

U.S. International Mail Franked with Definitive Non-denominated Letter Stamps “A” to “G” – 1978-1995 Synopsis

Purpose/limitation: The purpose of this exhibit is to demonstrate how the non-denominated definitive letter stamps “A” through “G” were handled in the international mails. The exhibit stops with the “G” stamp because all non-denominated stamps after it were always allowed in the international mails.

There are official non-denominated letter stamps. Examples of these used in the international mails are not included because none are known.

Rarity: If an exhibit is to attain a gold-medal level award, one of the challenges it must meet is that it contain a significant number of items that are not readily acquired/rare. As I will explain below, I would suggest that the presence of some of the usage kinds (a), (b), and (c) in this exhibit represents responding to the type of challenge required of a gold-medal exhibit.

As noted on the Title Page, and repeated now for ease of following this discussion, there are four kinds of usages that in theory should exist for the letter types “A” through “F,” where (a) and (c) exist because USPS workers did not know or did not follow their own rules.

(a) attempted use in the not-allowed period, and incorrectly not returned

(b) attempted use in the not-allowed period and correctly returned

(c) attempted use in the allowed period, and incorrectly returned, and

(d) attempted use in the allowed period and correctly not returned.

The last page of the exhibitor’s article in the reference given below presents a census of these usages that indicates the following. Except for the letter “E” stamps (for which a large correspondence to one person is known), depending on which letter one considers, (a) uses are unknown, rare or scarce, (b) uses are rare or scarce, and (c) uses are unknown or rare.

It is with this census in mind that the rare (only one or two examples are known) items in this exhibit are matted in red.

Changes from earlier iterations of this exhibit:

Four valid criticisms of this exhibit were made by the Napex 2012 jury. With these in mind, the exhibit now: (a) has a title that is now more clearly reflective of the exhibit’s content, and I hope that (b) the Title Page is much more concise and direct with the purpose clearly stated at the top of the page, the exhibit organization more clearly stated, and extraneous matter best left to the Synopsis placed there. Also, (c) text in the exhibit proper has been abbreviated so that it is more concise. Finally, (d) where in the article the international uses before and after the *Postal Bulletin* announcements or *de facto* dates were called legal or illegal, the words used now are allowed or permitted because it is felt that the changes in mail handling were in response to announcements not laws.

Pertinent reference: Non-denominated “A” - “G” Definitive stamps on International Mail,” Tony Wawrukiewicz, October 2011 *Auxiliary Markings*, pp 8-16.

: