

Exclusive Uses of the 50 Cent Prexie

This traditional exhibit examines the use of the 50 cent denomination of the 1938 Presidential series from the time of issuance until replacement by the Liberty series 50 cent stamp on August 25, 1955.

Shown are covers for which 50 cents was the rate to destination as well as lower rate multiples that total 50 cents. In addition covers are shown with a combination of services that required a total franking of 50 cents. The explanation of rates and routes is secondary but is needed to demonstrate properly franked use. Other interesting information is in *italics*.

Exhibit plan:
50 Cent Rates
Lower Rate Multiples

Domestic Combination Rates
Foreign Combination Rates
Final Thoughts

The most unusual items are **double framed** in violet.

Note: The 3¢ per oz. domestic letter rate never changed during the time frame of the exhibit.

50 Cent Rates

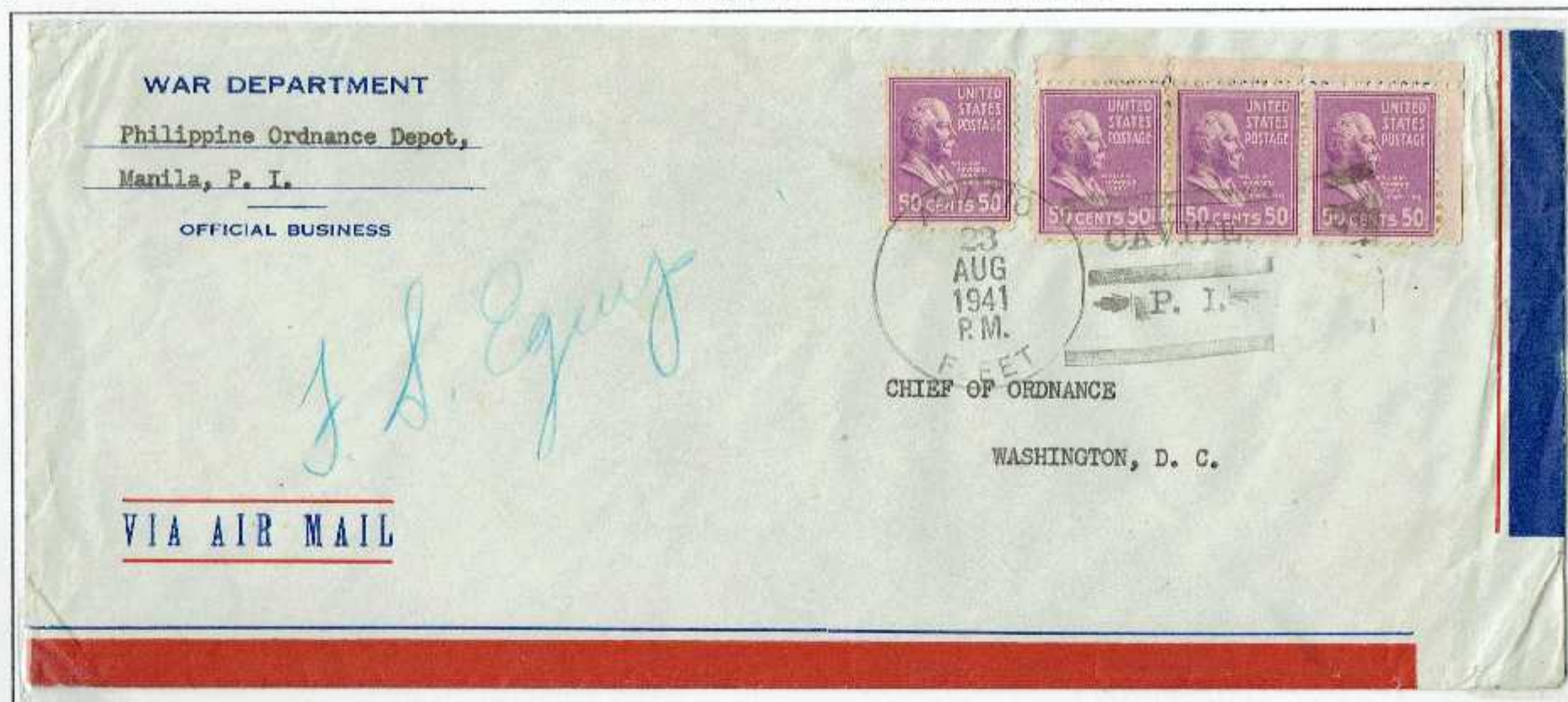
Air Mail to the Philippines



FAM (Foreign Air Mail) 14 San Francisco to Manila, Philippines—50 cents per ½ oz—Apr 27, 1937 to Dec 11, 1941
Johnson City, NY-Dec 23, 1939. Back stamped Manila-Jan 28, 1940 (36 days later)

The Philippine Clipper left Jan 3, 1940 and again Jan 5. Returned to San Francisco each time because of mechanical troubles. Left again Jan 11. Returned due to weather. Mail placed on SS Mastonia for Honolulu Jan 12. Philippine left again Jan 13. Delayed at Honolulu Jan 14-16. Returned to San Francisco Jan 16 due to more mechanical troubles.

SS Mastonia arrived Honolulu with the mail Jan 16. The China Clipper left San Francisco Jan 17. It left Honolulu Jan 18 with the mail from SS Mastonia but returned due to weather. Experienced continuous delays until Wake Island where it left Jan 23, being forced back and left again Jan 24. Left Guam Jan 26 and finally arrived Manila Jan 27.



