

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, ...

Unfortunately, I've once again misplaced some letters.

Robert Lemire
PO Box 1870
Deep River ON K0J 1P0

The Imperial Economic Conference of 1932

Len Belle

I KNOW that DH will not approve of this apparently philatelic cover. However, it is the only one I have seen posted from the conference office. (I wonder how much commercial mail there was.) It was addressed to Stratford (New Zealand); by airmail, the fee was 15 ¢, and the registration fee was 10 ¢, so this cover is overpaid by 2 ¢ with a complete set of the conference stamps. The stamps are tied by purple crown Senate cancels dated 8 August 1932 (also appearing on reverse), and overstruck with the Ottawa "R" CDs of the same date.

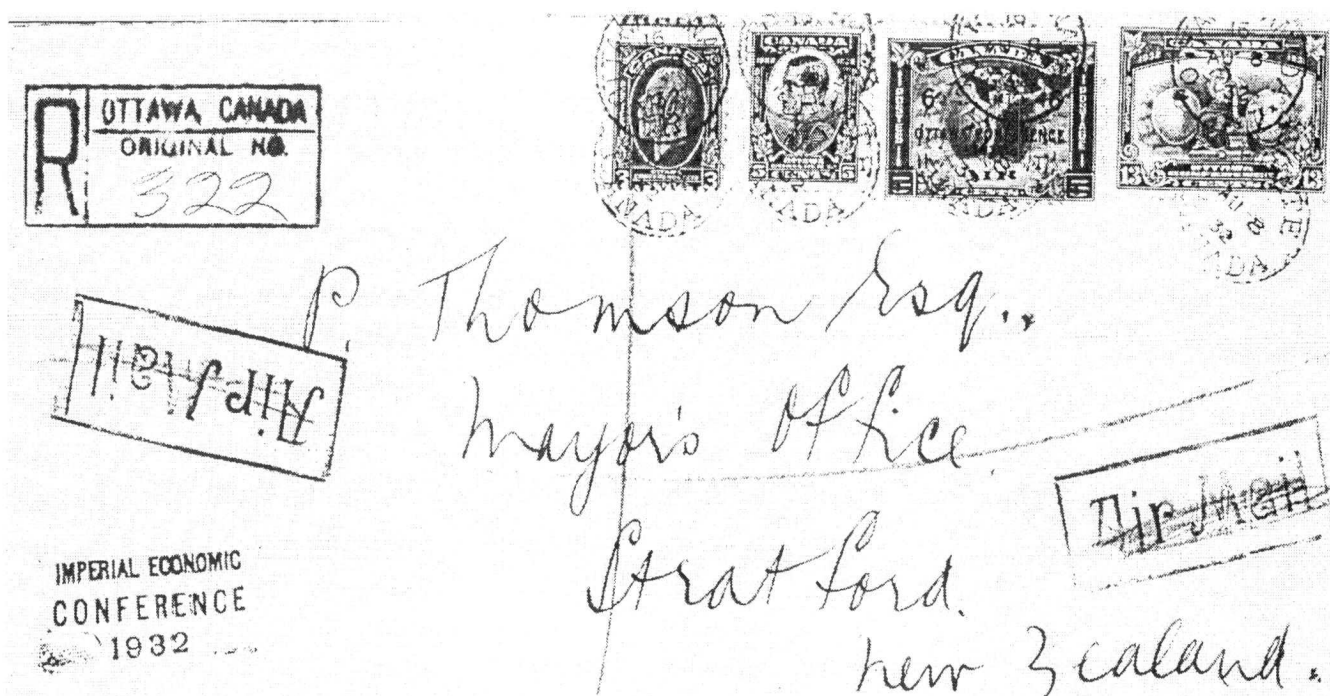


Figure 1. Economic Conference handstamp (1932)

With the complete set (including the overprinted airmail stamp) of stamps issued for the conference.

I think I am correct in saying that the letter would have gone by air to Vancouver where the airmail mark was struck through, and the journey completed by sea. There is a Vancouver transit mark of 12 August 1932, and a Stratford (NZ) receiver dated 6 September.

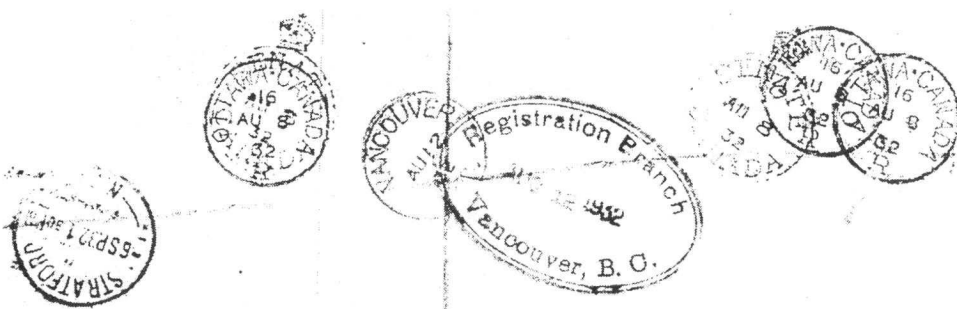


Figure 2. Reverse of the cover in Figure 1

[Recently I saw on e-Bay a non-registered cover with a single 3 ¢ of the series, with the same three-line rubber stamp for the Conference. It is now in the collection of member Bob Smith. These two covers are the only ones I've seen.—dh]



Compulsory registration?

