

1909: The Postal Year in Review

Purpose & Scope:

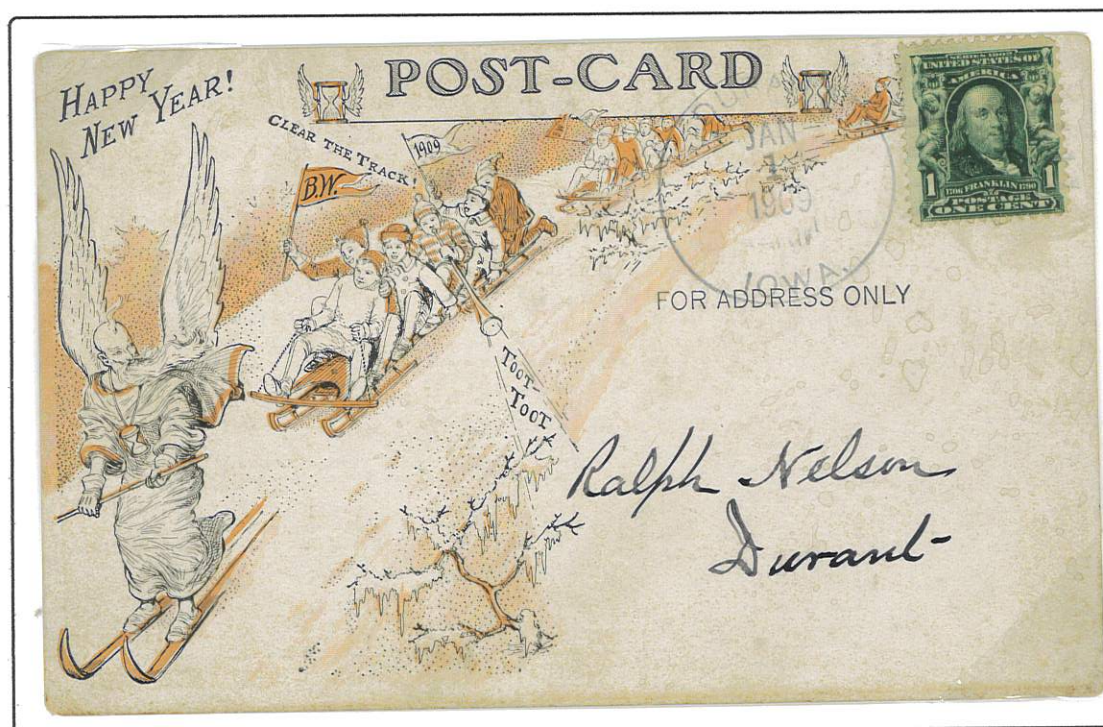
This exhibit illustrates the American postal system at an important point in its development. We will highlight the wide variety of uses, rates, routes, and markings associated with US-originating mail for a single year, 1909. Our scope extends across a wide variety of different postal mechanisms rather than being restricted to a single focus which is then explored as it develops over time. Our approach will demonstrate the extraordinary variety and complexity that a modern postal system possesses. By “freezing time” and, at the same time, being expansive, in our examination of postal mechanisms, we will seek to accomplish this.

Why 1909?

Because it was an important year-

- The new Washington-Franklin series, though introduced in late 1908, only achieved general circulation in 1909. This series’s “spare” modern design contrasts its predecessor’s baroque design.
- An “active” commemorative release schedule. Three new commemorative series were issued in a single year. A first for the US. Previously, there may have been multiple issues, but they were all part of a single series.
- The “blue paper” experiment
- The use of “real” US Post Office perforated coils
- Wide commercial use of privately prepared coil stamps.
- The “Merry Widow” special delivery stamp arrival and withdrawal.
- Advances in the mechanization of the postal system across a nation of 46 states & 10 possessions—in the form of cancellations, coils, and how the mail was transported.

A New Year



We start (appropriately) with a New Year’s card — January 1, 1909 — used locally with Durant, Iowa — hand stamp cancel — correctly franked with a 1¢ 1902 2nd Bureau series stamp

Organization:

- Uses of stamps & postal stationery
 - Stamps & Stationery
 - New Issues
 - Withdrawal
- Rates
- Destinations
- Types of Uses
- Means of Carriage
- Markings

Key items are framed in red

Uses of stamps & postal stationery

Stamps

1909 was a transitional year.

Although known as the "1908 Series", only the 1¢ & 2¢ 3rd Bureau stamps (the Washington-Franklin series) are actually known with uses in 1908. Hence, uses of the "old" 2nd Bureau series were plentiful during much of 1909 as stocks were worked down.

An "Early" Use of the 3rd Bureau Series



Boston, Mass to Cincinnati, Ohio

5 x 2¢ stamps pays for 1st class service (2¢) plus the 8¢ registry fee

December 31, 1908

The earliest known use for the 2¢ sheet stamp is December 3, 1908

note: this is the only item not dating from 1909 contained in this exhibit.

"Late" Uses of the 2nd Bureau Series

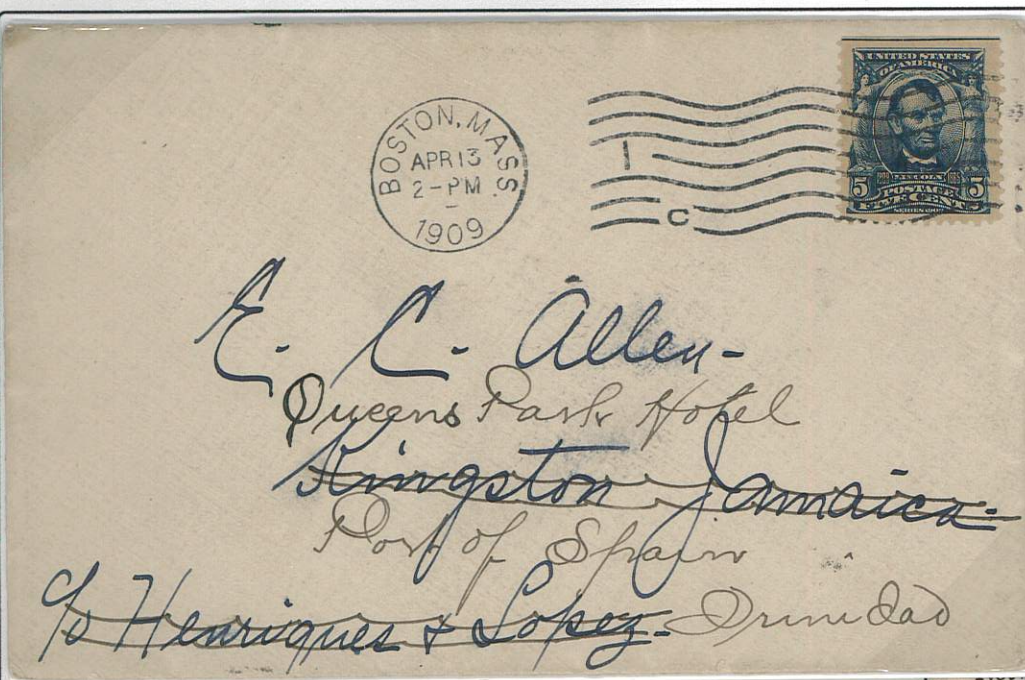


Two post cards. One properly franked with the 1¢ 2nd Bureau stamp and the other, a convenience over-franking with the 2¢ 2nd Bureau

Uses of stamps & postal stationery Stamps

Transition 2nd Bureau "late" uses

2nd Bureau 5¢



Boston, Mass to Port of Spain, Trinidad, originally sent to Jamaica and forwarded onto Trinidad

5¢ UPU rate for a 1st class letter

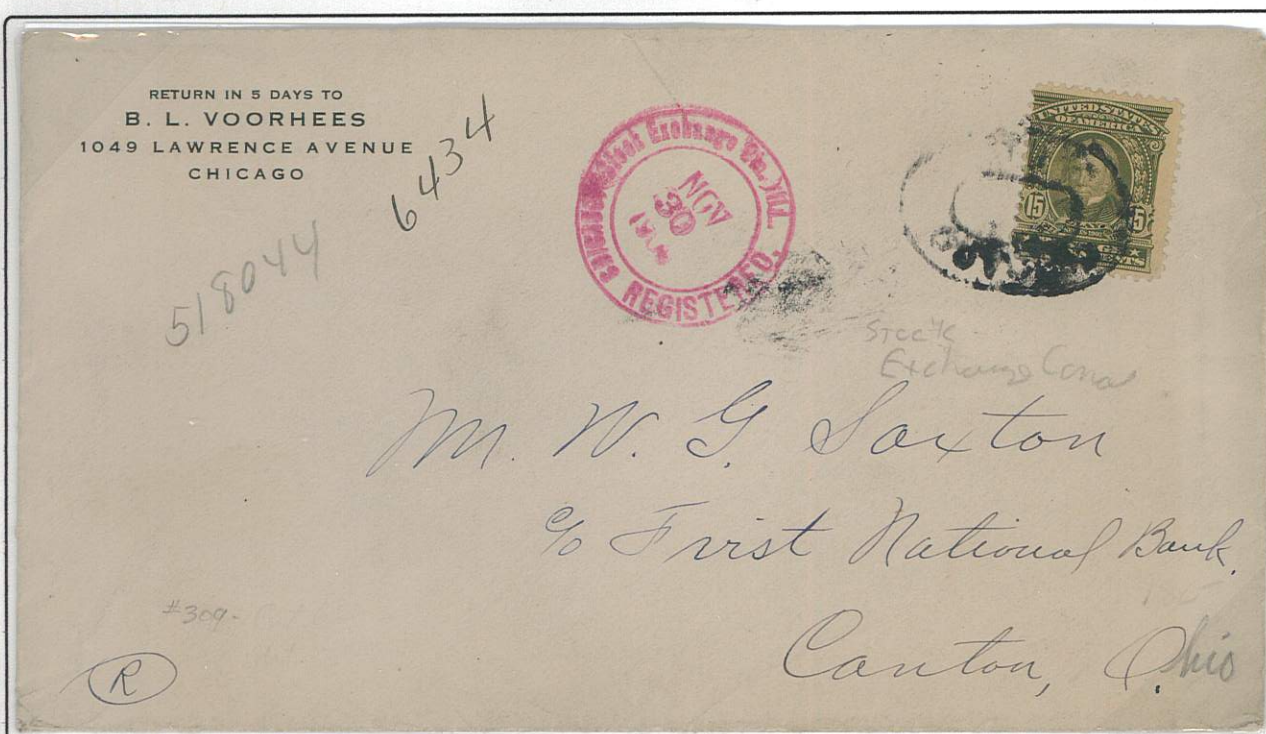
April 13, 1909

International machine cancel

2nd Bureau 13¢



2nd Bureau 15¢



Boston, Mass to Bangor, Wales, UK sent by way of New York, via London to Bangor, Wales.

13¢ pays the registry fee of 8¢ plus the 5¢ UPU 1st class letter rate

January 20, 1909.

Use of a domestic **Boston 1549A** REGISTRY LABEL. The New York registry label applied in the NY exchange office. On the back there is a London transit mark, February 2, 1909. Curious routing through the NY Exchange Office rather than out of Boston's

Chicago, Ill to Canton, Oh

15¢ pays the 10¢ registry fee and double-weighted 1st class of 4¢, 1¢ over-franking out of convenience.

November 20, 1909

Chicago registry hand stamp

Postal stationery

During 1909, postal stationery envelopes were in wide use, the 1¢, 2¢, 4¢ and 5¢ denominations being in production.

1¢ Envelope

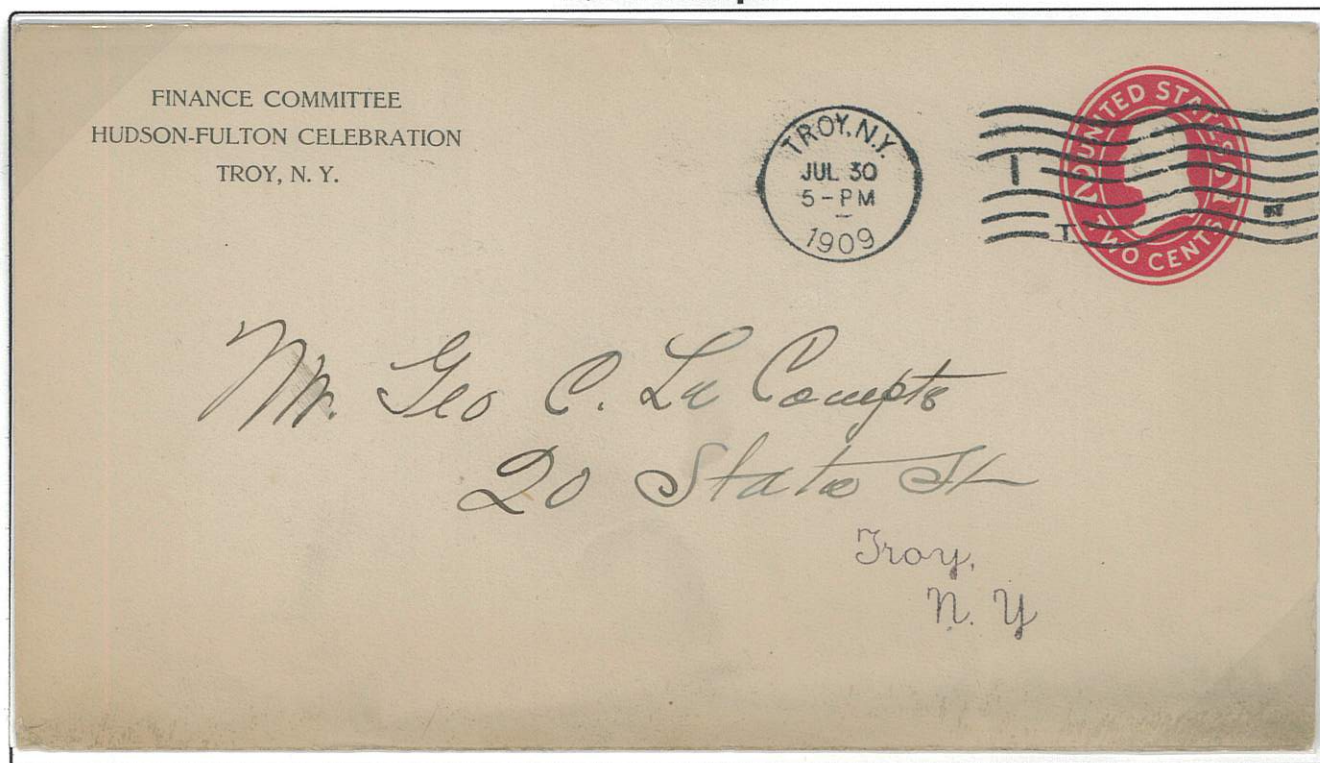


New York, NY to Melbourne, Australia
1¢ pays the printed matters UPU rate
International machine cancel
1909

The circular date stamp bears no time or date, as is normal for this class of mail. UPU 1¢ printed matter rate to Australia.

2¢ Envelope

Troy, NY
2¢ envelope pays 1st class service
July 30, 1909
International machine cancel



4¢ envelope

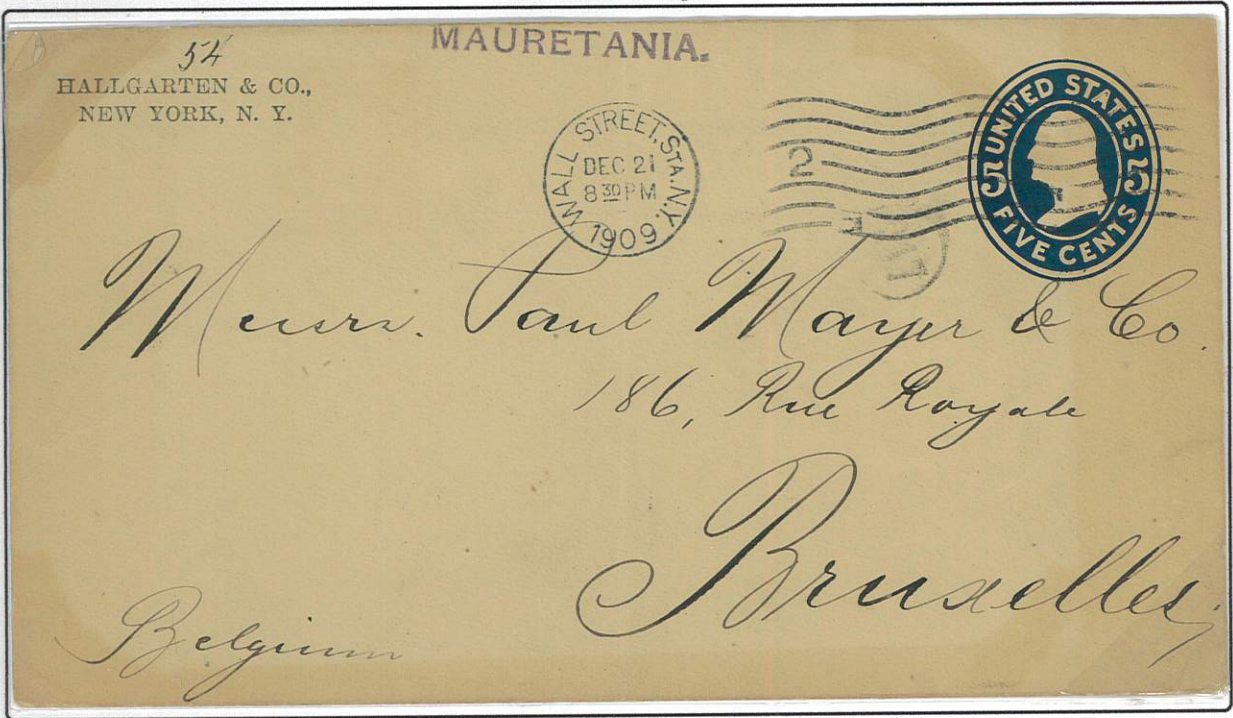


New York, NY local
12¢ pays 8¢ registry fee & double weight 1st
class letter rate of 4¢

July 14, 1909

New York, Hudson Terminal registry hand stamp

5¢ envelope



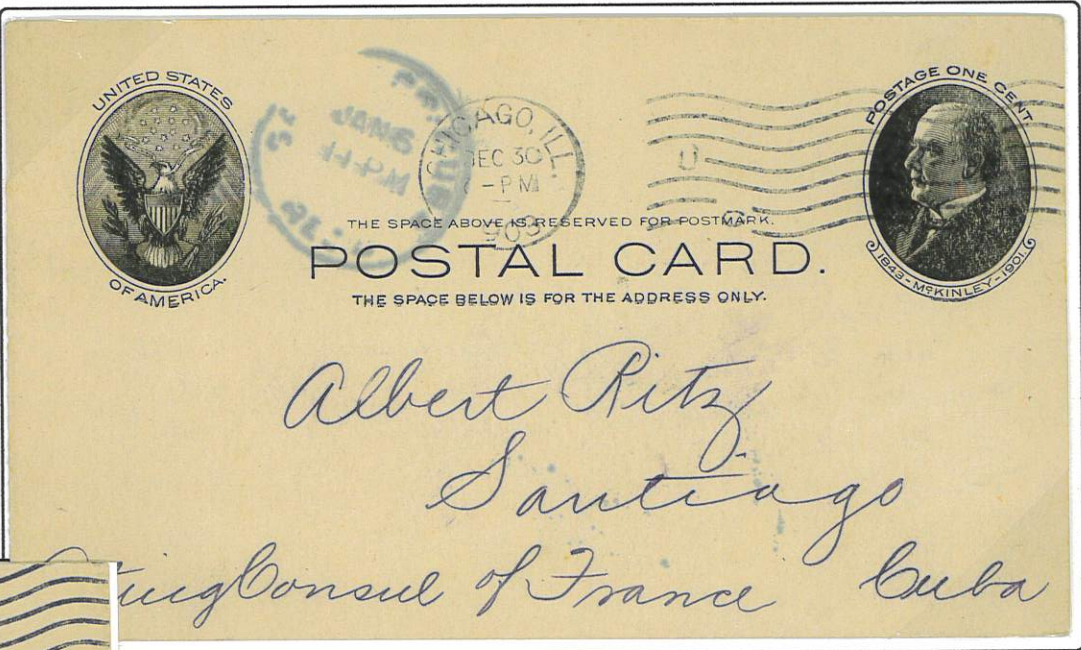
New York, NY to Brussels, Belgium
5¢ UPU letter rate to Belgium
December 21, 1909
International machine cancel

Uses of stamps & postal stationery
Postal Stationery

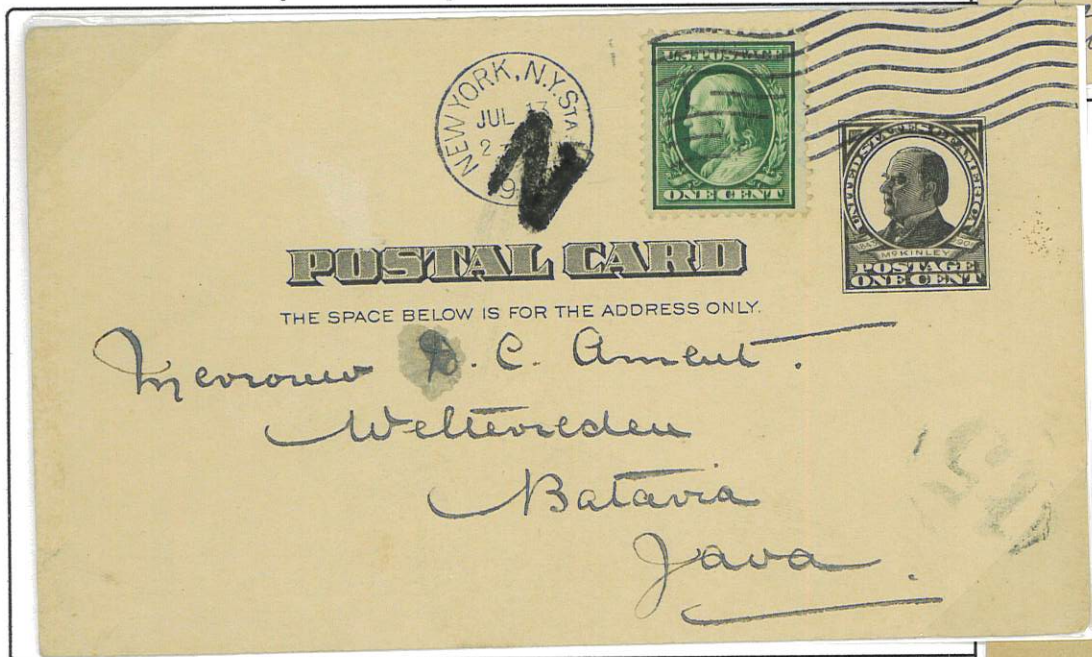
Postal Cards
1¢ Postal Cards

1902 Series Postal Cards

Chicago, Ill to Santiago, Cuba
1¢ pays the treaty rate to Cuba
December 30, 1909



1907 Series Postal Cards
(w/o correspondence space on left)



New York, NY to Batavia, Java, Dutch
East Indies
2¢ pays UPU post card rate to Java
July 17, 1909

Only with the passage of the
Act of March 1907 were mes-
sages on the left permitted, in
coordination with the UPU.
In this case the "message"
was a photograph.

Minnesota Lake, Wis to Mapleton, Wis
Ovate duplex hand stamp cancel
June 21, 1909



1879 International Series Postal Cards

Brooklyn, NY to Manchester, UK
2¢ pays the UPU rate to the UK
This is a postal card with a paid reply card
included
September 3, 1909



1898 International Series Postal Cards

New York, NY to Stuttgart, Germany
2¢ pays UPU rate to Germany
May 14, 1909



Uses of stamps & postal stationery New Issues

Washington Franklin Series Sheet Stamps

Further Washington-Franklin uses.....(6¢, 8¢, 10¢ & 15¢)

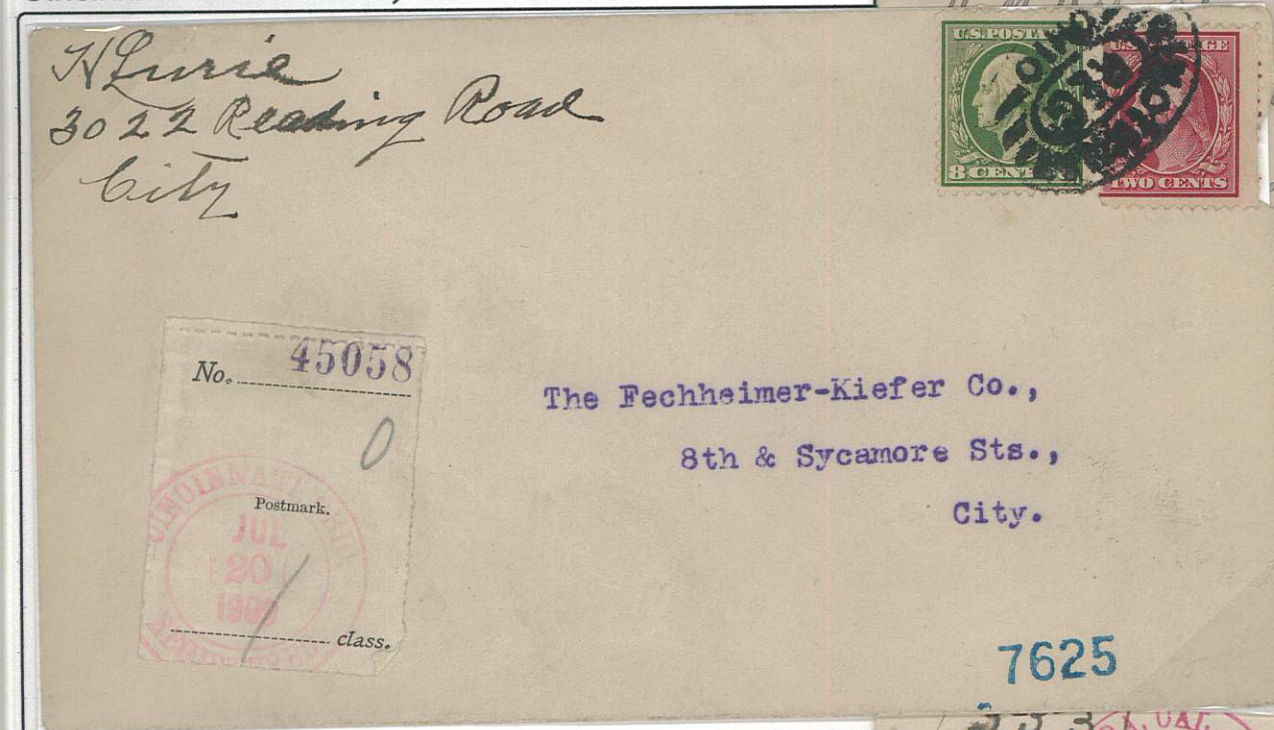
New Bedford, Mass to Dunedin, New
Zealand

13¢ pays 5¢ UPU rate & 8¢ registry fee
March 23, 1909

Cincinnati, Oh local

10¢ pays 2¢ 1st class rate & 8¢ registry fee
July 20, 1909

CINCINNATI 1549A LABEL, ONE OF 21 KNOWN



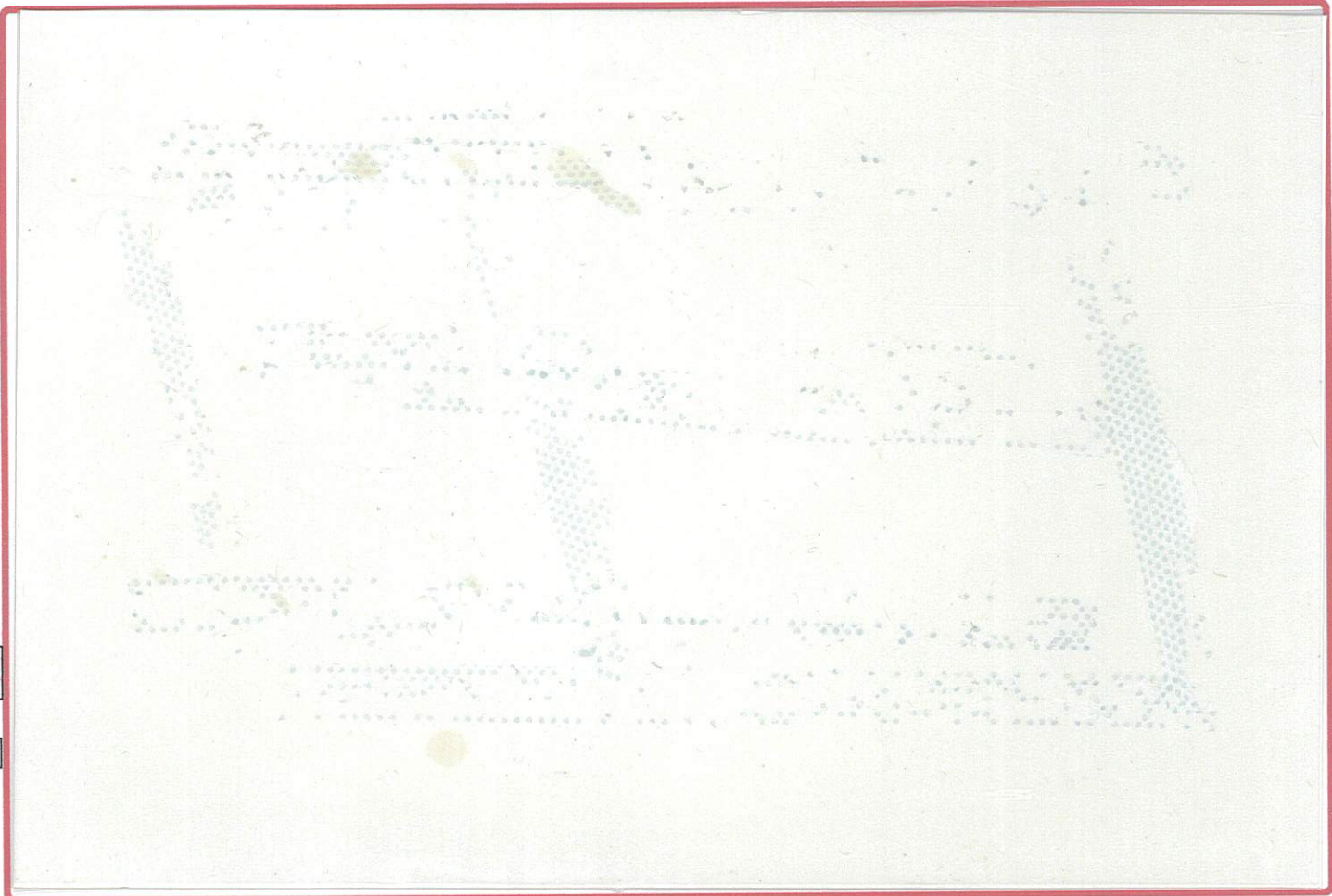
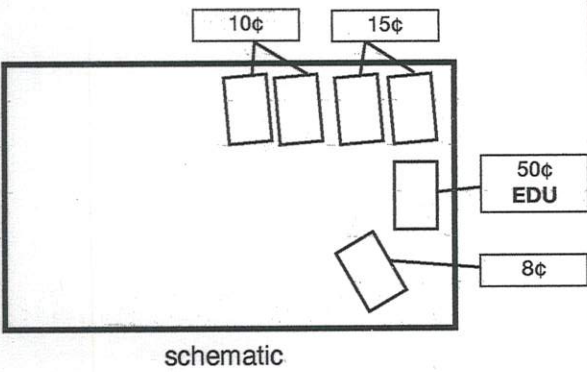
Alameda, Ca to San Francisco, Ca sent registry
10¢ pays 2¢ 1st class rate & 8¢ registry fee
March 24, 1909



New York, NY to Munich, Germany
15¢ pays UPU rate & 10¢ registry fee
December 14, 1909
Hand stamp cancel & New York Exchange Office label

50¢ Washington-Franklin

Philadelphia, Penn to Chicago, Ill
hand stamps
sent registered
franked with a total of \$1.08
October 21, 1909



EARLIEST DOCUMENTED USE FOR THE 50¢

\$1 Washington-Franklin



Fairbanks, Alaska to San Francisco, Ca
total franking of \$1.24 with the dated
use of the \$1 3rd Bureau stamp
tag from the Washington-Alaska Bank
in Fairbanks to Wells Fargo in San
Francisco
July 12, 1909

Booklet stamps were also produced...

