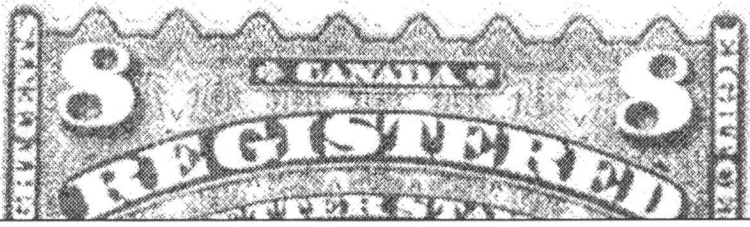


REGISTRATION STUDY GROUP

British North America Philatelic Society



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Introduction

THIS group is devoted to the study of practically anything in postal history related to the registration and money letter systems of what is now Canada. A brief look at the contents of this issue shows the diversity that is possible. This Newsletter is issued quarterly, subject to the availability of articles (long and short). Information on joining this study group appears at the bottom of The Back Page.



Recent registration—an appeal for information

FROM 1 January 1999, there were two registration services available—a domestic one at \$4, which includes \$100 indemnity—called “insurance” by Canada Post—with additional insurance at 50¢ per \$100 up to \$5000, and an international one at \$8.20 (which includes \$100 indemnity if mailed to the US, and \$60 if mailed to the rest of the world; extra indemnity is only available to the US, at \$1 per \$100, up to \$1000). The acknowledgment of receipt (AR) service—now called “advice of receipt” by Canada Post—is only mentioned in the US and international sections of the current Canada Post rates leaflet, at 95¢ (and not available after mailing); domestic AR service (although not mentioned in the current leaflet) is probably available at the same price, and subsequent AR service—“after the fact”—appears to be available domestically (at \$1.60?).

An interesting feature of the current rules is that special delivery and registration cannot be combined. I don't know how long this has been going on. Does anyone know? It is not unusual

to find registered mail sent special delivery (despite warnings from the Post Office that registration tended to slow the special delivery service) from the 1940s and 1950s.

From Bob Smith's money packet rates article in Newsletter #2, we know that as of 1 January 1999, money packet service ceased; and moreover, according to the current regulations, the items which would have been covered by the latter (coins, travelers cheques, jewelry, bank notes, securities, . . .) cannot be insured in excess of the default \$100.

Just prior to this rate change, there were two registration services available domestically—the regular one, and security registration (the latter provided automatic indemnity, and was the only one available internationally). However, before this (and sometime after the mid-1980s), there were as many as four registration services domestically—certified mail and signature service being the other two. Can someone provide details on this four-way registration? Specifically, it would be nice to know the dates (of inception and cessation) of the various registration services, and the rates.

At least I know the colours (of the adhesive labels): security registration was maroon, regular registration was dark green, signature (very difficult to find) and certified were light blue. The current colour is bright red.



We get W, Z, X, P, R, S, V, C, H, . . .

Early registration from BC and Red River

From *Gray Scrimgeour* by e-mail. On page 3 of Newsletter #1, you mentioned that you could find no references to early registration in the Red River Settlement and British Columbia. That's not surprising; there are no articles on the subject to my knowledge—probably because there is little registration-related material. However, both colonies did have a registration service.

I know of only two registered items related to the Red River. The first is an inbound Canadian Official Dead Letter Office registered letter form, sent on 19 March 1860 from Quebec and forwarded from Toronto via Pembina (lot 91 of the Maresch De Volpi Fur Trade Sale, 26 May 1982). From 1853, the Red River Settlement had its own mail service between Fort Garry and the closest US post office.

I have found no reference in legislative records or newspapers to registration service, but in the Alexander Ross family correspondence at the Provincial Archives of Manitoba there is a registration receipt. This RECEIPT FOR A REGISTERED LETTER form is dated 22 March 1871 at Fort Garry. It presumably is a carryover usage from the Red River Settlement mail, so registration must have been available.

There are a few registered covers from pre-Confederation British Columbia. For example, the Wellburn collection (*The Stamps & Postal History of Vancouver Island & British Columbia*) had three registered covers: February 1863 from Victoria to England (p 47), 21 March 1868 from New Westminster to Sarnia (p 119), and 12 August 1871 from Victoria to New York (p 151). Colonial registered covers from Nanaimo and Lillooet are also known.

The Daniel Eaton private treaty sale of Wellburn material contained a registration receipt dated 6 November 1864, issued at Victoria, Vancouver Island (p 025). This sale also contained a 1 May 1868 enquiry from the GPO, London to the Postmaster at Victoria asking about a missing registered letter (p 107). Vic Willson's North American rate collection (BNAPS Exhibit Book #14, p 84) has a registered cover from Port Stanley UC dated 5 April 1866 to New Westminster. Deaville's *The Colonial Postal Systems and Postage Stamps of Vancouver Island and British Columbia: 1849-1871* makes no mention of a registration service for colonial BC.