Len Belle

THIS cover (Figures 1 & 2) appears to be an example of compulsory registration, although it bears no markings to indicate this. Addressed to England, it was mailed at Chapman Camp (BC) on 27 September 1935. It was franked as if it were a single unregistered letter.

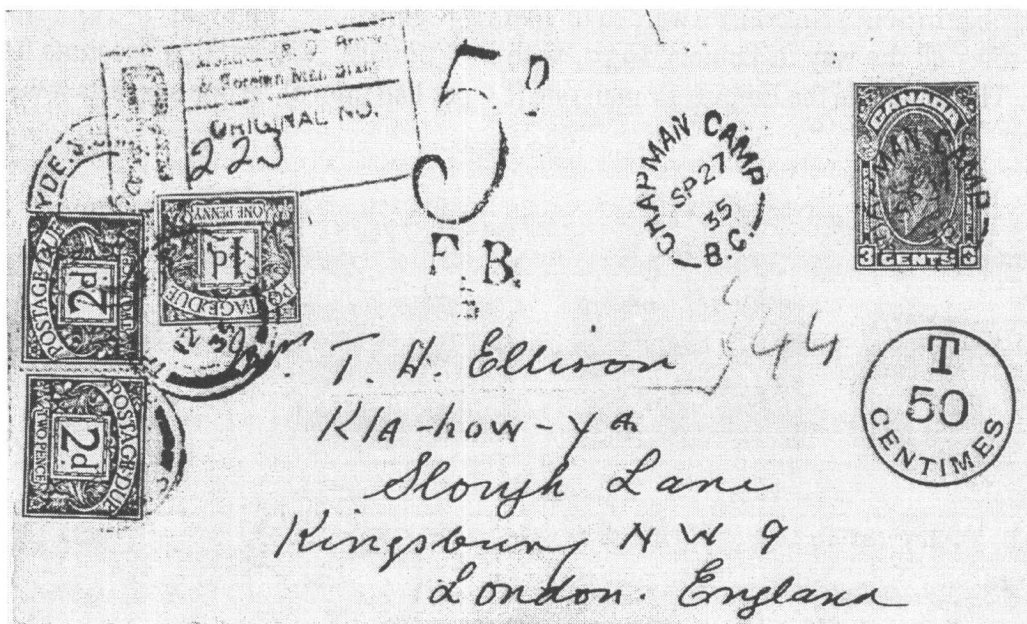


Figure 1. Probable compulsory registration (1935)

Mailed from BC but registered at the Montreal British and Foreign Branch. Charged single deficiency, for registration, 10¢ = 50 centimes = 5d sterling.

Evidently, on arrival at Montreal, it was registered at the British & Foreign Branch Office. It was taxed 50 (gold) centimes, equivalent to the 10¢ registration fee [from 1 September 1935, and possibly earlier, shortpaid registered letters were charged single deficiency—dh].

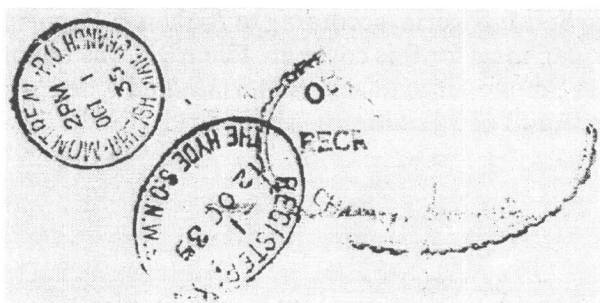


Figure 2. Reverse

The partial oval handstamp may be that of the sender.

On arrival in Britain, it was hit with the 5d foreign branch handstamp, and postage due stamps were applied and tied by the Hyde sq nw 9 office—the local office for the addressee. On reverse is a registered marking from this office.

Unfortunately, part of the flap is missing. It seems odd that the despatching office did not register the letter. the Chapman Camp post office had registration facilities, as I have seen registered mail from there during this period.



Postage due airmail registered covers

David Handelman

SEEING Len's cover with the postage due marking (T in a circle with the denomination in centimes below) reminded me that I had some short paid airmail registered covers from Canada to abroad, whose rates mystified me. I hope that someone will be able to explain the rates.

Arranged chronologically, they are illustrated in Figures 1–3. The first one is a spectacular cover from Ottawa to Calabar in South Nigeria, forwarded to Victoria (Camerouns), Figures 1 & 1a. It was sent as a airmail cover all the way in January 1939, with 22¢ postage. Registration accounts for 10¢, leaving 12¢. This is double the Empire air mail rate (6¢ per half ounce), so one suspects it was a double rate cover.



Figure 1. Shortpaid registered airmail to Africa (1939)
Charged 85 centimes, possibly the result of a computational error.

