

# PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society  
Volume IX, No. 5, November 2020

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3d Beaver Position B61 Major Reentry with Four Ring 16 from Hamilton  
Courtesy of Jim Jung

Dear Study Group Member,

Although the Shows are not happening this year and Auction houses are having a difficult time putting together Sales, online Sales are booming, as Dealers and eBay are selling stamps on the internet at an excellent pace.

The Order of the Beaver (OTB) Lifetime Achievement Awards were given out this year to outstanding members Ian Kimmerly, Dean Mario and Ralph Trimble. To read all about this and the other BNAPEX awards, please go to the [BNAPS website](#).

A number of lectures and presentations on Philately have shown up on Youtube. Here is a good one titled: [The Royal Mail from York](#). This is about my hometown, Toronto, where I was born and raised. This is a very detailed and interesting account of the Early History of the city and how it came about with lovely old pictures of city landmarks narrated by the Curator of Town of York Historical Society and Toronto's First Post Office.

Jim Jung

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Donald Bass October 25,1942 –August 08, 2020

## Bad Items in Stanley Gibbons Stock – Wayne Smith

Wayne Smith is one of the most prolific researchers down at the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation. Wayne was just getting around to updating his notes on the items offered by Stanley Gibbons a couple months ago. Here is what he had to say.

There were 2 Pence covers that seemed bad. One was an advertising cover with 4 copies of the 3d that had been sold by Harmer Schau in February 2007, with a 1994 Greene certificate noting the stamps did not originate on the cover.

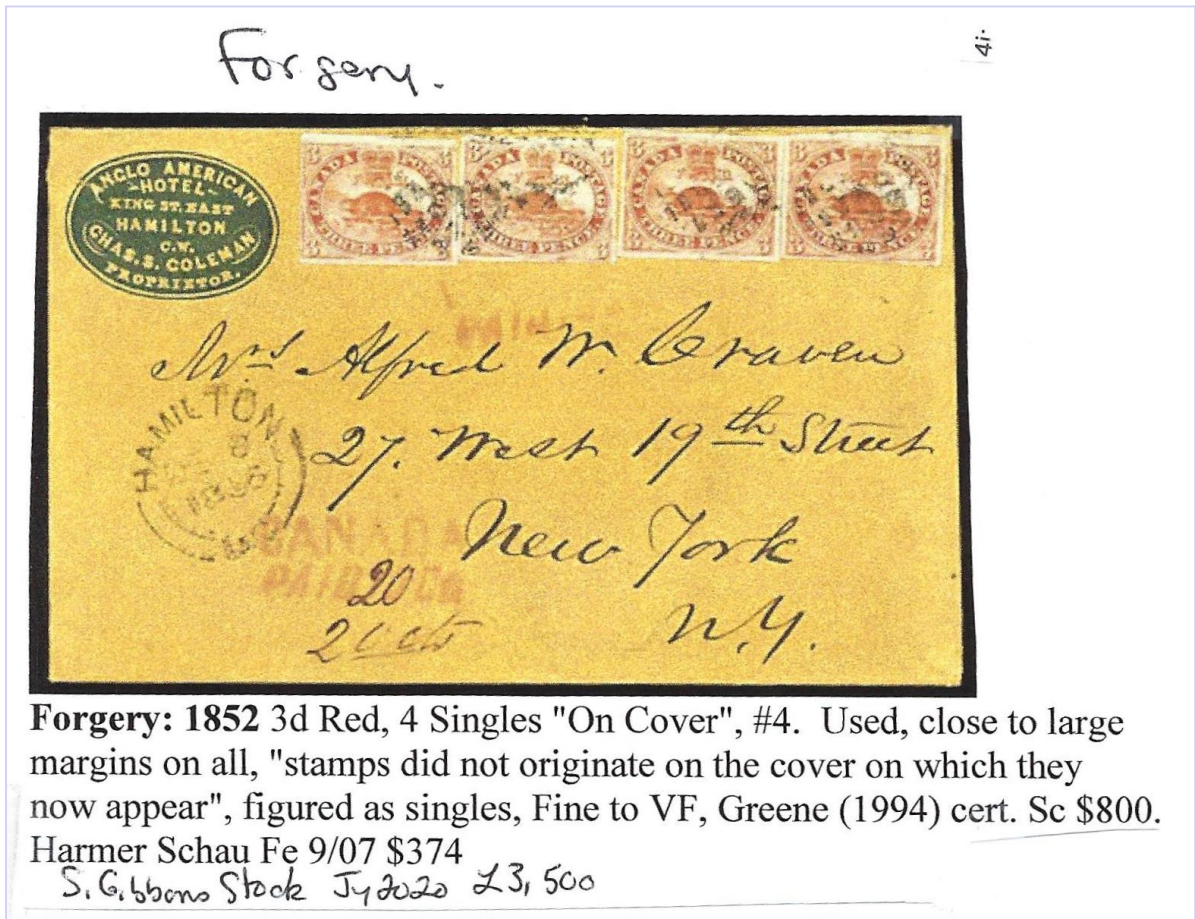


Figure 1 – Harmer Schau Lot Description


If you purchased this cover or know someone who did, please let them know about what Wayne has found in his research. Stanley Gibbons is quite nice when encountering situations like this and they are fair in dealing. But you should explain the situation to them before requesting a discount or refund. The Pence Issue is one that needs care when collecting.



## Bad Items in Stanley Gibbons Stock – Wayne Smith continued ...

The second cover has 3 x 3d to England paying 10p rate. This cover was sold by Firby back in Oct 1998 with just a pair of 3d stamps, noting a single “has been cut out”, but now the cover has a new stamp added. I have sent a note to S Gibbons about these.

Word did get round and the US member who bought the cover with a 3p added was made aware of the issue (Vic Willson). He was quite grateful and he is working with Stanley Gibbons to return the cover. Wayne felt happy that all his work with keeping census of Pence covers paid off.



