Early Canadian AR Service

Avis de réception, acknowledgment of receipt, advice of delivery, ...

AR is a service wherein a document signed by the recipient of the registered letter is returned to the sender as evidence of delivery. While the GPU/UPU mandated it from 1875, Canada did not offer it until it was made universal for UPU members, April Fool's Day 1879. Covers sent with this service are called AR *covers*; the signed forms (later cards) which were returned to the sender are called AR *forms* (*cards*). Special envelopes used to return some types of AR forms, known as AR *covering envelopes*, were also prepared.

This service was not at all popular in Canada, and very little nineteenth or early twentieth century Canadian AR material is known. No Canadian domestic AR covers or any AR covering envelopes are known in the nineteenth century. The AR fee was $5 \notin (1879-1921)$, and could be applied only to registered matter.

In the pre-Treaty of Vienna period (1 April 1879–30 June 1892), no Canadian AR covers are known; however, it appears that the AR fee was placed on the form, and the latter was sent (at-tached to the registered cover) to destination. During the Treaty of Vienna period (1 July 1892–31 December 1898), the form was prepared in the destination country, and the AR fee applied to the registered cover. Post-Treaty of Vienna, treatment was as in the pre-Treaty of Vienna period.

This exhibit is divided into periods (pre-Vienna, Treaty of Vienna, post-Vienna) to September 1921, finishing just before AR cards were introduced and fees increased.

Pre-Vienna, DIY AR

This unofficial method of obtaining acknowledgment of receipt was cheaper than AR service. AR seems to have been practically unknown in Canada, even within the legal community.



Do-it-yourself AR, 1882. Domestic post card from the postmaster at PORT·HOPE ONT AU 28 82, pre-addressed by the sender of several different registered letters. The card reads, The registered letters referred to in yours of the 26th were duly received and delivered personally to the parties addressed.

The card was subsequently used in at least two legal cases (exhibits *D* and *E*).



A law firm sent this pre-addressed card to the local postmaster to receive acknowledgment that the registered items had been delivered.

This cost 1¢ for the card and 3¢ for the covering envelope, totalling 4¢; sending the registered letters with AR would have cost 5¢ per item (for AR service), a total of 15¢.

Pre-Vienna; first Canadian AR form

Like all Canadian AR forms, returned as folded letter sheet, not requiring a covering envelope.

- Only known Canadian domestic use AR *item* of the nineteenth century
- Only known example of a Canadian AR form in the pre-Treaty of Vienna period (1879–1892)

. TABLE H., to be filled up at the Office of destination, and if the A chanowledgment of receipt of a Registered article know if it has been delivered. TABLE 1, to be filled up at the Office of origin. Registered article addre letter has Date Stamp of Dates T he Office of Delivery

Domestic use, Toronto–Penetanguishene, 1883–84. Signed only by the Penetang postmaster (which was sufficient). Print order data, $40\frac{1}{2}$ –5000–27-3- 79, just in time for the onset of AR service in Canada, 1 April 1879. Although AR was mentioned only in the international section of contemporary postal guides, it clearly was available domestically—in Canada's second largest city (at the time). The double oval Toronto registration datestamp is known in fewer than ten examples.

AR fee paid by 5¢ small queen on reverse. As with all subsequent Canadian AR forms, this was a folded letter sheet, not requiring a covering envelope for its return to the sender.



Pre-Vienna (1879–1892), incoming AR form

No outgoing international use Canadian AR forms are known in the pre-Vienna period. • Only incoming (to Canada) AR form in the pre-Vienna period.

	22	
Postmasters-No. 68. Admin	nistration de la Grande Bretagne.	
AVIS DE RECI	EPTION.	
Acknowledgment of De		
d'un objet recommandé adressé à) M Facole U		
of a Registered Article addressed to a Vanco	uver British Columbia	
Le soussigné declare qu'un objet recom The undersigned acknowledges that the et provenant de † and sent by a été dument livré le <u>Manager</u> was duly delivered the <u>II Habrie</u> du destinataire of addressee <u>Ja cob Meiss</u> .	Registered Article addressed as above an Embasy 18 18 4 18 4 18 18 18 Signature * du chef du Bureau distributeur. of the Chief of the Delivering Office. Muller Mm	
* Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le Chef du Bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et renvoyé sous recommandation par le premier courrier.		
† The name and full address of the sender of the Article must be ent	tered in this form at the Issuing Office. 6 & S [1142] 20,000 3/86	
	No. Contraction of the second se	
the company and the construction of the second starting on attending of	to be and a picture of the stand of the states	

British AR *form, Charing Cross (London)–Vancouver,* 1891. Properly signed and datestamped in Vancouver. This British AR form, on heavy paper (not card stock), required a covering envelope for its return (unlike all Canadian AR forms). No markings of any sort on reverse.

