

17. Okt. 2020

ANTWORTKARTEN IM INTERNATIONALEN POSTVERKEHR: VON DEN ERSTEN KARTEN IN DEUTSCHLAND ZU EINER UPU-WEITEN VERSENDUNGSFORM

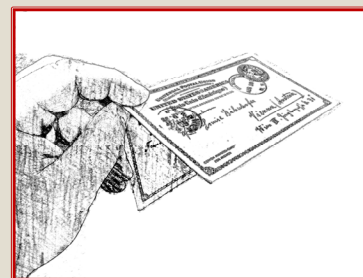
Dr. Eric Scherer, Lenzburg, Schweiz
BDPh Online Seminar

Content

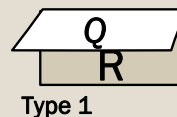
- Introduction
- 1851 – 1878: The origins of the pre-paid reply card in international mail
- 1871: The German agreement - 1st Reply card - 1st cross-border usage
- 1879-1885: The UPU «Optional» agreement



Structure of a double card with pre-paid reply

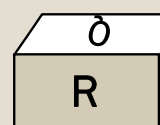


Folding layout
proofed most
practical

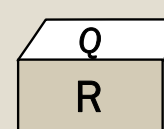


Type 1

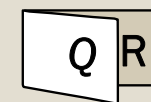
Other folding
layouts that
proofed to be
impractical



