

REGISTRATION STUDY GROUP

British North America Philatelic Society



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Introduction

This is the first issue of the newsletter of the BNAPS registration study group (RSG). The aim of the group is the study (obviously) of the money & registered letter systems of Canada (and of other countries, when there is an effect on Canada). This includes rates, routes, additional registration services—such as extra indemnity or insurance, money packets, avis de réception (AR), re-delivery, cash on delivery (COD), ... —combinations of services, registration and money letter postmarks, postal practices and documents related to registration, and anything else that even vaguely is connected to registration or money letters.

By “Canada”, we mean all postal entities that eventually became part of Canada.

We hope that this newsletter will be published quarterly. However, to do that, we need contributions from members of the study group (and also more study group members, but this is another issue; please try to mention the RSG to anyone interested in the subject). This includes

- ☒ articles (short and long; see the last page for details on submission)
- ☒ illustrations of interesting items relating to registration
- ☒ comments, anecdotes, & suggestions
- ☒ constructive criticism
- ☒ questions
- ☒ answers (preferably correct ones)
- ☒ announcements and descriptions of events relating to registered material

For the next issue, we have a detailed article on money packets, and some illustrations of covers for the articles in this issue. We anticipate articles related to the forms used in the course of registration (e.g., printings of registered letter bills—Ron L, this means you!), perhaps an update of AR cards and forms. It would be nice if someone could do something on “free” registered combinations (registered letters wherein some part of the postage—not necessarily registration—was free, and explain the policies). Registered material *to* Canada (from abroad) has not been studied much, but is very interesting (one of the problems is that it is very difficult to find the rates in most time periods). Perhaps someone could explain parcel packet cards, why they are so seldom registered, why they can’t exist from Canada (but do exist to Canada), etc. Anyway, this is a plea for stuff for subsequent issues (and whether there *are* subsequent issues depends on the success of the plea).

David Handelman & Vic Willson

First issue (Summer 1999) of BNAPS registration study group newsletter!

Basic Canadian registration rates, 1855–1985

David Handelman

This article gives a somewhat simplified version of registration fees in Canada. Registration in what was the Province of Canada (consisting of what are now parts of Ontario and Québec) began 1 May 1855 (some sources incorrectly give 31 March 1855—however, this is the date of the document announcing the service in the future). It superseded the money letter system. The registration fees were, until about the 1890s, dependent on the destination, and in some cases, even the class of mail. Registration fees to most destinations other than us, uk, or the rest of BNA, were extremely complicated, and will not be discussed.

This article is based on an extensive set of notes made by Allan Steinhart on Canadian postal rates and rules, which is currently being edited and will be published (likely around 2001) by the *Allan Steinhart Memorial Fund* of the PHSC. Comments are solicited.

These tables list the *registration fee* only; other postal charges would be on top of these. Except for the foreign destinations, the registration fees did not depend on weight.

Basic registration rates to July 1867

destination/class	1/5/1855	10–11/56	1/1/58	1/1/59	1/4/59	1/1/65	12/2/67
domestic letters	1 d	1 d	1 d	2¢	2¢	2¢	2¢
domestic parcel post	na	na	na	5¢	5¢	5¢	5¢
other BNA letters (1)	?	?	2¢	2¢	5¢	5¢	5¢
us letters	1 d (2)	3 d	3 d	5¢	5¢	5¢	5¢
uk letters (3)	1 d cy + 6 d stg	1 d cy + 6 d stg	7½ d	12½¢	12½¢	8¢	8¢ (4)
British Colonies via uk	na	na	na	na	25¢	25¢	25¢
France & colonies via uk					postage (5)	postage (5)	postage (5)

(1) New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island; for British Columbia (with registration only to San Francisco), and & Newfoundland, these rates are only known to apply from 1/1/1865

(2) registration to the lines (border) only

(3) registration was available on letters to the uk from as early as 1845 (registration began in uk in 1841), subject to prepayment of the 6 d stg registration fee; the letter was treated as a money letter in Canada

(4) now includes newspapers and books

(5) the registration fee equals the postage, i.e., total charge is double the regular postage.

All registration fees had to be prepaid (right from the beginning). However, the postage on domestic registered letters was not required to be prepaid. The postage to the us on registered letters thereto was to be prepaid, from the beginning of registration to the us, October–November 1856. From 1/1/1865, all postage had to be prepaid on registered letters to other parts of BNA. From 5/12/1865, even the domestic postage had to be prepaid on registered letters. As of 1/10/75, all postage had to be paid in stamps only.

Basic registration rates, July 1867–1920

destination/class	1/7/67	7/77	8/5/89	1894	15/7/'20
All				5¢	10¢
domestic & BNA letters (1)	2¢	2¢	5¢		
domestic parcels, patterns, samples	5¢	5¢ (2)	5¢		
Ontario voters' lists	5¢?	2¢	5¢		
us	5¢	5¢ (3)	5¢		
uk	8¢	8¢ (4)	5¢		
St. Pierre	?	2¢ (5)	5¢		

(1) except possibly Newfoundland some time in 1876–1879, when it may have been 5¢

(2) Books could not be registered 4/77–31/3/79; from 1/4/79–31/3/1882, all classes of mail (foreign and domestic) could be registered; from 1/4/1882–1890, post cards could not be registered, although they could be treated as either drop letters or printed matter; from 1890, all classes of mail could be registered again; this lasted until 1/10/1921, when parcels could not be registered.

