



Issue No. 7

# Registered Mail Study Group NEWSLETTER



July 2025

<https://www.usstamps.org/committees/registered-mail-study-group/>

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## Chairman's Column

Welcome to the seventh issue of our **RMSG Newsletter**. I apologize for the extended delay of the issue.

We have reports of new covers in both the Domestic Registration Label Form 1549A census, and the Kugel Census of International Registration Labels. This issue again has a few new, shorter notes, and I retained several sections from the previous issues with resource information as they may be of interest to new subscribers.

We have two contributed articles which round out the issue. If you have a special project that you would like to share, please consider preparing a short one to ten page article and send it along for inclusion in a future issue of the Newsletter.

*Mike Ludeman*

Chairman, RMSG

[mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net)

## Update of the US Form 1549A Domestic Registered Label Census ....

The Form 1549A cover census is maintained in a online database hosted on the Stamp Smarter website, which can be accessed at the following link: [https://stampsmaer.org/features/NYReg\\_1549Home.html](https://stampsmaer.org/features/NYReg_1549Home.html).

### Discovery of a Previously Unknown Usage of the Form 1549A Label at the Brunswick, GA, Post Office

John R. Becker

At a recent stamp show, I came across the cover illustrated here with a Form 1549A label, which was quickly purchased. Upon further investigation, I discovered that Brunswick, GA was a previously unrecorded use for these labels. The post office at Atlanta GA was the only post office in Georgia that was recorded in the Nov. 19, 1908, announcement in the **Daily Postal Bulletin**. Atlanta had been provided with 1600 sheets (8 labels per sheet). Postmasters at post office where labels had been supplied had the authority to provide a limited number of the new labels to neighboring post offices whose postmaster wanted to experiment with using these new labels. This is likely how the postmaster at Brunswick obtained the label used here. The cover is dated May 9, 1910, and has label No. 3638. This cover is recorded in the Stamp Smarter Form 1549A Census as BWK-001.



### Update of the Kugel Census for International Registration Labels

#### Two New International Registry Label Covers from El Paso, Texas

Mike Ludeman

The rather travel-worn cover shown to the right is the earliest reported cover handled at the El Paso Exchange Office. It was mailed by Alzati Gaetano as registered mail on June 26, 1884 from Milano, Italy, addressed to Chihuahua, Mexico. Only a fragment of the Italian registration label has survived. It arrived at New York on July 9, 1884, and was directed to El Paso, Texas, with no postal marking at El Paso, but the El Paso exchange label #462 was added with "EL PASO, TEXAS" hand stamped on the utility style label. The cover arrived at Chihuahua on July 21, 1884, as noted by the oval marking at top right of the cover front. The addressee had apparently moved, so the cover was re-registered in Mexico (Red registration on the reverse), under the Official Seals, and redirected to San Francisco, California. The normal route from Mexico to California was again via El Paso, but there are no markings to confirm this route. The letter arrived at San Francisco in early August, with a "2d NOTICE AUG 7 1884" showing a second delivery attempt.

The addressee was not found, and the letter was apparently opened to see if there might be information enclosed that might help locate the addressee. The letter was then resealed with the two Official Seals, and on Aug 13, it was returned to New York, where a second IRL, this one the New York exchange label was added on Aug 20, 1884. The letter was then returned to Milano, Italy. Kugel Census EP-070.

A second El Paso cover, shown below, represents the latest reported used example of the El Paso label recorded. Mailed from Pasco, Washington on Jan 7, 1911, and addressed to Tepic, Tepic, Mexico, it arrived at El Paso, Texas on Jan 13, 1911, where the usual El Paso exchange label #61908 was added, and upon transfer to the post office at Ciudad Juarez, a green registration handstamp



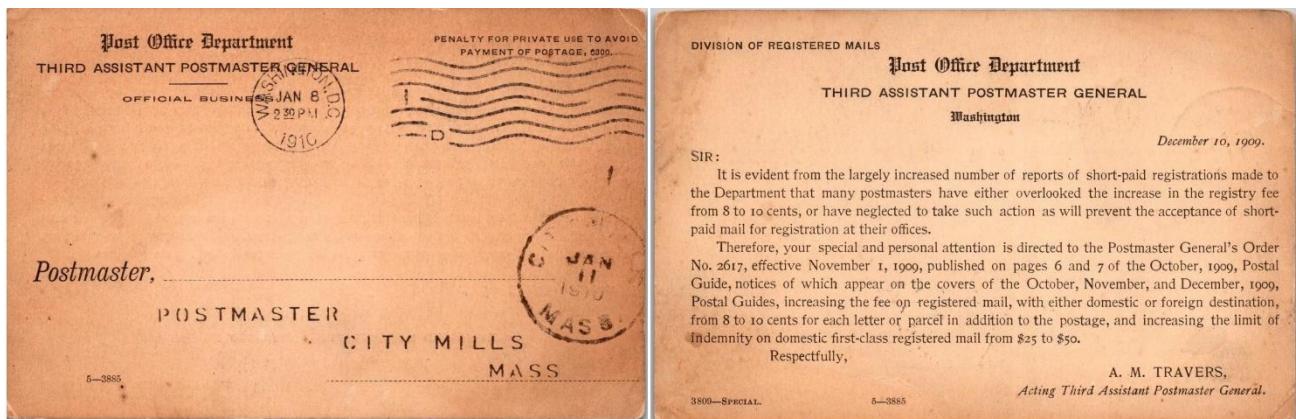
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#71336 entered the letter into the Mexico registration system. Again, the addressee could not be located, and so the letter was sent to the Dead Letter Office in Mexico, DF, leaving Tepic on Feb 8, 1911. The blue "REZAGOS" indicated Dead Letter Office. The letter eventually found its way to the United States Dead Letter Office on March 28, 1911, as evidenced by the red boxed marking at the right of the envelope front. Unfortunately, there is no evidence that the letter ever made it back to the sender in Pasco Washington. Cover image courtesy of Dick Keiser, eBay dkstampman. Kugel Census EP-072.



