



TRANSATLANTIC MAIL STUDY GROUP
OF THE
British North American Philatelic Society

Newsletter No. 68

April 1999

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (3)



Figure 1: Port Hill, PEI to Swansea, Wales, 2nd September 1861
(courtesy Martyn Cusworth).



Figure 2: Charlottetown, PEI to London, England, 8th(?) March 1872
(courtesy Allan Griffiths).

INTRODUCTION

This is the third of the series of newsletters looking at the Trans-Atlantic aspects of PEI mails. It will concentrate on the rates, routes (more on this in #70) and the use of adhesive stamps in the period 1861 to 1873.

There will be at least one other issue devoted to PEI, adding to the information already published (in particular the Eighteenth Century) and including the comments received. If space allows it will include further examples of unusual rates.

THE RATES AND ROUTES IN FORCE IN THE PERIOD 1854-1873

By way of a reminder, the rates applicable between the United Kingdom and PEI from the reductions in 1854 to the date that PEI joined the Dominion of Canada are listed below. These rates are similar to those for the remainder of British North America, but there are differences in some aspects:

Trans-Atlantic ship letters to PEI in this period are unknown.

Carriage by United States Packet is virtually unknown (at best exceptional).

Carriage viâ the United States is unknown until the completion of the railway from the New Brunswick Border with the United States to Shediac was complete, and rare after that.

The great majority of letters were carried viâ Halifax, Nova Scotia.

I would add one caveat to the last observation: I have recently seen a letter from Nova Scotia endorsed '*Per Steamer Lady Head Via River de Loup*', presumably intended to connect with the Canadian Packets. I had not previously considered this an option and it is possible that mail from or to PEI could have been directed in this way. Your views would be appreciated.

The rates are fairly straightforward, although the dates of their implementation occasionally are different from the remainder of BNA. For instance:

Fines were introduced on unpaid or underpaid mail with Canada from 1st April 1859. On the insistence of the PEI authorities that the post offices on the island did not accept unpaid mail (which was not absolutely correct, *qv*, TANEWS #66), this regulation was delayed in implementation in PEI and became effective on mail between the UK and PEI only on 1st June 1860. Letters could be sent unpaid to and from PEI, without being fined, for a little over a year longer than Canada.

PEI was omitted (I believe unintentionally) from the instruction which authorised the postage rate reduction of 6th January 1870; this was corrected only from 9th May 1870. So, for a brief period, letters to and from PEI cost twice as much as those between the UK and the Dominion.

I have not included the trans-Atlantic rates after PEI joined the Dominion of Canada; they were the same as for the remainder of the Dominion.

POSTAGE RATES TO AND FROM PEI, 1854-1873

Ser	Date	Rate	Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.	23 rd March 1854	Viâ Halifax: 6d Stg (9d Cy) Viâ US: 8d Stg (1s Cy) US Packet viâ US: 1s 2d Stg (1s 9d Cy)	Treasury Warrant. Rates by Br Pkts; US Pkt rate remained unchanged until 1 st 1868. Stg/PEI Cy exchange 1:1.5 at this time: 6d Stg/9d Cy, 8d Stg/1s Cy.
2.	1 st June 1860	6d Stg (9d Cy) fine on underpaid mail.	PMG Report, 1861.
3.	1 st January 1868	Viâ US: 7d Stg (10½d Cy)	GPO Notice #43/67, December 1867. Rate viâ Halifax remained unchanged.
4.	9 th May 1870	Viâ Halifax: 3d Stg (4½d Cy) Viâ US: 4d Stg (6d Cy)	Post Office Instructions and 1871 Guides (no specific reference, PEI not included in Dominion reductions).
5.	1 st January 1872	Viâ Halifax: 3d Stg (6c) Viâ US: 4d Stg (8c)	First decimal adhesives.
6.	1 st July 1873	No change	PEI joins Dominion of Canada.

THE ADHESIVE STAMPS

I know little or nothing about stamps, and have relied entirely on James Lehr's book *'The Postage Stamps and Cancellations of Prince Edward Island'* for the information reproduced in the list below. The list includes all the stamps in outline (I have not dwelt upon specifics of perforation varieties or paper colours) and would draw your attention to just a few aspects:

The values on the majority of stamps are shown only in PEI Currency - the 9d Cy (6d Stg) and 4½d Cy (3d Stg) stamps, which were intended specifically for letters to the UK, indicate the value in both Cy and Stg.

Other stamps were used occasionally for trans-Atlantic letters (the 9d Cy stamp was not available for some months after the others were issued).

This can lead to confusion: for instance, the 1861 cover prepaid with PEI 3d and 6d Cy stamps (*Figure 1*), is actually the 6d Stg rate via Halifax, Nova Scotia; the one with two PEI 3d Cy stamps (*Figure 9*) is the 4d Stg rate by British Packet via the United States.

With the introduction of decimal stamps, the exchange was 2c PEI Cy : 1d Stg.

PEI ADHESIVE STAMPS (JC Lehr 'Postage Stamps of Prince Edward Island')			
Ser	Issue	Date	Denominations
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.	First Issue	1 st January 1861	Pence Issue (Perf 9): 2d (Cy) Dull Rose 3d (Cy) Blue 6d (Cy) Yellow Green
2.	Second Issue	Late 1861	Pence Issue (Perf 11): 1d (Cy) Orange Brown 9d Cy/6d Stg Blue Violet
3.	Third Issue, First Printing	Late 1862	Pence Issue (Perf 11¾/compound 11 x 11¾): 1d (Cy) Yellow Orange 2d (Cy) Red 3d (Cy) Blue 4d (Cy) Grey Black 6d (Cy) Yellow Green 9d Cy/6d Stg Red Violet
4.	Third Issue, Second Printing	Early to mid-1865	Pence issue (Perf 11¾): 2d (Cy) Red 3d (Cy) Blue 4d (Cy) Grey Black
5.	Third issue, Third Printing	Late 1866 - Early 1867	Pence issue (Perf 11¾): 1d (Cy) Yellow Orange 2d (Cy) Red 3d (Cy) Blue 6d (Cy) Blue Green 9d Cy/6d Stg Violet
6.	Third Issue, Fourth Printing	Early 1871	Pence Issue (Perf 11¾): 2d (Cy) Red 3d (Cy) Blue 4d (Cy) Grey Black
7.	Fourth Issue	1 st June 1870	Pence Issue (Perf 12): 4½d Cy/3d Stg
8.	Fifth Issue	1 st January 1872	Cents Issue (Perf 11¾ and 12½ (1c, 3c), 12¼ (2c, 4c, 6c, 12c): 1c Brown Orange 2c Blue 3c Red 4c Yellow Green 6c Black 12c Violet
9.	Dominion of Canada stamps.	1 st July 1873	PEI joins Dominion of Canada.

FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: (Provided by Martyn Cusworth.) Figure 1 shows a letter prepaid 9d Cy (6d Stg) carried by British Packet (Cunard Line 'Canada' out of Halifax on 6th September 1861, arriving at Liverpool on 15th September 1861). The 9d Cy/6d Stg stamps were not available until late 1861. This was the rate established by Treasury Warrant effective 23rd March 1854; the Cunard Line provided a fortnightly service, using vessels *en route* to and from Boston (for Halifax calling dates see JC Arnell 'Atlantic Mails'). The contract passed to the Inman Line at the end of 1867 and to the Allan Line in 1871.

Figure 2: (Provided by Allan Griffiths.) From 1854, the rate via the United States was 8d Stg, 1s Cy; it was reduced to 7d Stg, 10½d Cy in 1868 and to 4d Stg, 6d Cy in 1870. This last rate became 8c in 1872.

Figure 2 shows the cent rate; the letter was carried by British Packet (the Cunard Line 'Algeria', departing New York 3rd April 1872, arriving Queenstown 12th April 1872). It is the only example of this rate from PEI recorded after the issue of the decimal stamps, which were in use for only eighteen months.

1854 - 1861: UNITED STATES PACKET

The cover which follows doesn't really belong in this section, but is so unusual it cannot be left out. It is a letter carried by the New York and Le Havre Steam Navigation Company's ship 'Arago'. Posted unpaid it was charged 1s Stg plus an extra penny on arrival.

1s was the standard charge for a letter from the UK to the US under the 1848/9 Anglo/US Convention and remained in force until 1st January 1868, when it was reduced to 6d/12c.

The shilling would have covered the charge to the US Border (with New Brunswick). I have been told that the extra penny was a ship master's gratuity, in other words that the letter was carried from the US to PEI by private ship. I cannot prove the matter one way or another, but would rather think that it was 'provincial' postage, in the same way that the 6d and 8d rates each included a 1d provincial inland postage. The 1s 1d Stg charge was converted to 1s 7½d PEI Currency.

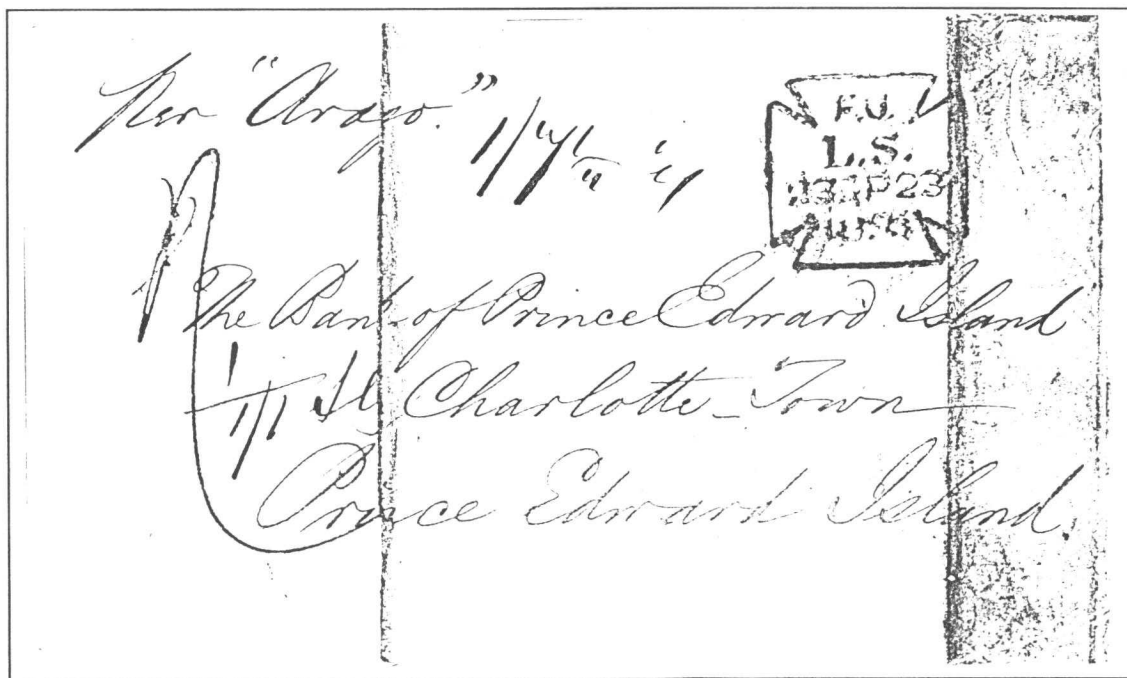


Figure 3: London, England to Charlottetown, PEI, 23rd September 1856 (courtesy Allan Griffiths).

BRITISH PACKET VIA THE UNITED STATES

The first letter on this page is from an earlier period: from 15th April 1849 the rate from the UK 'to any port or place in Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island' was reduced to 1s Stg (Treasury Warrant, 3rd April 1849); sent viâ the US the rate was 1s 2d.

The first letter was paid one 1s 2d (2d was credited to PEI) and sent by Cunard Line 'Niagara', leaving Liverpool on 15th October and arriving at Boston on 28th October 1853; but 'Niagara' called at Halifax and the letter could have been put off there. Arrival date not known.

