

Issue of November 21, 1969

The new Giori press printed the "spearmint gum" design for the previously established 45¢ rate.



Ink smear



Misperforation

- Plate numbers used:
- 31484
 - 31485
 - 31487
 - 31492
 - 31495
 - 31504
 - 31506
 - 31507
 - 31510



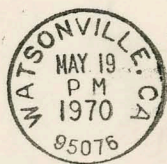
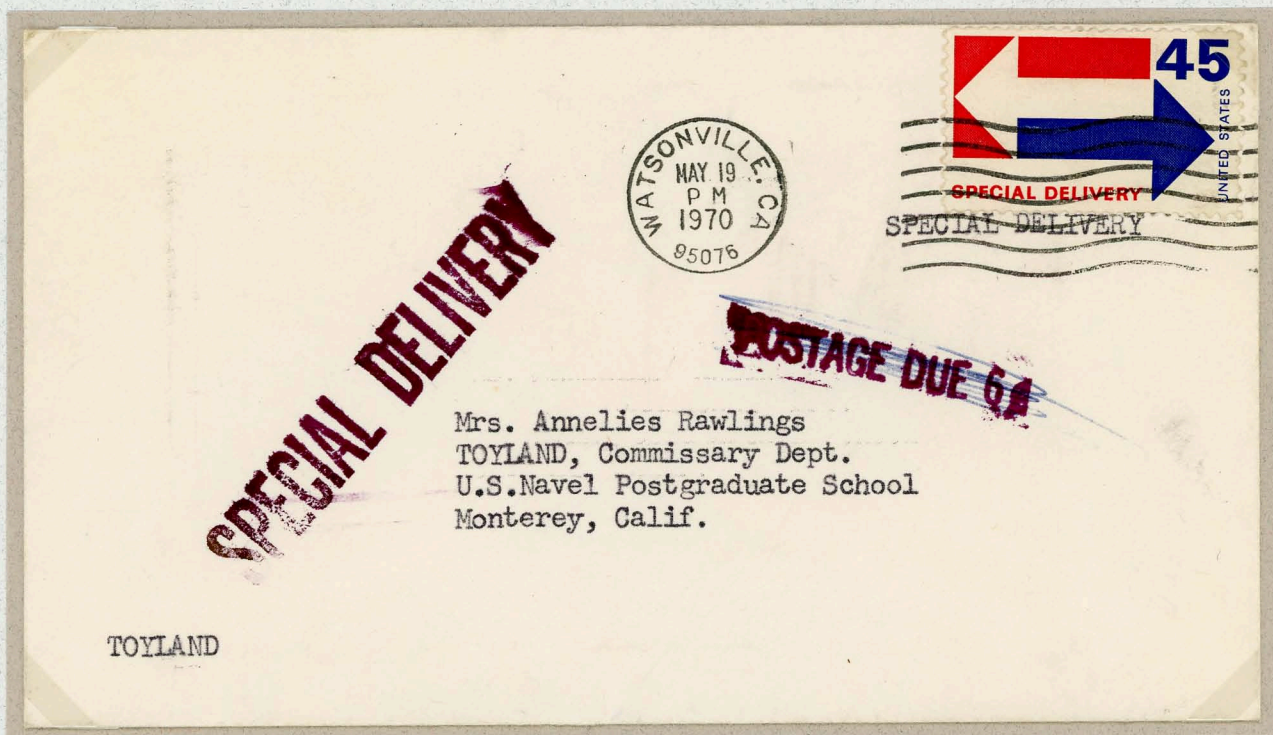
Paper foldover

Postal Card Service



Durham, Ct. to East Gloucester, Ma., May 21, 1970
 Forwarded to Boston, Ma., May 22 AM and received Gloucester, Ma. 6PM