1¢ Booklet Stamps on Envelope



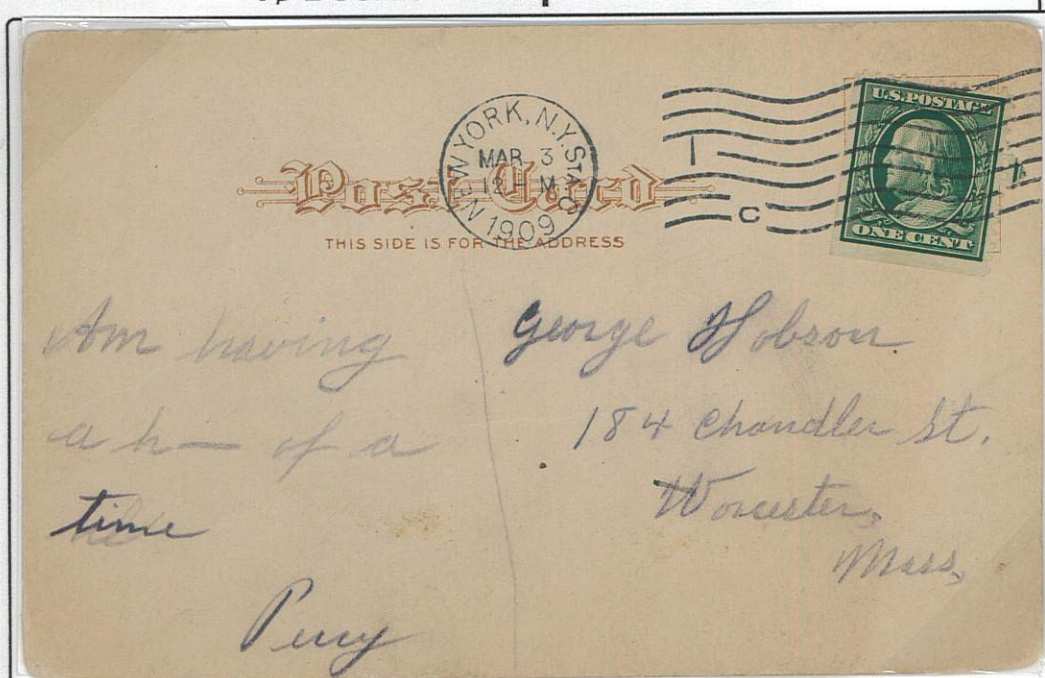
Nortons, Ore to Coors County, Ore
franked by two 1¢ 3rd Bureau series definitives sourced from the bottom of a booklet
July 8, 1909
canceled by a steel four-bar hand stamp

2¢ Booklet Stamps



New York, NY to Lake Placid, NY
a mourning cover franked by two 2¢ 3rd Bureau series definitives sourced from the bottom of a booklet.
February 19, 1909
canceled by ovate duplex hand stamp

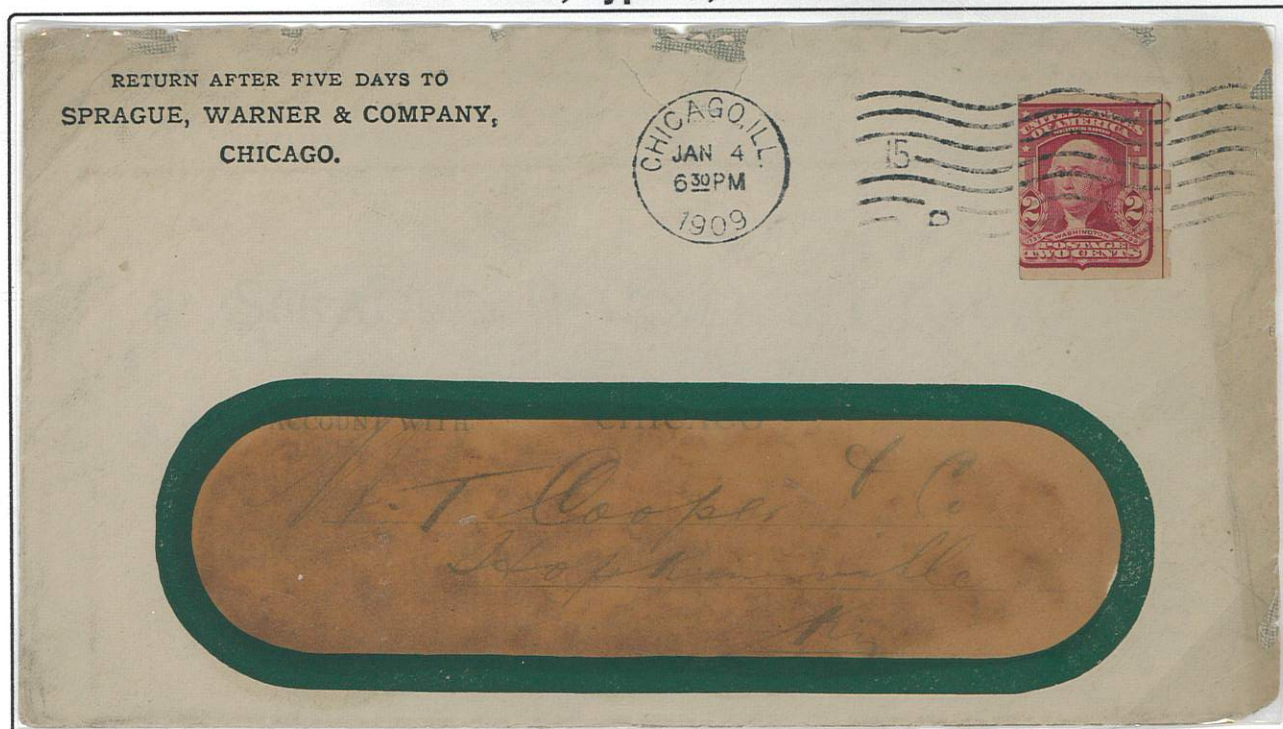
1¢ Booklet Stamp on Post Card



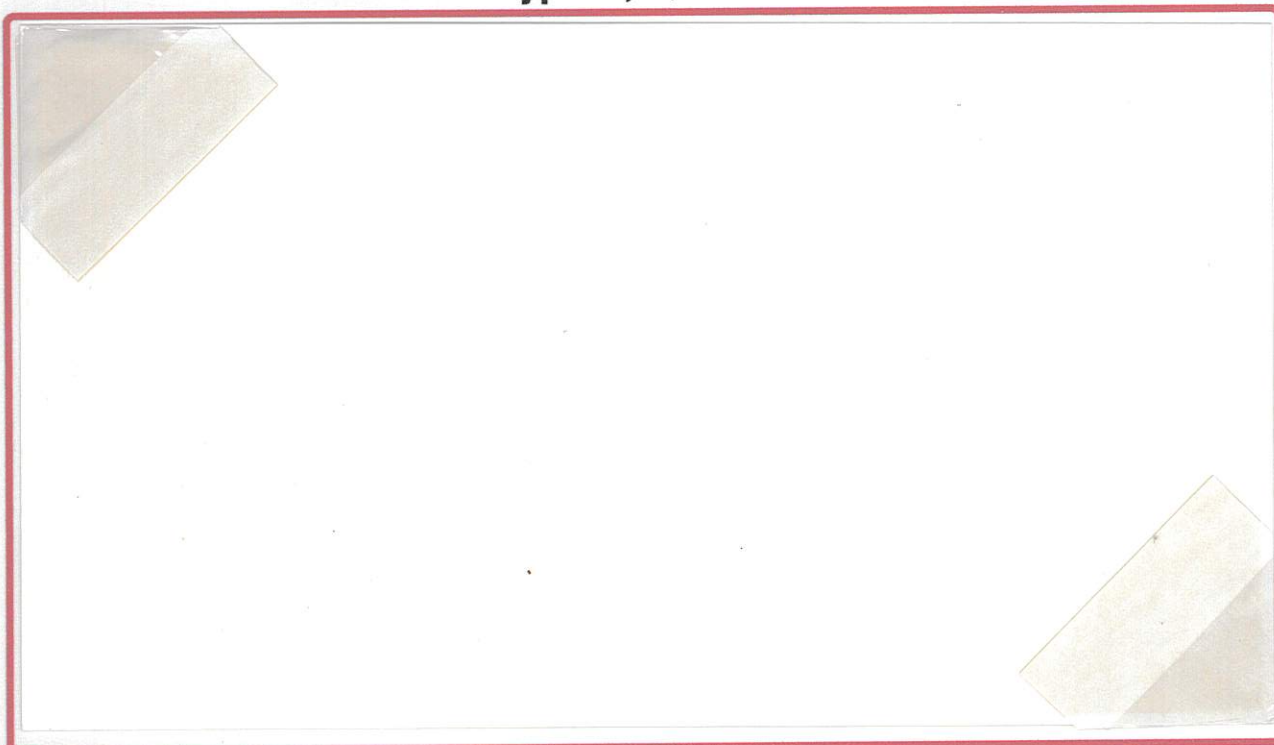
New York, NY to Worcester, Mass
1¢ 3rd Bureau stamp taken from the bottom left hand corner of a booklet pane, satisfying the domestic post card rate
March 3, 1909
International machine cancel

Schermack, Type III, 2nd Bureau 2¢

from Chicago, Ill
1st class with 1903 2nd Bureau "shield"
2¢, type II with Schermack Type III private
perforations
January 4, 1909
International machine cancel



Schermack Type III, 2¢ Lincoln Memorial



Chicago, Ill to Milwaukee, Wis
1st class service
February 19, 1909
International machine cancel.

EARLIEST DOCUMENTED USE

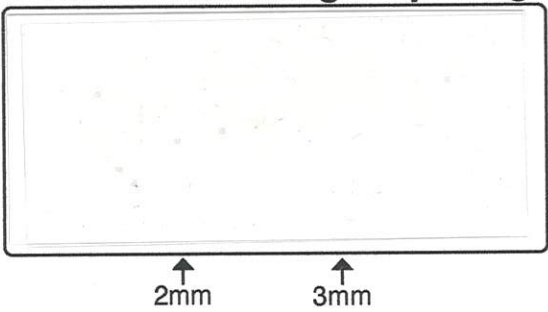
2¢ LINCOLN MEMORIAL WITH SCHERMACK III PRIVATE PERFORATIONS

Uses of stamps & postal stationery
New Issues

Flat plate printing required the use of dampened paper. Upon drying, very frequently, the paper would shrink in an uneven fashion making perforation difficult. Frequently, the entire sheet was not usable.

The blue paper experiment was one attempt to address this issue. Another response was the slight adjustment to the spacings between stamps on the plate. The so-called star plates had 3mm spacing for the six outer most columns, 2mm spacing was used otherwise.

3mm & 2mm Margin Spacing



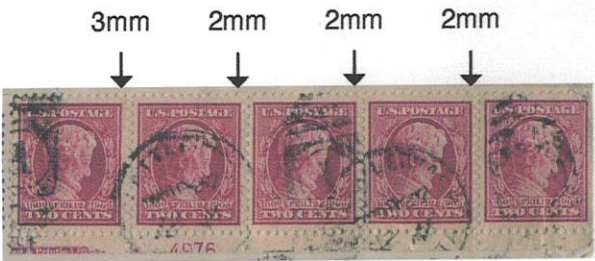
This is a USPOD issued horizontal imperforate coil strip.

3mm & 2mm Margin Spacing



Seattle, Wa to Yokohama, Japan,
forwarded to Hong Kong
11¢ total franking pays the 3oz.
UPU rate
March 27, 1909

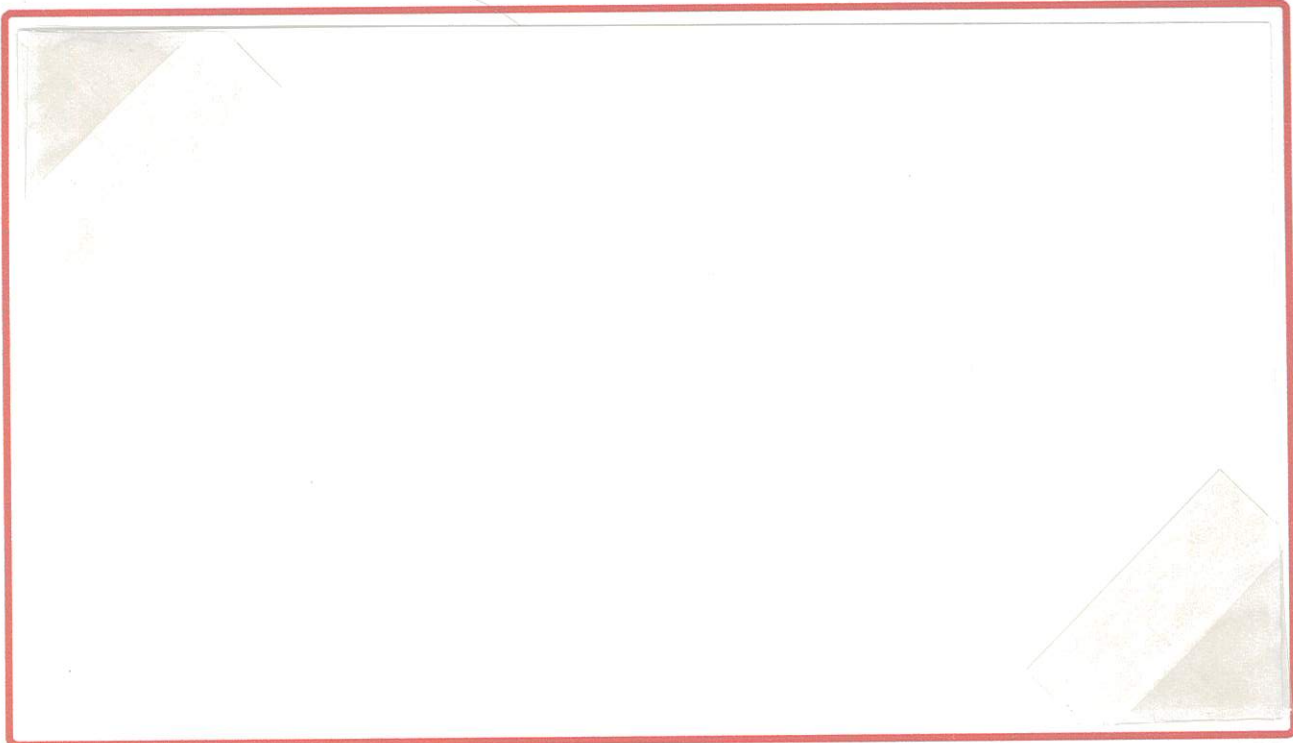
the strip of 5 Lincoln Memorials demon-
strate the 3mm and 2 mm spacing used
in the attempt to better control paper
shrinkage.
Note the star in the imprint to the left of
the plate number designation



Uses of stamps & postal stationery
New Issues

Lincoln Memorial Issue
Early Uses on Cover

Postmasters were instructed to issue the Lincoln Memorial stamp on February 12, 1909, the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. But, at that time, post offices were not as scrupulous about first days as later would be the case, and a small number of covers are dated prior to the official first day.



Springfield, Ill to
Alton Ill

EARLIEST DOCUMENTED USE
2¢ 1909 Lincoln Memorial stamp 4
days prior to official issuance

February 8, 1909
ovate duplex hand
cancels



Paris, Tex to
New York, NY

**ONLY PRE-DATE THIS ISSUE WITH
DOUBLE-WEIGHT FRANKING**
two 2¢ 1909 Lincoln Memorial stamps 3
days prior to official issuance

February 9, 1909
International machine cancel
using a hand cranked machine

Stamp Withdrawal

Special Delivery — Tacoma to NYC, 5 days



In June 1909, the "Merry Widow" special delivery stamp was removed from production by order of the new incoming PMG. The official rationale being confusion on account of its green color and that letters so franked were not reliably receiving SD service.

Perhaps the genuine reason was truculence on the part of POD employees who resented the non-employee who designed this stamp.

The old 1902 blue special delivery stamp was returned to service as a reprint.

The new 1909 printing cannot be distinguished from the original 1902 printing without reference to the plate numbers (if it is still attached).

Shortly after reintroduction, everyone got completely confused over this issue and the USPOD added a "09" to the suffix of the plate number, entirely unnecessarily as they all later realized. As above, plate 5243 is a new plate never issued prior to 1909. Plate 5243-09 is the same plate but with a revised plate number being engraved.

The Merry Widow was neither demonetized or withdrawn from sale, offices sold through their stocks. So both the Merry Widow and the reprint circulated at the same time. For a period.

We cannot distinguish between the use of a 1902 series SD stamp on cover from 1909 reprint without reference to the date of use and even then, that would remain conjectural. This cover, being stamped July 7, could be franked with the reprinted stamp. While entirely possible and plausible given the volume of mails at Tacoma, there is no way for us to prove this point one way or the other.

But given volumes at Tacoma, one could point to this being a reprint. Presumably.

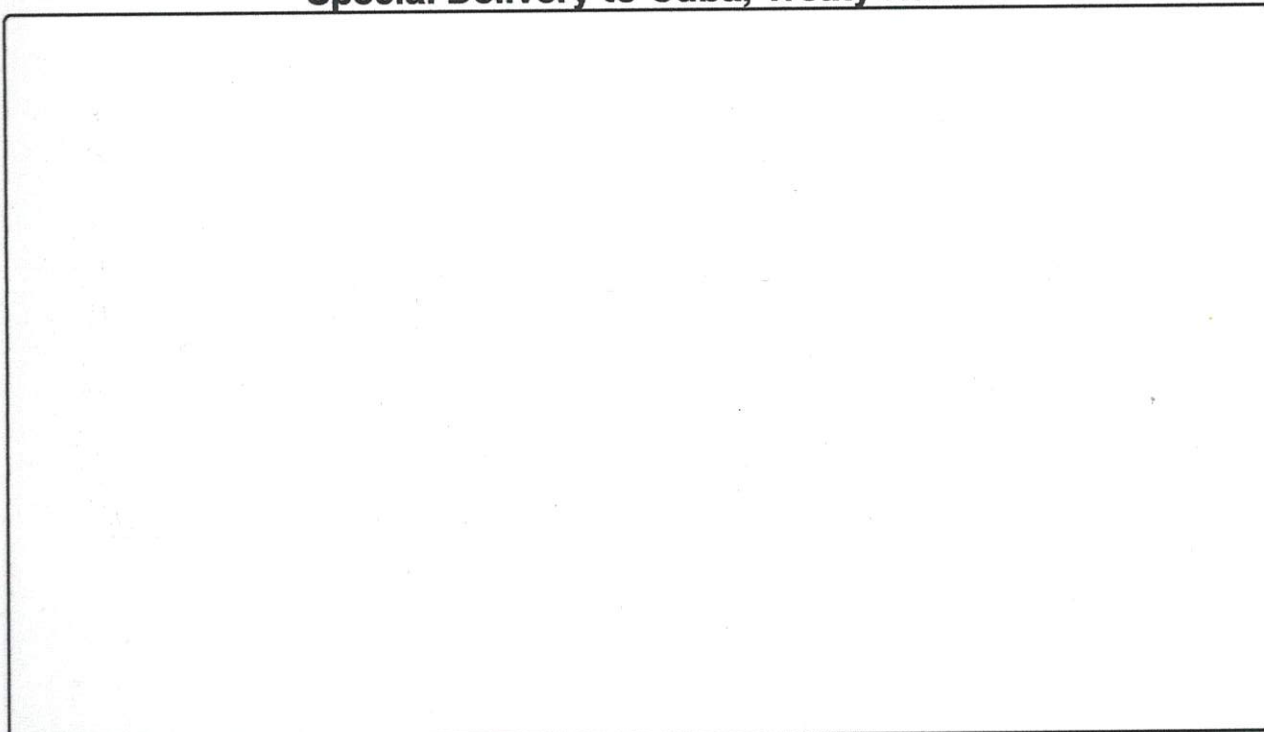
Tacoma, Wa to New York, NY

12¢ paid 1st class & special delivery

July 7, 1909

With a typical cross-country delivery time of 5 days, it took 4 days to go from Tacoma to the NY-Chicago RPO, which would imply delays between Tacoma and RPO handling

Special Delivery to Cuba, Treaty Rate



Chicago, Ill to Havana, Cuba

12¢ paid treaty rate to Cuba & special delivery

July 2, 1909

please note the use of the green Merry Widow stamp on an envelope dated July 2. Evidentially, Chicago had sufficient supply of this issue that they had not yet switched over to the re-issued 1909 blue special delivery issue.

Rates

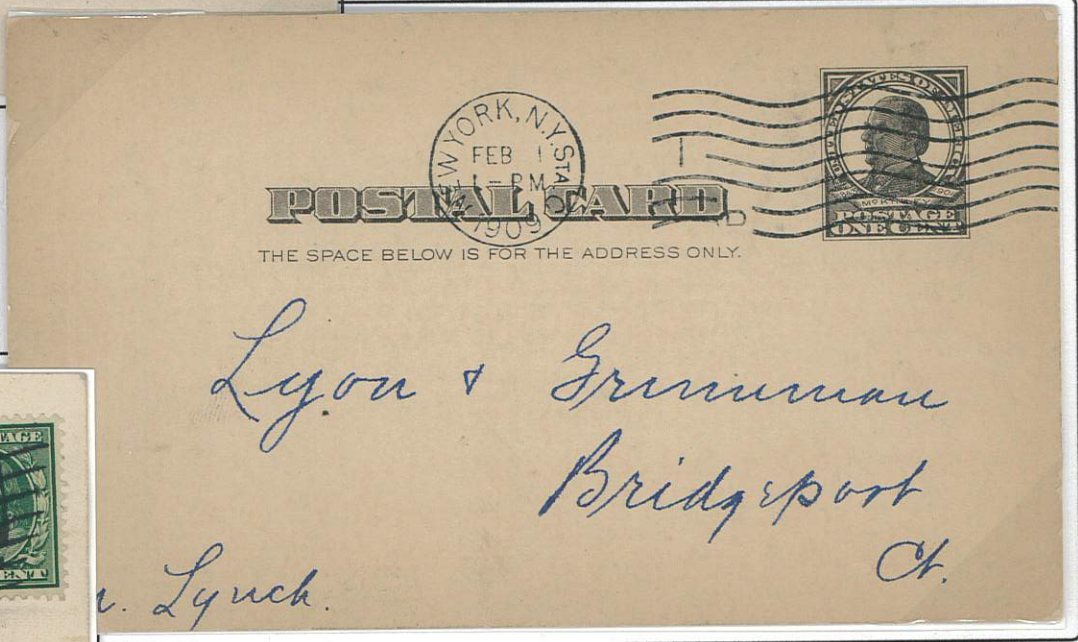
A wide variety of rates were in effect

Drop Letter Rate with a 1¢ stamp

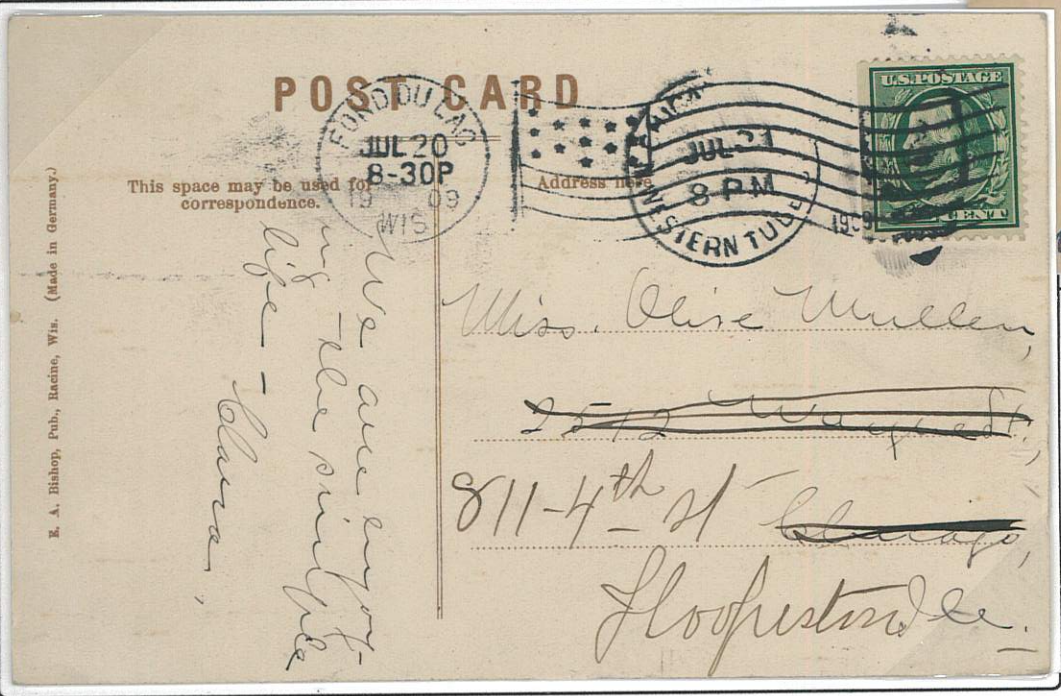


Washington, DC local
1¢ blue paper 3rd Bureau stamp pays the
local drop rate
March 6, 1909

1¢ Post Card Rate - Postal Card



1¢ Post Card Rate - Post Card

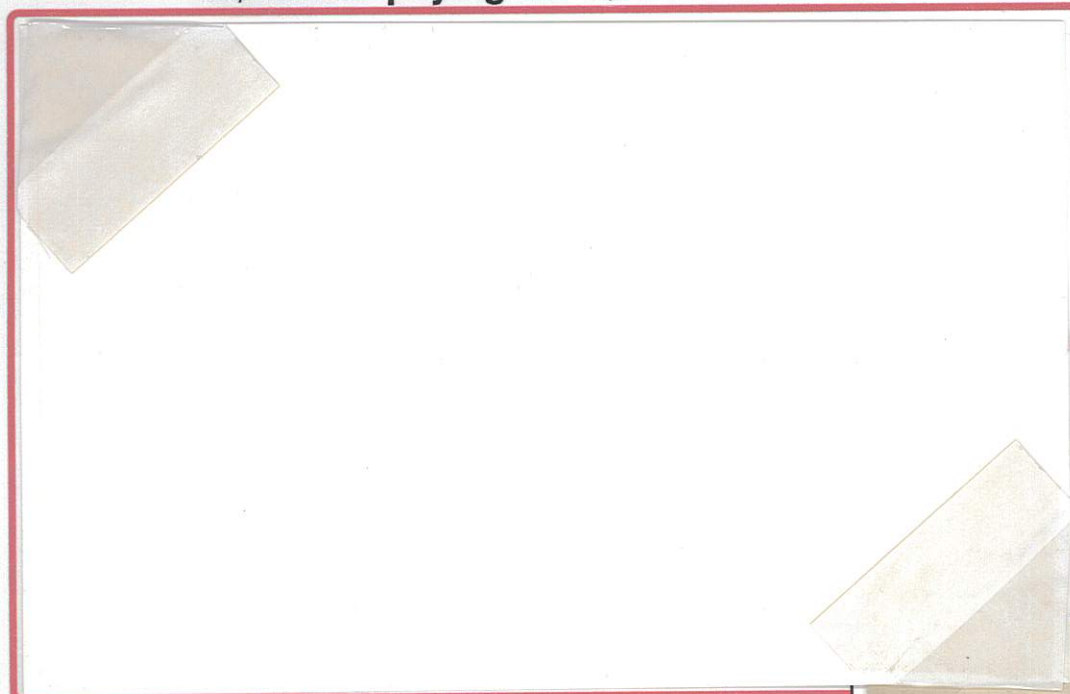


Fond du Lac, Wis to Chicago, Ill
July 20, 1909
please note special markings of
the Chicago Tube system, the "N.
Western Tube Sta" as this picture
post card traversed Chicago on its
way from Wisconsin.
Intra-Chicago handling was via
pneumatic tube system.

New York, NY to
Bridgeport, Conn
February 1, 1909
International machine
cancel

Bisect on Post Card & 1st Class Letter
Special Delivery rate

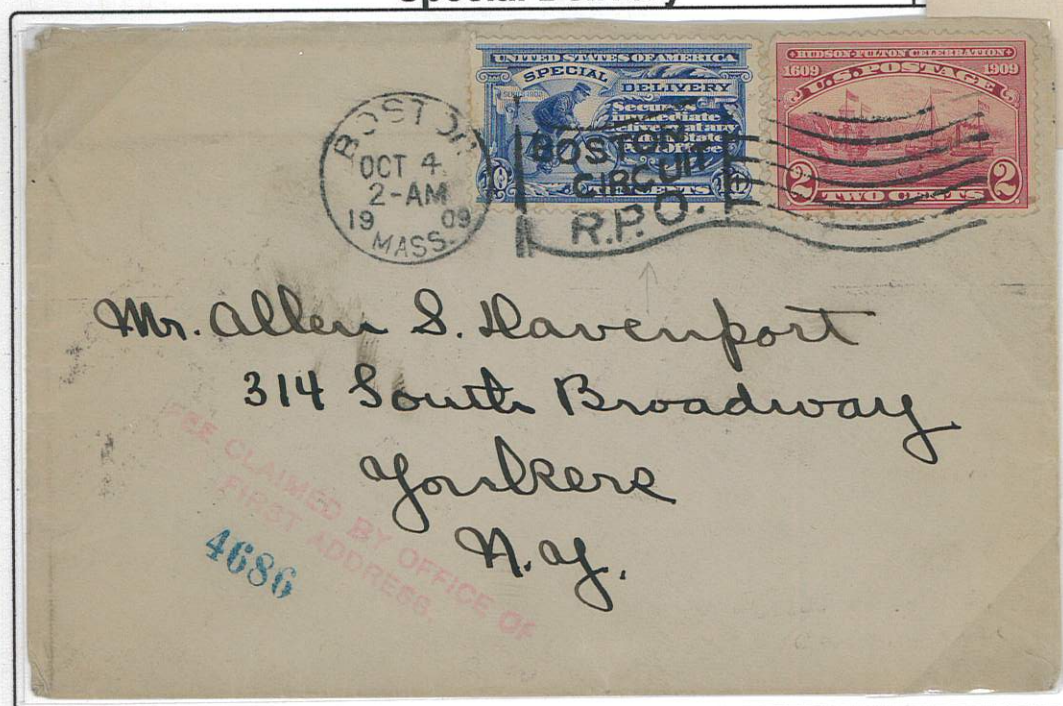
2¢ Bisect paying the 1¢ Post Card Rate



As a BISECT ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE,
THIS COVER IS UNIQUE

Washington, DC to Shirley, Mass
1st class rate with a blue paper 2¢ 3rd Bureau stamp
April 11, 1909

Special Delivery



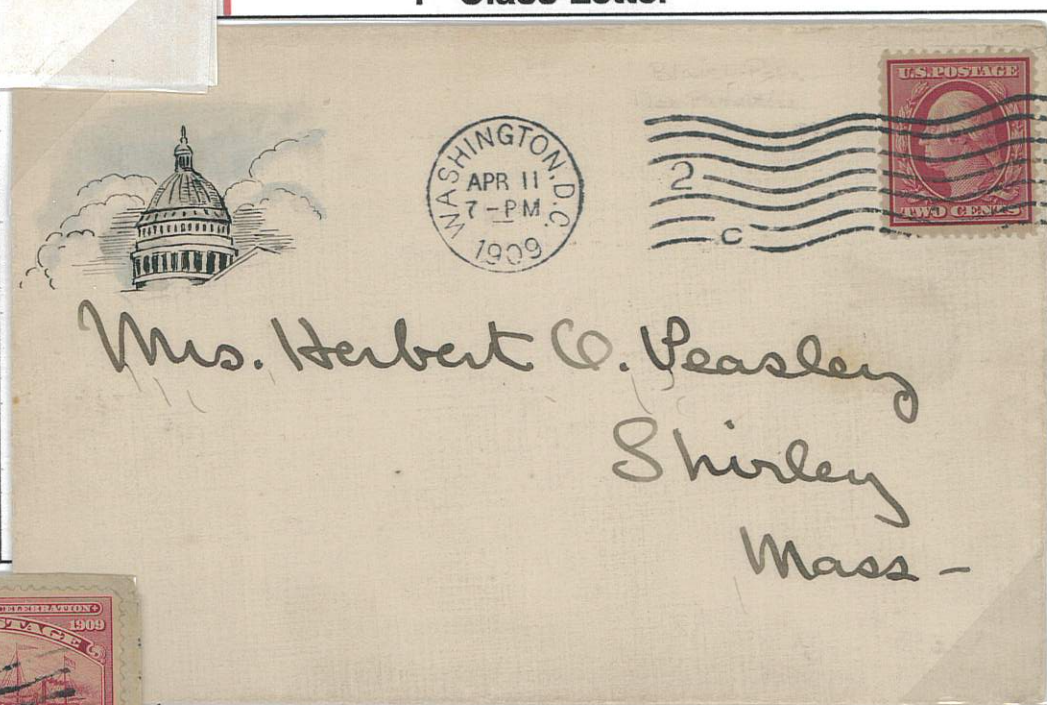
Boston, Mass to Yonkers, NY

the 10¢ special delivery fee paid via the special delivery stamp, in addition to the 2¢ 1st class rate
In other words, the special delivery fee is additive to the 1st class rate for a letter.

This item was sent via the **Boston street car system** to Yonkers. As special delivery, this combination is somewhat unusual

October 4, 1909

1st Class Letter

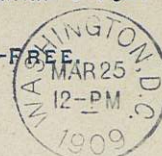


Congressional Free Frank

3rd Class Domestic

House of Representatives U. S.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—FREE



Herbert Parsons
M. C.

Mr. William Craig,

2076 E. Orleans Street,
Philadelphia,
Pa.

New York, NY to Greenport, NY
1¢ 2nd Bureau stamp pays the
3rd class rate
1909
International machine cancel

Washington, DC to Phila-
delphia, Penn
sent free by US Rep. Her-
bert Parsons
March 25, 1909

4th class Domestic (Arizona Territory to the Philippines)

Phoenix, Arizona Territory
to Mindanao, Philippines
This packet, sent at the
4th class rate (1¢ per oz
or 2oz in this example),
from the Arizona Territory
to the Philippines, origi-
nally included 14 picture
post card views of Arizona
dispatched as a packet.
Although separated by
7,629 miles, for two US
territories, regular US do-
mestic rates prevailed.
June 28, 1909

On November 1, 1909 the registry fee was increased from 8¢ to 10¢

8¢ Registry Rate

National Soldiers Home (Togus), Me
to Providence, RI

The 8¢ registry fee
is paid by the 8¢
3rd Bureau issue
stamp and the 1st
class service being
paid for by the 2¢
stamp.

In other words, the
registry fee is addi-
tive to the 1st class
rate for a letter.

