



TRANSATLANTIC MAIL STUDY GROUP  
OF THE  
British North American Philatelic Society

Newsletter No. 62

April 1998

REGISTRATION (3)



Figure 1: A registered letter from Columbia, S.C., 1<sup>st</sup> February 1857, showing '5½' credit.



Figure 2: A registered letter from St. Charles, 11<sup>th</sup> February 1858, showing '21½' credit.

## ACCOUNTANCY MARKINGS

The two front cover illustrations represent a departure from the usual practice, insofar as they are from the United States to the United Kingdom. Martin Willcocks let me copy them from his collection some months ago, before the discussion about whether or not the United States should be within the scope of this Newsletter. Since I had paid for the photocopying, I would have used them anyway, but do so now for a quite different reason.

Martin Willcocks died a few weeks ago - he was old, and had not been particularly well for a number of years, nevertheless his death was a shock, and his passing a great loss to his many friends, and to the postal history community. He had been responsible for the production of a number of books, principally on British postal history, and was a great authority with a splendid collection of reference material (which I used extensively). He will be missed, and the front page is my 'thank you'.

The covers have both been described before (although I do not have copies of the articles), I believe by Richard Winter in 'Chronicle' 143/206, and by Martin Willcocks in the UK, so I have not devoted much space to their description; they have not, as far as I know, been illustrated in colour before. Their relevance is the accountancy markings, showing United States / United Kingdom accountancy procedures.

My thanks to Martin Willcocks for allowing me to copy the covers and to use them in the Newsletter.

I should explain my other reasons for including these two letters: First, I have had a large number of letters from readers asking that I broaden the scope of the Newsletter to include at least the United States; Second, the accountancy marks explain the '5½' marking on the British Columbia cover (illustrated in Newsletter 58 at Figure 6).

Both covers were prepaid 24 Cents, plus a five cents registration fee; the additional articles of the Anglo/US Treaty made provision for a five cents registration service, the prepaid fee to be divided between the nations. This became effective on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1856. Figure 1 shows the 5½ cents credited to the UK for a ½ oz letter carried by United States Packet - 3 cents for UK inland postage and 2½ cents the UK share of the registration fee. Figure 2 shows the 21½ cents credit to the UK on a ½ oz letter carried by British Packet - 16 cents ocean postage, 3 cents British inland and 2½ cents share of the registration fee.

I look forward to someone sending me examples of British registered letters to the United States showing the equivalent British credits!

## THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

I have received a large batch of photocopies (mainly from Horace Harrison) of registered letters between Canada and the United Kingdom in the Nineteenth Century. I am grateful for these, and will use them in forthcoming issues, but I felt that the time had come to move into this century (soon to be the *last* century, meaning *past*, not necessarily *final*). I do so knowing that my knowledge of the subject is very thin, and I hope that I will be able to rely on your support to complete the rather sketchy table enclosed.

I have noticed the omission of sources and references from the Nineteenth Century table, and will correct that when I produce a composite. In the meantime I would like to give credit to the British Post Office Archives, 'United States Postage Rates', published by the Post Office Department, Washington D.C., and to James A. MacKay for the information

provided in his book 'Registered Mail of the British Isles', which I had not noticed until Vivian Sussex drew it to my attention - I have had a copy of the book for years, but hadn't noticed, or had forgotten, the tables and references at the end.

I should add that it is astonishing how difficult it is to find and quote primary source information on the occurrences of our own century - Post Office Guides are generally available, but they tend to follow the event, and the Acts, Warrants, Instructions and Notices that are the authority for changes largely remain buried. The pages that follow are a start, please help by providing any scraps of source information that you may have and, of course, by drawing other articles and books to the attention of your astonishingly unobservant and forgetful editor.

