

# The Registry

Registration study group

Newsletter of the BNAPS registration study group

*Secretary:* David Handelman—e-mail: dhandelman1@email.com (home), dehsg@uottawa.ca (office) ☉ Mathematics Dept, University of Ottawa, Ottawa ON K1N 6N5 CANADA

*Editor:* Vic Willson—e-mail: LLOYDWILL@aol.com ☉ PO Box 10026, College Station TX 77842 USA

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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, and for a change, there is balance in the periods covered (if not the authors), although the articles are very short. 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.



## Oopsies

I received the following letter from John Fretwell:

Just a note to say I enjoyed the Winter issue of the *Registry*, and thank you for another good read. I also wanted to mention that the two items, on the early registered Saugeen and the early AR to Germany that I sent in are listed under the byline of one John Rossiter.

My apologies to John ~~Rossiter~~ Fretwell, for confusing the two Johns.



# Another dropped registered letter

David Handelman

ONE of the most exhilarating feelings is to find an item in an experienced postal history dealer's stock that is underdescribed, i.e., its description misses a major feature. Allan called this "scoring," and he scored plenty of covers from other dealers; but he didn't mind, in fact, he trumpeted it, when a collector scored on him. Anyway, the cover illustrated here is a minor example.

The cover is a 1919 Admiral cover to France, with the proper postage (5¢ registration fee and 5¢ UPU rate) franked somewhat unusually with five 2¢ stamps. It was mailed from a small Saskatchewan town, Val Marie, and the purple original number handstamp has a very small registration number—4. There is a moderately late use of the large R in oval (but this is nothing special, since examples are known well into the 1970s). The cover is backstamped at Winnipeg, London (England), and the destination, Plomodiern (arrondissement Finistère) in France.



Saskatchewan to France (1919)

What makes this cover so interesting (to me, at any rate) is the manuscript in the lower left corner: in indelible purple pencil, it reads *drop*. This does not refer to a drop (i.e., local) letter, but to the fact that the cover was dropped in the mailbox with the proper postage for registration, and not taken to the counter to get a receipt. [In some other jurisdictions, e.g., United Kingdom, it would have been stamped or endorsed "posted out of course", and several pence postage due would have been assessed. In Canada, the rule was that if it was properly franked for registration, it was to be registered, at no extra charge.]

Horace shows a DRO P handstamp in his classic book (I have two copies of the book now, they seem to have multiplied since I last looked for it), but I've never seen one used on cover. I have seen a few of the *drop* ms, and pick them up whenever I can.



# A forgotten receipt

David Handelman

IN contrast to the previous registered cover which was dropped in the mail box without obtaining a receipt, the following note and attached receipt shows how careful postmasters could be with registered material.

CANADA POST OFFICE

To: *Joseph Brewster  
Inglewood*  
From: *Postmaster  
Brampton*

*The boy who registered your letter forgot to wait for his receipt.*

*I enclose it herewith*

*Chas. Collett*



**CERTIFICATE FOR POST OFFICE REGISTRATION**  
This receipt is necessary if enquiry is desired

Date: *APR 15 1878* No. *362*  
Postmaster: *Chas. Collett*

FEE if more than 10c.

STAMP

MAXIMUM INDEMNITY PAYABLE:  
INTERNATIONAL - \$ 5.65 for loss only.  
UNITED STATES - \$25.00 for loss only.  
GREAT BRITAIN - £ 9.65 for loss or rifling.  
CANADA - 10c. fee \$25; 20c. fee \$50; 30c. fee \$75; 50c. fee \$100; for loss, rifling or damage.

