

# A U.S. Postal Card Remained in a Foreign Country

by Patrick Crosby

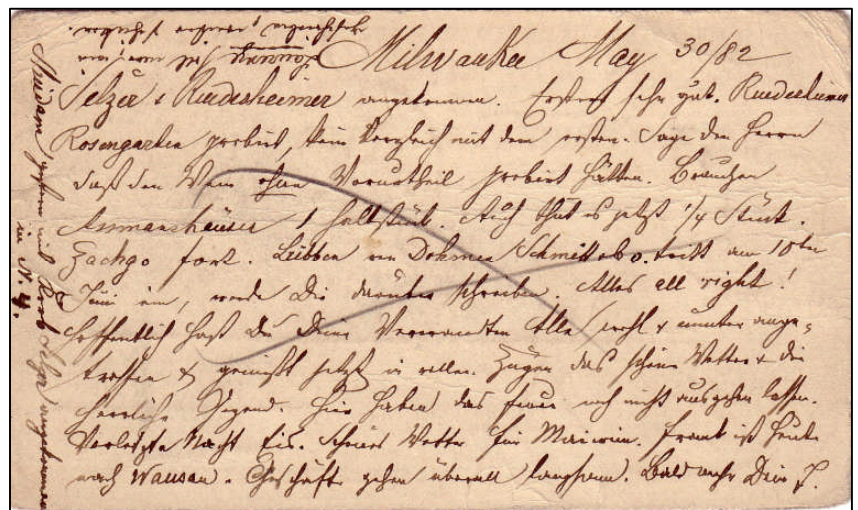


This is a story of being in the right place at the right time. I was at a large stamp show 15 years ago and asked a dealer I didn't recognize my usual question, "Do you have any U.S. postal cards?" He showed me the cover here illustrated. Noting the German postage stamp on front he remarked, "I think this card was forwarded in Germany, but I'm not sure. I told a regular customer of mine I'd hold it to show him, but if you want it you can have it."

Having been interested in postal history for a while and having a "sub-collection" of postal cards with stamps added, I knew that there was no additional charge for items forwarded in (or between) Universal Postal Union countries. I also knew I wanted any U.S. postal card with a foreign postage stamp added. I paid the \$55 asking price and scooted out of the area before the "regular customer" arrived.

So this is the first U.S. postal card meant for international usage, Scott UX6, and it paid the correct 2-cent rate to Germany. Mailed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin May 30, 1882, it was probably received at the address in Frankfurt a/m (Frankfurt am Main) around the 10<sup>th</sup> of June. It seems that the addressee, Schickel, was no longer in Frankfurt, and perhaps no longer with the same company (... De Giorgi). But since the card was held for a few days, being postmarked again on June 16th, it was no longer eligible for forwarding. A 5 pf. postage stamp (Scott 38) paid the then current domestic postcard rate and it was sent on to Mainz, Germany.

I do not know what the message side says or relates to. A German friend was unable to read the handwriting with the old German script. Ten years ago in *Postal Stationery* magazine a collector was offering \$350 for any U.S. postal card from 1873 to 1885 with a foreign postage stamp added. This card remains a highlight in my collection.



*Patrick Crosby is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society and collects U.S. postal cards, especially used, including first days; the 1886 Grant Letter Card (or Sheet); UC16, the first U.S. aerogram; and postal history on business or picture postcards.*