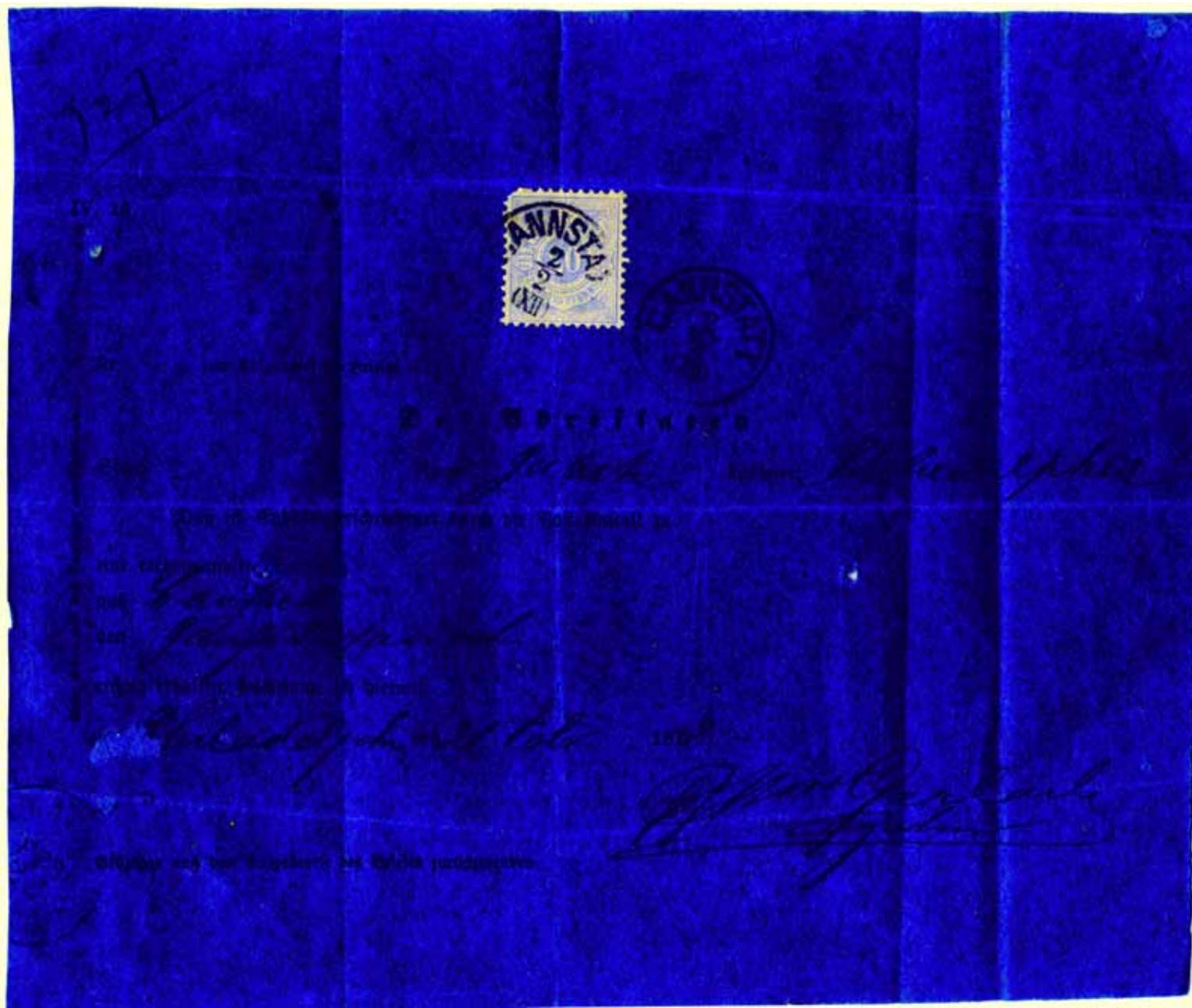
Earliest AR form to the US, and *only one in the pre-UPU period*. An 1868 treaty, effective 1869, between the US and North German Union implemented AR service and required bilingual (German-English) AR forms. Somewhat primitive English on this form. No pre-UPU US international AR forms are known.



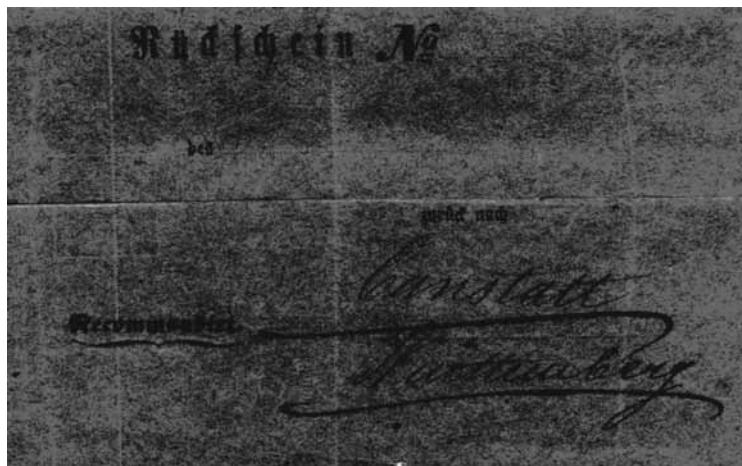
German AR form, Cannstatt (now part of Stuttgart in Württemberg) to Virginia City (NV), 1873. Properly signed; addressed to Mr M Moose, but signed M Moost. Although there are US marks on reverse, form likely returned under cover. Via Bremen and New York (red double circle registered handstamp on reverse). Germany did charge a fee for AR, but evidently it was applied to the registered letter at this time.

Incoming AR form in UPU period

Earliest recorded to the US in the UPU period. Also from Cannstatt, this time with unilingual German AR form (intended for German-speaking countries; known used domestically and to Switzerland); possibly returned as folded letter sheet.

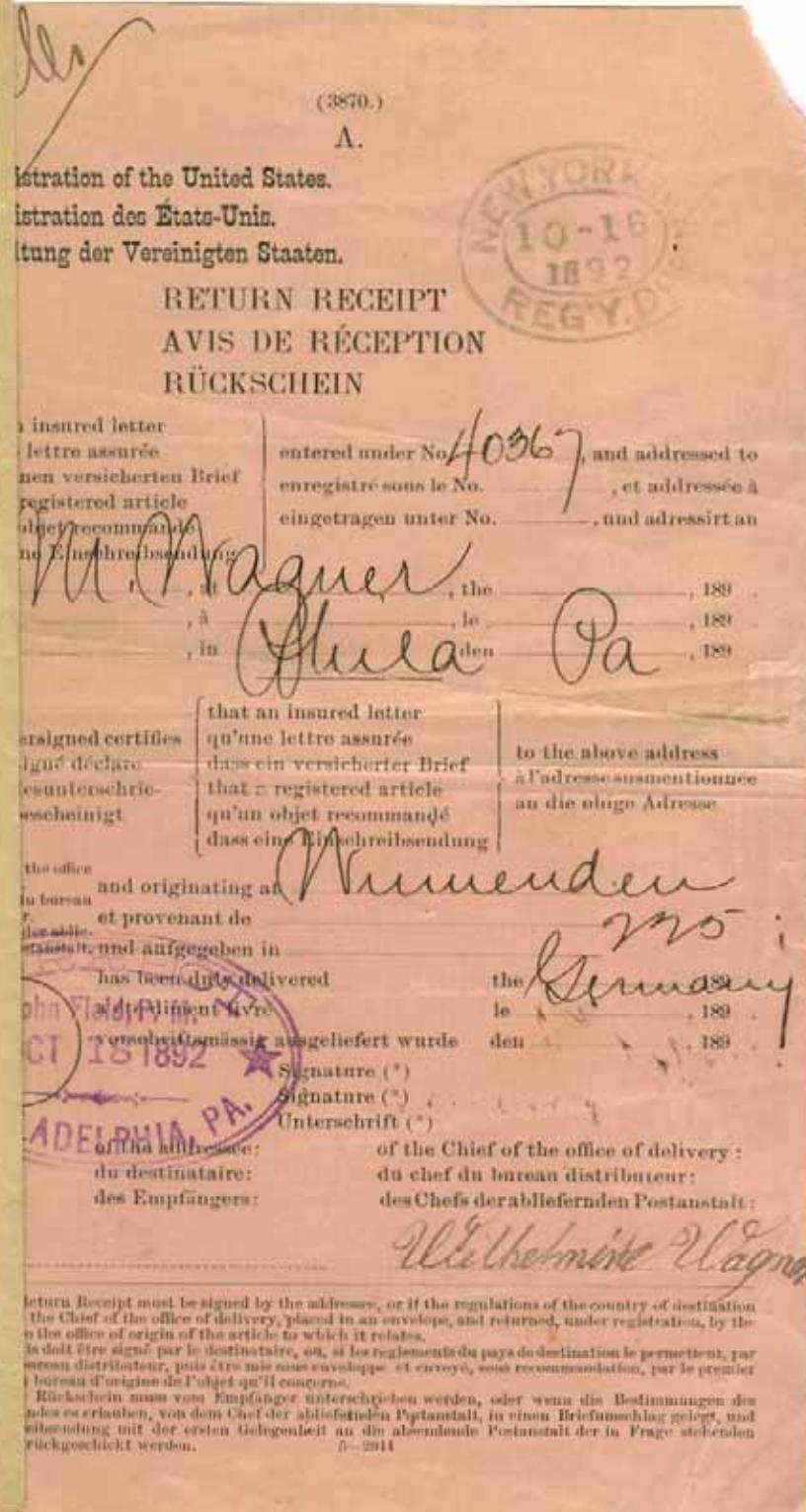


German AR form, Cannstatt to Philadelphia, 1878. Properly signed. German AR fee paid by 20 Pf stamp.



Treaty of Vienna (1892–1898)

In effect 1 July 1892–31 December 1898; AR forms prepared in country of *destination* of reg'd letter.
Forms returned by reg'd mail until 1908. Before ca 1921, mailed to the office of despatch, not to sender.



US AR form & covering envelope for registered letter Germany-US, 16 October 1892. The registered letter was addressed to Philadelphia, but the form was prepared at New York (en route to P), and on the way back was placed in the covering envelope for delivery to Germany.

Treaty of Vienna, form & covering envelope for registered letter from US

181

N° 514.

[Oct. 1895.—Edm 151.]

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.

A

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES ET DES TÉLÉGRAPHES.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

Mr. F. W. M. [initials]
d'un { valeur déclarée [redacted] } enregistré sous le n° 57258 et adressé à
recommandé.....
Bruxelles, Janv 20 Paris, le 20 Janv 1897.
V2 place St Léger

Mr. F. W. M. [initials]
Le soussigné déclare qu'un { valeur déclarée } à l'adresse
recommandé..
susmentionnée et provenant de ⁽³⁾ *Dayton Ohio*
Feb 1897

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE FRANCE.

Timbre du bureau
distributeur



Timbres-poste.

ENVOI À L'ÉTRANGER:

D'UN AVIS DE RÉCEPTION OU DE PAYER,
d'une demande de retrait de correspondance ou de notification d'absence
ou
d'un objet revêtu de timbres-poste présumés frauduleux.

- (1) Lettre, boîte, objet.
(2) Date du dépôt d'après le
(3) Nom du bureau d'origine
du pays.

NOTE. — Cet avis { dans le
doit être envoyé ordinai
recomme

NOTA — Cet avis doit être expédié
1° D'office si elle contient soit un avis de
réception ou de paiement, soit un objet revêtu
de timbres-poste frauduleux;
2° Avec affranchissement ou timbrage
(taxe et droit à la charge du réexpéditeur); si
c'est une demande de retrait ou de recu

Bureau de poste de

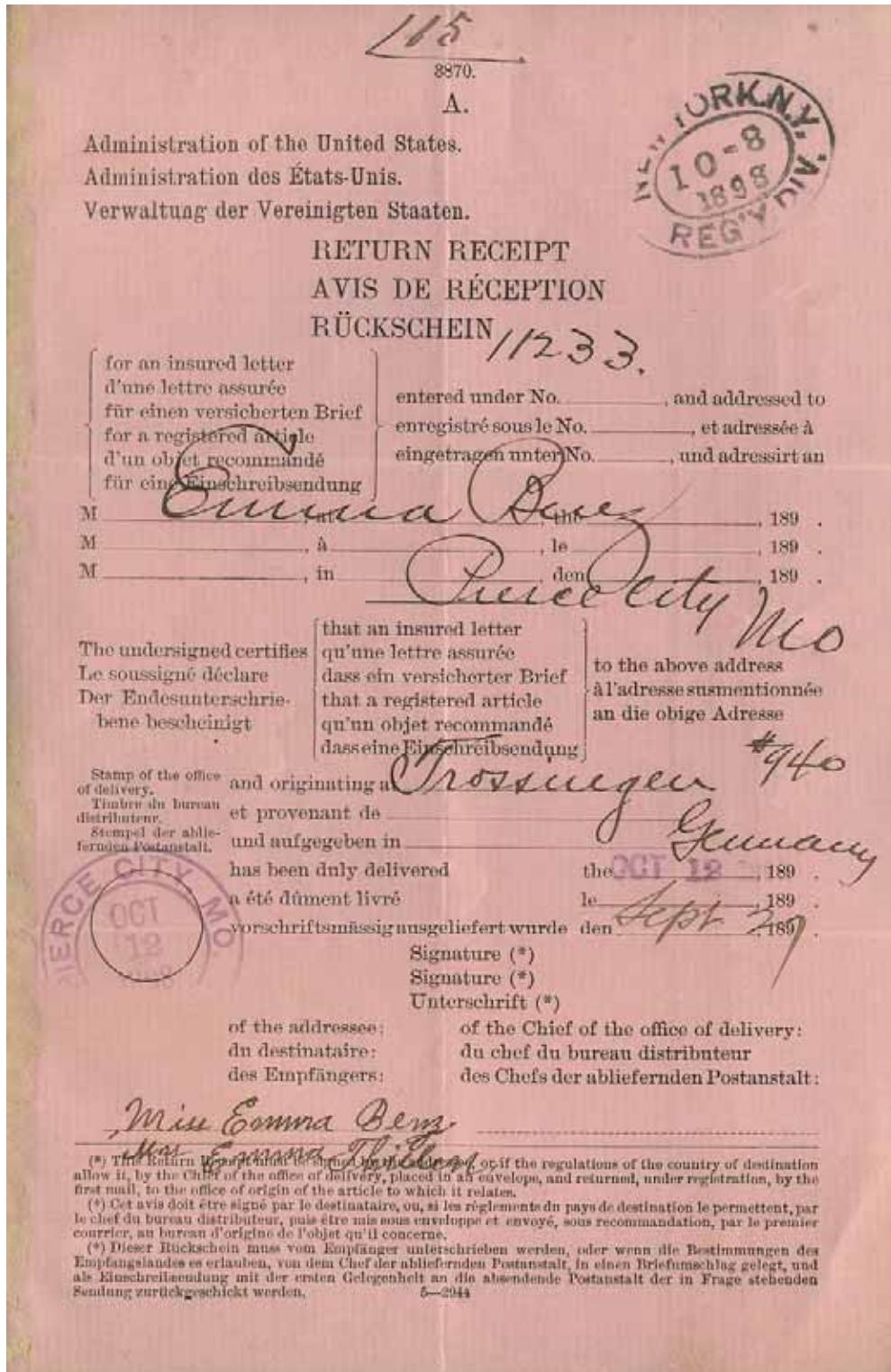
Province de

25782

(Pays de destination)

French AR form & covering envelope for reg'd letter, Dayton-Paris, 1897. Refers to reg'n number 182.

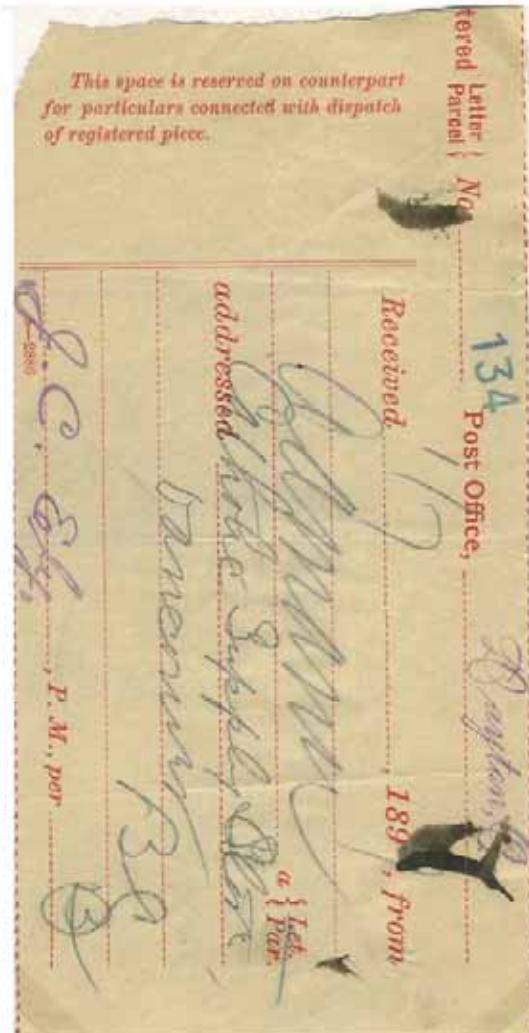
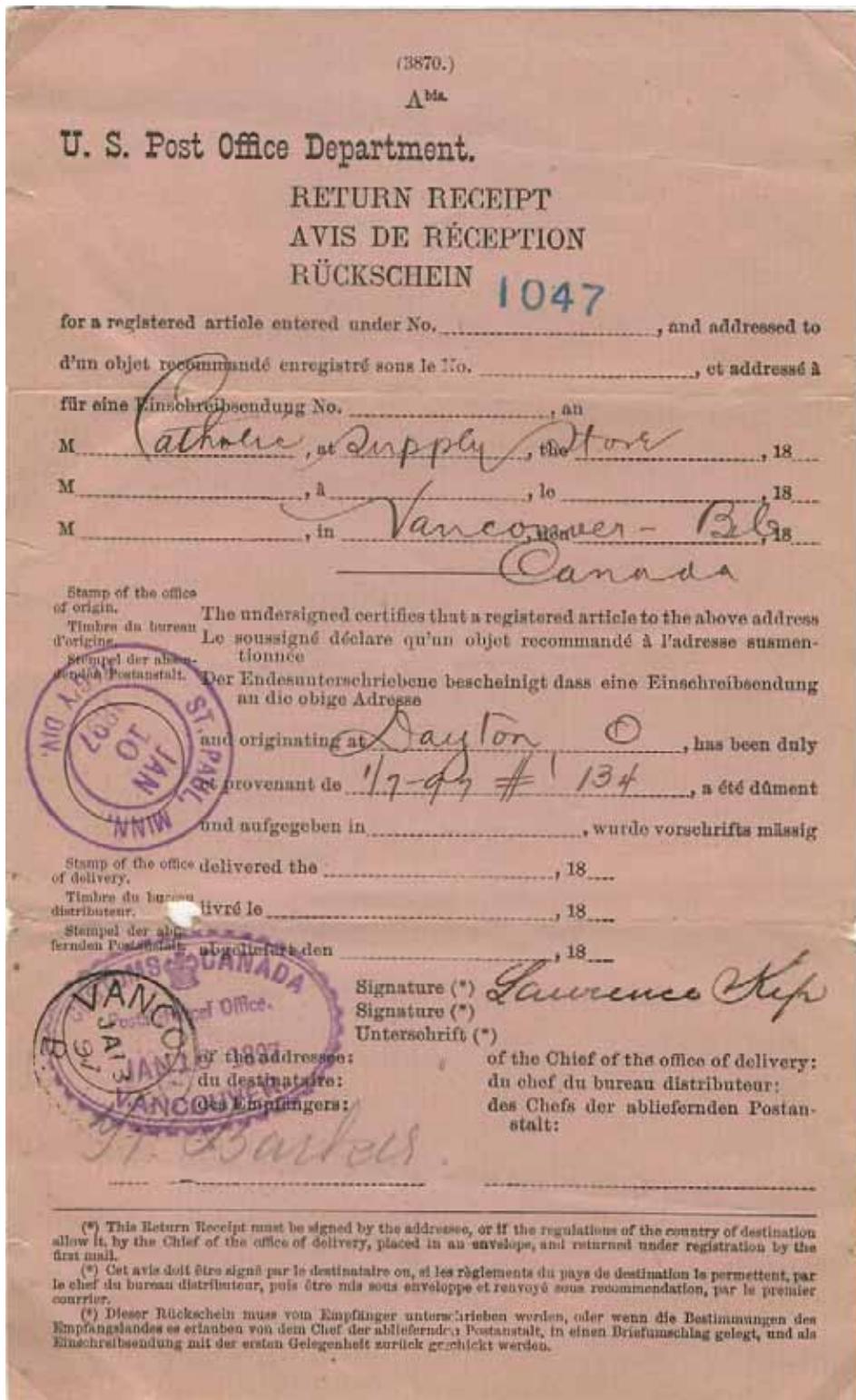
Treaty of Vienna period, form for letter to US
Form prepared at port of entry, New York.



US AR form, 1898. Refers to letter from Trossingen (Germany) to Pierce City (OH).

