

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.

Str. 206

Des Adressaten
The receiver's

Stand
quality

Name
name

Wohnort
residence

Mr. M. Moose Virginia City Nev.

Ich, Unterschiebener habe richtig erhalten:
I the undersigned do hereby certify, to have duly received

durch die Post-Anstalt zu
by the post-office at Virginia City

eine recommentirte Sendung
a registered article

and
postet ad Cannstatt

von
from Gerichtsamt

den 8 of July 1870

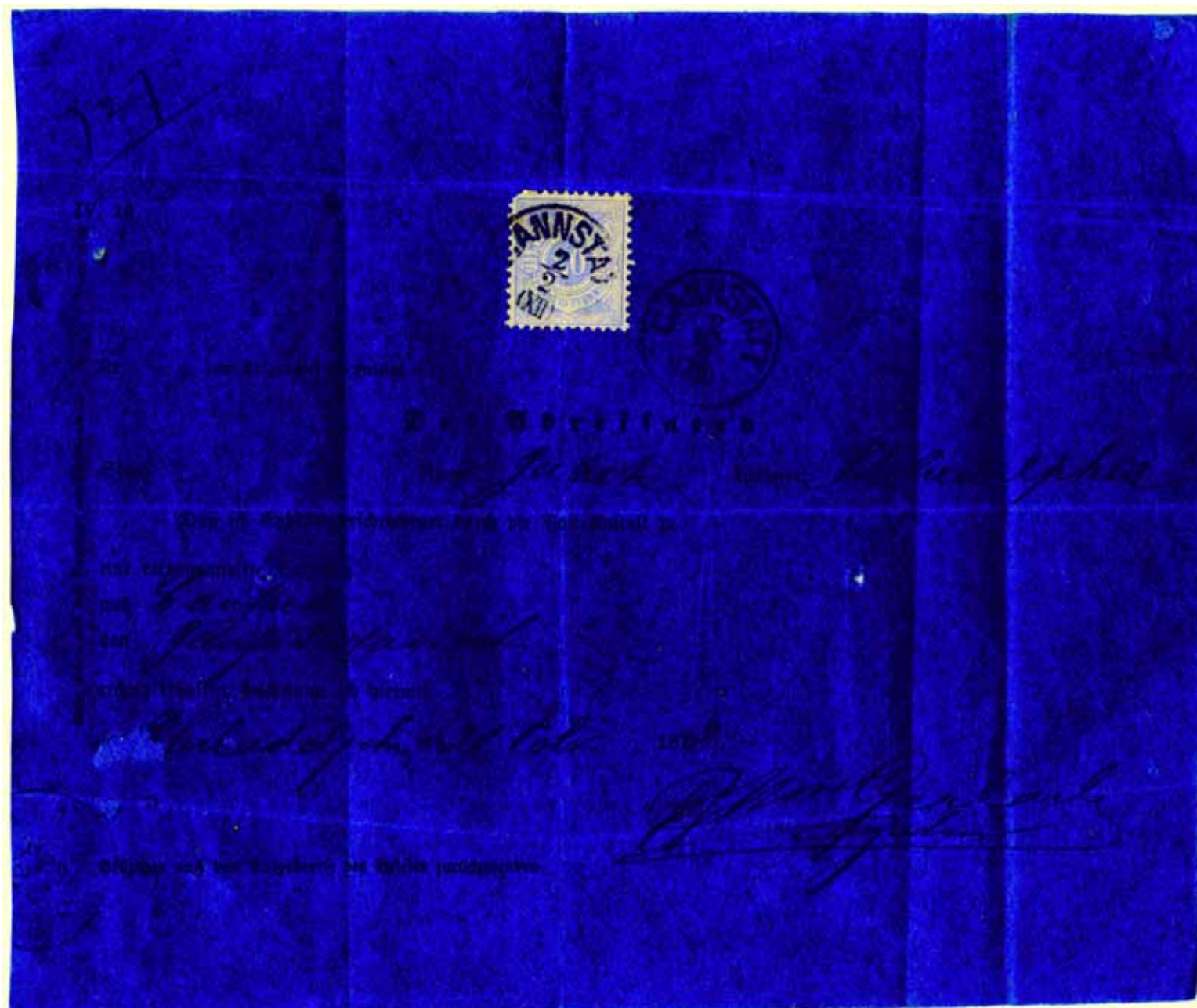
M. Moost

Hollegen nach dem Aufgaborte des Briefes zurücksenden.
To be sent back to the despatching office after being subscribed.

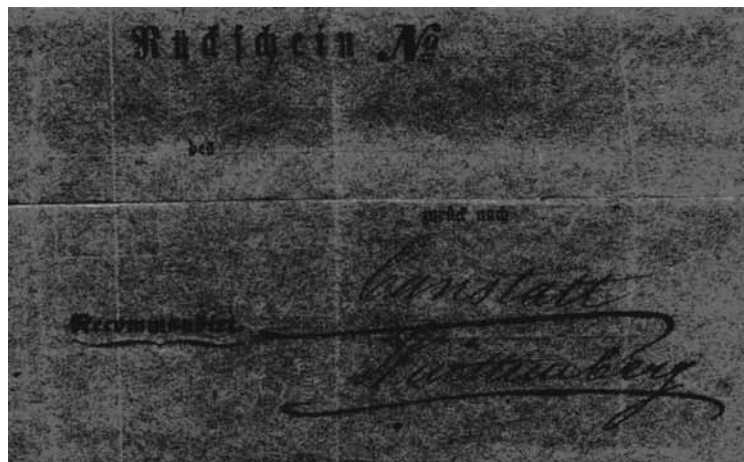
German AR form, Cannstatt (now part of Stuttgart in Württemberg) to Virginia City (NV), 1873. Properly signed; addressed to Mr M Moose, but signed M Moost. Although there are US marks on reverse, form likely returned under cover. Via Bremen and New York (red double circle registered handstamp on reverse). 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.

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 pay-
 ment of postage on private matter of any kind is
 punishable by a fine of \$300.

Bureau de poste de
 Wismenden
 Germany
 PAYS

Post Office Department.
 POST OFFICE AT NEW YORK, N. Y.
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

REG'D
 10-27
 1892
 REG'D

REG'D
 10-16
 1892
 REG'D

R
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 NEW YORK, N. Y.
 No. 11767

(3870.)
A.

istration of the United States.
 istration des États-Unis.
 itung der Vereinigten Staaten.

RETURN RECEIPT
 AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
 RÜCKSCHEIN

a insured letter
 lettre assurée
 nen versicherten Brief
 registered article
 objet recommandé
 no Einschreibsendung

entered under No. 40367, and addressed to
 enregistré sous le No. , et adressée à
 eingetragen unter No. , und adressiert an

M. Wagner, the
 à le
 in Philadelphia Pa

signed certifies
 signé déclare
 esunterschie-
 ascheinigt

that an insured letter
 qu'une lettre assurée
 dass ein versicherter Brief
 that a registered article
 qu'un objet recommandé
 dass eine Einschreibsendung

the office
 in bureau
 et provenant de
 et aufgegeben in
 has been duly delivered
 et dûment livré
 verschriftungsmässig ausgeliefert wurde

of the addressee:
 du destinataire:
 des Empfängers:

of the Chief of the office of delivery:
 du chef du bureau distributeur:
 des Chefs der abliefernden Postanstalt:

Return Receipt must be signed by the addressee, or if the regulations of the country of destination
 the Chief of the office of delivery, placed in an envelope, and returned, under registration, by the
 in the office of origin of the article to which it relates.
 le 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 envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier
 bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.
 Rückschein muss vom Empfänger unterschrieben werden, oder wenn die Bestimmungen des
 Landes erlauben, von dem Chef der abliefernden Postanstalt, in einem Briefumschlag gelegt, und
 absendung mit der ersten Gelegenheit an die abliefernde Postanstalt der in Frage stehenden
 Rückgeschickt werden.

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.

181

N° 514.
(Oct. 1895. - Rev. 1897.)

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES ET DES TÉLÉGRAPHES.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

d'un *Lmp* { valeur déclarée [REDACTED] } enregistré sous le n° *760* et adressé à *St Louis*
 { recommandé..... }
St Louis le *1* *Mai* 1897.
12 place St Louis

Le soussigné déclare qu'un *Lmp* { valeur déclarée } à l'adresse
 { recommandé..... }
 susmentionnée et provenant de *Dayton Ohio*
Atty Gen

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE FRANCE.

Timbre du bureau distributeur *PARIS 20*

Timbres-poste. *12*

ENVOI À L'ÉTRANGER:
 D'UN AVis DE RÉCEPTION OU DE PAYEMENT,
 d'une demande de versement de correspondance ou de notification d'écrit
 ou
 d'un objet revêtu de timbres-poste présumés frauduleux.

Bureau de poste de *Dayton*
 Province de *Ohio*
 25782
 (Pays de destination)

NOTA. — Cet avis doit être expédié sous recommandation:
 1° D'office, si elle est restée sans avis de réception ou de paiement, soit un objet revêtu de timbres-poste frauduleux;
 2° Avec affranchissement ou timbre-poste (taxe et droit à la charge du requérant), si l'objet d'une demande de versement ou de notification.

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

Nota. — Cet avis doit être envoyé dans le ordinaire dans le recommandé

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

115
8870.
A.

Administration of the United States.
Administration des États-Unis.
Verwaltung der Vereinigten Staaten.

NEW YORK, N.Y.
10-8
1898
REG'D DIV.

RETURN RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
RÜCKSCHEIN 11233.

for an insured letter
d'une lettre assurée
für einen versicherten Brief
for a registered article
d'un objet recommandé
für eine Einschreibsendung

entered under No. _____, and addressed to
enregistré sous le No. _____, et adressée à
eingetragen unter No. _____, und adressiert an

M _____, at _____, 189 ____
M _____, à _____, le _____, 189 ____
M _____, in _____, den _____, 189 ____

The undersigned certifies
Le soussigné déclare
Der Endesunterschriebene bescheinigt

that an insured letter
qu'une lettre assurée
dass ein versicherter Brief
that a registered article
qu'un objet recommandé
dass eine Einschreibsendung

to the above address
à l'adresse susmentionnée
an die obige Adresse

Stamp of the office
of delivery.
Timbre du bureau
distributeur.
Stempel der ablie-
fernden Postanstalt.

and originating at
et provenant de
und aufgegeben in
has been duly delivered
a été dûment livré
vorschriftsmässig ausgeliefert wurde

the _____, 189 ____
le _____, 189 ____
den _____, 189 ____

Signature (*)
Signature (*)
Unterschrift (*)

of the addressee:
du destinataire:
des Empfängers:

of the Chief of the office of delivery:
du chef du bureau distributeur
des Chefs der abliefernden Postanstalt:

Miss Emma Benz
Mrs. Emma Benz

(*) This Return Receipt must be signed by the addressee, or if the regulations of the country of destination allow it, by the Chief of the office of delivery, placed in an envelope, and returned, under registration, by the first mail, to the office of origin of the article to which it relates.

(*) 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 envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

(*) 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 an die absendende Postanstalt der in Frage stehenden Sendung zurückgeschickt werden.

6-2944

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.

(3870.)
A Ma.

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 adressé à
für eine Einschreibsendung No. _____, an
M *Catharine*, at *Supply Store*, the _____, 18
M _____, à _____, le _____, 18
M _____, in *Vancouver - B.C.*, _____, 18
Canada

Stamp of the office of origin.
Timbre du bureau d'origine.
Stempel der abliefernden Postanstalt.
The undersigned certifies that a registered article to the above address
Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionnée
Der Unterschriftene bescheinigt dass eine Einschreibsendung an die obige Adresse
and originating at *Dayton* _____, has been duly
provenant de *17-97 # 134*, a été dûment
und aufgegeben in _____, wurde vorschrifts mässig

Stamp of the office of delivery.
Timbre du bureau distributeur.
Stempel der abliefernden Postanstalt.
delivered the _____, 18
livré le _____, 18
abgeliefert den _____, 18

VANCOUVER
Post Office.
Signature (*) *Laurence Kip*
Signature (*)
Unterschrift (*)
of the address:
du destinataire:
des Empfängers:
of the Chief of the office of delivery:
du chef du bureau distributeur:
des Chefs der abliefernden Postanstalt:

VANCOUVER
Post Office.
Signature (*)
Signature (*)
Unterschrift (*)
of the address:
du destinataire:
des Empfängers:
of the Chief of the office of delivery:
du chef du bureau distributeur:
des Chefs der abliefernden Postanstalt:

(*) This Return Receipt must be signed by the addressee, or if the regulations of the country of destination allow it, by the Chief of the office of delivery, placed in an envelope, and returned under registration by the first mail.
(*) 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.
(*) Dieser Rückchein 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.

This space is reserved on counterpart for particulars connected with dispatch of registered piece.

Registered Letter / No. _____
Received 134
Post Office,
addressed *Catharine Supply Store*
Vancouver B.C.
1897, from *Dayton OH*
P.M., per *17-97 # 134*

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.

Deutschland. Württembergische Postverwaltung.
 Allemagne.
 Administration des Postes du Royaume de Wurtemberg.