(3) except for one month 1/3/88–31/3/88, when it was 2¢ for letters—other classes remained 5¢

(4) Sometime in 10/1877–12/1877 (October?), the registration fee to the uk dropped to 5¢.

(5) From 1875

Other foreign registration fees are extremely complicated (e.g., in 1873, a special fee to Egypt, excluding Alexandria and Suez, of 30¢). By 1878 (the year Canada adhered to the UPU), the registration to virtually every entity was 5¢, except a very few to which it was 10¢. In 1881, a few of the 10¢ rates reverted to 5¢, others became 15¢ or 7¢; Cape of Good Hope 6¢ (from 7¢) in January 1883. By 1892, the registration fee to all UPU entities was 5¢; others (to which registration was available) were also 5¢, but with some restrictions. After 1894, foreign registration fees were the same as domestic, but without the additional indemnity (when that became available). Registered letter stamps (RLS) were issued 15/11/1875; they could only be used to pay the registration fee, not any part of postage (this persisted until 1893, when they could be used as postage). Their use was initially optional on registered letters, but became compulsory 1/10/1876–31/7/1893. A weird exception concerned the 5¢ registration fee on domestic parcels; during the period 1/10/1876–1882, ordinary stamps were to be used to pay the registration fee (the 5¢ RLS having been reserved for US letters). After this, the RLS was compulsory. When the domestic registration fee on letters increased to 5¢, the 2¢ RLS could be used in combination with regular stamps to make up the registration fee.

As of 1912, parcel post to the UK could not be registered. As of 1/10/1921, domestic parcels (and also international parcels, apparently) could not be registered unless sent at first class rate. Parcels sent at parcel post rates could be insured, however.

On 1/4/1904, a scheme providing insurance for domestic registered letters was set up, with premiums over the registration fee. This was made unnecessary in January 1910, when \$25 indemnity was included as part of the regular registration fee; higher indemnity was available for higher registration fees as in the table below. In 1914, the indemnity on foreign registered mail was bounded above by 50 francs (\$10).

Registration with insurance or indemnity, 1904–1967

28/3/1904	1/1910	15/7/1920	1/8/1924	2/4/1951	1/4/1963?
fee/insurance (\$) (1)	fee/ind (\$)	fee/ind (\$)	fee/ind (\$)	fee/ind (\$)	fee/ind (\$)
5¢ + 3¢ 10	5¢ 25	10¢ 25	10¢ 25	20¢ 25	35¢ 25
5¢ + 4¢ 15			20¢ 50	30¢ 50	45¢ 50
5¢ + 5¢ 20			30¢ 75	35¢ 75	50¢ 75
5¢ + 6¢ 25			40¢ 100	40¢ 100	60¢ 100

(1) To obtain any insurance, a supplement of 3¢–6¢ over the registration fee was necessary. Subsequently, indemnity was included in the minimal registration fee. On international mail, the registration fee was 5¢ until 1921, and after this time, it was the top entry in each column, with only a very small indemnity available.

Registration with indemnity, 1967–1985

1/6/1967 (1)	1/9/1976	1/4/1977	1/4/1978	1/4/1979	1/1/1982	15/1/1983	24/6/1985
fee/ind (\$)	fee/ind (\$)	fee/ind (\$)	fee/ind (\$)	fee/ind (\$)	fee/ind (\$)	fee/ind (\$)	fee/ind (\$)
50¢ 50	75¢ 100	\$1 100	\$1.25 100	\$1.50 100	\$1.85 100	\$1.96 100	\$2.46 100
75¢ 100			+25¢ per 100	+25¢ per 100	+30¢ per 100	+30¢ per 100	+34¢ per 100
\$1.10 200 (2)							

(1) Post-1970 rates taken from [RCS]
(2) Available from 11 September 1970

Registration in other parts of BNA. Most of this is from [JGY]. Registration had already been available in the UK since 1841, in Nova Scotia since 1851, New Brunswick since 1852, and Prince Edward Island since 1855 (all British colonies were required to offer registration by 1858). I could not find any references for early registration in Newfoundland, British Columbia, or the Red River Settlement, but then again I didn't look very hard.

Registration began in Nova Scotia 1 July 1851; it was limited to prepaid registered letters within the province; the rate was 6 d cy. From 1 April 1858 (or possibly earlier), registration was available to the US, UK, and British Colonies, at 6 d stg to the UK, and 1/– stg to British Colonies. With the change to the decimal system 1 January 1860, the domestic registration and US fee became 10¢; to UK, 12¹/₂¢; and to British Colonies, 25¢. All the postage had to be prepaid on registered letters. The fee to the UK (and presumably domestic and US registration fees) dropped to 8¹/₂¢ on 1 March 1866. Nova Scotia joined Confederation 1 July 1867, and its postal rates became those of Canada.

