

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | Registered Mail Study Group NEWSLETTER |  |
| Issue No.4 | | November 2024 |
| https://www.usstamps.org/committees/registered-mail-study-group/ | | |

Chairman's Column

Welcome to the fourth issue of our **RMSG Newsletter**. My apologies for the delay, life occasionally gets in the way of these fun projects.

Again, we have added a few new subscribers. To make the future Newsletter more interesting, we want to encourage either short contributions, or suggestions for topics to be presented, from our readers.

This issue has again 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.

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

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

MATT KEWRIGA AUCTION #4 at GASS, Aug 15 – 18, 2024

The Matt Kewriga Auction#4, held in conjunction with the Great American Stamp Show at Hartford included a series of individual lots from the Al Kugel Exhibit of covers with the United States exchange labels used on mail to foreign destinations. The most important of these was the original Cherrystone Lot 3035, which was Al's one frame exhibit of the Exchange labels. This gave some fortunate collectors the opportunity to acquire some rare or unique covers. I was able to add several to my collection, which I will discuss in future newsletters. If any readers purchased covers from this series (Lots 215 – 252), please consider proving me with high resolution 300dpi scans of both sides of your covers for the Exchange Label Census cover image archive.

The AL KUGEL AUCTION – Part 2

The second auction of the Al Kugel Estate took place take place on September 10-11, 2024, under the direction of Cherrystone Stamp Auctions. The sale was being held on behalf of the American Philatelic Research Library, the beneficiary of Kugel's philatelic estate, and realizations yielded nearly One million dollars to the APRL. There were no major US registered items offered in the sale, but a third auction is now scheduled for December 2024. Be sure and check the Cherrystone Auctions website for additional information.