Two ounce FAM 14 Manila to San Francisco—50¢ per ½ oz—Apr 27, 1937 to Dec 11, 1941. Asiatic Fleet Cavite P. I.-Aug 23, 1941. Flown on the PAA (Pan American Airways) *Honolulu Clipper* Aug 25, 1940, arrived San Francisco Sep 9, 1940. Weather delays at Manila and Wake Island. *The United States Asiatic Fleet was headquartered at Cavite Naval base on Luzon Island in the Philippines.*

Double Weight Trans Atlantic Air Mail to and in India



One Ounce FAM 18 New York to Lisbon and then beyond—50¢ per ½ oz—May 23, 1939 to Jun 13, 1940. New York-Jun 12, 1940. Back stamped Calcutta-Jul 30, 1940 and Bombay-Aug 1, 1940. NOT OPENED BY CENSOR applied at Calcutta. BOAC Lisbon to London. By sea England to Durban, South Africa. BOAC horseshoe route Durban to Calcutta via Cairo. Internal air mail to Bombay.

Air Mail Hawaii to Europe

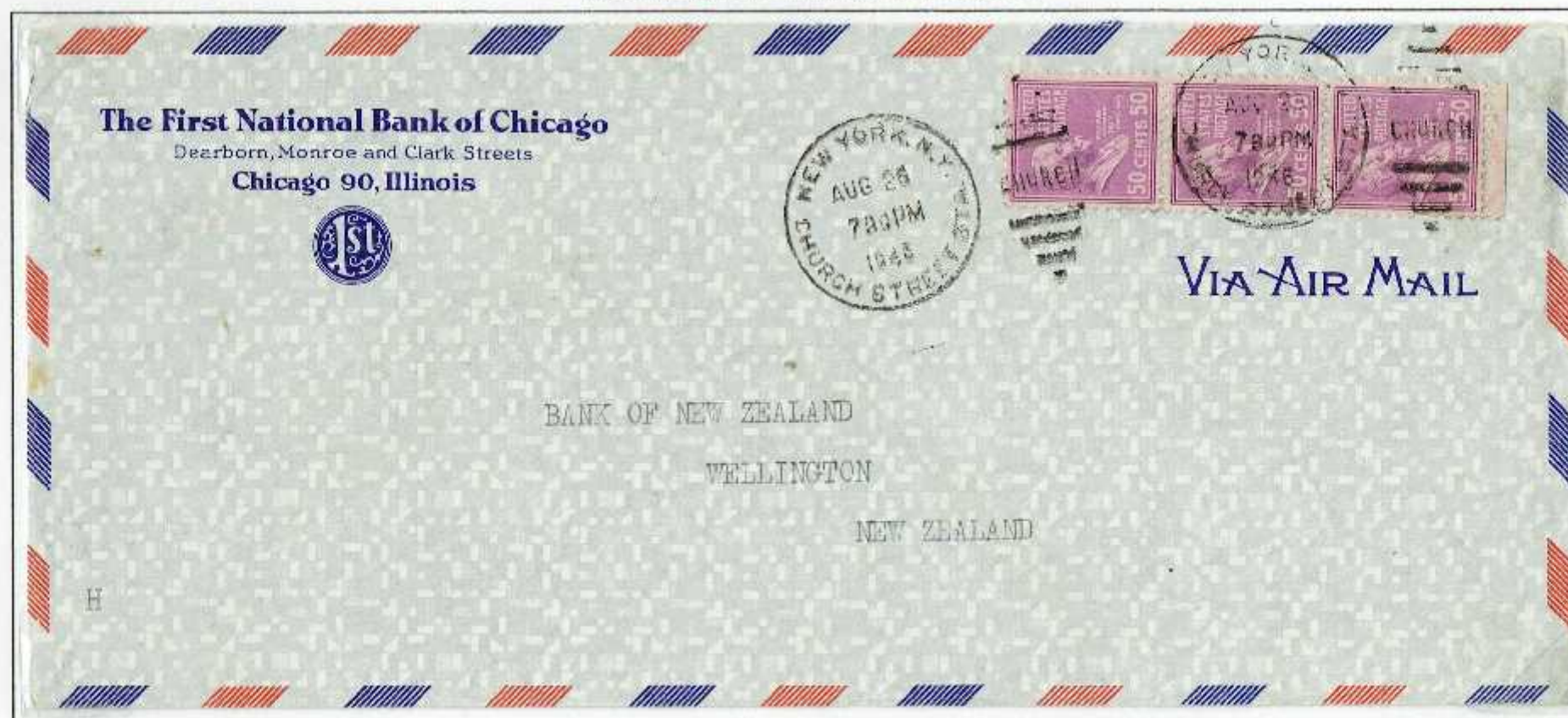


FAM 14 to San Francisco & FAM 18 New York to Lisbon—50¢ per ½ oz—Apr 28, 1939 to Oct 31, 1946
Rate applied from Hawaii to all Europe including air beyond Lisbon. From the mainland 30¢ applied.
Hilo, HI-Dec 7, 1940. BOAC beyond Lisbon to Great Britain. Censor tape 2273 applied at London.



FAM 22 Miami to Lagos, Nigeria—50¢ per ½ oz—Nov 2, 1941 to Oct 31, 1946
South Bend, IN-May 17, 1943. Censor tape 3179 applied Chicago.
Back stamped Lagos, Nigeria-Jul 13, 1943; Kano, Nigeria-Jul 17, 1943.
Faint triangular purple censor hand stamp applied at Nigeria. 72 days in transit.
Civilian airmail low priority. Frequent delays. Military needs and APO mail took priority.
The Sudan interior Mission had a big hospital at Kano. Stanly Myers was an optician.