Type 2



Type 3



Type 4

Q: Question part
R: Reply part

Int'l Reply Cards

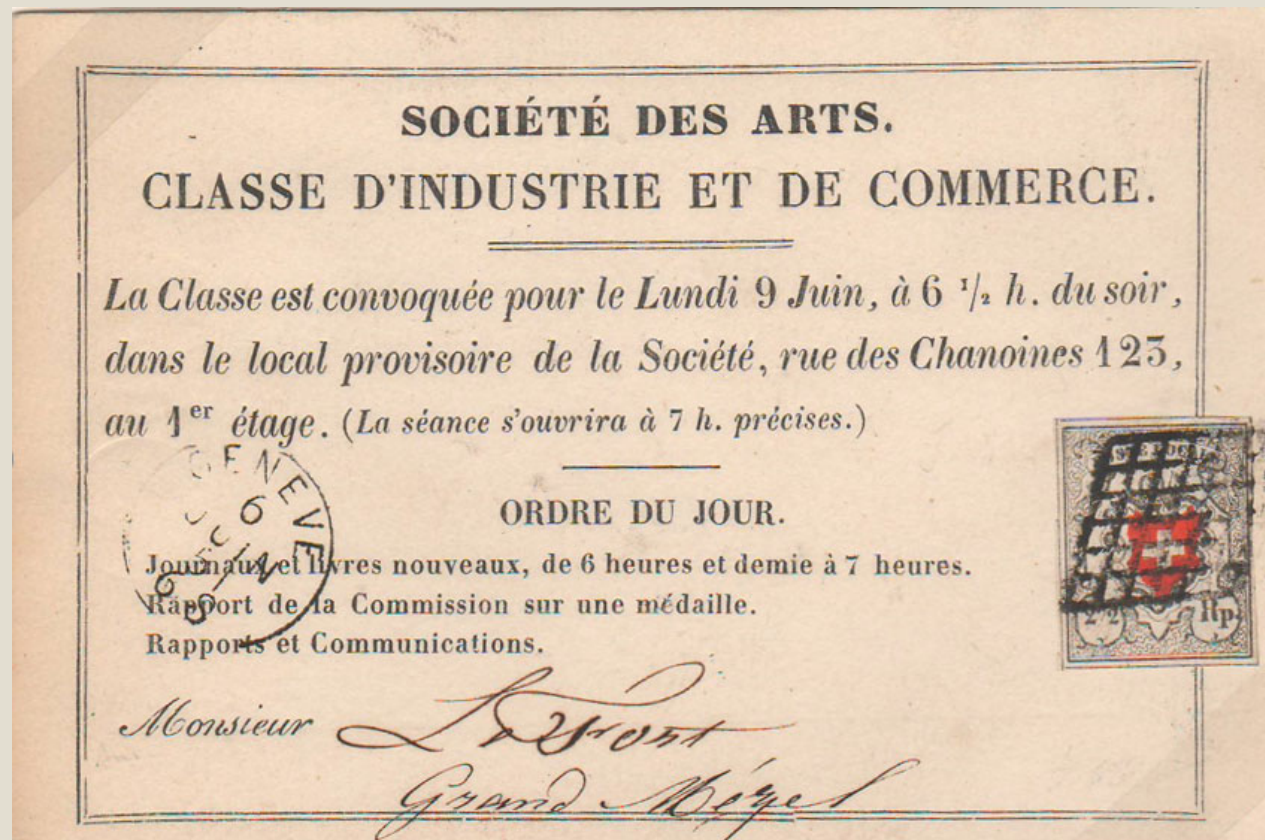
1851 – 1878:
THE ORIGINS OF
THE PRE-PAID REPLY CARD
IN INTERNATIONAL MAIL

Origins of the pre-paid reply card in international mail

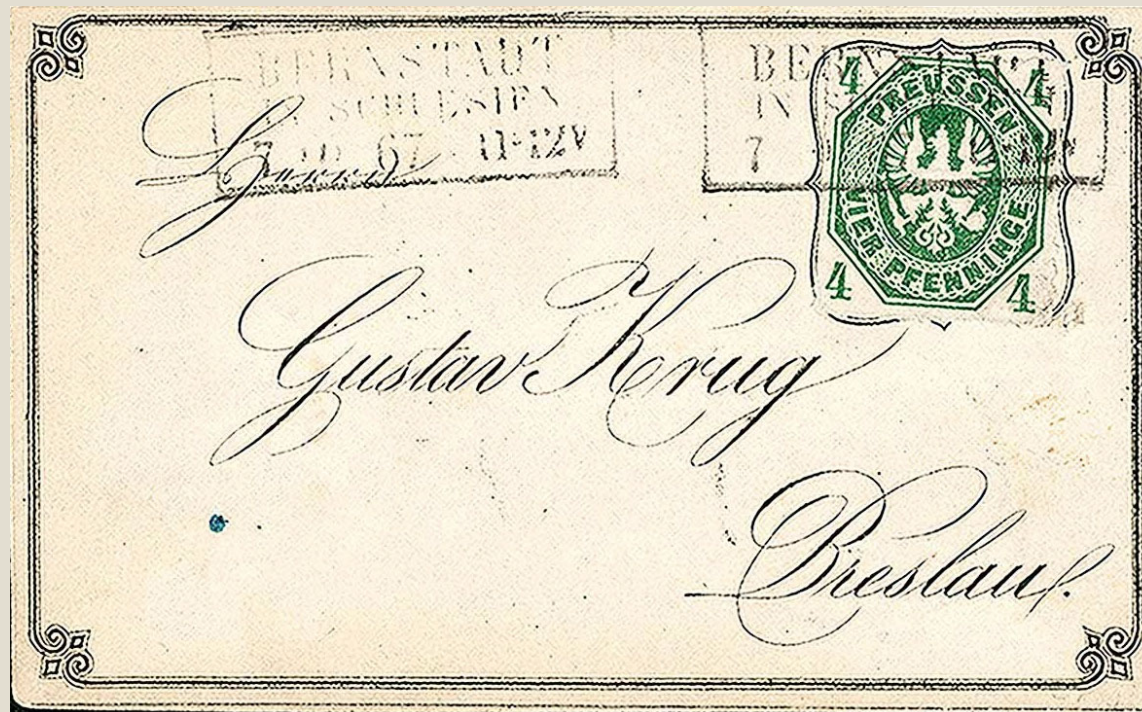
**Prepaid reply cards
in international mail** =

