

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



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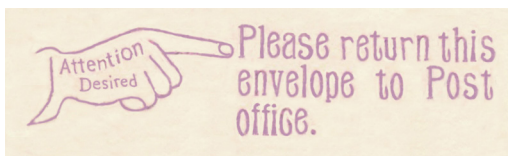


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Illegal Postmaster Request for Letter Return to Him Jerry Johnson

The cover was sent to Saginaw, MI in 1912. It has a pointing finger marking with the words 'Please return this envelope to Post Office.' Within the pointing finger there are the words 'Attention Desired.' A postal clerk hit on the idea of using the marking to get covers with foreign stamps for his collection and made the handstamp. A complaint resulted in an investigation and the clerk was terminated for his unofficial activities. Seven examples are known of covers with this marking.



Editorial by Tony Wawrukiewicz

I have been fortunate to have some excellent research resources over the years, all that have facilitated my efforts in understanding and writing about U.S. domestic and international postal history. The two resources that were first available to me were the fully searchable *Postal Bulletins* and the *Postal Laws and Regulations*.

Quite a few years later, I happened upon the *Postal Guides*, in particular the monthly supplements to these guides, at the USPS national library in Washington, D.C. More importantly, the librarian there was willing to lend them, in the form of microfilm, to the APRL. The APRL, in turn, had a machine that could scan this microfilm into an image format (PDFs).

Initially, these images were only on my hard drive, where

they became very useful to my research and writing efforts. I then advertised their existence to a number of fellow philatelists, and made them available (they are, in total volume, over 60 gigabytes) via large-volume flash drives.

At this point, Don Denman and Mike Ludamen took the yearly supplements and made them into single files, leaving the yearly volumes as separate files. They then made each of these files completely searchable. Obviously, although this fact makes my searches much more reasonable, it is still limited, since I have to access the files separately. However, it's still wonderful to even have the yearly supplements together as a single file that can be searched. (Continued on page 3)

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Bilingual Postage-Paid (“Taxe Perçue”) Marking on Postcard from Lithuania David M. Frye

Introduction

Postcrossing.com provides an international forum for more than 800,000 Postcrossers—as they call themselves—to send and receive postcards from others in 206 countries. As a member since 2012, I have sent and received almost 200 postcards. This exchange puts colorful and upbeat mail in our mailbox a handful of days each month. The postcards also bring me examples of current stamps from around the world. Yesterday, though, I received my first postcard with no stamp. Here is the message side of the card.

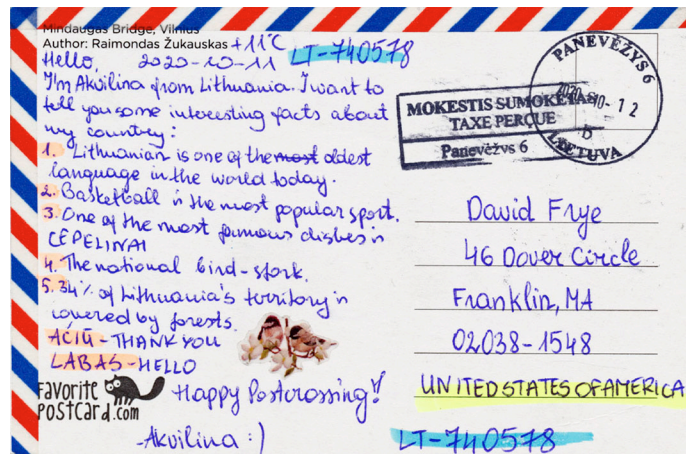


Figure 1. Panevėžys, Lietuva, to Franklin, Mass.
12 October 2020

The blue-highlighted code at the top and bottom of the card provides the means for the sender and recipient of this postcard to connect through Postcrossing.com. Each sender enters a request to send a postcard, receives a unique code, writes in on an outgoing postcard, and mails it. The recipient registers the postcard on the Web site upon receipt and can add a message to the registration. I learned from this system that this postcard traveled 6,582 km in thirteen days (11 to 24 October 2020).

This postcard caught my eye because it has no postage stamps! The circular date stamp provides the date and location of mailing: 12 October 2020 in Panevėžys, Lietuva (Lithuania). The boxed marking that overlaps the postmark presented a little mystery. Here is what I discovered through a bit of online digging.

The boxed marking in Figure 2 that was applied in the usual position of the stamp on this postcard shows that the sender paid the prevailing rate for mailing the postcard from Lithuania to the United States. The postal clerk applied the boxed handstamp rather than a postage stamp and then added the circular date stamp over the TAXE PERÇUE handstamp.

The postcard arrived in Franklin, Massachusetts, twelve days after receiving the postmark. The U.S. Postal Service did not mark the postcard in any way.

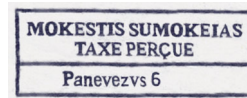


Figure 2. MOKESTIS SUMOKETAS / TAXE PERÇUE. Boxed bilingual Lithuanian–French marking, meaning “fee or postage paid,” shows the city, Panevėžys, from which the sender mailed the postcard (original: 45.0 mm × 17.0 mm).

Universal Postal Union Agreement

Both Lithuania and the United States, as members of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), agree to follow its standards for handling the mail. The UPU governing documents include a section that describes the handling of this postcard:

Article 06-001 Prepayment. Methods of denoting prepayment
1 Letter-post items

- 1.1 As a general rule, letter-post items shall be fully prepaid by the sender.
- 1.2 Methods of denoting prepayment
 - 1.2.1 Prepayment shall be denoted by means of any one of the following methods:
 - 1.2.1.1 postage stamps printed on or affixed to the items and valid in the member country of origin;
 - 1.2.1.2 postal prepayment impressions valid in the member country of origin and dispensed by automatic vending machines installed by designated operators of origin;
 - 1.2.1.3 impressions of officially approved franking machines valid in the country of origin, operating under the direct supervision of the designated operator of origin;
 - 1.2.1.4 impressions made by a printing press or other printing or stamping process when such a system is authorized by the regulations of the designated operator of origin.

2 Letter-post items may also be provided with an indication that full postage has been prepaid, for example, “Taxe Perçue” (“Postage paid”). This indication shall appear in the top right-hand part of the address side and be authenticated by a date-stamp impression of the office of origin. In the case of unpaid or underpaid items, the impression of the office which prepaid the item or made up the postage on it shall be applied opposite this indication (UPU, 2017).

The second section of this citation describes the use of the ‘Taxe Perçue’ marking to denote that the sender has purchased the postage for the mailed item, to describe the placement of the marking, and to document the authentication provided by the “date-stamp impression of the office of origin.” As illustrated in the detail in Figure 2, the two markings applied to this postcard follow the requirements set by the UPU protocols.

U.S. Postal Service Handling

The postcard shows no markings applied by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to indicate the postcard bears the proper franking or that any mail handler, clerk, or carrier ever mistakenly judged the postcard to be unfranked. Further, neither side of the postcard shows any markings typically applied by USPS automated processing equipment. The USPS *International Mail Manual (IMM)* includes a section that describes the treatment that such international prepaid postage mailings should receive. In the section, “Stamps Not Affixed,” the manual states:

Some items of foreign origin do not bear postage stamps, but instead are marked “POSTAGE PAID,” “ON POSTAL SERVICE,” “SERVICE DES POSTES,” “TAXE PERCUE” [sic] or “TP,” or “PORT PAYE” or “PP,” followed by postmark. The marking On Her Majesty’s Service or O.H.M.S. is also sometimes used. Treat this mail as prepaid (IMM 742.1, “Marking”).

