

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

International Mail


► UK to Switzerland:

North Walsham

8 July 1905

Wengen

10 July 1905

 Foreign postcard rate:

1 penny (letter rate
was 2½ pence)

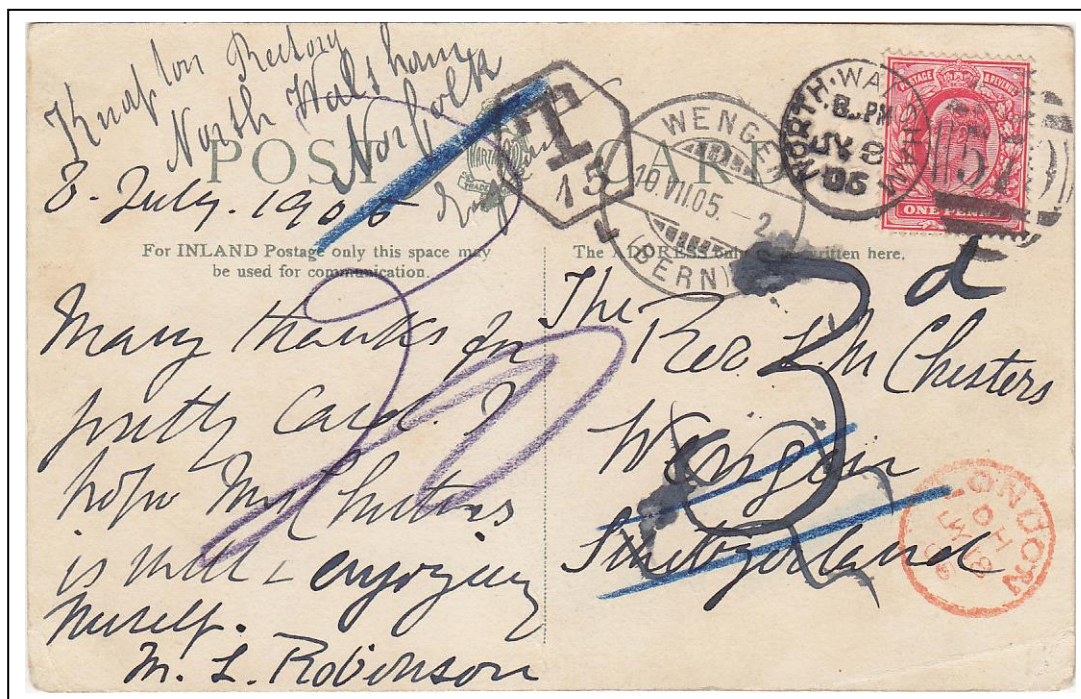
[T] UK: T 15 (centimes
deficiency; L for London)

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

- Forwarded (back) to the UK

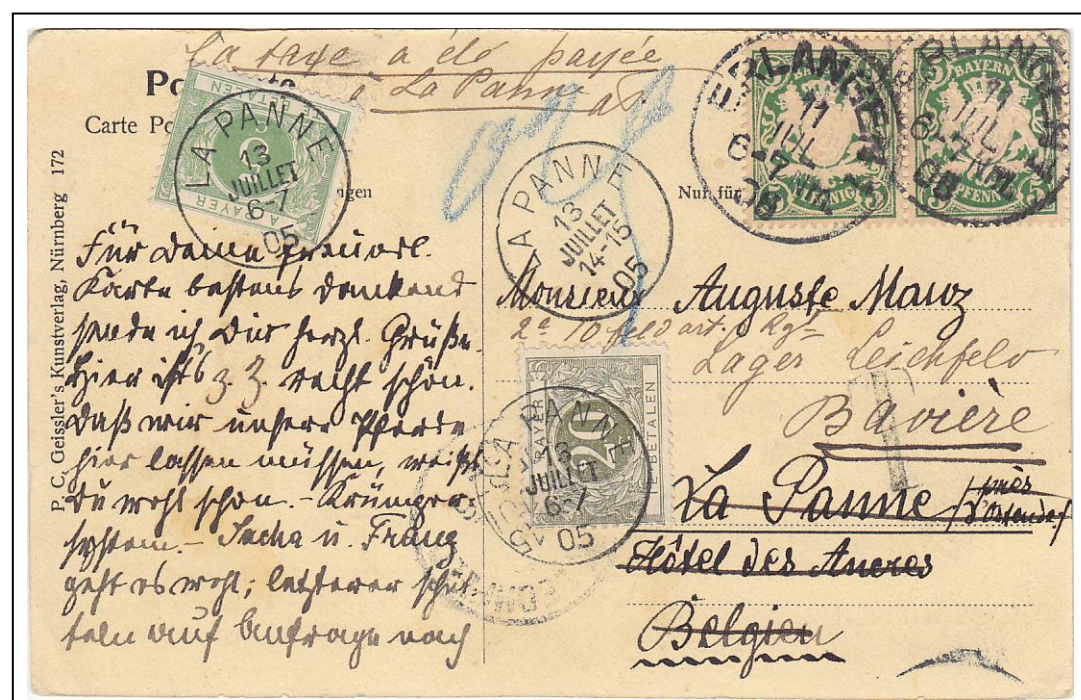
London 18 July 1905

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

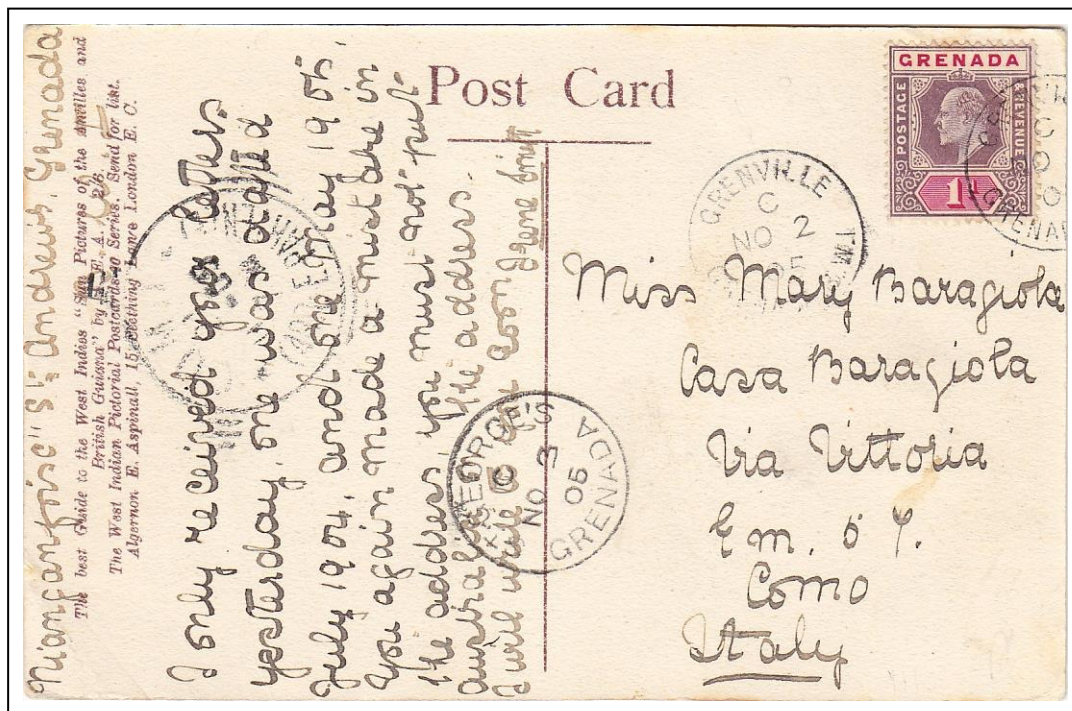


➤ Egypt to the United States:

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)

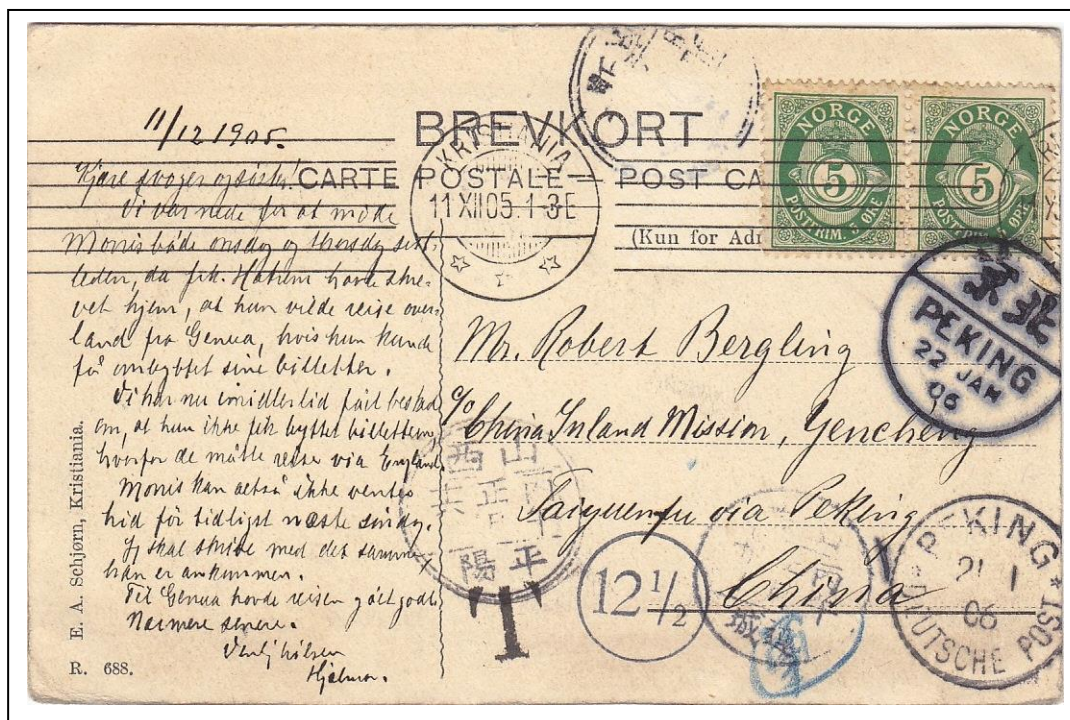
§§ There is no recorded bilateral agreement between Grenada and Italy. When this card was sent, it was Italian policy to charge postage due for incoming divided cards from countries with which Italy had made no such agreements.

