

Postal Stationery Notes

Volume 28 No. 5

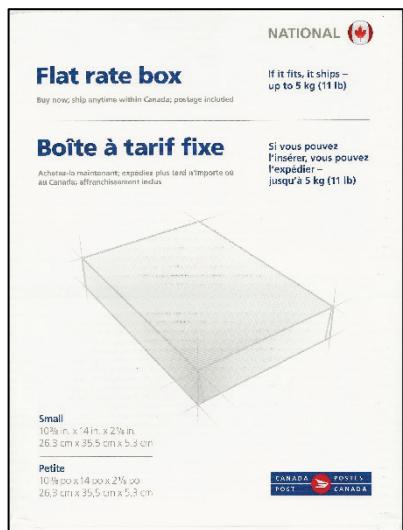
February 2018

Postage-prepaid boxes

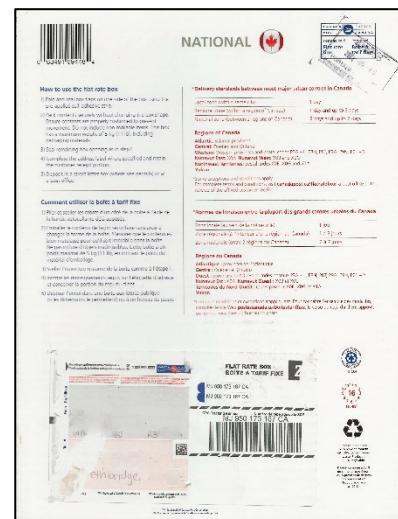
In November of 2016 Canada Post Corporation introduced three sizes of postage-prepaid boxes. These were:

| | |
|--------|----------------------|
| Small | 26.3 × 35.5 × 5.3 cm |
| Medium | 26.3 × 39 × 12.3 cm |
| Large | 30.4 × 40.6 × 19 cm. |

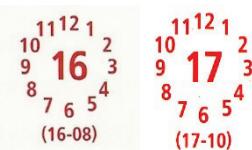
All were “National” boxes available for mailing up to 5 kg to anywhere in Canada. Each box was sold individually in shrink-wrap plastic, and had a tracking number.



Small flat rate box from the first printing: front (left) and back (right).



The first boxes (fronts printed in blue as above) had a clock dial with “16” in the centre, with no missing number or dots over any number on the dial, and the date under the clock face was “(16-08)”. The second printing (box fronts printed in red) had a similar clock dial with “17” in the centre, and as shown at the left, and a date under the clock face of “(17-10)”.



According to the Canada Post website, the boxes were available only in “60 post office locations” (although only 55 post offices are actually listed, all in or near selected major cities). The later printing, but not the first, has the words “Excludes certain remote northern Canadian destinations” printed on the front, and on the back, in the instructions, is the following:

- 1) If you are sending to certain remote northern Canadian destinations, use the flat rate box with the grey band.

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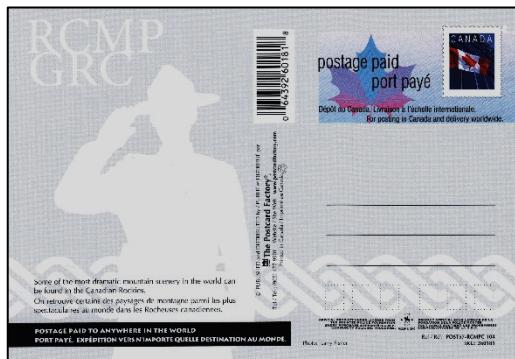
And indeed, at some time (possibly late in 2017), a “Northern Flatrate Box” for use to northern Canada was introduced. Nevertheless, by mid-February 2018 that box had been withdrawn by Canada Post; its short existence was confirmed Canada Post employees in several offices. Earle Covert has never seen one although on December 27, 2017 Chris Ryan reported seeing one in a post office.

Current (mid February 2018) prices for the boxes are \$14.99, \$19.99 and \$24.99 (plus taxes) for the small, medium and large boxes, respectively.

PCF Corner by Robert Lemire: rlemire000@sympatico.ca – February 24, 2018

New PCF Varieties

Mercifully there have been fewer new varieties (all die IIId) in the last couple of months. In the last newsletter I promised that this time I would illustrate the new underlay on RCMPC 104, so here it is. I have darkened the background of the image to try to highlight the thin “RCMP/GRC” in the underlay.



RCMPC 104 with underlay UR3

Thanks to Dudley Nash and Michel Gingras for their help in attempting to keep track of the many new varieties. Approximately up-to-date lists are available from me, on request.

A previously unreported 1st Karsh private order envelope.

