

# Canada & Maritimes

## money and registered letters to 1898

### Introduction

This is a *pseudo-virtual* exhibit; *pseudo-* because it is intended to be printed (with real covers, not the scans) as an exhibit. I put it in this virtual form in order to expose it to criticism before I mount the pages, and also to see just what I have, what I need, and what I can dispose of.

I am also interested in buying or trading for material that would fit, for example, an in-period proper use of the 8¢ registered letter stamp.

The scans are 150dpi, very low resolution, hence some of the images look a lot worse than the covers really are (on the other hand, the appearance of some is considerably improved). This is another reason to call this *pseudo-virtual*. Had I intended to make this a real virtual (!) exhibit, I would have scanned at 300dpi. The side images are in greyscale, as these are intended to be printed (as I intend to use a bw printer). The images of the items to be mounted are within  $\pm 5\%$  of their actual size, or so I hope.

I have also included an index. All virtual exhibits (*pseudo-* or not) should have an index. Page numbers are not currently visible, so add 15 to the number appearing in the index. Of course, when the time comes to submit the exhibit, the index will not be included, and neither will this introduction.

This originally covered the period to 1875, which as a five-frame exhibit, obtained large vermeil internationally, hence became eligible for eight frames. I added material from my registered exhibit for the period 1878–1912, which had received gold nationally, but had not been exhibited internationally.

However, I added too much (in addition to new pre-1878 material), and it currently sits at 153 pages. So it will have to be reduced by 25 pages before it can be exhibited. This is not really onerous, but will involve some difficult decisions.

This was prepared in the typesetting language  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$  (but *not* straitjacket  $\text{L}_{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ ). The font family is `rtc Elysium`.

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### Synopsis

*Canada* in the pre-Confederation period (prior to 1 July 1867) refers to the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada (later, Canada West and East, respectively), and after Confederation, the nation of Canada. The *Maritimes* for this exhibit refers to the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, until they joined Confederation (which they did, but not on the same date).

Canada and the Maritimes had a money letter system, until it was superseded (on different dates, depending on the province) by registration. The money letter system was loosely based on that of UK, except that the latter had adopted it in the 1790s, while it wasn't until at least 1825 that Canada adopted it (and the other provinces later).

A *money letter* in this exhibit is a letter sent through the mail believed to contain items of value (such as bank notes or other negotiable instruments). There was no charge per se, but the additional weight or number of sheets resulted in increased postage. There was also no indemnity available, but a cover marked *money letter* (or less commonly, *cash*, *cash letter*, *money*, . . .) would be noted on the letter bill sent accompanying the mail from post office to post office. This tracking made money letters surprisingly secure. Receipts were not given to the sender (as would have been the case with registration), but the other way around—when an item was received, it was signed by the recipient, and the postal office kept the signed form as evidence of delivery, to protect itself from lawsuits.

Money letters were almost always domestic; however, it was possible to send them to the UK (where they might be registered, if after 1840, with the fee charged to the recipient), or to the US, which had no similar system (except in Pennsylvania, and some border towns).

In the 1850s (exact date depending on the province), the money letter system was replaced by registration. Now a fee was charged and there was a receipt given to the sender; but indemnity was not immediately available, nor was it for a very long time. Tracking registered letters was more or less as in the later period of the money letter system, when numbers were entered in the registry (hence registration number), and these were entered on the letter bills.

The Canadian (and Maritimes') postal system was complicated by the way payment of postage could be made. It could be sent collect (unpaid—that is, the recipient would pay the postage), or prepaid, but partial payment was not normally permitted. This was not such a problem in the money letter era until stamps were issued, in which case, the payment could be made totally in stamps or totally in cash, or it could be sent collect (no mixtures, e.g., stamps and cash). When registration came in, the registration fee had to be prepaid (entirely in cash, or entirely in stamps), and the rest of the postage had to either be fully prepaid in cash, fully prepaid in stamps, or collect, and this was independent of how the registration fee was paid. To foreign destinations, all the postage had to be prepaid from some point on (depending on destination). By 1868, all postage had to be prepaid, and by 1875, all postage had to be prepaid in stamps.

Canada is one of the few countries to have issued registered letter stamps (RLS; December 1875–1893). Their use was not compulsory on registered mail until about a year after their introduction, although there were some exceptions (such as domestic parcel post, for which RLS were required *not* to be used for the period 1876–ca 1883). Rules about *which* of the three RLS could be used were surprisingly complicated,

and changed as the system evolved. As a result, there were numerous violations (particularly at small offices), which were mostly countenanced.

After 1893, RLS were not required; they could still be used (and this continues to this day), but only to pay the registration fee, not the rest of the postage.

This exhibit covers the development of the money and registered letter systems, to 1898.

*Organization* The first division is money letters/registered letters. Within each is domestic/foreign, although the latter is very limited in the money letter period, as well as Canada/Maritimes. Within each subdivision (e.g., rate period), the order is roughly chronological. There are also special subsections in the registered letter section, dealing with registration wrappers, postage due registered, and *avis de réception* (AR).

**Money letters** Money letters were letters believed to contain items of value (such as bank notes, securities, coin (this was discouraged by the charge per unit weight), etc. They were noted on the letter bills accompanying the mail, so that they could be tracked.

Canada's money letter system began 1825–26, following the system in place in UK since the 1790s. Prior to that there was no mechanism for letters of value, and I have included three *pre-money letters*: letters mailed prior to the establishment of the money letter system that definitely contained cash, but were not accorded any special treatment.

The earliest official notice of money letters in Canada is date 1827; however, money letters are known prior to this date. Presumably there is documentation that still has not been found.

Typically, it was the sender who marked the letter *money letter* (or some equivalent form), in order to make sure it was placed on the letter bills as the item passed from place to place. When the item was delivered (or, far more likely in the early days, picked up at the destination post office), the recipient was made to sign a form, protecting the post office from legal action. No receipts were given to the sender, and there was no indemnity. There was no additional postal charge for money letters, but the extra sheets or weight resulted in extra postage (until 1844 for some letters, when the system switched to charging entirely by weight).

The 1826 free money letter (with enclosed blue ribbon sample) is one of the earliest noted. Then we give examples showing alternative notation, such as *cash, cash letter, . . .* Money letter handstamps were introduced (but not universally) in 1831, and continued right to the end of the money letter system (1855). It is quite possible to have two money letter handstamps on the same cover (from late 1840s), as the letter passed through various post offices.

A particularly unusual combination is a drop money letter (a drop letter is a letter dropped off at the post office of destination), seldom seen from smaller towns. Letter bill numbers began to appear on money letters in 1843 (sporadically), and by 1850, they were pretty much universal. Moreover, as with the subsequent registration numbers (deriving from recording the bill number in a book, called a registry), multiple numbers appear on later money letters, at the post offices through which the item passed.

Because of the enclosures, postal rates on money letters could be quite high. A table of rates is given after the synopsis, but the basic idea is that until 1851, rates were based on road mileage (in Canada; in the Maritimes, they were only roughly based on mileage) with a multiplier for either the weight or the number of enclosures (the formula, explained in the rates table, is not complicated, but tricky). Quadruple and higher multiples are exhibited, with the heaviest item (ostensibly the heaviest reported) money letter being charged 28/5 currency (the difference between currency and sterling is explained in the rates tables, for 31 rates. Fortunately, the sender recorded the complete list of bank note denominations.

In 1844, the multipliers were based only on weight, rather than weight/number of sheets. As a result, envelopes became economically feasible. Prior to this, practically all covers were folded letter sheets. However, it took about a decade for envelopes to become mainstream. Even by 1851, it was unusual to use an envelope.

In 1851, Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick assumed control of the their post office (Prince Edward Island, always backward, had to wait). The rates changed drastically: no mileage charge, just 3 d

per half ounce (about 14 g) to anywhere within Canada and the Maritimes. In the same year, postage stamps were introduced; but since prepayment was optional, and who wants to fool around with a tiny bit of gummed paper, they weren't popular.

It was possible to send money letters to the US, but these are relatively difficult to find. Except in local pockets (such as Pennsylvania, or border towns), the US had no comparable system. Again there was no charge for this service, but the enclosures made a substantial difference in the postage. The US changeover to strictly weight-based rates occurred after that of Canada, so for a short period, a cover could be single in Canada and quadruple in the US (such an example appears in the exhibit, or else I wouldn't have mentioned it). Money letters *from* the US exist (a few are shown) but are extremely unusual, as only a few towns had such a system.

Money letters between UK and Canada also exist, but are extremely difficult to find; fewer than ten are known (in either direction). In 1840, the UK introduced registration (for a fee), complicating matters.

In the Maritimes, money letters are far less frequently seen, possibly because there was less money floating around. This was especially true in PEI; only four PEI money letters have been reported.

Finally, we come to money letter wrappers. These were used to wrap money letters as they travelled through the postal system (as part of the care required to keep track of them), and upon delivery, the recipient would sign the inside of the form, which the post office would keep. Eventually, they were supposed to be destroyed, which is almost always what happened. I suspect that they were not much used, as the procedure is awkward, and fewer than ten have survived from all of Canada and the Maritimes. Three are shown, all from NS.

### *Highlights*

- early (1826) free money letter
- drop money letters (1837 & 1853)
- 31 × rate (1834)
- single Canada and quadruple US money letter (1844)
- money letters “registered” in the US (1854)
- incoming money letters from US (1847 & 1853)
- to Prince Edward Island (1846)
- to UK (1829)
- registered UK to Canada (1850)
- Prince Edward Island money letters (1846 & 1850)
- Nova Scotia money letter wrappers (1839, 1839, & 1841)

## **Registration**

This began 1 May 1855 domestically (in the province of Canada; the Maritimes adopted registration a few years earlier, but at different dates), with a rate of 1 d cy, which must be prepaid. This rate, and its conversion to 2¢ when Canada switched to the decimal system in 1859, lasted until 1889. No stamp existed to pay this rate existed until 1858. The presence of a registration handstamp signifies that it was paid, as this rate was not normally marked on covers. Even the smallest office received a registration handstamp. The rest of the postage could be left totally unpaid, or could be paid completely; if the latter, it could only be completely paid in stamps, or completely paid in cash (no partial payments, no mixtures of stamps and cash were permitted).

From 1865, all fees on registered letters had to be prepaid, with the same rules about not mixing stamps and cash (except that registration could be paid in cash and the rest in stamps, or vice versa). This contrasted with ordinary domestic mail, for which non-prepayment remained an option until 1875. From late 1875, all fees had to be paid in stamps. This results in six combinations prior to 1865, and four combinations from then to 1875.

Late in 1875, Canada issued registered letter stamps. Their use was not compulsory on registered



letters until October 1876, although numerous examples of violations of this policy exist after this date. Canada had a complicated way of rating shortpaid or unpaid letters, resulting in frequent clerical errors, even on registered letters (which were not supposed to be shortpaid!).

For January–May 1889, the use of the 2¢ RLS on domestic mail became optional; but in May, the domestic registration fee changed to 5¢ and an RLS became compulsory (smaller offices often had plenty of 2¢ RLS, but no 5¢; hence use of a single or two 2¢ RLS was permitted if the rest of the registration fee was paid with stamps). Over the next few years, the Post Office became more flexible about the nonuse of RLS, and in August 1893, they were no longer required on registered letters. They remained (and remain) valid for paying portions of the registration fee, but not other postage. The first stamp *intended* to pay the combined registration and single domestic letter rate was issued at the same time.

Canada also had some strange rules about registering various classes of mail. Third class mail (other than voters' lists) could not be registered until 1889; parcel post could be registered (but prior to ca 1883, an RLS was *not* permitted), except that the registration fee was 5¢ (at the same time that letters were registered for 2¢). Post cards could be registered until 1882, and from then until 1889 could not be (but could be treated as drop or first class mail).

*Free* registered mail refers to some aspect of the postage being free. The combination is difficult to find. Most frequently, it concerns letters to a Government department within ten days of a session of Parliament (and registration itself was not free on such mail). Parliamentary free registered mail is even more difficult to find. And of course, mail between postal officials was free.

*Maritime intercolonial registered mail* Within the three Maritime provinces, the start-up dates, and the practices were different from each other and that of the province of Canada. New Brunswick charged 6 d cy (and 10¢ after conversion to decimal in 1860) for registration and all postage on registered mail had to be prepaid; Nova Scotia charged the same, but prepayment was required only on the registration portion of the postage; Prince Edward Island varied its rates (some of which we do not know), and its currency was devalued anyway.

Registered mail is much less frequently seen in the Maritimes, particularly from PEI (from which only a handful of items exist).

#### *Highlights (Domestic and intercolonial Canada & Maritimes)*

- 1864 dectuple
- 1865 quintuple with registration fee only paid in stamps, rest collect
- registered drop letter from a very small town (1880s)
- registered post cards (1882, 1883, & 1887)
- 1865 free registered with registration fee paid in stamps
- 1878 large envelope to War of 1812 veteran
- 1856 PEI registered drop letter
- December 1871 PEI registered letter

**Registration letter wrappers** Canada and the Maritimes used special folded letter sheets to wrap individual registered letters (it is not clear—and extremely unlikely—that they were used for every registered letter in any period; but many registered covers in the early period of registration have few or no registration numbers, so presumably had been wrapped). Upon delivery, just as with money letter wrappers, the printed interior was signed, kept at the destination office, and later destroyed.

Very few have survived, but NS examples are less rarely seen; pre-Confederation Canada examples are unknown. The PEI example shown here is unique from that province. That there were (at least) three different printings of NS wrappers was a discovery made while I was most recently preparing this exhibit.

#### *Highlights (Registration letter wrappers)*

- 1865 NB registration letter wrapper
- 1857 unique PEI registration letter wrapper

**Canada-US registered mail** Although both Canada and the US adopted registration in 1855, there was no treaty in place covering cross-border registered mail until October 1856. We discuss the mail in *both* directions, as it is important to deal with incoming registered mail as well (unfortunately, an opinion not shared by most BNA postal historians).

*From Canada to US* The rate was initially 3 d cy (when domestic registration was 1 d); this was converted to 5¢, a rate that lasted to 1919, with the exception of one month in 1888. All postage had to be prepaid in this case, and all in stamps from 1 January 1875 (which differs from the October 1875 date for domestic mail).

Use of the 5¢ RLS became compulsory on registered letters to the US in October 1876. However, smaller towns often had no 5¢ on hand, so were permitted to use two 2¢ RLS and a 1¢ stamp to pay the registration fee. For the month of March 1888, the registration fee dropped to 2¢ (the domestic rate), likely a result of an error. After a protest by the US, the 5¢ rate was restored on April Fool's Day.

The RLS requirement was made more flexible (more exceptions were tolerated) in the period 1889–1893, and as with domestic mail, RLS were no longer required on registered mail to the US (or anywhere) from 1 August 1893.

Among the various classes of mail, the same regulations concerning registration applied as for domestic. A minor exception was fifth class which was available to the US starting a year after it was available domestically. An 1888 Canada-US treaty permitted mail that was free in one country to continue free to the other; so free registered cross-border mail exists.

#### *Highlights (Canada–US)*

- November 1855 interim period
- 1858 to California
- March 1888 2¢ registration fee
- 1897 registered fifth class

*From US to Canada* Pre-1880, registered letters in this direction seem to be much more difficult to find than the other way around. Moreover, the rates are more complicated as there were more changes. For information in this direction up to 1870, the book by Milgram has a lot, although not all the rates to Canada are listed. From 1875, Wawrukiewicz & Beecher covers the rates.

