RETURNED - REMAILED TO THE UNITED STATES

To London and Return



Floral Park, N.Y.,
Feb. 14, 1894,

New York City
transit,
Feb. 14
(on reverse)

12 days to

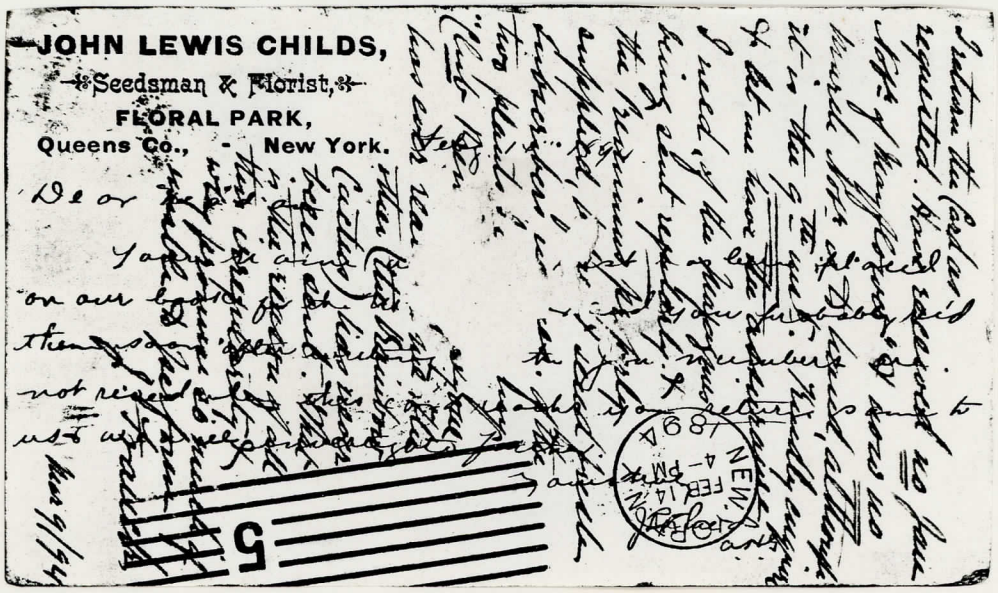
London W.
(Red)
Feb. 26

on return,

Paddington W.,
London,
Mar. 10

New York City
PAID ALL "A",
March 18

The original message tells the addressee to "return the card" if a late magazine is still not received. The addressee does literally "return the card," adding postage, and writing a scathing complaint about "continued irregularity" across the original message.



POSTAL CARDS THAT HAVE TRAVELLED ALL OVER THE WORLD!

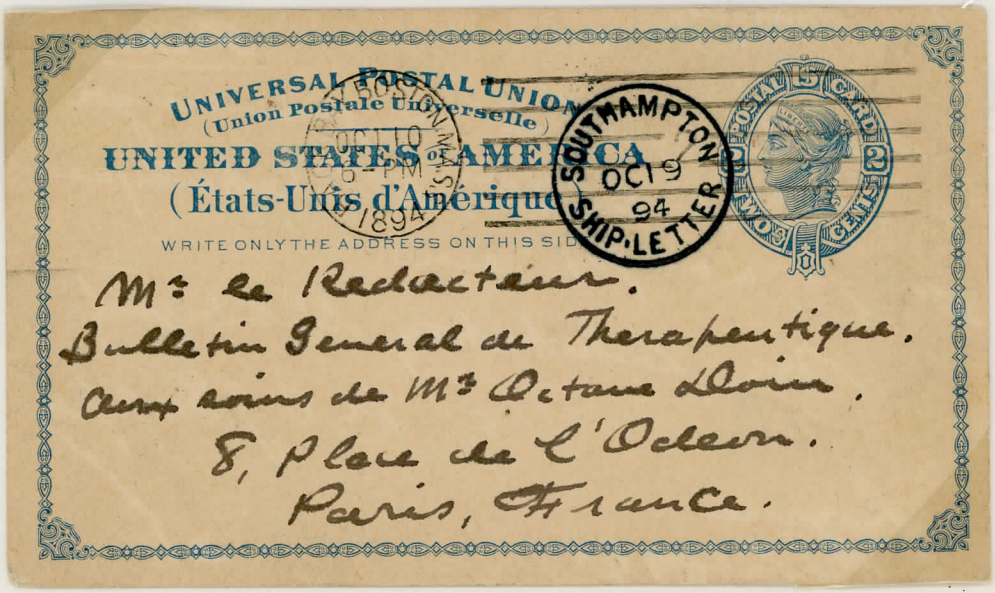
AVERAGE TIMES, BY COUNTRY, FOR THE TRAVELS

OF THE POSTAL CARDS IN THIS EXHIBIT



NOT BAD! THE WORLD OF 1880-1905 COULD MOVE THE MAILS!

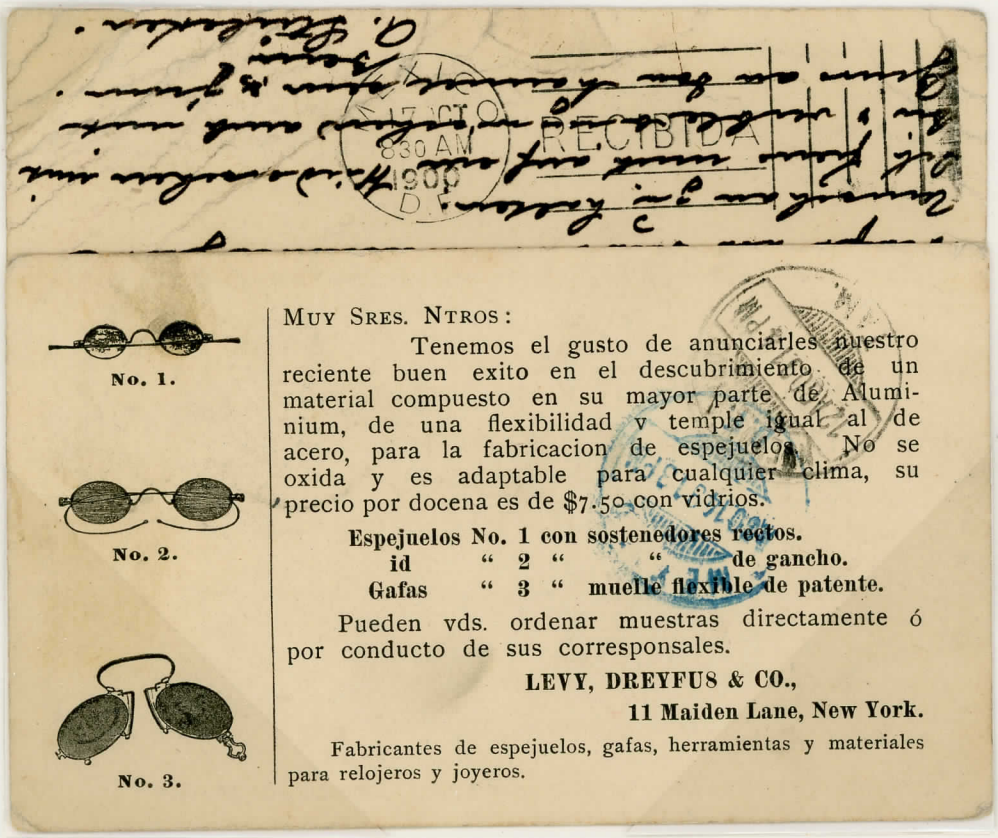
Southampton (England) Ship Letter Cancel



Back Bay,
Boston,
1894,
9+ days to
Paris, France,
via
Southampton,
England

MEXICO

Mexico City Receiving Marks



New York City,
1900,
6 days to
Mexico City

~~Milwaukee~~ NYC
~~1886~~, 1891
~~8~~ 6 days to
Mexico City,
D.F. and
Laredo
Transit
Marks

Guadalajara



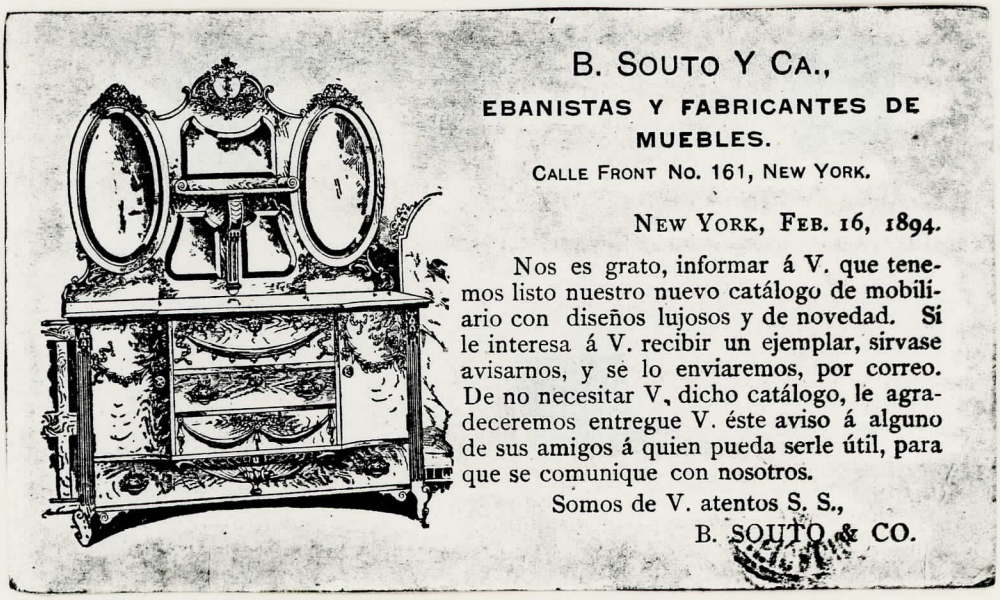
San Francisco,
1884,
to
Guadalajara

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AYRES



New York City,
Feb 21, 1894,
Buenos Ayres,
April 11,
A long,
49 day journey!