Registration began in New Brunswick 6 July 1852, and the initial rate and limitations were as in Nova Scotia. Registration to the US and other BNA provinces was available by 1855 (same rate). From 12 January 1859, registered letters within the province could be sent unpaid and the receiver would be charged double the total postage (to all other destinations, it appears that the total postage had to be prepaid). From 1 August 1859, letters to the UK could be registered at a charge of 6 d stg, and to British Colonies at 1/1½ cy. When New Brunswick converted to decimal (at the same time as Nova Scotia), the rates became: domestic registration, 10¢ (if the total postage was prepaid; otherwise double); to the US, 10¢; to the UK, 12½¢; and to British Colonies, 28¢. On 11 August 1865, the registration fees to BNA and US dropped to 5¢, and the fee to the UK dropped to 8¢ on 12 February 1866. New Brunswick also joined Canada 1 July 1867, and its rates were subsumed by those of Canada.

For Prince Edward Island, there is very little information available; what little there is comes from a few covers and [L]. Registration was available from 1 May 1855, and the initial rate was 6 d local currency (differs from Halifax currency); by 1857, it was available to BNA. Around April 1871, it became 3 d, and on 1 January 1872, it became 4¢. Prince Edward Island joined Canada in 1873.

Money letters from NS, NB, and PEI are respectively scarce, very scarce, and rare. The same applies to registered letters in the pre-Confederation period. Domestic money letters from the Province of Canada are common.

References

[HH] Horace Harrison *Canada's registry system: 1827–1911*, APS (1971).

[JGY] C.M. Jephcott, V.G. Greene, and John H.M. Young *The postal history of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick 1754–1867*, Sissons (1964).

[L] James C. Lehr *The postage stamps and cancellations of Prince Edward Island, 1814–1873*, Unitrade (1987).

[RCS] Robert C. Smith *Selected Canadian postage rates*, Trebor Publications (1996).



Prevalence of Canadian registered letters to the United States, 1851–1878

Vic Willson

If you have collected Canadian registration material in the adhesive period of the 19th century [*a sticky subject—dh*], you have probably been struck by the paucity of non-domestic material before the general implementation of UPU rates. Since rates were quite high, often equal to the cost of the letter rate or greater (when the service was available at all), the most likely users were businesses. The proximity of the US, compatibility of the postal systems, and high degree of commerce by the 1850s should have produced a fair amount of such material. This piece discusses the surprising scarcity of registration to the US between 1851 and 1878, asks for additional information, provides the beginnings of a census for certain periods, and documents additions to the literature.

Money letters, 1851–1856. Money letters were so marked primarily to protect postal workers from charges of theft. Firby (1983) recorded nine 6 d money letters and one 12 d (shortpaid 6 d) over this period. This does not include money letters whose postage was paid in cash, which might double this number. Prepayment (on money letters to the US) was mandatory, so unpaid examples are not to be expected. While registration was available domestically from 1 May 1855, there was no agreement between the US and Canada until 1 October 1856. During this period, letters could be registered at the 1 d domestic rate, but the registration was only valid to the lines (border).

Registration, 1856–1859. After 1 October 1856, the registration fee on letters to the US was 3 d. Harrison (1971) recorded a cover dated 4 October 1856 paid entirely in cash. Sanderson (1998) showed another such cover mailed 12 February 1857. Again, no record has been made of all covers whose postage was paid in cash. Firby recorded ten 9 d covers and one 15 d cover (all with registration fee paid in cash). Others are known.

Registration, 1859–1868. Upon Canada's conversion to decimal on 1 January 1859 (most sources mistakenly give 1 July 1859—however, this refers to the issuance of decimal stamps; 1 January 1859 was

the date of change of currency), the registration fee to the us was converted to 5¢. Firby recorded 26 single weight registered covers paid with stamps, but no covers with 10¢ postage in stamps but registration fee paid in cash. I have recorded three 10¢ Nesbitt postal stationery envelopes (e.g., 5¢ Nesbitt plus 5¢ paid in cash), but a census should be made of these and any other unusual combinations, such as 5¢ Nesbitt plus postage or cash making up the 15¢ rate. A cover paid 15¢ all cash is illustrated in Arfken & Leggett (1996, p. 93).

There are five double rate covers paid in stamps with registration paid in cash (op. cit., p. 97), at least one paid all cash (Sanderson, 1998, p. 66) dated 5 July 1860. A double rate cover to the us paid all in stamps is in the collection of David Handelman.

Thus for the period of just under nine years, perhaps 40 registered covers are recorded or known. As trade was increasing exponentially over this period, this still seems quite small.

Registration, 1868–1870. Registration to the us in the all Large Queen period is extremely rare. For this period of under two years, and in view of the previous history, it might be expected that six to nine examples might be known. However, perusal of the major sales, exhibits, and catalogues produced only one reference: 6¢, 2¢, 3¢ large queens on a cover to the us (DiCiammo, Bnapex 1980). As registration could still be paid in cash, there should exist an example with a 6¢ large queen and registry fee paid in cash.

Registration, 1870–31 January 1875. The minimum charge for a registered letter to the us remained at 11¢. Covers generally consist of mixed large and small queens franking during the first three years, and then as the 2¢ and 6¢ small queens came in use, all small queens. Various authorities (Harrison, Duckworth & Duckworth, Siverts, Arfken & Leggett, Guggenheim, . . .) have recorded mixed large and small queens franking. I have recorded five such.

Arfken & Leggett (1996) illustrate the first triple rate or higher registered cover to the us, with five 6¢ large queens, a 2¢ large queen, and a 3¢ large queen, dated 3 January 1872. This appears to be the second all large queen registered cover noted to the us.