### USPOD Notice about Short-Paid Registered Mail

The postal card notice, Form 3809 SPECIAL, was mailed to all post offices in December 1909 and January 1910 to remind postmasters to be sure that the correct fee was collected on all registered letters dispatched from their office. The fee for registration was increased from 8 cents to 10 cents on November 1, 1909. This is the first time I have seen a notice like this where the addressing was done by some form of stencil machine.



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### Registry Marking with Postmaster's Name

Jim Peterson



An unusual registration system marking with the postmaster' name as part of the handstamp was used at Decorah, Iowa in the early 1900s.

### STAMP SMARTER LEARNING CENTER

<https://www.stampsmarter.org>

Throughout this and future Newsletters, you will see me frequently make a reference to resources that may be found on **Stamp Smarter**. This is the abbreviated name for the **Stamp Smarter Philatelic Learning Center**, a privately owned philatelic website operated by Don Denman. I find it to be a marvelous collection of materials on stamp collecting and postal history, and advise everyone I am a sponsor, a contributor, and content developer for the site. Don Denman stepped up several years ago when Tony Wawrukiewicz digitized and edited the complete series of the **Official Postal Guide**, but we were unable to have them integrated into the searchable Postal Bulletin website, Don came forward and they are now on the Stamp Smarter website. Since then, one of my continuing projects has been to make other older, and more recent, post office publications available on that website.

### COMMUNITY PROJECTS

#### Postal Forms Database.

The original pioneering work in documenting postal forms used by the United States Post Office department was done towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and David Straight, and it was described in an article by Tony published in the United States Stamp Society journal, **The Specialist**, in the issue for April 2001. Tony and David continued to record these postal forms in an Excel worksheet, which

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was eventually published on the US Postal Bulletins website:  
[http://www.uspostalbulletins.com/US\\_Postal\\_Forms.aspx](http://www.uspostalbulletins.com/US_Postal_Forms.aspx).

In 2016, Russ Ryle and Don Denman converted that spreadsheet into an on-line database format which is now hosted on the Stamp Smarter website, at  
[https://stampsmarter.org/features/NYReg\\_Forms\\_Home.html](https://stampsmarter.org/features/NYReg_Forms_Home.html).

Since its creation, several students of these postal forms have been adding old and new varieties of all examples of these forms.

The Post Office Department has relied on part-printed forms (also called “blanks” by the Department) since the creation of the General Post Office under the Articles of Confederacy in the 1780s. The organization of these forms is awkward, as they often did not have simple or consistent titles, and it was not until the 1840s that they began to be found with identifying form “numbers”, and even then, the numbering was inconsistent. Much of the numbering became standardized in 1879, but searching for information about these forms in the database can require some imagination. If you are interested in postal forms, please examine this database and add what you can contribute to it. The general goal is to include examples of each type of postal form by name and number, along with the various revision and printing which occur as the postal system has evolved.

### Post Office Forms, Documents, and Circulars

As many readers have no doubt observed, I have a passion for the many postal forms and related paperwork that was used by the Post Office Department in both the movement of the mail as well as the operation of the post offices who served as the end point for the mails. I always try to include one or two of these forms related to the registry system in each issue of the Newsletter, but there are forms for many other functions of the postal system.

I wonder if there are enough readers of this publication (and elsewhere obviously) to warrant the creation of a Postal Forms Study Group with a periodic Newsletter dedicated to such materials. If this is of interest to any readers, drop me a short note which expresses your interest, and identifies any specific type of forms and documents that is your primary interest. I would be willing to experiment with this for a while if there is a sufficient audience for the information, and an occasional volunteer who might share some of their materials, so I don't have to write everything.

A while back, I posted a few of these forms on the Stamp Community Family forum, in the following thread.  
[https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=90244](https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=90244)

*Mike Ludeman*

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### MEMBER'S RESEARCH REQUESTS

Short research requests can be submitted for insertion in this section. Send these to me at [mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net). A small image can be inserted, but it is not practical to include a full-sized cover scan with one of these requests. To start this off, I will insert a few examples related to some of my personal interests. The code [25-1, 25-2] at the end of these examples will indicate the year and issue with the initial insertion. Since digital space has no costs, we should be able to manage to keep an insertion indefinitely or until withdrawn by the submitter. Some studies might be better presented on a full page, or perhaps two. Please submit these as a Microsoft Word document (\*.doc, \*.docx) and depending on the volume of these types of requests, I will plan to run a "Research Request" for at least four issues, and longer if it does not become burdensome.

#### **Registered Mail between US and Newfoundland, or the US and the Far East (Malaya/Straits Settlements/Borneo and Java/Dutch East Indies), with New York Exchange Labels**

**Jacob Klerman** [KlermanStamps@gmail.com](mailto:KlermanStamps@gmail.com).

For future articles in my **Insights** series, I am looking for more examples of registered covers with the International Registration Labels (Exchange Office) which traveled to Newfoundland via the New York exchange office to these destinations. I am also seeking additional covers addressed to the indicated addresses in the Far East that departed the United States through the Exchange Offices at New York or San Francisco.

Those with relevant covers (or leads on who might have such covers) are encouraged to contact me with scans. If those owning covers are interested, I am willing to pay generously to purchase relevant material. Thanks, Jacob

[25-3]

#### **Mail between US and Germany July-September 1914**

**Jacob Klerman** [KlermanStamps@gmail.com](mailto:KlermanStamps@gmail.com).

I am trying to construct a census of US mail to Germany July-September 1914; that is around the outbreak of war in Europe. In part, this is in support of a planned multi-part article on this issue for the USSS Specialist. In part, this is towards an exhibit on US mail to Germany during World War I.