Treaty of Vienna period; registered letter from US to Canada

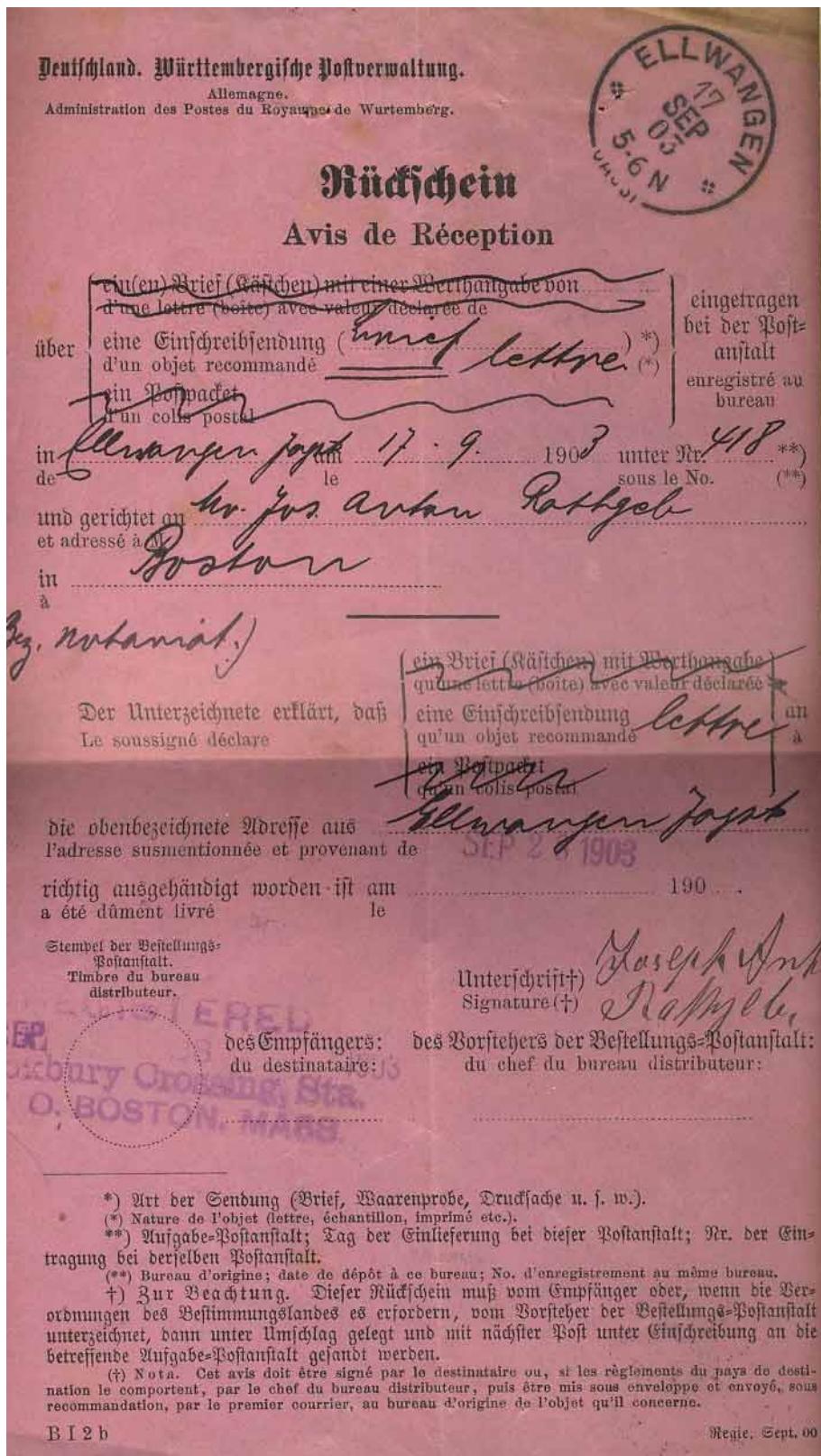
Canadian AR form required by treaty; however, evidence (about seven other US-Canada AR forms, and one Canada-US AR form in the Vienna period) suggests there was an agreement between Canada & US to prepare the forms in the country of origin. This one was prepared at the exchange point.



US AR form & receipt for registered letter, US to Canada, 1897. Dayton (OH) to Vancouver (BC). Unusually, Customs Canada oval applied. Form prepared at St Paul (MN), obviously the border-crossing point. Form and receipt both refer to original #134. Properly signed and returned.

Treaty of Washington and beyond (1899–)

AR service was treated as before the Vienna period—forms prepared at office of *origin* of registered letter.



• Avis de réception en retour.
This envelope can lawfully be used only by an Officer of the United States on Official Business of the Government. The use of it to avoid payment of postage on private matter of any kind is punishable by a fine of \$300.



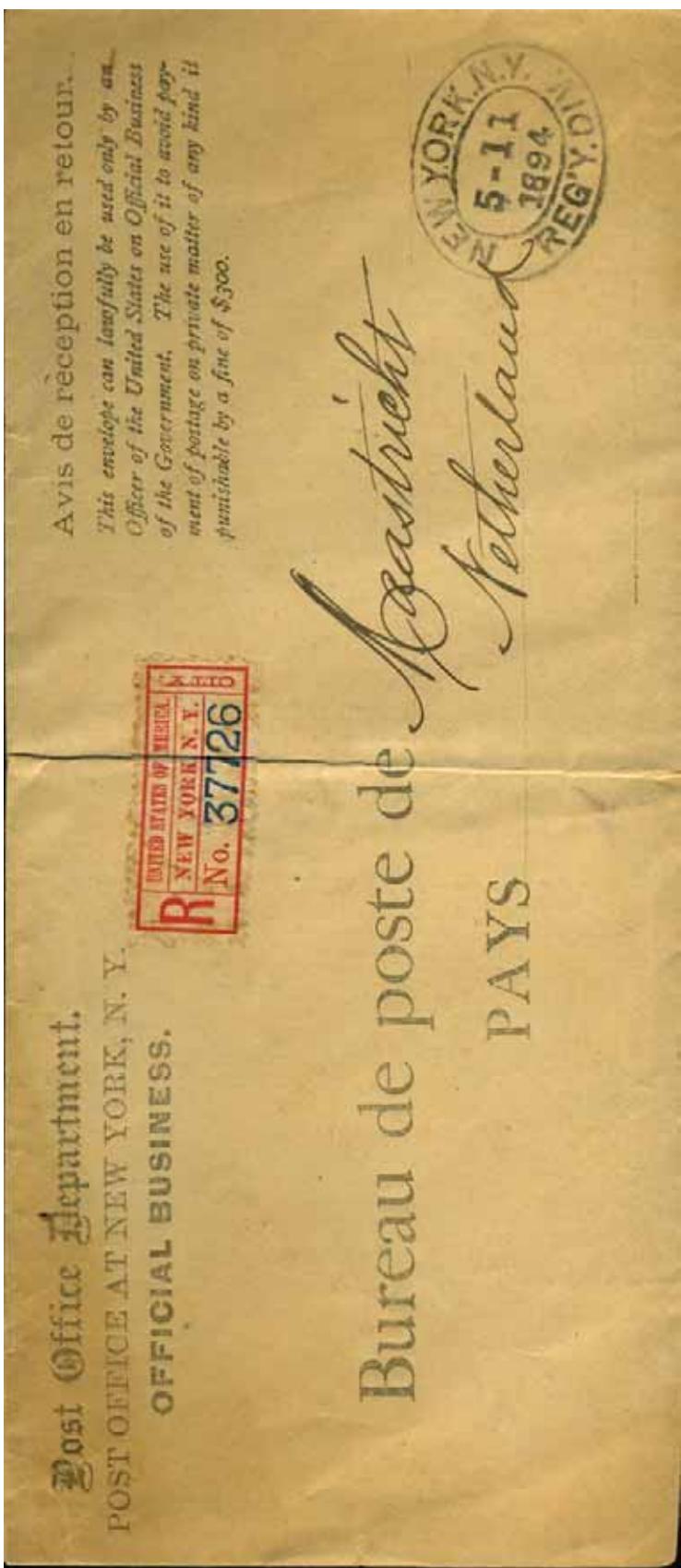
Post Office Department
POST OFFICE AT
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Bureau de poste de Ellwangen
Mr. Rathgeb PAYS

German AR form & US covering envelope for registered letter Germany-US, 1903. The registered letter was addressed to Boston, mailed with German AR form from Ellwangen. Accent on *réception* (on the covering envelope) has been corrected. Boston foreign registration etiquette.

Covering envelopes

Left, in the Vienna period, returned a US AR form to the sender (of the registered item) in the Netherlands; right, after the Treaty of Washington was implemented, returned a German AR form to the sender.



Covering envelopes returning AR forms to Netherlands & Germany, 1894 & 1906. Accent on *réception* is wrong at left, corrected at right. Printed text differs considerably.

Replacement form

In the post-Vienna period (that is, 1899 or later), AR forms were normally sent attached to the registered letter. If the form were lost or damaged, a replacement had to be prepared. In this case, a registered letter from Philadelphia was mailed to Santiago (Chile) on 14 March. Since the form is Chilean, *not* American (as would have accompanied the registered letter), it must be a replacement. Normal Chilean AR material would have the AR fee paid on the form, but there is no fee in this case, as it was a replacement.

Replacement A.R. forms are very rare; perhaps fewer than 10 are known worldwide for international A.R.

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
DU CHILI

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

B

Formulario 47

d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de
de una carta con valor declarado de } enregistré au bureau
d'un objet recommandé (.....) (1) } anotado en la oficina
de un objeto certificado
de Philadelphia Pa Etats 14/Mai/902 190 sous le N.^o 160-62847 (2)
de el bajo el N.^o
et adressé à M Wilhelm Kühne à signé
y dirigida a en

 Le soussigné déclare que une lettre avec valeur déclarée à l'adresse
El que suscribe declara que una carta con valor declarado a la dirección
d'un objet recommandé que un objeto recomendado
que un objeto certificado que un objeto certificado
mentionnée arriba indicada

 Timbre du Bureau distributeur et provenant de a été dûment
Timbre de la Oficina destinataria y procedente de ha sido debidamente

 livré le 17 de Abril 1902
entregado el 1902

 Signature (3)
Firma

 du destinataire du chef du bureau distributeur
del destinatario del jefe de la oficina destinataria

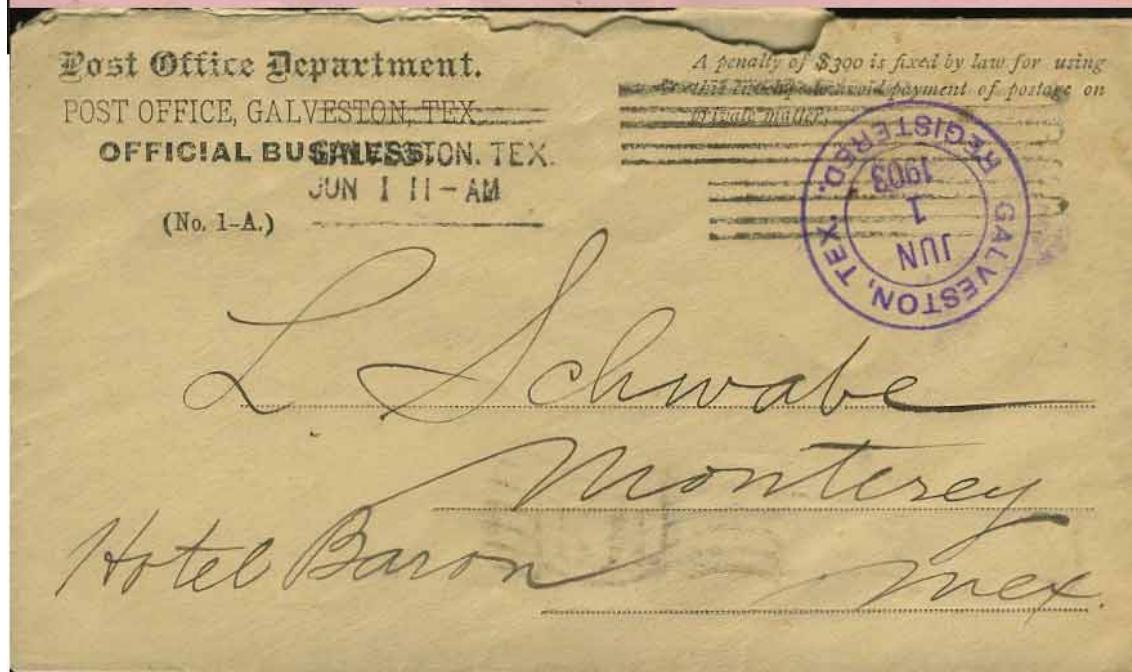
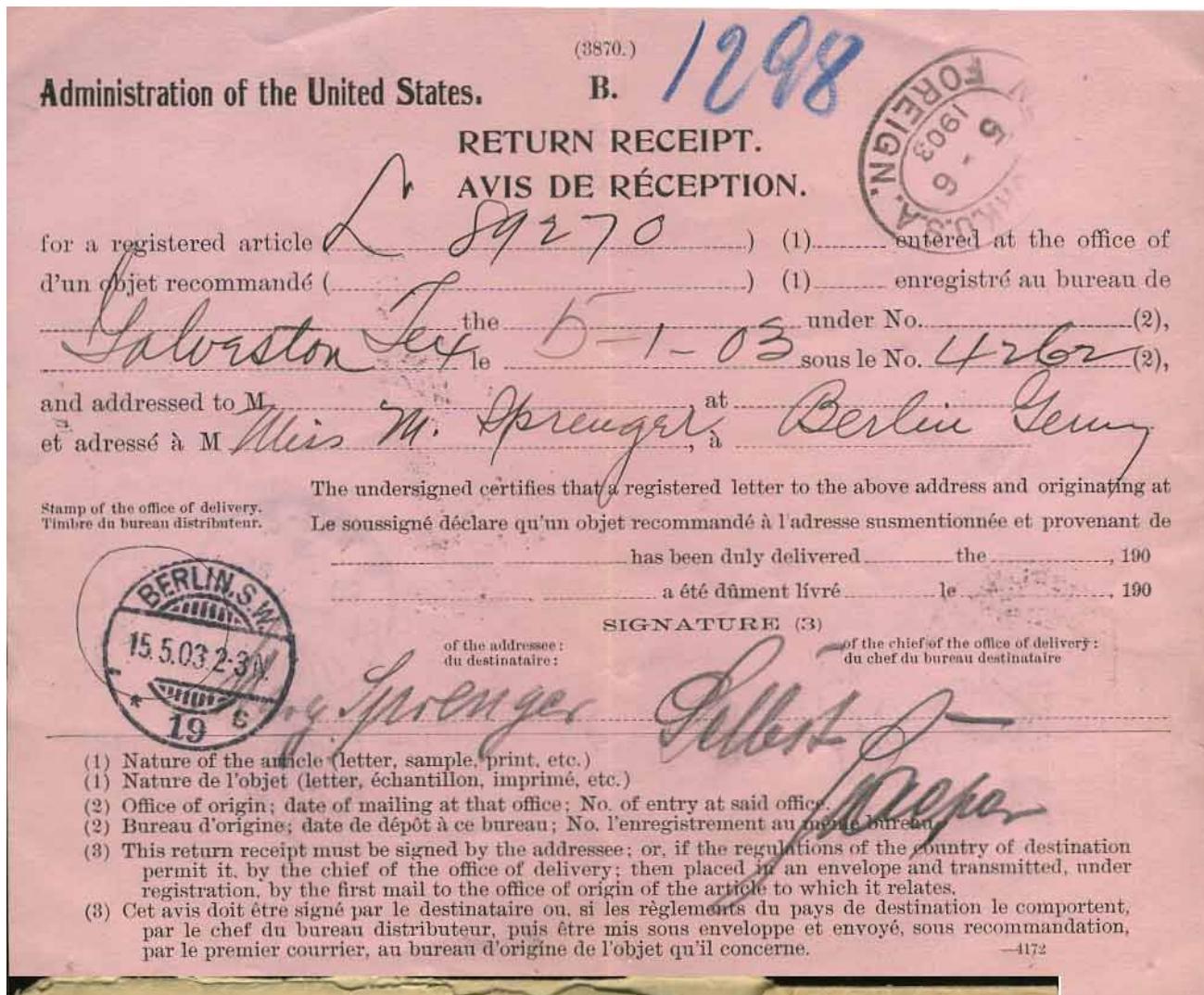

 1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.)
 2) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; n.^o d'enregistrement au même bureau.
 3) NOTA.—Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

- 1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.)
 - 2) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; n.^o d'enregistrement au même bureau.
 - 3) NOTA.—Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, sans recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

Replacement AR form for registered letter to Chile, 1902. Properly signed and returned under cover to the sender of the registered letter in Philadelphia.

Forwarded AR form

Sender had moved to Mexico, so form was forwarded in a US penalty envelope.



US AR form & provisional covering envelope to Mexico from Galveston, 1903. Form smaller, and only bilingual.

From Russia with watermark

One of three known examples of US AR forms printed on watermarked paper; outline italic ROLLE
(continues beyond edge of form).

Form 3870.

Stamp of dispatching office.
Timbre du bureau expéditeur.

C

Administration of United States of America.
Administration des États-Unis d'Amérique.

RETURN RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

for a letter with declared value of _____
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de _____

for a registered article (*Letter*) (1) _____ entered at the office
d'un objet recommandé () (1) _____ enregistré au bureau

of _____ the *May 13*, 19_____, under No. *132* (2)
de _____ le *May 13*, 19_____, sous le No. *132* (2)

mailed by M. *D. Danilevsky*
expédié par M. *Danilevsky*
and addressed to M. *Riga, Latvia*
et adressé à M. *Riga, Russie*
(complete address)
(adresse complète)

The undersigned declares { that a letter with declared value { to the above-mentioned address, and
Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée { à l'adresse susmentionnée, et
originating at *Riga, Latvia*, has been duly
provenant de *Riga, Latvia*, a été dûment
delivered the *14/5* *Ketys*, 19_____, 19_____, 19_____
livré le *14/5* *Ketys*, 19_____, 19_____, 19_____

Signature (3) of the addressee:
Signature (3) du destinataire:

Signature (3) of the postal official of the office of delivery:
Signature (3) de l'agent du bureau distributeur:

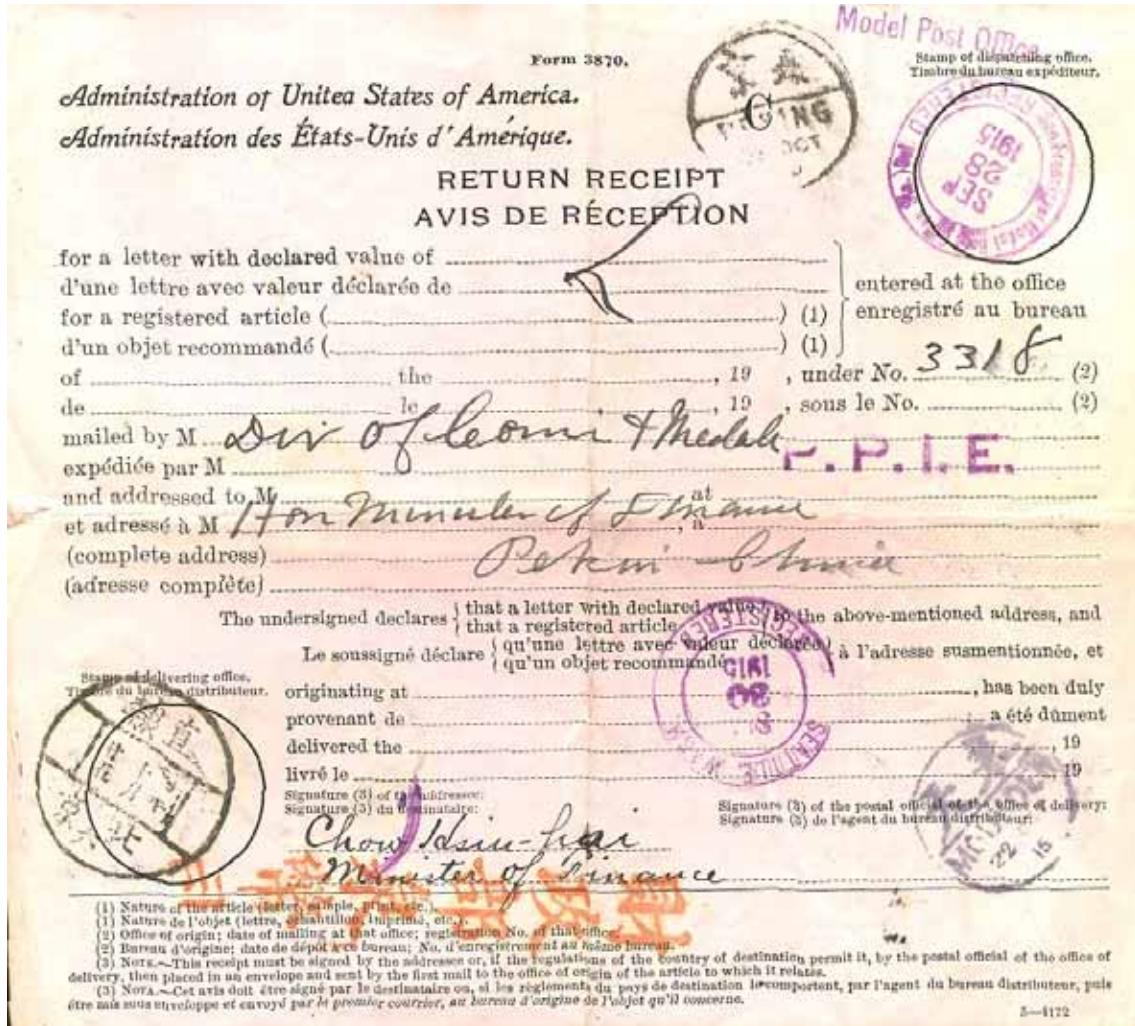
Stamp of delivering office.
Timbre du bureau distributeur.

(1) Nature of the article (letter, sample, print, etc.).
(1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.).
(2) Office of origin; date of mailing at that office; registration No. of that office.
(2) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; No. d'enregistrement au même bureau.
(3) NOTE.—This receipt must be signed by the addressee or, if the regulations of the country of destination permit it, by the postal official of the office of delivery, then placed in an envelope and sent by the first mail to the office of origin of the article to which it relates.
(3) NOTE.—Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

5-4172

AR form for registered letter to Riga, 1912. Riga was then part of Russia. Italicized and bilingualized *Administration of...* (top left).

Mailed from Panama Pacific International Exhibition (PPIE)
Second reported strike of Model Post Office; only known AR form mailed from PPIE.