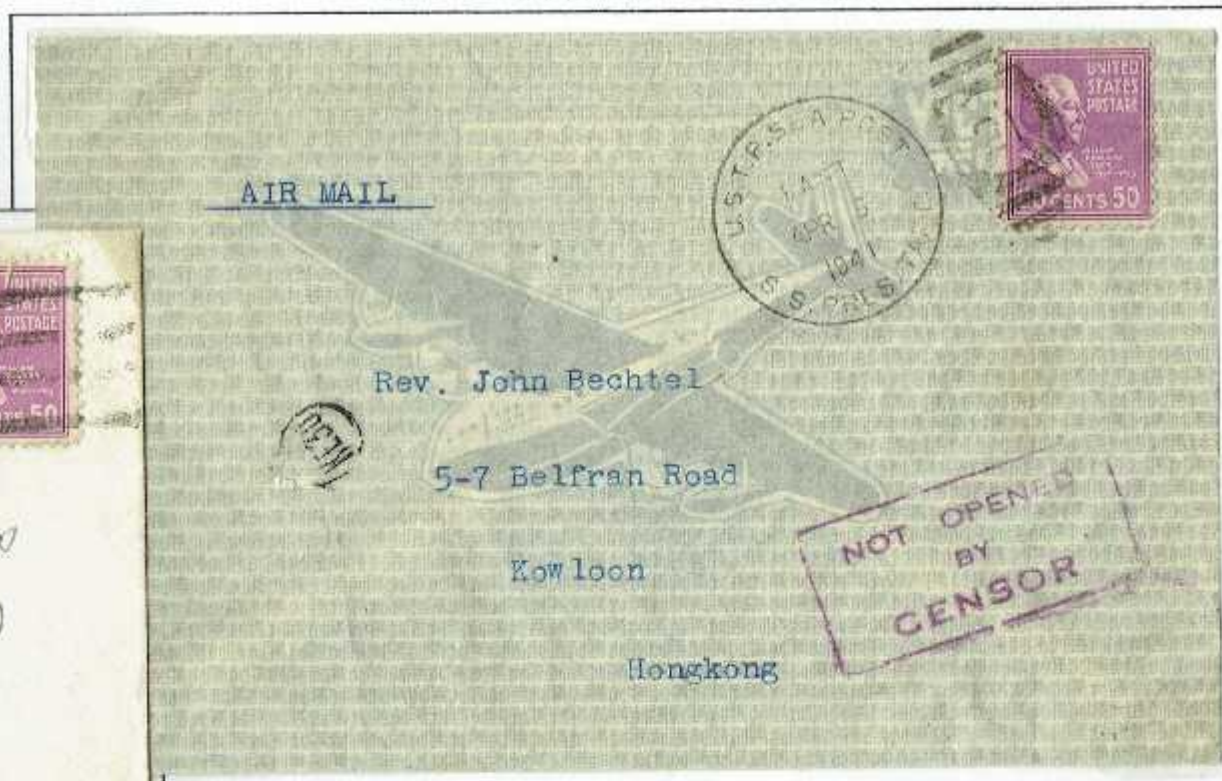
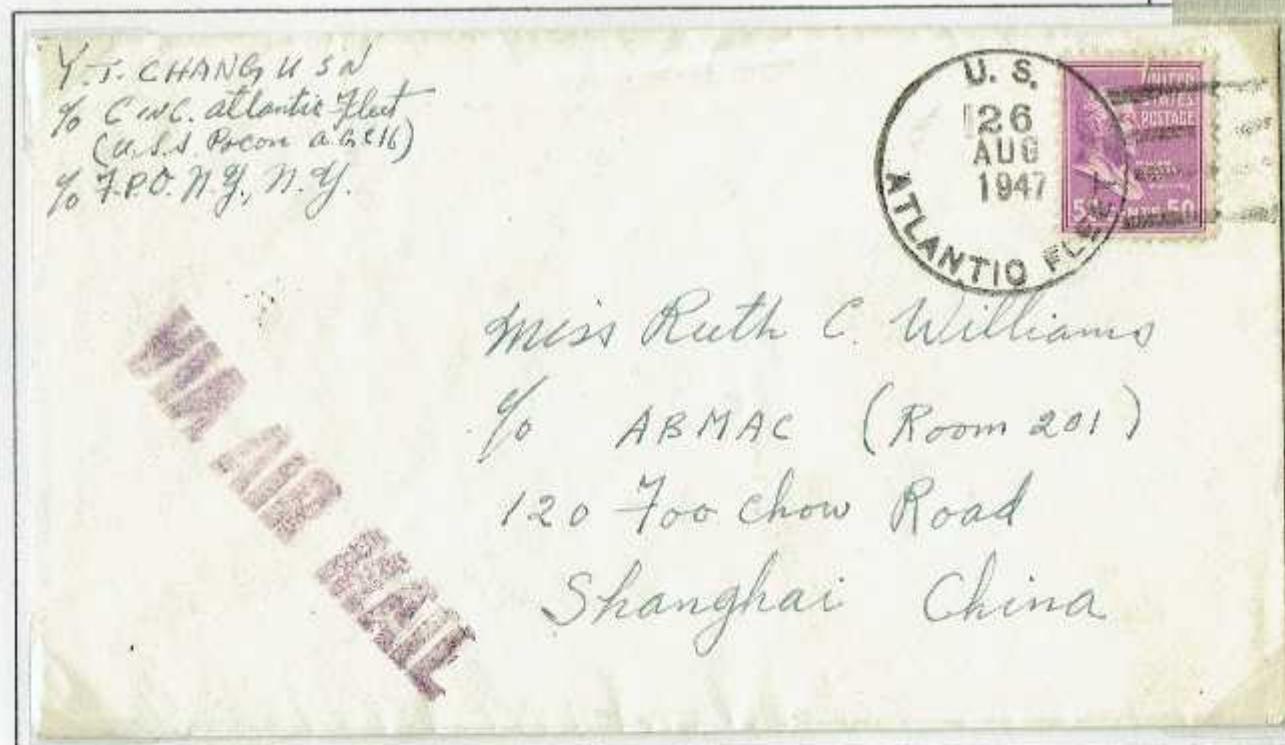
Triple Weight Air Mail to New Zealand



One and one half ounce FAM 19 San Francisco to Auckland, New Zealand—50¢ per ½ oz—Aug 31, 1939 to Oct 31, 1946
New York-Aug 26, 1946. Rate included internal air mail within New Zealand to Wellington.

