

	<h1>Registered Mail Study Group</h1> <h1>NEWSLETTER</h1>	
<p>Issue No. 5</p>		<p>January 2025</p>
<p>https://www.usstamps.org/committees/registered-mail-study-group/</p>		

Chairman's Column

Welcome to the fifth issue of our **RMSG Newsletter**, and the first of the new year.

Again, we have added a few new subscribers, and an updated Members List is included with this mailing. The list only includes the names and contact information of those on our mailing list who are agreeable to being contacted about their registered mail interests. 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 again has a few new, shorter notes, and I retained several sections from the previous issues with resource information as they may be of interest to new subscribers, but some duplication from last year's issues has been removed to make space for new material.

I had an inquiry about whether the RMSG might be planning any type of meeting at the USSS annual meeting at Garfield Perry (Mar 14-16, 2025), and as I had not thought of such an idea, I thought I would put it on the table and see if there is an interest. I suspect that it is too late to arrange for a separate meeting room, but if you are planning to attend, you might want to check with others on the mailing list to see if an informal meeting or lunch might be possible. And if not this year, is there anyone who plans to attend the Boston Show in 2026 who would like to help arrange a RMSG meeting? If interested, please contact me.

This issue includes a rather length article provided by Frank Crown, author and editor of the Georgia Postal History Society journal **Georgia Post Roads**. The title is **20th Century Fancy Cancels**. Because of the rather limited circulation of the original publication, Frank offered to allow me to share it here.

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.

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Errata: It was brought to my attention that several embarrassing errors crept into Issue No. 4. In my reporting of David Handelman's series of articles on Richard Frajola's website, not only did I spell David's name incorrectly, but the link didn't work. The correct link is <https://www.rfrajola.com/exhibits.htm>. Scroll down to the middle of the page for David's many studies. For readers who want to have this corrected in their copy of the original issue, I have made the correction and replaced the issue found on the Registered Mail Study Group webpage. The corrected issue can be downloaded.

Mike Ludeman


Chairman, RMSG

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FLORIDA REGISTERED MAILS: 1847 - 1911

Tom Lera

Tom Lera has compiled a comprehensive census of registered covers mailed from post offices throughout Florida, to both domestic and international destinations. The earliest cover recorded was dated in 1847, eight years before the official Post Office Department registration of mail began. At the time this census report was prepared, information had been recorded for 308 registered covers mailed from 205 towns or post offices. The census is organized into five articles which illustrates each cover in these categories: Part I – Early Statehood covers, Part II – Florida Towns with Registered Mail 1858 -1911, Part III-Florida Registry Exchange Labels, Part IV – Florida Towns with New York and San Francisco Registry Exchange Labels, and Part V – Other Florida Registered Covers with Examiner Markings. In these articles, every cover is illustrated. There is a second set of files which is a census of the covers in a spreadsheet type format, without illustrations of the covers. The article for Part 1 will appear in an early issue of the *Florida Postal History Journal*.

All five articles can be found on the Florida Postal History website, which is found at <http://www.fphsonline.com/>. Once at the page, navigate down the left sidebar to the  button, select it, then scroll down to the bottom of the page. Each section is presented in a separate PDF file which can be downloaded to your computer. These articles offer a practical approach for some state specialists to create a similar census for their state (but I would not try it for certain large states 😊).

Foreign Incoming Mail to the United States, 1844-1951

Leonard Piszkiwicz

I want to call attention to a new publication that should be considered by everyone who collects registered mail. Leonard Piszkiwicz has published a two-volume edition titled **Foreign Incoming Mail to the United States, 1844-1951**. Both ordinary first-class mail and registered mail is discussed in each section. The routing of mail between the country of origin and the United States is described in detail, with emphasis on changes seen over time, and the author provides

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additional information about the handling and routing of the registered mail once it enters the United States and continues its journey to the destination post office. There are easily 1000 covers illustrated in the two volumes which supplement the discussions.

The book was awarded a Large Gold and received the John Kevin Doyle Grand Award at the CHICAGOPEX 2024 Literature competition in November 2024. The book is published by the Collectors Club of Chicago, and it is available from several sources (including eBay at some excessive prices). Volume I covers mail from Europe, Africa, and Asia, while Volume II covers The Pacific and Americas. Each volume is \$52. The books are also available from the Collectors Club of Chicago in a digital eBook (PDF) format at the cost of only \$25.

Foreign Incoming Mail to the United States 1844 – 1951

Volume I – Europe, Africa and Asia
Volume II – the Pacific and the Americas

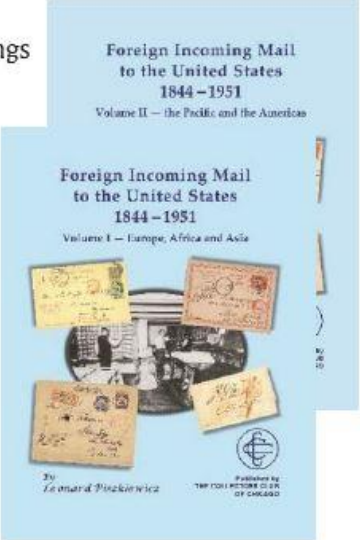
Beginning 1844 some countries began separating mail for the U.S. into city separations with markings on covers indicated routings of incoming mail.



Published by
Collectors Club
of Chicago

Factors affecting the evolution routing of incoming mail are presented relative to when and where they occurred.

Buy one or both volumes, depending on your area of interest, for only \$52.00 each!



Incoming Mail Volume I 538 pp Europe, Africa and Asia
<https://shop.ingramspark.com/b/0847VeL57lkg936ctjltHzD0d2f0nN32tc2n0itlZKFbiW>

Income Mail Volume II 524 pp The Pacific and Americas
<https://shop.ingramspark.com/b/08477Zbgxum05nNv80FsoyqLOfwU5TIUepLkhJksPes8LaX>

Alternatively, eBook of combined volumes @\$25.00
<https://www.collectorsclubchicago.org/handbooks-available-for-download/>

Ad borrowed from the American Philatelist, October 2024.

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The AL KUGEL AUCTION – Part 3

The third auction of the Al Kugel Estate is scheduled to be held sometime in 2025, under the direction of Cherrystone Stamp Auctions. The sale will be held on behalf of the American Philatelic Research Library, the beneficiary of Kugel's philatelic estate, and realizations yielded over one million dollars to the APRL. Keep a watch for the sale, as there are still several of his significant collections of United States registered mail to be offered.

