

The Registry



Newsletter of the BNAPS registration study group

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Introduction

THIS 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. The *Registry* is issued quarterly, subject to the availability of articles (long and short). Information on how to join appears at the bottom of The Back Page.



We get W, Z, X, P, R, S, V, C, H, ...

We *did* receive a few letters, but I've misplaced them. My apologies. (dh)



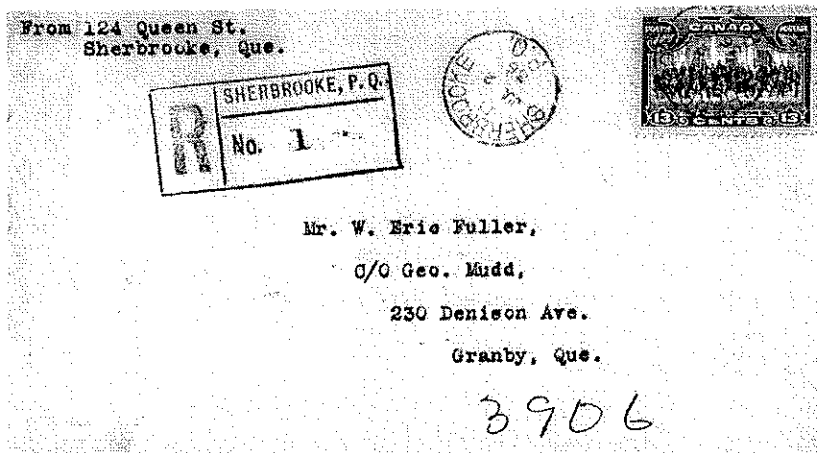
Once again, the order of the articles is not random (although it certainly looks that way), but is a consequence of the illustrations being unbreakable—each one has to fit on one page, and it is desirable (but next to impossible) to have the illustration close to the relevant text.

Looking out for number one

David Handelman

THIS isn't a pæan to Ayn Rand (nor an essay on scatology). Every now and then, I pick up a registered cover with registration number 1. (In the examples below, this is the *original* registration number.) I seem to recall reading somewhere (help!) that smaller towns in the nineteenth century restarted their numbers at 1 after reaching 999, and larger places "turned the corner" at 9999. Of course, when a post office opens, it will begin with registration number 1, but I've never seen an example of that!

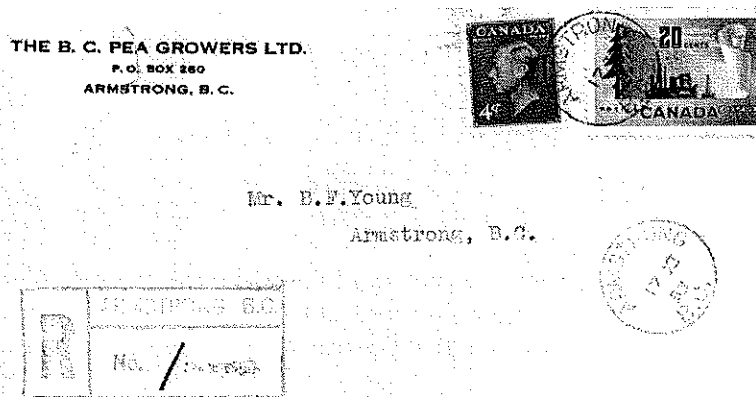
This contrasts with US registration numbers which seem to restart every quarter (which accounts for consistently very low registration numbers on early US registered covers). I don't know what the current policy is at Canadian postal outlets.



Sherbrooke numero uno (1936)

The registration handstamp is in purple, while the registration number is handstamped in blue. Solo stamp pays combined 10¢ registration fee and 3¢ domestic rate.

The first two items are from a medium-size (Sherbrooke) and a smaller office (Armstrong) in 1936 and 1953, respectively. The third is somewhat remarkable—from a sub-office in Longueuil (a Montreal suburb) in 1988. I imagine that this office and possibly Sherbrooke used five digits and Armstrong used three digits—so the likelihood of finding registration number one from these offices is respectively .00001 and .001! Of course, these probabilities are largely meaningless, since they apply to any specific number (except that number 1 will be marginally more common than 999).



