

BY A VERTICAL LINE ON THE FACE –

Background

The early 1900s were the years of a global ‘postcard craze’. With the introduction of picture postcards and reductions in international postal rates, the postcard had emerged as an early and cheap means of communication, not only for businesses but also for family and relatives, tourists and travellers, collectors and other long-distance friends all over the world.

An important event in the development of the postcard was the introduction of divided cards, with the left half of the address side available for personal messages. This left the image side ‘clean’, to the satisfaction of growing numbers of postcard collectors.

Divided cards first appeared in 1902 in the UK, where they were allowed for inland use only. They gradually spread to other countries and were accepted in all international mail exchange in 1907, following a UPU (Universal Postal Union) decision from the 1906 congress in Rome.

Purpose

The purpose of this exhibit is to show the postal treatment of divided postcards between 1902 and 1907, when they were gradually accepted within and between individual countries, but were not yet approved by the UPU.

Postal History

During these years, the postal treatment of divided postcards came, in certain respects, to resemble pre-UPU conditions. The use of divided cards was subject to domestic regulations and, from 1904 onwards, to a growing number of bilateral agreements between national postal administrations about accepting divided cards at the postcard rate in their mail exchange. Individual countries also made unilateral decisions in order to facilitate the international use of divided cards. But when such agreements or decisions were not in place, divided cards sent abroad should be taxed as letters according to the UPU regulations. If only postcard rate was paid, the addressee had to pay postage due.

Different rules for the use of divided postcards therefore applied in and between different countries, and these rules were in more or less constant change. The result was considerable confusion among postmen and postal administrations, and frustration among correspondents – especially those who were charged postage due. Taken together, this makes the introduction of divided postcards a highly interesting subject for an international postal history study.

Structure and Scope

The exhibit has a thematic structure, starting with postcards accepted at the postcard rate (1), cards sent under the Imperial penny postage scheme within the British empire (2), and cards sent at the letter rate (3). Postcards in these three sections were in most cases correctly handled by both the senders and the postal authorities involved. The two subsequent sections show mistakes – either by the sender, causing postage due (4), or by the post (5). A final section shows some format and layout varieties of divided postcards (6).

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The Introduction of Divided Postcards 1902–1907

Each section begins with an introductory page that briefly describes its different sub-sections, and headings and sub-headings are used to guide the viewer on subsequent pages. For individual items, information is marked with the following symbols:

- Route – where and when the card was sent
- ☞ Postal rate(s) applying to the card
- [T] Tax marks and postage due
- §§ Postal regulations and agreements determining the postal treatment of the card
- ☒ Other relevant information

Examples of domestic use are included in most sections, but the emphasis is on international mail and on the interplay between national regulations regarding the treatment of foreign mail, bilateral agreements between postal administrations and international UPU regulations.

Challenge Factors

The short period of time and the constantly changing postal regulations is a considerable challenge when it comes to finding suitable philatelic objects to illustrate the study. The search for early and late applications of postal rules increases the difficulty of acquisition further.

Another key challenge is to find information about postal regulations in different countries, as there exist few publications on the subject. The exhibitor has used archival records, postal circulars, bulletins etc., newspapers and magazines from the early 20th century, more recent philatelic books and journal articles, together with personal correspondence with postal historians around the world. The exhibitor has presented new information about the postal history of divided postcards in *Aktuellt om Posthistoria* (11/2012), *The Posthorn* (3/2014), *The London Philatelist* (June 2015) and *India Post* (3/2017).



Registered postcard with a (faint) dividing line and a message on the address side, sent from the UPU Congress in Rome 1906 – the congress where the decision was taken to accept divided postcards in international mail exchange.

➤ Italy to France:

Roma VI Congresso Postale Universale 23 May 1906 – Paris 25 May 1906

☞ Foreign postcard rate: 10 centesimi, registration fee: 25 centesimi

§§ The UPU decision that *The sender may dispose of the back and the left hand half of the face* of the postcard came into force worldwide on 1 October 1907. But when this card was sent, a bilateral agreement had already been made between Italy and France about accepting divided cards at the postcard rate.

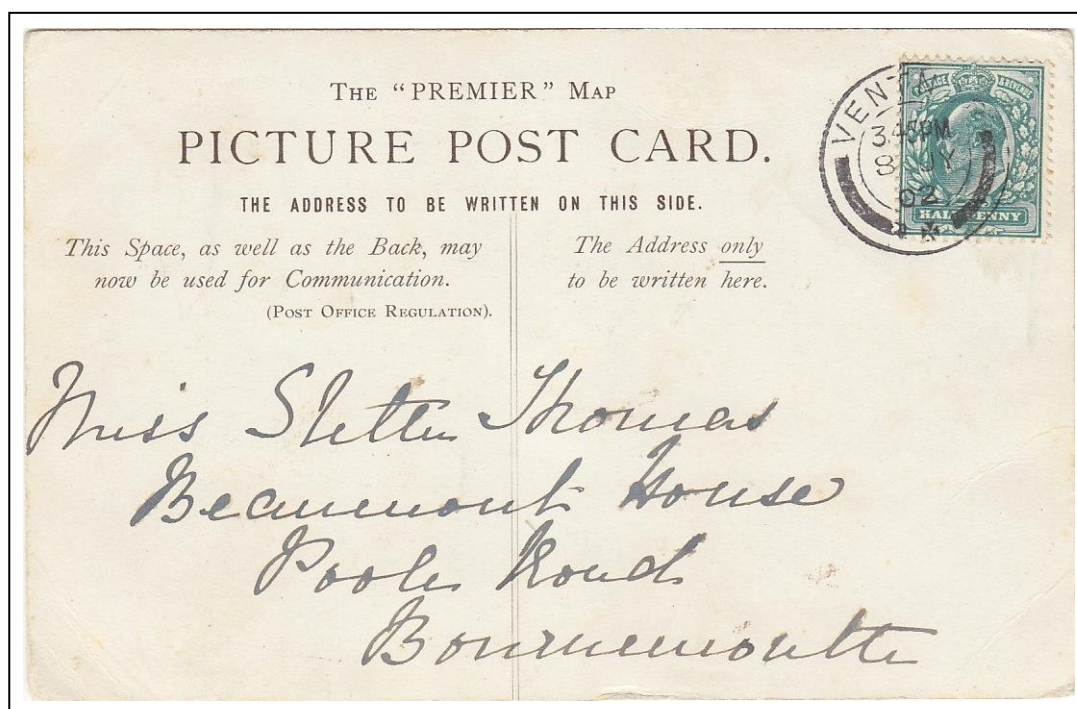
1. Postcard Rate

The invention of divided postcards is attributed to German postcard manufacturer Frederick Hartmann, who produced cards for the British market. In response to a query from Hartmann, a message from the British Postmaster General was published in the *Picture Postcard Magazine*, which has been interpreted as the acceptance of divided postcards:

...postcards may bear on the front, i.e. address side, a continuation of the message, or the name and address of the sender, or even an advertisement, so long as such matter does not interfere in any way with the legibility of the address.

This message was published in January 1902, but for some reason postcards with a dividing line on the address side did not come into use in the UK until the summer that year. From 1903 onwards, several other countries followed suit.

Initially, divided cards were only allowed for domestic use (section 1.1), as UPU regulations did not permit messages on the address side. But as divided cards were increasingly used abroad, postal administrations began to make bilateral agreements about accepting divided cards, with messages, in international mail exchange. Such agreements were made at different points in time between different countries (1.2). In addition, several countries made unilateral decisions to facilitate international exchange of divided postcards (1.3). Even before divided postcards were accepted, they could also be sent at the postcard rate as long as the sender adhered to UPU regulations for postcards and abstained from writing any personal message on the address side (1.4).



► UK: Ventnor 8 July 1902 – Bournemouth

☐ Domestic postcard rate: ½ penny

A very early divided British postcard, with the characteristic phrase:

This Space, as well as the Back, may now be used for Communication.
(POST OFFICE REGULATION).

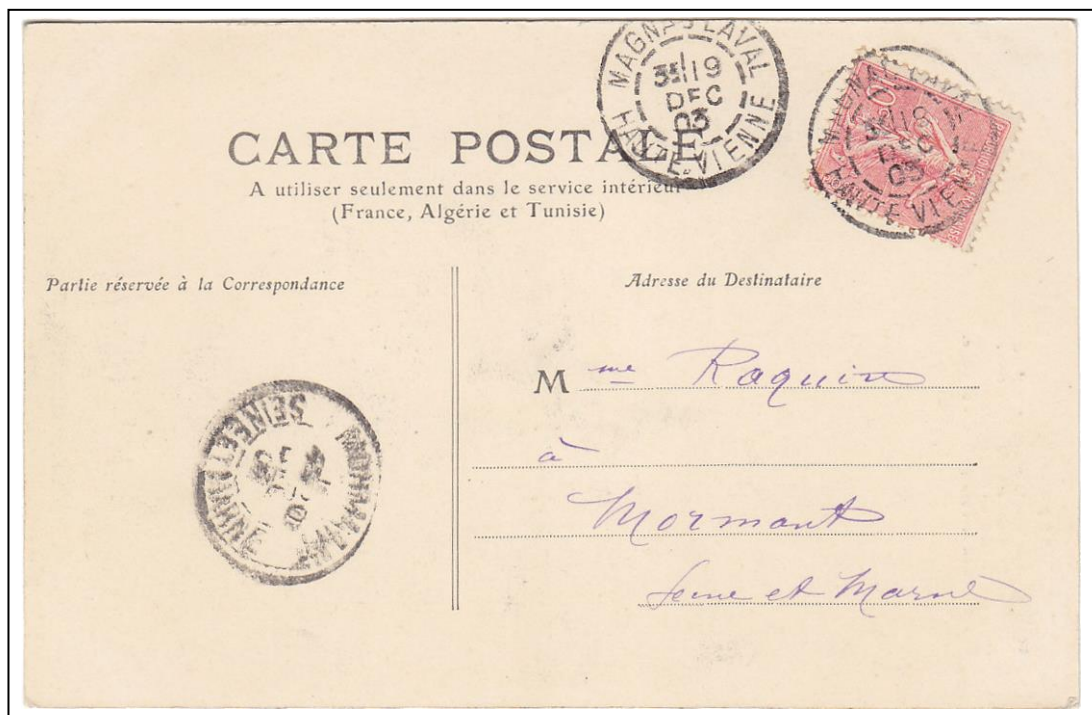
☒ It seems that the division has been added to an undivided card, which initially had the text 'THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.' printed over the entire address side. In this case, as on many early divided cards, the sender has not used the space for communication.

1.1 Postcard Rate

France • St. Pierre and Miquelon

Domestic Regulations

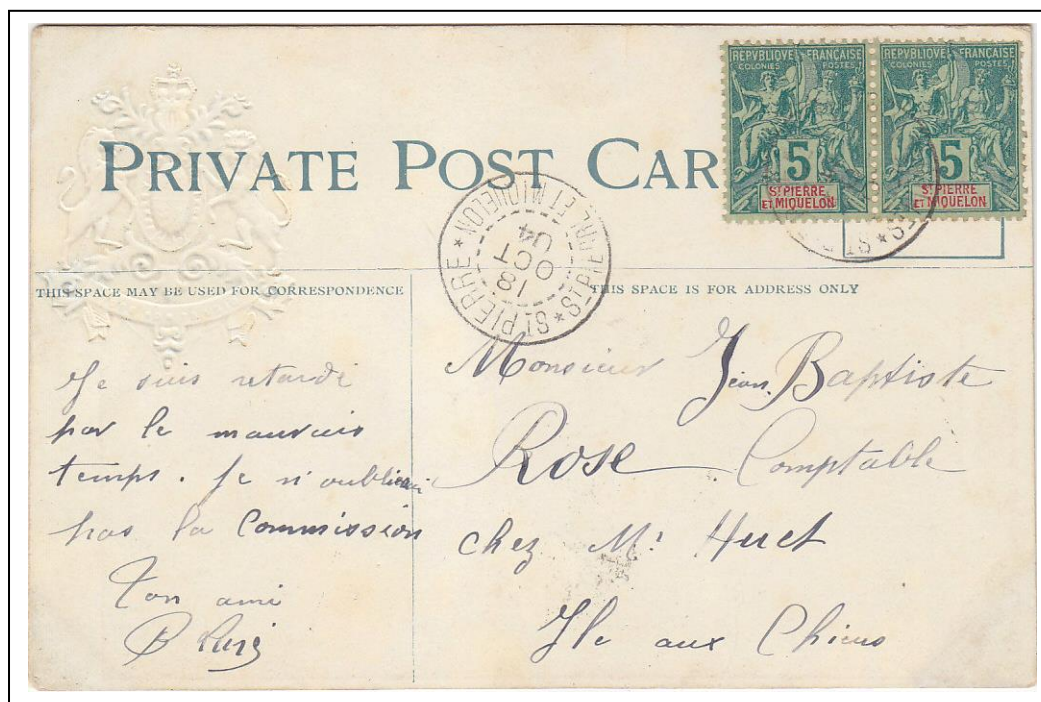
Early Inland Use



► France: Magnac Laval 19 December 1903 – Mormant 20 December 1903

☐ Domestic postcard rate: 10 centimes

§§ France was among the first countries after the UK to accept divided postcards, on 1 December 1903 according to an *Arrêté Ministériel* of 18 November 1903. This early divided French card was used the first month.



► St. Pierre and Miquelon: St. Pierre 18 October 1904 – Ile aux Chiens

☐ Domestic postcard rate: 10 centimes

§§ Divided cards were permitted in all French colonies according to a circular from the French colonial minister dated 8 August 1904. This early divided Canadian card used in St. Pierre and Miquelon, with correspondence on the address side, was therefore accepted at the postcard rate.

South Australia • Belgium • United States

Early Inland Use

to North Adelaide

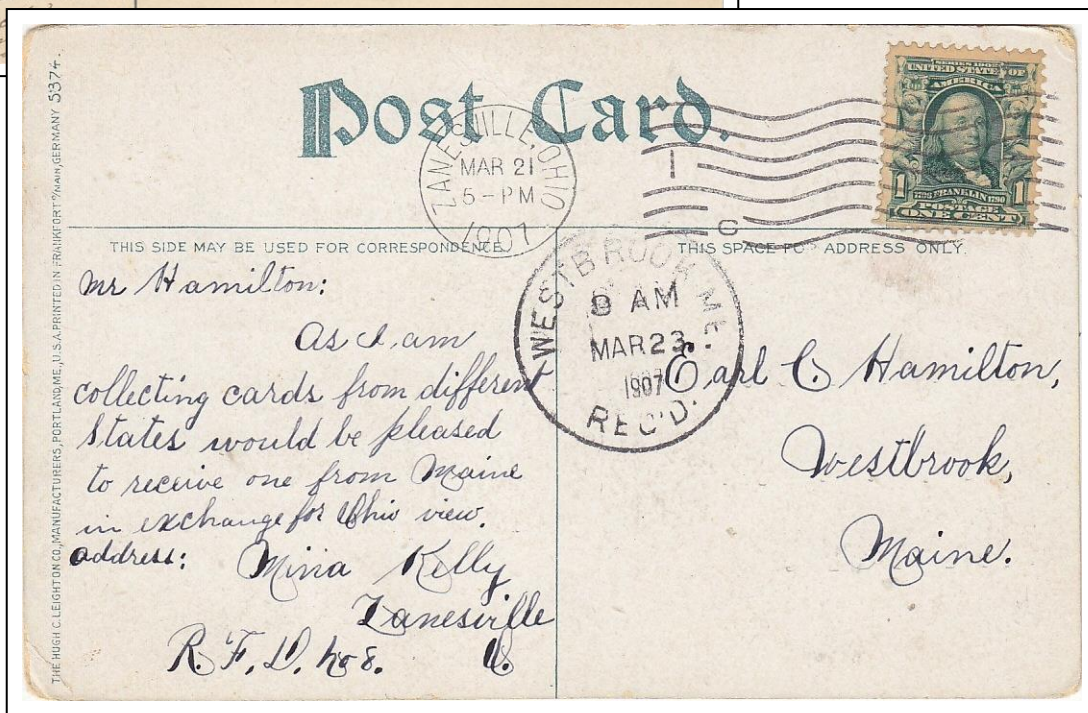
6 December 1904



§§ Permitted in Belgium:
1 September 1905

23 March 1907

All three cards were used the first month.



1.1 Postcard Rate Germany

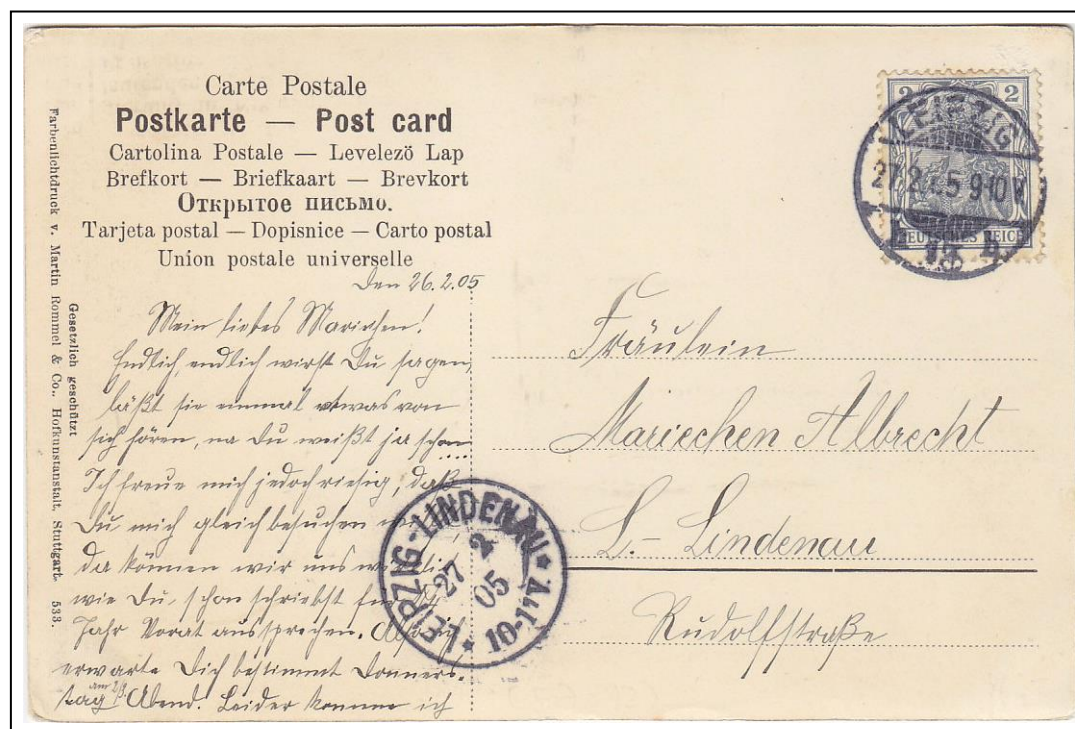
Domestic Regulations Early Inland Use



► Germany (domestic use):

Besigheim 15 February 1905 – Flonheim 16 February 1905

☐ Domestic postcard rate: 5 pfennig



► Germany (local use):

Leipzig 27 February 1905 – Leipzig Lindenau 27 February 1905

☐ Local postcard rate: 2 pfennig

☐ Germany and certain other countries had lower local rates for postcards.

§§ The German *Reichs-Postamt* was initially reluctant to accept divided postcards, but decided to allow them for inland use on 1 February 1905. Both cards shown here were **used the first month** divided cards were allowed in Germany.

1.2 Postcard Rate

France to Italy, Switzerland and Mexico

Bilateral Agreements

International Exchange

§§ Already in late 1903, France initiated bilateral agreements with other countries about accepting divided cards in international mail exchange. A first round of such agreements came into force on 16 May 1904.

► France to Italy:

Camp du Ruchard

28 May 1904

Roma 30 May 1904

The month when the first bilateral agreements came into force.

Foreign postcard rate: 10 centimes (all three cards)



► France to Switzerland:

Paris 20 October 1904

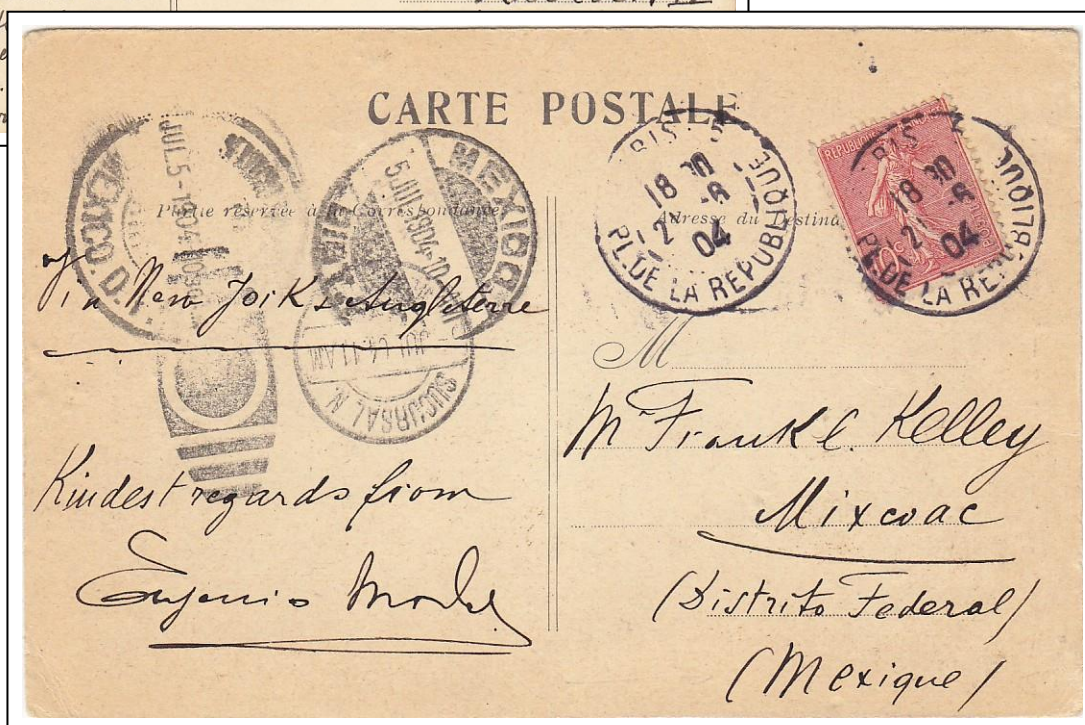
Zürich 20 October 1904

► France to Mexico:

Paris 21 June 1904

Mexico 5 July 1904

§§ The first bilateral agreements reported in French postal bulletins concerned 13 different countries, including Italy, Switzerland and Mexico.

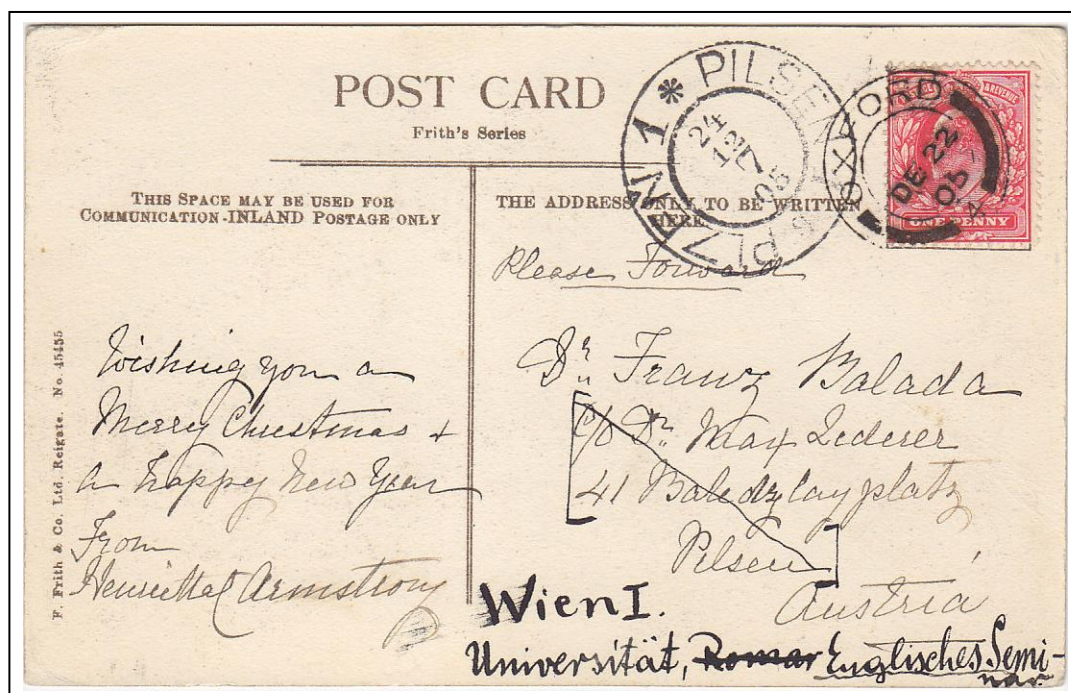


1.2 Postcard Rate

UK to Austria • Germany to Switzerland

Bilateral Agreements

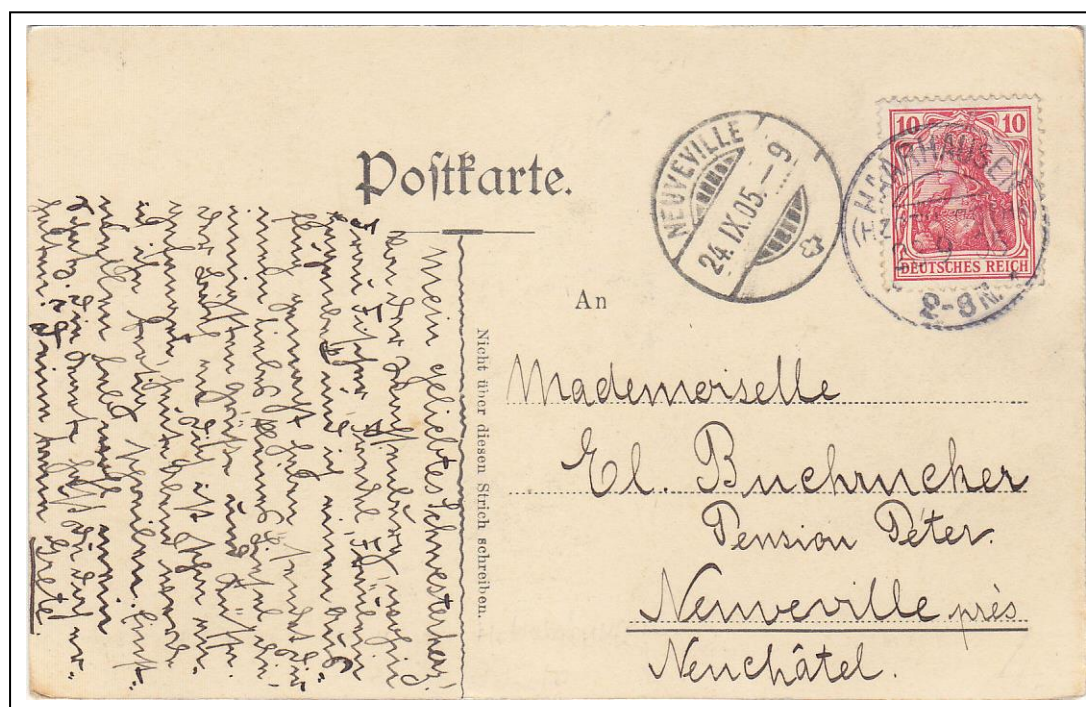
International Exchange



► UK to Austria: Oxford 22 December 1905 – Pilsen 24 December 1905 – Vienna

Foreign postcard rate: 1 penny

§§ The UK announced a first round of bilateral agreements, with 17 different countries including Austria, in a postal circular dated 12 December 1905. This card was sent the first month. Additional agreements with numerous other countries and territories were reported in January, February and August 1906.



► Germany to Switzerland:

Haarhausen 23 September 1905 – Neuveville 24 September 1905

Foreign postcard rate: 10 pfennig

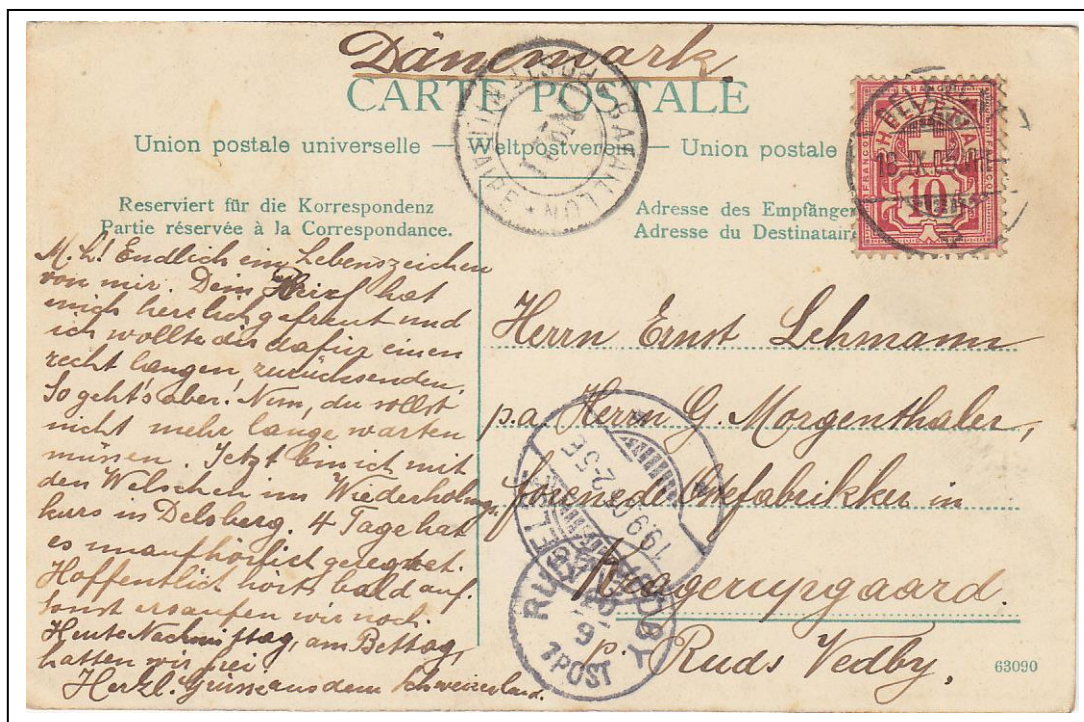
§§ Germany announced bilateral agreements about outgoing mail with most European countries, including Switzerland, on 1 September 1905. This card was sent the first month this agreement was in force.

1.2 Postcard Rate

Switzerland to Denmark • Bulgaria to Germany

Bilateral Agreements

International Exchange



► Switzerland to Denmark: Delémont 18 September 1905 (and Poste Militaire, Bataillon No 21) – Slagelse 19 September 1905 – Ruds Vedby 20 September 1905

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 10 centimes

§§ Switzerland made several bilateral agreements already in 1904, but the agreement with Denmark was not announced until 5 July 1905.



► Bulgaria to Germany: Varna 3 [16] March 1906 – Karlsruhe 20 March 1906

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 10 stotinki

§§ Germany announced agreements with all European countries except the UK and the Netherlands from 1 September 1905 onwards. The Bulgarian post, in a message to the international bureau of the UPU in January 1906, confirmed that Bulgaria had entered agreements with eight countries, including Germany.

1.2 Postcard Rate

Sweden to Norway • Tunis to Denmark

Bilateral Agreements

International Exchange



► Sweden to Norway:

Stockholm 26 May 1905 – Kristiania 27 May 1905

☐ Scandinavian postcard rate: 5 öre

§§ Bilateral agreement: 1 April 1905. Sweden made its first bilateral agreements in April 1905 with four countries, including Norway. Another 24 agreements were announced between May 1905 and August 1906.



► Tunis to Denmark:

Tunis 22 February 1906 – København 27 February 1906

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 10 centimes

§§ Bilateral agreement announced by Denmark: 14 December 1905.
Denmark made 30 agreements between June 1905 and July 1907.

1.2 Postcard Rate

Russia to Switzerland • Turkey (Russian Post) to Germany

Bilateral Agreements

International Exchange

The Russian post allowed incoming divided cards though a unilateral decision already in December 1903. The first bilateral agreements, which also allowed outgoing cards, were announced in January 1905.

► Russia to Switzerland:

Yalta

25 March [7 April] 1905

Genève

13 April 1905

Foreign postcard
rate: 4 kopek



§§ Bilateral agreement announced in a Russian postal circular 18 [31] January 1905. However, a Swiss *Ordre de service* reported that divided cards could be sent to Russia already in July 1904. This may have been a response to the earlier unilateral decision by the Russian post to abstain from charging postage due for incoming divided cards.



► Russian post in Turkey to Germany:

ROPiT Smyrna

24 December 1905

[6 January 1906]

to Hamburg

Foreign postcard
rate: 20 para

§§ A message from the Russian post to the international bureau of the UPU, published in late December 1905, shows that a bilateral agreement was in place with Germany. Apparently, this agreement was also applied by the Russian post in Turkey.

☑ All Russian post offices in the Turkish empire were run by the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company (ROPiT). Since 1900 they used Russian stamps with overprints in local currency.

1.2 Postcard Rate

Japan to Denmark • NSW to Fiji

Bilateral Agreements

International Exchange

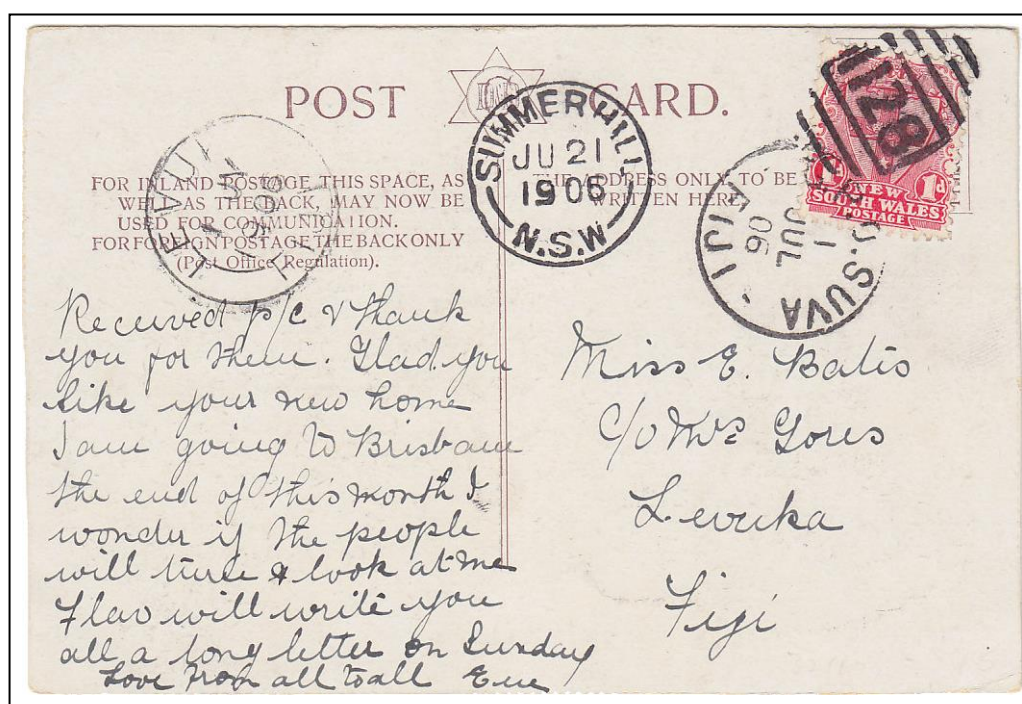


► Japan to Denmark:

Yokohama 20 August 1907 – Copenhagen

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 4 sen

§§ Bilateral agreement in force since 11 July 1907 according to a Danish postal circular. A surprisingly late agreement, announced shortly before general UPU regulations entered into force worldwide 1 October 1907. Since 25 August 1906, divided cards no longer received postmarks on arrival in Denmark.



► NSW to Fiji: Summerhill 21 June 1906 – Suva 1 July 1906 – Levuka 1 July 1906

☐ Postcard rate to Fiji and certain other British colonies: 1 penny

§§ Bilateral agreement: 14 May 1906. Australia made bilateral agreements with New Zealand and the UK in 1905, and with several British colonies in 1906.

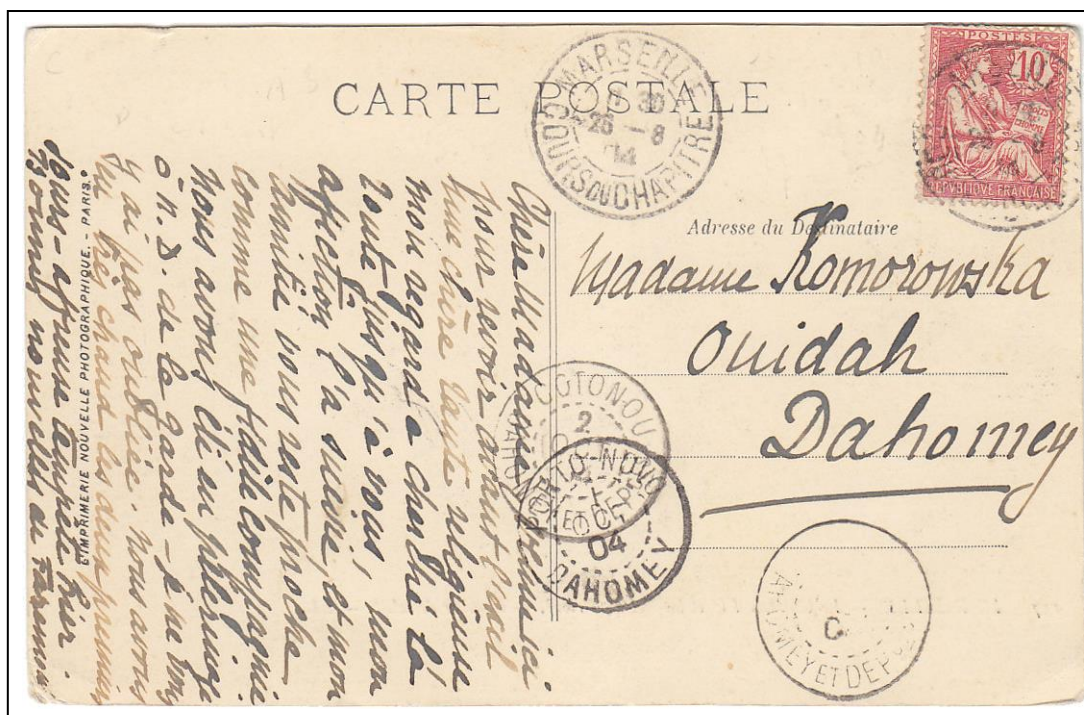
1.2 Postcard Rate

France to Dahomey • Germany to German New Guinea

Bilateral Agreements

Mail to the Colonies

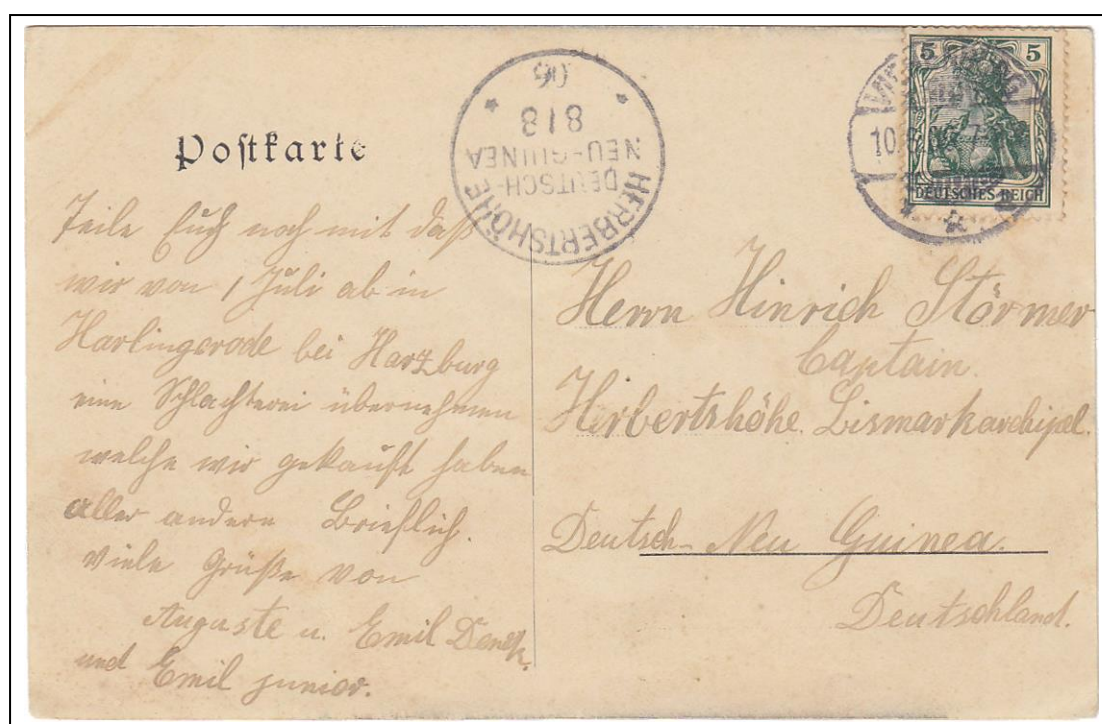
Colonial powers often had special agreements or arrangements for mail exchange with their colonies. The British empire was a particular case, as shown in section 2. This and the following pages show examples from France and Germany.



- France to Dahomey: Marseille 26 August 1904 – Porto Novo 1 October 1904 – Cotonou 2 October 1904 – Ouidah

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 10 centimes

§§ Divided cards could be sent from France to all French colonies from 16 May 1904.



- Germany to German New Guinea: Vienenburg 10 June 1906 – Herbertshöhe 8 August 1906

☐ Postcard rate (inland and for German colonies): 5 pfennig

§§ Inland rates and regulations applied between Germany and German colonies.

1.2 Postcard Rate

French Colonies to France

Bilateral Agreements

Mail from the Colonies

§§ The French postal circular from May 1904, which enumerates a number of countries that accepted incoming divided cards from France, also mentions the French colonies. Shortly afterwards, 8 August 1904, the French colonial minister announced that divided cards could also be sent in the other direction, from all French colonies to France.

► French Indochina (Tonkin) to France:

Haiphong
31 March 1905

Nemours
2 May 1905

Foreign postcard
rate: 10 centimes



► New Caledonia to France:

Thio 16 August 1905
Chantenay s-Loire
2 October 1905

Foreign postcard
rate: 10 centimes

► Registered divided card from French Congo to France:

Loango
23 July 1905

Asnières
23 August 1905

Foreign postcard rate:
10 centimes

Registration fee:
25 centimes



1.2 Postcard Rate

Kiautschou and Cameroon to Germany

Bilateral Agreements

Mail from the Colonies

§§ Germany did not accept divided cards at the postcard rate in exchange with non-European countries until 4 September 1906. Yet, as an exception, inland postal rates and regulations applied in mail exchange with German colonies and protectorates.

