

PRECANCELS CANADA

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE BNAPS PRECANCEL STUDY GROUP

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As you are probably aware, a major effort has been undertaken to expand the world of pre-cancels. Certainly, this will enhance the interests of existing collectors, but one has to wonder whether it will appeal to everyone, especially those whose main interests lie beyond the pre-cancel world.

In any case, there is no doubt that our world has become much broader. The challenge to collectors lies in the obvious effort to both grasp the changes as well as to search for all of those new examples. It is fortunate that the relative values are quite low or else the cost of pre-cancel collecting would soar.

Still this offers a real opportunity for us to expand our world at a relatively low cost. Good luck to us all.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Canadian Precancel enthusiasts.

As Covid19 now drags on into 2021, I hope everyone is keeping healthy and enjoying the hobby. Especially the Canada Precancels part of the hobby.

As I am sure you realize the postal rules were not always scrupulously adhered to. In this edition Lawrence Pinkney starts us off with an overview of some covers that were produced "against the rules".

If you would like to submit some interesting items for upcoming newsletters please let me know.

It's up to you!

I can be reached at:

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UNAUTHORIZED PRECANCEL STAMPS AND UNAUTHORIZED PRECANCEL COVERS

A LITTLE HISTORY

The first Precancelled stamps were authorized by The Post Office in 1889. The first authorized Precancelled stamps, which were labeled "Style A" to "Style N", were a variety of bars and dashed lines. These various Styles along with the more modern City Styles are very well illustrated in both *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, and, in much more detail, in *The Standard Canada Precancel Catalogue* (which has recently been updated to its 8th Edition). Boggs, Jarrett, Reiche, Walburn and Manley, in particular, also referred to various Precancels stamps in their own books as well. Much of this article is a summation of various statements that each author and/or each Editor has made in these various books and catalogues. The last of the Precancelled stamps were issued on the 1977 – 1983 Floral Definitives.

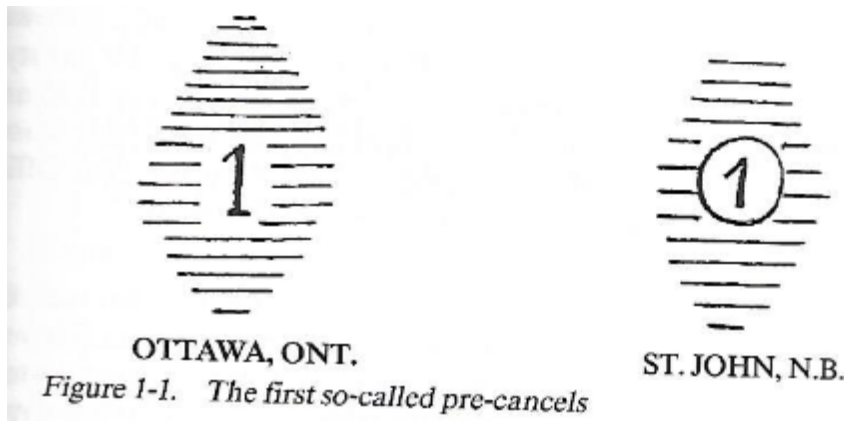
Stamps were Precancelled to save The Post Office the time of cancelling individual pieces of mail. Precancelled stamps were sold in bulk, (usually at a small discount) to "approved" commercial firms and accepted ONLY on bulk mailings from those commercial firms. Precancelled stamps were very specifically NOT to be used on First Class postage.

The first Precancelled stamps may have come from the Ottawa and from the St. John Post Offices in 1888 – before The Post Office officially authorized Precancelled stamps. Also, what would a (usually) smaller Post Office do with a commercial firm, if that Post Office was not on the approved list? (Many such Post Offices did precancel stamps on their own authority.)

THESE BECAME KNOWN, IN THE PHILATELIC WORLD, AS "UNAUTHORIZED PRECANCEL STAMPS AND UNAUTHORIZED PRECANCEL COVERS". This article is but a part of their story.

