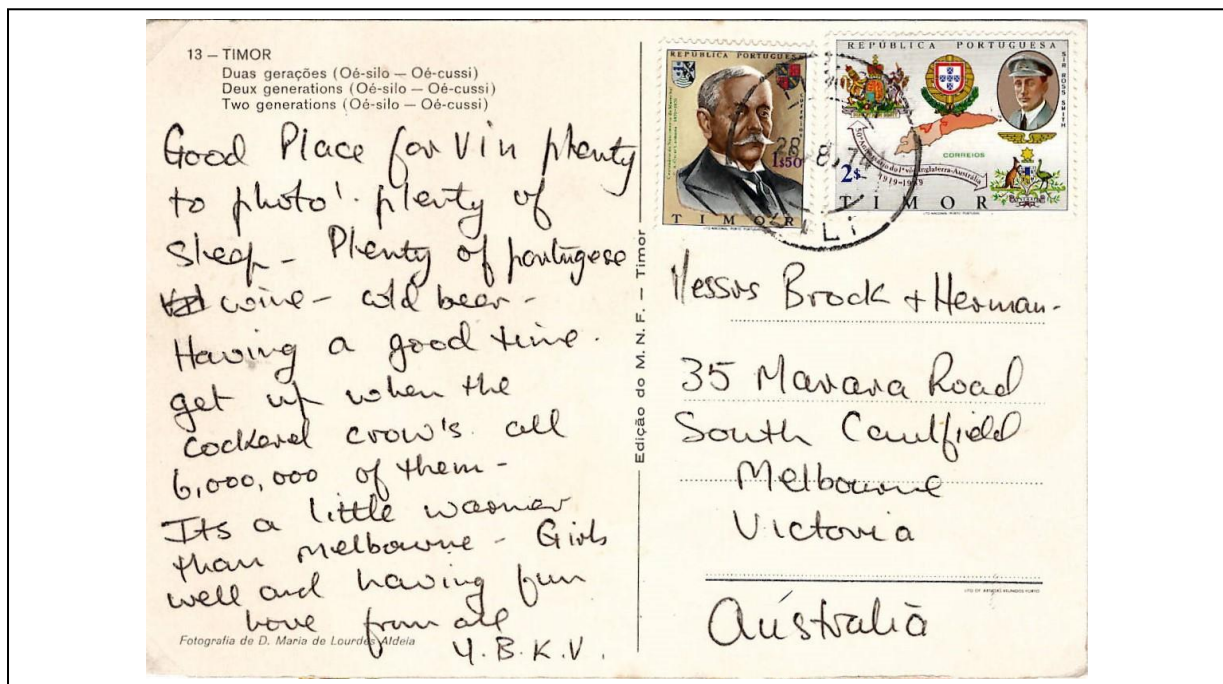


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Date	2024 Programme	Display
19 February 2024	Rajasthan stamps and Postal History	Ian Sadler
20 May 2024	Members	Work in Progress

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Front Cover:

Portuguese Timor to Australia

1974. A card from a colony of Australia's doorstep. Franked 3 \$ 50. Large stamp depicts Australian pilot Ross Smith who flew from England to Australia via Dili in 1919.



Picture side



Editorial *Tony Lyon*

It is interesting being part of several Societies and Stamp clubs. Most are struggling and some have closed. The Australia Philatelic Society is holding its own, but I wonder how much longer this can continue. The attendance at the members' meetings is very low and almost pointless conducting. It appears the Covid 19 had a greater effect upon gatherings in general than one could imagine. It seems people are still afraid to gather and therefore stay home.

The problem is that is leading to many societies not having the numbers to remain viable. My question is whether the APS is not in danger of heading in the same direction.

I thank those members who continue to provide interesting material for this journal. Without you we would be done for, so keep the articles coming.

Christmas time is upon us again and I trust you all a happy and fulfilling time with friends and family. Also a happy 2024 and may you find that elusive item that you have been seeking.

Until next time ciao.

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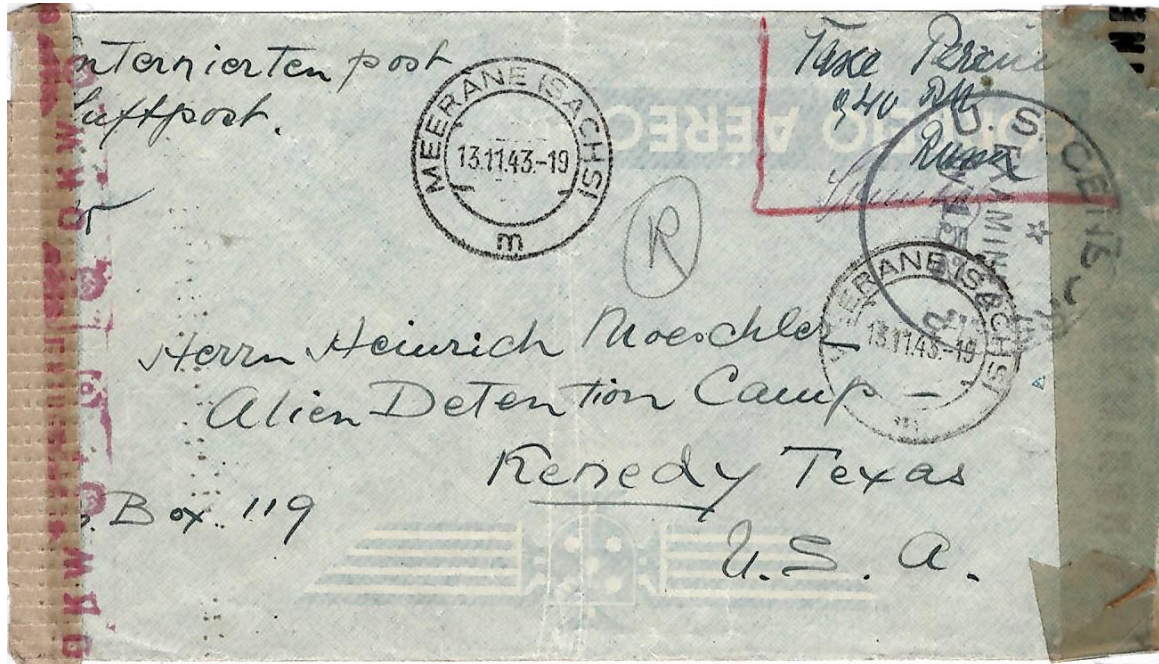
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From the President

Air mail, Germany to USA 1943

The air mail cover shown here was sent from Meerane, Saxony [east Germany] to an alien detention camp in Kenedy, Texas, USA. It has some unusual features. First, in place of the usual Hitler-head stamp, it has inscribed in manuscript 'Taxe Percue, 0.40 Rm'. That was the correct amount for the air mail surcharge for POW and internee mail.



1943, Nov. Civilian airmail from Meerane, Saxony, east Germany to Kenedy Alien Detention Camp, Texas, USA. Cover manuscript inscribed Taxe Percu (fee paid) 0.04 Rm, the airmail surcharge for POW and internee mail. German and U.S. censorship. Transmitted to Lisbon and flown by PAA to New York. Airmail in late 1943 is uncommon.

About 3500 alien internees passed through Kenedy from 1942 to 1944, about two thirds of them German.



The 1870's forgeries: The End of a Myth: Part 111

Gerhard Lang-Valchs

Continued from AJP No 163 March 2023

Documented origins and sellers

The first documented sample of a forgery with the "Spiro"-cancel dates from 1871. Spud Papers No. IX presented the first sample with this obliteration (fig. 69). Samples shown in previous articles have nearly all been identified as Torres/Usigli-forgeries by their typical cancels. Their resellers, sited in Britain had been repeatedly named and shamed. Their public activities finished in 1873 because of constant harassment in the philatelic press.

The "Spiros" of Cuba, Hawaii or the Danish Indies, identified by their safe cancels, are also found in the Spud Papers. They were all imitations of recently issued new stamps. Therefore they couldn't have appeared in the selling lists of the denounced dealers, who had limited their offers to the Italian-made forgeries.

A diversified offer



Figs. 70 & 71 Spud Papers-sample = "Spiro"

design of this Mexican fake, with its reverse moiré-pattern, shows that the sample is the same type as the presented "Spiro" (fig. 71) with its "safe" cancel, a different moiré-pattern from the Fourier samples.

The book 'Album Weeds' does not mention a second forgery and I could not find any corresponding copy of Italian origin of this issue. Its description is conclusive by itself.

A surcharged Fiji-forgery (fig 73) is presented in the of the Spud Papers (XXV). Atlee states that it was also distributed by the same Hull dealer. The part cancel is most probably the same safe "Spiro"-cancel, we find on the "Spiro"-Egypt-sheets, (fig 72) but it is not a Torres-cancel.



Fig. 69: First documented typical "Spiro"-cancel (Spud Papers)

The Spud Papers (no. XXIV, March 1873) report a forgery of the latest Mexico-issue. The cancel on the affixed sample is not the "emblematic Spiro": it is a simple cancel-pattern which is difficult to identify, which is difficult to distinguish from others. A critical analysis of all later forgeries of this issue reveals, that it is however a "Spiro-product"⁵². The detail of the



Fig. 72: Safe "Spiro"-cancel on an Egypt-sheet

⁵² Karl H. Schlimmer: *Hidalgo Profile Issues 1872-74. Handbook and Catalogue*, Sausalito 1994 (private edition), p. 60/61.



