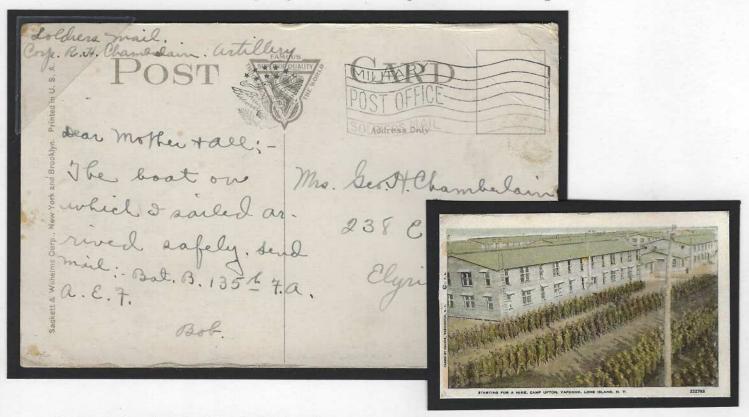


7. Military Mail



Mailed from Raleigh, North Carolina, on June 17, 1918 to Mrs. George Chamberlain in Elyria, Ohio, from her son, identified by the initials "R.H." The message on this post card reflects the secrecy required of military personnel. The 2-cent postage rate reflects the higher rate in effect during World War I.



In a second card to Mrs. Chamberlain from her son, the machine postmark does not indicate a location or a date. Instead, it depicts a generic military-style eagle with a shield and a slogan in the seven wavy lines: MILITARY/POST OFFICE/SOLDIERS MAIL. The front of the card depicts soldier marching in formation at Camp Upton in Yaphank, on New York's Long Island.







The inscription "Soldiers Mail" in pencil in the upper right corner of this cover meant that it could be sent at no charge by a serviceman, in this case, Private A.J. Abramoska. Addressed to Albert Abramoska in Elyria, Ohio, it bears a European-style postmark, "U.S. Military Postal Express Service" dated Oct. 1, 1918. An additional marking at lower left indicates the items passed through a military censor.

Official Mail



Mailed from Elyria to S.S. Alden in Medina County, Ohio. It apparently contained post office business, as the reverse indicates. The postmark with the grid duplex was used from 1873 to 1878.

Registered Mail



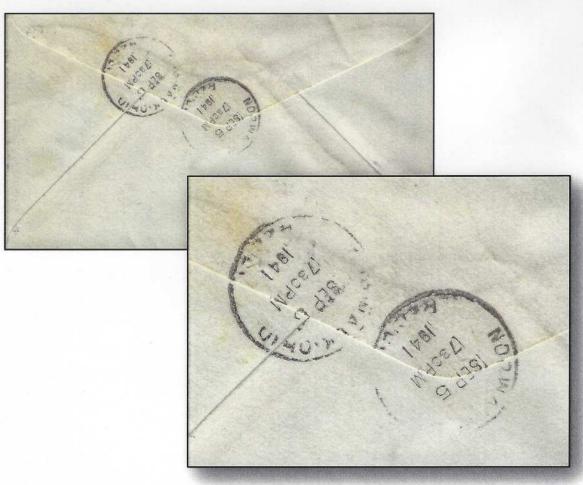
The 10-cent stamp depicting Daniel Webster from the 1901 series, paid the 2-cent postage rate and 8-cent registration rate in effect in 1907. The double-circle postmark from Elyria, Ohio, with "REGISTERED" in the lower part of the dial is dated Oct. 8, 1907. A similar postmark on the reverse from Hartford, Connecticut, is dated two days later.





A common flag cancel postmarks the 10-cent special delivery stamp and 2-cent postal stationery in effect on Aug. 5, 1911. 4:30 p.m. from the Probate Office in Elyria, Ohio to Amherst, Ohio. A receiving mark on the reverse shows the piece was received at 4 p.m. Obviously, one of the times is in error.





This 30-millimeter hand stamp is accompanied by a pointed barrel killer with the numeral 1 in the center. It was postmarked Sept. 5, 1941 at 3 p.m. with Norwalk, Ohio, receiving postmark on reverse the same day at 7:30 p.m. Additional auxiliary markings include "Special Delivery/Fee Paid ... 10 Cents" in magenta and "Fee Claimed by Office of First Address" in black.





TOP: A large circular date stamp from Dec. 22, 1931 is coupled with a barred oval with the numeral 1 on service to Boise, Idaho.

BOTTOM: A large double-circle postmark dated April 11, 1969 was used to hand stamp some mail. The 20-cent stamp paid the airmail rate to Europe.

9. Special Events



A rubber stamp cachet for National Air Mail Week honors Rep. William G. Sharp, an Elyrian who is known as the Father of Airmail. Sharp introduced legislation in Congress on April 21 1913 to allow air mail service, which was inaugurated on May 15, 1918.



Special air mail service was arranged by the Elyria Area Chamber of Commerce with Buckeye Air Service to fly covers to Washington, D.C., to commemorate Rep. William G. Sharp. This first day cover is postmarked on May 15, 1968, the 50th anniversary of the start of air mail service.



Elyria's bicentennial, 2017