Postcard + **International
use** + **Prepaid
reply** + **Harmonized
rates**

1851: Early «Announcement Card» sent at printed matter rate



1868: Prussian PO introduced «Open Cards» at reduced rate



1869: Austria & Hungary introduce domestic postal stationary postcard



... becomes a «bestseller», several million printed

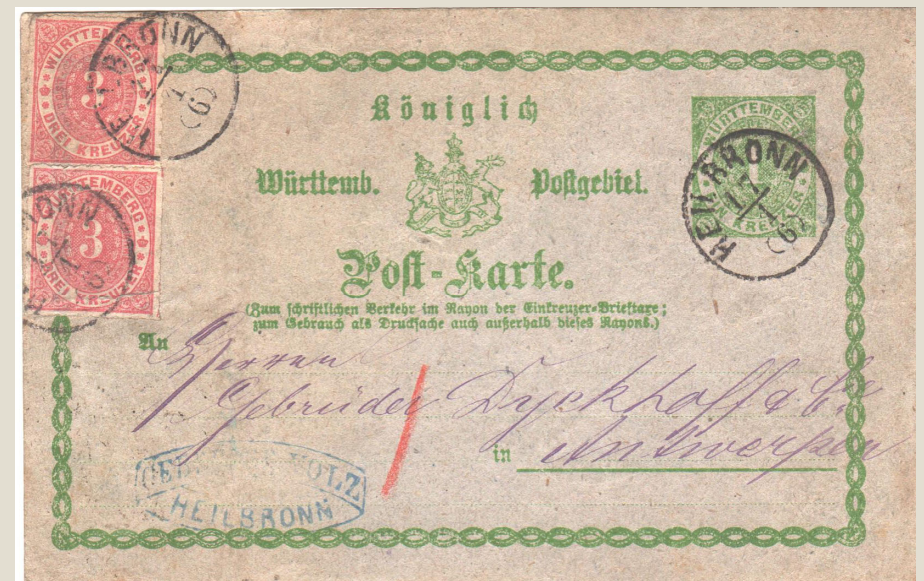
Postal administration	Type of card	Date of 1st issue
Norddeutscher Postbezirk	Formular card	June 1870
Bavaria	Formular card	July 1870
Wurttemberg	Postal stationary	July 1870
Baden	Formular card	August 1870
France	Formular card	September 1870
Luxemburg	Formular card	September 1870
Switzerland	Postal stationary	October 1870
Great Britain	Postal stationary	October 1870
Ottoman Empire	Formular card	December 1870

... many other follow ... fast ...

Postcards in international mail



Austria allows postcards in international mail in August 1870 (only to selected countries)



Postcard often only admissable at letter rate:
Württemberg to Belgium 7 Kreuzer 1874

Early forms of replies

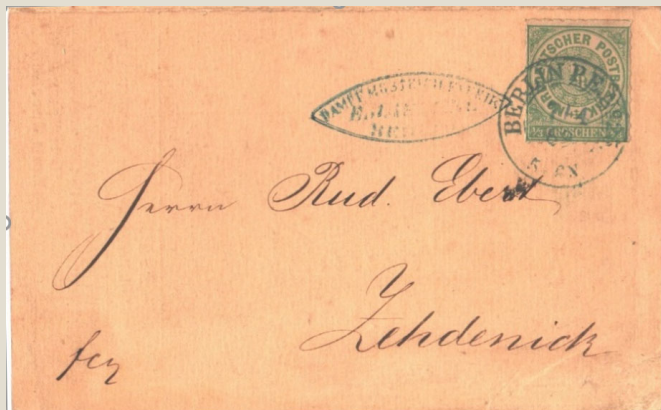


Early Pre-paid reply



Folded letter with preprinted return address and
pre-payment – UK 1883

Early double cards



Folded double card. Postage still needs to be affixed for return, but adresse promises reimburseent – North German Postal District 1869

PREIS-COURANT
der
Dampf-Maschinen-
Wein-Mostrich-Fabrik
von
Emil Jaeckel.
BERLIN, Neue Königs-Strasse No. 42.

	pro 12	pro 12
	Anker, Flsch.	Flsch.
Wein-Mostrich, extra ff.	18	2. 15.
do. II Qual.	14 1/2	2. 10.
Estragon-Mostrich	13 1/2	2. 5.
Sardellen- do.	13 1/2	2. 5.
Capern- do.	12 1/2	2. —
Kräuter- do.	12 1/2	2. —
Muscats- do.	12 1/2	2. —
Chutonen- do.	12 1/2	2. —
Chutonen- do.	12 1/2	2. —
Dischloffer- do.	12 1/2	2. —
Berliner Wein-Mostrich, I. Qualität 12	11 1/2	1. 25.
do. II. do.	10	1. 20.
do. III. do.	8	1. 15.
do. IV. do.	6 1/2	1. 10.
Russische Sardinen p. Fass 1 1/2	1 1/2	
Stralsunder Kräuter-Heringe do.	1 1/2	

Herrn Emil Jaeckel
BERLIN,
Neue Königs-Strasse No. 42.