Much early BC mail—both internal and external—was carried by express companies. These companies were perceived as being more reliable than the government mails. Did these express companies have a registration system? Not as such as far as I know, but the British Columbia Express Company issued receipts for letters, and did insure letters and parcels. I have a receipt dated 21 April 1887 for a package containing \$50 cash being sent from Quesnelle to Victoria; the back of the receipt says that Lloyds' of London covered the insurance. The cost of sending this packet was \$1.60.

The only pre-Confederation BC registered item that I own is a registration receipt for a letter sent by Rowland Fawcett on 23 March 1865 from Birmingham, England to his family in Victoria. The receipt says that the letter was addressed to Mr T.L. Fawcett, Government St., Victoria, Vancouver Island. The letter probably was carried on the Cunard ship *China*, which left Liverpool on March 25th and arrived in New York on April 7th.

A letter of 25 May 1865 to Rowland in the Fawcett correspondence says, "This morning we received your letters dated March 23rd & 28th", so the registered letter took about two months to reach Victoria. About a registered letter of 10 March 1865 from Rowland Fawcett in England, his brother in Victoria says on 5 May 1865, "The *Oregon* arrived yesterday noon . . . and at 9 o'clock last night, I learnt that a registered letter for me was posted up at the P Office. I have just read it."

I'd like to hear about any other registration material related to either the Red River or early BC.



A pair of cross-border registered money letters

David Handelman

IN Newsletter #1, Vic Willson discussed cross-border registered and money letters in the 19th century. The following pair (both stampless, hence not recorded in his article) illustrate an interesting point, concerning registration of Canadian money letters sent to the US.

According to the newly published reference work [1] (see the Back Page of Newsletter #2), the US adopted a semi-official form of registration, very similar to the Canadian money letter system, around 1845. Any letter that was suspected to contain money was entered ("registered") in a letter bill that accompanied the mail, the letter was usually marked with a registration number, and frequently a registration marking (*money* or *money letter* on border towns) was applied, in order to give the item special treatment. This process was intended only for domestic US letters, and was officially reorganized into registration in 1855.

This is very similar to Canada's money letter system, begun in the 1820s or earlier (and was based on that of the UK, which may have begun as early as 1792). In Canada, application of registration numbers to money letters seems to have started in the early 1840s (sporadically), and by the 1850s was normal. Of course, Canada adopted registration 1 May 1855.

The first cover below is a money letter from Hamilton to Easton, Pennsylvania in 1854. It was prepaid the single 10¢ rate and handstamped MONEY-LETTER at Hamilton. In the upper left corner is the inscription (*Reg 8*) in parentheses. On a domestic US cover and without the parentheses, this would be a typical, if scarce, US registration marking. There is also the endorsement *money*, in the same ink. This is the first Canada-US money letter I have seen with a US registration marking. I suspect the postmaster was tentative about registering a letter from abroad, hence the parentheses. The two endorsements were likely applied at Easton.

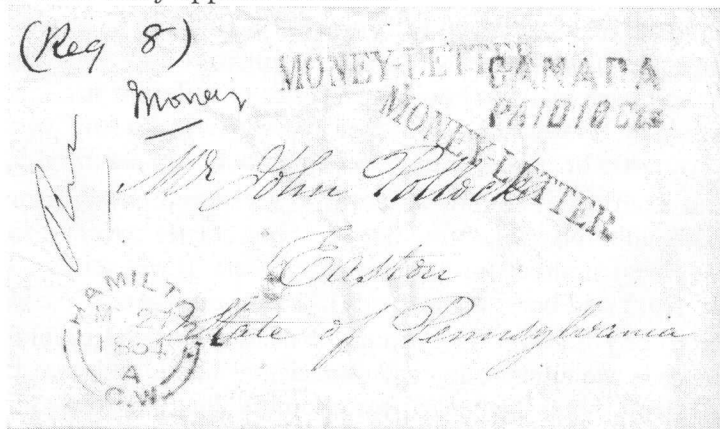


Figure 1. Cross-border registered money letter (May 1854)

Parenthesized (*Reg 8*), a US registration marking, likely applied at Easton. The vertical inscription that resembles *Rec* is probably docketing.

The second cover is from London to the same address, but a few months later. It is marked in red PAID 20 cts 1/-, double rate in both currencies, and there is the large red *M* for money letter, and a London MONEY-LETTER handstamp. There is no registration marking, but there are two numbers, 864 and 5. The US registration numbers typically restarted from number one at the beginning of each quarter, hence at small towns, the registration numbers would be low most of the time. In contrast,

Canadian registration numbers continued to at least 999 (and often higher in larger centres). So it is reasonable to conclude that 864 was applied at London and the 5 in the us, likely at Easton.

