



PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society
(Volume VII, No. 1, January, 2018)

Dear Study Group Member,

The beauty of collecting the Pence and Cents Era is that everything is old. I think that is one of the qualities that attracts collectors to this area. Owning a Pence-Cents Issue stamp or cover is like owning a small piece of history and having a collection is like a mini-museum where you can travel through history. This brings us to our first issue that focuses more on Postal History. Here are some articles and information on collecting covers and Postal History. We hope to add more articles on Postal History in future issues as this is such a large part of collecting in the Pence and First Decimal era of philately.

Jim Jung, Editor Pence Cents Newsletter



Here is a picture from the CANPEX Show in London held by the Middlesex Stamp Club. There were many dealers and I found a couple of deals. Not as many as I would like but isn't that always the case? Peter Maresch was there showing off some nice items from the family collection. All available for the right price. And a wonderful group of friendly collectors. The PSSC group hosted a nice Meet and Greet with free tasty Greek food and coffee/tea.

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Articles or Ideas for the Next Newsletter ...

Dear Readers, if you have something interesting in your collection that you would like to share with others interested in the classical period of Canadian philately, please send us an e-mail (fab4@rogers.com) with a description of something you are collecting. **We would be interested in researching and writing an article about your area of interest. We will do some legwork for you !!**

Articles or ideas about stamps, covers, revenues, errors, fakes, and just about anything in early Canadian philately qualifies. Whatever you are currently doing to your stamp collection is probably very interesting.

Write a few words about it, take a few pics and share your story with us. We would love to hear from you.

Majors' rate study exhibit earns Grand at BNAPEX

By Jesse Robitaille

This September, esteemed exhibitor Ronald E. Majors was awarded the BNAPS Horace Harrison Grand Award for his rate study of decimal-franked and stampless covers from the mid-19th century.

Entitled "Canadian Postal History: A Rate Study using Decimal-Franked and Stampless Covers (1859-1868)," the exhibit was "the best representation of the postal history of the period ever put together," according to Chief Judge Victor Willson, of Texas.

"Mr. Majors' exhibit covered the uses of Canada's second set of stamps, which coincided with a great increase in Canadian trade and communication. The shift from pence to cents as the Canadian currency acknowledged the shift in trade balance from England to the U.S. as well," said Willson.

"Several previous BNAPEX high-level exhibits had focused on this issue, and Mr. Majors' exceeded them all, having incorporated much of those into it over the years."

Majors' exhibit was one of about 140 entries in the joint convention hosted by the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) and Calgary Philatelic Society (CPS) on Sept. 1-3.

Show co-chair Hugh Delaney said the event was "extremely successful" with attendees from "quite a number

Continued on page 22

Ron Majors wins Grand Award at BNAPEX

I just wanted to report and congratulate our Chairman Ron Majors, who won the Grand Award at the BNAPEX in Calgary this past September.

This is such a fabulous achievement when you consider that there were 28 exhibits totaling 110 frames and an additional 9 exhibits totaling 33 frames at CALTAPEX2017.

Ron had just finished displaying his exhibit at the American Philatelic Society's StampShow in August, 2017. There he received several awards: Large Gold, BNAPS Best BNA Exhibit, Postal History Society Medal, APS Best Canadian Exhibit and best of all, the **Reserve Grand Award**. This APS meeting is the biggest stamp show in the United States with over 650 frames of U.S., Canada and worldwide exhibits so there was much more competition than at BNAPEX 2017.

We're glad to have him as our leader in the Pence-Cents Study Group!

The article at the left was taken from the Canadian Stamp News October 3-16, 2017.

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Application for Membership in the BNAPS Pence/Cents Study Group

If you have an interest in early Canadian and BNA stamps, covers and postal history including stampless, please fill out and return this form to Richard Thompson, 201 – 506 Grafton St, Victoria, B.C. Canada V9A 7P8 or e-mail a copy of this form to: rpthompson1939@gmail.com (We really just need your info in an email and you're in)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