5.1 Mistakes and Mysteries

Norway to China • Queensland to Egypt

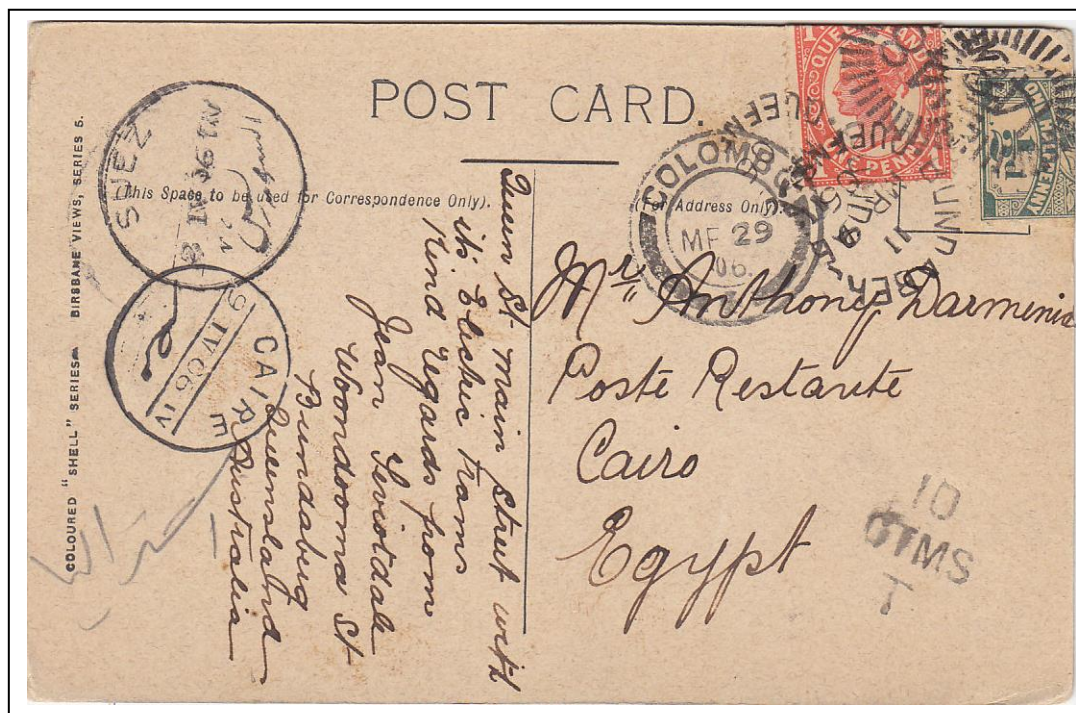
Failure to Charge Postage Due

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.

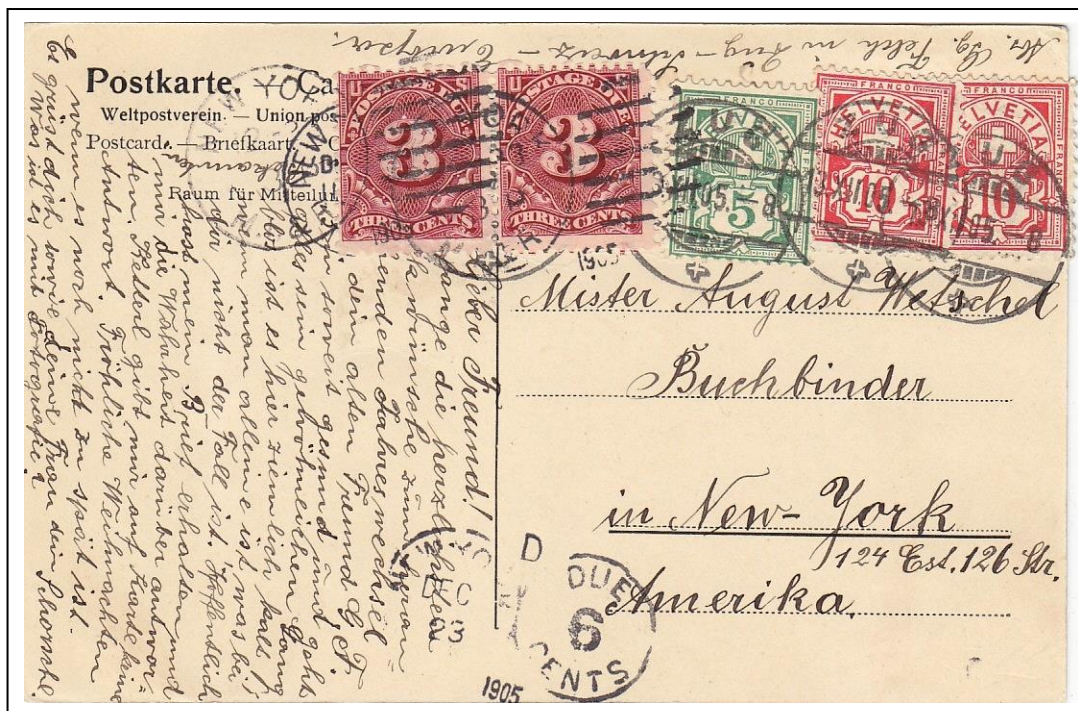
§§ When these cards were sent, the British post normally surcharged incoming divided postcards as letters even if they had no tax marks from the sending country. But in these two cases **no postage due was charged, in accordance with the special UPU rule about registered mail.**

