

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, 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.



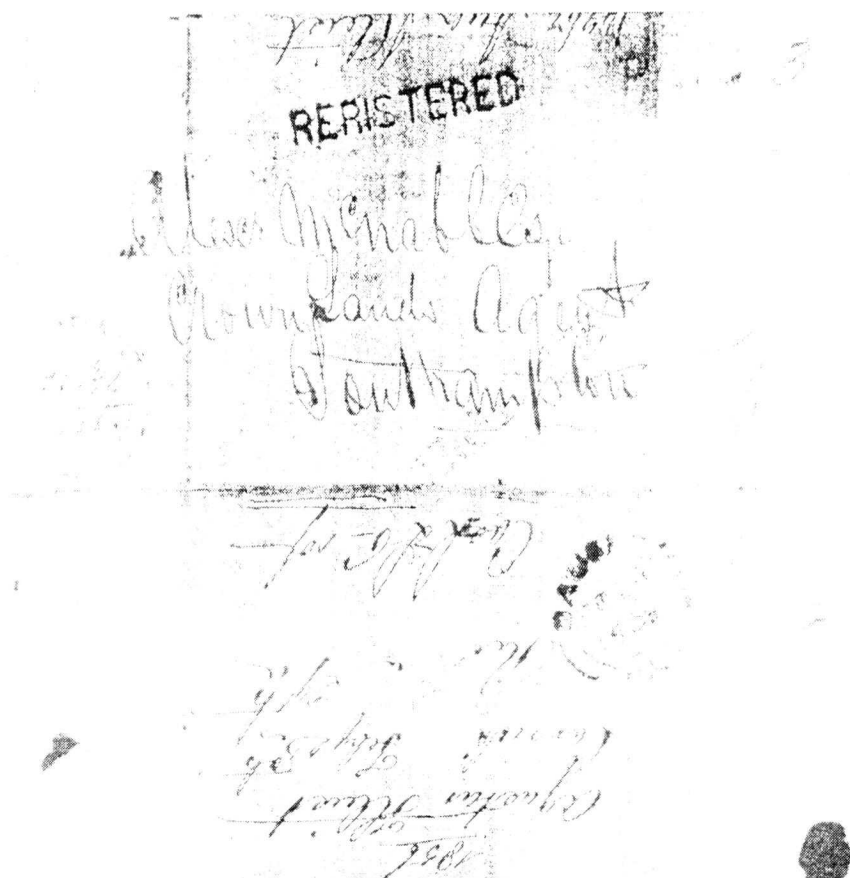
Herbert Trenchard

Reristered, again

Len Belle

THIS is in response to Horace's article on the RERISTERED handstamp in Newsletter #6. Below is a photocopy of a cover in my collection, which I think and hope is genuine. It is yet another from the McNabb correspondence and is dated 28 February 1856.

Once again, there are no registration numbers; however, according to the docketing on reverse, the letter contained *Cash £6 10/-*, so presumably it was registered. There is a second, faint RERISTERED handstamp across the address which seems to be an offset from another letter [*No, it isn't backwards—dh*]. It measures 42.4 mm×6 mm. The faint PAID marking (upper right) is in red. [*The more I see these, the more skeptical I am of the genuineness of any of them.—ed*]



Fred strikes again? (February 1856)

This one is not handstamped at Brantford, but at nearby Brant. Fairly early registered cover.