STAMP SMARTER LEARNING CENTER

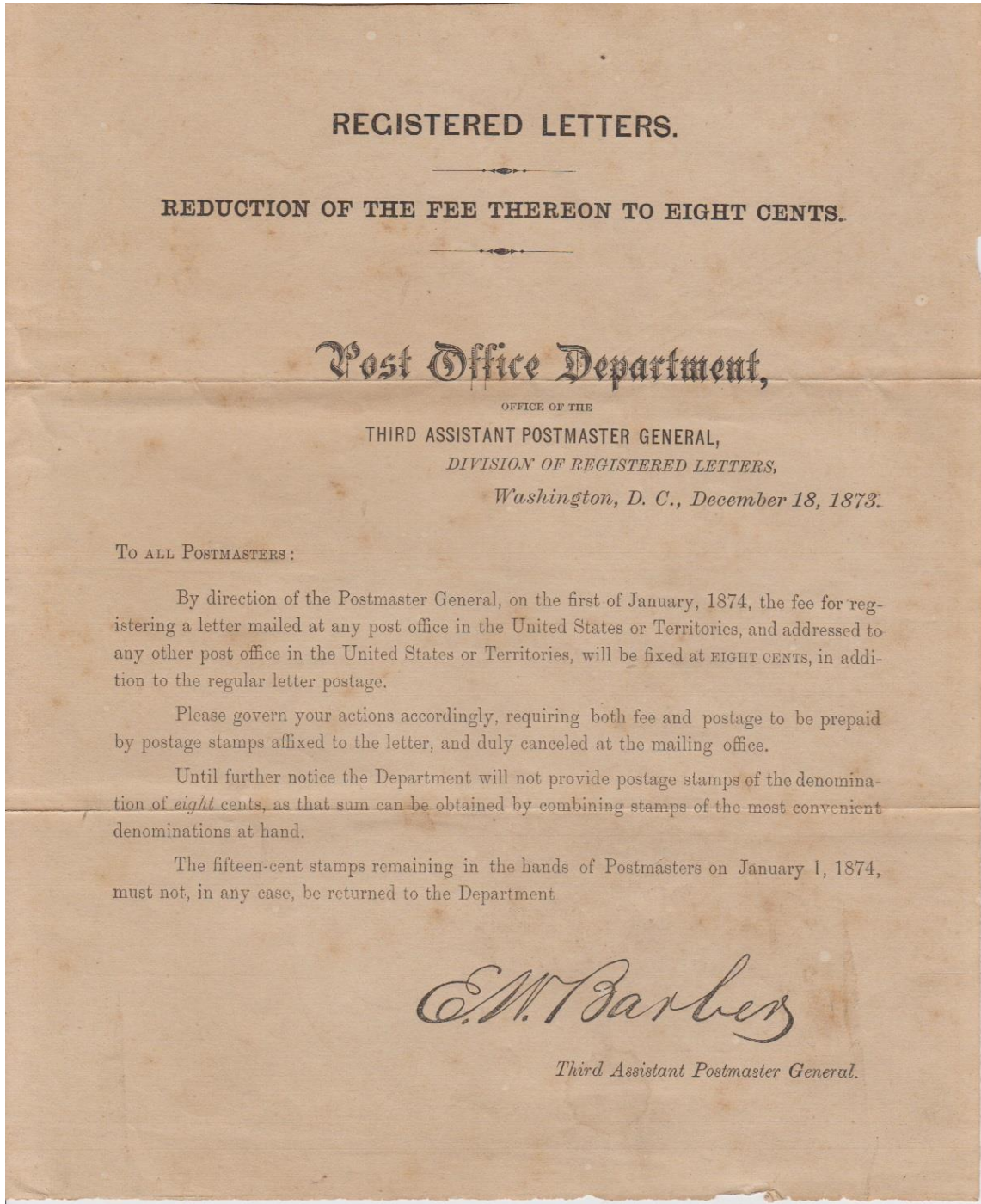
<https://www.stampsmarter.org>

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.

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

POST OFFICE FORMS USED BY THE REGISTRY SYSTEM

The official USPOD circular announcing the reduction of the Registry fee from 10 cents to 8 cents, to be effective Jan. 1, 1874.



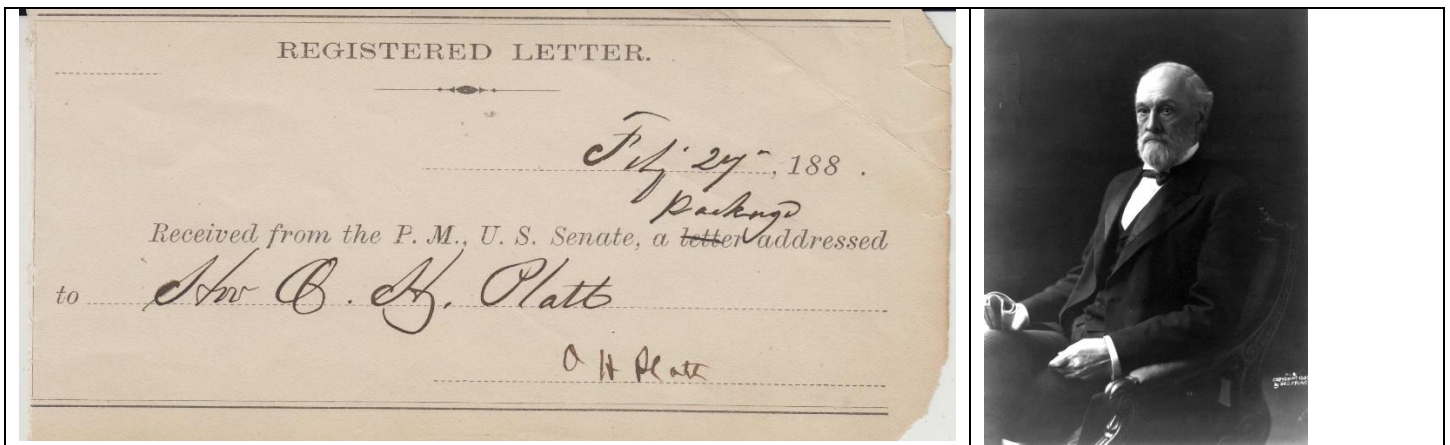
If anyone reading this newsletter collects these types of post office forms, whether registry forms or any other type, please contact me to discuss POD forms in general. **Mike Ludeman.** mike@ludeman.net.

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

AN UNUSUAL REGISTERED LETTER/PACKAGE RECEIPT

Mike Ludeman

The form shown here is not the typical Registered Letter/Package receipt. The Houses of Congress in Washington, DC, maintained a mail room for the elected Senators and Representatives. I don't know much about how they operate, but I suspect it was more like a corporate mail room than a true post office with a postmaster appointed by the Postmaster General. This is an internal receipt which was signed by Senator Orville H. Pratt, a Republican Senator from the State of Connecticut, who served in the Senate between March 5, 1879, and April 21, 1905. He received a registered package from the Postmaster (P.M.) in the U.S. Senate, on Feb. 27, 1888.