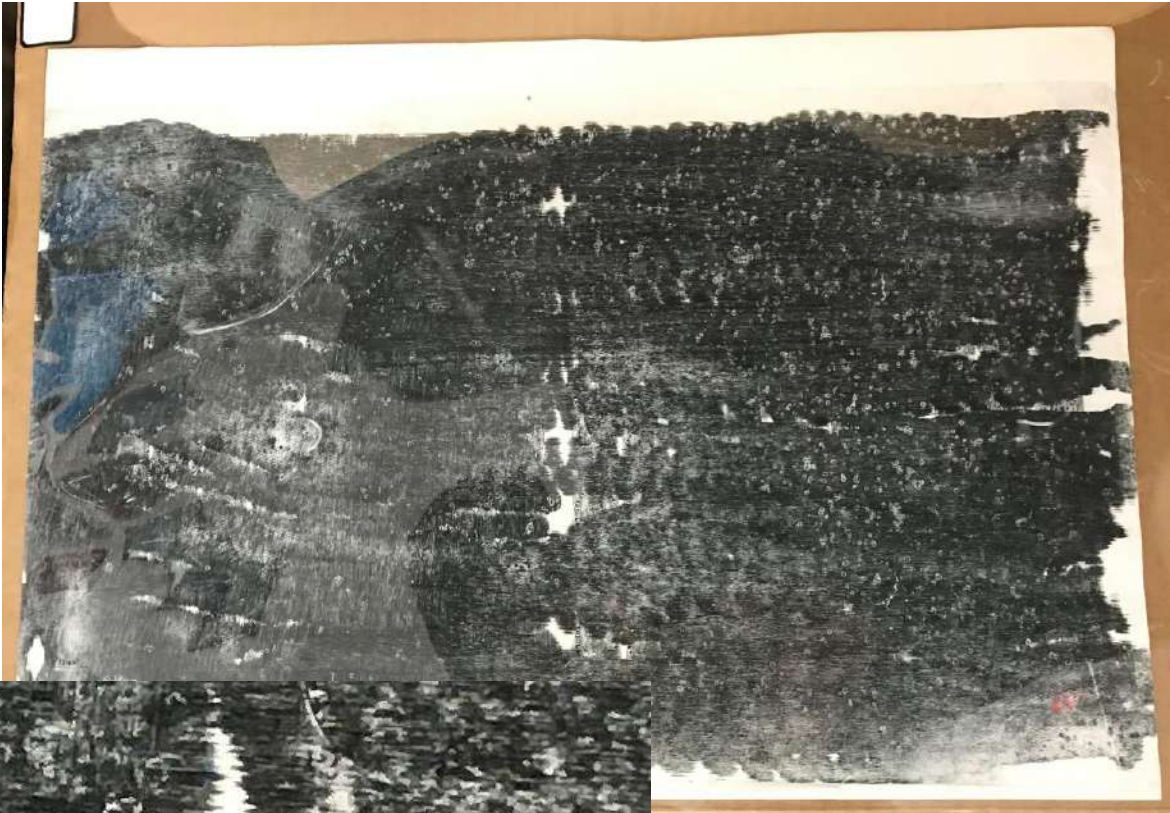
Province/State: _____ Postal/Zip Code _____ E-mail _____

FAX: _____ Telephone: _____

Describe your interest area(s):

12d Proof Sheet for Sale by Jim Jung

When I was at the CANPEX show in London, I ran into a dealer named Walter Greenwood. He showed me a couple of items but I wasn't interested in what he had. Then I mentioned I hadn't found much of anything yet but wanted to buy something nice. He then said he had a Defaced 12d Proof Sheet. I thought for a second. A whole sheet? A 12d proof sells in the \$1000 range. There are 120 on a pane, 2 panes on a sheet, that's \$240,000. Then he said I could have it for \$30,000. He pulled out a big sheet of cardboard and opened it up and this is what I saw. At first glance, it does look ugly. But when you start inspecting it up close, the devil is in the details.



Apparently, there were 2 available out of the 3 printed. The 3rd one being in the Postal Museum in the Archives. These were released in 1974, printed from the original plate. Of the two available to the public, one was lighter and the other darker. The lighter one was sold first because it shows the underlying stamps the best. This remaining one still shows enough of the stamps so that you can measure the plate size and the gutters between the two panes. My cell phone photo does not do it justice. You'll have to contact Walter Greenwood to get a better look. I was quite impressed in seeing it myself. This is a lovely item if you have the pocketbook. Being one of only three, it certainly is Rare.



Postal Usage during Canada's Decimal Period by George B. Arfken and Arthur W. Leggett

We have a wonderful past at BNAPS with a philatelic history full of information from well known collectors. These are people who dug deep into their hobby and paved the way for us; as a new generation of collectors. This is why we feel that the resurrection of this group is significant. Here's an selected article from the BNAPS Article Archives previously published in Volume 51 of BNA Topics (Jan-Mar 1994).

Part 1 - Domestic Letters

This is the first of a series of short articles discussing and illustrating postal usage during Canada's Decimal stamp period, July 1, 1859 - March 31, 1868. The Decimal stamps themselves have been discussed in great detail in Whitworth's classic text [1] and in numerous journal articles. The postal usage of these stamps has been largely neglected. Here, we attempt to remedy this neglect. Canada had decided to change from the British pound- shilling- pence system to a U.S. decimal type dollar- cent system. Post Office Department Circular No. 45, dated June 12, 1859 [2], gave details of the coming July 1, 1859 transition. The 3d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. domestic letter rate would become 5c per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., for prepaid letters. Unpaid letters would be charged 7c per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. The 3d Beaver stamp was modified to produce the 5c Beaver. Whitworth [1] has given details of the process. This 5c domestic letter rate continued throughout the Decimal period. It was reduced to 3c per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. effective April, 1868 by Department Order No. 2 [3].