First Class Postage Unpaid



SPECIAL DELIVERY

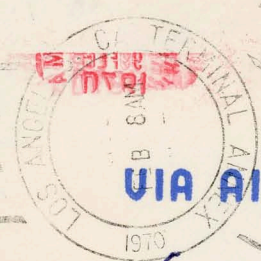
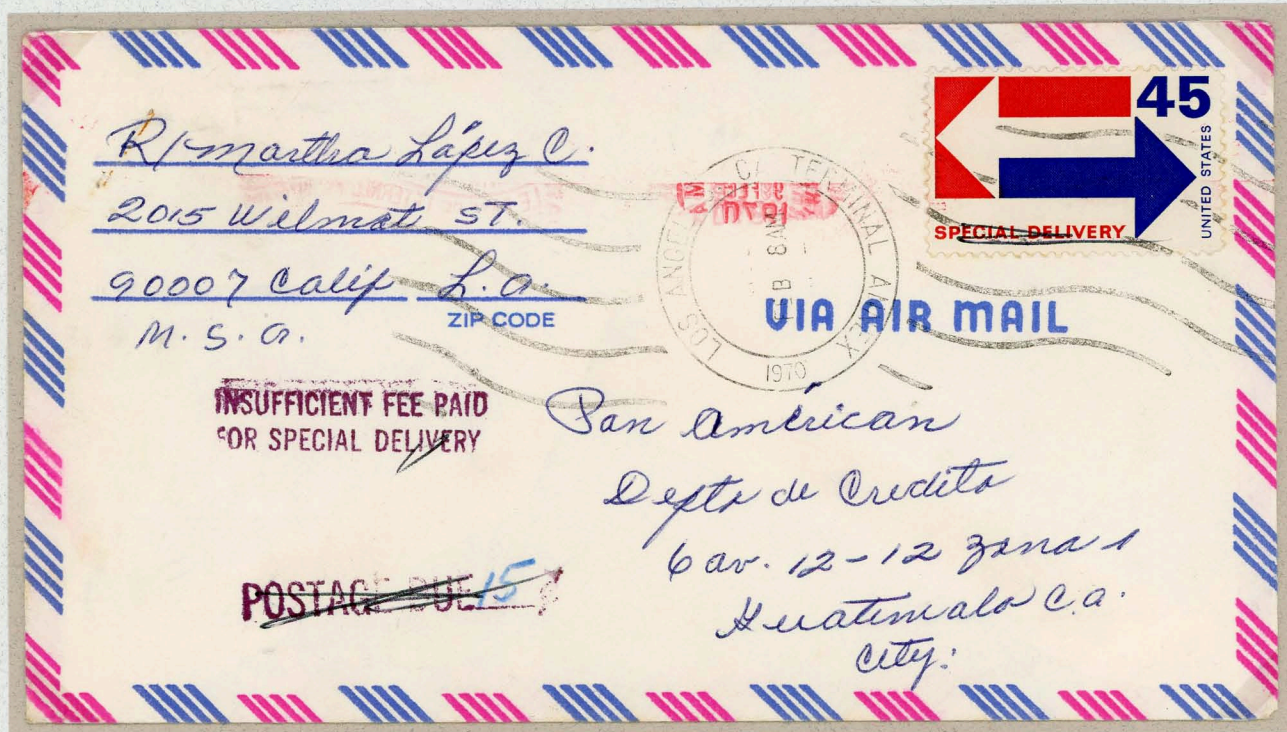
POSTAGE DUE 6¢

Mrs. Annelies Rawlings
TOYLAND, Commissary Dept.
U.S.Navel Postgraduate School
Monterey, Calif.

TOYLAND

Watsonville to Monterey, Ca., May 19, 1970
Postage due of 6¢ collected and marking struck through

Foreign Destination



R/ Martha Lopez C.
2015 Wilmet St.
90007 Calif. L.A.
M.S.A. ZIP CODE

VIA AIR MAIL

**INSUFFICIENT FEE PAID
FOR SPECIAL DELIVERY**

San American
Depto de Credito
6 av. 12-12 zona 1
Guatemala C.A.
City:

POSTAGE DUE 15¢

Los Angeles, Ca. to Guatemala City, Guatemala, February 8, 1970
Insufficient postage resulted in no Special Delivery service provided in Guatemala

Foreign Destination



Minneapolis, Mn., to Husum, West Germany, January 10, 1971
Typed instruction specifies delivery on January 14, 1971

Foreign Origin



Tokyo, Japan to Middletown, N.Y., May 20, 1970
Special Delivery stamp added in Japan to ensure immediate delivery in USA

Rate Change of May 16, 1971

The Special Delivery rate for first class matter increased to 60 cents for up to two pounds.