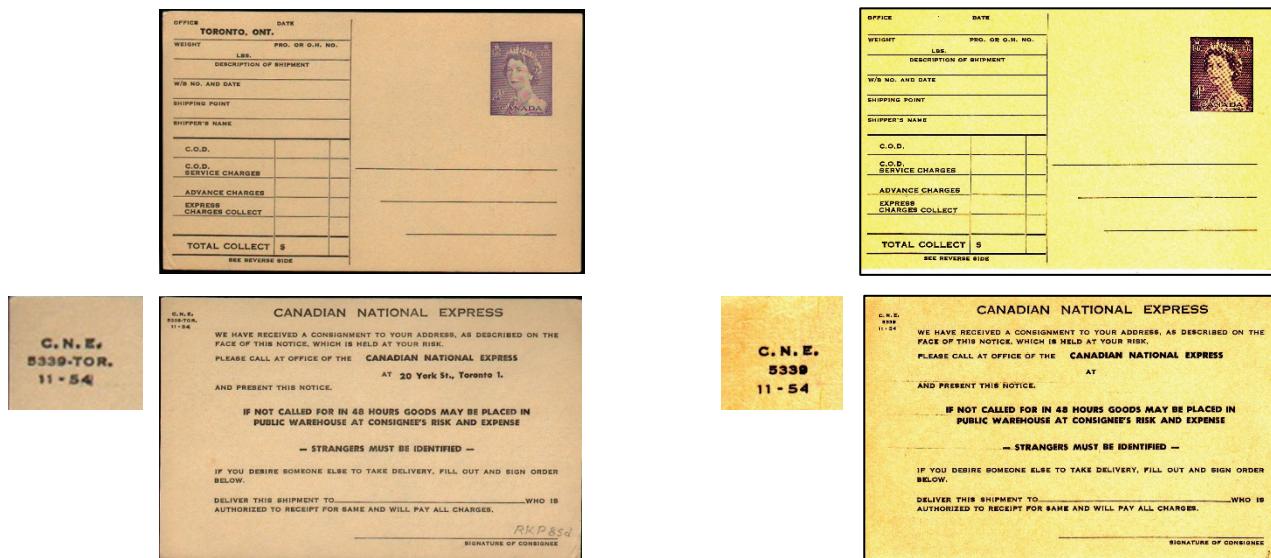
This EN538-type envelope is a newly-reported private order window envelope, 190 × 102 mm, cross-flap, and it will be listed in the next edition of Webb's.



Printings of the railway advice flimsy forms by Robert Lemire

Part 2. The 4¢ QEII First Karsh Canadian National Express (C.N.E.) mystery cards¹

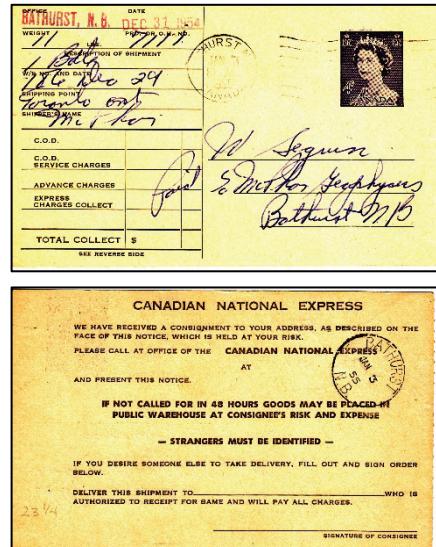
Several years ago, Mike Sagar asked me about the card shown (front and back) in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: Card with
C.N.E./5339-TOR./11-54
printed on the back. (upper left).**

**Figure 2: Card with
C.N.E./5339/11-54
printed on the back (upper left).**

It is on the same light weight yellowish stock generally used for the carbon-set multiple forms used for freight advice notifications by Canadian National Express. The stamp impression corresponds to Webb's RKP85d, but the card has no apparent roulette at the left (though it is possible that the card was trimmed or that the roulette is very weak). Copies of this card are known in other collections, as is the similar card (not printed for the Toronto office) in Figure 2.



**Figure 3: RKP85d ERP copy.
Jan. 3, 1955**

According to information in the Post Office Department Archives Canada file (RG3, Accession 86-87/396, Vol. 3849, file 13-19-17), the first two printings of the 4¢ Karsh forms for C.N.E. were done by Drummond Business Forms in November 1954 and June 1955. Therefore any card used before June 1955 should be from the first printing. An example (postmarked JAN 3, 1955) is shown in Figure 3, and "11-54" does not appear on the back of the used copy.