Zum Aufkleben einer Freimarke, die vergütigt wird.

Der Unterzeichnete bestellt:
Anker Mostrich à Thlr.
Dtzd. Fl. do. à „
Fass Russische Sardinen à „
„ Stralsunder Kräuter-Heringe à „

DATUM Name:
laut Poststempel. Wohnort:

Bei Ertheilung einer Order bitte ich, die andere Hälfte dieser Karte abzuschneiden und mit genauer Angabe des Namens und Wohnorts des gehörten Auftraggebers vorsetzen, der Post übergeben zu wollen.
Hochachtungsvoll
Emil Jaeckel.

Harmonized rates (GPU 1875)



Not harmonized yet –
Switzerland – France at 30 c letter rate
(France did not sign the GPU convention effective
01.01.1876)



Harmonized before UPU –
Switzerland – USA at 10 c postcard rate
(rate effective by 01.05.1874, later adopted by GPU)

Int'l Reply Cards

1871:
THE GERMAN AGREEMENT
1ST REPLY CARD
1ST CROSS ADMINISTRATIONAL USAGE

1st Reply cards in Germany: Reichspost, Bavaria & Württemberg

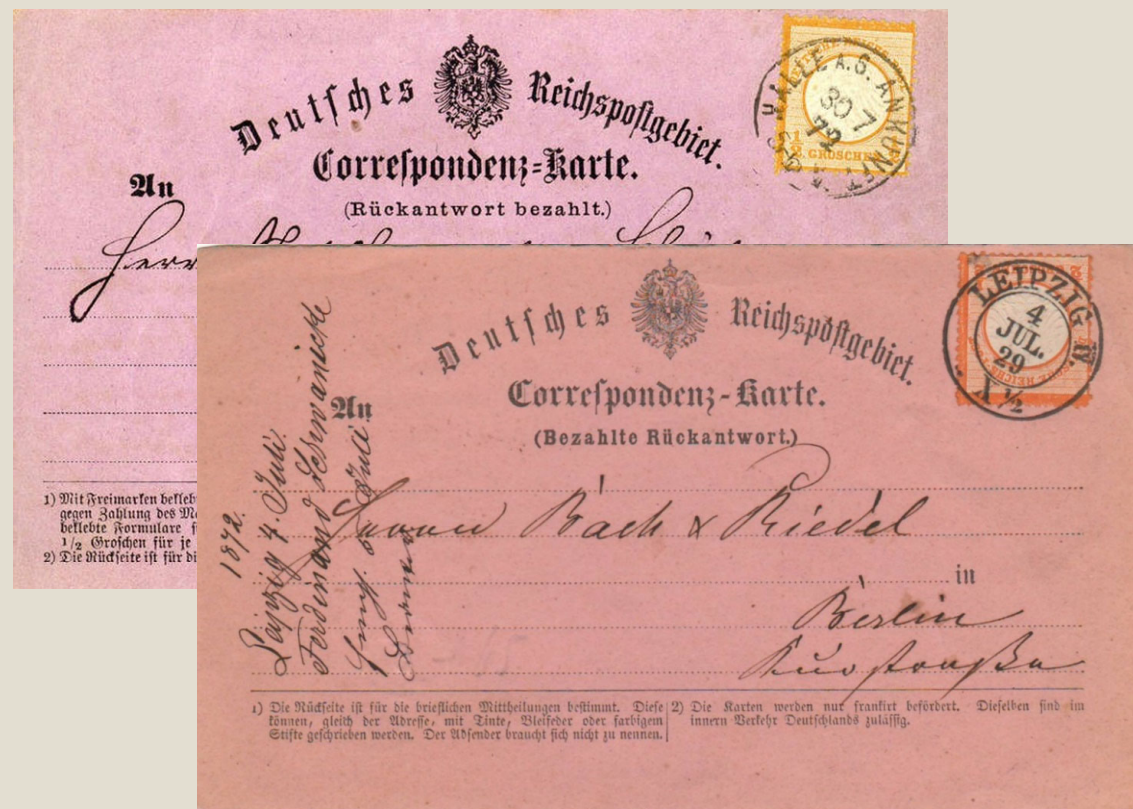
Berlin, December 23, 1871.