Thus, one can say that this postcard received exactly the service the *IMM* specifies, “treat[ing] this mail as prepaid.”

Conclusion

This postcard has alerted me to one of the seldom-seen methods for denoting a postal patron’s payment of postage for a letter or postcard. The marking helps this one postcard to stand out in a collection of almost two hundred modern postcards. Further research could identify and categorize uses of markings from various countries and periods to paint a more detailed picture of “Taxe Perçue” markings.

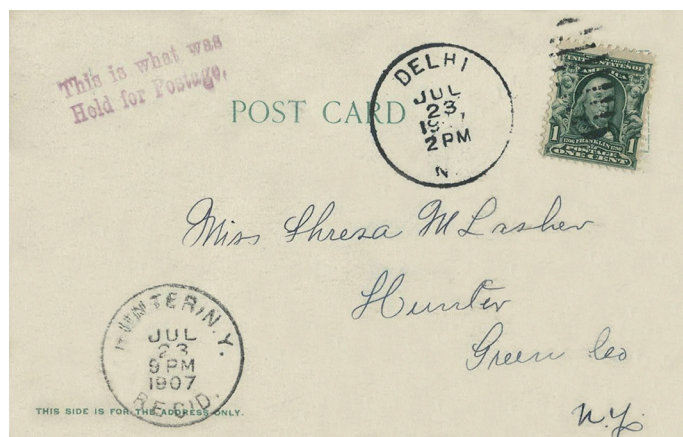
References

- United States Postal Service, *International Mail Manual*, https://pe.usps.com/text/imm/immc7_011.htm; accessed 25 October 2020.
- Universal Postal Union, Regulations to the Convention and Final Protocol, Berne, 2017, <https://www.upu.int/UPU/media/upu/files/UPU/aboutUpu/acts/nonPermanentActs/actNonPermanentRegulationsConventionFinalProtocolEn.pdf>; accessed 25 October 2020.

Unusual Held for Postage Handstamp by Tony Wawrukiewicz

This 1907 post card was unpaid at the mailing office. There, in Delphi, New York, it was held for postage with, to me, is a somewhat unusual handstamp. Apparently, the postage due was paid by someone. Although the 1¢ sent by someone was cancelled by the city of mailing, since there is no hs placed that tell us whether the writer or addressee sent the postage that was due, we cannot say who paid it. Of course the card was correctly, finally, sent on to the addressee.

This is what was
Held for Postage



Editorial Continued by Tony Wawrukiewicz

Presently, these extremely valuable files are available via Don Denman’s wonderful Stamps Starter website at https://stampsmarter.org/Search/Home_Search.html. Unfortunately, by the fact they contain so much valuable information, these files are quite large and thus their downloading requires a fast internet connection. My connection is, in fact, extremely slow, although I am working to change providers and thus increase my access speed. But that is my problem. Hopefully, others of you have

faster internet connectivity.

On the other hand, in an attempt to work around this problem, I have made these files available to the APRL. I am hoping that relatively soon, Scott Tiffney will make the files available via a large flash drive to anyone who wants it. I hope to underwrite some of the cost (buying Flash Drives, paying for the postage costs of mailing them, etc.). (Continued, again, on page 7)

Unauthorized Change of Address May Explain "IN DISPUTE" PARS Label by Douglas B. Quine

This is an important article from Doug Quine concerning the "IN DISPUTE" article he references. Because the Figures are so large and unwieldy, I have had to place them out of order in this article (Editor).

In the April 2020 issue of the newsletter was an article by Roland Austin about a yellow "IN DISPUTE" PARS Undeliverable As Addressed (UAA) auxiliary marking from 2007. When Roland inquired of the postmaster the meaning of the marking, the postmaster did some research and then called back to say that mail is in dispute when there is a problem with the forwarding address and had no other details. For a postal historian and philatelist, this is a less than totally satisfactory answer.

Imagine my delight, therefore, when a possible answer was delivered to me by the USPS this week. This official USPS envelope (Figure 1) arrived in my PO Box on July 16, 2020 with the prescient endorsement "Open Immediately-Action May Be Required." That was indeed the case as a certain Katherine Sullivan Sugarman, unknown to our family, was directing the USPS to forward (Figure 2) all her

mail to our PO Box which we have used for over 26 years.

I immediately telephoned the toll-free number in the letter to resolve the issue. I was disheartened to be informed that the wait time, due to unusual call volumes, was over an hour (and I suspected would exceed their hours of operation). After a generous wait on hold in case the estimate was mistaken, I hung up and wrote to the referenced email address explaining the situation (bottom half, Figure 3, excluding the yellow warning). The following evening, I received a timely email back from the USPS Change of Address Help office with the welcome news that "The change of address has been canceled."

My experience would appear to be a perfect example of the circumstances that could have led to the cover shown and discussed by Austin Roland in April 2020. An unauthorized Change Of Address (COA) to my PO Box was disputed and canceled. Should mail be sent to Kathleen Sullivan Sugarman at her old address, the filed COA has been blocked and therefore the mail would be returned to sender as "IN DISPUTE, UNABLE TO FORWARD."

