

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  
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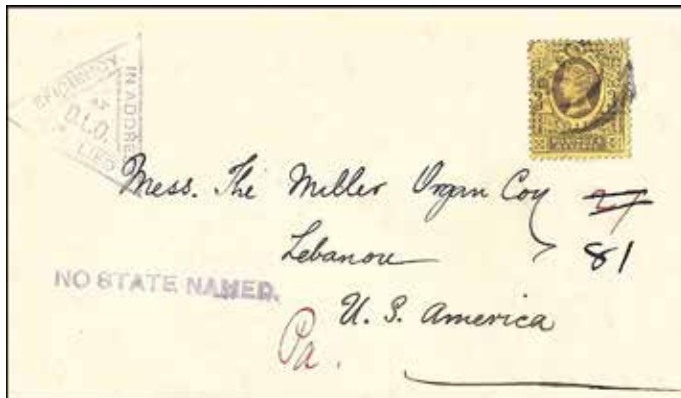
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## Dead Letter Office Directory Assistance for a Misaddressed Foreign Letter by Tony Wawrukiewicz

This January 27, 1906 letter from England to the United States was misaddressed to Lebanon, U.S. with 'NO STATE NAMED.' As was typical for foreign mail sent to the U.S. that was misaddressed, it was sent to the Dead Letter Office in Washington, D.C. There the 'DEFICIENCY IN ADDRESS SUPPLIED BY THE D.L.O.' was added. Specifically, Lebanon was noted to be in Pennsylvania, and this state was added to the address and the letter was forwarded to the correct address.

Note the large D.L.O. label placed on the letter's reverse that stated: 'Inform your correspondent of the correct name of your

post office.' This type of apparent directory assistance would never have been given today. The letter and label are reduced in size.



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## ‘ENTERED,’ Another Mystery Mark by Thomas Breske

The three letters shown below have the following similar markings of unknown origin:

1. ‘ENTERED’ with a small blue crayon checkmark and a large blue ‘266’ written across the face of a letter sent Aug 24, 1909 from Philadelphia to New York City from a Building and Loan Association. (Figure 1)
2. ‘ENTERED / NOV 15 1909’ with a small blue crayon checkmark and a large penciled ‘518’ across the face of a local Oct 27, 1909 letter from New York City to City from I.O.B.A. Lodge No. 518. (Figure 2)
3. ‘Ent. In Susp. Book’ with a large penciled ‘575’ across the face of a Sept. 16, 1910 letter sent from Brooklyn Coney Island, New York to New York City from I.O.B.A. Lodge No. 575. (Figure 3)

All three letters entered the mail stream but there is no evidence the letters were either delivered or returned to the sender, so this begs the question: “Were these marks made by the Post Office?”

Because two of the letters (Nos. 1 & 3) had return addresses from I.O.B.A. Lodges, is it possible they created the markings? These three letters came from the same box lot of about 200 registered letters, all returned (for various reasons) to various Lodges in numerous cities.

And finally for the markings on No. 3 letter, what do the abbreviations ‘Ent.’ and ‘Susp.’ mean? My guess is ‘entered’ and ‘suspension.’ Any information would be welcome.

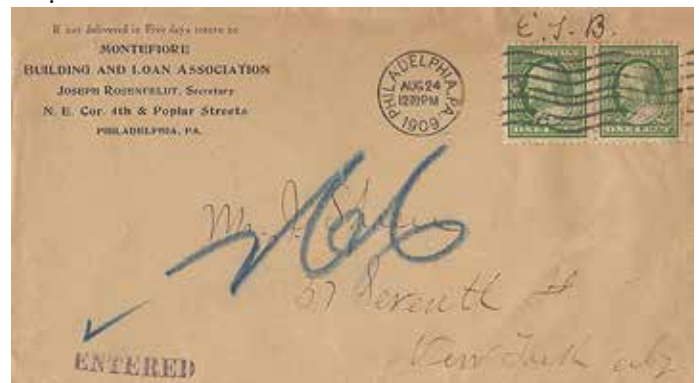


Figure 1

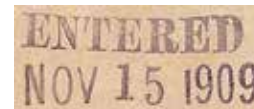


Figure 2



Figure 3

## Editorial by Tony Wawrukiewicz

I’d like to thank Scott Stewart for his update of Tom Breske’s article on the ‘Deficiency in Address Supplied’ markings. Scott is a new author to our newsletter, a fact that makes his contribution even more welcome.

Three of the articles that I have written in this newsletter, “The 1¢ Dead Letter Office Advertising Return Fee,” “Post Office Department Order 19687,” and “Censorship and its Relationship to the Language of Letters During WWII,” all relied on research into the *US Postal Bulletins* that I have placed online ([www.uspostalbulletins.com](http://www.uspostalbulletins.com)).

