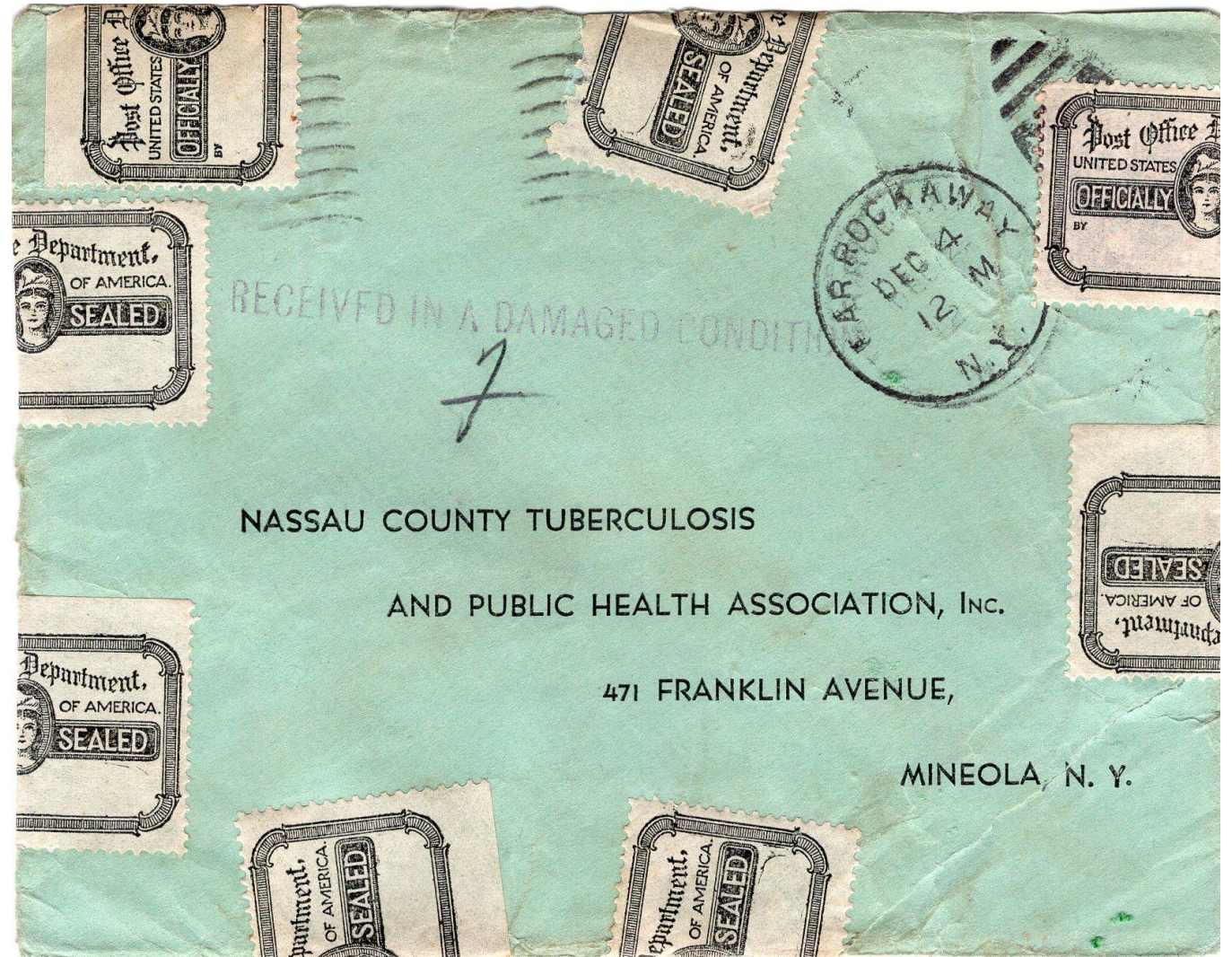


OFFICIAL SEALS

Presented to the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

March 12, 2025

David H. Hunt



1872 Registry Seal OXF1

Under the 1872 system, registered letters were sent between post offices in a POD supplied envelope, sealed with this seal. This lasted until 12/31/1874 when a new type of security envelope that did not require a seal was introduced. Slightly more than 7,000,000 OXF1 seals were printed.





OXF1 Die Proof



OXF1 Essays



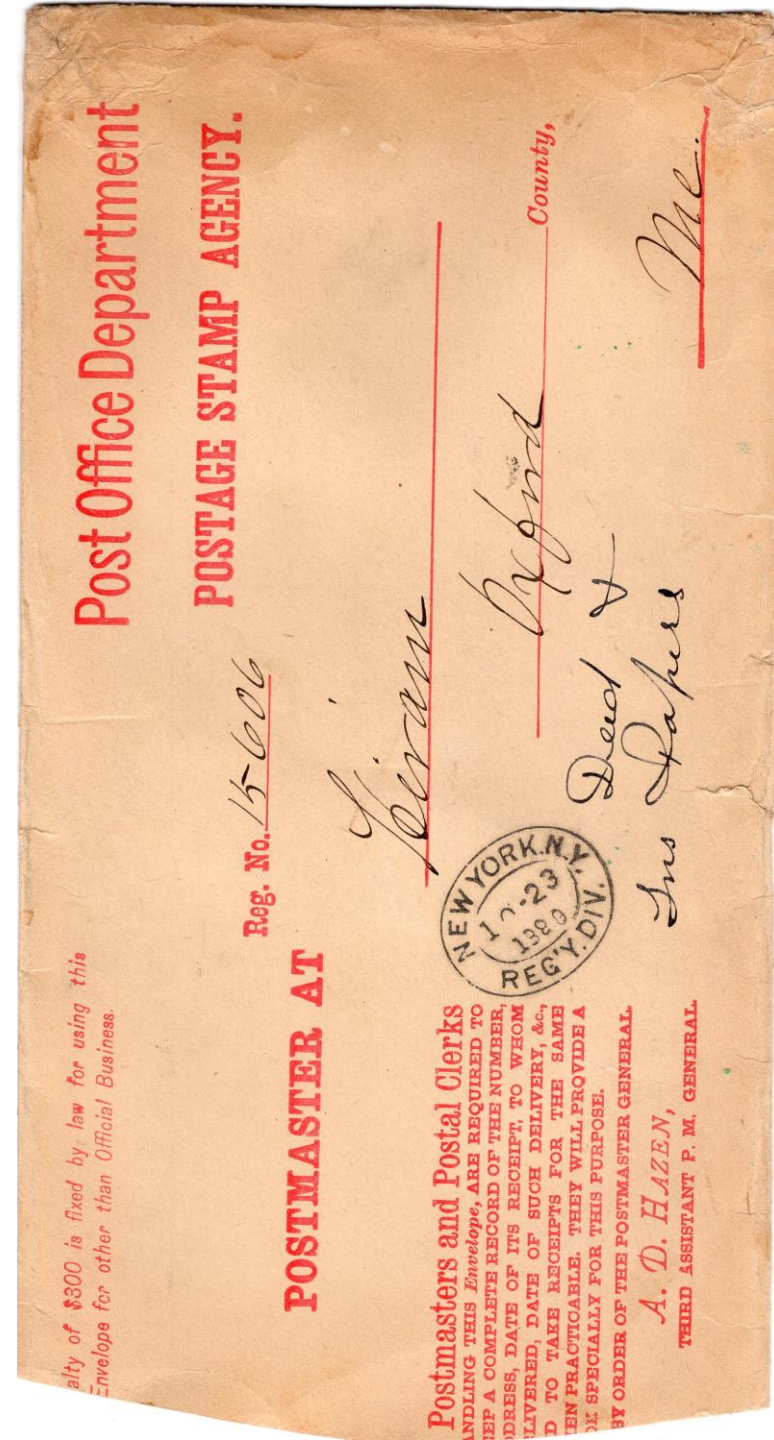
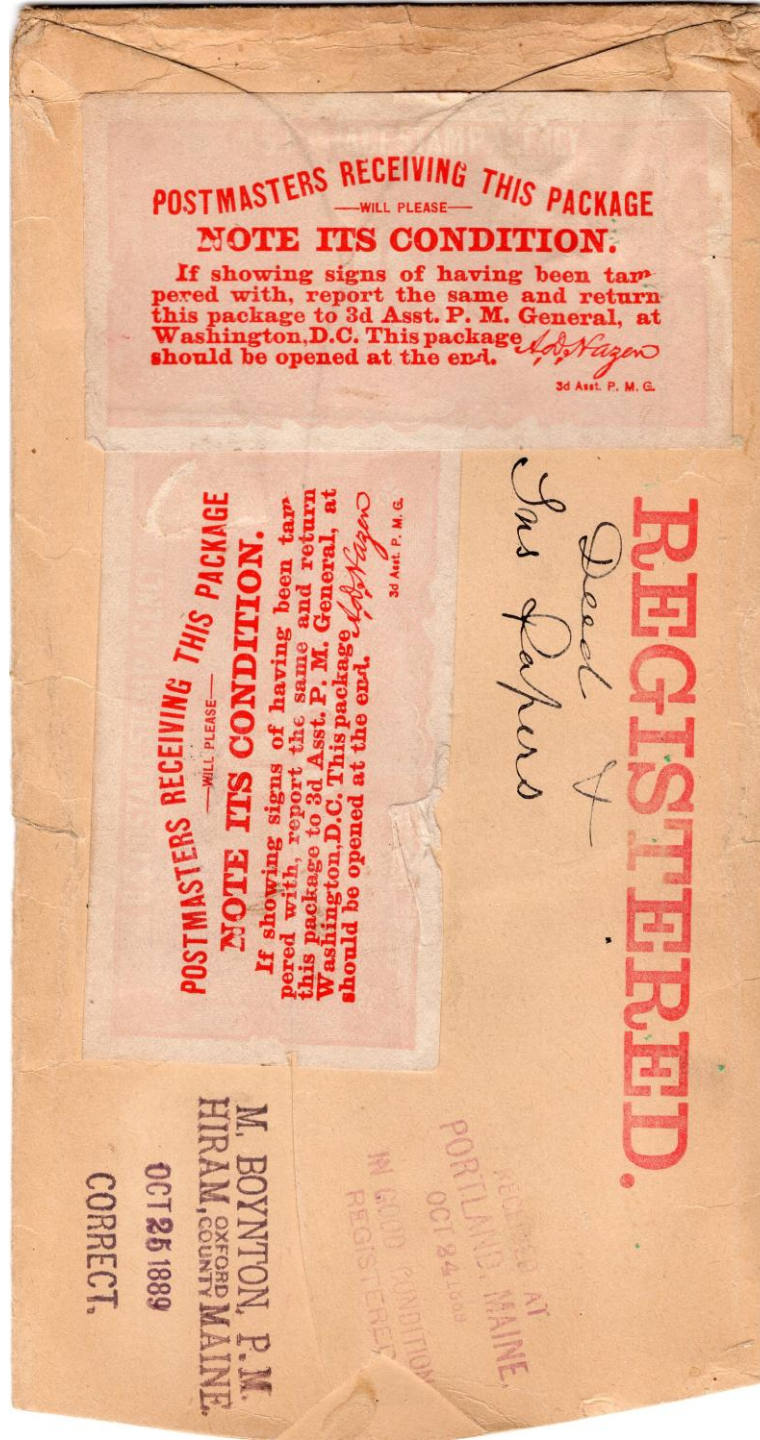
POSTAGE STAMP AGENCY SEAL OXF4