Arfken & Leggett (1996) record the first all small queens registered triple or higher rate to the us (five 6¢, two 2¢, and a 1¢; 3 October 1874). Various combinations are also known, e.g., three 3¢ and a 2¢ (1 August 1873); 6¢, 3¢, and 2¢ (Arfken & Leggett, 18 April 1872), and Siverts reported a similarly franked one (27 August 1874) and also one with five 2¢ and a 1¢ (28 July 1873).

I have recorded just eleven covers in this period paying the 11¢ or more total postage.

Registration, 1 February 1875–14 November 1875. The ordinary postage rate dropped to 3¢, but the registration remained at 5¢. I have recorded one example, 18 May 1875 with 6¢ and 2¢ small queens.

Registration, 15 November 1875–30 September 1876. The 5¢ registered letter stamp (RLS) was issued around 15 November, although its use was not yet compulsory. I have one example without the RLS dated 5 May 1876 (6¢ and 2¢, to Vermont). The 2¢ RLS could not be used to cover part payment of the registration fee to the us. Perhaps five other examples ought to exist.

Several covers have been reported by Arfken & Leggett (1996)—6 June and 16 June 1876 and by Siverts (Maresch 1989) 12 April 1876.

Registration, 1 October 1876–31 December 1877. Use of the 5¢ RLS on registered letters to the us became compulsory during this period. Arfken & Leggett recorded eight, and several others exist. I have a cover dated 10 October 1876 with two 3¢ small queens and a 2¢ RLS, contrary to the regulations. The number of registered covers to the us is at least 13, probably more.

Registration, 1 January 1878–28 February 1888. From this point, the registration fee to many countries became 5¢, and the use of the 5¢ proliferated. In the late 1870s, registered covers to the us seem to be as scarce as in the mid-1870s; however, in the 1880s, the volume increased, and plenty exist.

Registration, 1 March 1888–31 March 1888. (Sometimes given as 1 March 1888–30 April 1888.) As a result of a mix-up, the registration fee dropped to 2¢, the same as domestic; about ten such covers are known, and more will likely be recognized. All but one use the 2¢ RLS; the other one (in my collection) is paid with five 1¢ small queens, perhaps because the 2¢ RLS was not supposed to be used on anything but domestic mail.

Registration, 1 April(?) 1888–31 December 1889. Registration returned to 5¢; examples are common. The 5¢ RLS was required, but variants contrary to regulations exist. No census has been attempted.

Registration, 1 January 1890–31 December 1900. Registration remained 5¢, but any combination of stamps could be used. The RLS were withdrawn in 1894. Registered covers to the us are very common, and many combinations of stamps can be obtained.

The table below lists currently known holdings of money letters and registered covers for the period 1851–1878; the numbers should not be taken literally (especially since many of the fully paid in cash covers have not been counted), but only as a relative indication of the scarcity of the material. It is clear that these items are uniformly rare. The anomaly of the large queens period may be due to destruction of such covers by soaking to obtain the stamps. It is quite unlikely that many 11¢ large queen covers exist, but have gone unnoticed—the rate is too large to go unremarked. It is possible that a number of covers with postage paid in cash exist for the period 1868–1875, but have been put into stocks without remark as to their rarity.

Preliminary list: money & reg'd letters to the United States, 1851–1878

Period	Number	Average/yr
1851–1856	11	2+
1856–1859	14	5-
1859–1868	37	4+
1868–1870	1	.5
1870–1874	12	2+
1875–1878	19	5-
Total	94	3+



Wrappers for money letters & registered letters

David Handelman

Money letters, the precursors to registered letters, were treated differently from the run of the mill letter in Canada and the Maritimes. Essentially this was for the protection of the postmasters handling the material, and not so much for the protection of the sender or receiver of the mail. The earliest money letters (in BNA, this means the mid-1820s) were often called *cash letters*, which pretty well describes their contents (usually specie).

This article is concerned with one of the more obscure aspects of the treatment of money letters and some registered letters, namely the official wrappers enclosing them. Other than brief discussions of these wrappers in [JGY] (Nova Scotia and New Brunswick), [MacD] (Nova Scotia), and a fleeting reference in [As, p 72] (Canada), I could find nothing in the literature on their use in BNA. However, there is some information on the treatment of money letters in the UK in [M, pp 372–376 & 62], and this seems to extrapolate well to BNA.

According to op. cit., postal clerks (in the UK) entered details of money letters (or letters suspected to contain items of value) on the letter bill (or way bill), which was then wrapped around the stack of money letters. The receiving postmaster was to verify the items on the way bill and prepare his own for subsequent transport. The letter bills were initially white, but colours were introduced in 1835. Also about this time (still in the UK), special wrappers were introduced; from the commentary printed inside, these were to be wrapped around individual money letters (rather than the entire pile of money letters as was the case with the letter bills). These too were initially in white (with black printing), subsequently changed to shades of green for easy recognition. The addressee was to sign the inside of the wrapper, which was then to be sent to the General Post Office (we're still dealing with the UK).

The UK adopted registration in 1841 (well before Canada—1855; New Brunswick—1852; Nova Scotia—1851), and the wrappers were modified for registered letters. They were still in use (in the UK!) until at least 1856. These wrappers were to be returned to the post office and not the public. All are rare.