Last day of 45¢ Special Delivery fee rate, May 15, 1971



First day of 60¢ Special Delivery fee rate, May 16, 1971

Rate Change of May 16, 1971
Domestic Service



Canton, Oh. to New York, N.Y.
April 23, 1973
Airmail 11¢
Special Delivery fee 60¢

Foreign Destination

Daytona Beach, Fl.
to Nassau, Bahamas
June 2, 1971
Special Delivery fee 60¢
15¢ regular issue pays increase



**Rate Change of May 16, 1971
Foreign Destination**



Vincennes, In. to Madrid, Spain, January 16, 1973, Airmail rate 21¢, Special Delivery 60¢
Shortpaid and returned for additional postage (39¢),
Two additional airmail stamps added by sender overpaying the correct rate by 2¢

Foreign Origin

U.S. Offices Abroad



A.P.O. San Francisco 96349 (Da Nang, Viet-Nam) to Hempstead, N.Y., May 19, 1971
Special Delivery fee increased to 60¢ May 16, 1971 and 15¢ regular issue pays increase

Issue of May 10, 1971

The arrow design was reused and thereafter, no further special service stamps were issued.



Misperforation

Plate numbers used:

- 32962
- 32977
- 32985
- 32986
- 33002
- 33004
- 33006
- 33008

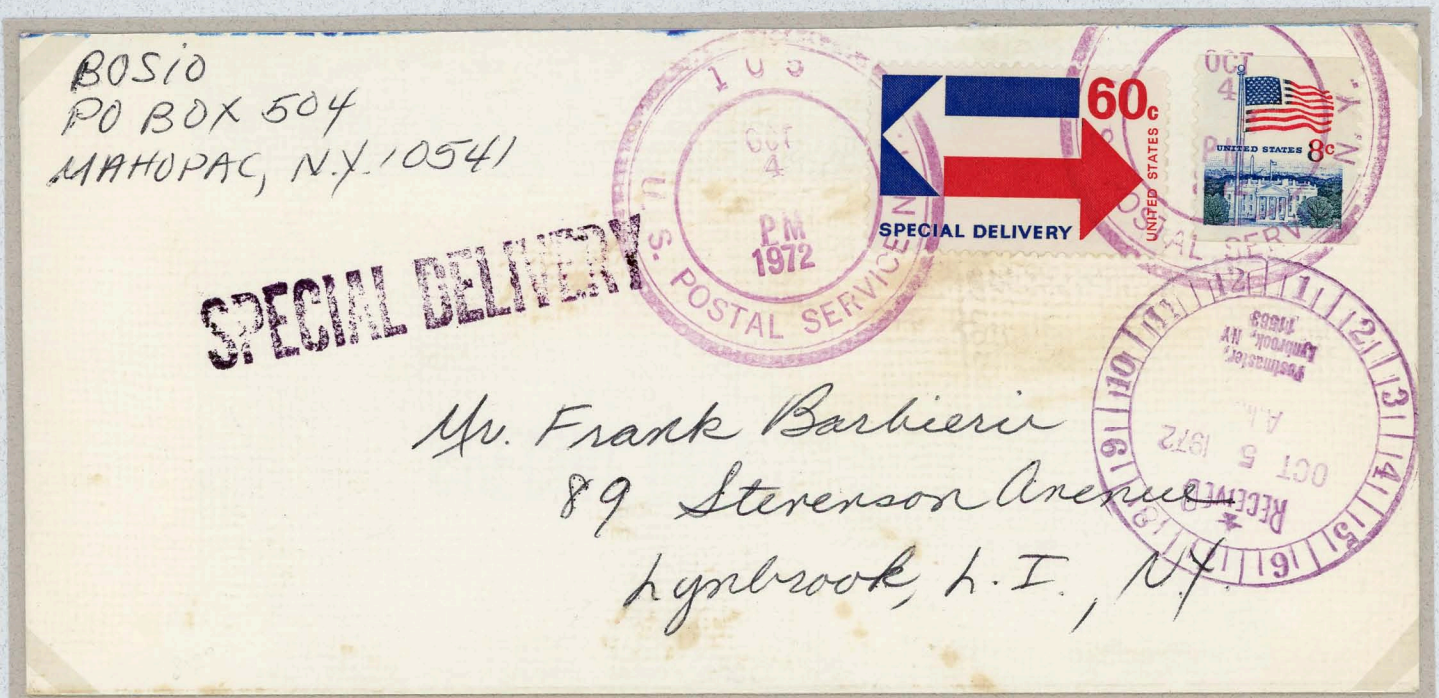


Ink smear



Gutter Snipe

Domestic Service



Mahopac to Lynbrook, N.Y., October 4, 1972

First Class Postage Unpaid

Rock Springs, Wy. to Tampa, Fl.,
November 3, 1974
10¢ postage due fee collected
for first class postage rate