AR fee paid by $2\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp (UK was one of the few countries whose AR fee exceeded its registration fee, the latter being 2 d).

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

Pre-Vienna incoming AR cover

No AR covers (that is, registered letters provably sent with AR) of Canadian origin are known in the pre-Vienna period.

• One of two known incoming (to Canada) AR covers in the pre-Vienna period (the other is addressed to stamp dealer Hechler).

s Ganada. P.Q.

Received in bad order, L'Anse (MI)–Montreal, 1890. US formula for AR was *return receipt demanded,* and this was a free option (the US was one of very few countries that did not charge for international AR service).

Rated 10¢ registration fee and (double) 2×2 ¢ rate to Canada (equals the domestic us rate). With 1889 us officially sealed stamp. Via Detroit (likely where the officially sealed was applied) and Windsor.



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

AR or its equivalent was required to be stamped or endorsed on registered material for which AR service was desired. More importantly, the AR form was to be prepared in the *destination* office (so for a registered letter from France to Canada, a Canadian AR form would be prepared and sent to the original sender in France).

This also required the AR fee to be paid in stamps on the registered cover (some countries already did this, but most simply had put the AR fee on the accompanying AR form, which was no longer possible).

2493 POST OFFICE ADMINISTRATION DU CANADA. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA. AVIS DE RÉCEPTION ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT d'une lettre recommandée } enregistré sous le N° 5 Le et adressé. à of a Registered { letter } entered under No , and addressed to REGISTERED __le_ Book form (un-Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre recommandée) à l'adresse susfolds to foolscap qu'un objet recommandé 5 mentionnée size, with address The undersigned acknowledges that a registered { letter { addressed as above on the other side). AR forms were Timbre du bureau et provenant de. listributeur returned as regand posted at istered letters (till été dûment livré. 1908), hence large was duly delivered on the encircled **R**. Signature (*) Once received at Paris, office du destinataire : du chef du bureau distributeur : of the Postmaster of the office of destination : Stamp of the office of destination. of the addressee : of origin would send it to the sender of original registered 451 San letter. (*) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire et par le maître de poste du Bureau distributeur, puis être envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne. Canadian AR forms (*) This acknowledgment of receipt should be signed by the addressee, and by the Postmaster of the office of destina-tion; it will then be transmitted under registration, by the first mail, to the office of posting of the article to which it were folded letter sheets, not requiring AR covering envelopes. 39 B.-2,500-2-11-92.

Canadian AR *form for a registered letter from France to Canada,* 1898. Illustrates normal AR procedure during the period. Prepared in Montreal, properly signed and handstamped, and returned to office of origin as a registered folder letter sheet. Print order data 39 B.–2,500 2-11-92 (six-year gap between printing and use).

• One of three Canadian AR forms known used in the Vienna period.

Vienna period; AR service with the US, part 1

Discovery example for Canadian AR forms in the Vienna period. This seems to have followed the usual procedure, that is, a registered letter from the US was sent with AR service, and the form prepared in Canada, in this case, at the destination office, Vancouver.

However, at least eight US AR forms AR representing registered items in the *same* direction. To have been consistent with the Treaty of Vienna, they should have have been for registered items from Canada to US.