Lower Rate Multiples

Double 25¢ Air Mail Rate to Asia



FAM 14—50¢ per ½ oz—May 23, 1939 to Dec 12, 1941
Rate applied from Hawaii to all Pacific Rim countries, from the mainland 70¢ applied.
USTP Sea Post Pres Taft-Apr 6, 1941. Flown on the *Clipper Honolulu*.
Back stamped Kowloon-Apr 15, 1941. NOT OPENED BY CENSOR applied at Hong Kong.
The American Presidents Line ship left Honolulu Apr 7, 1941.

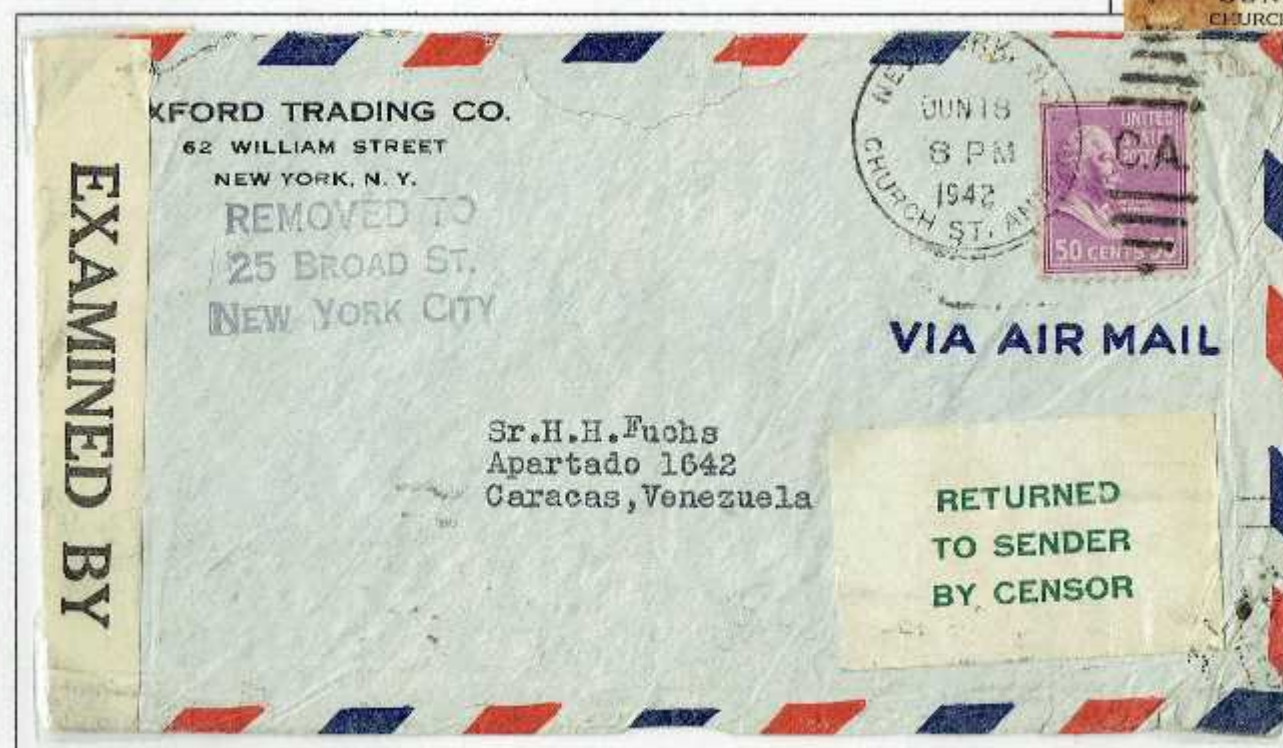
One ounce letter reduction to Asia, Australia, Oceania, Africa—25¢ per ½ oz—Nov 1, 1946 to Jun 30, 1971
U.S. Atlantic Fleet-Aug 27, 1947. Sailor's letter-USS Pocono-Flagship U.S. Atlantic Fleet Command.

Double 25¢ Air Mail Rate to Aruba



One ounce FAM 5 from Miami to Aruba—25¢ per ½ oz—Dec 1, 1937 to Apr 1, 1945
New York-Feb 18, 1944. Back stamped-Oranjestad, Aruba-Feb 24, 1944. Censor tape 6544 applied at New York. Circular censor hand stamp applied at Curacao.

Double 25¢ Air Mail Rate to Venezuela



One ounce FAM 5 to Maracaibo, Venezuela—25¢ per ½ oz—Jun 22, 1938 to Mar 31, 1945
 Rate included internal air mail within Venezuela to Caracas
 New York-Jun 18, 1942. Examiner 6891 resealing censor tape applied at New York.
 RETURNED TO SENDER BY CENSOR label applied at New York. Back stamped New York-Jun 24, 1942.

