

## Line of enquiry

How can the visual and physical properties of discarded corrugated cardboard boxes offer a more nuanced understanding of the global logistics system?

How might I generate alternative knowledge of this system by exchanging postcards made from these discarded boxes?





To: St St  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
LONDON



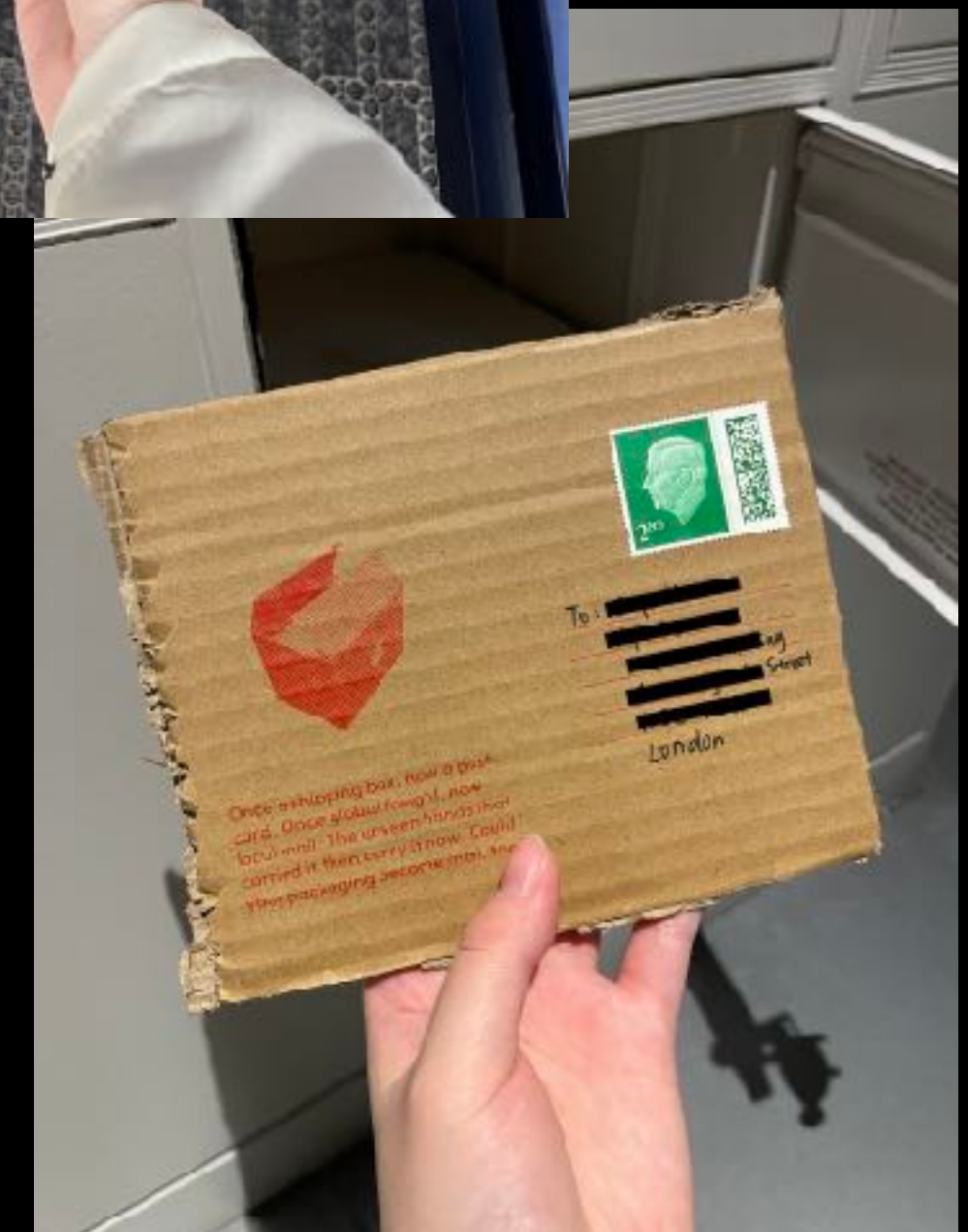
Once a shipping box, now a post-card. Once global freight, now local mail. The unseen hands that carried it then carry it now. Could your packaging become mail, too?

