

Around the World in Purple

(U.S. FDCs-with Purple Stamps-Sent to Foreign Destinations)

Purpose and Scope: This is a 1-frame U.S. FDC exhibit of various purple shaded stamps issued from the 1930s to the 1980s and sent to destinations around the globe. These destinations can include U.S. territories and U.S. military bases overseas. Note that make-up rate stamps, if used on the cover, may not be purple; this is acceptable since the focus is on the stamp that was issued on the date shown in the postmark. The purpose is to show the far reaching places that have received U.S. FDCs.

Treatment: Items were chosen for the exhibit based on one mandatory requirement-the stamp must be purple-and other variable attributes such as: destination, time period/postal rates in effect, postal services requested and cachetmaker. Other than the color, an attempt was made to show a range of the other attributes. The covers are arranged geographically starting with the western hemisphere and thence counter-clockwise around the world.

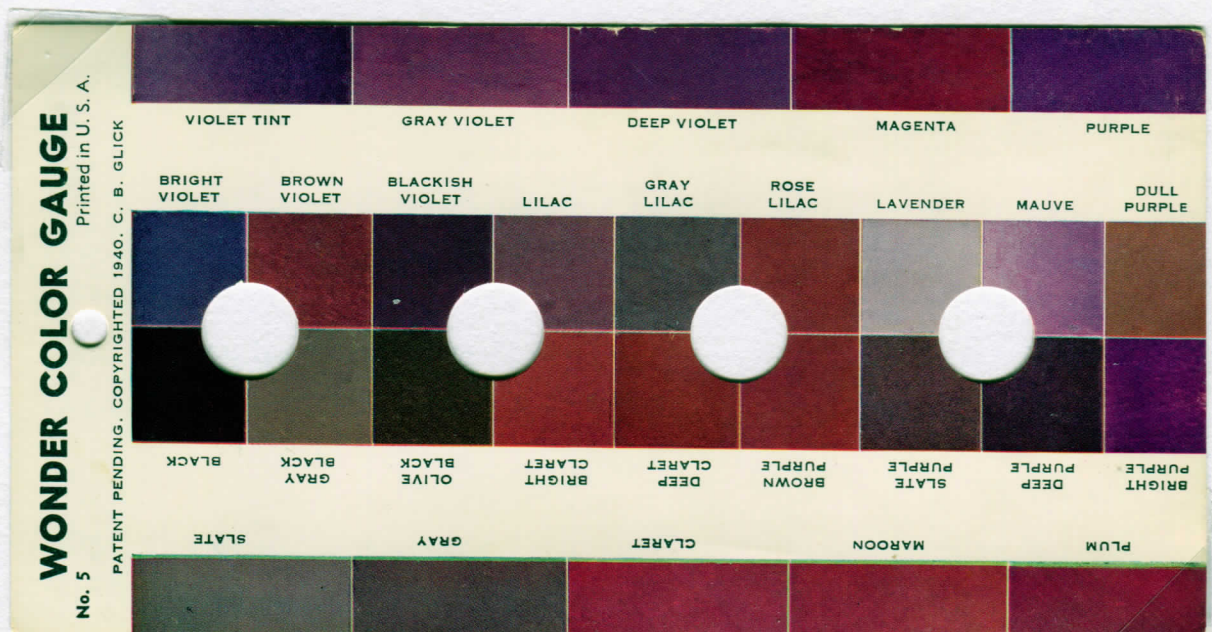
The Journey

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For each cover, the following information is shown: (a) a short description of the stamp(s) used, any auxiliary markings on the cover and, if cacheted, the cachetmaker; (b) the type of postal service used and whether the franking properly pays for that service; (c) backstamp/receiving stamp information, if any; (d) geopolitical status of the destination at time of mailing and the current status; and (e) information of the cachetmaker's first cachet.

For some of the covers, the journey has been long and rough. For all of them, they no longer have their pristine, start-of-the-journey appearance. But that is okay, their bumps and bruises became part of their charm and desirability. Some are over 80 years old, some only 30 plus years old, but they all are survivors.

Most of the stamp's colors in this exhibit are listed as "purple" in the respective announcements contained in the Postal Bulletin put out by the USPOD and later, the USPS. The more descriptive colors as listed in these pages are from Scott's U.S. Specialized stamp catalog.



Wonder Color Gauge
Sheet No. 5
(Violet/Purple)
C. B. Glick, © 1940

We start the journey with our neighbors in **North America.**

Canada

Violet

3c 1939 Centennial of Baseball on a Planty listed, unknown cachetmaker, rubber stamp cachet.

The stamp properly pays, due to a special postal treaty, the then current 3c domestic surface letter rate to Canada.



*Baseball Centennial
Commemorative
First Day Cover*

855-40=

*American History Class
Ursuline Convent
Quebec PQ Canada*

Then, as now, Canada is a federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy.

Mexico

Violet

3c 1948 100th Anniversary of Fort Kearny block of 4 on an Artcraft cachet.

The block (12c) overpays the then current 3c surface letter rate to Mexico based on the postal treaty of June 21, 1887 with that country.

Backstamped Mexico D[istrito] F[ederal], 9/28/1948 – a short 6-day journey.



*M.C.H.C. Boucher
Opotado
PO Box 1477
Mexico D.F.*

Then, as now, Mexico is a federal presidential constitutional republic.

Artcraft's first cachet was the 1939 3c New York World's Fair stamp.

