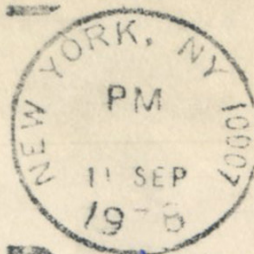


# **'A' TO 'H' NON- DENOMINATED U.S. STAMPS USED TO AND IN BERMUDA**

**HORST AUGUSTINOVIC**

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1978, the postage rate for domestic U.S. letters was increased from 13¢ to 15¢ and the USPS produced non-denominated 'A' stamps for domestic use. Although UPU rules of the time required stamps used on international mail to show a figure denomination and that non-denominated stamps were only to be used on domestic mail, 'A' stamps showed up on mail to Bermuda very quickly and were also used by U.S. military personnel to pay local utility bills.

NOV 6 - 1978



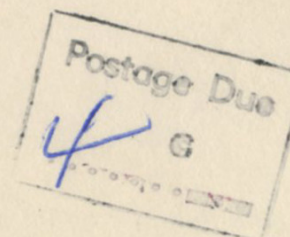
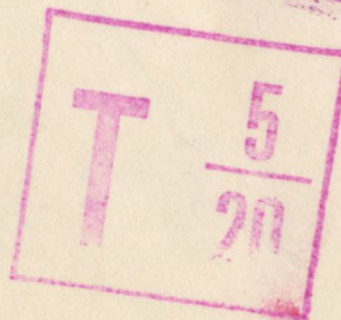
Teleword No 9

