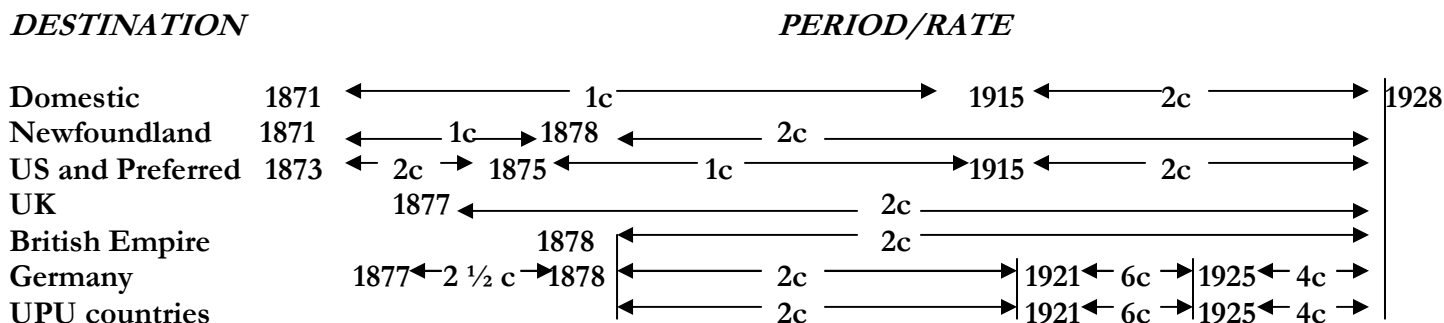


POSTAL HISTORY AND USAGES OF THE CANADA POST CARD 1871 – 1928

This exhibit shows the evolution of the uses of the post card in Canada from its introduction in 1871 to 1928. This represents two periods, 1871 – 1878 and 1878 to 1928, the first the pre-Universal Postal Union (pre-UPU) period and the second the UPU period. While domestic usages were not governed directly by international agreements, they began early to affect the size, colour, and ratings of cards as well as regulation of auxiliary services such as registration and special delivery, also later broadening the definition of the post card from government-printed only to private post card.

The exhibit is organized into two sections, pre UPU (1 frame) and UPU (7 frames); the UPU frames are organized by destination/continent and within each frame take a time-line approach, illustrating the development of rates, regulations for production, and auxiliary services by periods that conform approximately to the Victorian, Edwardian, and George V reigns for each. The exhibit stops at 1928 to coincide with the end of the first definitive series known as the Admiral issue and an approximate 50 years of UPU. The various rates are shown below.



ORGANIZATION OF THE EXHIBIT

FRAME	EMPHASIS	RATES/USAGES
1	Pre-UPU 1871-1878	Domestic, including <i>earliest</i> used card, registration; Newfoundland 1c, 2c, printed matter; US 2c, 1c, short-paid; Germany 2 ½ c rate card; UK printed matter, letter rate, early 2c Empire card usage; France pre-UPU card use of Empire card
2	Domestic 1878-1928	Registration before and after required RLS period, special delivery, soldier's cards, internee and POW cards, ½ c card usage
3,4	UPU, Preferred to Americas	To US, including special delivery and airmail cards; preferred rate for Central America and Caribbean, 2c 1878-1928: UPU rates to South America; routing via US: Caribbean, Mexico, Central & South America; ship letter to Barbados; soldier's letter to Peru;
5,6	UPU, to Europe	To UK, France, Germany; registered card to Austrian Empire; almost all European empires/countries before and after WWI, Iceland, Crete, etc.
7	UPU, to Africa,	Routings via Europe to British Empire, German East Africa, British and French Colonies, Congo Free State, Egypt, Ottoman Empire, Persia
8	UPU, to Far East, Oceania	Routing via Vancouver and US; early card to Japan; to Indochina, Shanghai, China, Macao, India, Ceylon, Straits Settlements, Siam, Borneo, Oceania