TUE

4.00pm or later  
collection is made



## Second-class surface mails





# Responses from participants



好像情书

It seems like a love letter.



右边角折了

The corner on the right side is bent.



这是谁的箱子

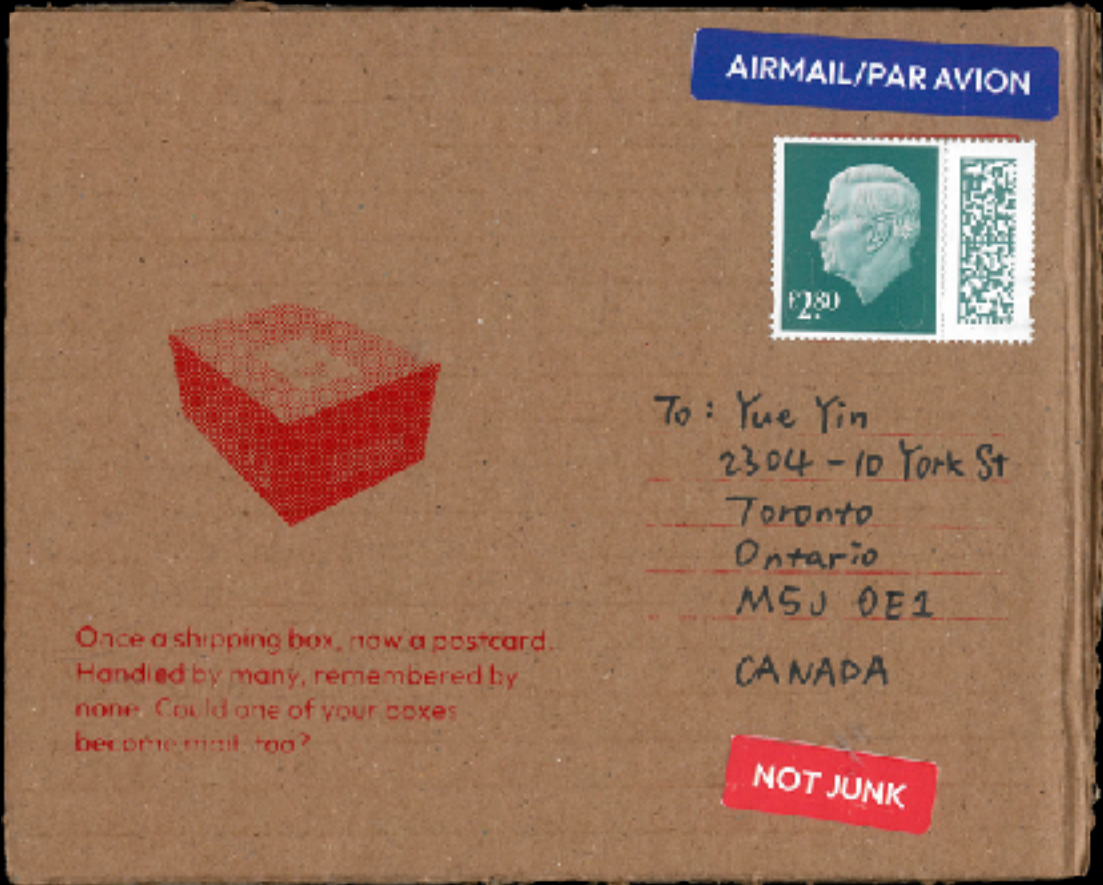
Whose box is this?

好神奇 怎么没有邮戳

It's amazing, why is there no postmark?



# International airmails







Dongguan - London  
Airmail by Finnair Cargo



Dongguan - London  
Airmail by Virgin Atlantic Cargo



Subscribed delivery within UK  
Surface mail by DPD

By **collecting** my own and others' shipping boxes, I have built **an archive of discarded corrugated boxes**, each with unique visual and physical properties shaped by its journey and purpose.