Business Reply Mail

Converting business reply mail to Special Delivery service required prepayment of the Special Delivery fee and the applicable first class postage

New York, N.Y. local delivery
March 13, 1974
First class postage paid by permit
(no. 50010) imprint with Special
Delivery fee added by sender

This cover does not include the
first class postage required per
USPS regulation 20367



Domestic Service



SPECIAL DELIVERY

Jord Motor Credits Company
 Box 797
 Cape Girardeau, Mo.

63701

SPECIAL DELIVERY

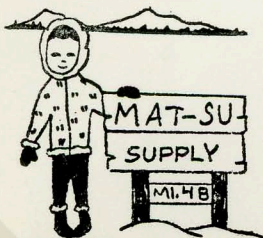
Granite City, Il. to Cape Girardeau, Mo., January 4, 1973
 First class surface rate 8¢



MAT-SU SUPPLY, INC.
 MILE 48—GLENN HIGHWAY
 P. O. BOX 546
 PALMER, ALASKA 99645

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Mr & Mrs Milo James
 3330 E. Willetta
 Phoenix, Ariz 85008



SPECIAL DELIVERY

Palmer, Ak. to Phoenix, Az., August 17, 1973
 Airmail rate 11¢

Improper Usages



San Lorenzo to Menlo Park, Ca., August 4, 1984
20¢ first class postage paid, no indication of any other service provided as Special Delivery fee was \$2.10



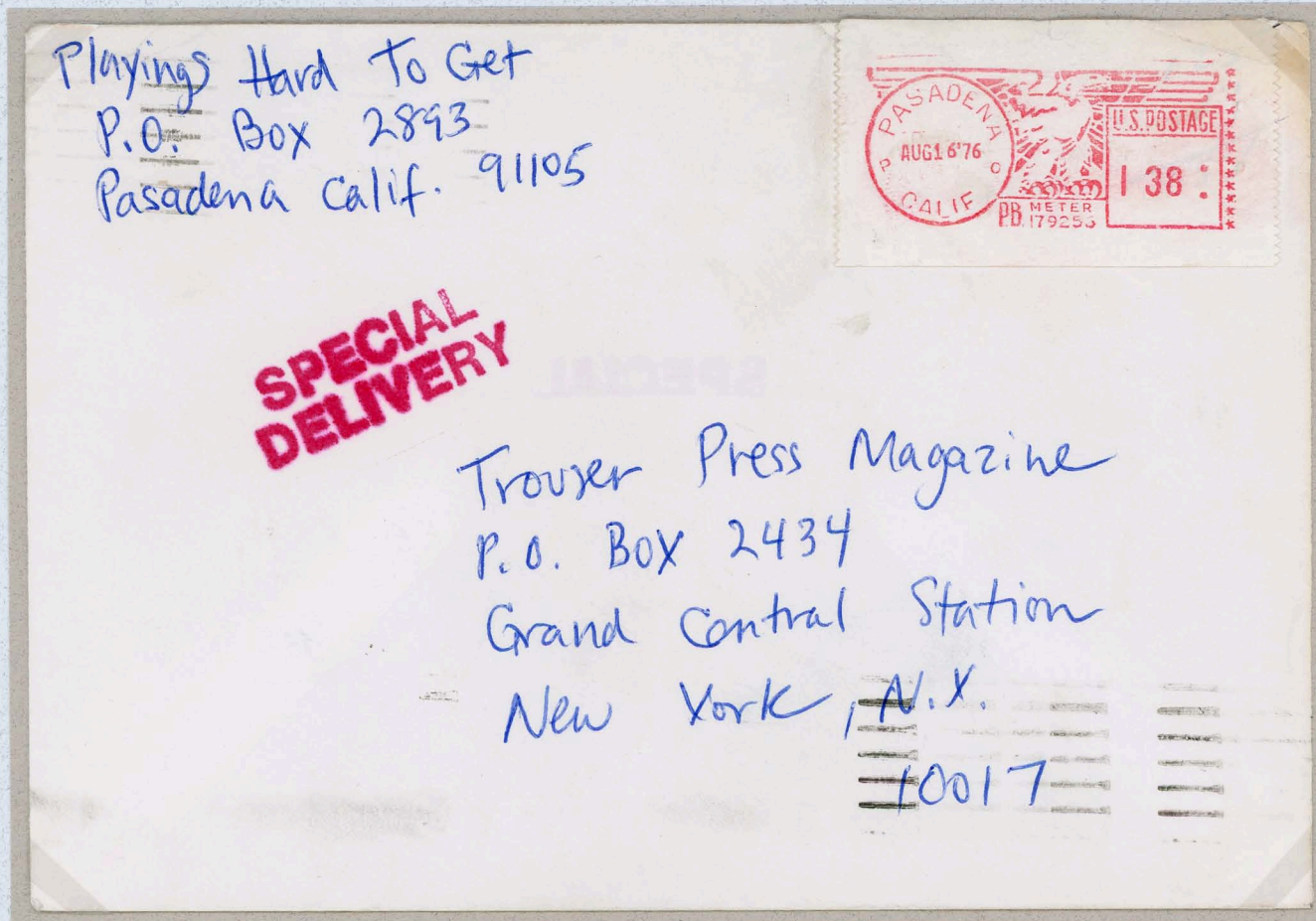
Honolulu, Hi. to Durham, England, April 2, 1978
Airmail rate 62¢ (1 oz), returned to sender - address insufficient (Leeds, England)