Fig. 73: Spud-Papers-sample with a safe "Spiro"-cancel

samples. Therefore, we suppose that Atlee and his fellow experts got their forged samples from their previous sources. I conclude, from the present facts, that from 1872/3 onwards the "Spiro"- and the Italian-made forgeries were distributed in Britain by the same resellers.

The End of the "Spiros"



Fig. 76: Last documented (supposed) "Spiro"-forgery

The Japanese forgeries of the cherry-blossom-issue are a further example of the offers of the resellers (Spud Papers LI, LXIII). All three samples bear the emblematic "Spiro"-cancel except for the 12-Sen-value. Comparing an actual "Spiro"-sample of the 12-Sen with the Spud Papers forgery (fig. 74 and 75), we see that they are two different types. The latter most likely another Torres/Usigli-product.⁵³

No mention is made of the dealer F. G. Woodhall, during the 1870's. The only Woodall I was able to locate in those years in the professional directories was a joiner who lived in Manchester.

Mr. Woodhall was the first Hull dealer who offers "Spiro"-forgeries. From 1872 on, the Spud Papers do not mention the name of any further dealer from whom they had got their



Figs. 74 & 75: Japanese forgeries. Left a typical "Spiro", right the Spud Papers-sample (different type)

Four issues of the Spud Papers (LXIV-LXVII) were published in three different magazines between 1879 and 1881. I believe this indicates fewer forgeries in the market.

The "Spiros" hardly appeared in the earliest issues of the 1850's and early 1860's, but the novelties mainly appeared during the second part of the 1860's and the 1870's. The last novelty stamp was issued by the insurgents of the Valencia/Maestrazgo-area during the Carlist War in Spain (1872-1876). Issued in May 1874, but unknown to the philatelic world until December, January 1875.⁵⁴ This was the last stamp presented in the Spud Papers.

The Continental part of the Italian-network

At the end of the 1860's, Count Giulio C. Bonasi, a comrade-in-arms of Usigli during the Garibaldi uprising, joined the Florentine forgery workshop as sales manager.⁵⁵ He and his wife started selling their own forged products in Italy and in central Europe (fig 79). In 1870, the German stamp magazine 'Vertrauliche Mitteilungen' published three articles, dedicated to Bonasi. An editorial collaborator who knew the count, unmasked his fraudulent activities. There were constant complaints about Bonasi's fraudulent trade, committed with his wife, Angela Candrini. Well-known merchants from Moens in

⁵³ GLV, Confusion

⁵⁴ GLV: ¿Falso filatélico o falso postal? Eco Filatélico, febr. 2016, p. 28-30.

⁵⁵ G. and P. Caforio, M. Lenzi: La famiglia Bonasi di Carpi, Pisa 2005.

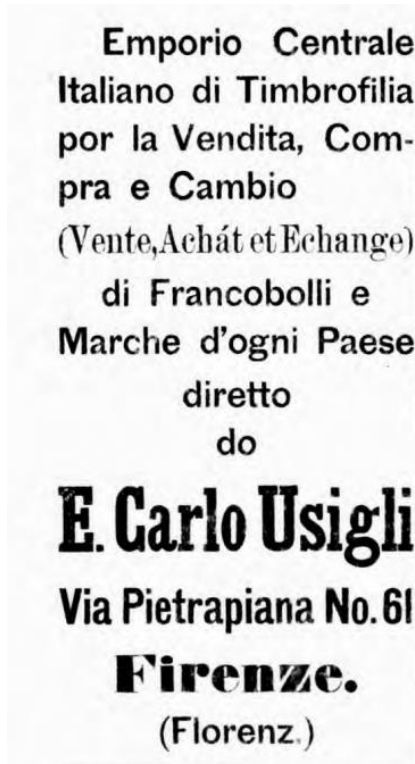


Fig. 77: Usigli advertisement



Fig. 78: Bonasi and his wife (caricature, probably drawn by Torres).

Belgium, Mahé in Paris and Heim in Vienna were affected.⁵⁶ In 1874 Usigli announced his new business with Bonasi, established in central Florence, in the German Senf brothers' stamp-magazine (fig 77). But, the same page, contained a warning of the illegal practises of both merchants⁵⁷. The successful selling was not based on the distribution by the mainly decent and well-known dealers, but by resellers like Georg Zechmeyer, Goldner and his

main distributor Ernest Löwenthal.⁵⁸ Since there were no ads placed in the continental stamp magazines with detailed lists of the offerings, like those we have seen in the UK, it was exceedingly difficult to find details about the identity of the resellers.

The end of the Torres/Usigli-era

At the same time, the "Spiro"-era and the Torres-Usigli cooperation finished.⁵⁹ The public unmasking by Torres of the premature selling of the unapproved municipal stamps of Catania jeopardised the legal project. It ended Usigli's patronage, obliging Torres to leave Italy forever and start in an unknown environment. Torres had lost the support of his forgery distribution network. He then focused on Spanish stamps and edited a stamp album, but the sales were poor. He tried direct marketing but his trips through Europe and America finished in a disaster.⁶⁰ Usigli and Bonasi opened a joint Italian stamp dealership in Florence where they continued to sell their stocks, but they did not find a substitute forger. Usigli bought the plates of the obsolete Roman-States-issues, later ceded to Bonasi. He tried to replace Torres' *La Posta Mondiale* by his own magazine, *Il Raccogliatore*, (fig 79) which had a short life, and two new editions of his 1872 catalogue.⁶¹ In 1877 he tried to restart the failed municipal stamp project, the very reason for the separation from Torres, but this was made public and so failed again.⁶² Without new forgeries, the business declined and at the end of the decade both worked separately.⁶³

⁵⁶ Anon.: *I moderni Cagliostri*, London 1874; GLV: *Il conte Giulio Cesare Bonasi accusato di frode [Accusato]*, *QuiFilatelia*, sept. 2016, *QuiFilatelia*, sept. 2016, p. 5-9.

⁵⁷ *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal*, Nr. 15 (1875), p. 26.

⁵⁸ See footnote 26.

⁵⁹ GLV, *Accusato*. GLV: *The Spanish forger Plácido Ramón de Torres: his Catania and Livorno fakes and his Italian States forgeries*, *fil-ITALIA*, vol. XLIV, nº 3, (whole number 177), Summer 2018, p. 107-118.

⁶⁰ GLV, *TorresBio*, chap. 22-23.

⁶¹ *TorresBio*, chap. 9.

⁶² M. Carlo Diena: *Le marche municipali d'Italia ...*, Vaccari, Vignola 2002, p. 8-9.

⁶³ Emilio Simonazzi: *Il commercio filatélico in Italia*, Milano 2017.

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Fig. 79: Usigli-Bonasi-ad (IBJ)

The first generation of Hamburg forgeries'



Fig. 80: proofs of Torres' Catania-elephant-issue

From the early 1860's, Hamburg was named by all stamp-experts as a main site where forgeries were produced and sold. Most descriptions refer to the same identifiable copies. Some of these supposed "Spiros" turned out to be Torres/Usigli-forgeries. There were strong suspicions that many others could be Hamburg-made. There was no mention of a "typical Spiro-cancel" on any of the earlier fakes.



Figs. 82-84: Torres-forgeries with his bizarre "horse-shoe"-cancel (Sicily, Tuscany, Costa Rica)



Fig. 81: Usigli's stamp magazine

distinguished by its very particular “horseshoe”-cancel (figs. 82-84). Both describe a different counterfeit, described in Album Weed as the second forgery of Sicily (see figure 85).⁶⁷

Moens' notes explain how to identify the imitations and unmask the Hamburg dealer Behrmann as the printer and seller of this and other forgeries of German states' issues: Hamburg, Bremen, Lübeck, Bergedorf. These forgeries are the first Hamburg-forged stamp generation, work of the 1860's. Their maker remains untold, but their printer and main distributors were Behrmann father and son.

Victor Suppantschitsch, Austrian stamp expert and author of books on the history of German philately, names Behrmann as the maker and main distributor of those forgeries. Those imitations could also be bought in Nürnberg and Leipzig. The Spiro brothers were not even mentioned by him in his two works on the history of stamp collecting in Germany.⁶⁸

Was there an Independent British Colonial Source?

Another problem not previously resolved: were the supposed forgeries of the British colonial issues sold in the mid-1860's? They definitely appeared on the market during the 1870's, but where had they been made? There is a bunch of reasonable doubts about the existence of colonial forgeries made in Preston.

Comparing descriptions of the forgeries on the market in the mid-1860's with those in the first edition of the Album Weeds (1882) only show very few cases, where at least two forgeries of the same issue were mentioned.⁶⁴ Only in Argentina and Sicily did the contemporary experts describe such a duplicity.⁶⁵ The notes of the Belgian “Father of Philately” identified in 1864 a (second) new Sicilian forgery, made in Hamburg.⁶⁶ Descriptions of Moens and Dean's second sample ensure that they described the same type of forgery, and not the Torres/Usigli-fake, uniquely



Fig. 85: Hamburg-made forgery, 1/2 instead of ½

⁶⁴ In the context of the following paragraph specific results will be given.

⁶⁵ See e.g. Dean in SCM, Sept. 1864, p.39.

⁶⁶ See footnote 28.

⁶⁷ R. B. Earée: Album Weeds [AW], 1st edition, London 1882, p. 438-440.