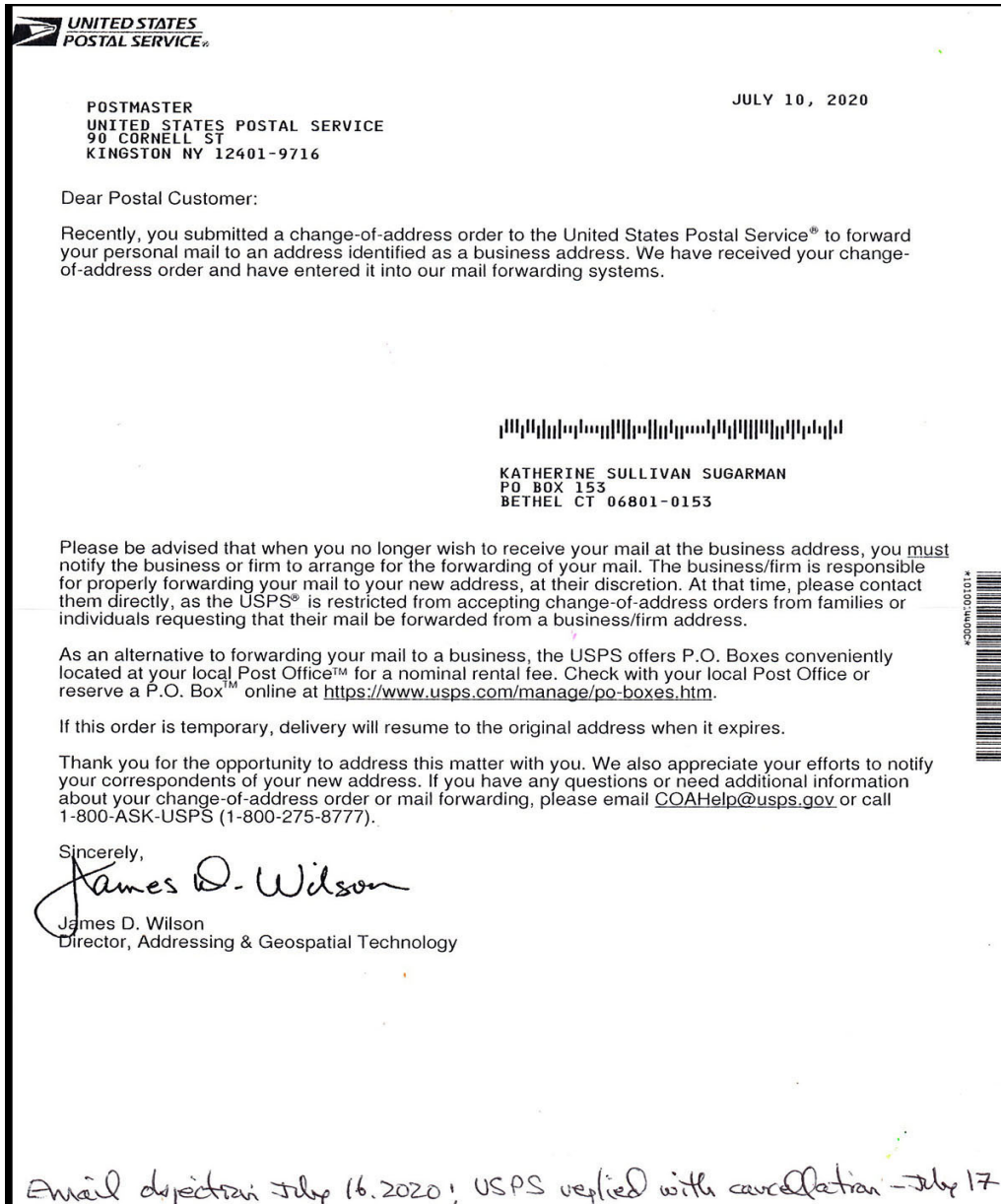


Figure 2. Unauthorized Change Of Address letter from the USPS with my handwritten notes at the bottom.

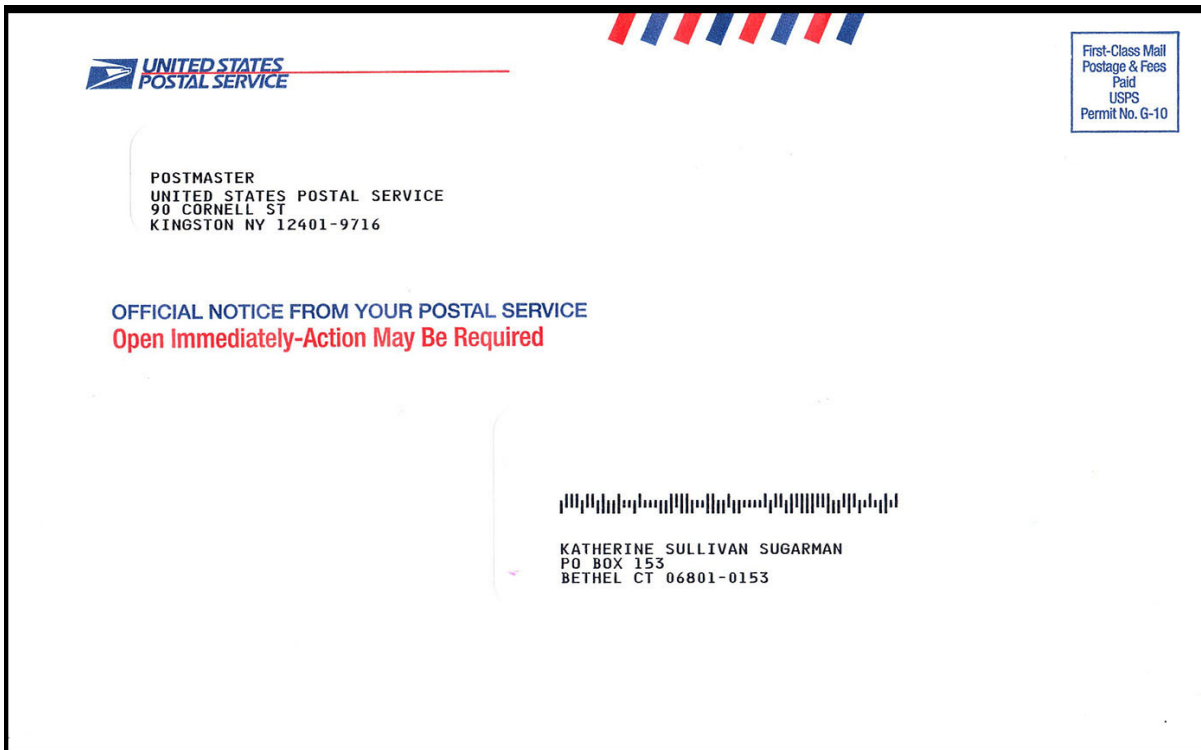


Figure 1. Unauthorized Change Of Address envelope from the USPS.