Continue to the **Caribbean.**

U.S. Virgin Islands

Blue Violet

5c Norway Overrun Countries pair on an uncached airmail envelope. The cover was censored (examined) by Examiner 4341 in Miami, FL prior to sending on to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The pair (10c) overpays the then current **6c domestic airmail letter rate** to a U.S. territory.



The U.S. Virgin Islands became a U.S. territory when purchased from Denmark in 1917.

Jamaica

Dark Violet

3c Utah Centennial pair on a Cachet Craft (Frederick B. Fitts Co.) cachet.

The pair (6c) overpays the then current 5c international surface letter rate.



At the time of the mailing, Jamaica was a British colony as part of the British West Indies. Now, it is an independent nation and a member of the Commonwealth.

Cachet Craft's first cachet was the 1937 3c Ordinance of 1787 Sesquicentennial (creation of the Northwest Territories).

A short jog over to **Central America**.

Canal Zone

Light Violet

3c 1937 Virgin Islands Territorial Issue on a Henry Grimsland cachet.

The stamp properly pays the then current **3c domestic surface letter rate to a U.S. Territory**. Note that the source and destination of this cover was from one U.S. Territory to another.



Panama Canal Zone was an unincorporated territory of the United States from 1903 to 1979 after having purchased the land from private and public owners to build and operate a canal across the Isthmus of Panama.

The journey continues down to **South America**.

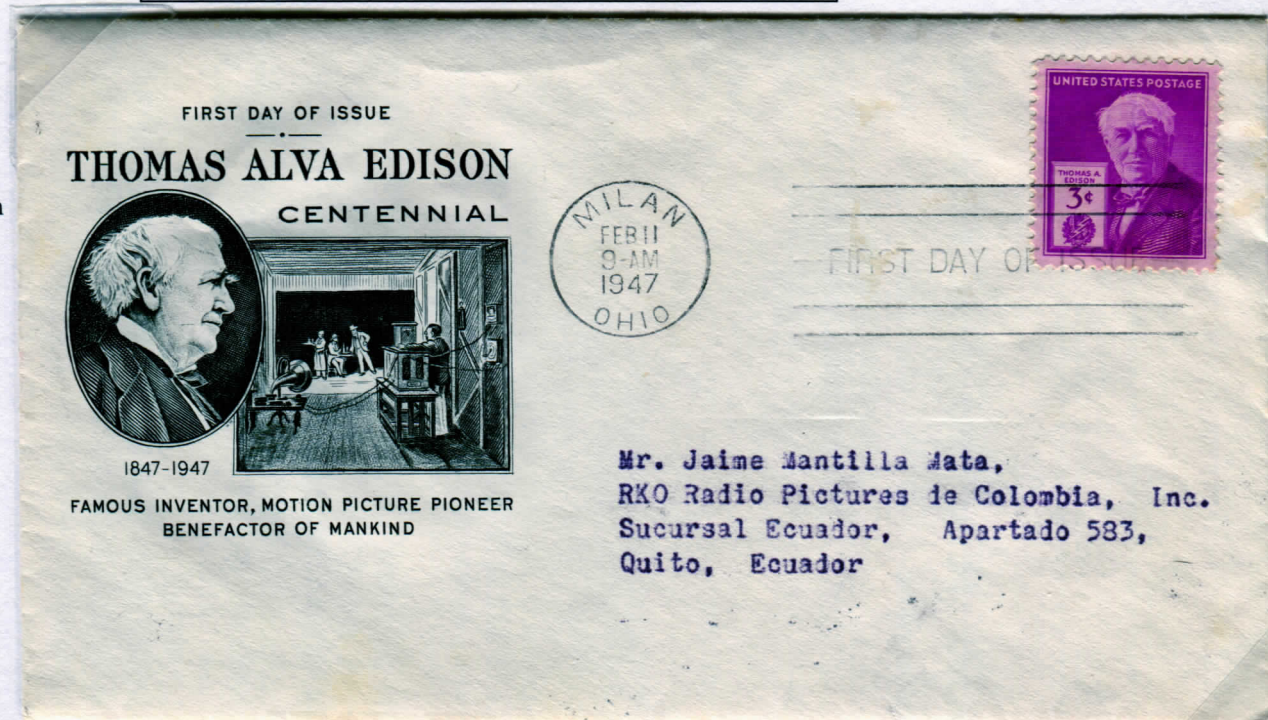
Ecuador

Bright Red Violet

3c Thomas A. Edison single on an RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. cachet with insert letter (not shown).

The single stamp properly pays the then current **3c special treaty international letter rate to Ecuador**.

Backstamped Quito/Ecuador, 3/5/1947 – a 22 day journey.



This 3c special rate was applicable from 4/1/1932 until 11/1/1953 when the Universal Postal Union rates went into effect for this country.

Then, as now, Ecuador was an independent republic.