⁶⁸ Victor Suppantschitsch [VS]: BIBLIOGRAPHIE zugleich Nachschlagebuch der gesamten deutschen philatelistischen Literatur seit ihrem Entstehen bis Ende 1891, München 1892. VS: Die Entstehung und Entwicklung der Philatelistischen Literatur in der zweiten Hälfte des XIX. Jahrhunderts, Wien 1901.

With the new knowledge let us ask how many forgeries of British colonial issues existed in the 1870's? A look at the first edition of the Album Weeds (1882) may help to answer this question. The majority of the described counterfeits had been on the market during the two previous decades, although this work certainly includes a number of recently made forgeries. The book refers to 284 counterfeited issues of 124 countries excluding the forgeries of Switzerland, the Confederate States of American and the Locals & Carriers. For 186 of those 284 issues only one or two existing forgeries are documented. In 51 cases there are between three and five fakes.

A more specific counting shows that the 41 British colonies have documented forgeries, represented by 65 issues. For most of those issues only one forgery is reported. Unusually, St. Helena has four different forgeries of its first issue. Certainly, in four cases (Bahamas, Cape of Good Hope, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick) the pairs of forgeries are "Spiros" and Torres/Usigli.

Using the aforesaid and the fact that Atlee and his collaborator might not have distinguished some Torres/Usigli- from "Spiro"-forgeries, I add another list. In the contemporary catalogues, 51 British colonies were listed with their own issues. Among the total of 75 "Spiro"-forgeries identified world-wide, 33 imitate British Colonial issues. So do 24 items identified as Torres-forgeries. Were these imitations made by both forgers? A list of all issues in which both copies imitate the same issue shows 22 coincidences of identified "Spiros" and Torres/Usigli-samples. In ten other cases there are imitations made by of one of the two forgers, but I have not clearly attributed them.

Among the documented forgeries there is no room for samples of a third source of British colonial forgeries. If such an independent source had existed, more counterfeits would have been on the market and consequently would have been reported and listed.

Although it is possible that some un-identified forgeries exist, I question the existence of a British workshop, producing counterfeits of the colonial issues. I conclude that the source of the British colonial forgeries was in Hamburg, starting at the end of the 1860's. The Hamburg forgeries with their "emblematic" cancellation, including British colonial issues, only appeared in the early 1870's made by "Spiro".

The real "Spiro" story

Previously this study was based on rigorously investigated facts and evidence separating valuations and assertions from speculation. When I now identify our "Spiro", some kind of speculation is used. I, trust that the following lines will be close to reality, hard to revive after so much time.

Firstly, the "Spiro"-forgeries are Hamburg-made forgeries of the "second generation". They were drawn by Hans Heinrich Prah and printed by J. L. Behrmann. In their distribution both were involved, but there were some more dealers not sited in Hamburg who distributed the same items. Besides Hamburg, Leipzig and Nürnberg are the most frequently named distribution centres.

The final part 4 will be published in the March Journal.

THE LARGE OVAL PARCELS CANCELLATIONS

By BRIAN FULLER

It seems ages ago that I prepared articles on the LARGE OVAL handstamps of Victoria. Of the order 2009. Many collectors, including those in the UK, responded and with the passing of time many other collectors placed their collections into local auction houses permitting their examination.

I have expanded the topic slightly to include NSW in the large oval postmark. Other States (eg SA and TAS) have smaller oval ones.

Incorporating my finds from over the years I have decided that Vic has 19 distinct types of large oval parcel cancellations and NSW has one. I did submit my NSW findings to "SYDNEY VIEWS" for publication but it either was not published, or no NSW collector took up the challenge.

Within many of the types for Victoria there are sub types but the differences in some cases are miniscule or pedantic. As with my earlier research the poorly struck, or part cancels or the degree of wear over their prolonged usage mitigates being definitive on many sub types.

My "miniscule" comment reflects the large devices were hand-made and in leather or equivalent material. Collecting one of each type and with complete impressions will be a challenge and virtually improbable!

Again, I am very grateful to those who sent me copies in their collections. In some cases, those on single stamps were in crucial places on the postmark enabling identification of sub types. I received about 150 pieces and the only two pieces that had NO prospect of fitting elsewhere are Type 13 where they melded. The degree of wear made the identification task very onerous!

Many of the Types are compounds and are incomplete. Accordingly, I seek assistance from any person who has large chunks or complete postmarks since then to come to my rescue. I will reimburse any expenses involved. If anyone has tied usage for the non-dated postmarks that information would be particularly appreciated.

The large oval parcels cancellations were applied at several places:

- A The Chief Parcels Office (CPO) – King Street, Melbourne City,
- B Elizabeth Street Post Office,
- C The GPO – when it was at Spencer Street co-located in the Melbourne Mail Exchange,
- D The Melbourne Central Mail Exchange (CME) at Bourke and Spencer Streets,
- E Postal Hall (part of Elizabeth St PO or GPO),
- F Russell Street Post Office,
- G Prahran Post Office,
- H Collingwood Post Office, and
- I Central Square Sydney.

Are there other possibilities? Dudley St Melbourne was the transport and parcel/Express Services Centre whilst the CME was functioning. I have no inkling of when it was formed or closed and its

intimate functions during that period. If Prahran and Collingwood - why not South Melbourne etc? North Melbourne certainly had a "large" rectangular postmark. Footscray and Fitzroy had small oval postmarks.

The terminology used by the cancellations can be confusing. For example, the Chief Parcels Office (CPO) building was always at King Street in the City of Melbourne. However, one series shows the GPO also claiming to be the Chief Parcels Office. This may have been before the CPO was opened at King St (1930s?). Many of the large ovals do NOT have dates. They can often imply a period of use but stamps and documents can be used anytime in their life.

I have tentatively numbered the Series 1 – 20 (Vic 1 – 19) without regard to period of use, or place. The postmarks shown are modified to fit the space and reproduction requirements of the magazine. I have annotated many.

The most obvious discrepancy in my research is still the lack of full clear strikes at all stages of their deterioration providing absolute proof of their dimensions and text.

I am severely disadvantaged in that the cancellations tend to come on rather expensive backgrounds such as blocks of KGV and Inland Parcel Labels etc. If you have acquired new material please forward 100% scans or photocopies to me.

MEASUREMENTS I am going to initiate controversy over postmark general height measurement. Do you measure the external height dimension or the middle points of each letter? e.g. the letter O features prominently. Or do you measure the outside length of the letter L or from top to the middle of the leg as per the O? Do you measure the letters on the sides of the word or on the middle where the letter is most likely stretched when applied or slightly bounced. What about the outside rings on the large oval cancels? They flatten with age. If you measure to the middle of them why not the O etc. The word MELBOURNE creates the discussion. O is the middle letter plus L an N are slight offset.

I decided initially to measure the O from middle to middle. I then changed to exterior if it had the same dimensions as other letters on the side. The outside ring sizes are sometimes an educated guess but generally centre-to-centre of the line. Ditto for the rectangle at the centre for many of them. I think the design of the postmark type negates the criticality of many dimensional issues.

NB In the list below I have stated whether they are single ring oval (SRO) or double ring oval (DRO). That identification characteristic is very important.

For ease of referencing the major TYPES I have identified they are listed thus:

- 1 CHIEF PARCELS OFFICE/BOXED G.P.O./MELBOURNE (SRO)
- 2 CHIEF PARCEL OFFICE/BLANK BOXED/MELBOURNE (DRO).
- 3 CHIEF PARCEL OFFICE/BLANK BOXED/MELBOURNE (SRO)
- 4 CHIEF PARCELS SECTION/BOXED GPO/MELBOURNE (SRO)
- 5 CHIEF PARCEL OFFICE/DATE/MELBOURNE (DRO).
- 6 BRANCH PARCEL OFFICE/WITH & WITHOUT DATE/MELBOURNE (DRO).
- 7 BRANCH PARCEL OFFICE GPO/TWO LINES/MELBOURNE (DRO).
- 8 CHIEF PARCEL OFFICE/BOXED MELBOURNE/ELIZABETH STREET (SRO)
- 9 PARCELS OFFICE/BOXED MELBOURNE/ELIZABETH STREET (SRO)

- 10 ☺PARCEL ☺ OFFICE ☺/BOXED MELBOURNE/ELIZABETH STREET (SRO)
- 11 PARCEL OFFICE/BOXED MELBOURNE/ELIZABETH STREET (DRO).
- 12 PARCEL OFFICE/BOXED MELBOURNE/ELIZABETH STREET (DRO).
- 13 PARCEL(?)OFFICE/MELBOURNE/ELIZABETH STREET (?) (SRO)
- 14 PARCEL ☺ OFFICE & PARCEL OFFICE/MELBOURNE/ELIZABETH ST (DRO).
- 15 ELIZABETH ST/MELBOURNE (SRO)
- 16 POSTAL HALL (SRO)
- 17 RUSSELL STREET/BLANK/VICTORIA (SRO)
- 18 PARCEL POST/BLANK/PRAHRAN (DRO).
- 19 PARCEL POST(?)/VICTORIA/COLLINGWOOD (SRO)
- 20 RAIL(?)PARCEL OFFICE/CENTRAL SQUARE/NEW SOUTH WALES (SRO)

☺ is my method of drawing a BLOB. The Blobs are large ink patches of unknown origin and consistent within my samples. Presumably they are caused by heavy impressions, but their positioning is remarkable.

The? indicates the word or words used are unknown on my samples.

A WORN parcels handstamp is shown below:



C? If so, possible new primary Type.

