

# Synopsis: Don't get personal, eh?

## Restricted delivery in the US, and not in Canada

**P**ERSONAL delivery, also known as *restricted delivery* and *addressee only* (we shall use these three terms interchangeably), is a service offered in the US (and possibly in other countries) on registered and (rarely) on insured mail. It is supplemental to return receipt, in that it requires the latter as a prerequisite.

From the 1893 US postal guide (p 393, section 1113; the earliest known official reference to restricted delivery, found by Bernard Biales),

The sender of a registered article may by an indorsement upon its envelope or wrapper, **restrict its delivery** to the addressee of the person, in which case delivery must be made to no other.

Restricted delivery is fairly well-known in the US, in that lots of material is available. For other countries, there is some evidence that it existed (possibly in Germany, for example). In Canada it did not exist; however, this did not stop users from requesting the service either domestically or (rarely) on mail to the US.

This exhibit deals with personal delivery in the US, and the attempts by Canadians to obtain the service. This is based on the article, D Handelman, *Don't get personal* Collector's Club Philatelist (2007) 86 (2) 99–106; however, it incorporates new discoveries.

In the US, the service known as *avis de réception* is usually referred to as *return receipt*, and the formula for requesting it is any of return receipt demanded/wanted/desired/requested. For US domestic mail, we refer to it as **RRR**, while for the rest of the world, and for US international mail, we write **AR**. The formulas for personal delivery include *personal receipt demanded/requested*, *delivery personally*, *deliver to addressee only*, and variations.

Personal delivery requires that the **RRR** (or **AR**) card can only be signed by the addressee, not an agent. As cited above, in appears in the 1893 postal guide, but not in earlier guides or **PL & R**. Initially, it was a free option on domestic mail sent with **RRR** (since the latter was automatic on registered mail up to 1910, registration was sufficient). When insured mail became available domestically (1913), so did **RRR**, and thus insured mail could also be sent with personal delivery.

In 1910, **RRR** became a free option on registered mail. In 1925, **RRR** was chargeable, but personal delivery remained a free option on **RRR** mail, until 1934, when it required 10¢ postage, increasing to 20¢ in 1944. Personal delivery was never available on international mail.

In Canada, there is no mention of personal delivery (or any of its equivalent expressions) in any postal guide or set of postmasters instructions that I could find, nor is it ever mentioned in rate tables. Nonetheless, we see requests for it on domestic and the odd international **AR** cover (letter sent with **AR**, a priori registered). I suspect that these markings were in imitation of the ones seen on US mail.

A few **AR** covers from Hungary to the US also bear similar notation requesting personal delivery in the US, in this case, apparently done by Hungarian clerks. The examples I have seen all were later than 1934 (when personal delivery became chargeable in the US), but there was no additional postage paid in Hungary or charged in the US, and I suspected that the request was ignored on arrival. However, I recently found one of these which has a US handstamp indicating personal delivery. So the request was not ignored (at least in this one instance). For the other Hungarian covers, we simply cannot tell if the service was applied, and the same for the few Canada to US **AR** covers with personal delivery marked.

### Organization

**Purely domestic US** The two earliest known examples of personal delivery, both 1884, from the same place are shown. The next earliest is sixteen years later (1900) followed by the earliest known handstamp indicating the service (1905).

In 1910, **RRR** changed from being compulsory, to a free option, on registered mail; personal delivery required **RRR** as a prerequisite. We then show some early examples and different notations, as well as official mail (with card). In 1925, **RRR** became chargeable, but restricted delivery remained a free option, requiring **RRR**. Variations

on the wording are shown, both in handstamp and typescript form.

In 1934, restricted delivery became chargeable (10¢), and still required R R R as a prerequisite. Another service, *showing address where delivered*, also requiring R R R, was added (initially 20¢), and both showing address and addressee sometimes appear on the same cover. When these covers are returned to sender (as is frequently the case), the postmarks cover the surface. With more rate changes in 1944 and 1952, we show more examples, including postal errors (not charged R R R fee).

This is followed by very unusual uses. A letter with personal delivery could be refused because addressees themselves refused to sign: we have two examples, addressed to Henry Ford and Wendell Willkie, one with a handstamp explanation. The only example so far discovered of personal delivery on an insured parcel (possible since 1913) is presented via its tag. There is also an official registered letter with no postage whatsoever (R R R and restricted delivery were supposed to be charged when applied to official mail). This is followed by two examples of the 10¢ restricted delivery charge becoming postage due (in the second case, it may have been special delivery that was charged).

*Forwarding abroad and international mail* Domestic restricted delivery registered mail could be forwarded abroad, but without the restricted delivery service being honoured. There was to be no extra charge on the differences between international and domestic mail (such as A R 5¢ and R R R 3¢)—but an example is shown where the charge was made. This is followed by an example that incorrectly *could not be forwarded to Canada*, ostensibly because it involved personal delivery.

An example addressed to Canada with restricted delivery charged and paid for is shown; for some reason, domestic rates were charged (and this by a Connecticut clerk who should have known that Canada is not part of the U S).

Incoming registered mail requesting restricted delivery is known from three countries (Hungary, Germany, and Canada). The first is an 1883 example from Germany which has a slew of interesting features (among other things, it was addressed to a prison who had escaped). Next is a Hungarian example with the clerk invoking the standard U S formula (misspelled) for restricted delivery, and it being honoured in the U S (via a U S handstamp). There exist other similar covers from Hungary, but there is no way of knowing whether the corresponding requests were similarly honoured.

*In and from Canada* Canada never adopted personal delivery. This did not stop senders (usually legal firms) from requesting it, both domestically and internationally. In one case, the same firm was still requesting it after sixteen years (hadn't they figure out that this service was not available?). Also shown is mail sent from a government office, the handstamp (with identical wording to those of the U S) possibly applied by postal clerk an official handstamp. There are a number of interesting covers with restricted delivery endorsement, and these are followed by a remarkable *duplicate* A R card showing that personal delivery may actually have applied. We conclude with Canadian A R covers addressed to the U S requesting the service. Whether it was fulfilled in either case is impossible to determine.

### Time period

From the earliest examples (1883) to the advent of certified mail in the U S (1955), which we do not cover.

## Timeline for US RRR, AR, and restricted delivery

1863

(Domestic) RRR service initiated; compulsory on registered letters, but no additional charge

1868–69

International AR service initiated; between US, Switzerland, and North German Union; AR is a free option on registered matter abroad

1875

GPU/UPU formed; AR now available between initial signatories (including US)

1879

All members of UPU supposed to offer AR service internationally, as they join; domestically, RRR cards introduced, supplanting the previous RRR forms (which continued in use)

1883

First example noted of incoming (to US) registered AR cover (from Germany) requesting restricted delivery

1884

First examples recorded of domestic (US) registered covers requesting restricted delivery.

1893

Earliest (so far) mention of restricted delivery in any US postal guide or PL&R; appears in the postal guide; no additional charge

1905

Earliest reported handstamp indicating restricted delivery

1910

RRR becomes a free option on registered mail; restricted delivery remains a free option, but requires RRR as prerequisite.

1913

Insurance on third and fourth class mail becomes available, and RRR is a free option on it; personal delivery is an additional free option, but requires RRR

1922

US switches to AR cards (from forms) for international AR, but domestic cards are not affected

1925

RRR is charged 3¢ (and AR, 5¢); restricted delivery remains a free option on RRR mail

1931

Another service, *showing address* (not to be confused with *addressee only*, one of the terms indicating restricted delivery) is introduced domestically, at a charge of 20¢, and requires RRR as a prerequisite; showing address and restricted delivery may be applied to the same matter

1934

Restricted delivery becomes chargeable (10¢), and still requires RRR

1944, 49, 52

Rate changes occur.

## Timeline for Canada AR

1879

Canada offers AR; the same forms used for international and domestic service, and at the same fee (5¢); paid on the form, except during the Treaty of Vienna period, 1892–98

1919

Rates change

1921 (late; or early 1922)

Canada switches to AR cards (the same ones for both international and domestic); AR fee paid on the card (until 1975)

1930–

Cards change colour (to pink); nothing much happens until rate changes in 1950 or so.

Comments, corrections, compliments, brickbats, suggestions, gifts, . . . , may be sent to me:  
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# Don't get personal, eh?

## *Restricted delivery in the US and not in Canada*

The sender (in the US) may restrict delivery of a registered letter to the addressee (this requires that the letter be sent with [return receipt](#) [denoted **RRR** on US domestic mail]); endorsements to indicate this include *personal delivery, addressee only, personal receipt required*, and others. The earliest reference appears in an 1893 postal guide. The 1884 covers shown here are by far the earliest known. This exhibit covers restricted delivery in the US, and attempts at restricted delivery in Canada, up to 1955.

*US domestic* There are just two pre-1900 restricted delivery covers reported; we show both, as well as the only other nineteenth century item (1900), as well as the earliest indication with a handstamp (1905). Then we see a range of handstamps and endorsements, and combinations of services (including the expensive *showing address where delivered*), as well as examples showing rate changes.

Then we show more unusual examples, for instance, letters to Henry Ford and Wendell Willkie (shortly after nomination as Republican presidential candidate) which were refused, because the addresses would not abide by the restricted delivery condition, that they sign the card personally).

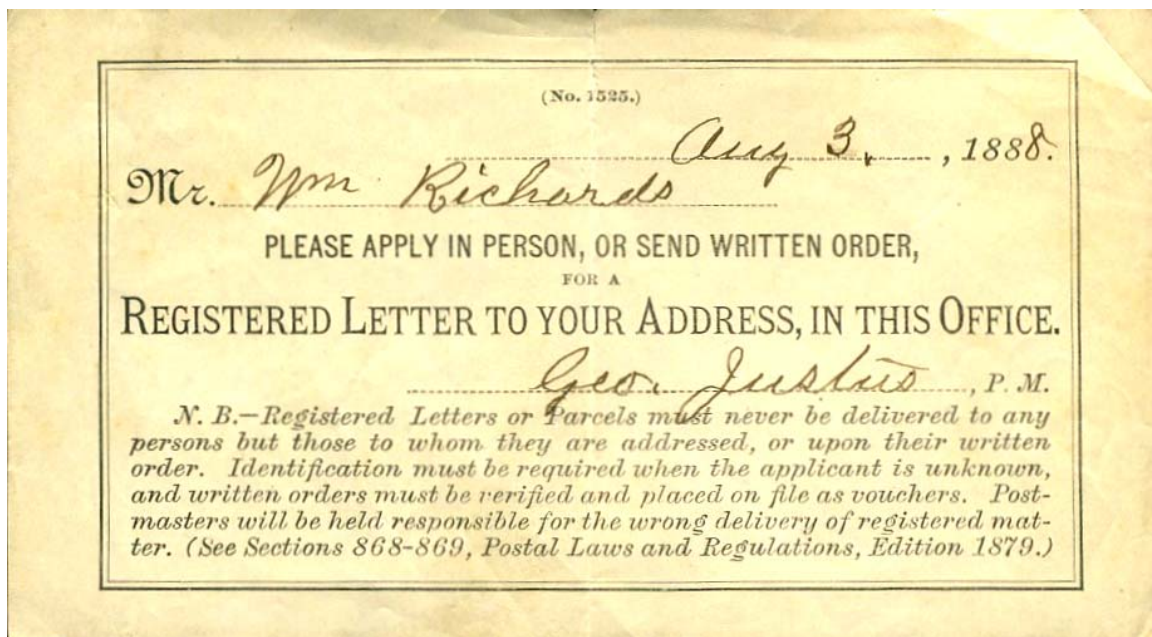
When the US introduced insurance on third and fourth class mail (1913), **RRR** could also be applied, and by extension, so could restricted delivery. The only (thus far found) example is shown (1916).

This is followed by an anomalous government mailing, which should have had postage paying (at least) the **RRR** and restricted delivery fees, but didn't. Then a couple of covers that were postage due, in the first case, due to failing to pay the personal delivery fee, and the same, but with probability  $\frac{1}{2}$  for the second one.

*US international* Restricted delivery was not available internationally. If a domestic item were forwarded abroad, the restricted delivery aspect was supposed to be ignored. We show a forwarded example improperly charged postage due, and another one to Canada, which incorrectly *could not be forwarded* (ostensibly as a result of the restricted delivery condition). This is followed by a cover addressed to Canada for which the restricted delivery fee had been paid (in fact, it was treated as a domestic letter—the Connecticut postmaster should have known that Canada is not part of the US).

The situation for incoming letters is more complicated; we cannot conclude that the restricted delivery request would be honoured, particularly in the period when there was a charge for the service. A remarkable 1883 German **AR** cover (whose addressee had escaped Fort Leavenworth military prison), with a sesquilingual restricted delivery request, is shown. This is followed by a 1941 **AR** cover from Hungary, for which we can be sure that the request was honoured (and no indication of postage due).

*Restricted delivery and Canada* Canada had no restricted delivery service. However, a number of domestic (and rarely, international) **AR** covers show futile requests for the service, usually via typescript, occasionally handstamp, using the same wording as on US covers. We have a variety of examples of such covers. We also show a remarkable *duplicate AR* card, for which the service appears to have applied(!). Finally, we have a pair of **AR** covers to the US requesting the service, but there is no way tell whether it was honoured there.



