



TRANSATLANTIC MAIL STUDY GROUP
OF THE
British North American Philatelic Society

Newsletter No. 58

August 1997

REGISTRATION (2)

Since breaking the ice with registration some months ago, you have been kind enough to offer further examples. I had hoped to begin to record Twentieth Century rates and regulations, but have uncovered some old photocopies of the early regulations, which are included for completeness. Together with the new material, this has more than filled this Newsletter.

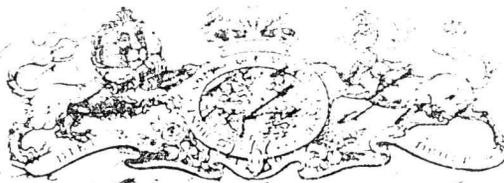
Much more interesting are a number of covers provided by Martin Willcocks; these have raised a number of points which may be discussed in the future. The Twentieth Century will have to wait a little longer! This month I have included a couple of BNA-related gems (worldwide, to and from UK, Martin's registered covers must be the finest); next time some US-related.



Figure 1: Trinity, Newfoundland to Lymington, England, 22nd July 1862.

This is the first early Newfoundland registered cover I have seen - I believe that this may be the only one recorded. So scarce, indeed, that one eminent philatelist doubted its authenticity. I'm no expert, but I've seen it, and I have handled a few thousand other trans-Atlantic covers, and it feels good to me. The letter was posted at Trinity on 22nd July 1862, and arrived at London on 17th August 1862, on its way to Lymington in Hampshire. The arrival date matches the Cunard Line 'Asia', rather than the Allan Line, suggesting a route via Halifax (thanks yet again to Hubbard and Winter). The letter was pre-paid

sixpence Sterling (there seems to have been little distinction between Sterling and Currency on stampless mail out of Newfoundland; the registration fee was not marked, I assume it was sixpence Sterling (1st April 1858, but I have no record of the authority). There are two registration marks, a straight line, unrecorded and not known by Martin to be British (therefore assumed to be Newfoundland), and a more familiar London 'crown registered'. The cover bears one other, mark: 'No. 1.' - too much to hope that this was the first? Or do you know better? Please write.



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

Registration of Letters.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

December, 1840.

ON and after the 6th January next a System of Registration will be adopted, which will be applicable to all descriptions of Letters without distinction, whether they contain Coin or Articles of Value or not.

The Fee for Registration will be One Shilling, which, together with the Postage, must be paid in advance.

Letters presented for the purpose of Registration, bearing a sufficient number of Stamps, will be considered paid Letters, but the *Registration Fee of One Shilling must always be paid in Money.*

In the case of Foreign, Colonial, or Ship Letters, it must be clearly understood, that Registration cannot extend beyond the Port of despatch in the United Kingdom, though Parties, if they wish it, may register such Letters as far as the Port of despatch. Letters, however, addressed to France, and Letters passing through France, are exceptions to this rule, the French Post Office undertaking to provide for their security till they shall have been delivered, *if addressed to France*, and so long as they remain in the French Territory, *if passing through France.* On Letters of the former description, namely, *Letters addressed to France*, Double the French Rate to the Place of Destination must be paid in addition to the British Rate and the British Registration Fee; on *Letters passing through France*, only the usual Rates will be taken, in addition to the British Registration Fee.

As a general rule, no Letter can be received in order to be Registered, unless it shall be brought to the Post Office, half an hour before the closing of the Box for the particular Mail, by which it is to be despatched. It may however be necessary to take longer time in some few cases where severe pressure is apprehended.

Small Sums can be remitted through the Post Office, by means of Money Orders, without risk, at the following rates of charge, viz. *Three Pence* for any Sum *not exceeding Two Pounds* and *Sixpence* for any Sum *above Two Pounds*, and *not exceeding Five Pounds.*

With the great convenience thus afforded for transmitting small sums at so low a charge, and the power now given of registering Letters containing value, it is hoped the Public will no longer forward Letters of value, except in one or other of these methods.