Rate Change of July 18, 1976

The Special Delivery fee for first class matter increased to \$1.25 for up to two pounds.



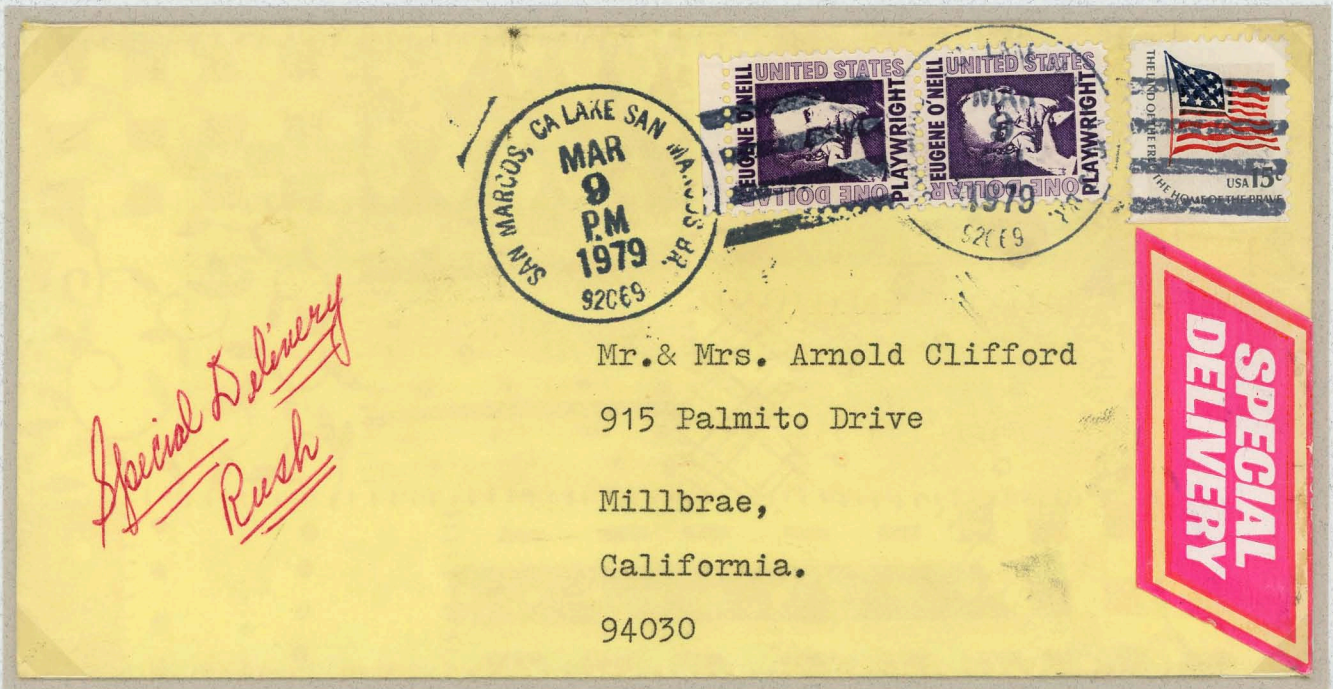
Middletown, N.Y. local delivery, July 18, 1976 (First day of rate)



Pasadena, Ca. to New York, N.Y., August 6, 1976
First class postage 13c, Special Delivery fee \$1.25

Rate Change of May 29, 1978

The Special Delivery fee for first class matter increased to \$2.00 for up to two pounds.