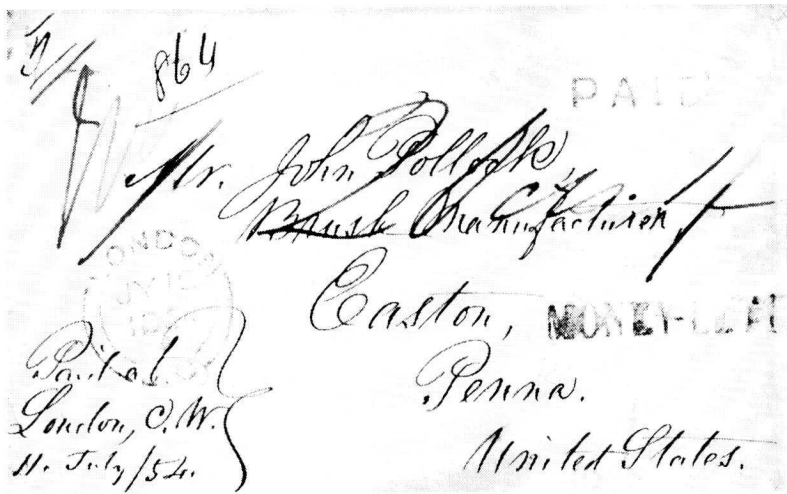


Figure 2. Cross-border registered money letter (July 1854)

Registration number 5, likely applied at Easton. Double rate of 1 s cy (or 20¢ us) prepaid at London.

Checking my other cross-border money letters in this period, I found only one other occurrence of us registration number. It could be that foreign covers were not supposed to be marked, and the postmaster at Easton was not aware of this, or at least had doubts about it.

References

- [1] James W Milgram *United States registered mail 1845–1870*, Phillips Publishing Co, Florida (1999).



Early U P U France to Canada

David Handelman

COLLECTING the postal history of a country or region ought to be a two-way street—instead of simply collecting covers *from* the area, it is interesting to collect those coming *to* it as well. It is always useful to compare rates and postal practices of different jurisdictions. In some cases, such as AR (see the article in Newsletter #2), scarcity forces us to “resort” to incoming material. In other cases, such as censorship or postage due, incoming mail is an essential ingredient.

Illustrated here is an exciting, if somewhat scruffy, registered cover from France to Canada in 1881, shortly after Canada adhered to the UPU (1878). It is a corner cover, with the deep blue return address (*Coblanze Jeune, Paris*) attached (as a sticker) upper left. It was sent via London and Liverpool (registration postmarks front and back, respectively), care of the French Vice-Consul in Montreal.

What convinced me to buy it (from Toronto cover dealer, Larry Grossman) was the fine print. To the right of the sticker is the endorsement *Photographes*. The photos must have been very small (the cover is shown full size); this is fairly early for photographs. The consequence that immediately occurred to me, however, was that this was likely not first class, but third class mail (actually called *échantillons*—samples or patterns—in France), or possibly business papers (*papiers d'affaires*).

Registered third class mail—even domestic, Canadian, and in the middle of the twentieth century—is difficult to obtain, so this seemed like quite a find. To confirm that it is third class, we check the rates. According to Joany (the standard reference for French rates) [1, p 330] (refer to the table on p 329), the *échantillons* rate to Canada (which was also the *papiers d'affaires* rate; somewhat later, all of these were combined in the *autre objets* rate) became 5 centimes (up to 50 g) on 16 February 1879. Registration abroad was 25 centimes. The total postage on the cover is 30 centimes, which is consistent with third class registered to Canada. A first class letter would have been charged 25 centimes (under 15 g) plus 25 centimes for registration. At the time, 5 centimes = 1¢.



Third class registered cover from Paris (1881)

Early UPU period, with photographs. Stamps prepay 25 ctm registration fee and the 5 ctm samples, patterns, or business papers rate. At lower right is a red oval London registered marking (10 July 1881), and a double circle Liverpool registration marking (11 July 1881) is on reverse, along with a Montreal receiver (24 July 1881).

References

- [1] Dr R. Joany et al *Les Tarifs postaux français 1627–1969*, Éditions Loisirs et Cultures, Paris (1982).



What's the rate?

David Handelman

THE cover illustrated below (at about 80% size) is a 1929 #10 envelope with 82¢ postage applied, in the form of four 20¢ Admirals (two pairs) and a 2¢ scroll. I bought it from Allan Steinhart about a decade ago. It was mailed as a registered letter from Westfield Centre NB to a securities firm in New York. There do not appear to be any stamps missing. The envelope was reinforced on the back with selvage, suggesting the envelope was stuffed to the gills. However, it is not made of cloth or any particularly heavy-duty paper.

What is the rate? My first guess was that it was sent as a money packet—at 10¢ for registration and 5¢ per ounce, and 2¢ War Tax, this would make the letter weigh 14 oz—not inconceivable, but it would require a lot of papers to be stuffed in. Unfortunately (see Newsletter #2), the 7¢ for the first ounce money packet rate did not begin until 1943! Since the sender would not knowingly overpay by 2¢ with a 2¢ stamp, we can set this possibility aside. (Too bad, since an international money packet is a rarity.) Unless there was a *different* rate for money packets abroad (say 6¢ per ounce)? I don't have access to Canada Postal Guides of the 1920s.

Next, I guessed registration with extra indemnity (see Newsletter #1)—registration fees could be as high as 40¢—this was ruled out, as extra indemnity was not available on letters sent outside Canada.

