



The Prexie Era

Newsletter of the USSS 1938 Presidential-Era Committee

No. 68 Winter 2015

Louis Fiset, Editor/Publisher
fiset@uw.edu

Airmail Forwarding in the U.S.

by Tony Wawrukiewicz



Fig. 1: One peso per half ounce airmail rate from the Philippines to the U.S. mainland, and forwarded with 6 cents per ounce postage for airmail to Canada.

Introduction

This article discusses airmail forwarding of U.S. related mail using Prexie-era frankings. The discussion and illustrations below show a mix of international and domestic uses dating from 1941 until 1957 falling under the rules and regulations published from 1927 through 1954. It reveals complex rules and regulations governing the process of domestic and international airmail forwarding that were followed inconsistently.

Inside

Airmail Forwarding in the U.S.	1
An Interesting 14-Cent Prexie Use	7
Combined 4.5-Cent First/Third Class Postage Paid	8
Precancel Stamp on Form 3817	9
Presidential-Era Committee Convention at ARIPEX 2015 A Success	10



Fig. 2: International mail incoming to Puerto Rico, then forwarded to the U.S. at the 10-cent airmail Caribbean airmail rate.

The first example, in Figure 1, is a June 1941 airmail letter posted from the Philippines to Alhambra, California. From there it was forwarded via airmail to Victoria, B.C., Canada.

Specifically, *Postal Bulletin (PB) 14560* (Dec. 10, 1927) announced provisions adopted on September 10, 1927, effective January 1, 1928, by the International Air Mail Conference of the Hague. Pertinent to this article are the following provisions concerning the redirection and return of airmail articles:

“Air-mail articles from foreign countries addressed to persons who have changed their residence are forwarded to the new destination by the ordinary means, unless the addressee, has expressly requested their redirection by air mail and has paid in advance, to the forwarding office, the aerial postage for the new route. Undeliverable air-mail articles are returned to origin by the ordinary means. If the redirection or return is made by the ordinary means, every annotation relative to the transmission by the air-route must be cancelled officially by means of two heavy transverse lines.”

It appears this regulation was in place from January 1, 1928 until the July 1950 *U.S. Official Postal Guide (PG)* announcement, to be mentioned below.

The letter shown in Figure 1 was sent with the one peso Philippines issue affixed paying the half-ounce airmail rate to the U.S. It was forwarded to Canada via airmail with six cents U.S. postage affixed, in compliance with the airmail treaty rate between the two countries stipulating six cents be paid for the one ounce U.S. domestic rate.

The second use, seen in Figure 2, is a December 1942 airmail letter from a civilian contractor working on the army base at Trinidad (APO 868), writing to a refinery worker in Coloso, Puerto Rico. From October 21, 1942, civilian contractors received APO mail service privileges to and from any location where U.S. mail services were in operation. Instead, the writer paid the Trinidad & Tobago 24-cent half-ounce international airmail rate directly to Puerto Rico. En route, the letter was censored by a British examiner (I.E./8006) at the Trinidad censor station.

