

Inadmissible Postage Stamps

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Occasionally, postage stamps have been the subject of dispute between postal administrations of various countries. The theme of the stamps, the occasion for which a commemorative was issued or simply the political situation all have given rise to protests. In few cases, stamps issued by Western countries were frowned upon by the Romanian authorities. This took place during a period which was later to become known as the "Cold War".

1. The United Nations proclaimed the year 1960 as "World Refugee Year". About 70 postal administrations issued stamps to denote this. The Romanian postal authorities took offense and adopted two different methods of protest:

a) Mail with such stamps was returned. Covers bearing "World Refugee Year" stamps from Austria, Israel, Switzerland and West Germany have been seen which received a rubber stamp, measuring 70 by 36 mm., with the following text:

"RETOUR
AFFRANCHIE AVEC
TIMBRES NON ADMIS"

(Return/Franked with/Inadmissible stamps). The color of this rubber cachet is normally red, although its existence in black has also been reported.

b) Mail bearing the "World Refugee Year" stamps was also delivered to Romanian addresses. In such cases the offensive stamps were hand-stamped with a rubber cachet reading:

"LUPTIND PENTRU PACE
ASIGURAM VIATA, LINISTEA SI
FERICIREA COPIILOR NOSTRI"

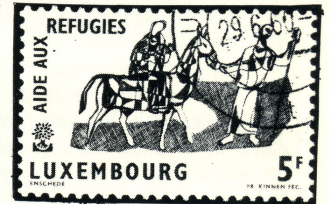
(By fighting for peace/we assure the life, the calm and/the happiness of our children). Two types of this rubber cachet existed. One measured 50 by 24 mm., and the other 70 by 22 mm.

**LUPTIND PENTRU PACE
ASIGURAM VIATA, LINISTEA SI
FERICIREA COPIILOR NOSTRI**

Slogan handstamp used to deface inadmissible "W.R.Y." stamps.



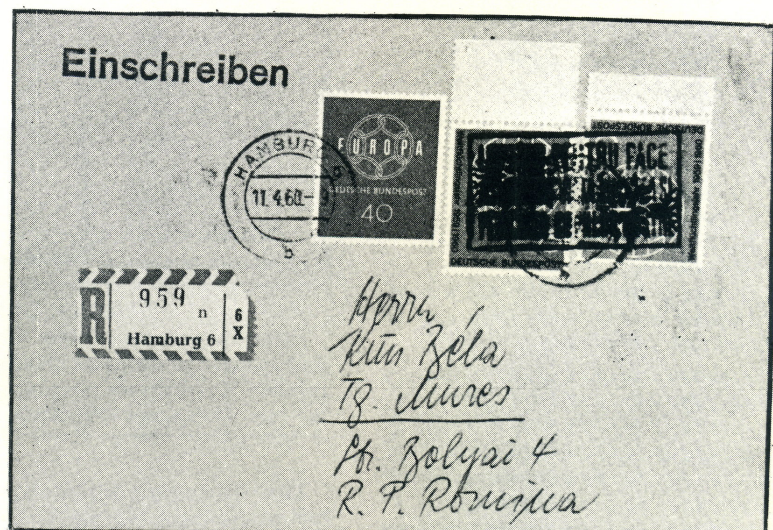
West German stamp remembering the refugees created by World War II.



Stamps issued to denote the "World Refugee Year".



Cover with a stamp issued by Israel, denoting the "World Refugee Year".



Cover with West German "W.R.Y." stamps defaced with slogan handstamp.

Covers with one or the other of these cachets are known from Italy,

Luxembourg, Switzerland and West Germany.