Judging Postal Stationery Exhibits

Ross A. Towle

rosstowle@yahoo.com

StampShow 2003

Outline

Exhibitors and judges are the two sides of the same coin.

- What is Postal Stationery?
- Judging Criteria
- Where to get additional information?

Where does Postal Stationery fit?

- Postal Stationery is a subdivision of the Postal Division within the General Class.

- Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Special Studies, and First Day Covers are the other subdivision of the General Class

What is postal stationery?

Postal Stationery comprises postal matter which either bears an officially authorized pre-printed stamp or device or inscription indicating that a specific face value of postage or related service has been prepaid.

- FIP Postal Stationery Commission

What is postal stationery (cont.)?

Postal stationery may be defined to include all the stationery issued by the postal authorities on which a design has been made showing its value for postage.

- Rodney L. Mott, United Postal Stationery Society

Ways of looking at postal stationery

- Physical Form
- Availability
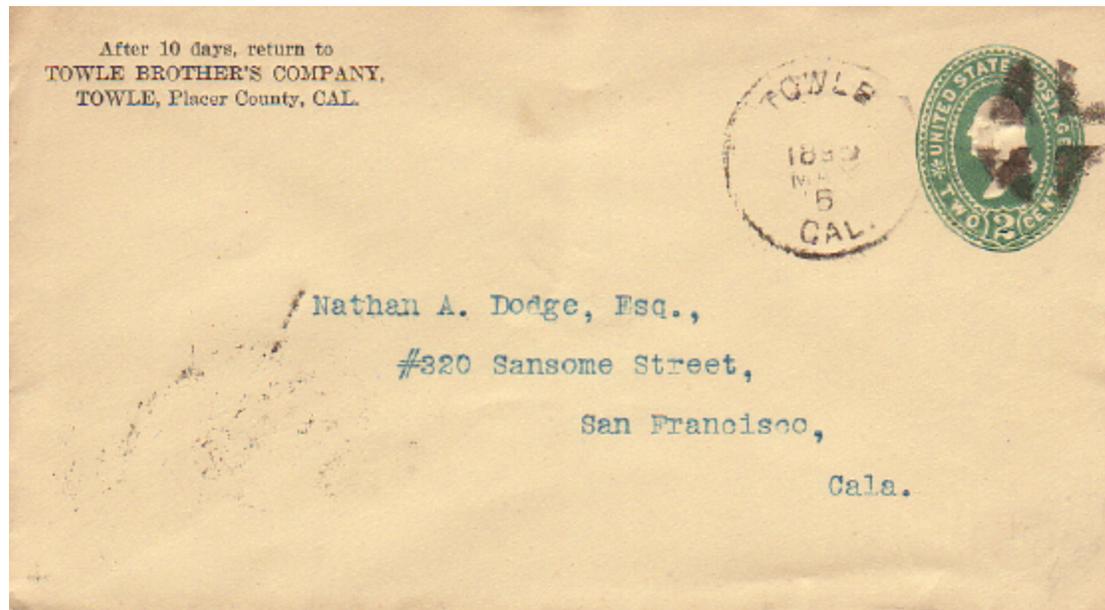- Function

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Physical form

- Postal card

Norway. 1999. No value indicated. International airmail.

Physical form (cont.)

