

AR

THIS is a continuing project to deal with worldwide **AR** (*avis de réception*, acknowledgment of receipt, return receipt, advice of delivery, and dozens of other terms). This is a postal service wherein the sender of letter (usually registered) may request a document signed by the recipient, acknowledging receipt of the letter. It is fairly obscure in some countries, and very well known in others.

This part (referred to as *the book*) is a general description of the service, variants, and extensions. This is elaborated by numerous illustrations. Currently, it deals only with the GPU/UPU-period (1875 on), and almost exclusively with international mail. There are future plans to discuss pre-UPUAR service, both domestic and international.

It soon becomes clear that although there were conventions in place concerning AR service, every jurisdiction did its own thing. For example, prior to 1 June 1892 (when the Treaty of Vienna became effective), payment of the AR fee could either be on the registered letter, or on the AR form that was to be signed by the recipient and eventually returned to the sender. Many other aspects (such as whether the forms were themselves to be returned as registered matter) also were up to individual postal services. For that reason, there is no uniformity in the treatment of AR service.

This motivates a country-by-country study, which will be in separate pdfs. They will appear as exhibits, although with more description than is usual for that format.

This is version 1.0. I solicit comments, suggestions, contributions, corrections, and everything else. There will be periodic updates. Other typographical features (such as an index) will be added in the future.

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April 2019

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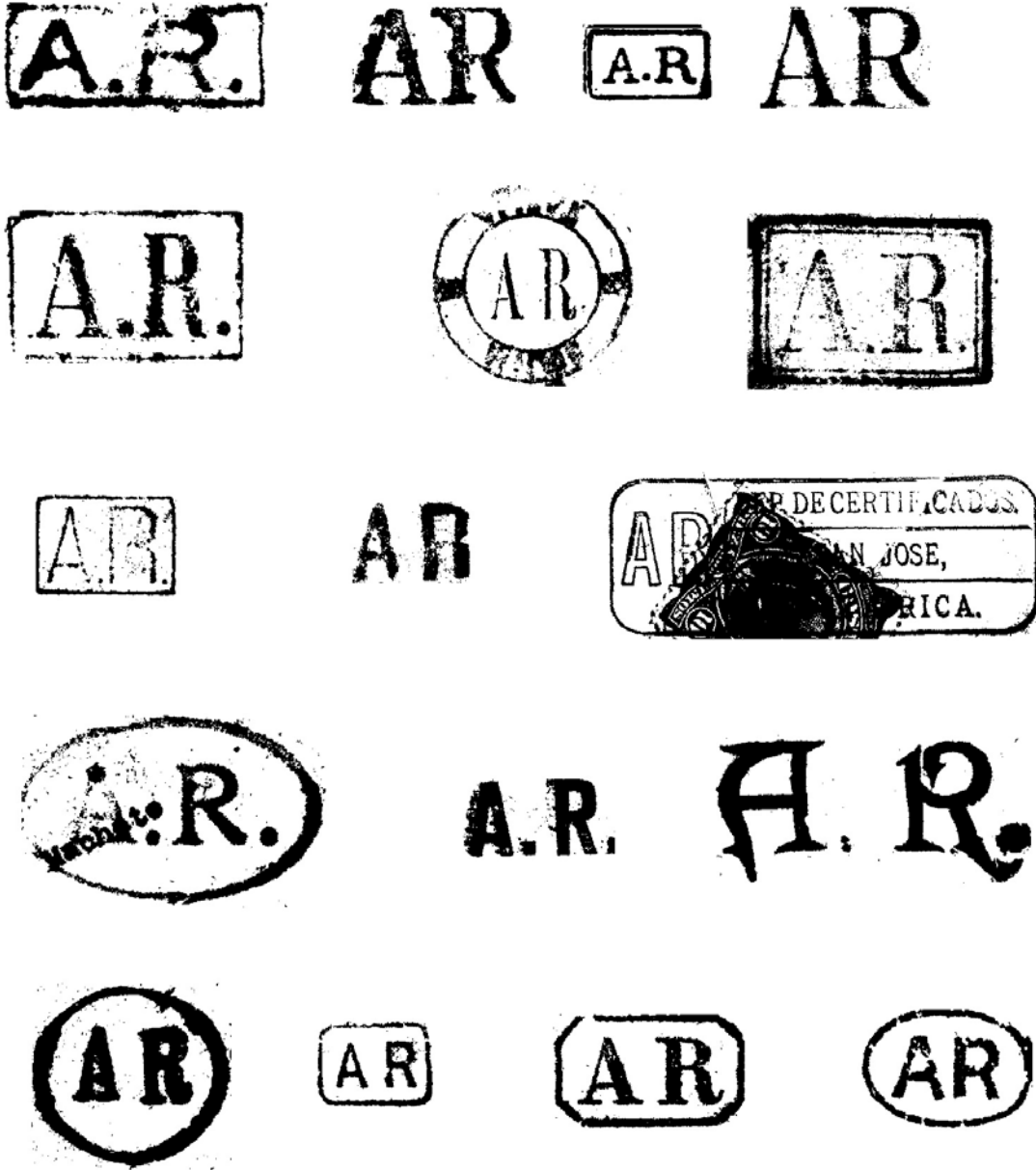
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Various A R handstamps

First row: Albania, Belgian Congo, Argentina, Belgium;
 second row: Russia, Bolivia (two);
 third row: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica;
 fourth row: Curaçao (two), Dominican Republic;
 fifth row: Ecuador, France (two), Gibraltar.

Thousands exist. Most are pretty drab.

Definitions and introduction

A VIS DE RÉCEPTION (abbreviated AR throughout) is the official (UPU) term for the postal service informing the sender of a letter or package of its receipt by means of a form (or card) signed by either the recipient or the postal clerk at the destination post office. It is frequently used in legal settings. It goes under various names (see the table on p 6); in English, the usual terms are *return receipt* (US), *acknowledgment of receipt* (Canada), *advice of delivery* (UK and many Commonwealth countries), *acknowledgment due* (Indian subcontinent).

Typically, when a registered (or in some cases, insured, or even non-insured parcels) letter was mailed with AR service, a form, known as an AR form, was filled out at the receiving office, and sent with the registered letter (usually, but not always attached to it). At the destination office or on delivery of the item, the recipient signed the form, and it was returned to sender. The letter that was sent with AR service is called an AR cover. Figure 0.1 illustrates a typical AR cover (at least to the extent that any AR cover can be called *typical*, since there was so much variation in practices and fees).



0.1 Uruguay AR cover to Germany (1896)

With octagonal AR handstamp. Rated 10 centavos for each of registration and UPU rates, plus 5 cvos AR fee. During the period 1892–98, the AR fee was supposed to be paid on the cover, as here. In other periods, location of payment (on the card/form) was at the discretion of the country of origin.

An example of an AR form appears in Figure 0.2. There is no such thing as a typical AR form. The same applies to AR covering envelopes, which contained the returned AR forms, Figure 0.3. Circa 1921–22, most entities replaced AR forms with AR cards (Figure 0.4); these were much smaller (usually postcard size, although once again there is considerable variation), and almost always made of card stock (rather than paper). In most cases, rather than returning to the office of origin, they could be sent to the sender of the registered letter.

We are mainly concerned with AR service on **international mail**, in the GPU/UPU-period (post-1875). At some future date, I hope to deal with pre-UPU service; for example, Austria had AR service (*Retour Recipisse*) from 1806. The Treaty of Bern (effective 1 July 1875) required the original eighteen members of the GPU to offer AR service for letters among themselves. This was extended on April Fool's Day 1879 to cover all UPU members, as well as future UPU members, as soon as they joined. There were also numerous bilateral and multilateral treaties from the pre-UPU period, mostly dealing with procedures, which remained in force.

There are numerous variations on these procedures. For one thing, the Treaty of Vienna

Sunder in the name of
Raman Chetty

Ma.-9.

ADMINISTRATION OF BRITISH INDIA
ADMINISTRATION DE L'INDE BRITANNIQUE

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

of a letter insured for
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de

of a registered article
d'un objet recommandé

on the
le

and addressed to Mr.
et adressé à M.

entered at the office
enregistré au bureau

under No.
sous le N°

The undersigned declares
Le soussigné déclare

that an insured letter
qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée

that a registered article
qu'un objet recommandé

to the address mentioned
à l'adresse mentionnée

Stamp of the office
Timbre du bureau

and originating from
et provenant de

has been duly
& été dûment

delivered on the
livré le

Signature
Signature

of the addressee,
du destinataire.

of the head of the delivering office,
du chef du bureau distributeur.

of delivery.
distributeur

(1) Nature of the article (letter, sample, printed paper, etc.).
Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.).

(2) Office of posting; date of posting at that office; number under which registered at the same office.
Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; N° d'enregistrement au même bureau.

(3) Note.—This acknowledgment should be signed by the addressee or, if the regulations of the country of delivery permit it, by the head of the office of delivery, and it should then be placed in an envelope and forwarded, by the first mail to the office of posting of the article to which it relates.
Nota.—Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, par le premier courrier au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

P. P. A.—11.—Regg. No. 127 of 11-12

0.2 India A R form to Indochina (1916)

A R form, a folded letter sheet, for a registered letter from southern India to Saigon. British colonies in the Indian subcontinent always had the A R fee paid on the cover (so there are no stamps on the forms). French is supposed to be one of the languages used on the form, but of course there are always exceptions.

Signed by the postmaster in the destination office (it could also be signed by the recipient of the registered letter), and returned in a covering envelope to the office of origin, which would forward it to the sender of the registered item.

A R forms come in a wide array of colours and sizes (from postcard size to double foolscap), and are usually attached to the registered letter by gum (but sometimes also glue, occasionally paper clip, thread, . . .), but may also be sent separately. They may require a covering envelope for their return (as here), but can also be sent as a folded letter sheet—this is again at the discretion of the country preparing the covering envelope.

ADMINISTRATION
DES POSTES DE BELGIQUE
BEHEER
VAN BELGISCHE POSTERIJEN

BRUSSEL
1912
IV
22
14/4/40

Avis de réception. — Kennisgeving van aankomst

N^o 398. — Bon 548-1911. — Van Doomselaere, Gand

Au bureau de poste de Buffalo
Aan het postkantoor

Pays U. - S. - A.
Land

0.3 Belgian A R covering envelope (1912)

This would have contained a US AR form (all US AR forms required covering envelopes) to be returned to office of origin of the registered letter for which AR service applied, in this case, Buffalo. The Buffalo office would have arranged that the sender receive the form, possibly in a US covering envelope. There are no stamps on AR covering envelopes, as payment had already been made, and this travelled free. Colours, sizes, and shapes vary tremendously, and frequently a provisional AR covering envelope (not designed for this purpose) had to be made up.

(1892–98) required the form to be prepared in the destination country; after its expiry, forms were again filled out at the receiving office. There was almost invariably an extra fee for AR service (the exception being the US and its colonies); some jurisdictions required the stamps paying this fee to be applied to the form, others to the (registered) letter. How were the forms returned? The forms could be either folded letter sheets or required a covering envelope (in the case of the UK, both applied). Initially, they were themselves sent as registered matter, but this eventually changed (the date of change depending on the postal entity).

In fact, every jurisdiction had its own set of procedures. Moreover, the forms themselves vary considerably in colour, paper, printing, languages, shape, formatting, . . . (Registered) letters sent with AR service were so marked (from 1892), usually with a handstamp or manuscript marking of AR or *avis de réception*, but the terms from the locally spoken languages were often used, either in place of the standard term, or along with it. Table 1 shows a number of these.

From the early 1920s, most (but not all) jurisdictions switched from AR forms to AR cards; these are typically of card thickness, and sent through the mail as if they were post cards (Figure 0.4), but did not require any postage on them. There would be stamps on them if country's procedures required that the AR fee be paid on the card, or if the card was to be returned by airmail (beginning internationally in the late 1930s), or if they were after-the-fact; more about these later.

Ceskoslovenská správa poštovní. Administration des postes tchécoslovaques.

Návratka — Avis de réception

a) (k doporučené zásilce) *dobrá listina*)
 d'un objet recommandé

b) (cennému psaní) *dobrá listina*)
 cenné krabici
 d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de
 boîte

c) (poštovnímu balíčku) *dobrá listina*)
 poštovnímu balíčku
 d'un colis postal de messagerie

zapsané..... u pošt. úřadu v
 enregistrés au bureau d
 podané.....
 expedie par M.
 adresované.....
 et adressé à M.
 úplná adresa.....
 adresse complète.....

Razítko podacího úřadu
 Timbre du bureau expéditeur

192... pod čís. *112*
 sous le No. *112*

Podpsaný stvrzuje, že zásilka s adresou nahoře uvedenou,
 Le soussigné déclare que l'objet à l'adresse susmentionnée et

z
 provenant de
 správně byla doručena dle
 a été dûment livré le

Podpis — Signature *H. H. H.*

Tiskopis č. 22 Čes. fr. III.—1922.) Viz poznámky na druhé straně - Voir les observations sur le verso.

NÁVRATKA — AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

Razítko úřadu podacího
 Timbre du bureau expéditeur

A.....
 M.....
Josef Novák

Věc služby pošty
Service des postes

HARBIN
 24. 5. 26
 (Místo určení — Lieu de destination)

(Země určení — Pays de destination)

a) b) c) Nebodící se část předtisku budiž škrtnuta. — Biffer les parties superflues du texte imprimé.
 1) Druh zásilky (dopis, ukázka zboží, tiskovina atd.) — Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.)
 2) Částka udané ceny. — Montant de la valeur déclarée.
 3) Po případě udaná cena. — Indiquer, le cas échéant, le montant de la valeur déclarée.
 4) Podací úřad, datum podání, číslo podací. — Bureau d'origine, date du dépôt, No d'enregistrement.
 5) Tato návratka musí být podepsána příjemcem nebo, vyžaduje-li toho předpis země určení, úředníkem úřadu podacího a zaslána nejbližší poštou přímo na adresu, dříve shora. — Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur, et renvoyé ensuite par le premier, directement à l'adresse susindiquée.

0.4 Both sides of Czech A R card (1926)

For a registered letter sent from Czechoslovakia to Harbin (Manchuria), signed and stamped at destination, and returned by regular mail to sender of the registered item. Dirty yellow card (as many countries' A R cards were until about 1930). Czechoslovakia required the sender to pay the A R fee on the registered letter, not on the card, which is why there are no stamps on this one. As with A R forms, these passed freely through the mail.

A R timeline

1806

Austria introduces *Retour Receptisse* (no accents).

To 1875

Various entities, mostly in Europe, introduce A R (under various names), both domestically and internationally, the latter via bilateral and multilateral postal treaties. This includes France (1859), US (1868), ...

1 July 1875

G P U Treaty of Berne becomes effective; A R mandated between original eighteen members.

April Fool's Day 1879

U P U Treaty of Paris becomes effective; all jurisdictions supposed to offer A R internationally when they join the U P U. Upper and lower bounds set on fees relative to domestic A R.

1 July 1892

U P U Treaty of Vienna becomes effective; requires A R or equivalent to be stamped or endorsed on registered item. A R fee to be paid on cover (previously, it was up to the jurisdiction to decide where the fee should be applied, to the A R form or to the item). A R form to be prepared in *destination* country. A few pairs of countries (for example, New Zealand and Australia) had bilateral treaties, allowing A R forms for mail between them to be prepared in the country of origin. And a few jurisdictions did not implement the Vienna changes at all.

1 January 1899

U P U Treaty of Washington becomes effective, procedures revert to those of the pre-Vienna period; A R form to be prepared in country of origin; A R fee could once again be paid either on the A R form or on the registered item, at the discretion of the country of origin.

After-the-fact (or *subsequent*) A R service introduced, allowing sender of the original registered item to request an A R form *after* the registered item had been mailed, with no additional charge above the A R fee.

1908–1920

A R forms, which had formerly been returned to the sender of the original item via registered mail, were now returned without registration. The dates at which the changeover occurred depended on the jurisdiction (e.g., Canada and UK, 1908; New Zealand, 1919), and were soft—for example, Canadian forms which were printed before 1908 had a large **R** printed on them, and even if used after 1908, were returned registered.

Circa late 1921

Most (but not all) jurisdictions introduce A R *cards* to replace A R forms. These did not require covering envelopes. They varied somewhat in size (although most were post card size), were printed on card stock, and originally most were pale yellow. They were attached to the registered letter by various means, usually gum, but in some jurisdictions, by staples, paper clip, or thread.

Whether payment of the A R fee was on the card or the original registered letter continued to be up to the jurisdiction.

A R forms on hand were permitted to be used, apparently indefinitely, and some countries continued to use A R forms exclusively until the 1970s.

A R cards (and the later-use forms) could now be sent directly to the sender of the registered letter, not as had been the practice, to the office of origin, which would arrange for delivery. The fee for after-the-fact service was permitted to increase, in many cases, to double the normal A R fee.

Circa 1930

A R cards printed after this date tended to be shades of red, varying from pink to maroon; older cards could still be used.

Circa 1935

Subject to willingness of the jurisdiction, A R cards and forms could be returned by air, provided the registered letter was sent by air mail; the additional fee for this service was the air mail fee *from* the country of origin to the destination of the registered letter (thus for a registered letter from UK to Germany, the air mail fee for service in that direction had to be prepaid). This was paid by stamp on the A R card or form.

Terms equivalent to A R

Term	use	translation or comments
<i>accusé de réception</i>	informal French	literally, acknowledgment of receipt
<i>acuse/aviso de recibo</i>	Spanish-speaking countries	
<i>acknowledgment due</i>	Indian subcontinent	abbreviated <i>AD</i>
<i>acknowledgment of delivery</i>	Indian subcontinent	abbreviated <i>AD</i>
<i>acknowledgment of receipt</i>	Canada	
<i>advice of delivery</i>	British Commonwealth & Empire	
αποδείξεις παραλαβής	Greece	
<i>avis de réception</i>	universal (U P U term)	notice of receipt
<i>aviso de reception/recepcion/recibo</i>	Spanish-speaking countries	
<i>aviso de recepção</i>	Portugal & colonies, and Brazil	
<i>aviz de primire</i>	Romania	abbreviated <i>AP</i> , often seen on stamp
<i>avviso di ricevimento</i>	Italy	
<i>Bericht van Ontvang</i>	Netherlands & colonies, Belgium	abbreviated <i>BVO</i>
<i>double registered</i>	translation from Chinese	often marked by doubled R
ИЗДЕСТІЕ ЗА ЛОСТАВНІЕ	Bulgaria	
<i>Kennigsgeving van Aankomst/Ontvangst</i>	Belgium	
<i>Modtagelsesbevis</i>	Denmark	
<i>Mottagelsesbevis</i>	Norway	
<i>Mottagningsbevis</i>	Sweden	
<i>Návratka</i>	Czechoslovakia	
ОБРАТНАЯ РАСПИСКА	Russia	
<i>pasinojums par sanemšanu</i>	Latvia	spelling changes in time
ПОВРАТНИ РЕЦЕПИС	Serbia	
<i>recepis zwrotne</i>	Poland	
<i>récepisse de retour</i>	Ottoman Empire	seen on an 1884 form
<i>recibo de retorno</i>	Paraguay, Uruguay	seen on an 1882 form
<i>Retour Recepisse</i>	Austria & Empire	no accents; use declines in U P U period
<i>return receipt demanded/requested/required</i> ¹	U S ²	
<i>ricevuta di ritorno</i>	Italy & colonies	return receipt; often doubled/tripled R
<i>Rückschein</i>	German-speaking countries	often abbreviated <i>RS</i>
<i>Saantitodistus</i>	Finland	
<i>Tértili vevény</i>	Hungary	later, one word
<i>Väljastusteade</i>	Estonia	
<i>zpáteční listek</i>	Czechoslovakia	

Based on what I've seen on A R forms, covering envelopes, and cards. Apologies to the readers of Greek fonts; these are not properly kerned here. There probably are a lot more terms; contributions are solicited.

¹ And many similar terms, such as *wanted/desired*.

² Some other countries also used this, e.g., Hungary (1930s and 1940s), and Cuba; these may have been U S-expatriates writing home

A R forms

AR FORMS could be either returned as folded letter sheets (FLS), or in a covering envelope. They could have postage stamps paying the AR fee (except in the Treaty of Vienna period), or the payment could be made on the registered letter; these were at the discretion of the post office of the country of origin. Until the early 20th century (the actual date depending on the jurisdiction), AR forms, whether returned as folded letter sheets, or in a covering envelope, were sent as registered matter. Practically all AR forms are printed on paper—a notable exception are the second and third (known) printings of UK, which are on card stock. The sizes vary enormously, from smaller than a postcard (some Austrian forms), to foolscap size (UK, Denmark). In the latter case, the large size allowed the forms to double as inquiry forms, with spaces for comments of all the post offices on route.

Figures 1.1–1.4 show examples of AR forms. The first (Figure 1.1) is a somewhat nonstandard 1884 Ottoman AR form for a registered letter to Venice, using the wording translating to *return receipt*. It required a covering envelope.



1.1 Ottoman AR form (1884)

Nonstandard *Récepisse de Retour* rather than *avis de réception*. 1 Piastre stamp pays AR fee. Returned, properly signed, from Venice.

Figure 1.2 shows a more normal 1887 AR form for a registered letter from Brazil to France. In both cases, the language was French only, and the AR fee was paid by stamp on the forms.

Many jurisdictions have been providing AR service (usually only domestically, although international service was possible if the appropriate bilateral treaties were in place) from as early as 1806 (Austria). Many continued to use the old unilingual forms, even internationally. Figures 1.3 and 1.5 & 1.5A show one from Austrian Italy (1883) to Paris, and a standard French

Direction Générale Postes du BRÉSIL.

ADMINISTRATION DE *S. P. Paul*

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

D'un *lettre* recommandée sous le n. *11738*, et adressé à
 M. *Col. Marion* à *France* le *10 Juin* 188*4*

Timbre du bureau d'origine

Le soussigné déclare qu'un *lettre* recommandée à l'adresse
 susmentionnée et provenant de *B. Brésil*
 a été dûment livré le *10* 188*4*

Le destinataire

Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, puis être mis sous enveloppe et renvoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier.

Typ. de D. G. des Postes

1.2 Brazil A R form (1887; pre-Treaty of Vienna)

When postage stamps are applied to AR forms, they pay the AR fee, not the return postage (which is free). [There are very rare exceptions to this, which we will address later.] Returned, unsigned, from France.

domestic AR form (actually, more like a *réclamation*) used to Madrid in 1880. The latter is a four-page booklet.

Even well into the UPU period, we see pre-UPU forms, originally intended (mostly) for domestic service, used internationally.

N. 47 R. L.

N. *2471*

Ricevuta di ritorno

Per una lettera raccomandata impostata presso l'Ufficio postale in *Cles* **CLES**
 il giorno *18/2* 188*3* all'indirizzo:
S. Corradini
Parigi il *18* 188*6*

che mi fu quest'oggi regolarmente consegnata da quest'Ufficio postale.

Avvertenze

1. Il diritto della presente ricevuta è stato pagato dal Mittente.
 2. Il Destinatario dovrà apporvi la data e la propria firma.

Questa ricevuta sarà ritornata col primo corso di posta al suindicato Ufficio d'impostazione.

Sottoscrizione
Corradini
Gerardo

1.3 Austrian Italy (Cles, Trentino) to Paris (1883; pre-Vienna)

Form used in Austrian Italy from the pre-UPU period, almost invariably used domestically.

N° 70 — (1880)

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE.
Weltpostverein.

*affranchissement
sur lettre*

AVIS DE RECEPTION.
Rückchein.

L'expéditeur de l'envoi recommandé sous le N° *89* à l'adresse de *M. Anne*
Quiring à *Batignolles* demande si cet envoi
a été remis au destinataire.

Der Absender der unter Nr. *89* recommandierten Sendung an
Quiring in *Batignolles* ersucht mitzutheilen,
ob diese Sendung dem Adressaten eingehändigt worden ist.

Le Percepteur des Postes,
Der Postreceptor,
M. Hoffmann

Timbre à date.
Zeitstempel.
24/11 N
83
4-5S.

L'envoi recommandé ci-dessus désigné m'a été remis contre reçu le *26 novembre*

Obenbezeichnete recommandierte Sendung ist mir am
gegen Empfangsbezeichnung eingehändigt worden.

Signature du destinataire,
Unterschrift des Empfängers,
Anne Quiring

Timbre à date.
Zeitstempel.
PARIS
26
NOV.
83
M. J. VOLLES

1.4 Luxembourg AR form to Paris (1883; pre-Vienna)

Showing inside (the outside has the address; the form is intended to be folded). A bit of the bottom of the image (not the form) has been cut off. The clerk has helpfully written *affranchissement sur lettre* (franking on the letter), indicating that the AR fee was applied to the registered letter. No indication of country of origin, but Wiltz is a small town in Luxembourg. Properly signed and datestamped. Form printed in 1880.

RENSEIGNEMENTS FOURNIS A L'EXPÉDITEUR SUR LE SORT D'UN OBJET
CHARGÉ OU RECOMMANDÉ.

AMOU
31/2
1880
LANDES

M. de Lohé de Monval
rue Brassin-pour n°
par Amou
département des Landes

(7) L'expéditeur de l'objet est invité à s'adresser au Directeur des Postes de son département pour les réclamations ou les demandes de renseignements supplémentaires qu'il pourrait avoir à former après la réception du présent avis.

DIRECTION GENERALE DES POSTES.

RENSEIGNEMENTS FOURNIS AU BUREAU D'EXPÉDITION
SUR LE SORT D'UN OBJET CHARGÉ OU RECOMMANDÉ.

Pour le bureau de poste d Amou
département des Landes.

La Receveur des Postes.

31 ENE 80
MADRID

1.5 France domestic AR form used to Madrid (1880; pre-Vienna)

These forms (*information provided on the fate of a registered object*) in use from 1859, were intended for domestic use only. It is in a book format (four pages) folded letter sheet; the top shows the outer address (for return to the sender), filled out in Amou (France), page 2. The bottom shows postmarks of Madrid and Paris for the return, page 3. The next illustration shows the interior.

Quite different is the example in Figure 1.7, 1.7A, & 1.7B, from the Netherlands, wherein the form was sent separately from the registered letter, rather than attached to it. Both of these are folded letter sheets which could be returned to the office of origin as is.

All of these examples are pre-Treaty of Vienna (that is, 1875–1 July 1892). As mentioned earlier, in the Treaty of Vienna period, the form was prepared in the destination country; examples in Figures 1.8–1.9 illustrate this.

The Treaty of Vienna was superseded by the Treaty of Washington, effective 1 January 1899. Among other changes to procedures, the AR form was again to be prepared at the office of origin. This allowed the AR fee (if it was nonzero) to be paid on the form, rather than the cover—which depended on the particular entity.

As we see, the forms vary in size from quite small and fragile (typically left over from the pre-UPU period) to double foolscap size, and come in a wide range of colours (deep purple to almost white), and formats. In some jurisdictions, they were seldom used, and so were kept in

N° 103.
Octobre 1877.
Les nos 112.

OBJETS CHARGÉS OU RECOMMANDÉS I
DONT LES EXPÉDITEURS DEMANDENT À CONNAÎTRE LE SORT.

Exécution des articles 194 & 206 de l'Instruction générale.

DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE
DES POSTES.

TABLEAU N° 1, à remplir par le préposé du bureau d'origine (?).

Le notice préparé d'avance, à remplir, avec l'expéditeur, de l'avis, le notice annexé à la page 2, applicable à l'angle droit supérieur de même ordre au timbre-poste de destination et sceller au timbre-poste.

AVIS DE L'EXPÉDITION D'UN OBJET (CHARGÉ, RECOMMANDÉ, LAINDES)

BUREAU d'AMOU, n° d'LANDES

Le receveur soussigné expédie aujourd'hui, sous le n° l'objet ci-dessus indiqué à l'adresse de M. *Rafael...*

Le 12 Janvier 1878

TABLEAU N° 2, à remplir par le préposé du bureau de destination.

RENSEIGNEMENTS FOURNIS SUR LE SORT DE L'OBJET DÉCRIT AU TABLEAU N° 1 (s).

BUREAU d'AMOU, n° d'LANDES

Le Receveur soussigné déclare que cet objet (s)

1293

(1) La présente feuille doit être renvoyée au bureau d'origine, le jour même où l'objet aura été livré au destinataire, soit qu'il ait été livré à l'adresse, soit que le remis s'en soit fait par une autre personne quelconque.

(2) Pour ce cas, inscrire le cas, les mentions suivantes :

(a) A été livré le ... en destination, qui en a donné reçu.

(b) A été retourné le ... au bureau d'origine, conformément à la demande du destinataire.

(c) A été refusé le ... par le destinataire.

(3) N'a pu être délivré } au bureau, parti sans laisser d'adresse.

en destination, } laissé, et les lettres ou autres objets n'ont pas obtenu le remis.

(4) N'a pas été remis au gérant de la poste restante, ou il est adressé.

(5) N'a pu être présenté au destinataire, non-accusé d'absence.

(6) Le cas des mentions énumérées ci-dessus, avec les lettres a, b, c, d, e, f, apposer l'une des indications suivantes :

Cet objet est parvenu en destination, ou cet objet sera renvoyé à l'expéditeur le ... après l'expiration des délais de garde réglementaires à son bureau.

REMARQUE. L'expéditeur de l'objet est tenu de s'adresser au Directeur des Postes de son département pour les réclamations et les demandes de renseignements supplémentaires qu'il pourrait avoir à former après la réception de présent avis.

1.5A Interior of French domestic form, anomalously used to Spain

Showing pages 4 and 1. It would have been folded initially to expose the address on the left (to the post office in Madrid), probably mailed at the same time as the original registered letter

post offices for decades. The current record is 30+ years, for a domestic French A R form used in Côte d'Ivoire internationally (Figure 1.16 & 1.16A).

Oddities

After-the-fact service

One consequence of the Treaty of Washington (effective 1 January 1899), was the possibility of sending A R forms subsequent to the registered item, that is, after the registered cover had been put in the mails. This is referred to as *after-the-fact* or *subsequent A R* (in French, *après le dépôt*). Initially, there was no additional fee over the usual one for A R, but this seems to have changed (for many jurisdictions) in the early 1920s. An example is shown in Figure 1.13. Needless to say, examples are very difficult to find.