September 18, 1909



10¢ Registry Rate



New York, NY
to Utica, NY
12¢ pays the
10¢ registry fee
& 2¢ 1st class
letter rate
November
1, 1909

FIRST DAY OF NEW RATE

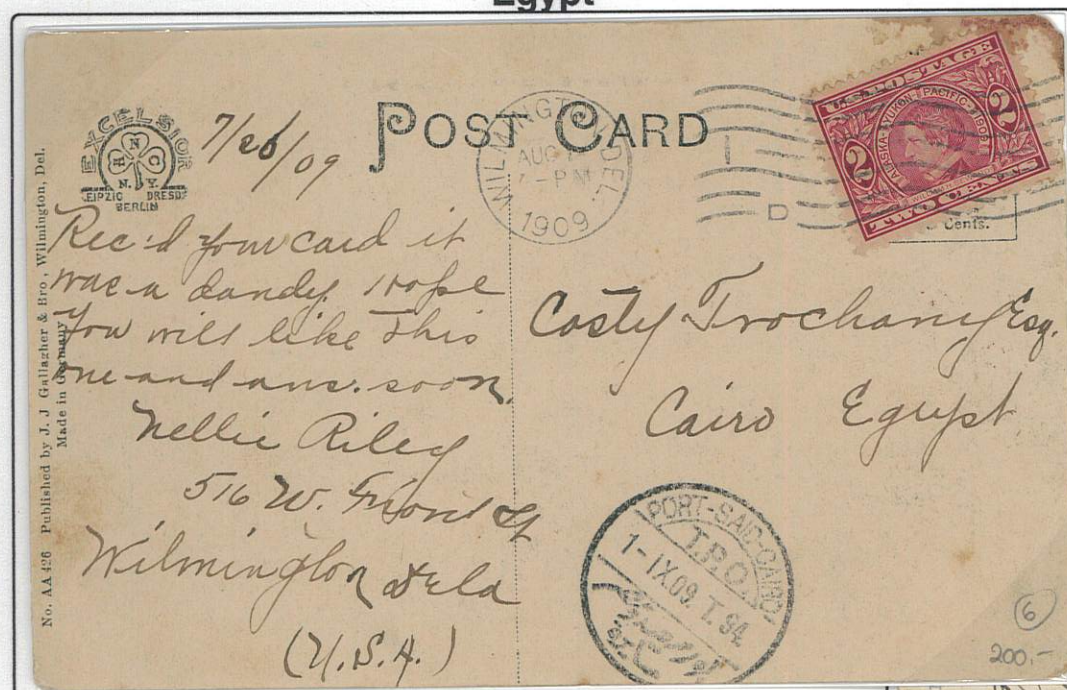
Destinations

International Destinations

Africa

Egypt, Congo & Natal

Egypt



Wilmington, Del to Cairo, Egypt

2¢ post card UPU rate

August 1, 1909

Canceled with an "International" machine cancel. Transit mark at Port Said

to Natal, South Africa



Yonkers, NY to Maritzburg, Natal, South Africa

2¢ post card UPU rate

August 30, 1909

Canceled with an ovate hand stamp, Maritzburg receiver hand stamp

Belgian Congo



Patterson, NJ to Belgian Congo

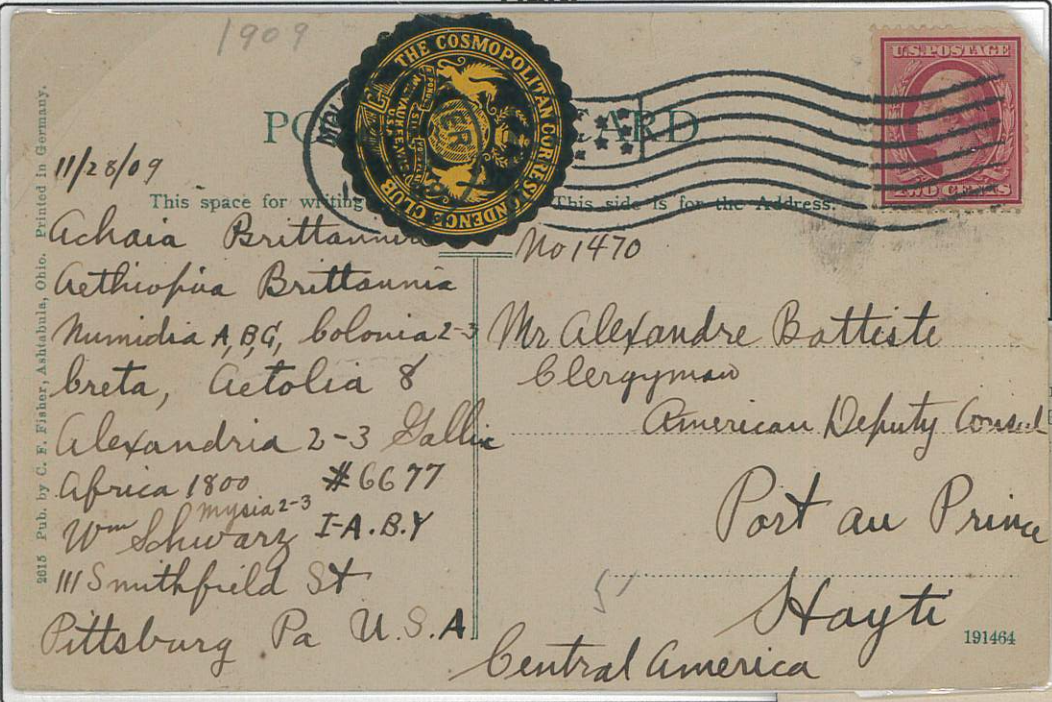
November 2, 1909

Columbia rectilinear cancel applied in the US and a local Congo hand stamp receiver

Destinations

International Destinations
Western Hemisphere
Haiti, Peru & Suriname

Haiti



Mount Oliver, Penn to Port au Prince, Haiti
2¢ UPU post card rate
November 28, 1909
Flag machine cancel

Peru



San Francisco, Ca to Lima, Peru
5¢ UPU letter rate to Peru
May 19, 1909

Suriname



New York, NY to Paramaribo, Suriname
13¢ pays the triple-weight (3oz) UPU rate
June 25, 1909
Ovate hand stamp cancels

Destinations

International Destinations Western Hemisphere Columbia, Argentina & Guatemala

Columbia

Cleveland, Oh to Cali, Columbia
2¢ post card UPU rate
November 1, 1909
Flag slogan machine cancel



Argentina



Weehawken, NJ to Buenos Aires, Argentina
13¢ paid UPU letter rate & registry fee of
8¢ note use of 1886 4¢ "Jackson" postal
stationery envelope plus an 8¢ 2nd Bureau
stamp and a 1¢ 3rd Bureau stamp
June 4, 1909
hand stamp cancels

McKinney, Cal to Guatemala, Central America,
via New Orleans
August 4, 1909

Canceled with type 2 Doane hand stamp, New
Orleans International machine transit stamp

Guatemala



Destinations

Territorial Uses

Alaska, Samoa, & The Canal Zone

Alaska



Metlakatla, Alaska Territory to Seattle, Wa
16¢ paid quadruple weight (8¢) & registry fee (8¢)
May 17, 1909
Type 2 Doane hand cancel

Canal Zone



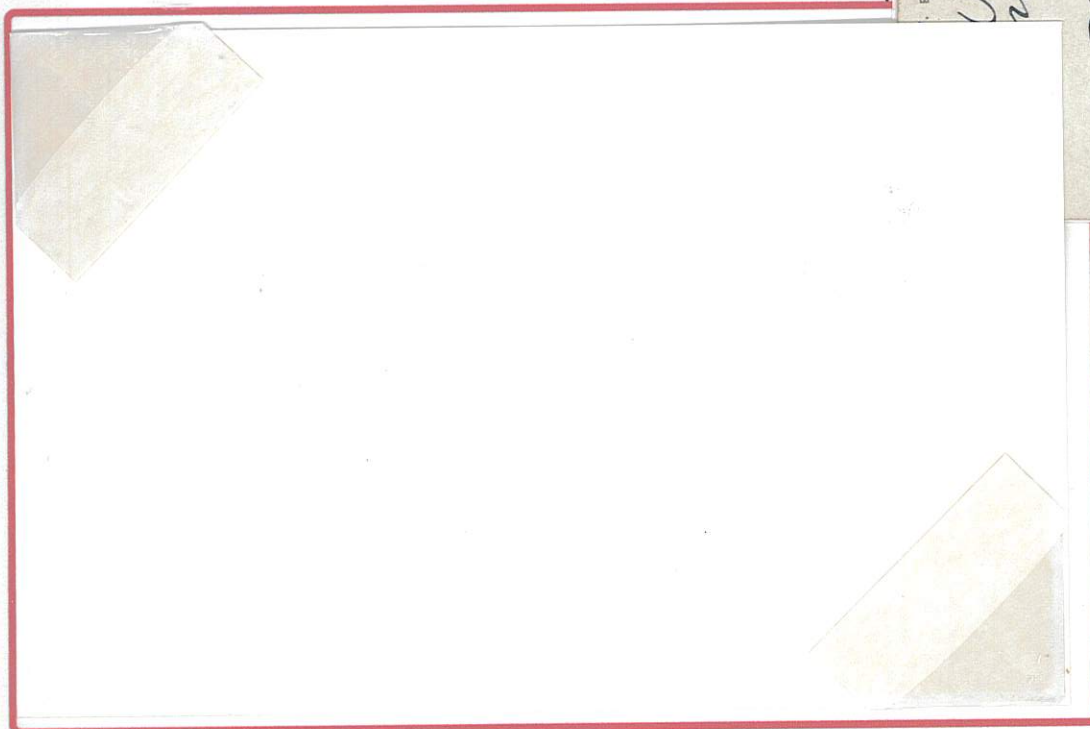
Lynn, Ma to Paraiso, Canal Zone,
redirected to Culebra
domestic 1¢ post card rate
March 21, 1909

International machine cancel in Lynn,
transit ovate hand stamp in Paraiso, CZ,
additional transit ovate hand stamp in
Alcon, CZ.

Tau, Samoa to Binghamton, NY
June 23, 1909
type 3 Doane hand stamp cancel

*This American Samoa post office was very
small and operated from 1905 to 1915,
generating very little mail.*

Samoa



Only three recorded strikes of this postmark

Possession (Guam via Manila) to the Mainland

Guam to Newark, NY, via Manila, Philippines Islands

2¢ domestic 1st class letter rate

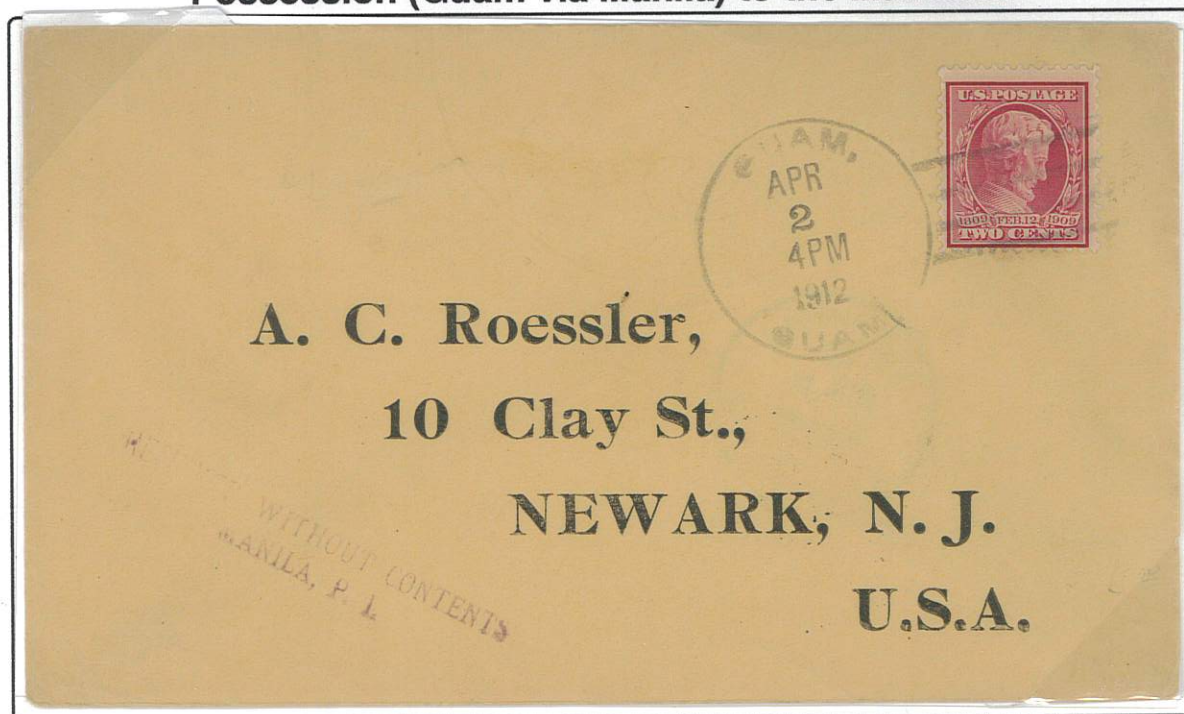
April 2, 1909

4 bar hand cancel

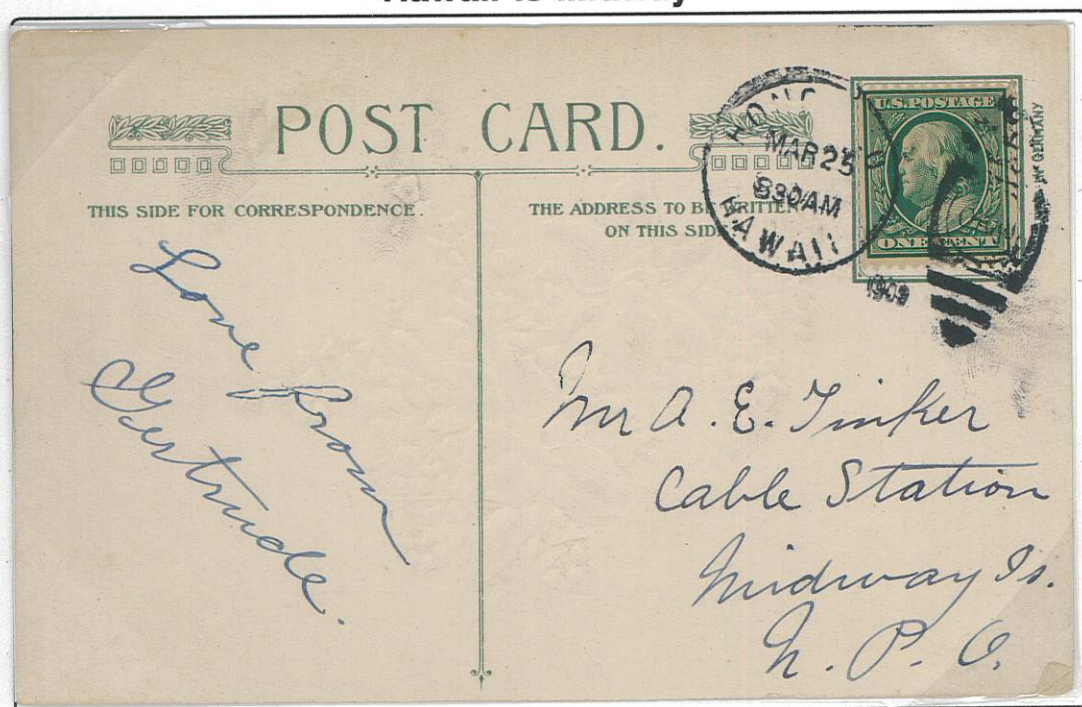
on the back there is a Manila transit hand stamp



enlarged by 25%



Hawaii to Midway

Honolulu, Hawaii Territory to Midway
Island, North Pacific Ocean

2¢ domestic 1st class letter rate

March 25, 1909

Ovate hand stamps cancel



In 1909, Easter
fell on April 11,
16 days after this
post card was
posted.

Destinations

Territorial & Possessions Uses
Arizona Territory, Philippines & Puerto Rico

Arizona Territory

Phoenix, Arizona Territory to Prescott,
Arizona Territory
correctly franked with a 2¢ Lincoln Memo-
rial stamp for domestic 1st Class service 3
days after first issue
February 15, 1909
Flag machine cancel



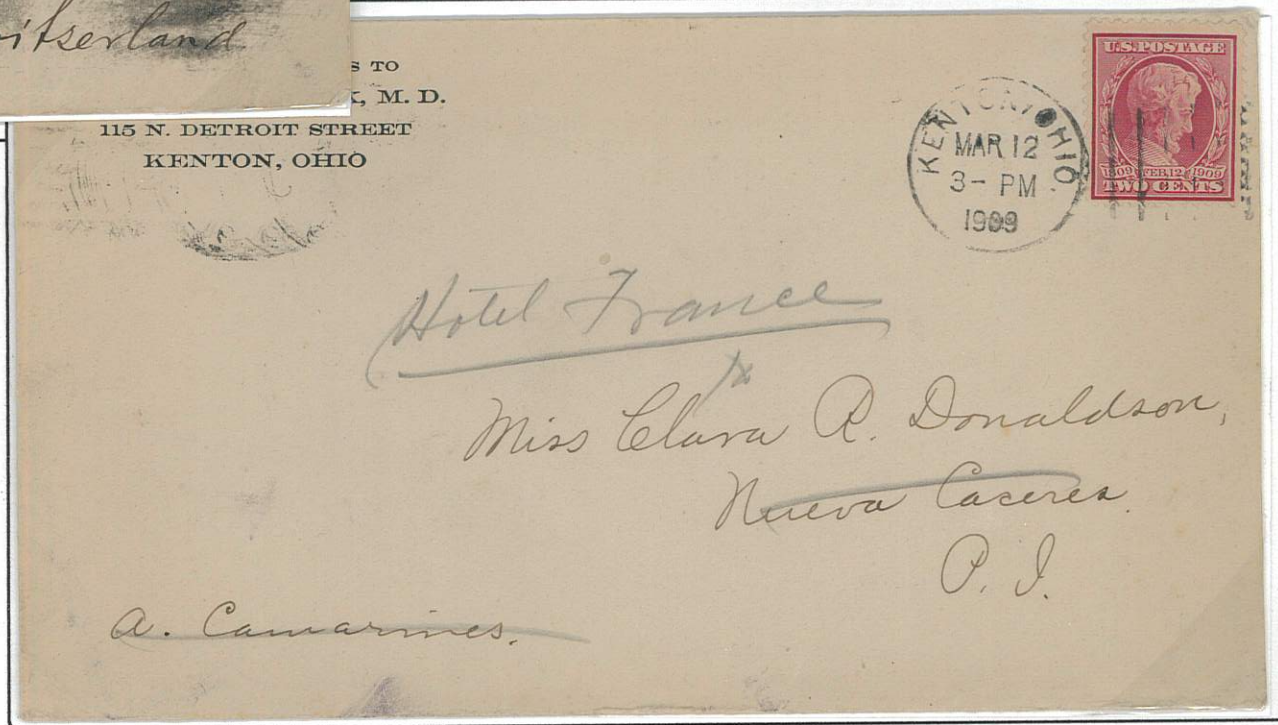
Puerto Rico



Bayamon, Puerto Rico to Geneva, Switzerland
convenience over-franked with three 2¢ Alaska Yukon
stamps, the UPU letter rate to Switzerland was 5¢.
July 27, 1909
canceled with a four-bar hand stamp.

Philippines

Kenton, Oh to Nueva Cacerea,
Philippine Islands
correctly franked with a 2¢ Lincoln
Memorial stamp for domestic 1st
Class service
March 12, 1909
Doremus machine cancel



Destinations

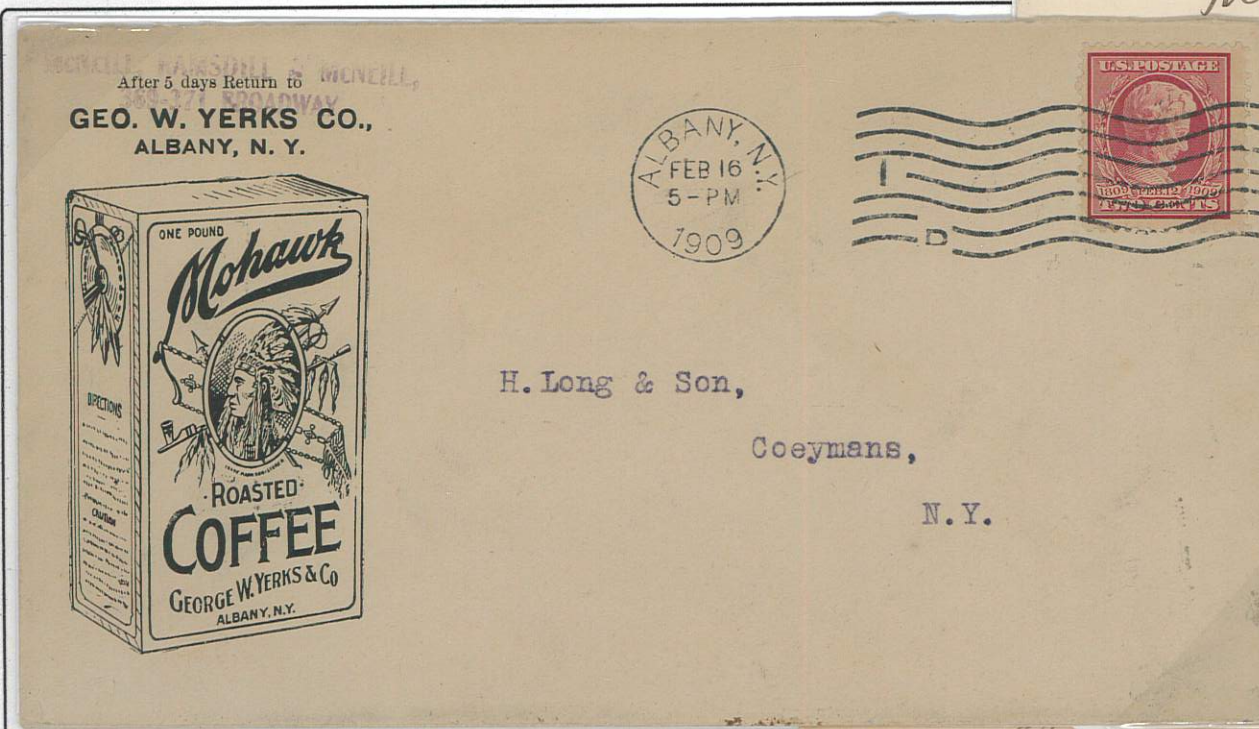
These domestic, territorial and international destinations help give a sense of the size and complexity of the US postal network which spanned the entirety of the Nation and much of the World.

Spanning the Continent

Bryn Mawr, Pa to Fruitvale,
Alameda County, Ca
2¢ 1st class rate
February 15, 1909
INTERNATIONAL MACHINE CANCEL,
USING A HAND CRANKED MODEL



Intra-state



Albany, NY to Coeymans, NY
February 16, 1909
INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICALLY POW-
ERED MACHINE CANCEL

Stapleton, Staten Island, NY to Tompkinsville, Staten Island, NY a distance of 0.4 miles
April 7, 1909
Flag machine cancel
use of a "COLLARED" COVER

Within the City



FDC & Special Delivery Mixed Franking—Canada/US

Montclair, NJ to Montreal, Canada, redirected to
Lake Placid, NY

A letter with dual currency franking

June 4, 1909

International machine cancel applied in US, hand
stamps in Canada

Originally franked with a 2¢ 3rd Bureau stamp paying the treaty
rate to Canada, once it arrived in Canada was redirected back
to the US, to Lake Placid in northern New York and, as such,
required the addition of Canadian postage

Mixed Franking-UK/USA Post Card

POST CARD.

For Inland Postage only.
This space may be used for correspondence.
(Post office Regulation).

The address to

Homeward bound
I have had a lovely
time and wish I
could stay here for
but alas, we all
soon I must return
to the land

NEW YORK
JUN 15 1909
SOUTHERN
MISS MARRIA HILL
Wallingford
Vermont
U.S.A.

FORWARDED UPON RECEIPT
OF POSTAGE DUE
(N. Y. P. O. I. D.)



Mixed Franking-Canada/USA



Miss Edith A. Porter.

P.O. Box 83 130 Blumy St.

Lake Placid Montreal,

New York

U.S.A.

Canada

UK to Wallingford, Vt via New York, NY

August 15(?), 1909

The picture post card was evidentially franked in the UK with sufficient postage:
two ½d KEVII stamps which met the UPU rate of 1d, but were not canceled.
Given how scrupulous the UK GPO usually was with canceling stamps, it is
fair to surmise that the PPC was not posted in the UK, but rather hand carried
across the Atlantic and posted in New York City.

Once in NY it appears to have initially entered the mail stream without US post-
age, just the two GB stamps. The PPC was then held by the NYPOD awaiting
postage from the recipient, that postage received on August 18, the PPC was
forwarded to its proper destination in Vermont.

The "FORWARDED UPON RECEIPT OF POSTAGE DUE (NYPOID)" was added in
New York as was the initial hand stamp CDS and killer on August 15. The 1¢
3rd Bureau issue stamp was added on August 18 and a second CDS and killer
was then added prior to delivery.

Treaty Rate to Canada

Melrose Highlands, Mass to Chatham,
Ontario, Canada
Letter Treaty rate with Canada was 2¢
rather than the 5¢ UPU rate
October 20, 1909
ovate hand stamp cancel

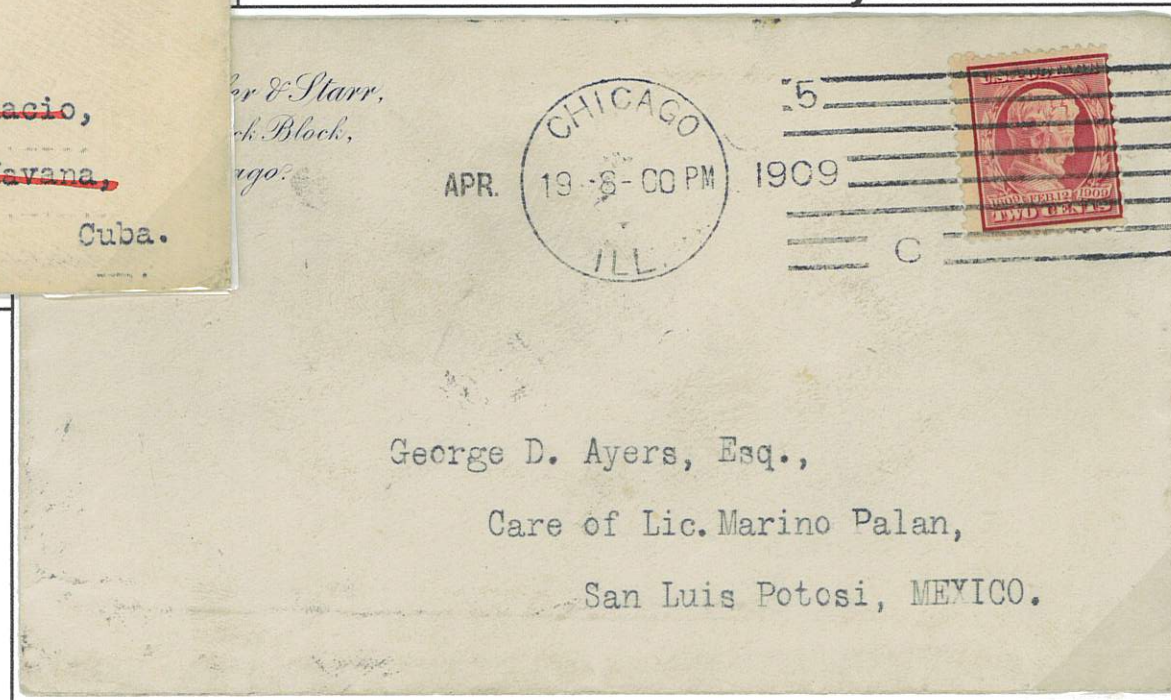


Treaty rate to Cuba

New York, NY to Havana, Cuba and then redi-
rected within Havana
2¢ letter treaty rate with Cuba
February 3, 1909

Treaty Rate to Mexico

Chicago, Ill to San Luis Potpsi,
Mexico
Letter treaty rate of 2¢ rather
than the 5¢ UPU rate
April 19, 1909
Cummins machine cancel



Rates

International Rates UPU Rates Post Card & Letter Rates

UPU Post Card Rate



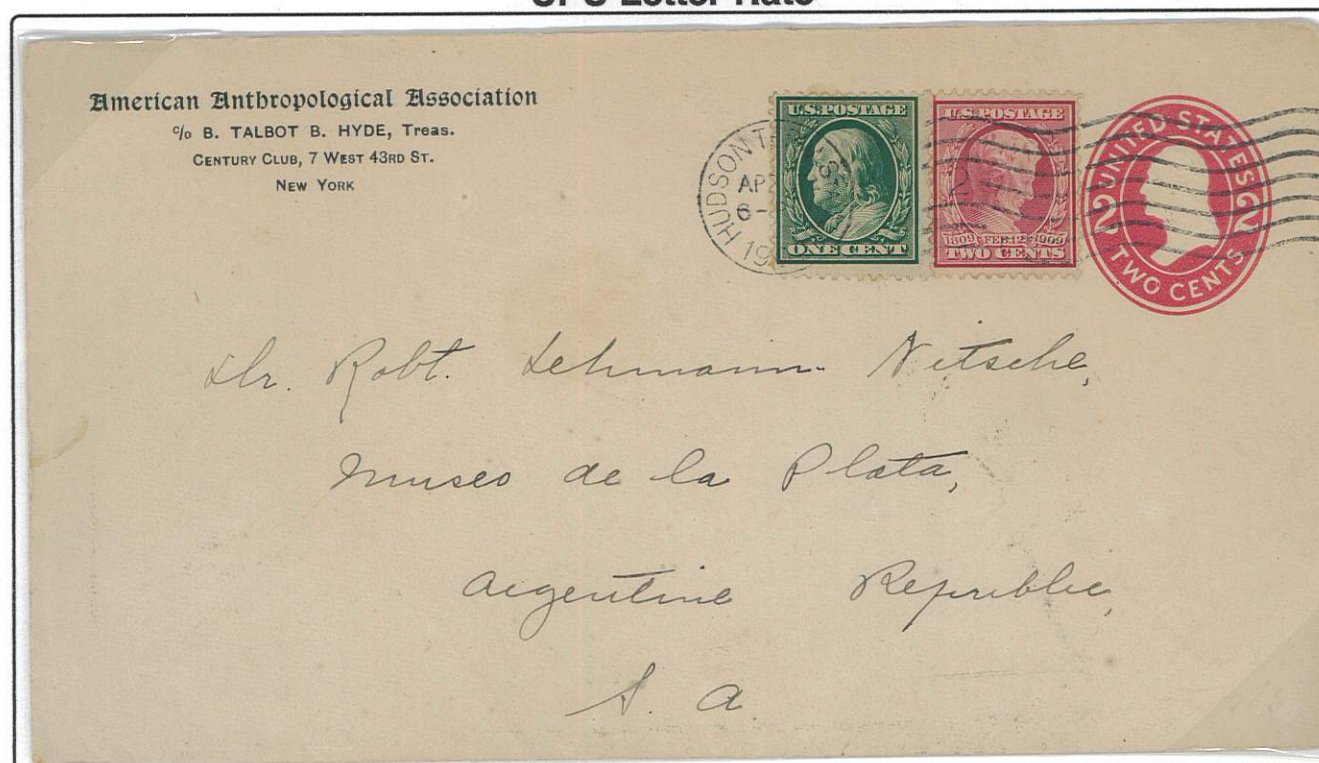
New York, NY to Vienna, Austria

2¢ UPU post card rate

October 18, 1909

International machine cancel

UPU Letter Rate



New York, NY to
La Plata, Argentina

5¢ UPU letter rate paid by 2¢
postal stationery & addition of two
adhesives

April 5, 1909
International machine cancel

Rates

San Francisco, Cal to London, UK
2¢ 2nd Bureau "shield" type II pays
treaty rate with the UK
January 8, 1909
International machine cancel



reverse has a

1908 CHRISTMAS SEAL, TYPE I
at this time it was contrary to postal
regulation to use the seal on the front.

2¢ Treaty Rate to the UK

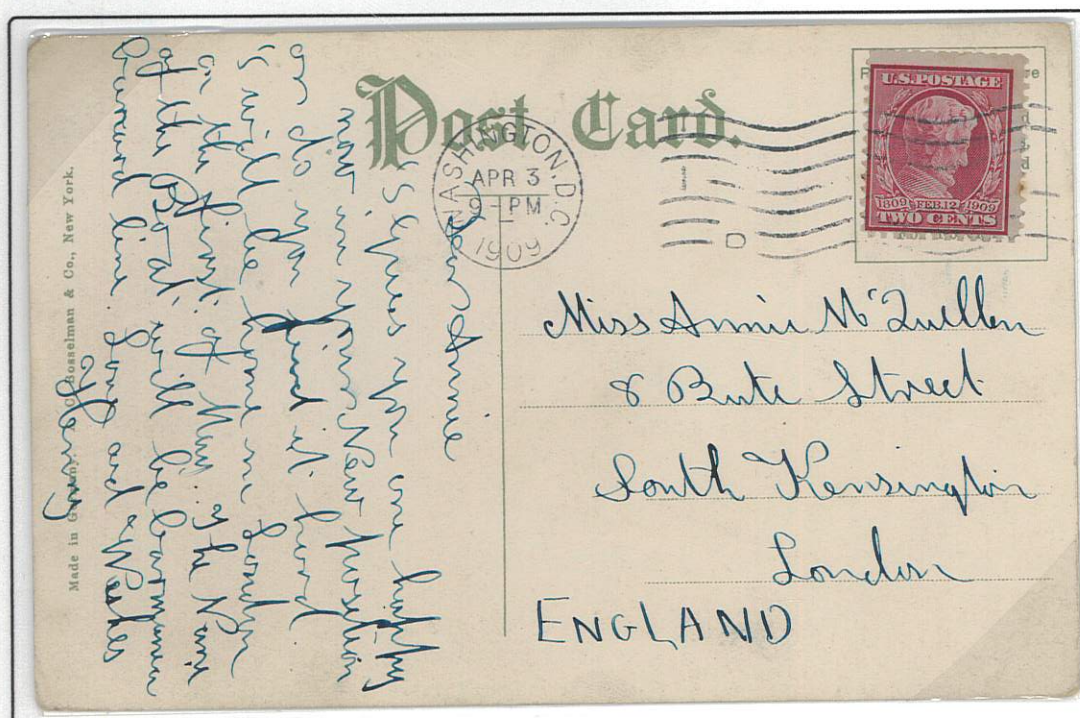


2¢ Treat Rate to Germany



New York to Berlin via Bremen, Ger-
many by way of the Norddeutscher
Lloyd Line Kronprinzessin Cecilie
The treaty rate was 2¢ for a letter
taken via direct steamer to Germa-
ny rather than the usual 5¢ UPU rate
October 11, 1909
ovate duplex hand stamp

United Kingdom



Washington, DC to
London, UK

Unusual use of the blue paper
Lincoln Memorial to a foreign
destination

April 3, 1909
International
machine cancel

Italian Earthquake Relief Label



Great Barrington, Mass

January 25, 1909

Flag machine
cancel

2¢ 2nd Bureau stamp with an Italian Earthquake Relief label
used to gather support for the Red Cross's efforts providing
aid for victims of the December 28, 1908 Messina earthquake.
Between 75,000 and 200,000 lives were lost.

Germany

Jamaica, NY to Germany
November 2, 1909
Ovate hand stamp cancels
Printed Matters UPU rate >14oz<16oz

(Total franking of 7¢, with the UPU rate
for Printed Matter being set at 1¢ per
2oz, it would imply with this newspaper
weighted more than 14oz but less than
16oz.).



