

# THE CANADIAN 6¢ UPU LETTER RATE AND FRANKING

**Introduction** From April 1, 1954, until January 1, 1966, the Canadian rate for Universal Postal Union international surface letters was 6¢ for the first ounce. This applied to destinations excluding the Americas and Spain, British Commonwealth, British Colonies and Protectorates, and other preferential countries. The only stamp available for solo franking was the 6¢ Wilding, but its use was uncommon and short-lived (issued June 10, 1954; discontinued October 23, 1958). Therefore, franking involving Karsh stamps, other Wildings, and Cameos was necessary; postage meters could also be used. Postal stationery required additional franking for the 6¢ rate.

**Purpose** This exhibit documents the history of the Canadian 6¢ UPU letter rate. It examines ways in which such letters were franked, and ways in which insufficiently franked letters were handled during this rate period.

**Scope** This exhibit begins with introduction of the 6¢ UPU letter rate. It then shows uses of stamps, postal stationery, and postage meters for franking, and consequences of insufficient franking. The exhibit concludes with termination of the 6¢ UPU letter rate. Outstanding covers are featured throughout, with captions explaining their significance and mentioning other interesting aspects of postal history where relevant. Especially noteworthy rarities are marked ★.

**Exhibit Plan**

1. Introduction of 6¢ rate
- 2a. Use of Karsh stamps; 2b. Use of 6¢ Wilding; 2c. Use of other Wildings; 2d. Use of Cameos; 2e. Use of postal stationery; 2f. Use of postage meters
3. Insufficient franking
4. Termination of 6¢ rate

## 2a. USE OF KARSH STAMPS

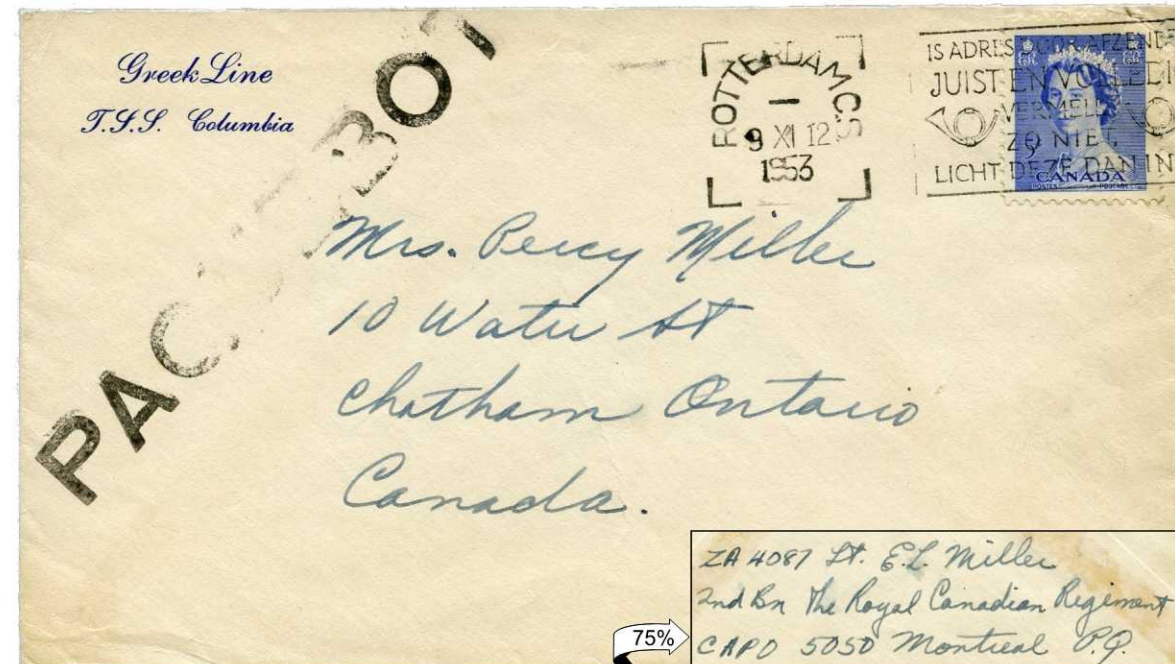
Karsh definitives, issued on May 1, 1953, were replaced with Wilding definitives on April 1, 1954 (5¢) and June 10, 1954 (1¢ to 4¢). Therefore, solo franking of 5¢ UPU letters with the 5¢ Karsh was possible until April 1, 1954, when the rate increased to 6¢ for the first ounce. From then until June 10, 1954, multiples or combinations including Karsh stamps were necessary to frank UPU letters.