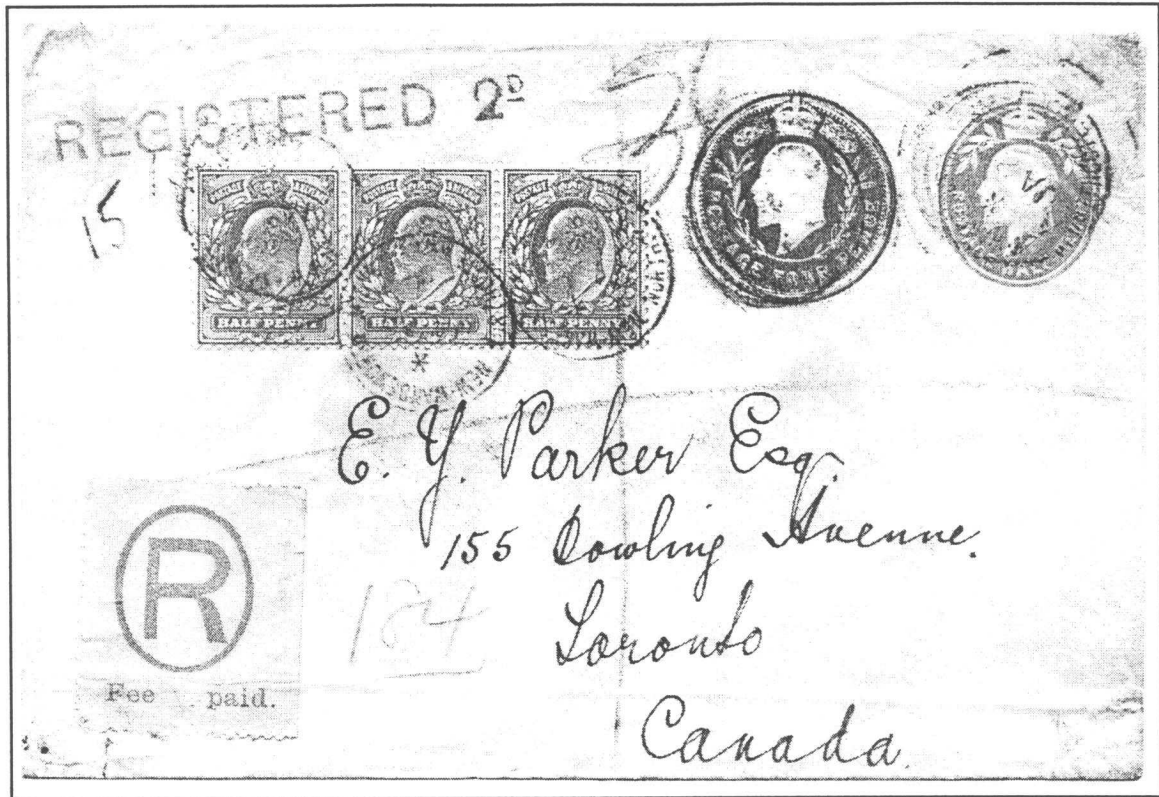


Figure 3: New Wandsworth to Toronto, 25<sup>th</sup> January 1904.

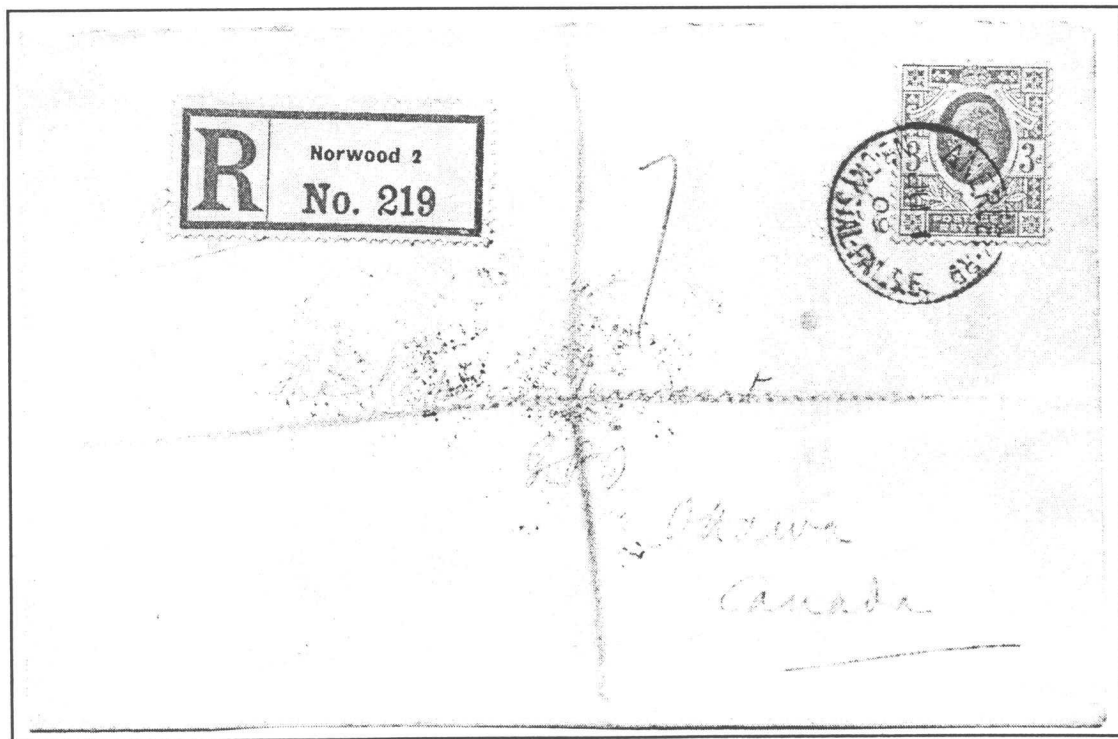


Figure 4: Norwood (Near London) to Ottawa, 1<sup>st</sup> June 1909.

The postage (British Empire Rate (BER)) was 1d/2c per ½ oz, registration fee was 2d/5c. Indemnity for overseas letters was £2.

A \$25 indemnity was introduced in Canada in 1907; whether there was anything earlier, and any relevance to overseas mail, is not known.

