

I AM NOTHING

I have been a difficult concept for man to comprehend. I was however needed as a way to account for the absence of anything and to make use of man's ideas but I am still nothing.

My alter ego zero though is used in mathematics where with his symbol "0" plays a major role in the place value system used for numbering.

PLAN

1: Perception and Identity

- 1.1: I'm perceived as a blank or an empty space ...
- 1.2: ...but sometimes I'm neither.
- 1.3: Getting something for nothing, that's great.
- 1.4: The X factor and other relatives.

2: My Alter Ego - Zero

- 2.1: Is not a natural number but a symbol of no value ...
- 2.2: ... which may be used as a target ...
- 2.3: ... or a location to know where you are.
- 2.4: Without it how would we create our bigger numbers.

3: Transformations

- 3.1: From something into nothing...
- 3.2: ... and nothing into something.

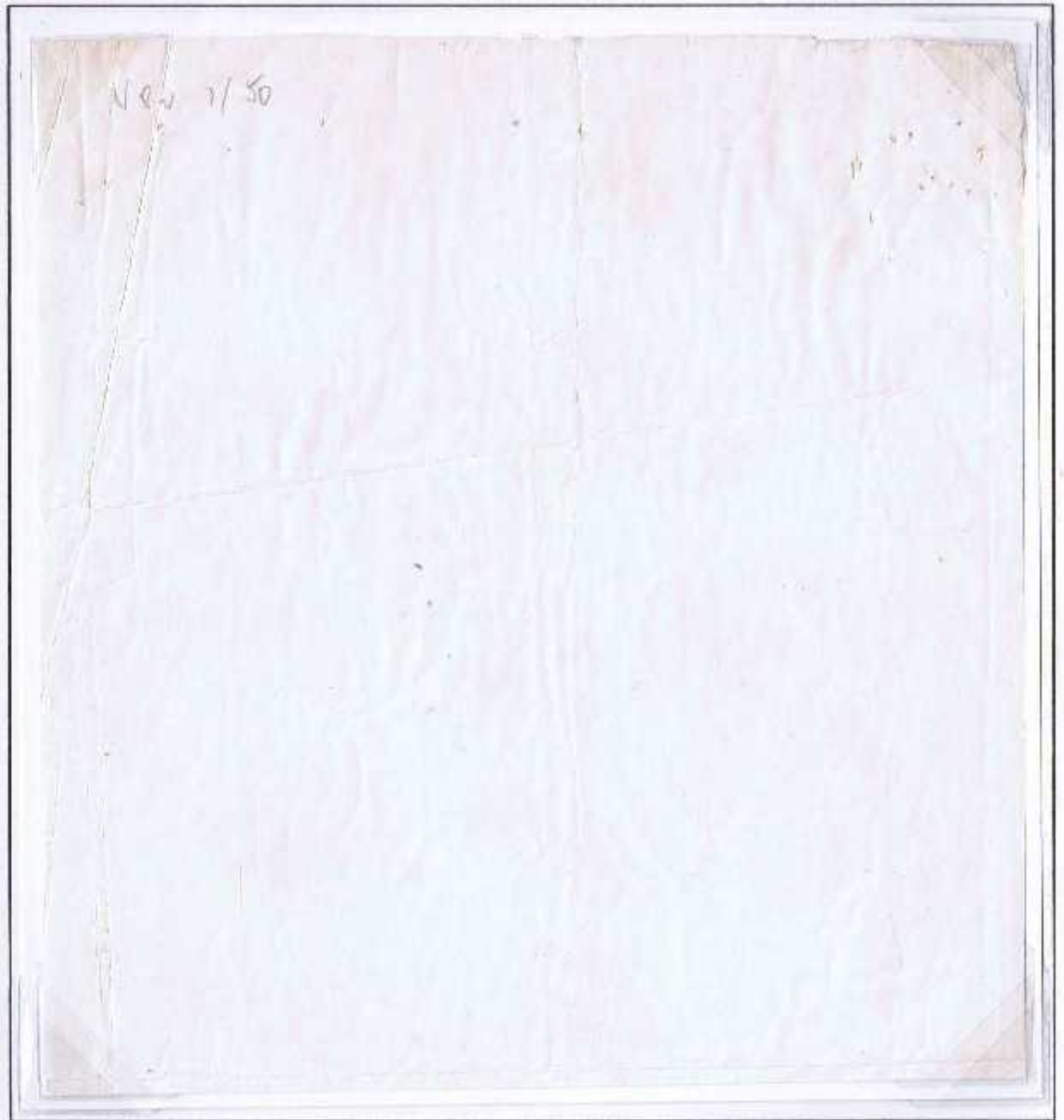


Colombia May 1859. "0" registration markings.

1.1: PERCEPTION OF NOTHING

I can be a blank or empty space.

And my
existence can
be intended
when the
process
begins ..



New South Wales

*Waterlow & Sons
Crown over "A" in
circle watermark.*

*Twenty-five
impressions and an
ornate watermark at
top with manuscript
NSW 7/50*

*Printer's sample of
the paper used for
1905 issue.*

... is unfinished,

.. or when checks are being carried out.



1.1: PERCEPTION OF NOTHING

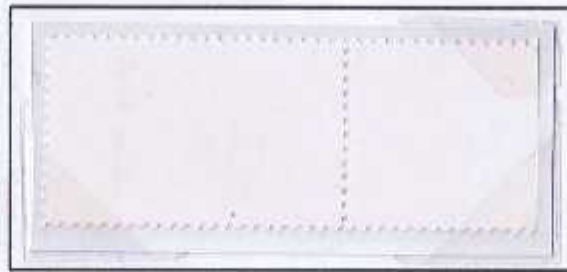
Or I can also exist after an event occurs which fails to place or removes something intended to be there.

Is completely missing...



USA 1991 10c Red Cloud
all colours missing (E)

... appears to be missing.



USA 1978 Carl Sandberg. Severely
under-inked and appears blank.

... or only partially there.



I appear again when something has been lost.

