

Magnify March 1979

ADVICE OF DELIVERY" - REGISTERED MAIL POSTED IN RHODESIA

by H.C. Russell

Do you know that the Post Office provide a service whereby you, as the sender of registered mail, may have proof of the addressee receiving the registered article?

How does the service operate?

The service is limited to Registered Articles and requires the use of a special card a "P203" card printed in English/French

RHODESIE		P. 203	
ADVICE OF DELIVERY <i>Avis de Reception</i>		C5	
ON POSTAL SERVICE <i>Service des Postes</i>		Stamp of the office returning the advice	
			
		<i>Timbre du bureau renvoyant l'avis</i>	
To be filled in by the sender, giving his address for the return of this advice. If the advice is to be returned by air, endorse very clearly "Renvoi par avion" and affix a blue label. <i>A remplir par l'expediteur qui indiquera son adresse pour le renvoi du present avis. Si l'avis doit etre renvoye par avion, le revetir de la mention tres apparente "Renvoi par avion" et de l'etiquette de couleur bleue "Par Avion".</i>			
		Name <i>Nom</i>	
		Street and No. <i>Rue et No.</i>	
		Locality <i>Localite</i>	
		Country <i>Pays</i>	

Figure 1

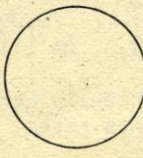
To be filled in by the office of origin <i>A remplir par le bureau d'origine</i>	Registered Item <i>Envoi recommande</i>	Letter ☐ <i>Lettre</i>	Printed paper ☐ <i>Imprime</i>	☐
	Insured parcel <i>Colis avec valeur declaree</i> ☐			
	Office of posting <i>Bureau de depot</i>	No. _____	Date of Posting <i>Date de depot</i>	_____
	Name of addressee <i>Nom du destinataire</i>			
	Street and No. <i>Rue et No.</i>		Locality and Country <i>Localite et pays</i>	
	This advice must be signed by the addressee or by a person authorized to do so under the regulations of the country of destination or, if these regulations permit, by the official of the office of destination, and returned by the first mail direct to the sender. <i>Cet avis doit etre signe par le destinataire ou par une personne y autorisee en vertu des reglements du Pays destination, ou, si ces reglements le comportent, par l'agent du bureau de destination, et renvoye par, le premier courrier directement a l'expediteur</i>			
	Stamp of the office of destination <i>Timbre du bureau de destination</i>			
				
	The item mentioned above has been duly delivered <i>L'envoi mentionne ci-dessus a ete dument livre</i>			
	Date <i>Date</i>	Signature of addressee <i>Signature du destinataire</i>	Signature of official <i>Signature de l'agent</i>	

Figure 2

An additional fee, at present 10c, is affixed in stamps to the registered article. The pink card is completed and attached with the use of a staple to the registered article. This is detached at point of delivery when the addressee acknowledges receipt by signing the advice. The card is date stamped at the office of destination and returned through the post to the sender.

How should this material be collected?

This type of material is not seen often and may have been unnoticed or bypassed because it has not been recognised for what it really is. The material - consisting of a “certificate of posting”, the registered article to which the postage stamps and fees are attached and the P203 card - fall neatly into two categories.

- (a) Unclaimed mail (which is endorsed and returned), and
- (b) Accepted mail (where only the P203 is returned signed].

General comments

The reason for using the service may vary from the exchanging of important personal news, such as the death of a relative, to the necessity to prove within reason that an individual, who may owe a debt, has been traced.

The effectiveness of the service relies heavily upon the trustworthiness, efficiency and co-operation of the postal officials who provide the service.

Examples

Registered mail during the 1941-1958 period shows that the additional “fee” was represented by the value in postage stamps and those were attached to the advice of delivery/reception card. During 1962 period there were occasions when the stamps were fixed to the card but more often they were attached to the registered article. In later years the stamps or “fee” was always attached to the registered mail. The reason for the change is not known but seems to be the result of a postal directive.

The early cards are most fascinating to study because quantity and dates of printing are incorporated in the card, for example:

Item	Quantity	Date	Remarks	Fee
a	10,000	22.7.32	Still in use 1941	3d
b.	5,000	9.10.39	Printed at the outbreak of World War; Still in use 1945	3d
c.	G.P. S. S. - D189		Used 1952	4d
d	? White Card Southern Rhodesia.		Used 1958	6d
e.	? Pink Card Rhodesia-Nyasaland		Used 1957 - 1962	6d
f.	75,000	31.6.65	Rhodesia. Still in use 1978	?
g.	As illustrated		Rhodesie	10c

Hopefully other postal history collectors will be able to add details to these notes.

Magnify May 1978

Advice of Delivery: Registered Mail

By P. Mavros

As we have come to expect, Mr. Russell's recent forays into the byways of the Rhodesian postal system, have come up with yet another model of research and have brought to our attention, in his most interesting article in "Magnify" of March, this curious and little known aspect of our postal service, and postal history, with much information which was previously unknown to most collectors.

In accordance with his closing suggestion, I add a few notes - gleaned from similar items. I may say for a start that I had thought this service had been abandoned long ago, and was surprised to find it was still available. Mr. Russell has also disabused me of my previous notion that these cards represented an enquiry by the sender some time after despatch, when doubt may have arisen as to the receipt of the registered article, and this method was used for tracing and confirmation.