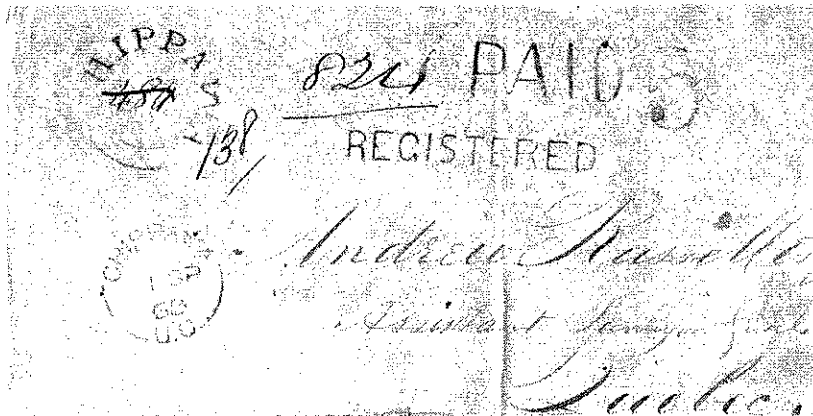
503-1,000,000-11-2-35

The memo at left was attached to the registration receipt above with a pin. It reads *The boy who registered your letter forgot to wait for his receipt. I enclose it herewith.* From the postmaster at Brampton to Joseph Brewster, Inglewood.

## Late use of the 1829 hammers

David Handelman

IN [1, p 232], there is a reference to a revival of the Chippawa 1829 cancel. This a small double broken circle, originally misspelled Chippaiva, then corrected; normal use for the corrected version is 1837-1842. Although I wrote that paragraph, I had never seen the revival. It is used on the 1868 cover illustrated here to enclose the registration number.



Chippawa revival (1868)

On a stampless registered cover with the 5¢ domestic postage and 2¢ registration fee paid in cash.

[1] W Bruce Graham *Ontario broken circles*, PHSC (2000) Ottawa.

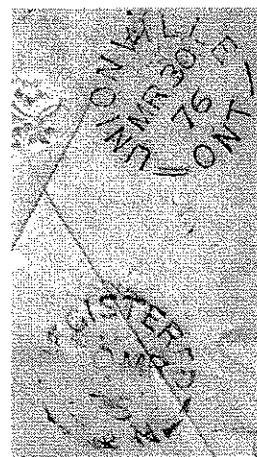
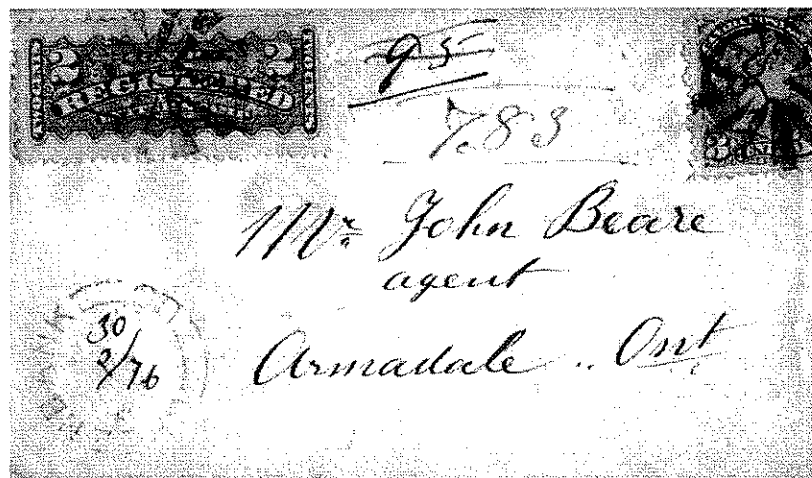


# Early 2¢ RLS covers

George Arfken

THE response to my call for help (2¢ RLS covers to the United States) in the last *Registry* (p 9) has been most helpful. Thanks to Len Belle, David Handelman, Larry Paige, and Don Shorting, the table has grown from a pathetic six to a more respectable twelve. More reports will be welcomed.

This time, we're after *early* 2¢ RLS covers. The Arfken, Harrison, Lussey book will include a table on early 2¢ RLS domestic covers, tentatively December 1875–April 1876. [*The date of issue is usually reported as 15 November 1875, but no genuine November covers have been recorded—dh*] December 1875 is probably complete, but there may well be other covers for January 1876 that have not been reported, and February is wide open. If you have such a cover to be added to the table, please get in touch with me at 2701 Regency Oaks, Apt N-504, Clearwater FL 33759-1577, or contact me by e-mail at garfken1@tampabay.rr.com (the character before @ is a one).