• Stamped envelope

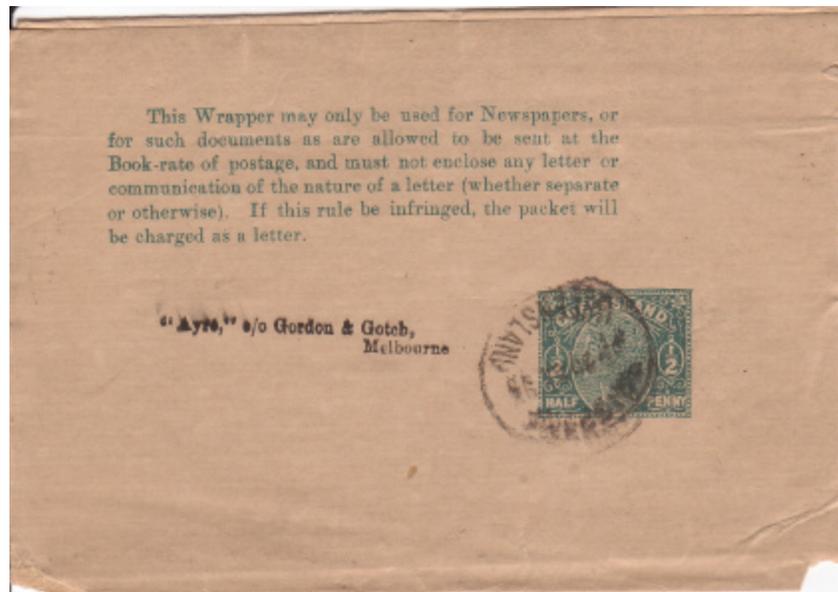USA. 1887. 2c.

Physical form (cont.)

- Letter sheets

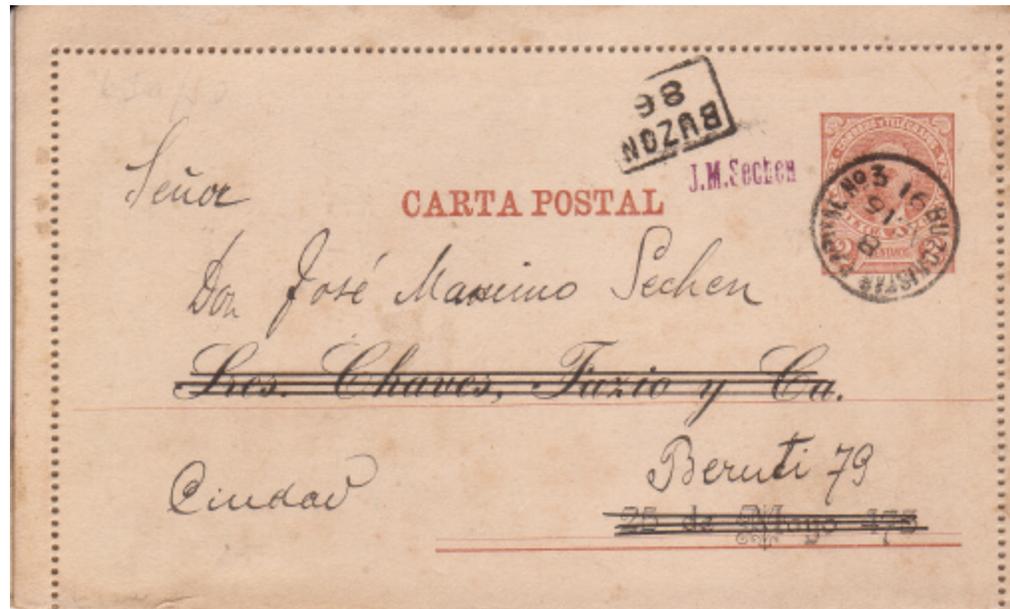Germany. Berlin. 1949. 100pf aerogramme.

Physical form (cont.)

- Newspaper wrappers

Queensland. 1892. ½ penny.

Physical form (cont.)

- Letter card

Argentina. 1890. 2c.
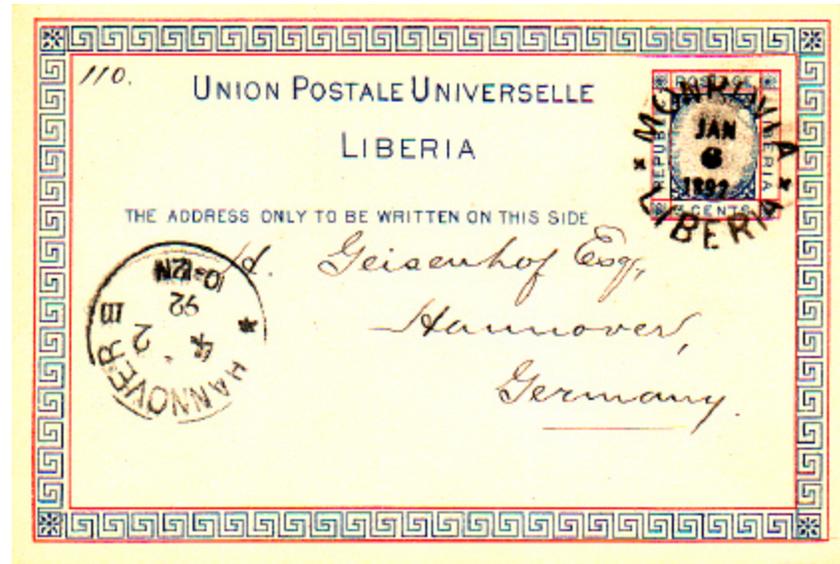
Physical form (cont.)

