

Traditional and Unusual Nova Scotia Postal Markings in a Transitional Era 1867 - 1893

Exhibit Plan

Frame	Postmark Type
1	Temporary-Emergency CDS
Post-1867 Usages of Pre-Confederation Styles	
	Double Split Ring
2	Stampless Covers with "PAID" Markings
	Way Offices
	Manuscript Postmarks
Experimental Postmark Styles	
3	Unique Markings
	Fancy Cancels
	Unusual Split Rings
Experimental National Postmark Series	
4	2-ring Numerals
	"CANADA" split Rings

Significant Items

Items of significance have red matting.
The exhibit has the only known strike of these:
Economy 1867 T-E CDS
Sheet Harbour 1873 T-E CDS
Londonderry Station 1874 T-E CDS
Wentworth Station 1874 T-E CDS
Dartmouth "PAID" 1872 split ring
New Glasgow "PAID" 1874 CDS
New Glasgow 1873 double circle
Blueberry 1894 split ring
Inglisville 1879 manuscript postmark
Dalhousie Road 1889 manuscript postmark
Hillaton 1893 manuscript postmark.

Abbreviations Used

DSR – double split ring
T-E – Temporary Emergency CDS
CDS – circular date stamp
SR – split ring
b/s – backstamp
W.O. - way office
P. O. – post office
P.O.U. – period of use
ERD – earliest recorded date
LRD – latest recorded date

References

L. B. Macpherson, Nova Scotia Offices and Marks, 1867 1873," *PHSC Journal* No. 50 June 1987.
Annual Reports of the Postmaster General of Canada, 1868 – 1878.

"CROSS ROADS COUNTRY HARBOUR / N. S. CANADA" experimental split ring 1871.

Purpose

This exhibit examines how the Nova Scotia postal system transitioned from the traditional style pre-Confederation postal markings to unusual and experimental markings in the twenty-five years following Confederation.

Importance

This exhibit is a ground-breaking study of a largely unexplored era, 1867-1893, in Nova Scotia postal history. For the first part of this era, official records are few and little has been published in philatelic journals and books. The exhibit reconstructs the era by focusing on unusual postmarks. This study is made possible by drawing on a collection that has been amassed over a 47-year period.

Scope

First, the exhibit examines the carryover of pre-Confederation influences. The Temporary-Emergency marking, issued in 1843, had post-Confederation usage in 8 post offices. The dominant pre-Confederation style postmark, the double split ring, was issued to 16 post offices from 1869 to 1873, even though the single split ring was fast becoming the dominant postmark style. Other pre-1867 influences that are detailed here are stampless covers with "PAID" markings, way office markings, and manuscript postmarks.

The unusual and experimental postmarks that emerged after the late 1860s offer great variety. These include unique markings used in only one post office, fancy cancels, unusual split rings and 2-ring numerals. The two mainstream markings of the era – the regular split rings and the regular CDS - are not included in the exhibit.