B. SOUTO Y CA.,

EBANISTAS Y FABRICANTES DE MUEBLES.

CALLE FRONT No. 161, NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, FEB. 16, 1894.

Nos es grato, informar á V. que tenemos listo nuestro nuevo catálogo de mobiliario con diseños lujosos y de novedad. Si le interesa á V. recibir un ejemplar, sírvase avisarnos, y se lo enviaremos, por correo. De no necesitar V. dicho catálogo, le agradeceremos entregue V. éste aviso á alguno de sus amigos á quien pueda serle útil, para que se comunique con nosotros.

Somos de V. atentos S. S.,

B. SOUTO & CO.

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES



Norfolk, Va., 1886,

Buenos Aires postal delivery ("ABONADOS"),

an 83 day trip

New York City, 1888,

Argentine "Careros No 2",

Buenos Aires Receiving,

a 47 day trip

URUGUAY



Hermann, Mo., 1907 (January) to Montevideo, Uruguay.

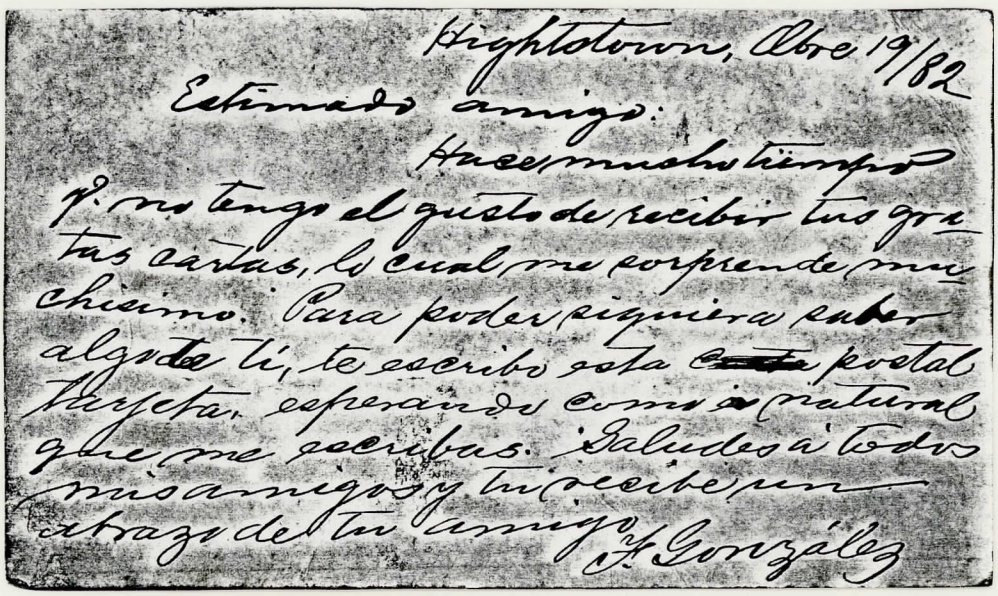
the receiving handstamp is still dated 1906!



ECUADOR

GUYAQUIL (Port City)

Heightstown,
New Jersey,
1882



Heightstown, Abre 19/82

Estimado amigo:

Hace muchos tiempos
q. no tengo el gusto de recibir tus gra-
tas cartas, lo cual me sorprende mu-
chisimo. Para poder siquiera saber
algo de ti, te escribo esta ~~carta~~ postal
tarjeta, esperando como es natural
que me escribas. Saludes a todos
mis amigos y tu recibe un
abrazo de tu amigo
J. González

The writer solicits an exchange of postal cards.
Philatelic, but so early that it remains of interest.

CHILE

SANTIAGO



Albany, N.Y., 1894, 1895, 39 and 35 days to Santiago, Chili, with similar messages

PERU

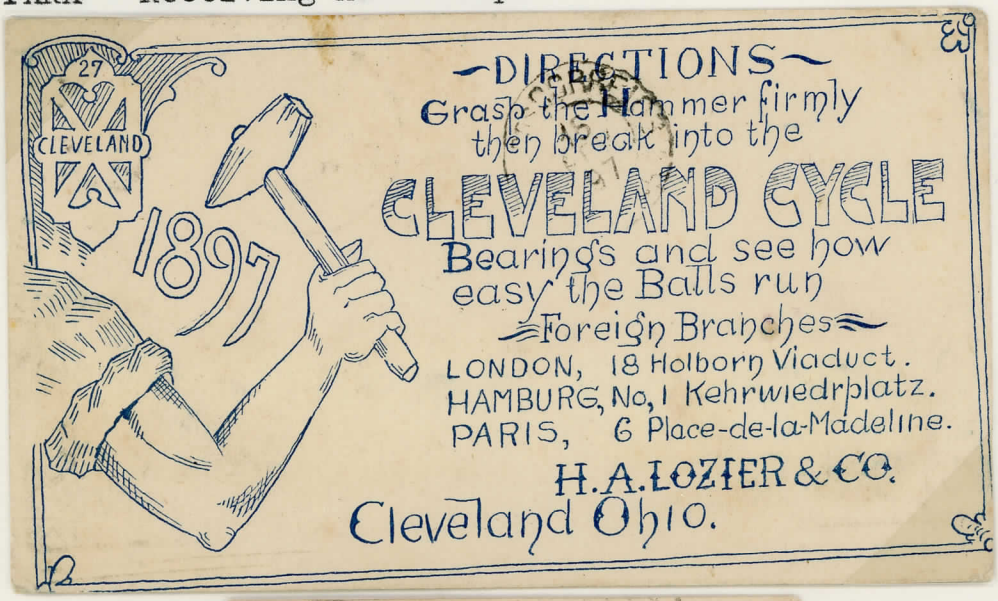
CALLAO (Port for LIMA)



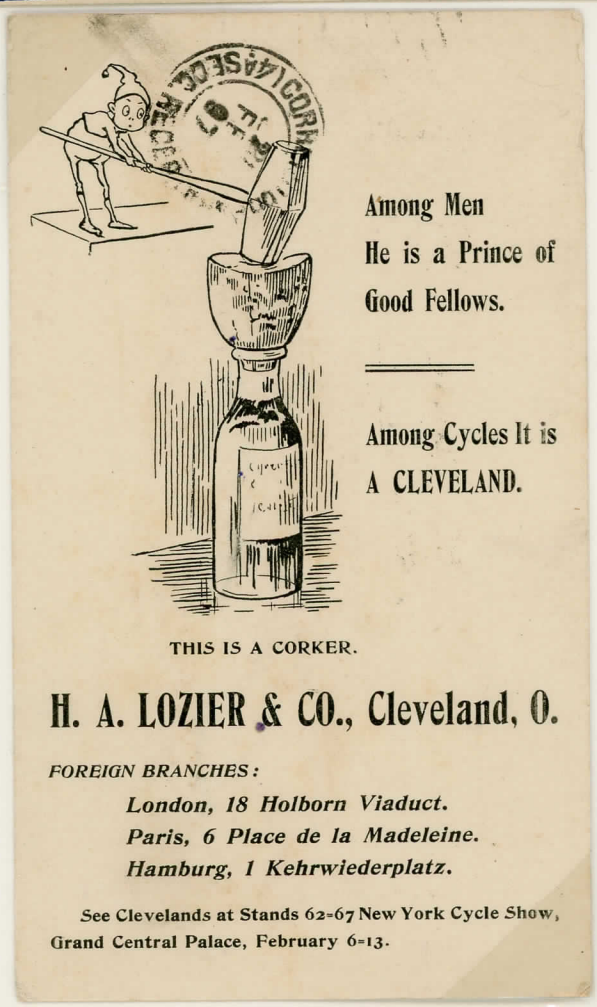
Port Townsend, Wash., 1891-2, 44 days to Callao, Peru

BRAZIL

PARA - Receiving Handstamps



Cleveland,
1897,
24 days to
Para,
Brazil



Cleveland,
1896-7,
73 days to
Para,
Brazil

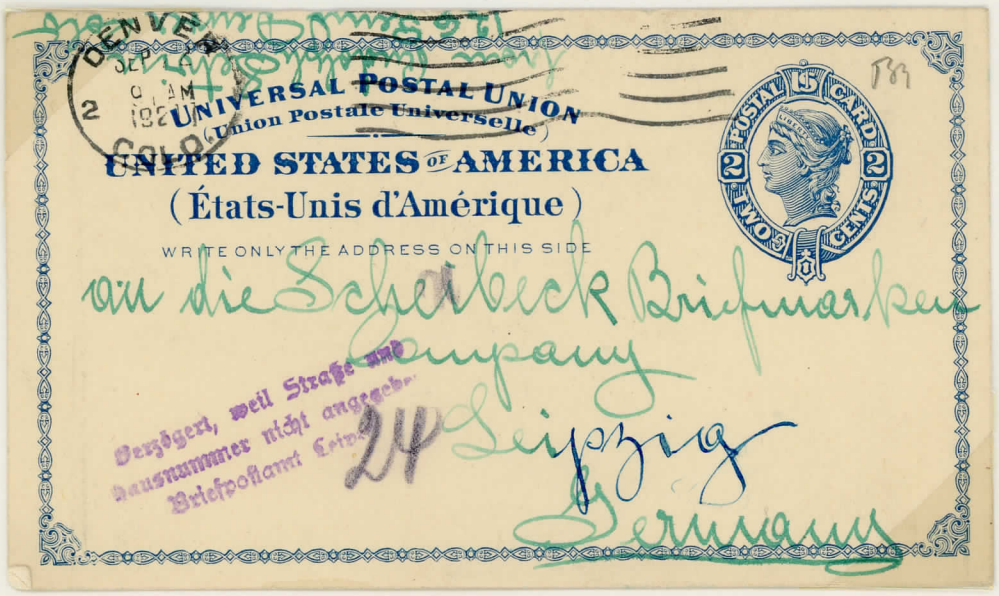
ADDRESS CORRECTED

"BELGIUM, HOLLAND" Indeed!