#4a. 3d Brown Red Vert pair with good to large margins & pre-affixing crease (on lower stamp only) neatly tied by Liverpool tombstone to attractive cover from Toronto, Jan 29, 1855 to Scotland hs. A third 3d has been cut out UR. The payment of only 9d of the needed 10d (Cunard rate) necessitated the due charge of 1d upon delivery. There are only 2 covers known showing this deficient franking. A most attractive cover in spite of its deficiency.

*FIRBY Oct 1998* P \$300.00

Figure 2 – Charles Firby Lot Description

Ron Majors had this to say when I told him about this:

“Buyer beware! I have even seen covers with added stamps in exhibits and they still are accepted by the judges as long as the exhibitor mentioned the “added stamp” or the “defect” in his/her description. If they don’t mention it, and the item is found to be a forgery, or has an added stamp, the exhibit is usually disqualified or gets a very low score. During the NY show in 2016, I remember that items were removed from a couple of Canadian exhibits and taken to a room where experts examined the item in detail to determine its authenticity.”

## Ten Penny Finds – Jim Jung

Mike Smith had gotten ahold of a scan of the Black 10d sheet from the Library and Archives of Canada (LAC). I was looking through my 10d stamps to see if I could identify some items by making use of this new information and emailed two 10d items to our email group, which included Mike. These were stamps that I had purchased long ago but could never plate. But I knew that these looked like Constant varieties so I held onto them. The first item was a stamp I bought in a group of three about 15 years ago at a Sale in the United States. Each had a variety and this stamp had two heavy marks under the T of TEN. Mike surprised me by sending me Position 43 from his newly acquired scan of the Black 10d Proof Sheet. It was a perfect match. See Figure 2 next page. It's a great feeling having finally confirmed this stamp as being a Constant Plate Variety, and as a bonus, getting the plate position for it as well.



Figure 1 - 10d Cartier Position 43 Toolmarks under T of TEN



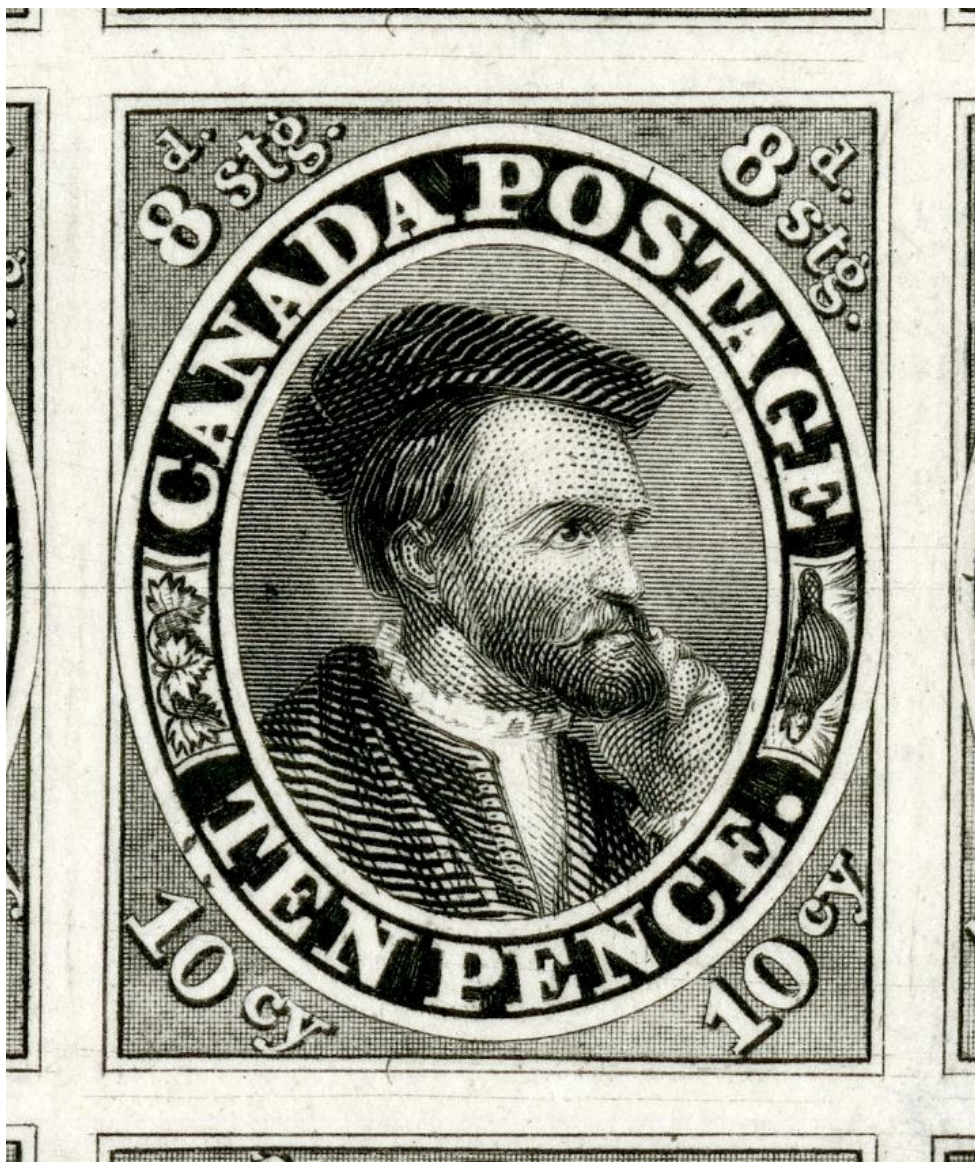


Figure 2 – Black 10d Cartier Sheet Position 43 – Courtesy of Library and Archives Canada, 1991-157.014, s003571k (detail). See the Toolmarks under T of TEN.