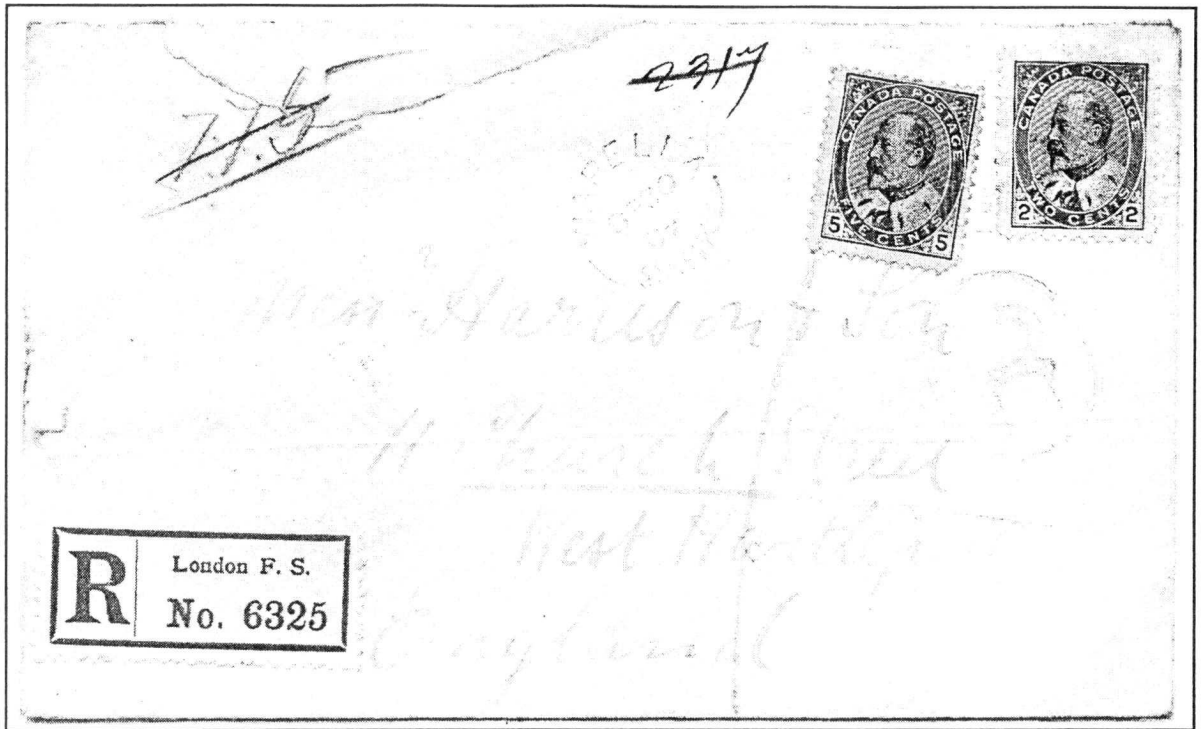


Figure 5: Wapella, Saskatchewan to West Hartlepool, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1907.

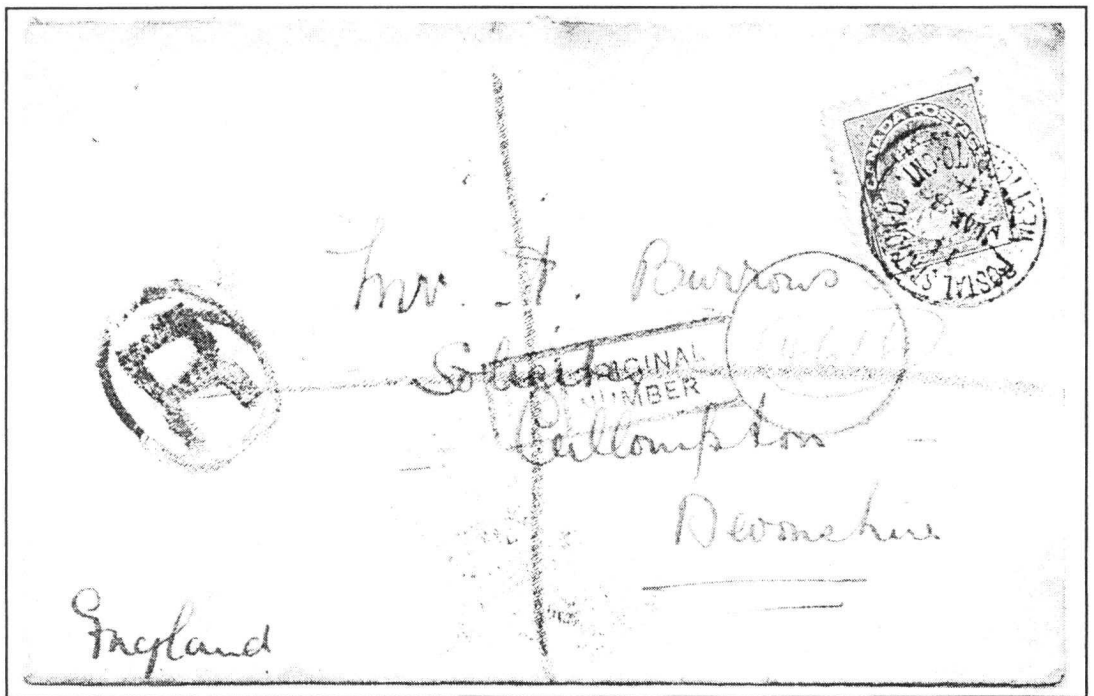


Figure 6: Toronto, Ontario to Cullumpton, Devonshire, 8<sup>th</sup> June 1914.

The registration fee remained unchanged until after the First World War, but the postage was changed several times: change of the BER and UPU progressions to 1 oz on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1907; in Canada and Newfoundland the imposition of a 1c War Tax on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1915 and 17<sup>th</sup> May

1918, respectively; the BER was 1½d by mid-1918 (recorded in the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1918 Post Office Guide, the precise date of change and authority is not known, but may have been the GPO Circular 21<sup>st</sup> May 1918, which would be consistent with the Newfoundland change).

KING GEORGE V

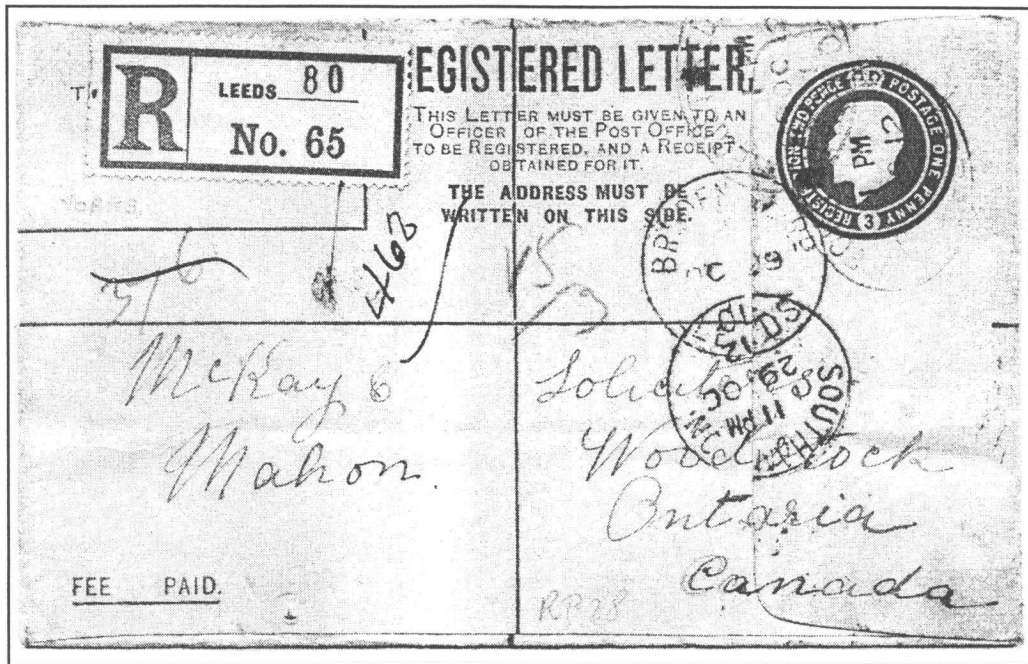


Figure 7: Leeds, Yorkshire to Woodstock, Ontario, viâ Southampton, 29<sup>th</sup> October 1912.



