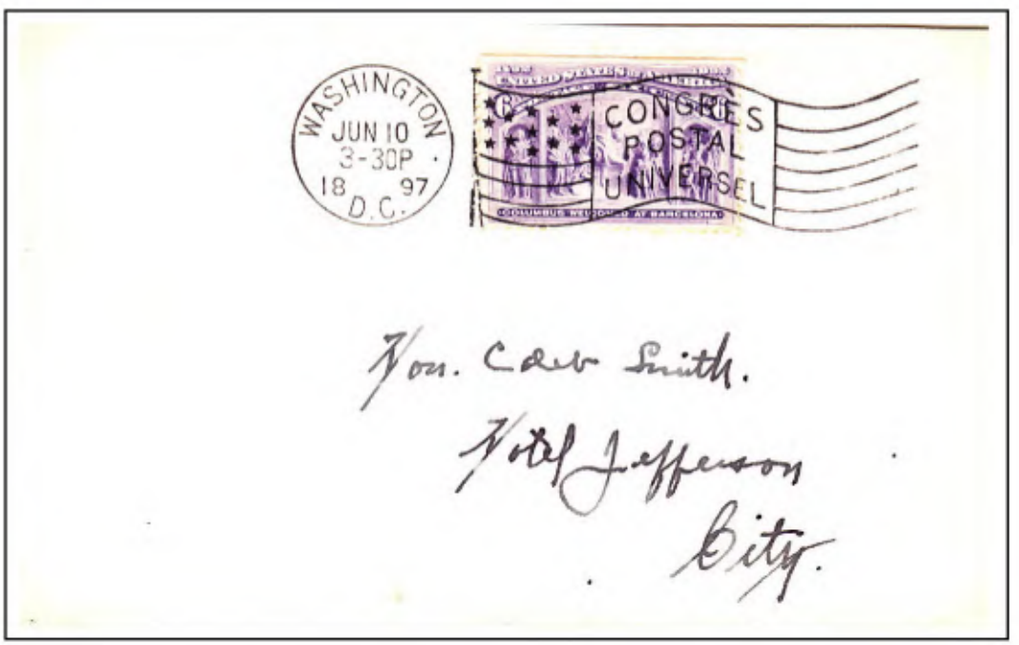
F. The 5th UPU Congress in Washington **5 May to 15 June 1897**

Resolutions concerning special stamps and special post office

The member countries resolved by 16 votes to 5 that **special and commemorative issues** of significance only for the issuing country, and **issues with a limited period of validity**, were not to be permitted in prepayment of international mail. The resolution was proposed by Germany and openly supported by France, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland; it was openly opposed by Great Britain, India and Portugal. These restrictions came formally into effect as from 1 January 1899.



The special post office at the Congress was only available to delegates and officials. During the Congress, from 5 May to 15 June 1897 (and afterwards at least until 19 June), it used a cancelling machine of the American Postal Machines Company with a special insert for the Congress.

Above: An official delegate's envelope used to Mexico and correctly franked with a 5c definitive stamp, cancelled with the above machine mark on 26 May 1897; "MEXICO" transit back-stamp of 1 June 1897; Orizaba arrival back-stamp of 2 June 1897.

Below: A stamp dealer named Rothfuchs succeeded in getting some philatelic covers cancelled with the above machine mark on 10 June 1897; this one bears a 6c stamp of the "Columbus" issue rather than the required 2c stamp.

G. The special issues June 1897-Dec. 1898 cii. Portuguese Colonies Vasco da Gama issue 1898

Separate stamp issues were made for the Azores, Macao, Madeira, Port. Africa, Port. India and Timor

Separate issues commemorating the 4th Century of Da Gama's discovery of the route to India were made for the Azores, Macao, Madeira, Portuguese Africa, Portuguese India and Timor.

Above: A registered cover to Australia franked at 30 avos (15-30g) with 2a + 4a + 24a stamps of the Da Gama issue of Macao; cancelled at Macao on 5 April 1898; Hong Kong transit back-stamp of 6 April 1898; Sydney arrival back-stamp of 5 May 1898.

Below: A 10r Port. Africa inland postal card used to Belgium supplemented with a 10r stamp of the Port. Africa Da Gama issue; cancelled at Mozambique on 14 April 1898; 5 cts. under-paid postage marked as the postcard rate had been increased to 25r and 10c postage due charged on delivery in Brussels on 13 May 1898.

G. The special issues June 1897-Dec. 1898 ciii. Portuguese Colonies Vasco da Gama issue 1898

Separate issues of postal-cards of were made for the Azores, Madeira, Port. Africa, Port India and Timor

The da Gama stamps were accompanied by 10r inland post-cards with 8 different designs and 20r international post-cards with 4 different designs on the back. These were issued for Portugal and with separate inscriptions for each of the above territories.

Above: A 10r Port. Africa inland postal card used to Germany correctly supplemented with a 10r stamp of S. Thomé e Principe; cancelled at S. Thomé on 22 February 1899; Lisbon transit and Munich arrival date-stamps of 21 and 25 June 1899.

Below: An example of the late use of a 1 0r Azores inland postal card after the postage rate had been increased to 25r; here sent to France supplemented with 5r and 10r stamps; cancelled at Angra do Heroismo on 19 February 1903; Nantes arrival date-stamp of 28 February 1903.

An expensive (9 values up to $2), superbly engraved commemorative issue from 10 June 1898

Above: A cover to Jamaica franked at the UPU rate with 1 x 1c + 2 x 2c Trans-Mississippi stamps; cancelled at Boston on 3 July 1898; Kingston and Montego Bay transit and arrival back-stamps of 11 and 12 July 1899.

Below: A 5c envelope of the 1893 Columbus issue sent registered to France supplemented with two 4c stamps plus a pair of 5c stamps of the 1898 Trans-Mississippi issue (for weight 1 - 1 1/2 oz plus registration 8c); cancelled at St. Louis; St. Louis and New York registry date-stamps of 13 and 15 September 1898; Paris arrival and delivery date-stamps of 26 September 1898.

G. The special issues before the Congress resolutions came into force June 1897 – Dec. 1898

Issues which were in preparation at the time of the Congress, then a few modest commemorative issues

The commemorative issues decreased dramatically in the 11/2 years between the UPU Congress in May/June 1897, which resolved to limit the validity of special stamps for the franking of international mail, and 1 January 1899, the date on which the resolved restrictions came into effect.

The issues which appeared during this 11/2 year period may be summarized as follows:

a. 6 issues in 1897/98 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 (normally the 75th year but, in the case of the reign of a monarch, the 60th year) by the British Territories: i. Newfoundland (shown below), ii. Canada, iii. Leeward Islands, iv. Barbados, v. Mauritius (not shown) and vi. British Guiana

b. 3 single-stamp commemorative issues by British Territories in 1898: 400th Anniversary of Discovery of i. Trinidad in July and ii. Grenada by Columbus in August 1498; iii. Canada Empire Penny Postage ("Xmas" issue)

c. The Vasco da Gama omnibus issue by Portugal and for 6 Colonies in April 1898

d. The Trans-Mississippi Exhibition issue of the USA in June 1898

e. Two issues of South American countries (Peru and Uruguay) of 1897 and the Netherlands 1g Coronation stamp of 1898 (re-engraved and re-issued in 1899 as a high value definitive stamp) are not shown here (the existence of examples properly used on international mail is questionable).

ai. The Colony of Newfoundland made a combined "Jubilee" issue commemorating the 60th Year of Queen Victoria's reign and the 400th Anniversary of the Discovery of Newfoundland by John Cabot one week after the 1897 UPU Congress. The SSSS black-listed this 14 value series was as being "wholly unnecessary" and because it did not supersede the definitive issue.
This registered cover to France is correctly franked with 2 x 2c + 2 x 3c stamps of the "Jubilee" issue; barred obliterator cancellation; with registry despatch date-stamp of St. John's of 25 June 1897 (2nd day of issue); Glasgow and London transit date-stamps of 7 and 8 July 1897; Paris distribution back-stamps dated 8 and 9 July 1897.

Expensive commemorative issue with irregularities during its sale leading to black-listing by the SSSS

The Canadian "Jubilee" issue of 19 June 1897 (just at the time of the 1897 UPU Congress and 3 days before the Jubilee) was a long (16 values) and expensive commemorative issue with values to $5 (almost a century would pass before Canada had a need for another $5 stamp!). As if this was not enough to cause its black-listing, irregularities arose during its sale (e.g. speculative purchases and withholding of individual values). This series remained in use like a definitive issue.

Above: An ordinary cover to Switzerland correctly franked with a 5c "Jubilee" stamp, cancelled with the Hamilton date-stamp on 4 August 1897; London transit back-stamp in red dated 14 August 1897; Zürich arrival back-stamp dated 15 August 1897.

Below: A philatelic registered cover to Germany over-franked with 20c + 50c "Jubilee" stamps cancelled with the Kingston date-stamp on 26 December 1899; oval London transit date-stamp of 8 January 1900; Leipzig arrival back-stamp of 9 January 1900.

