

US Postal Laws & Regulations

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Unmailable matter



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by section three hundred and seventy-one, it is subject to postage at letter, or first-class, rates, and will be treated as a letter; that is, if one full rate, two cents, has been paid, it will be rated up with the deficient postage at letter rates; if less than one full rate has been paid, it will be treated as prescribed in section five hundred and twenty-five.

UNMAILABLE MATTER.

Sec. 378. Definition and Classification.—Unmailable matter includes all matter which is by law, regulation, or treaty stipulation prohibited from being transmitted in the mails; or which, by reason of illegible, incorrect, or insufficient address, it is found impossible to forward to destination. For convenience it is divided into the following classes:

1. *Held for postage*: That matter which is insufficiently prepaid to entitle it to be forwarded in the mail. This includes all domestic matter of the first class which is not prepaid at least one full rate of postage, and all other domestic matter not fully prepaid; and all insufficiently prepaid matter addressed to foreign countries on which prepayment is necessary.

2. *Misdirected*: That matter which is without address or so incorrectly, insufficiently, or illegibly addressed that it cannot be forwarded to its destination.

3. *Destructive matter*: That which, from its harmful nature, is forbidden to be in the mails. (See section 368.)

4. *Coin and jewelry*: That matter, to wit, coins, jewelry, or precious articles, which is by treaty stipulation prohibited from being sent in the mails to certain foreign countries. (See section 401.)

5. *Obscene matter*: That matter which is by sections three hundred and eighty declared unmailable and prohibited from being sent in the mails.

6. *Lottery*: That matter which is by section three hundred and seventy-nine prohibited from being sent in the mails.

7. *Mutilated*: That matter which is recovered from wrecked or burned mail cars or vessels, or which has been so damaged by any other means that it cannot be forwarded to its destination. This includes all matter of value found loose in the mails, separated from the wrapper, label, or envelope containing the address, so that the destination cannot be known; and all matter recovered from depredations on the mails, which the Postmaster-General is required to restore to the owners when ownership is proved. (Section 151.)

8. *Excess of weight and size*: Those packages of domestic third and fourth class matter weighing more than four pounds each, except single books exceeding that weight, and of foreign matter which are in ex-

cess of the weight or size fixed by treaty stipulation as the maximum for such matter.

9. Such matter as is addressed to foreign countries contrary to regulations for transmission thereto.

10. Any publication which violates any copyright granted by the United States. (See section 341.)

Sec. 379. Letters and Circulars Concerning Lotteries, &c.—No letter or circular concerning [illegal] lotteries, so-called gift-concerts, or other similar enterprises, offering prizes, or concerning schemes devised and intended to deceive and defraud the public for the purpose of obtaining money under false pretenses, shall be carried in the mail. Any person who shall knowingly deposit or send anything to be conveyed by mail in violation of this section, shall be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars nor less than one hundred dollars, with costs of prosecution. (R. S., § 3894.)

That section thirty-eight hundred and ninety-four of the Revised Statutes be, and is hereby, amended by striking out the word "illegal" in the first line of said section. (Act of July 12, 1876, § 2, 19 Stats., 90.)

NOTE.—Letters and circulars known, and not merely suspected or supposed, to be concerning lotteries are non-mailable. Unsealed circulars may by inspection be known to concern lotteries or not, and when so known may properly be withheld from the mails as prohibited matter, and so may letters, if *known* to concern lotteries. When letters are addressed to lotteries, lottery associations, or persons described in the address as the agents of lotteries or similar schemes, postmasters cannot lawfully withdraw them from the mails as concerning lotteries, as it does not follow and cannot be assumed that such letters concern lotteries. Nor can postmasters refuse to forward registered letters or parcels addressed to such lotteries or agents, or sell money-orders payable to them or their order.

Newspapers containing advertisements of lottery schemes or drawings are not thereby rendered unmailable, as they are not circulars. (Opinion of Attorney-General, December 16, 1885.)

It was only lottery dealers who were in the mind of Congress as sending out letters concerning lotteries, and not the occasional and individual buyer of lottery tickets; and the person who mails a letter to a dealer ordering tickets does not thereby violate the statute. (*United States v. Mason*, 22 Fed. Rep., 707.) A lottery ticket is not a letter within the meaning of the statute, but a schedule printed on the back of all lottery tickets sent out for a particular drawing is a circular. (*United States v. Clark*, 22 Fed. Rep., 708.)