I am especially excited about the first article because when I first saw the 1¢ rate on a Dead Letter Office return envelope, it really made no sense. I first thought that the 1¢ was an interim return fee before the 3¢ fee was introduced in May of 1920. However, because one of the envelopes was used in 1916, before

there were even any DLO branches introduced, I began to wonder if there was something else involved. So then, I started to look at each *Postal Bulletin* before this date until I found the Nov. 8, 1915 *PB 10886* reference mentioned in the article. Fortunately, I did not have to look far to find this reference. Note that general key word searching did not work for locating this reference because it would have required my searching using the phrase “Division of Dead Letters” rather than “Dead Letter Office,” the one I would have logically used.

In fact, the three Branches of the Dead Letter Office cannot be discovered unless one use the same search phrase, “Division of Dead Letters.” That is, this is another example where searches in the *PBs* requires some ingenuity beyond the ordinary. In fact I found them by doing the special search, “Chicago within 50 words of Dead.”

# Surprising Directory Service Supplied by the Post Office Department by Tony Wawrukiewicz

I find this label and its content surprising because since the 1950s the Post Office Department no longer supplies directory service except in extraordinary circumstances. I am assuming that the penciled '2383' represents the corrected address supplied by the POD.



## 'DO NOT FORWARD EXCEPT / FOR LOCAL DELIVERY' by Tony Wawrukiewicz

The addressee for this card had applied to work as a worker at a post office, and this card was a request that he appear for an interview appointment at the Berkeley, California Post Office. It would make sense, I guess, that the Berkeley office would not want to forward this 1955 appointment card if the addressee no longer lived in the area. Thus, I assume, the reason for the aux-

iliary marking on this card. It seems rather prescient of the Post Office Department to place such a marking. Both the card and the marking are shown actual size.



## The 1¢ Dead Letter Office Advertising Return Fee by Tony Wawrukiewicz

The first example of a Dead Letter Office return envelope that I saw with the admonition ‘Collect One Cent on Delivery’ is the Oct. 13, 1917 one illustrated in Figure 3. Then a few months later I saw the two covers illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, DLO return envelopes that also bore the auxiliary marking ‘COLLECT ONE CENT / ON DELIVERY.’

Since the DLO return fee was, I thought, free of charge before May 20, 1920 and 3¢ as of this date, I at first thought that the 1¢ fee was a preliminary DLO return fee that was never announced by the Post Office Department (since I could never find it announced). Notice that the two other DLO return envelopes are dated July 11, 1916 and June 5, 1917 (the former even before the announcement of Dead Letter Branches in 1917).

Things started to make more sense when I found the following announcement in the Nov. 8, 1915 *PB 10886*: “Effective Dec. 1, 1915, Section 49, *Postal Laws and Regulations* is hereby amended to read as follows: Letters that do not contain valuable inclosures shall be returned to the writers, so far as circumstances

and conditions permit, subject to a charge of one cent each for advertising, as provided in Section 630, and no record shall be kept thereof, except the number so returned.

“Letters not returned to writers shall be delivered daily to the superintendent of the department building to be sold as waste paper.”

Next it added: “Section 630, paragraph 2. *Postal Laws and Regulations*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“The same charge as on letters shall be made on all other advertised matter.

“Such charge shall be collected on delivery, or on return through the Division of Dead Letters, by means of a postage due stamp, which shall not be affixed until the charge has been paid.”

These regulations referred to items handled in the DLO and indicated that this 1¢ charge for advertising was to be collected upon delivery or upon the return of the advertised DLO item described therein from the DLO in the return envelope. The envelopes illustrated in this article reflected this new return charge, not for the simple return of a DLO item but apparently for the collection of the advertised fee that had not been collected when the letter had been advertised upon nondelivery at the office of delivery.

This is my opinion of why the 1¢ fee was collected as indicated by these envelopes illustrated in this article. I have seen no envelopes such as these beyond 1917 and certainly not beyond the May 20, 1920 date when the simple 3¢ fee required from the writer on return of a DLO was introduced. That is, this 3¢ fee was not related to any advertising done before the item was sent to the DLO, but rather was the fee for opening the letter at the DLO, determining the writer, and then returning the dead letter to him or her.

Importantly, and consistent with the fact that no examples of this 1¢ return are found beyond 1917, is the fact that in the 1924 *PL&R*, Sec. 605, we find that unclaimed matter was no longer to be advertised before it was returned to the DLO for disposition.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

### 'FORWARD AS ADDRESSED'

by Tony Wawrukiewicz

The auxiliary mark label on this letter is in my experience quite unusual. Apparently someone had changed both the street number and the Zip Code, and the USPS wanted to be sure that the letter reached the correct address, thus the label and the marking.

