



AFFILIATE #207

# THE POSTAL LABEL BULLETIN

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**Ron Bentley**

**Okay for Export**

Shortages of commodities during World War II compelled governments to impose rationing. People in France, who were desperate for supplies, relied on family members residing abroad for help. France instituted the Law of 3 June 1941, which provided rules about shipping rationed items. This law applied to France proper as well as colonies and protectorates.

A notice about the implementation of the law in Indochina was made by the Direction des Services Économiques in the *Journal Officiel de l'Indochine Française* (1 November 1941, page 3098). A translation follows.

Direction of Economic Services

*Notice about shipping postal packets and postal parcels to France*

According to a law from June 3, 1941, regulating the sending of rationed food staples, the department has just informed the government of the following prescriptions:

1. No shipment of food products can now be shipped to France if it exceeds the weight of three kilos;
2. Shipments to the occupied zone can only take place in the form of a postal parcel. Postal packets and postal parcels within the weight limit specified in no 1 are accepted for the free zone;
3. Shipments can only be made once per fortnight by a sender;
4. To ensure the control of the consignments, a red label bearing mention of the fortnight of dispatch must be affixed on each postal packet or postal parcel. These labels must be provided to people upon request.

People will be informed that they cannot send more than one package per fortnight and will have to pay attention to the indication of the fortnight carried on the label which will be given to them.

To facilitate shipments, labels have been printed for the two weeks that have passed since September 6, the date of departure of the last boat to leave the colony for the mainland. This provision will allow shippers to send to France the maximum compatible with the new regulations, by reporting the fortnights already passed if they had not made any shipment during these fortnights.

On the other hand, the department was inundated with various suggestions tending to facilitate the shipments and to increase them whenever possible while remaining within the new regulations. The public will be notified, if applicable, of the decisions made.

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Husband and the wife will be considered as different senders, provided that the latter only mentions her own name on the consignments.

Labels to this effect will shortly be made available to the interested public through public services (Inspections, Residences, Police Stations, etc.)

Like many bureaucratic regulations, it would have been easy to get lost in the details. In any event, it was made clear that exports were limited and had to be specifically identified with a special-purpose label.

Figure 1 shows the tag for a package mailed from Hai-Phong to Lézignan-Corbières, France. The address side shows a registration label (with an usual notation that may have been connected with the export control accounting) and a "HAI-PHONG TONKIN 12-11 41" postmark. The reverse side shows postage stamps totaling 1.40 piasters, a filled-in customs label and an export authorization label. Handwritten information on the customs label includes a list of the package contents "cacao, farine Nestle, Nestle oats" (farine = flour). The package contents suggest that maybe the recipient had a baby as these items were typical baby foods of the period. The indicated weight of the package was 3

kilograms, the allowable maximum.

What is of most immediate interest is the red label with black print. The horizontal lines read "INDOCHINE FRANÇAISE / (Loi du 3 Juin 1941) / AUTORISATION D'EXPORTER / 1re quinzaine Novembre." Written along the circumference of the circle at the right is "Direction des Services Économiques." "Service des Exchanges Commerciaux" appears inside the circle.

This package was posted on 11 November 1941. The attack on Pearl Harbor occurred at the beginning of the following month opening the Pacific War and closing off regular external postal service. Since the announcement of these labels had appeared in the official journal on 1 November, their effective period of use was short by any measure.

