

	<b>Registered Mail Study Group</b> <b>NEWSLETTER</b>	
Issue No.3		July 2024
<a href="https://www.usstamps.org/committees/registered-mail-study-group/">https://www.usstamps.org/committees/registered-mail-study-group/</a>		

### Chairman's Column

Welcome to the third issue of our **RMSG Newsletter**. We have added a few new subscribers. Thank you. If you would like your name included in future Membership Rosters, please let me know. If you no longer have an interest in registered mail, and wish to no longer receive our newsletter, please also contact me.

This issue has a few new, short notes, and I retained many of the original sections from the previous issues with resource information as they may be of interest to new subscribers.

A significant event for registered mail collectors occurred with the first sale of the Al Kugel estate by Cherrystone Stamp Auctions, Inc. A brief review of several lots is found later in the newsletter. However, I have already received mailings from two successful bidders of registered lots which included exchange labels, together with high quality scans of their purchases. These are important because some of these covers were unknown, and I also now have better images of the cover front and back for those which were in the census but without good illustrations. Thank you both.

Several readers provided me with examples of previously unreported registered covers with the New York exchange labels mentioned in the **Research Notes** section of the previous issue. Thank you for the new information.

I envision two types of collaborative project activities in the future. On the large-scale side, there will be several group or "Community Research" projects that will provide a focal point to accumulate information about subject areas that are too broad or complex to be researched and managed properly by a single individual, or which will be of interest to many collectors. On a smaller and individual scale, I hope that the Newsletter can serve as a facilitator to get the word out to all members that another member has a personal registry system research interest, and he would like to receive information about covers or documents related to that interest.

If you have a special project that you would like to share, please consider preparing a short one page summary and please send it along for inclusion in our next issue of the Newsletter.

*Mike Ludeman*

Chairman, RMSG

[mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net)

### STAMP SMARTER LEARNING CENTER

Throughout this and future Newsletters, you will see me frequently make a reference to resources that may be found on **Stamp Smarter**. This is the abbreviated name for the **Stamp Smarter Philatelic Learning Center**, a privately owned philatelic website operated by Don Denman. I find it to be a marvelous collection of materials on stamp collecting and postal history, and advise everyone I am a sponsor, a contributor, and content developer for the site. Don Denman stepped up several years ago when Tony Wawrukiewicz digitized and edited the complete series of the **Official Postal Guide**, but we were unable to have them integrated into the searchable Postal Bulletin website, Don came forward and they are now on the Stamp Smarter website. Since then, one of my continuing projects has been to make other older, and more recent, post office publications available on that website.

### POST OFFICE FORMS USED BY THE REGISTRY SYSTEM

As one of the largest government bureaucracies in the 19<sup>th</sup> century United States, the United States Post Office Department (USPOD) was a prolific user of paper forms to standardize and simplify the operation of all areas of the postal system. The introduction of the official Registry System on May 10, 1855, initiated a flood of forms which were distributed to all post offices to both instruct and guide the postmaster in his handling of this new category of mail. The book by Russell Ryle in the resources section provides an excellent summary of these procedures.

In the previous issues of the Newsletter, I included an illustration of the format of the registry form pages used by a postmaster when the registry system was initiated in 1855. In this issue, I am illustrating the forms titled **Account of Registered Mails Received** and **Account of Registered Mails Sent**. These oversized forms were maintained by the postmaster, and a copy of each form was included with the Postmasters Quarterly Report which was submitted to Post Office Department headquarters at the end of each quarter, being required to be mailed on April 1, July 1, October 1, and January 1 following the end of the fourth quarter.

These two forms were used at the post office at Cross River, Westchester County, NY, to record the activity for that office. While one of the illustrated forms does not include the post office name, they were both acquired in a group of forms from that post office. The examples which I illustrate here are the postmaster's retained copies.

The **Account of Registered Letters Received** (Figure 1) measures 12.75" by 17.5", and has the same form printed on each side. There are sufficient lines for the postmaster to record up to 47 registered letters on each side of the form. As can be seen in the illustrated example, with only two registered letters, this was a post office with little registered mail received. The second form, **Account of Registered Letters Sent**, (Figure 2) measures 9.0" by 18.0", and this form has lines for the recording of 50 registered letters. I have cropped the blank area at the bottom of these forms to preserve space in the Newsletter.

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Account of Registered Letters Sent from the Post Office at  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the Bills sent	To what Office the Letters were sent	No.	To whom the Letters were addressed	Registry Fees	Paid Letters		Free Letters		
					Paid by Stamp	Paid in Money			
					Dolla.	Cents	Dolla.	Cents	No.
1857 Feb 3	Buffalo City	1	J. S. Rappan	\$	8				
The above letter was received by its owner in due time but the duplicate Post Rec has not been received at this office.									

**Figure 1. Account of Registered Letters Sent** from the post office at Cross River, NY during the first quarter of 1857.

Copy  
Account of Registered Letters Received at the Post Office at *Cross River*  
County of *Westchester* State of *New York*

Time of Receiving	Names of the Offices from whence they were received	Date of the Bills received	No.	To whom the Letters were addressed	Registry Fees	Paid Distributed		Paid Originally		Free	
						By Stamps	In Money	By Stamps	In Money		
					Dolla.	Cents	Dolla.	Cents	Dolla.	Cents	No.
1857 July 2	New York City	July 1	1	Geo S Avery	6	.	.	.	.	.	1
Aug 20	Cross River	July 20	2	Mrs S A Reynolds	5	.	.	2	.	.	1

**Figure 2. Account of Registered Letters Received** from the post office at Cross River, NY during the third quarter 1857.

In addition to these forms, the postmaster also was required to prepare similar forms titled **Account of Letters Received, Account of Letters Sent, Account of Newspapers and Periodicals Received, and Account of Newspapers and Periodicals Sent**. Again, these forms were produced in roughly the same dimensions, but as they are not related to registered mail, I have not illustrated them here. Anyone with the curiosity to want to see these other forms can contact me and I'll send you scans. The forms related to the registered letter and newspapers seem to be quite scarce, as the examples obtained in this group are the only ones I have encountered in my 15 years of collecting postal forms.

If anyone reading this newsletter collects these post office forms, whether registry forms or any other type, please contact me if you would like to discuss POD forms in general. **Mike Ludeman.** [mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net).

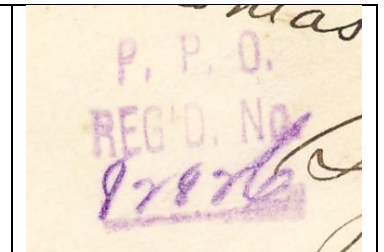
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### REGISTERED MARKING ON KEY WEST, FLORIDA COVER

The registered cover illustrated below was submitted by Tom Lera, who was working on an article on registered mails in Florida.