## Process

Through analysing material, shipping labels, logistics stickers and marketing messages, this project **reconstructs narratives beyond what a tracking page reveals**. These **findings are published on series of postcards**, cut directly from the boxes, each series telling the story of its source material.



Once a monthly shipment, now a postcard. Thinking of you as I unpack another box – full of necessities, wrapped in a bit of guilt. Keep it? Toss it? Or send it forward?



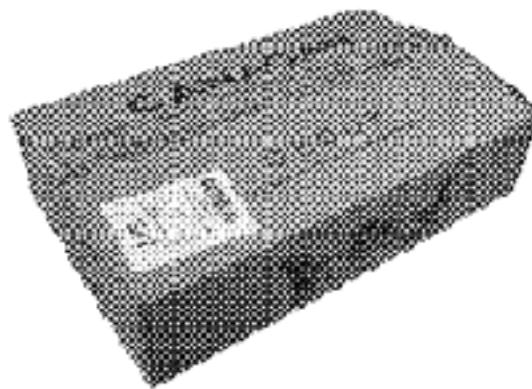
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Once a shipping box, now a postcard. Wish you were here shopping with me instead of us both unboxing another subscribed delivery. What's left of your last delivery? Send a piece, or just tell me what remains.



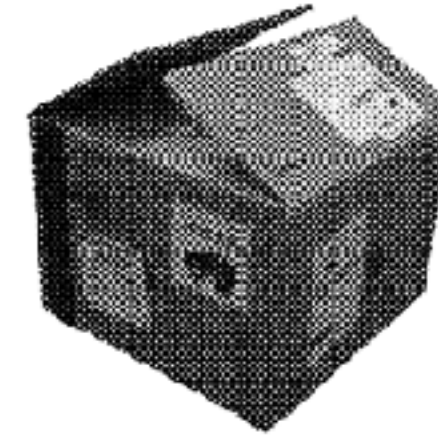
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Frequent flyer, zero miles earned.

Once a shipping box, now a postcard. This piece of cardboard flew 14,213 km from Seoul to Helsinki to London, burning 96,280 kg of fuel, only to be discarded. Now, it's re-routed to you as mail. Where will it land next?



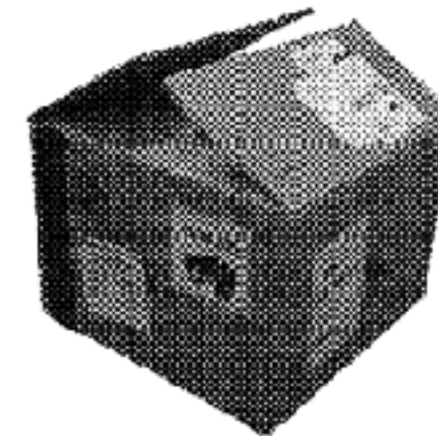
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Cargo moves. You just see the box.

Or at least, you would have – if it weren't now a postcard. Once part of a shipping box, this piece of cardboard traveled from Dongguan to Xixiakou, Seoul, Helsinki, and London. Now, it's re-routed to you as mail. Pass it on?