Figure 1. shows an 1867 cover with a 5c Beaver paying the domestic rate from Toronto, C.W. to Owen Sound, Ont. The cover is a very ordinary cover. The stamp is far from ordinary. It shows the major re-entry. A double rate cover, over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., not over 1 oz., required 10c postage. The 10c Prince Consort paid this rate. The stamp was adapted from the six pence 1851 issue. This postal usage is illustrated in Figure 2 which shows an 1866 double rate cover that went from Port Hope to Toronto. Of course there were other ways to pay the basic 5c rate. Figure 3 offers one alternative, a strip of five 1c Decimal stamps. This 1863 cover went from North Inverness, C.E. to Quebec. There is a Quebec, LC. backstamp. This cover of Figure 3 is not really a great oddity. Charles Firby has recorded 89 examples of this type franking^[4]. Firby also lists payment by a bisected 6d stamp (1 cover), a bisected 10c Decimal stamp (8 covers) and a 1c and two 2c Decimal stamps (13 covers). The record of official postal documents is far less complete in the early part of the Decimal period than in the Large Queen or Small Queen periods. However, from the Firby Recording we have a very good idea of what Decimal postal material has survived.

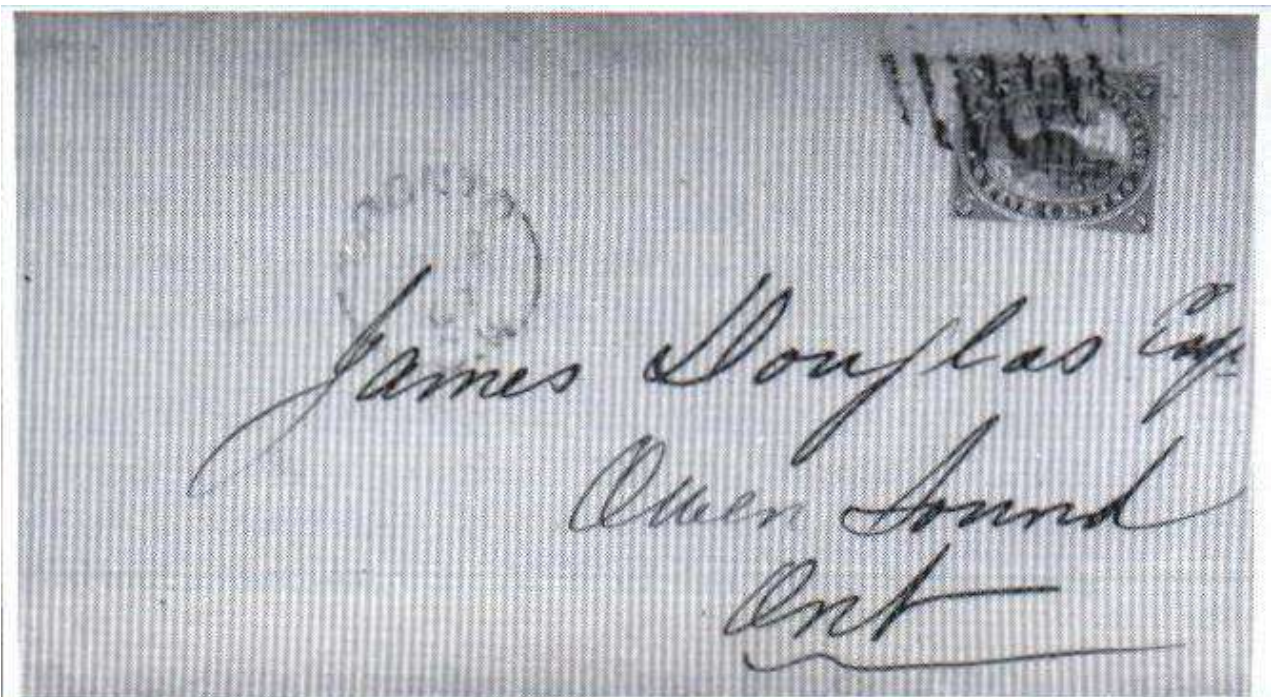


Figure 1. Posted in Toronto, C.W., NO 2 67, and addressed to Owen Sound, Ont., the single rate postage was paid with a 5c Beaver. The stamp shows the major re-entry.