		89 6 from 20 1 from 20 1 from
and a set	ADMINISTRATION DU CANADA. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA.	DAVTON, O BANDANI BANDer Ju BANDer Ju BANDer Ju
	AVIS DE RÉCEPTION ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT { d'un objet recommandée } enregistré sous le N° , et adressé à	239 Post Office 239 Post Office of aressed hull
	of a Registered { letter } entered under N°, and addressed to Mathic Supply above le	The space is reserved on counterpart or portfolutors connected with disputes for portfolutors connected with disputes or portfolutors connected for a
	Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre recommandée } à l'adresse sus- qu'un objet recommandé } mentionnée The undersigned acknowledges that a registered { letter } addressed as above	US registration receipt for the registered item.
	Timbre du bureau distributeur.	Administration des
a la	Stamp of the office of destination. Stamp of the office of destination. Stamp of the of the addressee: Stamp of the office of destination:	Le Receveur des The Postmaste
	(*) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinatoire et par le maître de poste du bureau distributeur, puis être envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne. (*) This acknowledgment of receipt should be signed by the addressee, and by the Postmaster of the office of destina- tion; it will then be transmitted under registration, by the first mail, to the office of posting of the article to which it relates.	des Postes des Postes ster & ay 1 pr At & ay 1 pr 6744
a	9 B2,500-2-11-92.	E SERVICE

Canadian AR *form for registered letter from the* US *to Canada, Dayton (OH)–Vancouver,* 1896. Same print order as preceding example.

• Second of three Canadian AR forms known used in the Vienna period.

Vienna period; AR service with the US, part 2

One of the eight reported US AR forms addressed to Canada in the Vienna period, all for registered items *to* Canada; does *not adhere* to Treaty of Vienna practices. No US AR forms are known in the other direction.

Some pairs of countries, e.g., New Zealand & Australia, adopted the practice of filling out the AR form at the office of origin (as occurred both pre- and post-Vienna) on mail between them (and otherwise adhering to Vienna procedures). While no documentation is known for this between US & Canada, the eight US AR forms would be consistent with it, and the example on the previous page is an anomaly (or an oversight, or the original AR form was not received at Vancouver).

(3870.) A bis. U. S. Post Office Department. RETURN RECEIPT **AVIS DE RÉCEPTION** RÜCKSCHEIN 1047 for a registered article entered under No. , and addressed to d'un objet recommandé enregistré sous le No. . et addressé à inschreibsendung No. für eine at suppl M M The undersigned certifies that a registered article to the above address Timbre du bureau Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionnée Der Endesunterschriebene bescheinigt dass eine Einschreibsendung an die obige Adre originating at . has been duly provenant de a été dûment and aufgegeben in , wurde vorschrifts mässig Stamp of the office delivered the of delivery. Timbre du bureau livré le abgeliefert den Signature (*) Signature (*) Unterschrift (*) of the addressee: of the Chief of the office of delivery: du destinataire: du chef du bureau distributeur: des Empfängers: des Chefs der abliefernden Postanstalt: This Return Receipt must be signed by the addressee, or if the regulations of the country of destination t, by the Chief of the office of delivery, placed in an envelope, and returned under registration by the et avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par a bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et renvoyé sous recommendation, par le premier courrier. (*) Dieser Rückschein muss vom Empfänger unterschrieben werden, oder wenn die Bestimmungen des Empfangslandes es erlauben von dem Chef der abliefernden Postanstalt, in einen Briefumschlag gelegt, und als Einschreibsendung mit der ersten Gelegenheit zurück geschickt werden.

Typical trilingual US AR form, requiring a covering envelope for its return. Prepared en route, at St. Paul (MN), where it likely crossed the border (to travel via Winnipeg to Vancouver).

US AR forms are not at all scarce, even in the nineteenth century.



US registration receipt for the registered item (full size).

US AR *form for registered letter from the* US *to Canada, Dayton* (*OH*)–*Vancouver,* 1897. Same correspondence as preceding. Signed and handstamped at Vancouver, and returned to sender. US AR forms required a covering envelope for their return, unlike Canadian folded letter sheets.

1866. iddlesong Banking 70034 detano mechant

Vienna period; outgoing AR covers

• Three of five known non-philatelic Canadian AR covers 1879– 1898.

St John—Middleton (CT), 1893. Rated 5¢ RLS (registration), 3¢ letter rate to US, and 5¢ AR fee. Earliest Canadian AR cover, and only one with an RLS.