The numerous covers with anomalous rates suggest confusion, either of mine, or of the postmasters. The two covers (between stamp dealers, unfortunately) with the Canadian customs stickers are the only ones I know of.

#### *Highlights (US–Canada)*

- 1871, New York–Hamilton
- 1879 septuple rate
- 1890 & 1892 Canadian customs labels

**Canada–UK registered mail** Registered mail from Canada to UK did not begin until 1856; registered letters from UK to Canada could be sent from 1840, but they would be treated as money letters in Canada; to be treated as registered mail, it had to wait until 1856. Up to 1880, there is very little known in either direction; it seems to be easier to find UK to Canada than the other way around in this period.

*From Canada to UK* The letter rates from Canada to UK changed repeatedly and depended on route and shipping line; ultimately they stabilized at 5¢ per half ounce from 1875, only dropping to 2¢ when Imperial Penny Post was established (Xmas, 1898). Registration fees were 8¢ for the period 1866–1877, dropping to 5¢ for the rest of the century and almost two decades beyond. Finding registered material in the 8¢ rate period is somewhat miraculous.

From about March 1876 to 31 December 1877, the 8¢ RLS was supposed to be used, and subsequently (and until RLS ceased to be compulsory in late 1893) the 5¢ was required. Smaller offices were less likely to have 5¢ on hand, and much less likely to have 8¢. Nonetheless, there are only a couple of covers in the 8¢ RLS period which do not have one (compared to the 18 covers which do).

UK had a spectacular way of marking compulsory registration (which persisted to at least the 1930s); a sticker marked CAUTION was applied on reverse. Several are known from Canada in the nineteenth century.

#### *Highlights (Canada–UK)*

- 1870 quintuple ugly cover
- 1877 without RLS, from BC
- 1878 without RLS, and early use of blue cross in UK
- 1885 compulsorily registered in UK

*From UK to Canada* Some sources give 1857 as the year registration to Canada was officially authorized. But at least two examples exist in 1856. The registration fee was a much higher, 6 d, until it dropped to 4 d (1 February 1866–31 December 1877), dropping to 2 d for the rest of the century.

Some UK offices had crown registered handstamps—and so did Halifax (NS), so it might be difficult to determine their origin in some cases.

#### *Highlights (UK–Canada)*

- 1856 registered letter to Canada
- 1864 Halifax crown registered handstamp

### **To and from the rest of the world**

*Pre-UPU* Canada did not join the UPU until 1878. Registered mail between Canada and other than US or UK is practically nonexistent in the pre-UPU period; perhaps ten items are known (this is an educated guess).

Red River was a separate colony, and mail between it and Canada is rare. The returned registered letter wrapper is doubly unusual—it was forwarded to Red River, and it is the only known Canadian returned letter wrapper (used by the Dead Letter Office to return mail) in the period 1859–68 (after decimalization, and before wholesale changes to postal practises).

The usual explanation for the 10¢ fee is 7¢ (unpaid letter rate) plus 3¢ service charge for returning the letter. However, this ignores the fee for registration of returned registered letters (charged until about 1875) which was 5¢ to Red River. The service charge prior to decimalization was 1 d cy, which should have translated to 2¢, not 3¢. There is no documentation on the service fee in this period, but there is one cover showing the service fee to be 5¢ (and no covers showing it to be anything else). So a more plausible explanation is 5¢ service fee and 5¢ registration to Red River.

The New South Wales 1861 cover is even more mysterious, and really unusual, as it was short paid, and not easy to explain. The 1876 cover from Germany is almost normal; for one thing Germany treated Canada as though it belonged to the UPU.

#### *Highlights (Pre-UPU, foreign)*

- 1860 registered returned letter wrapper to Red River
- 1861 New South Wales to Canada West
- 1876 Germany to Canada

*UPU period (1878–1898)* After Canada joined the UPU, the registration fee became 5¢ to everywhere outside Canada (with a few exceptions, to non-UPU-members), and the postage became 5¢ per half ounce (again with a few exceptions, including non-UPU-members, and UPU-members for whom a surcharge was permitted). For some reason, letters between Canada and South & Central America (I include Mexico in the latter) are very difficult to find, even up to 1900.

#### *Highlights (UPU period)*

- 1884 to Denmark
- 1889 to Paris Exposition
- 1894 to Argentina & 1897 to Mexico
- 1897 printed matter to Netherlands

- 1881 photographs (third class) from France
- 1893 through mail from Japan to US

**Postage due registered** Although shortpaid registered mail after 1868 was not supposed to be accepted, and if it was accepted, it was supposed to be returned, things happen, although not very often. It seems to be more difficult to find correctly treated postage due registered material (that is, returned to sender) than incorrectly treated, but there are very few examples of either.

Unregistered mail found or suspected to contain items of value could be compulsorily registered, the fee for the latter charged (sometimes doubled) as postage due. But since there was no special charge (other than the registration fee) or marking applied, it can be difficult to decide when this happens.

*Highlights (Postage due registered)*

- 1883 to US & 1898 to Brazil, correctly treated
- 1897 to France, deficient postage applied at Dead Letter Office
- 1892 domestic compulsory registration

## Avis de réception (AR)

Worldwide, AR had been around (using other names) since the first decade of the nineteenth century but not in Canada, UK, or various other countries. For the original members of the GPU (1875), it was required to be offered; however, countries which joined the UPU later (as Canada did in 1878) were not required to offer it, until 1 April 1879. As in the UK, very little use was made of it in Canada (in contrast to other countries, such as the US and France), and nineteenth century Canadian AR items can be counted on hands and toes.

AR is the service which returns to the sender of the original registered (and in some jurisdictions, but not Canada, insured) item a form (changing to a card in the early 1920s signed by either the destination postmaster or the recipient (or both)). This provided evidence of delivery, and one would have expected law offices to have made extensive use of it. The Canadian AR fee was 5¢, whether domestic or international (and this lasted until 1919).

For practically all jurisdictions, in the pre-Treaty of Vienna period (1879–30 JUNE 1892), the AR form was prepared at the office of origin, and either attached to the registered letter, or (rarely) sent separately, but in the same mail. Upon receipt, it was signed for, and the AR form returned to the office of origin, which would arrange for its delivery to or pick-up by the original sender. Canada used AR forms which doubled as folded letter sheets, so did not require a covering envelope for their return. Some other countries' forms, such as those of the US, did require a covering envelope, and in the pre-Treaty of Vienna period, Canada would have needed AR covering envelopes.

No Canadian AR covering envelopes are known until 1910. There is a single Canadian AR form known in this period, for a domestic registered item, and a single incoming AR form (for a registered letter from UK to Canada, signed in Vancouver, and returned). There are no Canadian domestic AR covers (that is, registered covers sent with AR service) known in the nineteenth century, and just two incoming AR covers in the pre-Vienna period.

In the Treaty of Vienna period (1 July 1892–31 December 1898), the form was prepared in the country of *destination* (there probably was an exceptional arrangement with US, based on incoming US AR forms). This required the AR fee to be paid on the registered letter, not as it had been for Canada in the pre-Vienna period, on the form. The destination-country AR form would be signed and sent to the office of origin. Five (or possibly four) Canadian AR covers are known in this period, along with about ten incoming AR covers and two used Canadian AR forms.

*Highlights (AR)*

- 1883–84 unique (nineteenth century) domestic use Canadian AR form
- 1891 unique incoming AR form in pre-Vienna period
- 1890 one of the two known incoming AR covers in pre-Vienna period

- 1898 one of the two known Canadian AR forms used in Vienna period normal use
- 1896 the other of the two known used Canadian AR forms in Vienna period, reversed use
- 1893, 1896, & 1897 three of the five known Canadian AR covers 1898 or earlier
- 1893 incoming AR cover from Australian state

## Rates

*Pre-1851* Until Canada gained control of its post office, domestic rates were based on road mileage, together with multipliers arising from extra sheets or weight. The mileage rates, given in sterling, were 4 d up to 60 miles, 6 d up to 100 miles, and 2 d for each additional hundred miles or part thereof. This also covered intercolonial postage, between Canada and the Maritimes. The actual rates that appear on covers are given in what is called *currency* (thus 4½ d cy), the slightly devalued money used in Canada and the Maritimes (PEI's currency was considerably more devalued). These translate as follows.

Mileage charges (Upper and Lower Canada, to 1851)

	<60 mi	<100 mi	<200 mi	<300 mi	<400 mi	<500 mi	<600 mi	<700 mi
stg	4 d	6 d	8 d	10 d	1/-	1/2	1/4	1/6
cy	4½ d	7 d	9 d	11½ d	1/2	1/4	1/6	1/8

Sometimes the conversion varied, particularly at the higher distances. Mileage could exceed 1500.

The conversion for the period 1851–1859 was set at 73 d cy = 60 d stg, but this is less significant, and is only useful for letters going to, from, or via the United Kingdom.

In the Maritimes, the rates were based only loosely on road mileage, and we find rates of 2 d cy, 3 d, etc between various pairs of towns.

Until 1843, there were multipliers based on sheets or weight. Thus if a letter contained more than one sheet (no matter how small), it was charged the total number of sheets, to a maximum of four, and then it was weighed; if the weight was at least one ounce, it was charged per quarter ounce (approximately 7 g). Otherwise, it was charged the number of sheets (as a multiplier) up to a maximum of four. If however, the letter consisted of a single sheet (letters were almost always folded letter sheets), single rate only was charged, no matter what the rate. The same system of multipliers applied in the Maritimes.

For example, a letter travelling 85 miles within Upper and Lower Canada (considered together), consisting of five sheets, but weighing only three-quarters of an ounce, would be charged quadruple,  $4 \times 7 \text{ d cy} = 2/4 \text{ cy}$ . The rules actually stated that the conversion from sterling to currency would be made *after* applying the multiplier, and because of rounding errors in the conversion, this would have yielded different rates—however, this almost never took place, and the multiplier was applied to the converted amount.

From 1843–1851, the multiplier was simply per quarter ounce.

There was no charge per se for money letters; however, the extra enclosures would certainly increase the postage in the period before the change to per weight, and very likely would increase the postage later on.

Postage could be paid entirely in cash, or left completely unpaid (for the recipient to pay). We call the latter *collect*.

Postage to other countries was the sum of the postage to the port or border town plus all the foreign postage. There were varying rules on which could be or were required to be prepaid.

*1851 on* On 6 April 1851, Canada gained control of its post office (this occurred on different dates in each of the Maritime provinces), and a treaty governing cross-border mail was reached with the US soon after. Domestic registration began 1 May 1855, registration to other countries varying.

# Basic Canadian rates, 6 April 1851—1898

date of onset →	51/4/6	59/7/1	68/4/1	73/7/15	75/1/1	78/8/1	79/4/1	89/5/1
domestic letter	3 d*	5¢/7¢**	3¢/5¢	3¢	→	→	→	→
domestic registration	1 d***	2¢	→	→	→	→	→	5¢
letter to US	6 d <sup>vii</sup>	6¢/10¢ <sup>vii</sup>	→	→	3¢	→	→	→
registration to US	3 d***	5¢	→	→	→	→	→ <sup>iv</sup>	→
registration to other countries	var	var	var	var	var	5¢	→	→
AR fee <sup>v</sup>	na	na	na	na	na	na	5¢	→
UPU letter rate	na	na	na	na	na	5¢ <sup>vi</sup>	→	→

Rates compiled from various sources. Dating system is year/month/day.

na: not available; var: depends on destination if available at all.

All letter rates per half ounce (about 14 g).

\*All rates in denarii (d) refer to currency, not sterling.

\*\*a¢/b¢ means a¢ per half ounce if prepaid, b¢ per half ounce if collect.

\*\*\*domestic registration began 1 May 1855 (older references erroneously give 1 March 1855); registration to US began 1 October 1856.

<sup>iv</sup> For the month of March 1888, registration to the US dropped to 2¢, and subsequently reverted to 5¢; some offices extended this another month.

<sup>v</sup> After-the-fact AR not available until 1 January 1899, beyond the time period of this exhibit.

<sup>vi</sup> Surcharges were permitted to some UPU countries.

<sup>vii</sup> Partial prepayment ignored, and the letter treated as completely unpaid.

Pre-1875 letter rates to UK are too complicated to present in a table; from 1 July 1875, it was 5¢ per half ounce, dropping to 2¢ on Xmas day 1898. Pre-1878 rates to other countries than US or UK are extremely complicated. Rates to non-UPU countries are ridiculously complicated.

Pre-Confederation rates of NB, NS, & PEI differ from each other and those of Canada.

## Other useful information

- In all cases, registration had to be prepaid in full. It could be paid in stamps or cash until 1 October 1875, after which stamps were required. Prior to 1865, the rest of the postage on domestic registered mail could be left completely unpaid; after that it had to be completely prepaid. Payment of either component could not be made with mixed cash and stamps, although until stamps were required, the registration fee could be prepaid either completely with stamps or completely in cash, and the rest of the postage similarly, but independently.
- Canada adhered to the UPU on 1 August 1878.
- RLS were issued in December 1875, but their use was not compulsory until October 1876; this lasted to the end of 1888, and was renewed 5 May 1889. In August 1893, RLS were officially made unnecessary, but this had been in process anyway. RLS could still be used to pay registration fees or parts thereof, but not the rest of the postage.
- Domestic parcel post was eligible for registration, but cost 5¢ rather than 2¢, 1868–89. Until some time in 1882–83, RLS were *not* to be used on this class of mail.
- Fifth class (a cover-all category, but with package open to inspection) was available domestically 1887–1898, and to the US 1888–98, at 1¢ per ounce. It was eligible for registration.
- At various times, printed matter and post cards were not eligible for registration (details are given on the relevant exhibit pages).
- COD, extra insurance or indemnity, and restricted delivery were not available from the Canadian post office, even domestically, in the nineteenth century. Special delivery (*exprès*) was introduced on a limited scale on 1 July 1898.

There are four levels of headings (excluding the exhibit title)

# Title

## Subtitle

### Subsubtitle

*Subsubsubtitle* (in-line) Practically all pages have a subsubtitle, and all descriptions of covers have a sub-subsubtitle.

**Research & References** There are numerous articles on Canadian registration. The one book on the subject in the past twenty years, Harrison, Arfken, & Lussey [HAL] (CCC, 2002), *Canada's registered mail 1802–1909*, has a lot of information, but there are numerous inaccuracies, not to mention organizational difficulties. Anything derived from there should be checked with an independent source.

For US registration information (to 1870), Milgram *United States registered mail 1845–1870* is good, and for US rates (as well as those of many other jurisdictions) after 1870, Wawrukiewicz & Beecher *US international postal rates 1872–1996* is the standard. For British rates, I used the two usual references (covering different time periods), Robinson *For the port and carriage of letters*, and Tabcart *United Kingdom letter rates 1657–1900*. For French rates, Richardson *Tables of French postal rates 1849 to date is de rigueur*.

I have written numerous articles on Canadian registration, appearing in BNATOPICS (when it was a good journal) and the Journal of the Postal History Society of Canada. For worldwide AR (with a chapter on Canada), my book *AR—avis de réception* (PHSC, 2001) is OK, but is now somewhat out of date. The AR section in [HAL] is particularly unfortunate.