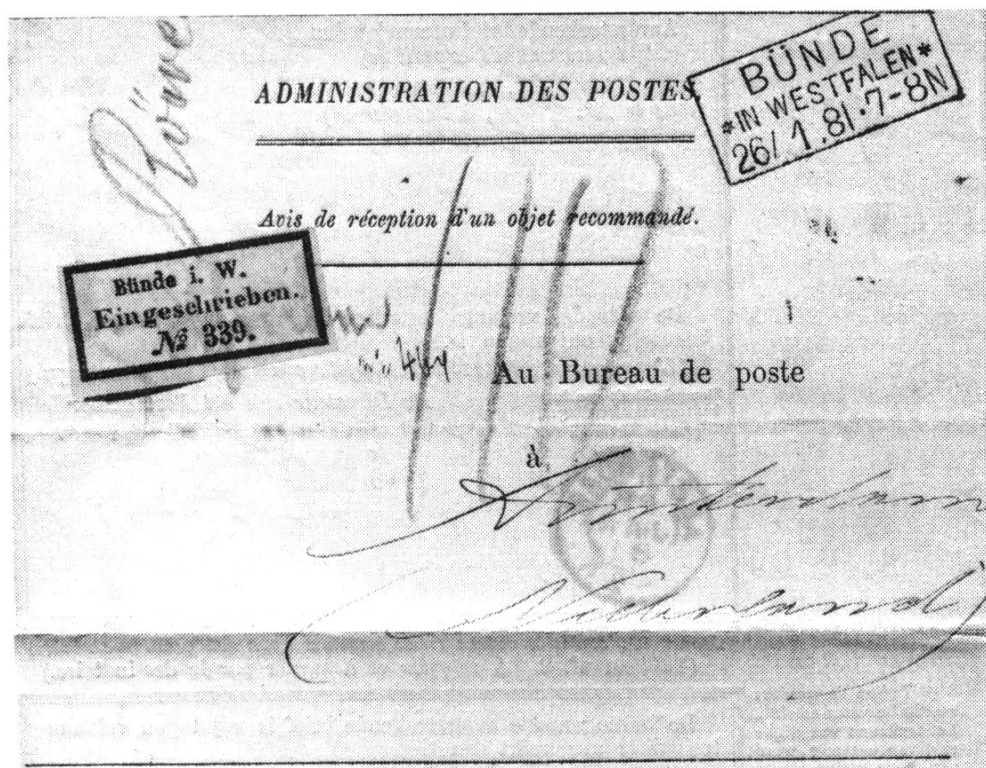
Réclamation vs after-the-fact

(There is a separate section on *réclamation*.) If a registered (or insured) item were mailed, but the sender was not satisfied that it arrived, a *réclamation form* could be sent out (for a fee). This was typically a large (often foolscap size) form, with spaces for the offices on the route of the registered letter, to fill in, giving information as to the dates of receipt and departure, and so on. One can view this service as an extreme form of after-the-fact A R, and some jurisdictions



1.7 Netherlands AR form to Germany (1881)

Outer portion of form, sent as a folded letter sheet to Bünde (Westphalia) separately from the registered letter, but in the same mailing.



1.7A Netherlands AR form

Refolded & sent to sender, as a registered folded letter sheet, from Bünde.

MINISTERIE VAN WATERSTAAT,
HANDEL EN NIJVERHEID.
Administratie der Posten.
(MINISTÈRE DU WATERSTAAT, DU
COMMERCE ET DE L'INDUSTRIE.)
(Administration des Postes.)

**BERIGT VAN ONTVANG VAN EENEN
AANGETEEKENDEN BRIEF.**
(Avis de réception d'un objet recommandé.)

TABEL n°. 1. In te vullen op het kantoor van afzending.
(Tableau n°. 1. A remplir par le bureau envoyeur.)

Aangeteekende brief verzonden den *25 Jan. 1881*
(Objet recommandé expédié le)

onder N°. *158*, aan het adres van
(sous le N°. , à l'adresse de)
Gustav Schmidt

Straat:
(Rue:) *Bünde*
te
(à) *Westfalen*

De afzender verlangt te weten of deze aangeteekende brief
behoorlijk ontvangen is.
(L'envoyeur désire savoir si cet objet recommandé est dûment reçu.)

Stempel-afdruk van het
kantoor van afzending:
(Timbre du bureau
expéditeur.)

De Directeur van het Postkantoor
(Le Directeur du bureau de poste)
te *Amsterdam*
(à) *Bünde*

AMSTERDAM
25
(JAN)
81
1-2

TABEL n°. 2. In te vullen en te teekenen door den geadresseerde (1)
(Tableau n°. 2. A remplir et à signer par le destinataire.)

(1) Indien de geadresseerde bezwaar maakt in het teekenen van dit bericht van ontvang, wordt van zijne weigering en van de uitreiking van den brief, door den Chef van het kantoor van bestemming melding gemaakt in de nevenstaande Tabel N°. 2.

(1) (En cas de refus de la part du destinataire de signer cet avis de réception, le Chef du bureau destinataire est prié de faire mention de ce refus et de la remise de l'objet recommandé en Tableau n°. 2.)

Da bovengemelde aangeteekende brief is mij tegen voldaan-
teekening uitgereikt den
(L'objet recommandé indiqué ci-dessus m'a été remis contre
reçu, le) *26^e Jan. 1881*

Stempel-afdruk van het
kantoor
van bestemming:
(Timbre du bureau
destinataire.)

Bünde
Gustav Schmidt

P. H. H. H.
Hijze

(N°. 200.)
M. 1880.

1.7B Inner page of Netherlands AR form

Showing signature and other information. Signed at Bünde just a day after letter mailed. Bilingual (French, Dutch), resembling French book style.

ADMINISTRATION DE L'INDE BRITANNIQUE.
ADMINISTRATION OF BRITISH INDIA.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

d'un objet recommandé enregistré sous le No. 112530 et adressé à
For a registered article entered under No. 112530, and addressed to:

M. Zachary à New York le 1897
Mr. Zachary at New York on the 13 July 1897

Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionnée et pro-
The undersigned certifies that a registered article to the address mentioned above
venant de New York a été dûment
and originating from New York has been duly
livré le 13 avril 1897
delivered on the 13 April 1897

Signature (*) F. Zachary
Signature (*) [Signature]
du destinataire
of the addressee.
du chef du bureau de livraison
of the head of the delivering office.

Timbre du bureau
stamp of the office.
SHERTALLY
MA. 17
97

l'auteur
of the delivery.

Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef
This acknowledgment should be signed by the addressee or, if the regulations of the country of delivery permit it, by the
of delivery, and it should then be placed in an envelope and forwarded, registered, by the first mail to the office of
article to which it relates.

1.8 India AR form for registered letter from US (1897; Treaty of Vienna)

During the Vienna period (1892–98), AR forms were prepared in the destination country, rather than the country of origin. Returned under cover as registered mail to Dayton (OH); there is a considerable correspondence with a seller of religious artefacts in Dayton. Signed at Shertally. No postage stamps applied, since in this period, the AR fee was applied to the registered letter. Bilingual (French, English).

seem not to have distinguished between the two services.

For example, around the turn of the century (possibly 1899 when after-the-fact service became available), Britain enlarged its domestic and international AR forms, providing a lot more space, presumably so they could also serve as réclamation forms, even to the extent of providing spaces for each of the offices on route to fill in the details. See the UK exhibit for examples.

Duplicate and replacement

If an AR form were sent out, but never returned, the office of origin (on request from the sender) could send a *duplicate* AR form, at no charge. Similarly, if a cover were received which clearly indicated that AR service that had been requested (e.g., if it were marked AR, or any of the other dozens of terms, or if the attached form was damaged), a *replacement* AR form would have been made up in the destination country; again there was no fee. Examples are rare. Figure 1.14 shows such an example.

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES D'ITALIE

ADMINISTRAZIONE DELLE POSTE ITALIANE

AVIS
AVVISO

DE RÉCEPTION DE PAYEMENT
DI RICEVIMENTO DI PAGAMENTO

d'un (a) Raccomanda
di un _____

enregistré — sous le N. _____ par le bureau
inscritto — sotto il N. 1832 dell'ufficio

de New York
di _____

le _____ 189 _____ et adresse
il _____ e indirizzato

A M. E. Malavolta
al Sig. _____

A _____
a Modena

Le soussigné déclare que (b)
Il sottoscritto dichiara che
Modena le 6 Avril 189 _____

Signature (d)
Firma _____

du destinataire
del destinatario
E. Malavolta

d'un mandat en poste de la somme de
di un vaglia postale della somma di _____

émis par le bureau de _____
emesso dall'ufficio di _____

le _____ 189 _____ sous le N. _____
il _____ sotto il numero _____

au profit de M. _____
a favore del Sig. _____

A _____
a _____

susmentionné a été dûment (c)
sopra indicato è stato regolarmente

du chef du bureau distributeur ou payeur
del capo dell'ufficio distributore o pagatore
[Signature]

(a) Objet recommandé ou d'une lettre ou d'une boîte assurée ou d'un colis postal. — (b) L'objet recommandé ou la lettre ou la boîte assurée ou le colis postal ou le mandat de poste. — (c) Livré ou payé. — (d) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef du bureau distributeur ou payeur; puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé sous recommandation par le premier courrier d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne; poi essere messo in busta e spedito in raccomandazione.

Registered Letter Parcel No. 1832 Post Office, DAYTON, OHIO

Received Apr 11, 1897, from Anton Amann

addressed Rev E Malavolta
Italy

J.C. City P. M., per May

This space is reserved on computer part for particulars connected with dispatch of registered piece.

1.9 Italian AR form with its US registration receipt (1897)

Also part of Dayton correspondence. Returned under cover as registered mail. Bilingual (French, Italian). This form could also be used for the rarely seen avis de payement (modern spelling: paiement) service, acknowledging that an international postal money order had been paid. Note the agreement between the registration number on the receipt, and one of the registration numbers on the form.

B.

Administration des Postes de Bolivie Oficina de Santa Cruz

AVIS DE RECEPTION
AVISO DE RECEPCION

{ d' une lettre assurée
de una carta certificada } enregistré.....sous le N° 42.....et adressé.....à
 { d' un objet recommandé } enregistré.....bajo el N°y dirigido.....al...
 de un objeto recomendado

Mr. H. Heye Hamburgo le Jan 31 1902 ..
 Sr. de et de

{ Le soussigné déclare
El suscrito declara } qu' une lettre assurée
que una carta certificada } à l' adresse susmentionnée
 { qu' un objet recommandé } que un objeto recomendado } à la dirección arriba indicada

et provenant de Santa Cruz, Boliviaa été dûment
 y procedente de ha sido debidamente

livré.....le.....190.....
 entregad el de

Signature: [*]
 Firma:

Du destinataire:
 del destinatario:

Du chef du bureau distributeur:
 del jefe de la Oficina de destino:

(**) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef du bureau distributeur. puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

Imp. Artistica.

1.10 Bolivian A R form (1902; Treaty of Washington)

For a registered letter mailed from Santa Cruz to Hamburg. Returned under cover as registered mail. Bilingual (French, Spanish). A R fee paid by stamp. On reversible (visible through the thin paper) is a Hamburg receiver. The lack of signature suggests that the letter could not be delivered, and so was returned to sender with the A R form still attached; it is also possible that the A R aspect was ignored by the clerk in Hamburg. South American A R forms (and A R cards) seem to be difficult to find.

Return by air

From about 1935 (or so; there is very limited documentation available), A R forms (and of course, A R cards, which were in general use at the time) could be returned by air. The fee for this depended on the jurisdiction (although in most cases, it seems to have been the airmail rate from the sending country to the destination (the opposite direction in which it was to be sent by air), and was usually paid in stamps on the form. By 1935, almost all countries were using A R cards, not forms, so finding an example is extremely difficult. However, one is shown in Figure 1.15.

Avis de paiement (AP)

When a post office money order was sent out (as an *advice*), senders had the option of requesting an acknowledgment that it had been cashed. They would pay the fee (typically equal to that of A R), and one of two things happened. Either the post office of origin would send an AP form, which was to be signed when the money order was cashed, and this was returned to sender, just

Rückschein. — Recepis zwrotny.

Tells ich bei dem L. L. Postamt | am | 190
 Ze. w. e. k. Urzędzie pocztowym | dnia |

recommandiert von dem k. k. Bezirksgerichte Sect. II in Lemberg |
 jako rekomandowan przez p. k. Sąd powiatowy Sekt. II w Lwowie |

aufgegeben | *Beschluss*
 nach |
 nom. | *17/1 03* (Waldstätt) *AT V 319/*
 z | (Liczba czynności) *67*

unter des Adressen |
 pod adresem |
Fr. Christine Davison
Raynsfort Lollokke - Brøndshøj
Kopenhagen - Dänemark

heute richtig erhalten habe, bestätige ich mit meiner eigenhändigen Unterschrift,
 dnia dzisiaj poprawno otrzymałem, potwierdzam moim własnoręcznym podpisem.

Koblenz am | *26* | *Januar* | 1903
 dnia | (go) |

Bestellt durch den | (Briefträger) |
 Derselbe | (Boten) |
 | (Listonosz) |
 | (poslaniec) |
Kobenhavn, L.

Postmark: KOBENHAVN 26 JAN 1903

Verd. Ord. Nr. 67. (Rückschein für Post-Bestellungen zu festen Kosten, II, 106-108 E. T. O., s. 230 deutsch. Ort.)
 base. Nr. 67. (Recepis zwrotny dla doręczeń przez pocztę do osób własnych, II, 106-108 prot. czw., s. 230 niemie.) L. III.

Text on right: In die Annahme verweigert, wurde Päniewa przyjęcia odmówiono... (crossed out)

1.11 Polish domestic A R form used to Denmark (1903)

Domestic A R forms were not supposed to be used internationally (in this case at least, there was no text in French—only Polish and German). From Lemberg (now Lviv in Ukraine) to Copenhagen. Returned under cover properly signed. No postage stamps, indicating A R fee paid on cover.

République de Colombie
 Administration des postes de Colombie

AVIS DE RECEPTION

d'un objet recommandé enregistré, *delivered* sous le N° *1670* et adressé à *66*
 M. *Paulo* à *New York* le *6 - 3 - 1929*

Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé a été remis au destinataire, envoyé par *Paulo*
 et provenir de *Colomb*

à cet effet, j'ai le *6* 1929

Signature

du chef du bureau distributeur.

Two 4-cent postage stamps

Call to New York, 1929. With two 4-cent postage stamps (issued 1926) paying the 8-cent A.R. fee. Returned unsigned.

1.12 Colombia A R form used to New York (1929)

A R fee paid by stamps. Not signed. After most countries had introduced A R cards (1921). French only.

93699

Postmasters—No. 68.
Administration des Postes de la Grande Bretagne.
Post Office of the United Kingdom.

Timbre 2½d
2½d. Postage Stamp.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY

Biffer, suivant le cas, l'une ou l'autre des indications. Strike out whichever of these items does not apply to the case.

d'un objet recommandé } (*Letter*) (1) enregistré ou valeur déclarée au bureau registered or insured at the Office
 of a Registered Article }
 d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de } ✓
 of a letter insured for }
 d'un colis postal avec valeur déclarée de } ✓ Numéro ()
 of a parcel insured for } No.

de } *Newry* { le } *30th December 1905*, (2)
 of } { on the }
 et adressé à } *John H. Soden* { à } *76 Mohawks St. Cohoes, N.Y.*
 and addressed to } { at }

Biffer, suivant le cas, l'une ou l'autre des indications. Strike out whichever of these items does not apply to the case.

Le soussigné déclare { qu'un objet recommandé } à l'adresse susmentionnée
 qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée }
 qu'un colis postal avec valeur déclarée }
 The undersigned acknowledges that { a registered article } addressed as above
 { an insured letter }
 { an insured parcel }

et provenant de } *Robert John Eades Esq.* { a été dûment }
 and sent by (4) } { was duly }

Chief P.O. Inspector

REGISTERED
FEB 20 1906

livré le } *January 1st* 1906.
 delivered on the } Signature (5)

du destinataire : } *John H. Soden*
 of the addressee: }
 du Chef du bureau distributeur : } *Wm. LeRoy Postmaster*
 of the Postmaster of the Delivering Office: }

Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.).

1.13 UK after-the-fact A R form to New York (1905-06)

With the Treaty of Washington (effective from 1899), after-the-fact A R service became possible, and at no additional charge above the A R fee (the rate was increased in 1921). The original registered letter was mailed from Newry (UK) on 20 December 1905. This form was mailed on 12 January 1906, after the registered letter had been sent, and even delivered: the letter had been delivered on 1 January 1906. The form arrived at the destination office, Cohoes (NY), on 20 February, and reached the chief P O inspector in Washington on 2 March. It was then returned in a covering envelope.

Foolscap size (only two-thirds shown); below and on the back are spaces for notes by postmasters on route—this form was intended to also be used as an inquiry form.

British A R fee paid by 2½d stamp (UK was one of the few jurisdictions whose international A R fee exceeded its registration fee). International UK A R forms used in the twentieth century are rare.

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
DU CHILI

Formulario 47

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

AVISO DE RECEPCION

B

d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de
de una carta con valor declarado de

d'un objet recommandé (.....) (1)
de un objeto certificado

de *Philadelphia Pa Et Union* le *14/ Mars 1902* sous le N.° *100-62847* (2)
de el 1902 bajo el N.°

et adressé à M *Wilhelm Köhne* à *Santiago*
y dirigida a en *Chile*

Le soussigné déclare
El que suscribe declara

qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée à l'adresse
que una carta con valor declarado a la direccion

qu'un objet recommandé susmentionnée
que un objeto certificado arriba indicada

Timbre du Bureau distributeur
Timbre de la Oficina destinataria

et provenant de a été dûment
y procedente de ha sido debidamente

livré le *17 de April* 1902
entregado el 1902

Signature (3)
Firma

du destinataire
del destinatario

du chef du bureau distributeur
del jefe de la oficina destinataria

Guillermo Köhne

1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.)
2) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; n.° d'enregistrement au même bureau.
3) NOTA.—Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

1.14 Chile replacement A R form sent to Philadelphia (1902)

When an accompanying A R form was missing or damaged, the postmaster at the destination office would prepare a *replacement* form. This is the only international replacement A R form I'm aware of.

Here a registered letter from Philadelphia to Santiago was mailed 14 March. Normally, for a registered letter from the US, there would be a US A R form (in the Treaty of Washington period). It arrived 17 April, presumably marked A R but without an A R form. So the postmaster used a Chilean A R form, which was properly signed, postmarked, and sent under cover to the sender of the registered letter.

as A R forms were, *or* a note was added informing the destination office that AP was requested, and then the AP form would be prepared at that office, and signed, and returned. (Both of these occurred.) There is a separate section on AP.

About the table (1.18)

The table (Figure 1.18) shows uses that I am aware of. The first column, (*type*), refers to one of the following types of forms:

- Sheet (s): usually either letter size, or foolscap size; some jurisdictions used smaller sheets.
- Booklet (b): folded in book form; some French A R forms are of this type, as are the first Canadian and UK forms.
- Card (c): on card stock; the second and third UK A R forms are on card, but few others are.

The second column (*cov env?*) refers to whether the form required a covering envelope for its return. The third column (*stamp ≤92*) inquires whether the payment of the A R fee was on the form (as opposed to the registered envelope), prior to the date of effectiveness of the Treaty

Par Avion

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

G
 GOUVERNEMENT GÉNÉRAL
 de l'Indochine
 DIRECTION
 des Postes, des Télégraphes
 et des Téléphones

d'un (1) *Lettre* { valeur déclarée _____ } enregistré au bureau
 { recommandée _____ }
 de (2) *Saigon* le *1-10-* 193*8*, sous le n° *f 45* (3)
 et adressé à (suspension complète) M. *M. P. R. Sivaraman Sivak*
Syypatti
Saturusankarapottai Post
Ramorad Dist. (S. India)
 à _____
 (rue et n° s'il y a lieu)

Timbre de bureau
 d'origine

Nom et adresse { M. *Sou. Soupprasna*
 à *N. 23 rue Chau Saigon*
 de l'expéditeur { (rue et n° s'il y a lieu)

Le soussigné déclare que (1) { valeur déclarée _____ } à l'adresse
 { recommandée _____ }
 susmentionnée et provenant de _____ a été dûment
 livré le _____

Signature du Chef du bureau distributeur,

[Signature]

(1) Nature de l'objet : colis postal, lettre, boîte, échantillon, etc.
 (2) Griffe du bureau d'origine.
 (3) Date du dépôt et numéro d'inscription au registre de dépôt.

L'avis de réception est renvoyé à l'expéditeur par le premier courrier, sous
 enveloppe, comme correspondance ordinaire.

Emp. No. 4-115, Div. A - 1000

1.15 French Indochina A R form returned by air from India (1938)

From about 1935, the option (availability depending on jurisdiction) of returning the AR form or card (almost always the AR card) by air was possible. This required the registered letter to be sent by air, and the additional charge was the air mail fee from the country of origin (in this case, Indochina).


This is the only example known of an AR form returned by air; AR cards returned by air are very uncommon, particularly in the 1930s and 1940s. The left stamp, 18 ctm (of a piastre, pays the AR fee, and the right stamp, 30 ctm, pays the airmail rate from Saigon to (south) India (the opposite direction to that followed by the form). Returned in a covering envelope.


Form. No. 64

C

Avis de Reception
Aviso de Recepción

Timbre de bureau
expéditeur





d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de carta aérea
 de una carta con valor declarado
 d'un objet recommandé (certificada) (1)
 de un objeto certificado
 d'un colis postal
 de una encomienda postal

Euregistré au bureau
registrada en la oficina

de La Paz - 27/10/57 sous le N° 152568 (2)
 de carta bajo el No.
 expédié par M 1- Mr. Ackerman
 expedido por el Sr. California
 (adresse complète) [dirección completa]

Le sousigné déclare El suscrito declara	qu' une lettre avec valeur déclarée que una carta con valor declarado qu' un objet recommandé que un objeto certificado qu' un colis postal que una encomienda postal	à l' adresse a la dirección susmentionnée arriba indicada
--	--	--

et provenant de _____ a été dûment
 y proveniente de _____ ha sido debidamente
 libré le _____ 194 _____

TIMBRE

du bureau

distributeur

Signature (3)

Firma

du destinataire
del destinatario

de l'agent du bureau distributeur
del agente de oficina de distribución

(1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.)
Naturaleza del objeto [carta, muestra, impreso, etc.]

(2) Bureau d'origine, date de dépôt à ce bureau; N° d'enregistrement au même bureau
Oficina de origen; fecha de depósito en esa oficina; No. de registro de la misma oficina.

(3) NOTA.—Cet avis doit être signé par les destinataires ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qui le concerne.
Este aviso debe ser firmado por los destinatarios o si los reglamentos del país de destino se lo acuerdan, por el agente de la oficina de distribución, después de ser cerrado y enviado por el primer correo, a la oficina de origen del objeto a que se refiere.

1.17 Bolivia A R form to US (1959)

A fairly late use of an A R form, although examples exist from the early 1970s. Unsigned and and not postmarked at destination, so either ignored on delivery of the registered item, or the latter was returned to sender. The item referred to is a registered air mail letter. The postage applied is the A R fee, 300 Bolivianos (typically for South American countries, half the registration fee), so the form was not intended to be returned by air.

This form was to be returned in a covering envelope (it's doubtful that any US post office would have an A R covering envelope on hand by this date, so that if the situation arose, a provisional one would have to be made up). There are a few problems with the French text, e.g., *lettre*, *complète*, *sousigné*, backwards apostrophe.

of Vienna (July 1892). For the vast majority of entities, a covering envelope was required.

The fourth column (**stamp >98**) asks the same question, but at the beginning of the Treaty of Washington period (1 January 1899). Invariably, this also applies in the A R card period (mostly from 1921). At the moment, the only country I've found for which the practice pre-Vienna differs from that post-Vienna is Brazil (in this case, stamps on the forms pre-Vienna, stamps on the covers post-Vienna).

The fifth column (**ret'd unregd**) refers to the date at which A R forms began to be returned by nonregistered mail. Initially, they were returned as registered mail (that is, if they required a covering envelope, the latter, enclosing the A R form was sent as registered matter.

1.18 Internationally used A R forms, by entity

Country	type	cover env?	stamp ≤92?	stamp > 98?	ret'd unregd	late use
Argentina	sheet	yes	no	no	≤ 1912	
Australia & states	sheet	yes	yes	yes	> 1916	
Austria, offices, & colonies	sheet	yes	yes	yes	~ 1912	
Belgian Congo	sheet	yes	NA	no	≤ 1919	
Bolivia	sheet	yes	?	yes	> 1912	1970
Br col Ind subcont	sheet	yes	no	no	vary	
Br col eastern Africa	sheet	yes	no	no	vary	
Br col (rest)	sheet	yes	yes	yes	vary	
Brazil	sheet	yes	yes	no	1912	
Bulgaria	sheet	yes	?	yes	?	1949
Canada	b & s ¹	no	yes	yes	1908	1925
Chile	sheet	?	?	no	?	
Colombia	sheet	yes	yes	yes	?	
Cuba	sheet	yes	NA	no	> 1915	
Czechoslovakia	sheet	yes	NA	yes	?	1923
Dominican Republic	?	?	?	yes		
Ecuador	sheet	yes	?	yes	?	
Estonia	sheet	yes	NA	no	?	1922
Federated Malay States (Br)	sheet	yes	NA?	yes	?	
Fernando Pó	?	?	?		1912	
France & colonies	b & s	no	yes	yes	?	
Germany	sheet	x	x	x	x	x
Greece	sheet	yes	?	yes	?	1933
Guatemala	sheet	yes	no	no	?	
Haiti	?	?	?	yes		
Hungary	?	?	?	?	~ 1912	
Indochina (Fr)	sheet	yes	NA	yes	?	1938
Italy	sheet	yes	?	no	?	
Japan	?	?	?	?	≤ 1912	
Korea (Japan occupation)	?	?	NA	?		
Latvia	sheet	yes	NA	yes	?	1925
Luxembourg	c & s ³	no/yes	yes/no	?	?	
Mexico	sheet	yes	yes	yes/no	≤ 1912	
New Zealand	sheet	yes	NA	no	1919	
Nicaragua	sheet	yes	?	yes	≤ 1912	1943
Norway	sheet	yes	?	yes	≤ 1912	
Netherlands	b & s	no/yes	yes	yes	> 1901	
Panama	sheet	yes	NA	no	> 1910	
Persia/Iran	?	?	?	no	?	
Poland	?	?	NA	?	≤ 1912	
Portugal & colonies	sheet	yes	no	yes/no	~ 1912	
Portuguese India	sheet	yes	?	yes	?	1931
Romania	sheet	yes	?	yes	?	1922
Russia	sheet	yes	yes		≤ 1905	
Serbia	sheet	?	yes	yes	?	
Seychelles	bkl	no	prob	?	?	
Spain	?	?	?	?	1912	
Switzerland	?	?	?	?	> 1903	
Uruguay	sheet	?	?	no	≤ 1912	
UK	b, c, & s ²	yes/no ²	yes	yes	1908	
US	sheet	yes	no ⁴	no ⁴	?	

From what I've seen of A R forms, covering envelopes, and A R covers; comments, improvements, and corrections solicited. Some of these are based on the scantiest of evidence.

Explanation of the terms in the table:

type: sheet, booklet, or card. Booklet style refers to four pages, epitomized by domestic French A R forms.

cov env: required covering envelope? If no, the form was returned as a folded letter sheet.

stp ≤ 92?: A R fee paid on the form in the pre-Treaty of Vienna period (1875–30 June 1892)? If not, then fee was applied to the registered letter.

stp > 98?: A R fee paid on the form in the Treaty of Washington period and later (1 January 1899 on)? If not, then fee was applied to the registered letter.

ret'd unreg: earliest year in which A R forms were not returned by registered mail.

N A: A R service not available or entity did not exist in that period.

late use: if after 1921.

¹ Canada's first A R form was bilingual and of booklet type; subsequent ones, single sheets.

² Britain's first A R form was unilingual English and of booklet type; its next two *known* forms are of card, and later ones, of sheet type. Its first form was returned as a folded letter sheet, but all subsequent ones required a covering envelope.

³ There is one use of a card (with stamp) from Luxembourg in 1876, which may be a holdover from pre-U P U; there is an 1883 double foolscap form (without stamp) to be returned under cover.

⁴ Because international A R was a free option on registered letters from the U S until 1925 (so the answer could also have been yes, vacuously), by which time they were using cards (and the stamps paying the A R were then applied to the registered letter).

2 AR covering envelopes

COVERING envelopes were required for those A R forms which were not returnable as folded letter sheets. As with the forms, they come in various shapes, sizes, and colours.



2.1 British official A R covering envelope used at BPO Constantinople (1883; pre-Vienna)

Would have contained a British/BPO A R form, returned to the sender of the original registered letter, in India. Itself sent registered. Earliest reported A R covering envelope for Britain and possessions. Fourth reported use of REGISTERED-LETTER handstamp at BPO Constantinople. No postage was required.



2.2 Provisional A R covering envelope used at Ceylon (1888; pre-Vienna)

Would have contained a British/BPO A R form, returned registered to the sender of the original registered letter, in Berlin. Ms Avis de Reception (upper left). Evidently the Colombo post office did not have an A R covering envelope on hand, so just used an official form that was on hand.



2.3 Russian A R covering envelope to France (1882; pre-Vienna)

Would have contained a French A R form, returned to the sender of the original registered letter. Itself sent registered (Zhakazhnoe). No postage was required.



2.3A Reverse

St Petersburg to Bordeaux via Paris.

We distinguish between the *official* A R covering envelopes, which were specifically printed for this purpose, and *provisional*, which could be official envelopes intended for other purposes, or unofficial envelopes (or even writing paper folded to be an envelope—see Figure 2.16).

Criteria How can we tell if an envelope really is an A R covering envelope? First, if it says something like *Avis de réception on retour* (although not a translation, the corresponding English expression is *returned A R form*), then it is obviously an A R covering envelope. However, some official and most provisional A R covering envelopes do not have this inscription.



2.4 New Zealand A R covering envelope—and its enclosure (1897; Treaty of Vienna)
Contained the New Zealand A R form below, for a registered letter from the U.S. Sent as registered mail.

P.O. No. 17J

NEW ZEALAND.
NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE


ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

of an article registered under No. 24, and addressed to
d'un objet recommandé enregistré sous le No. _____, et adressé à _____

M. J. Guerin at Auckland on the 27 1897.
à _____ le _____ 1897.

The undersigned declares that a registered article addressed as above and received
Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionnée et provenant

from Dayton, Ohio has been duly delivered on the 3rd day of February 1897.
de _____ a été dûment livré le _____ 1897.