Halifax–Cedar Rapids (IA), 1896. Rated combined registration fee and letter rate to US paid by 8¢ small queen, and 5¢ AR fee. Very clear AR handstamp showing no wear—consistent with being rarely used.

London (*ONT*)–*Leipzig*, 1897. Rated 5¢ for each of registration, AR, & UPU letter rates.

Return - receipt demanded . Rückscheit452 hour alfred Leyer is eifig - Germany.

Jan 95

11. ra

Ker Thos & Shene (Searcy) (Cedar Rapids

> With US-style AR formula *Return receipt demanded*, and obviously rubber ^{Rückschein} handstamp; applied routinely in Germany on all incoming AR covers. Hooded London registered

don registered datestamp. Trimmed at left.

Vienna period; incoming AR covers

Fewer than ten non-philatelic incoming to Canada AR covers are known in the Vienna period.

Sydney (New South Wales, Australia)-Montreal, 18 May 1893. Standard Australian AR in oval cancel, in use for many decades. • Earliest known Australian state AR cover Rated 3d registration and 2½ d for each of AR and UPU letter rate, underpaid by ½ d (stamp is overprinted $7\frac{1}{2}$ d, no evidence of missing stamp. Carried on the first run of Canada-Australia Steamship line (the Miowera, Sydney–Honolulu– Vancouver). Only one other cover to Canada is known from this run (and is unregistered). 4 OF THE POST DIFIC Z OBTAINED FOR 11 4 ST V 曰 国 O C' 3 02 -Vancouv Z THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER RECEIPT E Z Y 0 Z A CO N TO BE REGISTERED, AND A 0 R OSE Via S 0 2 84 日 00 5-1 01 H 5 Y A R. ·M. 150 A. œ San José (Costa Rica)–Toronto, 1896. Rated 5 centavos registration fee, 5 cvo AR fee, and 10¢ UPUletter rate (includes authorized surcharge).

Post-Vienna

On 1 January 1899, the Treaty of Washington superseded the Treaty of Vienna. AR forms were once again to be prepared at the office of origin, and it became optional for each country to decide whether the AR fee was to be paid on the cover or on the form. Canada chose the latter.

Canadian AR form to US (1906)

Only known Canadian AR form without payment of AR fee by stamp(s).

Grand Forks (BC)-Indianapolis, 1906. Via London. ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DU CANADA. Properly signed. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA. Printed 23 November 1904, in AVIS DE RÉCEPTION a quantity of ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT only 6000. • 5¢ in stamps d'une lettre recommandée } enregistré......sous le N°......, et adressé......a should have been affixed to of a Registered { letter } entered under N and addressed to pay the AR fee; presumably paid 1900 10 in cash, conto on the 1 trary to regulations. Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre recommandée] à l'adresse susqu'un objet recommandé) mentionnée The undersigned acknowledges that a Registered { letter } addressed as above Timbre du bureau distributeur. et provenant de and posted at a été dûment livré.....le .190 ... was duly delivered on the Signature (*) du chef du bureau distributeur : Stamp of the office of destination. du destinataire : of the Postmaster of the office of destination : of the addressee : (*) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire et par le maître de poste du bureau distributeur, puis être envoyé sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne. (*) This acknowledgment of receipt should be signed by the addressee, and by the Postmaster of the office of destination: it will then be transmitted under registration, by the first mail, to the office of posting of the article to which it relates. POST OFFICE SERVICE. REGISTERED. 39 B.-6,000-23-11-04. FREE Avis de Réception. Le Receveur des Postes The Postmaster

Administration des Postes du Canada.

Return of AR forms by registered mail dropped, 1908

More precisely, the big **R** on the address side of the was dropped from printings after early 1908. However, if the **R** appeared on an AR form mailed after this date, the form *was* returned registered.

