

DARK PUZZLES OF THE MAILS

Thousands Solved Every Month by a "Blind Reader" in New York.

SOME HARD PROBLEMS COME TO HIM

Curiosities in Letter Addresses, Built in Spelling, Intentional Mystifications and the Worst of Handwriting.

Of the millions of letters which go through the New York postoffice every month...

Blind readers are born, not made. They must have a natural instinct for unraveling mysteries, a certain power of intuition...

Where They Originate.

Of all the queer addresses in the collection, those which belong to the first of these classes are the most interesting and amusing...

instance, where the name of Helmetta, N. J., appears as "Hell Meadow"...

Then there is the smart youth—one could almost draw a picture of him, leaning against the drug store...

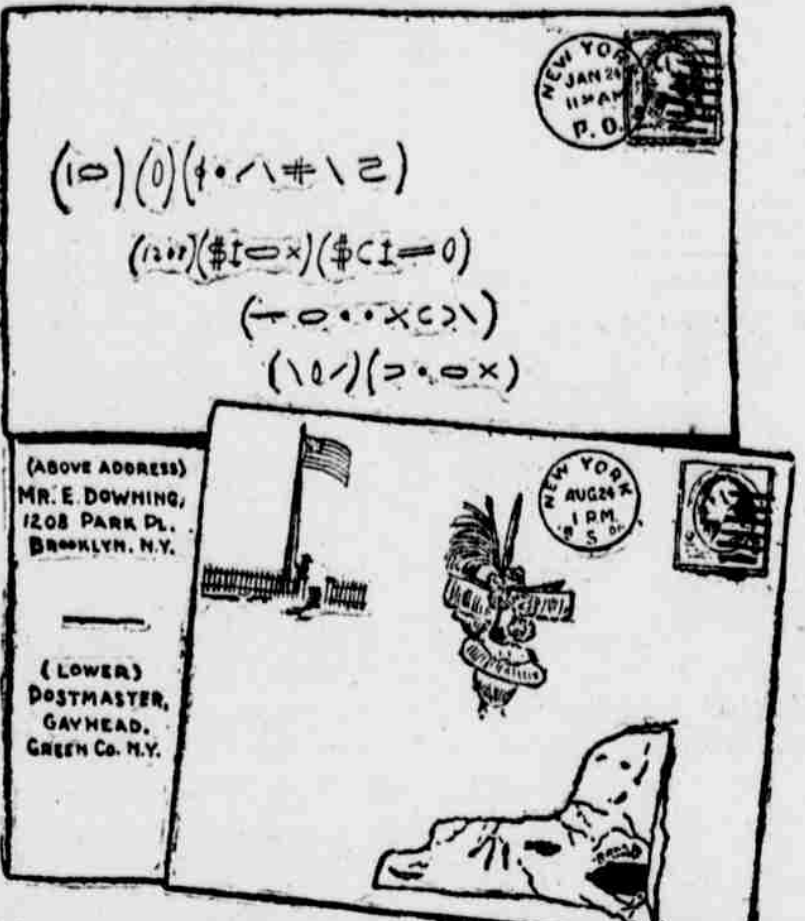
Going backward through the four classes here assumed, the next in order—the crank class—is much smaller than might have been expected...

Home and Foreign Curiosities.

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RESEMBLANCE IN NAMES.

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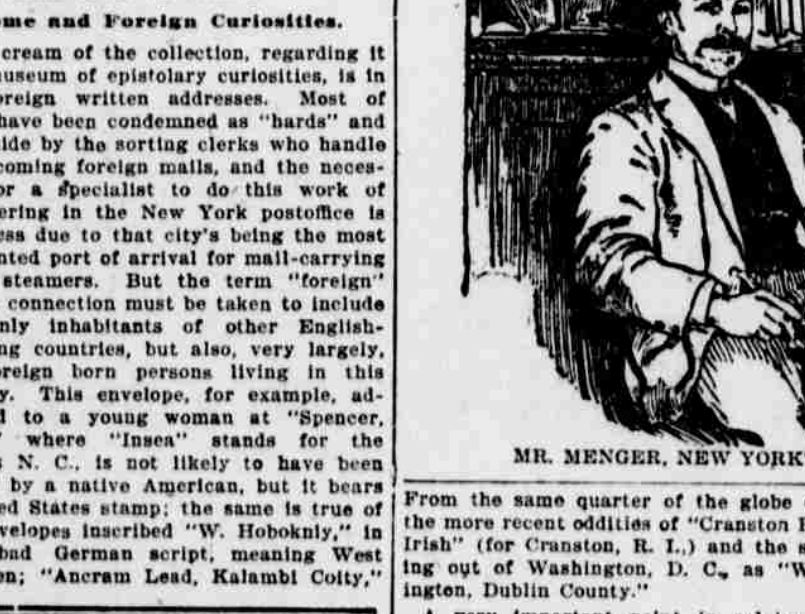


Letters that go to Italy and has not the stamp on. Your P. De Marco.