Photograph of Senator Pratt courtesy of Wikipedia.

REGISTERED COVERS WITH POSTAGE PAID BY PERMITS

Mike Ludeman

The normal procedure for franking registered mail was postage stamps, or with postage meters. While Permit Mail was available to pay the regular postage fees on letters, it was not often used because it was dependent on having an envelope preprinted with the correct rate, something difficult to accomplish in a typical business environment. In his book on domestic registered mail, Chapter 36, page 220-221, Tony Wawrukiewicz illustrated two registered letters where both the postage and registry fee was paid by permit. Tony notes that this was a common practice by universities to send tickets to athletic events to their alumni.

The three covers shown here are not often seen, and they were observed on eBay in June 2024.

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

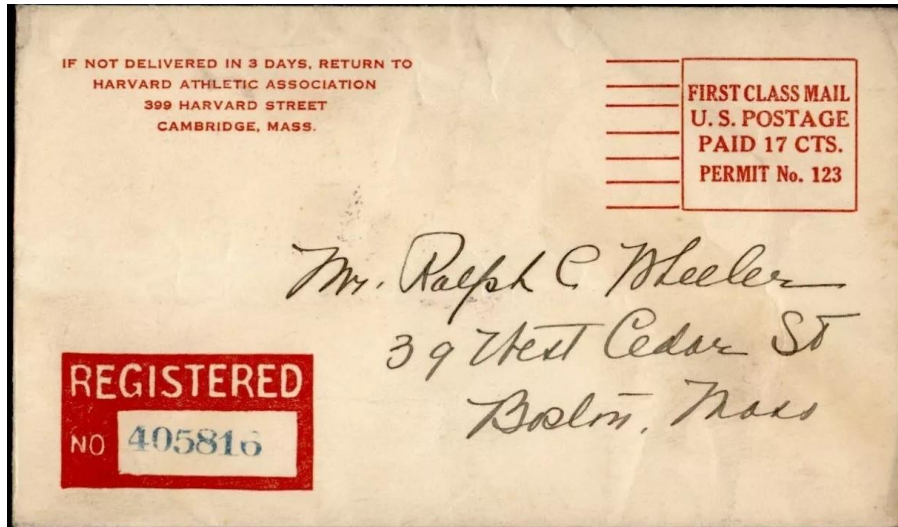


Figure P1. Permit paid cover dated Feb 21, 1931, containing tickets for a Harvard University athletic event. Permit fee of 17 cents paid the 2 cents first class surface rate and 15 cent registration fee, for less than \$50 indemnity. (Author's collection)