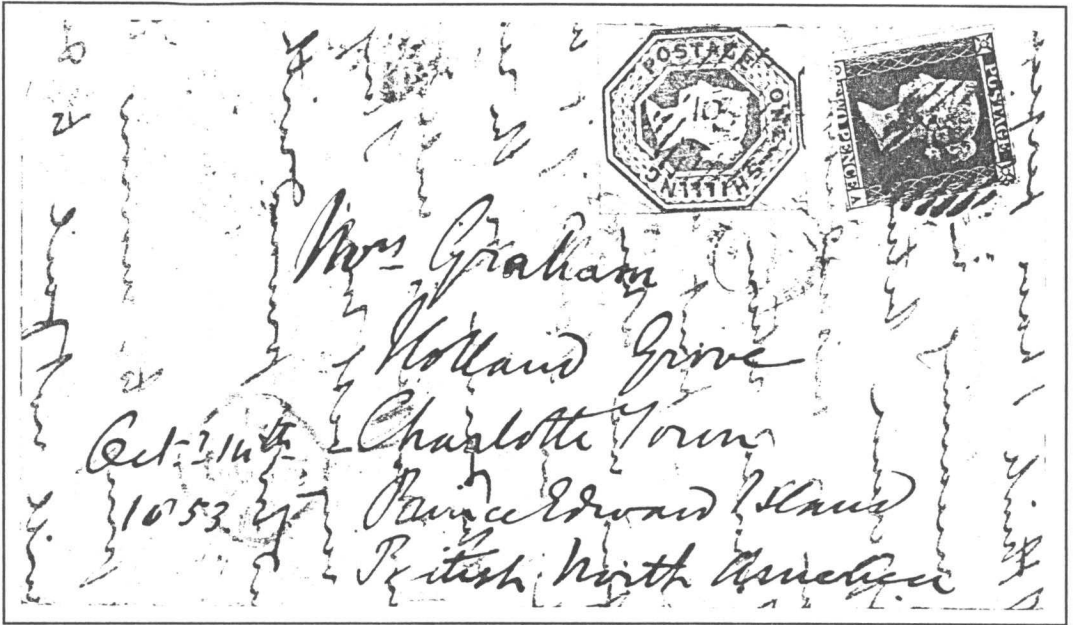


Figure 4: London, England to Charlottetown, PEI, 14th October 1853 (courtesy of Allan Griffiths).

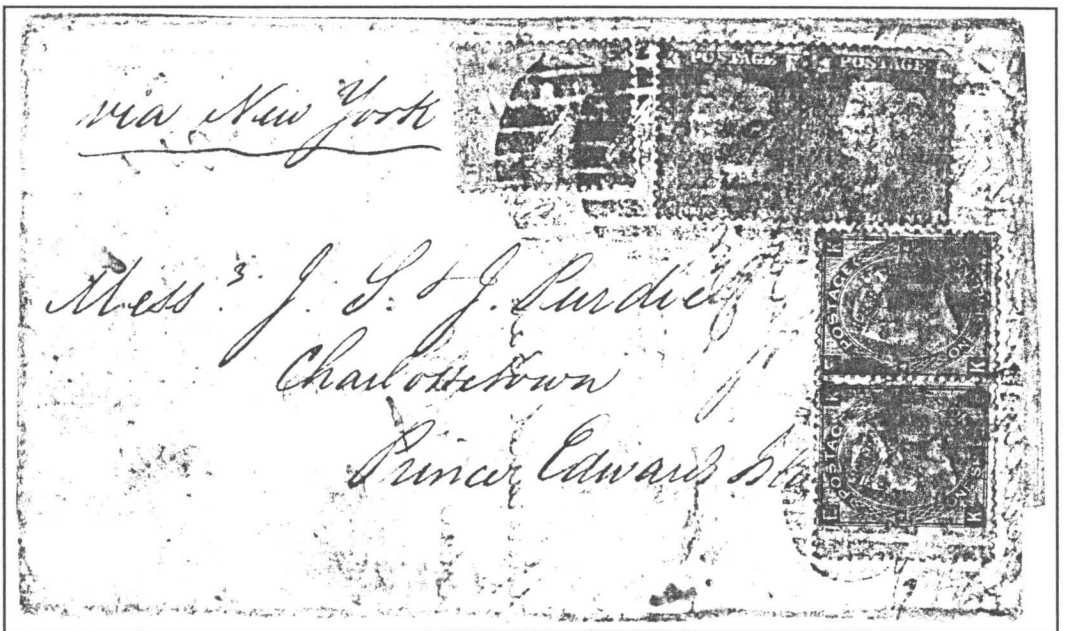


Figure 5: London, England to Charlottetown, PEI, 9th October 1867 (courtesy of Ron Saint).

The rate by British Packet viâ the United States was 8d Stg from 23rd March 1854 until 1st January 1868, but is rarely quoted for PEI. Figure 5 was directed 'Via New York'; prepaid 2s 6d Stg this would have weighed 1½ - 2 oz (the weight progression, allowing ½ oz increments,

changed on 1st April 1866). However, this is an underpayment of twopence (4 x 8d = 32 (2s 8d)) and the next ship to leave was the Cunard Line 'China' via Halifax to Boston. So the letter may not have travelled viâ New York after all but there must be one out there somewhere!

BRITISH PACKET VIA THE UNITED STATES

The rate via the United States was reduced to 7d Stg on 1st January 1868; there was only a brief period until it was again reduced on 9th May 1870. Figure 6 was carried by Cunard Line 'Java', out of Liverpool 26th June 1869, arriving at New

York on 6th July 1869; Figure 7 was also carried by 'Java', out of Queenstown on 23rd May 1869, arriving New York on 1st June 1869. No examples of the reciprocal rate, 10½d Cy out of PEI, are known.