Rüdschein
Avis de Réception

Ein(en) Brief (Kästchen) mit einer Wertangabe von
 d'une lettre (boîte) avec valeur déclarée de
 über eine Einschreibsendung (Brief) *
 d'un objet recommandé (lettre) *
 ein Postpaket
 d'un colis postal

eingetragen
 bei der Post-
 anstalt
 enregistré au
 bureau

in Ellwangen post 17. 9. 1903 unter Nr. 418
 de le sous le No. (**)

und gerichtet an
 et adressé à
 in Boston
 à

Der Unterzeichnete erklärt, daß
 Le soussigné déclare
 die obenbezeichnete Adresse aus
 l'adresse susmentionnée et provenant de
 richtig ausgehändigt worden ist am 1903
 a été dûment livré le

Stempel der Bestellungs-
 Postanstalt.
 Timbre du bureau
 distributeur.

Unterzeichnet
 Signature (+) Joseph Anton Rathgeb.

des Empfängers: des Vorstehers der Bestellungs-Postanstalt:
 du destinataire: du chef du bureau distributeur:

*) Art der Sendung (Brief, Waarenprobe, Drucksache u. s. w.).
 (**) Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé etc.).
 **) Aufgabe-Postanstalt; Tag der Einlieferung bei dieser Postanstalt; Nr. der Ein-
 tragung bei derselben Postanstalt.
 (***) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; No. d'enregistrement au même bureau.
 †) Zur Beachtung. Dieser Rüdschein muß vom Empfänger oder, wenn die Ver-
 ordnungen des Bestimmungslandes es erfordern, vom Vorsteher der Bestellungs-Postanstalt
 unterzeichnet, dann unter Umschlag gelegt und mit nächster Post unter Einschreibung an die
 betreffende Aufgabe-Postanstalt gesandt werden.
 (†) Nota. Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de desti-
 nation 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.

B I 2 b Regie. Sept. 00

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 pay-
 ment of postage on private matter of any kind is
 punishable by a fine of \$300.

Post Office Department. REG. 155.
 POST OFFICE AT
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
 BOSTON, MASS.
 No. 155.

Bureau de poste de Ellwangen

PAYS

Reg. 155.

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 AR forms are very rare; perhaps fewer than 10 are known *worldwide* for international AR.

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
DU CHILI

Formulario 47

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

AVISO DE RECEPCION

B

d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de
de una carta con valor declarado de

d'un objet recommandé () (1)
de un objeto certificado

enregistré au bureau
anotado en la oficina

de Philadelphia Pa. E. Union 14/ Mars 1902 190 sous le N.º 160-63847 (2)
de el bajo el N.º

et adressé à M. Wilhelm Rohne à
y dirigida a en

Le soussigné déclare
El que suscribe declara

qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée à l'adresse
que una carta con valor declarado a la direccion

qu'un objet recommandé
que un objeto certificado

susmentionnée
arriba indicada

Timbre du Bureau distributeur
Timbre de la Oficina destinataria

et provenant de
y procedente de

a été dûment
ha sido debidamente

livré le 17 de Abril 1902
entregado el 190

Signature (3)
Firma

du destinataire
del destinatario

du chef du bureau distributeur
del jefe de la oficina destinataria

Guillermo Rohne

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.

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.

(3870.) **1298**

Administration of the United States. B.

RETURN RECEIPT.
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION.

for a registered article *L 89270* (1) entered at the office of
d'un objet recommandé () (1) enregistré au bureau de
Galveston Tex the *5-1-03* under No. (2),
le *5-1-03* sous le No. *4262* (2),
and addressed to M *Miss M. Sprenger* at *Berlin Germany*
et adressé à M *Miss M. Sprenger*, à *Berlin Germany*

Stamp of the office of delivery.
Timbre du bureau distributeur.

The undersigned certifies that a registered letter to the above address and originating at
Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionnée et provenant de
has been duly delivered the 190
a été dûment livré le 190

SIGNATURE (3)
of the addressee: *Miss M. Sprenger*
du destinataire:
of the chief of the office of delivery: *Robert J. [illegible]*
du chef du bureau destinataire:

(1) Nature of the article (letter, sample, print, etc.)
(1) Nature de l'objet (letter, échantillon, imprimé, etc.)
(2) Office of origin; date of mailing at that office; No. of entry at said office.
(2) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; No. l'enregistrement au même bureau.
(3) This return receipt must be signed by the addressee; or, if the regulations of the country of destination permit it, by the chief of the office of delivery; then placed in an envelope and transmitted, under registration, by the first mail to the office of origin of the article to which it relates.
(3) 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.

—4172

Post Office Department.
POST OFFICE, GALVESTON, TEX.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
JUN 1 11-AM
(No. 1-A.)

L Schwabe
Monterey
Hotel Baron
Mex.

A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law for using
this form without payment of postage on
first-class mail.

REGISTERED.
1903
1
JUN
GALVESTON, TEX.

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.

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

Stamp of dispatching office.
Timbre du bureau expéditeur.

C

RETURN RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

for a letter with declared value of _____
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de _____ } entered at the office
for a registered article (_____) (1) } enregistré au bureau
d'un objet recommandé (_____) (1) }
of _____ the _____, 19____, under No. _____ (2)
de _____ le _____, 19____, sous le No. _____ (2)
mailed by M. _____
expédiée par M. _____
and addressed to M. _____ at _____
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
originating at _____, has been duly
provenant de _____ a été dûment
delivered the _____, 19____
livré le _____, 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.

Form 3870.

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

Model Post Office
Stamp of dispatching office.
Timbre du bureau expéditeur.

RETURN RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

for a letter with declared value of _____
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de _____ } entered at the office
for a registered article (_____) (1) enregistré au bureau
d'un objet recommandé (_____) (1) }
of _____ the _____, 19 _____, under No. 3318 (2)
de _____ le _____, 19 _____, sous le No. _____ (2)
mailed by M. *Div of Coins & Medals*
expédiée par M. _____
and addressed to M. _____ at _____
et adressé à M. *Hon Minister of Finance*
(complete address) _____
(adresse complète) *Peking China*

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
qu'un objet recommandé _____

Stamp of delivering office.
Timbre du bureau distributeur.

originating at _____, has been duly
provenant de _____ a été dûment
delivered the _____, 19 _____
livré le _____, 19 _____

Signature (3) of the addressee:
Signature (3) du destinataire:
Chow Hsin-fai
Minister of Finance

Signature (3) of the postal official of the office of delivery:
Signature (3) de l'agent 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. at 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 la première courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

5-4172

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.

Form 3870.

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

C

Stamp of dispatching office.
Timbre du bureau expéditeur.

INDIANA JUL 19 1916 REG. DIV.

RETURN RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

for a letter with declared value of _____
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de *Letter* _____ } entered at the office
for a registered article (_____) (1) } enregistré au bureau
d'un objet recommandé (_____) (1) } *162x8*
of _____ the *July 19*, 19 *16* under No. _____ (2)
de _____ le _____, 19 _____, sous le No. _____ (2)
mailed by M _____
expédiée par M *H. B. Dykes, 1514 Vigs St.*
and addressed to M _____
et adressé à M *M. M. Zwolle* at _____
(complete address) *Nowawes Germany*
(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
{ qu'un objet recommandé }

Stamp of delivering office.
Timbre du bureau distributeur.

originating at _____, has been duly
provenant de _____ a été dûment
delivered the _____, 19
livré le _____, 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:

5874 5874

6248

Mr. M. Zwolle,
Postfach 38,
Nowawes,
Berlin Germany

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

7-21 1916 FORN

NOWAWES 23.8.19.12-14

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.

ADMINISTRATION OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
ADMINISTRATION DES ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE.

Stamp of dispatching office.
Timbre du bureau expéditeur.

Stamp of delivering office.
Timbre du bureau distributeur.

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 } } enregistré au bureau

University Station *April 18* 1922, No. *1144* (2)

mailed by M } *M. Vertrees*
expédiée par M }
and addressed to M } *Finlayson* {at} *Paris, France*
et adressé à M } {à}
complete address } *1 Rue Gabrielle*
adresse complète }

The undersigned declares that a { letter with declared value } to the above
registered article }
Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée } à l'adresse
qu'un objet recommandé }
address, and originating at }
susmentionnée, et provenant de }
{ has been duly delivered the } *10-25* 1922
{ a été dûment livré le }

Signature (3) of the addressee: }
Signature (3) du destinataire: }
Signature (2) of the postal official of the office of delivery: }
Signature (2) de l'agent du bureau distributeur: }

(1) Nature of the article (letter, sample, print, etc.).
(2) Office of origin; date of mailing at that office; registration No. of that office.
(3) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; No. d'enregistrement au même bureau.

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

Form 3870.

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.

NOTES.

(1) Return of the article (letter, sample, print, etc.) to the sender is the responsibility of the sender. The sender must indicate the return of the article to the sender by the return of the article to the sender.

(2) Return of the article (letter, sample, print, etc.) to the sender is the responsibility of the sender. The sender must indicate the return of the article to the sender by the return of the article to the sender.

Post Admin. des Et.

500

500

DELIVERING OFFICE. BUREAU DISTRIBUTEUR.

Return to } M. Jan Karpinski
Renvoyez à }
Street address or } 211 Athol
P. O. Box No. }
Rue et Numéro ou }
Boîte Postale No. }
Post Office at }
Bureau de Poste de }
State } OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
État de }
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—RETURN RECEIPT
ADMINISTRATION DES ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE—AVIS DE RÉCEPTION.

for a letter with declared value of }
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de }
for a registered article }
d'un objet recommandé } entered at the office
enregistré au bureau

611924

192, No. 132

mailed by M } M. Sloane 323 W 75 St
expédié par M }
and addressed to M } Marie Kometa
et adressé à M } Elm (at Germany)

STAMP OF TIMBRE DU

28 DEC 1923

DISPATCHING OFFICE. BUREAU EXPÉDITEUR.

complete address }
adresse complète }
The undersigned declares that a { letter with declared value } to the above address.
Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée } à l'adresse susmentionnée,
and originating at }
et provenant de }
was duly delivered }
a été dûment livré le } 132

Signature (1) of the addressee: }
Signature (2) of the agent of the office of delivery: }

DELIVERING OFFICE.

Early card to Germany, December 1923. Shows reverse.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—RETURN RECEIPT
ADMINISTRATION DES ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE—AVIS DE RÉCEPTION.

for a letter with declared value of }
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de }
for a registered article }
d'un objet recommandé } entered at the office
enregistré au bureau

WASAU, WIS. FEB 18 1925. No. 8368

mailed by M } E. H. Shatto
expédié par M }
and addressed to M } Yui Zu Hsin
et adressé à M } Tsinan Shanling

STAMP OF TIMBRE DU

18 FEB 1925

DISPATCHING OFFICE. BUREAU EXPÉDITEUR.

complete address }
adresse complète }
The undersigned declares that a { letter with declared value } to the above address.
Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée } à l'adresse susmentionnée,
and originating at }
et provenant de }
was duly delivered }
a été dûment livré le } 132

Signature (1) of the addressee: }
Signature (2) of the agent of the office of delivery: }

DELIVERING OFFICE. BUREAU DISTRIBUTEUR.

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

More AR cards (1920s)

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

Registered article } *Letter*
Envois recommandés }
Oakland Calif
mailed at (déposé au bureau de poste de)
9/27/28 69609
on (sur) under No. (sous le No.)
M. *W. J. Samson*
and addressed to (et adresse à)
at } *Transvaal*
M. *Dr. J. P. J.*

Return Receipt
Avis de réception

Stamp of office where return receipt received
Timbre du bureau distributeur

Return to } *Mr. Geo. Hughes*
Renvoyez à }
Street Address or } *Prado Market*
Rue et Numéro ou }
P. O. Box No. }
Boite Postale No. }
Post Office at } *Oakland*
Bureau de Poste de }
State } *Calif*
État de }

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
États-Unis d'Amérique

Form 3870 5-4183

1 Nature of article, if registered (letter, print, etc.). If article is insured, cross out the word "Registered" and insert "Insured" after the word "article." "Recommandé" et insérer "avec valeur déclarée" après le mot "Envoi."

To Transvaal, 1928. Oakland–Nylstrom.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—RETURN RECEIPT.
ADMINISTRATION DES ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE—AVIS DE RÉCEPTION.

for a letter with declared value of }
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de }
for a registered article } *Letter* (1)
d'un objet recommandé }
Feb 11, 1928, 192, No. *697144* C

mailed by M }
expédié par M } *Dr. J. G. Perez*
and addressed to M } *New York*
et adressé à M } *Don Eloy Martinez*

STAMP OF TIMBRE DU

at } *Prado 4, Havana, Cuba*
à } (complete address — adresse complète)

The undersigned declares that a (letter with declared value / registered article) to the above address,
Le soussigné déclare (qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée / qu'un objet recommandé) à l'adresse susmentionnée,

and originating at }
et provenant de }
was duly delivered }
a été dûment livré le } , 192

Signature (2) of the addressee: }
Signature (2) du destinataire: } *Don Eloy Martinez*

Signature (2) of the postal official of the office of delivery: }
Signature (2) de l'agent du bureau distributeur: }

DELIVERING OFFICE
BUREAU DISTRIBUTEUR

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 5-4183 (1), (2), (3) { See notes on front. / Voir notes au recto. }

To Cuba, 1928.
New York–Havana.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—RETURN RECEIPT.
ADMINISTRATION DES ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE—AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

for a letter with declared value of }
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de }
for a registered article }
d'un objet recommandé }
192, No.

mailed by M }
expédié par M }
and addressed to M }
et adressé à M }

STAMP OF TIMBRE DU

at } *Kispest*
à } (complete address — adresse complète)

The undersigned declares that a (letter with declared value / registered article) to the above address,
Le soussigné déclare (qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée / qu'un objet recommandé) à l'adresse susmentionnée,

and originating at }
et provenant de }
was duly delivered }
a été dûment livré le } , 192

Signature (2) of the addressee: }
Signature (2) du destinataire: } *Dr. Hajdu János*

Signature (2) of the postal official of the office of delivery: }
Signature (2) de l'agent du bureau distributeur: }

DELIVERING OFFICE
BUREAU DISTRIBUTEUR

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 5-4183 (1), (2), (3) { See notes on front. / Voir notes au recto. }

Magyar korona gyűjtőszaktára
KISPEST, KISFALUBY-U. 93.
Telefon: 143

To Hungary, 1929. New York–Kispest. Received and signed in Kispest 6 January 1930, and mailed back to New York.