The most obvious difference between the two forms shown in Figure 4 is that the four lines below "C.O.D." have been extended to the left on the 11-54 form (and that is also the case on the forms shown in Figures 1 and 2). Those lines on the 2-52 form are shorter. The unused copy of C.N.E. 5339 11-54 in Figure 4 also does not have 11-54 on the back of the card, so, it seems reasonable to conclude that the cards in Figure 2 (and probably those in Figure 1) do not come from the November 1954 Drummond printing.

¹ Part 1 is Lemire, R., The printings of the King George VI Canadian National Express flimsy forms, PSN, Volume 28, No. 3 pp. 23-28 (2017).

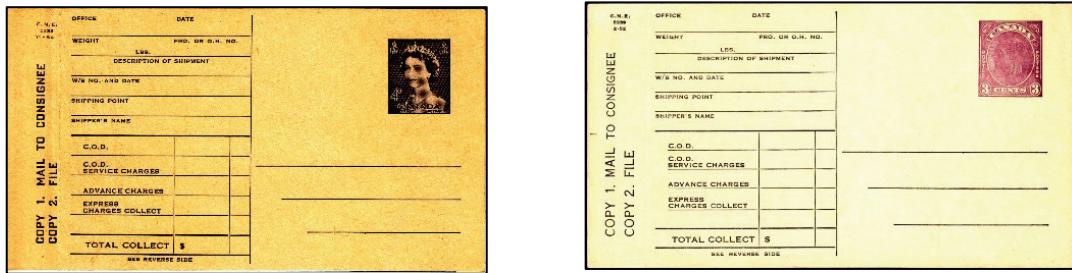


Figure 4: An unused copy of C.N.E. 5339 11-54 (to the shipment consignee) and a copy of the earlier C.N.E. 5339 2-52 for comparison.

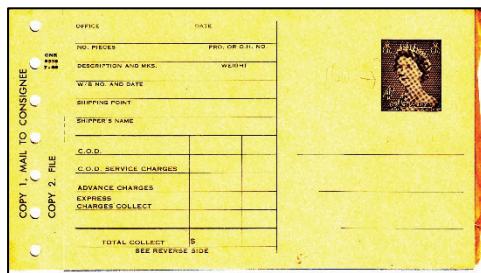


Figure 5: CNE/5339/7-55 with "WEIGHT" moved from the second to the third line.

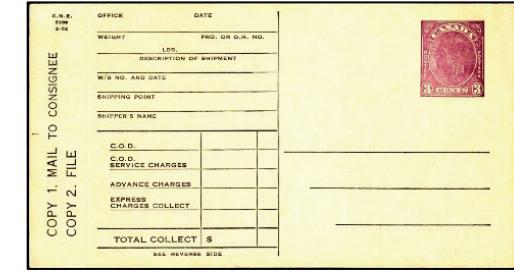
The RKP85d cards prepared and printed for the Toronto and Montreal offices also have no number printed on the back. However, except for the card shown in Figure 1, all copies bear a printed on-hand number in red. Indeed the bilingual form on dated used copies of the low-numbered Montreal domiciled cards (Figure 6) may not even have been revised from a form used for preparation of the Georgian cards (the four lines below "C.O.D." are *not* extended to the left).

These and the other C.N.E. cards flimsy cards will be discussed in more detail in later articles.

The question remains: What were the cards shown in Figures 1 and 2—proofs, or essays, or simply stock as issued, but just very scarce in used condition?

A change to Xpresspost labels

Chris Ryan reports that Canada Post has redesigned the positions of the address boxes on the postage-prepaid Xpresspost Envelopes. The name and address of the addressee now is to be written in a red-highlighted box that is positioned above a smaller, blue-highlighted box to be used for the name and address of the sender—the reverse of the previous configuration. (Also see the item below on changes to the Canada Post postage-prepaid envelopes.) It appears that the change has caused confusion for some Canada Post employees. One has commented that the transposition of the boxes may caused difficulties with international shipments, as the international standard for such envelopes has been to have the destination address positioned above that of the sender. Will that now also change?



There was a major redesign of the 5339 form in November 1955 (as shown in Figure 5), and the third Drummond printing was in January 1956. If the cards with the form date printed on the back (Figure 2) were from the second Drummond (June 1955) printing (1,404,200, stamp impressions total, though no indication as to what forms), they might be expected to be found primarily among copies used in the second half of 1955 and early 1956. So far, in several large collections, no such used copies have been found.