► Kiautschou to Germany:

Tsingtau

26 June 1906

Kiel

4 August 1906

☐ Postcard rate to Germany and German colonies/protectorates:
2 cents



☒ Chinese dollars/cents had replaced German mark/pfennig as the local currency of Kiautschou in 1905, and stamps with face values in the new currency were in use since 1 October 1905. 2 cents postage represented the equivalent of the 5 pfennig domestic postcard rate.



► Cameroon to Germany:

Dated Viktoria

9 June 1906

Deutsche Seepost Linie

Hamburg-Westafrika

XXXII

9 June 1906

Deutsches Schutzgebiet

Detmold

30 June 1906

☐ Postcard rate to Germany and German colonies/protectorates:
5 pfennig

☒ The Hamburg-West Africa line, also known as the 'Woermann Linie', was founded in 1845 by Carl Woermann and owned by the Woermann family until 1914. Postmarks from Deutsche Seepost Linie Hamburg-Westafrika were in use from 1894 to the outbreak of World War I. As many as 63 different postmarks (roman numbers I-LXIII) are known, some of them from several different ships. The present card was sent by S/S Lucie Woermann, where postmark no. XXXII was in use between 1902 and 1914.

1.3 Postcard Rate

Austria to Sweden • US to Costa Rica

Unilateral Decisions

To Facilitate the Use of Divided Cards

In addition to bilateral agreements, several postal administrations made unilateral decisions in order to facilitate the international exchange of divided postcards – to abstain from striking tax marks on outgoing postcards, to abstain from charging postage due for divided cards that arrived from abroad without tax marks, or both. In certain cases, divided cards could therefore be **sent at the postcard rate even if no bilateral agreement was in place.**

► Austria to Sweden:

Innsbruck
1 March 1906

Stockholm
4 March 1906

Foreign postcard
rate: 10 heller

No bilateral agreement between Austria and Sweden was in place when this card was sent. An agreement was later announced in a Swedish postal circular dated 30 March 1906.



§§ Unilateral decision by Austria to abstain from applying tax marks on outgoing postcards (regardless of bilateral agreements): Postal *Verordnung* published 28 February 1905.

§§ Unilateral decision by Sweden to abstain from charging postage due for incoming divided postcards without T marks (regardless of bilateral agreements): 1 April 1905.



► USA to Costa Rica:

Boston MA
4 August 1907

New Orleans
7 August 1907

Limon
16 August 1907

Foreign postcard
rate: 2 cents

There is no recorded agreement between the US and Costa Rica, but due to unilateral decisions this card could still be sent at the postcard rate.

§§ Unilateral decision by the US to abstain from applying tax marks on outgoing postcards (regardless of bilateral agreements): Order by the Postmaster General 28 June 1907, published in the *Daily Postal Bulletin* 29 June 1907.

§§ Unilateral decision by Costa Rica to abstain from charging postage due for incoming divided postcards without T marks (regardless of bilateral agreements) reported by the UPU 15 January 1906.

1.3 Postcard Rate

British East Africa to Switzerland

Unilateral Decisions

To Facilitate the Use of Divided Cards

It was primarily in Europe, North America, Japan and certain British colonies with large amounts of international mail that explicit regulations for divided cards were announced, tax marks were struck, postage due was charged and bilateral agreements were initiated. In more remote places it seems that postal officials often cared little about the layout of picture postcards and, in particular, were not very keen to surcharge divided cards.

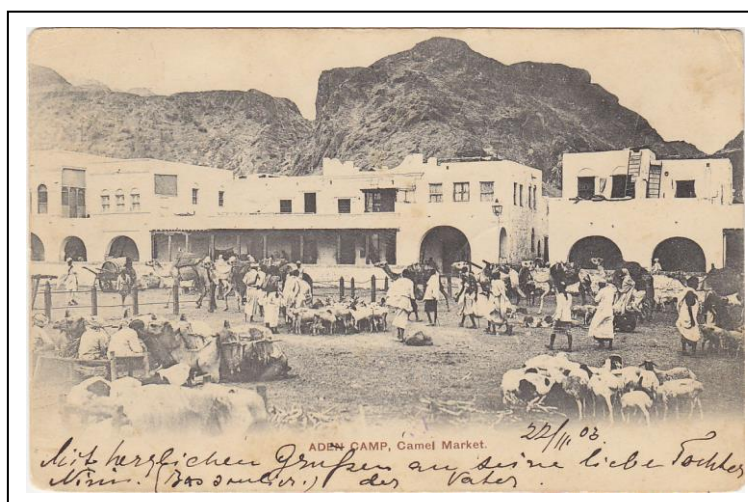


- British East Africa to Switzerland: Mombasa 22 November 1903 –
– Aden 15 December 1903 – Schaffhausen 25 December 1903

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 1 anna

§§ There is no recorded agreement between British East Africa and Switzerland, yet this card was accepted at the postcard rate. The post in Mombasa struck no T mark, and the card arrived on 25 December 1903 – **only two days after the announcement of a unilateral decision by the Swiss post that no postage due should be charged** for divided cards arriving from abroad without T marks.

☑ The card shows a view from the camel market in Aden. It is thus a very early divided postcard with a non-British topographical motive.



(Copy)

1.4 Postcard Rate

Belgium • Spain • Victoria to NSW

Accepted Without Message

Domestic Use

Even before national postal regulations allowed divided postcards, such cards were usually accepted at the postcard rate as long as the sender did not write any personal message on the address side.

► Belgium:

Eecloo

26 December 1904

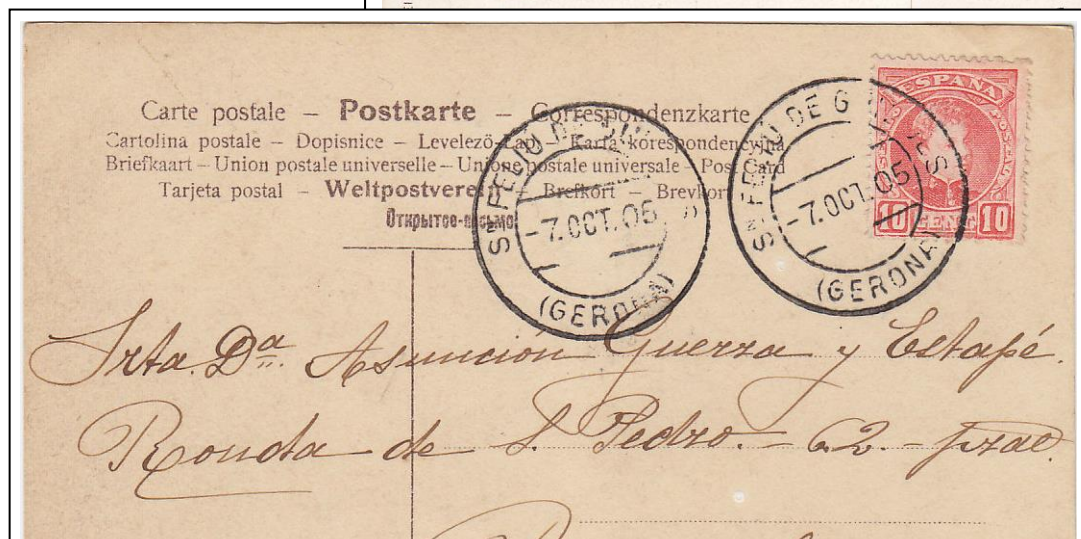
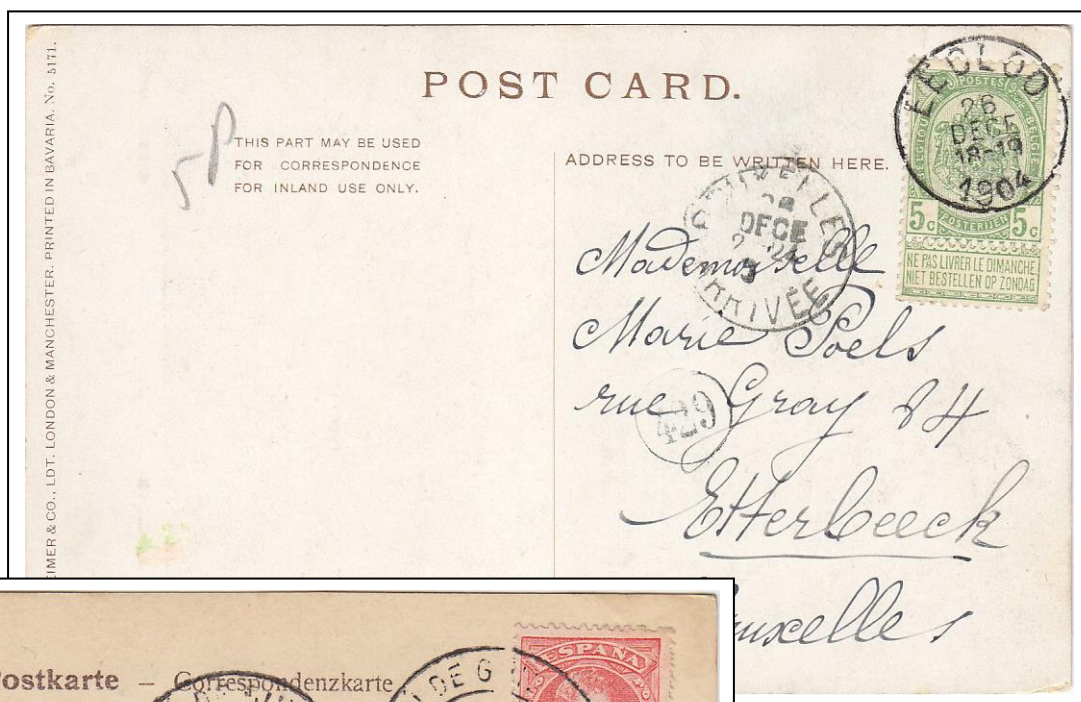
Bruxelles

26 December 1904

Postcard rate:

5 centimes

§§ Divided postcards with message on address side accepted for domestic use: 1 September 1905



► Spain:

S^a Feliu de Guixols

7 October 1905

to Barcelona

Postcard rate:

10 centimos

§§ Accepted for domestic use: 7 December 1905

► Victoria to NSW:

Ararat

28 July 1904

North Sydney

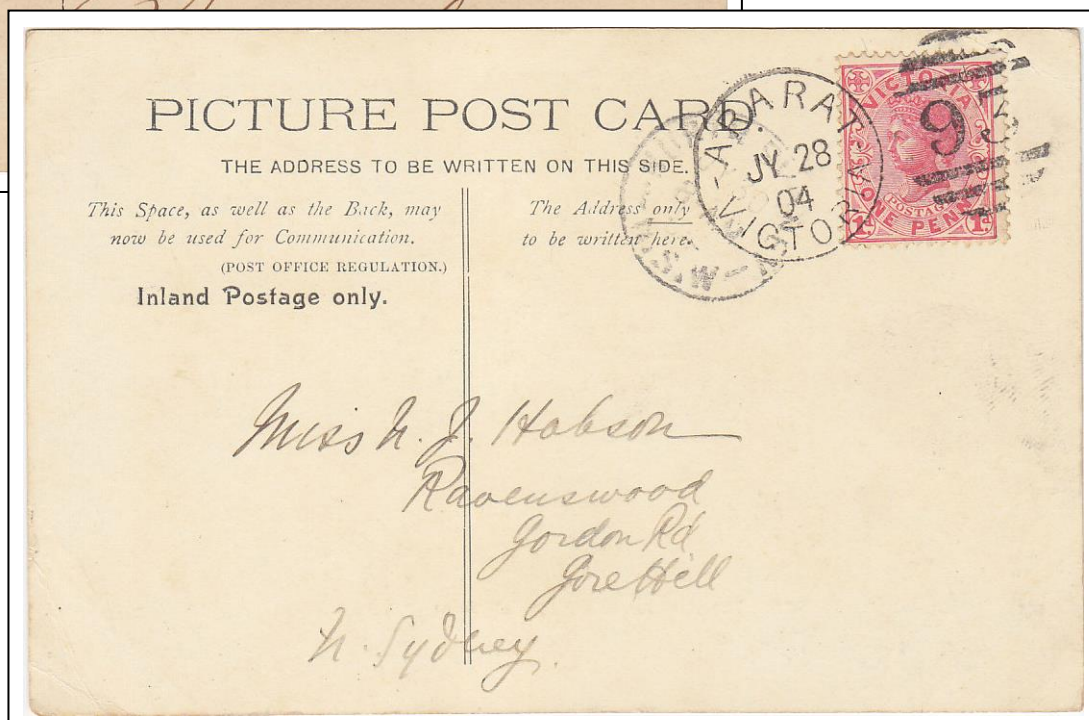
30 July 1904

Postcard rate:

1 penny

§§ Accepted in the Commonwealth of Australia:

6 December 1904



1.4 Postcard Rate Various Countries

Accepted Without Message Prior to Bilateral Agreements

§§ Divided cards were also allowed in international mail exchange, as long as they followed UPU regulations for postcards, i.e. only the addresses of the recipient and the sender were permitted on the address side in addition to postal notes.

► French Somali Coast
to Belgium:

Djibouti 9 January 1905

Liège 21 January 1905

Foreign postcard rate:
10 centimes

§§ No message allowed
prior to bilateral agreement
31 January 1906.



► Natal to Norway:

Eshowe 22 December 1905

Porsgrund 16 January 1906

Foreign postcard
rate: 10 øre

§§ No message allowed
prior to bilateral agreement
27 June 1906.



► Austria to the UK:

Semmering

30 August 1905

London

31 August 1905

Foreign postcard
rate: 10 heller

§§ No message allowed
prior to bilateral agree-
ment in December 1905.

1.4 Postcard Rate

Germany to Sweden • UK to Germany

Accepted Without Message

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

The different rules for inland and foreign mail were obviously confusing for correspondents. Some managed to get correct information on how to use the divided cards, others did not.

► Germany to Sweden:

Sassnitz

7 July 1905

Göteborg

8 July 1905

► Forwarded within

Sweden

Göteborg

8 July 1905

to Stora Rör

☐ German foreign

postcard rate:

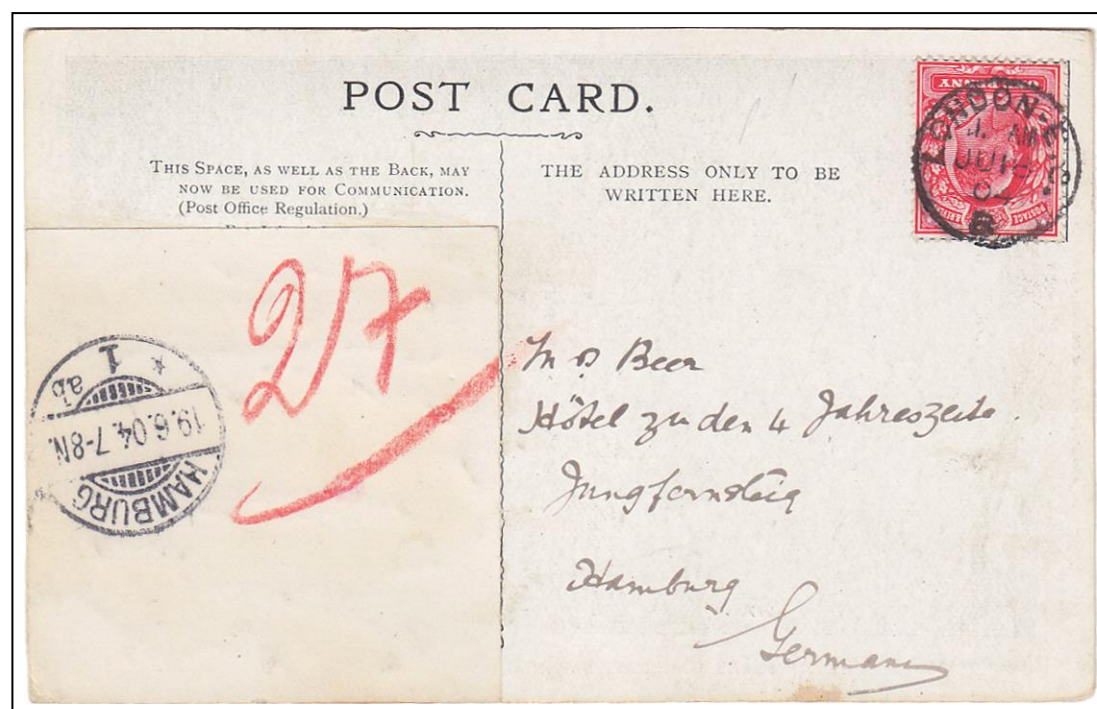
10 pfennig

☐ Swedish domestic

postcard rate: 5 öre



§§ Bilateral agreement Germany-Sweden: 1 September 1905. The card was sent from Germany without message on the address side and therefore accepted at the postcard rate. When forwarded in Sweden, a message dated 8 July was added. **This was permitted within Sweden since 1 April 1905, but required new postage.**



► UK to Germany:

London

18 June 1904

Hamburg

19 June 1904

☐ Foreign postcard

rate: 1 penny

§§ No message allowed

prior to bilateral

agreement

12 December 1905

☑ The sender has started writing a message on the address side, then realized that this was not allowed and **pasted a piece of paper to cover the message**. UPU rules only allowed stamps and postal labels to be attached to postcards, so if discovered, the card would have been taxed as a letter. But it seems the card escaped surcharge – '27' is more likely a room number at the hotel where the addressee was staying. The sender writes, on the image side: *Am much perturbed because I fear you must have had to pay excess on a p.c. I sent you ... I wrote on the face. So sorry.*

1.4 Postcard Rate

France to the US • Sierra Leone to Belgium

Accepted Without Message

No Bilateral Agreements

► French sea post
to the US:

Written in Montevideo

14 May 1905

Buenos Ayres à Bordeaux

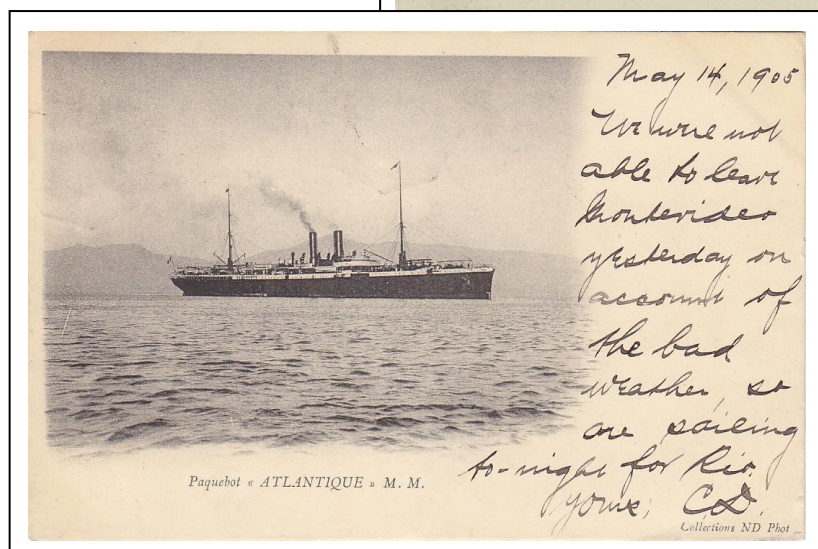
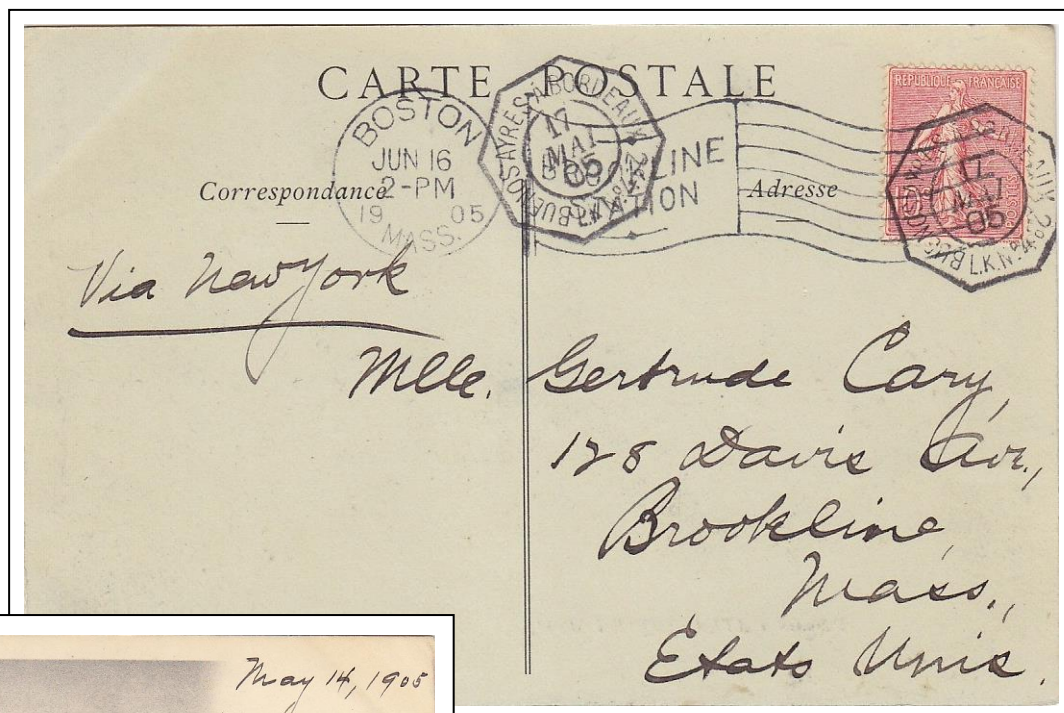
17 May 1905

'Via New York'

Boston / Brookline MA

16 June 1905

☐ Foreign postcard rate:
10 centimes



§§ There is no recorded agreement between France and the United States.

☑ The postcard was sent by French paquebot *Atlantique* which left Buenos Aires 12 May 1905 and arrived in Bordeaux 4 June 1905. Twelve days later, after having crossed the Atlantic a second time (but this time not with the *Atlantique*), the card reached the US.

(Copy)

► Sierra Leone
to Belgium:

Freetown

29 November 1904

Ship Letter London

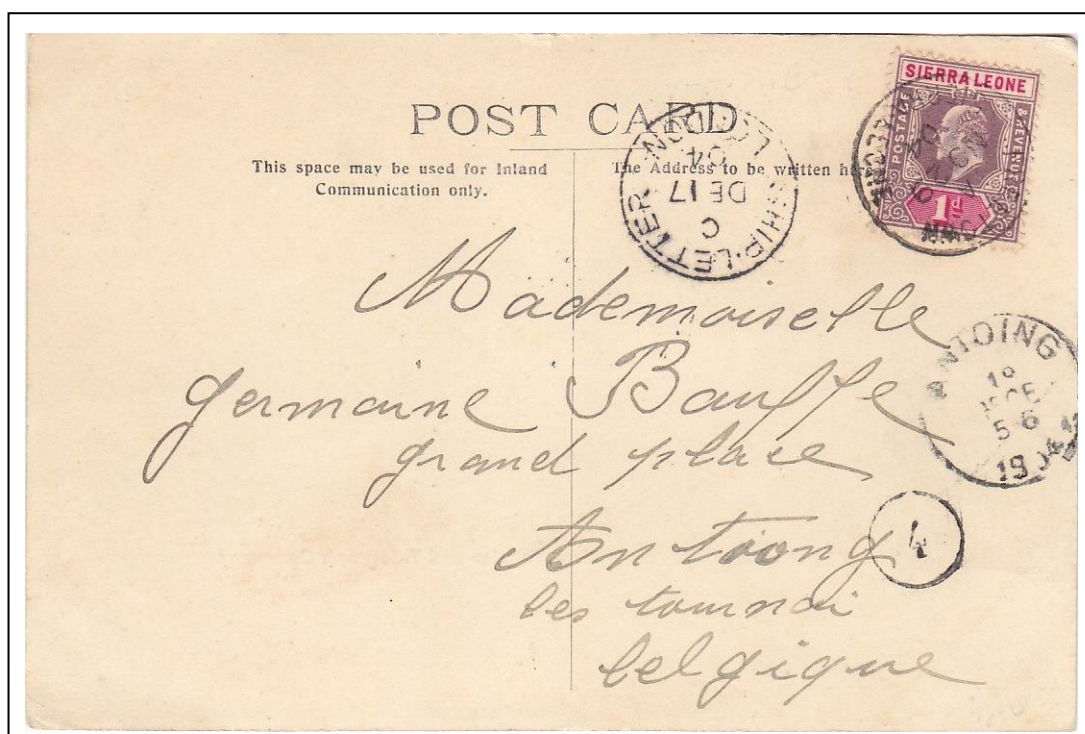
17 December 1904

Antoing

18 December 1904

☐ Foreign postcard
rate: 1 penny

§§§ There is no recorded
agreement between
Sierra Leone and
Belgium.



1.4 Postcard Rate

Germany to Chile and India/Burma

Accepted Without Message

No Bilateral Agreements

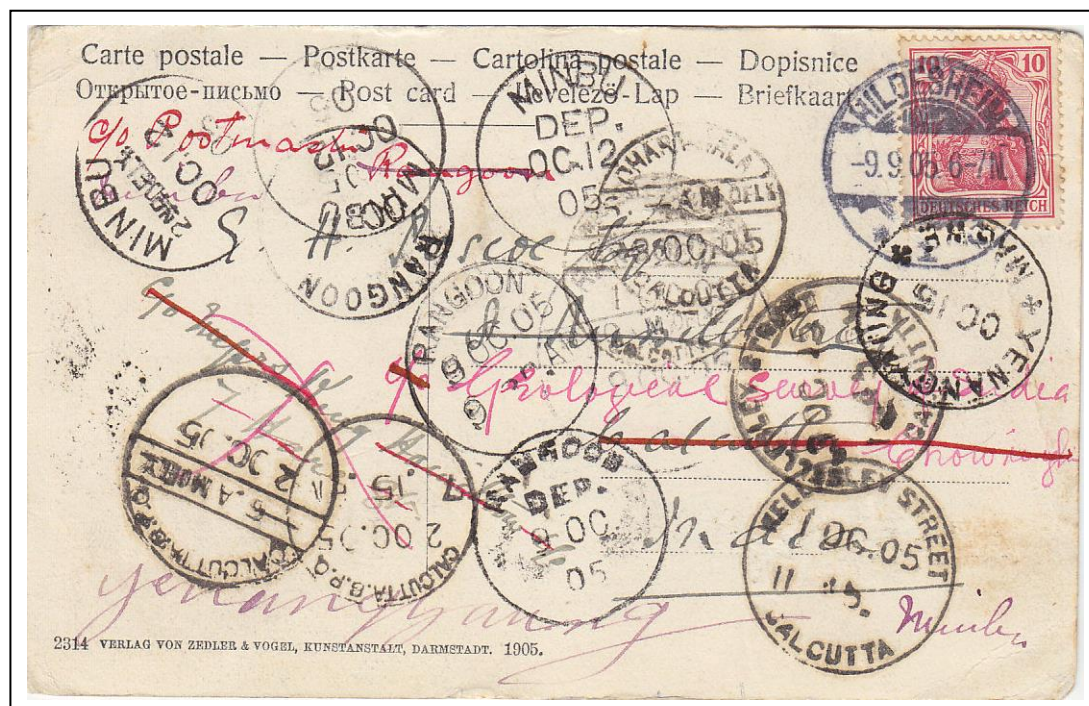
§§ A German postal circular dated 4 September 1906 announced that divided cards could be sent at the postcard rate to all non-European countries. There is no indication that this reflected a set of bilateral agreements – it rather appears as a unilateral decision taken by the German post. In September 1906, most other countries in the world had already stopped charging postage due for incoming divided cards without tax marks from the sending country. Prior to the 4 September circular, however, Germany consistently struck tax marks on divided cards sent outside Europe if they had messages on the address side. The two cards shown here were accepted at the postcard rate only because no personal messages were written on the address side.

► Germany to Chile:

Berlin
8 May 1905

Santiago
18 June 1905

Foreign postcard
rate: 10 pfennig



► Germany to India:

Hildesheim
9 September 1905

Calcutta
1-3 October 1905

► Forwarded to and within Burma:

Rangoon
9 October 1905

Minbu
12 October 1905

Yenangyaung
15 October 1905

Foreign postcard
rate: 10 pfennig

☒ Many postal authorities, including the German *Reichs-Postamt*, were initially reluctant to accept divided postcards, as they wanted to have the entire address side at their disposal for postmarks and postal notes. This card illustrates their point...

2. Imperial Penny Postage

The Imperial Penny Postage represents a special case in the postal treatment of divided postcards. UPU regulations gave member states the right to make agreements about lower postal rates than those decided by the UPU. This was often done by neighbouring countries. A more far-reaching initiative was taken by postal officials of the United Kingdom and members of the British Empire on 25 December 1898, with the launching of the Imperial Penny Postage. Among the members of the penny postage scheme, letters of ½ oz. as well as postcards could be sent for one penny, which had previously been the foreign postcard rate. Membership in this scheme was optional, but most British colonies, dominions, protectorates and other related territories joined, either from the start or in the following years.

As the penny postage applied to both letters and postcards, this meant that divided postcards with correspondence on the address side could, from the start, be sent at the normal foreign postcard rate in many parts of the world. This section shows divided cards sent for penny postage from the UK (2.1), to the UK (2.2) and outside the UK (2.3). But it also highlights that this opportunity was poorly advertised and therefore not used to the extent that one might have expected (2.4).

► UK to New Zealand:

Windermere

14 July 1903

Wellington

26 August 1903

Nelson

28 August 1903

§§ New Zealand joined the penny postage scheme 1 January 1901.



► UK to Malta:

Chester

15 August 1903

Valletta

21 August 1903

§§ Malta joined the penny postage scheme 1 April 1899.

☐ These two cards were sent at penny postage in July and August 1903 – long before bilateral agreements were made about divided postcards in international mail exchange.

2.1 Imperial Penny Postage

British Guiana • China • CGH

From the UK to her Colonies

and Other Related Territories

➤ **UK to British Guiana:**

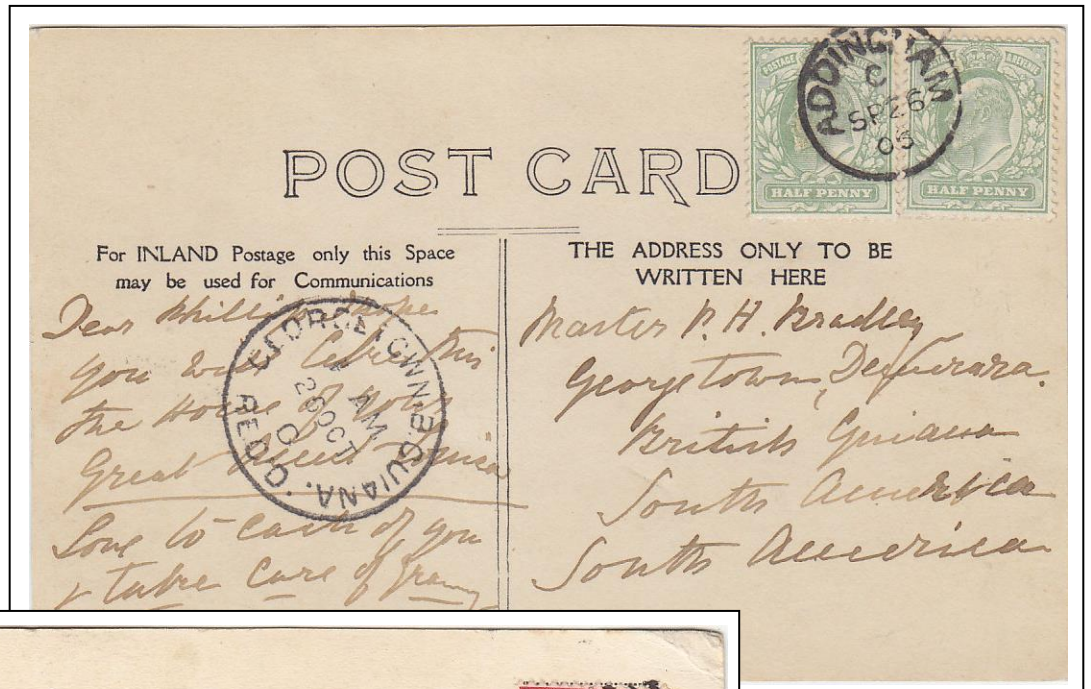
Addingham

26 September 1906

Georgetown

20 October 1906

§§ British Guiana
joined the penny
postage scheme
from the start,
25 December 1898.



➤ UK to China:

Northampton

14 August 1905

Shanghai B.P.O.

(British Post Office)

16 September 1905

§§ Penny postage
from the UK to British
post offices in China was
introduced 1 May 1902.



► UK to Cape of Good Hope:

Edinburgh

8 August 1906

Barkly East

31 August 1906

§§ Penny postage from the UK to Cape of Good Hope was introduced 1 September 1899.



2.2 Imperial Penny Postage

India • Lagos • Canada

To the UK from her Colonies and Other Related Territories

► India to the UK:

Multan

20 December 1905

Sea Post Office

23 December 1905

to Grimsby

☐ One anna was the equivalent of one penny.

§§ India joined the penny postage scheme
25 December 1898.



► Lagos to the UK:

Sapele 1 August 1906
to Jersey

§§ The Lagos colony
joined the penny
postage scheme
25 December 1898.

► Canada to the UK:

Portage La Prairie

10 May 1905

Leeds

23 May 1905

☐ Two cents were the equivalent of one penny.

§§ Canada joined the penny postage scheme
25 December 1898.



§§ This sender used far more than half the address side for the written message, in violation of the normal rules for divided postcards. But that did not matter, as the penny postage applied to letters as well as to postcards.

2.3 Imperial Penny Postage Various Countries

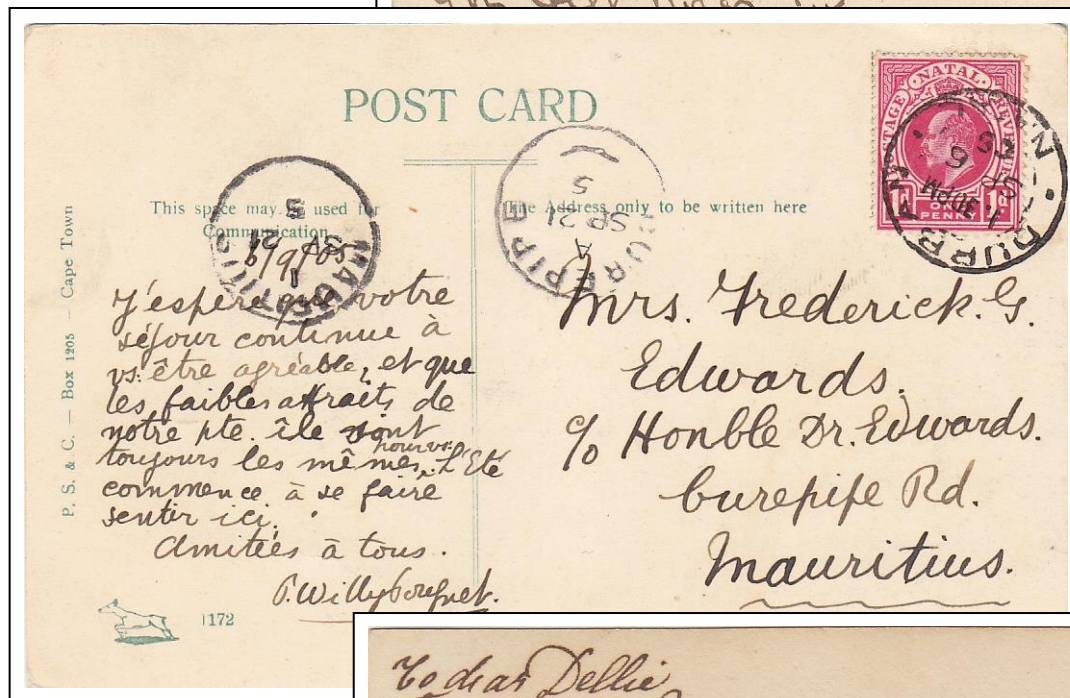
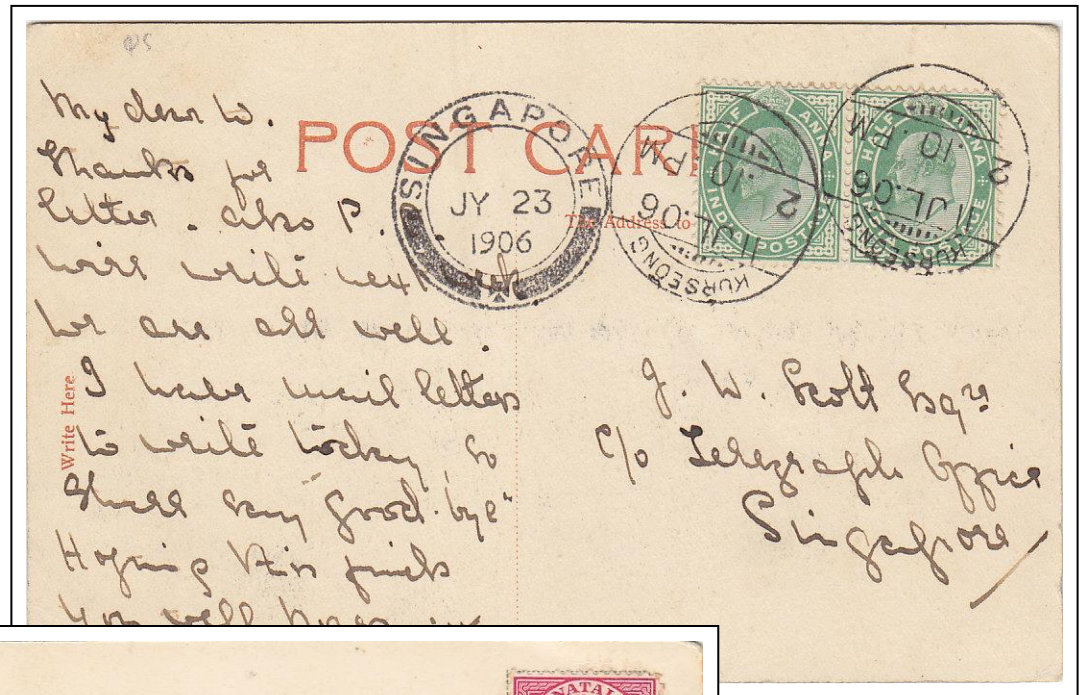
Outside the UK Throughout Most of the British Empire

► India to Straits
Settlements:

Kurseong
11 July 1906

Singapore
23 July 1906

☐ One anna was the
equivalent of one penny.



► Natal to Mauritius:
Durban
6 September 1905
Mauritius
21 September 1905
Curepipe
21 September 1905

► St. Lucia to Antigua:

Castries
21 November 1905

St. John's
23 November 1905

§§ India, Straits Settlements, Natal, St. Lucia and Antigua joined the penny postage scheme from the start in 1898. Mauritius followed suit on Queen Victoria's 80th birthday, 24 May 1899.



2.4 Imperial Penny Postage

UK to Cook Islands • BCA to the UK

No Message on Address Side

In Spite of Penny Postage

Even though the penny postage scheme allowed writing on the address side of postcards, divided cards were very often sent within the British empire without such messages. This was probably due to the UPU regulations for postcards, and to the instructions printed on many divided postcards, saying that writing on the address side was only permitted in inland mail.

► UK to Cook Islands:

Eastbourne

10 September 1905

Auckland

22 October 1905

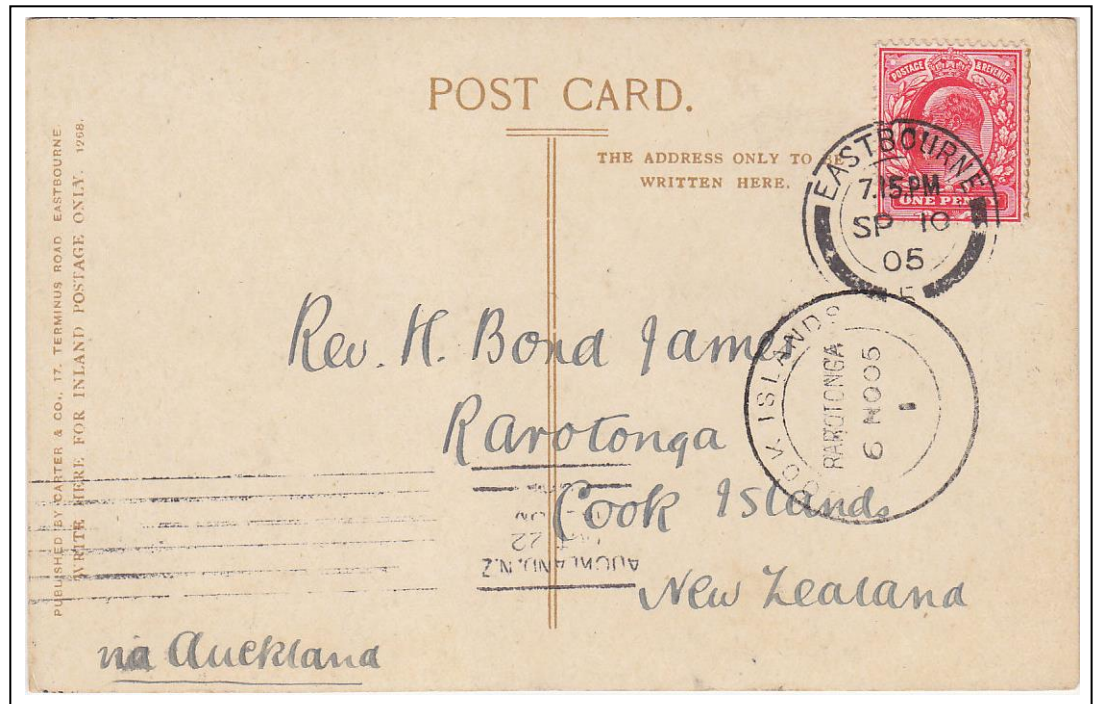
Cook Islands

Rarotonga

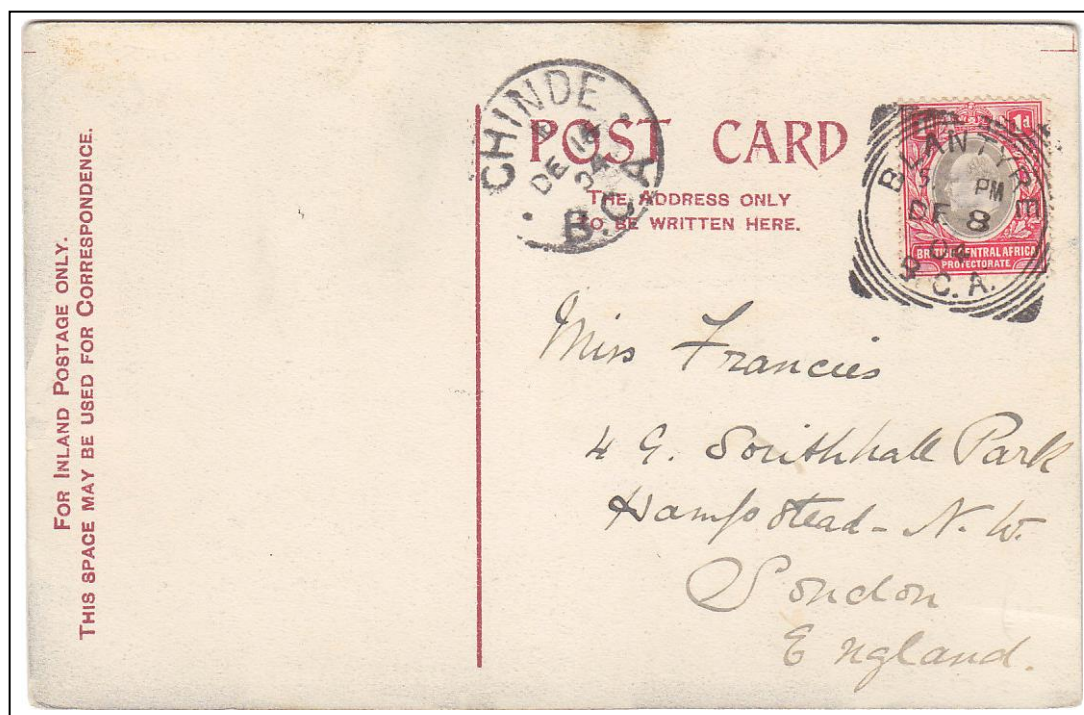
6 November 1905

☒ Instruction:

*Write here for inland
postage only.*



§§ New Zealand dependencies, including Cook Islands (above), joined the penny postage scheme in August 1901. The British Central Africa Protectorate (below) was a member from the start, 25 December 1898. Although penny postage applied, the space for messages was left unused on these cards, possibly because they both had instructions that correspondence on the address side was only allowed for 'inland postage'.