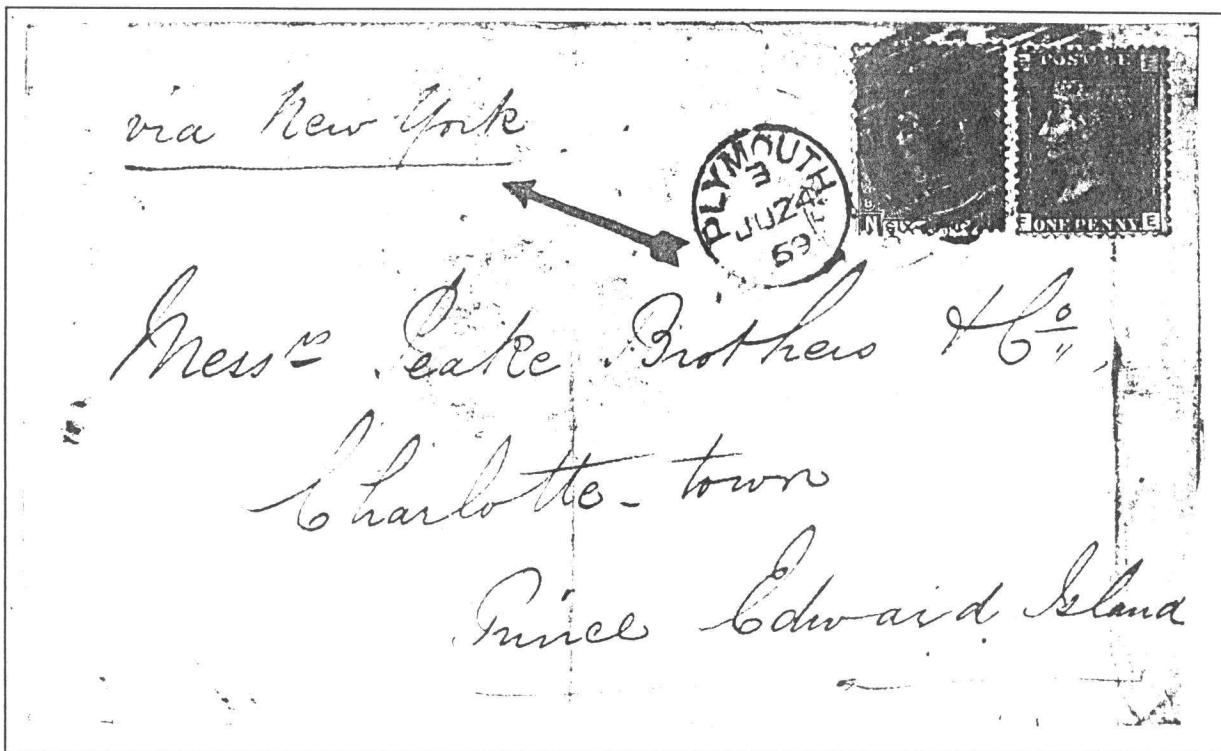


Figure 6: Plymouth, England to Charlottetown, PEI, 24th June 1869
(courtesy of Ron Saint).

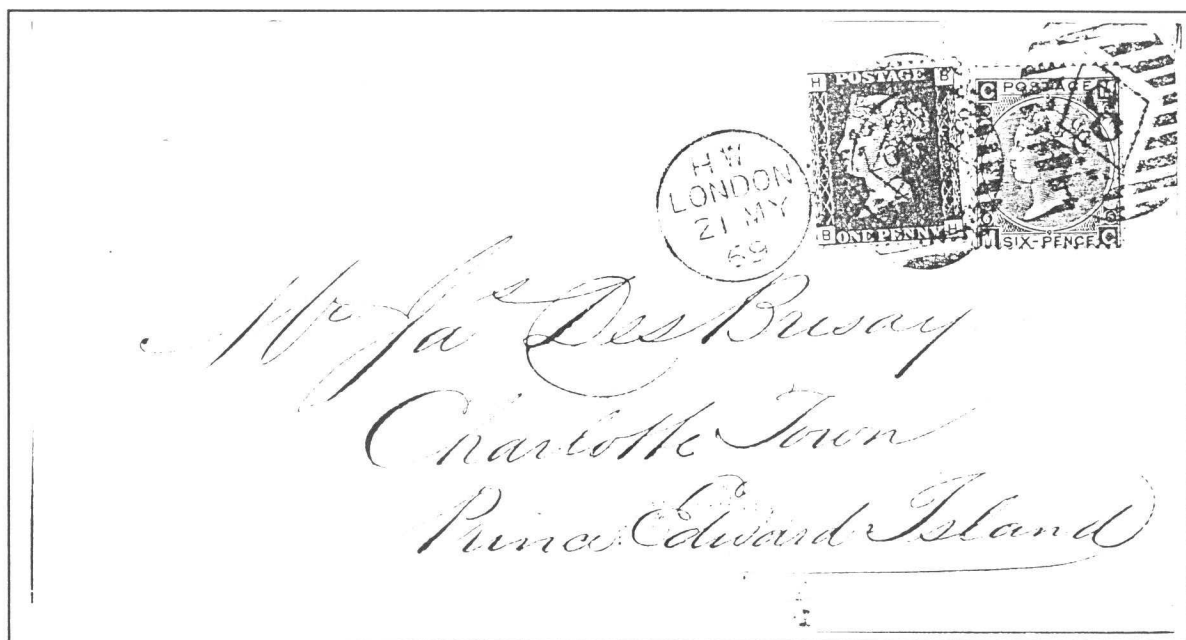


Figure 7: London, England to Charlottetown, PEI, 21st May 1869
(courtesy of Allan Griffiths).

BRITISH PACKET VIÀ THE UNITED STATES

The rate viâ the US was reduced to 4d Stg, 6d Cy (later 8c, see Figure 2) on 9th May 1870. Figure 8 shows a letter from England prepaid 4d and directed 'Qtown and New York'.

The letter was Carried by the Cunard Line 'Russia' departing Queenstown (Ireland) on 17th September 1871, arriving New York on 26th September 1871.

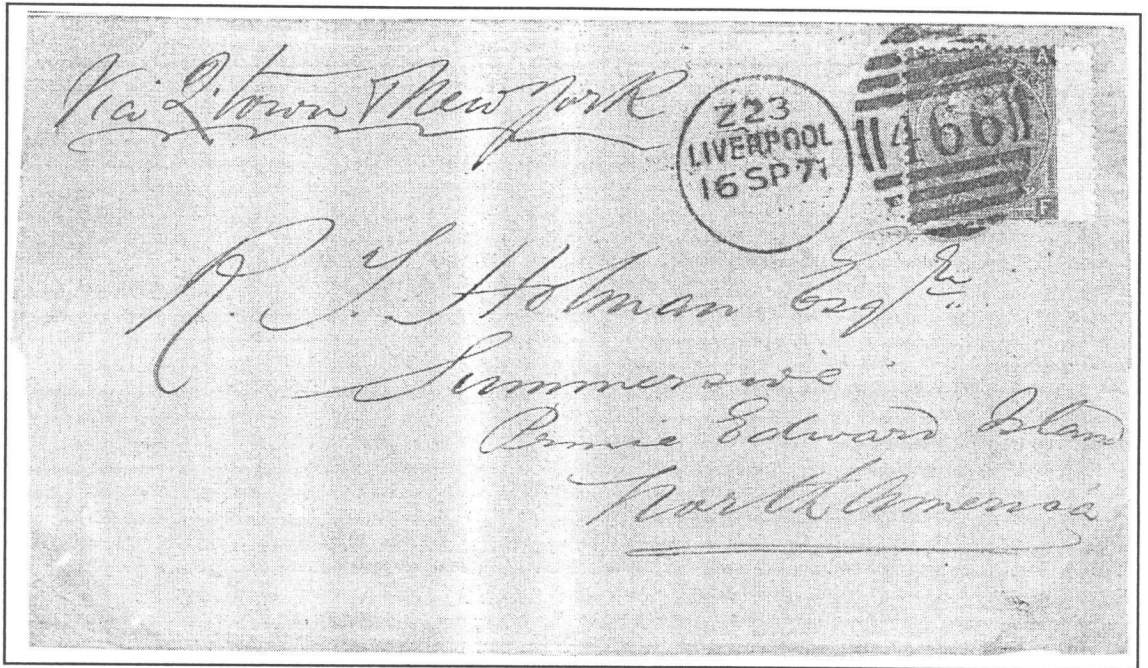


Figure 8: Liverpool, England to Summerside, PEI, 16th September 1871.