The second item I had was a Proof that I had purchased at a Stamp Show about 7-8 years ago from long-time Canadian dealer Roy Houtby. This was a blue 10d Proof with the vertical SPECIMEN in red. (Figure 3 next page). What I saw were re-entry marks around TEN PENCE and a little diagonal mark at the lower left corner. There was a clear vertical guideline at the upper right and a horizontal guideline across the center of the stamp. Collectors tried to convince me that these could easily be extra ink but the marks just looked like they were re-entry marks. Extra ink often is roundish but these marks were clear thin lines. Mike Smith said that this was easy to check because the vertical guideline at the right indicates that it is from the right column of the sheet. He found it at position 108 of the Black Proof Sheet. See Figure 4.



## Ten Penny Finds – Jim Jung continued ...



Figure 3 – Blue 10d Cartier Proof Position 108 – showing Re-entry marks around PENCE and lower left corner framelines.







Figure 4 – Black 10d Cartier Proof Position 108 – Courtesy of Library and Archives Canada, 1991-157.014, s003571k (detail), showing Re-entry marks around TEN PENCE and lower left corner framelines. Vertical guideline at the right and horizontal guideline at across center.



# 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 e-mail the following information to: [jimjung8@gmail.com](mailto:jimjung8@gmail.com) (We really just need your info in an email and you're in for free, as a BNAPS member)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your interest area(s):

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The Hudson's Bay Company House in Fort Vermilion, Alberta. Courtesy of Kevin O'Reilly

## Four Ring Cancels– Michael Halhed

Thanks to Peter Maresch of Maresch & Sons for allowing us to print this nice chart that comes from the Canada Specialized Catalog by Leggett and Maresch. This is the Canada Stamp catalog that is referred to in some old VGG certificates and the catalog that was popular before the Unitrade catalog came to be. Peter says the catalog "...also has a lovely listing and old pricing of straight line cancels, House of Commons etc that isn't listed in the Unitrade catalogue." There are still a few copies available of the last one issued in 1987-88.

In March 1857, four-ring numeral obliterations were issued, and assigned in alphabetical order to fifty of the busiest Post Offices in Upper & Lower Canada. Toronto was excepted since it was the Post Office Headquarters at the time. At the last moment it was decided not to use numbers 6 and 9 to avoid confusion, and Brockville U.C. which was to receive No. 6 and Clifton U.C. which was to receive No. 9 were assigned No.'s 51 and 52 respectively. The reasons why No.'s 516 and 627 were assigned during the Cents period, to Montreal and Ottawa respectively, are not known. This listing is for strikes on the 3d Beaver and the 5¢ Beaver, the most common of the Pence and Cents Issue stamps. As is normal with cancellation or obliterating devices, the clarity of strikes depended on the individual Postmasters or their clerks. Some are bold and clear, others weak or messy. In many cases a red filter (for red stamps) is necessary to properly identify strikes. Several hammers were still in use during the Large Queen period, and a few may be found used on Small Queens. A rarity factor (RF) of 1 to 10 has been used. RF 1 represents the strike most frequently found, RF 6 is scarce (with fewer than 20 strikes recorded), and RF 10 is the rarest (with 3 or less known.)

		RARITY FACTOR				RARITY FACTOR	
		3d	5¢			3d	5¢
1	Barrie U.C.	8	8	28	Paris U.C.	9	6
2	Belleville U.C.	4	5	29	Perth U.C.	7	3
	-blue	3	4	30	Peterborough U.C.	5	3
3	Berlin U.C.	9	6		(or Peterboro)		
4	Bowmanville U.C.	9	5	31	Picton U.C.	7	5
5	Brantford U.C.	4	4		-green		8
	-blue	2	8	32	Port Dover U.C.	10	8
7	Collingwood U.C.	9	6	33	Port Hope U.C.	6	8
	(or Collingwood Harbour)			34	Sarnia U.C.	9	4
8	Chatham U.C.	7	6		-blue		10
10	Cobourg U.C.	7	7	35	Prescott U.C.	8	5
11	Cornwall U.C.	7	4		-red	10	
12	Dundas U.C.	9	9	36	Preston U.C.	10	10
13	Galt U.C.	6	7	37	Quebec L.C.	4	7
14	Goderich U.C.	7	9	38	St. Catharines U.C.	8	8
15	Guelph U.C.	6	9	39	St. Johns L.C.	9	6
16	Hamilton U.C.	7	-	40	St. Thomas U.C.	7	5
	(hammer lost 1858)			41	Sandwich U.C.	7	9
17	Ingersoll U.C.	8	4	42	Sherbrooke L.C.	8	4
	-red	10		43	Simcoe U.C.	6	9
18	Kingston U.C.	3	2	44	Smiths Falls U.C.	8	9
19	London U.C.	2	5		-blue	9	10
	-blue	10	10	45	Stanstead L.C.	8	8
20	Melbourne L.C.	8	7		-blue	8	8
21	Montreal L.C.	1	3	46	Stratford U.C.	8	9
22	Napanee U.C.	10	4	47	Three Rivers L.C.	5	4
	-green	-	10	48	Thorold U.C.	10	10
23	Niagara U.C.	6	4	49	Whitby U.C.	8	5
24	Oakville U.C.	9	7		-blue	5	3
25	Oshawa U.C.	8	4	50	Windsor U.C.	6	6
	-red		8	51	Brockville U.C.	4	3
26	Owen Sound U.C.	8	4	52	Clifton U.C.	8	5
	(or Owens Sound)			*516	Montreal L.C.	-	
27	Ottawa U.C.	5	4	627	Ottawa U.C.	-	8

\* Not recorded on 5¢ Beaver as yet (RF 8 on any other 1859 stamp).



## Four Ring Cancels– Michael Halhed

Here are some nice Four Ring postmarks from Michael Halhed that prompted our research on the Four Ring chart from Leggett and Maresch.

