

A journal that reports about and studies the myriad markings
added to a letter that explain how it reached its final destination
Publication of The Auxiliary Markings Club
www.postal-markings.org

Retour



ADVD
1Ct.



Table of Contents

The End of RFD Markings1	ing4
by <i>K. David Steidley</i>	by <i>Terence Hines</i>
President's Message2	An Unusual Censorship Marking5
by <i>Ralph H. Nafziger</i>	by <i>Tony Wawrukiewicz</i>
Editorial2	Mail Delayed by Storm of 19665
by <i>Tony Wawrukiewicz</i>	by <i>George McGowan</i>
Undeliverable Mail3	A Twice Remarkable Returned Cover6
by <i>Tony Wawrukiewicz</i>	by <i>Tony Wawrukiewicz</i>
A Pointing Hand with a Large letter H in It3	Mail Chute Mutilation6
by <i>Tony Wawrukiewicz</i>	by <i>Merle Farrington</i>
'Not at Bureau of Budget' Marking4	The Return of Unmailable and Undeliverable Postal and Post Cards, Part 1, Amended7-12
by <i>Dr. Thomas Richards</i>	by <i>Tony Wawrukiewicz</i>
A Humorous Non-Return Pointing Hand Mark-	

The End of RFD Markings by K. David Steidley

The great article by Gary Hendron on RFD mail in the April 2014 issue was a delight to this dyed-in-the-wool collector and exhibitor of the One-cent Franklin, Series of 1902(SC # 300). My eyes are now open to find my own Bristol, CT 1905 circle mark.

Let me share some of the end of the story of RFD route markings. This postcard has a faint year cancel of 1999. It is addressed to Kitts Hill, Ohio, an unincorporated community about 100 miles south of Columbus near the Ohio River and the West Virginia border. It was served by a post office and RFD routes.

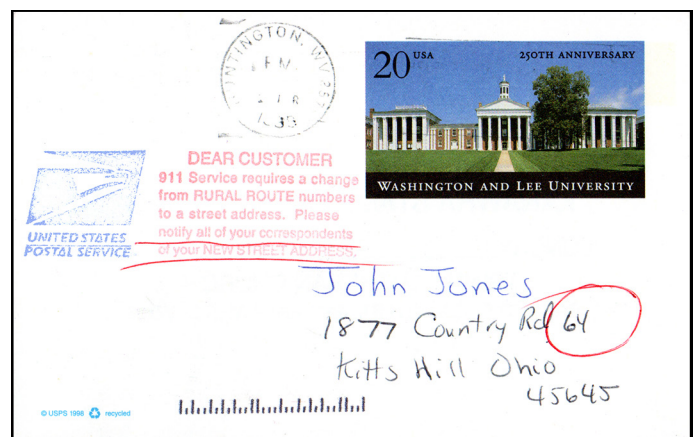
The card has a magenta auxiliary marking immediately to the right of a faint blue USPS logo. The marking reads:

DEAR CUSTOMER
911 Service requires a change
from RURAL ROUTE numbers
to a street address. Please
notify all of your correspondents
of your NEW STREET ADDRESS.

The number "64" is circled in red ballpoint pen and the phrase "...notify all of your correspondents of your NEW STREET ADDRESS." is underlined in the same red pen. This was done because the postal patron lived on Road 61 not 64. Google places him at 61 on my April 2014 search. What is 911 service, you ask? The enhanced 911 rural addressing service was designed to improve public safety by saving time in locating 911 calls. The new physical address tells the emergency dispatch operator exactly where one lives. An address is assigned by measuring the distance from the beginning of the road one resides on to the exact location of the driveway leading to your house. For every linear mile leading along the road, 100 addresses are assigned, with odd numbered on

the left side and even numbers on the right side, e.g., 200 Church Road would be found 2 miles from the beginning of the road to the driveway on the right side. Those philatelists who specialize in RFD can certainly add more to this essay, but this should serve the task at hand for now. Happy Hunting! The cover has been reduced in size.

DEAR CUSTOMER
911 Service requires a change
from RURAL ROUTE numbers
to a street address. Please
notify all of your correspondents
of your NEW STREET ADDRESS.



President:
Ralph Nafziger
PO Box 1476
Albany, OR 97321
ralphn-2010@postal-markings.org

Treasurer:
Gary G. Hendren
12737 Glenage Dr.
Maryland Hts., MO 63043
treasurer-2010@postal-markings.org

Director:
Thomas Breske
1318 Carpenters Point Road
Perryville, MD 21903
tcbreske-2010@postal-markings.org

Vice President:
Dennis Ladd
1722 Brockton Ave #5
Los Angeles, CA 90025
dladd-2010@postal-markings.org

Editor:
Anthony Wawrukiewicz
3130 SW Wilbard St.
Portland, OR 97219
editor-2010@postal-markings.org

Director:
Mathew Liebson
3284 Euclid Heights Blvd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
paperhistory-2010@postal-markings.org

Membership Secretary:
C. David Eeles
PO Box 933
Columbus, OH 43216-0933
membership-2010@postal-markings.org

Webmaster:
Douglas B. Quine
PO Box 153
Bethel, CT 06801
webmaster-2010@postal-markings.org

Director:
Ed Fisher
1033 Putney
Birmingham, MI 48009
efisherco-2010@postal-markings.org

President's Message by Ralph H. Nafziger

March Party in Cleveland hosted our 11th annual meeting. Thanks go to Larry Fillion, Gary Hendren, Matt Liebson, and Ralph Nafziger for volunteering at our table at the show. The Board of Directors approved the establishment of a searchable digitalization of our newsletter. Our expenses are approximately equal to income. Future annual meetings are scheduled for ROPEX (2015), Southeastern Stamp Show (2016), and Sarasota National Stamp Exposition (2017). We signed up three new members. There were 17 frames of auxiliary markings exhibits at the show. We continue to look for new exhibits. Why not try it? You may get addicted! Regis Hoffman presented a well-attended seminar on "Private Auxiliary Markings on Hollywood Fan Mail," and Bernard Biales gave a seminar on "Early WAY covers." Thank you both.

As is our custom, the general membership meeting featured another "show and tell" session. Interesting shared auxiliary markings included 'no such number 15,' 'not subject to free franking,' 'advertising matter requires postage' (missent), 'service temporarily suspended' on a cover addressed to Burundi but missent to Bermuda, an unusual postage due marking in blue and purple rectangular boxes, and 'opera glass' markings. Larry Fillion, Gary Hendren, Matt Liebson, Ralph Nafziger, and Jay Stotts shared these covers. Thanks go to all.

Still another "show and tell" session was held during PIPEX in Portland, OR on May 11. Markings such as a very large right-handed pointing finger, 'do not use envelope/wrapper again' (first used in 1891), a capital 'H' carrier identification, 'unclaimed/forwarding address/destroyed by flood,' 'released by post office inspector engaged in censorship,' 'returned to sender/by director

of War Department/undeliverable as addressed,' and 'rewrapped at Pittsburgh NDC,' 'received unsealed at USPS P77 N.D.C. 15095/contents may be missing' were shown. Thanks go to Steve Davis, Jerry Johnson, and Ralph Nafziger for sharing these markings. Thanks also go to Roger Rhoads, March Party co-chair, for submitting the USPS slip with the latter two markings.

Another opportunity to show your unusual markings will occur at the APS StampShow in Hartford, CT, August 21-24. The session is scheduled for Friday, August 22, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in room 13 of the Connecticut Convention Center.

Nancy Clark, our catalogue editor, reminds everyone to submit auxiliary markings in any category for inclusion in the catalogue. We need everyone's participation to make the catalogue as comprehensive as possible. Please submit new finds and other markings to Nancy. An e-mail with scanned images will suffice.

