

The Registry

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 this issue is not representative. 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, ...

This and the preceding issue of the *Registry* were delayed well beyond their normal times. Despite being on Sabbatical this academic year, I (dh) have been extremely busy, and in addition to doing *Topics*, had a family crisis in November (since resolved happily). Issues #10 & 11 are being sent together, partially to save on postage, but mainly to make up for their absence for such a long period that I began to get letters of inquiry. It would be helpful if I could get more articles from the other members (and this applies triply to articles for *Topics*).



A big 1883 cover

David Handelman

THE cover shown below is fairly large, although far from the largest registered cover that I have. It measures 29 cm × 15 cm (about 11 1/4" × 5 1/2"). Of more interest are the rate and the address.

It was mailed from the Treasury Department (presumably of the Province of Ontario) in Toronto in 1883, to the *Law Stamps Distributor* for the County of Waterloo in Berlin (later known as Waterloo) Ontario. Thanks to the definitive article on Ontario Law Stamps in a recent issue of *Topics* (Chris Ryan, *Law Stamps of Ontario*, fourth quarter, 2000), we know the importance of these to the judicial system. The envelope may have contained law stamps for distribution.

The 11¢ postage is *probably* made up as triple 3¢ domestic rate plus 2¢ registration fee. (Far less likely would be parcel post at 6¢ and 5¢ for parcel post registration, because at this time, the registration fee for parcel post was not supposed to be paid with a registration stamp—shortly afterward, only a 5¢ RLS was supposed to be used—and in any case, there is no indication on the cover that it was to be sent parcel post.)

The envelope is made of heavy material, not paper, and has obviously been through a lot. There are a few more Toronto circle dater stamps on the back and a solitary Berlin dater.

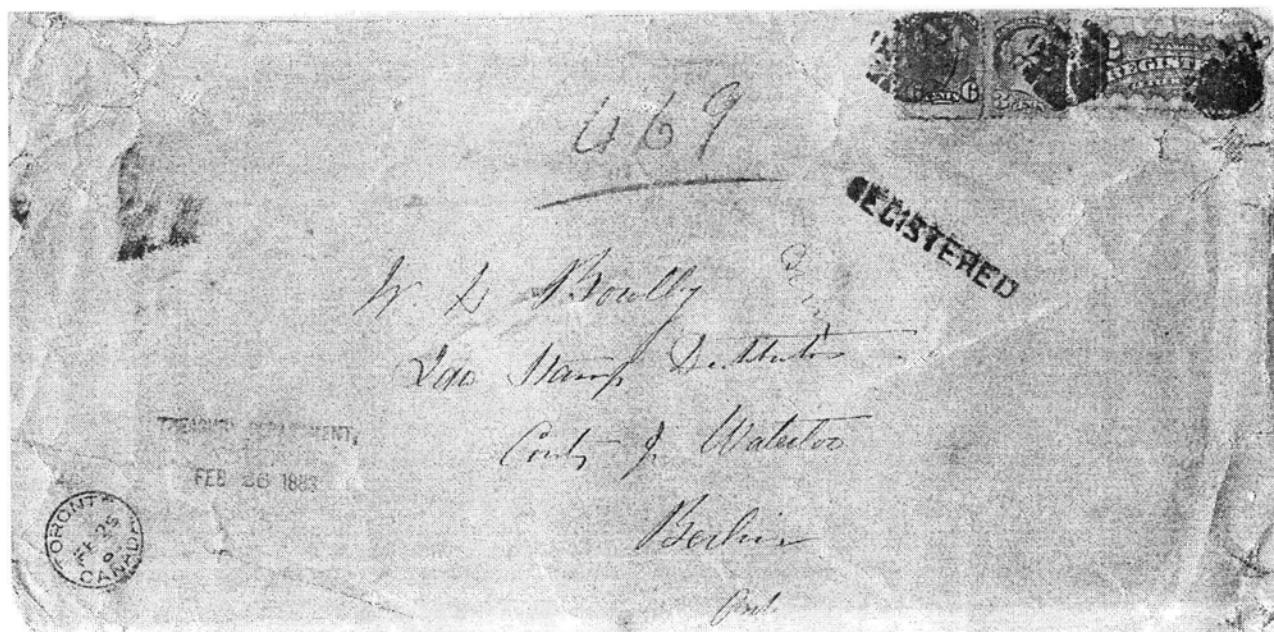


Figure 1. Big registered cover (1883)

In the condition that we've come to expect from my covers.



