

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. After a brief pre-history (1), it starts with postcards accepted at the postcard rate (2), cards sent with penny postage within the British empire (3), and postcards with letter postage (4). Cards in these sections were in most cases correctly handled by senders and postal clerks. Two subsequent sections show mistakes – either by the sender, causing postage due (5), or by the post (6). The final sections show layout varieties of divided cards (7) and, finally, the end of postal confusion (8).

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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. 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
- ☐ Item of particular importance to the exhibit

Examples of domestic mail are included, 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 *The Posthorn* (3/2014), *The London Philatelist* (June 2015), *India Post* (3/2017) and *Collectors Club Philatelist* (2/2021).



- 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.

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

1. Pre-History

The exhibit starts with a brief 'pre-history' of divided postcards. Before the format of postcards was regulated by the UPU, national rules generally said that only the address was permitted on the address side of the postcard, and that personal correspondence should be written on the reverse (first card below). Rules to that effect were also incorporated into the first explicit UPU regulations regarding the format and layout of postcards in international mail exchange at the congress in Paris 1878 (second card below). The 1885 Lisbon congress in addition decided that the sender could add his or her own name and address to the address side of the card (section 1.1.)

Picture postcards began to appear in the late 1880s, and the 1891 UPU congress in Vienna decided that illustrations should be permitted on the back of the postcard. Yet images and other decorations were sometimes also printed on the address side (1.2). The Washington congress of 1897 introduced more liberal rules in this regard, and accepted printed 'vignettes and advertisements' on the address side (1.3). However, if hand-written messages appeared on the address side, the card should be taxed as a letter according to UPU rules. In most countries, this rule also applied to inland mail. But there was at least one exception: the UK (1.4). That exception paved the way for the divided postcard.

► France:

OR (Rural mail)

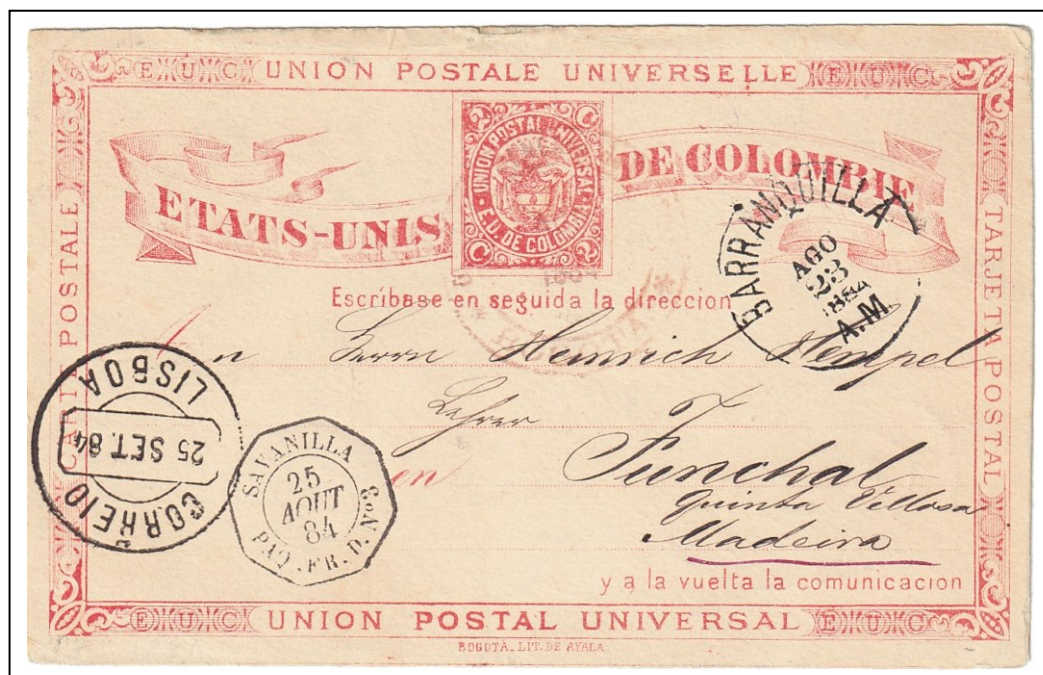
La Roche-Guyon (3164)
25 May 1875

Vaux
26 May 1875

☑ Formula card with 15 centimes postage for domestic postcard rate

§§ Instruction (to the left):

Only the address should be on this side of the card. The other side is reserved for correspondence.



► Colombia to Madeira:

Bogotá 8 August 1884

Barranquilla 23 August 1884

Savanilla Paqb. Fr. D. N° 3
25 August 1884

Lisboa 25 September 1884

Funchal 3 October 1884

☑ Foreign postcard rate: 2 centavos

§§ Postal stationery card with instruction adhering to UPU rules from 1878: *Write the address on this side and the correspondence on the reverse.*

1.1 Pre-History

Germany • Denmark to Norway

Address of the Sender

Permitted by the UPU in 1885

§§ The UPU congress in Lisbon 1885 decided that the sender could add his or her name and address on the address side of postcards. This regulation entered into force on 1 April 1886 and constitutes a first step towards more liberal rules regarding the use of the address side. Most countries applied UPU rules for inland mail (first card) as well as for international mail (second card).



- Germany: Dresden-Altstadt **1 April 1886** – Lissen bei Osterfeld/Naumburg
☑ Domestic postcard rate: 5 pfennig

Address stamp of the sender applied the first day this was permitted by the UPU.



- Denmark to Norway: Kjøbenhavn 20 April 1886 – Kristiansund
☑ Scandinavian postcard rate: 5 øre

Address stamp of the sender applied the first month this was permitted by the UPU.

1.2 Pre-History

Belgium • Switzerland to Germany

Illustrations Accepted in the 1890s

§§ The 1891 UPU congress in Vienna maintained 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 during the 1890s. That continued the process towards more liberal practices regarding the use of the address side.

► Belgium:

Salzinne (Namur)

14 June 1896

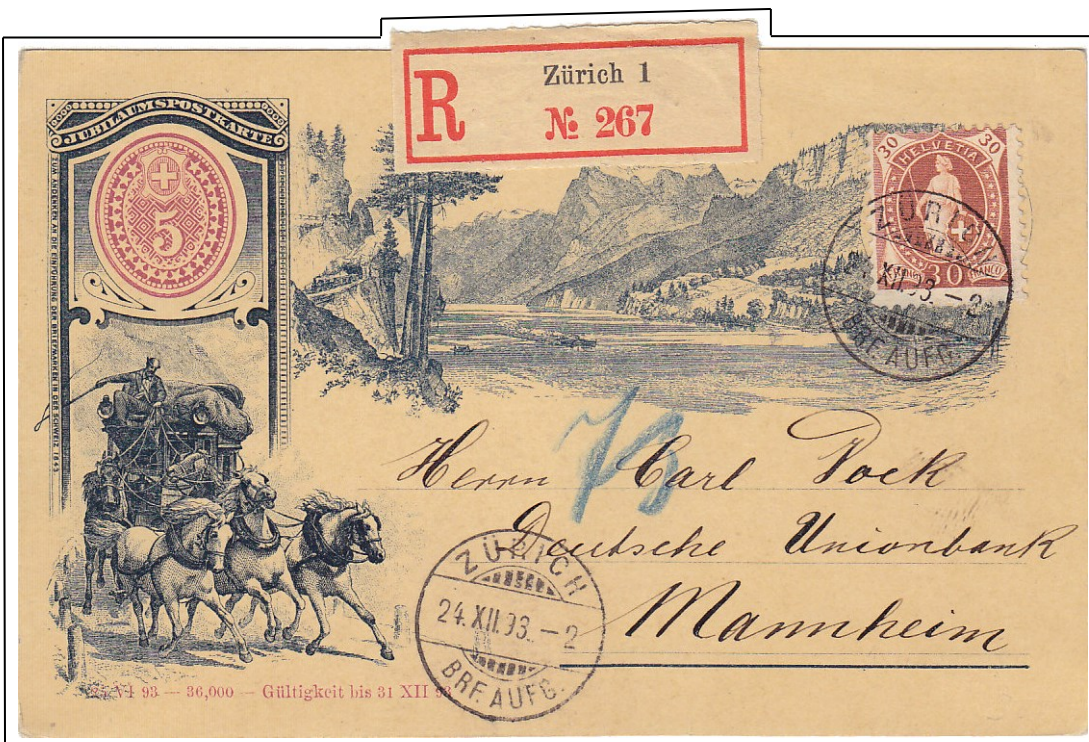
Bruxelles

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

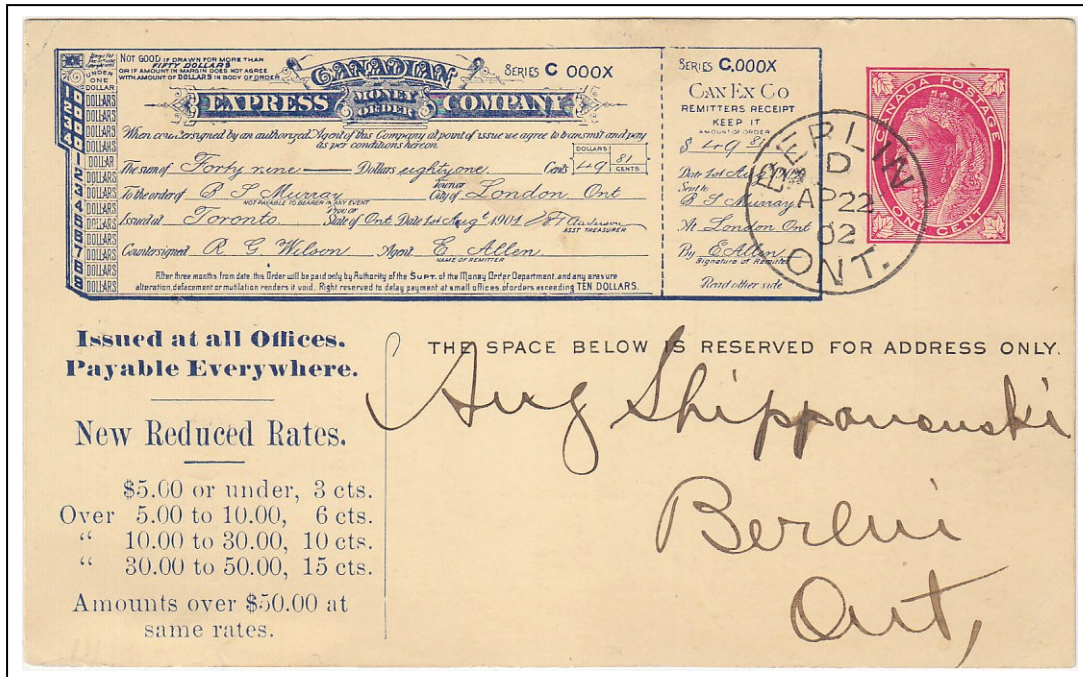
☒ Foreign postcard rate:
10 centimes

☒ Registration fee:
25 centimes

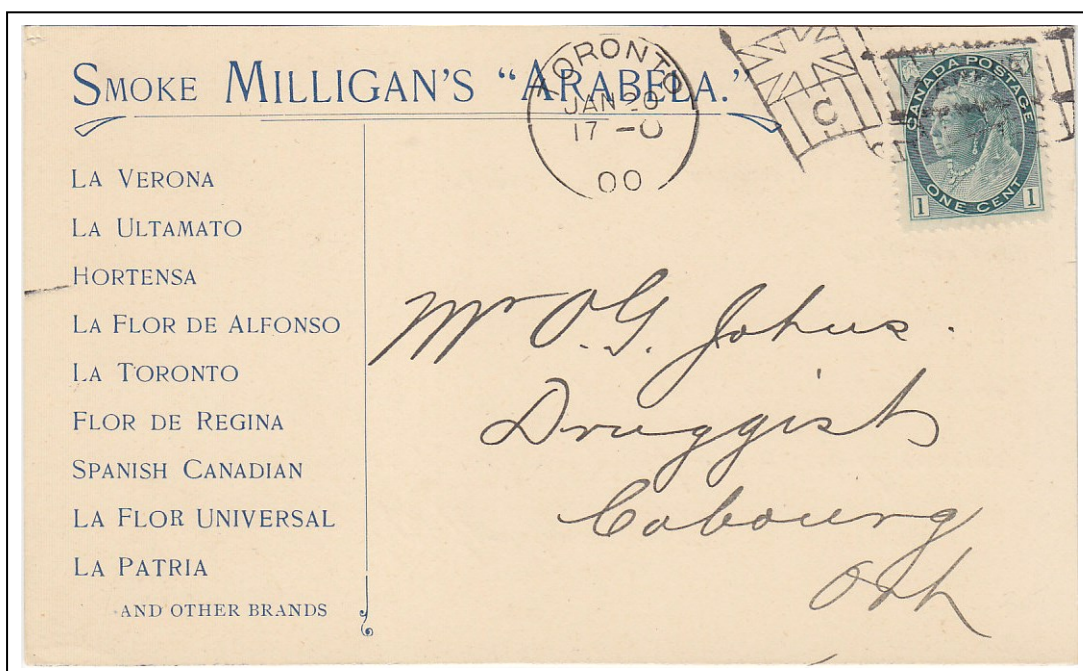
1.3 Pre-History Canada

Vignettes and Advertisements Permitted by the UPU in 1897

§§ 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 **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'. ➤ Canada (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. ➤ Canada: Toronto 20 January 1900 – Cobourg Ont.

1.4 Pre-History NSW to Tasmania • UK

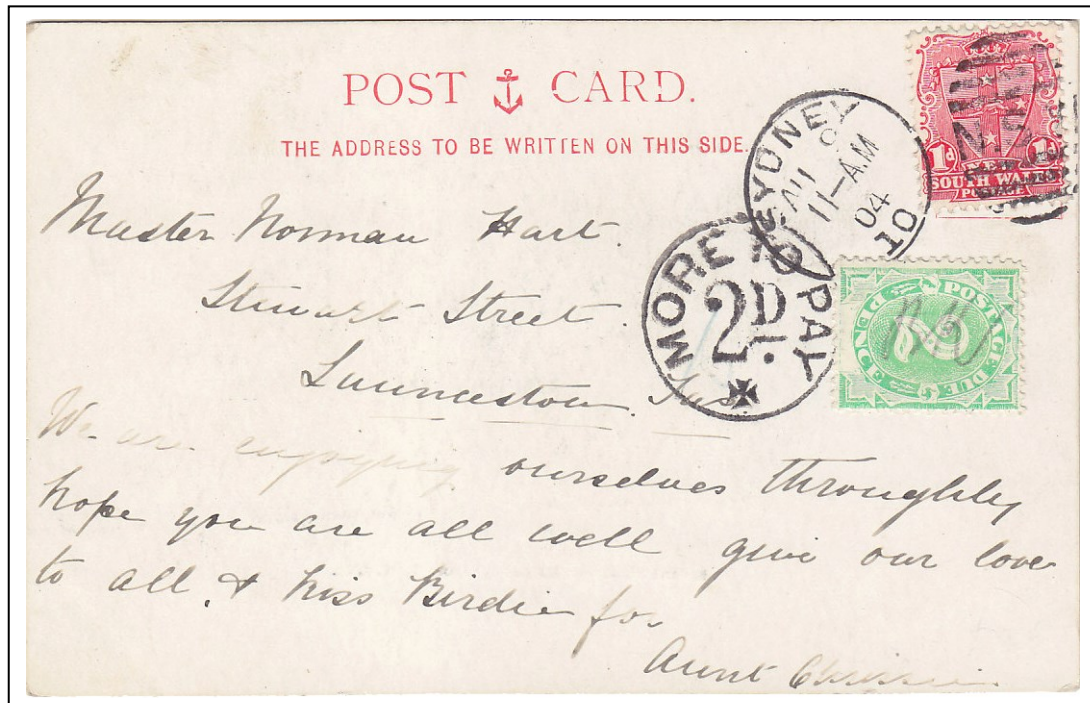
Hand-Written Messages Forbidden – With One Exception

§§ When picture postcards became popular around the turn of the century, UPU regulations did not allow personal correspondence on the address side of postcards in international mail. In most countries this rule also applied to inland mail. But there was one exception. The postal regulations of the UK had been revised in 1897 in such a way that correspondence on the address side of the postcard was no longer forbidden in inland mail.

► New South Wales
to Tasmania:
Sydney 9 August 1904
to Launceston

☐ Postcard rate within
Australia: 1 penny (letter
rate was 2 pence)

[T] More to pay 2^p
(double deficiency)



§§ Divided cards were allowed for use within the Commonwealth of Australia in early December 1904. This undivided card, sent a few months earlier from New South Wales to Tasmania, had correspondence on the address side. It was therefore taxed as a letter.



► UK (local use):

Basingstoke 21 November 1901

☐ Domestic postcard
rate: 1/2 penny

§§ Since 16 June 1897, British postal regulations for inland mail did not prohibit correspondence on the address side, as long as it did not 'prevent the easy and quick reading of the address'. This undivided court size card was therefore accepted at the 1/2 penny postcard rate even though the message continues on top of the address side.

**An important forerunner: Correspondence on the address side accepted
in UK inland mail prior to the introduction of divided postcards.**

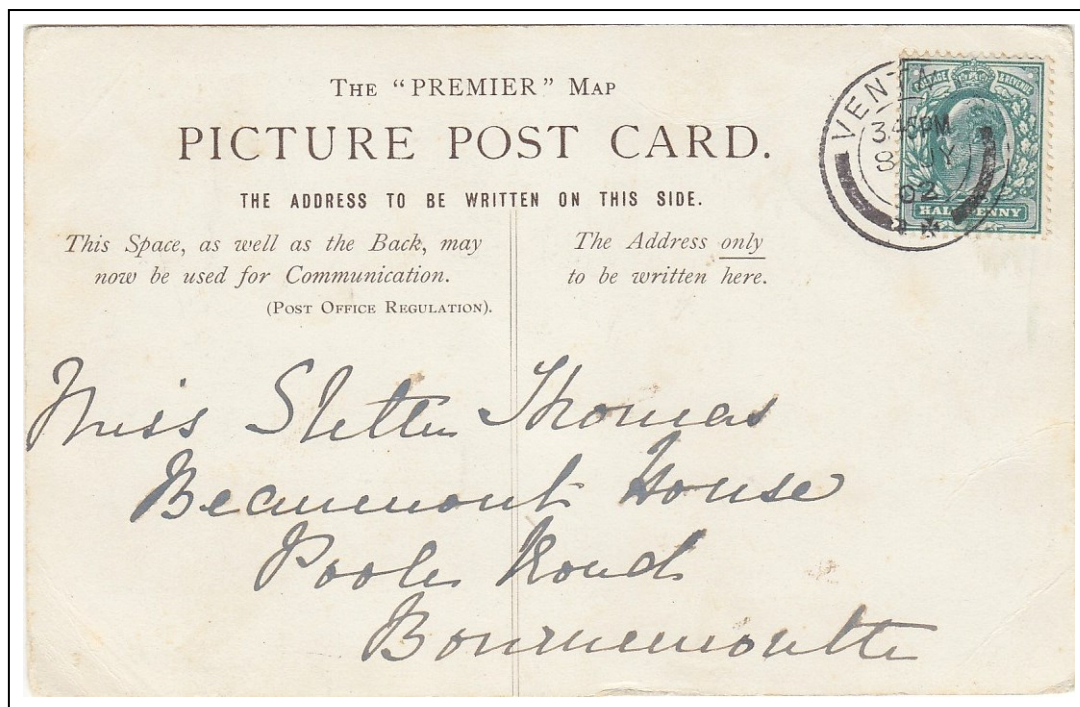
2. Postcard Rate

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 2.1), 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 (2.2). In addition, several countries made unilateral decisions to facilitate international exchange of divided postcards (2.3). 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 (2.4).



► UK: Ventnor 8 July 1902 – Bournemouth

☑ Domestic postcard rate: ½ penny

☑ 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.

The earliest divided postcard recorded by the exhibitor.

2.1 Postcard Rate

France • St. Pierre and Miquelon

Domestic Regulations

Early Inland Use



► France: Paris 22 December 1903 – St. Maur

☑ 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.

2.1 Postcard Rate

South Australia • Belgium • United States

Domestic Regulations

Early Inland Use

► South Australia:

Adelaide
9 December 1904
to North Adelaide

☑ Domestic postcard rate: 1 penny

§§ Permitted within the Commonwealth of Australia:
6 December 1904



► Germany:

Besigheim
15 February 1905
Flonheim
16 February 1905

☑ Domestic postcard rate: 5 pfennig

§§ Permitted in Germany:
1 February 1905

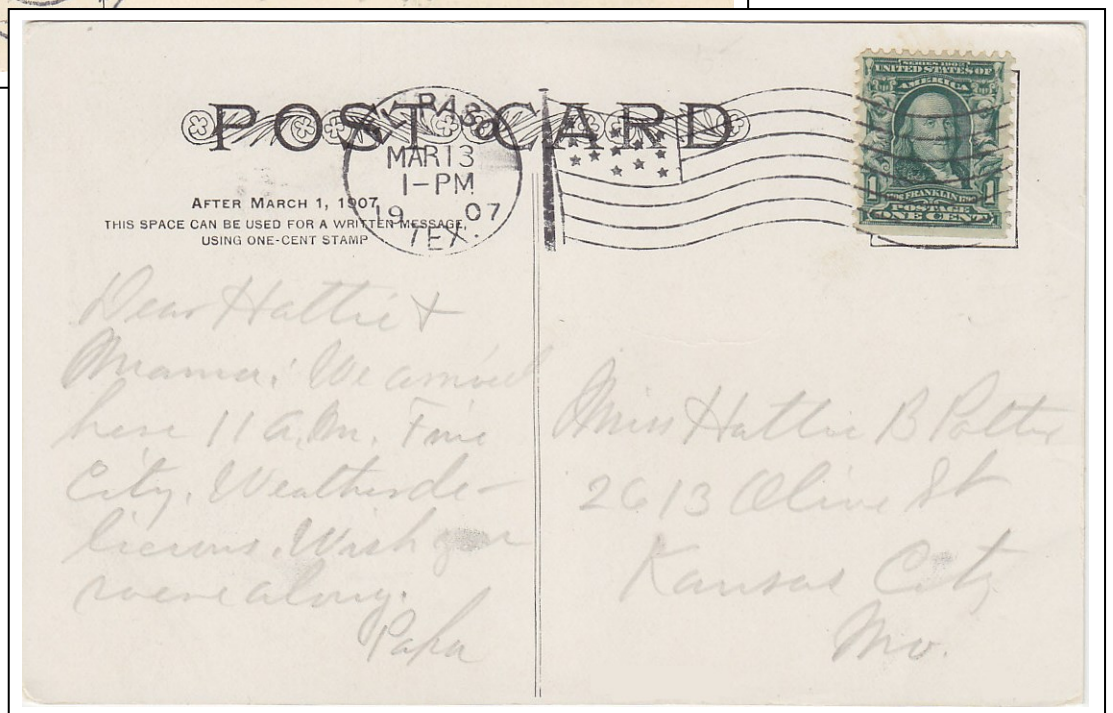
► United States:

El Paso TX
13 March 1907
to Kansas City MO

☑ Domestic postcard rate: 1 cent

§§ The US was among the last countries in the world to permit divided cards on 1 March 1907.

These cards were used the first month divided cards were allowed in each country.