Destinations

International Destinations

Europe

Hungary, Switzerland & Russia

Hungary



New York, NY to Esztergom, Hungary
(on the Czech border)
2¢ paid UPU post card rate to Hungary
June 3, 1909
International machine cancel

Switzerland



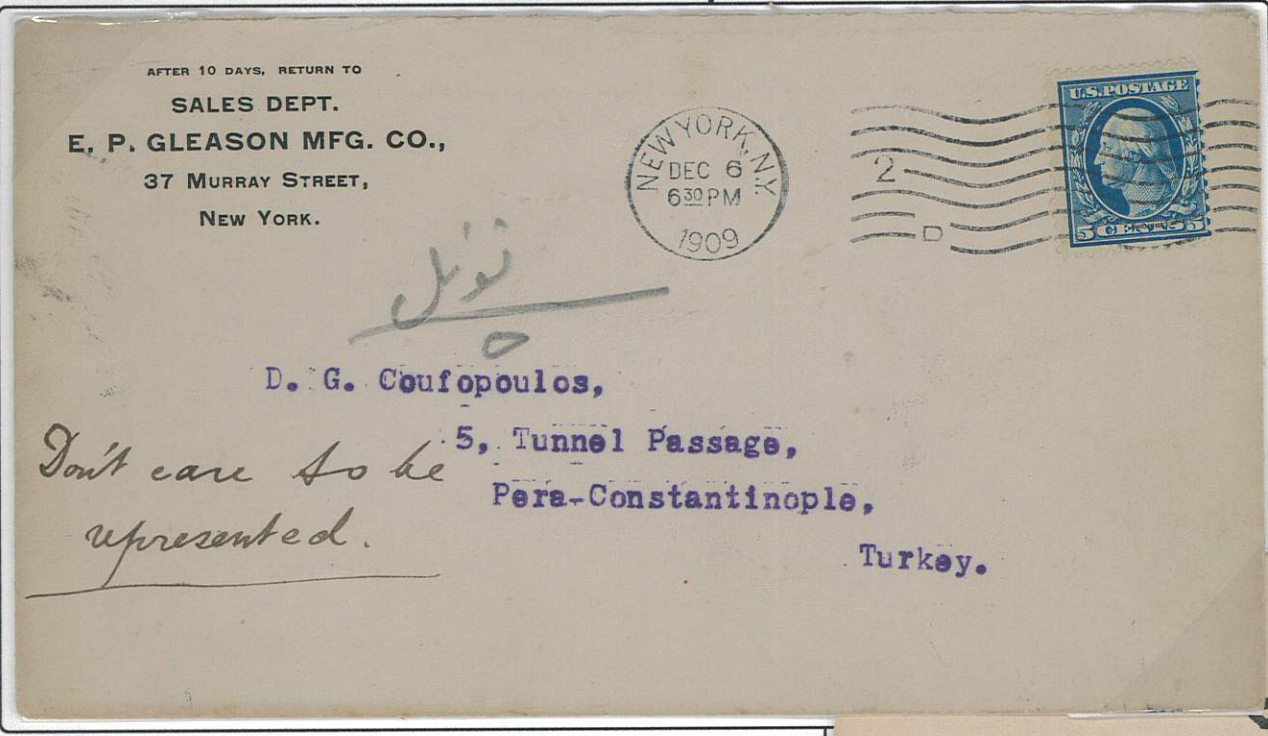
Bayamon, Puerto Rico to Geneva,
Switzerland
6¢ overpaid the 5¢ UPU rate to
Switzerland
September 28, 1909
Four-bar hand stamp cancel

Russia



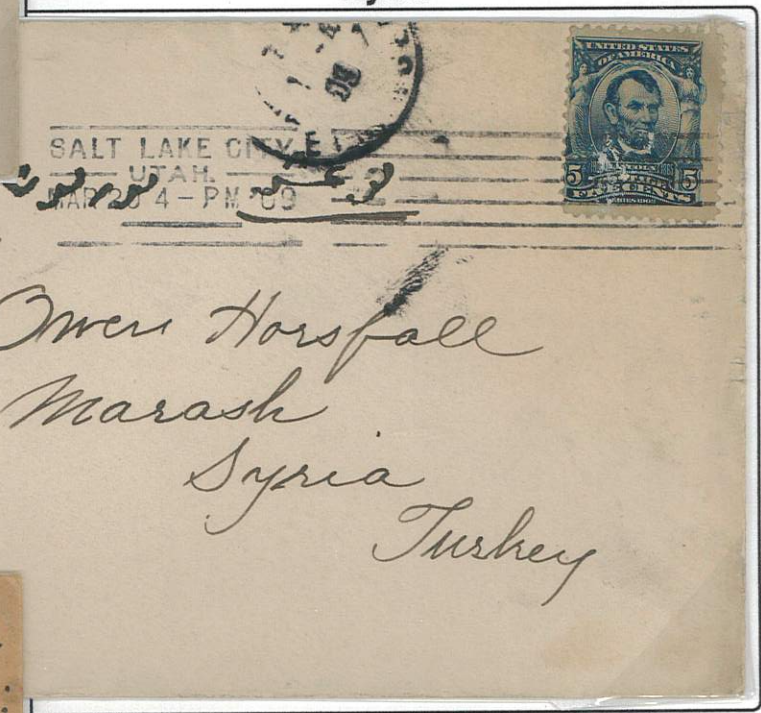
New York, NY to Suwalki, Russia (present day
Poland)
5¢ pays the UPU letter rate to Russia
April 6, 1909
International machine cancel
stamp bears a perfin, "HNB" for the sender, the
Hanover National Bank
The "SS Lucania" is actually the RMS Lucania, a
Cunard passenger ship, whose last voyage would
take place in July 1909 after having served as one
of Cunard's main passenger vessels

Constantinople



New York, NY to Constantinople, Ottoman Empire
5¢ 3rd Bureau pays the UPU rate to the Ottoman Empire
December 6, 1909

Syria



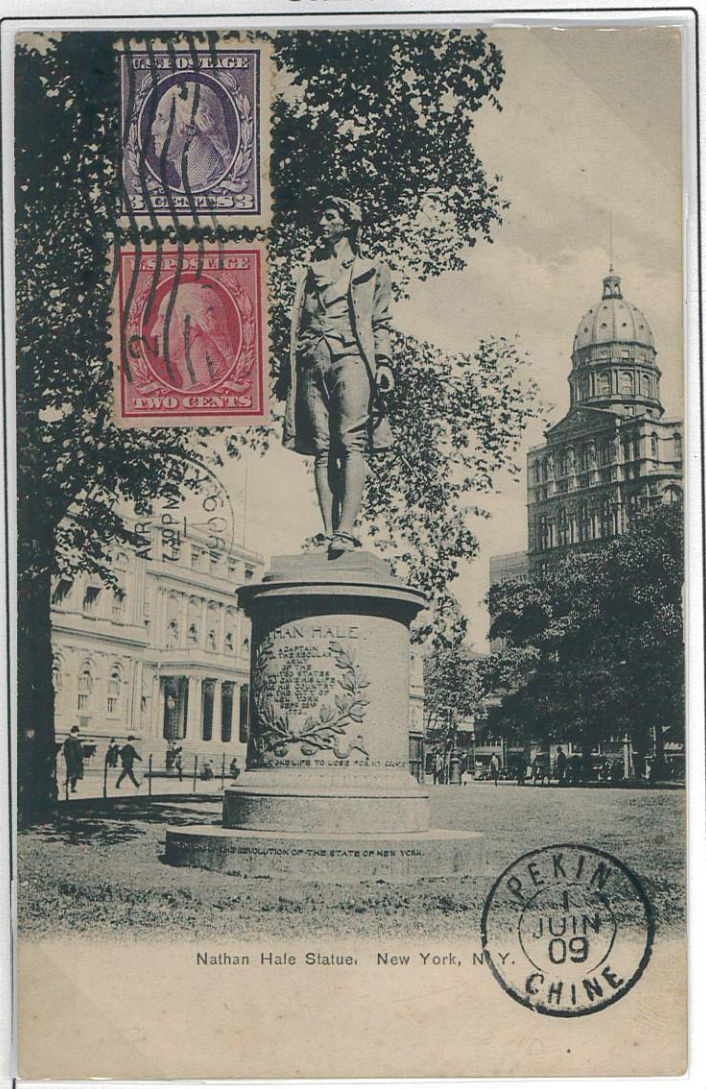
Salt Lake City to Marash, Syria, currently in Turkey, then part of the Ottoman Empire
5¢ 2nd Bureau pays UPU rate to the Ottoman Empire
March 20, 1909, received April 23, 1909

Malta



Wilton, NH to Valletta, Malta, via Boston and London sent registered, Boston exchange office label
16¢ paid double-weight UPU letter rate (8¢) plus registry of 8¢
Boston exchange label, plus a "REGISTERED RETURN RECEIPT DEMANDED" hand stamp on the front.
August 16, 1909
The back has transit stamps from Boston and London and a receiver hand stamp from Valletta.

China



New York, NY to Pekin, China

The 5¢ franking exceeds the UPU post card rate of 2¢
April 27, 1909Chinese receiving hand stamp on both front and back,
canceled in the US with an International machine

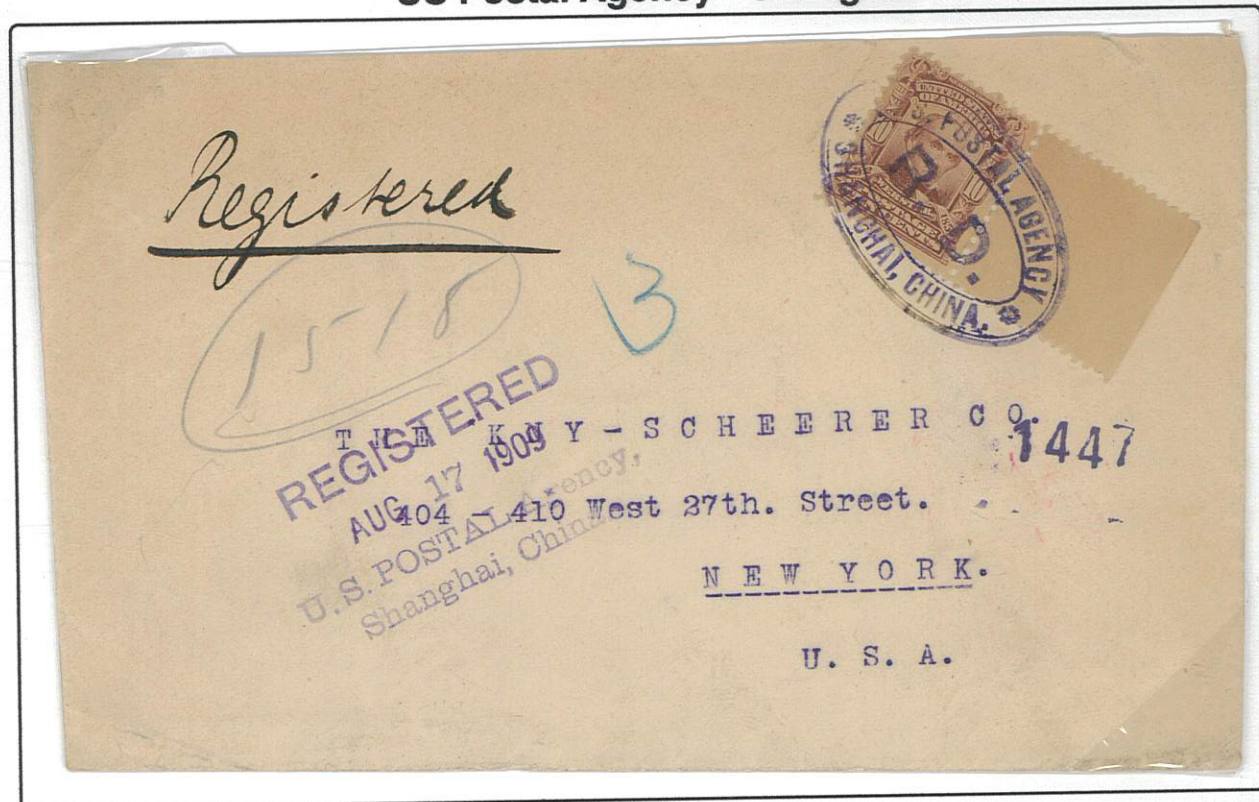
Washington, DC to Seoul, Korea

2¢ UPU post card rate to Korea

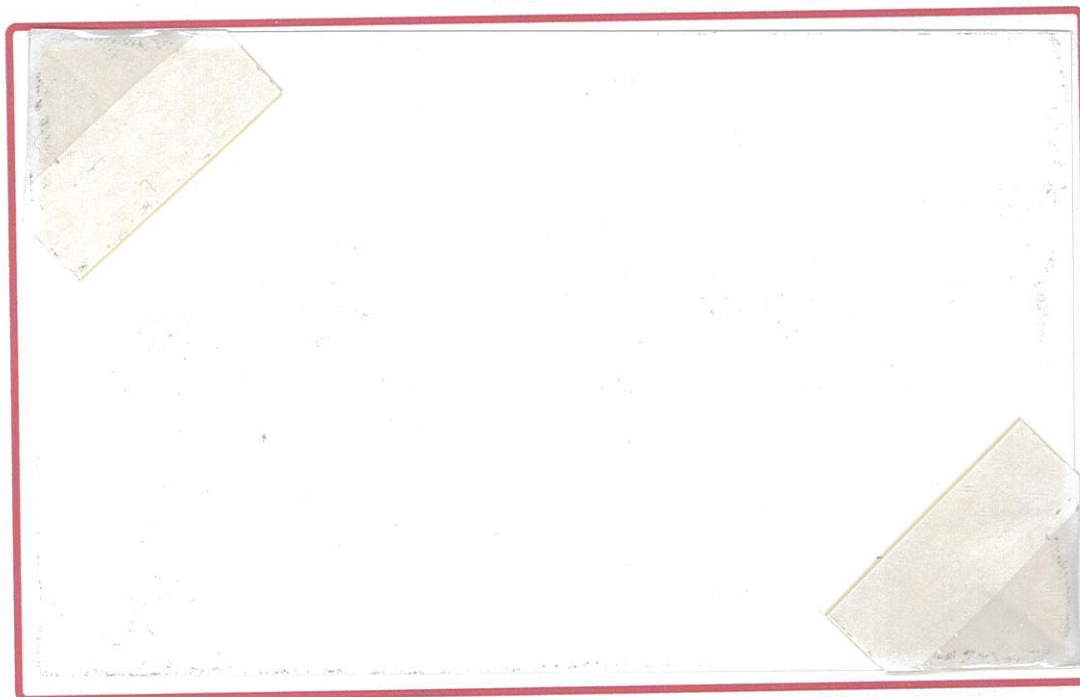
April 28, 1909

International machine cancel
back stamped on both front and back,
in blue, in "Corea"

US Postal Agency - Shanghai

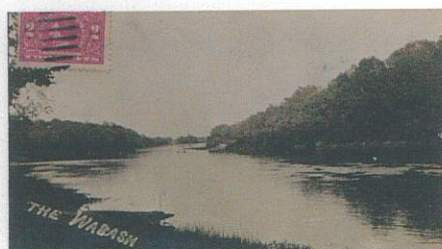
Shanghai China
to New York10¢ 2nd Bureau stamp pays the 2¢
domestic first class and 8¢ registry feesAugust 12, 1909
hand stamps

Korea

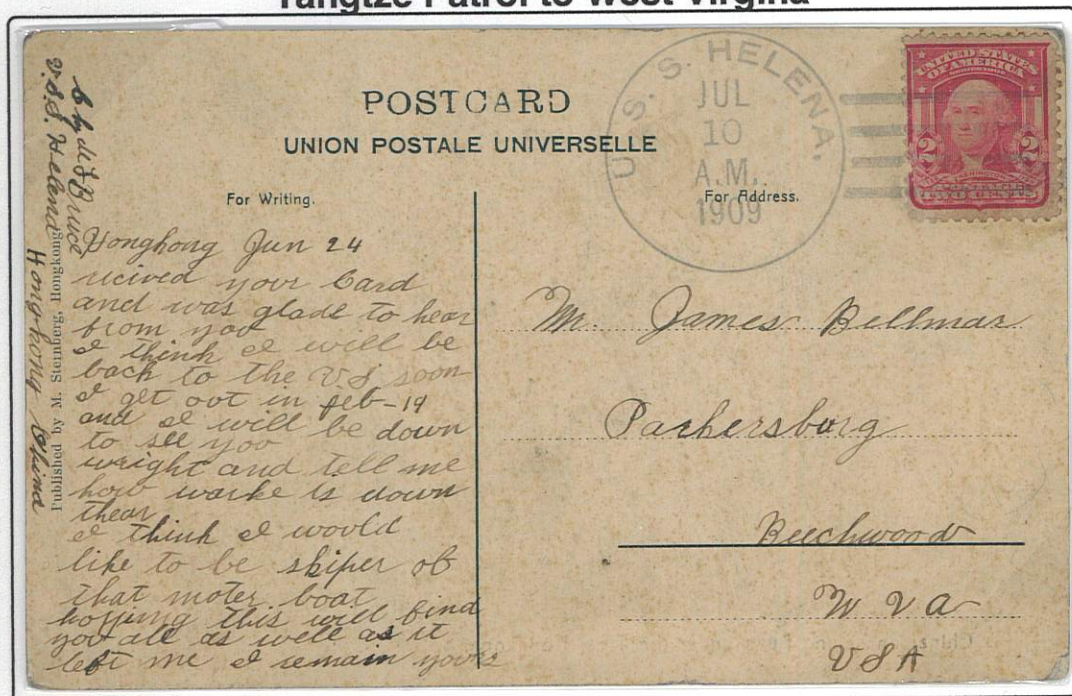
RARE USE OF THE BLUE PAPER 2¢ 3RD BUREAU TO A FOREIGN
DESTINATION

to French Indochina

Williamsport, Ind to Saigon, French
Indochina
2¢ UPU post card rate to French
Indochina
July 21, 1909
canceled with a hand stamp



Yangtze Patrol to West Virginia



from the USS Helena to Beechwood, West Va.
Franked with the "old" 2nd Bureau 2¢ issue and ap-
parently mailed while in Hong Kong
July 10, 1909
Four-bar ship's hand stamp cancel



USS Helena (PG-9)

The USS Helena (PG-9) was a large gun-
boat that served as part of the South China
Squadrons and specifically on the Yangtze
River Patrol, 1908 to 1910.

Destinations

International Destinations
Asia & the Pacific
Pacific Rim

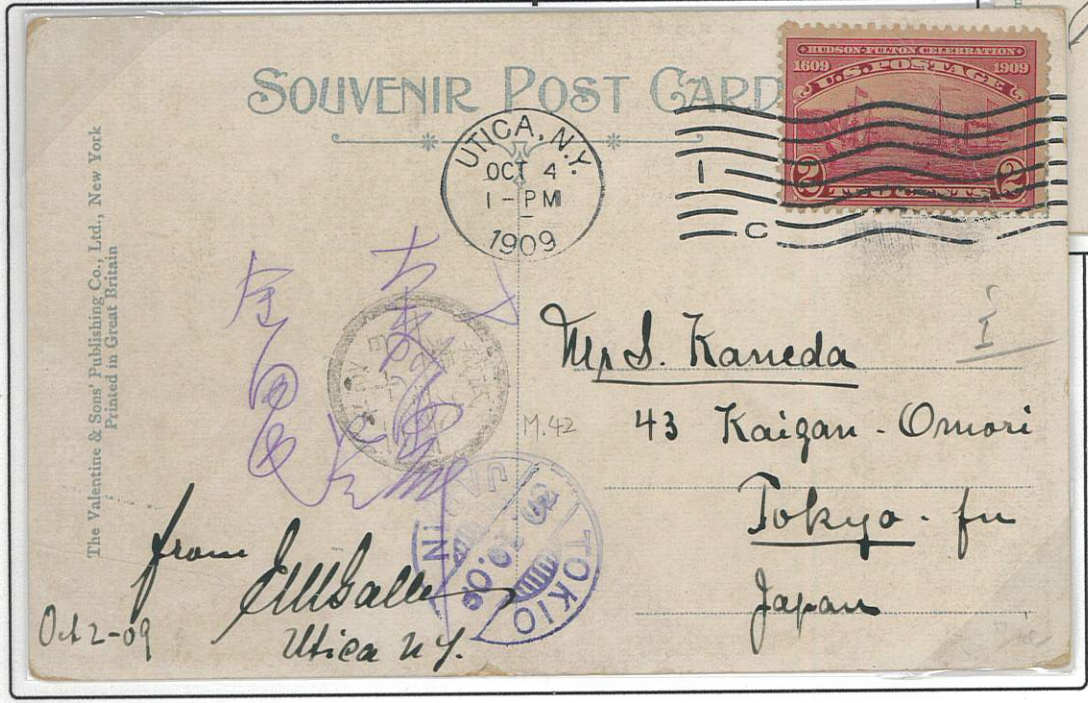
Java, Dutch East Indies



New York, NY to Java, Dutch Indies, by way of London
13¢ pays the UPU letter rate to Java (5¢) and the 8¢ registry fee.
New York Exchange office label
April 5, 1909
Back stamped in London and Meester-Cornelis, Java

New Zealand from NY Harbor

USS New York (in NYC) to Auckland New Zealand
2¢ UPU post card rate
September 28, 1909
4-bar ship's hand stamp cancel
Picture post card from a US naval vessel, USS New York, based in the Atlantic, to Auckland, New Zealand
The USS New York was in NY Harbor for the Hudson Fulton Celebration.



Utica, NY to Tokyo, Japan
2¢ UPU post card rate to Japan
October 4, 1909
International machine cancel applied in the US
Tokyo hand stamp receiver
The violet crayon characters provide delivery instructions with the recipient's address and town in Japanese Kanji, these are written over a local Kanji receiving postmark.

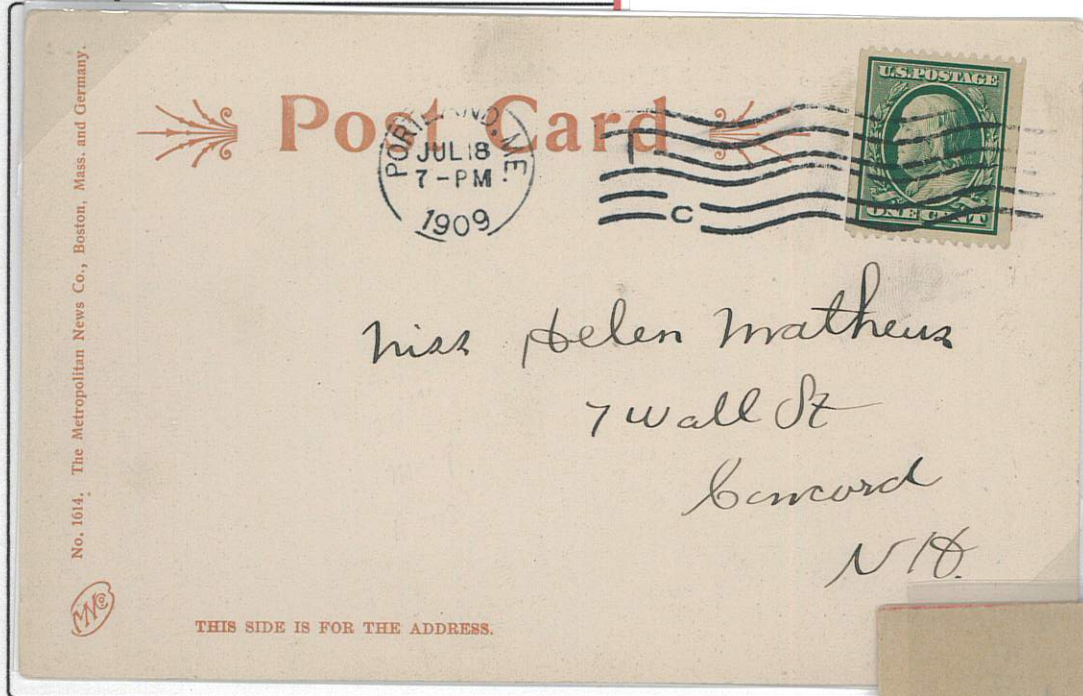
It might appear too obvious to mention, but a postal system requires users and uses for the mail sent through that network. We attempt to capture here the flavor of each via the samples shown.

A Valentine (Sent as an FDC)

New York to Milford, Ct
February 12, 1909
Hand stamp cancel

Only known use of a Lincoln
FDC with an enclosed
Valentine's Day card.

A Simple Personal Post Card



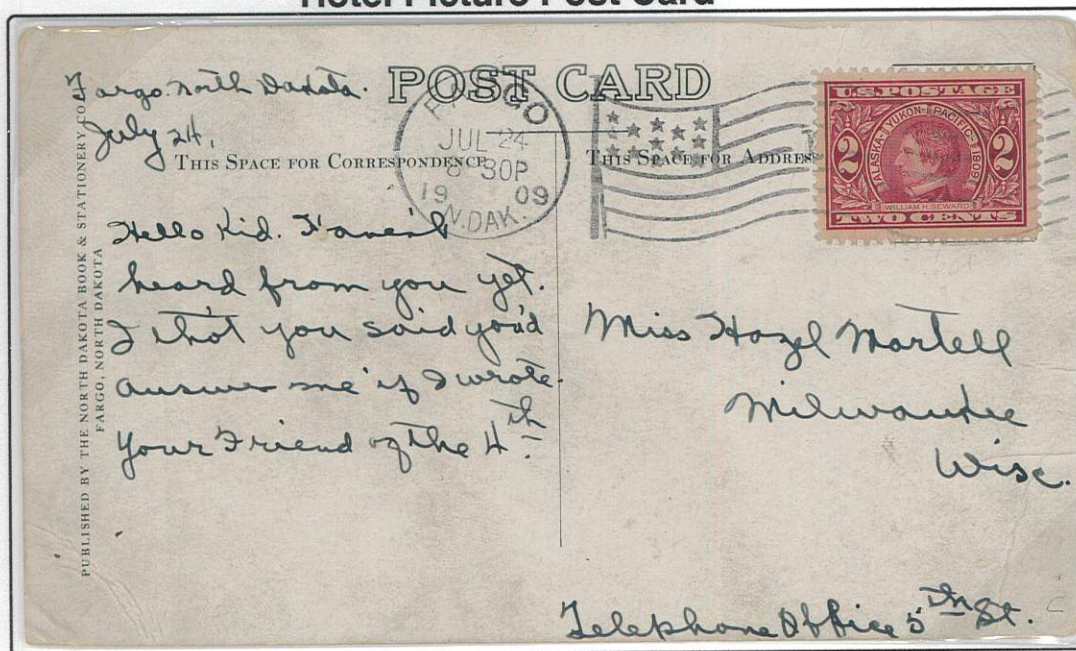
Portland, Me to Concord, NH
horizontally perforated coil 1¢ pays post
card rate
July 18, 1909

Tiny Rice Paper Envelope



Grand Island, Nebr local
July 13, 1909
flag machine cancel
a tiny, rice paper envelope and stationery in
the "Asian" style, franked with a 2¢ Alaska
Yukon stamp

Hotel Picture Post Card



Fargo, ND to Milwaukee, Wis

Hotel picture post card

July 24, 1909

flag machine cancel

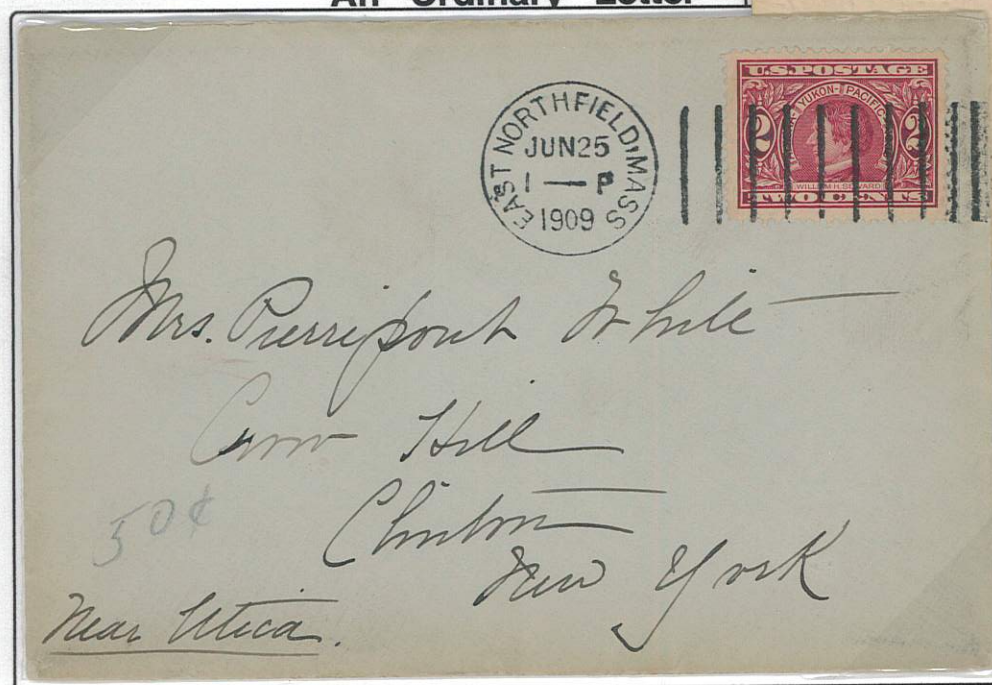


Wisconsin Christmas

Milwaukee, Wis to Elkhart Lake, Wis
 December 21, 1909
 1909 series Wisconsin Christmas seal,
 tied by the International machine cancel



An "Ordinary" Letter



East Northfield, Mass to Clinton, NY

June 25, 1909

Doremus machine cancel

A "Mourning" Cover

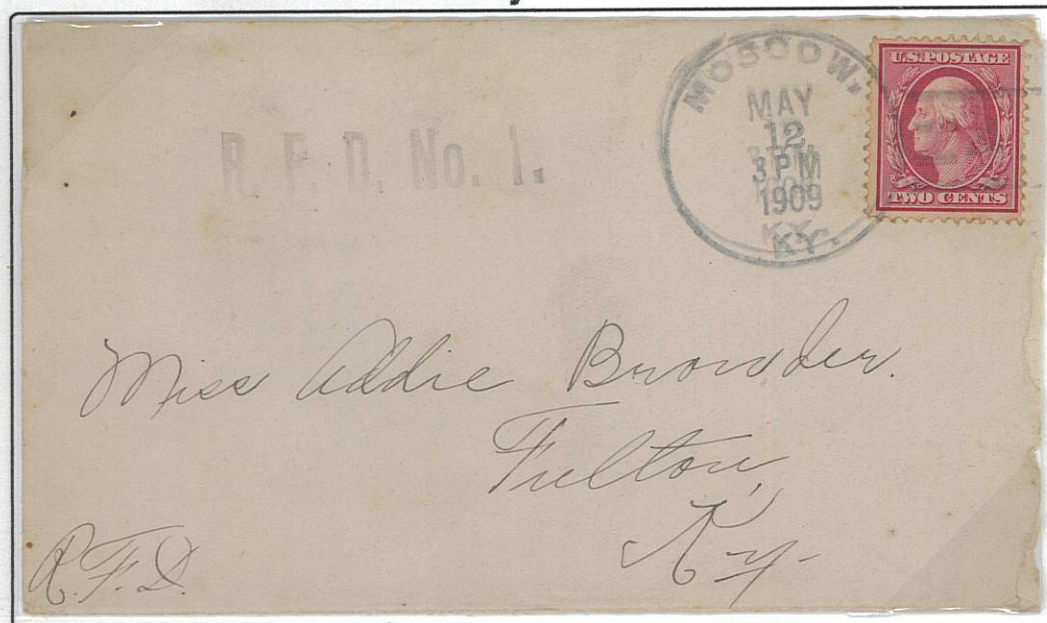
Troy, Penn to Wellsburg, NY
 2¢ Hudson Fulton stamp 2 days prior to
 official issuance
 September 23, 1909
 ovate bar duplex hand stamp
 mourning cover

EARLIEST KNOWN USE FOR THIS STAMP,
 1 OF 3 KNOWN

Missionary Support



Rural Free Delivery

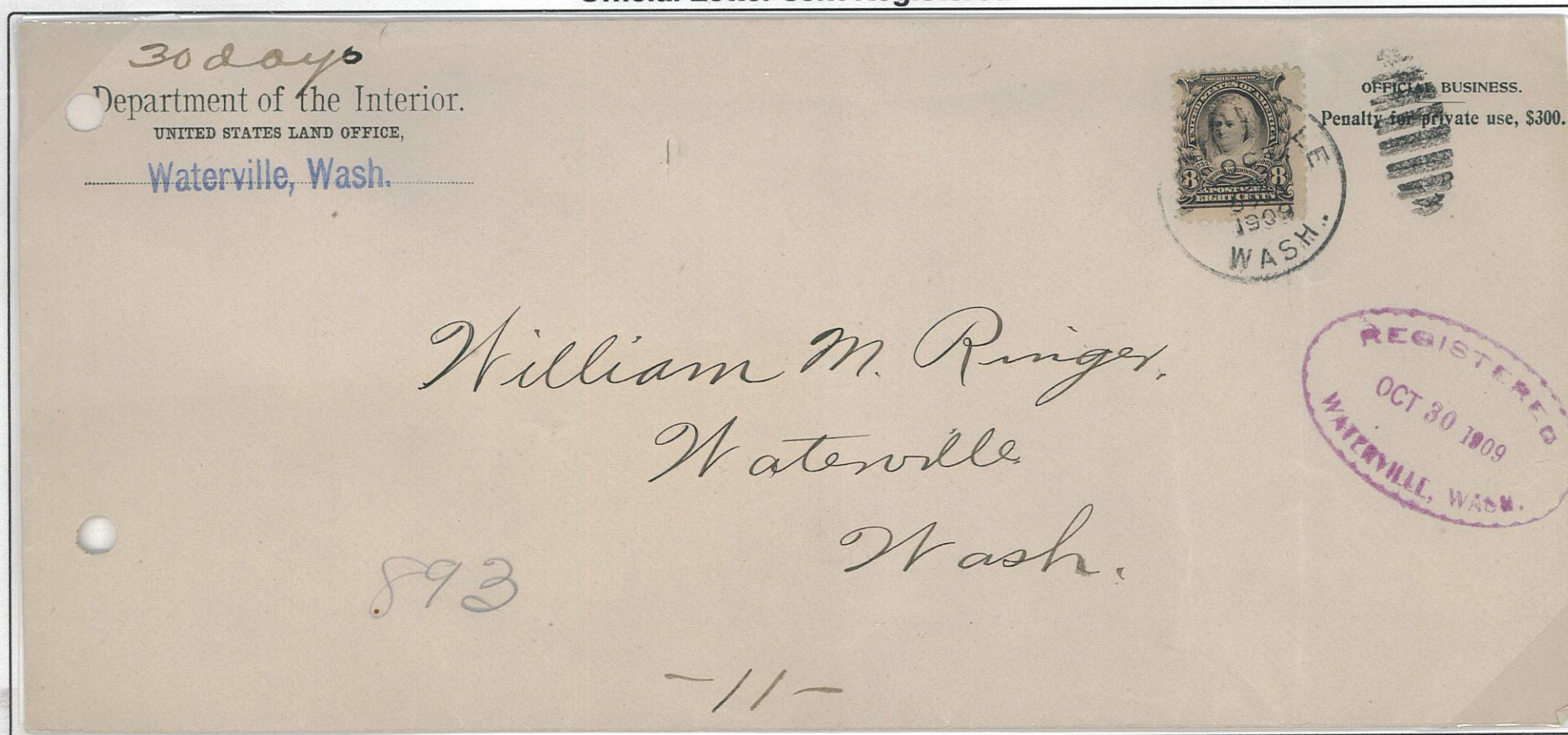


Sheboygan Falls, 12¢, equal to 8¢ registry October 18, 1909
 Wisconsin and 4¢ for double-weight
 first class.

part of a large correspondence, all blocks of six, many with plate
 numbers in the margin
 contents were almost certainly cash sent in support of overseas
 missionaries to or from a philatelist.