P O Box 902

Hamilton

Bermuda

POSTAGE DUE

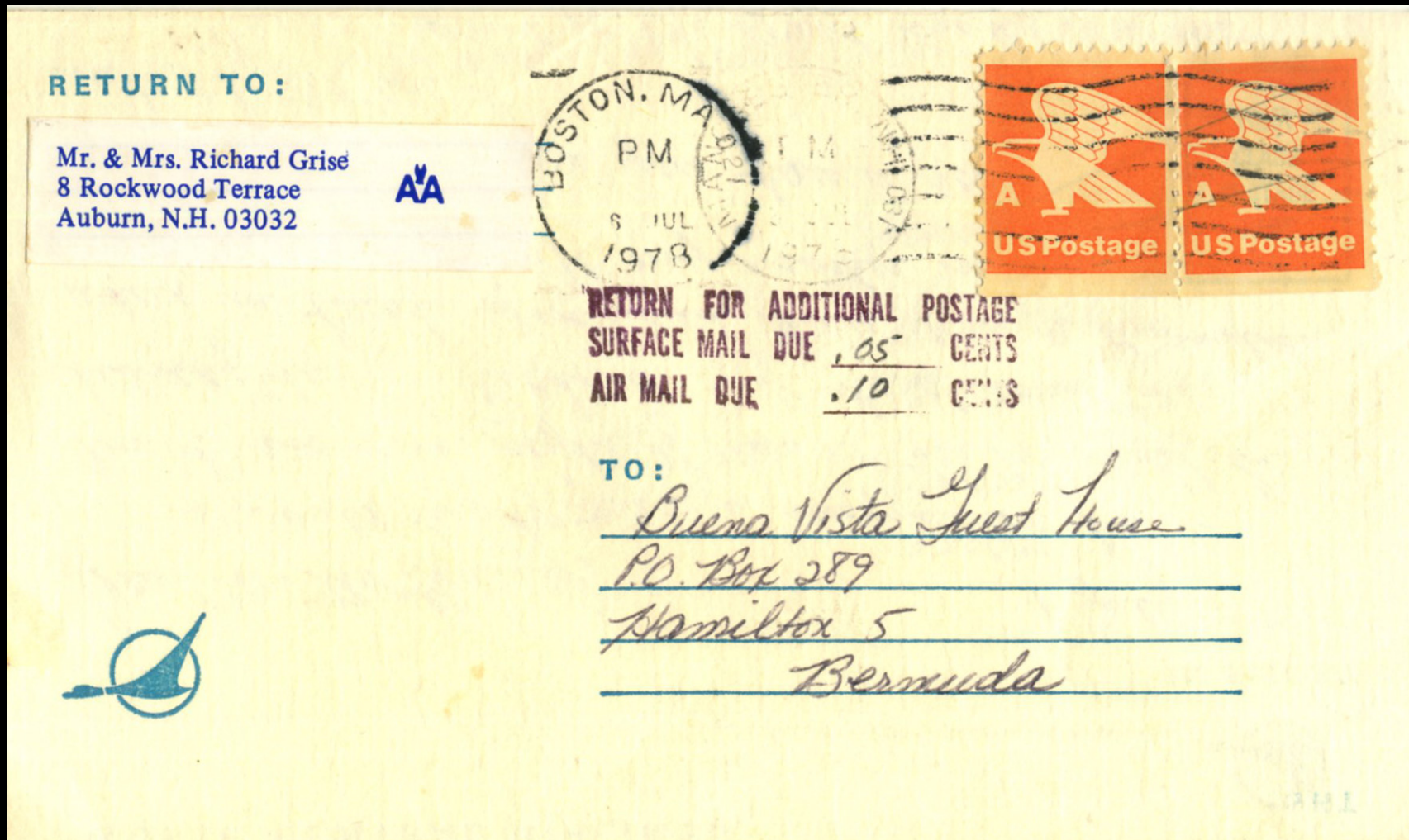


In 1978 the surface mail postage rate to Bermuda was 20¢.

The New York Post Office accepted the 'A' stamp at the 15¢ value and indicated the postage due at 5¢.

Bermuda should have doubled that to 10¢ postage due but decided to only collect 4¢.





This cover mailed in Boston is interesting as it shows the additional postage required for both surface and airmail to Bermuda – surface was 20¢ and airmail 25¢ at the time. Obviously the additional 'A' stamp covered both surface and airmail, although technically both stamps were invalid for use to Bermuda.



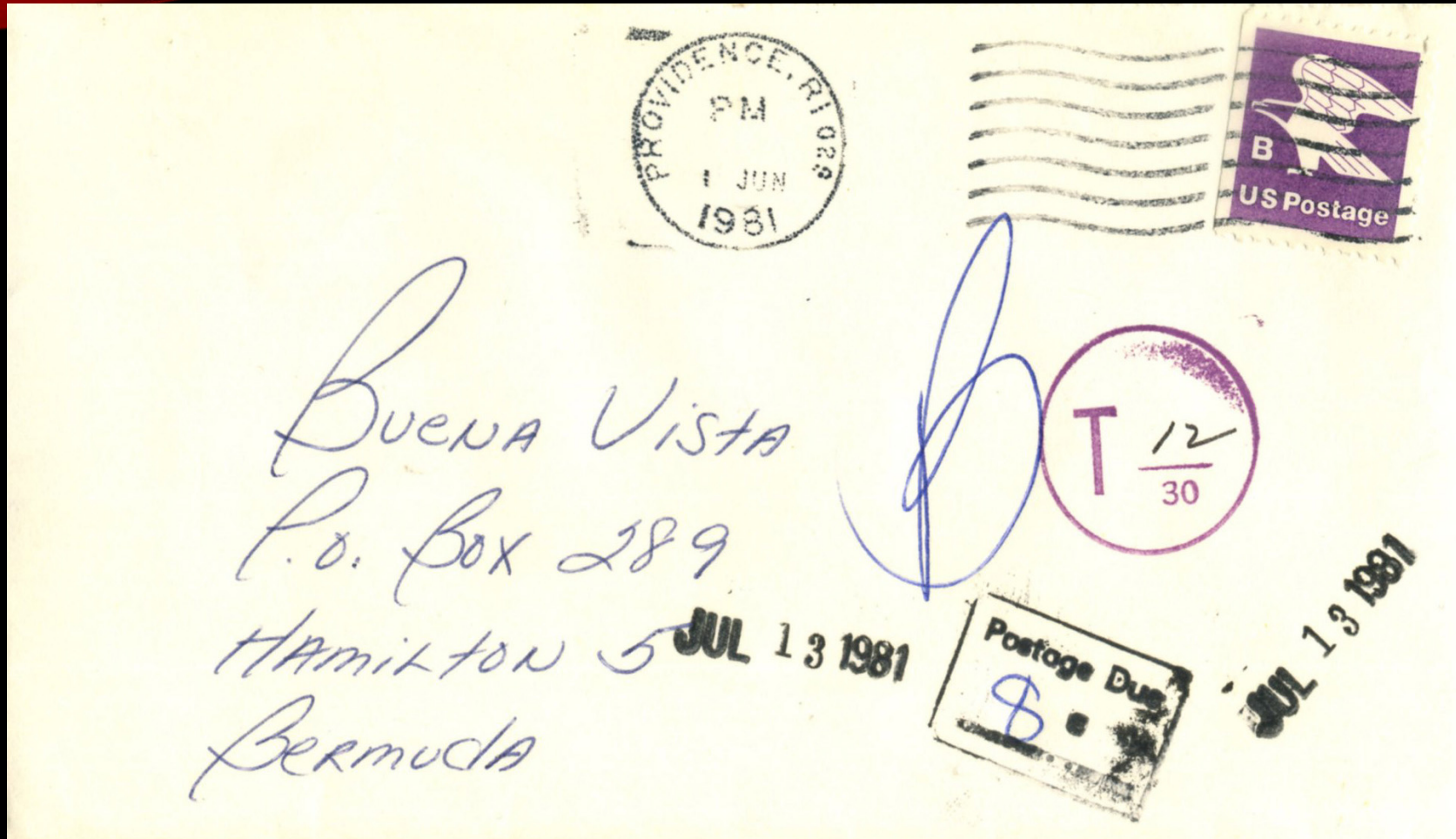
AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO  
SHARON L. KELLY  
PO Box 2342  
FPO New York 09560  
 UNITED STATES NAVY