**Cut-off date** A couple of things happened on 1 January 1899. The Treaty of Washington came into effect, superseding the Treaty of Vienna (particularly affecting AR treatment). The Imperial penny post had become effective for many countries a week earlier (and for domestic mail, on that date), reducing postal rates to a large number of countries. So it seemed a convenient point to cut off the range of the exhibit at 1898.

# Index

Virtual exhibits should have an index, and in any case, it will be helpful when I revise the exhibit. Omitted from the index are terms that occur so frequently that it would be moronic to include them. Page number 1 is the title page.

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# Canada & Maritimes money & registered letters to 1898

*Maritimes* refers to Nova Scotia (NS), New Brunswick (NB), & Prince Edward Island (PEI) prior to their joining Confederation. *Money letters* were letters believed to contain valuables, and were accorded special treatment. The money letter system was superseded in 1855 by registration. Aspects of both schemes are discussed, beginning with folded letter sheets containing money, pre-dating the estimated 1825 beginnings of money letters.

**Money letters** *Canada domestic*: pre-money letters, cash, handstamps, free, drop, letter bill numbers, multiple rates, heavy, combination services, beavers. *Cross-border*: to US, from US, two Alberts. *United Kingdom*: to UK, from UK. *Maritimes*: NS, NB, PEI. *Money letter wrappers*: NS.

**Registration** *Canada domestic*: early, handstamps, decimal conversion (1859), payment methods, rate changes, violations, registered letter stamps introduced, RLS use changes (1889 & 1893), drop letters, printed matter, post cards, voters' list, third class, parcel post, free. *Maritimes*: NB, NS, PEI, intercolonial.

*Registration letter wrappers*: NB, NS, PEI; Canada.

*Cross-border (to United States)*: interim period, pence period, cents period & later, compulsory RLS (1876), 1888 one-month fee reduction, later and post-RLS, fifth class, free. *Cross-border (from United States)*: early, rate changes, customs labels on incoming mail. *To United Kingdom*: pre-RLS, in RLS period but no RLS, compulsory registration in UK, third class. *From United Kingdom*: early, crown handstamps, Allan vs Cunard.

*Rest of world, pre-UPU*: Red River Settlement (1860), postage due from NSW (1861), from Germany (1876). *Rest of world*: To Denmark, Germany, Paris Exposition, Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Bolivia, printed matter to Netherlands, etc; third class from France, from Victoria and others. *Through mail*.

*Postage due registered*: correct and incorrect treatment, compulsory and complimentary registration.

*Postage due registered*: correct and incorrect treatment, compulsory and complimentary registration.

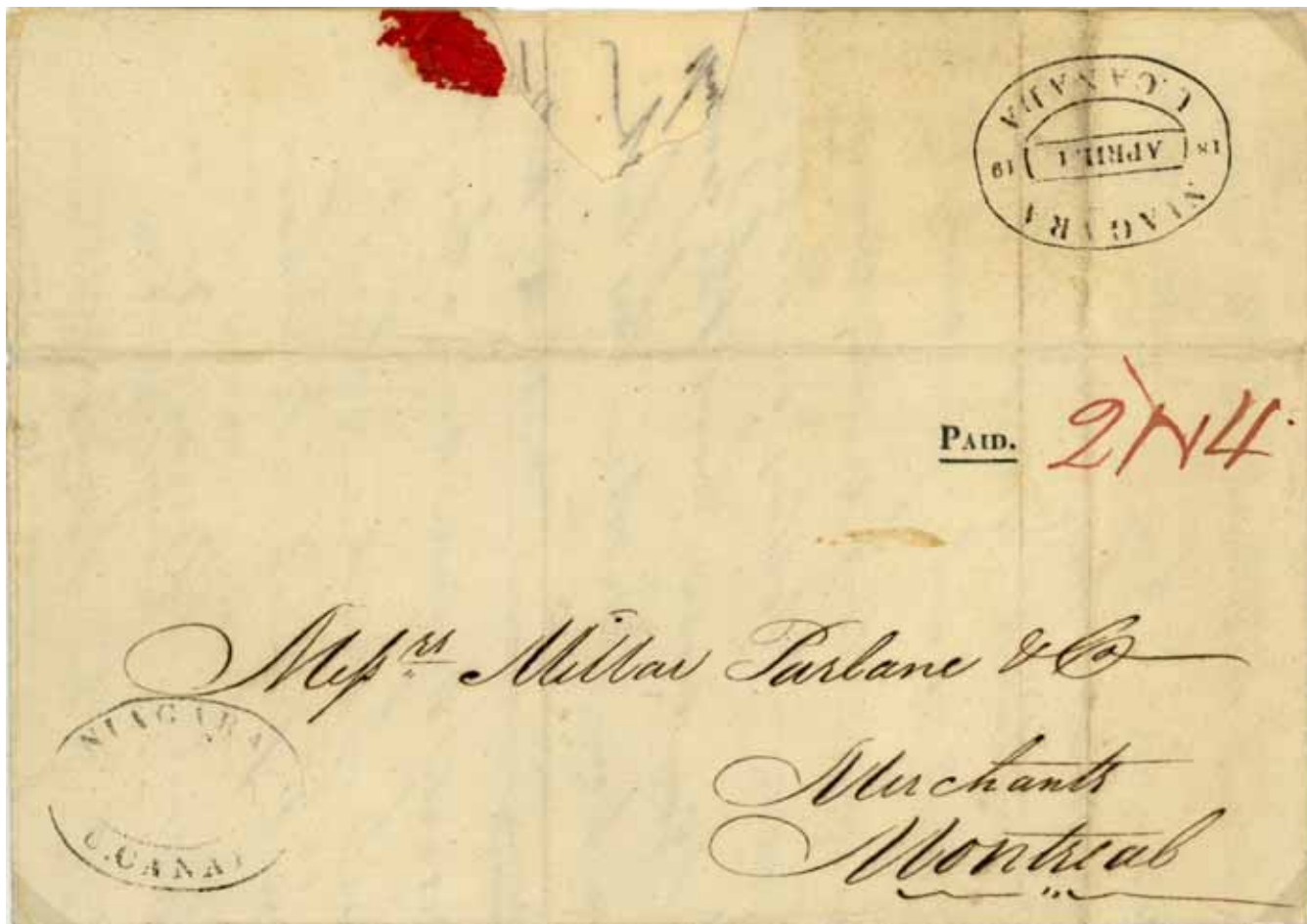
**Avis de réception (AR)** do-it-yourself, first AR form, earliest incoming AR form, pre-Vienna incoming AR cover; Vienna period AR forms, incoming AR form, outgoing AR covers, incoming AR covers, incoming repaired AR cover.



Typical of what would have been sent in a money letter, this 1837 note of the Agricultural Bank (Upper Canada) was equivalent to five shillings currency, and to one US dollar (*une piastre*). Currency was devalued with respect to sterling, the exchange rate fluctuating. Printed on one side only (normal in this period).

## Pre-money letters

Although a money letter system was adopted in the UK in 1792, it was not extended to Canada until at least 1825. Prior to that, some letters are known to have contained money, but were not externally marked—hence *pre-money letters*.



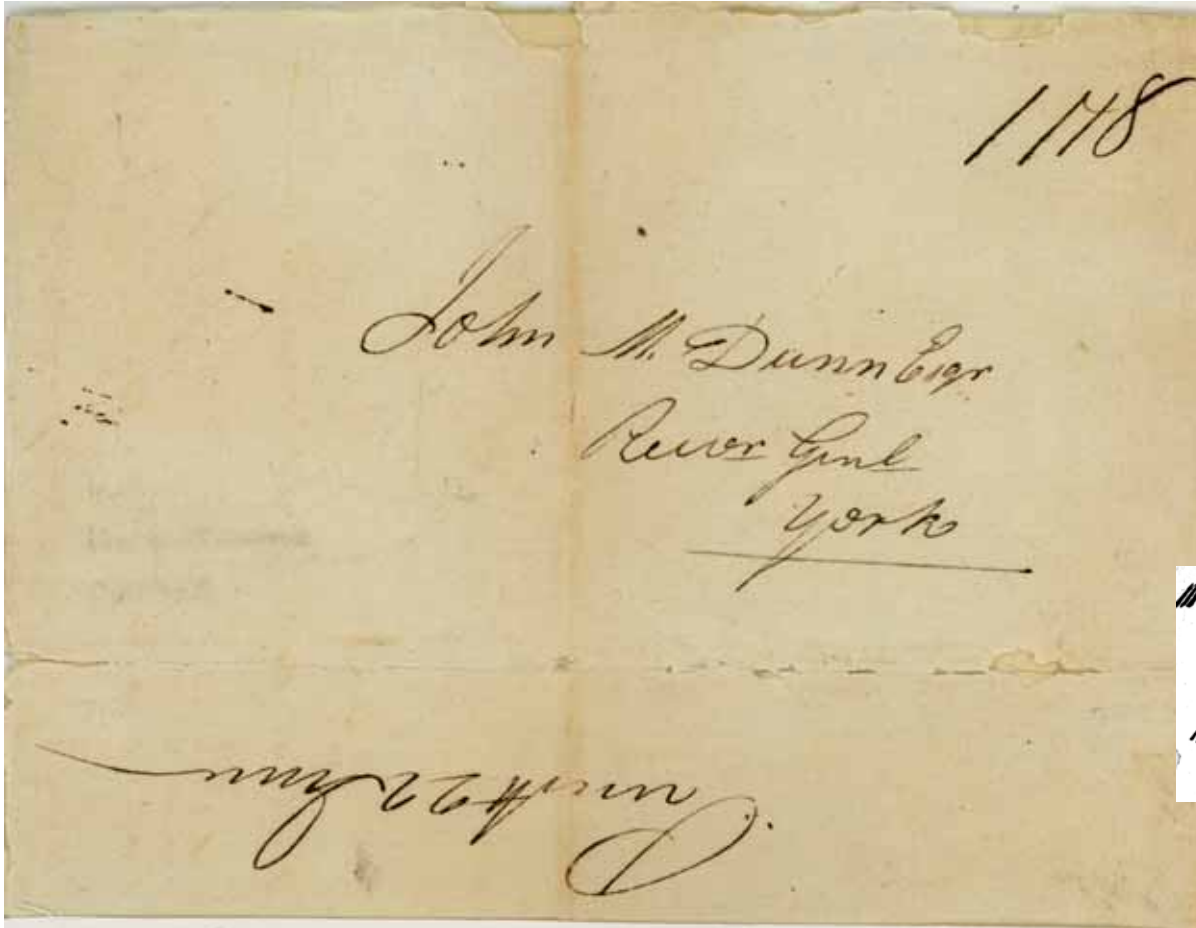
*Pre-money letter, Niagara–Montreal, 1819. Letter contained . . . Sixty Dollars in Notes . . . . Rated PAID (a handstamp!—several examples have been reported) 2/4 cy, double the 301–400 mile rate Niagara to Montreal; the money enclosure caused it to be double rate, although the rate was per enclosure up to four.*

The double oval NIAGARA postmark is known used 1818–19, on as many as five covers in the latter year. This is the only example with two strikes.

*I now enclose under cover of this, Sixty Dollars in Notes . . . .*



Pre-money letters

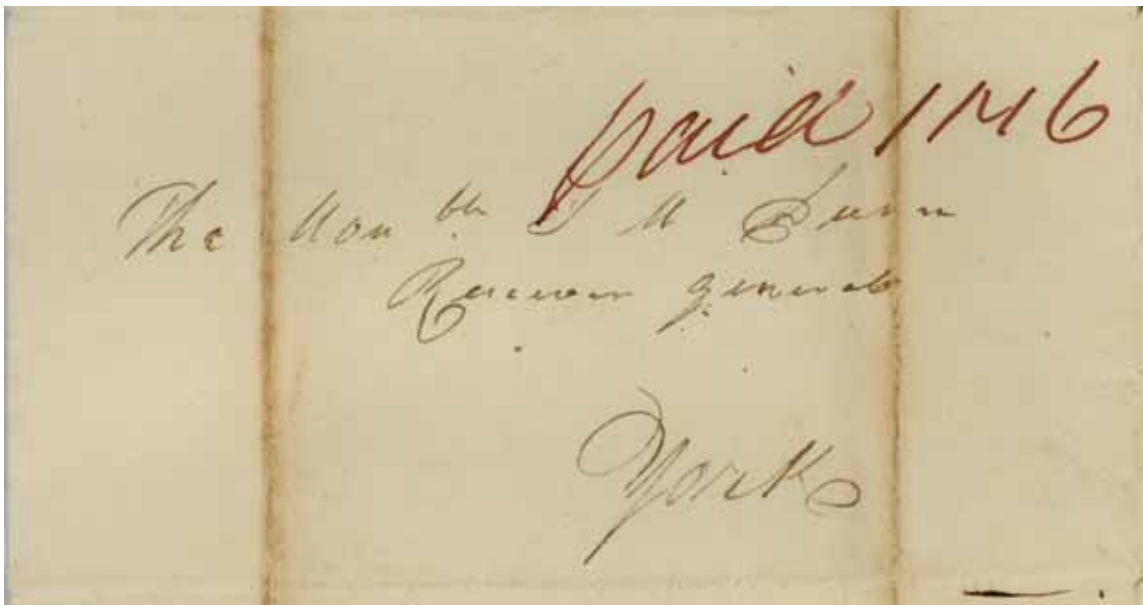


W. J. Raymond enclosing a  
Draft of Mr. Billing  
for £25 Currency  
Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> June 1821.

Docketing

Pre-money letter, Prescott–York, 1821. Letter contained £25 cy. Rated 1/8 cy collect (not prepaid), double 201–300 mile rate—but misrated: should have been double 11d cy, that is, 1/10 cy.

Earliest reported manuscript datestamp Prescott.



Kingston 15<sup>th</sup> March 1824  
John Cuming Esq. Inspector  
Middle District, enclosing the  
sum of 100, Currency as per John  
Macaulay's Bill as Ld. Justice,  
Esq. Cashier of the Bank, and  
of duties.