2.2 Postcard Rate

France to Italy • UK to Austria

Bilateral Agreements

International Exchange

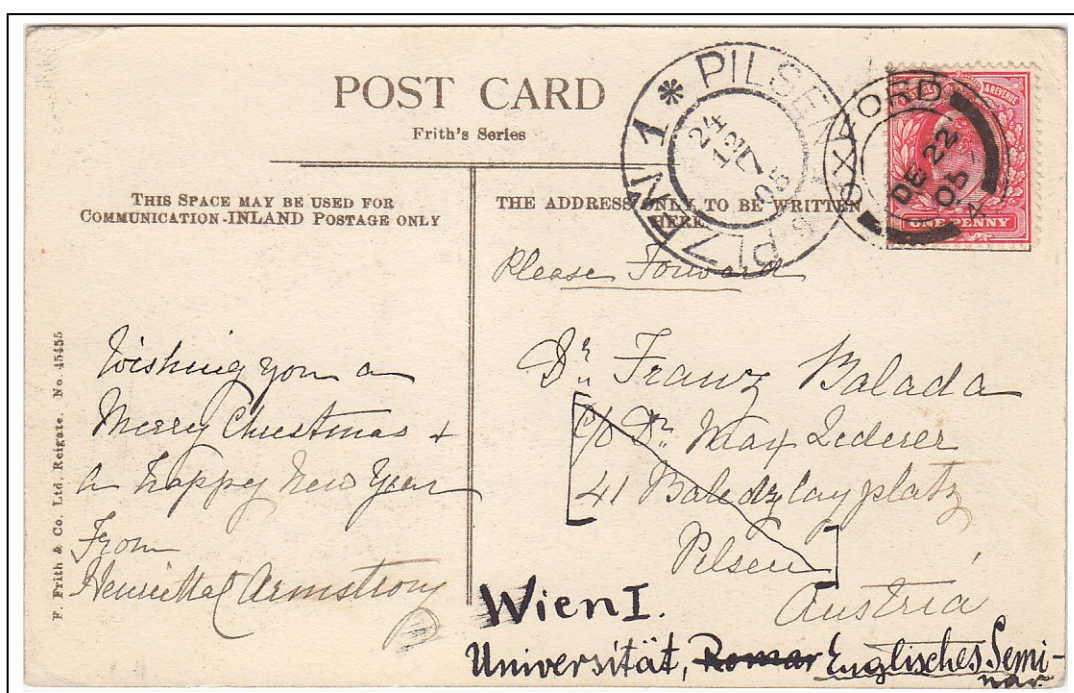


➤ France to Italy: Camp du Ruchard 28 May 1904 – Roma 30 May 1904

☑ Foreign postcard rate: 10 centimes

§§ Already in late 1903, France initiated bilateral agreements with other countries about accepting divided cards in international mail exchange. A first round of 14 such agreements, including one with Italy, came into force on 16 May 1904. Further agreements were made until October 1906.

Divided card sent the month when the first bilateral agreements came into force.



➤ UK to Austria:

Oxford
22 December 1905

Pilsen
24 December 1905
to Vienna

☑ Foreign postcard rate: 1 penny

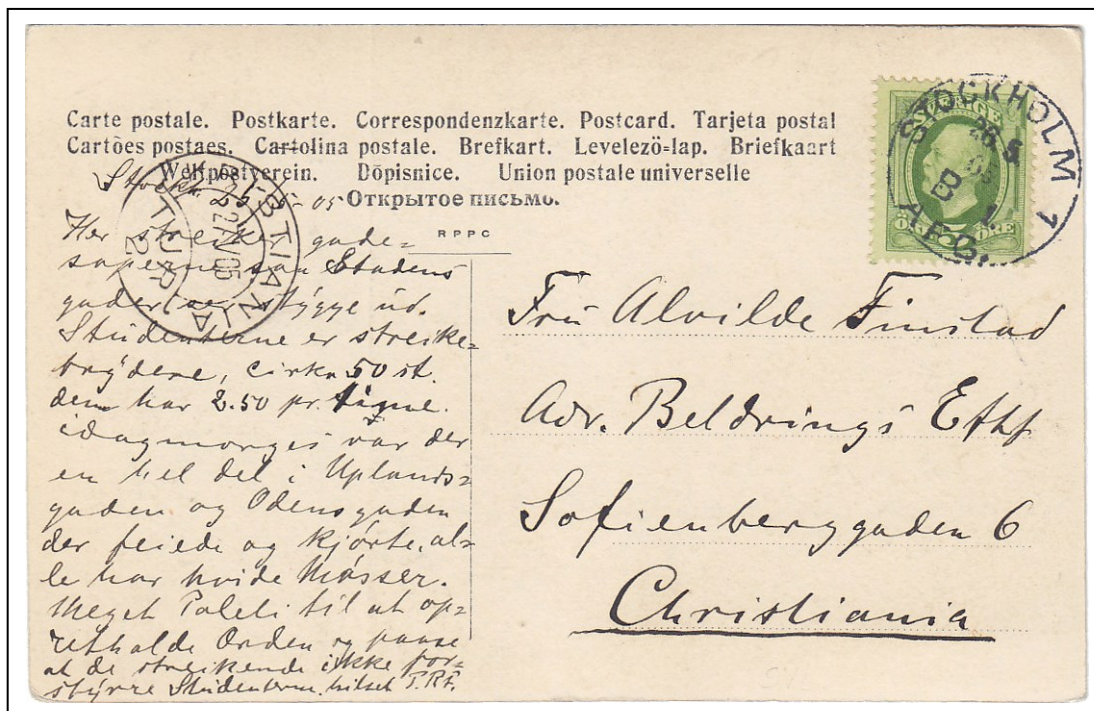
§§ Bilateral agreement:
12 December 1905

§§ The UK was the first country to adopt divided cards for inland use, but relatively late in permitting their international exchange. The first 17 agreements were announced in a postal circular dated 12 December 1905.

2.2 Postcard Rate Sweden to Norway • Russia to Switzerland

Bilateral Agreements International Exchange

Bilateral agreements were made at different points in time between different pairs of countries.



► 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.



► Russia to Switzerland: Yalta 25 March [7 April] 1905 – Genève 13 April 1905

☐ Foreign postcard rate: 4 kopek

§§ Bilateral agreement: 18 [31] January 1905. Russia announced its first bilateral agreements, with four countries including Switzerland, in January 1905. In a message to the UPU in late December that year, Russia reported agreements with 16 countries.

2.2 Postcard Rate Belgium and Bulgaria to Germany

Bilateral Agreements International Exchange



► Belgium to Germany, **express delivery**:
Jette 5 July 1906 – Leipzig 6 July 1906

☑ Foreign postcard rate: 10 centimes, express fee: 30 centimes

§§ Belgium accepted divided cards for inland use on 1 September 1905. At the same time, bilateral agreements were made with a few countries, including Germany.



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

☑ Foreign postcard rate: 10 stotinki

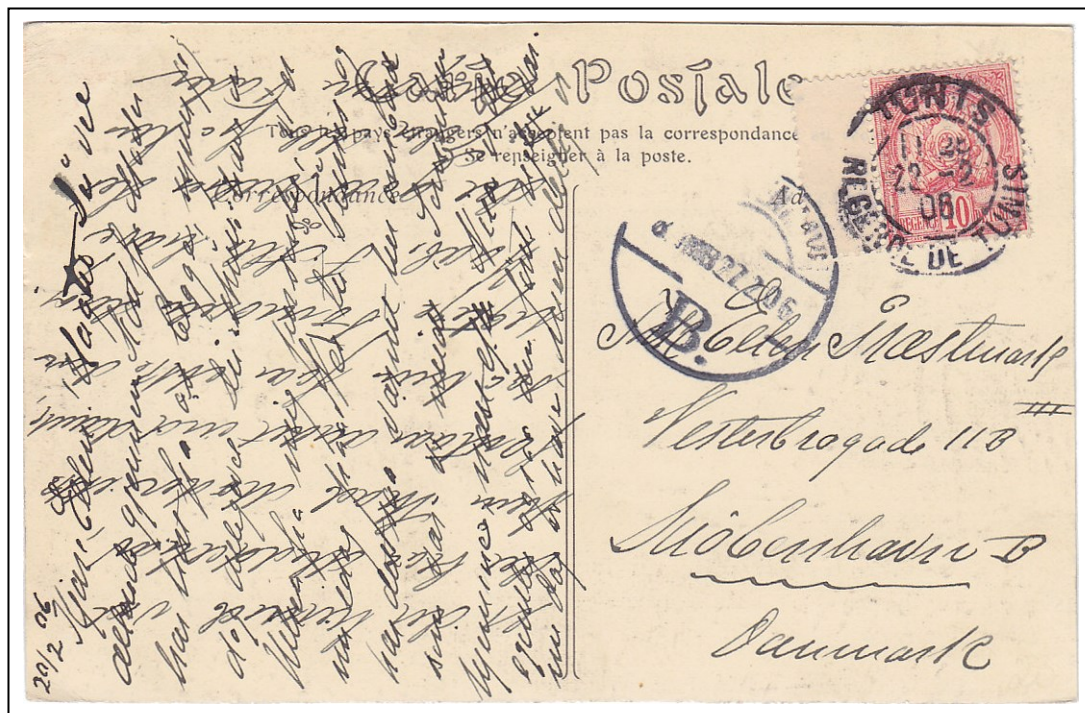
§§ Germany announced agreements with all European countries except the UK and the Netherlands from 1 September 1905. The Bulgarian post, in a message to the international bureau of the UPU in January 1906, confirmed that Bulgaria had entered agreements with eight countries, including Germany.

2.2 Postcard Rate

Tunis to Denmark • NSW to Fiji

Bilateral Agreements

International Exchange



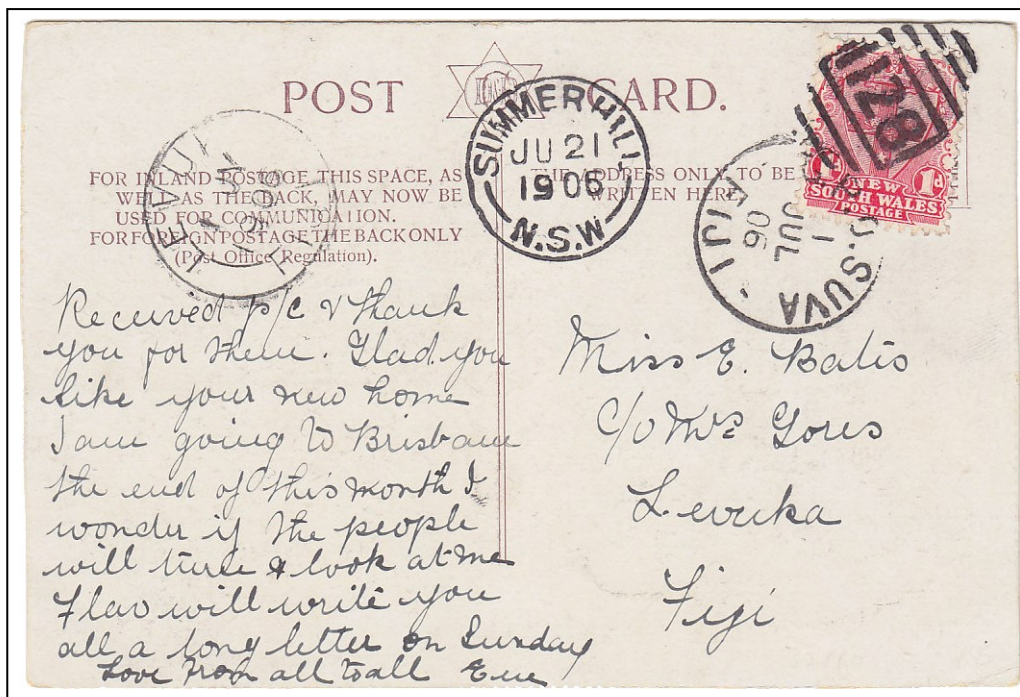
► Tunis to Denmark:

Tunis 22 February 1906 – Kjøbenhavn 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.



► New South Wales 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.

2.2 Postcard Rate

French Congo and New Caledonia 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.



► 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

Registered divided postcard sent at the postcard rate under the agreement between France and all French colonies from August 1904.



► New Caledonia to France:
Thio 16 August 1905
Chantenay s-Loire
2 October 1905

☑ Foreign postcard rate: 10 centimes

2.2 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 numerals 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.

2.3 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.

► 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): 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.

Accepted at the postcard rate because of a combination of unilateral decisions.



► USA to Costa Rica:

Boston MA
4 August 1907
New Orleans LA
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): 1 March 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.

2.4 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



2.4 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.

► New Caledonia
to the UK:

Nouméa

17 October 1905

to Hove

Foreign postcard
rate: 10 centimes

§§ No message allowed
prior to bilateral agreement
31 January 1906 –
but sender's address
permitted by UPU rules.



2.4 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 obtain correct information on how to use the divided cards, others did not.

► Germany to Sweden:

Sassnitz 7 July 1905

Göteborg 8 July 1905

☑ German foreign postcard rate: 10 pfennig

§§ Bilateral agreement: 1 September 1905.

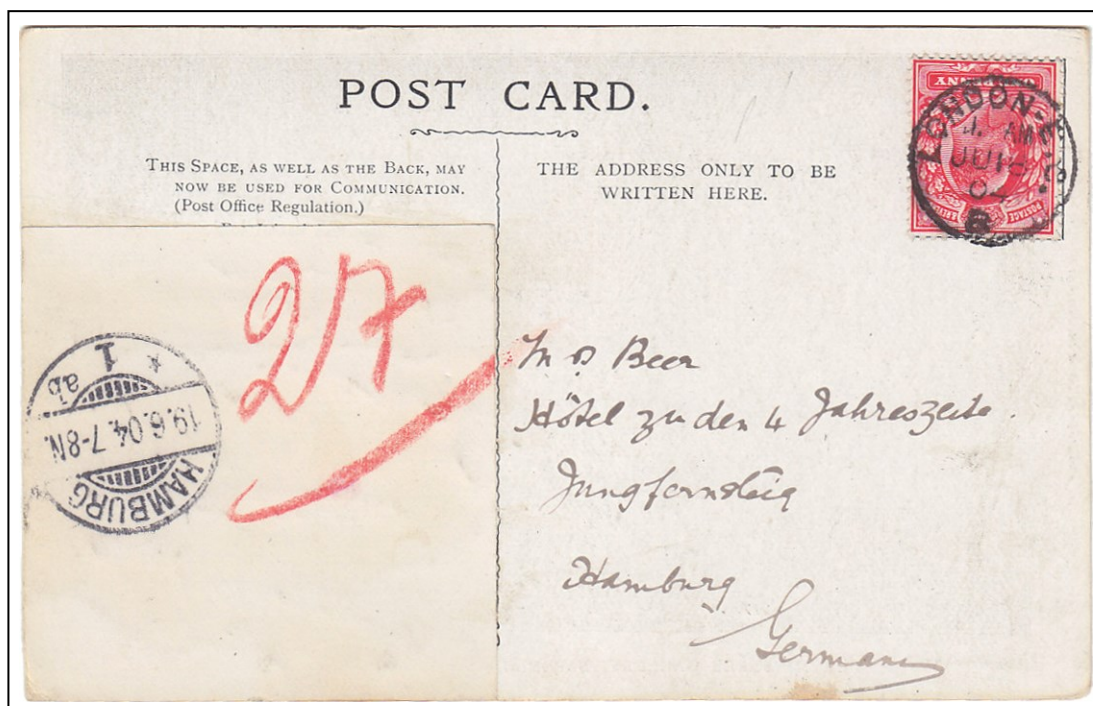
► Forwarded within Sweden

Göteborg 8 July 1905 to Stora Rör

☑ Swedish domestic postcard rate: 5 öre



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 because of the message new postage was required.



► 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.*

2.4 Postcard Rate

France to the US • Germany to British India

Accepted Without Message

No Bilateral Agreements

► French sea post to the US:

Written in Montevideo

14 May 1905

Buenos Ayres à Bordeaux

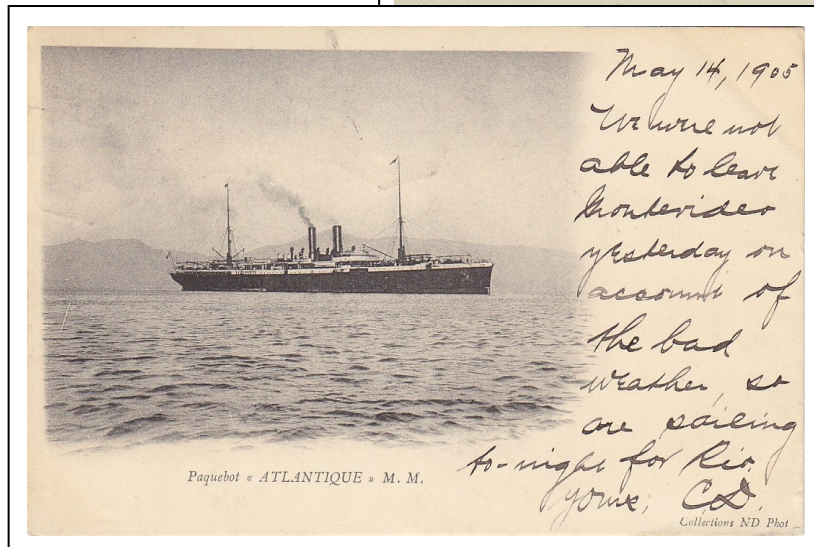
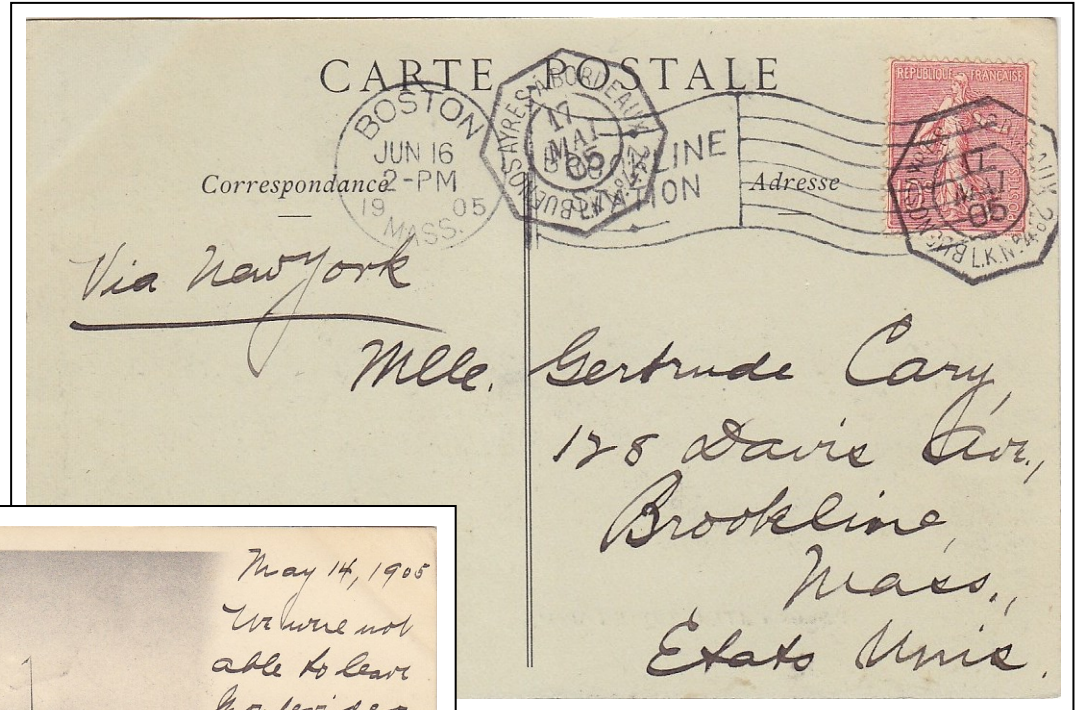
17 May 1905

'Via New York'

Boston / Brookline MA

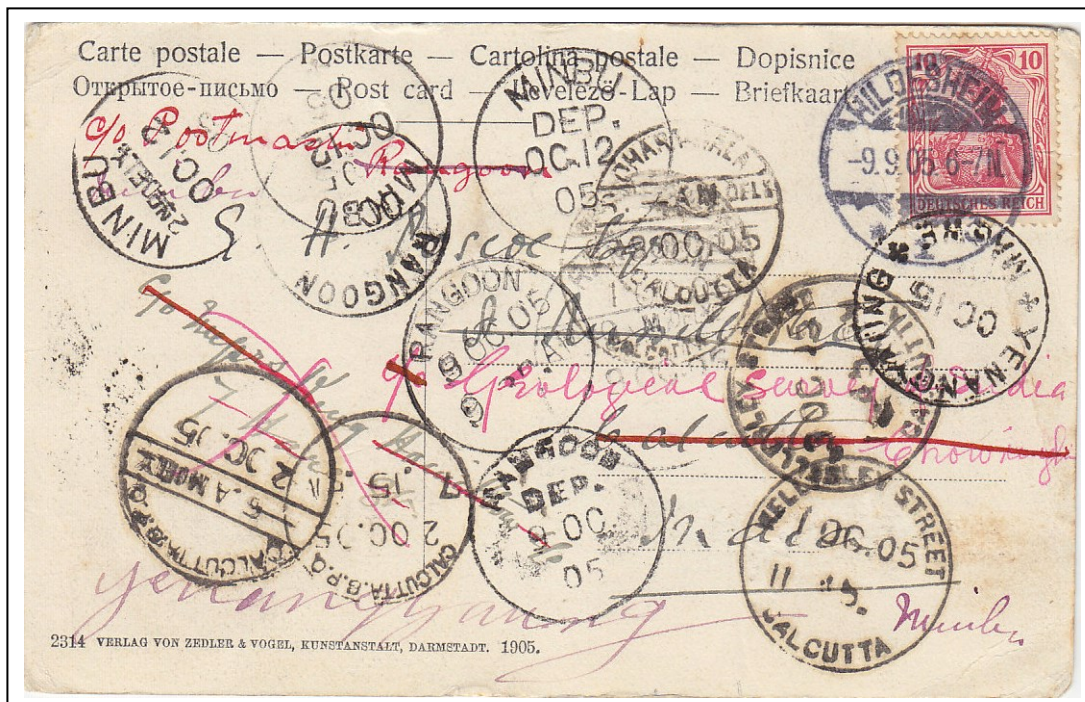
16 June 1905

☑ 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.



► 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...

3. Imperial Penny Postage

The Imperial Penny Postage represents a special case in the postal treatment of divided postcards. UPU regulations gave members 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 UK and members of the British Empire on 25 December 1898 – 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, divided cards with correspondence on the address side could 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 (3.1), to the UK (3.2) and outside the UK (3.3). But it also highlights that this opportunity was poorly advertised and therefore not used to the extent that one might have expected (3.4).

► 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.

Two cards sent with imperial penny postage in July and August 1903 – long before bilateral agreements had been made about divided postcards in international mail exchange.

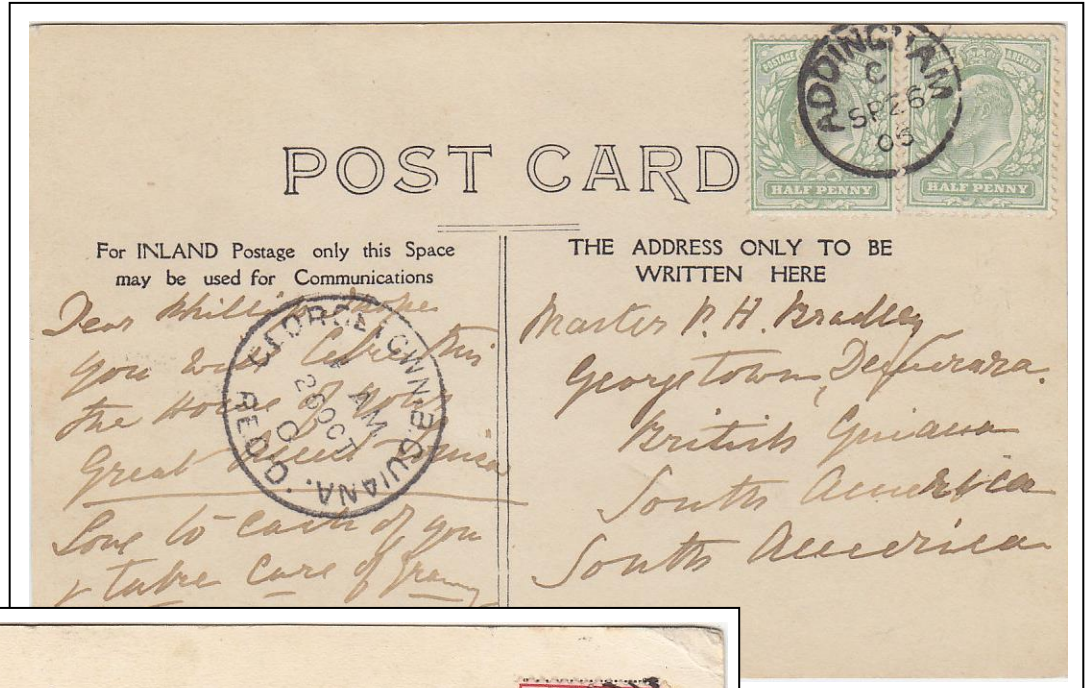
3.1 Imperial Penny Postage British Guiana • China • CGH

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.