The earliest card I have was used on 22nd March 1931, though the card itself was printed in 1929. As Mr. Russell points out, print details are incorporated on the card, and on this one, we learn that 10,000 were printed on 7th August 1929. The service must have been well patronised, as another card indicates a printing of 10,000 (where have they all gone?) on 22nd July 1932. It would be interesting to know if an earlier printing than 1929 exists. These cards are white, standard postcard size, and smaller than those illustrated by Mr. Russell though the information printed on them is much the same and the fee for the service was 3d.** One notes that the earlier cards are titled "Acknowledgement of Receipt" in contrast to "Advice of Delivery" on later ones.

The most intriguing aspect is that the S. Rhodesian stamps were actually cancelled at the office of delivery and thus come within the "Used Abroad" category - though not in the sense in which "Used Abroad" is generally understood - and we can find S. Rhodesian stamps legitimately used with, for example, cancellations of Lucerne in Switzerland, and Lwow in Russia. On another example, the delivering office, Mlada Boleslav in Czechoslovakia failed - alas - to cancel the 3d stamp, and this was done on the card's return to Gwelo. It may be argued of course that the stamps were not actually paying return postage but were merely a fee for service, coincidentally acquiring a foreign cancellation, and in later years - 1962 onwards - were affixed to the registered item itself, and therefore cancelled at the office of origin.

** represented by a 3d stamp affixed to the card.

The ultimate, demonstration of course, would be a "Matched Pair": the "Acknowledgement of Receipt" card married to the registered item which it originally accompanied, though I have never seen such a pairing. (This refers to earlier material - it would be quite feasible now deliberately to arrange and obtain such a matching). Certainly, though they escaped attention - or perhaps because they escaped attention - these cards are now rare and desirable items.

The accompanying reproductions of cards illustrate these various points.

(1) Nature of the article (letter, sample, print, etc.).
Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.).

(2) Office of origin; date of posting at that office; No. of registration at that office.
Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; No. d'enregistrement au même bureau.

(3) Note.—This acknowledgment must be signed by the addressee, or, if the regulations of the country of destination permit, by the delivering officer, and then returned directly by the first mail to the address shown hereon.

Note.—Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur et renvoyé en suite par le premier courrier directement à l'adresse indiquée au recto.

1890—10 000.7.8.29

Acknowledgment of Receipt
 Avis de Réception.



Mr
 P. Falk
 P. O. Box 27
 Gwelo.

S. Rhodesia.
 Rhodesia du Sud.

Southern Rhodesia
 Rhodesia du Sud.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT.
 AVIS DE RÉCEPTION.

C

of a registered article
 d'un objet recommandé

Letter
 under No.
 sous le No.

(1) entered at the office of
 enregistré au bureau

(2) and addressed to
 et adressé à M.

the } 22/3/1931
 le }
 Gwelo

at }
 à }
 Gwelo

Gwelo S.R.
 Josef Nepedly
 (Moravia)
 Europe

The undersigned declares that a registered article to the above-mentioned address and originating
 Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionnée et provenant
 at } Gwelo Buloh has been duly delivered on the 15/IV 1931
 de } a été dûment livré le



of the addressee:
 du destinataire:

Josef Nepedly

Signature



to the delivering officer:
 au distributeur

Chiswick
 P.T.O.
 Your name

S. Rhodesia.
Rhodesia du Sud.

Nota. — Cet avis doit être signé par le distributeur ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le requièrent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur et visé par le premier courrier directement à l'adresse, inscrite au recto.

C

of a registered article } *Letter* (1) entered at the office of } *Jewels*
d'un objet réprimandé } *registré au bureau de*
the } *19th June 1931* under No. *1421* (2) and addressed to } *Mr E. Schuler*
le } *sous le No.* *et adressé à M.*
Ala Heimlich at *Luzerne (Switzerland)* *Luzern*
à *Schwenen*

The undersigned declares that a registered article to the above-mentioned address and originating
Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionnée et provenant
de } has been duly delivered on the 19.....
a été dûment livré le

P.T.O.
Voir recto.

200-10,000.22

3-CAG

Acknowledgment of
Avis de Réception

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

MR LEO SILVER

P.O. Box 452,

BULAWAYO

Via registered

S. Rhodesia.
Rhodesia du Sud.

(1) Nature of the article (letter, sample, print, etc.).
Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.).

(2) Office of origin; date of posting at that office; No. of registration at that office.
Bureau d'origine; date de dépôt à ce bureau; No. d'enregistrement au même bureau.

(3) Note.—This acknowledgment must be signed by the addressee, or, if the regulations of the country of destination permit, by the delivering officer, and then returned directly by the first mail to the address shown hereon.
Note.—Ce avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau distributeur et renvoyé en suite par le premier courrier directement à l'adresse indiquée au recto.

Southern Rhodesia.
Rhodesia du Sud.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT.
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION.

of a registered article } letter (1) entered at the office of } Bulawayo
d'un objet recommandé } enregistré au bureau de }

the } 26.IV.1940 under No. } 6174 (2) and addressed to } A. Zylbersztrak
le } sous le No. } et adressé à M. }

u Pekiera at } L. W. Ó w, Szajnocha No. 6. U.S.S.R.
à }

The undersigned declares that a registered article to the above-mentioned address and originating
Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionnée et provenant

at } 31.5.1940 has been duly delivered on the } 31.5. 1940
de } a été dûment livré le }

Signature (3) *A. Zylbersztrak*
Signature of the delivering officer
de l'agent du bureau distributeur

of the addressee:
du destinataire:

Stamp of the office of delivery.
Thésire du bureau distributeur.

P.T.O.
Voir recto.

1940