If however Persons are willing to incur such a risk, should the articles forwarded be Notes, or Cheques payable at sight, they should be cut in halves, and the second halves should not be despatched until the receipt of the first has been acknowledged. The numbers, dates, and amounts, should also be carefully taken.

By Command,

W. L. MABERLY,

Secretary.

Figure 2: Registration of Letters, December 1840.

It is a poor photocopy, so I have copied the relevant parts:

'On and after the 6th January next a System of Registration will be adopted, which will be applicable to all descriptions of Letters without

distinction, whether they contain Coin or Articles of Value or not. The Fee for Registration will be One Shilling, which, together with the Postage, must be paid in advance. Letters presented for the purposes of registration, bearing a sufficient

number of Stamps, will be considered paid Letters, but the Registration Fee of One Shilling must always be paid in Money. In the case of Foreign, Colonial, or Ship Letters, it must be clearly under-

stood, that Registration cannot extend beyond the Port of despatch in the United Kingdom, though Parties, if they wish it, may register such Letters as far as the Port of despatch.'

INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTMASTERS IN THE COLONIES, etc.



INSTRUCTIONS to Postmasters in the Colonies, and other Agents of Her Majesty's Postmaster General Abroad.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

December, 1840.

A SYSTEM for Registration of Letters within the United Kingdom will come into operation on the 6th January next, under which, Letters posted in this Country, and addressed to parts Abroad, whether forwarded by Packets or Private Ships, can be registered to the Port of the United Kingdom from which they may be despatched; and the Public have been apprized that Registration does not extend beyond that limit. Instructions, however, will be given to the Packet Agents and Postmasters at the Out Ports, who make up and despatch Packet Mails or Ship Letter Bags, to enter upon, and enclose in the Packet Letter Bill, or the Ship Letter Certificate, the Address of every Registered Letter which they despatch from this Country; and the Postmaster or Agent at the Colony or Station, to which such Registered Letter is forwarded, will acknowledge it's receipt by the first opportunity, obtaining from the party to whom the Registered Letter is addressed, an acknowledgment of delivery, which he will retain until called for, as his own discharge.

Registered Letters which have been refused, or cannot be delivered, must be carefully returned to the Dead Letter Office in London, at the usual period, made up in a separate Packet; and the Packet addressed to the Dead Letter Office in which these Letters may be enclosed, must be entered upon the Letter Bill, as containing so many Registered Letters, giving the number, *whatever the number may be*, and this must be done independently of the entry of such Registered Letters, on the Form No. 4.

It must be distinctly understood that this system of Registration applies only to Letters *sent from* the United Kingdom, and that *no Letters forwarded to the United Kingdom* can be registered.

By Command,

W. L. MABERLY,

Secretary

Figure 3: The Instruction on Registration sent Overseas, December 1840.

