

SYNOPSIS (May 14, 2023)  
**THE CANADIAN 6¢ UPU LETTER RATE AND FRANKING**

**Treatment and importance** The Canadian 6¢ rate and franking for Universal Postal Union international surface letters is a fundamental and challenging subject in postal history, suitable for comprehensive coverage in a one-frame exhibit. During this rate period (April 1, 1954, until January 1, 1966), far fewer letters were sent overseas as surface mail than as air mail, UPU letters were seldom registered, and it was not uncommon for UPU letters to be insufficiently franked due to unawareness or misunderstanding of the rate. Although this rate period spanned three definitive series (Karsh, Wilding, Cameo) and numerous commemorative issues, only one short-lived stamp was made available for solo franking of UPU letters – the 6¢ Wilding. However, its use was so uncommon that this stamp was discontinued by the Post Office Department.

This exhibit begins with the introduction of the 6¢ rate, showing an example of the previous 5¢ rate. It then examines ways in which 6¢ UPU letters were franked – involving the use of Karsh, Wilding, and Cameo stamps, postal stationery, and postal meter imprints – and ways in which insufficiently franked letters were handled during this rate period. The exhibit ends with the termination of the 6¢ rate, showing an example of the subsequent 10¢ rate.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the most comprehensive exhibit ever assembled on the history and franking of the Canadian 6¢ UPU rate. Since CANPEX 2021, the exhibit has been improved by revising the title and section headings to better reflect the scope, by numbering the sections, by minor reorganization of the contents, and by deletion, addition, and substitution of several covers.

**Knowledge, personal study and research** Each section of the exhibit is prefaced with introductory, explanatory text. Each cover is accompanied by an interpretive caption stating its significance and, if relevant, pointing out other interesting aspects of postal history.

**Rarity and condition** This exhibit features outstanding covers that are difficult to acquire. Especially noteworthy rarities, and examples showing significant aspects of postal history, can be seen on the pages listed below. Considering the breadth of coverage and number of unique and rare items, it is doubtful that this exhibit could be duplicated.

**Presentation** This exhibit comprises eight double-sized pages (17" × 11") so all covers can be viewed horizontally, and for efficient layout. Relevant parts of the reverse sides of covers are illustrated in colour at an indicated scale of 75%. Headings of sections are distinct, and subtle dashed lines are used to separate sections of the exhibit. The font size of text is sufficient to permit easy reading.

**Especially noteworthy rarities (marked ★ in exhibit)**

Solo 5¢ Karsh on soldier's UPU paquebot letter from Netherlands . . . . .	p 1
6¢ Wilding on registered UPU letter to Hungary during Hungarian Revolution . . . . .	p 2
Inadmissible UPU letter returned from Czechoslovakia . . . . .	p 3
UPU letter to Switzerland, redirected to France, further redirected by air mail to USA . .	p 5
Insufficiently prepaid UPU letter redirected from Indonesia to Netherlands . . . . .	p 6
Insufficiently prepaid UPU letter returned from Belgium, charged postage due plus return fee . .	p 7

**Significant aspects of postal history**

Rare franking of 6¢ UPU letters:

Strip of 2¢ Wildings from miniature pane ..... p 2  
Use of Winnipeg-tagged Wilding ..... p 3  
4¢ Wilding in combination with 2¢ First Karsh postal stationery envelope ..... p 4  
1¢ Cameo booklet stamp in combination with 5¢ meter imprint on tape ..... p 5

Rare destinations:

Luxembourg ..... p 3  
Indonesia ..... p 6  
Ivory Coast ..... p 8

Uncommon destinations:

USSR, Hungary ..... p 2  
Czechoslovakia ..... p 3  
Japan ..... p 4  
Yugoslavia ..... p 7  
South Africa ..... p 8

Treatment of mail:

Posted at sea ..... p 1  
Service suspended ..... p 2  
Undeliverable ..... p 2, 3, 7, 8  
Registration ..... p 2, 4  
Inspection ..... p 3  
Inadmissible ..... p 3  
Returned for additional postage ..... p 3  
Undeliverable Mail Office ..... p 3, 7  
Redirection ..... p 4, 5, 6  
Refusal to pay postage due ..... p 7  
Correspondence sent as printed matter ..... p 8

**Key literature**

Canada Official Postal Guide. 1952-53 Part I (377 p), 1955 (390 p), 1957 (438 p), 1959 (462 p), 1961 (466 p).  
Chung, A., Machum, H.W.E., and Narbonne, R.F. 2006. Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era from Canada, 1952-2005, Volume Two (275 p).  
Smith, R.C., and Wawrukiewicz, A.S. 2000. Canada Domestic and International Postal Rates and Fees 1870-1999 (44 p).

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