One ounce FAM 6 to Trinidad/KLM beyond—25¢ per ½ oz—Jan 15, 1941 to Mar 31, 1945
 Kansas City-Dec 3, 1943. Back stamped Barbados-Dec 14, 1943.
 Censor resealing tape applied at New York and Barbados (H/20).
*Reverend Charles S Jenkins, the addressee, was a missionary for the Church of the Nazarene.
 He had served at many places in Africa and elsewhere prior to being sent to Barbados.*

Quintuple 10¢ Air Mail Rate to Bahamas



2 ½ ounce FAM 5D Miami to Nassau—10¢ per ½ oz—Dec 1, 1932 to Jun 30, 1961
 Miami, FL-Dec 6, 1946. Back stamped Nassau, Bahamas-Dec 7, 1946

EXAMINER H/20

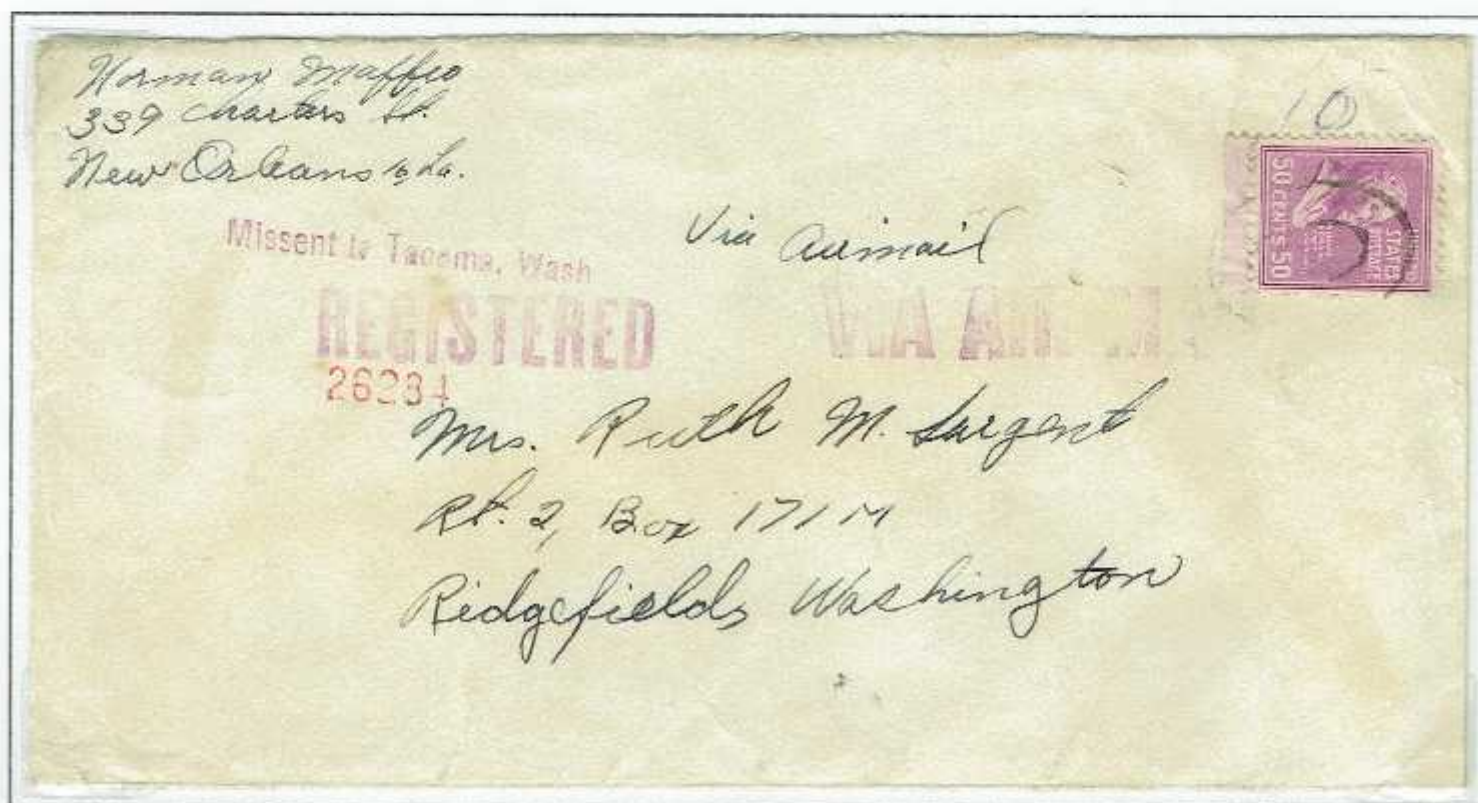
Domestic Combination Rates

Postage, Registration, Return Receipt



3¢ postage + 40¢ registration + 7¢ return receipt = 50¢
 40¢ registration ≤ \$5—Jan 1, 1952 to Jun 30, 1957. 7¢ return receipt—Jan 1, 1952 to Jun 30, 1957.
 Back stamped Richmond, CA-Jun 10, 1955; Omaha, NE-Jun 13, 1955

Double Weight Air Mail, Registration



10¢ air mail (5¢ per oz x 2) + 40¢ registration = 50¢
 5¢ per oz air mail—Oct 1, 1946 to Dec 31, 1948. 40¢ registration \$75.01 to \$100—Mar 26, 1944 to Dec 31, 1948.
 Back stamped New Orleans-Dec 24, 1946; Tacoma-Dec 26, 1946; Ridgefield, WA-Dec 26, 1946
Missent to Tacoma, Wash (Ridgefield 125 miles from Tacoma)