Notice

According to § 14 of the postal regulations of November 30, 1871, from January 1, 1872 onwards, correspondence cards with paid reply are introduced for mailing within the German Reich. For these correspondence cards special forms are issued to be obtained from all post offices of the Reich, of which the second half serve as a reply. The pre-paid fee for the message and the reply taken together is, without distinction of distance, are 2 Silbergroschen or 6 Kreuzer. The addressee, this is the person who has been asked to reply, can mail the part of the card, without regard to the currency of the postal stamp, as a franked correspondence card.

Following the above mentioned notice of today concerning the introduction of paid-reply correspondence cards, the following is stated:

- 1) The postal stamp on the second part of the form is to be cancelled only if this half is used as a reply.
- 2) In the traffic with Bavaria and Württemberg the use of the second part of the form as a response to another post area, e.g. for the return on a correspondence card, which originated from Berlin and was addressed to Munich, the sending postal administration (in this case Bavaria) settles the postage rate for a simple franked letter as requirement under No. 1 of the postcard.



1st cross administrative usage:
Stamps/incipia valid, if posted on a
reply card



Reichspost returned to Bavaria



Reichspost returned to Württemberg

Again many other follow ... but for domestic use only



Postal administration	Type of card	Date of 1st issue
Germany (Reichspost)	Formular card	January 1872
Bavaria	Formular card	January 1872
Wurttemberg	Postal stationary	February 1872
Netherlands	Postal stationary	April 1872
Belgium	Postal stationary	January 1873
Sweden	Postal stationary	January 1873
Luxemburg	Formular card	February 1873
Serbia	Postal stationary	1873
Italy	Postal stationary	January 1874
Switzerland	Postal stationary	April 1874
Dutch East Indies	Postal stationary	April 1874
Spain	Postal stationary	December 1874

1st true «international» usages

Countries	Agreement	Date
Luxemburg	«German Agreement»	01.02.1873
Belgium – The Netherlands	«Belgian-Dutch-Agreement»	15.12.1873
Romania	«German Agreement»	15.04.1874
Belgium	«German Agreement»	21.06.1875
Heligoland	«German Agreement»	1876 (no official announcement, just indirect notes)



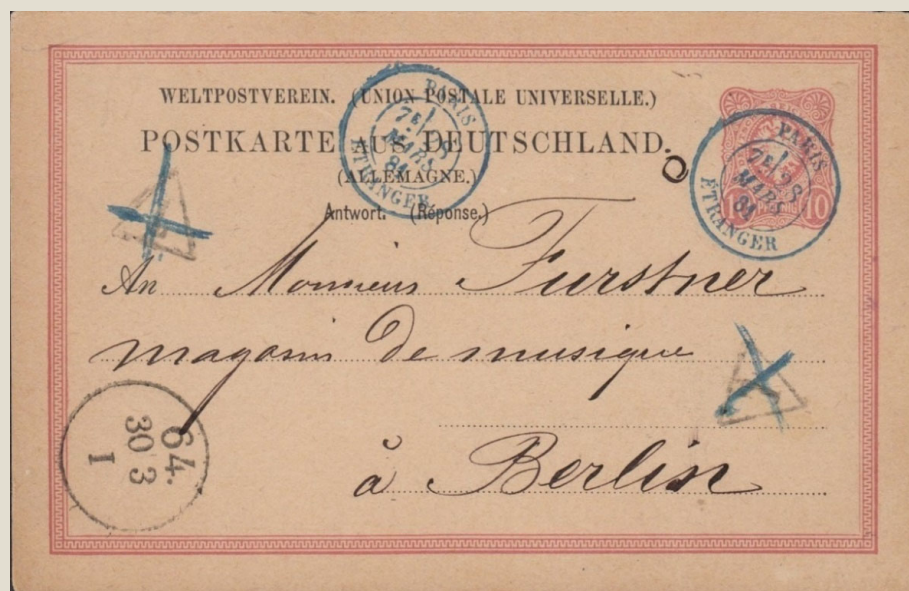
1st true «international» reply card: The Netherlands for use with Belgium – used March 1874

1st reply card in the British Empire – The «1876 Heligoland Card»
- more or less a private hobby of the postmaster ...