INSTRUCTIONS

To British Consuls or other Persons appointed to act as *Agents* of the GENERAL POST OFFICE at Foreign Ports in *North and South America* and the *West Indies*.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Declaration of Office, to be made by all Persons employed in Post Office duties.</p> | <p>1. You are to make and sign the accompanying Declaration, which is required by the Act, I Vic. c. 33, from all persons engaged in the Post-Office Service, and in case you employ any clerks or other persons to assist you in your Post-Office duties, you will require them to make and sign a similar declaration.</p> |
| <p>Principle of new Arrangement explained.</p> | <p>2. The duty which will devolve upon you as British Packet Agent is fully explained in the following Instructions, but it may be well to draw your attention distinctly to the principle upon which Her Majesty's Government have determined to act in the collection of Postage on the Letters conveyed by the British Packets in the West Indies, &c., as this forms the basis of the present arrangement. You will particularly understand, therefore, 1st. That the Postage on all Letters and Newspapers despatched by you to any of the Foreign Ports mentioned in the list annexed to these instructions, must be paid to you before such Letters and Newspapers are forwarded; and, 2nd. That you are not to receive postage on those addressed to the United Kingdom, or to any of the British Colonies in the West Indies or North America.</p> |
| <p>Letters, &c. forwarded to a Foreign Port, to be prepaid.</p> | <p>3. On the arrival of a Mail from England, you will, in the first place, look for the Letter Bill which should accompany it, and in which you will find inserted the amount of Postage received by the Packet Agent at the Port of despatch in England, on those Letters and Newspapers which were posted at his office, and which will be tied up separately from the rest of the Mail. This Letter Bill should be checked, by carefully telling up the amount of the postage marked on the Letters and Newspapers referred to, so as to see that it corresponds with the sum set down. Should the address of any <i>Registered Letter</i> be entered on the bill, its safe arrival should be acknowledged by your signature against such entry. The date of arrival should then be inserted, and the Letter Bill returned to the General Post Office by the first opportunity.</p> |
| <p>Letters, &c. forwarded to a British Colony, are not to be prepaid.</p> | |
| <p>Letter Bill of Mail arriving from England, to be checked.</p> | <p>4. The same course should be pursued on receipt of all other Mails brought by the British Packets, whether from British Colonies or from Foreign Ports, in order that the parties despatching all such Mails may be made responsible for the amount of Postage which they have received on the Letters and Newspapers contained in them. You will sign the Letter Bills, if correct, but if the Letters and Bills</p> |
| <p>Receipt of Registered Letters to be acknowledged</p> | |
| <p>Letter Bill from England to be returned immediately.</p> | <p>5. You will be required to sign a Receipt for every mail bag or parcel delivered to you by any of the Admiralty Officers on board the British Packets, and you will, in like manner, take a Receipt from the Admiralty Officer for each Mail despatched from your office.' (Signed by W.L. Maberley, January 1842.)</p> |
| <p>Colonial Letter Bills to be checked</p> | |

Figure 4: The Front Page of the Instruction of January 1842.

The above Instruction, issued in on the establishment of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Service and sent to all RMS- associated ports, also has relevance for British North America, insofar as it confirms that the Post Office Agent at New York (and presumably, therefore, at Boston) and the Post Office at Halifax, Nova Scotia, bore certain responsibilities with regard to registered letters:

'3. On the arrival of a Mail from England, you will, in the first place, look for the Letter Bill which should accompany it, and in which you will find inserted the amount of Postage received by the Packet Agent at the Port of despatch in England, on those letters and Newspapers which were posted at his office, and which will be tied up separately

from the rest of the Mail. This Letter Bill should be checked, by carefully telling up the amount of the postage marked on the Letters and Newspapers referred to, as to see that it corresponds to the sum set down. Should the address of any *Registered Letter* be entered on the bill, its safe arrival should be acknowledged by your signature against such entry. The date of arrival should then be inserted, and the Letter Bill returned to the General Post Office by the first opportunity.

27. You will be required to sign a Receipt for every mail bag or parcel delivered to you by any of the Admiralty Officers on board the British Packets, and you will, in like manner, take a Receipt from the Admiralty Officer for each Mail despatched from your office.' (Signed by W.L. Maberley, January 1842.)



MONEY LETTER.

2

Addressed to

Mrs M. Gordon

To the Postmaster

*Postmaster
of
Boston*

*Per Mr. A. W. Donald }
Cotton & Co
New York*



Figure 5: Hamilton, Lower Canada to Fortrose, Scotland, March 1851.

Martin Willcocks has provided the photocopy of a Canadian Money Letter wrapper. It is pale green in colour, and was posted in Hamilton (date not discernible), marked '2', '6', 'PAID', '2/4' and '2/7½'. The letter passed through Montreal on 31st March 1851 and arrived at Fortrose, Scotland on 23rd April 1851, having been carried on the Cunard Line 'Canada' out of

Boston. The '2' is presumably a record of the Money Letter; the '2/4' and '2/7½' the double postage for a Money Letter in Sterling and Currency (the latter as amended in 1843), and the '6' I must assume was a fee raised on arrival, although that remains open to debate. It is a lovely item, and I have not seen one used across the Atlantic before; do you have any comment?

VANCOUVER ISLAND

The two covers which follow are the only examples I have seen from Vancouver Island. The first, which was in the Wellburn Collection, is dated March 1863. There is no obvious record of Colonial charges, and it has been prepaid with US stamps, 24 cents postage and 5 cents US registration fee. It was carried out of New York by a United States Packet and shows a '5½' cents credit to the UK (2½ cents half the registration fee, plus 3 cents for UK inland postage).

