

Study of 20th Century Postcard Rates: Canada to the UK

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the 20th century, Trans-Atlantic communication was available by telegraph cable, later by radio-based telephone (1927), and then by telephone cable (1940). These were very expensive methods, so the main form of communication was mail. Postcards were the social media of their day, sending greetings, announcing family news, and/or sending pictures of places being visited. Postcards were the glue between family and friends, thus, were **very important** and affordable.

EXHIBIT

This Postal History exhibit displays 54 postcards mailed in the 27 rate periods of the century with analysis of some 18 irregular rates discovered.



2¢ rate: MONTREAL CANADA JUN 25 10-AM 1903 / undivided back

PLAN

- A- **CONSTANT RATE** of 2¢ (1900-1915): starting with Queen Victoria through Edward VII to George V: showing divided backs, and printed matter rate exception.
- B- **WAR TAX** confusion: coping with war tax on(1915)and off(1926)and on(1931) and off(1943): causing rate errors; also a use of a new printed matter rate.
- C- **SEAMAIL/AIRMAIL**: differing rate changes mixes up UK postcard rates with letter rates; also attempts to continue seamail rates after being abolished.
- D- **Multiple "ALL-UP"** rate changes from 1976 resulting in 17 changes to century end, with some 9 lasting from 7 months to one year (*thus, elusive*).



RED DOTS to indicate some of the HIGHLIGHTS