

THE SHIP MAIL OF QUEBEC CITY (1763 – 1914)

Purpose & Scope

The purpose of this 5 frame collection is to present the maritime postal history, rates and postmarks of Quebec City used specifically by this service, from the origins of the Postal service in 1763 (after an introduction to the French Regime) until the eve of the First World War, when the ships were requisitioned for the transport of troops and where the entire maritime service has been disrupted.

Organization of the Exhibit

1. To 1851 - Ship & Packets Letters

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 French Regime
- 1.1.2 Military Administration

1.2 British Administration

- 1.2.1 Ships' handstamps & Rates
- 1.2.2 Consignees' Letters
- 1.2.3 War of 1812
- 1.2.4 Forwarding Agents
- 1.2.5 Free Mails
- 1.2.6 Mails to Europe
- 1.2.7 Soldiers' Letters
- 1.2.8 Freight Money Letters

2. 1851-1859 - The Canadian Administration

2.1 The Allan Line

- 2.1.1 British & Canadian Packets via Halifax

2.2 The Cunard Line

- 2.2.1 Via Boston & New York
- 2.2.2 The Crimea War

3. 1859-1867 - Canadian & U.S. Packets

- 3.1 Canadian Packets
- 3.2 Fines on Unpaid/Underpaid Letters
- 3.3 U.S. Packets

4. 1868-1878 - Canadian & U.S. Packets

- 4.1 Six cents Canadian packets
- 4.2 Eight cents U.S. Packets
- 4.2 Five cents preferred rate

5. 1878-1914 : The UPU

- 5.1 UPU rates
- 5.2 British Empire rate

6. Conclusion

The Port of Quebec was, until the end of the 1860's, the most important in Canada and the third in importance in North America after New-York and New-Orleans. It was one of the main gateways to North America. From 1763 (Beginning of the Canadian official postal system) to 1844 (date of transfer to Montreal), Quebec hosted the headquarters of the Postal Administration of our country. Quebec City also acted as a major Post Office for the exchange of transatlantic and Cross-border mails. That is to say the importance that the Maritime Quebec Post Office had at the time. The exhibit is presented chronologically as per plan (Administration eras and rates).

Main Sources

Arnell, Jack C., Atlantic Mails : A History of the mail service between Great Britain and Canada to 1889, National Postal Museum, 1980, 411p.

Arnell, Jack C., Steam and the North Atlantic Mails, Unitrade Press, 1986, 295 p.

Montgomery, Malcolm B., Trans-Atlantic Mail Between British North America and The United Kingdom, 1759-1851, BNAPS, 2013, 413 p.

Montgomery, Malcolm B. & Steven M. Mulvey, Handbook on the Transatlantic Mail of British North America and The United Kingdom, 17, BNAPS, 2015, 421 p.

Montgomery, Malcolm B., Fines on Trans-Atlantic Mail Between BNA and the United Kingdom 1859-1899, BNAPS, 2012, 218 p.

Steinhart, Allan L., British North America and Great Britain Collection, 1838-1865, 326p.

Illustrations

Most of the postmarks reproductions are from Malcolm B. Montgomery or Jack C. Arnell (see sources).

Highlights

Important items are marked with a red dot *

1752 Rated letter to France – 2nd earliest known
1762 Rated transatlantic letter to France
1791 Ship Letter with 1791 Bishop handstamp – 2 known
1801 Double Ship Letter handstamp – 2 known
1837 Ship Letter handstamp on back – Unique
1841 Ship Letter from Chile - Unique
1845 Quebec Freight Money Letter – Unique
1849 Transatlantic letter to Turkey – Unique
1852 Black Legislative Assembly handstamp – 2 known
1897 10 c SQ registered letter to France from the Legislative Assembly – Unique

Provenance

The provenance of certain items presented in this collection, when known, is indicated as follow:
Provenance : ex. (name)