St John's oval

David Handelman

FINALLY, I've obtained a St John's (NF) registered oval. After El Supremo mentioned it in his summary of nineteenth century Canadian registration ovals, I kept my eye open for it. Interestingly, this one appears during in November 1897, during the period (September–December) in which there was a shortage of stamps and the PAID ALL handstamp was occasionally used (Dean Mario, *Newfoundland's "paid all" . . . , BNATopics, #488*).



Figure 1. St John's registration oval (1897)

Postage of 8¢, likely made up from 5¢ registration fee and 3¢ rate to Canada..



Steamboat money letter

David Handelman

MAILED from Kingston to Toronto (addressed to the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum—now we would say the Speaker of the House at Queen's Park) in 1853, this stampless folded letter was part of the Lussey collection. It shows the fairly scarce straightline M O N E Y handstamp, as well as the double broken circle "Steamboat Letter-Kingston" dater. Both are in the same off-orange colour (as distinct from the black used for the Kingston and Toronto handstamps), which supports Lussey's suggestion (in his notes) that the fancy M O N E Y handstamp was intended for use on steamboat letters.

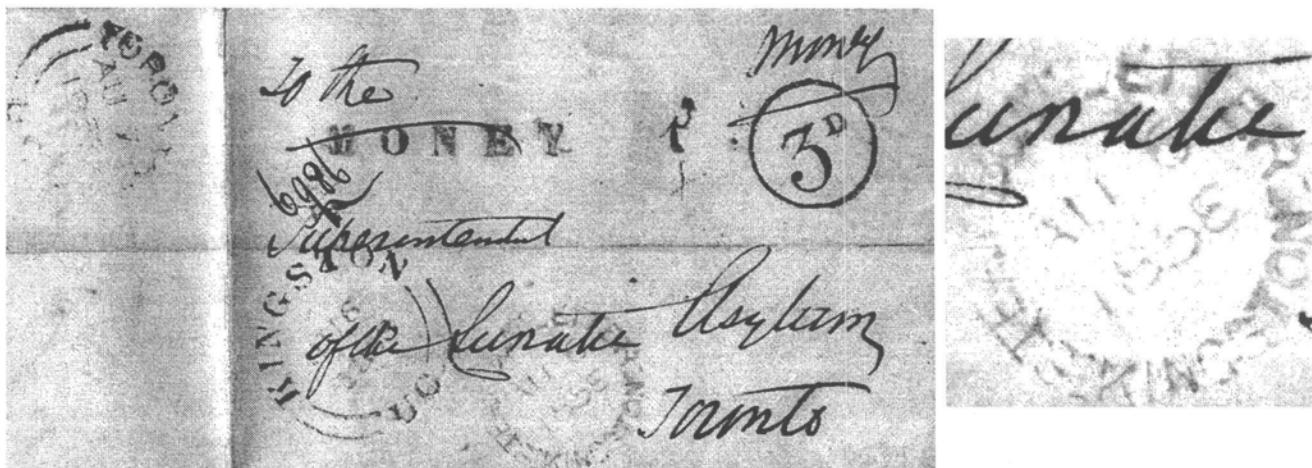


Figure 1. Money letter steamboat letter (1853)

Charged 3d domestic rate, collect. The Kingston Steamboat letter is at the bottom, and comes out faintly because of the pale orange colour. The M O N E Y handstamp is also this orange colour, but probably had some black ink on it from

the last time it was struck. The letter reads *I send you enclosed £6,5- for Miss Harriett Dupuy this 6th of the month ending*. Evidently inmates of the asylum had to be supported by their relatives.

Accompanying the cover was a transcript of an 1847 circular letter from the DPMG concerning the handling of steamboat letters. It appears to be from Boggs, but is worth repeating here.

General Post Office
Montreal, September 1847

Instructions for the conductors of the mails by steamboat between the cities of Montreal and Toronto.

...
2 A chief object in placing you on board the Mail Steamers is, that you may be a check on the contractor for the due and proper discharge of his contract, ...

3 You will have entire charge of Mail bags whilst en route, and you will be responsible for their safety, so far as your power of protection extends.

6 A principal part of your duty will consist in receiving, at the different stopping places on your route, unpaid Letters and Newspapers—and in mailing them to their destination in the manner hereinafter pointed out.

7 On leaving a Port, you will immediately examine the Letter box of the steamer, and take out all the Letters, &c, you may find therein, handing to the Purser or Captain any addressed on the outside "Consignee Letter," and accompanying Goods or Freight on board, but none other.