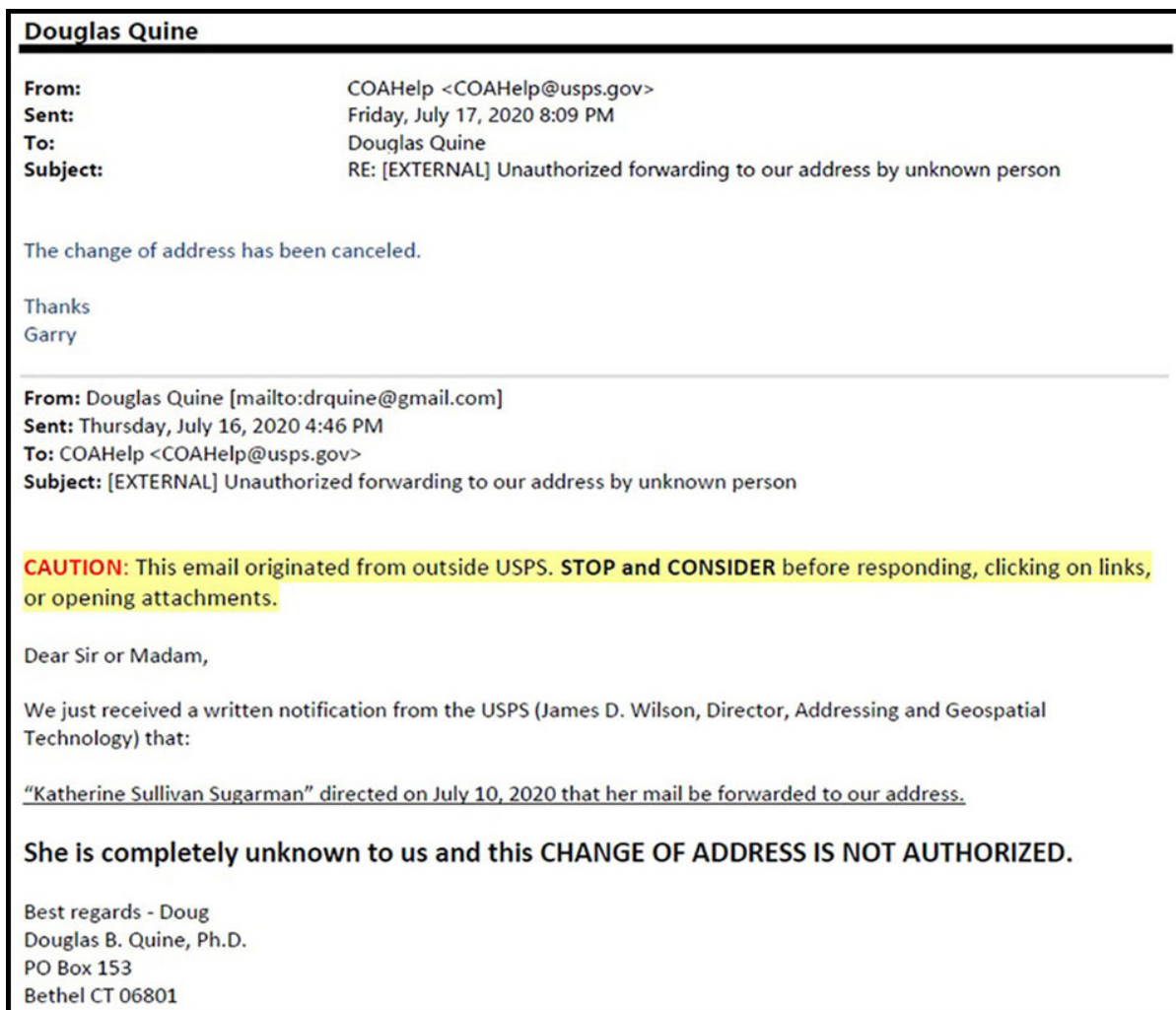


Figure 3. My letter to the USPS (bottom two thirds) with an added yellow security notice (top third).

Early New York City Pointing Hands on Undeliverable Mail, 1866-79

by Tony Wawrukiewicz

Introduction

The chapter in my book on New York City (NYC) auxiliary markings on deliverable mail presents all the markings that relate to how undeliverable domestic New York City was handled. It was only possible to do this when return addresses were introduced, on April 6, 1860. The act of this date stated the following as it introduced the return address:

That when any person shall indorse on any letter his or her name and place of residence, as writer thereof, the same, after remaining uncalled for at [the] office to which it was directed for thirty days, or the time the writer may direct, shall be returned by mail to said writer; and no such letter shall be advertised, nor shall the same be treated as dead letters until so returned to the post office of the writer and there remain uncalled for, two months.

Return to Writer Pointing Hands

There are many markings associated with undeliverable mail, but the most obvious type is the pointed hands with and without associated messaging. In this article I'm concentrating on the early development from 1867 to 1879 of these hands in the mails of NYC. The letters "as" indicate the PH handstamp (hs) is shown actual size while the letters "nas" indicate the opposite.

In presenting this discussion, I am grateful to James Milgram, M.D. and Tom Breske for supplying a number of early pointed hand uses. All of the examples that will be shown must be dated after July 1, 1866 because there was no postage required for the return of these examples (that is, this was the date in which the return to writer/sender process became free).

In Figure 1 is probably the earliest NYC undeliverable letter returned to the sender using a pointing hand. The date of return (and of the pointing hand) is not certain but it must be later than July 1, 1866 for the reason just stated. On the other hand, according to James Milgram (private communication) the red CDS supposedly was used in NYC in 1868 or earlier so that the date of the return is likely between late 1866 and 1868.



Figure 1. (Late 1866-68, as, Courtesy Milgram)

The cover in Figure 2 is dated by the contents as returned as undeliverable in 1869. This date places its use after the letter in Figure 1.

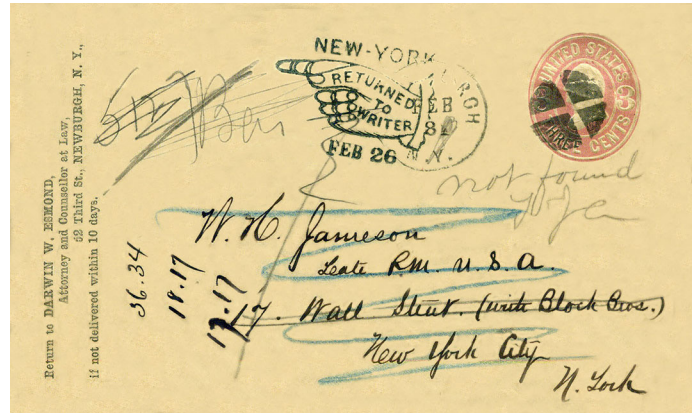


Figure 2. (1869, as, Courtesy Milgram)

The pointed hand handstamp on the Figure 3 cover is better seen on a second cover that I have chosen not to illustrate because it is of lesser quality. However, the images of the hands on this other envelope, together with those on the illustrated envelope are of such quality that the image of the hand is felt to be accurate. Both envelopes are dated in the year 1870 by the contents of the letters.



Figure 3. (1870, as, Courtesy Milgram)

In Figure 4 is an 1871 envelope that contained a dated undeliverable 1871 circular (shown). Correctly, there was no charge for the return. The pointing hand is exactly the same design as in Figure 1, except for the 'NEW-YORK' added inscription.

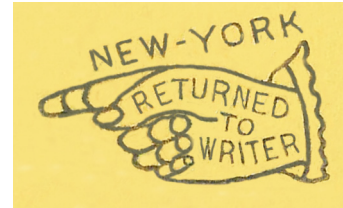
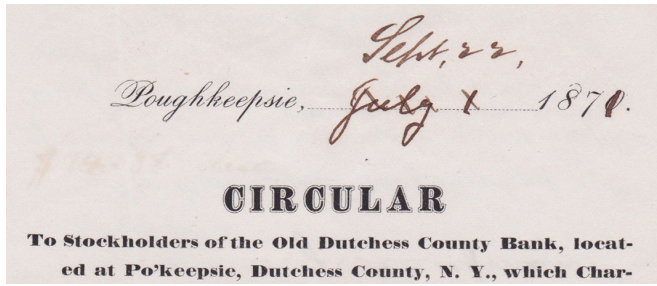


Figure 5. (1876, nas, Courtesy Stampstarter)

In Figure 6 is the last, early, undeliverable, cover with a pointing hand. It is dated by the Boston Carrier and Boston CDS on the cover front as having been mailed in 1879. Note how different the pointing hand is, compared to earlier examples in this article.



Figure 4. (1871, as, Courtesy Breske)

In Figure 5 is a dated, early UPU 1876 letter from NYC to Breslau, Prussia that was undeliverable. The pointed hand looks identical to the hand in Figure 4, but if one looks carefully at the hand images, one sees that the letters in "RETURNED TO WRITER" are all slightly taller in the 1876 hand. In addition, the finger markings are doubled in the 1871 hand, but single in the 1876 hand.