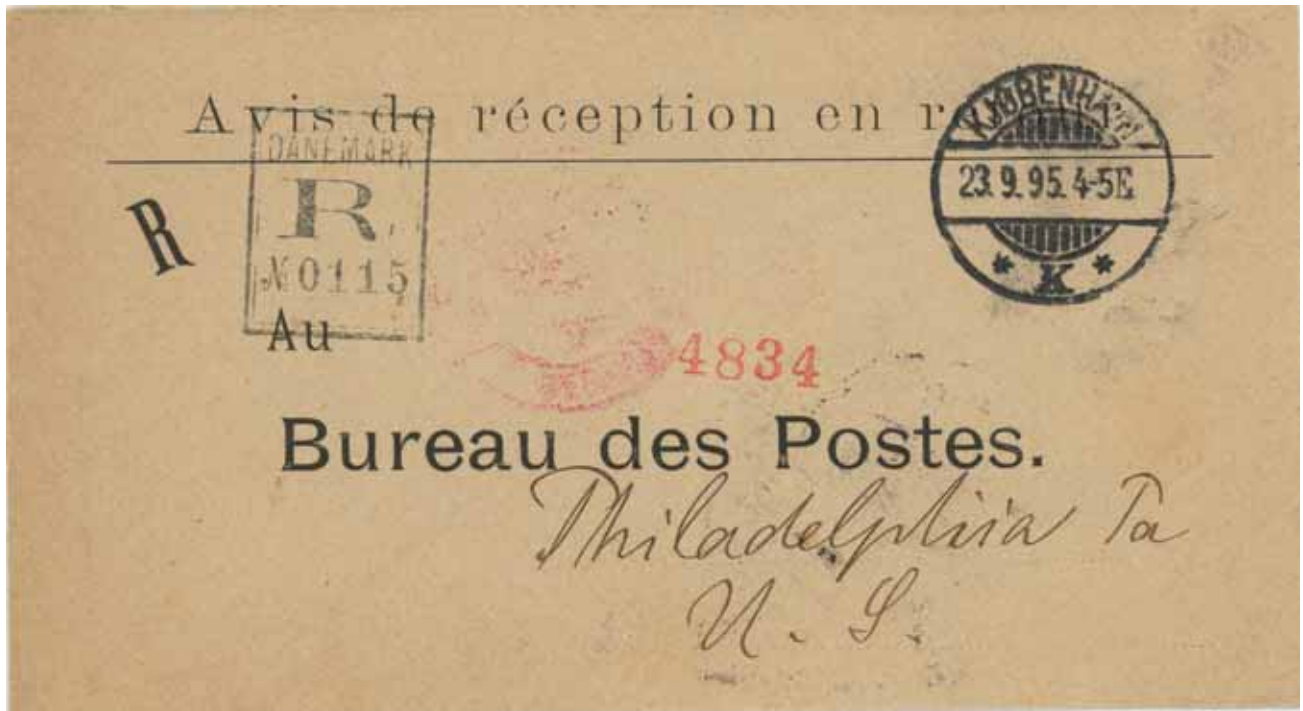
Stamp of the Delivering Office: 	Signature of the Addressee: du Destinataire <u>Thomas Guerin</u>	Signature of the Postmaster at the Office of Delivery: du Chef du Bureau Distributeur: <u>S. B. Ross</u> C.M.
---	---	--

This receipt should be signed by the Addressee and by the Postmaster of the office of
Cet avis doit être signé par le Destinataire et par le Chef du Bureau Distributeur,
delivery, then enclosed in an envelope and forwarded, registered, by first mail, to the office
puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau
of origin of the article to which it refers.
d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

20,000/10/32. [3622]

2.4A New Zealand A R form contained in the preceding covering envelope

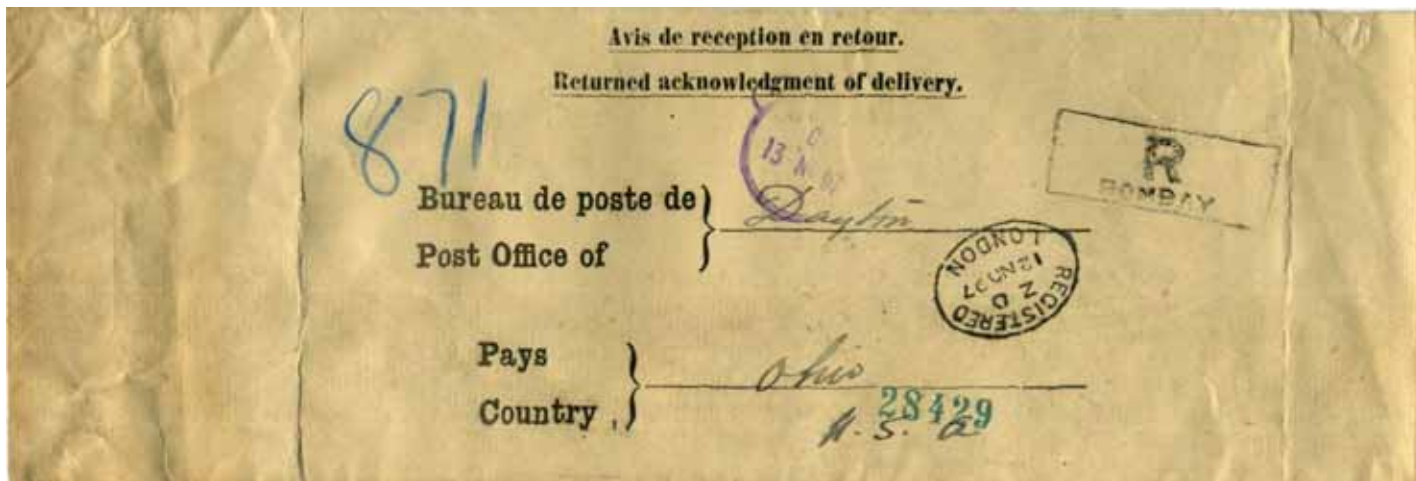
It was for a registered item from Dayton (Ohio). According to the Treaty of Vienna, for *incoming* registered letters marked with A R (or equivalent), the A R form would be prepared in the country of destination. The English language term used here is ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY.



2.5 Denmark A R covering envelope (1897; Treaty of Vienna)
Little Danish A R material exists.



2.6 Cuban A R covering envelope (1895; Treaty of Vienna)
Would have contained a Cuban A R form returned to the sender of the registered letter from the U.S. Sent as registered mail.



2.7 India A R covering envelope (1897; Treaty of Vienna)

A very odd shape. The image is substantially reduced in order to fit on the page. Part of the Dayton correspondence.



2.8 Polish A R covering envelope with amusing spelling error (1912)

Warsaw to Buffalo. Would have contained a U S A R form.

Failing this, it should have properties (a) and (b), and if pre-1922, (c) as well.

- (a) it should have an indication of A R without having been sent with A R (for example, if it were not returned by registered mail, it could not be sent with A R, with the possible exception of insured mail);
- (b) it should not have any stamps on it, since all the fees would have been paid (there are several exceptions to this, for example, when the form is returned by air);
- (c) if pre-1922, it should be addressed to a post office, rather than an individual (even post-1921, it could be addressed to the post office of origin).



2.9 Samoa A R covering envelope (1921)
Using a New Zealand covering envelope; rather late return by registered mail.

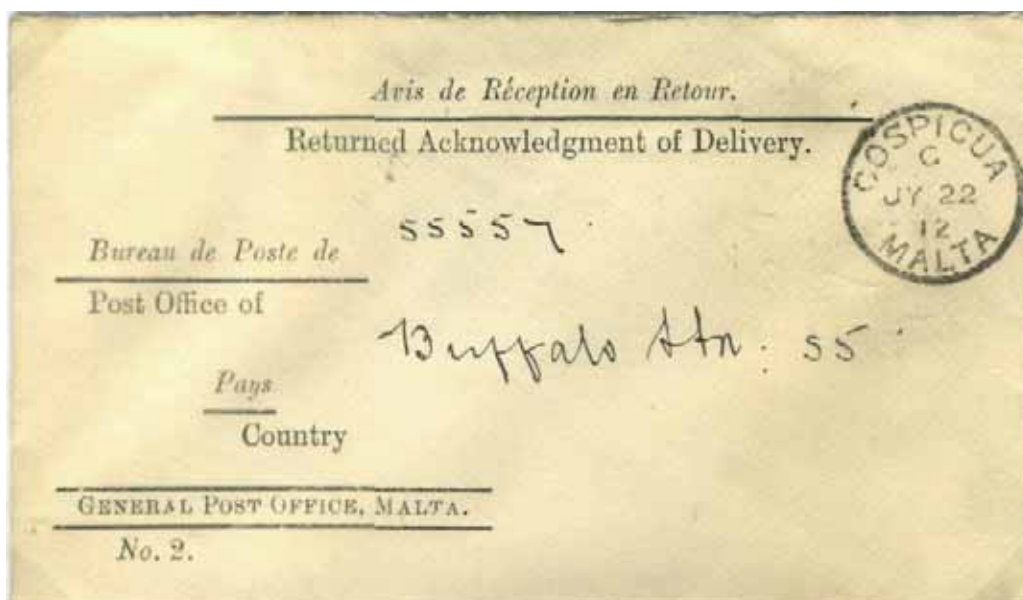


2.10 Provisional turned Czech covering envelope (1924)
From Vejprity to Vienna. Originally an official document (barely visible printing, as well as two datestamps, on the inside).



2.11 Mexico covering envelope (1912)

No printed indication of the origin; fortunately, the blue datestamp says [MEXICO-D. F.](#) Printed in 1907

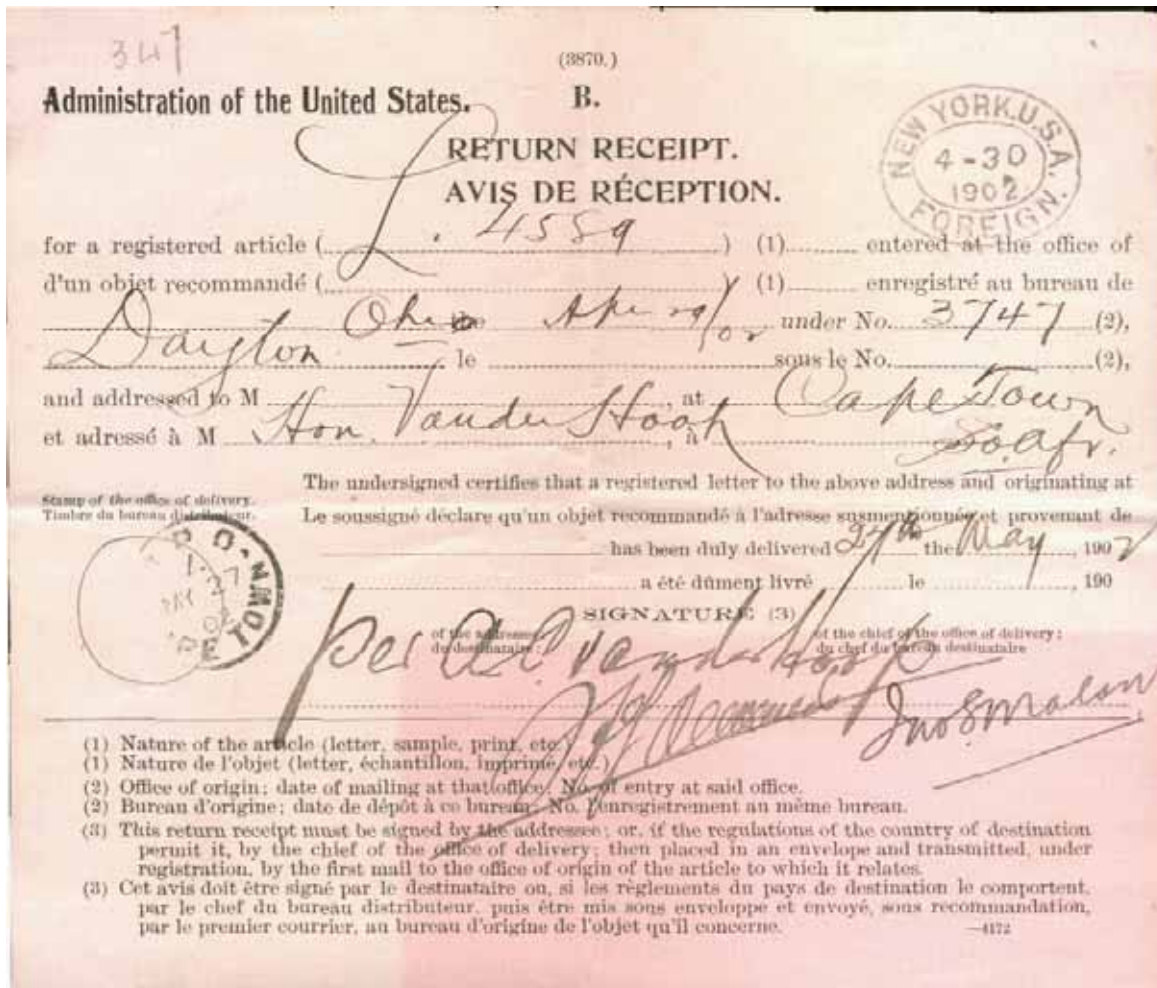


2.12 Malta covering envelope (1912)

If these conditions hold, then it is almost certainly an AR covering envelope. Ideally, the AR form that it contained should also be present, but having both is rare.



2.13 Cape of Good Hope A R covering envelope—and its enclosure (1902; post-Vienna)
 For A R service on a registered letter from the U.S. Sent as registered mail. Enclosed U S A R form, below.



2.13A U S A R form contained in the covering envelope above
 The Treaty of Washington (from 1899) implemented a change of procedure: the A R form was prepared in the country of origin. U S A R forms required covering envelopes. Also from the Dayton correspondence.



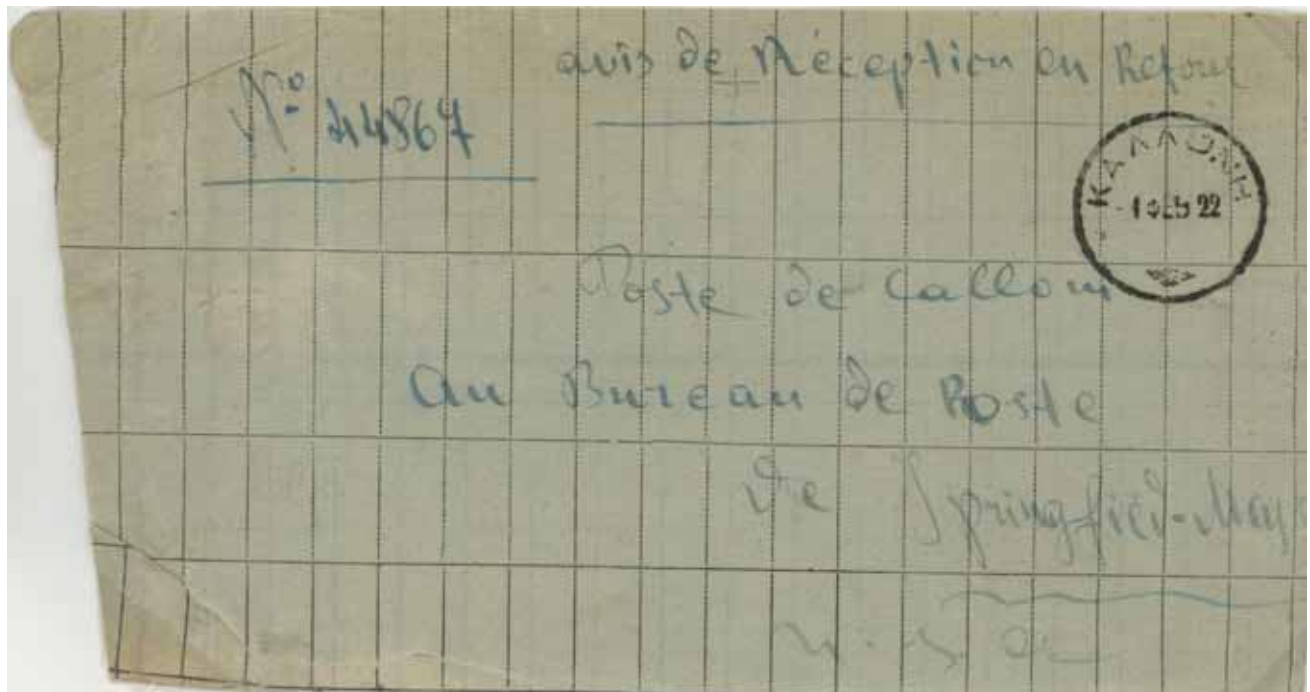
2.17 Fernando Pó A R covering envelopes, registered and unregistered (March & May 1912)
 This is how we know that 1912 is a sharp date for Spain and this tiny entity's shift from returning A R forms as registered matter to returning them as unregistered matter. Such information is not in postal guides; it could only be in notices from post office officials to clerks, something we rarely have access to. Similar pairs (same year) exist for a number of other jurisdictions.



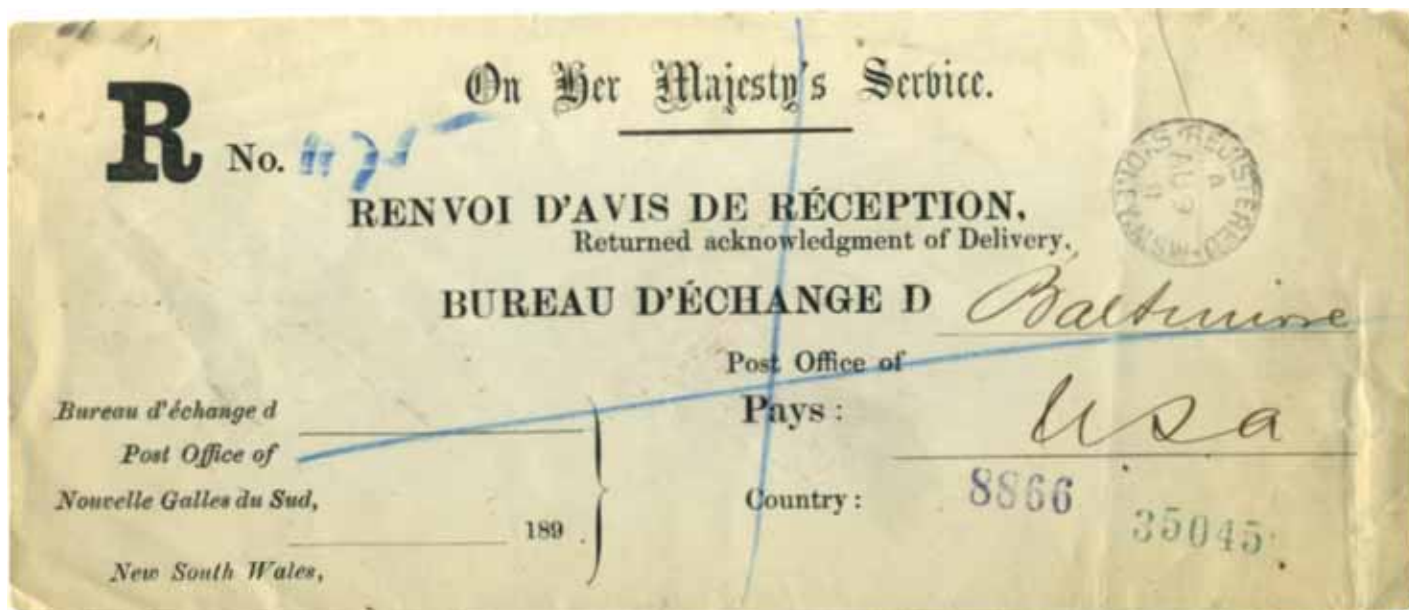
2.17A Fernando Pó unregistered, two months later
 Showing the Spanish registration handstamp and datestamp struck through in red crayon.



2.15 São Tomé (Portuguese West Africa) A R covering envelope (1912)
To Buffalo. Would have contained a U S A R form.

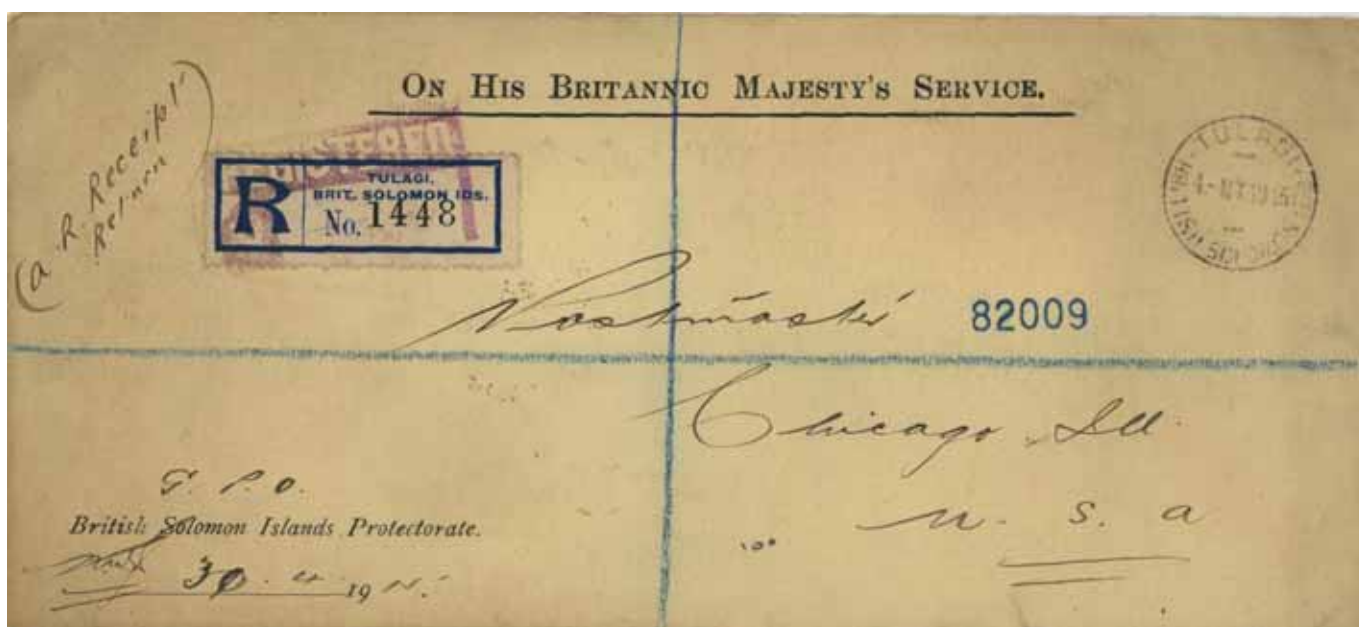


2.16 Very provisional Greek A R covering envelope (1922)
From Kalloni to U S. Ms *avis de Réception en Retour*. Folded lined paper glued to make an envelope. Official Greek covering envelopes are known in this period—but small offices may not have had them. Would have contained a U S A R form.



2.17 New South Wales covering envelope (1901; post-Vienna)

Would have contained a U S A R form.



2.18 Provisional British Solomon Islands covering envelope (1915)

Ms A. R. Receipt Return at upper left. An extremely unlikely country of origin. Returned as registered matter from Tulagi, somewhat late compared to other members of the British Commonwealth and Empire.

Examples from the pre-Vienna period (1875–1892) are really difficult to find.

Although A R cards (resembling post cards) were used internationally by most entities after 1921, a few persisted in using forms; so covering envelopes would have had to have been in stock, at least at the larger offices. Smaller offices would be less likely to have them, and so would have had to create provisional form envelopes, either out of other official envelopes, or out of any envelope lying around (and in some cases, just a folded sheet of writing paper).

In the Treaty of Vienna period, the form was prepared in the destination country, not the country of origin. Figure 2.4 & 2.4A shows a rare pair, consisting of a New Zealand A R form, together with the (official) A R covering envelope that enclosed it.

The Treaty of Washington (in effect from 1 January 1899) altered some A R procedures back to what they had been pre-Vienna. In particular, A R forms were once again prepared in the country of origin of the registered letter. For most countries, they ceased being returned as registered matter sometime in the period 1908–1920 (see table 1.18), although some continued to be registered beyond this point.

Figure 2.13 & 2.13A shows another rare form and covering envelope, this time in the post-Vienna period, from Cape of Good Hope to the U S. Figure 2.17 & 2.17A shows a pair of Fernando Pó covering envelopes, bracketing the changeover from registered to non-registered return of A R forms for this particular entity.

3 A R cards

AROUND late 1921–22, most entities replaced their A R forms by cards, roughly in the shape and thickness of post cards, although they came in various sizes. They could now be returned directly to the sender, rather than to the post office of origin. They were returned by regular mail, not registered. They were sent attached to the registered item: gum, staples, paper clips, thread (popular in the Indian subcontinent) among other means, and sent back without the need of a covering envelope. As with A R forms, any postage stamps on the cards paid the A R fee, not the postcard rate, plus possibly the air mail return fee.



3.1 Austrian A R card to Germany (March 1922)

Printed October 1921, and very early for an international A R card. Typical drab off-yellow card stock for the period. According to the reverse, the card was neither signed nor handstamped in Germany, so presumably the registered letter was not delivered.

One can infer from table 1.18 that some jurisdictions did not immediately switch to A R cards. The U S appears to have switched in late 1922.

In the 1920s, they were usually rather drab (shades of yellow to brown predominate, although

some of this might be the result of browning caused by using heavily sulfurized paper, as was the case for UK). But from about 1930, they generally became much brighter, shades of pink becoming more typical. In the early period, a few countries (Finland and Algeria) used card stock double-sized cards which folded over horizontally (Figure 3.7), while at least one (the Netherlands) used a card that folded over vertically (Figure 3.6).

3.2 Palestine A R card to Germany (1924)

With EEF stamp, paying A R fee of 13 mils; to Linz from Haifa.

3.3 Yemen A R card to Liezen, Austria (1931)

Now pink(ish) card. From Sanaa.

CUSL 58/118534/GD *Peug 10*

N° 515. RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE. Timbre du bureau expéditeur.

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE FRANCE. **AVIS DE RÉCEPTION**

Valeur Déclarée: Trois cent fr. ou soixante francs

d'une lettre *avec valeur déclarée de* } enregistré au bureau
 d'un objet recommandé }
 de PARIS 108 4927 le 29.10.34 sous le n° 239 (2)

Accusé de Réception.

expédié par M Maurice Rueff & Cie, Paris
 et adressé à M ADAME OZV, TOTH JANCSE BLASZLISZKA ZEMPLEN MEBYE
 (adresse complète) HONGRIE

Timbre du bureau distributeur. Le soussigné déclare qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée } à l'adresse susmen-
 qu'un objet recommandé } a été dûment
 tionnée et provenant de }
 livré le *[Signature]* Signature (3) de l'agent du bureau distributeur.
M. T. Jánosné

(1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.).
 (2) Bureau d'origine, date de dépôt à ce bureau, numéro d'enregistrement au même bureau.
 (3) Nota. Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur ou envoyé ensuite par le premier courrier, directement à l'adresse indiquée au recto.

3.4 France A R card to Hungary (1934)

France also used pink cards. This particular one was used for an insured parcel (*valeur déclarée*), rather than a registered letter. Sloppy use of *Accusé de Réception* by sender.

16. 2da 21 Υποδ. 3?

ΑΒΛΗΝΕΣ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΕΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΩΝ ΤΑΧΥΔΕΛΤΙΩΝ

AVIS DE RECEP
 (ἀπόδειξις παραλαβῆς)

POSTES HELLENIQUES

Envoi Recommandé, N°.....
 Colis ou mandat de poste.
 (Συστημένον ἀντικείμενον — δέμα ἢ ταχ. ἐπιταγή.)

Déposé le *27 Janvier 1939* au bureau de poste de

(Κατατεθῆν την... εις τὸ ταχ.....).



et Adressé à *Messieurs R. Kubiszak & Co 9 B & Maloskuber Paris à Paris & Pays France*
 (Διευθυνσις παραλήπτου)

Envoyez à *Monsieur Jean Katsimanga*
 Adresse *Larion*
 à *Grèce*
 (Όνομα καὶ δ/σις τοῦ ἀποστολέως).

8 ΔΡΑΧΜΑΝ 8

3.5 Greece A R card to Paris (1939)

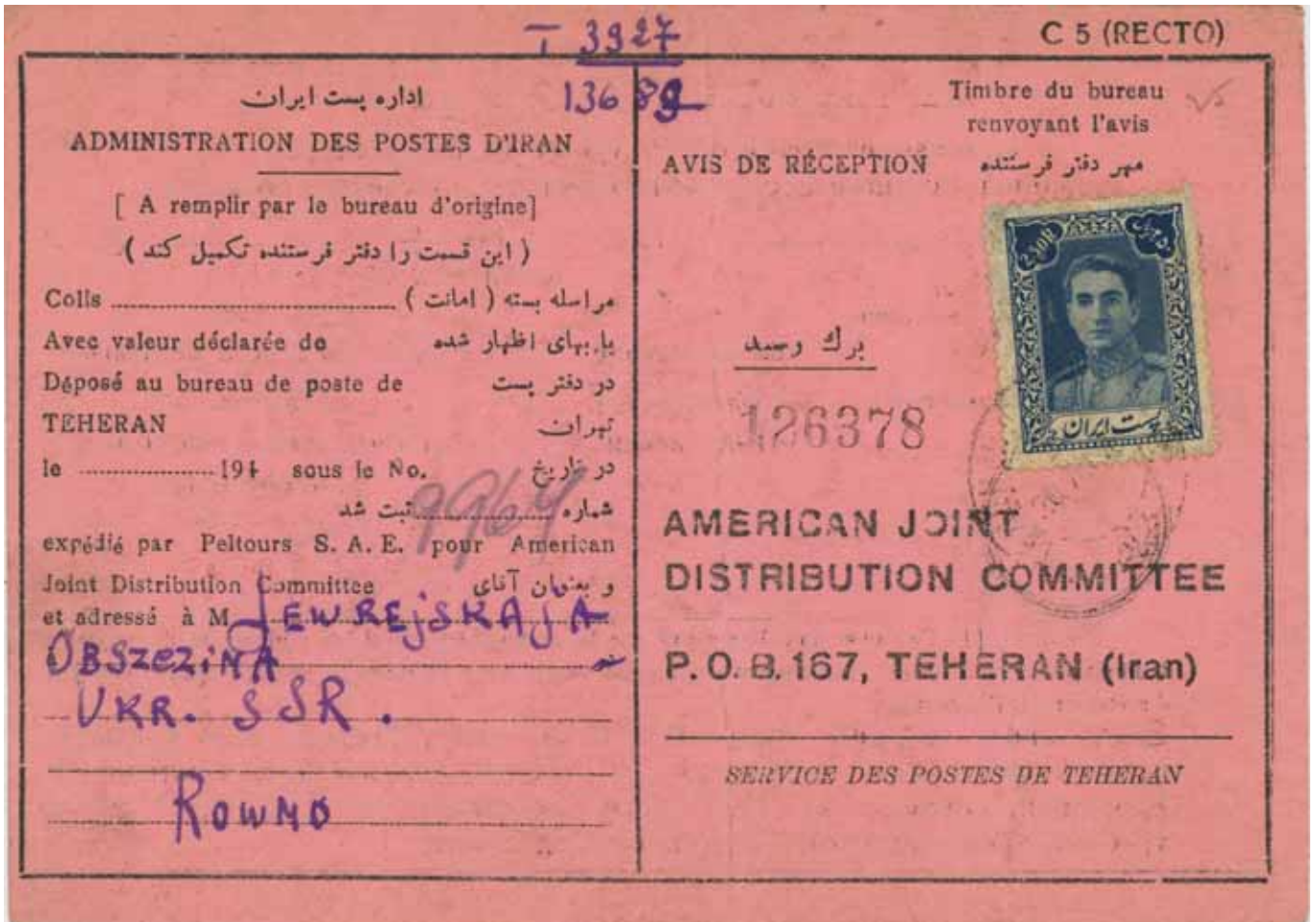
A R fee of 8 Drachma paid by stamp.