San Marcos to Millbrae, Ca., March 9, 1979. First class postage 15¢, Special Delivery fee \$2.00

Foreign Destination



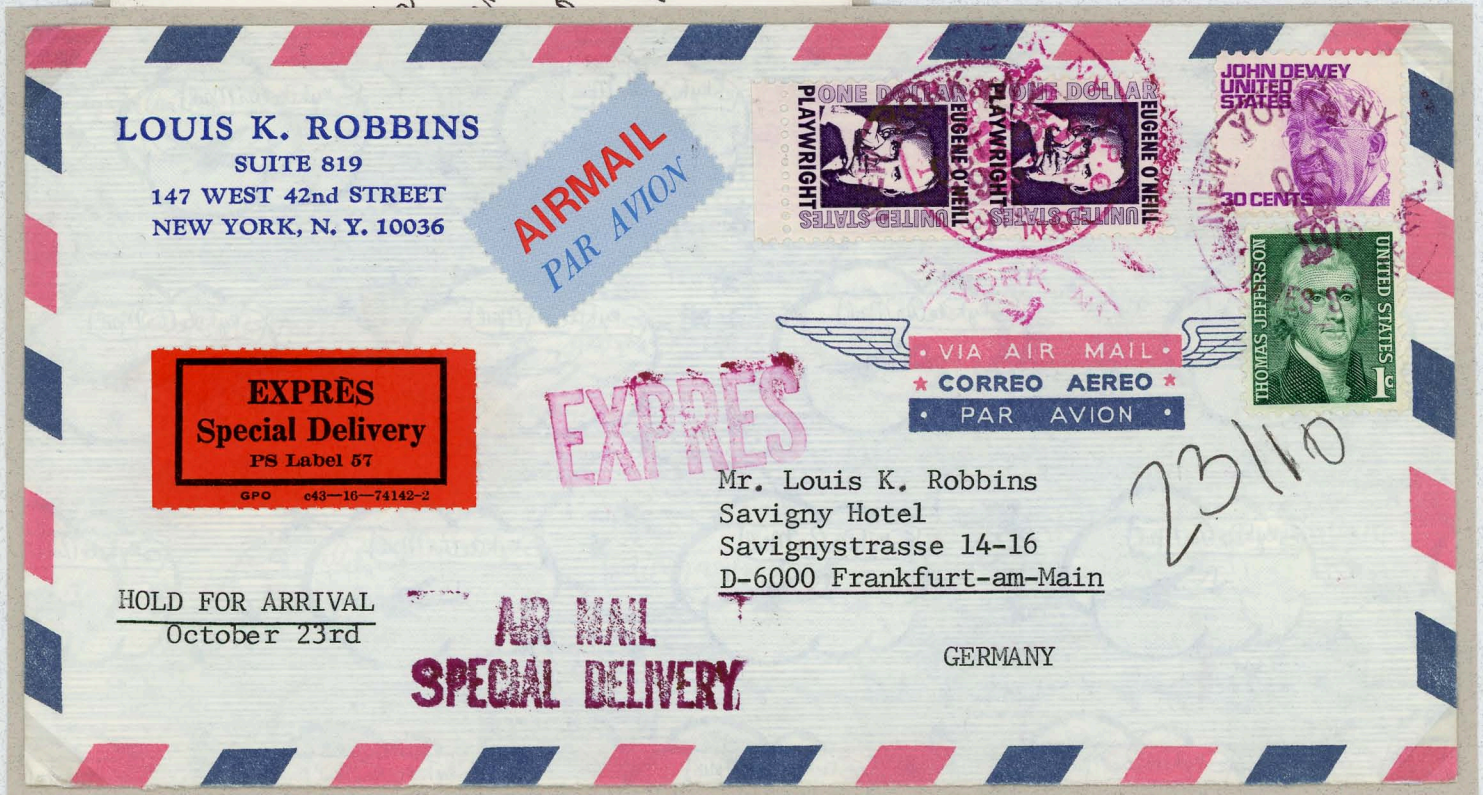
Grand Prairie, Tx. to Kitchener, Canada, July 3, 1978. postage 15¢, Special Delivery fee \$2.00

Rate Change of May 29, 1978
Foreign Destination



New York, N.Y. to Belmont, Trinidad
(West Indies), January 28, 1981
Airmail rate 35¢
Special Delivery fee \$2.00

New York, N.Y. to Frankfurt, Germany
October 19, 1978
Airmail rate 31¢
Special Delivery fee \$2.00



Rate Change of March 22, 1981

The Special Delivery fee for first class matter increased to \$2.10 for up to two pounds.

