

World War II V-Mail

Soldiers wrote their letters on a form provided and it was then photographed onto microfilm which was simply flown to the USA. A reel of 16mm microfilm could contain 18,000 letters and in terms of bulk and weight the roll of film took up only a fraction of what 18,000 real letters would take. Upon arrival in the USA the letters were printed from the film and then posted onward to the addressees.

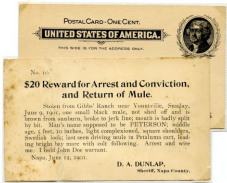


V-mail with envelope as sent in Oct. 1943

Postal Card Used to Alert People of Stolen Mule

A cheap fast way to notify local communities of crimes and rewards to help solve them was the 1¢ postal card. Thieves often moved faster than the news of the theft. That all changed when notices were sent to surrounding post offices for posting.

This postal card was notification of a stolen mule in Yountville, California, and a \$20 reward for the arrest, conviction and return of the mule. Apparently the sheriff numbered the cards he sent, this being number 10.



Postal Card issue of 1898 with unused card showing indicia

Postage Due Stamps on Picture Post Card

The 7-cents in postage due stamps was placed over a ?? prepaid stamp indica which looks like 20 centavos was already paid. Not knowing the year the postcard was mailed, it is difficult to figure if the postcard was fully prepaid in Mexico.

A picture post card sent while on vacation in Mexico. The message reads:

"Here about 4 PM. Weather has been quite cool. Drove to Gila Bend last night. Will go on to Quaymas tomorrow.

Lowell & Ruth"



Capilla Del Espiritu Santo, Colonia Pitic (Holy Ghost Chapel in Colonia Pitic).

A small but very pretty little church for the use of the Colonia Pitic Residential District. Hermosilla, Sonora, Mexico.

Vietnam Okinawa envelopes

From: John Young

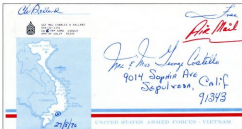
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 12:41 PM

Ahoy John, ---- As to your inquiry- both envelopes are part of a box of stationery that was sold at the PX or Naval Exchange to soldiers, sailors & marines. Usually a box of 25/ 50 envelopes with matching sheets of writing paper.

One company was Eagle Envelopes but there are several others. Basically, they were sold at the location i.e.

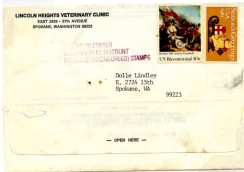
Vietnam or Okinawa and I hope this helps. Sorry I don't have the name of those stationery companies. As to Eagle, I believe they had air mail envelopes. Cheers & beers

John Young aka Long John Silver (845) 738 9379



My Favorite

Legal postage stamps returned as illegal use



Several question about this cover: Why use 30-cents in postage? The U.S. never had a first-class rate of this amount. Did the sender mail the cover after 1 Jan. 1995 when the postage rate was 32-cents? But, still does not answer the question.

The postal service marking, "RETURN TO SENDER ILLEGAL USE OF DISCOUNT PRECANCELED (ENDORSED) STAMPS" does not seem to apply.

Neither of the stamps are precanceled or marked in any way for discount postage, e.g., presort, nonprofit, etc.

The veterinary clinic was mailing an invoice for professional services for \$190.88.

Without a date when it was mailed, it is difficult to figure out.

My favorite stamps from Japan

The kimono is the traditional dress of Japan. During the Heian period (794-1192), the kimono dress was beginning to be stylized with the wearing of an obi "belt."



During the Edo period (1603-1867), the sleeves began to grow in length, especially among unmarried women, and the obi became wider.



Since then, the basic style has remained essentially unchanged.

Favorite City Postmark

The cover caught my eye since I was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.



The envelope was postmarked on July 1, 1937 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and airmailed to Stockton, California.

The cachet shows an airplane over a coal-mining operation — the principle industry in the area.

The six-cent airmail rate went in effect on July 1, 1934.

Railway Post Office
Alcona & Chamberlain R.P.O. Postmark

The Alcona & Chamberlain RR ran between South Dakota and Michigan

Railroads helped build the country and they were vital to the free exchange of information and goods. Enroute distribution of mail on trains made it possible for letters to travel as quickly as people.

The history of the RPO is recorded in the postmarks used on mail that was taken to railroad station letter boxes or handed directly to the clerks on the trains.

The last United States RPO ran between New York and Washington in 1977.



Message on reverse of postal card.

Mitchell, SD

January 25, 1934

Dear Mother

Received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you. Yes I received the nice birthday cake on the afternoon mail delivery on my birthday. The cake is sure a good tasting one and thanks a lot for sending it and thanks for the stockings.

The weather turned awfully cold here yesterday. It is a little nicer here this morning.

Elmina and I stayed a couple of nights with Etha while Jack was on the road checking ice. Etha isn't feeling any to good I guess. She has trouble with her heart. Royal is looking pretty good. I have been going to the free night school every night.

Bye Bye mother

Lots of Love Phillip

My favorite series from the United States Postal Service
 The "alphabet" stamps pre-printed before a rate change – without the new rate



15¢-1978 15¢-1981 20¢-1981 22¢-1983 24¢-1988 24¢-199



30¢-1984 30¢-1984 30¢-1984 30¢-1984 30¢-1990

Can not forget the coil stamp for each issue



U.S. Aerogramme – Unusual Usage



The aerogramme was postmarked on 17 July 1969, one day into the manned Apollo 11 flight to land men on the moon and safely return them to Earth. It was postmarked at the Diyarbakir Air Station and sent via the U.S. Air Force Postal Service to New South Wales, Australia.