1870-1873



Figure 9: Charlottetown, PEI to Hitchin, England, 4th March 1871 (courtesy Martyn Cusworth).

The reciprocal rate was 6d Cy. Figure 9 shows a cover which was carried to Shediac, thence by railway to the US to connect with the Cunard Line 'Parthia' out of New York on 9th March

1871, arriving at Queenstown on 19th March 1871. As far as I know, this is the only example of a PEI pence cover carried by British Packet out of the US.

BRITISH PACKET VIÀ HALIFAX

The rate between the United Kingdom and PEI by British Packet vià Halifax remained at 6d Stg, 9d Cy from 23rd March 1854 until 9th May 1870. Letters showing the British rate are relatively common, so I have economised on space and show only PEI examples (Figures 1 and 10).

Figure 10 was prepaid 9d Cy (cancelled by the Charlottetown '13' obliterator) and bears a PEI datestamp for 23rd March 1865 on the reverse. It was carried by the Cunard Line 'Africa' leaving Halifax on 31st March 1865 and arriving at Liverpool on 11th April 1865.

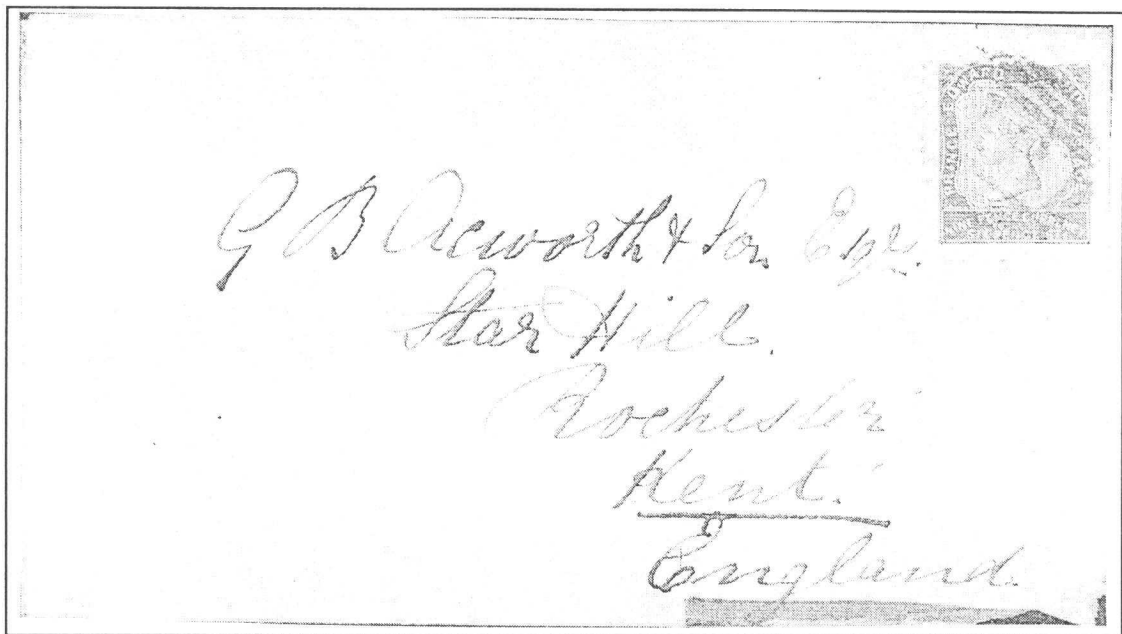


Figure 10: Charlottetown, PEI to Rochester, England, 23rd March 1865
(courtesy of Martyn Cusworth).

The rate between the Dominion of Canada and the United Kingdom was reduced on 6th January 1870 to 3d Stg; the fine on unpaid or underpaid letters was also reduced to 3d. The reduction of the rate to PEI, which not announced at that time, was published in a GPO Notice dated 1st June 1870, although the effective date is earlier.

Figure 11 shows a letter prepaid 4½d with the PEI cds of 25th July 1870; the stamp has been cancelled by the Charlottetown '13' obliterator. The letter was carried across the Atlantic by the Inman Line 'City of Antwerp', departing Halifax on 29th July 1870, arriving Queenstown, Ireland on 6th August 1870.

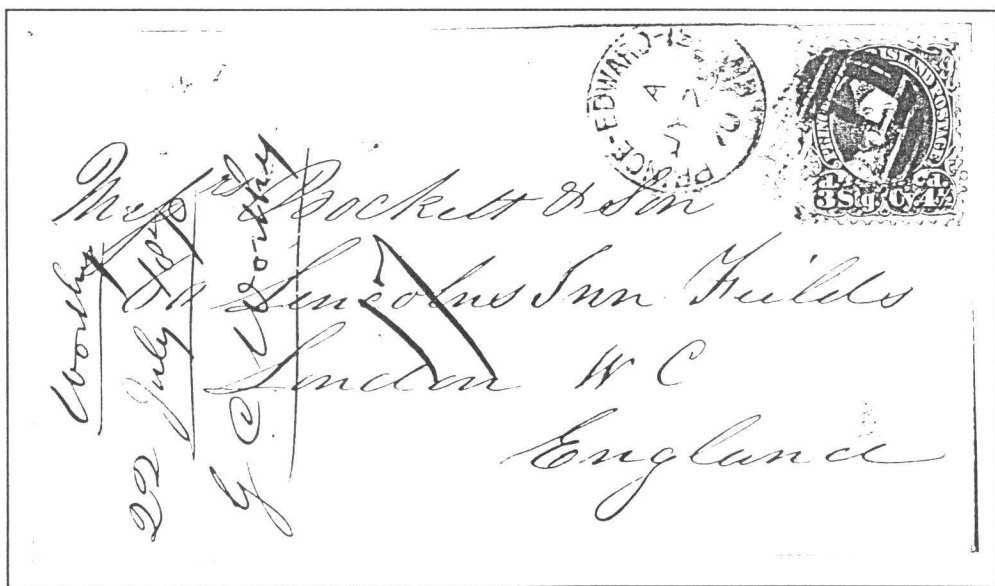


Figure 11: Charlottetown, PEI to London, England, 25th July 1870
(courtesy of Allan Griffiths).