When we consider these wrappers in BNA, we find that the last statement is, if anything, an understatement. For Nova Scotia, I know of four money letter wrappers (all different); for New Brunswick, Canada, and PEI, none (in fact, I know of only *one* money letter itself emanating from PEI and only a few from New Brunswick, and in general, money letters from the Maritimes are quite difficult to find). Concerning the registered letter wrappers, examples are known for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and PEI. I have never seen one for Canada, although the statement in Allan's article, [As], "These

registration wrappers are known from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, but are very seldom seen from Canada." *could* be interpreted to mean that he had seen at least one.

POST OFFICE, Halifax.

ANNA POLIS
SE 11
1843
N. Letters for Granville

		18		AMOUNT SENT.		AMOUNT RECEIVED.	
Unpaid £		1	2				
Paid £							
Forward Postage £							

Additional Postage on Letters examined and re-charged £ { s. d. Postmr.

JOHN BOWEN, Postmr.

Figure 1: Nova Scotia letter bill (1843)

On white paper, accompanying letters sent from Annapolis to Granville. This was cut from a large sheet, that was printed for use at Halifax. At 45%.

Figure 1 (at 45%, as the letter bill is about 35 cm long) shows a letter bill for the mail from Annapolis to Granville (Nova Scotia) in 1843. There is no mention of money letters and the paper is white. Presumably, if there were money letters, the postmaster would have to write the information in by hand. A green letter bill from Nova Scotia exists from slightly later, which does include a space for money letters.

MONEY LETTER.

For *Mr. Neville*

To the Postmaster

of *Annapolis*

7 JUN 1839

Figure 2: Nova Scotia money letter wrapper (1839)

On (yellowed) white paper, from Halifax to Annapolis, 7 June 1839. It is rated IN6 (currency) collect; there was no charge for money letters per se, but this was charged double rate for the enclosure. Prepayment was not required for money letters.

Figures 2-4 show three obviously different printed folded money letter wrappers from Nova Scotia (all are at 75% of full size). Printed on the interior (in different typefaces) is the following:

RECEIVED of the Postmaster of
and supposed to contain Money.
(space for signature)

the Letter as directed on this Cover,

183

N.B.—The Postmaster will keep this Receipt as proof of the delivery of the Letter, and apply to the Deputy-Postmaster-General for a further supply of these Covers, when necessary.

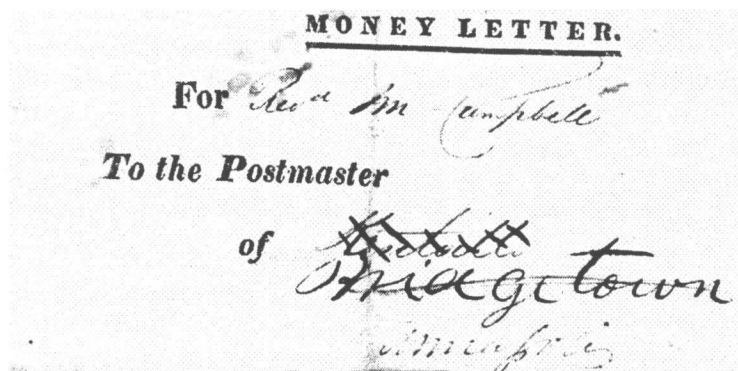


Figure 3: Nova Scotia money letter wrapper (1839)

On white paper, mailed from Granville to Annapolis (after first trying Kentville and Bridgetown; the money letter was received 19 July 1839. It is not rated, suggesting that the letter that had been enclosed was prepaid.

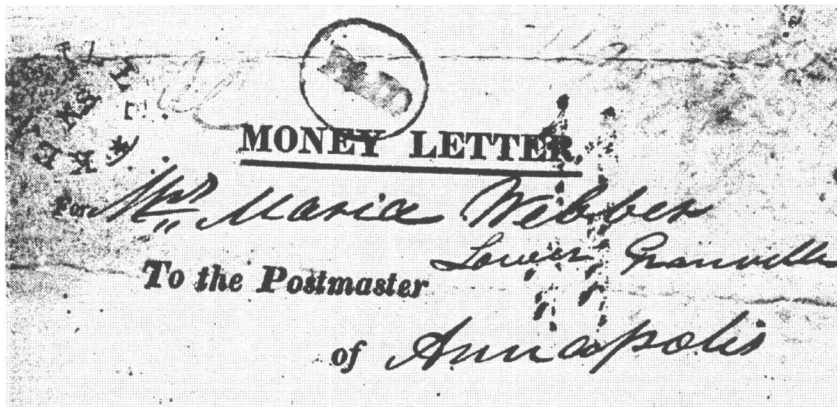


Figure 4: Nova Scotia money letter wrapper (1841)

On white paper, mailed from Kentville to Annapolis. There is a faint red AC (to the right of the Kentville * cancel). This means *after closing*, which is the more common method of expressing *too late* in the Maritimes. Rated (paid) 1/2, double rate.

They are dated 1839, 1839, and 1841, respectively (the latter has the particularly scarce KENTVILLE * cancel). There exists another half of a white money letter; this is ex-Saint. It was very badly fire-damaged and subsequently repaired. It was shown at Capex '96 (by the subsequent owner) without mentioning the extensive repairs (the same exhibit also showed a bisect that was more obviously faked than is usual without apparent penalty; this typifies the low level of expertise shown by the specialist committee and the judges at that exhibition).

The wording on the interior tells us that the British practise of returning the forms to a central post office, was not followed in Nova Scotia.

