

REVALUED CANADIAN POSTAL STATIONERY CORRELATION WITH RATE CHANGES

Between 1899 and 1986 many items of Canadian postal stationery were revalued, usually by an overprint or, in some cases for a rate increase, by addition of a second stamp image.

Postal stationery, unlike many adhesives, usually was produced to meet very specific postal purposes. When postal rates changed, so did the need for specific items. Not only are there items for the lowest weight-class rate for first class mail (general and local (drop letter)), but for third class (printed matter) mail, wrappers for publications, and for post cards.

Applying a surcharge or second stamp impression to stationery usually is not as simple as applying an overprint to sheets of adhesives, and can be expensive. Nevertheless, because of the higher cost of production of stationery, revaluation was often considered to be more cost-effective than simply discarding envelopes or cards that could no longer serve a useful postal function.

Not all rate changes have resulted in revaluation. Conversely, in a few cases rate changes occurred prior to the date on which an item originally was intended to be used, and it is only known revalued. Not only regularly issued material was revalued. Substantial stocks of a few issues prepared to private order for firms or individuals were returned to Ottawa and modified to save a customer the trouble of adding adhesives. Similarly, envelopes prepared for transmission of results from federal elections often were revalued.

Once a procedure was put in place for revaluation, regular stock distributed previously to post offices often (but not always) was recalled. Sometimes little attention was paid to whether the recalled items were old stock from printings done many years previously. From a collector's point of view this resulted in the production of some very scarce revalued items. This is particularly the case for material from the 1926 and 1968 revaluations.

This exhibit is a chronological presentation of revalued Canadian postal stationery items correlated with details of the rate change that initiated each revaluation.