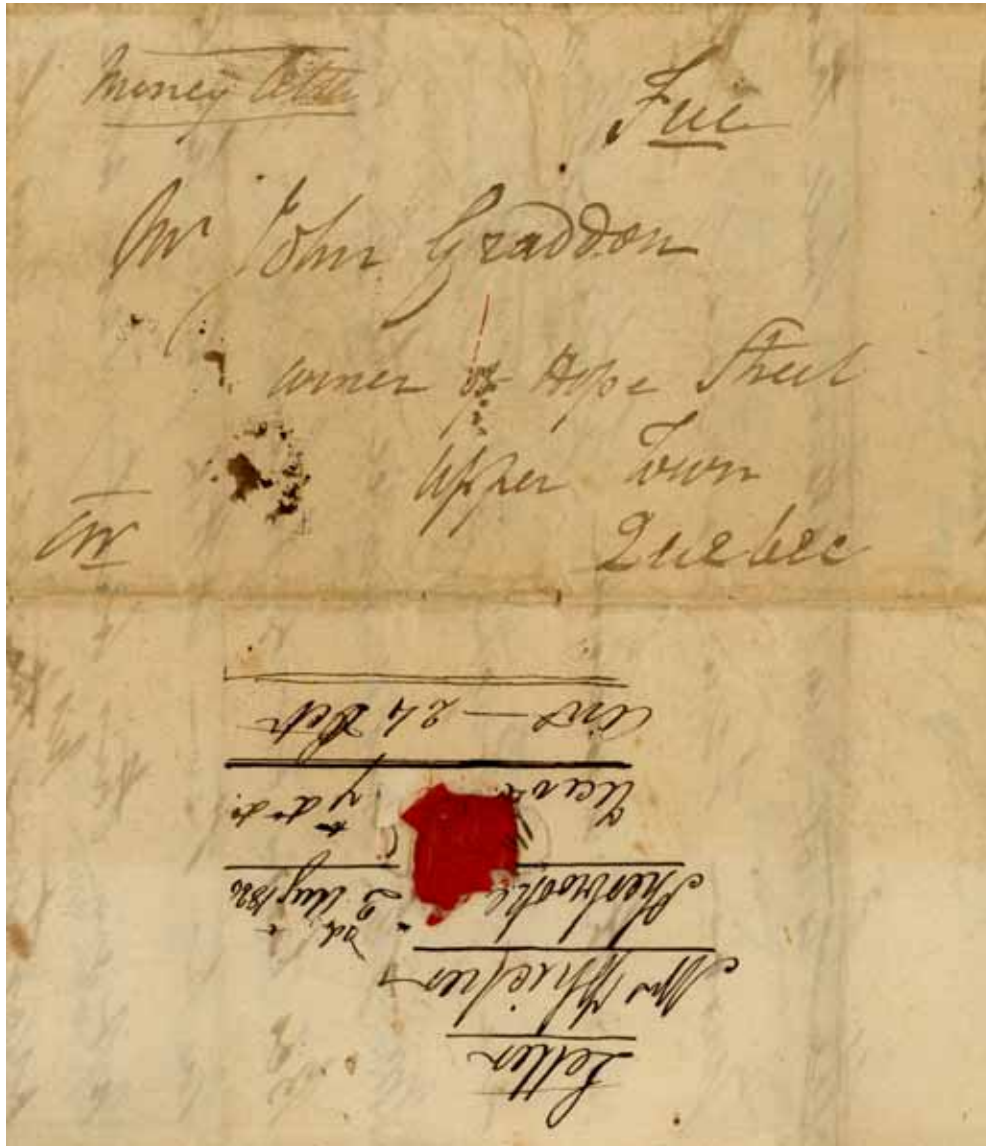
Docketing

Pre-money letter, Kingston–York, 1824. Letter contained £100 cy. Rated 1/6 cy prepaid, double 101–200 miles.

# Money letters

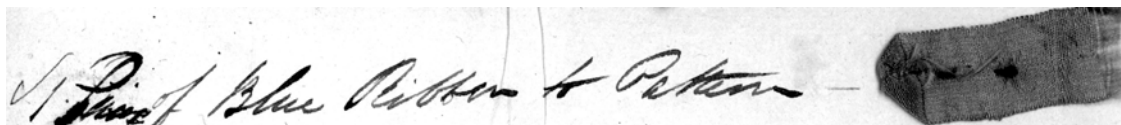
Based on the British scheme (in effect from 1792 until the advent of registration), money letters were in use in Canada 1825–1855. Any letter containing valuables would be marked *money letter* (or, less frequently, *cash*, or *money*), and special treatment would be given. There was no charge per se, but the enclosure increased the weight or the number of sheets, resulting in increased postage, sometimes enormous.

Sherbrooke Aug 3-26



**Free** money letter, Sherbrooke–Quebec, enclosed ribbon sample, 3 August 1826. One of the earliest money letters reported, and one of the very few sent free—in this case, postmaster's perquisite—in this early period (until 1835). Initialed by Sherbrooke postmaster Ann Whitcher (AW) at lower left, with ms *money letter* at upper left.

Enclosed an unspecified amount of money in payment for boots and gloves. Still attached via pin is a sample blue ribbon as a colour match.



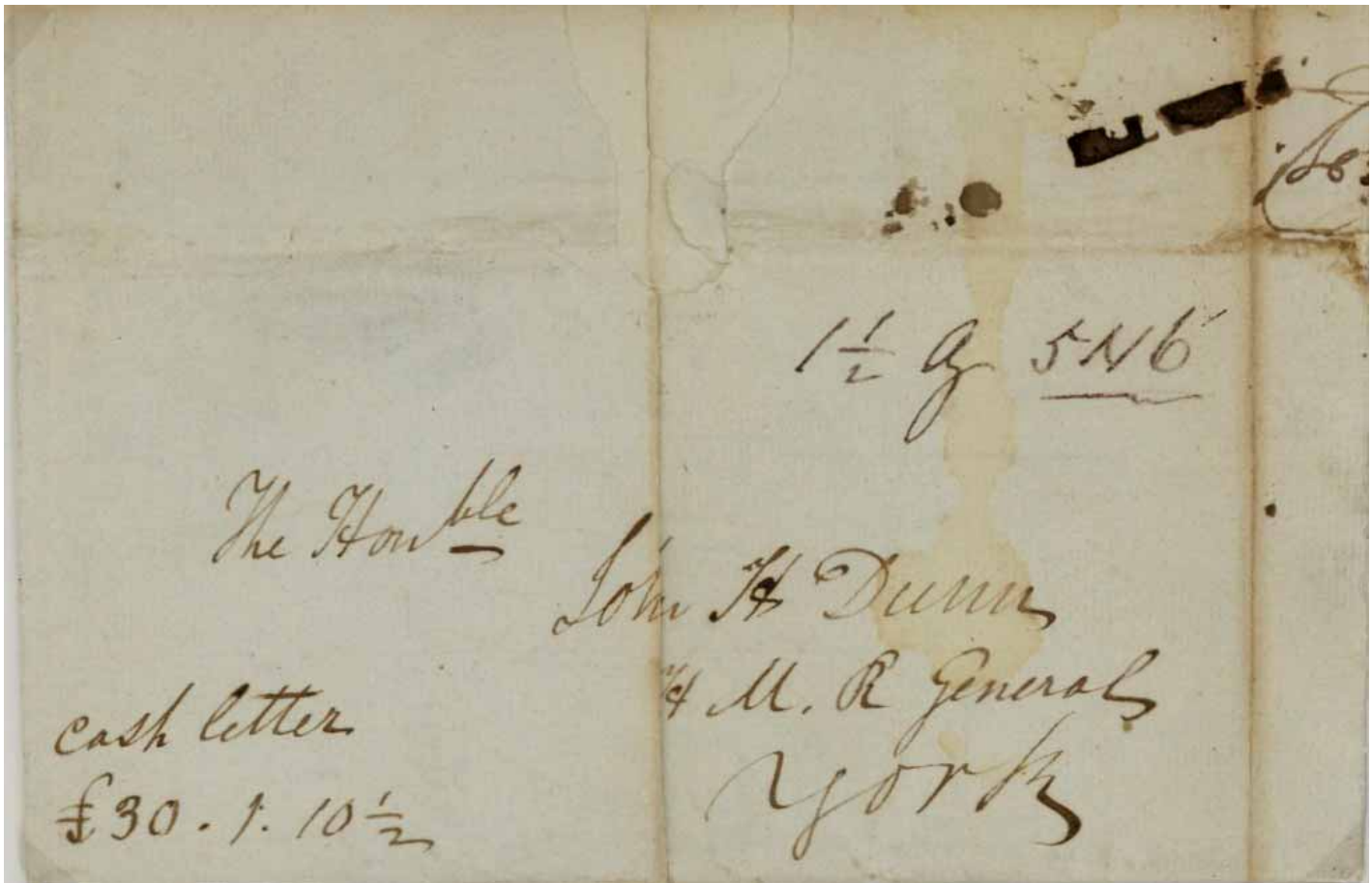
← Blue ribbon, attached by pin

## Cash letter

Rarely, *Cash letter* is used in place of *Money Letter*, and only reported in the 1820s. [HAL] records an 1823 use, but only applied by the *receiver*, hence meaningless.



*Early cash letter*, 1820s. Undated and with no docketing—but watermarked CARRON. Rated prepaid  $1/6$  cy, either double 101–200 mile rate, or quadruple under 60 mile rate.



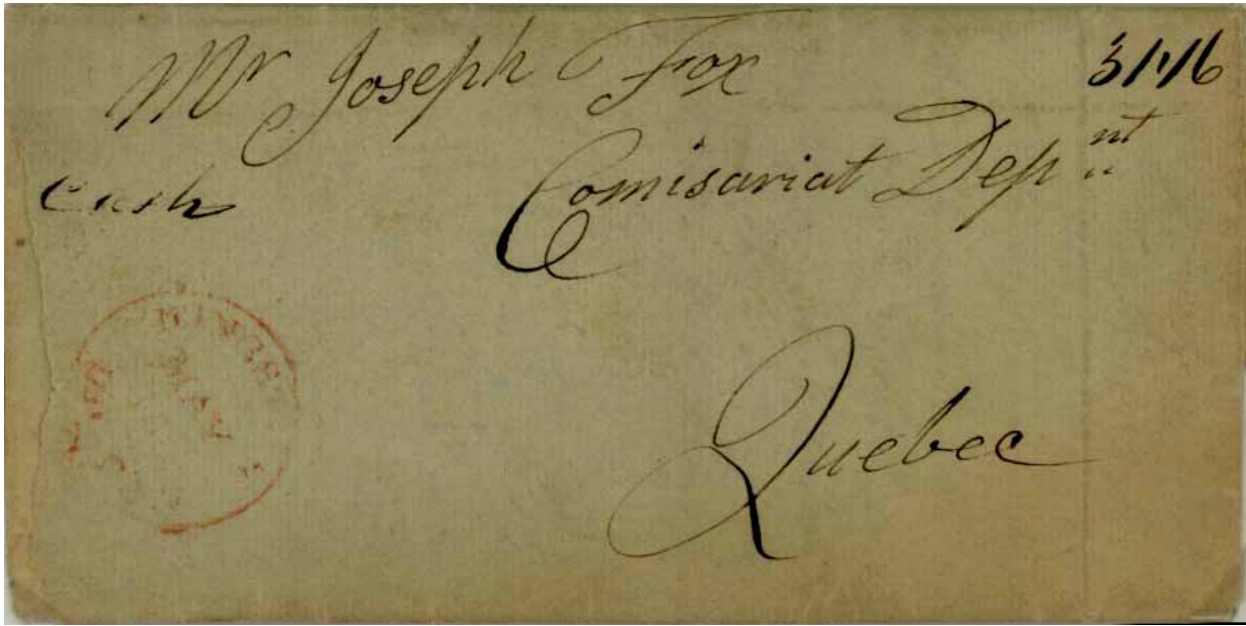
*Perth–York*, November 1826. The amount enclosed noted on the front; this was discouraged—as it invited theft—so is very rarely seen. Rated collect  $5/6$  cy, sextuple rate (per quarter ounce, hence ms  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz), for distance 201–300 miles.

Over-inked straightline PERTH (known 1822–29) on reverse (top).



## Less usual designations

*Cash* known at four offices and *Scrip and Money Letter*.



*Cash*, Kingston–Quebec 1833. Rated collect 3/6 cy, triple (two enclosures) 401–500 mile rate. Faint red KINGSTON UP. CAN circle, very common.



*Scrip and Money Letter*, Quebec–Montreal, 1847. Rated prepaid (red Quebec crown cancel, common) 3/– cy, quadruple (at this time, by weight only, hence one ounce) for distance 101–200 miles.

# Money letter handstamps

MONEY-LETTER (with or without hyphen, sometimes with period) and MONEY handstamps were introduced in 1831 at Quebec, and are seldom seen until the 1840s. There were several different general issue styles, and homemade ones exist as well.



Early Quebec handstamp, October 1831. Second earliest reported example; this style is said to be rare, and rarer in red (indicating prepaid) by [HAL], but this is likely one of their numerous errors.

The letter contained £104 in the form two drafts, hence triple rate 101–200 miles (Quebec–Montreal, by far the commonest route in Canada in the 19th century), collect 2/3 cy.

Quebec datestamp is the 1831-issue double broken circle.



Later Quebec handstamp, 1847. General issue with large roman letters.

Rated prepaid 2/4 quadruple (one ounce) 61–100 miles, Quebec–St-Pierre-les-Becquets.



## Multiple money letter handstamps

Money letters with two or more handstamps are known from the late 1840s.



Kingston & Hamilton, 1850. Locally made MONEY used at Kingston 1848–53; seldom seen. General issue handstamp applied at Hamilton, en route to Guelph.

Rated single collect Kingston–Guelph 201–300 miles, 11½ cy.

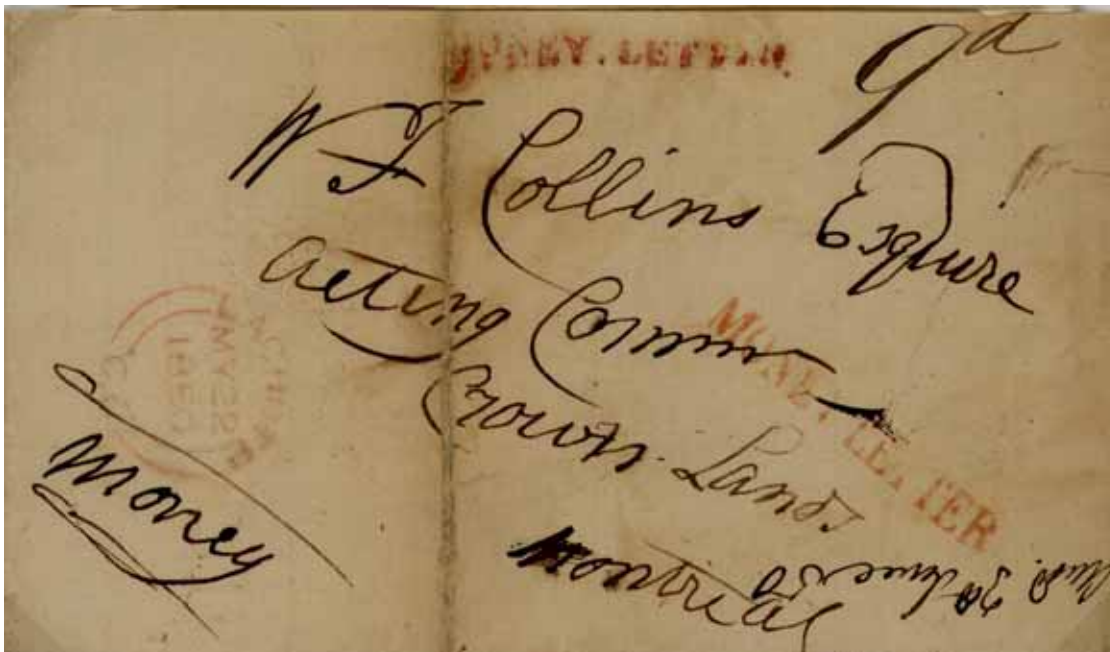


Simcoe & Montreal, 1850.

Large black hs at Simcoe, red at Montreal (general issue 1839).

Rated single collect, Simcoe–Montreal 301–400 miles, 1¼ cy.

With letter bill number (precursor to registration number).