Bermuda Electric Light Co. LTD  
 PO Box 1026  
 Hamilton 5



It was inevitable that the domestic 'A' stamp would be used by members of the U.S. military paying their local utility bills. Interestingly the U.S. Navy post office did not use their regular datestamp, but a smudge to cancel the stamp.



'B' stamps were issued on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1981, when the U.S. letter rate was increased to 18¢.

The airmail rate to Bermuda was now 30¢ and the postage therefore short by 12¢, notwithstanding the fact that the stamp was technically invalid.

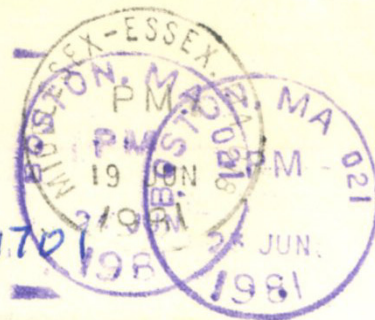
Bermuda could have charged 24¢ postage due, but only charged 8¢.





Mailed at the FPO 09560 Unit 1 in Southampton, the 30¢ postage rate was obviously short by 12¢ and the Bermuda Post Office could have charged 24¢ postage due, but again only charged 8¢.

G. Yates  
 23 Crest Rd.  
 Frammingham, Mass. 01701  
 U.S.A.



Buena Vista Guest House  
 P.O. Box 289  
 Hamilton 5, Bermuda

RETURN FOR ADDITIONAL POSTAGE  
 SURFACE DUE 12 CENTS OR  
 AIR MAIL DUE 17 CENTS

This cover shows the additional postage required for both surface and airmail to Bermuda – surface was now 30¢ and airmail 35¢.

The additional 'B' stamp covered both surface and airmail, although technically both stamps were invalid for use to Bermuda



GRAPHIC SPECIALTIES  
5281 Manhasset Cove  
Fort Lauderdale FL 333

ISLAND PRESS LIMITED  
ELLIOT STREET  
HAMILTON  
BERMUDA

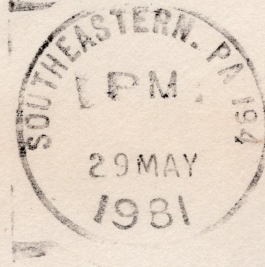


RETURN TO SENDER  
DOUBLE PANEL ENU NOT PERMITTED  
IN INTL. MAIL-PM221-321B

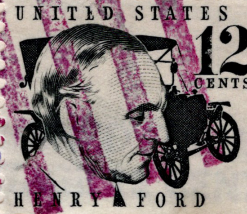
The Fort Lauderdale post office had no problem with the sender using an invalid 'B' stamp worth only 18¢, but objected to the use of the double panel window envelope.