In addition, if you read articles on auxiliary markings, especially in lesser known philatelic journals, please send me a copy of the article and its reference, either electronically or by mail.

Recent Auxiliary Markings Club exhibit awards at WSP shows included Awards of Merit to Robert B. Pildes, MD for "Palestine Emergency Deliveries, Inc." at the Philadelphia National Stamp Exposition, to Egel T. Trondsen for "Cunard Lines: The Ships and the Transatlantic Mail: 1840-1867" at TEXPEX, and to Dale Forster for "Western Express Label Covers" at WESTPEX. At our annual meeting in Cleveland, the Richard B. Graham award went to "Auxiliary Markings on U.S. First Day Covers," by Ralph Nafziger, and the President's Award was given to "Twisted Caps—Twisted Mail," by Gary Hendren. Congratulations to all.

Editorial by Tony Wawrukiewicz

Over the past many years, members of our club may have noted that I have presented many examples of the return process for first-class domestic mail. Finally, about 18 months ago, I put the material into an exhibit, one that purported to tell the story of how unmailable and undeliverable first-class surface domestic mail was returned to sender/writer.

I first showed this exhibit at PIPEX 2013, where it received a vermeil. Later, as I began to research the topic in greater detail, I realized that there was actually a much more complex story to be told than I at first thought. In an effort to better tell the story, I have been researching the *Postal Laws and Regulations*, *The US Mail and Post Office Assistant*, and the monthly supplements of the *US Official Postal Guides*.

With this research behind me, I then rewrote and showed the

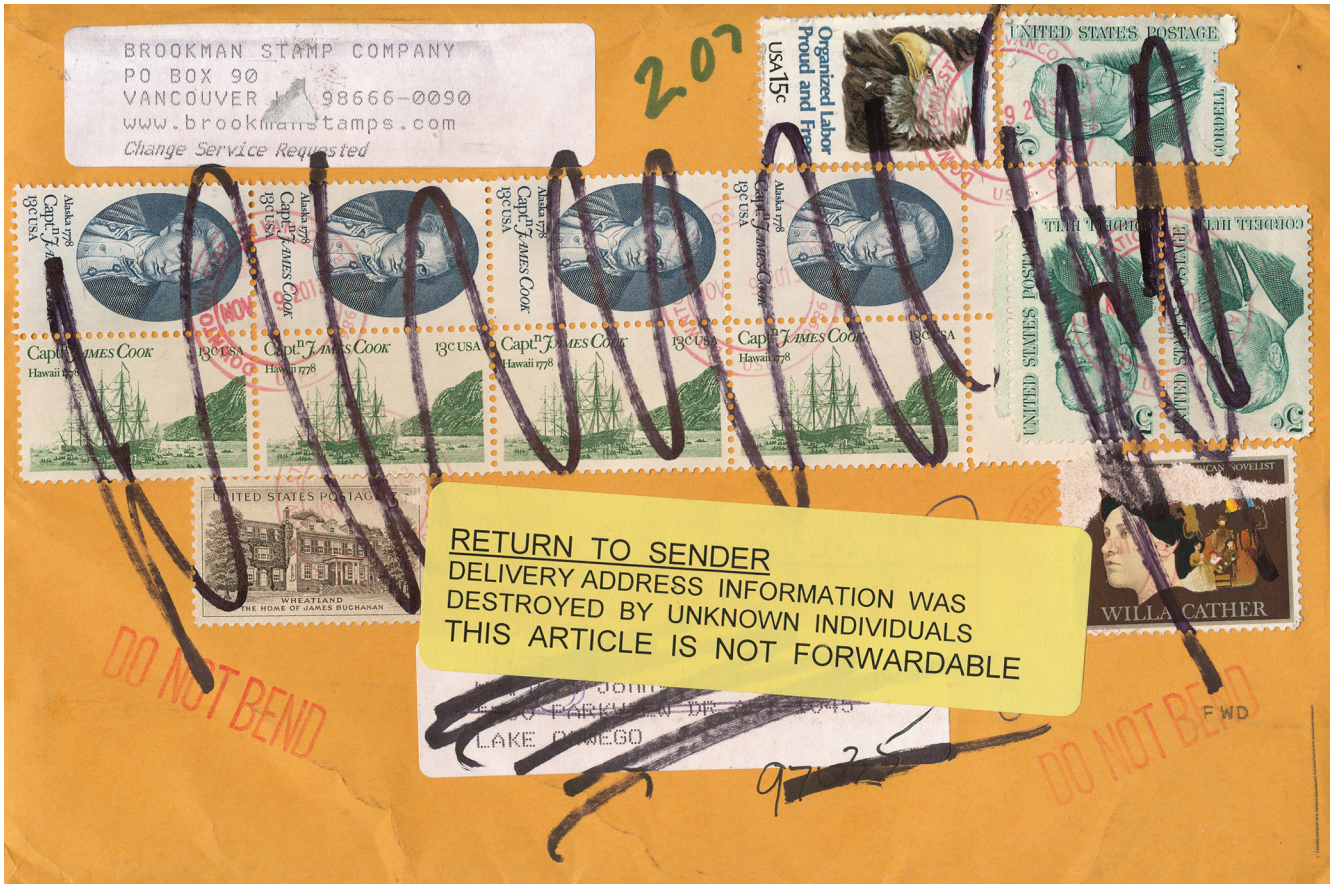
exhibit for a second time in April at WESTPEX 2014. There it again received a vermeil because the story the exhibit told was not clear to the judges. Basically, they felt that there were two stories being told by one exhibit, the return process for letter mail, and that for postal and post cards, and when I told this combined story in one exhibit, it was confusing. Therefore, I'm now separating the two stories.

In addition, in a PDF that I emailed to the judges, I attempted to communicate the research that had resulted that drove the content and order of the exhibit. The judges were turned off by my PDF ("It was too long and complicated"). I have therefore decided to publish it in a series of articles that show the research as well as associated covers and cards. The first article, discussing the return process for postal and post cards, begins as Part 1 on page 7.

Undeliverable Mail by Tony Wawrukiewicz

This November 9, 2013 cover was returned to sender for a very unusual reason: 'DELIVERY ADDRESS INFORMATION WAS / DESTROYED BY UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS / THIS ARTICLE IS NOT FORWARDABLE.' I have never seen such

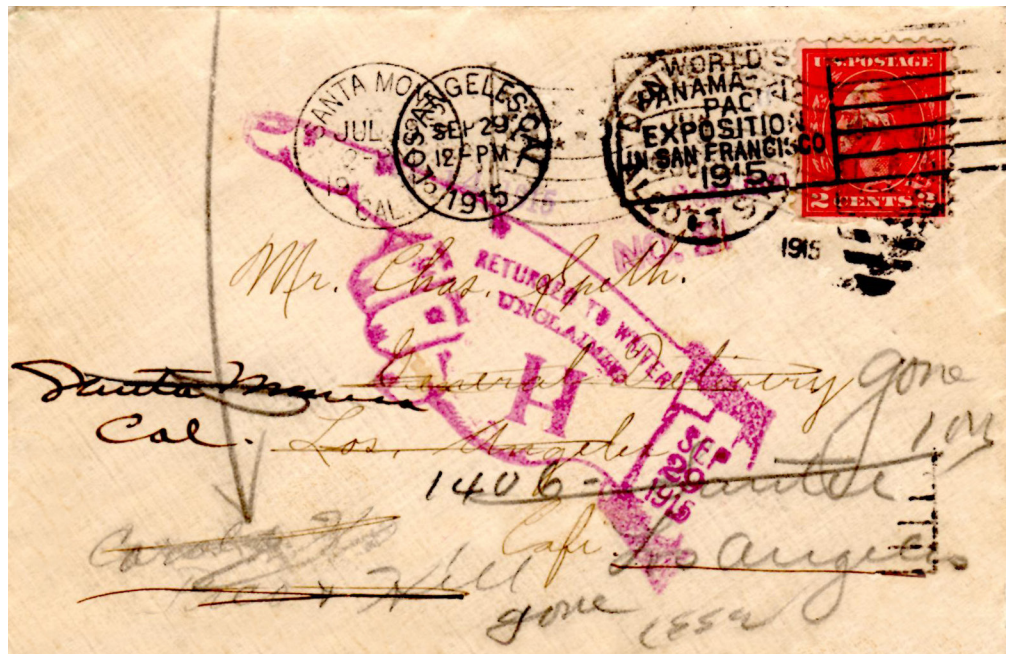
reason for an item to be undeliverable. Presumably, it was not forwardable because it was not even possible to determine who the addressee was, much less whether the item needed to be forwarded. The cover is reduced in size.



