

# The Registry

BNAPS registration study group

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, although in this case, there is an excess of early material. 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.

This issue is several weeks late. I normally do the *Registry* immediately after I've put *Topics* to bed, but this time I was so tired (after *Topics*), that I had to go to bed!



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

I found many of the letters that had been misplaced (see the last issue); these are presented as articles with the byline *from* . . . . In the meantime, I've misplaced some recent letters. (dh)

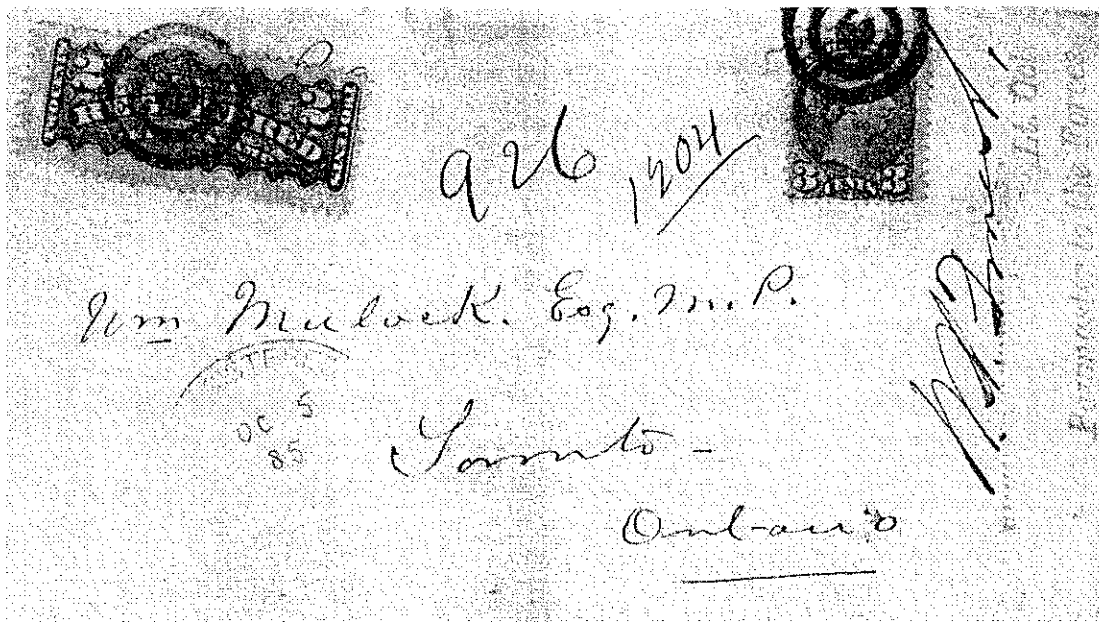


Once again, the order of the articles is not random (although it certainly looks that way), but is a consequence of the illustrations being unbreakable—each one has to fit on one page, and it is desirable (but next to impossible) to have the illustration close to the relevant text.

# A real Riel Rebellion cover

from Dr J Frank

**T**HE illustration shows a registered cover dated October 1885, mailed by Lt Col W A Forrest, *Paymaster to the Forces*. It is addressed to William Mulock (then an MP, later Postmaster General of Canada and associated with the introduction of Imperial Penny Post.) On the front is a faint oval Winnipeg registered datestamp (strengthened for reproduction) and a similar datestamp from Toronto on reverse, dated 9 oc 85. I have three other Riel Rebellion covers, but this is the only registered one I have seen. I would like to know if there are any others about.



Registered Riel rebellion cover (1885)

Officers did not receive an active duty service rate, and mail to MPs was free only if addressed to the House of Commons; hence full postage was charged.