Kenora (ON)-Toronto, 1908. Properly signed. Printed 20 July 1908, in a quantity of ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DU CANADA. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA. 18000. This AR form AVIS DE RÉCEPTION was sent registered, despite ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT the absence of the large printed { d'une lettre recommandée } { d'un objet recommandé } enregistré.....sous le N° adresse **R**, likely from force of habit. letter } entered under N of a Registered { and addressed to Seldom seen blue 190 double oval Regleon the istered Toronto-P.O. handstamp. qu'une lettre recommandée) à l'adresse sus-Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé mentionnée The undersigned acknowledges that a Registered { letter article } addressed as above Timbre du bureau distr'buteur. et provenant deroponti and posted at a été dûment livré. was duly delivered on the Signature (*) Stamp of the office of destination. du destinataire : du chef du bureau distributeur : of the addressee: (of the Postmaster of the office of destination : (*) Cet avis doit thre signé par le destinataire et par le mati par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il conc (*) This acknowledgment of receipt should be signed by t destination; it will then be transmitted, by the first mail, to the 39 B.-18,000-20-7-08. POST OFFICE SERVICE. FREE. Avis de Réception. Le Receveur des Postes The Postmaster Administration des Postes du Canada.

AR form to Beirut (1909)

Beirut was part of the Ottoman Empire. AR forms *printed* after 1908 were not intended to be returned as registered mail; however, this was printed (1907) with the **R**, so was returned registered.

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DU CANADA. Post office department, canada.			
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT { d'une lettre recommandée d'un objet recommandée } enregistrésous le N°, et adresséà			
(d'un objet recommandé) entregistre and sous le 11 and addressed to of a Registered { letter } entered under No. 380 and addressed to M. Mik and		POST OFFICE SERVICE.	stes
Timbreda bureau distributeur distributeur to a tété dûment livré 105-49 sa tété dûment livré Signature (*)		ERED.	Le Receveur des Po The Postmaster
Stamp of the addressee: of the addressee:		REGISTERED. Avis dr. Récent	
(*) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire et par le maître de poste du bureau distributeur, puis être envoyé sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne. (*) This acknowledgment of receipt should be signed by the addressee, and by the Postmaster of the office of destination: it will then be transmitted under registration, by the first mail, to the office of posting of the article to which it relates.		21 AP 00	
39 B13,000-22-11-07. Am adelh	CANES!	London ho registered o estamp	

Caned

St Thomas (ON)–Beirut, 1909. Via London. Properly signed. Printed 22 November 1907, 13000.

- 5¢ AR fee paid by stamp
- Returned (registered) to office of origin as folded letter sheet.

After-the-fact AR service

Also known as *subsequent* AR, this permitted the sender of a registered letter to send an AR form *after* the registered item had been mailed. Began with the Treaty of Washington (effective from 1 January 1899). There was no extra fee above the AR charge of 5¢, until October 1921.

	in onargo or 54, unon o occorrigan
Stamp of the office of destination. and posted at <u>Douncoun</u> et provenant de was duly delivered on the <u>a été dûment livré</u> le Signature	Import the bureau expedition. Import the expedition.
and the second sec	Advice of Delivery.
Very unusual to have a roller cancel on an AR form.	The Postmaster Le Receveur des Postes <u>mis breta Iwin</u> 1074 Pender Shi Ugurcown.

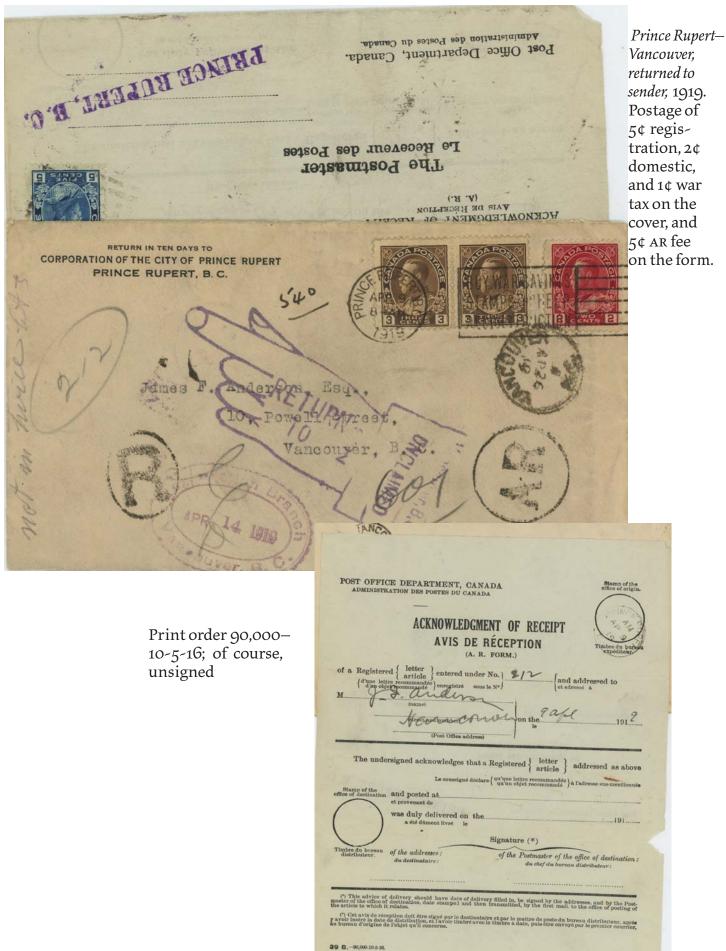
Post Office Department, Canada. Administration des Postes du Canada.