Sec. 380. Obscene Matter.—Every obscene, lewd, or lascivious book, pamphlet, picture, paper, writing, print, or other publication of an indecent character, and every article or thing designed or intended for the prevention of conception or procuring of abortion, and every article or thing intended or adapted for any indecent or immoral use, and every written or printed card, circular, book, pamphlet, advertisement, or notice of any kind giving information, directly or indirectly, where or

how, or of whom, or by what means, any of the hereinbefore-mentioned matters, articles or things may be obtained or made, and every letter upon the envelope of which, or postal card upon which, indecent, lewd, obscene, or lascivious delineations, epithets, terms, or language may be written or printed, are hereby declared to be non-mailable matter, and shall not be conveyed in the mails nor delivered from any post-office nor by any letter carrier; and any person who shall knowingly deposit, or cause to be deposited, for mailing or delivery, anything declared by this section to be non-mailable matter, and any person who shall knowingly take the same, or cause the same to be taken, from the mails, for the purpose of circulating or disposing of, or of aiding in the circulation or disposition of the same, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall for each and every offense be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five thousand dollars, or imprisoned at hard labor not less than one year nor more than ten years, or both, at the discretion of the court. (R. S., § 3893, as amended by act of July 12, 1876, 19 Stats., 90.)

NOTE.—The test whether matter is obscene within the statute, as determined by the courts, is that its tendency is to deprave and corrupt the morals of those whose minds are open to such influences, and into whose hands a publication of this kind may fall. The word "lewd," as used, means "having a tendency to excite lustful thoughts." "Passages are indecent, within the meaning of the act, when they tend to obscenity; that is to say, matter having the form of indecency, which is calculated to promote the general corruption of morals." That is within the law obscene which "would suggest impure and libidinous thoughts in the minds of the young and inexperienced."

Obscene and indecent matter contained in a sealed letter is within the purview of this statute. Such letter is unmailable, and the person mailing it is guilty of an offense indictable and punishable under this act. (*U. S. v. Morris*, 18 Fed. Rep., 900; *U. S. v. Gaylord*, 17 Fed. Rep., 438; *Id. v. Hanover*, *Id.*, 444; *Id. v. Britton*, *Id.*, 731.) An illustrated pamphlet on impotency, containing extracts from medical works, but indecent and obscene and intended for general circulation, is within this statute and is non-mailable. (*U. S. v. Chesman*, 14 Fed. Rep., 497.) The fact that it is mailed to a person under a fictitious name renders the offense none the less complete. (*Bates v. U. S.*, 11 Biss. C. Ct., 70.)

When a sealed letter has passed in the mails and been delivered to the party addressed, he should, if he deem its contents obscene, consult the United States district attorney for the district in which he resides.

Where the article sent is pills advertised to prevent conception it is no defense to show that they are worthless for the purpose, nor that the defendant deposited them in the post-office by the hand of another. (*Bates v. U. S.*, 11 Biss. C. Ct., 70.) Whether photographs or other pictures are obscene is upon the trial in court a question of fact for the jury to determine, upon exhibition of the pictures. (*People v. Muller*, 32 Hun. N.Y., 209.) But for the purpose of determining as to its mailability the postmaster must decide, or, if it appears doubtful, must submit the case to the Department for decision.

As to the punishment of a Government officer, agent, or employé, for aiding in sending obscene matter in the mail, &c., see section 382.

Sec. 381. Postmasters are Responsible for the Admission of Improper Matter, and will exercise great care to exclude whatever is manifestly unmailable. When articles of the fourth class are offered for mailing under the provisions of section three hundred and seventy they must be examined and excluded if the conditions of admission have not been complied with. In cases of doubt the matter should be referred to the General Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service. (See section 896.)

As to the treatment of unmailable matter generally and its disposition, see sections 528, 529, 530, 546, 608, and 609.

Sec. 382. Punishment of Officer or Employé for Mailing, &c.—Whoever, being an officer, agent, or employé of the Government of the United States, shall knowingly aid or abet any person engaged in any violation of any of the provisions of law prohibiting importing, advertising, dealing in, exhibiting, or sending or receiving by mail, obscene or indecent publications, or representations, or means for preventing conception or procuring abortion, or other articles of indecent or immoral use or tendency, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall for every offense be punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars and not more than five thousand, or by imprisonment at hard labor for not less than one year nor more than ten, or both. (R. S., § 1785.)

CHAPTER TWELVE.