# A new early AR cover

David Handelman

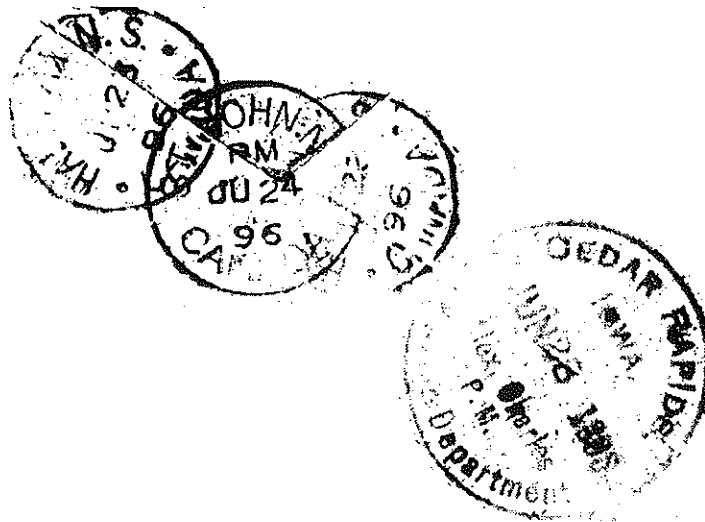
**I** recently purchased the illustrated cover on e-Bay. It is a registered cover from Halifax to Cedar Rapids (Iowa), mailed 23 June 1896. The large AR handstamp is remarkably clear, suggesting it was hardly ever used. The use of such a handstamp was mandated by the UPU beginning in 1892, although AR service between all countries of the UPU had existed since 1879.

In the period 1892-1898, the sanctioned practice was that the AR form was filled in at the *destination* office (not, as before and since, at the office of origin). Hence, in order to provide evidence that the AR fee (if any) had been prepaid, it had to be paid in stamps by the sender on the cover. Here, the stamps pay the 5¢ registration fee, the 5¢ AR fee, and the 3¢ rate to the us.

From 1899 until some time in 1975-77, Canada required payment of the AR fee on the accompanying AR form or card. (Other countries had different practices.) Despite this, the next earliest AR cover (1899—see Newsletter #2) has the AR fee paid in stamps on the cover—however, this may be explained by the date, which was early in January, and the postal officials were not aware of the change in policy.



Early AR cover (1896)



Reverse

The AR form would have been filled out and signed at Cedar Rapids. It would have then been put in a special covering envelope for returning AR forms (US AR forms, unlike Canadian ones, required this) and mailed to the post office at Halifax, and the original sender would be so notified so he could pick it up. Note the special Cedar Rapids circle cancel.



## Early registered Saugeen

from John Rossiter

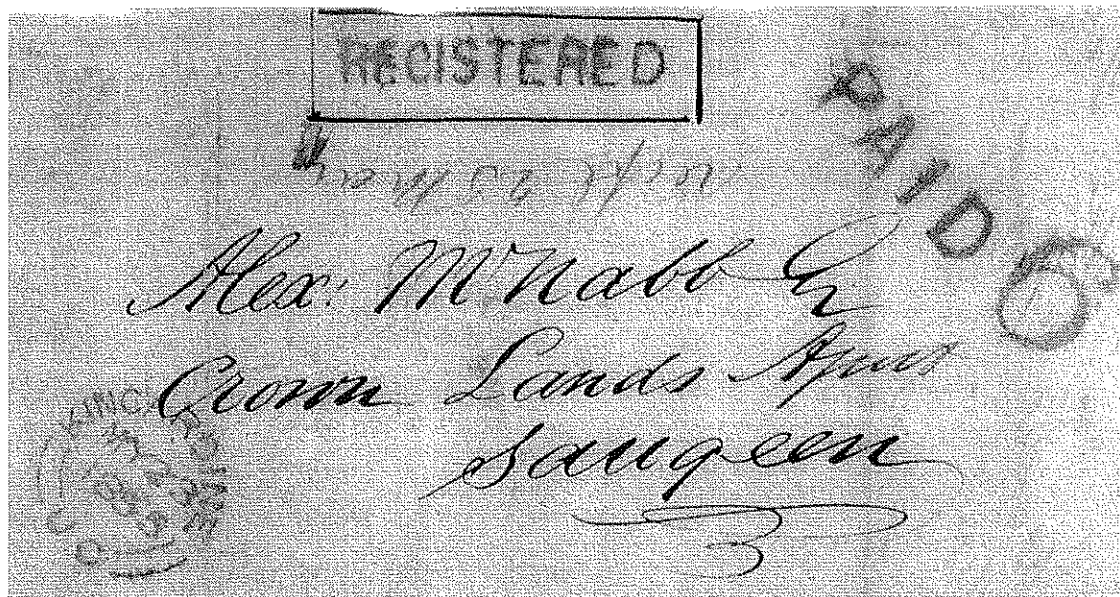
**T**HE illustrated cover is a very early registered letter from Kincardine addressed to the Crown Lands agent at Saugeen. Registration commenced in Canada on 1 May 1855, and this is dated 23 May 1855. This cover reminded me of the cover on page 4 of the preceding *Registry*.