Armstrong BC (1953)

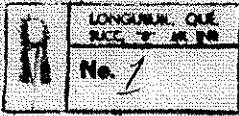
Local (drop) letter from the British Columbia Pea Growers Ltd. The number is in manuscript, the stuff to its right is fuzziness from the registration hammer.

Nom & adresse du bureau (en moule)

1851 Smythbook Ed
Suite 101
Montreal, Que.



L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE PROTECTION MÉDICALE
C.P. 8225, OTTAWA, ONTARIO
K1G 3H7



Longueuil (1988)

An AR cover with the \$3.69 postage made up from \$2.70 registration fee, 62¢ AR fee (from 1977 on, the AR fee was paid on the cover, not the card), and 37¢ domestic rate. The two staples at the left held the AR card to the cover.



Reristered at Brantford

Horace Harrison

THE well-known erroneous RERISTERED (Figure 1) handstamp was applied at Brantford. I have compiled a limited census of known examples, and invite members of the study group to send in new reports together with photocopies. All those I have seen are from the McNabb correspondence. Jarrett lists an example dated February 1856.



Figure 1. RERISTERED (1855-1856)

The top image is from the cover in Figure 3, the middle image is from the cover doctored by Jarrett(?) (Figure 2), and the bottom image is from Boggs Volume 1, p 460.

Complicating the issue is that Fred Jarrett [oh-oh—ed] had a RERISTERED hammer made from the cut in his 1929 book and possessed much of the McNabb correspondence. He also did not know the precise beginning of registration in Canada (1 May 1855).

The item in Figure 2 appears to be dated 1854, so is obviously is obviously a fake. [Adding to the suspicion is the Money manuscript—although a few legitimate registered covers were so marked well after the money letter period—ed] This was offered to Guy des Rivières by Arthur Leggett; Guy thought the year was 1854 and considered it a fake. I bought it knowing all this, in order to have an example of Jarrett's trickery (if that's what it is).

Figure 3 shows an 1855 example that seems to be legitimate. [The postmaster's handwriting makes

Census of REGISTERED & friends

| Source | Date | Description |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Chaplin collection | 29 Mar 1855 | money letter |
| Harrison collection | 19 Jul 1855 | REGISTERED error |
| Chaplin collection | 22 Aug 1855 | ditto |
| Cavendish Auc, Dec 98, #526 | 4 Oct 1855 | ditto |
| Lussey collection | 11 Oct 1855 | ditto |
| Cavendish Auc? (1) | 21 Feb 1856 | ditto |
| Cavendish Auc? | 24 Apr 1856 | corrected to REGISTERED |
| Chaplin collection | 12 May 1856 | ditto |
| Lussey collection | 21 Jan 1857 | ditto |