Joyce Beck  
 1575 College Ave  
 Crook Pa. 19426



RET.  
 POS



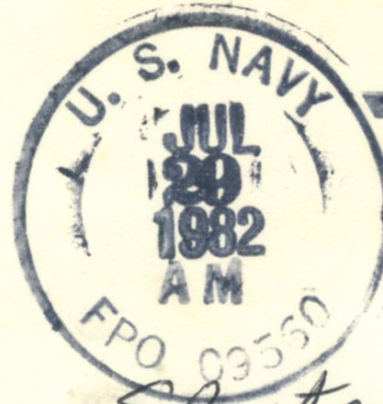
ADDITIONAL  
 \$

Bermuda Telephone Company  
 P.O. Box 1021 Cedar Ave.  
 Hamilton 5 Bermuda

In this case the U.S. Post Office did return the letter to the sender for the additional 12¢ postage that was required, but ignored the fact that the stamp was valid for domestic use only.



P.O. Box 1342  
USNAS  
09560



Bermuda Electric Co.  
P.O. Box 1026  
Hamilton 5, Bermuda

With the addition of 'Domestic Mail', 'C' stamps were issued on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1981, when the U.S. domestic letter rate increased to 20¢.

This letter was mailed at the U.S. Navy's FPO 09560 in St. David's.



Horst R. Augustinovic  
Island Press Limited  
Victoria Street,  
Hamilton - Bermuda