THE FIRST TWO KNOWN "UNAUTHORIZED PRECANCEL STAMPS."

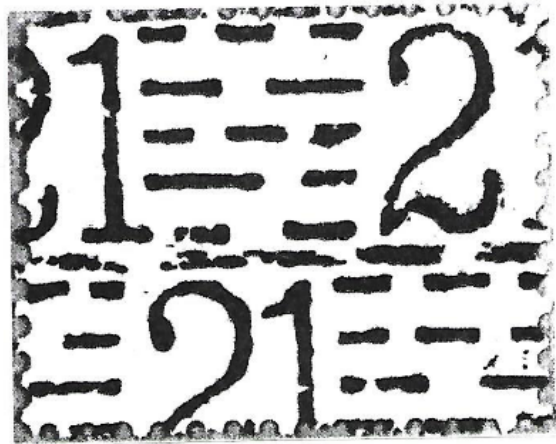
The appearance of TWO different types of overprints in 1888 must be regarded as the first attempts to precancel Canadian stamps. Some of the 1 cent, 2 cent, 3 cent and 5 cent denominations of the Small Queen issue were cancelled early in 1888 with a numeral "1" within parallel lines at Ottawa. Later, in the same year of 1888, St. John, New Brunswick used a Precancel consisting of a numeral "1" in a circle, within fourteen lines.



A THIRD “UNAUTHORIZED PRECANCEL STAMP” consisting of lines drawn across the rows of the 1 cent, 2 cent and 3 cent of the Small Queen issue with a pen was done in Toronto, but the Precancel Committee was unable, at that time, to determine if these were true PRECANCEL STAMPS.

It is also known that the Mill-brook Postmaster cancelled sheets of the 5 Cent Beaver in advance, placing them on letters as they were brought into the Post Office. The Belleville Postmaster is also known to have followed this procedure.

A FOURTH “UNAUTHORIZED PRECANCEL STAMP” was done in Montreal. This was the Montreal “21” Roller Cancel, originally used as a regular postal cancel during the Pence and First Cents issues, after which it was discontinued. About 1888, its use was again continued. It was used to PRECANCEL sheets of the Small Queen issue, the 1 cent, 2 cent, 3 cent, 5 cent, 6 cent, and the 10 cent, and a few late issues of the 15 Cent Large Queens at minimum. Thus, stamps bearing the Montreal “21” Roller Cancel issued prior to the Small Queen issue are NOT to be considered PRECANCEL stamps.



The Town of Belleville, which was a Post Office authorized to use Precancel stamps with Precancel Bar cancellations, may also have issued a unique Precancel cancellation marking on the 15 Cent Large Queen stamp.



In the Robert A. Lee "Harry Lussey" auction of June 1998, reference is made to the issuance of various "Unofficial" Precancel stamps within the first seven lots of that auction.





Although it was contrary to regulation to use a Roller Cancelling device to Precancel sheets of stamps, many Post Offices including Brantford, London, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec, Toronto, and others did so.

London, Ontario, however, was the only Post Office known to have Precancelled the ½ Cent Small Queen stamp with a Roller Cancelling device.



BROCKVILLE

(It was contrary to regulation to use a Roller Cancelling device to Precancel sheets of stamps.)

PRIVATE POST CARD.

JAMES HALL & CO.,
ONTARIO GLOVE WORKS,
BROCKVILLE, CANADA.

Branch House, Winnipeg, Man.

Sole Manufacturers

"Chester" Suspenders.

Finest Lines

Imported and Canadian
Gloves and Mitts.



My Dear Sir

*Maple Creek
W.D.*



JAMES HALL & CO.,

Ontario Glove Works, Brockville, Canada.

BRANCH HOUSE, WINNIPEG, MAN.