However, the Empire air mail rate did not apply to South Nigeria, according to Arfken & Plomish, *Airmails of Canada 1925–1929* (from which the airmail rates for this cover are taken); it was not on the list of eligible destinations. (Later in the year, the Empire air mail scheme terminated when war broke out.) It was thus charged postage due, in the amount of 85 centimes—about 17¢.

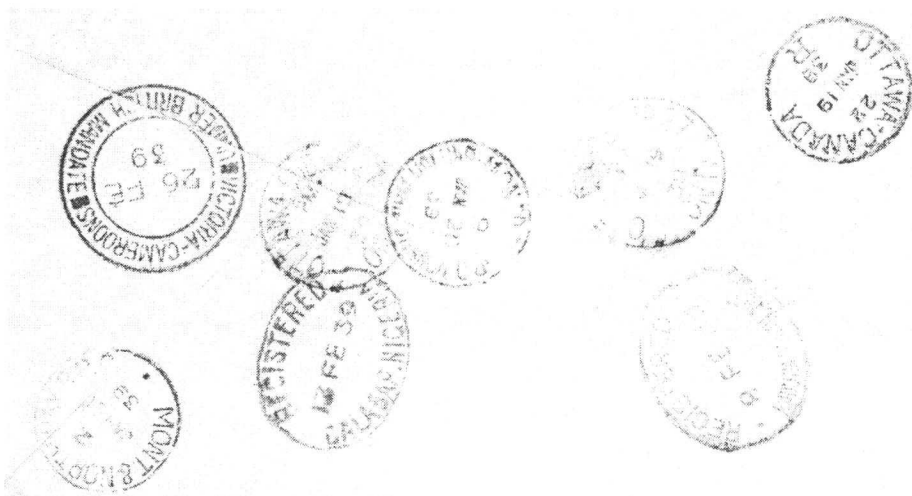


Figure 1b. Reverse of cover in Figure 1
Forwarded to Victoria in the Cameroun.

The correct airmail rate to this destination (as part of Africa) was 25¢ per half ounce. A single rate cover would thus be shortpaid 13¢ or 65 centimes. A double rate cover would be shortpaid 38¢ or 190 centimes, so we can exclude the latter. Shortpaid registered material was only supposed to be charged single rate at this time (although plenty of covers exist with double deficiency charged), so my guess as to the amount of postage due is that the clerk miscalculated 5×13 (to convert from cents to centimes) as 85, rather than 65.

However, this does not account for the double Empire rate apparently charged. I can only guess that the item was weighed at the first office, and weighed just barely over a half ounce, whereas the clerk who charged the postage due, either didn't bother to weigh it (it is a small envelope) or weighed it as a half ounce or less.

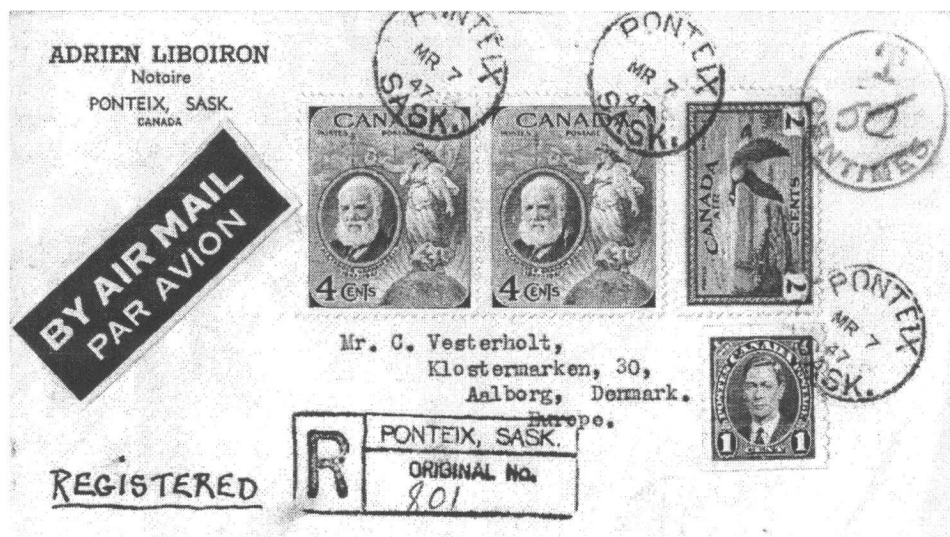


Figure 2. Shortpaid airmail to Denmark (1947)
Charged the mysterious 50 (or 52) centimes.

The next cover (Figure 2) has the air of being philatelic or at least quasiphilatelic (in this case, sent between stamp collectors). Mailed from Pontéix (SK) to Denmark (a somewhat difficult destination, even in this time period) in 1947, it has 16¢ postage applied, and is charged 50 centimes, although it could be 52, or even something else. Registration was still 10¢ and airmail to Europe was 15¢ per quarter ounce. In all likelihood, the cover was 9¢ shortpaid. How does this come to 50 (or 52) centimes?

Regrettably, all the backstamps are on the same day, and there are no foreign markings.