5.3 Mistakes and Mysteries

Switzerland and Malta to the US

Tax Marks Applied in Error

In Spite of Correct Letter Postage

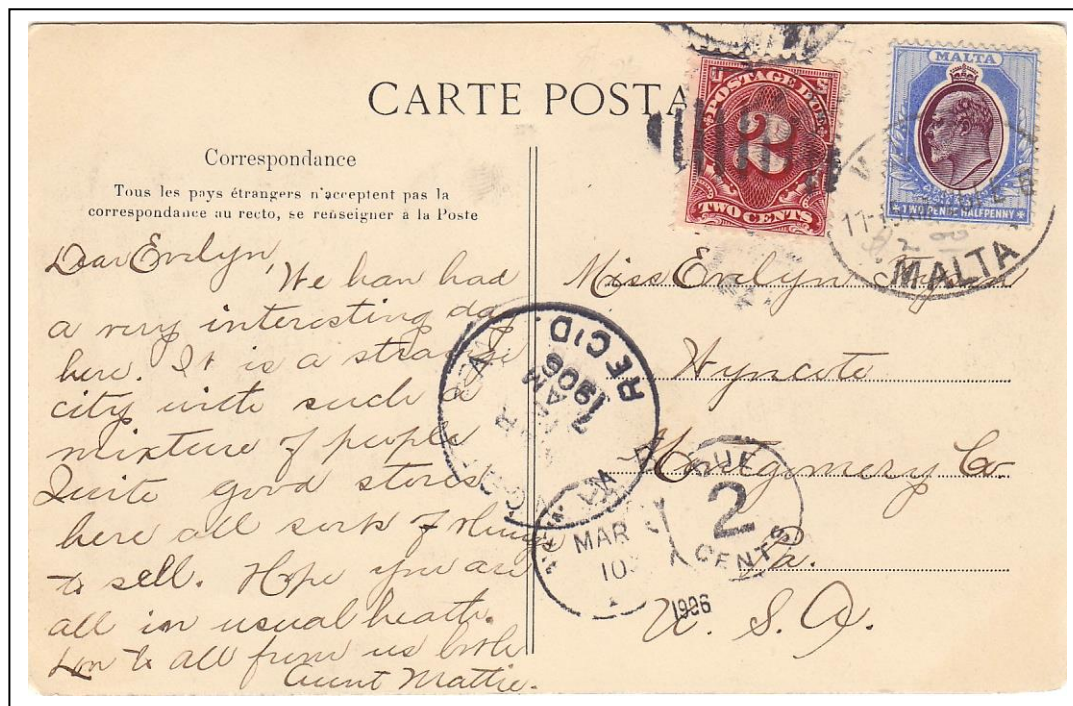


➤ Switzerland to the US: Zug 13 December 1905 – New York 23 December 1905

☐ 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

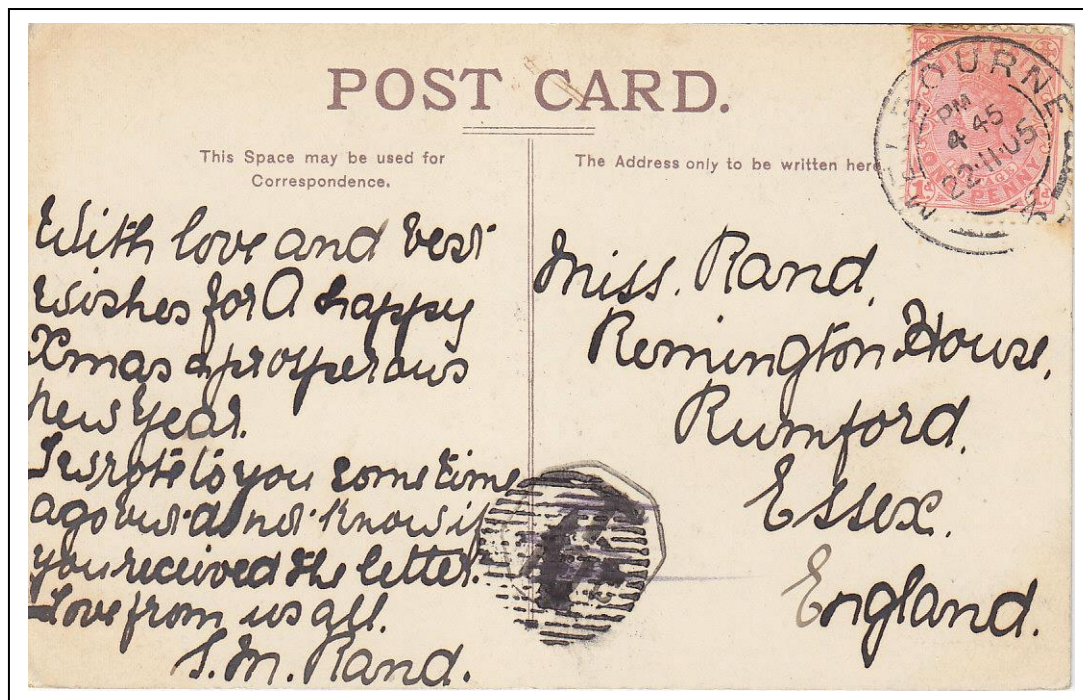
22 November 1905

to Rumford

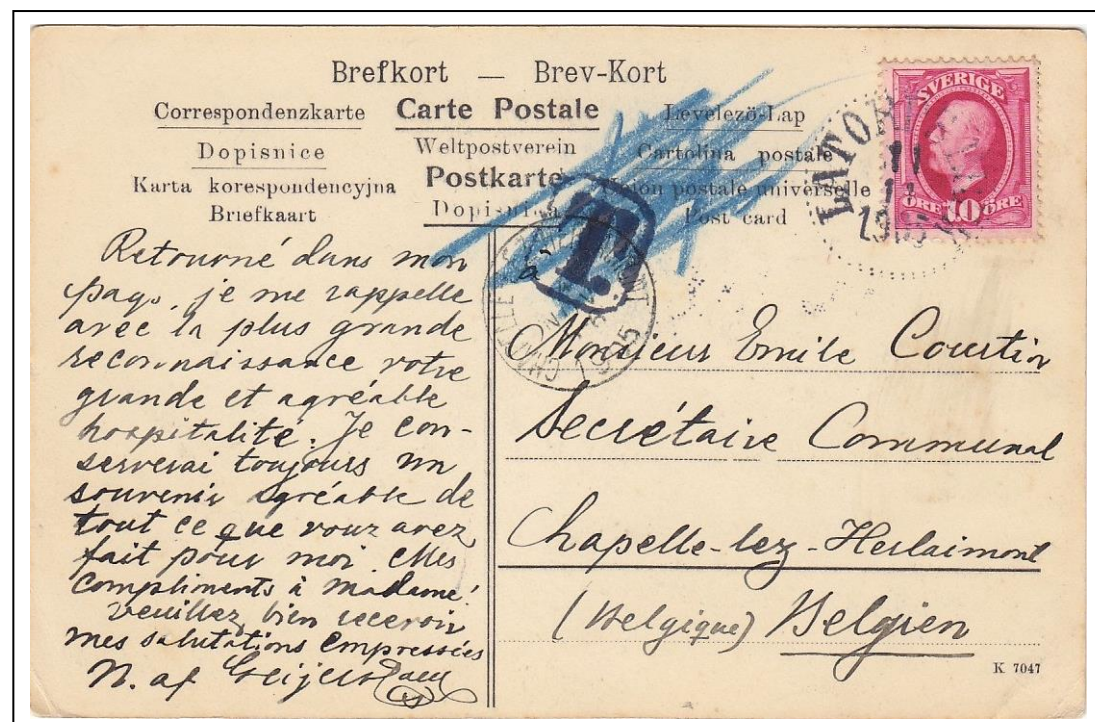
Postcard rate to the UK: 1 penny

[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

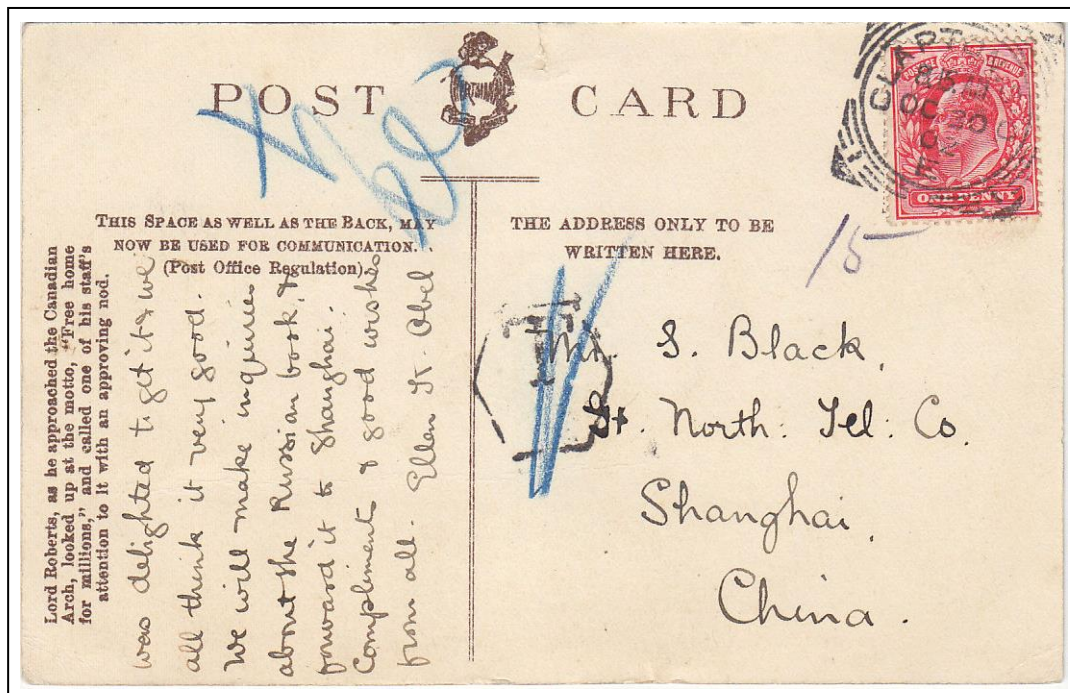
[T] Sweden: T and 12½ (taxed as letter); tax marks later deleted