FOREIGN MAIL MATTER ; ITS CLASSIFICATION AND RATES OF POSTAGE.

POSTAL CONVENTIONS.

Sec. 383. Postal Conventions with Foreign Countries.—For the purpose of making better postal arrangements with foreign countries, or to counteract their adverse measures affecting our postal intercourse with them, the Postmaster-General, by and with the advice and consent of the President, may negotiate and conclude postal treaties or conventions, and may reduce or increase the rates of postage on mail matter conveyed between the United States and foreign countries. (R. S., § 398.)

NOTE.—In execution of the authority given by this section, the Postmaster-General is not limited by the statute fixing a limit of weight to matter in the domestic mails. (See Opinion of Attorney-General, June 30, 1887.)

Sec. 384. Publication of Postal Conventions.—The Postmaster-General shall transmit a copy of each postal convention concluded with foreign

Sec. 399. The Rates and Payment of Postage.—The rates of postage for the conveyance of postal articles throughout the entire extent of all Postal Union countries, including delivery at the residence of the addressee, where free-delivery service exists, are as follows:

1. For letters, five cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof if prepaid, and double that rate for each half ounce or fraction thereof if not prepaid.

2. For postal cards, two cents each; and for postal cards with paid reply, two cents on each part.

3. For printed matter of every kind, commercial papers, and samples of merchandise the rate is one cent for each weight of two ounces or fraction thereof; but at least five cents must be paid on each packet of commercial papers, and at least two cents on each packet of samples of merchandise.

Letters will be forwarded without prepayment of any rate; other articles will only be forwarded if prepaid in part; and in all cases of insufficient prepayment, double the amount of the deficiency will be collected of the addressee.

Prepayment can be made only by affixing stamps valid in the country of origin; in the United States, the domestic stamps provided by the Department.

All mailable matter will be reforwarded without extra charge within the limits of the Union, and the deficient postage, if any, collected at the office of delivery. Matter erroneously or incompletely addressed and returned to the sender for correction will not be reforwarded except upon payment of postage therefor anew.

Compound packages.—Printed matter, commercial papers, and samples may be sent in one packet, if each article does not exceed the respective limitations in weight and size applicable to it, and the weight of the whole packet does not exceed four pounds six ounces; but the minimum postage will be five cents if the packet contains any commercial papers, and two cents if it contains only printed matter and samples.

Sec. 400. Recall or Change of Address.—The sender may cause an article to be withdrawn by the Department from the mails and returned, or may cause the address to be changed before delivery to the addressee, but at his cost of postage on the request if sent by mail, and of ordinary telegraph rates if the request be telegraphed.

In the United States the sender must apply therefor to the Superintendent of Foreign Mails through the office of mailing.

Sec. 401. Unmailable Matter.—Articles are unmailable in the international mails between the Postal Union countries in the following cases:

1. All articles, except letters, which are not prepaid, at least in part.
 2. Postal cards not conforming to section three hundred and ninety-four.
 3. Printed matter, commercial papers, and samples of merchandise, which contain any letter or manuscript note having the character of an actual and personal correspondence.
 4. Printed matter, commercial papers, and samples of merchandise which are not made up in packets in such manner as to admit of their being easily examined.
 5. Matter printed by special processes mentioned in section three hundred and ninety-six, when not presented as therein directed.
 6. Samples of merchandise which have a merchantable value, or which exceed the prescribed weight or size.
 7. Packets of commercial papers and prints of all kinds which exceed the prescribed weight or size.
 8. All articles of a nature likely to soil or injure the mails.
- Besides the foregoing, it is forbidden to the public to send by mail—
1. Letters or packets containing pieces of money.
 2. Any packets whatever containing articles liable to customs duty.
 3. Gold or silver bullion, precious stones, jewelry, or other precious articles to or through the mails of any country whose legislation prohibits their being placed in the mails or forwarded.

MAILS WITH CANADA.

Sec. 402. Classification and Rates of Postage.—Mail matter exchanged with Canada is divided into four classes, corresponding with the classification of domestic matter, but limited in character, as follows:

1. Letters and postal cards.
2. Newspapers and periodicals, from the office of publication as well as from private parties.
3. Magazines, pamphlets, books, maps, plans, engravings, drawings, photographs, lithographs, sheets of music, &c.
4. Patterns and samples of merchandise, including grains and seeds, but not exceeding the weight of eight ounces, and never closed against inspection, but always so wrapped or inclosed that they may be readily and thoroughly examined by postmasters. Samples of liquids, packed as required in section three hundred and seventy are also admissible.