The latter is addressed to Southampton. Why are so many covers in the 1850s addressed to Southampton, when the post office was not established there until 1890?

In the book *Ghost & Post Offices of Ontario* by Floreen Carter, we find Saugeen in Saugeen Township, Bruce County; post office established 6 June 1851, with Robert Reid as first postmaster. *Saugeen* is the Indian name for “river beautiful”. In 1890, the post office name was changed to Southampton by the Deputy Minister of Crown Lands, to honour his birth place in England.

The BNAPS Horace Harrison collection shows two registered covers addressed to Southampton, both 1855; the Lussey collection has three registered covers to Southampton, two dated 1855, the other 1857. One of the 1855 covers is addressed “Saugeen Post Office, Southampton”.

From this small sampling of letters, it would appear that “Southampton” was more commonly used than “Saugeen”.



Early registered (23 May 1855)

Double rate (at 3d per half ounce) plus 1d registration fee, all paid in cash. [Of interest is the Kincardine straight-line registration handstamp—all copies I've seen have a box drawn around it—dh].



## A sad tale

Len Belle

**C**OVERS often tell stories, and this one I'm afraid tells a rather sad one. The illustrated cover was addressed to Private CE Rogers of the Canadian Corps Cyclist Brigade with the British Expeditionary Force in France. It was sent by Hilda Rogers, presumably his wife, mother, or sister. It was mailed at Toronto Sub Office 42 on 9 November 1918. The Toronto handstamp on reverse is dated 8 November—an error—and unusually, has the year above the date.

It has a London (England) transit mark of 27 November, and an Army Post Office s68 marking dated 6 December. The latter is a British Army marking; mail for the Canadian forces in France was handled through the British forces post office.

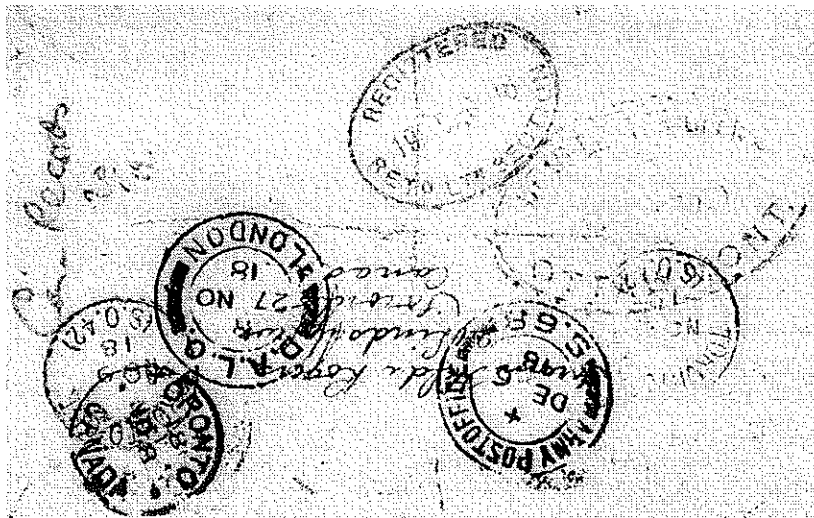
The cover was marked *Deceased*, presumably on arrival at the unit, and returned to England through the “Registered Return Letter Section” (smaller oval postmark on reverse), arriving there on 19 December 1918. It was then sent to the Canadian Contingents Records Office (large square handstamp), and thence to the sender through the Ottawa Dead Letter Office (large oval on reverse).

It appears that this unlucky soldier was killed very close to the end of the war. There is another unfortunate aspect. Philatelists understand the term “dead letter”; however, I wonder what the

sender's reaction was, on receiving a letter marked "deceased" and seeing the dead letter office marking on reverse. Altogether a sad tale.