3.2 Imperial Penny Postage India • Lagos • Canada

To the UK from her Colonies and Other Related Territories

► India to the UK:

Multan

20 December 1905

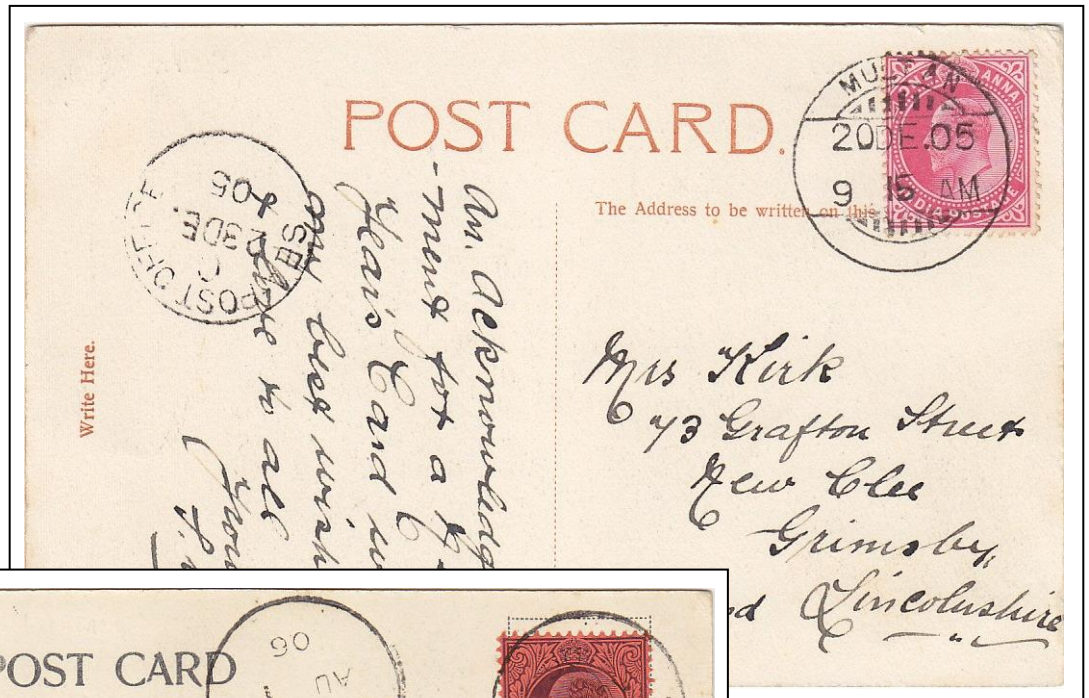
Sea Post Office

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.

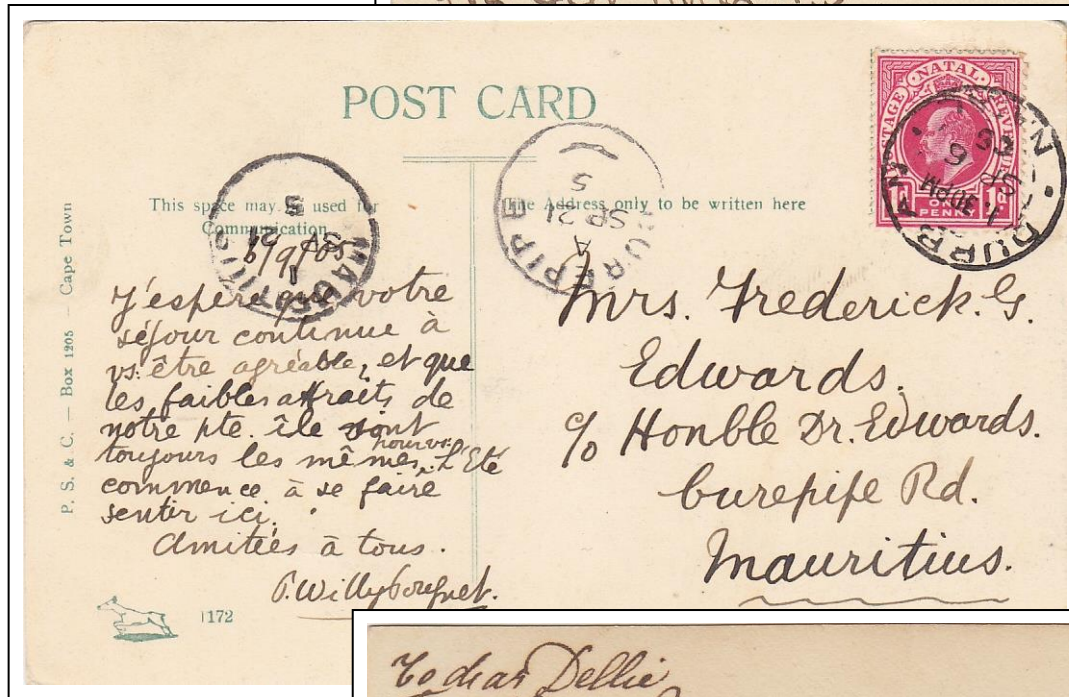
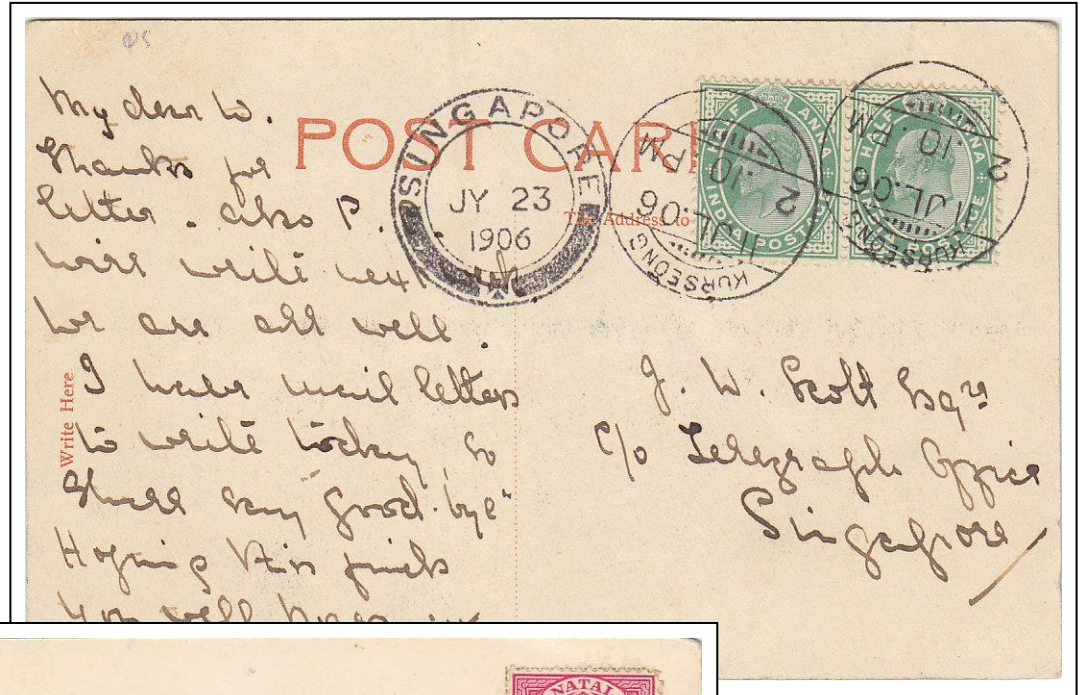
3.3 Imperial Penny Postage Various Countries

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.



3.4 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.

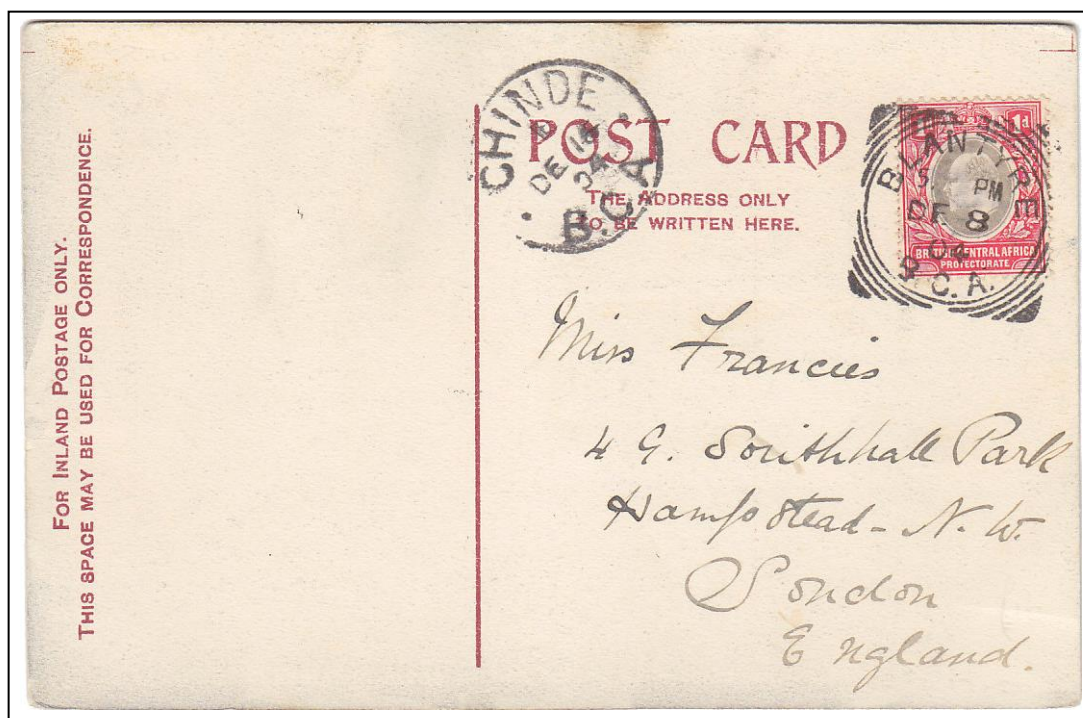
► UK to Cook Islands:

- 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.*

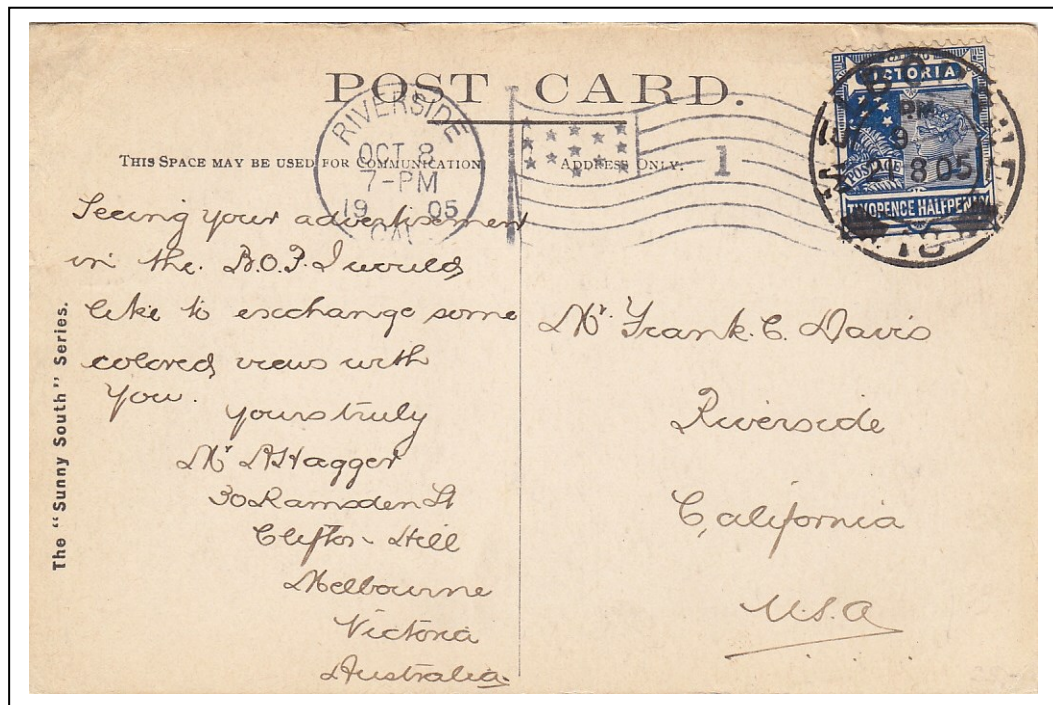
4. Letter Rate

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 (4.1) 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 (4.2), prior to imperial penny postage (4.3) and in the absence of any agreement (4.4).

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 (4.5).



► Victoria to the United States:

Melbourne 21 August 1905 – Riverside CA 8 October 1905

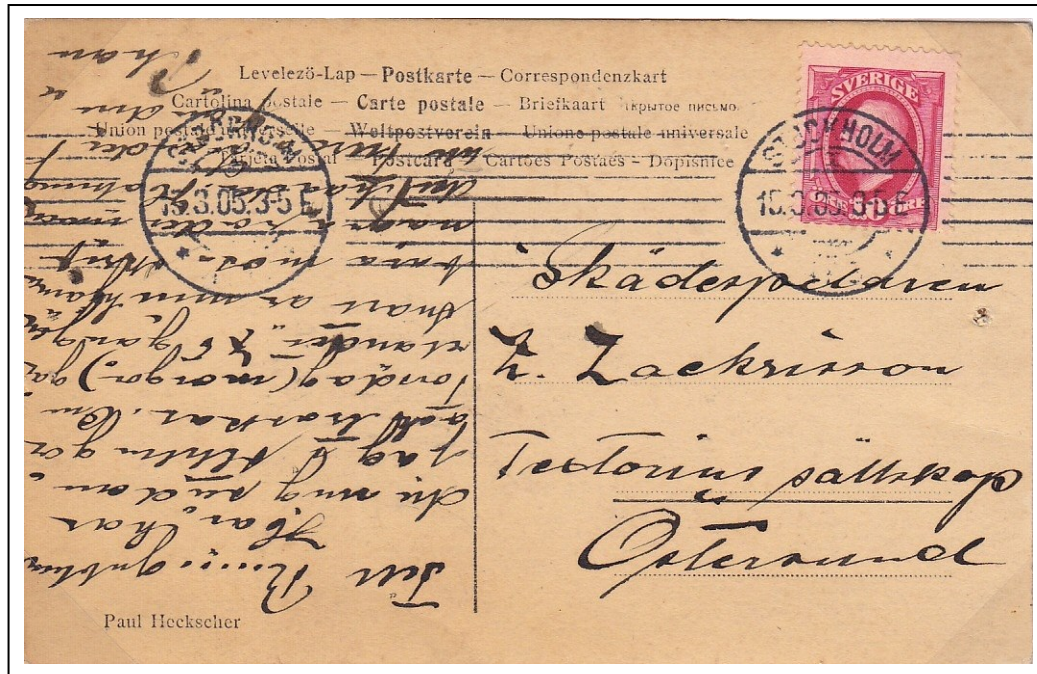
☑ Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

§§ There is no recorded bilateral agreement between the commonwealth of Australia and the United States. The US announced a unilateral decision on 29 June 1906 that incoming divided cards should be accepted at the postcard rate, but prior to that date letter postage was required.

4.1 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.

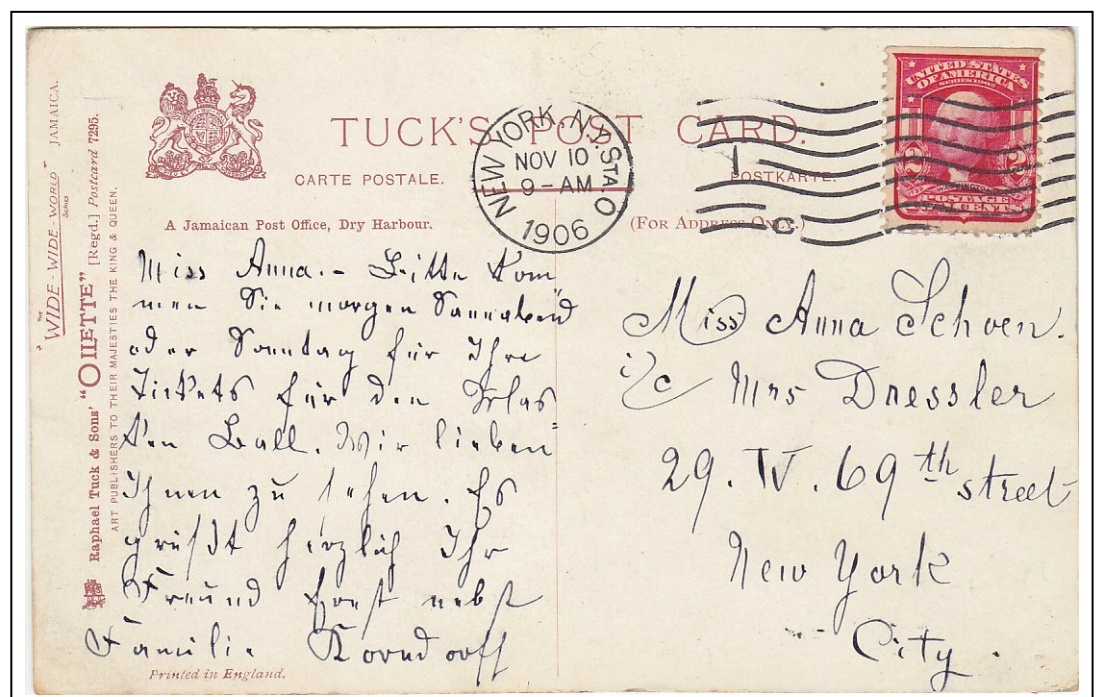
Sent at the domestic letter rate before divided cards were allowed.

► US (local use):

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.



4.2 Letter Rate

UK to Sweden • France to the UK

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Required under UPU Rules

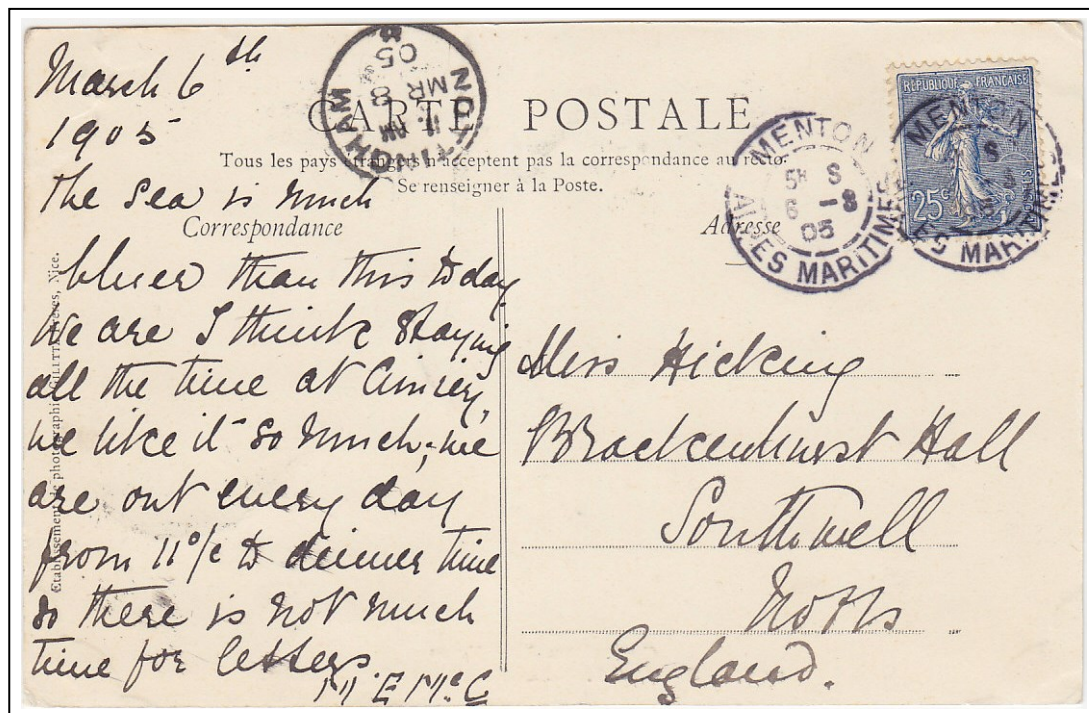
Before bilateral agreements about divided cards were made, letter postage was required.



► UK to Sweden: Poplar 8 August 1905 – Karlstad

☐ Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

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



► 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).

4.2 Letter Rate

Germany to France • Victoria to the UK

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Required under UPU Rules

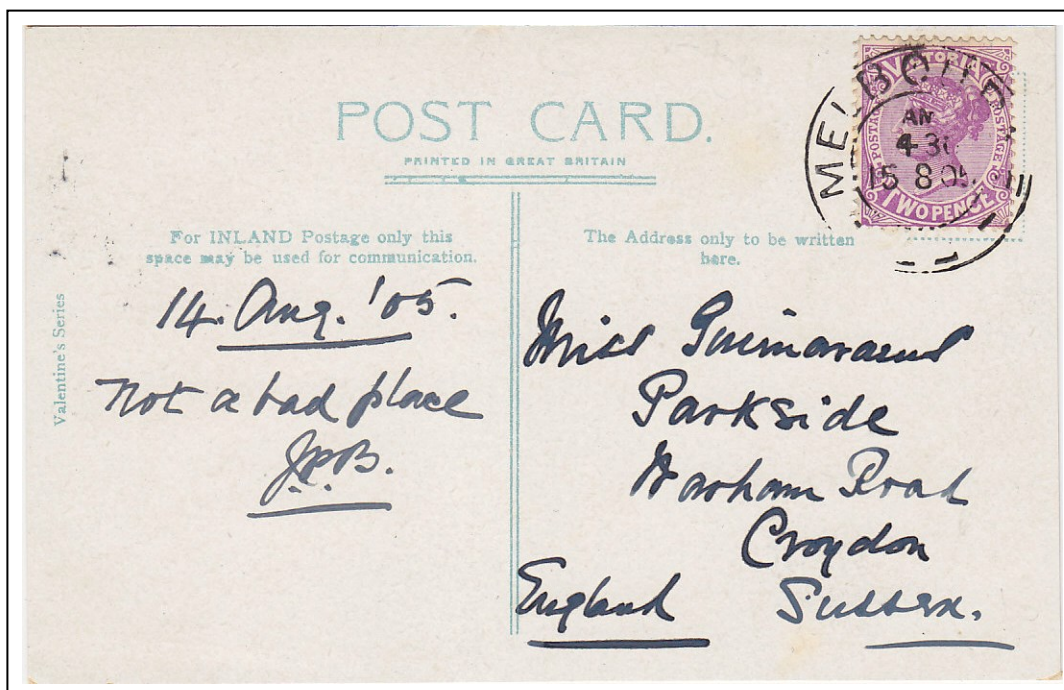


► Germany to France:

Wiesbaden 23 May 1905 – Paris

✉ Foreign letter rate: 20 pfennig

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



► 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.

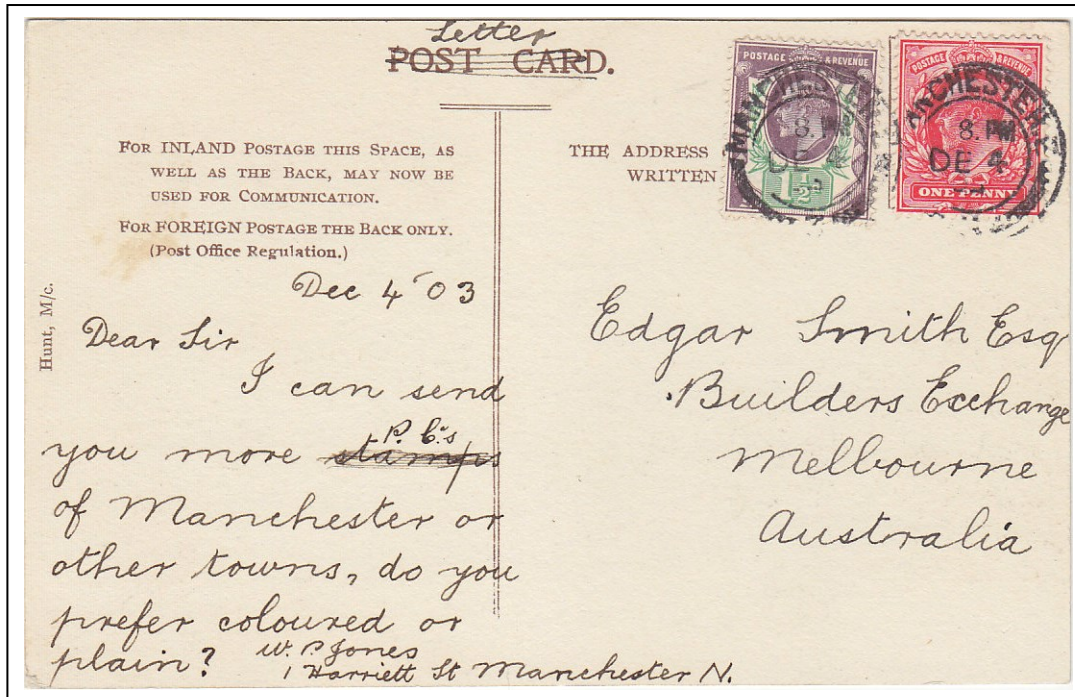
4.3 Letter Rate

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 applied letter postage – and replaced the text 'POST CARD' with 'Letter'!