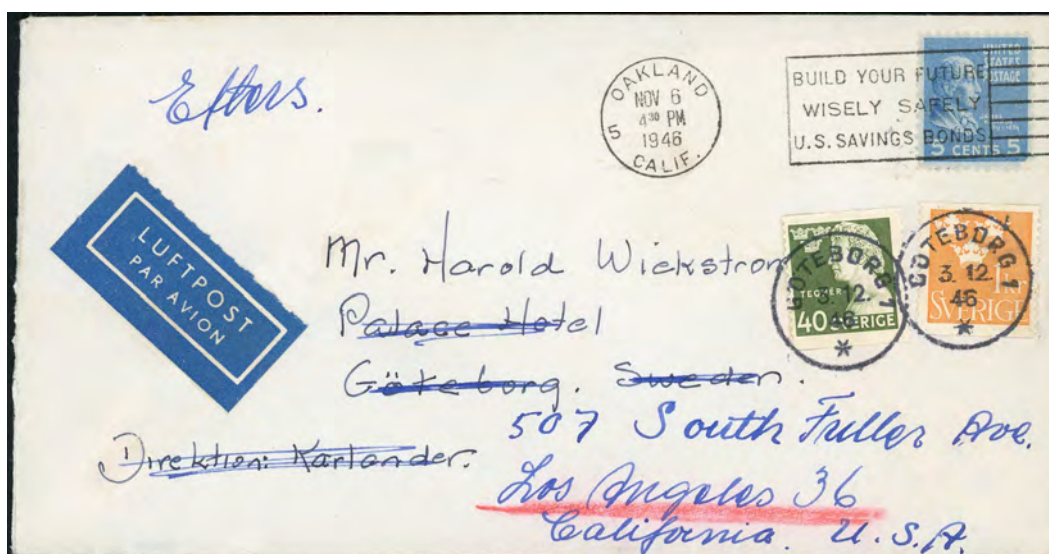


Fig. 3: 1946 surface letter to Sweden, return to the U.S. by airmail with payment of correct Swedish airmail surcharge postage.

After arriving in Puerto Rico, the letter was forwarded by air to Villanova, Pennsylvania, after censorship at the Miami field censor station (14594). Since Puerto Rico was a U.S. possession, U.S. domestic rates applied. The *U.S. Official Postal Guides* from July 1930-1937 state: “Matter sent by air mail may be forwarded to the addressee by the same means without additional charge when delivery of the matter will be expedited if carried by airplane (not present in 1929 PG).”

The regulation changed considerably, according to the July 1939-1945 PGs, with the following statement:

“Matter sent by air mail may be forwarded to the addressee by the same means when delivery of the matter will be expedited if carried by airplane, provided the air-mail rate to the new address is no higher than that originally applicable. No additional charge will be made for such forwarding, regardless of the number of the air-mail routes over which the mail may be carried. For instance, an air-mail letter prepaid 6 cents originally sent from New York to Chicago may be forwarded to San Francisco without additional charge; but it could not be forwarded to Hawaii by trans-pacific air mail

without additional charge. Letters sent as ordinary mail may be forwarded by air mail upon payment of the difference between the postage originally paid thereon and the air-mail rate.”

Likely, the additional charge to Hawaii would be the difference in the airmail rates. Thus, in this case the 10-cent Transport airmail stamp was used for the forwarding service. That is, the additional charge was added (10 cents for a half-ounce instead of 6 cents) for the airmail forwarding from Puerto Rico to the U.S.

Note all the different ways airmail is spelled over the years. This means a search for airmail uses requires the search terms “airmail”, “air mail”, and “air-mail”).

Figure 3 shows yet another example of international airmail forwarding. In this case a 5-cent Prexie mails a 1946 letter from Oakland to Sweden at the prevailing one-ounce surface rate. Once the letter reached Sweden, per the *PB 14560* announcement quoted above, it was forwarded to the U.S. by air (‘LUFTPOST’) at the 140 øre rate for a 5-gram airmail letter.

Regulations became more complicated between



Fig. 4: Third-class mail forwarded by airmail from Honolulu to Delaware. Forwarding postage correctly paid by the 5-cent airmail stamp.

1946 and 1948. By 1947 (*PG* published in July 1947) the postage rate for domestic airmail originating at any U.S. post office, including territories and possessions, had been reduced to 5 cents per ounce.

The next cover, illustrated in Figure 4, follows the new rate structure. In this 1948 example, the 1.5-cent *Prexie* paid the domestic up-to-two ounces single-piece third-class rate. It was then forwarded by airmail from Honolulu to Delaware with the 5-cent airmail stamp. For this forwarding to occur on this third-class item, 3.5 cents additional postage was due, the difference between 1.5 cents paid thereon and the new continental 5 cents airmail rate, plus an added single-piece 1.5 cents for third-class forwarding. Therefore, this airmail forwarding was correctly paid by the 5-cent airmail stamp.

Regulations also changed in 1948 as the new air parcel post rates were introduced. The 1948-1953 *PG*, Section 21, states: “Air mail

weighing up to 8 ounces will be forwarded by air when expedited. No additional charge will be made for such forwarding.”