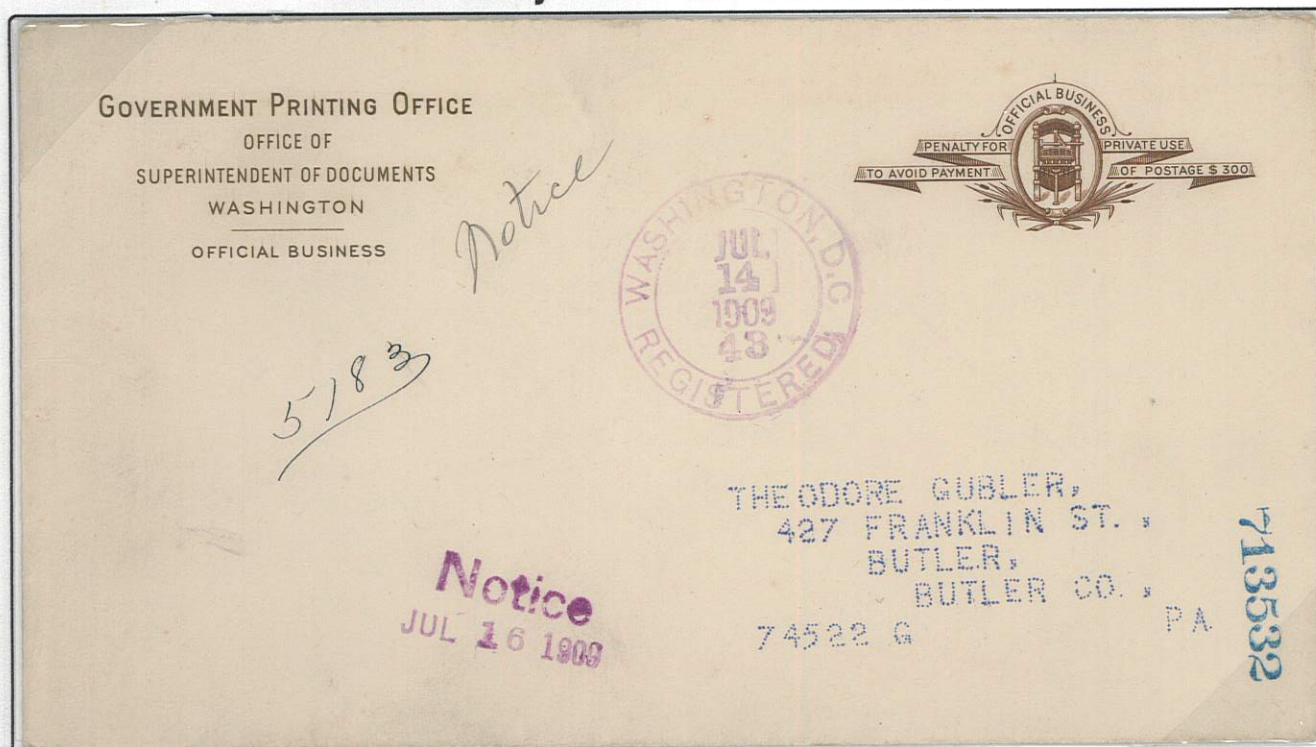
Moscow, Ky to Fulton, Ky
 May 12, 1909
 type 3 Doane handstamp cancel
 hand stamp "R.F.D. No. 1." applied to front

Official Letter sent Registered



SENT ON THE PENULTIMATE DAY PRIOR TO THE CHANGE IN THE REGISTRY FEE TO 10¢

GPO Penalty Cover-Stenciled Address



Waterville, Wa local

Official letter not requiring franking for
1st class service, but being sent via reg-
istry required the addition of 8¢ postage
for the registry fee
October 30, 1909
hand stamp cancel

Washington, DC to Butler, Penn
sent free as official mail
July 14, 1909

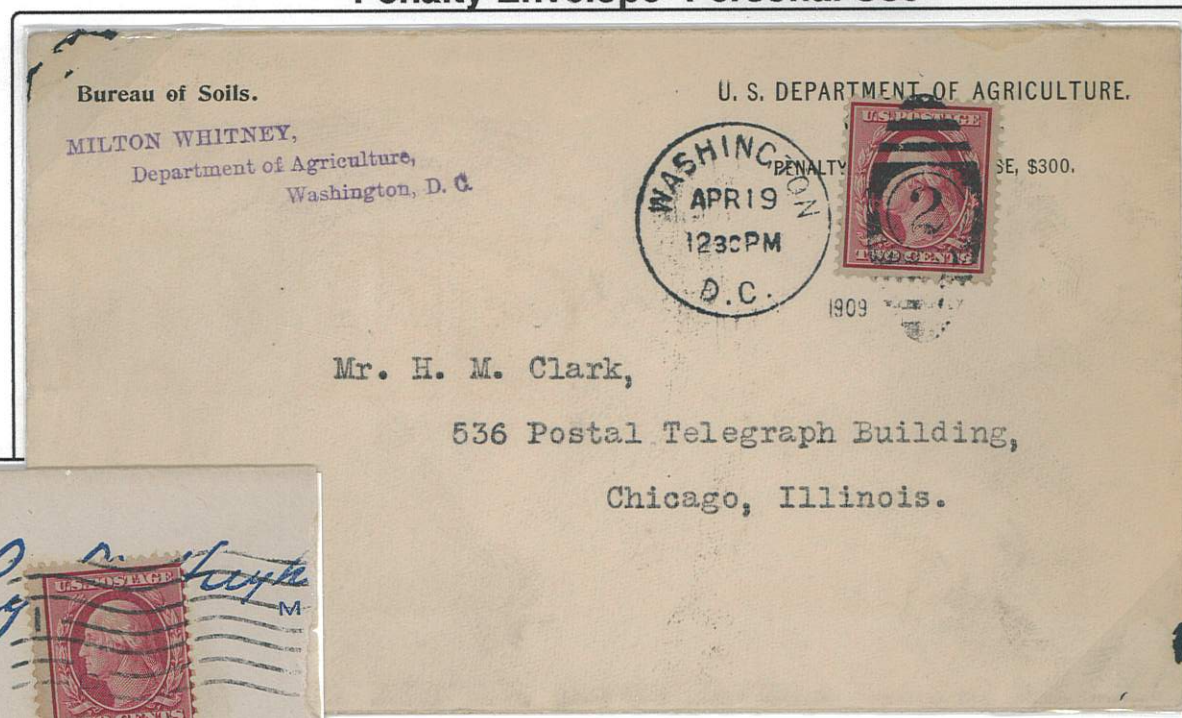
This cover and its penalty clause was **engraved & printed by the GPO**. Only their envelopes were printed in this manner.
The address was prepared on an Elliott stencil address machine. An early form of semi-automation.

Types of Uses

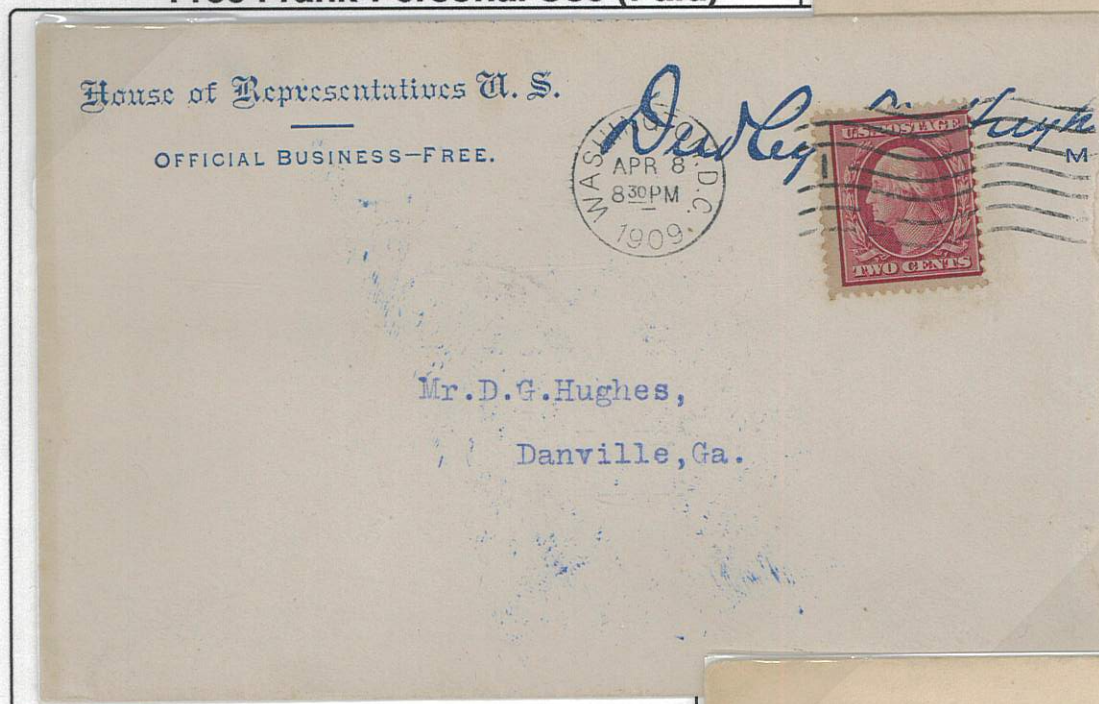
Governmental Correspondence Use of Governmental Envelopes

Penalty Envelope -Personal Use

Washington, DC to Chicago, Ill
1st class letter using a blue paper 2¢ 3rd Bureau
stamp on a penalty cover being used personally
April 19, 1909
ovate hand stamp cancel



Free Frank-Personal Use (Paid)



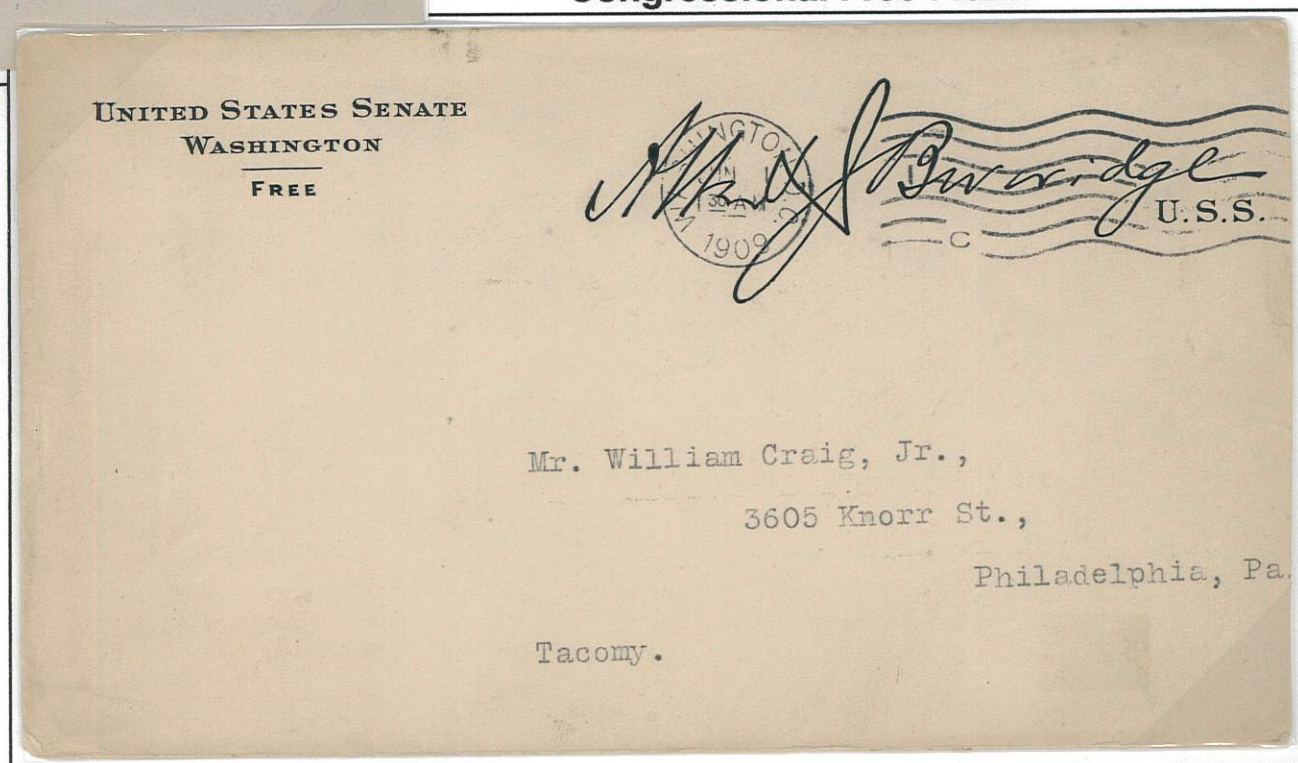
Washington, DC to Danville, Ga

April 8, 1909

a scarce use of the 2¢ bluish paper issue
being sent on a House of Representa-
tives envelope sent without use of the
free frank

Congressional Free Frank

Washington, DC to Philadelphia, Penn
sent free by US Senator Albert J.
Beveridge, who represented Indiana
from 1899 to 1911
June 1, 1909



Business Reply Envelope to Berne, Switzerland

Washington, DC to Berne, Switzerland
Printed Matter mailing to Switzerland, franked
with the 1¢ 3rd Bureau stamp, the UPU rate for
3rd class mail.

December 10, 1909

*This is a response to a business proposition previ-
ous sent to the sender.*

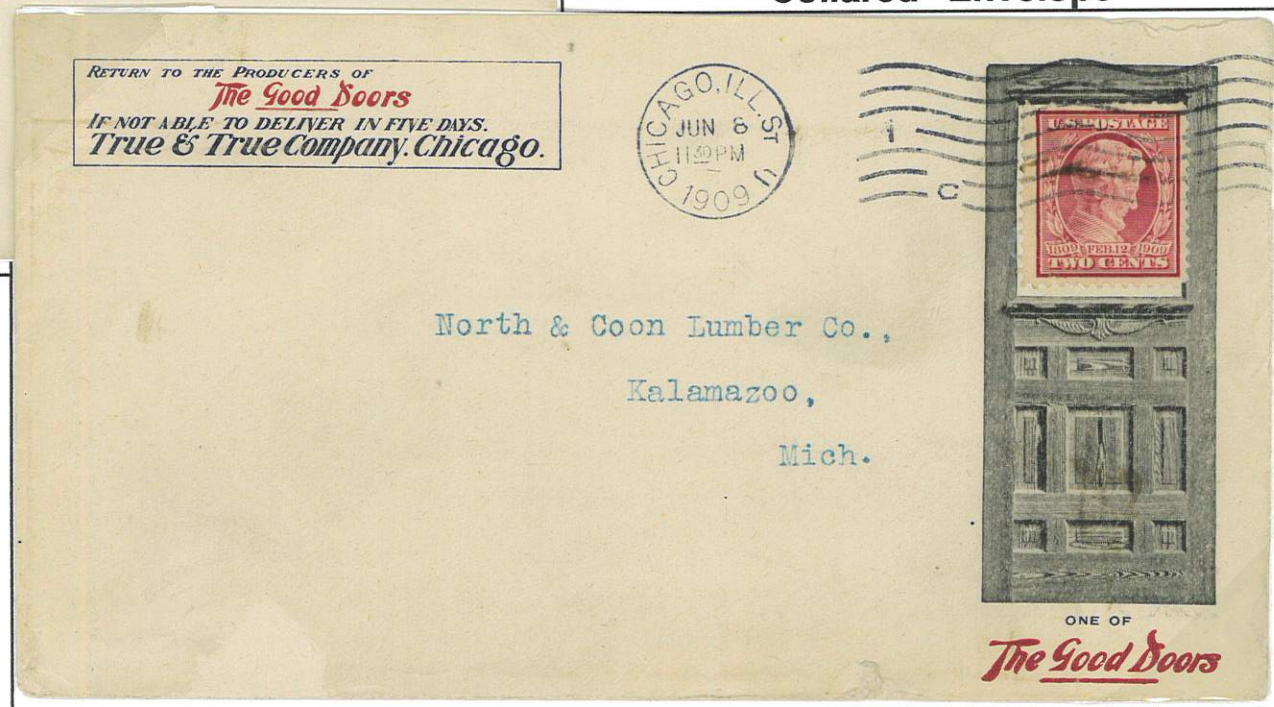


1910 Christmas Seal



Los Angeles, Cal to San Francisco, Cal
December 10, 1909
sent with a 1910 series Christmas seal

"Collared" Envelope



Chicago, Ill to Kalamazoo, Mich
2¢ Lincoln Memorial paying the 1st
class rate
June 3, 1909
a "collared" envelope, the collar design is
tied to the sender's business: doors

Books and other large items could be sent wrapped in a stamped paper wrapper and were permitted as long as the wrapper was not sealed.

Book Sent Registered Internationally



Chillicothe, Ohio to
London, England

This 4¢ wrapper to London carried an item (likely a book) approximately one inch thick. the 26¢ postage paid the 8¢ registry fee and 18¢ for an item weighing up to 8 oz. The blue crayon crosses were applied in London and used to mark registered mail and are clearly visible on front and back.

November 11, 1909



The contents were held together by two paper strips whose remnants are visible on the right side of the wrapper, front and back. Items in wrappers could be banded but must be capable of being unsealed to permit examination.

Macy's Catalog sent 3rd Class

Return to or Notify

R. H. Macy & Co.-New York, N. Y.

If not Delivered within 5 days.

CATALOGUE

Fall - Winter

1910 - 1911

New York, NY to
East Windsor, NYsent domestic 3rd class (standard mail), total
franking of 11¢ implying a weight of at least
22oz.

1909

There is virtually an infinite variety of business advertising covers available from 1909. To do full justice to the full depth and variety would take an entire exhibit, herein we attempt to provide a flavor of what was sent through the mails.

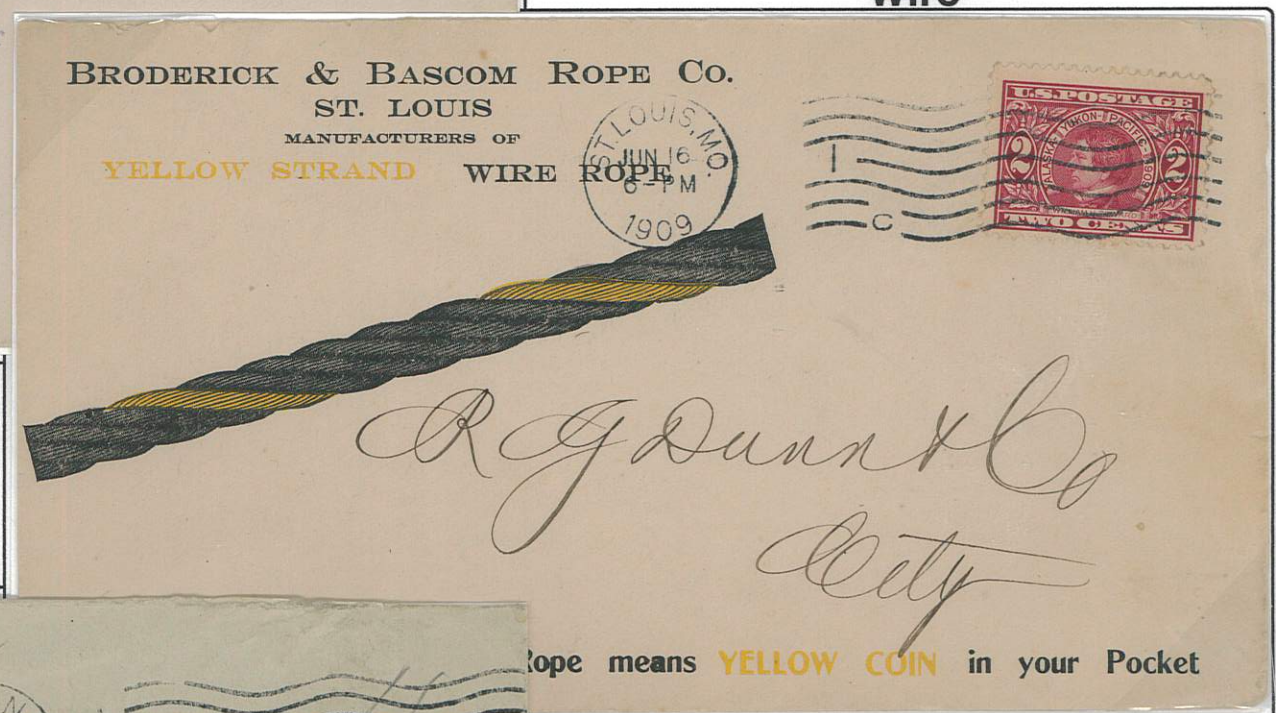
Tea & Coffee



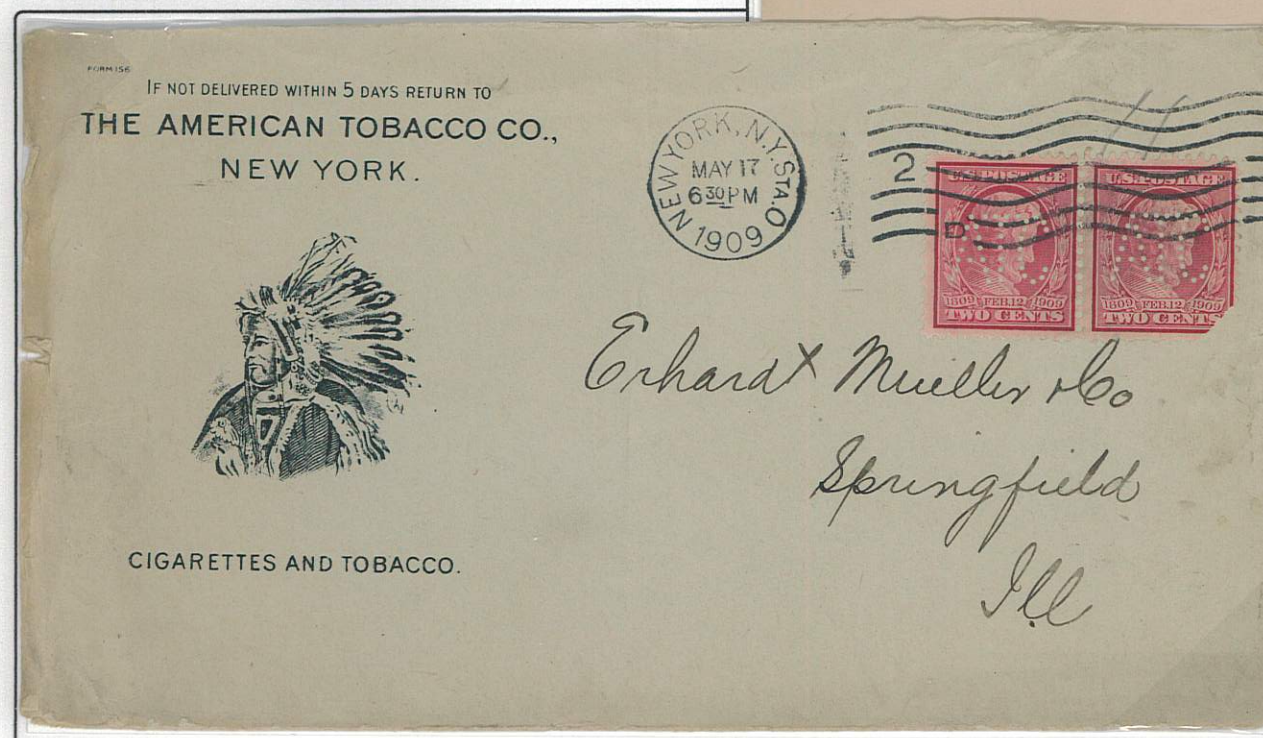
Middletown, NY to Goshen, NY
April 28, 1909



Wire



Tobacco



St Louis, Mo locally
2¢ Seward stamp fulfilling the 1st class rate
June 16, 1909
canceled with an International machine

New York, NY to Springfield, Ill
franked with two 2¢ Lincoln Memorial stamps
each with the perfin "ATC" for the sender, The
American Tobacco Company
May 17, 1909
canceled with a International machine

Types of Uses

Business Correspondence Advertising Postal Cards



BALTIMORE BARGAIN HOUSE
MORE GOODS FOR SAME MONEY
SAME GOODS FOR LESS MONEY

Main Offices and Salesrooms, 204 to 220 W. Baltimore St.
Annex, 213 to 221 W. Fayette St.
Clothing Factory, 10 and 12 N. Howard St.
Warehouses, Scott and Wicomico Streets

Baltimore, *Twenty three* Dear Sir: We are in receipt of check *7/14/09* *71* Dollars *100*
in payment of bills.

Thanking you for above remittance, and awaiting your further valued favors, we are
To facilitate promptness, kindly write on separate sheet any communication not pertaining to your remittance.

Yours respectfully, **BALTIMORE BARGAIN HOUSE,**
per *[Signature]*

THE SAXON ELECTRIC HORN



Large Size, 3 1/2" Bell, \$10.00
Small Size, 3" Bell, 6.00
Operated by 6 Dry Cell Batteries.

This new and simple Electric Horn meets the requirements of all cars, as it produces a far reaching, penetrating, not unpleasant alarm that may be heard far ahead of the car.


This new horn, with its beautiful tone at its popular and rational price is bound to have an enormous sale, as there are many who do not wish to disfigure their cars with large horns that produce that discordant, nerve racking alarm.

125 BRIDGE ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

THE POST & LESTER CO.

A large variety of advertising and commercial messages were being sent in 1909 on otherwise standard US postal cards. These cards are typical samples of uses prevalent at the time.

A reduced scan of a front is shown across, this one having been addressed by an automated Addressograph machine



Binghamton, N. Y., *3-18* 190*9*

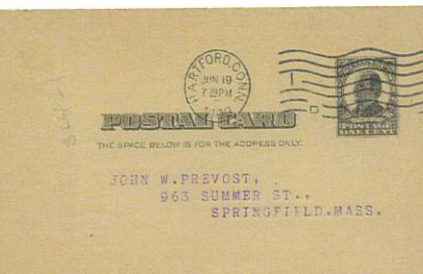
M. G. Whelan

The Receipt of *17.89* Dollars

in *4* payment of invoice *Oct 31* *Thank you*
We take the matter of the 2 broken whips
and will replace them with a good

Parlor City
Whalebone

Respectfully yours,
BINGHAMTON WHIP CO.



POSTAL CARD
THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

JOHN W. PREVOST,
963 SUMMER ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.



GATE END DAVENPORT, NO. 803



SINGLE SOFA, NO. 909

The
KRAMER MANUFACTURING CO.

High Grade
UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

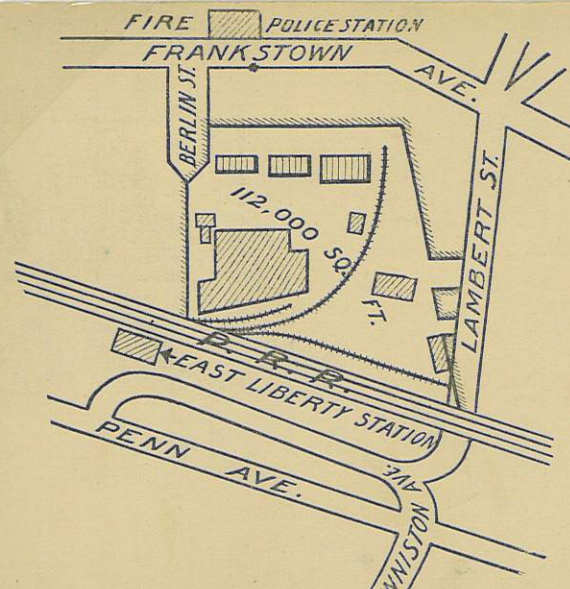
Indianapolis, Ind., *JAN 22 1909*

Dear Sir:-

Yours of *19* inst., enclosing *OK*
for \$*36.75* in settlement of invoice, received
and same placed to your credit with thanks. Soliciting a
continuance of your favors, we are

Yours respectfully,
KRAMER MFG. CO.

Per *[Signature]*
Try Our New Guaranteed Construction, Pat. Sept. 17, 1901.



FIRE POLICE STATION
FRANKSTOWN AVE.
BERLIN ST.
112,000 SQ. FT.
P. R. R.
EAST LIBERTY STATION
PENN AVE.
LAMBERT ST.
DENNISTON

TO LET.

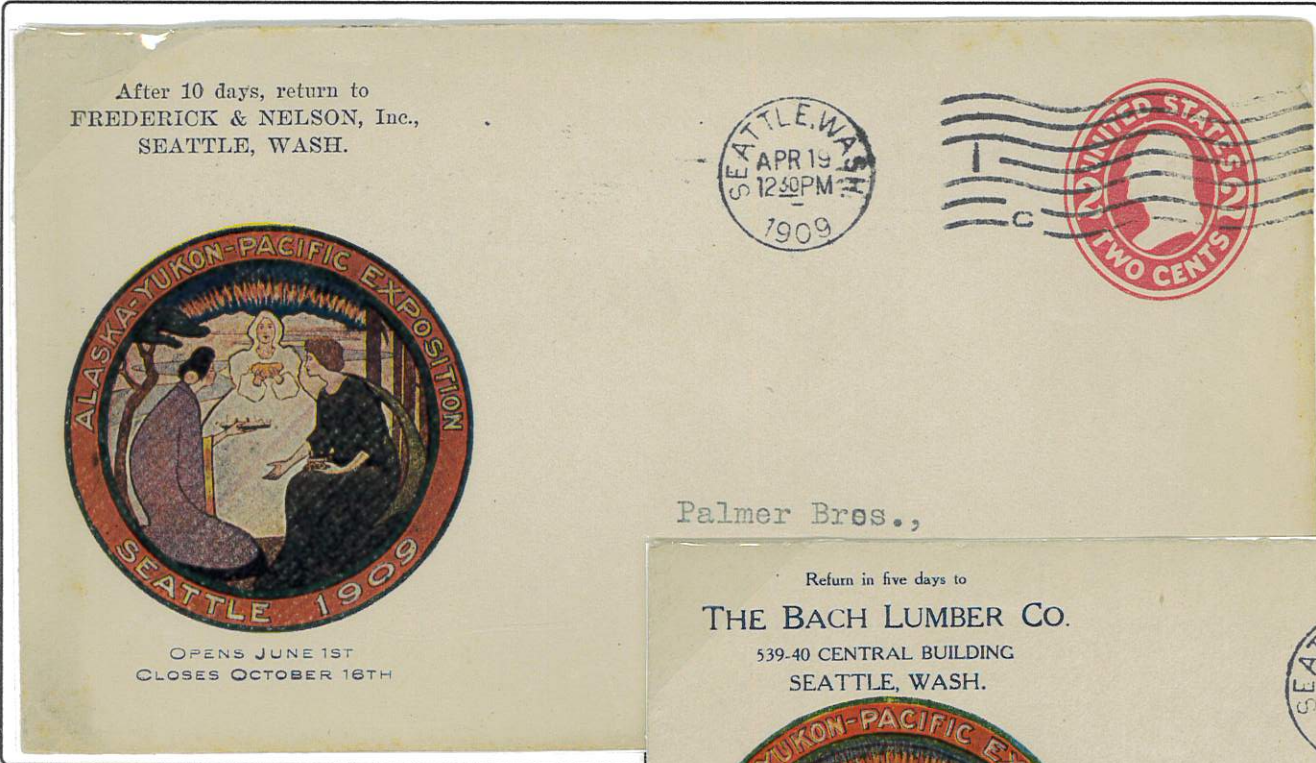
Most centrally located **Rail Road Property** in the most populous district of Pittsburgh. Warehouse, Manufacturing Site, Storage Yards, with Switches and Trestles; Paved Streets; Steam and Electric Cars within a few minutes' walk.

For particulars address or call on
R. H. HARTLEY,
405 Fourth Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

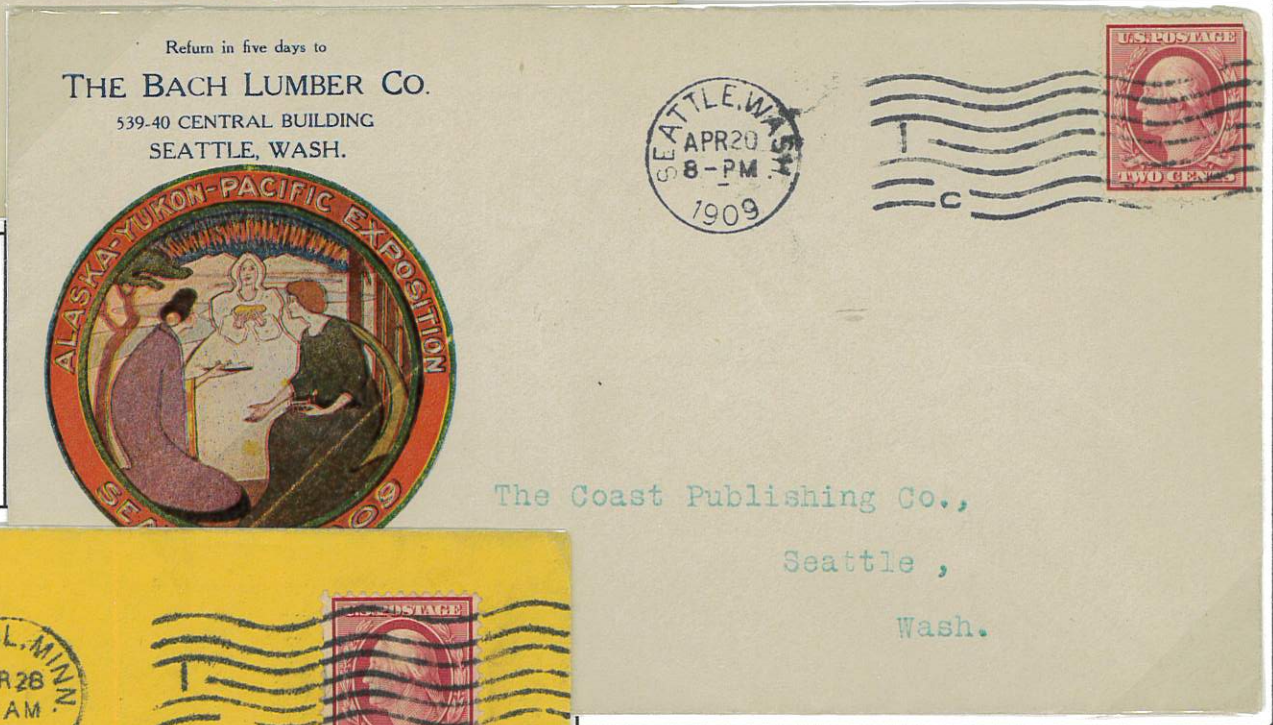
Long Dist. Bell Phone
Court 1919.

WILL SELL AS A WHOLE.