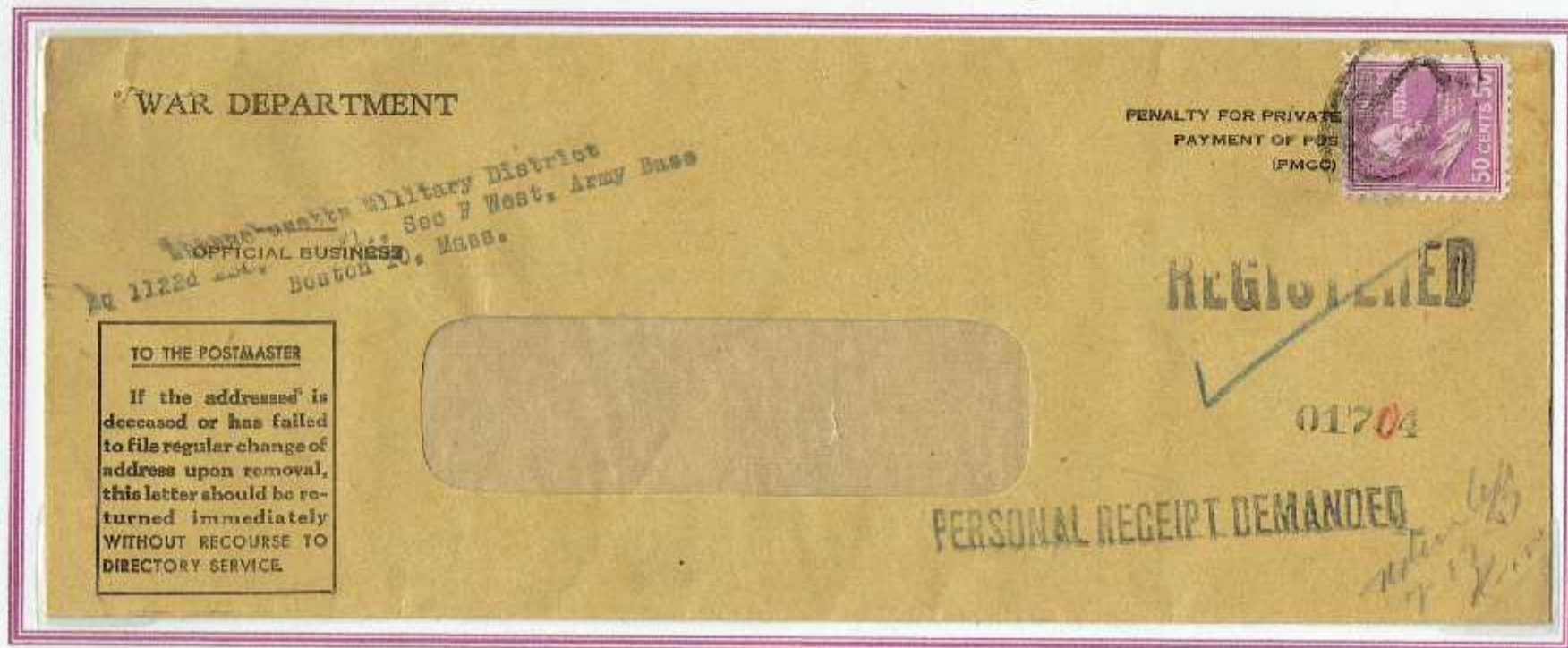


15¢ postage (3¢ per oz x 5) + 35¢ registration = 50¢

35¢ registration \$50.01 to \$75.00—Mar 26, 1944 to Dec 31, 1948

Back stamped Flint, MI-Nov 5, 1947; Grand Rapids, MI-Nov 5, 1947; Grand Rapids- MI Sta C-Nov 6, 1947