Cleveland, Ohio, 1898, 11 days to Antwerp, Belgium, fast despite the faulty address.

"Delayed, as street and house number were not given - Leipzig post office."



Denver, Colorado, 1921, to Leipzig, Germany

FORWARDED

WITHIN GERMANY



Cincinnati,
July 6, 1891

Regensburg,
Germany,
July 17

on forwarding,
Regensburg,
July 18

Markt Redwitz,
July 18

(a 12 day trip)

WITHIN ENGLAND



Litchfield,
Conn.,
July 31, 1888

London, E.C.
transit, Aug. 8

on forwarding,
London,
Aug. 11

to
Southampton

(an 11 day trip)

FORWARDED

WITHIN THE NETHERLANDS



Buffalo, Dec. 28, 1895

New York, N.Y., transit, Dec.

Leiden, Netherlands, Jan. 6

on forwarding, S'Gravenhage (den Haag), Jan. 6

(a 9 day trip)

WITHIN BELGIUM



Milford, Mass., Dec. 18, 1893

Brussels, Belgium, Dec. 29

Forwarded within Brussels, with three city markings

(an 11 day trip)

FORWARDED

WITHIN AUSTRIA



St Louis,
Aug. 18, 1894

Brunn,
Austria,
Aug. 31

on forwarding,
Vienna,
Sept. 1

(a 14 day trip)

WITHIN SWITZERLAND



Blue Canyon, Cal.,
Aug. 11, 1893

New York, N.Y.,
transit, Aug. 16
(on reverse)

Zurich
receipt and
delivery,
Aug. 26

on forwarding,
Zurich, Aug. 26

Solothurn,
Aug. 27

(a 16 day trip)

FORWARDED

WITHIN GERMAN SOUTHWEST AFRICA



Birmingham, Ala., May 11, 1899

Otjimbingue, German Southwest Africa, July 2

on forwarding, Windhoek, GSWA, July 5

(a 52 day trip)

A later card goes direct to the new address.
The addressee is a "Reiter der kaiserl. Schutztruppe"
(Cavalryman in the Imperial Defense Troops)



Buffalo, N.Y., Sta. B, Aug. 9, 1900

Windhoek, GSWA, Sept. 25

(a 47 day trip)



FORWARDED

WITHIN INDIA



Chicago, Ill., Dec. 24, 1883

Sea Post Office "C" transit, Jan 17

Saharanpur, India, Feb. 2

on forwarding, Saharanpur, Feb. 2

to Umbala, India

(a 40+ day trip)

WITHIN INDIA



Pennsylvania, Nov. 9, 1882

Sea Post Office transit

Umballa , India, Dec. 14

on forwarding, Umballa City, Dec. 14

Johundur City, Dec. 15

(a 36 day trip)

Missionaries move around!

FORWARDED

WITHIN AUSTRALIA



New York City, Sept. 2, 1896

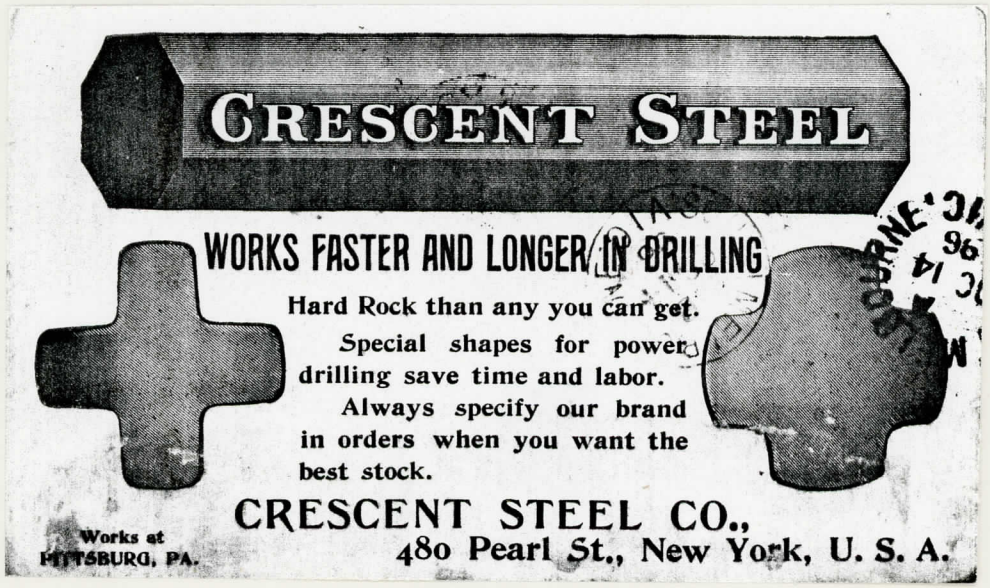
San Francisco F.D. transit, Sept. 7

Melbourne, Australia, Oct. 14

on forwarding, South Melbourne, Oct. 14

(a 42 day trip)

copy of reverse



FORWARDED

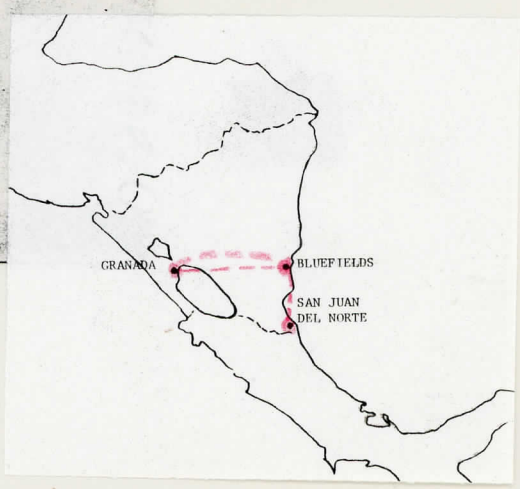
WITHIN NICARAGUA

A postal card to Granada, Nicaragua, wanders on the east coast of Nicaragua looking for the addressee.



Oakland, Cal., Aug. 14, 1899, Bluefields, Nicaragua (transit) Aug. 29, Granada, Sept. - on forwarding, Bluefields, Sept. 11, San Juan Del Norte, Sept. 13. (a 30 day trip)





FORWARDED - WITHIN GERMANY

A TALE OF POSTAL TENACITY



New York City,
1891,
13 days to
Breslau,
Germany

Sent to: Mr Siegfried Frankel
formerly of Breslau
now supposedly at the Kleines Burgelhaus
in Bad Reinerz, Silesia, Germany

A persistent postal service forwards the card to Breslau, where addressee has returned, and goes to great lengths to find his exact whereabouts.

As the card runs out of space,
the appended note states -
"Addressee can be located in
Breslau, c/o F. Braun,
Trinitas St. 12 II.

But was that the last word? WHAT SERVICE!

INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING

ENGLAND TO GERMANY



Lenox, Mass.,
Aug. 22, 1898

London, E.C.,
incoming
transit,
Aug. 31

on forwarding,
London,
Aug. 31

Hohe, Germany,
Sept. 1

(a 10 day trip)

GERMANY TO ENGLAND



Syracuse,
Aug. 17, 1883

to Braunschweig,
Germany

forwarded
"via steamer
"Oder""
to
Southampton,
England

INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING

FRANCE TO SWITZERLAND



New York City, June 2, 1882

Paris Etranger transit, June 11

on forwarding, Paris, June 14

Swiss AMBULANT, June 15

to Geneva, Switzerland

(a 13 day trip)

BELGIUM TO THE NETHERLANDS



Philadelphia, Aug. 20, 1895

New York City transit (on reverse)

Malines, Belgium, Aug. 29

on forwarding, Malines, Aug. 29

Deventer, Netherlands, Aug. 29

(a 9 day trip)

INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING

Hungary to England



Philadelphia,
April 22, 1896
(Exchange Cancel),
Budapest
Receiving, May 2,
on forwarding,
London, May 5

GERMANY TO AUSTRIA



New York City,
Aug 19, 1897,
Munich, Germany
Receiving,
Aug 29.
On forwarding,
Munich, Aug 30,
Aschau, Austria,
Aug 30
(an 11 day trip).

TWICE FORWARDED

FRANCE to LONDON, and within LONDON



Philadelphia
PAID ALL
(exchange
office)
Mar. 22, 1883

PARIS,
France
"Etranger"
partial strike
in blue.

on First Forwarding -

London, E.C. (Red)
transit, Apr. 6, 1883

Brown & Shipley Co.
Private Receiving Handstamp

on Second Forwarding

London, Apr. 6 (Black)

An overall 15 day trip.