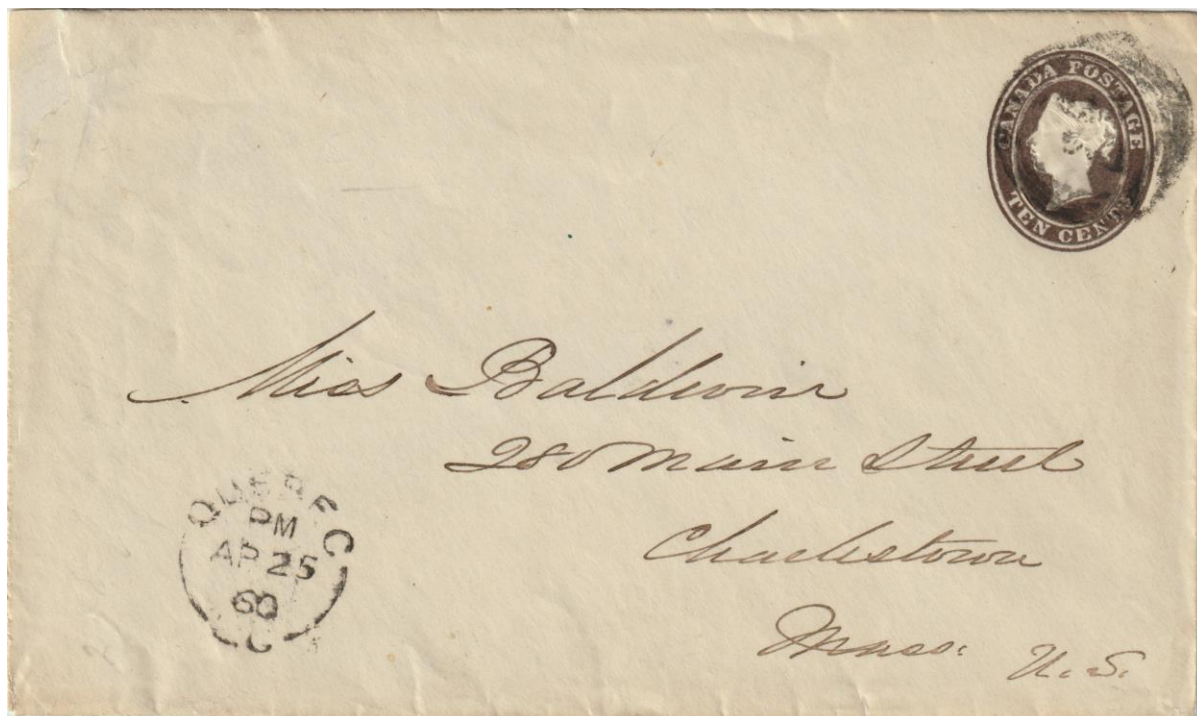


1858-06-09 cover from Perth (showing a clear 4-Ring 29) to Scotland, neatly addressed in blue ink, franked with the British Packet rate by a #7 1852-57 10d blue "Cartier" with good to large margins (except just into the frame line at lower right corner) showing Plate Position #17, with dispatch CDS at lower left party overstruck by a bright red "PKT.LETTER / PAID / LIVERPOOL tombstone DS (JU 27). Backstamped at Montreal (JU 10), one illegible CDS (JU 10 though) and Sanquhar. Minor tear at left (sensibly reinforced). Ex "Loch" (Firby 28 Apr 1999, lot 119). This sailed on the Cunard ship America departing Boston June 16, 1858 and arriving Liverpool on June 27. The Liverpool tombstone in red is the arrival date. The destination is Dumfriesshire, Scotland."



Here is an unusual 4R29 from Perth with thicker numbers, not as wide as the typical 29, dated JY 7 1857 on an embossed cover (closeup below). The cover travelled from Perth to Cobourg C.W. with a big wide margined 3d Beaver paying the domestic rate. This is the earliest known strike of the 4R29 Perth hammer. The full cover is shown on the next page.

## Four Ring Cancels– Michael Halhed



4R37, AP 25 60 QUEBEC on U2 10c Nesbit Cover crossborder to Charlestown, Massachusetts. The Nesbit covers were not very popular and did not sell well. Of the two denominations, the 10c is especially scarce to find.



# Death Through the Letterbox: Early Canadian Mourning Covers by Ron Majors

*Harbingers of Death Messengers of Grief*

This is an updated version of the article published in pence-cents newsletter Vol. 6 No. 2

This presentation illustrates early Canadian mourning covers (1859-1909) used to convey a message of loss of a loved one to family and friends.

## Background

- Black has always been associated with death. Those in mourning used black-outlined letter paper and envelopes that were edged in black.
- First use of mourning letters documented in 1767; a black-edged letter depicted in painting *The Poor Teacher* in 1844 (Ref. E.A. Mosher, *Mourning Covers: The Cultural and Postal History of Letters Edged in Black*, 2003).
- Popularized in the Victorian Period when sending letters became more available to the masses.
- Mourning covers were popular until the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, peaking at 1910 and dying out in the 1920s.. In all, 217 countries used mourning covers.
- Letter could convey:
  - Announcement of the death
  - Invitation to funeral
  - Reply/follow-up to a letter of condolence.

In addition, black-bordered writing paper with accompanying black-bordered envelopes used as a personalized sympathy note to bereaved. In days of scarcity and expense of paper, left over letter sheets and envelopes were later used for regular mail, even after mourning period.



**Pre-Confederation Canadian Mourning Cover**, 5¢ Beaver paying domestic rate, ½ oz or less; Daillebout, C.E. AU 6 (18)65; Upper Canada refers to present-day Ontario. right: back of cover reduced.



## Anatomy of a Mourning Cover

Besides size, envelope shape, etc. a mourning envelope may consist of up to three characteristics:

1. Black border on front with varying widths (see examples throughout presentation).
2. A similar black border on reverse of the envelope following flap profile and glued sections; usually same width as the front border (scanned examples below)
3. A small monogram located on flap usually with floral design or monogrammed initials; a monogram is not always present.





# Characteristics of Black Border of Typical Mourning Cover

- Width of front border and of the back undulated flaps could vary from narrow to broad.
- Three basic theories about these variations in border width. Width is based on:
  - 1) Relationship of writer to deceased (closer wider);
  - 2) Amount of time that has passed since the death (thinner, longer);
  - 3) Importance of deceased (more important, wider).