Registered military letter *deceased*, (November 1918)  
 Postage of 5¢ registration fee plus the equivalent of the domestic rate (to active duty soldiers).



Reverse of cover  
 The image has been cropped and reduced.



## Early AR to Germany

from John Rossiter

THE cover illustrated below is a 1913 registered AR cover from shows Winnipeg to Chemnitz (until recently known as Karl Marx Stadt) in Germany. This is quite early for a foreign destination AR cover, as only a handful of earlier ones are known from Canada (see whole number 2, Fall 1999, of the registration newsletter).

American terminology (*return receipt demanded*—this impolite form later became *return receipt requested*, or other variants) was used. Krippner was a stamp dealer (I—dh—think) and it appears that

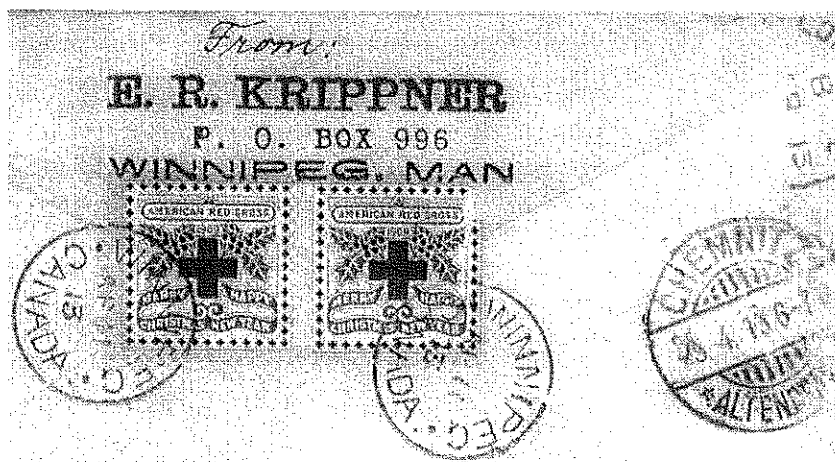
he made up the AR and the larger of the registration handstamps. This appears to be a quasi-philatelic cover. It was obtained as lot 2349 of 17 May 2000 Maresch Auction sale.

Of additional interest are the very early American Red Cross stickers on reverse. Similar ones have been going for a pretty penny recently on e-Bay.



AR to Germany (1913)

The AR fee was paid on the accompanying AR form (note the interruption of the London receiver on the reverse; the form was probably stuck down there), not on the cover; hence the postage made up of only the 5¢ UPU rate and 5¢ registration fee. The fancy and likely personal AR stamp is red, and the fancy registration handstamp is purple.



Reverse

The Red Cross cinderellas are green with a red cross. The image has been cropped.