Compare the position of the corners of the rectangle to the letters on the postmark in this and Type 1 below. The gaps between the words also matter.

Scans (not to size) and Comments on the Types.

1 CHIEF PARCELS OFFICE/BOXED G.P.O./MELBOURNE (SRO)

There seems to be two sub types. The size of the print is one factor and the other is the G seems to be a C. If it is CPO (Chief Parcels Office), see preceding scan, instead of GPO, it is a separate major type. The CPO has smaller print.



GPO?



CPO?

I decided it was a sub type! Lettering height 8mm. Lettering height of GPO is 9mm. Oval 98 x 72mm. Rectangle/box 57 x 18mm and 15mm from top lettering and 15 mm from bottom lettering. The approximate distances from the left of the box to the first period is 19mm, to the second 30, and the third 44mm. The gap between the P and O is greater than the G to the P. See both scans.

In my research I have listed all these aspects for each type but the following scans are without that same depth of description and will suffice for collection of one of each major Type.

2 CHIEF PARCEL OFFICE/BLANK BOXED/MELBOURNE (DRO).

Size 89 x 62 and box 58 x 18mm. Lettering 8 or 10mm and without seraphs. 7 sub types depending mainly on the print size and termination of the box near the four corner letters.



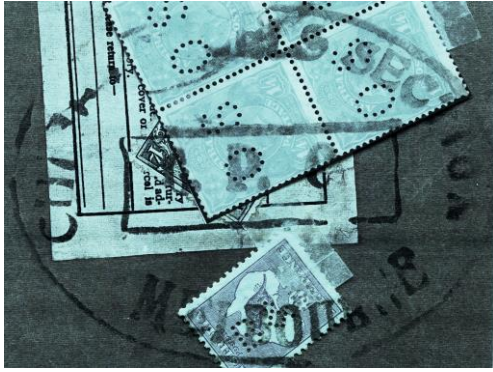
3 CHIEF PARCEL OFFICE/BLANK BOXED/MELBOURNE (SRO)

Up to 10 sub types. Size and type of print ie with/without seraphs and the termination of the box near the lettering on all corners. Size approximately 96 x 70mm. Box about 55 x 18mm.



4 CHIEF PARCELS SECTION/BOXED GPO/MELBOURNE (SRO)

Could be two sub types depending on the size of print. My examples are poor quality. Size 98 x 73mm and box 56 x 20mm.



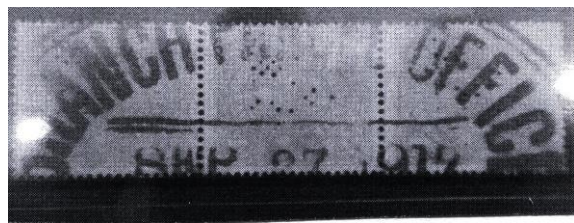
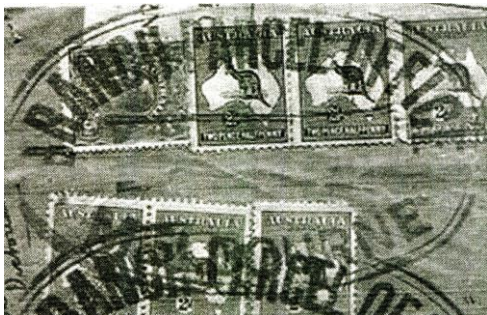
5 CHIEF PARCEL OFFICE/DATE/MELBOURNE (DRO).

Up to 8 sub types. The date format varies. In some cases I am unsure whether the format of MAR16 refers to the year or the year slug was not inserted properly and failed to impress. One of the sub types appears to have used on RED ink on some occasions rather than the usual black. Size about 90 x 60mm and length of lines 52mm and 17mm apart.



6 BRANCH PARCEL OFFICE/WITH & WITHOUT DATE/MELBOURNE (DRO).

Approximate size 105 x 62mm and lines about 50 long and 17mm apart.



M — E

7 BRANCH PARCEL OFFICE GPO/TWO LINES/MELBOURNE (DRO).

Note the letters GPO continue after the word OFFICE. Type 5 design modified? Approximate size 100 x 65mm. The lines are about 57mm long and 17mm apart.



8 CHIEF PARCEL OFFICE/BOXED MELBOURNE/ELIZABETH STREET (SRO)

The first of the Elizabeth Street cancels. Presumably post 1916 when the GPO was transferred to the CME. Huge seraph print and obviously deteriorated. If that heavily used, there should be plenty of whole examples. None known so far. Appears to be two sub types with same size lettering. The other - non seraphed ELIZABETH STREET but CPO appears to be seraphed. Estimated size 90 x 74mm. The box about 52 x 17mm.



9 PARCELS OFFICE/BOXED MELBOURNE/ELIZABETH STREET (SRO)

Size 92 x 68mm and the box 55 x 16mm. The lettering is all 8mm high. A feature to note is the EET "appears to grow" on all samples. Potentially four sub types.

68



OVALparcelspmksJUN20

Address Labels on Postal Wrappers

Dr John K. Courtis FRPSL acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk

When browsing through a scrap book of ephemera, it is likely some fascinating items would appear: wine bottle labels, book plates, cigar bands, playing cards, jam jar labels, Christmas and Valentine's Day cards, concert tickets and other eccentric and seemingly bizarre items. Likewise in philately, address labels that appear on postal wrappers might be perceived as a bizarre collectable. The president of the *Postal Label Study Group* was contacted to see if any of their members had studied this topic. He answered in the negative. A thorough literature search conducted on my behalf by former RPSV librarian Russell Turner did not reveal any books or articles devoted to this topic. There does not appear to be anything published about address labels per se, and this topic seems to have slipped through the philatelic cracks. The purpose of this paper is to explore the nature and use of address labels and their role within philately.

What is an address label and what is its relationship to philately? At the obvious level it is a label that is affixed to a postal wrapper or parcel wrapper to indicate the addressee details. In this sense it is directive and adds to the accuracy of delivery. While not all address labels are typed or handstamped, those that are seek to minimize misinterpretation that can arise from handwriting. The whole family of *Retour* labels (see Courtis 2021) arose to circumvent the illegible writing of some mail carriers. From the sender's perspective, the printing on the label is standardised for outgoing printed matter and parcel mail and can easily be monitored for accuracy and completeness. The other philatelic benefit of an address label is that it can accurately record sender details for return in the event of non-delivery. This could be important in the case of parcels if they break open and spill their contents either through inadequate packing or through the non-gentle treatment that is often the fate of parcel mail. The address label, therefore, contributes to the efficiency of postal delivery to addressee or return to sender. At the less obvious level, it can advertise the nature of the sender's business, identify the probable contents for the addressee and reduce the chances of the wrapper being disdained and treated as junk mail.

In the example shown in Figure 1, the address label, which appeared on a parcel wrapper, clearly identifies the addressee in Edwardstown, South Australia. It also clearly shows the return address in the event of non-delivery. The small illustration of a Hills Clothes Hoist adds "*It Spins as it Dries*" and the words *The Greatest Name in Cloths Hoists*. While some might argue that attempts at advertising are misplaced, there is no ambiguity as to the nature of the sender. The label is colourful, simple, and eye-catching. Although cropped for purposes of illustration, the franking with four stamps: 1/-, 2/-, 6d and 2d = 3/8 indicates the interstate airmail rate and suggests the contents could have been an urgent spare part, mailed from Brisbane as shown by the parcel roller.

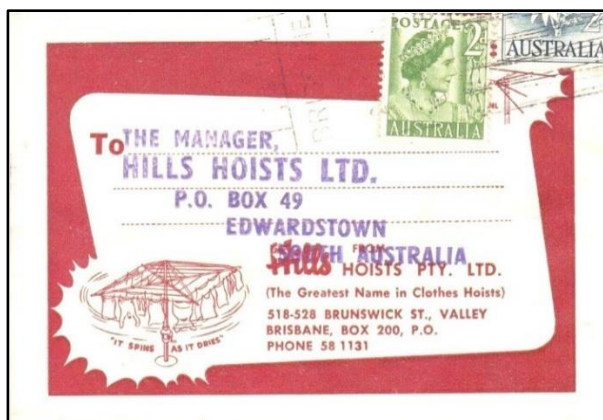


Figure 1 – Address label for Australia: Hills Clothes Hoists

The low survival rate of address labels on wrappers is surprising. From an analysis of more than 10,000 private (i.e., non-Post Office) wrappers, 333 were identified with dedicated address labels. These printed labels displayed both sender and addressee details. Addressograph labels were not included in this study

as these are an alternative machine-based method of addressing a wrapper. As would be expected, the address labels being studied can be found on some private wrappers without overprinting and on parcel wrappers, the latter being another topic with almost no recognition in the philatelic literature. As discussed in previous articles on wrappers, the database of private wrappers was started in 2006, with daily hand-collecting from the internet, mostly the eBay and Delcampe auction platforms. The database also includes eligible wrappers from the e-stores of sellers and other internet sites. It comprises the result of a widespread search over 16 years and is a reasonable proxy of what has been available on the international market. For the purposes of this investigative study, Post Office wrappers have not been included.

A careful study of these 333 wrappers bearing address labels revealed that they comprised 227 different senders emanating from 59 countries. There were a few other wrappers that had to be set aside because stamps were positioned across a readable section of the sender's identity or the labels were too damaged. What was surprising was the small number of address labels that met the criteria for study. The expectation was that these types of labels would be in abundance. On the contrary, they are uncommon and represent only three incidences per 100 private wrappers on average.