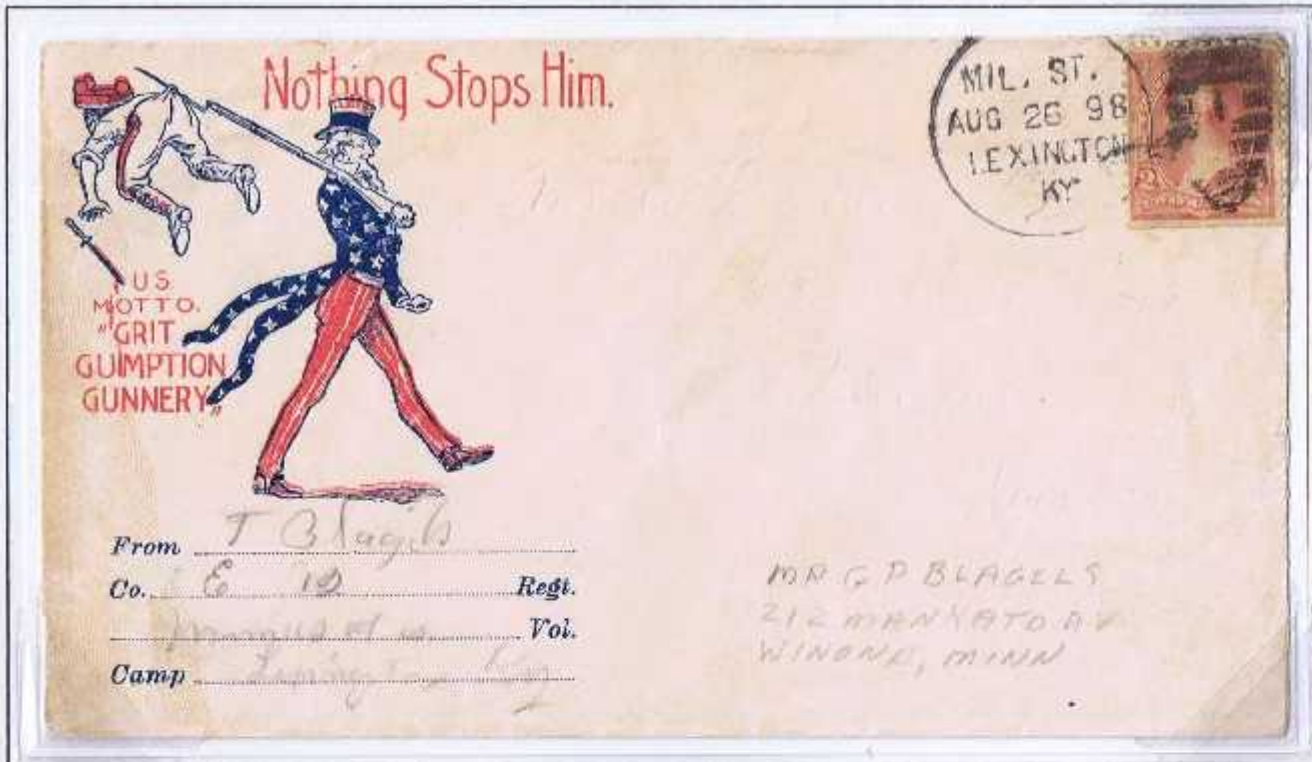


No stamps as they floated off while the envelope was in the water.

The flying boat Scipio crashed in Mirabella Bay, Crete on 22nd August 1936. (Letter from Jerusalem). All salvaged mail was taken to Athens. Paris mail was taken onwards by rail. Arrival Amiens 30 August 1936.

GB 1993 - 1p

1.2: BUT AM I SOMETHING?



If I can stop him then I cannot be an empty space, I must be something.

Armies consider they are the best and NOTHING is able to stop them.

Patriotic Mail
USA - Spanish War, 1898
Military Station
Lexington, Kentucky

NOTHING is to be written on this except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

I am quite well.

I have been admitted into hospital.

*{ sick } and am going on well.
{ wounded } and hope to be discharged soon.*

I am being sent down to the base.

I have received your { letter, telegram, parcel.

Letter follows at first opportunity.

I have received no letter from you.

*{ lately
{ for a long time.*

Signature only

M. A. Tapp

Date

19-10-16

(Postage must be prepaid on any letter or postcard addressed to the sender of this card.)

If I am nothing how could someone write anything about me !!



Of course I exist but as a positive as there is "Nothing like" me!

Rien de tel" – Ancel... desserts" Satas "S" Multi Value from 1937.

<<<<

Information is of value to the enemy. NOTHING other than certain sentences can be written. The authorities produced stationery that assisted in this requirement.

Provisional UK Field Service Postcard in blue (Scarce). These were used in the early part of WW1 prior to standardisation in buff ..(Item sent free 14.10.14)

"Something for nothing" is a phrase used when someone thinks I am of no value but for another person there is value so I change into something.