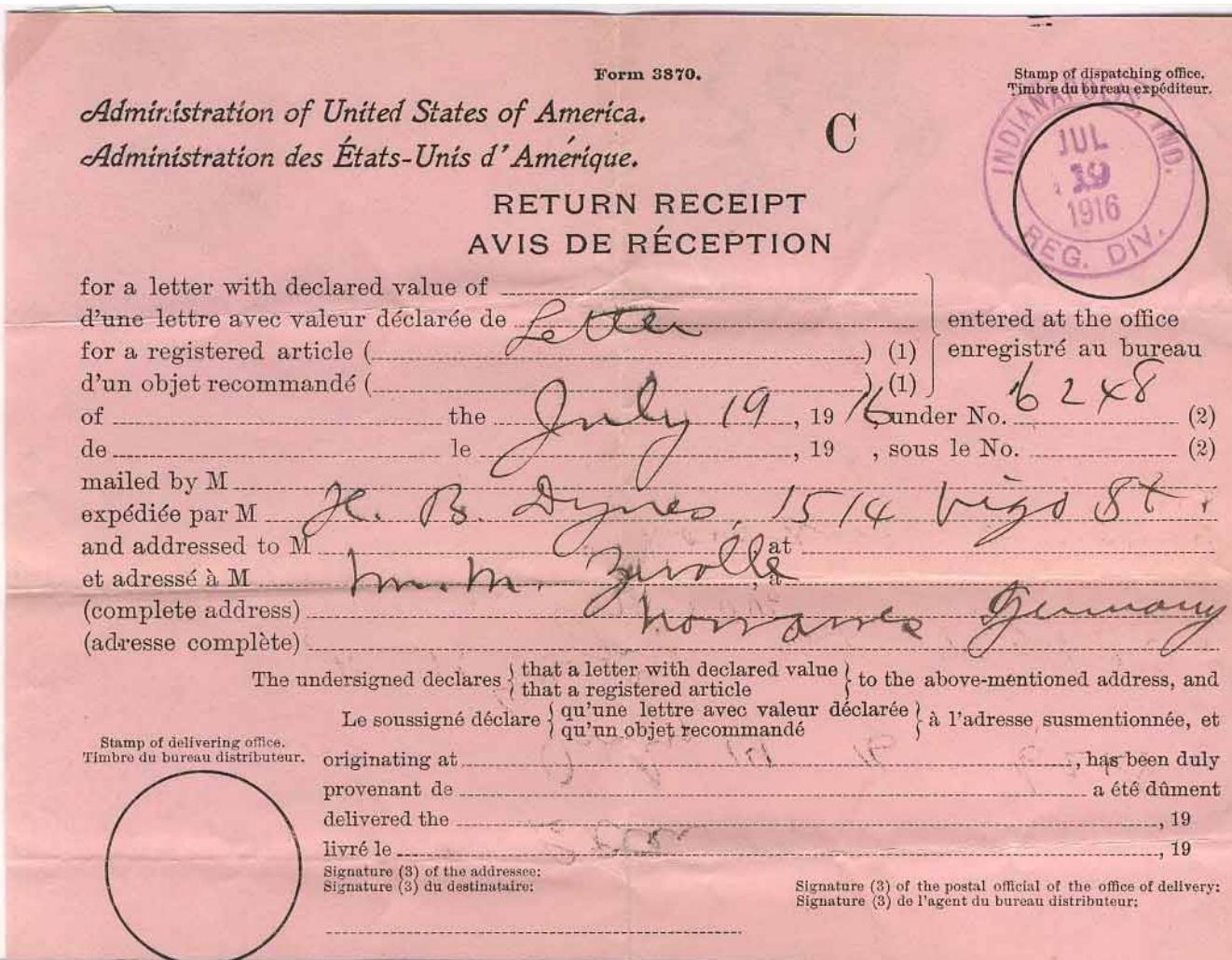


Watermarked AR form from PPIE, returned from China, 1915. Pink CDS at upper right reads San Francisco Sta (Model Post Office). Via Seattle, Moukden (Manchuria), and Peking. For a registered letter from the Division of Coins & Medals of the PPIE to the Chinese Minister of Finance, possibly containing medals awarded to exhibits.

Watermark shows the seal of the United States, about 8 cm in diameter.

Held by British military

Form still attached to cover (to Germany, 1916); held by British until 1919. Not signed for; form apparently ignored by Berlin clerk. Form is watermarked (third of three known), with US seal.

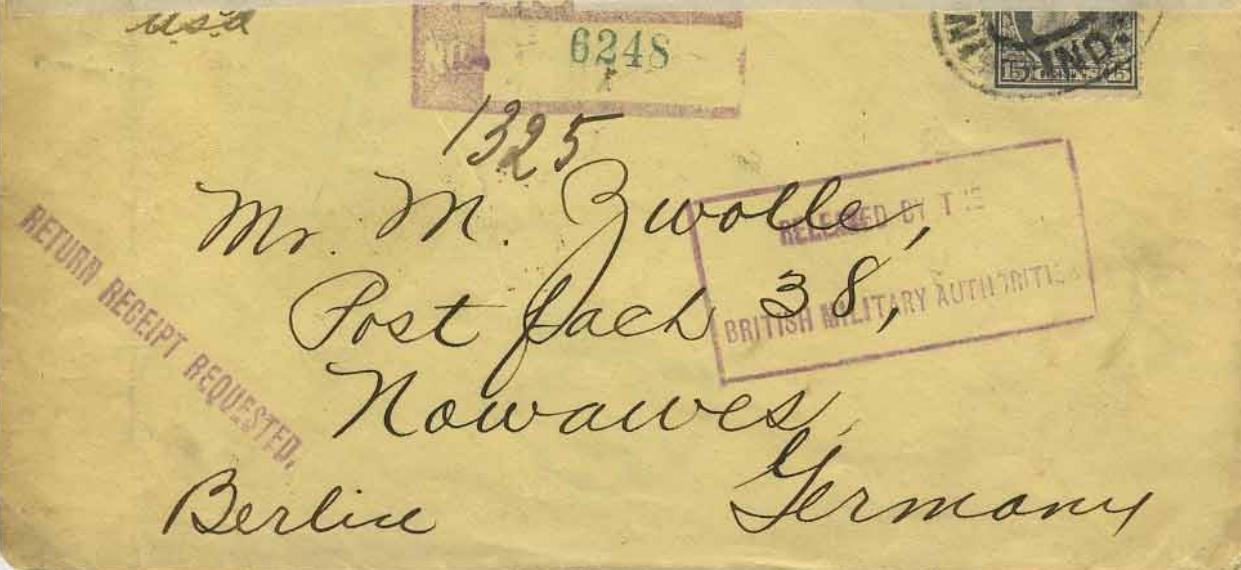


5874

5874

the postal official of the office of
ent du bureau distributeur, puis

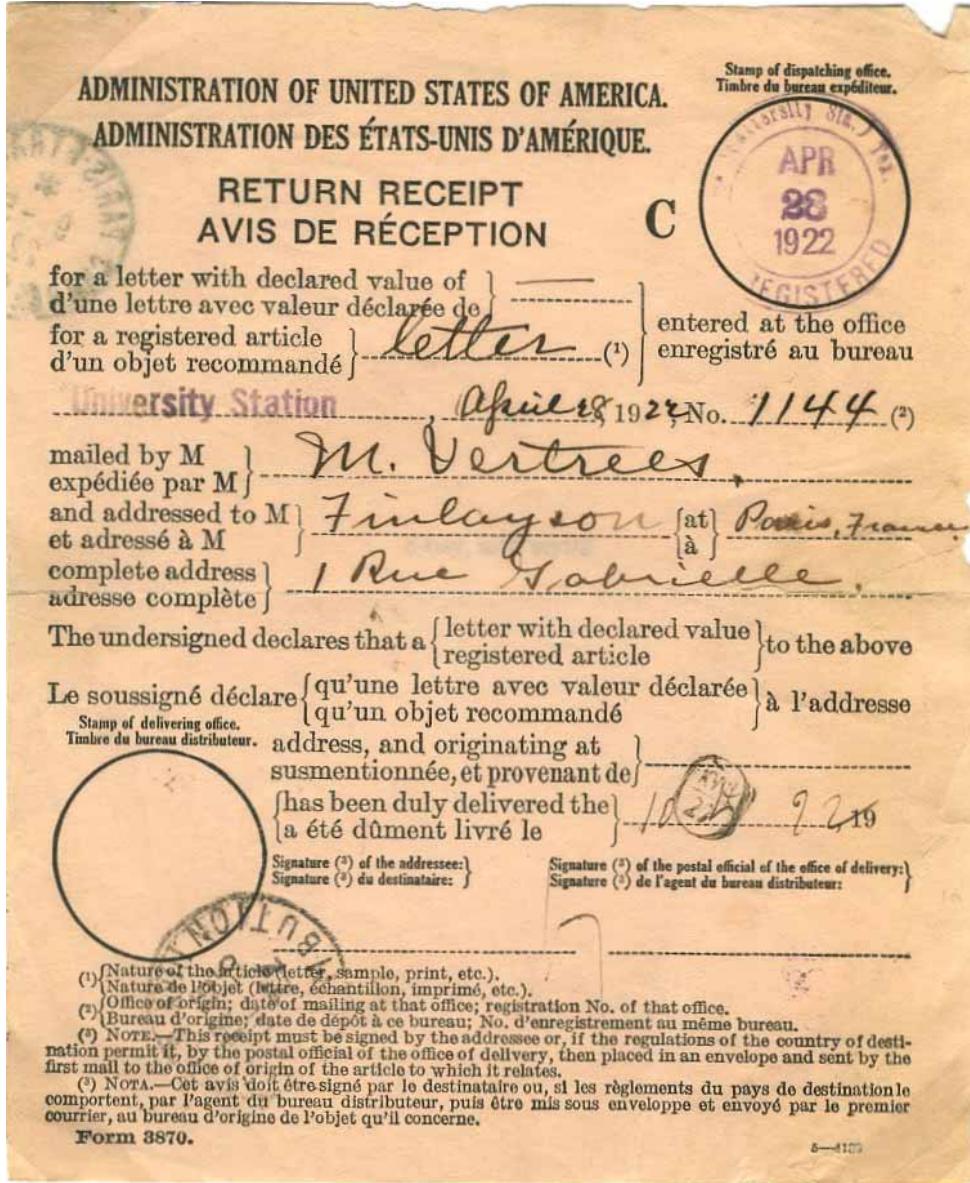
5-4172



AR cover & form, held until end of first World War, 1916–19. Rated 10¢ registration fee and 5¢ UPU rate to Germany, paid by single stamp. Both form and cover refer to registration number 6248.

Last year of use

AR cards for international use were introduced ca 1923, replacing the forms. The dimensions have shrunk considerably.



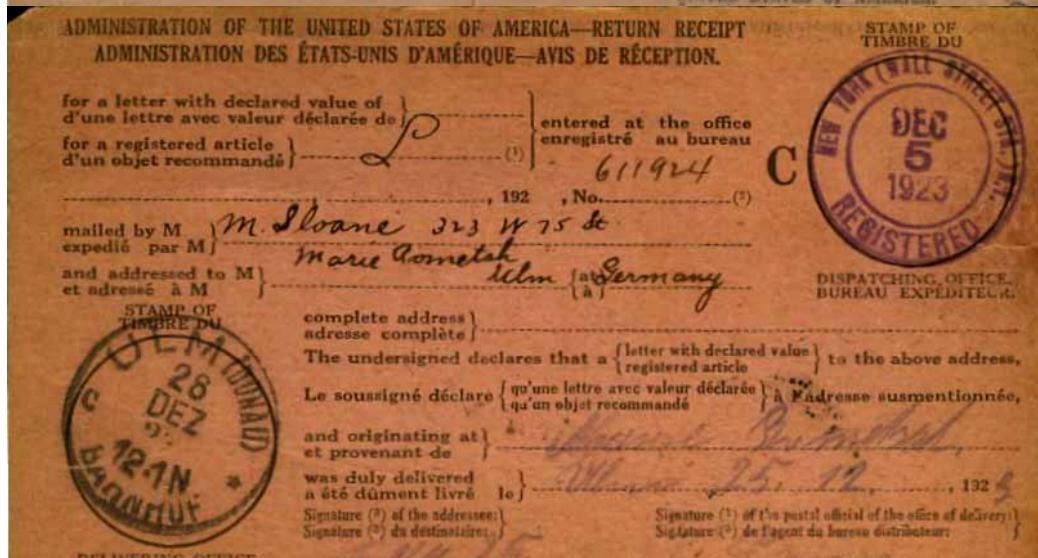
From Paris, April 1922. Small French carrier mark (lower right).

International AR cards

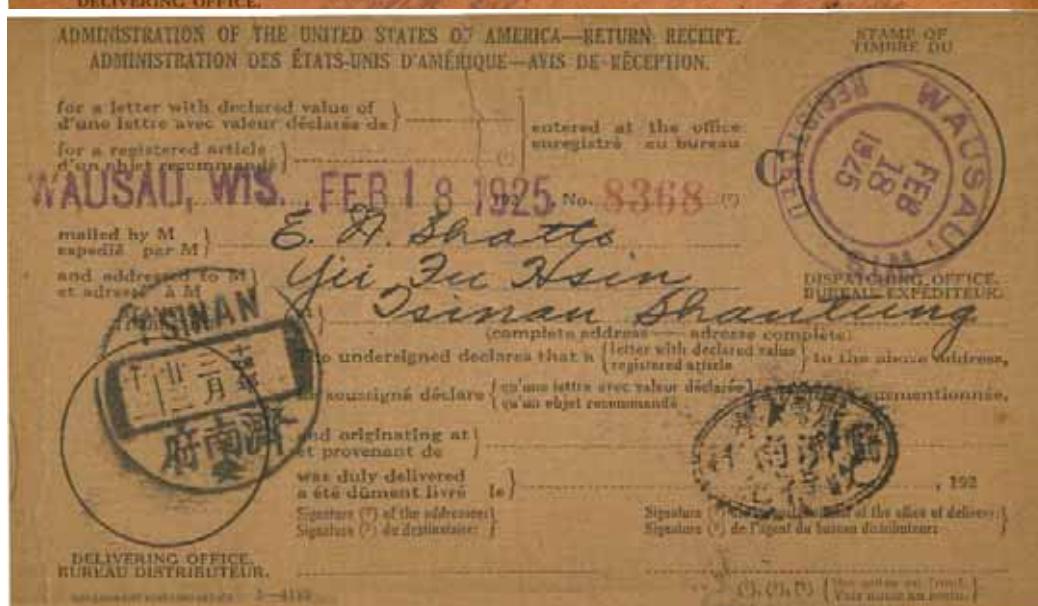
The US began using AR cards (postcard size and sent without a covering envelope) for international AR in late 1922 or early 1923—about a year after most UPU members had changed from AR forms. They travelled free through the mail, and even when the US charged for AR service (beginning 1925), postage stamps were not normally applied to the cards.



Early card to Poland, stamps applied in error, April 1923. Warsaw clerk, unused to AR cards without stamps (AR fee paid with stamps on card in most countries), mistakenly applied stamps totalling 1000 marks (AR—not the postcard rate—from Poland, December 1922–June 1923). Properly signed and returned to sender.

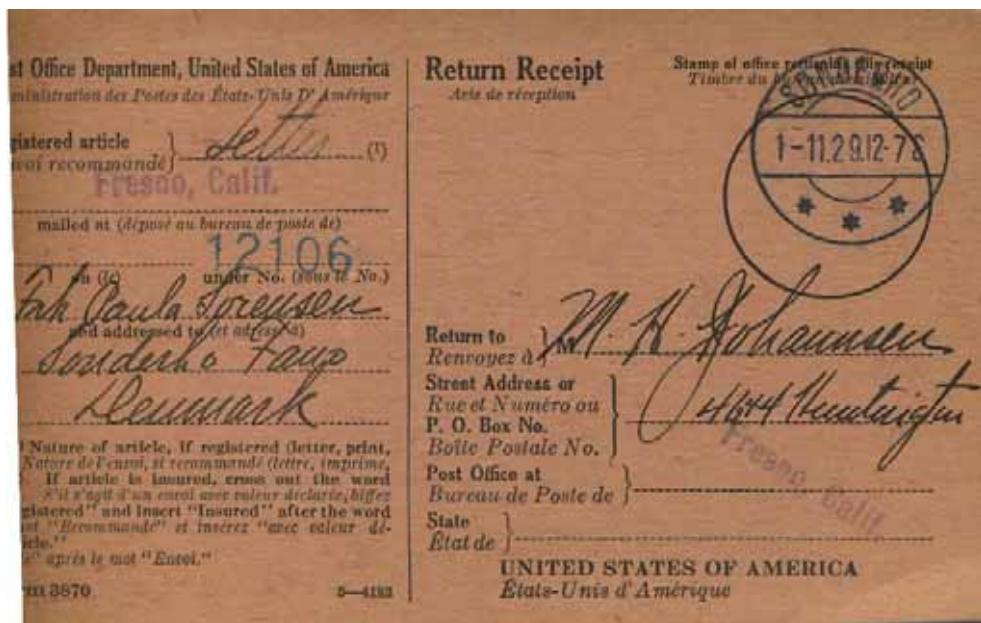


Early card to Germany, December 1923. Shows reverse.

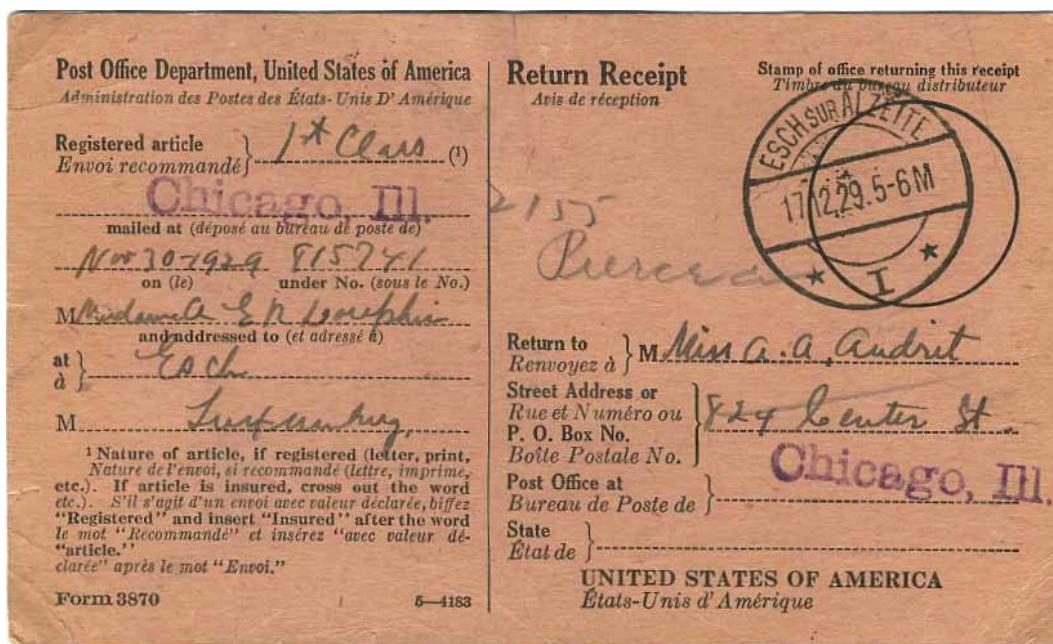


Card to China, 1925. From Wausau (WI) to Tsinan. Seal.

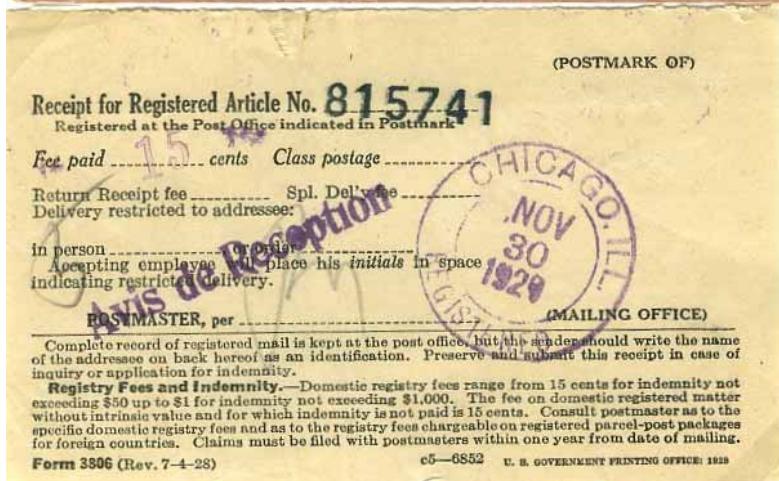
More AR cards (still 1920s)



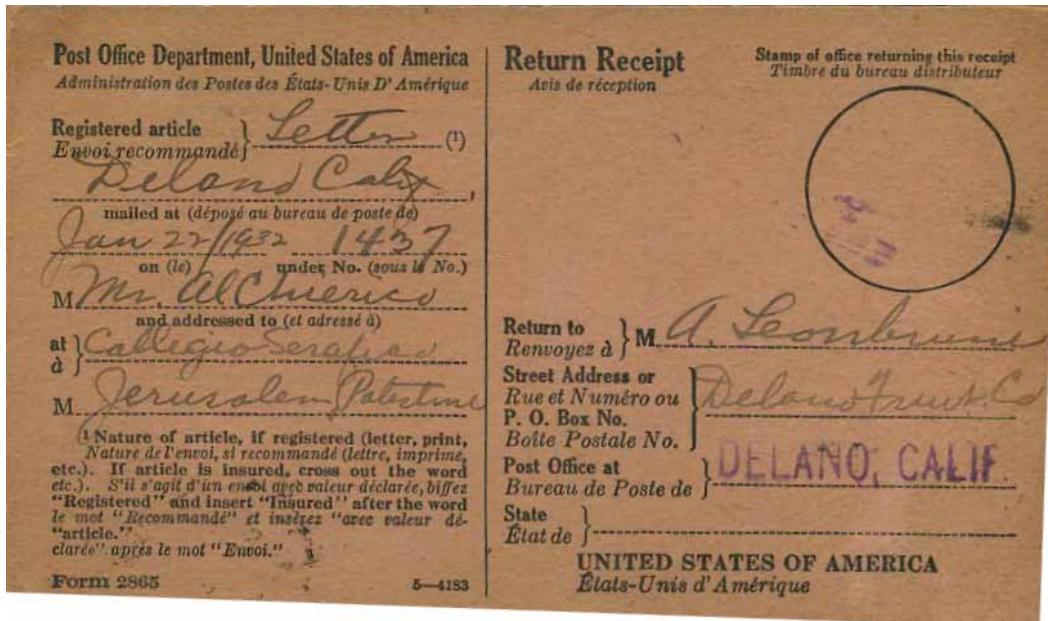
To Denmark, 1929. Fresno-Sanderho.