Figure 8: Winnipeg, Canada to Colchester, Essex, 15<sup>th</sup> July 1913.

The British registered envelopes helpfully show both the postage rate and the basic registration fee incorporated into the design of the embossed stamp. The envelopes carried on the reverse the inscription 'Registration. Compensation is given

for loss of Inland Registered Letters and Packets of all kinds, and for the loss of Foreign and Colonial Registered Letters and Packets, subject to the limitations and conditions notified in the Post Office Guide'.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

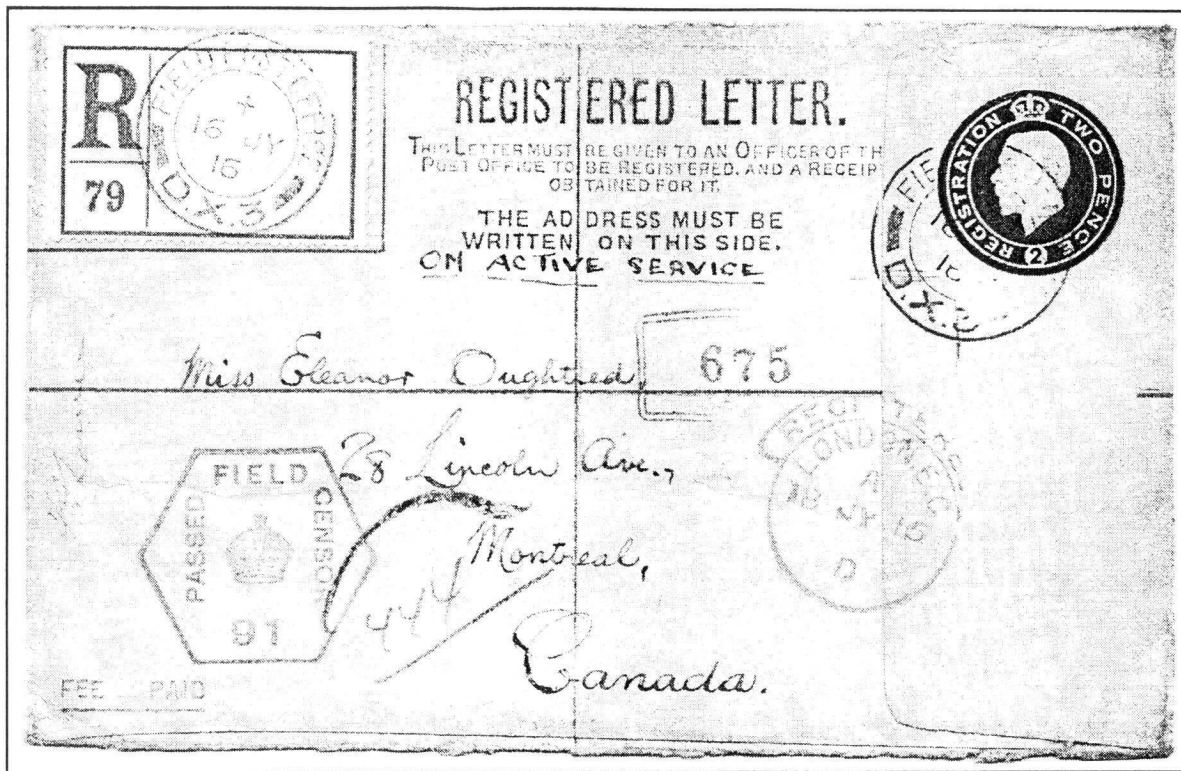


Figure 9: FPO D.X.3 (3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division, France) to Montreal, Canada, 16<sup>th</sup> July 1916.



Figure 10: Nelson, British Columbia to London, England, 25<sup>th</sup> July 1915.

Soldiers on Active Service were exempt postage, but not the registration fee and the design of the registration envelopes reflects this; unlike

ordinary letters, the Post Office did not add stamps in Canada. Civil letters were charged eight cents in all.