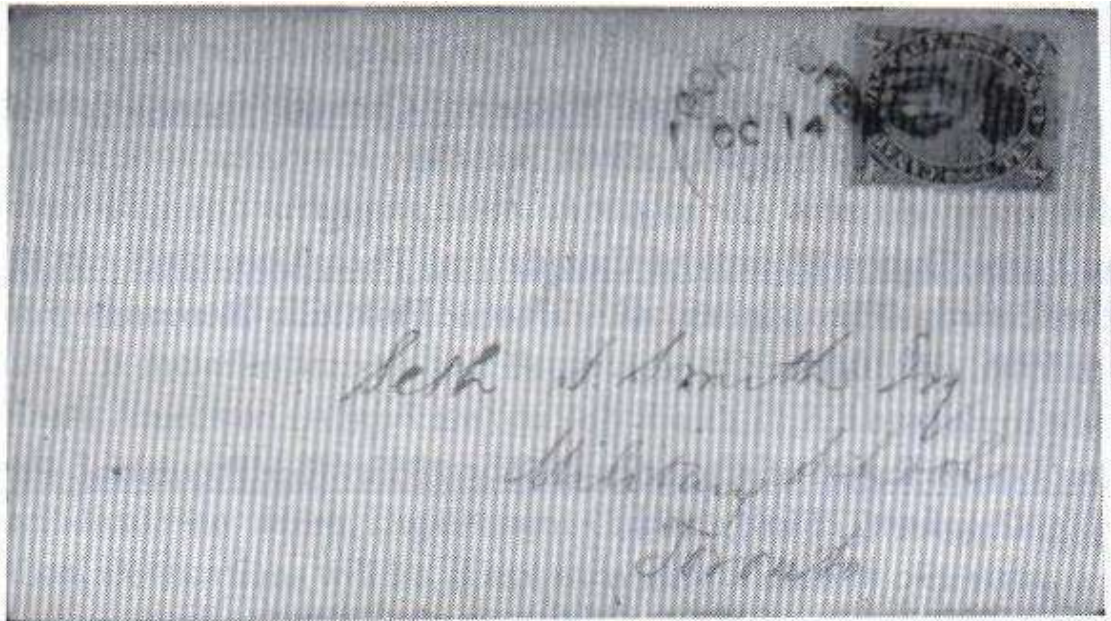


Figure 2. A double rate cover posted in Port Hope, OC 14 66 and addressed to Toronto. The 10c postage was paid with a 10c Prince Consort.



Figure 3. A single rate cover, 5c postage paid with five 1c Decimals. The cover was mailed in North Inverness, C.E., NO 28 1863, and addressed to Quebec.

References

- [1] The First Decimal Issue of Canada, Geoffrey Whitworth, The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1966.
- [2] The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada, Volume 2, Winthrop S. Boggs, Chambers Publishing Co., 1945. P.21-B.
- [3] The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use, 1868 - 1872, H.E. & H. W. Duckworth, The Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, Toronto, 1986. Pp.10-17.
- [4] The Postal Rates of Canada: 1851 - 1868, The Provincial Period – A Recording, Charles G. Firby, 1984.

Part 2 - Drop Letters, Circulars and Prices Current

In a discussion of drop letter rates and circular rates, the basic postal document, Department Circular No. 45, is not very helpful. It reads: "The charges on Drop or Box Letters, and on Letters taken out by Letter Carriers in Cities, and other minor rates of a like character, are to be made at the rate of two cents for every penny now charged." So what were the pence rates in 1859? An answer comes from the annual Canadian Almanacs. The 1859 Almanac refers one to the 1858 Almanac. There we read (p.44): "On Letters deposited at an office for delivery in the same place, called Drop or Box Letters, the rate is 1/2d." So the decimal rate on drop letters was 1c. This 1c rate was confirmed in the 1863 Canadian Postal Guide. Note that there was no weight limit. A weight limit of 1/2 oz. was specified in 1875 [1, p.20].

Figure 1 shows a drop letter posted in Montreal, C.E., AP 24 67. The 1c postage was paid with a 1c Decimal. This cover is actually a turned cover. It was turned inside out and used a second time as a drop letter. There is another 1c Decimal and a Montreal, C.E., AP 27 67 date stamp on the inside.

The postal rate for circulars again comes from the 1858 Canadian Almanac (p.46). We find: "Printed Circulars, Prices Current, or Handbills, and other printed matter of a like description are charged a rate of 1/2d per ounce " This 1c per 1 oz. rate continued until 1873 when the basic weight was raised to 2 oz. [1, p.158]. Figure 2 shows a cover passed at the 1c circular rate. Mailed in Hamilton, C.W., AP 23 66, the cover was clearly labelled "Circular" and was unsealed to permit postal inspection.