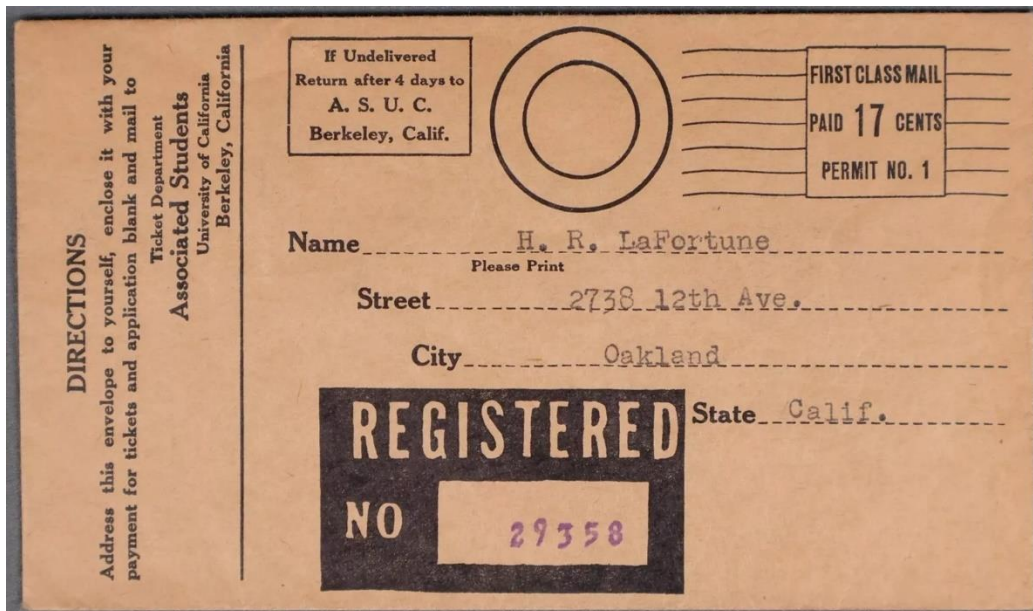


Figure P2. Permit paid cover dated Oct. 3, 1928, containing tickets for a University of California-Berkely event. Permit fee of 17 cents paid the 2 cents first class surface rate and 15 cent registration fee, for less than \$50 indemnity. (Author's collection)

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

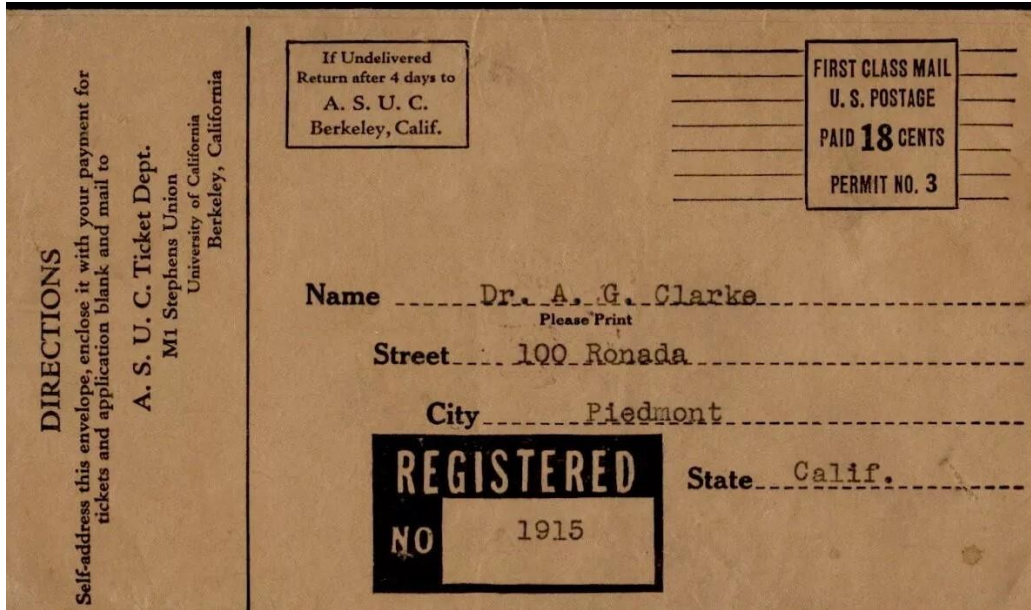
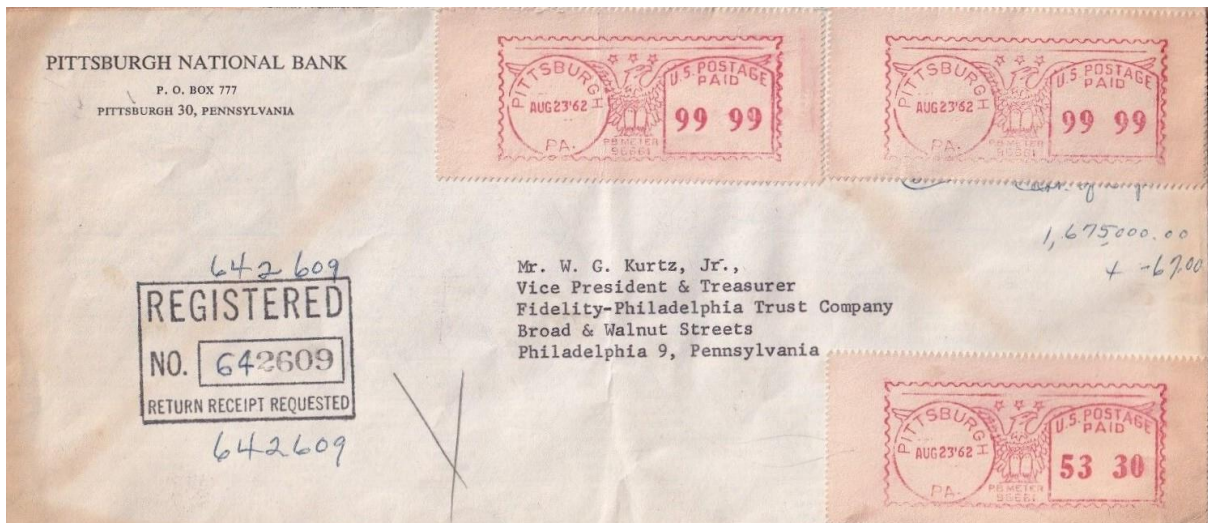