The letter is reduced in size, but the label is shown actual size.



### 'NO POST OFFICE NAMED'

by Tony Wawrukiewicz

This May 1947 post-war cover from the British sector of Germany (British censor) had an inadequate address (no city was named). Or, specifically, 'NO POST OFFICE WAS NAMED.' Thus it was 'Retour Misdirected / Rebut (Address Incorrect).' This certainly is an inadequate address on a letter to the U.S. Neither the markings or the letter are shown actual size.

NO POST OFFICE NAMED.  
(N. Y. P. O.-I. S.)

Retour Misdirected  
Rebut (Address incorrect)  
MAY 13 1947  
New York, N. Y. I. S.



## Update to ‘DEFICIENCY IN ADDRESS SUPPLIED BY (name of the forwarding office)’ by Scott Stewart

The goal of this article is to present some additional information related to ‘Deficiency in Address Supplied by...’ markings as discussed by Thomas Breske in his article entitled “DEFICIENCY IN ADDRESS SUPPLIED BY (name of forwarding office)” in the January 2015 issue of *Auxiliary Markings*. Additionally, marks unreported by Breske will be included in this article.

One of the reoccurring problems encountered by postal employees in processing and delivering mail through the history of postal service has been dealing with mail that has an erroneous address. Typical addressing errors include addresses containing a city but no state or addresses containing a city and a state but the city is not located in the state shown in the address. Mail containing these types of errors is often referred to as Nixies. The January 1886 *United States Official Postal Guide*, section 417, page 709 defines Nixies as:

“Domestic matter of the first and second-class which is addressed to places not post offices, or to states in which there is no such post office as that indicated in the address ...”

As indicated by Breske the use of ‘DEFICIENCY IN ADDRESS SUPPLIED BY (name of forwarding office)’ began

between 1879 and 1886. The use of this marking seems to have officially ended in the early 1960’s. The March 30, 1961 issue of the *Postal Bulletin* contained the following notice:

“Rubber stamp item R-1300-46 has been changed to read, Correct Address Supplied by Post Office at -----. The stamp will be distributed to post offices thereby eliminating requisition procedures. Upon receipt of the reworded stamp, the replaced stamp reading, Deficiency in Address Supplied by Post Office at ----, may be disposed of as waste.”

However, the author has seen this stamp still used as late as 1975. As indicated by Breske, the markings can be grouped by shape, with circular markings being the most common. These have been found to range in size from 23 mm in diameter to 36 mm in diameter. Ink color used for these markings typically fall within the magenta to purple range, less frequently found are markings in the pink to red range, blue, and black in color. In addition to the basic circular marking as shown in the first image, a number of markings include the addition of lines to embellish the marking. The following tables show markings not listed by Breske. Some of the more unusual markings are shown below.

City and State	Date	Circular-Shape	Diam.
Philadelphia, PA	1886	DEFICIENCY IN ADDRESS / -SUPPLIED BY- / PHILA., PA. / P.O.	26 mm
Philadelphia, PA	1887	DEFICIENCY / IN / ADDRESS / SUPPLIED BY / ★ / PHILADELPHIA, PA., P.O.	29 mm
Philadelphia, PA	1891	DEFICIENCY / IN / ADDRESS / SUPPLIED / BY / PHILADELPHIA, PA. P.O.	29 mm
Philadelphia, PA	1975	DEFICIENCY / IN / ADDRESS / SUPPLIED BY / X / PHILA., PA. 19104	34 mm
Saint Paul, MN	1936	DEFICIENCY / IN / ADDRESS / SUPPLIED BY / 12 / SAINT PAUL, MINN., P.O.	30 mm
San Francisco, CA	1897	DEFICIENCY / IN / ADDRESS / SUPPLIED BY / San Francisco / P.O.	23 mm
San Francisco, CA	1902	DEFICIENCY / IN / ADDRESS / SUPPLIED / -BY- / San Francisco, Cal.P.O.	28 mm
Toledo, OH	1938	DEFICIENCY / IN / ADDRESS / SUPPLIED / BY / TOLEDO, OHIO P.O.	28 mm
Washington DC	1904	DEFICIENCY / IN / ADDRESS / SUPPLIED / BY / WASHINGTON, D.C.P.O.	30 mm
Woodstock, IL	1910	DEFICIENCY / IN / ADDRESS / SUPPLIED BY / WOODSTOCK, ILL., P.O.	27 mm