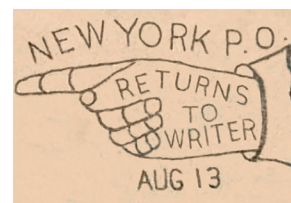
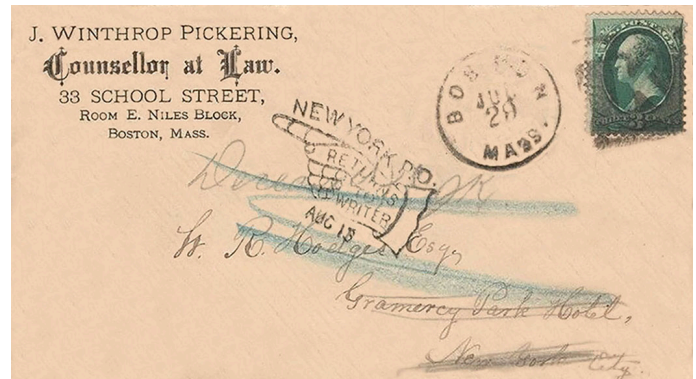
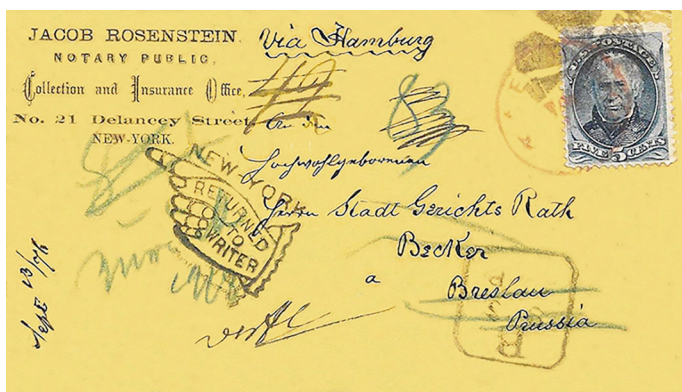


Figure 6. (1879, as, Wawrukiewicz collection)

It has taken a number of months plus the loan of multiple cover images to come to the conclusions in this article. As mentioned earlier, I am grateful for the loan of multiple cover images by various sources.



**Editorial Continued
by Tony Wawrukiewicz**

In the interim, stay tuned for further developments. Thanks in part to Tom Breske, we continue to develop the material for the New York City auxiliary markings book, and in part, we and I alone, are publishing segments of the planned book in this newsletter. We are doing this for two reasons. First, the material is, we believe, of general interest to our readers, and second, we continue to suggest areas where there may be addi-

tional examples available in our varied collections that could be made available to fill in gaps that we have. In the final analysis, our efforts will never be complete, but we see a need to publish what we have, as incomplete as it might be, because it will represent a good start, where nothing has been done before.

'Misdirected' Mail and 'Returned for Better Direction/Address,' Etc. - Oct. 1879-2003 by Thomas Breske and Tony Wawrukiewicz

Introduction

The chapter in our New York City markings book on various types of missent, misdirected, and related markings is too extensive and complex to present here. Rather, we will discuss only misdirected mail and the associated handstamps such as 'Returned for Better Direction / Address,' or those similar to it, used after Oct. 1879.

The handling of misdirected mail became much simpler, as found in the Oct. 1879 *Postal Guide Supplement*, *Ruling 102*:

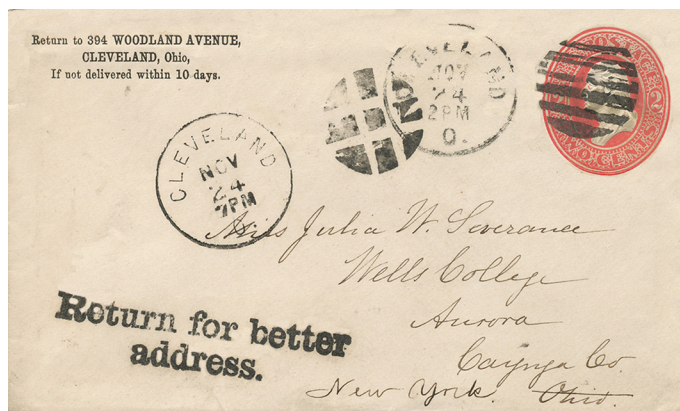
Matter addressed to places which are not post offices, or to a State in which there is no such post office as that named in the address, is unmailable (class 5, section 432) and should be treated as prescribed in sections 437 and 441. If the matter is returned to sender under the provisions of section 437, he should be informed of the proper post office address to be given to the matter, if the post office is known to the postmaster at the mailing office. If not, the sender should be advised to write to the nearest division superintendent of railway mail service for the necessary information. **If a letter is returned to the sender for better direction after the stamps thereon have been canceled, it should be forwarded, when redirected, without additional charge for postage.** (Authors' bold emphasis) See letter of Postmaster General to the postmaster at New York on page 9 of this number of the *Guide*.

This statement was reiterated in the 1882 *PL&R*. In addition, this 1882 *PL&R* document again made it clear elsewhere in it that remailing of this unmailable mail was free. Subsequent *PL&Rs* and the post-1879 handling of misdirected items reiterated this approach, also emphasizing that the misdirected items were to be sent to the sender with the hs 'Return for Better Direction /Address' placed, and again, the subsequent misdirected covers made it clear that their forwarding was free.

Correctly Remailed Misdirected Mail from Oct. 1879 to 1962.

This Oct. 1879 reference we have just noted marks the point at which the handling of misdirected mail followed the uniform and final process that occurred from then until the present time. Just as fortunately, the authors have and can present a series of post-1880 misdirected examples that followed this new reference. That is, they were generally sent back to the writer 'Returned for Better Direction /Address,' or with a somewhat similar hs, and all were then correctly remailed free when the correct address was placed. All of these examples now shown are, in the experience of the authors, quite uncommonly seen. Importantly, all the hs shown are shown actual size.

In Figure 1 is an undated but Nov. 1883 or later (Pre-stamped envelope dates from 1883) letter from Cleveland w/ a return address (CC), so that it could be sent to the writer for address correction. As it was misdirected, it was 'Return for better / address.' The state of address was corrected from Ohio to New York, and the letter correctly remailed free.



**Return for better
address.**

Figure 1

The example in Figure 2 is the only later misdirected one that we have seen that was mishandled. It was an 1887 Des Moines, Iowa to Springfield, Illinois letter, paid at the 2¢ rate, that was really misdirected to the wrong state, Iowa. So, the hs 'MISSENT' and 'FORWARDED' were incorrectly placed. Someone in Springfield then incorrectly readdressed the letter to the correct state, Illinois, and it was then correctly forwarded free to Springfield, Illinois. That is, the letter, as it was misdirected, should have been returned for a better address rather than being readdressed in Springfield.

In Figure 3, courtesy of Len Piszkiwicz from his Chicago markings book, is an early (1892) postal card (with a CC) misdirected 1¢ postal card returned from the Chicago mailing post office. It was 'RETURNED FOR / BETTER DIRECTIONS.' After the writer corrected the state of address from Maryland to Maine, the card was remailed correctly free. This is an example of another early such remailing.