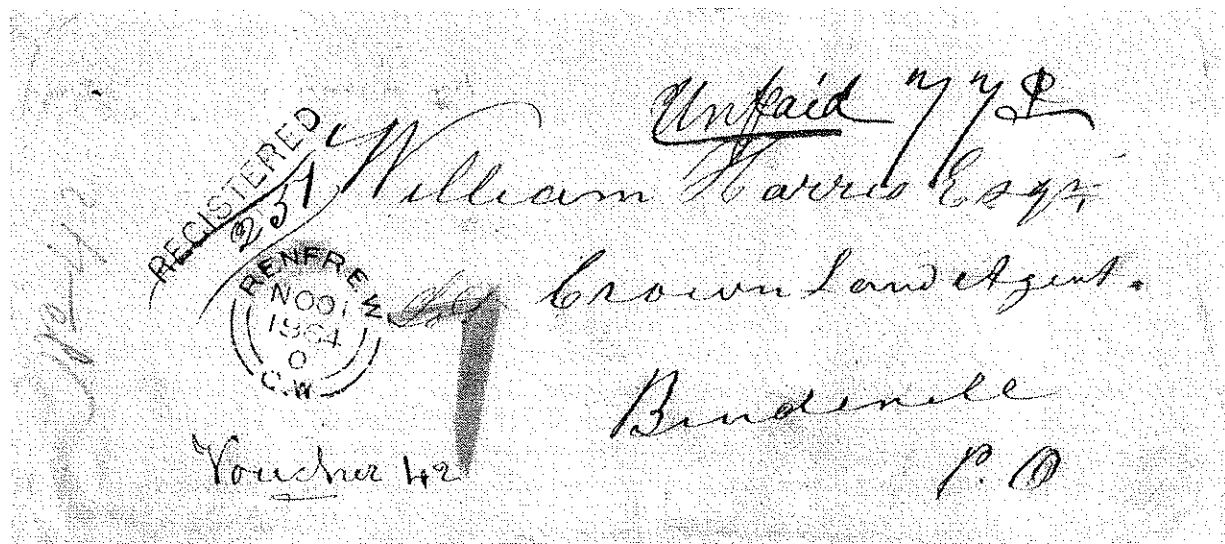
(1) I believe that the Cavendish Auction lots belonged to Bill Collie, but I'm not positive that is true of all of them.



Unidectuple collect in the cents period

David Handelman

FULFILLING my promise/threat on the bottom of page 11 of the previous issue of the *Registry*, here is a registered cover with 77¢ due. The 2¢ registration fee was prepaid in cash (prepayment of this fee was compulsory), but the sender didn't feel like paying for 5-5½ ounces (at 5¢ per half-ounce if prepaid, but at 7¢ per half-ounce if sent collect).



Unidectuple collect registered cover (1864)

Mailed from Renfrew (double circle with basal O) to Brudenell (also in Renfrew County). Although the latter had a double broken circle dater at this time, there is no backstamp. Ms *Unpaid 77¢* and the 1855 registered straightline applied at Renfrew.



Refusing to sign a delayed A R form

David Handelman

SUPPOSE a registered letter is sent out, duly delivered, and signed for by the recipient. The sender decides after the fact to request a signature on a delayed (or subsequent) AR form or card. The AR form or card is mailed to the post office of delivery, and the original recipient of the registered letter is requested to sign it. What happens if he refuses?

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DU CANADA

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
(A. R. FORM.)

of a Registered letter entered under No. 229 (and addressed to M. H. Aubencan)

870 Burrard St. Vancouver, B.C. on the 18 March 1918

The undersigned acknowledges that a Registered letter addressed as above was duly delivered on the 18 March 1918

Signature of the Postmaster of the office of destination: [Handwritten signature]

39 B. FORM 211

Figure 1. Delayed AR form (1918-1919)

The AR fee (*not* the postage, which was free) paid by a 5 ¢ Admiral. The form was folded, sealed, and mailed back to the sender of the registered item. Note the hand-stamped signature of the postmaster, and the little × marking where the recipient was supposed to sign.

In fact, post office regulations provide for such a contingency. The postmaster at the office of delivery is to sign the AR form, and return it to the sender of the registered item. Figure 1 shows such an item. It is an AR form, print-order date 27-9-17, mailed from Hollyburn (BC) on December “03” 1918 (as will be seen below, the date is 3 not 30 December). It refers to registered letter number 229 mailed to H. Aubencan in Vancouver on 18 March 1918. It is postmarked at Vancouver 8 Feb 1919. At the lower right is the handstamped signature of the postmaster at the destination office.

Attached to the form is the memorandum shown in Figure 2, with the oval handstamp of the Post Office Inspector at Vancouver, with the same handstamped signature at the bottom.

Does the AR form look familiar? It should—a very similar one appears on p 61 of that classic work *Allan Steinhart, Postal Historian*. The Hollyburn dater has the same date, and refers to registered letter number 249, also mailed 18 March 1918. It is clear from that AR form that the date was 3 Dec 1918. In fact, I have two others with the same date (also from Hollyburn, of course, and also delayed). Evidently the sender sent out a batch of delayed AR forms on the same date, and these were part of a hoard found by Allan.