Yukon and the law

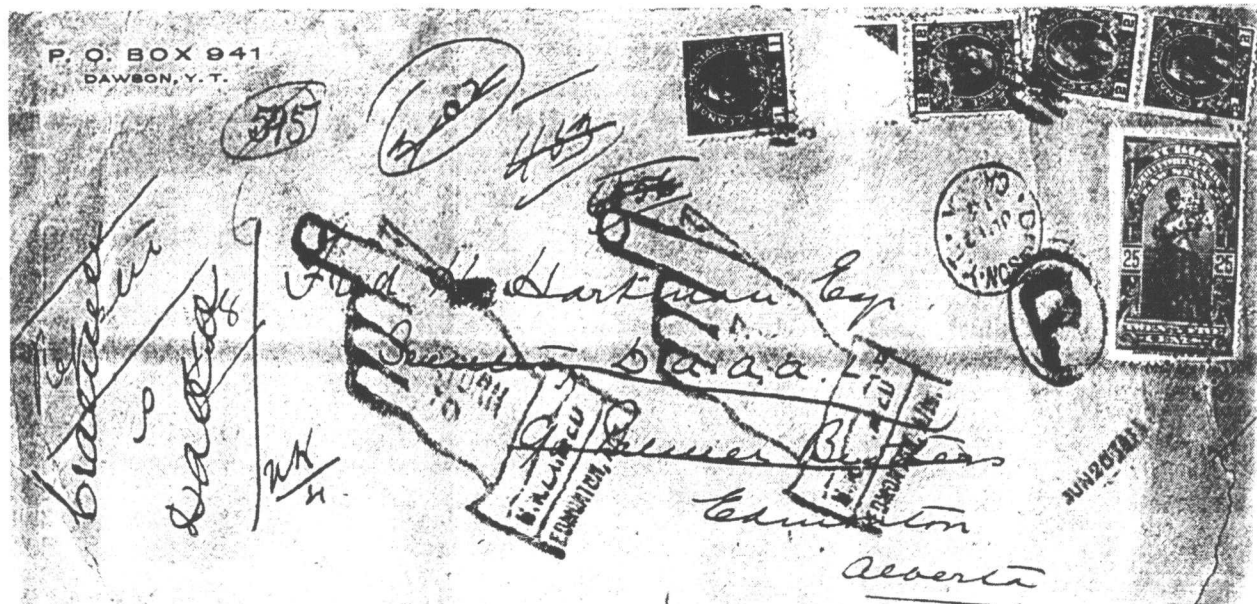
from Everett Parker

READING Gray Scrimgeour's article in the Fall 2000 issue of the *Registry* reminded me of a cover in my collection. It is an early Yukon registered letter (but much later than the 1898 cover in the article), but with a similar R cancel. Although it is in rather dilapidated condition, it is quite remarkable, in that it figured in a court case, and a territorial law stamp was applied to it.

Mailed from Dawson in 1913 with 9¢ in postage (originally), it must have weighed 2 ounces (5¢ registration fee plus 2¢ per ounce). It was addressed to Edmonton, and went via Vancouver (next day), Calgary & Vancouver RPO (11 days later), and then Edmonton (next day). It was returned unclaimed, according to the large finger. There are no backstamps for any part of the return journey [*weird—dh*].

There is a handstamp on the back indicating that the cover (and presumably its contents) had

been used as Exhibit A in an affidavit filed with the "Territorial Court of the Yukon Territory". The portion of the cover with the stamp has been hit with a perforating CANCELLED canceller.



Dawson to Edmonton (June 1913)

The image of the 25 ¢ law stamp has been lightened for legibility.



Reverse of cover



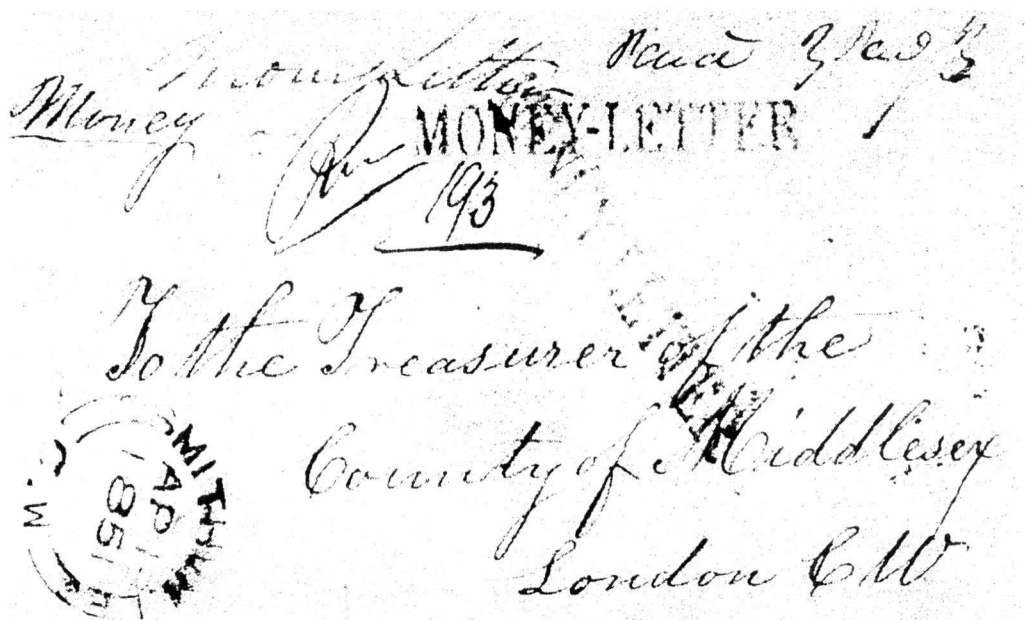
Double paid 3

Horace Harrison, El Supremo

THE illustrated cover was purchased from Hank Narbonne at Schaumburg (August 2000). It is a money letter from Grimsby to London mailed 17 April 1851. This is in the period after the domestic rate had dropped to 3d per half ounce, but before the first stamps had been distributed to post offices. There is a manuscript *Money* endorsed by the sender, a red manuscript *Money Letter* endorsed by the Grimsby postmaster (the ink is the same as that of the *Paid 3* on the extreme right, and two red handstamps reading MONEY-LETTER, the diagonal one applied at Hamilton en route, and the horizontal one at London.