Of course, reports on any other sightings of an export label would be welcome



Fig. 1  
Package tag with  
export control label

### Acknowledgements

Thanks to Loïc Dufresne de Virel for his excellent translation of the French notice into English. Thanks to Jean Goanvic for sharing his observations on the item. More details about the labels and export control can be found on Jean's comprehensive web site. For some background see:

[https://www.histoire-et-philatelie.fr/pages/005\\_decolonisation/0100\\_1936-1946\\_p-3\\_colonies\\_petainistes.html#paquetsfamiliaux](https://www.histoire-et-philatelie.fr/pages/005_decolonisation/0100_1936-1946_p-3_colonies_petainistes.html#paquetsfamiliaux)

and for specifics on Indochina see :

[https://www.histoire-et-philatelie.fr/pages/008\\_indo/506\\_indochine\\_sous\\_tutelle\\_japonaise\\_1941.html#colisfamiliaux](https://www.histoire-et-philatelie.fr/pages/008_indo/506_indochine_sous_tutelle_japonaise_1941.html#colisfamiliaux)

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# Membership News

## President's Message

Hello, everyone. I hope you are all well and safe during this crazy time. I've been taking the opportunity to work on my collections without feeling guilty!

There has been a certain quiescence in the Group since my last message. That is most apparent in the lack of bidding in our last auction. I am attributing it to the pandemic.

But there is another possibility and I need your input so we can tailor the auctions to your needs. Much of what is offered ranges from Mair 2-4 stars. Perhaps you are all too advanced for those offerings and prefer scarcer material. We have tried adding some lots with usage of labels on cover. Such postal history is difficult to evaluate. Often, the cover has more value as postal history than for the label, which may not be rare.

It has always seemed to me that the auction is part of the glue that holds us together. Should we continue having them? If not, will the Bulletin be enough to hold your interest? The on-line Bulletin could easily be expanded with regular notes or articles from members.

Please send your thoughts either to me or to Bas, the editor, along with any other comments you care to share.

All best wishes

**Art Groten**

### THE POSTAL LABEL BULLETIN

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In the 1990's, Israel began to computerize its postal label services. Most other countries followed suit. Each country had its own code. Israel uses IL. It is not always clear when you have an unknown bar code label, what the country of origin is.

Israel reference manuals do list the codes for the many printings. These self-adhesive labels (printed in several size formats) generally have 3 to 5 peel able bar code strips.

The following label types are:

- ▶ Registration: blue background w/ red and black bars.
- ▶ Express (Special Delivery): Deep red background and black print.
- ▶ Registration and Express: Orange background and black print.
- ▶ Registration and A.R.: Avis de Reception, (confirmation of delivery) Turquoise/ green background.
- ▶ Registration IDF: Postal Military use. Background violet and white.

At the mailing site, the postal clerk places the top peel able bar code strip on to the receipt and returns it to the mailer. The clerk then scans the unique bar code and stores it into the system.

At the designation, the second bar code strip is attached to the recipient's form, and the recipient signs the form, showing delivery. Another scan of the bar code confirms delivery. Some details may vary.

Note, in this article, all the Israel covers shown are local, with all writing in Hebrew, and local stamps. I think.

Today most countries have a similar bar code system. This opens up a whole new collecting area of registration labels, but I will miss the old style of labels.