➤ Jamaica to Egypt:

Kingston

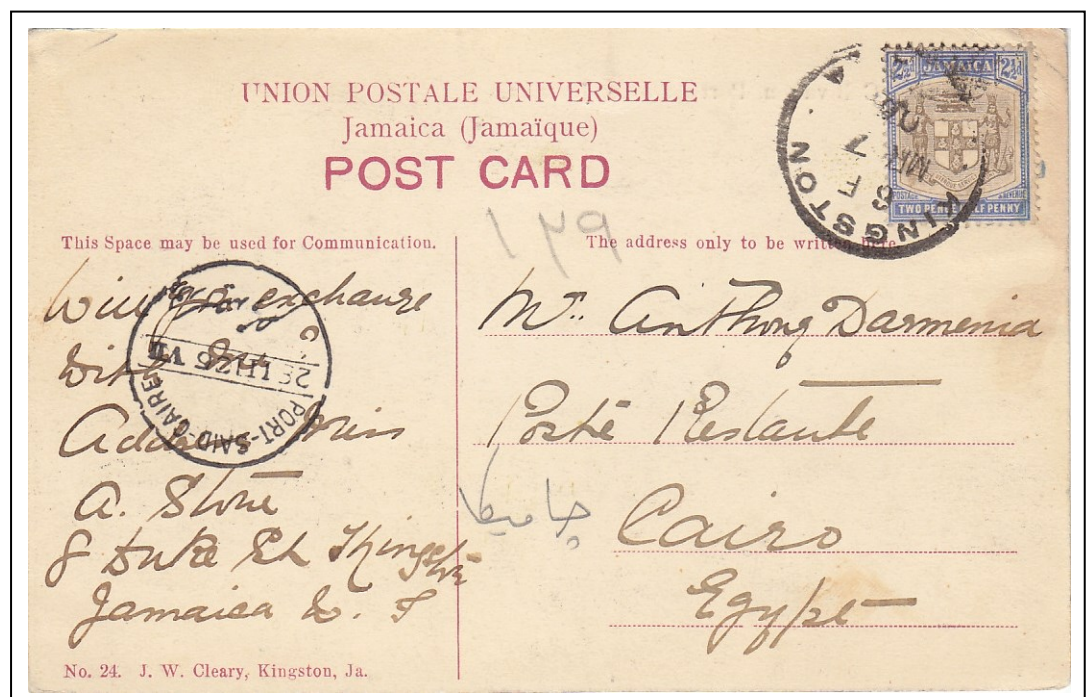
7 March 1906

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.



4.4 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 – Heraklion 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

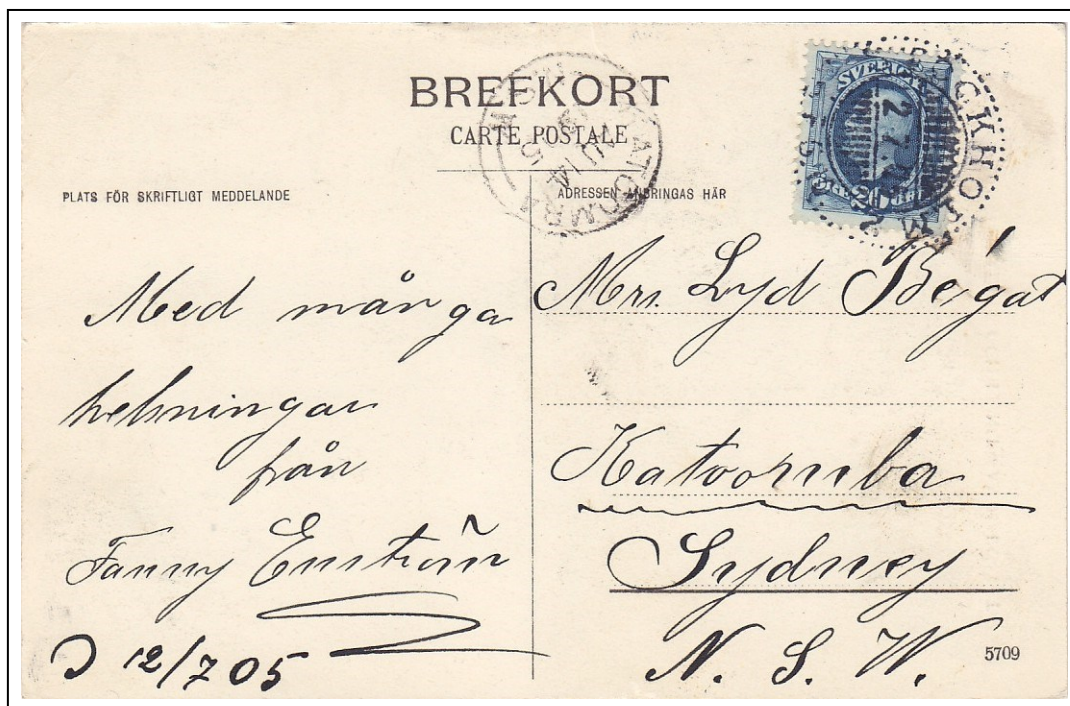
☑ Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

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

4.4 Letter Rate

Sweden to NSW • United States to the UK

No Agreements
Required under UPU Rules

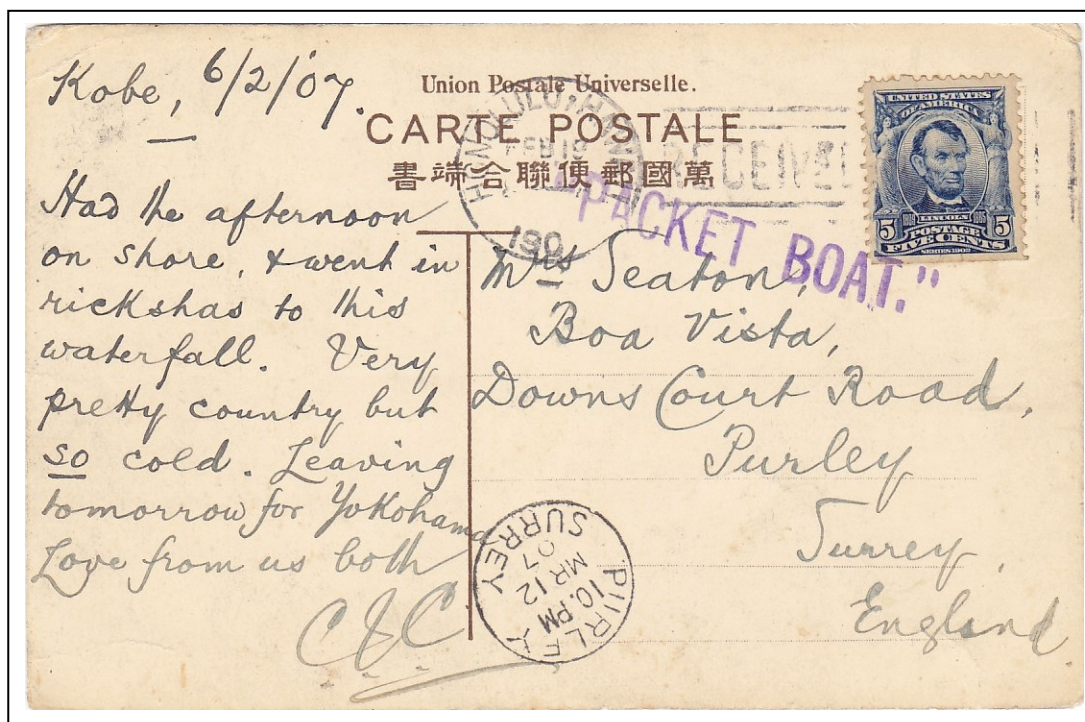


► Sweden to New South Wales:

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. Prior to that date, letter postage was required.

4.4 Letter Rate

Victoria to Japan • Transvaal to Germany

**No Agreements
Required under UPU Rules**

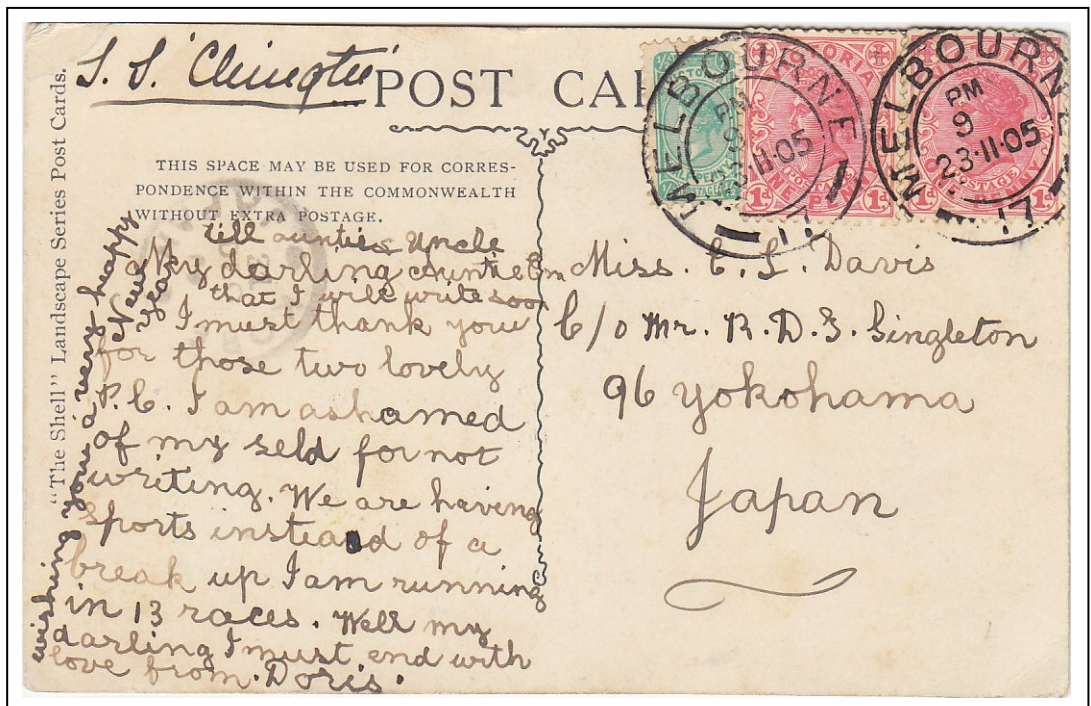
► Victoria to Japan:

Melbourne
23 November 1905
Kobe
31 December 1905
to Yokohama

Foreign letter
rate: 2½ pence

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

§§ On 22 November
1905, the day before
this card was posted,
the following was
published in *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.

No bilateral agreement was in place and the Japanese post office had pointed out to Australia that letter postage was required.



► Transvaal to Germany:

Pretoria
12 December 1904
to Noerdlingen

Foreign letter rate:
2½ pence

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

4.4 Letter Rate

Morocco to the US • Cape of Good Hope to Sweden

No Agreements
Required under UPU Rules

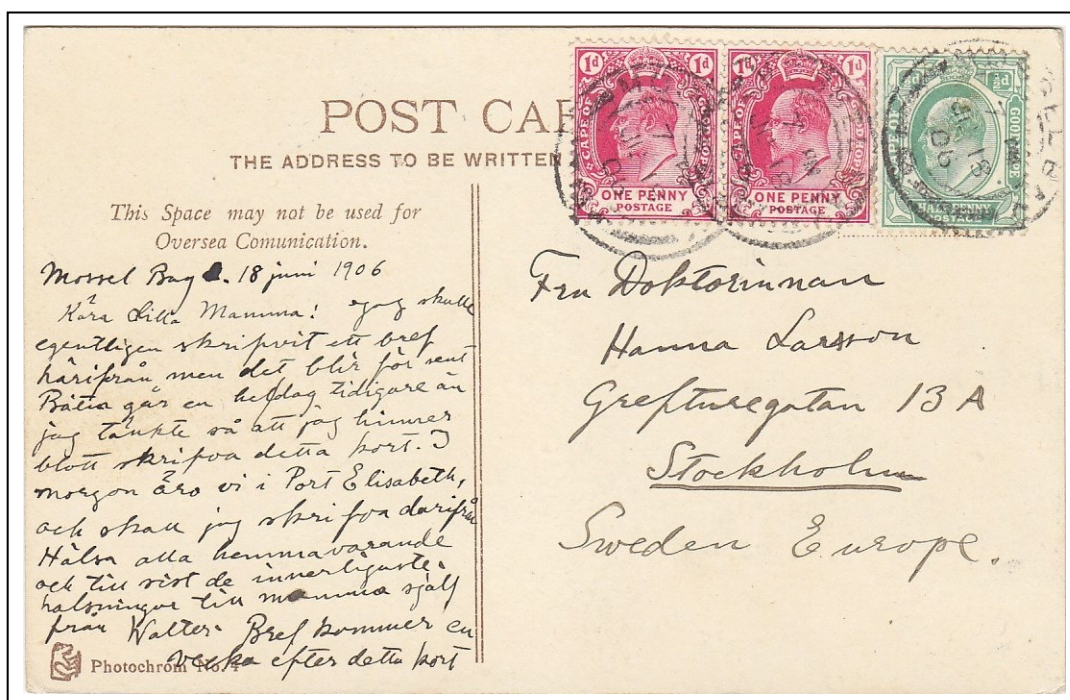


► Morocco (British post) to the United States:
Tanger 26 April 1906 – Boston MA 11 May 1906

☑ 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.



► Cape of Good Hope to Sweden:
Mossel Bay 18 June 1906 – Stockholm

☑ Foreign letter rate: 2½ pence

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

4.5 Letter Rate

UK to Italy, Bavaria and the US

Unnecessary Letter Postage

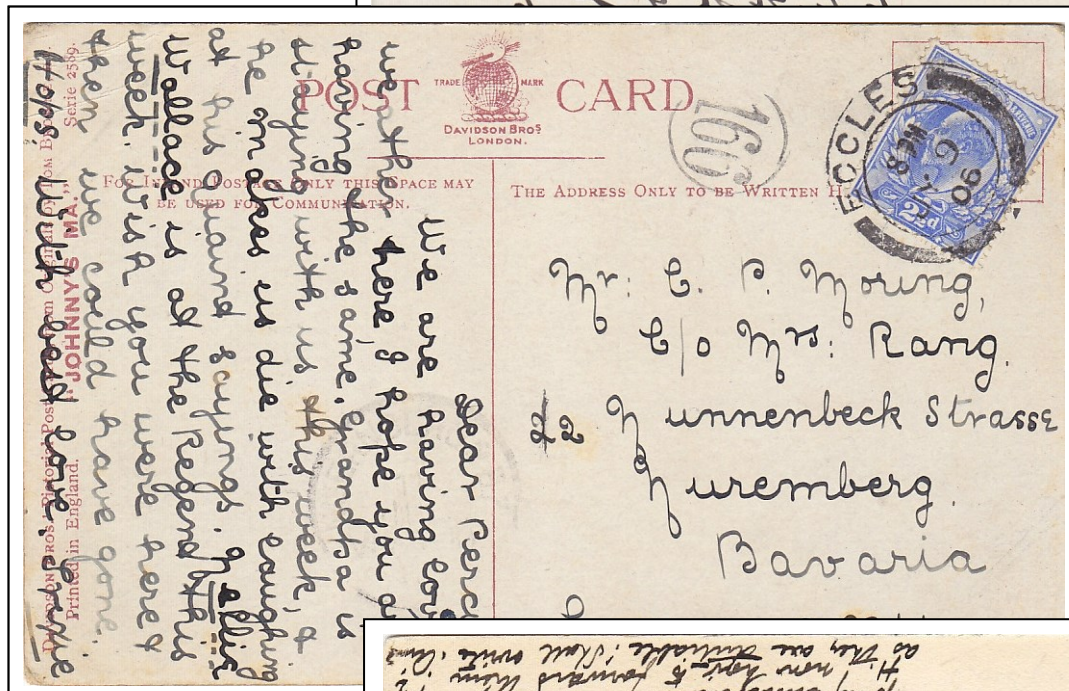
Due to Bilateral Agreements

☑ 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

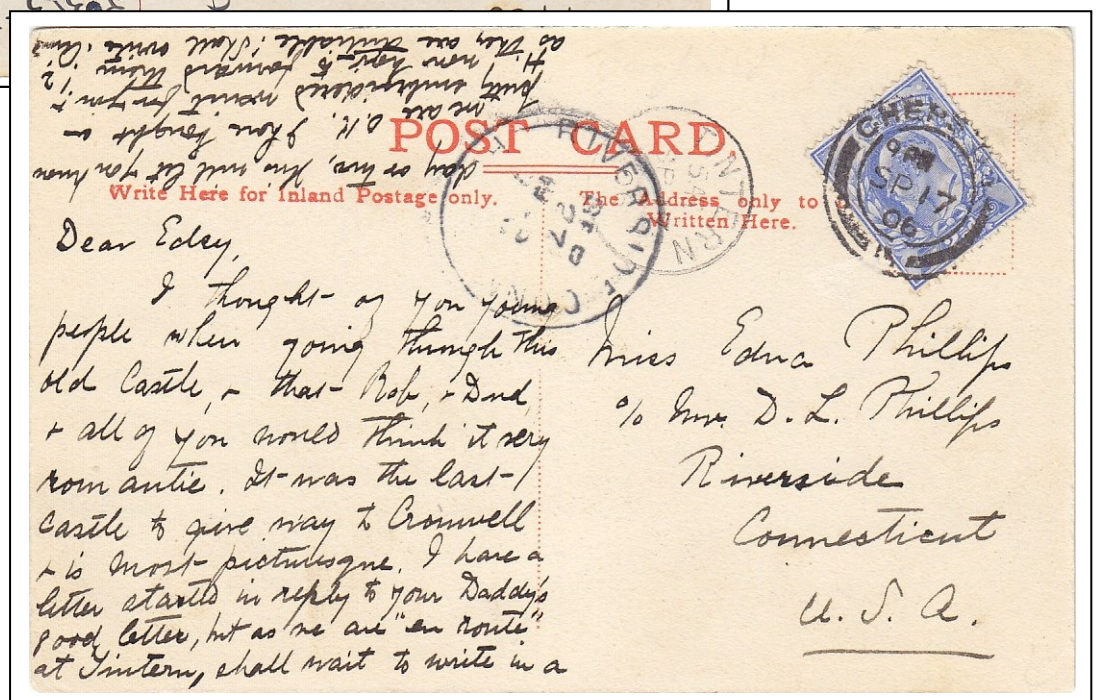
§§ Bilateral agreement with Italy announced in a British postal circular 12 December 1905.



► 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.

5. 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 (5.1). Then follow examples of international mail. Postage due might be charged if cards were sent prior to bilateral agreements (5.2), prior to the introduction of Imperial penny postage (5.3), or in the absence of any agreement (5.4).

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 (5.5) or – less often – received tax marks in transit through a third country (5.6). It also happened that postal administrations decided to ignore tax marks on divided postcards arriving from abroad (5.7).

This section also shows examples of forwarded cards with postage due (5.8) and divided cards for which the recipients refused to pay postage due (5.9).



► UK to Germany: Jersey 24 August 1902 – Grotzsch 27 August 1902

☒ 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.

Very early example of postage due for a divided postcard sent abroad.

One earlier example is recorded by the exhibitor – 22 August 1902, not in exhibition quality.

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.

5.1 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 the US post in China:

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

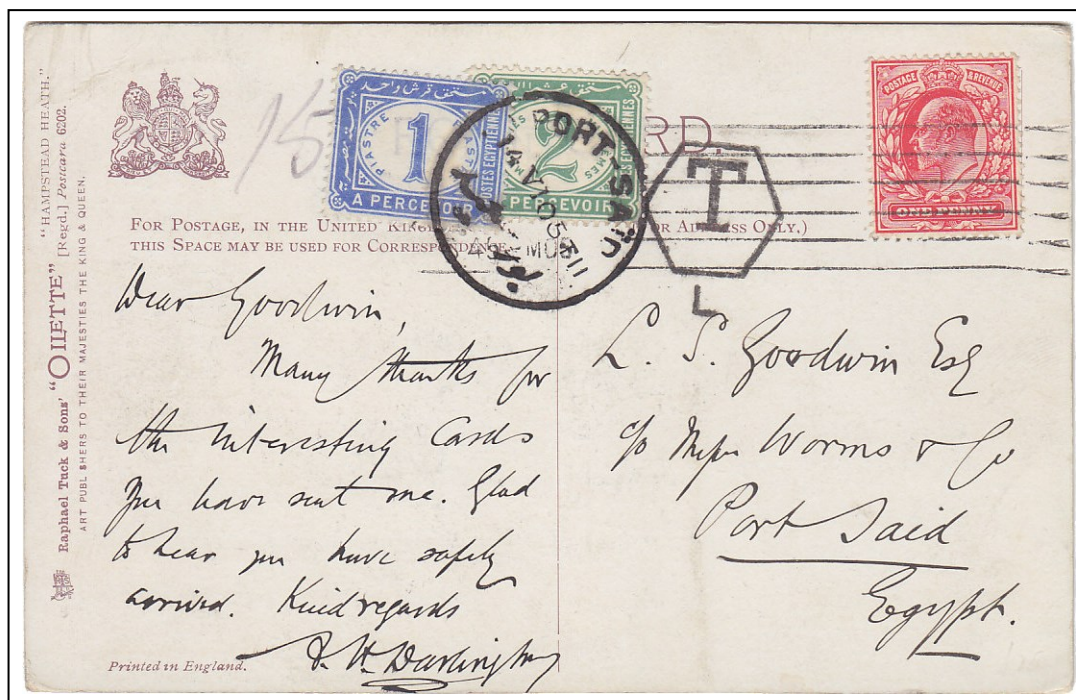
☐ Domestic postcard rate: 1 cent (letter rate was 2 cents); [T] note: 'Due 1 ¢'

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

5.2 Postage Due UK to Egypt and Brazil

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 Egypt: London – Port Said 14 June 1905

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

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

[T] Egypt: 1 piaster 2 millièmes postage due stamps (double deficiency)

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



► UK to Brazil: Plymouth 16 August 1905 – Rio de Janeiro 8 September 1905

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

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

[T] Brazil: 240 (réis due) and postage due stamps (double deficiency)

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

5.2 Postage Due Germany to Sweden and Holland

Prior to Bilateral Agreements 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.

5.2 Postage Due

Sweden to Switzerland • India to France

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.