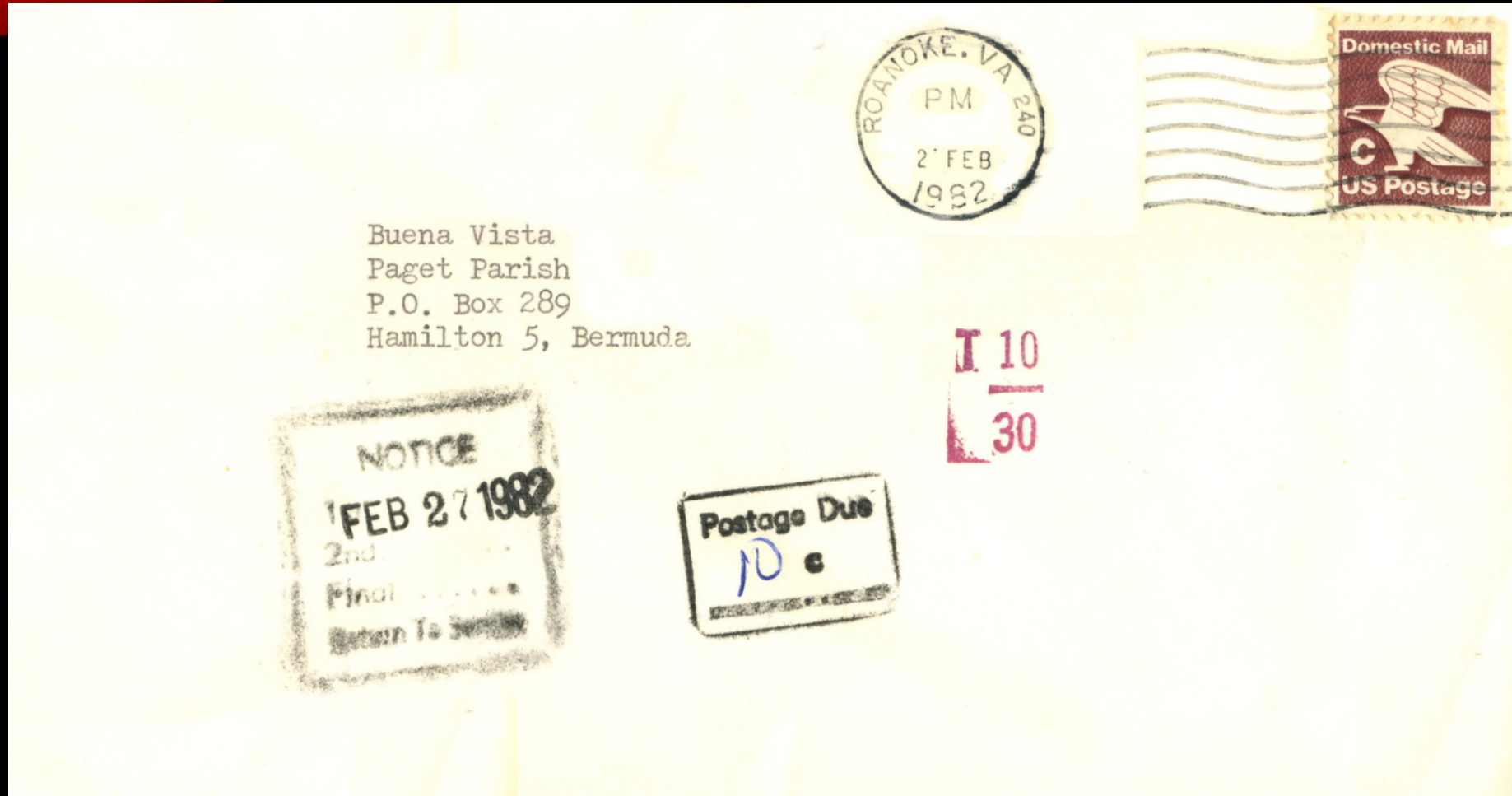


POSTAGE AND FEES PAID

My mother had no problem mailing this letter in Milwaukee, the Post Office even confirming that Postage and Fees were paid.

But the Post Office did not identify itself and instead used a killer cancellation instead of a proper date stamp.





With the domestic 'C' stamp valued at 20¢, the postage was 10¢ short of the required 30¢ postage to Bermuda.

The Bermuda Post Office could have doubled the deficiency, but did not.





Mailed at the U.S. Navy's Unit 1 in Southampton, this letter was 10¢ short of the required 30¢ postage for Bermuda.

In this case the sender used another 'C' stamp worth 20¢ to make up the shortage

JAMES P. BROWN  
7 STONE HOLLOW WAY  
ARMONK, N.Y.  
10504



Bermuda Electric Light Co., Ltd  
Serpentine Rd.  
Pembroke  
Bermuda

'D' stamps were introduced on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1985, when the U.S. domestic letter rate was increased to 22¢.

Westchester, NY, seemed to be o.k. with a 'Domestic Mail' stamp used on international mail.



TILMAN STRAHAN  
 PO BOX 3231  
 USNAS ANNEY  
 FPO N.Y. N.Y. 09560

BERMUDA TELEPHONE  
 P.O. BOX 1021  
HAMILTON 5  
ATT. MR. WOOLLARD



8¢  
 more  
 postage

If this letter had been mailed with the 22¢ 'D' stamp when the postage rate to Bermuda was 30¢, the letter would have been 8¢ short of postage.

However, the postage rate had increased on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 1985, to 33¢ and was therefore mis-rated by the FPO 09560 in Southampton.