A Pointing Hand with a Large Letter H in It. by Tony Wawrukiewicz

The pointing hand illustrated on the cover to the right was another of the examples shown by member Jerry Johnson at PIPEX 2014, at the AMC "Show and Tell" session. At first glance the September 29, 1915 pointing hand on this cover returned from Los Angeles ('RETURNED TO WRITER' as 'UNCLAIMED') is not all that unusual. But what does the large letter 'H' in the marking on a cover that is reduced in size mean?

A search through the return to writer chapter of Leonard Piszkiwicz's book *Chicago Postal Markings and Postal History* showed similar large pointing hands, but with no large letters. However, he does show similar hands where the station of return is given where we see the H. Possibly the letter H stands for a PO station in Los Angeles that is designated H?



‘Not at Bureau of the Budget’ Marking by Dr. Thomas Richards

In the October 2013 issue I wrote about a House of Representatives marking. Figure 1 is a cover with a similar U.S. Government marking that is also new to me. Figure 2 is the marking cropped from the cover image. All of the images/markings are reduced in size.

State Department Building” in Washington, D.C. A written note states “White House or B B” (Bureau of the Budget?). The cover then received the Figure 2 marking:



Figure 1

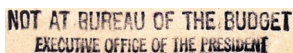
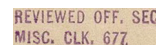


Figure 2

‘NOT AT BUREAU OF THE BUDGET /
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT’

It then received the PURPLE marking:

‘REVIEWED OFF. SEC. /
MISC. CLK. 677’



Having no luck in finding her, it then received the pointing hand ‘Return to Sender / Unclaimed / from Washington DC 549’ marking.



The cover was sent by the Select Stamp Service from Detroit, Michigan on May 6, 1948 to a Mrs. E.F. Haberkorn at the “Old

No information was found on Mrs. Haberkorn or the Select Stamp Service in Detroit. If any reader can add to this – please contact me at richardsthomas@sbcglobal.net

A Humorous Non-Return Pointing Hand Marking by Terence Hines

The illustrated cover appears, at first glance, to be an example of yet another variety of the familiar pointing finger ‘Return to Sender’ auxiliary marking. But look closely. Someone funny is going on here. The text inside the finger reads ‘ROTATE YOUR TIRES’ and below the finger ‘Catch-22’.

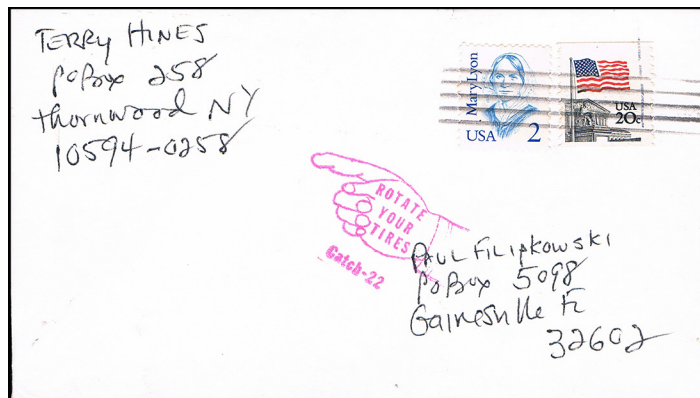
to when it was received. But the covers bears 22 cents in postage and the 22-cent first class rate was in effect from February 17, 1985 through April 2, 1988.

If you guessed that this is not an official auxiliary marking, you’d be correct. But how did it come about? The answer lies in the name of the sender, who, on this cover, is to be found as the addressee. Paul Filipkowski was a USPS employee who had a deep interest in the history of the development of the atomic bomb. He wrote several articles on this topic. One, titled “Manhattan Project Covers” appeared in the first quarter 1989 issue of the *Modern Postal History Journal*. This short 4 page piece showed several covers “addressed to and from project participants during” World War Two. A longer paper, “Postal Censorship at Los Alamos”, appeared in the *American Philatelist* in 1987 (pages 345-350).

I have no idea how to actually classify this auxiliary marking, but it is my favorite.

Paul, who died in 1991, was a member of the Modern Postal History Society and I was editor of the *Modern Postal History Journal* when he published his *MPHJ* paper, and we had corresponded quite a bit over the previous years. The cover shown was one I received from him. It was “addressed” to me with my address where a return address would usually be placed. But then the hand stamp properly directed the letter to me. His return address appears where one usually placed the address the cover is supposed to go to.

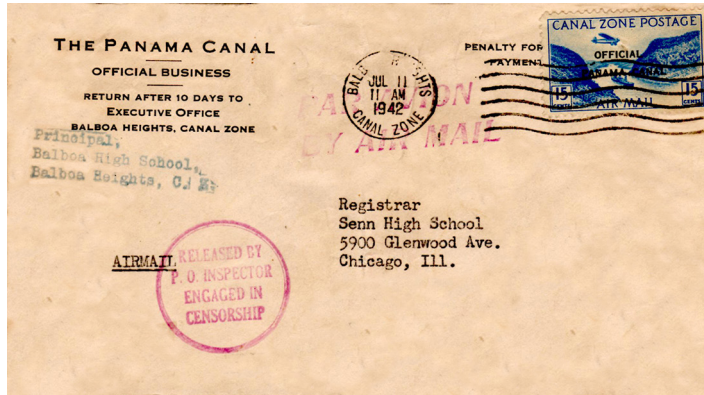
Since Paul was a postal worker he obviously applied the marking and placed this cover in the mail stream himself. There is no dated postmark, and I made no note on the back of the cover as



An Unusual Censorship Marking by Tony Wawrukiewicz

At PIPEX 2014, at the AMC "Show and Tell" session Jerry Johnson presented a series of very unusual auxiliary markings on covers. I asked him to scan them and send them to me for write-up

by me. The items are scattered throughout this issue of *Auxiliary Markings*. One item is a July 11, 1942 WW II air mail letter from the Canal Zone to Chicago, Ill. I know very little about censorship methods during this war. However, the circular censorship marking on this letter is not a type that I have seen before, and I have never seen a marking that indicates censorship by a PO Inspector. The marking is reproduced full size.