Both [JGY, p. 303] and [MacD, p. 194] appear to have interpreted a document in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia to say that the Nova Scotia money letter wrapper system began 5 December 1842 (postdating all known white money letter wrappers). In all likelihood, it was simply a reiteration of the current policy, inherited from the UK. The same source gives a date of 19 April 1843 for replacing the white wrappers with green ones, as occurred in the UK. I have never seen a green one.

It comes as no surprise that money letter wrappers are currently unknown for both New Brunswick and for PEI, since money letters themselves are scarce and rare respectively. Figure 5 shows one of the two known (to me, at any rate) New Brunswick covers with a MONEY-LETTER handstamp (both at Woodstock), and the only known money letter originating in PEI is shown in Figure 6. A money letter from Canada to PEI is also known (1846).

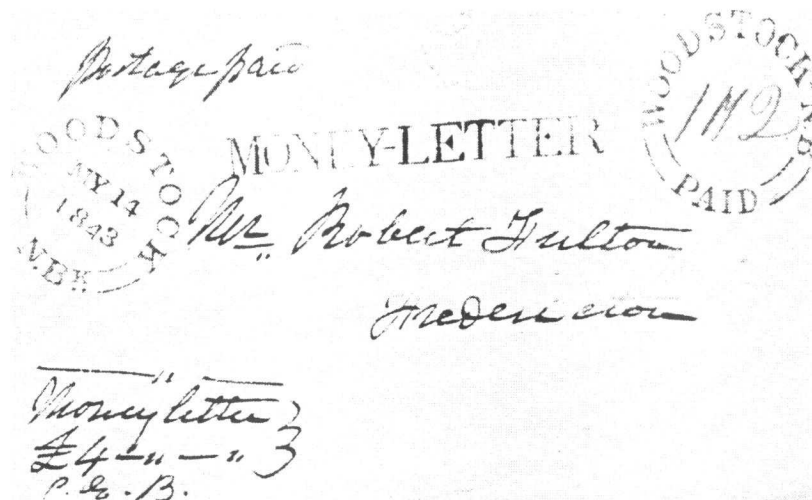


Figure 5: New Brunswick money letter (1843)

One of two known examples of the straightline MONEY-LETTER handstamp from Woodstock. Prepaid 1/2, double rate. The notation at the lower left, made by the sender, indicates that £4 had been enclosed. Early money letters (at least in Canada) required a statement of the contents on the outside, but this was soon reversed, for obvious reasons.

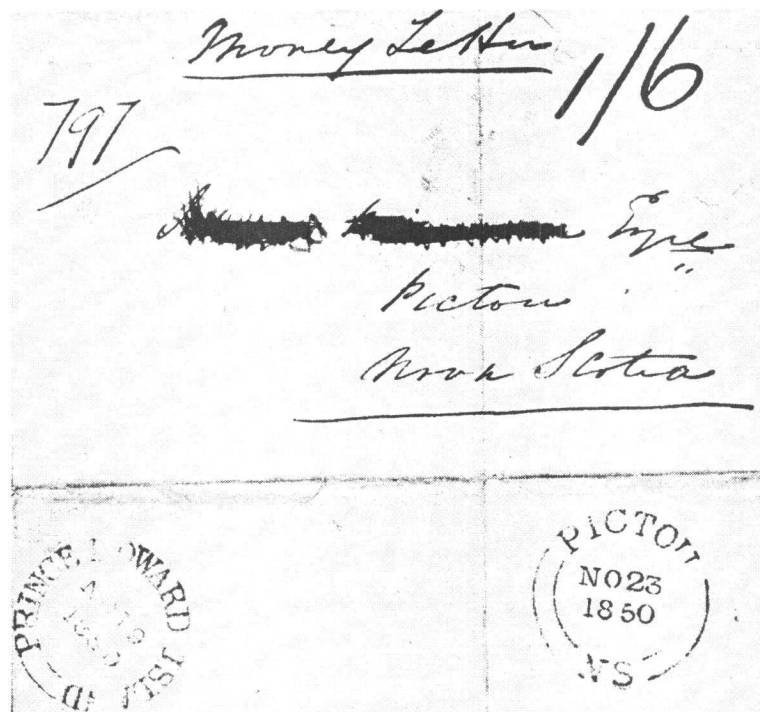


Figure 6: Prince Edward Island money letter (1850)

Only known PEI money letter. Charged 1/6 currency, likely quadruple rate (up to an ounce) from Charlottetown to Pictou. Note the "pre-registration" number, 797. Even if PEI had had money letter wrappers (no examples are known), this cover would likely not have been wrapped in one.

Money letters are fairly common in (the Province of) Canada, yet no wrappers are known. It may be that the local post offices were assiduous in returning and storing them. I suspect that the wrappers were not in general use. For example, the practice of applying what we now call registration numbers to money letters themselves seems to begin in the early 1840s, and has become more or less uniform by the late 1840s. Covers with a "registration" number (manuscript, of course) were not likely to have been enclosed in a wrapper, covers with multiple registration numbers were certainly

not so enclosed. This does not explain the absence of examples from the 1830s. Perhaps wrapping them did not catch on until the late 1830s (as in the UK), and was soon abandoned as tedious.