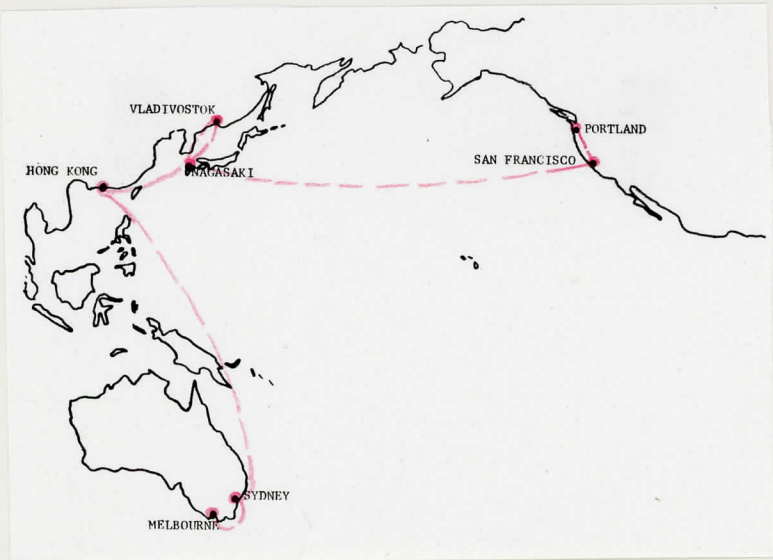
MULTIPLE FORWARDING

CHASING A STEAMER CAPTAIN !

VLADIVOSTOK TO HONGKONG TO AUSTRALIA

WITH MANY INTERMEDIATE TRANSITS





Portland, Oregon, Oct. 17, 1895

San Francisco transit, Oct. 19

Nagasaki, Japan, transit, Nov. 14

Vladivostok, Siberia (on reverse), Nov. -

on forwarding,

Nagasaki, Japan, transit, Dec. 6

Hongkong transit, Dec. 10

Hongkong transit, Dec. 14

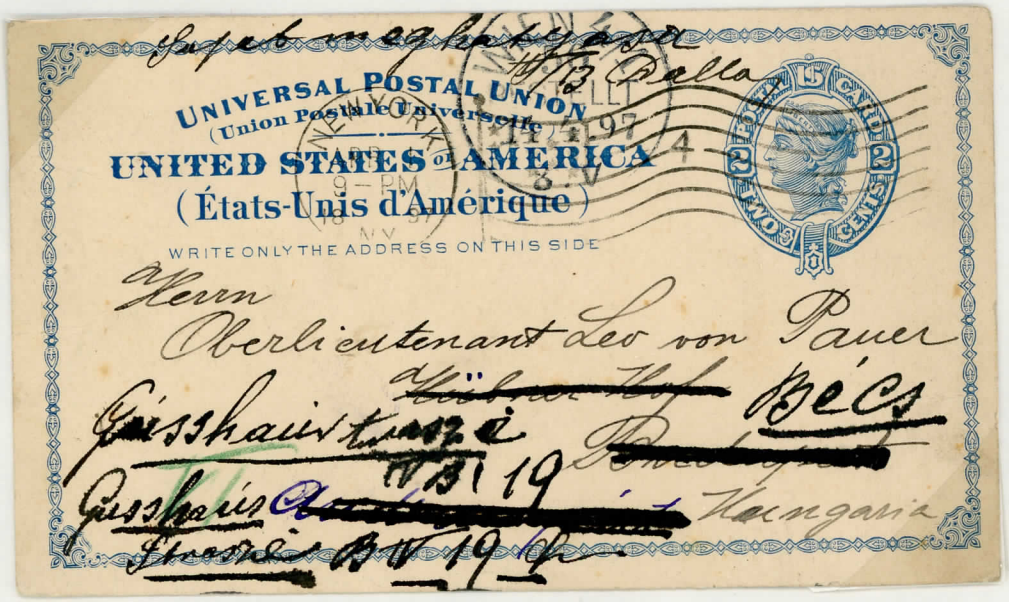
Sydney, Australia, Jan. 12, 1896

manuscript "Melbourne, Jan. 29"

an overall 87 day trip!

INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING

Hungary to Austria

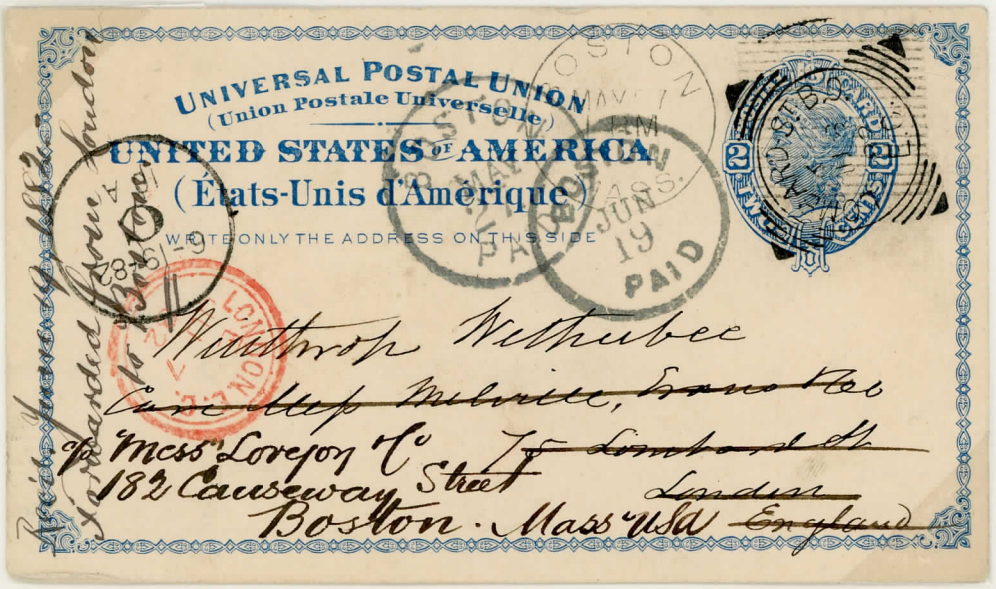


New York City,
Apr. 1, 1897,
to
Budapest,
Hungary.
on Forwarding,
Vienna,
Austria,
April 14
(13 days).

We call this "International" Forwarding in order to keep peace with the Hungarians! Hungary was a part of the Austrian Empire, without its own ~~foreign~~ foreign relations. But the two postal services began a divorce in 1867 that led to separate Hungarian stamps in 1871, and separate treaties for the handling of international mail at that same time.

INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING - RETURN TO THE USA

To England and Return



Boston Leavitt Machine Cancel Ty D-1, May 27, 1882

Boston Exchange Office PAID transit, May 27

London, E.C., receiving, Red, June 7

The Return Journey:

Lombard-St.B.O., June 8 (in black) (London, E.C.)
Boston PAID transit of the Exchange Office, June 19
Boston Receiving mark "C", June 19

The total trip was only 23 days!

Note that the outgoing and incoming Boston Exchange Office Markings are different types (Blake-Davis 942 and 944 respectively).

RETURNED ! INSUFFICIENTLY ADDRESSED

London, England
("E.C." is "East Central", London's main office)



New York City, Dec., 1896
London, E.C., <u>return</u> transit (black), Dec. 14, London, E.C., "Insufficiently addressed / E.C."

On Reverse



RETURNED - NOT KNOWN

Leith, Scotland (Port to Edinburgh)



New York City, Dec., 1896
Edinburgh return transit (black), Dec. 14
"NOT KNOWN / 131" (the Edinburgh number)

NOT KNOWN BY FOURTEEN POSTMEN!

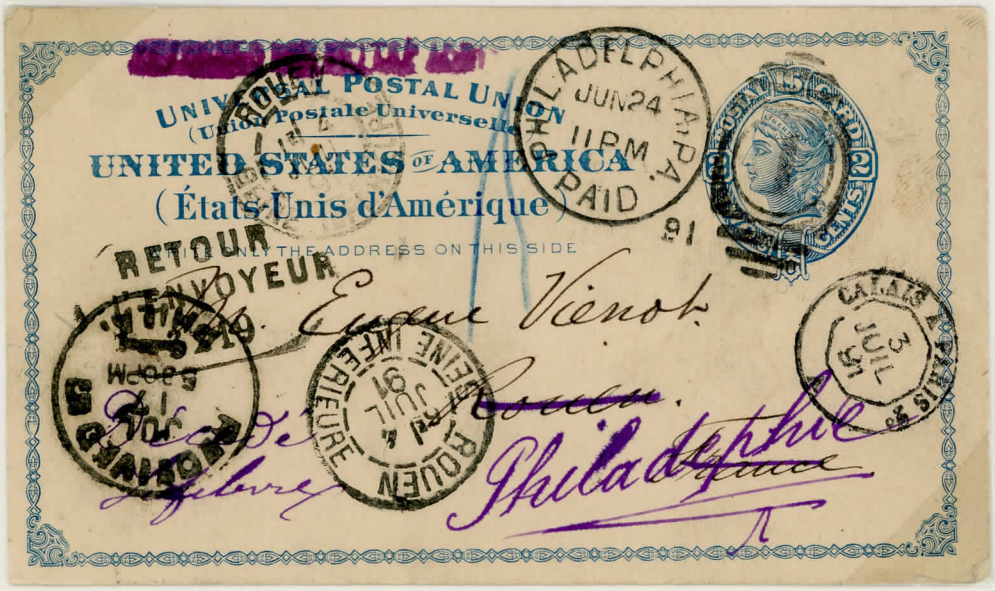
(ATTEST THEIR INITIALS!)