Types of Monograms  
(scanned from covers in collection)

Floral Designs without Embossing:



Floral Designs with Embossing



Custom Designs (more expensive)



Initials



Floral



A Series of Mourning Covers Related to Same Deceased

This series of mourning covers were purchased from the same lot and give some credence that the width of the black border is related to the time passed since the death. Note the narrow bands as the month of February 1864 goes on.



Dated: Feb. 17, 1864



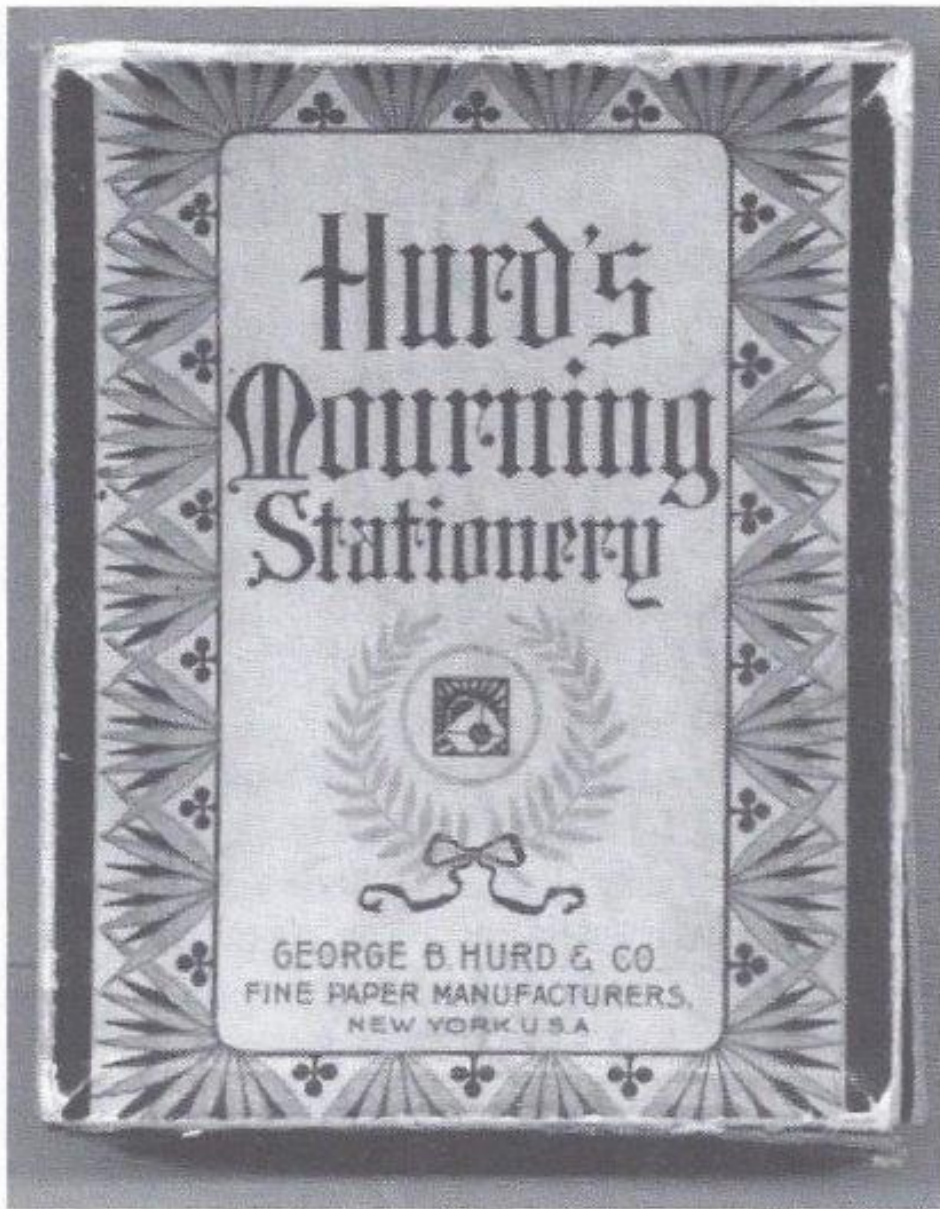
Dated: Feb. 19, 1864



Dated: Feb. 27, 1864



Dated: Feb. 29, 1864



**EXHIBIT 9-4. MOURNING STATIONERY BOX, c1900.** The envelopes and stationery in this box measure 11.9 x 6.3 cm. All of the black bands on the edges are 4 mm in width. The end of the box notes that it contains "Border 2" and "Octavio", implying that other types were available. A manuscript note "85" may indicate the price. There is no record as to when this box of stationery was manufactured but I would guess it was about 1900.



## Example of Mourning Covers (Domestic)

### Legislative Assembly Shield handstamp, 1862



For legislator, personal postage was free when legislation was in session.

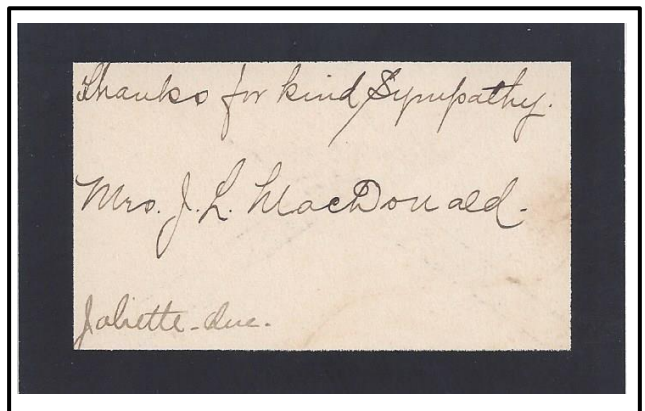
### Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Mourning Cover with enclosure