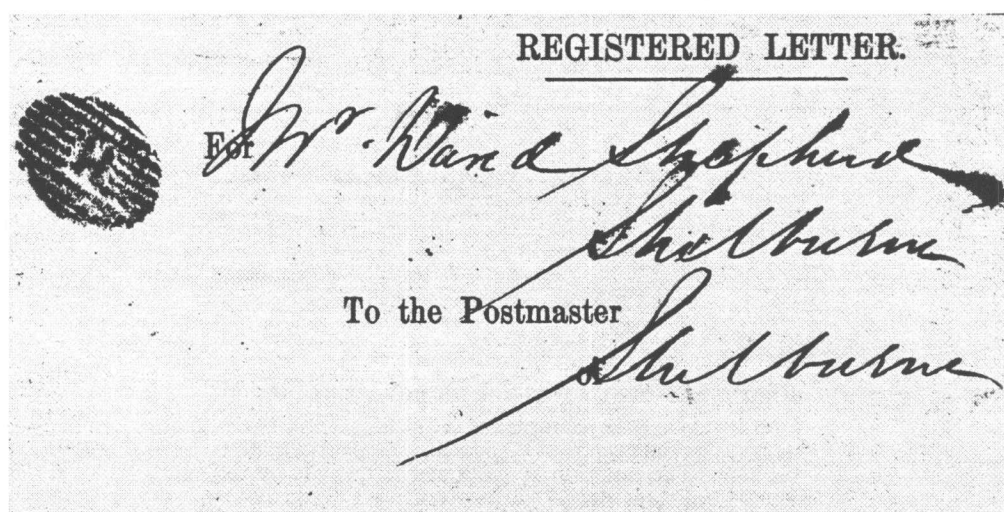


Figure 7: Nova Scotia registered letter wrapper (1863)

On blue paper, containing a registered letter from Halifax to Shelburne (with the Halifax barred H killer). No postage is indicated, but the registration fee always had to be prepaid.

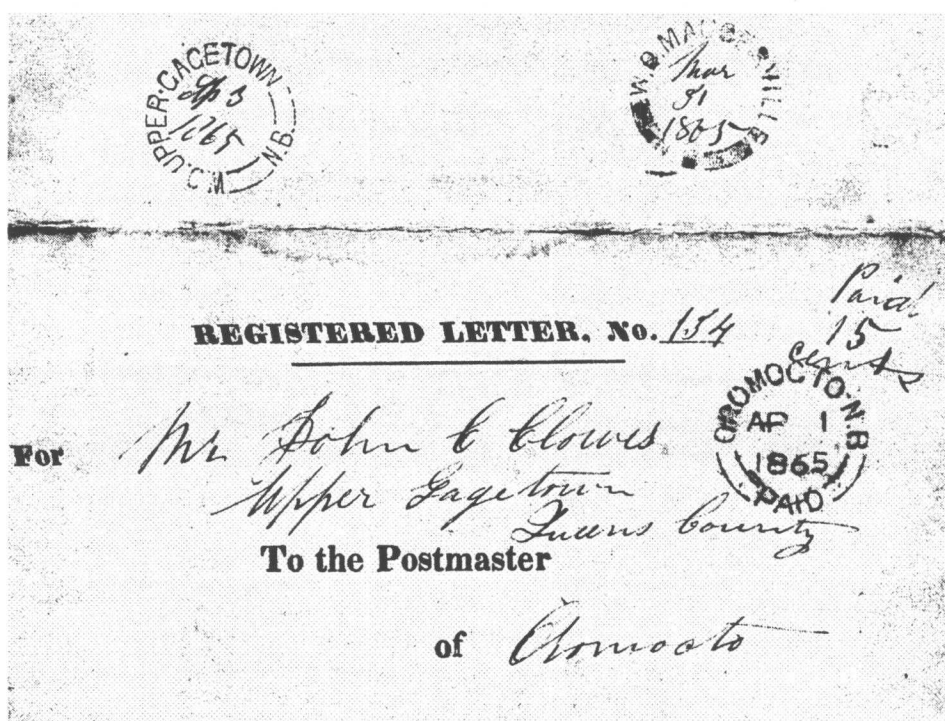


Figure 8: New Brunswick registered letter wrapper (1865)

On bright green paper, containing a registered letter from W.O. UPPER GAGETOWN to Oromocto; a W.O. MAUGERVILLE datestamp also appears. The postage was marked at 15 cents prepaid, made up of 10 cents registration fee and 5 cents domestic rate (if prepaid).

There is a slightly larger supply of registered letter wrappers to refer to. Figures 7-9 show them for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and PEI (1863, 1865, and 1857, respectively). They are in shades of bright green to blue. The wording on the interior, is identical (different typefaces and decade):