The Diyarbakir Air Station operated for 41 years as a joint American-Turkish NATO frontier post for monitoring the former Soviet Union and the Middle East. It also tracked space vehicles used in the NASA program. The station closed on 30 September 1997.

Diyarbakir is the largest city in southeast Turkey with a population of about 1.5 million. Approximately 75% of inhabitants use Kurdish in most of their daily speech, followed by Turkish. The city is situated on the banks of the River Tigris, and sometimes referred to as the "unofficial capital" of Kurdistan.



My Favorite

Stationery cutout used illegally as postage.



The cutout is from a stationery envelope printed by Plimpton Manufacturing Co. and Morgan Envelope Co. in the years 1882-1886.

The 1-cent Jefferson stamp was printed in 1968.

The sender sent the cover in 1971 from New York City to a relative in Los Angeles, California.

Above the address, upside down, is "S. Ross, 652-5630, 612 Wicburn Dr." Looks like someone used the envelope as a scratch pad.

Postal Card Used to Alert Local People of Burglary

A cheap fast way to notify local communities of crimes and rewards to help solve them was the 1¢ postal card. Thieves often moved faster than the news of the theft. That all changed when notices were sent to surrounding post offices for posting.

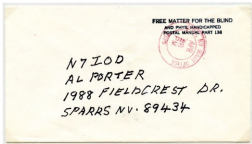
This postal card was notification of a burglary and reward in Napa, California, with a \$10 reward. Apparently the sheriff numbered the cards he sent, this being number 7.



Postal Card issue of 1908 with unused card showing indicia

Favorite Franking Privilege Envelope

There are many categories for free-franked mail, such as, Members of Congress, past-presidents and their spouse or widow. So this free-franked envelope is something special (at least to me).



The envelope was postmarked on April 28 (unknown year) at the main office in Reno, Nevada. It was sent to an amateur radio operator with the call sign N7IOD in Sparks.

If an individual meets the standard as outlined in the Domestic Mail Manual, "all matter mailed ... must be marked 'Free Matter for the Blind or Handicapped' in the upper right corner of the address side."

References: Domestic Mail Manual, Section 500, Free Matter for the Blind and Other Physically Handicapped Persons, April 17, 2011

U. S. Parcel Post Stamp
Used as First Class Postage

An Act of Congress approved on 24 August 1912 created 4th class postage rates to be prepaid by distinctive postage stamps. The Post Office Department prepared 12 parcel post stamps to be used on packages starting 1 January 1913. Regular postage stamps were not allowed on parcel post starting on that date.

Normally 4th class (parcel post) mail did not receive a dated cancel unless a special service was involved.

With the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Postmaster General directed that regular postage stamps should be valid on parcels starting 1 July 1913. Parcel post stamps then became usable as regular stamps.



This commercial cover is a good example of using a parcel post stamp as regular postage. The cover was mailed on 11 June 1914 from Oakland, California to Pacific Gas & Electric Co. in Berkeley. The two cents postage was the first-class rate in 1914.

Free Mailing Privileges

The use of a franking privilege is not absolute but is generally limited to official business, constituent bulk mails, and other uses as prescribed by law.

Congressional Franking Privilege



From New York Representative J.S. Sherman
Sent from Washington, D.C. to Ilion, New York on March 9, 1908
(Receiving cancel on reverse of March 10, 1908)

Official Mail



From Social Security Board, Sacramento, CA
January 31, 1939 (3 years after Social Security was enacted)



Postcard from Post Office Department in Saint Louis, MO
Notifying recipient of new commemorative stamp, U.S. Frigate Constitution
First day of sale was Oct. 21, 1947 in Boston, MA

The Penny Black World's First Postage Stamp

The Penny Black stamp was issued 15 April 1840 and was printed from Plate 1b. The stamps were in sheets of 240 (20x12) and had corner letters corresponding to its position on the plate.

The stamp was designed by Hill himself, and bore a profile of young Queen Victoria, who had just come to the throne three years before. Her likeness was chosen since it was so well known and counterfeiting would be difficult.

The used stamp has the usual strike of a red Maltese Cross.

Sir Rowland Hill (1795 - 1879) was a British teacher and social reformer. He campaigned for a comprehensive reform of the postal system, based on the concept of penny postage, and later served as a government postal official. He is usually credited with originating the basic concepts of the modern postal service, including the invention of the postage stamp.

The souvenir sheet below was only the second ever issued by the British Post Office. It was canceled on the first day of issue in Edinburgh. Rowland Hill is pictured in the top left stamp and in the envelope cachet.



*The rare "Penny Black"
World's first postage stamp*



*Sir Rowland Hill
Father of the postage stamp*

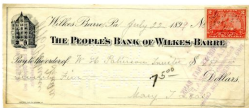


Five Hundred of these First Day Covers were issued with a genuine used "Penny Black" stamp in a protective mount.

Favorite Stamped Item

This item caught my eye. I was born on July 22 (no year needed) in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

As you can see, my birth day and my place of birth are on this check with a revenue stamp with "Se 21. July 22, 1899" written on the stamp.



The revenue-documentary stamp was issued in 1898.

Since my birth date is written both on the check and revenue stamp, this is definitely a keeper.

Favorite Postage-Due Envelope

A business reply envelope is supplied for free first-class postage back to the business.



Business reply envelope sent on 15 May 1946 from New York, Church Street Station to San Francisco. Postage due stamps were canceled on arrival in San Francisco, California.

This business reply envelope was assessed \$2.64 postage due—how come so much?

There is no evidence this envelope was attached to a parcel or large mail piece. It seems this was the top envelope of 88 reply envelopes and the total postage was for the entire stack.

First-class postage was 3 cents in 1946. So .03 times 88 equals \$2.64. Mystery solved!