POSTAL HISTORY SUNDAY

Postal Historian Rob Faux has for the past four years published an online blog called **Postal History Sunday**. His first entry for 2025 (#228) was titled “**What are you Talking About?**” in which he presents an interesting discussion of what is postal history. Through past entries, all of which are still available, Rob had had plenty of opportunity to present discussion and analysis of many covers which he calls postal history. You may view this most recent entry at <https://postalhistorysunday.substack.com/>. There is an option to have a copy of each new entry sent to your email's inbox so you don't miss an issue. All previous issues are available for viewing and reading, just what you need for these cold winter days. 😊

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

In the previous issue (No. 4, November 2024), I illustrated an example of a pane of the final variety of the New York “EXCHANGE” label, and also reported that my census of complete (or almost complete) panes was at 32 examples. A new example appeared on eBay in November shortly after the information appeared, with labels 52901-52950. So now the total census is 33 examples. **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:

Just added...

- Piszkiwicz, Leonard, **Foreign Incoming Mail to the United States, 1844-1951**, Collector's Club of Chicago, 2024.
- 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.

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- 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 **SIX** articles on domestic registered mail, published in **The Chronicle**, the journal of the US Philatelics Classics Society between 2015 and 2024. The most recent article, published in **The Chronicle** issue for Nov. 2024, and discusses the markings found on registered mail in the 1890s, and another (and final) article promised in a future issue. 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 articles 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:

- **Corrected. David Handelman.** 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.

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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.

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 http://www.uspostalbulletins.com/US_Postal_Forms.aspx.

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.

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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 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.

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
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

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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 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.

CUSTOMS LABELS ON INBOUND REGISTERED MAIL (Updated)

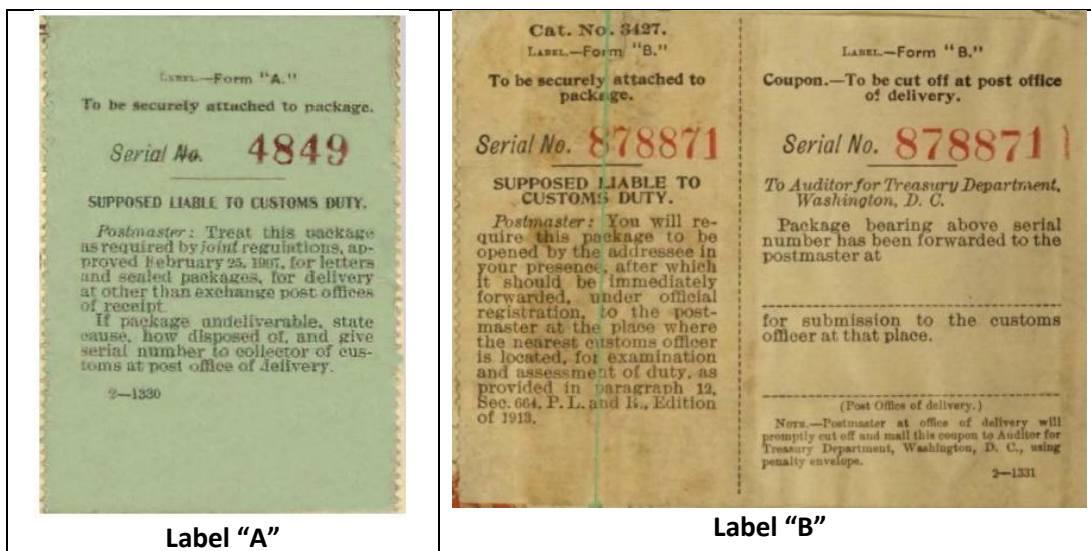
Mike Ludeman

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,

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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 which was 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.

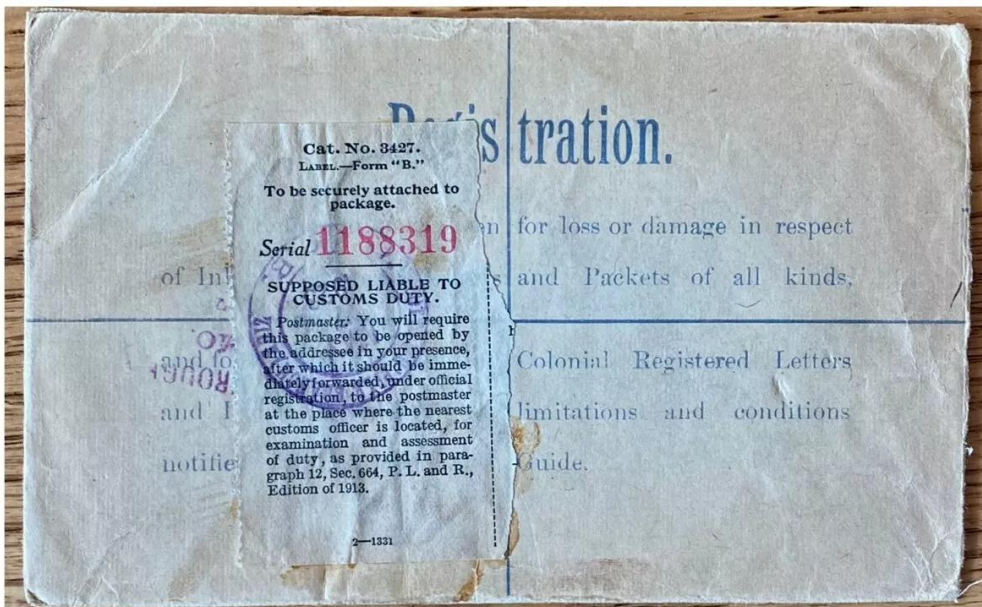
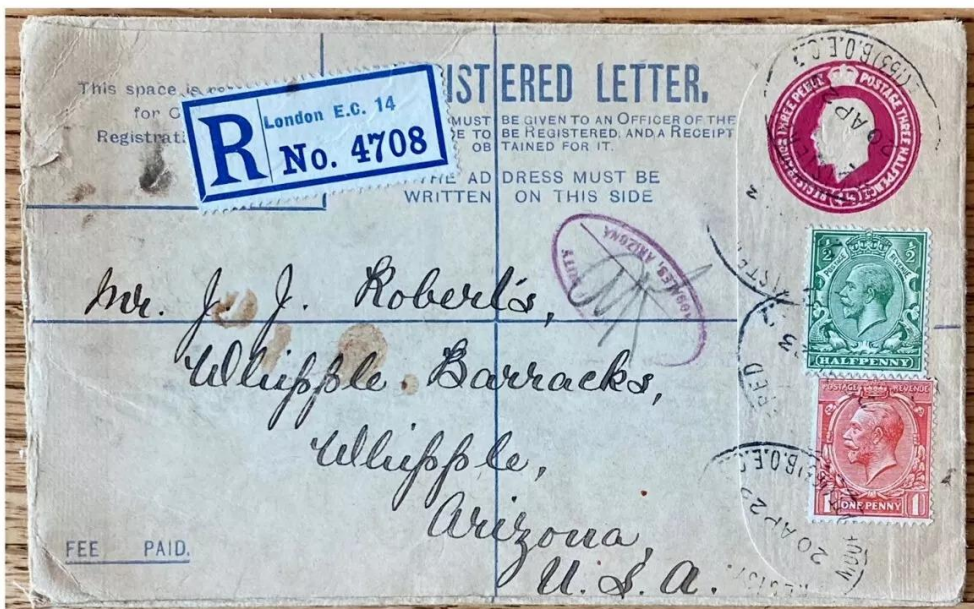