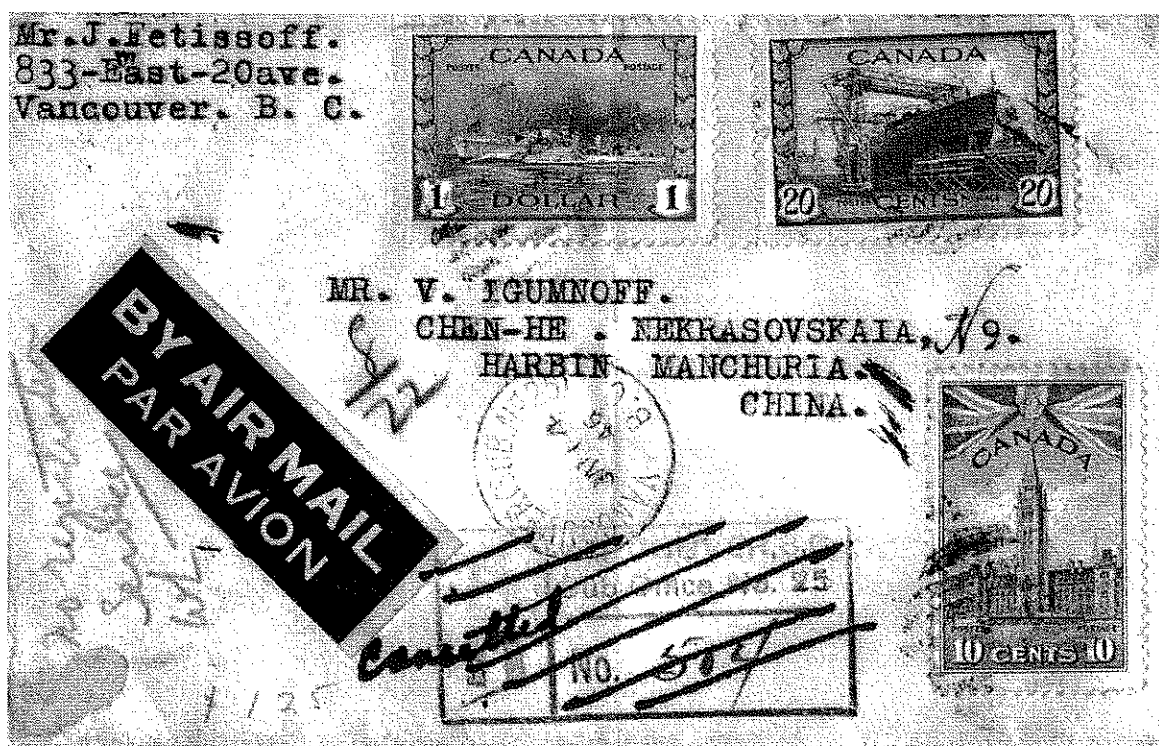
# A deregistered cover

David Handelman

**T**HE cover illustrated below is the only one I've ever seen wherein registration was cancelled (after having been paid for) because registration was not available at the destination office. Mailed 14 January 1946 at Vancouver sub 25, it was addressed to Harbin, Manchuria. The latter is well known to philatelists, as it was a major point on the trans-Siberian railway. During and after the Russian revolution, it was a gathering point for White Russians (opposed to the Communists). It subsequently was controlled by Japanese, who established the puppet state of Manchukuo.

In any event, the letter was charged 60¢ per quarter ounce airmail to China, and registered for an additional 10¢. The cover is backstamped at Vancouver (without the "sub") on the same day it was mailed, and then three days later was backstamped at Vancouver AMF. At some point along the way, someone observed that *No registration service* was available in Manchuria (endorsement at lower left), and struck through the registration handstamp with a broad pen. There are no foreign backstamps.

Although World War II had ended, the Chinese civil war was still taking place. Although this may not have affected Manchuria directly, there were obviously going to be problems. Perhaps someone with more knowledge of the situation there can tell us why registration was not available.



To Harbin with registration cancelled (1946)

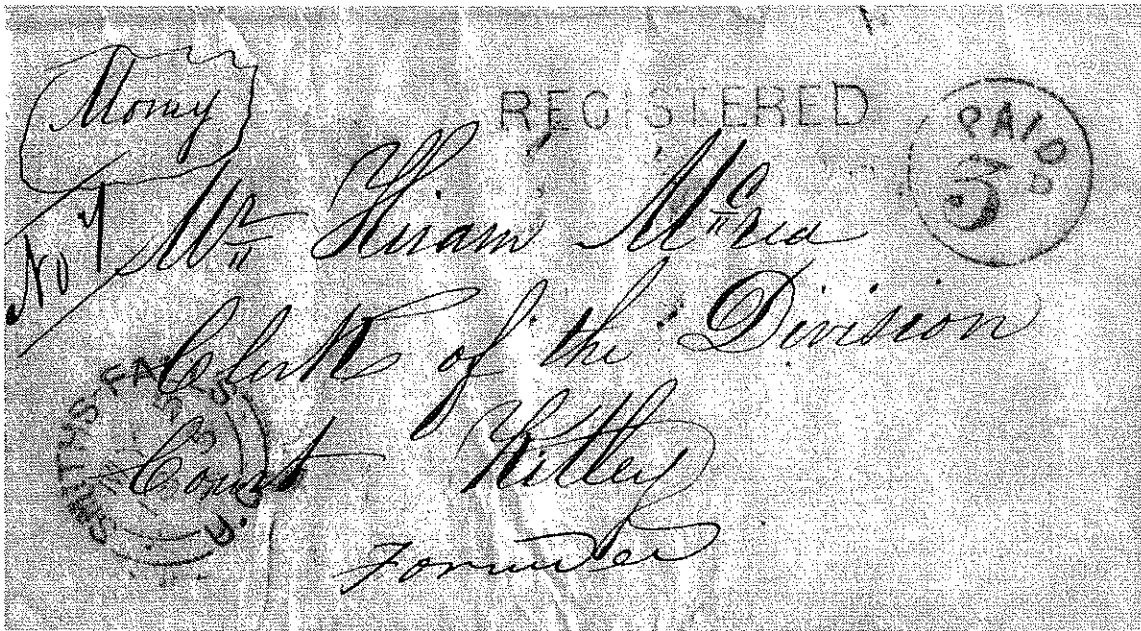
Both the sender and the receiver were Russian, reflecting the Russian presence until the 1920s.