1968 10 Shilling Booklet



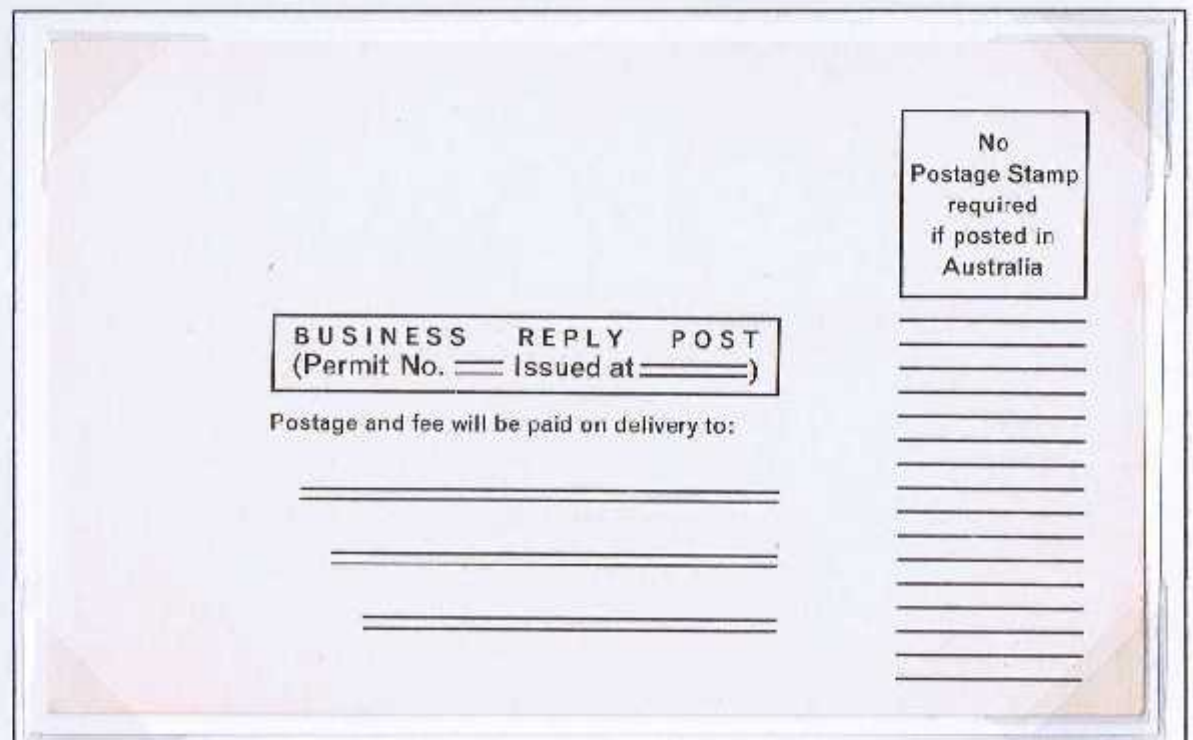
Another way of expressing something for nothing is to say that it is free.

Individuals and organisations can obtain privileges which entitle them to obtain something for free.

FREE franking for a Member of Parliament in the UK. Late usage of, privilege which was abolished on 10 Jan 1840.

The sender gets a benefit or "something for nothing" but the business still has to pay the charges.