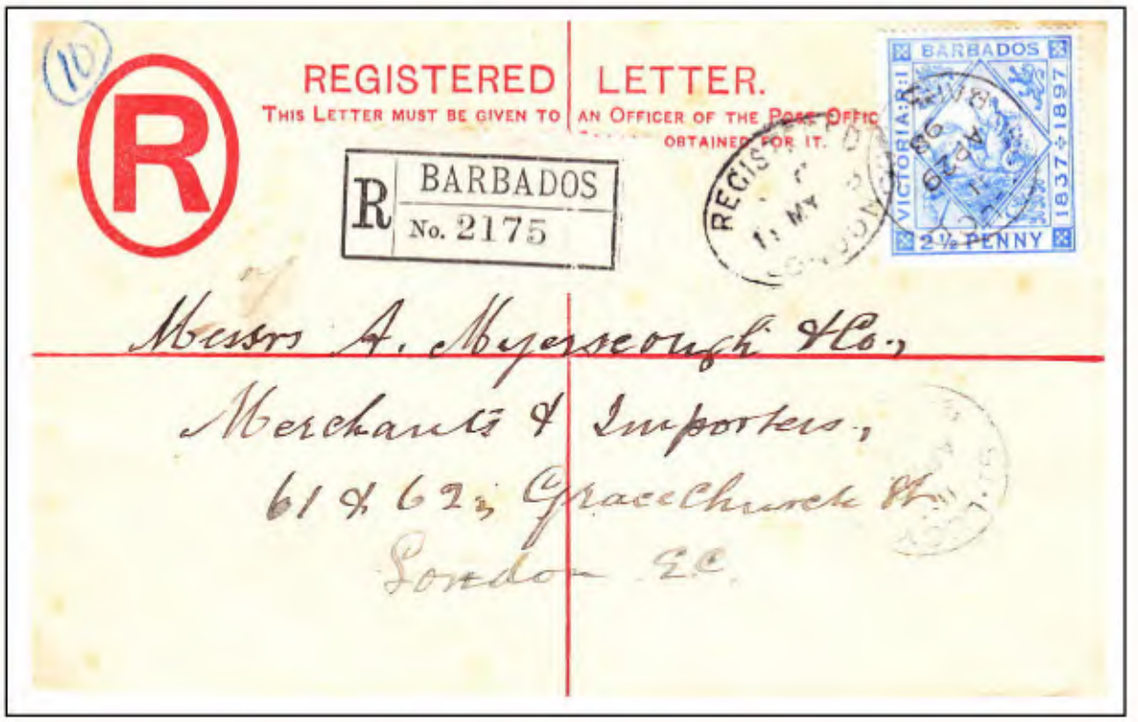
A further Jubilee issue – here a local "Sexagenary" issue – black-listed by the S.S.S.S.

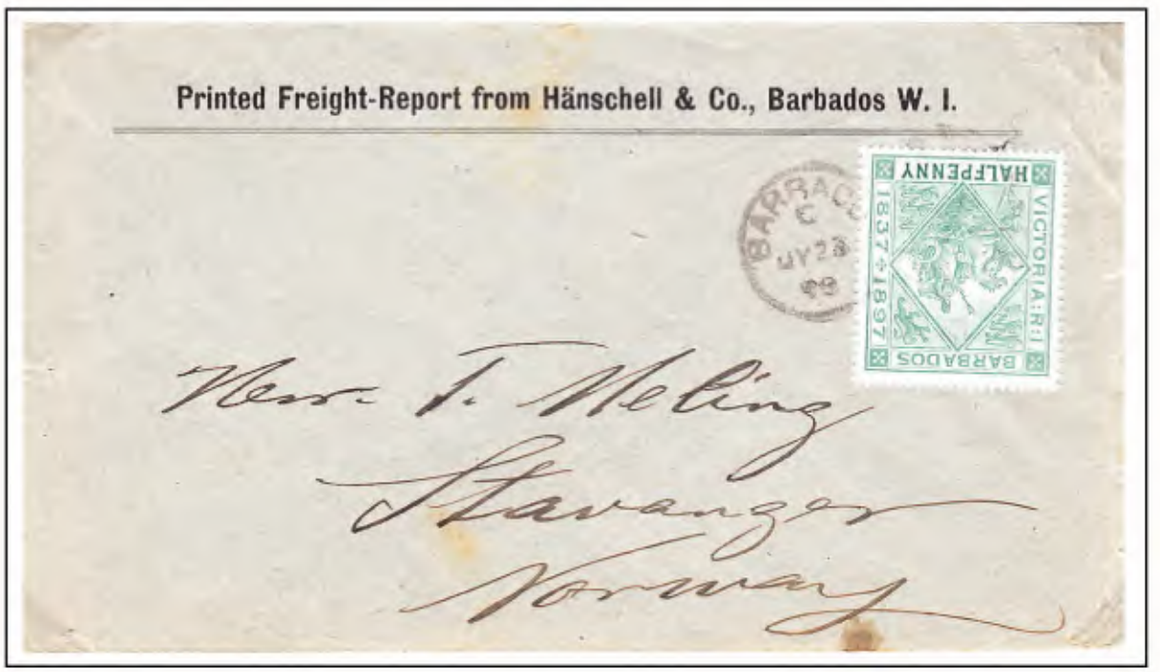
This "Jubilee" issue was produced locally in Antigua by overprinting available definitive stamps from ½d to 5s with a motif reading " VRI SEXAGENARY 1897" for issue on 22 July 1897 (just after the 1897 UPU Congress) and to remain on sale until 28 July 1897. Remainders were, however, on sale up to 1902. The printings were from 15,600 for the low values to 900 for the 5s.

Above: A philatelic cover from Dominica to the neighbouring French island of Guadeloupe franked with a pair of 1d "Sexagenary" stamps cancelled on 27 July 1897 (within the period of sale of the stamps); Point a Pitre arrival back-stamp dated 28 July 1897; 30c postage due collected from the addressee on 29 July. The envelope was unsealed and would only have cost ½d as printed matter, but would have been under-franked by ½d as a letter. In this case, the postage due charged in Guadeloupe was probably calculated as twice the UPU rate of 25c (2½d) = 50c less the franking of 20c (2d).

Below: A philatelic registered cover to Germany franked with 1d, 2½d and 4d "Sexagenary" stamps cancelled with the Antigua date-stamp on 25 March 1898; London registry transit date-stamp of 13 April 1898; Baden-Baden arrival back-stamp of 14 April 1898. The cover is over-franked at 7½d; the correct rate would have been 2½d UPU letter-rate plus 2d registration fee.

A late Jubilee issue - by Barbados in December 1897 - the SSSS is quiet after the UPU Congress





A further "Jubilee" issue commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne came from Barbados with a series stamps from %d to 2s6d in December 1897.

Above: A 2d registered envelope used to England correctly supplemented with a 2%d "Jubilee" stamp cancelled with the St. Lucy Barbados date-stamp on 29 April 1898; transit back-stamp of the main Barbados post office of the same date; oval London registry arrival date-stamp of 11 May 1898.

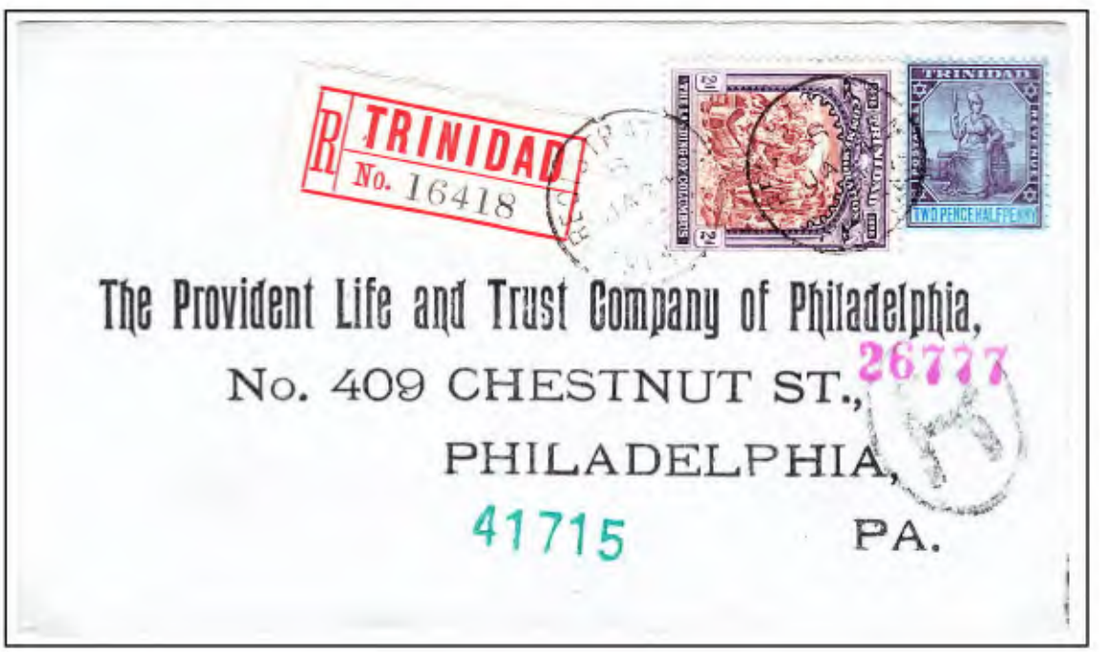
Below: A printed matter cover to Norway correctly franked with a %d "Jubilee" stamp cancelled "Barbados" on 23 July 1898; arrival back-stamp of Stavanger dated 6 August 1898.

A late issue for the Jubilee of Queen Victoria by British Guiana more than a year after the event

Above: A 2c on 5c provisional envelope (1899 issue) used to Suriname correctly supplemented with 1c + 2c stamps of the 1898 Jubilee issue; cancelled at Georgetown on 15 February 1899; Paramaraibo arrival back-stamp of 17 February 1899.

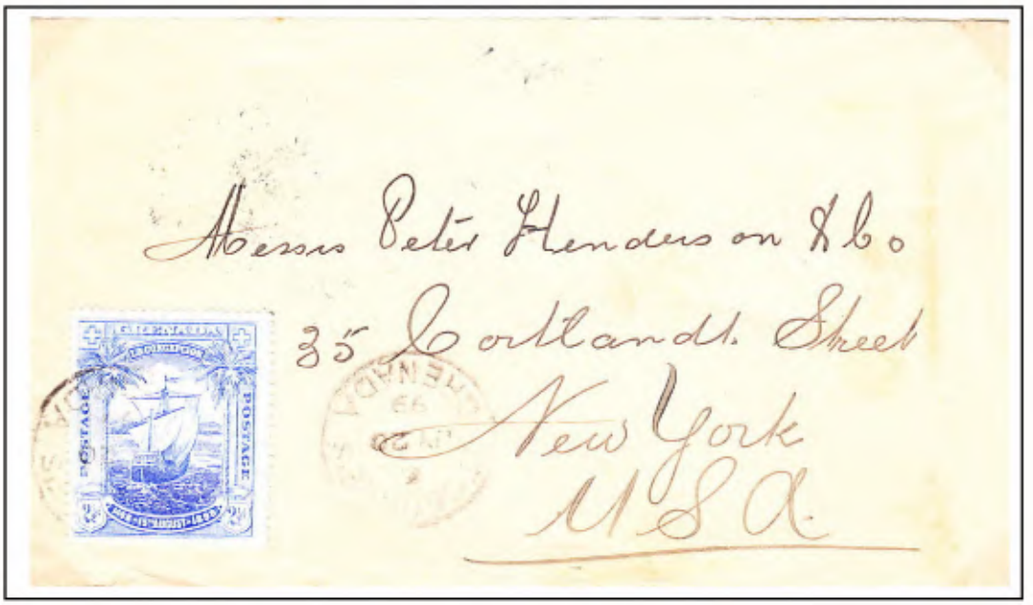
Above: A 4c registered envelope (1899 issue) used to Ireland supplemented with a 10c stamp of the 1898 Jubilee issue (the 4c value of the envelope was apparently ignored); cancelled at the GPO in Demerara on 26 February 1900; misdirected to Birmingham, England, receiving a transit back-stamp of 15 March 1900.