Columbus, Ohio



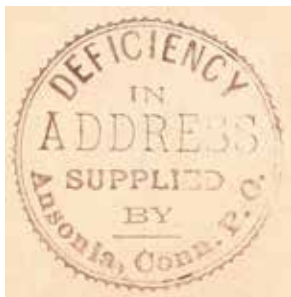
Dead Letter Office 1886



Philadelphia, Penn. 1886



Boston, Mass. 1889



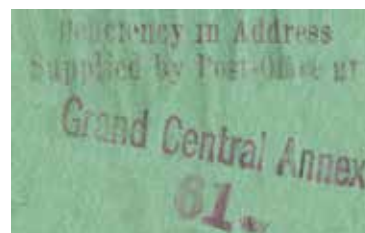
Ansonia, Conn. 1892



San Francisco, Calif. 1897



Quincy, Mass. 1895

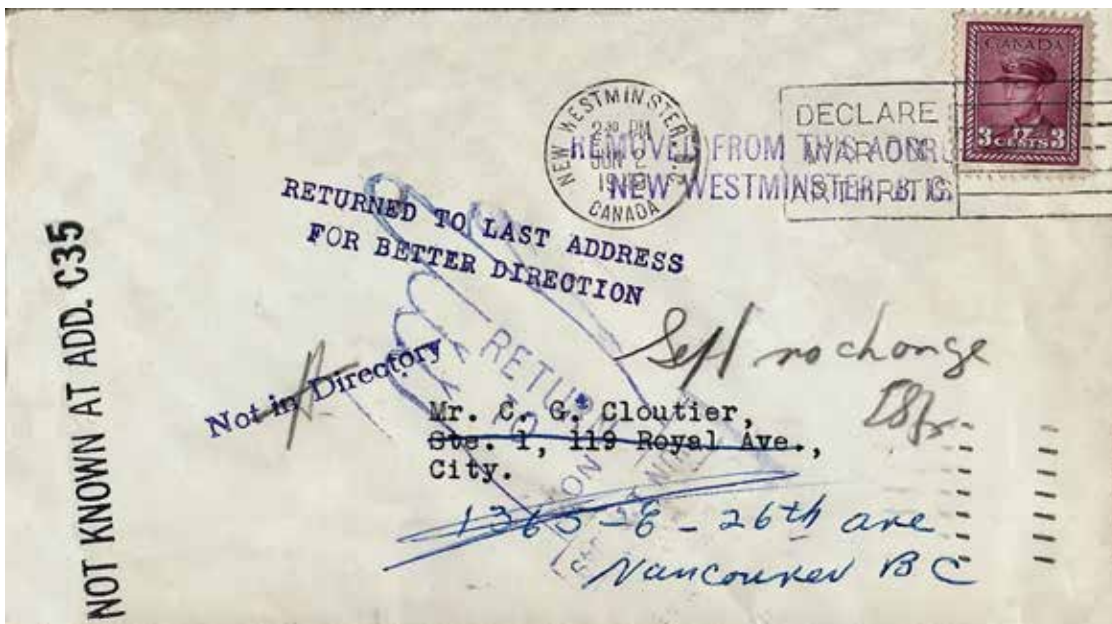
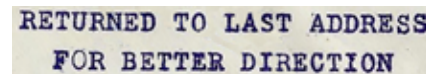
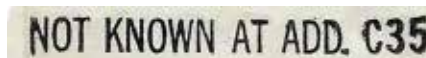


Grand Central Annex, NYC 1942

### ‘RETURNED TO LAST ADDRESS FOR BETTER DIRECTION’ by Tony Wawrukiewicz

As indicated by the numerous auxiliary markings found on this 1949 letter (none shown actual size), handstamps of the Canadian post office workers indicate that extensive efforts were made to deliver this letter.

First, the addressee was ‘REMOVED FROM THIS ADDRESS / NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.’ I believe that the letter was then forwarded to an address in Vancouver, B.C. where the addressee was ‘Not in Directory’ and ‘NOT KNOWN AT ADD.’ by carrier C35. I then assume that the manuscript marking ‘Left no change’ was added, indicating that there was no forwarding address left in Vancouver. Then, in desperation, finally, the letter was ‘RETURNED TO LAST ADDRESS / FOR BETTER DIRECTION,’ presumably in Westminster. Whew!



## Post Office Department Order 19687 by Tony Wawrukiewicz

This article illustrates three separate war-related items, all that were mailed and received Post Office Department Order 19687 admonitions. The first item, in Figure 1, was an undated third-class letter mailed at the up to 2¢ per up to 2 ounce third-class single-piece rate sometime after Jan. 1, 1943. The letter carries the admonition ‘DISPATCH PROHIBITED BY / ORDER NO. 19687 SEE / POSTAL BULLETIN JANUARY 8, 1943.’