## Greenbank to Armadale (30 March 1876)

The ms date resembles 30/2/76, but the backstamps show the month is March. Part of the Beare correspondence, which seems to account for a significant fraction of the early RLS covers. The Greenbank double broken circle is in red. The “registered” dater appears to be the T&N RPO, but I could be mistaken. —dh

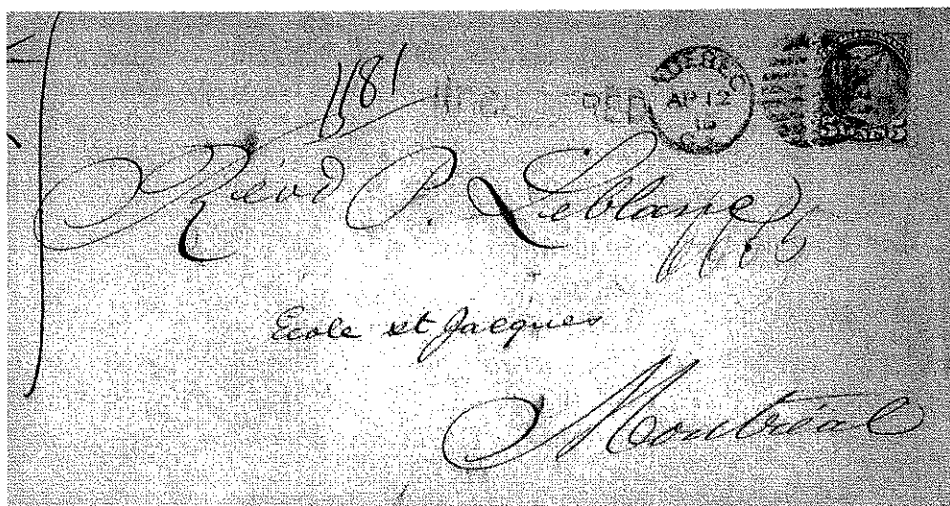
## Early two cent RLS covers, DE 1875–AP 1876

Date	origin	destination	Reference
15 DE 1875	Newmarket ON	Armadale ON	[1, p 62]
18 DE	Upper Gaspereaux NB	Gagetown NB	Paige; [2, p 46]
31 DE 1875	Clarksburg ON	Collingwood ON	[2, p 47]
17 JA 1876	Bobcaygeon ON	Toronto	Paige; [2, p 48]
19 JA	St Jacobs ON	Waterloo ON	[2, p 51]
27 JA	Stouffville ON	Armadale ON	[3, p 136]
11 MR 1876	Simcoe ON	Toronto	[2, p 50]
30 MR	Greenbank ON	Armadale ON	D Handelman
13 AP 1876	Little Current ON	Manitowaning ON	[2, p 50]
15 AP	Arnprior ON	Toronto	Paige
17 AP	Markdale ON	Toronto	[2, p 47]
22 AP	Newcastle NB	Moncton NB	[2, p 55]

### References

- [1] G Arfken *Canada's small queen era 1870–1897*, VG Greene Foundation (1989) Toronto.
- [2] H W Lussey registration exhibit, BNAPS exhibit book #9.
- [3] H Harrison registration exhibit, Hennok (?).

Of course, use of the RLS was not compulsory until later in 1876. In *Topics* #1 (2000), the editor showed a 5¢ large queen being used to pay the combined registration and domestic rates, just after the 2¢ RLS had been issued. When the 5¢ small queen was issued slightly later, it was a convenient stamp to pay the combined rate. An example is illustrated below.



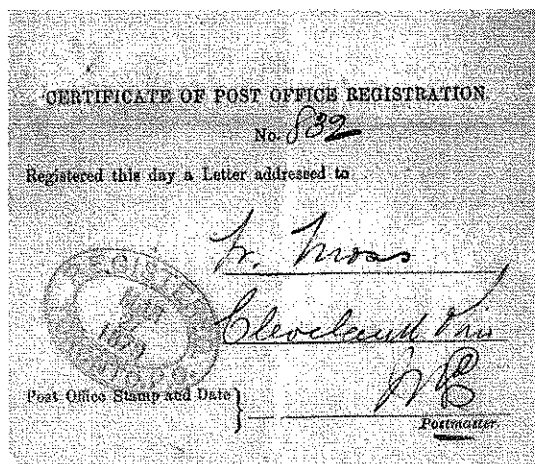
Combined registration & domestic rate (12 April 1876)  
 Paid by single 5¢ small queen. Holmes records the date  
 of issue as February 1876. —dh



## Early(?) Toronto double oval

David Handelman

IN a recent number of *Topics* (#4, 2000), Horace described some nineteenth century oval registration markings, mentioning in passing the weird double oval Toronto dater. I put in an image of one (taken from the unique first AR form) at the end of the article. The known use seemed to have been 1883–1887. I was quite astonished when I found a registration receipt showing one of these cancels in 1879 in Hank Narbonne's stock. The cancel is otherwise scarce to rare, but this seems extremely early. It is in blue, as usual.