<p style="text-align: center;">ADMINISTRATIE DER NEDERLANDSCHE POSTERIJEN.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DES PAYS-BAS.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">C</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">BERICHT VAN ONTVANGST AVIS DE RÉCEPTION</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Kantoor van oorsprong.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Timbre du bureau expéditeur.</p>
<p>van een brief met aangegeven waarde van d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de</p>		
<p>van een aangeteeekend stuk (1)</p>	<p>(2)</p>	<p>d'un objet recommandé <i>lettre</i> (1)</p>
<p>van een postpakket</p>		<p>d'un colis postal</p>
<p>ingeschreven ten kantore te enregistré au bureau de</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>U. Gravenhage Conradskade</i></p>		
<p>den / le <i>24^e maart 1923</i> onder nr / sous le numéro <i>91</i> (2)</p>		
<p>afgezonden door <i>Couwee</i> expédié par M. <i>den Haag</i></p>		
<p>en geadresseerd aan (volledig adres) et adressé à M. (adresse complète)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fraul. Lucie Schneider Köln</i></p>		
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">DE ONDERGETEEKENDE</p> <p>verklaart, dat een brief met aangegeven waarde dat een aangeteeekend stuk dat een postpakket aan het bovenvermeld adres en afkomstig van</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">LE SOUSSIGNÉ DÉCLARE</p> <p>qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée qu'un objet recommandé qu'un colis postal à l'adresse susmentionnée et provenant de</p>	
<p>behoorlijk is afgeleverd den <i>Lucie Schneider</i> a été dûment livré le</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">* HANDTEEKENING</p> <p>van den geadresseerde: du destinataire:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">* SIGNATURE</p> <p>v. d. ambtenaar v. h. kantoor v. bestemming: de l'agent du bureau distributeur:</p>	
<p>* NOTA. Dit bericht moet door den geadresseerde, of, indien de reglementen van het land van bestemming dit medebrengen, door den ambtenaar van het kantoor van bestemming geteeekend en voorts met de eerste postgelegenheid, rechtstreeks teruggezonden worden aan het aan de keerzijde vermelde adres.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Kantoor van bestemming.</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Timbre du bureau distributeur.</p> </div>	<p>* NOTA. Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur, et renvoyé ensuite, par le premier courrier, directement à l'adresse indiquée au recto.</p>
<p>(1) Aard van het stuk (brief, monster, drukwerk, enz.) (2) Kantoor van oorsprong, datum van terpostbezorging, nr van inschrijving.</p>	<p>(1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.). (2) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; n° d'enregistrement au même bureau.</p>	
<p>Model nr. 209. L. 373. 1922.</p>		

3.6 Netherland A R vertically foldable card to Cologne (March 1923)
Probably intended to be returned sealed. Finland also used this style. Netherlands A R material is extremely difficult to find. There is a year error (1922) in the Cöln datestamp (reads 26 3 22).



3.7 Tunisia horizontally foldable A R card to Paris (1939)
 Sealable card (left and right edges gummed). From la Pêcherie to Toulon. A R fee paid by 1 Franc stamp.



3.8 Iran A R card to Ukrainian SSR (1946)
 A R fee paid by 2.5 rial stamp.

Returned by Air Mail

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
CAN

office of origin
bureau d'origine

ENTER/Enregistrer

PAR

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

Date stamp of office of origin
Timbre du bureau d'origine

6 CENTS 6 CENTS

10 CENTS 10 CENTS

RETURN TO
Retournez à

J.A. SPARROW

2610-15th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. CALGARY ALTA

STREET AND NUMBER
Rue et numéro

(1) PLACE OF DESTINATION
Lieu de destination

(1) IN PRINTED CHARACTERS
En gros caractères

FEB 23 1939
CENTRAL CANADA

VIA AIR MAIL

3.9 Canadian A R card returned from US by air (1939)

Stamps pay 10¢ Canadian A R fee and 6¢, the Canadian airmail fee to the US (even though the card was going from the US to Canada by air). An extremely early airmail A R card, and the earliest Canadian one reported. Properly signed and datestamped on reverse.

Q-9

POSTES ET TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS
SERVICE DES POSTES

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

VIETNAM GIANG HOA
BUU CHINH
4

1960

(A remplir par le bureau d'origine)

Envoi recommandé (Lettre) (1) (2)

Lettre { R

Boîte { avec valeur déclarée de (2)

Colis {

Mandat de poste de (2)

déposé au bureau de poste de Saigon

le 11-3-1960 sous le N° 563

expédié par M. M.S.R.M. AL. Muthupalanippu

et adressé à M. A. ALS. Chokkalina

à M. G. Street KILASAVALPATTI

Ramadur S. India

(1) Indiquer dans la déclaration le nature de l'objet,
lettre, boîte, échantillon, colis postal, etc...

(2) Biffer les indications inutiles

MR. M.S.R.M. AL. Muthupalanippu
114, Buiy Pasteur,
à SAIGON. (Vietnam)

(Lieu de destination en gros caractères)

(Rue et numéro)

VIET-NAM

3.10 Vietnam A R card returned from south India by air (1960)

Airmail fee paid by 1 Franc stamp. fill me in check air rates

Mod. 23-E (Ediz. 1928).

(RECTO)

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES D'ITALIE (*)
AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE POSTE D'ITALIA

Envoi recommandé (paeco) (Pacco)
Invio raccomandato

Colis (Pacco)
Lettera-Boîte-Colis
Lettera-Scatoletta-Pacco

avec valeur déclarée de _____
con valore dichiarato di _____

Mandat de poste de _____
Vaglia postale di _____

enregistré au bureau de poste de Trieste 8
registrato all'ufficio postale di _____

le _____ sous le N° 580
il _____ sotto il N° _____

expédié par M. G. Jadronja
spedito dal Sig. _____

et adressé à M. Konestabo Ana
e indirizzato al Sig. _____

à (a) Megorje 6 - p. Obrov
Slov. primorje

(*) La recto est à remplir par l'Office d'origine.
La parte anteriore del modulo deve essere riempita dall'Amministrazione d'origine.
(*) Nature de l'envoi (lettre, imprimé, etc.).
Natura dell'invio (lettera, stampa, ecc.).

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
RICEVUTA DI RITORNO

AVIS DE F
AVVISO DI F

Timbre
Bol

AGENZIA MARITTIMA - SPE
G. JADRONJA
TRIESTE

Via Mazzini 30 - Telefono 40-09 Interno 1.

TRIESTE
(Lieu de destination)
(Luogo di destinazione)

SERVICE
SERVIZIO
DES POSTES
POSTALE

T.L.T.
(Pays de destination)
(Stato di destinazione)

(*) A remplir par l'expéditeur.
Da riempirsi dal mittente.

Ver. Ric. 1
N. 126/157

3.11 Italian A R card printed in 1928 and used in 1950

Returned from Obrov (Slovenia) to Trieste; for an uninsured parcel. Stamp overprinted AMG-FTT pays the 55 Lira A R fee.

(VERSO)

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part
Il sottoscritto dichiara che l'invio retro indicato

a été dûment livré le 05.05.50
è stato regolarmente consegnato il 05.05.50

Timbre du bureau destinataire
Bollo dell'ufficio destinatario

Signature (*)
Firma

du destinataire:
del destinatario:

de l'agent du bureau destinataire:
dell'impiegato dell'ufficio destinatario:

(*) 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.
Questo avviso deve essere firmato dal destinatario o, se i regolamenti del paese di destinazione lo ammettono, dall'impiegato dell'ufficio destinatario e rinviato col primo corriere direttamente al mittente.

Ord. 572 - (1928) - Roma, 1928 - Anno VI - 214-b. Poligr. Anon. Stata.



(Duplicate)
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

STAMP OF OFFICE OF ORIGIN
 Timbre du bureau expéditeur

"ORIGINAL" REGISTERED No. } 422-
 Numéro original de recommandation

DATE OF POSTING } 15th Novem^r 1926
 Date du dépôt

RETURN TO M } J. G. Dubé
 Retourner à

45 Carou St -
Quebec
 PLACE - Endroit

Post OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA.
 Administration des postes, Canada.
 39 B-150,000-11-9-25

Canada
 COUNTRY - Pays

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF POSTS
 FEB 4 1927

3.12 Duplicate Canadian A R card returned from US (1927)

Ms *duplicate* at top, and with no postage stamp applied (Canada required that the A R fee be paid on the card, not the cover). When an A R card was sent out but not returned, a duplicate would be prepared at the request of the sender (with no additional fee), typically at the office of origin. In this case, the card refers to a registered letter dated 15 November 1926. The card is date stamped 4 February 1927. It was properly signed, and delivery date of 18 November is given for the registered letter.

DUPLICATE ADVICE OF DELIVERY
 Form 2865
 Post Office Department, United States of America
 Administration des Postes des États-Unis D'Amérique

Return Receipt
 Avis de réception

Stamp of office requesting this receipt
 Timbre du bureau expéditeur de l'avis

Registered article } Letter (1)
 Envoi recommandé } Seattle Wash.

mailed at (déposé au bureau de poste de)
12-17-34 - 1337
 on (le) under No. (sous le No.)

M } Postmaster
 sent by (expédié par)

M } Papeete Tahiti
 and addressed to (et adressé à)

at } Papeete Tahiti
 d }

¹ Nature of article, if registered (letter, print, etc.). If article is insured, cross out the word "Registered" and insert "Insured" before the word "article." S'il s'agit d'un envoi avec valeur déclarée, biffez le mot "recommandé" et insérez "avec valeur déclarée" après le mot "Envoi."

Return to } John G. Walker
 Renvoyez à }
 Street Address or } 1106 - Pine St
 Rue et Numéro ou }
 P. O. Box No. }
 Boîte Postale No. }

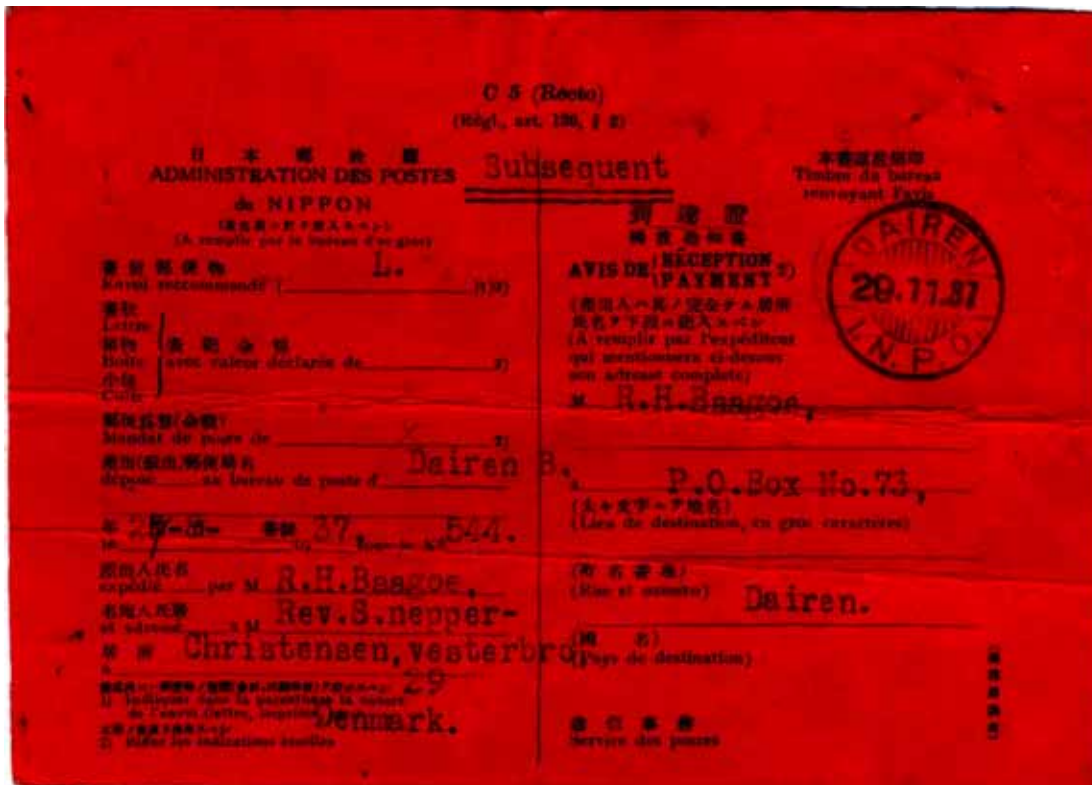
Post Office at } Dis. Wash.
 Bureau de Poste de }
 State }
 Etat de }

OFFICE OF CHIEF P.O. INSPECTOR
 14

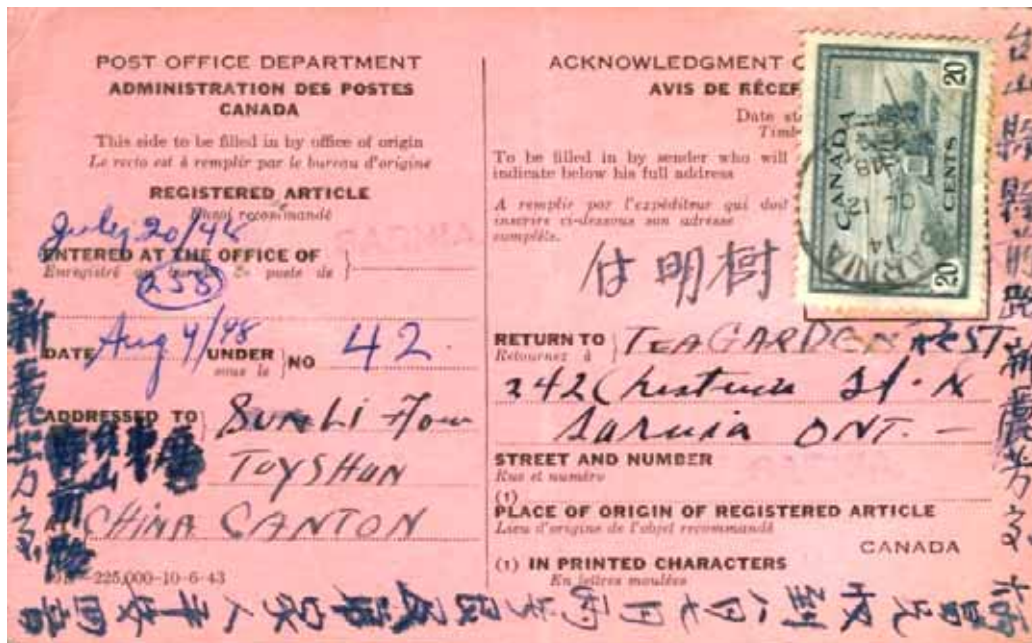
5-4183
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 États-Unis d'Amérique

3.13 Duplicate US A R card returned from Tahiti (1934)

The registered letter was mailed from Seattle 17 December 1934, and according to the reverse, it was delivered 29 December. Although there is no indication of when the card was *sent*, it was received in Papeete on 16 March 1935. The card was prepared by a senior postal official Washington DC.



3.14 **Subsequent** Japan-occupied China A R card returned from Denmark to Dairen (1937) *After-the-fact* A R card. Original registered letter was *delivered* 11 September 1937; this card was sent from Dairen (now Dalian) 29 November 1937, two months later. Signed at Aalborg 14 January 1938. Dairen had become a Japanese office (formerly Chinese) the month of mailing. Japan and China both used **bright red** A R cards. Postage was apparently paid in cash, since there are no stamps on the card, and there was no registered letter on which to put the stamps!

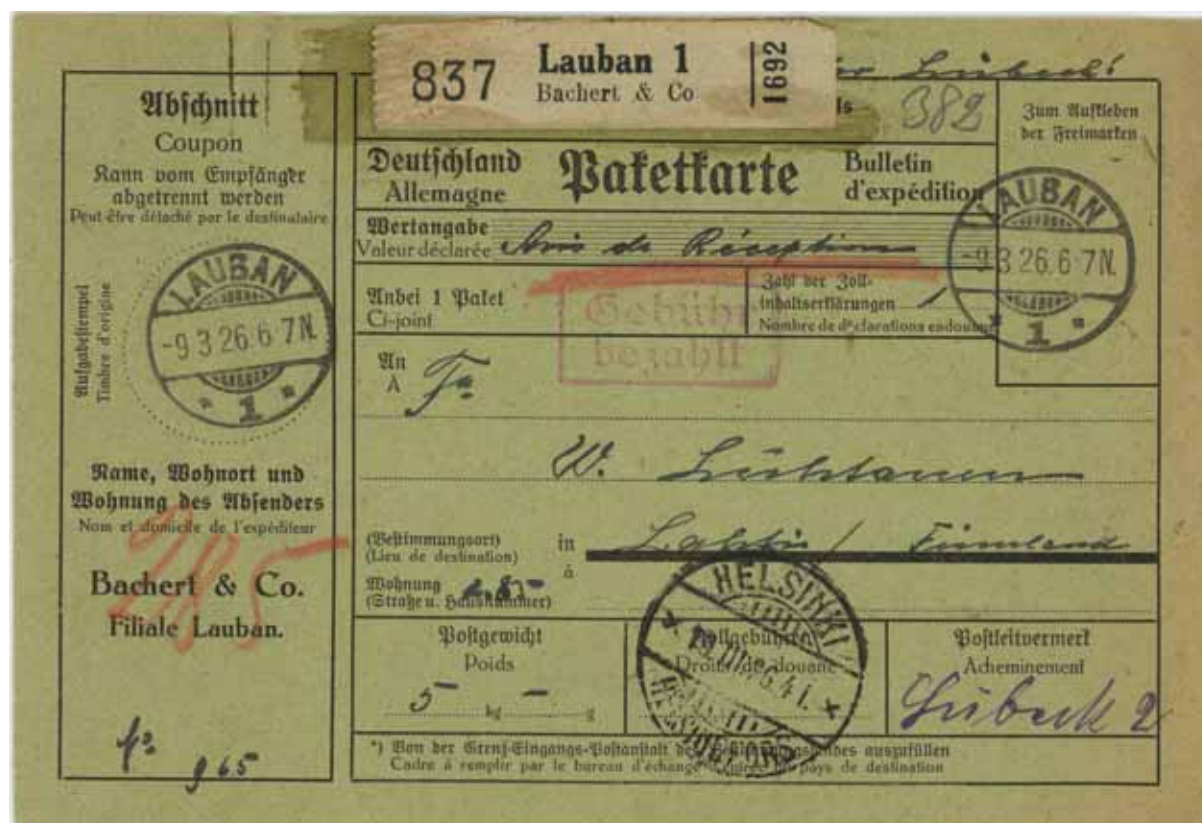


3.15 **Subsequent** Canadian A R card returned from China (1948) *After-the-fact* A R card, as indicated by 20¢ fee (ordinary A R fee was 10¢ at this time). Two registered letters were mailed 20 July and 4 August; this card was sent from Sarnia (ON) to Toyshun 12 December, but was returned unsigned. This is the only A R card I've seen that concerned two registered letters. Characters around the border say that the letter writer (owner of the typical Chinese restaurant in a Canadian town) and his family are fine.



3.16 Non-registered uninsured parcel post sent with A R from Germany to Finland (1926)
 Some jurisdictions permitted A R internationally on this type of mail. Properly signed and date stamped on reverse. The parcel card (despatch note/*bulletin d'expédition*) is shown below.

This German A R card was printed 9/21 (lower right), September 1921, about the same time as many other jurisdictions (October is also seen), and is thus the first printing. Unusually for this period, in pink(ish).



3.16A German parcel card for the package sent with A R (card above)

Postage paid in cash (*Gebühr bezahlt*). The etiquette is *not* a registration label. Both cards refer to #837. Via Lübeck from Lauban. Attached using paper clip (rust stains correspond).

C
(Anverso)
(Recto)

FORMA 425

ADMINISTRACION DE CORREOS
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES

de Ciudad Obregon, Son. (1)

Envío certificado (2) 5a

Bulto

Carta Caja Bulto
Letra Bulto Celia

con valor declarado de

Giro postal de

registrado en la oficina de aduanas de Ciudad Obregon, Son. con el número 640

expedido por el señor A. Kux

y dirigido al señor San Diego Calaf

(1) El anverso lo llenará la Administración de origen.
(2) La recta es a remplir par l'Office d'origine

(2) Naturaleza del envío (carta, impreso, etc.)
(2) Nature de l'envoi (lettres, imprimés, etc.)

ACUSE DE RECIBO
AVIS DE RECEPTION

AVISO DE PAGO
AVIS DE PAYERMENT

Sello de la Oficina
También un sello
del remitente del envío
expéditeur de l'envoi

CD. OBREGON, SON.

Andres Kux
Apto. 175

Ciudad Obregon, Son.

(Lugar de destino)
(Lieu de destination)

SERVICIO DE
SERVICE DES
CORREOS
POSTES

(Pais de destino)
(Pays de destination)

(1) Lo llenará el remitente
(1) A remplir par l'expéditeur

3.17 Non-registered uninsured parcel post sent with A R from Mexico to US (1933)
Shows reverse of Mexican A R card; accompanies the customs declaration tag below. Somewhat larger format A R card.

Forma 432.

DECLARACION ADUANAL
BULTOS POSTALES ENTRE MEXICO Y

Descripción del bulto	CONTENIDO	PESO		VALOR		BULTO POSTAL NUM.
		K.	G.	\$	Cs.	
Paquete	1-Cinto de Cuero	0.	220			
	AR					
	Total			\$	2.00	

Nombre y dirección del remitente } ANDRES KUX - Apto. 175
Cd. Obregon, Sonora, Mex.

Fecha de depósito Oct. 9. de 1932

Sello fechador de la Oficina de procedencia

3.17A Accompanying customs declaration tag
Parcel cards were not used between Mexico and the US. Packet contained a leather belt.

Initially, the cards were stamped in an amount to pay the A R fee—but not if the entity required the A R fee to be paid on the registered item. There are a few exceptions to this.

After-the-fact or subsequent A R service

If a registered letter were mailed without A R service, then after it was mailed, it was possible to send a subsequent A R card; this was permitted from 1 January 1899 (first day of effectiveness of the Treaty of Washington), so after-the-fact forms also were possible (but rare). In this case, the subsequent service fee was to be applied to the card, although there is evidence that in a few jurisdictions, it could be paid in cash. Initially, the fee for subsequent A R service was the same as that for the usual A R service, but most countries had begun to charge a supplementary fee by the 1920s. Figures 3.14 & 3.15 show examples; these are rare, for the most part (rarity varies with the country of origin).

For some jurisdictions, after-the-fact and *réclamation* (the latter being an inquiry into the fate of a registered letter) were regarded as the same, and the forms and fees were identical. Others had different forms and fees.

Return by air

Beginning about 1938, many countries offered a return by air service: if the registered item were sent airmail, the sender could have the A R card returned by air; there was an additional charge. This air mail fee was (usually) paid in stamps on the A R card. These are difficult to find. A very rare and early (1939) Canadian example is shown in Figure 3.9.

Return by registered mail

A R forms, whether as folded letter sheets, or enclosed in covering envelopes, were initially returned as registered mail. Canada and the UK stopped registering them in 1908, as is the case for some entities. But other countries ceased at different dates, and practically everyone had done so by 1922. Still the odd registered A R form turns up after this date. Almost no A R cards are known returned by registered mail, the few exceptions likely a result of clerical confusion.

Duplicate or replacement A R forms & cards

If an A R form or card arrived damaged at the destination office, or the registered item was marked A R (or equivalent), and there was no form or card attached, then the destination office was supposed to prepare a replacement form or card. Similarly, if no form or card was received back after a sufficiently long time, a replacement card (often marked *duplicate*) was sent out from the office of origin. No additional fees were required. The latter could also happen in the Treaty of Vienna period (1892–98). Examples are, needless to say, rare (Figures 3.12 & 3.13).

Long delay between printing and use

Generally, A R was not used much. Forms and cards could sit in the post office for decades before they were used. This is especially true in small offices, which were not regularly supplied with the latest postal forms of any type. So delays of a decade between printing date and actual use occur. A 22-year delay (including the second world war) is illustrated in Figure 3.11.

With non-registered material

Some countries permitted insured (non-registered) material to be sent with A R and some even permitted parcel post (even uninsured and unregistered) with A R. An example is shown in Figure 3.16 & 3.16A.

4 A R covers

THE cover or package for which A R service was requested (and paid for) is called an A R *cover*. In the pre-UPU period, it may be very difficult to decide whether A R service applied, since there was no requirement for the cover to be so marked. However, in countries such as Germany, Austria, France, US, which had had robust domestic A R services preceding the UPU (in the case of Austria, going back to 1806), it was traditional for the sender to mark it on the cover (respectively, *Rückschein*, *Retour Receptisse*, *avis de réception*, *return receipt demanded*). In the UPU period, we occasionally see some of these terms marked on the stamp paying the A R fee.



4.1 Russian A R cover to Serbia (1880; pre-Vienna)

From St Petersburg to Nissi. Very unusually, with an *Avis de reception* (no accent) handstamp, as well as what is (almost) the US term *Retur receipt*. Postage of 7 kopecs for each of registration, UPU rate, and A R.

In the pre- and post-Vienna periods, it was up to the individual jurisdiction to decide whether to place the stamps paying the A R fee on the (registered/insured) item, or on the A R form or card. The table (Figure 1.18) gives some indication of which countries did what, although in many cases, the evidence is flimsy. In the Vienna period, practically all jurisdictions had the stamps paying the A R fee on the cover.

In any event, if a cover was sent with A R in the pre-Vienna period, and there were no markings to indicate this (as was frequently the case), how could we identify it? Perhaps by rate, if the country was one of those that placed the A R fee payment on the cover—but this is not conclusive, since there may be other means of explaining the postage. The only alternative is the relatively rare phenomenon, that the A R form is available; this can happen when the reg-



4.2 German A R cover to Paris (1880)

From Freiberg. The term *Eingeschrieben gegen Rückschein* (written in surprisingly readable script) was used in Germany from the inception of A R service there, in the 1830s. Postage of 20 Pfennig for each of registration and U P U rate; at this time, apparently, the A R fee was paid on the form. However (see the section on Germany), this seemed to change at least twice during the pre-Vienna period.



4.3 Russian Poland A R cover to UK (1891)

At lower left, *avec retour resepsise*, misspelling the Austrian term in use from 1806 *Retour Recepisse* (no accents). Rated 70 kopeks, made up of quintuple U P U rate (at 10 k per 15 g) and 10 k for each of registration and A R. From Warsaw to Exeter, and one of three known incoming A R covers to UK in the pre-Treaty of Vienna period. Nine wax seals on reverse.



4.4 German A R cover to Italy (1886)

Slightly different *Einschreiben & gegen Rueckschein*. Postage of 20 Pfennig for each of registration, U P U rate, and A R fees; at this time, apparently, the A R fee was paid on the cover. (This could possibly be double weight with A R fee paid on the form; however, contemporary German forms do not have any stamps applied, unlike those slightly earlier and slightly later.)



4.5 German A R cover to Uruguay (1890)

With ms *Avis de réception*. Postage of 20 Pfennig for each of registration and U P U rates; this time, the A R fee was paid on the form. Ms *feo* (franco) at lower left, a leftover from an earlier period indicating the recipient does not have to any postage.



4.6 Brazil A R cover to Belgium (4 July 1892; very early in Treaty of Vienna period)

How do we know this is an A R cover? There is no indication on the cover. But we have the A R form below, and both refer to registration #1523. The form was sent attached to the cover, and apparently ignored and delivered unsigned (we would also recover the A R form with the cover if the latter were returned to sender, but there is no indication of this).

Rated 900 Reis, likely double surcharged 300 Rs per 15 g, 200 Rs registration, and 100 Rs A R fee. The Treaty of Vienna became effective 1 July 1892, just three days before this cover was mailed.

MODELO N. 154

Direction Générale des Postes du BRÉSIL

Administration de Rio de Janeiro

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

d'une lettre assurée
 d'un objet recommandé

enregistré sous le N° 1523 et adressé à

M. P. A. Tonnaert à Courtrai le 4 Juillet 1892

Le soussigné déclare qu'une lettre assurée à l'adresse susmentionnée
 qu'un objet recommandé

et provenant de St. Leopoldo a été dûment
 livré le _____ 18____

Tinhes du bureau distributeur

Tinhes du bureau distributeur

SIGNATURE (*)

du destinataire

du chef du bureau distributeur

(*) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis mis sous enveloppe et renvoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier.

4.6A Corresponding Brazilian A R form

The A R form attached to the cover above. It was prepared in Brazil (country of origin), in contravention of the Vienna treaty, and there was no indication of A R on the cover, also contravening it. This may be attributable to the treaty becoming effective only three days earlier.



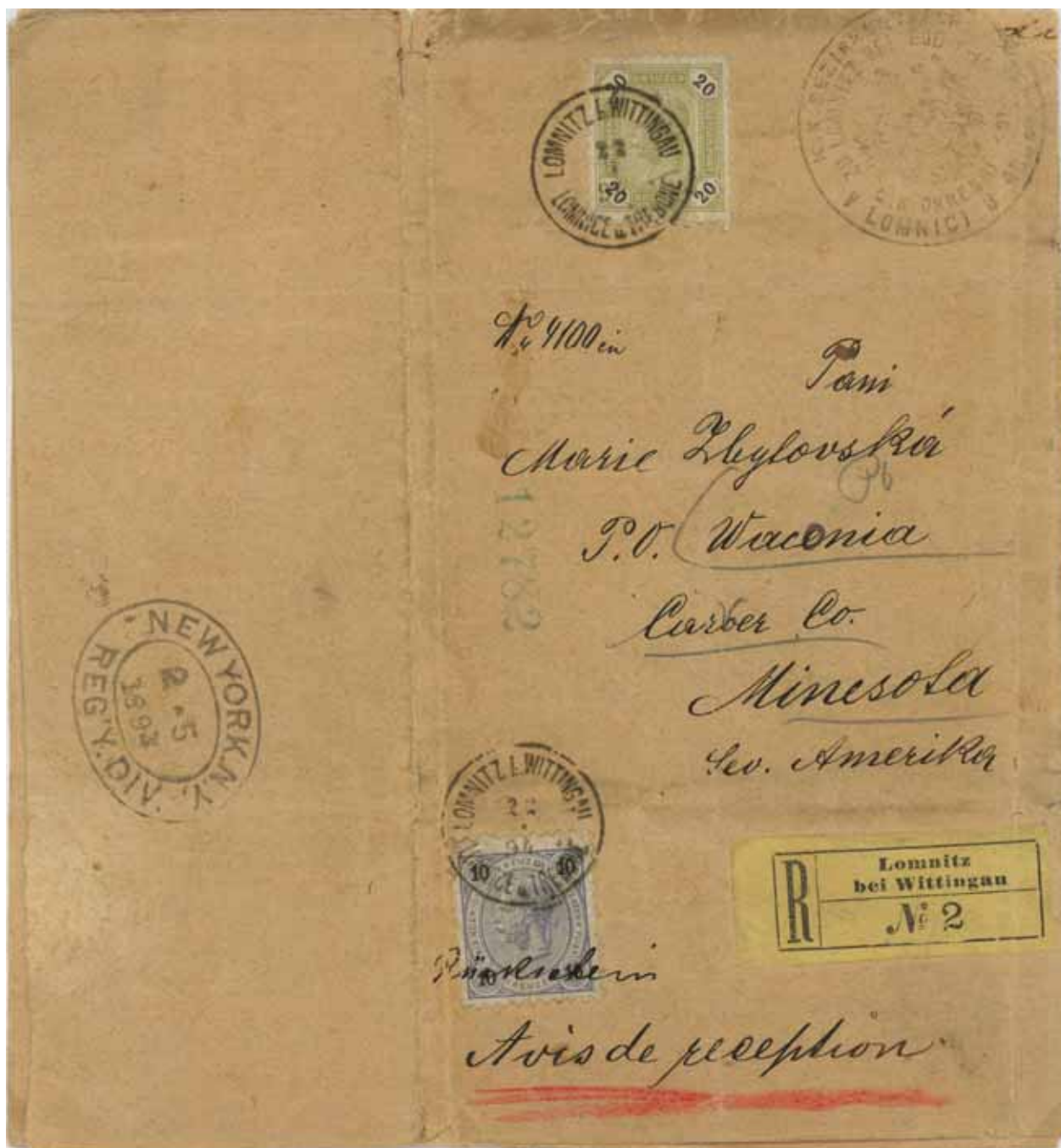
4.7 UK to New York (December 1892)

Fewer than ten UK AR covers are known in the nineteenth century, and this is the earliest reported. Rated 7d made up of 2d registration, and 2½d for each of U P U and AR fees. UK was one of very few entities whose registration fee was exceeded by its international AR fee. The oval AR handstamp style was in used for many decades.