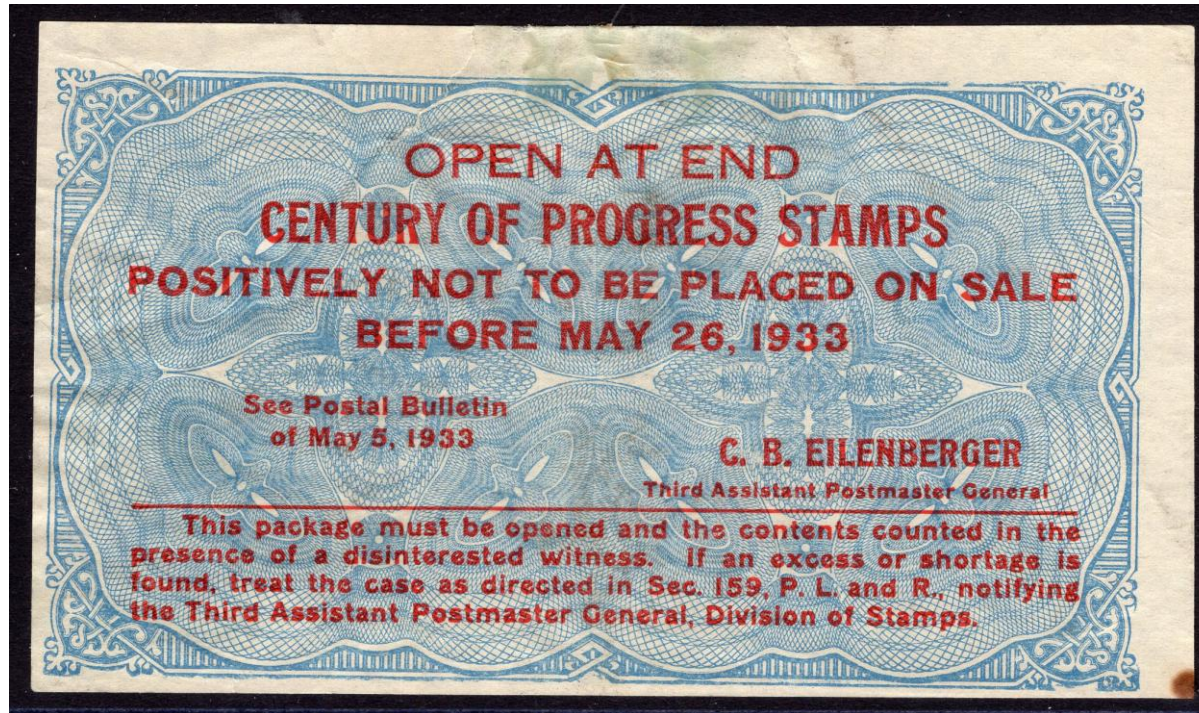
In 1875 the New York Postage Stamp Agency was sending over 120,000 registered packages of stamps to post offices around the country and was unsatisfied with the new envelope for registered mail and requested seals for use on those envelopes. Sixteen types of this seal were issued between 1875 and 1914.

Stamp Agency Seals

Only two covers with multiple stamp agency seals are recorded. This is one, with two copies of OXF6, was found in a small hoard of stamp agency envelopes in the tiny Hiram, Maine post office. Apparently, the postmaster used the sturdy envelopes to store documents.

The other multiple seal cover has two copies of OXF17.





Stamp Pad Seals

Beginning about 1930 the BEP began to use seals to secure pads of stamps delivered to post offices. Text on the seal is specific to the stamp issue for which it was used. Very few of these seals have survived in collectors' hands. For example, there were about 7.1 million stamps produced in all denominations for the 1932 Washington Bicentennial issue. Thus there were 710,000 pads produced which required 710,000 seals. Jim Kotanchik was aware of only 2 examples. These seals are not listed in the Scott catalogs.

1877



OX1

Intended for use by
dead letter offices
but distributed to
other offices as well.



1879



OX2

Plate Proof

For use by local postmasters
to repair "problem" mail.



OX2 on Cover

Letter franked with #210 from Farmington, CT dated 31 May 1887 to Canton, OH with OX2 sealing flap. Notation reading: "Recd unsealed at this office" and signed by postmaster.

OX2

Note “National Bank Note Company” inscription in bottom frame, but “American Bank Note Company” in right margin



1888 Post Office Seal
Imperforate (Scott OX5a)
Typographed



This is an example from the 1st printing (of 16 printings). The 1888 seals were normally perforated and imperforate seals from the later printings are believed to be printer's waste. However, a letter from the Third Assistant Postmaster General dated July 20, 1888 confirms that some imperforate examples of the 1st printing were distributed to post offices for use.

No examples of imperforate first printing seals have been found used on cover. There are a small number (6) of imperforate panes and about half a dozen pieces of various size in collectors' hands. This is the only recorded used imperforate pair. (*ex.* Jim Kotanchik collection)

References:

1. Post Office Seals of the United States and Possessions, Jim Kotanchik, 2006; *illus.* Fig. 9-3
2. Catalog: The Westpex Sale, April 28-9, 2011, Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, San Francisco, CA, lot 1605