► British Central Africa Protectorate to the UK:

Blantyre

8 December 1904

Chinde

16 December 1904

to London

☒ Instruction:

*For Inland Postage only.
This space may be used
for Correspondence.*

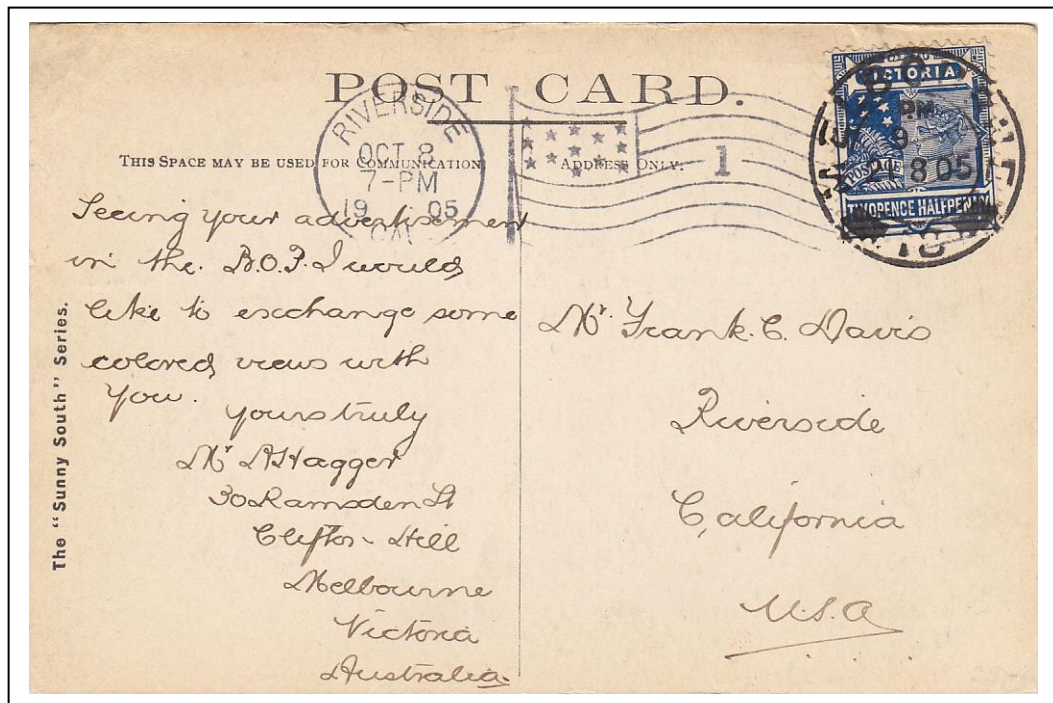
3. Letter Rate

Before messages were accepted on the address side, divided postcards should be treated as letters in international mail exchange, according to UPU rules. These rules were normally also incorporated into national regulations about domestic mail. At times the senders were aware of this and applied letter postage.

However, divided postcards with correct letter postage are difficult to find. To begin with, divided cards were usually not produced and sold in places where they were not allowed for domestic use, which makes domestic letter postage (3.1) very rare in most countries.

With regard to international mail exchange, there were often printed instructions on divided cards that no message could be written on the address side when the card was used abroad, or when sent to countries that did not allow such messages. The possibility to write a message for letter postage was hardly ever mentioned. In addition, those (few) senders who knew the rules usually wrote their message on the image side rather than paying the more expensive letter rate. Divided cards with correct foreign letter postage are therefore also difficult to find. The exhibit shows cards for which correct letter rate has been paid prior to bilateral agreements (3.2), prior to imperial penny postage (3.3) and in the absence of any agreement (3.4).

When divided postcards appear with letter postage, a common reason is probably that the addressee had previously paid postage due for a divided card, and pointed out to the sender that additional postage was needed in the future. However, due to lacking knowledge of the rapidly changing regulations, it sometimes happened that senders applied letter postage in cases when that was not required (3.5).



► Victoria to the United States:

Melbourne 21 August 1905 – Riverside CA 8 October 1905

☑ Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

§§ There is no recorded bilateral agreement between the commonwealth of Australia and the United States. The US made a unilateral decision on 28 June 1906 that incoming divided cards should be accepted at the postcard rate, but prior to that date letter postage was required.

3.1 Letter Rate

Sweden • United States

Domestic Mail

Required under National Rules

Divided cards sent at the domestic letter rate are rare in most countries, as such cards were usually not for sale in places where they could not be sent at the postcard rate.



► Sweden: Stockholm 15 March 1905 – Östersund

☐ Domestic letter rate: 10 öre

§§ Divided cards were accepted in Sweden 1 April 1905. Before that date, divided cards from Swedish publishers (in this case Paul Heckscher, Stockholm) are rare.

☑ The card shows a photo of an actress. It was the actress herself who sent the card, and apparently she knew that it required letter postage.



► Local use in the US: New York 10 November 1906

☐ Domestic letter rate: 2 cents

§§ Divided cards were accepted for domestic use in the US 1 March 1907.

Prior to that date, letter postage was required.

3.2 Letter Rate

UK to France and the United States

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Required under UPU Rules

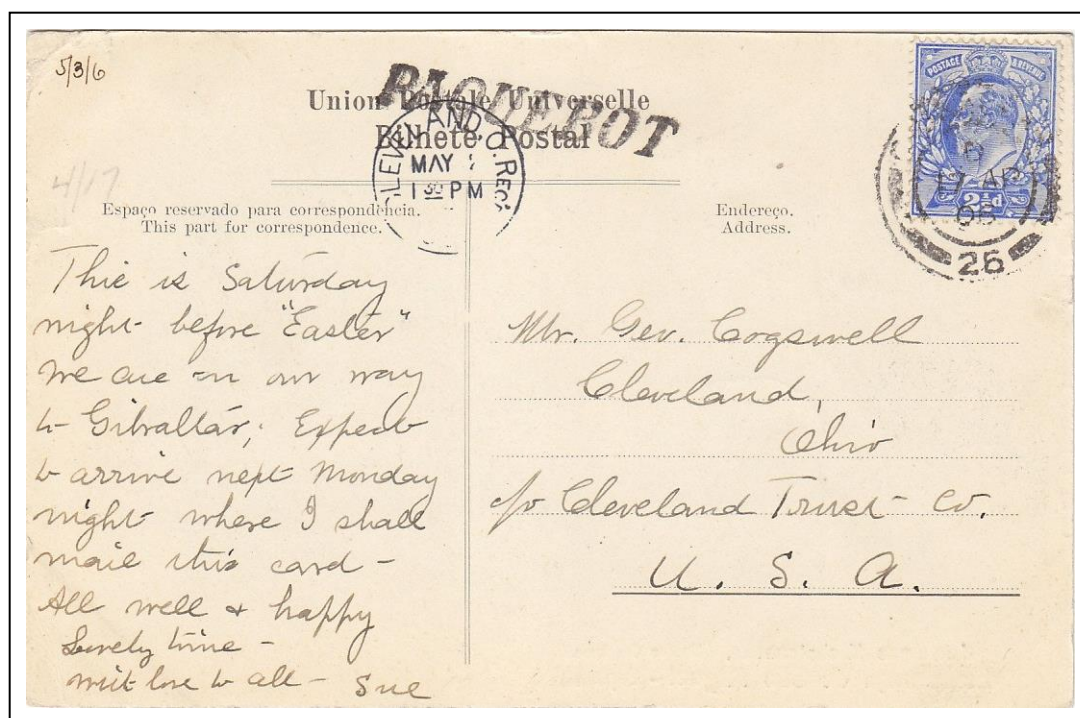
Before bilateral agreements about divided cards were made, letter postage was required.



► UK to France: Nottingham 8 November 1905 – Lyon

☐ Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

§§ Letter postage required prior to a bilateral agreement announced in a British postal circular dated 12 December 1905.



► UK sea post to the United States:

Paquebot – Gibraltar 17 April 1906 – Cleveland OH 2 May 1906

☐ Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

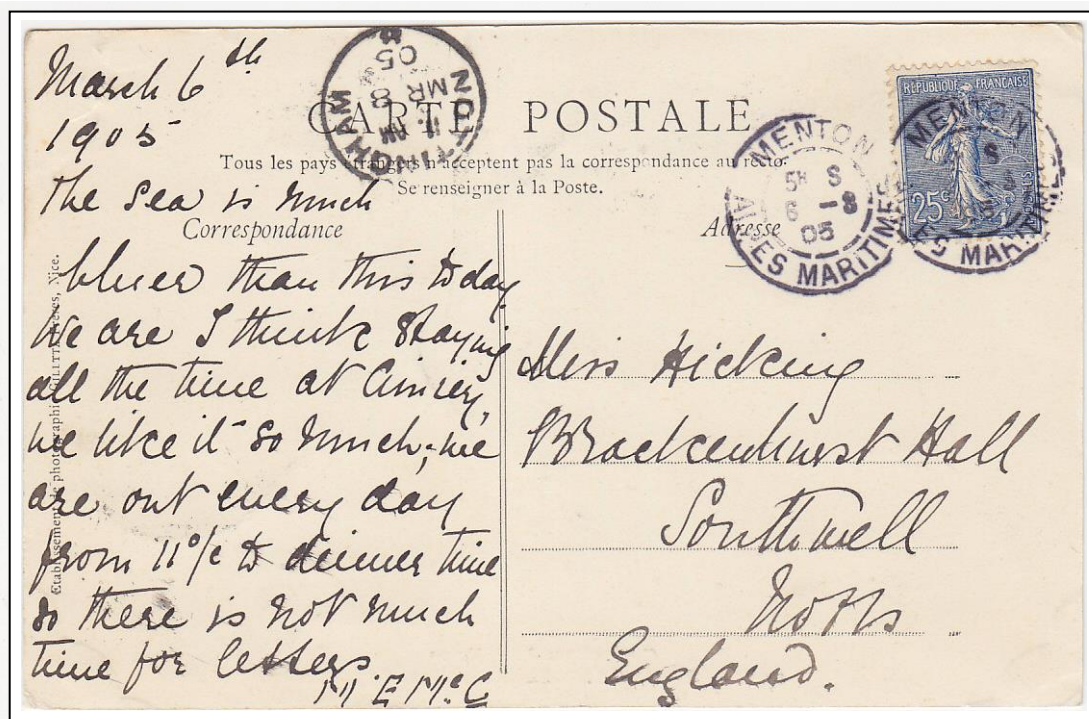
§§ Letter postage required prior to a bilateral agreement announced in a British postal circular 21 August 1906. Postcards in the other direction, from the US to the UK, were not allowed until 1 March 1907.

3.2 Letter Rate

France and Victoria to the UK

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Required under UPU Rules

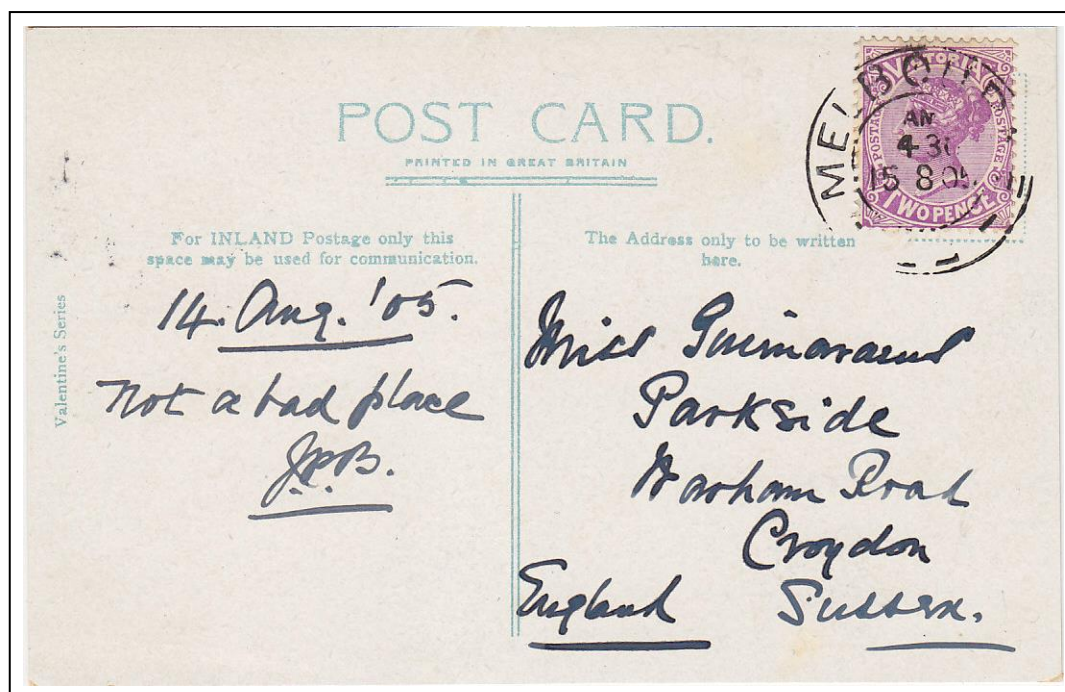


► France to the UK:

Menton 6 March 1905 – Nottingham 8 March 1905 – Southwell

☐ Foreign letter rate: 25 centimes

§§ Letter postage required prior to bilateral agreement announced in the French *Bulletin Mensuel* of November 1905 (and again in December 1905).



► Victoria to the UK:

Melbourne 15 August 1905 – Croydon

☐ Letter rate to the UK: 2 pence

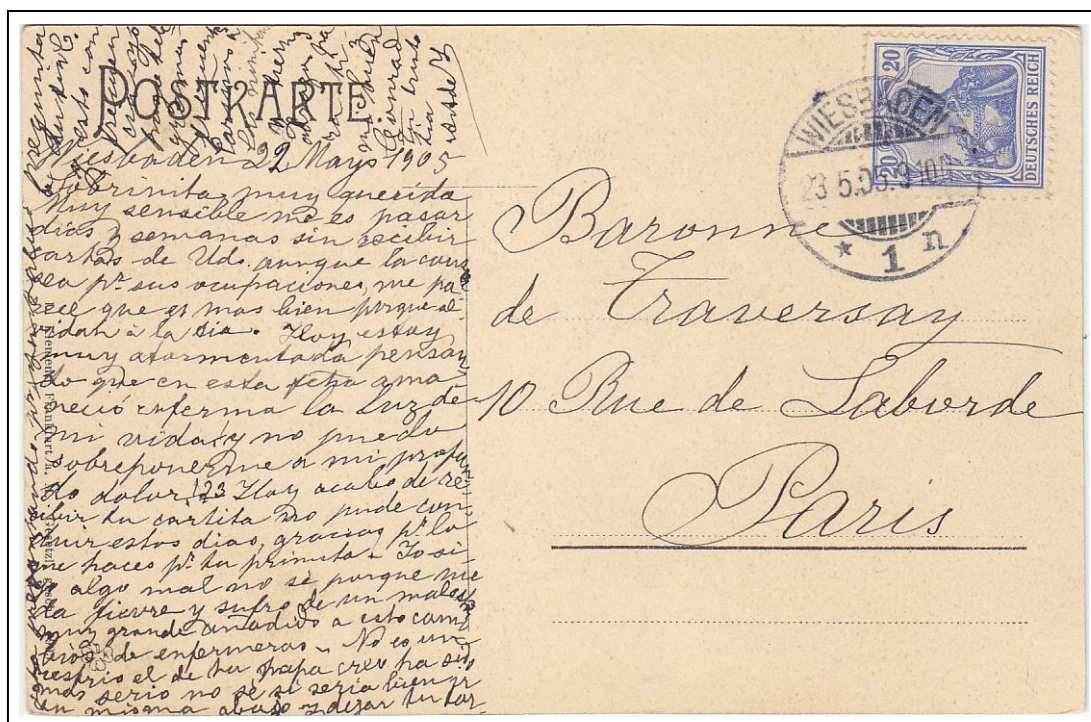
§§ Letter postage required prior to bilateral agreement recorded 22 November 1905 by the Postmaster-General in Melbourne. Ordinary foreign letter rate from Australia was 2½ pence. The reduced 2 pence rate to the UK (and to certain British colonies) was in force since 1 June 1905.

3.2 Letter Rate

Germany to France • Bavaria to the UK

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Required under UPU Rules



► Germany to France: Wiesbaden 23 May 1905 – Paris

☐ Foreign letter rate: 20 pfennig

§§ Letter postage required prior to a bilateral agreement 1 September 1905.



► Bavaria to the UK: Muenchen 7 November 1905 – London

☐ Foreign letter rate: 20 pfennig

§§ Letter postage required prior to a bilateral agreement announced in a German postal circular dated 24 November 1905.

§§ Germany did not allow divided cards to be sent abroad until September 1905, when bilateral agreements with most European countries were announced. One exception was the UK, where an agreement did not come in place until late November.

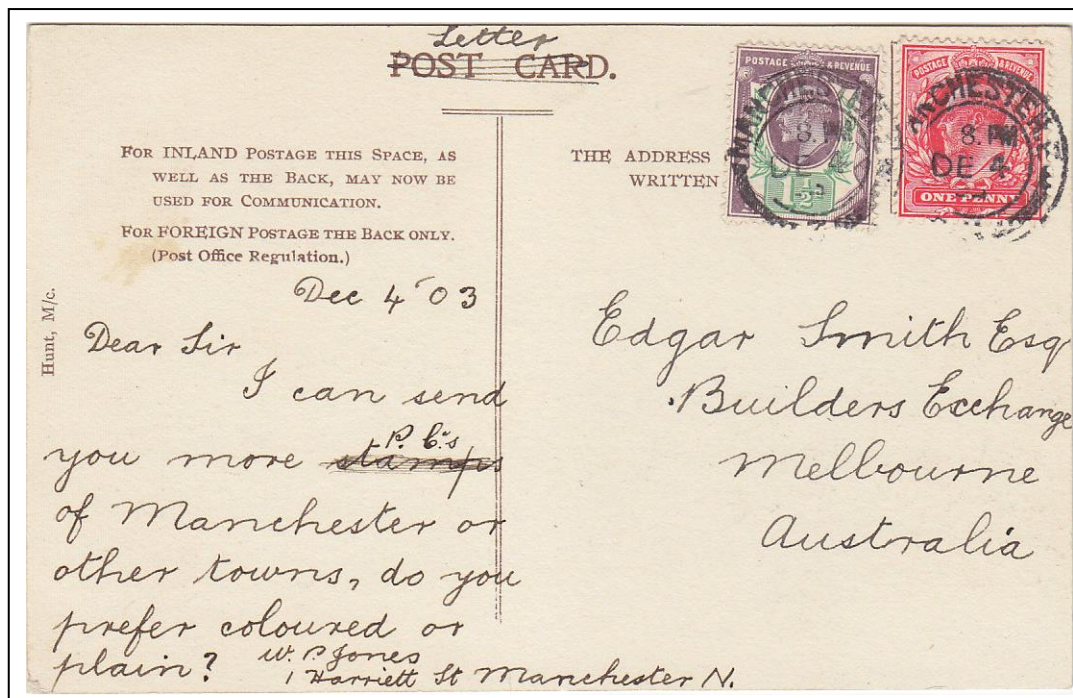
3.3 Letter Rate

UK to Victoria • Jamaica to Egypt

Prior to Imperial Penny Postage

Required under UPU Rules

Divided cards sent to or from colonies and territories in the British Empire that had not yet joined the penny postage scheme required letter postage.

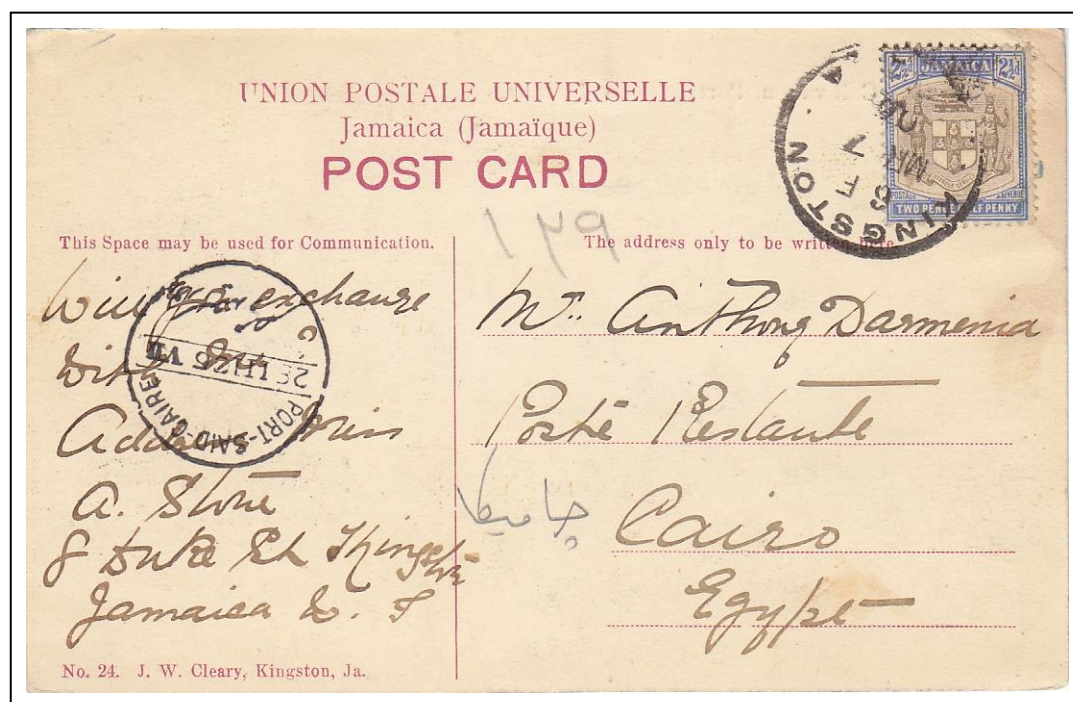


► UK to Victoria: Manchester 4 December 1903 – Melbourne

☐ Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

§§ Penny postage from the UK to Australia was introduced 1 April 1905. Prior to that date, letter postage was required.

☑ The sender correctly replaced the text 'POST CARD' with 'Letter'.



► Jamaica to Egypt: Kingston 7 March 1906 – Port-Said-Caire 28 March 1906

☐ Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

§§ Jamaica joined the penny postage scheme 24 May 1899, but Egypt did not follow suit until 1 May 1906. Prior to that date, letter postage was required.

3.4 Letter Rate

Tasmania to Crete • Victoria to Turkey

No Agreements

Required under UPU Rules

When no bilateral agreement was made, letter rate was required until the decision from the 1906 Rome congress was implemented by the countries involved.



► Tasmania to Crete:

Hobart 5 February 1906 – Herakleion 27 February [12 March] 1906

Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

§§ There is no recorded agreement between Australia and Crete.



► Victoria to Turkey:

Geelong 25 May 1905 – Suez 26 June 1905 – Alexandrie 27 June 1905 –
– British Post Office Constantinople 3 July 1905

Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

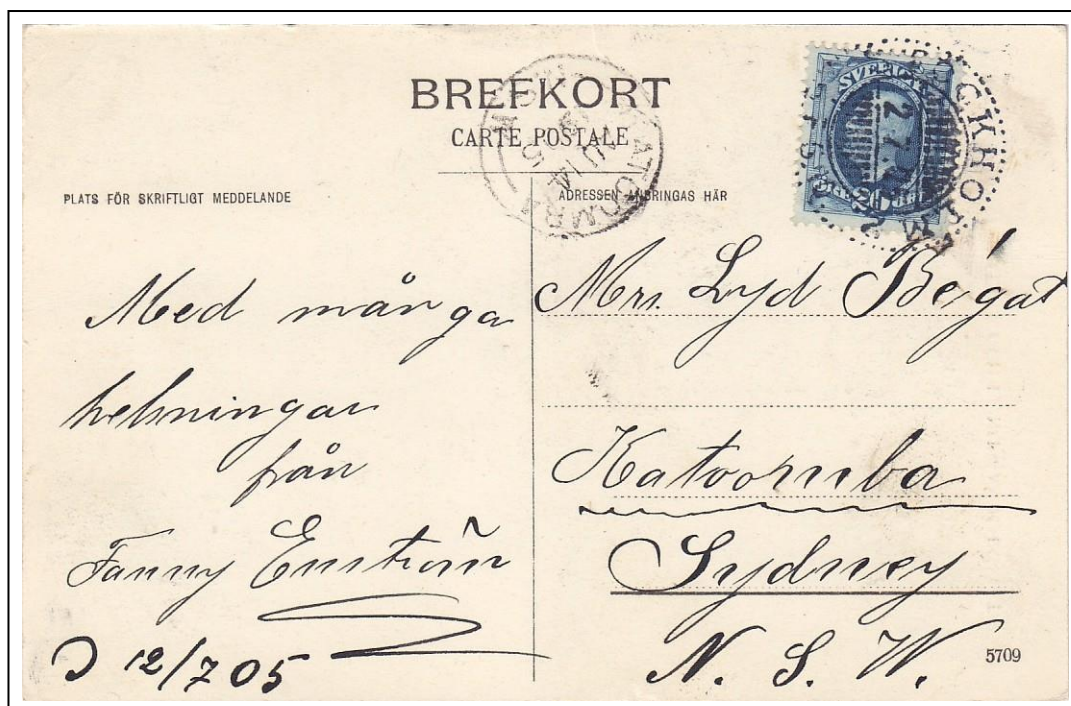
§§ There is no recorded agreement between Australia and Turkey.

3.4 Letter Rate

Sweden to NSW • United States to the UK

No Agreements

Required under UPU Rules

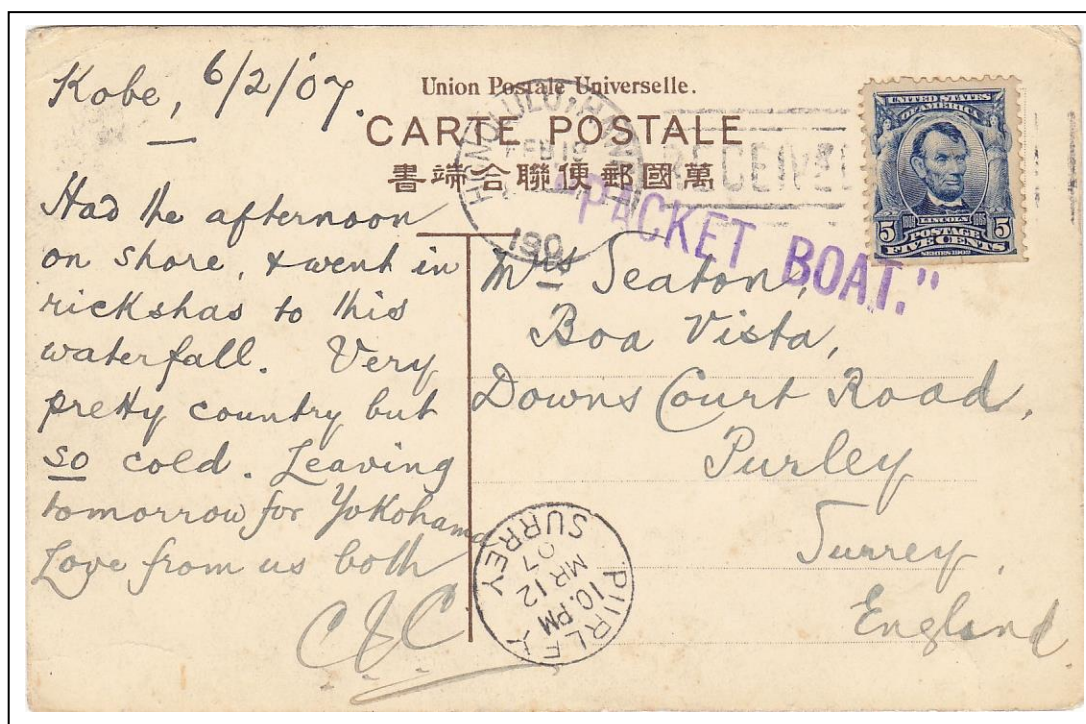


► Sweden to New South Wales:

Stockholm 12 July 1905 – Katoomba 14 August 1905

☐ Foreign letter rate: 20 öre

§§ There is no recorded agreement between Sweden and Australia.



► Japanese card, dated Kobe 6 February 1907, by US seapost to the UK:

“PACKET BOAT.” – Honolulu 19 February 1907 – Purley 12 March 1907

☐ Foreign letter rate: 5 cents

§§ Very late, but correct, letter rate. Divided cards were permitted within and from the United States 1 March 1907 through a unilateral decision. By then, most countries – including the UK – had stopped surcharging incoming divided cards.

3.4 Letter Rate

Victoria and the UK to Japan

No Agreements

Required under UPU Rules

► Victoria to Japan:

Melbourne

23 November 1905

Kobe

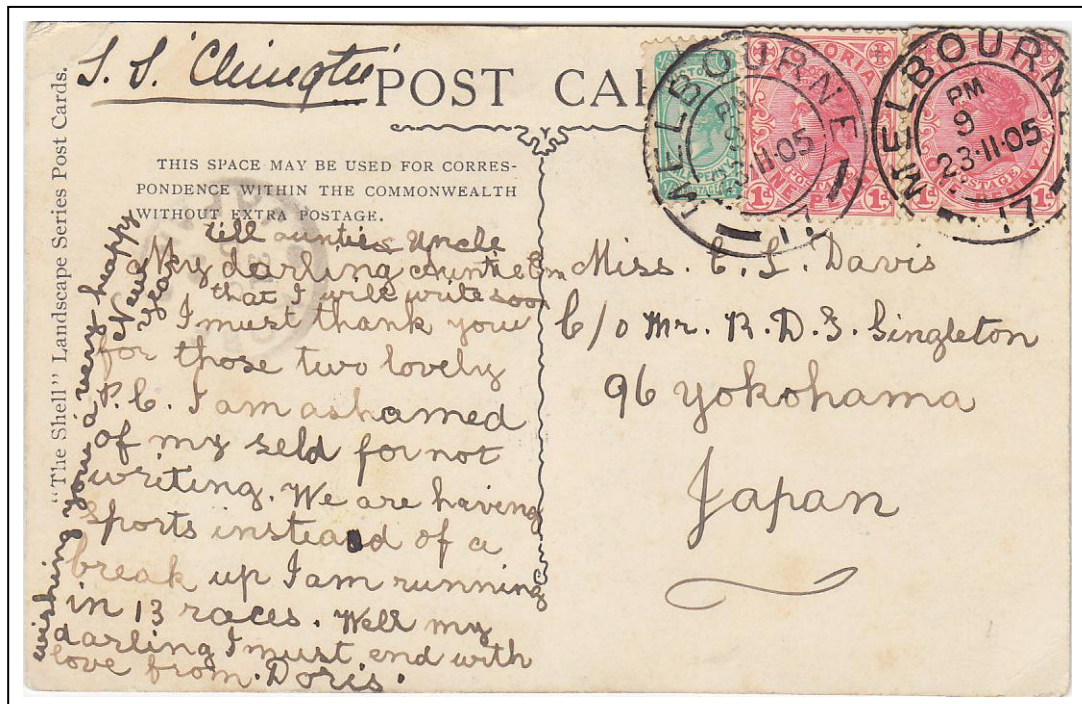
31 December 1905

to Yokohama

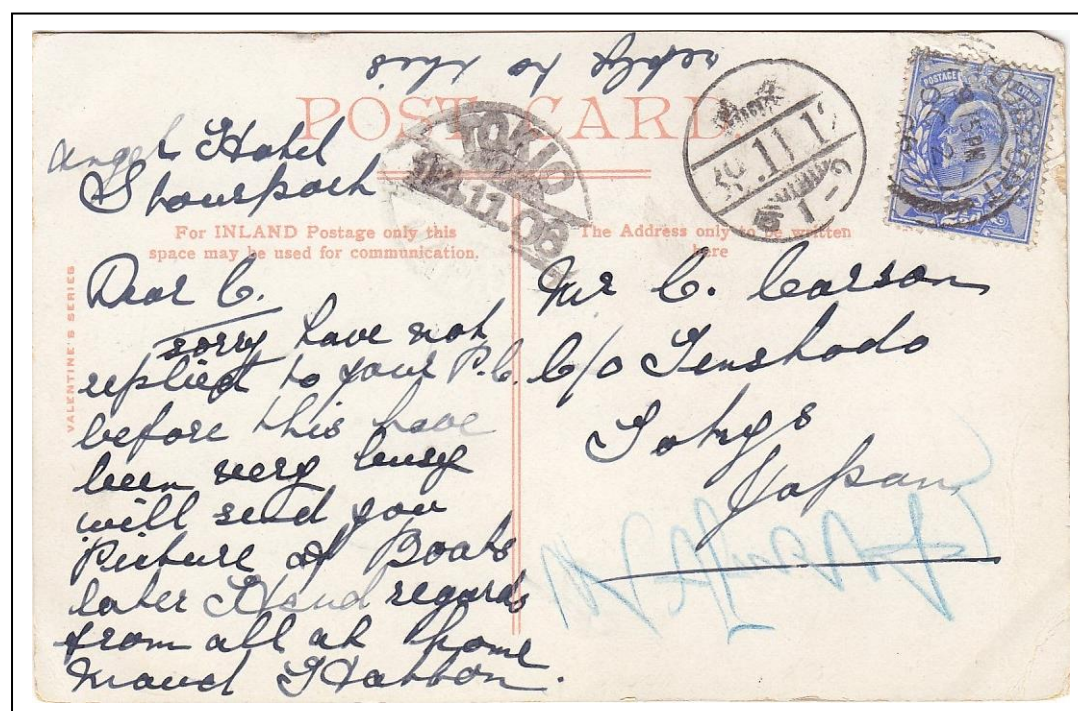
Foreign letter rate:
2½ pence

§§ There is no recorded agreement between Australia and Japan.

§§ On 22 November 1905 – the day before this card was posted! – the following was published in *The Sydney Morning Herald*:



POSTCARDS. With reference to the arrangement recently made as regards postcards for transmission within the Commonwealth [of Australia], and between the Commonwealth and New Zealand, for the face of the cards to be divided by a vertical line, the space to the left of the line to be utilised, if desired, for a written communication, and to the right for the address, the postal authorities advise the receipt of a notification from the Japanese postal administration that cards divided as described above have been forwarded to Japan, where they are not allowed to circulate as postcards, and are therefore surcharged on delivery with double the deficient postage. It appears that the reduction of half of the space reserved for the address renders it difficult to add to the address a translation in Japanese, which is done to facilitate delivery.



► UK to Japan:

Stourport

2 October 1906

Tokio

12 November 1906

Foreign letter rate:
2½ pence

§§ No bilateral agreement between the UK and Japan is recorded in British postal circulars.

☑ The blue handwriting on this card is probably a Japanese translation of the address, as referred to in the newspaper quoted above. Japan was one of the last countries in the world to accept divided postcards.

3.4 Letter Rate

Morocco and Canada to the US

No Agreements

Required under UPU Rules

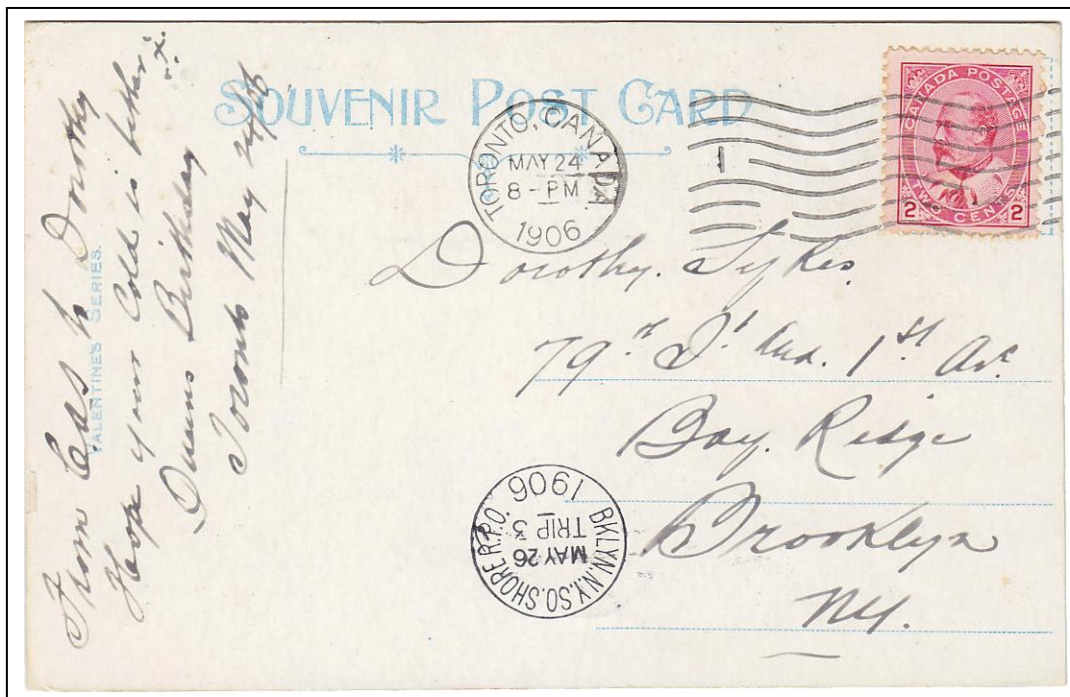


► Morocco (British post) to the United States:
Tangier 26 April 1906 – Boston MA 11 May 1906

☐ Foreign letter rate: 25 centimos

§§ There is no recorded agreement between Morocco and the United States.

☒ 1906 was the last year when the 'Morocco Agencies' were operated by Gibraltar and used overprinted Gibraltar stamps. On 1 January 1907 the British Post Office took over and introduced Morocco overprints on British stamps.



► Canada to the US: Toronto 24 May 1906 – Brooklyn NY 26 May 1906

☐ Letter rate to the US: 2 cents (inland rates applied between Canada and the US)

§§ There is no recorded agreement between Canada and the US, so letter postage was required for this card, as it has a hand-drawn dividing line and personal correspondence to the left.

3.4 Letter Rate Various Countries

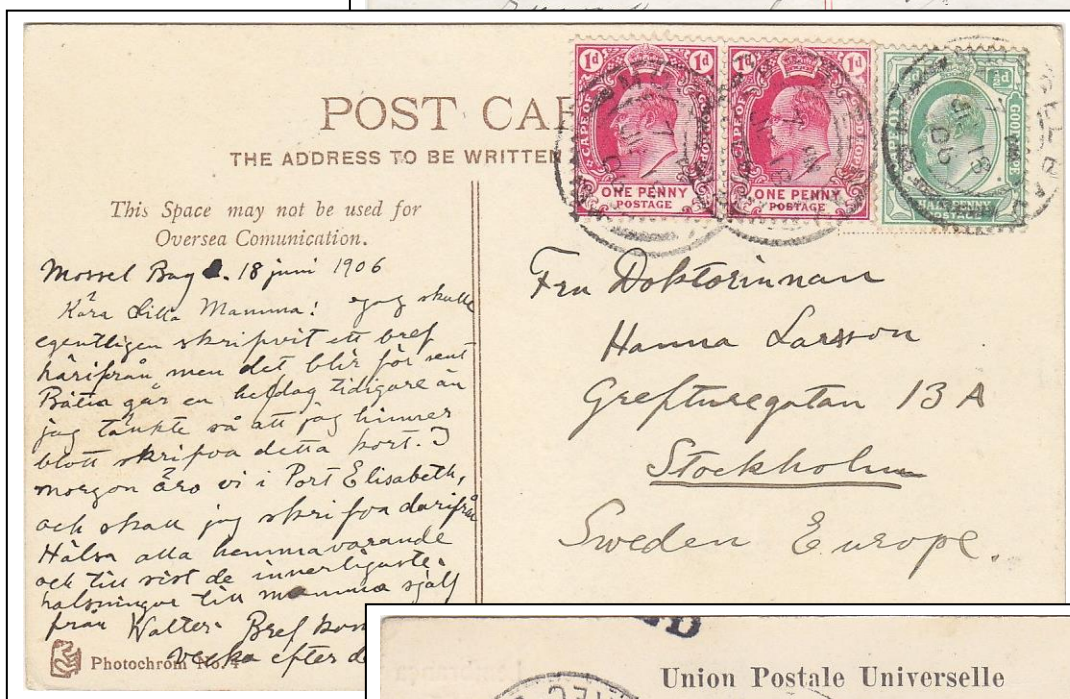
No Agreements Required under UPU Rules

► Transvaal to Germany:

Pretoria
12 December 1904
to Noerdlingen

Foreign letter rate:
2½ pence

§§ There is no recorded
agreement between
Transvaal and Germany.



► Cape of Good Hope to Sweden:

Mossel Bay
18 June 1906
to Stockholm

Foreign letter rate:
2½ pence

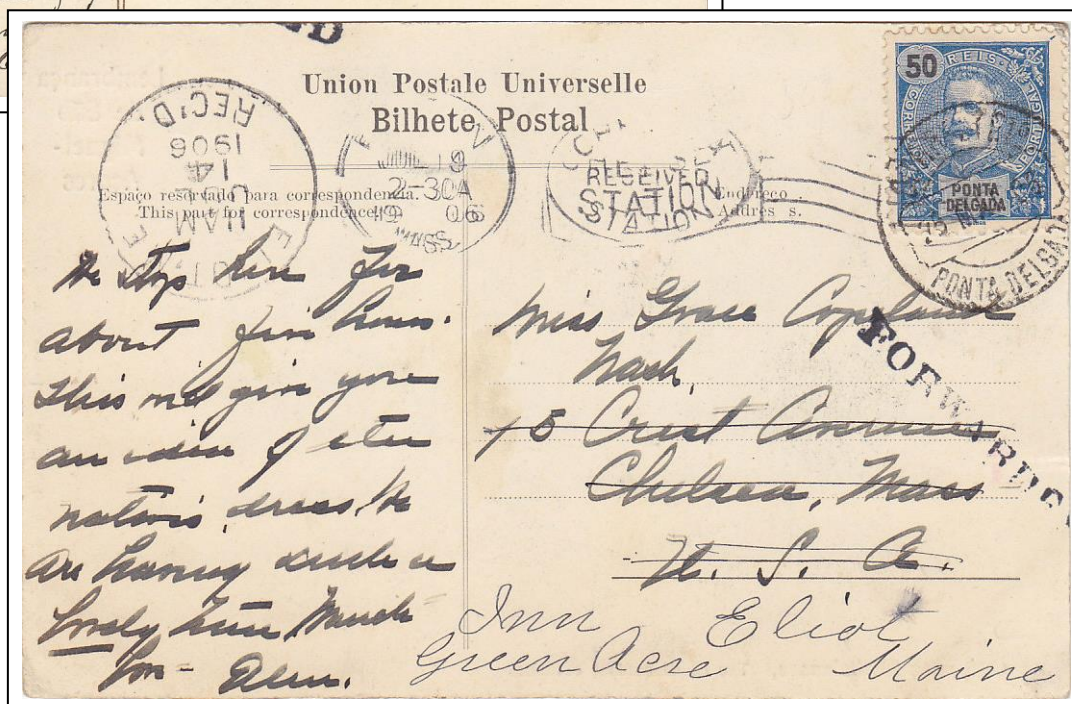
§§ There is no recorded
agreement between
Sweden and the
Cape Colony.