For more information, there are several articles which describe the use of these labels in more detail, written by John M. Hotchner in *La Posta Journal*, 2Q 2017, and Tony Wawrukiewicz in *Auxiliary Markings*, issues #57 & 58, 2018.

UPDATE:

The cover illustrated on the following page was acquired recently on eBay, although delivery required nearly eight weeks because of the Canadian post office strike. The cover was mailed from England on April 20, 1923, and sent to Whipple, 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 / chronological order), and in an article by Tony Wawrukiewicz, 1923 was believed to be the final year of use, so this example is a very late use of this label.

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

[24-5]

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20th Century Fancy Cancels

Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Fancy cancels of the 20th century were once a very popular collecting topic of US collectors. There were over two thousand different designs that were used on both first class and registered letters. An example is shown at Figure 1.



Figure 1. Mickey Mouse fancy cancel on registered cover from Mickey, Texas, postmarked 27 May 1930. Courtesy Robert A. Siegel Auctions, Sale 1125.

Fancy cancels burst on the scene in 1927 and a decade later the topic was in decline. How did this collecting area start from nothing and grow so fast? The story begins with registered mail. Initially there were no special requirements for cancelling stamps on registered mail, other than to cancel them. This changed with the 1913 edition of the *Postal Laws and Regulations (PL&R)*. In addition to the long-standing requirement to postmark the reverse of the cover twice across the flaps, now the town postmark *was not* to be used to cancel stamps on the front of a registered letter. The rationale for this was to make it necessary for postal workers to examine the back of the letter to determine the office of origin and note any tampering. These requirements were repeated in the 1924 *PL&R* and again in the 26 May 1927 *Postal Bulletin*. The latter did offer the following guidance on how to cancel the stamps.

In those cases where the postage stamps on first-class registered mail are canceled by means of the regular combination postmarking and canceling stamp, the canceling portion of the stamp should be applied in such a manner that the postmark will not appear on the face of the letter.¹

This process took a little patience to do correctly, and many postmasters were interested in a quicker way to cancel the stamps. The seeds for what was to come were sown back in 1918 and earlier with airmail first flight special postmarks and cachets. A number of these were done without the approval of the Post Office Department which authorized all postmarks. In this environment it is no wonder that some postmasters began to make their own postmarks to cancel the stamps on the face of registered mail. In March 1927 the postmaster at San Rafael, California, used a fancy star cancel, and in July the postmaster at Edgewater, New Jersey, a fancy shield.² Quickly other postmasters began to prepare their own fancy cancels for use on both first class and registered mail and just as fast collectors began to send their pre-stamped envelopes to these offices to get the fancy cancels. Fancy cancel collecting also got a boost from philatelic

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publications which included news on the available fancy cancels. Some stamp clubs even got into the act by sending pre-stamped notices of upcoming meetings to obliging post offices using fancy cancels for onward delivery to members.³

Postmasters were not alone in preparing fancy cancels. Several enterprising collections took the initiative and prepared their own fancy cancels. One collector was C. A. Paige, who created about 50 fancy cancels. He would take a cancel to a postmaster and tell him he would like to have some covers canceled with the device. If the postmaster agreed Paige had several covers canceled and left the device with the postmaster for his continued use.

To combat this unauthorized practice the following directive was issued by the Post Office Department on 17 November 1928.

Correspondence received at the department indicates that quite a number of postmasters are using unauthorized rubber stamps for the purpose of canceling stamps on registered mail, the evident intent of many of these stamps being to advertise some particular locality, city, or some local event.

The use of these unauthorized canceling devices on registered mail should be immediately discontinued and only such canceling devices used in canceling stamps on registered mail as have been authorized by the department.⁴

The directive against the use of unauthorized rubber stamps was reiterated in the January 1931 Supplement to the *Postal Guide*.⁵

Many postmasters disregarded these directives and continued to prepare fancy cancels for use on both first class and registered mail. The Great Depression which began in December 1929 probably led to even more post offices using fancy cancels. The depression was particularly hard on the small 4th class post offices. The postmaster's salary at these offices was based mainly on collections for box rent and commissions on the value of the postage stamps, post cards, stamped envelopes and postage due stamps canceled. Most of the offices were in small towns that had little business even before the depression. With the jobless numbers increasing, these offices saw their revenue fall significantly.⁶ Many saw fancy cancels as a means to increase the value of the postage stamps cancelled and thus increase their compensation.

The continued blatant disregard of postal regulations caused the following directive to be issued by the Acting Third Assistant Postmaster on 24 August 1934.

It has been brought to the attention of the Department that philatelists throughout the country have been requesting postmasters to register articles on which the postage stamps have already been canceled with other than the black canceling ink provided for the purpose by the Department, and with private cancellation marks of various designs, or they have requested postmasters to use unauthorized devices in canceling the stamps.