8 You will then write on the face of each Letter at the left hand lower corner, the name of the place at which you received it—and Stamp it with your Office stamp (which will be supplied shortly). Until your stamp is received, you will mark on the face of each Letter, "Steamboat Letter," adding underneath the date on which it was deposited with you and your number. . . .

T A Stayner, DPM General.



Contract payment

David Handelman

THE 1863 free registered cover shown below is one of three very similar covers that I picked up recently from Hank Narbonne. They were somewhat pricey, but these don't come along every day. All three contained the purple form shown in Figure 2, indicating a cheque had been enclosed, in payment to the letter contractor for carrying the letters. Note that on the letter, as on the cover, the printed M H Foley has been replaced by O Mowat. This was Oliver Mowat, who, as part of the MacDonald-Dorion administration, was postmaster-general 1863–1864. He became premier of Ontario in 1872, and remained in power until 1896.

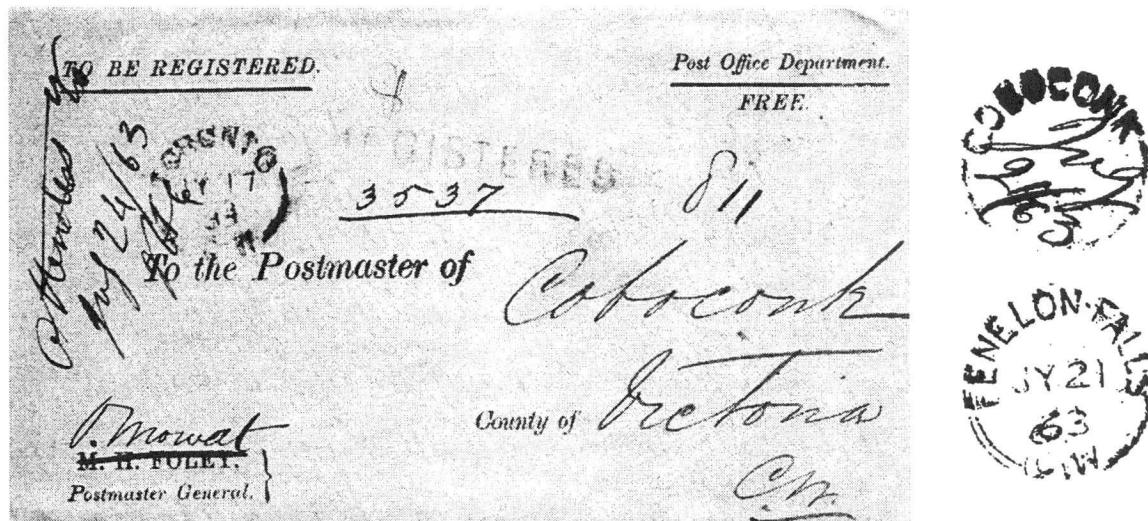


Figure 1. Post office free registered (1863)

The docketing at left reads Attended to July 24/63.

Post Office Department,
QUEBEC July 7th 1862.

SIR,

I enclose a cheque for \$ 10.⁸³/₄ being the amount due
to the Contractor for carrying Her Majesty's Mails between
Coboconk and
Oak Hill
during the quarter ended the 30th ultimo.

I will thank you to give the cheque to Mr Amos Foye
the Contractor, on his signing, before a witness, the receipt
sent herewith, in which please to fill in the date of payment,
and return it in the enclosed envelope, as soon as practicable.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. Mowat
M. H. FOLEY,

Postmaster General.

To Postmaster

of Coboconk

You will please be careful to see that the receipt is signed by the party to
whom the cheque is made payable, and by no other.

2000-8, 1862.

Figure 2. Enclosed form

Referring to a cheque for \$10.83, made out to the mail carrier between Coboconk and Oak Hill. The printing data reads 2000-8, 1862, which presumably means 2000 copies of the form were printed in August 1862. The paper is purple-blue, and the image has been massaged in order that anything can be seen on it.

I could not find out much information about Foley, except that he retired in order to make way for Mowat and others. One of the other two very similar items has Foley's name replacing that of his predecessor, Sidney Smith, in the lower left corner (this is dated October 1862), and the third one simply has Sidney Smith's printed name (1860). Not to be confused with the eccentric Briton Sydney Smith, there appears to be nothing on Sidney.



Registered paquebot?

David Handelman

THE large 1926 cover shown below appears to have been mailed on a ship. It is franked with 9d in British stamps and 3¢ in Canadian stamps, all of which were cancelled with the same Station B Quebec (city) circle dater. There is a faint purple registration rectangle near the bottom, which will likely not come out very well in the image. It also was applied at Station B. On reverse is a double oval company marking, "? & N Philips & Co, Manchester," which was applied over the sealing tape. There are also numerous Canadian handstamps on reverse, including two RPOS and a Calgary dater.