More AR cards (still 1920s)

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

Registered article } *Letter* (1)
Envoi recommandé }
Fresno, Calif.

mailed at (déposé au bureau de poste de)
12106

on (le) under No. (sous le No.)
Fah Paula Soreyssen
and addressed to (et adressé à)
Sanderho Faup
Denmark

Nature of article, if registered (letter, print, etc.). If article is insured, cross out the word "Registered" and insert "Insured" after the word "article." S'il s'agit d'un envoi avec valeur déclarée, biffez "Registered" et insérez "Insured" après le mot "article."

Form 3870 5-4183

Return Receipt
Avis de réception

Stamp of office returning this receipt
Timbre du bureau distributeur

1-11.29.12-78

Return to } *M. H. Johansen*
Renvoyez à }
Street Address or }
Rue et Numéro ou } *444 Huntington*
P. O. Box No. }
Boîte Postale No. }
Post Office at }
Bureau de Poste de }
State }
Etat de }

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
États-Unis d'Amérique

To Denmark, 1929. Fresno-Sanderho.

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

Registered article } *1* Cans* (1)
Envoi recommandé }
Chicago, Ill.

mailed at (déposé au bureau de poste de)
Nov 30 1929 815741

on (le) under No. (sous le No.)
M. Miss A. A. Andrit
and addressed to (et adressé à)
Esch
Luxemburg

Nature of article, if registered (letter, print, etc.). If article is insured, cross out the word "Registered" and insert "Insured" after the word "article." S'il s'agit d'un envoi avec valeur déclarée, biffez "Registered" et insérez "Insured" après le mot "article."

Form 3870 5-4183

Return Receipt
Avis de réception

Stamp of office returning this receipt
Timbre du bureau distributeur

ESCH SUR ALZETTE
17 12 29 5-6M

Return to } *M. Miss A. A. Andrit*
Renvoyez à }
Street Address or }
Rue et Numéro ou } *829 Center St.*
P. O. Box No. }
Boîte Postale No. }
Post Office at } *Chicago, Ill.*
Bureau de Poste de }
State }
Etat de }

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
États-Unis d'Amérique

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

(POSTMARK OF)

Receipt for Registered Article No. 815741
Registered at the Post Office indicated in Postmark

Fee paid *15* cents Class postage

Return Receipt fee _____ Spl. Del. fee _____
Delivery restricted to addressee:

in person _____
Accepting employee place his initials in space indicating restricted delivery.

POSTMASTER, per _____ (MAILING OFFICE)

Complete record of registered mail is kept at the post office, but the addressee should write the name of the addressee on back hereof as an identification. Preserve and submit this receipt in case of inquiry or application for indemnity.

Registry Fees and Indemnity.—Domestic registry fees range from 15 cents for indemnity not exceeding \$50 up to \$1 for indemnity not exceeding \$1,000. The fee on domestic registered matter without intrinsic value and for which indemnity is not paid is 15 cents. Consult postmaster as to the specific domestic registry fees and as to the registry fees chargeable on registered parcel-post packages for foreign countries. Claims must be filed with postmasters within one year from date of mailing.

Form 3806 (Rev. 7-4-28) c5-6852 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1925

Still more AR cards (1930s)

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

Registered article } *Letter* (1)
Envoi recommandé } *Delano Calif*

mailed at (déposé au bureau de poste de) *Jan 22/1932 1437*
on (le) under No. (sous le No.)
M *Mr. Del Chuerico*
and addressed to (et adressé à)
at } *Collegio Seralia*
à } *Jerusalem Palestine*
M

1 Nature of article, if registered (letter, print, etc.). If article is insured, cross out the word "Registered" and insert "Insured" after the word "article." *Article*

Form 2865 5-4183

Return Receipt
Avis de réception

Stamp of office returning this receipt
Timbre du bureau distributeur

Return to
Renvoyez à } M *A. Lombardi*
Street Address or
Rue et Numéro ou
P. O. Box No.
Boîte Postale No. *DELANO, CALIF.*
Post Office at
Bureau de Poste de
State
État de

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
États-Unis d'Amérique

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

Form 2865
Post Office Department, United States of America
Administration des Postes des États-Unis d'Amérique

Registered article } *Letter* (1)
Envoi recommandé } *EMPIRE STATE STA. N.Y.P.O.*

mailed at (déposé au bureau de poste de) *Nov 2 - 1936 340/91*
on (le) under No. (sous le No.)
M *Charles Kestner*
sent by (expédié par)
M *P.M. Kizil Msta*
and addressed to (et adressé à)
at } *U.S. T.R.*
à }

1 Nature of article, if registered (letter, print, etc.). If article is insured, cross out the word "Registered" and insert "Insured" before the word "article." *Article*

Form 2865 5-4183

Return Receipt
Avis de réception

Stamp of office requesting this receipt
Timbre du bureau expéditeur de l'avis

Return to
Renvoyez à } M *Charles Kestner*
Street Address or
Rue et Numéro ou
P. O. Box No.
Boîte Postale No. *112 W 72nd St*
Post Office at
Bureau de Poste de
State
État de

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
États-Unis d'Amérique

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

Signed two days after receipt in Kizil.



The undersigned declares that the article described on the other side was duly delivered
Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part a été dûment livré

on _____, 19____
le _____, 19____

Postmark of the office of destination
Timbre du bureau destinataire

SIGNATURE:

of the addressee
du destinataire: *Charles Kestner*

of the agent of the office of destination
de l'agent du bureau destinataire: *Laurenço Marques*

1 This receipt must be signed by the addressee, or, if the regulations of the country of destination so provide, by the agent of the office of destination, and returned by the first mail direct to the sender.
et retourné par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1934 5-11654

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.]

Post Office Department
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Original Reg. No. 127

RETURN TO: State Bank
(Name of sender.)

Street and Number, }
or Post Office Box, }

Post Office at Wonewohe
County _____ State Wisconsin

This card must be neatly and correctly made up and addressed at the post office where the article is registered. The postmaster who delivers the registered article must see that this card is properly signed, legibly postmarked, and mailed to the sender, without envelope or postage.

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

Postmark of Delivering Office
ERNFOLD, SASK. (S) 15
and Date of Delivery.

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

Post Office Department
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

REGISTERED ARTICLE
No. 1986
INSURED PARCEL
No. _____

Return to N. B. Johnson
(NAME OF SENDER)

Street and Number, } #603 Buckingham Hotel
or Post Office Box, }

Post Office at MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
State _____

Rev. 3-24
© 5-0110

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

POSTMARK OF DELIVERING OFFICE
PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.
JUL 4 29 AM
AND DATE OF DELIVERY

Prince George, British Columbia,
1929. From Minneapolis.

Form 8811
Rev. 1-4-40

RETURN RECEIPT

Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.

1 Annie N. Wagar
(Signature or name of addressee)

2 _____
(Signature of addressee's agent—Agent should enter addressee's name on line ONE above)

Date of delivery Nov 16, 1945

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-12421

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

Post Office Department
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

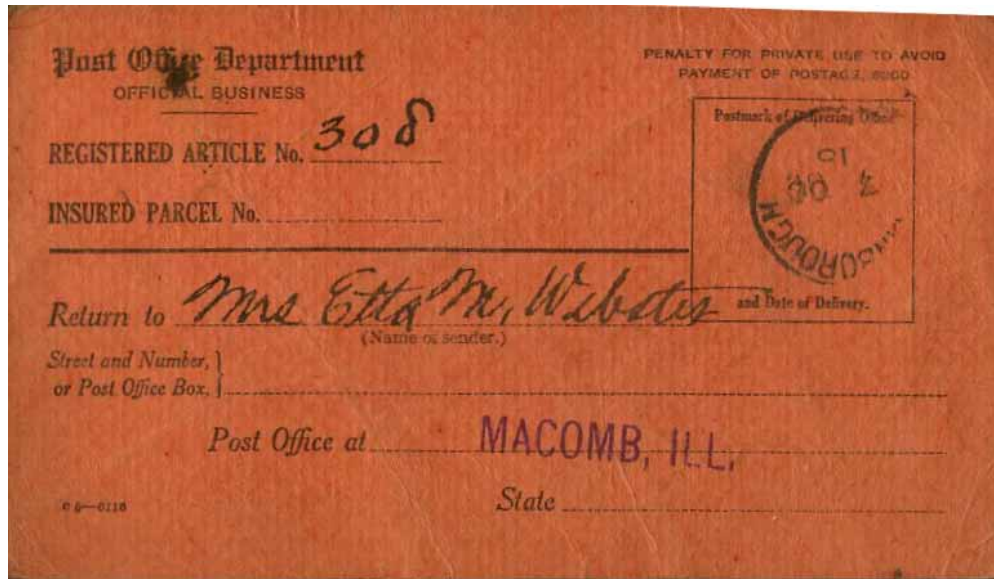
Return to Bowmanville, Ont.
Street and Number, }
or Post Office Box, }

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

POSTMARK OF DELIVERING OFFICE
BOWMANVILLE, ONT.
NOV 16 1945

Unauthorized use of domestic RRR cards to foreign destinations

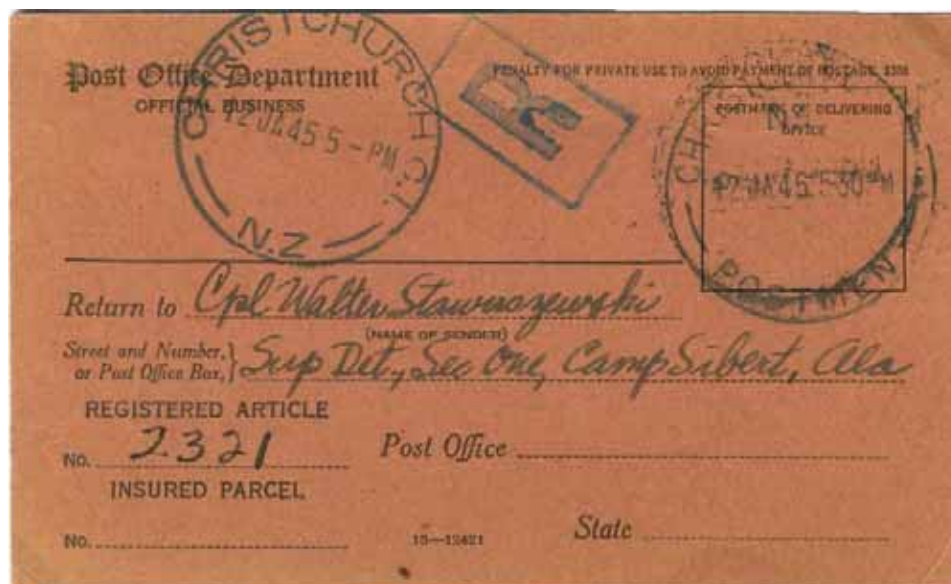
No authority has been found for the use of RRR cards to countries other than Canada



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).

recel #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)

Ins
Registered article (14027) (1) (2)
Envoi recommandé
Parcel insured for \$ 75.00 (2)
Colis avec valeur déclarée de
Mailed at the post office of
deposé au bureau de poste de
Chattanooga, Tenn.
on DEC 9 - 1938, under No. 14027
le 19 sous le No.
Mailed by M
expédié par M
and addressed to M
et adressé à M
at
à

¹ Indicate in the parenthesis the nature of the article.
Indiquer dans la parenthèse la nature de l'envoi (lettre, carte (letter, print, etc.).
imprimé, etc.).
² Strike out the indications not applicable.
Biffer les indications inutilisées.

Return Receipt
Avis de réception

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

M. *John D. Stanard*
P.O. Box 306,
(Street and number)
(Rue et numéro)
Chattanooga, Tenn.
(Place of destination, in large characters)
(Lieu de destination, en gros caractères)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
États-Unis d'Amérique
POSTAL SERVICE
Service des postes

Postmark of the office returning the receipt
l'adresse du bureau de retour

5-11054

recel #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)

Ins
Registered article (14027) (1) (2)
Envoi recommandé
Parcel insured for \$ 75.00 (2)
Colis avec valeur déclarée de
Mailed at the post office of
deposé au bureau de poste de
Chattanooga, Tenn.
on DEC 9 - 1938, under No. 14027
le 19 sous le No.
Mailed by M
expédié par M
and addressed to M
et adressé à M
at
à

(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).



