

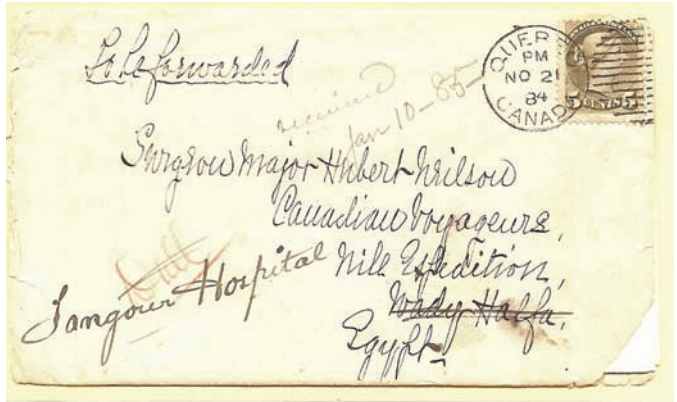
Letter Sheets. In 1973 and 1974, Canada Post tried selling letter sheets with domestic rates stamped on them. These floral design sheets were the victims of rapidly rising rates.

XIV. MILITARY MAIL/WAR-RELATED

An extremely large and exciting area of BNA to collect! Some of the earliest areas of study are the French and English wars. This is the stampless era, and you can expect to pay a premium for some of these scarce folded letters and covers. It will help the collector if he or she has some knowledge of the French language. Also within the stampless era is the war of 1812.

In the time of the Large and Small Queen stamps there are the Riel rebellions; in the Small Queen era there is the Nile Expedition. The second Riel Rebellion of 1885 pitted the Native Americans and Métis of the Manitoba and Saskatchewan areas against the Canadian government.

Also, Canadians served in the various armies of the British Empire. There are a limited number of soldier's letters known to exist from these times and



you can expect to pay a large premium for any you might locate. For example, a newly-recorded Canadian cover to a British soldier serving in the Afghan war of 1879 recently was sold in England.

Canadian Contingents in the Anglo-Boer War

The special markings on these covers from 1900-1902 include "ENROUTE" and the "CANADIAN CONTINGENT" oval date markings. There are a number of Field Post Office strikes that are well documented in support literature available through the BNAPS book store (see the BNAPS web site for information on the store and member discounts). A number of very attractive patriotic covers exist, including a series with pictures of officers serving in the war, and there are various shades of purple and magenta field post office markings to be looked for by the collector. Almost all patriotic were used domestically or to the U.S., so finding them used overseas is difficult.

Before WWI

In 1909 a system of field post offices was established to serve the Canada Militia Camps. In all there were some 30 hammers prepared for 18 different camps. None of these strikes is common and a few are darn scarce if not rare.

World War I, 1914–1918

This is a tremendous area for a specialized collection. It encompasses the Admiral era and is becoming popular as the Admiral stamps reach that magic 100-year-old plateau in philately.

One can collect field post office markings, censorship, Regimental and Orderly Room markings, hospital mail, and a very difficult area—the Nursing Sisters' mail. Mail from “The Front” is common, but letters to soldiers are far less so, as the paper was often needed for basic functions such as starting fires. There are very



poignant covers that followed wounded or dead soldiers from one hospital to another across France and Great Britain, with many markings and directional notations. Mail sent back home to Canada was stamped in Canada at a few major post offices because the soldiers had no stamps available. Prisoner of war (POW) mail from camps in Germany back to Canada, mail from POWs in Canada back to Europe, and even letters to POWs can be found at reasonable prices to illustrate the procedures. Internees in Holland also received and sent mail to Canada that can be collected.

Russia and Siberia, 1918–1919

Applied in northern Russia “Passed by Censor” and in Siberia the “Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force” markings and other scarce envelope marks are very collectible. However, like some of the others, they are difficult to find and command a premium at the dealers’ booth or on the auction floor.

World War II, 1939–1945

World War II material is a very popular area to collect, very well supported by study groups (see the BNAPS web site for study group information), by dealers’ stocks at the bourses at stamp shows, and by the various auction houses around the world. There are many areas of specialization: field post offices, CAPO, NPO, censor, regimental, orderly room, hospital and POW markings, cigarette acknowledgement cards and stationery, including V-Mail, and Christmas aerogrammes, just to mention a few.



Prisoner of War and Internment Mail. A number of very fine collections have been amassed telling the story of internment and POW camps. One might look at mail from German POWs in Canada sent to Germany, or at mail items from Canadian POWs sent back to Canada. One area of interest has

always been the POW parcel labels and their markings. POW mail from Canadians held by the Japanese is probably the hardest to find because much of this mail never made it to Canada. Most mail routes to Japan were closed fairly early in the war. Also, the Japanese government discarded some POW mail headed for Canada.

U.S. Bases in Canada and Newfoundland. The United States maintained a number of military bases in Canada and Newfoundland, and their mail is most collectible. The most readily available are from military member's mail from the building sites along the route of the ALCAN (Alaska-Canada) Highway and a number of Army Air Corp bases in Newfoundland.

Canadian Bases in the U.S. The biggest interest in this area comes from covers mailed from Adak and Sitka in Alaska's Aleutian Islands, where Canada played a major part in the defeat of the Japanese in the Aleutian Islands. CPC No. 1 and CAPO 51 postmarks were applied by Canadian army postal clerks there in 1943.

Canadian involvement with the United Nations

Korea. The Canadian armed forces were very much involved with the war in Korea, and there is quite a bit of collectible material from this era. The material is not as readily available as that from WWII but is out there to find.

Peace Keeping. Canada has been involved with all the major peace-keeping activities the United Nations has been involved in and postal markings are available from all these various activities. These include Vietnam after the peace accords in 1973.

Military mail is a semi-modern to modern collecting area. There are many study groups available to the collector. Dealers generally carry stock that runs the gamut from very expensive to very affordable. In this area of BNA philately, there is still room for much work and study.