Postage rate:  
2c per ounce,  
1909



Enclosure: "Thanks for Kind

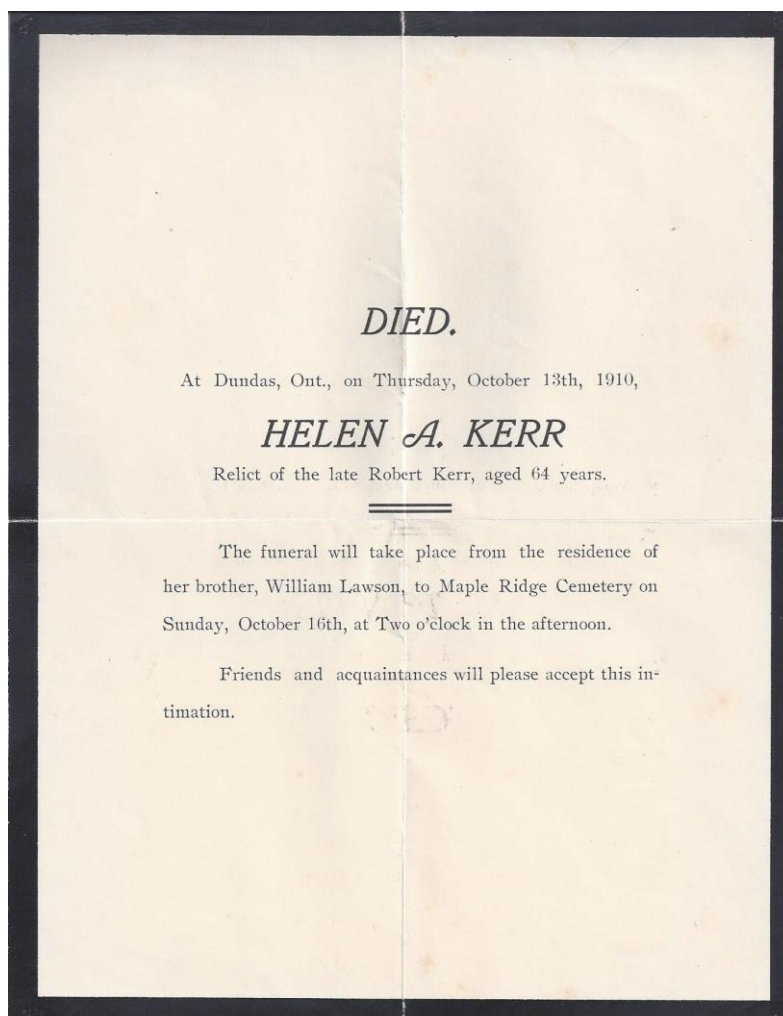
Mourning letters with enclosures are hard  
to come by!



Edward VII Franked Mourning Cover with Enclosure



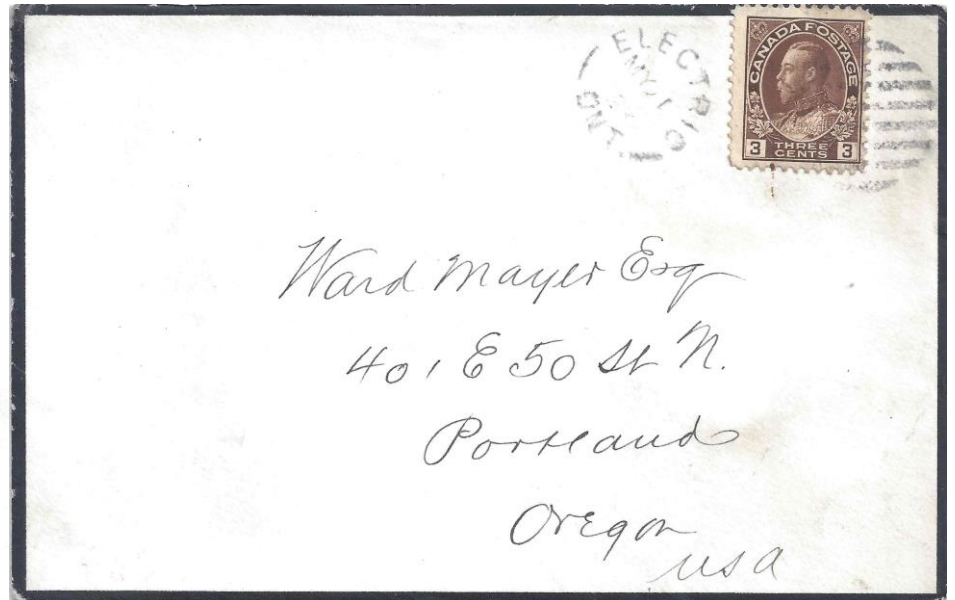
George Suffel, Esq.,  
Inkerman, Ontario.





Admiral Franked Mourning Cover to Oregon with Enclosure

3 ct. rate to U.S.



THIS CARD IS MEANT TO CONVEY TO OUR DEAR  
FRIENDS A MESSAGE OF SINCERE THANKS  
FOR THE EXPRESSIONS OF SORROW BY LETTER  
TELEGRAM AND FLOWERS BECAUSE OF OUR  
BEREAVEMENT

RUSSELL HAWKINS  
MARGARET HAWKINS  
RUSSELL HAWKINS, JR.