On board ship, stamps of either the country of origin or destination can be used, and they may not have had many of either.

At the time, the postage would have been 10¢ registration fee plus 2¢ per unit weight domestic rate (or possibly 3¢ if somehow it was treated as liable to the Empire rate), if the letter was treated as Canadian in origin (war tax had been removed a few weeks prior to this). If the letter had been treated as British, the registration fee was 3d (for minimal indemnity), and the Empire rate was 2d (?). As it stands, with 9d being approximately 18¢, it appears that the equivalent of 20¢ was applied. I suspect they didn't really know what the rates were, but just applied what they thought (correctly) would be sufficient.

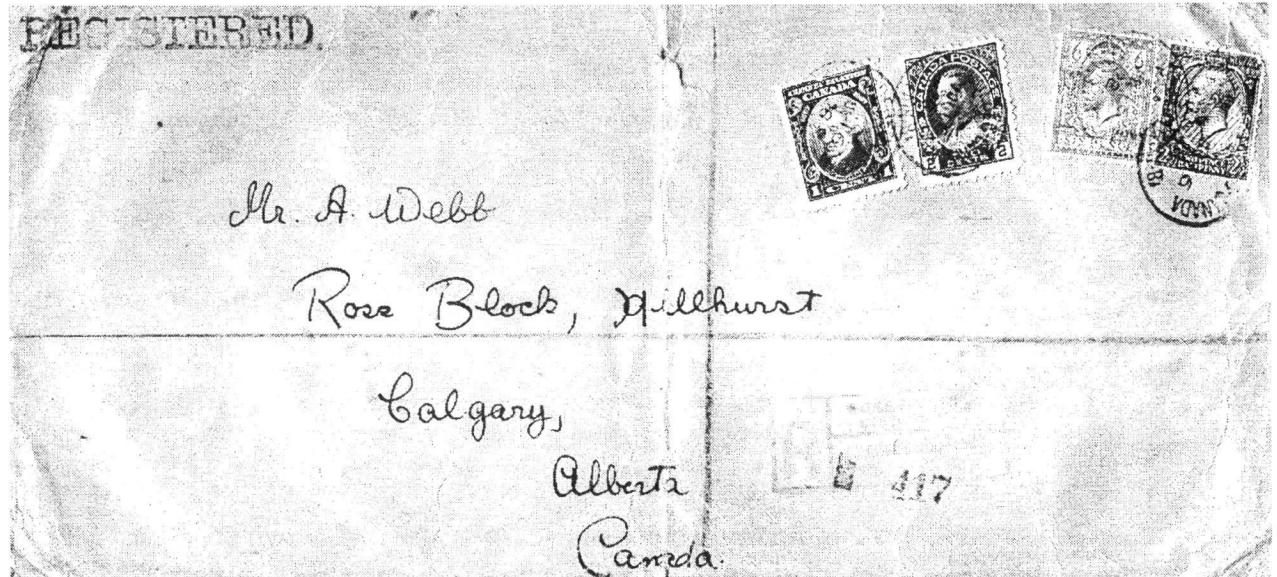


Figure 1. Registered letter to Canada, likely mailed on board ship (1926)
With 9d and 3¢ postage, and a Manchester return address.



Reristered, yet again

from Horace Harrison

EL Supremo reports that he has re-examined the RERISTERED cover illustrated in Figure 2 in the article in the *Registry* #6 (also see #9 for an example of Len Belle, and #10 for John Rossiter's example). This is the one with the apparent 1854 date, which would make it a forgery (attributed to Jarrett, as usual), since registration did not begin in Canada until May 1855. However, it turns out that the cover is dated 1855, as indicated by the docketing. So Fred (or Jed Farratt, or whomever) cannot be blamed for this one.

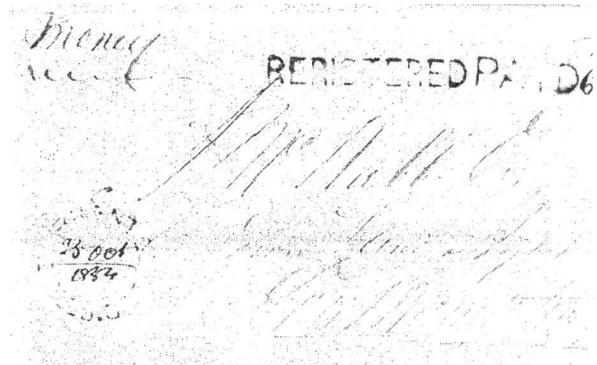


Figure 1. RERISTERED (October 1855)
It sure looks like 1854 ...