§§ 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

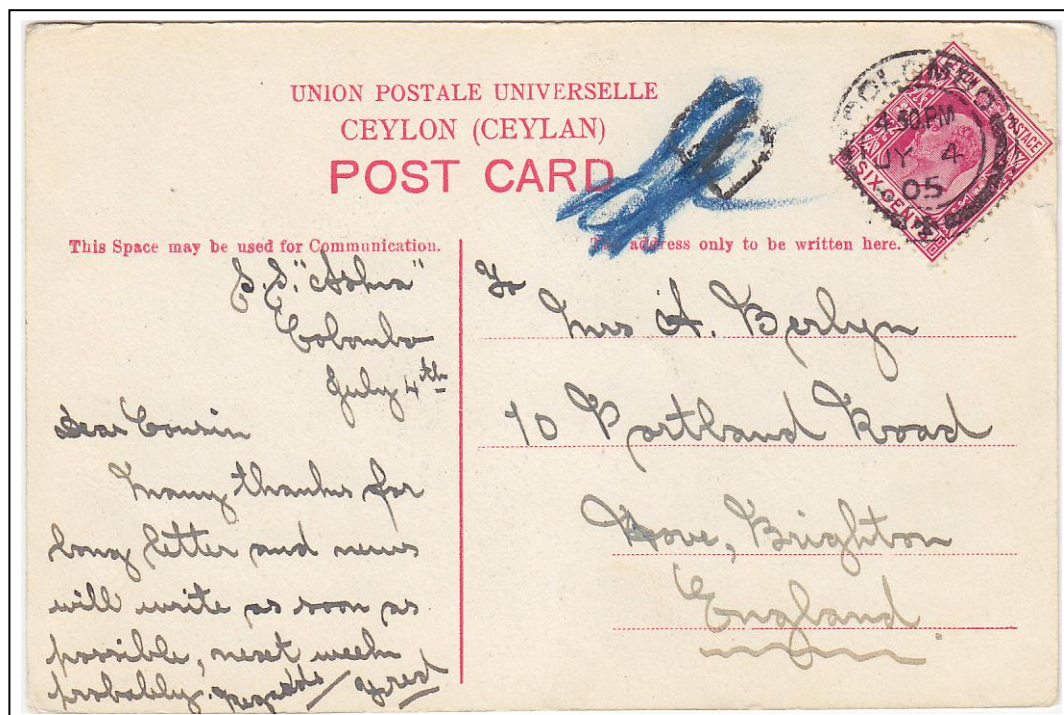


► UK to China: Clapton 30 October 1902 – Shanghai

☐ 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

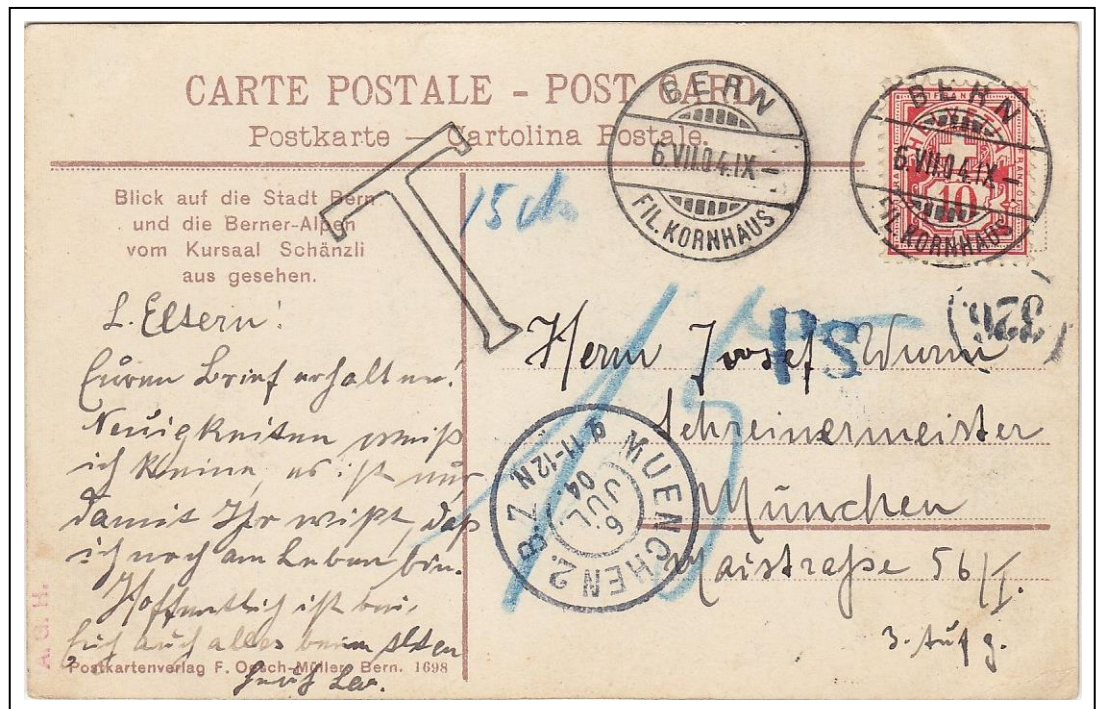
Muenchen
6 July 1904

☐ 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

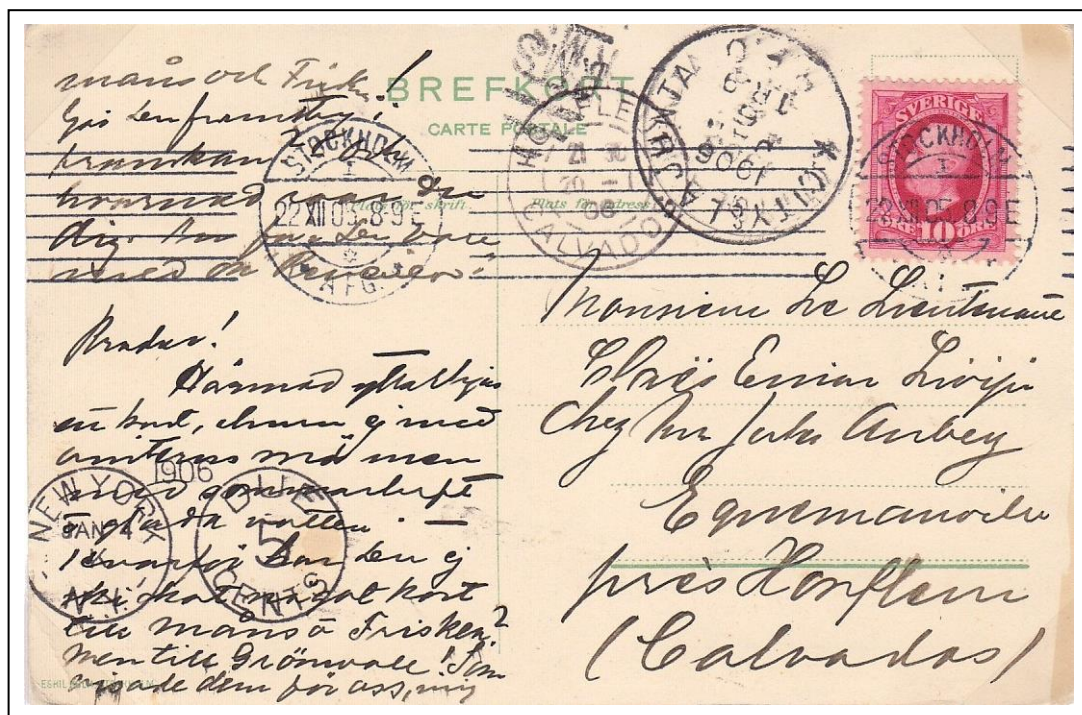
6 January 1906

► Resent to Europe

Honfleur

20 January 1906

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

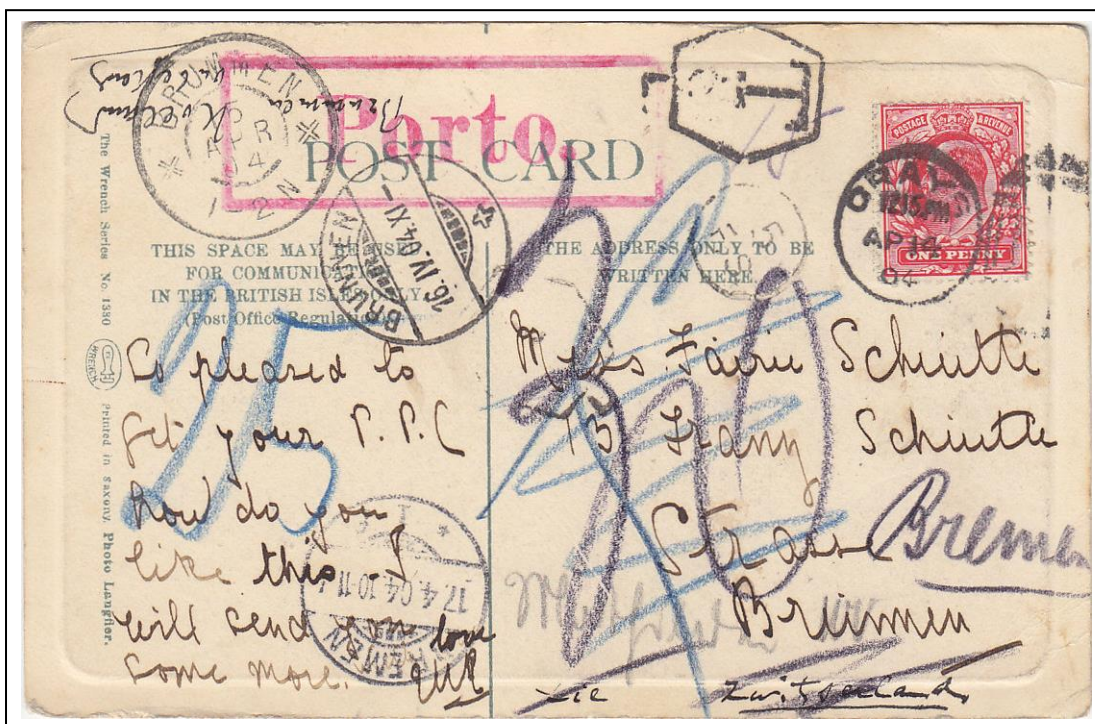


§§ Bilateral agreement Sweden-France 1 April 1905, but no agreement Sweden-US.

[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

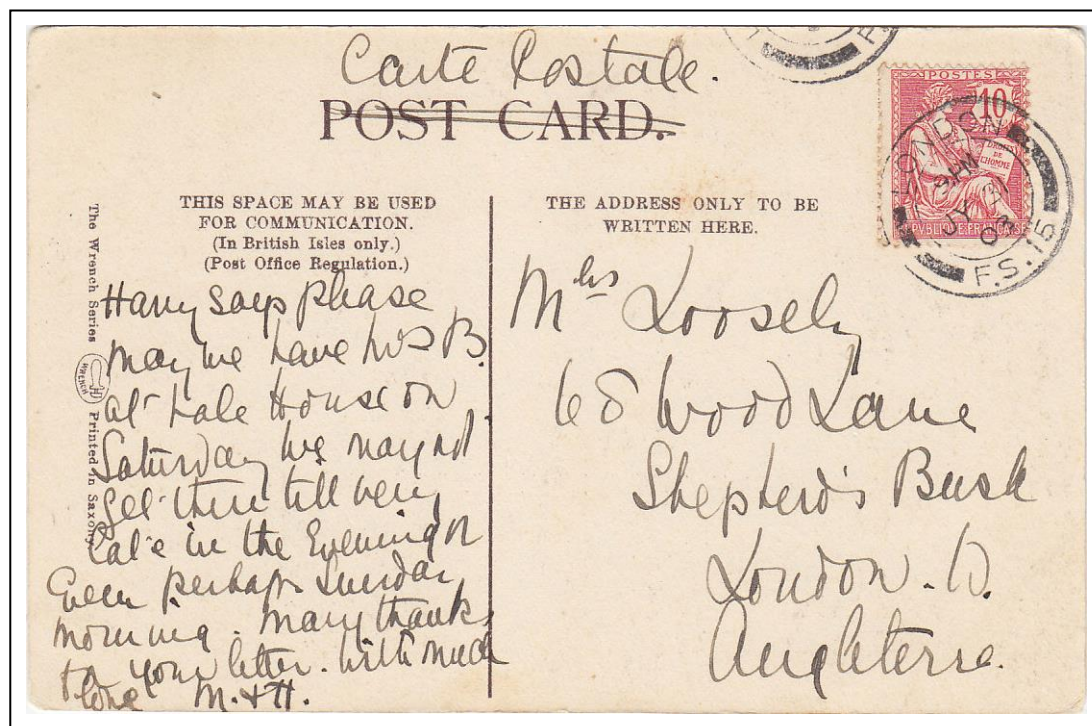
☐ Domestic postcard rate: 10 centimos, with postmark from Valencia

☐ 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 centimes (letter rate was 25 centimes)

[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)

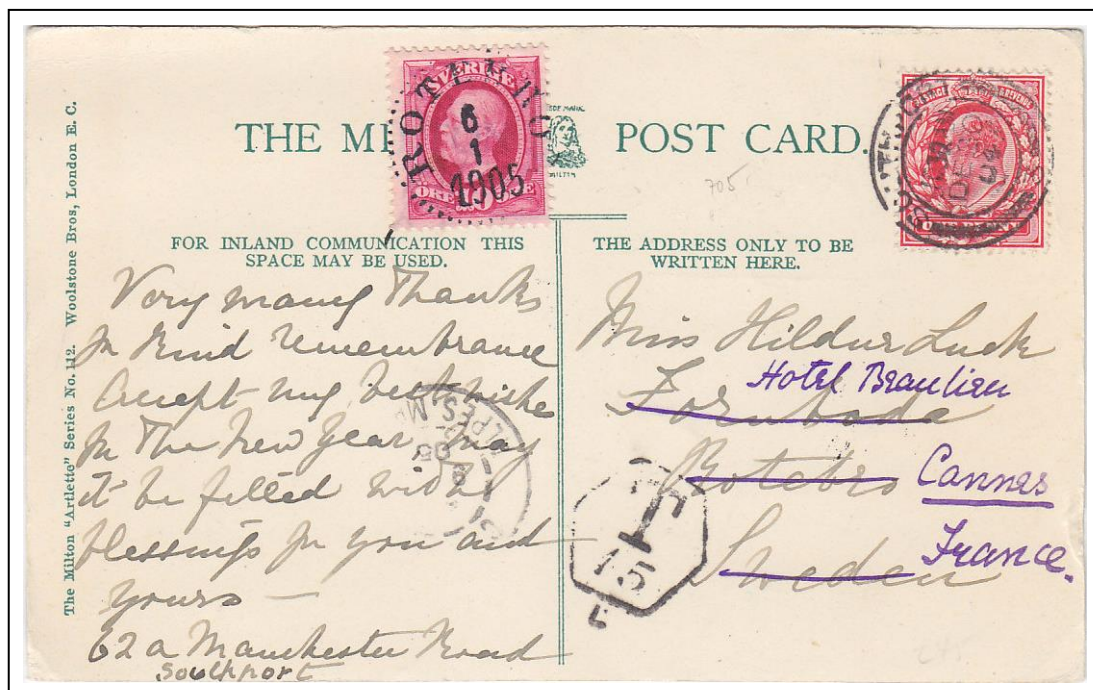
[T] UK: T 15 (centimes
deficiency), L for London