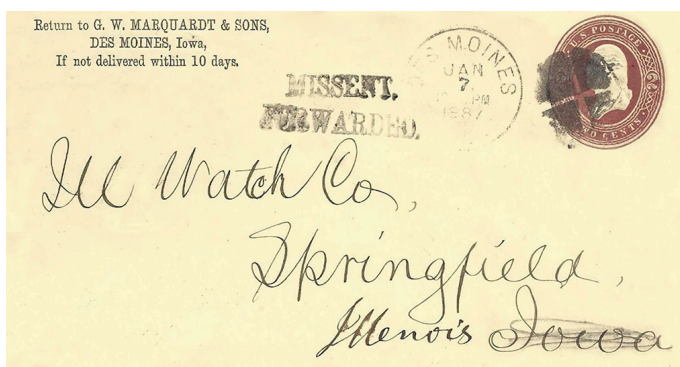


Figure 2. Misaddressed 1887 Des Moines, Iowa to Springfield, Illinois letter, paid at the 2¢ rate, incorrectly 'MISSENT' and 'FORWARDED' to Springfield, Iowa (it should have been labeled 'Misdirected'). Still, it was then correctly forwarded free by the Springfield, Iowa postmaster to Springfield, Illinois. Before 1832, if the Missent and Forwarded (really misdirected) error was due to the sender of the letter (as it was in this case), an extra 2¢ postage would have been required for the Missent and Forwarding process.

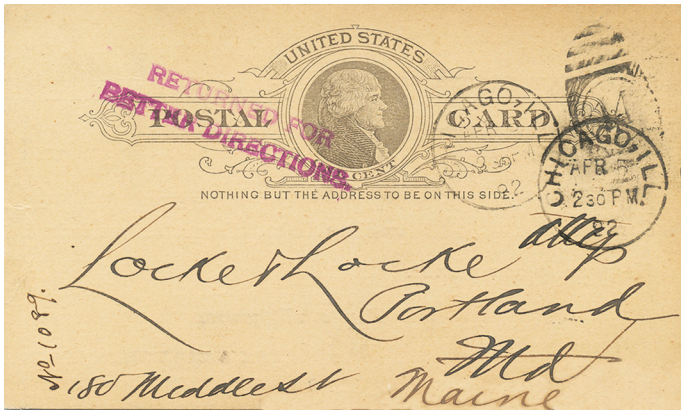
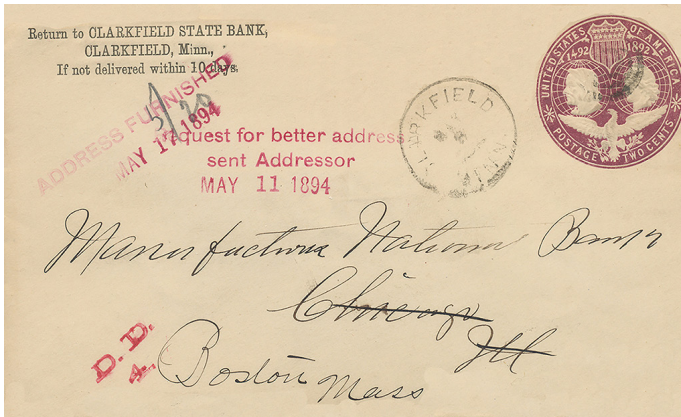


Figure 3

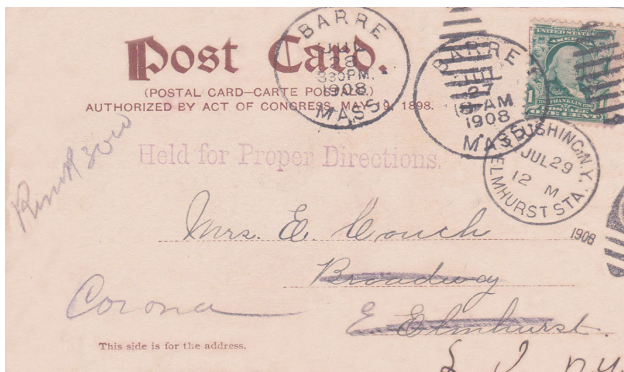
The May 8, 1894 letter in Figure 4 was a misdirected letter from Clarksfield, Minn., mailed at the 2¢ for up-to-one ounce letter rate. It was misdirected (misaddressed) to Chicago, Ill., a fact somehow recognized by the mailing office, as indicated by the handstamp (hs) 'Request for better address / sent Addressor / May 11, 1894.' The correct city address, Boston, Mass., was sent by the writer, 'ADDRESS FURNISHED / May 17 1894, and the correct address was added. Then the letter was remailed, correctly, free.



Request for better address
sent Addressor
MAY 11 1894

ADDRESS FURNISHED
MAY 17 1894

Figure 4

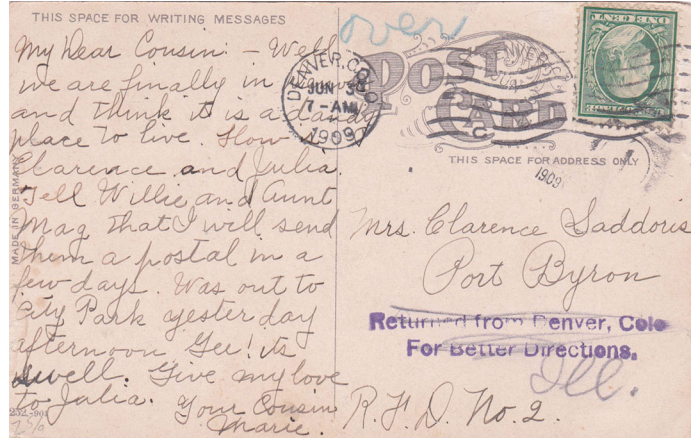


Held for Proper Directions.

Figure 5

In Figure 5 is a 1908 misdirected post card from Barre, Mass., misdirected to a NYC address. It was returned to the writer with an usual hs-type 'Held for Proper Directions.' After the address was corrected to Long Island, N.Y., the card was remailed correctly free.

The 1909 misdirected post card in Figure 6 was mailed from Denver, Colo., and it was misdirected to a Illinois address that was not specific enough. Because of this it was returned to the writer (again, somehow the postmaster knew the writer) with an usual hs-type that contained the city name Denver in the hs. After the address was corrected with the more specific R.F.D. No. 2 added, the card was remailed correctly free. The crossing out of the hs because the address change was provided is unusual in the authors' experience.

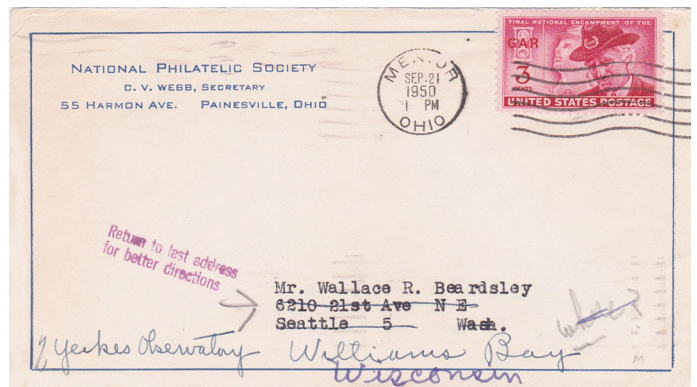


Returned from Denver, Colo
For Better Directions.

Figure 6

We now continue with two last examples of remailed, misdirected items, both with a varied 'Returned for better address' hs.

In Figure 7 is a 1950 misdirected letter from Mentor, Ohio misaddressed to Seattle, Wash. It was 'Return to last address / for better directions.' The sender of the letter corrected the address, and the letter was correctly remailed free to the new address.



