

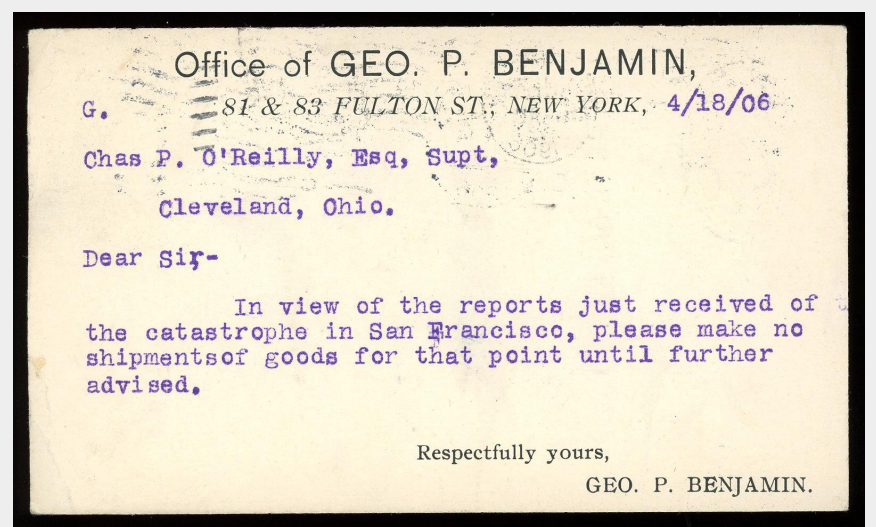
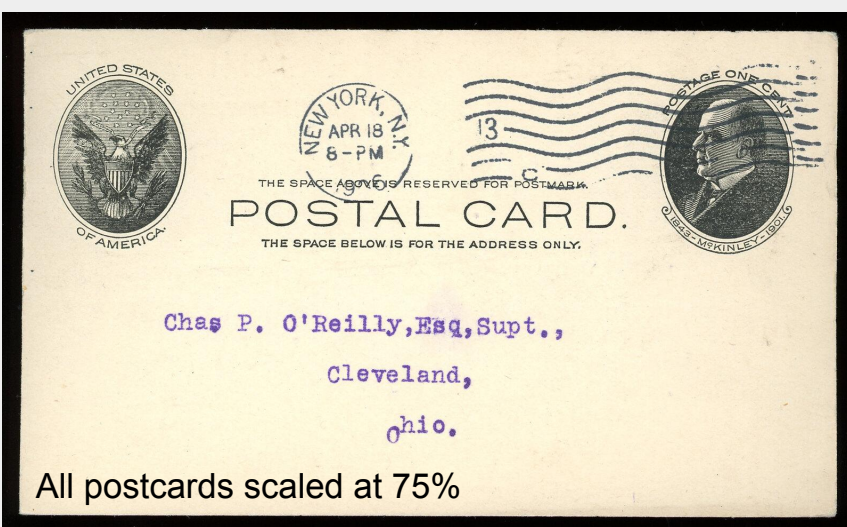
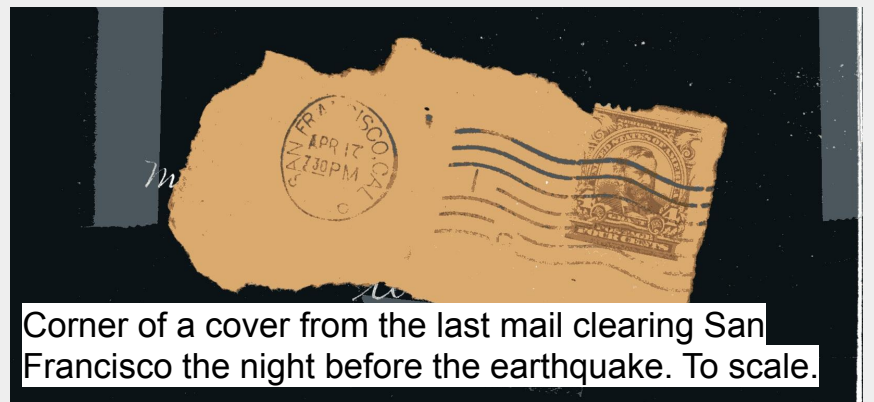
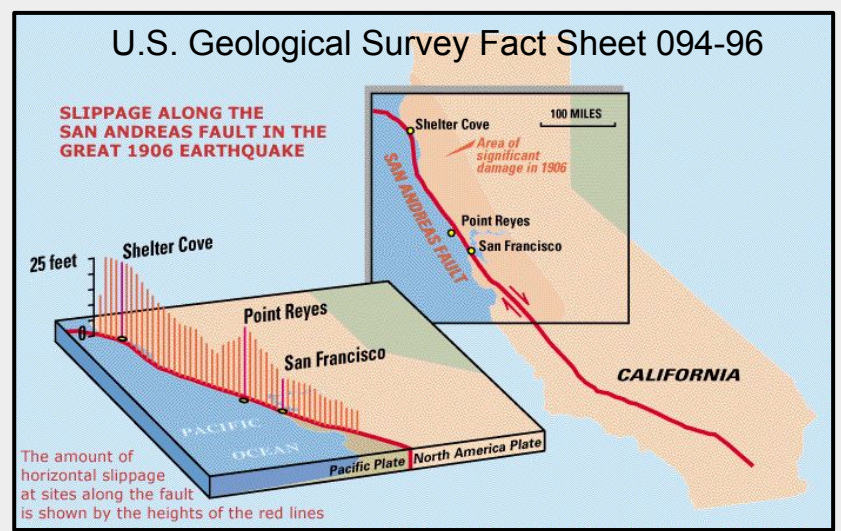
Mail Sent Soon After the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake

Rob Sternberg (rs_sternberg@yahoo.com)

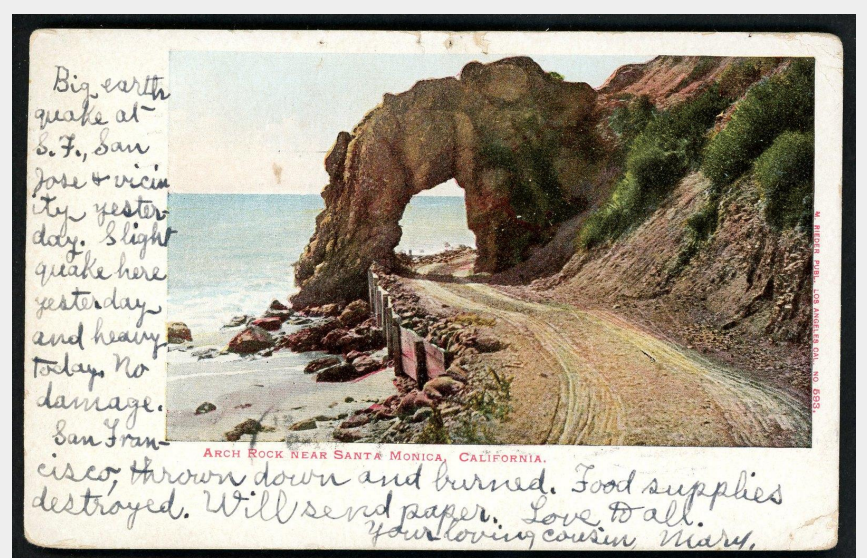
My topical “stamp collection” (mostly postcards) on U.S. earthquakes consists of about 275 items from 25 earthquakes, with the largest number (115) related to the magnitude 7.8 San Francisco earthquake of April 18, 1906. (The figure to the right shows the 1906 slippage along the San Andreas Fault, as much as 25’.)