UPU letter mailed in April, 1954, required postage at 6¢ rate.

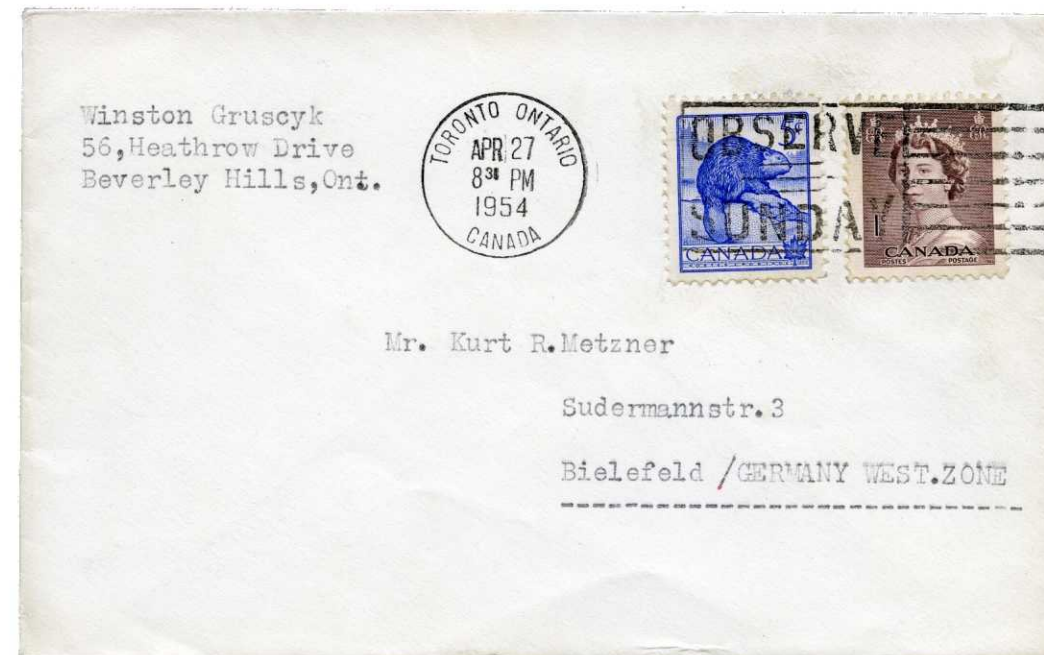


## 1. INTRODUCTION OF 6¢ RATE

The UPU letter rate was 5¢ for the first ounce from April 1, 1943, until April 1, 1954, when it became 6¢.



★ In late October, 1953, main party of 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment left for Germany aboard TSS 'Columbia'. This letter to Canada was mailed aboard ship and entered Dutch postal system in Rotterdam, requiring postage at 5¢ UPU rate, as if mailed from Canada to Netherlands. **One of seven known examples** of solo 5¢ Karsh used for UPU letter; **only known** paquebot example.



1¢ Karsh added to 5¢ commemorative for UPU letter mailed in April, 1954. Surface letters such as this to British Zone of occupied Germany required 6¢ UPU rate, rather than preferential 5¢ rate applicable to British Empire. Occupation of western Germany officially continued until May 5, 1955.