Form announcing registered letter, 1888. Registered letters were to be given only to the addressee or their agents (and the latter if there were a written order to that effect). This refers to the 1879 **PL & R**. *To be signed by address or order* is a request for what we call *semi-restricted delivery*, equivalent wording occasionally appearing on government mail. The *order* refers to the fact that the addressee's authorization must be onhand at the destination post office.

# Domestic US

## Earliest uses

Both endorsed *Deliver Personally* (different inks, but possibly same handwriting), from Vineland (NJ) to Chicago from same sender, John P Gage. Both returned to writer. No other nineteenth century (domestic) restricted delivery covers are known until 1900.

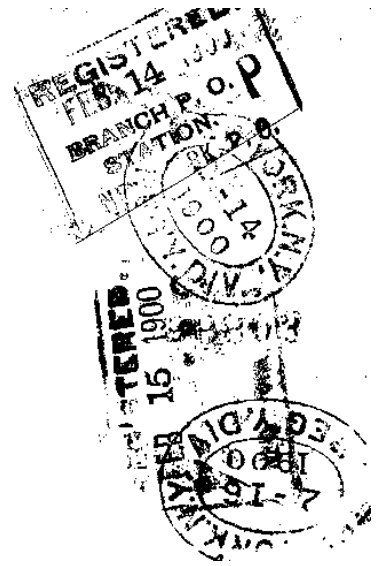


*Deliver personally*, 3 May 1884. Rated 10¢ registration and 2¢ domestic. *Unclaimed*

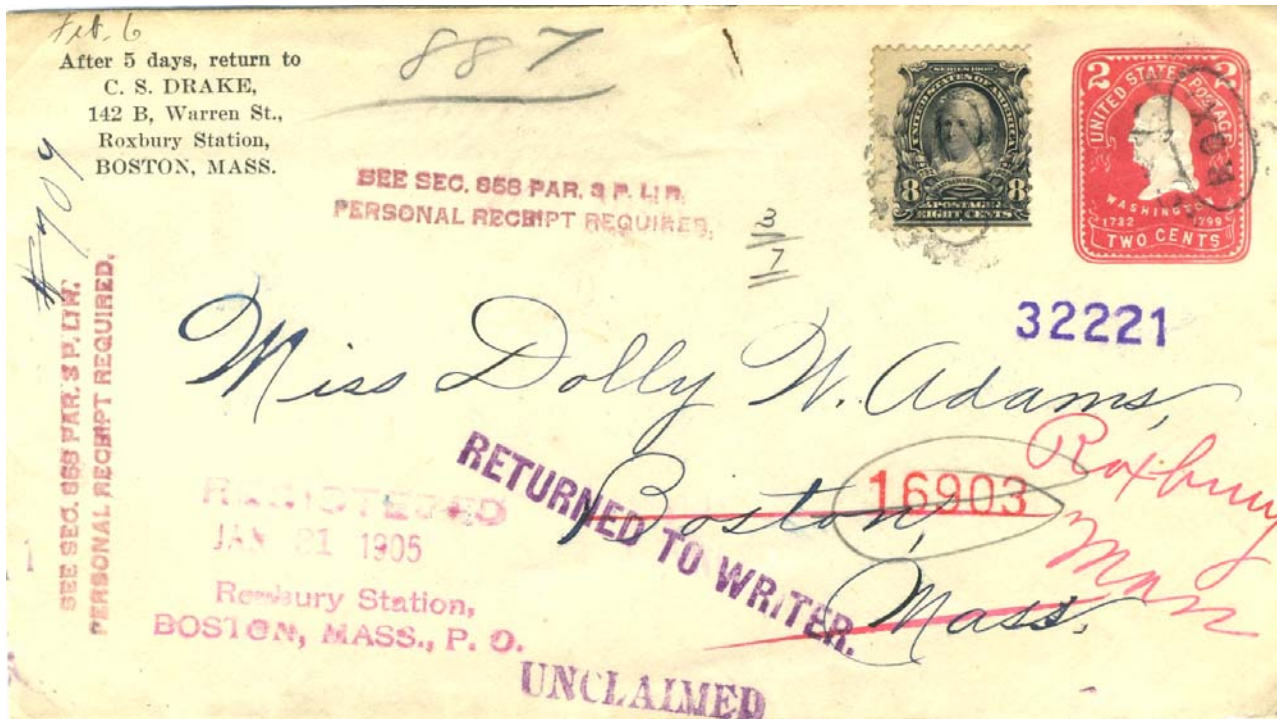


*Deliver personally*, 8 May 1884. Rated 10¢ registration and double 2¢ domestic (per half-ounce, 1883–1885). Pencil ms Opened by Nora Walsh (wrong person, at the wrong address—so much for restricted delivery!), *Not claimed*, *Not found*, and Returned to Writer.

Early restricted delivery



*Personal delivery only to* →, 1900. Third earliest restricted delivery cover. Rated 8¢ registration and 2¢ domestic. Returned unclaimed via red pointing hand of the N Y P O Registration Division. Contains insurance cancellation notification.



**PERSONAL RECEIPT REQUIRED**, 1905. Earliest known handstamp indicating restricted delivery. Includes reference to PL & R. Rated as above. Originally a drop letter within Boston, forwarded to Roxbury, and returned unclaimed.

## RRR becomes optional on registered matter

From being compulsory on registered matter since 1863, it became a free option on 11 July 1910. Personal delivery required R R R, so we should see an indication of R R R on every cover with personal delivery, from this date on. Personal delivery remained a free option on registered matter with R R R until 1934.



Boston–Santa Cruz, 8 August 1910. Very early normal use R R R cover after 11 July 1910, and second earliest recorded restricted delivery handstamp. Both handstamps, **Return receipt demanded.** (indicating R R R) and **Personal Receipt Required.** On reverse, *Personal signature required.* Rated 10¢ registration and 2¢ domestic. Boston Back Bay Station experimental registration label, and faint Santa Cruz clock receiver.

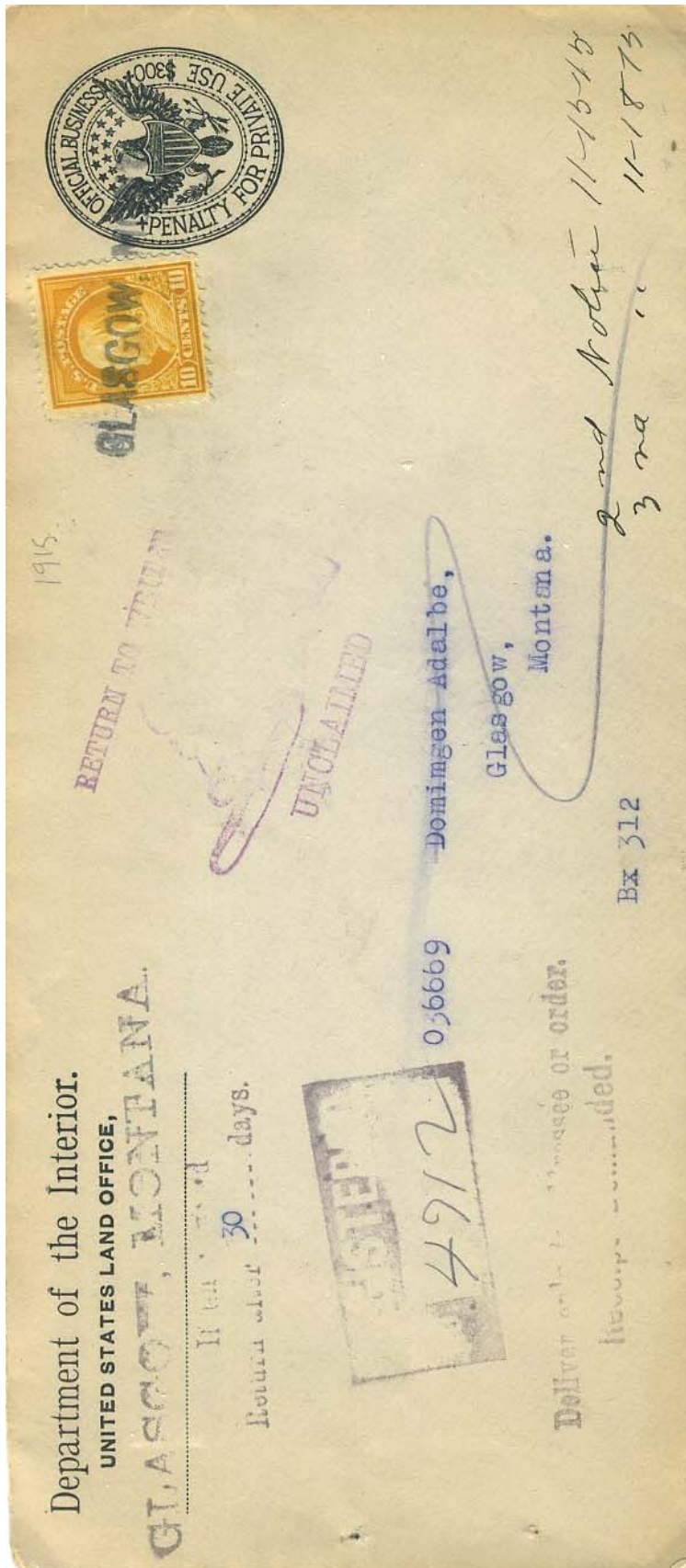


San Francisco to Sacramento, 23 September 1910. R R R indicated by **RECEIPT DESIRED.**, and ms *To be delivered to addressee only.* at left. Rated 10¢ registration and 2¢ domestic.



## Penalty cover returned with card

Penalty (official) covers (referring to the reference to *penalty* in the upper right corner) were exempt from domestic postage; if in addition, they were sent from government offices in DC, there was no charge for registration. The Department of Interior made extensive use of R R R, and frequently, restricted delivery, in correspondence with settlers. In this case, the request is only for *semi-restricted delivery* (not an official term), in that an authorized agent was permitted to sign (which is is contrary to the spirit of restricted delivery).



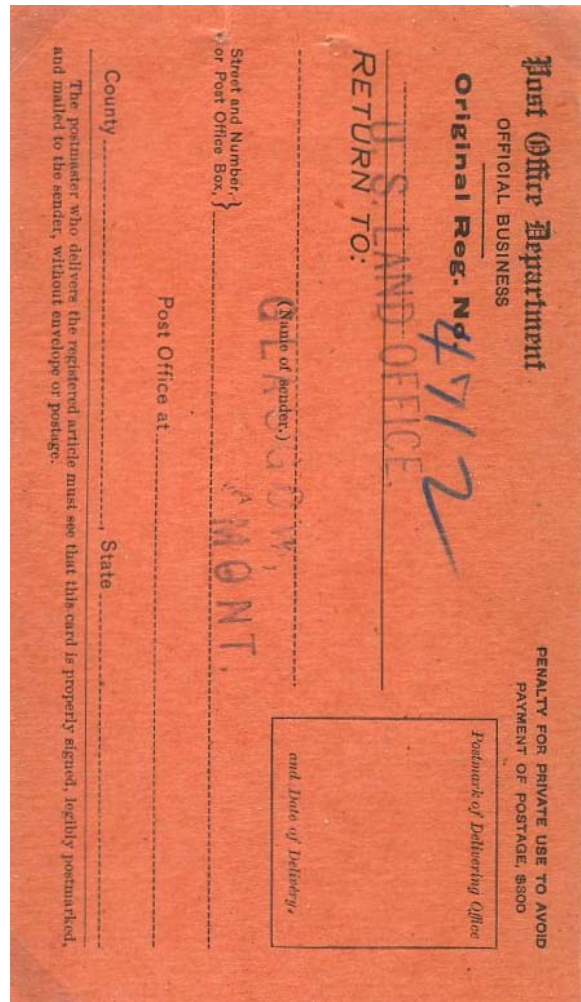
*Official, returned to sender, card still attached, 1915.* Both card and cover refer to reg'n number 4712. Rated 10¢ registration fee, from a government office outside the capital.

Drop letter from U S Land Office in Glasgow, Montana, returned unclaimed. Enclosed letter is notice of rejection of a homesteading application.

At lower left, handstamps read:

**Deliver only to addressee or order  
Receipt demanded.**

**Order** refers to a signed authorization (on hand at the destination post office) by the addressee that a designated agent can sign for the registered letter.



R R R card, originally attached by staples.