1889



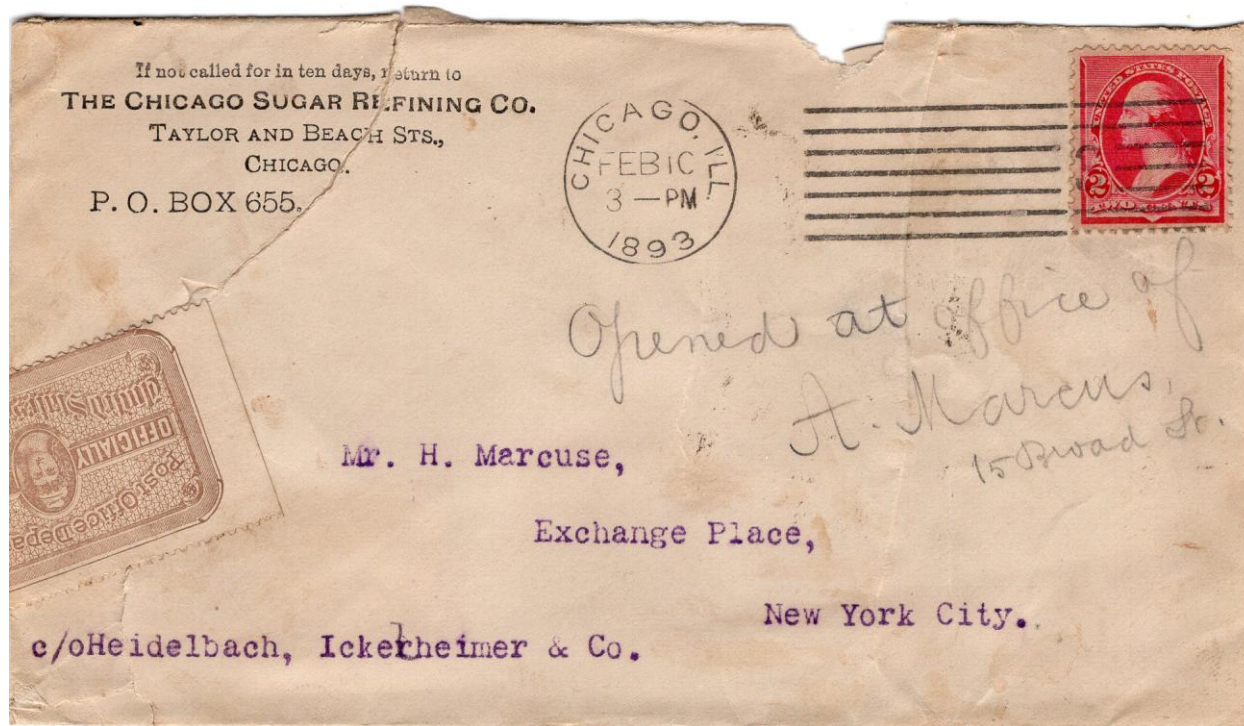
OX6

In 1888 the Post Office was looking to replace the engraved seals of 1879 with a cheaper alternative. They chose the Government Printing Office to supply new seals printed by typography. The printing and perforating quality were so poor philatelists at the time thought they were forgeries

**1889
OX7**

As seals had no denomination,
and were not accountable
paper, the printer was not too
concerned about matching
color in the 16 printings of
this seal.





OX7

Letter from Chicago to New York cancelled 2/10/1893.
Diagonal tear at left mended with an OX7 seal.

1892



OX8

Rouletted 5 1/2

1895



OX9

Hyphen Hole Perf. 7
(shades)

1898



OX10
Typographed

1900



OX11/OX10

Outer frame line at top
and left is thin on OX11.



OX11
Lithographed

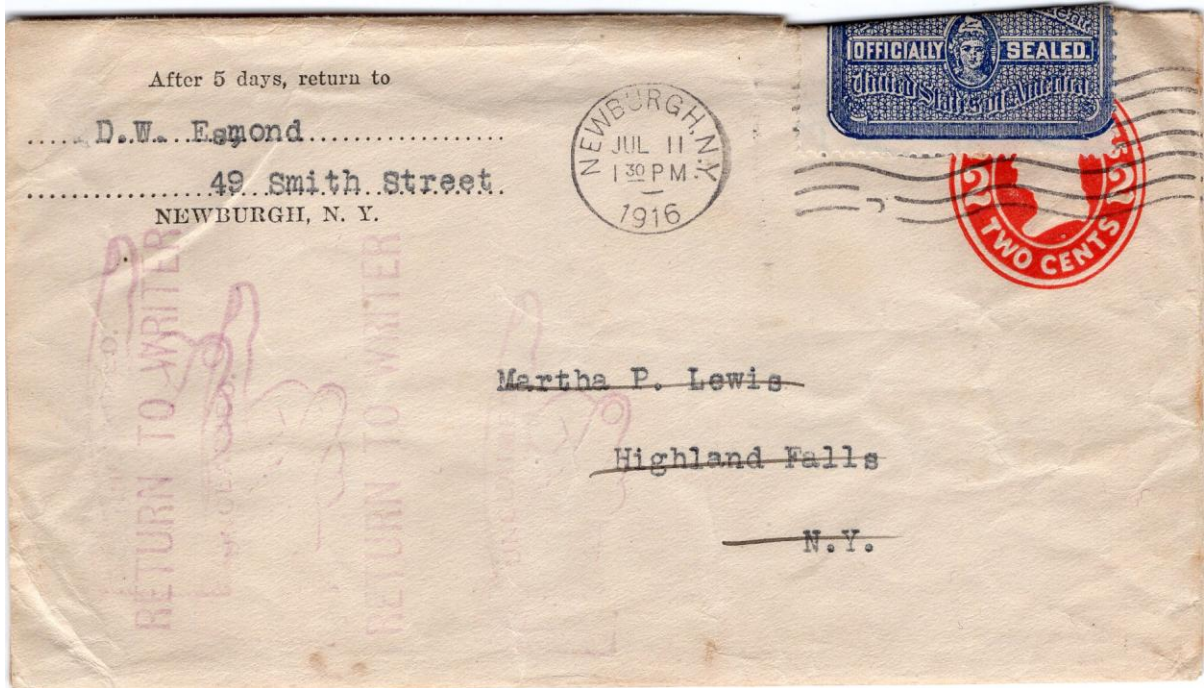
1907
Blue Typographs



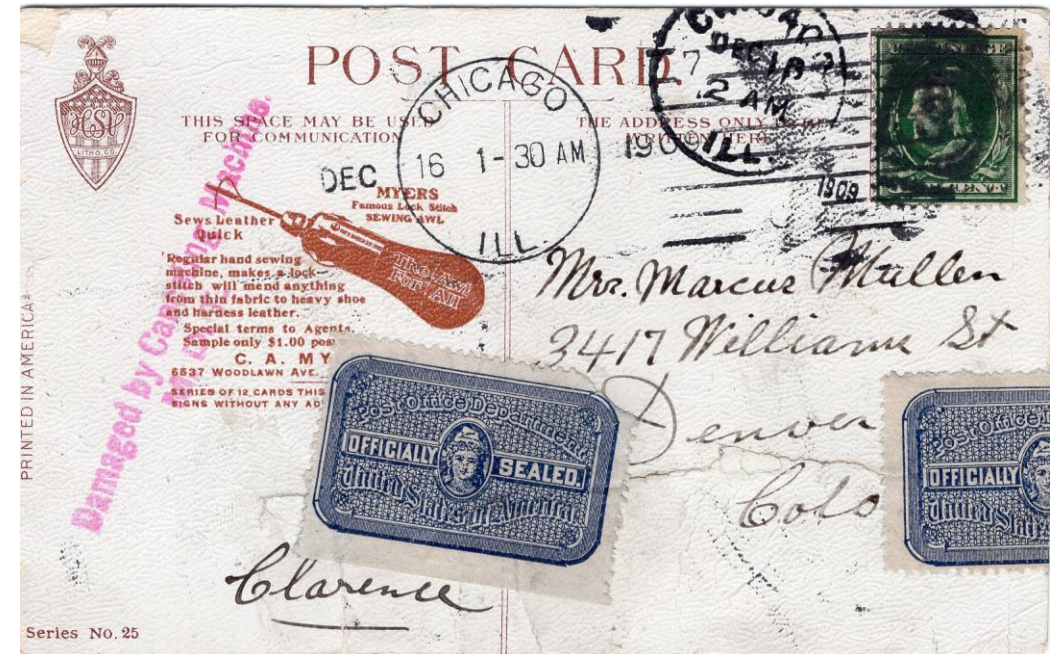
OX12
Royal Blue



OX13
Blue (shades)



OX13
Used on cover



OX13

“Damaged by Cancelling Machine”

Although there were hundreds of millions of post cards sent in the mails during the golden era it is exceptional to find one with damage and being “OFFICIALLY SEALED”. Presumably damaged in the Chicago post office the card is postmarked DEC 16 1909.



OX14

Hyphen Hole 6 ½



OX15

Perf. 12 x Hyphen Hole 6 ½



OX16

Hyphen Hole 6 ½ x Perf. 12

Somebody went wild with perforating methods.

1916



OX17

Black on pink paper

There was just one printing of this seal.
It was replaced by the black on white paper
seal (OX18) in 1917.