► Ponta Delgada to the US:

Ponta Delgada
26 May 1906
Boston/Chelsea MA
9 June & 14 July 1906
Eliot ME 14 July 1906

Foreign letter
rate: 50 réis

§§ There is no recorded
agreement between
Portugal or Portuguese
colonies and the US.



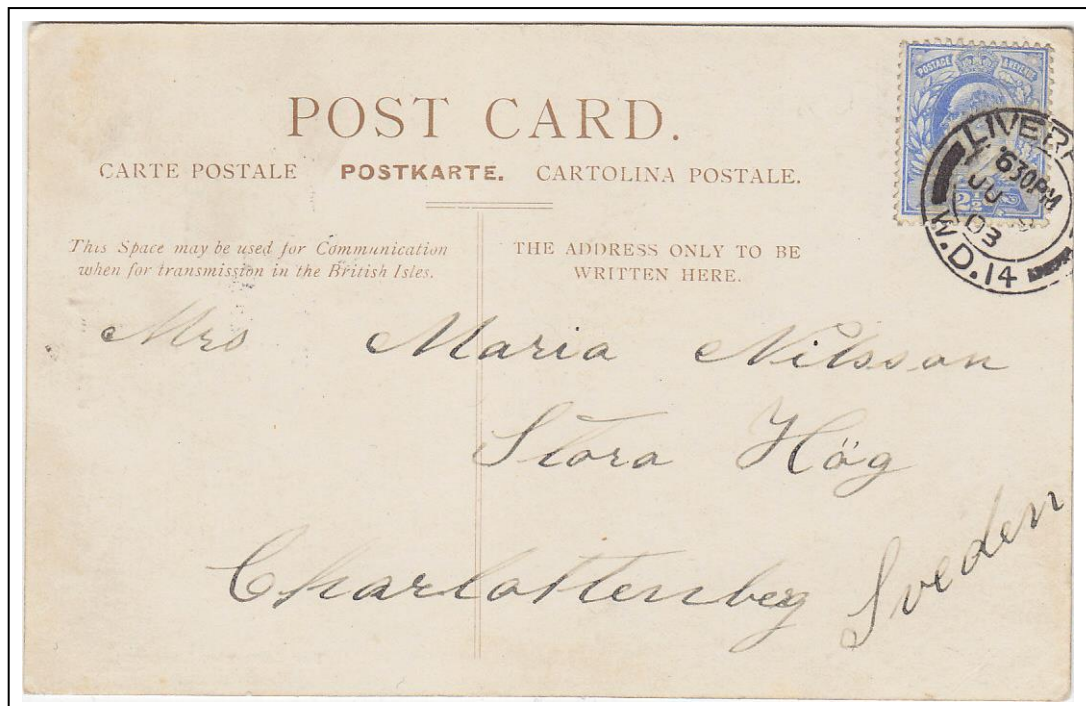
3.5 Letter Rate

UK to Sweden • Victoria to the US

Unnecessary Letter Postage

Due to UPU Regulations

Because of lacking knowledge of postal regulations, senders at times applied letter postage even in cases when that was not necessary.



➤ UK to Sweden: Liverpool 9 June 1903 – Charlottenberg

☐ Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

§§ Postcard postage, 1 penny, would have sufficed as there is no message on the address side (UPU regulation).



➤ Victoria to the US: Melbourne 22 February 1906 – Philadelphia PA 24 March 1906 –
– Nice Town Sta Phila. PA 24 March 1906

☐ Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

§§ Postcard postage, 1½ pence, would have sufficed as only the sender's and the recipient's name and address are written on the address side (UPU regulation).

3.5 Letter Rate

UK to Italy, Bavaria and the US

Unnecessary Letter Postage

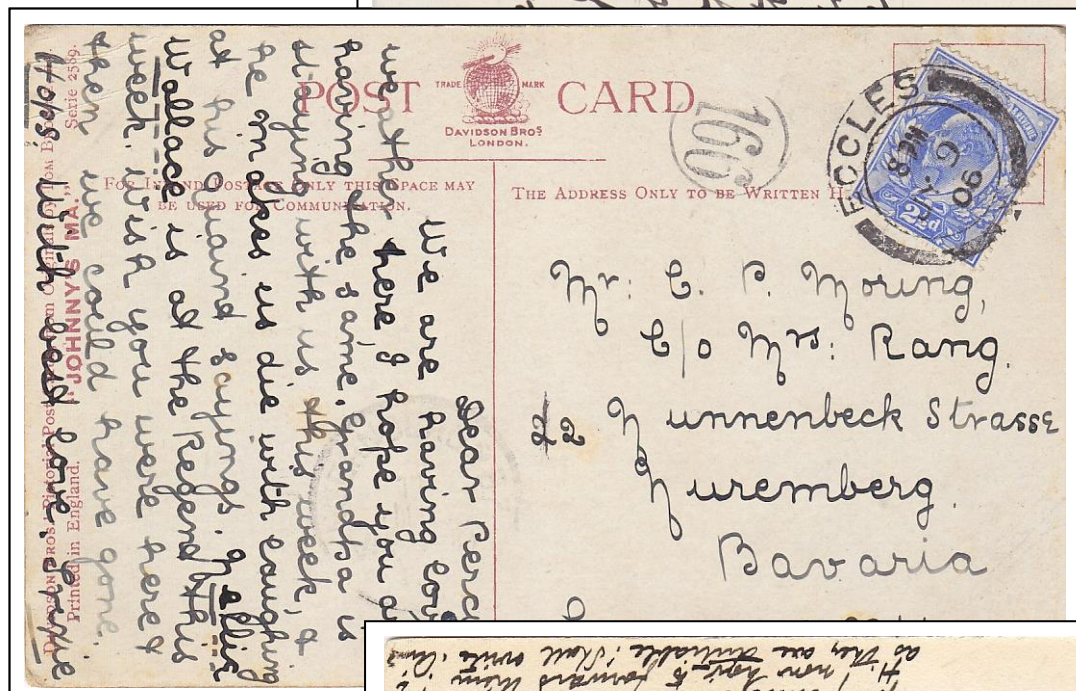
Due to Bilateral Agreements

☐ Three examples of divided cards sent from the UK at the 2½ pence letter rate in spite of bilateral agreements to accept such cards at the postcard rate.

► UK to Italy:

Cheltenham
5 March 1906
to Florence

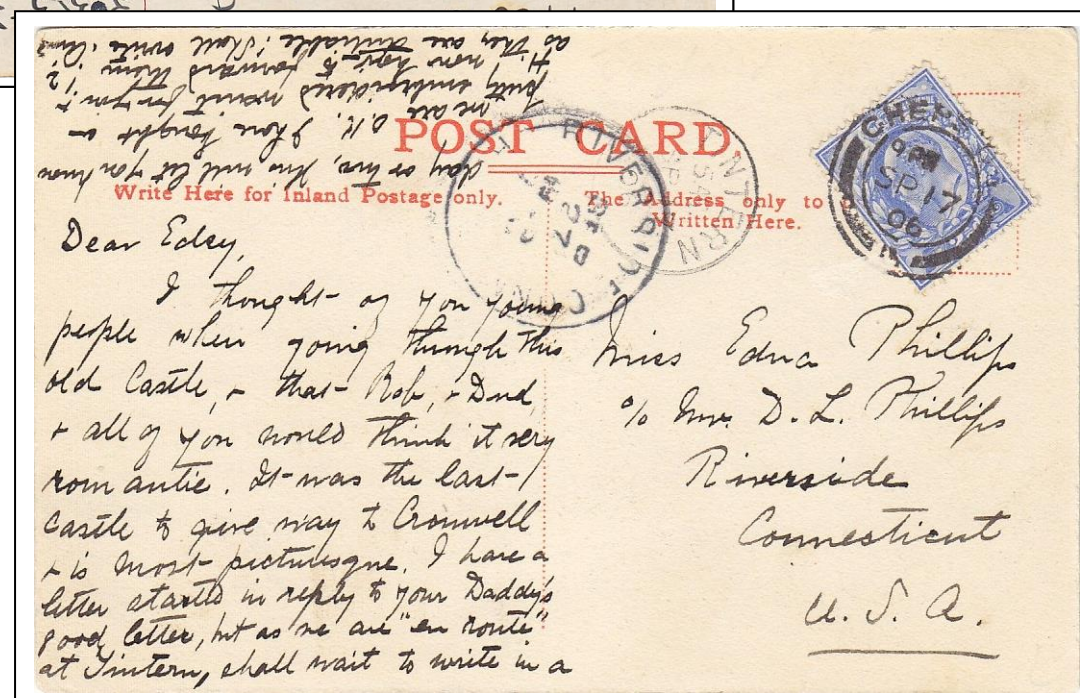
§§ Bilateral agreement with Italy announced in a British postal circular 12 December 1905.



► UK to Bavaria:

Eccles 9 July 1906
Nuernberg 11 July 1906

§§ Bilateral agreement with Germany (including Bavaria) announced in a British postal circular 12 December 1905.



► UK to the United States:

Tintern 17/9 1906
Chepstow 17/9 1906
Riverside CN 27/9 1906

§§ Bilateral agreement with the US announced in a British postal circular 21 August 1906.

3.5 Letter Rate

NSW to the US • New Zealand to Austria

Unnecessary Letter Postage

Due to Unilateral Decisions

In certain cases, divided cards with message on the address side could be sent at the postcard rate due to **unilateral decisions** taken by sending and receiving countries, even if there was no bilateral agreement. This was, of course, not easy to know for the correspondents, who at times applied letter postage.

► New South Wales
to the United States:

Gosford

15 December 1906

to Reading, MA

Foreign letter rate:

2½ pence (postcard
rate was 1½ pence)



§§ Following a unilateral decision, Australia stopped applying tax marks on outgoing divided cards shortly after the UPU congress in Rome. The United States took a unilateral decision to stop charging postage due for divided postcards arriving from abroad without tax marks 28 June 1906. Postcard postage, 1½ pence, would therefore have sufficed even though there was no bilateral agreement between Australia and the United States.



► New Zealand to Austria:

Port Chalmers

22 September 1906

Brünn

5 November 1906

Kojetitz in Mähren

6 November 1906

Foreign letter rate:

2½ pence (postcard
rate was 1 penny)

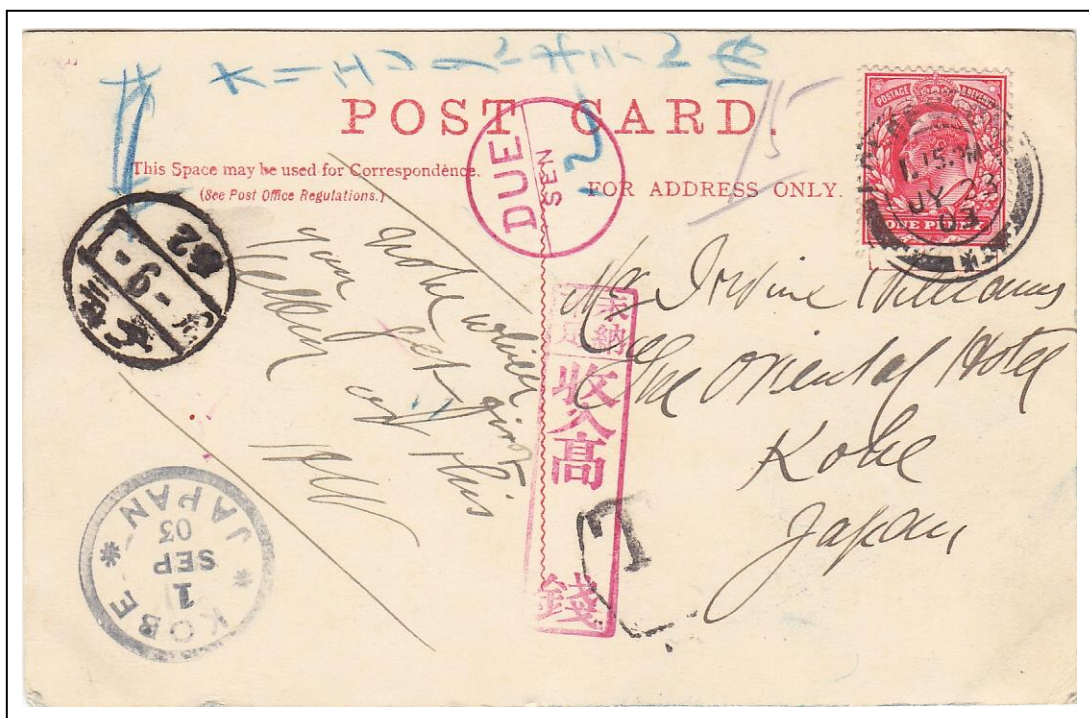
§§ New Zealand took a unilateral decision to stop applying tax marks on outgoing divided postcards in December 1905 and Austria took a unilateral decision in February 1905 to abstain from charging postage due for incoming cards without T marks. Postcard postage would therefore have sufficed. But again, how would the sender know?

4. Postage Due

Divided cards sent at the postcard rate before that was allowed were usually taxed as letters and addressees had to pay postage due. This section first shows divided cards in inland mail taxed as letters before such cards were allowed for domestic use (4.1). Then follow examples of international mail. Postage due might be charged if cards were sent prior to bilateral agreements (4.2), prior to the introduction of Imperial penny postage (4.3), or in the absence of any agreement (4.4).

The standard UPU procedure for underpaid mail was that the sending country decided whether or not the correct postage had been paid and, if necessary, applied tax marks. However, divided postcards without tax marks from the sending country were sometimes surcharged on arrival in the destination country (4.5) or – less often – received tax marks in transit through a third country (4.6). It also happened that postal administrations decided to ignore tax marks on divided postcards arriving from abroad (4.7).

This section also shows examples of forwarded cards with postage due (4.8) and divided cards for which the recipients refused to pay postage due (4.9).



- UK to Japan: Folkestone 23 July 1903 – Kobe 1 September 1903

 Foreign postcard rate: 1 penny (letter rate was 2½ pence)

[T] UK: T and 15 (centimes deficiency)

[T] Japan: DUE 12 SEN and a tax mark in Japanese (double deficiency)

§§ No bilateral agreement with Japan is recorded in British postal circulars. The text on top of the card is a Japanese transcription of the address (Oriental Hotel).

This postcard shows the normal procedure for international postage due mail according to UPU regulations. The post office in the sending country noticed that the postcard did not qualify for the postcard rate and was therefore underpaid, struck a "T" (taxe) mark and made a note about insufficient postage expressed in French currency. In the destination country, this amount was doubled and transformed into local currency to obtain the postage due that the recipient had to pay.

4.1 Postage Due

New South Wales • Belgium

Domestic Mail

Not Permitted for Inland Use

Domestic postcards taxed as letters because of divided address side are difficult to find in most countries as such cards were normally not for sale in places where they were not permitted.

► New South Wales:

Sydney

5 December 1904

Wentworth Falls

5 December 1904

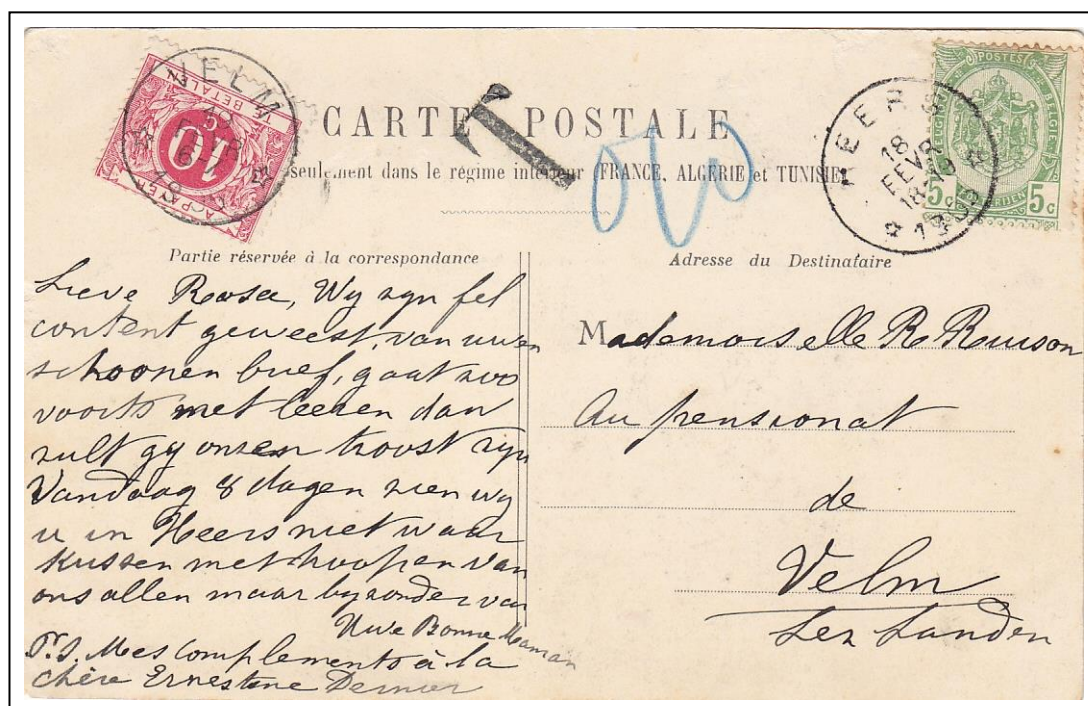
Domestic postcard
rate: 1 penny (letter
rate was 2 pence)

[T] Due mark:
'MORE TO PAY 2^D
(double deficiency)



§§ This card was **taxed as a letter the day before divided postcards were accepted in Australia**, according to a report in the *Western Mail*, published on 10 December 1904:

PICTORIAL POST CARDS. Melbourne. December 6. The Postmaster-General has instructed the State Deputies that pictorial post-cards may circulate in Australia at post-card rates, containing matter in addition to the address on the face side, provided that a vertical line be drawn across, on one side of which the address is to be written and on the other the correspondence matter.



► Belgium:

Heers

18 February 1905

Velm

19 February 1905

Domestic postcard
rate: 5 centimes (letter
rate was 10 centimes)

[T] T, 010 and 10 cts
postage due stamp
(double deficiency)

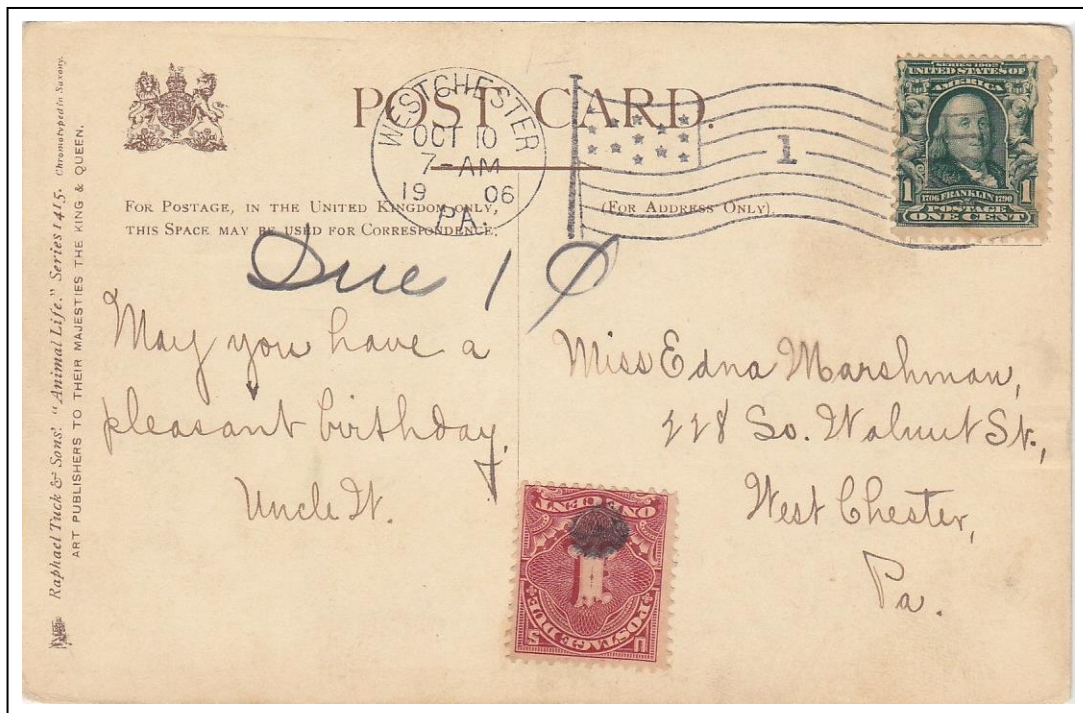
§§ Letter postage required
before divided cards were
accepted for domestic
use in Belgium on
1 September 1905.

4.1 Postage Due

US • US to US Post in China

Domestic Mail

Not Permitted for Inland Use



► United States: Westchester PA 10 October 1906

☐ Domestic postcard rate: 1 cent (letter rate was 2 cents)

[T] 'Due 1 ¢' and postage due stamp

§§ Divided cards were not allowed for inland use in the US until 1 March 1907.

For domestic mail in the US, postage due was single (not double) deficiency.



► United States to US post in China:

Tamalpais CA 15 September 1906 – San Francisco CA 15 September 1906 –
– Shanghai China U.S. Postal Sta. 16 October 1906

☐ Domestic postcard rate: 1 cent (letter rate was 2 cents); [T] note: 'Due 1 ¢'

§§ Domestic US rates and conditions applied for mail exchange between the US and the US Postal Agency in Shanghai since 1 June 1903.

4.2 Postage Due

UK to Germany and Uruguay

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters

Before bilateral agreements were made, divided postcards required letter postage.
If only the postcard rate was paid, the addressee was charged postage due.



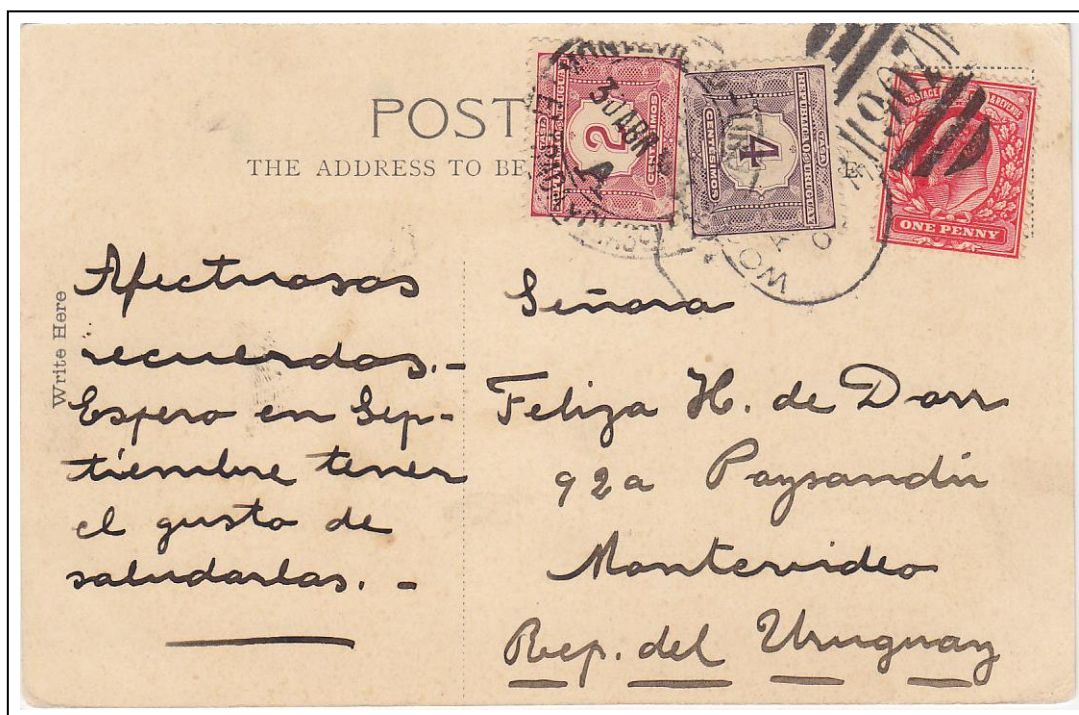
► UK to Germany: Jersey 24 August 1902 – Groitzsch 27 August 1902 (very early!)

☑ Foreign postcard rate: 1 penny (letter rate was 2½ pence)

[T] UK: T (L for London) and 15 (centimes deficiency, partly erased)

[T] Germany: 25 (pfennig due, double deficiency)

§§ Letter postage required prior to bilateral agreement announced 12 December 1905.



► UK to Uruguay: Woodbridge 5 (?) April 1903 – Montevideo 30 April 1903

☑ Foreign postcard rate: 1 penny (letter rate was 2½ pence)

[T] UK: T, no visible note about deficiency, [T] Uruguay: 6 centesimos due stamps (double deficiency)

§§ Letter postage required prior to bilateral agreement announced 13 February 1906.

4.2 Postage Due

UK to France

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters

§§ Letter postage was required for divided postcards sent from the UK to France prior to a bilateral agreement announced by the British post on 12 December 1905. In France, a postage due stamp was affixed each time an attempt was made to charge postage due. Several postage due stamps may therefore appear on the same card, in case of forwarding or repeated attempts to find the addressee.

► UK to France:

Maida Hill

13 September 1905

Paris 14 September 1905

Forwarded:

Nîmes 15 September

Forwarded:

St-Gilles-du-Gard

Forwarded:

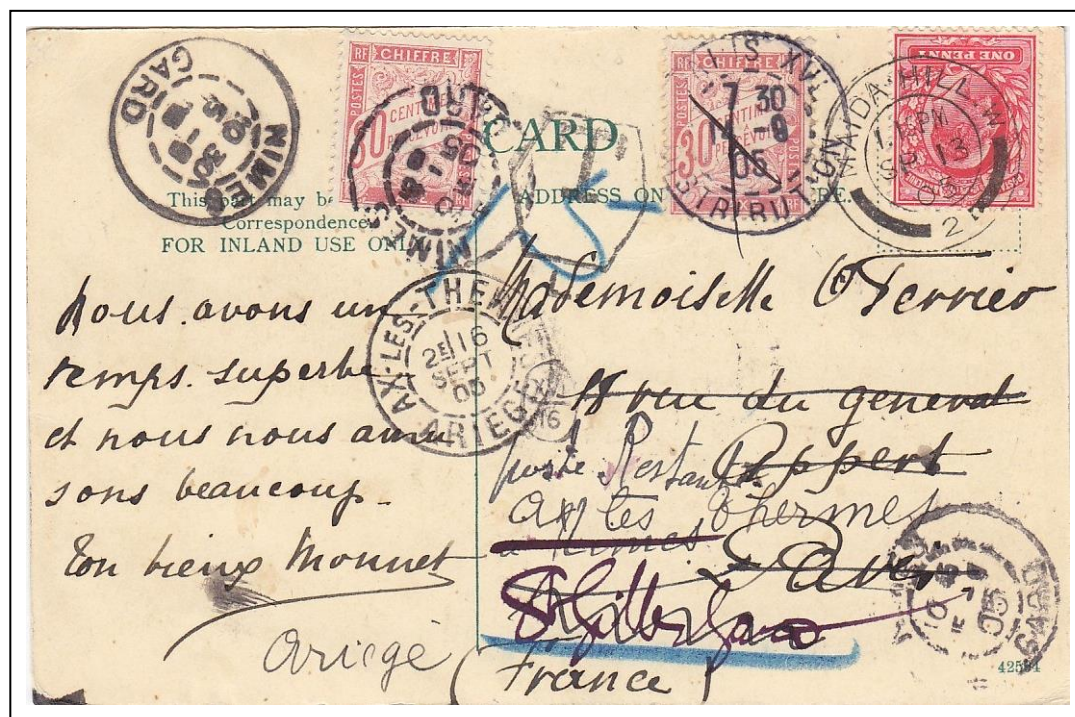
Ax-les-Thermes

16 September 1905

Foreign postcard rate:

1 penny (letter rate
was 2½ pence)

[T] UK: T (L for London)
and 15 (cts deficiency)



[T] A first 30 centimes postage due stamp (double deficiency) was postmarked in Paris, but crossed over as no postage due was paid. A second was postmarked in Nîmes and not crossed over. That, together with the absence of additional postage due stamps, suggests that the person who forwarded the card from Nîmes to St-Gilles-du-Gard may have paid the postage due.



► UK to France:

Stratford

30 March 1904

to Paris

Foreign postcard rate:

1 penny (letter rate
was 2½ pence)

[T] UK: T 15 L (centimes
deficiency; L for
London),

[T] France: 30 centimes
postage due stamp(s)
(double deficiency)

☒ The three 30 centimes postage due stamps, together with the marks and notes (*à représenter...*) on the card, show that two attempts to distribute the card and charge postage due failed, but that the addressee paid for her card the third time the postman arrived. The small '4 / 9' marks are postmen's marks, indicating their district.

Germany to Sweden and Holland

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters

➤ Germany to Sweden:

Dresden

21 July 1905

Sassnitz-Trelleborg

22 July 1905

Båstad

23 July 1905

 Foreign postcard rate:

10 pfennig (letter rate
was 20 pfennig)

[T] Germany: T and 12½

(centimes deficiency)

[T] Sweden: 'Lösen 20 öre'

(double deficiency)



§§ Most bilateral agreements were mutual – once an agreement was in place it applied in both directions – but there were exceptions. Divided cards could be sent at the postcard rate from Sweden to Germany from 1 April 1905, whereas cards from Germany to Sweden were taxed as letters until 1 September 1905.

➤ Germany to

Holland:

Frankfurt (Main)

30 August 1905

Scheveningen

31 August 1905

 Foreign postcard

rate: 10 pfennig

(letter rate was

20 pfennig)

[T] Germany:

T and 12½ (centimes

deficiency)

[T] Holland:

12½ cent postage

due stamps (double

deficiency)

Letter postage

required prior to

bilateral agreement

26 September 1905.



✉ The main reason why postal administrations initially hesitated to admit divided postcards was that such cards provided very limited space for postal notes and postmarks on the address side. Here is an original solution to that problem: a transparent envelope, with postage due stamps on the outside.

4.2 Postage Due

Sweden to Switzerland and Spain

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters



► Sweden to Switzerland: Stockholm 30 June 1905 – St. Blaise 4 July 1905

☑ Foreign postcard rate: 10 öre (letter rate was 20 öre)

[T] Sweden: T and 12½ cent.(imes deficiency, partly covered by postage due stamps)

[T] Switzerland: 25 and postage due stamps (double deficiency)

§§ Letter postage required prior to bilateral agreement announced 23 November 1905.



► Sweden to Spain: PLK 275 (TPO Falun-Storvik) 21 July 1905 – Madrid 26 July 1905 – Huelva 27 July 1905

☑ Foreign postcard rate: 10 öre (letter rate was 20 öre)

[T] Sweden: T and 12½ cent.(imes deficiency)

[T] Spain: 25 (centimos, double deficiency)

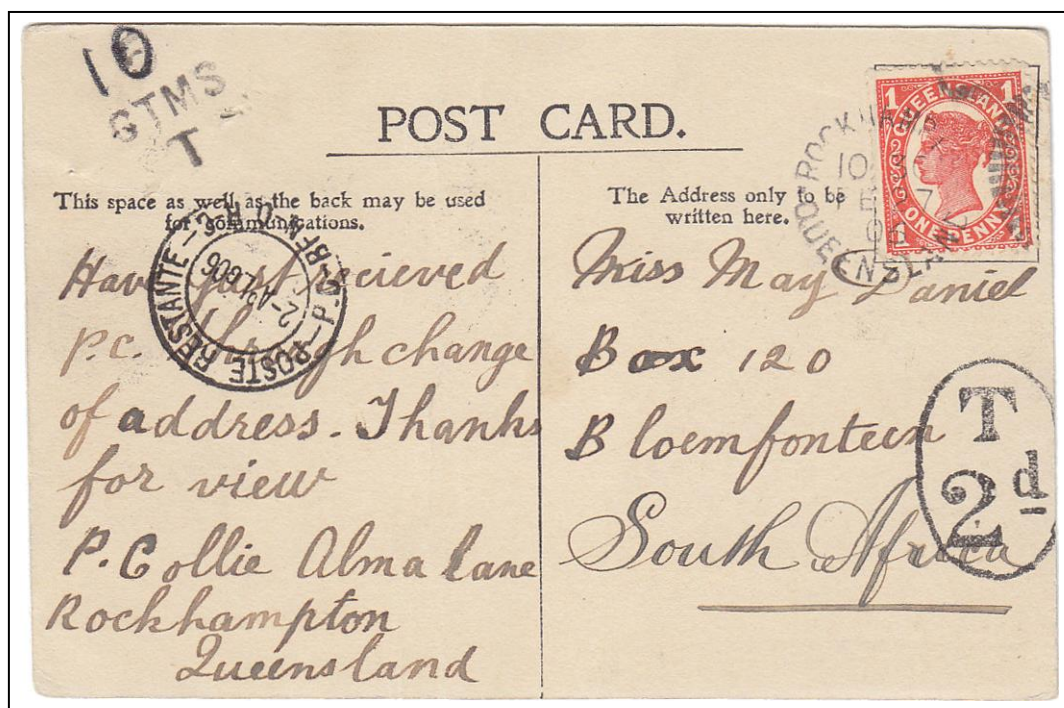
§§ Letter postage required prior to bilateral agreement announced 29 January 1906.

4.2 Postage Due

Queensland to ORC • Tasmania to India

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters



► Queensland to the Orange River Colony:

Rockhampton 27 February 1906 – Bloemfontein (Poste Restante) 2 April 1906

☑ Postcard rate to the UK and some of its colonies: 1 penny (letter rate was 2 pence)

[T] Queensland: 15 ctms T corrected to 10 (centimes deficiency)

[T] Orange River Colony: T 2^d (double deficiency)

§§ Letter postage required prior to bilateral agreement recorded 14 May 1906.



► Tasmania to India:

Launceston 15 February 1906 – Tuticorin 8 March 1906 – Dehradun(?) 17 March 1906

☑ Postcard rate to the UK and some of its colonies: 1 penny (letter rate was 2 pence)

[T] Tasmania: T and 5 c, corrected to 10 c(entimes deficiency)

[T] India: FOREIGN POSTAGE DUE / TWO ANNAS (double deficiency)

§§ Letter postage required prior to bilateral agreement recorded 17 May 1906.

4.2 Postage Due

South Australia to Natal • UK to the US

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Other Rate, Taxed as Letters



► South Australia to Natal: Port Adelaide 14 March 1906 – Point Natal 9 April 1906

1½ pence postage (since 7 March 1906, postcard rate was 1 penny, letter rate 2 pence)

[T] South Australia: T 5 cts (deficiency)

[T] Natal: T and T^{1d} (double deficiency); Australian tax mark deleted

§§ Letter postage required prior to bilateral agreement recorded 9 May 1906.



► UK to the US: Leeds 29 May 1906 – New York 7 June 1906 – Rochester NY

2 pence postage (postcard rate was 1 penny, letter rate 2½ pence)

[T] UK: T 5 (centimes deficiency, LV for Liverpool)

[T] US: DUE 2 CENTS and postage due stamp (double deficiency)

§§ Letter postage required prior to bilateral agreement announced 21 August 1906.

4.2 Postage Due

Germany to France • France to Belgium

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Unpaid, Taxed as Letters

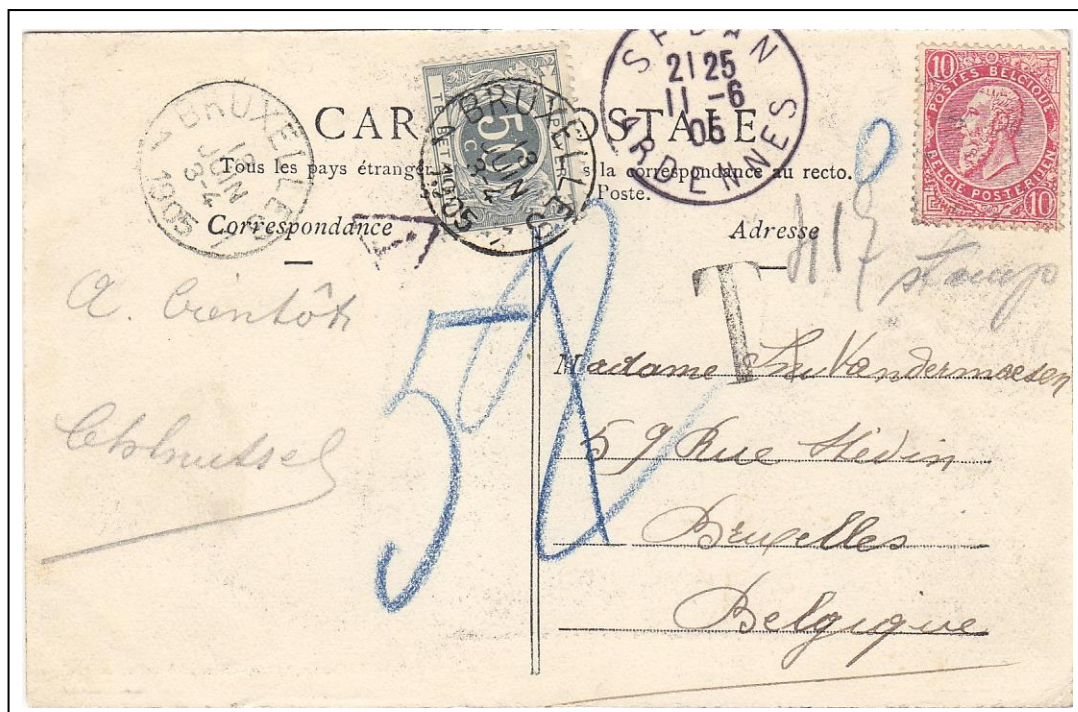


► Germany to France: Bremen 21 August 1905 – Saint Dié 23 August 1905

☐ Unpaid, letter rate was 20 pfennig

[T] Germany: T; France: 50 centimes postage due stamp (double deficiency)

§§ The card is taxed as an unpaid letter. A bilateral agreement between France and Germany came into force on 1 September 1905, shortly after this card was sent.



► France to Belgium: Sedan 11 June 1905 – Bruxelles 13 June 1905

☐ Postcard rate was 10 centimes, letter rate 25 centimes

Belgian 10 centimes stamp not accepted as the postcard was mailed in France

[T] France: T and 0 to indicate invalid stamp

[T] Belgium: T and 2 changed to 5 (décimes); 50 centimes postage due stamp (double deficiency)

§§ First taxed as unpaid postcard (2 décimes), then changed to unpaid letter because of the short message. Divided cards between France and Belgium became accepted in September 1905.

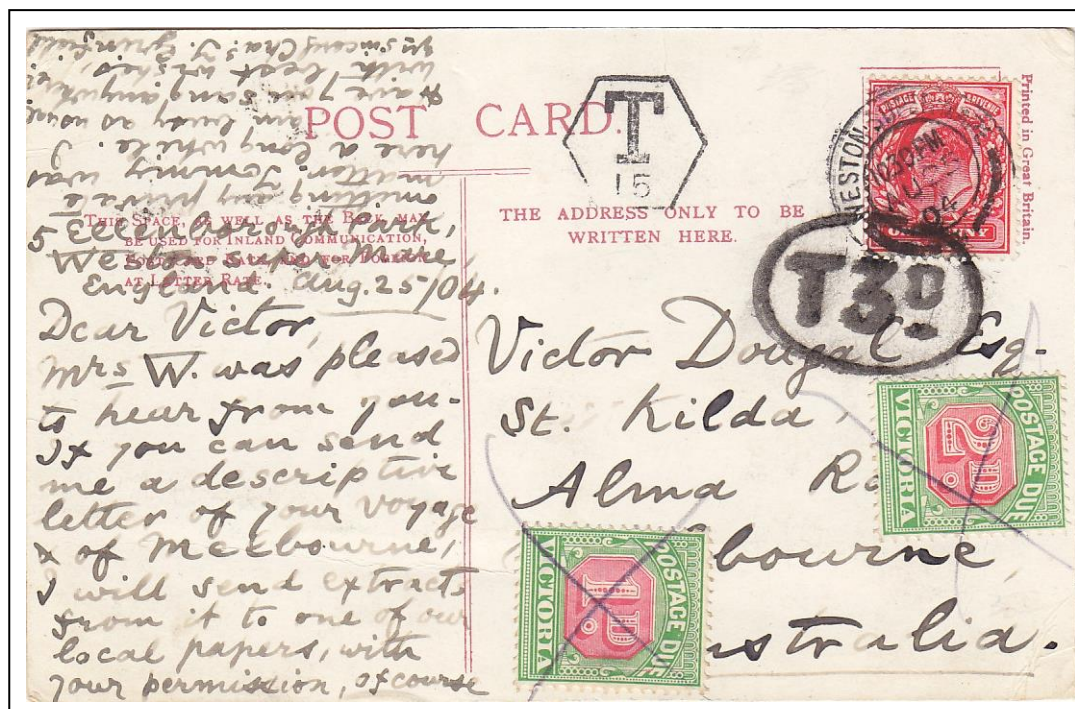
4.3 Postage Due

UK to Victoria and Rhodesia

Prior to Imperial Penny Postage

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters

A few countries joined the penny postage scheme during the period shown here (1902-1907). Before they joined, divided postcards required letter postage.