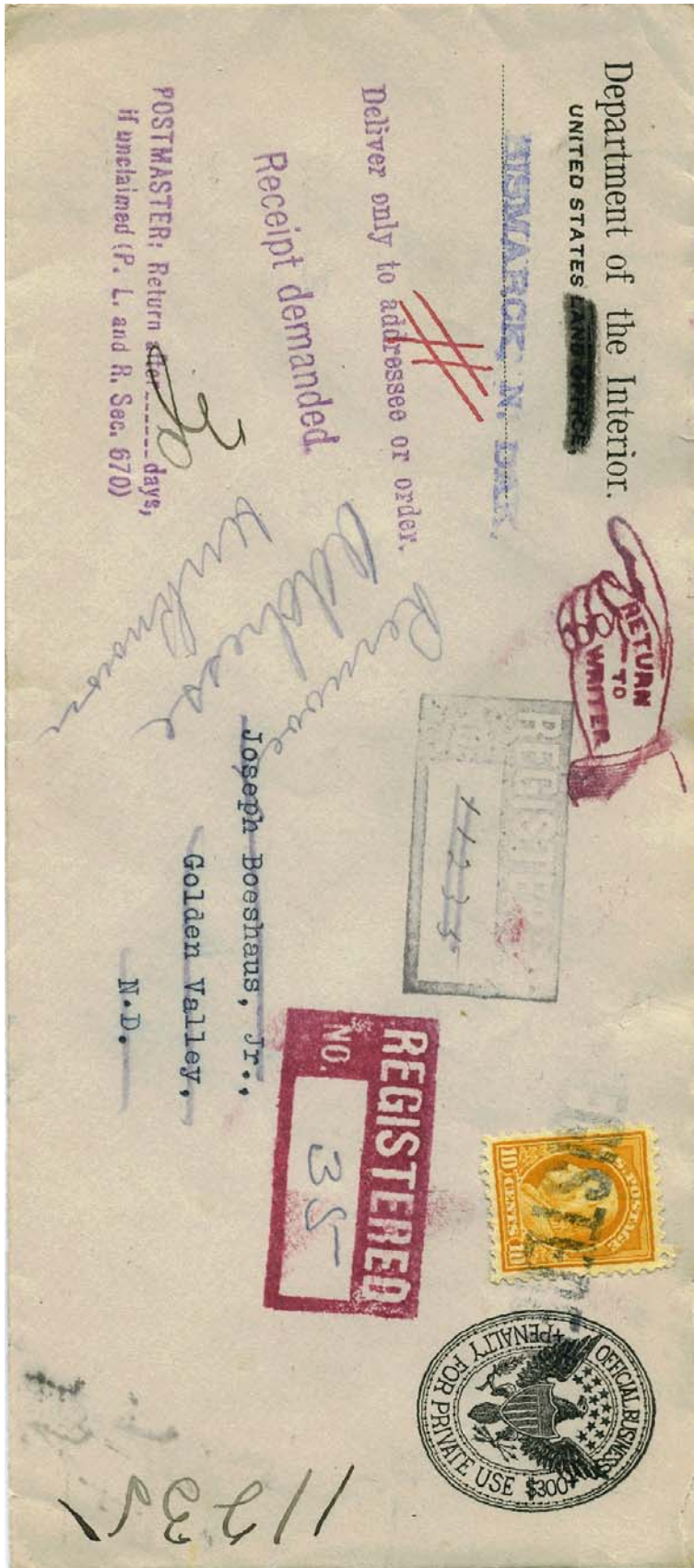
## Rate changes

On 15 April 1925, the fees for registration and (domestic) RRR became respectively 15¢ (from 10¢) and 3¢ (from 0¢). Personal delivery remained a free option on RRR mail.

Standard and nonstandard semi-restricted delivery indications on penalty mail, Department of the Interior.

Deliver only to addressee or order.

Deliver only to addressee or agent authorized in writing.



Bismarck-Golden Valley (ND), 1915. Rated 10¢ registration fee. Returned to sender.



Los Angeles drop letter, 1926. Rated 15¢ registration fee and 3¢ RRR (there was no charge for restricted delivery).

More restricted delivery

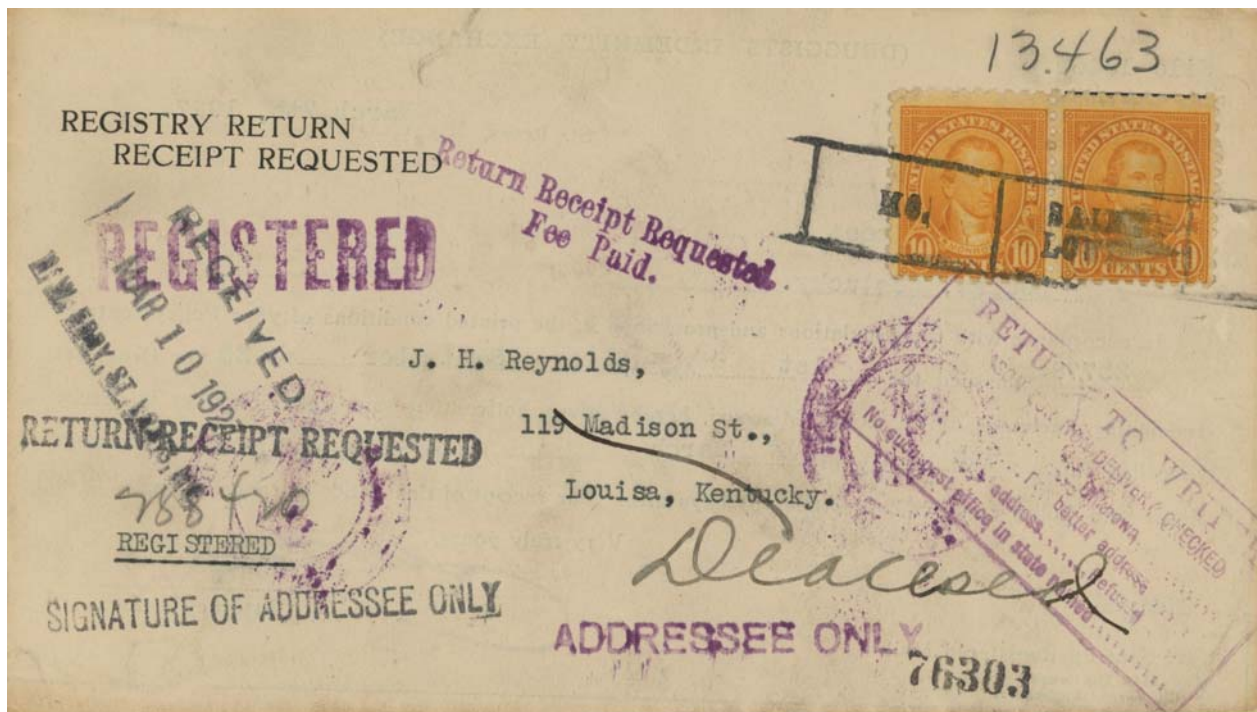


Palmdale—Reading (PA), 1916. Handstamp **Deliver to Addressee only** Rated double 2¢ domestic, and 10¢ registration paid by registration stamp. Officially sealed and **Received in bad condition** at Reading Pa.

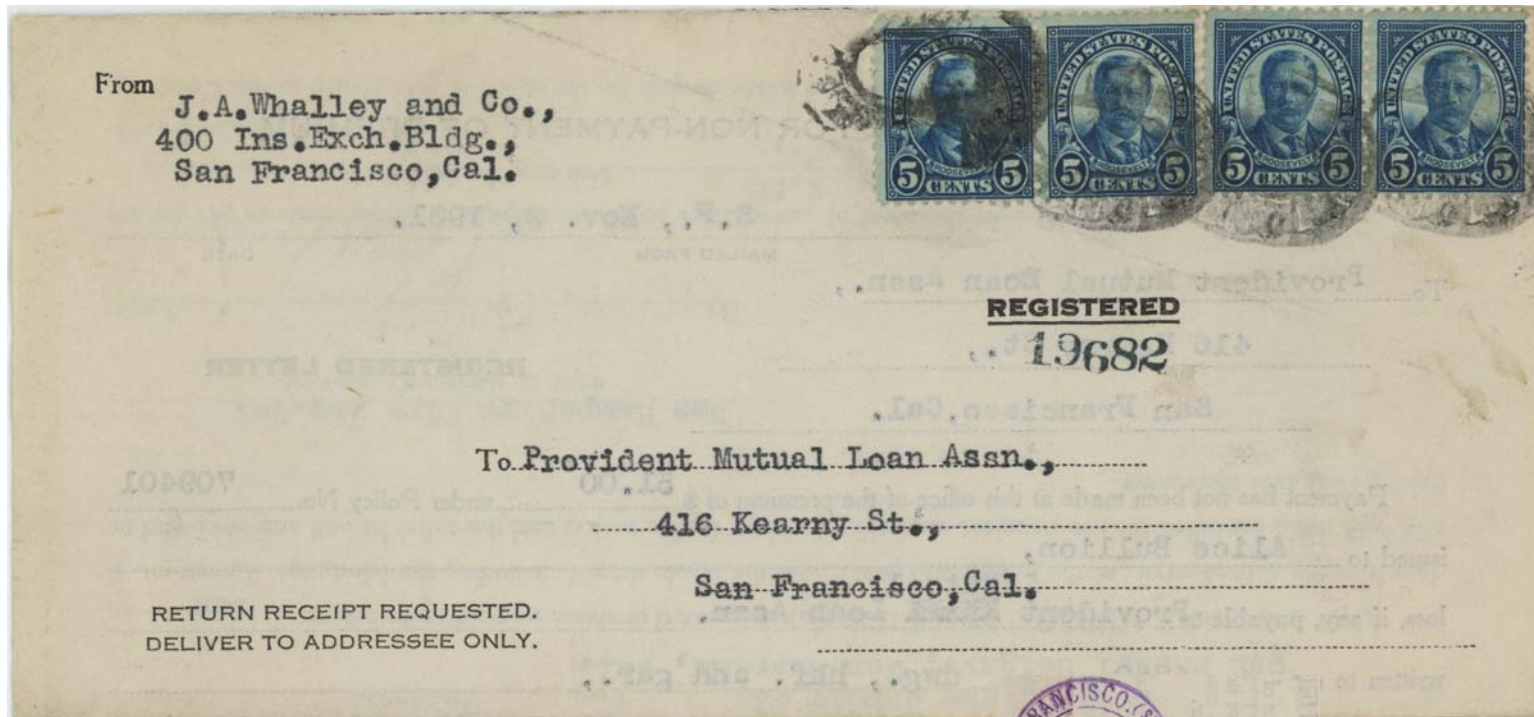


Wenatchee (WA)—Seattle, December 1925. Typescript **Deliver to addressee personally only.**, combining two formulæ. Rated 2¢ domestic, 15¢ registration, and 3¢ R R R fee (in effect from April). Advisory marks, such as **Received under cover at SEATTLE WASH.**, applied on the return trip.

Restricted delivery



St Louis–Louisa (KY), deceased, 1927. Handstamps SIGNATURE OF ADDRESSEE ONLY and ADDRESSEE ONLY. Rated 2¢ domestic, 15¢ registration, and 3¢ RRR.



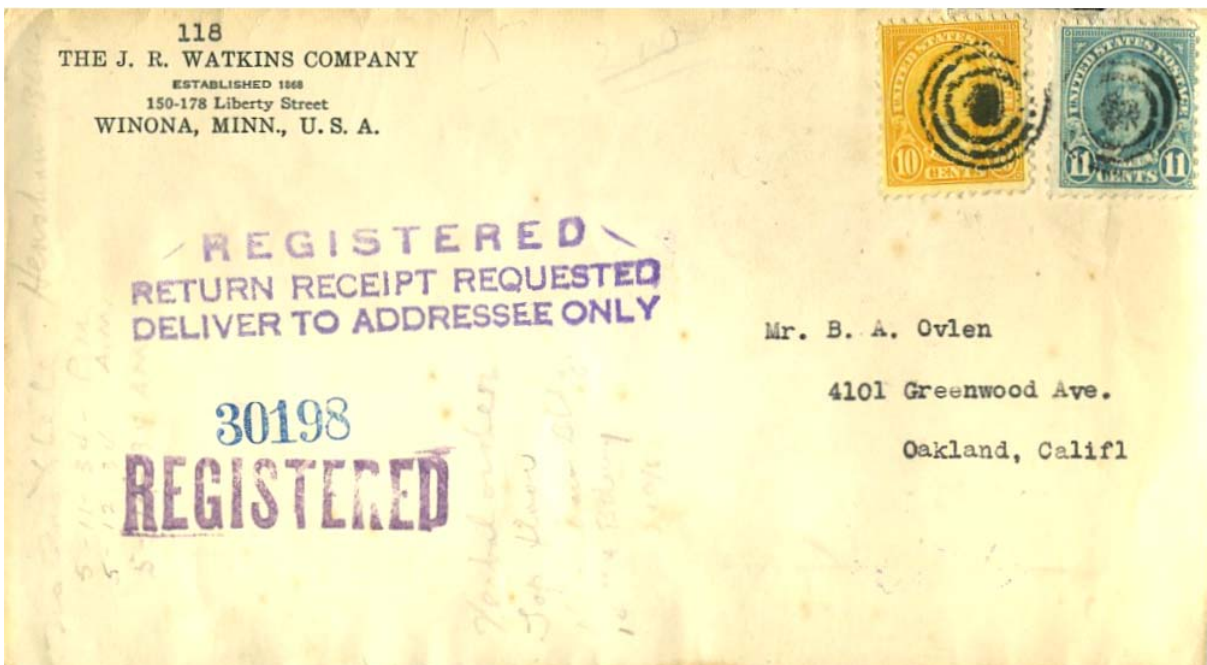
San Francisco drop letter, December 1931. Printed DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE ONLY. (not often seen). Rated 2¢ drop letter rate, 15¢ registration, and 3¢ RRR fee. Folded letter sheet, with insurance policy on the interior. Numeral 4 of Station D datestamp is inverted.



# Restricted delivery



Philadelphia–Winchester (VA), forwarded to Sheepscott (ME), and returned to sender, 1933. Handstamp **Deliver to Addressee Only**  
Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, and 3¢ domestic [increased from 2¢ in 1932] (one stamp per service).