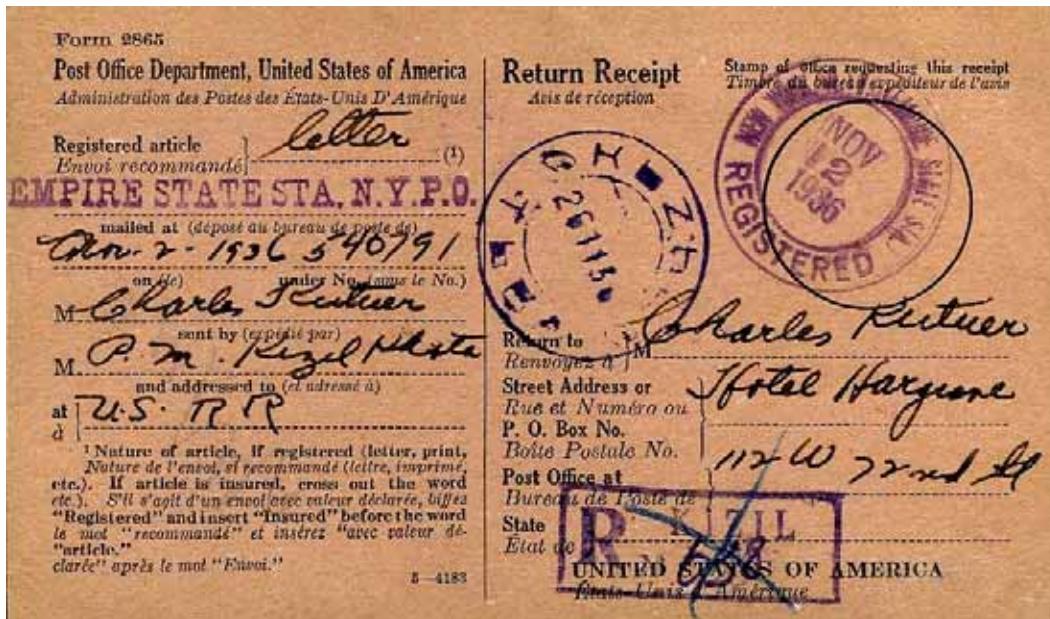
To Luxemburg, with registration receipt, 1929. Both refer to registration number 815741.



Still more AR cards (1930s)

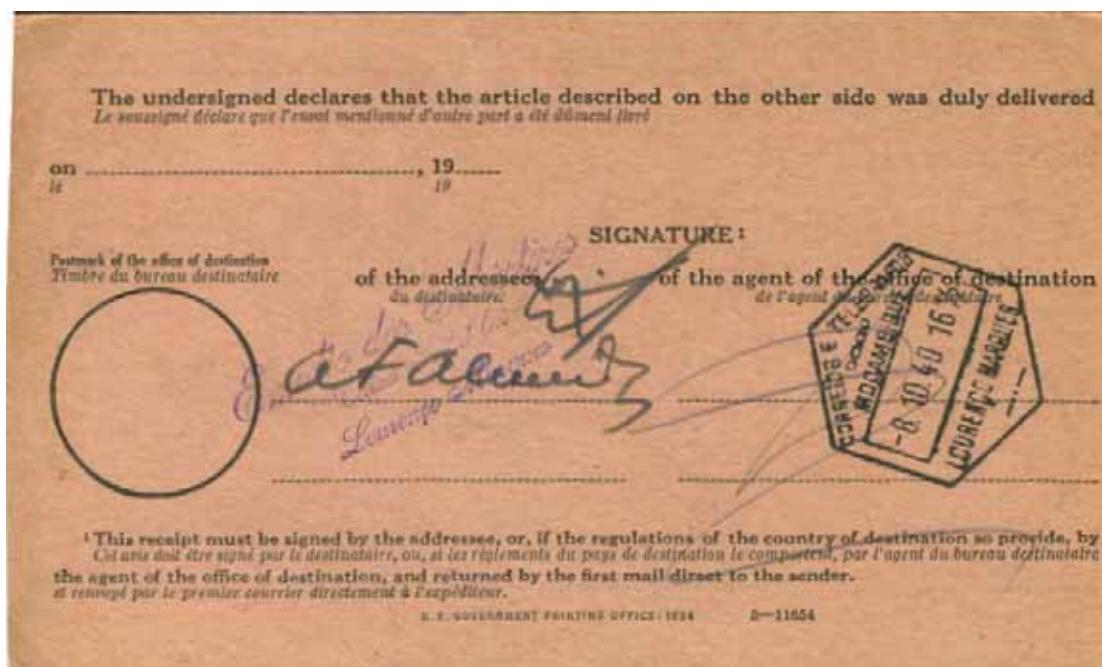
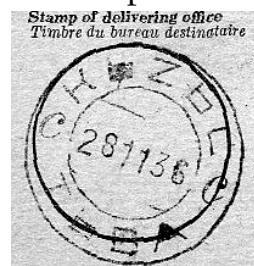


To Palestine, 1932.
Delano(CA)-Jerusalem.



To Tuva, 1936.
Empire State Station—
Kizil, capital of Tuva.
Reg'n hs (erroneous),
struck through.

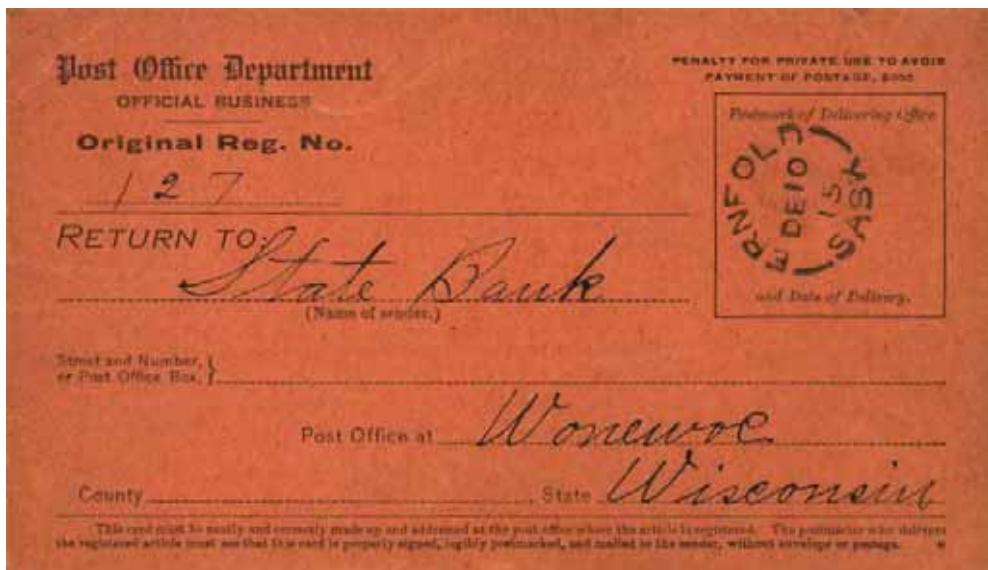
Signed two days af-
ter receipt in Kizil.



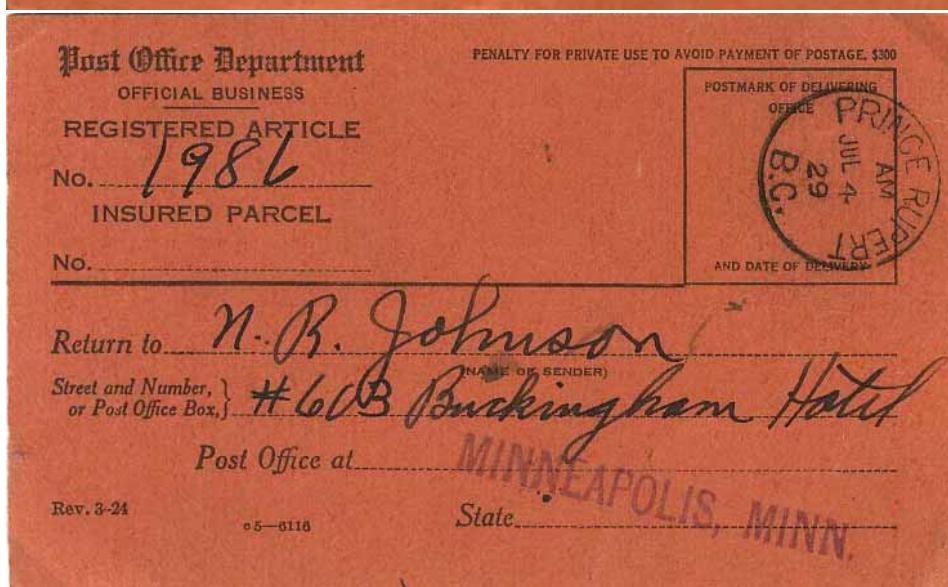
To Laurenço Marques,
Mozambique, 1940.
From New York.

Domestic RRR cards used to Canada

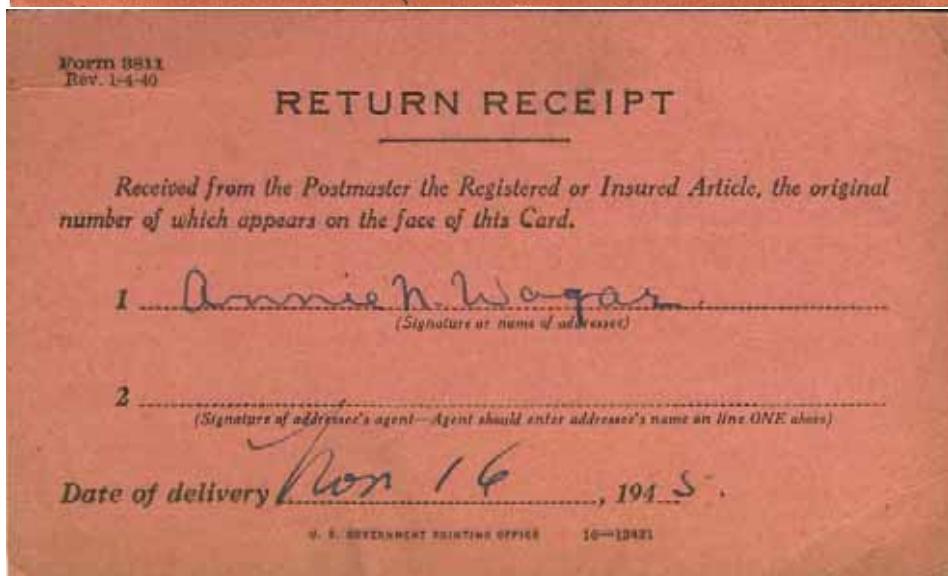
US regulations (documented from 1916, but in effect earlier) permitted offices to attach *domestic* RRR cards to registered letters addressed to Canada, provided the letter would not go through an office that had access to the international forms or cards. [In the latter case, the appropriate international form or card would be attached at the cross-border point.]



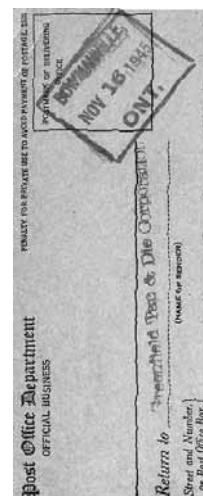
To Ernfold, Saskatchewan, 1915.
From Wonewohe (WI). Earliest
domestic US RRR card to Canada.



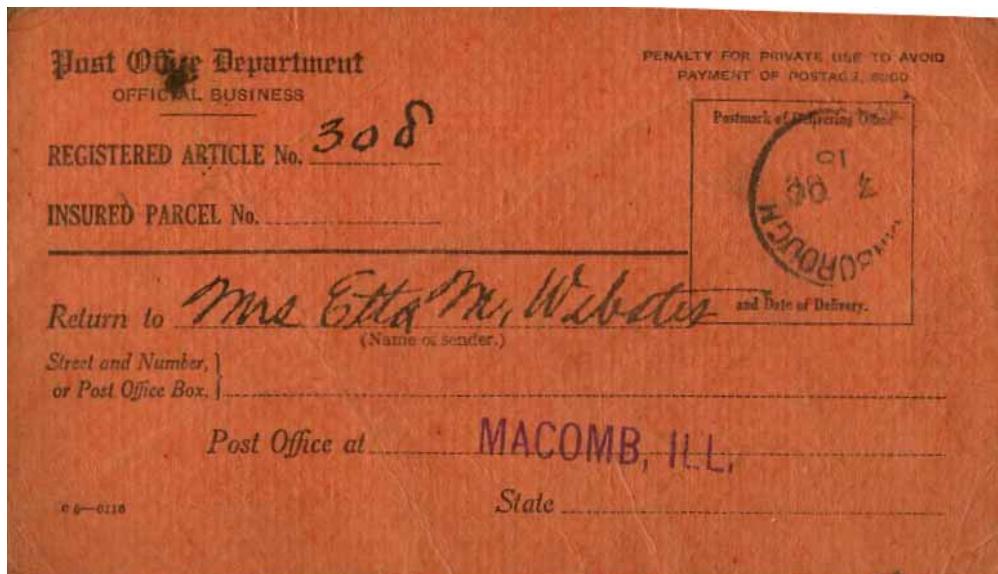
Prince George, British Columbia,
1929. From Minneapolis.



Bowmanville, Ontario, 1945. From
Greenfield (MA).



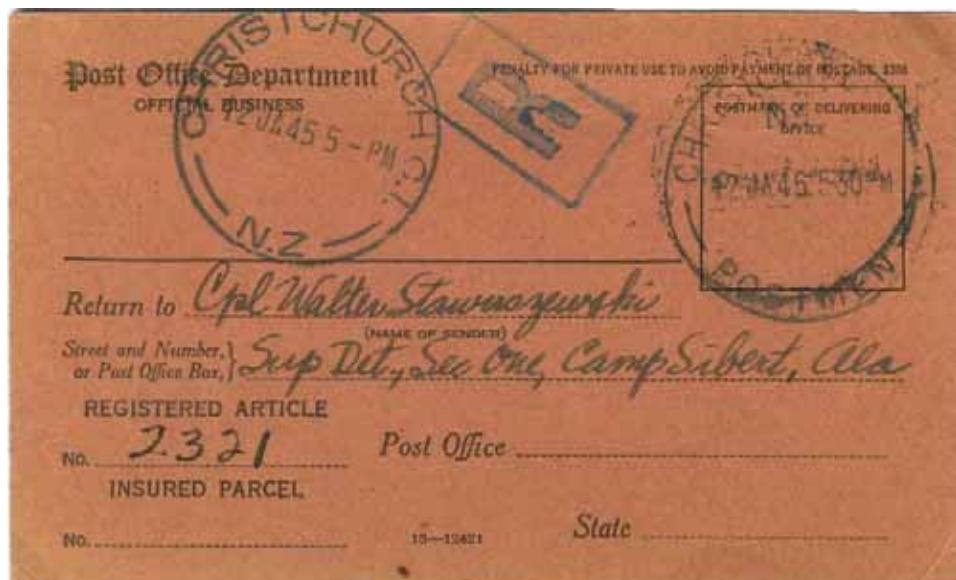
Unauthorized use of domestic RRR cards to foreign destinations
No authority has been found for the use of RRR cards to countries other than Canada



United Kingdom, 1918. Signed at Scarborough, United Kingdom.
From Macomb (IL).



Netherlands, Dutch stamp unnecessarily applied, 1921. 12½¢ pays post card rate to US, not AR fee.



New Zealand, 1945. Alabama military base, properly signed & returned from Christchurch.

Unusually, with NZ registration handstamp (unlikely that the card was sent by registered mail).

AR on insured parcels abroad

Insured (rather than registered) mail admitted AR service; however, very little insured mail to foreign destinations is known (available to UK from 1924 to the outbreak of WW II), and aside from this card, there are no recorded examples showing US international insured AR service. It is also remarkable in other respects.



To Lundy for an insured parcel, mishandled by two postmasters on its return, 1938-39. Referring to *parcel* #1 and with the text, **Registered** article struck through and replaced by *Ins* (insured), this AR card was for a parcel with \$75 insurance (likely containing covers sent to Lundy for servicing by the PM; Stanard was a stamp dealer).

It arrived torn, so was repaired with selvedge by Gade (Lundy PM), who mistakenly applied two Lundy stamps (half-puffin = half-penny and a half-penny stamp) covering the postcard rate. The Devon PM applied the equivalent in real postage (again, unnecessarily), 1d, the UK international postcard rate [not the AR fee, which was 2½ d].

Confusion likely resulted because for British AR cards, the fee is paid in stamps on the card (rather than on the cover).

real #1.

Form 2865

Post Office Department, United States of America
 Administration des Postes des États-Unis d'Amérique

(To be filled in by the office of origin)
 (A remplir par le bureau d'origine)

Ingr
 Registered article (14027) (1) (4)
 Envoi recommandé

Parcel insured for \$ 75.00 (2)
 Colis avec valeur déclarée de

Mailed at the post office of
 dépôt au bureau de poste de

Chattanooga, Tenn.
 on DEC 9 1938, under No. 14027
 le 19 sous le No.

Mailed by M _____
 expédier par M _____

and addressed to M _____
 et adressé à M _____
 at _____
 à _____

Recd #1.

Form 2865
Post Office Department, United St.
Administration des Postes des États-Unis

Ins
~~Registered article~~ (14027)
Envoi recommandé
Parcel insured for \$ 75.00
Colis avec valeur déclarée de

(Pa) *rcel #1.* "Registered"
struck through & replaced by
Ins—verifying that this was
for an insured parcel, *not* for
a registered letter.

AR covers (international)

AR service was available between US, Switzerland, and Germany from mid-1868, and between US & the rest of the GPU/UPU from July 1875. Three international US AR covers are recorded in the pre-UPU period (1869, 1871, & January 1875), and earliest non-Seebeck in the UPU period are dated 1883.

This is surprising, as there was no additional charge for AR service (until 1925) from the US; it simply required an endorsement, preferably *return receipt demanded*. Practically no other entity had this policy (AR fees typically equalled either half or all of the registration fee).



Comfort (TX) to Switzerland, 1871. One of three international US AR covers in the pre-UPU period. Should have been rated 8¢ registration to Switzerland and 10¢ postage to Switzerland, seemingly underpaid 2¢.

Ms *Return receipt demanded* (in the same handwriting as *Reg letter No. 2*, hence of the accepting clerk) and *Retour recepisse verlangt*; while the first two words of the latter were standard in the Austrian Empire, the last is known only on covers from the US. Swiss boxed **CHARGÉE** (registered).



Blue crayon 2 on reverse (applied in NY) might refer to amount short-paid (2¢) rather than original registration number.

Earliest cover in the UPU period

The UPU required AR service be available between original members in 1875, and all members from 1 April 1879. *Earliest reported AR cover from the US after the UPU was established.* US AR service continued to be a free option on registered mail abroad, and the preferred formula to indicate this was via the endorsement *return receipt demanded*. Here it is simply *Return Receipt* in indelible pencil.



Collared, New York–Dresden,

triple, 1880. Rated 10¢ reg-

istration (UPU; in effect from

1875) and triple UPU rate at

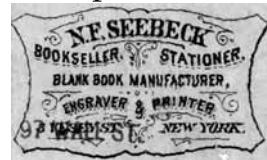
5¢ per half ounce, overpaid 1¢.

Intended to be carried by the Re-

public, it arrived Too Late, and had to

be sent aboard the next ship to depart.

The sender, *Nicholas F Seebeck* (1857–1899), was a stamp dealer and printer, infamous for the later *Seebecks*, mass-produced date-sensitive stamps of various Latin American countries.



Green seal (reverse).

Almost earliest in the UPU period

Two of the four recorded US AR covers abroad dated 1883 (the next earliest known uses) are shown.



Philadelphia–Italy, double rate, 1883. Rated 10¢ registration fee and double 5¢ UPU rate (per half ounce).
Ms return receipt demanded.



Pittsburgh–Germany, double rate, 1883. Rated as above. Bilingual handstamp (likely prepared by the sender) with the more polite wording "... requested" in English. In German, *Einschreiben, Rückschein erbeten*.

Escaped!

Earliest recorded A R cover to the US (1883).



From German tribunal to military prisoner who had escaped, 1883. Twice endorsed (same hand, different colours) Escaped. Addressed to Fort Leavenworth, location of a military prison (1875–95).

At top, *Einschreiben gegen Rückschein*; below that, in German and bad English, a request for what amounts to restricted delivery. This became moot, as the addressee had escaped, and the letter returned to sender.

Rated 20 Pfennig for each of registration and first weight UPU rates; the A R fee would have been paid in stamps on the accompanying A R form (see the 1882 form, earlier in the exhibit).



Mailed 11 August 1883; arrived in New York 18 August, departed Fort Leavenworth 18 September, arriving at the DLO 24 September, and returned to point of origin, Bruchsal, 18 October.

To Denmark, France, and Canada (pre-Treaty of Vienna)



AR covers in the Treaty of Vienna period

1 July 1892–31 December 1898. Forms now prepared in *destination* country, and AR fee (if any) applied to registered letter, not to AR form.



New York–Guernsey, triple rate, 16 May 1893. Rated 8¢ registration plus triple 5¢ per half ounce UPU rate. Sender endorsed *Return receipt requested*, and New York office applied nonserif **A.R.** handstamp.



Washington–Basel, double rate, 1894. Rated 8¢ registration plus double 5¢ per half ounce UPU rate. Washington hs RETURN RECEIPT DEMANDED, and New York office applied different **AR** handstamp.

More Vienna period AR covers



Chicago—Germany, 1893. Rated 8¢ registration plus single 5¢ UPU rate. Sender endorsed *Return receipt demanded* & nonstandard German *Rück(schein) Quittung verlangt*; New York office applied nonserif **A.R.** Standard blue crayon ms *Rückschein* applied on incoming AR covers to Germany.

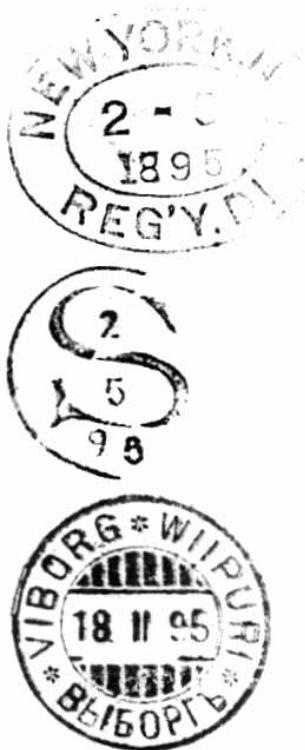


St Louis—Netherlands, returned to sender, 1893–4. Rated as above. Sender endorsed *avis de réception*. Bold nonserif **A.R.** likely applied in New York. (The 5¢ stationery really is wider than the 1¢!)