Prepayment of postage is in all cases obligatory; to be paid in domestic stamps and at the domestic postage rates of the country of origin, except that the postage on each pattern or sample shall be ten cents.

MAILS WITH MEXICO.

Sec. 403. Classification and Rates of Postage.—Except as provided in the next section, articles of mail matter for Mexico are classified and admitted to the mails at the same rates of postage and in all respects according to domestic regulations of the United States, and mails from Mexico will be received and delivered as domestic mails, except as otherwise specially provided in these regulations.

Articles other than letters in their usual and ordinary form must never be closed against inspection, but must be so wrapped or inclosed that they may be readily and thoroughly examined by postmasters or customs officers.

Full prepayment of postage is required in both countries upon correspondence of all kinds, except letters, upon which prepayment of at least one full rate is compulsory. Such prepayment will be made in the domestic stamps of the country of origin.

Should any correspondence addressed to a Mexican office be tendered for mailing at a post-office in the United States, obviously with the intention to evade the higher rates of postage applicable in Mexico, it must be refused unless payment be made of such higher rates, it being designed to prevent persons whose correspondence belongs to the Mexican mails from availing themselves of the rates of postage of the United States. Postmasters on the Mexican border, and at offices near that country, are especially enjoined to carefully observe this provision.

Sec. 404. Unmailable Matter.—All articles which are not wrapped or inclosed as provided in the preceding section; all publications which violate the copyright laws of the country of destination; packets, except single volumes of printed books, which exceed four pounds six ounces in weight; liquids, poisons, explosive or inflammable substances, fatty substances, those which easily liquefy, live or dead animals, not dried, insects and reptiles, confections, pastes, fruits and vegetables and jelly liable to decomposition, substances which exhale a bad odor, lottery tickets or circulars, obscene or immoral articles, and other articles that are in any way liable to damage the mails or injure persons engaged in handling them, are unmailable.

Sec. 405. Return of Correspondence.—Fully prepaid letters which bear requests by senders for their return in case of their non-delivery by a certain date or within a specified time, must be reciprocally returned without charge directly to the dispatching exchange office, at the expiration of the period for their retention indicated in the requests.

Fully prepaid letters bearing on the covers the business card, names, addresses of the senders, or designation of places to which they may be

AT MAILING OFFICES—UNMAILABLE MATTER.

Sec. 523. Unpaid Letters.—All domestic letters deposited in any post-office for mailing, on which the postage is wholly unpaid or paid less than one full rate as required by law, except letters lawfully free, and duly certified letters of soldiers, sailors, and marines in the service of the United States, shall be sent by the postmaster to the Dead-Letter Office in Washington. (R. S., first part of § 3937.) (See section 326.)

Sec. 524. Weight of Matter.—When matter is received for mailing, its weight should be ascertained and postage thereon rated up. The weight at time of mailing determines the postage, as mail matter, from various causes, frequently diminishes in weight during transit. If it be insufficiently paid first-class matter and one full rate shall have been paid, the postmaster will stamp the amount of postage due on it and dispatch the same. For treatment of other deficient matter, see next section.

Sec. 525. Treatment of Unpaid Matter Deposited for Mailing.—When a letter wholly unpaid or prepaid at less than one full rate (two cents), or any second or third class matter of obvious value, such as magazines, pictorials, music, pictures, photographs, books, or pamphlets likely to be of use or value to the addressee, or any parcel of fourth-class matter, not fully prepaid but otherwise mailable, shall be deposited in any post-office, it will be treated as herein directed, namely:

1. It must be postmarked with date of receipt, rated up, and amount of deficient postage noted thereon.

2. If it bear the card or address of the sender, or he be known to, or conveniently ascertainable by, the postmaster, the letter or package will at once be returned to him for proper postage, if he be within the delivery of the office.

3. If the sender thereupon pays the postage the stamps will be affixed, if not done by him, and the matter dispatched.

4. If the sender be not known or conveniently ascertainable, the matter on receipt will be indorsed "HELD FOR POSTAGE," the addressee notified by next mail, by an official postal card (Form 1543) or otherwise, of the detention and amount of postage required, and requested to remit the same.

5. It should then be held awaiting reply, not longer than two weeks. If within that time the required postage is received from the addressee the required amount of stamps will be affixed to the matter so as to cover a portion of the words, "HELD FOR POSTAGE," and the matter dispatched.