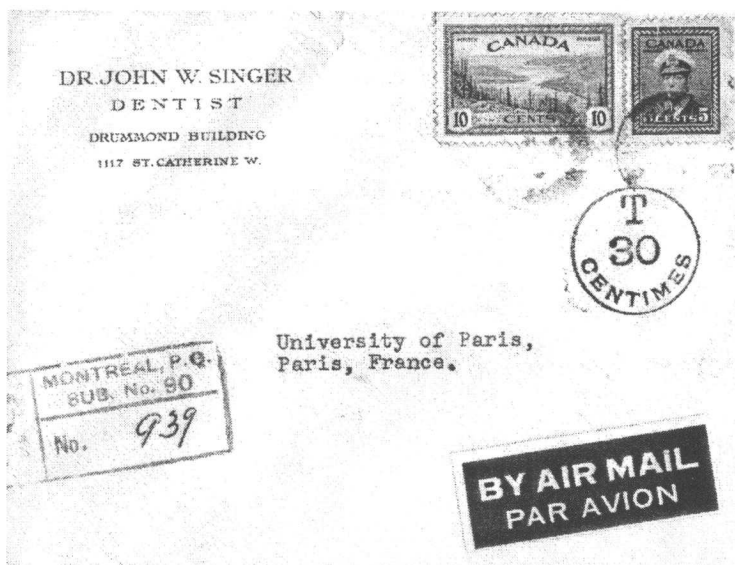


Figure 3. Shortpaid airmail to France (1949)

Finally, in Figure 3, we have a more mundane destination, France, in 1949, with payment of the registration fee (10¢) and the surface UPU rate (5¢). It was charged 30 centimes. The airmail rate to Europe was still 15¢ per quarter ounce, so the cover is shortpaid 10¢. Did the value of the centime rise to 3 ctm = 1¢?



Drop money letter

Len Belle

RECENTLY, I acquired a drop money letter addressed to the receiver-general of Upper Canada in Toronto. Such letters seem to be scarce [*I haven't seen one before.—dh*] It was written at Niagara on 6 August 1835, and carried to Toronto by favour. It was mailed at Toronto on 7 August. The letter refers to the enclosure of £50 10 0, this being the yearly rental for the ferry at Niagara. The cover was rated 1d.

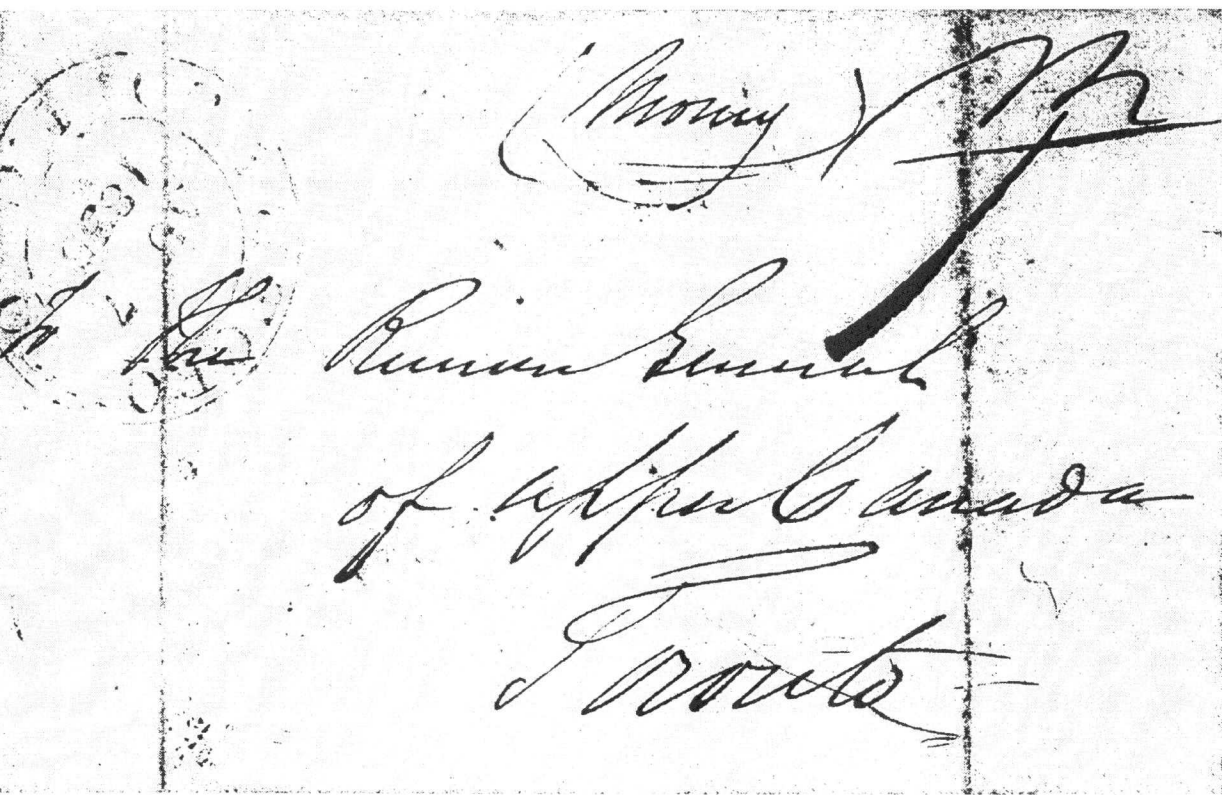


Figure 1. Drop money letter (1835)
Hit with the double circle City of Toronto, and the standard Toronto M (for money) endorses it. The rate mark is clearly a 1.