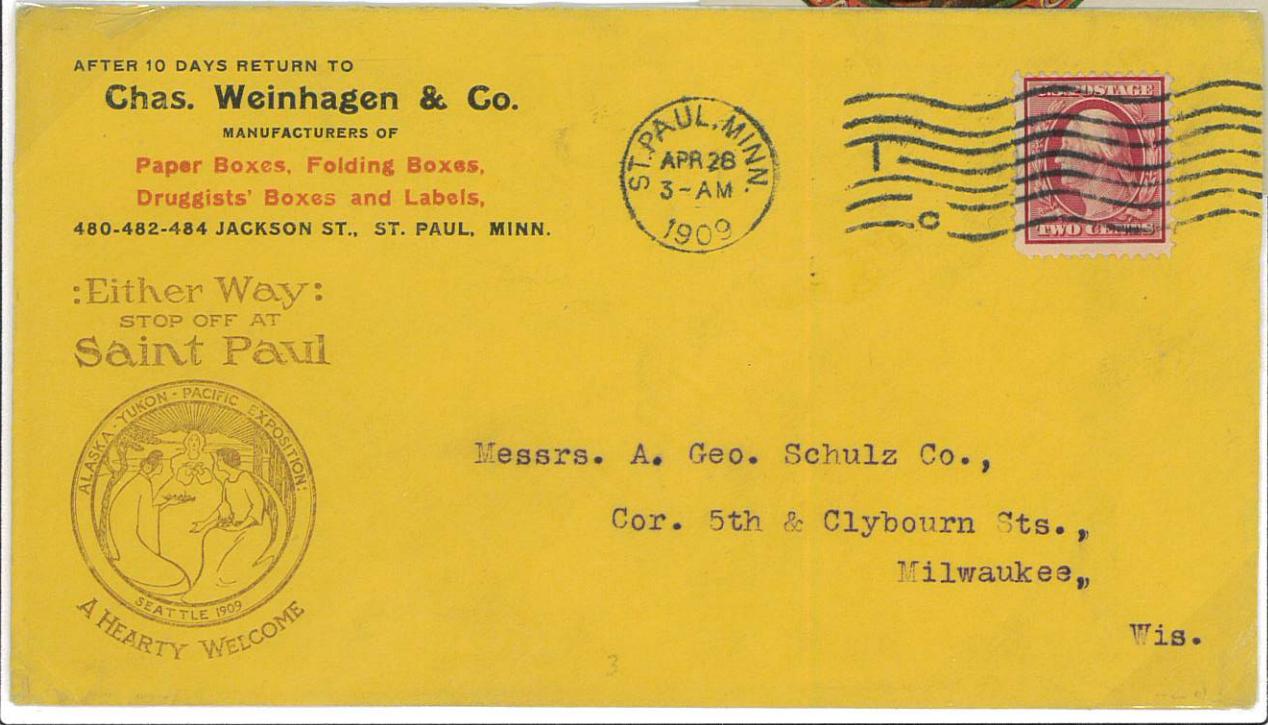
It is April and the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition is due to open in Seattle on June 1. We can get a sense of the coming excitement from these three covers all bearing the seal of the exposition. Please note the cover from St Paul, Minnesota, suggesting St Paul as an ideal spot to stop off en route



Seattle, Was to New London, Conn
April 19,1909
International machine cancel



Seattle, Was local
April 20,1909
International machine cancel



St. Paul, Minn to Milwaukee, Wis
April 28,1909
International machine cancel

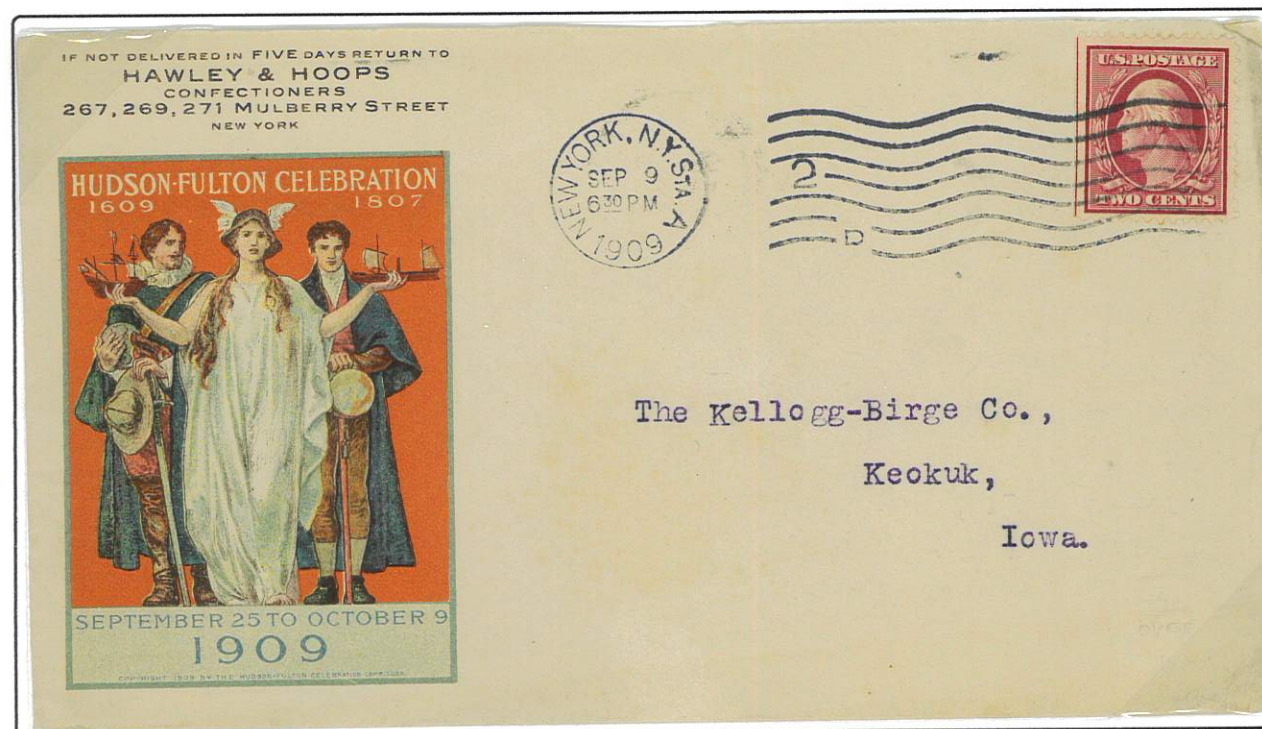
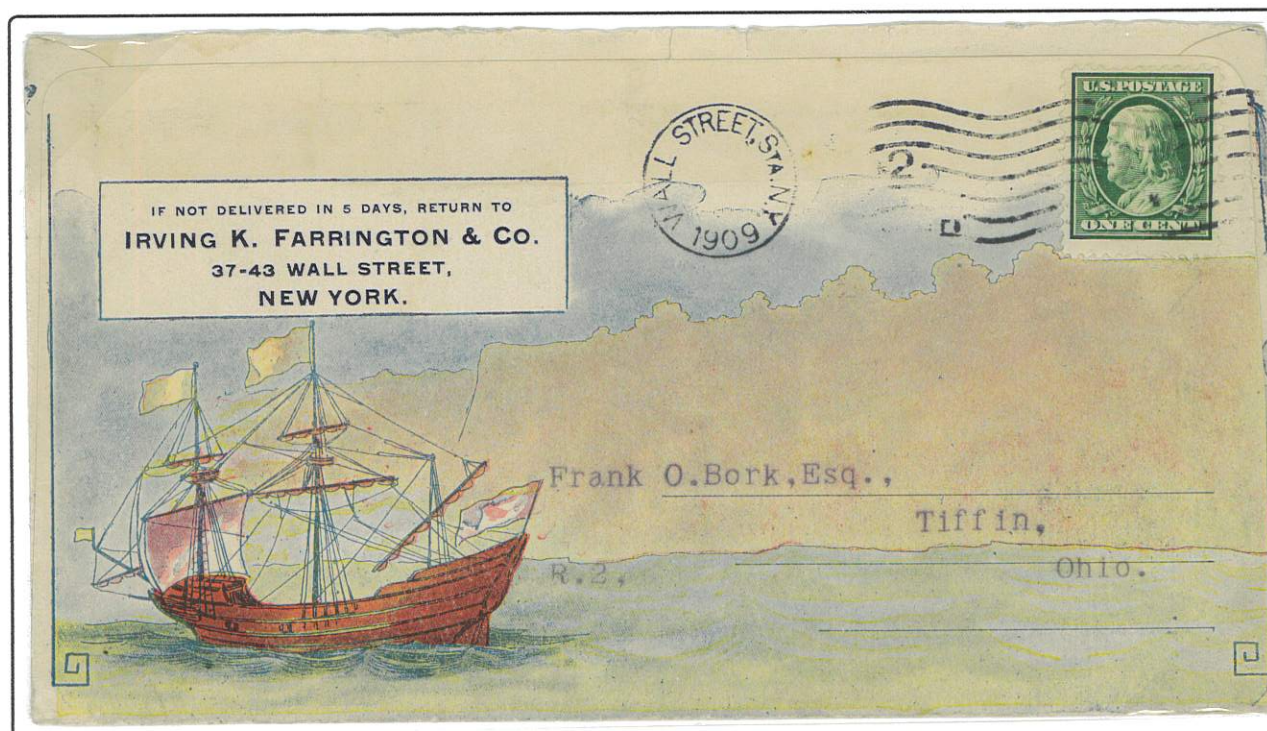
A note regarding the cancels on this page: the "C" in the killer portion of these cancels usually denotes an item collected from a mail box and the "1" digit the machine used. It is likely that the two Seattle covers were canceled by the same device.

Two Hudson Fulton themed lithographed cover types, both showing routine domestic commercial use. Technically, the Hudson Fulton Celebration was not an "official" expo and this would create an "issue" with the USPOD which initially termed the event a "centennial" and not a "celebration".

Bew York, NY to Tiffin, Oh
sent 3rd class (note the lack of a date in
the cancel) and therefore correctly franked
with a 1¢ 3rd Bureau stamp
1909
International machine cancel



reverse side



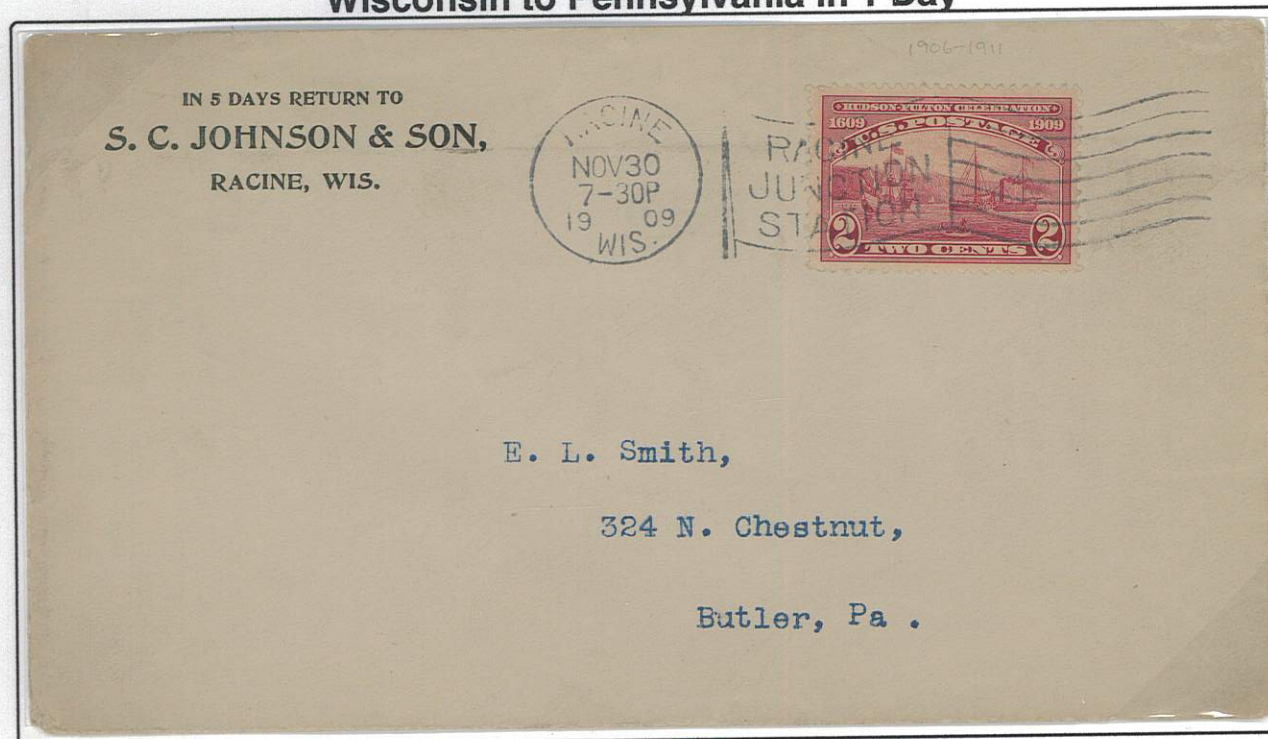
New York, NY to Keokuk, Iowa
Sept 9, 1909
International machine cancel

The cachet applied to this envelope, is the first cachet specifically developed and produced for a US commemorative stamp.

Notice the customized return address. Examples of uses of this cachet are fairly common.

Having now explored the basic scope of the US postal system in 1909, we can now turn to the basic expectations for service from such a system. Since the very beginnings of postal systems, speed has been an major objective, always speed and more speed....

Wisconsin to Pennsylvania in 1 Day



Racine, Wis to Butler, Pa

Novemeber 30, 1909

back stamped received on December 1, 1909

Racine, Wisconsin is approximately 75 miles north of Chicago

Butler, Pennsylvania is approximately 50 miles north of Pittsburgh, Pa

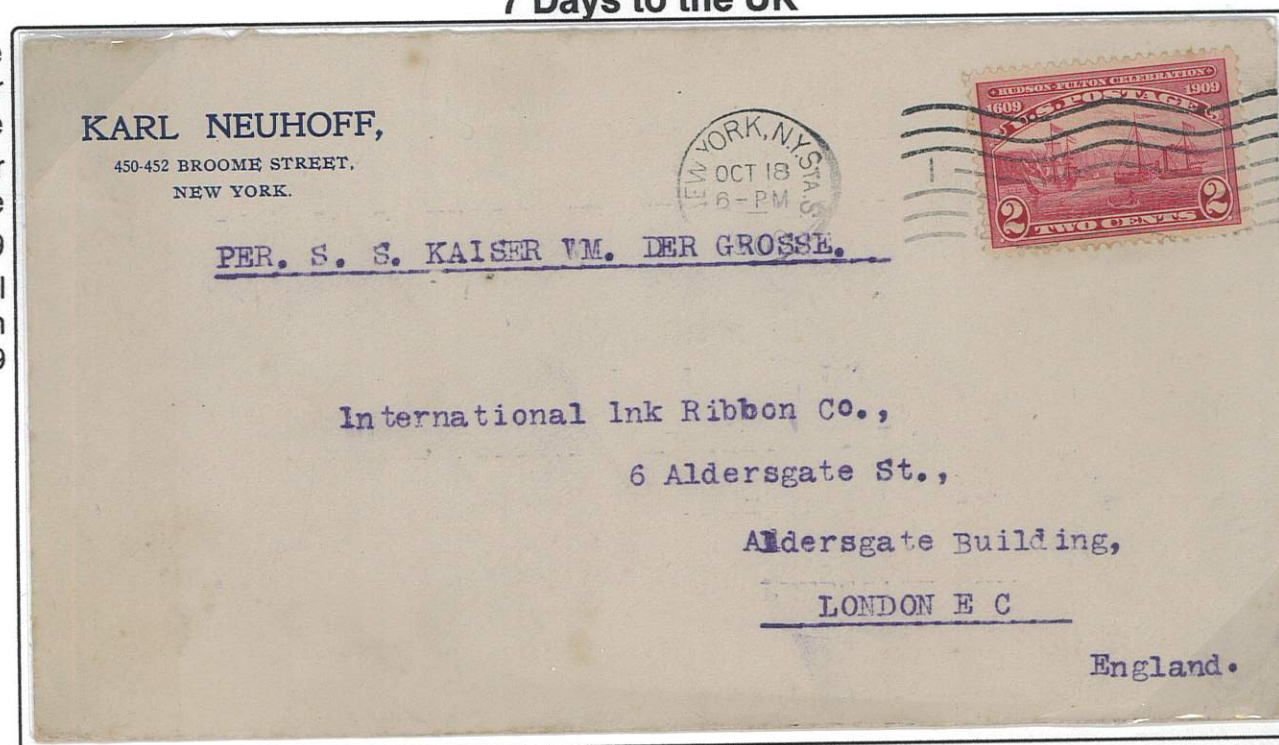
7 Days to the UK

New York to London by way of the Norddeutscher Lloyd Line ship the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse

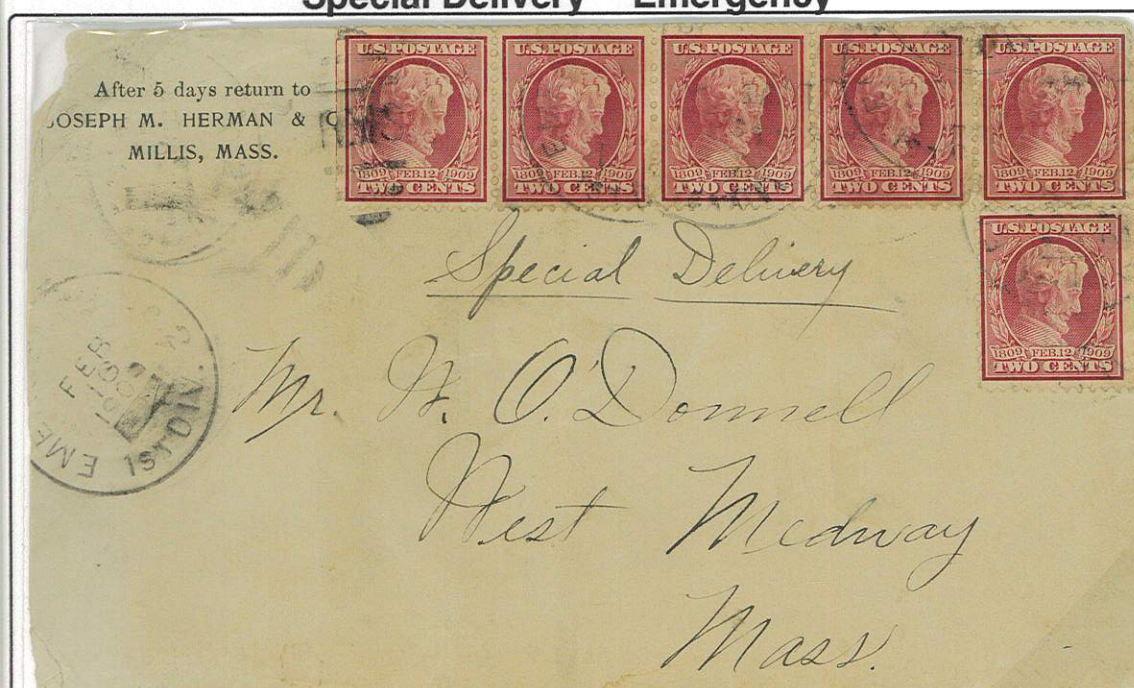
The treaty rate was 2¢ for a letter rather than the usual 5¢ UPU rate

October 11, 1909

International machine cancel
London machine circular receiver on
back dated 25 October 1909



Special Delivery - "Emergency"



Mills, Mass to West Medway, Mass
sent special delivery with six 2¢ Lincoln Memorial stamps for a total franking of 12¢: 10¢ for special delivery and 2¢ for 1st class service
February 16, 1909
The CDS dial is marked "EMERGENCY" the reverse has a hand stamp next day at 10am

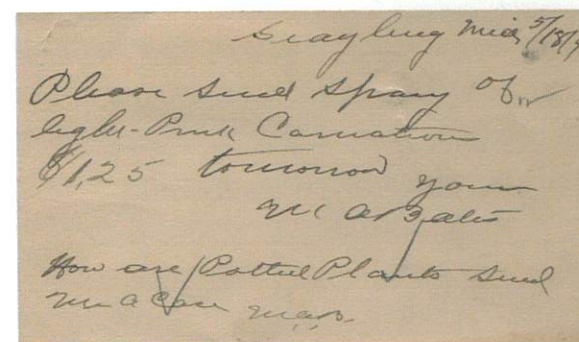
Special Delivery - Same Day Delivery

from Clarkston, Mich to Pontiac, Mich
August 30, 1909
postmarked at 10am and received at the Pontiac
post office at 11:30am

One Hour Special Delivery

to Lancaster., Penn
June 12, 1909
Delivery within one hour.
Postmarked at 7pm and received at
8pm

Postal Card sent Special Delivery



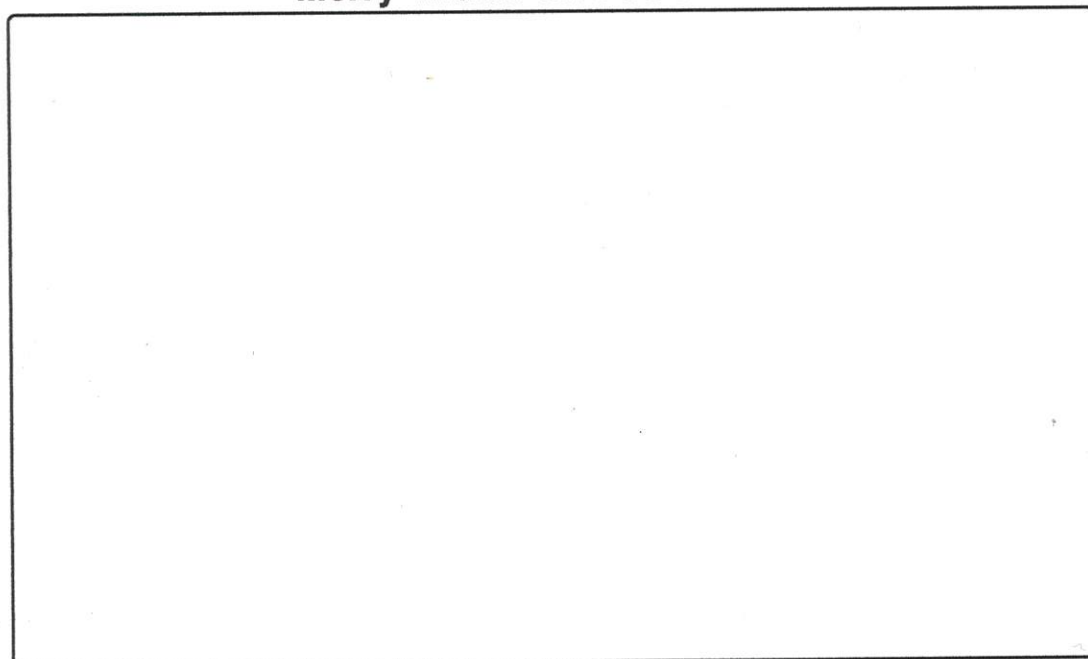
The card is postmarked at 6pm on the 17th and the receiving mark is at 1pm the next day. The sender requested that a spray of light-pink carnations be sent.

Bay City, Mich to
Grayling, Mich

sent special delivery using a 1¢
McKinley 1907 series postal card,
second series wherein correspon-
dence is permitted on the front, left

May 17, 1909

Merry Widow on Postal Card



Brooklyn, NY to Manhattan, NY
December 22, 1909

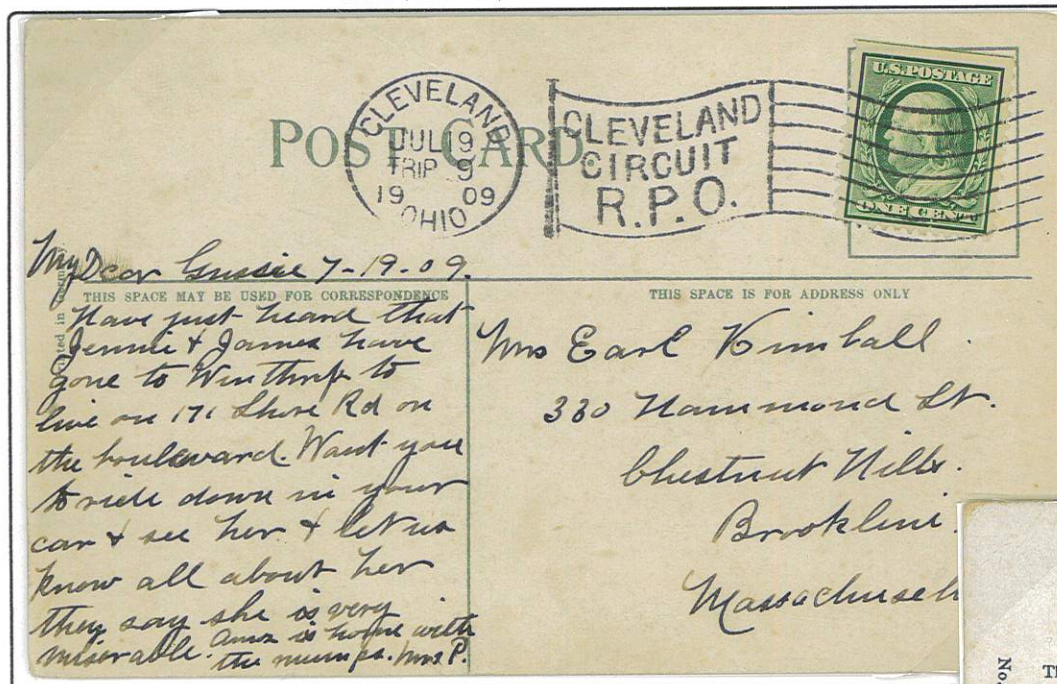
very unusual and scarce use of the "Merry Widow" special delivery stamp on a postal card

One of 12 (recently 5!) recorded uses of the Merry Widow special delivery stamp on a post or postal card

The postal card is postmarked at 4am and based on a pencil notation was received at 6am

The sender was informing his employer that he could not report to work that day due to illness. Please note the mark created by the spindling of the card.

CLEVELAND CIRCUIT RPO

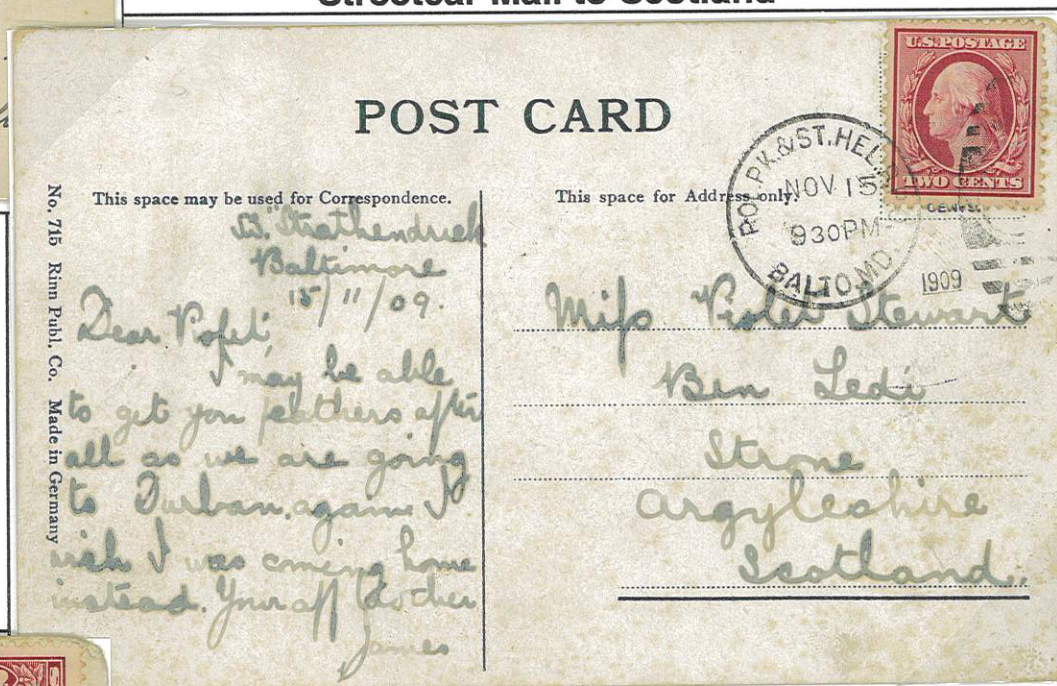


July 19, 1909

Cleveland, Oh to Brookline, Mass

please note the flag slogan cancel, "Cleveland Circuit RPO". A street car processing service

Streetcar Mail to Scotland

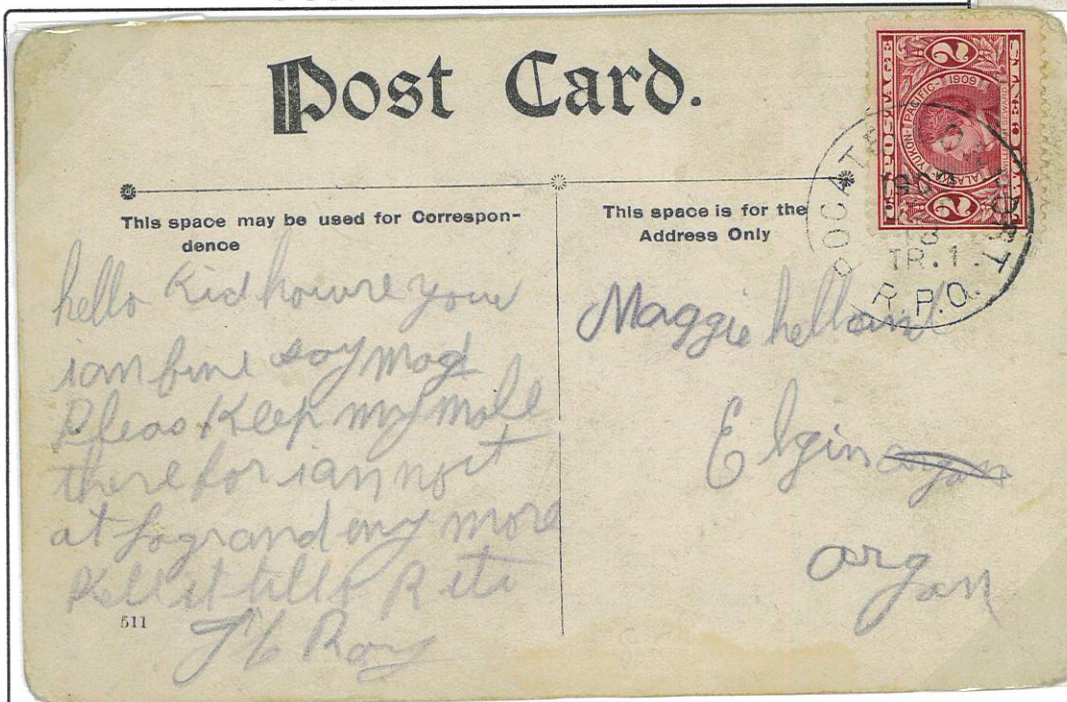


Baltimore, Md to Strone, Argylshire, Scotland, UK

UPU rated post card sent to the UK via the "Roland Park & St Helena RPO", a streetcar post office processing point

November 25, 1909

Pocatello & Portland RPO



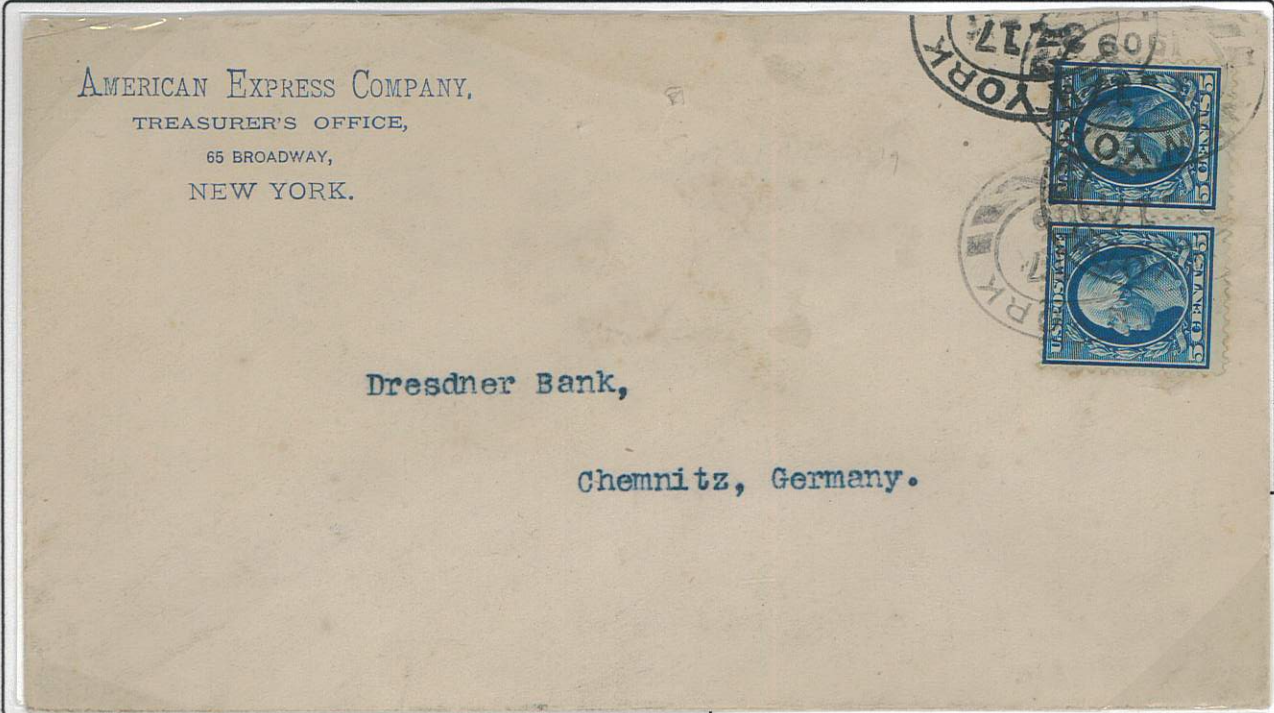
To Elgin, Oregon

via the Pocatello & Portland RPO

October 13, 1909

hand stuck cancel

Supplementary Mail to Germany



New York, NY to Chemnitz, Germany
10¢ paying the UPU 5¢ rate plus the 5¢ supplementary fee.
April 3, 1909

Supplementary mail is a system where mail posted after the regular bags were closed and within a short period of time before a ship sailed could be placed in special bags for a fee and still be posted. United States introduced this procedure July 7, 1853. The extra charge was equal to "ordinary" postage fee, hence in this case, the sender paid twice the usual UPU rate.

Special Delivery to Ship Passenger

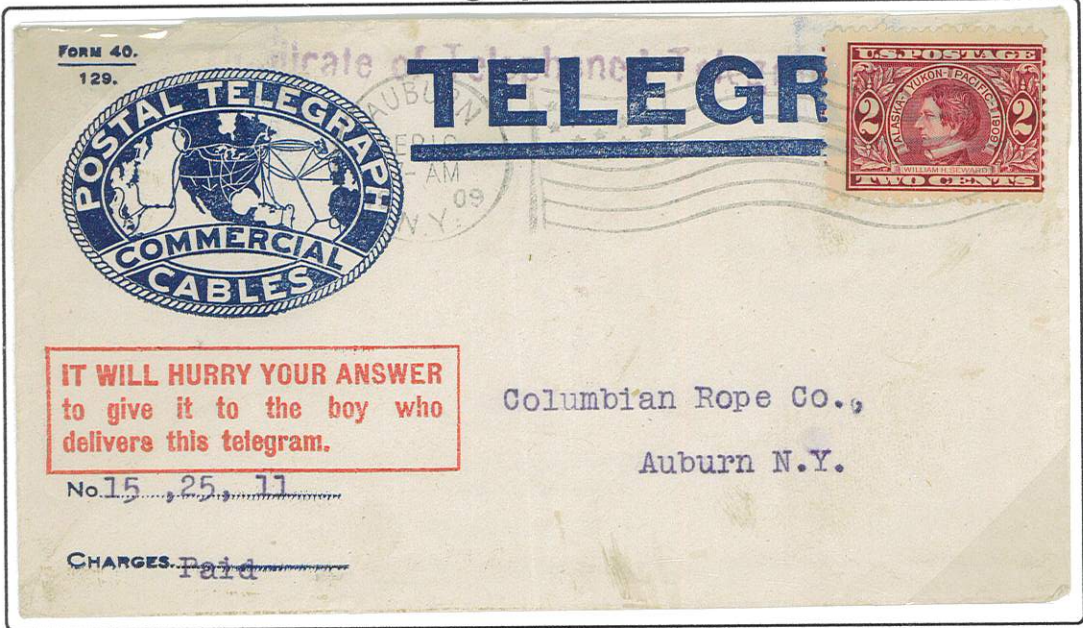
Provo, Utah to SS Manchuria, leaving San Francisco
The sender made use of the 10¢ "Merry Widow" special delivery stamp and a 2¢ 3rd Bureau issue stamp.
The special delivery fee was claimed by the San Francisco PO as per the added hand stamp.
Cover is inscribed "Do not open until June 26th"
June 21, 1909
back stamped: "Ogden & San Francisco RPO" on June 22 and the San Francisco post office on June 23

US Seapost



Los Angeles, Calif to Gotha, Germany via New York and Seapost
13¢ covered both the 8¢ registry fee and 5¢ UPU rate to Germany.
sent registered, from Los Angeles with a **1549a** label attached. New York added a red registry label adhesive.
Sent via seapost, the letter was sorted at sea and back hand stamped "U.S. SEAPOST/ AUG/10/1909".
Most probably this cover was placed into a registered mail pouch destined for the Continent and offloaded at Cherbourg, France.
August 2, 1909

Telegraph Envelope

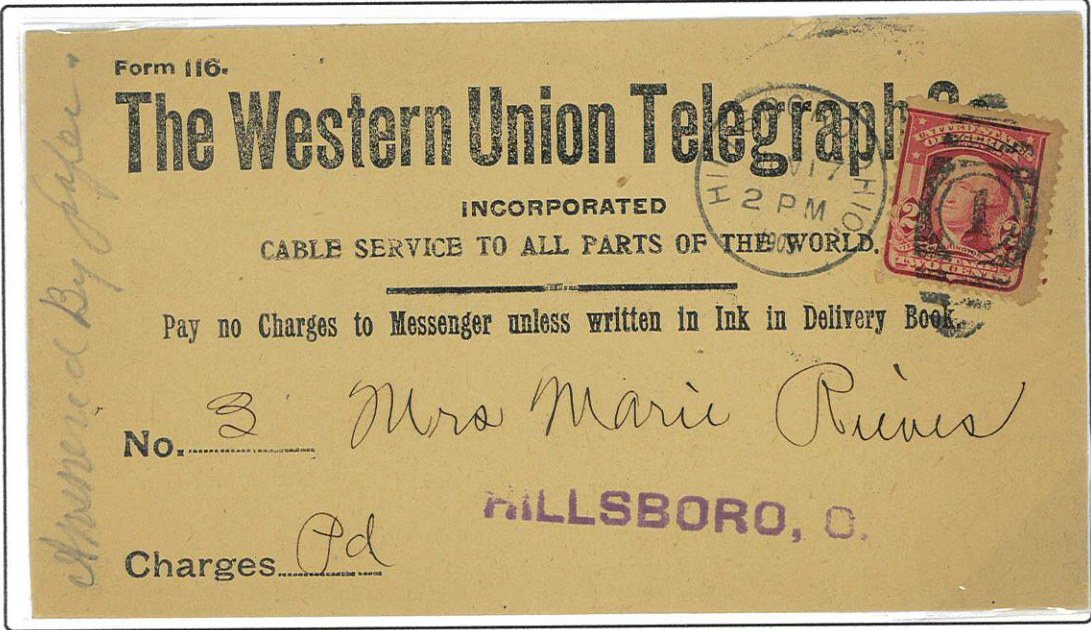


Auburn, NY local
September 16, 1909

Across the top of this cover, hand
stamped in violet is the message:
"Duplicate of the telephoned tele-
gram"

September 16, 1909
Flag machine cancel

Western Union

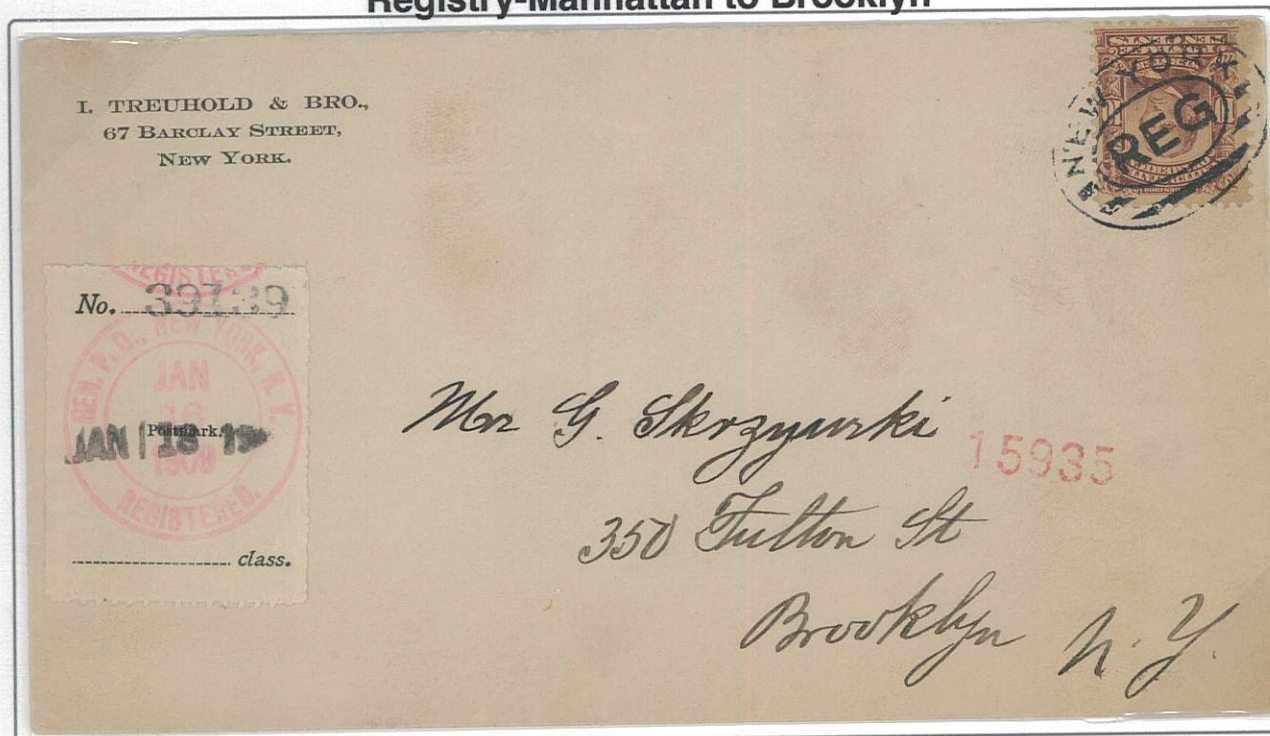


Hillsboro, Ohio

November 17, 1909
hand stuck cancel

Speed, while an attractive and desirable attribute for a postal system, however, security, confidence on the part of the postal patron that a pre-paid letter once mailed will reach the intended recipient is an absolute requirement.