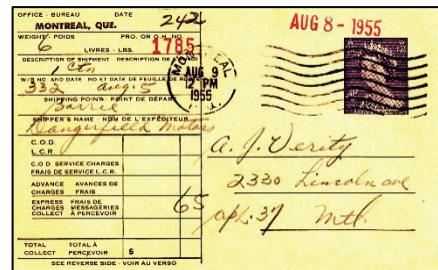
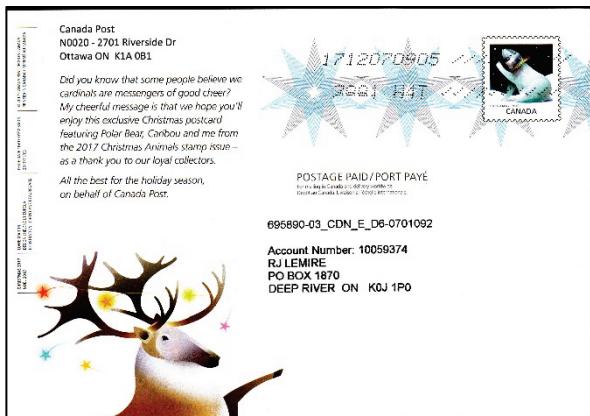


Figure 6: RKP85d used in 1955, with shorter lines below C.O.D.

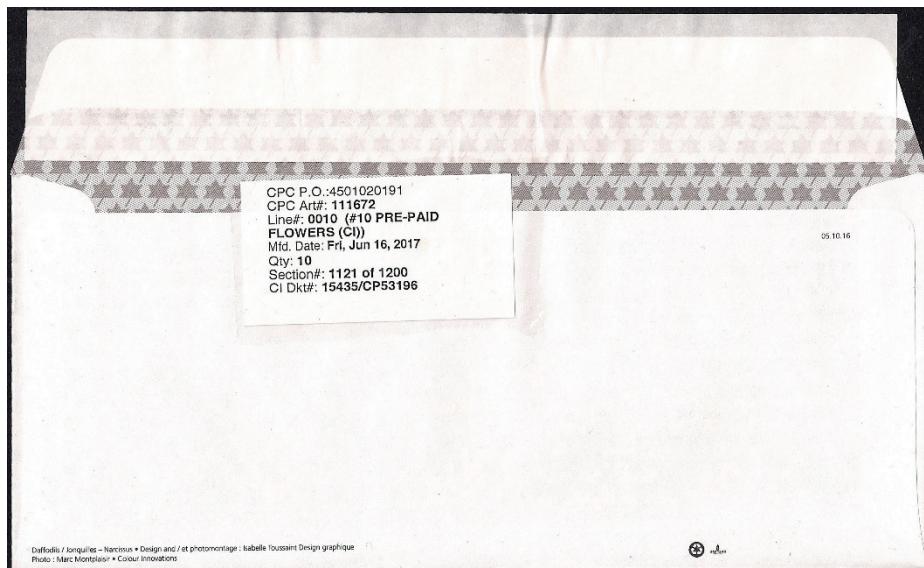
Christmas cards from Canada Post



In December 2017 cards such as those shown (one in English, one in French) were mailed by Canada Post to subscribers to Canada Post's *Details* (thanks to Michel Gagné for the scan of the French-language card). The picture and stamp impression (single yellow tag bar) was the same on each. On reported cards there was no "P" or rate, and cards received in the U.S.A. and in the Netherlands were the same as the English-language card received in Canada. The issue date, as printed on the card, is 2017/11/03, but all reports indicated that the cards were not mailed until December

Dates on Envelopes

Earle Covert has submitted a scan of a label that was retrieved from the outer wrapping on 10 packages of 10 envelopes at the Lethbridge, AB post office in December 2017. An envelope from one of the packages also is shown. This indicates that dates being printed *on* envelopes (in this case 05.10.16) no longer reflect the printing dates (in this case June 16, 2017). It should be worth watching to see if the printed dates will be changed if, in the future, only minor modifications are made to the envelope.



Uses of the 1 Cent Leaf Post Card by Vic Willson

The 1 cent green Leaf post card was intended for domestic and U.S. mailings. The early date of use I have listed is Jan. 19, 1898. Perhaps readers can update that. The card was not easily usable for advertising on the front, which had become available per P.O. notice Dec. 9, 1897. Consequently, the card was issued in red without the "CANADA POST CARD" *etc.* on the front. The green card, while potentially available for advertising on the front, seems not to have been so used except for preprinted return addresses to companies. If readers have examples of advertising on the front examples would be of interest to me and possibly others. Of course advertising on the back is quite common.

Beyond ordinary uses of the card domestically and to the U.S., there are some interesting and in some cases rare usages. Figure 1 shows registration to New York City from Dawson City, Yukon, Oct. 5, 1899, surely one of the best registered cards of the 19th century. That usage is extremely rare in the Victorian period (and as rare in Edwardian). Another rarity is shown in Figure 2, special delivery to the U.S. with U.S. special delivery stamp. This is one of the two Steinhart showed in the Steinhart book [1], and Arfken and Pawluk [2] show a third, all to the same Buffalo, NY, company. I believe there is at least one other.