Int'l Reply Cards

1879-1885: THE UPU «OPTIONAL» AGREEMENT

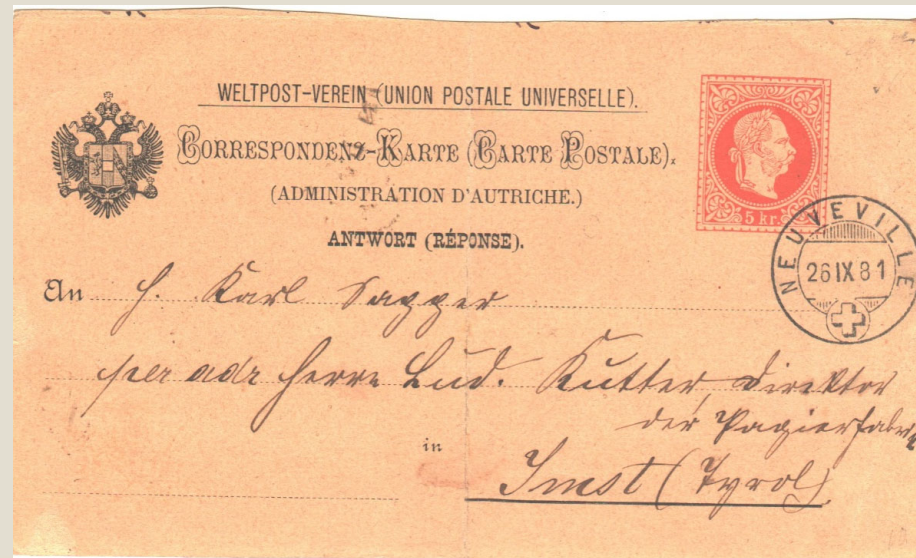
UPU Paris Congress 1878: Pre-paid reply cards admitted in international mail on voluntary basis



Germany is one of the founding members

Date	Participating countries
01.04.1879	Argentina
	Belgium
	France
	German Imperial Post, also representating Bavaria, Heligoland and Württemberg
	Italy
	Luxemburg
	Norway
	Portugal
	Romania
	Spain
	Switzerland
	The Netherlands

1879 – 1886: more and more countries join the «Optional» agreement



Austria joins 01.08.1880

Date	Participating countries
01.08.1880	Austria and Hungary
01.01.1881	Ottoman Empire (Turkey)
06.01.1882	Dominican Republic, Paraguay
09.03.1882	Colombia
11.03.1882	Honduras
12.07.1882	Curaçao
01.01.1883	Great Britain
01.03.1883	Chile
01.04.1883	Sweden
16.05.1883	Costa Rica
01.06.1883	Bahamas
23.06.1883	Lagos (Nigeria)
01.07.1883	Denmark and its Colonies
03.07.1883	Dutch Guiana (Surinam)
13.07.1883	Greece
15.06.1883	Jamaica
15.08.1883	St. Lucia, Faeroe Islands, Greenland (both Danish), Guatemala
05.09.1883	Gambia
17.09.1883	British Guiana, Tobago
01.10.1883	Hawaii
01.11.1883	Salvador
09.11.1883	Canada
18.12.1883	Haiti
01.01.1884	Brazil, British India
01.03.1884	Bulgaria, Peru
27.05.1884	Ecuador
28.08.1884	Nicaragua
01.09.1884	Egypt
01.01.1885	Japan
23.07.1885	French Colonies
28.09.1885	Siam
15.12.1885	Mexico
01.04.1886	all remaining UPU members

The Norway-Sweden Agreement 1879

- Norway joins UPU optional agreement 1879
- Sweden joins UPU optional agreement 1883
- Joint Norway-Sweden agreement 1879: domestic reply cards accepted mutually

Norway 1st domestic reply card at 2x6 Öre – rate from 01.01.1877 – 31.12.1884 - used in exchange with Sweden.

The card was initially mailed from Norway on 29.01.1883 and returned from Sweden on 19.02.1883. The double card is made up out of two cards with identical layout and inscription not mentioning the specific purpose.



Confusion during the «Optional Period»



1879 Norway 10 Öre posted for return from Great Britain on 30.12.1881: Since Great Britain did not join the «Special Convention» until 1883 the card was rejected according to UPU rules and marked «Not Transmissible Abroad».



To Brazil from the UK on 23.03.1883: Brazil did not join the special agreement for the mutual acceptance of reply cards until 21.05.1884. Marked the card as «not transmissible to».