**Examples**

1. Mint Reg bar code 3/99 printing Wide white top panel.



2. 3/99 printing as shown on the left, local Israel cover, 8/6/99,



3. Mint reg. bar code 06f/04 printing

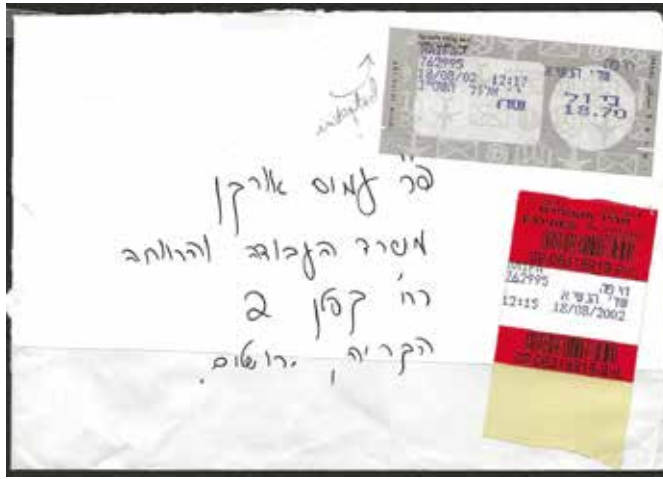


4. Mint Special delivery, no indication of printing date. All red



5. Mint Special delivery, 0302 printing, white pane in center

6. Local cover with 1/2001 printing, showing function of white pane



7. Registered and Express, orange background, also with white pane. 2.00 printing



8. As nr. 7, on local cover, printing 4.99, date shown on stamp and orange label, 06/03/02.



9. Local cover, printing 1/2001, mailed 19/03/2002.



10. Registered + A.R. (Avis de Reception) label, 08.03 printing



11. Unknown usage all except internet address, in Hebrew, 0509 printing

note from the editor:

Regarding bar code labels see also two catalogues by Peter Morgen:

■ *Barcodes in the Postal Service world wide, vol. 1, Extra services for LetterMail*; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2015

■ *Barcodes in the Postal Service world wide, vol. 2, Extra Mail - Datapost* both Morgana-Edition

The cover in question (Fig.1) went by special delivery from one popular business to another on June 6, 1932.



Figure 1

Plyley's Candy was a manufacturer and purveyor of sweets in LaGrange, Indiana. (and subsequently ended up remaining in business for a hundred and ten years). The company began as a general store in LaGrange that sold home made chocolate fudge with a display in the front window. Over the years the company began to manufacture hard candies that could be marketed over longer distances. Right up until they discontinued business they advertised their candy as "handmade" (Fig.2).



Figure 2

The DuMaurier Company had specialized in groundbreaking, multi-product specialty lenses for distance and short distance viewing. The company held patents in the field and produced such things as rifle scopes, binoculars, and pocket microscopes that looked like ball-point pens (Figure 3).



Figure 3



Figure 4

The cover of a 1929 DuMaurier catalog is quite swank (Figure 4).

Of course businesses have been using small advertising labels and placing them on stationary and products in Europe and the United States since the 1880s.

The Plyley's label (Figure 5) is similar; however, it is likely to be a label that was apparently developed to be used as an indication for a return address for the era when a street address wasn't required. In any event it could also be considered



Figure 5



Figure 6

a fine example of a small advertising label with its distinctive scalloped edges and a message limited to the bare essentials. It takes second fiddle to the much larger red and white Special Delivery label (Figure 6) to its right. This larger label makes it clear that the envelope requires special service. The white lettering on both labels contrast sharply with the dark blue and scarlet backgrounds. The Special Delivery label has two added features: a white outline serving to also emphasize the "Special Delivery" message and the four curving cut corners.



A six-bar numbered ovale duplex canceler kills the two postage stamps and also marks the cover to insure that the date and location are clear to subsequent mail handlers.

Also on the front of the cover is an almost indistinguishable two-line purple non-boxed rectangular auxiliary marking saying: "Fee Claimed at Office of First Address" (Figure 7).



Figure 7

For some reason a postal clerk had believed that the DuMaurier Company had to pay an additional postal services fee.

The reverse of the cover (Figure 8) has two types of markings. There were two RPO cancellations because the mail was transferred from one train to another