The item shown in Figure 3 appeared at first to be a "prices current," a printed offer to sell various articles of produce. In the 19th century, this was a common way of advertising and arranging sales. Actually, this item opens up to become a two page weekly periodical. The first page is titled "Weekly Prices Current in Montreal" and is dated July 10, 1863. The second page is beaded "Movements of Produce." It includes arrivals and departures of vessels. One departure was the S.S. North American (Allan Line) on July 9 with 21,228 bushels of wheat, etc. This Figure 3 item could have passed at the 1c circular or prices current rate or at a 1c periodical rate. Here, Department Circular No. 45 was helpful: "The rate on Periodical Publications will be, if not exceeding 3 ounces of weight, 1 cent; ... "



Figure 1. A drop letter, posted in Montreal, C.E., AP 27 67. The 1c drop rate postage was paid with a 1c Decimal. This cover was turned inside out and reused three days later as another drop letter. On the inside there is another 1c Decimal and a Montreal, C.E., AP 27 67 date stamp.

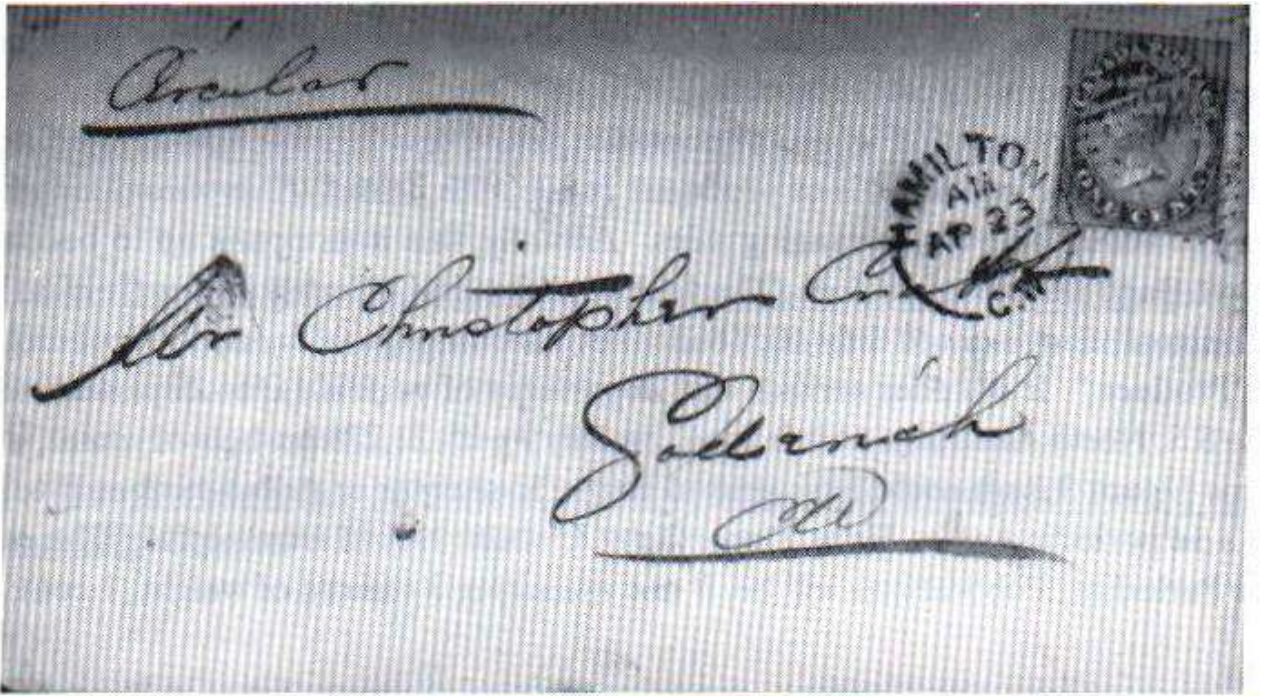


Figure 2. An unsealed envelope marked "Circular." Mailed in Hamilton, C.W., AP 23 66 at the 1c circular (printed matter) rate.