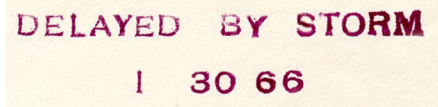


Mail Delayed by Storm of 1966 by George McGowan

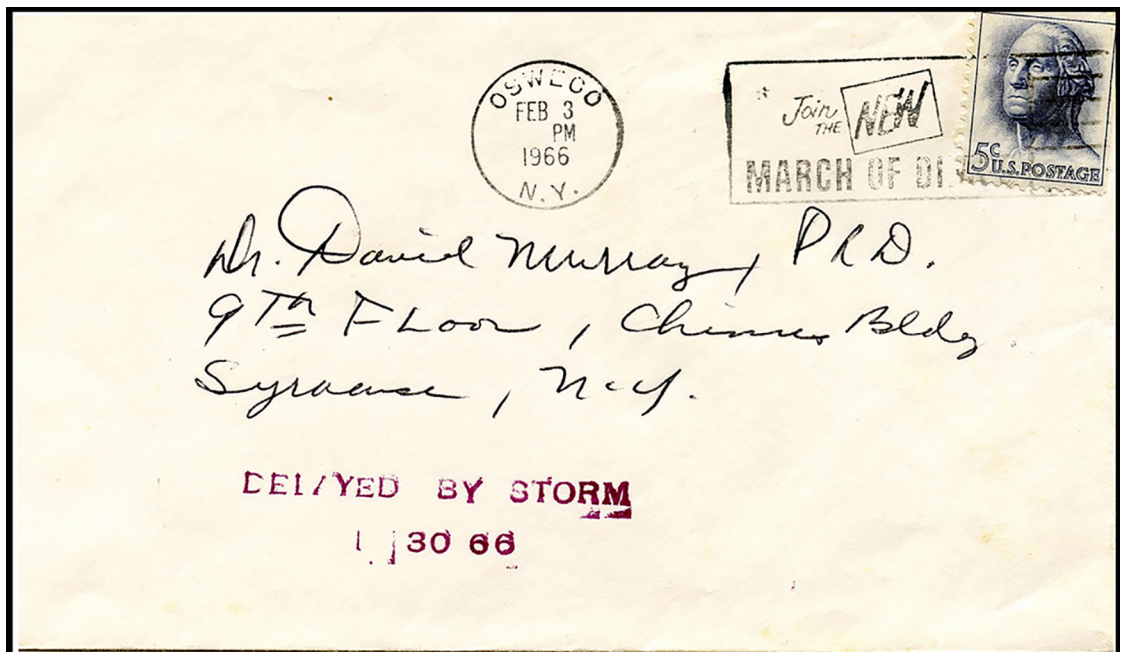
On Sunday, Feb 9th of this year, I was going through a large accumulation of covers that I had just purchased from another dealer when I came across one of the covers pictured here, (the other was subsequently found). Coincidentally, sitting at my table was Heather Sweeting who, along with her father, Charles Sweeting, wrote the book on Oswego County Postal History. I showed her the cover and said "look at this!". She immediately recognized the marking and recalled it was caused by the blizzard of 1966. That was an Ah Ha moment for me.

last day) on the city, which, with its accompanying high winds, caused drifting that sometimes completely covered 2 story houses. The nearby city of Syracuse received about half that amount. Needless to say, it took a few days to open roads, and the auxiliary markings on these two covers are the Post Office explaining the reason for the delay of the mail. These 2 treasured covers will go into my collection, not because of any monetary value but because of the great memories they continue to bring. The marking is shown full-size. *(Editor's note: I, too, experienced the same blizzard as a graduate student in Astronomy at the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY. We had 29 inches of snow, and my roommate and I tramped through the snow in order to get our dinner in the dining hall!)*

Turning back the clock, I attended the State University of New York at Oswego from 1968 to 1970. It had a very nice campus on the shores of Lake Ontario, perfect in many ways, but in the winter, did it ever snow, and snow and snow. But each time I would say something about the snow, someone would say "you should have been here for the storm of '66". Back then, the city used teams of bucket loaders and dump trucks to collect snow and dump it into the frozen Oswego River where it resided until spring. Sometimes snow banks were so high that it was impossible to see houses, businesses, or oncoming traffic, but each time I would say "look at that", someone would say "you should have been here for the storm of '66". I remember one day classes were canceled because the wind was so high that it was taking doors off hinges, but then someone would say "you should have been here for the storm of '66".



The Blizzard of 1966, which hit the City of Oswego particularly hard, was a 4 1/2 day continuous snow storm that lasted from Jan 27th until Jan 31st. It dumped 103 inches of snow (50 inches on the

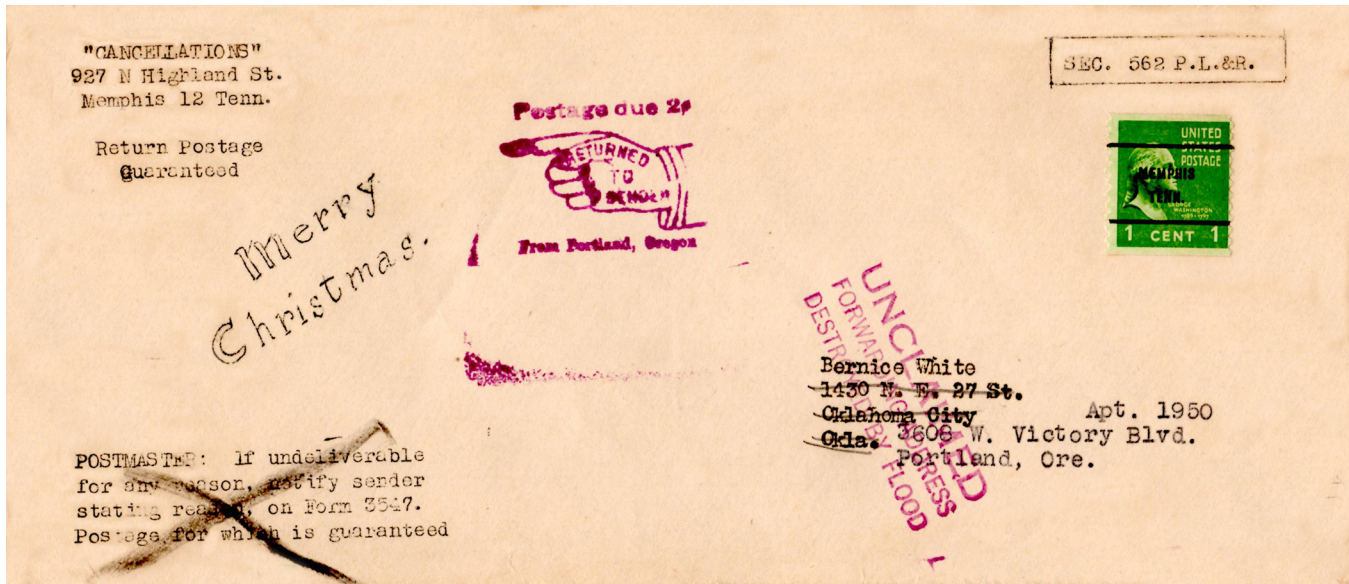


A Twice Remarkable Returned Cover by Tony Wawrukiewicz

This additional Jerry Johnson cover is a remarkable cover for two reasons. First, the 1¢ precancelled stamp pays the third-class regular, bulk, quantity discount rate that was in place from October 1, 1932, to February 24, 1949 (as indicated by the 'Sec. 562 PL&R' endorsement). Remarkably, the cover was returned as undeliverable because 'UNCLAIMED / FORWARDING ADDRESS / DESTROYED BY FLOOD'. As it was a third-class domestic item, it was returned due the third-class single-piece rate. What is also remarkable, is that the 2¢ single-piece rate was

due for the return, a rate that was introduced on January 1, 1949! This means that the cover, even though undated, can be dated as mailed between January 1 and January 24, 1949! The marking is shown full sized.