To Finland



Washington—Wiborg, 1895. Rated single. Purple straightline applied at Washington, Return Receipt Demanded & small oval nonserif **AR** (New York).



Trilingual (Swedish, Finnish, Russian) postmark.

Incoming (Vienna period)

In this period, AR fee is paid on the cover not the form; during pre- and post-Vienna for Württemberg and the rest of Germany, the fee was paid on the accompanying form.



Württemberg—New York, returned to sender, 1896. Rated 20 Pfennig for each of registration, UPU rate, and AR fee. Originally addressed to Bay Beach, changed to Bath Beach. On reverse, handstamps reading, "Rec'd in bad condition" and "Open when received at Dead Letter Office". Three officially sealed stamps. Mailed 6 October, returned 22 December.

At lower left, standard German endorsement (in use from 1830s!), *Einschreiben gegen Rückschein*, and just above it, blue crayon AR.



Transiting through US
From Nicaragua to Mexico, via US.



Grenada—Durango, via Eagle Pass (TX), quintuple rate, 1897. Rated registration and AR fees, each 10 centavo, plus five times UPU rate of 10cvo per 15gm (marked weight, 69gm).

Sent to New Orleans, and blank registered etiquette with handstamp applied at Eagle Pass (fewer than five examples known), the cross-border point.

Interesting AR handstamp with city and country incorporated.



Treaty of Washington & beyond

From 1 January 1899, AR forms prepared at office of origin once again, and any AR fee could be paid on cover or form (later card), depending on country of origin.

Chicago-Goteborg (Sweden), 1902. Rated registration 8¢ and UPU rate 5¢.



Chattanooga-Paris, 1907. Rated as above. Reg'd letters with AR were supposed to be handstamped AR (if not already) at point of exit, in this case New York—a frequent minor violation of (US) rules.



St Louis-Rome, 1909. Rated as above.

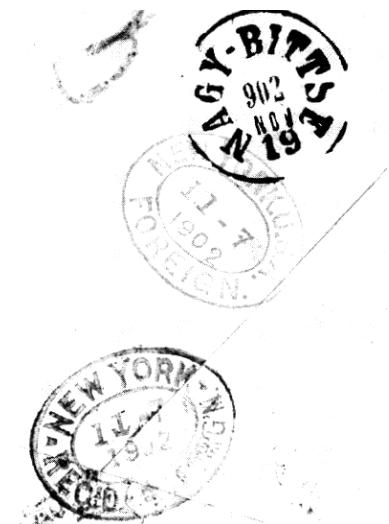
To Hungary



Pittsburg—Nagy-Bittse, double rate, 1902.
Rated 8¢ registration & double UPU, 5¢ per half ounce.

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED.
RETOUR RECEPISS VERLANGT.

Second line reads RETOUR RECEPISS VERLANGT
(second word missing final e).



Lower New York dater is bright pink.

Printed matter, samples, or commercial papers

Although handstamped THIRD CLASS MATTER, the latter did not exist for international mail from the US; instead it was covered by the categories in the title.



Printed matter to Hamburg, 1903. [very large piece] Rated 8¢ registration plus sextuple 1¢ per two ounces(!).

Octodecuple rate to Australia



*Timber Valley (WA) to Brisbane, 66¢ postage, 1910.
Rated 18 × UPU rate (5¢ first ounce, 3¢ each additional) plus 10¢ registration.*

No paper envelope could take such a weight; it must have been attached to a larger parcel, attached by the flap. After being detached, the envelope was sealed, covering a bit of the Brisbane backstamp.

San Francisco registration etiquette. Timber Valley post office open only 11 years.



Free mail abroad

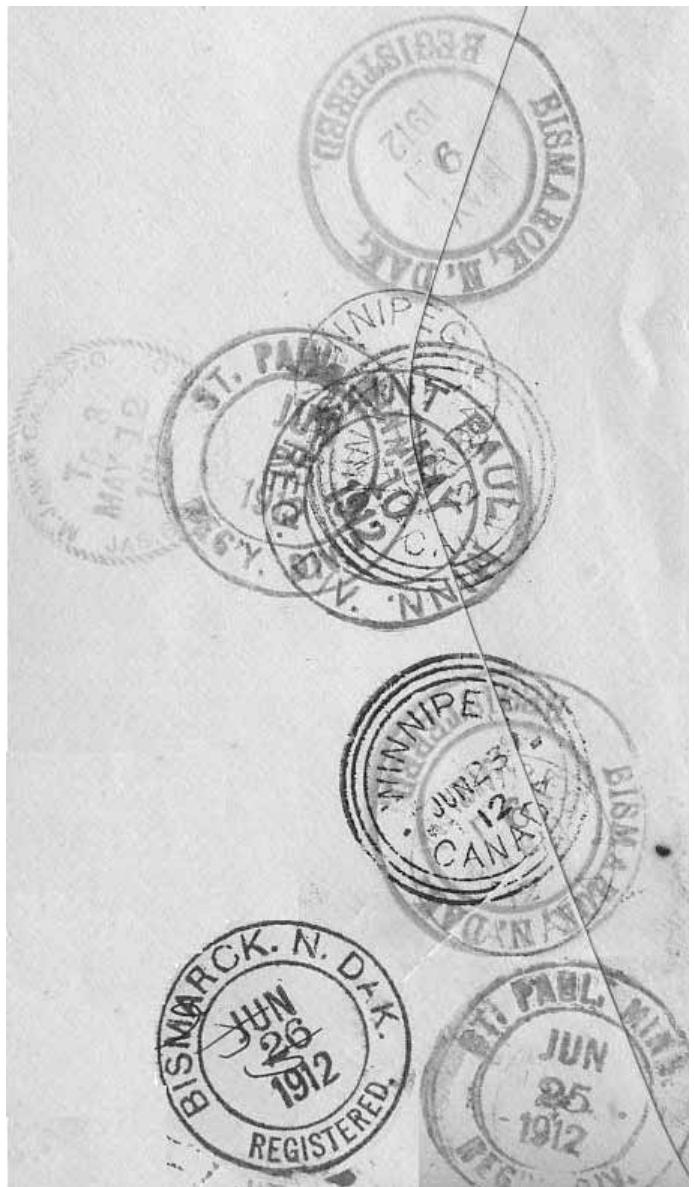
An 1888 treaty between Canada and the US permitted mail that travelled free within the US to continue without additional charge in Canada, and vice versa.



Bismarck (ND)—dinky Alberta town, returned to sender, 1912. Rated 10¢ registration and no postage (mailed from a government office). Standard (for the Department of the Interior) handstamp Receipt demanded.

Addressed to Elkwater, forwarded to Thelma (another tiny place), stayed there for the requisite 30 days, and sent to Winnipeg (three-ring orb) on its way back to sender.

Faint turquoise corrugated Moose Jaw & Calgary clerk RPO.



Treaty rates (Canada & Cuba)

US rates to some countries were the same as domestic: Canada from 1887, Cuba from 1901.



Philadelphia–Halifax, September 1909. Rated 8¢ registration (increased to 10¢ in November) and 2¢ to Canada. Earliest reported US to Canada cover with an AR handstamp. Halifax registration marking (in purple with sideways date) is scarce.



Illinois–Havana, 1911. Registration had increased to 10¢. ↓



More treaty rates

Domestic rate to Mexico initiated 1887, to UK 1908



El Paso (TX)–Mexico, 1910. Rated 10¢ registration and 2¢ treaty rate. At left, small purple straightline Return Receipt Demanded.



To dead Canadian soldier in UK, multiply forwarded, 1918. Rated 10¢ registration and 3¢ domestic rate (1917–19) to UK (earliest British postmark is at Liverpool, at left on reverse). From Billings (MN) to a Canadian soldier in UK via several British FPOs to the Canadian Contingent, to a hospital, finally endorsed *Died of wounds 2/10/16* (in blue, lower right), and letter returned to sender.



Treaty rate to Germany

From 1 January 1909–5 February 1915, the direct closed bag rate to Germany was 2¢; via the UK, it remained 5¢.

The covers below bracket the registration fee change (from 8¢ to 10¢ on 1 December 1909), and the policy implemented 1 January 1911 of putting US datestamps on registered covers *only* on reverse. The latter was not always strictly followed.



Denver-Saxony, May 1909. Rated 8¢ registration and special 2¢ rate; this combined rate was only possible for ten months.



After the registration rate changed, 1911. Rated 10¢ registration and special 2¢ rate.

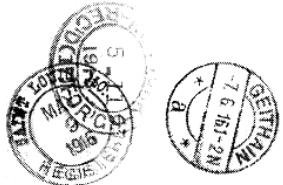
Registration stamp (F1) on AR covers abroad
Issued 1911–13 but never demonetized. It could be used only to pay the registration fee.



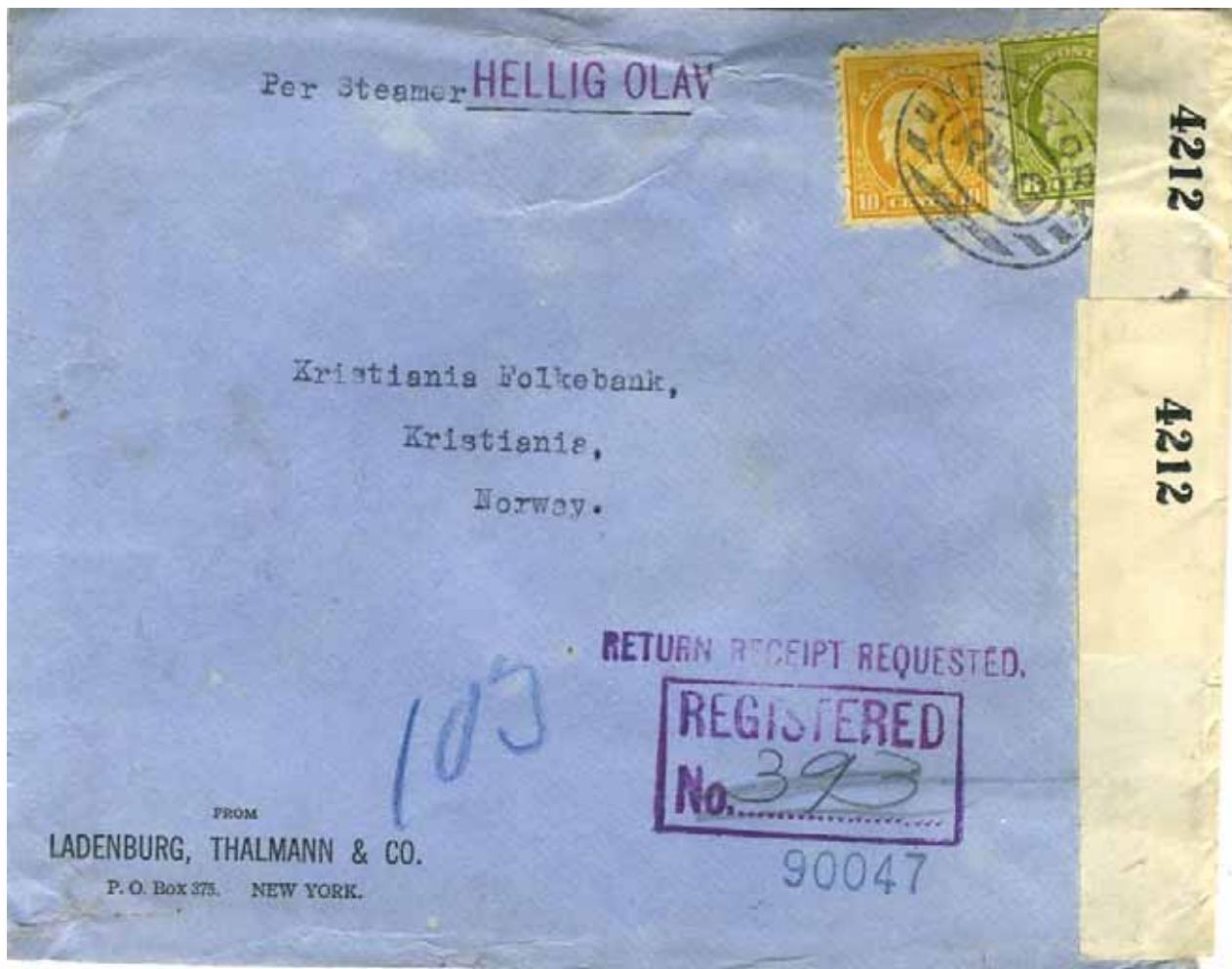
To UK, ret'd to sender, March 1914. Rated 10¢ reg'n & 2¢ treaty rate to UK. Crude New York AR hs.



To Germany, British censor, 1916. Rated 10¢ registration and 5¢ UPU rate. A portion of the censor tape has been folded back to reveal the registration stamp. German handstamp (Freigegeben) indicates no duty.



World War I

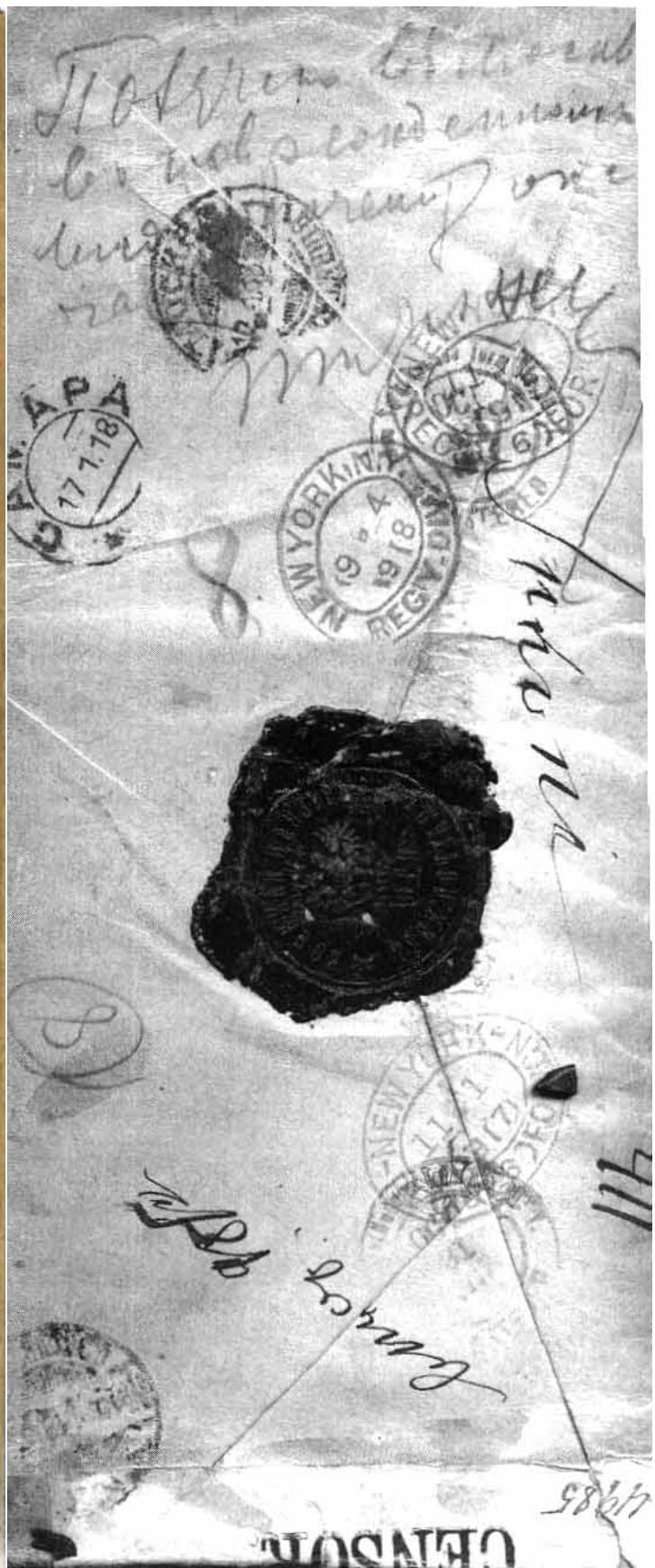
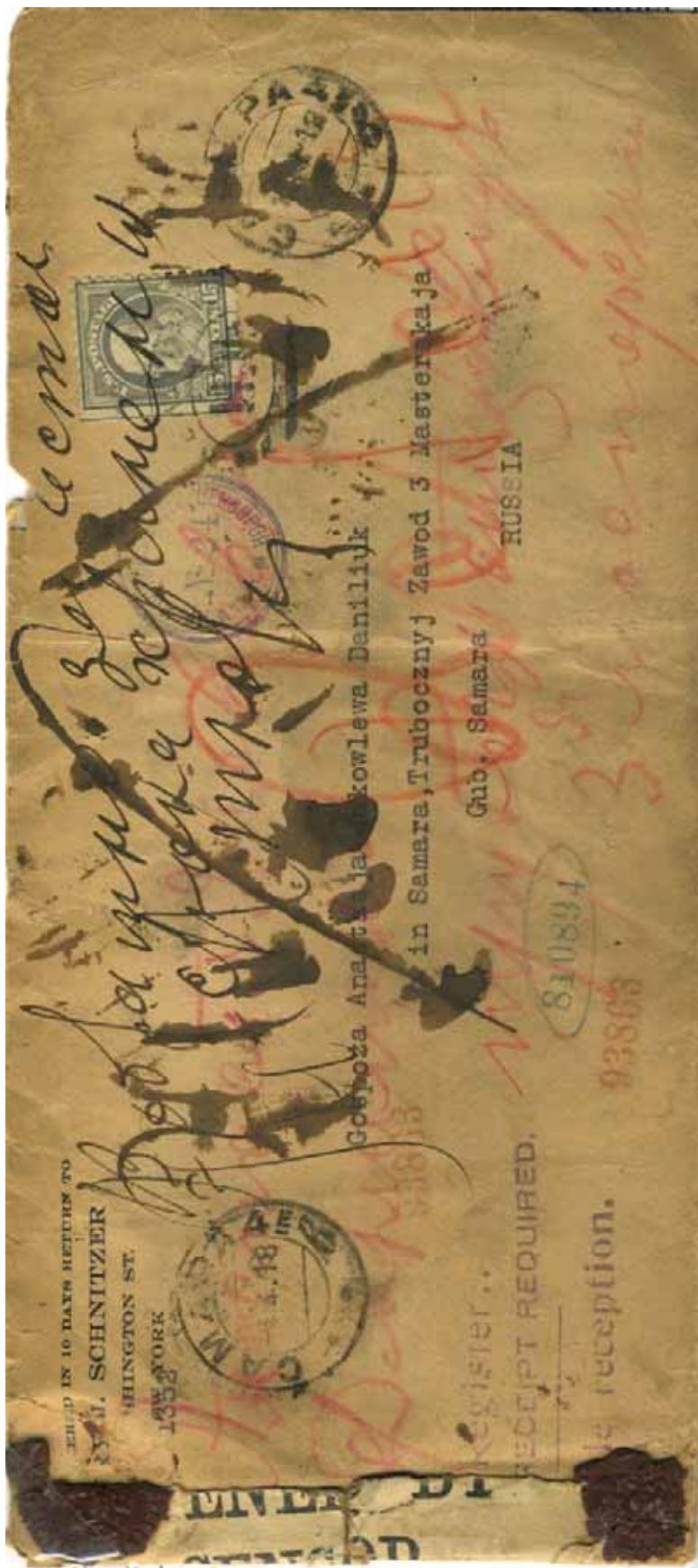


New York–Kristiania (Oslo), British censor, 1916. Rated 10¢ reg'n, double UPU (5¢ first ounce, 3¢ each add'l).



Evanston (IL)–Denmark, US censor, 1917. Single UPU rate. Forwarded within Denmark.

To Russia during the October revolution



New York-Samara, October 1917-September 1918. Rated 10¢ reg'n, 5¢ UPU. Censored New York, Moscow (No. 24). Grey endorsement: letter around too long so is ret'd to sender; in red crayon, the address transliterated to Cyrillic. Pencil on reverse: rec'd damaged & resealed (Moscow). Purple military seal.

... & after the revolution

4492



POST OFFICE, NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return to sender for the reason that
service is suspended. There are no means
available for transmission of the article
to destination

230

Moscow

Register..
RECEIPT DEPT REOUNED
RECEIPT

810780

RUSSIA

IF NOT DELIVERED IN 10 DAYS RETURN TO
HENRY J. SCHNITZER
141 WASHINGTON ST.
NEW YORK
1287

IF NOT DELIVERED IN 10 DAYS RETURN TO
HENRY J. SCHNITZER
141 WASHINGTON ST.
NEW YORK
276898

POST OFFICE, NEW YORK, N.Y.

Returned to sender for
the reason that SERVICE IS SUS-
PENDED. No means being avail-
able for transmission to des-
tination,

C-W²
Gospodin Jozef Biesiekierski
in Kostroma

RUSSIA

810783 ✓

Register..
JRN RECEIPT REQUIRED
is de reception

4459

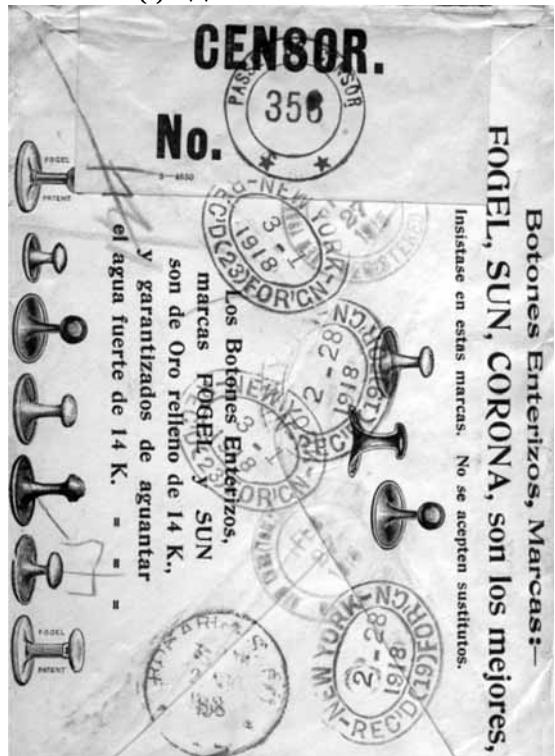
Returned to sender two years later, Nov'r, Dec'r 1917. Rated as previous. Same sender, different addresses. One made it to Russia (backstamps) & forwarded, but ret'd. Later one held in US. Different NY stickers.