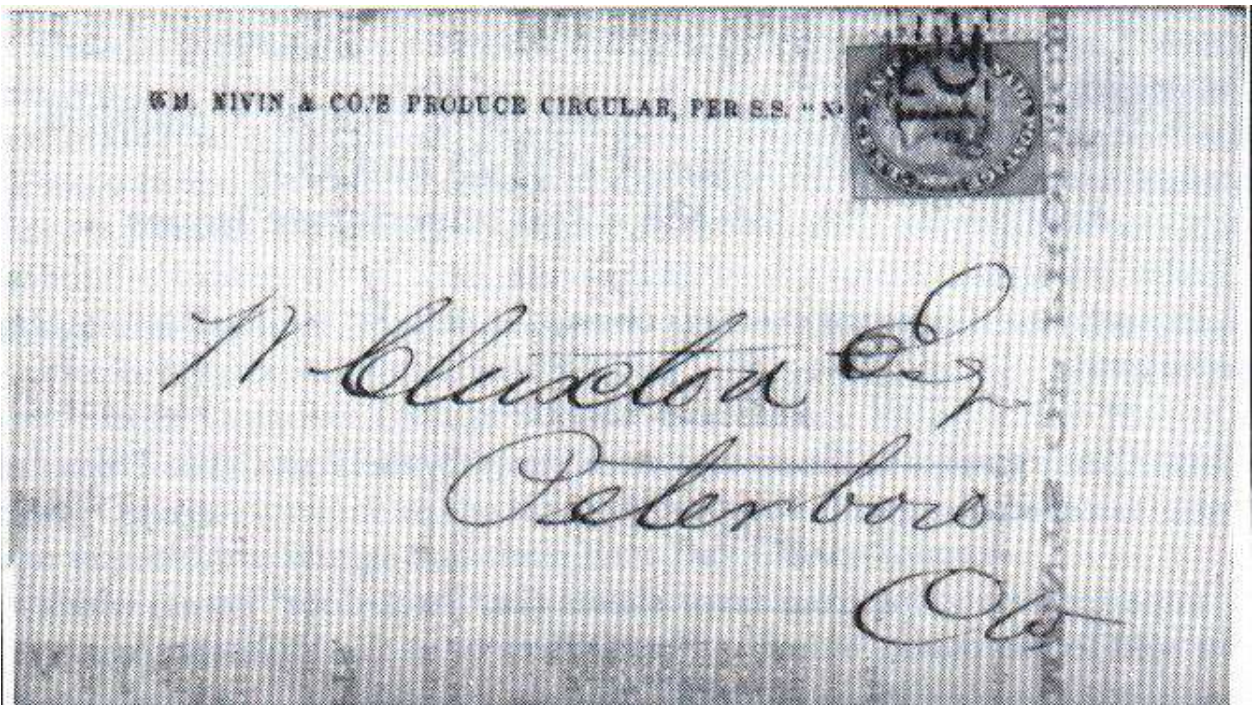


Figure 3. Printed matter, a two page weekly periodical listing prices current and other information. This issue is dated July 10, 1863. Note the "21" roller cancel. It is not a precancel.

Reference

[1] Canada's Small Queen Era, 1870- 1897, George B. Arfken, Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, 1989.

Collecting Trans-Atlantic Postal History – A Beginners Guide (Part One)

Whenever I'm reading a book that discusses Canadian Postal History there is a discussion of all the rates for Domestic letters, then there are Inter-Provincial and Crossborder rates to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and the United States. Finally, there are the International rates to England, Scotland, Ireland, Europe and beyond. These three groupings of Postal Rates are still in effect today with the three rates for Domestic, United States and International letters and parcels.

The 3d Beaver stamp paid the Domestic rate in the Pence period and the Beaver stamp with a 5c denomination paid the Domestic rate during the First Decimal era. Similarly, the 6d Prince Consort paid the Crossborder rate in the Pence period and the 10¢ consort paid the Crossborder rate to that part of the US east of the Rockies until June 30, 1864 and to all of the US from July 1, 1864 to March 31, 1868 in the first decimal era. Next, we move on to the Trans-Atlantic mail.

Early Pence Period

In 1848, the US – UK Postal Convention set the letter rates between the United Kingdom and Canada via the United States at 1s 2d to Boston and New York. This was effective on April 15, 1849. There was a reduction to 1s to Halifax. At the beginning of the Pence period, the method of transport was mostly done by the Samuel Cunard Line sailings from Liverpool to Boston and to New York. Both these routes had a stop in Halifax to pick up and to deliver mail to Canada and the Provinces. Mail was sent directly to Boston or New York over land to be put on the ships destined for Liverpool or sent to Halifax to be delivered to Liverpool.

In 1851 the rate for a letter going between Canada and England was 16d Cy (1s 2d Stg) in either direction through New York and Boston. There are no combinations of 3d, 6d and 12d that add up to this 16d rate so covers with adhesive stamps are scarce and would always require payment in cash for part of the charge. Covers exist with 2 x 6d + 1 x 3d or 5 x 3d stamp combinations. The extra 1d was paid in cash. Only 4 covers have been reported with these combinations of stamps.

The charge to send a letter by way of Halifax was slightly cheaper at 13 ½ d Cy (1s Stg).