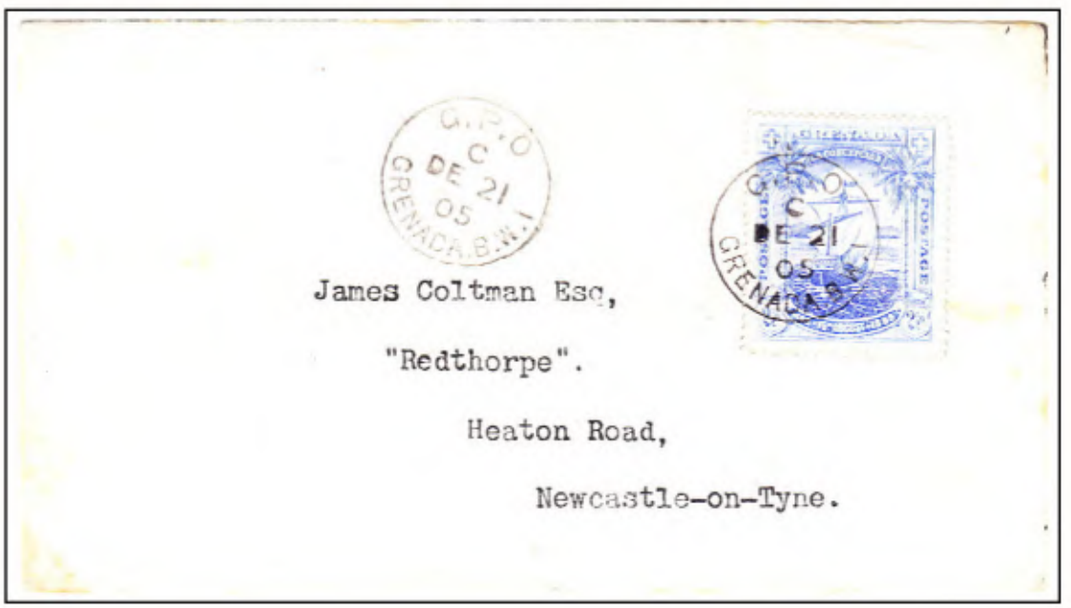
A stamp commemorating the 400th Anniversary of Columbus's discovery of Trinidad on 31 July 1498



Above: A 1d wrapper (1884 issue) sent to France correctly supplemented with the 2d Columbus stamp for a weight of 10-12 oz.; cancelled at Yogo, Trinidad, on 26 July 1900.
Below: A registered cover to the USA correctly franked with the 2d stamp issued in 1898 to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of Columbus's Discovery of Trinidad plus a 21/2d definitive stamp; cancelled with the "Trinidad Registered" date-stamp on 24 January 1906; New York transit and Philadelphia arrival back-stamps of 1 February 1906.

A stamp commemorating the 400th Anniversary of Columbus's discovery of Grenada in August 1498





Above: A cover to the USA correctly franked at the UPU rate with the 2½d Columbus stamp; cancelled with the "St. George's" date-stamp on 20 July 1899; New York arrival back-stamp of 29 July 1899.

Below: A cover to Britain franked at the UPU rate (rather than the 1d Empire rate) with the 2½d Columbus stamp; cancelled with the "G.P.O. Grenada B.W.I." date-stamp on 21 December 1905; Newcastle-on-Tyne arrival back-stamp of 6 January 1906.

"Christmas" issue commemorating the introduction of Penny Postage to Great Britain

Although the penny postage was first introduced on Christmas Day, this special stamp was available as from 7 December 1898
Above: A hotel envelope used to USA correctly franked with a 1c definitive stamp plus a pair of this 2c stamp (pale bluish shade); cancelled at Montreal on 13 April 1900; Gothenburg arrival back-stamp of 30 April 1898.
Below: An envelope sent registered to Hungary correctly franked with a pair of 1/2c definitive stamps plus a 5c Jubilee stamp and two of these 2c stamps (deep brownish/greyish shades due to oxidization?); cancelled at Berlin, Ontario, on 10 April 1902; Toronto and London transit date-stamps of 10 and 19 April 1902; Budapest arrival back-stamp of 21 April 1902.

This extensive issue was apparently in preparation at the time of the Congress in 1897

Possibly because of the protests caused by the Prince Henry and St. Anthony issues, this issue of 1 April 1898 to commemorate the 4th Century of Da Gama's discovery of the route to India comprised only 8 values from 2% to 150r.

Above: A view-card to Germany correctly franked at 20 reis with 2 x 2%r + 5r + 10r stamps of the Da Gama issue; cancelled at Lisbon on 31 May 1898; Dresden arrival date-stamp of 4 June 1898.

Below: A philatelic registered cover to the Netherlands over-franked with the whole series of stamps of the Da Gama issue; cancelled at Lisbon on 2 April 1898 (second day of issue); Rotterdam arrival back-stamp of 5 April 1898.

Mail to Liechtenstein, then under the Austrian post-office, for which the Peace issue was never valid

Above: An envelope from Wallenstadt to Vaduz (within the frontier limit), which would have been correctly franked with a 10c " Peace" stamp if this had been valid for mail to Austria; cancelled at Knoblisbühl on 9 November 1919; 40h postage due (twice the Austrian inland rate of 20h) charged on delivery on 11 November 1919 using a 40h postage due stamp (1916 issue).
Below: An envelope from Zürich to Vaduz, which would have been correctly franked at 25c with "Peace" stamps if these had been valid for mail to Austria; cancelled on 29 August 1919; 50h postage due (twice the Austrian foreign rate of 25h) charged on delivery on 30 August 1919 using a 50h postage due stamp (April 1917 provisional issue).

Local commemorative issue by New Caledonia for the 50th Anniversary of French Possession

This local commemorative overprint issue was created to improve the Colony's finances and, according to the decree of 16 July 1903, was valid for local use only. As the philatelic demand continued, stamps overprinted with new values were issued in 1904.

Above: A view-card used to Austria; correctly franked with a 5c stamp of the 1903 issue plus 1c and 2 x 2c stamps of the 1904 overprinted issue; cancelled at Coetempoe on 4 January 1905; Prague arrival date-stamp of 19 February 1905.

Below: An envelope to France correctly franked with a 15c stamp of the 1903 issue; cancelled at Nouméa (transit back-stamp) on 1 October 1903 with the date-stamp used for mail handed-in on the New Caledonia East Coast maritime service; with a back-stamp showing that the letter was taken on board the French Line N packet-boat "Manche" at Colombo on 31 October 1903

Issues with supplements for the Red Cross and for War Orphans accepted on mail to Switzerland

In August 1917, France issued an expensive series of stamps with face values from 2c to 5f, each of which bore a supplement(100% for the 50c to 5f values) for the benefit of War Orphans. No restrictions on the use of this issue were published.

Above: This 10c on 15c envelope was sent registered to Switzerland franked with a 50c+50c stamp of the War Orphans issue (the 10c franking value of the envelope was ignored); cancelled at Loyettes on 16 November 1918; censored and re-sealed in the French Bourg en Bresse sector; Lausanne arrival back-stamp of 22 November 1918.

Below: Envelope to Switzerland correctly franked with a 15c definitive and a 10c+5c stamp of September 1914 Red Cross issue; cancelled Paris ? September 1916, censored in the French Besançon sector; Bischofszell arrival back-stamp of 6 October 1916.

Italy's first special issues – 50th Anniversary of Liberation of Sicily and of Southern States Plebiscite

Two special issues showing Garibaldi: the first from 15 April 1910 for the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Sicily from the Bourbons (sold only in Sicily, valid until 30 June 1910), the second from 1 December 1910 for the 50th Anniversary of the Plebiscite in the Neapolitan Provinces (sold only in the Neapolitan Provinces, valid until 31 January 1911). These two issues both comprised 5c and 15c values, each of which was sold with a supplement of 5c to finance the anniversary festivities.

Above: An envelope to Switzerland bearing the two stamps of the first issue; cancelled at Via Garibaldi, Catania, on 11 May 1910

Below: A view-card to Bavaria correctly franked with a 10c definitive stamp and also bearing the two stamps of the second issue, all cancelled at Naples on 17 December 1910,

Issues for 50th Anniv. of Unification of Italy and for Campanile of St. Mark not valid for international mail

Above: A view-card addressed to Germany bearing the 10c stamp of the 50th Anniv. of Unification of Italy issue of 1 May 1911 (sold with a supplement of 15c to finance the exhibitions and valid only until 31 December 1911); cancelled at Turin on 29 May 1911; the stamp was marked as invalid and 20 c postage due indicated in black; 20 pf (in blue) was charged on delivery.

Below: A commercial envelope to Switzerland correctly franked with a 25c definitive stamp; also bearing the two stamps issued on 25 April 1912 to commemorate the re-erection of the Campanile of St. Mark in Venice (these were on sale only in the Province of Venetia and valid for use only in Italy and until 31 December 1912); cancelled at Venice Station on 30 May 1912; Basel arrival back-stamp of 31 May 1912.