Figure P2. Permit paid cover dated Sept 23, 1933, containing tickets for an University of California-Berkely event. Permit fee of 18 cents paid the 3 cents first class surface rate (effective July 6, 1932) and 15 cent registration fee, for less than \$50 indemnity. (eBay drwhostamps, June 2024)

If anyone has an example of a registered letter with fees paid by permit, from a source other than a university athlete department, please send your cover for inclusion in a later newsletter.

REGISTERED LETTER WITH HIGH POSTAGE RATE PAID BY METER



Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter



This cover was seen on eBay but not pursued (in retrospect, definitely a mistake). The total franking, paid by three postage meter imprints on labels, is \$253.28, an impressive sum for an ordinary No. 10 envelope. It was mailed on August 27, 1962, and the return address of a bank and the addressee being a trust Company leads one to suspect that the envelope contained a small number of financial documents, such as bearer bonds or large denomination stock certificates.

First class letter mail was 4 cents per ounce between August 1, 1958, and January 7, 1963, so that actual postage would be some increment of 4 cents.

Using Beecher & Wawrukiewicz's Domestic Rate Book (I have the Revised Second Edition), page 230, Table 36.4 Registry Service, gives the fees for registry and between August 8, 1961 and March 26, 1966, the rate was calculated as follows:

- (1) The Fee for the first \$10,000 was \$4.25 for no commercial service, and \$3.35 for commercial service. From reading B&W, I believe the commercial service implied that there was private insurance provided for the contents.
- (2) The Fee for the next \$990,000 indemnity was \$0.15/\$10,000, which gives a total of \$151.85 + the Fee in part 1. The Fee for additional indemnity between \$1 million and 15 million continued at the rate of \$0.10/\$10,000.

The envelope had a penciled notation that indicated that someone calculated the possible value of the contents was \$1,675,000 plus \$67,000(?). I was unable to verify these numbers. I was also never able to associate the three numbers on the reverse to fit any rate calculations either.

However, working with these fees found in B&W, there were several combinations that would result in the total postage on the letter. The two combinations that I liked best were the following, assuming there were no overpayments by the sender.

- (1) Commercial Service, at \$3.35 plus \$151.85 for balance of the first million, plus additional indemnity of \$980,000, which at the fee of \$0.10/\$10,000, would add another \$98.00 for a total of \$253.20 + an additional 8 cents for a two ounce letter, making the exact amount of \$253.28.

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

- (2) An alternate is the same with the slightly smaller amount of additional indemnity of \$978,000, for a fee of \$97.80, making the total at \$253.00, and a seven ounce letter (7 x \$0.04) at \$0.28, giving a total of \$253.28.

I consider this less likely as it seems that it would be difficult to enclose papers weighing 8 ounces within what appears to be a standard No. 10 envelope.

I admit to being a novice at these calculations, so please review this section, and offer other possibilities.

This is a significant amount of postage and insurance for a package of any size. As one point of reference, The Prexie Study Group of the USSS, in their publication, **The Prexie Era**, maintained a census of the \$5 Presidential Series stamps on cover, which included only three covers with a larger franking: \$361.60 (May 17, 1946, declared value #3.012 million), \$ 289.00 (No date, declared value \$2.4 million), and \$283.33 (Dec 7, 1947, declared value \$600,000)¹. Even the fabled package that mailed the Hope Diamond from the office of jeweler Harry Winston in New York to the Smithsonian in November 1958, insured at the time for \$1 million, had franking of only \$145.29.²



¹ For those interested in this subject, the entire run of the **The Prexie Era** is online on the USSS website, at URL = <https://www.usstamps.org/resources/prexie-era/>, accessed July 21, 2024. If you don't want to dig through all the back issues, I have a compilation of these articles on this \$5 census, which I can send if you request them.