4.8 Canada AR cover to US with registered letter stamp (1893)

Five non-philatelic Canadian AR covers are known to 1898; this is the earliest, and the only one with an RLS. The RLS was not compulsory on registered covers at this time, and could only be used to pay registration. The A-R handstamp style was in use in Canada till at least the 1950s. Rated 5¢ registration and AR fees, and 3¢ rate to US.



4.9 Austrian Bohemia A R cover to U S (1894; Treaty of Vienna period)

We see *Rückschein* or *avis de réception* occasionally on Austrian stamps, as here. Rated 30 Kreuzer, as 10 Kr for each of registration, U P U rate, and A R fee.





4.10 Spain A R cover to US (1896)

With sender's *accuses réception* [sic], orange crayon *AR*, and ms *ar* on the 10 centimos stamp. With postage totalling 60 cmos, made up of 26 cmos for each of registration and U P U rates, and 10 cmos A R fee. **London** red oval registration datestamp. It is very difficult to find early Spanish A R material.



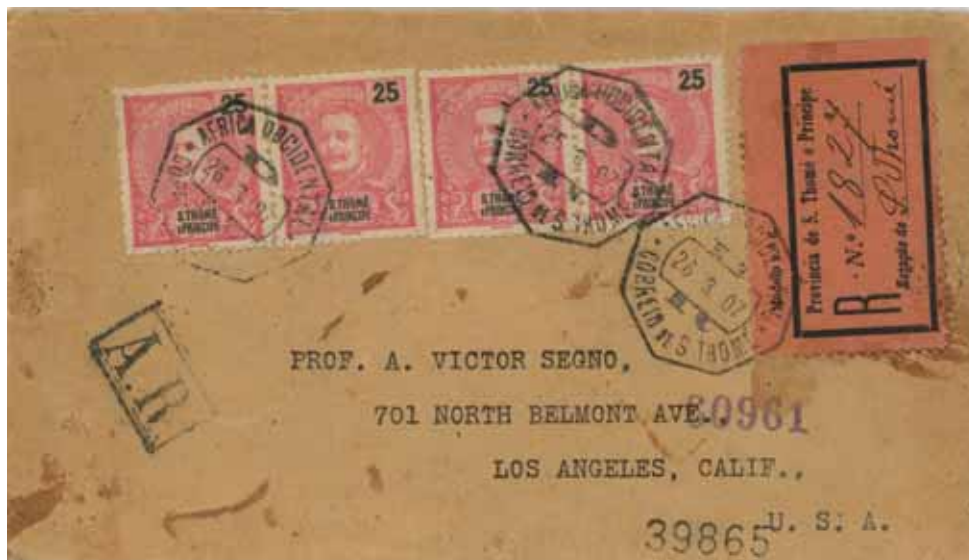
4.11 Laurenço Marques AR with stamps intended to be bisected (February 1899)

Just post-Treaty of Vienna. One and a half copies of a stamp intended to be bisected, at 50 Reis per half (overprinted). This pays the 50 R registration fee, and a transitional rate of 100 R for mail sent by the Cape of Good Hope to catch ships of the Castle Line (the period of this rate is short but not known).



4.12 Guatemala A R cover to Alexandria (1896–97)

I love covers like this. Postage totalling 45 centavos, made up of 10 centavos for registration, triple U P U rates of 10 cvos per 15 g, and 5 cvos A R fee. There is a block of thirty 1 cvo stamps, and the remaining stamps were originally 5 cvos stamps revalued to 1 cvo.



4.13 São Thomé & Príncipe A R cover to fraudster (1907; post-Treaty of Vienna)

Most Portuguese colonies followed the practices of Portugal, in particular, A R fee paid on the form/card. Rated 100 Reis, made up of 50 R each for registration and first weight U P U. Victor Segno was a well known charlatan, who would offer prayers on payment of \$1, which is possibly what this letter contained.



645
B

Juan Montañas
San Miguel 704

REPUBLIQUE DE CUBA
REPUBLICA DE CUBA
Direction Générale des Postes
Dirección General de Correos
Bureau des Postes de la Havana
Admón. de Correos de la Habana

AVIS DE RECEPTION
ACUSE DE RECIBO

d' un objet recommandé (Carta) (1) enregistré au bureau de
de un certificado impuesto de la oficina de

Barcelona le Oct 18 - 1915 sous le No. 3545 (2)
si bajo No. (3)

et adressé à M. M. J. Garcia
y dirigido al Sr. Barcelona

Tiende de Bureaux distributeur
Cabe de la oficina de entrega

Le soussigné déclare qu' un objet recommandé à l' adresse susmentionnée et provenant de
El infrascrito afirma que una carta certificada con la mencionada dirección, procedente de

a été dûment livré le 191
ha sido debidamente entregada el 191

SIGNATURE (3)
Firma

du chef du bureau destinataire:
del Jefe de la Oficina de destino

(1) Nature de l' objet, (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.)
(2) Classe de correspondance, (cartas, muestras, impresos, etc.)
(3) Bureau d' origine, date de dépôt à ce Bureau; No. d' enregistrement au même bureau.
(4) Oficina de origen; fecha de imposición en esa Oficina; n° de certificado de dicha Oficina.
(5) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d' origine de l' objet qu' il concerne.
(6) Este recibo debe ser firmado por el destinatario, ó, si los reglamentos del lugar del destino lo permiten, por el jefe de la Oficina de entrega, después de lo cual será puesto bajo cubierta y remitido certificado por el primer correo a la Oficina de origen de la correspondencia á que se refiere.

4.14 Cuba A R cover to Barcelona with A R form, seized (1915)

Postage on reverse totals 12 cvos, likely made up from 8 cvos registration fee and double PUAS rate 2 cvos to Spain; no charge for A R (similar to the U S). The form required a covering envelope, but this became a moot point when the cover was censored and seized by the French military. The large purple oval A. R. mark is frequently seen on Cuban A R covers.



4.15 Danzig A R cover to Brazil (May 1923)

With *Gegen Rückschein*. Danzig (now Gdansk in Poland) was a free city 1920–39. Rated 150 Marks for each of registration and A R, and quadruple U P U rate at 300 Mk for the first weight plus 150 Mk for each additional; in effect 1 March–30 May 1923.



4.16 Philippines to U S (1921)

As an American colony, Philippines used the same formula as the U S, *Return receipt requested*. This is also insured (a service not yet available on registered matter in the U S), and the rates are currently unknown. Postage of 63 centavos.



4.17 Costa Rica A R cover to Chicago (1906; post-Treaty of Vienna)

Only (non-philatelic) A R cover I've seen with the A R handstamp on *reverse* of the cover, but not on the front. Rated 10 centavos registration fee (paid by stamp on reverse) and 10 cvos U P U rate paid by embossed stamp on front; the 5 cvos A R fee would have been paid on the A R form.

The A R handstamp incorporates the name of the office, and other data; this is not unusual for many Latin American countries.



4.18 Iceland to U S (1922)

With old U S-style typescript **Return Receipt Demanded**, and also ms **AR**. Rated 150 Aur, made up from 30 Aur for each of registration, and sextuple weight at 40 Aur for the first and 20 Aur for each additional. The **AR** fee would have been paid on the accompanying **AR** form (less likely, **AR** card). The provisional stamps were issued in 1922, and it was normal to mix them, as they were not available in any quantity. Unfortunately, this is probably sent by a stamp dealer.



4.19 Iran A R cover to U S (1929)

With sharply hexagonal **A.R.** handstamp. On reverse, postage totalling 57 Shahis, made up of 15 Sh registration and quadruple **U P U** rate at 15 Sh for the first weight, and 9 Sh for each additional. Iranian **A R** cards reveal that the **A R** fee was paid on the card.



4.20 Dahomey A R cover to Dijon (1924)

From Allada. Two additional 25 centimes stamps on reverse, totalling 1.25 Franc, made up of 60 ctm registration and 60 ctm colonial 50–100 g rate, overpaid by 5 ctm. A R fee would have been paid on the card. Likely initially franked at home, then the two large denomination stamps were added at the post office.



4.21 Estonia A R cover to Brazil to U S with form (next page) (1925)

Ms *Avis de Réception*. From Rakvere with form (next page) attached by blob of glue. Postage of 60 Markaa (including 3 M on reverse, helping to seal the envelope; made up of 20 M registration and triple U P U rate at 20 M for the first weight and 10 M for each additional).

Administration d'Eesti (Estonie)

Timbre du bureau expéditeur.
Lähtesutuse postitempel

Avis de Réception

Väljastusteade



d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de
väärtkirja üle (mis summa peale)
d'un objet recommandé (*letter*) (1)
tähtsade üle

enregistré au bureau
mis sisestatud sai

d *Rakvere* le *24/IV - 25.* sous le N^o *390.* (2)
(kus) (millal) *Richard Adler, Rakvere.* N^o (all)

expédié par M. *Richard Adler, Rakvere.*
saadetud (kelle poolt)
et adressé à M. *Louis C. Muller* à *San Francisco, Calif. Usa.*
a adresseeritud (kellele) *176 Divisadero St.* (kuhu)
(adresse complète)
(täielik aadress)

Le soussigné déclare Allakirjutaja tõendab	qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée et väärtkirja	à l'adresse susmentionnée ülemal tähendatud aadressiga,
	qu'un objet recommandé et tähtsadele	

Timbre du bureau distributeur
Sihtkoha postitempel

et provenant de à été dûment
saadetud (kust) on õieti
livré le 19
väljaantud (millal)

Signature (3)

Allkiri:

du destinataire,
saaja allkiri

de l'agent du bureau distributeur,
väljastusasutuse ametniku allkiri

- (1) Nature de l'obj (lettre échantillon, imprimé, etc.)
Saadelse liik (näiteks: kaubaproov, trükitöö jne.)
- (2) Bureau d'orig. date de dépôt à ce bureau; N^o d'enregistrement au même bureau.
Lähtesutuse; millal lähtesutusse postile antud; mis-uguse numbri all lähtesutuses sisestatud.
- (3) Nota. Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.
Märkus. See väljastusteade peab adresseadi ehk, kui sihtmaa seadlused seda nõuavad, väljastuskohta postiasutuse ametniku poolt allakirjastatud saama, mis järel ta kindluses ümbrikus esimese postiga lähtekoha postiasutusse tuleb saata.

Posti Peaval. N^o 145. 6/XII 20.

4.21A Estonian AR form attached

Cover was delivered to us, but without detaching the form, and it was left unsigned. The AR fee of 20 M was applied to the outside of the form. It was intended to be returned in a covering envelope. The form was printed December 1920.



4.22 Tahiti A R cover to Canada (1928)

Papeete to Spokane. Ms AR. Rated 1.5 Francs for each of registration and U P U; A R fee would have been paid on the card/form.



4.23 Albania A R cover to Turkey (1933)

Tirana to Istanbul, triple. Rated 25 Quindarks for each of registration and A R, plus U P U rate of 25 Q for the first weight and 15 Q for each additional.



4.24 France A R cover, forwarded to Belgium, remained (1938)

Originally mailed as a drop letter within Paris, charged 1.5 francs registration and .65 domestic rate, paid by meter; the A R fee would have been paid on the accompanying domestic A R form commonly in use at the time. It was forwarded to a hotel in Spa (Belgium) three days later. A sticker indicating that the addressee was absent was applied, and Belgian stamps were applied (for the return trip), probably by the hotel.

The Belgian franking amounted to 4.25 Belgian francs, made up of 1.50 Bfr for each of A R and registration, 1.25 Bfr to France; the 10 ctm Belgian post due stamp may have been for the absence sticker (posted out of course).

Typical octagonal French A R handstamp. A double A R cover!



4.25 Hungary A R cover to US with US-style endorsement (1939)

I have seen a number of Hungarian A R covers in this period using the US formula *Return Receipt Requested* (in place of *avis de réception*, [added by a postal clerk] which one would expect; there was also a perfectly good Hungarian equivalent). But this one also requests an additional service only available in the US on (its) domestic covers, *Deliver to Addressee* [sic] *only*. Rated 140 Filler (= 1.4 Pengo), made up from 50 F for registration and AR, plus 40 F UPU.



4.26 Nicaragua A R cover to US, free under PUAS treaty (1943)

Official cover from Customs, all services free. One of the very few PUAS A R covers I've seen (the other one had only some of the services free). With US military censorship.



4.27 Thailand A R cover to US with AV2 (1946)

Air transit marking; an unusual but (for Thailand) not rare combination. Registration and A R fee are 1 baht each. I don't know what the air mail rate was at the time.



4.28 Switzerland A R cover to Paris (1949)

This one is here only because the addressee is ex-King Edward VIII, living in much-deserved exile in France. Rated 40 centimes for each of registration, A R fee, and first weight U P U, plus 25 ctm second weight.



4.29 Egypt A R cover—to Israel! (1952)

Originally addressed to Paris, forwarded to Barclay's Bank, Haifa. Both Egyptian and Israeli censorship. Surprisingly fast passage: mailed from the Cairo branch of Sun Life of Canada 18 July, arrived in Paris 21 July, and the Haifa postmark reads 6 August. Postage totals 152 millièmes (of a pound) for airmail to France, registration, and A R; the registration fee was 45 mils. That's all I know.



4.30 China to UK (1980)

Addressed to the Queen. With rather delicate purple bilingual A R handstamp.

istered item was returned to sender. Nonetheless, this is extremely rare. The upshot is that without the form or some marking on the cover, there really is no way to conclude that it was sent with A R. (Bits of the form adhering to the cover is another possibility, but how can we be sure it was the A R form and not some other piece of paper?)

This difficulty is less likely in the Vienna and post-Vienna periods; the conventions said that A R or equivalent was to be marked on the front of the cover. It happens occasionally that this did not occur, as evidenced by (very few) examples wherein we also have the form.



4.31 Chile to Belgium with A R etiquette (October 1892; early in Vienna period)

A few countries used A R stickers in place of handstamps (e.g., Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Hungary), but Chile was the most prolific. The A R handstamp is Belgian; normally the destination country would not apply it, but this was early in the Treaty of Vienna period. Rated 10 centavos registration fee, 10 cvo U P U, and 5 cvo A R.



4.32 Chile to Germany with provisional A R etiquette (October 1893)

With provisional registration etiquette from Constitucion. The pink rubber **Rückschein** handstamp is a German marking used frequently on incoming A R covers. Rated CINCO VIENTE (25) centavos stationary, as above. No stamps are missing.



4.33 Bolivia to Germany with A R etiquette (1894)

Some jerk has cut the address out. Should have been rated 10 centavos registration fee, 11 cvo U P U via Panama, and 5 cvo A R fee. It is possible that the sticker indicates that the 5 cvo A R fee was paid.



4.34 Dutch East Indies to U S with A R etiquette (1922; post-Vienna)

With standard Dutch BVO. Rated 70 cents, made up of 20 ct for each of registration and A R fees, and double rate U P U at 20 ct for the first weight, and 10 ct for each additional.



4.35 Yugoslavia A R cover to US with A R etiquette (1950)

Relatively late for an etiquette. Postage totals 41 Dinars, of which registration is 7 D and A R is 5.5 D. I don't have access to airmail and express rates.



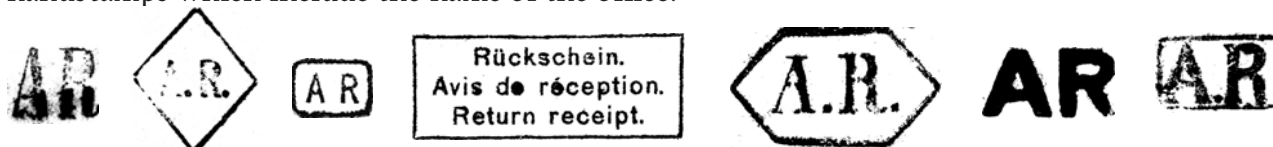
4.36 Hungary AR aerogramme to US with AR etiquette (1958)

Late for an etiquette, but frequently used by Hungary in this period. Aerogrammes sent with AR are very unusual, although most of the few I've seen are from Hungary. I haven't a clue what the rates are.

AR handstamps and labels

Prior to the onset of the Treaty of Vienna (1 June 1892), there was no UPU-requirement to mark the registered item AR or any equivalent terms, although in some countries, this was required by the post office. However, from this date, they were required to mark the items AR or *avis de réception*—this could be in manuscript form, or with a handstamp, or with a label (just as some jurisdictions used registration labels).

Most countries used handstamps reading just AR, and each jurisdiction's handstamp style is distinctive—I can almost always tell just by looking at the handstamp what the country of origin is. Germany used a distinctive trilingual handstamp (usually in shades of red) for outgoing AR matter, and a rubber straightline (often distorted) **Rückschein** on incoming matter. For some countries—especially Panama and a few places in South America—there were AR handstamps which include the name of the office.



4.37 Various AR handstamps

Respectively, Austrian office in Smyrna (1916), Costa Rica (general use), France and colonies (general use), Germany (late 19th–early 20th century), Iran 1929, Kenya (1931), Thailand (1947).

Far fewer jurisdictions used AR labels. Bulgaria's (Figure 5.1, next section) was quite distinctive, being in an attractive shade of purple. Chile (Figures 4.31 and 4.32) had hordes of labels, differing slightly from each other. Some Dutch colonies used pink to red etiquettes (Figure 4.34). However, the use of AR labels diminished drastically by the end of the first world war, although Yugoslavia and Hungary continued to use them into the 1950s (Figures 4.35 and 4.36).

5 Weird AR

This section includes strange or combination uses, such as post cards sent with A R, commercial papers sent with A R, as well as A R in combination with postage due, aerogrammes, or AV2, and non-registered parcels with A R; and the use of A R stamps in a few jurisdictions. We also discuss in more detail some of the more obscure elaborations of A R mentioned in section [fill me in](#): after-the-fact (subsequent), inquiry (réclamation), return by air, and a service very similar to A R, *avis de paiement/payment*. Then we mention A R covers sent free (internationally, this is very unusual).

Post cards sent with A R

Not to be confused with A R cards, which have the appearance of post cards, these are post cards that are sent registered (usually a prerequisite for A R) and A R. In some jurisdictions, such as US, UK, and Canada, registered post cards are almost rare, while in others, they are somewhat more readily available.



5.1 Bulgaria postcard sent with A R to Cairo and returned to sender (1896)

This has a number of features, in addition to being an A R postcard. (1) [Violet A R etiquette](#) (Bulgaria), seen occasionally. (2) The message is in [Ladino](#) (Spanish-based language of the descendants of expelled Spanish jewry), written in Osmanlica script; only a few words of the message have been translated. (3) The stationery refers to the conversion of the Bulgarian king to Orthodox Christianity.

Rated 25 centimes for each of registration and A R, and 10 ctm U P U post card rate.

Mailed from Karnobat 29 April, and carried on two travelling post offices, the first on the next day, the second on 12 May (Bulgaria was still using the Julian calendar, which was about 12 days different from Gregorian). It arrived in Cairo 21 May; a red octagonal [BUREAU DES REBUTS EGYPT](#) handstamp was applied 5 July; there is also a rectangular [NON-RECLAME](#) handstamp, as well as another Cairo datestamp, 31 July. There is a red Cyrillic *Karnobat* notation for its return trip, and a final datestamp of Karnobat on reverse, 2 August.

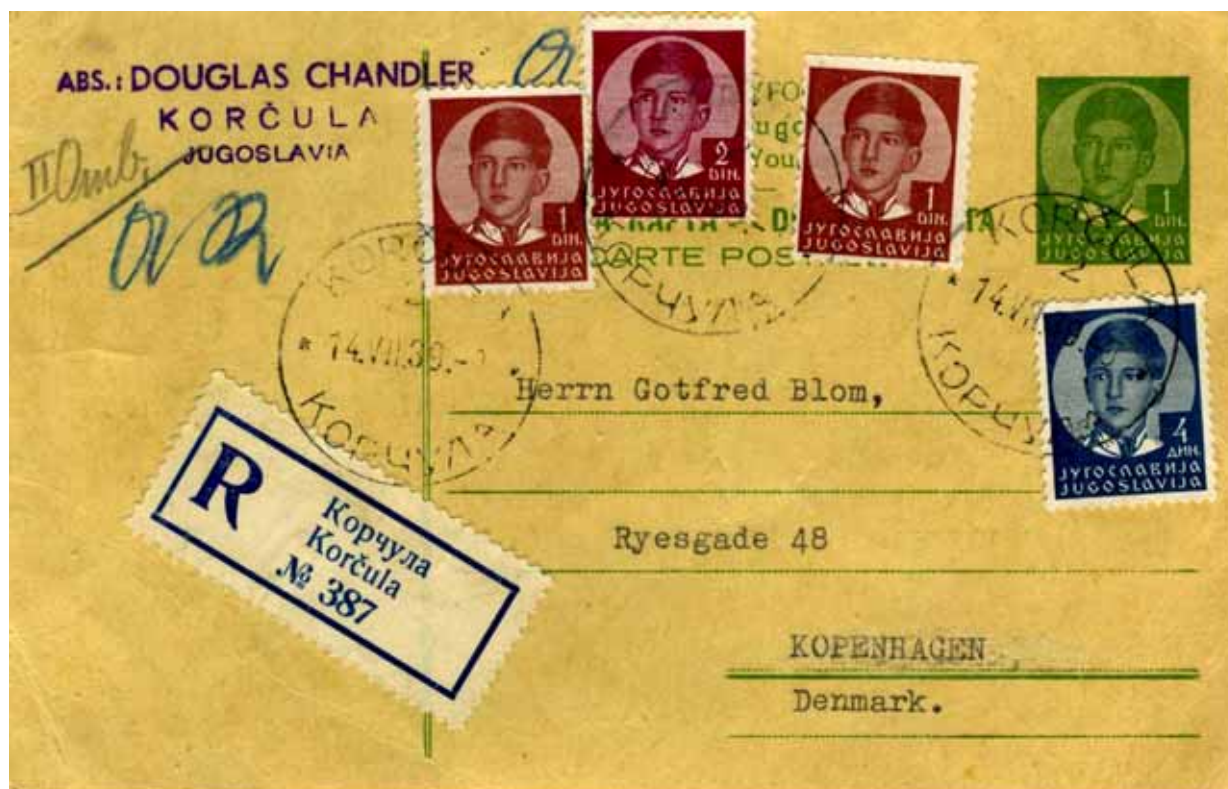


Monsieur, of the Home Stamp Company, Gleneig .
 Monsieur, je confirme ma carte du 27. Nov. 1919. a laqu
 le je suis resté sans vos nouvelles, ni sans règlemen
 de mon envoi a choix en commission du 9. VI. 1915, sui
 vant ma facture 1316. le quel vous avez reçu suivant me
 recherches que j'ai fait par la poste. Comme les rela
 tions de la poste sont tout a fait en ordre, rien ne
 vous empêche de me faire parvenir le règlement par pro
 chain courrier. En cas que vous avez retourné ma mar
 chandise pendant la guerre, elle a été certainement
 confisqué par la censure militaire française et comm
 vous êtes entièrement responsable pour la marchandis
 jusqu'a son arrivé chez moi, je vous recommande dans
 votre intérêt de faire des recherches par la poste, C
 suivant un nouveau règlement tout objects séquestrés
 ne seront libérés que si on en fait une nouvelle rec
 lamation par la poste. J'attens vos nouvelle et regle
 ment et je vous présente, Monsieur mes salutations bie
 distinguées.
 Lucerne 6. 3. 1920

5.2 Quasiphilatelic Swiss postcard sent with AR by a Szekula (1920)

Normally, I wouldn't include stamp dealer mail, but this is more interesting than most. AR from Switzerland is fairly difficult to find. Rated 60 centimes made up from 25 ctm for each of registration and AR, and 10 ctm U P U postcard rate.

The card is from Géza Szekula of the notorious Szekula family of stamp dealers to a stamp dealer in the U.S. A parcel of stamps sent by Szekula may have been seized during the first world war, or possibly the returned parcel had been seized by the French military censors. He is requesting the addressee to inquire about the parcel, so that it can be returned. He had sent an earlier card in November of the previous year, but had not received a reply.



Korčula, 14 July, 1939

Dear Herr Blom: In ~~May~~ I wrote you a letter and enclosed about six of my Leica negatives from which you wished to have enlargements made. Inasmuch as I have not heard from you since, I fear that my letter has never reached you. I am suffering every day annoyance through the the inefficiency of the post here. Many letters and even telegrams fail to reach their destination. I have made repeated complaint but what is the result..... Balkan shoulders shrugged, Balkan indifference expressed. The air and the sea here are the most satisfactory items of the ensemble. I do not register that letter to you, so have not heard of it. out of curiosity I would like to know if you received it. I have to go up to Munich next week to bring Laurette down for her vacation. Shall shorten the time by using plane both ways. We are living much in the water; the sun is hot, but we have almost always a brisk breeze in Korčula. Best regards to your family..... Sincerely, *D. Chandler*
Douglas Chandler.

5.3 Yugoslavian postcard sent with AR by an American traitor (14 July 1939)

Korčula to Copehagen. Ms AR; rated 4 Dinars registration, 3 D AR, and 2 D U P U postcard.

Douglas Chandler (1889–1976?) was an American journalist glorifying the Nazis before and during the war (known as *America's Lord Haw Haw*). He was convicted of treason in 1947 and sentenced to life imprisonment; in 1963, he was released on condition that he renounce his citizenship and leave the U.S. Laurette (referred to in the message) was one of his daughters, and he is known to have vacationed at Korčula in this period. Surprisingly for a journalist, he can't spell *breeze*.



5.4 Sweden postcard sent with AR to Theresienstadt inmates by air (February 1944)

From Stockholm; Swedish AR material is really difficult to find (possibly in part because its AR fee exceeded that of registration). Ms + *avis de réception*; rated 20 Öre registration, 25 Ö AR and 30 Ö airmail postcard rate. With censorship, took two months.

This is a card written in German (required for correspondence to inmates) from their relatives in Stockholm. Soon after the Nazi occupation of Denmark, efforts were made to round up Jewish Danes; forewarned, the Danish population managed to get most of them to neutral Sweden, but some were caught and deported. This card is from the addressees' family members who had escaped to Sweden. The message (also on reverse) seems to concern the weather.

The usual commercial purpose for sending a registered post card is to provide information to recipients, and to make sure they receive it. This might be legal notification, and indeed legal firms do make more use of AR (generally) than other types of companies. Sometimes, there is no commercial or legal value to the information, it's just a desire to ensure that the recipient gets it. On the other hand, when registration was cheap (up until about the 1940s, it was rarely more than double the single U P U rate), post card enthusiasts made excessive use of it. I don't consider the latter form of registered post cards as proper postal history.

Post cards sent with AR had to be registered, so are scarce to rare (depending on period and country of origin—I have never seen, nor do I expect to see, a UK example prior to 1950). Disregarding the post card collectors' examples (some of which were sent with AR), the main uses seem to be the same as for registered post cards, but with extra assurance that the card was received.

Figure 5.1 illustrates a Bulgarian postcard with a number of features. First is the purple Bulgarian AR label. Next is the message: written in the alphabet of Osmanlica (for Ottoman Turkish), the language is actually Ladino (Judæo-Spanish), the language of Spanish Jewry displaced from Spain in 1492. In the nineteenth century, Bulgaria had a substantial Ladino-speaking population, but now the numbers are below a few thousand. The message has not been fully translated.

Figure 5.2 shows a philatelic but interesting postcard with A R from one of the Sekula brothers in Switzerland to a pre-World War I client, concerning a shipment of stamps probably seized by the censors. Figure 5.3 is of a Jugoslavian post card with A R, sent by an American who was convicted post-War of treason ([H3]). (Although he was a journalist, he couldn't spell *breeze*.)

Figure 5.4 shows a postcard with A R sent from Sweden by Danish Jewish refugees to relatives in Theresienstadt concentration camp.

A R stamps

A few jurisdictions used A R stamps to pay the A R fee (either on the form or the registered envelope; I have never seen one used on an A R card, in part because the use of A R stamps after 1925 seems to have been confined to Panama). Table 5.6 (taken from [H; tables IV-1 & -2]) lists countries which issued A R stamps, and the next table lists Colombian states that issued them.

A part sheet of A R stamps from the Colombian department of Antioquia is shown in Figure 5.6. A rare Montenegrin use is illustrated in Figure 5.7 (Montenegrin A R stamps were remaindered and sold by the hundreds of thousands to raise revenue, but there are hardly any proper uses known on cover). Four covers with Panama A R stamps (both as a Colombian state, and as an independent country) appear in Figures 5.8–5.11, including a late one (1924). Figure 5.12 illustrates a Colombian A R stamp.

Chile issued just one A R stamp (Figure 5.13). The rule in Chile was *not* to postmark the stamp—so it is a problem to decide if it belongs. In the illustrated cover, there was an accidental tying by the Iquique handstamp (lower right), and possibly by something else.