Registration receipt (27 March 1879)

With the scarce blue double oval Toronto PO registered dater, on a receipt for a registered cover addressed to Cleveland. Anyone else have examples of this cancel?



# Free military registered, from Newfoundland

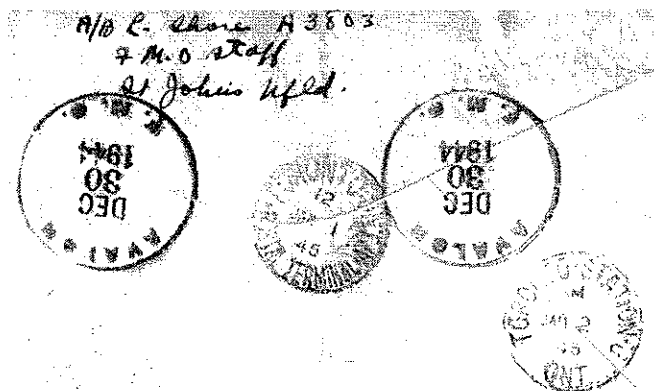
David Handelman

PERHAPS someone could explain the 1944 cover below. Postmarked Avalon FMO (Fleet Mail Office) in St John's, it was obviously written by a (Canadian) sailor, in fact on the FMO staff (according to the return address). It was subject to Canadian naval censorship (handstamped, FROM . . . EXAMINED BY DB/N 501, and registered airmail—with *all* postage paid, according to the Newfoundland triangular handstamp. Also applied was a typical customs clearance (National Revenue Postal Branch) handstamp, at Toronto.



Free registered from Newfoundland (1944)  
The triangle, rectangle, and large circle cancels are all in deep blue. The censor handstamp is in dull purple.

We should remember that Newfoundland was not yet part of Canada (which explains the revenue handstamp); nonetheless, it was presumably part of the deal of having a Naval station that active duty sailors would have free postage to Canada. However, this did not include registration (or airmail). That the sender was on the FMO staff presumably made it possible. It's still confusing.



Reverse

The Avalon FMO handstamp is in the same shade of blue as the other cancels.

When I see the name "Butler" on a Newfoundland-related cover, I immediately think of the stamp dealer (and priest). Is it possible that the addressee was related to him?



# Big city registered drop letters

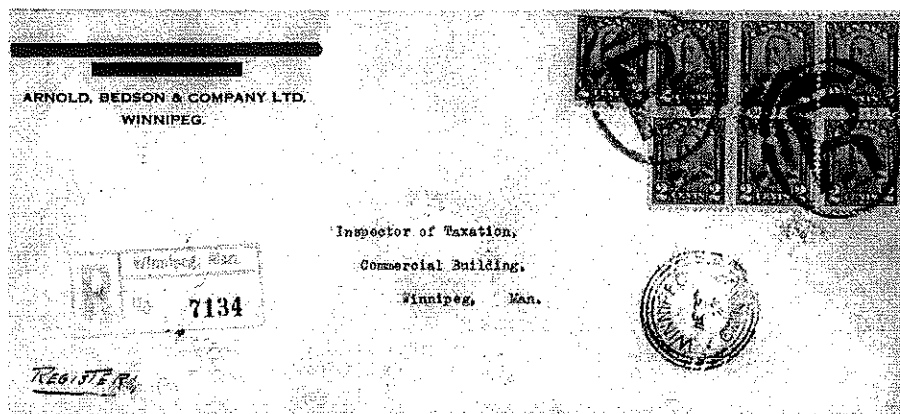
David Handelman

THE popular myth is that Canadian registered drop letters are scarce to rare. Possibly this might apply to nineteenth century material, although even then a registered drop letter from Toronto is of interest but no big deal. We expect that a great deal of mail from a large city will be destined to that city, and since there will be a lot of business mail, we anticipate a lot of local registered letters. On the other hand, registered drop letters mailed from small towns—where everyone knows everyone else—really do appear to be scarce.