FREE RETURN PRIVILEGES

International cards, when undeliverable, are returned to the sender at no cost. In contrast, domestic cards do not have this privelege!

RETURNED - DECEASED

ROUEN, FRANCE



Philadelphia "PAID" Exchange Office June 24, 1891

Calais to Paris transit, July 3 (the night train)

Rouen receiving July 4 (2 strikes)

"Retour a l'Envoyeur 3219"

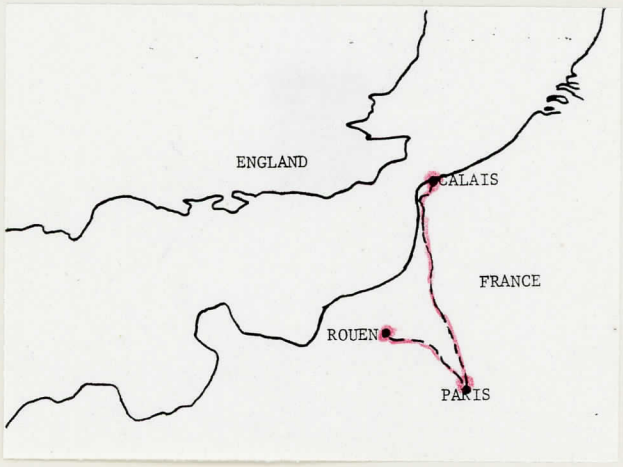
Philadelphia RECEIVED, July 17

a 23 day round trip!

A French postman has written "Decede" (deceased) to explain the return

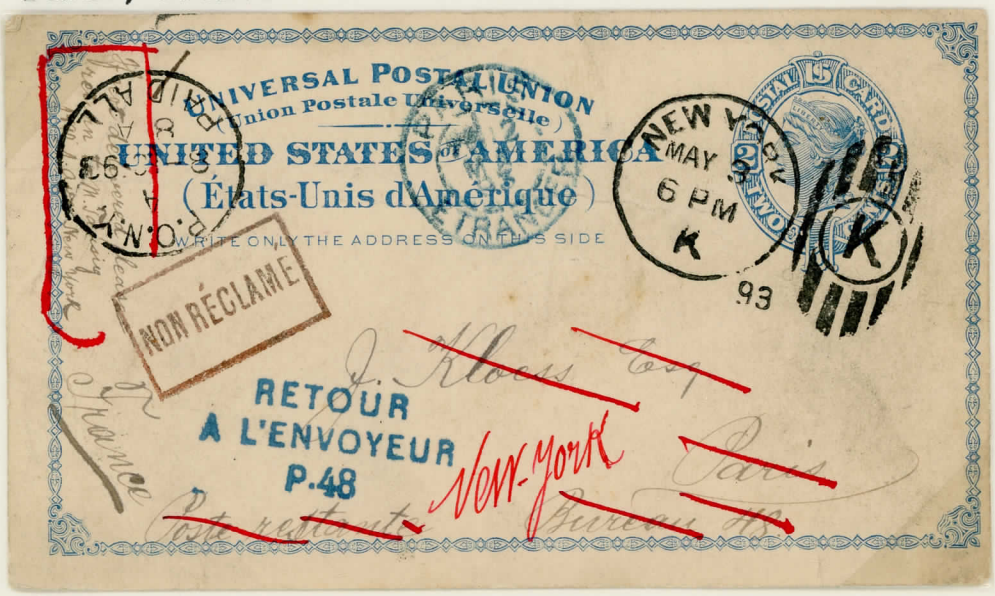
But an American postman, not understanding French, has placed the large violet handstamp "RETURNED FOR BETTER ADDRESS" at top.

Should the better address be "Heaven" or "Hell?"



RETURNED - NOT CLAIMED

Paris, France



New York City, May 3, 1893

Paris, France transit, May 12

on return,

New York City "P.O.N.Y. PAID ALL," Aug. 19

(a 108 day trip)

Original destination - Addressee at
"Poste Restante" (General Delivery),
at Paris "Bureau 48"

Handstamp - "NON RECLAME"
(Not Claimed)

Handstamp - "RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR P. 48"
(Return to Sender)

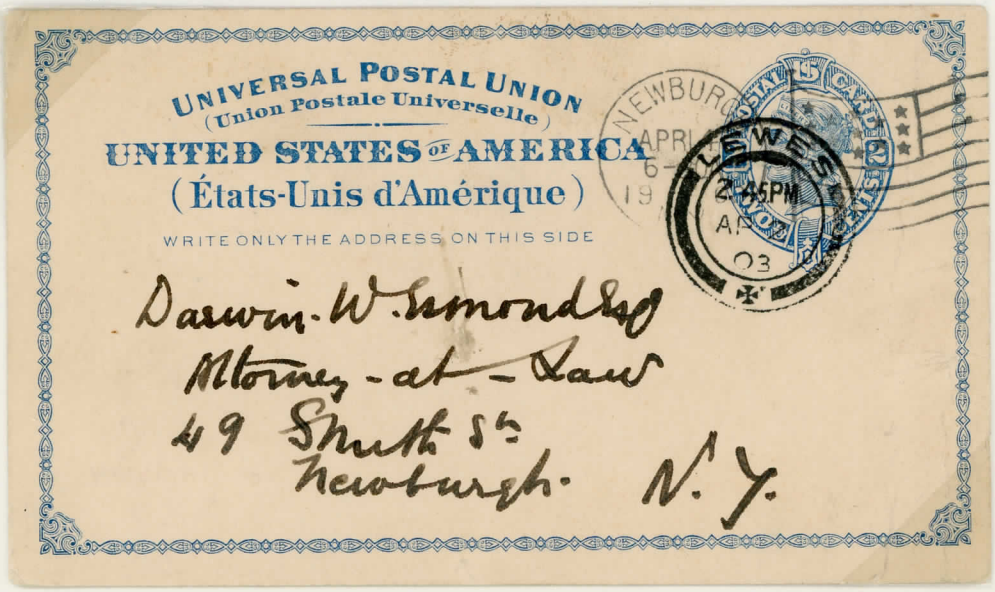
The French Postal Clerk has boxed the American Return Address in Red.

FRENCH RULES WERE THAT A GENERAL DELIVERY LETTER SHOULD BE RETURNED AFTER TWO MONTHS. THE RULE WAS OBVIOUSLY OBEYED, ALMOST TO THE DAY IN THIS CASE!

RETURNED -

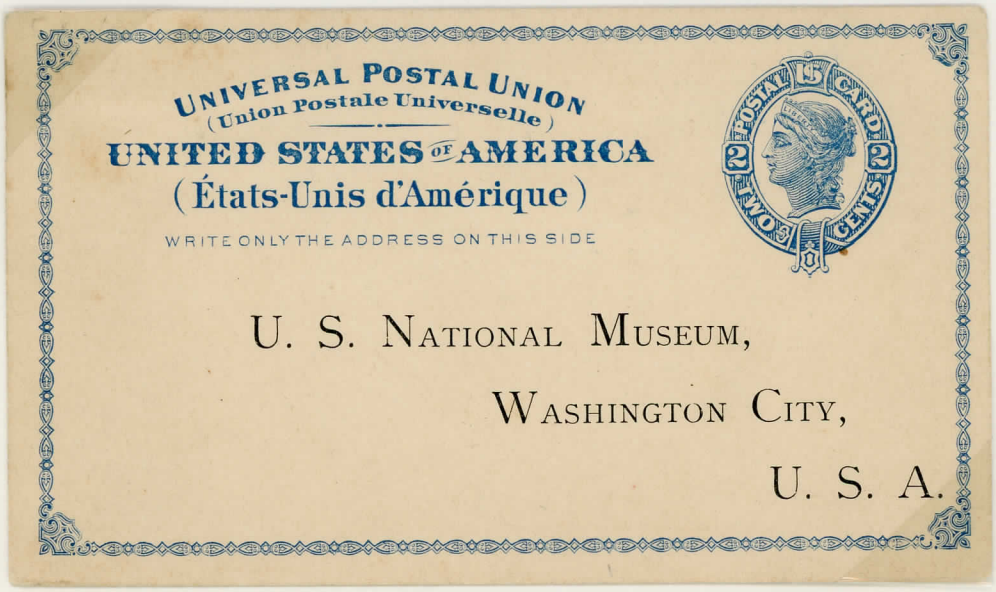
ILLEGAL USE AS INTERNATIONAL REPLY CARD

Origin - LEWES (London)



Lewes, London, 1903, 12 days to Newburgh, New York

Confusion about reply card uses may not have been rare. The PRINTED reply card form below (just as illegal if mailed from abroad) was prepared in 1895 by the U. S. National Museum!