The next example of international airmail forwarding, a 1951 domestic letter forwarded to New Zealand, shown in Figure 5, also demonstrates a possible incorrect interpretation of the rules of the time. The new set of rules in place was first stated in the July 1950 *PG* (approximately 23 years after the first set of rules that I am able to document). It states the following:

“44. **Forwarding.** [First appearing in Part II of the July 1950 *PG*.]

(ii) An article which is redirected to a third country or to the country of mailing may be forwarded by air, provided the addressee, or someone acting in his behalf pays in advance to the forwarding office an amount sufficient to prepay the United States air mail postage to the new destination. In such cases, the required



Fig. 5: 1952 letter postmarked New York forwarded by air to New Zealand. Forwarding postage overpaid by 3 cents.



Fig. 6: 1951 international surface letter from France, forwarded by airmail in the U.S. Likely underpaid by 1 cent.

postage shall be affixed to the article, and the stamps canceled by the forwarding office.
 (iii) An air mail article which is redirected to an address in the United States will be forwarded by air without additional postage.
 (iv) Ordinary air mail and surface letters (except

those which appear to contain merchandise) and post cards may be redirected and forwarded to foreign countries by air, provided the sender or addressee, or someone acting in his behalf, requests that such articles be forwarded by air mail and pays in advance to the forwarding

office an amount sufficient to prepay the necessary additional air mail postage to the country concerned. In such cases, credit shall be allowed for the amount of United States postage originally prepaid on the articles.”

In summary, forwarding of mails of foreign origin out of the country required prepayment of U.S. airmail postage to the new destination, while forwarding of mails of domestic origin out of the country required prepayment of only the difference between U.S. airmail postage to the new destination minus the surface domestic postage already paid.

As Figure 5 shows, these complex rules were not always followed. It shows a 1951 U.S. cover affixed with a 3-cent Prexie paying the one ounce rate. The letter was then forwarded by airmail to New Zealand with the full, but incorrect, 25 cents per half-ounce airmail rate paid. The airmail forwarding was overpaid by 3 cents, according to the new rules of 1950.

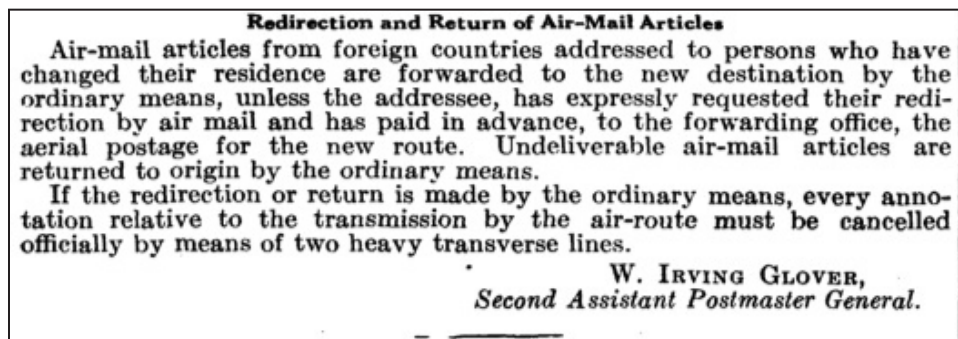
The last Prexie-era international airmail forwarding example follows in Figure 6. This letter was mailed from France to San Francisco with postage affixed overpaying by 1 franc the UPU 20-gram surface rate of 35 francs. It

was then forwarded by airmail to Arlington, Virginia. This example appears to be a hybrid of sorts. Had it been an airmail foreign letter forwarded by air within the U.S., additional postage would not have been required. However, since only the surface international rate was paid, some amount of added postage seemed necessary for the airmail forwarding.

According to my interpretation of the rules of the time, only the difference between the surface rate (8 cents for up to one ounce) and the European airmail rate of 15 cents per 5 grams was due (assuming it was a letter weighing less than a half ounce.) Therefore, the 6 cents airmail postage stamp used to forward this letter probably underpaid the necessary forwarding postage by one cent.

