

# REGISTRATION STUDY GROUP

British North America Philatelic Society



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## Contents

Introduction • 1

Money packet rates (Bob Smith) • 2

Money packets (David Handelman) • 3

Census of early AR covers to & from Canada (David Handelman) • 5

Dotty Montreal circles (Len Belle) • 7

Cross-border registered (David Handelman) • 8

Registered drop letter from a really small town (David Handelman) • 8

A St. Jacobs registration marking (David Handelman) • 9

Tied up in green tape (Len Belle) • 11

The back page • 12

## Introduction

**T**HIS study group is devoted to the study of practically anything in postal history related to the registration and money letter systems of what is now Canada. A brief look at the contents of this issue shows the diversity that is possible, although we would also like to have articles on modern registered covers as well as the early money letters. This Newsletter is issued quarterly, subject to the availability of articles (long and short). Information on joining appears at the bottom of The Back Page.

The first Newsletter appears to have been well received, and several new members have joined (more are needed). This issue has a lot of shorter articles, which we hope are of fairly general interest. Len Belle has taken our pleas to heart, and sent in two interesting notes. Other people are requested (begged, pleaded with, . . . ) to follow Len's example and send something in. Anything connected to registration, preferably pertaining to Canada or the provinces, will be considered.

About the order of the articles: At first I tried to order the articles roughly chronologically; however, in order to place the illustrations relatively near the first paragraph in which they are cited, I had to adopt the current order. (It took about an hour of experimentation.)

This issue is printed directly from the Secretary's LaserWriter. The previous issue was professionally xeroxed from laser-printed hard copy, and there were a few minor problems with shading of the grey scale (on some of the illustrations) and some white areas became speckled with grey. Printing directly has the advantage of being cheaper and the quality is better. On the other hand, no one knows how long toner (particulate that is melted on to the paper) will last, and it tends to come off if the paper is creased, rubbed, or otherwise assaulted. Handle the Newsletter carefully! Comments are solicited on this aspect of production—i.e., does it last? Should we go back to xerographic reproduction?



# Money packet rates

Bob Smith

Date	First rate	Next rate	Additional rates	R? <sup>1</sup>
pre-1922	LETTER RATE			no
1922 04 01	6¢ first oz		5¢ per add'l oz	no
1926 07 01	5¢ per oz			no
1943 04 01	7¢ first oz		5¢ per add'l oz	no
1964 08 10	\$1.75 up to 8 oz	\$2.25 to 16 oz	\$1.00 per add'l lb	yes
1978 04 01	\$2.25 up to 8 oz	\$3.25 to 16 oz	\$1.25 per add'l lb	yes
1979 04 01	\$2.70 up to 8 oz	\$3.90 to 16 oz	\$1.50 per add'l lb	yes
1979 07 01	\$2.75 up to 250 g	\$3.95 to 500 g	\$1.65 per add'l 500 g	yes
1982 01 01	\$4.00 up to 250 g	\$6.00 to 500 g	\$2.50 per add'l 500 g	yes
1983 01 15	\$4.24 up to 250 g	\$6.36 to 500 g	\$2.65 per add'l 500 g	yes
1985 06 24	\$7.40 up to 250 g	\$11.00 to 500 g	\$4.60 per add'l 500 g	yes
1988 01 01	\$7.60 up to 250 g	\$11.35 to 500 g	\$4.75 per add'l 500 g	yes
1990 01 01	\$8.25 up to 250 g	\$12.35 to 500 g	\$5.15 per add'l 500 g	yes
1991 01 01	\$8.60 up to 250 g	\$12.80 to 500 g	\$5.25 per add'l 500 g	yes
1992 01 01	\$9.05 up to 250 g	\$13.45 to 500 g	\$5.50 per add'l 500 g	yes
1993 01 01	\$9.90 up to 250 g	\$14.90 to 500 g	\$5.75 per add'l 500 g	yes
1994 03 01	\$10.20 up to 250 g	\$15.35 to 500 g	\$5.90 per add'l 500 g	yes
1995 01 01	\$10.45 up to 250 g	\$15.70 to 500 g	\$6.05 per add'l 500 g	yes
1995 08 01	\$10.71 up to 250 g	\$16.90 to 500 g	\$6.20 per add'l 500 g	yes
1999 01 01	SERVICE CEASED			

<sup>1</sup>Registration fee included in the rate? “no” in this column means that the registration fee had to be added to the postage, while “yes” means that the registration fee was included.

## References

*Canada Gazette:*

- v. 115, Extra number 54, 25 September 1981 (1982 01 01)
- v. 116, Extra number 49, 22 October 1982 (1983 01 15)
- v. 119, Extra number 4, 10 April 1985 (1985 06 24)
- v. 121, Extra number 1, 6 January 1987 (1987 04 01)
- v. 121, Extra number 10, 1987, pp 1–104 (1988 01 10)
- v. 122, Extra number ?, 3 September 1988, pp 3557–3641 (1989 01 02)
- v. 123, Extra number 29, 1989, pp 3385–3431 (1990 01 01)
- v. 124, Extra number 36, 1990, pp 3256–3298 (1991 01 01)
- v. 125, Extra number 26, 29 June 1991, pp 2176–2236 (1992 01 01)
- v. 126, Extra number 26, 27 June 1992, pp 2086–2114 (1993 01 01)
- v. 127, Extra number 48, 27 November 1993, pp 3576–3607 (1994 03 01)
- v. 128, Extra number 26, 25 June 1994 (1994 10 01)



# Money packets

David Handelman

**M**ONEY packet service was designed to handle valuable or potentially valuable material—for example, significant amounts of currency, securities, jewelry, gold, silver, etc. From the 1931 Canada Postal Guide:

Money packets are packets of bank notes, etc., sent mostly by banks or business firms to their branches and to firms or individuals handling money in quantity. Under the term 'money packets' are included bank notes, coin, bullion, gold dust, bonds, and coupons payable to bearer, stocks, and other securities negotiable by bearer.