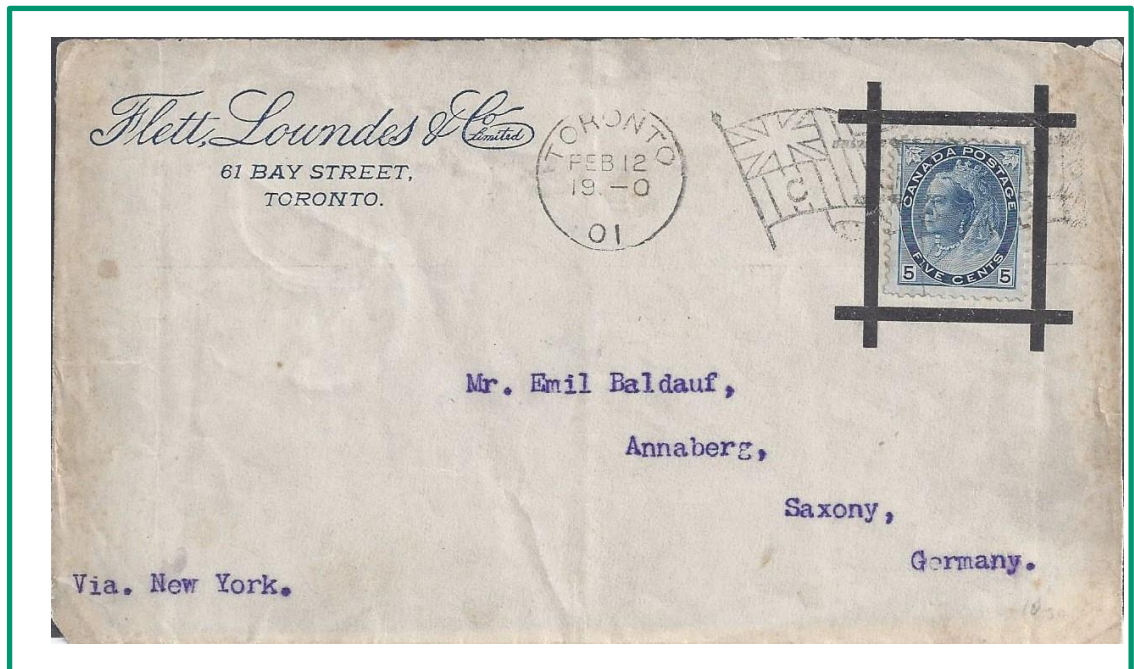
IDAVILLE, OREGON  
APRIL SEVENTH  
NINETEEN TWENTY-THREE

## Canada Mourns Her Beloved Queen

Queen Victoria died January 22, 1901



Above both envelope and outline of stamp position  
are in black borders



Above, only the stamp position has a black border



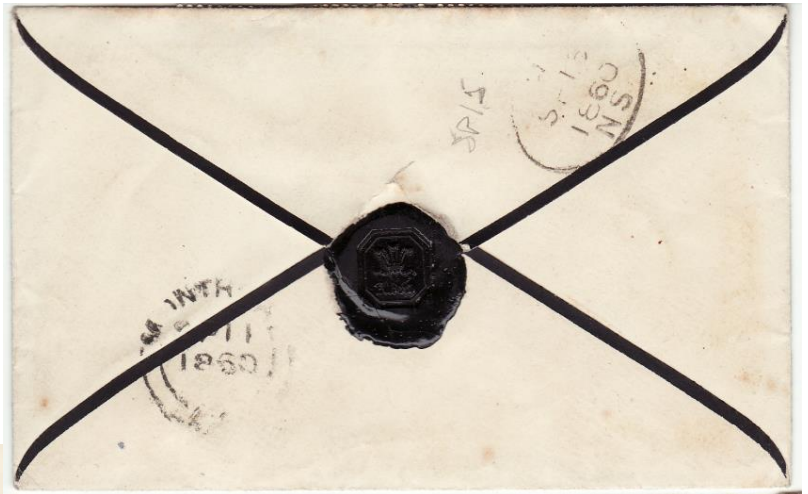
Examples of Mourning Covers  
(Domestic Usage)



These covers are all showing a wide black border indicating that death of loved one was very recent. The 5 cent Beaver stamp is used for letter rate with a weight of ½ ounce or less.



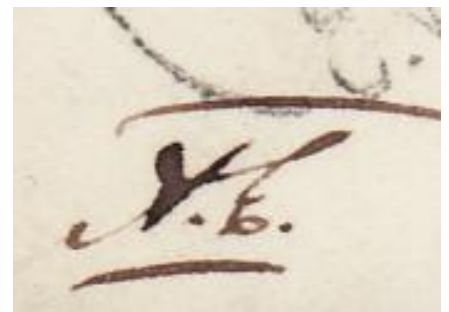
While Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, was on the first Royal Tour of British No. America, Admiral Milne's young son died. Date of CDS corresponds to POW's stay in Toronto. Milne's ship the *Nile* was docked in Halifax harbor. Envelope written in Prince's own handwriting; Royal Seal and Initials ("AE") verified by Argyll and Etkin's Royalty Memorabilia Dept. in London, England;. 5 X 1 cent stamps show letter rate to Nova Scotia ( $\frac{1}{2}$  oz or less).



Reduced scan of back of cover



Royal Seal  
(enlarged scan)



Prince's Initials  
(enlarged scan)



## Interprovincial Mail to Maritimes



This mourning cover traveled a special route via Boston. Sometimes, especially during winter when St. Lawrence River was frozen, a preferred mail route to Halifax was by railway to Boston then Cunard steamer to Halifax and on to England. The regular rate to Maritimes was 5 cents but this special route via Boston was more costly, 12 ½ cents. Posted in Quebec, Canada and sent to Halifax, N.S. cover bears a Canada 12½ yellow green tied by "Quebec, OC 20 66" cds, countersigned at lower left "Monck" (Viscount Monck, Governor General of British North America equivalent nowadays to a Prime Minister) and addressed to Sir Williams of Kars, Governor of Nova Scotia, endorsed "By Cunard Mail via Boston" at top, carried by Cunard Line *Asia* from Boston to Halifax.

# Provincial Mail from Maritimes

## Nova Scotia



The 5 Cent Letter Rate (1/2 ounce or less) within Nova Scotia.

## New Brunswick



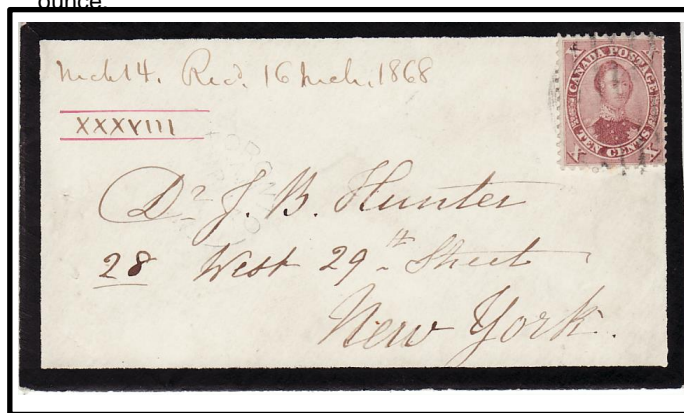
Cross-Border 20 Cent Double Letter Rate (1 ounce) to New York.