However, what seems to be very scarce are multiple rate drop letters, even mailed from larger centres. I found a number of interesting covers in Ian Kimmerley's store recently. All are large registered drop letters mailed at Winnipeg in 1929, all are addressed to the Inspector of income tax, so are commercial, and all are opened on three sides (this is done to check that no cheques or cash were left inside). All are hit with the ubiquitous three-ring Winnipeg orb, and two with the huge purple R in oval.

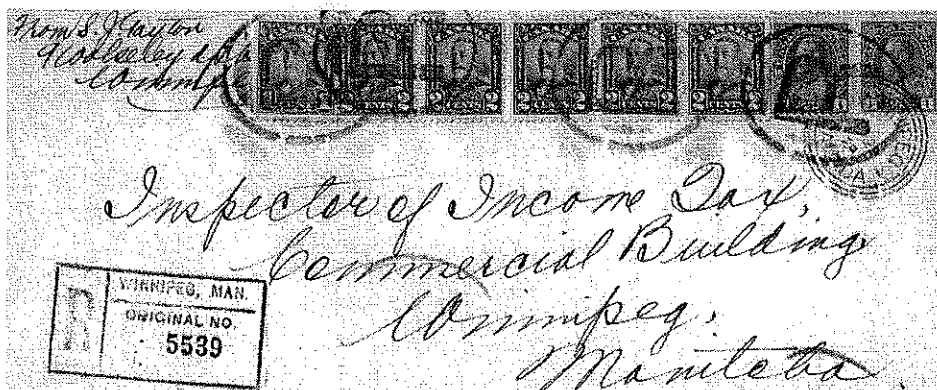
At this time, the drop letter rate was 2¢ for the first ounce, and 1¢ for each additional (there was a 1¢ per ounce rate for non-carrier mail, but this appears to have been made obsolete by 1915, and is a moot point here). This was in effect during the period 1915–1943. The domestic rate was 2¢ per ounce. Thus only multiple weight (as opposed to single rate) drop letters could be distinguished from regular domestic covers by the postage paid. The registration fee was of course 10¢ (1920–1951), and the AR fee was also 10¢, but this was paid on the accompanying AR card, not the cover.

The first cover is rated 14¢, which at first glance would seem to be double rate registered. However, because it is a drop letter, it is actually *triple* rate. The second one is rated 13¢ which seems odd, but now we know that it is double rate. The use of the 1¢ Admirals is not surprising in 1929.



Registered triple drop letter (1929)

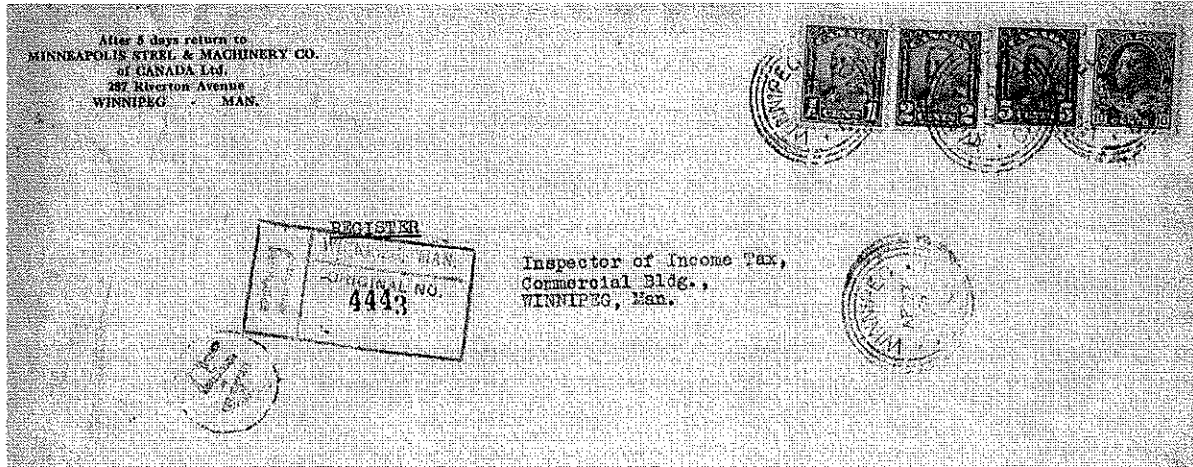
Seven 2¢ scroll paying 14¢ postage made up of 10¢ registration fee, and drop letter rate of 2¢ for the first ounce, and 1¢ for each additional.