Patricia Reading  
 P.O. Box 2367  
 NAS Bermuda  
 FPO N.Y. N.Y. 09560

Additional 44c  
 postage  
 required

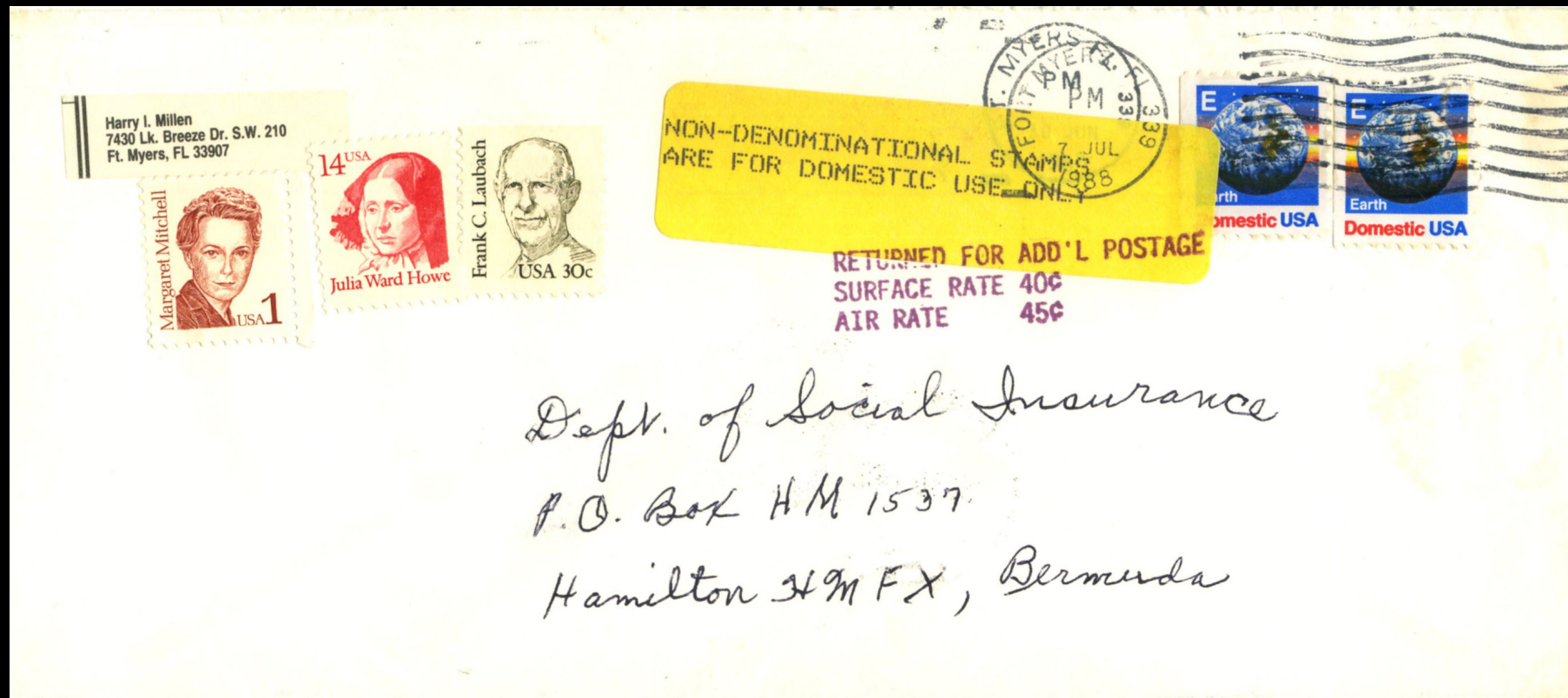
Belco Electric  
 Light Co  
 Bermuda Hamilton 5



In August 1986 the U.S. Navy Post Office did not accept the 22¢ Domestic Mail 'C' stamp and returned the letter for 44¢ postage.

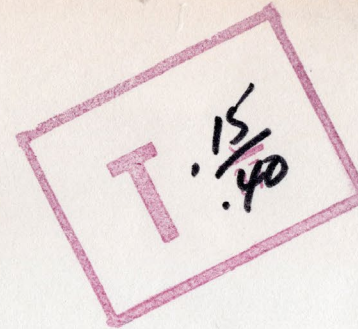
The sender obviously decided to mail it at the local Bermuda rate of 15¢ instead.





When 'E' stamps were issued on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1988, to accommodate the rate change to 25¢, the design of the stamps was totally changed. The Ft. Myers Post Office spelled out the policy and the sender added \$1.44 in postage. Why is a mystery. The Post Office in turn did not bother to cancel the stamps.

Lina Lee  
Sells Star Route Box 279  
Tucson, AZ 85735



MRS. BOBBE CAUCHI  
P.O. Box HM 83  
HAMILTON HM AX  
BERMUDA

The Tucson Post Office accepted the 'Domestic USA' stamp at its 25¢ value and correctly taxed the letter 15¢ postage due to make up the 40¢ surface mail rate to Bermuda.

Unfortunately, the Bermuda Post Office did not bother to collect the postage due.



D WILLIAMS  
58 MY LORD'S BAY RD.  
HAMILTON, CROZ

BERMUDA TELEPHONE CO LTD  
P.O. BOX HM 1021  
HAMILTON, HM DX

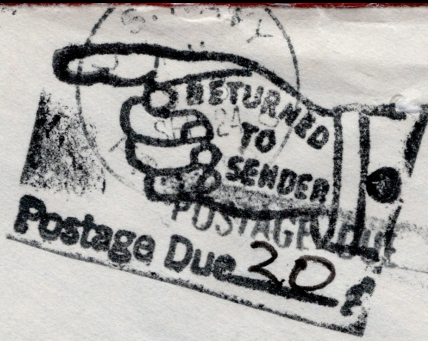


Domestic  
only

Although the first 25¢ 'E' stamp was rejected, the sender used a second one to cover the 45¢ rate, even though the stamps were improperly used on non-domestic mail. Two wrongs can apparently make a right.