On the xerox of the memorandum is the notation “David, FYI, Bill.” Evidently, Bill sent me the xeroxes that appear here as Figures 1 & 2, and this must have been several years ago. Which Bill? I think it was Bill Pawluk, and he should be acknowledged. If it turns out to be Bill Longley, I apologize, and give him credit. Which other Bill could it be?

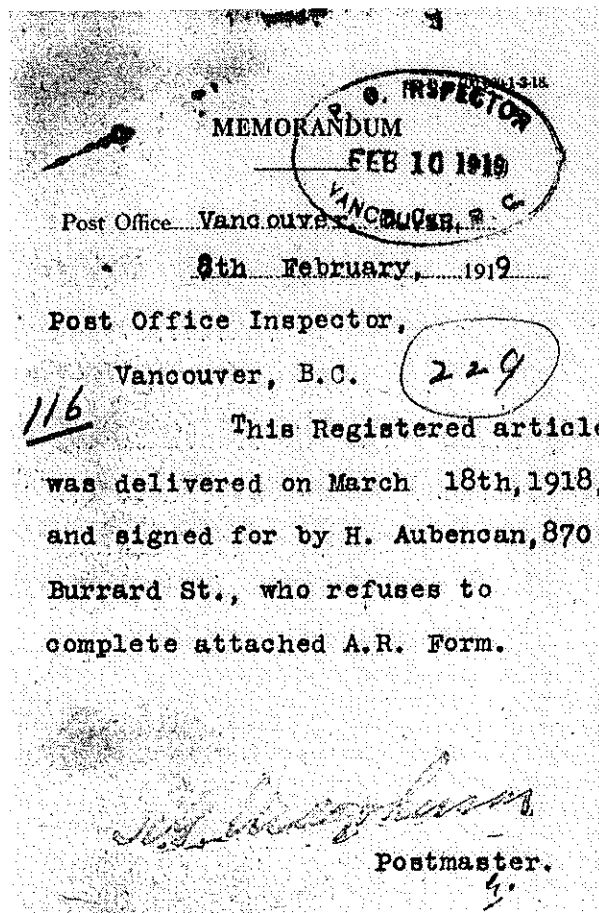


Figure 2. Accompanying form

Note the reference to the registration number, 229. The print-order data in the upper right corner appears to be 8?-B. 500,000-1-3-18, which means the print-order was made on 1 March 1918, and it was intended that 500,000 copies of this memorandum be printed (they probably were printed in pads).



Sticky customs

David Handelman

THE following two registered covers from the US to Canada in the early 1890s have each had a dark reddish brown sticker applied. They both read:

DUTIABLE No.
From
To

Both are addressed to well-known stamp dealers of the period, Ketcheson and Schmalz, and the top one is from Mekeel, a prominent American stamp dealer and philatelic publisher. The obvious assumption is that these are business letters between stamp dealers (hence “quasi-philatelic”—see the Summer 2000 issue of this newsletter) likely containing stamps. The stickers were applied by border officials for collection of duties from the recipients.

