



This modern cover mailed in November 1955 might not look terribly exciting but has a postal history story to tell.

Unassuming, Yet Worthwhile

Personal letter from U.S. to Munich via the 1953 international printed matter rate

By Charles J. DiComo, PhD

I recently came across the unassuming cover shown as part of my ongoing quest for international postal uses mailed from the quaint town of Pawling, in the southern Berkshires of Dutchess County, where my family and I resided for nearly a decade.

The unsealed cover exhibits a nice solo use of the 2-cent Thomas Jefferson, dry print Liberty issue series (Scott 1033). It is tied by a 6-bar, Pitney-Bowes machine cancel, dated November 28, 1955, with a time stamp of 3:30 p.m.

This envelope was mailed to a Miss Erika Schillinger at Werneckstr. 25/II in Munich, Germany, and sent via the international printed matter surface rate, which was 2 cents for the first 2 ounces (50 grams), effective November 1, 1953 through July 31, 1958. On August 1, 1958 the rate doubled to 4 cents.

Unfortunately, the cover has no contents, but, considering the date, most likely contained a holiday card or greeting.

While the rate use is not that uncommon, it was sent during the cross-over period of the Presidential and Liberty issues.

The 2-cent Jefferson dry print Liberty issue was released on September 15, 1954, while the 2-cent John Adams Presidential issue (Scott 806) was still available in the majority of post offices. (The Adams stamp was issued in four formats, including panes and coils, between June 3, 1938 and January 27, 1939.)

The franking and postal cancellation on this cover from Pawling – 14 months after the Jefferson stamp's first issuance – would not be considered an early use for this Liberty issue.

In the end, this is a great example of a cover amply dispelling the myth that a common stamp some say are worthless has obvious eye appeal, historic significance for postal history, and a far greater market value than the same stamp used off cover.

The author thanks Hal Klein for his insight into the printed matter rates of this era.



Excelsior!

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Douglas Penwell: A quick look at manuscript cancellations and what makes them special. Help needed to update state handbook. **Cover.**



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Release: Learning About Stamps Online (LASO) is a new web-based club designed to bring together collector's from near and far. **Page 5**

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Jeff Stage: A cache of covers (likely) between a man and a woman had the potential of an interesting tale. But, sadly, such

was not the case. **Page 8**

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Upcoming Shows

New York October 20

Albany Fall Stamp & Postcard Show, Fort Orange Stamp Club, American Legion Hall, Joseph E. Zaloga Post 1520, 4 Everett Road. Ext., Albany. **Contact:** Mike Krug. <http://www.fortorangestampclub.org/>.

New York

November 10
Syracuse Stamp Show. Free admission and parking. Holiday Inn (formerly Maple Wood Inn) 400 7th North Street, Liverpool (off Exit 36 NYS Thruway). Website: <http://syracusestampclub.org/syracuse-stamp-show/>.

Pennsylvania November 15- 16

Postal History Symposium, APRL, APS, and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte. <https://stamps.org/news/c/collecting-insights/cat/postal-history-symposium>.