On the other hand, defaced currency or letters containing valuables amounting to less than \$100 were excluded from the money packet service, and could be sent at the much cheaper first class registered rate. Prior to 1922, money packets were charged the regular postage, plus registration. (See Bob Smith's compilation of money packet rates which precedes this article; the recent rates were obtained from issues of the *Canada Gazette*—a very tedious task.)

I could not find out when the service originated. It was available on packages to Canada, the British Empire, the U.S., and Mexico, from 1922, and possibly earlier. In the April 1926 Postal Guide, different rates were quoted to other destinations, but these seem not to have been repeated, and it appears likely that money packets could be sent only to the destinations previously indicated. According to the 1938 Canada Postal Guide, money packets were available only domestically and to the U.S.



Figure 1. Money packet wrapper (1907)

To the Union Bank in Kingsville Ontario, with 89¢ postage representing 42 oz at 2¢ per ounce plus 5¢ registration.

Money packets can be huge. Figure 1 shows a portion of a money packet wrapper sent from Toronto (faint circle cancel, far left) to Kingsville in 1907. The postage of 89¢ (including a block of the 20¢ Edward) is made up of 5¢ registration fee, and 42 times 2¢ per ounce.

Figure 2 shows a money packet tag attached to a bag or box that weighed 105 oz, during the short rate period 1922–1926. This was purchased recently from Vance Auctions (July 1999), after about a two year search for a money packet in this rate period. The packet presumably contained bills or coin, to be sent to the head office (?—at any rate, an unspecified branch) of the Royal Bank.

Figure 3 is more drastic: a money packet tag with postage of \$20 in \$1 Parliament stamps, and the 10¢ Parliament (the latter paying the registration fee). This comes to 400 oz (25 lb; about 11.5 kg) at the money packet rate of 5¢ per ounce. As the origin is Pioneer Mine BC, we surmise that the package contained gold or silver brick(s). Precious metals are measured in troy; the parcel weighed about 30.4 lb troy, or about 364.6 troy oz. (There are 12 troy ounces to the troy pound and there is a rounding error in the 30.4—I don't want any nasty letters about the arithmetic.) This seems to be an odd size for a single brick. The large purple oval cancel reads "Registration Branch, Vancouver".

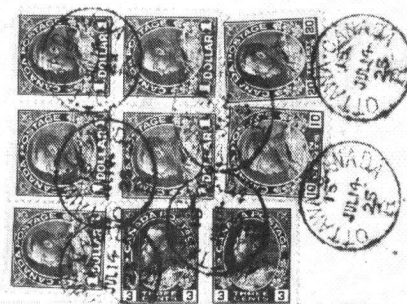
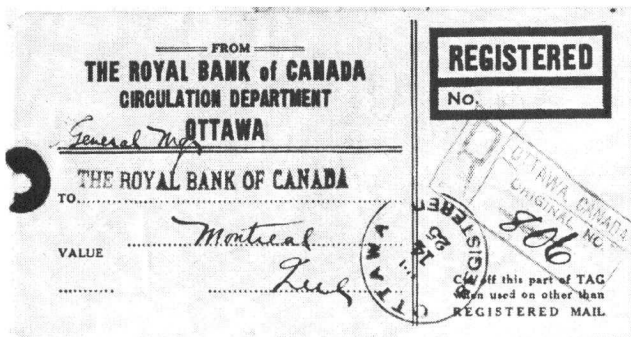


Figure 2. Money packet tag (1925)

From Ottawa, with postage of \$5.36 made up of the 10¢ registration fee, and the money packet rate (only in force 1924-1927) of 6¢ for the first ounce, and 5¢ for each additional ounce—for 105 oz. The tag is made of heavy duty cloth, rather than the usual cardboard paper.

