

Eclectic & Eccentric Admiral Postal & Fiscal History

Admiral definitives were current from about 1912 to 1928 except for a 3¢ stamp issued in 1931. That 17-year period provides a wealth of postal history fuelled by rate changes, World War I military mail, the War Tax, the explosion of rural mail, the expansion of railway post offices, the settlement of the prairies, and advances in technology.

A one-frame exhibit can't do justice to the postal history of the Admiral era. What this one does is wander through the era using a diverse selection of unusual and zany items. It explores rates, postal and fiscal usage, errors, and destinations.

Plan of the Exhibit

1. Dates & Rates
2. Covers & Cancels
3. The Stamp's the Thing
4. Foreign Affairs
5. Fiscal Extravagance
6. (Admiral Postal History)²

Dates & Rates



This postcard, mailed from Liverpool, Great Britain, to Saint John, NB, was short paid ½d, and was charged 10 centimes double deficiency. The postage due was paid with a 2¢ carmine Admiral stamp postmarked OC 31 / 14, three months after the start of World War I.

The message on the postcard reads in part:

“Just a PC to let you know that I got here quite safe this morning. We had great weather all the way across. Hoping to hear from you soon.”

Had the writer just crossed the Atlantic?

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Synopsis of the Exhibit

Purpose

Admiral stamps were current from about 1912 to 1928 except for a 3¢ stamp issued in 1931. A one-frame exhibit can't do justice to the wealth of postal history during that 17-year period. What this one does is wander through the era using a diverse selection of unusual and zany items.

Scope

This exhibit explores rates, postal and fiscal use, errors, and destinations during the Admiral era.

Organization and Treatment

The exhibit is divided into the following six sections:

1. Dates & Rates
Early use, unusual use, overpaid, underpaid
2. Covers and Cancels
Oddball covers, noteworthy dates
3. The Stamp's the Thing
Links between stamps and postal history
4. Foreign Affairs
Covers with a foreign component
5. Fiscal Extravagance
Admiral stamps and taxes
6. (Admiral Postal History)²
Postal history of Admiral, SK, in the Admiral era

References

1. Allan L. Steinhart, *The Admiral Era: a Rate Study 1912 - 1928*, Jim A. Hennok Ltd., 1981.
2. Various article in *The Admiral's Log*, the newsletter of the BNAPS Admiral Study Group.