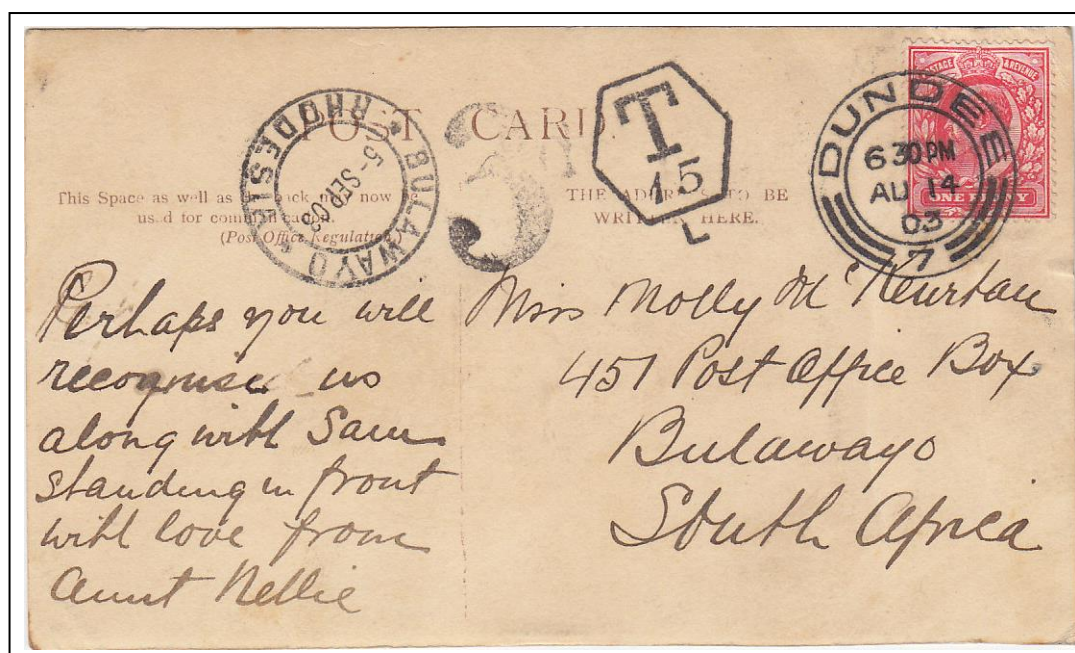


► UK to Victoria: Weston Super Mare 25 August 1904 – Melbourne

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 1 penny (letter rate was 2½ pence)

[T] UK: T 15 (cts deficiency), [T] Victoria: T3^D and postage due stamps (double deficiency)

§§ Divided cards from the UK to Australia required letter postage until imperial penny postage (same for letters and postcards) was introduced 1 April 1905.



► UK to Rhodesia: Dundee 14 August 1903 – Bulawayo 5 September 1903

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 1 penny (letter rate was 2½ pence)

[T] UK: T 15 (cts deficiency), L for London, [T] Rhodesia: 3d (double deficiency)

§§ Divided cards from the UK to Rhodesia required letter postage until imperial penny postage (same for letters and postcards) was introduced 3 April 1906.

4.4 Postage Due

Victoria to Sweden • NSW to CGH

No Agreements

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters

When no bilateral agreement was in place, postage due was charged if only the postcard rate was paid.



► Victoria to Sweden: Melbourne 26 June 1905 – PKXP No 2 30 July 1905 – Torekov

☐ Foreign (overseas) postcard rate: 1½ pence (letter rate was 2½ pence)

[T] Victoria: T 10 c (deficiency), [T] Sweden: 16 (öre postage due; double deficiency)

§§ There is no recorded agreement between Australia and Sweden.



► New South Wales to Cape of Good Hope:

Burradoo (1379) 19 September 1905 – Maitland 26 October 1905

☐ Foreign (overseas) postcard rate: 1½ pence (letter rate was 2½ pence)

[T] NSW: N.S.W. T 10 (cts deficiency), [T] CGH: 2 (pence postage due; double deficiency)

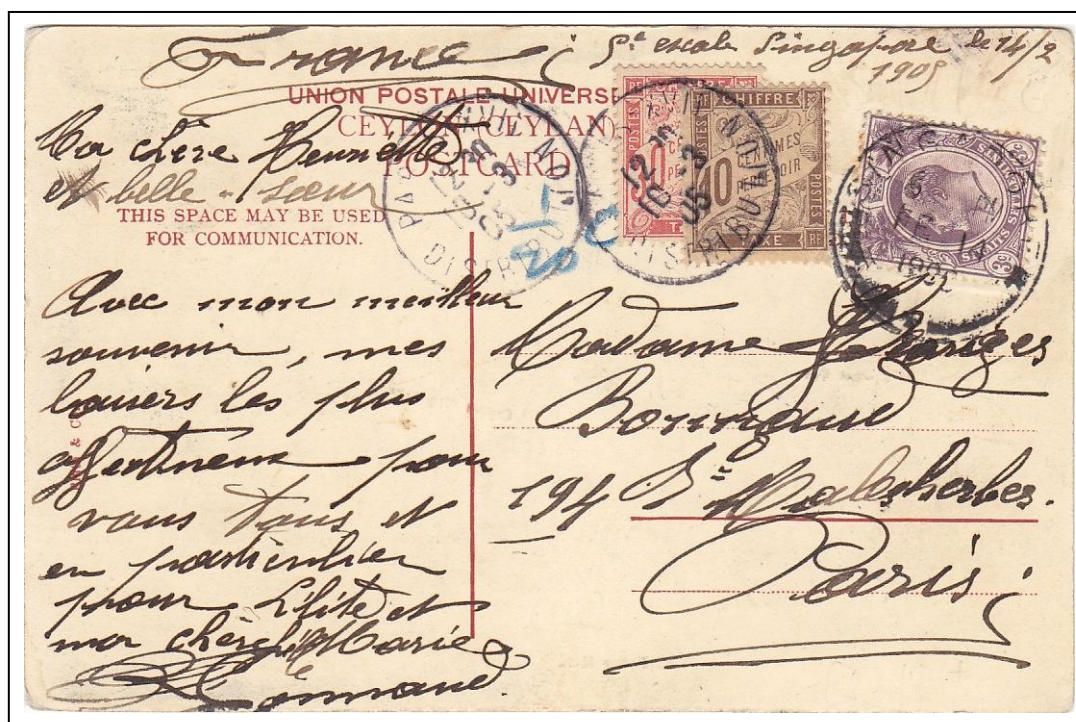
§§ There is no recorded agreement between Australia and Cape of Good Hope.

4.4 Postage Due

Straits Settlements to France • UK to Chile

No Agreements

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters



► Straits Settlements to France: Singapore 14 February 1905 – Paris 10 March 1905

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 3 cents (letter rate was 8 cents)

[T] Straits: T (under the postage due stamps) and 1/20 c(entimes deficiency)

[T] France: 40 centimes postage due stamps (double deficiency)

§§ There is no recorded agreement between Straits Settlements and France.



► UK to Chile: Birmingham 13 September 1904 – ‘Via Lisbon & Cordillera’ – Valparaíso 19 October 1904 – Santiago 20 October 1904

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 1 penny (letter rate was 2½ pence)

[T] UK: T (L for London) and 15 (centimes deficiency); [T] Chile: Tax marks from Valparaíso and Santiago indicating 6 centavos due (double deficiency)

§§ There is no recorded agreement between the UK and Chile.

4.4 Postage Due

Germany to British India and Dutch East Indies

No Agreements

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters

§§ Germany made no bilateral agreements with non-European countries. All divided cards sent outside Europe were therefore taxed as letters until a unilateral decision to accept such cards at the postcard rate was announced on 4 September 1906.

► Germany to British India:

Charlottenburg

14 March 1906

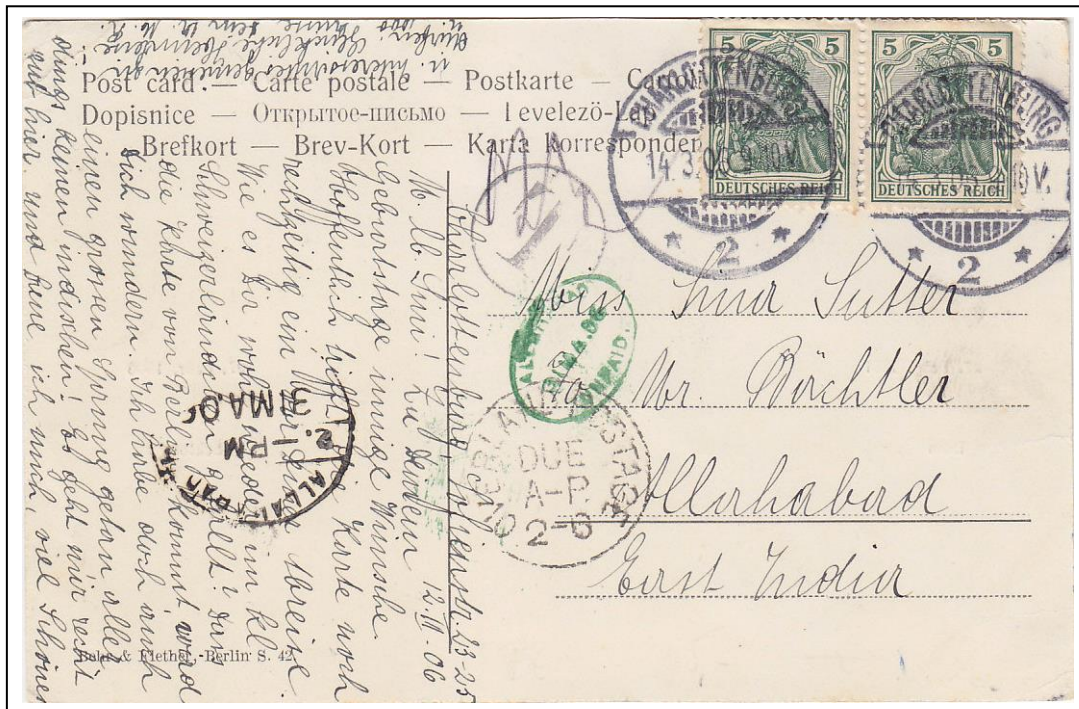
Allahabad 31 March 1906

Foreign postcard rate:
10 pfennig (letter rate
was 20 pfennig)

[T] Germany: T and 12½
(centimes deficiency)

[T] Bombay-Aden Sea Post
Office: Overland postage
due 2 A(nnas) 6 P(ies)
(double deficiency)

[T] British India:
Allahabad 31 MA 06
Unpaid



☑ The Bombay-Aden Sea Post Office, operated by the P & O Steam Navigation Co., was set up in 1868 to speed up the sorting of mail to and from India. Sorting was carried out on board the ships by staff from the Indian Post Office. From the late 1870s until 1914, the Sea Post Office also applied 'Overland Postage Due' marks, indicating postage due in Indian currency.

☑ Unlike the 2–6 due mark shown in the Dovey & Bottrill handbook, this mark has the correct spelling of the word 'Postage'.

The card travelled with P & O steamer S/S Egypt, Brindisi 19 March – Aden 25 March – Bombay 30 March 1906.



► Germany to Dutch East Indies:

Berlin

15 July 1906

Soerabaja

14 August 1906

Foreign postcard rate:
10 pfennig (letter rate
was 20 pfennig)

[T] Germany: T and 12½
(centimes deficiency)

[T] Dutch East Indies:
12½ cent postage
due stamps (double
deficiency)

4.5 Postage Due

Portugal and Denmark to the UK

Tax Marks on Arrival

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters

§§ Postal authorities of the sending country should signal, with a T mark, if international mail should be taxed at the destination. However, ‘*in case of obvious error*’, UPU rules allowed postal authorities in the destination country to charge postage due for incoming mail even if it arrived without a T mark.

► Portugal to the UK:

Lisboa

25 January 1905

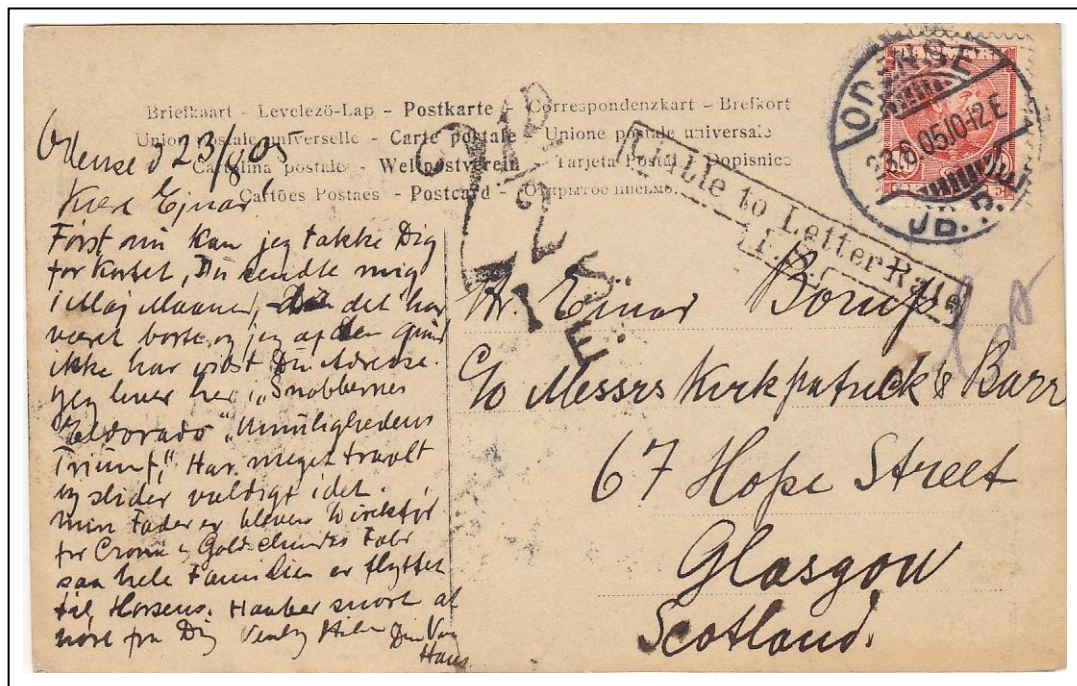
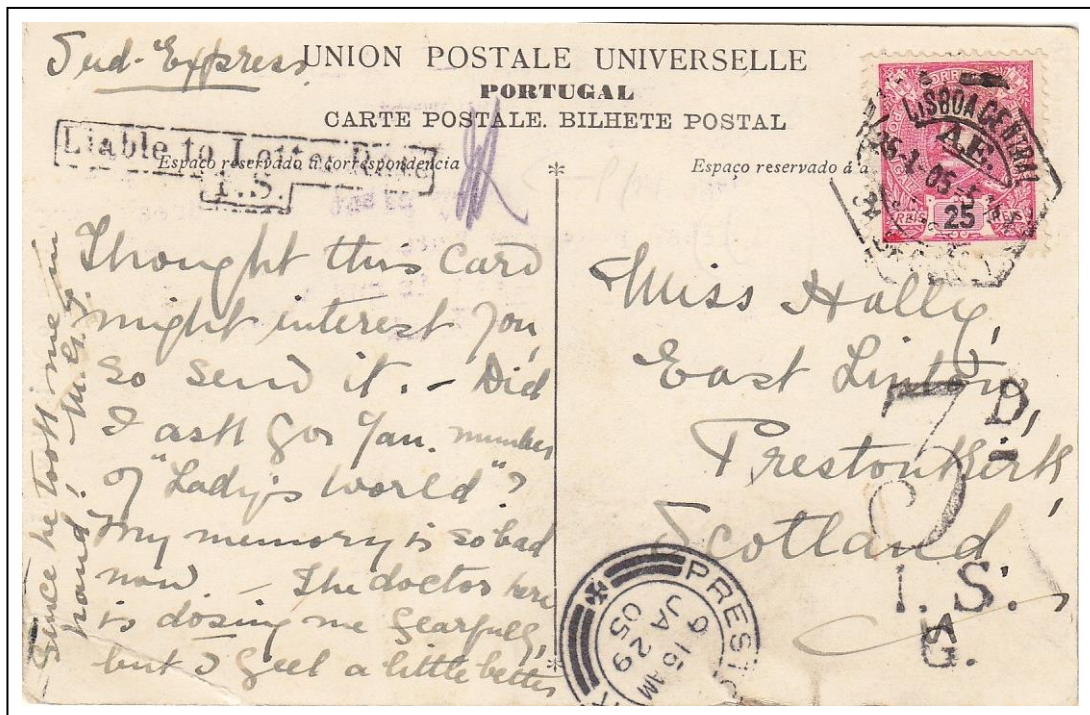
Prestonkirk

29 January 1905

Foreign postcard
rate: 25 réis
(letter rate was 65 réis)

[T] No Portuguese tax marks

[T] UK: 'Liable to Letter Rate' with signature and 3^D I.S.G. (Inland Section), representing double deficiency



► Denmark to the UK:

Odense 23 August 1905

to Glasgow

Foreign postcard rate: 10 øre
(better rate was 20 øre)

[T] No Danish tax marks

[T] UK: 'Liable to Letter Rate' with signature and 2½^D I.S.E. (Inland Section)

[T] Deficiency was 10 øre
or 12½ centimes,
2½ pence represented
double deficiency

§§ Although divided cards were permitted for domestic use in the UK already in 1902, the British post frequently applied the UPU rule about ‘obvious error’ and surcharged incoming divided postcards without tax marks from the sending countries. It seems that this practice ceased after the publication of the Post Office circular of 12 December 1905, which relaxed the regulations for divided postcards, even though this circular formally only concerned divided cards sent abroad from the UK. The circular contained a list of countries to which divided postcards could be sent at postcard rate. The list included both Portugal and Denmark.

4.5 Postage Due

New Zealand and Dominican Republic to the US

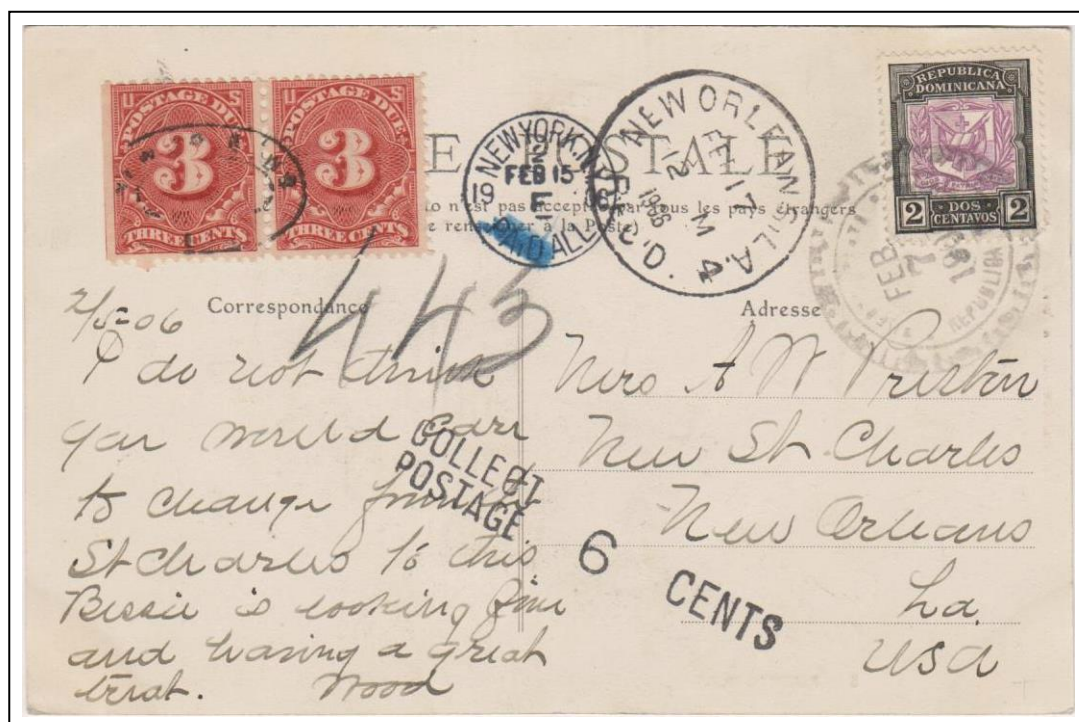
Tax Marks on Arrival

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters

§§ On 28 June 1906, the US made a unilateral decision that all divided cards arriving from abroad should be accepted at the postcard rate. Prior to this decision, the United States consistently surcharged incoming cards arriving without T marks.



- New Zealand to the US: Christchurch 5 December 1905 – Bridgeport CT
 - ☐ Foreign postcard rate: 1 penny (letter rate was 2½ pence)
 - [T] New Zealand: no tax marks
 - [T] US: 'Collect postage 6 cents' and postage due stamps (double deficiency)



- Dominican Republic to the US: Puerto Plata 7 February 1906 – New York 15 February 1906 – New Orleans LA 17 February 1906
 - ☐ Foreign postcard rate: 2 centavos (letter rate was 5 centavos)
 - [T] Dominican Republic: no tax marks (following a unilateral decision)
 - [T] US: 'Collect postage 6 cents' and postage due stamps (double deficiency)

4.5 Postage Due

Canada and British India to Sweden

Tax Marks on Arrival

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters

§§ Whereas the UK kept charging postage due for incoming divided cards long after such cards were allowed for domestic use and the United States, on the contrary, stopped surcharging incoming cards several months *before* they were accepted in the US, many countries accepted incoming cards without T marks at the same time as divided cards were permitted for inland use.

► Canada to Sweden:

Victoria BC

19 May 1904

Sassnitz-Trelleborg

6 June 1904

to Kårehogen

☐ Foreign postcard rate:

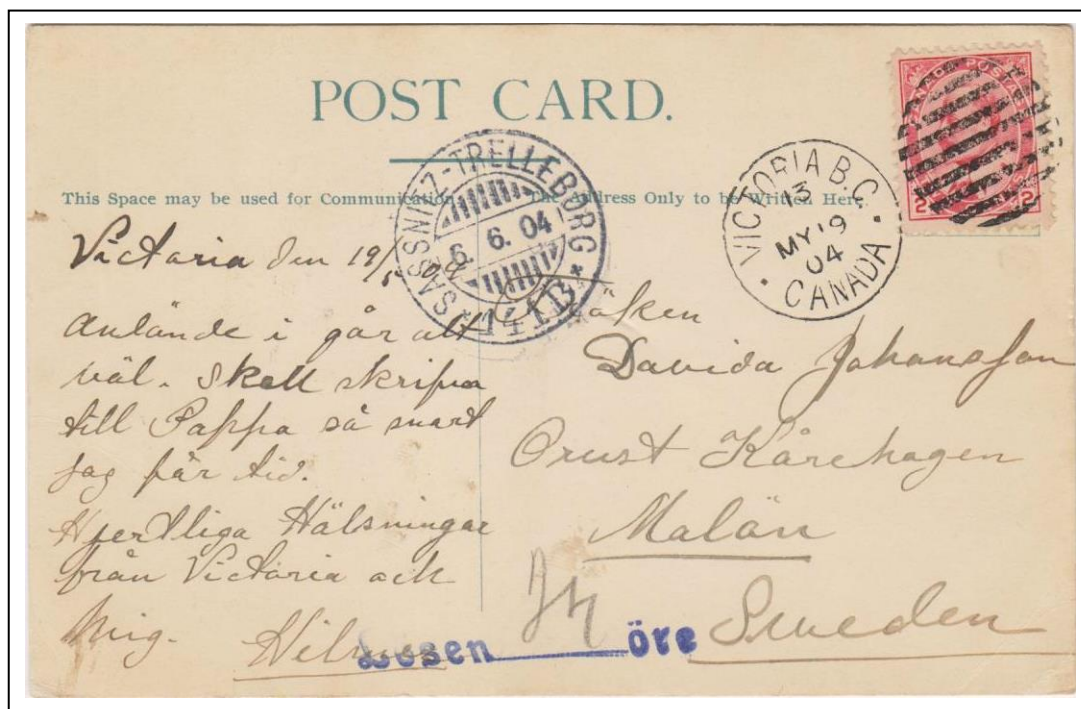
2 cents (letter rate

was 5 cents)

[T] No Canadian tax marks

[T] Sweden: 'Lösen 24 öre'
(double deficiency)

§§ Letter rate required
prior to bilateral agreement
30 May 1906.



§§ When divided cards were accepted for domestic use in Sweden, 1 April 1905, a postal circular announced that divided postcards arriving from abroad should not be taxed in Sweden unless they had tax marks from the sending country. Before April 1905, incoming divided cards could be taxed even if they arrived without T marks, according to the UPU rule about 'obvious error', but this was not common.



► British India to Sweden:

Calcutta

1 September 1904

Sea Post Office A

3 September 1904

Djursholm

20 September 1904

☐ Foreign postcard

rate: 1 anna (letter

rate was 2½ annas)

[T] No Indian tax marks

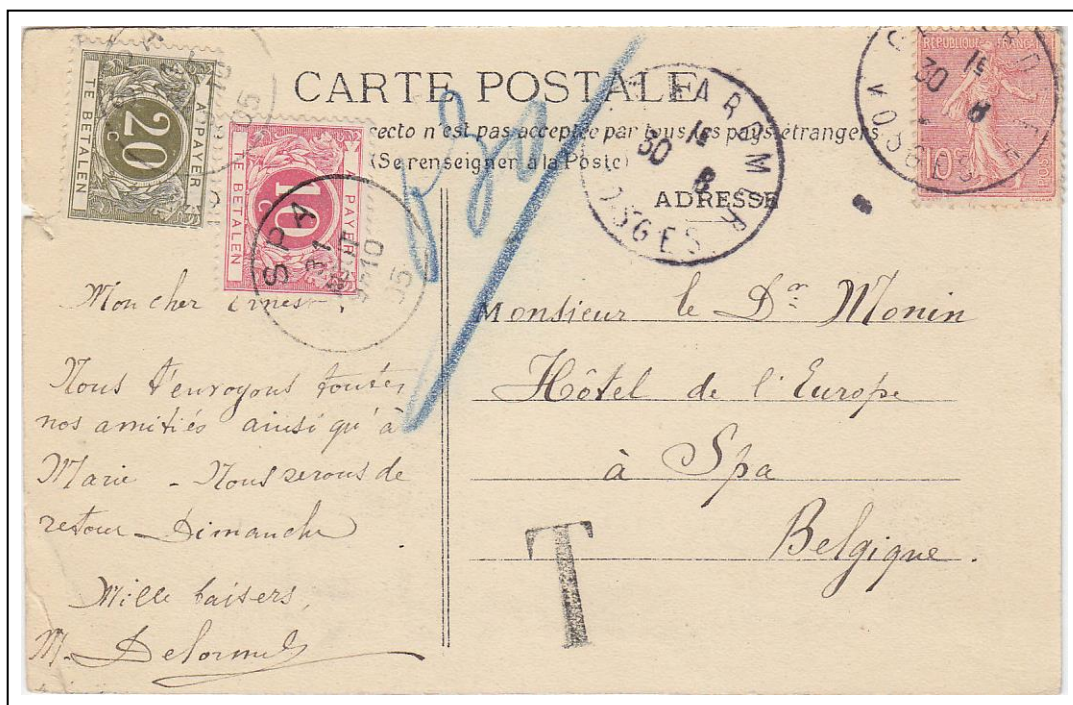
[T] Sweden: 'Lösen 24 öre'
(double deficiency)

§§ Letter rate required
prior to bilateral agreement
11 August 1906.

4.5 Postage Due France and Germany to Belgium

Tax Marks on Arrival Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters

§§ Belgium allowed divided card for inland use 1 September 1905. Before that, incoming cards with correspondence on the address side were taxed as letters, even if they arrived without tax marks.



► France to Belgium: Gérardmer 30 August 1905 – Spa 31 August 1905

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 10 centimes (letter rate was 25 centimes)

[T] No French tax marks

[T] Belgium: T, 30 (centimes due) and postage due stamps (double deficiency)

Taxed in Belgium the day before divided cards were allowed.



► Germany to Belgium: Stuttgart 3 August 1905 – Middelkerke 4 August 1905

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 10 pfennig (letter rate was 20 pfennig)

[T] No German tax marks; [T] Belgium: 25 cts postage due stamps (double deficiency)

CGH to Norway • Martinique to Canada

Applied in the UK and the US

► Cape of Good Hope
to Norway:

Port Elizabeth
4 January 1904

Kristiania
26 January 1904

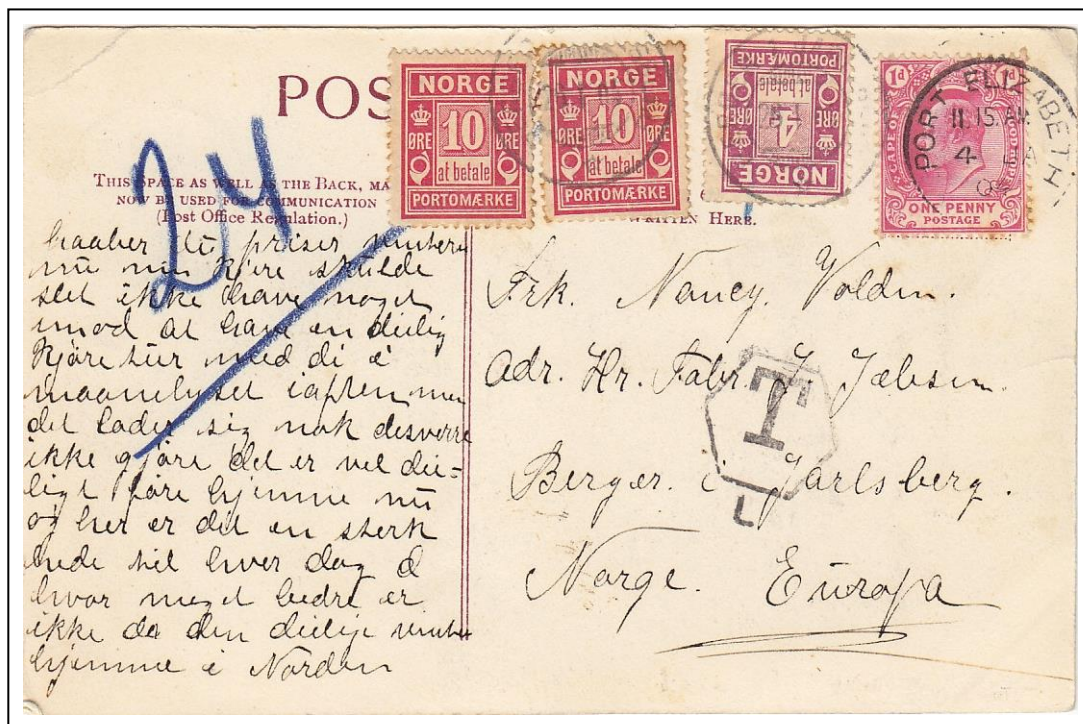
Berger i Jarlsberg
26 January 1904

☐ Postcard rate: 1 penny
(letter rate was 2½ pence)

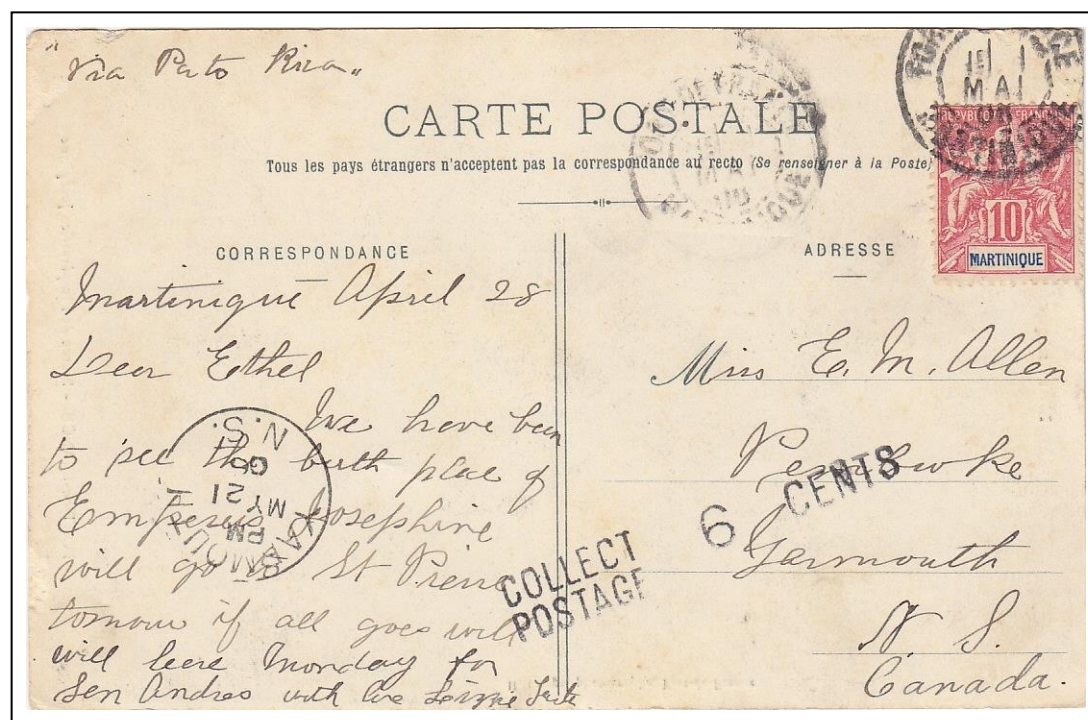
[T] CGH: No tax marks

[T] UK: T (London) and 15 (cts deficiency, under 4 øre postage due stamp)

[T] Norway: 24 (øre, double deficiency) and postage due stamps



§§ The UK is known to have applied tax marks on mail in transit, mostly to or from its colonies. In this case, that was correct as divided cards between the Cape Colony and Norway were not accepted until 14 June 1906, according to a Norwegian postal circular. When the card arrived in Norway, the addressee therefore had to pay postage due.



➤ Martinique to Canada:

Fort de France
1 May 1906

Yarmouth NS
21 May 1906

☐ Foreign postcard rate:
10 centimes (letter rate
was 25 centimes)

[T] Martinique:
No tax marks

[T] United States:
Collect postage 6 cents
(corresponding to
double deficiency)

[T] Canada:
No tax marks

§§ The US also applied tax marks on transit mail at times. According to the *Journal Officiel de la Martinique*, this card should have been accepted at the postcard rate, as an agreement between France and Canada from May 1904 also applied to the French colonies. It is not clear whether postage due was charged on arrival in Canada.

4.6 Postage Due

Hungary to Brazil • Denmark to Congo

Tax Marks in Transit

Applied in Germany

§§ According to German postal circulars, divided postcards could not be sent outside Europe until 4 September 1906. Prior to that date, the German post seemingly also applied tax marks on all divided cards to non-European countries in transit, regardless of the regulations of sending and destination countries.

► Hungary to Brazil:

Budapest

25 August 1906

Succursal

(Rio de Janeiro)

19 September 1906

Foreign postcard rate: 10 fillér (letter rate was 25 fillér)

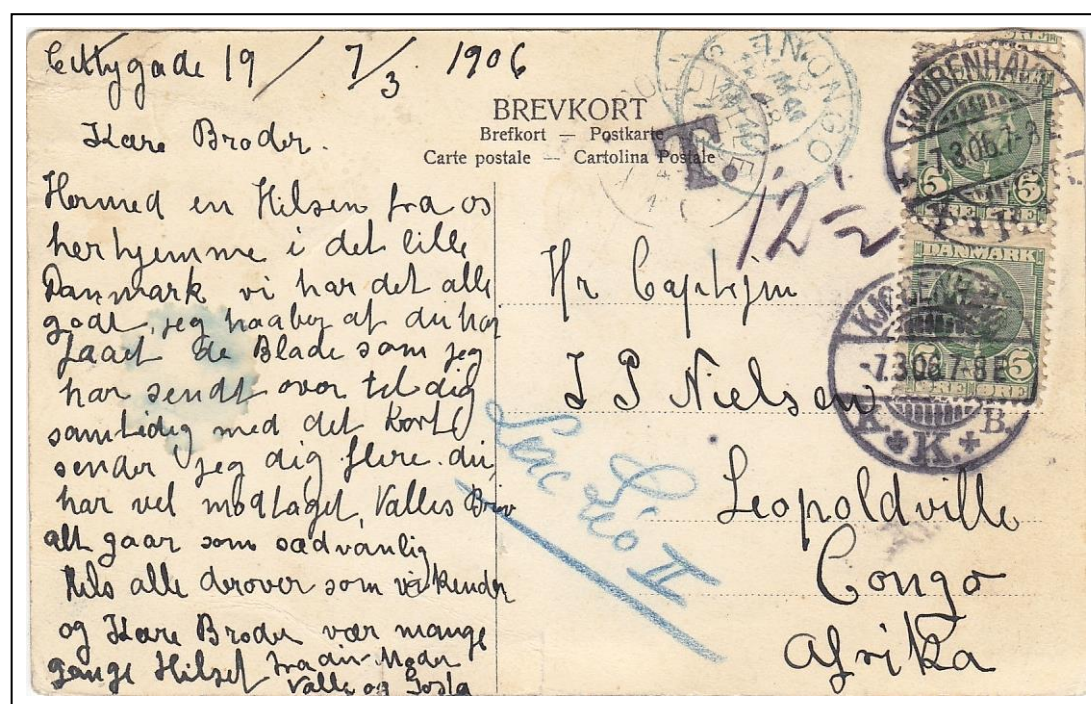
[T] Hungary: No tax marks

[T] Germany: T (partly covered by the 200 réis due stamp; no visible note about deficiency)

[T] Brazil: 240 (réis due) and postage due stamps (taxed as letter)



§§ There is no recorded agreement between Hungary and Brazil. However, according to UPU circulars from late 1905 and early 1906, Hungary had taken a unilateral decision not to apply tax marks on any outgoing divided postcards and Brazil had taken a unilateral decision not to surcharge incoming divided cards that arrived without tax marks. Consequently, this card was **taxed as a letter only because of the German practice to apply T marks in transit.**



► Denmark to Congo:

Kjøbenhavn

7 March 1906

Léopoldville

XX April 1906

Inongo 18 May 1906

Foreign postcard rate: 10 øre (letter rate was 20 øre)

[T] Denmark: No tax marks

[T] Germany: T and 12½ (centimes deficiency)

[T] Congo: No tax marks

§§ No bilateral agreement with Congo is reported in Danish postal circulars, so in this case the German post was right in applying tax marks. Yet there is no indication that postage due was charged in Congo.

4.6 Postage Due

Denmark to Egypt • Austria to the US

Tax Marks in Transit

Applied in Germany

§§ German tax marks applied in transit probably caused a good deal of additional confusion among postal staff and correspondents around the world. In some cases, they were deleted on arrival, due to bilateral agreements or unilateral decisions.

► Denmark to Egypt:

Kjøbenhavn

9 April 1906

to Cairo

Foreign postcard
rate: 10 øre

[T] Denmark: No tax marks

[T] Germany: T and 12½
(taxed as an underpaid
letter)

[T] Egypt: Tax marks
deleted and no postage
due charged from the
recipient



§§ A bilateral agreement between Denmark and Egypt was in force since 29 January 1906. Consequently, postcard rate was sufficient for this card and no postage due was charged on arrival.



► Austria to the US:

Madonna di Campiglio

2 August 1906

to Atlantic City NJ

Foreign postcard
rate: 10 heller (letter
rate was 25 heller)

[T] Austria: No tax marks

[T] Germany: T and 12½,
changed to 1/15 (cts)

[T] US: All tax marks
deleted and no postage
due charged on arrival

§§ This is one complicated: Austria struck no tax marks on divided cards sent abroad according to a unilateral decision from 28 February 1905. Germany applied tax marks on transit mail to non-European destinations prior to 4 September 1906, regardless of such decisions. By mistake, the German post first indicated the difference between foreign postcard and letter rate from Germany (12½ cts), but this was later changed to 1/15 (indicating a 15 cts deficiency according to Austrian postal rates). Yet the US had made a unilateral decision, 28 June 1906, to abstain from charging postage due for divided cards from abroad, even if they arrived with tax marks.

4.7 Postage Due

UK to Finland • Switzerland to Russia

Tax Marks Ignored on Arrival

Due to Unilateral Decisions

§§ Some countries made unilateral decisions not to charge postage due for incoming divided postcards, even if they arrived with tax marks from the sending country. An early example is Russia, where a postal circular dated 10 [23] December 1903 stated that divided cards arriving from other countries should be accepted at postcard rate. A later circular explicitly confirmed that tax marks from the sending country should be ignored.

► United Kingdom to Finland (which at this time belonged to Russia):

Chelsea

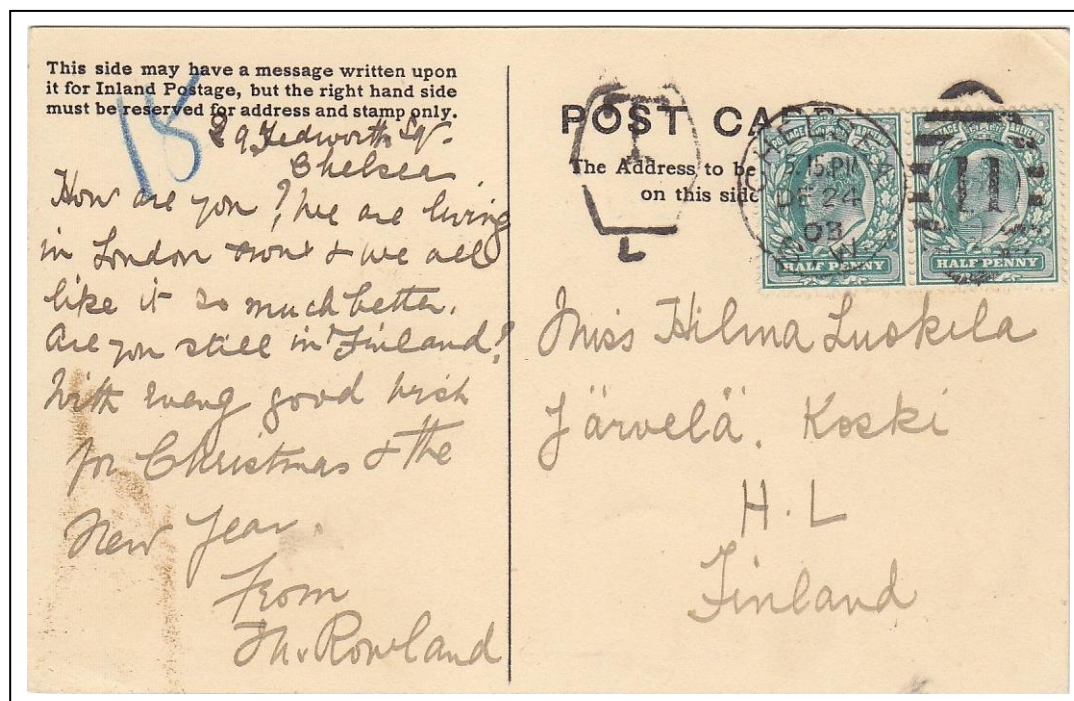
24 December 1903

to Koski

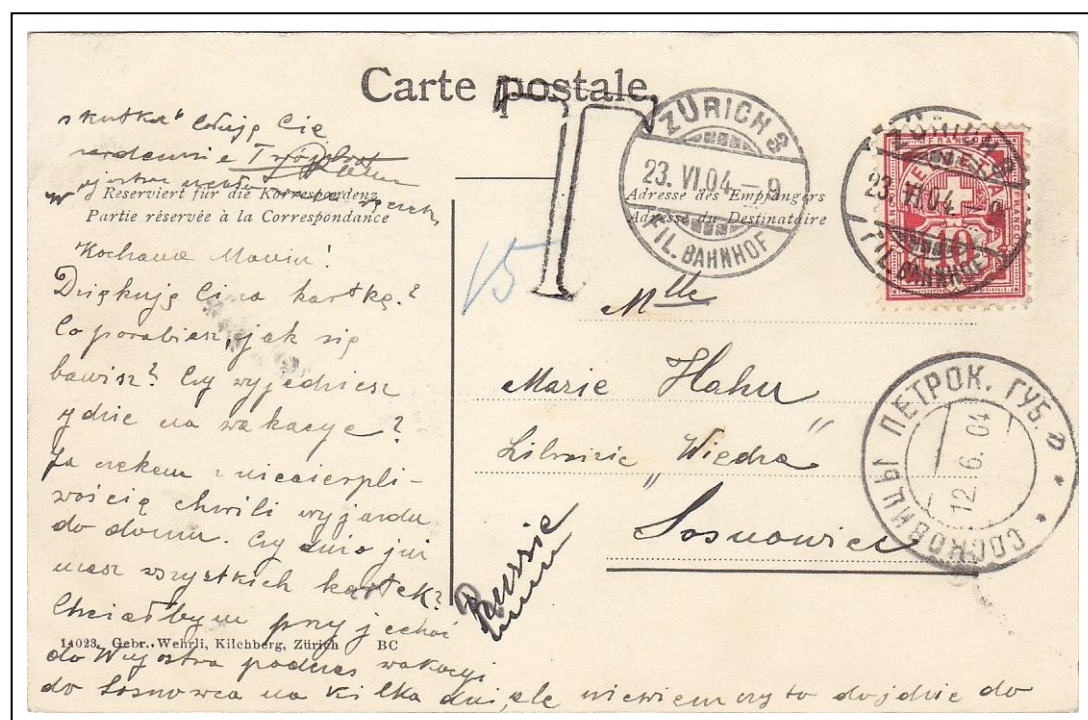
Foreign postcard rate:
1 penny (letter rate was
2½ pence)

[T] UK: T (L for London)
and 15 (centimes
deficiency)

[T] No postage due
charged on arrival



§§ This card is an extremely early example of a divided card accepted at the postcard rate in international mail exchange due to a unilateral decision by a national postal authority. The Russian decision from December 1903 made reference to requests from foreign postal administrations to accept divided postcards. Most likely, this referred to a letter from the French post with such a request, sent out in early December 1903 to several different countries. Most countries took some time to answer, and it was not until May 1904 that the French post announced a first set of bilateral agreements. But in the case of Russia, a unilateral decision anticipated the bilateral agreement.