6. If the sender shall pay the postage, after dispatch of notice to ad-

dressee, the matter will be indorsed, "POSTAGE SUBSEQUENTLY PAID BY WRITER," stamps affixed, and the matter dispatched.

7. If no reply remitting the proper postage shall have been received from the addressee at the expiration of two weeks from the date of mailing of the notice, and prepayment shall not have been made, the matter will be marked "UNCLAIMED" and sent to the Dead-Letter Office, in the manner directed by section six hundred and seven.

As to the treatment of FOREIGN MAIL MATTER UNPAID, see sections 617 and 619.
As to matter WITHOUT VALUE, see section 598.

Sec. 526. Misdirected Matter—Addresses not to be Changed.—Postmasters and others in the postal service must not change the address upon mail matter in the mails or post-offices, except as may be necessary to forward it from one office to another, or upon proper authorization to correct an address. (See section 562.)

Misdirected matter (see section 529) should be returned to the sender, if he be known, with the words stamped or written thereon, "RETURNED FOR BETTER DIRECTION." (See section 546.) And the sender should be informed of the proper post-office address to be given, if it be known at the mailing office; if not, the sender should be advised to apply to the division superintendent.

Sec. 527. Postmasters Responsible for Admission of Matter.—Postmasters are required to exclude from the mails all unmailable matter; but they are specially warned that they have no right to detain first-class matter upon the mere suspicion that it contains anything forbidden to be sent in the mails.

When matter manifestly obscene, or circulars concerning lotteries, are deposited for mailing, the postmaster should withdraw them, and send them with a full statement of the facts within his knowledge to the Dead-Letter Office. He will make like disposition and statement when he believes any article, publication, print, or writing to be mailed contrary to the statutes contained in sections three hundred and seventy-nine and three hundred and eighty, and await instructions.

Great care must be exercised respecting the admission of articles of the fourth class. When offered for mailing under the provisions of sections three hundred and sixty-nine and three hundred and seventy, postmasters will carefully examine them, and not admit them unless the conditions of admission have been fully complied with. In case of doubt the matter should be referred to the General Superintendent of Railway Mail Service. (See section 896.)

Sec. 528. Disposition of Destructive Unmailable Matter.—Postmasters receiving any article of destructive mail matter from any railway post-office or finding it deposited in their own post-offices, must not send the

same to the Dead-Letter Office, but will notify the person mailing such package, whether he live within the delivery of the post-office or not, that some other means than the mail must be provided for its transportation. If the sender is not known, then the postmaster should notify the party addressed of the detention of the package, that it cannot be transmitted in the mails, and that he must provide some other means for its being forwarded at his own expense, outside the mails. Then, if such packages are not taken from his office by or for either the sender or addressee within thirty days, the postmaster should report the facts to the Superintendent of the Dead-Letter Office, and await instructions from him.

Sec. 529. What Matter to be Sent to the Dead-Letter Office.—The following unmailable matter will be sent from the office where it is deposited for mailing to the Dead-Letter Office, namely :

1. "*Held for postage*" matter which cannot be returned to sender and has not been prepaid by addressee, as required by section five hundred and twenty-five.

2. *Misdirected matter* which cannot be dispatched to the addressee nor returned to sender, as directed in section five hundred and twenty-six.

3. *Excess of weight and size of matter*, or those packages of domestic matter which exceed the weight limited by law.

4. *Obscene matter* declared non-mailable by section three hundred and eighty.

5. *Lottery circulars* forbidden to be sent in the mails by section three hundred and seventy-nine.

6. *Mutilated or damaged matter*, or that which when deposited in the post-office is, or before dispatch may become, so damaged that it cannot be forwarded to destination, and cannot be returned to the sender.

As to FOREIGN MATTER, see sections 434 and 619.

Sec. 530. How to be Sent to Dead-Letter Office.—Unmailable matter will be sent to the Dead-Letter Office from the office where offered for mailing, in connection with other unmailable and dead matter, at the periods prescribed in section six hundred and five.

AT MAILING OFFICES—WITHDRAWAL OF MAIL MATTER.

Sec. 531. Before Dispatch.—After mailable matter has been deposited in the post-office it cannot be withdrawn except by the writer thereof or sender, or, in case of a minor child, the parent or guardian duly authorized to control the correspondence of the writer. The utmost care must be taken to ascertain that the person desiring to withdraw the matter is the person entitled to do so. If necessary the postmaster should require the applicant to exhibit a written address in the same

whose hands such letters pass, be allowed to make any exchange for other funds of the money or matter therein contained.