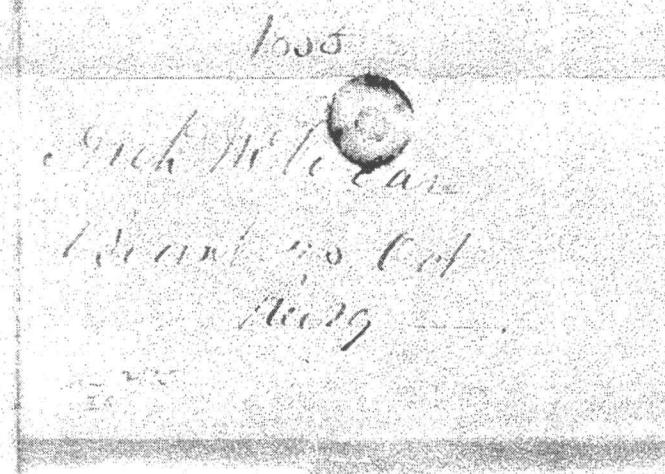


Figure 2. Reverse

... but the docketing reveals that it is 1855! Comparing this to other covers in the same correspondence reveals that the handwriting is the same as that of the others' docketing, so at least that aspect (and likely even the REGISTERED strike) is genuine.

While on the subject of corrections, I (dh) must confess to repeatedly attributing the handstamp to Brantford, when it was Brant.



Reg'd

David Handelman

I have come across two examples of the peculiar purple "Reg'd" handstamp that appears to have been used at the Provincial Treasury Department in Quebec city. Dated 1918 & 1919, both are addressed to members of the Tourchot family, and the address was typed on the same typewriter (likely by the same person—note the lack of space after the periods, the indents on each line, etc). Both covers have the coat of arms of the Treasury Department on the reverse of the envelope, and the Reg'd strike was applied diagonally in the upper left of each.

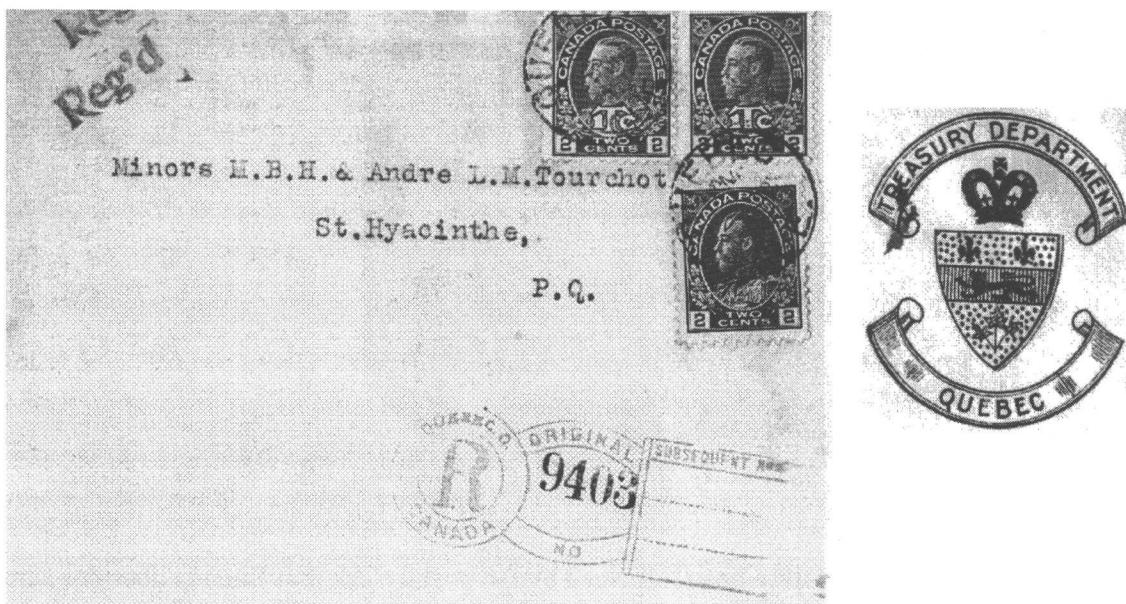


Figure 1. Reg'd (1918)

The insignia (on reverse) is at about double actual size. Postage made up of 2¢ domestic rate, 1¢ war tax, and 5¢ registration fee.