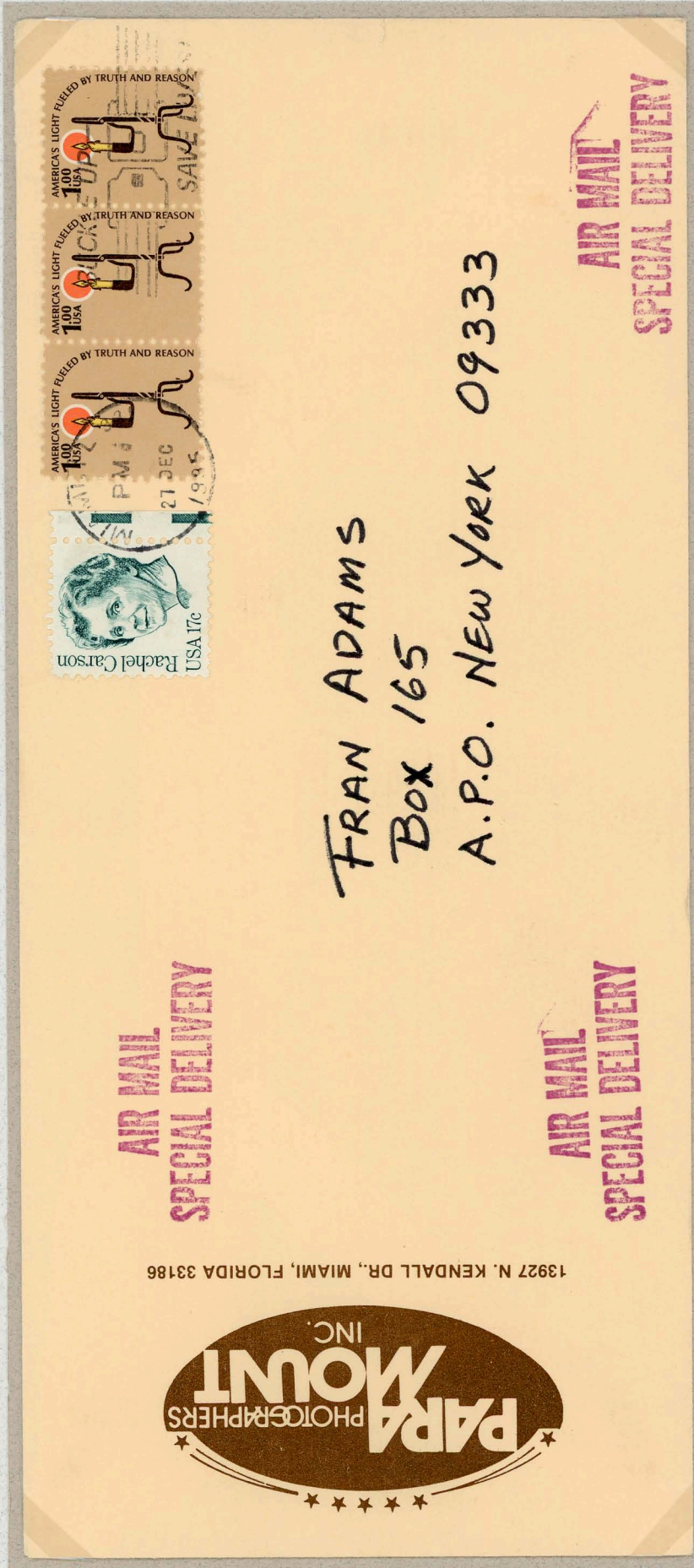


San Diego local delivery
October 1, 1981
Postage 18¢
Certified mail fee 75¢
Return Receipt fee 60¢
Special Delivery fee \$2.10

Special Delivery stamps improperly
used to pay other postal service fees

Rate Change of February 17, 1985

The Special Delivery fee for first class matter increased to \$2.95 for up to two pounds.