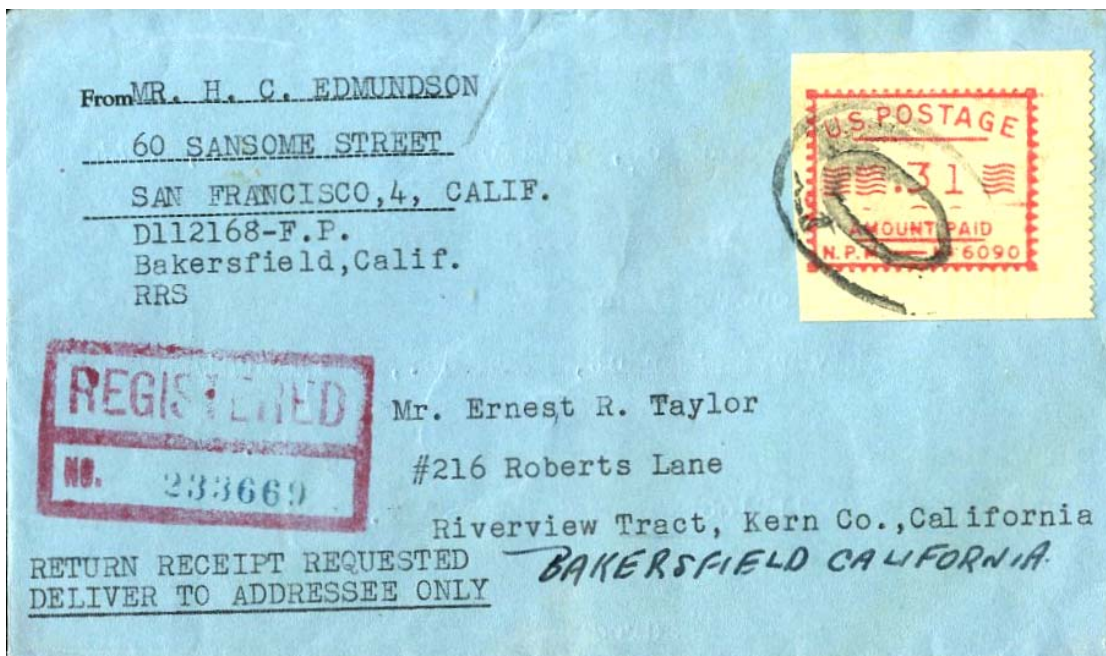
Winona MN–Oakland, May 1934. **DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE ONLY** as part of three-line handstamp. Rated as above.

## Restricted delivery charged

9 July 1934; 10¢ fee for restricted delivery initiated. RRR continued to be a prerequisite.

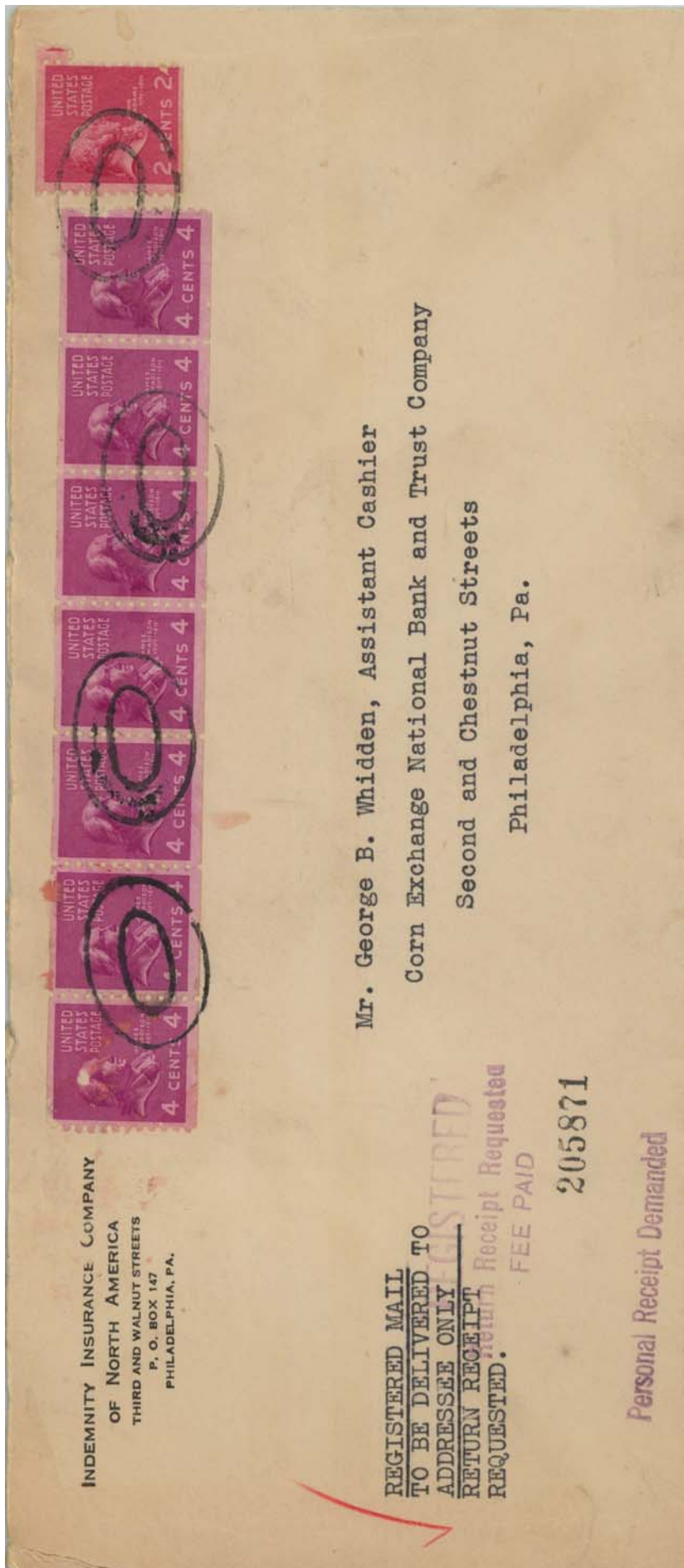


Salt Lake City to military camp, forwarded to APO abroad, 1943. Handstamp **Deliver to Addressee Only**. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 10¢ restricted delivery, and 6¢ domestic airmail (letters to the military were charged at domestic rates).



Meter, San Francisco to Bakersfield (CA), January 1944. Typescript **DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE ONLY**. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 10¢ restricted delivery, and 3¢ domestic. Meters are not commonly seen on RRR covers.

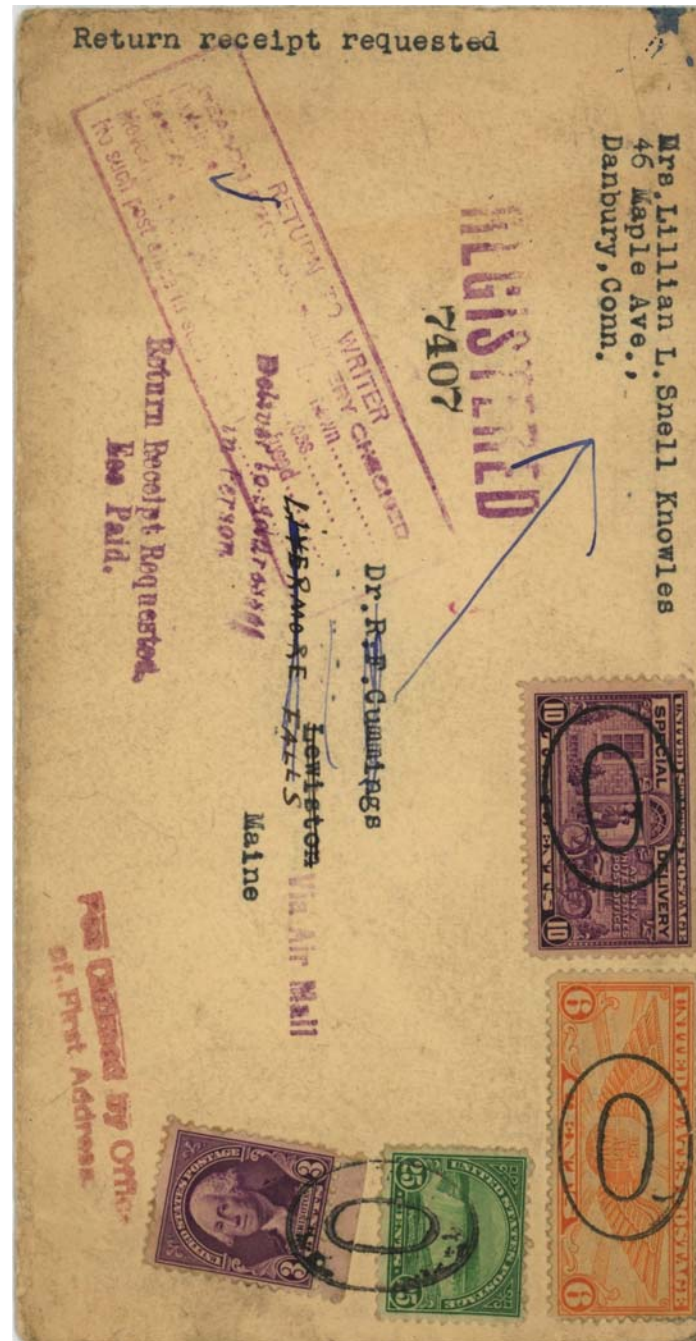
Restricted delivery



Philadelphia drop letter, 1940. Handstamp  
**Personal Receipt Demanded**  
Rated 30¢: registration 15¢, restricted delivery 10¢,  
RRR 3¢, and drop letter 2¢.



Danbury (CT)–Lewiston (ME), airmail, special delivery,  
returned to sender, 1938. Italic handstamp **Deliver to  
addressee in Person**. Rated 15¢ registration, 10¢ re-  
stricted delivery, 10¢ special delivery, 6¢ airmail,  
and 3¢ RRR. ⇓



## With showing address where delivered

This is another (and very expensive) service elaborating R R R (which was a prerequisite). Fee 20¢ (plus R R R fee) from 18 March 1931. Often with restricted delivery.



Glenside (PA)—Philadelphia, May 1932. **Personal Receipt Demanded.** and **SHOWING ADDRESS WHERE DELIVERED.** handstamps. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ R R R fee, 20¢ showing address (effective March 1931), and 2¢ domestic (3¢ from July). No charge for personal receipt (restricted delivery) until 1934.



Westmont (NJ)—Camden (NY) with showing address and restricted delivery; returned to sender, 1937. **Deliver to Addressee only.** and **SHOWING ADDRESS WHERE DELIVERED.** handstamps. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ R R R fee, 20¢ showing address, 10¢ restricted delivery, and 3¢ domestic. Original paper clip has been moved, leaving the usual rust stain.

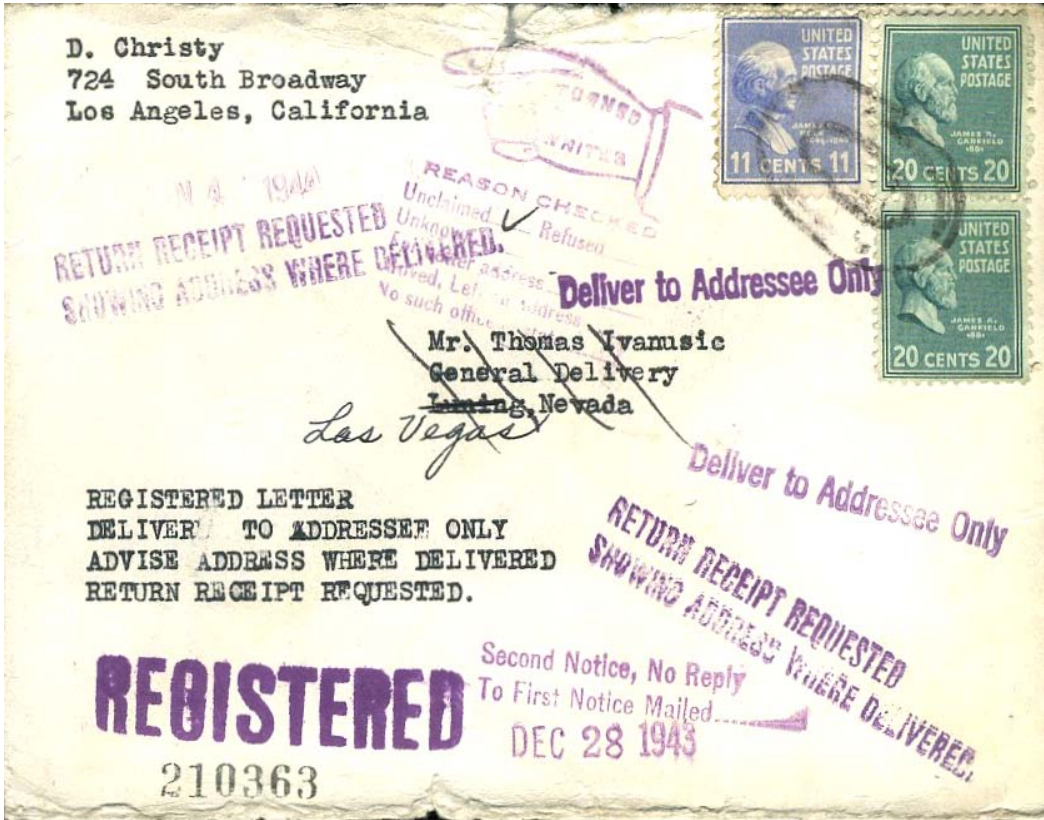
There is fairly strong evidence that A R/R R cards were often attached by paper clip (in this case, very tightly); staples were often used, as well; however, it is sometimes difficult to tell if these were used after return of the registered letter, by the sender.