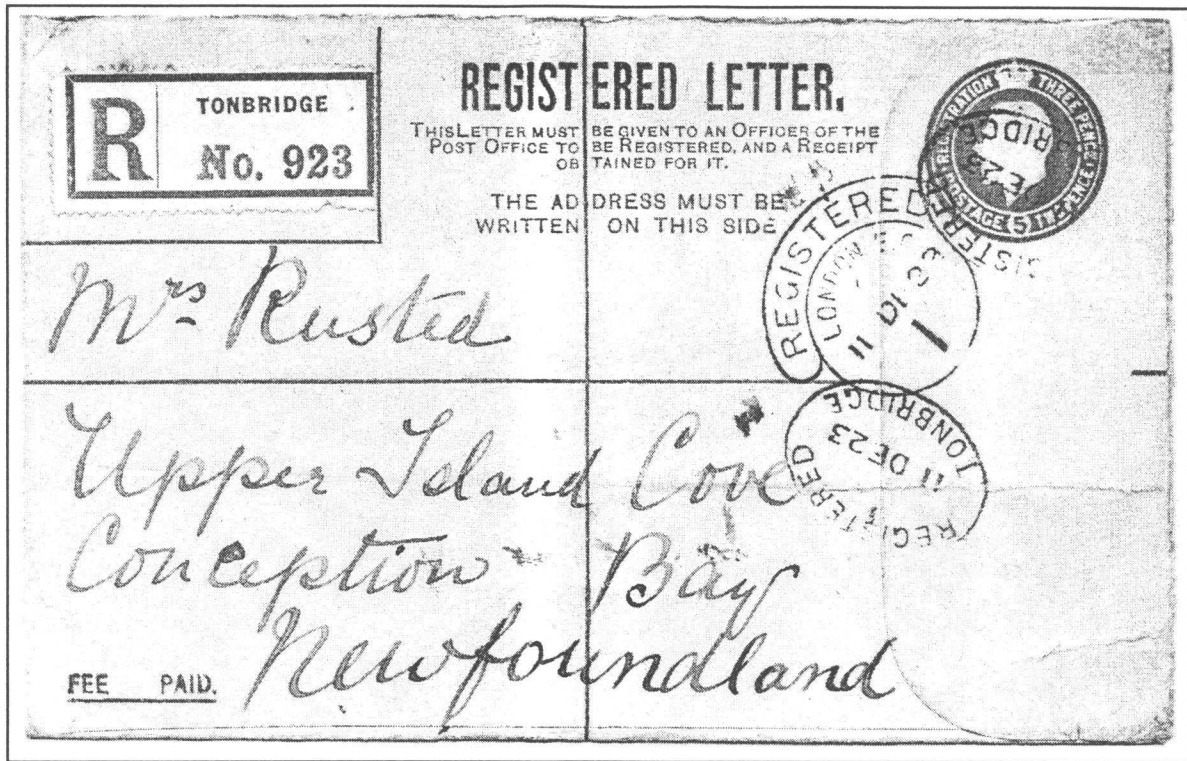


Figure 11: Tonbridge, England to Conception Bay, Newfoundland, 11<sup>th</sup> December 1923.

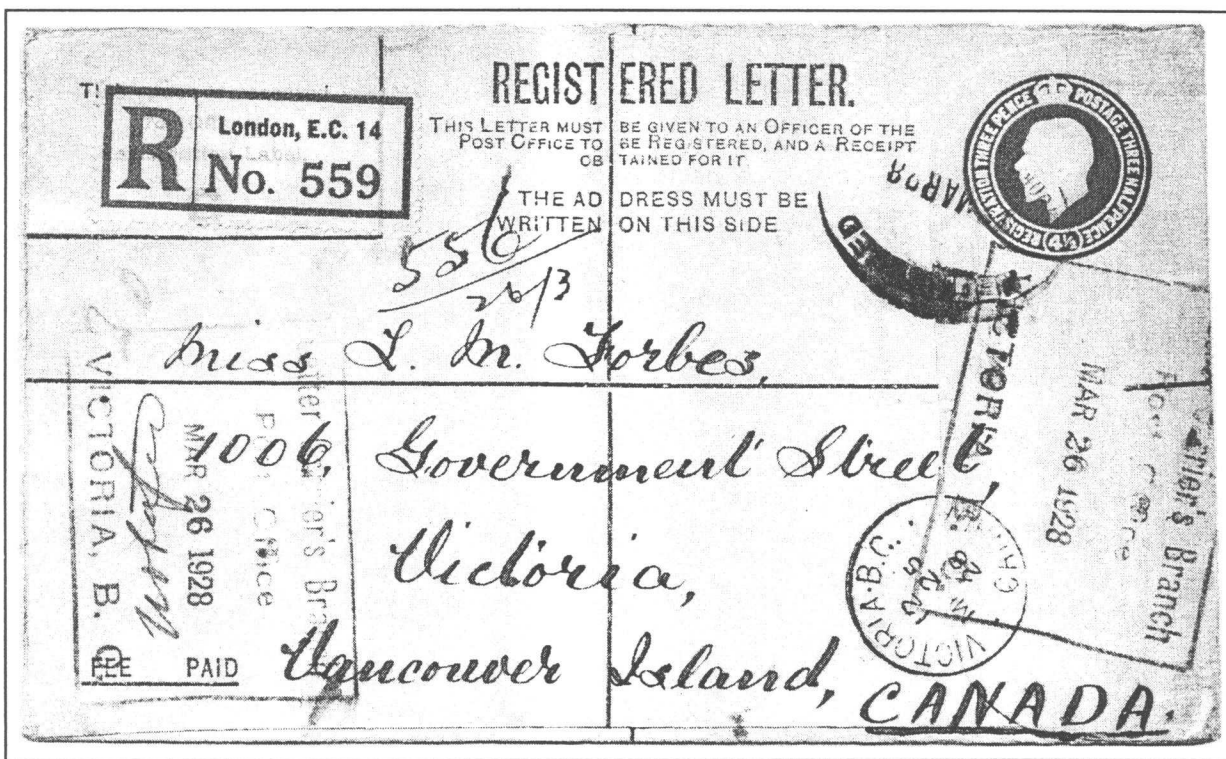


Figure 12: London, England to Victoria, Vancouver Island, 15<sup>th</sup> March 1928.

After the war the registration fee remained unchanged but the BER fluctuated: to 2d per oz on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1920, returning to 1½d on 29<sup>th</sup> May

1922. Canadian postage rates increased on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1921 and were reduced five years later, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1926.

BETWEEN THE WARS



Figure 13: Vancouver, British Columbia to Helensburgh, Scotland, 4<sup>th</sup> December 1928.