Outstanding items are noted with a red dot ●

SUMMARY OF EXHIBIT

This exhibit was built in part from the approach taken in Allan Steinhart's collection, published by Hennok. *The Postal History of the Post Card in Canada 1871 – 1911*, 1986, and in part from my collection of Admiral era postal history that included post card rates, which encompassed the period 1912 to 1928. This seemed a pleasing period, since it encompassed two different collecting eras. While Steinhart did not distinguish the early period, I have divided it in to two parts, the pre-UPU or early development period of the post card, 1871 to early August 1878, and the UPU period, August 1878 to the end of 1928. The latter conveniently spans the first 50 years of the post card in Canada. The early period saw several different rates applied to different countries as Canada made bilateral treaties regarding the use of its postal cards. After Canada joined the UPU in 1878 rates became uniform, divided into domestic, preferred foreign and British Empire (generally identical), and UPU. While an early UPU surtax was listed for particularly remote locations no examples have survived. Thereafter, the only changes came with UPU agreements in 1921, raising cards from 2c each to 6c each, and then reducing them to 4c each in 1925. While registration was available from the early period, all such items are rare whether domestic or foreign, and registered cards are known only to the US, England, Germany, and Austria in the entire 1875-1928 period, with fewer than 10 recorded to the US and only 1 or 2 to the other destinations. Special delivery was available only domestically, perhaps 6 or so recorded, and to the US with US stamps until 1923, again about 6 recorded, and one or two recorded thereafter.

In Canada government post cards were required for transmission domestically until 1895 and externally in the late 1890s to various countries. This prompted the development of private advertising cards, tourist cards, and business forms sent as cards. The rules for their physical layout and size resulted in various violations that are represented in this exhibit.

Another aspect of post card rates was short payment, for which examples of various procedures over the period are shown in the exhibit. Prior to the UPU agreements, underpaid cards, always to foreign destinations since only government cards were considered post cards, were treated usually as shortpaid letters, and rare or unique examples to the US and UK are shown. After UPU agreements examples are shown to various destinations with UPU shortpaid marks and for some countries with postage due or regular issue stamps paying the deficiencies. While deficiencies were typically double the short payment, a very unusual modification was made in the 1920s due to inflation and is shown and discussed in the exhibit as the 5/8 rule, since the deficiency was reduced to 5/8ths of the intended amount due. This has not previously been either reported or shown for Canada post cards, although I showed it in my Admiral era rate exhibit.

In addition to intended usage of the post card to transmit personal messages (post cards were listed under and considered an aspect of letter transmission, termed first class mail by the Canada Post Office in 1889), other uses were made of the cards, including drop letters and printed matter (third class mail), since the rates were the same. Drop letter usage can be distinguished from printed matter under two conditions: a handwritten message was included or from 1882-1889 the card was registered, which was not allowed for post cards during that period. Cards were printed on the back from the very first usage, shown in the exhibit as the earliest recorded card on the second page of the exhibit, to be used as printed matter. Since the printed matter rate was 1c for the first unit weight (this varied over the years from 1 to 4 ounces), the two were indistinguishable domestically, although it mattered for foreign destinations since these were 2c (or higher after 1921). The earliest usage of a card overseas, to the UK, illustrates this in the exhibit for pre-UPU usage, and many examples are shown after UPU entry in 1878 to various countries.

The focus of the discussion above is on rates and uses of post cards. The second emphasis in this exhibit is on destinations. This is the result of the way Canadian mail was sent out of country in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Since with a particular period the same rate would apply to large segments of the world, so that in extreme a single example could be used to represent the rate. If one only showed rates, less than a frame would suffice to exhibit almost all variations. A single card to one British Empire country would represent that rate over the entire UPU period. How cards got to places such as Gabon, Uganda, or Fanning Island, however, presents an interesting emphasis. General principles for conveyance are known from letter mail contracts and postal regulations, although for many destinations the exact conveyance is not known or not likely to be determined. Thus, virtually all mails for the Caribbean, Central, and South America from Canada went through

the US. Until late in the 19th century it mostly went either through New York City to ships or by train to New Orleans for ships or Texas border cities to connect to Mexican trains. At that point some west coast routes became available through Vancouver to San Francisco or other coast cities and onward by ship.