Mail to Germany bearing this charity issue for tuberculosis victims which had a short validity period

On 21 December 1906, The Netherlands issued a set of three stamps, which were on sale up until 3 January 1907 at twice their face value to aid tuberculosis victims. They were only valid for inland mail and until 31 January 1907.
Above: Cover franked with stamps of the tuberculosis issue to 13c (over-franked by 1/2c); cancelled at Vaals on 29 December 1906; M. Gladbach arrival back-stamp of 30 December 1906. This franking accepted although not valid for international mail.

Below: A view-card correctly franked with a 5c stamp (1899 definitive issue) and also bearing the tuberculosis issue; cancelled at Amsterdam on 3 January 1907. The tuberculosis stamps did not here form part of the franking.

Commemorative issue for the Centenary of Independence used as a definitive issue

The Netherlands made two commemorative issues during this period: the first, the de Ruyter issue of 1907, was valid for only weeks and for inland use; the second, a long series of 12 values from 2%c to 10g, was issued on 29 November 1913 and was valid like a definitive issue up to 1937.

Above: A “diplomatic bag” address label from the British Embassy in The Hague to the Foreign Office in London; the franking of 6g20c (weight of parcel not indicated) includes the 5g Independence stamp; cancelled at The Hague on 31 December 1914; London arrival date-stamp of 2 January 1915.

Below: A cover sent registered to Sweden; correctly franked at 22%cts (12%c postage + 10c registration) with 2 x 5c and 12%c stamps of this issue; cancelled at Rotterdam on 26 April 1914; Stockholm arrival back-stamp of 30 April 1914.

H. The special issues by the declared supporters of the restrictions Jan. 1899 – Dec. 1920

This section covers the commemorative and charity issues made by the five countries – Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, and the Netherlands, which had proposed, seconded, or spoken in support of restricting the validity of special stamps at the 5th UPU Congress in 1897 – selected examples of these issues are shown:

a. Germany (including Bavaria), which had proposed the restrictions:
- 1899 Postcard commemorating the New Century (shown below)
- 1911-1919 2 commemorative stamp issues and 4 commemorative postcards (i & ii)
- 1914/1919 2 charity stamp issues and 2 charity postcards for war victims

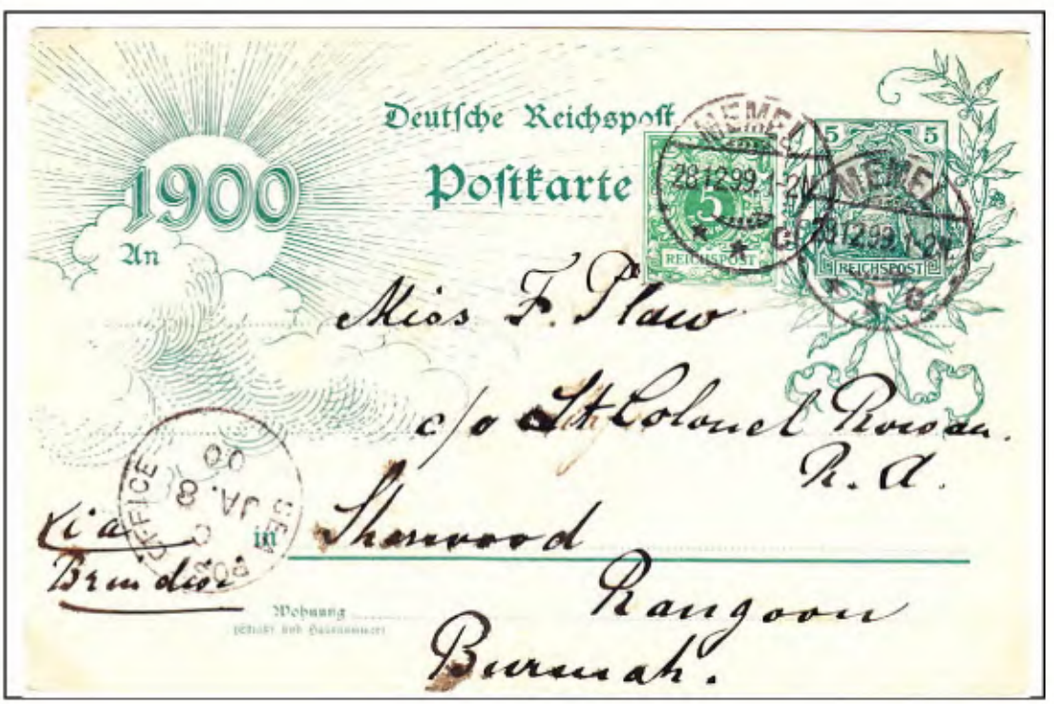
b. Switzerland, which had seconded the proposed restrictions:
- 1900 UPU commemorative stamp and postcard issue (i)
- 1909-1919 2 commemorative and 10 National Day charity postcard issues (ii)
- 1913-1920 7 "Pro Juventute" children's charity stamp issues (iii-v)
- 1919 Peace commemorative stamp issue (vi-vii)

c. France and Colonies:
- 1903 Local stamp issue by New Caledonia commemorating 50th Anniv. of French Possession (i)
- 1914-1919 22 Red Cross and 5 war charity stamp issues (ii)

d. Italy and Colonies:
- 1910-1912 4 local commemorative issues (i)
- 1915-1918 Red Cross charity stamp issues by Italy and 3 Colonies

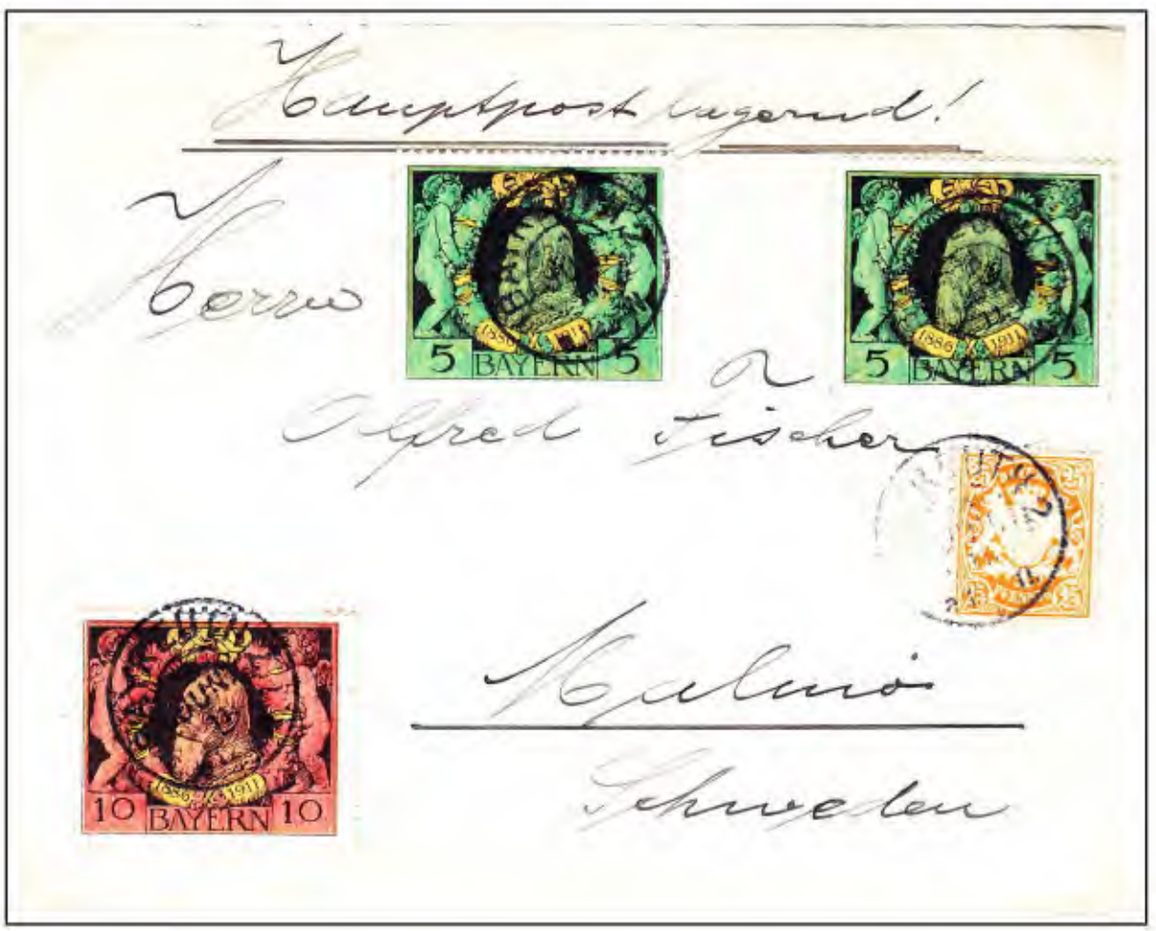
e. The Netherlands:
- 1906 Charity stamp issue for tuberculosis victims (i)
- 1907 Local commemorative stamp issue
- 1913 Series of 12 commemorative stamps used like a definitive issue (valid 25 years) (ii)

These issues could be made as being valid for mail to all countries, just to certain countries or only for inland mail. Items of international mail franked with stamps of limited validity could be marked as underpaid, be supplemented with definitive stamps or just slip through unnoticed.



This special inland post-card issued by Germany on 28 December 1899 as a greeting card for the New Year 1900 was accepted for international use as the 1897 UPU Congress had relaxed the restrictions and now permitted decoration on the address-side. This example was used from Memel (then East Prussia, now Lithuania) to Burma, correctly supplemented with a 5pf stamp; cancelled at Memel on 28 December 1899, the first day of issue; Aden "Sea Post Office" transit date-stamp of 8 January 1900.