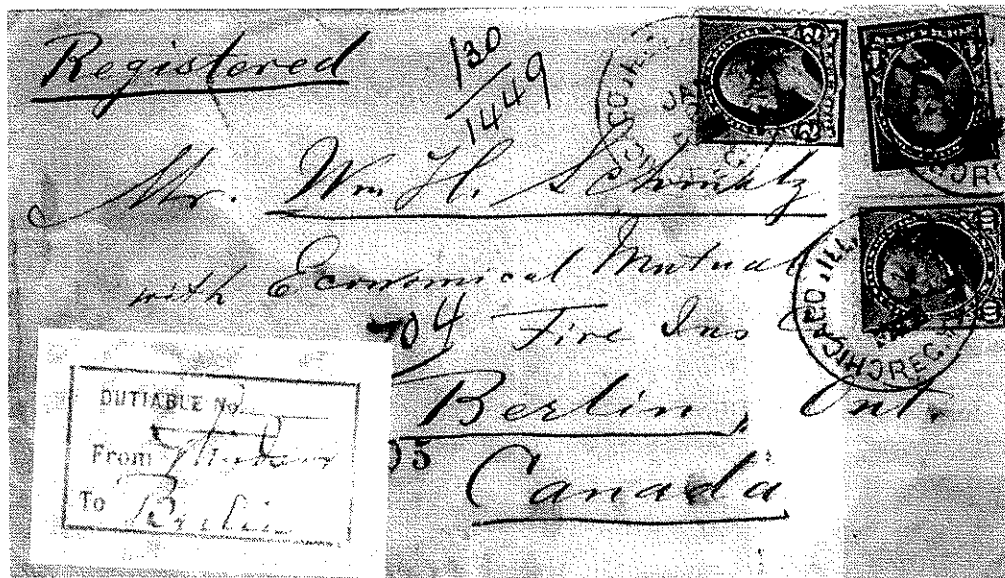
The stickers are coloured deep brown-red—the images have been adjusted to emphasize the stickers, at the cost of reducing the clarity of the rest of the envelopes. Both of these were sold at the Maresch auction of January 1998, but I obtained only one of them there. The other one I purchased later from Vance Auctions.



Mekeel to Ketcheson (1890)

The sticker is endorsed (from the border at) *Windsor* (to) *Belleville*. us postage of 16¢ pays double rate to Canada (at 3¢ per ounce) plus the us registration fee of 10¢. The stamps are current. At the time, AR service was available for the asking (since the us already had a very high registration fee), and if the sender had requested it, this would have been one of the very earliest us AR covers known!

I have seen no other examples of such stickers. By the mid-1910s, the familiar blue customs datestamps were in use.



To Schmalz (1892)

Endorsed (from the border at) *Windsor* (to) *Berlin*. The same total postage was applied, using later stamps (which were issued from 1890). The letter was sent by an R Kaestner, whose name does not ring a bell, but I assume was a stamp dealer or collector.



An early Yukon registered cover—July 1898

Gray Scrimgeour

THIS registered cover was mailed at Dawson on 30 July 1898. It is a cloth-lined envelope opened at the left, addressed to Mrs V A Bergesson, Seebeck, Kitsap County, State of Washington (in faded indelible pencil). The franking consists of four 2¢ leaf stamps. Two strikes of the DAWSON N.W.T. CANADA cds (O'Reilly B1) ties the stamps. There is a Victoria transit mark dated 31 Aug 1898, and a very pale blue green Seattle registration backstamp.



Yukon 1898

Postage made up of 3¢ domestic/us rate plus 5¢ registration fee.

The registration markings are a bit of a puzzle. The original seems to be the manuscript in the upper left, *Regn 611*, likely applied at Dawson. The R-in-oval just below it may have been applied at Victoria, rather than Dawson. Registration numbers include 1787 (at the right), 9100 in ink (Victoria?), and 9999 in blue green (likely Seattle).

This appears to be the earliest reported registered cover from the Yukon district or territory.



More weird registration handstamps

David Handelman

THE cover shown in the figures below has three strikes of a beautiful turquoise registration oval applied at Morrisburg. This is pretty, but not very exciting. On reverse, however, is a large purple registration datestamp. I've never seen anything like it. As usual, this was purchased on e-Bay. Jeff Switt thinks I shouldn't mention the price ("it sounds like boasting"—which it is!), but it was reasonable considering the rough opening at the bottom.



Figure 1. Registered at Morrisburg (1915)

With the usual 8¢ postage (5¢ registration fee plus 3¢ domestic rate). From a KC (King's Counsel) to another barrister. The appendage KC (or QC if the Sovereign is female; if other than male or female, I don't know what they call it) is awarded to lawyers, mostly for having connections, but occasionally on merit.