1917



OX18
gray black

OX18a
black



OX18e
Horizontal pair imperf. between



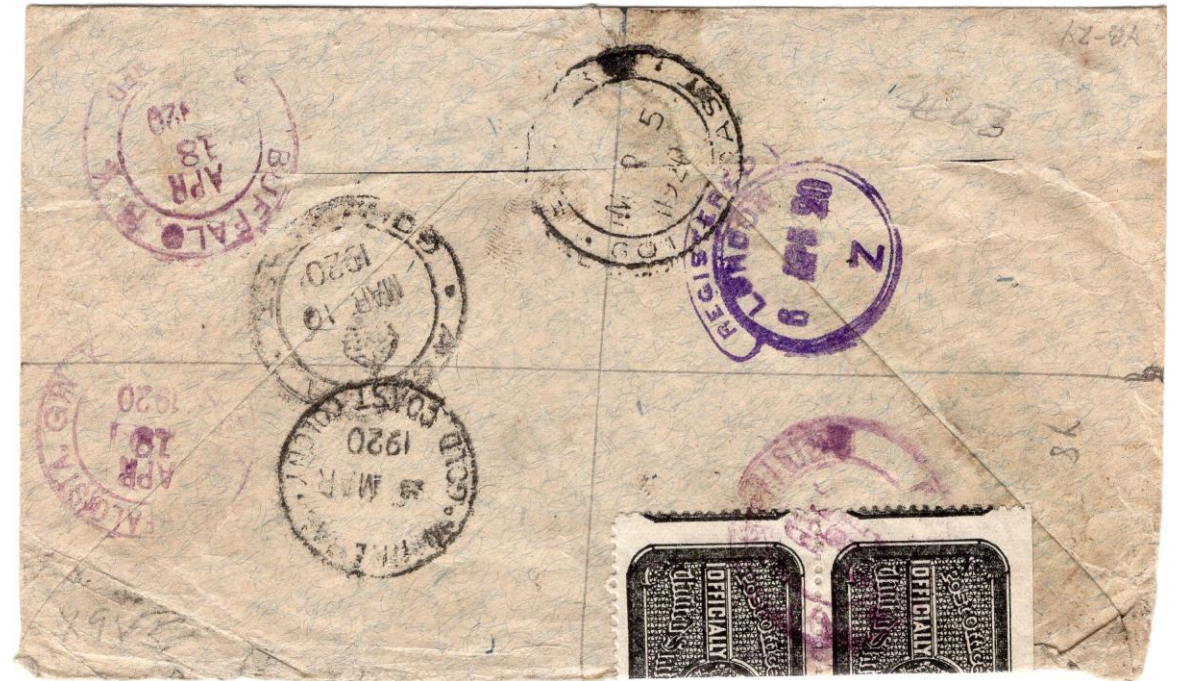
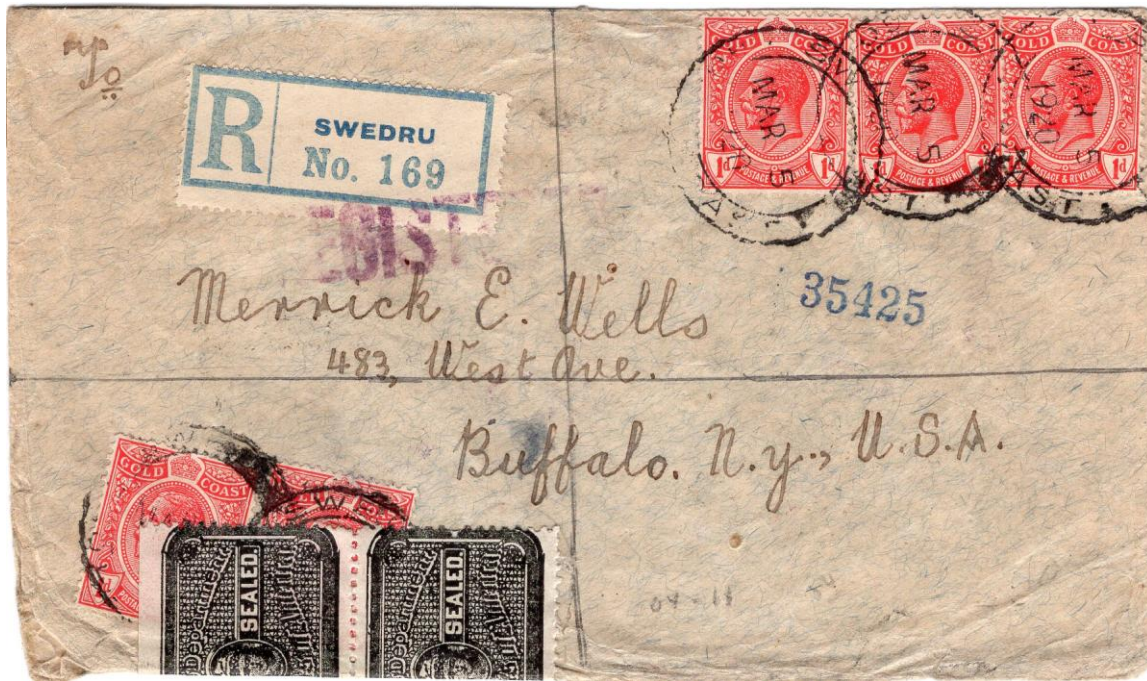
OX18f
Imperf. pair

OX18b
vert. pair
imperf. horiz.

1917
OX18



Complete pane of OX18.
675,000 panes were printed.



OX18

Registered cover from Swedru, Gold Coast to Buffalo, NY postmarked MAR 5 1920 with a misperfed pair of OX18. In his book, Jim Kotanchik wrote: “The black typographs were in use for only a period of about three years and were replaced with the issue of 1919. For this reason, there are relatively few covers found, particularly ‘interesting’ covers.” I think this qualifies as an ‘interesting’ cover.



OX19

These seals were delivered in 1919 to the Quartermaster General's Office Mail and Records Section to be used for reclosing mail opened in error. Five weeks later they were made obsolete when the M and R Section became the M and R Branch.

1919-1948



OX21
Thin paper, perf. 12



OX28
Thick, cream paper perf. 12



OX34
Thick, gray, soft paper; perf. 12 ½



OX23
Thin paper, perf. 12 x 8 ½



OX30
Thick, cream paper perf. 12 ½ x 8 ½



OX35
Thick, gray, soft paper; perf. 8 ½



OX27
Thin paper, perf. 11 ½



OX31
Thick, cream paper perf. 8 ½



OX38
Thick, gray, soft paper
Hyphen Hole 9 ½

OX39

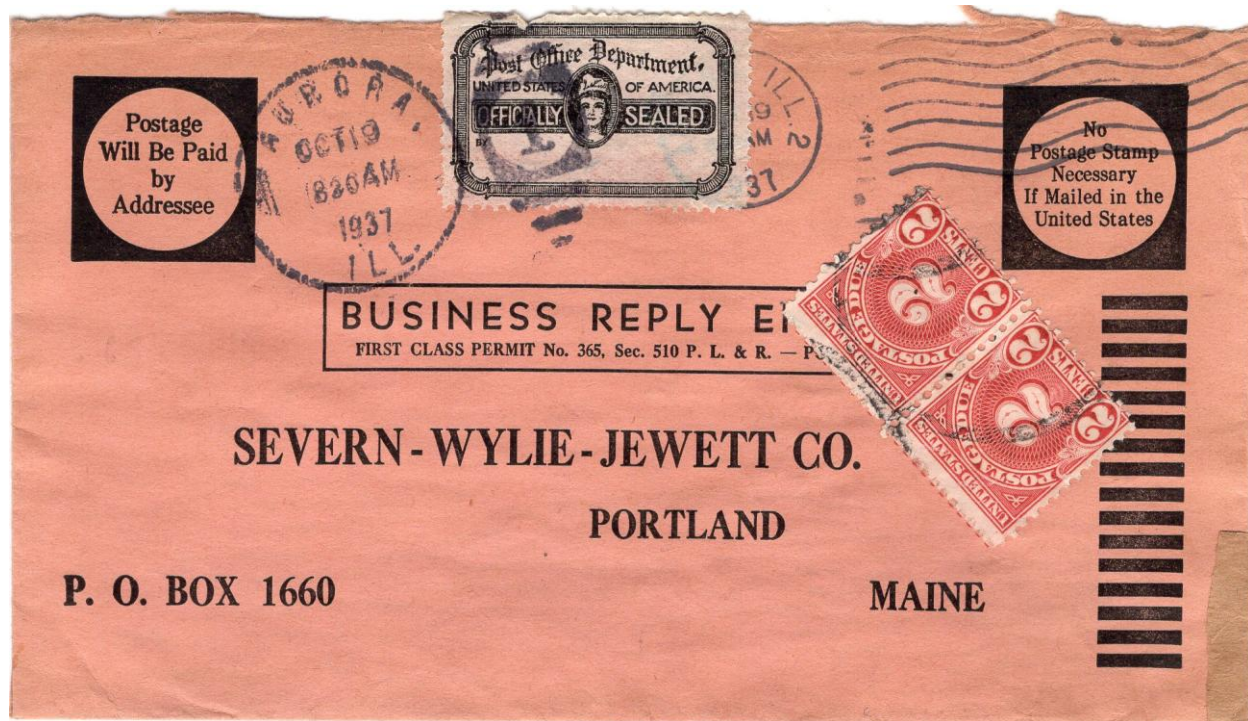
Hyphen Hole 9½ x imperf.
Thick, cream paper
Design width 37½ mm



OX40

Hyphen Hole 9½ x imperf.
Medium thick white paper
Design width 38½ mm





OX21 on Business Reply Envelope along with J81 x 2 postmarked OCT 10, 1937. This is a renewal envelope for Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News which cost \$1.00 per year.