Post Office Department  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
REGISTERED ARTICLE  
No. 492  
INSURED PARCEL  
No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Return to Dorothy Tonye  
Street and Number, } 201 Stratford Ave  
or Post Office Box, }  
Post Office at Westmont  
State N. J.  
Penalty for Private Use to Avoid Payment of Postage, 200  
Postmark of Delivering Office

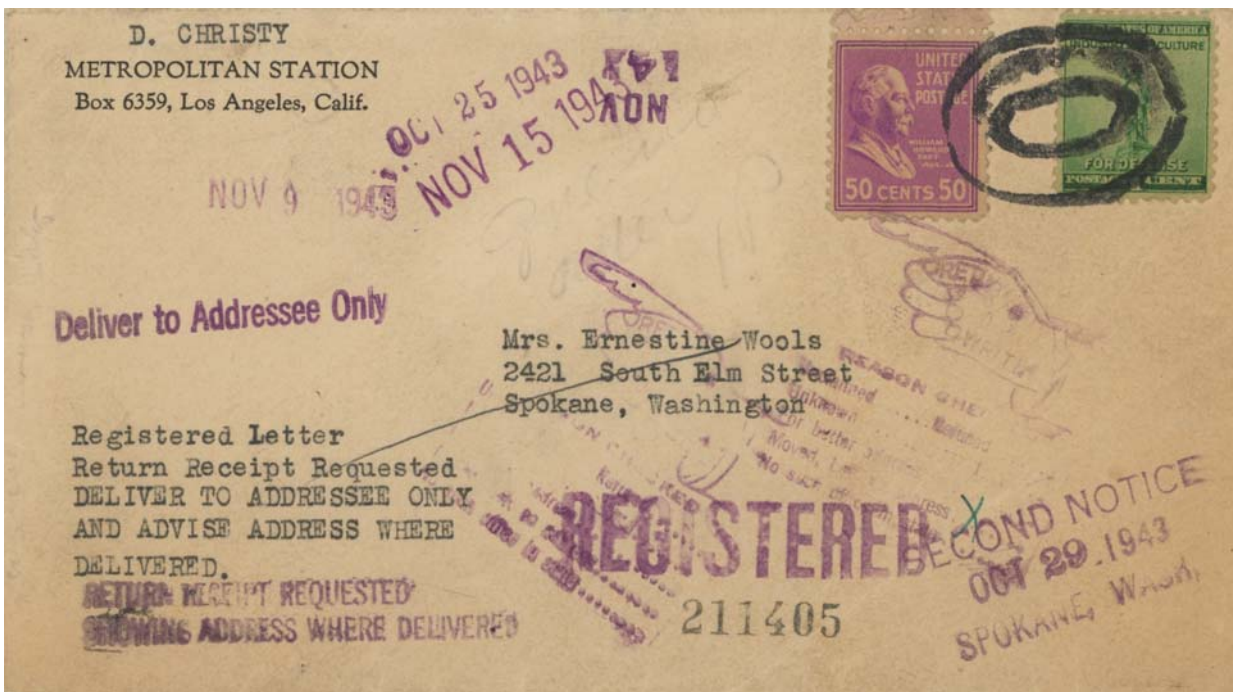
Rust stain barely noticeable at upper left. Cover and card both refer to registration number 492.



Showing address, restricted delivery, the kitchen sink



Los Angeles, forwarded to Las Vegas, May 1943. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR fee, 20¢ showing address, 3¢ domestic, and 10¢ restricted delivery. Returned to sender.



Los Angeles to Spokane, November 1943. Rated as above (same sender). Returned to sender.

## Rate changes, 26 March 1944

On this date, registration increased from 15¢ to 20¢, R R R fee from 3¢ to 4¢, and restricted delivery from 10¢ to 20¢.



Missing R R R handstamp and fee, 16 March 1944 (just before rate change). Personal Receipt Demanded handstamp. Error by postmaster—the prerequisite for restricted delivery, R R R, was not applied nor charged for. Rated 15¢ registration, 10¢ restricted delivery, and 3¢ domestic; R R R fee missing.



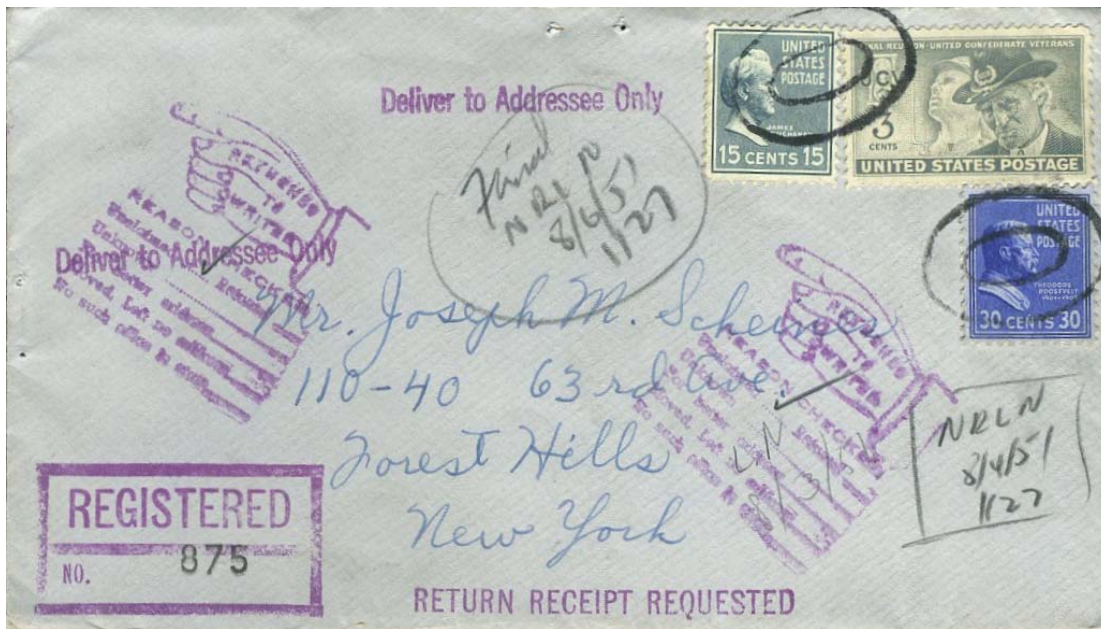
Okanagan—Renton (WA), 1948. Handstamp Deliver to addressee only. Rated 47¢, the three changed rates plus 3¢ domestic. Returned to sender

## Rate changes (1949)

On 1 June 1949, registration increased to 25¢ (from 20¢), RRR to 5¢ (from 4¢), restricted delivery remained at 20¢, showing address remained at 27¢, letter rate remained at 3¢, and local (drop) letter rate continued to fail to exist (drop letters were charged as domestic).



Portland (OR) drop letter, 1950. Seriffed handstamp *Deliver to Addressee Only*. Rated 25 + 5 + 20 + 3¢, as indicated above.



Mineola–Forest Hills (NY), *shortpaid and not caught*, 1951. Handstamp *Deliver to Addressee Only*. Total postage is 48¢, which is 5¢ underpaid; so the RRR fee is missing. Staple holes show how and where the RRR card was attached.

# Rate changes (1952)

On 1 January 1952, registration became 30¢, RRR fee became 7¢, restricted delivery remained at 20¢, showing address actually dropped to 24¢ (the total, RRR plus showing address, was unchanged), and letter rate remained at 3¢.



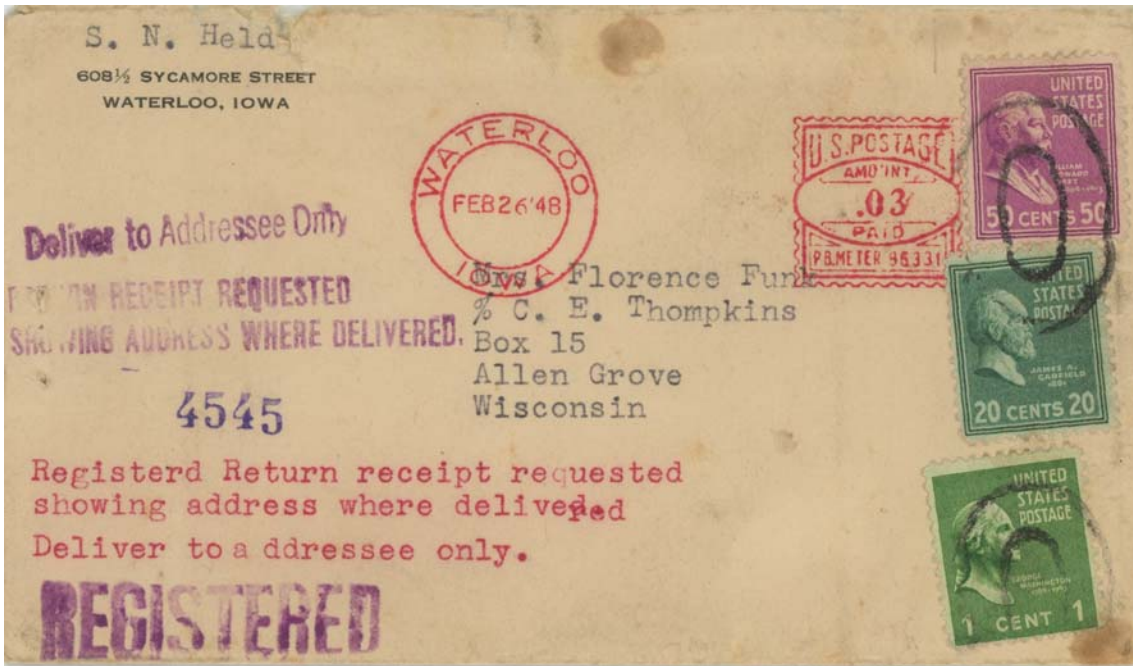
Wellesley Hills (MA) to Trenton (NJ), 1953. Typescript  
 PERSONAL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
 Rated 60¢: 30 + 7 + 20 + 3¢ as indicated above. Stamps  
 are perforated BR (Babson's Reports Inc).



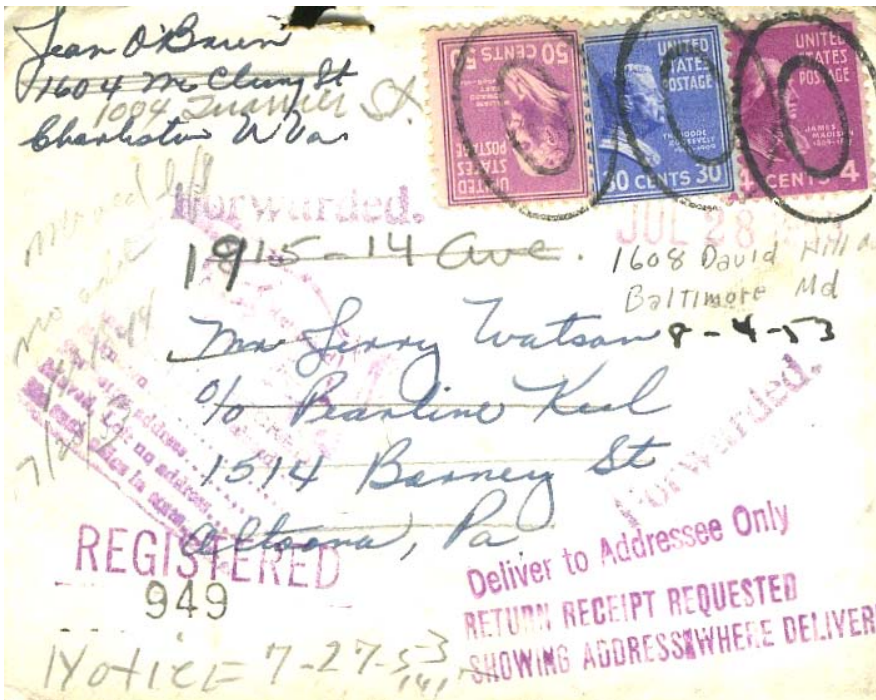
Trenton to Barnegat (NJ), March 1955. Typescript and  
 handstamp Deliver to addressee only. Worn RRR hand-  
 stamp. Rated as above. ↓↓



Showing address & restricted delivery combined



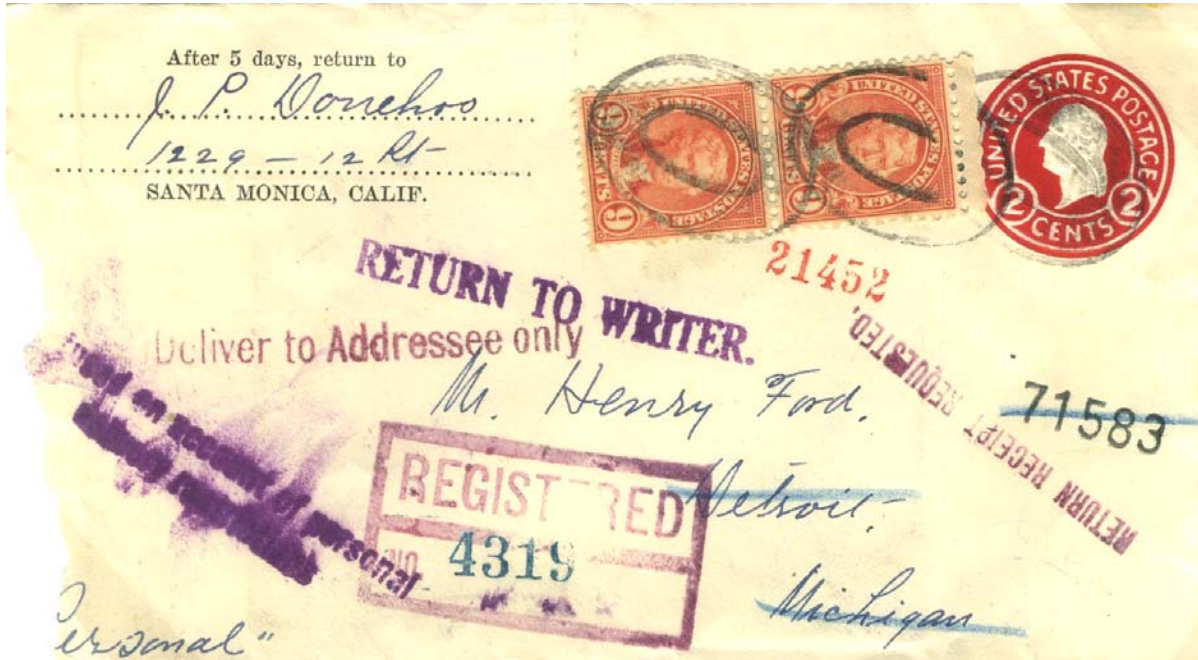
Waterloo (IA) to Allen Grove (WI), 1948. Rated 74¢: 20¢ registration, 4¢ RRR fee, 27¢ showing address, and 3¢ domestic, and 20¢ restricted delivery.