- Printed form of various kinds

Switzerland. 1914. 5c. Receipt of sending registered item.

Availability

- Post office issue. Stamped stationery prepared to the specification of, and issued by, postal administrations for public use

Liberia. 1891. 3c postal card for UPU use. Image of President Johnson removed by scraping.

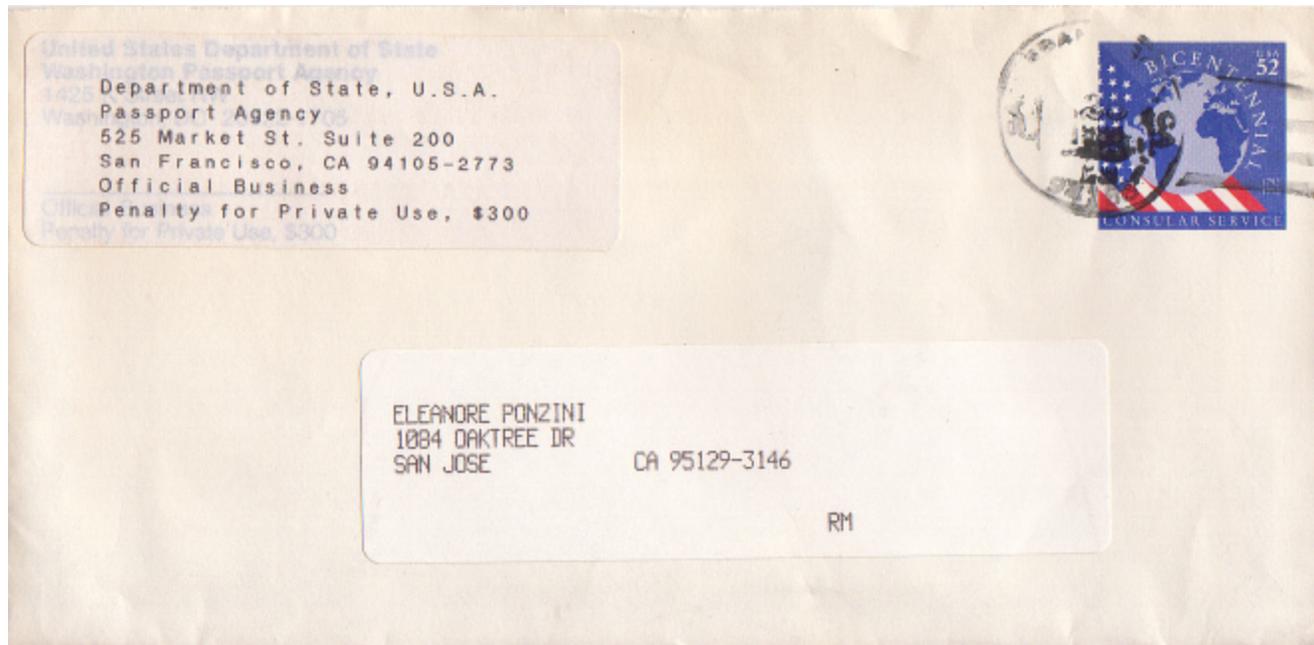# Availability (cont.)

- ## Military issue

Stamped stationery for the use of the members of the armed forces only. Imprinted stamps may be similar to those of the post office issues or a special design.

South Africa. 1941. 3d. Military aerogramme.