If such letters containing money cannot be delivered, after holding them thirty days from date of receipt, the postmaster will indorse the reason for non-delivery on the circular which accompanies each, and return them to the Dead-Letter Office duly entered on one list, giving the Department letter, number, and book. This list must be sent in duplicate, and when verified one copy will be returned to the post-office. The package should be indorsed "DEAD REGISTERED MATTER FROM _____ [here add name of post-office], and be addressed "Dead-Letter Office, Washington, D. C."

Registered dead letters received containing money must be registered when returned to the Dead-Letter Office. Letters containing articles of value, not money, are not to be so registered on return unless they were received registered. No other kind of letters must be sent in the same package. The postmaster neglecting to register packages containing returned dead letters requiring registration will be held responsible for the contents if lost.

Dead letters containing money or other inclosures, sent from the Dead-Letter Office to a post-office for delivery, must never be forwarded to another post-office, but must be returned to the Dead-Letter Office with all information obtainable as to the whereabouts of the writer or owner; nor must they be retained longer than one month, unless the Superintendent of the Dead-Letter Office specially so direct.

Dead letters without valuable inclosures, when returned from the Dead-Letter Office direct to writers, not under cover to postmasters, may be forwarded to another post-office, when necessary, for delivery.

Sec. 581. Unmailable Matter; when to be Delivered.—If any matter excluded from the mails by the preceding section [section 368] of this act except that declared non-mailable by section thirty-eight hundred and ninety-three of the Revised Statutes as amended [380], shall, by inadvertence, reach the office of destination, the same shall be delivered in accordance with its address: *Provided*, That the party addressed shall furnish the name and address of the sender to the postmaster at the office of delivery, who shall immediately report the facts to the Postmaster-General. If the person addressed refuse to give the required information, the postmaster shall hold the package subject to the order of the Postmaster-General. All matter declared non-mailable by section thirty-eight hundred and ninety-three of the Revised Statutes as amended, which shall reach the office of delivery, shall be held by the postmaster at said office subject to the order of the Postmaster-General. (Act of March 3, 1879, § 21, 20 Stats., 360.)

The matter so required to be delivered is the following :

1. Matter in its form and nature liable to destroy, deface, or otherwise damage the contents of the mail bag, or harm the person of any one engaged in the postal service.

2. Matter in excess of lawful weight, postage being paid for its full weight.

But the postmaster should report the facts, date and office of mailing, in both cases, to the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

The matter declared non-mailable by Revised Statutes, sections 3893, as amended, and 3894, and not deliverable, is :

1. Every obscene, lewd, or lascivious book, pamphlet, picture, paper, writing, print, or other publication of an indecent character.

2. Every article or thing designed or intended for the prevention of conception or procuring an abortion.

3. Every article or thing intended or adapted for any indecent or immoral use.

4. Every written or printed card, circular, book, pamphlet, advertisement, or notice of any kind giving information, directly or indirectly, where, or how, or of whom, or by what means, any of the hereinbefore mentioned matters, articles, or things may be obtained or made.

5. Every letter upon the envelope of which or postal card upon which indecent, lewd, obscene, or lascivious delineations, epithets, terms, or language may be written or printed. (See section 380.)

6. Matter appertaining to lotteries, gift concerts, or fraudulent schemes or devices.

The regulation for the disposal of undeliverable unmailable matter is given in sections 433, 523, 529, 530, 546, and 609.

FOR INSTRUCTIONS AS TO DELIVERY BY CARRIERS, see sections 647-661.

ADVERTISEMENT OF NON-DELIVERED LETTERS, ETC.

Sec. 582. How to be Advertised.—The Postmaster-General may direct the publication of the list of non-delivered letters at any post-office by a written list posted in some public place, or, when he shall deem it for the public interest, he may direct the publication of such list in the daily or weekly newspaper regularly published within the post-office delivery which has the largest circulation within such delivery; and where no daily paper is published within the post-office delivery, such list may be published in the daily newspaper of any adjoining delivery having the largest circulation within the delivery of the post-office publishing the list; and in case of dispute as to the circulation of competing newspapers, the postmaster shall receive evidence and decide upon the fact. Such list shall be published as frequently as the Post-