► Switzerland to Russia:
Zürich
23 June 1904
Sosnowice
12 [25] June 1904

Foreign postcard rate:
10 centimes (letter rate
was 25 centimes)

[T] Switzerland: T and 15
(centimes deficiency)

[T] No postage due
charged on arrival

4.7 Postage Due

Victoria and Newfoundland to the US

Tax Marks Ignored on Arrival

Due to Unilateral Decisions

§§ An order of the US Postmaster General, dated 28 June 1906 and published in the *Daily Postal Bulletin* the following day, said that divided cards arriving from abroad should be allowed at the postcard rate. The result of this unilateral decision was that tax marks from sending countries were ignored.

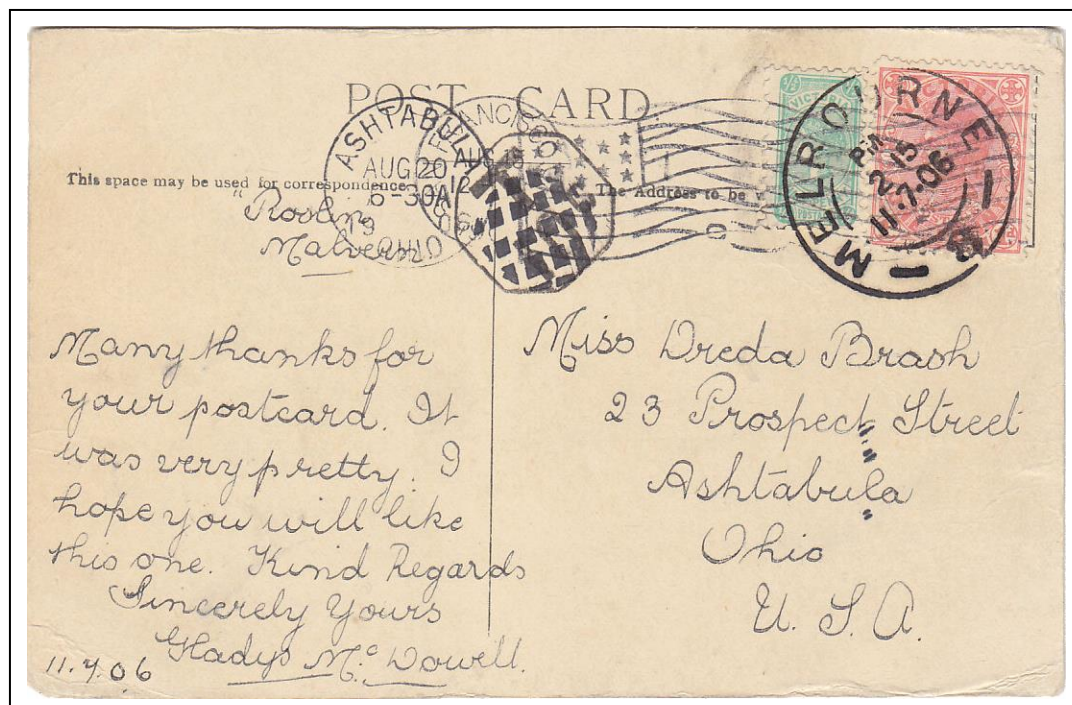
► Victoria to the US:

Melbourne
11 July 1906
San Francisco CA
15 August 1906
Ashtabula OH
20 August 1906

☐ Foreign postcard rate:
1½ pence (letter rate
was 2½ pence)

[T] Victoria: T 10
(centimes deficiency)

[T] Tax mark cancelled and
no postage due charged
on arrival



IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that post cards bearing a message upon the left-half of the front – the right-half being reserved for the address – which may be contained in mails hereafter received in the United States from other countries, shall be considered and treated as post cards; and when postage at the rate applicable to post cards in international mails has been prepaid thereon in full, shall be delivered to addressees without additional charge for postage. Geo. B. Cortelyou, Postmaster General (*Daily Postal Bulletin*, 29 June, 1906)



► Newfoundland to the US: St. John's 21 August 1906 to Cambridge MA

☐ 2 cents postage
(letter rate was 5 cents)

[T] Newfoundland: T and
1/15 (taxed as letter,
1st weight class, and
15 centimes deficiency)

[T] Tax marks cancelled
and no postage due
charged on arrival

§§ There are no recorded agreements between the US and Australia or Newfoundland. Instead, the tax marks on these two cards were cancelled due to the unilateral decision taken by the US.

4.8 Postage Due

UK to Switzerland and France

Forwarding

Inland Mail Forwarded Abroad

§§ These two postcards were first sent within the UK at the postcard rate but then **taxed as letters when forwarded abroad**. A special UPU rule said that postage due for forwarded mail should be single (not double) deficiency if correct postage had been paid for the original destination.

► United Kingdom:

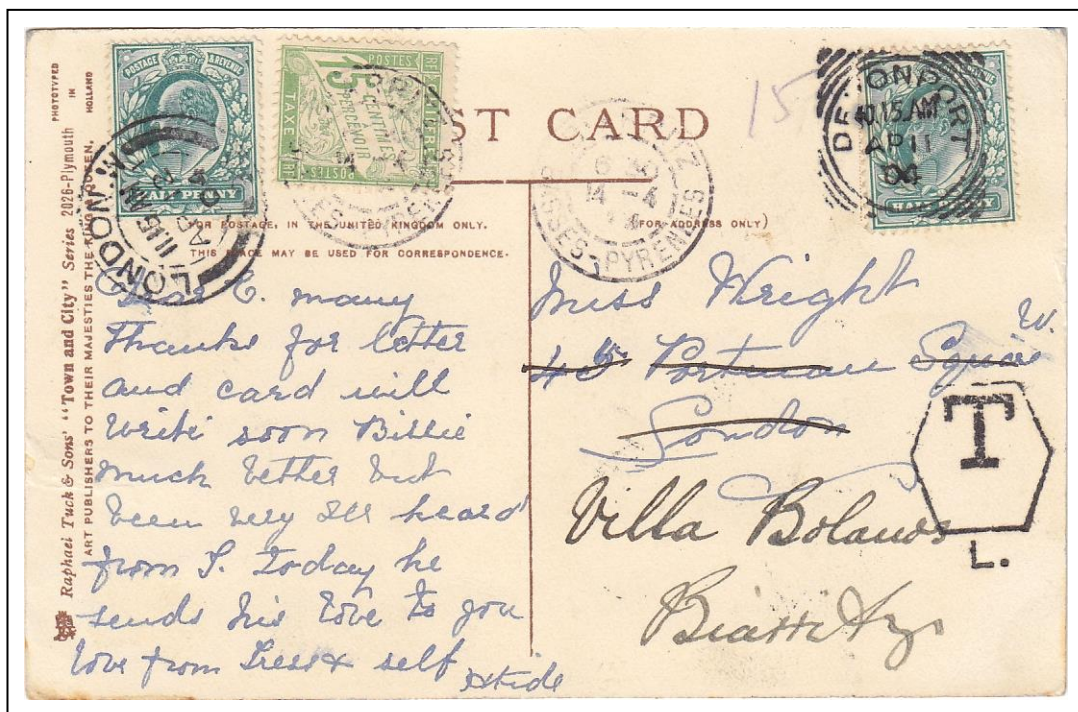
Malvern
22 September 1904
to London

Domestic postcard
rate: ½ penny

► Forwarded to
Switzerland:
Bex 24 September 1904

[T] UK: T (with an L for
London) and 20 (cts
deficiency)

[T] Switzerland: 20 (cts
postage due) and
postage due stamp
(single deficiency)



► United Kingdom:
Devonport
11 April 1904
to London

Domestic postcard
rate: ½ penny

► Forwarded to France:
London 12 April 1904
Biarritz 14 April 1904

Upated to 1 penny
foreign postcard rate

[T] UK: T (L for London)
and 15 (cts deficiency)

[T] France: Postage due
stamp, 15 centimes
(single deficiency)

§§ Bilateral agreements with Switzerland and France were announced in a British postal circular 12 December 1905. Divided cards sent abroad prior to that data required foreign letter postage (2½ pence). For the card to Switzerland, deficiency was 2 pence = 20 centimes. The card to France was uprated with a halfpenny stamp to foreign postcard rate, so deficiency was 1½ pence = 15 centimes.

§§ It is unclear, however, whether it was correct by the British post to tax these two cards as letters. According to UPU rules, postcards originally sent with inland mail should be accepted for postcard postage when forwarded abroad as long as they fulfilled the *inland* regulations for postcards.

UK to Switzerland • Bavaria to Belgium

Forwarding International Mail

When an underpaid card sent abroad was forwarded to another country, or back to the country of origin, postage due was normally charged from the addressee once the card reached its new destination. But in some cases postage due was paid by the person who forwarded the card.

North Walsham

8 July 1905

Wengen

10 July 1905

 Foreign postcard rate:

1 penny (letter rate
was 2½ pence)

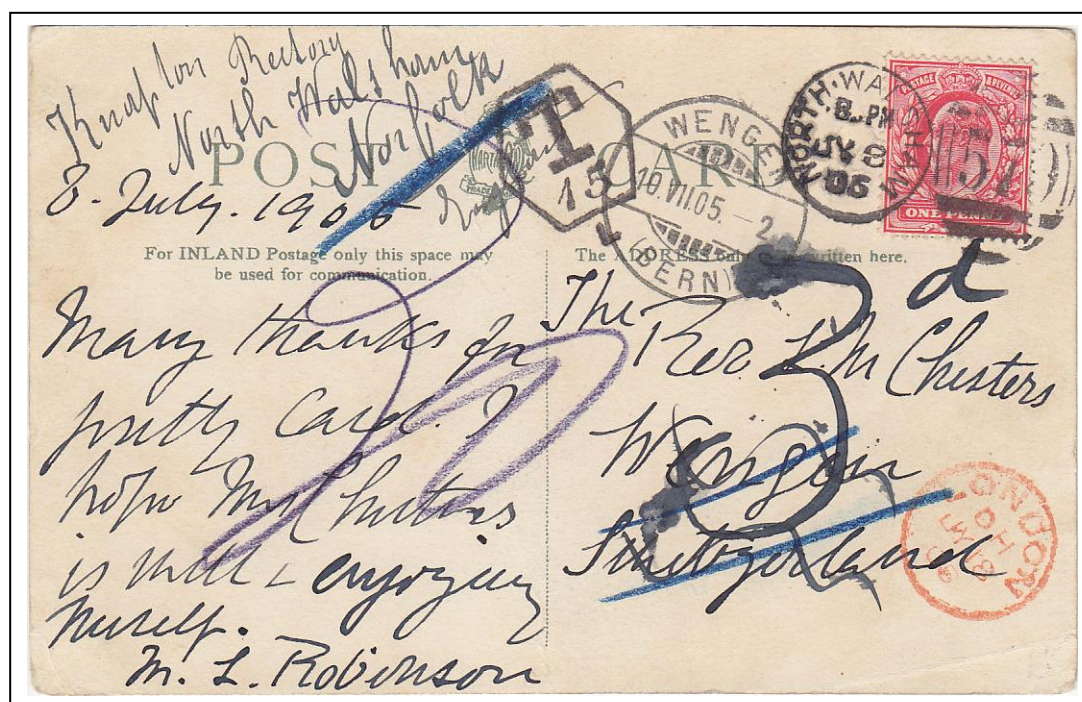
[T] UK: T 15 (centimes
deficiency; L for London)

[T] Switzerland: 30 (cts due, double deficiency)

► Forwarded (back)
to the UK

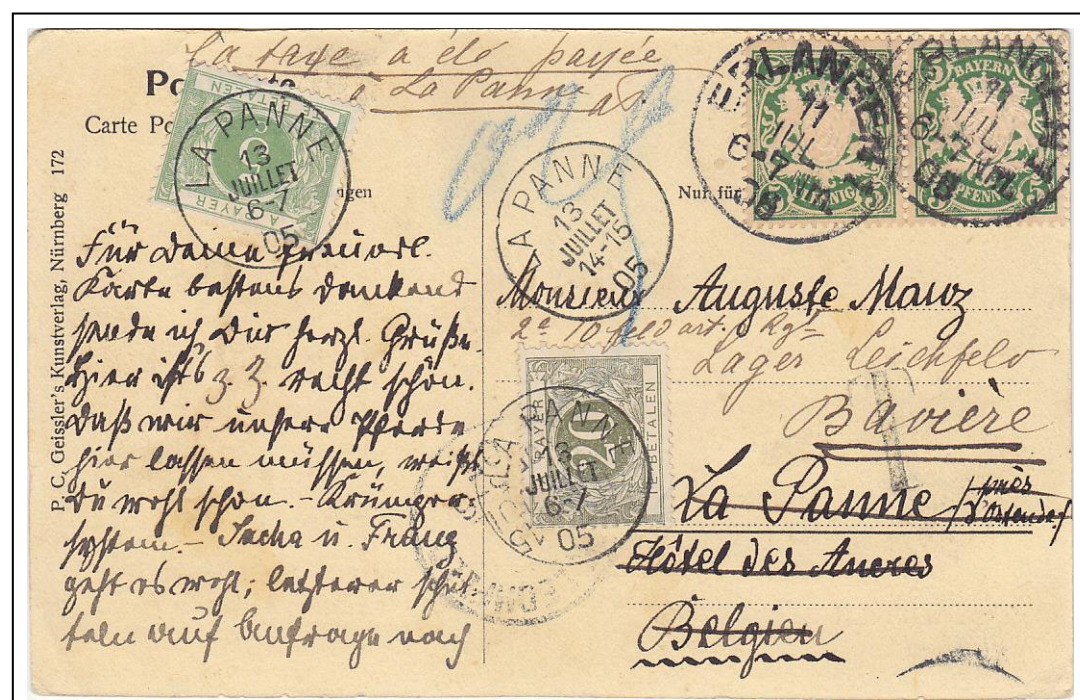
London 18 July 1905

to North Walsham



[T] As no postage due was paid in Switzerland, the British post made a note of 3d postage due to be paid by the addressee. UPU rules said that if a postal item sent abroad was underpaid, postage due should be charged even if the item was later forwarded to the sending country and the postage would have been sufficient for inland mail.

§§ Letter rate was required prior to bilateral agreement (UK-Switzerland) 12 December 1905.



➤ Bavaria to Belgium:

Erlangen 11 July 1905

La Panne 13 July 1905

 Foreign postcard rate:

10 pfennig (letter rate
was 20 pfennig)

[T] Bavaria: No visible tax marks

[T] Belgium: T, 025 and
postage due stamps
(double deficiency)

➤ Forwarded (back)
to Bavaria:

La Panne 13 July 1905

Lagerlechfeld
15 July 1905

[T] The post in Belgium made a note that the person who forwarded the card from La Panne had paid the postage due. Consequently, no postage due was charged when the card arrived in Lagerlechfeld.

§§ Letter rate was required prior to bilateral agreement (Germany-Belgium) 1 September 1905.

4.9 Postage Due

Germany to Belgium • UK to Switzerland

Refused by the Addressee

Because of Postage Due

Surcharging of divided postcards caused a lot of frustration among the public. Yet there exist surprisingly few cards for which the addressees have refused to pay postage due. Here are two examples.

► Germany to Belgium:

Langebrück

24 June 1905

Bruxelles

26 June 1905

Foreign postcard rate: 10 pfennig
(foreign letter rate was 20 pfennig)

[T] No German tax marks

[T] Belgium: T, 25 and postage due stamps
(double deficiency)

§§ Letter rate was required prior to 1 September 1905



► Returned to Germany with a note by the postman 'Refusé pour la taxe / le facteur' (refused because of postage due) and postmarks 'REBUT' and 'Retour à l'envoyeur' – ZURÜCK and Langebrück 29 June 1905

[T] Germany: 20 (pfennig due), to be paid by the sender.



► UK to Switzerland:

Hyde Park Corner B.O.

Leeds 14 July 1903

Menzingen

16 July 1903

Foreign postcard rate: 1 pence
(foreign letter rate was 2½ pence)

[T] UK: T (L for London) and 15 (cts deficiency)

[T] Switzerland: 30 (cts due) and postage due stamps

§§ Letter rate was required prior to 12 December 1905

► Returned to the UK with a note by the postman 'Annahme verweigert' (reception refused), confirmed by a bilingual label, and postage due stamps cancelled 'UNGÜLTIG' – London 28 July 1903 (red postmark)

☒ A surcharged card that was refused by the addressee should be returned to the sender, who had to pay the postage due. If the sender could not be identified, the card normally ended up at the dead letter office, and was destroyed after a certain time. Yet a number of cards returned to London in 1903 have somehow gotten into the hands of collectors. The red 'EX' is probably an inspector's mark from the dead letter office.

5. Mistakes and Mysteries

With the rapidly changing rules and agreements about the use of divided postcards, it is not surprising that even the post sometimes made mistakes. It was quite common that postal clerks failed to apply tax marks on divided cards that were sent, with a message on the address side, to destinations where this was not (yet) allowed (5.1). In one particular case – registered mail – divided cards should in fact not be subject to postage due even if they arrived underpaid, according to a special UPU rule (5.2). On the contrary, it also happened that cards received tax marks by mistake even though they followed the regulations (5.3). For international mail in particular, postal clerks sometimes made mistakes when deciding the amount to charge in postage due (5.4). Misdirected mail might also cause problems and confusion (5.5). Finally, when most cards are described and sorted into their proper categories, there are always a few items that remain postal mysteries (5.6).



► UK to France:

Jersey 15 August 1904 – Granville 16 August 1904 – St. Mandé 17 August 1904

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 1 penny (letter rate was 2½ pence)

§§ This rather banal-looking card represents no less than five mistakes, four of which were made by postal staff:

- 1) The sender put on a 1 penny stamp (postcard rate) but wrote a short message on the address side. This was not permitted until a bilateral agreement came into force in December 1905.
- 2) The British post failed to apply a tax mark. It was UK policy to tax all divided cards sent abroad as letters until December 1905.
- 3) The French post struck a tax mark on arrival. This was also an error, as a postal bulletin from May 1904 said that divided cards arriving in France without tax marks should be accepted at the postcard rate.
- 4) The person who applied the French tax mark failed to indicate the missing postage (15 centimes, the equivalent of 1½ pence).
- 5) The postal clerk in St. Mandé therefore charged only 10 centimes postage due instead of the correct amount, 30 centimes (double deficiency).

5.1 Mistakes and Mysteries

Egypt to the US • Grenada to Italy

Failure to Charge Postage Due

No Tax Marks

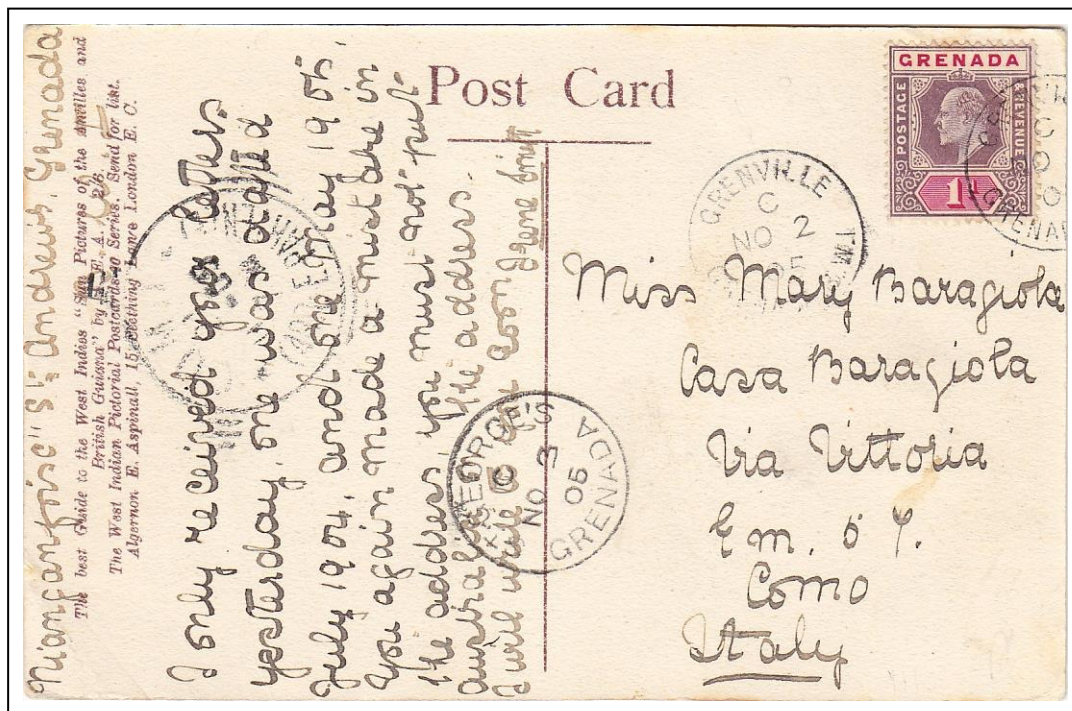


➤ Egypt to the United States:

Cairo Shepherd's Hotel Post Office 5 April 1905 – Boston MA 21 April 1905

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 4 millièmes (letter rate was 10 millièmes)

§§ Divided cards from abroad were accepted in the United States 28 June 1906. Prior to that date, it was US policy to tax incoming divided cards as letters, but in this case the postal clerk failed to do so.



➤ Grenada to Italy: Grenville 2 November 1905 –
– St George's 3 November 1905 – Como 21 November 1905

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 1 penny (letter rate was 2½ pence)

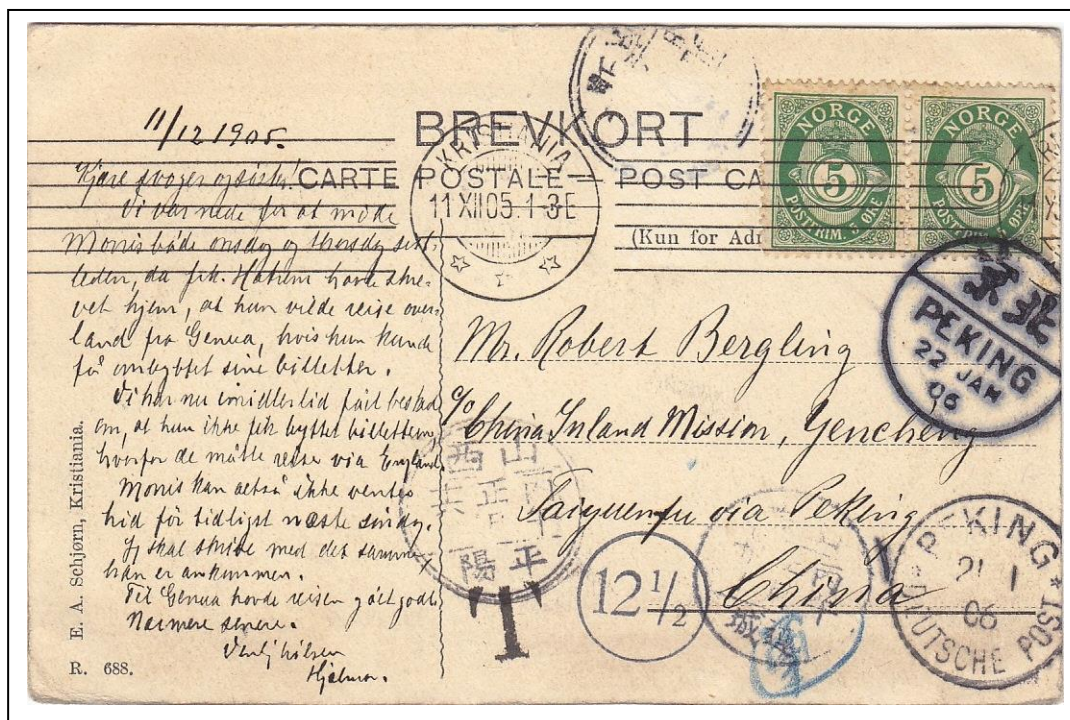
§§ There is no recorded bilateral agreement between Grenada and Italy. When this card was sent, it was Italian policy to charge postage due for incoming divided cards from countries with which Italy had made no such agreements.

5.1 Mistakes and Mysteries

Norway to China • Queensland to Egypt

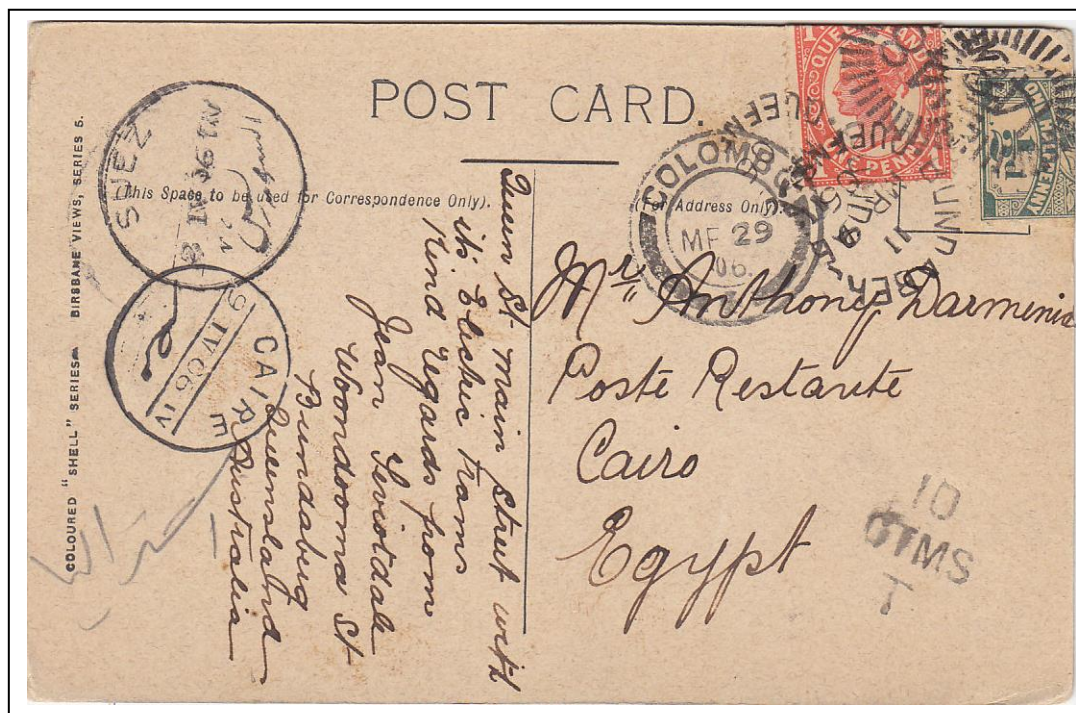
Failure to Charge Postage Due

In Spite of Tax Marks



- Norway to China: Kristiania 11 December 1905 – Peking Deutsche Post 21 January 1906 – Peking 22 January and 2 February 1906 – Shanxi/Pingyang 9 February 1906 – Shanxi/Yuncheng XX February 1906
- ☑ Foreign postcard rate: 10 øre (letter rate was 20 øre)

[T] Norway: T and 12½ (centimes deficiency); China: No postage due charged
 §§ There is no recorded agreement between Norway and China.



- Queensland to Egypt: Bundaberg 9 March 1906 – Colombo 29 March 1906 – Suez 8 April 1906 – Caire 9 April 1906
- ☑ Foreign (overseas) postcard rate: 1½ pence (letter rate was 2½ pence)
- [T] Queensland: 10 CTMS T; Egypt: No postage due charged
- §§ There is no recorded agreement between Australia and Egypt.

5.2 Mistakes and Mysteries

Russian Post in China and France to the UK

Underpaid Registered Mail

No Postage Due According to UPU Rule

§§ When international registered mail arrived unpaid or underpaid, no postage due should be charged from the addressee according to a special UPU rule. Instead a message about the error should be sent to the postal administration of the sending country. The rationale behind this rule was that registered mail should be paid for at the post office and that it was the responsibility of the postal staff to make sure that correct postage was paid.

► Registered divided postcard from the Russian post in China to the UK:

Kharbin Field Post Office 3 and 4 [16 and 17] September 1905

Censorship
Manchurian Army

Registered W.D.O.
London 6 October 1905

§§ Letter rate required prior to bilateral agreement announced 12 December 1905 by the British Post Office.



☐ The 10 kopek postage and the absence of the dotted 'R' mark normally used for registered international mail suggest that the Russian post, by mistake, treated the card as inland mail (postcard rate: 3 kopek, registration fee: 7 kopek). Correct postage was 20 kopek (10 kopek foreign letter rate, 10 kopek foreign registration fee).

☑ The card was sent in conjunction with the Russo-Japanese war, hence the censorship mark.



► Registered divided card from France to the UK:

Marseille 18 June 1905

Registered S.W.D.O.

London 20 June 1905

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 10 centimes (letter rate was 25 centimes), registration fee: 25 centimes

► Forwarded to Paris
Paris 21 June 1905

§§ Letter rate required prior to bilateral agreement announced 12 December 1905 in the UK and in November 1905 in France.

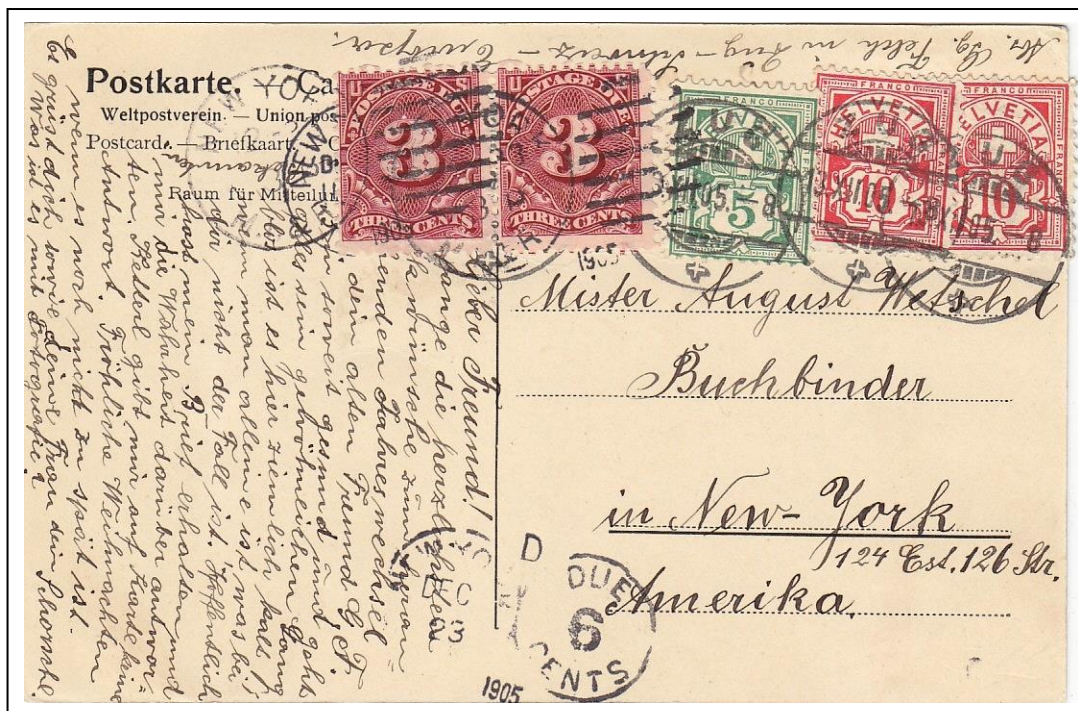
§§ When these cards were sent, the British post normally surcharged incoming divided postcards as letters even if they had no tax marks from the sending country. But in these two cases **no postage due was charged, in accordance with the special UPU rule about registered mail.**

5.3 Mistakes and Mysteries

Switzerland and Malta to the US

Tax Marks Applied in Error

In Spite of Correct Letter Postage

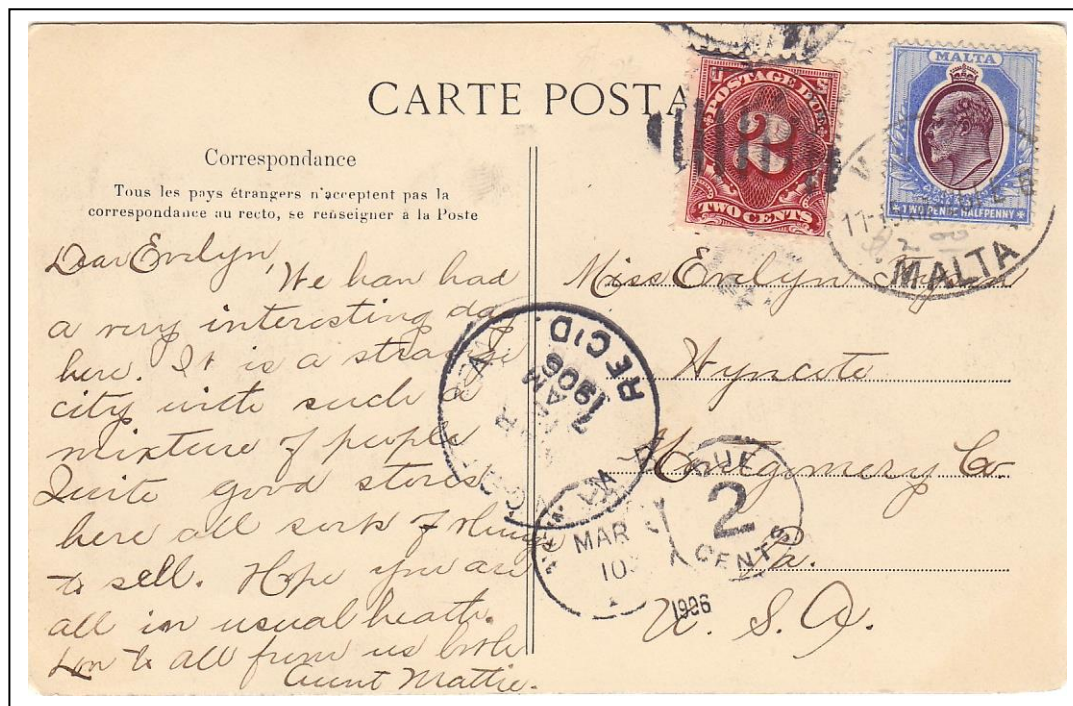


➤ Switzerland to the US: Zug 13 December 1905 – New York 23 December 1905

☑ Foreign letter rate: 25 centimes

[T] US: Due 6 cents and postage due stamps

Large amounts of divided cards from Europe arrived in New York the weeks before Christmas in 1905 and surcharging these cards soon became a routine. So much a routine that this card, too, received a tax mark, **in spite of correct letter postage!**



➤ Malta to the United States:

Valletta 26 February 1906 – New York 10 March 1906 – Wyncote PA 12 March 1906

☑ Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

[T] US: Due 2 cents and postage due stamp

The sender paid the correct letter rate, yet the addressee was charged 2 cents due.

5.3 Mistakes and Mysteries

Victoria to the UK • Sweden to Belgium

Tax Marks Applied in Error

In Spite of Bilateral Agreements

► Victoria to the UK:

Melbourne

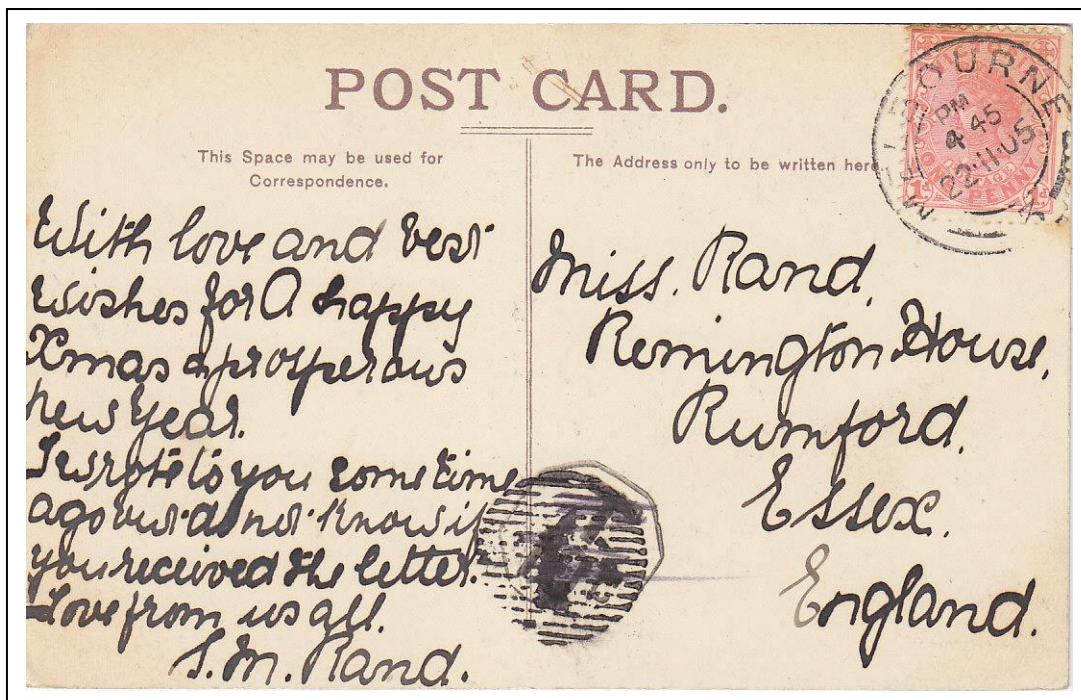
22 November 1905

to Rumford

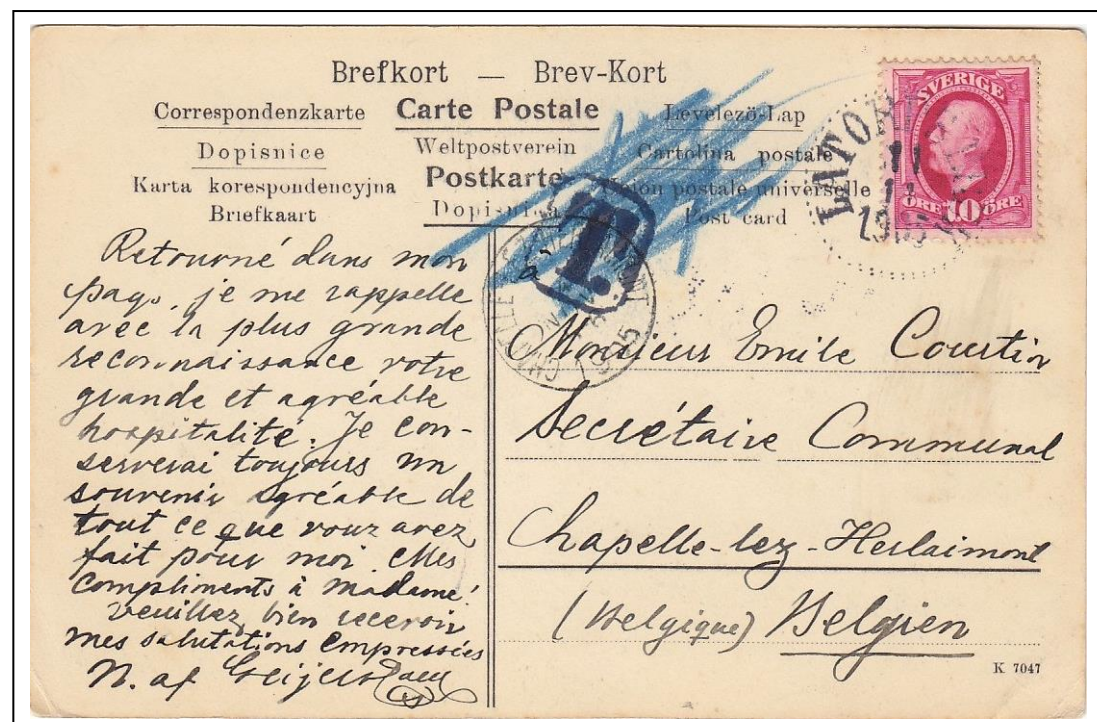
Postcard rate to the UK: 1 penny

[T] Victoria:

T 10 c (taxed as letter);
tax mark deleted



§§ A bilateral agreement about divided postcards sent from Australia to the UK was recorded by the Australian Postmaster-General on 22 November 1905 – **the day when this postcard was sent!** The card was first taxed as a letter, but apparently information about the agreement reached the post office in Melbourne later that day, or at least before the card was sent off to the UK. The tax mark was therefore deleted (with an obliterator which was normally used at the post office in Melbourne for incoming mail where the stamps had not been properly cancelled at the sending post office). No postage due was charged on arrival.