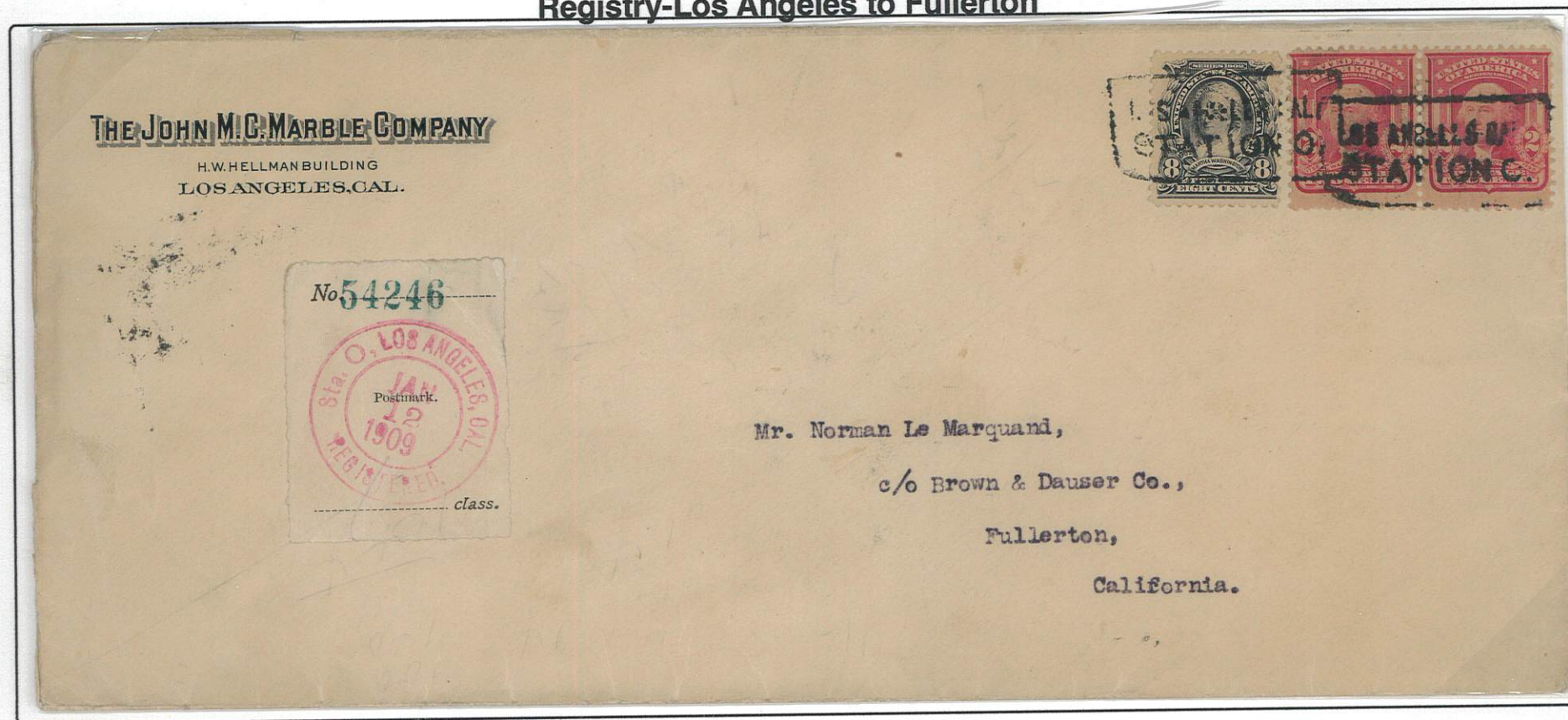
Registry-Manhattan to Brooklyn



New York, NY to Brooklyn, NY
franked with a 1902 series 10¢, satisfying the
2¢ first class and 8¢ registry fee
January 16, 1909
hand stamp registered mail cancel
New York Form 1549A registry label applied
back stamped with New York registry hand
stamps

Los Angeles, Cal to Fullerton, Cal
franked with a 1902 2nd Bureau series 8¢ and
two type II 2¢ stamps satisfying the 2¢ first
class and 8¢ registry fee
January 12, 1909
hand stamp registered mail cancel
Los Angeles Form 1549A registry label applied

Registry-Los Angeles to Fullerton



Registered Mourning Cover

Pittsburgh, Penn to Charlestown, W. Va
mourning cover

January 15, 1909

hand stamp registered mail cancel

PITTSBURGH FORM 1549A REGISTRY LABEL

1549A labels from Pittsburgh constitute less
than 5% of surviving examples of the label
type.



Official Letter, sent Registry with Multiple Notices

Spokane, Wa local

Official letter sent
registry, requiring
only the 8¢ registry
fee.

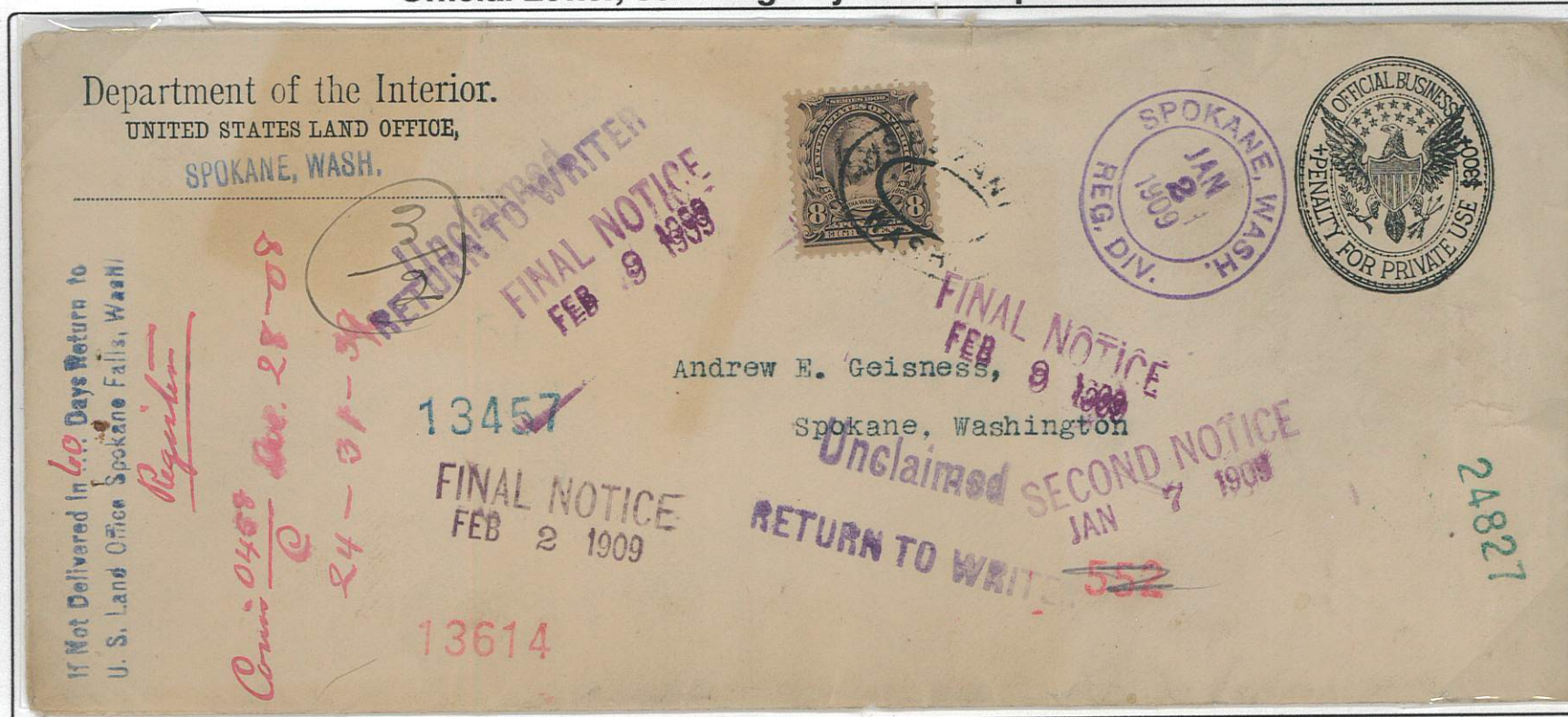
January 15, 1909

Spokane registry
hand stamp.

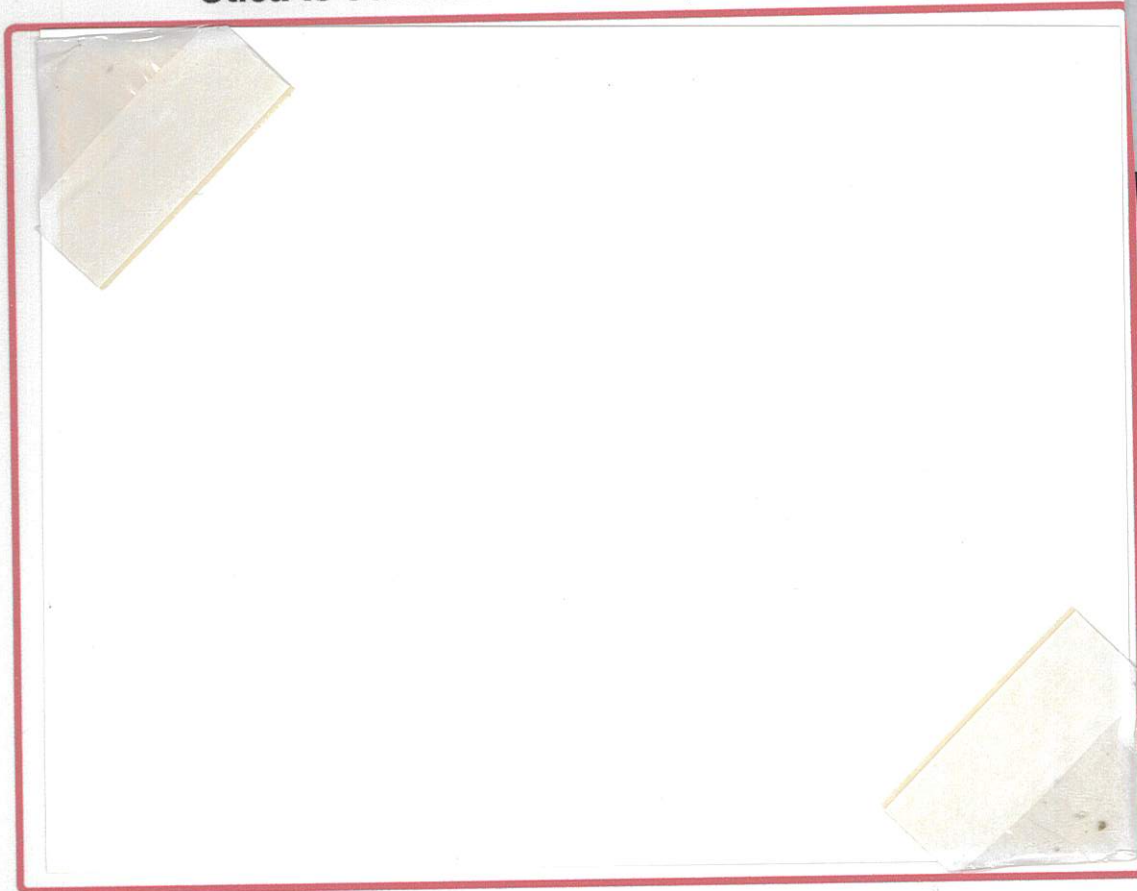
as a form of "certi-
fied mail".

Delivery was attempted
on 3 occasions and
finally returned to the
sender.

Letter still has contents
which are not valuable.
This use would seem
to confirm our instincts
that registry was not
always used for valu-
ables, but also as a
form of "certified mail".



Utica to Jerusalem via NYC; Solo Use 13¢



Philadelphia to Brisbane via SF FO

Philadelphia, Penn to Brisbane, Australia via the
San Francisco Exchange Foreign Office
13¢ (8¢ registry fee & 5¢ UPU rate to Australia);
the 1902 5¢ Lincoln plus the 1¢, 6¢ & 3¢ 3rd
Bureau Washington Franklin series stamps on a
1¢ 1903 postal stationery envelope.

March 10, 1909
hand stamps

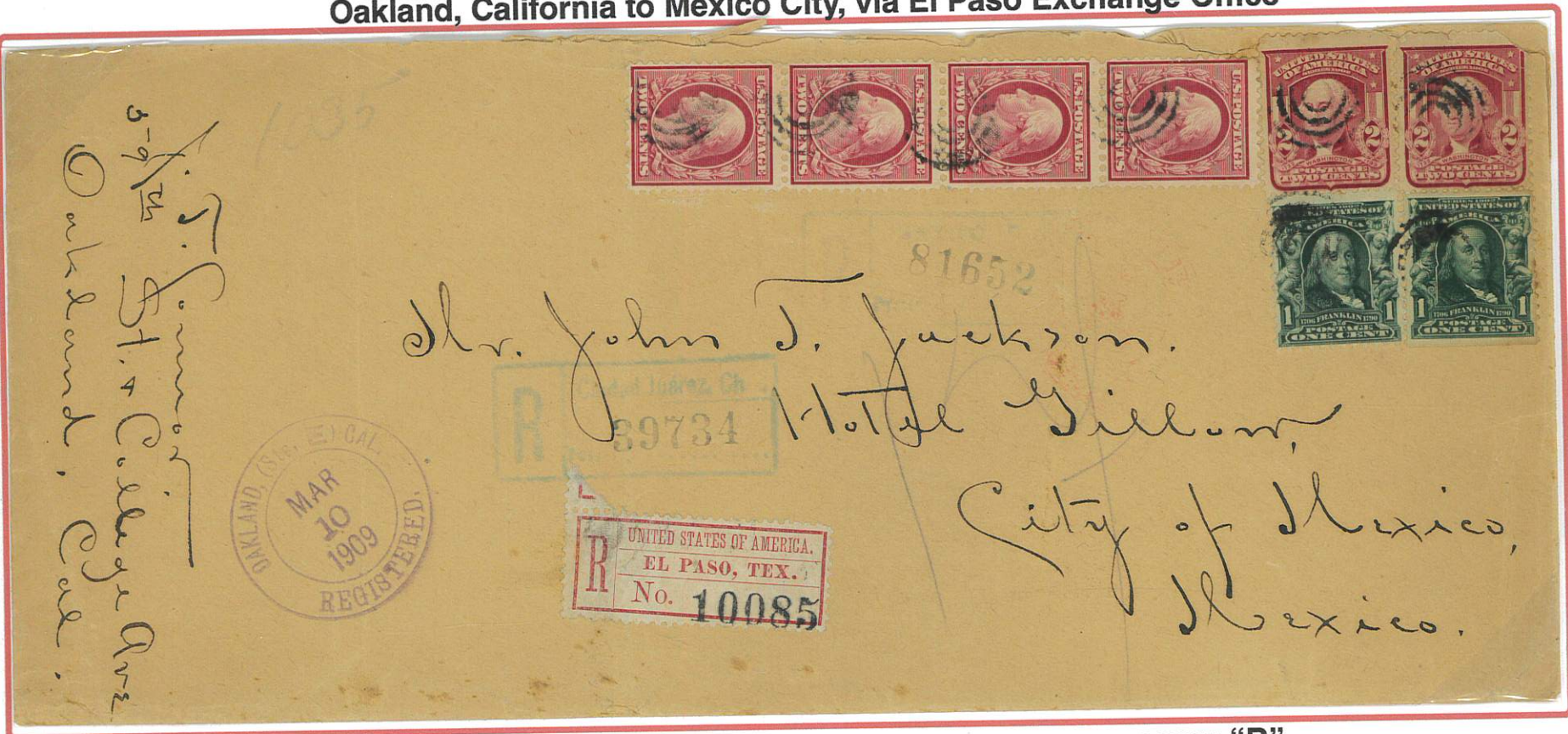
SAN FRANCISCO EXCHANGE OFFICE REGISTRY LABEL

Philadelphia Registry hand stamp

back stamped both in San Francisco (March 14)
& Brisbane, Australia (April 17)



Oakland, California to Mexico City, via El Paso Exchange Office



THE EL PASO LABEL ON THIS COVER IS THE LATER PRINTING WITH THE ROMAN "R".
29 OF THIS TYPE KNOWN

March 10, 1909

El Paso, Tex to Mexico City, Mexico

sent registered

8¢ registered and 6¢ for triple-weight under the US-Mexico treaty (14¢ in total), franked with four 2¢ 3rd Bureau, two 2¢, and two 1¢ 2nd Bureau stamps

Boston to Paris, via Registry



Boston, Mass to Paris France, re-directed within Paris.

Sent registered with **both** a Boston form 1549A label and a Boston Exchange Office label applied

13¢ 2nd Bureau stamp pays the 8¢ registry fee and 5¢ UPU rate to France

September 15, 1909

The use of a domestic 1549A label in addition to the Boston Exchange office was redundant, especially so from the same office.

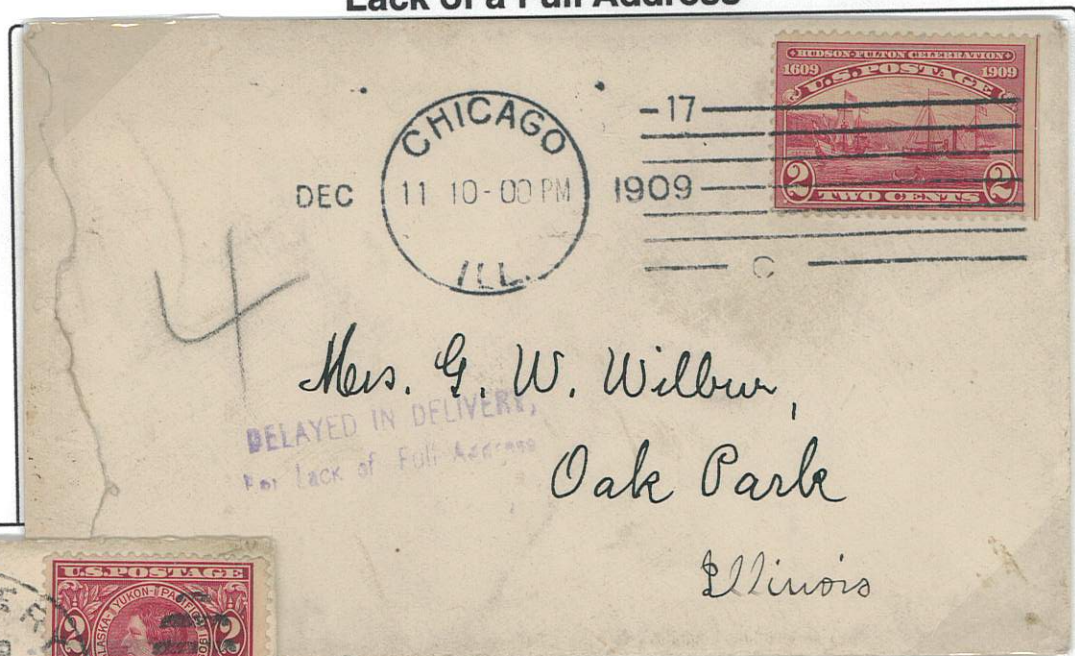
Markings

Inadequate or Inaccurate Addresses Domestic Destinations

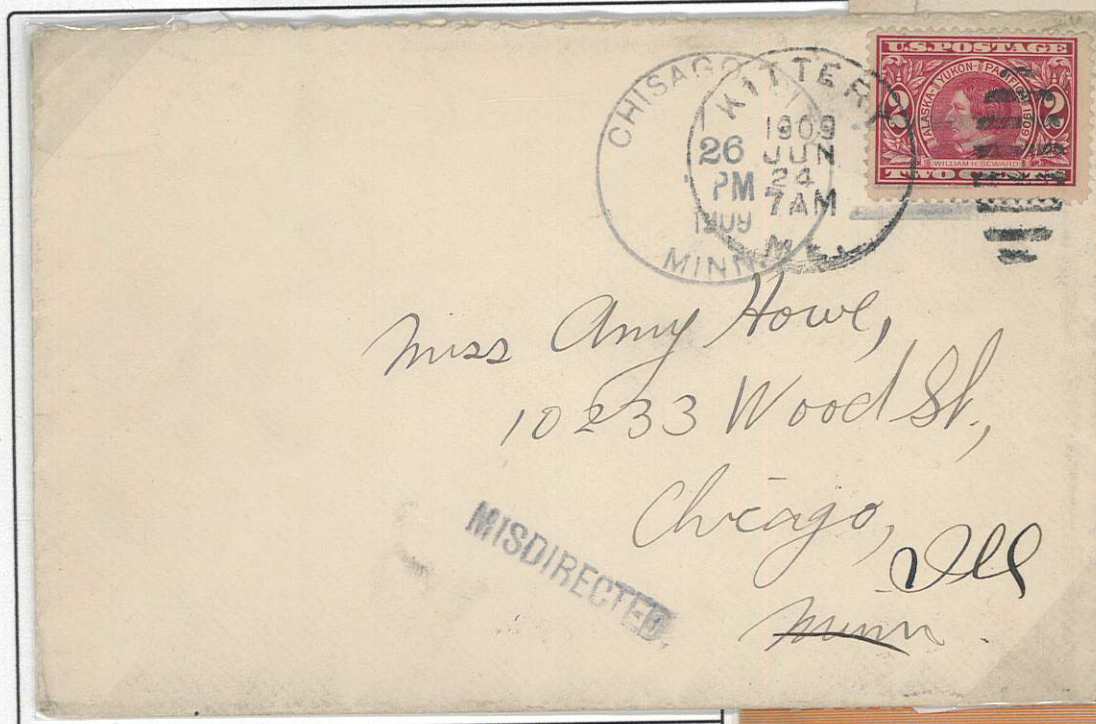
Can the postal patron have confidence that the letter given to the post office will actually make it to the intended destination even if that requires overcoming the occasional patron error, or the recipient moving about?

Lack of a Full Address

Chicago, Ill to Oak Park, Ill
December 11, 1909
Time/Cummins cancel
"Delayed in Delivery/ For lack
of full address" violet hand
stamp



Mis-Addressed Mail

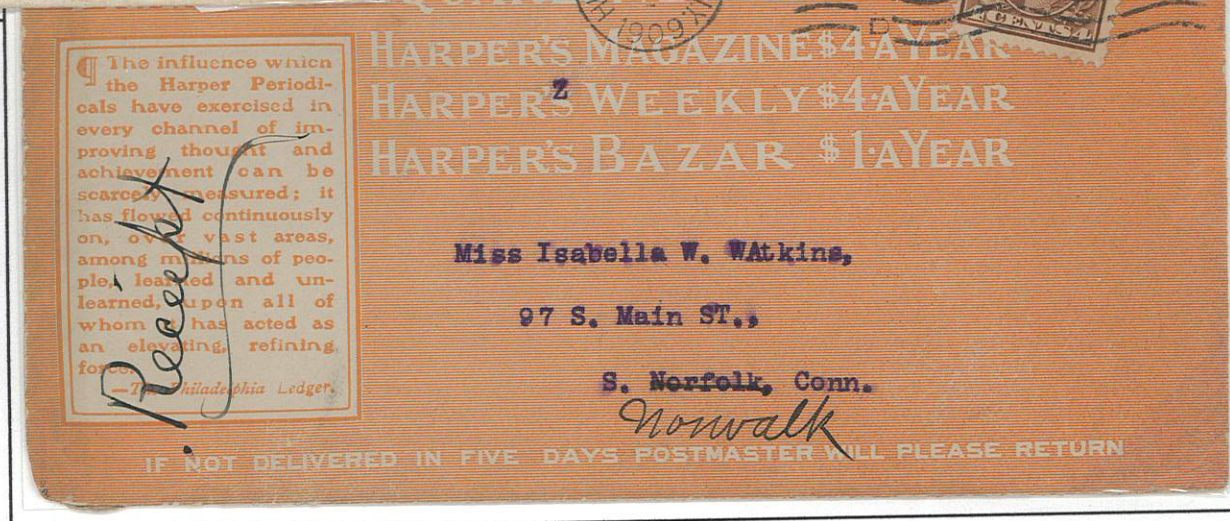


Kittery, Me to Chicago, Ill, mis-directed to Chicago, Minnesota
address as entered incorrectly as "Minn" and not "Ill".
June 24, 1909
"MISDIRECTED" hand stamp on front

Norwalk-Norfolk?

New York, NY to South Norwalk, Conn mis-addressed to Norfolk, Conn
4¢ 3rd Bureau issue stamp paying doubled weight with an "H&B" perfin.

The writer mistakenly sent this cover to Norfolk, CT which is Litchfield County near the Massachusetts border before the PO sent it to the proper destination in Fairfield County near Long Island Sound
October 6, 1909



Newspaper Wrapper to London, Re-directed to Berne

Newport, RI to London, England, redirected to
Berne, Switzerland

A newspaper wrapped using the 1904 re-cut
die.

Franked at 2¢, would imply the weight on the
newspaper being sent as less than 2oz.

July 1909



Baltimore to Naples re-directed to NYC



To Cheyenne, Wyoming
Re-directed to Geneva



Baltimore, Md to Naples, Italy, redirected to New York, NY
5¢ UPU rate prevailed use of 2¢ postal stationery resulted in
30c for the shortage in Italy. Redirected back to the US and
assessed 6¢ postage due, 3¢ short and 3¢ penalty.
December 30, 1909

San Diego, Cal to Cheyenne, Wy, redirected to Geneva,
Switzerland

Initially franked for US domestic 1st class with the 2¢
Alaska Yukon stamp, redirected in Cheyenne to Gene-
va with the convenience addition of two 2¢ 3rd Bureau
stamps, 1¢ in excess of the 5¢ UPU rate.

July 2, 1909

Forwarded Twice in Paris

Chicago, Ill to Paris, France
5¢ paid the UPU letter rate to France, forwarded on Jun 15
and then again on June 16
June 7, 1909

Forwarded from Paris to Nice



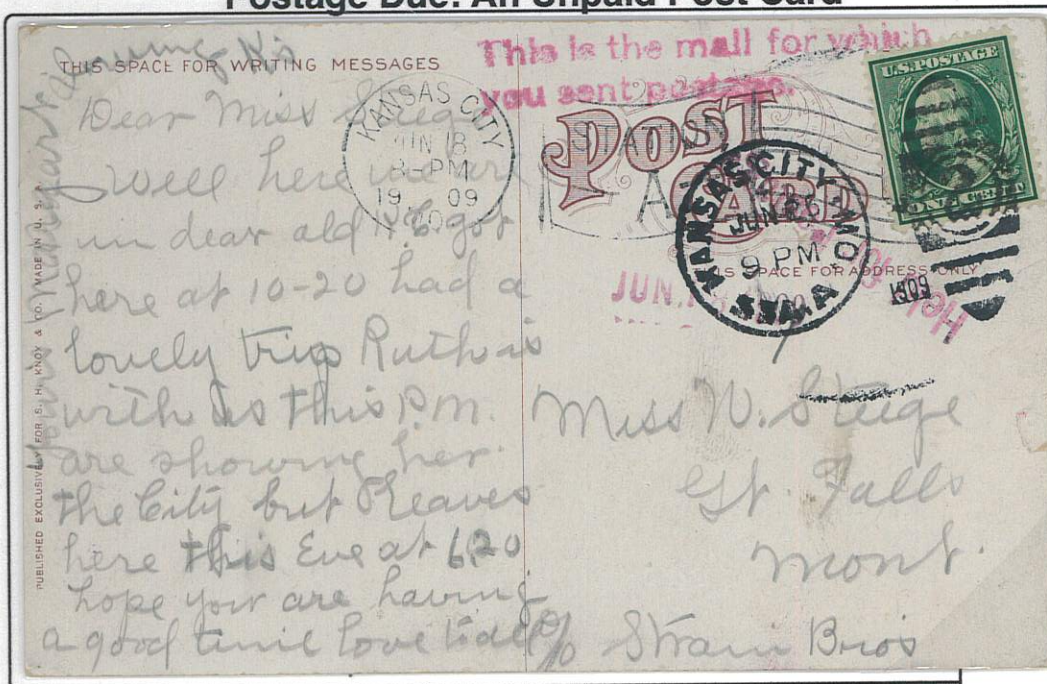
Around the World

New York, NY to Paris, forwarded to Nice, France
The 2¢ Lincoln Memorial underpaid the 5¢ UPU rate. 20 centimes due applied, then annulled, forwarded to Nice where 10 and 20 centimes dues were applied, May 18
May 3, 1909

Philadelphia, Pa to Switzerland, Japan, Uruguay, Egypt,
& Western Australia with messages in Esperanto
November 15, 1909



Postage Due: An Unpaid Post Card



Kansas City, Mo to St Falls, Mont evidently sent without postage. The receiving post office sent the recipient a notice requesting 1¢ postage which, once received, the post card was then delivered.

June 26, 1909

Postage Due: Special Delivery

Evansville, Ind to St Louis, Mo

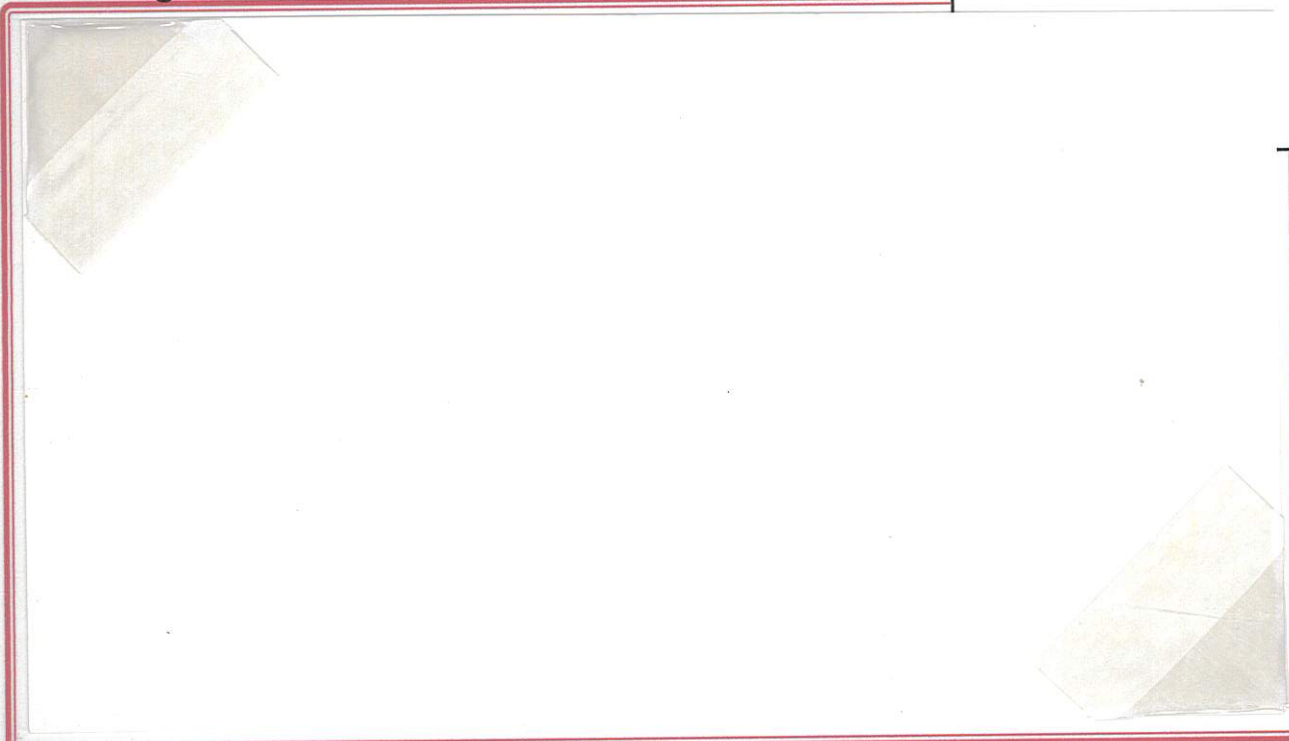
Special delivery letter with a special delivery stamp but without the 2¢ basic 1st class postage being paid.