Confusion during the «Optional Period»



German reply card returned 18.11.1879 (Julian) from Russia. The German incipium was not accepted for payment, since Russia did not join the «special agreement» and not accepted foreign reply card before 1886. The card was then uprated by 3 Kopecks for the international postcard rate. Rejected again, another 4 Kopecks were added to cover the 7 Kopecks UPU letter rate.



Same card, same countries, still not 1886 yet – no trouble.

1885 Lisbon & 1891 Vienna

- 1885: all members must accept reply cards in incoming mail as for return
- 1891: all member must issue reply cards and allow sending them



Timeline

Pre-History: 1850s - 1875

1850s	1865	1869	1875
First cards Send as printed matter	«Open Cards» intruduced in Germany	1st postcard Issued in Austria & Hungary	GPU standardized rate for international use

After Story

~1960 – ~1978
Practise of mutual
acceptance of reply cards
within the French PTT
(FR, AND, MCO)



1872
Introduction of
reply cards in
the
German States

1879
UPU agreement
on voluntary
acceptance in
international mail

1886
End of
«optional period»
- mandatory
acceptance

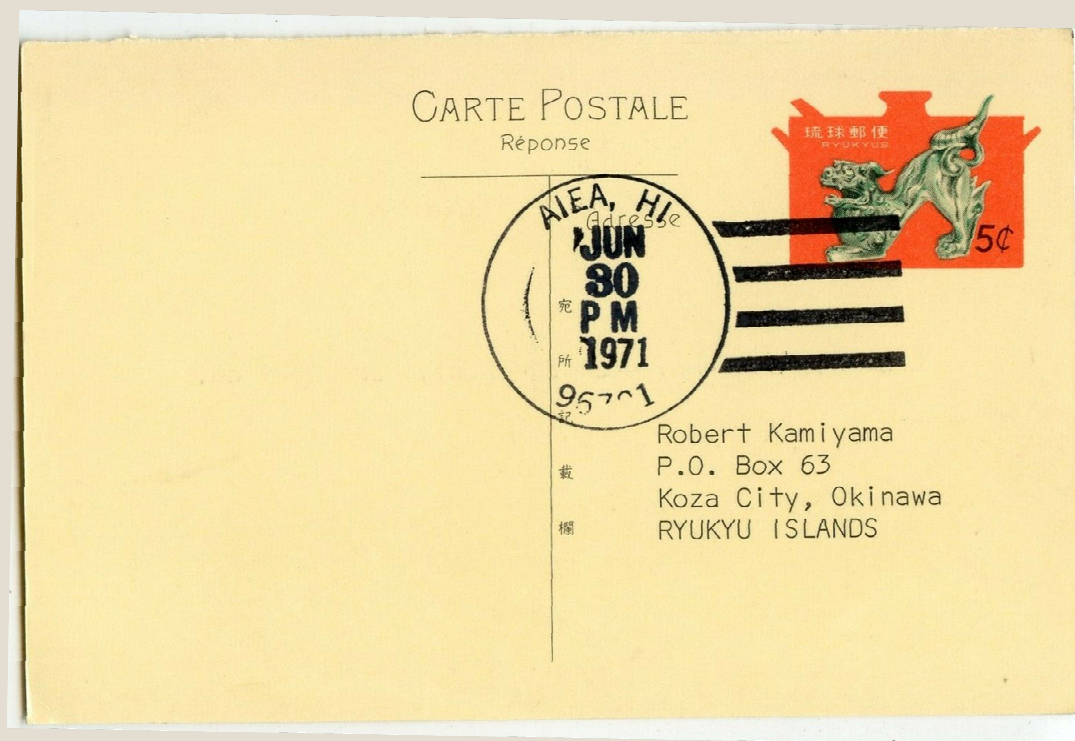
1892
All UPU member
must
Issue
reply cards

1906
Search for
alternatives leads
to the
introduction of
IRCs

30.06.1971
Reply card
service under
UPU regulations
is seized

Core History: 1872 - 1971

30.06.1971: Last day of reply cards in international mail



Thank you!

Eric Scherer

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Recommended Reading



The Postal History of the Universal Postal Union:
The Postal Card (Worldwide) 1869-1974
By James Peter Gough RDP FRPSL

Retail price £115, Members Price £105. RPSL
Shop