It arrived at London on a Sunday, 20 April 1851. There is what appears to be a manuscript *Rec*—I think this and the 193 were applied by the County Treasurer, and “*Rec*” means recorded. [I disagree. I have seen this *Rec* ms on many money letter covers, including some cross-border. I think that the 193 is its number in the registry book, and *Rec* could mean recorded or received, and it was applied by one of the receiving postmasters.—dh]

However, the most interesting thing about this cover is the duplicate rating—*Paid 3* is endorsed twice in the upper right corner, in the same handwriting [but in a different colour ink—the rightmost and first copy is in red, the second in black—this is consistent with Horace’s interpretation.]. I suggest that the postmaster rated it as a single letter on seeing it, but when he picked it up, it seemed heavier than normal, and on weighing it, found it was between one half and one ounce, so liable for double rate. Instead of crossing out the *Paid 3* and writing *Paid 6*, he simply wrote *Paid 3* again. Is there a more mundane explanation of the double *Paid 3*? Is my postal history imagination out of control? Let me know what you think.



Double *Paid 3* money letter (17 April 1851)



Modern extra indemnity

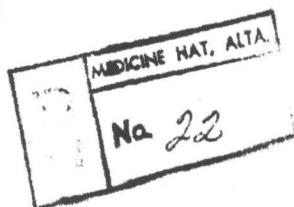
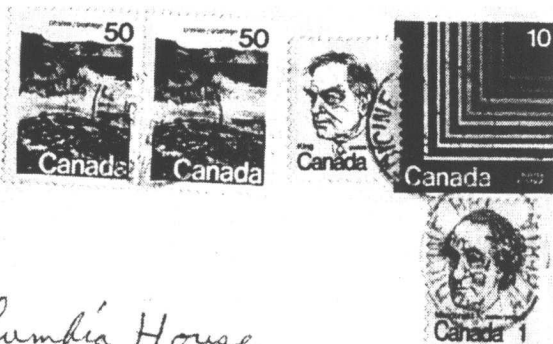
David Handelman

EXTRA indemnity on (domestic) registered letters is one of those things that does not shout at you (normally), but instead takes a while to determine. For most UPU entities (but not the US or Canada), international registered letters can be sent with *valeur déclarée*, a form of insurance. In these cases, the amount of the indemnity is actually written on the cover. Canadian registered letters are not supposed to have the value mentioned on the cover, possibly to avoid temptation of postal officials. So it becomes more difficult to decide, particularly on modern covers, whether the letter was sent with extra indemnity.

Here I show two 1970s registered covers which were likely sent with extra indemnity, but with an additional complication—they were sent with AR. For the period 1899–1974, the AR fee was supposed to be paid on the AR form or card. In the period 1975–1977, I have plenty of examples wherein the AR fee was paid on the cover, and plenty where it was not paid on the cover (hence paid on the AR card). After 1977, almost all AR covers have the fee paid on the cover. So it appears that 1975–77 was a transition period.

ROBERT TRANSTROM
ROUTE 5 BOX 24
MEDICINE HAT ALBERTA
T1A 7E5

R.I.



Columbia House
1111 Leslie St.
Don Mills, Ontario

Figure 1. (Probably) AR with extra indemnity (December 1976)

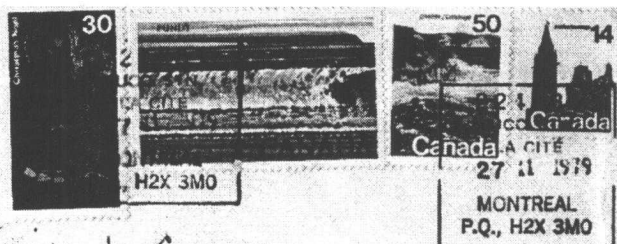
From Medicine Hat to Don Mills (a suburb of Toronto).
The manuscript R.I. appearing to the right of the return
address may mean *registered insured*—or it may not. The
50 was a dealer's price (in cents).

