



**EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

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AN UNDERPAID COVER TO INDIA

By Heather Sweeting

Figuring out the many marks and the delivery path that a cover took can be fun if it has many different markings on it, especially if it traveled internationally. This cover was mailed from Gaylord Brothers, Inc. of Syracuse on Dec. 13, 1937 to the Forman Christian College Principal in Lahore India. The Gaylord Company has been in business now for nearly 110 years and specializes in library supplies, bookbinding, and archival storage materials.

The letter was franked with a three-cent stamp, underpaying the overseas surface rate by two cents. It arrived in India and was backstamped LAHORE G.P.O. on Jan. 10, 1938. A second black ink marking indicates that the cover was REFUSED which is also indicated in red pen. A 10 Jan, 1938 octagonal stamp on the back indicated the cover was UNPAID. It was likely refused by the recipient in order to avoid payment of the postage due.



The cover was underpaid as indicated by a pair of purple markings TAX N. Y. and 20 CENTS. A larger circular marking was applied to the cover in India and states OVERLAND POSTAGE DUE 0-2-9 as well as the marking RETOUR. The cover was stamped twice on the back LAHORE D.L.O. (Dead letter office) on Jan. 11 and 12 and was forwarded to the Bombay D.L.O on Jan. 14 after its refusal. It is assumed that Bombay then shipped the cover back to Gaylord Brothers.

Further markings on the front of the cover, a hard-to-read NEW YORK, NY, D.P.O. and a clearer DUE 2 CENTS as well as a two-cent red postage due stamp indicate that the cover did indeed make a return trip to the U.S.

Heather Sweeting Collection