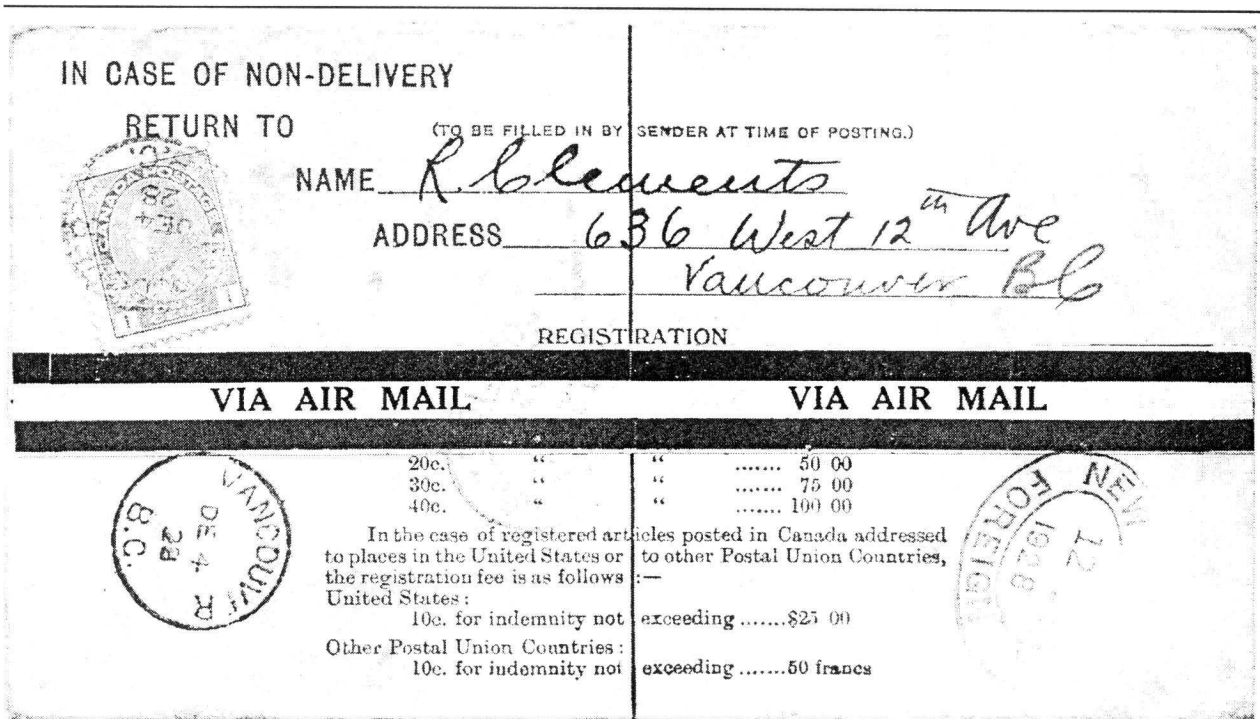


Figure 14: Reverse; note the additional 1c stamp.

A registered cover (the only such Canadian cover known to me): ten cents registration fee, five cents Canadian air mail and four cents paid in United States stamps, presumably for the

United States air mail fee. Which seems a little thin, as there appears to be no payment for the actual postage... perhaps someone else can explain the reasoning behind this one?





Figure 15: Ashern, Manitoba to Vogelenzang, Holland, 12<sup>th</sup> October 1937.

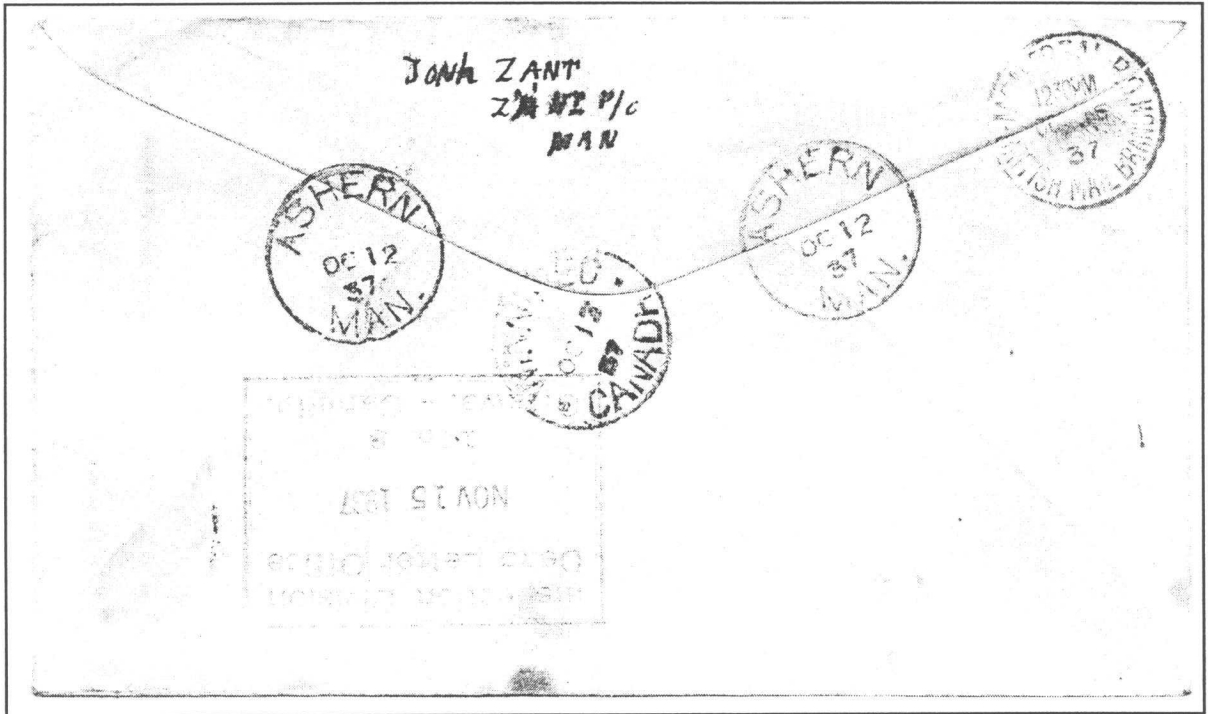


Figure 16: Reverse; the boxed handstamp is: 'Inspection Division / Dead Letter / Nov 15 1937 No. 8 / Office Ottawa. - Canada.'

I started with letters outside the usual scope, and will finish the same way. One of my favourite covers - 5c UPU postage and 10c registration fee to Holland, with 'Return to sender delivery

forbidden by judicial sentence'. I have no idea why the letter could not be delivered, unless it contained valuables or currency, which were likely to be prohibited in prisons.