The cover in Figure 1 was mailed in December 1976, in the transition period, with \$1.15 in postage (including the 10¢ from the postal stationery). At this time (Smith *Selected Canadian postal rates* ...), the domestic rate was 10¢ for the first ounce, and then the fees went weird: 18¢ for the next ounce, and then 10¢ for each additional two ounces. The default registration (i.e., with minimal indemnity—\$50 at this time) was 75¢, then the next step (\$100 indemnity) was \$1.05. The AR fee was 20¢. If the AR fee were paid on the cover, there is no combination of registration and domestic rates that will make up the remaining 95¢ postage.

If we assume that the postage was correct (which is the case almost all the time), then the only combination that works is \$1.05 registration (with extra indemnity) and 10¢ first weight, with the AR fee paid on the card.

I had had this cover mounted for quite a while, with the explanation that the postmaster did not count the 10¢ printed stamp, and the charges were made up of default registration (75¢), AR fee (20¢), and under ounce domestic rate (10¢). This is possible, but not very likely. It was only recently that I happened to look at this cover again, and considered the possibility of extra indemnity.

DE: LOUIS ANDRÉ CHARTRAND
4115 L'ESPLANADE #1
MONTREAL, P.Q. H2W 1S9



CONSEIL MÉDICAL DU CANADA.



LE REGISTRAIRE
C.P. 8234, OTTAWA, CANADA,
K1G 3H7.

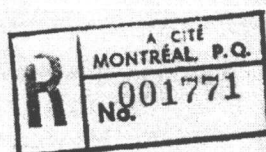


Figure 2. (Likely) AR with extra indemnity (February 1979)

Having re-examined one cover, I proceeded to look at other covers I had with weird explanations for their rates. The next one I came across appears in Figure 2. It shows a February 1979 registered AR cover with \$1.94 postage from Montreal to Ottawa. At this time, the AR fee was 30¢ and almost certainly would be paid on the cover, leaving \$1.64 to be accounted for. The registration fees at the time were \$1.25 for default registration (\$100 indemnity) with 25¢ for each additional \$100 indemnity, and the possible domestic rates were 14¢, 22¢, 34¢, 50¢ The only possible combination that adds up is registration with up to \$200 indemnity (\$1.50) and up to one ounce domestic rate (14¢). I had had no explanation for the rates on this cover, it was just one of those things ...

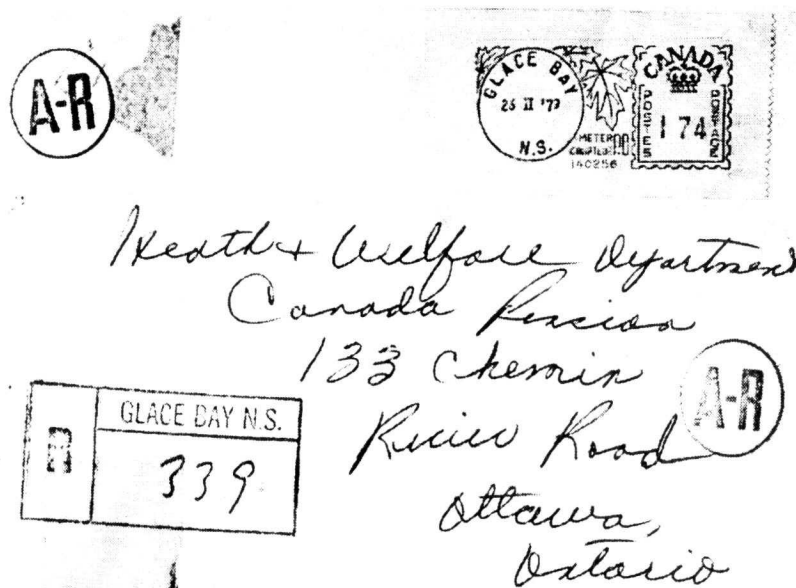


Figure 3. Clerical error? (February 1979)

The AR card had been attached using Scotch tape, hence the upper and lower stains.

The item in Figure 3 is confusing, to say the least. A February 1979 domestic AR cover (as in Figure 2) with \$1.74 in metered postage. With default registration, first ounce domestic rate and AR fee, the postage would be \$1.69—and I have quite a number in this rate period with this amount paid. This one is seemingly overpaid by 5¢. I guess that this is a case of miscalculation, because I can't think of any other explanation (the last resort of a postal historian is clerical error). I suppose that the meter was applied at the post office (not by the sender, a private citizen). If anyone has any better explanation, I'd be glad to hear it.