Those with relevant covers (or leads on who might have such covers) are encouraged to contact me with scans. If those owning covers are interested, I am willing to pay generously to purchase relevant material. Thanks, Jacob

[25-2]

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## INSIGHTS: PHILADELPHIA TO EUROPE

Jacob Alex Klerman

This is the first in a planned series of short articles providing “insights” based on and adding to the information in the updated Kugel Census of International Registry Labels (IRLs; <https://www.usstamps.org/committees/registered-mail-study-group/>).<sup>1</sup>

This article concerns Philadelphia IRLs to Europe. I start with Philadelphia, in part, because the number of records in the database is small. That small number of records makes it easier to demonstrate the approach. Later articles will consider offices with more records in the database.

These “IRL Insights” are not intended to be authoritative. Instead, as the title suggests, they provide “insights.” It is hoped that others will provide other information—scans, relevant primary document references, observations—leading to a more complete understanding of IRLs and their place in US registered mail postal history.

### The Basic Data

The current version of the census has 24 valid records for Philadelphia, where “invalid” records are lacking some basic piece of information. Those 24 records span the period 1893 to 1911 and are to a variety of destinations.

Most of the records, 14 of 24, are to Europe and for a period of less than a year and a half: August 1909 to January 1911.<sup>2</sup> The destinations in Europe are also highly concentrated: 8 to Germany, 3 to Italy, 2 to Austria, and 1 Russia. Finally, of these 14 records, all but one cover originated in Philadelphia.<sup>3</sup>

Figure 1 shows a 1910 registered (UPU rate) double, from Bogert and Durbin at 722 Chestnut Street<sup>4</sup> in Philadelphia to Padova, Italy. Bogert and Durbin was a prominent, early stamp dealer.<sup>5</sup> The cover has both a Philadelphia IRL and a Philadelphia 1549a domestic registry label. This appears to be the only Philadelphia double registry label (i.e., both an IRL and a 1549a label). It is cancelled with a black RD (Registry Division) double oval mute handstamp. Presumably, this means that the cover was handed directly to the registry window at the main Philadelphia post office.

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<sup>1</sup> This series uses “International Registration Labels” or IRL. Some sources refer to them as “exchange labels” or “exchange office labels”.

<sup>2</sup> Of the other 9 records are 4 are to Jamaica, 3 are to other destinations in the Caribbean, and to Philadelphia. I plan to consider those records in a later *IRL Insights*.

<sup>3</sup> The exception is questionable. It is recorded as from Ohio with an unknown city. No image is available. It is at least possible that the origin is recorded in error.

Mueller (1973) displays the cover to Russia and claims that, despite the Philadelphia IRL, it went through New York. I do not have access to the back of that cover, but it is at least possible that the New York IRL was applied when the cover was returned to the US.

<sup>4</sup> This is a prime downtown address (see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chestnut\\_Street\\_\(Philadelphia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chestnut_Street_(Philadelphia))).

<sup>5</sup> On Bogert and Durbin, see <https://www.numismaticmall.com/encyclopedic-dictionary-of-numismatic-philatelic-biographies/bogert-durbin>.

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I own two of the covers to Germany.



Figure 1. Philadelphia PA to Padova Italy, 1910 <month and year unknown> (image courtesy Rumsey Auctions)

They are both clearly German "direct" Treaty Rate covers, i.e., 2¢ per ounce.



Figure 2. Philadelphia PA to Frankfurt Germany, February 9 (?), 1910

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Figure 2 shows a thirteen times Treaty Rate cover mailed February 17, 1910 to Frankfurt, Germany from S.H. Chapman in the Drexel Building.<sup>6</sup> The brothers Samuel Hudson (“S.H.”) Chapman (1857-1931) and Henry (1859-1935) were the first American career coin dealers. SH Chapman was a charter member of the American Numismatic Association and its librarian and curator.<sup>7</sup> The high franking is thus plausible.

Finally, note the directive in the lower left “via German Steamer.” Again, the cover has a black RD black double oval mute cancel. Unlike the previous cover, this one has a standard purple double circle Philadelphia registered cancel.

Figure 3 shows an octuple (8x) cover to Landau, Germany mailed January 11, 1911, and arriving January 25, 1911. The date is important. New handstamps were ordered November 26, 1910, to be used as of January 1, 1911. In addition, IRLs were discontinued as of January 25, 1911. This cover, therefore, dates to the very end of the IRL period. It has both a Philadelphia IRL and a Number I 1911 registered handstamp (Straight, 2008). For New York, Scheutz reports only one such transitional cover; that is, both an IRL and the new registered handstamps.

Other markings include a standard black RD double oval mute cancel and a standard purple Philadelphia registered double circle postmark. Following the 1911 guidance, the date postmarks appear on the back, but not on the front. The franking is also of interest: a late use of a 10¢ Plimpton Entire (issued in 1890 and replaced by the Columbian Entire in 1892) and an imperforate block of four of the 4¢ Washington-Franklin (Scott #346; first released February 1909; only about 310,000 issued).

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## United States Stamp Society

The United States Stamp Society (USSS) is a non-profit, volunteer-run association of collectors devoted to the study of postage and revenue stamped paper produced for use in the United States and U.S. administered areas. Once concerned exclusively with the production of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the USSS has expanded its coverage to all United States issues regardless of printer.

Membership information at [www.usstamps.org/membership](http://www.usstamps.org/membership)  
Online store at: [www.usstamps.org/store/](http://www.usstamps.org/store/)

**USSS, PO Box 3508, Joliet, IL 60434-3508**

<sup>6</sup> Again, a distinguished address on Rittenhouse Square in downtown Philadelphia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drexel\\_and\\_Company\\_Building](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drexel_and_Company_Building)). The building was the original home of Drexel and Company, a larger international investment bank. S.H. Chapman was a prominent coin dealer (<https://archive.org/details/catalogofcollect00chap/page/n9/mode/2up>).