Return to last address
for better directions

Figure 7

Our last remailed example is illustrated in Figure 8, and its handling is quite interesting to the authors. It is a 1962 post card misaddressed to Valley Forge, Penn. The postal worker somehow realized the misdirection, and somehow knew where to send the card for a new, correct address (hs 'Returned for / Correction / Completion'). The post card sender returned the new, correct address, and the card was correctly remailed to the new address. To the authors - quite a remarkable turn of events.

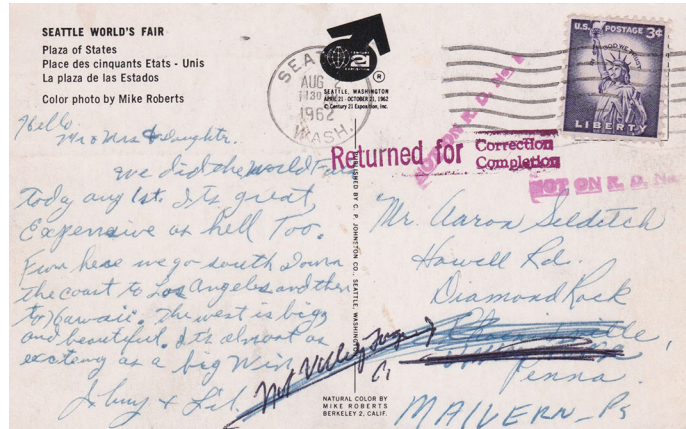


Figure 8

'Returned for Better Direction/Address' Variants, 1885-2003

Even though the various references mention only 'Returned for Better Direction/Address' as the message that was to be sent to the writer when asking for an address correction, it turns out that there were numerous variants of this message that various post offices sent out in asking for these address corrections.

We will show some of these variants now in this section because the NYC post offices did not seem to have these variants, and so we would like people to be aware of them. Some of them were already shown in the last section of this article, and they will not be repeated in this section.

The earliest new example is illustrated in Figure 9. It was on an 1885 local St. Paul, Minn. letter that was misaddressed. It appears to be handled much like the item in Figure 12 in that it was a letter that was misdirected but because there was no return address, it could not be 'Return for better directions.' Therefore, it was sent to the DLO (as the PL&Rs of the time indicated was to be done). Although the PL&Rs that indicate that this was done do not indicate what the DLO was to do when the letter was opened there, we, the authors, assume that either the writer was identified and the letter was returned to him or her for readdressing (which did not or could not occur as no readdressing happened) or the writer could not be identified and so the letter was eventually sold as waste from the DLO (which is why we have this cover).



Figure 9. (1885, as, Courtesy Breske)

In Figure 10 is one of the examples we will show where the item had no address, and where the sender of the item did not send a corrected address for the misdirected item. This particular hs was on an 1887 postal card without an address.

That is, a better direction was obviously badly needed, and was not provided because the card was not remailed. This hs is one of the few missent or misdirected hs we have seen that was circular in format.



Figure 10. (1887, as, Courtesy Breske)

The hs in Figure 11 was on an 1888 misdirected Philadelphia postal card that had an illegible state name on it. Therefore, it was 'Returned for / Better Directions.' thus asking for an address correction. None was offered, and the card was not remailed.

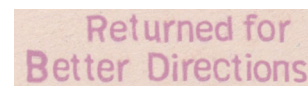


Figure 11. (1888, as, Courtesy Breske)

The hs in Figure 12 was on a 1906 misdirected letter from Pittsburg, Penn. misaddressed to Bellows Falls, N.Y. It was returned to the writer as stated but the misaddress was not corrected and so the letter was not readdressed or remailed.

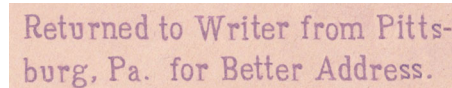


Figure 12. (1906, as, Courtesy Breske)

The hs in Figure 13 was on a 1909 misdirected post card from Campbellstown, Ohio, Somehow Cincinnati got its hands on the card, realized that it was misaddressed, and returned it to Campbellstown, Ohio. There the sender was not found, the card was not readdressed, and thus the card was not remailed.

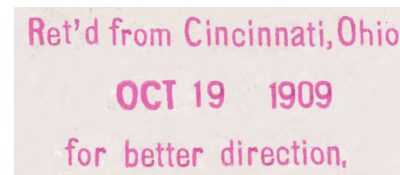


Figure 13. (1909, as, Courtesy Breske)

The hs in Figure 14 was on a 1911 post card misdirected from Newmartinsville, West Virginia. It was unsuccessfully returned for a better address, perhaps because the writer could not be found.



Figure 14 (1911, as, Courtesy Breske)

In Figure 15 is a hs from a July 1915 postal card from Boston that was misdirected (no address). It was 'RETURNED FOR / BETTER DIRECTION' but no address correction was sent so the card was not remailed.

RETURNED FOR
BETTER DIRECTION

Figure 15. (1915, as, Courtesy Breske)

This Nov. 1915 hs, in Figure 16, was on a misdirected Rochester, N.Y. post card that was ‘Delayed / wrongly addressed.’ It somehow was returned for address correction, this was supplied, and the card was remailed to the addressee. This card is the only one in this group that was address corrected and remailed.

Delayed,
wrongly addressed

Figure 16. (1915, as, Courtesy Breske)

The hs in Figure 17 was on a 1927 Silver Lake, N.Y. post card that was incompletely addressed. The card was returned to the writer who had left their address on the card, but the misaddress still wasn’t corrected, and so the card wasn’t remailed.

Delivery delayed on account of
incomplete address.

Figure 17. (1927, as, Courtesy Breske)

In Figure 18 is a 1928 misdirected letter from Pasadena, Cal. that was ‘Held for better address’ from the writer. Because the incorrect address was not corrected by the writer, the letter was not remailed.

Held for better address

Figure 18. (1928, as, Courtesy Breske)

The hs in Figure 19 was on a 1933 Pittsburgh, Penn. letter that was unaddressed or so represented the worse kind of misdirection. The card was returned to the writer (‘MAILED WITHOUT ADDRESS’) for an address correction. However, this wasn’t forthcoming so the letter was not remailed.

MAILED WITHOUT ADDRESS.

Figure 19. (1933, as, Courtesy Breske)

This handstamp in Figure 20 was on a misdirected 1937 Detroit, Mich. letter to a city that was not in the state named. It was then returned to the writer in Detroit for a correction of this address. Since no correction occurred, the letter was not remailed.

Returned For Better Address
From Detroit, Mich.
No such post office in state named

Figure 20. (1937, as, Courtesy Breske)

The hs in Figure 21 was on a misdirected 1943 Pittsburgh, Penn. letter to a city that was not a post office in Ohio. It was returned to the writer in Pittsburgh for a correction of this address. A different incorrect city was guessed by the writer so the letter was not successfully remailed.

Returned for better address
JAN 25 1943
from Pittsburgh, Pa. No such
P. O. in state named.

Figure 21 (1943, as, Courtesy Breske)

The hs in Figure 22 was on a Salt Lake City airmail letter that had no CC or address. Probably because of this, it was not remailed.