International usages comprise the other use of the card. Below I give a list of cards I have accumulated, as well as those Dave McLaughlin showed in his Leaf exhibit and Arfken and Pawluk in their 1897-1911 rate book; used as post cards with the additional uprating stamp, and without used as printed matter, are organized by country name. Shortpaid cards are addressed after that. Where several examples exist I selected the earliest to list.

| Country | Date of mailing | additional franking |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Argentina | Sep. 6, 1900 | 1¢ Numeral |
| Austria | Feb. 28, 1899 | 1¢ Numeral |
| Azores (Spain) | June 24, 1903 | 1¢ Numeral |
| Belgium | Mar. ?, 1899 | 1¢ Numeral |
| Brazil | Sep. 26, 1900 | 1¢ Numeral |
| Canary Islands | Aug. 13, 1898 | 2¢ × ½¢ Leaf (Leaf) |
| China (Canton) | Apr. 4, 1898 | 1¢ Leaf + 2¢ × ½¢ Leaf |
| | Aug. 9, 1901 | 1¢ Numeral |
| Cyprus | June 6, 1898 | 2¢ × ½¢ Leaf |
| Dutch East Indies | Mar. 23, 1899 | 1¢ Leaf |
| England | Nov. 2, 1898 | 1¢ Numeral |
| Egypt | Apr. 6, 1900 | 1¢ Numeral |
| French Morocco | July 13, 1903 | 2¢ × ½¢ Numeral |
| Germany | Mar. 20, 1899 | 2¢ × ½¢ Numeral |
| Haiti | Apr. 19, 1898 | 1¢ Leaf |
| Italy | Apr. 13, 1899 | 1¢ Numeral |
| Mashonaland | Feb. 7, 1898 | 1¢ Leaf |
| Mexico | June 15, 1898 | 1¢ Leaf |
| Natal | Dec. 22, 1898 | 2¢ × ½¢ Numeral |
| Netherlands | Sep. 10, 1900 | 1¢ Numeral |
| New Zealand | Jan. 16, 1899 | 2¢ × ½¢ Numeral |
| Newfoundland | June 16, 1898 | 1¢ Leaf |
| Orange Free State | Aug. 31, 1899 | 1¢ Numeral |
| Persia | Nov. 2, 1898 | 1¢ Numeral |
| Reunion | July 23, 1903 | 1¢ Edward |
| Sarawak | Nov. 11, 1898 | |
| Switzerland | Oct. 24, 1900 | 2¢ × ½¢ Numeral |
| Turkey | Mar. 23, 1898 | 1¢ Leaf |

Obviously there are some destinations probably reasonably to be found, such as European countries not in the list, but there are some real rarities in that list.

Shortpaid cards are also of interest. Below is a list including whether or not postage due was charged, and if there are foreign postage dues on the card.

| Country | Date of mailing | Postage due mark/ stamps |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Barbados | Aug. 5, 1901 | T5 |
| Chile | Jan. 5, 1904 | none |
| France | May 3, 1898 | T/ 10cm PD stamp |
| Germany | Dec. 20, 1898 | T5/10 |
| Monaco | Feb. 24, 1903 | T5/French 10cm and Monaco 10cm stamps |
| New South Wales | Oct. 29, 1900 | T5/ 1d stamp |
| Newfoundland | Dec. 18, 1899 | none |

Figure 3 shows the use of the card from South Africa during the Boer War, for which it had no postal validity. A one penny GB stamp is also affixed, with Canadian Contingent oval of Oct. 24, 1900, and British Army P.O. cancel of Oct. 28. This card is shown in Rowe [3] and reported the only such use of the card from the Boer War. Another usage is shown in Figure 4, posted in Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 24, 1898, to Smyrna, Ottoman Empire, received June 24.

As you can see, the card saw interesting overseas usages. Important? Probably not, but still fun and interesting to me to investigate.



Figure 1: Registration to New York City from Dawson City, Yukon, Oct. 5, 1899

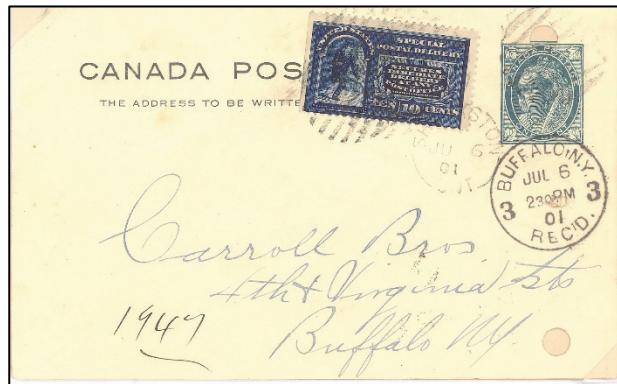


Figure 2: Special delivery to the U.S. with U.S. special delivery stamp.