Figure 2. Reg'd

The circle daters are from the Quebec Parliament (which distinguishes this cover from the earlier one).

The earlier one has an absolutely beautiful “original/subsequent number” registration handstamp—it is in turquoise, while the handstamped number 9403 is in bright red. The later one has a double circle handstamp from the Treasury Department, in a different shade of purple from the Reg'd handstamp.

Has any one else seen this peculiar handstamp?



Registered parcels

David Handelman

We know that from 1914, Canada did not permit international parcels (fourth class mail) to be registered (with the lone exception of ballot boxes for Federal elections or plebiscites).

Of course, other jurisdictions did permit registered parcel post, so there is a question of the treatment by the Canadian post office of incoming registered parcels.



Figure 1. Registered parcel tag (1951)

Bangkok-Toronto.

Presumably, the sender should have been informed by the postal clerk that Canada does not admit registered parcels—this might explain the extreme dearth of such items. The tag illustrated below concerns an unsolicited gift from Thailand sent to Toronto as registered mail in 1951. Of course, the Canadian post office likely treated this as third class (samples, etc), although it was likely originally franked as a parcel. (The only way to tell would be to check Thai rates, . . .)

"UNSOLOITED GIFT, VALUE FOR CUSTOMS \$1.00"

To.
Mrs. Irene Curvey
435 Spadina Rd.,
TORONTO,
ONTARIO, CANADA.

From. Aboobaker & co. p.o.box 150.
Bangkok, Thailand

Figure 2. Reverse

No postmarks, Canadian or otherwise.

In any event, this type of registered tag to Canada is very rarely seen.



Bad day at the PO

David Handelman

EARLIER this year (15 January 2002), I received two registered covers on the same day, both with AR. This in itself is extremely unusual, as I think I have only received about five letters sent with AR in my life (and two of them were blatantly philatelic). Even more remarkably, the post office ignored the AR card on *both* of them. In one case, the AR card was on the front, and could hardly be missed! (The envelope was too big to fit on my scanner, so the image is truncated.) There was a large AR on the reverse of the other one.

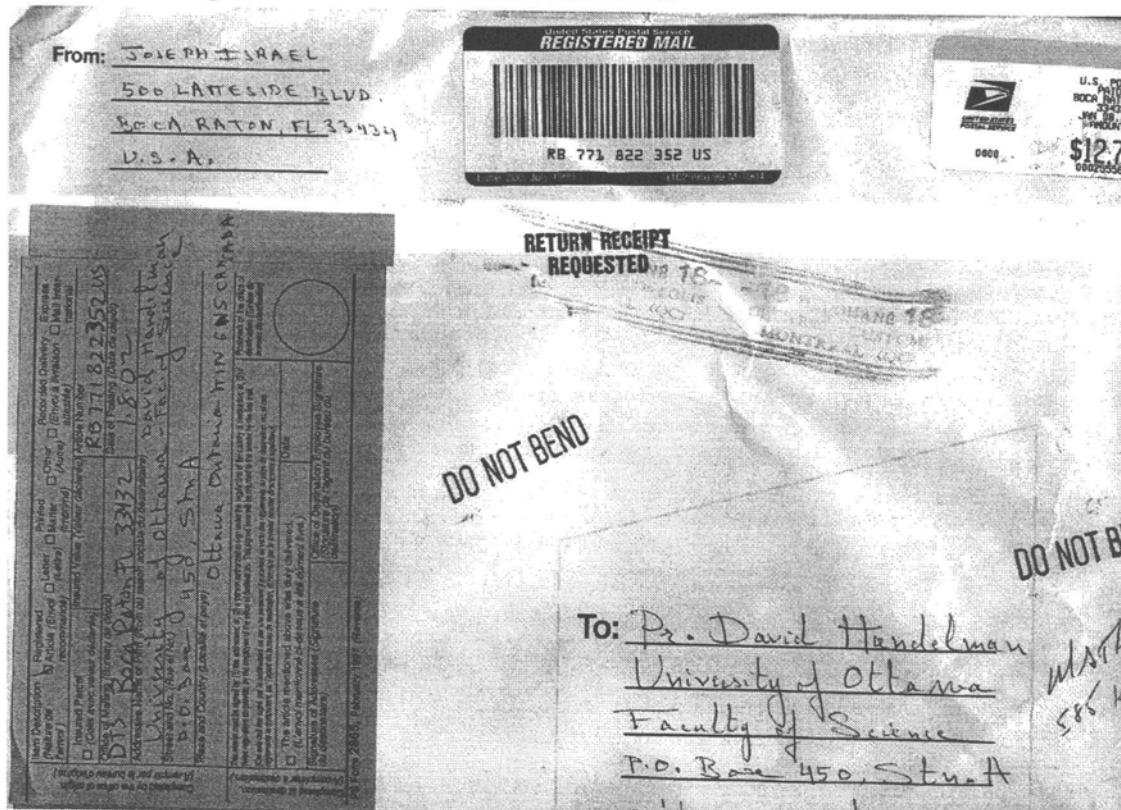


Figure 1. AR cover us-me (2002)

The card, on the front, could hardly be missed—yet it was. Note the standard us "return receipt requested" handstamp.