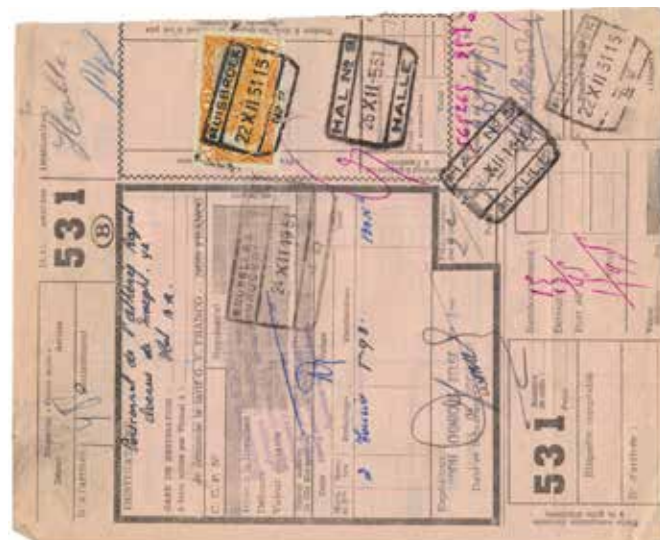


Figure 8

on another line and continuous custody of the special delivery envelope had to be documented both in log books and on the cover. The New York & Chicago RPO carried it part of the distance and the Mackinaw & Richmond RPO carried it for the other. The two markings show "RMS" for Railway Mail Service in the middle of a 6-bar obliterate cancel accompanying the cds. A special dial receiving post-mark used upon arrival in Elmira, New York shows that it arrived 1:30 June 7th.

## DANGER !

During 1951 it was in Belgium no problem to send explosives by post / train, provided that it was made clear with the correct postal label. In other countries?



Postal services flag letters for special treatment in various ways, including the application of auxiliary markings and labels. In post-colonial Tanzania, two agencies have managed the country's postal system and taken responsibility for such services. Following independence from Great Britain in 1961, the East African Posts and Telecommunications Administration—the cooperative service shared with Kenya and Uganda—provided patrons with postal services (Smith, 1971). Then, in 1994, its successor, the Tanzania Posts Corporation, carried on that mission (Tanzania Posts Corporation, 2018).

Express mail commonly refers to the class of mail service that provides expedited delivery. Letters and parcels for which postal patrons have purchased such service typically bear some highly visible designation. Both of Tanzania's postal services have used labels like the ones identified by the Auxiliary Markings Club (Wawrukiewicz, 2018) and catalogued by a member of the Postal Label Study Group (ter Welle, 2019).

Here, an examination of four express labels on post-colonial covers from Tanzania reveals the common elements on labels used under both postal administrations and identifies some distinctive elements of their design and production. This survey does not include envelopes on which senders or postal clerks provided handwritten declarations of express-mail service.

### Census of Covers

This study examines the express labels affixed to four post-colonial postal covers originating in Tanzania, as summarized in Table 1. Covers received postmarks between 1980 and 1994. The latest cover in the survey saw use before the widespread application of computer-generated and custom-printed postal labels that note special services and provide scannable and computer-trackable barcoding.

**Table 1.** Express Mail Labels on Covers Originating in Tanzania<sup>a</sup>

Post Date	Tanzania Origin	Global Destination	Label Text
19800330	Dar es Salaam	Bremen West Germany	P 72 / POST OFFICE / EXPRESS / G.P.L. 10,00
19920213	Dar es Salaam (Temeke BO)	Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	P 72 / POST OFFICE / EXPRESS
19940907	Dar es Salaam (University Hill BO)	Ottawa, Ontario Canada	P 72 / POST OFFICE / EXPRESS
19941111	Dar es Salaam (university Hill BO)	Ottawa, Ontario Canada	P 72 / POST OFFICE / EXPRESS

<sup>a</sup>Dates of mailing—Post Date—appear in the form *yyyymmdd*. BO abbreviates “Branch Office.” Virgules indicate line breaks in label texts.