² **Hope Diamond Package**, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, URL = <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/collections/object-spotlight/hope-diamond-package>, accessed July 21, 2024.

FULL PANES OF THE EXCHANGE LABELS OF NEW YORK (1883-1911)

In the initial issue of the **RMSG Newsletter**, I posted a **Research Request** soliciting scans of examples of any full panes of the New York exchange Label used at the New York, NY main post office between 1883-1911. It has long been known that the final format of the exchange labels, produced in panes of 50 labels, ten rows of five labels per row, had survived, and eventually found their way into the philatelic marketplace. An illustration of one of the panes of these labels is shown here.



Figure 1. Pane of the New York Exchange Office registration labels, 1911. These panes are listed in the Scott’s **Specialized United States Catalog**, and the pane is identified as **FX-NY1a(iii)**. (Author’s collection)

This label type was introduced during late 1906, and was in use for only five years. Over the years, I have maintained a private census of the known examples of this pane, in complete (or in some cases, almost complete form. That census currently includes only 32 reported examples, although there are often one or two being offered on eBay at any time.

The format of the pane of the earlier labels, first introduced in 1883, was unknown, and the subject of much speculation by students of these exchange labels. By examination of hundreds of covers, it was eventually determined that the format of these earlier labels included an arrangement of four columns rather than five, but the size of the predicted

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

pane in terms of the number of columns, eluded all investigators. One collector, Wayne Schuetz, using data from my census of these covers, was convinced that the format of the original panes used between 1883 and 1906 was 25 columns of four labels, for a pane of 100 labels.

Then in later 2023, I had the urge to join the Postal Label Study Group, another study group of the **United States Stamp Society**, which gave me access to all their back issues. While reviewing the contents of the back issues of their publication, *The Postal Label Bulletin*, I discovered a reference to the following pane of an early exchange label.³



Figure E1. The discovery copy of the earliest version of the New York Exchange Label.
(Author's collection)

³ No article, *Postal Label Bulletin*, Issue 14, December 1988, page 4.

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

The illustration in the publication was a poor black-white photocopy, reported by an early member of the PLSG, Fred Scheuer, who is long since deceased. I was resigned to wondering where that specific pane might now be located some 35 years later. Serendipity struck a few months later when I discovered the pane illustrated above offered on eBay, and I was able negotiate its purchase with the seller. Once it was in hand, I was able to compare it carefully with the original illustration in **The Postal Label Bulletin**, and I was able to confirm in my mind that it was the same pane of labels.

As can be seen, this does not appear to be a label salvaged from the New York post office when they were using the labels. It is printed on the thin, pelure paper that is common to these labels, but it is not perforated, it is not gummed, it has not had the label numbers in printed on the pane, and the pane has not been trimmed to the dimensions of the selvage as seen on some covers with the labels. It is also rather “dirty”, and it has the appearance of having been salvaged from the floor or wastepaper bin. It is very likely “printer’s waste”. But, it has the benefit of resolving, for once and all, the question of the format: There are fourteen rows of four labels, with a total of 56 labels per pane.

The descriptions of the various New York, NY exchange labels in the Scott’s **United States Specialized Catalog**, are sufficiently incomplete that I am reluctant to identify the Scott catalog number of this pane, but my personal research matches it with the first format of these exchange labels, which were used between 1883 and 1892.

REGISTERED MARKINGS WITH THE POSTMASTER’S NAME PRESENT

Jim Petersen

Shown on this page are three examples of an unusual registry marking used out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Cedar Rapids post office was established September 16, 1846. It is the county seat of Linn County and had a population of 25,656 at the time of the 1900 census. At that time, the post office was a Presidential Class post office of the First Class.

This is the only town I know of in Iowa to use this type of marking. I have numerous examples of magenta DCDS markings with the town and state at the top and REGISTERED at the bottom with the MM/DD/YYYY in the center. As shown here this marking has the city at the top of the circular marking, “**CEDAR RAPIDS**”, and below that is a straight-line “**IOWA**”, and then the date: MM/DD/YYYY. Below the date is what makes this marking unusual because it shows the name of the postmaster, in this case “Alex Charles/ P.M.” At the bottom of the circle is “**Register Department**”.