Big form (printed 1919)

Winnipeg-Liberec Stamp of (Czechoslavakia), 1920. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DU CANADA Larger form; English text has reverted to Acknowl-ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT edqment of receipt. Forms printed in 1920 **AVIS DE RECEPTION** obre du bureau expéditeur. are considerably smaller (A. R. FORM.) **** than all of their predecessors. of a Registered article entered under No. Sent by the Ukranian Cana-{d'une lettre recommandée } enregistré sous le Nº dian Citizens' League to on the a representative of Ukrainle sky Labor in Liberec. Addressed to Sent by Print-order data, 125,000-Envoyé par 21-7-19. a dra in 14 Faint London hooded reg-(Nom) istered datestamp on front. (Rue et num (Street : (Rue et numér (Burenu de Post Office add La. letter The undersigned acknowledges that a Registered addressed as above article Le soussigné déclare $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} qu'une \ lettre \ recommandée \\ qu'un \ objet \ recommandée \end{array} \right\}$ à l'adresse sus-mentionnée stimution and posted at WINNIPEG, Man et provenant de 1921 was duly delivered on the a été d'ament livré In Signature (*) of the addressee : of the Postmaster of the office of destination : Timbre de bil du destinataire : du chef du bureau distributeur : Wan (*) This advice of delivery should have date of delivery filled in, be signed by the addressee, and by the Post-master of the office of destination, date stamped and then transmitted, by the first mail, to the office of posting of the article to which it relates. (*) Cet avis de réception doit être signé par le destinataire et par le mattre de poste du bureau distributeur, après y avoir inséré la date de distribution, et l'avoir timbré avec le timbre à date, puis être envoyé par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne. NOTE.-When this form is used for a registered article addressed to a Post Office outside of Canada, the signature he addressee, or of the addressee's authoriz of the addres POST OFFICE SERVICE Avis.—Lorsque cette formule est employée du Canada, il ne sera pas absolument nécessi autorisé. FREE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT AVIS DE RÉCEPTION (A. R.) 39 B.-125,000-21-7-19. Rine Postmaster coveur des Poste BRANTE 103. Kan Post Office Department, Canada. Administration des Postes du Canada.

AR cover with form still attached

When an AR cover cannot be delivered, it is returned with the form still attached. Pre-1920, at most three such examples are known.



AR covering envelopes

These are used to return signed AR forms that required a covering envelope to the senders of registered items. All known examples (about twenty) are addressed to the United States (whose form did require a covering envelope). These became largely obsolete when most countries adopted AR cards after October 1921.

Canadian examples must exist from the pre-Vienna period, and also from 1899–1910, but none has yet been found.

Avis de Récepti Acknowledgmen Bureau de Poste de Post Office of Pavs Country 60-25,000-29-9-11.

Montreal–Buffalo, 1912. Print-order data, 25,000–29-9-11.

RATION BRANCH	Avis de Réception.
OCT 2 1917 Ack	Avis de Réception. Enowledgment of Delivery.
Bureau de Poste de Post Office of	
And the state	Philadelphia
Pays Country	Ca
6050,000-11-1-14	A the second and the second

Montreal–Philadelphia, 1917. Print-order data, 50,000–11-1-14.