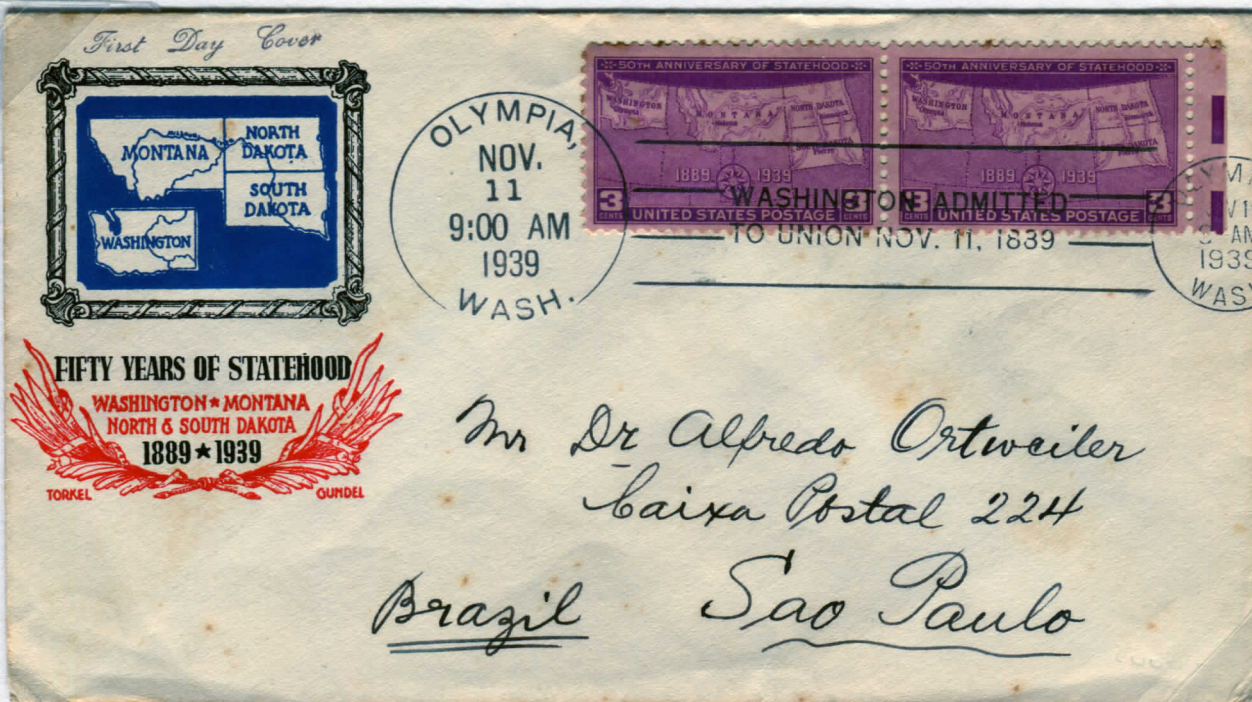
This is RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.'s first cachet.

Brazil

Rose Violet

3c 50th Anniversary of Statehood (pair), with Olympia, WA cancel, on a Torkel Gundel cachet.

The pair overpays the then current 3c special treaty international letter rate to Brazil.



This 3c special rate was applicable from 4/1/1932 until 11/1/1953 when the Universal Postal Union (UPU) rate of 5c when into effect for this country. It is also possible that the sender was unaware of the special treaty rate and used the pair (6c) to overpay the 5c (non-treaty) UPU rate.

Then, as now, Brazil was an independent republic.

Gundel's first cachet was the 1934 3c Maryland Tercentenary stamp.

Across the Atlantic to **Western Europe.**

Belgium

Deep Violet

3c Mothers of America block of 4 on a Don J. Kapner cachet.

The block of 4 (12c) overpays the then current 5c international surface letter rate to Belgium.

Backstamped Deurne (Belgium), 5/11/1934 – a 9-day journey.



Independent since 1830, the Kingdom of Belgium, then, as now, is a federal constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of governance.

Kapner's first cachet was the 1934 3c Maryland Tercentenary. This cover is his second cachet.

Finland

Deep Violet

3c plus 8c FIPEX souvenir sheet, along with two 1955 3c Andrew Mellon stamps, on Artcraft cachet.

The combination (17c) overpays the then current **15c international airmail letter rate** to Europe.

Backstamped Helsinki/Helsingfors, 1956 – a four day journey. (Helsingfors is Swedish for Helsinki).



The cover also has a USPOD Form 2978 airmail etiquette.

The cover arrived at its destination before the FIPEX exhibition closed on May 6!

Then, as now, Finland was an independent republic.

Artcraft's first cachet was the 1939 3c New York World's Fair.



Germany

Purple

3c Arkansas Centennial pair on an A. C. Roessler cachet with rubber stamp airmail etiquette, short paid tax due stamps "T," "20 centimes" and red boxed unreadable marking.

The pair (6c) underpays the 8c domestic airmail rate to the exchange office and the follow-on surface letter rate to Germany.