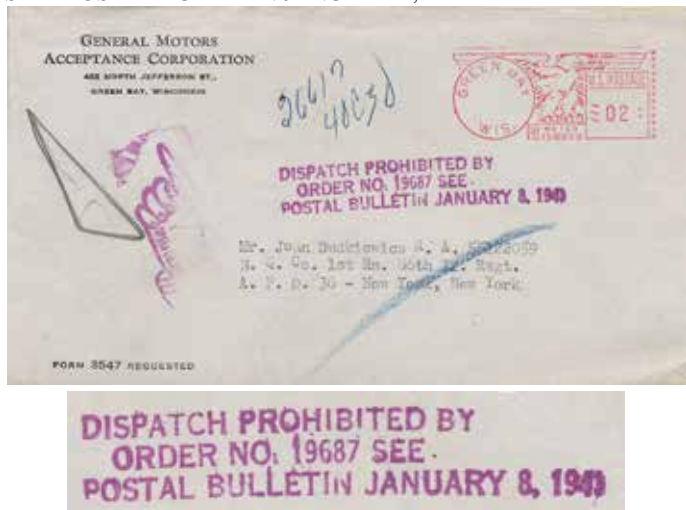


Figure 1

From *PB 18539* of Jan. 8, 1943 we read:  
“ORDER NO. 19687; DATED JANUARY 7, 1943.

“The War Department has informed the Post Office Department that in view of the heavy demands being made on cargo space for military shipments and because of the limited facilities available to commanders of theaters of operations for delivery of mail, the volume of mail dispatched to overseas destinations must be kept to a minimum. Therefore, in accordance with the recommendations of the War Department, the following restrictions on mail for Army personnel addressed to A. P. O.’s overseas, other than official shipments and shipments to military agencies, shall become effective January 15, 1943.

“3. Individual copies of newspapers or magazines shall be accepted for dispatch to A. P. O.’s outside the continental United States only where subscriptions are specifically requested in writing by the addressee or for which subscriptions are now in effect. Such copies to individuals shall be accepted only from publishers who shall place on the wrapper, or on the publication when a wrapper is not used, a certificate (which shall be regarded as sufficient to authorize their acceptance) reading as follows: ‘Mailed in conformity with P. O. D. Order No. 19687.’

“4. No circular matter of the third class should be presented for mailing to A. P. O.’s overseas, as the War Department advises that it will not be dispatched from ports of embarkation

“The restrictions of this order apply only to personnel of the United States Army and to contractors and civilians served through A. P. O.’s outside the continental United States. They do not apply to mail for personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, nor to international mail which will continue until further notice to be subject to the provisions of Order No. 17471 of April 20, 1942, and the general permits thereunder insofar as

applicable.  
“None of the restrictions in this order apply to official shipments and shipments to military agencies overseas nor to any mail from A. P. O.’s outside the continental United States to points in the United States. Postmasters shall return to the senders, marked ‘Dispatch prohibited by Order No. 19687’ any prohibited matter obviously accepted for mailing after January 15, 1943.

“Some postmasters are erroneously accepting third-class circular mail addressed to overseas APO’s.

“Such matter is not mailable to APO addresses and will not be dispatched overseas. This restriction does not apply to other third-class mail such as house organs, news or church bulletins, books and catalogs.

“Postmasters shall see that employees are appropriately instructed on this subject.”

The letter in Figure 1 was thus refused onward transmission and was returned to the writer as per paragraph 4. of this order.

The next item, an undated second-class one, was also mailed after Jan. 8, 1943. Because of Order No. 19687, paragraph 3., it was ‘MAILED IN CONFORMITY WITH / POD ORDER 19687 / SECOND CLASS MATTER.’ That is, because it was appropriate second-class matter, it could be sent on to the WWII military addressee.

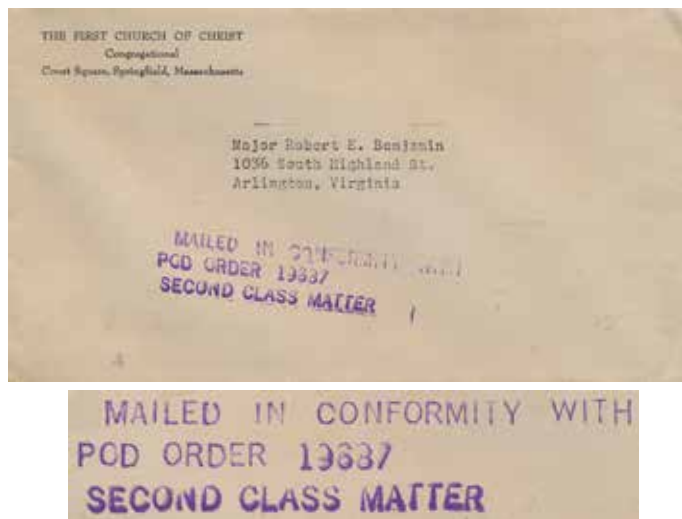


Figure 2

The last of similar items was mailed on or about June 2, 1955. It was an undated third-class letter also mailed at the up to 2¢ per up to 2 ounce third-class single-piece rate sometime after June 2,





