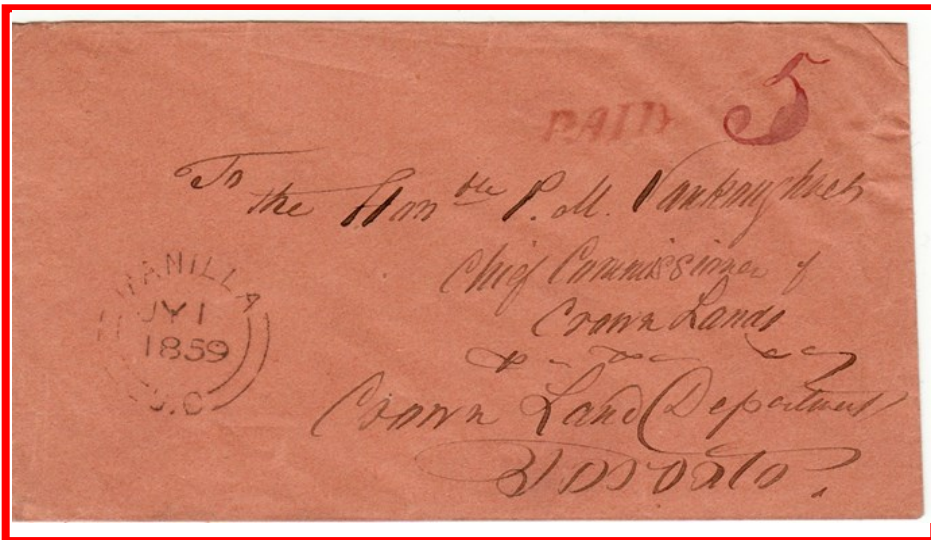


Canadian Postal History: A North American Rate & Route Study during Decimal Period (1859 –1868)

Purpose and Scope:

This study explores **domestic-, interprovincial-, and cross border-** postal rates and usages of decimal stamps on cover and stampless covers within decimal period (1 July 1859 to 31 March 1868). Where appropriate, route sent for a specific cover is provided in order to understand routing to speed up mail service, esp. during winter.

Organization of Exhibit



First Day (July 1, 1859) of Use of the 5¢ Prepaid Domestic Rate, ½ oz. or less.
Vincent Graves Greene Certificate, 2014



- Domestic Letter Rates;
- Domestic Unpaid-, Short Paid-, & Special-Rates;
- Domestic Registered Rates & Express Company alternative;
- Domestic Non-Letter Rates;
- Interprovincial: Letters to Maritimes;
- Interprovincial: Non-Letter Rates to Maritimes;
- Rates to/ Newfoundland & to/from Labrador;
- Rates to the West: to/from Red River Settlement, British Columbia/Vancouver Island;
- Cross Border to US: Letter Rates;
- Cross Border: Registered Letter Rates;
- Cross Border: Rates to West;
- Cross Border: Printed Matter, Short-Paid & Forwarded Mail
- Epilogue

Treatment

Decimal (cents) stamps/rates of pre-Confederation Canada appear after pence issue. Considerable amount of mail during this period was stampless. Often, stampless covers are only examples available to illustrate rates and routes. Special rates (e.g. soldiers' letter, photograph, ferrriage, neighboring town, parcel post, etc.) are featured. Illustrated covers (e.g. advertising, hotel, patriotic, telegraph, etc.) expanded greatly; examples are shown which, besides depicting rates, illustrate an important part of Canadian postal history. Printed matter rates examined include wrappers, printed circulars, prices current and franked entire newspapers. Registered rates are particularly interesting since payment of registration was made in cash but sometimes the registration was paid for but postage was unpaid or partially paid.

At beginning of each chapter, short coverage of postal rates for a particular type of mail is given. It should be noted that confusion of rates sometimes existed either because Canadian Postal Guide didn't specify rate or information was sketchy or misunderstood by postal clerks. Some examples of these inconsistencies are presented where appropriate. Throughout Exhibit are many examples where according to Firby census (1) (most cited) or the Arfken/Leggett book (2) are the only known examples. In other cases, only a few rate covers have survived and will be highlighted as: **3 known, 5 recorded to date**, etc. (as per Firby). A number of covers have certificates of authenticity; they are identified by symbol ©. Significant covers to unusual destinations or special franking identified by an outline frame in **RED**. Dates in text will be cited as they appear in Canadian Circular Date Stamp (CDS).; e.g. FE 3 65 means February 3 1865. New discoveries and/or original research will be cited with a magnifying glass symbol:



In limited cases (namely for Labrador and Red River Settlement), both incoming mail and a piece or two of outgoing mail are illustrated since overall only a few pieces of mail are available during the decimal period. The mail routes cited help one to understand the difficulty of sending mail especially during the winter when these places were iced– or snowed-in and overland- or oversea-transportation was difficult or unavailable. An interesting observation that Canadian stamps were never demonetized by Canada Post. An example of a pence stamp used in the decimal era and, just before the Prologue, examples of decimal stamps used for postage in the Large Queen era are illustrated.

References

- 1) Charles G. Firby, *The Postal Rates of Canada: 1851-1868, The Provincial Period- A Recording, Part II*, for Canada 1859 Issue Stamps, 1976; revised September 1, 1984.
- 2) George B. Arfken & Arthur W. Leggett, *Canada's Decimal Era*, Vincent Graves Greene Research Foundation, Toronto, 1996.

Total of 220 franked and stampless covers tells the story of Decimal Postal History Rates in North America