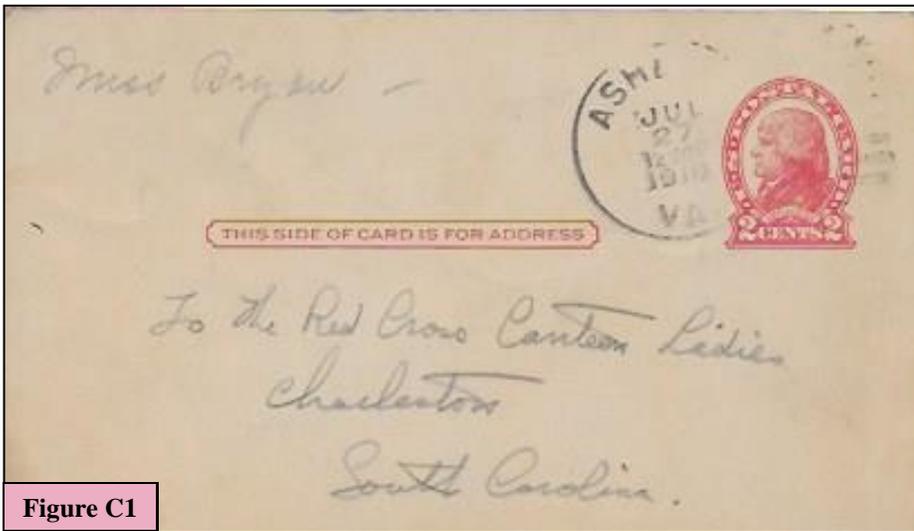


World War I Postal Cards

by A. Stephen Patrick



To help pay for the war effort in 1917 the USPO raised first class postage to three cents. At the same time, “penny post cards” became two cents. New two cent postal cards were created to fill this rate. A bust of Jefferson – PC 20 appeared in 1917 as UX29 and UX30, the difference being Die I and Die II impressions. **Figure C1** was a card posted on July 27, 1918, at Ashland, Virginia. It was written by a Miss Bryan “Northward Bound” by train between Darlington, South Carolina, and

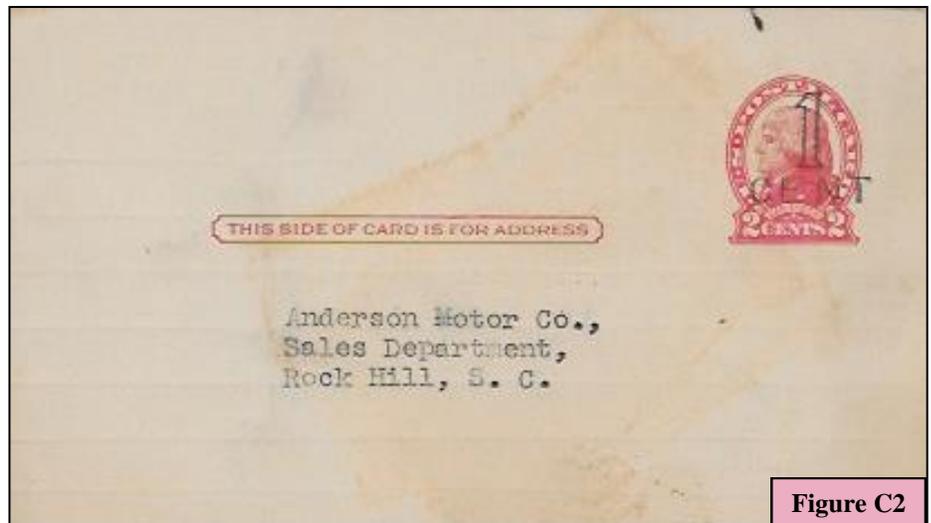
Richmond, Virginia, for a Private K. Peck in thanks for refreshments provided by the Red Cross Canteen Ladies in Charleston, South Carolina.

The message reads:

Dear Red Cross: Many thanks for the ice-cream cones, cigarettes, and postal cards that you so kindly presented to the two cars of Uncle Sam's Marines yesterday afternoon who stopped, or rather backed into your city. Your work may be just starting, but it was greatly appreciated by Private K. Peck.

Die I was printed in red on buff, lake on cream, and vermillion on buff UX29c; this color being the rarest. A used card like this, catalogues for \$75. A mint copy catalogues for \$975! My friend Bill Johnston prefers his postal cards properly used, but I wouldn't mind a mint one. I found this card in an old post card collection from someone from the Charleston area.

When the war was over, the rate for postal cards went back to one cent, and these two cent cards were overprinted for the new rate in 1920. The Scott catalogue lists six numbers UX31 to UX36 for the many varieties. There are as many as 46 different overprints that were done in D.C. by cancelling machines. **Figure C2** shows an unsent UX32a, vermillion on buff to be used as a reply card to a solicitation for customers by the Anderson Motor Co. in Rock Hill, S.C. Scott lists this one at \$60.



It's interesting to see how social and business correspondence was carried on 100 years ago in a war time situation.

Addendum to World War I: Postal Cards

by Bill Johnston

The 2 cent President Grant postal card was issued in 1911. The purpose of the card was to serve for international communication, not domestic communication. The card fulfilled this purpose from 1911 until Oct 1, 1925. The earliest reported usage is Nov 23, 1911. In 1917, the United States was preparing for war. To help finance the war effort, The War Revenue Act of 1917 was passed. This allowed for the Grant card to be used for domestic mailing without adding a 1 cent stamp. The War Tax period was Nov 2, 1917 – June 30, 1919. After the 1919 date, the domestic rate for postal cards reverted to the pre-war rate of 1 cent. Domestic usages of the Grant card during the war period are not common. A value of \$12.00 is a guide¹. An example is shown below.

¹ Lewis E. Bussey, editor, *United States Postal Card Catalog 2015*, United Postal Stationery Society, Chester, Va.