This article demonstrates the inconsistency in interpretation of existing rules and regulations governing the forwarding of U.S. domestic and international mail. The rules were complex and may well have been followed incorrectly as often as they were correctly.

I am grateful to Bob Hohertz for providing scans of four covers allowing me to present the results of this research.



Detail from *Postal Bulletin* 14560 (December 10, 1927)

2015 Subscriptions Payable Now

The Fall 2014 issue was the last in the quartet of The Prexie Era for 2014. This means it is time for readers to renew your subscriptions for the upcoming year. Rates for 2015 remain the same as for last year: \$5 for the electronic version, \$10 for the color “snail-mail” version. Unless prior arrangements have been made, please send payments and/or questions to Jeff Shapiro directly.

Jeff Shapiro
P.O. Box 3211
Fayetteville, MA 01745-0211

An Interesting 14-Cent Prexie Use

by Bob Hohertz



This part of a wrapper from a one-pound or under package sent to England provides an example of a long-lasting, but seldom seen, postal rate.

In the 1913 PL&R a rate of 12 cents per pound for international parcel post, to those countries which accepted it, is mentioned. The daily *Postal Bulletin* of November 5, 1924 contains a table of foreign parcel post rates that varies somewhat by country, and includes information as to which ones added transit charges and terminal charges. Great Britain, like most other countries, charged a 2-cent terminal charge on packages received from the United States. From what I can determine, this rate of 14 cents for the first pound of parcel post mail to Britain lasted until 1961.

The wrapper shown above must have been from a package weighing one pound or less. It was sent to Post Office Box 237 in London, which was an undercover address for the Dutch Army.

The reason I believe that it was sent in 1945 is that the recipient, a Dutch Army Officer, had moved, and there is no sign of censorship, although that may have been on a different part of the package and not preserved. After mid-1945 there wouldn't have been much need for use of an undercover address, anyway.

How nice that the sender, apparently a relative of the officer who was to receive the package, used a solo 14-cent Prexie. And that someone saved enough of the wrapper for us to treasure today.

Combined 4.5-Cent First/Third Class Postage Paid

by Louis Fiset

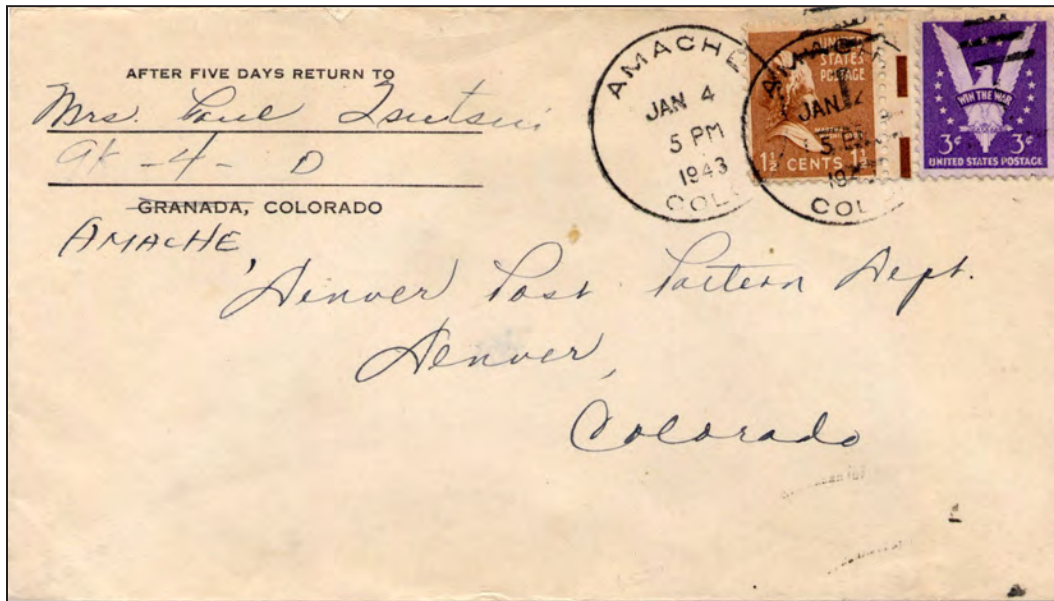


Fig. 1. Combined first/third class postage to the *Denver Post* Pattern Department.