# Really early registered letters

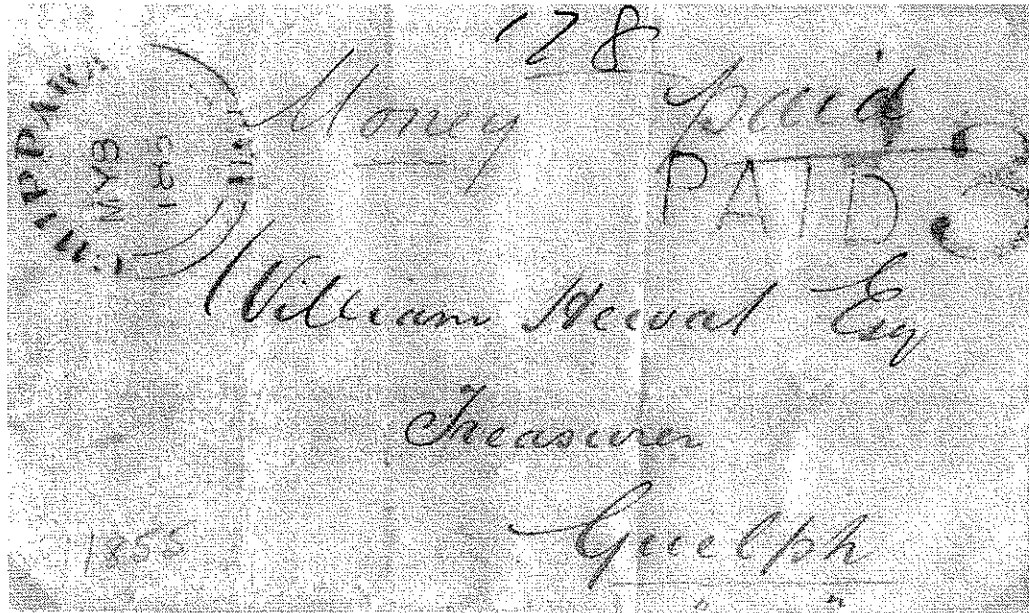
David Handelman

**J**OHNS Rossiter's article in this issue features an early registered cover, mailed 23 May 1855, about three weeks after (domestic) registration was instituted in Canada on 1 May 1855. Here are two *very* registered covers, dated 5 & 8 May 1855. The registration fee of 1d was paid in cash.



Smiths Falls to Kitley (5 May 1855)

Not surprisingly, the sender endorsed it *Money*, as the money letter system had terminated less than a week earlier. The letter is datelined *Elmsley 6 May 1855* (!), and the backstamps are at Kitley (the original destination) on 5 May 1855—so the letter writer had the date wrong—and at Frankville (whither it was forwarded) dated two days later.



Chippawa to Guelph (8 May 1855)

The date is verified by the dateline. Marked *Money*, but *not* marked registered—nonetheless, it must have been registered. (The registration number—178—does not by itself guarantee that the cover was registered, as these were commonly applied in the money letter period.)