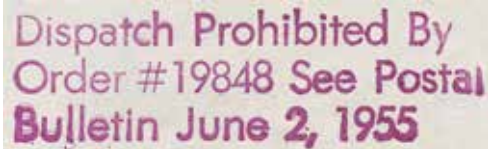


Figure 3

1955. This date is assumed because of the marking on the item: 'Dispatch Prohibited By / Order #19848. See Postal / Bulletin June 2, 1955.' This order is numbered because it is taken from the June 2, 1955 *Postal Bulletin* 19848.

This *Bulletin* stated re third-class circulars addressed to overseas APOs: "Some postmasters are erroneously accepting third-class circular mail addressed to overseas APO's."

Such matter is not mailable to APO addresses and will not be dispatched overseas. This restriction does not apply to other third-class mail such as house organs, news or church bulletins, books and catalogs.

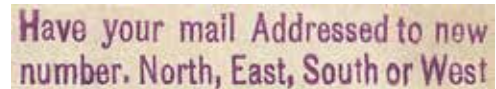
Postmasters shall see that employees are appropriately instructed on this subject."

Note that this admonition is very similar to Order 19687. These three items all discuss some aspect of the fact that some military-related mail was not allowed in the mails after Jan. 8, 1943. Most of the information and citations presented in this article resulted from searching the *Postal Bulletins* on my web site [www.uspostalbulletins.com](http://www.uspostalbulletins.com). The covers are reduced in size, but the markings are shown full-sized.

## Addressing to Compass Number by Tony Wawrukiewicz

This letter is inadequately addressed in a manner not usually seen. That is, often a street has a compass direction associated with it. For instance, in Portland, OR and Seattle, WA, streets are all defined by compass direction. Any address in these cities (and apparently in Highland Park, Ky.) without such compass direc-

tions is inadequate, as indicated by the auxiliary marking on this letter. The letter is reduced in size, but the marking is actual size.




## President's Message by Ralph H. Nafziger

Another "Show and Tell" session was sponsored by the Club at AmeriStampExpo in Riverside, CA in February. A variety of markings were shown and discussed during the meeting. An 'A.6' marking solicited several ideas. Two large registered covers mailed at the UN were received in damaged condition. A cover was sent the dead letter office with 'unclaimed' misspelled. Other markings included 'Read this letter before opening parcel,' 'Christmas seals prohibited by country of destination,' 'Trained at Santa Fe, NM to avoid delay,' 'Certified mail for domestic use only,' and 'no charge to be raised.' Thanks go to Larry Fillion, John Hotchner, Marci Jarvis, and Tony Wawrukiewicz for sharing their covers with the group.

Our annual meeting at ROPEX on May 15-17 at the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center is fast approaching. Thus far, we have six exhibits in 32 frames. Please consider exhibiting and submit your application to [www.rpastamps.org](http://www.rpastamps.org). The Richard B. Graham and President's Awards will be available to exhibitors. We will

have a table at the show. We always can use volunteers to help at the table. Please let me know if you can help. The Board meeting will be held on Friday, May 15 at 2 p.m. in room 1. The general membership meeting and "Show and Tell" is scheduled for Saturday, May 16 at 11 a.m. in room 1. We will have an informal Dutch treat dinner to which all are invited on Friday evening. Please consider attending our annual meeting. It promises to be a fun and instructive experience.

The biennial election of officers and board members will occur this year. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or have questions, please let me know. I will be appointing members of the committee in the near future.

Congratulations go to Ronald Strawser for winning the Club's Award of Merit for his gold medal exhibit "Postal History of the United States Famous Americans Issues" at ARIPEX in Mesa, AZ in February.

## Censorship and Its Relationships to the Language of Letters During WWII

by Tony Wawrukiewicz

In the previous newsletter I presented a censored WWII June 1942 letter from India to the United States. At first I labeled the letter as undated, but careful reading of the cancel on the Indian 1 Anna stamp indicates that it is dated June 10, 1942. I found this item on Ebay, and just took screen shots of it because it was so interesting. It was a surface letter from India to the U.S., due 8¢ (36 centimes in manuscript) in the U.S. and censored both in India (back censor stamp) and the U.S. (Censor tape at the left).