Received the following day, a 2¢ postage due stamp being affixed

May 7, 1909

A Columbia rectilinear machine cancel

Postage Due: 1st Class Letter-Double Weight?



Warner, NH to Washington DC franked with a 2¢ blue paper 3rd Bureau issue stamp, with a 1895-1897 issue 2¢ postage due stamp with a manual notation of the amount due. Perhaps the letter was double weight?

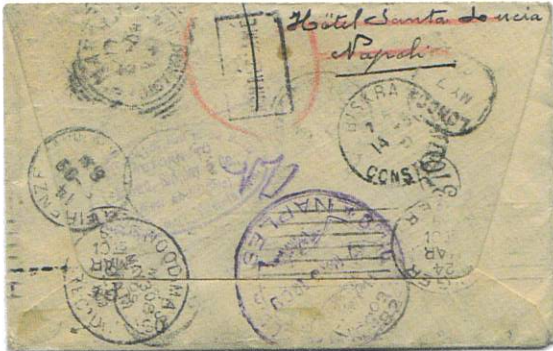
April 23, 1909

UNUSUAL USE OF THE BLUE
PAPER STAMP FROM A LOCATION
OTHER THAN WASHINGTON DC

Redirected 6 Times



- March 1, 1909
Dedham, Mass to London, UK
2¢ treaty rate to the UK paid by the Lincoln Memorial stamp
canceled by an ovate hand stamp in Dedham
- March 1 Dedham, Mass —→ London, UK 2¢ US postage
March 9 London, UK —→ Florence, Italy 15c postage due (Italy)
March 19 Florence, Italy —→ Algiers, Algeria 15c postage due (France)
March 24 Algiers, Algeria —→ London, UK
May 7 London, UK —→ Biskra, Algeria
May 14 Biskra, Algeria —→ Naples, Italy
May 17 Naples Italy —→ South Norwood, Ma arriving May 30



to Luxembourg, postage due

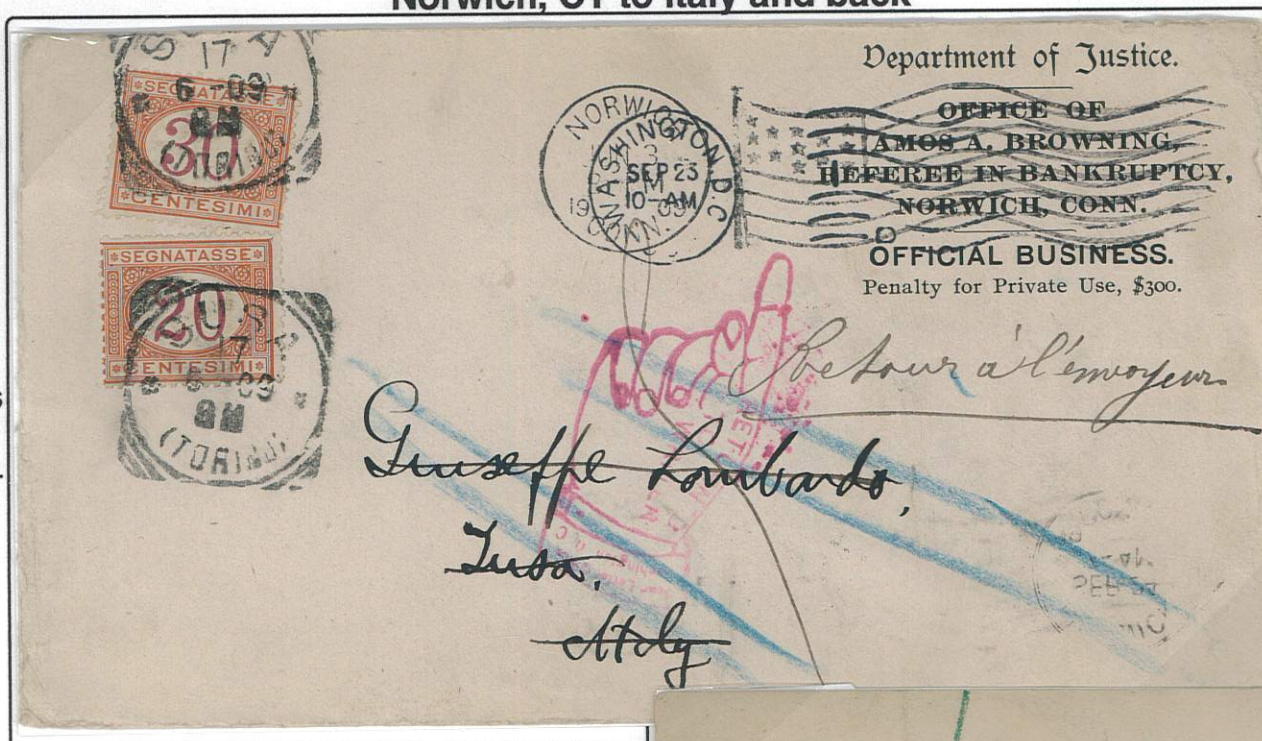


- West Baden Springs, Ind to Luxembourg
franked only with a 2¢ 2nd Bureau stamp,
short the 5¢ UPU rate. 30 centime shortage
marked in blue, 15 centime shortage and 15
centime penalty. Postage due paid and a 10
centime and 20 centime Luxembourg post-
age due adhesives affixed.
- January, 1909
- The West Baden Springs resort is still open and
at the time boasted the largest domed structure
in the world. The building is a National Historic
Landmark.*

Norwich, CT to Italy and back

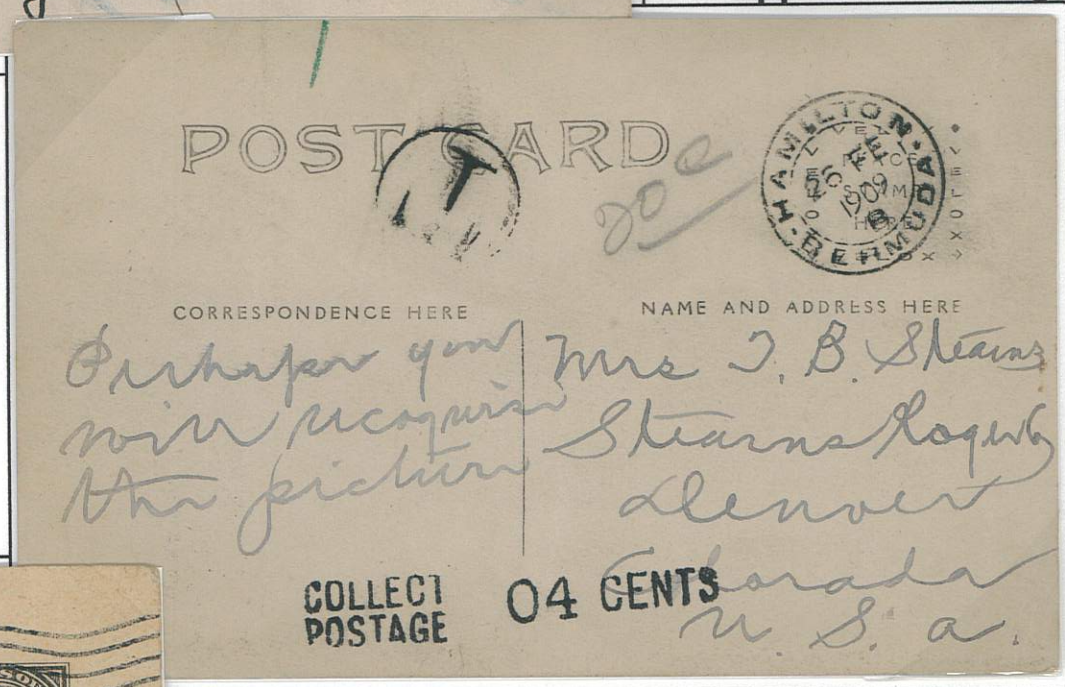
Norwich, Conn to Susa
(Turin), Italy and back
Official US Department
of Justice letter Italy, no
recipient being found,
returned to the sender
via Washington, DC
(September 23) arriv-
ing back in Norwich on
September 24.

The return postage was
paid by the two Italian
postage due adhesives.
June 3 to September
24, 1909



From Bermuda without
any
apparent franking

Bermuda to Denver, Co
This post card from Bermuda
appears to have entered mail
stream without postage.
Post due assessed of 2¢ for the
UPU post card rate doubled for
a penalty
26 February 1909

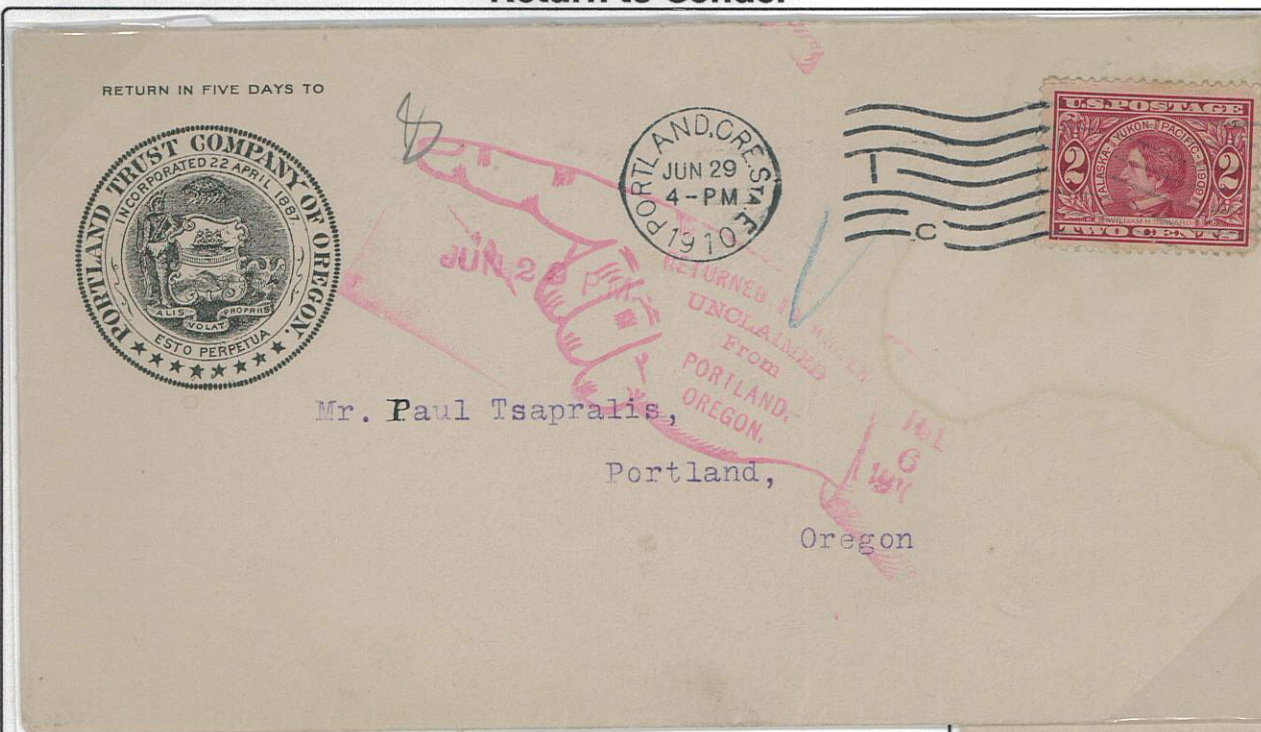


to Cairo, Egypt, with local postage due



St Louis, Mo to Cairo, Egypt
1¢ McKinley post card sent to Egypt.
underpaying the 2¢ UPU rate.
26 February 1909
New York, "T/NY/CENTIMES/10/A"
opera glasses international marking
cachet with an Egypt postage due 4m
affixed along with a local.
Cairo hand stamp canceling the due

Return to Sender



Portland, Or (local)

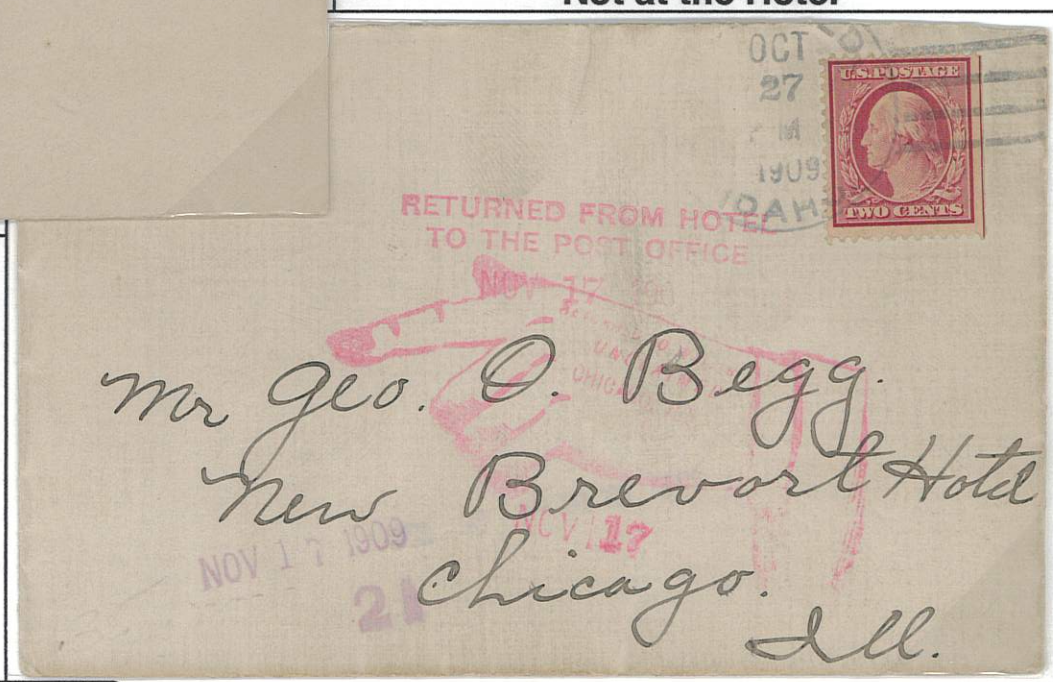
"RETURN TO WRITER/UNCLAIMED/FROM/
PORTLAND,/OREGON./JUL 6 1909"

June 29, 1909

International machine cancel

Pointing hand hand stamp

Not at the Hotel



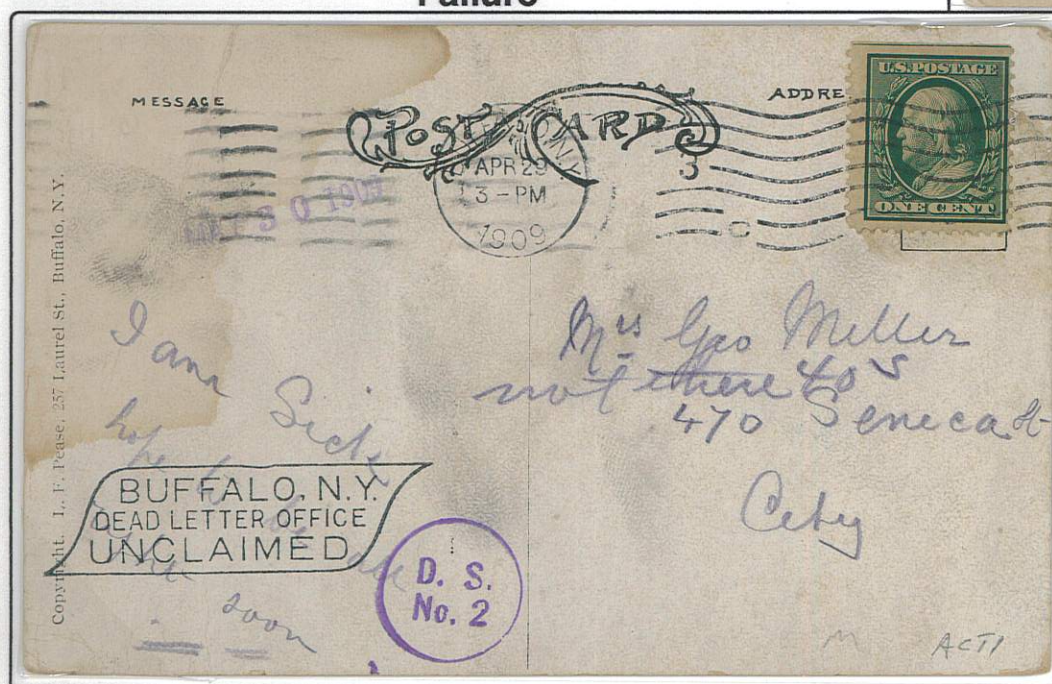
Idaho to Chicago, Ill
addressed to a guest staying at a
Chicago Hotel, unclaimed and re-
turned to sender. The pointed hand
has the legend "Returned from
Hotel to Post Office".

October 27, 1909

Four-bar hand stamp cancel

Pointed hand hand stamp

Failure



Buffalo, NY local

The recipient was not at the address, there was no
return address and the post office was not able to
deliver this item.

Sent to the Dead Letter Office and was unclaimed.

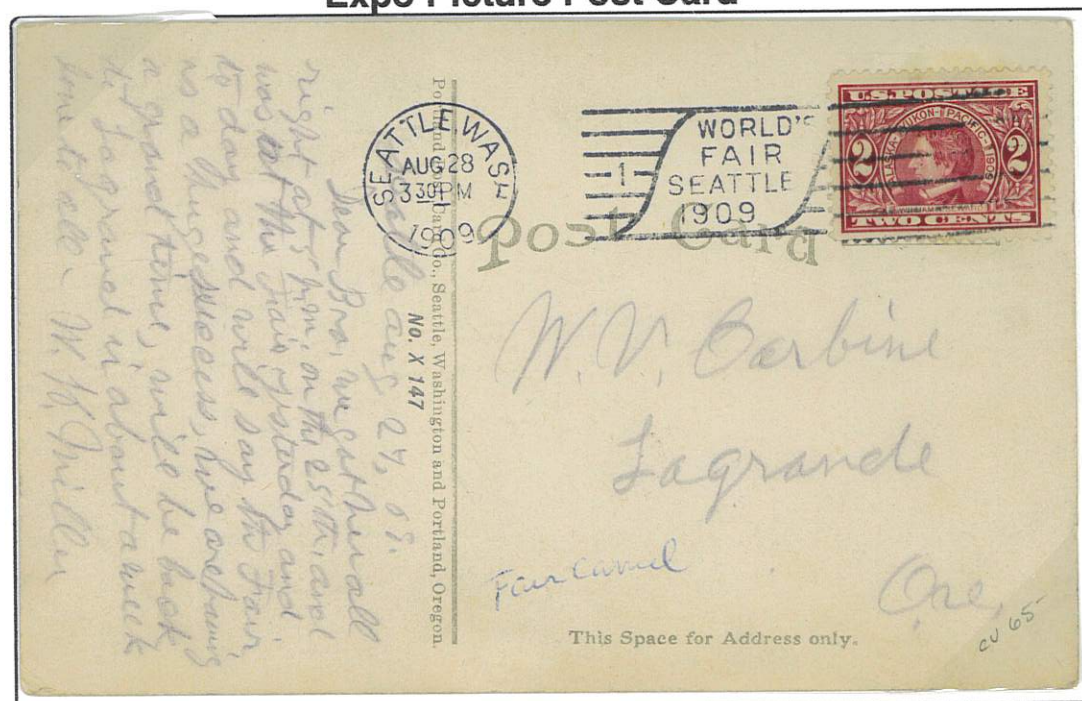
October 27, 1909

International machine cancel

DLO hand stamp

Expo Picture Post Card

from Seattle, Wa to Lagrande, Or
August 28, 1909
common "International" machine expo
cancel



AYPE Expo Card, Canceled but Never Mailed



September 4, 1909

"illegal" hand back

An International machine cancel with the words EXPOSITION STATION centered within 7 horizontal lines. The letter 'D' is located in the die space. This machine expo cancel is fairly common.

This exposition picture post card was franked and canceled at the AYPE but is not addressed and consequently could not have gone through the post. At this time, "hand backs" were not permitted and were contrary to postal regulations.

St Louis Centennial Parade Hand Stamp Cancel

1909 was a period of transition for postal cancellations. Hand stamps were in frequent use, but we see increasing signs of the mechanization of cancels

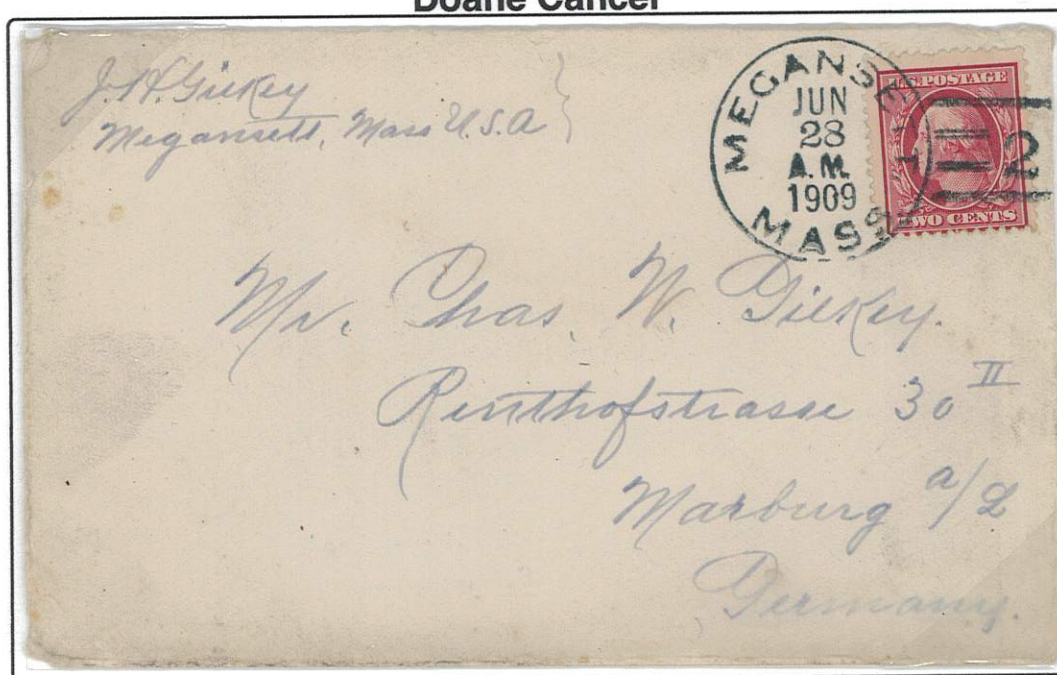
“Ordinary” Duplex Hand Stamp



Pittsburgh, Pa to Augsburg, Germany
September 26, 1909
canceled with a ovate duplex hand stamp
Second day of issue for the Hudson Fulton stamp

Doane Cancel

Megansett, Mass to Marburg,
Germany
via German steamer at the 2¢
treaty rate
June 28, 1909
type 2 Doane hand stamp cancel

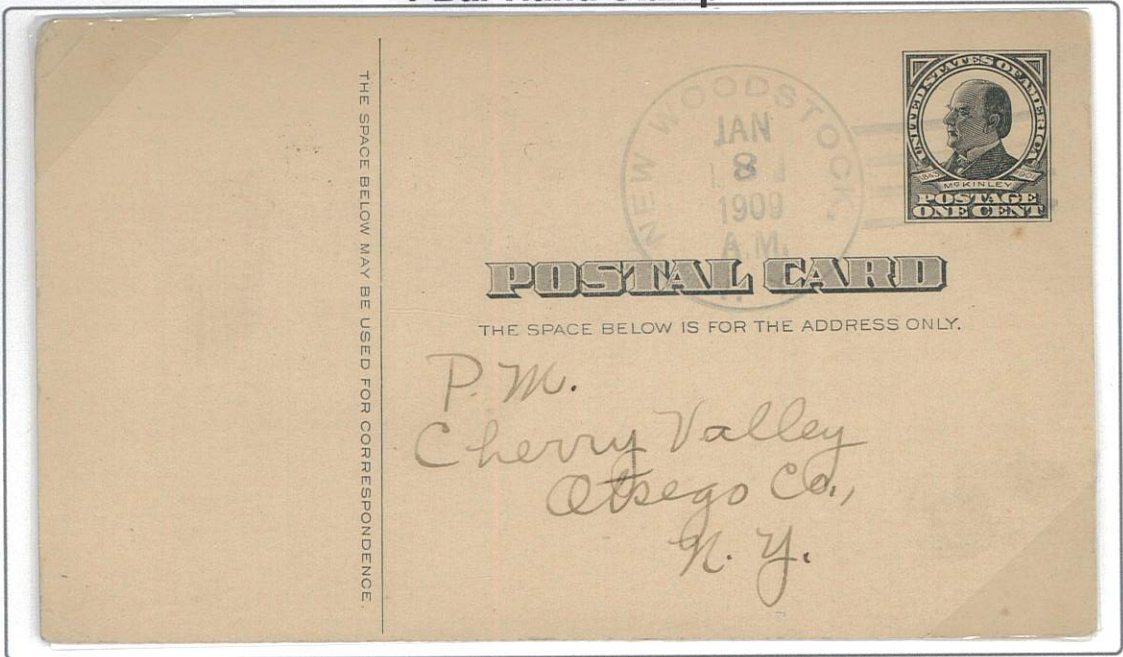


Markings

Hand stamps
4 Bar cancels

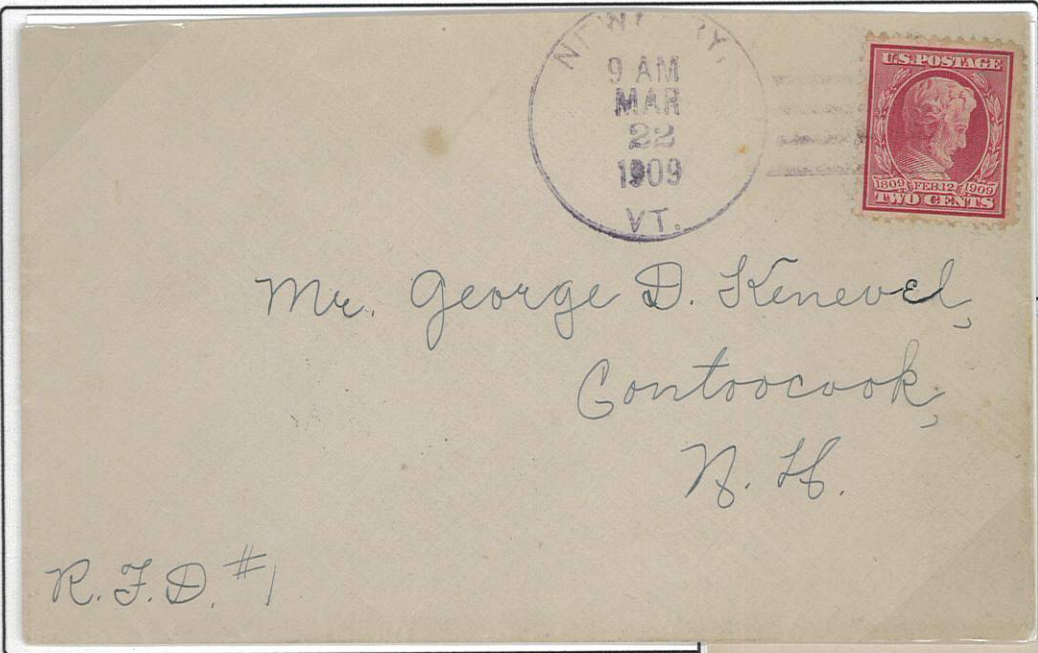
4-Bar Hand Stamp

New Woodstock, NY
to the Cherry Valley,
Otsego County, NY
Postmaster
January 8, 1909
A four-bar hand
stamp cancel, used
in smaller offices as
a replacement for
Doane cancels



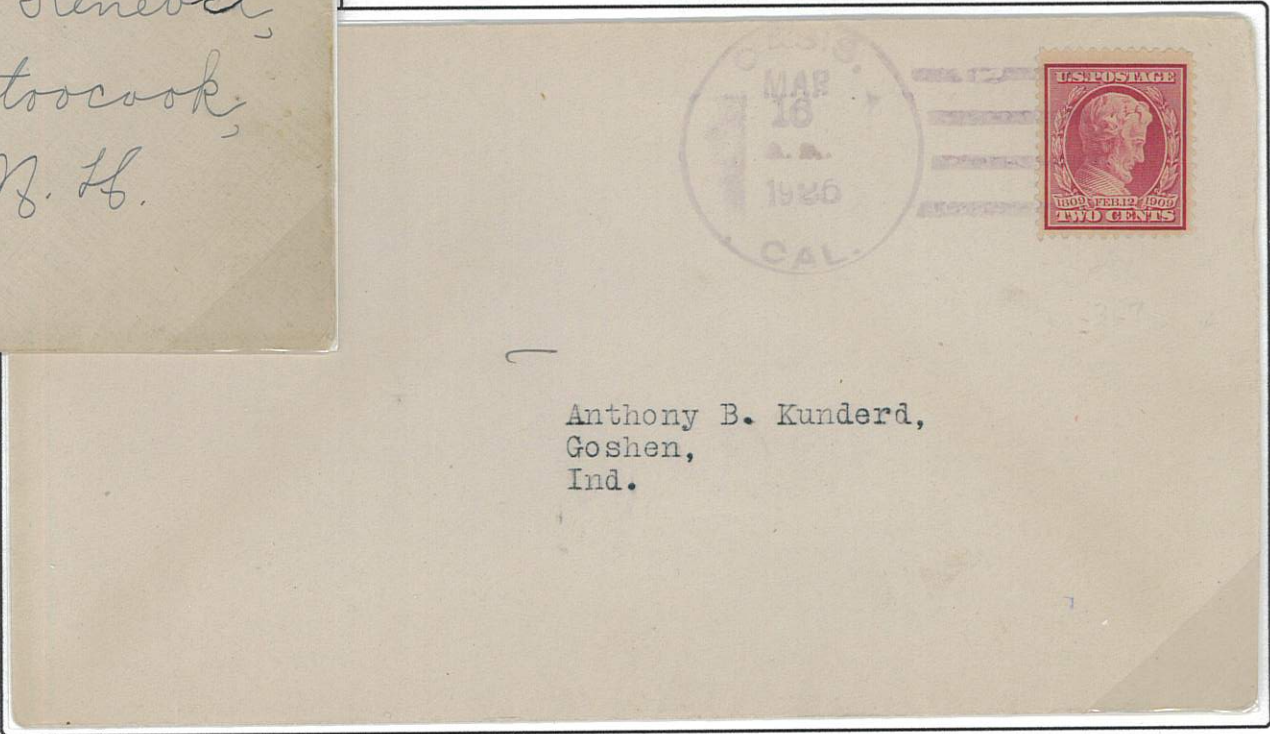
The Doane cancel, introduced in 1903, was primarily used by smaller post offices and had been largely replaced (introduced in 1906) by new 4 bar steel hand cancel hand stamps. Hand canceling devices were typically well cared for by postmasters and could easily remain serviceable for 10 years or more.

Violet 4-Bar Cancel



Newbury, Vt to Contoocook, NH
Rural Free Delivery
March 22, 1909
please note the violet four-bar hand
stamp

Purple 4-Bar Cancel



Cass, Cal to Goshen, Ind
March 16, 1909
please note the purple four-bar hand
stamp

Flag Machine Cancel with Number in Field

Butler, Penn to Denver, Col
March 7, 1909
flag machine cancel variety with number in the field of strips



International machine cancel



New York, NY to Riga, Latvia, Russian Empire
October 2, 1909
"International" machine cancel
A Krag 8 bar machine receiver was applied in Russia

Columbia Machine Cancel

Kalamazoo, Mich to Berwick, Penn
April 16, 1909
canceled with a Columbia machine cancel



Flag Machine and Hand Cancels



Beloit, Wis to Sunbury, Penn
franked with a pair of 2¢ imperforate
Lincoln Memorial stamps
March 2, 1909
Ovate duplex hand stamps over a pale
flag machine cancel

Evans Experimental Machine Cancel



Washington, DC to Monroe, NY
January 26, 1909
canceled with an Evans Experimental machine

Pseudo "Flag" Hand Stamp



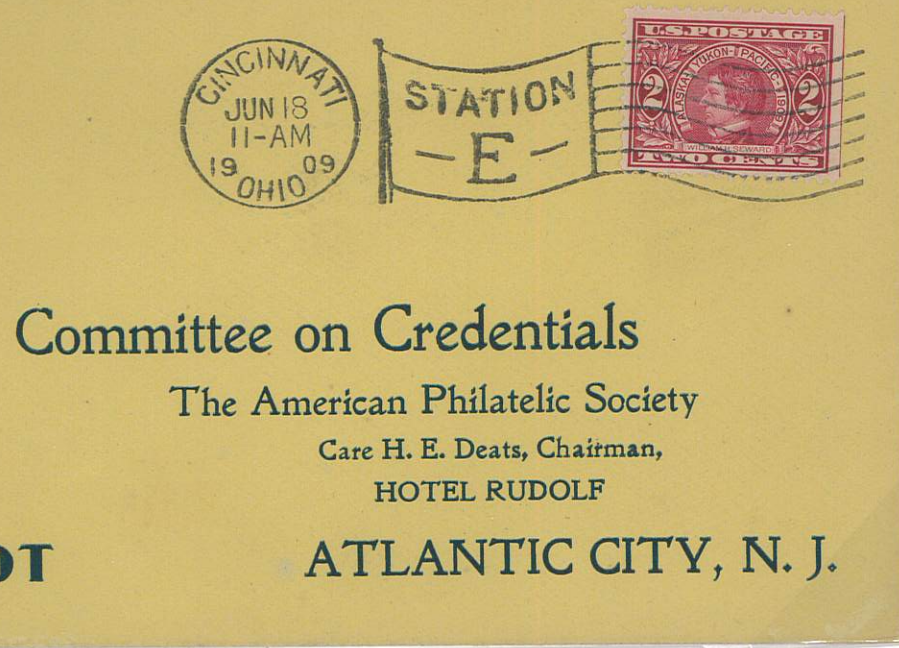
Point Roberts, Wa to Pender, Nebr
January 26, 1909
canceled with a hand stamp that appears to be a
Flag machine cancel, but isn't

Brunswick, Me to Camden, Me
February 22, 1909
Doremus machine cancel with the heavy
killer variety

Doremus Machine Cancel



International Machine Cancel with Slogan



Cincinnati, Oh to Atlantic City, NJ
June 18, 1909
canceled with a slogan "International" machine
franked with the new 2¢ Alaska Yukon stamp

The Year Ends:
to Buenos Aires with a Christmas Seal

Newburyport, Mass to Buenos Aires,
Argentina
December 21, 1909

1908 series Christmas stamp
underpaid by 5¢ for 2 x 5¢ UPU rate (or
penalized for using a Christmas Seal on
international mail).