Another possibility to account for the very high postage was airmail. The airmail rate to the US was the weird 5¢ for the first ounce and 10¢ for each additional ounce. Aside from the lack of any airmail markings, this is even more inconsistent with the postage than the money packet hypothesis.

The elementary guess that this envelope was sent registered first class and weighed 35–36 ounces (at 2¢ per ounce to the US) seems impossible (try stuffing a kilogram of papers and metal into an envelope this size). Envelopes are sometimes attached to packets, so it is conceivable that this was part of a package weighing 36 oz. However, the reverse shows that it was not attached to anything.

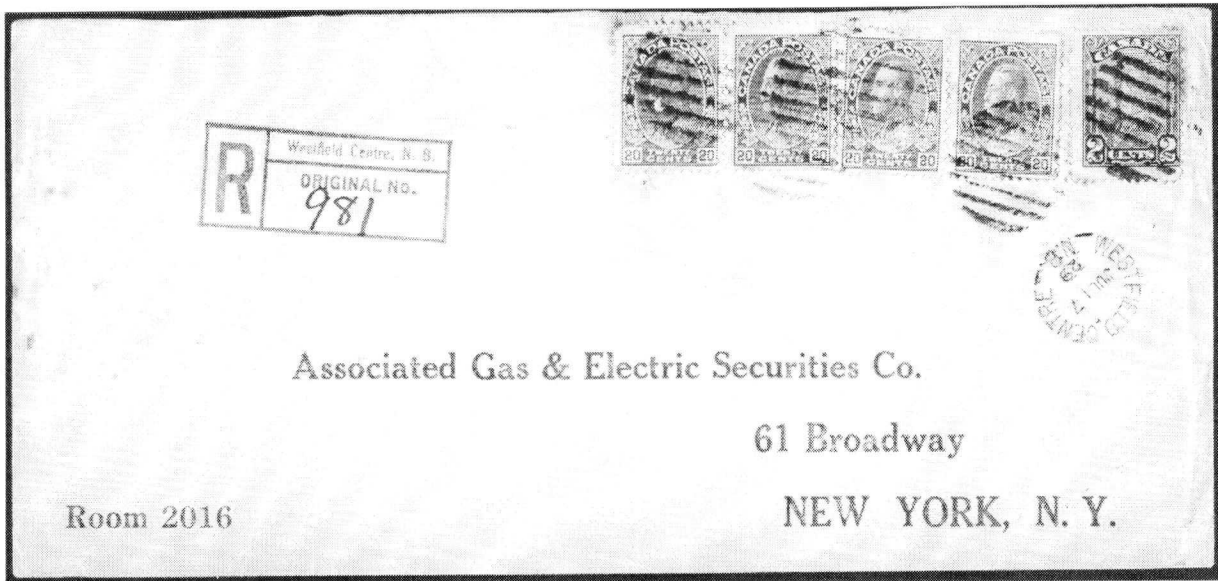


Figure 1a. Heavy registered letter to New York (1929)

Postage of 82¢, addressed to a securities firm in New York.



Figure 1b. Reverse of the cover above

Postmarks showing the route from Westfield Centre (NB) via RPO to Saint John, then to New York (double oval) and a local New York office (purple double circle). At the lower right is a blue hexagonal handstamp indicating it was part of an auditing programme at the firm.

There is one further possibility—that the 2¢ stamp may not belong! There was a stamp there (as shown by the rust, and the faint cancel to the right), and perhaps it was a 5¢ stamp (which would make both the the money packet and the airmail hypotheses viable, although the latter is less likely).

Figure 2 below shows the upper right corner at magnification. The eight-bar killers on the Admirals are somewhat lighter than that of the 2¢ stamp. A microscopic examination shows that the rightmost extremities of the killer on the right Admiral does not hit any part of the 2¢ stamp (the latter is missing a perforation at the critical point).

Additionally, the killer on the 2¢ stamp does not extend to the cover on the lower right. This effect may of course be due to the angle at which the hammer was held and the thickness of the paper. The rust also extends over the perforations of the 2¢ stamp (there is also rust on the leftmost Admiral), which suggests that the stamp really does belong, or replaced what had been there very early in the life of the cover. So the hypothesis of a replacement stamp is up in the air, although I don't consider it very likely either.

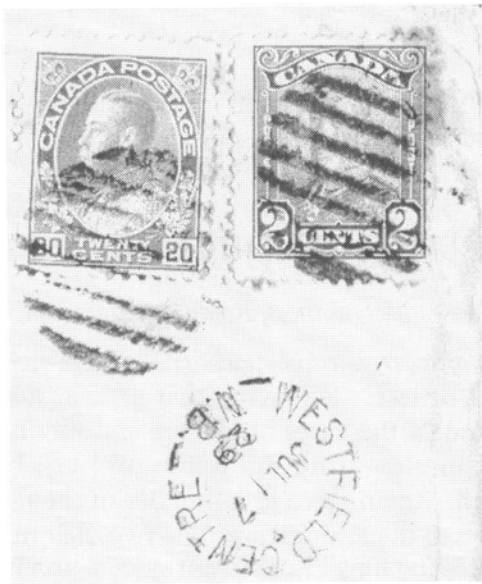


Figure 2. Close-up of the 2¢ stamp
Does it belong? The killer looks darker and doesn't extend completely to the cover, but the rust stains match.