Sample of Business Reply Post card from PMG Dept. The reverse of the card gives the technical specifications for the card that can be used including thickness. 1950's.



Nature can render me free. As well as costing nothing wind is also unconstrained.



Postage Meter Company – Promotional Specimen Meter



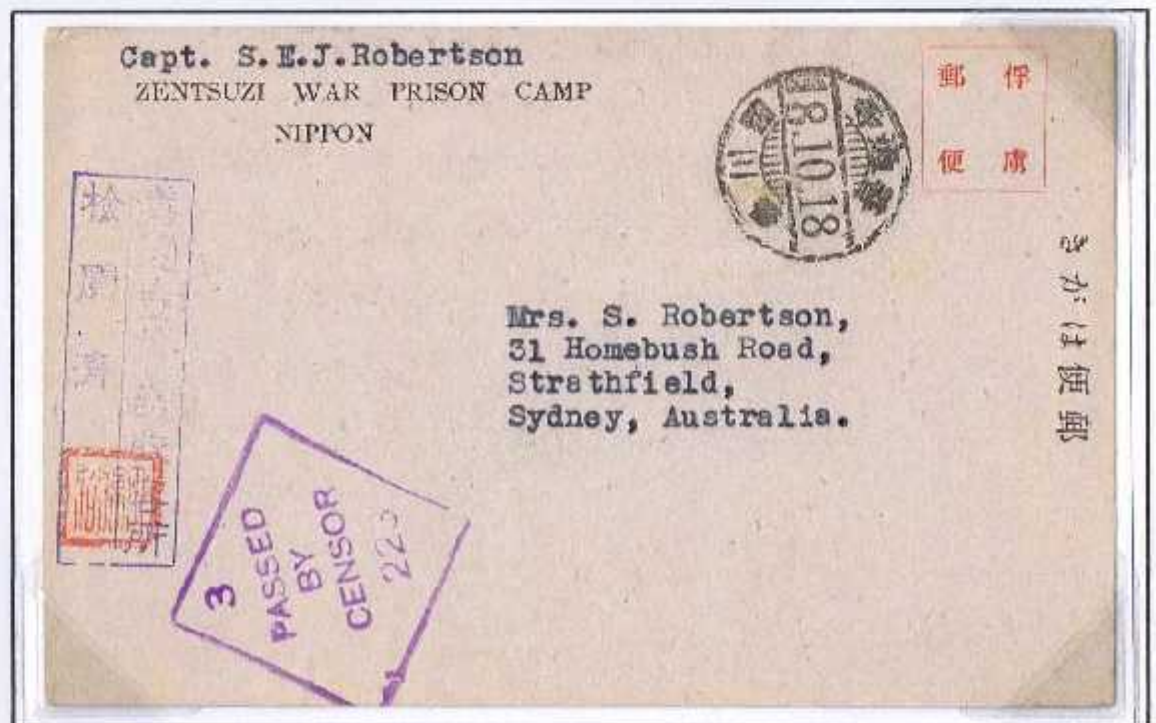
Something for nothing in the form of free mail is a small luxury for prisoners of war who are, in contrast to the wind, constrained.