BRITISH PACKET VIA HALIFAX

On the transition from the 9d Cy to the 4½d Cy rate a few of the former stamps were bisected. The only such covers I have seen were in the RC Carr collection and all were used on a correspondence from PEI to Ireland. Figure 12 is one such (the other half of the stamp was used

on a cover posted two weeks earlier). Posted at Charlottetown, it was probably carried by the Inman Line 'City of Baltimore' out of Halifax on 15th July 1870, arriving at Queenstown on 24th July 1870. If the present owner could confirm the arrival date ...

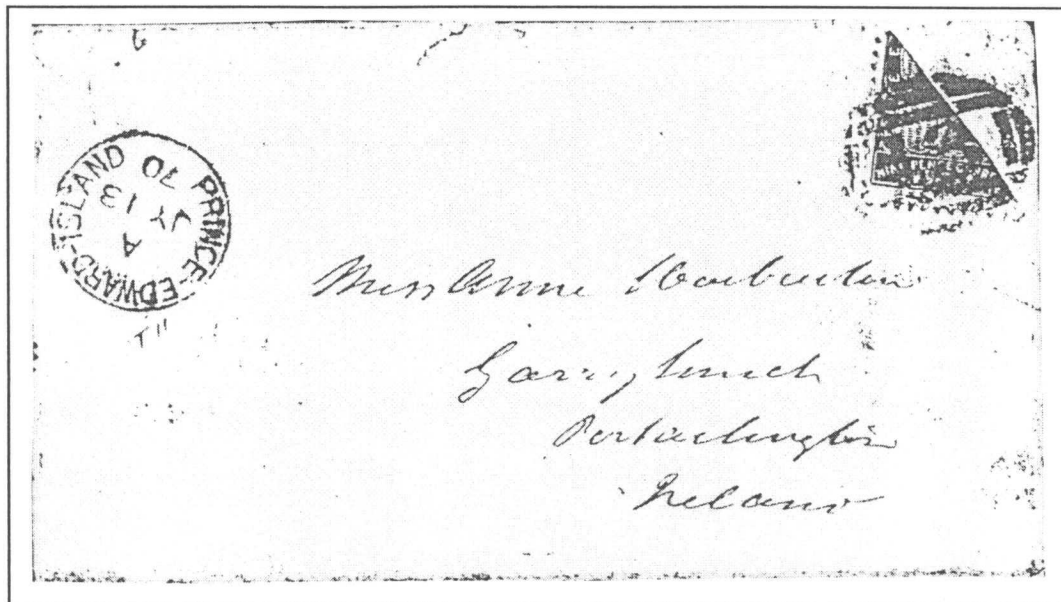


Figure 12: Charlottetown, PEI to Portarlington, Ireland, 13th July 1870 (ex RC Carr Collection).

THE CENTS PERIOD

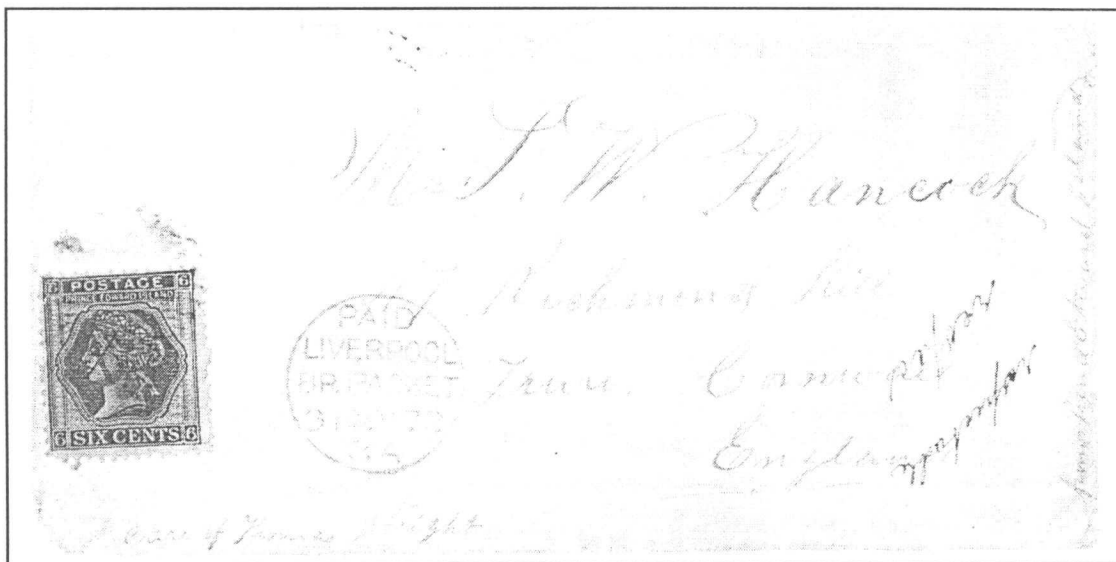


Figure 13: Charlottetown, PEI to Truro, Cornwall, 14th May 1872.

When PEI adopted decimal currency on 1st January 1872 a 6c stamp was introduced for the 3d Stg trans-Atlantic rate (it also covered the rate from PEI to the US). Figure 13 is one of the only two covers recorded for this stamp used on trans-Atlantic mail. It was carried by the Allan Line 'Caspian' out of Halifax on 21st May

1872, arriving at Queenstown on 30th May 1872. It appears that 'Caspian' (by now the Allan Line had replaced the Inman Line on this route, and 'Caspian' was thus a 'British Packet') continued on to Liverpool with some of the mails. The cover has a Liverpool transit handstamp of 31st May 1872.

UNDERPAID LETTERS

Very few underpaid letters from the UK to PEI after 1860 have been recorded; none are known from PEI. From 1st June 1860, letters unpaid or underpaid were charged the deficiency plus a sixpence fine; the fine was reduced to threepence when the rate was reduced in 1870.

Figure 14 was mistakenly paid 3d as though for the Dominion of Canada; as the rate had not been reduced to PEI, it was underpaid 3d. The fine was still 6d. The British Post Office has claimed 6d: 3d the deficiency, plus 3d the half fine. The total charge was 9d Stg, 1s 1½d Cy.