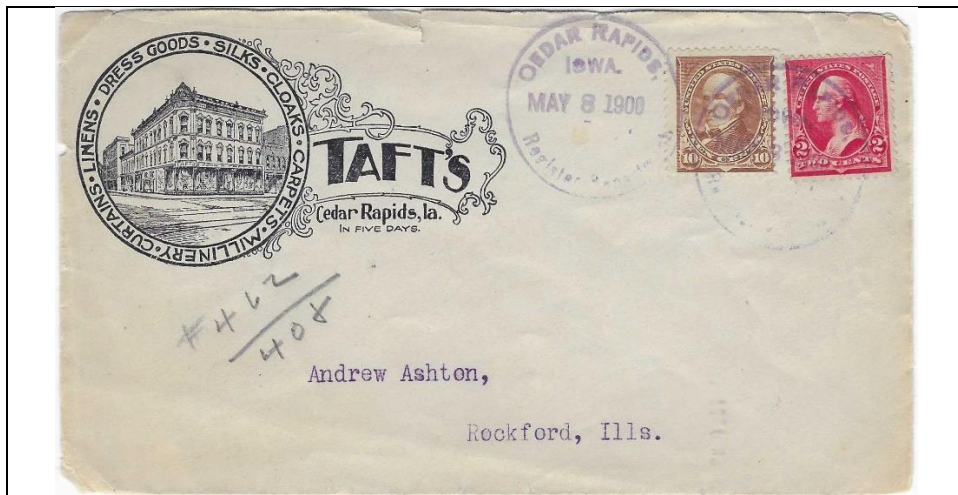
Alexander Charles was the postmaster of Cedar Rapids from December 2, 1886, to January 9, 1891, and again from February 2, 1895, through January 10, 1899. William Boyd became postmaster on January 11, 1899. From the **Official Register’s** of the period, we have the following compensation for the postmasters.

| Official Register Edition | Postmaster’s Name | Postmaster’s Compensation |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1897 | A. Charles | \$ 3,200.00 |
| 1899 | W. R. Boyd | \$ 3,200.00 |
| 1901 | W. R. Boyd | \$ 3,300.00 |

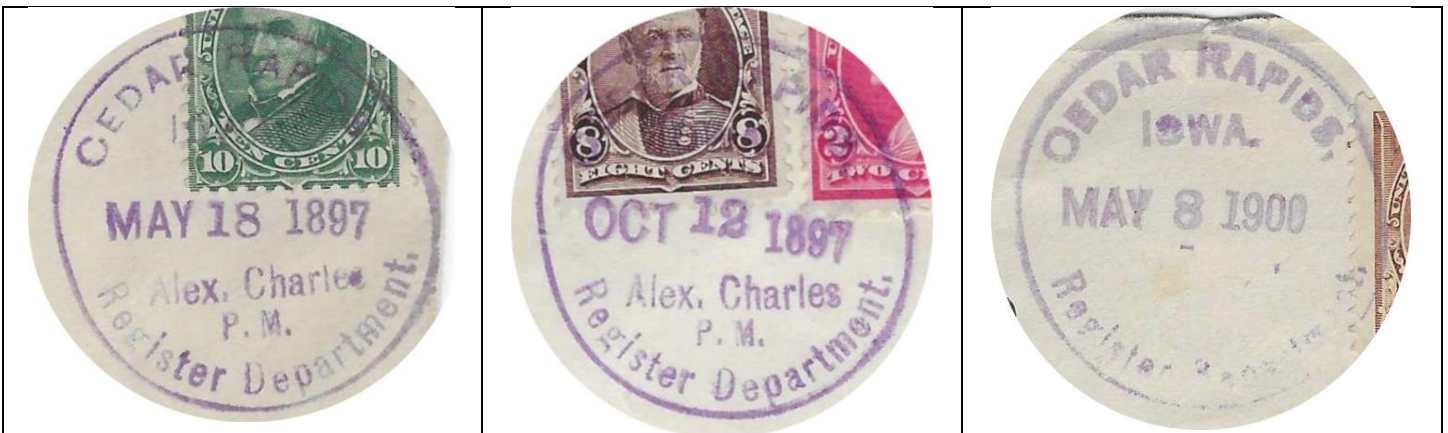
Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter



Two of the examples, both used in 1897, which show Alex Charles' name.