His question was related to the unusual registration marking shown at the right. Where did it come from? It does not match any known San Francisco post office registry marking. After exhausting my meager thoughts, I posted the cover on the Stamp Community Family forum. While the cover created a lively discussion, no definitive conclusion was reached. [https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=86991](https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=86991) Perhaps one of our readers can add to the explanation.



### REGISTERED COVERS WITH MACHINE CANCELS

Reader John Becker sent me an email with scans of three registered covers from his collection with the unusual characteristic that each had the stamps on the covers cancelled with a machine cancel.

John wrote...

“Machine cancels are decidedly scarce on registered mail. Logically, the use of a machine cancel and the tight control of registered mail make for an unusual combination. I am not aware of any regulations prohibiting the use of machines on registered mail, and the muting of the last two pieces would indicate a normal procedure. The pieces shown here are from a very small office or on legal/business mail sent in quantity. Can readers share other pieces?”

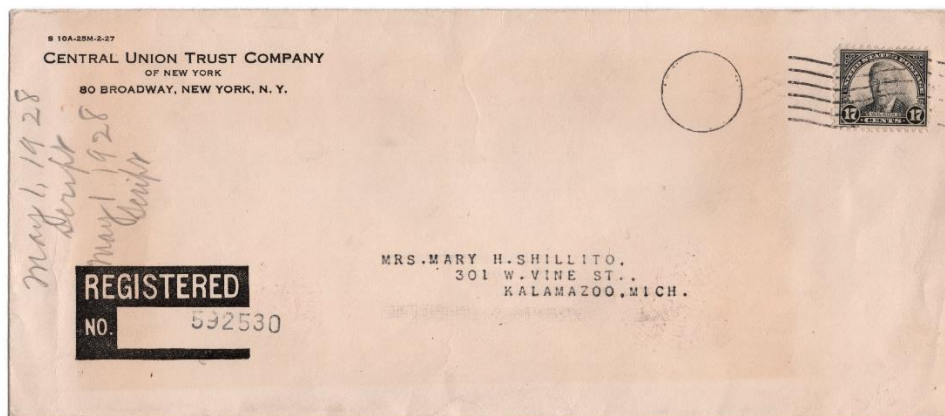
The three covers are illustrated on the following page. Examples of similar covers are requested from your collection, along with thoughts on the circumstances which might make such a practice acceptable within

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the regulations. Send comments to me at [mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net). Interesting covers will appear in future issues of the Newsletter.



**Figure M1.** July 12, 1921, Donalsonville, GA to Atlanta. Cover postmarked by a postmaster-purchased B.F. Cummins machine, known used there during 1914-1924, leaving the date information in place. The manuscript "12" on the stamp may be confusing, but the Donalsonville "Parcel Post" backstamps are clearly 1921. The rate is for a double-weight 2-cent letter rate plus 10 cents registry fee for up to \$50 indemnity.



**Figure M2.** April 30, 1928, New York, NY to Kalamazoo, MI. Cover postmarked with a Universal Model-D machine without any central date/time slugs, and with the city name ground out leaving only the slightest trace of tops of the letters suggesting a regular mailing procedure. Backstamped at New York's City Hall Station. The rate is 2 cents for the basic letter and 15 cents registry fee for up to \$50 indemnity.

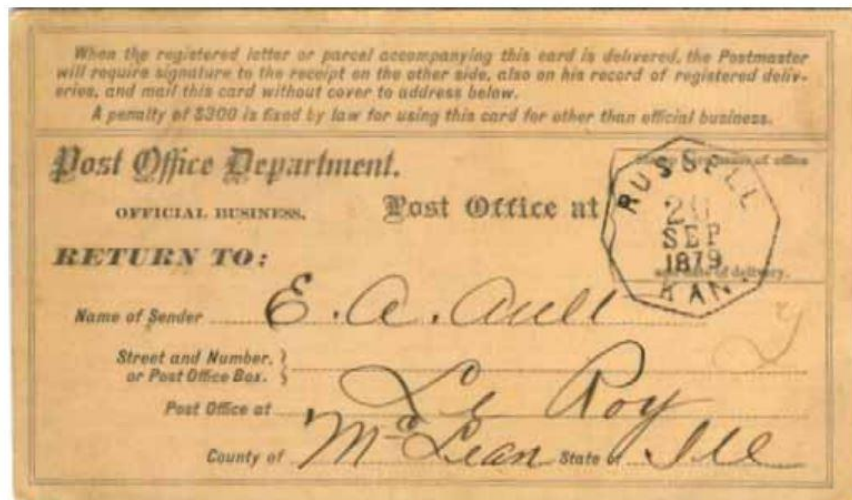
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**Figure M3.** November 8, 1939, Fort Wayne, IN sent locally. Postal card which was postmarked with Universal Model-G machine with all date/time slugs removed from the dial. Being a postal card, it had no flaps to mark on the reverse side and is dated only by the message. Should it have been postally-dated on the reverse? I suspect so. I believe the rate should have been 1 cent for the card plus the minimum registry fee of 15 cents since there is no “value” to the contents. It appears to be a convenience overpayment, ignoring the card’s face value and applying 18 cents as if it were a 3+15 first class letter as the surveyor’s office would have done frequently on other mailings and had the 18 cent stamps handy. (A correct-rate interpretation would suggest an indemnity for \$5.01-\$25.00, but the bill is for only \$1. Perhaps other recipients got higher bill amounts and the surveyor sent them all at the same rate?)

### REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT Penalty Postal Card forms - **UPDATE**

In issue No. 2, James Robinson included a short note about his earliest example of the Registry Return Receipt (RRR) penalty card shown here, which was dated Oct 8, 1879, and returned on Oct. 22, 1879. He asked if anyone could provide an earlier example. David Handleman offered an earlier example dated 16 Sept 1879, which is illustrated here, taken from one of his pseudo-exhibits which are currently available from viewing on Richard Frajola’s Philamercury website.



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**Earliest known R R R card, 16 September 1879. For a registered letter from LeRoy (IL) to Russell (KS).**

In the same exhibit, David also illustrated his earliest known usage of this RRR for a parcel rather than a letter.

The image shows two historical postal forms. The top form is a Registered Mail card from 1879, featuring a red border and a stamp from the Post Office Department. It includes fields for the sender's name and address, and a section for the recipient's address. The bottom form is a Registry Return Receipt from 1880, with a white background and a red border. It includes fields for the registration number and the type of item (letter or parcel), and a section for the recipient's address. Both forms have handwritten entries and stamps.