OX21 x 2 on cover from Brazzaville, French Equatorial Africa to Spokane, WA postmarked 24 DEC 1951

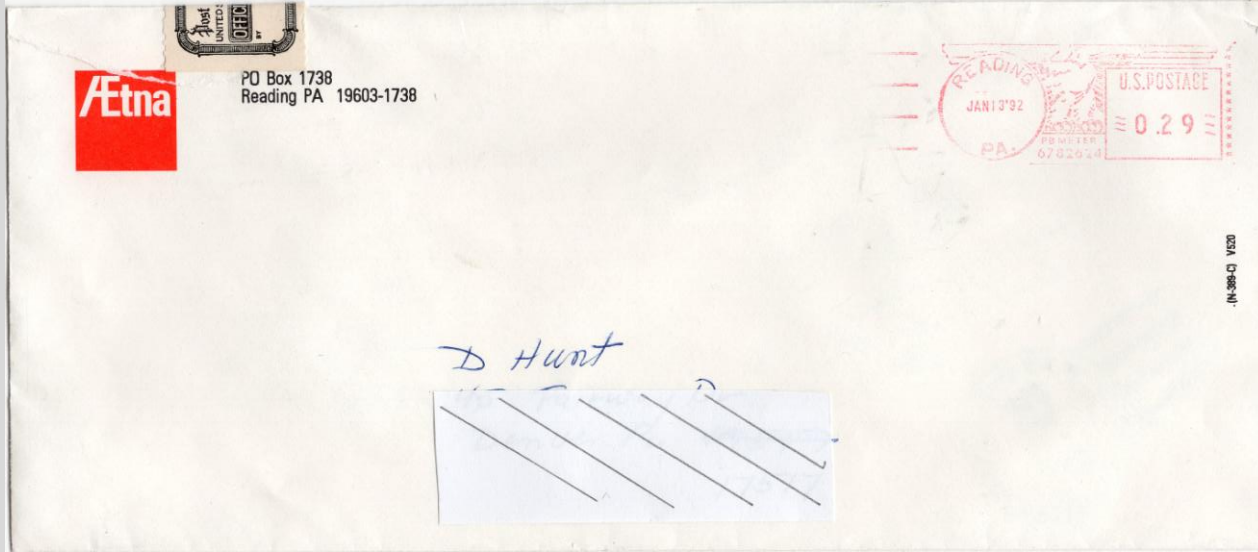


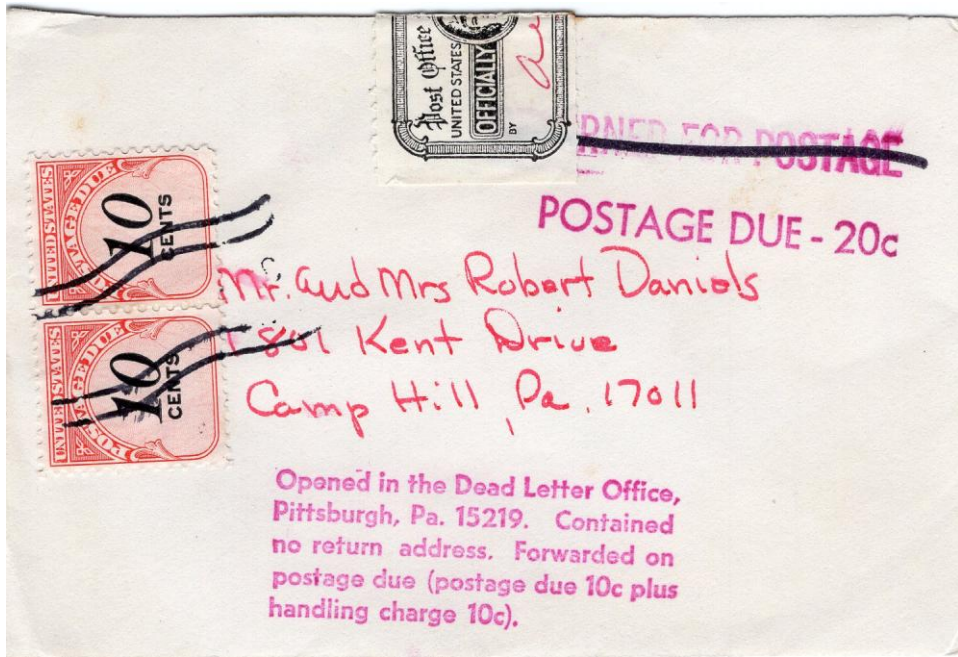
OX23
On registered letter
from U.K. to Kansas.