► British India to France: Bombay 23 March 1906 – Paris

☒ Foreign postcard rate: 1 anna (letter rate was 2½ annas)

[T] British India: T and 15 cts (deficiency)

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

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

5.2 Postage Due

Queensland to ORC • Tasmania to India

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters



► Queensland to the Orange River Colony:

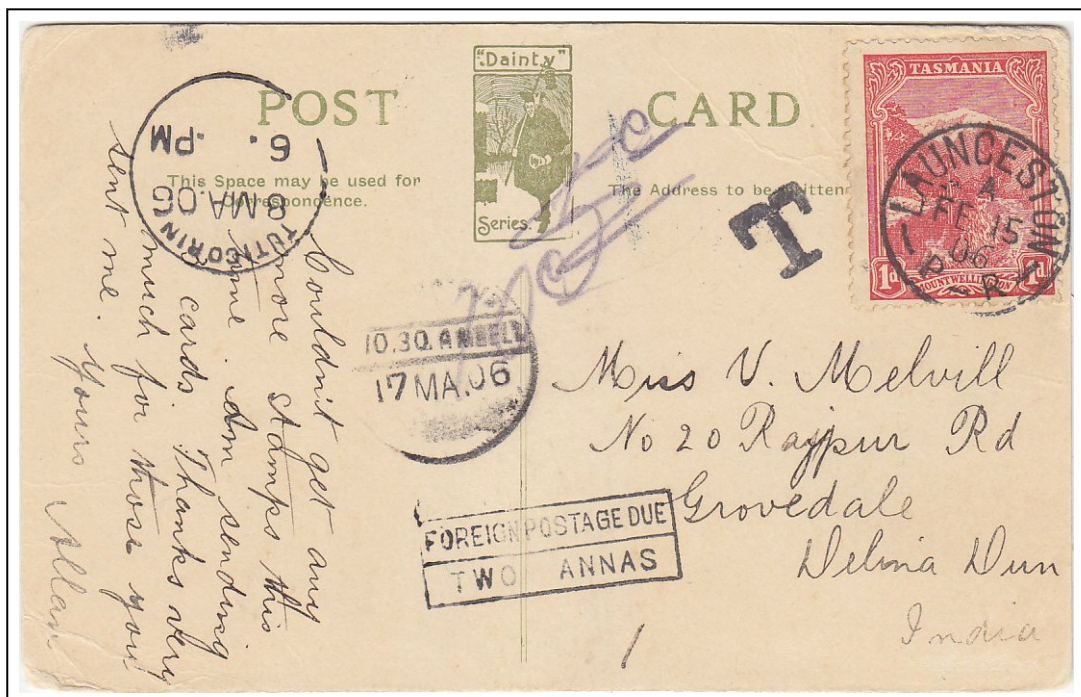
Rockhampton 27 February 1906 – Bloemfontein (Poste Restante) 2 April 1906

☒ 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 (centimes deficiency)

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

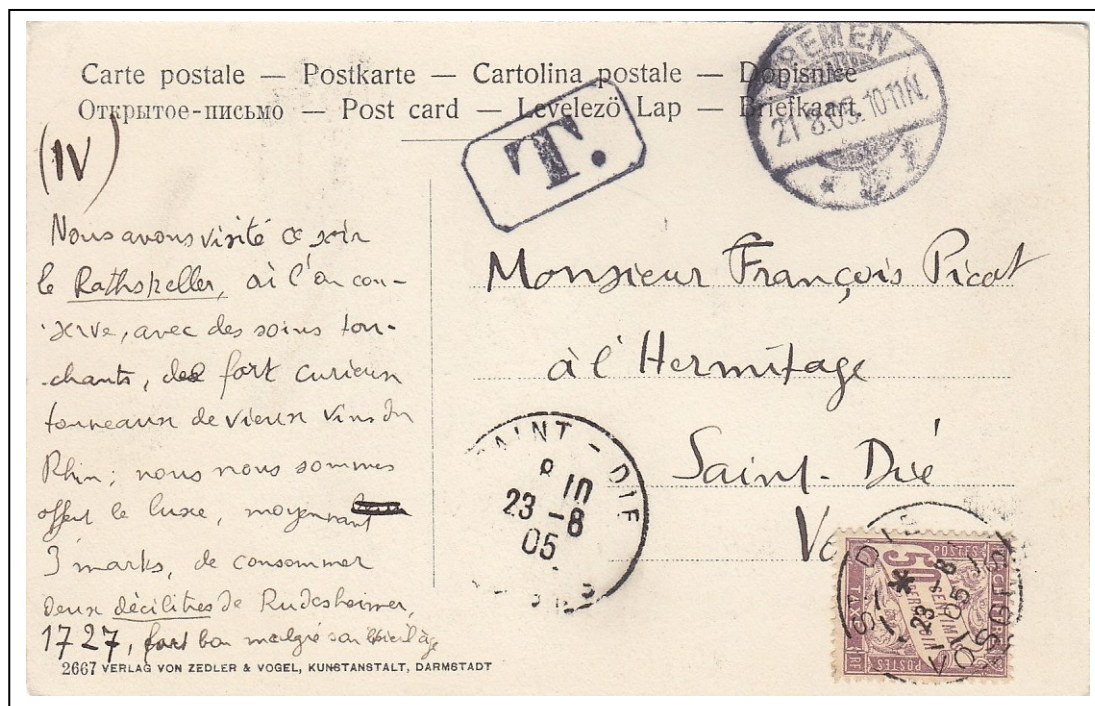
§§ Letter postage required prior to bilateral agreement recorded 17 May 1906.

5.2 Postage Due

Germany to France • France to Belgium

Prior to Bilateral Agreements

Unpaid, Taxed as Letters

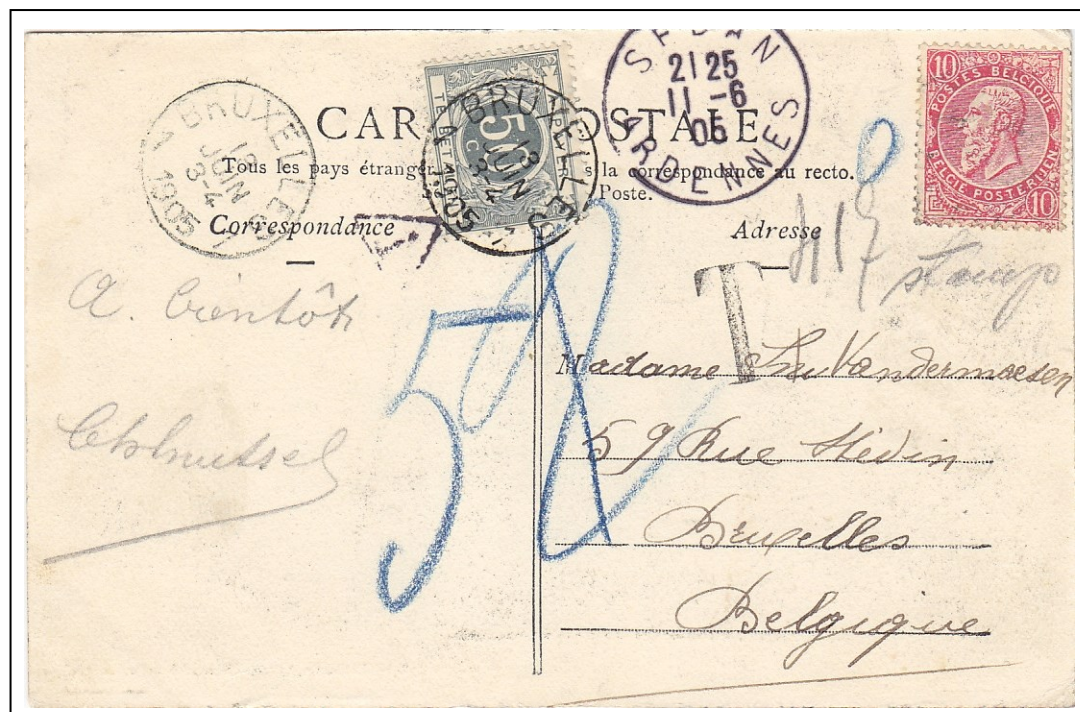


► Germany to France: Bremen 21 August 1905 – Saint Dié 23 August 1905

☑ 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

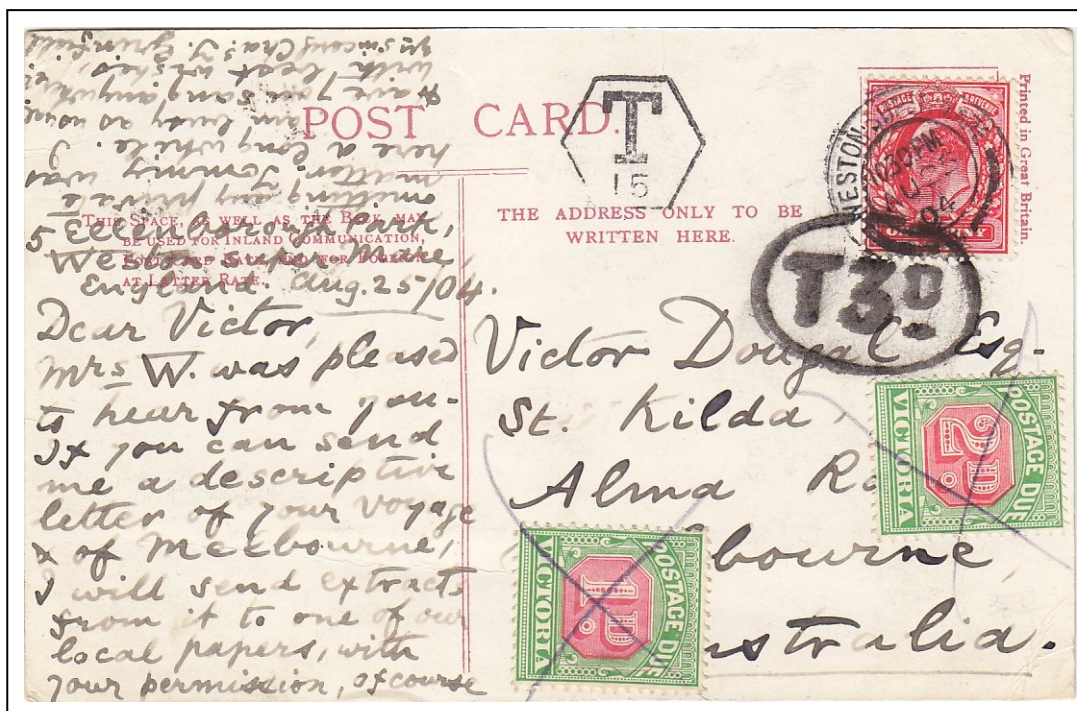
[T] Belgium: T and 2 changed to 5 (décimes); 50 centimes postage due stamp (double deficiency)

§§ 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.

5.3 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.

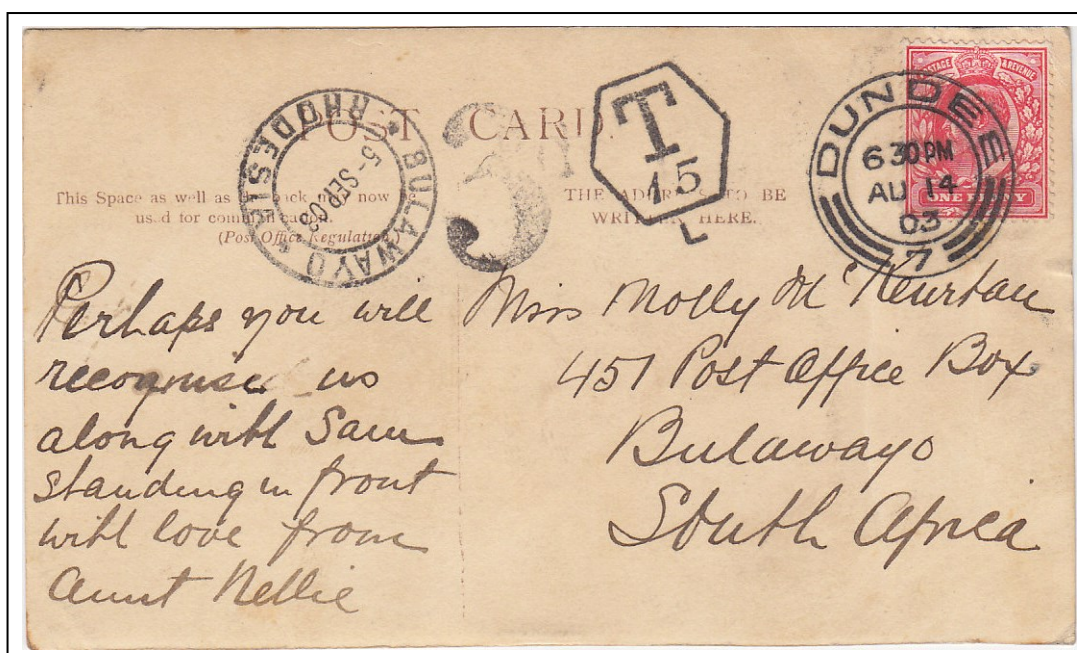


► UK to Victoria: Weston Super Mare 25 August 1904 – Melbourne

☒ 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.

5.4 Postage Due

Victoria to Sweden • Straits to France

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.



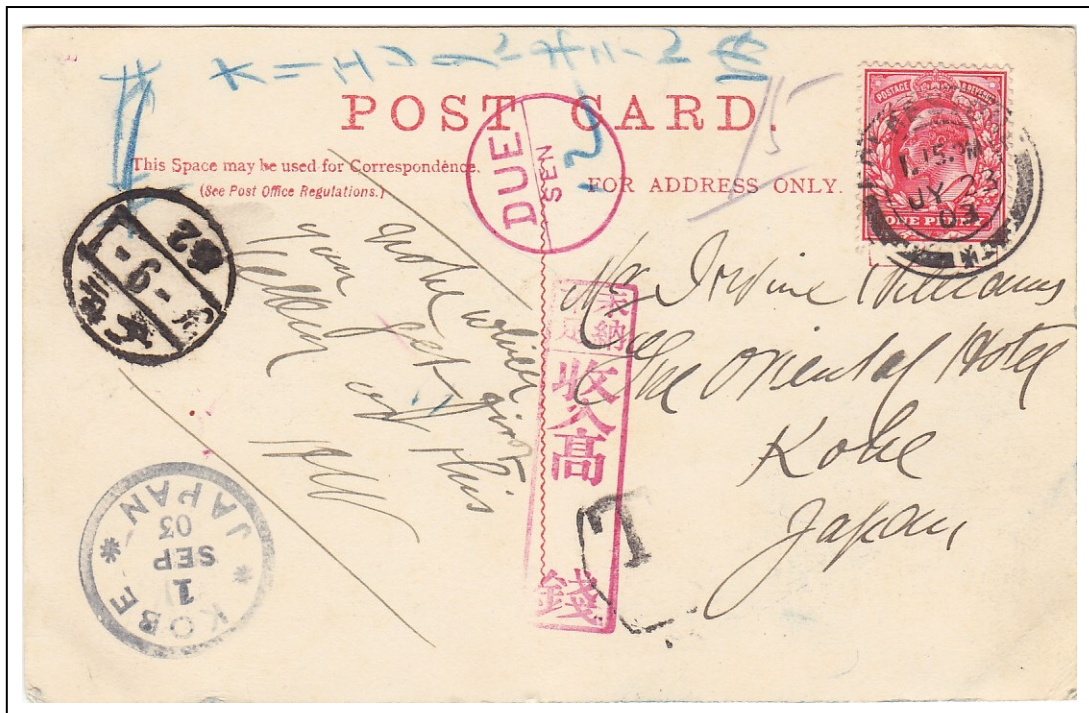
- ▶ Victoria to Sweden: Melbourne 26 June 1905 – PKXP No 2 30 July 1905 – Torekov
 - ☐ Foreign (overseas) postcard rate: 1½ pence (letter rate was 2½ pence)
 - [T] Victoria: T 10 c (deficiency), [T] Sweden: 16 (öre postage due; double deficiency)
 - §§ There is no recorded agreement between Australia and Sweden.



- ▶ 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 (covered by 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.

**5.4 Postage Due
UK to Japan and Chile**

**No Agreements
Postcard Rate, Taxed as Letters**



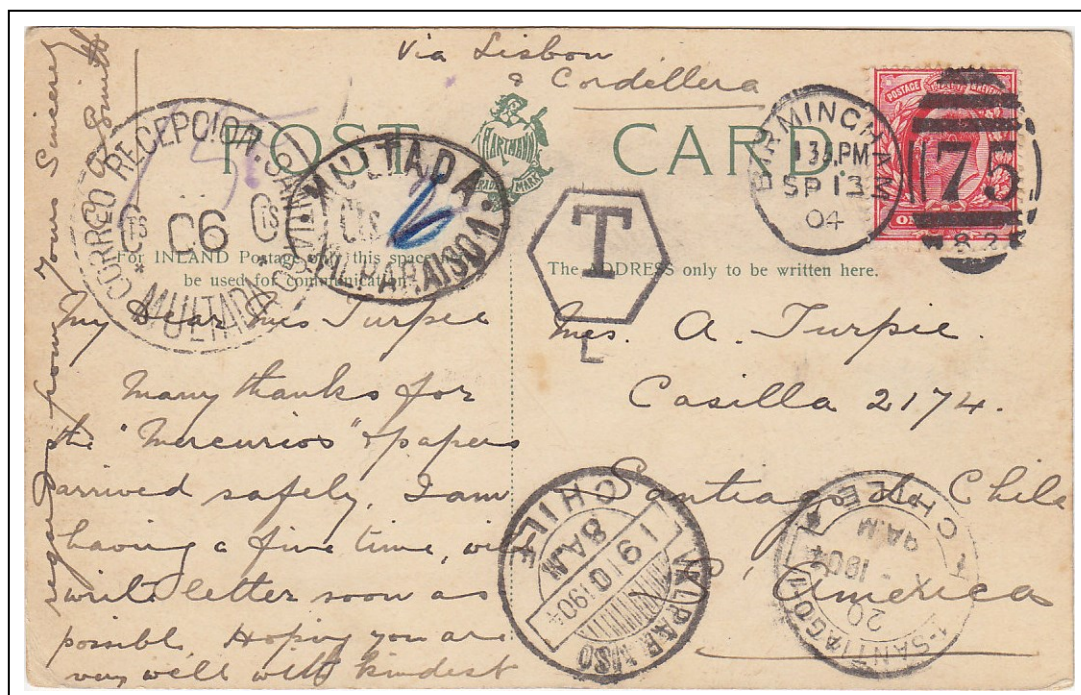
➤ UK to Japan: Folkestone 23 July 1903 – Kobe 1 September 1903

☑ 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).



➤ 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.

5.4 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

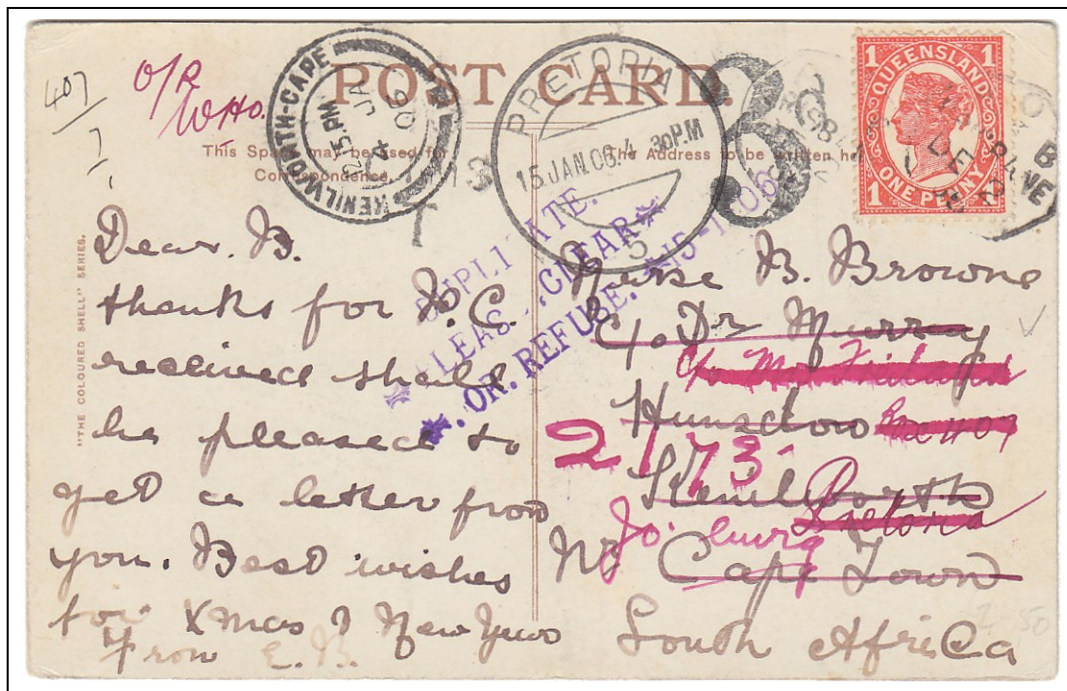
Foreign postcard rate: 10 pfennig (letter rate was 20 pfennig)

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

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

5.4 Postage Due
Queensland to CGH • US to France

No Agreements
Other Rate, Taxed as Letter



► Queensland to Cape of Good Hope:

Brisbane 2 December 1905 – Kenilworth 4 January 1906

► Forwarded to Transvaal: Kenilworth – Pretoria 15 January 1906 – Johannesburg

☑ 1 penny postage (foreign postcard rate was 1½ pence, letter postage 2½ pence)

[T] Queensland: unclear tax mark, 10 or 15 cts T; Cape Colony: 3d (double deficiency)

§§ Australia had no bilateral agreement with Cape of Good Hope or Transvaal.



► US to France: San Francisco 14 December 1905 – Puteaux 29 December 1905

☑ 4 cents postage (postcard rate was 2 cents, letter rate 5 cents)

[T] US: T 5 centimes N.Y.

[T] France: 10 centimes postage due stamp (double deficiency)

§§ There was no bilateral agreement between the US and France.

5.5 Postage Due

Dominican Republic to the US • 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.

► Dominican Republic to the US:

Puerto Plata

7 Februari 1906

New York

15 February 1906

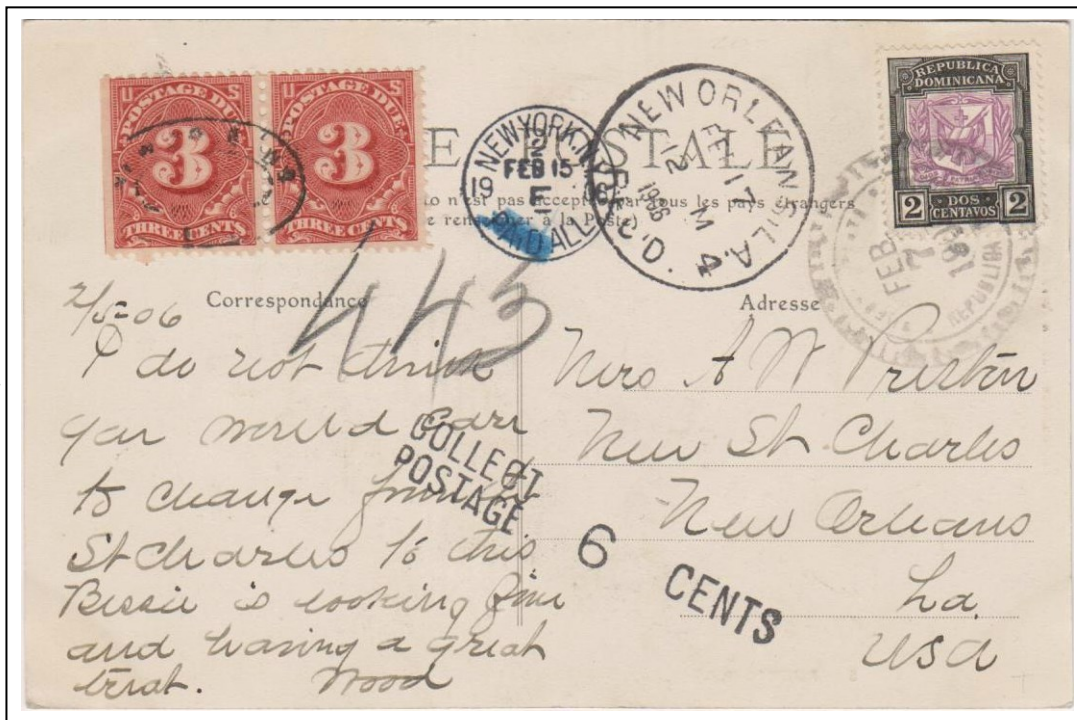
New Orleans LO

17 February 1906

Foreign postcard rate: 2 centavos (letter rate was 5 centavos)

[T] Dominican Republic: No tax marks

[T] US: 'Collect postage 6 cents' and postage due stamps (double deficiency)



§§ On 29 June 1906, the US announced 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. Dominican Republic: No tax marks on outgoing divided cards (unilateral decision).

Taxed as a letter on arrival according to the UPU rule about 'obvious error'.