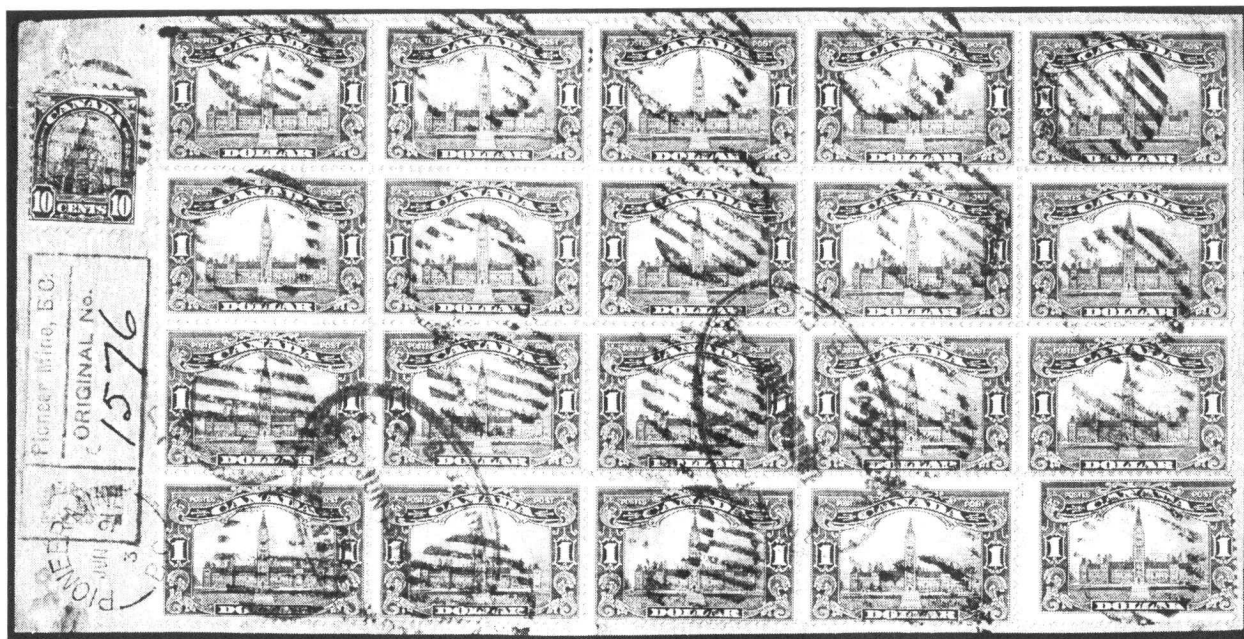
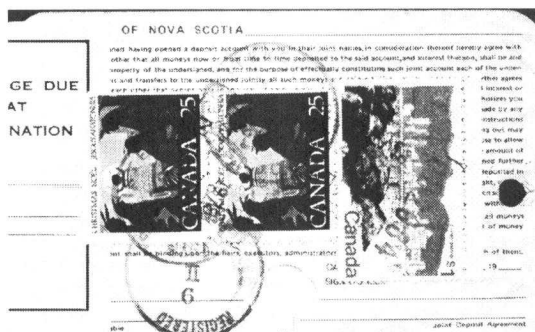
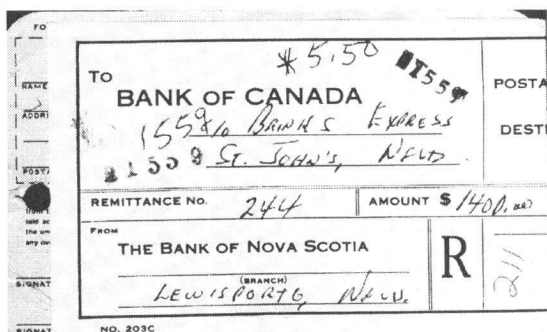


Figure 3. Money packet tag (1931)

From Pioneer Mine BC; the original parcel was likely a heavy-duty box containing gold or silver, with \$20.10 postage representing 400 oz at 5¢ per ounce plus 10¢ registration fee. The tag has a block of 19 of the \$1 Parliament stamps; the other copy (lower right) does not appear to be from the same sheet.



Figures 4a & 4b. Postage due money packet tag (1978)

From Lewisport NF to St. John's. It has postage of only \$1.50, while the amount due \$5.50 is written in on the special form. The \$7 rate is consistent with up to 4 lb, but only for the rate beginning two months after the package was sent.

Figures 4a & 4b show the front and back of a postage due money packet tag. The white form,



stuck to a deposit file card, has a printed notation with a space to indicate the amount of postage due. From 1 January 1934, there was no penalty on postage due registered items, but complete prepayment was required (banks may have obtained an exemption from this). The parcel, which weighed 3–4 lb contained \$1400 (some of this may have been in coin). All postage due registered material is scarce.



# Census of early A R material to & from Canada

David Handelman

THE AR of the title refers *avis de réception*, the official (UPU) term for what is known as *acknowledgment of receipt* in Canada, *return receipt requested* (with variants, e.g., ... *demandé* or ... *wanted*) in the US, *advice of delivery* (and variants) in UK and much of the Empire and Commonwealth. Occasionally, *advice of receipt* is seen on British forms. This service, supplemental to registration (although in some jurisdictions—e.g., India, France, many former Soviet Union entities, ... —registration is not required for domestic AR material), provides for a card or form to be returned to the sender of a registered item, signed by the recipient. For more details, see references [S, A1, A2].

This article is a census of and a plea for more reports of Canadian AR material. AR covers originating in Canada are rare prior to about 1912; I have recorded just six, one of which is grossly philatelic, and another is philatelically inspired. In the opposite direction, there are more (and several others have been discovered since the 1893 cover from New South Wales was reported [H4], two by Brian Murphy [M]). The known printings of Canadian AR forms were listed in [H1], and very little new has been reported concerning the early material (i.e., prior to 1912 or so).