Both were addressed to my office, although the actual addresses were given differently. The item from the US concerned my profession and is thus completely commercial. (Note the postage: \$12.75 us.) The other one was from France, and contained an e-Bay item I had won (so is quasiphilatelic—I had not requested that it even be sent registered, as it contained a \$5 item).

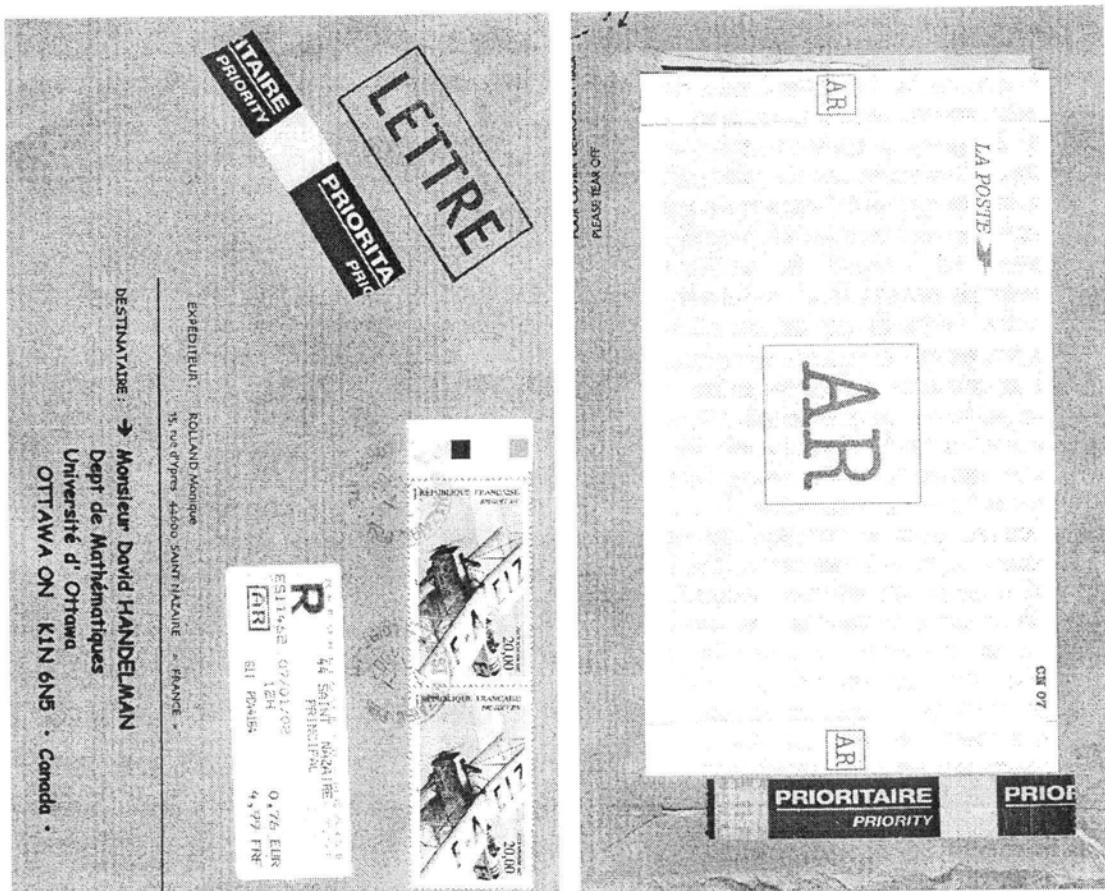


Figure 2. AR cover France-me (2002)

Postage of 45 fr in stamps and 5 Euros on the Frama. There is a tiny boxed AR on the latter. The pink card was on reverse.



Battleford (sk) registered markings (1910)

Both registered markings appeared on the same cover, the top one on the front, the lower right one on the back. Both are in a lovely shade of turquoise, and are shown at 90% of full size. The cover is very badly damaged.