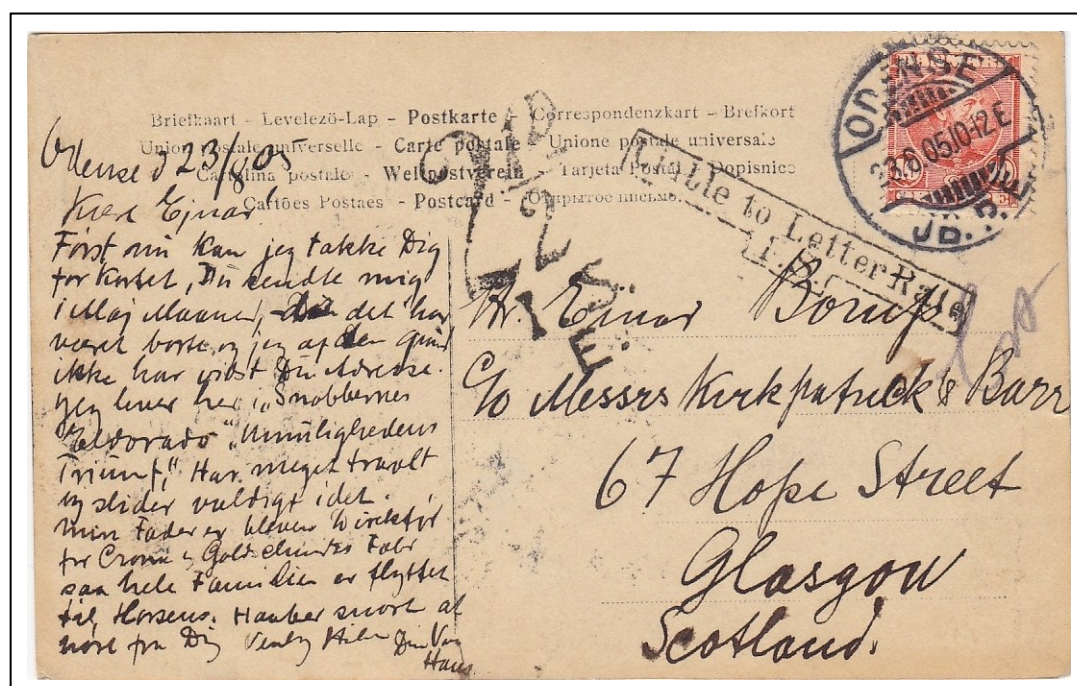
► Denmark to the UK:
Odense 23 August 1905
to Glasgow

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

[T] No Danish tax marks

[T] UK: 'Liable to Letter Rate' with signature and 2½^p I.S.E. (double deficiency)

§§ Letter rate required prior to bilateral agreement 12 December 1905.



§§ 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 in December 1905.

5.5 Postage Due

French India to Belgium • Canada 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 started accepting incoming cards without T marks at the same time as divided cards were permitted for inland use.

► French India to Belgium

Chandernagor
26 January 1905

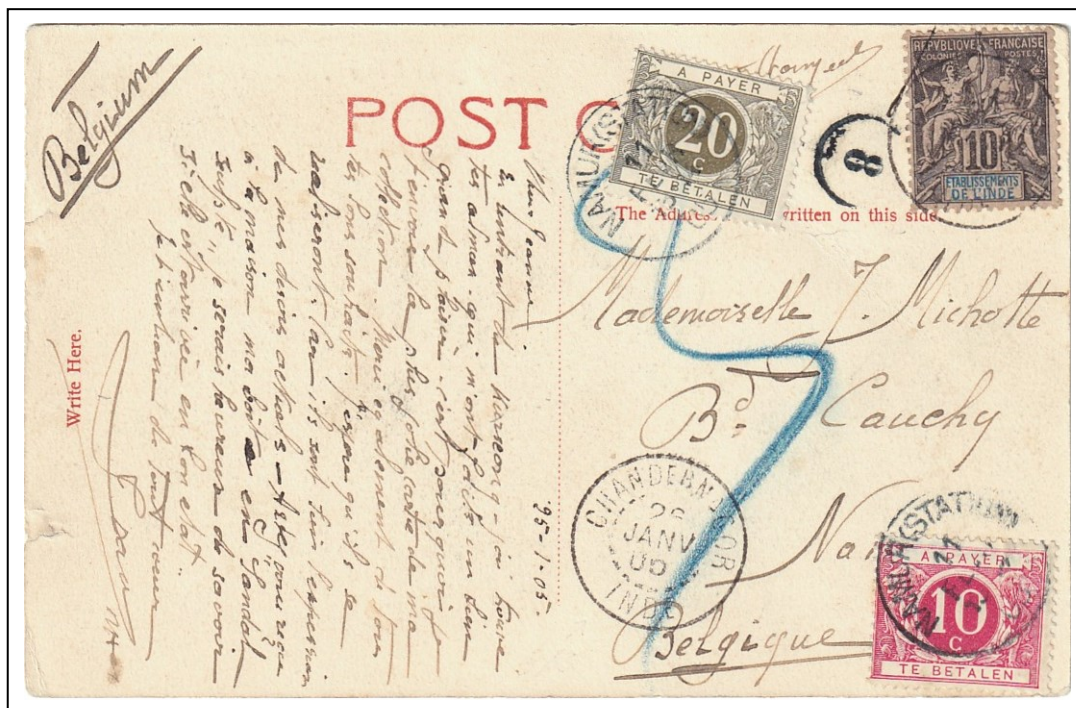
Namur 11 February 1905

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

[T] No tax marks from French India

[T] Belgium: 3 (décimes) due and postage due stamps (double deficiency)

§§ Letter rate required prior to bilateral agreement (French colonies–Belgium)
31 January 1906.



§§ 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.



► Canada to Sweden:

Victoria BC
19 May 1904

Sassnitz-Trelleborg
6 June 1904
to Kårehögen

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.

5.6 Postage Due

CGH to Norway • Martinique to Canada

**Tax Marks in Transit
Applied in the UK and the US**

UPU regulations did not clearly state whether tax marks could be applied in transit through a third country. However, available material from a number of countries shows that this happened with divided postcards, but that such tax marks were sometimes ignored on arrival – possibly because the postal authorities in the transit country did not have correct information about the rules and practices of the other countries involved.

► Cape of Good Hope
to Norway:

Port Elizabeth
4 January 1904

Kristiania
26 January 1904

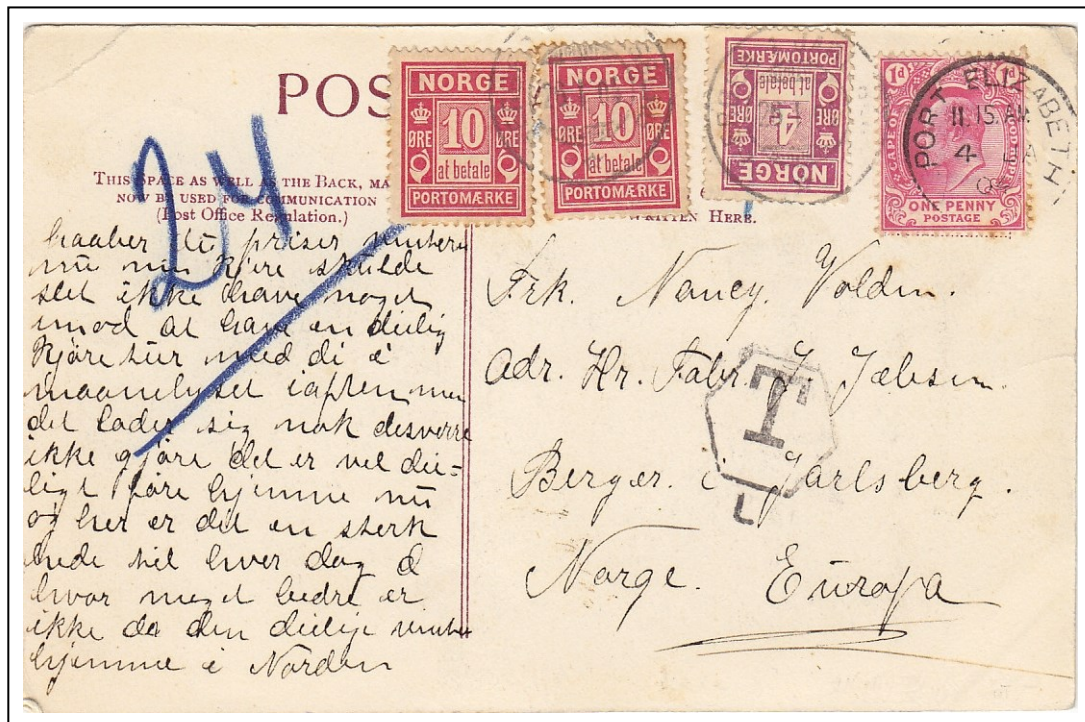
Berger i Jarlsberg
26 January 1904

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

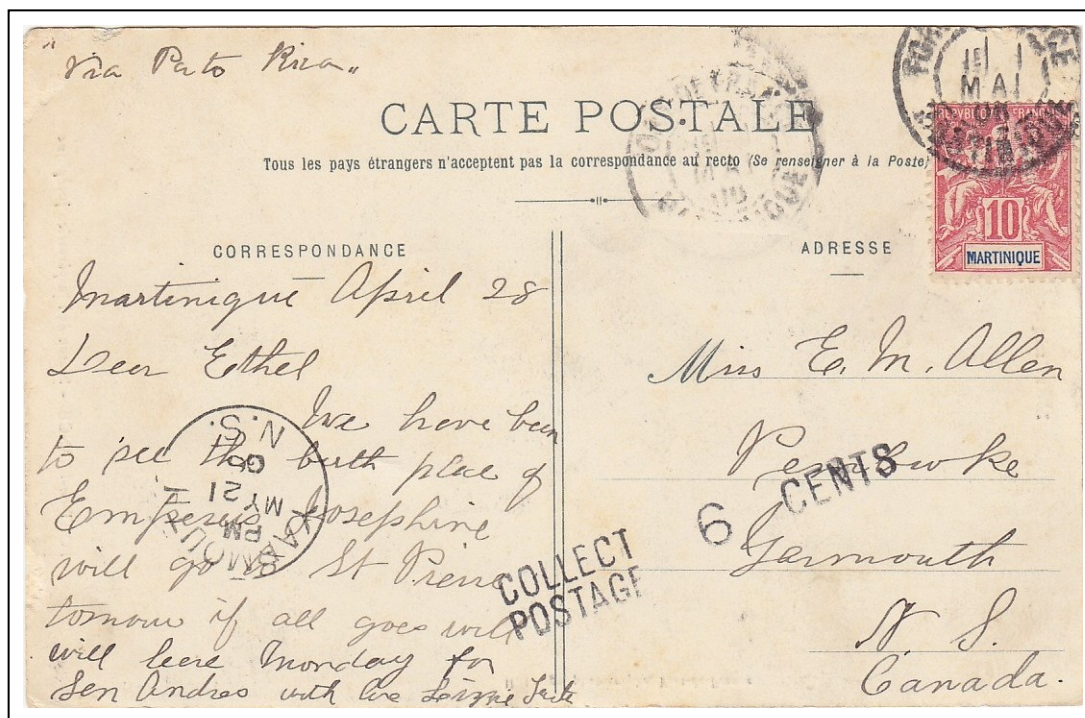
[T] CGH: No tax marks

[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. There is no indication that postage due was charged on arrival in Canada.

5.6 Postage Due

Hungary to Brazil • Denmark to Egypt

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; no
visible note about
deficiency

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



§§ 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 outgoing divided postcards and Brazil had taken a unilateral decision not to surcharge incoming divided cards that arrived without tax marks. Had it not been for the German practice, the card would have passed as the postcard rate.

Taxed as a letter only because of the German practice to apply tax marks in transit.

► 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 a letter)

[T] Egypt: No postage
due charged, and
tax marks deleted



§§ A bilateral agreement between Denmark and Egypt was in force since 29 January 1906. Postcard rate was therefore sufficient.

5.7 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 the postcard rate. A later circular explicitly confirmed that tax marks from the sending country should be ignored.

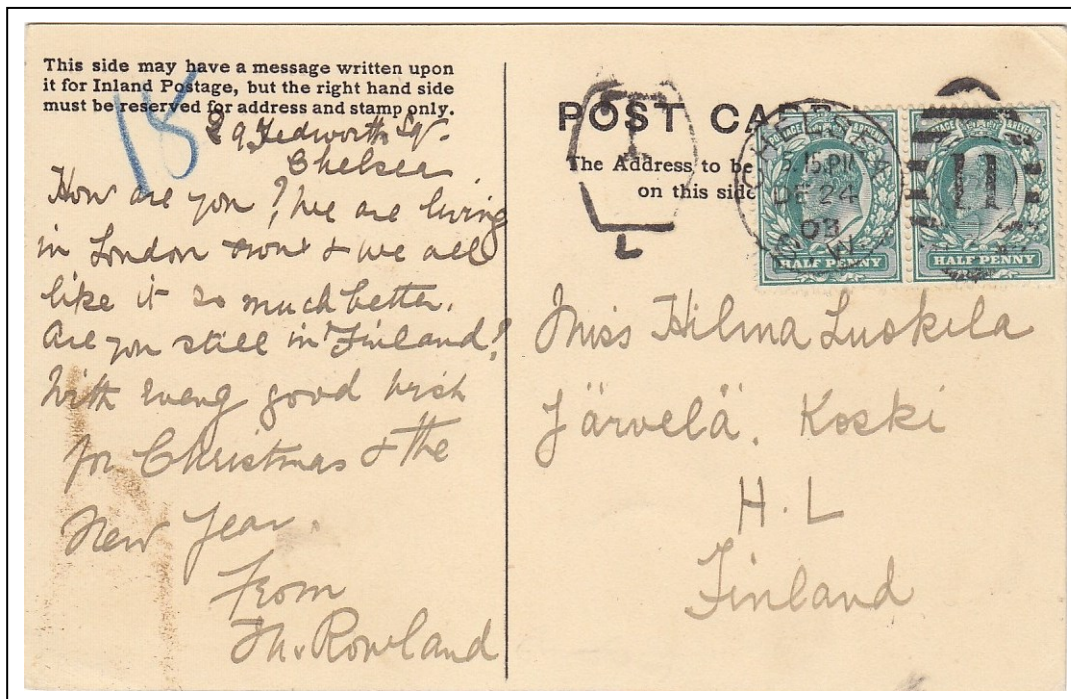
► United Kingdom to Finland (which at this time belonged to Russia):

Chelsea
24 December 1903
to Koski

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

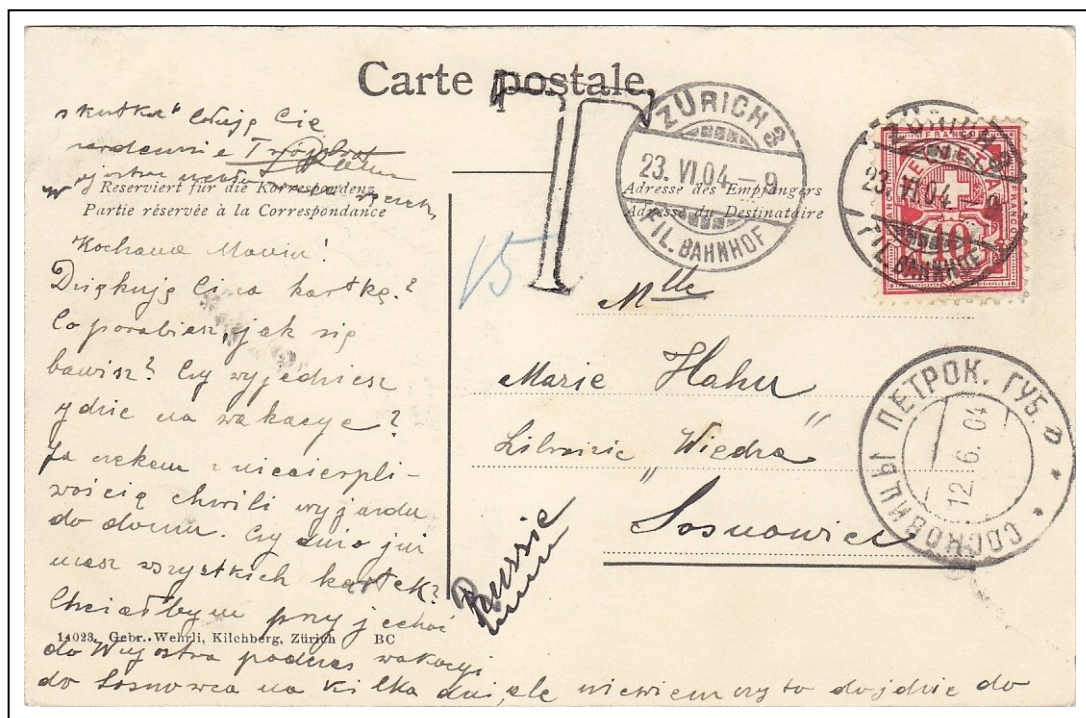
[T] UK: T (L for London) and 15 (centimes deficiency)

[T] No postage due charged on arrival



§§ The Russian decision from December 1903 made reference to requests from foreign post offices, probably referring to the process started by France in late 1903. The first bilateral agreements were announced in May 1904, but in the case of Russia, a unilateral decision anticipated the bilateral agreement.

An extremely early example of a divided card accepted at the postcard rate in international mail exchange due to a unilateral decision in the destination country.



► 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

5.7 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.

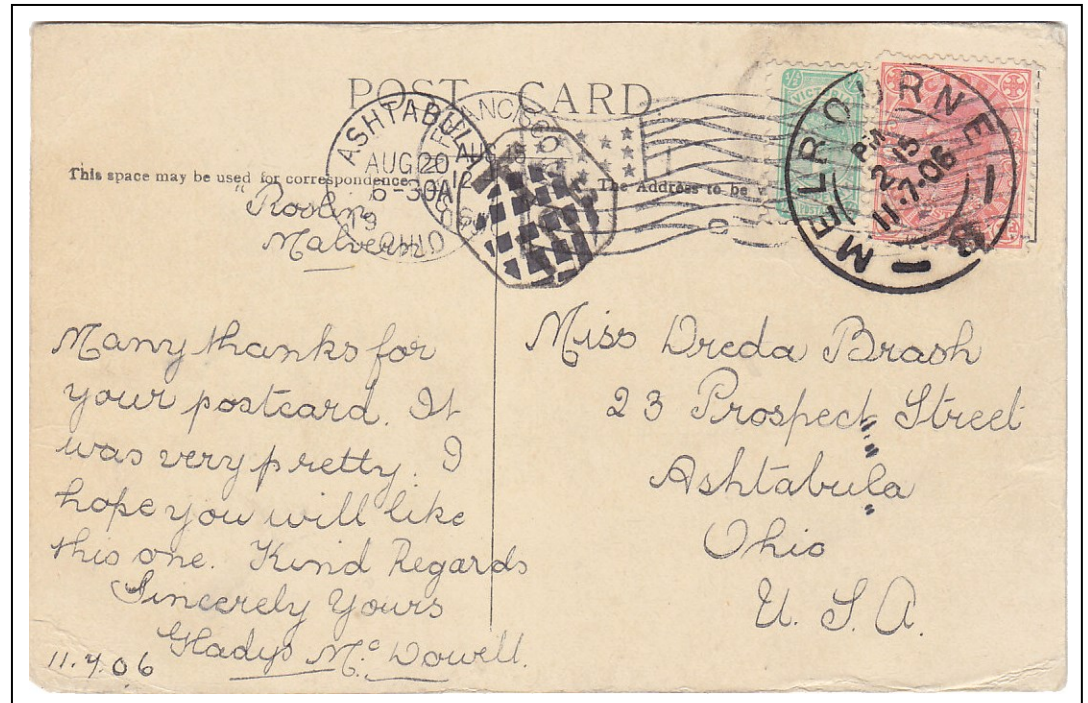
► Victoria to the US:

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

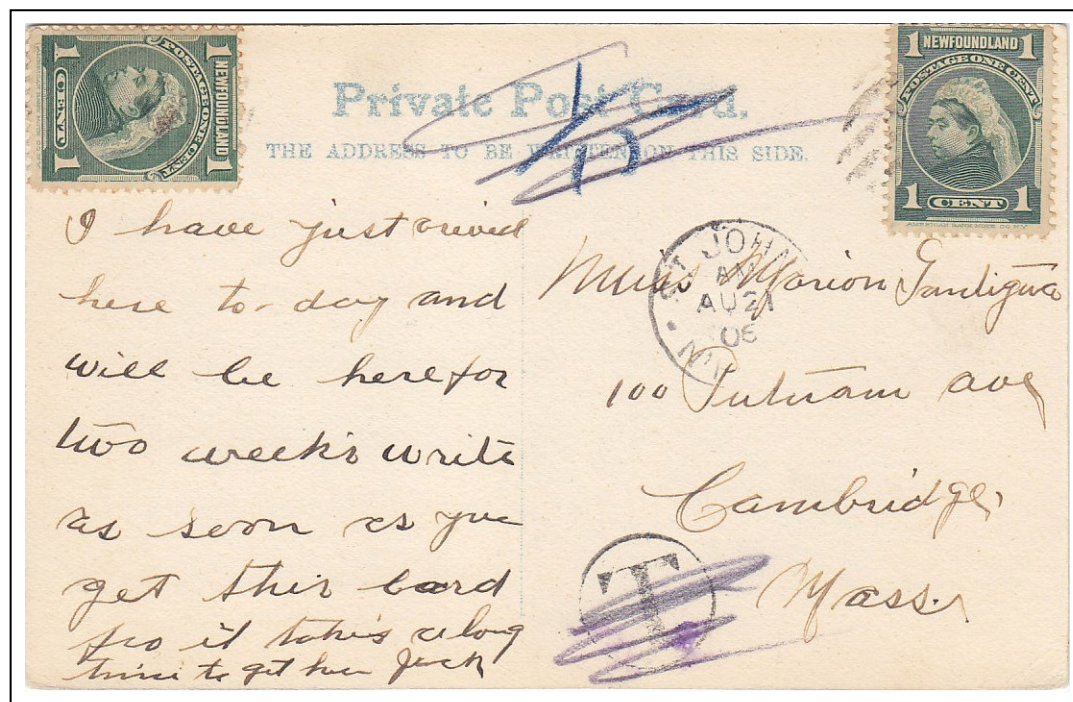
☑ Foreign postcard rate:
1½ pence (letter rate
was 2½ pence)

[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.

5.8 Postage Due UK to France and Switzerland

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:

Devonport
11 April 1904
to London

☐ Domestic postcard rate: ½ penny

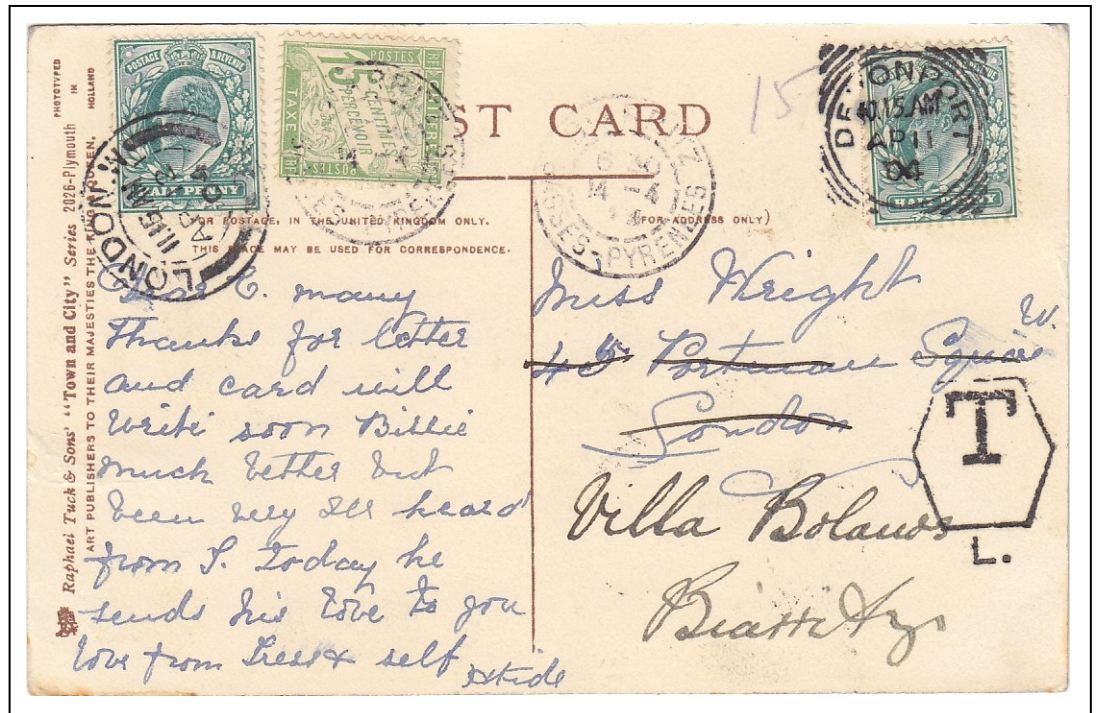
► Forwarded to France:

London 12 Apr. 1904
Biarritz 14 Apr. 1904

☐ Upated to 1d foreign postcard rate

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

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



Accepted as a postcard in inland mail but taxed as a letter when forwarded abroad.

