

# Special Delivery mail has always been special to the serious collector. Have you ever saved any of it?

Since the advent of Express Mail and Priority Mail, the U.S. Postal Service is no longer in the old "Special Delivery" business. Some of us who grew up in the 1950s and before that well remember the special postman, ensconced in his own vehicle, who was assigned to delivery nothing but Special Delivery mail. It required an additional fee—and was rendered apart from the regular mail that came to one's mailbox Monday through Saturday. It was also a seven-days-a-week form of mail—with special deliveries being made on Sunday as well. It was the ONLY mail conveyance service the old U.S. Post Office Department provided on that day of the week. If your attic contains boxes of old mail—see if you have some special delivery usages. They could be worth some nice money! As you can see, Special Delivery was a service offered to/from most countries of the world—so if you have foreign-related special delivery covers, you could be in for a nice surprise.



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At first glance, these covers don't seem especially exciting, do they? Well, the top one is a nice usage of Scott No. E13, the 15-cent Special Delivery stamp—while at bottom is a beautiful usage of No. E15, the 10-cent Special Delivery stamp. Both are worth at least \$50.00!



Don't ever forget mail to and/or from foreign countries. Here is a special delivery usage from the Republic of China in 1929 on a first flight cover from Tokyo to Paris. A highly unusual piece of mail that is worth well over \$300!



**If a piece of mail looks unusual to you, chances are it's worth something.**

Fifty years ago, banks, hotels, and other businesses who used to receive mail from foreign countries would tear off the stamps from envelopes like these and sell them, in bulk, to stamp companies. That's one of the reasons why Special Delivery usages like these two from Mexico are often quite rare. They were found in the attic of a former employee of the Mexican Embassy.