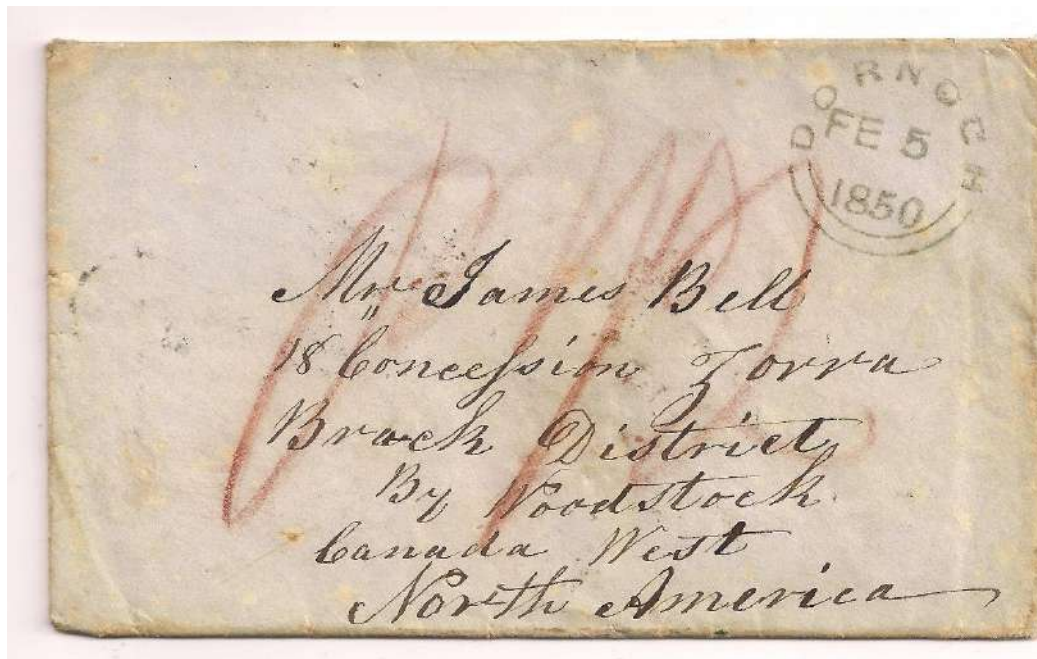


Figure 1 – 1850 Trans-Atlantic Stampless Folded Letter from Dornach, Scotland to District of Zorra

Collecting Trans-Atlantic Postal History – A Beginners Guide (Part One) continued...

When I researched this Stampless Cover with an 1850 dispatch, I googled DORNACH and found there was a nice town in Switzerland named Dornach. This seemed to account for the 3 days it took to get from Dornach on FE 5 1850 to Liverpool on FE 8 1850 as seen on the postmarks on the front and back of this SFL. Then someone else looked at the cover and told me that the letter actually originated in the small seaside town of Dornach in Northern Scotland. It took three days to travel by train from Dornach down thru Inverness to Edinburgh and then onwards to Liverpool. The red crayon marking says P ½ for Paid 1s 2d to be carried by the British Packet Cunard Line steamship America sailing on February 9, 1850 arriving in Boston on February 25. Then the letter was carried crossborder to Brantford, on to Woodstock and finally to the Township of Zorra to Mr James Bell. Some research into James Bell shows his father James Bell Ewart to be a successful businessman, farmer and politician who passed away in 1852. During his final years, James Bell Ewart suffered some financial difficulties which he bequeathed to his son James Bell. It looks like this is the time this letter was sent.



Figure 2 – Back of 1850 Trans-Atlantic Stampless Folded Letter from Dornach, Scotland showing transit and receiving postmarks from Liverpool, Brantford and Woodstock.

Finding the Trans-Atlantic Ship Routing

One of the attractions of researching a Trans-Atlantic cover is finding the ship that the letter sailed on. This is an important part of this history and a large part of the routing where the letter crossed the Atlantic. In order to do this, you need to look in the charts that list the sailings for the Cunard Line. There are two charts for Cunard, one for sailings to Boston and one for New York. I use a book called *Atlantic Mails* by **Jack C. Arnell**, a known expert in Trans-Atlantic Postal History. This book includes many useful charts showing the complete list of sailings for the Cunard, Allan and Collins Line from 1840 to 1889. There are also samples of letters prior to 1840 and notes of any problems encountered where a ship was delayed or was unable to complete the journey. The chart below is an example of a chart showing the sailings for the Cunard Line to Boston in 1850. On the 2nd line is the 13th trip for the steamship America departing Liverpool on February 9th. The letter above has postmarks dated FE 8 1850 so this letter would have sailed on this ship. The ship arrived in Boston on Feb 25 so it took another 8 days to travel to Woodstock where it was postmarked MAR 5 1850. If you don't find matching dates on the Cunard Boston chart then check the Cunard New York chart, and for later dates, the Allan and Collins Line sailing charts.