► Sweden to Belgium:

Latorps Bruk

11 November 1905

Chapelle-lez-Herlaimont

14 November 1905

Foreign postcard rate: 10 öre

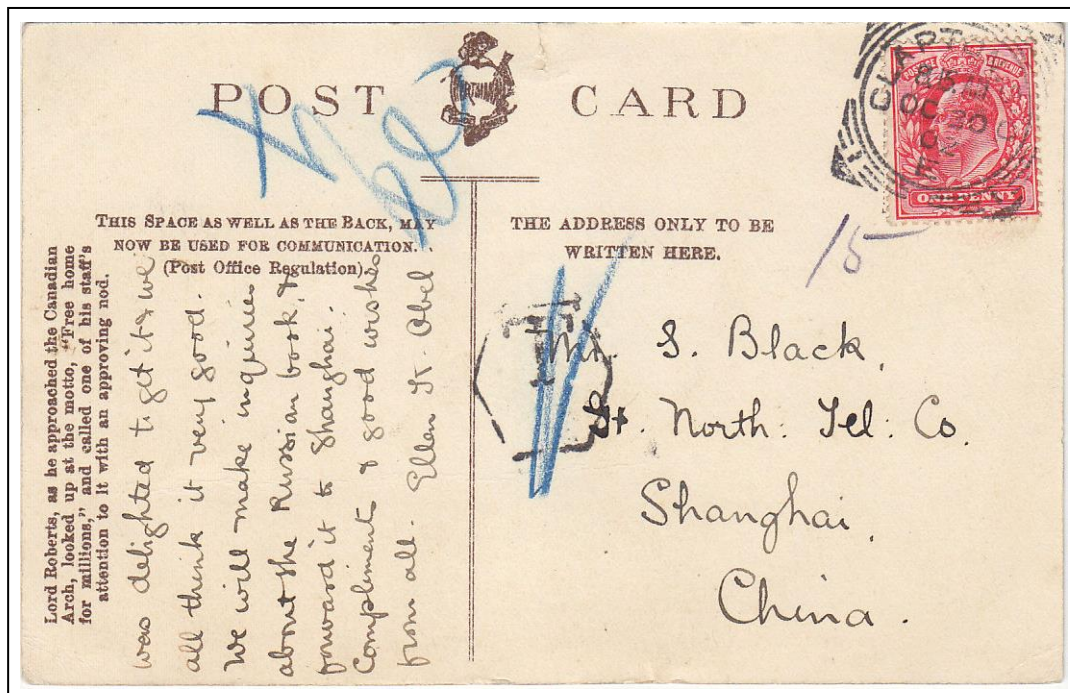
[T] Sweden: T and 12½ (taxed as letter); tax marks later deleted

§§ A bilateral agreement between Sweden and Belgium was in force since 1 September 1905, so the card should be accepted at the 10 öre postcard rate. The mistake was discovered (probably already in Sweden), the tax marks were deleted and no postage due was charged on arrival.

5.3 Mistakes and Mysteries

UK to China • Ceylon to the UK

Tax Marks Applied in Error In Spite of Imperial Penny Postage

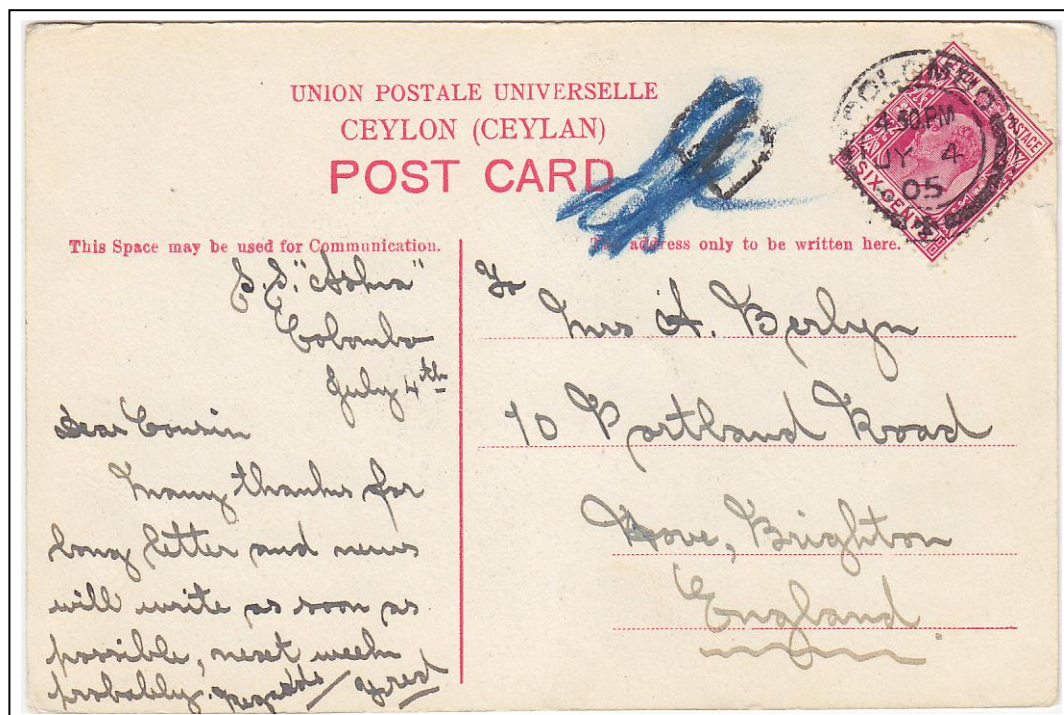


► UK to China: Clapton 30 October 1902 – Shanghai

☐ Imperial penny postage (valid for both postcards and letters)

[T] UK: T and 15 (centimes deficiency), tax mark deleted

§§ There was a British post office in Shanghai and penny postage was in force since 1 May 1902 from the UK 'to all places in China, where there are British post offices'. Tax marks applied in error and deleted; no postage due charged on arrival.



► Ceylon to the UK: Colombo 4 July 1905 – Hove

☐ Postage 6 cents, corresponding to imperial penny postage

[T] Ceylon: T and 15 (centimes deficiency), tax marks deleted

§§ Ceylon was a member of the penny postage scheme since the start in 1898. Tax marks applied in error and deleted; no postage due charged on arrival.

5.4 Mistakes and Mysteries

France and Germany to the US

Erroneous Postage Due Amount

Lacking Knowledge of Foreign Rates

When divided cards without tax marks were surcharged on arrival, the post on the destination needed to know the postal rates of the country of origin in order to charge correct postage due. At times this knowledge was lacking, as shown by these two cards sent to the US.

► France to the US:

Paris
26 February 1906
St. Louis MO
11 March 1906

☐ Foreign postcard rate:
10 centimes (letter rate
was 25 centimes)

[T] France: no tax marks

[T] US: 5 (cents due) and
postage due stamp



[T] This card arrived in the US without tax marks, and unlike most postcards from Europe it did not receive the characteristic 'opera glass' tax mark in New York. Instead it seems that the need to charge postage due was not discovered until the card reached St. Louis. The postal staff there were obviously not familiar with the postal rates in different countries. 5 cents postage due represent twice the difference between letter rate and postcard rate from Germany and Scandinavia, but for France and most other countries double deficiency was 6 cents.



► Germany to the US:

Kirchhofen
9 January 1906
New York
18 January 1906
to Salina, KS

☐ Foreign postcard rate:
10 pfennig (letter rate
was 20 pfennig)

[T] Germany: no tax marks

[T] US: 'Due 6 cents' and
postage due stamps

[T] For this card, deficiency was 10 pfennig or 12½ centimes. Double deficiency should have been 5 cents but the addressee was charged 6 cents. An unusual error by the post in New York.

§§ Both cards shown here required letter postage as no bilateral agreements were in place and it was US practice to tax incoming divided cards as letters until after the Rome congress.

5.4 Mistakes and Mysteries

Switzerland to Bavaria • UK to Italy

Erroneous Postage Due Amount

Lacking Knowledge of UPU Rules

Incorrect postage due might be charged because postmen did not know UPU regulations and/or made erroneous interpretations of tax marks and other postal notes on incoming mail.

► Switzerland
to Bavaria:

Bern
6 July 1904

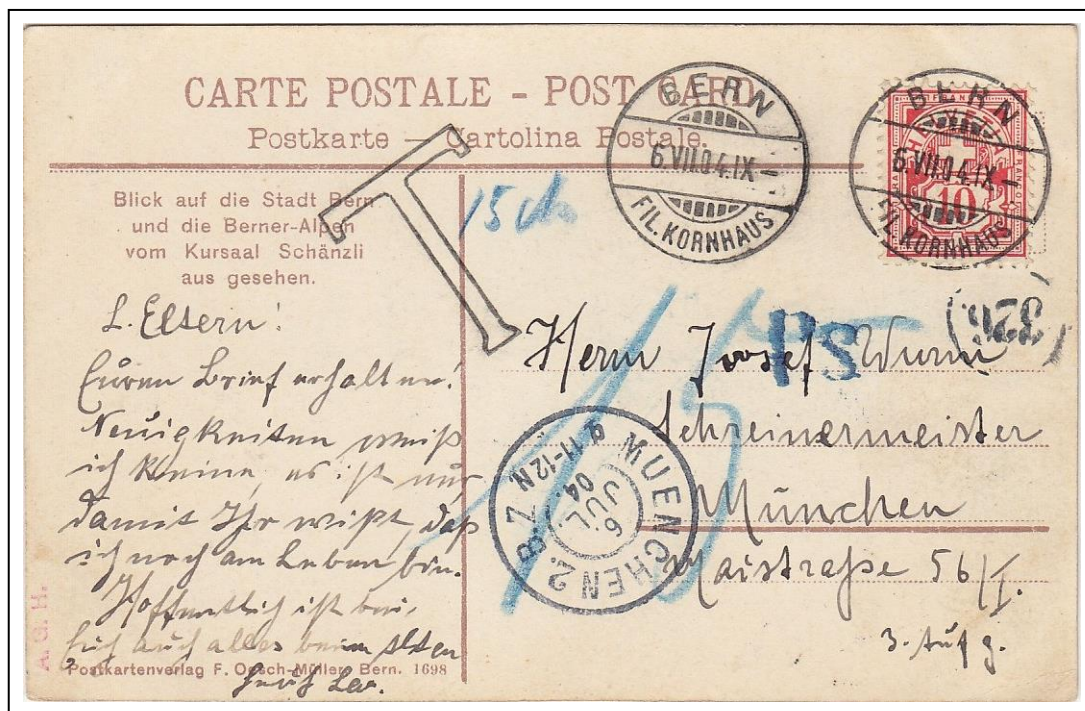
Muenchen
6 July 1904

☐ Foreign postcard rate:
10 centimes (letter rate
was 25 centimes)

[T] Switzerland:
T and '15 cts'

[T] Germany:
15 (pfennig due)

§§ Letter rate required
prior to a bilateral
agreement in force
1 September 1905.



[T] A deficiency of 15 centimes normally translated into 25 pfennig postage due in Germany, corresponding to double deficiency of 30 centimes according to UPU rules. In this case it seems that the postal clerk misunderstood the note '15 cts' and charged only 15 pfennig.



► Domestic use
in the UK:
Dublin 30 April 1903
to London

☐ Domestic postcard
rate: ½ penny

► Forwarded to Italy:
Lombard St. 1 May 1903
Rome 4 May 1903

☐ Uprated to 1 penny
foreign postcard rate
(letter rate was 2½ pence)

[T] UK: T (L for London)
but no visible note
about deficiency

§§ Letter rate was required prior to a bilateral agreement in force 12 December 1905.

[T] On arrival in Italy, the Italian post attempted to charge 30 centesimi postage due (double deficiency). According to UPU rules, postage due should instead have been single deficiency, 15 centesimi, as the card was underpaid when forwarded abroad and correct postage had been paid for the original destination.

► As shown by the yellow Italian label, the recipient refused to pay the postage due. The card was therefore returned to the UK, and arrived in London 11 June 1903.

5.4 Mistakes and Mysteries

Russia to Sweden • W. Australia to Denmark

Erroneous Postage Due Amount

Unclear Tax Marks

► Russia to Sweden:

Astrachan

20 October 1904

[2 November]

Sassnitz-Trelleborg

9 November 1904

to Eskilstuna

5 kopek postage
(postcard rate was
4 kopek, letter rate
10 kopek)

[T] Russia: Tax mark for
domestic use deleted,
but not replaced with
international tax marks

§§ Letter rate required
prior to 1 April 1905.



[T] As the Russian post did not make any note about deficiency in French centimes, the Swedish post seemingly assumed that the card should be taxed with twice the difference between foreign postcard rate and letter rate from Russia: Lösen 24 öre. Correct postage due, given the 5 kopek postage paid, would have been 20 öre.

☑ A nice detail with this card is that the sender has commented on the divided address side. He was obviously not familiar with this innovation, so having written a long account on the image side he turned the card around and continued the message: **A see there is a space to write here...** – a discovery that cost the recipient 24 öre!



► Western Australia to Denmark:

Perth

9 (?) December 1905

Kjøbenhavn

8 January 1906

Foreign postcard
rate: 1½ pence (letter
rate was 2½ pence)

[T] Western Australia:
an unclear tax mark,
probably T 10

[T] Denmark: 24 (øre)

§§ There is no recorded
agreement between
Denmark and Australia.

[T] In a magnifying glass, the Australian tax mark looks like an indistinct T 10, which was the correct deficiency (10 centimes corresponding to 1 penny). But at a quick glance it looks more like T 15 and that was how the Danish post read it. The addressee was therefore charged too much postage due – 24 instead of 16 øre.

☑ Perth was one of the few places in the world outside the UK where hexagonal tax marks were used.

5.5 Mistakes and Mysteries

Sweden to France • UK to Germany

Misdirected Mail With Tax Marks

One kind of postal mistakes was misdirected mail. This was usually due to sorting errors or unclear addresses, and might in some cases give rise to unexpected tax marks.

➤ Sweden to France:

Stockholm

22 December 1905

➤ Missent to the US

New York 4 January 1906

K.City & La Junta

6 January 1906

➤ Resent to Europe

Honfleur

20 January 1906

Foreign postcard
rate: 10 öre (letter
rate was 20 öre)

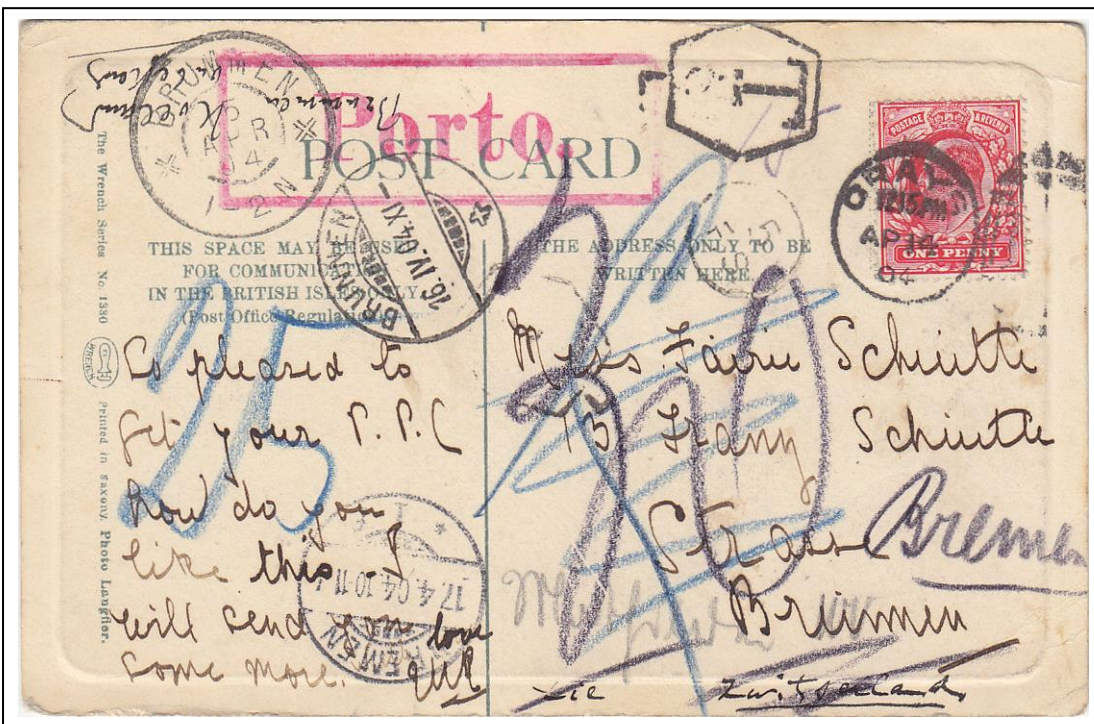


§§ Bilateral agreement Sweden-France 1 April 1905, but no agreement Sweden-US.

[T] US: Taxed as a letter, ‘Due 5 cents’ (double deficiency), as there was no bilateral agreement Sweden-USA.

[T] France: US tax mark ignored, as the French post realized the error.

✉ The railway postmark K.City & La Junta (Colorado) suggests that at least two postal clerks – one in Europe and one in New York – have read **‘Colorado’ instead of ‘Calvados’!**



➤ UK to Germany:

Grays 14 April 1904

➤ Missent to Holland

Brummen 15 April 1904

➤ Missent to Switzerland

Brunnen 16 April 1904

➤ Sent to Germany

Bremen 17 April 1904

Foreign postcard
rate: 1 penny (letter
rate was 2½ pence)

[T] UK: T (L for London)
and 15 (cts deficiency)

[T] Holland: 15 (cents due, double deficiency)

[T] Switzerland: 30 (cts due, double deficiency)

[T] Germany: Porto and 25
(pf. due, double deficiency)

§§ Letter rate was required prior to December 1905. Due to the unclear address, which did not include ‘Germany’, the card received tax marks from three different countries in three different currencies – all in three days!

5.6 Mistakes and Mysteries

Spain • France to the UK (?)

Mysteries

Things I Do Not Understand

No matter how carefully you study postal rules and regulations and try to interpret those old postal items that come your way, you always end up with one or two things that you just cannot figure out. I guess that's the charm of postal history!

► Domestic use in Spain:

Valencia

13 November 1905

Barcelona

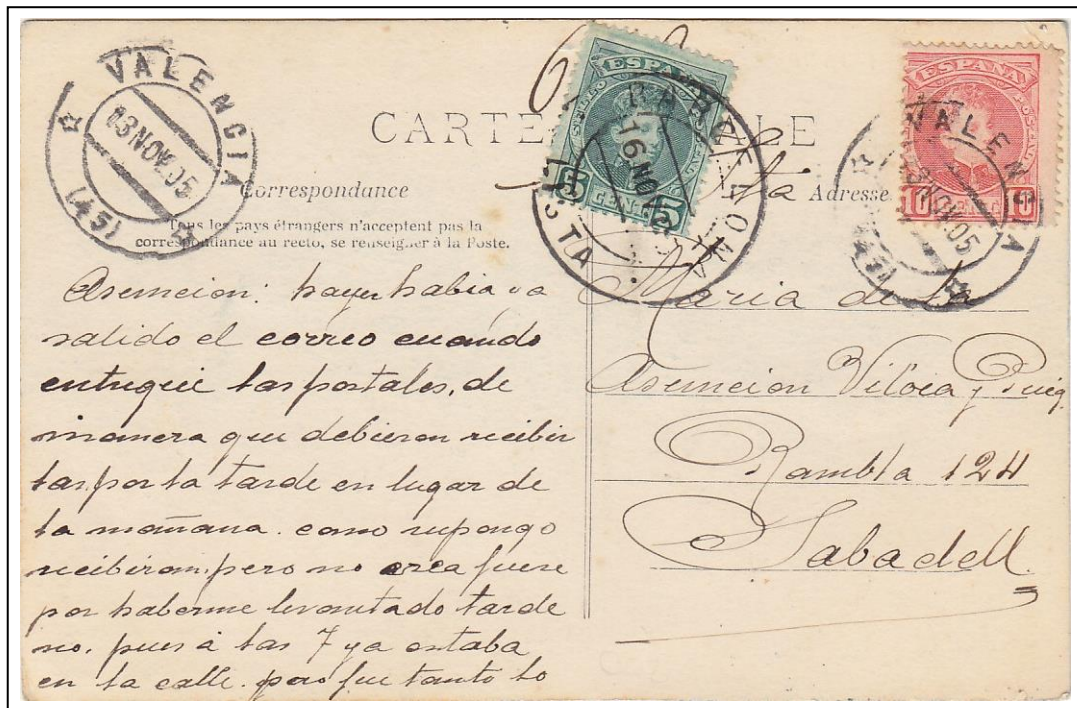
16 November 1905

to Sabadell

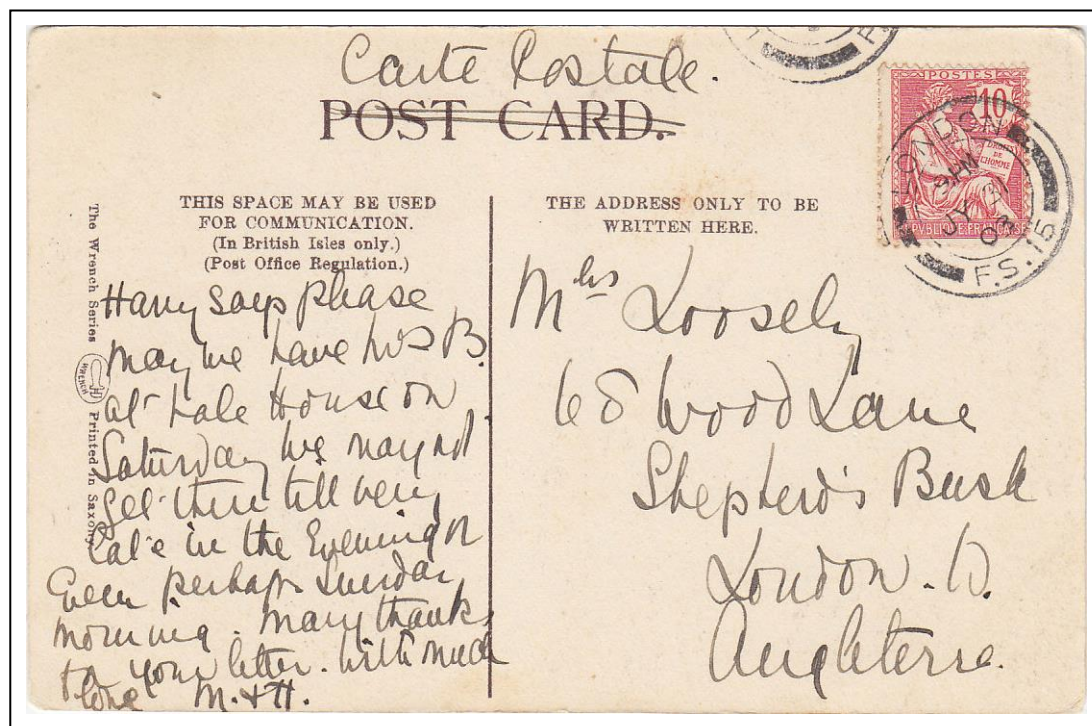
Domestic postcard rate: 10 centimos, with postmark from Valencia

Additional 5 centimos for 15 centimos domestic letter rate with postmark from Barcelona

Letter postage was required prior to 7 December 1905.



Mysteries: Why was additional postage added in Barcelona rather than at the sending or receiving post office? What was the procedure for this additional postage? Was it paid for by the sender or by the addressee?



► The French stamp and the address 'Angleterre' suggests that this card was sent from France to the UK

Stamp cancelled London F.S. 15 (Foreign Section) 31 July 1903

Foreign postcard rate from France was 10 centimos (letter rate was 25 centimos)

[T] No tax marks, neither from France nor from the UK

Divided postcards from France to the UK were not allowed until November 1905 according to the French postal bulletins, and not until mid-December according to a British postal circular.

Mysteries: Was the card really sent from France to the UK? In that case, why was the stamp cancelled in London and not in France? And why was the card accepted at postcard rate?

5.6 Mistakes and Mysteries

UK to Sweden/France • France to Germany/Norway

Mysteries

Things I Do Not Understand

► From the UK
to Sweden:
Southport
30 December 1904

Rotebro
6 January 1905

► Forwarded to
France:

Cannes
9 January 1905

☐ Foreign postcard
rate: 1 penny (letter
rate was 2½ pence)

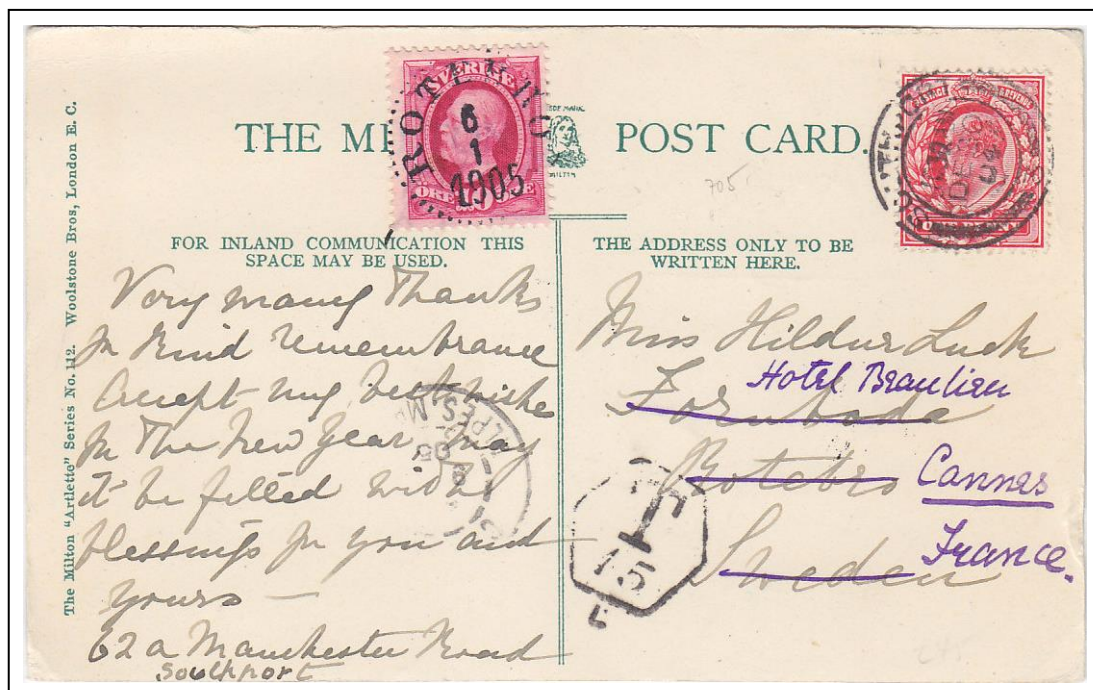
[T] UK: T 15 (centimes
deficiency), L for London

[T] Sweden: Note '24 öre'

(double deficiency) covered by the 10 öre stamp (☐ foreign postcard rate from Sweden); [T] France: No tax marks

§§ Letter rate required prior to bilateral agreements (UK-Sweden 12 December 1905; Sweden-France 1 April 1905).

Mysteries: Were 24 öre postage due paid in Sweden? In that case: Why was additional postage (10 öre) paid? And why was not the British tax mark deleted? And in any case: Why was no postage due charged in France?



► France to Germany:
Vizille 29 August 1904
Dresden 31 August 1904

☐ Foreign postcard rate:
10 centimes (letter rate
was 25 centimes)

[T] France: No tax marks

[T] Germany: T, '25' pf.
due (double deficiency)

§§ Bilateral agreement
September 1905

► Forwarded to Norway:
Christiania
2 September 1904
Trondhjem
3 September 1904

Mysteries:

Why is there no French T mark on the card?

Was postage due charged the first time the card was in Dresden?

Was postage due charged in Trondheim?

Was postage due charged the second time the card arrived in Dresden?

When, where, and why was the German "T" mark deleted?

Why is there a second note of 20 (instead of 25) pfennig due?

[T] Norway: '24' (øre due)
and postage due stamps

► Forwarded to Germany:
Dresden 6 September 1904

[T] Germany: 20 (pfennig due)

6. Format Variations

The early divided postcards present a range of varieties in the format of the card and in the layout and use of the address side. This section shows a number of such varieties, but starts with a few examples of cards that may be considered ‘forerunners’ of divided postcards (6.1). Once divided cards were accepted, old undivided postcards were at times transformed to divided cards by a printed line added by the publisher (6.2). At most half the address side could be used for personal messages, but it happened that publishers printed cards with a larger part for correspondence (6.3) or that senders wrote text outside the designated area (6.4). A few other layout varieties are also shown (6.5 and below), as well as an example of how the divided address side affected the design of the image side (6.6). Early divided cards often had printed instructions about permitted use (6.7). Divided postcards had to conform to general rules regarding the size and shape of postcards (6.8). Finally, a UPU decision, entering into force 1 October 1907, put an end to the postal confusion regarding the status of divided postcards (6.9).

► UK to the US:

GK & Ardrishaig Packet

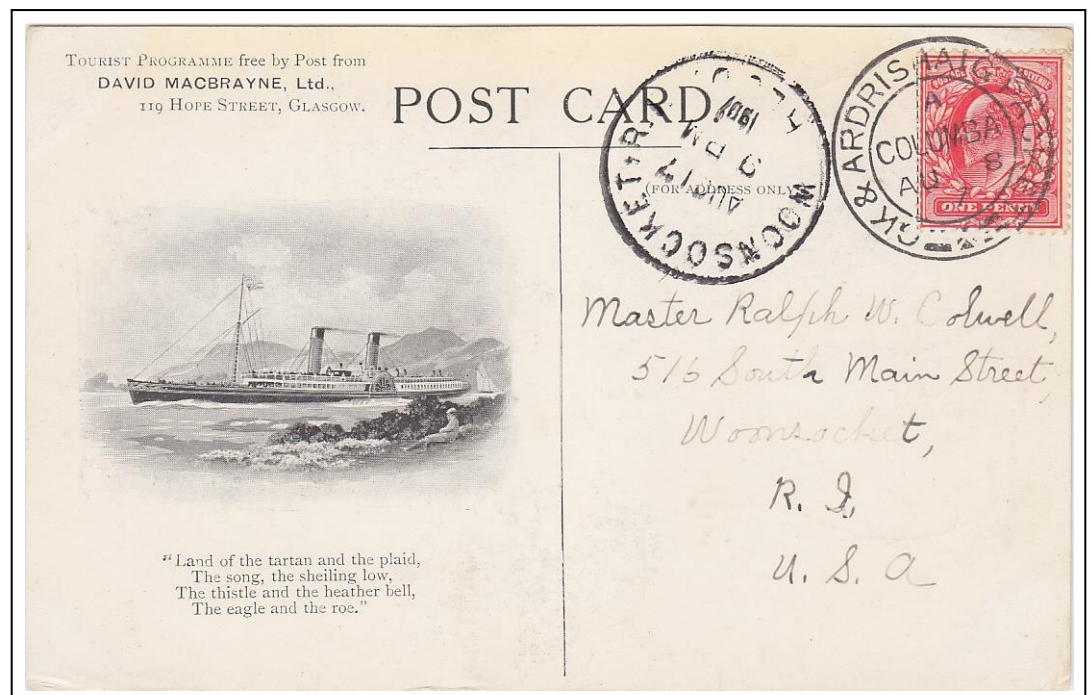
A Columba

8 August 1907

Woonsocket RI

17 August 1907

Foreign postcard
rate: 1 penny



(Copy)



§§ The UPU regulations from the 1906 Rome congress stated that the sender could freely use the image side and the left half of the address side of the postcard. This divided postcard shows an innovative interpretation of this rule – an image printed on the ‘message part’ of the address side, together with an advertisement for tourist trips in Scotland. Instead, the image side provides a generous space for correspondence.

☒ The postcard was sent from a river post on the Firth of Clyde, the Greenock and Ardrishaig Floating Post Offices, operated by Scottish shipping company David Macbrayne Ltd between 1879 and 1917. The *Columba* was the company’s first vessel to have a post office on board. The letter A in the postmark indicates that the card was posted on the way from Ardrishaig to Greenock (the letter B was used in the opposite direction).

6.1 Format Variations

Belgium • Switzerland to Germany

Forerunners

Illustrations on the Address Side

§§ Early UPU regulations said that the 'face' of the postcard was reserved for stamps, postal notes and addresses, whereas vignettes could be printed on the 'back'. Yet postcards with large images or other decorations on the address side were accepted – and even produced – by several postal administrations already in the 1890s. That was a first step towards more liberal rules regarding the use of the address side.

► Belgium:

Salzinne (Namur)

14 June 1896

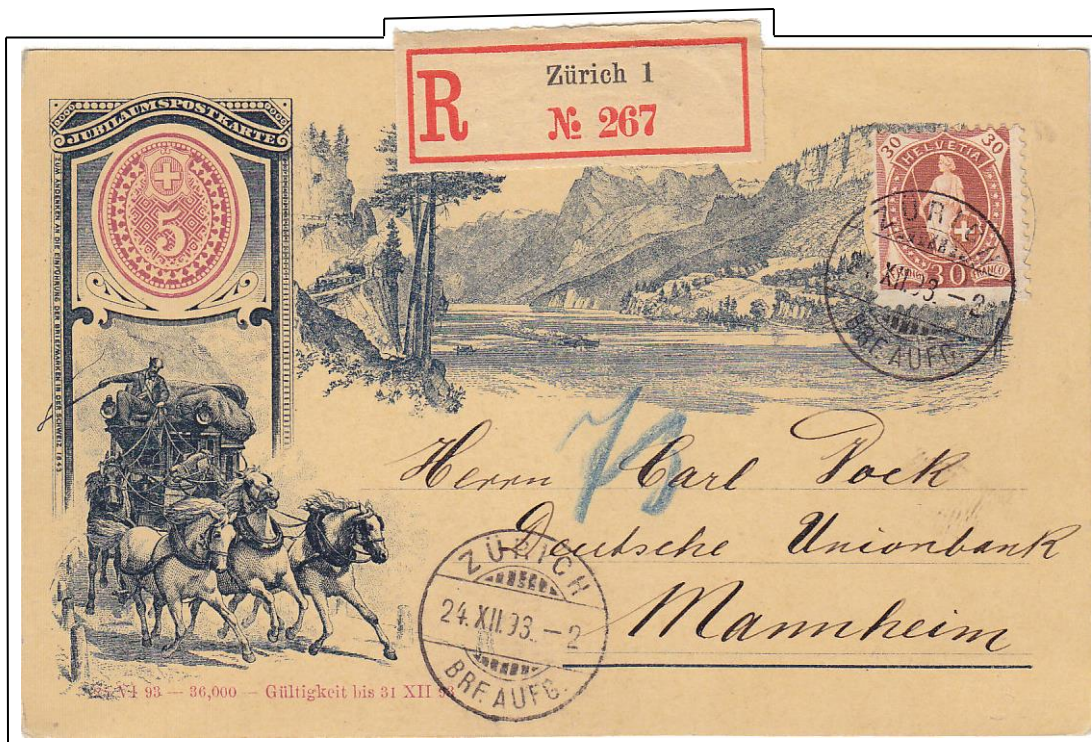
Bruxelles

14 June 1896

☐ Domestic postcard
rate: 5 centimes



Above a privately produced postcard from 1896, richly illustrated and with coloured decorations, accepted by the Belgian post. Below an illustrated postal stationery card (*Jubiläumspostkarte*) produced by the Swiss post in 1893, commemorating the 50th anniversary of postage stamps in Switzerland.



► Registered postcard
from Switzerland
to Germany:

Zürich

24 December 1893

to Mannheim

☐ Foreign postcard rate:
10 centimes


☐ Registration fee:
25 centimes

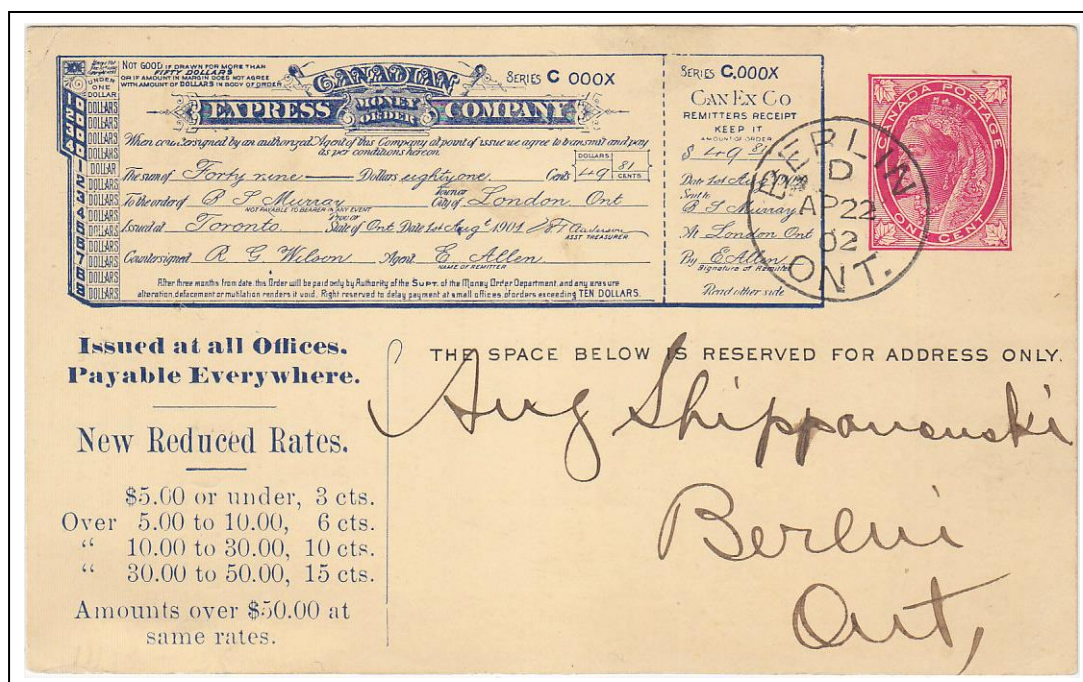
6.1 Format Variations

Canada

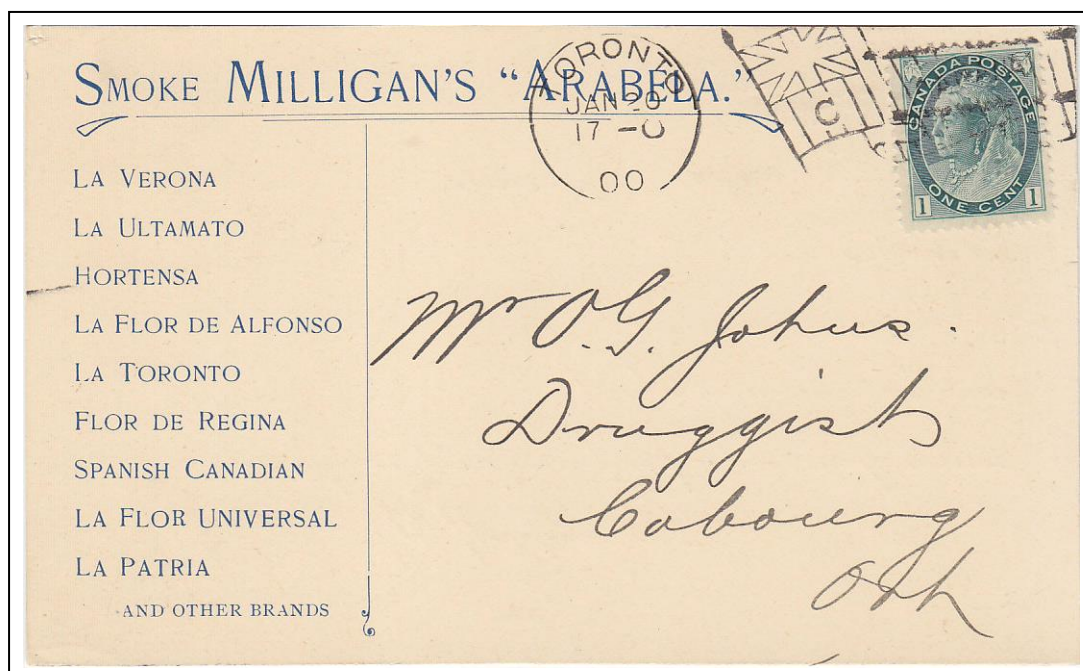
Forerunners

Vignettes and Advertisements

§§ The UPU congress in Washington 1897 formally accepted postcards with printed 'vignettes or advertisements' on the address side. Such cards sometimes also had a dividing line to separate the advertisement from the space for address and therefore appear as direct forerunners to divided postcards. Here are two examples from Canada, both sent at the  1 cent domestic postcard rate.



Postal stationery card used by the Canadian Express Company to notify the recipient of the arrival of goods. Part of the address side used for advertising the company's money order services. Dividing line and instruction: 'The space below is reserved for the address only'. ► Local use: Berlin Ont. 22 April 1902



Postcard from the Spanish Cigar Factory of Canada, advertising its different brands of tobacco, with a dividing line strongly resembling those of later divided cards. ► Toronto 20 January 1900 – Cobourg Ont.

6.2 Format Variations

Serbia to Finland • Bavaria • Sweden

Dividing Line

Added after Original Printing

Once divided cards were introduced, postcard producers sometimes found old undivided cards difficult to sell, and therefore added printed dividing lines.

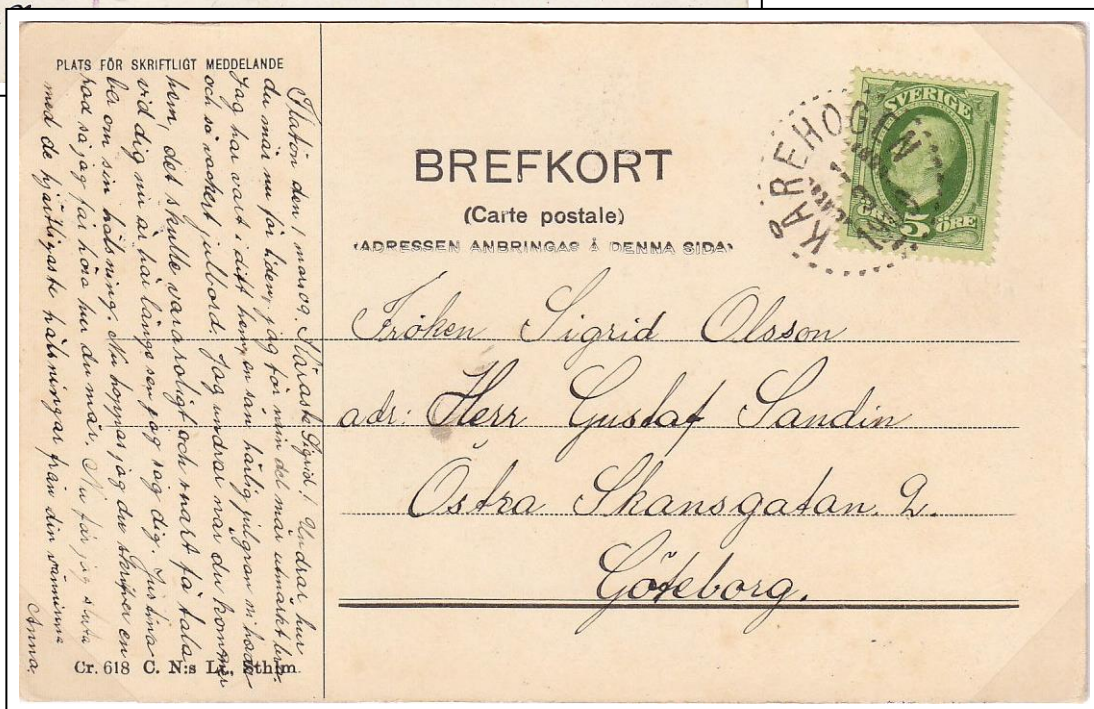
Printed lines for the address run across the whole card, indicating that the dividing line was added after the original printing.

► Belgrade 17 November 1905 to Helsinki



Added dividing line and text 'Messages allowed'. Not very elegant, but used by the sender.