But the blindest of the blind addresses in the collection are such as the following: "address" I wish you alms Happy New Year Merry Christmas

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

New York has 250 hotels. The potato farms nearly 10 per cent of the total food of the people of this country.



MR. MENGER, NEW YORK'S EXPERT ON "BLIND" ADDRESSES.

From the same quarter of the globe come the more recent oddities of "Cranston Royal Irish" for Cranston, R. I., and the spelling out of Washington, D. C., as "Washington, Dublin County."

A very important point in solving the problem of the foreign addresser's intention is, evidently, a knowledge of the sound values which the characters he writes would be likely to bear for him individually.

Here the expert's taste for linguistic niceties, with the corresponding keen ear for differences of sound, is invaluable.

Stamp the Expert.

Of course many addresses defy the most exhaustive study, and many letters land in the dead letter office.

To this class belongs the effort of a sturdy Briton, who wrote to his friend, Mr. Thomas Clay, at New Jersey, United States America, and then with truly British misgivings as to the American institutions, appended a little private note to the postoffice authorities assuring them that "this address is correct."

Probably it was, as far as it went, but it hasn't gone far enough yet to get Thomas Clay. Here is a Russian specimen with 10 cents due: "This handwriting is off your brother's daughter his name is Simon Gallitsky, America." All that was on an unstamped envelope found in a Schenectady (N. Y.) mail box was "Please put on this 5 cents stamp on the

from Vienna, Austria; and—"Miss—my darling sweetheart I love you

from a country postoffice in Sweden. Addresses like these are not only impossible of translation into anything like working forms, but they defy the non-expert to guess what could possibly have caused them to be written.

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Police in Vienna must. The cable to swim, row a boat and understand telegraphing.

J. N. Brengel of Rondout, N. Y., has in his possession a photograph of John Brown, with his autograph attached.

India was in possession of a steel secret "Feylvetenzsi" (Payetteville, Tenn.) has no stamp at all, but it was mailed to New York.

On the other hand, that addressed to "Knoahyto P. O., Con., U. S. A.," for Naugatuck, Conn., bears the postmark of Tipperary, and "To And Over Street Sailing Mack, for 2 Andover Street, Salem, Mass., comes from Baltimore, in the Green Isle.

An Italian inventor has perfected a wireless telephone storm prophet, which records

Extra Extra Special Thanksgiving Sale of Suits, Skirts, Coats, Furs, etc. Foresight in placing orders, with the appreciation of shrewd buyers, has enabled us to sell more Women's Ready-to-Wear Clothes than we anticipated...

Favorite Raglans Fifty of them (choice ones too) arrived too late for Saturday's sale, will be placed on sale tomorrow. Women's Tailor-Made Suits The showing and selling of a fine suit, made of Venetians and chevots, made in the latest style and best workmanship...

WOMEN'S AUTOMOBILES \$14.75 Made of the very best quality Washington mills kersey; in black, tan, castor and red, beaver fur collar and reverses, heavy satin lined, finished with tailor stitching handsomely. Women's Box Coats—Made of excellent quality of kersey, lined with guaranteed Skinner satin, high storm collar, lapel pockets, 10 rows of tailor's stitching around bottom of coat—regular \$15.00 quality, at 9.75

Thanksgiving Fur Sale 3.90 For a genuine near seal storm collar, best selected skins 3.90 9.75 Genuine Marton collarette, heavy satin lined, real \$18.00 value 9.75 2.90 French Marten scarf with cluster of six tails 2.90 3.90 For genuine Mink scarfs with cluster of 6 tails, a genuine beauty 3.90 4.90 Genuine Marten scarf, full size, with cluster of six tails 4.90 9.75 Genuine long Marten boa with large tails, very latest in furs, \$18.00 value 9.75 9.75 Genuine "Isabella" fox scarf, 62 inches long with large tails, worth \$15.00 9.75

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