Registered double drop letter (1929)

Five 2¢ scroll, a 1¢ scroll, and two 1¢ Admirals.

The third cover is really quite remarkable. It is an AR cover, which does not affect the postage paid on the cover (as noted above), and it is rated 18¢. If this was calculated correctly, it would mean a septuple rate drop letter. It is possible (but difficult) to stuff seven ounces of papers into an envelope this size (somewhat larger than the other two), but I suspect that it was rated incorrectly as a quadruple domestic cover. The envelope does not look sufficiently stressed to have contained seven ounces, and it is made of ordinary paper, not of light canvas or heavily-sized paper, nor are there any wax seals which would contribute to the weight. Obviously, the 10¢ Admiral had been lying around the office for several years waiting to be used.

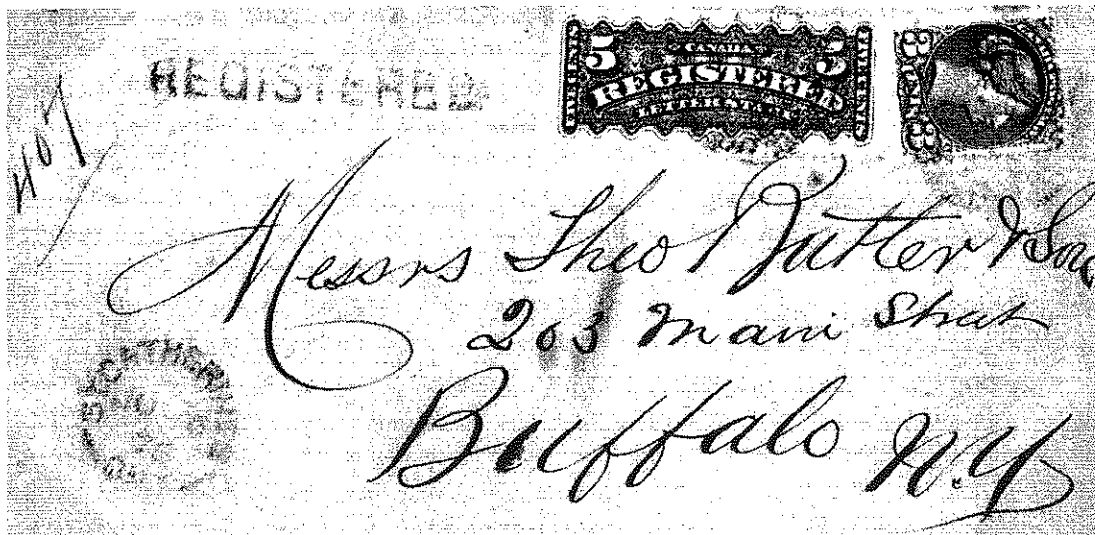


Septuple drop or quadruple domestic? (1929)  
The Winnipeg rectangular registration handstamp is the same as that of the 13¢ cover, but differs from that of the other one.