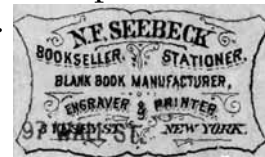
Blue crayon 2 on reverse (applied in NY) might refer to amount short-paid (2¢) rather than original registration number.

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¢ registration (UPU; in effect from 1875) and triple UPU rate at 5¢ per half ounce, overpaid 1¢. Intended to be carried by the Republic, 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. *ex-Ainsworth*



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.



Pittsburg–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 AR 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 AR fee would have been paid in stamps on the accompanying AR 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)



New York—Copenhagen, triple rate, 1888. **Rated** 10¢ reg'n & triple 5¢ UPU (per half ounce), paid the hard way. Two-line handstamp **RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED** applied at same time as **REGISTERED**. Unusual destination in this period.

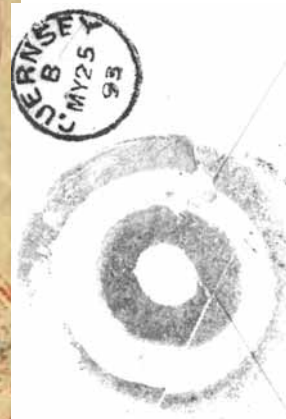


Philly—Paris, 1885. Single rate. Endorsed, likely not by sender, Return receipt required.



Michigan—Montreal, officially sealed, 1890. **Rated** reg'n 10¢, double 2¢ per ounce to Canada. Officially sealed stamp (1889) and two purple strikes of (received in) Bad Order on reverse. From l'Anse ("bay") via Detroit (OS applied) & Windsor. Earliest reported non-Hechler AR cover to Canada (from anywhere).✓✓

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.



WASHINGTON, D. C.
JAN 4 1894
REGISTERED
JAN 4 1894
WASHINGTON, D. C.
No. 4590

Return Receipt Enclosed

Delivered 11 4 00

Gerhard, Esq.
Basel.
Switzerland.

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



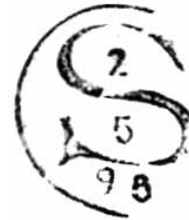
Chicago–Germany, 1893. Rated 8¢ registration plus single 5¢ UPU rate. Sender endorsed *Return receipt demanded* & nonstandard German Rück(schein) Quittung verlangt; New York office applied nonserif **A.R.** Standard blue crayon ms Rück(schein) applied on incoming AR covers to Germany.



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 15 gm (marked weight, 69 gm).

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—Goteberg (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.



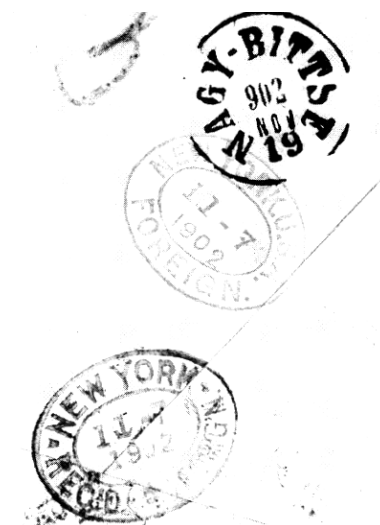
St Louis—Rome, 1909. **Rated** as above.



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

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED.
RETOUR RECEPIS VERLANGT.

Second line reads RETOUR RECEPIS 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



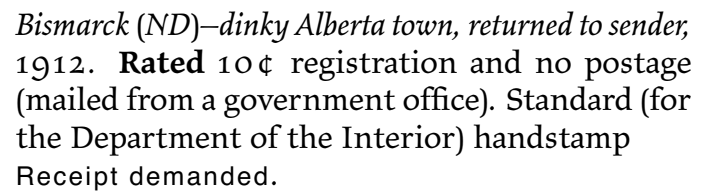
Timber Valley (WA) to Brisbane, 66¢ postage, 1910. Rated 18× UPU rate (5¢ first ounce, 3¢ each additional) plus 10¢ registration.

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.

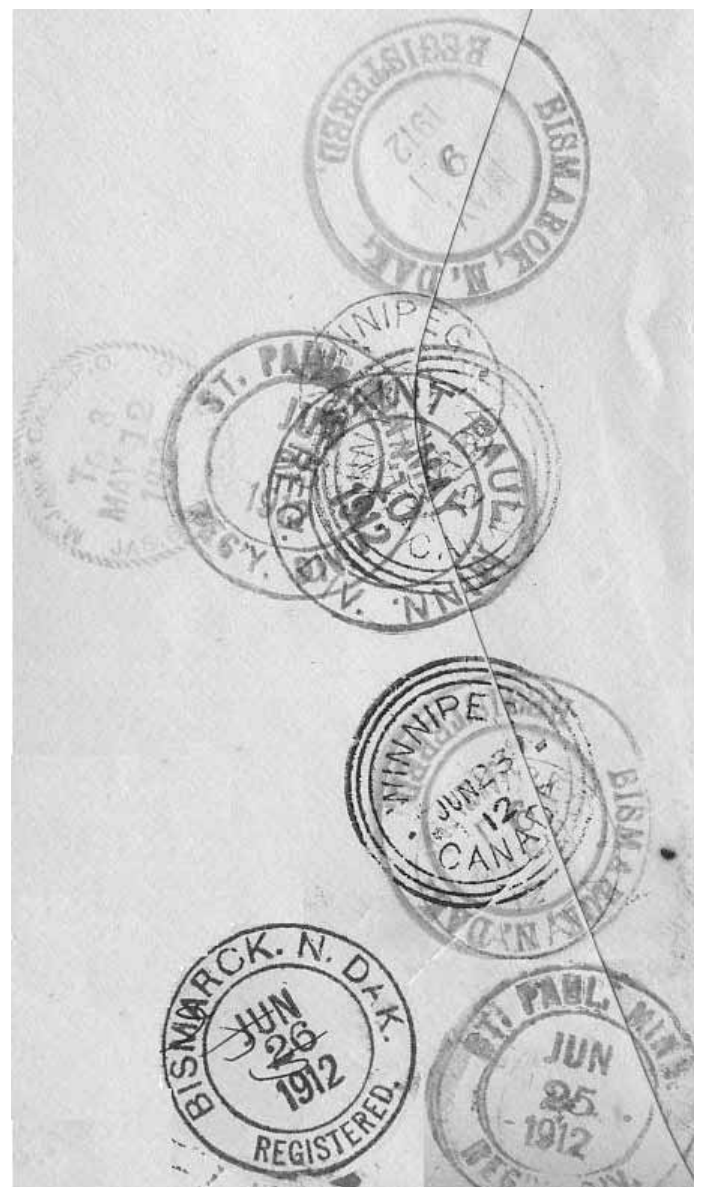
San Francisco registration etiquette. Timber Valley post office open only 11 years.



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.



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

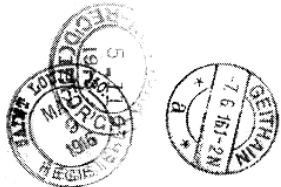
Issued 1911–13 but never demonetized. It could be used only to pay the registration fee.



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

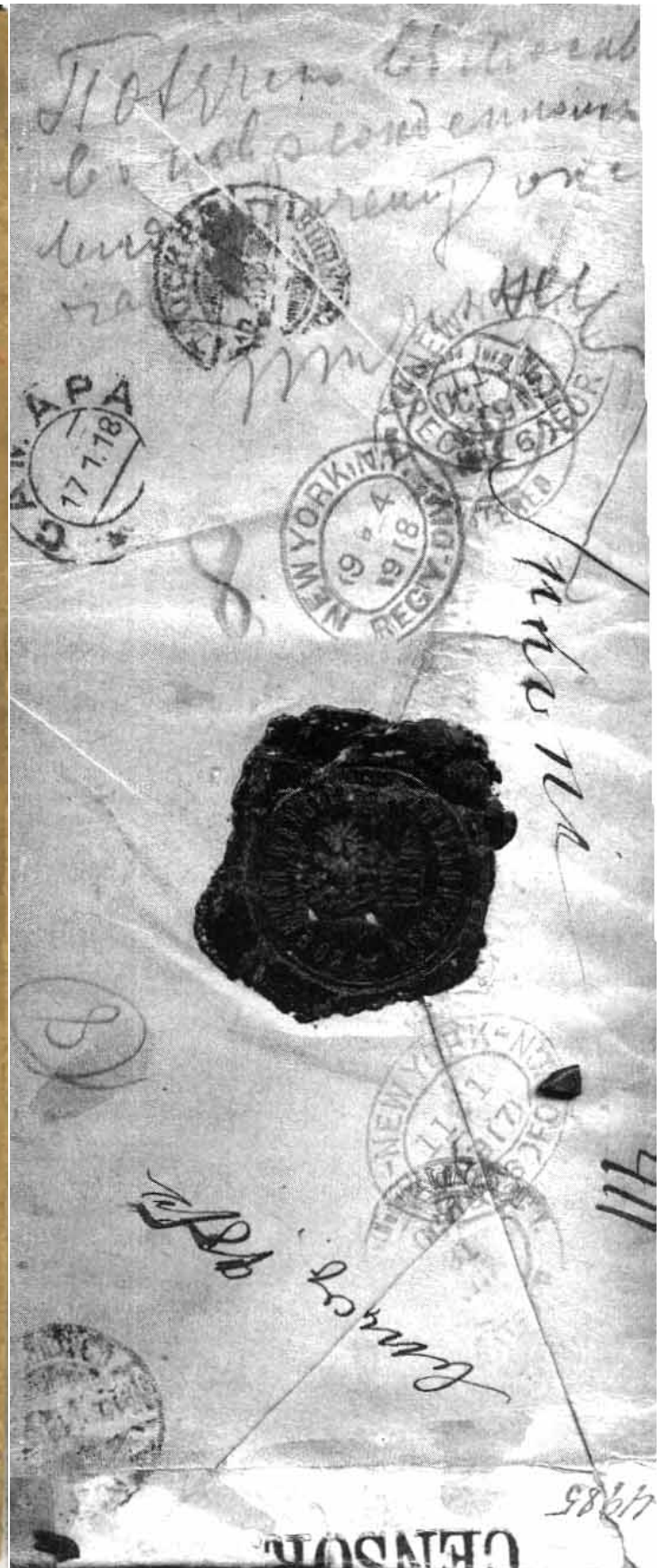
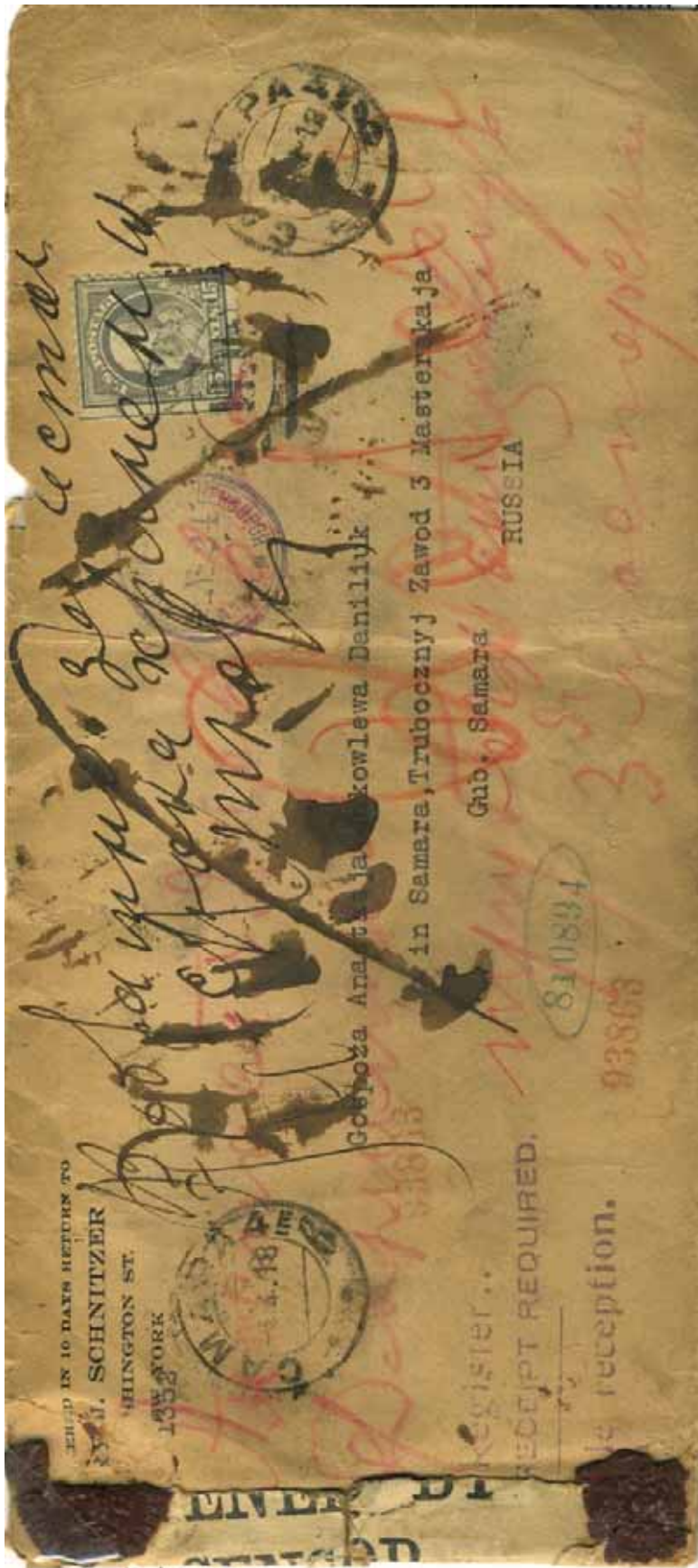


New York–Kristiania (Oslo), British censor, 1916. **Rated** 10¢ reg'n, double UPU (5¢ first ounce, 3¢ each add'l).