Prisoner of War
Letter from Liverpool,
NSW, Australia,
Concentration Camp,
23 January 1918
from a civilian.

Although prisoners obtained something for nothing, the authorities controlled the situation and censored the mail.

Japanese censor markings. POW free mail. Zentsuzi War Prison Camp on front (also right hand side in Japanese and on reverse). 18 October 1943

Mail scarce:- 98 Australians at the camp in 1943-4.



1.3: THE "X" FACTOR AND OTHER RELATIVES

I can be an X or a cross to denote that nothing can be or has been placed in a space. The mark can be ...

a permanent feature,



or applied at the time.

St Andrew's Cross from 1906 booklet

Номер № 5.

Фабрика Скриэорітор.

де ла 15 - ма 1859 асна

Екседит 18 17 асна

Собіт 18 17 асна

КАНУЛ 17 6

| Сокотеала ауме: | Франко | | | Порто | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|-----|------------------------|--------|-----|------|
| | Бонгџі | Лей | Пар. | Бонгџі | Лей | Пар. |
| Скриэері рекомандате | | | | | | |
| „ франкато | | | | | | |
| Суре трѣдаре къ паметъ | | | | | | |
| Порто свързѣ | | | | | | |
| Семма | | | | | | |
| Контролизацие. | | | | | | |
| Казѣа адасѣлѣи франко саѣ порто. | | | | | | |
| Казѣа скѣдереѣ франко саѣ порто. | | | | | | |
| Сомѣа адасѣлѣи ми а скѣдереѣ | | | | | | |
| Семма адивѣратѣ. | | | | | | |
| Екседит де: | | | Ренедит ми приимит де: | | | |
| <i>[Signature]</i> | | | <i>[Signature]</i> | | | |

1859 Postal Form No 5 – Waybill. Hand made paper from Kahul, Moldova, dated 15 June and postmarked 17/6 . No letters were carried on that day, however the form was still marked with two "X"s to show this and duly signed. - Rumanian text.

1.3: THE "X" FACTOR AND OTHER RELATIVES

Some of my relatives which have similar names to me are:



NIL applied to sample value but package not sent at the sample concession rate to which it was entitled as this was for surface only.

Postage rate 5 shillings for 6 oz airmail small packet (1 Feb 1948 – 1 May 1952) to Zone C.



NOUGHT's name comes from the old English "no" and "whit", - no creature. <<<<<

NIL comes from Latin roots nil and nihil. It means nothing or no value. <<<<



but it is better know in the name of the game of noughts and crosses.

NULL is a German name for zero which is also English and is from the same Latin base as nil.



NONE is related to me as well because one of its definition is "No thing".

But this relative is Italian masquerading as English.

None, Turin Province, Backstamped 7 July (1866.)

2: MY ALTER EGO - ZERO

Zero is not a natural number, as it is not used to start counting, but is a specific symbol for assigning no value.