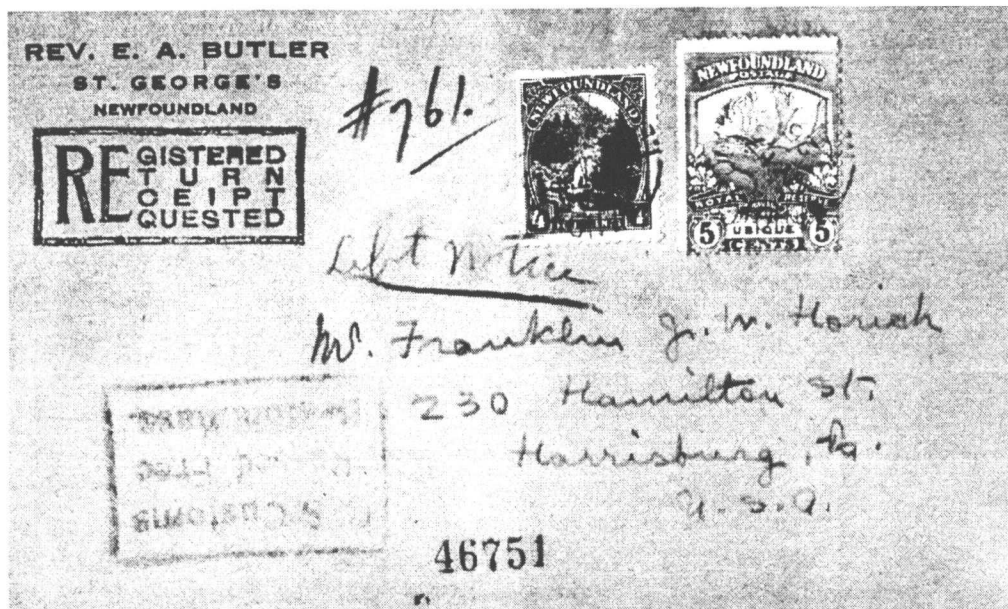


AR & the Reverend E A Butler

David Handelman

EVEN non-specialists in Newfoundland (like me) recognize the Reverend E A Butler, stamp dealer extraordinaire, whose name graces a large fraction of Newfoundland registered letters seen in the 1910-30 period. The one shown below however, has a fancy AR handstamp (*registered return receipt requested* is one of the many expressions on US domestic mail to mean AR).

I have seen this purple handstamp on Newfoundland registered mail several times, invariably on a Butler cover. Was it a private handstamp (made up by Butler) or a post office handstamp? Have readers seen any Newfoundland AR covers, forms or cards that are not Butlerisms? Was it the standard practice in Newfoundland to pay the AR fee on the cover or the AR card (assuming they had cards—most but not all jurisdictions had switched from forms to cards by 1923)? I don't know, but I would like to, as I am preparing a monograph on worldwide AR.



Butler's AR (1926)

The rate to the US was 4¢, the registration fee was 5¢, and the AR fee was 5¢ (according to a 1925 US postal guide). So it appears that the AR fee was paid on the AR card or form—however, it could be that a 5¢ stamp was missing from this cover. A close examination reveals no evidence that there ever was a stamp in the upper right corner, but it is difficult to say for sure.

The faint purple handstamp to the left of the address is a US customs stamp ("Passed Free Boston, Mass"), hit upside down.

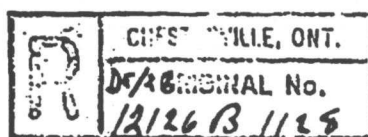


Chesterville registered ovals

Gordon M Fulton

I noticed the appeal for information on Canadian registration postmarks and enclose copies of the Chesterville oval registration cancel (my hometown, a small village 38 miles southeast of Ottawa) used during the 1940s and earlier. My Dad was the postmaster there from 1919 to 1951, and of course I was asked to help in the post office after school hours.

