



KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

April - June 2004

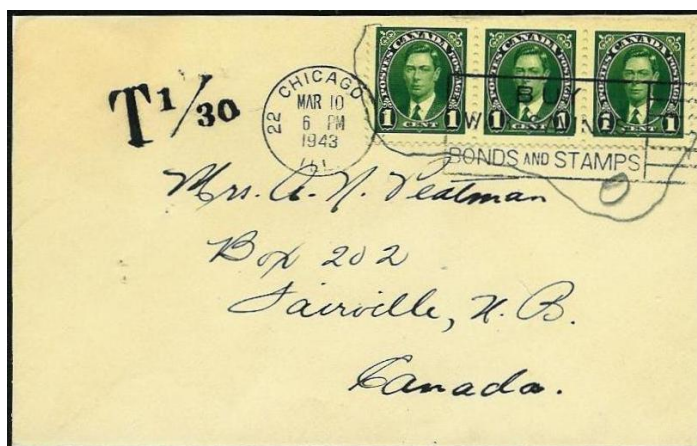
Issue 3

Mufti's mailed in Chicago! - by John Burnett

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The cover shown here is kind of a neat little envelope which is one of those “**What the heck do I do with this one?**” covers. A strip of three 1¢ Mufti stamps have been used on this envelope posted in Chicago Illinois in the United States. Notice the circular pencil mark around the stamps with a small circle drawn inside the larger one. I think this is an official marking by the US Post Office to indicate misused stamps as I have seen similar markings on covers with similar misuse.



The envelope front also shows a postage due marking “**T 1/30**” which I read as:

- “**T**” To Pay
- “**1**” One Item? - (this I do not know) Can anyone clarify this ?
- “**30**” 30 centimes (at 5 centimes per ¢; this equates to 6¢ or double the deficiency due - 3¢ postage and 3¢ penalty).

French currency is the official currency used by U. P. U. members and as this would be an international letter, I surmise that is the reason for the French currency requirement for this letter. I will probably mount this cover in my “Mail to the USA” section of my collection but I’m not sure it belongs there. Maybe we all need a “**What the Heck do I do with This**” collection.

► Chairman's Notes - by Gary Steele

As you know, the Royal 2004 show was held in Halifax this past May. This was probably the biggest show we have ever had in Halifax. I am not sure how it stacks up against other Royal shows, but I thought it was great.

The number and scale of the exhibits were overwhelming and even though I live close by, I just did not have the time to view every exhibit. Where does one find the time to do an 80 or 120 page exhibit let alone review it during a quick visit to a philatelic exhibit. Luckily, articles for our newsletter or BNA Topics don't have to be so extensive plus we have the luxury of being able to read our newsletter on one's own time.

You may have noticed Doug Lingard's two page article in Issue No. 1 of the Post & Mail has been reproduced in BNA Topics. Doug's article was based on two covers he presented at our Study Group's inaugural session at BNAPEX 2003. I am sure that many times you have also found yourself speaking to someone about an interesting aspect of your collection. I encourage you to write a few notes when you have your covers or stamps sitting in front of you and submit them to Stephen for our newsletter. It is easy and rewarding to share your knowledge with other members of our Study group and more widely within BNAPS.

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► EFO's & Varieties

This issue's EFO Corner features a nice partially perforated KGVI 3c violet War Issue (Perf 9½) coil strip with Tail strip attached. The bottom three perforation holes are missing between each stamp and hand written rejection marks and notation "all bad" are clearly evident.



This little gem was offered for sale in the recent June 2004 R. Maresch & Son auction sale whose permission to reproduce the catalogue photo of this item is gratefully acknowledged. An article about this strip which appeared in the Weekly Philatelic Gossip sometime in 1949 was included in the auction lot.

Perhaps a member of our Study Group was the successful bidder for this item and if so your Editor would be interested in learning more about how this error came about.

► Editor's Desk

This current Issue 3 of the Post & Mail features an excellent article by our Chairman Gary Steele where further examples of covers showing domestic first class postal rates and usages during the Mufti period complement and expand upon John Burnett's article in Issue 2. Gary has also included a fine example of an Acknowledgement of Registration card in his article.

The summer period has been a bit slow and your Editor has received very little in the way of new material for future issues of the Post & Mail. In Issue 2, your Editor made a few suggestions for article material which I am hopeful members would be able to take the lead on. I should mention that the important thing is good quality photocopies of your covers and stamps plus an outline of the story you would like to tell. Please know that your Editor is on standby to help with the article text (which he usually needs to edit or embellish to fit the space available in the newsletter).

There has been insufficient material received these past few months to do justice to a Member's Corner in Issue 3; your Editor will pick this up again in Issue 4.

One final housekeeping note: when you are sending images of covers for your articles, the best format is a colour photocopy with a white background, while with stamps, a black background is preferred. A brief write-up that describes the formats that can be readily used in our newsletter is available from your Editor upon request - just drop me a note via post or email.

KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

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Postal History during the King George VI 1937 - 42 “Mufti” Era Domestic First Class Rates

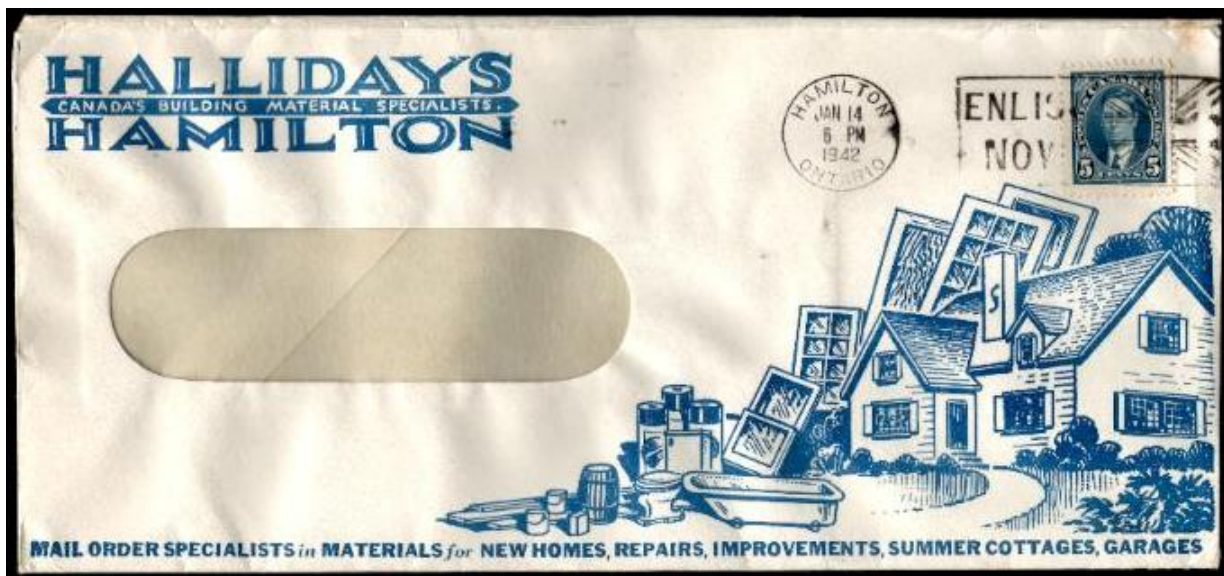
By Gary Steele

Upon reading John Burnett’s article on Domestic First Class Rates during the Mufti period in Issue 2 of the Post & Mail, I thought about items I have in my collection and how they compared. I was able to find a number of items that expand upon the rates and usages illustrated in John’s article. Readers are encouraged to refer to Issue 2 for the excellent summary schedule of rates and fees for domestic first class mail during the Mufti era which I have used to reference the examples of covers illustrated below.

Letters Forward - Up to 2 Ounces to a Domestic Destination

Commercial mailings more often than not comprised a single page letter or invoice, perhaps two pages at most. As such one finds that most window envelope commercial covers are found with a 3¢ stamp to pay the domestic first class letter rate for letters weighing up to one ounce. Commercial window envelopes over one ounce such as the Hallidays - Canada’s Building Material Specialists - illustrated below showing a 5¢ Mufti paying the 3¢ first ounce and 2¢ second ounce first class letter fee are more difficult to come by.

Now a 5¢ franking could also mean that the letter had been rated for up to four ounces to pay the Drop Letter rate for delivery within the post office branch’s district. It is highly unlikely in this case though as letters of such a substantial weight usually show some sign wear which is not apparent with this cover. But that leads me to my next subject - a nice example of an overweight Drop Letter.



*Commercial Window Envelope cover mailed on June 14, 1938 in Hamilton, Ontario
franked with the 5¢ Mufti stamp to pay the Letter Forward rate for up to 2 oz. to a domestic destination.*

..... Mufti Era Domestic First Class Rates*by Gary Steele***Drop Letters - Up to 3 Ounces to a City Location**

As mentioned in John's article in Issue 2, it can be difficult to be entirely certain if a letter franked with a 3¢ stamp for delivery within a large urban area is an overweight Drop Letter paid up to two ounces or is a normal first class letter paid for delivery to another post office branch in the same city. One can be more certain one is dealing with an overweight Drop Letter if the rate paid is 4¢ - 2¢ for the first ounce and 1¢ paid for each additional ounce up to three ounces. Conveniently, there are no other rate combinations for domestic first class mail delivery during the Mufti period that would result in a 4¢ rate and so if one finds a cover posted and addressed within the same city franked with stamps totaling four cents, this is almost certainly an overweight Drop Letter. I have also observed that overweight covers tend to exhibit a certain amount of wear compared to normal letters and this is another clue one can use to determine if one is dealing with an overweight Drop Letter.