► München 8 June 1906
– Mühlthal and Passau
9 June 1906



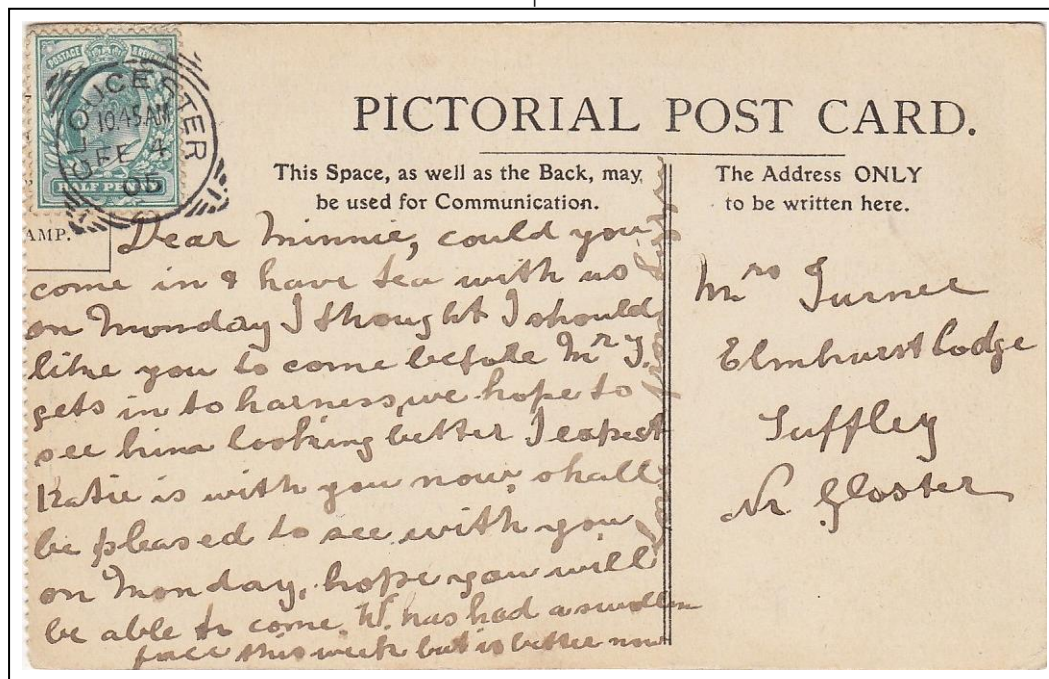
'Space for written message' and added dividing line.


► Kårehogen 1 March 1909 – Gothenburg

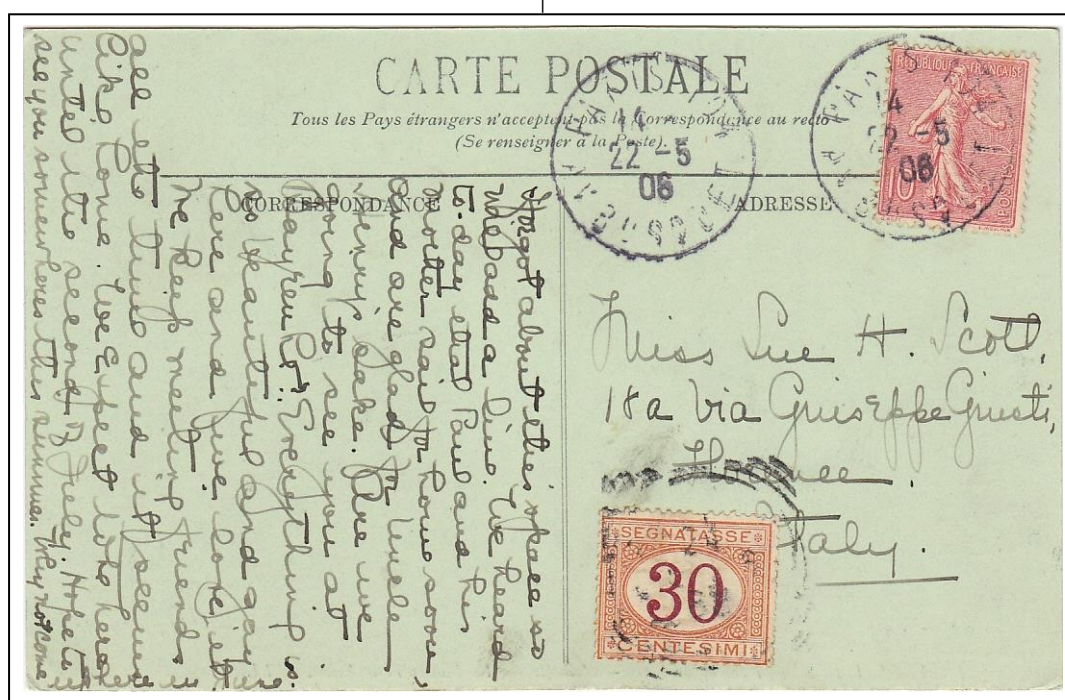
United Kingdom • France to Italy

Exceeding Half the Address Side

§§ When divided postcards were introduced, postal regulations generally permitted the sender to use at most half the address side for a personal message. Printed cards that allowed more space for the message could be taxed as letters.



On this British postcard, the printed dividing line leaves far more room for the message than for the address.  In spite of this, the card has been accepted at the ½ penny postcard rate. ► Gloucester 4 February 1905 – Suffley



☞ In France, this card was accepted at the 10 centimes postcard rate, but the Italian post noticed that the dividing line was printed a bit too far to the right. **[T]** The card was therefore taxed as a letter (letter rate 25 centimes). The 30 centesimi postage due stamp represents double deficiency. ➤ Paris 22 May 1906 – Firenze 24 May 1906

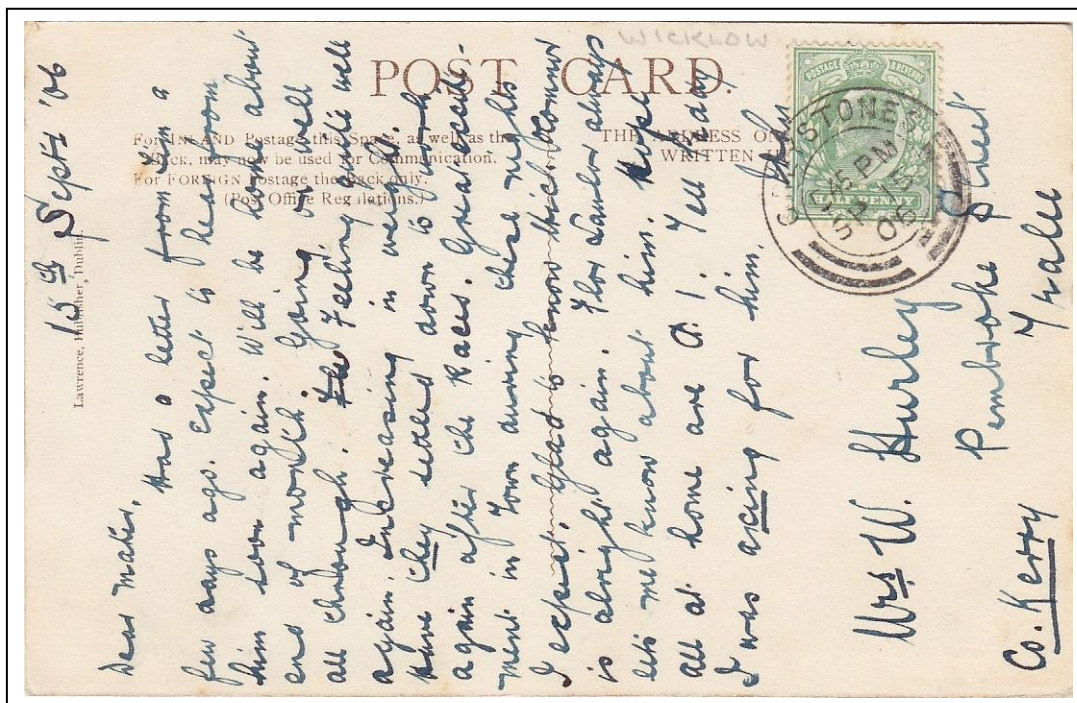
6.4 Format Variations

United Kingdom • Russia

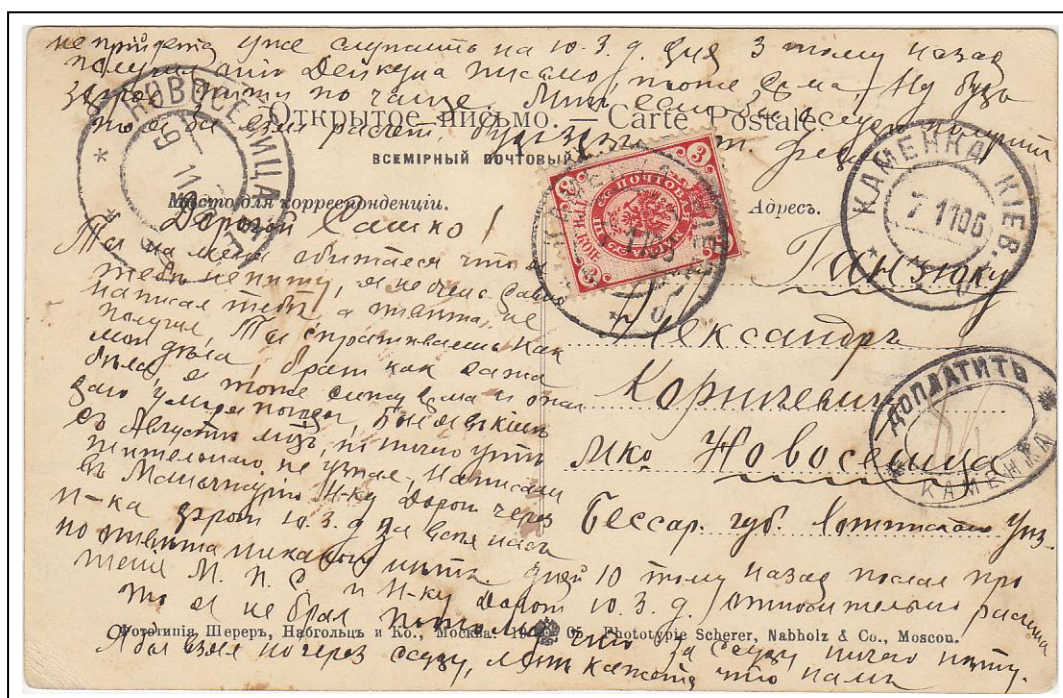
Writing Outside Designated Area

Using More than Half the Address Side

§§ Writers with a lot to tell sometimes used more than half the address side of the card for their messages. This, too, might attract a tax mark, depending on how strictly the postal clerks applied the regulations.



The British post was usually quite flexible in the treatment of postcards where the sender transgressed the dividing line. ☒ This card was accepted at the ½ penny postcard rate even though the message filled a large part of the address side...
 ► Greystones 15 September 1906 – Tralee



...whereas the Russian post decided that this writer went too far, and taxed the card as a letter. ☒ Postcard rate was 3 kopek and letter rate 7 kopek, so **[T]** 8 kopek postage due represent double deficiency. ► Kamenka Kiev. 7 [20] November 1906 – Novoselitsa Be. 9 [22] November 1906

6.4 Format Variations

France to Sweden/Germany • Portugal

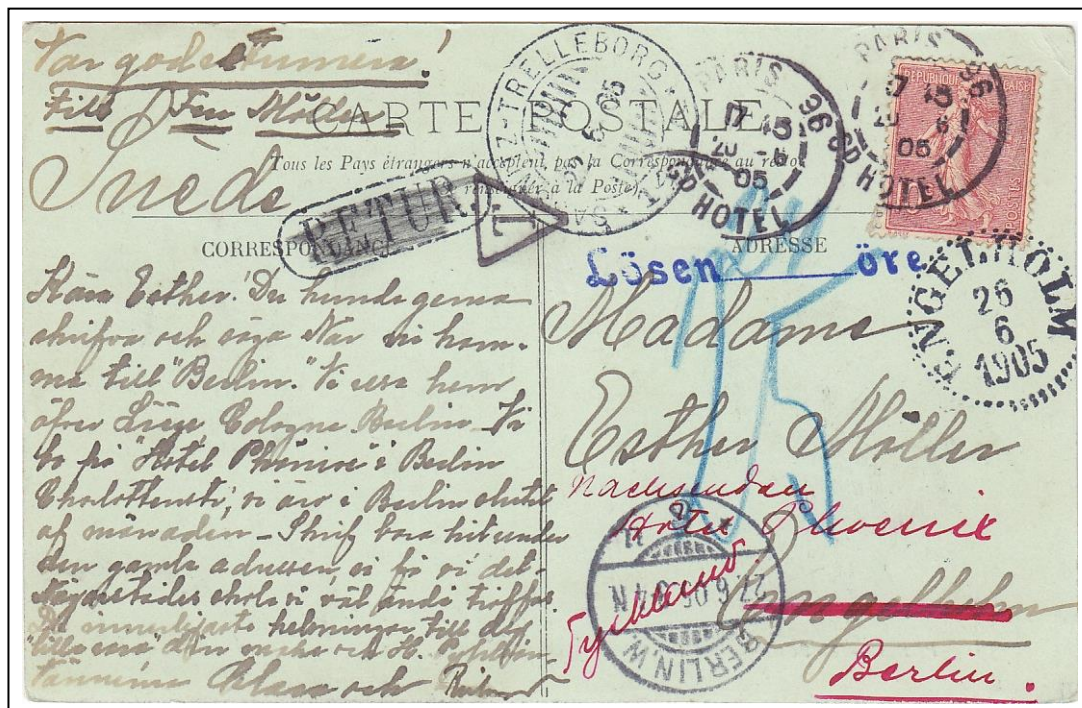
Writing Outside Designated Area

Specific National Rules

§§ UPU regulations from the 1906 Rome congress said that the sender could freely use the image side and the left half of the address side of a postcard. But before these regulations came into force in October 1907, certain countries applied more restrictive rules.

§§ An early interpretation of the French rules for divided postcards was that the designated space for messages was below the word 'Correspondance'. If writing appeared above this word the card might be taxed as a letter.

However, the French *Bulletins Mensuels* from both June and August 1905 urged the postmen to adopt a more tolerant attitude in this respect, due to numerous complaints from the public.



► France to Sweden: Paris 20 June 1905 – Sassnitz-Trelleborg 22 June 1905 – Engelholm

§§ Bilateral agreement

☐ Postcard rate: 10 centimes but taxed as letter (letter rate was 25 centimes)

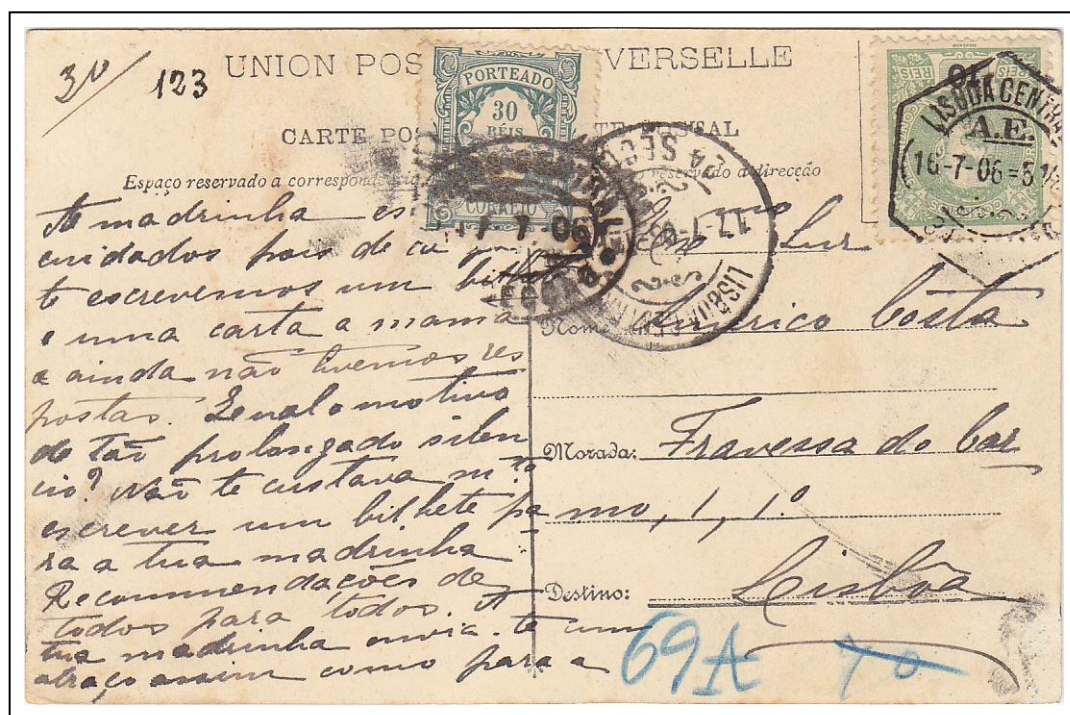
France-Sweden:

[T] France: T (but no note about deficiency); Sweden: 'Lösen 24 öre' (double deficiency)

December 1904

► Forwarded to Germany: Engelholm 26 June 1905 – Berlin 27 June 1905

[T] Germany: 25 (pfennig due), as no postage due was paid in Sweden (if so, tax marks should have been deleted)



§§ In Portugal, writing was only permitted on the address side of divided postcards. If writing also appeared on the image side, as on this postcard, letter rate was required.

This rule was announced in the official decree from late December 1903 that introduced divided cards in Portugal, and repeated in a decree from April 1905. It seems that the rule was applied until UPU regulations came into force.

► Portugal (local use): Lisboa 16–17 July 1906. ☐ Postcard rate: 10 réis but taxed as letter (letter rate was 25 réis)

[T] Postage due stamp, 30 réis (double deficiency), postmarked Lisboa 17 July 1906

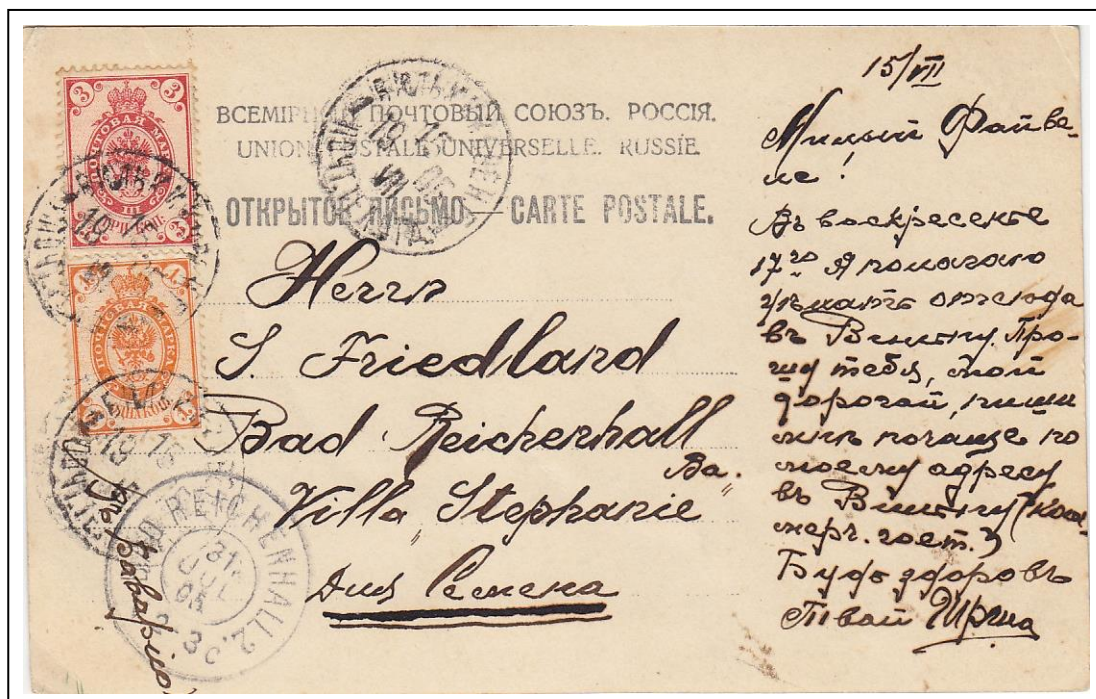
6.5 Format Variations

Russia to Bavaria • Angra to Portugal

Other Layout Varieties

Layout of the Address Side

Before UPU regulations stabilized the layout and use of the address side of divided cards, a range of more or less innovative varieties can be found.



Cards with personal correspondence to the right (instead of left) could formally be taxed as letters, but were mostly accepted at the postcard rate.

► Russia to Bavaria: Vilki 15 [28] July 1905 – Bad Reichenhall 31 July 1905

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 4 kopek



Another original way of using half the address side for personal correspondence:

Handwritten message on top and address on the bottom of the address side.

Accepted by postal clerks in both Angra and Portugal.

► Angra to Portugal: Angra do Heroísmo 17 April 1906 – Lisboa 22 April 1906

☐ Postcard rate for Portugal, Madeira and the Azores: 10 réis

6.5 Format Variations

Portugal to Ponta Delgada and the US

Postcard publishers in Portugal for some time used a vertical design of divided postcards, with the address on top and a space for messages below. This layout was apparently fully accepted by the Portuguese post, at least until UPU regulations entered into force.

► Portugal to Ponta Delgada:

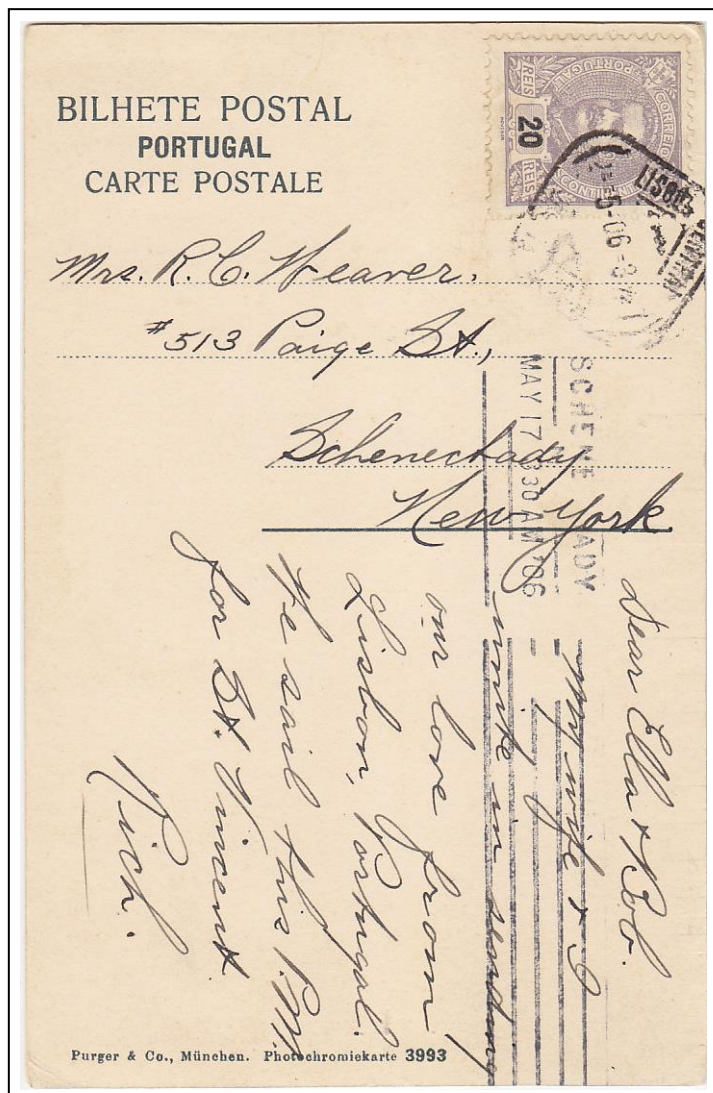
Ambulancia Norte II (Oporto-Lisbon)

2 January 1906

Ponta Delgada

8 January 1906

☐ Postcard rate for Portugal, Madeira and the Azores: 10 réis



Other Layout Varieties

Layout of the Address Side



► Portugal to the United States:

Lisboa 2 May 1906

Schenectady NY 17 May 1906

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 20 réis

§§ At this time, the US post normally taxed incoming divided postcards as letters, whether or not they had tax marks from the sending country. But this card escaped postage due. Perhaps the postal clerk in New York was confused by the uncommon layout and therefore did not strike the usual postage due mark?

6.5 Format Variations

Turkey to Egypt and Italy

Other Layout Varieties

Layout of the Address Side

The traditional postal stationery cards from the Turkish Post Office, with their elaborate ornamental frame...



► Turkey to Egypt:

Damas 30 January 1904 – Cairo 4 February 1904

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 20 para

...inspired the layout of this type of divided picture postcards, with the framing used for separating the space for correspondence from the space for address.



► Turkey (Austrian Post) to Italy:

Salonich 24 October 1905 – Quarto al Mare 28 October 1905

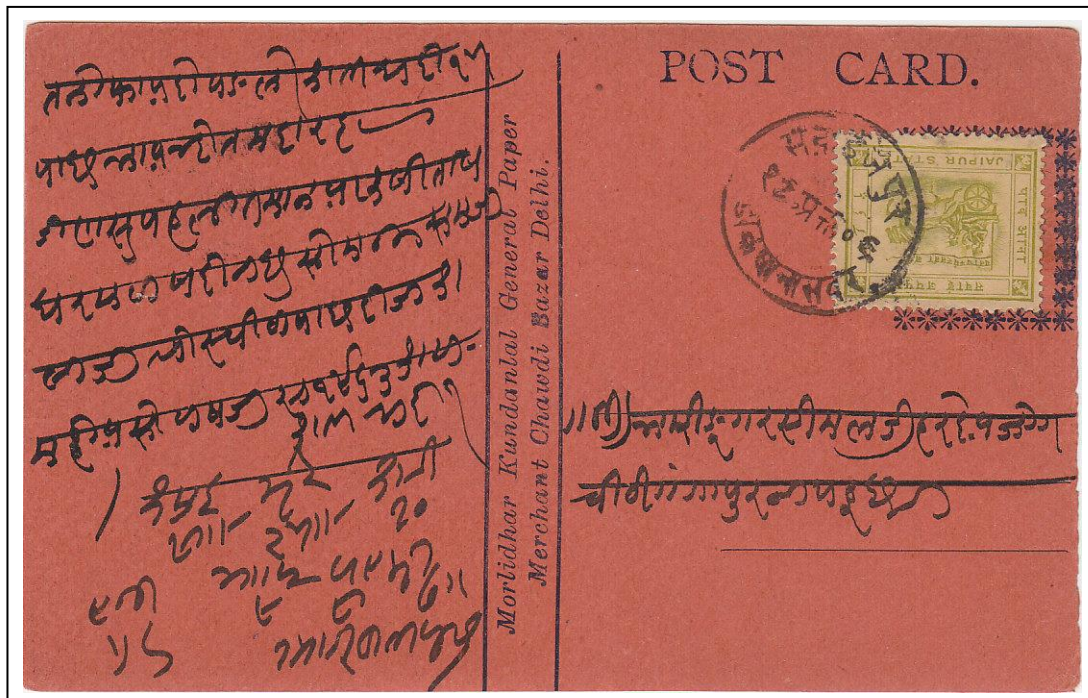
☐ Foreign postcard rate: 20 para

6.5 Format Variations

Jaipur • France

Other Layout Varieties

Advertisements on the Address Side



Innovative use of the division: double dividing line with advertisement for a 'General Paper Merchant' in Dehli.

► Jaipur: Sawai Jaipur (Head Post Office) 18 October 1906 – Gangapur

☐ Domestic postcard rate: 1/4 anna



Division and advertisement added on an undivided card. On 'Children's Day' in Paris 1904, French journal *Le Matin* distributed 35,000 postcards for free, to be sent by the visitors from four temporary post offices (open only that day). Most cards were previously undivided Tuck postcards, which had probably become difficult to sell after the introduction of divided cards. All cards were pre-franked with 10 centimes stamps, with an M perfin (for *Le Matin*).

► France: Vélodrome d'Hiver 19 June 1904 – Paris

☐ Domestic postcard rate: 10 centimes.

6.6 Format Variations

Sweden

New Design of the Image Side Due to the Introduction of Divided Cards

The new layout of the address side also affected the design of the image side.

Undivided cards usually had a white space for writing on the image side, but this became unnecessary when messages could be written on the address side. These three cards – all with the same picture! – show this development.



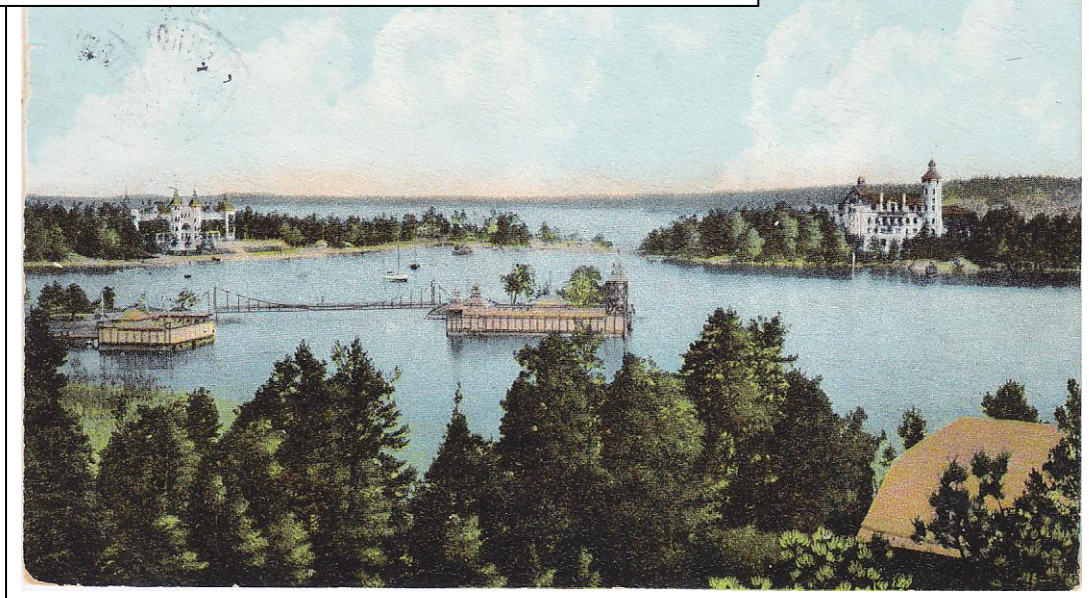
Above: Undivided card
with a white space for
correspondence on the
image side.
(September 1903)



Left: Early divided card,
still with a narrow white
stripe for writing on the
image side.
(September 1905)

Divided card with no
space for correspondence
on the image side.
(November 1906)

An important reason for
the popularity of divided
cards was that postcard
collectors preferred cards
with a full image side,
without any written
messages.



6.7 Format Variations

UK • Austria • Sweden • India

Instructions for Users

Permitted or Forbidden Use

Early divided cards often had printed instructions about permitted and/or forbidden use of the address side.

1) A common early British instruction:
For INLAND Postage only this space may be used for communication.

The card bears the trademark of **Frederick Hartmann** – the initiator of divided postcards.

2) Austrian instruction, with reference to the relevant postal circular:
Permitted for written messages by the sender, according to Royal decree of 23 November 1904...

3) Swedish card with enumeration of permitted countries:
Space for written message only within Sweden and to France, Norway, Russia, Germany.

4) British card with enumeration of forbidden countries:
This space may be used for Inland and Foreign Communication except to the United States, Japan, and Spain.

5) Indian card with an intriguing instruction:
The address only to be written on this side, except when sent to Europe, when this space may be used (1 anna postage).



6.7 Format Variations

Cape Verde • France

Instructions for Users

Modified Instructions • Lacking Instructions

► Divided postcard with a view from Cape Verde sent to the United States:

S. Vicente

30 March 1903

Bowling Green OH

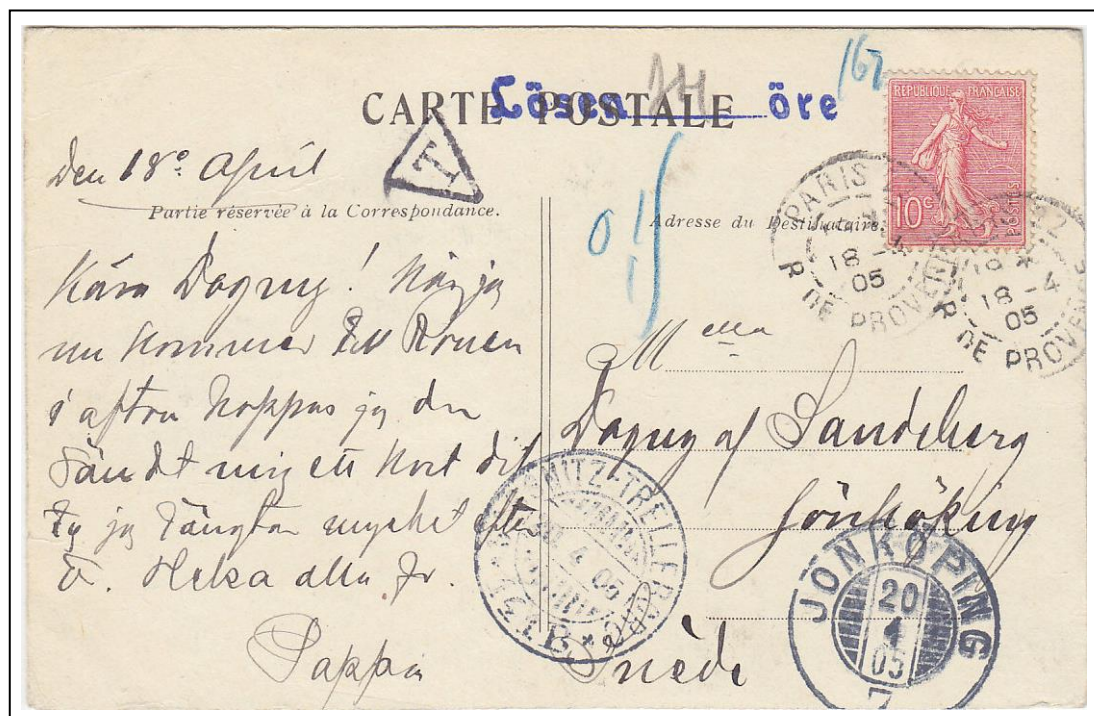
24 April 1903

Foreign postcard rate: 25 réis



Original text in English: POST CARD. / This Space may be used for Correspondence. (See Post Office Regulations.) / FOR ADDRESS ONLY. Added text in Portuguese saying that 'This side is only for the address.' and the instruction in English about correspondence on the address side deleted.

A very early divided card with non-British picture and text.



► France to Sweden:

Paris 18 April 1905

Sässnitz-Trelleborg

20 April 1905

Jönköping 20 April 1905

Foreign postcard rate: 10 centimes

[T] France: T and 0,15 (centimes deficiency)

[T] Sweden: Lösen 24 öre (double deficiency)

Postage due charged because of *lacking* information about foreign use!

§§ In order to avoid that divided postcards sent abroad were surcharged as letters, the French postal authorities decided that a warning should be printed on divided cards, saying that all foreign countries did not accept correspondence on the address side. A perverse consequence of this decision was that French postal clerks began to apply tax marks on postcards without this text, as they did not conform with the regulations for postcards. The card above would otherwise have been accepted at the postcard rate (bilateral agreement December 1904).

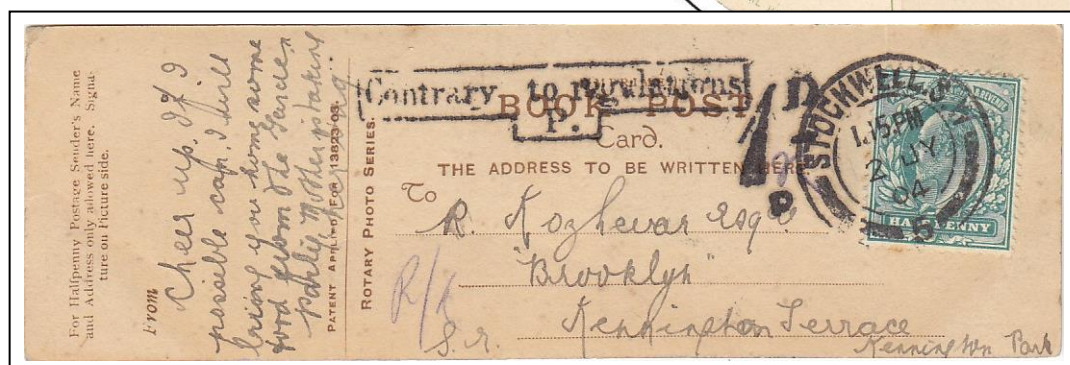
6.8 Format Variations

Sweden • United Kingdom

§§ Even in those cases when divided cards were permitted, letter rate still applied if cards violated general regulations about size. According to UPU rules, incorporated into most national regulations, the size of a postcard should be 14 x 9 cm.

► Divided 'snowball' card,
domestic use in Sweden:
Stockholm 24 December 1905
to Hästbo

☐ Due to the irregular size,
10 öre domestic letter rate
was required.

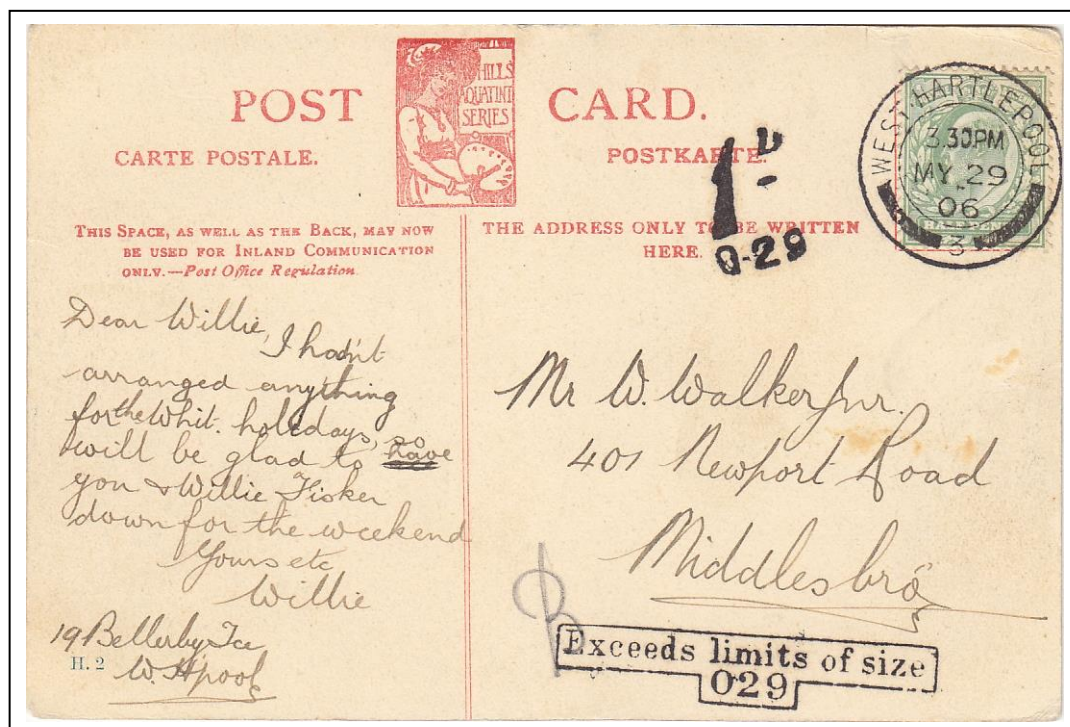


► Divided 'Book Post Card',
domestic use in the UK:

Stockwell 2 July 1904
to Kennington Park

☐ Postcard rate ½d

[T] 'Contrary to regulations'
and taxed as a letter
(double deficiency, 1d)



► Divided postcard,
domestic use in the UK:

West Hartlepool
29 May 1906
to Middlesbrough

☐ Postcard rate ½d

[T] 'Exceeds limits of size'
and taxed as a letter
(double deficiency, 1d)

The card measures
13.7 x 9.2 cm, so the
postal clerk who sur-
charged it must have
been in an extremely bad
mood that afternoon...

6.9 Format Variations

United States • India to UK • UK to US

The End of Postal Confusion

Universal Acceptance 1 October 1907

§§ On 1 October 1907, the decisions from the UPU congress in Rome came into force worldwide and postcards with a divided address side were formally accepted in all mail exchange. Less confusion and frustration for correspondents, postmen and postcard publishers – and less fun for the postal history collector! **The exhibit ends with three divided postcards sent on 1 October 1907.**

► United States:

Dillard OR

1 October 1907

to Rosebury OR

Domestic postcard
rate: 1 cent



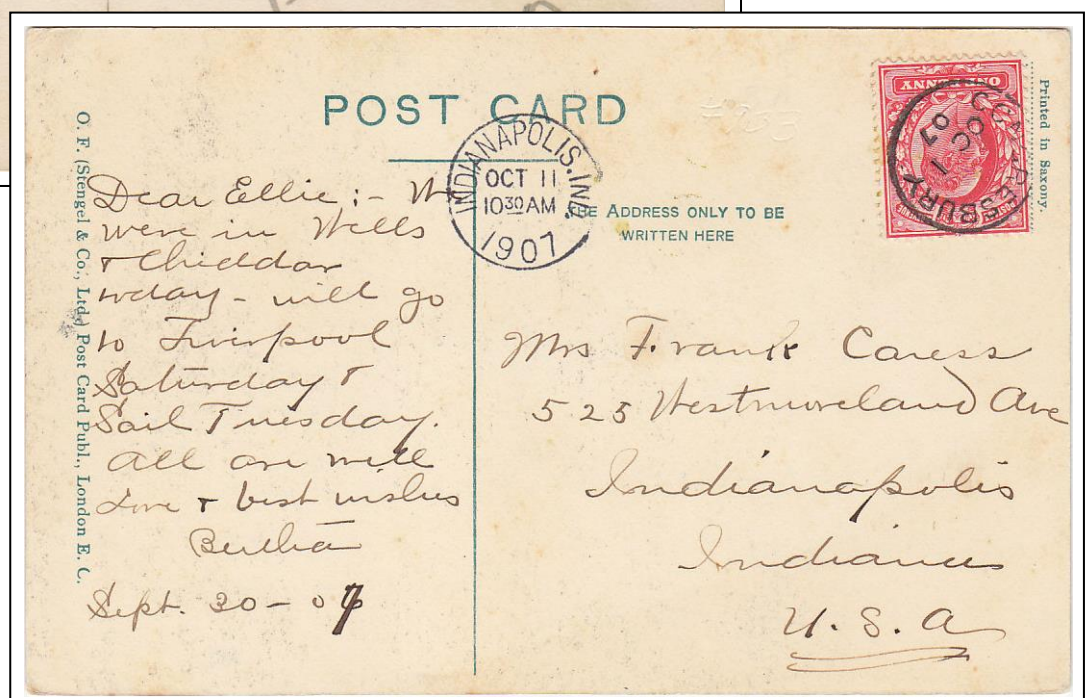
► India to the UK:

Srinagar

1 October 1907

to Reigate

Foreign postcard
rate: 1 anna



► UK to the US:

Congresbury

1 October 1907

Indianapolis IN

11 October 1907

Foreign postcard
rate: 1 penny