<sup>7</sup> On the Chapmans, see [https://www.coinbooks.org/v24/esylum\\_v24n42a15.html](https://www.coinbooks.org/v24/esylum_v24n42a15.html), <https://www.numismaticmall.com/encyclopedic-dictionary-of-numismatic-philatelic-biographies/chapman-henry>, and <https://coinappraiser.com/rare-coin-knowledge-center/henry-chapman/>.

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Figure 3. Philadelphia PA to Landau Germany, January 12, 1911 (front)



Figure 3. Philadelphia PA to Landau Germany, January 12, 1911 (reverse)

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### Discussion

The overwhelming share of US registered mail to Europe appears to go via New York and to have a New York IRL. This is consistent with *Postal Guide* language (1910, p. 119):<sup>8</sup>

*As a rule registered pieces for Trans-Atlantic destinations, the Canal Zone, South America, and for the west coast of Central America should be billed and transmitted to New York, N. Y., as the proper exchange office.*

Note carefully this language. The *Postal Guide* language begins “As a rule”, so exceptions were allowed for. The *Postal Guide* language continues “should be billed and transmitted to ...” If a steamer was leaving for the destination directly from some other exchange office, there was no need to “transmit.” So, this language might be read as allowing an exchange office to send mail that originated in the immediate area of the exchange office on a steamer sailing directly from this port.

Indeed, for some destinations, in some periods, other exchange offices show this pattern; that is, a non-New York IRL was applied to mail originating in the immediate vicinity of the exchange office. Future “IRL Insights” will discuss other examples of this pattern. In particular, as the next “IRL Insights” will discuss, this pattern is clear for Boston mail to Europe. For the case of Boston, there is explicit documentation in the *Postal Guide*.

These Philadelphia IRLs are, nevertheless, a puzzle. Similar language appears in earlier *Postal Guide*. Why do we only see this pattern starting in late 1909? Despite some effort, I have been unable to locate a written source consistent with a shift towards Philadelphia starting to dispatch registered letters to Europe in late 1909. In particular, in some years, for some entries, *the Annual Report of the Postmaster General* lists payments for sailings not from New York. I have been unable to locate such an entry for Philadelphia to Europe.

Here, I make one suggestive observation. Three of the four covers to Germany appear to be mailed at the US-Germany Direct Treaty Rate. This suggests that (at least) much of these Philadelphia IRL covers were sent on German steamers. The Wikipedia entry for the North German Lloyd (known by its initials in German and NDL) steamship line ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norddeutscher\\_Lloyd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norddeutscher_Lloyd)) states:

*During 1900–1914, the three NDL ships carried the most transatlantic migrants, Rhein, Main and Neckar, each brought over 100 thousand steerage passengers to New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia.*

It is thus plausible that this mail was carried on NDL steamers.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The *Postal Guide* also states:

*169. Specially addressed registered mail.— The foregoing Instructions do not apply to “specially addressed” registered mail. Directions given by the sender in the address of registered matter, as to the route by which it shall be sent, must be compiled with whenever practicable, but should not be followed in cases of specially addressed mail for the Philippine Islands unless postage on such matter has been paid at the proper Postal Union rate. (See amended sec. 944 and sec. 945 of the P. L. and R.)*

This does not appear to explain our covers. None of them appear to have such directives. Even if they did, why such directives appear only in this period remains an open question.

<sup>9</sup> See also Morton Allan (1980) which shows NDL sailing Bremen to Philadelphia starting in March 1910.

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More study is needed. It appears that there is some information in local newspapers (in particular, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*). I have not explored that source.

More broadly, there is a generic issue. The Kugel Census provides near complete information on non-New York IRLs. The challenge in understanding the census will often be to understand the complement; that is, mail with New York IRLs and mail with no IRLs. For this article, examples of mail from Philadelphia to Europe via New York would be helpful.

Figure 4 provides an insightful example (also from my collection). As with the cover in Figure 2, it is from a Chapman—in this case, Henry—at 1348 Pine Street,<sup>10</sup> (rather than “S.H.” in the Drexel Building) to a different person in Hamburg, Germany. Again, with a high franking—a solo use of a 50¢ Second Bureau Issue stamp—consistent with shipping coins. This appears to be a courtesy overpayment for a 13x UPU rate (i.e., 8¢ for the registry fee + 5¢ for the first half ounce + 36¢ for the next 12 half ounces + 1¢ courtesy overpayment).