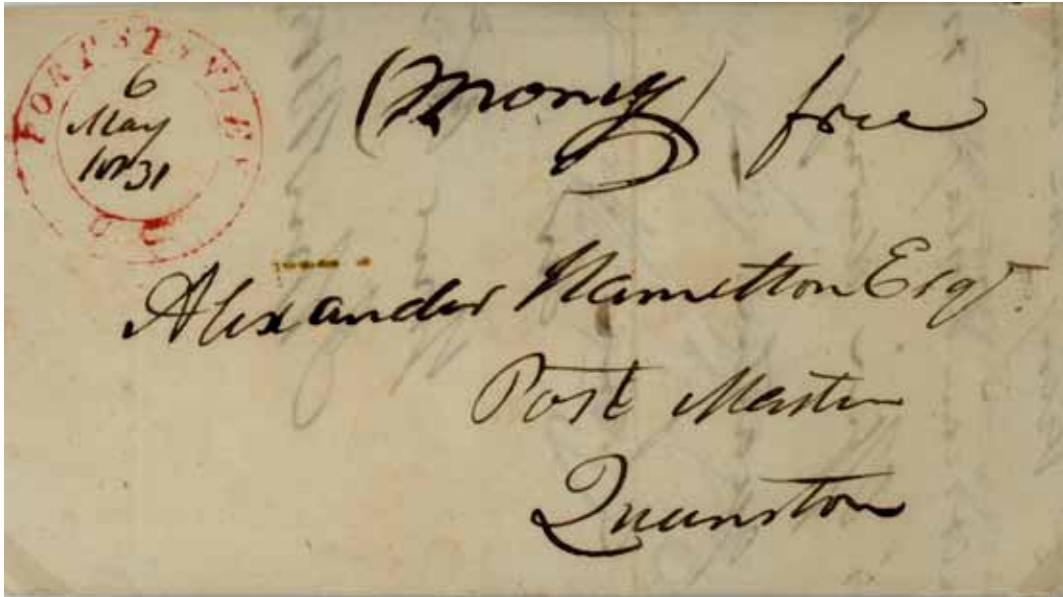
Lachute & Montreal, 1850.

Locally made Lachute MONEY-LETTER (not recorded in [HAL]).

Rated double collect under 60 miles (9 miles!), Lachute–Montreal.

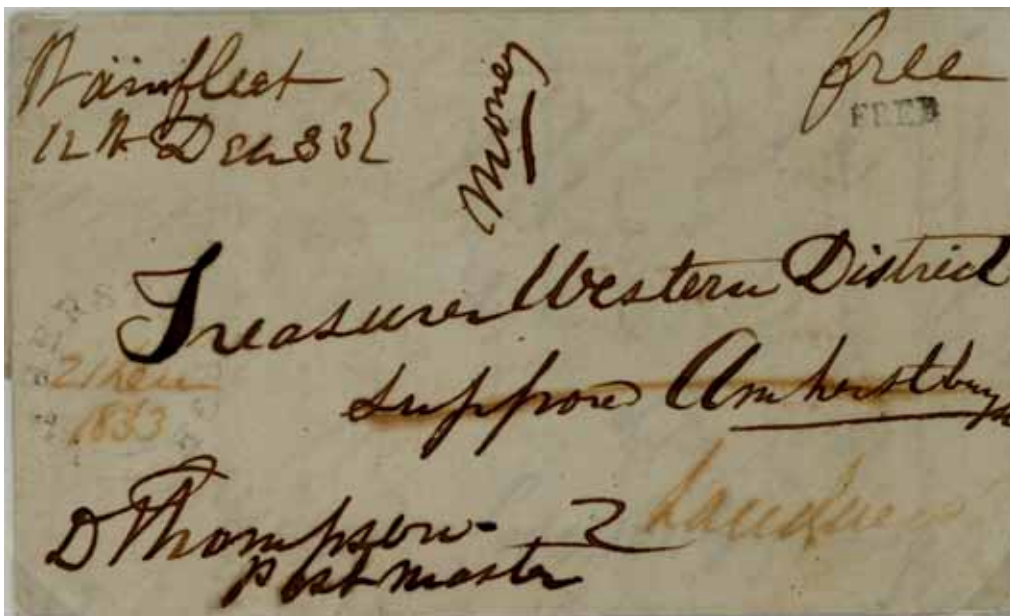
## Free money letters

As part of their perquisites (until 1851), postmasters were permitted limited free mailing. This was a considerable privilege, as letters containing enclosures were charged exorbitantly.



Port Stanley—Queenston, 6 May 1831. From one postmaster to another, I enclose the amount of \$1.85<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, being the sum of American postage received at this office during the last quarter.

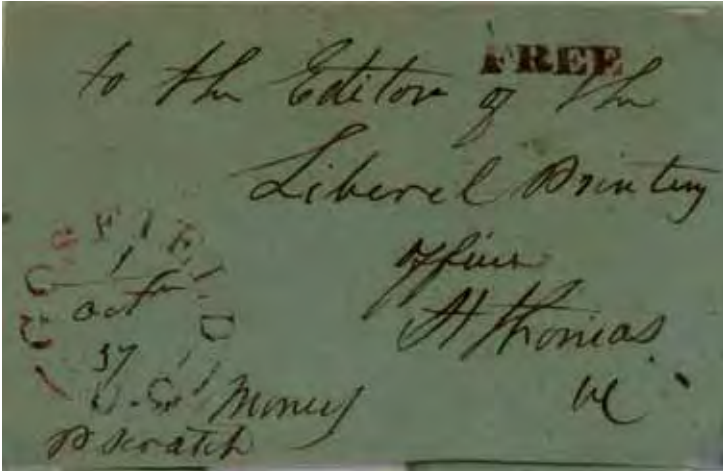
Double circle italic Port Stanley U.C., earliest reported strike.



Wainfleet—Amherstburg—London, 12 December 1833. Tiny FREE handstamp, applied at Amherstburg. Supposed Amherstburg struck through, and letter forwarded to London (US)

Manuscript Wainfleet, the latest of several known examples. Faint 1829 large style double broken circle.

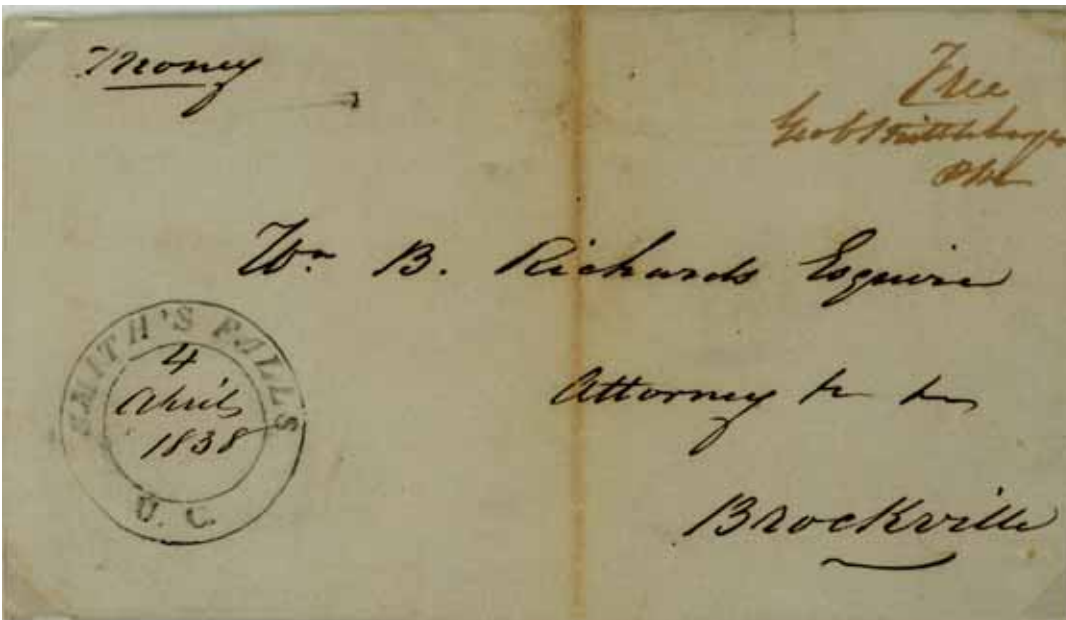
## Free money letters



Gosfield–St Thomas, 1837. Small heavily-serifed **FREE** handstamp.

Gosfield double broken circle (part of 1831 order), known 1834–1843.

The postmaster (sender, P Scratch) was acting as agent for the *Liberal* newspaper, a common practice. Not cut down.



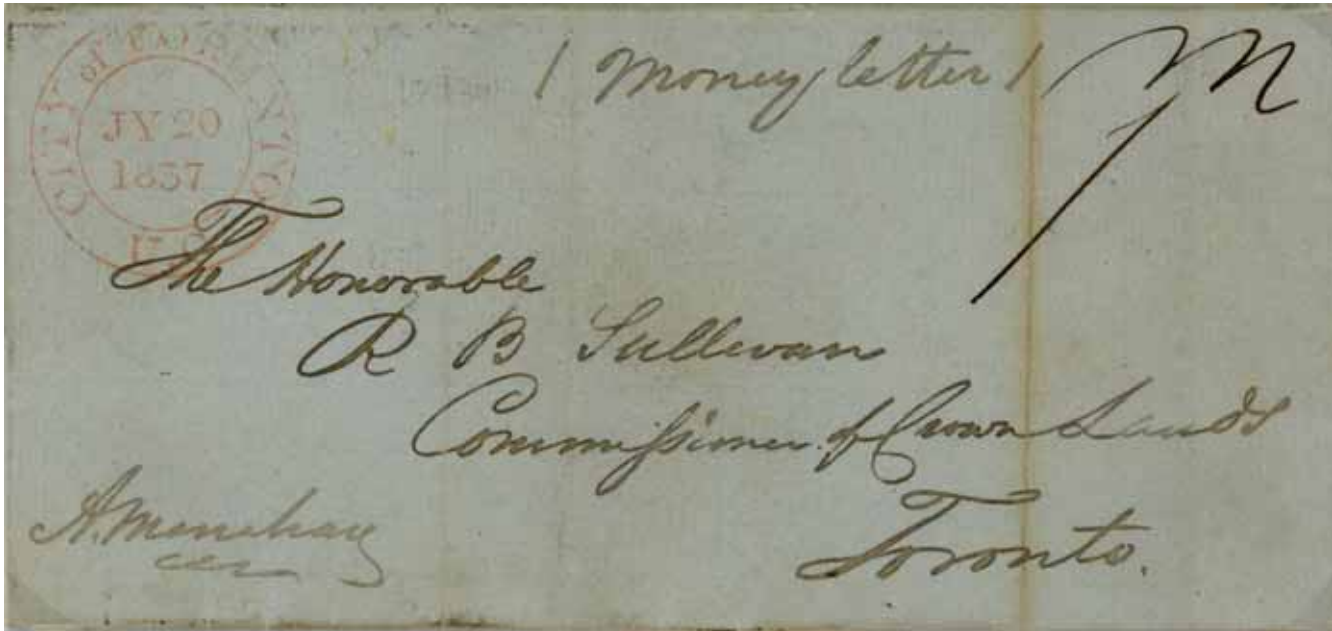
Smith's Falls–Brockville, 1838.

Double circle italic *Smith's Falls U.C.*, known use 1836–40, unusually clear.



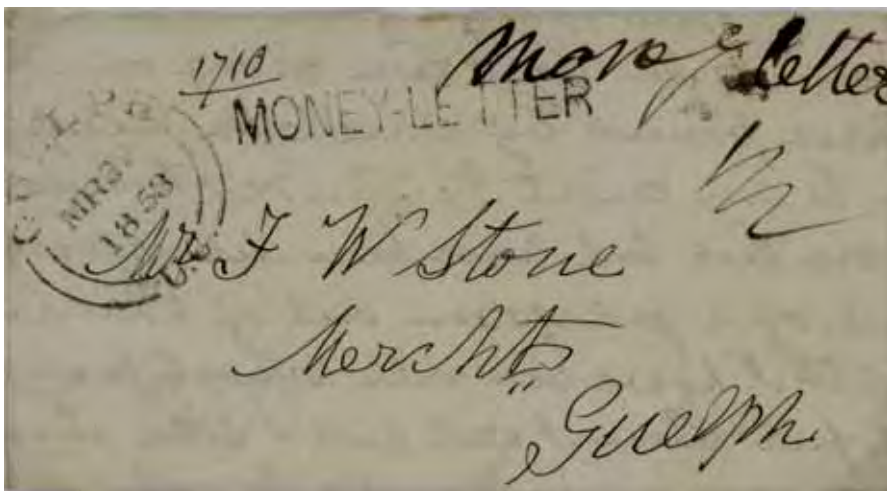
## Drop money letters

Letters left in the post office for pick-up by the addressee are *drop letters*. The fee was 1d cy to 1851, and ½d cy 1851–59, *regardless of weight or number of enclosures*. According to [HAL], just two drop money letters are known (1845 & 1846). Here are two more, both earlier and later.



Toronto drop letter, 1837. Rated 1d collect (flat drop letter rate). The large manuscript M is a standard Toronto money letter marking.

Common (typeset dated) City of Toronto double circle in red.



Guelph drop letter, 1853. Rated ½d collect (1851–59). Dropped money (and registered) letters are much more difficult to find from relatively small offices. Ms 1710 is letter bill number, applied to almost all money letters after 1850.

Nonserif MONEY-LETTER handstamp, part of the 1851 general issue, not recorded for Guelph ([HAL]).

## Letter bill numbers

Money letters were reported on the letter bill that was sent between post offices with the mail. From 1843, some postmasters marked the letter bill number on the cover. Initially, letter bill numbers were inconsistently applied until about 1850, when they became (almost) universal.



*Free, Montreal–Quebec, 1843.* First year of application of letter bill numbers, only seen sporadically; standard Montreal handstamp. A checkmark is often seen with the number (as in this example).



*Ayr–Toronto with three letter bill numbers, 1854.* Explicit original number (at Ayr) 366 (rarely seen in this form), then numbers 16 and 152 applied at Brantford and Owen Sound (according to backstamps).

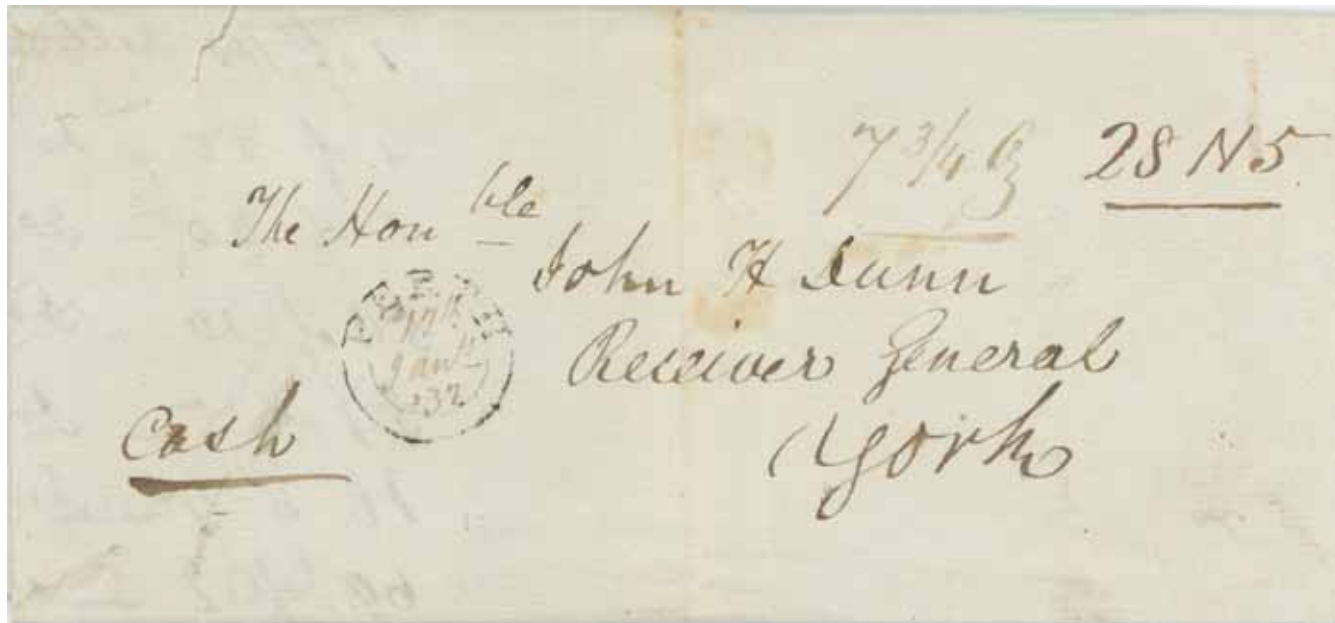
Rated prepaid single domestic, 3 d cy (1851–59). *Paid 23* refers to a post office account held by the sender, from which payment was made.