Figure 3: Use of the card from South Africa during the Boer War (It had no postal validity).



Figure 4: Posted In Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 24, 1898, to Smyrna, Ottoman Empire (It had no postal validity)

References

- [1] Steinhart, Allan L., *Postal History of the Post Card in Canada 1871-1911*, Hennok, 1986.
- [2] Arfken, George, Pawluk, William, *A Canadian Postal History 1897 - 1911 The Maple Leaf, Numeral, and King Edward Era*, British North America Philatelic Society, 2006.
- [3] Rowe, Kenneth, *The postal history of the Canadian contingents in the Anglo-Boer War*. Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, Canada, 1981.

Canada Post postage-prepaid registered mail envelopes

2010-2017

Earle Covert has been collecting the Canada Post postage-prepaid registered envelopes, and these will be listed in the next edition of Webb's. These envelopes appeared unannounced and for uncertain use. The printed instructions on the envelopes say "Deposit in a street letter box, post office or designated Canada Post Facility" This was certainly not the traditional Registered Mail, and tracking was already available on Prepaid Xpresspost and Priority Post envelopes. It appears that these are only available on a contract basis.

The Registered envelopes were made available in 2010 (dated 2010-06) in two sizes, "Standard Letter" 240 × 150 mm and "Other Letter" 318 × 241 mm., and there were at least two printings of the smaller size envelopes, which can be differentiated by the position of a black dot on the clock face (reported over the "10" and over the "12"). The envelopes were modified in 2014 (dated 2014-08), though only the larger size envelope has been reported (black dot on the clock face over the "10").

Government Secure Registered Mail envelopes appear to be even harder to find. The only reported copies are dated 2014-08, with a black dot on the clock face over the "11".

Changes effective January 15, 2018

Chris Ryan has reported that effective January 15, 2018 Canada Post has changed the style of postage-paid registered envelopes:

The key changes are:

- The label on prepaid envelopes is moved from the front of the envelope to the back of the envelope.
- The destination address is at the top of the new label instead of the bottom.
- The barcode is more prominent.

A diagram of the redesigned Registered Mail Envelope was shown on the Canada Post website "for illustrative purposes only" (with a form date of 17-08).



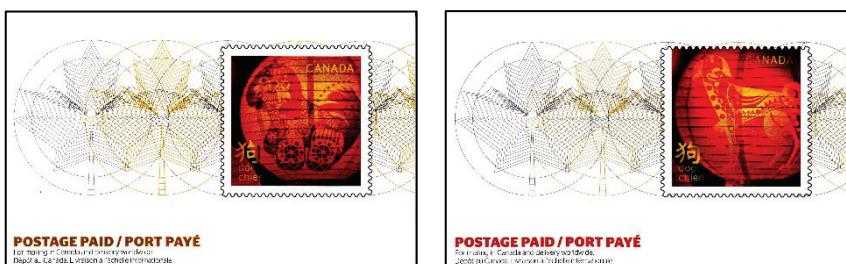
A price list (effective January 15, 2018) also was available on the Canada Post website.

| Prepaid Registered Mail / Government Secure Registered Mail | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Standard (up to 50 g) | Other Letter (up to 200 g) |
| \$10.20 | \$11.95 |

From the price list it appears that both the Regular and Government Secure envelopes might be available on a single basis, as they are listed as priced individually.

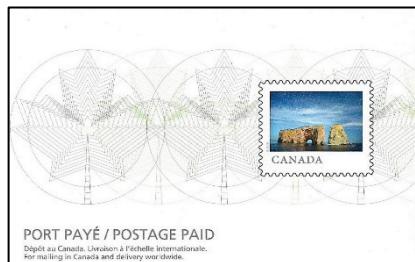
More postage-prepaid cards from Canada Post

On January 15, 2018 Canada Post issued two postage prepaid cards for the Lunar New Year (Year of the Dog) and nine cards in the "From Far and Wide" series (the cards were distributed on that date even though some other items were not available on that date).