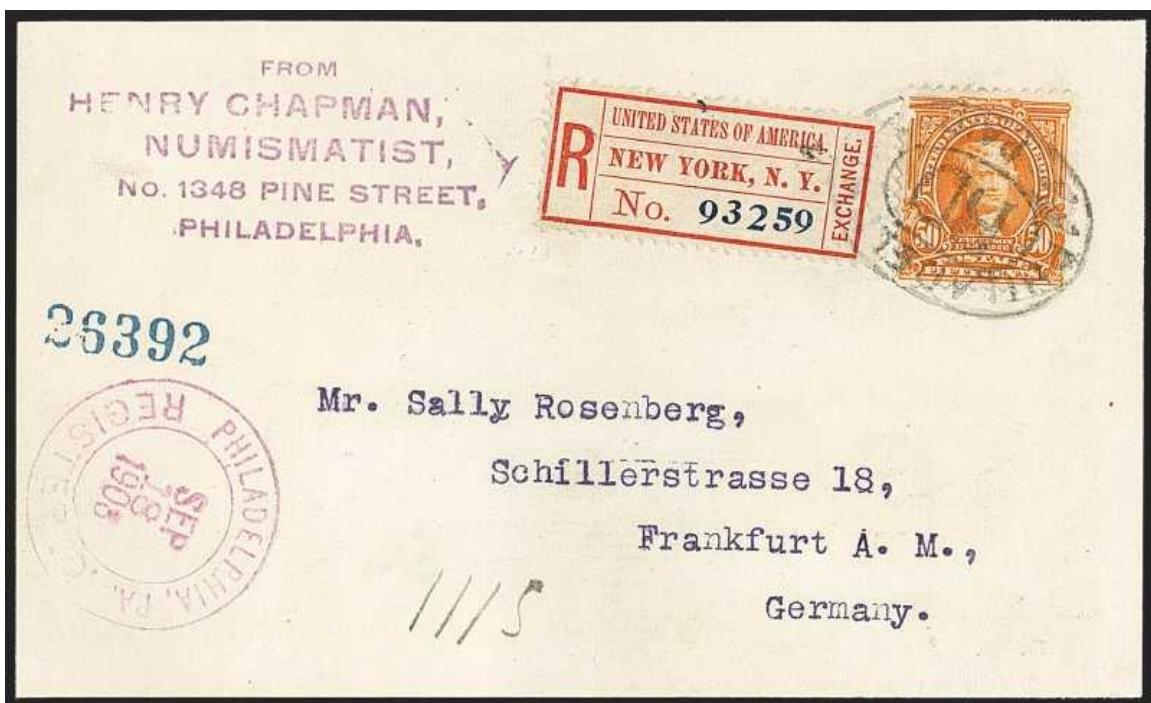


Figure 4. Philadelphia PA to Frankfurt Germany, September 18, 1908, with New York Exchange IRL

This cover is mailed 16 months earlier (September 1908, rather than February 1910) and eleven months before the first Philadelphia IRL to Europe (August 1909). While the later cover has a Philadelphia IRL, this one has a New York Exchange IRL. The covers are otherwise similar. Both have Philadelphia purple double circle handstamps and black RD Philadelphia double oval mute cancels.

<sup>10</sup> This is also a prestigious address in downtown Philadelphia. It is roughly four blocks from the Drexel Building and six blocks from Rittenhouse Square.

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Comparing the two covers suggests that there truly was a change in policy. Prior to mid-1909, Philadelphia registered covers were routed via New York. Thereafter, at least some Philadelphia registered covers left for Europe from Philadelphia.

This interpretation is consistent with extracts from private Ludeman Census of New York IRLs. That database has 33 records from Philadelphia, including 6 from 1907, and 1 from 1908, but none from 1909 and only one from 1910. This suggests that starting in 1909, most—but not all—Philadelphia mail to Europe left directly from Philadelphia.

Figure 5 displays the 1910 cover from Philadelphia with a New York IRL. The CJ Milne and Sons corner card is for a prominent family and their cotton manufacturing business. The letter is mailed at the UPU registered rate (not the treaty rate). Perhaps there were no upcoming Philadelphia sailings. During this period, Philadelphia to New York was less than two hours by train.



Figure 5. Philadelphia PA to Paris, France, October 18, 1910, with New York Exchange IRL

Those with additional insights regarding the current article are urged to contact the author. Others interested in contributing future “IRL Insights” are urged to contact the *Newsletter* Editor.

### References

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Morton Allan. 1980. *Directory of Europea Passenger Steamship Arrivals*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co.

Mueller, Barbara R. 1973. “U.S. Registry Labels.” A Study of Types and Usages.” *US Specialist* (44:3, Whole No. 522), pp. 370-373.

**Acknowledgements.** The image from Rumsey Auctions is used with permission. This article would not have been possible without Mike Ludeman's yeoman's work on the Kugel database. The article has benefited from numerous email conversations with Mike that have massively improved my understanding of these issues. Remaining errors are solely mine.

# Watermarks on Canadian & US AR forms

David Handelman

**S**OME AR forms of us and Canada are watermarked. For Canada, this is very unusual, as there is very little watermarked material. It is also somewhat unusual for the us. With respect to the us, it is important to distinguish AR forms (paper about double card size) used for international mail, from AR cards (RRR; card stock) used for domestic mail, and also from AR cards used for international mail after 1921. We are talking about the first here.

The discoveries of these were made in the obvious way—the form happened to be passed in front of a light source, and the watermark became obvious.

There are now seven distinct watermarks known on Canadian AR forms, and three on those of us. In both cases, these are relatively scarce. For example, Canadian AR forms have printing data, which allows us to distinguish them. Very few (if any) forms of a particular printing are on watermarked paper. We cannot say the same for the us, because there is no apparent way to separate printings.

There are three distinct watermarks on us forms.

Imaging of watermarks has always been a problem. There are various ways of doing so, using sophisticated camera systems, watermark fluid, etc. Fortunately, at the suggestion of Leonard Hartmann, I found a relatively simple way of scanning watermarks.

On my scanner, it happens that there is a subdevice that allows for scanning of film negatives (I was unaware of its presence). In fact, this can also be used to scan watermarks, although the raw images that result are not very convincing (some would say that the final images are not convincing either). They have to be processed with a programme such as *Photoshop* (I use shareware *GraphicConverter*, available for Macs). There are innumerable combinations of settings that can be used, and it takes time to figure them out. I have some notes for using *GraphicConverter* for this purpose, if anyone is interested. In some cases, the negative (that is, black interchanged with white) version of the scan shows the watermark more clearly.

By sheer luck, I found a fantastic source of information on watermarks produced by North American paper companies ca 1910, [Po], downloadable from the internet. It managed to identify most of the paper manufacturers that produced these watermarks.

For Canadian forms, the watermarks often only appear in small bits (even though the sheets are relatively large). In some cases, the same watermarks appear on other official stationery, and in these cases, the whole watermark is sometimes visible. Then I use the latter, rather than piece together the watermarks on various forms.

For more examples of watermarked AR forms see <https://www.rfrajola.com/DHMay23/Part6.pdf> (Canada) and <https://www.rfrajola.com/DH2023/2ar.pdf> (us). These two pseudo-exhibits are periodically updated.