Figure 2. Large oval at Welland (reverse)

With time, date—and even space for the registration number. Also an RPO to the right.



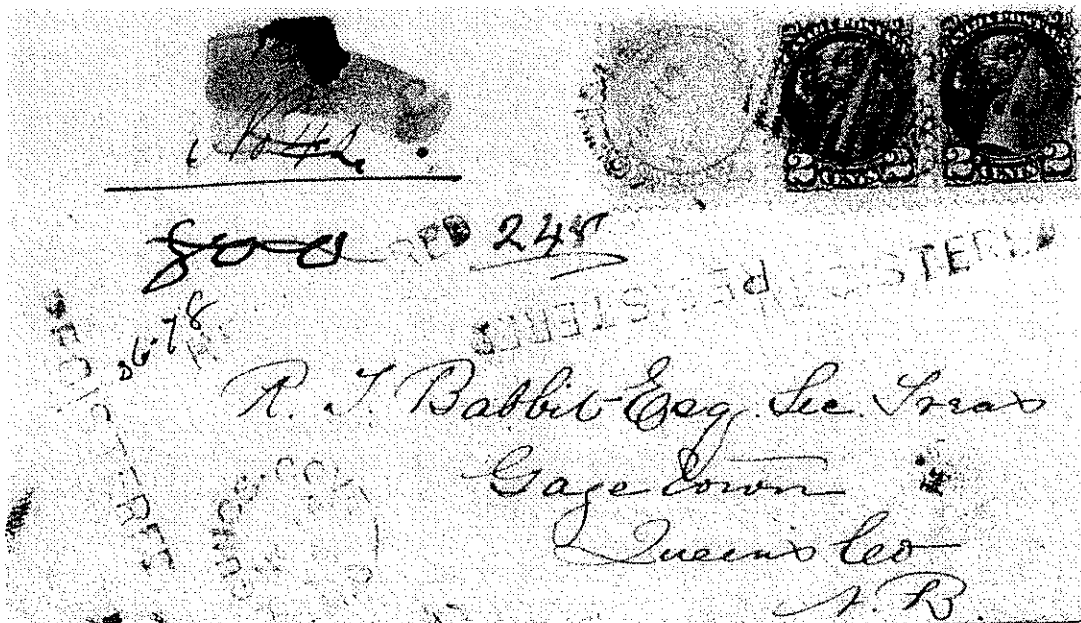
Saving postage in New Brunswick

Horace Harrison

CANADA's domestic registration fee increased from 2¢ to 5¢ in May 1889. By November 1893, even a New Brunswick postmaster must have known about the increase. Nevertheless, the postmaster at Young's Cove accepted 5¢ as full payment for the registered cover shown in the

figure below; of course, the domestic postage of 3 ¢ had to be included. It then passed through at least three other offices (there are four registration numbers), without being charged.

It was backstamped at NAP—, NB [NARROWS NB—dh] with a basically illegible broken circle, and the destination, Gagetown, a relatively large office.

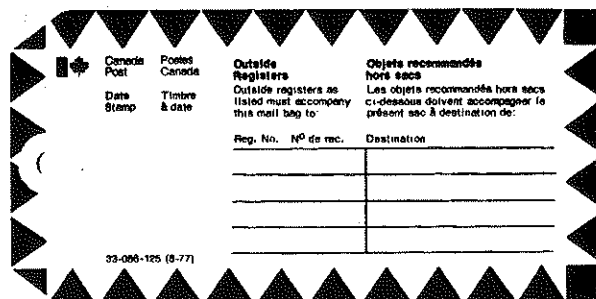
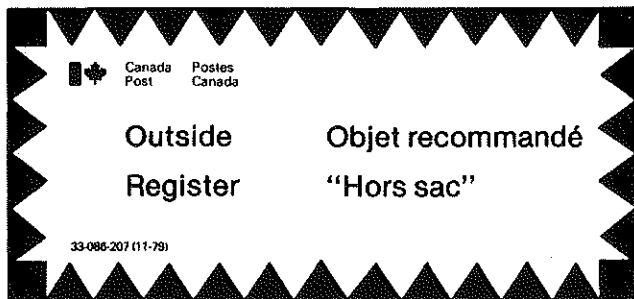


The special NB rate! (1893)

From Youngs Cove to Gagetown, with only 5 ¢ postage applied, when 8 ¢ was required.