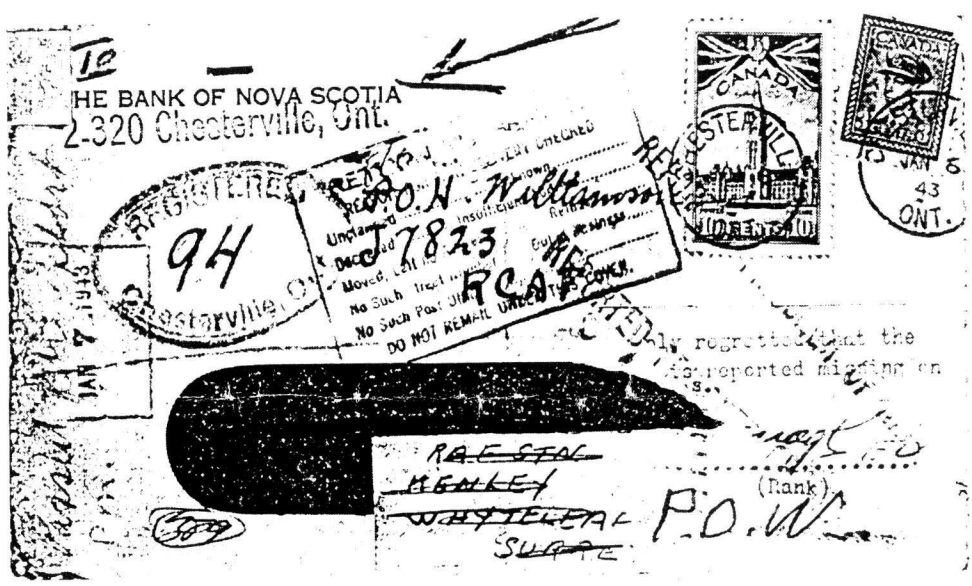
The oval cancellation on the cover below was used during World War II and earlier. I recall my dad saying the oval cancel was getting quite worn, and he ordered a new one, a rectangular one with a large R. I don't remember when the oval one was retired or when the rectangle arrived. There was a smaller oval cancel in use sometime in the early 1900s [Unfortunately the cover, dated November 1918 shows a strike too light to be reproduced here—ed]. It is similar to the sawtooth shown below but without the teeth.



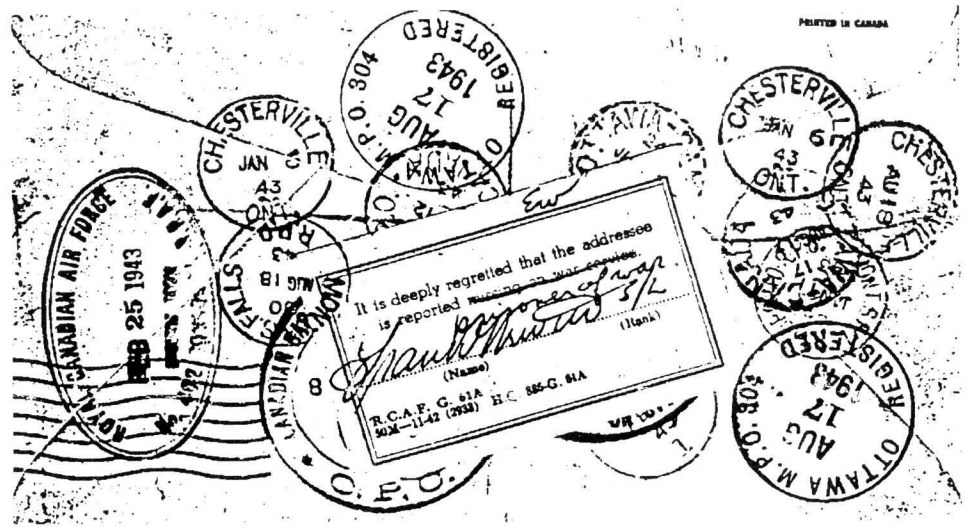
Early and latest Chesterville registration cancels

Both of these are from Hughes' proof strikes book.

The illustrated cover was to a Spitfire pilot shot down over France and taken prisoner. The letter from the Bank of Nova Scotia was mailed from Chesterville 6 January 1943 and returned there on 18 August. Note the RCAF oval of 25 Feb 1943, and the Ottawa MPO 904 registration cancel of 17 August 1943.



Recipient reported as prisoner of war (1943)
Domestic postage plus 10 ¢ registration fee.



Reverse



Shortpaid registered

David Handelman

THE current issue of *Topics* contains an article by Ron McGuire, in which he illustrates a short-paid registered letter (mine) from pre-1905 which was treated according to the regulations—it was sent to the Dead Letter Office and subsequently returned to sender. Figures 1 & 1(a) below illustrates another one of these, although with extra stuff.

