

International Reply Coupon: Rome model

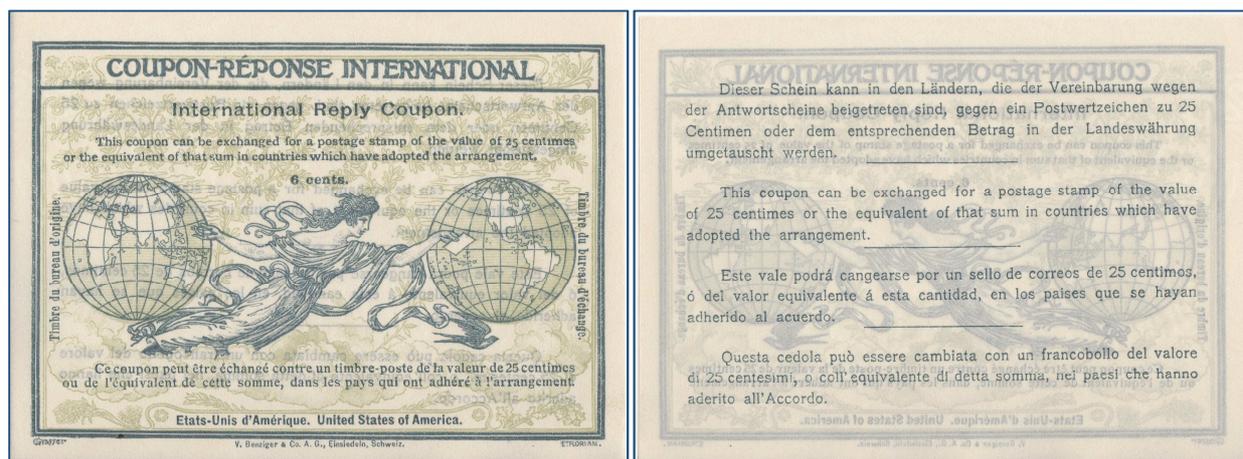
Print run with "la petite presse"

At the UPU Congress in Rome in 1906, it was decided to create an international reply coupon (IRC) and the UPU International Bureau was responsible for implementing of the achievement, printing and distribution of this coupon.

For manufacturing purposes, the UPU entrusts V. Benziger & C^o AG, located in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, with the task of printing these coupons.

According to the Benziger archives, there were three print runs for the Rome model, not two, as several publications and catalogues affirmed. Indeed, the archives said that there was the print run N^o 1 (Type Ro1) with the texts of the different translations on the backside separated by a line, the print run N^o 2 (Type Ro2) with the texts on the backside without lines and finally the print run called "La Petite presse" similar to the print run No. 1 but with a very fine impression and with the mention of the printing house "V. Benziger & Co. A.G., Einsiedeln, Schweiz." situated very below the frame of the illustration and printed very fine.

Forty-three-member countries of the UPU were printed with the "Petite presse" and confused among the editors of catalogues, who often mixed the print run N^o 1 (Type Ro1) with this done on "Petite presse". For example, countries such as Canada, United States of America, Great Britain, etc. were printed on "Petite presse" but not with the print run N^o1.



Front side of the USA Rome model IRC printed on "Petite presse"

Backside of the USA Rome model IRC printed on "Petite presse"

The list of the 43 countries concerned is as follows:

Danish Antilles, Denmark, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Upper Senegal and Niger, French Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal, British India, Great Britain, Straits Settlements, Romania, Sweden, Siam, Switzerland, Norway, Germany, Chile, Costa Rica, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, United States of America, Transvaal, Greece, Belgium, Gibraltar, Canada, Ceylon, Ivory Coast, Hong Kong, South Rhodesia, Seychelles, Haiti, Hungary, United States of Mexico, France, Martinique, Nederland, Netherlandish India, Luxembourg, Japan.