To South America



New York—Bolivia, returned to sender, April 1917. Neutral country censorship (61) after US entered the war. Registration number 1 at New York. From the Aero Club of America to its purported counterpart (which didn't exist).

New York—Argentina, 1918. From a manufacturer of markers and buttons(!). ↓↓



Post-War

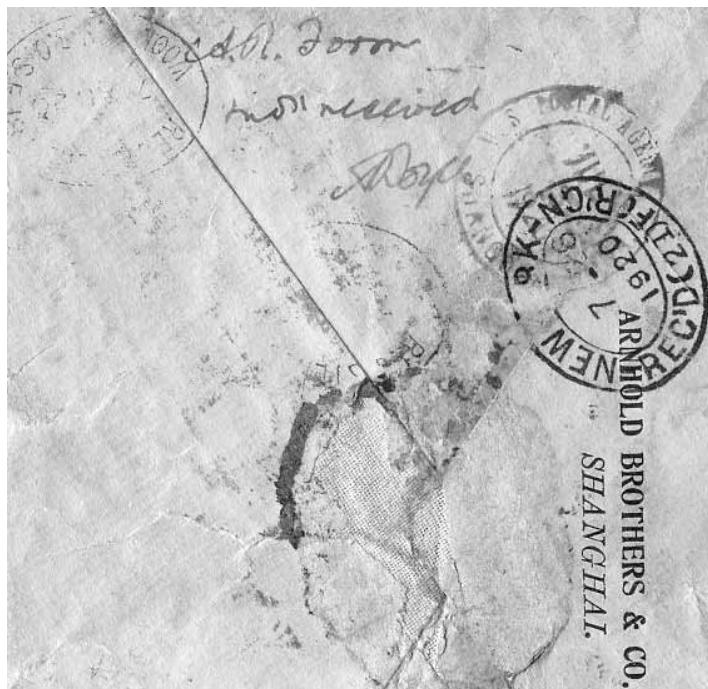


American office in Shanghai, transiting New York
Endorsed on reverse *AR form not received* in UK; duplicate AR form would thus have to be prepared.



US office Shanghai to UK, via New York, quintuple, 1920. Rated 10¢ registration and UPU rate 5¢ first half ounce, 3¢ each additional (cloth envelope). Unoverprinted stamps tied by indistinct oval US Postal Agency Shanghai China RD, on reverse dated 3 July (date ship sailed).

Per Empress of Russia, arrived Vancouver 19 July, New York 26 July, London 7 August. Ex-Unwin.



AR form not received (signature illegible) in UK (rare). A duplicate form would have had to have been prepared there.

AR becomes chargeable (1925)

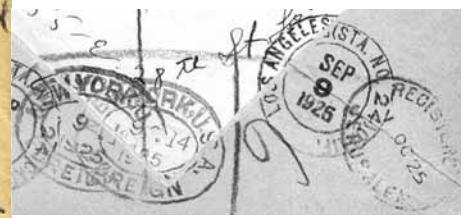
[WB] gives domestic rate changes on 15 April 1925 for reg'n (10¢ → 15¢), and for AR (RRR) (0¢ → 3¢). To foreign destinations, the corresponding rate changes are given 6½ months later, on 1 December 1925 (reg'n 15¢, and AR 5¢). The latter date is wrong, according to covers in the intermediate period; however, clerks often got it wrong too.



Correctly rated, to Germany, August 1925. Rated 15¢ international reg'n (began same date as domestic), 5¢ AR (presumably began same date as RRR fee), & 5¢ UPU. Can not be double UPU rate & no AR fee, as the former would have been 8¢, not 10¢.



Los Angeles-Jerusalem, no AR fee, September 1925. Rated 15¢ reg'n & 5¢ UPU; missing AR fee. (Could not be old 10¢ reg'n fee & double UPU—latter was 8¢.)

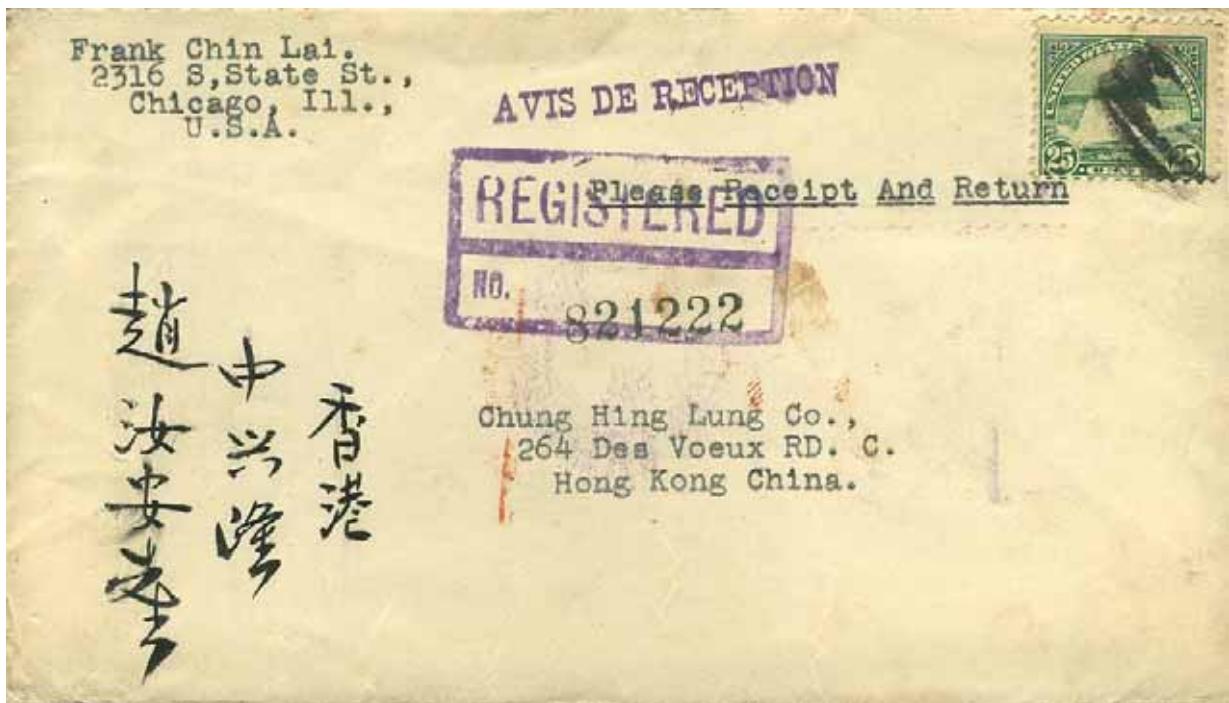


Philly-Canada, missing AR fee, October 1925. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 2¢ to Canada. Restricted delivery (... addressee only) not available to Canada, but moot; letter returned.



North Portal & Moose Jaw RPO.

Hong Kong & China



Chicago—Hong Kong, 1928. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR fee, and U.P.U. rate 5¢.



Boston—Canton, 1930. Rated as above. Sunchong datestamp.



Atlanta-Bahamas, 1927. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR fee, and double treaty rate, 2¢.



St Louis—Venezuela, forwarded to Germany, 1938.
Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR, & UPU 5¢.

To Africa



Medford (MA)—Cairo, 1931. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ ARfee, and UPU rate 5¢, overpaid 1¢. With old-fashioned Return receipt demanded handstamp.



Pittsburgh—Cameroun, forwarded twice, 1936. Rated as above. 42 days transit to Kribi, via New York, Sangmelima, & Lolodorf.

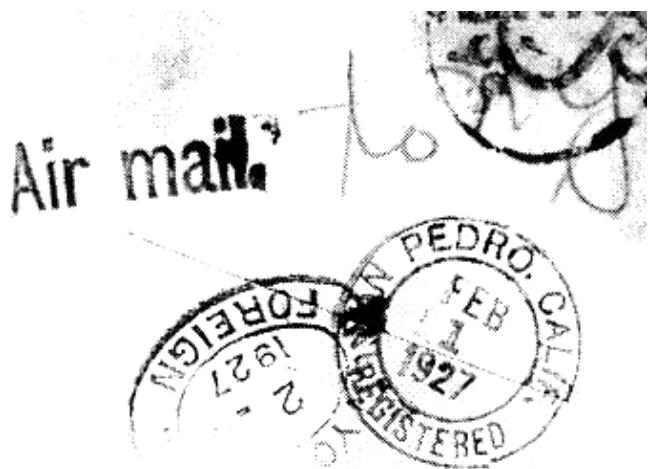
AR with airmail

Early international airmail rates were complicated, and very often confused clerks (not to mention later philatelists). Rates given in this section are not guaranteed to be correct!

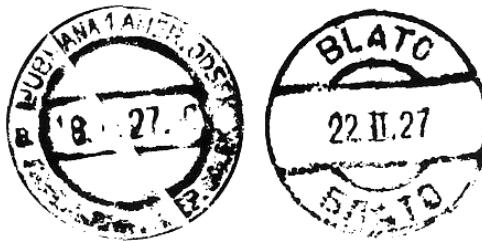


Sesqui-rated to Yugoslavia, partially flown, first day of rate, 1 February 1927. Ms AR at left, and consistent with rates. The letter weighed between one-half and one ounce.

Rated 15¢ registration & 5¢ AR; remaining 23¢ made up as double 10¢ per half ounce airmail within US: Air Mail [San Pedro (CA)] to NY—plus 3¢ per ounce to non-treaty entities for the remaining portion of the trip by surface (this combination rate scheme began on the day of mailing).



Vertical mark to the left of 1 in San Pedro dater is an artefact of the canceller. Date of New York double oval, 2-4, i.e., 4 February, confirms date of mailing.



Two weeks from New York to Ljubljana, and four more days to destination.

More early airmail



Cincinnati-Bavaria, flown in Europe, February 1927. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR, 6¢ for airmail by closed bag (from 31 July 1926), and 2¢ for surface to UK (special rate combination).



NY-Budapest, flown in Europe, officially sealed, August 1927. Rated as above.

The letter was RECEIVED IN BAD CONDITION, repaired, and a signed OS stamp applied.

Early airmail to Africa



Chicago—French West Africa, airmail at both ends, July—August 1927. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ A.R., 20¢ special delivery (international rate), 10¢ per half ounce domestic airmail (Chicago—New York), 2¢ surface supplement (per ounce) to UK, & 24¢ (per ounce) air London—Dakar (French Guinea), presumably via Toulouse as printed on the cover (listed in [W.B.] as available from 2 September 1927). Weighed one-half to one ounce.



NIGHT AIR MAIL refers to the extra (nightly) flight Chicago—New York; after 1 February, no additional charge. Carried on the Cunard Aquitania—sister ship of the Lusitania—to UK; departed New York 9 July, eventually arrived at Conakry (French Guinea) 29 July, and the destination, Seguiri, 7 August.

Airmail within Europe



New York–Basel, airmail in Europe, sextuple, miscalculated, April 1928. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR fee; remaining 46¢ made up from sextuple (6×) air mail supplement, London–Switzerland (4¢ per ounce), plus UPU (surface) rate, US–Switzerland (5¢ first ounce, 3¢ each additional). Airmail fee miscalculated (correct is 44¢); as a result, sender overpaid by 2¢.

This method of computing the rate (when no domestic air service was required) began 1 February 1928.



Honolulu–Geneva, airmail in Europe only, 1929. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR, 5¢ UPU rate for Hawaii to Europe (via New York), and 4¢ supplemental airmail, L-S.↓↓



THE MINER EDGAR COMPANY
10 WILLIAM STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y.
SELLER IN THE UNITED STATES TO

A. R. LEUBE
WHOLESALE WATCH IMPORTER
P. O. BOX 2392
HONOLULU, HAWAII
U. S. A.

More airmail within Europe

The Hague airmail conference of 1927, effective 1 February 1928, established the rate on domestic *airmail* sent internationally, 8¢ per half ounce, plus surface rate to the destination country. For airmail abroad only, rates were more complicated.



California-Germany, air at both ends, 1930. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR, 8¢ (as above), and 5¢ surface rate to Germany. Flew from Paris to Berlin.

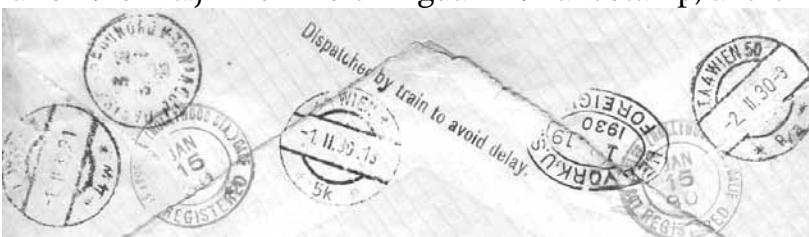


Newark-Poland, air in Europe, not in US, December 1931. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR, double surface UPU rate 5¢ first ounce and 3¢ second ounce, and quadruple 4¢ per half ounce Paris-Berlin (note two strikes of Berlin airmail handstamp, and on reverse, a Paris hs), overpaid by 1¢.

Still more airmail



California—Vienna, misrated, December 1930. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR, 20¢ international special delivery, 4¢ airmail supplement (from 1 August 1928) and 5¢ UPU rate—this was intended to apply to air in US only. (Cover was flown Paris—Vienna.) Two-line bilingual AR handstamp, and the interesting Dispatched by train to avoid delay.



New York—Buenos Aires, all by air, 1930. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR, and 55¢ (per half ounce) to Argentina by air throughout (rate began 1 January 1930). Via Atlantic City, Miami, and Cristobal (cz). Addressed to a surgeon aboard the ss *Western World*.



California—Denmark, 1931. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR fee, double 8¢ airmail within US, second weight (5¢ + 3¢) surface to London, and double 4¢ continental airmail (to Berlin).

New Jersey—Persia, 1931. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR; UPU rate up to two ounces (8¢), London—Teheran air quadruple at 10¢ per half ounce, underpaid by 5¢, likely AR fee omitted.

Airmail rate changes

6 July 1932, airmail to US exchange office (on mail abroad) became 10¢ first ounce & 15¢ each add'l; included surface fees to destination but air abroad additional. Became 8¢ per ounce 23 November 1934.



Los Angeles—Copenhagen, air at both ends, August 1934. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR, 10¢ domestic airmail and 3¢ airmail within Europe (began 1 July 1932 from Paris; previously from London).



Los Angeles—France, air in US only, double, 1935. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR, double 8¢ domestic airmail & surface abroad.

Unreported rate and route to Saigon, 1934

Mailed August 1934 from Albany (NY) to Saigon, air to San Francisco, surface to Hong Kong, and air(?) to Saigon. Only routes from France (for letters from the US) are listed in [WB].



Air at both ends, 1934. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR; remaining 40¢ made up of 10¢ by air to US exchange office (effective 6 July 1932) and presumably a very expensive 30¢ for the combined surface to Hong Kong and apparently slow airmail to Saigon. (Alternatively, 25¢ two-ounce rate by air to exchange office, and some way to make up 15¢ double rate to Hong Kong and Saigon.)

Datestamped at Albany 20 August 1934, at Cleveland same day, at San Francisco next day, at Hong Kong over two weeks later, and at Saigon a further week later.



Air to Panama & Bermuda, 1939 & 1938



Cincinnati—Cristobal, air all the way, then Cristobal—Colon—Cristobal, July 1939. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR, & 15¢ combined air mail to Panama (in effect 1 December 1937), via Miami—Cristobal.



Flushing (NY)—Bermuda, airmail all the way, June 1938. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR, & 10¢ air rate to Bermuda (from February 1938).



RETURN AFTER 3 DAYS TO
EMIL E. LUNGWITZ
TERRILL ROAD
PLAINFIELD, N. J.

Par Avion
By Air Mail

FORM 2075



VIA AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL -- REGISTERED.
RETURN RECEIPT WANTED.

Commissioner of Lands and Mines,
Georgetown, Demerara,
British Guiana.

REGISTERED

3567

Return Receipt Requested

New Jersey-British
Guiana, July 1935.
Rated 30¢ air (per
half-ounce, in ef-
fect 1930-1945),
15¢ reg'n, & 5¢ AR.



Indianapolis-Chile,
July 1943. Rated
triple 40¢ air (per
half-ounce), 15¢
reg'n, and 5¢ AR,
overpaid 1¢.



California-Brazil, July
1940. Rated 40¢
air (half-ounce), 15¢
reg'n, & 5¢ AR.

Transatlantic airmail (1939)

Transatlantic airmail became available, and the all-inclusive fee was 30¢ per half ounce, initiated 23 May 1939. As a result, a single weight airmail registered cover with AR to Europe cost exactly 50¢.



New York—Netherlands, July 1939. Rated as explained.



California—Germany, April 1940. Rated as explained. No Nazi censorship, possibly because of address.

Pinkel 3100 Deakin Street Berkeley, California
U.S.A.



To Portugal, returned to sender with AR card still attached



NY-Lisbon, with card & receipt, November 1939.
Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR, & 30¢ transatlantic
airmail. Typescript "Deliver to addressee only"
(restricted delivery) struck through; this ser-
vice available only domestically. WWII had
begun, but US & Portugal were neutral.

US (international) AR card, dull brown. Still attached to envelope by two staples.

Form 3806 (Rev. Jan. 21, 1950) **636576** (POSTMARK OF)

Receipt for Registered Article No.

Registered at the Post Office indicated in the Postmark

Fee paid _____ cents **Class postage** _____

Declared value _____ **Surcharge paid**, \$ _____

Return Receipt fee _____ **Ap'l. Delivery fee** _____

Delivery restricted to subscriber _____

In person _____, or order _____ **For paid** _____

Accepting employee will place his initials in space indicating restricted delivery.

POSTMASTER, per

The sender should write the name of the addressee on back, leave as in other sections. Preserve with evidence that he paid in mail of luxury or apprehension of damage. The amount to remit for indemnity fees according to the **Domestic Registry Form** is as follows: The basic domestic registered article without declared value and for which indemnity fees are \$1.00 to 15 cents. Consider participation as to the specific domestic registry fees and charges to be for the auxiliary fee charge on registered parcel-post packages for first class mail. Two-class domestic registered C. O. D. and mail restricted from mailing, from one cent to \$1.30. Indemnity receipts must be filed within one year C. O. D. also restricted from date of mailing.

MAILING OFFICE

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 62-6832

To Asia and Africa

From 2 December 1941, all-inclusive air mail rate to Ethiopia and Palestine (both via Leopoldville and Cairo) was 70¢ per half ounce.



Chicago—Addis Ababa, 1942. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR, and 70¢ as explained above. With British and Indian FPO hs. Addressed to Haile Selassie.



Newark—Tel Aviv, double censor, 1942. Rated as above. With British and Palestine censor tapes.

Postage due AR

International postage due AR (due to short payment) is much less frequently seen than domestic—possibly because clerks at ports of exit were more careful.



Short paid to Germany, 1923. Rated 10¢ reg'n; should have also paid 5¢ UPU rate, thus short-paid by 3¢. Doubled to 6¢ and converted to 30 centimes due.



Purple handstamp, applied at New York, of the type, "... Please advise your correspondent ..." giving UPU rate.

postage due AR,
coming & going

Sonora-US, Mexican civil war, April 1914. Mex postage, 10 centavos reg'n, 10cvo AR, & 5cvo to the US. In US, charged 14¢, 10¢ reg'n and double (deficiency) 2¢ rate from Mexico.

During civil war, factions issued (& stole) stamps. For a short period, US refused to recognize any Mexican ps as valid.

Seattle-Malta, 1923.
Rated 10¢ reg'n, 5¢ UPU rate, no AR fee, shortpaid 3¢. NY T 30ctm due. Reverse, "Please advise . . ." hs.

William Leighton
2-West Smith
Seattle, Wash



RECEIPT DEMANDED
W. R. Gatt, Esquire
Valletta
Malta



Registered

Mail

After days, return to

G. Berg

5504 Sonoma Highway

NAPA, CALIFORNIA.



Mrs. Manfred Kaiser

Poste Restante

Shanghai

6812

China

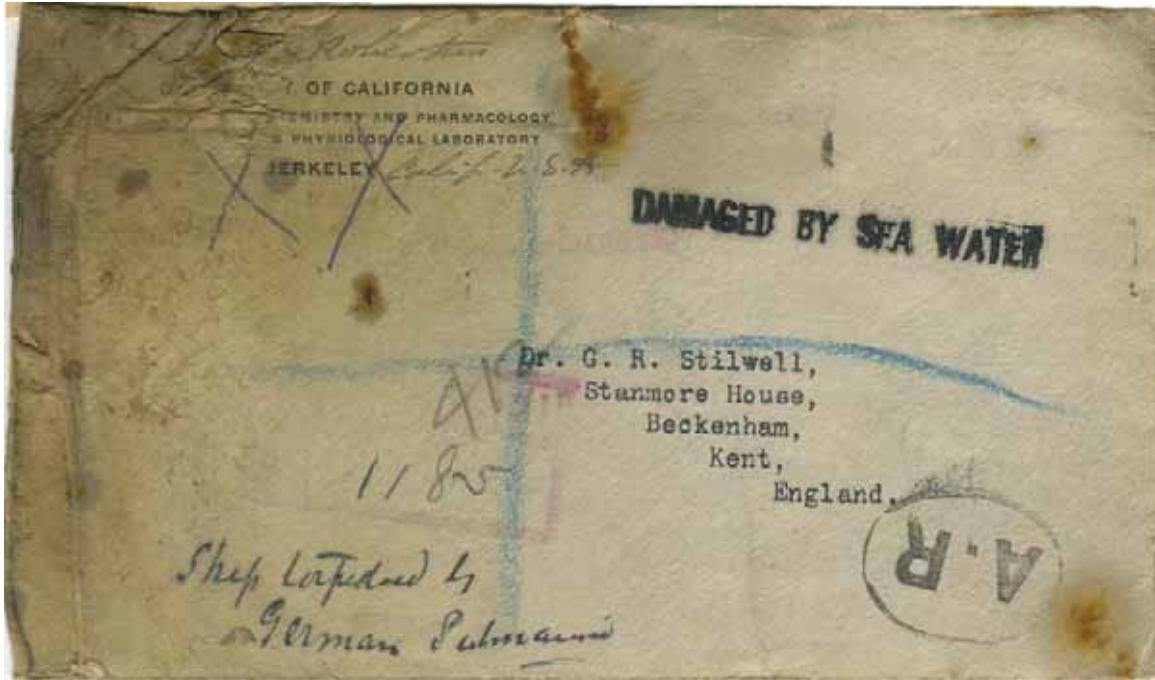
REGISTERED

2153

California-Shanghai,
poste restante fee, 1940.
Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR, & 5¢ UPU rate (China). In China, poste restante fee 5¢ (of a cnc\$) paid by stamp.
Likely addressed to a Jewish refugee.