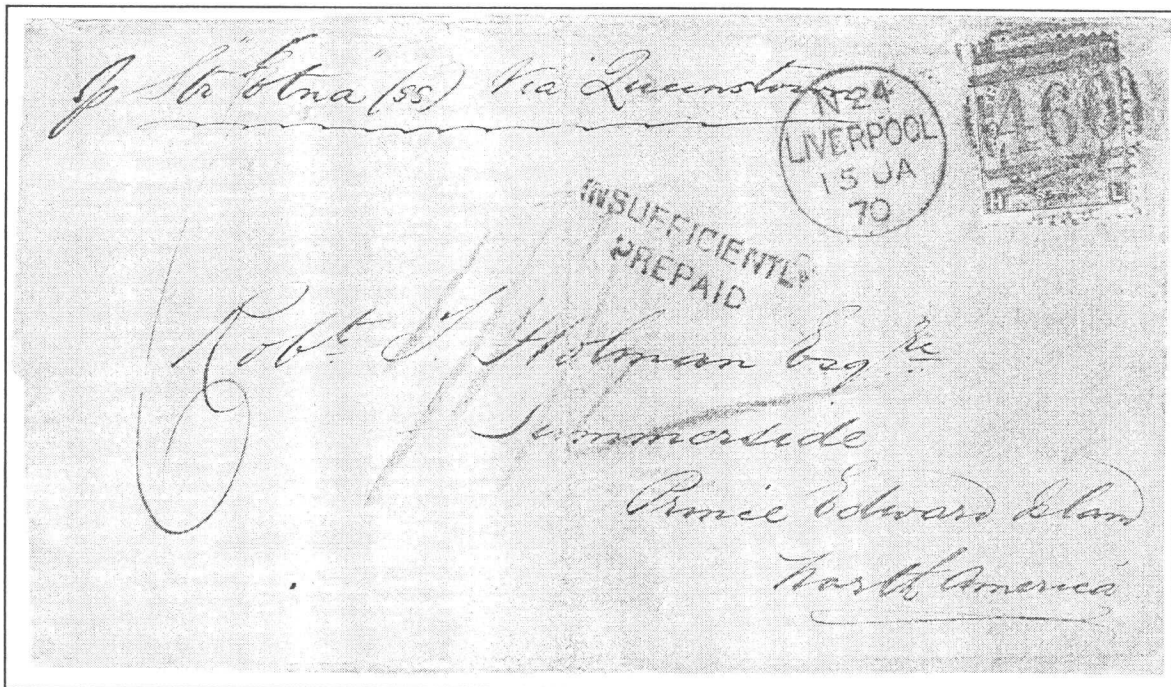


Figure 14: Liverpool, England to Summerside, PEI, 15th January 1870.

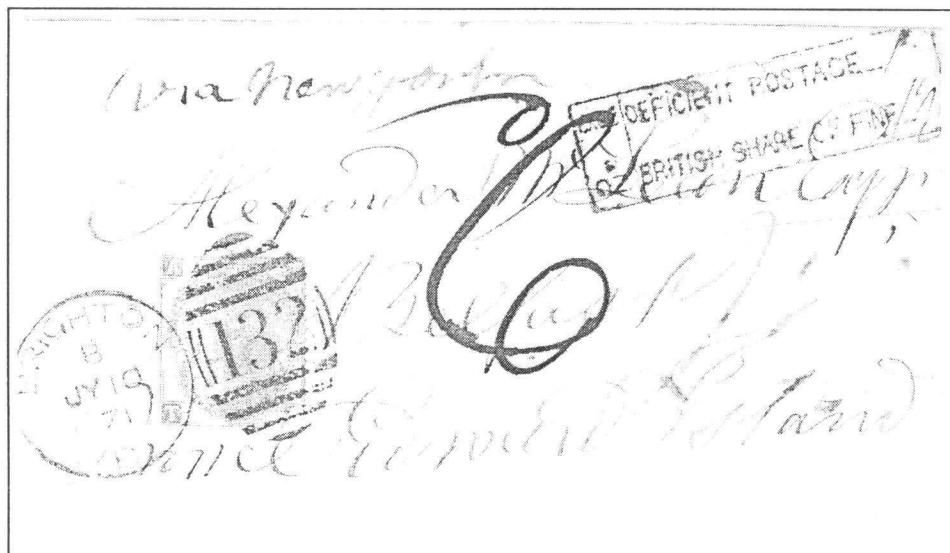


Figure 15: Brighton, England to Belfast, PEI, 10th July 1871.

Figure 15 was paid 3d Stg for the Halifax route, but was directed 'via New York' and was thus underpaid a penny and subject to a 3d fine. The GPO marked it as deficient '1d' and claimed the

half fine '1½'. The total amount due in PEI, including the other half of the fine, was 4d Stg, 6d Cy, this was marked in manuscript and charged to the addressee.