## Early A R covers originating in Canada

Year	Destination	Reference	Comments
1899	domestic	[A2]	AR fee paid in stamps on cover (see op. cit.)
1900	Germany	auc (1)	highly philatelic (37½¢ postage); Maresch sale #51 (July 1969), lot 139
1905	domestic	[H1]	returned to sender; one stamp missing
1906	Cuba	dh	returned to sender
1913	Germany	ta	from Emily (Donald) King, well-known stamp dealer
1915	US	dh	returned to sender

(1) Found by my son Danny, when he was browsing through old auction catalogues. It has no AR handstamp, but instead shows a crudely written A.R. The sender obviously wanted to use one of each stamp currently available, but omitted the 1¢ and 3¢ numerals.

## Early A R covers to Canada from abroad

Year	Origin	Reference	Comments
1893	New South Wales	[H4]	earliest AR cover from NSW
1895	Chile	bm	
1896	Hong Kong		addressed to professional philatelist
1897	Niger Coast	[M]	
1898	France	[H3]	
1900	US	dh	second earliest US–Canada AR cover is dated 1923!
1900	Burma (Br India)	[G]	addressed to professional philatelist
1902	Martinique	dh	
1911	UK	dh	UK AR material is difficult to find (next earliest is 1932!)

(1) I have heard of an AR cover from Denmark (a rare place of origin in this period) and also from the Dutch Antilles, both in the 1890s, but no details are available.

Early US AR material (often marked *return receipt wanted*) is not as scarce as Canadian material; however, it was only in July of this year that I saw a pre-1923 US to Canada AR cover. The earliest Canada to US AR cover that I’m aware of is dated 1915—while the earliest non-philatelic Canadian AR cover to a foreign destination is 1906, to Cuba.

In [H1], there was a brief mention of the requirement that AR forms used by the US be returned in a covering envelope. In addition to Canada, several countries printed special envelopes for the return of the (usually signed) forms to the country of origin—usually the US—among them Japan [J] (thanks to Owen White for sending me copies of this reference; this one issue contains four articles on AR service), and the UK (the sole example of the latter, 1905, was discovered recently by Charles Verge). Three Canadian examples (all from different printings) were reported in [H1], and shortly after the latter appeared, Tom Almond reported a fourth, which is also a different printing from the others.

### Covering envelopes for returning A R forms

Year	Destination	Reference	Printing data & comments
1914	US	[H1]	8-5-12; 35,000; one known
1915	US	[H1]	11-4-14; 50,000; one known
1918	US	ta	27-9-16; 20,000; one known
1920	US	[H1]	16-12-19; 35,000; one known

There have been many new printings and expanded early and late dates recorded for Canadian AR cards (by many contributors), but the revised list will not be included here, as it is too lengthy (it may be included in a subsequent Newsletter). I solicit more information, especially on the early AR material. My addresses are in the masthead.

### Combinations of AR with other attributes

*Return to sender.* AR covers returned to sender (e.g., refused, deceased, flown, can't be found, . . . ) are not uncommon.

*Special delivery.* AR covers with domestic special delivery service are a bit uncommon, but plenty exist. I don't know of any AR covers from Canada with special delivery or *express* service abroad, but this combination probably exists too.

*Postcards.* Registered postcards are fairly scarce, but AR postcards are rare (except of course for philatelic ones that even the author has been known to create). I know of two (commercial, i.e., not philatelic) AR postcards (1978 & 1979, both warranty cards).

*Postage due.* Postage due registered letters were discussed in [H0], and in general these are rare—all the more so postage due AR material. An AR cover (that is also a special delivery drop letter) that was postage due as a result of forwarding was illustrated in *op. cit.* I have a 1923 AR cover addressed to Montreal, forwarded to Turkey, and inexplicably charged double the difference (forwarded covers were only liable to a single penalty).

An AR cover which was shortpaid deliberately, i.e., using an invalid stamp, was illustrated in [H0]. Two recent acquisitions from Sue Sheffield include an AR card without stamps, charged single rate (the 10¢ AR fee) and signed and properly returned to sender, and another AR card still attached to the registered letter returned to sender, the letter properly paid, but the card missing postage, and charged the 10¢ AR fee due.

*Extra indemnity.* I know of just one example (1979) of an AR cover on which the extra indemnity fee (see Newsletter #1) was paid; more probably exist, although both extra indemnity and AR are independently uncommon to scarce.

*Free.* I know of just one AR cover with all postage and fees free, in 1917.

*Wreck.* Registered wreck covers are rare (perhaps five exist to or from Canada, all periods), so an AR wreck cover seems unlikely. However, at Orapex '99, Richard Malott exhibited an AR card recovered from a crash, and as far as I know, this is unique.

### Unlikely combinations

I don't expect to see any of the following combined with AR: COD (first class and for a period, second and third class mail sent COD was automatically registered, hence theoretically eligible for AR service, but it would be pointless); insurance (only possible 1904–1910—enough said); parcel post (also known as fourth class; only possible pre-1921); fifth class (1888–1897!).

Slightly more likely (but still improbable) would be second or third class AR covers. I know of no AR money packets—but these are fairly numerous in other jurisdictions, notably the US.

## A request

I collect *worldwide* AR (and related) material. If you have any, or know of additional references in the literature, please let me know.