## Cross-Border Mail to United States



A mourning cover to Texas posted in 1867 after the U.S. Civil War. The cross-border letter rate was 10 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce.



Dr. J.B. Hunter was a Canadian doctor who served with the Union Army as an assistant surgeon in the 60th Indiana Volunteers. I have uncovered several covers sent to him while in New Orleans, Alabama, Kentucky, Indianapolis. He retired in NYC where this cover was sent.



This mourning cover was sent to New Hampshire. Postage was paid with two 5c Beaver stamps that covered the 10 cent letter rate from Montreal to the U.S.

Cross-Border Mail to the United States



Posted from Guelph, Canada West to Erie, PA; 10 cent Consort stamp pays the cross-border rate to U.S.



Montreal to Greenfield, MA



A 3 cent Small Queen on a mourning cover sent from Parry Sound, Ontario to Toronto paying domestic rate for ½ oz. letter. The Toronto address was crossed out and letter was forwarded to New York City without any indication of a forwarding fee—a bargain to the sender.



## Mourning Letters to United Kingdom



Letter paying Canadian packet rate to England. Letter mailed from Toronto to Picadilly, London but letter was mis-sorted upon arrival in London. The circular handstamp in red at the upper right is magnified. It is divided into four segments and lettered. The 'M' at the top signified "Missent", district initials to the left and right below. If only one letter, 'D' for district was added on right and a code letter at the foot identifies the delivery office within the district.



Letter was posted in William Henry, Lower Canada post office an underlying handstamp indicated that only 5 cents postage was paid; unfortunately postage required was 12 ½ cents; likely letter was returned to sender and a 12 ½ cent Queen Victoria was affixed. The letter was then posted to England on next Canadian packet steamship.

## Mourning Letters to United Kingdom

### Scotland



The Canadian packet rate (12 ½ cents) to Scotland.

### England



The above two mourning covers pay the British packet rate to England (sometimes referred to as the Cunard rate, steamship company that had British contract during 1860s); this rate of 17 cents was more expensive than Canadian packet rate of 12 ½ cents per half ounce. Paid with the blue Jacques Cartier stamp.



## Mourning Letters to United Kingdom

### Ireland



This combination of two 5c, one 2c and one 1c stamps (13 cents total) on this mourning cover to Dublin, Ireland overpays Canadian rate by ½ cent. Sometimes postmaster would sell normal 12 ½ cent stamp to patrons for 12 cents.

### Isle of Wight



This mourning cover pays 12 ½ cent rate to Isle of Wight off coast of Great Britain. This destination is very seldom seen in mail to United Kingdom in the 1860s.

## Mourning Covers to Overseas Destinations



Mourning cover from London (duplexes tying stamps, dated "DE 22 64") to Gibraltar; traveled on Allan SS *Hibernian* that left Portland on Dec. 24, 1864 and arrived in Liverpool Jan. 4, 1865; rail to London; London PAID transit "JA 4 65" in red; steamer P. & O. Line to Gibraltar, major military fortress; no receiver date; payment by 2 X 12 ½ Queen Victoria represented an overpayment of 2 cents by convenience; other covers in correspondence are franked similarly. The Crutchley family was well known in London. C.W.



(reduced scan of back of piece)

Small torn mourning cover (piece) that was sent at Cunard rate from ?? (undecipherable circle dated stamp) to London, person wasn't there so letter was forwarded to France; back of piece shows London transit in red dated AU 17 67; apparently, the person was not in France either and therefore a 40 centime Orange Napoleon III French stamp was added, canceled and a handstamp Boulogne-s-Mer dated "23 August 67" applied; the cover was returned to England since a second receiver on back of the piece dated "AU 25 67"; an interesting (but damaged) forwarded cover to France.



## Mourning Covers to Overseas Destinations

### France



A late usage of a 17 cent Cartier stamp to France; Montreal CDS was not used during the decimal period (1859-1868) and, if fact, dates into the 1870's. Canadian stamps have never been demonetized so use of older stamps is still valid. The 17c Cartier overpays rate in Small Queen era of 1870's where rate for same cover would have been 5 cents.

### Denmark



### **Epilogue**

Mourning covers were routinely used in Canada up to World War I. Occasionally these covers can still be encountered into 1930-1940s. With the widespread usage of telegraphy, telephones, improved transportation and other 20<sup>th</sup> century "social media", there were more efficient and heartfelt ways of expressing one's sympathy.

## Upcoming Shows

Please check the status of all shows before attending. Many shows have been cancelled at the last moment due to the Covid-19 coronavirus. The shows below appear to be active for next year and 2022. Let's hope a vaccine appears soon. This is a good year to get the Flu Shot. There are also vaccines you can get to ward off Pneumonia. One of the pneumonia vaccines is free to Canadian Senior Citizens, the other costs about \$130 CDN. Please check with your doctor.



For those of you on Facebook, there is a Facebook Page for this event. [Click here](#)



### Royal 2021

The 93rd convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada – **Royal\*2021\*Royale** – will be held at the Memorial Centre in Peterborough June 25 – 27, 2021.

The Kawartha Stamp Club is the show sponsor.

ORAPEX 2021 Theme:



*Hic sunt dracones*



RA Centre  
2451 Riverside Dr.  
Ottawa, Ontario



Free admission and parking.



## Upcoming Shows



CAPEX 22 Opening Ceremonies – June 9, 2022. Plan to attend CAPEX 22, the first International One Frame Stamp Championship Exhibition June 9-12, 2022 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Canada. Press the Ctrl key and Click on the Capex 22 logo to see the Capex 22 Facebook page. There is information about exhibits and photos on this event.