OX30
On cover from
Canal Zone to Virginia

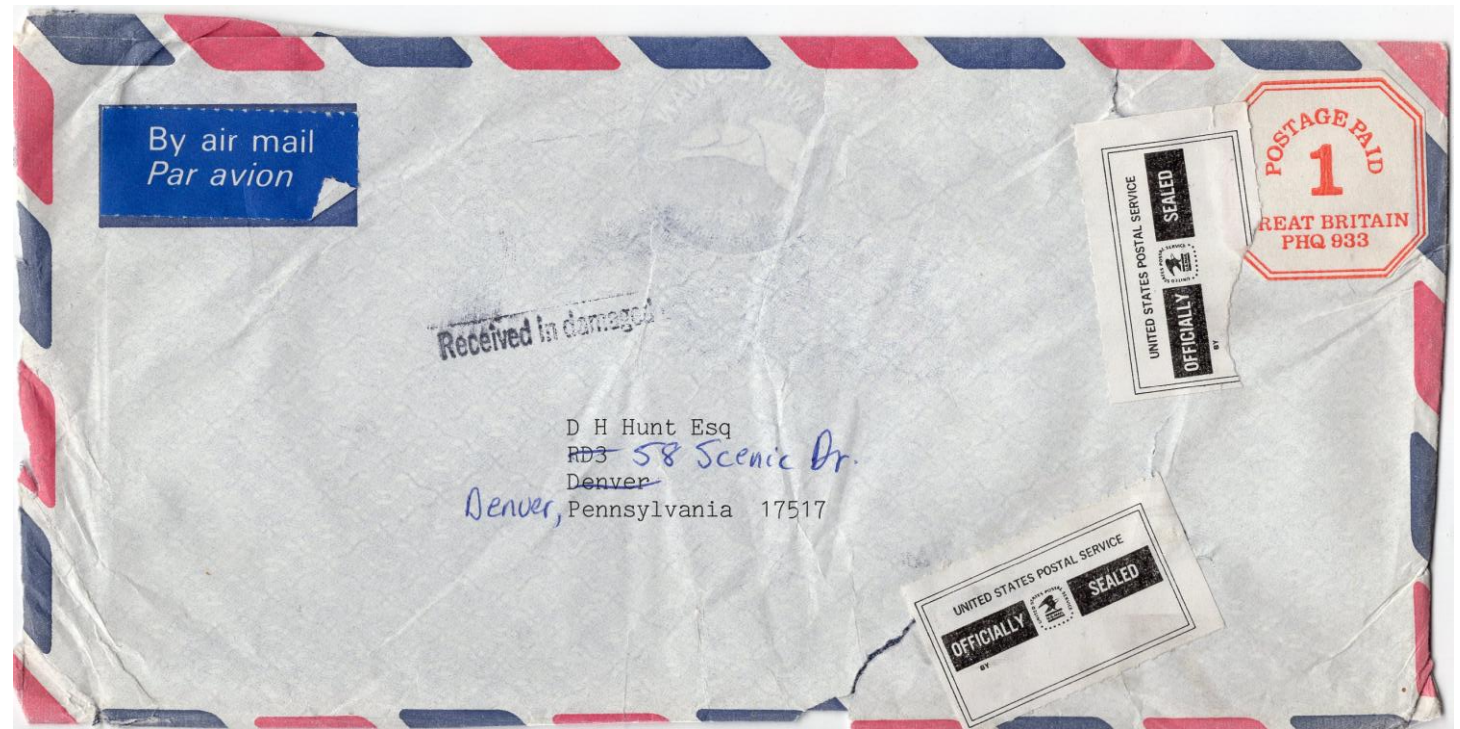
OX39





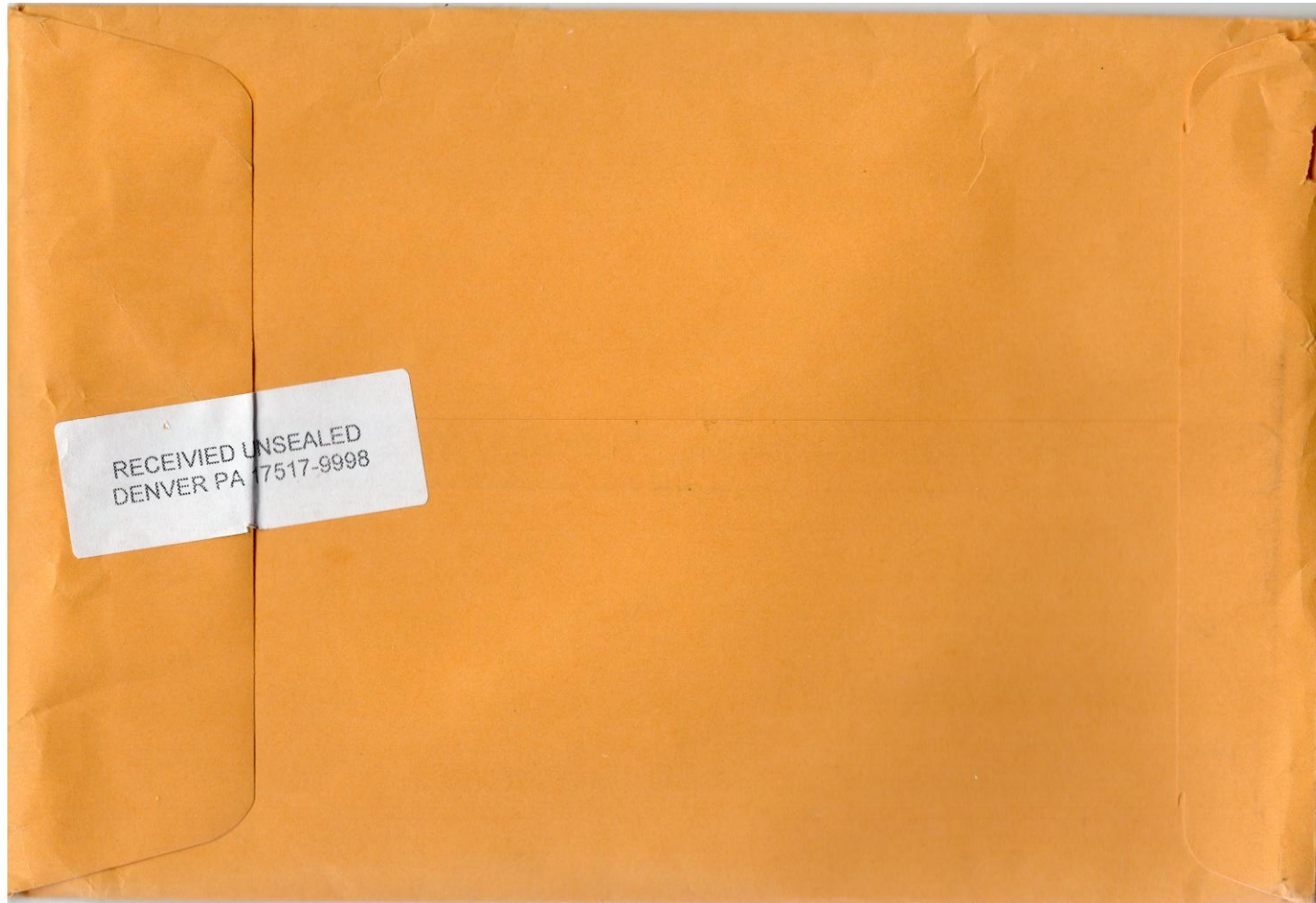
OX40

Dead letter with OX40 and J97 x 2



OX43

It is nice to get collectibles in your mail



This is where we're at today - *borrring*

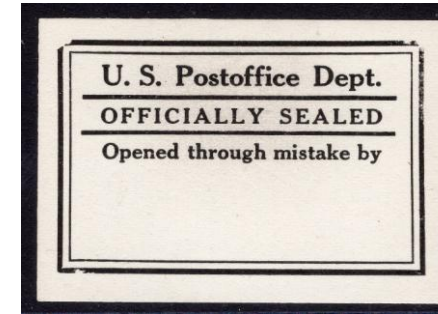
Local Seals



LOX11c

Printed by The Morrill Press, Fulton, NY
(ca 1892) to sell to fourth class post offices.

The most common type of local seal.



LOX12 (Type 2)

Printed by the Lemoyne
Supply Company of
Lemoyne, PA (ca 1920).

These seals are not common:
there are 7 recorded examples
of Type 1 and 4 of Type 2.

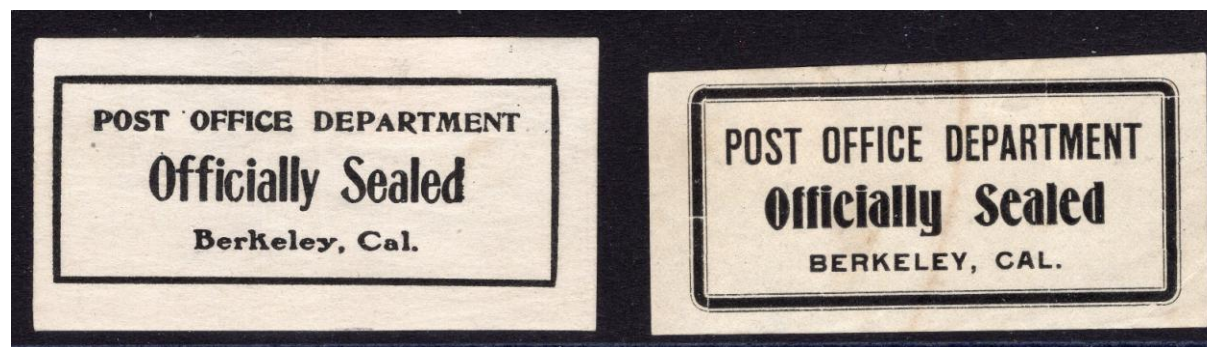
Local Seals



LOX20

At least 20 copies of LOX20 have been recorded, 13 from a single hoard.

Printer is unknown.



LOX21

Ca. 1902

Kotanchik estimates that nine copies exist.

LOX21A

Ca. 1902

Quantity known:
2 on cover, 2 used and one unused

Canal Zone
Official Seals
1907-1961



OX 1



OX 2



OX 3

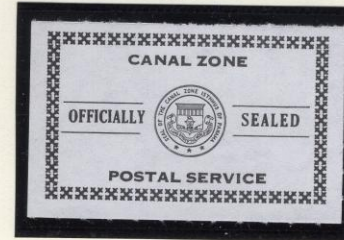
W/MK



OX 4



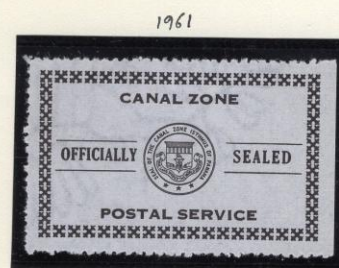
OX 5



~~OX 6~~
OX 7



OX 6a



OX 6b

Canal Zone Official Seals



OX3

OX3



OX1



OX2 var. 1



OX1



OX2 var. 2

Canal Zone



UC1 envelope with C7 and C12 sealed with Canal Zone Official Seal OX3. This cover is shown as Figure 21-36 in Post Office Seals of the United States and Possessions by Jim Kotanchik. He recorded 11 examples of OX3 on cover. This cover was carried on the first direct flight from Miami to Cristobal, C. Z. via Havana and Managua. The pilot on this flight was Charles Lindberg.

**Canal Zone
OX4**

Used on Canal Zone Postal Service
penalty envelope with Balboa, CZ
machine cancel and addressed to
Ozone Park, NY.

Six covers have been reported.



G.L. Apperstein
Box 1800
Balboa C.Z.

BALBOA
JAN 27
AM
1975
CANAL ZONE



Mrs Harriet Laurence
610 Miamar Dr.
Santa Cruz Calif
95060

Canal Zone OX6
On UC15

BALBOA
JAN 27
1975
CANAL ZONE
am



BALBOA
JAN 27
1975
CANAL ZONE
am

Received Unsealed at _____

OX6a

Philippines Official Seals (US Admin.)

PHILIPPINES



OX1



OX2



OX3



OX4



OX5



OX6
wmk upright



OX7



OX8



OX9



OX10



OX12



OX11



OX6
wmk sideways



OX3
Shade

Philippines
OX12
(1938)

Printed in sheets of
25 (5 x 5)