5.5 Registration and A R stamps

Country	registration	A R
Canada	1875–1893	
Chile		1894
Colombia	1865–1920	1894–1904
Dominican Republic	1935	
Ecuador		1899
Liberia	1894	
Montenegro (1)		1895–1913
New South Wales (Aus)	1856–1863	
Panama (2)	1897–1917	1897–1917
Queensland (Aus)	1861	
Salvador	1897	1897
United States	1911–1913	
Venezuela	1899–1900	
Victoria (Aus)	1854	
Colombian States: (3)		
Antioquia	1896–1902	1902
Bolivar	1903–1904	1903–1904
Cundinamarca	1883–1904	
Medellin		1904
Tumaco	1901	

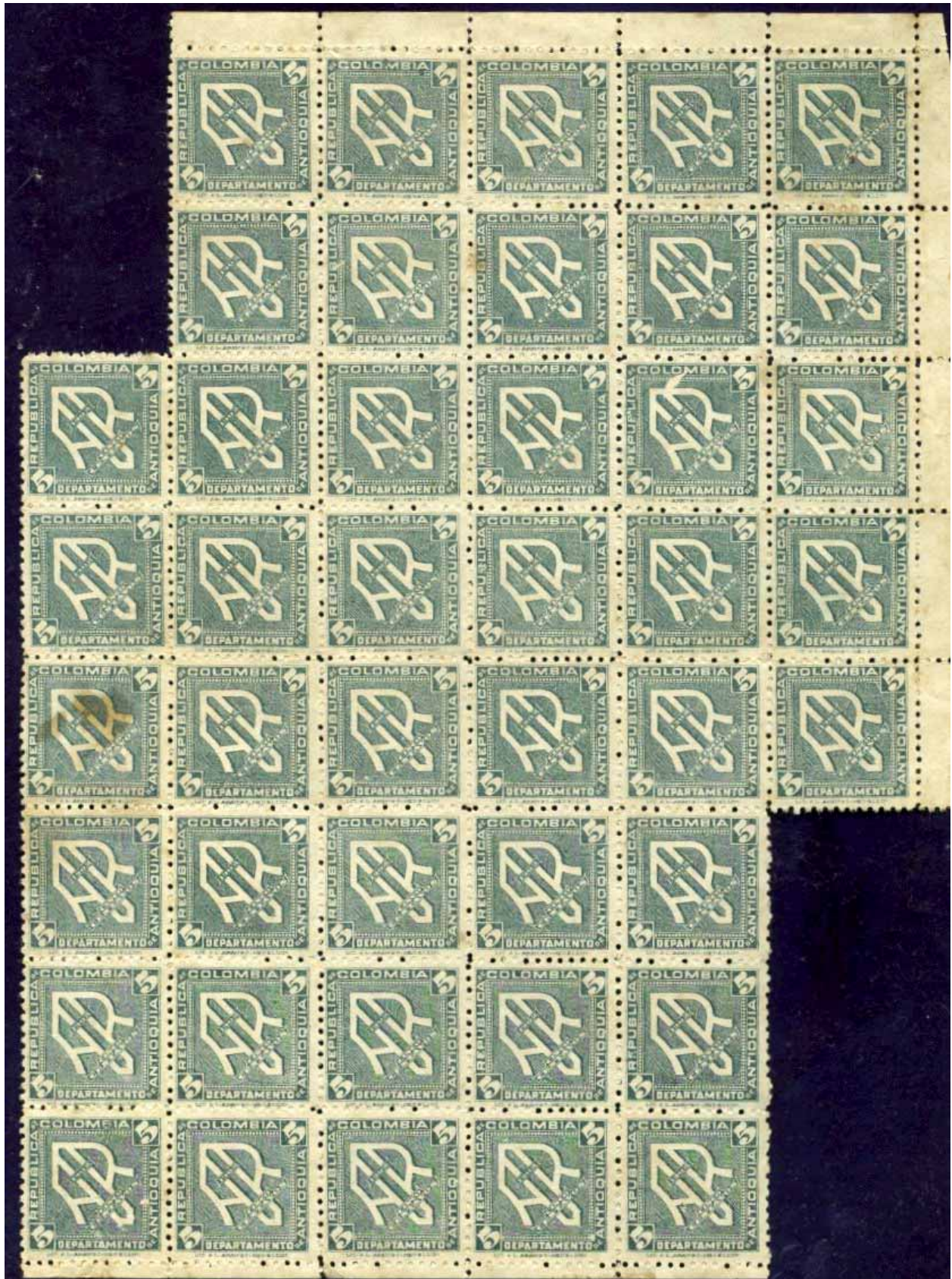
(1) Remaindered by the millions; used on cover are extremely rare.

(2) Panama was a Colombian department, until it was “liberated” by the US in 1903, in order to build the canal.

(3) Are any of these known used on cover?

The champion for producing A R stamps was Colombia—they were also issued by a number of states, and these also issued *official* A R stamps (for use by government offices only).

Although A R stamps are not difficult to find (especially for Montenegro), finding them properly used on an A R form or cover is extremely difficult. I do not even know whether such examples are known for any of Colombia's states, nor for Salvador or Ecuador.



5.6 Colombian state Antioquia A R stamp

A few of Colombia's states issued both registration and A R stamps, but I've never seen one used properly on cover. Mint and cancelled to order are available. Here is an example from Antioquia.



5.7 Montenegro A R stamp properly used A R to Germany (1900)

Although Montenegro issued a plethora of A R stamps (for sale to philatelists), very few are seen properly used. **A R** appear in the upper corners of the stamp. Rated 10 Soldi for each of registration and A R, and triple U P U at 10 S for the first weight plus 5 S each additional.

Addressed to the publishers of the Almanach de Gotha (the snob-book for royalty), whose offices were deservedly destroyed by the Russians in World War II.



5.8 Panama A R stamp used to US (1896; Treaty of Vienna period)

At this time, Panama was under the dominion of Colombia; the Colombian A R stamp was overprinted **COLON** for use in Panama. Pays 5 centavos A R fee; Colombian registration etiquette (here denominated, hence a registration stamp) pays 10 cvo registration fee; and 10 U P U rate. Unfortunately only a front.



5.9 Panama A R stamp used to U S; rates doubled (8 April 1902)

Now in the Treaty of Washington period. Still a Colombian dominion; rates were doubled sometime in March–April 1902; this is the earliest reported A R cover in the doubled rate period. Unfortunately (also) only a front.

Postage due A R

With one exception, postage due A R material is very unusual. The exception is the customs fee on incoming parcels to the U S, which is common. Otherwise, merely postage due registered is difficult to find, internationally. Ordinarily, registered matter is taken to the post office to be weighed and franked, and there should be no deficiency. However, various things can happen.

- An extra service, such as *poste restante* (general delivery) is tacked on at the destination (not all countries charged for this service, but most Commonwealth countries did—Canada was an exception).
- Occasionally, the item was dropped in the mail box, marked registered (and A R), without the proper postage. Many countries had regulations saying insufficiently prepaid mail intending to be registered should be returned to sender, but very often (as in the case of the U S), this was ignored, and the letter was sent on with postage due charged. Some countries (e.g., Canada) had a special regulation that postage due registered mail was charged single deficiency (not double) from about 1935. In UK and some Commonwealth countries, merely dropping a letter intended to be registered in the mail box, was by itself subject to a *Postage out of course* (POOC) fee, even if the postage was totally prepaid.
- Fully prepaid registered mail that was forwarded could be charged the difference (single deficiency) between the postage paid and the postage that would have been required to the forwarded destination. For example, domestic registered A R letter, forwarded abroad was charged the difference between the regular postage to the ultimate destination and the domestic rate, plus the difference between domestic and international A R fees. Since some countries had treaties that postage between them was equal to the domestic rate, this could also occur with letters initially addressed abroad.

Interestingly, the U S had a special rule saying that no additional postage was to be collected



5.10 After independence, Panama A R stamp used to UK (1905)

Liberated from Colombia by US (1903) in order to build the eponymous canal; rates reverted to previous, 10¢ for each of registration (paid by denominated etiquette), and U P U fees, and 5¢ A R fee.



5.11 Panama A R stamp to Washington and forwarded to France (1924)

The 2½ centesimo stamp has been overprinted A. R.; this was used for decades. Rated 5 cmo registration fee, 2½ cmo A R fee, and 2 cmo P A U S rate to US; the US did not charge the difference between the U P U rate to France (5 cmo = 25 Swiss centimes) and the P A U S rate, so there was no postage due.



5.12 Colombia A R stamp used to France (November 1898; late Treaty of Vienna period)
Colombia's second A R stamp, issued 1894 (the next one was issued 1902). Pays 5 centavos A R fee; registration etiquette (here denominated, hence a registration stamp) pays 10 cvo registration fee; and 10 U P U rate.



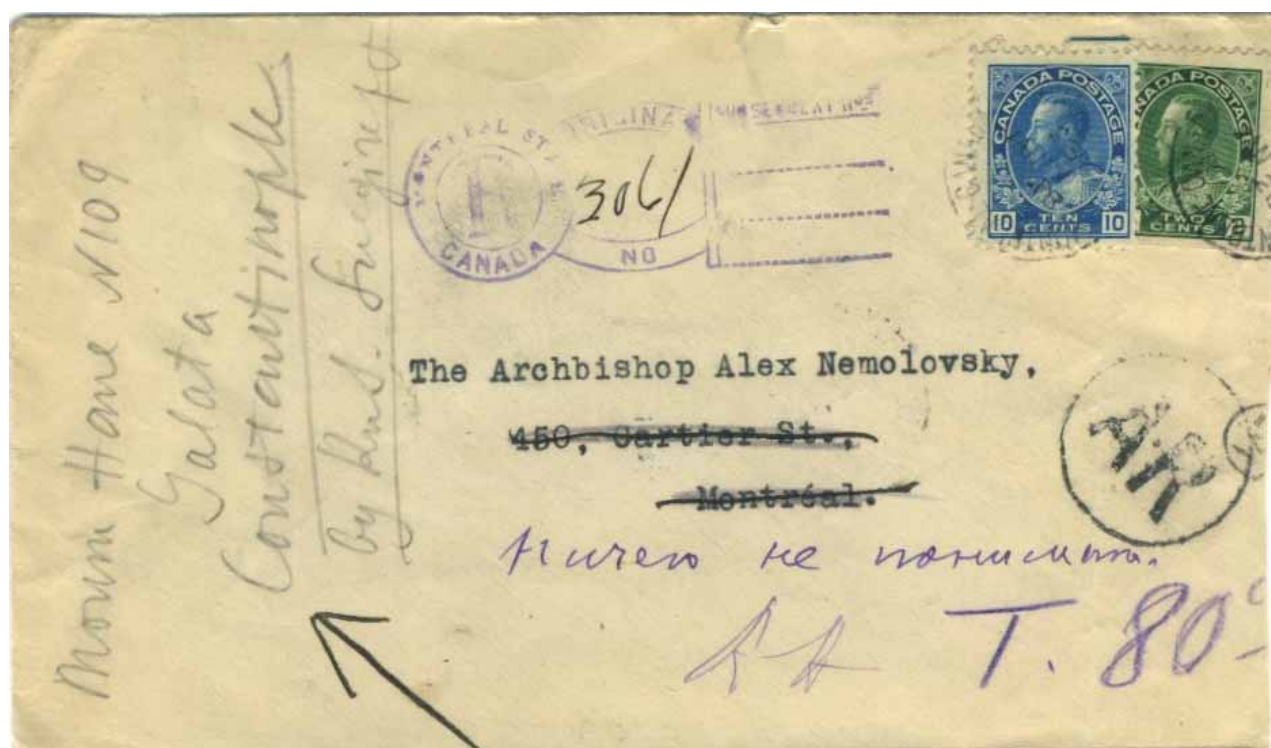
5.13 Chile A R stamp used to Scotland (1895; Treaty of Vienna period)
Chile's only A R stamp (much more frequently seen is the A R etiquette, in use for decades), issued 1894. Chilean post offices were required *not* to cancel or datestamp the A R stamp, which makes it difficult to decide if the stamp belongs. In this case, it was accidentally tied by the Iquique dater. Pays 5 centavos A R fee; registration 10 cvo; supplemented U P U rate was 10 cvo (50 ctm) first 15 g, 5 cvo each additional (double—or the A R stamp was not credited).

on domestic registered letters that were forwarded outside the country, so this type of example does not occur for registered letters of U s-origin. However, there are a few such covers which



5.14 U S to China, poste restante fee charged (1940)

Rated 15¢ registration, 5¢ AR, & 5¢ U P U rate to China. Chinese poste restante fee 5¢ (of CNC\$) paid with stamp. Likely addressed to Jewish refugee.



5.15 Domestic Canadian AR forwarded to Turkey, charged postage due (1925)

Montreal drop letter, forwarded to Constantinople. Registration 10¢ and drop letter rate 2¢ (for Canada, the AR fee was paid on the AR card). Forwarded to Galata (a suburb of Constantinople), requiring 10¢ U P U rate, so shortpaid 8¢, or 40 Swiss centimes; this was mistakenly doubled (postage due resulting from forwarding is single deficiency) to 80 centimes.



5.16 Mexico to U.S., stamps not recognized; charged postage due (April 1914)

Sonora–U.S. during the Mexican civil war. Rated 10 centavos registration, 10 cvo A R, and 5 cvo to U.S. In U.S., charged 14¢, made up from 10¢ registration and double deficiency 2¢ from Mexico (A R was free in the U.S. at this time). During the civil war, factions issued (and stole) stamps. For a short period, the U.S. refused to recognize *any* Mexican stamps as valid.



5.17 Shortpaid U.S. to Malta (1923)

Seattle to Valetta; U.S. formula *Return receipt requested* and **RECEIPT DEMANDED** for A R. Should have been franked 10¢ registration and 5¢ U P U (in this period, A R was free option on registered mail from the U.S.); shortpaid 3¢. Has handstamp NY T 30 (centimes) due. On reverse, standard purple *Please advise your correspondent...* handstamp.

were charged, likely due to clerical error.

- Following up the last comment, initial clerical error, caught en route, or at destination (this would be rare) is a possibility, This is the last resort of a postal historian. This could happen (I have domestic Canadian examples) when a firm brings a quantity of material to be registered, A R'd, etc, and not all of the items are properly franked (in my Canadian example, an A R card itself was missing the proper franking, and charged single deficiency.

Registered non-first class mail with A R

Printed matter, commercial papers (practically the same, except the latter permits some handwriting, such as signatures), parcel post (in some jurisdictions—in others, it cannot be registered) all come to mind. Examples with A R do not.

Non-registered mail with A R

In some countries (at various times), fourth class (parcels) could be sent with A R, without being registered (for example, this was possible in the US from 1913 for domestic mail and between the wars to some countries, provided the parcel was insured). This was covered by bilateral and multilateral treaties. An example was illustrated in Figure 3.17).



5.18 Mexico printed matter A R to Rome (1903)

Printed matter (*Impresos*) sent registered is difficult to find; all the more so, sent with A R. Rated 10 centavos registration, 5 cvos A R fee, and double 2 cvos U P U printed matter. At Puebla, a domestic registration etiquette (indicated by the C at the right) was applied; on reverse is an international registration etiquette, applied at Mexico city.

Canada and Japan had a treaty beginning in the 1920s allowing for A R on parcel post between the two countries (even though Canada did not permit this on domestic parcel post). I do not expect to find any artefacts of this particular treaty.

Parcels mailed internationally were often (but not always) sent with a despatch note (*bulletin d'expédition*; usually called parcel card in English). (Parcels between US, UK, and Canada did not have them.) So we might expect to see a few such marked A R, and some are illustrated here. For



5.19 Non-registered *valeur déclarée* Swiss A R parcel card to Warsaw (June 1944)

It is surprisingly difficult to find Swiss A R material. After the Warsaw ghetto uprising, but before the Warsaw uprising. Postage of 2.85 Francs, made up of 2.15 Fr for 1.4 kg, 30 ctm insurance on declared value of 39 Fr, and 40 ctm A R fee.

The Basel 17 postmark on reverse was reserved for mail sent to or via Germany. No examples had been seen previously. *Revision* applied in Germany after inspection. There is a General Government customs sticker with charges amounting to 7 Zlotys.

some countries (such as US, Canada, and to a lesser extent UK), originating parcel cards are so rarely seen that finding one marked A R would be miraculous. Sometimes the A R card remains attached to the parcel card, resulting in a double card.

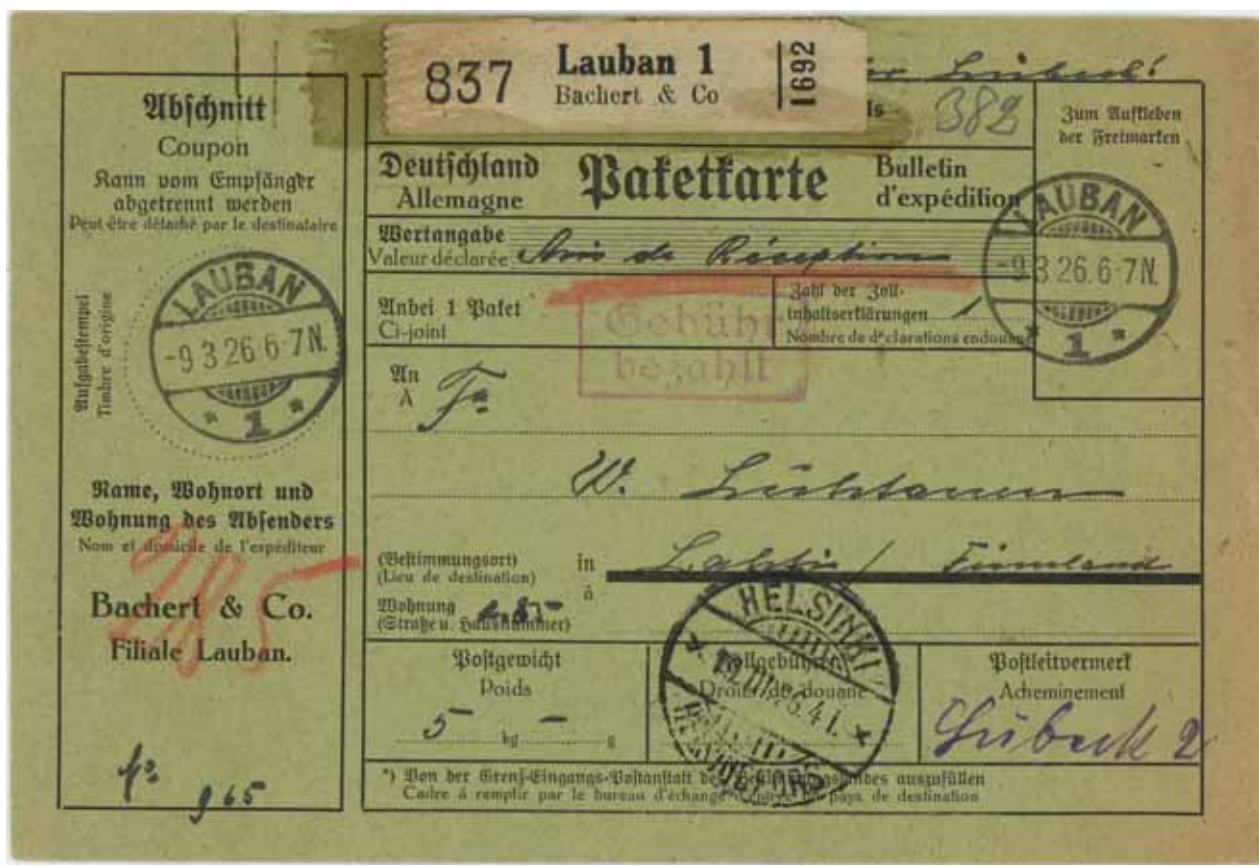
Wreck A R mail

Not *wrecked* A R, this refers to A R material recovered from a wreck. Registered wreck material by itself is difficult to find, but A R is extremely rare. There are a few examples illustrated in [GH]. The cover in Figure 5.21 was from a steamer torpedoed off Ireland. The letter it enclosed (see the US exhibit for more details) refers to a relatively new drug being investigated. The letter writer shortly thereafter moved to Australia, where he had a distinguished career. Another wreck A R cover, also from the first world war, appears in Figure 5.22.

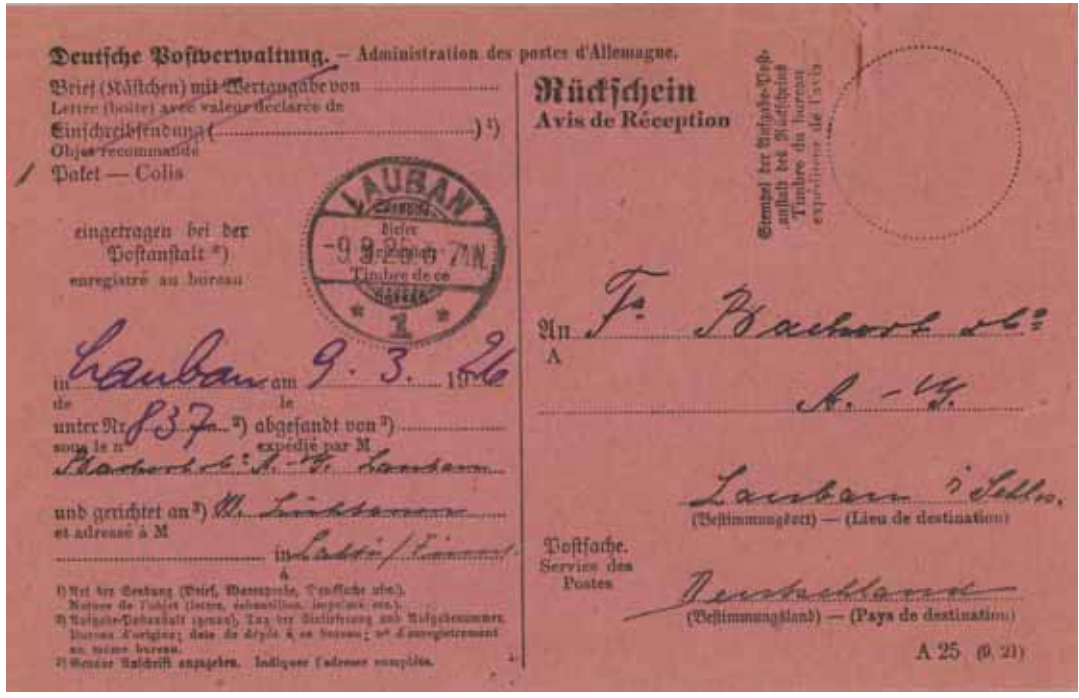
Elaborations of A R

These include *after-the-fact* (or subsequent), *return by air*, and *duplicate*, as discussed in the introduction. These cannot be represented by covers, but they have been discussed in the relevant sections on A R forms and cards.

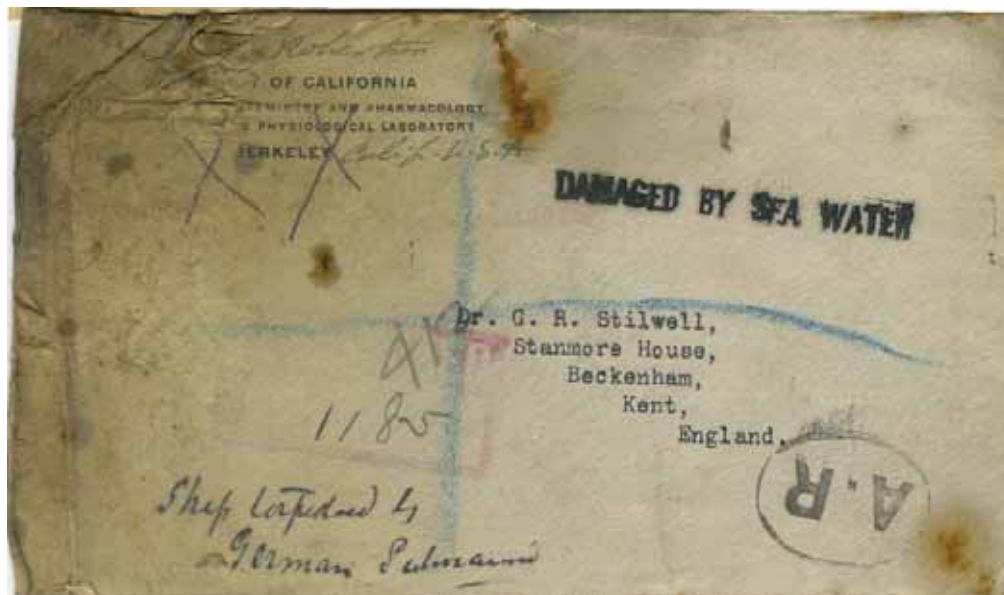
After-the-fact A R refers to the possibility of sending an A R form (or later, card) out after the registered letter had been mailed. This was explicitly authorized in the Treaty of Washington (effective from 1 January 1899). For all jurisdictions for which I could find the rates, there was no additional fee above the usual A R fee for this service, although this changed, perhaps around 1921. Some countries did not distinguish between this and *réclamation*, the latter being inquiry on the fate of a registered (or other) letter.



5.20 German parcel card with A R card; A R to Finland (1926)
 Lauban to Helsinki, non-registered packet. Ms *Avis de Réception* (in the *Valeur Déclarée* line—not insured). All rates are taken care of by the *Gebühr bezahlt* handstamp. The attached A R card is shown below. Paper clip rust matches that on card below, as does the packet number (*not* a registration number), 837.



5.20A A R card attached to the parcel card above
 Properly signed. No stamps applied, as the A R fee payment was covered by *Gebühr bezahlt*.



5.21 US–England wreck A R cover (1917)

The ss *Norwegian* (steamer owned by Leyland & Co) was torpedoed off the Irish coast on 13 March 1917. It was beached in shallow water, and fisherman salvaged the mails for months. DAMAGED BY SEA WATER applied at Liverpool, as was the official seal on reverse. Had the stamps not floated off, the franking would have been 10¢ registration and 2¢ treaty rate to UK.



5.22 Cairo to London wreck A R cover (1918)

Egyptian AVIS DE RECEPTION, and purple boxed outline A.R. The two remaining stamps have been put back in the wrong places, if they belong at all. London purple boxed DAMAGED BY IMMERSION IN SEA WATER. What little is left of the back has been water-damaged, so there are no backstamps. One of five reported international pre-1950 A R wreck (worldwide).

Most likely carried on the British ship *Kingstonian* (Leyland & Co), torpedoed by German sub U-68 on 18 April 1918 in the Mediterranean, en route from from Alexandria to Marseilles; towed to Sardinia, it was torpedoed again 29 April and sank.

Return by air From some time in the 1930s, A R cards (or very rarely forms, or covering envelopes) could be returned by air, for an extra fee. Most jurisdictions required the registered letter to be sent by air as a prerequisite for this service, but there will be no indication on the cover.

Duplicate Duplicate A R cards (or rarely forms) arose when the original was not returned after a reasonable amount of time, at the request of the sender. There was no additional fee. In this case, the duplicate card was prepared at the office of origin, or at least in the country of origin.

They could also arise if the form or card that should have been attached was missing or damaged; then the destination office was required to prepare a replacement form. Originally, I distinguished between *duplicate* and *replacement*, but now I think they are really aspects of the same service.

6 Inquiry on the fate of a registered letter

RÉCLAMATION (inquiry) is the service of providing information about the delivery (or non-delivery) of a letter, usually registered. It may be viewed as an extreme after-the-fact A R service, and indeed UK and Denmark (and probably other countries) used the same forms and fees (at least for a while). An appropriate form is prepared at the office of origin and the form is sent along the same route that the original is supposed to have followed. The postmasters who handled the registered letter are supposed to indicate on the form when the letter was received and despatched, and then send the form to the next office en route. These forms are big, often double foolscap size.

If the letter had been properly delivered, the destination office would so indicate on the form, and the latter would be returned to the office of origin, and eventually to the sender. If the item was to have been returned to sender, this would be indicated on the form, and the form would follow the route of the returned letter. If the letter were lost along the way, it should have been possible to determine where.

In the pre-GPU/UPU period, it was possible to enquire about a (not necessarily registered) letter; shown in Figures 6.1 & 1a are front and interior of an 1847 official letter from the UK to New Brunswick, confirming that a letter about which the recipient inquired (*alluded to in your application . . .*) had been delivered.

The title of this section is a loose translation of what appears on domestic French A R forms (Figure 1.5, there used internationally.)

Figure 6.2 shows a 1913 Norwegian réclamation form. Like most others, it is quite large: 21.3 cm × 36.45 cm. It was intended to be sent in a covering envelope, with no postal charges; the stamp pays the réclamation fee. Other Scandinavian réclamation forms have been illustrated in the literature, e.g., [H1; pp 131 & 152] (1899 and 1900).

A Finnish réclamation form was prepared 27 March 1925 for a registered letter to Mombasa (Kenya) mailed 29 April 1924—almost a year earlier (Figure 6.7). It is marked (in red crayon) *Duplicat*—meaning this was the second (or later) form sent out for the registered letter, but I could not make out a reference to an earlier date for an earlier réclamation form. The next day, the Turku (Åbo) postmaster confirmed that the registered letter had been despatched to the Swedish office of Trelleborg-Sassnitz.

The following day, the postmaster there declared that it had been entered on the list of registered and insured items (top of reverse of form, Figure 6.7a). And finally, we obtain the definitive response from Berlin: the letter was not received there. (The *definitive response* section, which always appears at the bottom on the reverse of these forms, was to be filled out either by the destination office, or by the intermediate office which could not prove that the letter was transmitted to the next office.) The form was then returned to Helsinki, as requested by the pink handstamp on the front.

The réclamation form illustrated in Figures 6.8 and 6.8a tells an interesting story of a letter that was lost. The form was prepared in St Gallen (Switzerland) on 2 June 1918, for a registered letter mailed on 17 November of the previous year, addressed to Stockholm. But there is more: at top is the inscription *Duplicata 1^{ière} réclamation le 4 avril 1918*. This form is also a duplicate, that is, there was an earlier réclamation form sent out on that date. Evidently, it did not return by June, so this second form was sent out.

The bottom of the front (still in Figure 6.7) shows the letter was mailed from St Gallen to Zürich, and then from Zürich to Basel, and the bottom part are the remarks of the Basel postmaster, declaring the letter was sent from the Swiss exchange office at Basel to Stockholm on 19 November. The top of the reverse (for intermediate offices) was not filled in, but the bottom of the reverse, for the destination office, was—according to the Swedish clerk, the registered letter did not reach Stockholm. Whatever caused the letter to be lost may also have caused the



6.1 Official letter, UK to **New Brunswick**, confirming delivery (1847)

An early UK form letter indicating delivery of a letter. on From the GPO (London), free franked by L Bidwell to Miramichi (New Brunswick) via Chatham and Dorchester. Primarily intended for domestic mail. Bidwell to Miramichi (New Brunswick) via Chatham and Dorchester. Some idiot has used yellowed tape to repair it, and I haven't had time to remove it properly.

first réclamation form to be similarly mislaid.

Needless to say, duplicate réclamation forms are very difficult to find.

Now we have a quite unusual combination of réclamation with A R. Figures 6.9A & 6.9 show two 1900 Württemberg A R (*Rückschein*) forms for the same registered letter, and the reverse of the later (right) one. The later one is also endorsed *réclamation de l'avis de réception*, and on its reverse, the U s acting fourth assistant postmaster general (AFAPMG) has confirmed that the letter was delivered. This is quite complicated and requires some explanation.

A registered letter was mailed from Hall (Württemberg) to Elisabeth Weller 15 January 1900, and attached to it was the A R form on the left of Figure 6.9. It was signed by the recipient (and also signed by a representative of the postmaster, although this was unnecessary), indicating

Formular Nr. 127.

ADMINISTRATION DE DANEMARK
BUREAU DE *Postkontoret*

F (RECTO.)
RÉCLAMATION
Lobesedel Brev

KLUBBERHAVN
-940112F
D. 1900

Einig. KIEL 1
10 4 * 00

No 2122

A remplir dans le service d'origine.
Udfyldes i Afstedelseslandet.

d'un objet recommandé (_____) (a)
angaaende en anbefalet Forsendelse

ou d'un envoi de valeur déclarée (_____) (b)
angaaende en Værdi erklæret

contenant (_____) (c)
indeholdende *et Laanebevis*

déposé par M *Industribanken* le *31/3 1900*

sous le N° *421* au bureau de *Kjøbenhavn R.* à l'adresse suivante:
under Nr. *Haskinnester H. Rasch S/S Alise*
Havnkontoret i Kiel (d)

~~et faisant l'objet d'une demande d'avis de réception~~
~~og for hvilken der her været forlangt Modtagelsesbevis.~~ (e)

L'envoi désigné ci-dessus a été expédié dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange *Kjøbenhavn R.*
oppeværende Forsendelse har været optaget i Aflutningen fra Udsættingskontoret

du *31/3 1900* (2^e envoi) pour le bureau d'échange de *Kiel*
af *til Udsættingskontoret i*

Il a été inscrit sous le N° *3* du tableau I de la feuille d'avis.
Den har været indført under Nr. *de la feuille d'envoi N°*
i Bechertets Rubrik 1.
i den medfølgende Leds Nr.