RETURNED - WITH BILINGUAL LABELS

cause for the return shown in German and French

From Russia - Label "Insufficient Address"



New York City, Nov. 23, 1896

New York City transit (on reverse) Nov. 23

Three Russian handstamps - Nov. 18, Nov. 18, Dec. 18 (all old style calendar)

From Switzerland - Label "Not Called For"



New York City Station "K" Apr. 5, 1893

Basel, Switzerland transit, Apr. 18

Basel General Delivery, Apr. 18

on return,

New York City PAID ALL return transit, May 11

New York Sta. K, May 11

(a 36 day round trip)

RETURNED - WITH BILINGUAL LABELS

cause for the return shown in German and French

From Switzerland - Label "Unknown"



Chicago Flag Cancel (on reverse) Dec. 4, 1896

Chicago F.D. transit, Dec. 4

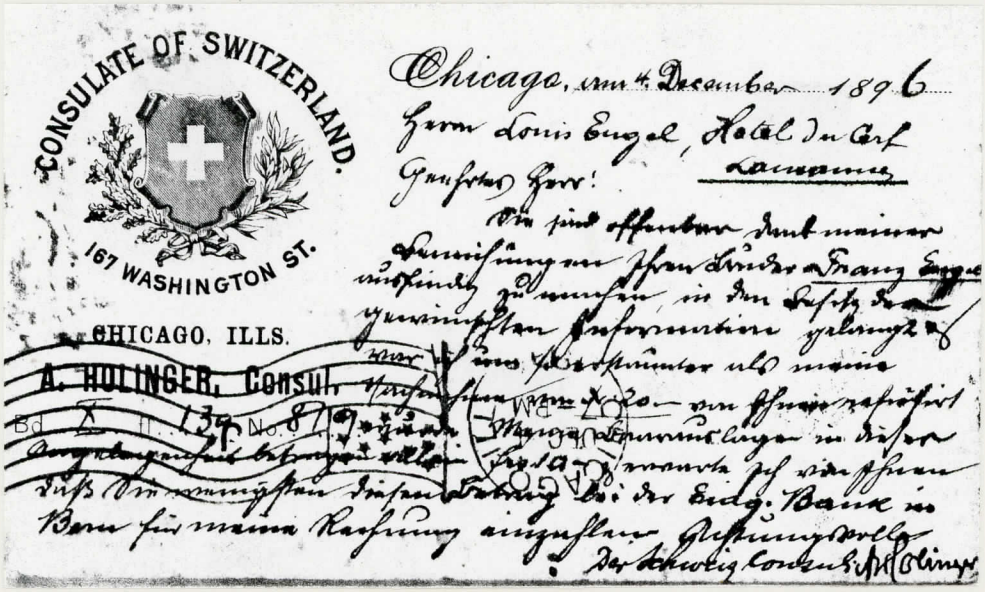
Lausanne, Switzerland, Dec. 17 (2 markings)

on return,

New York City PAID ALL "K" transit, Jan. 2, 1897

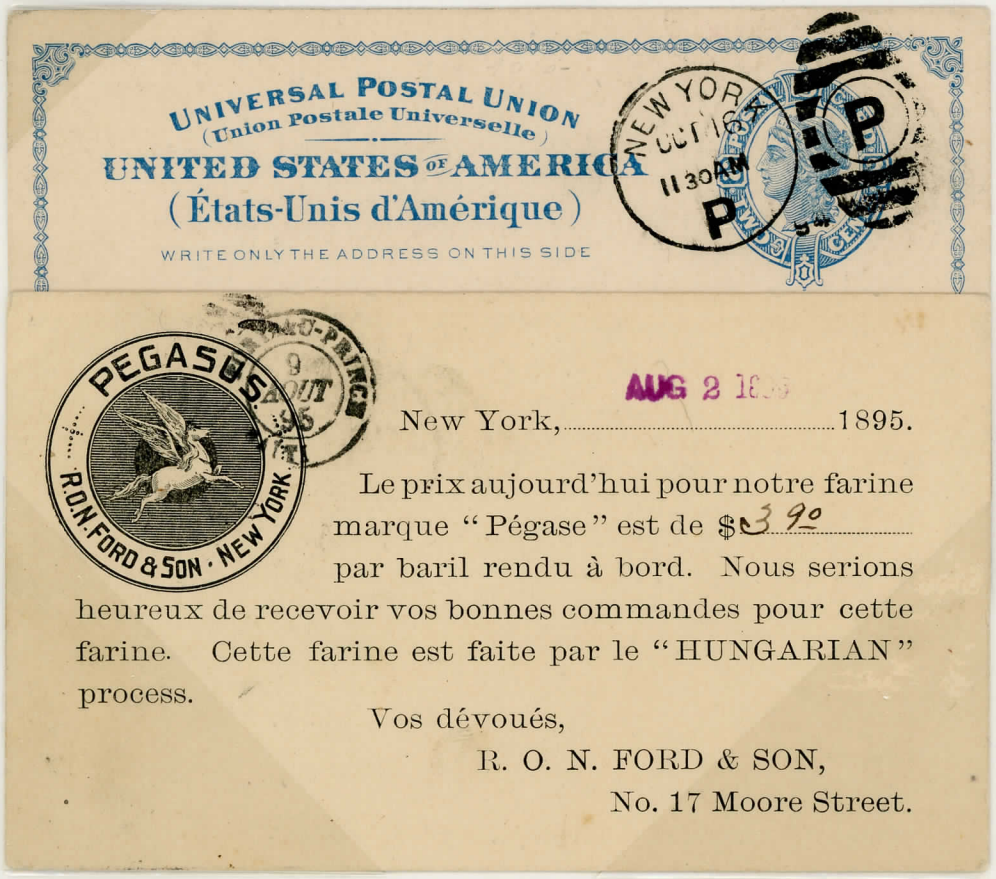
(a 29 day round trip)

Copy of reverse



THE WEST INDIES

HAITI



New York City,
1894 and
1895,
to Gouaives,
Haiti,
and
8 days to
Port au Prince,
Haiti
(note
receiving
postmark)

GUADELUPE



New York City,
1890,
26 days to
Point-a-Pitre,
Guadelupe

EL SALVADOR

St Louis, Mo.,
1886,
to Santa Ana,
El Salvador

CUBA

UNDER SPANISH ADMINISTRATION



New York City,
1894,
to
Santiago,
Cuba

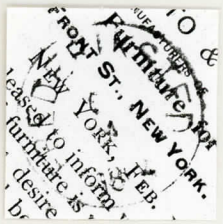
Santiago is on the south coast of the eastern tip of the island.

THE WEST INDIES

DANISH WEST INDIES



New York City,
1894,
via
Frederiksted,
21 days to
St Thomas,
V. I.



DUTCH WEST INDIES



New York City,
1886,
19 days to
Curacao,
Dutch
West Indies

THE WEST INDIES

Port-Of-Spain, Trinidad

New York City,
Dec 21, 1896,
13 days to
Trinidad

Kingston, Jamaica

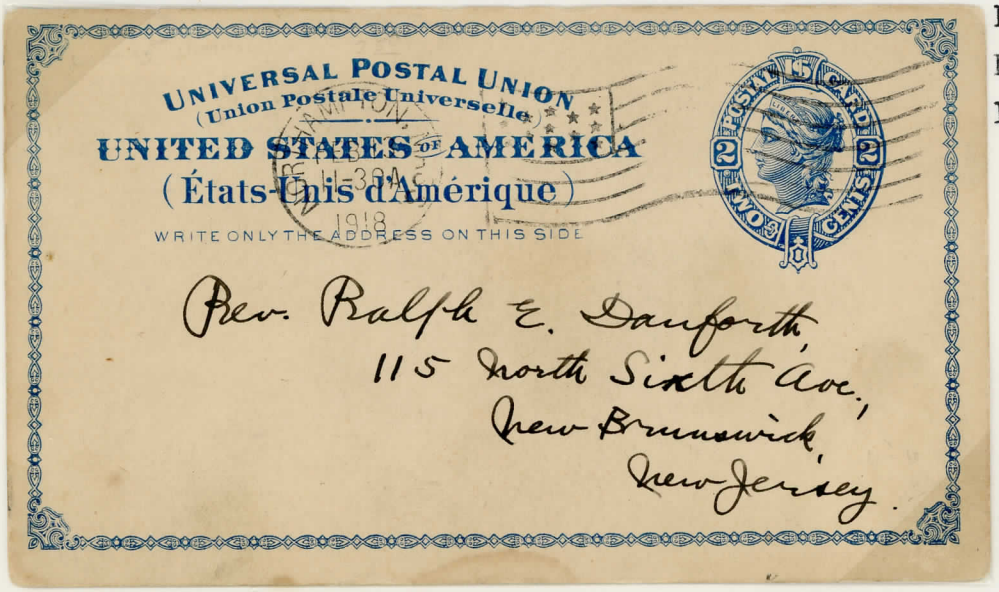


New York,
1893,
7 days to
Jamaica

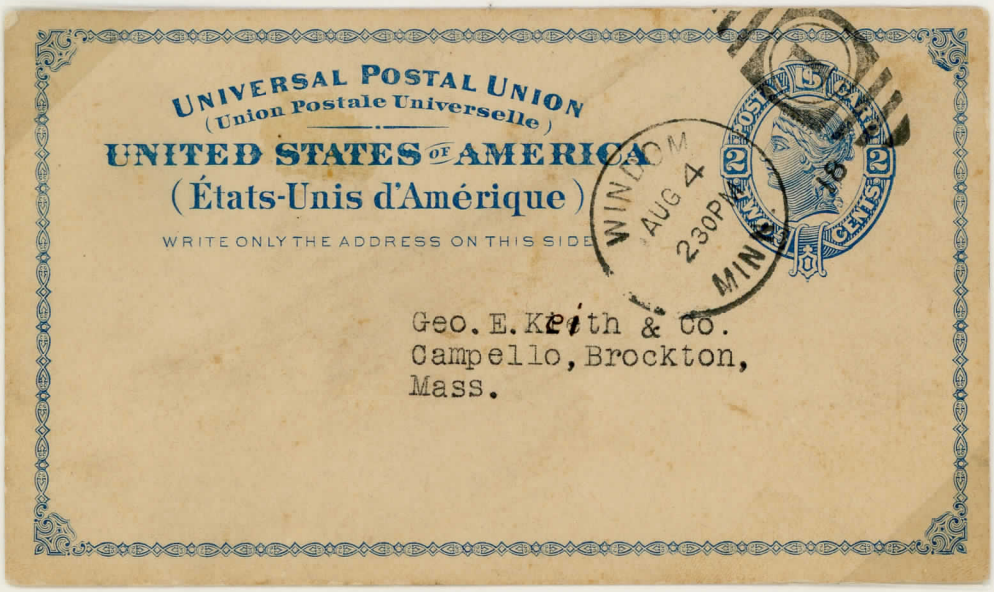
UNITED STATES

THE TWO CENT DOMESTIC RATE

DURING WORLD WAR I



Northampton,
Mass.,
Feb. 13, 1918



Windom,
Minn.,
Aug. 4, 1918

The emergency two cent war rate was in effect November 2, 1917 through June 30, 1919.