Whoever can come with an explanation that is both satisfactory and the most satisfactory of all explanations offered will win a year-long extension to membership in the study group.



A postage due registered cover—with more

With thanks to *Marc Eisenberg*

THE cover below, belonging to Marc Eisenberg, is remarkable in two ways. From Bruno-St-Achilles to Cookshire (badly misspelled), it is postage due and registered, a scarce combination. The postage at the time was 10¢ registration fee plus 2¢ per ounce plus 1¢ War Tax. Evidently, the letter must have weighed 1–2 oz. Postage due registration was discussed in [1] (and several other articles). In this case, it was clearly a result of the accepting clerk not weighing the item. As an additional feature, the two postage due stamps are handstamped, which is not at all common.

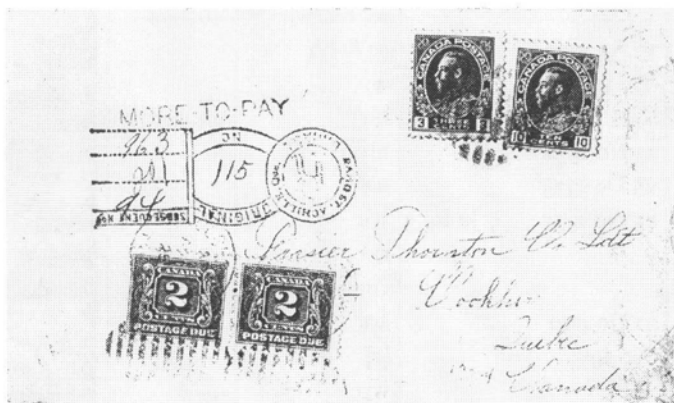


Figure 1. Registered postage due (1925)
Double rate (2¢ per oz plus 1¢ War Tax), shortpaid 2¢, and charged double deficiency. The SUBSEQUENT NUMBERS section of the registration marking is completely filled in (albeit inverted relative to the marking)!

However, what is really remarkable is that the ORIGINAL NO SUBSEQUENT NOS handstamp is completely filled in. Normally, the subsequent numbers are not filled in on these fancy registration markings, and it is only rarely that one or two of the subsequent numbers are put where they are supposed to. This is the first one I've (dh) seen with all of them in the right place.

References

[1] David Handelman *Postage due registered letters*, PHSC Journal 86 (1996) 19-27.



Post Office registration packages—an update

David Handelman; help from Messrs McGuinness, Robinson, Harrison, Covert, O'Reilly, Pekonen, . . .

RECALL from [1] that a *post office registration package* is a large envelope used to enclose registered items sent between post offices. Following that article, many people sent me xeroxes of many other examples, and in the cases of Horace and Kevin, the covers themselves! Thus far, the reporters are Rob McGuinness [rm], Bill Robinson [wr], Horace Harrison, Earle Covert, Kevin O'Reilly, and Bill Pekonen. Kevin rescued a number of them from the garbage. I appreciate the time and effort put into copying these monsters. The two digit number that usually precedes the print run refers to the size—# 38 being huge. A different system was introduced in the 1960s or 1970s.

I have restricted the list to official envelopes that either clearly state “Post Office registration package” or indicate that the envelope is to be used for registered mail sent from one post office to another. Some of the material that was sent in were official registered form envelopes to be used for other purposes, e.g., Canada savings bonds, or transfer of funds to banks from post offices, or post office savings bank deposit-were used to send stamps or postal scrip between post offices. These could be the subject of future articles.

Printings of P O registration packages

Quantity	print date	early & late date	Reporter	Comm'ts
38-50,000	4-2-'89		ec	unused
37-100,000	4-8-90	3 Au 1892 Au 1892	[1]	
37-160,000	19-4-1901	2 Jy 1902	[1]	ill'd in [1]
36-200,000	9-1-09		hh	unused
36-200,000	14-1-10		wr	unused
36-250,000	13-2-12		ec, hh	unused
37-400,000	6-11-17		rm	unused
36-250,000	6-4-23		wr, hh, ec, wp	unused
37-400,000	9-10-23		ditto	unused
38-500,000	9-10-23		ec, hh, wp	unused
37-600,000	5-12-28	13 Ap 1933	ec & hh	
38-500,000	20-3-31	De 1932	wr	
36-125,000	11-2-32		hh	unused
38-500,000	11-2-32	19 No 1932	hh	
37-500,000	1-6-35	25 De 1935	hh	
36-400M	22-6-49	25 No 1952	7 Ja 1953	kor
37-750M	10-9-54		rm	unused
38-600M	10-9-54		rm	unused
37-900M	4.4.58	31 De 1971	kor	
38-700,000	9-12-1958	No 1963	[1]	
17-16	12-63		wp	used
33-83-120	(3-74)	23 Ju 1986 15 Jy 1986	kor	
33-083-120	(3-85)	19 Ju 1986 29 Mr 1988	kor/ec	
33-083-120	(90-11)	3 Ma 1997	kor	