The question is how to present these address labels other than country-by-country. They can be found on wrappers in lieu of overprinting, directly on newspapers, and on parcel wrappers. A selection is illustrated to indicate the breadth of these labels, especially with thematic potential. Images taken from the internet have been cropped to show only the essentials and to improve the quality of the images.

Directly on Newspapers

Six examples are shown in Figure 2 of address labels applied directly to a portion of the newspaper. In some cases, the label includes the name of the enclosure with or without the stamp. In other cases, the label shows only the addressee details, the presumption being that in the event of non-delivery, the contents themselves would adequately reveal the sender details. The range of countries using address labels directly on newspapers include Ethiopia and German East Africa and can be found also for Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hong Kong, Philippines, Portugal, and Russia.



Figure 2a – Austria: “Die Postmarke”; France: La France Chevaline

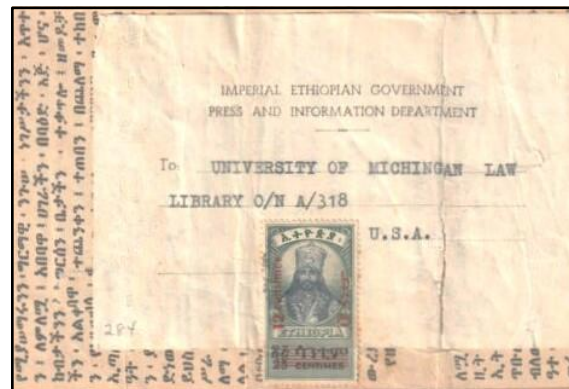


Figure 2b – Egypt: MISR daily newspaper; Ethiopia: Imperial Ethiopian Government

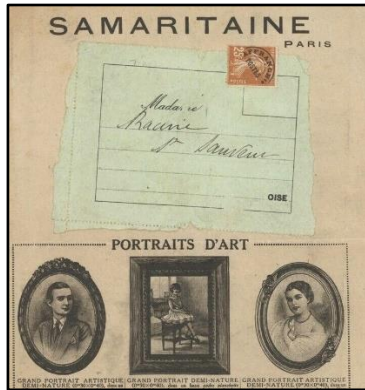


Figure 2c – France: Samaritaine [Department Store], Paris;
German East Africa: postmarked Tanga 21.4.16

Aesthetic Appeal

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. If the label grabs attention because of its design or colour or both, then, from a marketing perspective, it has fulfilled a role in addition to facilitating accurate delivery. The selection of what to include under each heading is subjective but intended to help the exposition. The intent is to alert philatelists to this underrated part of mail. The six examples shown in Figures 3 are not mutually exclusive and could be reclassified under thematics.

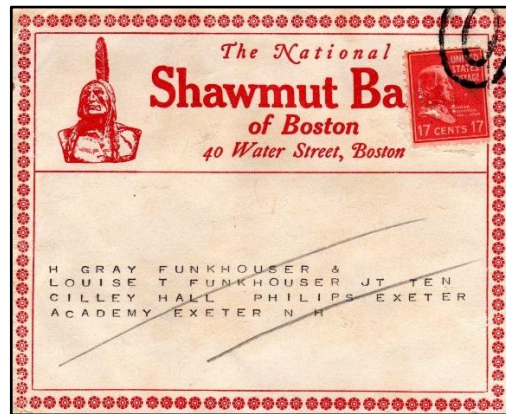
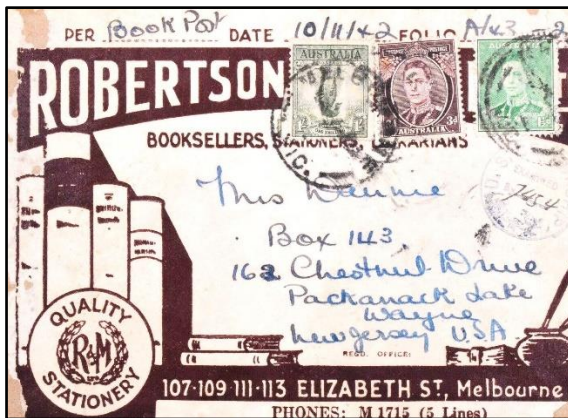


Figure 3a: - Australia: Robertson & Mullens, Booksellers, Stationers, Librarians;
USA: The National Shawmut Bank of Boston

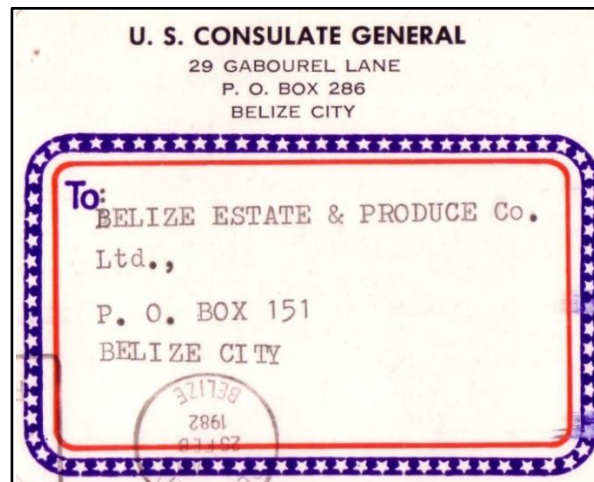
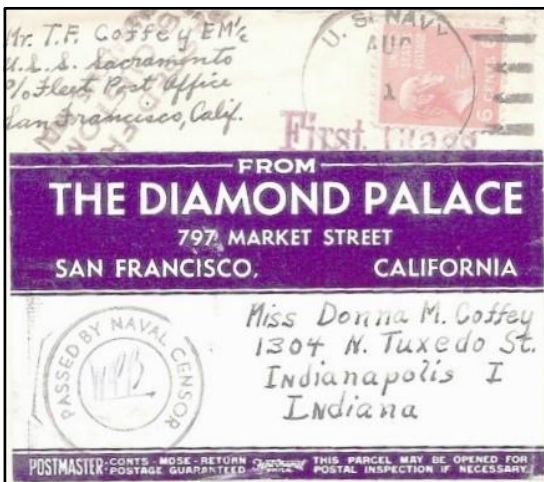


Figure 3b – USA: The Diamond Palace; Belize: U.S. Consulate General

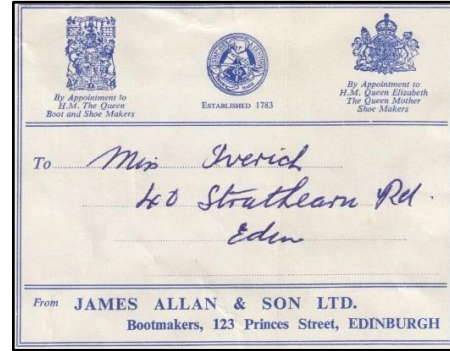


Figure 3c – France: Groupe Géographique et Ethnographique du Sud-Ouest; Great Britain: James Allan & Son Ltd., Bootmakers by Appointment to the Queen

Sample of No Value

In addition to the two examples shown in Figure 4, an address label from the Hong Kong company *Oriental Corporation Ltd.* to Montreal, Canada has printed “sample of no commercial value”, postmarked 22 January 1959, despite being registered and sent by second-class airmail. There is also a single-line handstamp ‘non-transmissible’ which translates to non-infectious. Another address label for *G. Spooner* from Italy to New York has ‘Samples no value’ in manuscript.

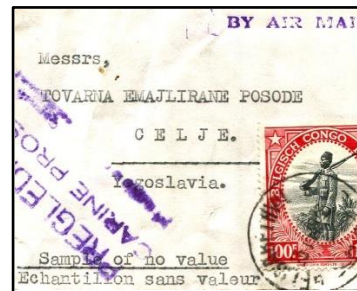
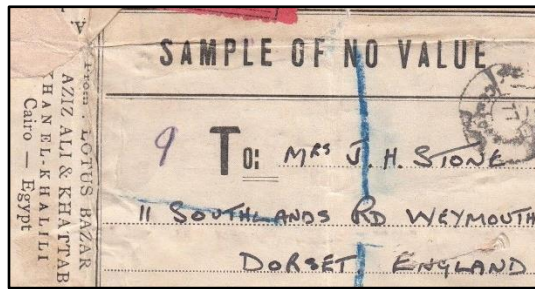


Figure 4 – Egypt: SAMPLE OF NO VALUE; Belgian Congo: Sample of no value

Officials

In addition to the four examples of official address labels shown in Figure 5, other examples can be found for Colombia, Ethiopia, Israel, and Vietnam.