### Post Office Express Labels

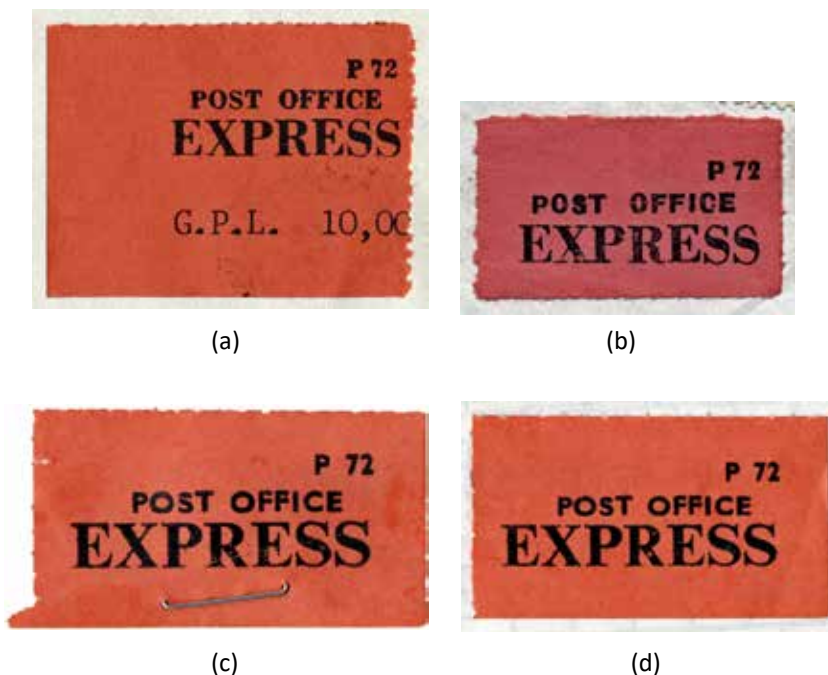
**Fig. 1.** Dar es Salaam to Riyadh. A TZS 9/- stamped envelope (original: 161.5 mm × 115.5 mm) with an additional 60/- of postage was sent by express mail on 7 September 1994 from the Temeke Branch Office to the capital city of the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia.





Figure 2, below, presents the four labels appearing on the covers in this study. A small-multiple arrangement of these images, presented in chronological order of their uses on covers, makes comparing and contrasting their appearances an easier task. The first in Fig. 2(a), affixed to a letter sent from Dar es Salaam to Bremen, West Germany, on 30 March 1980, stands out for its distinctive dimensions and the inclusion of a notation—G.P.L. 10,00—in a fixed-width font. Searching has uncovered no phrase to pair with this three-letter abbreviation. One can speculate that it might

stand for something akin to General Postal Ledger, which then would help to explain the numbers as a value of 10,00 (ten) currency units. The absence of perforations on the left and bottom margins of this label leads one to conclude that the label came from the bottom-left corner of a sheet of labels. Perhaps this expression indicated, for accounting purposes, the value of this sheet. If that is the case, then the label's distinctive height can be explained by viewing the label as a label of regular dimensions with the sheet's selvage at the bottom.



**Fig. 2.** Post Office Express labels. (a) Dar es Salaam to Bremen, 30 March 1980 (original: 41.5 mm × 31.5 mm). (b) Temeke Branch Office, Dar es Salaam, to Riyadh, 13 February 1992 (original: 34.0 mm × 20.0 mm). (c) University Hill Branch Office, Dar es Salaam, 7 September 1994 (original: 39.0 mm × 21.5 mm). (d) University Hill Branch Office, Dar es Salaam, 11 November 1994 (original: 38.0 mm × 21.5 mm).

The express label in Fig. 2(b), which saw use on the letter appearing in Fig. 1, uses paper of a different shade, tending toward a rose-red shade, that differs from the orange-red color of the other labels in this study. The remaining two labels were used in the latter part of 1994 for letters originating in Dar es Salaam and appear quite similar.



**Fig. 3.** Enlargement (3.5×) of the label in Fig. 2(b) shows paper-fiber characteristics and indeterminate borders.

Preparations of the label sheets show some variations. The label in Fig. 2(a) is perforated on the top and right while the label in Fig. 2(b), perhaps because of the coarser fibers in its paper, presents margins that one cannot clearly identify as cut or

separated edges, as the enlarged version in Fig. 3 shows.

The labels in Figs. 2(c) and 2(d) show top and left margins that clearly indicate that they came from sheets with rouletted borders between labels.