A remplir dans le service de destination
Udfyldes i Bestemmelseslandet

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné a été dûment livré à l'ayant droit le _____
Undertegnede erklærer herved, at ovennævnte Forsendelse rigtig er bleven udlæveret til rette Vedkommende.

L. J. A. ...
Le chef du bureau distributeur.

Timbre du bureau distributeur.

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné est encore en instance au bureau de _____
Undertegnede erklærer herved, at ovennævnte Forsendelse er endnu henligget ved Postkontoret i

a été renvoyé au bureau d'origine le _____
er bleven tilbagesendt til Afgangsstedet den

ou n'a été réexpédié le _____ à _____
er bleven omexpederet den _____ *til* _____

n'est pas parvenu au bureau de destination.
ikke er ankommen til Bestemmelsesstedet.

David ...
Le chef du bureau de destination.

Timbre du bureau de destination.

(a) Lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.
Brev, Værepræs, Tryksag, etc.

(b) Lettre ou boîte.
Brev eller Boks.

(c) Description du contenu autant que possible.
Oplysning om Indholdet, såvidt muligt.

(d) Cadre à remplir par l'expéditeur ou, à défaut, par le bureau d'origine.
Udfyldes af Afstederen; eventuelt af Afstedelsesposthuset.

(e) Biffer, le cas échéant.
Udtesges, hvis Modtagelsesbevis ikke har været forlangt.

6.2 Danish réclamation form for a registered letter to Kiel (9 April 1900)

From Copenhagen via Scotland; foolscap size. Original letter mailed 31 March 1900; letter was *still* in Burnt Island (Scotland) as of 27 April. The routing is shown on reverse (next illustration). The fee for this service was 20 øre (regular A R service cost 8 øre). One of two Danish réclamation forms known prior to 1905.

F (VERSO.)


bureau exchange Hamburg

L'envoi désigné d'autre part a été inséré dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange de *Cologne*
 Den foran omhandlede Forsendelse har været optaget i Afslutningen fra Udsælingskontoret i
nr 96 du *2^e mai 1900* (* envoi) pour le bureau d'échange de *London*
 af *til Udsælingskontoret i*

Il a été inscrit sous le N° *11* du tableau I de la feuille d'avis. *nr II London*
 de la feuille d'envoi N°
 i Brevkartets Rubrik I.

Den har været anført under Nr. _____
 i den medfulgte Liste Nr. _____

Karl J. Hamburg, 16. april 1901
Karl J. Hamburg
BAHNPOSTAMT No. 81


Timbre à date
 Dagstempel.


L'envoi désigné d'autre part a été inséré dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange de *London*
 Den foran omhandlede Forsendelse har været optaget i Afslutningen fra Udsælingskontoret i
at 11 pm du 3 apr 1900 (* envoi) pour le bureau d'échange de *Edinburgh*
 af *til Udsælingskontoret i*

Il a été inscrit sous le N° *15* du tableau I de la feuille d'avis.
 de la feuille d'envoi N° _____
 i Brevkartets Rubrik I. (*Addressed to Burntisland*)

Den har været anført under Nr. _____
 i den medfulgte Liste Nr. _____

Signature *W. J. Farlow*
W. J. Farlow Co.


Timbre à date
 Dagstempel.


L'envoi désigné d'autre part a été inséré dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange de *Burntisland*
 Den foran omhandlede Forsendelse har været optaget i Afslutningen fra Udsælingskontoret i
at 9-40 du 4^e April 1900 (* envoi) pour le bureau d'échange de *Burntisland*
 af *til Udsælingskontoret i*

Il a été inscrit sous le N° _____ du tableau I de la feuille d'avis.
 de la feuille d'envoi N° _____
 i Brevkartets Rubrik I.

Den har været anført under Nr. _____
 i den medfulgte Liste Nr. _____

Signature *W. J. Farlow*

Timbre à date
 Dagstempel.


RÉPONSE DÉFINITIVE

de l'Office de destination ou, le cas échéant, de l'Office intermédiaire qui ne peut établir la transmission régulière de l'envoi réclamé à l'Office suivant.

Endeligt Svar

fra Bestemmelseslandets Postvæsen eller eventuelt fra det transitive Postvæsen, der ikke er i Stand til at godtgjøre den efterspurgte Forsendelses rigtige Aflevering til det næste Postvæsen.

Gedens. 1007 No. 4. N. 87-96

6.2A Reverse of Danish réclamation form (1900)

According to the endorsements, the registered letter was passed through Hamburg 2 April; then London on 3 April (dated 23 April); and Edinburgh 4 April (dated 25 April, and finally reached Burntisland.

Blanket no. 60. **H.P.J.nr. 177/1913** 604 1154

Poststyrelsen i Norge. Administration de Norvège. Postkontoret i Bergen de

F. (RECTO) Afgangstalea stampet. Tindes du bureau d'origine

4089

H.P.J.P. 607/13 **Efterspørgsel** Reclamation **NEW YORK, N.Y. NOV 3 1913 REGISTERED**

etter en rekommenderet forsendelse } (a)
 d'un objet recommandé }
 eller af en forsendelse med angivet værdi } (b)
 ou d'un envoi de valeur déclarée de }
 indholdende } (en skedel) på kr. 400. } (c)
 contenant }
 indleveret af hr. **Wolff Barsten** den **2 april 1913**.
 déposé par M. }
 under no. **270** paa postkontoret i **Fangsnes** med følgende }
 sous le no. } au bureau de } à l'adresse }
 adresse: **Louis Barsten, Gen. Del, Oakland, Cal. U.S.A.** }
 suivante: }
Offert paa last nr 30 til Bergen Anstalt 24/13 }
den 18/10 1913. } (d)
 og leveret den 18/10 1913 } (e)
 et faisant l'objet d'une demande d'avis de réception }

Den ovennævnte forsendelse er ekspederet i posten fra udvekslingskontoret i **Bergen**—
 l'envoi désigné ci-dessus a été expédié dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange de
Newcastle B den **2.4.13** (post) til udvekslingskontoret }
New York des (envoi) pour le bureau d'échange de }

Den er opført under no. **31** i brevpostkartets afdeling I }
 Il a été inscrit sous le no. } du tableau I de la feuille d'avis }
 de la feuille } paa værelskart } (Riste Speciale) }
 de la feuille } **Suppl.** } **A. H. Rammuf** }

Undertegnede erklærer, at den ovennævnte forsendelse er rigtig }
 Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné a été dûment }
 livré à l'ayant droit le } **Apr 19, 1913** }
 Chef du bureau distributeur, }
E. M. MORGAN, P. M. } **NEW YORK, N.Y. DEC 8 1913 REGISTERED**

Undertegnede erklærer, at den ovennævnte forsendelse }
 Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné }
 fremdeles henligger ubesørgt paa postkontoret i }
 er bievn tilbageendt til afgangspostanstalten den }
 a été renvoyé au bureau d'origine le }
 er videresendt den } til }
 a été réexpédié le } à }
 ikke er fremkommen til bestemmelspostanstalten. }
 n'est pas parvenu au bureau de destination. }
 Chef du bureau de destination. } **NEW YORK, N.Y. DEC 8 1913 REGISTERED**

a) Brev, varepart, tryksag osv. }
 Lettre, échantillon, imprimé etc. }
 b) Brev eller møke. }
 Lettre ou boîte. }
 c) Beskrivelse af indholdet, såvidt muligt. }
 Description du contenu autant que possible. }
 d) Udtylde af afsenderen eller af afsendelsepostanstalten. }
 omløst at reusplir par l'expéditeur ou à défaut, par le bureau d'origine. }
 e) Bliver i tilfælde af udstryg. }
 Rifer, le cas échéant. }

0942. 005.

6.3 Norway Efterspørgsel (réclamation) form for a registered letter to California (1913)

From Haugesund via Bergen–Newcastle (UK) and New York; foolscap size. The original letter (sent with *valeur déclarée*—indemnity—of 400 Krøner) was mailed on 2 April 1913; the form was mailed on 18 October, arriving in New York 3 November. The New York postmaster very likely mailed out a separate (domestic?) form to the destination office, and ascertained that the item had been delivered on 19 April.

On reverse is space for post offices en route fill in the dates of receipt and despatch to the next office, here unnecessary. The 20 øre stamp pays the Norwegian réclamation fee. This would have been sent through the mail at no charge, in a covering envelope. Date of printing is 1905, showing how little used this service was.

No. 368084 F. H. [Front.] *F.*

Post Office Department
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR
Washington

MAR 20 1914

RÉCLAMATION INQUIRY

d'un objet recommandé } Package (a)
for a registered article }
ou d'un envoi de valeur déclarée de } 100,000⁰⁰ (b)
or for an article of declared value of }
contenant } Blue Prints, etc (c)
containing }
déposé par M } H. C. Wells Dec 24, 1913
mailed by M }
sous le No. } 3737 (au bureau de } North Yakima, Wash
under No. } (at the office of)
à l'adresse suivante: } The British Continental
bearing the following address: } Patentees Agency, Five Home
} Kingston on Thames, London, (d)
} England
et faisant l'objet d'une demande d'avis de réception }
for which a return receipt has been requested }

DISPATCH WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

The registered article in question was dispatched 191, in { Jacket.
I. R. S.
T. R. P.

..... to the exchange office of

L'envoi désigné ci-dessus a été expédié dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange de }
The above-described article was comprised in the mail dispatched from the exchange office of }
NEW YORK, N. Y. } du } Dec 31, 1913 } (envoi) pour le bureau d'échange de }
of } (dispatch) for the exchange office of }
London - Forward "S. Campana"


Il a été inscrit sous le No. } 3737 (du tableau I de la feuille d'avis de la feuille d'envoi No. } 290
It was entered under No. } (in Table I of the Letter Bill on detached sheet No. }

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné a été dûment livré à l'ayant droit le
The undersigned declares that the above-mentioned article was duly delivered to the proper
person on the 8th January 1914

Le chef du bureau distributeur:
Chief of the office of delivery:
Heroson

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné
The undersigned declares that the above-mentioned article

Timbre du bureau distributeur.
Stamp of the office of delivery.



6.4 US réclamation form for a registered letter to UK (20 March 1914)

Folded under. The postmaster at Kingston on Thames (London) indicating that the registered package (with an incredible declared value of \$100,000) had been delivered 8 January. On reverse are the remarks of the clerks of the offices through which it passed.

2962/85

PTT ENTREPRISE DES PTT SUISSES SCHWEIZERISCHE PTT-BETRIEBE AZIENDA SVIZZERA DELLE PTT

RECLAMATION concernant un envoi recommandé, une lettre avec valeur déclarée ou un colis postal

NACHFORSCHUNGSBEGEHREN für eine eingeschriebene Briefpostsendung, einen Wertbrief oder ein Paket

RECLAMO per un invio raccomandato, lettera con valore dichiarato, un pacco postale

Une seule formule suffit pour plusieurs envois déposés simultanément par le même expéditeur pour le même destinataire et expédiés par la même voie.

Ein Formular genügt für mehrere vom selben Absender gleichzeitig an denselben Empfänger eingehende Sendungen, die auf dieselben Leitzug befördert wurden sind.

Un solo modulo è sufficiente per imposterli simultaneamente dall'espeditore per lo stesso destinatario per la stessa via.

Bureau de Poststelle **CH-6830 Chiasso 1** 1
Ufficio di **Chiasso**

N° de référence **5.1.344**
Ordnungsnummer
Di riferimento

5° il s'agit d'un duplicata, date de la 1^{re} réclamation
Wenn Doppel, Datum des ersten Nachforschungsbegehrens angeben
Se il presente è un doppio, data del 1° reclamo

1. Renseignements à fournir par le service d'origine **Angaben des Postdienstes des Aufgabebandes** **Informazioni da fornire dal servizio d'origine**

Motif de la réclamation / Grund der Reklamation / Motivo del reclamo		
Envoi / Sendung / Invio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non parvenu / nicht eingetroffen / non pervenuto	<input type="checkbox"/> Contenu manquant / Fehrender Inhalt / Contenuto mancante
<input type="checkbox"/> Avis de réception rempli de manière incomplète / Unvollständig ausgefüllter Rückschein / Avviso di ricevimento compilato in modo incompleto	<input type="checkbox"/> avarié / beschädigt / avariato	<input type="checkbox"/> retardé / verspätet / ritardato
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lettre recommandée / Eingeschriebener Brief / Lettera raccomandata	<input type="checkbox"/> Imprimé recommandé / Eingeschriebene Drucksache / Stampa raccomandata	<input type="checkbox"/> Petit paquet recommandé / Eingeschriebenes Päckchen / Pacchetto raccomandato
<input type="checkbox"/> Lettre avec valeur déclarée / Wertbrief / Lettera con valore dichiarato	<input type="checkbox"/> Colis avec valeur déclarée / Wertpaket / Pacco con valore dichiarato	<input type="checkbox"/> Colis ordinaire / Paket / Pacco postale
Mentions spéciales / Besondere Merkmale / Indicazioni speciali		
<input type="checkbox"/> Avion / Luftpost / Via aerea	<input type="checkbox"/> S.A.L.	<input type="checkbox"/> Expresse / Eilsendung / Espresso
<input type="checkbox"/> Remboursement / Nachnahme / Rimborsò	<input type="checkbox"/> Avis de réception / Rückschein / Avviso di ricevimento	
Montant du remboursement et monnaie / Nachnahmebetrag und Währung / Importo del rimborso e valuta		

Gewicht (betrifft nicht die Briefpostsendungen)
Peso (non cocome gli invii della posta-lettere)

Date de dépôt / Aufgabedatum / Data d'impostazione: **1.4.1985** Bureau de dépôt / Annahmestelle / Ufficio d'impostazione: **CH-6830 Chiasso 1** Numero de dépôt / Aufgabennummer / Numero d'impostazione: **635** ✓

Expéditeur (adresse exacte) / Absender (genaue Adresse) / Mittante (indirizzo preciso): **Cerutti Cesare - P. O. Box 517**
6830 Chiasso - Svizzera

Destinataire (adresse exacte) / Empfänger (genaue Adresse) / Destinataro (indirizzo preciso): **Radoslav Radev - P.O.Box 166**
5300 Gabrovo - Bulgaria

Contenu (description exacte) / Inhalt (genaue Beschreibung) / Contenuto (descrizione precisa): **Timbres Poste**

Valeur / Wert / Valore Fr.: **35.--**

Description de l'emballage extérieur / Beschreibung der äußeren Verpackung / Descrizione dell'imballaggio esterno: **Busta normale (Envelope normale)**

Fac-similé de la suscription de l'envoi / Nachbildung der Adresse / Facsimile dell'indirizzo: annexé / beigefügt / accluso non annexé / nicht beigefügt / non accluso

L'envoi retrouvé doit être remis / Die gefundene Sendung ist zuzustellen / L'invio ritrovato deve essere rimesso: à l'expéditeur / dem Absender / al mittante au destinataire / dem Empfänger / al destinatario

Renseignements à fournir par le bureau d'origine et les bureaux réexpéditeurs **Angaben der Annahmestelle und der Umklestellen** **Informazioni da fornire dall'ufficio d'impostazione e dagli uffici di ripescizione**

Compris dans la dépêche / Abgegangen mit Kartenschluss / Spedito col disaccio	de / von / da	pour / für / per	du / vom / dal	à / um / ore
	CH-6830 Chiasso 1	Zürich 1 Biers. (amb. 35P)	1.4.85	1900

8020 Zürich 1 BV
Nr. 3843 B

PTT 297.08 XI 84 150000 PB Rec 70

28 18446

6.6 Modern Swiss réclamation form for a registered item to Italy (1985)
Just to show a relatively recent one. The package contained postage stamps.

Levy N° 107. Postikilpailun (konvokti) osasto postik. Dnr. 117. 3/IV-25. 734 18

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE FINLANDE. *17/1925* *19/1925*

Bureau de Posttoimitus Helsinki **RÉCLAMATION**

Duplicat!

Tiendes du bureau d'origine. Posttoimituksen leima. Islänningpostanstaltens stämpel.

En objet réclamé... (b) (c)

Dnr IV K. Gen. poststyrelsen Byrå IV Ink. 7 REC. 1925

GRUPP. AVD. MAL.

le 28^e ductis 1925

à l'adresse suivante: surtaxe sur le timbre: mod. l'adresse:

Helsingfors *Helsingfors*

H. J. Sponji

P. O. Box 75, Ambassa, Kenya Colony, British Somaliland, Africa

(f) L'envoi désigné ci-dessus a été expédié dans la décade du bureau d'échange de Ylämaininn lähetys ou libretto postale valtakauttoimistosta. Översändna försändelsen har blivit expedierad i posten från utväxlingspostanstalten i du 29^{de} 1924, a avsett för le bureau d'échange de lähetys valtakauttoimistoon skändingen till utväxlingspostanstalten i du 29^{de} 1924, a avsett för le bureau d'échange de lähetys valtakauttoimistoon skändingen till utväxlingspostanstalten i

Il a été inscrit sous le No 4 de la feuille de arrokartan No 4

Le sousigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné a été émis par lui à l'ayant droit le Allekijettämättä toimita, että yllämainittu lähetys on saanut oikeasti ansaitun satunnaisella Undertecknad förklarar, att översändna försändelsen blivit behörigen utlämnad till vederstående den

Le chef du bureau distributeur, Jakso-postitoimituksen johtaja, Företagsledaren för utlämningspostanstalten.

Tiendes du bureau distributeur. Jakso-postitoimituksen leima. Utlämningspostanstaltens stämpel.

Le sousigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné Allekijettämättä toimita, että yllämainittu lähetys Undertecknad förklarar, att översändna försändelsen est encaie en instance au bureau de viela on antamatta postitoimitustona kemu kysyttävä k postanstalten i a été renvoyé au bureau d'origine le en libretto postale valtakauttoimistoon blivit returerad till islänningpostanstalten den a été réceptionné le on libretto valtakauttoimistoon blivit vilakauden den n'est pas parvenue au bureau de destination, si elle a été expédiée sans posttoimitustalon leka ankommit till adresspostanstalten.

Le chef du bureau de destination, Oulko-postitoimituksen johtaja, Företagsledaren för adresspostanstalten.

Tiendes du bureau de destination. Oulko-postitoimituksen leima. Adresspostanstaltens stämpel.

(a) Lettre, dévotionnelle, imprimée, etc. Kirje, tavallinen, painettu j. n. s. brev, vaputtu, trykket, etc. (b) Lettre ou carte Kirje tai kortti. Brev eller kort. (c) Description du contenu autant que possible. Ilmoitus sisällystä, mikäli mahdollista. Beskrivning av innehållet, så vitt möjligt.

(d) Cadre à remplir par l'expéditeur ou, à défaut, par le bureau d'origine. Lähetäjän tai lähetys osaston postitoimitustalon täytettävä. Att fyllas av avsändaren eller i hans ställe av islänningpostanstalten. (e) Billet, le cas échéant. Postipyyhittäjän esittävissä tapauksissa. Överskriften i försökssändelse fall.

(f) Indication émise aux bureaux d'échange avec l'étranger à fournir seulement dans le cas prévu à l'article XXIX. Yhtäpostitoimituksen ansaittua tilakauttoimistosta (rajatonta) annettuna sille tapauksessa, jona tarkoitetaan Toimitusohje-astinnon XXIX artiklan 3 §:n 3 kappaleessa. Utskrifningarna eller anmärkningarna i utväxlingspostanstaltarna med utlandet fyllas endast i det fall, som avses i artikeln XXIX. § 3, 3 stycket av Expeditionsreglementet.

(g) Indiquer l'adresse exacte et complète. Turkea ja täydellinen postin osoite. Adressen och fullständigt adress angiva.

N. 1121

6.7 Finland duplicate réclamation for letter to Kenya (1924)

Foolsap size, with *Duplicat*. Remarks by the postmasters at Wiborg and Turku (in Swedish, Åbo) on this side. The réclamation fee of 4 Markkaa paid with stamps. There is an additional datestamp of 28 December 1925 (six months after the form was returned from Berlin), which might have been a result of the claim presumably made by the sender.

L'envoi désigné d'autre part a été inséré dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange de Trelleborg-Sassnitz du 1.5.1924 (* envoi pour le bureau d'échange d Berlin) Il a été inscrit sous le No 563 dans du tableau I de la feuille d'avis la feuille des envois recommandés de la feuille d'envoi. et de valours de lais. Timbre à date.

Enregistré sous le No 169 le 30.3.24

J. Nyedahl
Signature

Posidonstranden
28 MRS. 1925
Södra distriktet

A remplir dans les services intermédiaires.
Valityspostlaitoksen täytettävä.
Att ifyllas av förmedlande postverk.

L'envoi désigné d'autre part a été inséré dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange d _____ du _____ 19 _____ (* envoi pour le bureau d'échange d _____) Il a été inscrit sous le No _____ du tableau I de la feuille d'avis de la feuille d'envoi. Timbre à date.

Signature _____

L'envoi désigné d'autre part a été inséré dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange d _____ du _____ 19 _____ (* envoi pour le bureau d'échange d _____) Il a été inscrit sous le No _____ du tableau I de la feuille d'avis de la feuille d'envoi. Timbre à date.

Signature _____

RÉPONSE DÉFINITIVE
LOPULLINEN VASTAUS
DEFINITIVT SVAR

de l'Office de destination ou, le cas échéant, de l'Office intermédiaire qui ne peut établir la transmission de l'envoi réclamé à l'Office suivant.

osoitemaan postilaitoksen tahi, sattuvissa tapauksissa, sen lähittävän postilaitoksen antama, joka on tullut lähetyksen tullessa asianmukaisesti lausuttuksi seuravalle postilaitokselle.

av adressändare postverk eller, i förekommande fall, av det förmedlande postverk, som icke kan fastställa ett ännu realiserade förändelsen i behörig ordning överlämnats till tilltände postverk.

Deutsches Postamt 3
Die Auslieferung des Einworbtriebes ist bei den Deutschen Hauptverwaltungsstellen nicht nachweisbar. F.V.

Berlin N. 4 30.3.25

6.7A Reverse of form in Figure 6.7

With remarks by the postmaster at Trelleborg-Sassnitz (Sweden); the registered letter was despatched to Berlin on 1 May, just two days after mailing, and the definitive comment from Berlin, that it did not arrive.

N. 720 / Duplicate 19. 1ère Reclamation No 66 le 4 avril 1918

Postes suisses. Schweiz. Postverwaltung. Poste Svizzera. Ufficio postale.

Réclamation für eingeschriebene Postsendungen aller Art, ohne Post- und Zollangehörigkeiten und Einzelsendungen. (In- und Auslandsverkehr. B. A. § 49, Ziffer 12.)

Reclamazione per gli invii postali iscritti d'ogni specie, senza i vaglia postali, i mandati di pagamento e le postine di versamento. (Servizio interno ed internazionale. L. S. § 49, cifra 12.)

à remplir dans le service d'origine. Von der Aufgabe-Verwaltung auszufüllen. — Da riempire nel servizio mittente.

Ein- / Un / 1 *348* Wertangabe / valeur déclarée *10 Franken* Gewicht / poids *100 g* Nachnahme / remboursement *Fr. 17*

aufgegeben von / déposé par *ST GALLEN 1* le - an - li *17 NOVEMBRE 1917*

à l'office de poste de / presso l'ufficio postale di *ST GALLEN 1* an folgende Adresse: / à l'adresse suivante: *Stockholm*

Gröden Str. 10

Observations spéciales - Besondere Mitteilungen - Osservazioni speciali

Verpackungsart und Größe: / Nature de l'emballage et dimensions: Inbüllage / en emballage: / Was die Adresse geschrieben / — aufgedruckt? / — aufgedruckt? / L'adresse était-elle écrite? / — collée? / — collée? / L'indirizzo era desso scritto? / — incollato? / — incollato?

Bei Sendungen nach dem Ausland. / Pour les envois à destination de l'étranger. / Per gli invii a destinazione dell'estero. *angegebener oder vorgeschriebener Leitweg: / voie d'acheminement indiquée ou prescrite: / avviamento indicato o prescritto: / Anwechslungsbureau (nur bei Paketen): / bureau d'échange (seulement pour les colis): / Ufficio di scambio (solo per i pacchi):*

Abgängen mit Kartenschluß / Expédié par dépêche / Spedito col dispaccio *101* Die Aufgabepoststelle: / L'office de consignation: / L'ufficio d'impostazione: *ST GALLEN 1 BRIEFABGABE*

Genauere Leitnachweise im Inlanddienst: / Indications exactes de l'acheminement dans le service intérieur: / Indicazioni esatte dell'avviamento nel servizio interno:

Umgeleitet von / Réexpédié de / Rispedito da *ST GALLEN 1* nach / à / nach *Zürich 1* le - den - li *17. Nov. 1917*

Umgeleitet von / Réexpédié de / Rispedito da *ST GALLEN 1* à - nach *Basel 2* le - den - li *18. Nov. 1917*

Obige Sendung ist abgesandt worden mit dem Kartenschluß der schweiz. Anwechslungsstelle. / L'envoi désigné ci-dessus a été expédié dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange suisse de / L'invio qui sopra descritto è stato spedito nel dispaccio dell'ufficio di scambio svizzero di

du - vom - del *19. XI. 1917* Kartschl. für das Anwechslungsbureau / envoi pour le bureau d'échange de / spedizione per l'ufficio di scambio di *Stockholm*

Sie ist eingetragen unter ** / Il est inscrit sous le / Esso è descritto al progr. *N. 3* de la *N. liste* *1645* / *18* / *285-18*

Date - Datum - *Basel, 19. XI. 1917* *Stentano*

*1. Eingeschriebener Brief, eingeschriebenes Warenmuster, eingeschriebene Drucksache, Einsagemandat, Wertbrief, Wertsachsel, Paket, Poststück, Postfrachtticket, adreßlos Argeld mit Rückporto.
 *2. Lettre, échantillon ou imprimé recommandé, recouvrement, lettre ou bolle avec valeur déclarée, paquet, colis postal, article de messagerie, indication d'expédition avec affranchissement.
 *3. Lettera, campione o stampato raccomandato, ricevimento, lettera o scatola con valore dichiarato, pacco, collo postale, oggetto di messaggiera, indicazione esecuzionale con ricevuta di ritorno.
 *) de tabellen I de la feuille d'avis. / in der Abbildung I der Briefkarte. / del quadro I del foglio d'avviso.
 de la feuille de route. / der Geldkarte. / del foglio d'itinerario.
 de la liste spéciale. / der Frachtkarte. / della lista speciale.

No. 158. A. R. R. VI. II. 25.000.

6.8 Swiss duplicate réclamation for letter to Sweden (1917)

Foolsap size, with *Duplicata* at top, and a reference to an earlier, first réclamation form having been sent out: *1ère reclamation No 66 le 4 avril 1918*. With remarks by the postmasters at St Gallen, Zürich, and Basel at bottom. The 25 centimes réclamation fee paid by stamp.

A remplir dans le service de destination. - Von der Bestimmungspoststelle auszufüllen. - Da riempire nel servizio di destinazione.

Die vorerwähnte Sendung ist dem Empfangsberechtigten richtig ausgehändigt worden am
L'envoi susmentionné a été dûment livré à l'ayant droit le 191
L'invio qui retro descritto è stato regolarmente consegnato all'avente diritto il

Stempel des Bestimmungspostamtes.
Timbre du bureau de destination.
Bollo dell'ufficio di destinazione.

Unterschrift des Bestimmungspostamtes
Le chef du bureau de destination — Il capo dell'ufficio di destinazione

Im Fall der Bestellung
En cas de distribution
In caso di distribuzione

L'envoi susmentionné — Die vorerwähnte Sendung — L'invio qui retro descritto
lagert noch bei dem Postamt in
est encore en instance au bureau de
è tuttora giacente nell'ufficio di
ist nach dem Aufgeben zurückgesandt worden am 191
été renvoyé au bureau d'origine le è stato restituito all'origine il
ist nachgesandt worden am 191 à - nach - a
a été réexpédié le è stato rispedito il

Stempel des Bestimmungspostamtes.
Timbre du bureau de destination.
Bollo dell'ufficio di destinazione.

Unterschrift des Bestimmungspostamtes
Le chef du bureau de destination — Il capo dell'ufficio di destinazione

A remplir dans les services intermédiaires. - Von den Vermittlungs-Verwaltungen auszufüllen - Da riempire nei servizi intermedi.

6.8A Bottom of reverse of form in Figure 6.8
Stamped and signed at the inquiry section of the Stockholm post office; the letter did not reach Stockholm.

II 7728

Die Einschreibsendung Nr. 644 aus
Hall (Schwab) ist mit dem Kartenschluss vom
16. Januar 1900 unter Nr. 778 der Einschreibliste
von der Seepost nach New York First letters
weitergesandt worden. (3 Kartenschluss.)
Dampfer Eller
Bremen, 5. Mai 1900

Kaiserlich Deutsches Postamt 1.
H. G. Handing

For letter sent to address: 22 York - 1900

25
1900

M. J. Chance
Acting Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.

6.9A Reverse of right form in Figure 6.9
With shipping details from the port of despatch, Bremen, and the declaration by the AFAPMG. Image is cut in two for viewing.

delivery on 2 February. The right AR form, endorsed *réclamation de l'avis de réception*, refers to the same letter (registration number 644, mailed 15 January, to the same addressee), and was sent out in early May, possibly in late April. It was again signed by the recipient, apparently on 7 August.

On reverse of the second AR form is a German post office form indicating how the letter was

Deutschland, Württembergische Postverwaltung.
Administration des Postes de Wurtemberg.

L. A. Gausel
Post. 21. II. 1900

Rüschheim
Avis de Réception

ein(en) Brief (Rätschen) mit einer Werthangabe von
d'une lettre (bulte) avec valeur déclarée

über *Brief* eine Einschreibsendung ()
d'un objet recommandé

ein Postpaket
un colis postal

in *Gall (Schwas)* am *15 Jan. 1900* unter Nr. *644*
do le *15* sous le No. *644*

und gerichtet an *Elisabeth Weller geb. Dietrich*
et adressé à *Loejoy Street Nr. 25 Buffalo N.Y.*

Der Unterzeichnete erklärt, daß
Le soussigné déclare

ein Brief (Rätschen) mit Werthangabe
qu'une lettre (bulte) avec valeur déclarée

an eine Einschreibsendung
un objet recommandé

ein Postpaket
un colis postal

die obenbezeichnete Adresse aus
l'adresse susmentionnée et provenant de

richtig ausgehändigt worden ist am
a été dûment livré le

189
Station A. Buffalo, N. Y.
FEB 2 1900
Unterschrift
Signature *Elisabeth Weller*

des Empfängers: des Vorsehers der betreffenden Postanstalt:
le destinataire: le chef du bureau distributeur:
Samuel G. Dor. P. W.

ST. A. BUFFALO, N. Y.
FEB 2 1900
M. O. B.