Dear Sir:

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of *Apr 19* 189...
enclosing *Twenty \$1* DOLLARS

Payment \$30

Thanking you for your remittance,

We are, yours truly,

\$ 30 *57*

JAMES HALL & CO.,

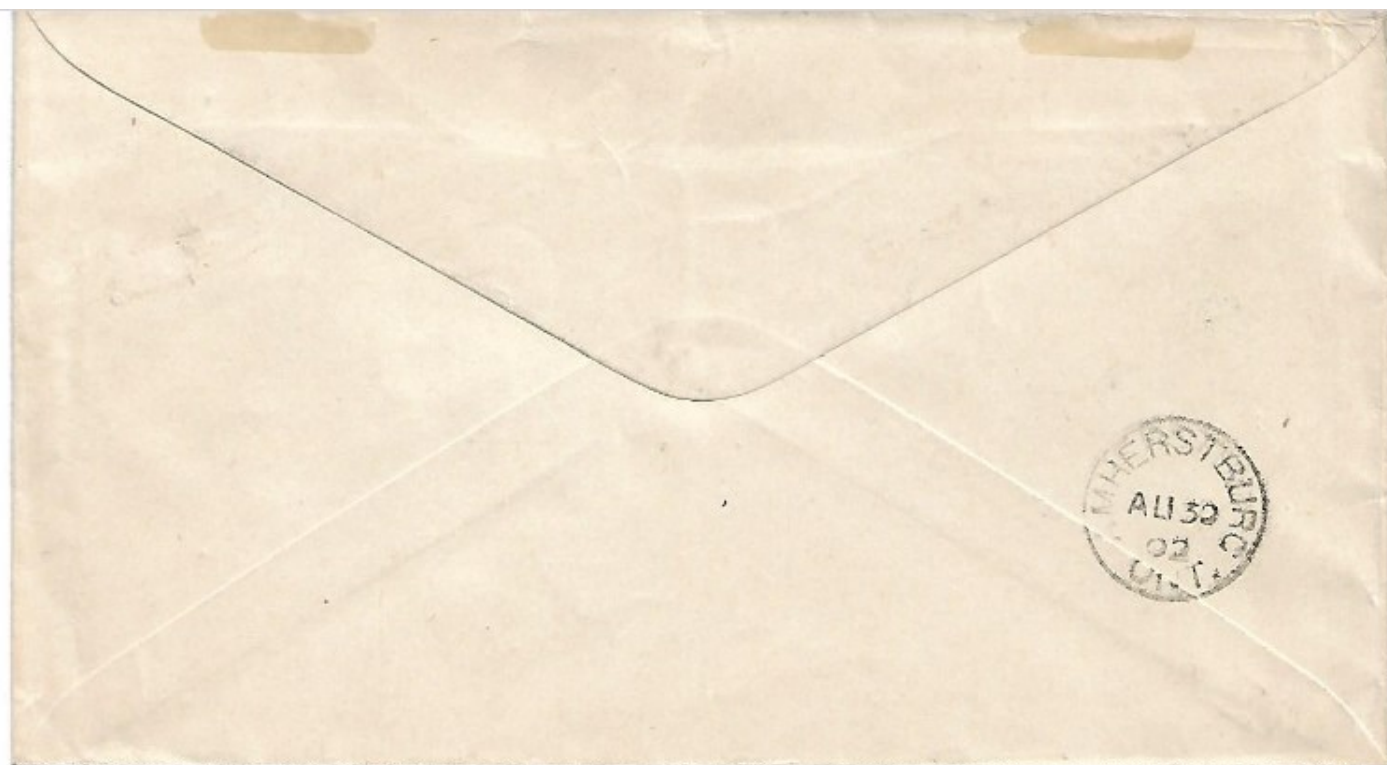
Pet

Wm. N. Gough



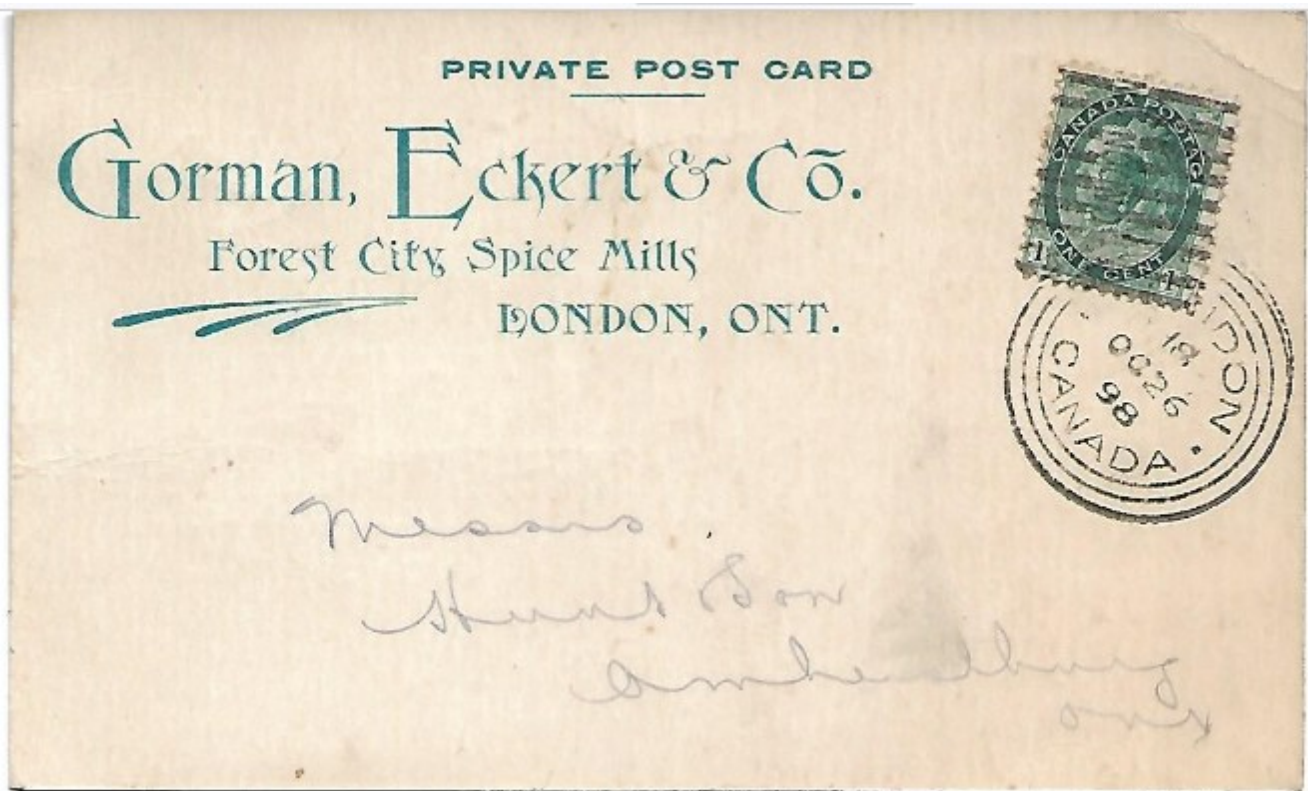
LONDON

(It was contrary to regulation to use a Roller Cancelling device to Precancel sheets of stamps.)