Availability (cont.)

- ## Official service

Stamped stationery produced only for the used of government departments.

USA. 1992. 52c. Used exclusively by Passport Office to send passports.

Availability (cont.)

- ## Local post

Stamped stationery produced by private postal agencies with varying degrees of postal administration recognition or support.

Shanghai. 1893 with Jubilee overprint.

Availability (cont.)

- Printed-to-private-order

Stamped stationery bearing stamps of post office issue design applied with postal administration approval and with specified regulations to paper or card provided by private persons or organizations.

Bavaria. 1890/95. 3 pfennig.
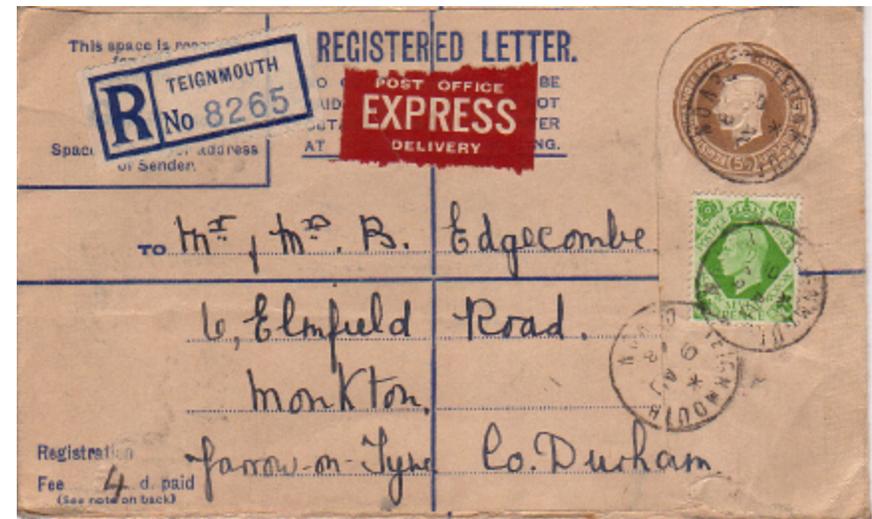
Service

- Airmail

- Registered

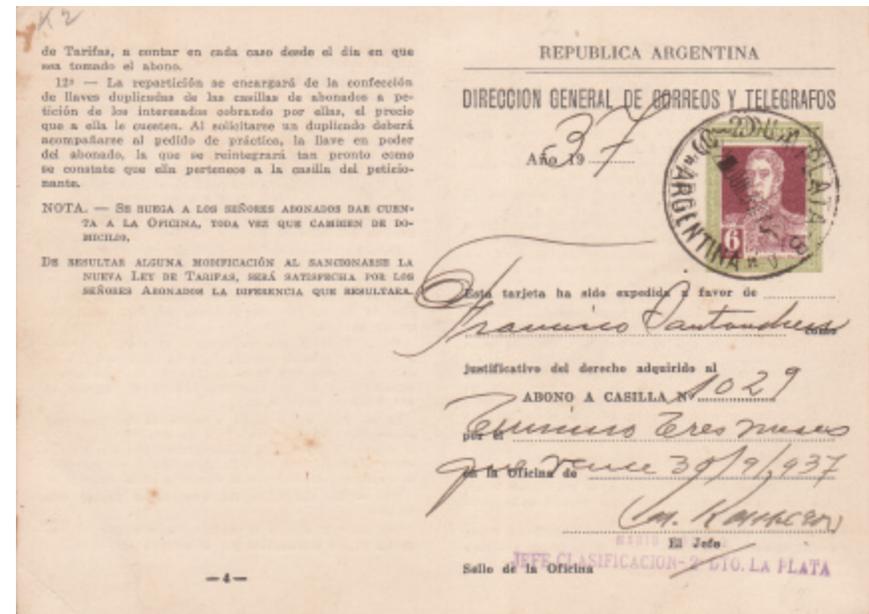Great Britain. 1947. 5 1/2d registration envelope.

Mexico. $1.60.

Service (cont.)

- Post check card

- PO Box rental form

Italy. 1893. 15c. Check for 6 lira.