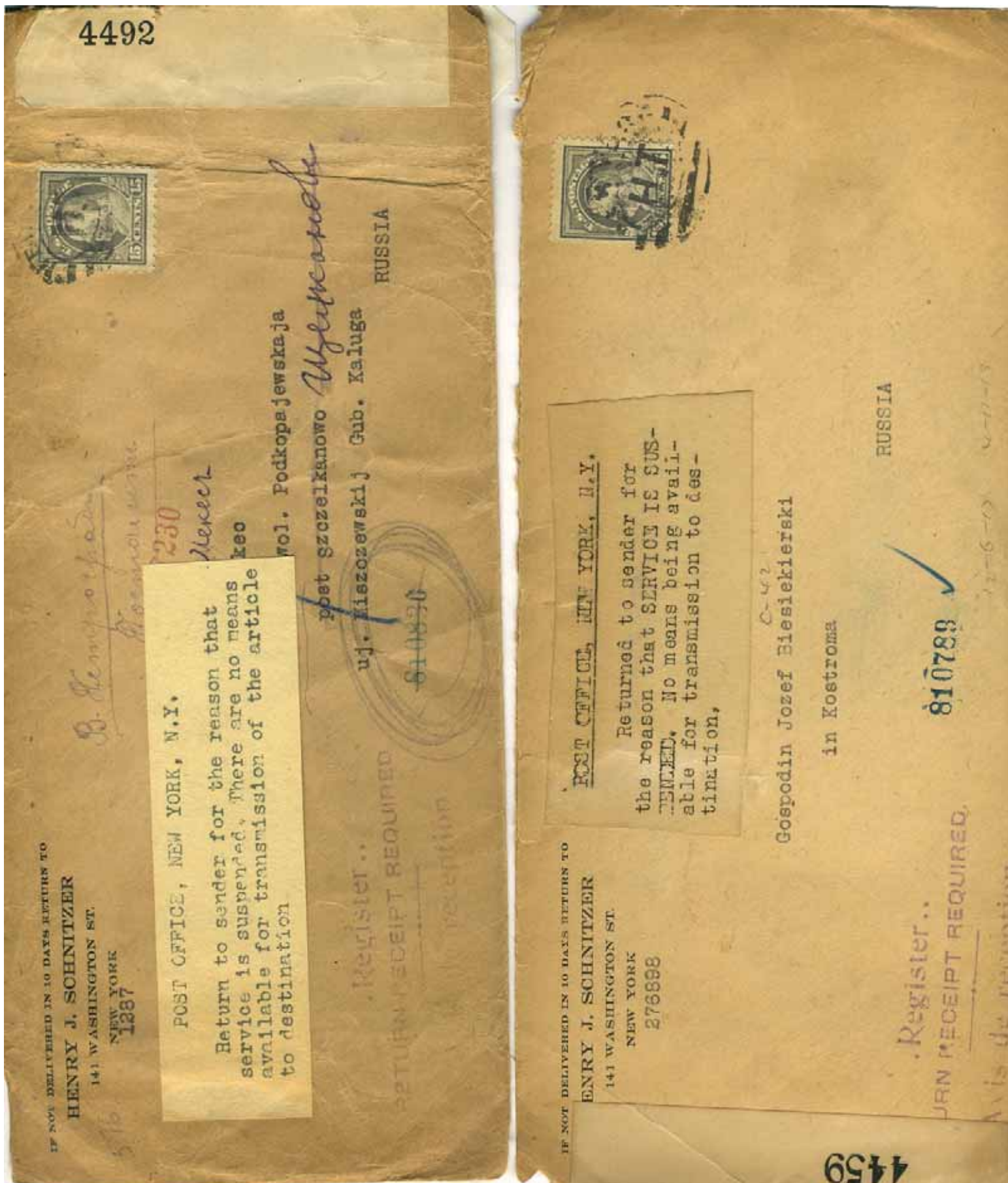
Evanston (IL)–Denmark, US censor, 1917. Single UPU rate. Forwarded within Denmark.

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



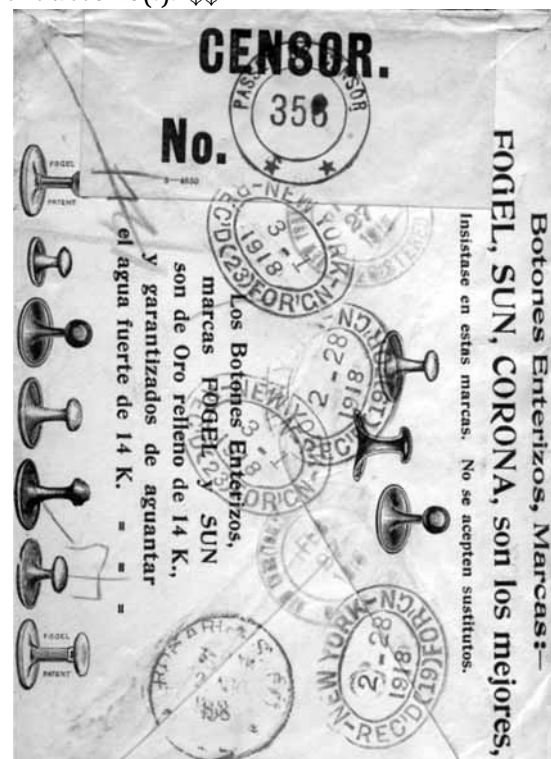
Returned to sender two years later, Nov'r, Dec'r 1917. **Rated** as previous. Same sender, different addresses. One made it to Russia (backstamps) & forwarded, but ret'd. Later one held in US. Different NY stickers.

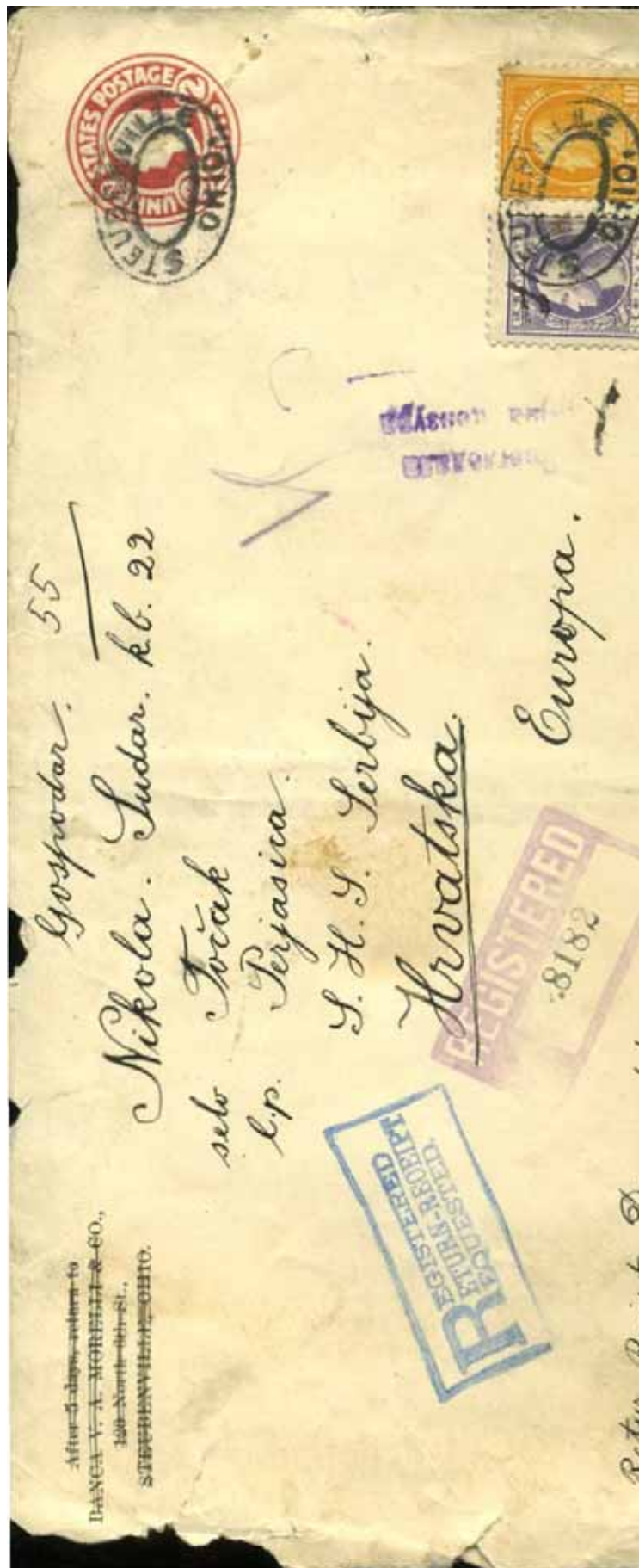
To South America



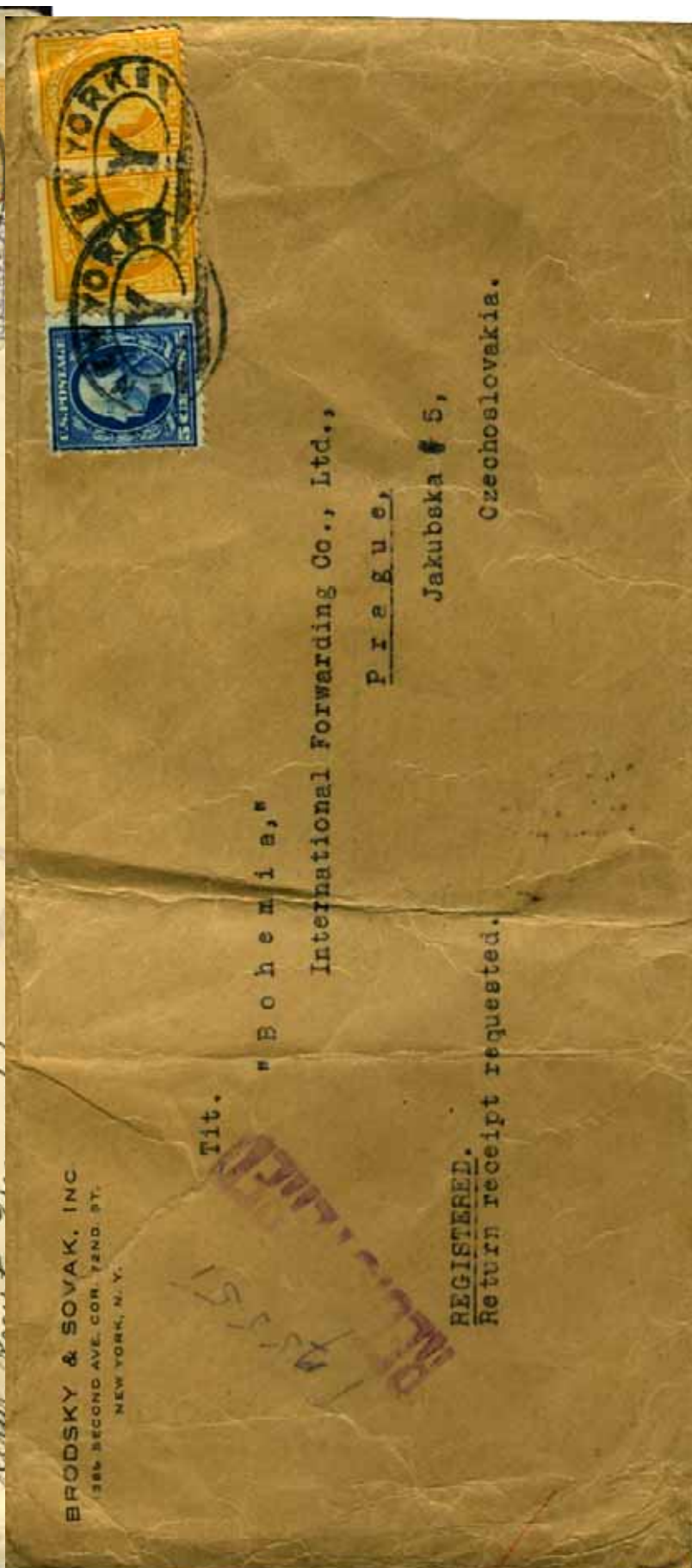
New York–Bolivia, returned to sender, April 1917. Neutral country censorship (61) after US entered the war. Registration number 1 at New York. From the Aero Club of America to its purported counterpart (which didn't exist).

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





To Croatia within Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, & Slovenians (SHS), 1919. **Rated** 10¢ reg'n, 5¢ UPU.