Dianna Thompson  
 P.O. Box 2962  
 U.S. NAS  
 ST. DAVIDS, DD GD



Bermuda Electric Company Ltd.  
 P.O. Box Hm 1026  
 HAMILTON, HM DX

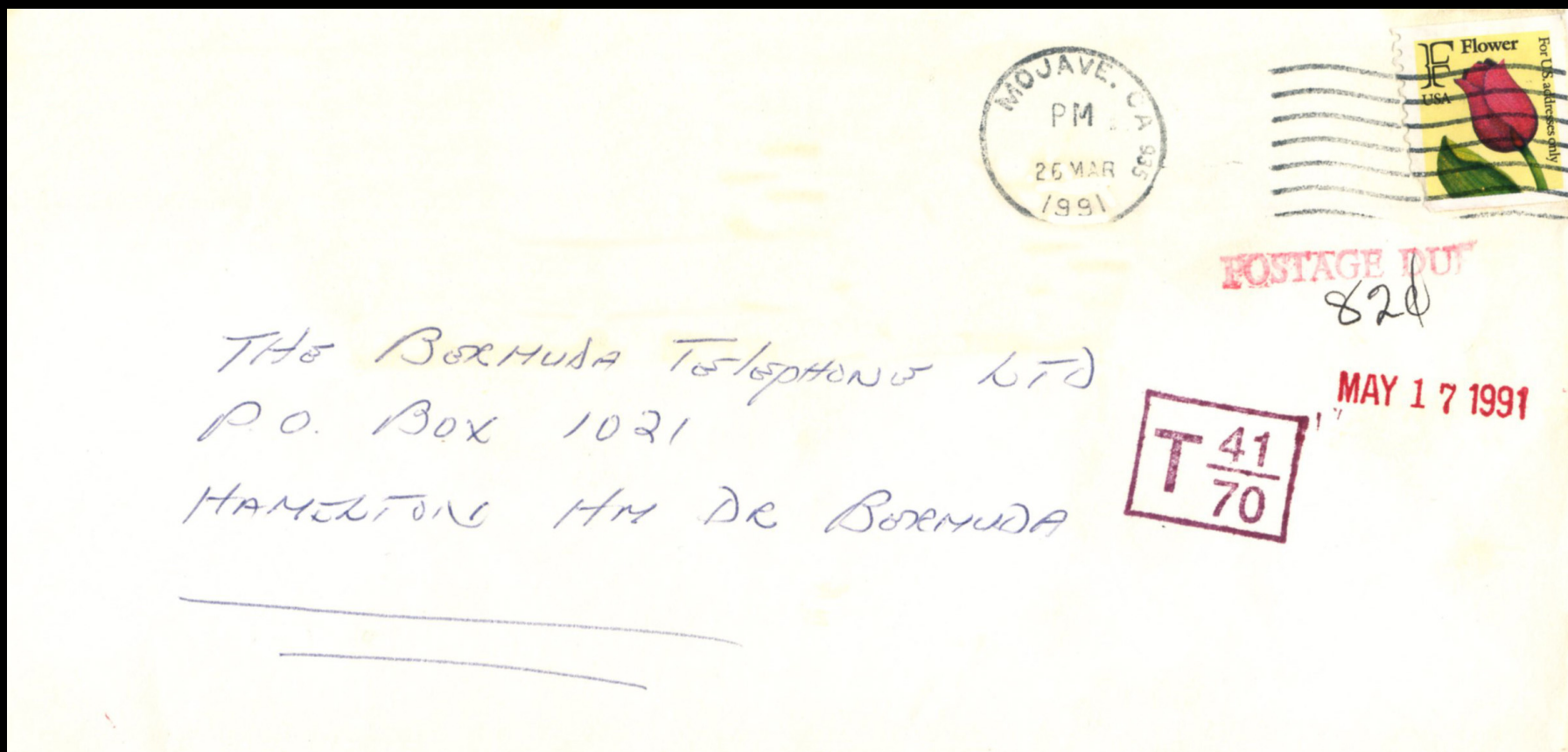
This letter was returned to the sender for an additional 20¢ in postage which was overpaid 5¢ with the 25¢ stamp.