Argentina. 1936. 6 pesos

Is/Is Not Postal Stationery

- IS

Bulgaria. 1954. 24st Parcel Declaration.

- IS NOT

Bulgaria. 1952(?). Formular parcel declaration.

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Not postal stationery – but collectable

CSA. Penalty overprint over USA 1853 10c envelope.

Basic Judging Criteria

Manual of Philatelic Judging. 5th Edition. 2002.

- Treatment and philatelic significance – 30%
- Philatelic and related knowledge and personal research – 35%
- Condition and difficulty of acquisition – 30%
- Presentation – 5%

Same for all subdivisions of Postal Division

Treatment and philatelic significance

Postal stationery is a vast subject.

Need to focus scope

- Country
- Issue
- Physical form
- Availability
- Function

Sounds like Traditional subdivision.

Treatment and philatelic significance (cont.)

- Exhibitor sets the parameters of the exhibit. The judge does not.

- Treatment
  - Organization
  - Depth of study
  - Development of the story
  - Scope
  - Balance

Treatment and philatelic significance (cont.)

- Philatelic significance.

  - Impact of material exhibited upon the country/area.

- Emphasis should be on the postal stationery itself. Any postal history, advertising, etc is secondary.
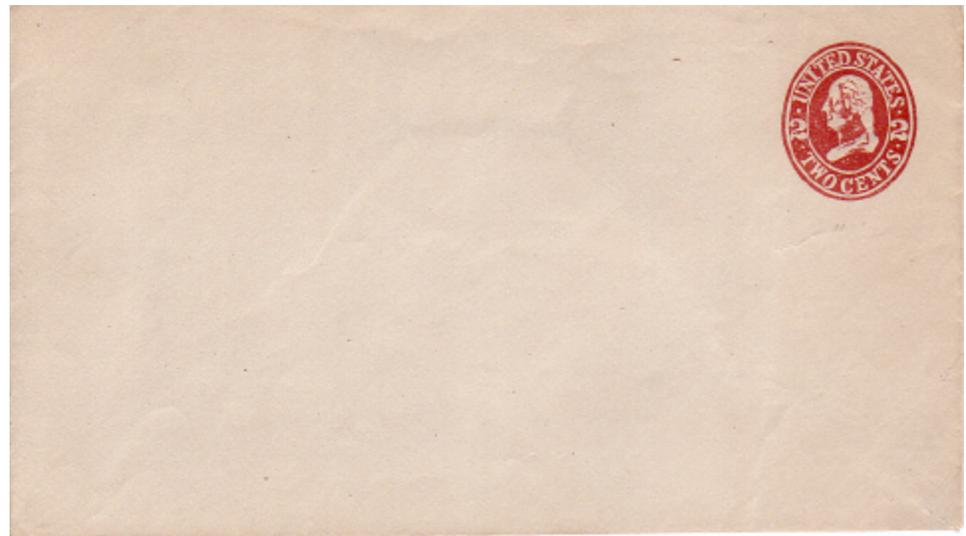
Treatment and philatelic significance (cont.)

- Essays, proofs, specimens
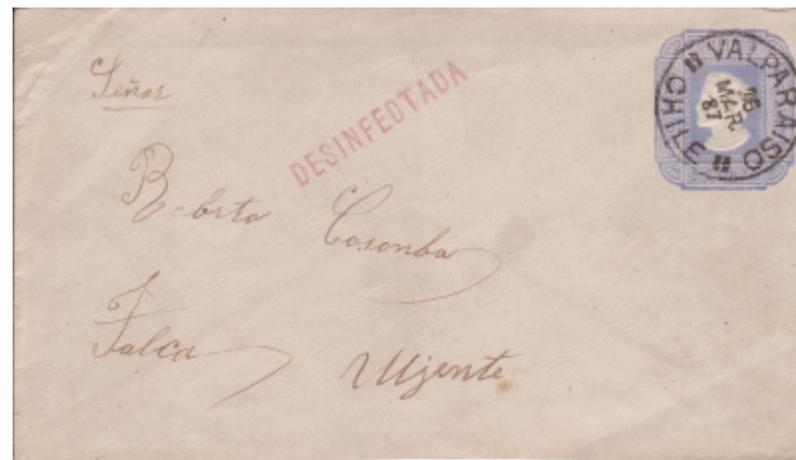

Chile. 1873.