To Czechoslovakia, quadruple, 1921. **Rated** 10¢ reg'n & UPU 5¢ first weight, 3¢ each add'l, overpaid 1¢.

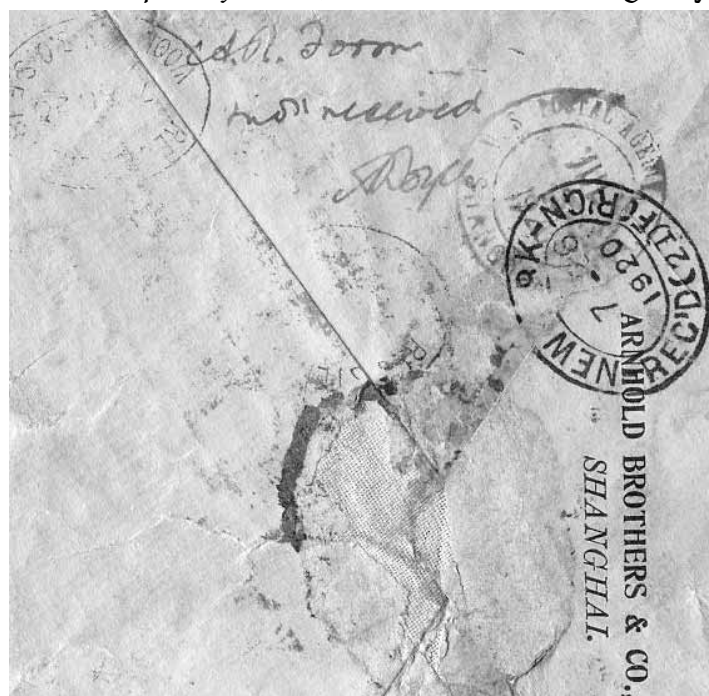
American office in Shanghai, transiting New York

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)

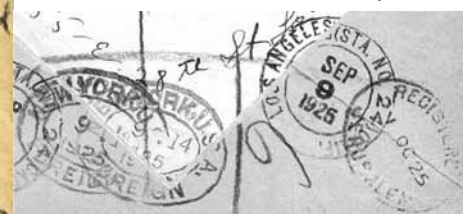
[WB] gives *domestic* rate changes on 15 April 1925 for reg'n (10¢ → 15¢), and for AR (RRR) (0¢ → 3¢). To foreign destinations, the corresponding rate changes are given 6½ months later, on 1 December 1925 (reg'n 15¢, and AR 5¢). The the latter date is wrong, according to covers in the intermediate period;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

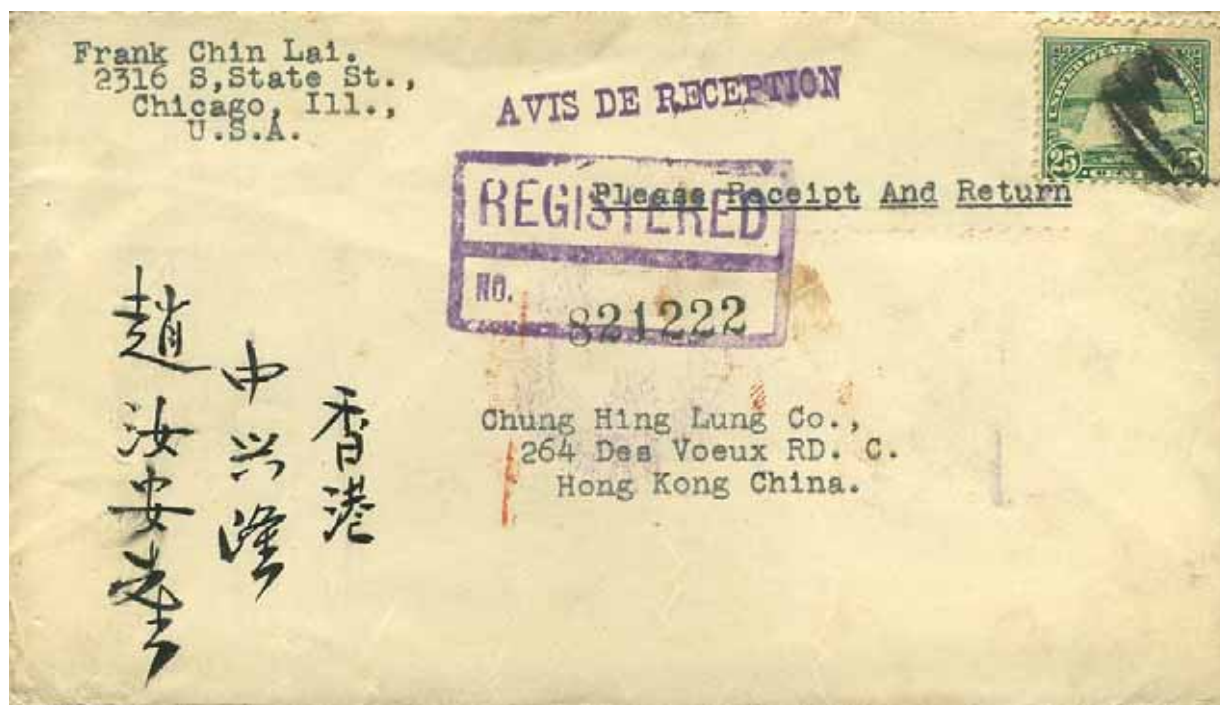


Philly—Canada, missing AR fee, October 1925. **Rated** 15¢ reg'n, 2¢ to Canada. Restricted delivery (... addressee only) not available to Canada, but moot; letter returned.



North Portal & Moose Jaw RPO.

Hong Kong & China



Chicago–Hong Kong, 1928. **Rated** 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR fee, and UPU rate 5¢.



Boston–Canton, 1930. **Rated** as above. Sunchong datestamp.



RETURN AFTER 2 DAYS TO

ERNEST L. RHODES CO.

IMPORTERS

67-69 SOUTH PRYOR ST.

ATLANTA, GA.

REGISTERED

34176

247

Return Receipt Requested
Fee Paid

Page 303

AVIS DE RECEPTION

REGISTERED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Harry P. Sands, Attorney
Chambers, Nassau,
Bahamas Islands.

AVIS DE RECEPTION



REGISTERED

CTION, EFFECT DEMAND

Sr. D. Otto Fagg, 21 III '038

~~Apartado Postal 053~~

~~Gargooly Venonuala,~~

Hans Oeschke

Ludwigshafen

Am! Bodonsde
Othman

W/13 De Reception.

0.128059

De Reception

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.

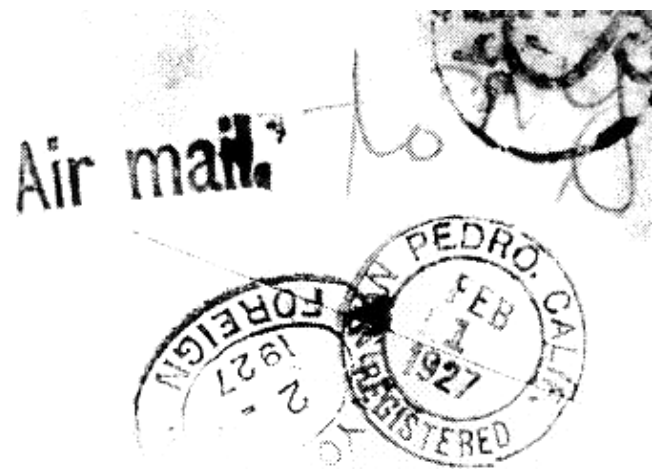
AR with airmail

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!

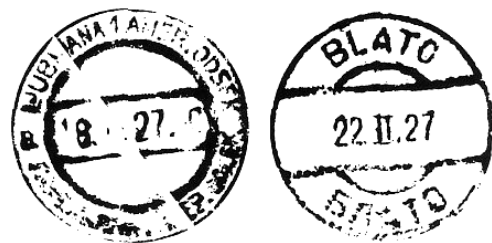


Sesqui-rated to Yugoslavia, partially flown, first day of rate, 1 February 1927. Ms AR at left, and consistent with rates. The letter weighed between one-half and one ounce.

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¢ AR, 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 [WB] as available from 2 September 1927). Weighed one-half to one ounce.



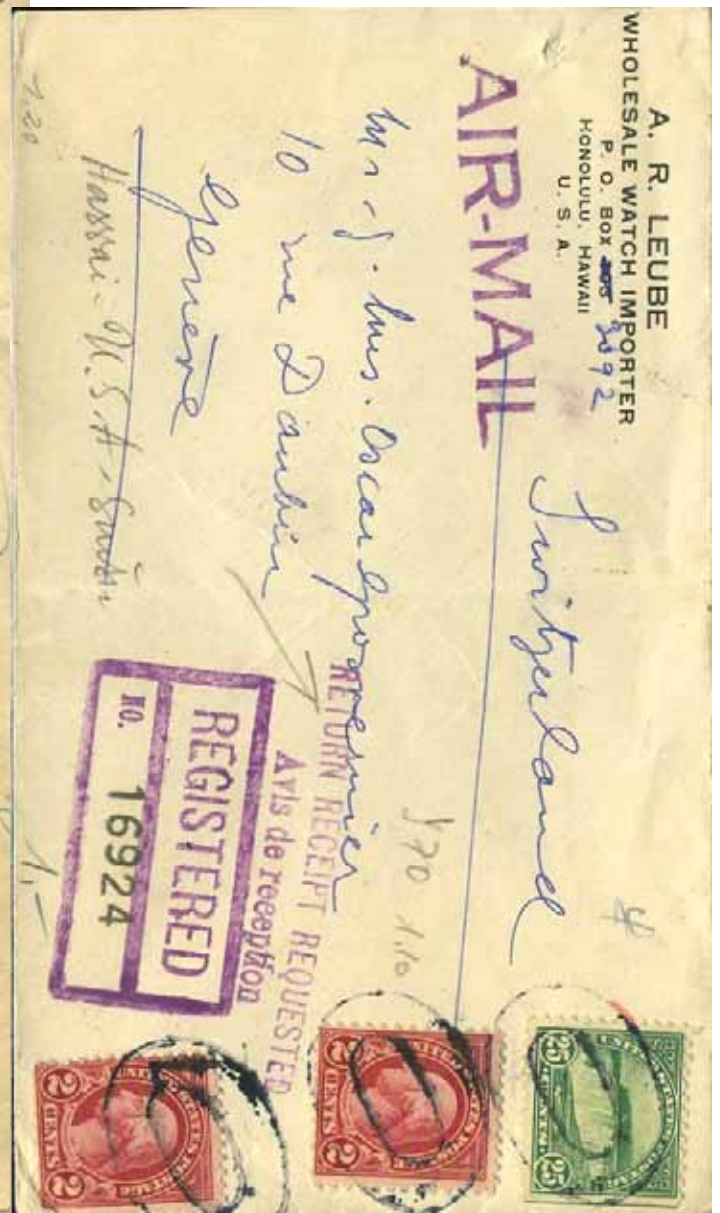
NIGHT AIR MAIL refers to the extra (nightly) flight Chicago–New York; after 1 February, no additional charge. Carried on the Cunard *Aquitania*—sister ship of the *Lusitania*—to UK; departed New York 9 July, eventually arrived at Conakry (French Guinea) 29 July, and the destination, Seguiri, 7 August.

[illegible]

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



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



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.

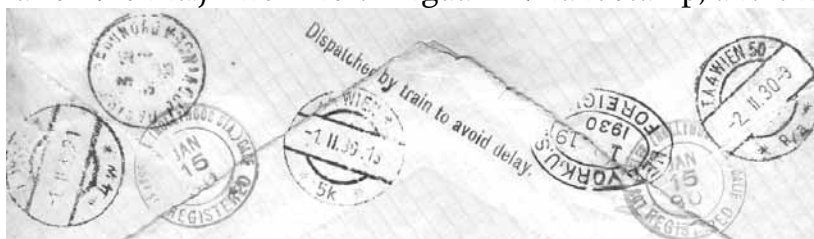


Newark–Poland, air in Europe, not in US, December 1931. **Rated** 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR, double surface UPU rate 5¢ first ounce and 3¢ second ounce, and quadruple 4¢ per half ounce Paris–Berlin (note two strikes of Berlin airmail handstamp, and on reverse, a Paris hs), overpaid by 1¢.

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.

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.



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.



[illegible]

Four circular registration stamps are shown, each with the text "CINCINNATI, OHIO" around the top and "REGISTERED" around the bottom. The stamps contain the following dates and times:

- Stamp 1: JUL 128 1939
- Stamp 2: AUG 29 1939
- Stamp 3: AUG 31 1939
- Stamp 4: AUG 2 1939

HJ. AVIGNONE
40-38-162 ST
FLUSHING, N.Y.

U.S.A.

REGISTERED
NO. 53020

3

U.S. AIR MAIL

10c

10c

U.S. AIR MAIL

MR. & MRS. FRANK GINA
"BEACH CREST"
RURAL HILL,
BERMUDA.

Return Receipt Requested
FEE PAID

air to South
America



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.

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 service available only domestically. WWII had begun, but US & Portugal were neutral.