Registration, Return Receipt, No Postage

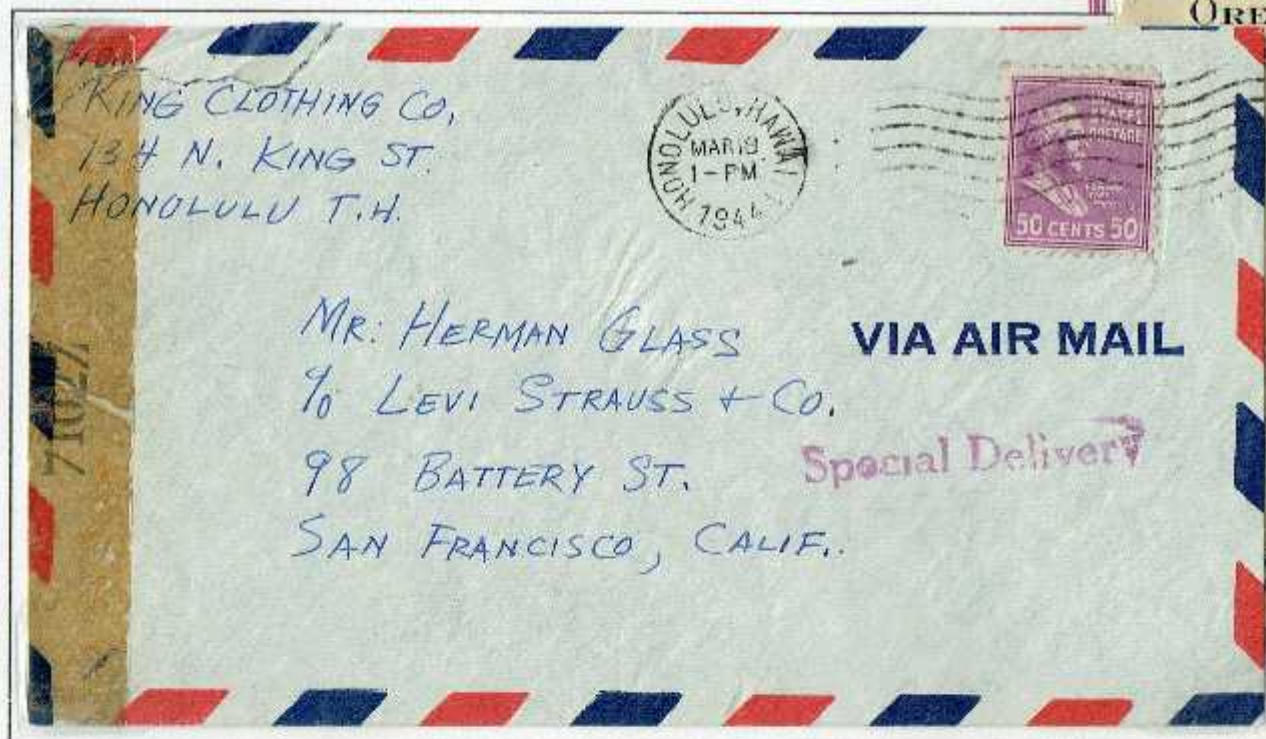


Penalty envelope required no postage. 45¢ registration + 5¢ return receipt = 50¢

45¢ registration \$50.01 to \$75.00—Jan 1, 1949 to Dec 31, 1951. 5¢ return receipt—Jan 1, 1949 to Dec 31, 1951.

Registration fee on penalty envelope required if not mailed in D. C. Back stamped: Boston, Mass Army Sta-Jul 16, 1951; Springfield, Mass-Jul 17, 1951.

Double Weight Air Mail from Hawaii, Special Delivery



40¢ air mail (20¢ per ½ oz x 2) + 10¢ special delivery = 50¢
 20¢ per ½ oz air mail from Hawaii—Apr 21, 1937 to Jul 3, 1946.
 10¢ special delivery 1st class matter <2 lbs—Jul 1, 1928 to Oct 31, 1944.
 Honolulu—Mar 18, 1944. Back stamped San Francisco-1944. Censor tape 71027 applied at Honolulu.



8¢ air mail + 25¢ registration + 4¢ return receipt + 13¢ special delivery = 50¢
 8¢ air mail—Mar 26, 1944 to Sep 30, 1946.
 25¢ registration ≤\$5—Mar 26, 1944 to Dec 31, 1948.
 4¢ return receipt—Mar 26, 1944 to Dec 31, 1949.
 13¢ special delivery 1st class matter <2 lbs—Mar 26, 1944 to Dec 31, 1948.
 Back stamped St Louis-March 28, 1946; New York-March 29, 1946

Air Mail from Hawaii, Registration, Special Delivery



20¢ air mail + 20¢ registration + 10¢ special delivery = 50¢. Seven month window for rate combination.
 20¢ air mail from Hawaii per ½ oz—Apr 21, 1937 to Jul 3, 1946. 20¢ registration—Mar 26, 1944 to Dec 31, 1944. 10¢ special delivery 1st class matter <2lbs—Jul 1, 1928 to Oct 31, 1944.
 Back stamped Honolulu-Aug 30, 1944; Utica, NY-Sep 4, 1944. Censor tape 71249 applied at Honolulu.

Foreign Combination Rates Quintuple Registered Military Concession Air Mail from Abroad



2 ½ ounce letter—30¢ overseas military concession air mail (6¢ per ½ oz x 5) + 20¢ registration = 50¢
 6¢ overseas military concession air mail per ½ oz—Dec 25, 1941 to Sep 30, 1946. 20¢ domestic registration—Nov 1, 1944 to Dec 31, 1948.
 Back stamped-APO 259 (9th Armored Division-Bayreuth, Germany)-Aug 17, 1945; New York-Aug 24, 1945; Chicago-Aug 25, 1945

Sixteen Times Surface Rate Foreign Mail



1 lb foreign 1st class surface postage—5¢ 1st oz + 45¢ additional weight (3¢ per oz x 15) = 50¢
 5¢ ≤ 1 oz—Oct 1, 1907 to Oct 31, 1953. 3¢ each added oz or fraction—Oct 1, 1907 to Oct 31, 1953.
 Los Angeles, CA-Jul 20, 1945. 4th class parcel label and folded wrapper changed to **FIRST CLASS** by hand stamp.

Double Weight Air Mail, Registration to Peru



One ounce FAM 9 Miami to Lima, Peru—30¢ air mail (15¢ per ½ oz x 2) + 20¢ registration = 50¢
 15¢ air mail per ½ oz—Apr 1, 1945 to Oct 31, 1946. 20¢ registration—Feb 1, 1945 to Dec 31, 1948.
 Back stamped Brunswick, MD- Apr 19, 1945; Miami-Apr 21, 1945; Lima, Peru-Apr 24, 1945.
 Censor resealing tape 30378 applied at Miami.

Air Mail, Registration, Return Receipt to Europe (Unoccupied France)