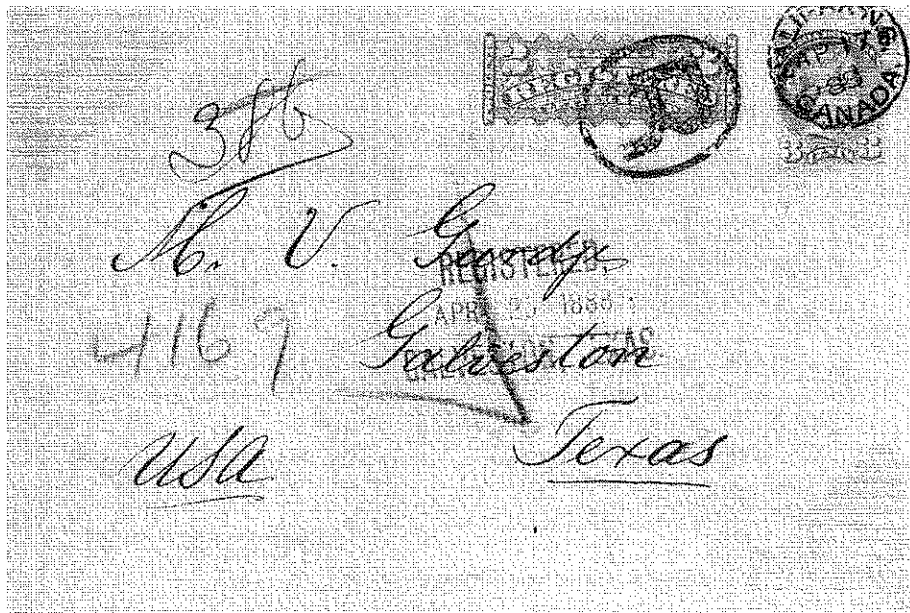




# A call for help

George Arfken

IN the 1880s, the registry fee for a first class letter from Canada to the United States was 5¢, at least for most of this time. However, for March 1888 (and for some covers, extending into April), the registry fee was 2¢, the same as the domestic registration fee. In a manuscript covering Canadian registered mail in the nineteenth century, we (Harrison, Arfken & Lussey) plan a listing of these anomalous 2¢ registered covers to the US in March and April 1888. Here is what we have from our own collections, supplemented with other reports.



2¢ registration fee to Galveston (17 April 1888)

This is cover #5 in the table.

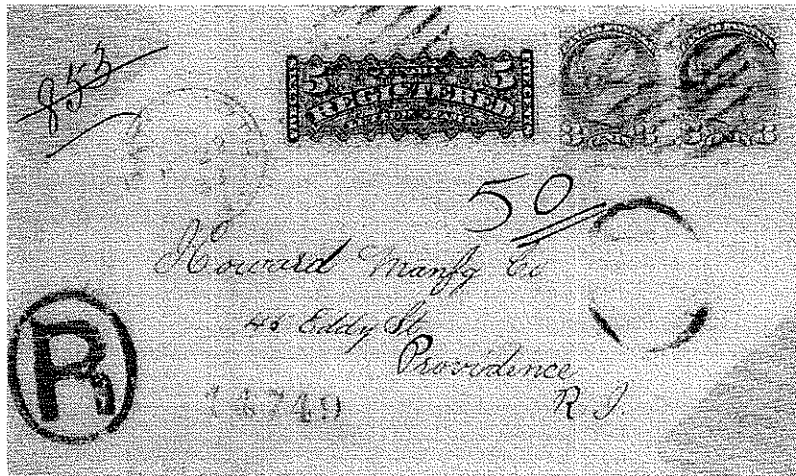
## April–March 1888 two cent RLS covers to the US

#	origin	destination	date (1888)
1	Hamilton	Providence	1 March
2	Calgary	San Francisco	7 March
3	Eardley QC	Providence	13 March
4	Edgar ON	Providence	17 March (1)
5	Halifax	Galveston TX	17 April
6	Lethbridge AB	Lynn MA	24 April
7	Montreal	Buffalo	24 April (2)
8	Glen William ON	Philadelphia	26 April

(1) David Handelman.

(2) Larry Paige; in this newsletter whole number 5 (Summer 2000); a corner cover.