The fonts employed in printing these labels show variations as well. Aside from the “G.P.L. 10,00” phrase, the text in Fig. 2(a) is printed in a serif font. Figure 2(b) uses a sans-serif font for the first two lines—P 72 / POST OFFICE—and a serif font for EXPRESS. The digits display variable-width strokes. The two labels in Figs. 2(c) and 2(d) again employ a sans-serif font for the first two lines and a serif font for EXPRESS. The digits appear with no

variations in the stroke width. A comparison of the fonts used to print the labels in Figs. 2(c) and 2(d) with the labels identified in a recently released study yields a match with Tanzania label TAN-A-1.3 (ter Welle, 2019). The remaining labels in this study differ in the details from the labels presented in this study.

### Express-Mail Label Types

The differences in perforations and roulettes, paper types, and fonts support a proposal to identify three types of labels used by Tanzania’s postal system in the years following the country’s colonial period. Table 2 summarizes the characteristics of the label types.

**Table 2.** Characteristics of Express-Mail Label Types

Type	Paper	Edges	Font	72 Treatment
I	orange-red, small fibers	Perforated	serif	serif
II	rose-red, coarse fibers	Rouletted	serif/sans serif	variable-width-stroke sans serif
III	orange-red, small fibers	Rouletted	serif/sans serif	single-width-stroke sans serif

### Conclusion

The number of assayed express-mail covers in this study is small, but the variations appearing in the four express-mail labels permit the identification of three distinct label types. Examinations of additional covers mailed from post offices in Tanzania can serve to refine the typing of the labels. Because post-colonial Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania provided coordinated postal

services through their participation in the East African Posts and Telecommunications Administration, reviews of covers from all member countries could reveal uses of express labels that further refine the characteristics of these label types and permit the establishment of earliest and latest known uses.

### References

Alan Brian Smith, *History of the East African Posts and Telecommunications Administration 1837 to 1967*, doctoral thesis, University of East Africa, 1971.

Tanzania Posts Corporation, “About Us,” <http://posta.co.tz/aboutus.html>, accessed 15 October 2018.

Jan C. ter Welle, *Express Labels of the World*, Uithoorn, Netherlands, 2019.

Tony Wawrukiewicz, “Auxiliary Markings and Auxiliary-Related Markings on African Mail,” *Auxiliary Markings*, Vol. XV, No. 3, Issue No. 59, July 2018, pp. 2–6.

### About the Author

David M. Frye collects items to inform his study of modern United States postal history and Tanzania’s post-colonial postal history. His writings have appeared—or will appear—in *The Airpost Journal*, *Auxiliary Markings*, *B.E.A.—The Bulletin of the East Africa Study Circle*, *The Miasma Philatelist*, *Postal History Journal*, *The Postal Label Bulletin*, *The Stamp Forum Newsletter*, *The United States Specialist*, *Vatican Notes*, and *The Vermont Philatelist*. A member of the Board of Directors of the Postal History Society, he lives in Franklin, Massachusetts, and works in nearby Framingham as a clerk for the U.S. Postal Service.

## Art Groten

## Doing Postal History

Now that we are well into the 21st century, 20th century postal history, as we all know, has truly come of age. There are any number of reasons for this, not the least of which are the decreasing availability of 19th century (and earlier) material and its concomitant increase in cost. The astronomical prices being paid for classic material almost assures that the great sweeping collections that could be formed in the past are, for the most part, exactly that, a thing of the past.

In many ways this is a blessing in disguise. It is permitting the serious collector and philatelist without millions of dollars at his disposal to put thoughts of the "classic" gems away and to begin recognizing more recent gems. We have seen this time and again, with U.S. Prexies, with the German and Hungarian inflation periods, with commercial aerophilately, with the wonderful rate and route studies from more and more obscure places being built with relatively inexpensive covers.

This has been a boon for not only the dealer but also for the collector and the exhibitor. These collections, when exhibited, have increased awareness of and enthusiasm for looking beyond the obvious, finding the back stamp that proves (or disproves) the route or the subtlety of rating that can only be seen after having looked at a lot of covers. New areas of research, new articles, new

books are constantly forthcoming. This can be nothing but good for our hobby.