CANADA - NOVA SCOTIA

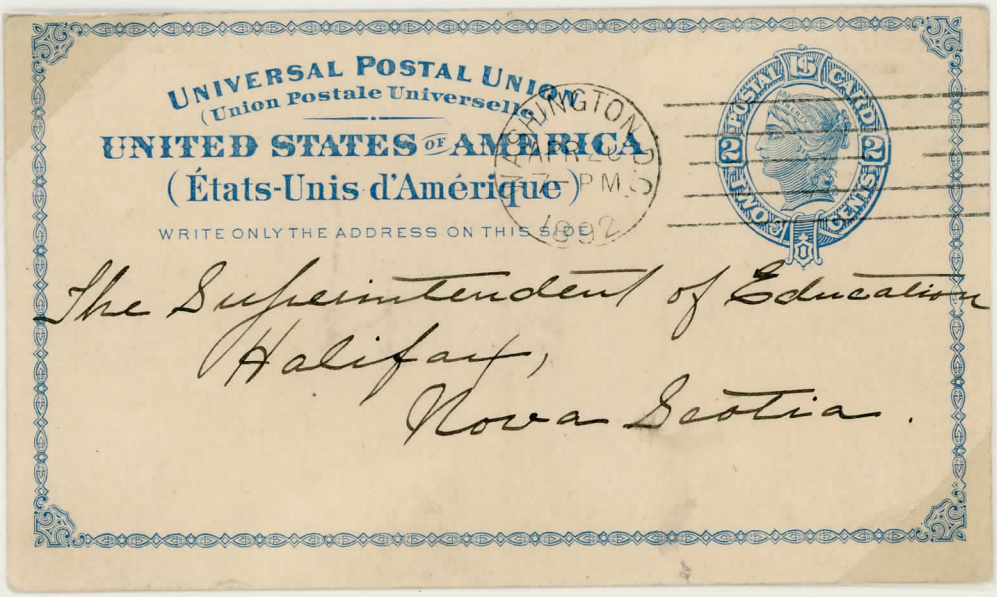
YARMOUTH (Minor port and resort town at extreme southwest of the Scotian Peninsula)



Savannah, Ga., 1883, 5 day trip!



HALIFAX (Port City and Provincial Capital)



Washington, D.C., 1892

THE PACIFIC

KINGDOM OF HAWAII



Cedar Rapids,
Iowa,
1884,
to
Honolulu

NEW SOUTH WALES



Knoxville,
Tenn.,
1892,
via
San Francisco,
36 days to
Sydney

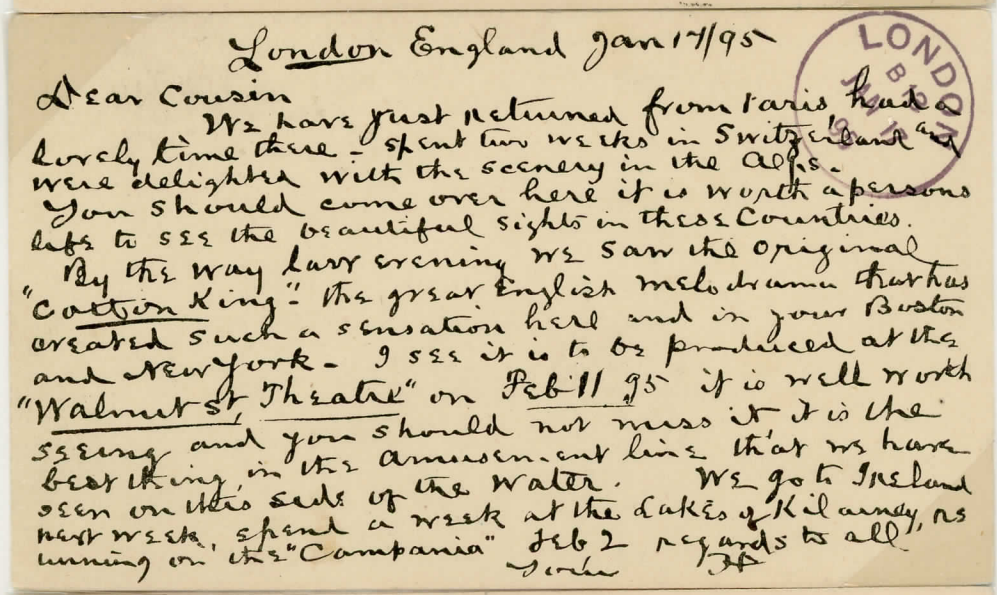
UNITED STATES

PSEUDO "FOREIGN" CORRESPONDENCE

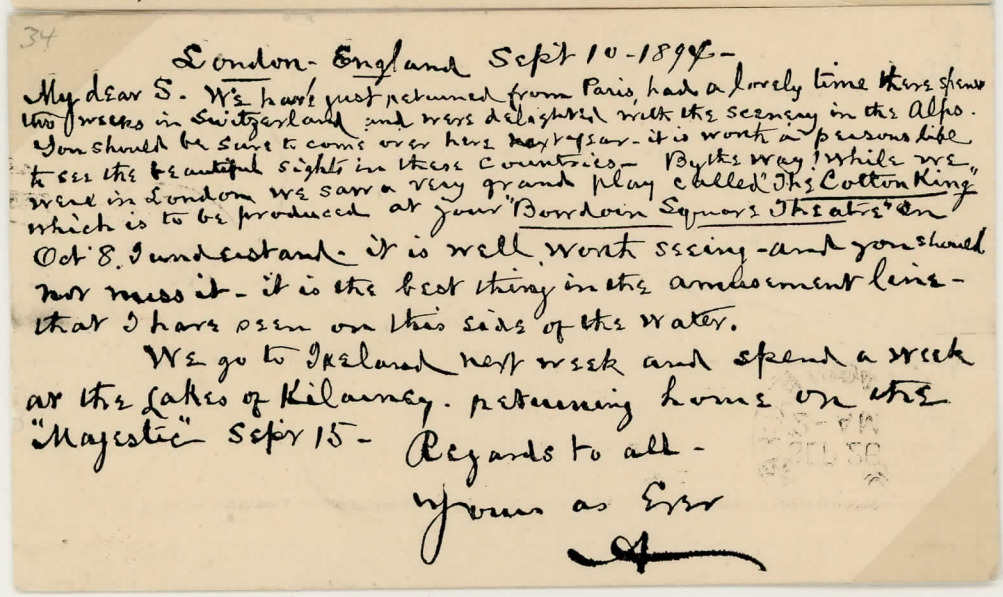
Domestically mailed cards advertising a play!



Mailed from New York City, Sep. 10, 1894, and Feb. 9, 1895



Fake London Cancel on reverse is part of the act.



The "handwriting" is actually printed.