Postage stamps on mail matter should be canceled only with the devices furnished by the Department and only black canceling ink furnished by the Department should be used. . . .

Postal employees should see that the proper ink and only authorized devices are used in canceling postage stamps. Any matter having postage stamps affixed that have been defaced with unauthorized private cancellation marks of any description whatever should be refused and any instances noted where these instructions are not being observed should be promptly reported to the Department. . . .⁷

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By late 1934 the country was being to come out of the depression. This and the no-nonsense directive from the Acting Third Assistant Postmaster resulted in a gradual decline in the use of fancy cancels. By 1940 very few postmasters were still using fancy cancels.

The cover in Figure 2 and its enclosure (Figure 3) illustrate the plight of 4th class postmasters and the positive effect fancy cancels had on their income.



Figure 2. Arrow fancy cancel on registered letter from Corry, Pennsylvania, postmarked 18 September 1930 on the reverse. Author's collection.

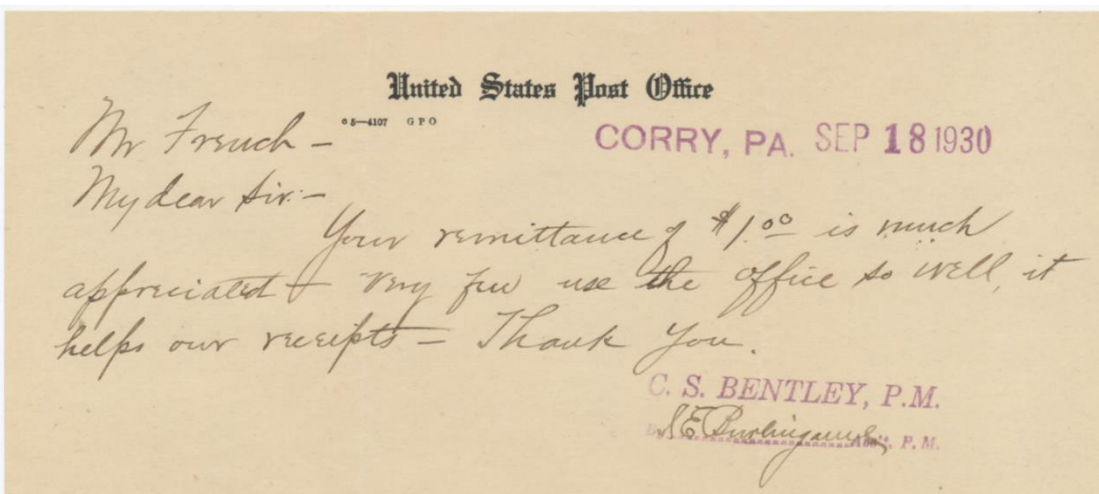


Figure 3. Enclosure in the Corry, Pennsylvania, letter. The text reads "Your remittance of \$1.00 is much appreciated — Very few use the office so well, it helps our receipts." Signed by the assistant or acting postmaster at Cory. Author's collection.

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Georgia postmasters were not near as prolific as others, but some did prepare and use fancy cancels. Several examples are illustrated in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Illustrations Reprinted from the 1987 revised edition of *Loso and deWindt's 20th Century U. S. Fancy Cancellations*

A list of Georgia towns using fancy cancels is in Table 1. The number following the town name is the catalog number from the 1987 revised edition of *Loso and deWindt's 20th Century U. S. Fancy Cancellations*.^{8~}

Table I
Georgia Towns Using Fancy Cancels

Atlanta (36)	Forest Park (N-312)	Tate (1157)
Augusta (N-36)	Fort Benning (374)	Thunderbolt (N-754)
Crescent (205)	Lawrenceville (M-891)	Tybee Island (N-773)
Davisboro (217)	Lilly (N-473)	West Point (N-808)
Dublin (N-236)	Savannah (N-691)	White Oak (N-815)
Fish (N-302)	Swords (1135)	

The Tate, Georgia postmaster was perhaps the most prolific Georgia postmaster to use fancy cancels. One of his earliest efforts is the boxed cancel in Figure 5. This marking is not in the Loso and deWindt Catalog but other markings with the town name and state are.

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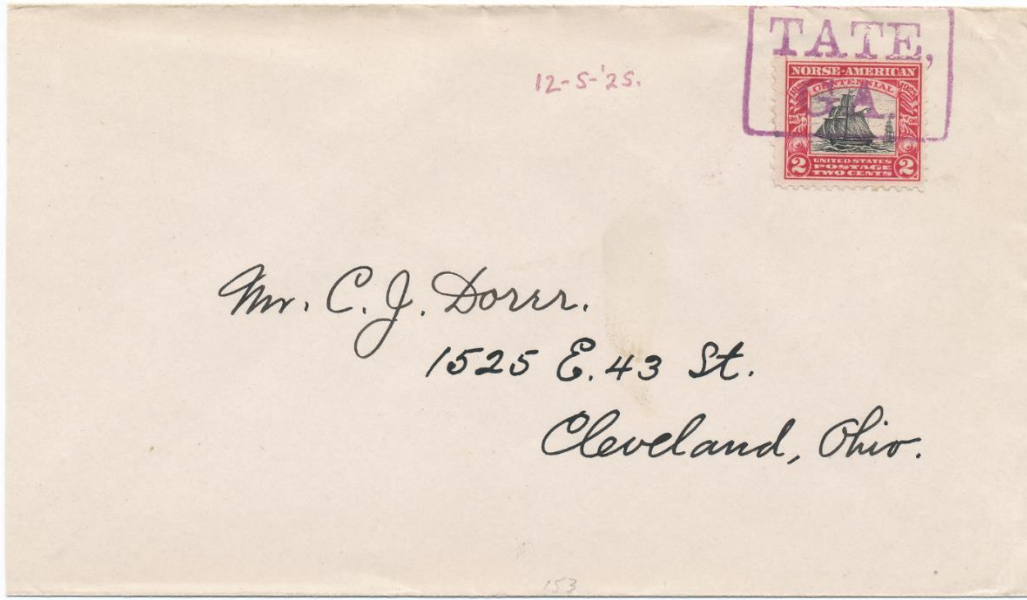


Figure 5. Boxed purple Tate postmark tied stamp on cover. The notation "12-5-'25" at upper center is probably the date the letter was mailed. Author's collection.