# Heavy multiple rate

Reportedly ([HAL]), the heaviest known money letter (31×).



Perth–York (Toronto from 1834), cash, 31×, 1832. The letter contained American banknotes, totalling the equivalent of £348/10 cy; they are itemized (below).

Rated 28/5 cy, 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> oz, charged 31 times the 11 d, 201–300 mile rate.

Relatively common Perth 1829-issue postmark known typeset-dated 1829–38.

1 of 100 dollars	—	£25	u	u
4 of 50	— do —	50	u	u
1 of 20	— do —	5	u	u
50 of 10	— do —	125	u	u
54 of 5	— do —	67	10	u
16 of 4	— do —	16	u	u
60 of 2	— do —	30	u	u
120 of 1	— do —	30	u	u
			<hr/>	
			348.10 u	

A list of the 306(!) bills enclosed.

## Combinations of services

Money letters with additional services or remarks

- *Way* Letter picked up on the way, that is, by a mail courier.
- *Advertised* Letter not picked up by addressee; advertised in local newspapers



*Military way mail, Toronto–Barrie, 1840.* Red *Way* and smaller *M* marked by courier on pick-up, with very large dark red *M* applied on arrival at Toronto.

Rated collect 1/9, triple (two enclosures), 61–100 mile rate. At lower left is an endorsement by *Col E O'Brien*—but officers were not eligible for the military concession rate.

Barrie double circle, known use 1839–42.

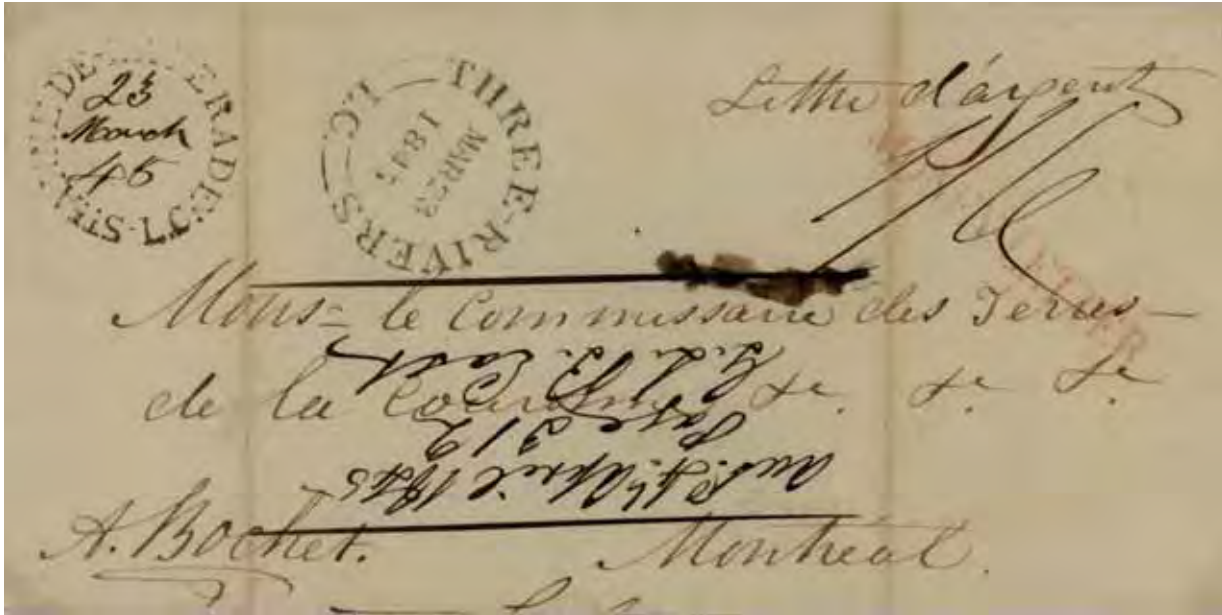


*Advertised & not called for, Indiana (UC)–Toronto, 18th May 48.* Red *MONEY-LETTER* (probably applied at Indiana); large Toronto ms *M*.

Rated collect 7 d cy, 60–100 miles. Indiana UC double broken circle with ms date, known used 1842–57.

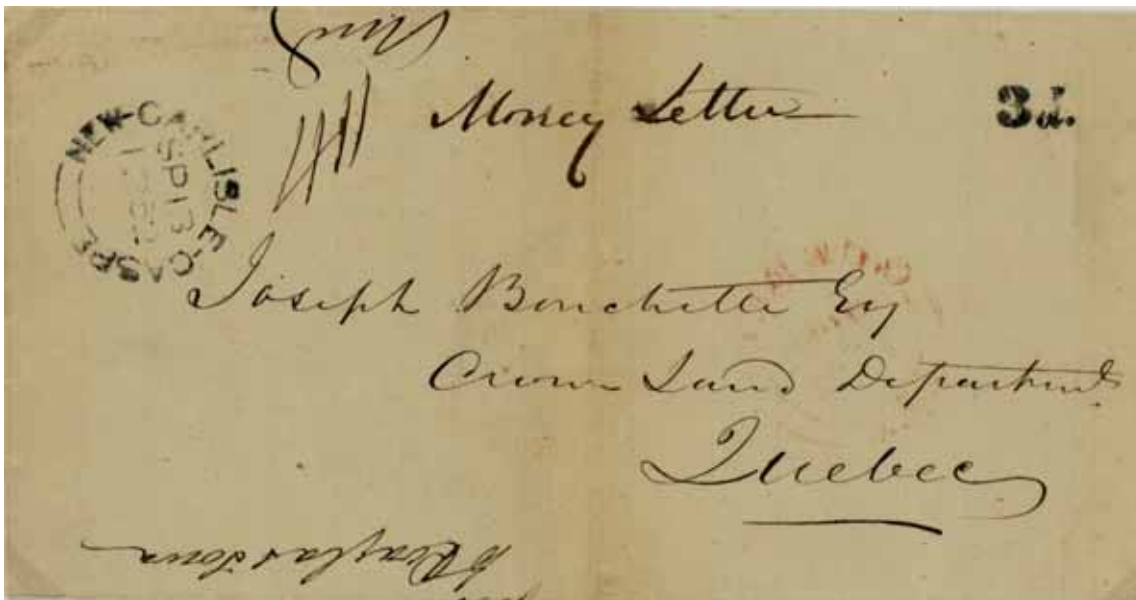
A relatively early envelope; prior to 1844, envelopes were charged at least double rate, as the actual letter that they contained was counted as a separate sheet.

## Oddities



*Lettre d'argent*, Ste-Anne-de-la-Perade–Montreal, via Three Rivers, 1845. Seldom seen French language version of money letter.

Rated collect 1/6, double (half ounce), 101–200 mile rate.



*New Carlisle-Gaspé-Quebec fancy ratestamp*, 1852. Used indirectly in the Greene Foundation's refutation of the ludicrous New Carlisle "Postmaster's Provisional".

Rated collect 3d, single rate. Clearly a handstamp; one of the two examples known.



# Canada assumes control of its post office (1851)

The Province of Canada gained control of its post office 6 April 1851. Immediately, the mileage-based postal rates were simplified to 3 d (currency) per half ounce for domestic mail (and also to the Maritime provinces). This could be paid entirely in stamps (issued several weeks later), or entirely in cash, or left completely unpaid (for the receiver to pay in full); partial payment of the full postage was not permitted. There was still no additional charge for money letters, although enclosures *might* increase the weight.

The earliest reported money letter in this period is dated 15 April 1851.



Montreal–Quebec, 19 April 1851. Red Montreal boxed MONEY LETTER (one of several in use from 1840).

Single domestic postage, collect 3d cy, two weeks after new rate introduced.

Early envelope (as opposed to folded letter sheet); these became feasible only when the charge per enclosure was replaced by charge per weight (1844; however, the rates were still quite high, so few envelopes were used until 1851).



St George (LC)–Quebec, 23 April 1851. Blue ms Money Letter; large serif MONEY-LETTER applied at Quebec.

Rated as above (collect).

Although 23 April is the generally accepted date that stamps were first issued, not all post offices had received them by that date.



Trenton–Napanee, 1851. Early coloured Canadian corner cover (blue seal on reverse), Montreal Telegraph Company.

Rated single domestic, prepaid (cash).

The Trenton UC double broken circle has a basal sideways 2; in Canada, these were not used as time marks.

## Beavers inundate the mail

The new-fangled and not much licked (in Canada) adhesive bits of paper, *postage stamps*, were issued on or after 23 April 1851. Their use on money letters was limited to April 1851–April 1855. The first two covers are unusual in that green or blue ink was seldom used for postmarks in Canada.



Brantford–Hamilton, 1852.  
Nonserif general issue (1851)  
MONEY-LETTER handstamp at Brantford; unrecorded in [HAL].  
Green postmarks (appear blue on this paper).  
Stamp pays single domestic rate.



Burford–London (CW), 1852. Large roman MONEY-LETTER applied at Burford, unrecorded in [HAL].

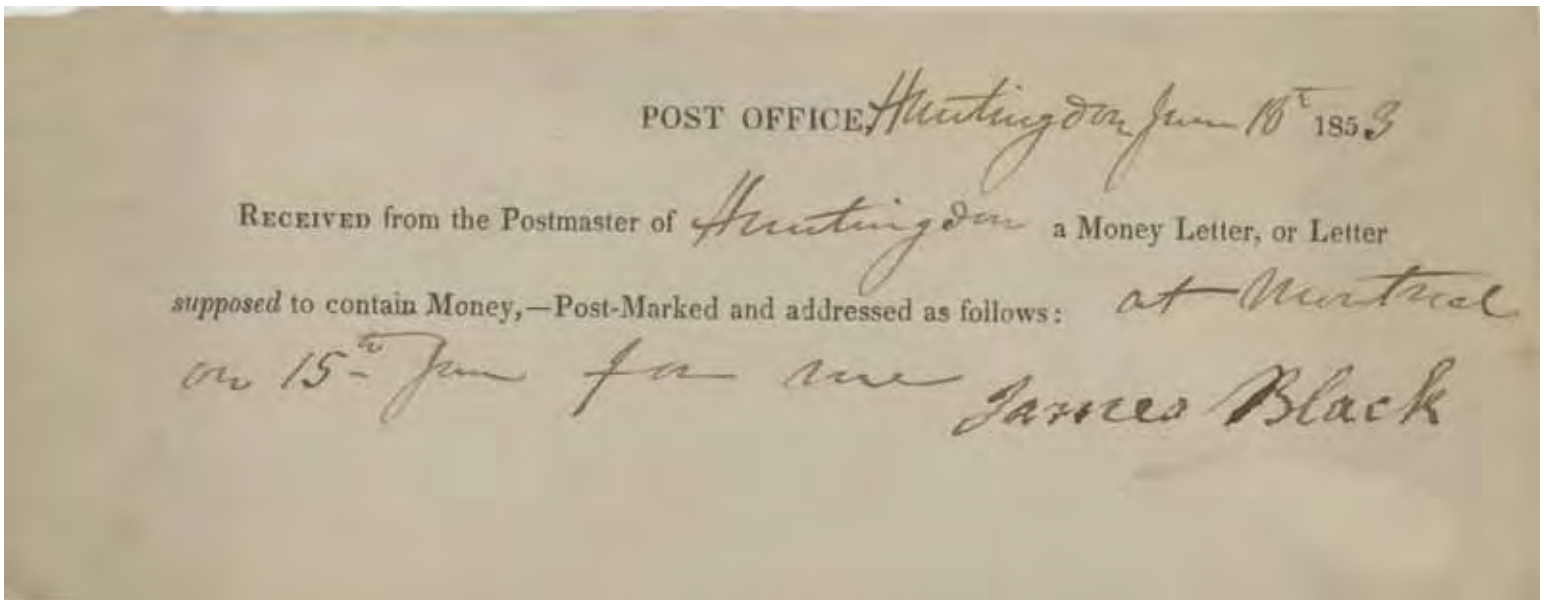
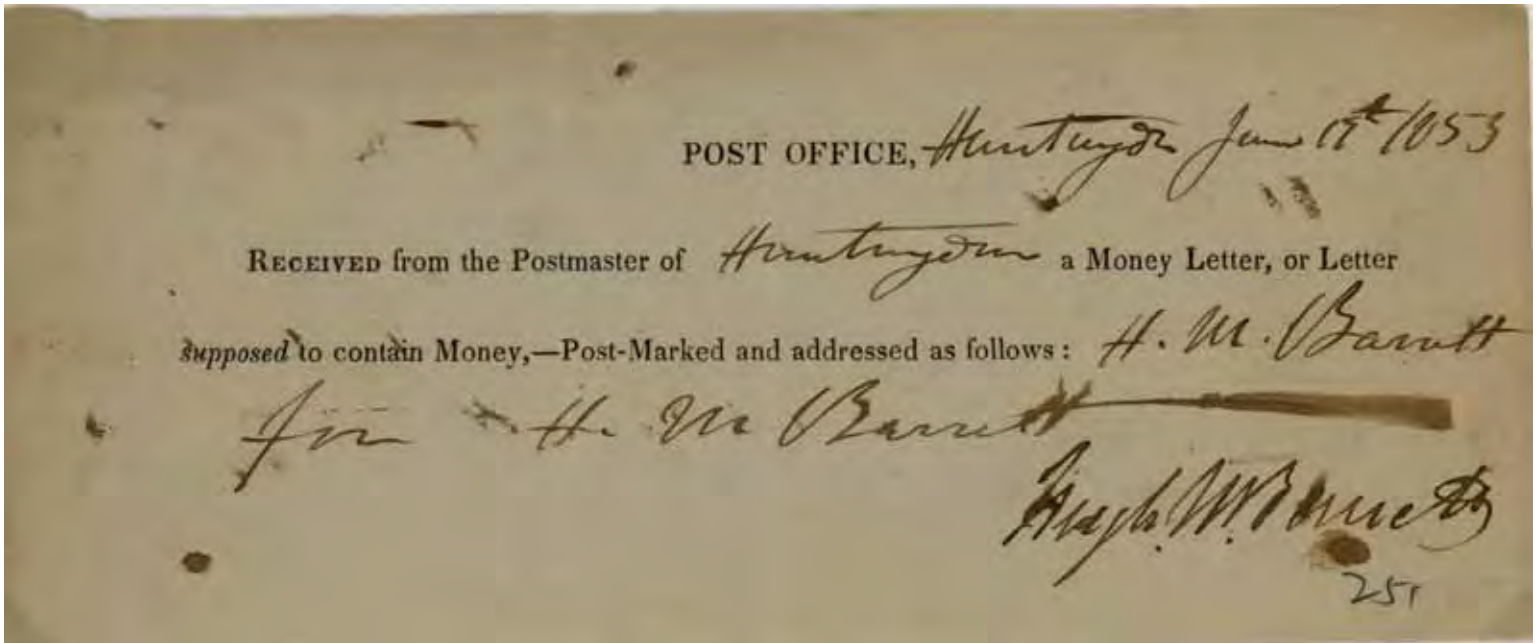


Chippawa–London, two MONEY-LETTER handstamps, 1853. Larger one at Chippawa, other at London.