Collecting Trans-Atlantic Postal History – A Beginners Guide (Part One) continued...

1850	Trip	Liverpool <i>Depart</i>	Halifax <i>Arrive</i>	Boston <i>Arrive</i>	Boston <i>Depart</i>	Halifax <i>Arrive</i>	Liverpool <i>Arrive</i>
	<i>Niagara</i>	12 Jan	23 Jan	25 Jan	6 Feb	8 Feb	19 Feb
	<i>America</i>	9 Feb	23 Feb	25 Feb	6 Mar	8 Mar	19 Mar
	<i>Niagara</i>	9 Mar	21 Mar	23 Mar	3 Apr	5 Apr	16 Apr
	<i>America</i>	6 Apr	18 Apr	20 Apr	1 May	2 May	13 May
	<i>Canada</i>	20 Apr	1 May	3 May	15 May	17 May	28 May

Figure 3 – Cunard Transatlantic sailings to Boston – sample portion of Table from Jack Arnell's book: *Atlantic Mails*.

Later Pence Period

In January 1855, the 10d (Cy) Cartier stamp was issued specifically to pay for this rate to England (and Europe) on the Cunard Line by way of Boston or New York. This rate change happened in March of 1854 and was issued in a British Post Office Bulletin and was applied to letters in both directions between the UK and Canada. From the UK, the rate was 8d Stg. An expert who studied Trans-Atlantic mail, Jack Arnell, states that this large reduction was made by the new Post Office Secretary Rowland Hill and was for Cunard Line mail only. All other shipping lines such as the Collins remained at the old 1s2d Stg rate for the same route via Boston and New York.

Here's an example of a typical cover postmarked Montreal NO 17 1858. The manuscript routing is Per Royal Mail Steamer, thus on the Cunard Line, this sailed on the Steamship America, which at the time was the holder of the Blue Riband. The America departed Boston on November 17th and stopped in Halifax on November 18 arriving in Liverpool on November 29. The cover is marked Paid in red at the lower left and is postmarked arriving in LONDON NO 30 58.



Figure 4 – Trans-Atlantic Cunard Cover Front from Montreal to London paid with the 10d Cartier.

Collecting Trans-Atlantic Postal History – A Beginners Guide (Part One) continued...

This cover was a bit harder to lookup in the charts. When you follow the sailing from Boston to Liverpool on November 17, 1858 you can see the dates do line up with the postmarks on the cover.

<i>Cunard</i>	71	25 Sep	7 Oct	9 Oct	20 Oct	22 Oct	31 Oct
<i>Europa</i>	62	9 Oct	20 Oct	21 Oct	3 Nov	5 Nov	18 Nov ²
<i>America</i>	72	23 Oct	4 Nov	5 Nov	17 Nov	18 Nov	29 Nov
<i>Canada</i>	72	6 Nov	17 Nov	19 Nov	1 Dec	2 Dec	13 Dec
<i>Europa</i>	63	20 Nov	29 Nov	1 Dec	15 Dec	16 Dec	25 Dec
<i>Arabia</i>	37	4 Dec	16 Dec	18 Dec	29 Dec	31 Dec	9 Jan
<i>America</i>	73	18 Dec	2 Jan	3 Jan	12 Jan	14 Jan	24 Jan

1 The *Europa* had to put into St John's Nfld for repairs, and *Persia* from New York called there 22 Aug and took on board the *Europa*'s mails and passengers

2 Rough weather forced the *Europa* to put into Queens-town on 16 November.

1859	Trip	Liverpool <i>Depart</i>	Halifax <i>Arrive</i>	Boston <i>Arrive</i>	Boston <i>Depart</i>	Halifax <i>Arrive</i>	Liverpool <i>Arrive</i>
<i>Niagara</i>	64	1 Jan	13 Jan	15 Jan	26 Jan	28 Jan	10 Feb
<i>Arabia</i>	38	15 Jan	28 Jan	29 Jan	9 Feb	11 Feb	20 Feb

Figure 5 – *Cunard Transatlantic sailings to Boston – sample portion of Table from Jack Arnell's book: Atlantic Mails.*

References

Atlantic Mails – A History of the mail service between Great Britain and Canada to 1889, Jack C. Arnell, National Postal Museum Ottawa Canada, 1980, 412 pp.

North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75, Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter, U.S. Classics Society, 1988, 419 pp.

Canada's Pence Era – The Pence Stamps and the Canadian Mail 1851–1859 by Arfken, Leggett, Firby & Steinhart.

The Postal Rates of Canada: 1851-1868 - The Provincial Period - A Recording, Charles G. Firby, published by Charles G. Firby, 1976; Revised 1984

Thanks to Malcolm Montgomery for helping me lookup ships in the sailing charts so long ago.