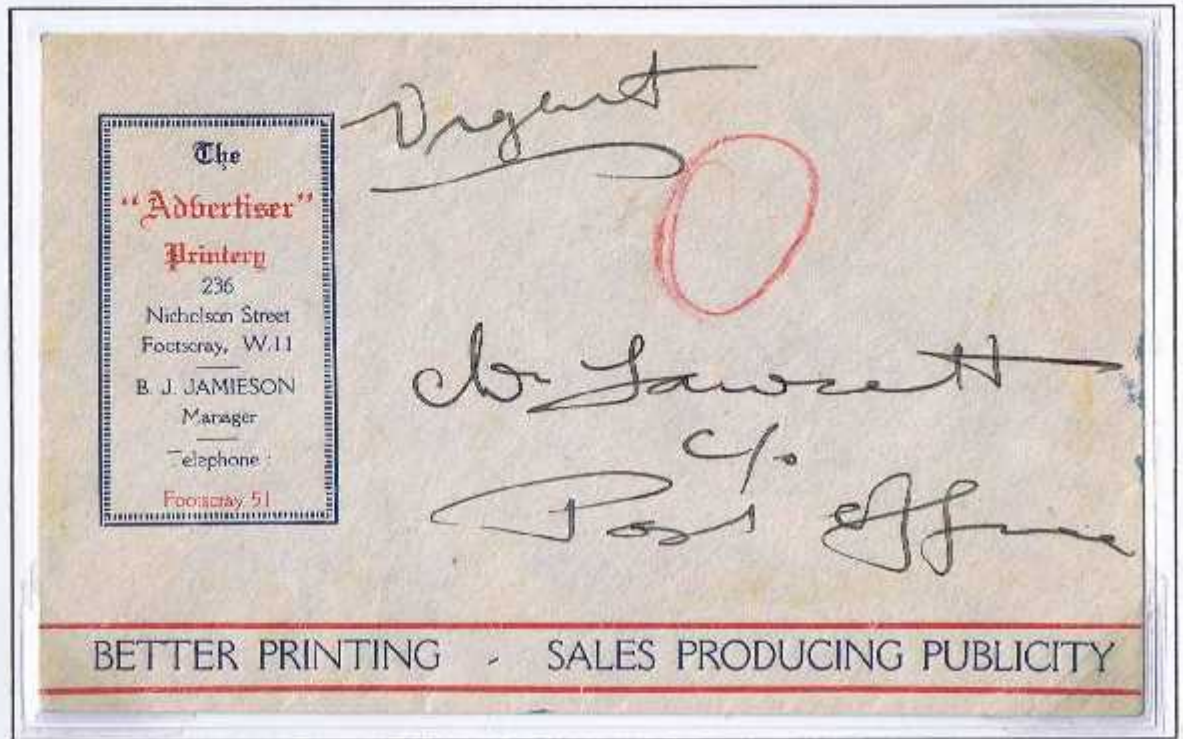
2.1: OF NO VALUE

My symbol is an oval or circle with a hollow centre.

I may be assigned this symbol when no payment is required.

>>>

Australia circa 1930s. The zero marking was probably applied as letter appears to have been handed over the counter rather than posted and therefore incurred no charge.



or when an event begins...



Experimental Westinghouse-Garrad Ticket Machines Ltd blank. Used Dec 1947 to Nov 1948 at Cambridge.

is being tested ..



1989 Zero FRAMA labels from testing or when a new paper roll was installed.

or checked ...



The 711 store machine had to be checked first thing each day with a "Specimen" label.



.. I may also be allotted a value of zero.

Stamp Vending Kiosk Sample.

2.2: MY TARGET IS

Zero is used as a ultimate target when something is required to be eliminated hence leaving nothing.



It can be about a physical thing ...

... or a state of being. (*Hunger*)



2004 Misplaced perforation. Only significant error known on this issue.

2.3: WHERE AM I?

On occasions when there is a need to locate something the name or the symbol zero marking can be used.