This is a receipt form from the Post Office Department, United States of America, Form 9503. It is titled "Receipt for Registered Article No. 636576". The form includes fields for "Registered article", "Parcel insured for \$", "Mailed at the post office of", "Station", "Mailed by M.", "and addressed to M.", "at", "City", "State", "Country". The form is stamped with "NEW YORK, N.Y. 115 BROAD ST. NOV 24 1939". The form is also stamped with "REGISTERED" and "636576". The form is marked with "VIA AIR MAIL" and "PERSONAL". The form is addressed to "Sr. Den Gregorio de Jove, Avenida Liberdade, 180, Lisboa, PORTUGAL." The form is marked with "REGISTERED" and "636576". The form is marked with "63" in red.

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

This is a receipt form from the Post Office Department, United States of America, Form 3806. It is titled "Receipt for Registered Article No. 636576". The form includes fields for "Fee paid", "Declared value", "Return Receipt fee", "Delivery restricted to addressee", "In person", "or order", "For paid", "Accepting employee will place his initials in space indicating restricted delivery". The form is stamped with "NEW YORK, N.Y. 115 BROAD ST. NOV 24 1939". The form is also stamped with "REGISTERED" and "636576". The form is marked with "VIA AIR MAIL" and "PERSONAL". The form is addressed to "Sr. Den Gregorio de Jove, Avenida Liberdade, 180, Lisboa, PORTUGAL." The form is marked with "REGISTERED" and "636576". The form is marked with "63" in red.

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.

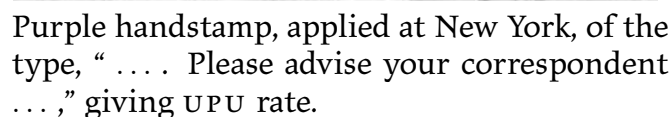
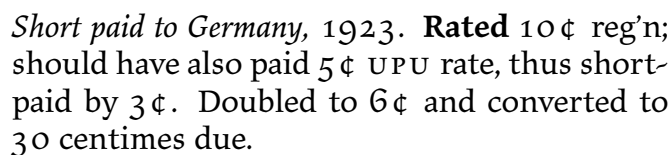


Chicago–Addis Ababa, 1942. **Rated** 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR, and 70¢ as explained above. With British and Indian FPO hs. Addressed to Haile Selassie.



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

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.





Postage due AR,
coming & going

Sonora-US, Mexican civil war, April 1914. Mex postage, 10 centavos reg'n, 10 CVO AR, & 5 CVO 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 stamps as valid.



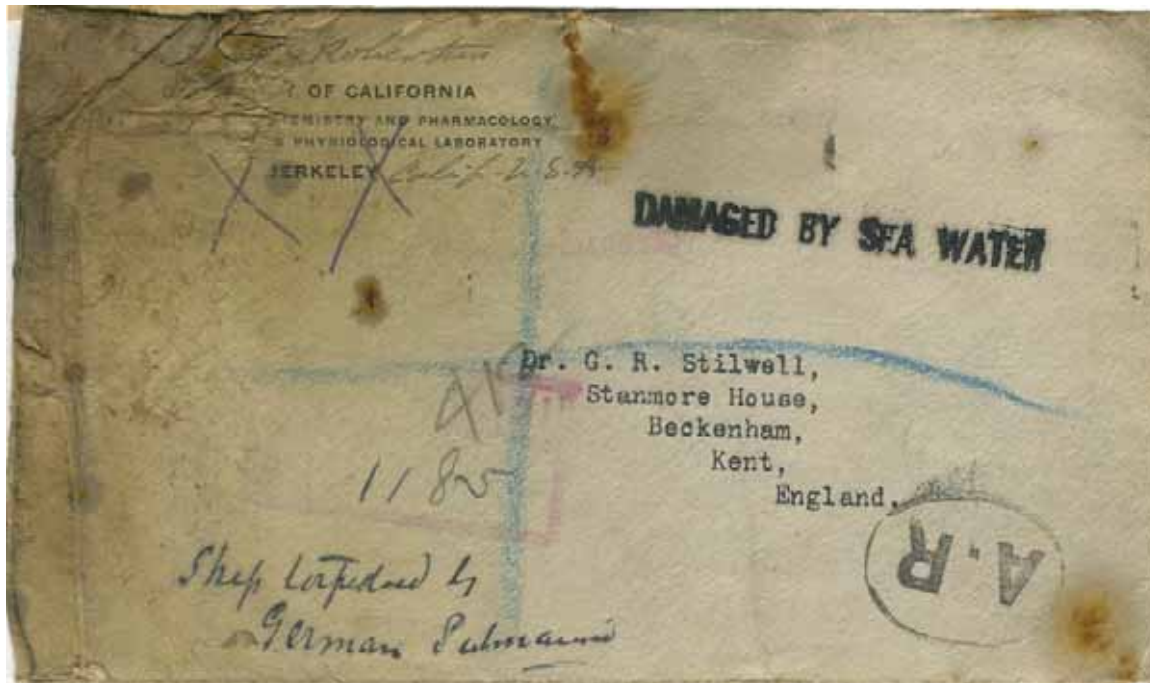
Seattle-Malta, 1923. Rated 10¢ reg'n, 5¢ UPU rate, no AR fee, shortpaid 3¢. NY T 30 ctm due. Reverse, "Please advise . . ." hs.



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.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND PHARMACOLOGY
RUDOLPH SPRECKELS PHYSIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

BERKELEY February 19th, 1917.

Dr. G. R. Stilwell,
Stanmore House,
Beckenham,
Kent,
England.

Dear Sir:-

On the 17th inst, I forwarded to you by parcel post fifty additional 100 mgm. doses of Tethelin. The package, which is the third I have sent you, is marked with the figure 3. On receiving this you should have received a total of 150 doses.

I am forwarding you under separate cover two copies of a recent article on Tethelin. Would you be so good as to forward one of the copies to Dr. Campbell Thomson?

Trusting that this material may yield you interesting results

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.



Post Office Department
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR
Washington

MAR 20 1914

RÉCLAMATION
INQUIRY

d'un objet recommandé } *Parcage* (a)
for a registered article }
ou d'un envoi de valeur déclarée de } *100,000⁰⁰* (b)
or for an article of declared value of }
contenant } *Blue Prints, etc* (c)
containing }
déposé par M } *H. C. Wells*
mailed by M } *Dec 24, 1913*
sous le No. } *3737* (au bureau de } *North Yakima, Wash*
under No. } (at the office of)
à l'adresse suivante: } *The British Continental*
bearing the following address: } *Patentees Agency, Five Horse*
Kingston on Thames, London, England (d)
et faisant l'objet d'une demande d'avis de réception }
for which a return-receipt has been requested }

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 _____

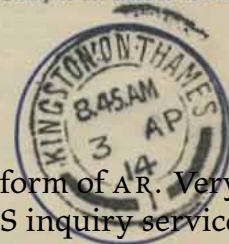
L'envoi désigné ci-dessus a été expédié dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange de }
The above-described article was comprised in the mail dispatched from the exchange office of }

NEW YORK, N. Y. { du } *Dec 31, 1913* { envoi } pour le bureau d'échange de }
of } { dispatch } for the exchange office of }
London - Forward *S. C. Cambrano*

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. } *for 90*

Le 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 1914*

Timbre du bureau distributeur.
Stamp of the office of delivery.



Inquiry (réclamation)

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.

Deutschland. Württembergische Postverwaltung.
Administration des Postes du Royaume de Wurtemberg.

H. A. Gusselt Buffalo N.Y. 21. II. 1900

München
Avis de Réception

über

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ein(en) Brief (Kästchen) mit einer Werthangabe von d'une lettre (boîte) avec valeur déclarée | eingetragen bei der Post- anstalt enregistré au bureau |
| eine Einschreibsendung (<i>Brief</i>) | |
| ein Postpaket d'un colis postal | |

in *Gall* am *15 Jan. 1900* unter Nr. *644*
de *le* *Elisabeth Weller geb Dietrich* sous le No. *(644)*
und gerichtet an
et adressé à M.
in *Loroy Street Mrs Buffalo N.Y.*
à

Der Unterzeichnete erklärt, daß
Le soussigné déclare

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| ein Brief (Kästchen) mit Werthangabe qu'une lettre (boîte) avec valeur déclarée | an |
| eine Einschreibsendung qu'un objet recommandé | à |
| ein Postpaket qu'un colis postal | |

die obenbezeichnete Adresse aus
l'adresse susmentionnée et provenant de
richtig ausgehändigt worden ist am
a été dûment livré le *189*

Station A. Buffalo, N. Y.
FEB 2 1900
Unterschrift
Signature (†) *Elisabeth Weller*

des Empfängers:
du destinataire:
Sauveur G. Dorr P. M.
(L. J. K.)

des Vorstehers der bestellenden Postanstalt:
du chef du bureau distributeur:

STA. A. BUFFALO, N. Y.
FEB 2 1900
M. O. B.

*) Art der Sendung (Brief, Waarenprobe, Drucksache u. s. w.).
(*) Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé etc.).
(**) Aufgabe-Postanstalt; Tag der Einlieferung bei dieser Postanstalt; Nr. der Eintragung bei derselben Postanstalt.
(**) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; No. d'enregistrement au même bureau.
(†) Zur Beachtung. Dieser Rückchein muß vom Empfänger oder, wenn die Bestimmungen des Bestimmungslandes es erfordern, vom Vorsteher der Bestellungs-Postanstalt unterzeichnet, dann unter Umschlag gelegt und mit nächster Post unter Einschreibung an die betreffende Aufgabe-Postanstalt gesandt werden.
(†) 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.

B 12 b

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

Incoming réclamation, part 2

II 7725

Die Einschreibsendung № 644 aus
Hau (Schwab) ist mit dem Kartenschlusse vom
16. Januar 1900 unter № 748 der Einschreibliste
von der Seepost nach New York Dist. letters
weitergesandt worden. (3 Kartenschluss.)
Dampfer Eller
Bremen, 5. Mai 1900

Geprüft: Kaiserlich Deutsches Postamt 1.
Philant,
A. F. or

The letter was delivered to addressee, Feb 2-1900

1878

OFFICE OF FOURTH ASST. P.M.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
25
1900

no chance

Acting Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.

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*.

Reclamation de l'avis de réception.
Deutschland. Württembergische Postverwaltung.
Administration des Postes du Royaume de Wurtemberg.

1878

München
Avis de Réception

| | | |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| über | ein(en) Brief (Briefchen) mit einer Wertangabe von d'une lettre (boîte) avec valeur déclarée de | eingetragen bei der Post- anstalt enregistré au bureau |
| | eine Einschreibsendung (Brief letter) *) | |
| | d'un objet recommandé | |
| | ein Postpaket | |
| | d'un colis postal | |

in de Hau (Schwab) am 15. Jan. 1900 unter Nr. 644 (**)
le le sous le No. (**)

und gerichtet an Frau Elisabeth Weller ges. Dietrich
et adressé à Herr v. Weller Dierckmann
in a Lovejoy Street 1245 Buffalo N. Y.

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

To Romania, 1937.
Seattle-Cluj.

Form 2545

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

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

Registered article (.....) (1) (2)
Envoi recommandé

Parcel insured for \$..... (3)
Cela avec valeur déclarée de

Mailed at the post office of SEATTLE, WASH.
déposé au bureau de poste d

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

Mailed by M.....
expédié par M.....

and addressed to M. Vasile Eras
et adressé à M.....

at 23 Calea Regale
à Cluj (Roumanie)

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

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

Return Receipt
Avis de réception

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

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

M.....
M.....

209 - University St.
(Street and number)
(Rue et numéro)

SEATTLE, WASH.

at
à

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
États-Unis d'Amérique

POSTAL SERVICE
Service des postes

2-11654

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.



Philadelphia to Washington, 22 November 1909. Addressed to Austrian Naval attaché from the consulate.

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

John Beck
MAILING OFFICE

TURN RECEIPT

Parcel Described on the Face

(Signature of addressee's agent.)

1915

5-4110

UNITED STATES MAIL
INSURED PARCEL

No. 6673

Fee 5 cents.

This receipt represents a parcel mailed by post office indicated by the postmark. It is insured against loss to the amount of its actual value. Not exceeding \$500 for 5 cents. Not exceeding \$500 for 10 cents.

P. M. per 10

Postmark of Delivering Office.

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

Post Office Department
PARCEL POST SYSTEM
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

INSURED PARCEL

73

Postmark of Delivering Office.

Postage



Extra indemnity with airmail 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.