The second is borrowed from Robson Lowe's encyclopaedia. Dated October 1869, it is from Nanaimo. I am unable to offer a great deal by way of explanation (except that most of the markings are London, although I'm not sure about the '1d', presumably a forwarding payment). Again, help would be welcomed, as I have little information about the West Coast. Does anybody know the whereabouts of these covers?



Figure 6: Viâ San Francisco and New York, 1863.



Figure 7: From Nanaimo, 16th October 1869.

FIVE CENTS REGISTERED STAMP

The next two illustrations are from the Horace Harrison collection; both show the use of the 5 cent registration stamp, which seems surprisingly scarce to the UK. Horace makes two comments: the first (1881) shows no UK registration marks. I can only assume that it was carried directly to Scarborough from Liverpool ... were blue lines in use in Canada? For the second (1883), from Victoria, British Columbia, via Hamilton, Horace

is seeking an identification of the route and ship. I am unable to help. The cover (reverse) has an arrival mark of 20th January 1883, at Liverpool. He would also like an identification of the crown registered handstamp. James A. Mackay, in his book 'Registered Mail of the British Isles', states that such marks were issued to British ports from 1857, so Liverpool must be the favourite for the time being.



Figure 8: Toronto to Scarborough, 23rd March 1881, arrived 5th April 1881.



Figure 9: Victoria, British Columbia to Penrith, 27th December 1882.

A FEW BRITISH COVERS

I thought that I should take the opportunity to include a few later British covers, mainly as a means to identify the development of registered markings - I hope that someone will send me photocopies of the North American (Canadian and US) equivalents on trans-Atlantic covers, so that we can begin to clarify on which side of the

Atlantic the markings were applied - this has not, apparently, been completely clear in the past. The succession of covers shows: 'crown registered', straight-line with an 'R' (British) and oval, 'R' with 'fee paid', the same but on a label, and an early registered envelope. I have not taken space to explain all the rates.

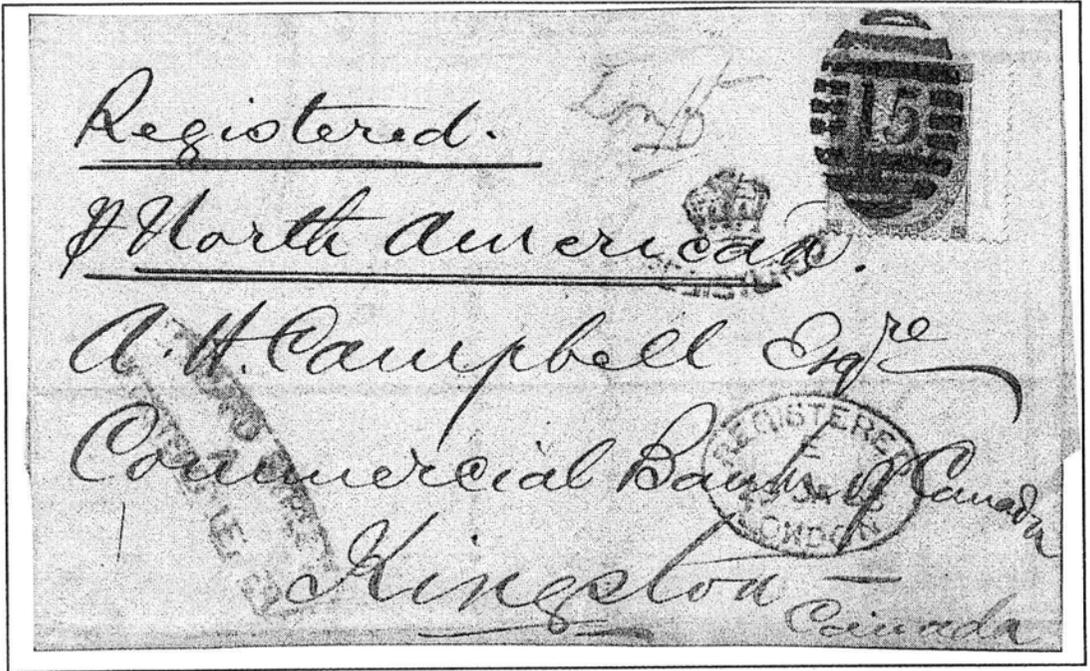


Figure 10: Lombard Street, London to Kingston, Ontario, 19th January 1863.