A few years later the Tate postmaster came up with a new cancel. Although not really a fancy cancel in the true sense it is cataloged as such. It is also known in both blue-green and red ink. Two examples of the marking on first class mail are in Figures 6 and 7.



Figure 6. Blue green Tate fancy cancel ties stamp on first class letter postmarked 7 May 1930. Author's collection.

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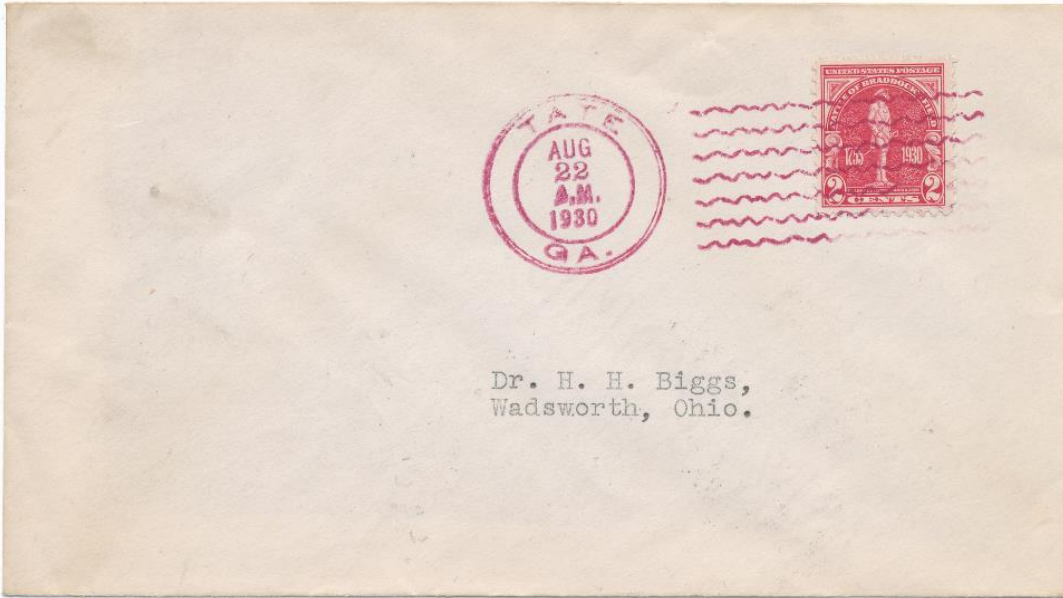


Figure 7. Red Tate fancy cancel ties commemorative on first class letter postmarked 22 August 1930. Author's collection.

The marking was also used on registered mail, but the postmaster made no effort to ensure the town name did not appear on the face of such mail. Two examples are illustrated in Figures 8 and 9.



Figure 8. Two strikes of blue-green Tate fancy cancel tie 4th Bureau issues on registered letter postmarked 25 August 1931. Author's Collection

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Figure 8. Three strikes of Blue-green Tate fancy cancel tie commemoratives on registered letter postmarked 29 July 1931. Author's collection.

Anyone wanting to pursue fancy cancel collecting should get a copy of the definitive catalog on the subject: *Loso and deWindt's 20th Century U. S. Fancy Cancellations*, 1987 edition edited by Hamilton R. Fishback and William C. Walker. Be sure you get the 1987 edition as it has about 1,000 more listings than the earlier edition.

End Notes:

1. US Post Office Department, *Postal Laws and Regulations* 1913 Edition, Sec. 890; and US Post Office Department, "Proper Postmarking of First Class Registered Mail," *The Postal Bulletin* 48:14394 (26 May 1927): 2.
2. Walker, William C., "20th Century Fancy Cancellations," *S P A Journal* 44:8 (April 1982), 567.
3. Walker, William C., "On The Origin And Evolution of 20th C. Fancy Cancellations," *U S Cancellation Club News* 15:8 (March 1981): 68.
4. US Post Office Department, "Use of Unauthorized Canceling Devices on Registered Mail," *United States Official Postal Guide* 49:14849 (20 November 1928): 1.
5. US Post Office Department, "Use of Unauthorized Canceling Devices on Registered Mail," *United States Official Postal Guide* 10:7 (January 1931): 11.
6. US Post Office Department, *Postal Laws and Regulations* 1924 Edition, Sec. 310.

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7. US Post Office Department, "Cancellation of Postage Stamps on Registered Mail," *Postal Bulletin* 60:17762 (24 August 1934): 1.
8. Walker, William C. and Hamilton R. Fishback, eds., *Loso and de Windt's 20th century U.S. Fancy Cancellations* rev. ed. (New York, Walker and Fishback, 1987).

MEMBER'S RESEARCH REQUESTS

Earliest uses of avis de réception (AR) by country

David Handelman

In 2019, I published (on Richard Frajola's site) an on-line book, dealing with international AR (avis de réception, acknowledgment of receipt, return receipt, advice of delivery, Rückschein, Retour Recepisse, ...). It is freely downloadable from <https://www.rfrajola.com/DH2019/1ar.pdf>. Now I am preparing to extensively revise it. Among the additions will be a list of earliest uses of the various artefacts associated to AR.

Mike encouraged me to publish the current version of the list (as of December 2024) in the Newsletter, in order to elicit additional information from readers. If you have examples of AR forms, covering envelopes, cards, or covers from the countries in the tables that show earlier use dates, or uses from entities not shown, please contact me with clear 300 dpi (or more) scans (jpg or tiff format) of the front and reverse of the items. I can be reached at rochelle2@sympatico.ca.

There are also individual countries' AR pseudo-exhibits on view; see the middle of the page of <https://www.rfrajola.com/exhibits.htm>.

David's Tables follow on next page.

Early dates of use

This is a fun chapter (except for its preparation, which was quite tedious). It deals with earliest dates for the various uses, and was inspired by the table in [M, 25–6]. Any such table is bound to change, as new discoveries or corrections occur. But this is preliminary, and I hope collectors will come forward and report their finds.

There are four tables here. The first, A.1, deals with early dates for pre-G P U A R material. I did not distinguish domestic from international use, as the latter is rare in this period. Nor did I distinguish Fahrpost from Briefpost (in German-speaking entities).