[*Len suggests that the drop letter rate was 1/2d at this time; I believe it was 1d, although references to drop letter rates in the official notices seem only to begin in 1840. It also appears that the drop letter rate was a flat 1d, rather than per enclosure—obviously, this cover contained at least one enclosure, and would have been charged double, triple, or more if it had been mailed from another post office.—dh*]



From the big house

from Bill Pekonen

BILL sent the May 1968 free registered cover shown in Figure 1. It was mailed from the Canadian Penitentiary Service (under Federal control) to BC. He points out that the boxed FREE handstamp was valid only in the period 1964–67, although Canadian Forces could use it until

June 1968. The proper marking should have been CANADA/ POSTAGE PAID/PORT PAYÉ.
It also has the small boxed R, that we keep running into.

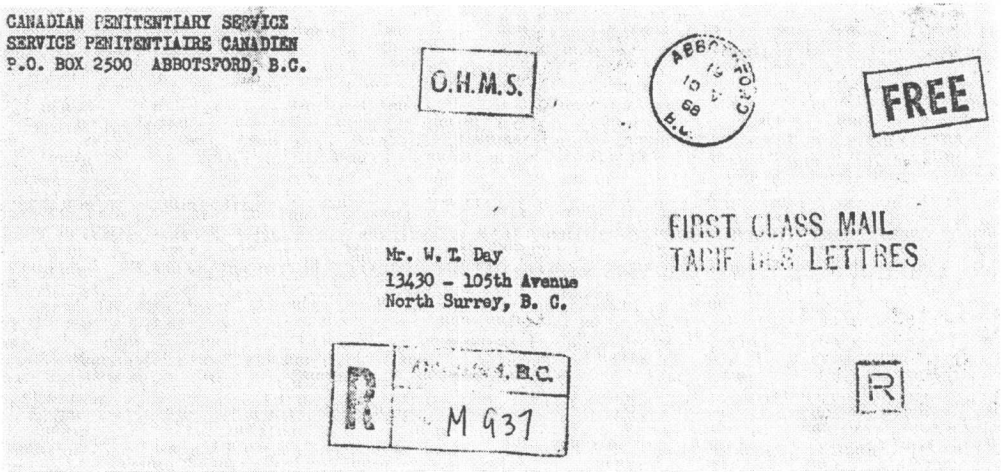


Figure 1. Abbotsford FREE (May 1968)
Note the “M” in the registration number.



Very late too late

David Handelman

THE cover illustrated in Figure 1 contained a cover I had bought in June 2002 on e-Bay (a very rare South African AR front, unfortunately described as a cover). It is a registered letter with obvious philatelic franking. However, it was stamped in English and Afrikaans with a handstamp which I interpret as equivalent to *too late*: “Accepted after final despatch.”

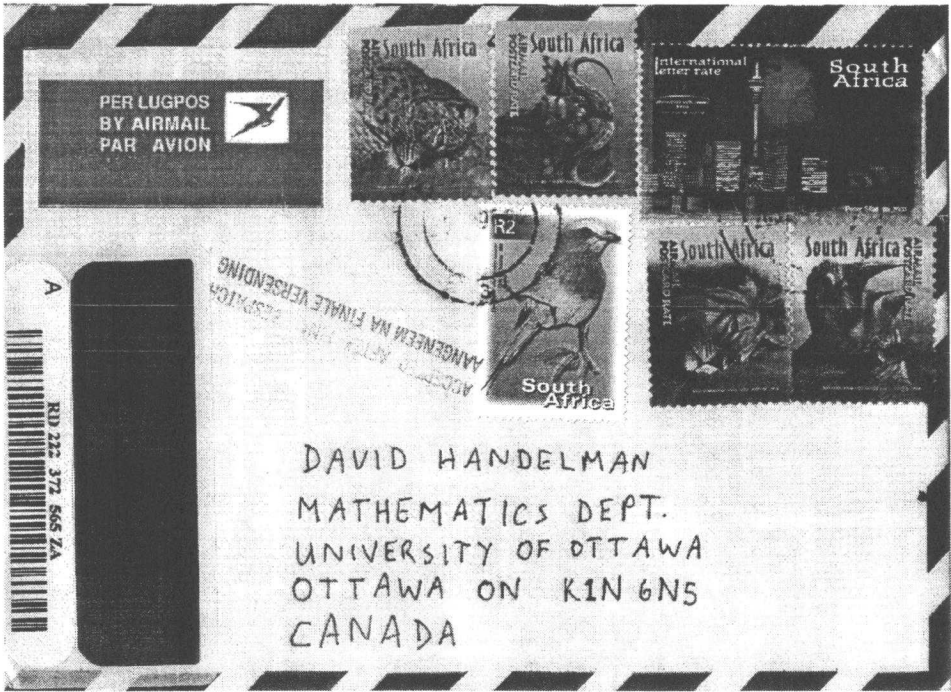


Figure 1. Late registered letter (2002)
Accepted after final despatch, presumably equivalent to *too late*. Postage paid for registration and airmail was 2Rands plus four times the airmail postcard rate plus the international letter rate. (Undenominated stamps are a nuisance; perhaps our South African member can help with the rates.)