Horace also sent a copy of an 1890 post office memorandum from William White, Deputy Postmaster General. This concerns the introduction of a new series of registered package envelopes:

The registered packages now in use, Nos 36, 37, and 38, have been discontinued and new envelopes of an improved form, bearing the same numbers, have been introduced, instead, for use throughout the Dominion. The new envelopes are to be used for the transmission of registered matter only, and their use is to be confined to conveying the registered packages made up for post offices and postal cars, as authorized by the inspector of the division concerned. *The use of these envelopes for any other purpose is not permitted.* A supply of the new

References

- [1] David Handelman *Post office registration packages*, PHSC Journal 98 (1999) 12-13.



A bad bisect

Horace Harrison, OTB

THE cover shown in Figure 1 may be the work of the late Raoul de Thuin. The bisected 2¢ RLS purports to pay the 1¢ drop letter rate. The circular date stamp is a double broken circle ADVOCATE HARBOUR (a mistake for Advocate Harbour). The office opened as a Way Office in 1836, and it became a post office some time in the period 1868-1870.

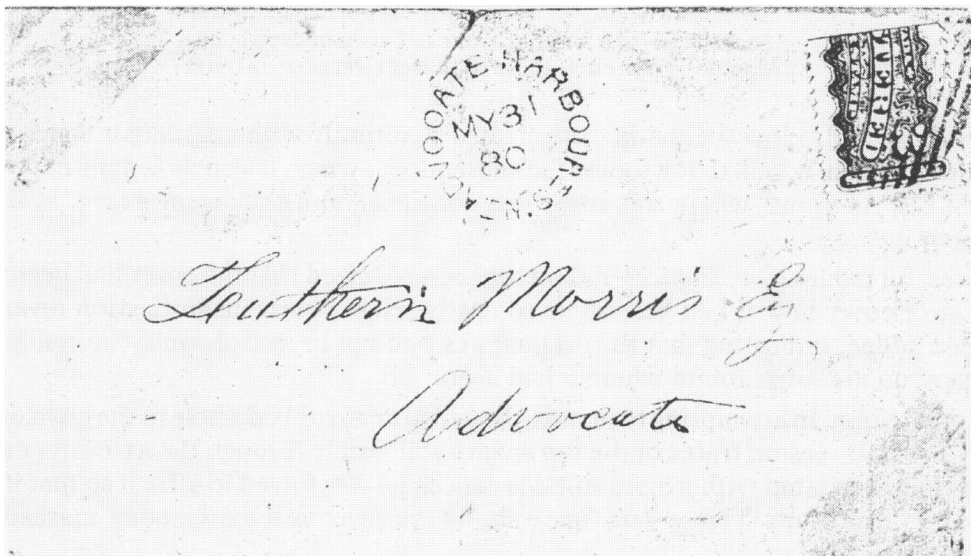


Figure 1. A rather suspicious cover!

[The use of nonserif double broken circle cancels began in the 1850s in the Maritimes, and the style changed to single broken circles in the 1860s. A few Way Offices did have such hammers, but with w.o. in the device. No strikes on legitimate covers are known for Advocate Harbour—but of course, this could be because the place was so small. Advocate is the name of a town on the harbour known as Advocate Harbour, and one presumes that the way office/post office name refers to this town.—dh]

This cover graced the Gerald Wellburn collection for many years, and came into my possession through Arthur Leggett and Allan Steinhart; it was priced by Allan as if it were a fake. It could be the work of de Thuin, as he was known for his fake bisects [*is that a redundancy?*—dh], and he did considerable work with BNA material. However, no bisected RLS are listed in the APS publication *The Yucatan Affair* (p 387).



An incompetent faker

Horace Harrison, OTB

THE cover illustrated below (Figure 1) is the work of an incompetent postal historian attempting to restore a nice Canadian RPO item. A 2¢ registered letter stamp (RLS) had been removed from this 1880 domestic registered cover, probably many years past, likely to go into a stamp album. Years later, an incompetent postal historian decided to replace the missing stamp, and found a magnificently centred replacement, with a large R in oval, sock on the nose. He should have known that this type of marking did not come into general use until 1886!