The next three tables deal with A R during the G P U / U P U period. There are listings for domestic A R forms, cards, and covers, followed by international (use) A R forms, covering envelopes, cards, and covers. Tables A.3, A.4 deal with British and French possessions respectively, while A.2 concerns everything else, and occupies several pages.

We adopt several conventions. Dates are given as year/month/day, with no unnecessary zeros. When a year appears in the same entry as the name (as in Austria & Empire 1779, on the second line of Table A.1), the (unadorned) year is supposed to mean the year that the service was implemented in the entity: thus, Austria initiated A R service in 1779.

For Tables A.2, A.3, the year usually (but not always) means the year of entry into the U P U. We can also have the year preceded by *to*, as in the entry for Bavaria in A.2, meaning service was no longer operated by the entity, which in this case is because Bavaria ceased to have a separate postal service. And sometimes, there is a range, as for Danzig, 1920–39, which covers the range of years for which the postal service was operated by the entity. Typically, it means the entity was annexed to some larger one, and no longer operated an independent service.

- a blank space indicates that I have no information
- \emptyset (empty set) no examples are known but should exist
- n n examples are known, where n is a small positive integer
- \exists examples are known, but no dates
- na *not applicable*
- ** philatelic destination or origin

A.1 Earliest pre-G P U A R uses, by entity

Entity		form	cover	notes
Austria & Emp	1779	1781/1/	1818	Retour Receptisse
Denmark		1854/4/18	1864/12/4	
Egypt		1874/8/12		
France	1859	1859/7/26		
Germany (Empire)		1873/7/		
Baden		1803/2/3		
Bavaria		1827/5/25	1807	uses both Rückschein and Retour Receptisse
Hanover		1859	1859	
Mecklenberg		1863 ¹		
Prussia		1831/11/6	1865/1/24	later both Rückschein and Retour Receptisse, early neither
Saxony		1858/2/26		
Thurn & Taxis		1865		
NGC		1871/6/27	1868/6/4	
Württemberg		1870s		
Italy (Independent)	1861	1867/6/30		
Romania	1852	1863/9/2	1865/3/16	
Switzerland	1852	1856 2/7		
United States	1863	1863	na	int'l forms should exist from 1868–9; none are known

We have three tables for GPU/UPUAR use. The last two deal with British and French possessions respectively. The parenthesized abbreviations (dom) and (for'n) mean domestic (*inland* in many jurisdictions) and foreign (international) uses, respectively.

If the date is given in a column other than the first as only the year (as in the Argentina entry for international-use covering envelopes, 1897), then either I could not get further information on the rest of the date (for example, it could be unreadable), or I anticipate examples will turn up dated years earlier, so that it would be pointless to complete the date.

You will note the large number of blank spaces (no information) in the domestic columns. That's because I collect domestic AR in the UP U period only for a handful of countries (Canada, US, UK, China). Everyone is invited to fill in the blanks and send the information to me.

A.2 Earliest GPU/UPUAR uses, by entity

Entity	form (dom)	card (dom)	cover (dom)	form (for'n)	cov env	card (for'n)	cover (for'n)	
Albania							1913/7/23	
Afghanistan ⁵							1941	
Argentina				1890/7/5	1897		1892/3/	
Australia	1906				1916	1926/2/8	1923/10/22	
New South Wales	1891	1905		1891/10/12	1900/3/1	na	1893/5/18	
Queensland	1891				1893/7	na		
South Australia	1891				1903	na		
Tasmania	1891					na	1896/11/20	
Victoria	1891	1905			1893 ^f	na		
Western Australia	1891	1905				na		
Austria & Emp				1881/2/28	1895/10/10	1922/3/14	1887/7/4	
Belgium				1898/9/19	1912/27/4		1894/1/24	
Belgian Congo				1919/10/10		1951	1936	
Bolivia				1902/1/3	1912/5/13		1894/7/30	
Brazil				1876/4/	1911/4/17		1892/7/4	
Bulgaria				1892/1/17		1959	1895	
Canada	1879	1883/12/29	1922/1/17	1905/1/12	1896/12/11	12/4/11	1922/2/18	1893/6/30
Chile				1886	1885/4/15	1894/11/13	1945	1892/10/2
China ^a	1897	1898/1/20	1925/8/25	1906/11	1900/7/6	1922/1/9 ²	1946	1898/11/11
Manchuria				1925/10/7				1928/3/23
Colombia		1883		1890	1881/9/	1899/10/2		1894/3/19
Panama						1892/1/		1896/11/14
Panama (independent)	1903					1904/5/9		1903/11/3 ^b
Costa Rica							1962	1894/3/4
Cuba	1898		1899/5/2		15/10/18		1951/9	1898/8
Czechoslovakia	1918–39				1923/5/26	1924/1/18	1926/2	1921/1/10
Danzig	1920–39						1928/12/11	1923
Denmark		1891/10/3	1902/5/23		1884/9/26	1893/1/24	1957	1892/6/11
Danish West Indies	to 1917							1914 ^{**}
Dominican Republic								1899/8/30
Ecuador				1896				1893/4
Estonia				1925/4/24		1939		1924/7/28
Finland		1926						1931
Ethiopia								1928
France	1876			1876/4/23	1894	1925		1893
Germany				1877/9/15	1877/9/15	1923/3/24		1880/3/20
Bavaria	to 1920				1894	na		
Württemberg					1884			
DDR				na	na	1955		
Greece				1926/5/14	1922/2/1	1939/1/31		1893/9/23
Guatemala				1887/9/13		1938/11/7		1894/11/14

