

## San Francisco Mail after the 1906 earthquake

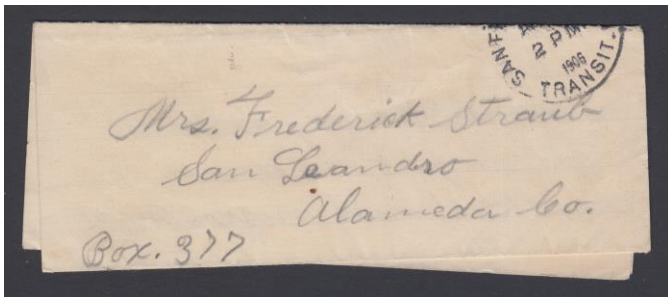
By Emmanuel GPS

At 5:12 a.m. on April 18, 1906, an earthquake devastated San Francisco, California, and shook nearly the entire west coast of the United States. The earthquake and fires caused hundreds of deaths and millions of dollars in losses. Fortunately, the gorgeous United States post office at 7th and Mission, opened in 1905, survived.

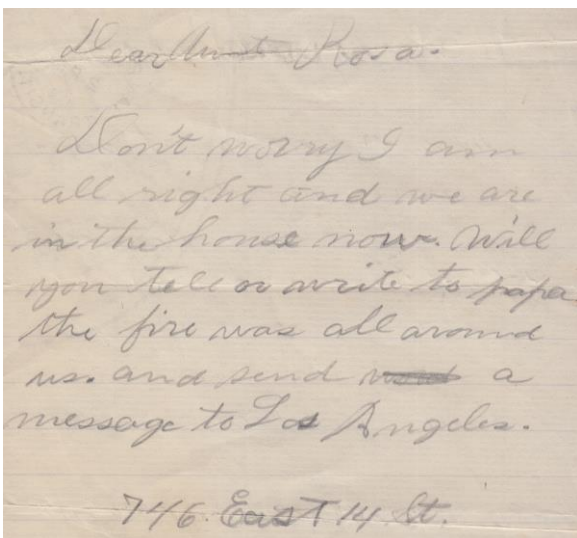
As an emergency measure, mail without stamps was accepted until the sale of stamps was possible at the main post office on April 25. Mail was postmarked in San Francisco and sent to the receiving post office, where postage due was assessed, postage due stamps affixed, and the fee collected from the recipient of the letter.



Post card view of the San Francisco's main post office, saved by about a dozen loyal and courageous employees who extinguished fires.



The small cover featured here was postmarked in San Francisco on April 24, 1906 at 2pm. It arrived in San Leandro, California at 7:30am, where the recipient paid 4¢ postage due. On the back the postal clerk applied two 2¢ postage due stamps with hand-cancel "Rec'd April 26, 1906."



The letter reads:

"Dear Aunt Rosa Don't worry. I am all right and we are in the home now. Will you tell or write to papa the fire was all around us and send a message to Los Angeles. 746 East 14 St."

Postage stamp sales resumed in San Francisco on April 25, only a week after the disaster struck. Rapid resumption of postal services sent a powerful message to the country and world: San Francisco might be laid low, but its heart —its business and personal relationships —still beat.

Emmanuel GPS, a native Frenchman, is the lead person of the Inverness (California) stamp club where he resides. He is a past Director and life member of <https://www.rotaryonstamps.org/>. He owns this highlighted cover.

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