I prefer items that were posted, postmarked near the earthquake epicenter not long after the earthquake occurred, and bearing a message related to the earthquake.

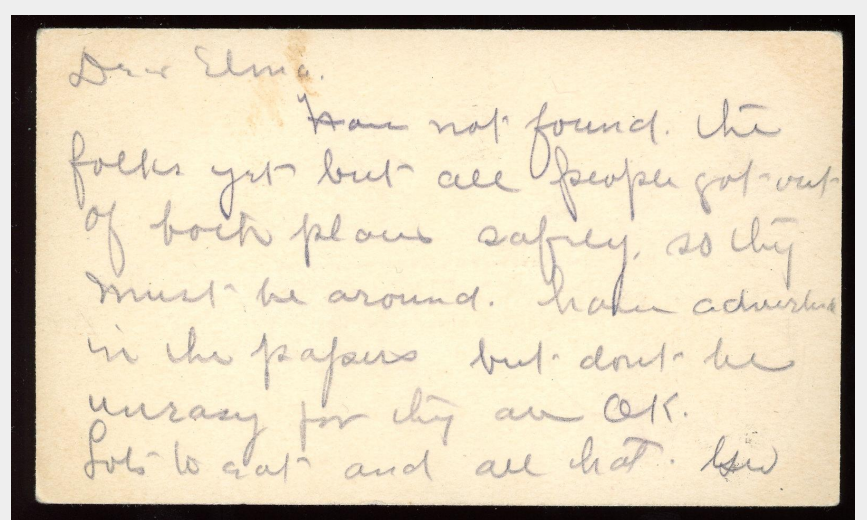
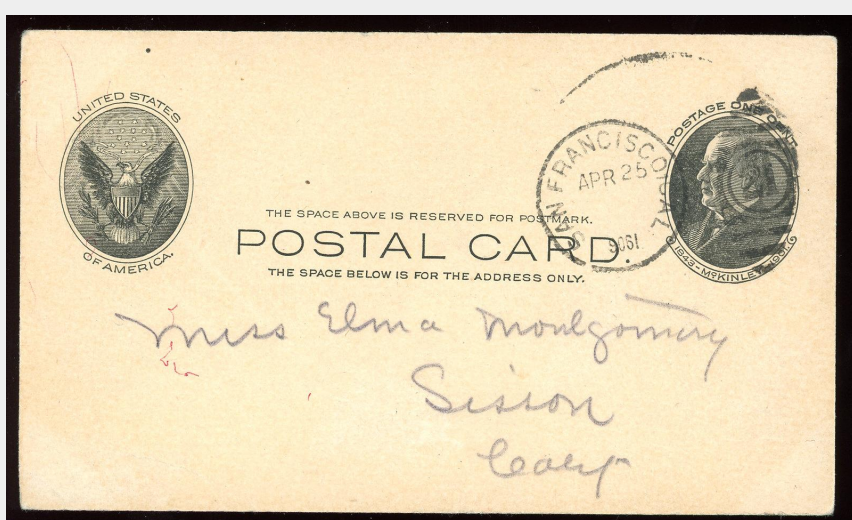
Shown are four items sent within a month of the San Francisco disaster. Scans of all images in the collection can be seen [here](#). The database for the collection is [here](#).



The quake occurred at 5:12 PST. This postal card (Scott UX18) was postmarked in New York less than four hours later.



Postmarked one day after the quake, in Los Angeles, with an unrelated image on the back. Text: “San Francisco, thrown down and burned. Food supplies destroyed.” Text also cites a “heavy” earthquake felt in Los Angeles on April 19, 1906, which can be identified as a magnitude 6.3 event with an epicenter in the Imperial Valley.



Another postal card, postmarked one week after the quake, from San Francisco, the earliest post-quake postmark in my collection from that city. Text: "... have not found the folks yet but all people got out of both places safely, so they must be around, Have advertised in the papers but don't be uneasy for they are ok..."