ACCEPTED AFTER FINAL DESPATCH
AANGENEEM NA FINALE VERSENDING

The handstamp

In red. What appears as a lower case h is actually an upper case H part of which has been covered by the registration sticker.

Although this item is registered, there were absolutely no Canadian markings on it. Since it was addressed to my office, I do not even know if it was signed for, or came in the regular mail.



Early Cash letters

David Handelman

BROWSING through my money letter collection recently, I found two *cash* letters which seem to be quite early. The first one is dated late in 1826, which fits nicely with the pre-money letters discussed in an earlier *Registry*. The other one is unfortunately undated, but the paper is watermarked 1819. There does not seem to be any way to date it, but I presume it could be earlier than 1826.

The endorsation *cash* was a less common alternative to the usual *money*, indicating that the cover contained valuables and should be recorded in the registry.

Figures 1 & 1a show a *cash* letter from Perth to our old friend John Dunn at York, dated 15 November 1826. The docketing confirms the date and the enclosure of £30, 1/10 1/2.

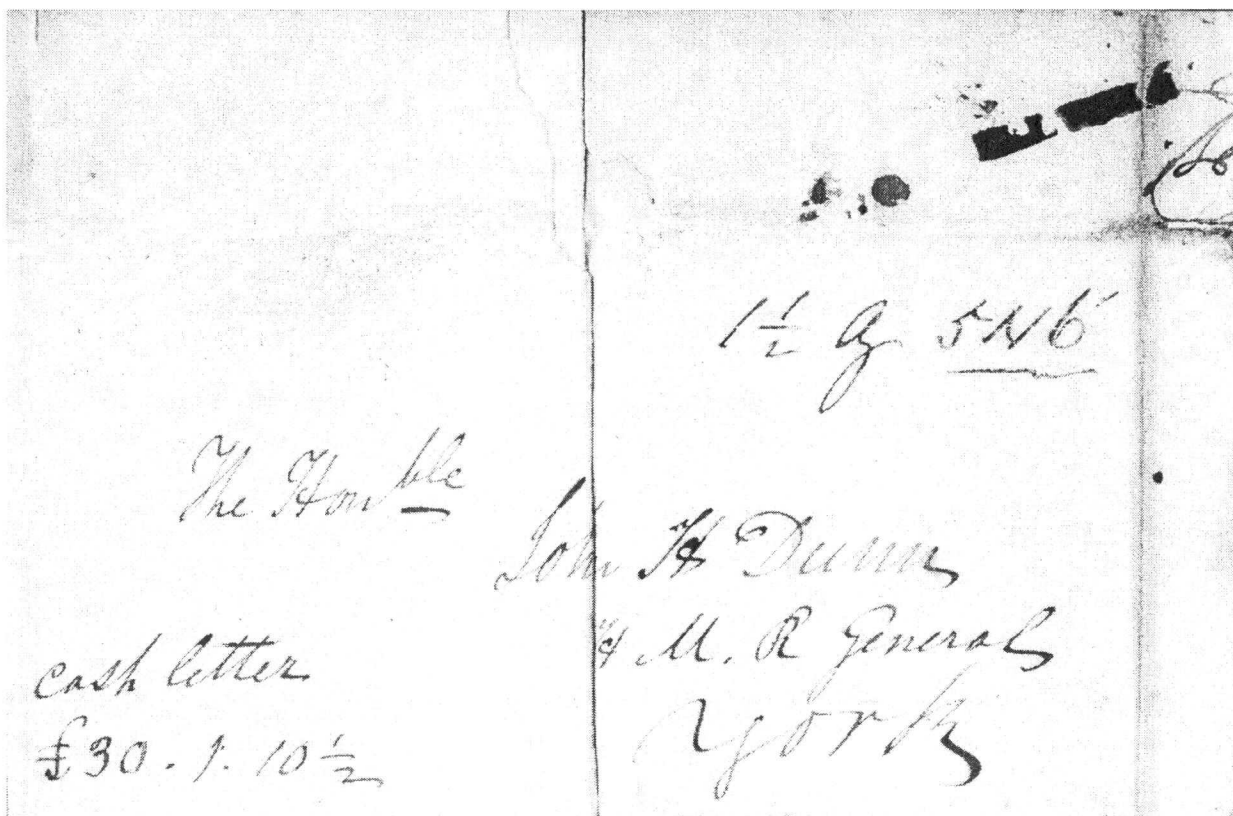


Figure 1. Early cash letter (November 1826)

Sextuple rate collect (for a weight of 1 1/2 ounces, at 11d (201-300 miles, Perth to York) per quarter ounce. There is an overinked PERTH straightline at the upper right (which was originally folded over).