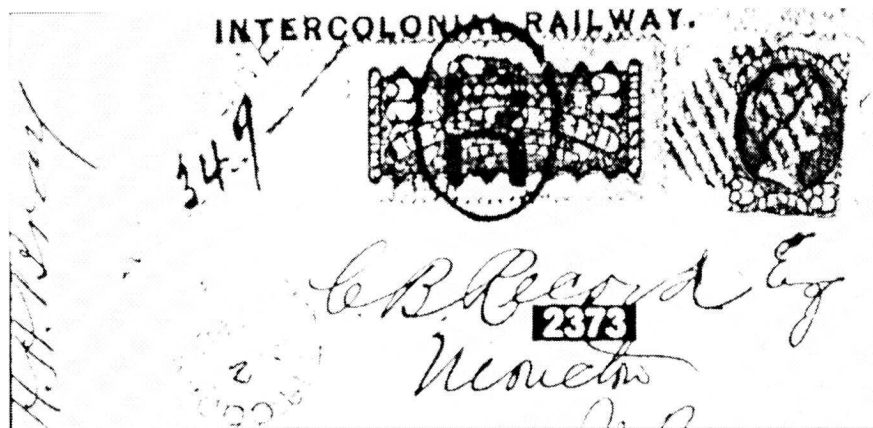


Figure 1. Anachronistic big R in oval, 1880

As it appeared in Lee's auction catalogue (with subsequent enlargement). There is a two-line straightline REGISTERED No. handstamp (the second line contains the manuscript 349) which did not come out well in the scan (of a xerox of a xerox of a photograph). The double broken circle cancel is that of PETITCODIAC NB.

The arcs above and below the stamp were created beautifully with an ink that matched the cancel on the stamp sufficiently well that it fooled the subsequent owner. It also fooled the expert describers at Robert A. Lee Auctions, where this cover was consigned and sold as lot #2373, in the 93rd sale, held 20 March 1999.

The successful bidder [you, Horace?—dh] on the lot recognized that the cover had been altered, and undertook to discover how it had been done so neatly. High power magnification revealed that the arcs had been added, indicating that the original RLS had not been tied—once the stamp was soaked off, there were no markings found where it had been.

The current owner, in attempting to remove the added arcs, rubbed a hole in the envelope under the bottom arc. For that reason, traces of the top arc are still visible through the AL of INTERCOLONIAL. So, when he found a stamp with a more suitable cancel, he was forced to affix it so that it covered the hole caused by the erasure. The second figure shows the cover as it exists today, marked 2¢ RLS *does not belong* on reverse.

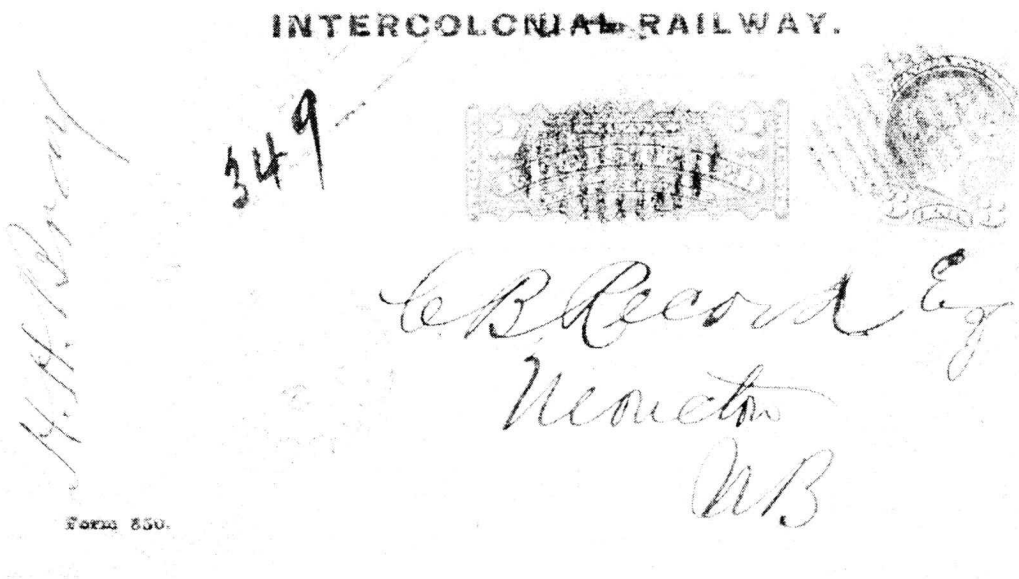


Figure 2. As it now appears

The replacement 2¢ RLS has a bar cancel that is very similar to that of the 3¢ small queen.



The 1883 big R in oval—Canuck or Brit?

David Handelman

THE last sentence of the first paragraph of Horace's article, "... *this type of marking* [the big R in oval] *did not come into general use until 1886*" reminded me that there is exactly one cover known pre-1886 with the standard Canadian big R handstamp. It is dated May 1883, and illustrated in George Arfken's *Canada and the Universal Postal Union* (Unitrade, 1992; p 78), again in the Lussey Exhibit book (BNAPS, 1999; p 216), and once more in the May 1999 Lee Auction of Lussey's material.

The cover is registered at Eden (Elgin County ON), to Prussia via the UK. At Eden, the 1855-style straightline registered handstamp was applied; an octagonal registered datestamp was applied (Lussey suggests at Hamilton), there is a red crown registered handstamp, an oval London (England) registered datestamp, and the big R in oval. According to Lussey's notes, an order for 250 of these handstamps was placed (by the Canadian Post Office)—later in the month—and no other orders are known. It is surmised that this was an experimental use of this handstamp, order information unknown.