Haiti						1960	1896/10/6	
Hawaii	1893–98					1897/2/24 ¹	na	1893/9/16
Honduras								1890s
Hungary						1912/4/24	1934	1877/8/24
Iceland					☺			1922 **
Iran/Persia					1932		1946	1908
Israel	1948				na	na	1950/2	1957
Italy					1886/4/7	1895/10/15	1931	1896/12/29
Japan		1909/3/1			1902**	1891/11/3	1937	1884/12/31*
Latvia					1927/12/14	1922/3/20	1928/8/16	1919/7/7
Liberia								1895/7/14
Luxembourg					1883/11/27			1
Mexico					1884/2/13	1912	1933	1892/7/4
Maldives								1952
Monaco								1912
Netherlands					1881/1/25		1923/3/24	1915
Curaçao								1905/1/20
Dutch East Indies								1922/8/9
Surinam								1892/7/27
Newfoundland								1904/4/20
New Zealand	1891	1894/8/16		1905	1897/2/3	1897/2/3		1906/9/8
Samoa						1921 ¹		
Nicaragua					1921/6/28	1895/5/25		1893/2/6
Norway					1912	1895/10/26		
Ottoman Empire	to 1923				1884	1906/3/2		1893/8/23
Iraq (to 1917)							na	1916/3/6
Paraguay					1882/8/8			1895
Peru						1889/4/8		1893
Poland	1918–39					1922/1/17	1924/11/25	1923/1/15
Portugal					1887/11/11	1906/3/2	1944	1892/11/23
Angola						1912/3/5	1925/10/22	1899/12
Inhambane						1912/3/9		1915/5/31
Laurenço Marques					1902/8/29	1912/2/24		1899/2/18
Macao		1897/5/7					1940	1940
Mozambique								1910
Nyassa Company					1911/4/27			
Port Guinea								1932
Port India								1921/11
São Tomé & Príncipe						1912/3/15		1907/3/26
Zambesia								1900**
Romania		1877			1922/10/28			1895/1/18
Russia					1881/2/25 ^c	1882/8/24 ^c	1931	1880/1/3 ^c
Salvador						1903/3/21		1896/3/27
Sweden						1924/10/8		1933
Spain					1904/7/24	1912/4/17	1937	1895
Morocco (Sp)					1895/10/29			
Cuba (Sp)	to 1898				1897/12/21	1893/9/15		1893
Fernando Pó						1912/3/15 ²		
SHS/Jugoslavia							1930/3	1923/11/6
Montenegro								1894/2/
Serbia					1901/9/13			
Switzerland		1898		1898	1895/10/25	1898	1934	1904
Thailand								1911
Turkey	1923							1927/4/1
United Kingdom	1879	1892	na	1894	1886/9/25	1883/6/16	1922/4 ^d	1892/12/7

Uruguay				1892/8/6	1912		1892/10/6
United States		1879/10/6	na ^e	1882/9/5	1882/6	1923/4	1880/11
Philippines				1911/12/8			1907/4/19
Venezuela				1887/8/26			1893/12/6
Yemen						1931	1933

^a China did not enter the U P U until 1914—but it adhered to U P U conventions beginning in 1897

^b Separation day! (The date of the beginning of the successful uprising to secede from Colombia.)

^c Julian calendar

^d An e-Bay purchase lost in registered mail from Israel to Canada

^e From 1863–1910, all registered domestic covers were sent with A R (R R R)

^f Coverig envelope used domestically

^g Maybe

* Hechler cover

For members of the British Empire and Commonwealth (other than Australia, Canada, Newfoundland, New Zealand, and UK, for which see Table A.2) and British possessions, but not including offices abroad:

A.3 Earliest G P U / U P U A R uses for British Empire & Commonwealth, British mandates, possessions, occupations, protectorates, ...

Entity	form (dom)	card (dom)	cover (dom)	form (for'n)	cov env	card (for'n)	cover (for'n)
Aden				1888/1/25			1925
Bahamas							1892/9/29
Barbados							1936
Bermuda						1938	1903
British Guiana							1896
British Honduras					1900/12/24		
British Solomon Islands					1915/5/4 ¹		
Burma						1927	1925
Ceylon						1928	1911
Cyprus						1936	1918
Egypt	1902		1895	1890		1926/7/5	1902
Falklands				1950 ¹		1980s	1936/7/15
Fiji				1959			
Gambia							1920
Gibraltar							1925
Grenada							1896
Hong Kong							1907
India		1889	1882	1897	1897	1925/7/2	1893/1/28
Iraq (Occupied)							1920/9
Iraq (Unoccupied)						1932	1931
Jamaica				1895/1/24	1918/2/4		1893/3/1
Kenya et al							1912
Malaya						1936	
Federated Malay States			1912	1922/10/3	1922/6/16		1907/3
Johore						1941	
Kedah						1935/3/29	
Perak							1912
Straits Settlements						1928/3/30	1896
Malta				1899/4/18	1893	1930	1927
Mauritius							1902/2/27
Nepal							1946
Nigeria							1925
Palestine	1920–49	1926		1920/7	1922	1924	1923/7/15

Rhodesia	1919/11/26						
Southern Rhodesia			1928				1940
Seychelles				1880/8/17			
Sierra Leone						1904	1905
South Africa				1917		1925	1922
Cape Colony					1895/7/11		
Natal					1893/12/25		1904/2/13
Southwest Africa 1915–66				∞			1928/7/29
Transvaal							1909/9/16
Trinidad & Tobago							1903/11/26
Turks & Caicos				1905/2/15 ¹			1900/1/22
Zanzibar							1908

For French possessions, but not including France (Table A.2) or its offices abroad:

A.4 Earliest GPU/UPUAR uses for French possessions, mandates, occupations, ...

Entity	form (dom)	card (dom)	cover (dom)	form (for'n)	cov env	card (for'n)	cover (for'n)
Afrique Occ Fr				1919/10/11			1924
Algérie							1925
Benin	1892						1894/7/4
Cambodge					1932		
Cameroun							1921
Cilicie (occ fr 1919–21)							1921
Congo français							1897/3/18
Côte d'Ivoire				1952			1921
Gabon				1915/10/4			
Guadeloupe							1917
Guyane française				1917/7/17	1895/9/29		1917/7/17
Indochine				1904			1895/5/21
Kwang-Tchéo-Wan					1939		
Liban				1912/2/27		1933	1941
Madagascar y compris D Suarez				1911/3/8			1901/9/19
Martinique							1895/1/10
Niger				1916/9/3			
Nouvelle Calédonie			1898/9/28	1889/9/15			1898/4/27
Pondicherry (Inde fr)				1931/9/8			1905
Sénégal				1936/3/28			1910/9/15
Soudane fr	1880–1960						1895/2/19
St Pierre & Miquelon							1897/4/17 ¹
Syrie						1926/6/9	1896
Tahiti				1905/1/13			1924
Tunisie						1939	1917

Here is a partial list of what entities are missing (because I haven't seen any examples): Ascension, Brunei, Cayman Islands, Jordan, Korea, (independent) Lithuania, New Hebrides, Sarawak (British protectorate), Transjordan, and many, many others.