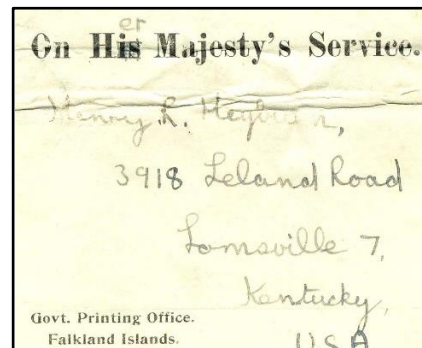
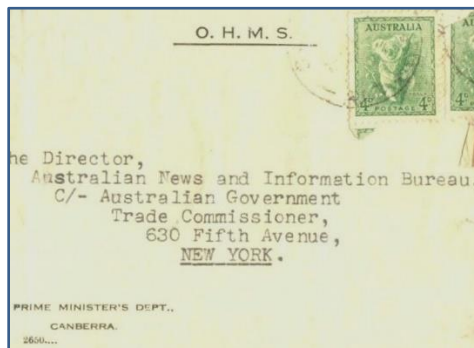


Figure 5a – Australia: Prime Minister's Dept., Canberra; Falkland Islands: On H[er] Majesty's Service, Govt. Printing Office

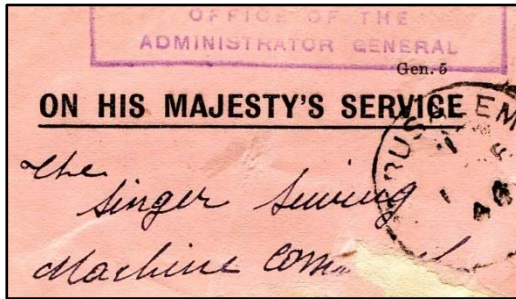


Figure 5b – Palestine: On His Majesty's Service; USA: Department of Agriculture

Auxiliary Markings

Auxiliary markings are usually positioned on an item of mail according to the demands of time of the mail clerk or customs officer. That they appear on an address label is somewhat fortuitous. There are numerous cases of auxiliary marks especially on parcel wrappers. Two unusual markings are shown in Figure 6: an address label from Switzerland to London, England has a three-line boxed handstamp *Detained in France // During German // Occupation*, and one from France to Switzerland with a two-line purple handstamp *Verificato // Per censa* being a censor marking.

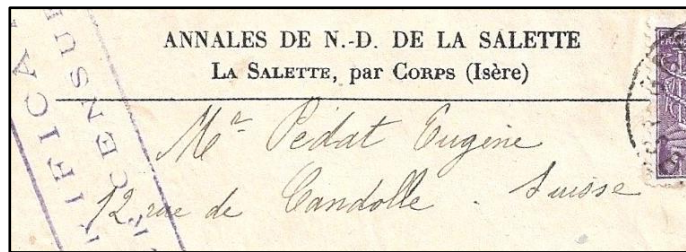
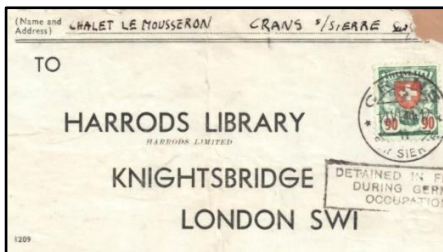


Figure 6 – Switzerland: Detained in France // During German // Occupation; France: Verificato // Per censa (11 May 1943)

Thematics

A list of potential topics would include: rotary, banking, religion, education, travel, books, libraries, finance, pharmacy, film, military, shoes, musical instruments, autographs, flower seeds, sport, philately, Red Cross, dental, textiles and transport. The thematic collector would certainly find more topics from a detailed study. The 12 examples shown in Figures 7 are indicative of what can be found, but are not exhaustive.

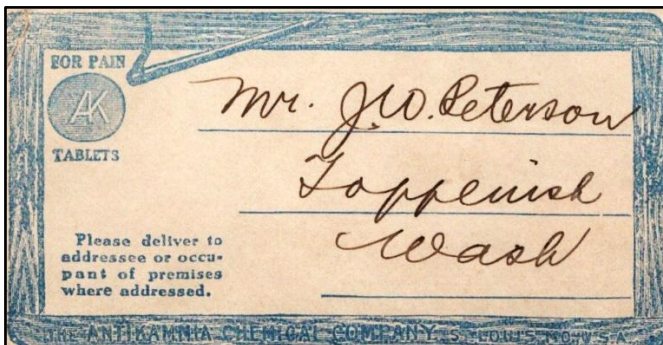


Figure 7a – USA: pharmaceutical – The Antikamnia Chemical Company; India: flower seeds – Pestonjee P. Pocha & Sons, Poona, British India



Figure 7b – France: Movie reviews – Cinématographie; USA: spinning yarn – Colonial Yarn House

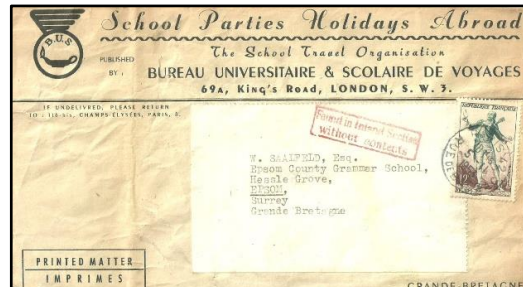


Figure 7c – France: Musical Instruments, Piano – S. Wolf; France: Travel – School Travel Organisation

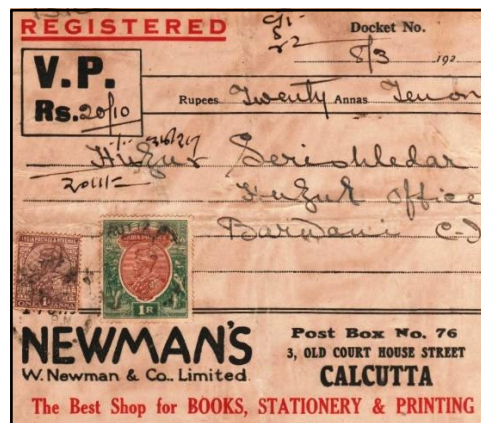
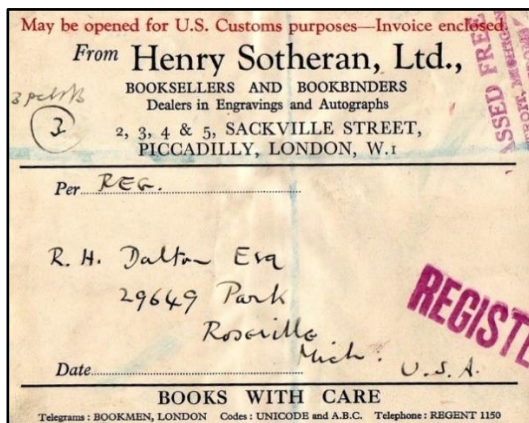


Figure 7d – Great Britain: Booksellers, bookbinders, engravings, autographs – Henry Sotheran, Ltd.; India: books, stationery, printing – W. Newman & Co., Calcutta

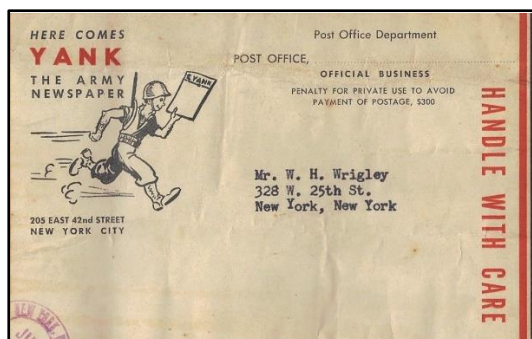


Figure 7e – USA: Army newspaper, cartoon, official – Post office Department, Official Business; The Republic of Korea: Red Cross – National Red Cross

On Private Wrappers

Address labels are an alternative to overprinting. The interesting question is when would an address label be preferred to overprinting? Obviously, each sender-firm makes that decision based on the nature of the

business. Where oversized wrappers and parcels are involved, an address label allows flexibility in positioning the wrapper to best effect. Cost may also be a factor. Overprinting would likely involve a larger print run of wrappers, with consequent storage issues and the potential for wastage if circumstance's change that are not reflected in the overprinting. For example, a change in the firm's organizational structure, product line or distribution centre is possibly better captured from new address labels.

A selection of four address labels attached to private wrappers are illustrated in Figures 8.



Figure 8a – Belgium: Les Éditions Jocistes;
German Occupation of Belgium: Der Ostasiatische Lloyd (newspaper)



Figure 8b – France: Librairie Larousse; Hungary: Andreas Saxlehner, Budapest

Summary

There appears to be something new to find if one looks hard enough. Address labels that appear on wrappers and parcel mail do not appear to have been dealt with in the philatelic literature. They are an alternative to overprinting wrappers, but for parcels, they may have been essential for clarity and to facilitate the postal delivery process. Today, boxes or plastic mailing bags have generally replaced wrapped parcels, with panels on these containers for sender and addressee details. The address labels illustrated and discussed here relate to the era before on-line web-based purchasing became so prevalent. This topic is where web site auction platforms shine. Where else but on eBay would one find a supply of parcel wrappers? For all kinds of reasons, parcel wrappers appear to be popular on this auction platform, as listed items are indeed sold. By contrast, some Post Office wrappers on eBay have been listed almost continuously for a heady period of up to five years.

A study of 10,000 private wrappers revealed that 333 showed an address label (not an addressograph label). Of these, 227 across 57 countries were studied in more detail. Address labels are uncommon, representing only 3% of the total private wrappers recorded to date. They can be of interest to country collectors, thematic collectors, postal history collectors, and for social philatelists interested in researching back stories of sender and addressee. A total of 35 examples of address labels have been illustrated.

References

Courtis John K. (2021), *Analysis of Worldwide Postal Wrappers: Attributes of Postal Stationery, Postal History and Social Philately*, Postal History Society of Great Britain, Vol. 2 Chapter 23, Retour Labels, pp. 575-582; Chapter 30, Parcel Wrappers, pp. 792-820.

MME - BULK ARTICLES AND PARCELS

By Brian Fuller.