Sometime after this newsletter and article was written, I came upon the following announcement of the rules and regulations for U.S. censorship in WW II in the April 1942 *U.S. Official Postal Guide Supplement*:

### “CENSORSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL MAIL

#### RULES GOVERNING PREPARATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

“Director of Censorship Byron Price, has issued the following rules for the guidance of persons corresponding with foreign countries and has requested that postmasters and postal employees familiarize themselves with these regulations that patrons may be advised and helped in these matters.

‘1. Postal communication with enemy or enemy occupied countries is illegal, and will not be permitted, except:

‘a. Through the agency of the American Red Cross, which will transmit short messages of a personal nature.

‘b. Communications with prisoners of war.

‘2. In order to make the censorship of international mail as effective and economical as possible, the public is earnestly requested to conform to the following rules in regard to correspondence with persons in foreign countries, other than enemy or enemy occupied countries:

‘a. The name and full address of the sender must be stated both on the outside of the envelope and in the letter itself.

‘b. Correspondence should be in English if possible; the letters should be legible, clear, and brief. Avoid use of abbreviations, nicknames, phrases or codes in place of customary reference or descriptions of any person, firm, location, or other information.

‘c. If English is not used the name of the language should be written in English on the face of the envelope.

‘d. No mention should be made of defense matters, shipping, or weather conditions.

‘e. Firms employed on munitions or other Government work should not mention that fact in writing abroad.

‘f. Firms and individuals, except as indicated in g below should refuse to act as intermediaries or agents for the receipt and transmission of postal correspondence on behalf of persons in foreign countries.

‘g. A member of the Army corresponding with foreign countries will not give the name of his post, camp, or station, but should give as his address the Army post office number of his unit in care of Postmaster New York or San Francisco or the address of a friend or relative in the United States, to whose care a reply can be sent for forwarding.

‘3. Failure to comply with these rules may lead to delay in transmission or to the return of correspondence to the sender.”

Additional searching in the *U.S. Postal Bulletins* found the same statement announced in *PB 18414* (March 23, 1942). Of

course the part of this announcement pertinent to the above letter from India are Sections 2.a., 2.b., and 2.c.

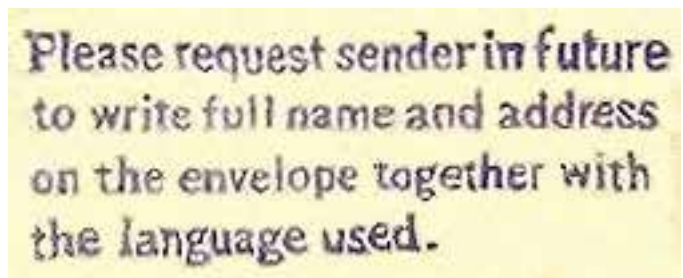
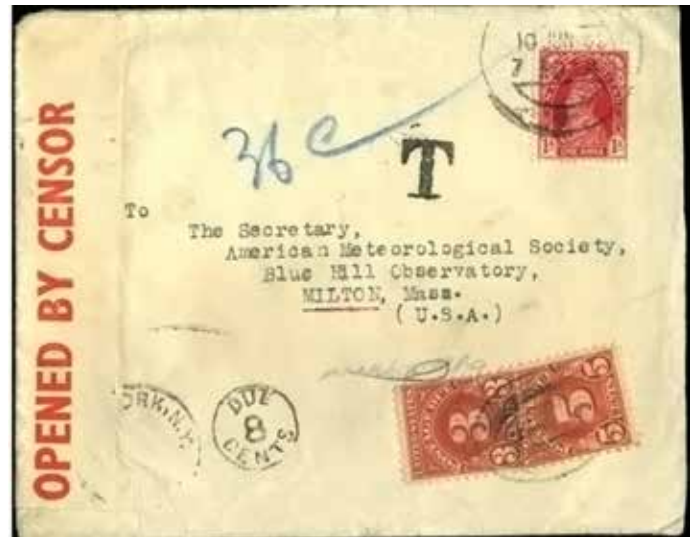


Figure 1

According to Dann Mayo, this India marking is in the Asia section of the *Civil Censorship Study Group Catalog*, and was used from July 1940 to April 1941. Also, according to Mayo, the tape on this cover is recorded used at Bombay from Feb. 40 - Aug. 42 and the triangular handstamp (with C code) from May 1940 - Nov. 1942. This June 1942 use extends the period of use of the auxiliary marking to this new date. Mayo also indicates that a very similar marking was used by Malayan censorship.

