**Advice of Reception**

The 2nd UPU Congress was held in Paris in 1878 and the resulting agreements became effective on April 1, 1879. Peru joined the UPU on June 15 1879. The Paris agreement required that each member country offer an Advice of Reception (AR) service for any registered letter or article. The maximum fee that they could charge was 25 centimes (or 5 centavos Peruvian currency). The AR form was to be prepared by the originating post office and was to be mailed separately from the registered article. The fee was to be prepaid in stamps either adhered to the AR form or to the registered article.

The 4th UPU Congress in Vienna in 1891 (effective July 1, 1892) changed the way AR was handled. The AR form was now to be prepared by the receiving post office. The AR fee was to be prepaid on the registered article, which was also to receive an Avis de Reception marking or more commonly just the initials AR. At the beginning of 1896, Peru devalued its currency, thereby doubling its postage rates, but kept the AR fee at 5 centavos. On January 1, 1898 it raised its AR fee to 10 centavos or 25 centimes at the new conversion rate.

The 5th UPU Congress in Washington DC in 1897 (effective January 1, 1899) reversed some of the Vienna requirements. The AR form was now to be prepared by the office of origin. Registered letters which requested an advice of reception were still required to receive an AR marking and the AR fee was paid on the registered letter. This congress also allowed senders of registered letters to request an advice of reception after the letter was mailed. In this case the fee had to be paid on the request form and the maximum fee was set at 25 centimes.

The 8th UPU Congress in Stockholm in 1924 (effective October 1, 1925) fixed the Registration and AR fees at 40 centimes each at time of mailing. It also allowed countries to charge up to 80 centimes for an advice of reception after mailing. However, Article VII of the Final Protocol of the Convention allowed countries the flexibility of increasing the registration fee to 50 centimes. Peru took advantage of this article and also increased the AR fee to 50 centimes (20 centavos).

At the same time that Peru approved the Stockholm Convention Protocol, it also appears that Peru initiated an AR service for internal registered mail at the same rate as international mail (in the past it was automatically included in the registry fee). They also appear to have increased the Pan American Postal Union rates for AR service to coincide with the UPU rate. Finally, Peru raised its rate for AR service after mailing to double that of AR service at time of mailing in accordance with the Stockholm protocol and applied the same rate to internal and Pan American Union AR service.

After 1950, rates for AR service had many increases, but these are not well documented for lack of access to post office records and for almost no surviving examples. Starting sometime in the 1930’s AR fees were paid by attaching stamps to AR reply cards attached to registered letters. These are very rare and not enough are in collector’s hands to reconstruct AR rates after 1950. The dates after 1950 in the following chart may not represent the actual start dates for these rates. In addition, there are quite likely rate increases between these dates that are not yet documented.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Domestic | | Pan American Postal Union | | UPU | | Source |
| At Time of Mailing | After Mailing | At Time of Mailing | After Mailing | At Time of Mailing | After Mailing |
| 6/15/1879 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 5c | N/A |  |
| 1/1/1898 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 10c | N/A | 1 |
| 1/1/1912 | N/A | N/A | 8c | 8c | 10c | 10c | 2 |
| 10/1/1925 | 20c | 40c | 20c | 40c | 20c | 40c | 3 |
| 1951 | 30c | 60c | 30c | 60c | 30c | 60c | 4 |
| 1958 | 50c | 1s | 50c | 1s | 1s | 2s | 5 |
| 1960 | 50c | 1s | 50c | 1s | 1.5s | 3s | 6 |
| 1962 | 1s | 2s | 1s | 2s | 1.5s | 3s | 7 |
| 1964 | 2s | 4s | 2s | 4s | 3s | 5s | 8 |
| 1978 | 30s | 50s | 30s | 50s | 30s | 50s | 9 |
| 1983 | 200s | 300s | 200s | 300s | 200s | 300s | 10 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Boletín Postal Y Telegráfico, No. 42, December 31, 1897, page 332
2. Boletín Postal Y Telegráfico, No. 176, August 31, 1911, Congreso Postal Continental Sudamericano de Montevideo, page 4
3. Protocol of 8th UPU Congress at Stockholm in 1924. Also, see Boletín Postal Y Telegráfico, No. 255, October 31, 1924, pages 454-455 and 461-463.
4. July 1951 United States Postal Guide
5. 1958 Tarifas Postales
6. 1960 Tarifas Postales
7. 1962 Tarifas Postales
8. 1964 Tarifas Postales
9. 1978 Tarifas Postales
10. 1983 Tarifas Del Servicio Postal