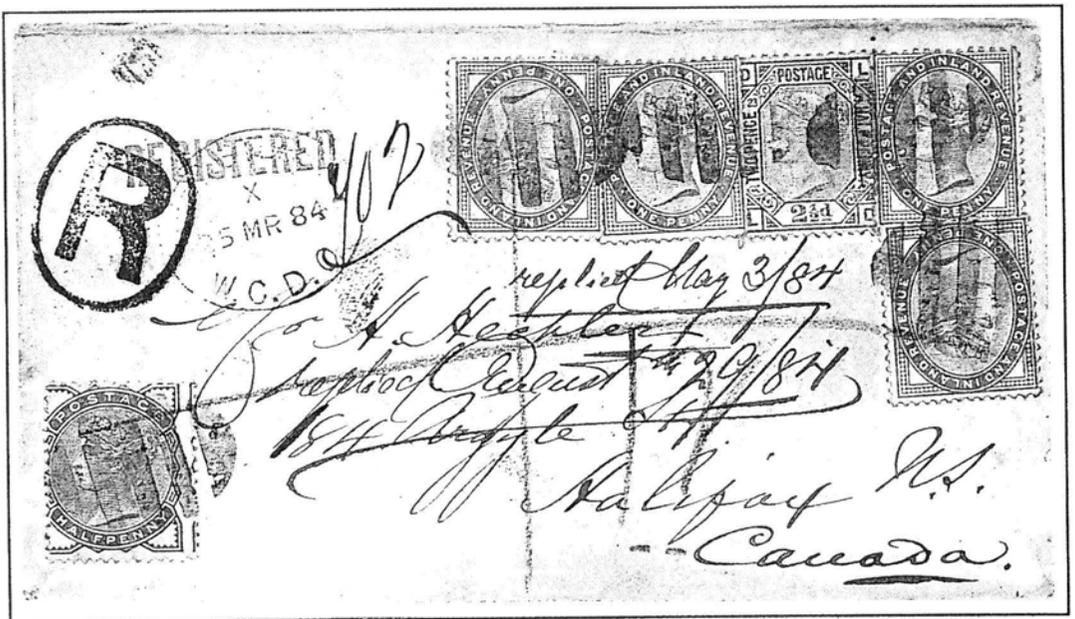


Figure 11: London, England to Halifax, Nova Scotia, 25th March 1854
(note taper at toe of 'R').