The cover below is a nice example an overweight Drop Letter paid for up to three ounces with the 4¢ "Mufti" definitive and also franked with 10¢ 1938 Pictorial "Memorial Chambers" to pay the Special Delivery fee. This item is interesting in that it features the 4¢ definitive in a seldom seen use to pay a specific fee, in this case the triple weight Drop Letter rate. The cover has creases along the top, left and bottom edges and a distinct fold, possibly from being a cover of abnormal size and thickness traveling through post office machinery.



Drop Letter rate cover mailed May 16, 1941 in Montreal for delivery at a 4¢ rate for a Drop Letter of up to 3 ounces.

..... Mufti Era Domestic First Class Rates

by Gary Steele

Registration - REGISTERED AGAINST LOSS ONLY

The next item deals with a further aspect of registered letters not covered in John's article in Issue 2. The cover below shows an interesting example where the Post Office has limited its liability by excluding loss due to damage of contents of a registered letter but indemnifying (up to a value of \$25) for the total loss of the letter only.

Line 192. of the 1938-39 Postal Guide States:

"Indemnity for damage to articles of a fragile nature will be given only in those cases in which the article is conspicuously marked "**Fragile - with Care**". However, "Indemnity will not be given for damage to an article (sent at letter rate) containing glass, crockery, greases, semi-liquids, or any articles of an exceptionally fragile nature". Although I have not found a specific Post Office regulation dealing with this matter for letters, one can be found for packets or parcels in Paragraph #258 of the Useful Information for Postmasters book which states "If the contents are of such a nature as to preclude the payment of indemnity for damage, the mailer is to be so advised, and the registration receipt must be endorsed **REGISTERED AGAINST LOSS ONLY** "

One can only speculate what the sender (O.W.R Smith) had enclosed in the envelope below but, whatever it was, the sender had taken the time to type "FRAGILE" and "DO NOT BEND OR FOLD" in red to highlight the desire for special care in handling the letter. The Post Office in turn affixed its special "**FRAGILE - HANDLE WITH CARE**" label but also must have advised the sender that the contents were not indemnified as evidenced by the purple "**REGISTERED AGAINST LOSS ONLY**" purple hand-stamp. A nice example of the 13¢ 1938 Pictorial - Entrance to Halifax Harbour - paid the 3¢ domestic first class letter rate from Toronto to Drummondville, Quebec and the 10¢ Registration fee.



Registered (Against Loss Only) cover mailed October 14, 1939 from Toronto, Ontario for delivery to Drummondville, Quebec franked with the 13¢ 1938 Pictorial to pay the 3¢ domestic first class letter rate plus the 10¢ registration fee

..... Mufti Era Domestic First Class Rates

by Gary Steele

Registration - Triple Registration Fee for Indemnity not to exceed \$75

Mailed from Lestook, Saskatchewan, this cover is an example of a triple registration fee (30¢) to pay for indemnity of up to \$75. This type of registered item is seldom seen in that most registration covers are prepaid 10¢ only for indemnity not to exceed \$25. Note the Air Mail sticker and if this letter had been sent by air mail, it would mean the 6¢ air mail fee would be required. However the cover has only a further 3¢ fee affixed to meet the domestic first class Letter Forward rate and it appears the letter actually traveled by surface route as there is a RPO cancel back-stamp dated MR 5 41 (RIV & SASK. R.P.O.No. 2) and a received in Ottawa back-stamp dated MR 7 41.



Registered letter (Indemnified for Loss not to Exceed \$75) sent on March 5, 1941 from Lestook, Saskatchewan to Ottawa forwarded in part via the Rivers (Manitoba) & Saskatoon RPO - part of the then Grand Trunk Pacific Railway

Acknowledgement of Receipt

A sender of registered letters could request an Acknowledgement of Receipt by return mail for a fee of 10¢ additional to the normal cost for registration. The card would be forwarded with the letter, duly endorsed and returned to the sender as proof of delivery. The majority of AR cards were franked with the 10¢ Memorial Chamber stamp during the Mufti period. However, the AR card below has, somewhat unusually, three 3¢ and a single 1¢ Mufti definitives affixed. In addition, the AR card features a Certificate of P.O. Registration (marked #221), and is duly hand-stamped with a large circular AR marking; dated AUG 13 1938 - Medicine Hat, and initialed by the appropriate post office staff member authorized to handle these matters.

A sender could ask for an acknowledgement of receipt sent subsequently to actually mailing a registered letter. In this case, the fee would be 20¢. These are scarce and I am still looking for a domestic delivery AR card for my collection.



Acknowledgement of Receipt Card sent on Aug 13, 1938 from Medicine Hat, Alberta and received in Coleridge, Alberta on Aug. 16, 1938