

## Postal Card Forerunners-Part II

By Douglas K. Lehmann

In our last issue (Fourth Quarter 2003), I stated "There are only *three* known US postal card forerunners..." Researcher Thomas Henry Huxley (1825-1895) observed about such a statement that is was "a beautiful theory, killed by a nasty, ugly little fact"

That new fact is the existence of UX13 making *four* known forerunners (the other three are UX6, UX12, and UX14).

The newly discovered UX13 belongs to our editor Bob Yacano who found the card after reading my submitted article and sorting through his military cancel collection. His forerunner is at **Figure 1** and was sent to New Jersey on November 8, 1898. The providence of this card cannot be determined with 100 percent accuracy but there is strong circumstantial evidence the recipient was either the sender or the original owner. The reverse of this card has no messages but only a signature written in a language not recognized by this author. Plus, the signature and address portion is written in different handwriting and ink. This leads to the theory that Dr. Sickenburger either sent it home to his US address or he gave or sent the card to a friend in the Philippines to post back to himself.

The same quoted Huxley also warned that "Irrationally held truths may be more harmful than reasoned errors." And, to my defense, I did state in part I that UX13 and UY2r *may* exist Can anyone now report UY2r?

Member Geoffrey Brewster also sent in a revised Earliest ~~Known~~ <sup>REPORTED</sup> Postmark (ERP) for UX12. Table I shows the ERP data I have been able to capture. I hope that this information can benefit postal historians. I also truly believe some of these dates can be moved earlier, so please let us know if you a new ERP.

^  
HAVE

Scott #	Date	Collector/Reference
UX6	February 6, 1899	Apfelbaum Auction #573 (1987)
UX12	August 20, 1898	Geoffrey Brewster
UX13	November 8, 1898	Robert F. Yacano
UX14	April 30, 1899	Douglas K. Lehmann

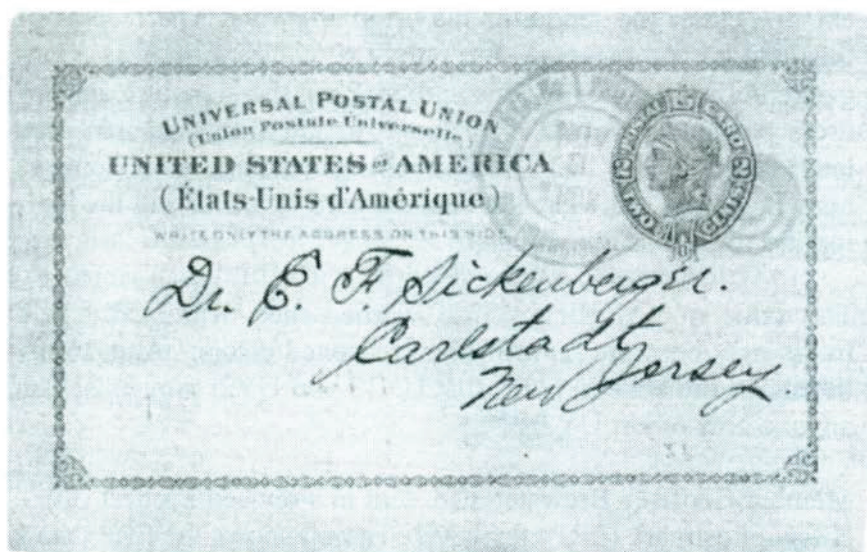


Figure 1