**Brooklyn to La Prairie (TX), 2 January 1880. Printed card for Brooklyn. “\*Reg. Letter” is struck through, and replaced by Reg Parcel.**

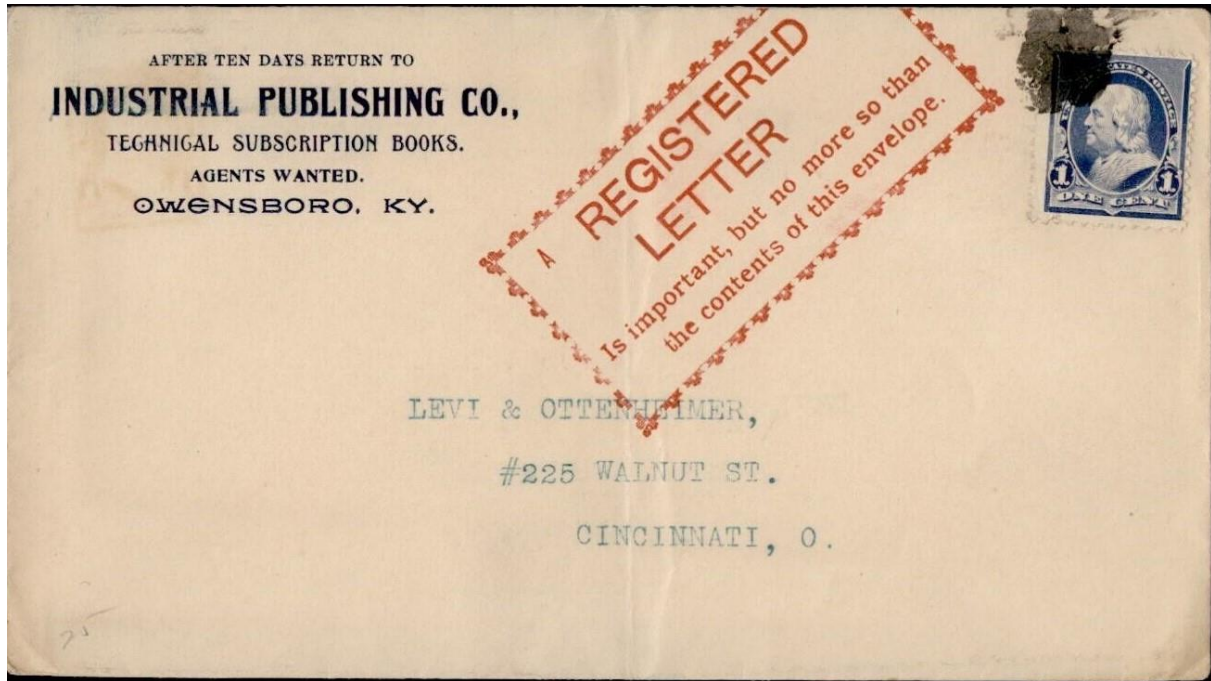
Both of these cards (and many other similar registry forms and covers can be found in David’s exhibit here:

<https://www.rfrajola.com/DH2023/3ar.pdf>

I believe that this series of postal cards used as Registry Return Receipts were introduced for use as of July 1, 1879, but I cannot locate my original reference for this. Perhaps a reader can help. Readers are also encouraged to examine your copies of the penalty card version of the Registered Letter Bill, (Form 1550), the Registered Package Receipt (Form 1556), and the Registry Dispatch Receipt Card (Form 3830), and report those dates to us.

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### A DIFFERENT TYPE OF "REGISTERED" LETTER



This cover was seen on eBay but not pursued. The impressive **Registered** handstamp in red obviously a ploy to get the addressee to believe it was important mail. We all get similar letters even today. 😊.

### The AL KUGEL AUCTION

The first auction of the Al Kugel Estate took place on June 18-19, 2024, under the direction of Cherrystone Stamp Auctions. The sale was held on behalf of the American Philatelic Research Library, the beneficiary of Al's philatelic Estate. Al was a consummate collector, who dedicated more than 50 years to compiling some of the most amazing collections of material, including several exhibits of registered covers. Two of his single-frame exhibits of registered material stand out and will be reported here.

The first was Lot 3035, a compilation of examples of covers with the labels used at the USPOD Exchange Offices during 1883-1911, with the lone exception being that from Brownsville, Texas, which is known on only one cover, and which has not been seen at auction in many years. Realized \$26,000.

The second was lot 3037, a compilation of United States government postal cards used registered. These usages are much more scarce that you might expect, and this selection likely represents a substantial portion of these which have





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survived. Those with an exchange label are even more scarce. Realized \$27,000, which compared to the previously described lot, supports that scarcity.

A second sale from the Al Kugel Estate is scheduled for September. While the catalog is not yet available, it will likely include Al's collection of covers which were part of the Form 1549A registration label during 1907-1911, and it should be of great interest to members of our group. While this grouping is not complete (the Form 1549A label is known to have been used at over 60 post offices), Al Kugel had examples of 30 different labels used on cover in this exhibit, including several which were unique.

### REGISTRY FORM 1549A COVER DATABASE UPDATE

Several registered covers which used the Form 1549A registration label appeared on eBay in the past months. While they were already recorded in the Stamp Smarter database, two had not been represented by cover scans, so they were a welcome addition to that database. These are illustrated here for those interested in these covers. The current database now includes information about 556 covers with the label, and this reduces the number of covers for which no illustrations are known to 95.

	
<p>Label 59604, used at New York, Times Square Station, NY very early usage on Dec 23, 1907. Only one of two examples known used from that station. This cover was previously reported in error as having been used at Madison Square Station. Sold \$100.00</p>	<p>Label 5372, used at Boston, MA, on Dec 10, 1908. Sold \$89.88.</p>

### TECHNICAL NOTES

Any collector of covers and philatelic materials eventually fills his computer storage with scans of covers and stamps and other materials, and in spite of good intentions, some of these will be misplaced and difficult to locate and retrieve. The early version of Microsoft Windows offered a **Search Indexing** facility which allowed the names of files to be indexed and recorded as they were added to the storage devices, then they could be retrieved using the Windows OS search window. By the time Windows 11 was released, Microsoft had corrupted this useful feature to include unsolicited search results for information found on the internet, and in my world, this reduced the flexibility of the original tool.