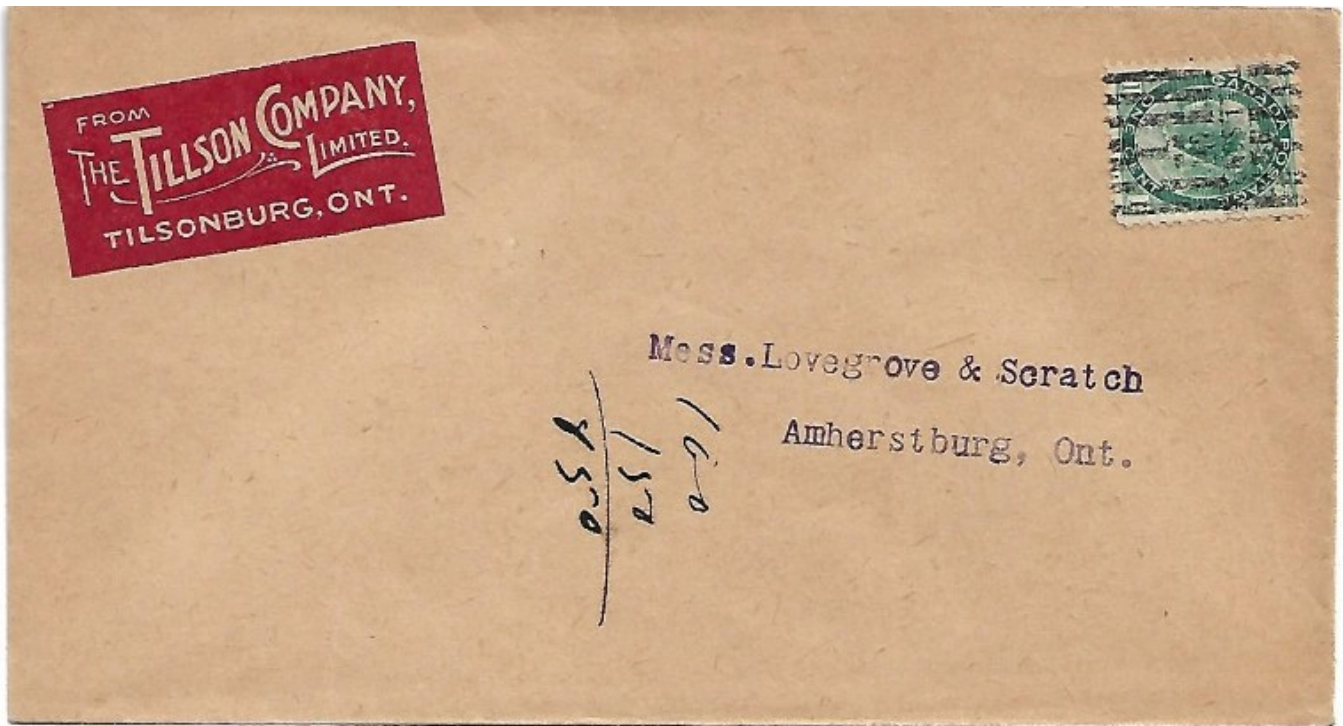
LONDON

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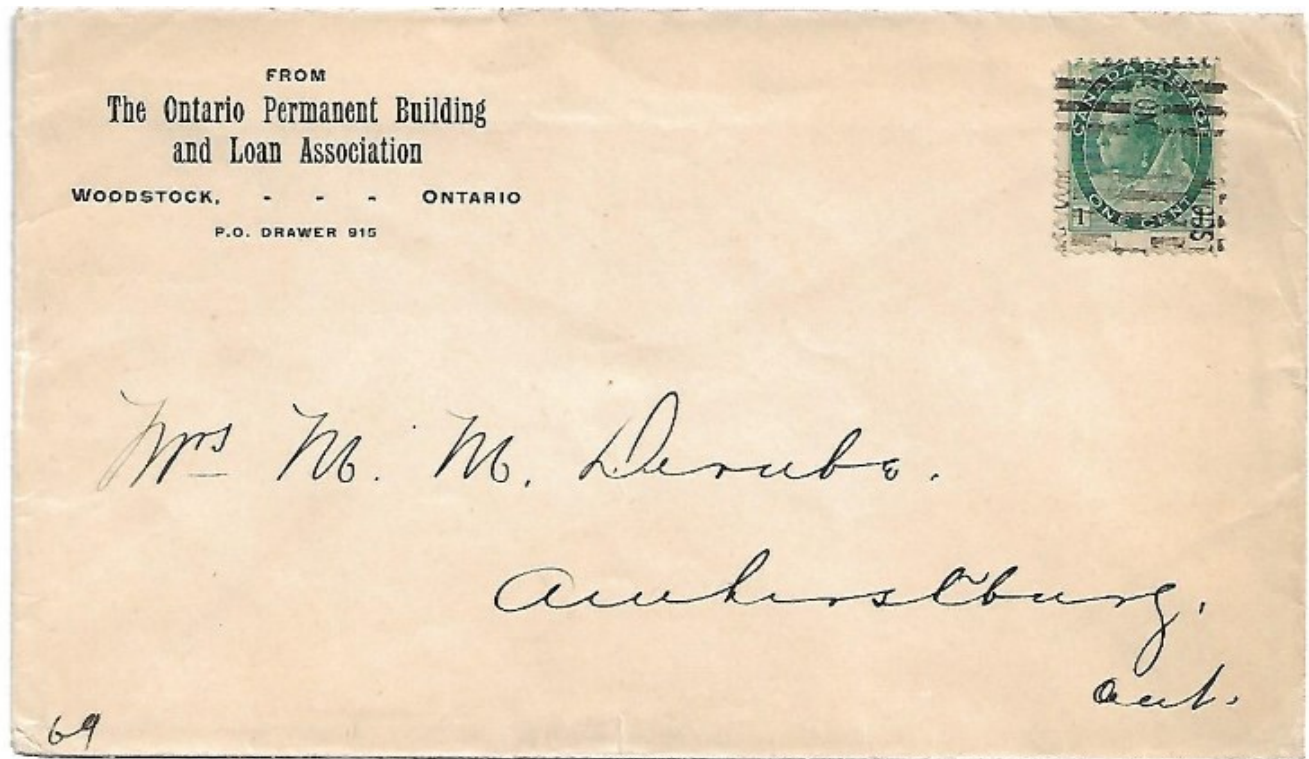
TILSONBURG

(It was contrary to regulation to use a Roller Cancelling device to Precancel sheets of stamps.)



WOODSTOCK

(It was contrary to regulation to use a Roller Cancelling device to Precancel sheets of stamps.)