PHILIPPINES

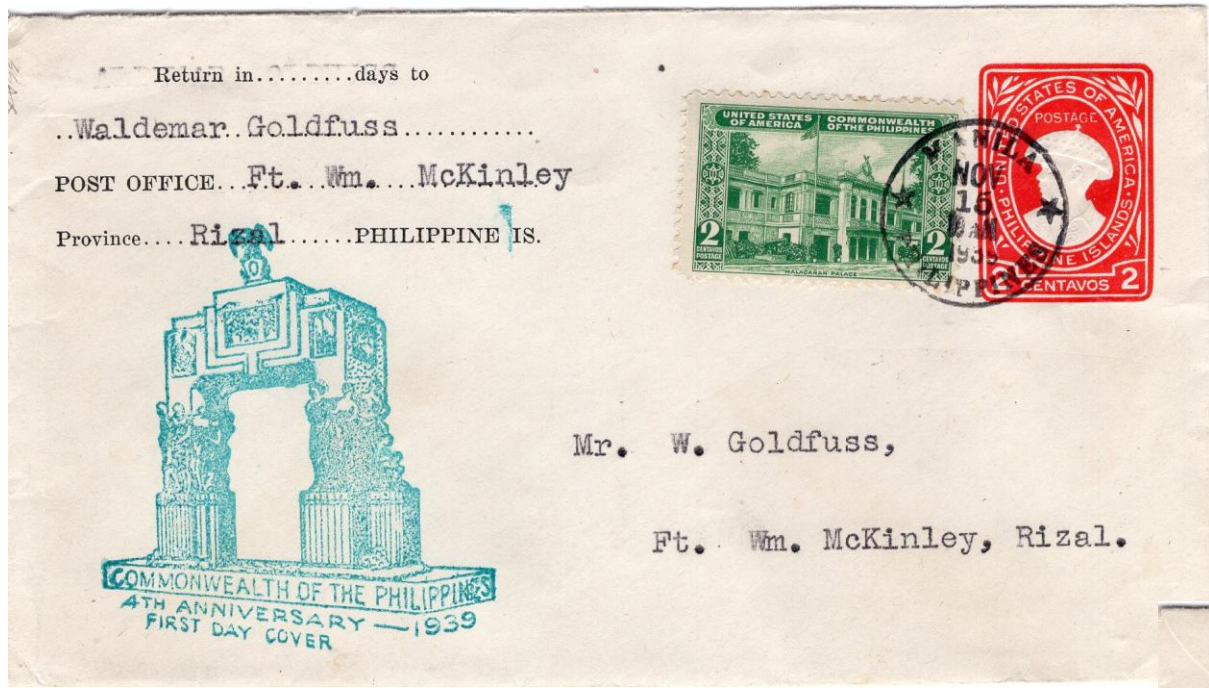


OX12



Philippines Official Seal

This seal is either OX7 (Unwmk) or OX9 (Single-lined USPS wmk) applied to a US C7 envelope. Kotanchik estimates the combined quantity of OX7 and OX9 on cover to be perhaps half a dozen.



Philippines U41 plus 455 (FDOI)

Philippines OX10

1934

This is the last seal issued by the Philippines before Commonwealth status. Kotanchik says: "Due to its short Period of use (probably less than two years), on cover examples are scarce."



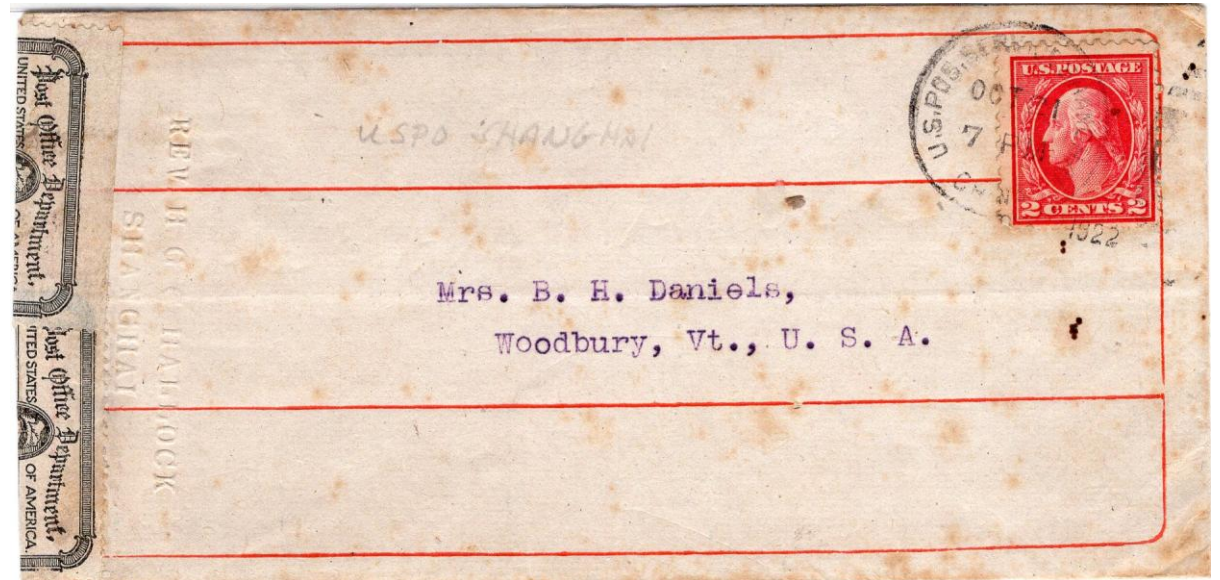


US Seal OX11
Used in Puerto Rico

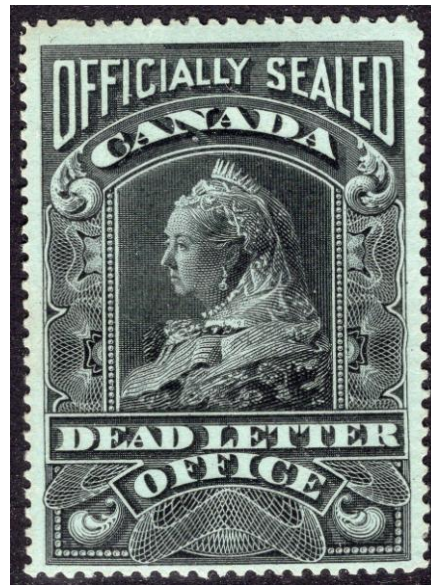
OX21

Handstamped SHANGHAI
by postmaster John Darrah.

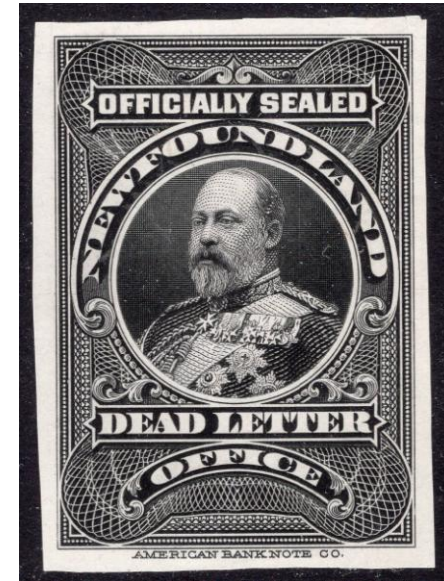
The cover is postmarked
Oct 21, 1922. The US Postal
Agency in Shanghai closed
Dec. 31, 1922



**Canada
Official Seals**



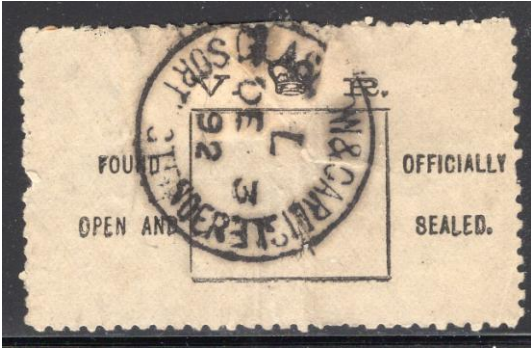
**Newfoundland
Official Seal
(Plate Proof)**