## References

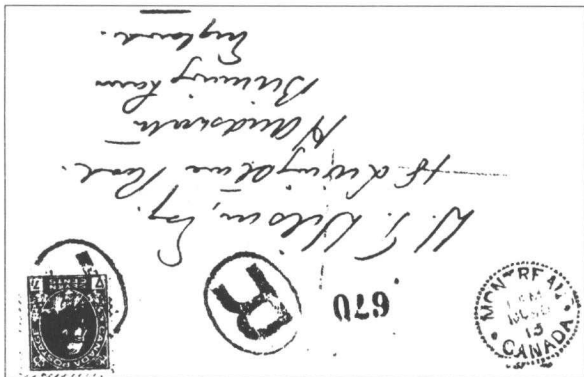
- [A1] George B. Arfken *Canada and the Universal Postal Union*, The Unitrade Press (1992).
- [A2] George B. Arfken *Canada's small queen era, postal usage during the small queen era*, V. G. Greene Foundation (1989).
- [G] Richard Graham *Postal History*, Linn's Stamp News 27 July 1998 & 12 October 1998.
- [H0] David Handelman *Postage due registered letters*, PHSC J 86 (1996) 19-27.
- [H1] David Handelman *Avis de réception*, PHSC J 88 (1996) 13-21.
- [H2] David Handelman *Son of avis de réception*, PHSC J 91 (1997) 40-45.
- [H3] David Handelman *An early AR cover to Canada*, PHSC J 95 (1998) 42-43.
- [H4] David Handelman *An earlier AR cover to Canada*, PHSC J 97 (1999) 24-25.
- [HS] David Handelman & Robert Smith *Canadian AR rates 1879-1997*, PHSC J 94 (1998) 28-29.
- [J] Editor of the JP (?) *Registered with A.D. or A.R.*, Japanese Philately 53 #3 (1998) 104-106.
- [M] Brian Murphy *The African mail . . .*, BNA Topics 56 #1 (1999) 33-46.
- [S] Allan Steinhart *Acknowledgment of receipt*, BNA Topics 36 (1979) 4-8; reprinted with revisions in *Allan Steinhart, Postal Historian* edited by D. Handelman & G. Scrimgeour, PHSC (1997) 62-67.



## Dotty Montreal circles

*Len Belle*

I have seven examples of the Montreal dotted circles (illustrated below), dated from 8 March 1910 to 27 March 1916; David Handelman reports seven more, all falling within this period. They occur as receivers, transit marks, and cancels of origin, all on registered covers. Another example, this time on stamp (likely paying the combined registration & domestic fees), was found by Danny Handelman.



Montreal dotted circle, 1913

On a registered letter to England, the 2¢ Empire rate plus 5¢ registration fee paid by a single 7¢ Admiral.

From my own very limited research, I have not been able to find any references to this unusual cancel, and wonder whether anyone can offer information. For example, what is the origin of the cancel? Are proof dates or early and late dates of usage known?

I am aware of it only on registered covers—was it used on other mail, or was it used exclusively on registered covers (as was the case with the Montreal barred circle)? Were similar cancels in use at other Canadian post offices? I would be grateful for any information. I can be reached at 24 Newlands Rd, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0RU, England.



## Cross-border registered

David Handelman

THE cover below, a recent acquisition, is a December 1876 registered cover from Nova Scotia to Boston. By this time, the use of registered letter stamps (RLS) was compulsory (see the first two articles in Newsletter #1), and a 5¢ RLS was required on registered letters to the U.S. Here the registration fee was paid with two 2¢ RLS and a single 1¢ small queen, in violation of the regulations. The usual reason given for this is that the small town of origin (in this case, Round Hill NS) probably ran out of 5¢ RLS, or may not even have had any, since its only use at the time was for registered letters abroad, and one didn't expect many out of the country money letters from small towns. This may be the explanation, but there is no way to prove that it wasn't a result of ignorance of the rules.



Ho-hum, a rules violation, December 1876  
Mailed from Round Hill NS to Boston (receiver on the front), with Saint John registered dater on reverse. A 5¢ RLS was required on registered letters to the U.S.



## Registered drop letter from a really small town

David Handelman

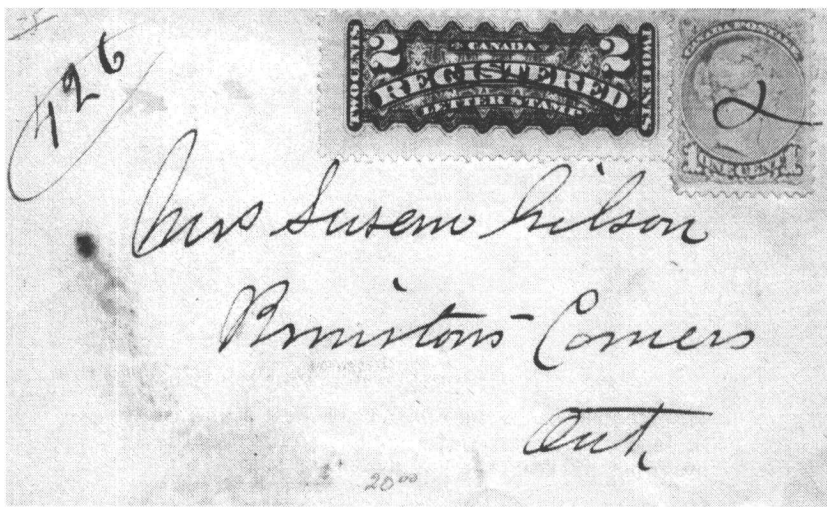
THE cover shown (overleaf) is the antithesis of what we look for in registered covers. No date, no town marking (not even a manuscript), just one registration number, and the stamps are barely cancelled. There are no back stamps, and no return address. Nonetheless it does demonstrate a fairly scarce use, a registered drop letter at a small town. The envelope is completely intact (and shown at full size).