**Junior Miss Will Adore
Dress With Military Air**



There's a military-trim air to this fitted junior miss style, Pattern 4221. Anne Adams has given it "front line" novelty in a smart side-front buttoning that squares off into the skirt panel. Match the buttons with a bright pocket "hankie." The back-draped calot' completes this smart date-time ensemble.

Pattern 4221 is available in junior miss sizes 11, 13, 15, 17. Size 13 takes 3 yards 39-inch.

Send **SIXTEEN CENTS** in coins (no stamps), to DENVER POST Pattern Department for this Anne Adams pattern. Write plainly **SIZE, NAME, ADDRESS and STYLE NUMBER.**

Our Spring Pattern Book is ready! It contains a **FREE** dickey pattern; a special salvage design; smart, easy-to-sew spring outfits for the entire family. Send **SIXTEEN CENTS** for your copy now!

Allow ten to twelve days to fill orders. If you live in Colorado, send tax.



4221

The cover shown here, bearing 4.5 cents franking, was sent from the Granada Relocation Center (Amache) to the *Denver Post* Pattern Department. It was postmarked Jan 4 1943, a Monday. The writer, a Japanese American woman incarcerated at this War Relocation Authority center, was responding to one or more "Anne Adams" pattern display advertisements appearing weekly in the women's section of the Saturday edition. An example, from the January 16, 1943 issue, may be seen to the left.

Each pattern cost 16 cents in coins, plus state sales tax. Payment for three patterns cost 48 cents plus several tax tokens, bringing the weight of the envelope's contents to just over one ounce. At this weight, first class postage would have been six cents. Because coins could be sent at the third class rate, which in 1943 was 1.5 cents per 2 ounces, thrifty correspondents ordering multiple patterns could save money by using the combined first/third class postage rate.

Most combined first/third class franking is

found on package mail, with a first class letter taped to the box. That such franking is found on envelopes from centers where Japanese Americans were incarcerated may relate to the postal employees at these camps. The post master/mistress was a bonded civil servant employed by the Lamar, Colorado parent post office. The clerks and mail carriers, however, were drawn from the inmates, themselves. Likely, they put the interests of the patrons ahead of the Post Office Department. So, when a “loophole” was discovered, word passed quickly whenever a cost savings was possible.

Examples with this franking to the *Denver Post* have been reported from both the

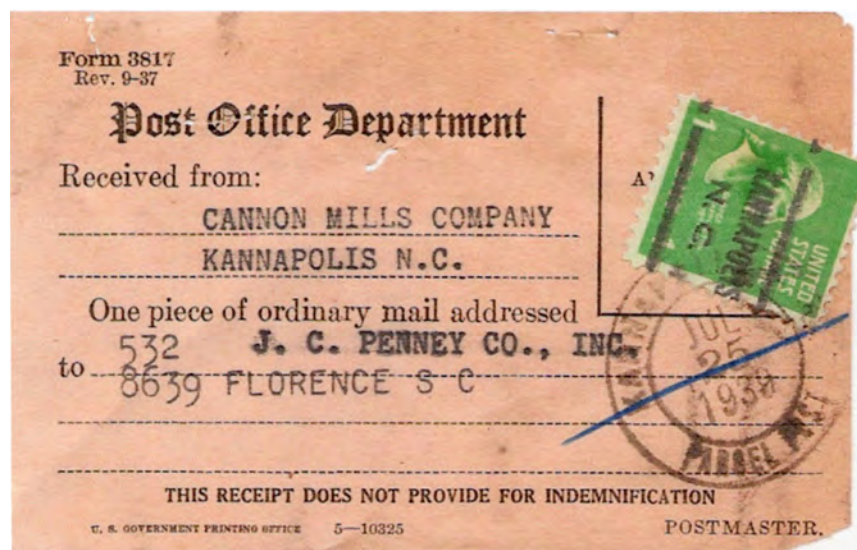
Granada and Heart Mountain Relocation Centers. Many Japanese Americans here were prewar Coloradans and subscribed to the paper throughout the incarceration years. However, because the Anne Adams patterns in the *Post* were syndicated, it remains possible that other metropolitan newspapers offered similar patterns for sale, and inmates at other relocation centers may have responded to them.