### Watermarks on Canadian AR forms

**V**ERY few items in Canadian philately are watermarked. So it comes as a surprise that some (not many) AR forms are watermarked, as noted in the table, *Canadian AR forms with watermarks*, below. Some of these watermarks also appear on other material, such as Post Office Savings Bank deposit advice envelopes [Pe], as well as some Newfoundland revenue stamps. Here we show full size images (except as noted) of these watermarks, as well as additional information, such as the paper mill of origin [Po].

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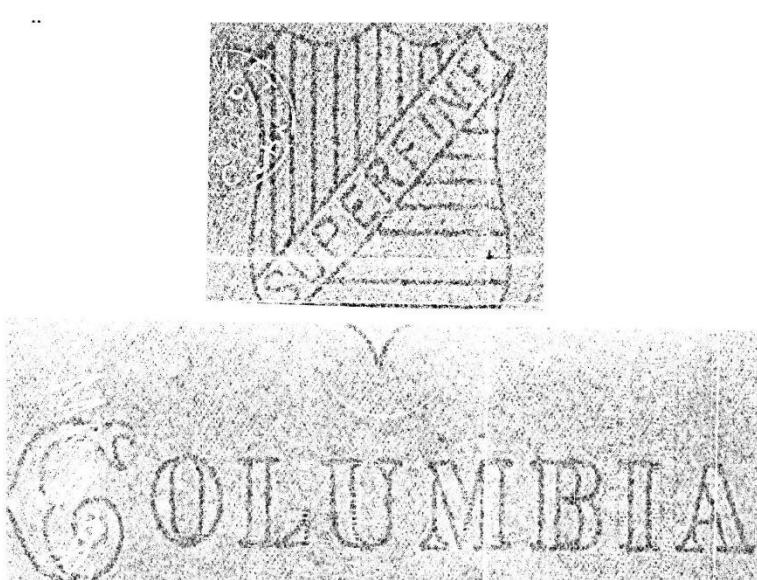
### Canadian AR forms with watermarks

P/O date	quantity	Early & late use	format	watermark
17-6-1904	4,000	Mr 1905 1906	foolscap, folded at left; printed R	Columbia Superfine (1)
3-4-'05	10,000	Fe 1908	" ; printed R	Adelia w gryphon and maple leaf
9-5-'06	10,000	Jn 1909	" ; printed R	Adelia w gryphon and maple leaf
17-4-07	10,000	Mr 1908 My 09	" ; printed R	Adelia w gryphon and maple leaf
22-11-07	13,000	Ap 1909	" ; printed R	Adelia w gryphon and maple leaf
20-07-08	18,000	No 1908 Au 1909	half-foolscap	Laurentian Wove
5-12-11	75,000	Mr 1913	"	Earnscliffe Linen Bond with medallion
30-5-12	100,000	Ap 1913	No 1914	Empire Linen Bond
10-5-16	90,000	De 1917	De 1919	Strathcona Bond/made in Canada
27-9-17	100,000	Mr 1918	Jy 1919	script Colonial Bond

P/O date (print-order date) and quantity are given in small print on the form, the date being day-month-year.

The EMPIRE LINEN BOND watermark is known on about five or six AR forms, but none show more than one complete word. Fortunately, the entire watermark appears on a few Post Office savings bank form envelopes. It also appears on a few Newfoundland revenues issued 1907 and 1910.

(i) Not all AR forms of a particular printing are watermarked if one of that printing is; in fact, very few are.



Columbia SUPERFINE, Rolland Paper Company, St Jérôme PQ. Known on P/O 17-6-1904. Also appears on Newfoundland revenues printed in 1907 & 1910 [Wa]. See page 5 for the form on which it appears.



LAURENTIAN WOVE, manufacturer not listed in [Po]—but the Laurentide Pulp Company was the largest paper producer in Canada ca 1900–1920, so this is probably the manufacturer, and it probably began using this watermark after 1910. Known on P/O 20-07-08. Stamp on reverse blocks parts of AN.

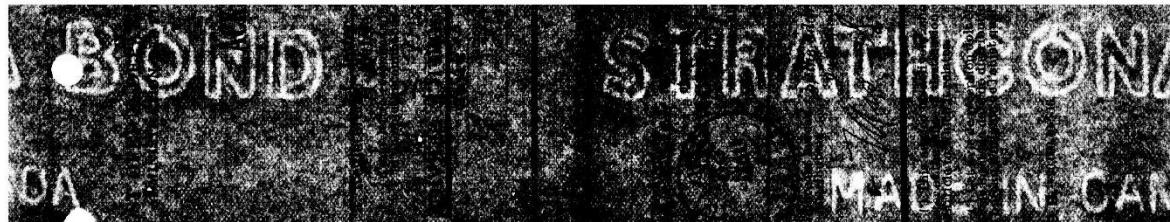


Bond, EMPIRE LINEN BOND, at 90%, Rolland Paper Company, St Jérôme PQ. Known on P/O 30-5-12. This is taken from a Savings Bank deposit advice.

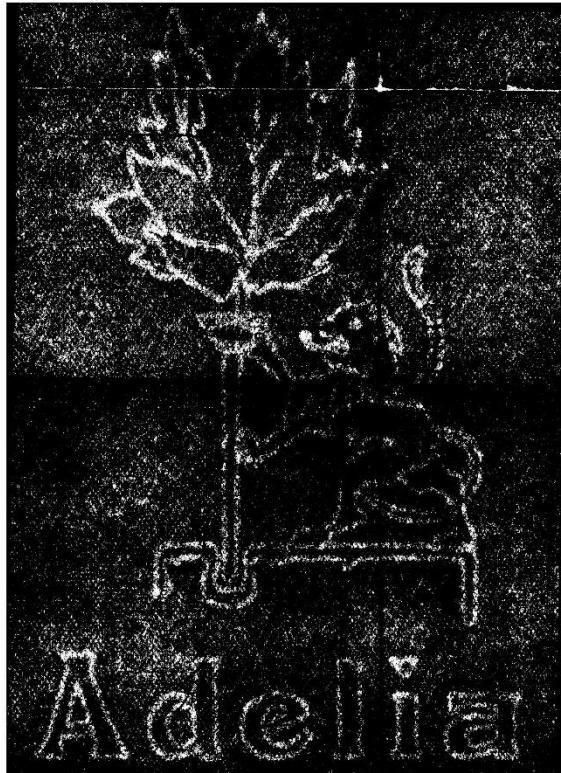
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*Colonial Bond* script, Rolland Paper Company, St Jérôme PQ. Known on P/O 27-9-17. Taken from a Savings Bank deposit advice.