PEI STAMPS ON TRANS-ATLANTIC COVERS

Ser	Stamp	Date	From	To	Route	Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1.	1 st Issue, 3d + 6d Cy	15 Jan 61	Charlottetown	London	Br Pkt viá Halifax	CW Mackie Sale. Cunard Line 'America'. No 9d Cy stamp available.
2.	1 st Issue, 3d + 6d Cy	14 Feb 61	Charlottetown	Chepstow	Br Pkt viá Halifax	CW Mackie Sale. Cunard Line 'Canada'. No 9d Cy stamp available.
3.	1 st Issue, 3d + 6d Cy	2 Sep 61	Port Hill	Swansea	Br Pkt viá Halifax	Cunard Line 'Canada'. No 9d Cy stamp available.
4.	1 st Issue, 3d + 6d Cy	13 Feb 62	Charlottetown	London	Br Pkt viá Halifax	Cunard Line 'America'.
5.	1 st Issue, 3d + 6d Cy	21 Jul 62	Not known	England	Not known	Burrus Sale.
6.	Mixed 1 st Issue, 2d x 3 + 2 nd Issue 3d Cy	20 Jul 66	Charlottetown	Edinburgh	Br Pkt viá Halifax	RC Carr (ex Burrus). Cunard Line 'Africa'.
7.	2 nd Issue, 2 x 9d Cy	29 Mar 62	Charlottetown	London	Double rate, Br Pkt viá Halifax	RC Carr. Cunard Line 'America'.
8.	2 nd Issue, 9d Cy	30 Sep 62	Tignish	Ayreshire	Br Pkt viá Halifax	RC Carr. Cunard Line 'Arabia'.
9.	2 nd Issue, 9d Cy	6 Feb 63	Charlottetown	Locherbie	Br Pkt viá Halifax	JC Lehr Sale. Cunard Line 'Canada'.
10.	2 nd Issue, 9d Cy	31 Aug 63	Charlottetown	Croydon	Br Pkt viá Halifax	NH Brassler Sale. Cunard Line 'Asia'.
11.	3 rd Issue, 2d + 2 x 3d Cy	Not known		UK	Underpaid 1d for Br Pkt viá Halifax	Robson Lowe sale, April 1962.
12.	3 rd Issue, 9d Cy	4 Dec 63	Charlottetown	Wellington	Br Pkt viá Halifax	Cunard Line 'Arabia'.
13.	3 rd Issue, 9d Cy	23 Mar 65	Charlottetown	Rochester	Br Pkt viá Halifax	Cunard Line 'Africa'.
14.	3 rd Issue, 9d Cy	16 Dec 65	Charlottetown	Saxmundham	Br Pkt viá Halifax	Cunard Line 'Asia'.
15.	3 rd Issue, 3 x 9d Cy	3 Mar 66	Charlottetown	Co Kildare	Triple rate, Br Pkt viá Halifax	RC Carr. Cunard Line 'Asia'.
16.	3 rd Issue, 2 x 9d Cy	12 Aug 68	Charlottetown	Liverpool	Br Pkt viá Halifax	Double rate. Inman Line 'City of New York II'.
17.	3 rd Issue, 9d Cy	2 Nov 68	Not known	London	Br Pkt viá Halifax	NH Brassler Sale. Inman Line 'City of Cork'.
18.	3 rd Issue, 9d Cy	4 Dec 68	Not known	Wellington	Br Pkt viá Halifax	JC Lehr Sale.
19.	3 rd Issue, 9d Cy	26 Jul 69	Charlottetown	London	Br Pkt viá Halifax	NH Brassler Sale. Inman Line 'City of Baltimore'.
20.	3 rd Issue, 9d Cy	8 Feb 69	Charlottetown	Liverpool	Br Pkt viá Halifax	Inman Line 'City of Cork'.
21.	3 rd Issue, 9d Cy	18 Feb 69	Souris	Liverpool	Br Pkt viá Halifax	NH Brassler Sale. Inman Line 'Erna'.
22.	3 rd Issue, 2 x 9d Cy	May 69	Charlottetown	Liverpool	Double rate, Br Pkt viá Halifax	JC Lehr Sale. Inman Line 'City of New York II'.
23.	3 rd Issue, 9d Cy	26 Jul 69	Charlottetown	London	Br Pkt viá Halifax	Inman Line 'City of Baltimore'.

PEJ STAMPS ON TRANS-ATLANTIC COVERS

Ser	Stamp	Date	From	To	Route	Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
24.	3 rd Issue, 3d + 6d Cy	Jul 69	Charlottetown	Isle of Skye	Br Pkt viâ Halifax	Inman Line 'Etna'.
25.	3 rd Issue, 8 x 9d Cy	Nov 69	Charlottetown	Wakefield	Paying 4 oz rate for Br Pkt viâ Halifax	RC Carr. Inman Line 'City of Antwerp'.
26.	3 rd Issue, 3d + 6d Cy	3 Feb 70	Not known	London	Paying 9d Cy rate for Br Pkt viâ Halifax	Burrus Sale.
27.	3 rd Issue, bisect 9d Cy	27 Jun 70	Charlottetown	Portarlinton	Paying 4½d Cy rate for Br Pkt viâ Halifax	RC Carr. Inman Line 'Etna'.
28.	3 rd Issue, bisect 9d Cy	13 Jul 70	Charlottetown	Portarlinton	Paying 4½d Cy rate for Br Pkt viâ Halifax	RC Carr. Inman Line 'City of Baltimore'.
29.	3 rd Issue, 1d (bisect), 2 x 2d Cy	? 1870	Princetown	Tyrone	Paying 4½d Cy rate for Br Pkt viâ Halifax	RC Carr.
30.	3 rd Issue, 2 x 3d Cy	4 Mar 71	Charlottetown	Hitchin	Br Pkt viâ New York	Inman Line 'City of Baltimore'.
31.	4 th Issue, 4½d Cy	25 Jul 70	Charlottetown	Shepton Mallet	Br Pkt viâ Halifax	JC Lehr 'Postage Stamps and Cancellations of Prince Edward Island', pages 25 and 68. Inman Line 'City of Baltimore'.
32.	4 th Issue, 4½d Cy	5 Oct 70	Charlottetown	London	Br Pkt viâ Halifax	Inman Line 'City of Antwerp'.
33.	4 th Issue, 4½d Cy	18 Mar 71	Charlottetown	London	Br Pkt viâ Halifax	NH Brassler Sale. Inman Line 'City of Dublin'.
34.	4 th Issue, 4½d Cy	22 Sep 71	Charlottetown	Shepton Mallet	Apparently Br Pkt viâ New York, although underpaid for that route.	Directed 'Via New York'. Possibly Cunard Line 'Russia'.
35.	4 th Issue, 4½d Cy	28 Dec 71	Charlottetown	Edinburgh	Br Pkt viâ Halifax	RC Carr. Allan Line 'Caspian'.
36.	4 th Issue, 4½d Cy	9 Jan 72	Charlottetown	Edinburgh	Br Pkt viâ Halifax	Allan Line 'Hibernian'.
37.	5 th Issue, 1c x 2, 3c x 2	Mar 72	Charlottetown	London	Br Pkt viâ New York	Cunard Line 'Algeria'.
38.	5 th Issue, 3c x 3	Not known		UK	Possibly overpaid 1c Br Pkt viâ New York	Robson Lowe sale, February 1968.
39.	5 th Issue, 6c	14 May 72	Charlottetown	Truro	By Br Pkt viâ Halifax	Allan Line 'Caspian'.
40.	5 th Issue, 6c	23 Dec 72	Charlottetown	Ayreshire	By Br Pkt viâ Halifax	Allan Line 'Moravian'.

This is only a preliminary list; comments, further inputs (especially photocopies) and contradictions, please, to:

Malcolm B Montgomery
76 Glen Eyre Road
Southampton SO16 3NL ENGLAND
Telephone 44 (0)1703 768222
E-mail: malcolmmontgomery@compuserve.com