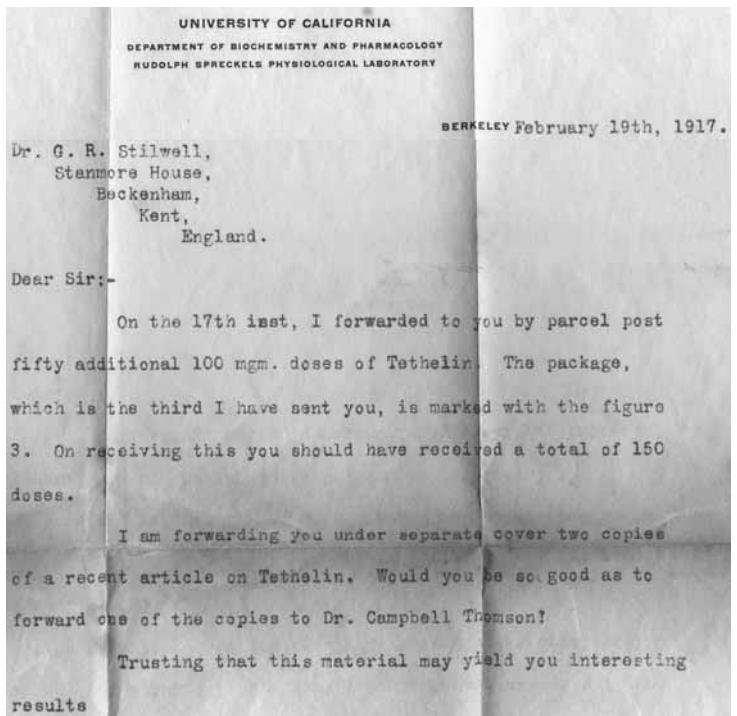
AR wreck covers

Worldwide, only four international wreck AR covers are known; two are presented here (the other two, 1920s Egypt, and a late 1940s Canadian AR card, are not US-related).



California—England, 1917. The ss *Norwegian* (steamer owned by Leyland & Co) was torpedoed off the Irish coast on 13 March 1917. It was beached in shallow water, and fisherman salvaged the mails for months. DAMAGED BY SEA WATER applied at Liverpool, as was the official seal on reverse.

Had the stamps not floated off, the franking would have been 10¢ reg'n and 2¢ treaty rate to UK.



A real wreck
Unknown ship .



Munich-California, damaged by sea water, & returned to sender, 1905. German trilingual AR handstamp. Rated 20 Pfennig (= 25 ctm = 5¢) reg'n, triple UPU rate (20 Pf for first 20g & 10 Pf for each add'l). In Germany, AR fee (20 Pf) was paid on the accompanying AR form. Mailed 28 October, returned 24 January 1906.

DAMAGED BY SEA WATER handstamp, OPEN When Received at DEAD LETTER OFFICE, and various odds and ends, such as the officially sealed stamps. These are over the NOTICE SENT handstamp, so it is likely that the cover was damaged by water on the return trip.



No. 368084 F.

H.
[Front.]

Post Office Department
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR
Washington

MAR 20 1914

RÉCLAMATION
INQUIRY

d'un objet recommandé }
for a registered article }ou d'un envoi de valeur déclarée de }
or for an article of declared value of }contenant }
containing }déposé par M }
mailed by M }sous le No. 3737 au bureau de }
under No. at the office of }

à l'adresse suivante: bearing the following address:

et faisant l'objet d'une demande d'avis de réception }
for which a return-receipt has been requested }*Package**Blue Prints, etc**H. C. Wells**Dec 24, 1913**North Yakima, Wash**The British Continental**Patentees Agency Five Horse**Kingston on Thames, London,**England*

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

(f)

(g)

(h)

(i)

(j)

(k)

(l)

(m)

(n)

(o)

(p)

(q)

(r)

(s)

(t)

(u)

(v)

(w)

(x)

(y)

(z)

A remplir dans le service d'origine.
To be filled out in the country of origin.

DISPATCH WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

The registered article in question was dispatched

, 191 , in { Jacket.
I. R. S.
T. R. P.

to the exchange office of

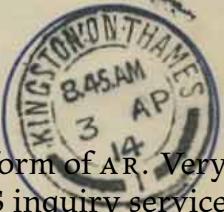
L'envoi désigné ci-dessus a été expédié dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange de
The above-described article was comprised in the mail dispatched from the exchange office ofNEW YORK, N.Y. { du Dec 31, 1913 { envoi pour le bureau d'échange de
of { dispatch for the exchange office of
London - forward to "Campania"Il a été inscrit sous le No. 3737 { du tableau I de la feuille d'avis de la feuille d'envoi No. }
It was entered under No. { in Table I of the Letter Bill on detached sheet No. }
Jan 9 1914Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné a été dûment livré à l'ayant droit le
The undersigned declares that the above-mentioned article was duly delivered to the proper
person on the 8th January 1914Timbre du bureau distributeur.
Stamp of the office of delivery.

Inquiry (réclamation)

Le chef du bureau distributeur:
Chief of the office of delivery:

Inquiry concerning the fate of a registered letter can be viewed as a very after-the-fact form of AR. Very few international examples are known; this is the only one from the US. As with AR, US inquiry service was free until 1925.

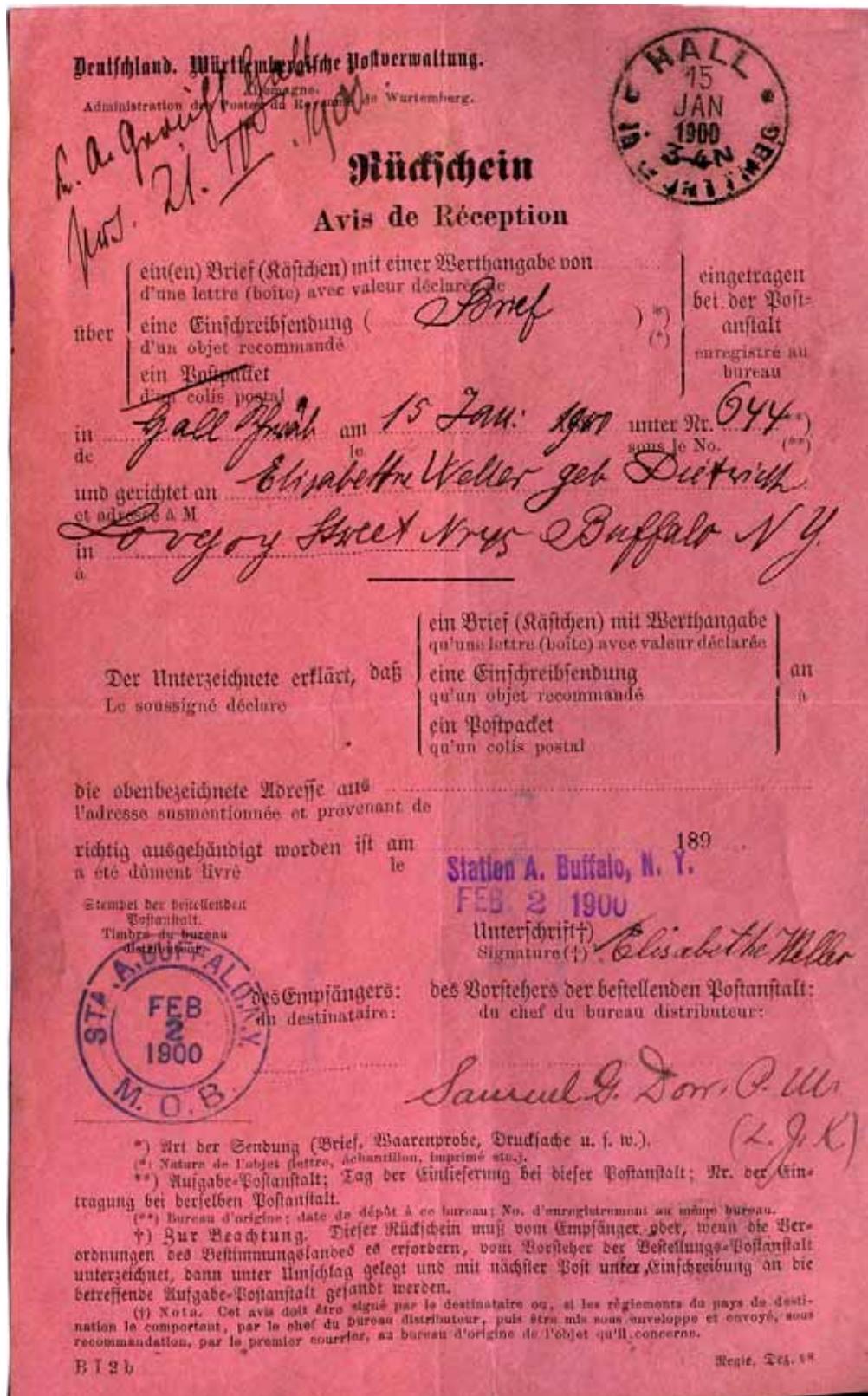
US inquiry form, sent and returned from UK, March 1914. Foolscap size (the bottom third is folded under). Registered letter was mailed December 1913 and delivered January 1914. Signed and handstamped by postmasters on route. Declared value (for customs) \$100000.



Incoming réclamation, part 1

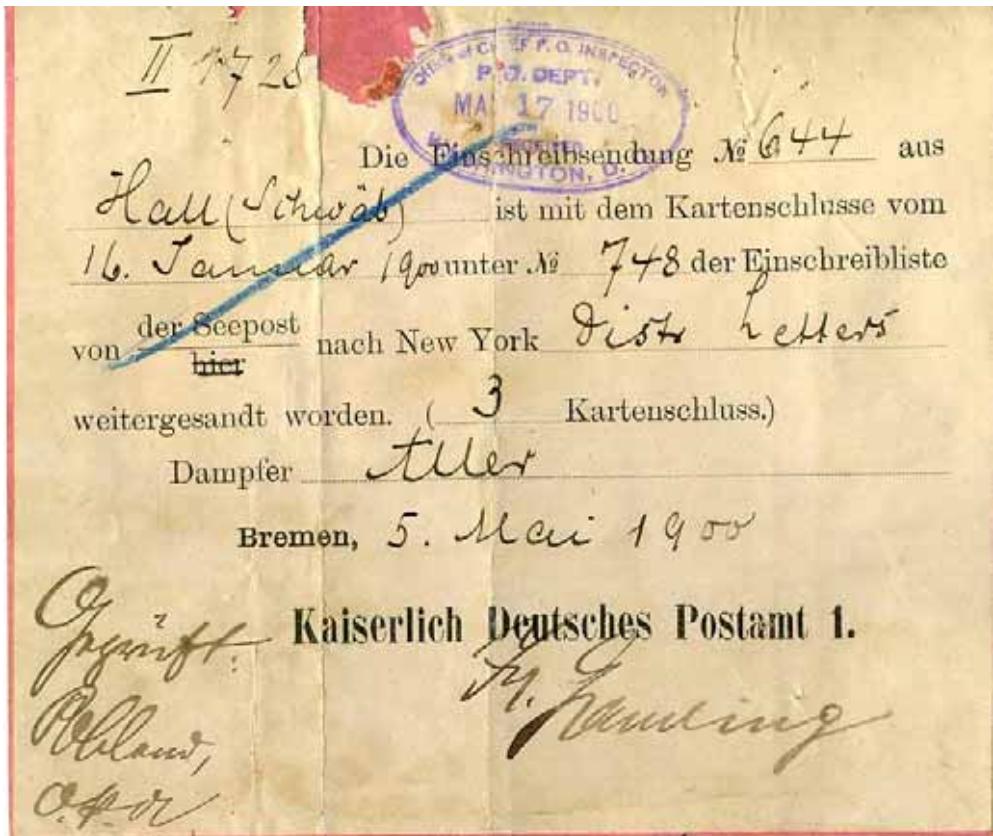
Two German AR forms for the same item, #644; on this and following page. Both are properly signed by the recipient. The earlier, dated January 1900, was returned from Buffalo in early February, yet apparently not received until at least April.

The second form was mailed in May, marked *Réclamation de l'avis de réception*, inquiring about the arrival of the same registered letter, #644, with German PO form attached on reverse. Received by Washington PO inspector in May. In August, the acting fourth assistant postmaster general's office confirmed that the item had been delivered in February.

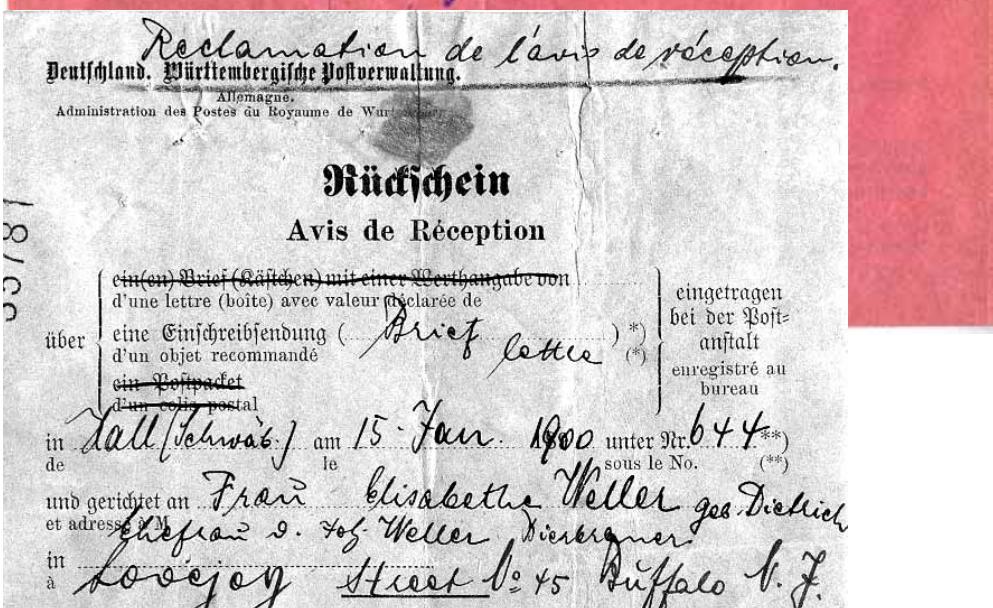


AR form, Hall-Buffalo and re-
verse, January 1900. Buffalo
money order business dates-
tamp. Notation at upper left
suggests received in Germany
in late April.

Incoming réclamation, part 2



Subsequent AR form used as réclamation, May–August 1900. Presumably because of the very long time before the first AR form was received (late April), this was sent out, as a (provisional) inquiry, Réclamation de l'avis de réception.



The covers on this and the following pages didn't make the cut

To Romania, 1937.
Seattle—Cluj.

Form 2960

Post Office Department, United States of America
Administration des Postes des Etats-Unis d'Amérique

(To be filled in by the office of origin)
(A remplir par le bureau d'origine)

Registered article () (1) (2)
Envelop recommandé

Parcel insured for \$...
Cette valeur déclarée de (7)
Mailed at the post office of SEATTLE, WASH.
déposé au bureau de poste de

on , 19 , under No. 4328
le 19 sous le No.

Mailed by M _____
expédié par M _____

and addressed to M. Ursule Eras
et adressé à M. Ursule Eras
at 23 Calea Regale
Cluj (Romania)

¹ Indicate in the parentheses the nature of the article.
Indiquer dans la parenthèse la nature de l'envoi (lettre, etc.).
imprimé, etc.).

² Strike out the indications not applicable.
Biffer les indications inutiles.

Return Receipt
avis de réception

C5
Postmark of the office returning the receipt
Timbre du bureau renvoyant l'avis

(To be filled in by the sender.
(A remplir par l'expéditeur
who will indicate below his
qui mentionnera ci-dessous son
complete address)
adresse complète)

M S. Tartaglia
209 - University St.
(Street and number)
(Rue et numéro)
SEATTLE, WASH.

at _____
(Place of destination, in large characters)
(Lieu de destination, en gros caractères)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Etats-Unis d' Amérique

POSTAL SERVICE
Service des postes

8-11654

Anomalous early RRR handstamp

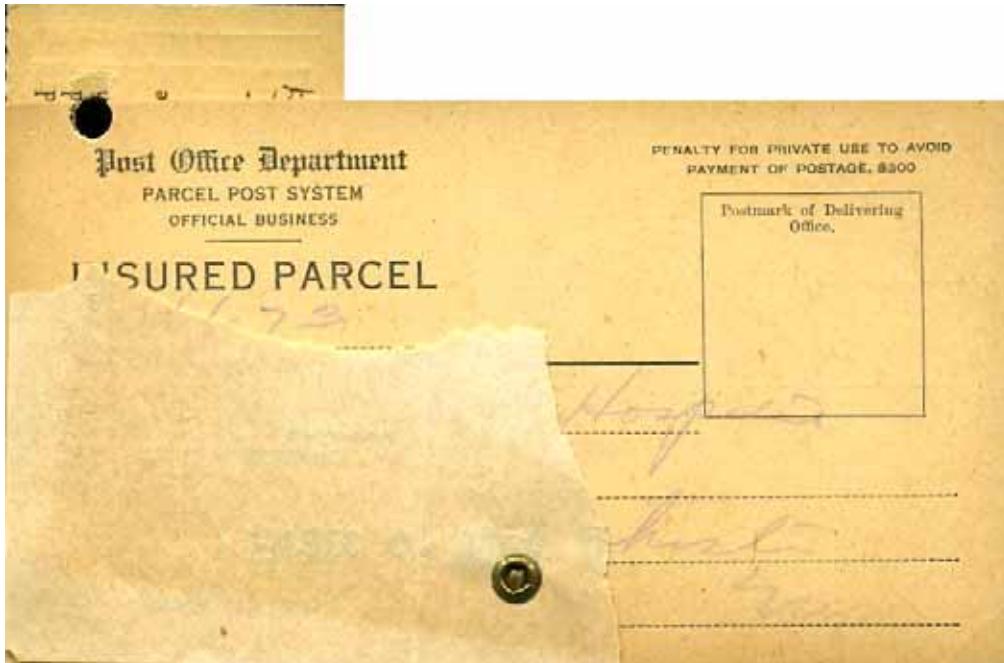
RRR was compulsory on registered letters until mid-1910, so the handstamp is redundant. Likely it was applied out of force of habit—the sender was used to sending *international* registered items with AR, which was a free option from 1875. The Seward stamp is over, not under, the double oval.



RRR card for insured parcel post
Ordinary RRR cards could also be used for this purpose.



Card with parcel post receipt attached, 1915. Rated 5¢ insurance. Properly signed by recipient on reverse.



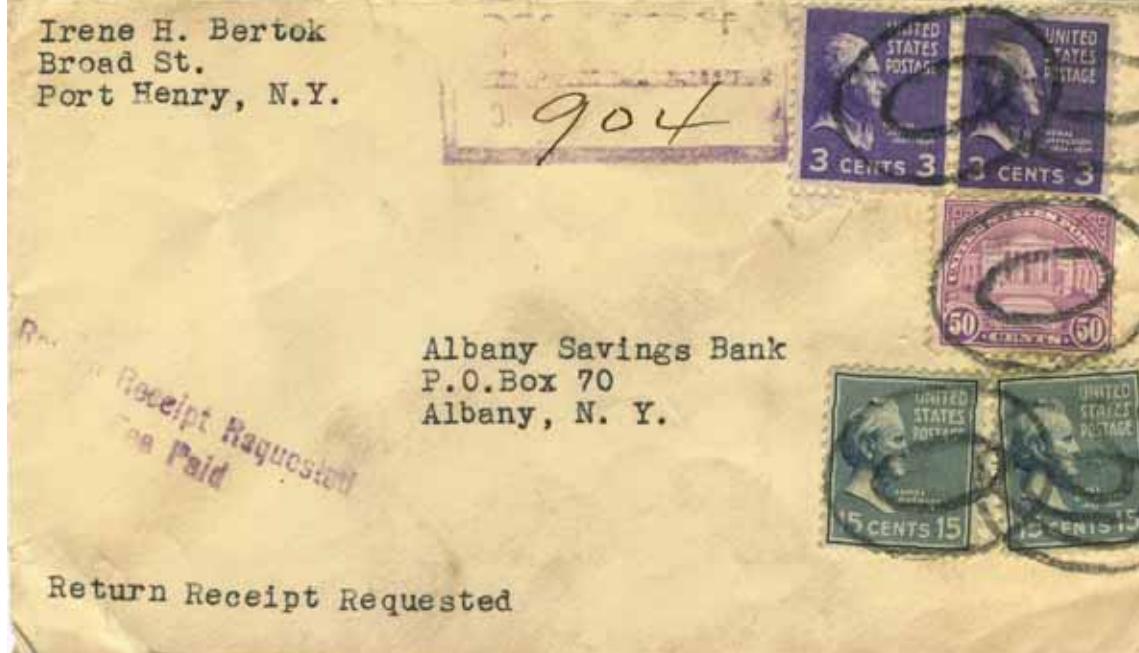


Extra indemnity with air-mail and special delivery, 1936. Rated 18¢ registration with insurance up to \$25, 3¢ RRR, 10¢ special delivery, and 6¢ airmail.

From Olney (TX) to Erie (PA) in one day.