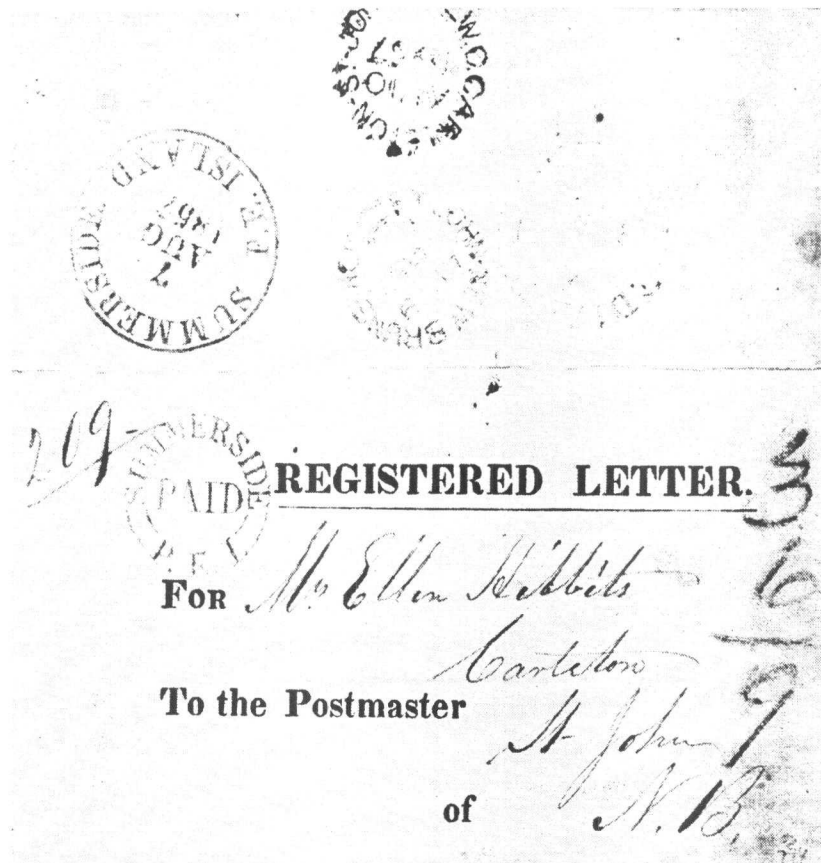


Figure 9: Prince Edward Island registered letter wrapper (1857)

On green paper, from Summerside to W.O. CARLETON-ST. JOHN (NB). The SUMMERSIDE PAID circular stamp is known only on a few covers. The (necessarily prepaid) postage was made up of 3 d interprovincial rate and 6 d registration fee. This is the only known registered letter wrapper from PEI.

RECEIVED of the Postmaster of
this Cover.

a Registered Letter as directed on

(space for signature)

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The Sending as well as the Receiving Postmaster is on no account to neglect stamping this Letter.
N.B.—The Postmaster will keep this Receipt as proof of the delivery of the Letter, and apply to the Postmaster General for a further supply of these Covers, when necessary.

There are also places for the sending and receiving offices to datestamp the form. I have seen several examples of each of the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick registered wrappers, but I believe the PEI example (which was once owned by Horace Harrison) is unique.

I would appreciate reports of wrappers for money letters or registered letter. I can be reached most easily by e-mail, at dehsg@uottawa.ca.

References

- [As] Allan Steinhart *A registered transatlantic cover*, *PHSC Journal* 85 (1995) 272–273, and reprinted with slight modifications in *Allan Steinhart, Postal Historian*, (pp. 72–74) edited by David Handelman and Gray Scrimgeour, published by PHSC (1997).
- [JGY] C.M. Jephcott, V.G. Greene, and John H.M. Young *The postal history of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick 1754–1867*, Sissons (1964).
- [MacD] J.J. MacDonald *The Nova Scotia post*, Unitrade, Toronto (1985).
- [M] James A. Mackay *Registered mail of the British Isles*, published by the author, Dumfries (1982).



The back page

The registration study group of BNAPS will attempt to publish this newsletter four times a year. Membership is limited to members of BNAPS, and the annual fee is \$10 in Canada, \$10 (US) in the US, and £5 sterling (or equivalent) anywhere else. Fees are to be sent to the secretary, whose address appears below the masthead on the first page. Please do not send cheques (or checks) on accounts other than Canadian institutions (on the other hand, cash—Canadian, US, or British—is acceptable, but subject to the usual warnings about being sent through the mail.

Submissions We lust after submissions to the newsletter. They can be sent to either the editor or the secretary (addresses below the masthead). There are a few caveats, however. If you send xerox copies, please try to adjust the contrast so the copy comes out well. The optimal method is to scan the cover at fairly high resolution, create a tiff or eps file and send it, either on a floppy, or as an attachment to e-mail.

For text submissions, please send hard copy (i.e., printed, handwritten, chiselled—no, I'm kidding about the last one) in whatever format you think appropriate (e.g., italicize words for emphasis—don't worry, they'll be edited to conform to the general look of the newsletter), and if possible send a copy as *unformatted* text, either on floppy, by e-mail, or by attachment to e-mail. The newsletter is printed in the command-based typesetting language \TeX , so don't bother spending much time trying to imitate the format in *WordPerfect* (or—*aargh*—*Word*). If you can't save the file as text only, send us the formatted file—we can probably unravel it.

Floppies can be formatted as any of Mac, DOS, or Windoze operating systems, although you can probably guess which one the secretary prefers. It would really save a lot of time, especially for longer articles, if we receive the text file, rather than just the hard copy. (Needless to say, we don't get paid for this.)

Other stuff The newsletter is prepared in the typesetting language \TeX . The basic font family is \rm ITC Esprit , described by Bringhurst as "rowdy". (It does seem to be quite legible.) The circular "R" icon used below and to end articles was first created in \TeX , printed, and then scanned at a very large size and input as an eps file. Comments & suggestions concerning the format, font, legibility, appearance, etc., are solicited.

We need articles!