**UNCLAIMED
FORWARDING ADDRESS
DESTROYED BY FLOOD**

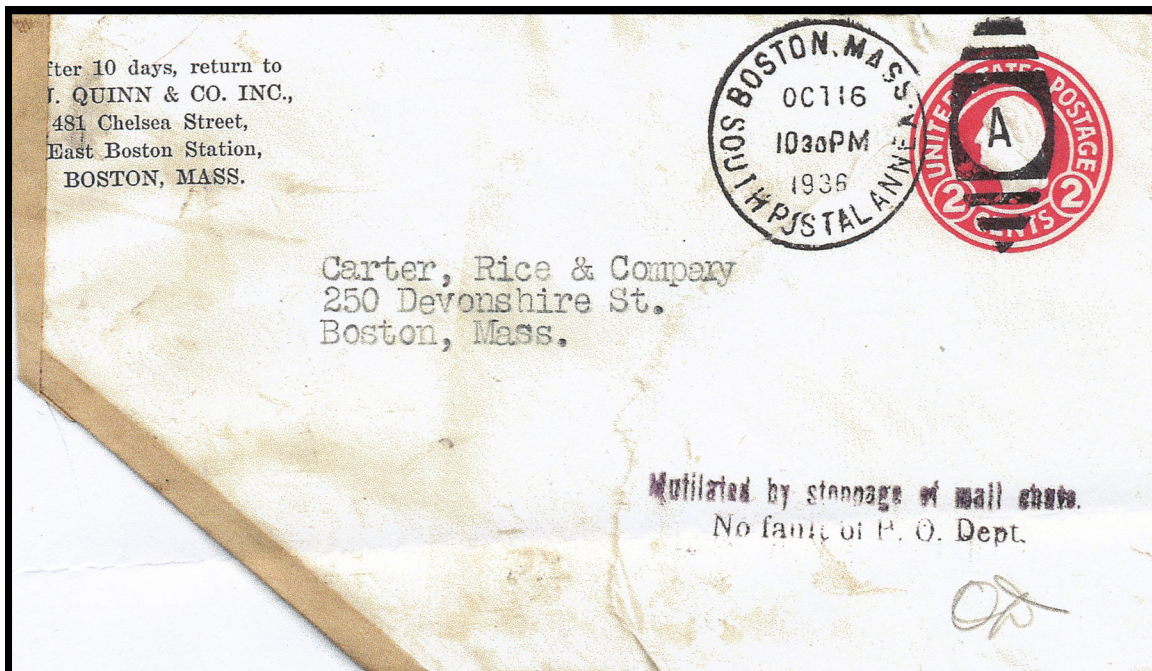


Mail Chute Mutilation by Merle Farrington

Covers that were damaged in handling by the US Post Office Department and the USPS are not that uncommon. Nowadays, they tend to be delivered in a plastic bag supplied by the USPS, and the USPS announces responsibility for the damage. On the other hand, the damage to this October 16, 1936 letter was not the fault of the US Post Office Department ('Mutilated by stoppage of mail

chute. / No fault of the P. O. Dept.'), and the POD was quick to deny responsibility. Marking and cover reproduced in full size.

Mutilated by stoppage of mail chute.
No fault of P. O. Dept.



The Return of Unmailable and Undeliverable Postal and Post Cards, Part 1, Amended by Tony Wawrukiewicz

This multi-part article presents the history of how first-class postal and post cards that were unmailable and undeliverable in the US domestic mails were handled from the postal card introduction in May 1873, to the introduction of private mailing cards on July 1, 1898, until the present day. Postal and post cards were unmailable at the offices of mailing and transit while they were undeliverable at the offices of delivery. Specific reasons for these two types of returns will be discussed as specific examples are shown. We will see that these two types of mail were considered to be poor relatives of similarly handled first-class letters. Throughout the article, postal and post cards are reduced in size but not the auxiliary markings. **This internet-available amended Part 1 adds new insights gleaned since it appeared in the July newsletter. These changes will also be noted in abbreviated form in the Oct. newsletter.**

This article is divided into 6 sections, each defined by the different manner in which postal and post cards were handled. They are:

- (1) 1873-87 - postal card returns not allowed
- (2) 1887-1893 - undeliverable postal card returns allowed; 1887-present - unmailable misdirected postal card mailing office returns allowed; 1898-1958 - return for postage allowed
- (3) 1893-1913 - undeliverable single postal and post card returns not allowed; 1893-Nov. 6, 1941 - such returns of reply cards free and allowed
- (4) 1913-24 - undeliverable local postal and post card returns allowed (actually allowed from 1913-Nov. 6, 1941); such returns of non-local cards not allowed
- (5) 1924-1985 - non-local postal and post card undeliverable returns allowed only if paid; 1924-Nov. 6, 1941 - such returns for local cards and reply-paid cards allowed; Nov. 6, 1941-1985 - such returns for local cards and reply-paid cards allowed only if paid; 1974-present - return for postage allowed for cards
- (6) 1985-present - all postal and post cards returns allowed and free

I had been collecting these uses for over 20 years, but most aggressively over the past two years, when I realized how difficult it was to find them. When I noticed how difficult this was, I began to ask members of the United Postal Stationery Society and dealers of this material if my perception of this difficulty of acquisition was correct. They agreed with me, especially when they noticed how few examples they knew of, especially before 1985. As I have ferreted out the laws that govern this process, I now know why this is so. **It is because in many cases such returns were either not free or in the case of post cards few had return addresses that allowed their return.** I will demonstrate this.

1873-1887 - Postal cards were introduced into the US mails in May of 1873. The first mention that I have been able to find concerning their return was this reference in paragraph #6 of the November 1873 *US Mail and PO Assistant*: "Postal cards must not be returned to the writer (RTW); they must not be advertised; not remailed to the DLO; if undelivered in 60 days, they should be burned." Similarly we find the following statement in the October 1874 *US Mail and PO Assistant*: "They must not bear any abusive, scurrilous, or obscene matter. They are not returnable to the writer except by a new postage at letter rates. If unmailable, undeliverable or refused, not to be sent to DLO but should be destroyed by burning at the end of 60 days of receipt, except those having articles of value attached to them and those upon which scurrilous epithets have been written or printed or disloyal devices printed or engraved, which exceptions should be sent to the Dead Letter Office (DLO)." **Note that**

I am unable to find any evidence that these items sent to the DLO were ever returned to the writer. That is, in this regards, postal and post cards (later) were never handled the same as letters.

Therefore, there should be no returned unmailable or undeliverable postal cards from 1873 to 1879, and I have none nor have I seen any in the literature. Note, per October 1874 *US Mail and PO Assistant*, in theory there could be a 1873-87 RTW undeliverable example paid at letter rates, but I've never seen an example.

The 1879 *Postal Laws & Regulations* (Approved March 3, 1879) in Sect. 481 states: "Unclaimed postal card wholly written, will be sent to the DLO with the regular return at the expiration of 30 days," **and says nothing else. Again, to repeat, I cannot find any evidence that once they were returned to the DLO, they were returned to the writer.** So, as best I can determine, until the publication of the 1887 *PL&R*, there should be no postal cards RTW (one possible exception mentioned above). However, I have seen one such return on the postal card shown in Figure 1. This 1886 local Lyons, N.Y. postal card was RTW as undeliverable with no return reason given (no return reason was required until the 1893 *PL&R*). Since this card is the only 1887 one known to the writer, I believe that it indicates that the regulations mentioned above were generally adhered to (except in this case).