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I was recently introduced to an application called **Agent Ransack**, which offered a similar feature that was very simple to use. It is available in a free version for personal use as well as a professional version. I've used the free version for six months and have found it invaluable, and have seen no reason to move to the . More information can be found at the Mythicsoft website here: <https://www.mythicsoft.com/agentransack/>

As always, you should do your own review and due-dilligence before installing any new software on your computer, but I think if you look closely at this tool, you will want to add it to your toolbox.

---- *Mike Ludeman*

### RESOURCES

This section will be used to make members aware of new or important resources available to members of the RMSG. To start this off, I'll note several of the most important references useful to collectors interested in registered mail. These include the following:

#### BOOKS:

- Milgram, James W., **United States Registered Mail: 1845-1870**, David G. Phillips, 1998.
- Ryle, Russell, **Registered U.S.A.**, self-published, 2009. This book may be download in PDF Format for free from the Stamp Smarter website, [https://stampsmarter.org/features/NYReg\\_Book.html](https://stampsmarter.org/features/NYReg_Book.html).
- Beecher, Henry W. & Wawrukiewicz, Anthony S., **U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011**, Cama Press. There are several editions, and information about errata, and updates covering years through 2014 are now available on the Stamp Smarter website here [https://stampsmarter.org/learning/Home\\_TonyWRates.html](https://stampsmarter.org/learning/Home_TonyWRates.html). Readers might also be interested in viewing Tony's a compilation of all of Tony's column from Linn's Stamp News, **Modern U.S. Mail**, which is also available on Stamp Smarter: [https://stampsmarter.org/learning/Home\\_TonyW.html](https://stampsmarter.org/learning/Home_TonyW.html).
- Wawrukiewicz, Anthony S. & Henry W. Beecher, **U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-1996**, Cama Publications, 1996. Errata and updates to this publication may also be found available at the Stamp Smarter link mentioned with the domestic book.

#### ARTICLES:

- James W. Milgram, M.D., has written a series of five articles on domestic registered mail, published in **The Chronicle**, the journal of the US Philatelics Classics Society between 2015 and 2023. In addition, he has three articles on the USPOD handling of foreign inbound registered mail during the years 1855-1875. All but the most recent article of these can be accessed and downloaded from the Classics Society website at <https://www.uspcs.org/resource-center/the-chronicle/search-the-chronicle/>.

#### DIGITAL RESOURCES:

- **[NEW] David Handleman**. Dave has 40 pseudo-exhibits many dealing with the handling of registered mails for the United States, Canada, and many other countries hosted on Richard Frajola's Philamercury website at his Exhibit's page here: <https://www.rfrajola.com/exhibits.htm/> Definitely worth a visit.

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- **Notice 123.** This is the standard brochure published by the USPS with a full set of rates each time there is a rate change. An archive of these dating from the early 1990s through the proposed rate increases for January 24, 2024 are available on Stamp Smarter <https://stampsmarter.org/learning/PostalRates.html> .
- A comprehensive digital library of older USPOD and USPS publications is available on the Stamp Smarter website, with complete archives of many publications, such as the **Official Postal Guides**, **Postal Manuals**, and the **Postal Service Manual**. These may be found here: [https://stampsmarter.org/learning/Home\\_USPOD.html](https://stampsmarter.org/learning/Home_USPOD.html). Spend some time reviewing all the publications that are available. You won't be disappointed. More posts office publications, old and new, are being added all the time.
- The Postal Bulletin Consortium and the searchable **Postal Bulletin** website: <http://www.uspostalbulletins.com/>.

Please let me know if you are aware of other resources that should be included in this section in future issues.

### COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Is there any aspect of the US Registered Mail System that you think might be the subject of a Community Project? That is, one that would be of general interest to many of the members of this informal group, but for which no one individual might have enough material to prepare an article, monograph, or guide. Other suggestions are welcomed.

#### 1. **[NEW] Postal Forms Database.**

The original pioneering work in documenting postal forms used by the United States Post Office department was done towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and David Straight, and it was described in an article by Tony published in the United States Stamp Society journal, **The Specialist**, in the issue for April 2001. Tony and David continued to record these postal forms in an Excel worksheet, which was eventually published on the US Postal Bulletins website.

In 2016, Russ Ryles and Don Denman converted that spreadsheet into an on-line database format which is now hosted on the Stamp Smarter website, at [https://stampsmarter.org/features/NYReg\\_Forms\\_Home.html](https://stampsmarter.org/features/NYReg_Forms_Home.html). Since its creation, several students of these postal forms have been adding old and new varieties of all examples of these forms.

The Post Office Department has relied on part-printed forms (also called "blanks" by the Department) since the creation of the General Post Office under the Articles of Confederacy in the 1780s. The organization of these forms is awkward, as they often did not have simple or consistent titles, and it was not until the 1840s that they began to be found with identifying form "numbers", and even then, the numbering was inconsistent. Much of the numbering became standardized in 1879, but searching for information about these forms in the database can require some imagination. If you are interested in postal forms, please examine this database and add what you can contribute to it. The general goal is to include examples of each type of postal form by name and number, along with the various revision and printing which occur as the postal system has evolved.

#### 2. **The Census of US Registered Covers mailed using the Form 1549A domestic registry label.**

In 1907, the USPOD initiated a program to integrate a registration label that was part of the Window Registration Book which would be applied to the registered item at the time of mailing. After an experimental trial at the Washington, DC, post office, the program was spread out to approximately 66 of the larger post offices. to be applied to covers. Several

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articles on the use of these labels have appeared in the **Specialist** which were authored by Tony Wawrukiewicz, Russ Ryle, and Nicholas Lombardi. The program ended at the end of 1910, but a few covers with the label used in 1911 have been recorded. Since the initial articles were published, Lombardi had maintained an Excel spreadsheet with a limited amount of data for each cover reported, however no effort was made to acquire and preserve images of these covers beyond those in the compiler's collection. In parallel with that effort, beginning about 2010, I began to locate and preserve images of these covers with the Form 1549A label.

In 2016, a collector and recorder of these Form 1549A covers, Russ Ryle, collaborated with Don Denman (Stamp Smarter, again 😊) to construct an online database (DB) to record an expanded number of data fields and the images of the front and reverse of each cover. This is an open-source Community Project sponsored and supported by Stamp Smarter, and I am one of the Administrators. Earlier this fall, I added about 30 new covers to the DB, clearing out my backlog. The DB currently has 536 covers, but there are nearly 150 covers from the early days of the census for which we do not have cover images, and even more for which we do not have the image of the reverse of the cover. This DB can be found here: [https://stampsmarter.org/features/NYReg\\_1549Home.html](https://stampsmarter.org/features/NYReg_1549Home.html).