One possible explanation is that the postmaster erroneously considered this a letter to a government agency, and so would be exempt from the 3 ¢ domestic rate. This applied only on letters to certain federal government departments, which however, had to be located in Ottawa. The letter was addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer of Queens County, to whom the free franking privilege was improper on two counts.

[Other possible explanations come to mind: it's missing a 3 ¢ small queen—however, this doesn't appear to be the case from the illustration; or as Horace suggests in the first paragraph, the postmaster hadn't been reading his postal guides—note that the initial registration number is either 4 or 8—which is extremely low, considering they didn't restart until at least 999—so very few letters were registered there (the post office opened in 1854); or finally, as was true at many small Maritime post offices (especially concerning bisects and the newspaper rate), the postmaster made his own decisions about rates and practises, and these were respected by other postmasters!—dh]



The back page

Lukewarm Flashes

Vic Willson is surveying registered covers to foreign destinations during the Admiral period (to about 1930). Reports, with dates, should be sent to him. (Address below the masthead.) I think we can exclude UK and continental US from this census. Another topic of interest is registered covers to Canada from abroad during this period. I don't know if there is much interest in the latter, but reports can be sent to secretary. In both cases, please indicate if the cover is philatelic.

Other stuff

Jack Gordon (of the squared circle study group) is requesting information or material on Montreal barred circle cancels on registered covers (appearing on front or back). [*These seem to be fairly numerous; there might be thousands of the things!—dh*] He is also looking for reports of the boxed REGISTERED OTTAWA handstamp. [*The same comment applies.*] He can be reached by snail at 2364 Gallant Fox Cr, Reston VA 20191-2611.

BNAPLEX 2000: Several people showed up (Arfken, Handelman, Harrison, Willson). Vic showed us some of his foreign destination covers, and Horace told us more anecdotes.

As usual, we need more material. Fortunately, we received a pile of material from Horace, but this will eventually run out. We are also still looking for comments, illustrations, questions, &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 need articles!

I can't resist pleading for articles for *Topics* as well (on *any* aspect of philately related to BNA).

Only one comment was received concerning changing the format (to half legal size—see the previous *Registry*), and it was negative. So we'll leave that as it is.

One of the comments of professional editor Larry Goldberg at BNAPLEX on newsletters in general, and this one in particular, was that we might try two (or more) columns per page. I am not too keen on this; for one thing, as was pointed out to me (I think by Horace), when text is interrupted by a centred illustration, the reader doesn't know where to continue reading, i.e., go to the top of the next column, or continue on the same column below the illustration. Only if there is a *strong* sentiment in favour of two columns (I won't consider three or four), will I adopt this style.

The *Registry* was prepared in the typesetting language (plain) T_EX ("tek"), on a Macintosh, using the rtc Esprit font family. It is printed on the secretary's 600 dot per inch LaserWriter. We have now adopted xeroxing from the original (to save a lot of time), and the quality of the images has deteriorated correspondingly.

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 (*The Registry*) comes with membership.

Ⓢ **Reminder:** For some of you (you know who you are), either Newsletter #5 or this one is the last number of your current subscription. Please resubscribe if you wish to maintain your membership. (If this doesn't yield much response, maybe next time I'll put the initials of those to whom this is addressed, here—just kidding!)

Back issues are now available (@ \$2.50 (C) each + postage to members, and @ \$3.50 (C) + postage to non-members). We seem to be out of copies of #2, unless I get some more xeroxed.



Remember to send your registered letters with AR, and register your postcards!