This table is pathetically short. We would be delighted to list your March–April 1888 2¢ registered covers to the US in our book. Please send a photocopy to George Arfken, 2701 Regency Oaks N 504, Clearwater FL 33759 USA. Your help in lengthening this table will be much appreciated and will be acknowledged in the forthcoming book (unless you wish to remain anonymous). Please use regular mail for the photocopy. I do not accept e-mail attachments. [Why not?—dh] For any nonattachment e-mail correspondence, my e-mail address is garfken1@tampabay.rr.com



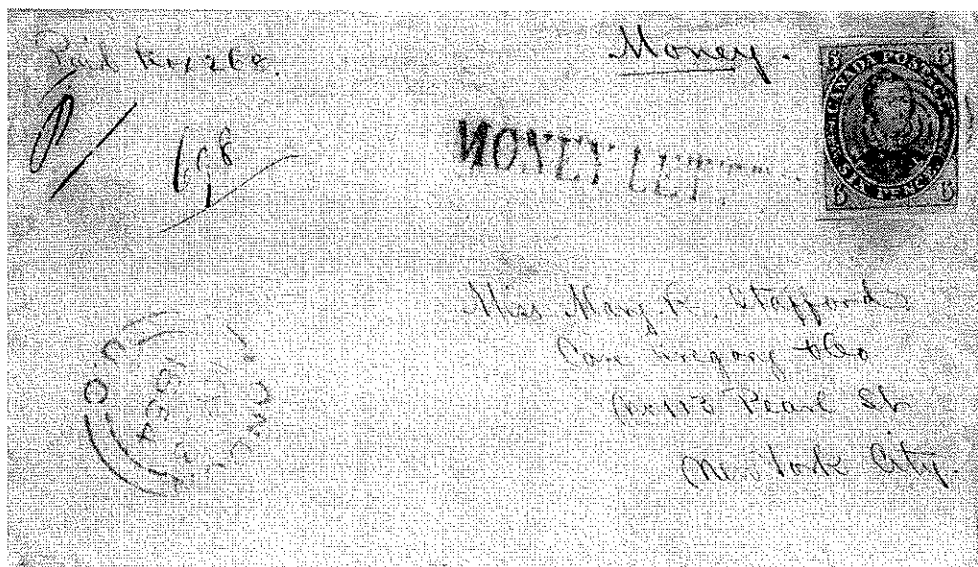
### Overpayment of 2¢ registration fee (22 March 1888)

This is not listed in the table. The sender apparently overpaid the registration fee by 3¢. [Two possible explanations come to mind—(a) this was a parcel post letter, for which the registration fee remained at 5¢; this is consistent with the remaining 6¢ postage paid, or (b) the letter was triple rate and the post office erroneously permitted part of the RLS to be used to pay the regular postage.—dh]. From the Horace Harrison collection.



## Pence covers to the US

**P**ENCE covers are the Cadillacs (or Rolls-Royces) of Canadian postal history. They're nice to look at (but don't touch). Two are from Horace's collection. Domestic registration began 1 May 1855, with a fee of 1d. Registration to the us was not available until 1 October 1856, and at that time, the fee was 3d. However, as we saw in an earlier newsletter, money letters from Canada were often accorded extra protection in the us about this time.



### Money letter (1854)

This cover was recently given a good certificate ("genuine in all respects") by the Greene Foundation. The 6d postage to the us is paid by Scott #2. From London uc to New York. —dh



**Registration within Canada only (19 March 1856)**

The 6d postage to the us is paid with a pair of beavers; the 1d registration fee (registered only within Canada) was paid in cash. From Oakville to New York.



**Registration paid by a stamp (18 September 1857)**

The 3d registration fee to the us is paid with a beaver. Mailed from StCatherines to Buffalo. The ms 15 cts represents the equivalent in American currency.



# The back page

## Hot Flashes

Sorry, nothing I could think of.

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## Other stuff

I have heard a large number (more than two) of complaints about the current system of registration in Canada—registered letters being left in the mail box without being signed for, or loss of registered items from abroad, etc. (Not to mention the ridiculous cost of foreign registration—\$8.) Have people noticed this, or is this just anecdotal?

**BNAPEx 2001:** There will be a meeting of the registration study group at **BNAPEx 2001** in Ottawa this year. Please bring material for discussion, or else Horace will tell more stories.

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As usual, we need more material. 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**).

The *Registry* was prepared in *the* typesetting language (plain) **TpX** ("tek"), on a Macintosh, using the **ITC 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.

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**M**EMBERSHIP 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 #6 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!