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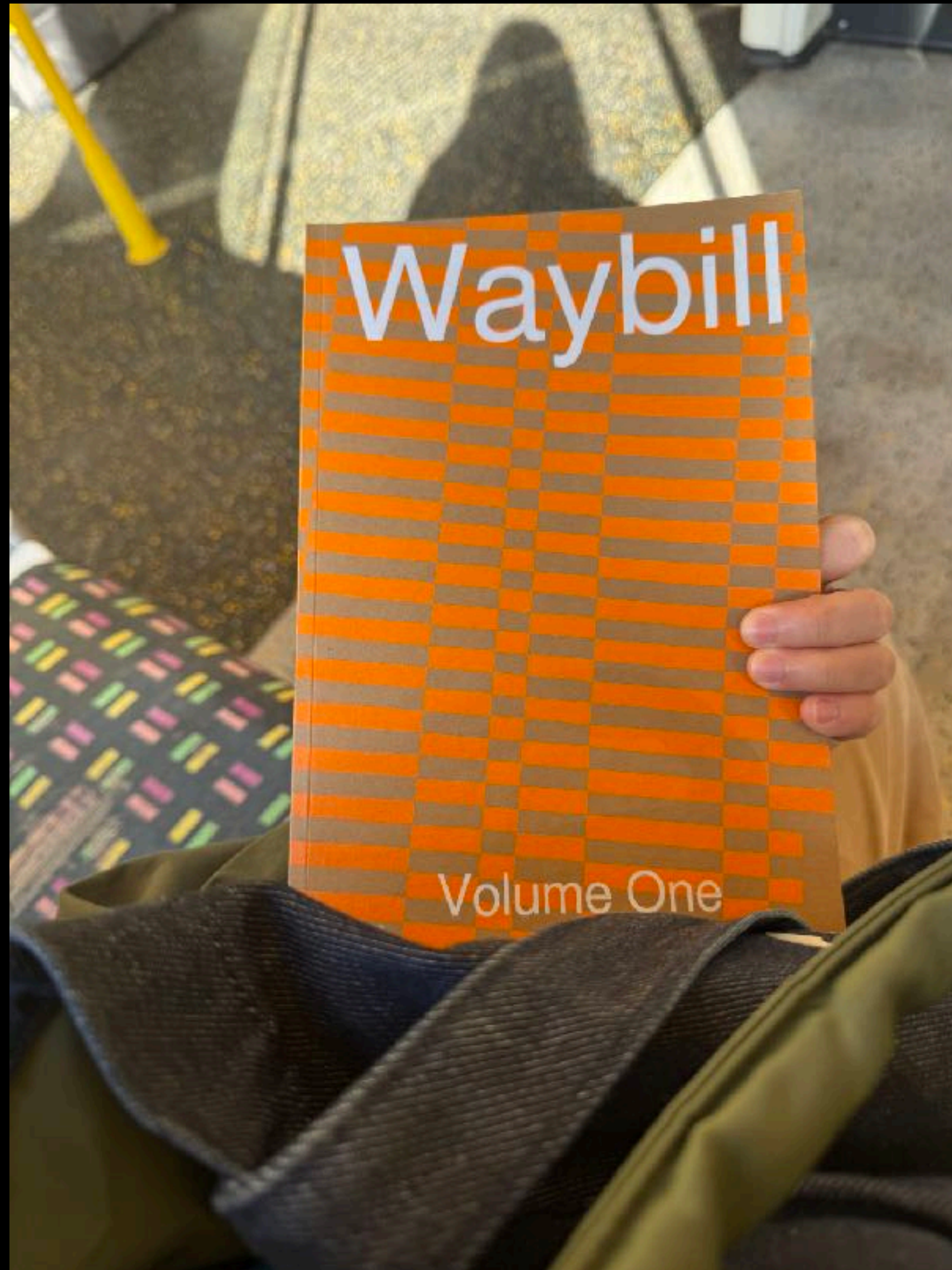
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## Process

Once mailed, these postcards **re-enter the distribution system, accumulating new traces** – stamps, marks and wear – further embedding themselves in the logistics network. The audience is invited to engage by responding or forwarding the postcards, extending the cardboard's journey as a message rather than mere packaging.





Waybill seeks to trace global commerce and the infrastructure behind it through interviews, poems, artworks, microessays, and other media. In contrast to the academic and corporate studies which precede it, Waybill does not attempt to offer a comprehensive theory of logistics. It instead supplies (and demands) an impressionistic account of life just-in-time.



## Audience Engagement

- **Receiving and tracing:** sharing their mailing address to receive a postcard, examining the screen-printed images of the original shipping boxes and speculating on their past journeys and transformations.
- **Activate a new journey:** forwarding the postcard to someone else or mailing back a piece of their own discarded cardboard, physically extending the cardboard's journey as a message rather than waste.



## Next steps

- Drafting stories about each box's journey and publish them in a series of postcards
- Crafting better questions to increase participants' engagements, such as replying and forwarding
- Keep mailing participants regularly through March and April
- Publish the postcards in the format of a book