At a central point
Raising the flag at
Ground Zero



As a reference
Kilometer zero



Paris was the centre of the pneumatic post system
1st arrondissement, allocated "00" marking.

Malakof to Paris 5 Oct 1949. 30F lettercard of Sep
21 1948. Upated to 45F.

.. or a
location can
also be
designated
or referred
to as zero.

2.3: WHERE AM I?

If I am in the middle of the world I am also at a zero location and I have special names.



Latitude is my name when I am in the middle horizontally.

The Equator (Ecuador in Spanish) is designated as latitude $0^{\circ} 0' 0''$.

The Equator is only an imaginary line drawn on the Earth's surface so I cannot be seen.

When the earth is divided vertically longitude is what I am called.

Hasler "Mailmaster" from 1978



Longitude encircles the globe north - south.

Greenwich is considered my home as the Prime Meridian, which passes through the Royal Observatory Greenwich, establishes the position of zero degrees longitude.



"0" longitude shown on map above 'South Pole'



The Prime Meridian and International Dateline were established at an international conference in 1884.



Specimen

2.4: HOW ZERO IS USED IN CREATING BIGGER NUMBERS



The open oval symbol "0" is used with numerals to make the bigger numbers.

*Greece 10 L Hermes
1861 Orange Control
number "00" instead
of 10. (pos 103) (E).*

The decimal system has 10 (Ten) as its base and is used by most modern civilizations.

The number 10 is created by adding the "0" to the first number "1".

*Plate proof - Postage Due - 10 c
value not issued until September
1879. On India card in darker
shade than issued stamp.*

Scarce in large multiples.



2.4.1: DECIMAL SYSTEM

The sequence in the decimal system is such that the value of any position increases by a power of 10 for each move from left to right by adding a "0"



"1"

*Plate 11-A Type
VII Pos 3 (E)*



"1" + "0"

*Perf 12 x 6
with lines on
front and back.*



"1" + "0" + "0"

*"100" Bottesdale,
Suffolk*



"1" + "0" + "0" + "0"

My mate the zero continues to be added with the system progressing in steps of three.

There is a dot or a comma before the last three zeros to obtain the next steps of 10,000 and 100,000.



Greece 1941 Postal Stationery envelope. Originally 5d, up-rated to 15d. With currency inflation revalued to 10.000d, and the overprinted 100.000d stamp. (plus 2000d on reverse).

In some places the system is the same but has a different step with a new name.



And with the addition of more of my alter egos, the numbers get bigger and bigger.



1,000,000 Six zeros
Imperforate



Nine zeros



1000 Billion =
1,000,000,000,000,000

Lakh is a special name and number step for 100,000 in India

First word in Hindi in the postmark is Lakh.

2.4.1: DECIMAL SYSTEM

The value of a number depends on its place, or position, in the number. Here is one example of how my counterpart zero is part of the structure.

14

The four replaces the zero in the 10.

The number comprises

One ten

Four units

»»»»



POW Mail from Hay Interment Camp to Iraq. Scarce destination.

.. and my friend zero is added to progress to the next step.

104

One Hundred

Zero Tens

Four Units



If zero is repositioned after the four it creates a different number - 140.



Another zero can be added to reach even higher numbers.