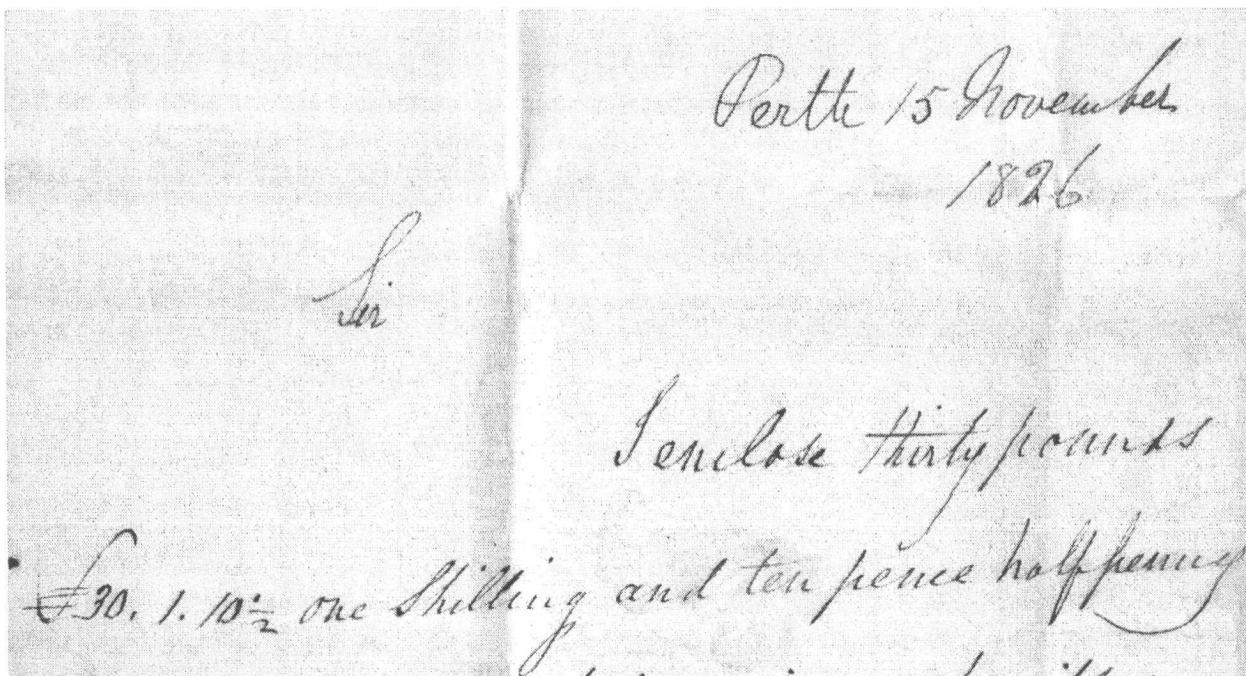


Figure 1a. Top half of the interior

The second item is more tantalizing, but is only the outer wrapper; there is no docketing, and the only dated indication is the watermark, which reads **Carron 1819**. I have no idea how long paper ordered from Britain would sit around in an office.

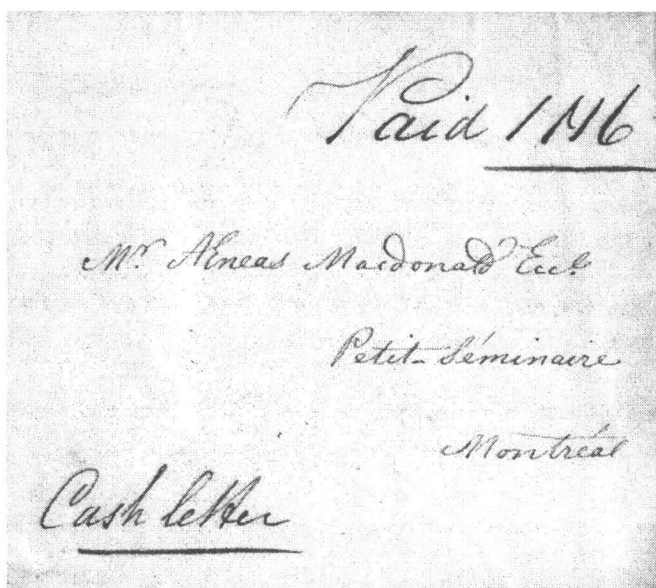


Figure 2. Early cash (?)

Prepaid 1N6, likely double the 9d (101-200 miles) rate. There is no indication of the origin, although Québec city is a possibility. The paper is watermarked **Carron 1819**.



POT

David Handelman

I MUST confess to a disdain for RPO material, particularly after one of the judges downgraded my registration exhibit because it didn't have any registered railway markings in it. However, I do run across the odd POT cover. Here I show a very typical philatelic example, and then a real, non-philatelic one.