Commemorative issue for the 25th Anniversary of the Regency of Prince Luitpold

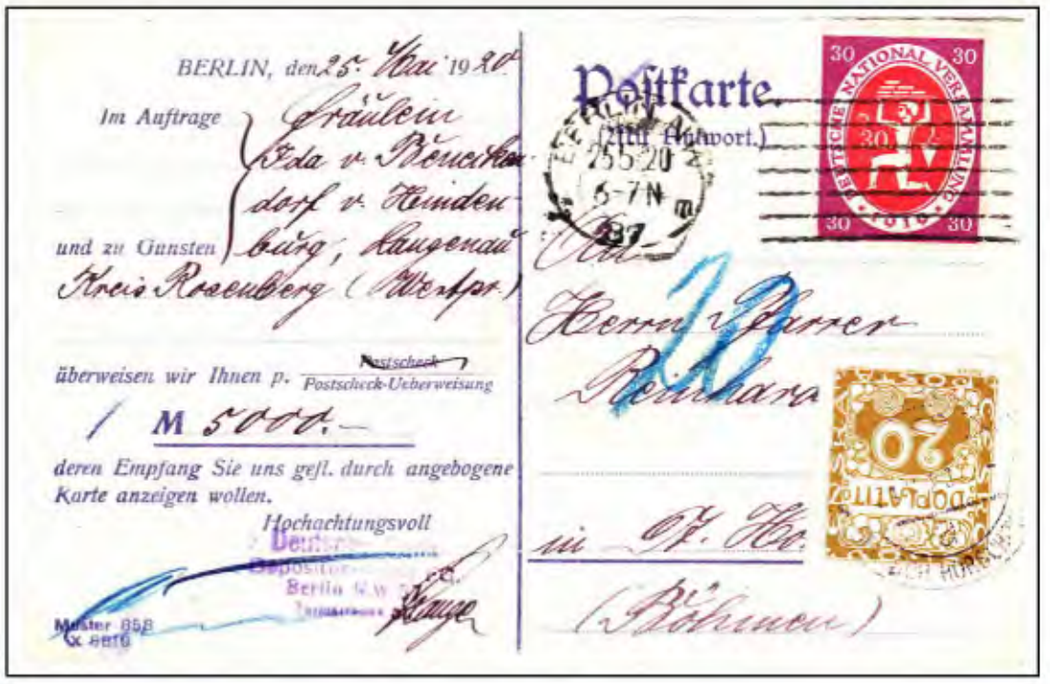


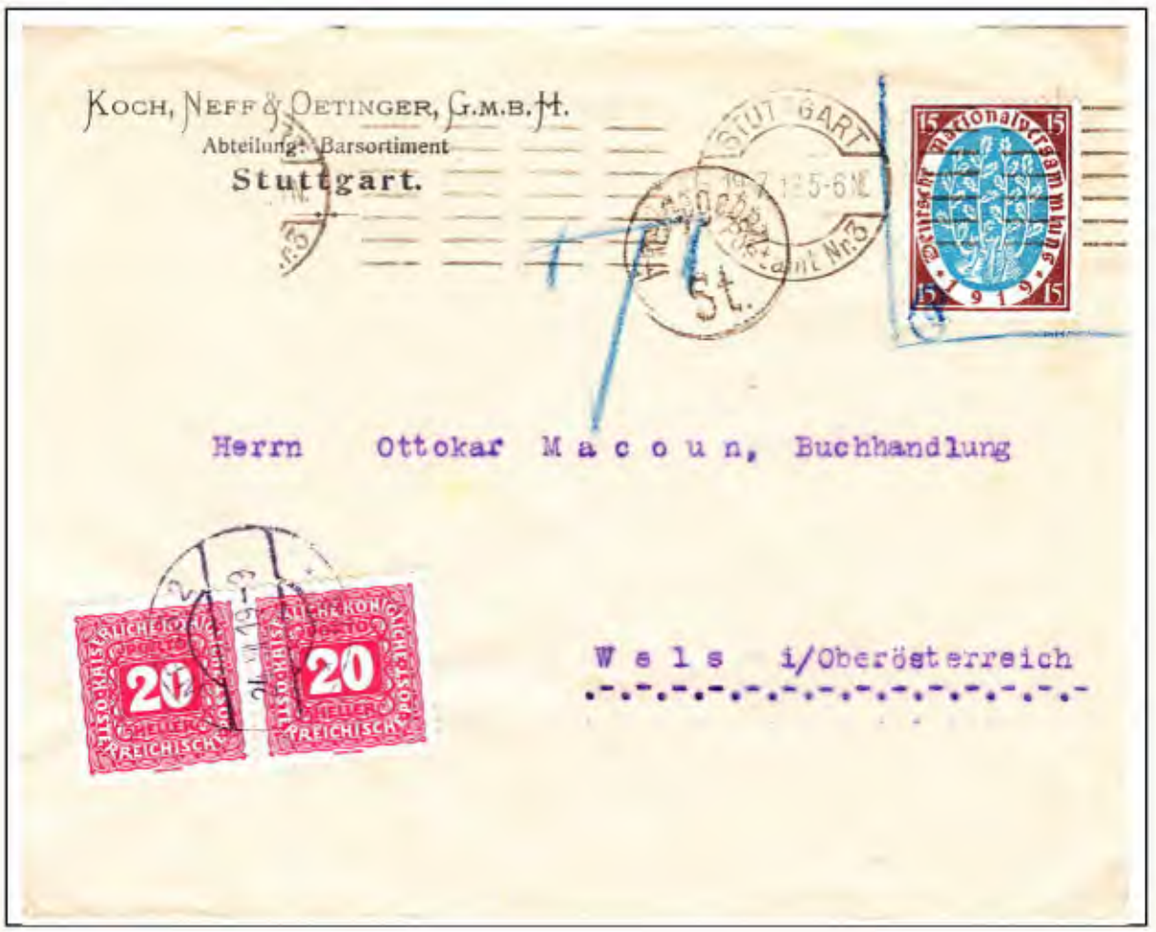
These two stamps, issued on 10 June 1911, were valid for use only within Germany and Austria and until 30 June 1911

Above: A view-card to Switzerland bearing the 10pf value of the above issue; cancelled at Bamberg on 10 June 1911, the first day of issue, but this stamp was not valid for international franking; 20c postage due charged on delivery at Chur on 12 June.

Below: An envelope to Sweden, thought to be correctly franked with stamps of the above issue to the value of 20pf (?); then over-franked by 5pf with a 25pf definitive stamp; cancelled at Bayreuth on 20 June 1911; Malmö arrival back-stamp of 21 June.

Commemorative issue for National Assembly – 10, 15 + 25 pf stamps in 1919 plus 30 pf value in 1920





According to an official notice of 27 May 1919, these stamps were valid for use only within Germany and until 1 November 1922

Above: A post-card with attached reply-card sent to Czechoslovakia franked at the inland rate with the above 30pf stamp instead of the foreign rate of 40pf; machine-cancelled at Berlin on 25 May 1920; the stamp accepted as franking and twice the missing 10pf postage marked as 20 gold centimes unpaid; 20h postage due charged on delivery at Nem. Horovice on 31 May 1920.

Below: An envelope to Austria bearing a 15pf stamp of the above issue; machine-cancelled at Stuttgart on 19 July 1919; the letter sent-on with the stamp marked as invalid; 40h postage due (2 x the inland rate) charged on delivery at Wels on 24 July

H. Special issues by supporters of restrictions 1899-1920 bi. Switzerland 25th Anniv. of UPU 1900

Although it would otherwise fall under the restrictions, this issue for the UPU was considered exempt

As the domicile of the UPU, Switzerland made a commemorative issue of three stamps and two post-cards for the 25th Anniversary of the UPU on 2 July 1900. According to a letter from UPU Director Ruffy, the Swiss Post Office (which effectively administered the UPU) had decided that this issue did not fall under the restrictions on use for international mail because it was " neither special nor particular to Switzerland" (although it had a validity period of only 6 months!).

Above: The 10c postal stationery card properly used from Berne to Great Britain on 2 July 1900, the first day of issue.

Below: An envelope to Gorizia, then Austria, correctly franked with a 25c UPU commemorative stamp (2nd plate); cancelled at Zürich on 7 October 1900; Lucinico arrival back-stamp of 10 October 1900.

H. Special issues by supporters of restrictions 1899-1920 bii. Switzerland charity cards 1910/1911

Official inland cards sold on the National Day and with a supplement – validity as for the imprinted stamp

As from 1910, Switzerland issued one or more official 5c inland postal cards on 1 st August, the National Day, selling these with a 15c supplement for the benefit of specified charities. The UPU's text requirements had been rescinded by the 1906 Congress.

Above: The first National Day card (sold with 15c supplement for flood victims) used to Germany correctly supplemented with a 5c stamp; cancelled with a TPO mark on 1 August 1910, the day of issue. This first National Day card exceeded the size permitted by the UPU regulations, but no objection was raised here.

Below: The second National Day card (sold with 15c supplement for invalids) used to Belgium correctly supplemented with a 5c " Kocher" stamp (16,000 were printed in 1909 under an erroneous interpretation of the rules for the value imprinting of private stationery); cancelled at St. Imier on 18 June 1912; Liège transit and Tilff arrival date-stamps of 19 June. Now reduced to UPU size.

The first of the annual Pro Juventute issues with supplements for the benefit of children

The Pro Juventute stamps were issued on 1 December and those of 1913 and 1915 (no issue in 1914) were valid for only 3 months; those for 1916 and later years were valid for 5 months. The Swiss post office had recognized that these issues were subject to the UPU restriction and had asked other countries whether they would accept mail franked with them. 6 countries: Bavaria, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Portugal and Russia, agreed to accept these issues; 5 countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain and The Netherlands declined.

Above: A registered envelope to Bavaria correctly franked for 25c postage plus 25c registration with ten 5c stamps of the 1913 Pro Juventute issue; cancelled at Menzingen on 20 December 1913; Ansbach arrival back-stamp 21 December 1913.

Below: An envelope to England franked with five 5c stamps of the 1913 issue; cancelled at Basel on 16 December 1913; arrival back-stamp with illegible date. This letter "slipped through" as the Swiss post office did not notice the invalid franking for England

Examples of mail to Great Britain and France, which declined to accept Pro Juventute frankings

Above: A 5c post-card to England correctly supplemented with a 5c definitive stamp; the sender added the two stamps of the 1915 Pro Juventute issue, knowing that these were superfluous; machine-cancelled at Geneva on 30 December 1915.