The postage, paid by a 1¢ small queen and a 2¢ registration stamp, indicates that the letter was a registered drop letter (the 1¢ fee also pays the circular rate, but the envelope was sealed). The registration fee was 2¢ from before the date of issuance of the registered letter stamps (15 November 1875) to 8 May 1889, and although I'm no expert on the shades and perforations of the stamps, they don't look like they come from the 1870s. So the probable date is the 1880s, before May 1889.

Registered drop letters are fairly difficult to find in this period, even for larger centres. Generally, the smaller the office, the scarcer is the registered drop letter. Here the office was so small, it didn't have a handstamp (and no strikes are recorded of Brinston's Corners until 1895, according to Bruce Graham's Ontario broken circles lists), and the postmaster didn't even bother to put a manuscript cancel (no manuscripts are known for this place, according to the recently published *Canadian manuscript town cancels*, by the author & Jacques Poitras), or even a date. This is probably a violation of the regulations for registered letters, but what else is new? The postmaster probably knew both parties, so didn't see any need to spend any time on it.

The post office at Brinston's Corners, in Dundas County (Matilda Township) was opened in 1873; the "s" was dropped in 1903, and they liked this idea so much, they dropped "Corners" in 1908





### Registered drop letter, 1880s

Addressed to Brinston's Corners, the stamps cancelled with what looks like a manuscript "α" (alpha); the 1¢ small queen is barely tied by it. There is only one registration number, 426 (the struck-through 35—since erased—was an early price, at which it didn't sell).

(naturally, this information was obtained from Bob Smith's *Ontario Post Offices*, still in print). I couldn't locate population data for this place or the township, because that one page is missing from my copy of the census, but we can be sure it was small.



## A St. Jacobs registration marking

David Handelman

THE town of St. Jacobs, not far from Kitchener in southwestern Ontario, is perhaps most famous for being the home of the inexplicably successful chain of hardware stores, "Home Hardware" (I have found *Canadian Tire* has more choice, lower prices, and better quality—not to mention *Canadian Tire* money—perhaps it is location or service that keeps Home Hardware alive). This article shows two examples of its very strange registered number marking—the only two of which I'm aware.

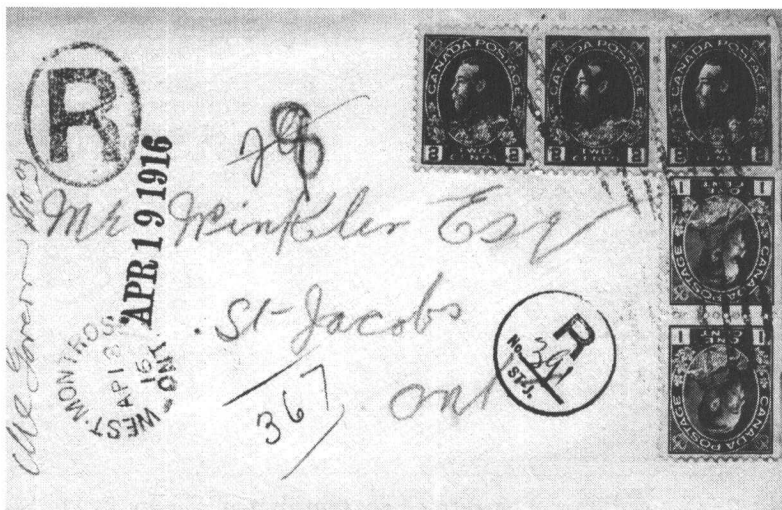


Figure 1a. Registered letter from West Montrose ON to St. Jacobs (1916)

The fancy St. J registration marking in purple used at the receiving office. Postage of 8¢ paying the 5¢ registration fee and 3¢ domestic rate. The date handstamp at the left is in the same ink as the registration marking.



Figure 1b. Reverse of previous cover  
Postmarks showing the route from West Montrose to St. Jacobs via Berlin (name changed to Kitchener 1 August 1916) and two RPOs—all in one day!



