

The Prexies Turn 85: Hidden Gems • RPA Presentation • Thursday, May 11, 2023

1. Title
2. First day use, 4/25/38. Why returned to sender? House at address was built in 1931.
3. Last day of 2¢ local 1st class letter rate. 3/25/44.
4. Addressed to a German national civilian internee. 2/24/42.
5. Used for an absentee ballot, 1944 presidential election.
6. Sent to an undercover address for Manhattan Project at Los Alamos, NM. 3/12/45.
7. V-Mail letter sheet addressed to APO 464 in Italy. 6/11/45. Why was it not destroyed after transmission?
8. 1¢ transient 2nd class usage. 1943. The New York Sun Digest was a weekly collection of news articles, editorials, columns, recipes, etc., taken from The New York Sun daily newspaper.
9. 1¢ 3rd class bulk rate, private precancellation.
10. 1½¢ 3rd class bulk rate, private precancellation. 1½¢ rate went into effect 7/1/52.
11. 4¢ special 4th class book rate for first pound. 1946 docketing.
12. 2¢ merchandise per 2 ounces rate to Canada. Limit 8 ounces. January 1940 transit and receiving postmarks on reverse. Contained The Shadow Club membership badge. Cleared by Canadian customs duty free. The Shadow was a popular radio program at the time.
13. 3¢ PUAS letter rate to the Canary Islands, a Spanish possession. 2/10/39. Spanish Civil War Nationalist (Franco regime) censorship. The Canary Islands were under Nationalist control for the entire 1936-1939 Civil War.
14. 3¢ PUAS letter rate to Brazil. New York & Buenos Aires Sea Post usage. 7/13/41.
15. 30¢ total postage: USA to China via Victoria, BC, Canada. 6/12/39. Rate analysis: 5¢ first once surface rate to China + 6¢ per ounce air mail to Canada + 19¢ per half ounce surcharge for air mail within China.
16. 10¢ per half ounce airmail rate to Newfoundland. 9/28/39. Flown on last flight on FAM 18 norther route before wintertime suspension of service. When service resumed next spring the rate increased to 15¢.
17. 6¢ per half ounce US Armed Forces air mail rate. 5/4/42. Very unusual use of CANAL ZONE overprinted stamps.
18. Paquebot (packet boat) usage from the Panama Canal Zone to Iceland. 6/15/54. Forwarded to the Netherlands. 42¢ postage = double 21¢ per half ounce air mail rate from the Canal Zone to Europe.
19. Used from a Civilian Public Service camp for conscientious objectors. 7/15/44. 16¢ postage = double 8¢ per ounce domestic air mail rate. Approximately 12,000 men served in the CPS program 1941-1947 in lieu of military service. CPS Camp No. 134 near Belden, CA, was administered by the Church of the Brethren. The work done under the direction of the US Forest Service was mostly fire prevention and sometimes firefighting.
20. 6¢ per ounce air mail rate to Mexico. 7/26/58. Mexican 35 centavos special delivery stamp paid the special delivery fee.
21. Mailed in Mexico with US stamps. 4/9/47. Charged 2¢ US postage due. Unpaid amount doubled as a penalty.
22. Two US stamps accounted for 4¢ postage due on unpaid post card from Canada. Mailed 6/12/54. Manuscript cancellation of US stamps 6/16/54. Underpaid amount doubled as a penalty.
23. 1¢ certificate of mailing fee. 1/14/39.
24. 10¢ fee to change terms of a parcel sent COD. 3/12/46.

25. 10¢ fee for redemption of a Postal Savings certificate within 30 days of purchase. 6/9/54.
26. Cover sent at 3rd class rate found to contain writing. 12/22/43. Rerated to 3¢ 1st class rate and charged 1½¢ postage due. Uncanceled ½¢ stamp given as change for 2¢. The US last minted ½¢ coins in 1857.
27. 10¢ per half ounce air mail rate to Cuba. 5/18/39. Addressed to a Jewish passenger aboard the MS Saint Louis who was denied permission to land in Cuba. Of the 937 passengers aboard, only 28 were allowed to disembark in Havana. 288 were later admitted to the UK. The remainder were sent back to continental Europe. The addressee made his way to Shanghai, China, where he died in 1940 of natural causes.
28. 5¢ first ounce letter rate to Germany. 3/16/40. Intercepted by the British en route and held until 1946, after the war ended.
29. 70¢ per half ounce air mail rate to China. 12/4/41. Flown on the Pan Am Anzac Clipper. The plane was approaching Hawaii on Morning of 12/7/41. Diverted from Honolulu to Hilo. Service west of Hawaii was suspended. Mail removed, censored, and eventually returned to senders.
30. Mailed aboard the USS Houston in the Philippines on 12/6/41. 50¢ postage would have paid the air mail rate to the USA. Naval ship was ordered to proceed to Australia. Meanwhile, the Pan Am Pacific Clipper had left Auckland, New Zealand, on the morning of 12/8/41, en route to Hawaii and then on to California. It was ordered to return to Auckland, where it was decided to reach the USA by going west.
31. The Pacific Clipper made many intermediate stops after leaving Auckland, including two in Australia. It finally arrived at New York – LaGuardia Airport on 1/6/42. While in Australia it picked up mail from the USS Houston, including the article shown. Since the rate between the USA and Australia was 70¢ per half ounce, it was charged 20¢ postage due. The USS Houston was lost in the Battle of Sunda Strait on 3/1/42. Of the 1,061 men aboard, only 368 survived, and 77 of those died in Japanese captivity.
32. Double 10¢ per half ounce air mail rate to Haiti. 8/24/43. Returned to sender by censor.
33. 5¢ first ounce rate to Iran, then under joint British–Soviet occupation. 12/13/44.
34. 15¢ per half ounce air mail rate to Germany. 1/20/49. Flown on Berlin Airlift. 1/24/49 receiving postmark.
35. 15¢ per half ounce air mail rate to Egypt. 3/4/49. Forwarded within Egypt from Alexandria to Suez. Censorship marking from First Arab–Israeli War.
36. 25¢ per half ounce air mail rate to Israel. 9/15/50. Flight from Rome to Tel Aviv made emergency landing in Egypt. Mail removed and censored by Egyptian authorities, a process that took up to 6 months.
37. 25¢ air mail rate to Iraq, carried outside the mail in diplomatic pouch. Undated. Scholar, author, and diplomatic Philip Willard Ireland served in Iraq 1951–1955.
38. 3¢ letter rate from APO 317 in Japan to APO 201 in Korea. 7/20/51. The writer and the addressee, Laura Virginia Cumming, R.N., and Rev. Dr. Bruce A. Cumming, respectively, had been Presbyterian missionaries in Korea since 1927, although they spent World War II in the United States. With the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, she was evacuated to Japan, while he joined the US Army as a chaplain.
39. 8¢ first ounce letter rate to Austria from a New Zealand Army Post Office in Korea. 3/26/54.
40. First day of the 4¢ per ounce letter rate. 8/1/58.
41. 7¢ per ounce air mail letter rate. 10/24/58.
42. 4½¢ per ounce 3rd class rate for 3 ounces. Undated. Rate ink effect 1958–1963.
43. 50¢ postage = double 25¢ per half ounce air mail rate to Pitcairn Island. 7/27/59. Air mail went to New Zealand. Transport to Pitcairn Island was by ship.
44. 4½¢ per ounce 3rd class rate for 3 ounces. Year date only: 1961.
45. 25¢ per half ounce air mail rate to Australia. 2/27/70. ZIP Code 06450 in postmark.