LATER BRITISH COVERS

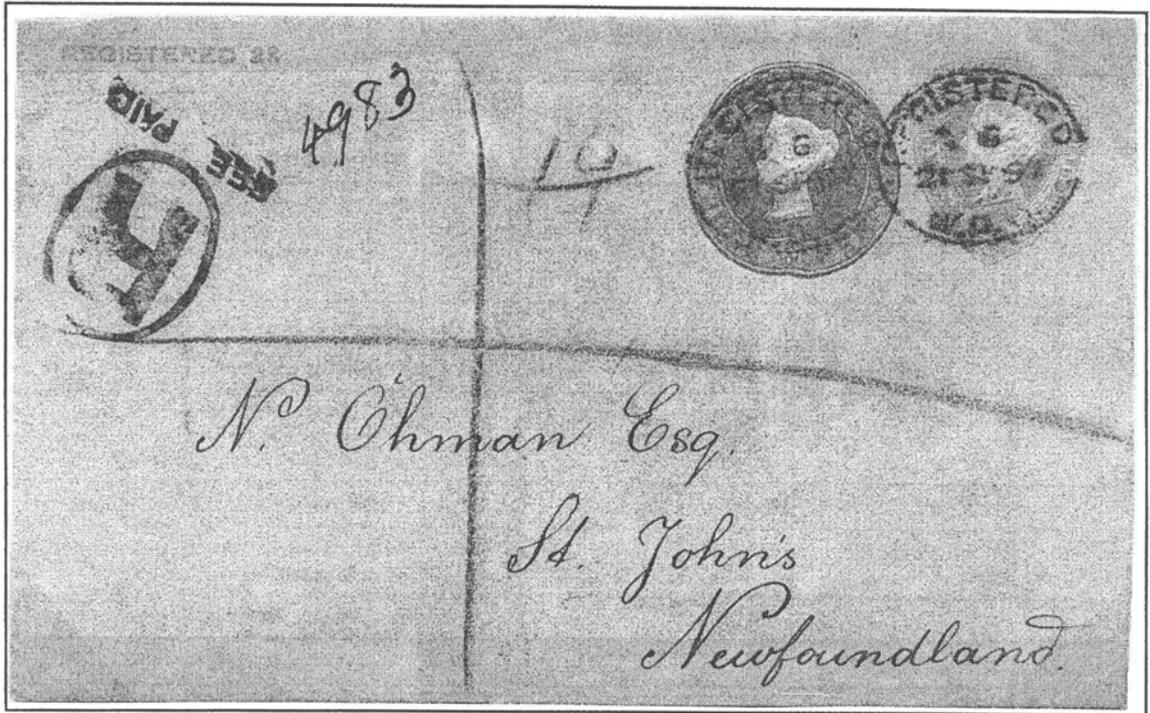


Figure 12: London, England to St. John's, Newfoundland, 21st September 1897.

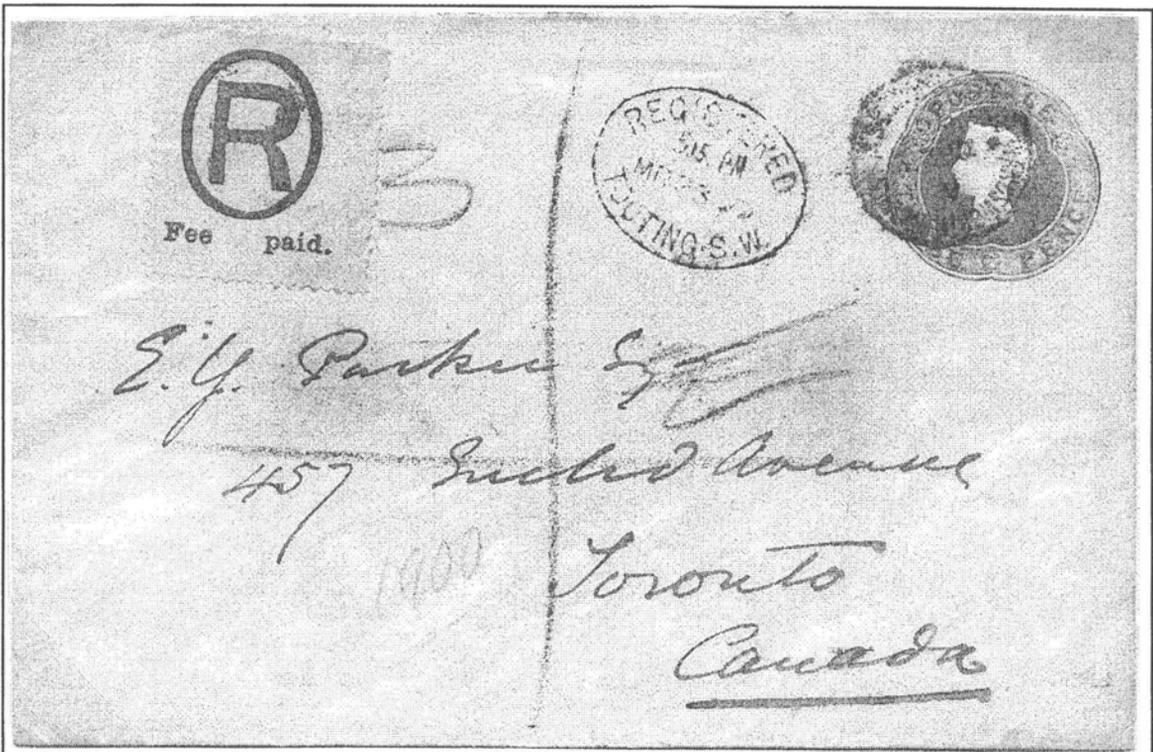


Figure 13: London, England to Toronto, Canada, 23rd March 1897.