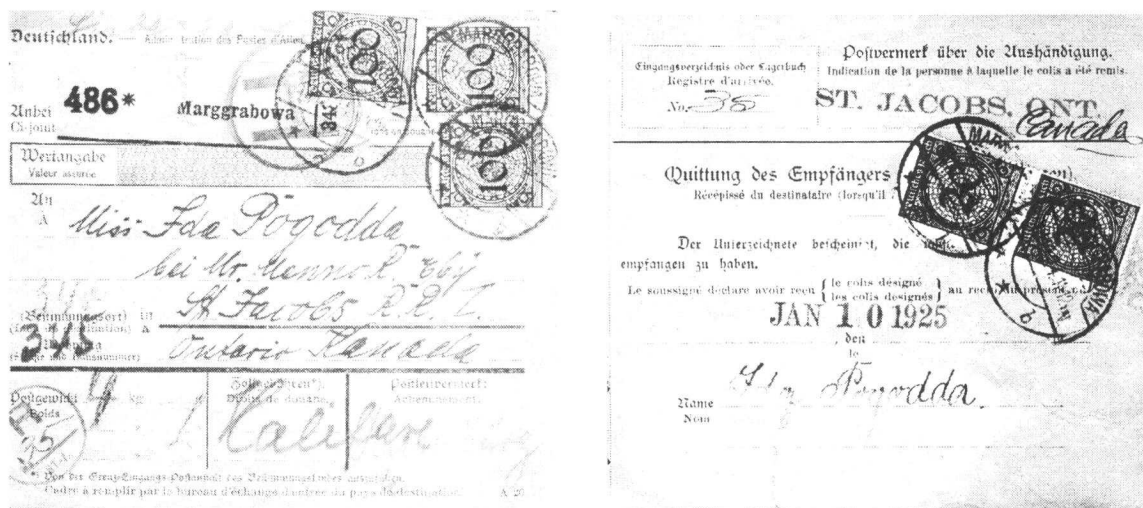
Figure 2. Large image of the St. Jacobs registration marking

Figures 1a & 1b show front and back of a cover I obtained from Allan Steinhart many years ago; of course, I bought it for the unusual registration marking. Figure 2 shows an enlarged version.

At Orapex '99, Bob Vogel showed me the item in Figures 3a & 3b. He told me that it was new to anyone who had been shown it, and there was some doubt as to its authenticity.

It is on a parcel card (notification of the arrival of a parcel)—in this case registered—from Germany. Parcel cards are difficult to find to Canada, and this is the only registered one I have seen. The postage paid on the card is 340 Deutschmarks, at the beginning of the inflationary period in 1925. It is signed on the back by the recipient. The text is in French and blackletter German, and the exchange point in Germany is Hamburg. The St. Jacobs marking (lower left corner of the front) is in purple and again used as a receiving marking.

The area of Ontario around St. Jacobs is well known for its (German-speaking) Mennonite communities, so it is not surprising to find a parcel from Germany.



Figures 3a & 3b. Registered parcel card from Marggrabowa (Germany) to St. Jacobs (1925)

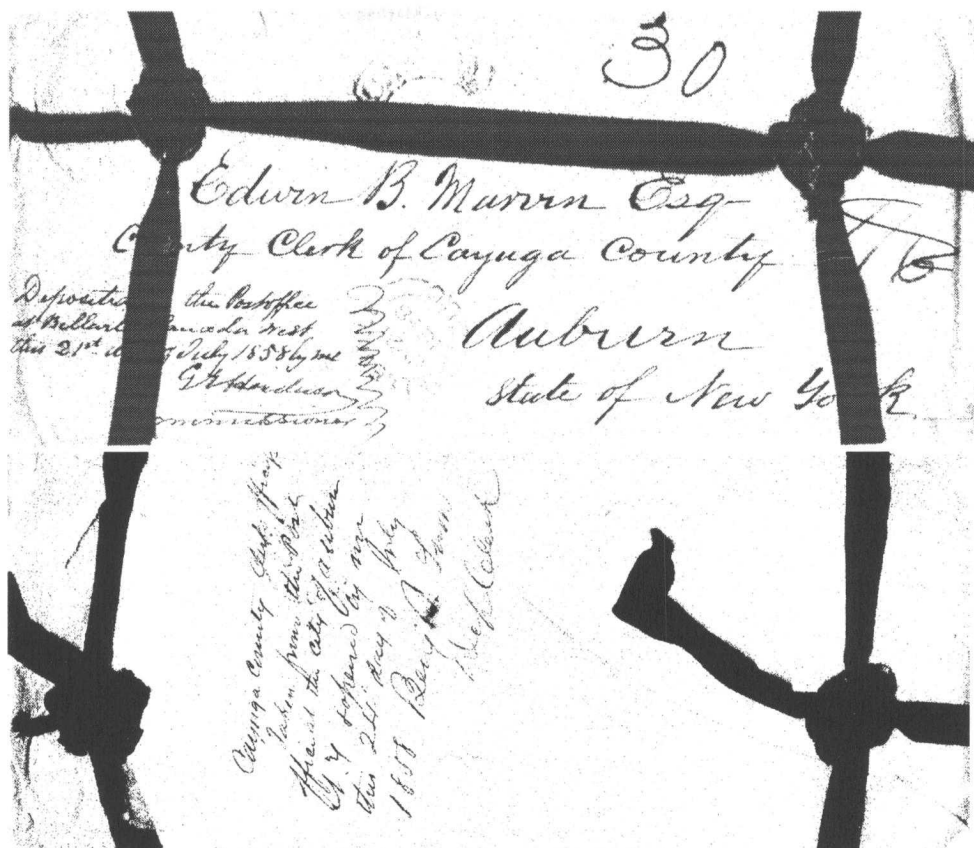
The St. J registration marking is in purple and used as a receiver. The parcel to which this refers weighed 4 kg.