Mail for Europe went either by ship from Montreal/Halifax or to New York. Many contract ship lines carried mails by the time post cards were in common use to Europe, and cards were directed to Liverpool, London, and onward or directly to France or Germany for further distribution.

Mails for Africa depended on destination: cards to British Commonwealth colonies typically went with British lines either down the west coast to Cape of Good Hope or through the Mediterranean to Egypt and then via Suez and Aden to the east coast. Cards to French possessions went to France first, then usually to Marseilles to North Africa, from Calais via ship to West African colonies. Cards for the Congo went via Belgium first, and cards for German African destinations likely first to Hamburg, although it is possible that they may have cleared London directly to ports served by German coastal ships in Africa, as appeared to be the case with the card to German East Africa in 1893 shown in the exhibit. Only two such cards have been recorded, the other to German Southwest Africa shown in Steinhart's collection. Cards to the Middle East went via the Mediterranean on British carriers typically to enter the Ottoman postal system, Cards to Turkey and Persia are shown in the exhibit.

Cards to Asia traveled east when the destination was western Asia, via Vancouver or San Francisco when directed toward eastern Asia. Of course some inconsistencies exist, but as only some cards received transit marks, it is often difficult to determine the direction on cards after the 19th century. Thus, India, Ceylon, Singapore, and Straits Settlements generally went via London; cards for Japan, China, and Oceania went west. The length of time from posting to delivery are often much longer to Oceania, and this reflects the longer travel times to Australia, Fiji, or New Zealand.

The exhibit consists of 8 frames organized into five sections.

FRAME 1: The first section consists of the first frame, showing early uses of the post card prior to entry into UPU. Domestic usage is highlighted by the recently discovered earliest recorded use of the first Canada post card. The card was issued June 1 according to official records and private reports, and the card is printed with a June 3 date and June 5 date used locally in Montreal. The earliest registration of a post card, ex Harrison, is shown, usage of the card as a label for parcel post (also ex Harrison). In foreign uses the earliest recorded card to Newfoundland in 1871 (or any other foreign destination) is shown; prior to agreement on the exchange of cards, it was sent as printed matter. A shortpaid card to the US during the 1872-1875 2c rate period is shown as a completely unpaid letter, 10c due during this period. A card sent to the UK in 1871 with 1c stamp added pays the printed matter rate prior to a post card agreement and is the earliest card sent overseas. A card sent prior to post card agreement is shown treated as a part-paid letter with deficiency due to the UK. Finally, one of two recorded 2 ½ c rated cards to Germany during the 1877-78 treaty rate period is shown to end the frame. This was discovered by the exhibitor and is the confirming example of the rate. Identical to the first example, shown on the front of Steinhart's *The Postal History of the Post Card in Canada 1878-1911*, published in 1979. This is arguably one of the rarest of all Canadian postal rates and is the highlight of the entire exhibit.

FRAME 2: This frame shows domestic usages of post cards from 1878 to 1928. The period is not important for domestic usage but was placed for consistency with the rest of the exhibit. Highlights include a 2c registered card used in 1881, a drop letter usage registered in 1884, and two cards registered at the 5c rate in 1891 and 1897, the first with the 5c registered letter stamp, the latter with a 5c regular issued stamp. These are extremely rare usages and few others have been reported. The latter is ex-Steinhart, and the former is unrecorded previously used in the 5c registration period with registered letter stamp and may be unique. A card with special delivery stamp used in 1899 is shown, quite rare. In the George V period examples of permit mail cards are shown, scarce.

FRAME 3-4: These frames show postcards used to the Americas.

Frame 3 leads off with a 5c registered postcard to the US in 1891 forwarded to College Station TX. I discovered the addressee was a relative of a professor at the Texas A&M College who taught there only two years. Also on the first page is one of the 4-5 recorded post cards to the US with US special delivery stamp attached for service

in the US in the Victorian era. Also to the US are shown a special delivery post card used in 1918 with US stamps, a post card sent via airmail in March 1928 with US airmail stamp, and another post card with both US airmail and special delivery stamps. The latter paid for SD service in the US, not in Canada (as did the airmail stamps in this period prior to August, 1928). A ½ c reply card used from Chicago to Toronto is exhibited, also rare. A card to St. Pierre & Miquelon 1888 is very scarce to rare; the earliest recorded piece of mail to Mexico is shown with an 1882 post card. Cards to Central America, Cuba, and Panama and Colombia complete the frame, the card to Panama probably unique.