TABLE 1: TRANS-ATLANTIC REGISTRATION IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Serial	Date	Country	Fee	Routes/Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1.	November 1837	All British Colonies	N/K	British registered letters addressed inland or overseas to be handled as money letters.
2.	6 th January 1841	Worldwide (except France).	1s	Only to port, fee and postage had to be prepaid; green printed covers provided for inland letters.
3.	1845	VI		Mentioned in Mowbray, but no reference given.
4.	28 th March 1848	Worldwide (except France).	6d	British fee reduced, still only to port of departure.
5.	30 th January 1849	To Chagres		Details not known, via Colon or Panama.
6.	14 th April 1849	Canada, NB, PEI	6d	To port of departure, Br Pkt via Halifax, NS, US.
7.	April 1850	California and Oregon		Via United States, details not known.
8.	October 1850	Canada	6d	To port of departure, US Pkt.
9.	19 th April 1853	Canada	6d	To port of departure, Canadian Packet.
10.	1 st January 1854	BC & VI	6d	To port of departure, via Southampton (West Indies Packets).
11.	1854	UK		Registration fee could be paid by postage stamps.
12.	23 rd March 1854	NB, NF	6d	To port of departure, Br Pkt via Halifax.
13.	1 st August 1854	NS	6d	To port of departure, Br Pkt via Halifax.
14.	1 st May 1855	Canada	N/A	End of money letter system in Canada, introduction of registration system.
15.	11 th March 1856	VI	6d	Via US, to port of departure.
16.	1 st May 1856	US	6d 5c	Any route. Anomaly of rates - half that collected credited to other nation.
17.	1 st May 1856	California, Oregon and the Sandwich Is.	6d	UK closed mail to San Francisco, via Panama or Colon. Through registration, via US.
18.	1 st October 1856	Canada, US.	3d/5c	Registration agreement between Canada and US. Prior to this, 1d had paid fee only within Canada.
19.	March 1857	UK		Tests undertaken with green silk ribbon and sealing wax.
20.	1 st January 1858	Canada, NB, PEI, NS	6d	Through registration, by Br, Cdn or US Pkt.
21.	1 st April 1858	NF	6d	Br Pkt via Halifax, Nova Scotia.
22.	1 st July 1858	UK		Green tape introduced nationwide in UK.
23.	January 1859	NF	6d	Via Galway.
24.	1 st October 1862	UK	1s	Compulsory registration introduced in UK.
25.	1 st February 1866	BC & VI, Canada, NB, NF, NS, PEI	4d	Any route. BC & VI via US, to port of departure.
26.	1 st February 1866	US	4d	Any route.
27.	1 st February 1866	California, Oregon and Sandwich Is.	4d	Closed mail to San Francisco, via Panama or Colon (route withdrawn 1 st January 1868).
28.	1 st October 1867	All Br Colonies, etc.	8d	Introduction of compulsory registration.
29.	1 st October 1868	BC & VI	4d	Through registration via US.
30.	1 st October 1875	Dominion of Canada	5c + 8c	Mandatory pre-payment of all postage (5c to UK), and registry fees (8c to UK), by stamps.
31.	15 th November 1875	Dominion of Canada	N/A	Registration stamps on sale.
32.	31 st December 1877	Dominion of Canada	8c	Considered last date of legitimate use of 8c registration stamp.