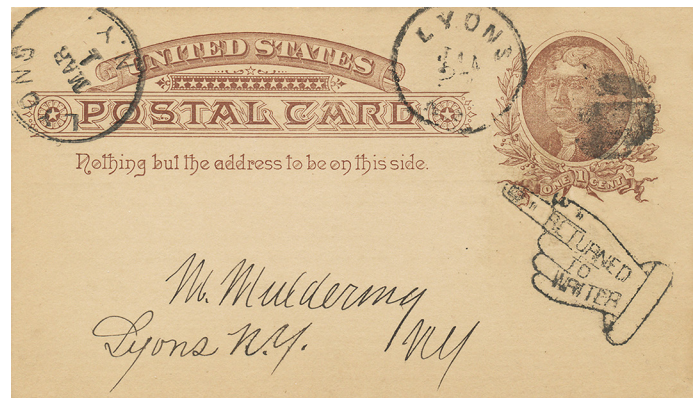


Figure 1

1887-1893 - As announced in the 1887 *PL&R*, section 526, major changes occurred in how misdirected (inadequately addressed) matter was handled from the mailing office. "Misdirected matter should be returned to the sender, if he be known, with the words stamped or written thereon, 'Returned for Better Direction' (RFBDD)." Section 546 of the same *PL&R* said essentially the same thing for misdirected matter reaching the office of transit. I believe that the nondescript word **matter** encompasses postal cards, as we'll see in Figure 2, and even later for post cards (as of July 1, 1898) and also later for other postal cards. That is, I believe that confirmation of this fact (that the word **matter** encompasses cards) is that I have so many examples of cards that were RFBDD. Incidentally, this process remains true at least through 1954.

The 1892 postal card in Figure 2 was 'RETURNED FOR BETTER DIRECTIONS' from the office of mailing. The incorrect post office of address (Portland, Md) was changed by the writer (to Maine), and the card was remailed on April 8 without additional cost. Such free remailing from the office of mailing was first allowed as of the January 1881 *Postal Guide* in ruling 206 that stated: "If a letter is returned to sender for better direction after the stamps thereon have been canceled, it should be forwarded when redirected, without additional charge for postage."

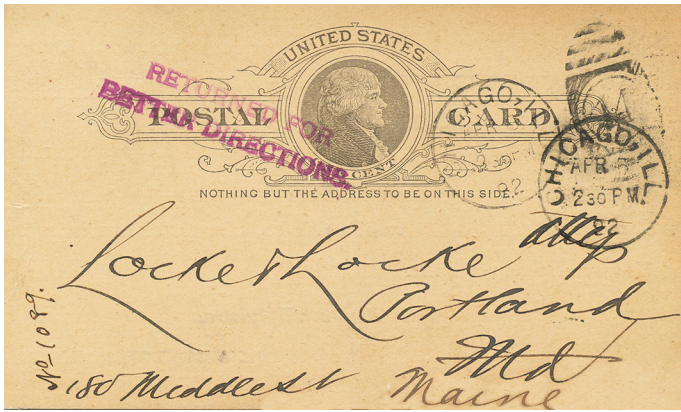


Figure 2

In theory there are other types of unmailable matter to be considered. However, since by their nature domestic rate postal cards are fully paid, they cannot be unmailable as unpaid and returned for postage. And, obscene and similar matter would be returned only to the DLO and then destroyed and thus never RTW.

At the same time, section 595 of the 1887 *PL&R* reported a major change in how undeliverable mail was handled as it stated: "When the message upon an unclaimed postal card is wholly or partly written, and the name and address of the writer is disclosed, the same shall be returned to writer after 30 days from date of receipt, with the words 'Returned to Writer,' stamped thereon, and his name written underneath across the face of the card." Note that this is the first ruling published that allowed the RTW of undeliverable postal cards. Also note that this ruling was rescinded in the 1893 *PL&R*.

The 1892 postal card in Figure 3, mailed from Flemington, to Camden, N.J. was undeliverable, and thus was correctly RTW. The reason for the return was not required until the 1893 *PL&R*, but is unreadable, anyway.

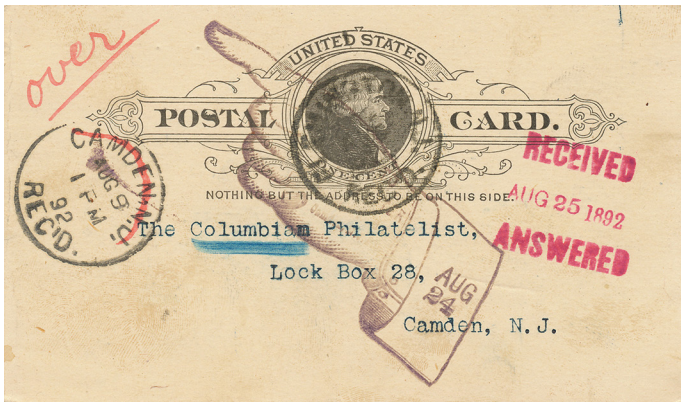


Figure 3

1893-1913 - As mentioned in the last section, as of 1893, unclaimed postal cards were no longer RTW. Section 552 of the 1893 *PL&R* stated: "Single, unclaimed postal cards, wholly or partly in writing, will be sent to the DLO with the regular returns of unclaimed matter." Private mailing cards ("post cards") were added to this statement in Sec. 673 of the 1902 *PL&R* (presumably, really added as of July 1, 1898). **Again, to repeat, I cannot find any evidence that once they were returned to the DLO, they were returned to the writer.** The same section also said: "Double postal cards, when unclaimed, will be RTS when the address of the sender can be ascertained; otherwise they will be sent to the DLO. Care must be taken in indorsing and returning double cards, not to deface or destroy the unused half." This is the first time this latter statement was made in an official document.

In the same *PL&R*, Sec. 551, paragraph 7, **for the first time**, we find: "All request, card, or official matter of any class RTS must bear on its face the reason for such return--such as 'REFUSED,' 'REMOVED,' 'PRESENT ADDRESS UNKNOWN,' 'DECEASED,' 'UNCLAIMED,' 'CANNOT BE FOUND,' etc., and must also, in every instance, be indorsed, returned to writer, and bear the postmark of the office from which it is returned."

This is probably a good time to mention an important aspect of the RTW process for post cards. They can only be returned if (a) they have a return address or (b) if the postmaster who wants to return one happens to know the card's sender. Anyone who collects post cards knows that it is very uncommon for one to have a return address. Therefore, even if one is unmailable or undeliverable, it most likely unreturnable and therefore examples of such returns are very uncommon and quite desirable.

What about postal and post cards that were found to be unmailable because they were misdirected at the offices of mailing and transit? Sections 481 and 502 of the 1893 *PL&R* are essentially the same in content as Sec. 526 and 546 of the 1887 *PL&R* re unmailable matter such as postal and cards (that is, they could be RFBD and remailed without new postage). In Figures 4 and Figure 5 we have two postal cards mailed from Chicago, one in 1894, the second in 1896. In each case the post office of address was one such that the the office of mailing noted that there was 'NO SUCH OFFICE IN STATE NAMED.' Each marking is associated with a different number, 1 and 2, numbers that I believe indicate two different clerks in the office. On the second postal card, the address was corrected, and, as we have seen before, the card was correctly remailed free on February 26, 1896.