We now have examples from 65 different post offices which used the Form 1549A labels, including a few for which the labels were not officially delivered. There are a few post offices which were reported to have been supplied the label but for which no examples are known.

### 3. The Census of US Registered covers used with Exchange Labels.

The original census for these covers was prepared by Al Kugel, who initially limited the search to all covers with labels from all exchange office except the largest ones at Boston, New York, and San Francisco. Following publication of the articles in the **Collector's Club Philatelist** in 2000, an Excel spreadsheet with a limited number of data fields was constructed and hosted on the RMSG website.

The Table to the right shows a comparison of the number of covers from the various exchange offices based on the reports from 2010 and the most recent report from 2018. This latter report is currently being updated by Nick Lombardi and myself, and we will report on the results of that update in a future Newsletter, as well as post the results on the RMSG webpage. As can be observed, we have essentially doubled the number of known reported covers during this period.

TABLE		
Count of reported covers with Exchange Labels		
EXCHANGE OFFICES	2010 Census	2018 Census
Boston, MA	47	103
San Francisco, CA	77	247
All other office	318	550
<b>TOTALS...</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>900</b>

The original census effort focused on collecting only a small amount of information about each cover, but there was no effort at that time to obtain and archive images of each cover. During the past 15 years, I have focused on locating and archiving images of covers in the original census, as well as those added to the census since 2010. I have not updated my statistics recently (off on other projects) but believe I have images of perhaps 75% of the covers represented by the census. Once a better summary of covers in the archive is completed, I will distribute lists with an issue of the Newsletter so that members can examine their collections and see if they might have covers that they can scan to contribute to the digital archive, or new examples to add to the census.

### 4. Bibliography of Resources on Registered Mail.

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On the current RMSG website page, there is available a **United States Registered Mail Subject Bibliography**, prepared in 2009 by David L. Straight. Since that bibliography was prepared, there have been many other useful articles published, and I would like to see this bibliography expanded to include those. If there are any members who have suggestions for new articles to be added to the bibliography, they are encouraged to send me the pertinent information. To avoid too much duplication of effort, there is no need to send information about articles in **The Specialist** and **The Chronicle**, or **LaPosta**, journals all of which I have. Even more important, if there are any members who have a flair or interest in bibliography, who would like to become the point person for this project, please get in touch with me.

As an adjunct to this project, I would propose that we consider the development of a digital archive of articles of this nature which cannot be readily located in the current on-line databases of society journals with public access. I do not propose that we violate the privacy or security of any organization's intellectual property, but there are many Societies who are willing to share these materials; they are just not readily available on-line. A central repository of available digital articles would allow members of the RMSG to obtain copies quickly. Articles which were available in this repository could be identified in our revised bibliography.

### MEMBER'S RESEARCH REQUESTS

Short research requests can be submitted for insertion in this section. Send these to me at [mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net). A small image can be inserted, but it is not practical to include a full-sized cover scan with one of these requests. To start this off, I will insert a few examples related to some of my personal interests. The code [24-1, 24-2] at the end of these examples will indicate the year and issue with the initial insertion. Since digital space has no costs, we should be able to manage to keep an insertion indefinitely or until withdrawn by the submitter.

Some studies might be better presented on a full page, or perhaps two. Please submit these as a Microsoft Word document (\*.doc, \*.docx) and depending on the volume of these types of requests, I will plan to run a "Research Request" for at least four issues, and longer if it does not become burdensome. One example of this type of request is attached.

**Wanted.** Information or color scans of registered covers to foreign destinations which used the UPU registration label illustrated at the right, Scott FX-NY4. This is the generic utility label used at many smaller exchange offices with the name added with a handstamp or by manuscript. However, the New York examples observed to date have not had the name added. Most examples seen were used during 1892, but several seen used on dates a few years before or after. **Mike Ludeman.**  
Email to [mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net). [24-1]



**Wanted.** Information or color scans of registered covers mailed with the Scott F1 Registration stamp of 1911, mailed from a Texas post office to any destination. I am trying to build a population sample and census of the Texas post offices that had this stamp available. **Mike Ludeman.** Email to [mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net) . [24-1]

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**Wanted.** Information about or color scans of the full pane of the New York registry stamp listed in Scott Catalog as NY1a(iii). Apparently in the 1930s, a package of these labels was found in a post office storeroom, and some panes were released into the philatelic community. I am trying to compile a list of known panes to get some indication of true scarcity. For the initial contact, please send the label number from starting (top right corner) position, and the ending (bottom left) position. If it is not recorded, then I would like to obtain a scan of the pane.

**Mike Ludeman. Email to [mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net) . [24-1]**

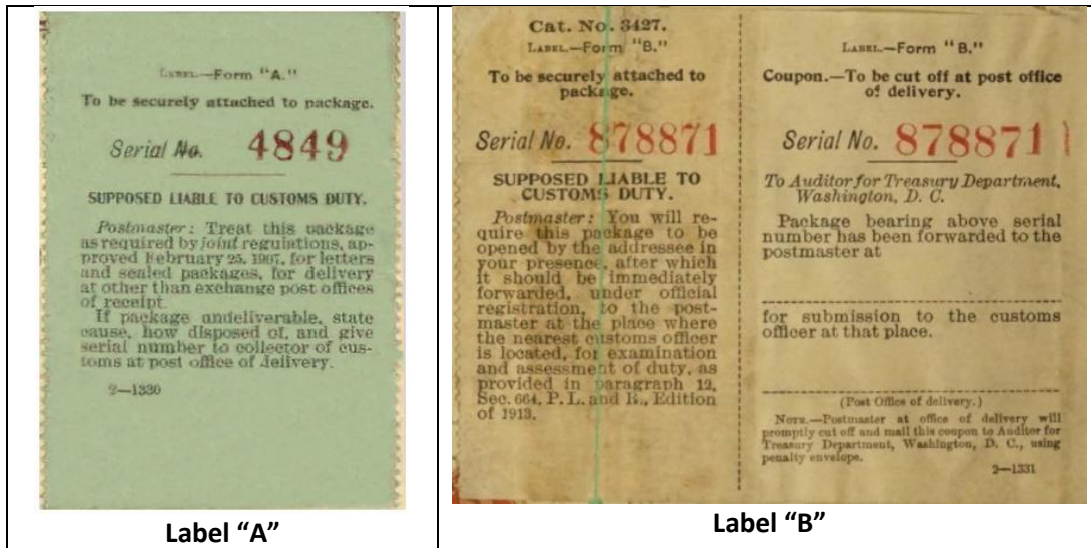


### MEMBER'S RESEARCH REQUESTS

**Customs Labels on inbound Registered Mail.** In 1907, the USPOD and Customs Division of the Treasury Department issued a new regulation (PB#8230, Feb 2, 1907) to all post offices and Customs Offices on how to handle incoming mail which was suspected of having contents which represented dutiable material. This regulation introduced two gummed paper labels that were to be used in the process. The **Label "A"** was to be applied to a suspected letter received at the six primary customs offices at Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco, when the letter was addressed to a postal patron who would pick the letter up at that office, and who could be present when the letter was opened. The **Label "B"** was a two-part label, which was to be applied to any letter identified as potentially including dutiable material, but addressed to a post office that was not within the delivery area of the customs office. This label instructed the postmaster at the addressee's post office to personally have the addressee open the letter in his presence so that the postmaster could inspect the contents, and then advise customs of the contents. One part of the two-part label was detached with a report back to the Customs Office for this purpose. This procedure functioned between 1907 and 1923, when the labels were discontinued. My census of the covers with either of these labels currently has only 31 known covers.

Over time, the format and instructions printed on these labels evolved, and thus far, two varieties of **Label "A"** have been reported, and five varieties of **Label "B"** have been identified. An example of each label is shown here.

## Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter



For more information, there are several articles which describe the use of these labels in more detail, written by John M. Hotchner in *La Posta Journal*, 2Q 2017, and Tony Wawrukiewicz in *Auxiliary Markings*, issues #57 & 57, 2018.

Please send any scans of any covers in your collection which used this label to Mike Ludeman, [mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net).

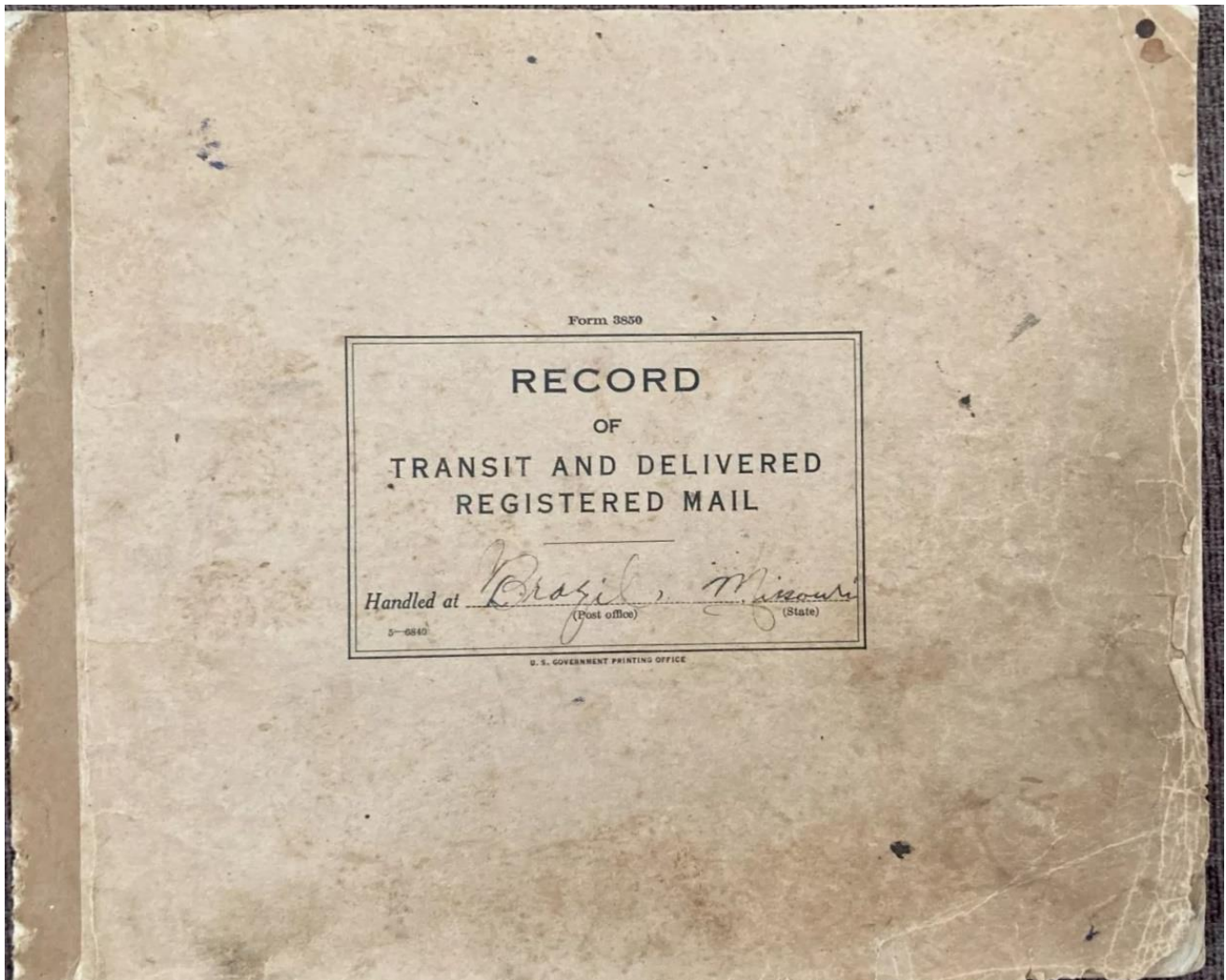
[24-1]

## Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

### Record of Transit and Delivered Registered Mail

The following USPOD registry book was encountered on eBay just as I was finishing the Newsletter. Since these are not all that common, and most collectors do not have an opportunity to view these, I thought I would add the images found with the listing to the newsletter.

*Mike Ludeman*



**Figure 1.** Front cover of a USPOD Form 3850 "Register of Transit and Delivered Registered Mail" used at the post office at Brazil, Missouri between 1938 and 1955. These ledgers typically have 50 or 100 pages, and as seen by the time span this one was used, can have a long lifespan.



## Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

**DO NOT ENTER NAME OF ADDRESSEE OR OFFICE OF ADDRESS EXCEPT WHERE MAIL IS FORWARDED**  
(See Sections 1220 and 2213, P. L. and R., Edition of 1932)

DATE OF RECEIPT	ORIGINAL NUMBER OF LETTER, PARCEL, REGISTERED JACKET, POUCH, SACK, OR CASE	OFFICE AND STATE OF ORIGIN (Add name of U. S. Exchange Office of first receipt, if of foreign origin)	DATE OF DELIVERY OR DISPATCH	INITIALS OF CLERKS WHO WITNESS DISPATCH OR MAKE DELIVERY	IF DELIVERED obtain signature of addressee, post office or railway postal clerk, city or rural carrier. WHEN DISPATCHED give train number and name of R. E. or R. P. O., mail messenger, or star route carrier. IF FORWARDED or RETURNED TO WRITER enter also name of addressee and office of new address.	IF TRANSIT MAIL DATE OF RETURN OF REGISTRY CARD OR COUPON RECEIPT. CONDITION (if bad).
12/7/38	7	Brazil, Mo.	12/7/38	H.B.	Palmer, Mo.	12/8/38
12/7/38	14	Quakers, ..	12/7/38	H.B.	Palmer, ..	12/8/38
12/8/38	29	Gourtais, ..	12/8/38	H.B.	Palmer, ..	12/9/38
12/16/38	15	Quakers, ..	12/16/38	H.B.	Palmer, ..	12/17/38
12/16/38	18	Ishmael, ..	12/16/38	H.B.	Palmer, ..	12/16/38
12/21/38	31	Gourtais, ..	12/21/38	H.B.	Palmer, ..	12/22/38
1/2/39	8	Brazil, ..	1/2/39	H.B.	Palmer, ..	1/3/39
1/2/39	16	Quakers, ..	1/2/39	H.B.	Palmer, ..	1/3/39
1/2/39	17	Quaker, ..	1/2/39	H.B.	Palmer, ..	1/3/39
1/3/39	19	Ishmael, ..	1/3/39	H.B.	Palmer, ..	1/4/39
1/4/39	9	Brazil, ..	1/4/39	H.B.	Palmer, ..	1/5/39
1/6/39	33	Gourtais, ..	1/6/39	H.B.	Palmer, ..	1/7/39
1/11/39	35	Gourtais, ..	1/11/39	H.B.	Palmer, ..	1/12/39
1/12/39	10	Brazil, ..	1/12/39	H.B.	Palmer, ..	1/13/39
1/2/39	18	Quakers, ..	1/2/39	H.B.	Palmer, ..	1/3/39

Form 3850 This Record must be kept in good order and retained in the post office

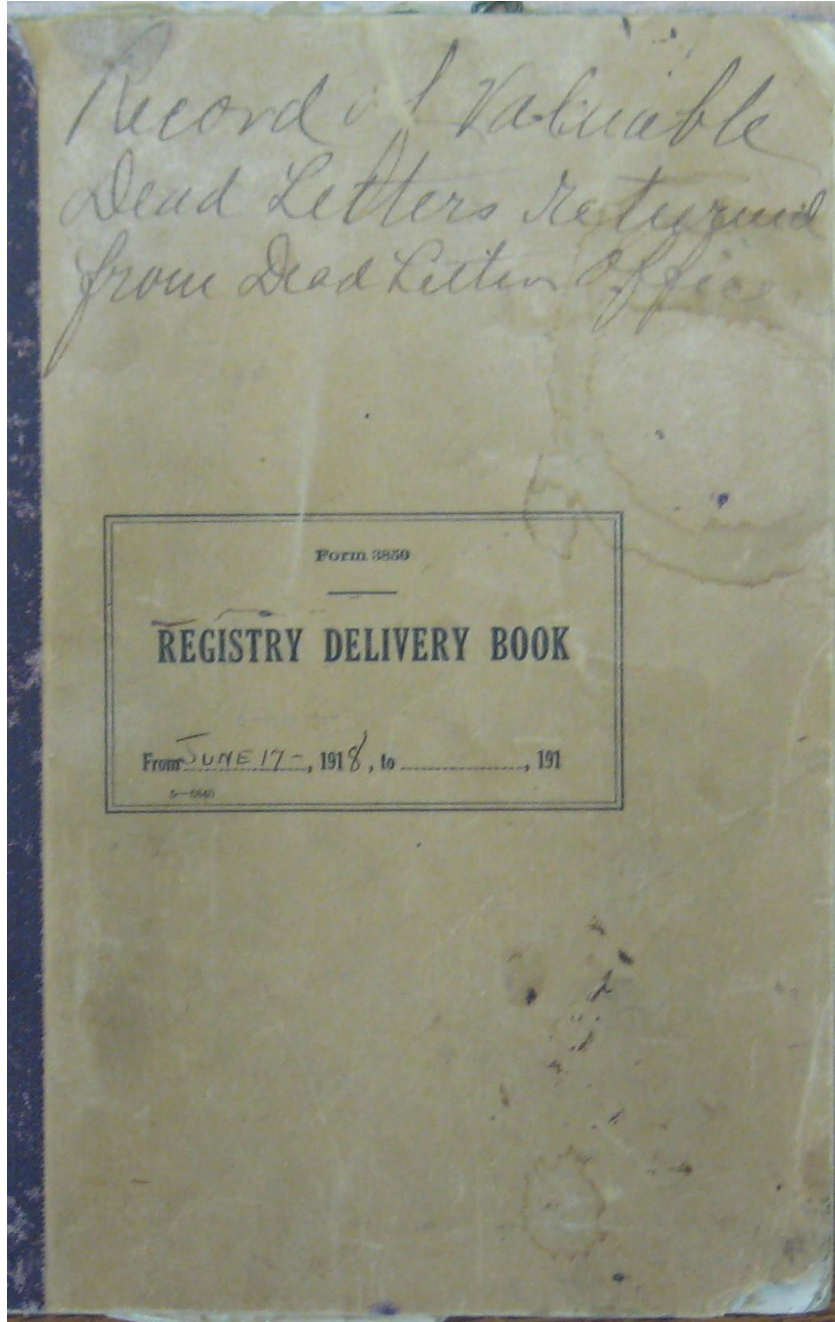
**Figure 2.** Typical page from this USPOD Form 3850 “Register of Transit and Delivered Registered Mail” used at the post office at Brazil Missouri, between 1938 and 1955. From the few entries visible on the page, it appears that this book was used primarily to record the transfer of registered pouches from one mail contractor to the post office at Brazil, then to hand it off to the next mail contractor for delivering the registered pouch to its final destination at Palmer, Missouri.

According to Google Maps, Palmer was located about 4.5 miles to the east of Brazil, and about 100 miles southeast of St. Louis, Missouri.

After adding the previous Registry Book, I went into some old photograph archives made during a visit to a local post office nearly 15 years ago. That post office had been the repository for many old post office account books and other records from discontinued post offices in the area, and they gave me access to them in order to make a series of photographs to document them.

On the next page are images of another Form 3850 registry book, this one titled “Registry Delivery Book”.

## Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter



**Figure 3.** The front cover of another registry book titled Form 3850, this one with the title of “Registry Delivery Book”. This book was used at the post office located in Bee House, Coryell County, Texas, between 1918 and 1941. That post office is still operational, but at some point in their past, they transferred many of their old records to the post office in Waco, Texas, where I examined them.

# Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

RECORD OF REGISTERED MATTER RECEIVED AND				DELIVERED AT		
DATE RECEIVED.	ORIGINAL NUMBER.	OFFICE AND STATE OF ORIGIN. <small>(Add name of U. S. exchange office of first receipt, if of foreign origin.)</small>		RECEIPTS OF PERSONS TO WHOM DELIVERED. <small>(Where one person receipts for another, both names must be written. For example: "John Doe per Richard Roe.")</small>	INITIALS OF DELIVERING CLERK OR CLERK.	DATE OF DELIVERY.
Dec 12-18	310930	018077	Vol 99 Wash Post	Spanish -	13195	1/11/19
Dec 13-18	311030	011743	" 99 Wash Post	Hof J. Conroy	13300	1/11/19
DEC 28 1918	720663	046986	" 3 Missourian	Gabriel	852	2/16/19
4/7/19	312618	018819	" 99 Sidney J. Janssen	Wacey	1638	off 2/24/19
1/4	312701	018953	99 Monmouth Press	John Brunsand C. S. Brostoff	1771	2/25/19
1/10	62241	064957	Madison News	John Anderson 2501 Norman	1367	JAN 11 19
JAN 1 419	313284	02644	99 Ben Wington	Wet James Smith - Post 2070	2051	7/12/19
1/15/19	313630	011023	" 99 W. G. Lyford	Paul C. Furst	2370	JAN 20 19
Feb 6-19	314467	014033	99 Mrs. L. L. Parker	Leila - 532 Manning Ave.	3921	FEB 8 19
7/8/19	31576	013009	99 Dr. Pennington	Juan Beccante - 612 St. 612	4807	Feb 18 19
7/18/19	838741	02053	1 Post. Contract	Mother Mrs. M. Janssen	4806	FEB 18 19
FR 27 1919	316265	081768	99 Mrs. J. J. Taylor	Willie Jayson (Sent back 1/11/19)	5423	2/25/19
MAR 1 7 19	317209	082677	99 Mrs. L. L. Parker	Leila - 532 Manning Ave.	6661	Feb 25 19
AR 23 1919	317047	083160	99 Mrs. R. W. Handley	Wife - Leila - 532 Manning Ave.	7178	Feb 25 19
Mar 27-19	838511	030987	1 Emma R. K. Smith	Mother (From New York Branch)	7467	Mar 27 1919
	838094	083739	99 Mrs. Henry Lester	Buddy - Ret. to Dr. L. J. Janssen	8070	Mar 27 1919
	838766	031971	1 J. O. Harris	Maria - 929 N. 10th St.	9434	Mar 27 1919
	838506	023207	1 Jack H. Labanack	Anna - 1609 Meade Ave.	9739	Mar 27 1919
5/10-19	319471	087614	99 J. L. Castleberry	E. W. Wright - 1013 1/2 St. 110	10461	May 10 1919
5/12-19	319618	087738	99 Mrs. J. J. Taylor	E. W. Thomas - 1010 St. 110	10586	May 12 1919
5/21-19	320234	084637	99 Mrs. J. J. Taylor	Wife - 115-77 1/2 St. 110	11907	May 21 1919
7/13/19	62254	066723	1 Mrs. J. J. Taylor	134 Kendall - Box 345	839	July 13 1919
AUG 3	19193	01479	101 Bill Anderson	B. M. Janssen - 1424 715	2358	AUG 3 1919
8/11	30413	01750	101 W. J. H. Walker	Gracie Dawson - Sent back 2/11/19	2819	8/11/19

Figure 4. The first page in this Form 3850 Registry Delivery Book. The page headings read "Record of Registered Matter Received and Delivered at \_\_\_\_\_".

RECORD OF REGISTERED MATTER RECEIVED AND				DELIVERED AT		
DATE RECEIVED.	ORIGINAL NUMBER.	OFFICE AND STATE OF ORIGIN. <small>(Add name of U. S. exchange office of first receipt, if of foreign origin.)</small>		RECEIPTS OF PERSONS TO WHOM DELIVERED. <small>(Where one person receipts for another, both names must be written. For example: "John Doe per Richard Roe.")</small>	INITIALS OF DELIVERING CLERK OR CLERK.	DATE OF DELIVERY.
FEB 1 1937			add to	written by		
MAR 30 1937			F. Redwell	Miss C. L. Wida - 216 N. 10th St.	1070	3/30/37
APR 20 1937	301321		Archie H. Hays	Miss Elizabeth Hays - 231 N. 10th St.	1354	4/20/37
MAY 8 1937	304988		Mrs. M. H. Hays	E. W. Thompson - 1010 St. 110	1446	5/8/37
SEP 19 1937	279334		Miss B. B. Hays	Leila - 2411 Norman	1584	9/19/37
OCT 3 1937	64		F. A. W. Hays	W. M. Hays - 1010 St. 110	5618	10/3/37
NOV 9 1937	243		Mr. W. H. Richards	Gen. E. W. Hays - 1010 St. 110	6264	11/9/37
DEC 15 1937	2127		Miss Viola Janssen	Price - 2107 Boque Blvd.	2137	12/15/37
MAR 29 1938	1408		Mrs. J. J. Taylor	Beppert - 1010 St. 110	2703	3/29/38
APR 2 1938	5167		Mrs. J. J. Taylor	Dr. Morris - 2300 Cleveland	100	4/2/38
JUL 8 1938	07		J. H. Russell	E. C. Johnson - 317 A. 3	200	7/8/38
Sept 4-38	2575		Mrs. J. J. Taylor	Ann - 1410 Meade	100	9/4/38
MAR 6 1939	10087		Mr. J. J. Taylor	Settle - 64 N. 10th St.	200	3/6/39
JAN 30 1940	77-107		Thomas J. Taylor	Sally - 1010 St. 110	100	1/30/40
MAR 5 1940	9441		Mrs. Matilda Davis	Thomas - 1010 St. 110	200	3/5/40
3-12-40	16		Mrs. J. J. Taylor	M. C. Patton - 321 Station	200	3/12/40
APR 5 1940	944836		Mrs. J. J. Taylor	Ed. Thompson - 1010 St. 110	100	4/5/40
OCT 2 1940	3257		Leola - 2411 Norman	Evelyn - 1010 St. 110	100	10/2/40

Figure 5. The final page in this Form 3850 Registry Delivery Book.