Die proof – intermediate stage.

USA. 1907. Essay for 2c.

Treatment and philatelic significance (cont.)

- Postal uses – small towns, interesting rate, commercial use, auxiliary marking

GB. ½ penny. Cancelled by perforated arrow (London).

Chile. 1879. 5c. Disinfected during cholera epidemic of 1886-1887.

Knowledge and Personal Research

- Correct identification of item
- Production process(es) used
    - Example: USA 1907-1915 Oval Die envelopes
        1. Cut after stamped
        2. Cut before stamped
        3. Cut at the "same" time
- Quantities produced/sold
- Reason for issue
    - Commemoration
    - Specific rate

Knowledge and personal research (cont.)

The miscut envelope shows a partial inverted indicia which proves it was printed on the Miehle press.

R & J. Dick, Limited,
Seattle, Washington.

USA. 1907. 2c printed in sheets and then cut.

Condition and Difficulty of Acquisition

- ## Postal stationery exhibits should be of entire items.

    Exception: when known to only exist a cut square

- ## Items through legal size should not be folded.

    Exception: items intended to be folded for normal use such as aerogrammes and newspaper wrappers.

- ## Similar condition expectations as in the Traditional and Postal History subdivisions.

Condition and Difficulty of Acquisition (cont.)

- Does the exhibit go beyond the ordinary and common and present scarce and unique material?

    Examples:

    Rare items

    Essays/proofs

    Errors (not all are scarce – eg. USA circular die albinos)

    Varieties

    Commercial usages to unusual destinations

Condition and Difficulty of Acquisition (cont.)

- Establish rarity via a census. Also shows personal research.

Chile. 1917 (?). 1peso 50 centavos. Only known example.

Condition and Difficulty of Acquisition (cont.)

- <u>Usually</u> difficult to acquire
  - For smaller countries: Domestic used items without additional postage. 1915-1960.
  - Used aerogrammes after 1980.

Bulgaria. 1953. 20ct.

Chile. 1988. NVI.

Condition and Difficulty of Acquisition (cont.)

- ## Usually difficult to acquire

  - Joined message/reply cards with both portions used.

Chile. 1883. 3c+3c.

Condition and Difficulty of Acquisition (cont.)

- <u>Usually</u> post-WWI postal stationery (mint/used) more difficult to acquire than pre-WWI.

Chile. 2002. NVI. Christmas letter sheet.

•These are guidelines. Your mileage may vary.

Presentation

- Goal is to attract the viewer/judge

- Limited real estate.

  Items larger than postage stamps. Postal history subdivision has the same problem.

- Really large items are a challenge.

  Some revenue division exhibits have same problem.

- Vary the page layouts.

  128 pages "railroad track" style can be boring.

Presentation (cont.)

- Add some color/variety

Chile. 1915. 10 centavos over 2 centavos.

Where to get additional information?

- Catalogs
- Specialist organizations
- Websites

Standard Catalogs

- Higgins & Gage. *Worldwide Catalog of Postal Stationery*. Stops around 1980.

- Michel. Western and Eastern Europe catalogs. Updated every few years.

- Country specific catalogs.

  USA: United Postal Stationery Society

  Germany: Michel

- Plus many others

Specialist Organizations

- United Postal Stationery Society
- Berliner Ganzsachen Sammler Verein
- l'Association des Collectionneus d'Entires Postaux
- Postal Stationery Society of Australia
- Societe Belge de l'Entier Postal
- Schweizerisher Ganzsachen Sammler Verein

Websites

- Hawaii: www.hawaiianstamps.com/postal.htm

- Reply coupons: manpage.noos.fr/AndreH1

- France: manpage.noos.fr/entiersfr

- Denmark: www.postalstationery.dk

- Luxembourg:
  www.luxcentral.com/LuxStationeryDB.html

Questions?