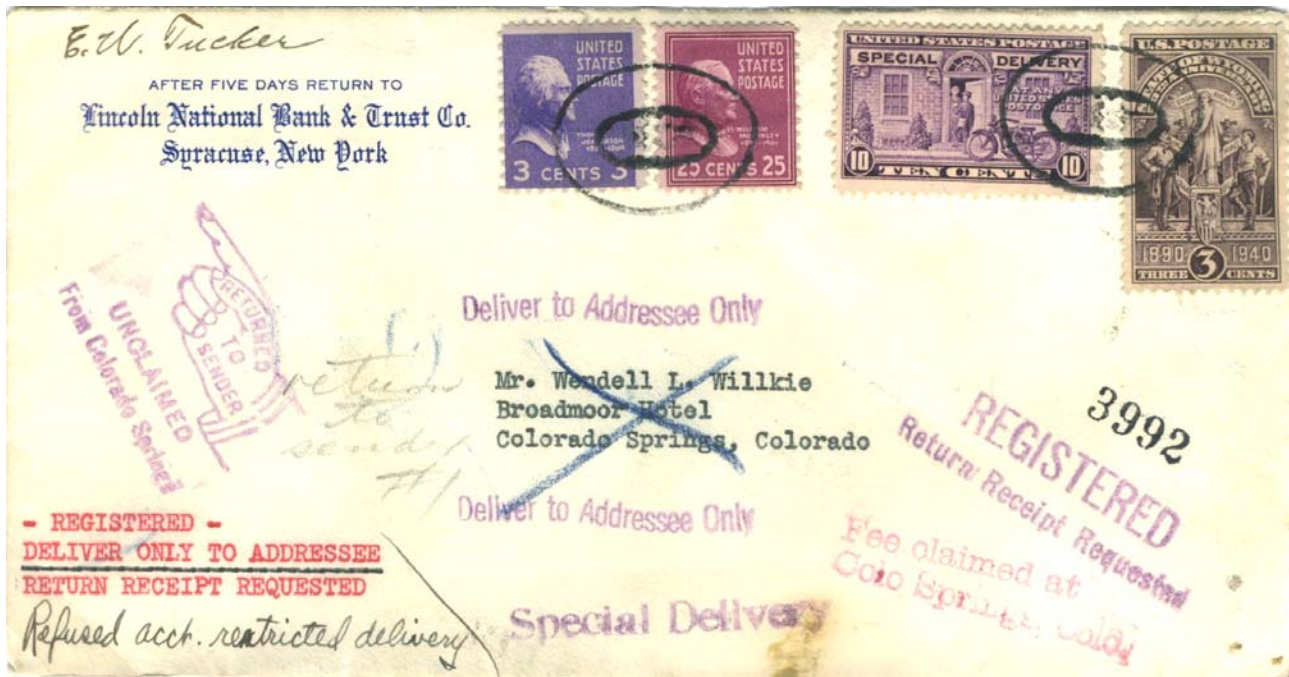
West Virginia to Pennsylvania, forwarded, returned, 1953. Rated (most rates effective 1 January 1952) 30¢ registration, 7¢ RRR fee, 24¢ showing address, and 3¢ domestic, and 20¢ restricted delivery.

## Restricted delivery refused

Restricted delivery required the signature of the addressee (not of an agent or employee); if the latter did not wish to sign, the letter was returned to sender. The few examples known were sent to famous people.



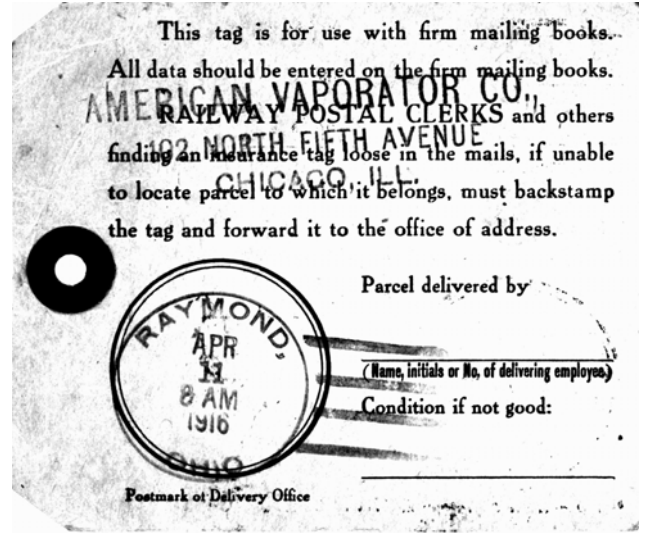
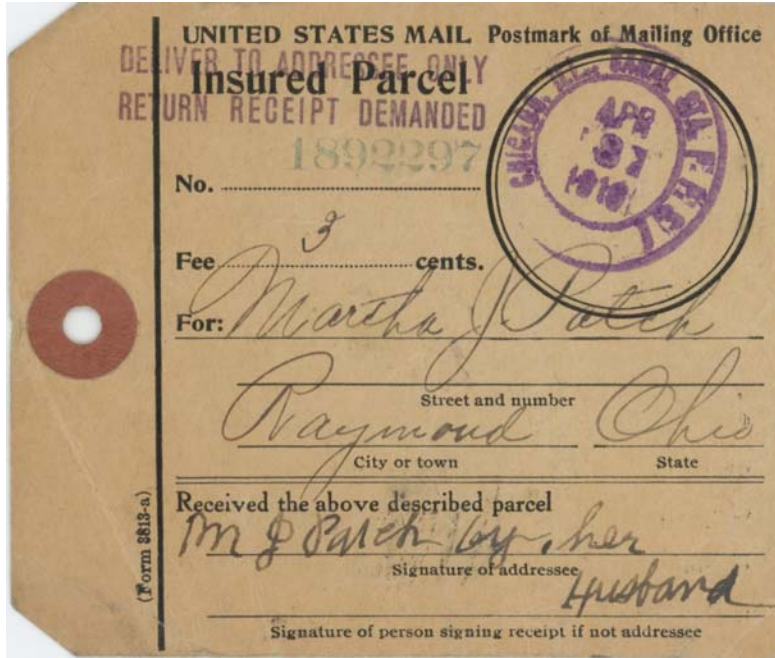
To *Henry Ford*, 1930. Purple handstamp **Refused on account of personal/delivery restriction**. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR fee, and 3¢ domestic.



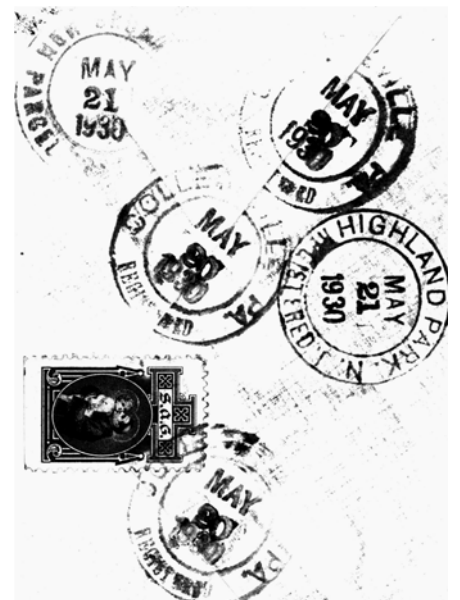
To *Wendell Willkie*, July 1940. Ms *Refused acct. restricted delivery*. Willkie had been nominated as Republican presidential candidate in late June.

Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 10¢ restricted delivery, 10¢ special delivery, and 3¢ domestic.

# Weird restricted delivery



*Insured (book) parcel, addressee only*, 1916. Chicago to Raymond (OH). Handstamp **DELIVERY TO ADDRESSEE ONLY**. Special small (complete) tag for mailing books. R R R had been possible on insured mail since the latter's inception in 1913, but this is the *discovery example* showing that restricted delivery was also so available.



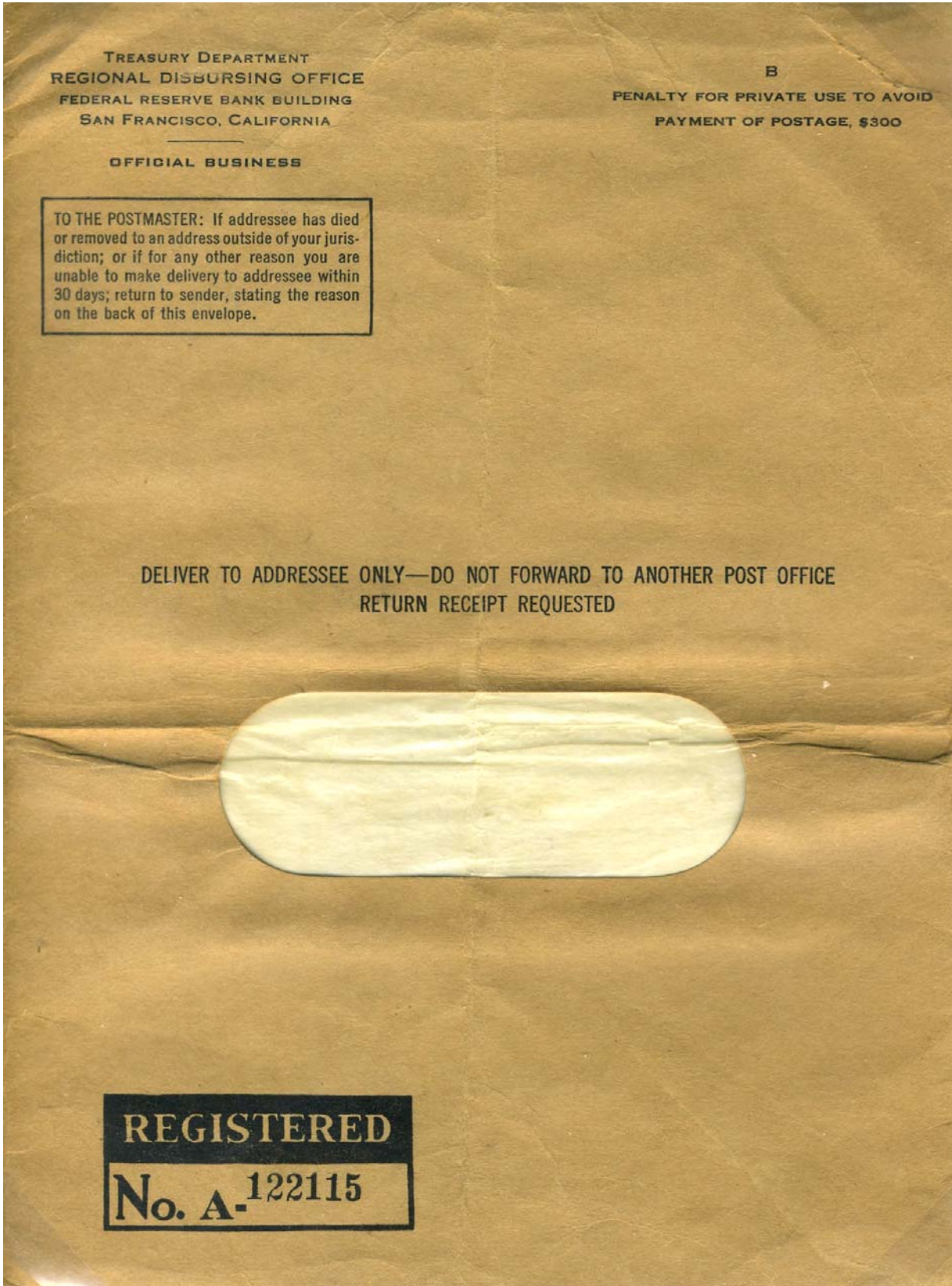
Two handstamps meaning the same thing, 1930.