Pugwash

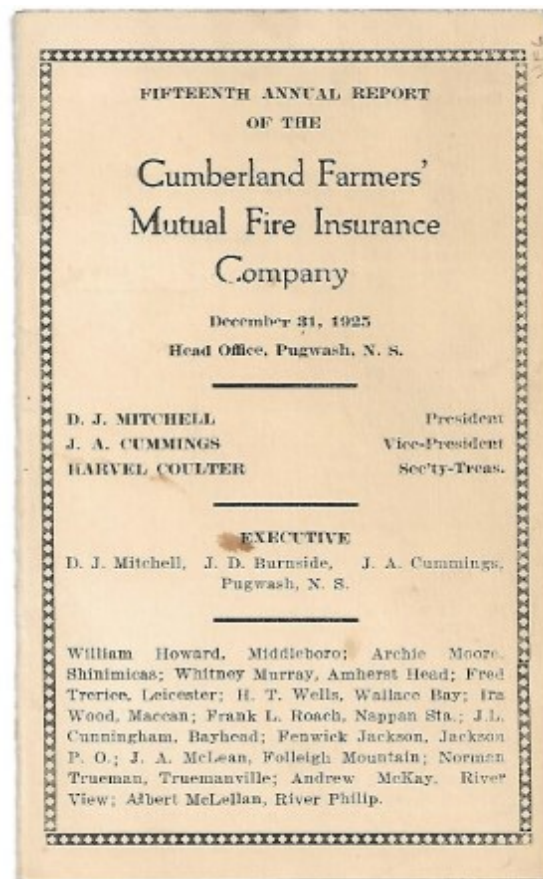


Mr. *Thomas S. Pector*

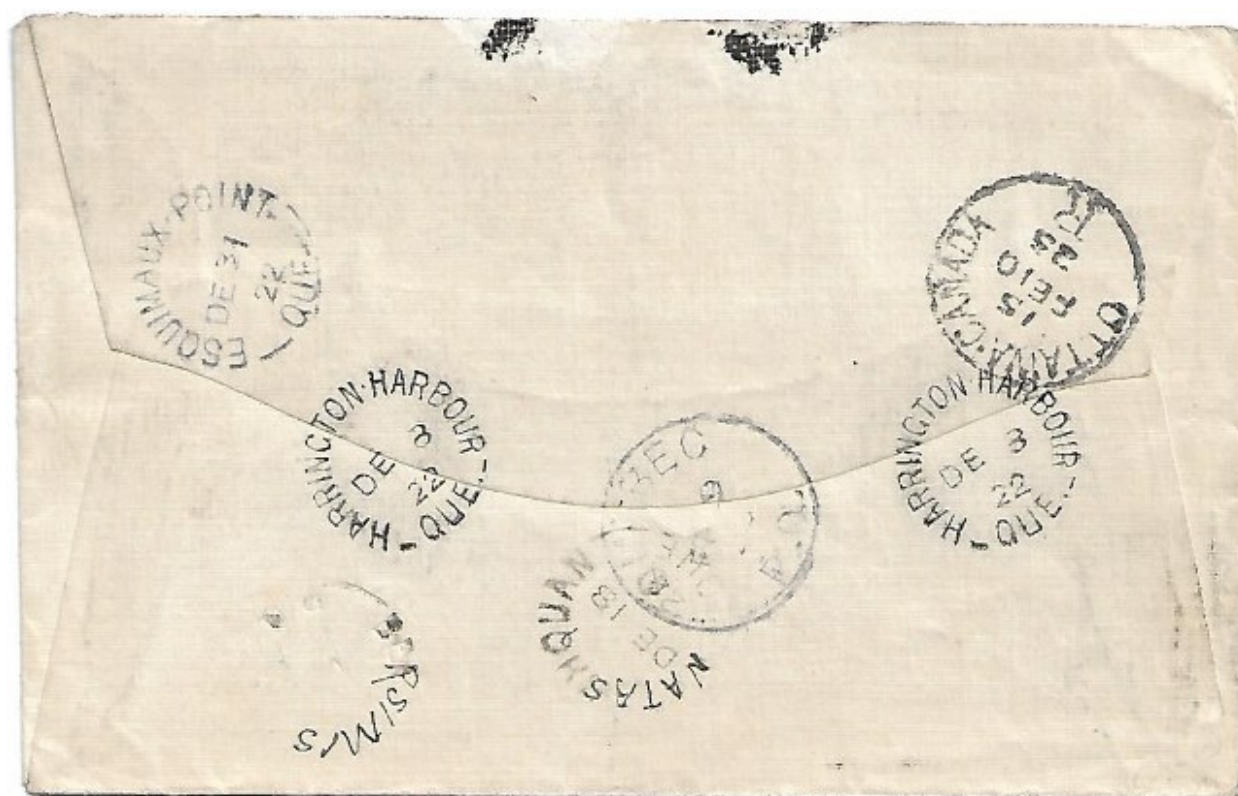
Post Office *Maccan*

P.R. #1.

Nova Scotia



HARRINGTON HARBOUR



Berlin Ontario used their roller cancel to unofficially precancel stamps, in the case shown below, the 1/2 cent numeral issue.



Many thanks to Lawrence Pinkney who prepared this presentation. I have a few other submissions on hand and I hope I will be able to get another newsletter out this Fall. Anyone who would like to share some information, has questions or comments please get in touch with David at marascod@telus.net.