Data for the tables was obtained from my pseudo-exhibits on Richard Frajola's exhibit page of his website, the book [M], and many individual contributors: Dietmar Schmitz (Germany), Stefan Heijtz (Sweden), Michael Schreiber (US), Jeff Long (New Zealand), Bernard Beston (Australia),

To contribute, please send the information to me at rochelle2@sympatico.com

Colophon

THIS document and all the exhibit sections were prepared in (plain) \TeX , an incredibly versatile typesetting language (mostly used in scientific publications, especially mathematics and physics). The font family is *ITC Elysium*, with companion font *Prague* for the large caps that appear in the drop caps (as in the big **T** to the left) and on the title page.

The biggest problem was trying to get the figures as close as possible to the relevant text without leaving large white spaces (since in some chapters, there is relatively little text, but a lot of pictures). I didn't always succeed, even though I was flexible about adjusting the scale of the figures.

Most of the scans were in colour at 400 dpi, although some were in grey scale, and at much lower resolution (anomalies will be adjusted—eventually). Because of that, and my use of .eps files, this document alone comes in at over two gigabytes. With *Distiller*, the file size is reduced substantially; but if you're seeing this on-line, then it was probably distilled at low quality (in order to reduce the file size to something that can be sent as an e-mail attachment). This is too bad, because at high quality, the fine details in the figures can be magnified considerably. Unfortunately, the resulting file cannot be sent by e-mail.

I started to collect Canadian **A R** in the early 1980s as a result of a comment in Horace Harrison's 1971 book [H] on nineteenth century Canadian registration (not to be confused with the generally poor book on Canadian registration published in 2002). He pointed out an **A R** postmark, and said it was rare. So I started looking for Canadian **A R** material, of which there was not very much. With the advent of e-Bay, I branched out into worldwide **A R**, and eventually restricted myself (mostly) to international use. In 2002, I wrote the book [H1] (presumably the first book on worldwide **A R**), with which the reader will notice some similarities.

The vast majority of my material came from e-Bay, with an (expensive) few things bought at public auctions and private sales. When I started on e-Bay (circa 1998), almost no one recognized **A R**, so I picked up material for a song. Those days are past, especially for China (Chinese **A R** material is not particularly scarce, but it is becoming more and more expensive, as there are far more collectors of Chinese postal history in general). On the other hand, **U S A R** material is still cheap, and practically ubiquitous.

References

THESE will be updated in subsequent versions. Apologies in advance to the numerous people who have written about AR, but are not referred to here. They should contact me (at my e-mail address—see the title page), and let me know what's missing.

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- [BW] Henry W Beecher & Anthony S Wawrukiewicz, *U s domestic postal rates, 1872–1999*, CAMA Publishing Company, Portland OR, second edition, (1999) 338 + XIV pages. (This is the standard for domestic U s rates in this period. Available from the A P S, <https://classic.stamps.org/DisplayPage.aspx?id=33>, near the end)
- [F] Michael Furfie, *British civilian rates of the twentieth century*, published by the author (2000), 62 pages.
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- [GH] Robin Gwynn & Norman Hoggarth, *Railway disaster mail*, Stuart Rossiter Trust (2010) 322 pages.
- [H1] David Handelman, *AR—avis de réception*, Postal History Society of Canada, Ottawa (2002) (for a copy, contact me at rochelle2@sympatico.ca).
- [H2] *ibid*, *AR in the British Isles*, London Philatelist 116 (#1346) June 2007, 157–181.
- [H3] *ibid*, *Sender an American traitor*, Postal History Journal 150 (2011) 13–14.
- [H4] *ibid*, *Don't get personal*, Collector's Club Philatelist (2007).
- [H] H Harrison, *Canada's registry system 1827–1911*, American Philatelic Society (1971).
- [HE] Stefan Heijtz, *Specialised catalogue of the Falkland Islands and dependencies, including postal history and cancellations, 1800–2020*, published by the author (2020) and available from him at stefan@novastamps.com.
- [J] R Joany et al, *Les tarifs postaux français 1627–1969*, Éditions loisirs et cultur, Paris (1982). (This is the ultimate French rates book; however, it is next to impossible to find anything. Turns up—rarely—on e-Bay. But better for the U P U period is Richardson's book on French rates [R].)
- [MAC] James A Mackay, *Registered mail of the British Isles*, published by the author (1982) 395 pp. (Turns up on e-Bay occasionally.)
- [MA] José Ramón Mallón Bauzá, *El Acuse de Recibo en Cuba*, The Cuban Philatelist 21 (2010) 4–7 (Spanish, English).
- [MO] Henrik Mouritsen, *Dansk Posthistory 1875–1907*, five volumes (undated) (Danish, good English). The definitive work for Danish postal history in the indicated period.
- [M] Münchener Briefmarken-Clubs, *Rückschein, avis de réception, return receipt*, MB-C eV, Heft 5 (undated) 346–3 pages (available from the Munich Stamp Club; contact Hedy.Bergdolt@gmx.net).
- [P] Mark Piper, *Cuba—Tarjeta de Acuse de Recibo de la Era Socialista*, The Cuban Philatelist 21 (2010) 8–17 (Spanish, English).
- [R] D Richardson, *Tables of French postal rates 1849 to date*, various editions, France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain. (The standard for French rates during the stamped period.)
- [SB] Pingwen Sieh & J Lewis Blackburn, *Postage rates of China 1867–1980*, Directorate General of Posts, Taipei (1981) 62 + several. (Turns up on e-Bay periodically. I'm told there are better rates books in Chinese.)
- [UPU] Arthur Groten (editor), *U P U mail, annual tables of exchange rates & of postage rates to the U S, 1881–1953*, Postillon series of primary sources, volume 4, The Printer's Stone (Fishkill NY) (undated) 186 + XX pages.
- [WB] Anthony S Wawrukiewicz & Henry W Beecher, *U s international postal rates, 1872–1996*, CAMA Publishing Company, Portland OR, (1996) 402 + VIII pages. (Standard for international U s rates in this period. Available from the A P S, <https://classic.stamps.org/DisplayPage.aspx?id=33>, near the end.)
- Various postal guides of the U s, Canada, UK, . . .
 - Many, many on-line rates sources