Figure 4

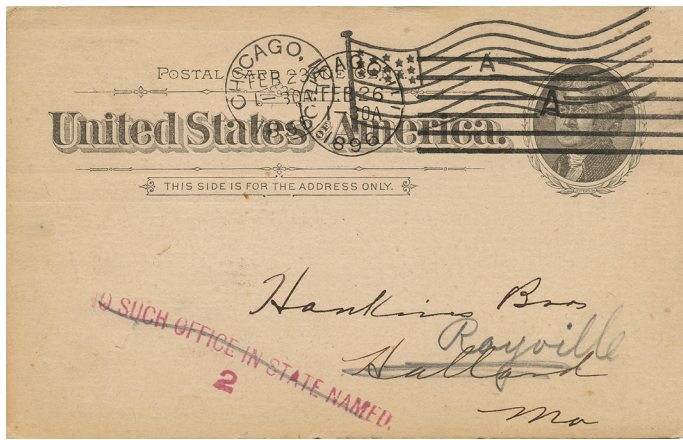
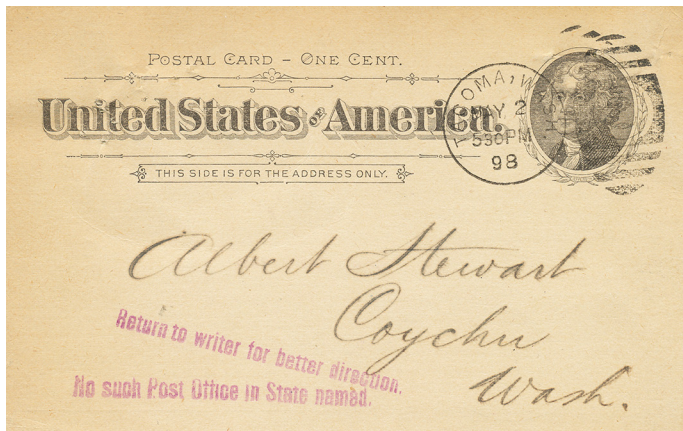


Figure 5

The 1898 postal card in Figure 6 was mailed from Tacoma, Wash. addressed to Coychu, Wash. It was 'Return to writer for better direction.' by the office of mailing as 'No such Post Office in State named.' The address was not corrected, and the card was thus not remailed.



Return to writer for better direction.
No such Post Office in State named.

Figure 6

The 1905 postal card in Figure 7 was mailed from Berkshire, N.Y. Because it contains the ultimate example of an inadequate address (none at all), it was returned by the mailing office with a fancy pointing hand that states 'HELD For Better Direction.' Again, the inadequate address was not corrected by the card's writer and so it was not remailed.



Figure 7

The 1912 post card in Figure 8 exemplifies the misdirecting process. It was mailed from Wilson, North Dakota, and was noted to be addressed to Edendale, Cal. Since the mailing office postmaster knew that there was 'NO SUCH OFFICE IN STATE NAMED,' he wrote 'Misdirected' on the card and returned it to the writer (there was a return address on the card!). The writer was asked to 'Note this address and have it corrected.' He did not, and the card was not remailed.

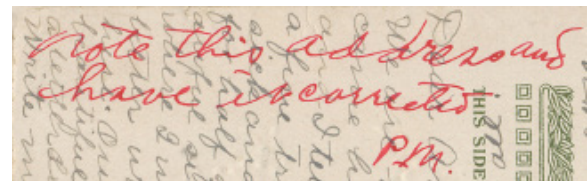


Figure 8

The earlier examples shown returned during the 1893-1913 period were examples of unmailable cards found to be misdirected at the office of mailing. As noted before, when addresses for such matter were corrected, the items were correctly remailed free of charge.

What about items that were misdirected but reached the offices of address (the delivery offices). In such a case these items could be returned to the writer for address correction, but when they were remailed, they required the payment of new postage. Note that these items were undeliverable, but they were not necessarily unclaimed in the classic sense. So it is not clear to me whether these misdirected/undeliverable items fall under the Section 552 1893 PL&R law mentioned previously that indicated that it was unlawful to return them. That is, I do not know whether the next postal card was returned incorrectly for address correction.

The 1903 postal card in Figure 9 was mailed from Eaton Rapids on September 29, 1903 and sent on to Grand Rapids where it arrived the following day. There it was 'HELD FOR ADDRESS' because there was no street number given, then apparently returned to Eaton Rapids (another September 30 postmark) for address correction. The address was not corrected, and the card was not remailed. Was this an allowed return?



HELD FOR ADDRESS.

Figure 9

To this point, this article has not considered the type of unmailable matter that was insufficiently paid and returned for postage. This is because by their very nature, the first domestic postal cards were prepaid the 1¢ postage on them, so until private post cards were introduced on July 1, 1898, there could not be short paid domestic cards, and so none could be unmailable as short paid and thus returned for postage before this date.

However, what about cards after July 1, 1898? Certainly until the war tax rates of WWI were introduced from Nov. 2, 1917 to July 1, 1919, postal cards could never be short paid. What about post cards? I cannot find any announcement from July 1, 1898 until the 1902 *PL&R* was published (Apr. 1, 1902), but here is what Sec. 571, paragraph 2 of the 1902 *PL&R* stated: "If any unpaid or insufficiently paid letter or other matter bear the card or the address of the sender, or he be known to or can be conveniently ascertained by the postmaster, and is within the delivery of the office, **the letter or package** will at once be returned to him for proper postage." This was followed by paragraph 3: "Where the sender of any unpaid or insufficiently paid letter or other matter is not known or can not be conveniently ascertained, such matter will, on receipt thereof, be indorsed "HELD FOR POSTAGE," the addressee notified by the next mail, by an official card (Form 1543) or otherwise, of such detention and the amount of postage required and requested to remit the same."

For the longest time I couldn't determine whether this set of two laws referred to post cards, especially when the phrase the letter or package was part of them. BUT, because (a) the phrase **the letter or package** isn't part of paragraph 3, and (b) as we'll see, neither of the similar paragraphs of the 1913 *PL&R* have this phrase, and (c) obviously, the paragraphs refer to post cards because there are 100s of post cards that have been Held for Postage as per paragraph 3, **it is now clear that Sec. 571, paragraphs 2 and 3, do indeed refer to the return of post cards, and that until Oct. 8, 1958, insufficiently paid post cards could be returned for postage because this combination of laws remained true until then.** Why, then as we'll see, are there so few pre-1954 post cards that were returned to the sender for postage (only four that the author knows of)? **Simple! Few post cards have a return address on them, and so they cannot be returned to the sender.**

The post card in Figure 10 was unpaid with a return address. This allowed it to be RTW for the 1¢ postage due. This 1¢ was paid, and was not cancelled as it should have been. Nevertheless, it was presumably then sent on to the addressee. Again, this type

of use is wonderful and scarce to rare. It makes looking at the back of post cards at post card shows worth while.



Returned for Postage.

Figure 10

The March 4, 1907 *PB* 3233 stated: "Cards bearing glass, metal, mica, sand, tinsel, or other similar substances, are unmailable, except when enclosed in envelopes." My exhibit of RTW matter has been criticized because it contains no unmailable post cards of this type that were RTW. In fact such post cards labeled correctly unmailable are not that uncommon, but all the ones I have seen have no return address and so could not be returned to the writer.

As I've noted earlier in this section, unclaimed double postal cards may lawfully be returned to the writer, if he be known,

The next two reply-paid postal cards demonstrate examples of this law. The first is an intact postal card from 1905 that is illustrated in Figure 11 that was lawfully RTW as undeliverable ('Unclaimed') because the addressee was 'NOT THERE.'



NOT THERE 36

Figure 11

The next, 1912 reply-paid domestic card shown in Figure 12, was also lawfully returned to the writer because it was undeliverable as it was 'Unclaimed.' Note the hs 'Not in P.O. Directory' and the manuscript addresses that indicate unsuccessful attempts made to locate the addressee.



Figure 12

As mentioned at this section's beginning, as of 1893, unclaimed postal cards were no longer allowed to be RTW as Section 552 of the 1893 *PL&R* stated: "Single, unclaimed postal cards, wholly or partly in writing, will be sent to the DLO with the regular returns of unclaimed matter."

From 1893 to 1913 I have seen a fair number of single unclaimed postal cards that bear dated pointing hands with a reason for their return. Others just have a pointing hand, and a dated CDS of the delivery post office, and a separate reason for their return. Were these single, unclaimed postal cards returned to writer, a return that was not allowed, or were they sent to the DLO?