1040

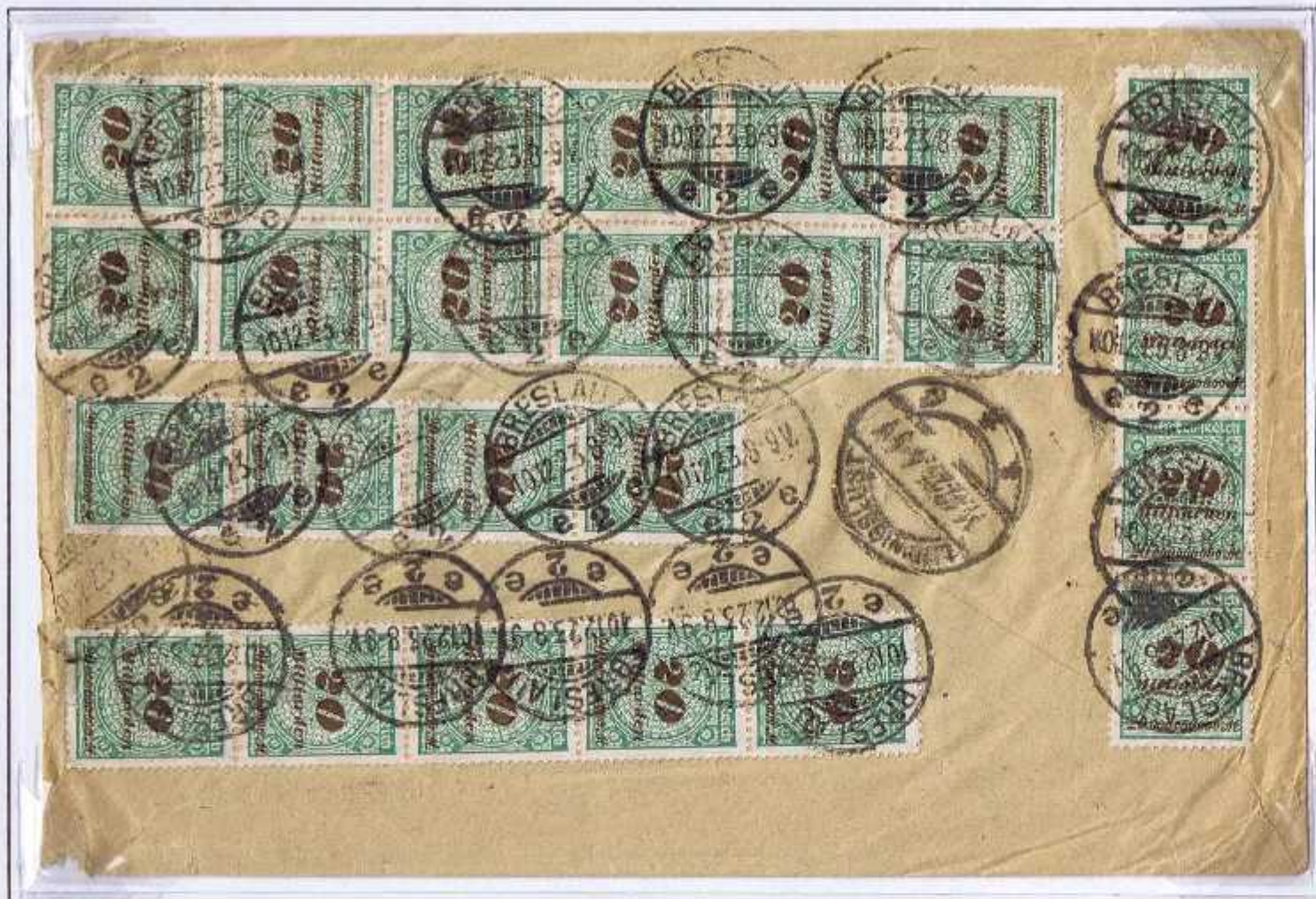
Large Numeral, Clamecy

3: TRANSFORMATIONS

You have seen that I am useful and am worth both nothing and something.

3.1: SOMETHING INTO NOTHING

But something may have the appearance of high value which can become worth nothing very quickly!!



A value of 500,000,000,000 Marks transformed into nothing after devaluation by one trillion times on Dec 1 1923.

Well almost nothing. The value was just ½ Mark. (50 Pf) after conversion.



50 new pfennigs, issued Dec 1st, 1923

Express - Breslau >20-100g. . Correct use of German hyperinflation stamps on 10 Dec 1923. Mark devalued on Dec 1 but previous stamps valid for an additional month.

3.2: NOTHING INTO SOMETHING

←←←←

So maybe I am not nothing after all !!

My contents are worth nothing but now this makes me worth something as I saved the sender some money.

Handwritten top line "Sample patterns without value" (E)

Sample concession rate applied and the sender only paid a total of 17 Kruezer instead of 38. (Incl markings on reverse)