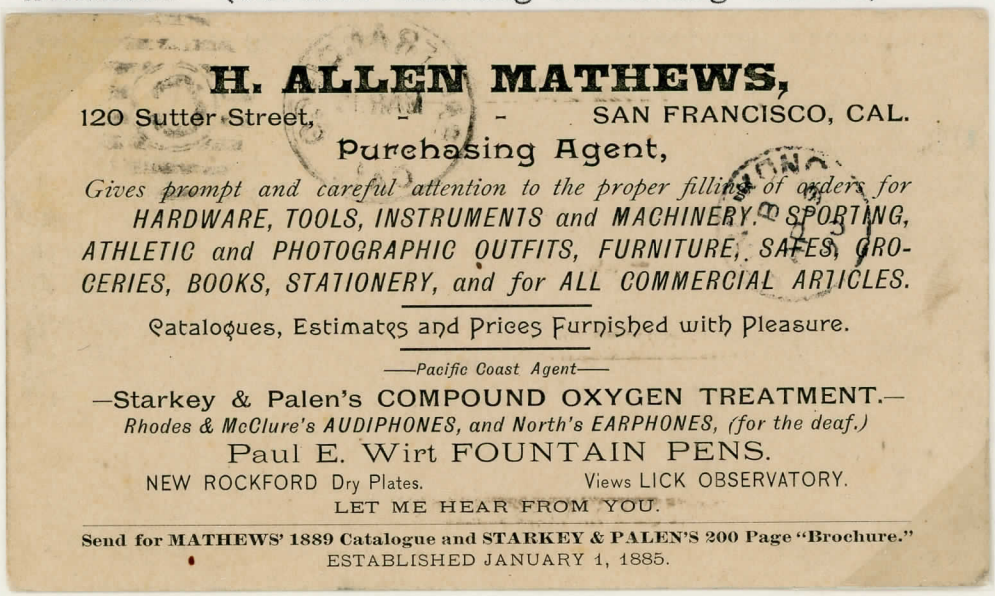
THE FAR EAST

JAPAN



San Francisco, Cal., 1897, 20 days to Yokohama, Japan

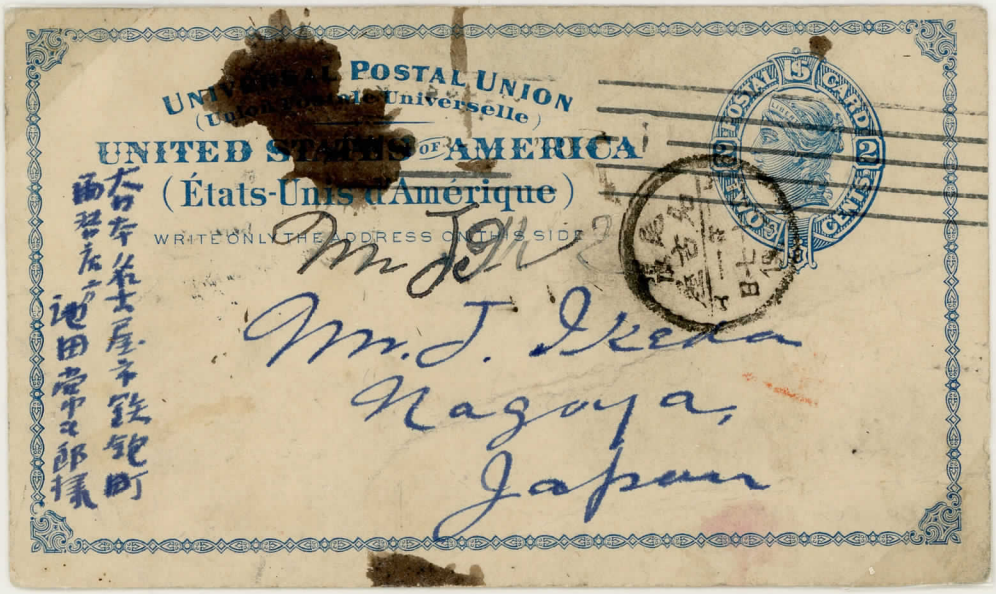
HONGKONG (reverse showing receiving cancel)

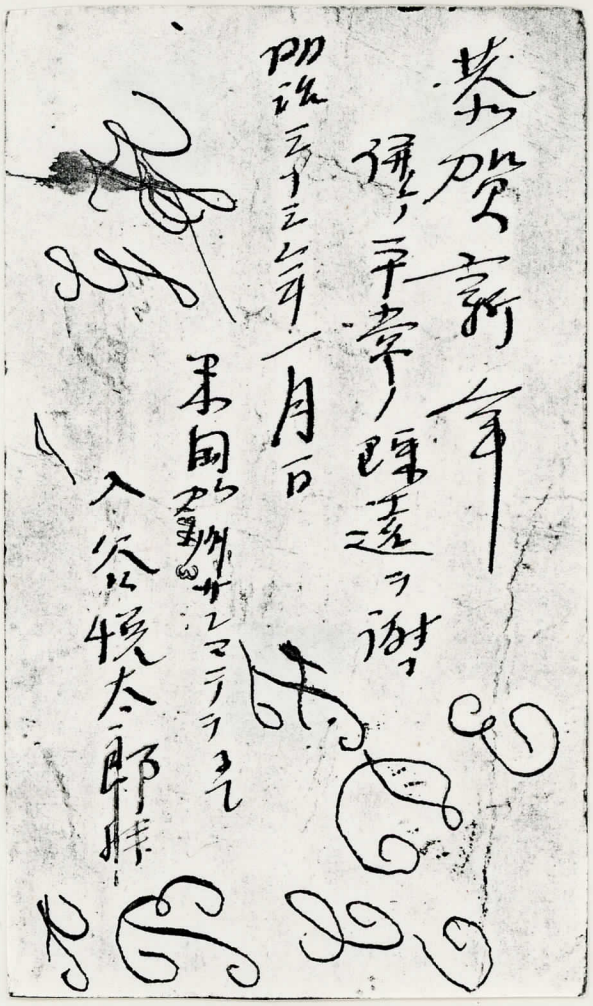


San Francisco, Cal., 1890, 31 days to Hongkong

JAPAN

NAGOYA (Major port city on the south coast)





Transit Through Brindisi, Italy

Brindisi, in the 'boot-heel' of Italy, was
A major transit station for mail destined for India and points east.
Until 1885, mail for India was unloaded and processed in Egypt, despite the fact that the Suez Canal had been opened in 1869. Often it was returned to the same steamer!

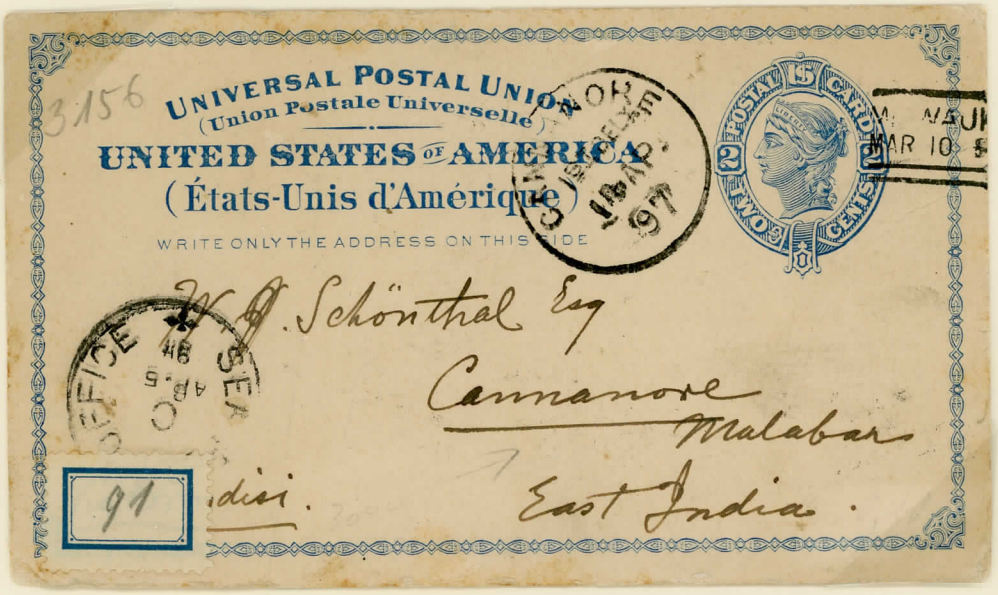
US (origin?), datelined April 26 1882. Via Brindisi Italy. Sea Post Office 'E' May 19
To Ambala City, Punjab, (north India, June 1.
Forwarded to Kasauly, India June 2 (60 km further north)

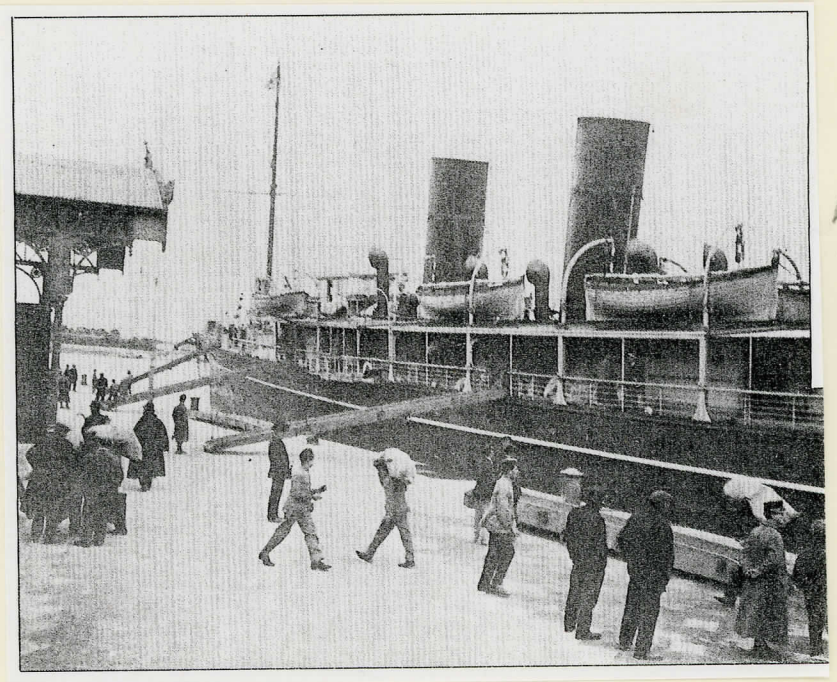


Transit Through Brindisi, Italy

Brindisi, in the 'boot-heel' of Italy, was
A major transit station for mail destined for India and points east.
This 1897 mail for India was not unloaded and processed in Egypt, but continued directly on the British mail ship, processed by the Sea Post Office.

Milwaukee WI, Mar 10 1897. Mss 'Brindisi, Italy.'
British 'Sea Post Office 'C', April 5. Cannanare, Malabar Coast, East India, April (11?).
Despite the 'East India' designation, Cannanare and the Malabar Coast
are on the WEST side of peninsular India.





Mail Steamer at Brindisi, 1920's