Year of the Dog cards

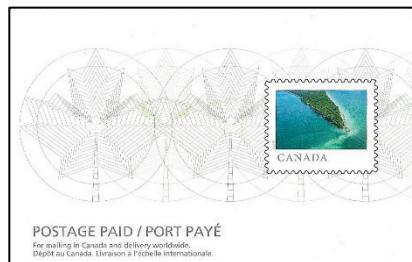
From Far and Wide cards



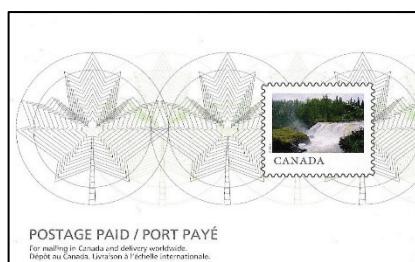
Parc national de l'Île Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé



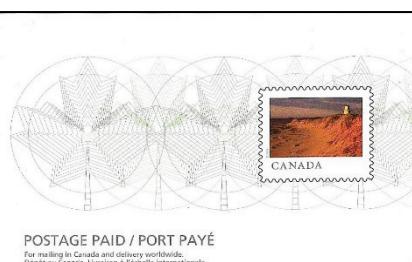
Hopewell Rocks



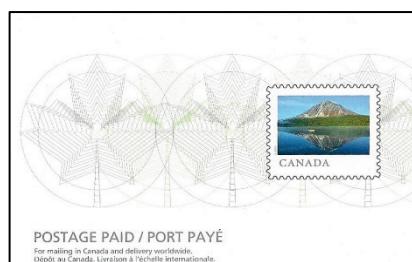
Point Pelee National Park



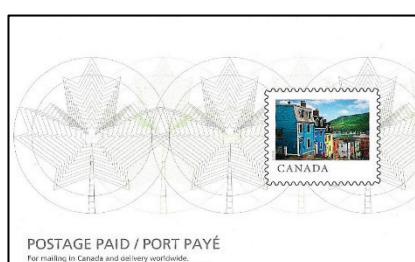
Pisew Falls Provincial Park



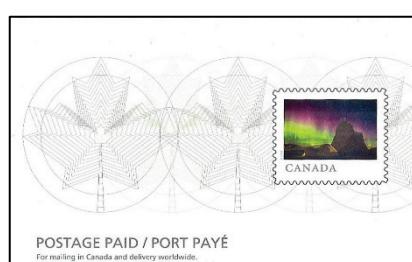
Prince Edward Island National Park



Nàâts'jch'h'oh National Park



St. John's



Arctic Bay



MacMillan Provincial Park

The white-paper post bands from the 1950s—private order or official? by Robert Lemire

Copies of 2¢ post bands from the early 1950s can be found on a coarse white paper, rather than the usual cream stock. These are listed in Webb's 7th edition [1] as the private order post bands KW21c, KW23k and KW23X. As discussed there, they differ from the regular issue bands not just in the paper, but in the stamp impressions.

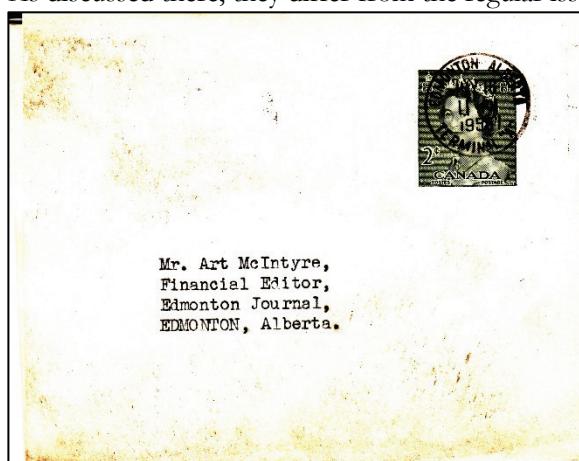


Figure 1: Webb's KW23k.

The KW21c band has a die date of 1938, not 1943. The 2¢ first Karsh band on white paper (Figure 1) was printed using a coarse die not used on the regularly issued bands, but found on the Canadian National Express flimsy forms. The 2¢ Wilding impression was not used for the regularly issued post bands, but only by Public Printing and Stationery (PPS) for special order items and for the “emergency” #8 envelope printings (Webb’s EN73 and EN73b). The size of the regularly issued bands appears to vary by 1-2 mm, but KW21c, KW23k and KW23X are to the narrow end of the range and very slightly shorter. These post bands are quite scarce, although copies of the Georgian band are slightly easier to find than either Elizabethan band.

The question then is who used these post bands? Most copies bear no return address; this is true of the copy of KW23k in Figure 1 and the copies of KW23X shown in Webb's and in Figure 2. However, some copies of KW21c are more helpful.