**Deliver to addressee only.**  
**Personal Receipt Demanded.** } are equivalent.

Clerk likely intended to use the handstamp *Return receipt demanded*, instead of the second one. Rated 15¢ reg'n fee, 3¢ R R R, and 2¢ domestic. From Collegeville (PA) to New Brunswick (NJ).

## An exception that *tests* the rule

On government mail from outside DC, domestic letter rate was free, but registration, RRR, and restricted delivery should have been charged.



*No postage, San Francisco to ??, 1936. Violates rules: RRR must always be paid, and gov't offices outside DC pay for registration.*

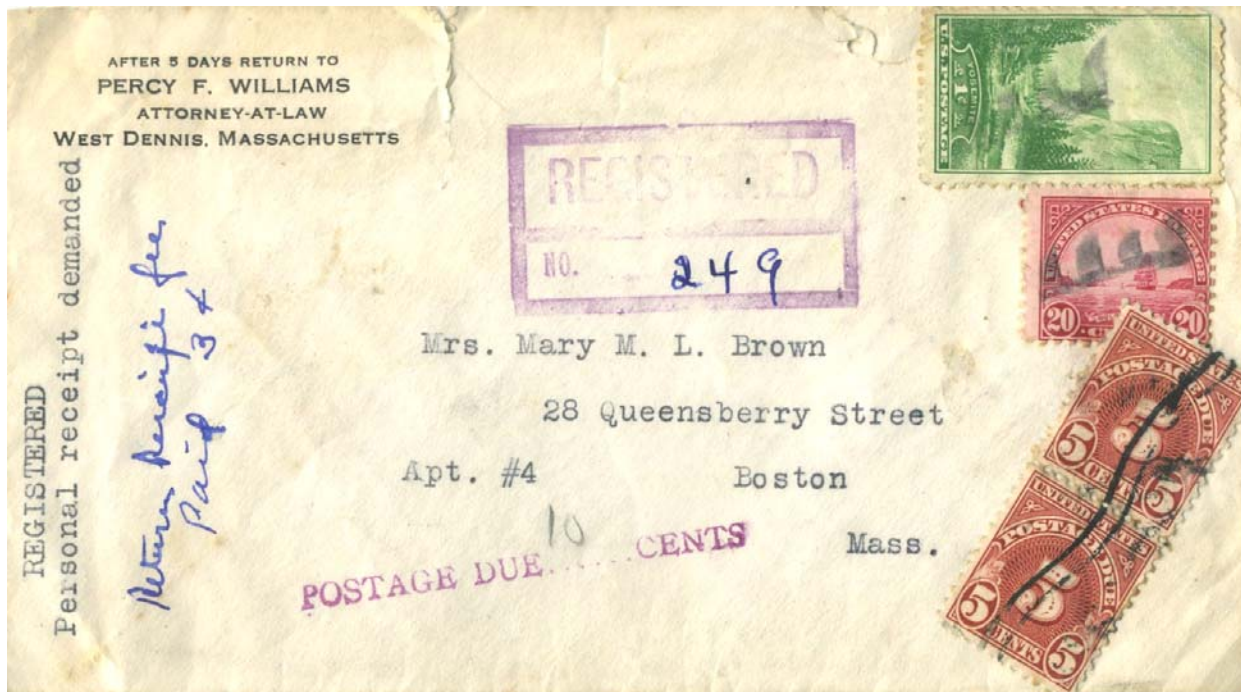
*Restricted delivery (addressee only) also requested; should be additional 10¢ charge.*

*San Francisco reg'n section datestamp on reverse—this cover did go through the mail.*





# Postage due restricted delivery



Missing restricted delivery, 1935. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, and 3¢ domestic, paid for; accepting clerk missed request for restricted delivery at extreme left; this was noted later and the fee (10¢) charged.



Missing restricted delivery or special delivery, 1939. Rated 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR, 6¢ air mail, and 10¢ for each of restricted delivery (addressee only) and special delivery, only one of which was paid for, and charged 10¢ for the other one.

# US international

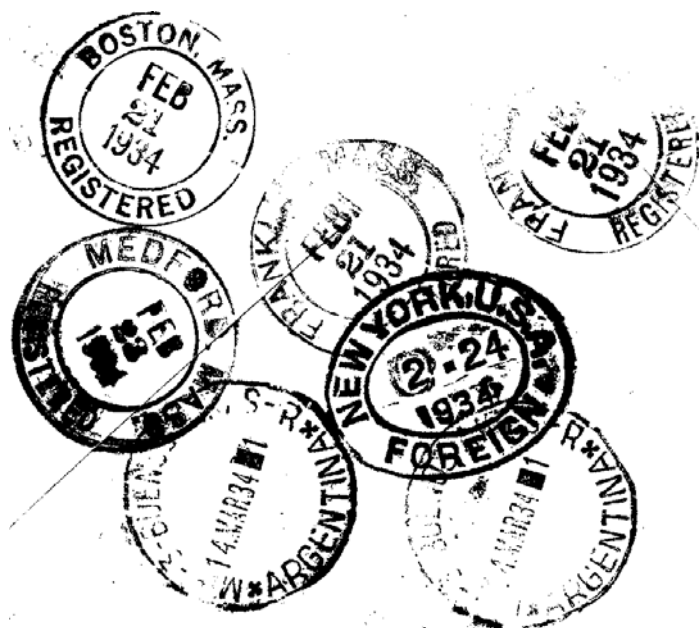
## Forwarded abroad

On domestic registered letters that were forwarded abroad, the differences between the international and domestic rates were not (supposed to be) charged. Extra services, such as restricted delivery or showing address, could not be implemented.



Massachusetts restricted delivery, forwarded to Buenos Aires, and *improperly charged postage due*, February 1934. Handstamp *Personal Receipt Demanded*. Rated (domestic) originally 15¢ registration, 3¢ RRR (although not marked, it is implied by the restricted delivery handstamp, since the former required RRR), 3¢ domestic (no charge for restricted delivery until July). On forwarding outside the country, restricted delivery became inapplicable.

Incorrectly charged 2¢, the difference between international AR and domestic RRR. There was no difference in postage between domestic rate and the preferred (P U A S) rate to Argentina at the time. No evidence of collection of the amount apparently due.

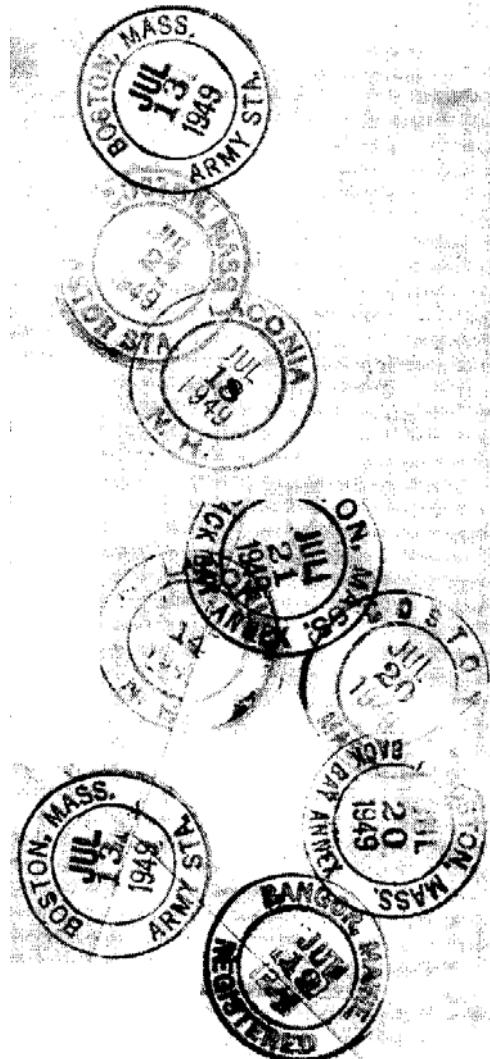


## Improperly *not* forwarded to Canada

Although neither restricted delivery nor showing address could apply in Canada, this cover should have been forwarded as an AR cover, with no additional charges. (The US policy was that fully prepaid domestic registered letters forwarded outside the country would not be charged the difference between international and domestic rates; in this case, the AR fee was 1¢ more than the RRR fee.)

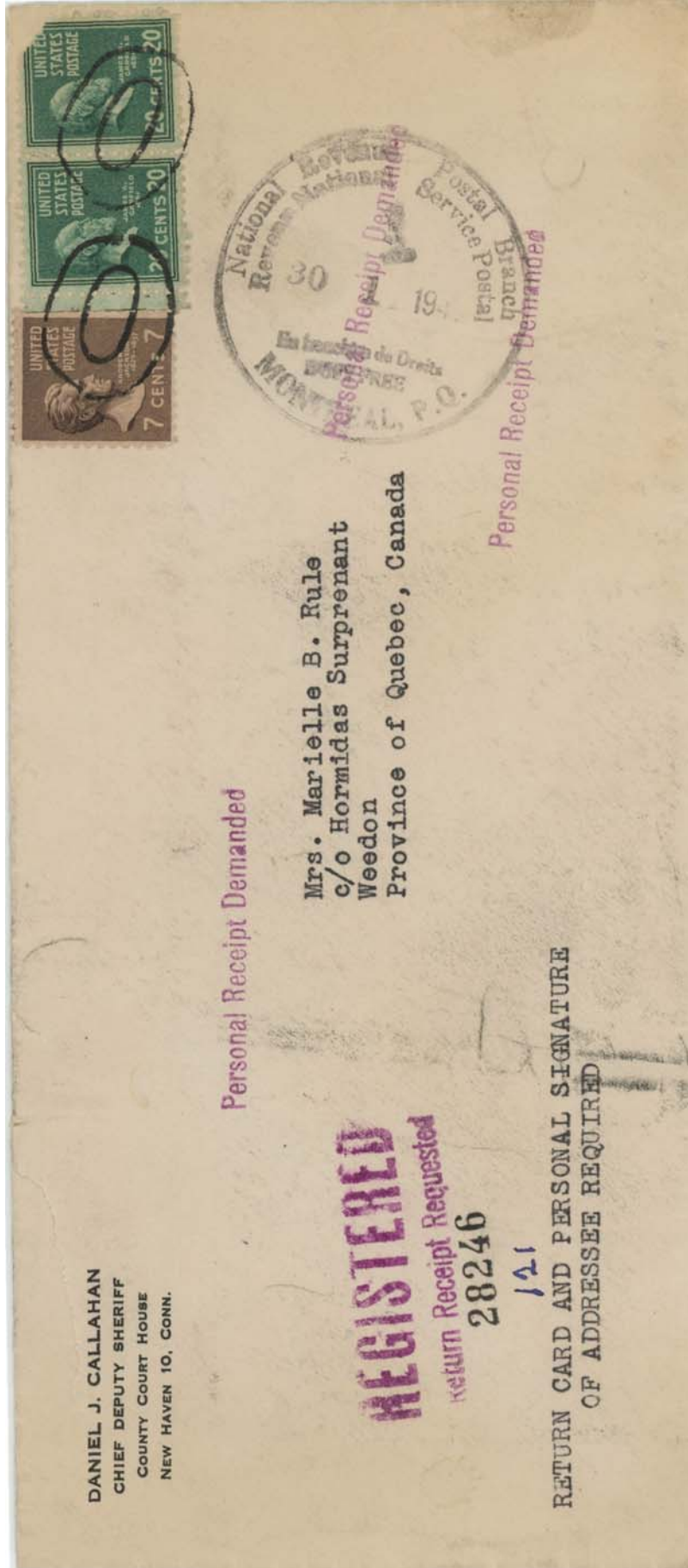
*Cannot be fwded to Canada*, 1949. Mailed from Boston to New Hampshire, then to have been forwarded to New Brunswick, but detoured back to sender at Bangor (ME).

Rated (domestic; effective 1 January 1949) 25¢ registration, 4¢ RRR, 27¢ showing address, 20¢ restricted delivery, and triple 3¢ domestic (totalling 85¢).



## Restricted delivery on outgoing mail

To Canada, but improperly charged domestic rates. Since Canada had no restricted delivery service, there was no point in paying the 20¢ restricted delivery fee. A R (return receipt) to Canada was 5¢, not 4¢ (the R R R fee).



- New Haven (CT) to Weedon (QC), 1946. Typewritten and **Personal Receipt Demanded** (very late use of *demanded*). Rated 47¢: this can only be made up from
- registration 20¢ (this was the same internationally and domestically);
  - incorrectly charging the domestic R R R fee of 4¢, rather than the A R fee of 5¢ internationally (including to Canada);
  - restricted delivery 20¢, which should not have been charged at all;
  - letter rate to Canada 3¢ (agrees with domestic letter rate).

Montreal customs handstamp.