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



► 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)

5.8 Postage Due

Norway to Hong Kong and India • Bavaria to Belgium and back

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 it also happened that the person who forwarded the card paid the postage due.

► Norway to Hong Kong:

Kristiania

26 November 1905

Singapore to Hong Kong

24 December 1905

Foreign postcard rate:

10 øre (letter rate was
20 øre)

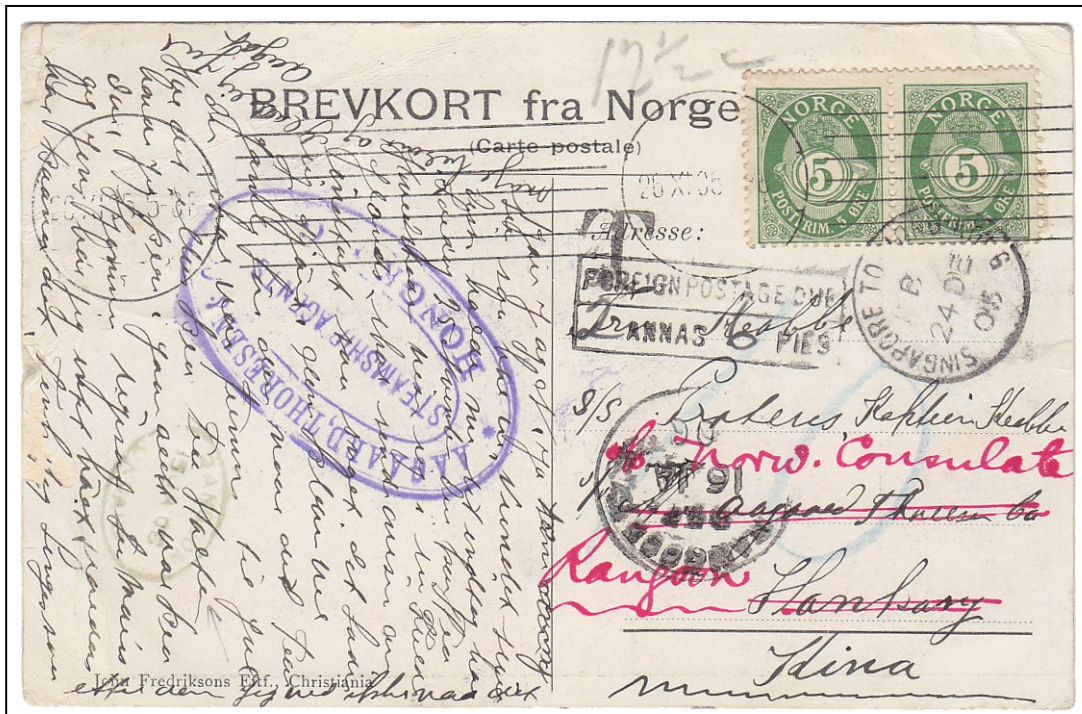
[T] Norway: T and 12½
(centimes deficiency)

[T] Hong Kong: 10 (cents
due, double deficiency)

► Forwarded to
British Burma (part
of British India):

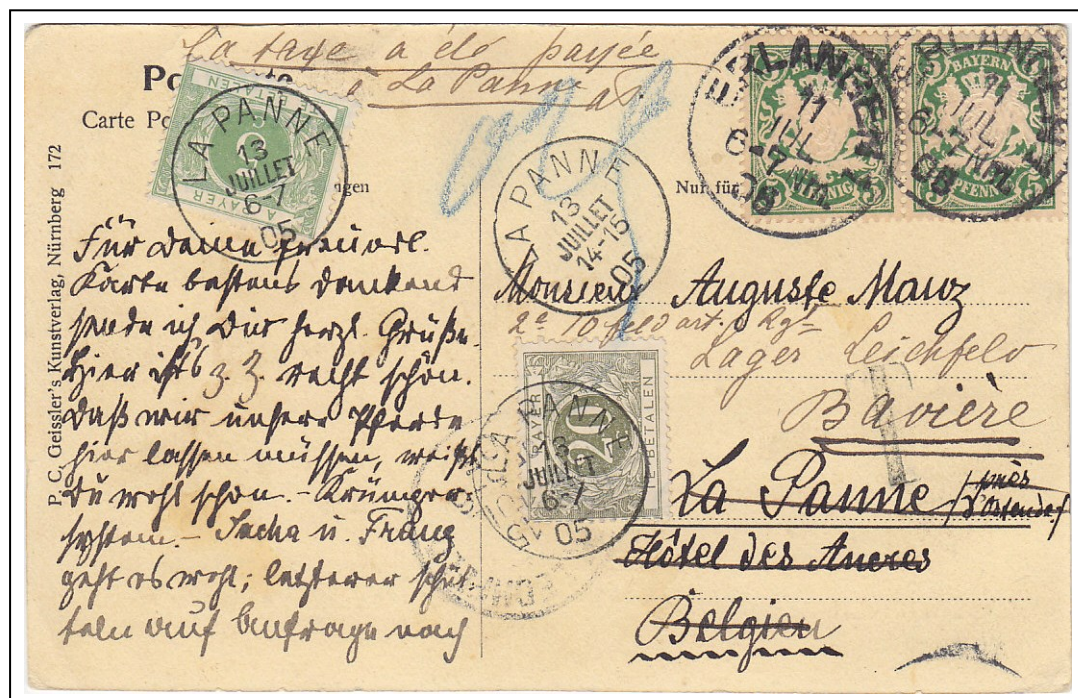
Rangoon

15 and 16 January 1906



[T] 'Rangoon 15 JA 06 Unpaid' and 'Foreign postage due 2 annas 6 pies' (double deficiency) as the postage due was not paid in Hong Kong

§§ There is no recorded agreement between Norway and Hong Kong. A bilateral agreement between Norway and British India was announced by the Norwegian post office 9 May 1906.



► 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 (on top of the card) 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 1 September 1905.

5.9 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.

6. 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 (6.1). 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 (6.2). On the contrary, it also happened that cards received tax marks by mistake even though they followed the regulations (6.3). For international mail in particular, postal clerks sometimes made mistakes when deciding the amount to charge in postage due (6.4). Finally, when most cards are described and sorted into their proper categories, there are always a few items that remain postal mysteries (6.5).



- Sweden to France, but first **missent to the US**: Stockholm 22 December 1905 –
– New York 4 January 1906 – K.City & La Junta 6 January 1906
 - Resent to Europe: US – 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: Due 5 cents (taxed as a letter, double deficiency); [T] France: US tax mark ignored.

☑ 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!** When the card reached France, the French postal clerk realized that the tax mark was struck in error and charged no postage due.

Tax mark applied in error when a divided card sent between two countries with a bilateral agreement was missent to a third country with which there was no agreement.

6.1 Mistakes and Mysteries Egypt to the US • Grenada to Italy

Failure to Charge Postage Due No Tax Marks

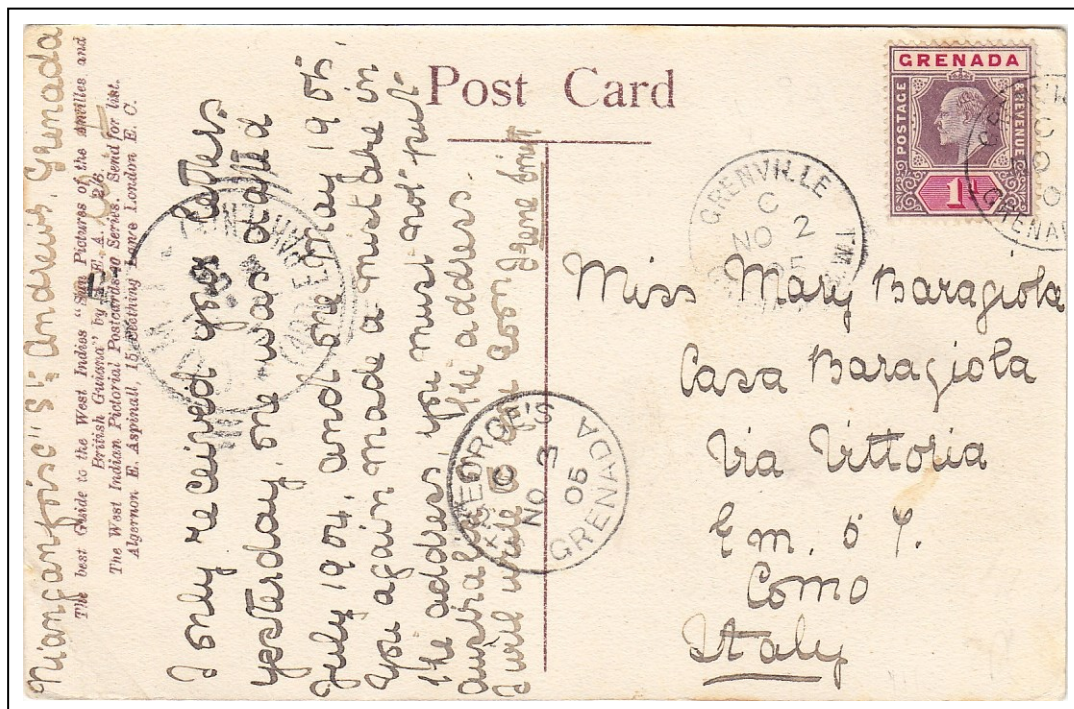


► Egypt to the United States:

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 29 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 not made such agreements.

6.1 Mistakes and Mysteries Norway to China • Queensland to Egypt

Failure to Charge Postage Due In Spite of Tax Marks

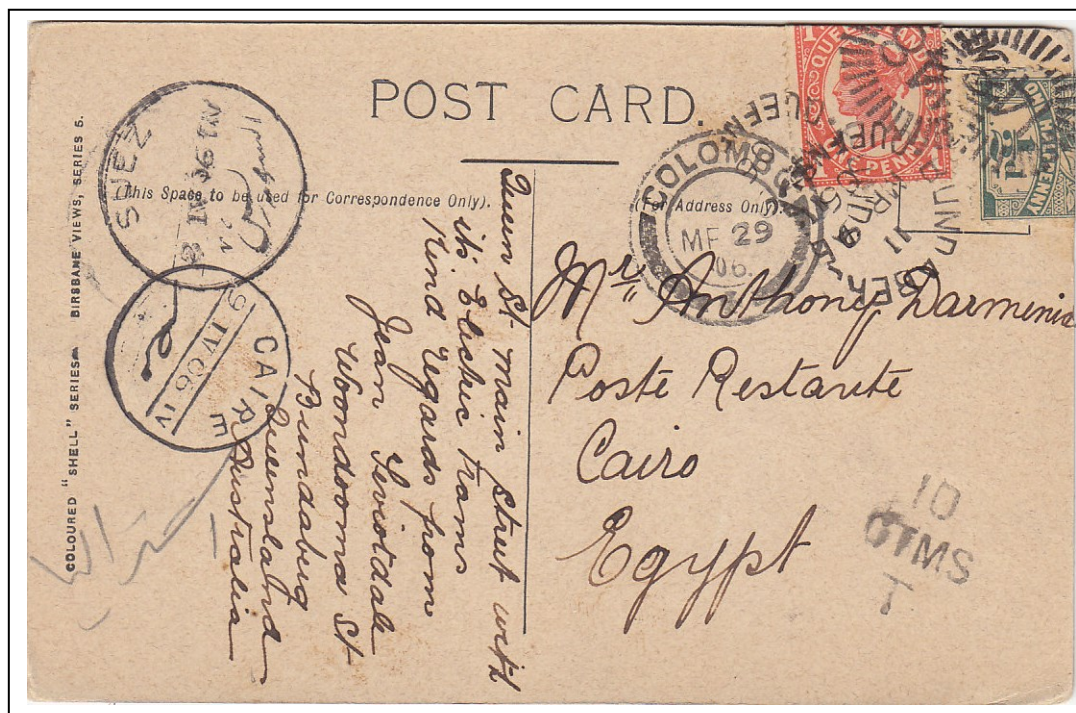


- ▶ Norway to China: Kristiania 11 December 1905 – Peking Deutsche Post 21 January 1906 – Peking 22 January and 2 February 1906 – Shanxi/Pingyang 9 February 1906 – Shanxi/Yuncheng XX February 1906

☑ 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.

6.2 Mistakes and Mysteries Russian Post in China to the UK

Underpaid Registered Mail No Postage Due According to UPU Rule

§§ International registered mail was subject to special UPU regulations. When registered mail arrived unpaid or underpaid, no postage due should be charged from the addressee. 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 a Russian field post office 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

☒ 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 (domestic postcard rate: 3 kopek, domestic registration fee: 7 kopek). Correct postage was 20 kopek (10 kopek foreign letter rate, 10 kopek foreign registration fee).

§§ A bilateral agreement between Russia and the UK was announced by the UK in December 1905, but prior to this agreement letter rate was required. At this time, the British post normally surcharged incoming divided postcards even if they had no tax marks from the sending country.

**Underpaid but no postage due charged, in accordance
with the special UPU rule about registered mail.**

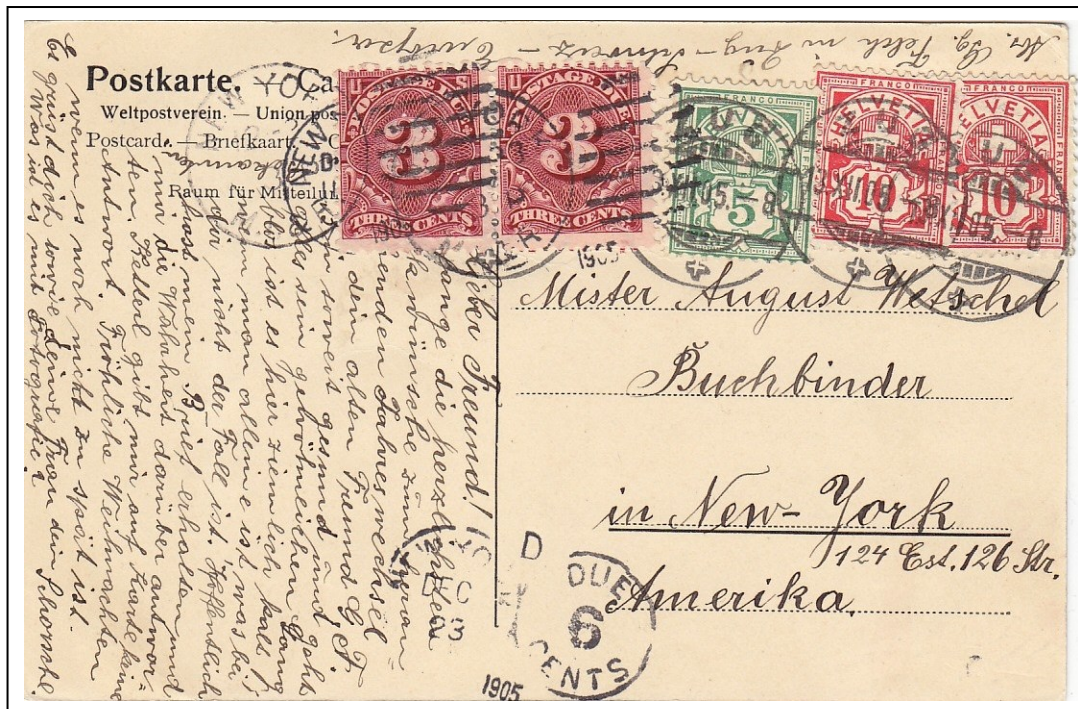
☒ This historically interesting card was sent from Kharbin in Manchuria shortly after the end of the Russo-Japanese war and subject to military censorship. The sender comments on the war and, implicitly, on the censorship:

Dear friend,

Don't be angry with me, now that the peace [treaty] has been signed, I expect to be able to write to you more freely later on. I will then explain to you the reasons for my silence. Don't forget that we are in Russia...

6.3 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.

6.3 Mistakes and Mysteries

Victoria to the UK • Sweden to Belgium

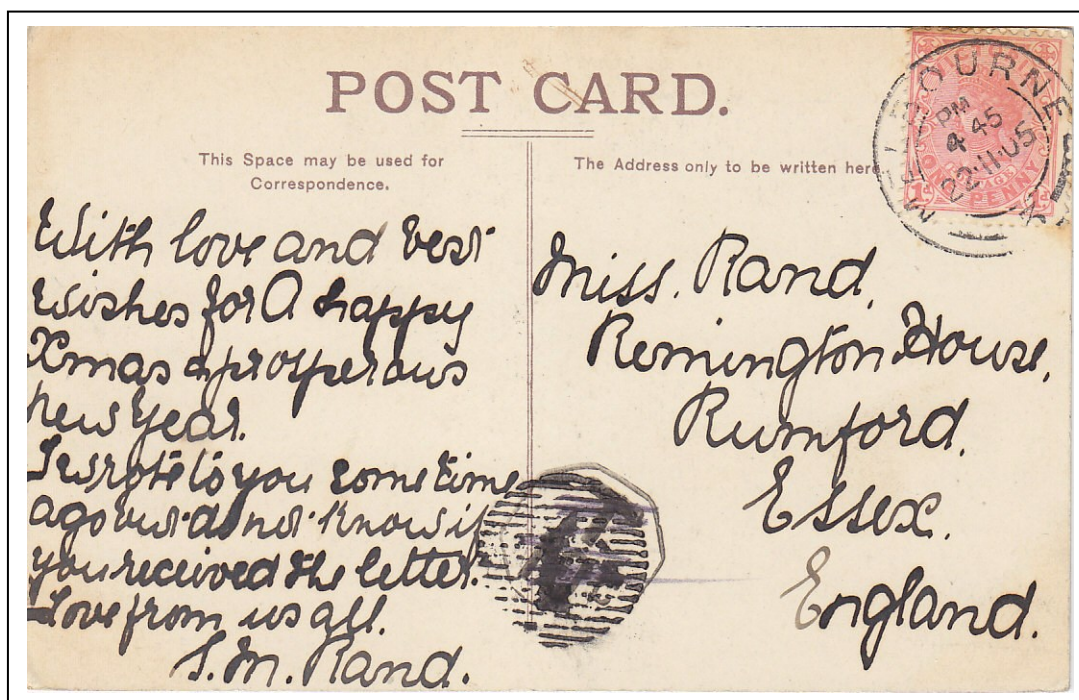
Tax Marks Applied in Error

In Spite of Bilateral Agreements

► Victoria to the UK:
Melbourne
22 November 1905
to Rumford

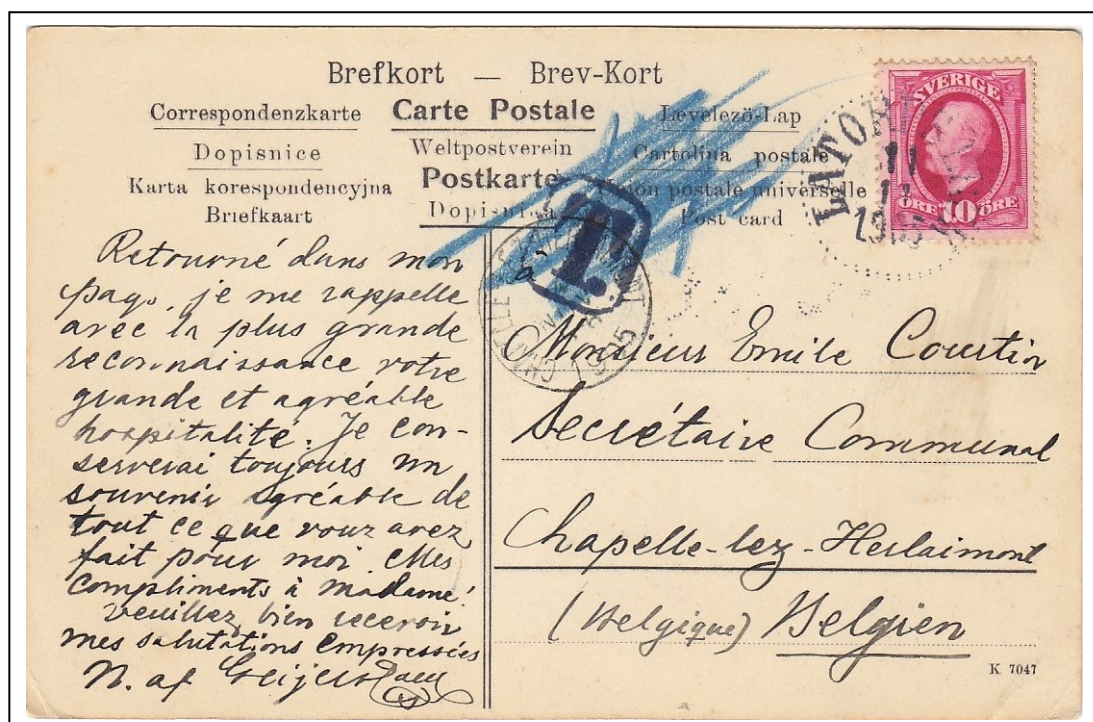
☒ Postcard rate to the UK: 1 penny

[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 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.

Tax mark struck in error the first day the bilateral agreement was in force.



► Sweden to Belgium:
Latorps Bruk
11 November 1905
Chapelle-lez-Heilaimont
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.

6.4 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 late June 1906.

6.4 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:

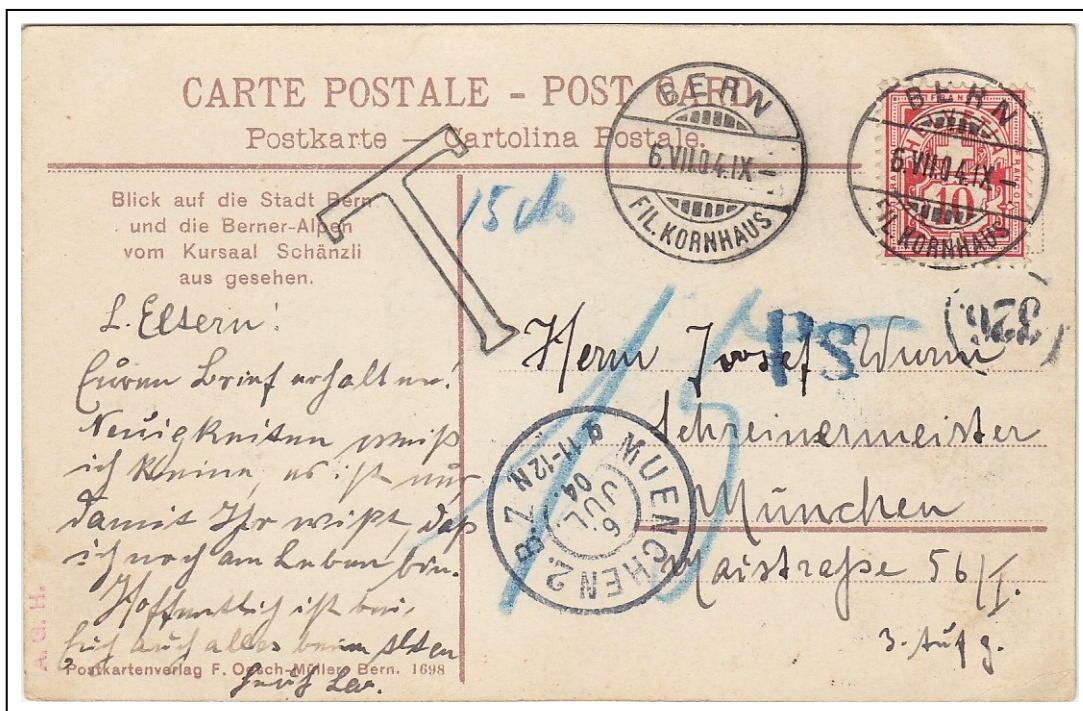
Bern
6 July 1904
Muenchen
6 July 1904

☐ 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 but 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.