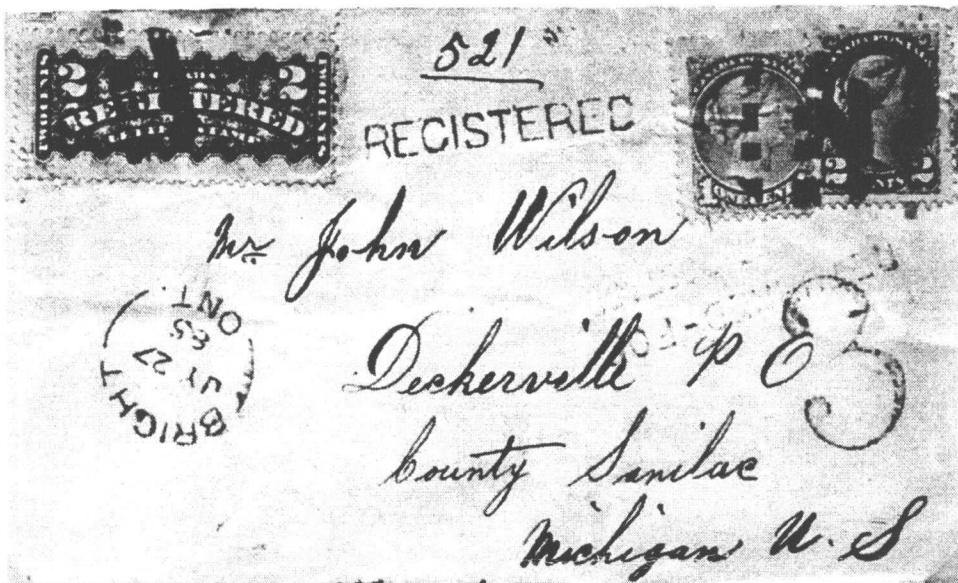


Figure 1. Shortpaid and returned (1885)

Mailed from Bright (ON) in 1885, it was franked with 3¢ in small queens paying the rate to the US, and a 2¢ RLS. Of course, a 5¢ RLS was required for a registered letter to the US (not simply 5¢ in postage to pay the registration fee). This was caught somewhere (why it was accepted at Bright is an interesting question), and a faint handstamp (inverted and just below the small queens) reading RETURNED-FOR PAYMENT-OF-POSTAGE applied, along with the amount deficient 3.

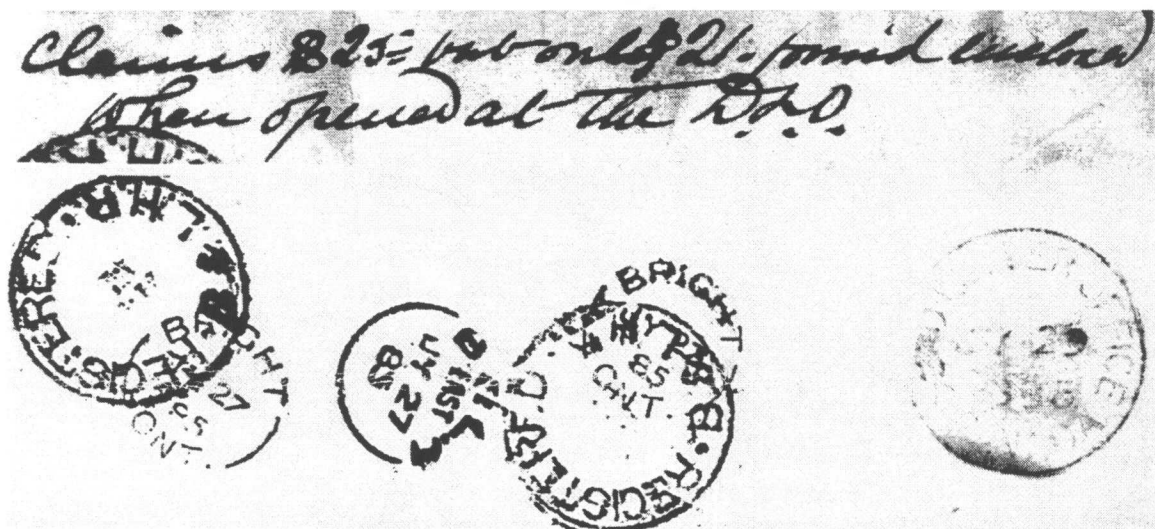


Figure 1(a). Reverse

With a registered handstamp (RG2) and a broken circle of B & LH Railway, and a faint DLO dater.

On the back, we see the endorsement *Claims \$25 but only \$21 found when opened at the D.L.O.* According to the backstamps, it was sent to the Dead Letter Office (faint date stamp at right) and presumably returned to sender, never having crossed the border.

This illustrates the correct treatment. However, the next example illustrates what invariably happened to domestic registered letters (incorrectly—whether domestic or international, postage due registered letters were to be returned to the Dead Letter Office, and then to the sender, until 1905).