## Incoming, requesting restricted delivery

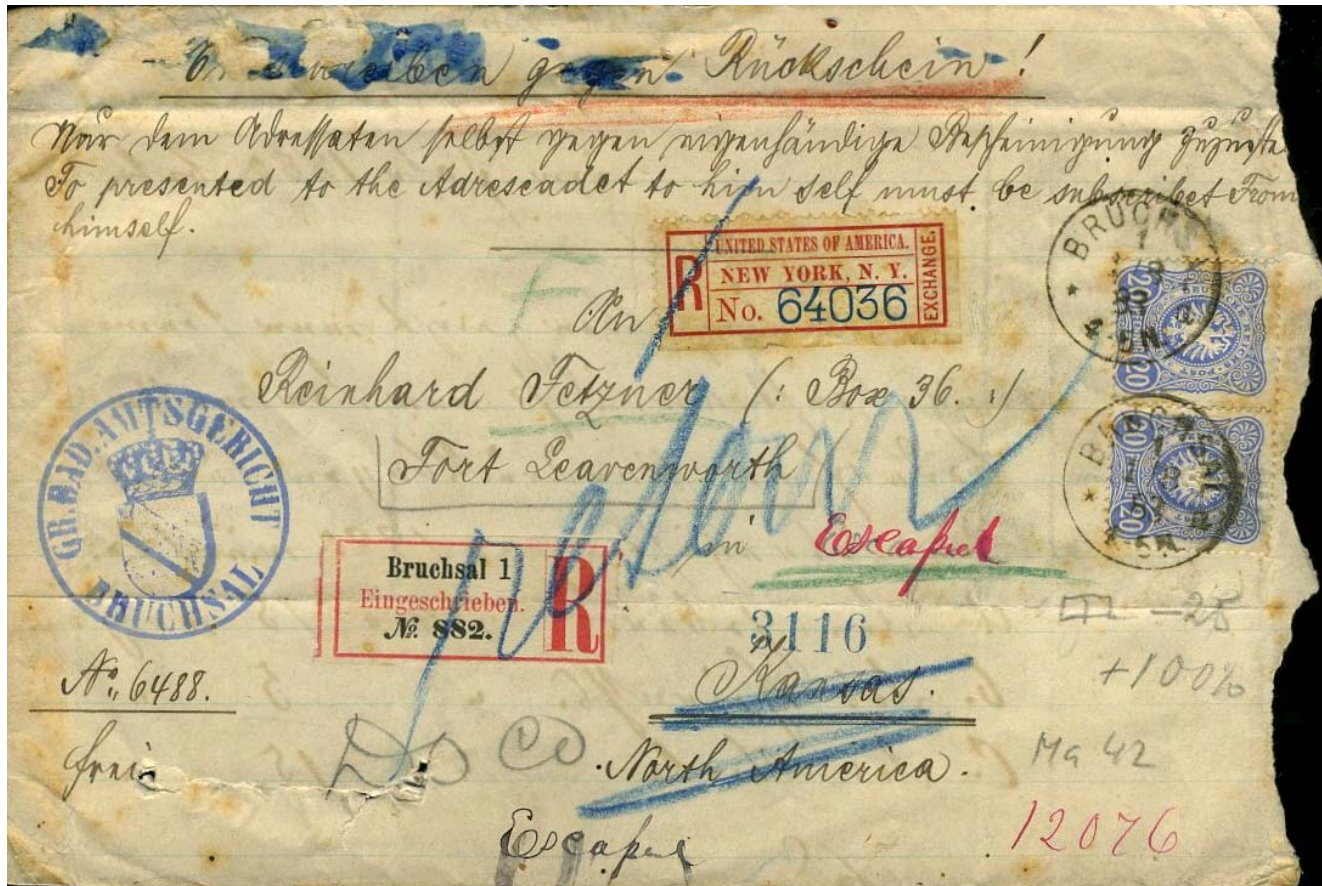
It is unclear whether the US honoured such requests, except on one much later Hungarian cover. It is possible (based on one more cover) that Germany did offer restricted delivery on A R letters abroad, but evidently at no extra charge.

Registered cover from Germany to US, sent with A R (*Einschreiben gegen Rückschein*).

Endorsed (near the top) in German and broken English (somewhat mitigated by the nice handwriting),

*To presented to the Adreseatet to him self must be subscribet From himself.*

*Subscribed* at this time meant *signed*, and is a translation, via Latin, of *unterschrieben*. This is clearly (?) a request that only the addressee sign the A R form, hence restricted delivery. I won't attempt to transliterate the Kurrentschrift above it, which is undoubtedly more grammatical.



From German tribunal to military prisoner who had escaped, 1883. Twice endorsed (same hand, different colours) *Escaped*. Addressed to Fort Leavenworth, location of a military prison (1875–95).

At top, *Einschreiben gegen Rückschein*; below that, in German and bad English, a request for what amounts to restricted delivery. This became moot, as the addressee had escaped, and the letter returned to sender (large crayon *retour*).

Rated 20 Pfennig for each of registration and first weight U P U rates; the A R fee would have been paid in stamps on the accompanying A R form.



Mailed 11 August 1883; arrived in New York 18 August, departed Fort Leavenworth 18 September, arriving at the DLO 24 September, and returned to point of origin, Bruchsal, 18 October.

*Earliest recorded A R cover to the US (1883).*

## Restricted delivery on incoming mail

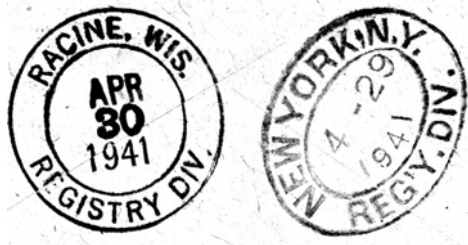
I have not found a reference indicating that restricted delivery could be applied to letters from foreign countries, but here is an example where there is a US handstamp confirming that the requested service was implemented.

At this time, restricted delivery was charged 10¢, whereas the Hungarian postage covered ordinary A R only.



Rimaszombat (Hungary) to Racine (WI), 1941. Ms *Deliver to Addressee only/Registered Return Receipt Requested* (several seemingly unrelated Hungary-US A R covers are known with this endorsement, even to the extent of capitalization and misspelling *Addressee*, but this is the only one with a US handstamp confirming restricted delivery). In the US, the handstamp *Deliver to addressee only.* was applied.

Rated .50 Pengő for each of registration and A R, and .40 P U P U letter rate.



## Restricted delivery and Canada

There is no evidence that Canada ever adopted restricted delivery. Nonetheless, there are some Canadian A R covers with a typescript request for the service, and even a couple (one from a federal government office) with handstamps. Most examples are from western Canada, probably a result of American influence.

Canada treated A R differently from the US. There was no difference in rates or practices between domestic and international services. Over 1899–1975, the A R fee was paid on the A R form or card, not on the registered cover. A R was almost unknown in Canada, and so material (other than domestic A R cards) is difficult to find. The Canadian translation of A R was usually *acknowledgment of receipt*, except for most of the covers requesting restricted delivery—which used the US expression, *return receipt*.



*Westminister–Queensborough (BC), refused, returned to sender, 1918 (unopened envelope). Standard Canadian A R handstamp.*

*Return receipt required to be signed by addressee only. Registration 5¢ and domestic 3¢; A R fee (5¢) would have been paid on the A R form.*

*Winnipeg drop letter, forwarded to Vancouver, returned to sender, 1949. Return receipt required from Addressee only.*

*Standard Winnipeg A.R. handstamp. Rated 10¢ for each of registration and special delivery, and 3¢ drop letter rate; forwarding to a destination requiring the 4¢ domestic rate resulted in 1¢ (the difference) postage due. ↓↓*



## Futile restricted delivery requests

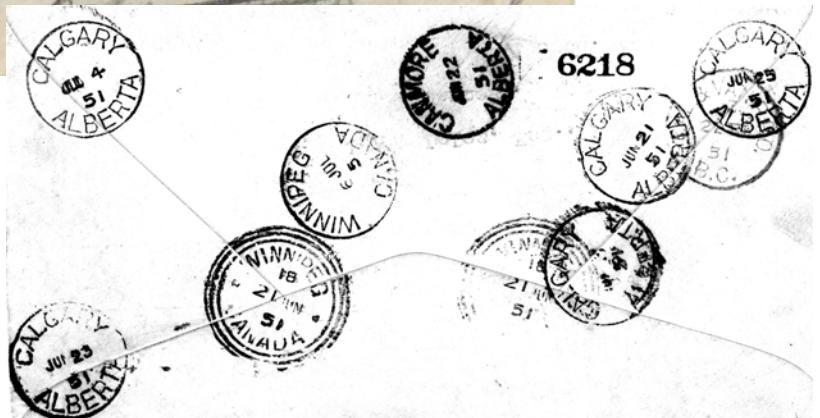
Both from PO Box 2881, probably a legal firm. These hosers were still asking for personal delivery after 16 years (even the typewriter appears to be the same; the only differences in the typescripts are the colon on the top one versus the period on the bottom, and some capitalization).



Winnipeg–Estevan (SK), return to sender, 1935. With standard Winnipeg A.R. handstamp. Typescript Return Receipt Required from Addressee Only: Registration 10¢ and domestic letter rate 3¢. Returned to sender.



And sixteen years later, still doing it; Winnipeg to Canmore (AB), June 1951. Very similar typescript, and same A.R. handstamp as above. Registration 20¢ and domestic rate 4¢ (rates changed 2 April 1951). Same standard Winnipeg three-ring dater.





# Handstamps

A few places used handstamps to request restricted delivery. The top one was almost certainly made up by the sender (likely a legal firm), but the bottom one could have been official.



Outlook (SK)–Winnipeg, 1933. Handstamped TO THE POSTMASTER:- Please deliver this letter and have the return acknowledgment of receipt signed by the person to whom it is addressed, not by any other person. Registration 10¢ and domestic letter rate 3¢.



Peterborough–Kenora (ON), 1948. Two distinct handstamps, very strongly resembling their US counterparts: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE ONLY.

FEE PAID. ← very faint (possibly angled so as not to appear)

From a (federal) government office. The handstamps are in the same purple-red shade as the registration marking, suggesting these are postal. Rated 4¢ domestic and 10¢ registration, paid by OHMS-perforated initial stamps.

Addressee only and showing address both requested



Shamrock-Bateman (SK), returned to sender with card, 1950.

To be delivered to addressee only and AR card signed by addressee as addressed this requests both addressee only and showing address, but this was moot anyway, since the cover was returned to sender.

Marked *deceased*. Registration 10¢ and domestic rate 4¢; the 10¢ AR fee was paid on the card, as usual.

One would have expected the homemade AR handstamp to have been struck in green. Very few fancy AR handstamps are known worldwide.



# AR card indicating personal delivery requested

This is a *duplicate* AR card; that is, it was sent from the office of origin after the first one had not been returned; there was no charge for this service, as the AR fee had already been paid on the first AR card. This explains the absence of stamps on the card. *Duplicate* AR cards are rare. Not to be confused with an after-the-fact card, for which the charge was double the regular AR fee.

In this particular case, the sender has endorsed the card, *Actual Date of Delivery, Please/and personal signature of R Berthiaume*, which appears to be a request for personal delivery.

THE UNDERSIGNED ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THIS IS A DUPLICATE OF THE ARTICLE DESCRIBED ON THE OTHER SIDE  
LE SOUSSIGNÉ DÉCLARE QUE L'ENVOI EST UN DUPLICATE D'UN AUTRE PAQUET

**DUPLICATE**

WAS DULY DELIVERED ON THE 23rd 1929  
A ÉTÉ LIVRÉ LE

SIGNATURE (1)  
R. Berthiaume

Stamp of office of destination  
Timbre du bureau destinataire  
OCT 23 1929  
REGISTRY  
Indian Head

OF THE ADDRESSEE  
DU DESTINATAIRE  
R. Berthiaume

OF ADDRESSER'S REPRESENTATIVE  
DU REPRÉSENTANT DU DESTINATAIRE

OF THE POSTMASTER OF THE OFFICE OF DESTINATION  
DE L'AGENT DU BUREAU DESTINATAIRE  
Rehach

(1) This advice should be signed by the addressee or if the regulations of the country of destination so provide, by the Postmaster of the Delivery office and returned by first mail to the address shown on the other side.  
Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.

(2) When delivery is made to the authorized representative of the addressee, both addressee's name and representative's signature must appear in this receipt.  
Lorsque la remise est faite au représentant autorisé du destinataire, le nom du destinataire et la signature de son représentant doivent paraître sur ce reçu.

*Actual Date of Delivery Please and personal signature of R Berthiaume.*

Regina-Indian Head (SK), date unknown. The registered letter was delivered on 23 October 1929, and the postmaster at Indian Head has reset the handstamp to that date. Notarized. Print data is 39B-200,000-12-9-29.

**DUPLICATE**

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT  
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES  
CANADA

REGISTERED ARTICLE (2)  
ENVOI RECOMMANDÉ

ENTERED AT THE OFFICE  
ENREGISTRÉ AU BUREAU DE POSTE

OF DE  
LE

THE UNDER NO. 832  
LE SOUS LE NO.

SENT BY  
EXPÉDIÉ PAR

ADDRESSED TO  
ADRESSÉ

AT  
A

POSTAL SERVICE  
SERVICES DES POSTES

OF DESTINATION  
DESTINATION

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION  
PAYS DE DESTINATION

(1) This side to be filled in by office of origin  
Le recto est à remplir par l'office d'origine

(2) Nature of article (letter, printed matter, etc.)  
Nature de l'envoi (lettre, imprimé, etc.)

39B-200,000-12-9-29

*Actual Date of Delivery Please and personal signature of R Berthiaume.*

# International (well, to the US) personal delivery

I have no idea whether Canadian restricted delivery requests were honoured in the US.



New Westminster (BC)—San Francisco, returned to sender, 1915. Ms *to be signed by addressee only* Registration 5¢, and rate to US 3¢.

Oshawa (ON) to Otway (OH), 1944. Typescript *Must not be given to anyone but the ADDRESSEE.* Rated 10¢ registration, and rate to US, 4¢. Opened by FECB, as was usual for outgoing registered mail. ↓↓