REGISTRATION TABLE 2: TRANS-ATLANTIC REGISTRATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Serial	Date	Country	Fee	Routes/Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1.	1898	US	8c : \$10	'US Postage Rates', Table 11, p. 40.
2.	1 <sup>st</sup> May 1898	UK	2d : £5 3d : £10 to limit 1s 2d : £120	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Registration fees and limits of compensation for inland registered letters changed. Overseas limit £2 (?). US Exchange Tables continue to show 'return receipt' at 2½d.
3.	1902	US	8c : \$25	'US Postage Rates', Table 11, p. 40.
4.	1 <sup>st</sup> January 1906	UK	2d : £5 3d : £20 4d : £40 to limit 1s 10d : £400	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Registration fees and limits of compensation for inland registered letters changed. Overseas limit £2 (?).
5.	18 <sup>th</sup> February 1907	UK	N/A	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Label system of numbering adopted.
6.	January 1908	NF	5c	US Exchange Tables, January 1908: Registration fee for mails with the US.
7.	1909	Dominion of Canada	5c : \$20	PO Guide (Canada) 1909: Registration indemnities amended - implications for overseas mail unclear.
8.	1909	US	8c : \$25 10c : \$50	'US Postage Rates', Table 11, p. 40.
9.	June 1921	UK	3d : £5 4d : £20 1s 11d : £400	GPO Guide 1921: Advice fee raised to 3d, although US Exchange Tables continue to show it at 2½d, change in 1922. James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Registration fees and limits of compensation for inland registered letters changed. Overseas limit £2 (?).
10.	1 <sup>st</sup> October 1921	Dominion of Canada	N/A	UPU Madrid Conference, 1920. PO Supplement (Canada), October 1921: Advice of Receipt fee changes - 10c at time of posting, 20c if requested after posting.
11.	Until 1922	Ireland	N/A	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Irish rates as for remainder of the United Kingdom.
12.	January 1922	Ireland	3p : £5	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas limit £2.
13.	May 1922	Dominion of Canada	10c	US Exchange Tables, May 1922: Canadian registration fee and advice of receipt fee changed to 10c for mail with US.
14.	1923	US	8c : \$25 10c : \$50 20c : \$100	'US Postage Rates', Table 11, p. 40.
15.	October 1929	Scotland	N/A	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Coil labels adopted in Scotland.
16.	1 <sup>st</sup> August 1924	Dominion of Canada	10c : \$25 20c : \$50 30c : \$75 40c : \$100	Act of Parliament, 19 <sup>th</sup> July 1924: Implications for registration of overseas mail unclear.
17.	1925	US	8c : \$25 15c : \$50 20c : \$100	'US Postage Rates', Table 11, p. 40.
18.	1928	US	15c : \$50 20c : \$100 to maximum \$1 : \$1000	'US Postage Rates', Table 11, p. 41: includes 'return receipt' fee, at time of posting, 3c.

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Serial	Date	Country	Fee	Routes/Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
19.	25 <sup>th</sup> March 1931	UK	N/A	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Coil labels extended to remainder of UK.
20.	1932	US	15c : \$5 18c : \$25 20c : \$50 25c : \$75 30c : \$100 to maximum \$1 : \$1000	'US Postage Rates', Table 11, p. 41.
21.	1934	US	10c	'US Postage Rates', Table 11, p. 41: procedural change, the writer could restrict delivery to a nominated person.
22.	1940	UK	No change.	GPO Guide 1940: Registration fee 3d, advice fee 3d.
23.	1944	US	20c : \$5 25c : \$25 35c : \$75 40c : \$100 to maximum \$1.35 : \$1000	'US Postage Rates', Table 11, p. 41.
24.	1947	NF	10c	Robson Lowe 'Encyclopaedia', Volume 5 (IV): registration fee for surface mail (this is supported by the US Exchange Tables of the following year, which add that the 'return receipt' fee was 5c).
25.	1949	US	20c 25c : \$5 35c : \$25 40c : \$50 45c : \$75 50c : \$100 to maximum \$1.50 : \$1000	'US Postage Rates', Table 11, p. 41: adds 'receipt requests' when mailed, 5c, subsequently, 10c; 'address of delivery' when mailed, 31c; restricted address of delivery, 20c.
26.	1 <sup>st</sup> May 1949	UK	4d : £5 5d : £20 to maximum 2s : £400	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Registration fees and limits of compensation for inland registered letters changed. Overseas limit £2 (?).
27.	1 <sup>st</sup> May 1949	Ireland	4d : £5	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'.
28.	1952	US	30c 40c : \$5 55c : \$25 65c : \$50 75c : \$75 85c : \$100 to maximum \$1.75 : \$1000	'US Postage Rates', Table 11, p. 41: adds 'receipt requests' when mailed, 7c, subsequently, 15c; 'address of delivery' when mailed, 31c; restricted address of delivery, 20c.
29.	1 <sup>st</sup> May 1952	UK	6d : £5 7d : £20 to maximum 2s 2d : £400	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Registration fees and limits of compensation for inland registered letters changed. Overseas limit £2 18s.
30.	1 <sup>st</sup> May 1952	Ireland	6d : £5	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'.
31.	1952	UK	6d	Overseas registration fee increased. No source, but see 1958 below.
32.	July 1953	Dominion of Canada	20c	US Exchange Tables, July 1953: Canadian registration fee increased to 20c (from 10c) for mail with US.
33.	1 <sup>st</sup> July 1953	Dominion of Canada	N/A	PO Supplement (Canada), July 1953: Advice of Receipt fee increased to 20c for surface mail, 20c plus air mail fee for air mail (this supplement may also have advised the increase in registration fee above).