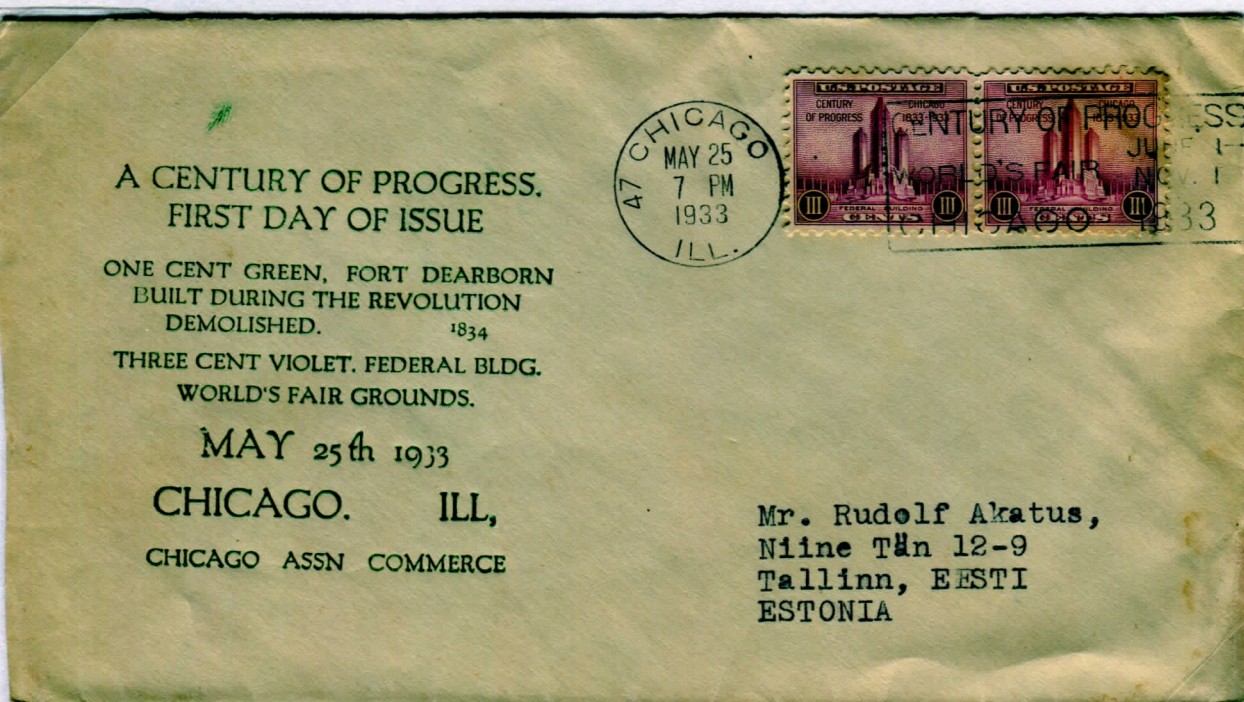
Then, Germany was a totalitarian state under Adolf Hitler. Now, it is a federal parliamentary republic.

Roessler's first cachets were 1925 the 2c and 5c Norse American stamps.

Backstamped Braunschweig (Germany), 6/24/1936 – a journey of 9 days.

Over to **Eastern Europe.**

Estonia



Violet

3c Century of Progress pair on a Chicago Association of Commerce cachet.

This pair (6c) overpays the then current 5c **international surface letter rate** to Estonia.

In 1933, Estonia was an independent country, having declared independence in February 1918, and remained so until annexed by the Soviet Union as the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR). Now, it is once again an independent republic following the breakup of the USSR.

This is Chicago Association of Commerce's first cachet.

Lithuania

Violet

4c Carl Schurz set of 4 matched plate number singles, uprated with a 1975 24c Old North Church on an Artmaster (Robert and Mary Schmidt) cachet. With rubber stamped airmail etiquette.

This combination of stamps (40c) properly pays the then current **40c international airmail letter rate** to Lithuania.

Backstamped [indistinct Cyrillic wording], 6/17/1983 – a journey of 14 days.



Then, Lithuania, having been overrun by the Soviet Red Army in July 1940, was a Soviet Socialist Republic. Now, it is an independent republic following its secession from the USSR in 1990.

Artmaster's first cachet was the 1946 3c Veterans of World War 2 (Honorable Discharge) stamp.

Yugoslavia (Serbia)

Bright Red Violet

3c 300th Anniversary of New York City block of 4 on an Artcraft cachet.

The block of 4 (12c) overpays the then current 8c **international surface letter rate** to the Serbian section of Yugoslavia. This is an early international usage of the rate. It changed from 5c to 8c on 11/1/1953 and the cover is postmarked 11/20/1953.

Backstamped
Beograd/Inozemstvo,
12/5/1953
[inozemstvo = abroad]
– a journey of 16 days.



Then, Beograd (Belgrade) was in the Socialist Republic of Serbia within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Now, Belgrade is in the independent Republic of Serbia after the breakup of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s.

Artcraft's first cachet was the 1939 3c New York World's Fair.

Hungary

Violet

3c Battle of Brooklyn pair on an Artmaster (Robert and Mary Schmidt) cachet.

The pair (6c) overpays the then current 5c **international surface letter rate** to Hungary.

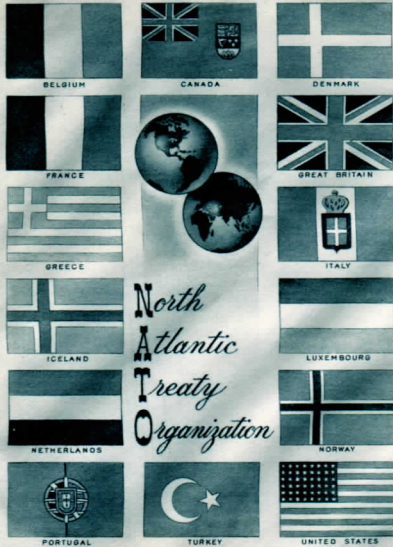


Then, Hungary, a satellite state of the USSR, was a socialist republic. Now, it is a unitary parliamentary republic.

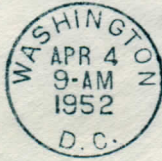
Artmaster's first cachet was the 1946 3c Veterans of World War 2 (Honorable Discharge) stamp.

South to the Mediterranean.

PEACE • STRENGTH • FREEDOM



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Lt. J.L. Manche
Flat I Anne Flats
Testarferata Street
Misida M A L T A G.C.