On 1JUN17 when the GPO title and its functions were removed from the Elizabeth St PO and bestowed on the Melbourne Mail Exchange (MME). The MME commenced operation on 4JUN17 at the corner of Bourke and Spencer Streets Melbourne. It incorporated the Spencer St PO which became the public face of the GPO and many of its cancellations record this, hence GPOSS.

Typical R6 labels include:



Period of use?

Up until this time all bulk mail including parcels would have been processed by the Elizabeth St PO and probably over-straining their capacity to do so.

The MME contained many major Sections and the two important functions I am considering are the Bulk and Registration Sections especially their relationship.

Without an organization chart I cannot confidently state the organization and functional nature of the MME in regards the BULK, PARCELS, and REGISTRATION Sections.

The BULK area I expect would process both PARCELS as well as large volume user mail. Until the opening of the King Street Chief Parcels Office circa 1922 they also would have received parcels for registration. I have no details in this regard.

In the 1975 Central Mail Exchange Branch Melbourne Statistical Bulletin, the only statistical measures are recorded for the LETTERS/ARTICLES, PARCELS and REGISTRATION Sections – BULK per se, does not get a specific mention.

Branch Receipts 1974/5 Table 1 the "Category of Mail" covers - three categories of articles, Standard letters (772,574,000), Non-Standard enveloped articles (60,430,000) and Other Non-Standard articles (71,582,000). The Table includes Registration (3,248,432) and Parcel (9,645,650) quantities. Five categories in all. The total of all for 74/75 was 867,480,082 articles.

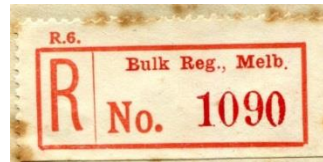
There is NO organization chart with the Bulletin. It makes me wonder whether it ever legally existed or was terminology used by employees of that area. When visiting the State Mail Centre circa 1980 I was introduced to that counter facing the laneway as the "Bulk Counter".

Typical Bulk R6 label is shown below. Period of use unknown:



Bulk presumably also received registered articles and then forwarded them to the REGISTRATION Section for onward processing. With REGISTERED LETTER envelopes Bulk are known to apply IRREGULARLY POSTED cachet impressions on them. If money etc was found in any article then extra cachets would be expected and the article diverted for due attention. Ditto if it was torn or damaged upon arrival. Did their Bulletin double count these?

However, there are R6 Bulk Registration labels that complicates such a simple structure. Periods of use unknown.



It could be Bulk were acknowledging quantities of articles for Registration, placed their R6 label on it and sent them to the Registration Section for onwards processing.

The GPOSS (GPO Spencer St was co-located with the MME) would undoubtedly receive both bulk and registered articles across the counter. However, I know of no GPOSS cancels indicating they had a Registration or Bulk Section function. GPOSS had their own parcels cancellations for across counter receipts. Elizabeth St PO also had its own parcels and registration cancellations for across counter transactions. Did the CME Branch Bulletin combine these with the Bulk counter?

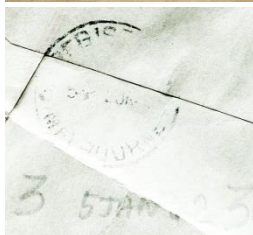
MME Bulk Section The entrance to BULK Section was in the laneway off Bourke St between the Philatelic Bureau and MME building proper. The opposite side of the building to GPOSS. I would expect any Bulk articles the Elizabeth St PO received were probably despatched direct to MME Bulk or told the sender to take it there themselves.



R6



On the reverse



With the Army article 5JAN42, it had a very poorly struck registration date stamp REGISTERED/3 5JAN42 3/MELBOURNE on the reverse. Considering the relative dates the article was taken direct to Bulk and processed by their Registration sub section then to the MME Registration Section the same day. There is no delivery receipt cancellation.



The REGISTERED/2/24JUN55/PAID MELBOURNE red handstamp item received Bulk R6 label 5296 then to Registration Section for onwards transmission. How was it PAID? Where was the canceller stored/used?

The Guillaux flight cover Melbourne to Sydney 16JUL64 was lodged with Bulk 16JUL64 cancellation Melbourne No 30 and acknowledge by GPO Sydney 18JUL64 and returned to the Registration Section Melbourne on 20JUL64. Northcote appeared to receive it on 28JUL64.



Obviously, Bulk was able to receive payment as per the 24JAN55 cover. But I cannot explain what Section used the Paid canceller? Was it their Registration sub section? I have only seen it applied circa 1955 – 1964 on Bulk Mail that was registered.

With Philatelic mail the GPOSS had a Stamp(s) Section at its front counter. With mail to be registered they acknowledged the registration with their own R6 label then forwarded it to the Registration Section for processing.

Typical R6 include:



Is STAMPS a misspelling?

I have no period of use for either.

I also suspect the GPOSS Philatelic Bureau (PB) went and delivered all its external mail to the Bulk Section as they were quite near their entrance in the laneway between the two buildings. Did the PB apply the R6 labels or were applied on their behalf by the Registration Section. For those who did their own at the PB what do you recall please?



Are these MME era? Period of use?

Conclusion

A learned person once said to record postal history it is best done at the time of its occurrence. I have no dates or operational details of the various sections in the MME. It will require a collective effort by all collectors to contribute their knowledge to rescue a gross oversight in recording.

Unfortunately Ken Sparks is unavailable, due to poor health, to assist. Can anyone else help please?

21APR23

Palestine Pictorials Part - 4

Tony Lyon

Continuing from AJP No165 September 2023.

Inland Rate

The Inland rate 16.2.18 – 30.4.40 was 7mils – 20gms then 5 mils per 20gms.



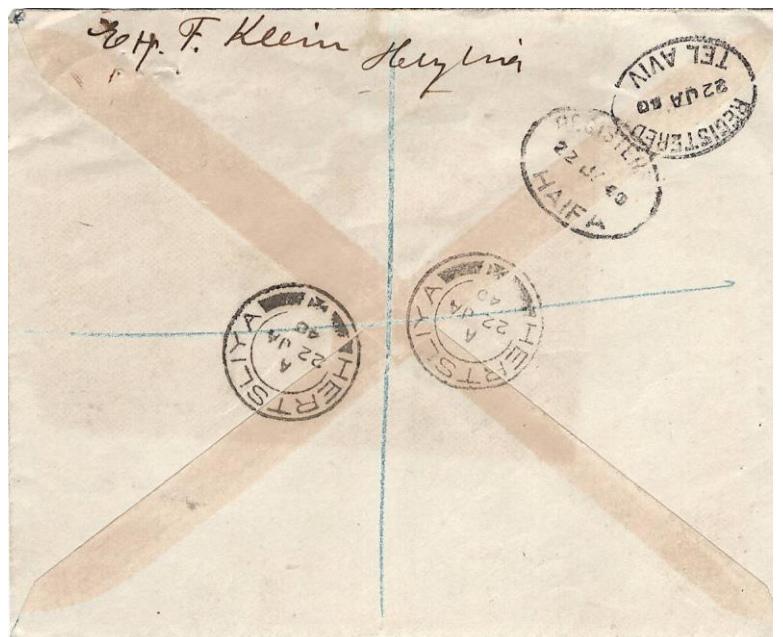
Registered letter posted at Hertsliya 22 JA 40 A Proud D4 (5.1.37) – (3.8.43) cancels a 10mm gray and an 8mm scarlet vertically ribbed paper.

Correct 5mm inland plus 13mm Registration.

Reverse cancels a Tel Aviv registered 22 JA 40 Proud oval R11 (4.1.40) – (20.5.47).

A Haifa 22 JA 40 Proud not shown.

Hertsliya 22 JA 40 Proud D4

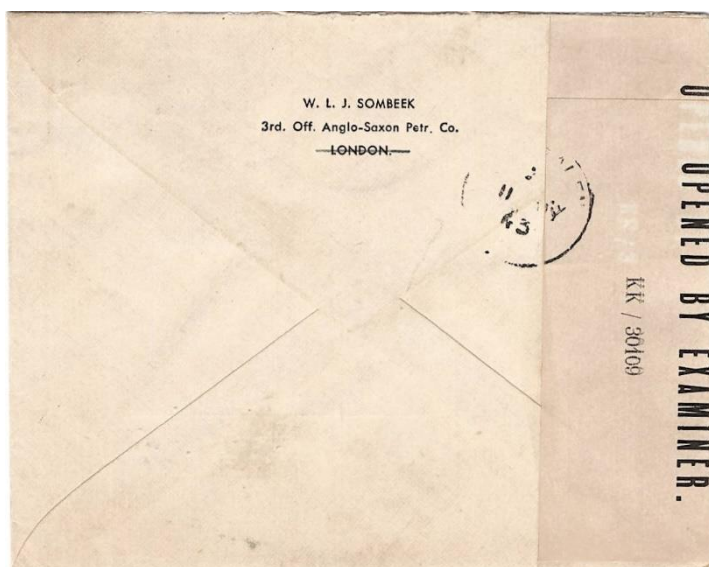
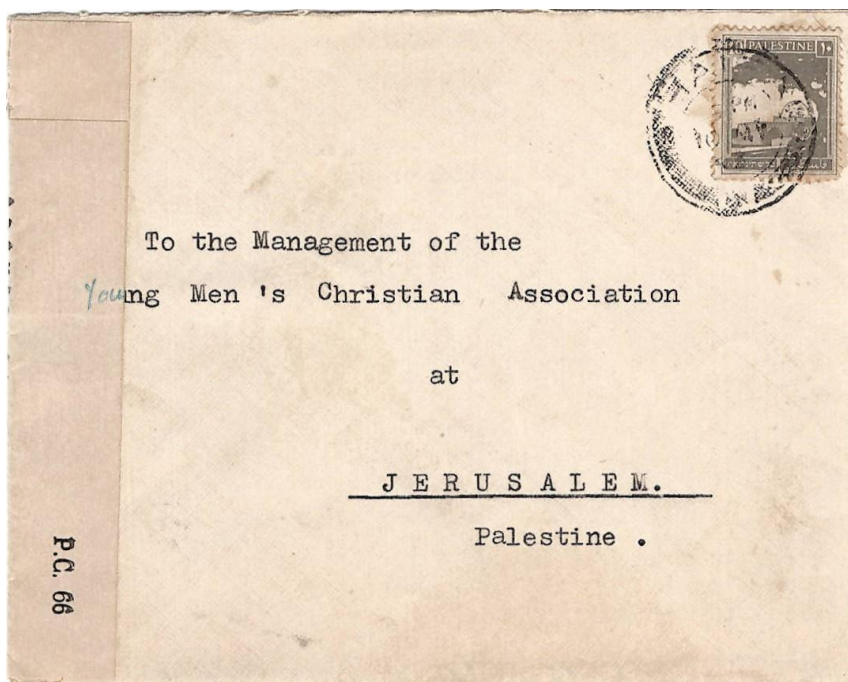