## Money letter receipts—sort of

These were signed by the recipient and given to the postmaster, to protect the latter from lawsuits. Receipts (as we usually think of them) were not given to the sender of a money letter until registration was adopted.



Two different money letter forms, signed by recipient, consecutive days 17 & 18 June 1853. Both from Huntingdon. The difference lies in the printed 185 (decade) in the upper right corner of the second one, as opposed to no such on the first one.

# Steamboat money letter

Possibly unique combination



*Kingston–Toronto, 1853. Mailed on board steamboat; on arrival at Kingston, marked with datestamp and M O N E Y (latest known strike of this scarce handstamp).*

Rated collect 3 d cy (single domestic).

Mailed to Toronto lunatic asylum; contained £6/5, paying for an inmate's stay (one quarter).



Red STEAM-BOAT LETTER KINGSTON. Known 1848–56; with basal indicia 1–6 and blank (this one is blank). Backwards 3 in year.

## Cross-border money letters

Except for an informal “registration” system (more like a money letter scheme) in Pennsylvania (from the 1840s) and in some cities bordering Canada (late 1840s on), the US did not have anything comparable to money letters until it adopted registration in 1855. However, money letters could be sent to the US, with special treatment to the border. They are fairly difficult to find.



Kingston–New York, sextuple, 1843. Part of the ubiquitous Kennedy correspondence.

Rated \$1.50 sextuple US postage, at 25¢ per quarter ounce 400+ miles (from the border at Kingston to New York). No Canadian postage was charged, as the Kingston postmaster was also a US postmaster.

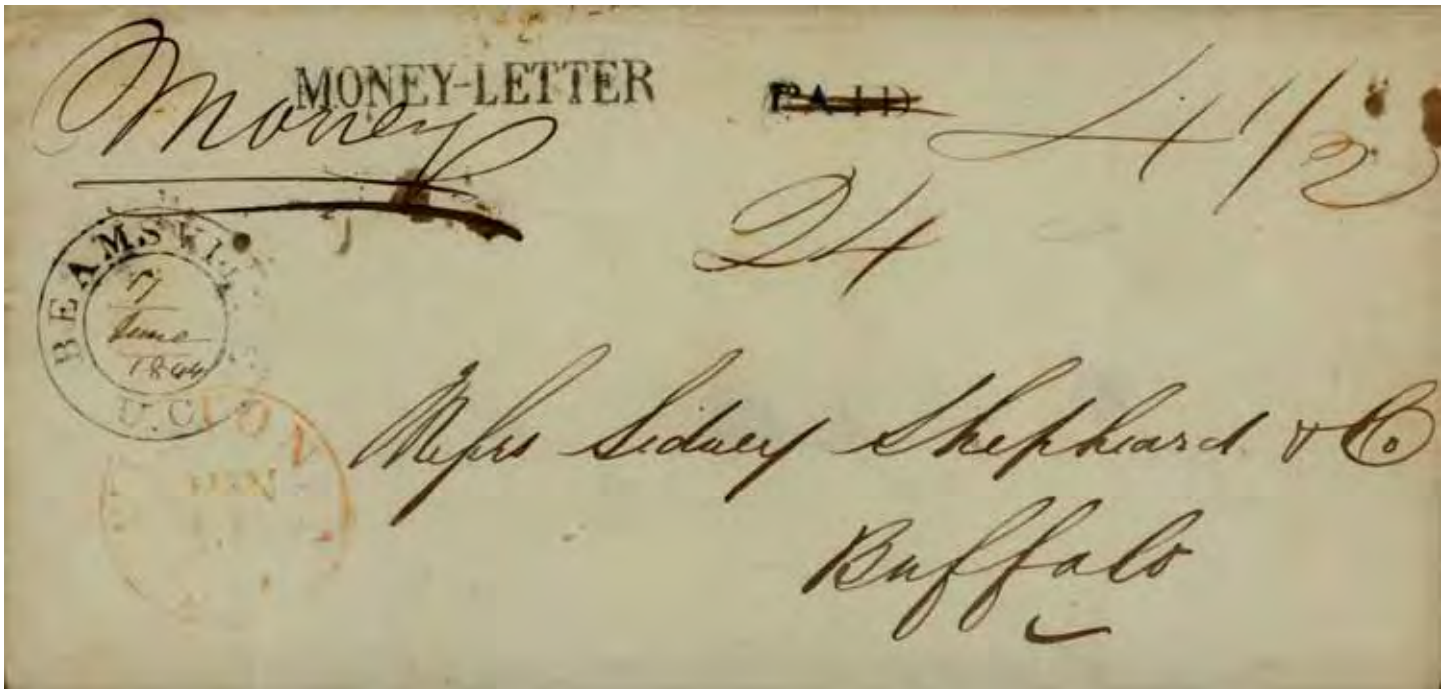


Montreal–New York, sextuple, 1847. Also Kennedy correspondence.

Rated prepaid  $\frac{2}{3}$  cy:  $6 \times 4\frac{1}{2}$  d per half ounce (change from sheets and quarter ounce rates to half ounce rates occurred in 1844) for under 60 miles to the border, and 60¢:  $6 \times 10$ ¢ US rate over 300 miles from the border to New York.



## Cross-border money letters



*Beamsville–Buffalo, single Canada and quadruple US rate, 1844.*

Rated prepaid  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d cy, single rate under 60 miles to the Queenston-Lewiston border crossing (from 5 January 1844, Canadian rates were calculated per half ounce, not by sheet or per quarter ounce). The PAID handstamp was struck through, likely at the cross-border point, Lewiston (NY), and the somewhat mysterious rate 24¢ (to be collected) was applied.

The distance Lewiston–Buffalo was around 25 miles, for which the single rate fee was 6¢ (1825–1845). US rates were still calculated by sheet, so this would have to be quadruple (three enclosures; from the Canadian fee, the weight was less than one-half ounce).

Beamsville double circle is known 1840–49.



*Mess made by US postmaster, London (UC)–New York 1845. Red London MONEY-LETTER hs.*

Originally rated 9d cy (201–300 miles, London to the border), and 10¢ = 6d US rate over 300 miles (border to New York), all *prepaid*. The US postmaster apparently did not believe the latter could be prepaid (it could), and struck through the red PAID hs (only a tiny portion is still visible), tearing the paper. It was then charged 10¢.

## Money letters to US “registered” there

In portions of the US, particularly in Pennsylvania, an informal registration system was in use, although it was more like a money letter scheme. The two covers below were mailed in Canada as money letters, and then given US registration numbers (the first tentative). These are the only two such known.

While Canadian letter bill numbers did not restart at 1 until they reached (at least) 999, US registration numbers restarted every quarter. Hence the latter tend to be low, particularly from small towns, while the former tend to be high.



*Hamilton—Easton (Pennsylvania), May 1854.* Ms *money* is not in the hand of the sender, whereas at Hamilton the MONEY-LETTER handstamps were applied—suggesting the former were applied in the US. What is certainly American is the parenthesized (*Reg 8*); Canadian offices did not use the term registration (until 1855, when registration was adopted).

Parentheses suggest that the US postmaster was unsure about how to treat this item. *Only reported Canadian money letter with US registration marking.*

Rated prepaid 10¢ treaty rate single, noted with red exchange rate marking (applied at Hamilton).



*London (CW)—Easton, July 1854;* same correspondence. The ms 864 is almost certainly the London letter bill number, while the 5 is very likely the US registration number, this time, not tentative. London serif MONEY-LETTER handstamp, part of general issue (1851).

Rated prepaid 20¢ = 1/– cy, double treaty rate, in large script.



## Incoming cross-border money letters

A few US post offices near the border unofficially adopted a money letter system, at least for letters to Canada. There was no additional charge, but they were entered on the letter bill, exactly as in Canada. Very few such examples are known.



Buffalo money letter to Montreal, 1847. Rated prepaid 10¢ from Buffalo to the Swanton-Stanstead exchange, and then collect 4½ d cy (under 60 miles) to Montreal. Canadian postage could not be prepaid in the US.

Normally, mail to Canada from Buffalo would have crossed Lake Ontario to Toronto, but internal Canadian postage from Toronto to Montreal (1/2 cy) would have made it far more expensive.



Grand Rapids (Mich)–Sandwich, 1853. Regersted(!) Rated collect 10¢ = 6 d cy, US–Canada.

Faint red datestamp is (upside-down) Windsor, of which Sandwich is now a suburb; via Detroit.

## For stamp fanatics

While it makes little difference to the postal history, a classic stamp on cover is revered. These two covers, showing different money letter uses of the 6d Albert, cater to this.



Canada-US, 1854. Smaller MONEY-LETTER hs.

Rated prepaid 6d cy, single treaty rate, from London to New York. One of four cross-border money letters reported with this stamp. Greene Foundation #9295 (December 1999), *Genuine in all respects . . .*

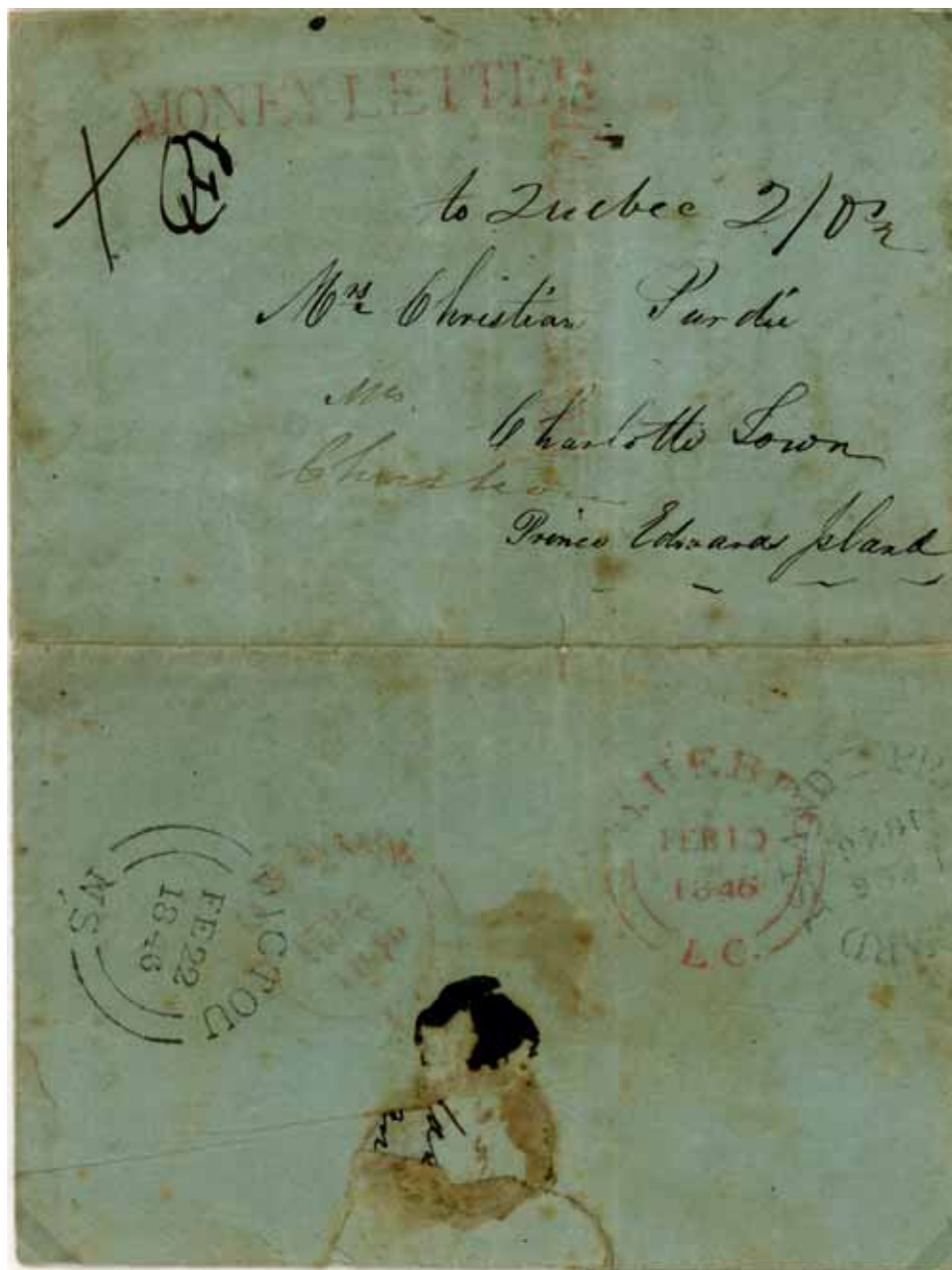


Domestic double rate, Port Burwell-Brockville, 1854. Larger MONEY-LETTER hs.

Rated prepaid 6d cy, double domestic. Royal Philatelic Society (London) #191127 (August 2005)  
. . . is genuine.

## To Prince Edward Island

Only reported money letter from the Province of Canada to PEI.



*Sandwich (UC)–Charlottetown, via Quebec & Pictou (NS), 1846.* Dated Sandwich, initially postmarked at Windsor (UC; faint), and then London (UC) in red; there is a faint red vertical MONEY-LETTER handstamp probably also applied there. The larger handstamp was applied at Quebec.

Rated to *Quebec 2/0½ (cy)*, single (half-ounce at this time) 701–800 miles, Windsor–Quebec. There should have been substantial additional postage for the rest of the trip, but there is no evidence of further charges.

The symbols at the upper left have been seen on other Canadian covers, but their meaning is unknown.



# To United Kingdom

Fewer than ten money letters have been reported between BNA and UK.

Montreal October 26 1829



Supposed Money Letter

Montreal–Scotland, 1829. Treated as a money letter in the UK; *Supposed Money Letter* likely applied on arrival at Greenock.

Rated collect 2/2 stg, made up from ship letter fee (8 d), captain's gratuity (2 d), and internal UK rate, Greenock–Paisley (double 8 d), plus the ubiquitous  $\frac{1}{2}$  d Scottish wheel tax.

Two-step GREENOCK SHIP LETTER straightline (Robertson s–12), then Greenock dater, and Paisley straightline (at bottom/reverse).