Miami, Fl. to A.P.O. 09333, N.Y.
(Mannheim, Germany)
December 27, 1985
Domestic airmail 22¢
Special Delivery fee \$2.95

Rate Change of April 3, 1988

The Special Delivery fee for first class matter increased to \$5.35 for up to two pounds.



Examples of rate and Special Delivery receiving handstamp from Greensboro, N.C.

Rate Change of February 3, 1991

The Special Delivery fee for first class matter increased to \$7.65 for up to two pounds.



Examples of increased rate

Rate Change of January 1, 1995

The Special Delivery fee for first class matter increased to \$9.95 for up to two pounds.



Stamp Collector
salutes

San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau photo by Yano Photography



Number 1 in a series



ROBERT MARKOWITZ
ONE NORTH ST
MIDDLETOWN, NY
10940



Last Day of service June 7, 1997

Partial sheet above used to pay portion of \$9.95 Special Delivery fee

Experimental Booklets

Seattle, Washington

The Seattle Post Office operated four Self-Service Postal Units in the 1972-73 period. Three offices, the Main Post Office, the Wedgewood Station and the Aurora Village Shopping Center were all equipped with National Vendors Machines (a division of UMC Industries, St. Louis, Mo.) which dispensed 21 different items. The postmaster had the company make up private booklets using various front and back designs with each containing the 60c special delivery stamp an air mail label and a special delivery label. Included from at least May 1, 1972 were five major and 6 sub-varieties of booklets (one was a glassine envelope with a card stiffener). Various covers were used for the booklets, apparently at random. The difference which distinguishes the booklets from one another is the cardboard cover and the interleaving. Each of the booklets was stamped SPECIAL DELIVERY in purple ink.

Jack D. Blanchard, the researcher and expert on the issue, knew of no philatelic significance to any of the front or back booklet covers. No one has a count of how many exist, but surely they are most uncommon and without precedent in machines around the country. Examples of two of the booklets, exploded here, show an unofficial attempt at providing postal patrons with another post office product. To the best of the exhibitor's knowledge, no other cities made these books; it was an experiment which started and ended in Seattle.



Masking tape with handstamp

Colored card cover with handstamp





Special Delivery handstamp only



Interior page

Express Mail

The Death Knell of the Special Delivery System

TO REMOVE PEEL BACK HERE

ORIGIN:	DESTINATION:	DELIVERY WAS ATTEMPTED	
Initials of Receiving Clerk:	Date of Delivery:	Date	Time:
P.O. ZIP:	Time of Delivery:	Notice Left By:	
Date in:	Initials of Delivering Employee:	Signature of Addressee or Agent:	
Time in:			
Weight:			
Postage:			

FROM:	TO:
90026 L.A. 90038 DANGERHOUSE RECORDS 1076 EL CENTRO AV L.A., CA 90038	TROUSER PRESS 147 W 42 ND ST 14 NY NY 10036 N

EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE
LABEL 11B DEC./77

The last twenty years of the Special Delivery system saw rates increase dramatically from 60c to \$9.95. Few covers showing these rates for are recorded and none are noted nor illustrated in the incredible work "U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1999" by Henry W. Beecher and Anthony Wawrukiewicz.

The fee increases mirrored a stunning growth of express mail forwarded through Federal Express and other newly competitive overnight services attempting to revolutionize business message delivery.

These new services caused a great decline in the number of Special Delivery mail pieces. The service was government owned and termination was delayed by union pressure and lethargy until June 7, 1997.

One hundred eleven years, eight months and seven days is a wonderful tribute to the service which the United States initiated formally, for the world. Who would have guessed that what originated as an idea by a Harvard business school student, who received a lowly grade for his project, would end in such a formidable system for immediate delivery of mail -- and certainly the founder of Federal Express could not have foreseen the revolution caused by his putting pen to paper. When the United States Postal Service set up its own Express Mail system, charged the same rates as Special Delivery, it was clearly obvious to the public that there was no need for a less efficient competitive service.

Express mail received special treatment from induction of the mailed item until delivery to the addressee, unlike Special Delivery mail which traveled in regular mail channels until it reached the addressee's post office at which time it received Special Delivery service. Same money, slower service.

Los Angeles, Ca. to New York, N.Y.
March 6, 1979