My first reaction was that these were not allowed returns to the sender. However, as I will show in later time periods, when the handling of undeliverable cards became more complicated, postal workers knew how to handle these cards correctly. So, I decided to look at what were the rules that were proscribed for sending cards to the DLO. Sec. 564 stated: "Every piece of mail matter (unclaimed and to be sent to the DLO) should be postmarked by stamp or hand with the name of the post office and the date of sending to the DLO," while Sec. 560 stated re unclaimed matter to be sent to the DLO stated: "Upon every undelivered article of mail matter must appear the reason for nondelivery, such as 'Unknown,' 'Removed,' 'Unclaimed,' and so on."

My point is this - (a) since these single, undeliverable RTW items were not allowed, and (b) since the pointing hands plus other markings on the cards could just as readily be the markings required when sending items to the DLO, and (c) the workers understood other laws and regulations of the times concerning postal cards, it seems reasonable to assume that these cards were not RTW but sent to the DLO, as required.

What follows are illustrations of two of the multiple undeliverable single cards that I have seen from the 1893-1913

period that I believe were sent to the DLO, even though they look like classic RTW items.

That is, I believe that the single, undeliverable postal card in Figure 13 was actually returned to the DLO unclaimed because like such returns the cancel (the pointing hand) contains the postmark of the return city, Tacoma, the date of return to the DLO (Sept. 2, and the reason for the return, 'UNCLAIMED.'



Figure 13

Similarly, the single undeliverable 1903 postal card in Figure 14 was most likely sent to the DLO as there is the return cancel, Newton Center, the date of return, Sep. 18, and the return reason 'REMOVED / ADDRESS UNKNOWN.'



Figure 14

1913-1924 - Unmailable/misdirected postal and post cards at the offices of mailing and transit continued to be RFBF without requiring new postage (Sec. 546 of the 1913 *PL&R*).

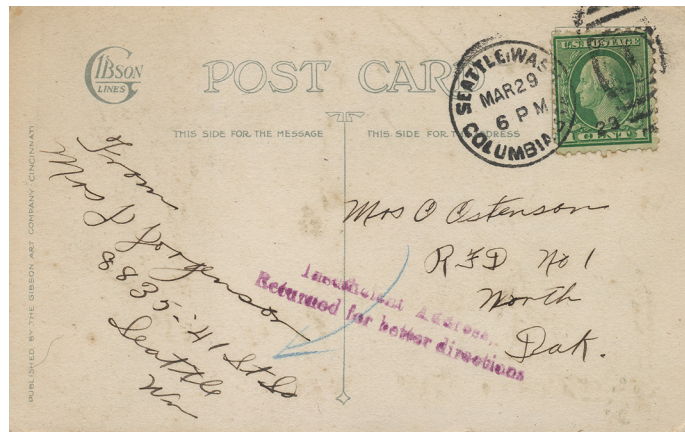
However, a significant change in how the return of undeliverable domestic postal and post cards was handled occurred with the publication of the 1913 *PL&R*. Sec. 634 of that document stated: "Unpaid, misdirected, unmailable, and unclaimed domestic postal and post cards deposited for local delivery shall be returned to the sender when they bear his card address. All other undeliverable

domestic cards shall be held for reclamation two weeks and then if not delivered shall be destroyed or disposed of as waste by the postmasters, except that such as are obscene or scurrilous or bear uncanceled postage stamps shall be sent to the Division of Dead Letters. Before being disposed of as waste, the written communications on undeliverable cards shall be cancelled or mutilated so as to prevent improper use of the correspondence.

Double postal cards, when unclaimed, shall be returned to sender when the address of the sender can be ascertained."

The ability to return undeliverable local postal and post cards is new. The method of handling of double postal cards was unchanged.

The 1923 post card in Figure 15 was mailed in Seattle and addressed to no city in North Dakota. Because it contained a return address, it could be returned to the writer by the mailing post office for an address correction, as indicated by the hs 'Insufficient Address / Returned for better directions.' No address correction occurred, and the card was not remailed.

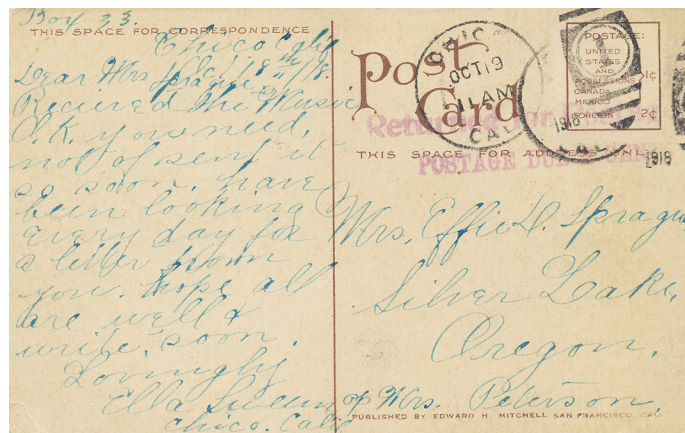


**Insufficient Address,
Returned for better directions**

Figure 15

As I indicated in the prior section, I now believe that insufficiently paid post cards could be returned for postage. The non-local unpaid 1918 post card in Figure 16 was mailed in 1918 when the war tax was in effect, and the post card rate was 2¢. Note that the indicium in the upper right corner did not reflect this new rate. However the handstamps on the post card did.

This post card was 'Returned for Postage' and 'Postage Due 2¢' from the mailing office. The due postage was not paid, and the card was not remailed.



Returned for Postage

POSTAGE DUE 2 CENTS

Figure 16

The undeliverable local Philadelphia 1920 postal card in Figure 17 was 'Unclaimed' and lawfully 'Returned to Writer' because it was a local use. Note that since it was undeliverable, the hs 'Do not use this envelope or wrapper again' was appropriate. In my experience this latter marking really means that if the item was remailed, it required new postage.

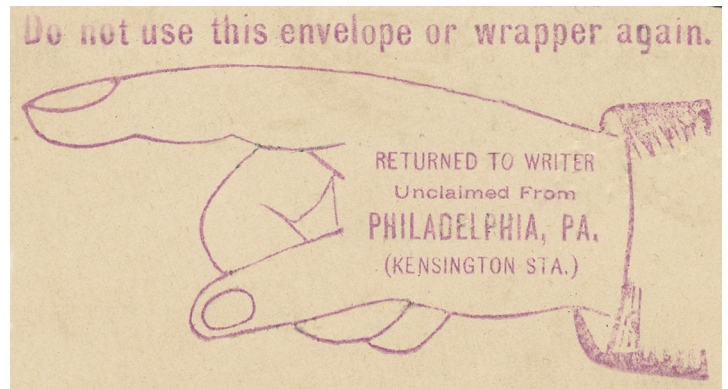
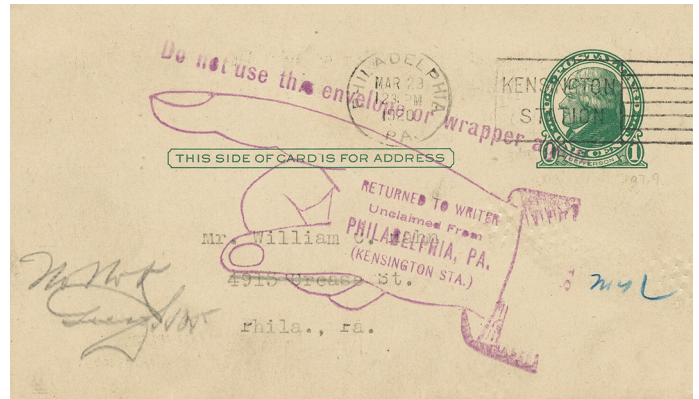


Figure 17

In the next newsletter, I will continue this complex story of how unmailable and undeliverable postal and post cards were returned in the domestic mails.

New Members

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Bernard Biales | Antonio Len-Rios |
| Allison Cusick | Barry Natale |
| David Fine | Richard Winter |