Figure 2 illustrates an 1888 domestic registered cover from Maple to Richmond Hill (not very far), marked MORE-TO-PAY 6; apparently this small envelope was double rate, and charged double deficiency. I have another example with similar charge.



Figure 2. Domestic shortpaid (1888)
Charged double deficiency, violating the regulations.

A different but similar phenomenon is illustrated in Figure 3. An 1896 front addressed to the Star Card Company mailed as a registered item—or perhaps it was suspected to contain money, and compulsorily registered—but missing the registration fee of 5¢, and charged single deficiency (the ms 10 that appears to the left is likely a registration number). It's too bad it's a front.

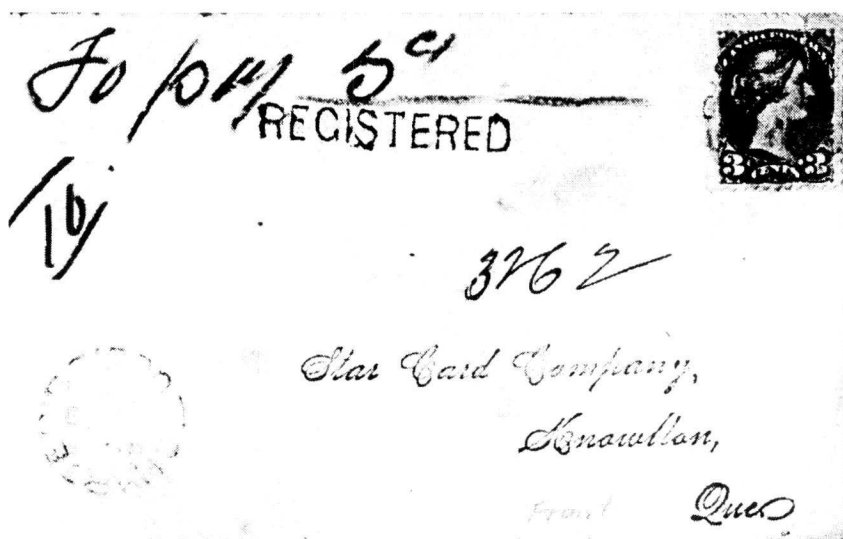


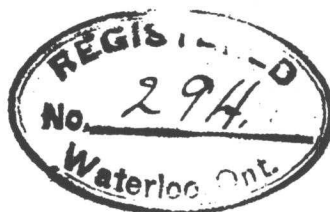
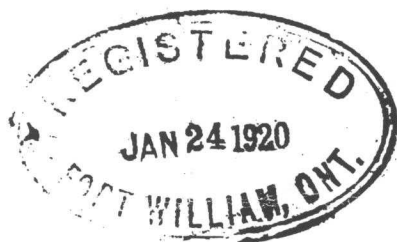
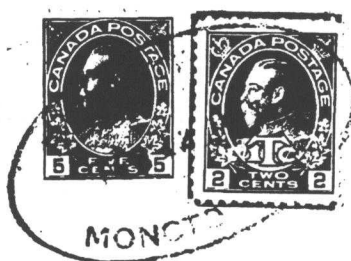
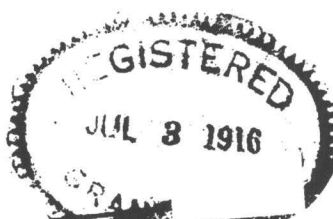
Figure 3. Missing registration fee (1896)
Either compulsory registration or extreme sloppiness
on the part of the sender and accepting clerk.



Later ovoids

David Handelman

THIS continues the images of oval registration markings actually used in the twentieth century. More are solicited.



A further selection of 20th century ovals

Aylesford NS (1922), Brockville (1907), Chatham NB (1919),
Edmonton (1927), Granby (1916), Moncton (1917),
Fort William (1920), Regina (1929), St Hyacinthe (1909),
Sturgeon Falls (1927), & Waterloo ON (1915)



The back page

Hot Flashes

REMEMBER the Hot Flash from an earlier newsletter, wherein I mentioned the Canadian registration wrapper went for £3600 + the usual vigorish? I've since found out that at the same (Cavendish) auction, a white British registration wrapper (in use for only a few months, before they were replaced by coloured ones) went for £8000 plus taxes and tip. Unbelievable. Maybe I should put my three white Nova Scotia money letter wrappers in one of their upcoming auctions?

Other stuff

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.

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) T_EX ("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.

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 #8 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!