[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

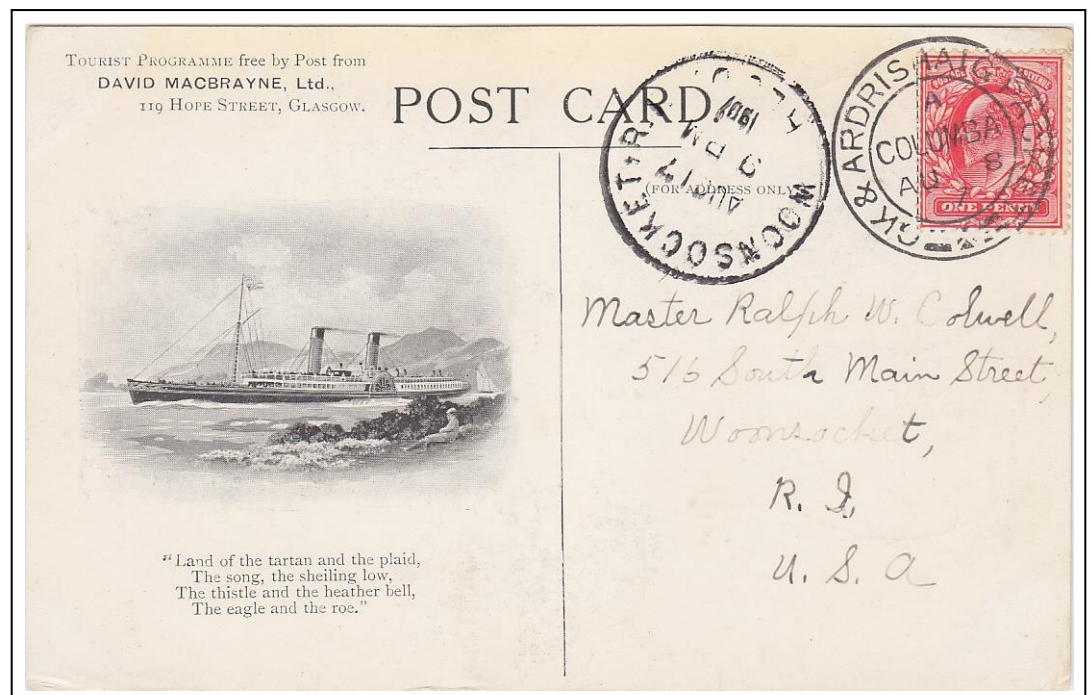
A Columba

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

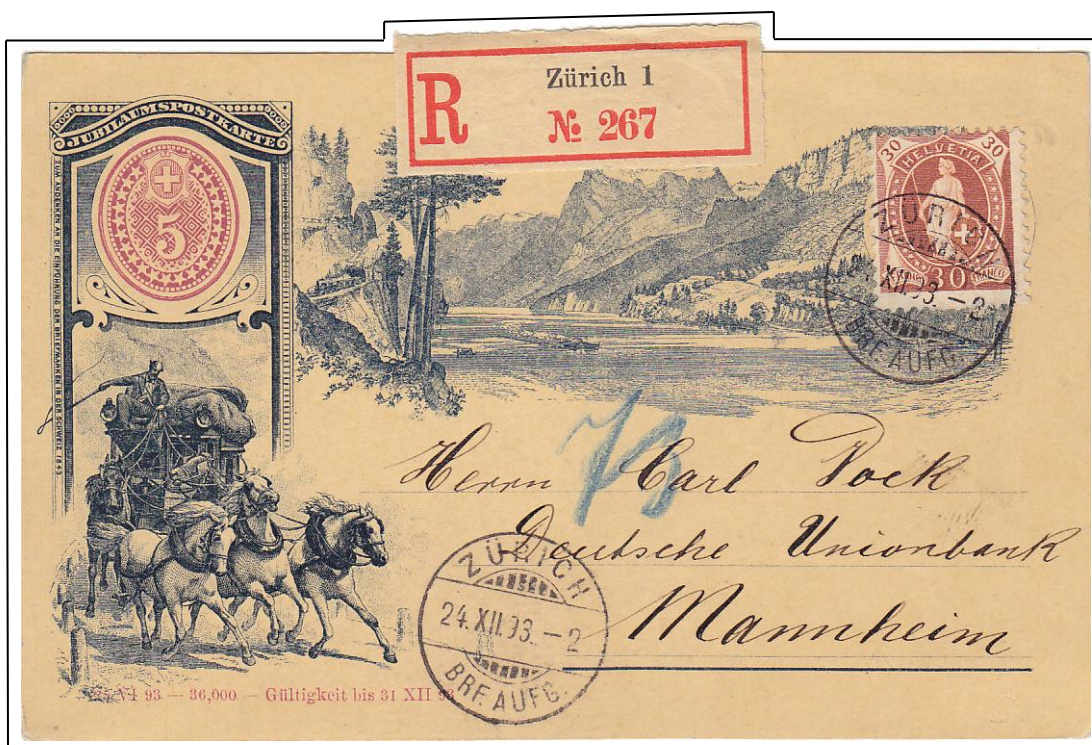
Bruxelles

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

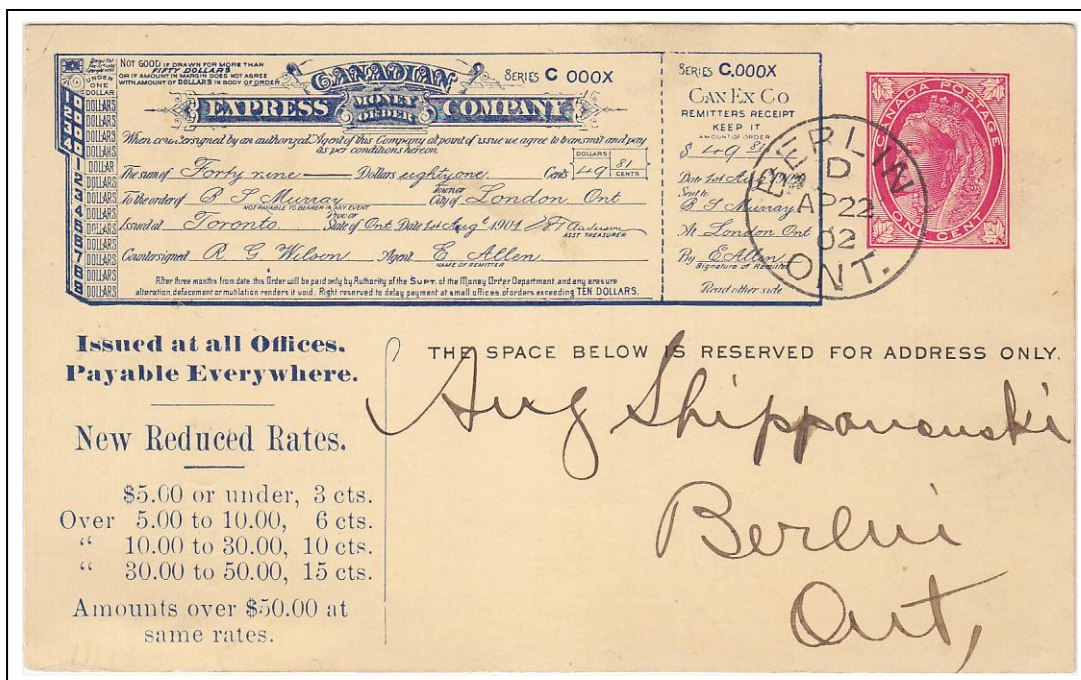
6.1 Format Variations

Canada

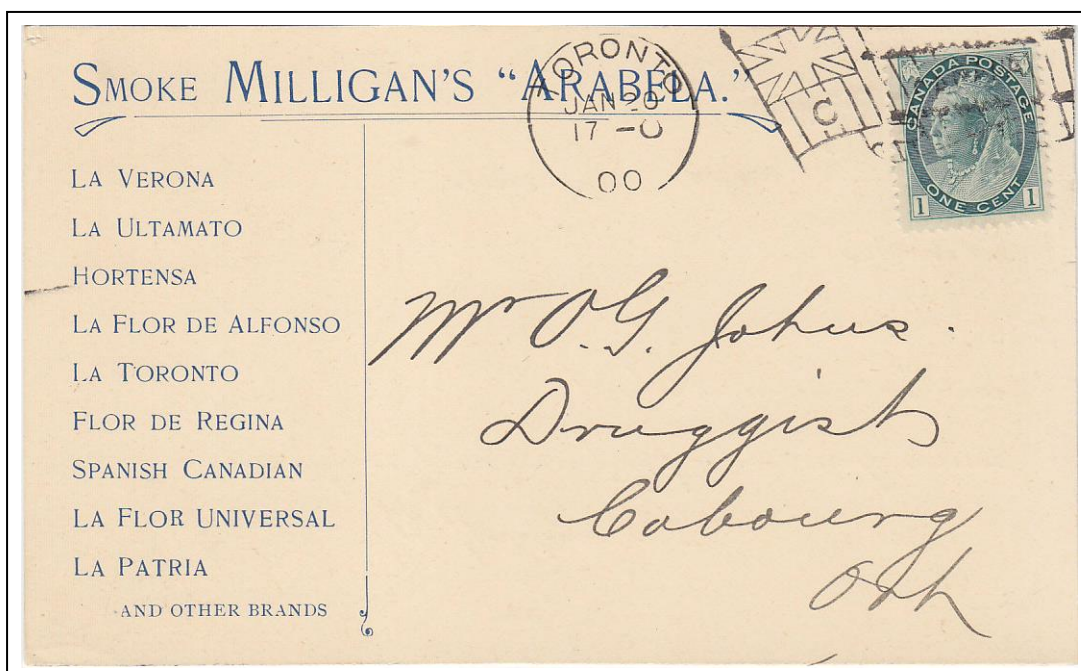
Forerunners

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.

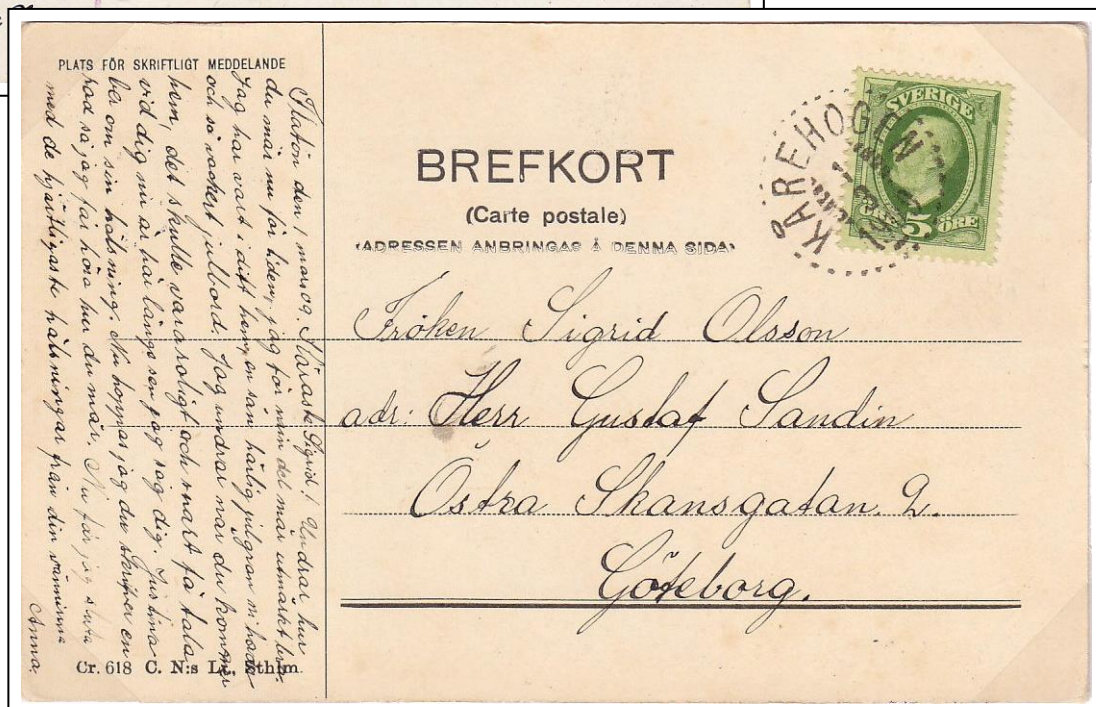
Printed lines for the address run across the whole card, indicating that the dividing line was added after the original printing.