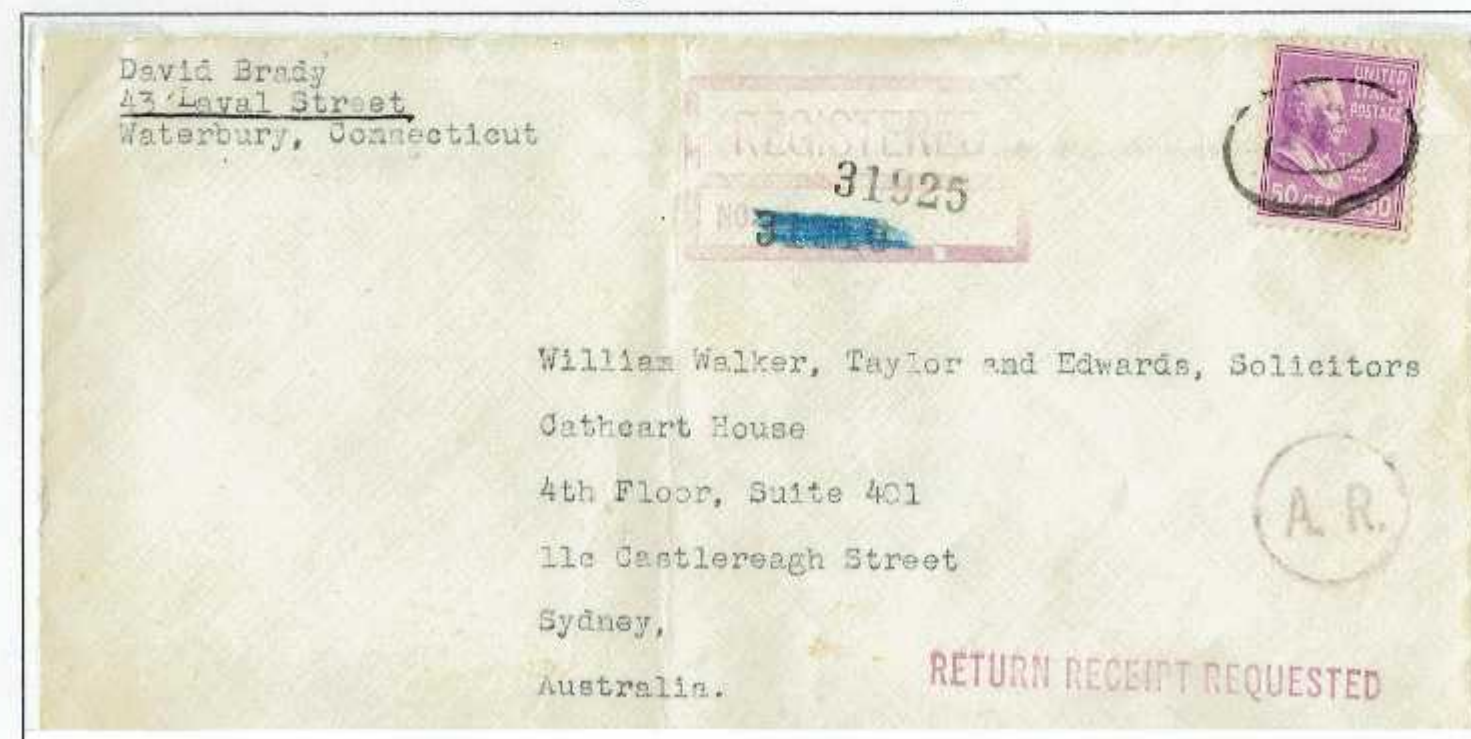
FAM 18 New York to Lisbon, Portugal 30¢ + 15¢ registration + 5¢ return receipt
 30¢ air mail per ½ oz France via FAM 18—Apr 28, 1939 to Feb 2, 1944. 15¢ registration Jul 9, 1934 to Nov 1, 1944.
 5¢ return receipt—Jul 9, 1934 to Aug 31, 1952. Back stamped New York Apr 25, 1942. Censor tape 980 applied at Bermuda.

Air Mail, Registration to Europe



FAM New York to Europe 30¢ + 20¢ registration = 50¢
 30¢ air mail per ½ oz—Apr 28, 1939 to Oct 31, 1947. 20¢ registration—Feb 1, 1945 to Dec 31, 1948.
 Service to Czechoslovakia suspended December 12, 1941. Air mail restored August 27, 1945-PB11853.
 Registration restored Oct 28, 1945-PB11872. Back stamped New York-Feb 12, 1946; Czechoslovakia-Feb 17, 1946.

Air Mail, Registration, Return Receipt to Australia



FAM 19 San Francisco to Sydney, Australia 25¢ + 20¢ + 5¢ return receipt
 25¢ per ½ oz post war reduction to Australia—Nov 1, 1946 to Jun 30, 1971. 20¢ registration—Feb 1, 1945 to Dec 31, 1948.
 5¢ return receipt—Apr 1, 1879 to Oct 31, 1953. Back stamped Waterbury, CT-Nov 16, 1948; Sydney Aug 24, 1948.

Final Thoughts

The story of this exhibit has been about covers showing uses of the 50 cent prexie exclusively. Those covers are a subset of the larger story of all 50 cent prexie covers which includes those that are franked with other stamps as well. Some are quite significant.

Full Pane Use Guam to Hawaii – 8 lb 1 oz. Air Mail

CONTRACTORS, P. N. A. B.
AGANA, GUAM

R. M. AVERILL, CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
CONTRACTORS, P. N. A. B.
P. O. BOX 2459
HONOLULU, T. H.

Guam-Dec 2, 1941

Guam to Hawaii—20¢ per ½ oz—Apr 21, 1937 to Dec 7, 1941
20 cents per ½ oz. X 258 = \$51.60

In 1939 a contract was awarded to a consortium of private contractors to build naval bases in the Pacific. It came to be known as Contractors P.N.A.B. (Pacific Naval Air Bases). In 1940 Guam was added to their list of projects.

This was carried on the last clipper flight out of Guam. The China Clipper arrived at Guam from Manila on Dec 1, 1941 but did not depart until Dec 2. After stops at Wake and Midway it arrived at Honolulu on December 4 where this was off loaded.

The plane then left for San Francisco on December 6 arriving on Dec 7, the day of the Pearl Harbor attack. Guam was attacked on Dec 8 and the island surrendered to the Japanese on Dec 10.

The largest known 50¢ prexie multiple on cover