Below: A cover to France franked with 2 x 3c + 2 x 5c + 10c stamps of the 1916 Pro Juventute issue (over-franked by 1c); cancelled at Winterthur on 11 December 1916 and marked "T 50" as unpaid; censored and re-sealed at Pontarlier on entry into France; Paris distribution back-stamp of 19 December 1916; no postage due collected in Paris.

Examples of mail to countries which accepted these issues: Austria (informally) and Denmark (formally)

Above: A view-card to Vienna franked to the value of 11 c (over-franked by 1 c) with 2 x 3c + 5c stamps of the 1917 Pro Juventute issue; cancelled at Zürich on 28 December 1917; censored on entry to Austria at Feldkirch.

Below: An envelope to Denmark correctly franked at 25c with the two values of the 1918 Pro Juventute issue; cancelled at St. Gallen on 21 February 1919; with a Copenhagen arrival back-stamp of 27 February 1919.

Foreign mail sent during the period of no international validity: 1 to 7 August 1919

The “Peace” stamps were issued on 1 August 1919, initially only for inland mail. A notice of 8 August 1919 indicated validity for mail to Bavaria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Luxembourg, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden and Württemberg. A further notice of 10 September 1919 added Greece, Hungary, Norway, Poland and the USA.

Above: A 7%c “National Fête” post-card of 1919 (sold at 30c to support blind artists); from Berne to Berlin on 1 August 1919 (first day of issue); correctly supplemented with a 10c definitive stamp as the imprinted 7%c “Peace” stamp was not valid for franking.
Below: A cover to Brazil with “Peace” stamps (over-franked by 7% c) cancelled as above. As these stamps were not yet valid for international mail, the Swiss post-office marked the envelope as unpaid and indicated 2 x 25 gold centimes as postage due.

J. The special issues by the declared opponents of the restrictions Jan. 1899 – Dec. 1920

This section covers the commemorative and charity issues made by the countries which had openly spoken against restricting the validity of special stamps at the 5th UPU Congress in 1897 – Great Britain and Portugal. The British Territories paid little attention to the restrictions. Selected examples of these issues are shown, with emphasis on the earlier years of the period. Great Britain itself, and Portugal & Colonies, made no special stamp or postal stationery issues at all.

a. Great Britain itself made no special issues during this period, but its colonies made:
1899-1920 7 commemorative and 1 local charity stamp issues (one shown below, two shown under i)
1914-1918 7 Red Cross war charity stamp issues (none shown)

b. Great Britain's Australian colonies, Queensland and Victoria, made:
1900 2 charity stamp issues (both shown under i)

c. The Union of South Africa and its Provinces made: 1900 -1910 2 commemorative stamp issues (both shown under i)

d. Great Britain's colony of New Zealand and its dependent territory, Western Samoa, made:
1900-1901 2 commemorative stamp issues which became definitive issues (none shown)
1906-1920 4 commemorative stamp issues (none shown)

e. Great Britain's Canadian colonies, later dominions, made:
1908-1919 5 commemorative stamp issues (none shown)

f. The Kingdom of Tonga, a British protectorate, made a local commemorative issue in 1899 (use on international mail apparently not recorded)

The special issue (a single stamp at the UPU rate of 15c) made by Mauritius on 13 December 1899 to commemorate the Bicentenary of the Birth of Admiral Mahé de Labourdonnais, Governor of Mauritius 1735-46, was of clearly only local significance.

This registered cover sent to France was correctly franked with two of the above stamps (1/2-1oz), plus two 6c definitive stamps (1899 issue) for the registration fee; cancelled at Mauritius on 27 June 1901, receiving the registration date-stamp; date-stamped by the French packet "Oxus" on 28 June; various transit, redirection and arrival back-stamps in France from 24 and 25 July 1901

Modest commemorative issues of St. Lucia and Barbados

Above: An overweight (%-1 oz) 2d registered envelope (KE VII issue) used to Germany correctly supplemented with %d + 1 d definitive stamps and a pair of the 2d stamps commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the discovery of the island by Columbus; cancelled at Castries on 27 December 1904; London transit and Reutlingen arrival back-stamps of 12 and 13 January 1905.
Below: An overweight (1-1 %oz) 2d registered envelope (1902 issue) used to Scotland correctly supplemented with a strip of three of the 1d stamps issued on 15 August 1906 to commemorate the Tercentenary of Annexation; cancelled at Barbados on 11 December 1906; London transit and Edinburgh arrival date-stamps of 2? December 1906.

Issues by Queensland and Victoria with huge charity supplements for Boer War Patriotic Funds

In the tradition of the issues of 1897, the Australian colonies of Queensland and Victoria each made charity stamp issues in 1900 which were designated for inland use and bore supplements for Boer War Patriotic Funds equal to 11 times the franking value.

Above: A registered cover sent within Queensland bearing a 1 d definitive stamp (paying the postage) plus the 1 d and 2d charity stamps (paying the registration fee), which had been issued on 19 June 1900 and were sold at 1/- and 2/-; cancelled with the oval "R" marking and bearing a date-stamp of 13 December 1900 (place name illegible).

Below: A registered cover-front sent from Victoria to Auckland, New Zealand, bearing a 3d definitive stamp (paying the registration fee) plus the 2d charity stamp (paying the postage – inland rate), which had been issued on 23 May 1900 and was sold at 2/-; cancelled at Brunswick, Melbourne, on 25 June 1900; with a transit date-stamp of the Money Order office of 26 June.

Commemorative issues for the Empire Penny Postage and the Opening of the Union Parliament

Above: The Cape of Good Hope commemorated the introduction of the Empire Penny Postage with the issue of a special 1d stamp in January 1900. This 1d envelope used to Germany correctly supplemented with the Penny Postage 1d stamp and a %d definitive stamp was cancelled at Kloof St. Gardens on 18 November 1902.

Below: The Union of South Africa came into existence on 31 May 1910 and issued a 2%d stamp on 4 November 1910 to commemorate the Opening of the Union Parliament. This registered cover to the USA is correctly franked with pair of these stamps (paying the postage for %-1oz.) plus a 4d Cape of Good Hope stamp (1902 issue, valid until 1937) paying the registration fee); cancelled at Mowbray (Cape Province) on 22 March 1911; transit back-stamps of Cape Town and New York of 2 March and 14 April 1911; Denver arrival back-stamp of 17 April 1911.

This section covers the commemorative and charity issues made by all the other countries which had not spoken for or against restricting the validity of special stamps at the 5th UPU Congress in 1897. Some of these countries observed the UPU's restrictions – selected examples of these issues are shown:

a. United States: ongoing local commemorative issues with unlimited validity periods and reducing face values, but no restrictions on international use:
1901-1920 8 commemorative stamp issues (first issue shown below)

b. Russia and Austria-Hungary: these countries
1905-1920 17 charity issues, mainly with limited validity periods and restrictions on international use
1908-1920 10 commemorative issues, incl. 3 used as definitive issues

c. Other Western European Countries:
1903-1920 5 Scandinavian commemorative issue used as a definitive issues (i)
1905-1920 4 commemorative and 8 charity stamp issues (ii)

d. Eastern European Countries: 1901-1920 40 commemorative and charity stamp issues

e. Turkey:
1908-1919 12 commemorative and charity stamp issues

f. Asian and African Countries: 1900-1920 17 commemorative stamp issues

g. South and Central American Countries: 1899-1920 60 commemorative stamp issues

After the restrictions came into effect, the first commemorative issue by the USA was the Pan-American Exposition issue of 1 May 1901 (6 stamps total face value 30c). The further commemorative issues up to 1920 averaged a total face value of only 10c.

A registered AR (registration fee 8c + AR fee 5c) cover of 1 to 1 1/2 oz (UPU rate 5c per 1/2 oz) to Russia correctly franked at 28c with 1, 2, 5 and 8c stamps of the above issue plus two 6c definitive stamps; the stamps obliterated at Nashua and a registration hand-stamp added on 15 January 1902; New York transit and Moscow arrival back-stamps of 16 and 31 January.

Two of the four long commemorative issues of Rumania from the years between 1903 and 1906

Above: An envelope to Constantinople; correctly franked with the 15b stamp of the 1906 40th Anniversary of Reign issue plus two 5b definitive stamps; cancelled at Dorohoi on 4 March 1907; arrival back-stamp of the Austrian post office dated 8 March.
Below: A 15-30g registered letter to Austria; correctly franked at the UPU rate with the 25 + 50c values of the 1903 New Post Office issue; cancelled at Bucharest on 24 October 1903; Vienna arrival back-stamp dated 24 October 1903.

Montenegro's two 20th Century commemorative issues: 1905 Constitution and 1910 Kingdom

Above: A registered cover of 20-40g to France correctly franked at 60 paras with stamps of the 1910 issue (used as definitive stamps up to end March 1913); cancelled at Niegouchi on 3 November 1911; Paris arrival back-stamp 6 November 1911.
Below: A registered wrapper from the Ottoman Embassy to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Constantinople; correctly franked with 10 + 25pa stamps of the 1905 issue; cancelled at Cettigné on 23 ? 1905 (date-stamp over string tied by seal on reverse).

Of the newly independent countries, Latvia made 4 commemorative issues in 1919 and 1920

Above: A Christmas greeting card sent to Finland franked with a 10k stamp of the 1919 Anniversary of Independence issue plus a 5k definitive stamp; cancelled at Libau on 17 December 1919 and marked with a booked "T" as 10(k?) underpaid.

Below: A registered cover to Germany; franking 5r including stamps of the 1919 and 1920 issues for the Liberation of Courland and Latgale, and for the Constituent Assembly; cancelled at Wenden on 2 August 1920; Bruchsal arrival back-stamp 8 August.