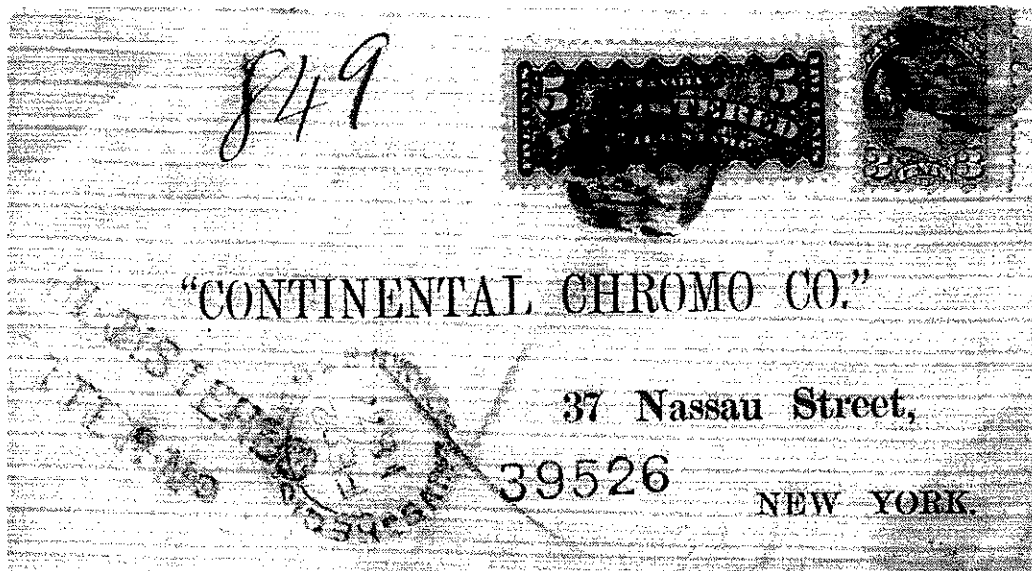
## A couple of early 5¢ RLS covers

COMPLEMENTARY to George Arfken's article in this issue, here are a couple of early 5¢ RLS covers, from the Horace Harrison collection. Needless to say, these are *much* scarcer than their 2¢ counterparts. An article by George some time ago in *Topics* recorded 5¢ RLS covers, and they turned out to be very scarce in the pre-1880 period.



St Catherines to Buffalo (6 June 1876)





Saint John to New York (22 February 1877)

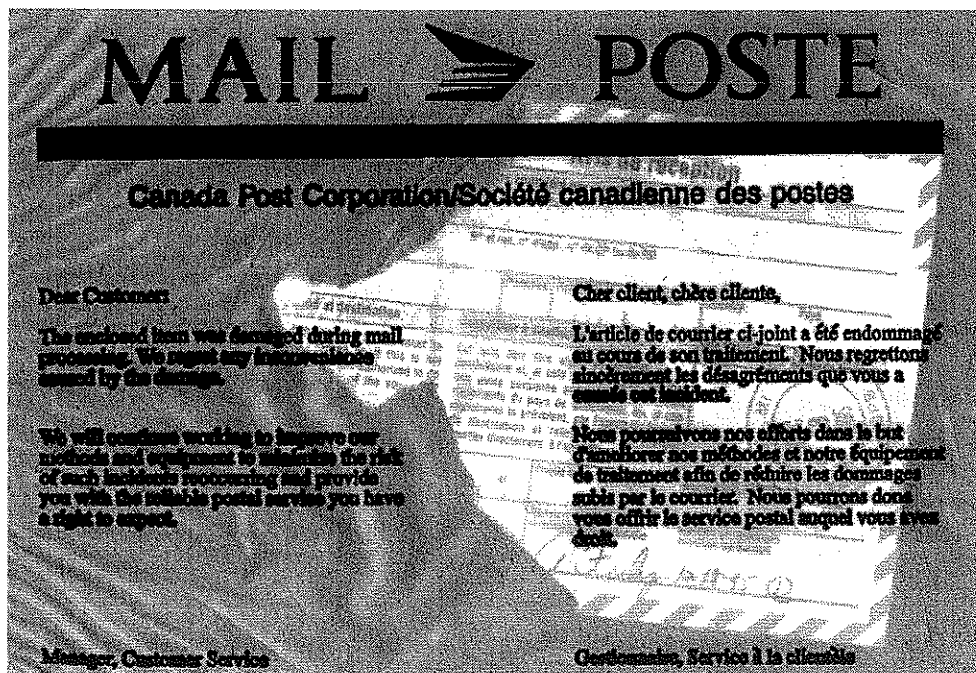
With the fancy (but fairly common) Saint John registered date, and the two line registered letter number handstamp so popular in the Maritimes.