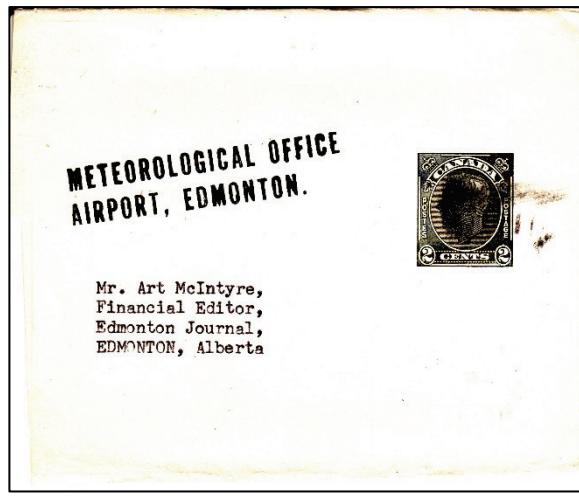
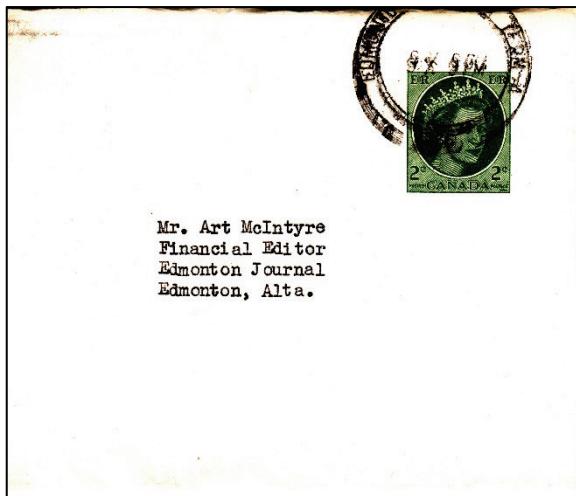


Figure 2: Webb's KW23X

The two copies of KW21c shown in Figure 3 have a handstamp, apparently from the sender, "METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE / AIRPORT EDMONTON". Also, the lower copy is addressed to the "Forecast Office" in Montreal. This strongly suggests that the bands were prepared for the Canadian Department of Transport, and were used by the Meteorological Office in Edmonton, and perhaps in other cities.

The copy shown in Figure 4, to the same addressee as the bands shown in Figures 1, 2 and the upper copy in Figure 3, suggest that these were normally used with or without the handstamp, and are from the same source.

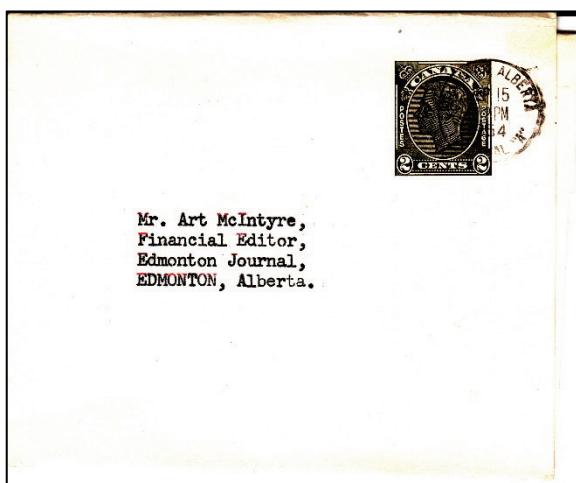


Figure 4: A copy of Webb's KW21c with no return address handstamp

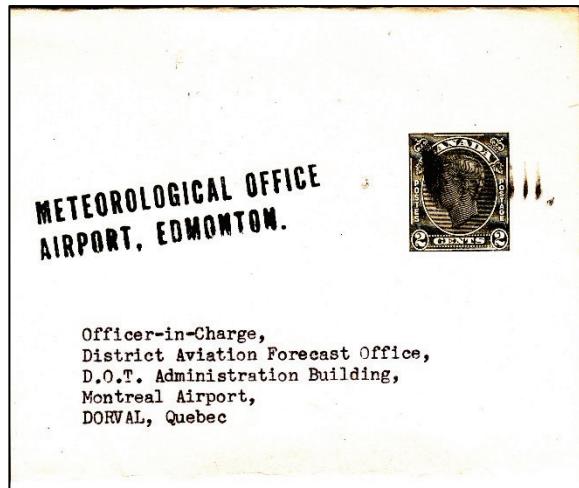


Figure 3: Copies of Webb's KW21c with a return address handstamp

Thus, it would seem that the "white paper" bands should be considered as "official", rather than "private order", items. That still leaves the puzzle as to why the Meteorological Office should have considered it worthwhile to order the,

Reference

- [1] Covert, E. L., Walton, W. C. (editors), *Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland 2001*, 7th Edition, Walton Covert Philatelic Publications, Saskatoon Stamp Centre, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (2000).