Frame 4 continues cards to the Caribbean with scarce cards to Porto Rico, Barbados with Ship Letter cancel, Antigua, St. Vincent, Guadeloupe, and Curacao. The frame continues with cards to South America, which went via east coast and west coast of South America routes. An 1882 card to Buenos Aires is rare, and a new find, the only recorded example of 19th century mail to Paraguay, 1895, are shown. An 1883 card to Peru from Henry Hechler is shown, as is a WW I soldier's letter from France to Lima, unpaid but accepted without charge, complete the highlights of this frame.

Frames 5-6: These frames show the commonest destinations for post cards, Europe. All major countries are represented. As more common destinations, the cards presented were chosen to highlight special conditions, rates, or frankings.

Frame 5: The use of the UK post card to France in May 1879 prior to issuance of a 2c UPU card is one of only 3 or 4 such usages recorded. A shortpaid card to France shows use of a French postage due stamp in 1893. A patriotic card sent in 1898 to France in 1898 was contrary to UPU regulations and rated a shortpaid letter. Examples of shortpaid cards in the Admiral period illustrate use of French postage for the amounts due. Similar cards are shown for cards to Belgium. A German reply card from Canada franked with a 2c Canadian Small Queen is shown, unnecessary under UPU regulation but apparently required by an unknowledgeable clerk. Also, use of the 1898 Map stamp to Germany is shown, very unusual. Shortpaid cards and a nonconforming card to Germany are shown for Victorian and George V periods, including examples in the 6c and 4c rate periods. A shortpaid 1896 card to Vienna with Austro-Hungarian postage dues completes the frame.

Frame 6: The first page shows a registered postcard sent to Innsbruck in 1906. Registered cards to UPU countries are rare in all periods covered here. A shortpaid card to Norway in 1924 exhibits Norwegian postage dues, one of which has a rare listed flaw. Cards are shown to Iceland, an extremely difficult destination to acquire. Cards to Russian Empire conquered lands, including Latvia, Finland, and Poland, are shown, all scarce to rare. An 1886 card to Bulgaria is perhaps unique; Bulgaria was quasi-independent from the Ottoman Empire but was a nominal suzerainty, and the card went through Constantinople. Finally, an equally scarce card to Greece from 1890 is shown.

Frame 7: This frame focuses on African destinations. This frame has perhaps the scarcest destinations overall in the exhibit, as very little material to Africa has emerged in the last century. A card to South Africa, ex Steinhart, includes the scarce "POST CARDS TO THIS ADDRESS CANNOT BE FORWARDED" notation as interior provinces and colonies were not listed in the UPU or Empire scheme. A 1907 card to Fort Hall, then in Uganda Protectorate (only established in 1898) is shown, having traversed Suez and the east coast to Zanzibar and Nairobi. A card to German East Africa, mentioned earlier, is the only example of any mail matter to German East Africa from Canada. Cards to the Congo Free State and to Belgian Congo are also rare. Cards are shown to Senegal, French Congo, and Gabon in the George V period, all unique to my knowledge. 1897 and 1899 cards to Algeria are the only recorded in the 19th century, as is an 1893 card to Tunisia, ex Steinhart. An 1898 card to Canary Islands is also unique to date. The frame ends with the only recorded mail item to Persia in the 19th century.

Frame 8: This frame shows Asian destinations. An 1894 card to Singapore is rare for 19th century. Cards to Vietnam between 1907 and 1911 have not been previously recorded prior to WW I. An 1893 card to the Philippines, ex Steinhart, is the earliest mail there. A shortpaid 4c rate card illustrates the 5/8 rule applied in 1928 to Japan. An 1896 card to Hawaii is rare, one other example recorded. The frame ends with a card to Fanning Island in 1903, one of two recorded examples prior to WW I; Fanning Island was annexed by the UK in 1888 to aid in laying a Pacific telegraph cable.

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