Malta

Deep Violet

3c NATO pair on an Artmaster (Robert and Mary Schmidt) cachet. The pair (6c) overpays the then current **5c international surface letter rate** to Malta.

Backstamped
Valletta/Malta,
5/8/1952 – a 34 day journey.

The postnominal letters "G.C." in the address following the country name refers to the award of the George Cross to the island and its citizens during World War 2 by Britain's King George VI for heroism and devotion.

Then, Malta was a British colony. Now, it is an independent republic (since 1974) and a member of the Commonwealth.

Artmaster's first cachet was the 1946 3c Veterans of World War 2 (Honorable Discharge) stamp.

And further south to Africa.

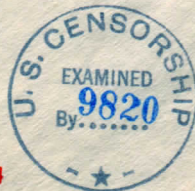
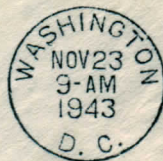
Morocco

Blue Violet

5c Austria Overrun Countries inscription block single on a Walter G. Crosby cachet. With U.S. censorship stamp, examiner #9820. Examiner 9820 was a special philatelic censor at New York.

The stamp (5c) properly pays the then current **5c international surface letter rate** to Morocco.

THE UNITED STATES HONORS THE NATIONS
OVERRUN BY THE AXIS POWERS



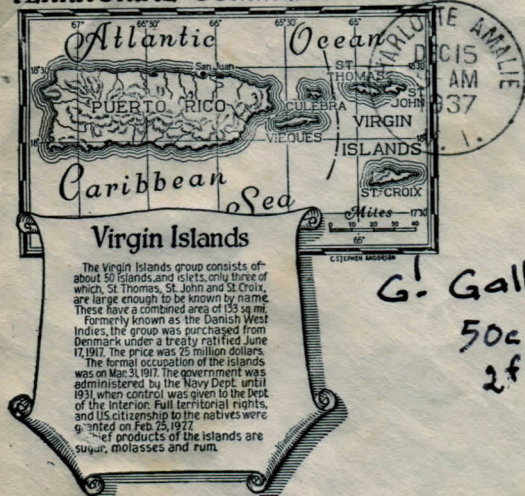
*The Rene Primat
113 Derb Chaoua
Marrakech -
French Morocco*

Austria (Capital, Vienna). Population (1934 census) 6,760,233. Area, 32,360 square miles. Flag colors: Red, white and Green.

Then, Morocco was a French colony. Now, since 1957, it is independent as the Kingdom of Morocco.

Crosby's first cachet was the 1929 2c George Rogers Clark stamp.

TERRITORIAL COMMEMORATIVES

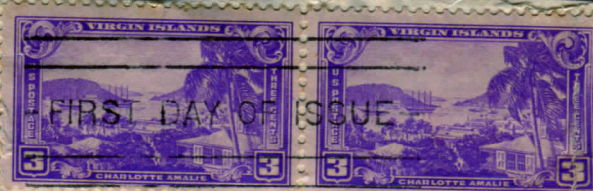


G. Gallieni (à ch)

50c :
2f :

MR. A. RAVOAJANAHARY
INSTITUTEUR
AMBOHJATOVO-SUD
TANANARIVE
M A D A G A S C A R

FIRST DAY COVER—SAVE WHOLE ENVELOPE



Madagascar

Light Violet

3c Virgin Islands
Territorial Issue pair
on an Anderson
Historical Envelopes
(C. Stephen Anderson)
cachet.

The pair (6c) overpays
the then current 5c
international surface
letter rate to
Madagascar.

Backstamped
Tananarive/Madagascar,
1/31/1938 — a
journey of 47 days.

Then, Madagascar was a French colony. Now, since June 1960, it is independent as a constitutional republic. Tananarive, the destination of the cover, is now known by its Malagasy name—Antananarivo—and is the capital of the country.

Anderson's first cachet was the 1933 3c Georgia Settlement (Oglethorpe) stamp.

Union of South Africa

Blue Violet

5c Korea Overrun
Countries stamp on a
Harry Ioor cachet.
The cover was
censored (examined)
by Examiner 20007.
Examiner 20007 was
a special philatelic
censor at New York.

The stamp properly
pays the then current
5c international
surface letter rate to
Union of South
Africa.



Then, the Union of South Africa was a self-governing autonomous dominion of the British Empire. Now, since 1961 when it became a republic, it is named the Republic of South Africa.

Ioor's first cachet was the 1929 2c George Rogers Clark stamp.

Continue counterclockwise around the globe to the **Middle East**.

Egypt

Violet

3c Centennial of
Baseball pair on
uncacheted cover.

The pair (6c)
overpays the then
current **5c**
international
surface rate to
Egypt.

Backstamped Cairo,
7/3/1939 -- a 21 day
journey.