Collectors should be on the lookout for combined first/third class mail from the other eight relocation camps scattered throughout the country that were in operation from 1942-1945.

These covers are scarce.

Precancel Stamp on Form 3817

by Stanley Sablak



The Certificate of Mailing Form 3817 shown here is rather common, to be sure. Affixed is a 1-cent Prexie stamp paying the correct certificate of mailing fee. However, on closer examination the stamp, which is tied with a double circle Parcel Post canceler dated July 25, 1939, has a local towns type precancel, Kannapolis, N.C.

The stamp may have been put on the form by a Cannon Mills Company employee, since precancel stamps are rarely seen on these forms.

Can readers else show another Form 3817 franked with a precancel stamp?

Presidential-Era Committee Convention at ARIPEX 2015 A Success

The Presidential-Era Committee of the USSS was the principle convening society at ARIPEX, a World Series of Philately show held in Phoenix, AZ on 20-22 February. To our knowledge, this is the first time a committee of the Society has held its own convention.

Committee members contributed 14 competitive single and multi-frame exhibits, with Prexie-era traditional philately and postal history filling 84 frames. Also, each judge contributed a single frame exhibit of Prexie-era material to the Judges' Court of Honor. All jury members are current members of the Committee; John Hotchner, Liz Hisey, Dickson Preston, Jeffrey Shapiro, and Bob Hohertz.

Joe Bock gave a talk on the development of the atomic bomb on Saturday, while Louis Fiset was the principle speaker at the Committee's formal meeting on Sunday morning, discussing the resumption of mail service to Europe at the

end of World War II.

Because a prominent collector had made his Prexie collection available to the market prior to the show and dealers knew of the Prexie event well in advance, considerable Prexie-era postal history was available at dealers' tables.

The organizers of the convention, Dickson Preston and Jeff Shapiro, also arranged two dinners during the show, enabling fellow collectors and exhibitors to meet and share mutual interests. In the evenings, collectors swapped covers at the Committee's hospitality suite, made available thanks to the generosity of Albert "Chip" Briggs.

Preliminary planning for a second Presidential-Era Committee convention is underway for two years from now. The Committee has had invitations from FLOREX and Rocky Mountain Stamp Show to convene at their 2017 shows.

Presidential-Era Committee Roland Rustad Memorial Award

Albert L. Briggs, Jr. Domestic Rates and Usages United States Presidential Series

Single Frame Grand Award

Joseph G. Bock Uses of the 50-Cent Value U.S. Transport Air Mail Series

Gold Medal

Albert L. Briggs, Jr.	Domestic Rates and Usages United States Presidential Series
Albert L. Briggs, Jr.	Three Cent Thomas Jefferson Stamp of 1938
Stephen L. Suffet	The U.S. 3¢ Letter Rate: Domestic 1932-1958, International 1931-1958
Bill DiPaolo	Usages of the 15¢ James Buchanan Stamp of the 1938 Presidential Series
Bill DiPaolo	Stamps & Usages of the Coil Format Stamps in the 1938 Presidential Series
Ralph H. Nafziger	The 3¢ 1948 Oregon Territory Issue
Louis Fiset	Censored, Rerouted, Suspended, Resumed: US International Mail in WWII
Ronald Strawser	Postal History of the United States Famous Americans Issue
Robert Schlesinger	The 1938 Presidential Issue - A Survey of Rates

Vermeil Medal

Stanley Sablak	The 18-Cent Ulysses S. Grant Pays Rates and Fees
Dr. James Mazepa	The United States Overrun Countries Series

Silver Medal

Albert L. Briggs, Jr.	The Five Cent Prexy and the UPU International Surface Mail Letter Rate
Joseph G. Bock	Uses by U.S. Allies during WWII Using U.S. Military Airmail