*) Bei der Sendung (Brief, Abgabegroße, Briefschloß u. s. w.).
*) Nature de l'objet (lettre, album, etc.).
*) Aufgabe-Postamt; Tag der Einlieferung bei dieser Postanstalt; Nr. der Eintragung bei derselben Postanstalt.
*) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; No. d'enregistrement au bureau.
*) Zur Beachtung: Dieser Rückchein muß vom Empfänger gezeichnet, sowie die Bestimmungen des Bestimmungslandes zu erfüllen, vom Vorsteher der Bestimmungs-Postanstalt unterschrieben, dann unter Umschlag gefügt und mit nächster Post unter Umschreibung an die betreffende Aufgabe-Postanstalt gesandt werden.
*) Nota: Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire et, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

H 126

Reclamation de l'avis de réception
Deutschland, Württembergische Postverwaltung.
Administration des Postes de Wurtemberg.

Rüschheim
Avis de Réception

ein(en) Brief (Rätschen) mit einer Werthangabe von
d'une lettre (bulte) avec valeur déclarée

über *Brief* eine Einschreibsendung ()
d'un objet recommandé

ein Postpaket
un colis postal

in *Gall (Schwas)* am *15 Jan. 1900* unter Nr. *644*
do le *15* sous le No. *644*

und gerichtet an *Frau Elisabeth Weller geb. Dietrich*
et adressé à *Frau Elisabeth Weller geb. Dietrich*
Loejoy Street Nr. 25 Buffalo N. Y.

Der Unterzeichnete erklärt, daß
Le soussigné déclare

ein Brief (Rätschen) mit Werthangabe
qu'une lettre (bulte) avec valeur déclarée

an eine Einschreibsendung
un objet recommandé

ein Postpaket
un colis postal

die obenbezeichnete Adresse aus
l'adresse susmentionnée et provenant de

richtig ausgehändigt worden ist am
a été dûment livré le

Feb 2 1900
Unterschrift
Signature *Elisabeth Weller*

des Empfängers: des Vorsehers der betreffenden Postanstalt:
le destinataire: le chef du bureau distributeur:
BUFFALO, N. Y.
Samuel G. Dor.
AUG 7 1900

*) Bei der Sendung (Brief, Abgabegroße, Briefschloß u. s. w.).
*) Nature de l'objet (lettre, album, etc.).
*) Aufgabe-Postamt; Tag der Einlieferung bei dieser Postanstalt; Nr. der Eintragung bei derselben Postanstalt.
*) Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; No. d'enregistrement au bureau.
*) Zur Beachtung: Dieser Rückchein muß vom Empfänger gezeichnet, sowie die Bestimmungen des Bestimmungslandes zu erfüllen, vom Vorsteher der Bestimmungs-Postanstalt unterschrieben, dann unter Umschlag gefügt und mit nächster Post unter Umschreibung an die betreffende Aufgabe-Postanstalt gesandt werden.
*) Nota: Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire et, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

H 126

6.9 Two Württemberg AR forms for the same letter to Buffalo (1900)

At left is the form accompanying the registered letter; signed by recipient, but not delivered for months, resulting in the second form, marked *Reclamation de l'avis de réception*. The reverse of the later form is on the previous page.

to have been sent, dated 5 May at Bremen. There is a purple oval datestamp of 17 May applied by the office of the the chief PO inspector in Washington. Finally, on the bottom of the reverse is the declaration by the AFAPMG, confirming the letter was received on 2 February.

What seems to have happened is that although the first AR form was properly signed, it was delayed; there is an endorsement in German (upper left) dated 21 April, suggesting that it may have arrived on that inexplicably late date. This is still well before the German inquiry process began (5 May), which is difficult to explain; perhaps the sender was not aware that the form referred to the letter in question, and instituted an inquiry. It took several months after it arrived in Washington before it could be signed by the recipient (again), 17 May–7 August, and an additional 18 days to return to Washington, whence it was sent to Germany.

This may be viewed in two similar but different ways. The AR form was believed not to have been returned, so a second (sometimes called a *replacement* AR form, and extremely rare) was prepared. Or it could be regarded as a real *réclamation* using the second AR form to serve the former purpose; the comments by the AFAPMG referring to the date of delivery of the registered

letter (but not of the first A R form) support this interpretation.

In a few postal administrations, after-the-fact A R and réclamation were practically equivalent—for example, all twentieth century UK A R forms (both domestic and international) known to me have a lot of extra paragraphs, intended to be filled in by the intermediate and destination offices if necessary, allowing them to be used as réclamation forms [H2]. Denmark may also have simply viewed the services interchangeably (but in reverse—with réclamation forms potentially used as A R) [H1, p 129] (comments by Henrik Mouritsen). After-the-fact A R service was mandated by the U P U beginning 1 January 1899. A 1913 international U S réclamation form is recorded in [H1, p 151], but I know of no pre-1925 after-the-fact international A R forms from the U S, even though both services were free until that year.

Other artefacts of réclamation



6.10 Germany to Finland réclamation covering envelope (1923)
Frankfurt to Helsinki.



6.11 China to France réclamation covering envelope (1924)
From Peiping (Beijing) to Paris.



6.12 Greece to Switzerland réclamation covering envelope (1953)
Athens to Bellinzona (Bellinzona); on defaced stationery.

Shown in Figures 6.10–6.12 are official envelopes mailed post office to post office, not requiring postage, and marked *réclamation*; presumably these would have enclosed the *réclamation* forms. Both were sent as registered letters (most countries had ceased registering returned A R forms by 1920).

7 Avis de paiement

THIS is (perhaps *was* is more accurate) a rarely used service concerning postal money orders. Between many pairs of countries, a postal money order was obtained by going to the post office, paying the amount of the money order and the fees, and then the post office of the original country would send (by mail, no postage charged) to the destination post office, a *money order advice*, notifying the destination post office.



7.1 Avis de paiement form; between Austrian offices in Turkey (1906)

From Constantinople (30 March) to Smyrna (8 April), and returned to Constantinople (10 April), properly signed. Seemingly, fee paid in cash. Returned under cover.



7.2 Front and back of fragment of Chinese avis de paiement card (1925)

Presumably a de p cards were introduced at the same time as AR cards (ca 1921). For a money order cashed at Copenhagen. The 10¢ stamp is conveniently struck with an AVIS DE PAIEMENT straightline, the only one I've seen.

48

Jubilee

A.P.—2. *India 94209*

Royaume-uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Avis de Paiement d'un Mandat-Poste.
Advice of Payment of a Money Order.

Le soussigné déclare que la somme de *£10*
The undersigned certifies that the sum of

montant du mandat No. *2769* (émis par le bureau de
the amount of Money Order No. (issued by the office of
Gondal (on the) *9 2* 19*10*, (au
(in

profit de) *M. Domestius b. Baulgers*
favour of)

a été dûment payé le) *28th Feb* 19*10*.
has been duly paid on the)

Timbre du Bureau Payeur.)
Stamp of Paying Office.)

SOUTHAMPTON-ROW-W.C.
C
FEB 10

Signature *Wentch* (Le Receveur.
Postmaster.)

{Cet avis doit être signé par le bureau payeur, puis mis sous enveloppe
{This advice must be signed by the Paying Officer, enclosed in an envelope
{et envoyé par le premier courrier au bureau d'origine du mandat.
{and despatched by the first post to the office of origin of the order.

G & S 740 6000/3/09—[7847] 6000 12/09/10

7.4 Avis de paiement form, UK–India; British form; money order issued in India (1910)
Properly signed at Southampton-Row (London).

In turn, the destination office which would inform the recipient. The recipient could call at the post office, and collect payment.

If the sender opted for *avis de paiement* service (which required an additional fee, typically equal to the A R fee), then upon payment to the recipient, the destination post office would send

2326 20/5/24

8

POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
OF BRITISH INDIA
DE L'INDIE BRITANNIQUE

ADVISE OF PAYMENT
A VISÉ DE PAYEMENT

of a money order,
d'un mandat.

The undersigned declares that the sum of Rs 400/-
Le soussigné déclare que la somme de

the amount of money order No. 26811
montant du mandat n°.

issued by the office of Singapore on the
émis par le bureau d le

to the address of Mr. Gonnamalai Achei
à l'adresse de M.

has been duly paid to the payee on the 20/5/24
a été dûment payée le

Stamp of the office of payment.
Touche de l'office du payeur.

(Signature) _____
Le _____
Postmaster.
des postes.

P. P. - 24-3-19.

7.5 India avis de paiement form, Singapore (1924)
For a money order issued in Singapore, paid on 28 May, the form arriving in Singapore 12 June.



Colônia Portuguesa de
Portuguese Colony of

Aviso de pagamento de um vale
Advice of Payment of a Money Order

Estação emissora (Office of issue) Laurenço Marques Número do vale (No of order) 746
Estação de pagamento (Office of Payment) Sardhar (Matheran) Importância (Amount) Thirty Pounds 5/6
Data da emissão (Date of issue) 16 de outubro de 1917 Nome do destinatário (Name of Payee) Vrajalal Panachand Kothari

O abaixo assinado certifica que a importância do vale (ou ordem) acima descrito foi devidamente paga em 10 de dezembro 1917.
The undersigned certifies that the amount of the above described money order (or postal order) was duly paid on the 10 of December 1917.
 não foi reclamada no dia 10 de dezembro 1917.
 has not been claimed on the 10 of December 1917.

Vrajalal Panachand Kothari
O Encarregado do pagamento de vales,
Postmaster

Endereço do tomador (Name) Vrajalal Panachand Kothari
Residência Laurenço Marques P.13. n. 109 T. P. N. Ind. 2.º

7.6 Avis de paiement form, Laurenço Marques–India (1919)

Properly signed at Sardhar (south India). Fee of 5 centavos, at a time when the A R fee was 7½ cvo. Returned under cover.

F.M.O. II.
Old S.F.
F.M.O. II.

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE L'INDE
BRITANNIQUE.
POST OFFICE OF BRITISH INDIA.

Mandat No. Money Order No } 12755
Montant du mandat Amount of Order } Rs 10/-

émis par le bureau de issued by the Post Office of Sardhar
le on the } 12/5 193 .

au profit de payable to } M. S.A. Annamalai
A } Ponnammalal

Ti mbre du Bureau expéditeur
Stamp of Office of origin
MADRAS F.M.O.

AVIS DE PAYEMENT
ADVICE OF PAYMENT

To Raman Chettiar
(Lieu de Destination)
(Place of destination) 26

Pays de destination
(Country of destination)
SINGAPORE

SERVICE DES POSTES
ON POSTAL SERVICE

7.7 India avis de paiement card, Madras (1936)

For a money order issued in Singapore.

438 India X5 58385 London

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
de la GRANDE BRETAGNE
POST OFFICE of GREAT BRITAIN

Mandat No. } - A1035
Money Order No. }

Montant du mandat } £2. 8s -
Amount of Order }

émis par le bureau de
issued by the Post Office of
Hastings Calcutta

le } 16.2. 1940
on the }

au profit de } The Accountant
payable to } X Ministry of Health

à } London
at }

M.O. 113.

Timbre du Bureau expéditeur.

AVIS DE PAYEMENT
ADVICE OF PAYMENT

Stamp of Office of origin.

A Major H. Young
To Riase Supply Depot.
Hastings
Calcutta
(Lieu de destination)
(Place of destination)
India.
(Pays de destination)
(Country of destination)

POST OFFICE
GENERAL
MONEY ORDER
LONDON

SERVICE
DES POSTES

*[12508] 41670 4/38 870

Le soussigné déclare que le mandat mentionné au recto
The undersigned certifies that the Money Order described on the other side

a été dûment payé le } 23. 3. 1940
was duly paid on the }

Timbre du bureau payeur.
Stamp of paying office.

Signature*

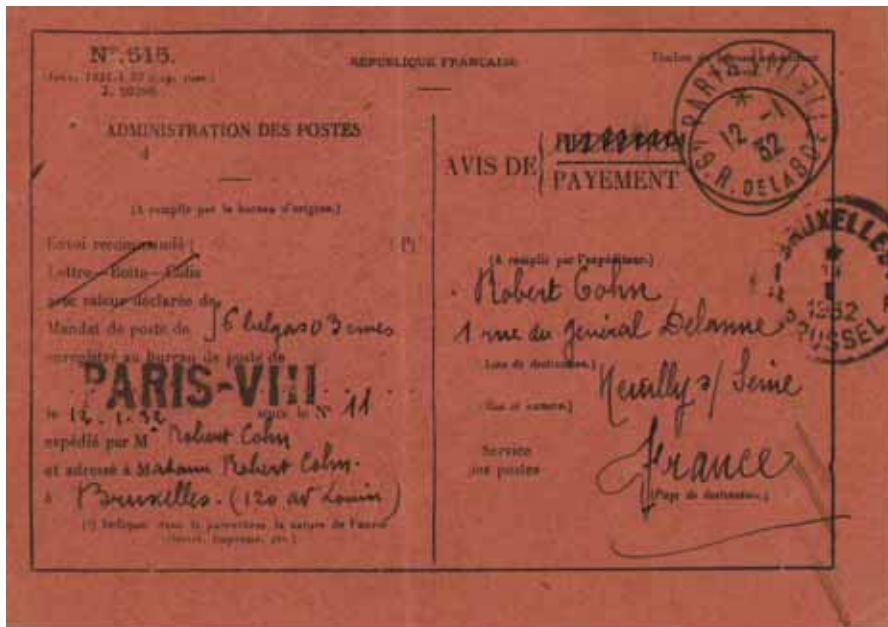
du destinataire ou de l'agent du bureau payeur.
of the payee or of paying officer.

Delmit
for controller,
nos
nanor gardens
Holloway N7.

* Cet avis doit être signé par le bénéficiaire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau payeur, et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur du mandat.
This advice must be signed by the payee or, if the regulations of the country of destination allow it, by the paying officer, and returned by the first post directly to the remitter.

7.8 British avis de paiement card, seemingly after-the-fact or replacement (1940)

The money order was issued at Hastings, Calcutta (India) on 16 February 1940; it was paid in London on 23 March; the card was prepared at LONDON M.O.D. (money order department; faint datestamp lower right), and postmarked at the London F.S. (foreign service) on 29 March, arriving 20 April.



7.9 France avis de réception/paiement card, for money order paid in Belgium (1932)
 Most French AR forms and cards could also be used for a de p, but very few are. Here is an example; RÉCEPTION has been struck through. Properly signed and handstamped in Brussels. Below is the sender's receipt for this money order, with ms *Avis de paiement*.



N° 1414.
Sept. 1927. — Rev. Off. G. A.

ADMINISTRÉ PAR
LES POSTES
ET LES TÉLÉGRAPHES.

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.

DE PAYEMENT D'UN (1)

(Instr. gén., Sec. 7, art. 51, 89, 110, 115, 133, 149, 190, 201, 202, 203, 204, 207 et 208.)

Le soussigné déclare que, la somme de cent francs
montant du mandat de paiement émis sous le n° 94 série n° _____ par le bureau
de Paris le 8 19 27 à l'adresse de M. M. A. Wagner
a été dûment payé à Paris le bureau de Luxembourg
le 8 19 27

Timbre à date.

CUNARD S.S.

Le Receveur, Bureau central de chèques postaux de Paris.

(1) Ajouter, suivant le cas : mandat ordinaire, carte, lettre, télégramme, télégraphique, bon de poste, etc.
(2) Faire suivre, s'il y a lieu, le nom de la partie prenante de sa qualité (fondé de pouvoir, héritiers, etc.).

Cet avis sera envoyé par le 1^{er} courrier qui suit le paiement } dans le service intérieur, la formule plie comme un télégramme ordinaire. Il sera distribué sans taxe à l'intéressé.
} dans le régime international, sous enveloppe n° 289, après que la patte aura été détarbée.

Jempp - First Natl. Bank A 310214

7.10 France avis de paiement form, for money order paid in Luxembourg (1927)

For a hundred franc money order. Could be used for either domestic or international service, and to be returned in a covering envelope in the latter case. Very flimsy.

the clerk-signed *avis de paiement* form to the sender (again, postage free); this was a notification that the money order had been paid, presumably to the right person. Some countries even had special covering envelopes for the return of the *avis de paiement* form, and a few had handstamps.

The examples from British colonies all show the form or card being prepared in the office of destination (that is, where the money was given over), whereas the other examples show the reverse.

The forms became cards in the early 1920s, as was the case for AR forms. For some countries (such as France and colonies), the AR card doubled as a possible *avis de paiement* card, although it is extremely difficult to find them used for the latter purpose.

I haven't a clue when *avis de paiement* service began, although it might have originated precisely when international postal money orders became available. The domestic version of this service was also available, at least in some countries. The original spelling was *avis de payement*.

This service is practically unknown to postal historians, and material is (almost) nonexistent. Part of the reason is that between for example, US, Canada, and UK, postal money orders were handled differently: money orders were sent by the sender directly to the recipient in the regular mail (registered if the sender thought it worthwhile). Very likely, this was the procedure between many other pairs of countries. It is not clear how *avis de paiement* service could then be arranged.

Figure 7.1 shows an early Austrian form, between two offices in the Ottoman Empire. Figure 7.2 shows a fragment of a Chinese *avis de paiement* card, with a straightline cancel. Figures 7.4 and 7.5 show *avis de paiement* forms of UK and India. Figure 7.6 illustrates a flimsy Portuguese colonial *avis de paiement* form (1919). Figures 7.7 and 7.8 shows *avis de paiement* cards from UK and India.

Figure 7.9 shows an *avis de paiement* use (together with the receipt) of a French AR card (with *avis de réception* struck through). Slightly earlier (Figure 7.10) is a flimsy French *avis de paiement* form (which could be used either domestically or internationally—if the former, returned as

M. O. No. 28 P. M.
15,000-23-11-26

DOMINION OF CANADA

ADVICE OF PAYMENT OF A MONEY ORDER
AVIS DE PAIEMENT D'UN MANDAT DE POSTE

When application is made at the office of issue after the despatch of the Order and Advice, Postage Stamps to the value of two cents must be affixed here, and this form must be sent to the Superintendent Money Order Division.

Quand une demande est faite au bureau d'émission, après le dépôt à la poste du mandat et de l'avis, des timbres-poste d'une valeur de deux cents devront être apposés ici, et cette formule devra être envoyée au Surintendant de la Division des Mandats.

Office of issue..... No.....
Bureau d'émission..... No.....

Amount \$..... Date of issue.....
Montant \$..... Date de l'émission.....

Name and address of Payee.....
Nom et adresse du bénéficiaire.....

Name and address of Remitter.....
Nom et adresse de l'envoyeur.....

The undersigned certifies that the amount of the above described Order was paid on
Le soussigné atteste que le montant du mandat ci-dessus mentionné a été payé le

.....192.....

Stamp of Paying Office
Timbre du Bureau Payeur

Postmaster
Maître de Poste

When a British Money Order is paid, the Advice of which bears the words "Advice Payment" this form must be filled up by the paying Postmaster and sent by first mail as an ordinary letter to the Remitter whose name and address should be copied from the Money Order Advice.

Quand un mandat de poste du Royaume-Uni est acquitté, si l'avis porte ces mots: "Advice Payment" le maître de poste du bureau payeur remplira cette formule et la retournera, par le premier courrier, comme lettre ordinaire, à l'envoyeur dont il copiera le nom et l'adresse sur l'avis du mandat.

In the case of an Order issued in another country or colony and advised through London, England, this form must be filled up and sent to the Money Order Division, Ottawa.

Si un mandat a été émis en pays étranger ou en colonies anglaises et avisé par le bureau de Londres, Angleterre, cette formule-ci devra être remplie et envoyée à la Division des mandats de Poste, Ottawa.

On His Majesty's Service—FREE

To.....

AP

Money Order Business
Service des Mandats de Poste

7.11 Unused Canadian avis de paiement form (1930s)

Folded letter sheet, resembling the much earlier Canadian A R forms. No used Canadian examples are known to me.

194

M _____

Je vous ai envoyé un { mandat de poste } No. _____
 { bon de poste }

de \$ _____, émis à _____

le _____ 194____, mais jusqu'à
 présent, vous n'en avez pas accusé réception.

Veillez bien me faire savoir si vous avez reçu cette remise
 et si vous l'avez encaissée.

Si vous ne l'avez pas reçue, vous êtes prié d'en avertir votre
 maître de poste, qui vous fournira une formale officielle dont
 vous vous servirez pour demander un duplicata. Veuillez bien
 me dire si vous avez fait ceci.

Si vous ne tenez pas à ce qu'un duplicata soit émis en votre
 faveur, vous voudrez bien m'en informer et j'obtiendrai un
 remboursement du montant en question.

Signature _____

Adresse _____

RÉPONSE DU BÉNÉFICIAIRE À L'ENVOYEUR

Signature _____
 For the English, see the other side.

M.O.No. 15 (B) P.M.

194

M _____

I sent you a { Post Office Money Order } No. _____
 { Postal Note }

issued at _____

on the _____ 194____ for \$ _____
 but up to the present, an acknowledgment has not been
 received.

Will you please state, therefore, whether or not you received
 the remittance and cashed the same.

If you did not receive it, notify your local Postmaster who
 will provide the official form by means of which you may
 make application for a duplicate. Kindly advise if this action
 is taken.

If you do not desire a duplicate in your favour, please reply
 accordingly and I will obtain a refund of the amount.

Signature _____

Address _____

PAYEE'S REPLY TO REMITTER

Signature _____
 Pour le français voir au verso

M.O. No. 15 (B) P.M.—10,000-24-9-45

7.12 Unused Canadian inquiry as to the payment of a money order (1945)

Bilingual (showing each side); to be enclosed in a covering envelope to be sent to the payee, and the response returned to the remitter. No used examples are known to me.

a folded letter sheet, while if the latter, under cover.

Used Canadian avis de paiement forms are nonexistent as far as I am aware, but an unused one is illustrated in Figure 7.11. This is followed (Figure 7.12) by an unused Canadian inquiry as to the payment of a money order(1). Mexico even had a covering envelope for the return of avis de paiement forms (Figure 7.13).



7.13 Mexican covering envelope for an avis de paiement form (1912)

Some administrations even had covering envelopes prepared for the return of avis de paiement forms!

Colophon

THIS document and all the exhibit sections were prepared in (plain) $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$, an incredibly versatile typesetting language (mostly used in scientific publications, especially mathematics and physics). The font family is *ITC Elysium*, with companion font *Prague* for the large caps that appear in the drop caps (as in the big **T** to the left) and on the title page.

The biggest problem was trying to get the figures as close as possible to the relevant text without leaving large white spaces (since in some chapters, there is relatively little text, but a lot of pictures). I didn't always succeed, even though I was flexible about adjusting the scale of the figures.

Most of the scans were in colour at 400 dpi, although some were in grey scale, and at much lower resolution (anomalies will be adjusted—eventually). Because of that, and my use of .eps files, this document alone comes in at over two gigabytes. With *Distiller*, the file size is reduced substantially; but if you're seeing this on-line, then it was probably distilled at low quality (in order to reduce the file size to something that can be sent as an e-mail attachment). This is too bad, because at high quality, the fine details in the figures can be magnified considerably. Unfortunately, the resulting file cannot be sent by e-mail—a DVD is required to hold it.

I started to collect Canadian AR in the early 1980s as a result of a comment in Horace Harrison's 1971 book [H] on nineteenth century Canadian registration (not to be confused with the generally poor book on Canadian registration published in 2002). He pointed out an AR postmark, and said it was rare. So I started looking for Canadian AR material, of which there was not very much. With the advent of e-Bay, I branched out into worldwide AR, and eventually restricted myself (mostly) to international use. In 2002, I wrote the book [H1] (presumably the first book on worldwide AR), with which the reader will notice some similarities.

The vast majority of the material came from e-Bay, with an (expensive) few things bought at public auctions and private sales. When I started on e-Bay (circa 1998), almost no one recognized AR, so I picked up material for a song. Those days are past, especially for China (Chinese AR material is not particularly scarce, but it is becoming more and more expensive, as there are far more collectors of Chinese postal history in general). On the other hand, US AR material is still cheap, and practically ubiquitous.

References

THESE will be updated in subsequent versions. Apologies in advance to the numerous people who have written about AR, but are not referred to here. They should contact me (at my e-mail address—see the title page), and let me know what's missing.

- [A] Douglas Armitage & Robert Johnson, *Iraq postal history 1920s to 1940s*, Rossiter Trust (2009) 342 + XII pages.
- [BW] Henry W Beecher & Anthony S Wawrukiewicz, *U s domestic postal rates, 1872–1999*, CAMA Publishing Company, Portland OR, second edition, (1999) 338 + XIV pages. (This is the standard for domestic U s rates in this period. Available from second author's website.)
- [H1] David Handelman, *AR—avis de réception*, Postal History Society of Canada, Ottawa (2002) (for a copy, contact me at rochelle2@sympatico.ca).
- [H2] *ibid*, *AR in the British Isles*, London Philatelist 116 (#1346) June 2007, 157–181.
- [H3] *ibid*, *Sender an American traitor*, Postal History Journal 150 (2011) 13–14.
- [H4] *ibid*, *Don't get personal*, Collector's Club Philatelist (2007).
- [H] H Harrison, *Canada's registry system 1827–1911*, American Philatelic Society (1971).
- [F] Michael Furfie, *British civilian rates of the twentieth century*, published by the author (2000), 62 pages.
- [G] H Géant, *Réflexion sur l'emploi du timbre représentant la taxe d'avis de réception*, Feuille Marcophiles 306 (2001) 35–37.
- [GH] Robin Gwynn & Norman Hoggarth, *Railway disaster mail*, Stuart Rossiter Trust (2010) 322 pages.
- [J] R Joany et al, *Les tarifs postaux français 1627–1969*, Éditions loisirs et cultur, Paris (1982). (This is the ultimate French rates book; however, it is next to impossible to find anything. Turns up—rarely—on e-Bay. But better for the U P U period is Richardson's book on French rates [R].)
- [MAC] James A Mackay, *Registered mail of the British Isles*, published by the author (1982) 395 pp. (Turns up on e-Bay occasionally.)
- [M] Münchener Briefmarken-Clubs, *Rückschein, avis de réception, return receipt*, MB-C eV, Heft 5 (undated) 346–3 pages (available from the Munich Stamp Club; contact Hedy.Bergdolt@gmx.net).
- [R] D Richardson, *Tables of French postal rates 1849 to date*, various editions, France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain. (The standard for French rates during the stamped period.)
- [SB] Pingwen Sieh & J Lewis Blackburn, *Postage rates of China 1867–1980*, Directorate General of Posts, Taipei (1981) 62 + several. (Turns up on e-Bay periodically. I'm told there are better rates books in Chinese.)
- [UPU] Arthur Groten (editor), *U P U mail, annual tables of exchange rates & of postage rates to the U S, 1881–1953*, Postillon series of primary sources, volume 4, The Printer's Stone (Fishkill NY) (undated) 186 + XX pages.
- [WB] Anthony S Wawrukiewicz & Henry W Beecher, *U s international postal rates, 1872–1996*, CAMA Publishing Company, Portland OR, (1996) 402 + VIII pages. (Standard for international U s rates in this period. Available from first author's website.)
 - Various postal guides of the U s, Canada, UK, . . .
 - Many, many on-line rates sources

About the exhibits

WHAT follows are really generalized exhibits, covering a large number of entities. As is clear, each jurisdiction treated A R service in its own way. For example, U S handled domestic and international quite differently (in terms of fees and forms/cards), and required no additional fee for A R service on registered and insured matter until 1925; it was correspondingly popular. On the other hand, Canada used the same forms/cards for both domestic and international service, required a substantial fee, and the service was practically unknown. Similarly, UK required proportionately higher fees, and the service was not well subscribed, especially for international mail. It also had different treatment of international and domestic A R service.

So to study A R in depth, we really have to treat each country separately, and that is what we do, starting with U S, Canada, UK, China, and then entities for which I have far less material. Except for the first four, **I do not deal with domestic A R service**. For some countries, such as India, France, and Italy, the quantity of domestic A R material available is enormous, and the domestic service is very complicated. These should be done by an expert in these areas.

Most of the exhibits consist of just a few pages (some, just one), because I simply have not found more than a handful of items. For example, I have only two Fernando Pó items, both A R covering envelopes, but conveniently bracketting the date at which they ceased to be returned as registered matter; so I have just the one page for the Fernando Pó exhibit. Maldives is another single page exhibit; I have just one A R cover and no other A R material.

The presentation of the exhibits is roughly that of an actual (concrete) exhibit. But I am not bound by page lengths of 80 or 128, or even divisibility by 16. I also take some liberties that would not be possible for real exhibits, e.g., some covers are slightly wider than the standard page, so would have to be displayed vertically; it's simpler for me to shrink the image to fit the page. (But I don't do this very often, because many of these pages will be used in real exhibits, and I don't want to do too much additional work.) I also include more details than might be appropriate for physical exhibits, and use coloured text (mainly for emphasis, sometimes just for fun).

I have exhibited some of this material. Most recently, five-frame U S (both international and domestic) obtained large vermeil internationally, as did a five-frame A R in the British Empire (international A R only). Five-frame China A R (international and domestic) obtained vermeil nationally, and long ago, a similar length Canada A R received gold nationally, but I don't know how I managed to get five frames (I think I must have included a lot of incoming and modern stuff). Almost as long ago, I exhibited a five-frame worldwide A R internationally, but it only received vermeil. It became clear that a worldwide exhibit is probably not feasible (at least for higher medals).

I prefer to deal with pre-1950 material, because things are a lot simpler. However, I make exceptions when there is no choice, going right up to the 1990s; for example, one of the exhibits will consist only of a commercial Palestine Authority A R cover to Israel (assuming I can locate it in my office), in the period between the Norway Accords and the first intifada.

Most of the images were scanned at 400 dpi; unless inadequate sampling has taken place in the creation of the .pdf, viewing at magnification will reveal a lot more detail. Canadian English spelling is used throughout (so please do not complain about *levelled* or similar). All of this is prepared using the typesetting language (plain) T_EX (pronounced *tek*, although the X is actually the uppercase Greek letter *chi*—lower case is χ).

I solicit images, write-ups, corrections, comments, to improve this. For example, I only have a few Russian A R items; there must be a lot more. Please contact me at rochelle2@sympatico.ca for details on how to send me images and text.

This is a first draft; there will be indices and other features that should be there, but I

haven't had time to do them. Eventually, I will get around to pre-U P U A R (mostly for Austro-Hungarian Empire, German states, and a few odds and ends).

List of exhibits, as of April 2019

- (●) U S domestic
- (●) U S international
- (●) Canada, domestic and international
- (●) UK, domestic and international
- (●) China, domestic and international

Each of the following deal with international A R service only; except for the British Empire exhibit, they are much shorter, and only qualify as mini- (or micro-) exhibits.

- (●) Australia (including states) and New Zealand
- (●) Rest of British Empire and Commonwealth
- (●) Generalized Scandinavia (includes Estonia, Latvia, and Finland in addition to the usual ones; I would have included Lithuania, if I had had any material)
- (●) Portuguese colonies and Brazil
- (●) France and colonies

In preparation

- (●) Spain and colonies
- (●) Netherlands and colonies
- (●) Rest of western Europe
- (●) Eastern Europe
- (●) Rest of Asia
- (●) Rest of Latin America

Future plans

- (●) Pre-U P U Austria-Hungary and territories, domestic and international (this will take a while)
- (●) Pre-U P U German states
- (●) Pre-U P U rest of Europe