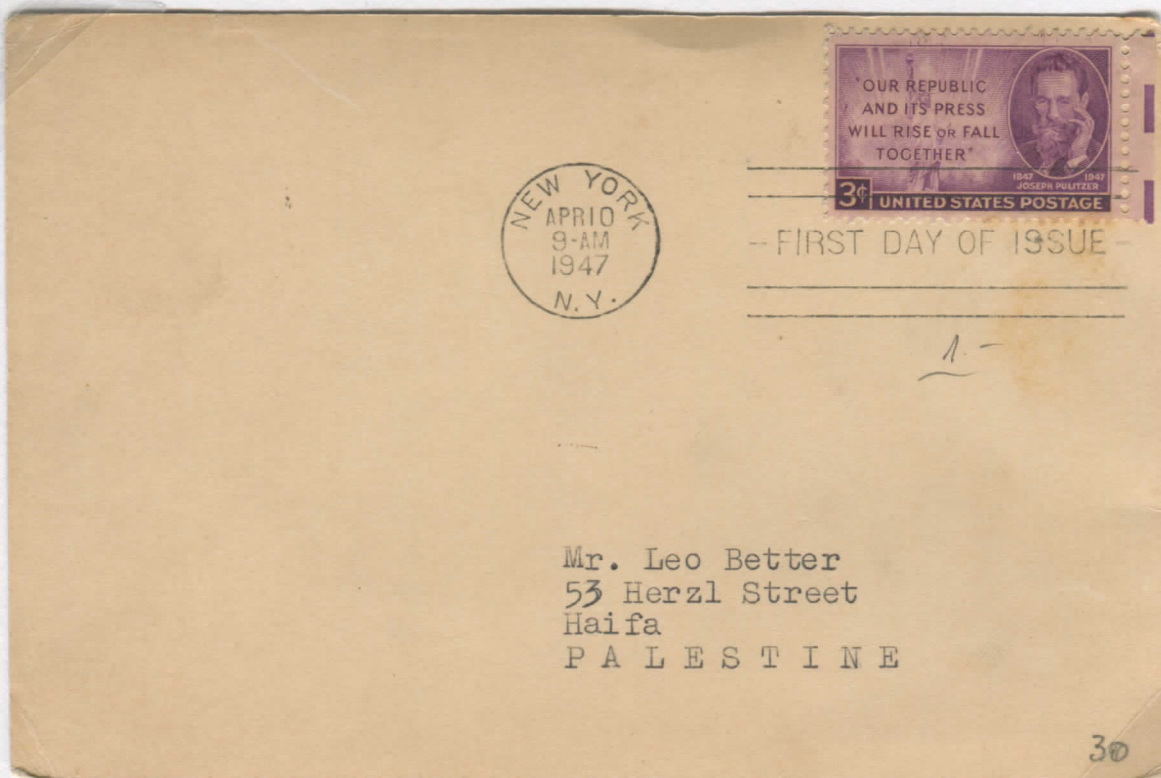
Then, Egypt was a Constitutional monarchy. Now, it is a unitary semi-presidential republic.

Palestine

Purple

3c Joseph Pulitzer
stamp on uncacheted
4" x 6" E. Z. Tone
Unruled Card (card
stock) by Goldsmith
Bros., NY, NY.

The single stamp
properly pays the
then current **3c**
international
surface postcard
rate to Palestine.



Then, Palestine, since the end of the First World War, was a British Mandate. Following the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, 13 months after this cover was mailed, Haifa became an Israeli city. It remains so today.

Aden

Light Violet

3c Virgin Islands
Territorial Issue pair
on a Parsons/Aubry
cachet.

The pair (6c)
overpays the then
current 5c
international
surface letter rate to
Aden.



W. K. Kuppuswami,
F.C.I. (Birm)
Aden Camp,
Aden. (Arabia)

Previously governed as a part of British India to stop pirate attacks against British shipping to India, Aden, in April 1937, became a separate colony of the United Kingdom. Now, since February 2018, the port city of Aden is controlled by the Southern Transitional Council – a Yemen Secessionist organization – after being seized from the Yemen Arab Republic.

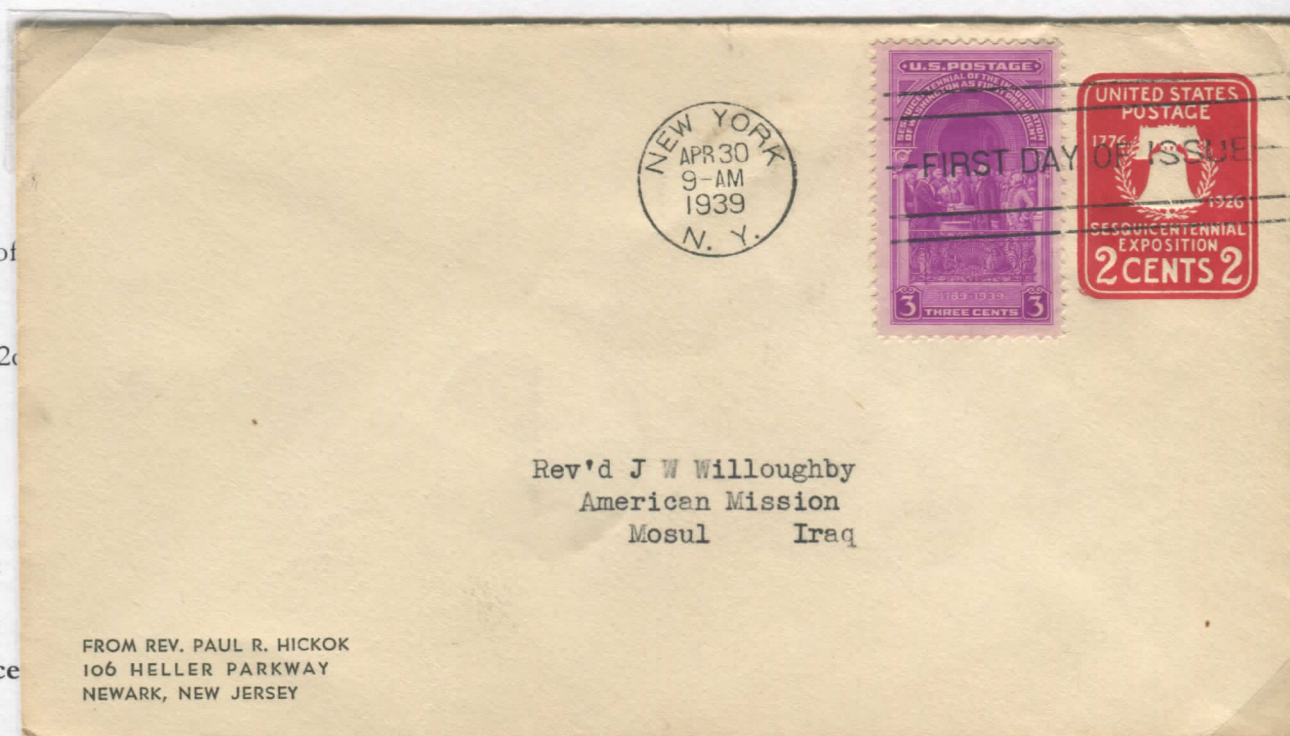
Parsons/Aubry's first cachet was the 1936 3c Susan B. Anthony stamp.