POT does not refer to something to be smoked, but is an acronym for *posted on train*. The cover in the first figure is an example, apparently a cover registered at an RPO. Of course, the out-of-date stamps (at least paying the correct rate, 20 ¢ registration plus 5 ¢ domestic), and the addressee tell us it is philatelic. The handwriting, the use of “esquire”, and the blue crayon cross (*under* the stamps), indicate that the letter writer was British. This is typical of philatelic POT covers.



Figure 1. Philatelic POT cover (1955)

On the other hand, the item in Figure 2 is a real non-philatelic item, obviously registered on board a train. Marked with the a typescript registered mail, the sender intended the item to be registered, but only put domestic postage on the cover. It was “dropped” in the mail, and regulations required that it be returned to sender, as the registration fee was not prepaid. However, the clerk decided to register it, charged it single deficiency 20 ¢, and used the little rectangular R cancel normally used for registered mail bag tags.

The Foundation Company of Canada Limited



The Workmen's Compensation Board,
90 Harbour St.,
TORONTO, Ontario.

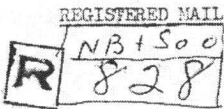


Figure 2. A real POT cover (1962)

Likely dropped in the mailbox without being registered, incorrectly registered on board the train, but correctly charged single deficiency.

Since railway post offices were not normally permitted to register mail, they did not have registration handstamps, and this explains the use of the little R and the manuscript *NB & 500* imitation

rectangle. On the reverse are more strikes of the North Bay & Soo CDs (same dates as on the front), and a large rubber circle applied at the Registration Section of Postal Terminal A.



Non-deliverable post-War

David Handelman

WE saw in an earlier issue of the *Registry* a post-World War II registered letter to Manchuria that could not be sent registered to that destination, and was “deregistered.” Below is an image of a registered cover to an almost equally difficult country, this time in Europe.

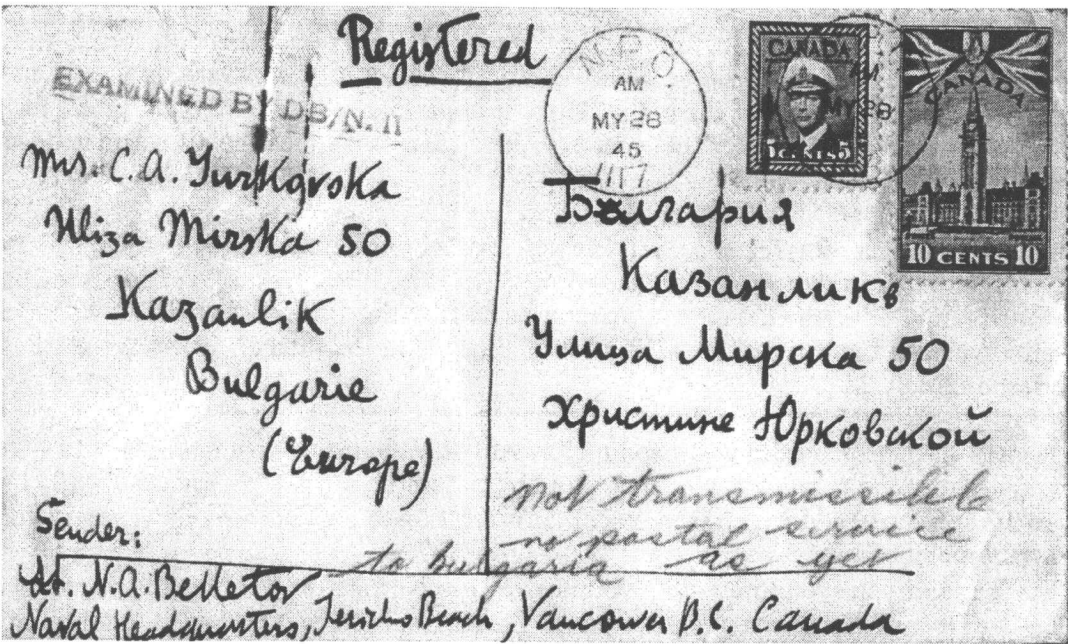


Figure 1. Stopped in its tracks (1945)
Turquoise censorship marking at upper left, together with the generic paper clip rust stain.

It was mailed from Naval Headquarters at Jericho Beach in Vancouver (NPO 1117) on 28 May 1945, with correct 15 ¢ postage (10 ¢ registration plus 5 ¢ UPU rate) to Bulgaria. The pencilled endorsement reads *Not transmissible; no postal service to Bulgaria as yet*

The cover didn’t get very far before being returned—there are only two backstamps on reverse, both at the receiving post office, struck at the same time as those on the front.



Registered tag from London to Victoria
From Bill Pekonen.

The back page

Hot Flashes

TALKING to my local postman, I found that Canada Post is making a big effort to rebuild its COD service. It is possible to send items domestically with up to \$25,000 value by COD, and believe it or not, he regularly delivers small items with values in excess of \$10,000. Presumably, such items are registered (money packet service has gone the way of the dodo) if sent first class. (He accepts Visa and some cheques.) Has anyone seen covers showing these extremely high values?

Other stuff

NEW BOOKS: Still waiting for the Arfken-Harrison-Lussey book, and my AR monograph.

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!