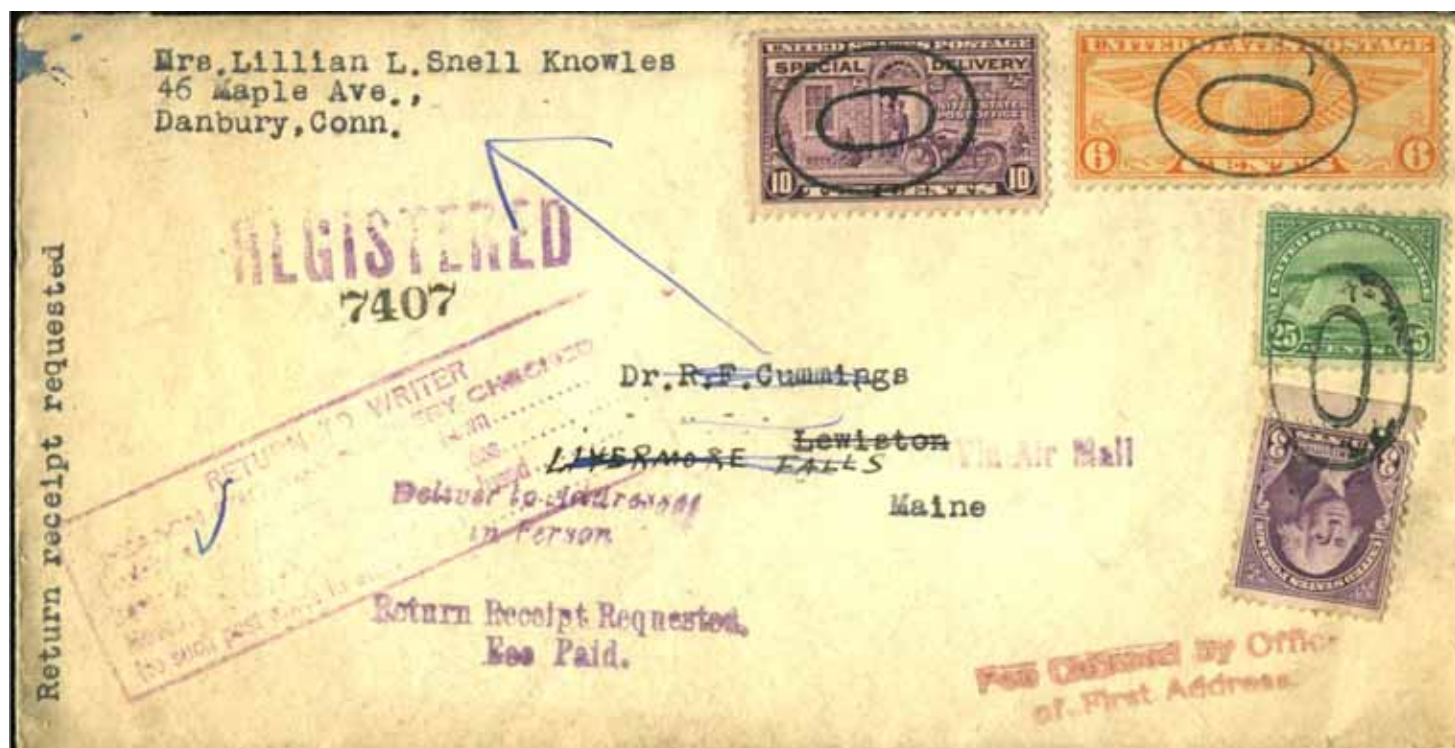
Either extra indemnity or double domestic, November 1932. **Rated** 15¢ registration (18¢ with indemnity up to \$25), 3¢ RRR, and double 3¢ domestic (single). There is no way to decide which combination is correct; the envelope does not seem stressed, so single rate (and extra indemnity) seems slightly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

C

Stamp of dispatching office.
Timbre du bureau expéditeur.

RETURN RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

for a letter with declared value of _____
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de _____ } entered at the office
for a registered article (_____) (1) } enregistré au bureau
d'un objet recommandé (_____) (1) }

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

mailed by M. H. H. Leary 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
that a registered article
Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée } à l'adresse susmentionnée, et
qu'un objet recommandé }

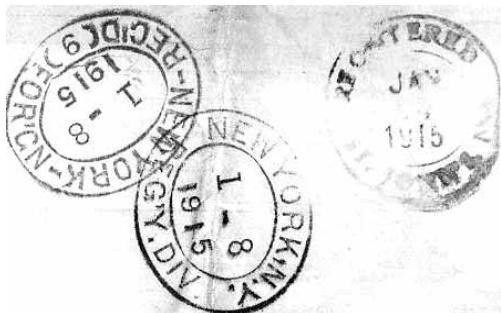
Stamp of delivering office.
Timbre du bureau distributeur.

originating at _____, has been duly
provenant de _____ a été dûment
delivered the 15th _____, 19 15
livré le _____, 19 _____
Signature (3) of the addressee: _____
Signature (3) du destinataire: Hubert Channing
Signature (3) of the postal official of the office of delivery: _____
Signature (3) de l'agent du bureau distributeur: O. Desrosiers

(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 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 40 centimes 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.

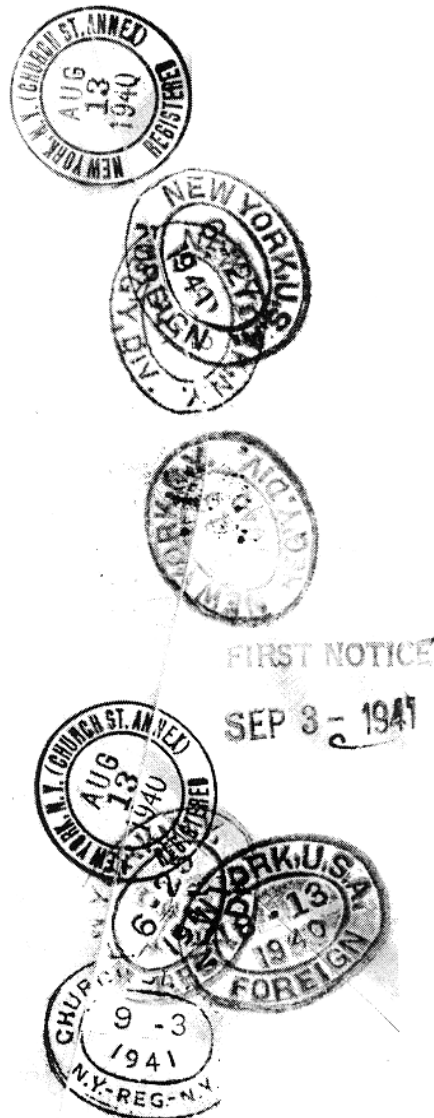


California–Estonia, 1940. **Rated** as above. No censorship. Weird mixed language handstamp, French *avis* with Spanish *reception* (and the usual expression in Spanish is *aviso de recibo*).

To France, returned as a result of occupation

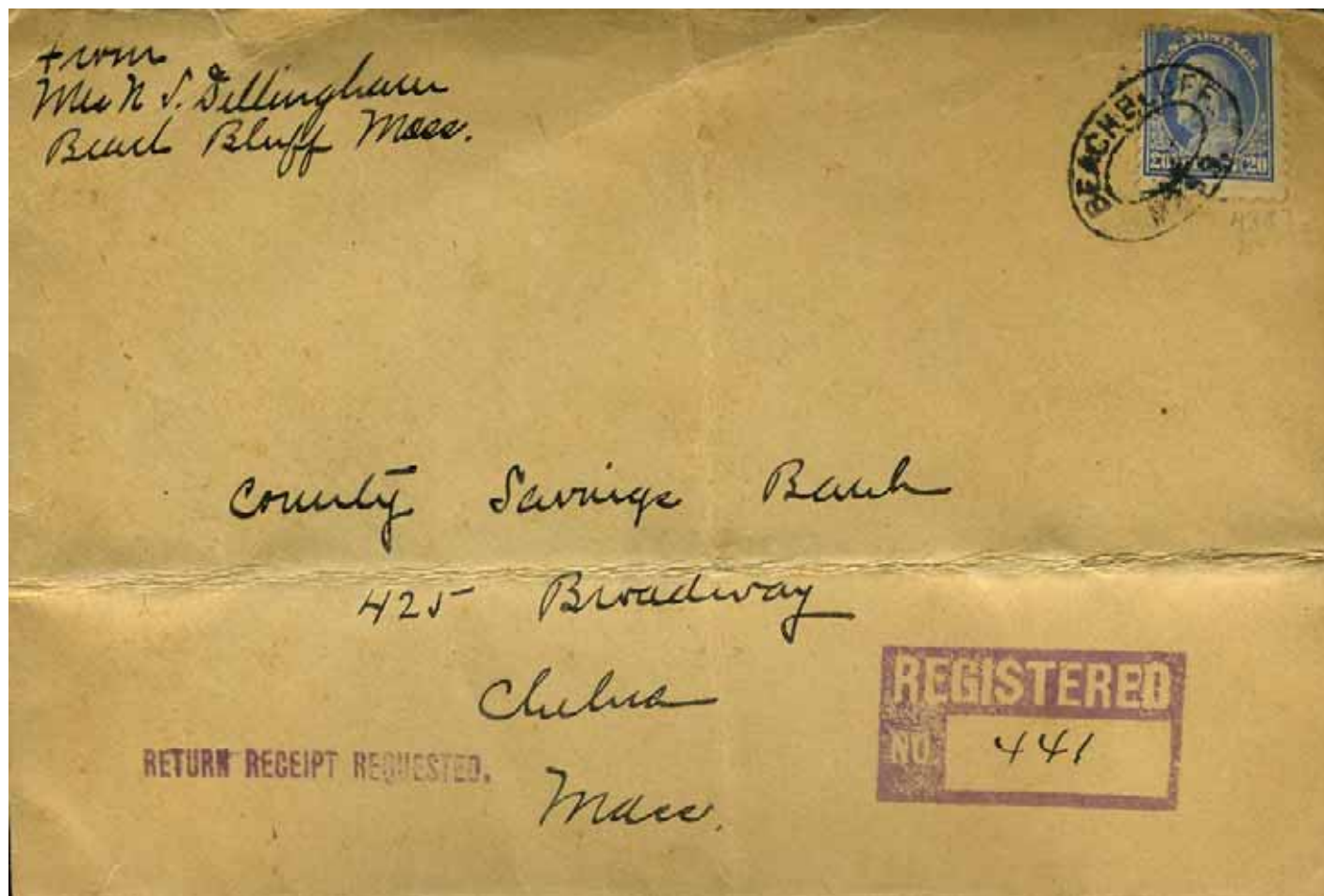


NY-France, held for a year and returned, August 1940-September 1941. **Rated** 15¢ reg'n, 5¢ AR, and 30¢ transatlantic airmail, paid by meter (unusual on AR covers). Purple *Ne peut-être acheminée/zone occupée*, and red *hs Relations postales interrompues*. No censorship.



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

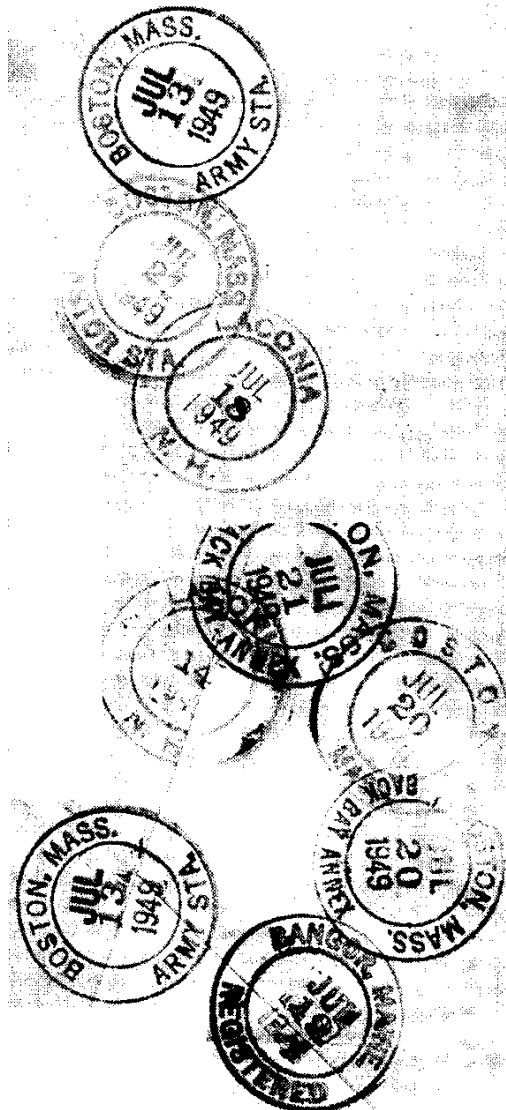
No postage,
San Francisco to ??,
1936. Violates
rules: RRR must
always be paid, and
gov't offices out-
side DC pay for
registration.

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.



Rated (domestic; effective 1 January 1949)
25¢ registration, 4¢ RRR, 27¢ showing ad-
dress, 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.

14.

Württembergische Postverwaltung.
Administration des Postes du Royaume
de Württemberg (Allemagne)

Aufgabestempel.
Timbre du bureau d'origine



Numéro d'enregistrement

Rückschein.

Avis de réception.

Adresse des Empfängers
Adresse du destinataire *Friedrich Schuchman*
in *Chicago*
à *46 Pignatelli*

Dass ich Endesunterscriebener durch die Postanstalt zu
Le soussigné reconnait avoir reçu par le bureau de poste à

eine Einschreibsendung
un objet recommandé

aufgegeben in
mis à la poste à **EBINGEN**

abgesandt von *Friedrich Schuchman*
envoyé par

empfangen habe, bescheinigt

den 18

Name des Empfängers
Nom du destinataire *Friedrich Schuchman*

Mit der Unterschrift des Empfängers versehen unter Einschreibung nach dem
Aufgabeorte zurückzusenden.
A renvoyer sous recommandation au bureau d'origine muni de la signature du
destinataire.

III 2.

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.