Searches by Mayo and British censorship expert Graham Mark through the British censorship literature as well as British

Post Office official references discovered no mention of a notice requiring the name of the language to be written on covers. Graham mentions that all collectors of wartime mail can show examples of covers marked with the language used in the letter, so it seems it was a common practice, but probably not an absolute requirement.

I have searched 1000's of WWII censored letters on Ebay and found only 7 examples of letters where the language of the letter was noted on the cover. One was on a letter from India to the U.S., a second was on a letter from the U.S. to India, three on South American covers to the U.S. and two were on post-WWII covers from occupied Germany to the U.S.

The Apr. 18, 1942 cover in Figure 2 was mailed at the 70¢ for up to 1/2 ounce airmail rate to India. As indicated in the upper left of the cover's front, it was 'Written (sic) in English, By.' This letter was written soon after the announcement in the March 23, 1942 *Postal Bulletin 18414*.



Figure 2

Next are shown the markings and/or covers from South America to the U.S. The first example, shown in Figure 3 is a June 1942 airmail letter from Peru to the U.S. 'WRITTEN IN ENGLISH,' and censored in the U.S.



Figure 3

The next two markings (in Figures 4 and 5) were on two 194? covers from Brazil to the U.S. The first marking is a simple one, 'Written in English.'

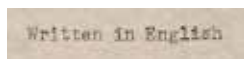


Figure 4

The second is unusual because the notice indicates that the letter is written in English and Spanish, saying 'Spanish language' in English, and English Language in Spanish.

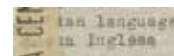


Figure 5

The Sept. 1, 1947 example in Figure 6 was mailed from the post-war German British Zone (see the reverse return address and the obverse British Censor mark). The word German on the cover's reverse indicates the language of the letter.



Figure 6

The other German example (in Figure 7) is a Dec. 10, 1946 Berlin letter. The tape suggests a British censorship, but the censorship marking is not readable. Again, the 'German' language indicator is on the envelope's reverse. I find it interesting that at least one of these two German covers, although to the U.S., originates in the British German sector, even though the regulations concerning language indication are U.S. in origin.

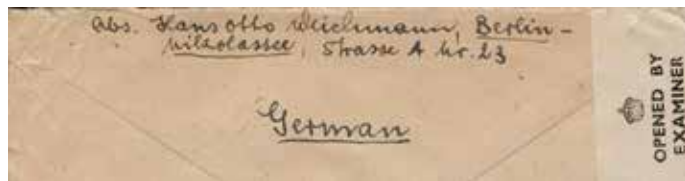


Figure 7

Note that all of these examples where the letter's language is indicated were either from the U.S. or mailed to the U.S., indicating that the regulations driving this fact was originated in the U.S. This fact is supported by the fact that no similar rule or regulation has been found in the literature or official documents of other countries in which censorship was performed.

### 'Postage Verified' / 'Postage OK' by Tony Wawrukiewicz

The four markings illustrated in this article have only one thing in common - they are all on letters where the postage is no longer on the envelope but in each case there is evidence that postage was affixed, but then somehow is no longer present. Only one letter is dated (1991), one is related to a state government agency (see the entire envelope) and three are Department of Veteran Affairs letters where I cannot ascertain the addressee because the envelopes are windowed.

If one collects a large grouping of letters from a mailing it is common to find markings such as those illustrated here. The markings and envelopes are all reduced in size from the original items.

The entire envelope with the auxiliary marking 'POSTAGE OK / TULSA, OK 74103-9763' was chosen because the dirt on

the cover outlines where the postage was once placed on the envelope. In this case it was easy to determine that postage was once paid but then somehow fell off the letter.

In the case of the other three letters, the missing postage was noted to have been present initially, but the evidence was probably more subtle (possibly residual glue?). In each case an auxiliary marking indicated that a postal worker felt that postage had been originally affixed. The markings read 'POSTAGE EVIDENTLY AFFIXED,' 'EVIDENCE POSTAGE PAID / ONE RATE OK'D' and 'Postage Verified / by \_BC\_'. The latter marking, where a postal worker actually initialled the marking, is, in my experience, unusual.

**POSTAGE EVIDENTLY AFFIXED**

**EVIDENCE POSTAGE PAID  
ONE RATE OK'D**

**Postage Verified**  
by *BC*



### 'RTW / UUA / Unable to Forward' by Tony Wawrukiewicz

The message on the pointing hand is not that unusual on this undeliverable letter. However the pointing does appear to be attached to the CDS, which is unusual in my experience. Also, the font is not one I've seen, whichever one it is, so I've shown it here. The auxiliary mark is actual size while the envelope has been reduced in size.