There is one correction in AJP No 165 September 2023 from page 23 under 'The New Inland Rate'. The weights should have read 10 mils – 20 gms. then 6 mils per 20 gms.

An inland censored letter postmarked Haifa 10 MY 43 (Proud D20, usage 1.9.42 to 5.5.48). It cancels a 10mm grey, wove paper. Addressed to Jerusalem and received 11 MY 43. Censored and sealed with censor tape applied at Jerusalem.

Inland Rate

The Inland rate 1.4.41 – 14.5.48 was 10mils – 20gms then 6 mils per 20 gms.



Reverse showing censor tape cancelled at Jerusalem 11 MY 43

Foreign Rate

The foreign rate that applied at the period pictorials were first issued was (1.1.23 – 31.5.32) at a rate of 13mm – 20 gms then 7mm per 20gms.

Registration

From 1.10.21 – 30.6.40 13 mils.

Foreign rate – France

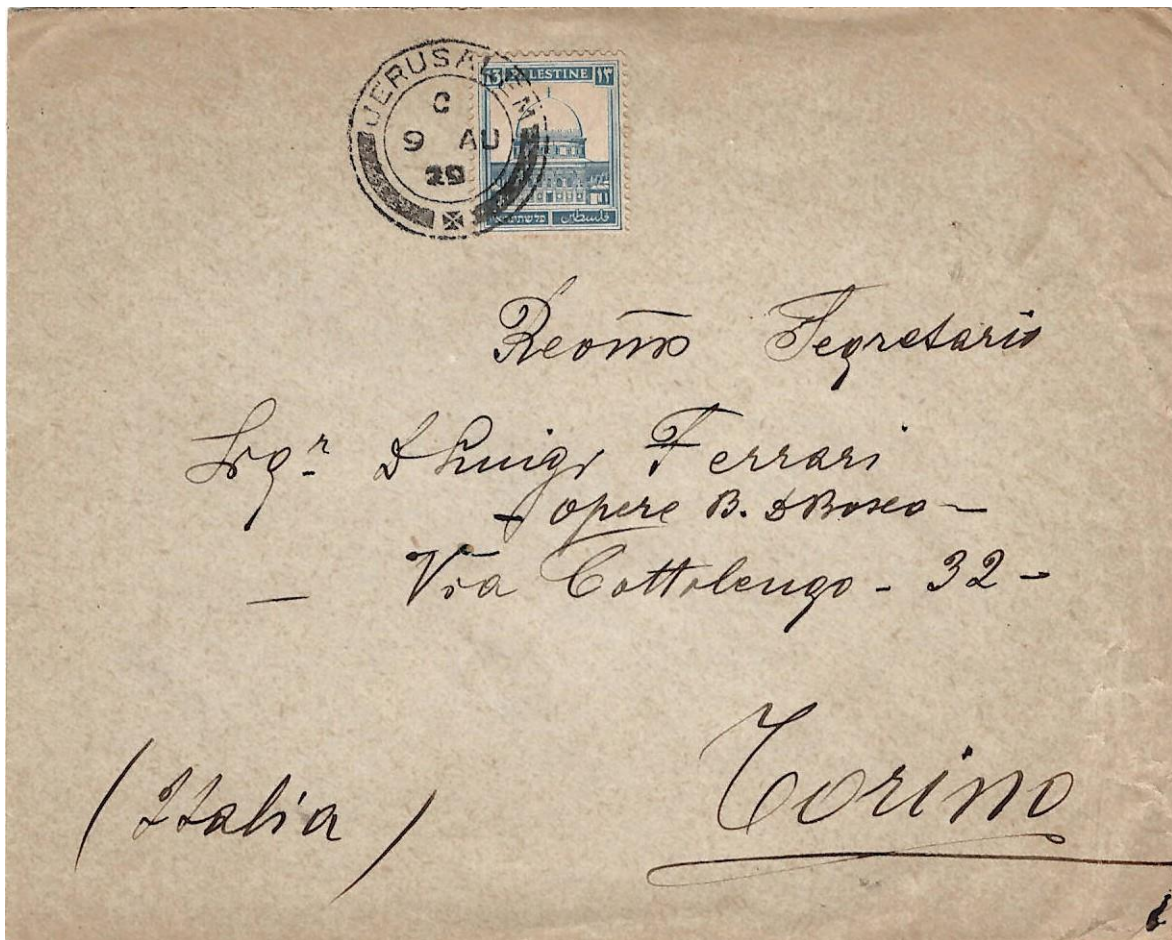


Surface rate letter franked with 3mm light green and a 10mm gray on thin semi-transparent paper sent from Jerusalem to Asnières, France. Jerusalem cancel Proud type D15 (26.5.24) – (15.2.29). On reverse an Asnières, Seine continuous machine cancel 28 III 28.

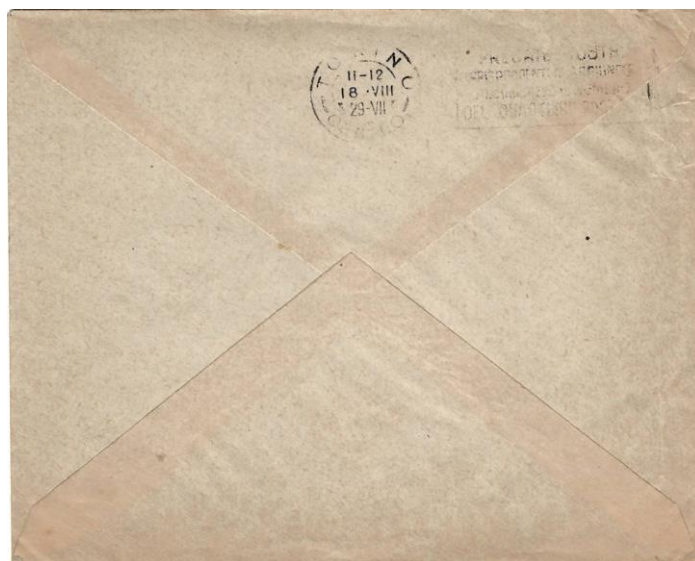


Reverse

Foreign rate – Italy



Letter to Torino, Italy with 13m vertical mesh pictorial paying the overseas 13 m rate (20 grams for first 20 grams) (1.1.23 – 31.5.32). Cancelled 9 AU 29 with Proud D15 (26.5.24 – 15.2.29 extends date).



Torino machine cancel 18.8.29 (10 days).

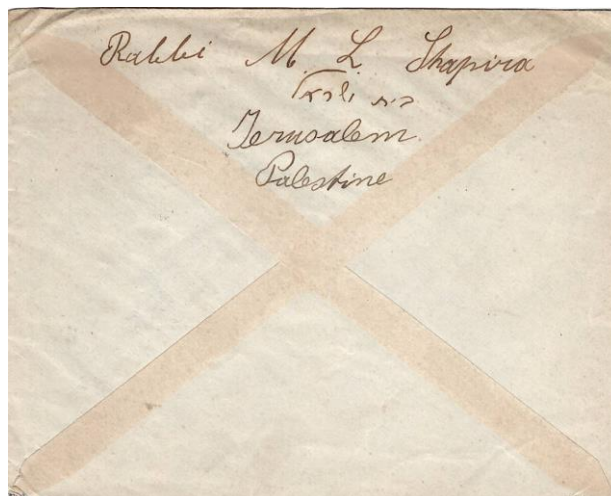
Foreign Rate

A new foreign rate applied at the period (1.6.32 – 30.6.40) at a rate of 15mm – 20 gms then 9mm per 20gms. This increase was due to depreciation of sterling.

Foreign Rate USA



Letter from Rabbi in Jerusalem to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, USA. 3 x 4mm purple and a 3mm light green, both vertical mesh pays the 15mm foreign surface rate.



Back Page

John Young

The International Colonial Exposition

The International Colonial Exposition held in Paris in 1931 emphasised French colonial products and manufactures. This postcard, addressed to Czechoslovakia, is franked with two of the Exposition stamps, machine cancelled with the Exposition postmark. The card's picture side shows a replica Cambodian Ankor-vat at the Expo.