# Tied up in green tape

Len Belle

PRIOR to the use in the UK of the familiar blue crayon cross to designate a letter that was registered, postal officials used green tape or black string tied with sealing wax. (See the book by MacKay, cited in Newsletter #1.) Very few, perhaps just a handful, of such letters have survived with the tape. An 1853 Canadian money letter with string appeared as lot #517 of the Cavendish auction of 4 December 1998, including the comments, "One of only a handful of such string covers that have survived from any country from the 19th century."



Front & back of a green-taped cover, 1858

Although not registered, the illustrated cover perhaps ought to have been. It is tied with green tape, sealed with red wax. Posted at Belleville UC on 21 July 1858, it was addressed to the County Clerk of Cayuga County, Auburn, New York State. It was rated 1/6 currency (equivalent to 30¢, US) collect, for a triple weight cover (1-1½ oz). There is a red CANADA in arc cross-border mark.

On the front, the sender, a lawyer, has certified that he deposited the letter at the Belleville post office. The reverse has a similar certification, by the Deputy Clerk of Cayuga County, to the effect that it was collected from the postal official at Auburn and opened by him (the Deputy Clerk).

The letter obviously contained legal documents of some sort, perhaps to be used as evidence, and this method of mailing was to establish authenticity. It would have been possible to send this registered at the time, as Canada-US registration had been established formally in October 1856.

I purchased this cover from my good friend, Dick Lamb, who said he had not come across a similar one. It has since been shown to other eminent Canadian philatelists, including the late Allan Steinhart, none of whom had seen this type of mailing before. Even if it is not registered, I think it is unusual.



# The back page

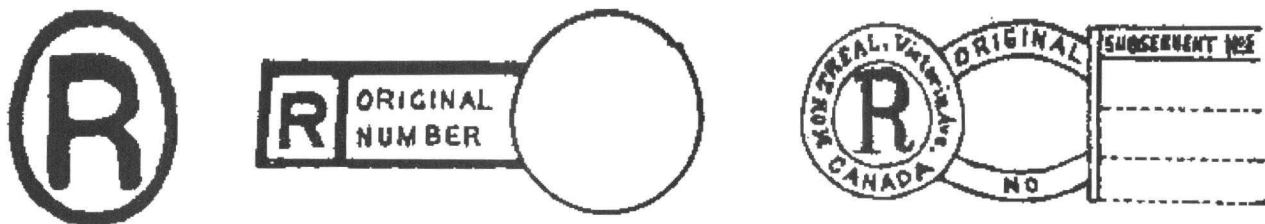
## Hot Flashes

JUST after the first newsletter was sent out, the Cavendish auction of 26 June 1999 was put up on the web. Most of the items are from the famous Martin Willcocks worldwide registration collection. Among them is lot #1451, an 1851 green *money letter wrapper* from Canada! Readers will recall the money & registered letter wrapper article from Newsletter #1—in which no money letter wrappers were reported from the Province of Canada. According to the description, a second one is also known. It is also transatlantic (to the UK), which by itself is somewhat miraculous. The estimate? A mere £750. It sold for £3,600 [not a misprint; this is thirty six hundred pounds]—before taxes and tip (hammer fee). Perhaps one of our British members could track down the notes in the Willcocks collection and find out more details.

*New book* Recently published (by David G. Phillips, PO Box 611388, North Miami FL 33261, publishers of the American Stampless Cover Catalog) is the book *United States registered mail, 1845–1870*, written by Dr James W. Milgram. There is a surprising amount of material concerning Canadian registration (unfortunately, the author did not use the most up to date references), and the book is well-written (modulo a significant number of typos, and as usual for Phillips, the typography is weak) with lots of excellent illustrations. Well worth purchasing for its treatment of the early development of registration. A favourable (long) review will appear in the September issue of the PHSC Journal. Soft cover, 179+ iv pp, \$US29.95.

## Other stuff

BILL Topping, editor of the *BC Postal History News Letter*, sent a copy of the January 1999 number to us. In it, registered markings from BC are discussed. There is a request for a census of pre-1922 BC registration markings, as below:



The earliest reported of the big R in oval from BC is 11 May 1893 (Kaslo), although they were in general use throughout Canada by 1886. For this type, only reports prior to 1893 from BC are of interest, although for the other two, all reports pre-1922 are solicited. Only three BC towns (Vancouver, Anyox, New Westminster) are known to have used the three-line subsequent numbers style, introduced in 1918. In addition, any fancy or special BC pre-1922 registration markings should be reported. Information (including xeroxes, town names, dates, etc.) should be sent to Bill Topping, Editor *BC Postal History Newsletter*, 7430 Angus Dr, Vancouver BC V6P 5K2.

At the moment, there are no long articles on hand for the next issue of the newsletter. We are also looking for comments, illustrations, questions, shorter articles, &c on any aspect of registration or the money letter system. Please send hard copy, preferably with text files, to either the editor or the secretary; their addresses appear below the masthead on the first page.

We still need articles!

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MEMBERSHIP in the *registration study group* of BNAPS is available to members of BNAPS, at an annual cost of \$10 (Canada), \$10 (US), and £5 (rest of the world). Payments should be made to the secretary (address on front page). Subscription to the quarterly newsletter (title suggestions—e.g., the *Registry*—are welcome) comes with membership. Back issues are now available!