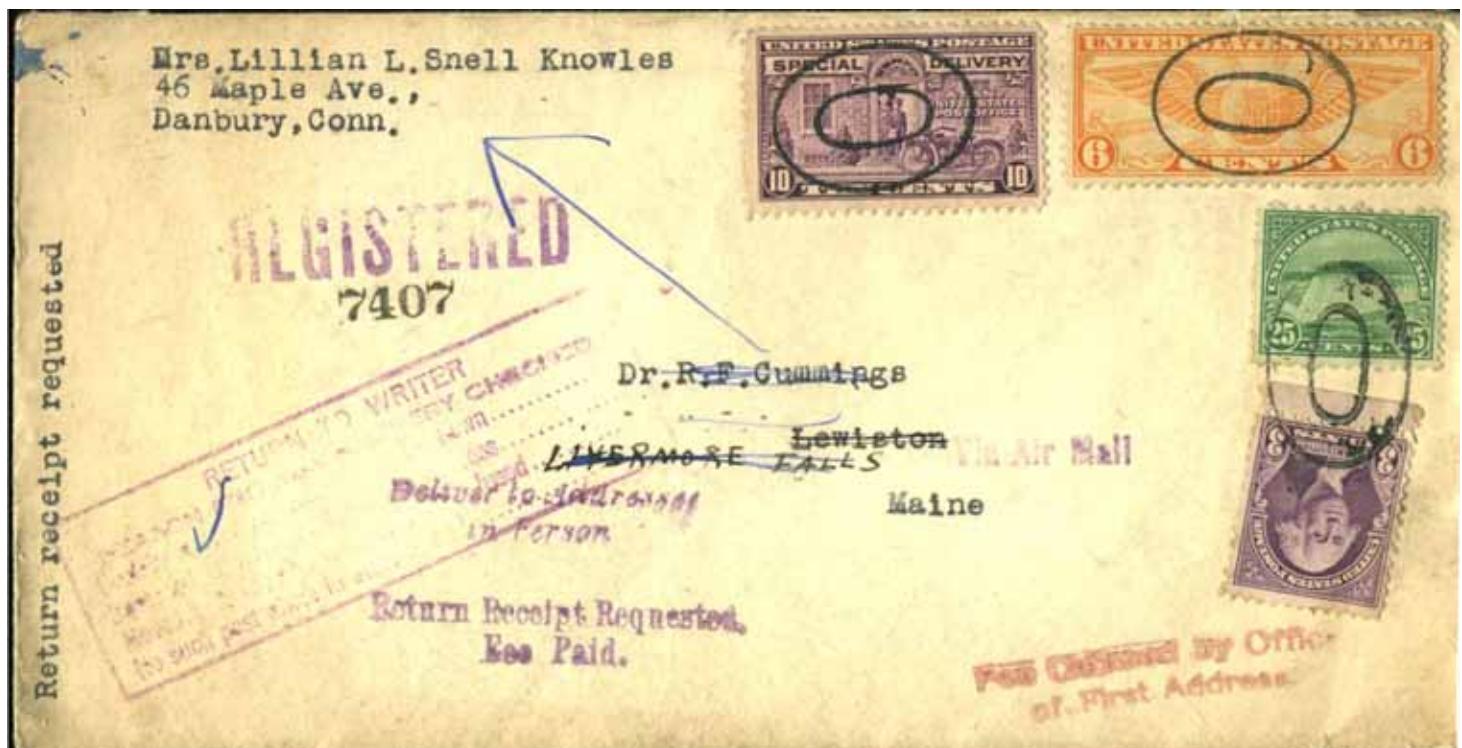
Either extra indemnity or double domestic, November 1932. Rated 15¢ registration (18¢ with indemnity up to \$25), 3¢ RRR, and double 3¢ domestic (single). There is no way to decide which combination is correct; the envelope does not seem stressed, so single rate (and extra indemnity) seems slightly more likely.



Port Henry-Albany (NY), 1939. Rated 80¢ registration with indemnity up to \$600, 3¢ RRR, and 3¢ domestic.

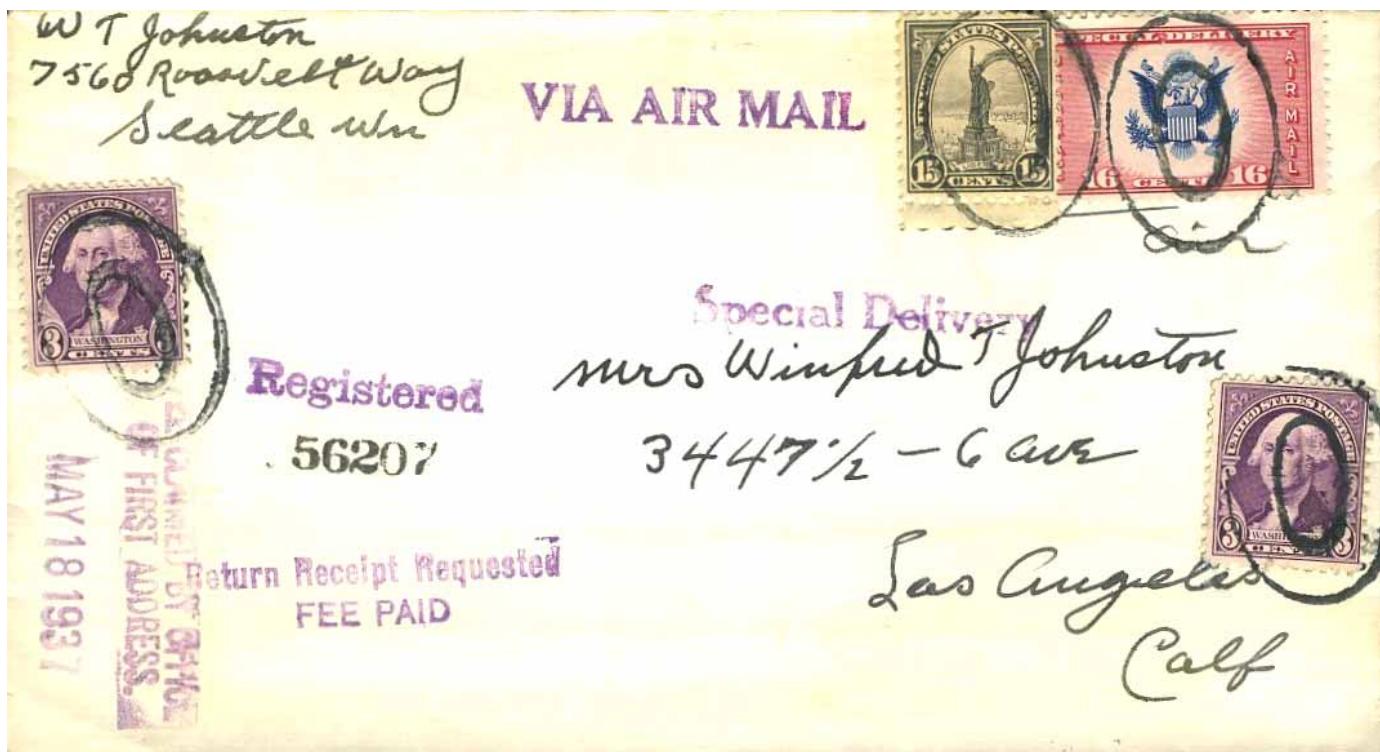
Almost one stamp per service

In both cases, one stamp pays for two services, the others pay for one



Restricted delivery, 1938. Combined registration (15¢) and restricted delivery (10¢) [small hs *Deliver to addressee in person*] paid by 25¢ stamp; RRR (3¢), airmail (6¢), and special delivery (10¢) each paid by single stamp.

From Danbury (CT) to Lewiston (ME), forwarded to Livermore Falls, and returned to sender.



Extra indemnity, 1937. Combined air mail and special delivery paid by single stamp. One 3¢ stamp pays the RRR fee, the other pays the difference between registration with indemnity up to \$25 and ordinary registration—OK, this is stretching it.

Pretty RRR covers

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



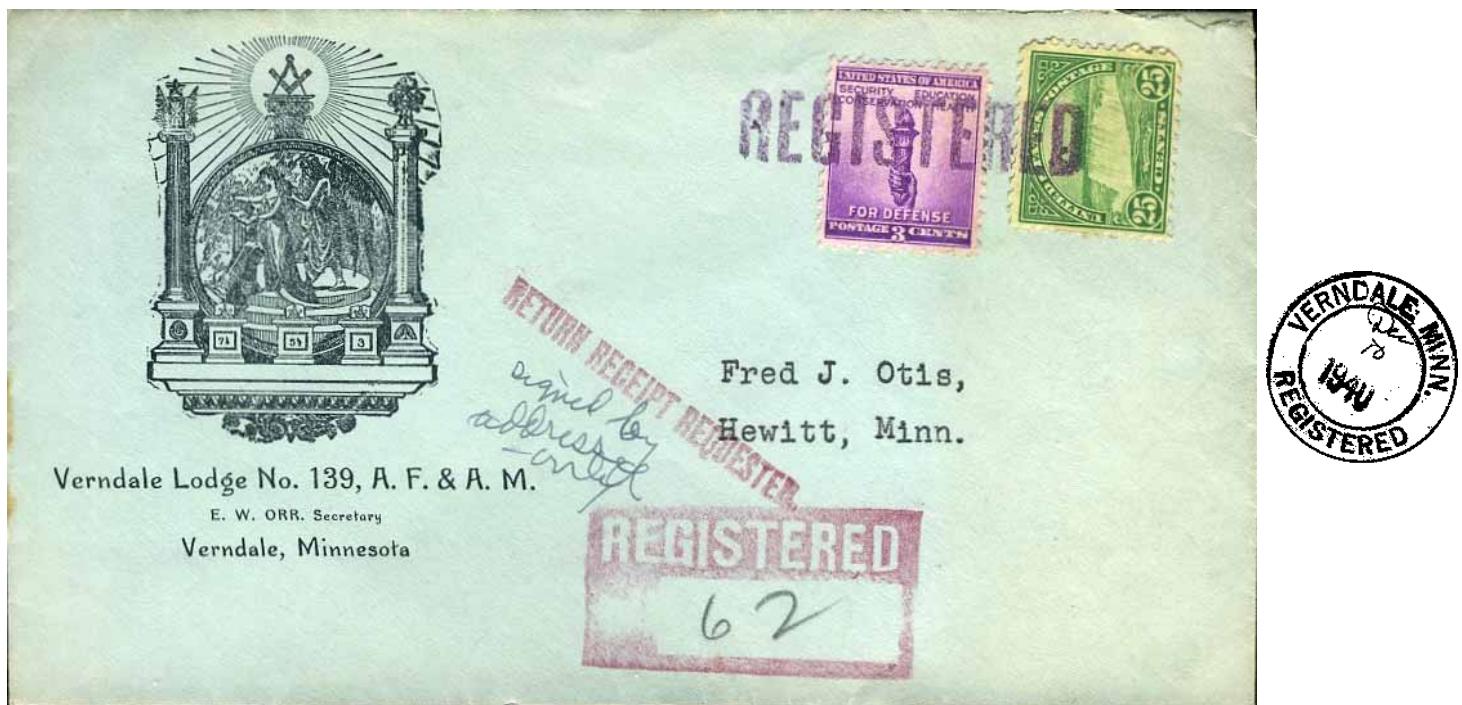
New York drop letter, 1916. Rated 10¢ registration and 2¢ drop or domestic letter rate. Same day delivery.



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



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



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

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

Returned from Newfoundland

All non-philatelic AR material from Newfoundland is extremely difficult to find.

Form 3870.

Administration of United States of America.
Administration des États-Unis d'Amérique.

Stamp of dispatching office.
Timbre du bureau expéditeur.

RETURN RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

C

for a letter with declared value of _____
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de _____

for a registered article () (1) _____
d'un objet recommandé () (1) _____

entered at the office
enregistré au bureau

of **Cleveland, Ohio**, ^{the} ¹⁹, under No. **4367** (2)
de _____ sous le No. _____ (2)

mailed by M **H. H. Tracy** 1922 E. 6th St
expédiée par M _____

and addressed to M **Hubert Channing**, at **St. John's Newfoundland**
et adressé à M _____, à _____

(complete address)
(adresse complète)

The undersigned declares { that a letter with declared value } to the above-mentioned address, and
Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée } à l'adresse susmentionnée, et

Stamp of delivering office.
Timbre du bureau distributeur.

originating at _____, has been duly
provenant de _____, a été dûment
delivered the **15th Jan'y**, 1915
livré le **15th Jan'y**, 1915

Signature (3) of the addressee;
Signature (3) du destinataire;

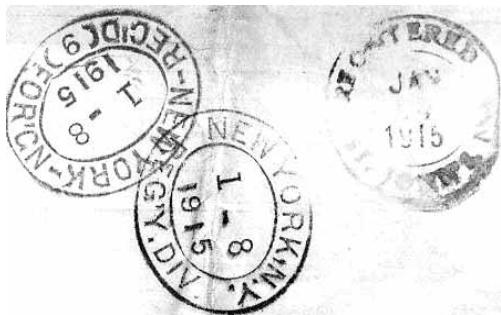
Signature (3) of the postal official of the office of delivery;
Signature (3) de l'agent du bureau distributeur;

Hubert Channing
Deaseux

(1) Nature of the article (letter, sample, print, etc.).
(1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.).
(2) Office of origin; date of mailing at that office; registration No. of that office.
(2) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; No. d'enregistrement au même bureau.
(3) NOTE.—This receipt must be signed by the addressee or, if the regulations of the country of destination permit it, by the postal official of the office of delivery, then placed in an envelope and sent by the first mail to the office of origin of the article to which it relates.
(3) NOTA.—Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

5-4172

AR form for registered letter to Newfoundland, 1915. Faint purple St.John's oval at lower left.



To the American Expeditionary Force
To a major in a military hospital in France, and remailed



Philadelphia—military hospital in France, 1918. Rated 10¢ reg'n and 3¢ domestic rate (to soldier on active duty). Readdressed to Paris and then remailed (without AR) therein; postage of 40centimes paid registration 25ctm and domestic French rate 15ctm, but not the French AR fee (which would have been an additional 10ctm).



Non-philatelic AR material to or from Newfoundland is very difficult to find (in any condition). Transylvania was disputed by Hungary and Romania after the War.



To Newfoundland, triple rate 1923. Rated 10¢ reg'n plus triple treaty rate (instituted 1909) at 2¢.

New York—Transylvania, 1920. Rated 10¢ reg'n & UPU 5¢.



To northern Europe



Texas–Norway, 1936. Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR fee, and UPU rate 5¢. A.R. AVIS DE RECEPTION handstamp unusual.

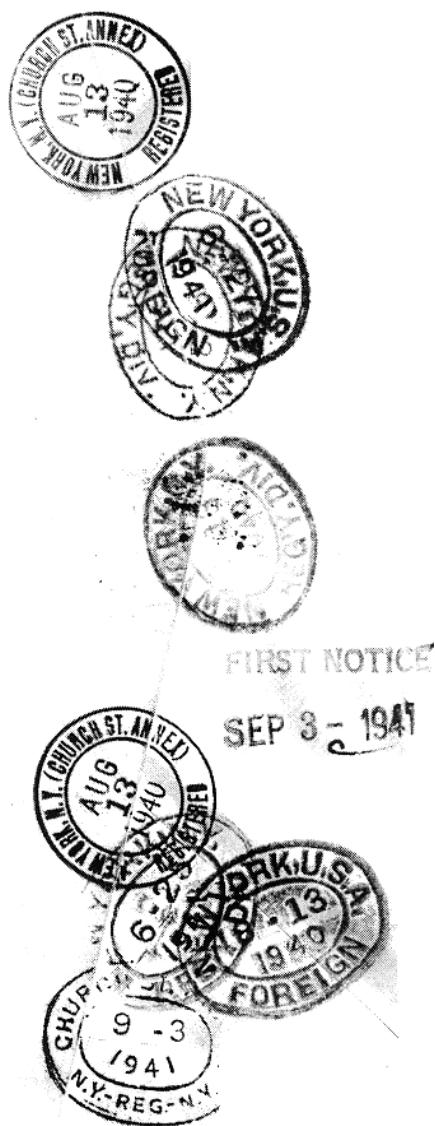


California–Estonia, 1940. Rated as above. No censorship. Weird mixed language handstamp, French *avis* with Spanish *repcion* (and the usual expression in Spanish is *aviso de recibo*).

To France, returned as a result of occupation

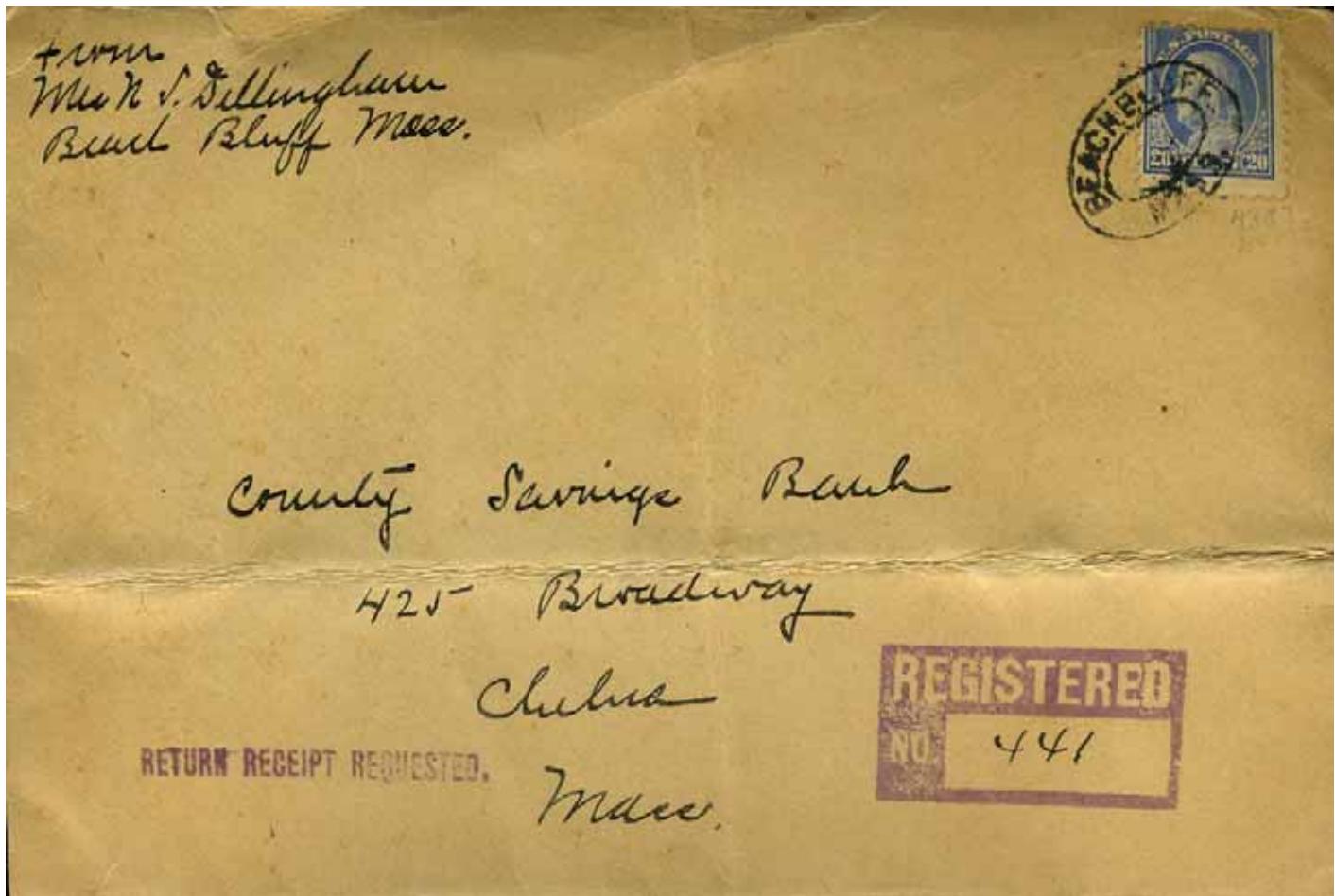


NY-France, held for a year and returned, August 1940–September 1941. Rated 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR, and 30¢ transatlantic airmail, paid by meter (unusual on AR covers). Purple Ne peut-être acheminée/zone occupée, and red hs Relations postales interrompues. No censorship.



New York double oval 23 June 1941 & Church Street (New York) double oval, dated 3 September 1941. FIRST NOTICE refers to delivery back to the sender.

Quintuple with solo stamp



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



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
REGIONAL DISBURSING OFFICE
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

TO THE POSTMASTER: If addressee has died or removed to an address outside of your jurisdiction; or if for any other reason you are unable to make delivery to addressee within 30 days; return to sender, stating the reason on the back of this envelope.

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

DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE ONLY—DO NOT FORWARD TO ANOTHER POST OFFICE
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

REGISTERED
No. A-122115

An exception that
is the rule

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

Restricted de-
livery (addressee
only) also requested;
should be addi-
tional 10¢ charge.

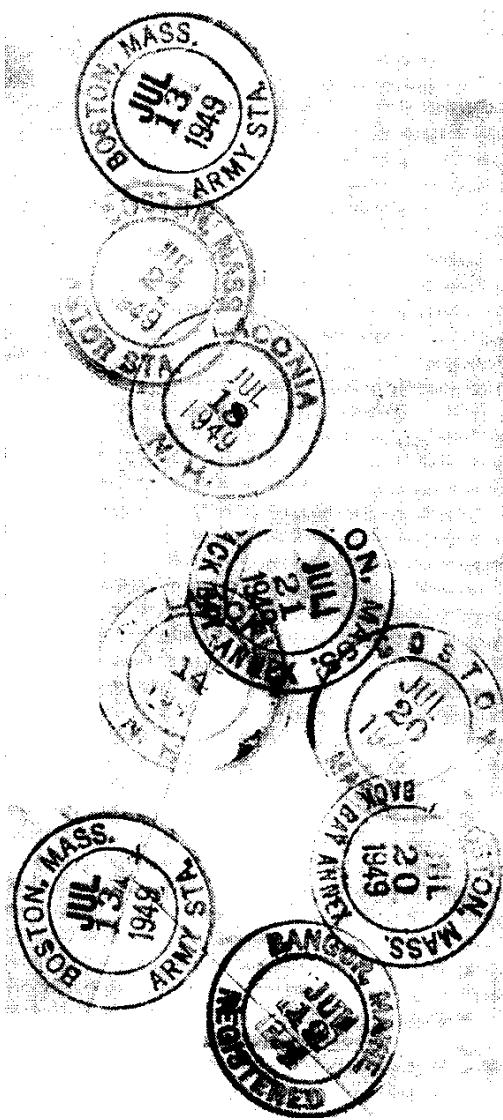
San Francisco reg'n
section datestamp
on reverse—this
cover *did* go through
the mail.



Improperly *not* forwarded to Canada
Although neither restricted delivery nor showing address would apply in Canada, the cover should have been forwarded as an AR cover, with no extra charges applied.

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

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



One stamp per service

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



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



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

AR forms & covering envelopes

Earliest AR form to the US. In the period 1875–92, registered letters were accompanied by the AR form.



Württemberg AR form to Chicago, 1882. Rated 20 Pfennig (= 5¢ = 25 centimes), German AR fee. Properly signed in Chicago. Although there are US marks on reverse, form almost certainly returned under cover.

