

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

Purpose: 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.

Background: Just about everyone incorrectly believes that these letter stamps were not allowed into the international mails. To the contrary, I will demonstrate how initially the letter stamps, “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” “E,” and “F” were not allowed in these mails and then, eventually, either by an announcement in a *Postal Bulletin* or just *de facto* were correctly permitted in these mails. Finally, from the day of the rate change, Jan. 1, 1995, the “G” stamp as well as all subsequent non-denominated stamps were allowed in these mails.

Specifically, there are *Postal Bulletin* citations for the “A,” “D,” and “F” stamps, while the *de facto* use after an unannounced but real period of time was true for the “B,” “C,” “E,” and “G” stamps (it was immediate for the “G” stamps).

Each of these letter stamp types was issued as sheet, coil, and booklet stamps. An example of the use of each for each stamp type, “A” through “G,” is presented.

Is the word non-denominated or nondenominated? One can probably find as many United States Postal Service (USPS) references that use one as the other so I arbitrarily choose to use non-denominated on this Title Page and the Synopsis. In the exhibit proper I use the form most commonly found in

either the USPS literature or on the returned covers of the time for a particular letter stamp.

Organization: The over-riding organization is by the individual letters, sequentially from “A” to “G.” As I have indicated, from the “A” through the “F” stamps, there was an initial period where they were not allowed in the international mails, followed by a period when such use was not to be permitted. The existence of these two periods means that the following kinds of usages could in theory exist. (Note that the reason that examples of (a) and (c) exist is 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.

Where examples of these kinds are available, they are represented in this exhibit, as each letter is introduced.

Rarity: However, as explained in the Synopsis, except for the type “E” stamps, for the other letters there are a significant number of (a), (b), and (c) uses that are unknown (and cannot be represented in this exhibit) or are rare (one or two examples known) and so are indicated by backing with red mat.

Rates for International Mail: March 29, 1978 – July 8, 1995

Mail Type/Rate	1 Mar 29, 1978	2 Jan 1, 1981	3 Mar 22, 1981	4 Nov 1, 1981	5 Feb 17, 1985	6 Apr 3, 1988	7 Feb 3, 1991	8 Jan 1, 1995
U.S. domestic first-class letter - rate per ounce	15¢ (“A”)	→	18 (“B”)	20 (“C”)	22 (“D”)	25 (“E”)	29 (“F”)	32 (“G”)
Canada, first-class letter - rate per ounce	15	→	18	20	22	30	40	→
Canada, first-class post card rate	10	→	12	13	14	21	30	→
U.S. international airmail letter, rate per 1/2 ounce, other countries except Mexico	31	40	→	→	44	45	50	→
U.S. international airmail post card rate, other countries except Mexico	21	28	→	→	33	36	40	→
U.S. international surface post card rate, other countries except Mexico	14	19	→	→	25	28	35	→