

## SYNOPSIS OF EXHIBIT

# Canadian Mail Sent via the Empire Air Mail Scheme 1938 - 1939

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### Significant items of interest:

- Only reported EAMS post card with **full payment by a 4 cent 1937 Mufti stamp to any destination**, page 3.
- Six cent half ounce letter rate postage due to Kisumu, **Kenya, due tied**, page 4.
- Registered 10 cents + 12 cents double weight letter rate to **Tanganyika East Africa**, page 5.
- **Southern Rhodesia Triple weight letter rate** up to 1 ½ ounces, 18 cents full payment, page 6.
- Six cent half ounce letter rate to **Iraq**, page 10.
- Six cent half ounce letter rate postage due to **Sarawak, Borneo**, then to **Singapore**, both countries dues tied (not collected), page 12.

The average time frame to obtain a cover or post card sent via the EAMS from Canada is approximate 1 year to 1 ½ years.

Significant items.



### Importance:

**The Empire Air Mail Scheme (EAMS) was one of the main reasons the Canadian Post Office initiated the Trans-Canada Air Mail service to help form a uniform service throughout Canada and the Empire. If the service had not been cancelled due to war hostilities, due to its success there would not have been enough airplanes for the 1939 Christmas rush season across the Empire.**

### Treatment and structure:

- Organization is shown via each of three **Stages**:
  - **1: Africa,**
  - **2: Middle East to Far East**
  - **3: Hong Kong, Australia & New Zealand**
- Type of mail, 1<sup>st</sup> class letter or post card are noted
- Rate and destination with information of each specific item notated fully paid or due.
- Information on the EAMS is spread throughout the exhibit to give additional key points of interest and importance.

### History and general information:

- The EAMS scheme was devised by England in 1934 that all first-class mail would be sent by air between parts of the Empire. It began on 28 June 1937, when the flying boat Centurion flew from Southampton to South Africa. The second stage, to India and Malaya, began in February 1938 and the third stage to Australia in July 1938.
- The EAMS was a hugely expensive plan, and to make it financially acceptable to the British Government, subsidies were required to support it from the dominions (especially South Africa, India, and Australia) and colonies of the Empire, **Canada agreed to £5000 per year.**
- Examples of time saving are: Egypt and Palestine 2-3 days, India, and Ceylon a week, and South Africa a week, East Africa and Malaya a fortnight, Australia & New Zealand more than a fortnight.

### General Study and Research:

- **40+ years** of collecting the King George VI 1937-1938 issue with original research, discovery of rare new items pertaining to Canadian material and some original official Canada Post Office documentation.
- **Only Reported Copies** are assumed based on reports made by other EAMS specialists from other countries, subject to change.

### Previous Awards:

This specialized exhibit is a totally new single frame exhibit. However, it has been part of a much larger multi frame award winning 1937 – 1938 issue exhibit.

### Exhibit Plan:

See title page.

### Items not shown:

Although some countries destinations may never be known or found, a perusal of **other specialist's** collections material from other countries only skims the surface for Canadian EAMS material with the more common destinations from Canada.

### Bibliography

#### **Power Point presentation given at the King George VI study group meeting.**

Flying Empires Short 'C' class Empire flying boats by Brian Cassidy, Queens press UK.©2004

Canadian Weekly, Monthly and annual postal guide supplements.

### Epilogue: World War II

In early September 1939 due to hostilities in Europe and declaration of war, an announcement was made in the **October Canada Post Monthly Postal Guide** that mail sent at rates for the EAMS were to cease immediately with some routes reverting to **previous Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Pacific rates and routes.**