Iraq

Bright Red Violet

3c Sesquicentennial of
Washington's
Inauguration uprates
an uncached 1926 2c
Sesquicentennial
Exposition, die 1,
stamped envelope.

The stamp, with the
embossed indicia (5c
total), properly pays
the then current 5c
international surface
rate to Iraq.



Rev'd J W Willoughby
American Mission
Mosul Iraq

FROM REV. PAUL R. HICKOK
106 HELLER PARKWAY
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Backstamped
(indistinct name),
5/21/1939 – a 21 day
journey.

With a Rev. Paul R. Hickok corner card.

Then, Iraq was known as the Hashemite Kingdom of Iraq after gaining independence from the U.K. in 1932. Now, following the overthrow of the monarchy in 1958, it is an independent republic.

Continue east to the continent of **Asia**.

Hong Kong

Light Red Violet

50c William Howard Taft stamp on a House of Farnam (Harlan and Vera Farnam) cachet.

The stamp (50c) overpays the 5c **international surface letter rate** and the 15c (50 francs/\$9.65 indemnity) **international registry service** [total = 20c].

No backstamp/ receiving stamp but does have a San Francisco, Calif Registry Section, 12/16/1938 transit marking.



Then, Hong Kong was a British colony. Now, it is a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

House of Farnam's first cachet was the 1936 4 x 3c TIPEX souvenir sheet.

Japan

Bright Red Violet

3c Joel Chandler Harris pair on a Robert Fulton Stamp Co. cachet.

The pair (6c) overpays the 5c **international surface letter rate** to Japan.



Then, Japan was under Allied Occupation following its defeat in World War 2. The occupation ended with the treaty of San Francisco in 1952. Now, Japan is a unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy with an Emperor.

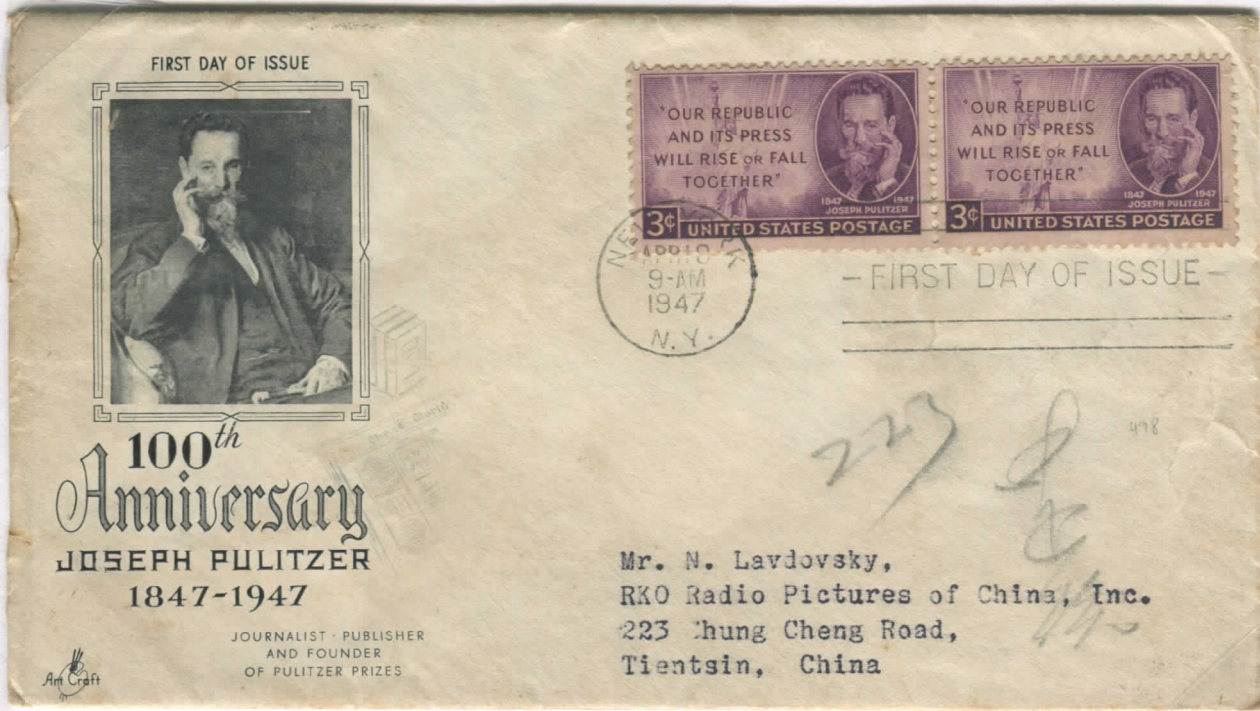
Fulton's first cachet was the 1947 3c Postage Stamp Centenary issue.

