

A Message-Reply Card Used as an Envelope

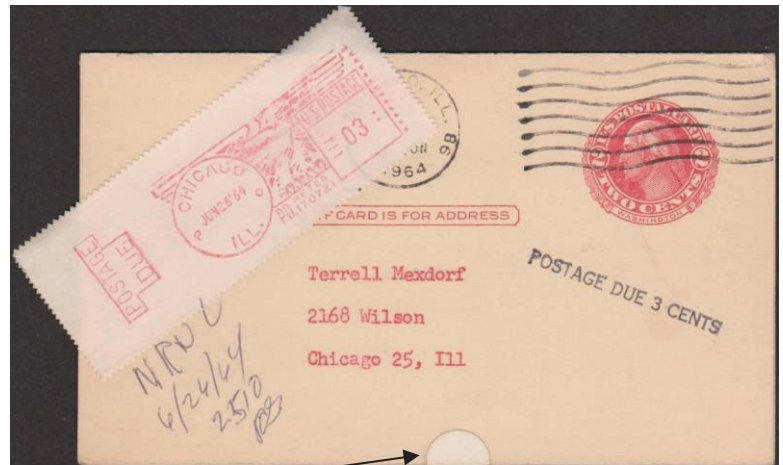
By Patrick Crosby

The common Scott UY13 2¢ double postal card was issued because of a 1952 postage rate increase, but the featured card was not used until 1964 when the card rate was 4¢ for domestically used cards. However, this double card was used as an envelope to send an insert and therefore required the letter rate postage of 5¢. The Chicago, IL, post office marked the card “Postage Due 3 Cents” and held the card for two days before a Pitney Bowes 3¢ “Postage Due” meter label was paid for and applied at the post office. It’s surprising that the label’s corners were never bent over when delivered and have survived through collectors’ hands.

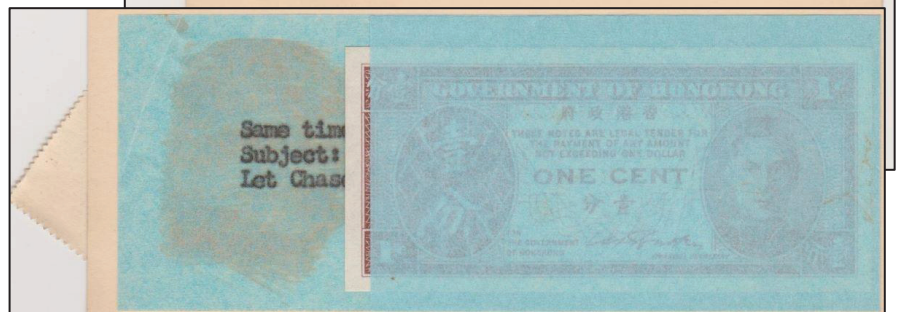
The small seal at the bottom of the card to hold the halves together was discouraged by the USPOD but allowed. The idea was for post office clerks to easily inspect between the cards and the seal made it a bit harder. When they did look, they found an unusual enclosure – a folded tissue paper with a typed message partially glued to the card, then a One Cent Government of Hongkong (sic) banknote slipped inside an opening. The currency states that it is “...Legal Tender for the Payment of Any Amount Not Exceeding One Dollar.” The fractional currency c.1945 features King George VI and is, as always, blank on the reverse and not worth much then or now.

The typed message on the tissue paper reads: “Same time – same place – July 2nd. / Subject: 2nd chapter of Willetts – Jude / Let Chase know about dinner.” The dated pen notation below the meter label could be a postal control marking with initials. What about the 2¢ stamp on the blank reply half? It could not be applied towards the original mailing, but if desired could be separated and used as a reply or single card. I’m glad it wasn’t.

Patrick Crosby is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society and collects U.S. postal stationery, stamps and postcards with an emphasis on postal history.



Folded Message-Reply card as sent through the mail.



Close-up of enclosure inside the folded card.