A strange message

Len Belle

RECENTLY, I obtained a registered postcard mailed at Val d'Or (QC) 3 August 1939 (one month before the outbreak of war), addressed to France. The message was written in rather old-fashioned French. A translation is given below. The portions in italics were underlined in the original.

Dear Madame,

In the near future, if it has not yet happened by the time you receive this card, your little sister, you, and I will be judged by the one *who sees everything, hears everything, and is aware of our most secret thoughts*. He knows that I forgave all of you (appearances can be deceiving). The struggle *was forced upon me until the end. God willing, I will win*. I have already publicly made up with the *Action Française*, because it is no longer condemned by the Church. I wish that peace, down here (before the eternal) comes into our hearts—it was not always kept here and there, despite wise advice and the *cruel advance of time*. Farewell now dear Madame, & good health to you, & be rid, you and your family, as I am, of your worries on this Earth. This is my last wish, leaving it to Divine Providence so that everything sorts itself not only for the general good, but also *for its own sake*.

with respect
Roger Laloy

I understand that *Action Française* was a pre-war right wing movement in France bitterly opposed to the Nazis. Some of its adherents became prominent members of the resistance movement during the occupation.

I find this message most intriguing. The writer was obviously a man of strong religious convictions who appears to have been involved in a political-religious dispute with the addressee. It seems that he wished to make amends, possibly because he felt that he was dying. It would be interesting to know the whole story.

The philatelic aspects are also of interest. At this time, the postcard rates to UPU countries was 3¢, and of course registration was 10¢. The card was underpaid by 1¢, yet no postage due was charged. The reverse shows part of a French receiving mark, dated 14 August.

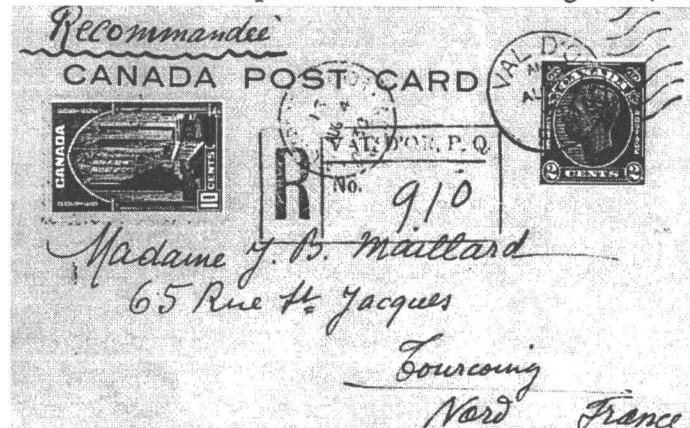


Figure 1. Registered postcard, Canada-France (1939)

Shortpaid 1¢.

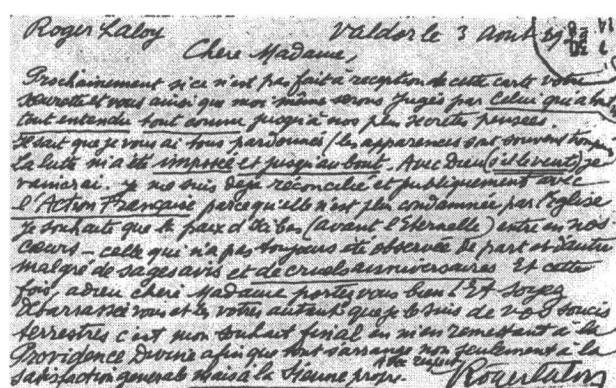


Figure 2. Reverse



The back page

Hot Flashes

ALTHOUGH primarily not Canadian, the Vivien Sussex registration collection is being auctioned by Cavendish. In contrast to her compatriot Wilcocks (whose fantastic registration collection was also sold by Cavendish a few years ago), she restricted herself to British registration material—and by British, she meant to, from, or through Britain. No one seems to have cavilled about the to or through aspects, in contrast to some BNAPS judges with respect to BNA postal history.

Other stuff

NEW BOOKS: El Supremo tells me that the new Arfken-Harrison-Lussey registration book will be out soon, but that I am the cause of the delay—in one of my *Topics* editorials, I criticized new book prices, and as a result, El had to search around in order to get it published at a reasonable price.

My monograph on AR is practically done, but I am still waiting for one contributor to send me his material. It will be published by the Allan Steinhart Memorial Fund of the PHSC.

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 #10 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). Volumes I and II (each consisting of four issues) are available stapled for \$10 each plus postage to members and \$12 each plus postage to non-members.



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