China

Purple

3c Joseph Pulitzer pair on an RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. cachet with insert letter (not shown). The pair (6c) overpays the 5c international surface letter rate to China.

Backstamped Tientsin [in Chinese and English], 6/30/1947 – a journey of 72 days.



The penciled writing on the cover's front is the address, 223 Chung Cheng Road, written in Chinese to assist the letter carrier in delivery of the cover.

Then, China was known as The Republic of China. Now, it is known as The People's Republic of China and Tientsin, located in northeast China, is known as Tianjin.

RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.'s first cachet was the 1937 3c Thomas A. Edison stamp.

Malaya

Deep Violet

4c American Woman on a Hobbies Committee of the People-to-People Program cachet with insert brochures (not shown) [Artcraft variety].

The stamp (4c) properly pays the 4c international surface printed matter rate (for the first 2 oz.) to the Federation of Malaya.



Formerly, the Federation of Malaya was a protectorate of the U.K. The Federation achieved independence in 1957 and joined the Commonwealth. In 1963, the Federation became the country of Malaysia when it associated with Singapore and 2 other British territories. Now, it is a federal parliamentary elective constitutional monarchy.

The Hobbies Committee's first cachet was the 1960 4c Abraham Lincoln American Credo stamp.

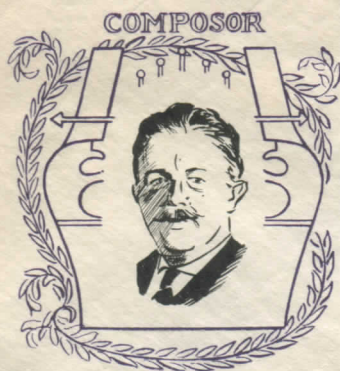
People-to-People was suggested by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 as a plan to build new paths to international understanding and peace.

New Zealand

Bright Red Violet

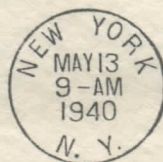
3c Victor Herbert
Famous Americans
pair on a Cachet
Craft cachet.

The pair (6c)
overpays the then
current 5c
international
surface letter rate to
New Zealand.



VICTOR HERBERT
1859 - 1924

First Day Cover



— FIRST DAY OF ISSUE —

Mr. J. Callinan,
c/o N. Z. Newspapers,
P. O. Box 1409,
Auckland, C-1, NEW ZEALAND

Then, New Zealand was a Dominion of the British Empire, after independence in 1947; it is currently a unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy.

Cachet Craft's first cachet was the 1937 3c Ordinance of 1787 Sesquicentennial (creation of the Northwest Territories).

Australia

Light Violet

3c Virgin Islands
Territorial Issue pair
on a Harry C. Ioor
cachet.

The pair (6c)
overpays the then
current 5c
international
surface rate to
Australia.

Backstamped
Nambour/
Queensland,
1/17/1938 — a 33 day
journey.



Mr. Charles Robertson,
Burnside,
Nambour,
Old Australia.

Then, Australia was a Commonwealth of the six previous self-governing British colonies. The Commonwealth of Australia achieved independence in 1939 and is currently a federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy.

Ioor's first cachet was the 1929 2c George Rogers Clark stamp.

A stop in the Pacific.

British Solomon Islands Protectorate

Blue Violet

5c Belgium Overrun Countries stamp on a Smartcraft (Edward F. Jordan) cachet.

The stamp (5c) overpays the then current 3c domestic letter rate to an overseas U.S.

Marines unit via the Fleet Post Office system.



—FIRST DAY OF ISSUE—

Sgt. Wm. C. Seydak., USMC,
10th Defense Batt.,
1st M.A.C.,
c/o F.P.O. San Francisco.,
California.

At the time of mailing, the 10th Defense Battalion of the 1st M.A.C. (Marine Amphibious Corps) was deployed in the Russell Islands of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. Currently, the country is known as the Solomon Islands, a constitutional monarchy with Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state.

Smartcraft's first cachet, with L.W. Staehle as the artist, was the 1943 5c Poland Overrun Countries stamp; Poland was the 1st stamp of that series.

And finally, return home.

Hawaii

Deep Purple

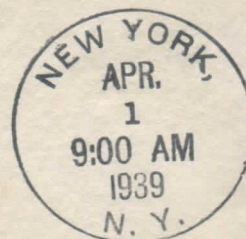
3c New York World's Fair on a Winfred M. Grandy cachet with airmail etiquette label.

The pair (6c) properly pays the then current 6c domestic airmail letter rate then surface transport to Hawaii.

Backstamped Papaaloo/Hawaii, 4/11/1939 – a journey of 10 days.



In commemoration of the opening of the
World's Fair, New York, April 30th, 1939.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. R. A. Hutchison
Papaaloo
Hawaii

Note, however, the airmail portion of the route was only within the Continental U.S. If the cover had been flown airmail over the complete route to Hawaii, the proper rate would have been 20c.

Then, Hawaii was a U.S. Territory. Now, since 1959, is it the 50th state.

Grandy's first cachet was the 1935 3c Connecticut Tercentenary stamp.