6.5 Mistakes and Mysteries

Spain • France to Germany and Norway

Mysteries

Things I Do Not Understand

No matter how carefully you study postal regulations and try to interpret those old postal items that come your way, you always end up with a few 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?



► 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)

7. Format and Layout

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. Once divided cards were accepted, old undivided postcards were at times transformed to divided cards by a printed line added by the publisher or by a hand-drawn line. Some correspondents also wrote messages on the address side without adding a dividing line (7.1). 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 (7.2) or that senders wrote text outside the designated area (7.3). A few other layout varieties are also shown (7.4 and below), as well as an example of how the divided address side affected the design of the image side (7.5). Early divided cards often had printed instructions about permitted or forbidden use, which could sometimes be confusing (7.6).

► UK to the US:

GK & Ardrishaig Packet

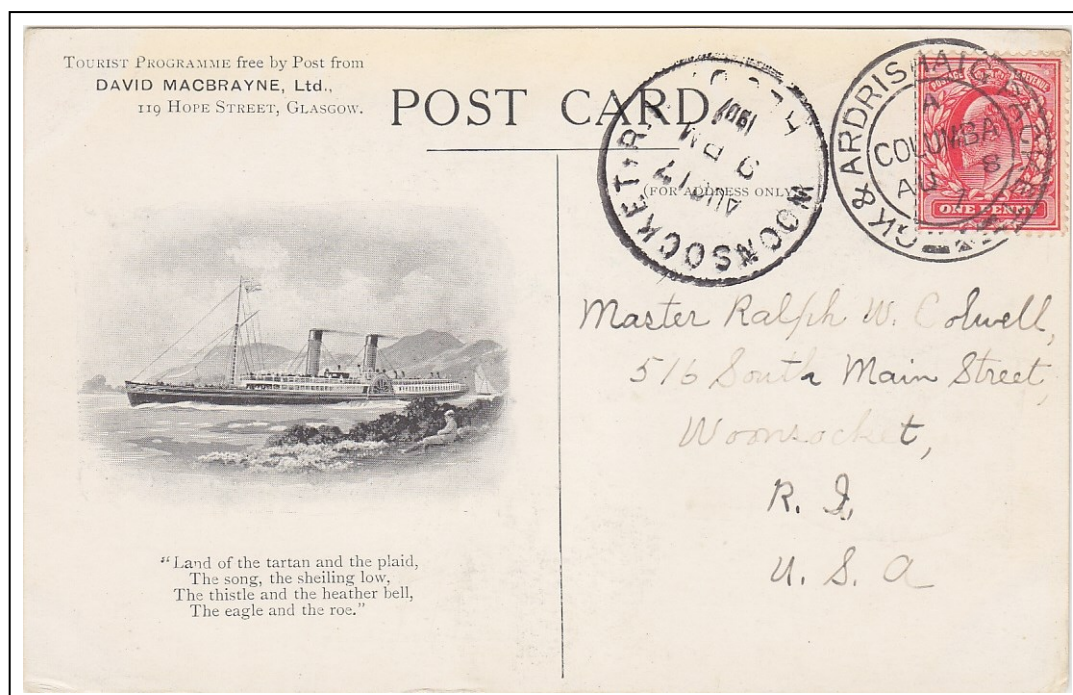
A Columba

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.

7.1 Format and Layout

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

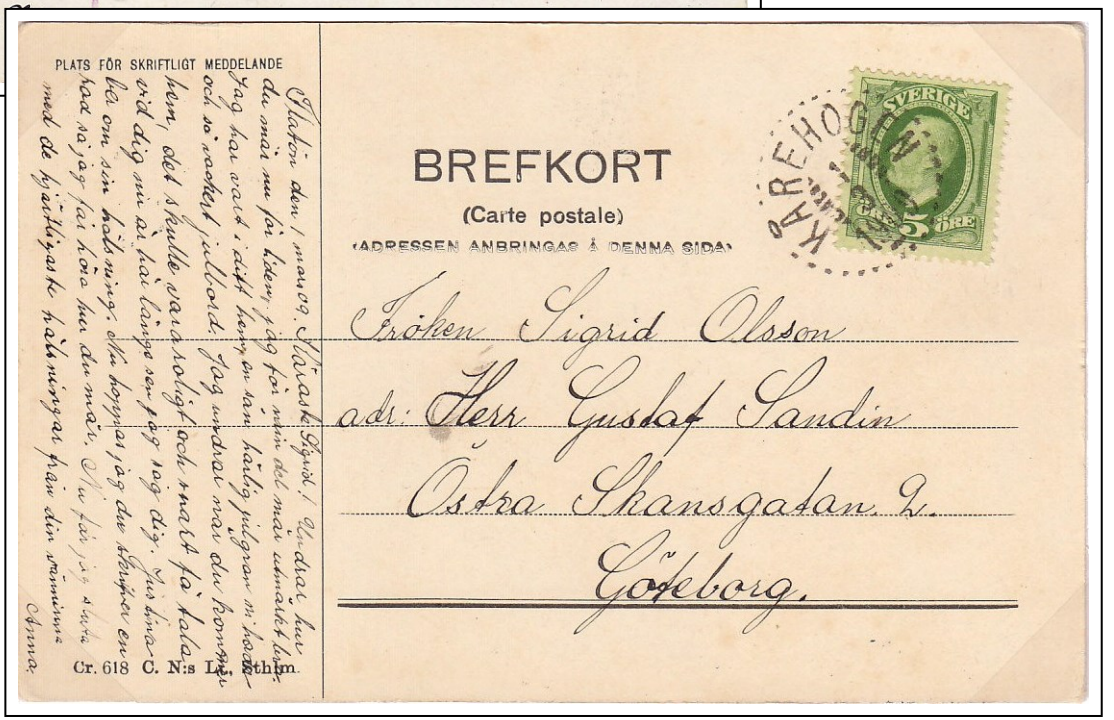


Added dividing line and text 'Messages allowed'. Not very elegant, but used by the sender.

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

'Space for written message' and added dividing line.

► Kårehogen 1 March 1909 – Gothenburg



7.1 Format and Layout Germany • Unites States

Dividing Line Drawn by Hand or Absent

When divided cards came in general use, some correspondents divided old postcards themselves, by a hand-drawn line. Others simply wrote a message on the address side of an undivided card without drawing a dividing line. In most countries, the postal authorities accepted this once divided cards were allowed.

► Germany:

Freiburg 12 March 1905
to Erfeld

☐ Domestic postcard
rate: 5 pfennig

§§ This undivided card, neatly divided by a double hand-drawn line, was accepted by the German post at the postcard rate shortly after divided cards were introduced in Germany in February 1905.



► United States: Lealman FL 1 March 1907 – Benicia CA 8 March 1907

☐ Domestic postcard rate: 1 cent • §§ Divided cards allowed for inland use: 1 March 1907

Correspondence on the address side but no dividing line, accepted on the first day divided cards were allowed for inland use in the United States.

7.3 Format and Layout

UK • Russia to Bavaria

Writing Outside Designated Area

Address to the Left, Correspondence to the Right

§§ Divided cards should have the address on the right-hand side of the address side and correspondence to the left. Cards with correspondence to the right might be taxed as letters, although such cards were sometimes accepted at the postcard rate.

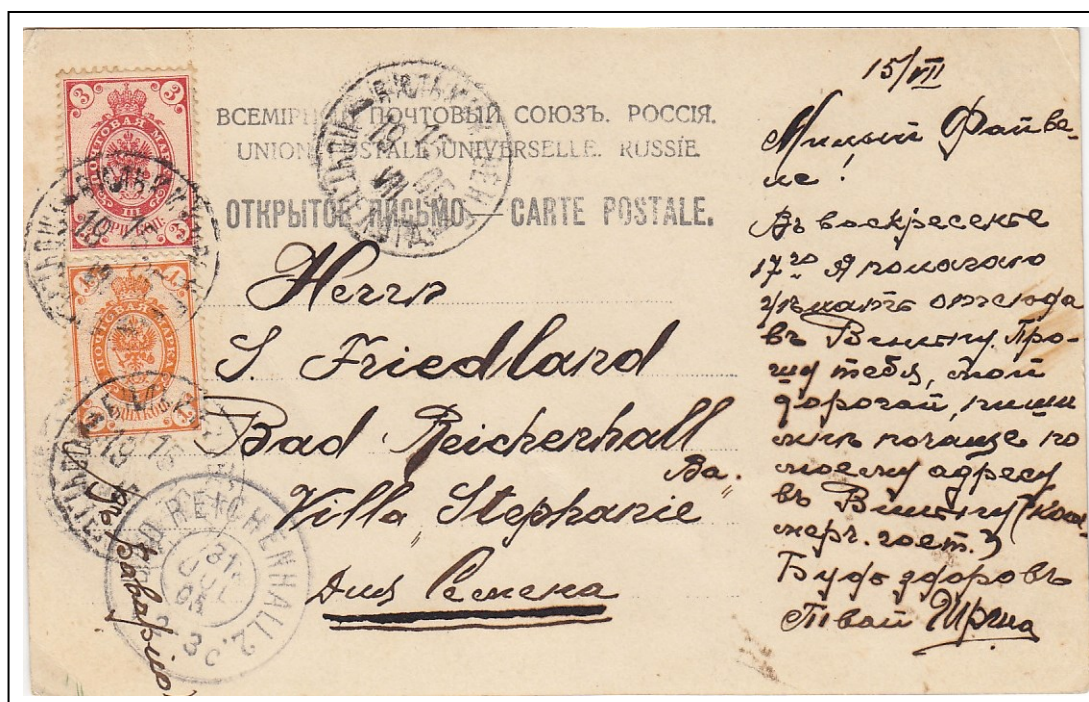


► UK: Liverpool (Lark Lane) 14 July 1905 – London

☑ Domestic postcard rate: ½ penny (letter rate was 1 penny)

[T] UK: T, 'Contrary to regulations 466' and 1^D (double deficiency)

§§ Taxed as an underpaid letter due to correspondence to the right.



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

☑ Foreign postcard rate: 4 kopek

§§ Accepted at the postcard rate despite correspondence to the right.

7.3 Format and Layout

France to Sweden/Germany • Portugal

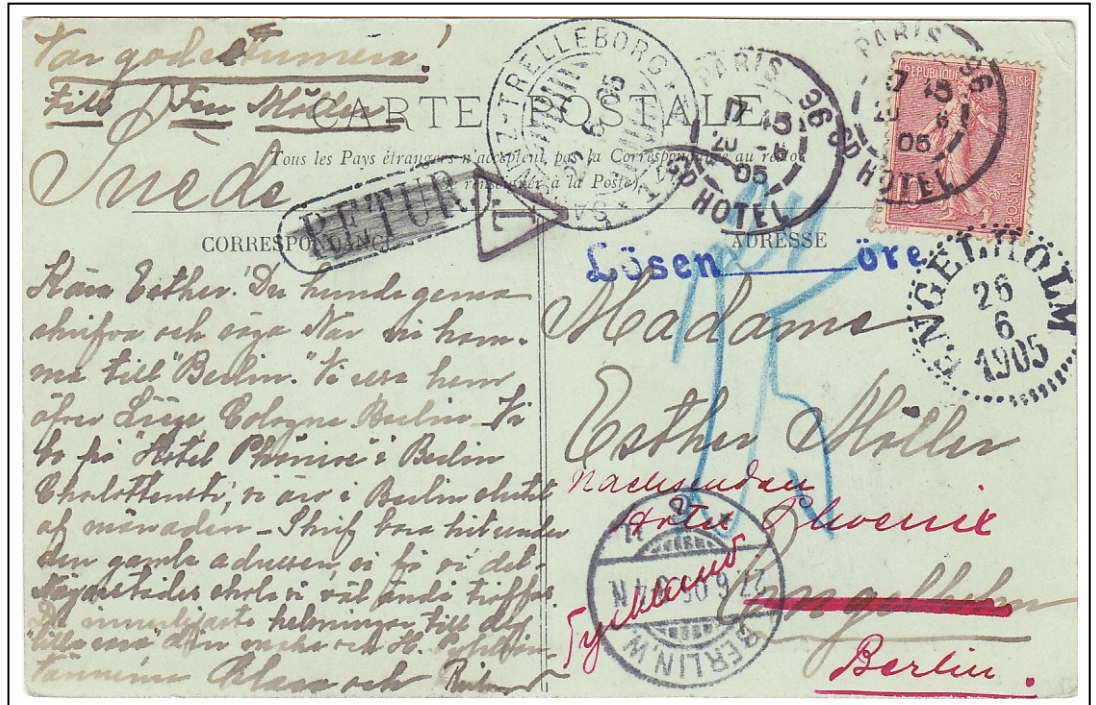
Writing Outside Designated Area

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.

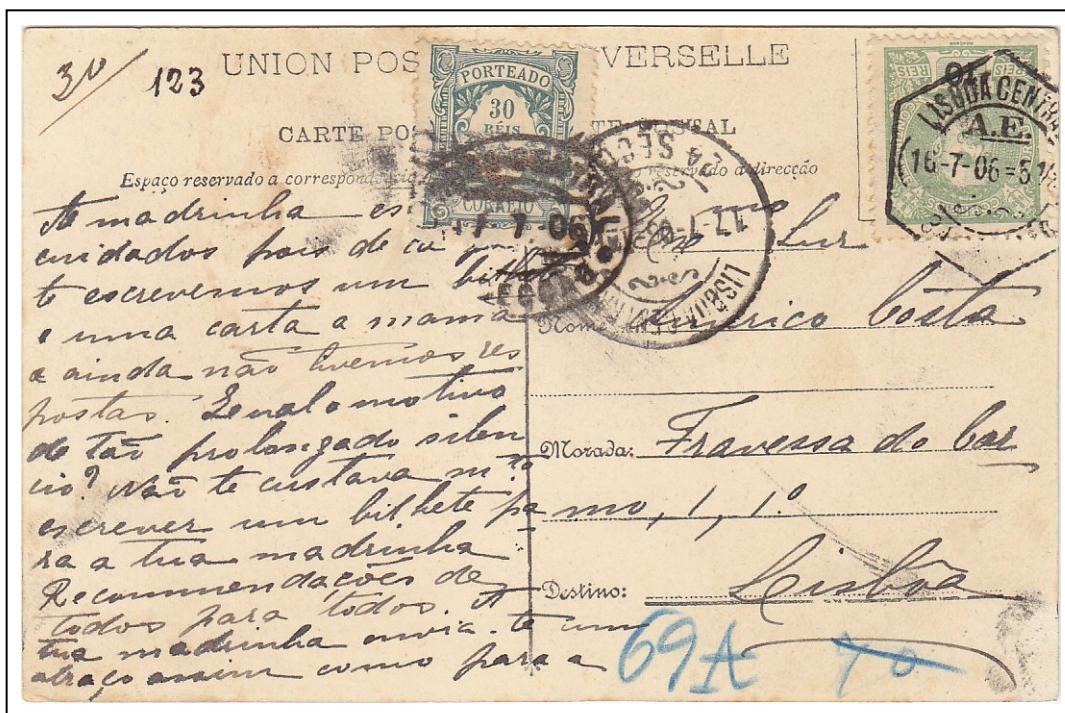
§§ An early interpretation of the French rules for divided postcards was that the **designated space for messages was below the word 'Correspondance'**. If writing appeared above this word the card might be taxed as a letter.

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
- ☑ Postcard rate: 10 centimes but taxed as letter (letter rate was 25 centimes)
- [T] France: T (but no note about deficiency); Sweden: 'Lösen 24 öre' (double deficiency)
- 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)

§§ Bilateral agreement
France-Sweden:
December 1904



§§ In Portugal, **writing was only permitted on the address side of divided postcards.**

If correspondence also appeared on the image side, as on this postcard, letter postage 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

7.4 Format and Layout

Portugal to Ponta Delgada • Angra to Portugal

► 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

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.

Other Layout Varieties

Layout and Use of the Address Side



► Angra to Portugal:

Angra do Heroísmo

17 April 1906

Lisboa 22 April 1906

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

Another original way of using half the address side for correspondence: Handwritten message on top and address on the bottom of the address side. Accepted by the postal clerks in both Angra and Portugal.

7.5 Format and Layout 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.



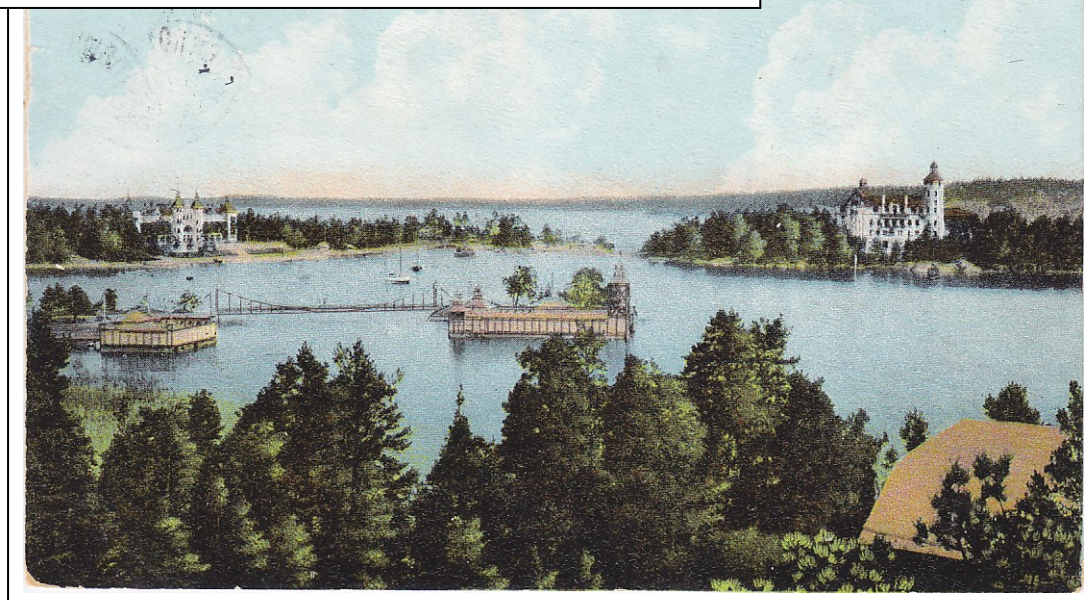
Above: Undivided card with a white space for correspondence on the image side. (September 1903)



Left: Early divided card, still with a narrow white stripe for correspondence 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.



7.6 Format and Layout

UK • Austria • Sweden • UK • 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).



7.6 Format and Layout

Cape Verde • France

Instructions for Users

Modified Instructions • Lacking Instructions

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

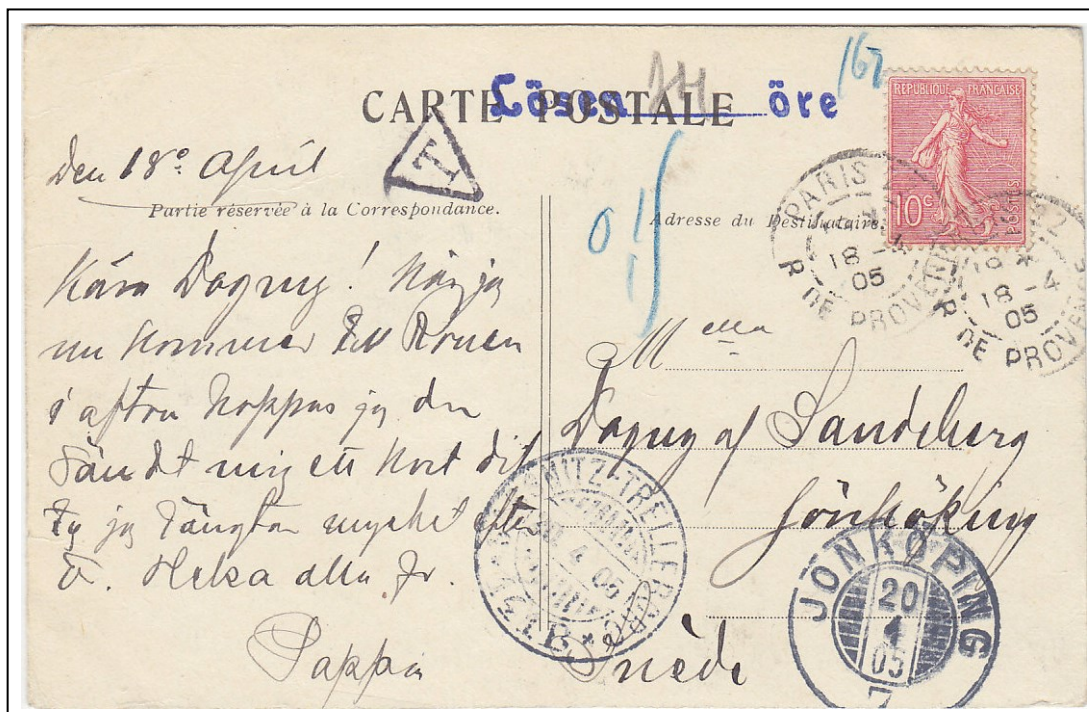
S. Vicente
30 March 1903
Bowling Green OH
24 April 1903

☑ Foreign postcard rate: 25 réis

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



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.



► 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 (cts deficiency)

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

§§ In order to avoid that 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 was that French postal clerks began to apply tax marks on cards 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).

Postage due charged because of lacking information about foreign use.

8. The End of Postal Confusion

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
to Sweden:

Lolo MT
1 October 1907

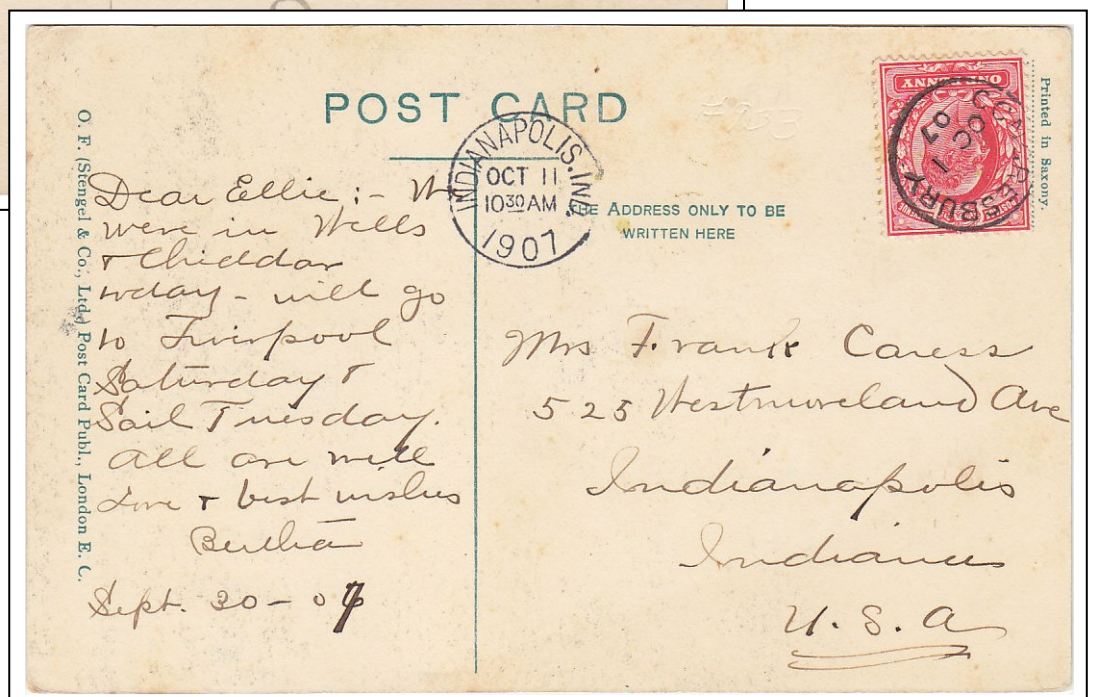
Finspong
15 October 1907

☐ Foreign postcard
rate: 2 cents



► 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