Received without address at
Salt Lake City, Utah

Figure 22. (1945, as, Courtesy Breske)

The hs in Figure 23 was on an undated post-1963 (address has a ZIP CODE) letter. It was known to be misdirected because the address had the wrong ZIP CODE. Therefore, the hs indicates that the letter was returned to the writer so that the writer could correct the mistake in the address. The address was not corrected, so the letter was not remailed.

“NOTICE”
THIS IS NOT YOUR CORRECT
MAILING ADDRESS. PLEASE
HAVE IT CORRECTED.

Figure 23. (1963, as, Courtesy Breske)

The hs in Figure 24 was on a misdirected (not addressed) undated circa-1971 letter from McLean, Vir. (date is approximate because of the stamp on letter). Therefore, the hs indicates that the letter was returned to the writer so that the writer could correct the mistake in the address. The address was not corrected, so the letter was not remailed.

RETURN TO SENDER
RECEIVED WITHOUT ADDRESS

Figure 24. (circa-1971, as, Courtesy Breske)

The hs in Figure 25 was on another letter (dated 1971) that had no CC or address. Probably because of this, it was not remailed.

NOTHING WRITTEN IN THE
SPACE FOR ADDRESS

Figure 25. (1971, as, Courtesy Breske)

The address on the post card that carried the hs shown in Figure 26, as indicated in its message, was incorrect. Since the incorrect address wasn’t corrected, the card wasn’t remailed.

NOTICE: This is NOT your
mailing address. PLEASE CORRECT

Figure 26. (1983, as, Courtesy Breske)

The hs in Figure 27 was on a recent (2003) letter where the address wasn’t corrected, and so the letter was not remailed. It is instructive that this universal message was still being used at such a late date, and so we end our presentation here.

RETURNED FOR
BETTER ADDRESS

Figure 27. (2003, as, Courtesy Breske)

A Variety of 'Damaged by Fire' Markings by Tony Wawrukiewicz

This article illustrates a variety of auxiliary markings all related to damage of some sort by fire. Included are varied sources including fires in four different countries, and multiple different physical sources of the fires that caused damage. Some markings without covers are shown

In Figure 1 is a 1930 wreck mail cover that was fire-damaged on the S.S. Comorin as the ship was on its way from Melbourne, Australia to England. Note that the postage was removed from the cover by water used to fight the fire.

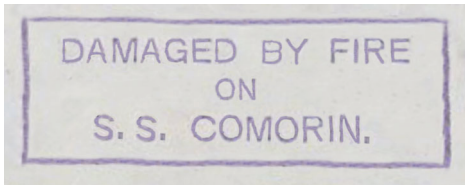


Figure 1

In Figure 2 is a part of a label that was on a 1931 cover that was salvaged from a train fire.

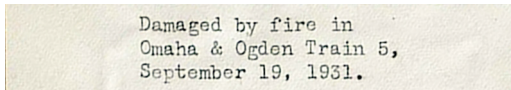
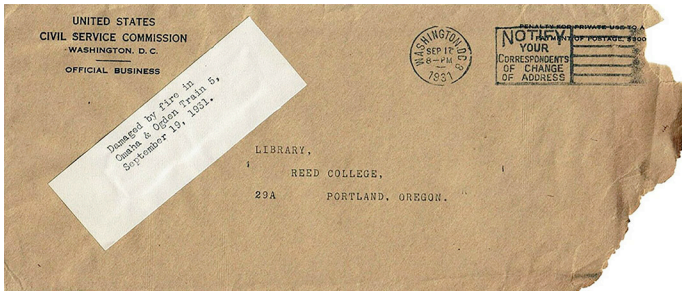


Figure 2

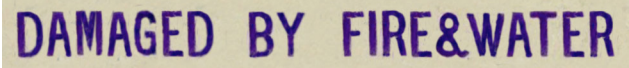
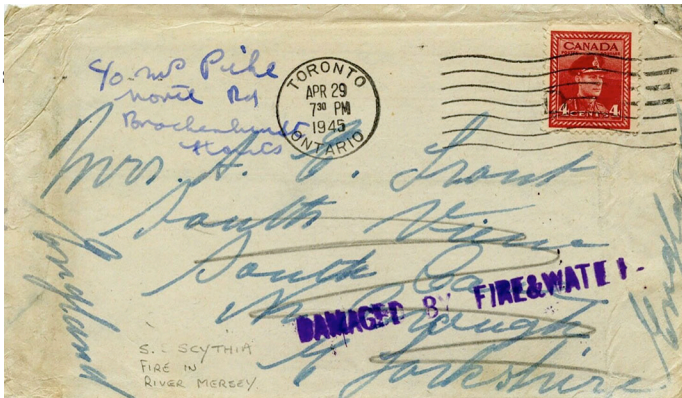


Figure 3

In Figure 3 is a 1945 Canada to England cover that traveled on the S.S. Scythia. It was then fire and water damaged as it traveled on the River Mersey in England.

In Figure 4 is a handstamp (hs) that was on a salvaged 1952 U.S. domestic fire-damaged cover. The cover suffered only minor damage so only the hs is shown here.

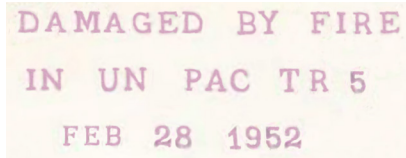


Figure 4

In Figure 5 is a 1960 marking that was on a cover salvaged from a well-known 1960 U.S. domestic train fire. The cover was obviously badly damaged.

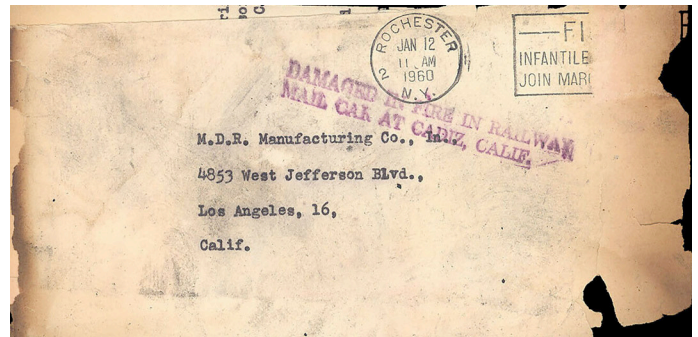


Figure 5

In Figures 6 and 7 are 1982 (cover shown) and 1983 (cover not illustrated) hs and a label, respectively, from two covers damaged in British and U.S. mail collection boxes.

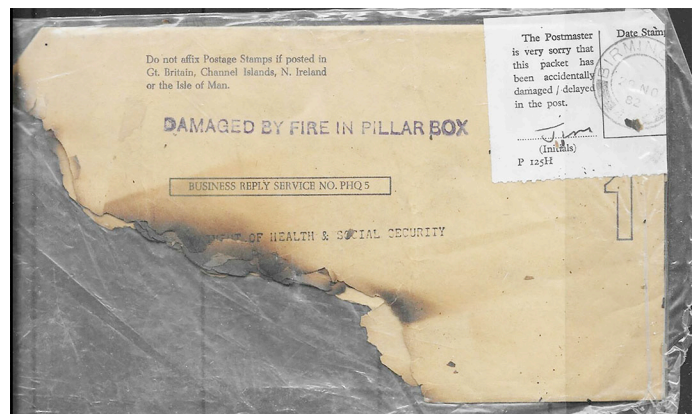


Figure 6



Figure 7