The third example was used in 1900, after Charles left his position as postmaster. It appears to show his name (or Boyd's) mostly excised. There are traces of something below the 8 of May and below the first 0 of the year.



A close-up of the three DCS Markings.

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

Alexander Charles was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland on October 2, 1850, and he died suddenly in Chicago on November 14, 1913. He is buried in Murdoch-Linwood Cemetery, Cedar Rapids.

Has anyone seen a marking like or similar to this? If you have, please send a scan to me at jimbob1216@comcast.net, or the Editor.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS COVER?

Mike Ludeman



This partial cover scan was sent to me by an eBay seller a number of years ago, asking if I was interested in purchasing it. Unfortunately, he only sent these partial scans, and when I inquired as to his price, and whether he could provide a full scan, he never replied, and shortly thereafter, he closed his eBay store. I learned several years later that he had died, but I never saw the cover again. While I was interested at the time in purchasing the cover, I am even more interested in obtaining a full scan of the cover for the Exchange Label Census. If you happen to have this cover in your collection, or know who does, please consider providing me with a scan of the front and reverse sides, at 300dpi, JPG format.

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

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.
- 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. Readers might also be interested in viewing Tony's a compilation of all of Tony's column from Linn's Weekly Stamp News, **Modern U.S. Mail** which is also available on Stamp Smarter: 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:

- **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.
- **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. 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. 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 20th 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. 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 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

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

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.

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.

| EXCHANGE OFFICES | 2010 Census | 2018 Census |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Boston, MA | 47 | 103 |
| San Francisco, CA | 77 | 247 |
| All other office | 318 | 550 |
| TOTALS... | 442 | 900 |

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.

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

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

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. 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. [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 . [24-1]

MEMBER'S RESEARCH REQUESTS

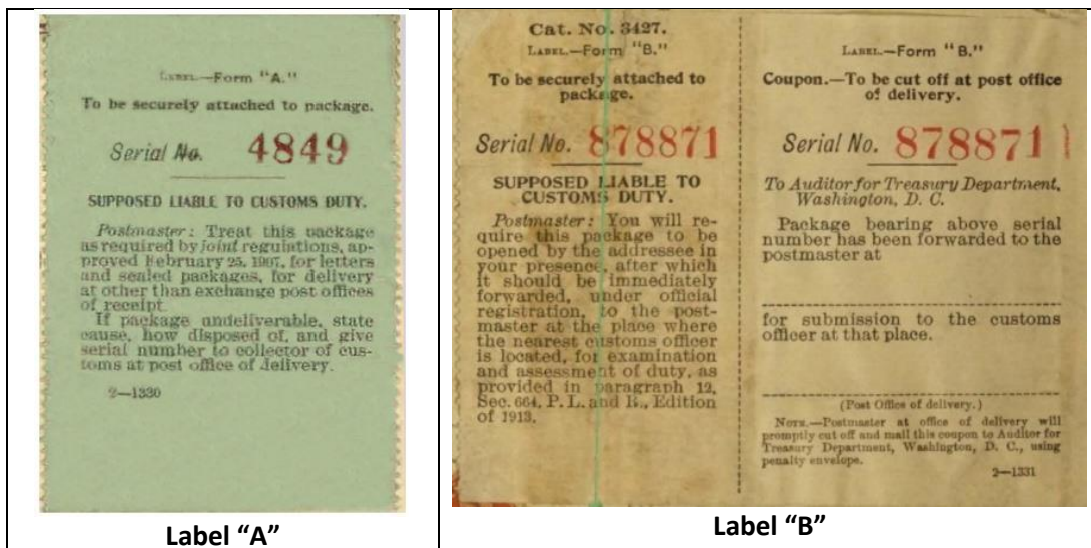
[UPDATE at end of original article]

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

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

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 32 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.



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 & 58, 2018.

Please send any scans of any covers in your collection which used this label to **Mike Ludeman**, mike@ludeman.net.

Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

UPDATE:

The cover illustrated on the following page was acquired recently. It was mailed from England on April 20, 1923, and sent to Wipple, Arizona. The arrival date is indistinct. The label itself has Serial 1188319, by far the largest serial number observed (these serial numbers appear to have been assigned in somewhat a sequential order), and in an article by Tony Wawrukiewicz, 1923 was believed to be the final year of use.



Registered Mail Study Group Newsletter

[24-1]