Turkey made 11 commemorative issues and one war charity issue between 1908 and 1919

Above: A commercial cover to the USA franked with two 20 para stamps of the overprint issue of 30 Sept. 1914 commemorating the Abrogation of the Capitulations (and thus the closure of the foreign p.o.'s; cancelled and censored at Beirut on 2 March 1915.
Below: A 1 pi. envelope (1915 issue) sent registered to Germany with 20 pa. + 1 pi. stamps of the 1916 issue for the 50th Anniv. of the Constantinople city post; cancelled at Cordélio (Smyma) on 8 October 1917; Freiburg arrival back-stamp of 27 October.

One of the 3 commemorative issues of Thailand between the years of 1908 and 1920

Five values of the definitive series were overprinted locally “Jubilee 1868-1908” and issued on 11 November 1908

Above: An envelope to France correctly franked at 9 atts with a 4 on 5a provisional stamp plus 2 x 1a + 3a stamps of the above issue; cancelled at Bangkok on 21 December 1908; with a back-stamp showing that the letter was taken on board the French Line N packet-boat “Dumbea” at Singapore on 28 December 1908; manuscript note of receipt in Paris on 20 January 1909.

Below: A view-card to Austria correctly franked at 4 atts with 1 a + 3a stamps of this issue; cancelled Bangkok 2 February 1909.

K. The special issues by all other countries 1899-1920 fii. China 1st year of reign of Emperor 1909

The only commemorative issue from the Chinese Imperial Post (1897 – 1912)

China did not join the UPU until 1914 but, through the arrangements the Chinese Post Office had made with all the foreign post offices operating there, China's relationships with all the members of the UPU were almost equivalent to UPU membership.

Above: A view-card to Germany franked at 7c (the published rate at this time appears to have been 4c) with a 2c definitive stamp plus 2c + 3c stamps of the above commemorative issue; cancelled at Shanghai on 6 November 1909.

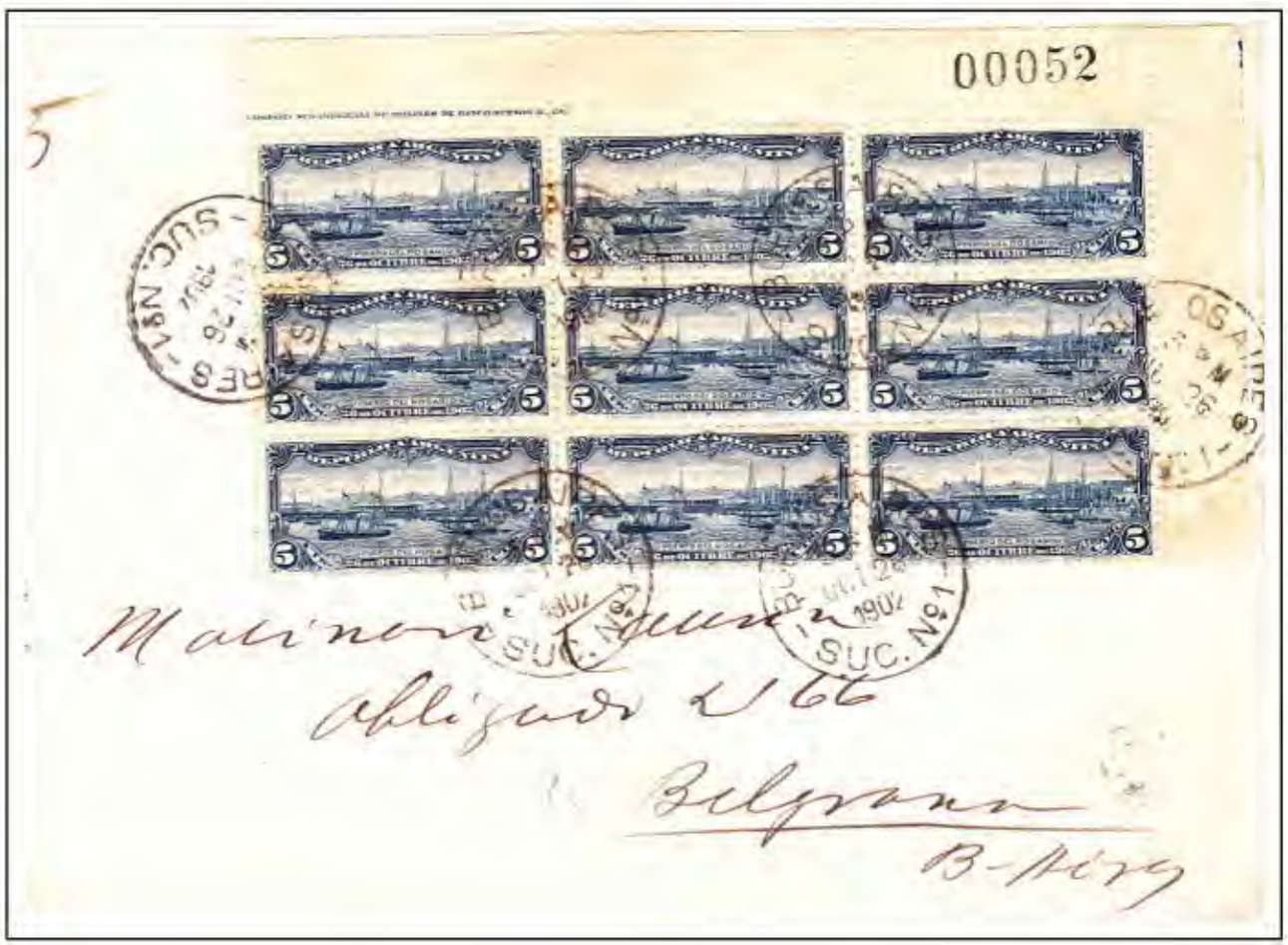
Below: A registered cover to Switzerland correctly franked at 20c with 2 x 3c and 2 x 7c stamps of this issue; cancelled at Shanghai on 9 March 1910; Berneck arrival back-stamp of 26 March 1910.

Heir Apparent and Peace issues without restrictions on validity

Above: A view-card sent to the Netherlands correctly franked with a 3s stamp of the 1916 Heir Apparent issue plus a 1 s definitive stamp; cancelled with the marking (Japan was the first country to introduce special first day cancellers) of 3 November 1916; Tokyo despatch date-stamp of 4 November 1916 and boxed “C408” delivery mark of The Hague.

Below: A registered cover of 46-60g sent to the Philippines correctly franked at 38s with two 3s stamps of the 1919 Peace issue plus a 2s, 10s and 20s definitive stamps; cancelled at Kobe on 22 June 1920; Manila registry arrival back-stamp 4 July 1920.

Commemorative issues for Inauguration of Rosario Harbour and Centenary of War of independence



Above: A view-card sent registered to England franked at 57%c (instead of 17c) with the %c to 20c stamps of the 1910 Centenary issue; cancelled at Buenos Aires on 13 July 1910; London transit and Oxford arrival date-stamps of 3 and 4 August. Below: An example of a special issue not to be found on international mail: Argentina's issue of 26 October 1902 commemorating the inauguration of the Harbour of Rosario de Santa Fé – which was valid only for inland mail and on the day of issue. Here a corner block of 9 is used on a cover sent within Buenos Aires on this one day of validity.

Centenary commemorative issues for the countries' respective Wars of Independence

Above: A 1 cvo post-card sent to India as printed matter correctly supplemented with a 2 cvo stamp of the 1910 Centenary issue of Chile; cancelled at Linares on 22 November 1910; Jaipur delivery date-stamp (date illegible).

Below: A cover to France correctly franked at 75 cvos with stamps of the 1911 Centenary issue of Paraguay; cancelled at Altos on 5 October 1912; Paris arrival back-stamp 30 October 1912.

Issue for a War Orphans' Fund for victims of the Russo-Japanese War accepted for international mail

Above: A 5k inland letter-card (1890 issue) correctly supplemented with a 5k (+ charity 3k) stamp and properly used to Germany; cancelled at St. Petersburg on 19 July 1905 (1 August by the Gregorian Calendar); Gräfelfing arrival back-stamp of 4 August. Below: A decorative envelope to Munich correctly franked with a 10k (+ charity 3k) stamp and properly used to Germany; cancelled at Libau on 22 December 1904 (4 January 1905 by the Gregorian Calendar).

Charity issues for victims of World War I accepted for international mail

In 1914, Russia issued 4 stamps, each with a supplement of 1k for a War Charity fund. Except for the 7k value, these were re-issued in changed colours in 1915. These stamps appeared with perforations 11 %, 12% and 13% and were for inland use.

Above: A 7k envelope (1907 issue) sent registered to Sweden correctly supplemented to give 20k (10k postage + 10k registration) with a 3k stamp (perf. 11 %) and a 10k stamp (perf. 12%) of the 1915 issue; cancelled at Moscow on 5 January 1917(= 18 January by the Gregorian calendar); censored in Moscow before despatch; Stockholm arrival b/s 30 January 1917.

Below: A registered cover to Switzerland again correctly franked at 20k, with 1k and 3k definitive stamps plus two 1k stamps (perf. 13%) and two 7k stamps (perf. 11%) of the 1914 charity issue; cancelled at Sebastopol on 9 September 1915 (= 22 October by the Gregorian calendar); censored before despatch; Lausanne arrival back-stamp 16 October 1915.

Issue in 1914 with price supplement for the benefit of victims of World War I

On 4 October 1914, Austria issued war charity stamps of 5h + 2h and 10h + 2h which were officially valid until 30 June 1915 for mail within Austria and to Bosnia, Germany and Hungary.

Above: This cover to Switzerland is franked to the correct amount of 25c, but with stamps of the 1914 war charity issue; these were cancelled at Molln on 30 December 1914; a T-shaped boxed censor marking in red "ÜBERPRÜFT F" was added (at Feldkirch?); the stamps were framed with red crayon as invalid and "50" (Rp.) postage due was marked in red and collected with a postage due stamp (1910 issue) cancelled at Basel on 3 January 1915.

Below: A cover to Switzerland franked at 25h with a 10h definitive stamp plus the 5h + 2h and 10h + 2h War Charity stamps of the 4 October 1914 issue of Austria; this charity issue was not valid for international mail, but no objection was raised here; machine-cancelled at Vienna on 16 February 1915; censored in Vienna; Zürich arrival back-stamp 18 February 1915.