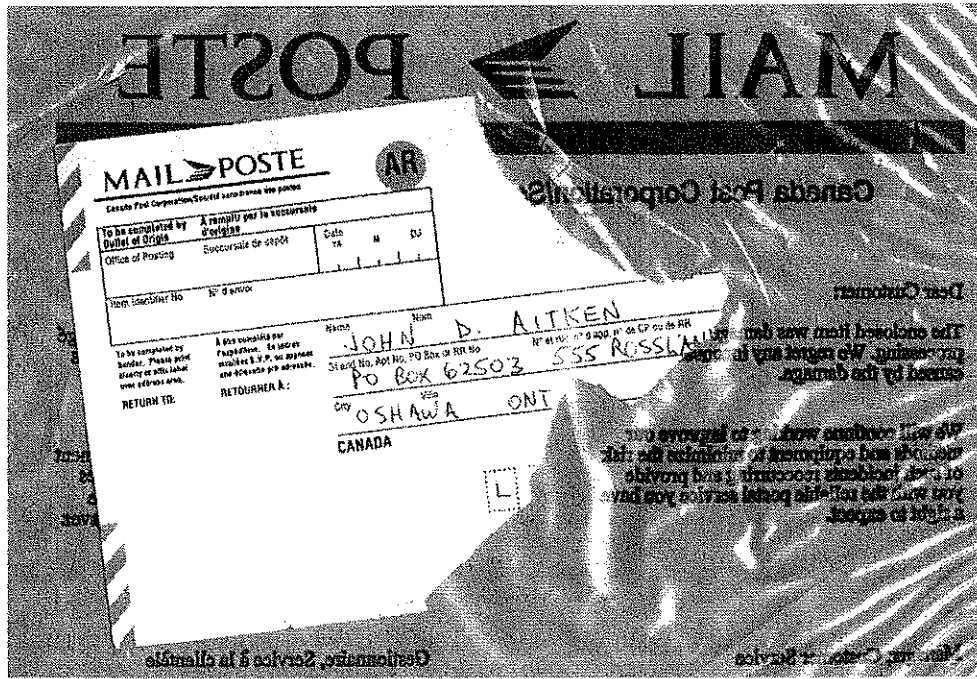
## A bizarre combination

David Handelman

**C**OURTESY of John Aitken, here is a so-called “ambulance” (plastic) wrapper for damaged mail matter, this one containing what’s left of an AR card. Properly signed by Charles Firby in 1995, it started out life as a quasi-philatelic item.



Front view (1995)



Back view



## Early registered to India

from Jeff Switt

**T**HE cover shown below, dated 1890 is one of a couple of known RLS covers to India. The postage was 5¢ registration fee plus 10¢ surcharged UPU rate, *via Brindisi*. At this time, a RLS had to be used on registered mail, but it did not have to pay the full registration fee, which could be made up in regular stamps. This is *not* part of the Baskerville correspondence.



Ottawa to India (1890)  
London registered transit mark applied in red.



# Not so early ovoids

David Handelman

EL Supremo's recent article in *Topics* (not to mention the *Canadian Philatelist*, *Maple Leaves*, & the *PHSC Journal*—have I missed any, Horace?) on early oval registration daters suggested to me that someone (not me, I have enough to do already) should be keeping track of the later ovals as well. Here are some illustrations, and of course more can be found in Horace's primordial book. Whereas the nineteenth century ovals were fairly standard, the later ones seem to be of varying shapes and sizes. The colours vary through red, blue, purple, turquoise, and intermediate shades, with the same office changing colours over short periods—hence, I don't regard colours as significant, except that very few of the twentieth century ovals are in black. More will appear in the next issue. (I've found them as late as 1975!) I shouldn't have to egg people on to send me illustrations.



## A selection of early 20th century ovals

From left to right, they are: Regina (1908), House of Assembly Toronto (1909), Bathurst NB (1914), Trois Rivières (1914), the huge Trois Rivières (1916), Prince Albert (1915), St John NB (1916), Toronto (1915), Morrisburg (1915), the weirdly shaped Truro (1912), Sussex NB (1913), Cochrane ON (1916), Haileybury ON (1909), & Port Arthur (1911). The odd colours make it very difficult to scan most of these properly.



# The back page

## Hot Flashes

**T**HOSE bastards! They've killed AR. (Since not everyone has seen the off-colour but hilarious US TV show *South Park*, let me explain that this satirizes the programme, and is not gratuitous profanity.) From 1 January 2001, domestic AR service is no longer available in Canada. There does exist a very expensive after-the-fact signature service (\$5), but who is going to use it at that price? International AR service is still possible, although at \$9 for registration alone, use will likely be minimal. Canada Post probably would like to do away with that too, but is somewhat bound by UPU rules.

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## Other stuff

**E**VERY now and then, I've heard about registered mail to Canada from abroad being stolen or "misplaced". I've never experienced this problem, but others have. Recently I've heard rumours of problems again, but I don't know if they have any basis.

**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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**A**s 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) T<sub>E</sub>X ("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 #7 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—abroad!—and register your postcards!