In 1991 the airmail rate to Bermuda was 50¢ and would have been covered by two 25¢ 'E' stamps. How was the postage due calculated at 20¢?





On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1991, 'F' stamps were issued when the domestic U.S. rate changed to 29¢. The U.S. Navy Post Office rejected the 'F' stamps although they would have covered the 50¢ rate, and the sender mailed the letter through the Bermuda Post Office instead.



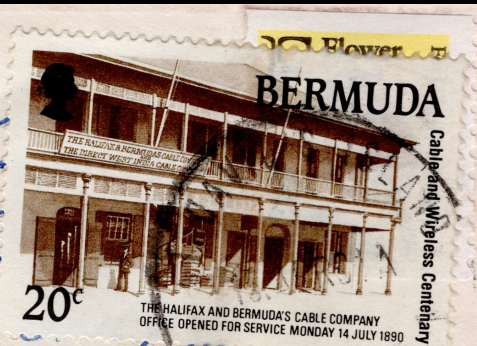
The airmail rate to Bermuda was 50¢ in 1991. It may have been a double-weight letter as the Mojave Post Office indicated postage as 70¢ and, allowing 29¢ for the 'F' stamp, the postage due as 41¢. The Bermuda Post Office correctly charged 82¢ – double the deficiency.



G Ashwell  
 NASBDA  
 BOX 1473  
 FPO NY NY 09500

BELCO  
 PO BOX HM 1026  
 Hamilton HM DX

"F"  
 NOT  
 FOR  
 USE  
 STATE SIDE



In this case the 'F' stamp was not accepted by the U.S. Navy Post Office, and it was pointed out that the stamps were only valid for domestic use. Rather than mail the letter at the 50¢ overseas rate, the sender decided to mail it at the local rate of 20¢ in St. David's.



ROBERT PAYNTER  
USNAS  
P.O. BOX 1436  
FPO N.Y. 09560



BERMUDA ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY LIMITED  
P.O. BOX HM 1026, HAMILTON HM DX

The U.S. Navy returned this letter to the sender for additional postage. The sender added the 25¢ stamp, however, it seems that the letter was then sent to New York in error.



D Brown  
 P.O. Box 2336  
 FPO NY 09560



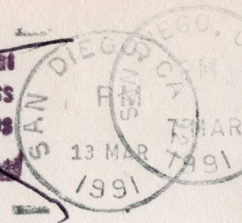
Belco  
 P.O. Box HM 1026  
 Hamilton, HM DX  
 Bermuda

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1991, when 'F' stamps were issued for the domestic rate change to 29¢, the USPS also issued a stamp valued at 4¢ to make up the 4¢ increase in the domestic letter rate.

One of these 'make-up' stamps was used on this letter to cover the 50¢ airmail rate in effect at the time.

Mozley  
HSL-33 NAS  
North Island CA  
92135

Returned for <sup>21¢</sup> Additional  
postage. When remailing, cross  
out this notice or paste stamps  
over it.



Bermuda Telephone Co Ltd  
PO Box HM 1024  
Hamilton Bermuda HM DX

The sender of this letter used a 4¢ make-up stamp to comply with the domestic letter rate increase to 29¢, however, he still had to pay an additional 21¢ towards the 50¢ airmail rate to Bermuda, which he did correctly.



Coleenworthy  
174 OLD POST RD  
FAIRFIELD, CT 06430



The Bermuda Telephone Co. LTD  
P.O. Box HM 1021  
Hamilton HM DX Bermuda

The 'G' stamp was issued on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1994, when the domestic letter rate increased to 32¢.

Restriction to use non-denominated stamps on international mail was lifted in 1995 and the 64¢ value of the two 'G' stamps more than covered the 50¢ airmail rate to Bermuda.



P.O. Box 63001  
Tampa, Florida 33663-3001

HORST AUGUSTINOVIC  
P.O. BOX HM 937  
HAMILTON HM DX  
BERMUDA



'H', the final stamp in the 'alphabet series', was issued on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999, when the U.S. domestic letter rate increased to 33¢. The U.S. Post Office now accepted non-denominated stamps on international mail and as the U.S. military had left Bermuda in 1995, it made collecting examples of this mail far less interesting.