The study of auxiliary markings has a long and lovely history and a rich literature. For reasons that are not clear to me, hand-struck auxiliary markings have received much more attention than Cinderella labels used to impart the same information. One of the explanations is that unless the label is tied one cannot be certain it has not been added. I find that unconvincing. Except for airmail etiquettes, auxiliary labels had not been seriously studied until 20 or so years ago. No sense of relative rarity existed and, until modern postal history came into its own, there would be no reason to fake their use. No one cared. Whereas we are all aware of the pitfalls of faked hand-stamps of the 19th century.

The etiquettes most often seen, in order, are for registration, airmail or express (special delivery) service; others less often found are for insurance, COD, customs or accountability (certified, A/R, recorded delivery, etc.). Anything else is pretty unusual.

From time to time I will write about some of these more interesting pieces of modern postal history to demonstrate the significance of Cinderella philately within the main stream.

*(previously published in ASDA, issue 24, October 2008)*

There were three methods for transporting mail across the desert between Egypt and Iraq in the 1920's: by ship, by Nairn's scheduled trans-desert motor mail after 1923 and by scheduled air after 1926 as part of the development of the Imperial system.



The Egyptian Government issued two etiquettes: one in red for the Motor Mail of which only a dozen or so covers are known (Fig. 1) and another in blue for Air Mail which are relatively common (Fig. 2). The Motor Mail fee was 15 mils/20 gms. plus, in this case, 5 mils/50 gms. for printed matter. 27 mils paid the air rate to Iraq on this commercial registered first day cover of the airmail stamp.



The air etiquette issued in Netherlands Indies is interesting in that it includes the UPU form designation AV5 in its design. Fig. 3 shows its use on a sample of tea sent to South Africa in 1937. Note the (previously unrecorded) handstamp indicating "From Cairo/ By British Airmail"; carriage to Cairo was by KLM. The air rate was 40¢/5 gms.. The light green square labels at the lower right indicate a concessionary rate for such tea samples, 3¢ for each 50 gms. Without those labels the rate of 40¢ x 19 + 3¢ x 2 = 7G66¢ would be inexplicable.



Similarly, as indicated by the pink etiquette above the airmail label, the 1936 commercial Zeppelin cover in Fig. 4 had Rohrpost (pneumatic mail) service within Berlin for 35 pf. in addition to the 50 pf./5 gm. air postage to the U.S.. Cheryl Ganz told me that such combinations are scarce. I believe her; I've never seen another.



Postal history collectors know how difficult it is to find postal stationery with additional services. The 1939 Dutch postcard in Fig. 5 has been up-rated 25¢ for Express and the 1970 South African air letter sheet (Fig. 6) was up-rated 15¢ for Express, both carrying labels indicating the service required.



One of the more interesting registered covers I have seen (Fig. 7) was sent from a bank in Lugano to another in Zurich. Harlan Stone, Swiss collector extraordinaire, pointed out that the registry label contains the "P.P." designation indicating postage and fees were paid in cash. The receiving bank placed the straight-line date-stamp.

Without a network of good friends around the world, many of these covers would remain curiosities rather than finding their proper description. Andre Scheer of the Netherlands explained the unusual item in Fig. 8: the registered packet contained a sample of no commercial value ("Muster ohne Wert"). The pink 4¢ "statistiekrechtzegel" paid for the fee required to account for the parcel at the Customs office. The 2x20¢ postage due stamps paid what he calls a "distance" fee for delivery of a registered parcel outside the normal delivery area. Thus the handwritten "-.44".



Finally, Andre helped with an even more unusual item (Fig. 9). After 1949, publishers were permitted to receive mail carried by private carrier provided the regular postage was paid. This service was used particularly on Sundays and holidays for urgent messages and sports reports. Here, a fee of 50¢ in addition to the 40¢ postage due to government was charged by N.V.D.V.M. (Naamloze Ltd. Transport Co. of Drente) who used a private date stamp to cancel both.