The UK used a similar (identical?) handstamp, also ordered in 1883. Specific order information is not available in the perhaps out-of-date but encyclopædic reference I'm using for British registration, namely James A. Mackay's *Registered mail of the British Isles* (author, 1982; pp 181–183). It is reasonable to suggest that Canada based its order on Britain's adoption of this style, and therefore British hammers would have been ordered earlier, and therefore were available earlier. So I propose that the big R on the cited cover is of British origin, not Canadian. [This would enhance rather than diminish the value of the cover—Mackay records no British uses of the hammer before 1885, and there are more collectors of British registered material than of Canadian.]

Moreover, if the hammer had been applied in Canada on the cover in question, it is difficult to see where. Not at Eden, since they were using a registered hammer almost 30 years old, and likely not at Hamilton (or wherever the octagon was applied). Perhaps it was applied at the receiving port in the UK (Liverpool?)?

This cover deserves more analysis. If it could be proved that the big R was applied on top of (and therefore after) the London oval, the issue would be decided. (Unfortunately, it is very difficult to decide by microscopic analysis the order of handstamping of overlapping cancels; moreover, if the London oval were applied later, it would prove nothing.)

Of course, no matter which jurisdiction we consider, there is still the question of why general use of this hammer did not occur until 1886, when the orders (and presumably the distribution of the hammers) occurred in 1883.



Here it is, *again* (May 1883)

The tiny (eponymous?) monogram "Glitsch" in the middle near the bottom might be the name of a stamp dealer.



The back page

Hot Flashes

JUST as the second newsletter (containing the survey on early AR material to and from Canada) was sent off, I received the Leith auction catalogue. In it (lot 2030) is *another* AR cover to Canada dated 1900; philatelically inspired, and with stamps missing, it is still the seventh earliest (see Newsletter #2 and the report below), and from El Salvador! The estimate was \$200+, and it went for \$130 (including taxes and tip). To add insult to injury, an 1898 AR illustrated stamp dealer cover from Chile to Canada (now the sixth earliest AR cover to Canada) appeared in the John H. Talman Auction of September 1999—lot 38, selling for \$117 (including taxes and tip). On top of this, Wilbur Jonsson (a Montreal collector) reports two AR covers to Canada from the US, in 1902 and 1906.

In the September 1999 Maresch Auction, a second money letter from PEI was illustrated. Recall from Newsletter #1, just the one money letter (illustrated there) was known (by me, anyway) up to that point. This one (lot 1141) is remarkable, since it is internal to the Island. The estimate was \$150+, and it went for an incredibly cheap \$88 (including t & t). Don't people *read* the Newsletter?

I'll try to get illustrations of at least some of these for the next Newsletter.

Other stuff

THERE was a new monograph, *Canadian manuscript town postmarks*, to hit the stands this year. By Jacques Poitras and the secretary, this is a *beautifully* printed document listing Canadian post offices known to have used manuscript town postmarks (as opposed to handstamps). There are over 550 offices recorded. With many illustrations (including registered covers), this 24+iv-page monograph is available from either Jacques (265 du Chalutier, # 306, Québec PQ G1K 8R3) or me, for \$4 to \$6, depending. It is also available from Robert A. Lee Philatelist and Saskatoon Stamps.

Also available, this time from me (the secretary) only, are xeroxes of tables of rates for foreign countries *to* the US in 1895 and 1915. These include registration and AR fees, and translation of the local currency to centimes. The rates to the US usually coincide with those to Canada (exceptions: places covered by the Empire penny post scheme in 1915). Include an extra 50¢ (mint stamps, US or Canadian, depending on your address, are acceptable) or 25 p (mint UK stamps), with the renewal of your membership fee for the study group, and I'll send them with the following issue of the Newsletter.

ONCE again, to get the illustrations in the appropriate places, the ordering of the articles had to be adjusted repeatedly. It took about an hour to put them right. Other than that, there is no particular significance to the ordering.

THERE are few articles on hand for the next issue of the newsletter. We are also looking for more comments, illustrations, questions, &c on any aspect of registration or the money letter system. Please send hard copy, preferably with text files, to either the editor or the secretary; their addresses appear below the masthead on the first page.

 We *really* need articles!

We are very thankful to Horace for sending two articles (and information and samples of the registered letter packages), to Gray for his discussion of early BC registration, and to Marc Eisenberg for permission to illustrate his cover. Now if more people would participate . . .

We also need a name for the Newsletter ("Newsletter of the BNAPS registration study group" is accurate but awkward). I put forward *The Registry* in the last issue, but haven't heard any comments or other suggestions. Another lame suggestion is *The Money Letter* (too numismatic).

The Newsletter was prepared in the typesetting language (plain) T_EX ("tek"), on a Macintosh, using the ITC Esprit font family. It is printed on the secretary's 600 dot per inch LaserWriter.

MEMBERSHIP in the *registration study group* of BNAPS is available to members of BNAPS, at an annual cost of \$10 (Canada), \$10 (US), and £5 (rest of the world). Payments should be made to the secretary (address on front page). Subscription to the quarterly newsletter comes with membership. Back issues are now available!