STRATHCONA BOND, not listed in [Po]. Probably printed by the Strathcona Paper Co, founded 1873 in Napanee (Ont), and still in existence (its modern specialty is paper board). Known on two forms (both 10-5-16, used in 1917).

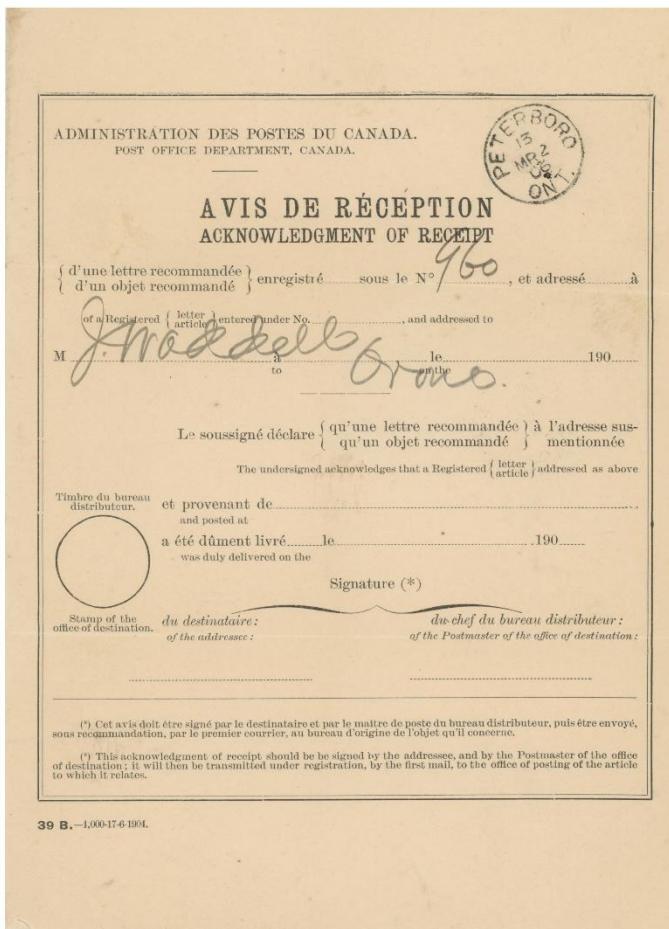


Adelia with gryphon (?) and maple leaf, Northern Mills Company, Ste Adèle PQ. Known on P/Os 3-4-'05, 17-4-'07, 22-11-07. All but one or two examples show only a part of the maple leaf. This complete watermark appears on a 1909 form returned from Beirut.

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*Earnscliffe* (linen bond) with lion in medallion, Rolland Paper Co, St Jérôme Que. This watermark appears on two forms. There is a line below *Earnscliffe*, and it is plausible that it reads *Linen Bond*.



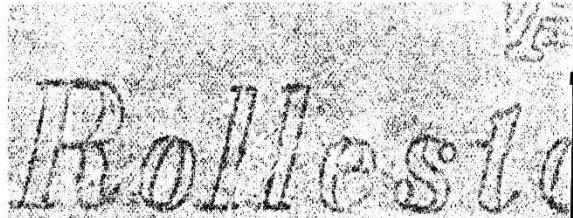
Watermarked COLUMBIA and diagonal on a shield, SUPERFINE. (See the first watermarked image.) Peterboro (ON)–Orono (ON), 1906. Via London. Not signed; likely registered cover was not delivered. Print data 17-6-1904 in a quantity of 4,000 (low).  
 • 5¢ AR fee paid by stamp on exterior  
 • Returned (registered) to office of origin likely still attached to cover.



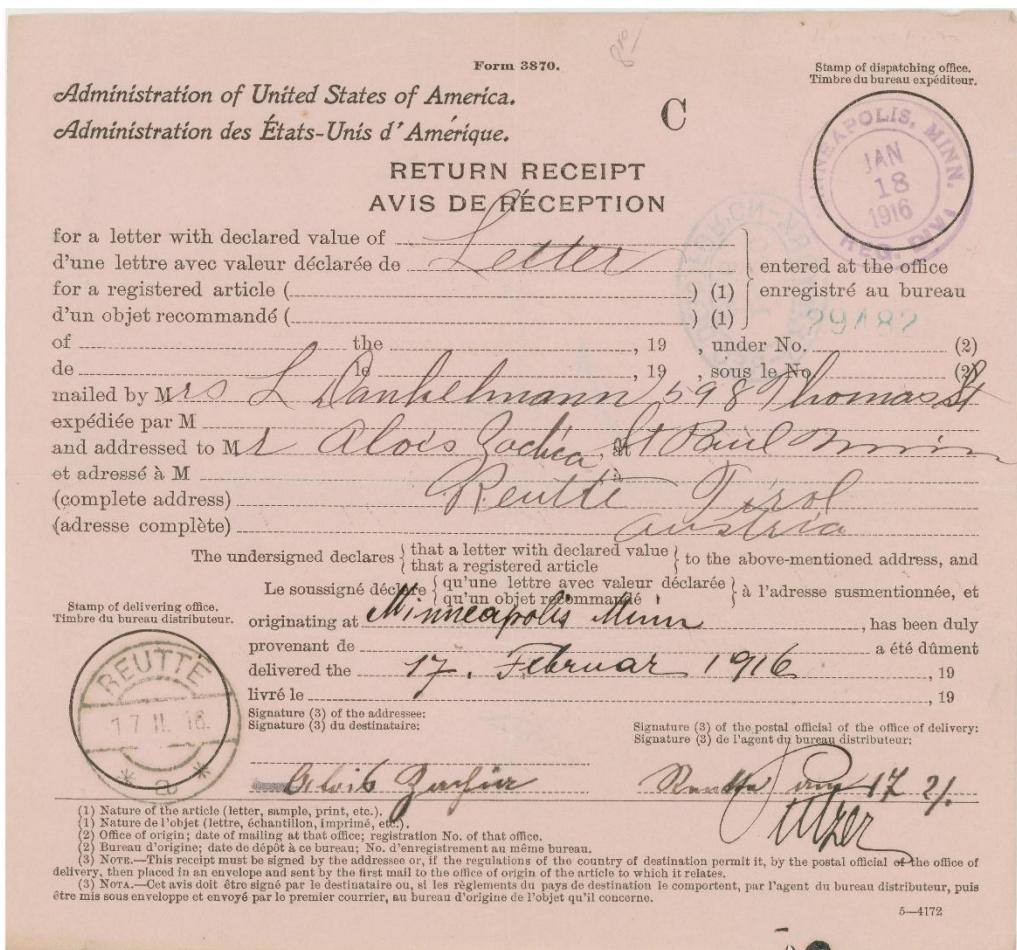
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## Watermarks on US AR forms