**REGISTRATION TABLE 2: TRANS-ATLANTIC REGISTRATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

Serial	Date	Country	Fee	Routes/Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
34.	1955	US	15c	'US Postage Rates', Table 11, p. 41: 'Certified Service' replaces 'no indemnity' class of service, otherwise no change.
35.	1 <sup>st</sup> June 1956	UK	1s : £10 1s 1d : £20 to maximum 2s 8d : £400	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Registration fees and limits of compensation for inland registered letters changed. Overseas limit £2 18s (?).
36.	1 <sup>st</sup> June 1956	Ireland	9d : £10	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas limit £2 18s.
37.	1958	UK	1s	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas registration fee increased from 6d.
38.	1 <sup>st</sup> February 1961	UK	1s 6d : £20 1s 7d : £40 to maximum 3s 1d : £400	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Registration fees and limits of compensation for inland registered letters changed. Overseas implications not known.
39.	October 1962 June 1964	UK	N/A	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Practice of marking incoming overseas registered mail with blue lines first suspended, then abolished.
40.	27 <sup>th</sup> April 1963	UK	1s 9d : £20 1s 10d : £40 to maximum 3s 4d : £400	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Registration fees and limits of compensation for inland registered letters changed. Overseas implications not known.
41.	1964	Ireland	1s : £10	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'.
42.	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 1966	UK	3s : £100 3s 3d : £200 3s 6d : £300 3s 9d : £400	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Registration fees and limits of compensation for inland registered letters changed. Overseas implications not known.
43.	16 <sup>th</sup> September 1968	UK	As above	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': No change, but fees to be added to first class letter rate.
44.	1969	UK	As above	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': No change, but overseas maximum raised to £3 8s.
45.	1 <sup>st</sup> January 1969	Ireland	1s 3d : £20	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas limit £3 8s.
46.	1 <sup>st</sup> October 1970	Ireland	2s : £20	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'.
47.	15 <sup>th</sup> February 1971	UK	Letters: 20p : £150 22½p : £300 25p : £500 Parcels: 25p : £150 27½p : £300 30p : £400	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas limit £3.40. (Following the adoption of decimal currency, 1s/5p, 2s/10p, 3s/15p, 4s/20p, 5s/25p, etc).
48.	15 <sup>th</sup> February 1971	Ireland	10p : £50	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas limit £3.40.
49.	1972	Ireland	No change	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas limit raised to £5.44.
50.	4 <sup>th</sup> September 1972	UK	N/A	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Registration of parcels abolished.
51.	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 1973	Ireland	12p : £50	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'. Overseas limit £6.35.
52.	24 <sup>th</sup> June p475 1974	UK	25p : £150 30p : £300 35p : £500	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas limit £5.50.

**REGISTRATION TABLE 2: TRANS-ATLANTIC REGISTRATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

Serial	Date	Country	Fee	Routes/Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
53.	1 <sup>st</sup> October 1974	Ireland	18p : £50	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'.
54.	17 <sup>th</sup> March 1975	UK	35p : £150 40p : £300 45p : £500	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'. Implications for overseas rates not known.
55.	29 <sup>th</sup> September 1975	UK	45p : £200 50p : £400 55p : £600	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'. Implications for overseas rates not known.
56.	1 <sup>st</sup> January 1976	Ireland	24p : £50	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'.
57.	1 <sup>st</sup> April 1977	Ireland	27p : £50	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas limit £7.20.
58.	13 <sup>th</sup> June 1977	UK	60p : £200 65p : £400 70p : £600	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'. Implications for overseas rates not known.
59.	1 <sup>st</sup> August 1979	Ireland	32p : £60	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas limit £8.80.
60.	20 <sup>th</sup> August 1979	UK	65p : £200 70p : £400 75p : £600	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'. Implications for overseas rates not known.
61.	4 <sup>th</sup> February 1980	UK	75p : £500 80p : £750 85p : £1000	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'. Implications for overseas rates not known.
62.	1 <sup>st</sup> July 1980	Ireland	40p : £75	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas limit reduced to £8.20.
63.	26 <sup>th</sup> January 1981	UK	90p : £500 95p : £750 £1 : £1000	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'. Implications for overseas rates not known.
64.	1 <sup>st</sup> April 1981	Ireland	48p : £75	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas limit raised to £8.80.
65.	1 <sup>st</sup> September 1981	Ireland	58p : £75	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles': Overseas limit raised to £13.50.
66.	1 <sup>st</sup> February 1982	UK	£1 : £500 £1.05 : £1000 £1.10 : £1500	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'. Implications for overseas rates not known.
67.	1 <sup>st</sup> April 1982	Ireland	70p : £100	James A. Mackay 'Registered Mail of the British Isles'.

The Back-cover illustration is of a cover from Nova Scotia to Ireland, with an interesting 'Registered' handstamp, which illustrates my ignorance of the War Tax stamps. I believe that it should have been prepaid two cents BER, one cent War Tax and five cents registration fee - I assume that the 1c 'War Tax' stamp is just that, and not 1c + 1c War Tax, conversely that the 2c + 1c Tax was the equivalent of three cents. If that is correct then seven cents was prepaid, which doesn't add up .... Again, your advice would be greatly appreciated.

One final word, the next Newsletter will be another bundle of odds and ends, the one following will start to look at Prince Edward Island - I already have a good selection of Prince Edward Island photocopies from three of the four major collections known to me, but would appreciate: early trans-Atlantic letters; ship letter handstamps (if there are any); rates from the UK through the United States and information about the routes; and details of letters with PEI rating postmarks, so that I can begin to

put together an 'occurrence' table. I go to press in July/August, so you don't have much time! Many thanks for your help thus far.

With the next Newsletter you will find a not explaining the costs and how they are met ... those without charity may call it a begging letter, so plan your vacations early ... and finally, I do not believe that the Newsletter is getting the publicity we need, so please do what you can to raise its profile, especially in North America. Thanks.



Figure 17: Halifax, Nova Scotia to Dublin Ireland, 17<sup>th</sup> October 1916 (date unclear, arrived 30<sup>th</sup>).

From: MB Montgomery, 76 Glen Eyre Road, Southampton, SO16 3NL, ENGLAND