TABLE 1: TRANS-ATLANTIC REGISTRATION IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Serial	Date	Country	Fee	Routes/Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
33.	1 st January 1878	Dominion of Canada	2d	Newfoundland date not known.
34.	1 st January 1878	US	2d	Any route.
35.	1 st July 1878	UK	2d	Fee reduced; blue lines replace green string; scrim-lined envelopes introduced.
36.	1 st July 1878	Dominion of Canada	N/A	(Or shortly thereafter) 8c registration stamp withdrawn from sale.
37.	1 st April 1879	UK		Advice of delivery introduced for Colonial packets.
38.	1 st January 1883	UPU		UPU label system introduced.
39.	8 th May 1889	Dominion of Canada	5c	Registration fee for all classes of mail.
40.	1 st June 1891	UK		Parcel registration; 'R' labels and handstamps adopted; Advice of Receipt system adopted.
41.	1 st August 1893	Dominion of Canada	N/A	Introduction of 8c postage stamp; commencement of withdrawal of registration stamps.
42.	1 st February 1897	UK	4d	Compulsory registration fee reduced from 8d.
43.	August 1898	UK		Obligatory to mark registered letters with 'R' (label, stamped, written).

AN EARLY (-ISH) REGISTERED ENVELOPE

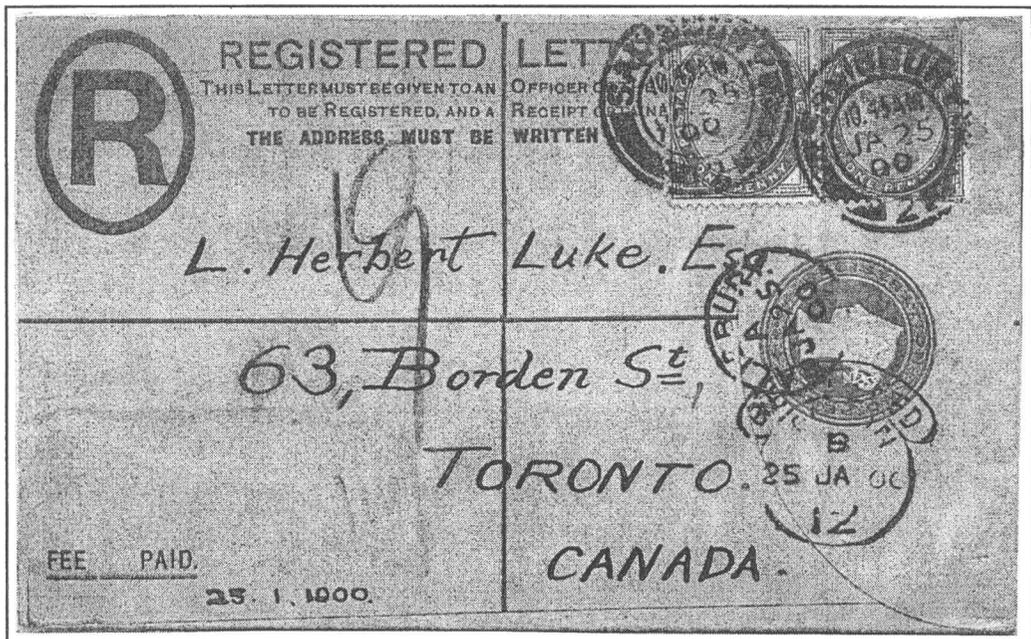


Figure 14: Salisbury, England to Toronto, Canada, 25th January 1900.

THE WAY AHEAD

Some of you may have noticed that the illustration on page 11 is of a Twentieth Century cover. This may be the first such cover illustrated in the Trans-Atlantic Newsletter (I haven't checked my back-issues), but it is unlikely to be the last. It appears that there will be at least two further Newsletters dealing with registered material: the next which will be mainly United States, plus any further BNA material you may let me have; the following will move into the Twentieth Century, and will catalogue the rates

up to the present day. For this last task, which will not be easy if the list is to be comprehensive, I shall need a great deal of help from North America, for I have very little information. Please include references with the dates - if you can. In the meantime, because I shall not be travelling to Newfoundland, I hope that you have a very enjoyable convention (and while you are there, ask about registration fees!). Next issue is a special on the British Queen, then Military (2), then free/official, then news/printed papers.

From:

*MB Montgomery
76, Glen Eyre Road,
Southampton, SO16 3NL
ENGLAND*

PRINTED MATTER
AIR MAIL OUTSIDE UK

PRINTED MATTER
AIR MAIL OUTSIDE UK