► 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

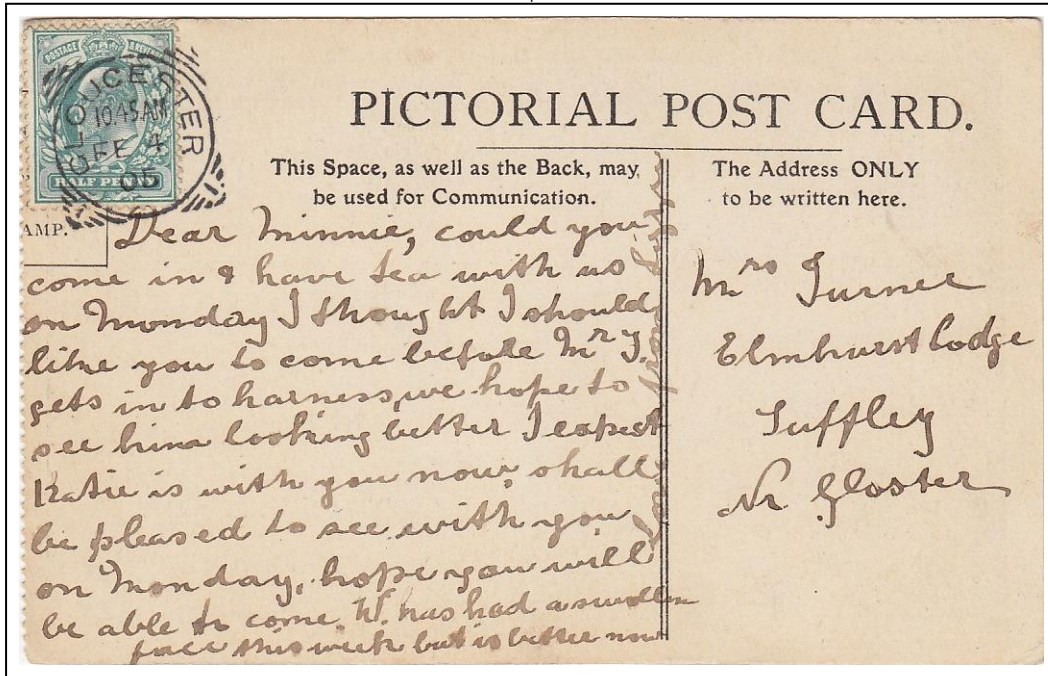
6.3 Format Variations


United Kingdom • France to Italy

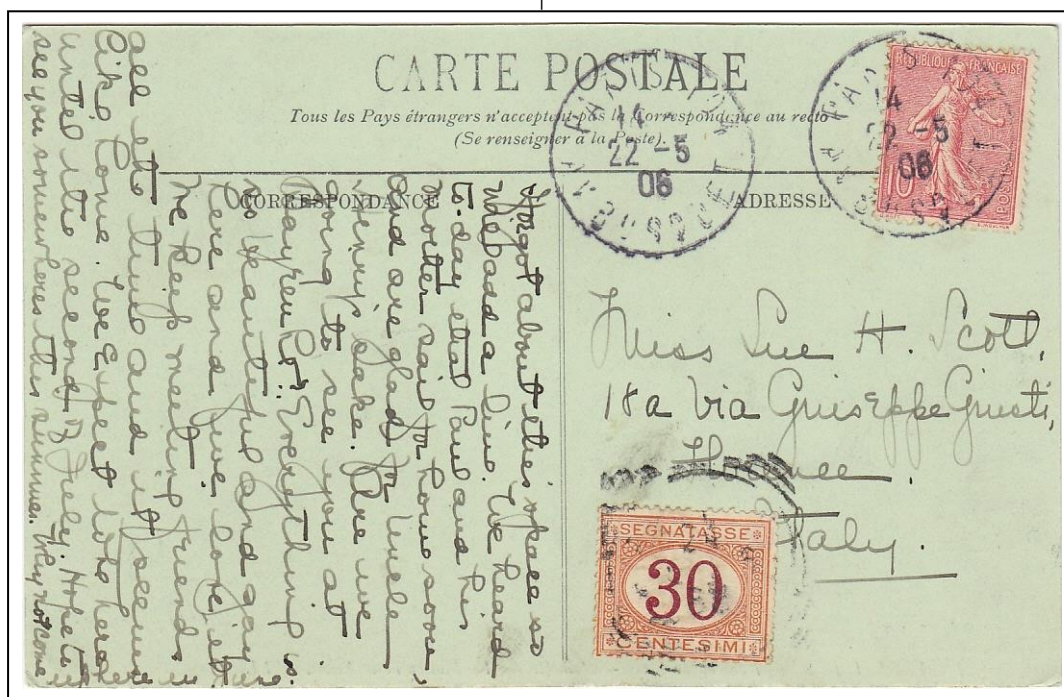
Size of Message Side

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

United Kingdom • Russia

Using More than Half the Address Side

15th Sept '06
Lawrence, Mulberry, Dublin

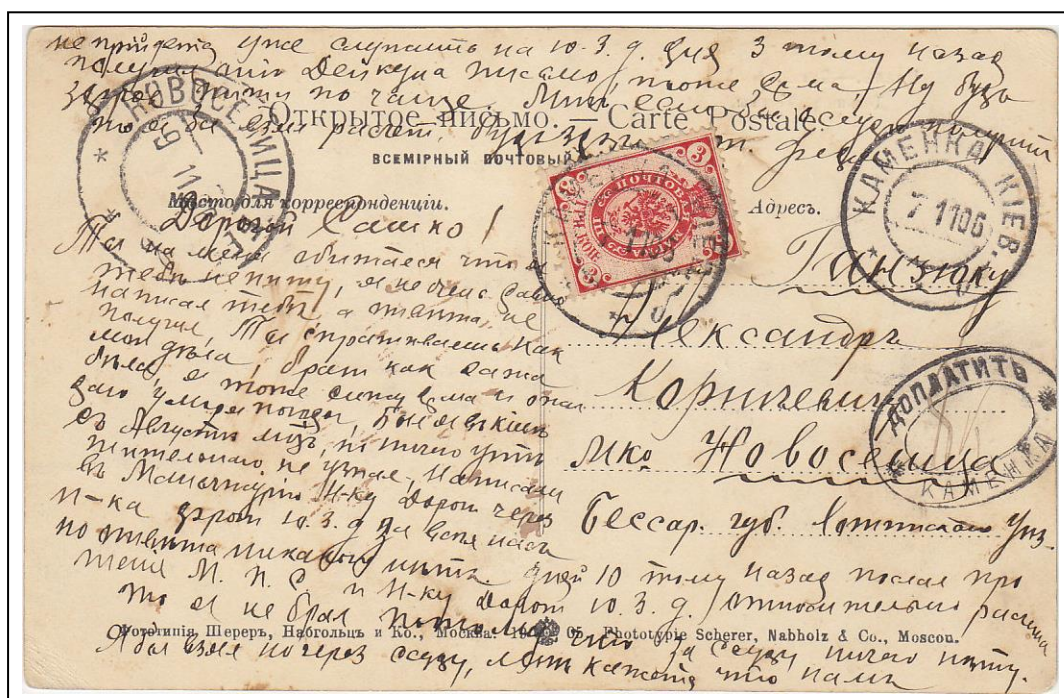
Dear Mother,
Had a letter from Sam a
few days ago. Expect to hear from
him soon again. Will be home about
end of month. Going on well
all through. ~~How~~ Feeling quite well
again. Increasing in weight. ~~When~~
They settled down to work
again after the Race. Gradually
went in town during the night.
Expect, ~~glad to know~~ which Sam
is alright again. How Sam's always
let me know about him. Hope
all at home are O.K. Tell Mary
I was acing for him. ~~John~~


WICKLOW
POST OFFICE
THE OFFICE OF
WRITTEN

10
STONE
SEP 18 1896
P.M.
STONE

Wm W. Hurley
Pembroke Street
4th floor
Co. Kerry

► 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

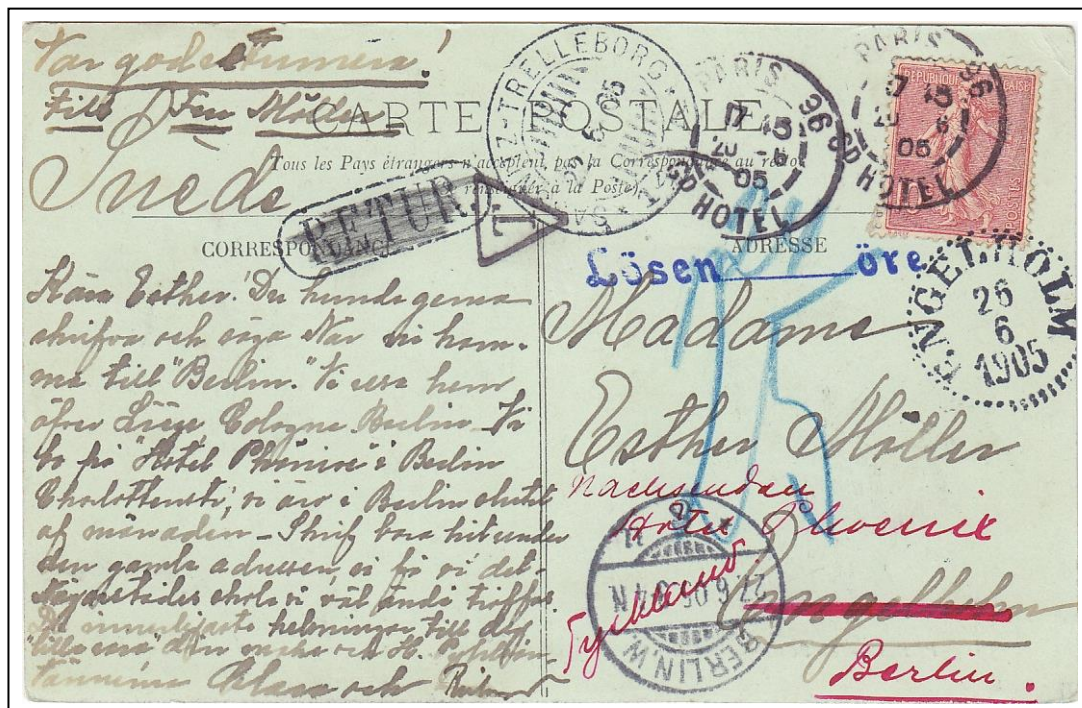
Writing Outside Designated Area

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)

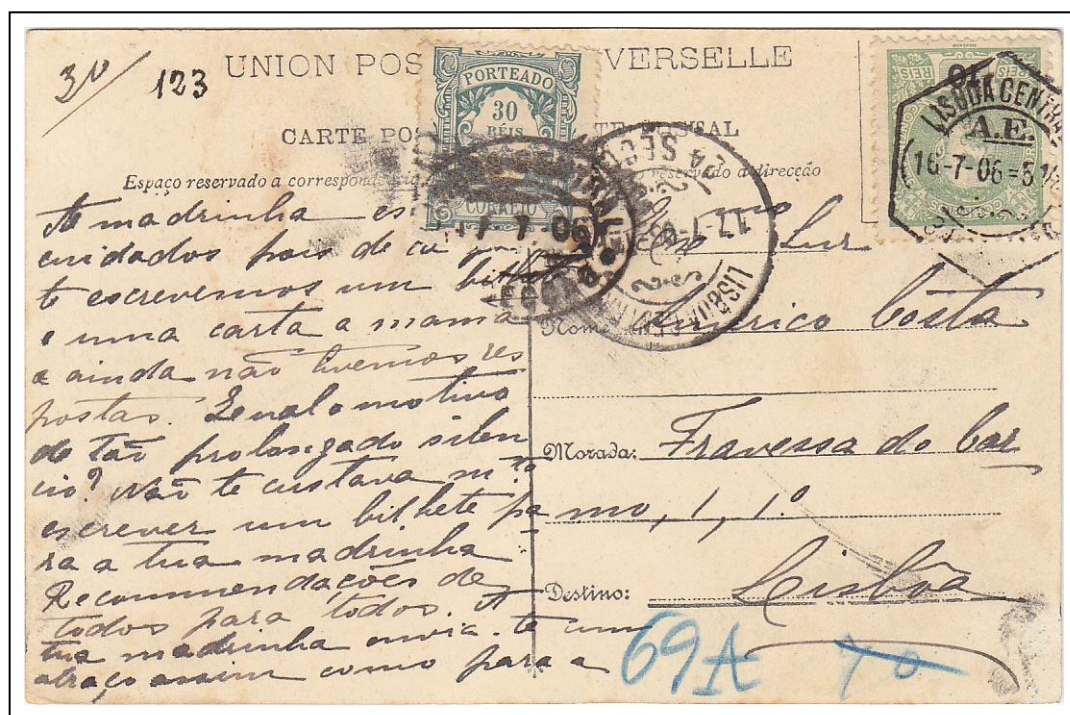
France-Sweden:

[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

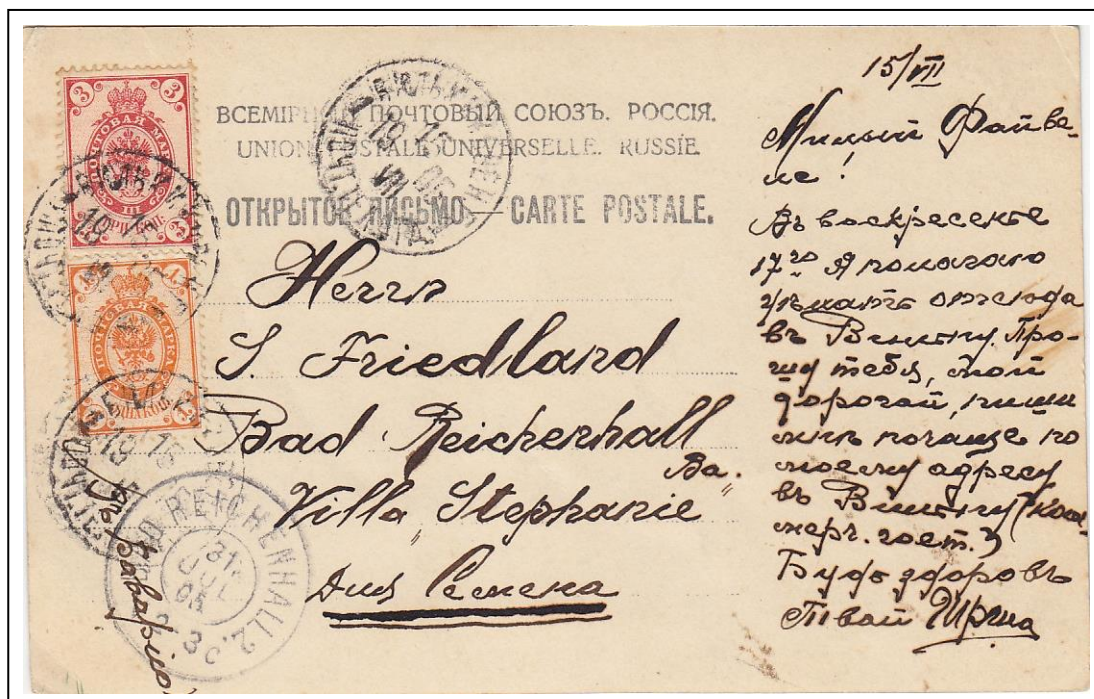
6.5 Format Variations

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:

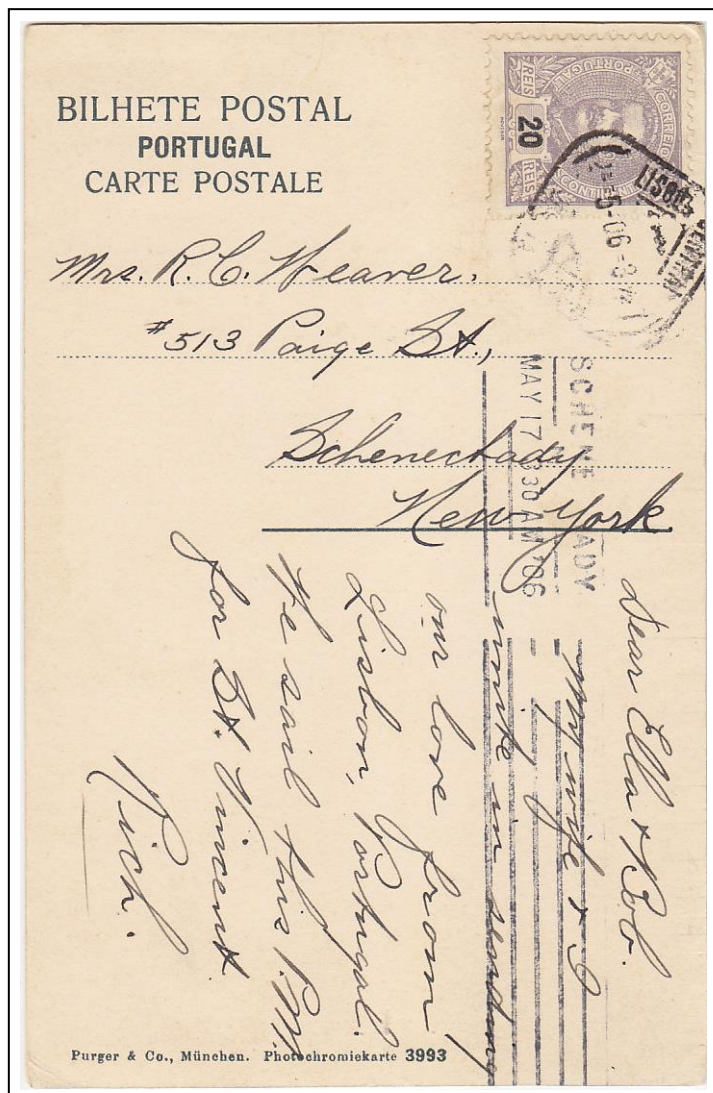
Ambulancia Norte II (Oporto-Lisbon)

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

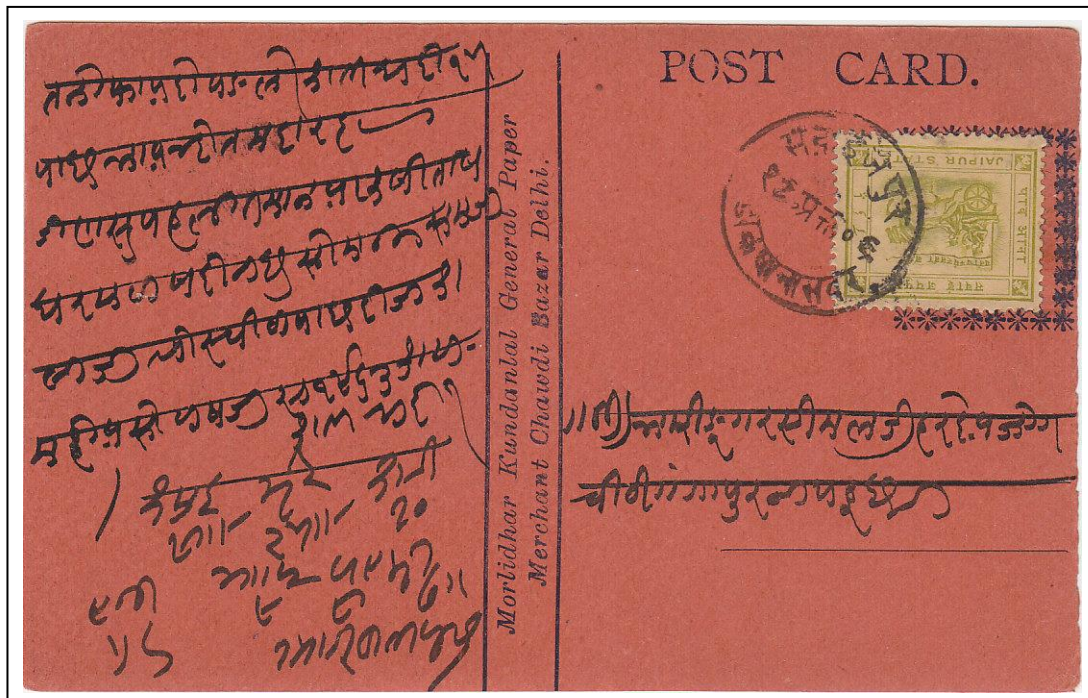
📮 Foreign postcard rate: 20 para

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

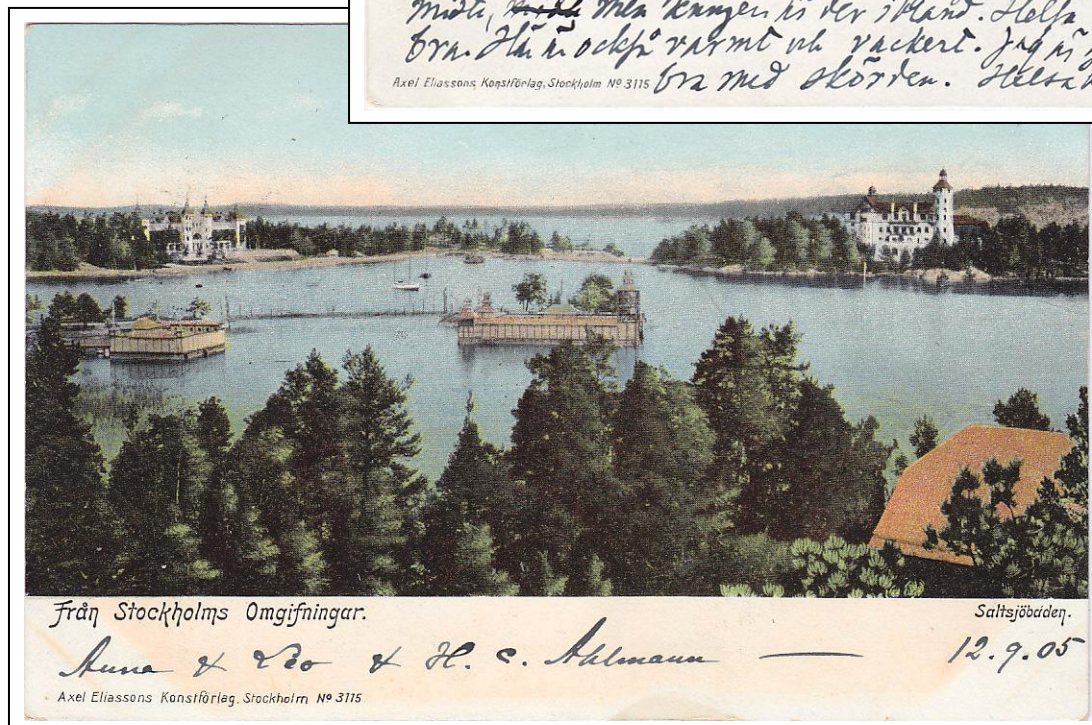
New Design of the Image Side Due to the Introduction of Divided Cards

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.