Great Britain Official Seals



Queen Victoria Type 2

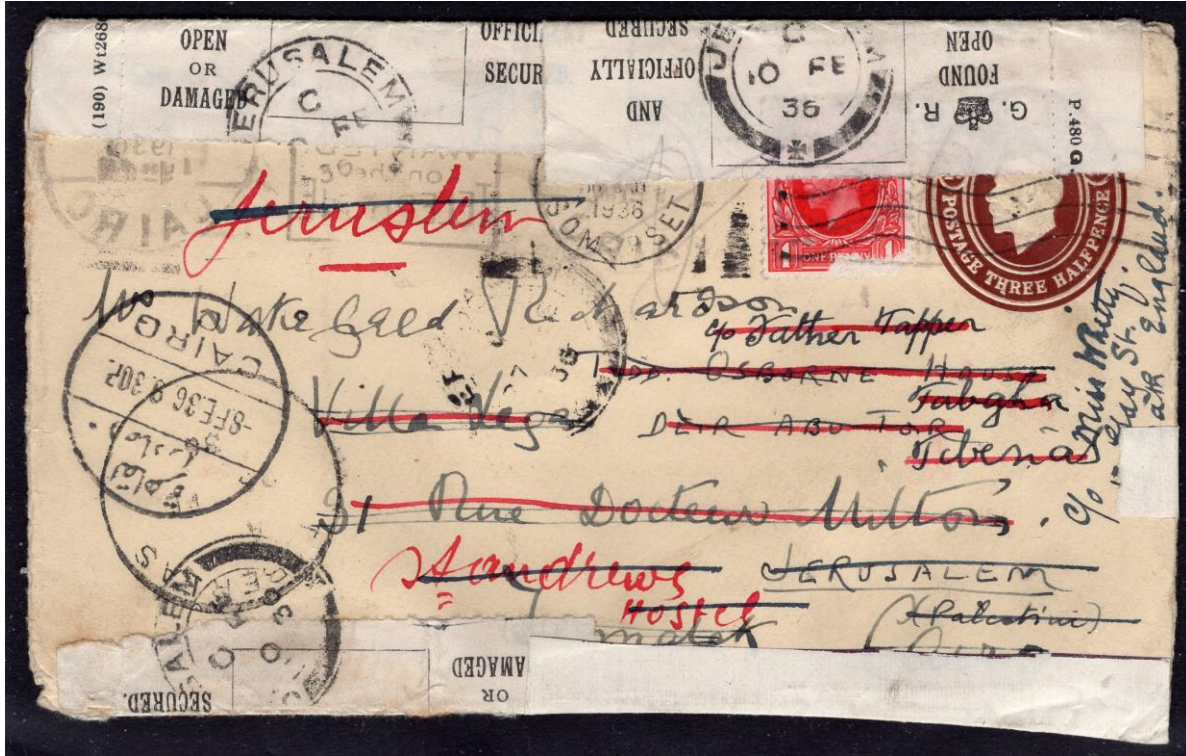


Queen Victoria Type 4
Used only in Scotland



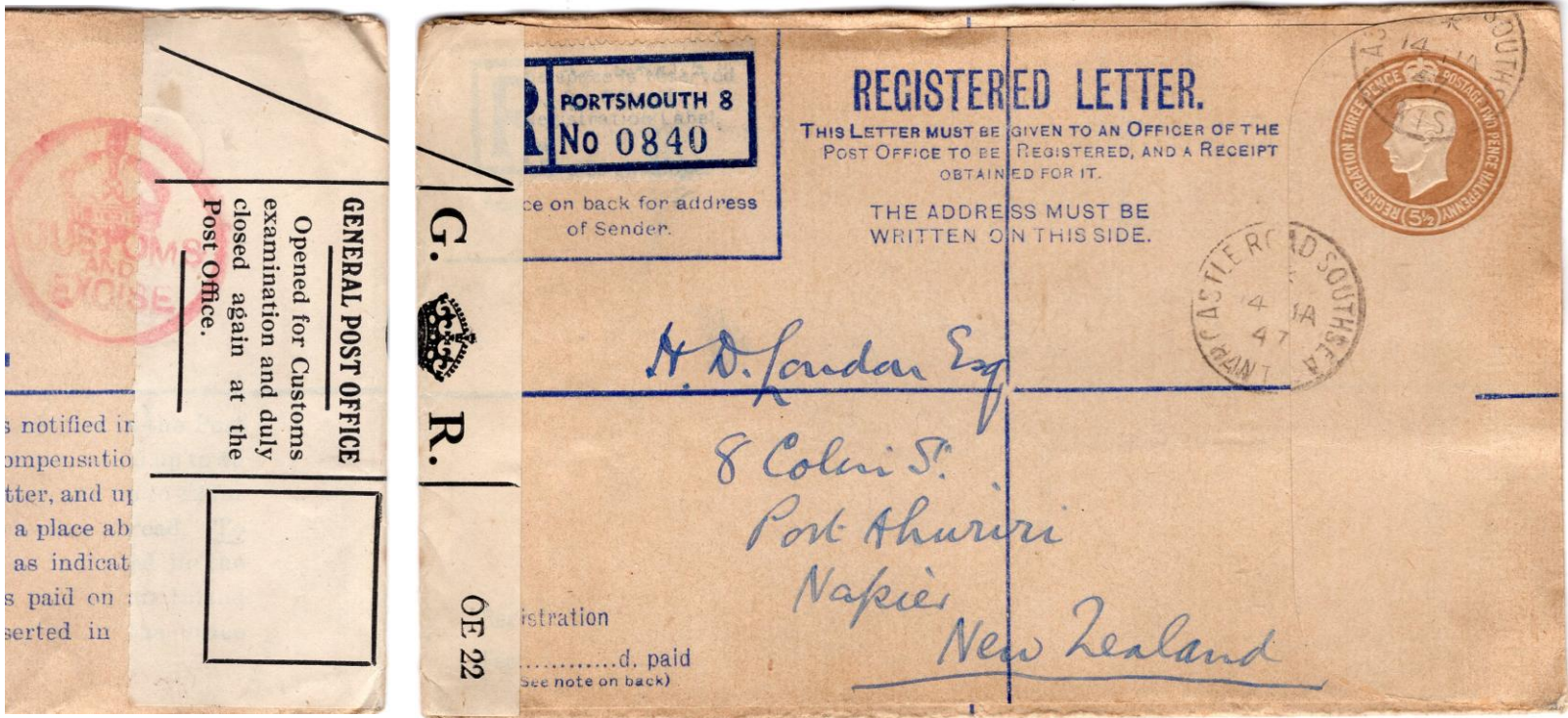
King Edward VIII

Great Britain



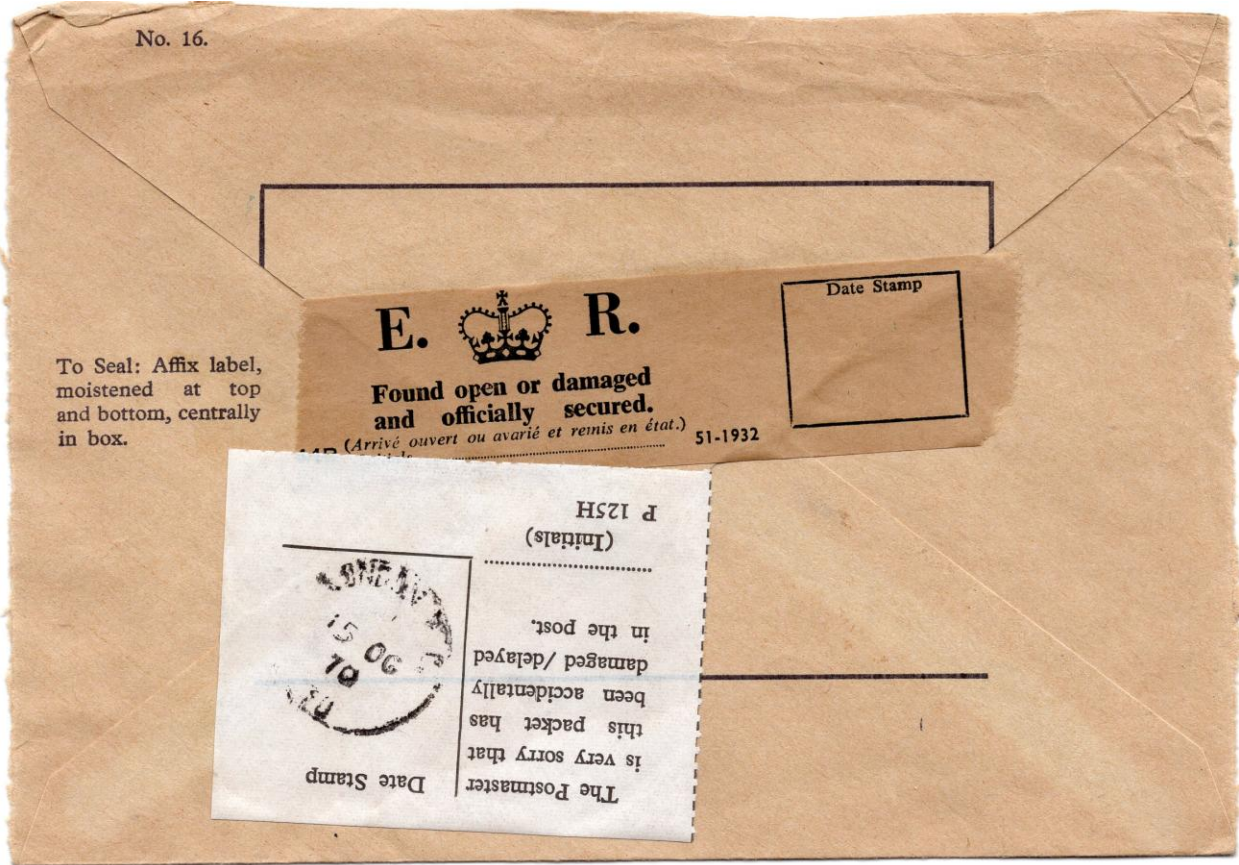
King George V official seals applied in Jerusalem

Great Britain



King George VI seal used for Customs examination.

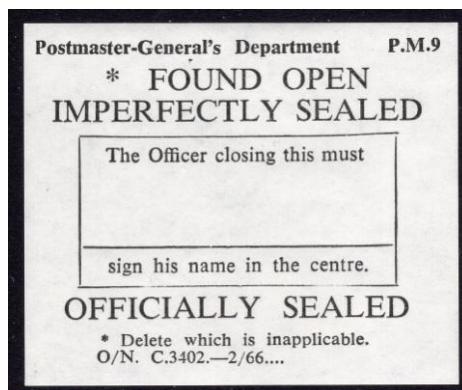
Great Britain



Queen Elizabeth II official seal on envelope used locally in London with “Officially Paid” datestamp 15 OC 70.

Australia

1966



New Zealand



Egypt



Mexico



Japan



THE END

Show and Tell addendum to my Half-a-Presentation Oct. 12, 2022



Not the best time to be stationed on Midway