Issues with price supplements for the benefit of victims of war and natural disasters

Above: A cover to Switzerland correctly franked with a 25f + 2f stamp of the 10 January 1915 war charity issue; cancelled at Matlasha on 17 July 1916; censored in transit at Budapest and again at Feldkirch; Thun arrival back-stamp of 31 July 1916.
Below: A registered cover to Germany franked at 51f (1f too much) with stamps of the 20 November 1913 Flood Relief Fund issue (each stamp with 2f charity supplement); cancelled at Köszeg on 21 April 1914; Berlin arrival back-stamp of 22 April 1914.

Russian commemorative issues overprinted in Turkish currency for use by the ROPIT Levant post offices

Above: The series of 9 stamps for the 50th Anniversary of the Russian Company of Steam Shipping and Trade "ROPIT", with values in Russian currency, was never issued in Russia, but only in the Levant on 10 May 1909 with Turkish currency overprints. A registered cover to England correctly franked with these stamps to 2 pi. (1 pi. postage + 1 pi. registration); cancelled at Mytilene on 2/15 September 1910; Paris, London and Manchester transit marks; Bury arrival back-stamp 20 September 1910.

Below: 17 stamps for the Tercentenary of the Romanov Dynasty were issued in Russia on 2 January 1913 and regularly used. They were issued in the Levant with Turkish currency overprints on 27 January 1913 but little used. This philatelic cover to Smyrna is over-franked with 8 these stamps cancelled at Mytilene on 13 June 1914; Smyrna arrival back-stamp 16 June 1914.

K. The special issues of all other countries 1899-1920 bvi. Liechtenstein (Austrian Post) 1918/1920

Two issues were made by Liechtenstein under Austrian Post: for 60th Jubilee and 80th Birthday of Prince

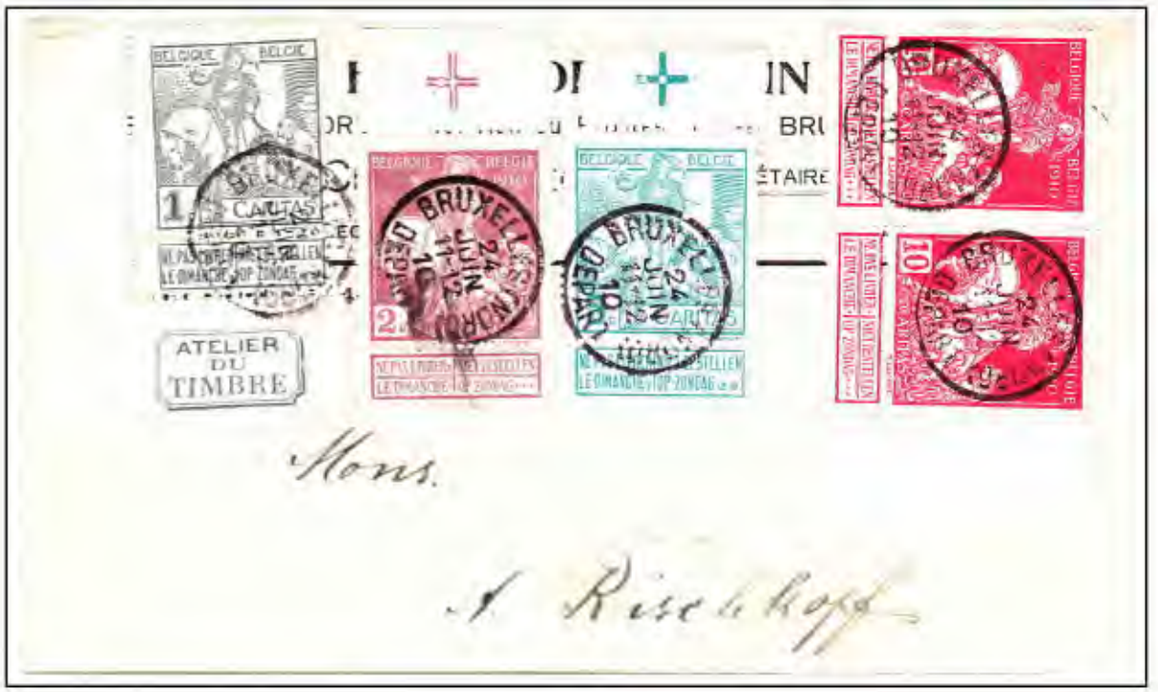
Above: A letter to Innsbruck franked with a 2k stamp of the 1920 80th Birthday issue at the inland rate (should have been the 80h inland rate); cancelled at Vaduz (date illegible but 80th Birthday stamp only valid from 5 October 1920 to 31 January 1921). Below: A envelope sent registered express to Bern franked at 1.10k (postage 25h + registration 25h + express 60h) with 2 x 5 h+ 5 x 20h (the 60th Jubilee stamp); cancelled at Vaduz on 6 January 1919; Bern arrival back-stamp 7 January 1919.

Commemoratives used as definitives: Sweden 5kr New Post Office 1903 and Iceland 4a Sigurdsson 1911

Above: A view-card to Germany correctly franked at 10 aur with stamps of the 1911 Sigurdsson issue (the 4 aur value was issued on 17 June 1911, the Birth Centenary of Jon Sigurdsson, the 5 other values in Nov./Dec. 1911, to be used as definitive stamps until 1917); cancelled at Reykjavik on 7 February 1914; ship letter transit mark of Troon, Scotland (recorded 1900-12).

Below: A letter of 72g to Russia insured for 18,056 gold frs; franked with definitives to Kr. 9.19 including the 5 Kr. stamp of the 1903 Post Office issue; cancelled at Eskilstuna on 5 July 1917; censored at St. Petersburg; Moscow arrival back-stamp 21 July.

Issues for Brussels and Charleroi exhibitions with 50% or 100% charity supplement and only inland validity



Above: Cover addressed to Germany franked only with stamps of the 1910 tuberculosis issue to 28c (over-franked by 3c); cancelled at Brussels on 24 June 1910; no Hannover arrival back-stamp, therefore possibly not travelled through the post.
Below: Registered cover to Germany correctly franked at 50c with definitive stamps; bearing stamps of the 1910 and 1911 tuberculosis issues which are not part of the franking; cancelled at Liege on 6 July 1911; Zwickau arrival back-stamp 7 July 1911

Issues with a 100% supplement for the Red Cross made during the Government's exile in France

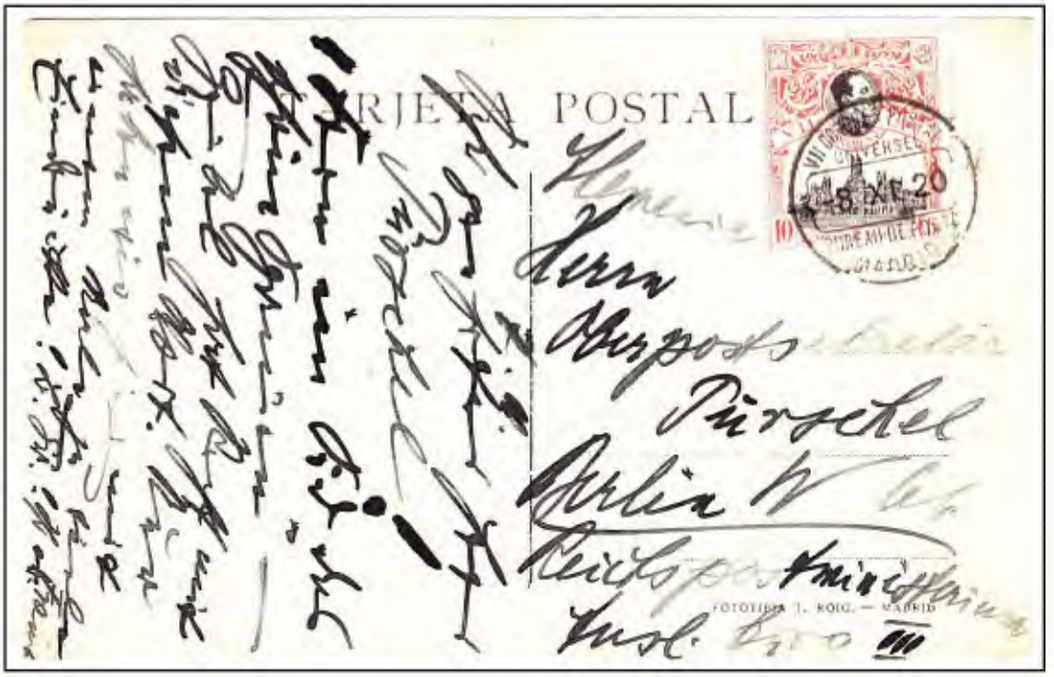
After the outbreak of the war, Belgium issued two sets of Red Cross stamps in Antwerp in October 1914. Two further sets were issued, in January 1915 and in January 1918, during the exile in Le Havre.

Above: Registered cover to China correctly franked at 45c with stamps of the 1915 definitive issue plus five 1c + 1c stamps of the 1918 Red Cross issue; cancelled at Ste. Adresse on 26 June 1918; Shanghai arrival back-stamp of 14 August 1918.

Below: An envelope to the French Embassy in Bucharest correctly franked with a 25c stamp (1915 definitive issue) and also bearing a 5c + 5c stamp of the 1915 Red Cross issue; cancelled as above on 14 November 1916; censored by France.

L. The 7th UPU Congress in Madrid **1 October to 30 November 1920**

Special stamps, post office and cancellations – resolution to rescind restrictions on special stamps



The special post office at the Congress was only available to delegates but the series of 13 stamps was on sale to the public.

Above: A view-card to Germany correctly franked with a 10c stamp of the UPU Congress issue; cancelled with the special Congress hand-stamp for ordinary mail on 8 November 1920.

Below: An official Delegate's registered cover to Italy correctly franked with a 50c stamp of the UPU Congress issue; cancelled with the special registration date-stamp of the Congress post office on 21 November 1920.