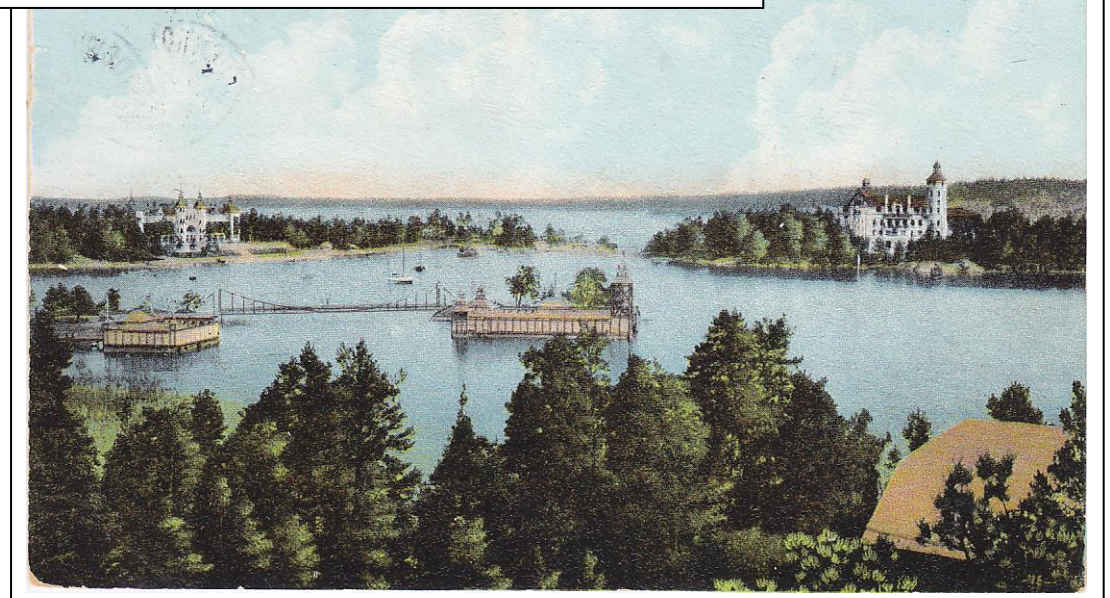
Above: Undivided card
with a white space for
correspondence on the
image side.
(September 1903)



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

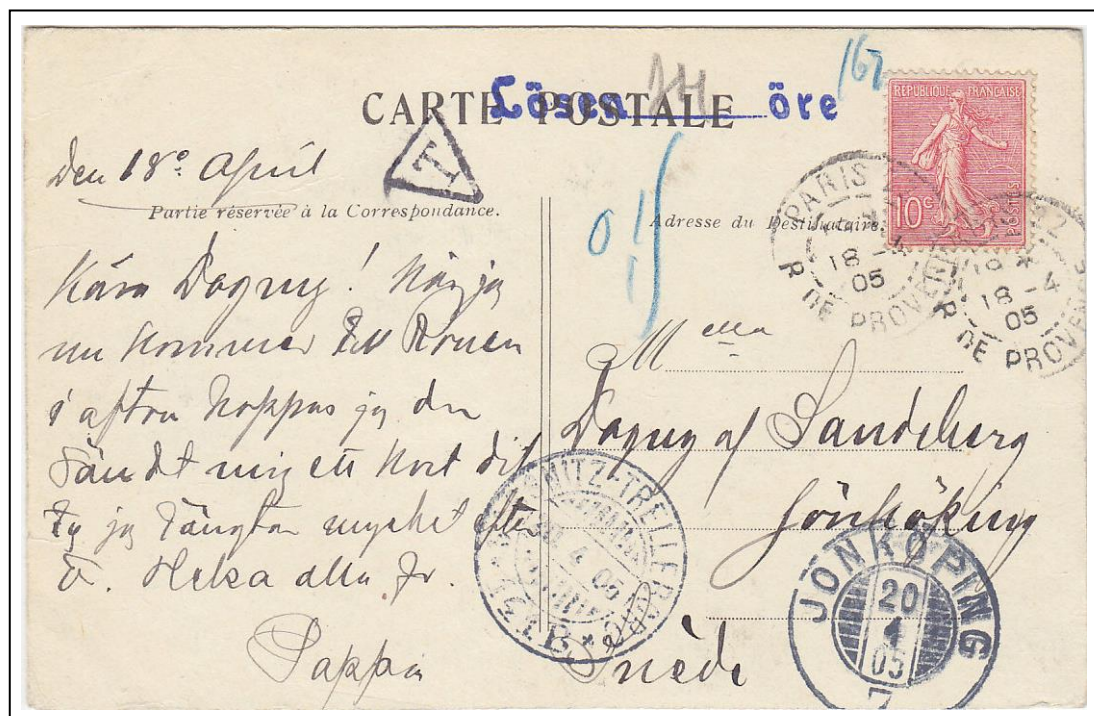
24 April 1903

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

Sassnitz-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).

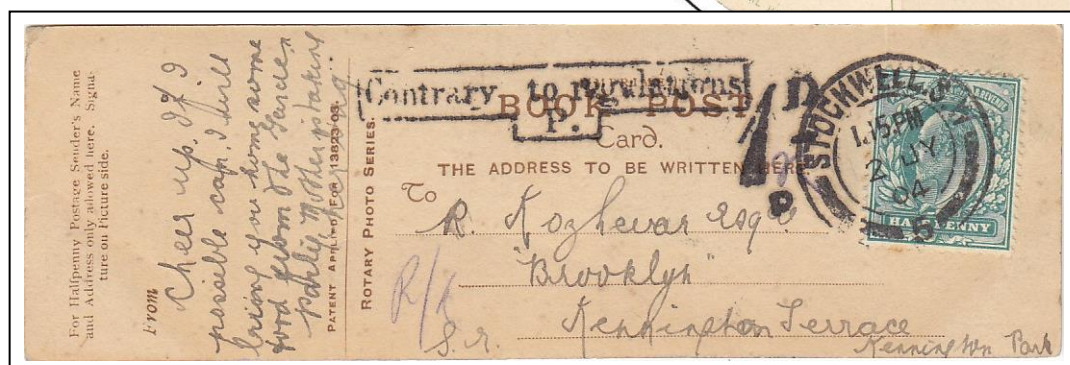
6.8 Format Variations

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.

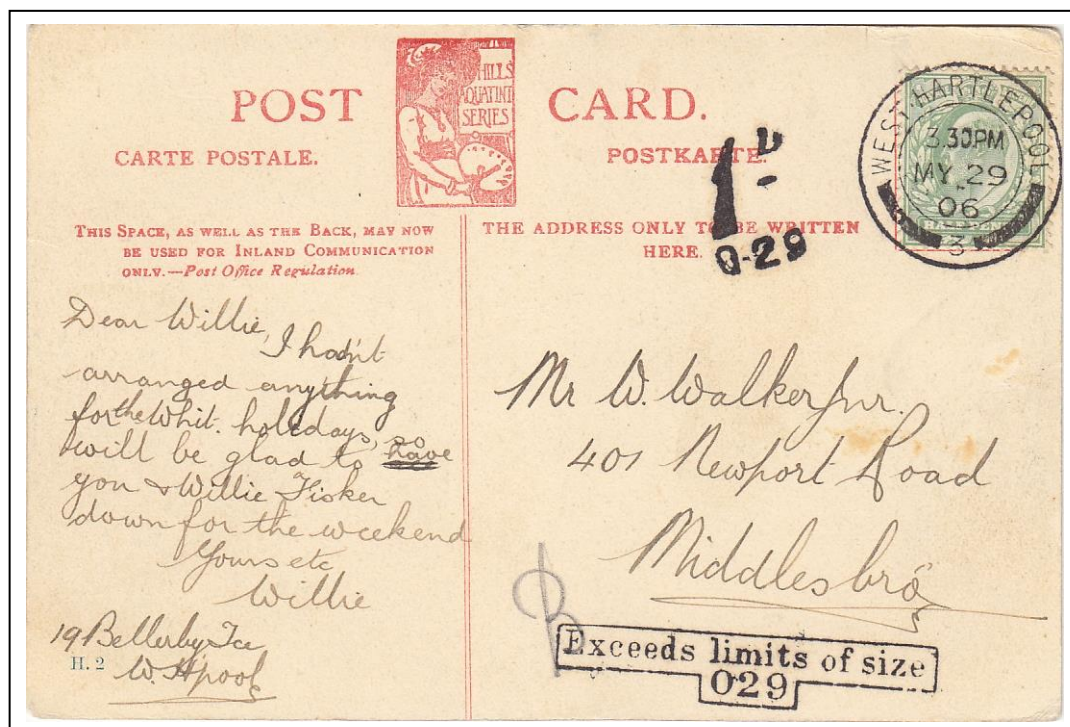


► Divided 'Book Post Card',
domestic use in the UK:

Stockwell 2 July 1904
to Kennington Park

☐ Postcard rate 1/2d

[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 1/2d

[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:

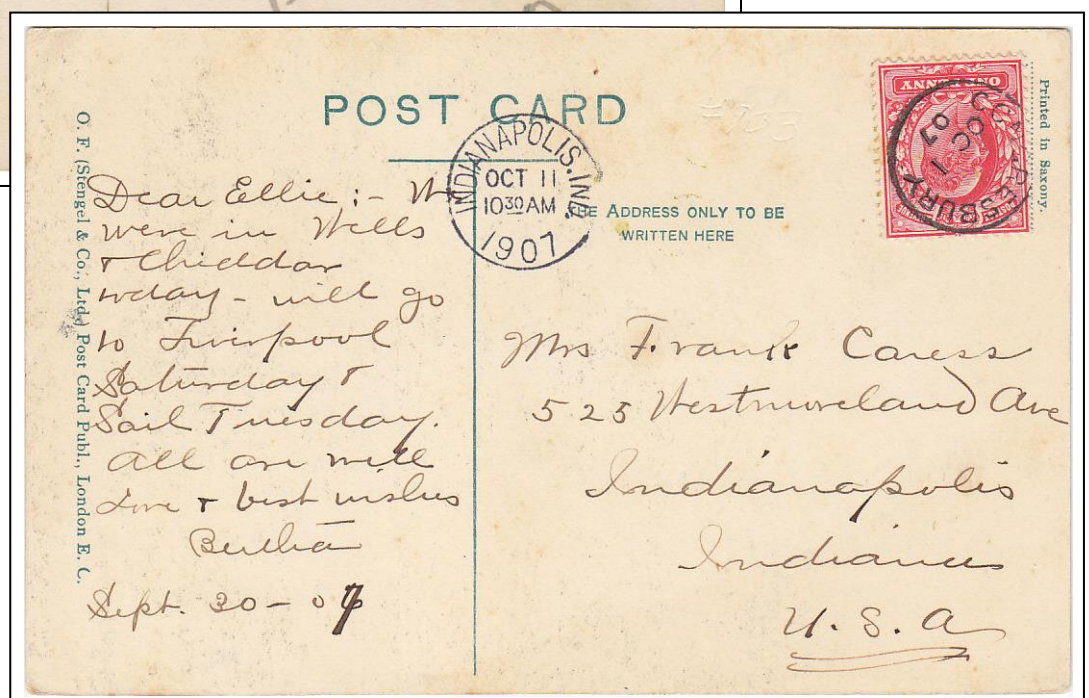
Dillard OR
1 October 1907
to Roseburg OR

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