**T**HERE are far fewer (known) distinct watermarks on US AR forms, in fact, just two. So far these have only been found on forms in the 1910s. Paradoxically, US AR forms are much more readily available than Canadian.



Likely *Rolleston Mill*; American Writing Paper Company, Holyoke (MA). There is also something above the *to*. It also appears on some officially sealed stamps. One of four known AR forms with this watermark, immediately below.

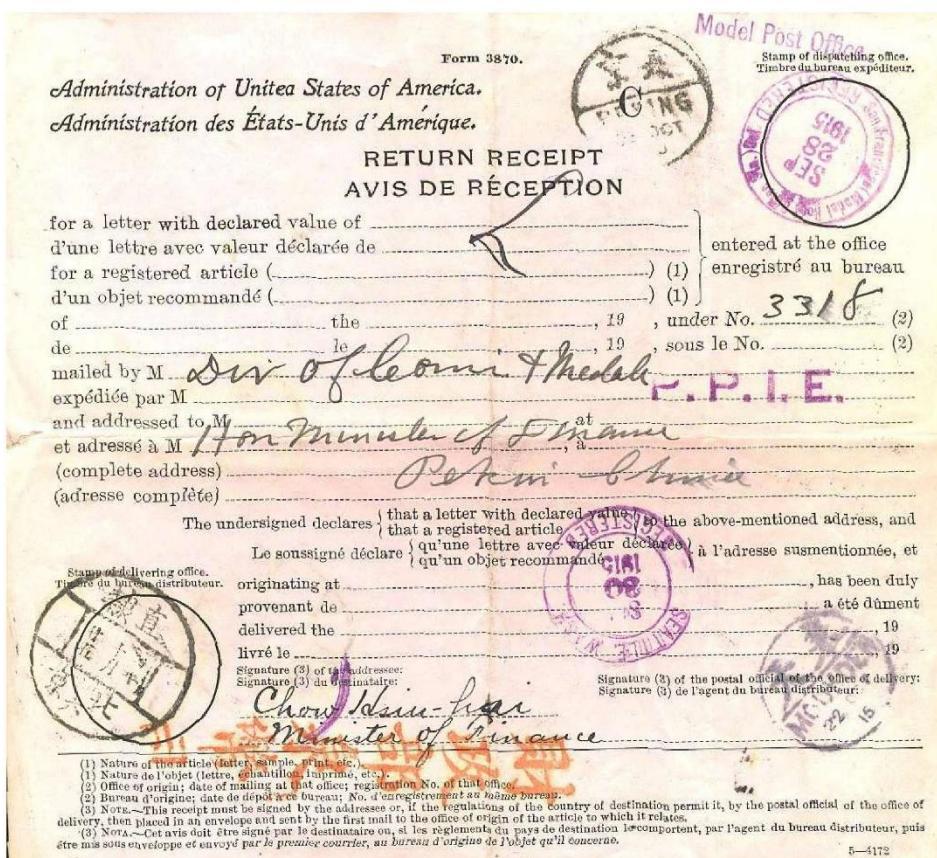


Returned from Reutte (Austria) to Minneapolis via New York, January 1916.

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Shows the great seal of the United States, about 8 cm in diameter. One other example (on an AR form) is known. I don't have a paper mill attribution for this (as there is no text).



US AR form from PPIE, returned from China, 1915. Pink cds at upper right reads San Francisco Sta (Model Post Office) (second reported strike). Via Seattle, Moukden (Manchuria), and Peking. For a registered letter from the Division of Coins & Medals of the PPIE to the Chinese Minister of Finance.

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### References

- [Hi] David Handelman, Watermarks on AR forms, BNATopics 484 (2000) 34–36, and Readers speak, 486 (2001) 74–5.
- [Pe] Bill Pekonen, Canada's post office savings bank, BNATopics 487 (2001) 8–19.
- [Po] Post's paper mill directory for 1910, Watermarks and brands . . . , downloadable from [https://archive.org/stream/watermarksbrandsoopost/watermarksbrandsoopos\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/watermarksbrandsoopost/watermarksbrandsoopos_djvu.txt)
- [Wa] John Walsh, Newfoundland revenue stamp watermarks, BNATopics 481 (1999) 16–18.

Comments and more examples solicited. I can be reached at [rochelle2@sympatico.ca](mailto:rochelle2@sympatico.ca)