## To United Kingdom

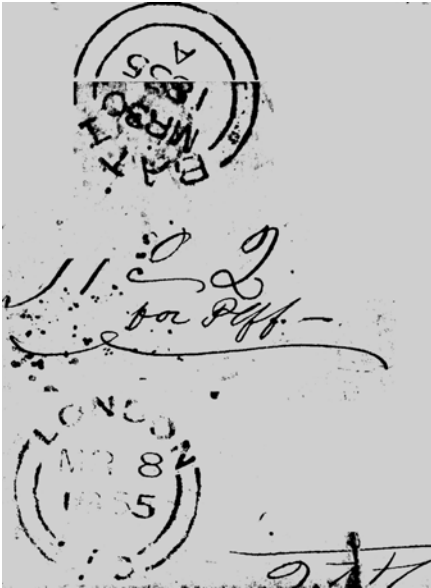
Although UK had had a registration system (from 1840), incoming money letters so-designated in Canada raised no additional (registration) fee.



Adelaide (UC)–England, 8–31 March 1855. MONEY-LETTER struck at London (CW).

Rated prepaid 8 d stg = 10 d cy (marked in both currencies), transatlantic rate Canada–UK. Large off-red ms 6 (d stg) is British claim (applied at Liverpool, port of entry). Double broken circle Adelaide UC (1851–75); on reverse, London UC (1850–69); in UK, red Liverpool tombstone, Bath, and Warminster.

Mailed in March 1855, just before Canada's registration system was implemented (May).





## From United Kingdom

Britain introduced registration in 1840. Letters mailed from UK could be registered relative to the *British mail*. On arrival in BNA (typically at Halifax or Montreal), registered letters were treated as money letters.



*Registered/money letter, 1850. Marked red Registered (Hounslow UK).*

Rated 2/- stg, made up of 1/- transatlantic (to Canada) rate and 1/- registration fee.

On arrival at Halifax, probably travelled by closed bag to Montreal, where two strikes of the red MONEY-LETTER hs were applied. Addressed to Tuckersmith (UC, Huron County). There is a faint red Hamilton cw datestamp directly over the Hounslow dater.



# Maritime money letters

In the Maritime colonies (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, & Prince Edward Island), the money letter system was used, but *much* less frequently than in the Province of Canada. Nova Scotian examples are difficult to find, those of New Brunswick are very difficult, and at most four are known from PEI.

No reliable dates are known for the beginnings of money letters in the Maritimes. The money letter systems were replaced by registration at different dates: NB, 6 July 1851; NB, 6 July 1852, and PEI, 1857 (some references incorrectly give 1861).



*Sydney–Halifax*, 1842. Earliest NS money letter reported.

Rated collect 2/6 d cy, double rate (rates only roughly based on mileage) for one enclosure, plus collect 1 d cy carrier/local delivery fee in Halifax.

Sydney \* postmark is one of a group in use from the 1830s in NS & NB.



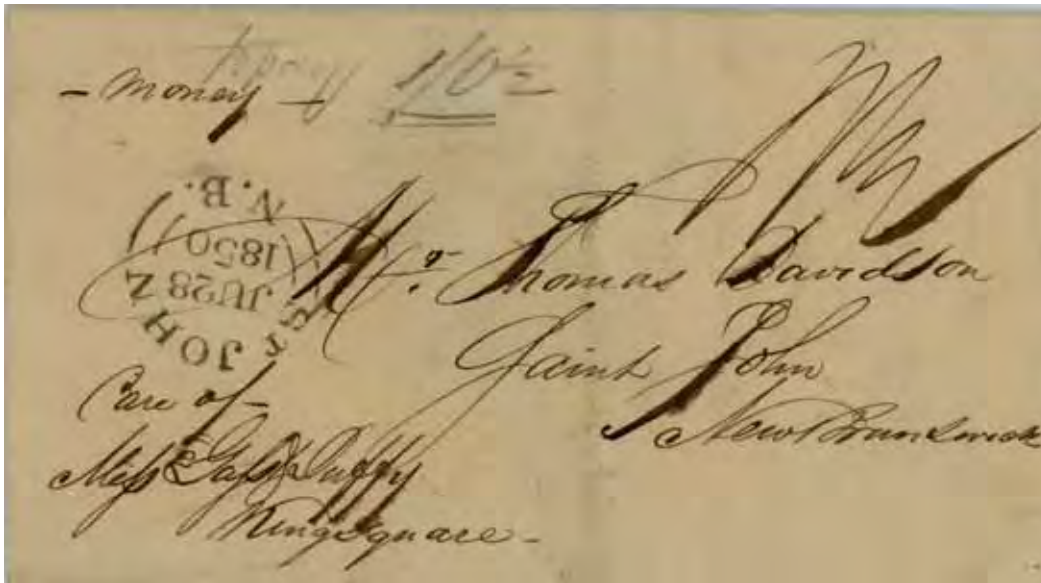
*Annapolis–Halifax*, 1846.

Rated prepaid 9 d cy; changed to half-ounce increments (but still in terms of mileage, roughly) in 1843. Halifax delivery fee had been abolished by this time.

Annapolis datestamp is not common; the PAID datestamp is much scarcer, as relatively few letters in the Maritimes were prepaid when there was an option not to.

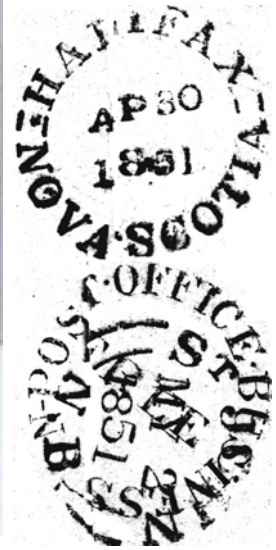
# Nova Scotia to New Brunswick

Two money letters from the same correspondence, about a year apart.



Halifax–Saint John, 1850.

Rated collect  $1/0 \frac{1}{2}$ , single letter rate Halifax–Saint John.



Halifax–Saint John, April 1851.

Rated as above; Nova Scotia did not acquire control of its post office until a few months later.

The (Halifax or Saint John) ON POST OFFICE BUSINESS FREE double broken circle is scarce, and used to indicate free postage. It was evidently applied in error, as it was over stuck at Saint John.

## New Brunswick money letters



Woodstock–Fredericton, 1843. Large red MONEY-LETTER (similar to that of Quebec); only such handstamp in use in New Brunswick (several examples are known).  
Rated prepaid 1/2 cy, double 7 d rate for this route.



Way Office Springfield–Fredericton, free, 1848. No rate marking; *On HM Service* is not an indication (by itself) of free mail, simply that it was intended to go through the postal service. This is extremely unusual for the Maritimes.

In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the numerous *Way Offices* were too small to be post offices, but were places to deposit and transmit mail.

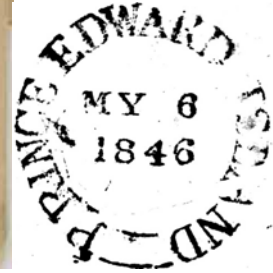


# Prince Edward Island money letters

At most four have been reported.



Tignish May 1<sup>st</sup> 1846  
Dateline



Tignish—Charlottetown, domestic, 1846.

Rated collect 2 d PEI currency, Island rate (difficult to find even without the money aspect).



Charlottetown—Pictou (Nova Scotia), 1850. Ms 797 is a letter bill number, probably applied at Pictou.

Rated collect 1/6 cy, quadruple (two ounces) special rate PEI—Pictou.

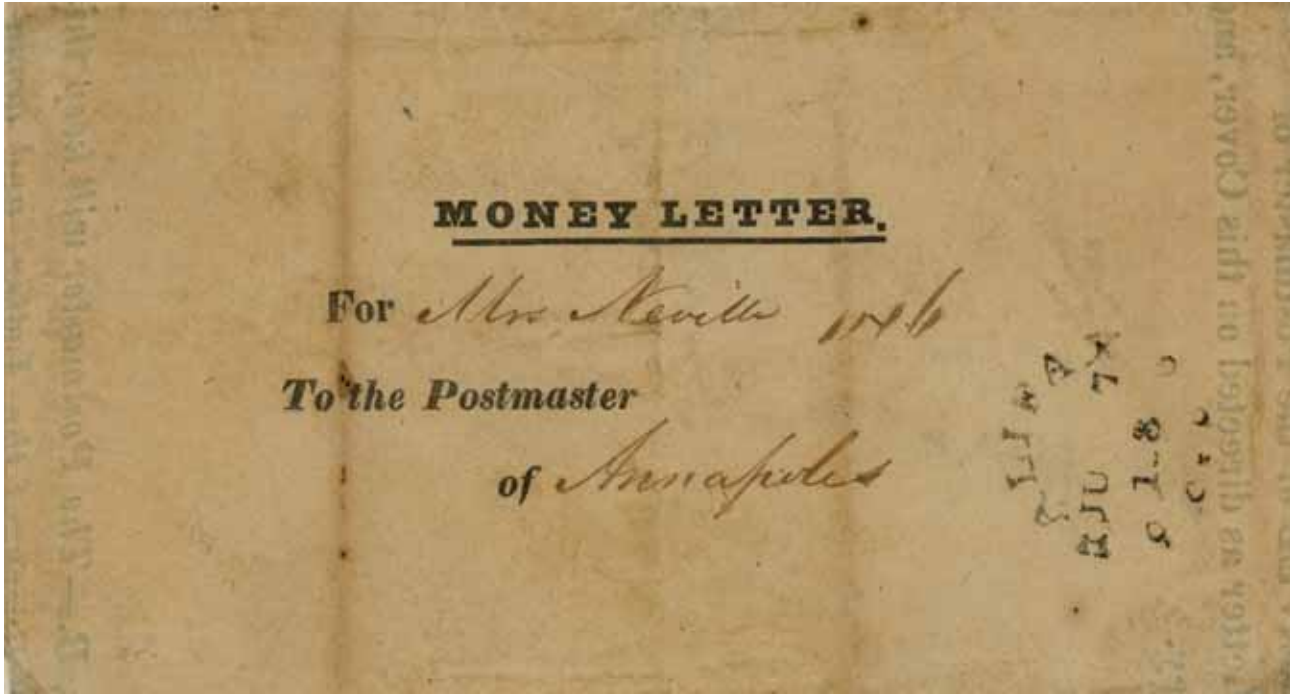


# Money letter wrappers

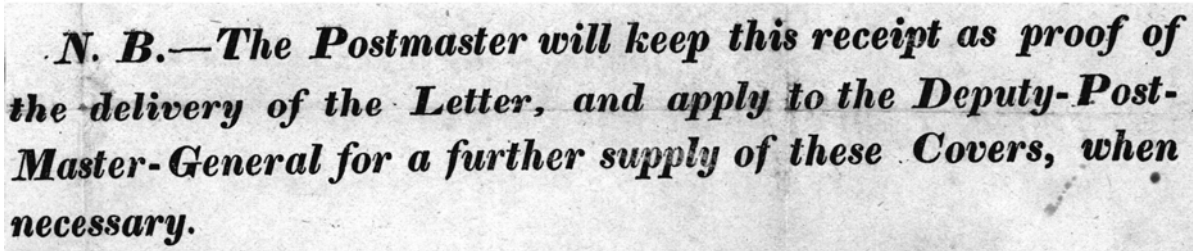
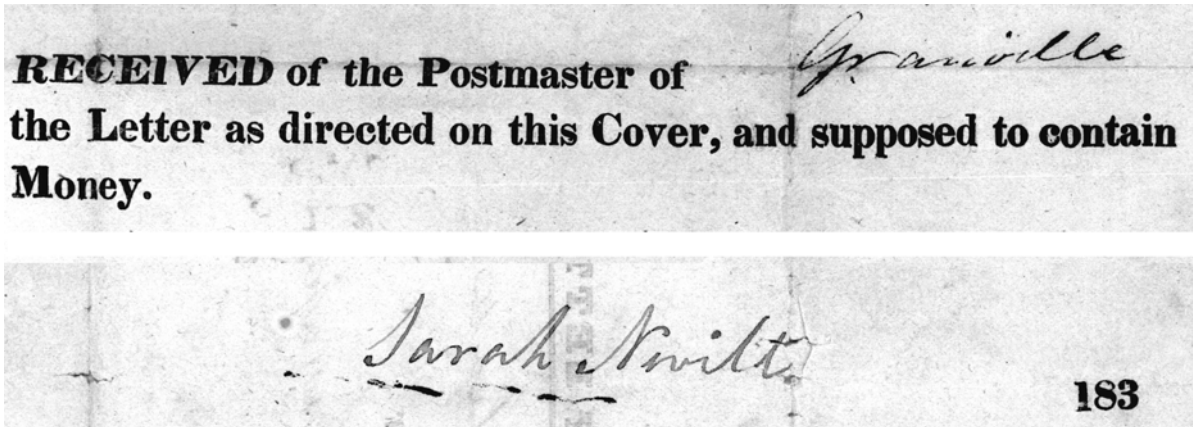
Money letters were put inside these wrappers for transit between post offices, and ultimately signed by the recipient; wrappers were kept by the destination office, to be destroyed within two years. None have been reported for NB, PEI, LC; one is known for UC.

Four white wrappers are known for NS, of which three are shown here. The fourth was badly damaged and subsequently repaired, and then exhibited (not by me) without noting the extensive repairs!

Green wrappers have been reported, but I am skeptical of their existence—they may have been confused with the later registration wrappers.



Halifax–Annapolis, 7 June 1839. Made of poor quality paper. Signed on the interior by the recipient.



Signed by recipient. Large sections have been deleted in this image.

## Money letter wrappers



Granville–Kentville, forwarded to Bridgetown & Annapolis, 19 July 1839. Printing on the interior is identical to that of the previous wrapper, but differs on the outside.



Kentville–Annapolis, 17 November 1841. Text on the interior is identical to that of the previous wrappers, but typeface differs.

Rate prepaid 1/2cy, referring to the postage on the enclosed money letter (very unusually—for the Maritimes—it was prepaid), double rate (one enclosure) Kentville–Annapolis.

Fewer than ten strikes of the Kentville \* hammer are known.

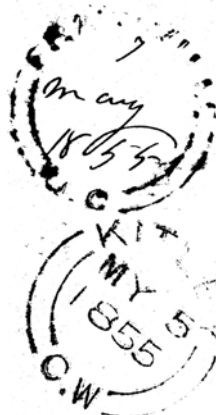


Ms AC (faint, red, to the right of Kentville strike) after closing, frequently used in the Maritimes instead of too late.

# Registration

Domestic registration began in the Province of Canada 1 May 1855 (some references erroneously give 1 March 1855), replacing money letter service. Registration cost a flat 1d cy, which must be prepaid, in stamps (not available until 1858) or cash, although other charges could be left to be collected.

The covers below are the second- and third-earliest reported Canadian registered covers.



Frankville UC, known use  
1855–73;  
Kitley CW, known use  
1853–1855 (closed 1856)

Smiths Falls–Kitley (UC), 5 May 1855. General issue (to hundreds of offices) straightline REGISTERED. The presence of this marking is evidence of the required prepayment of the registration fee. Registration number is either 1 or 7, extremely low for a medium-size office. Sender had originally written *Money*, being accustomed to the old system.

Rated prepaid 3 d cy domestic, and 1d registration fee, both in cash.

Forwarded to Frankville (at no extra charge).



Niagara Falls May 8. 1855  
Chippawa  
Dateline

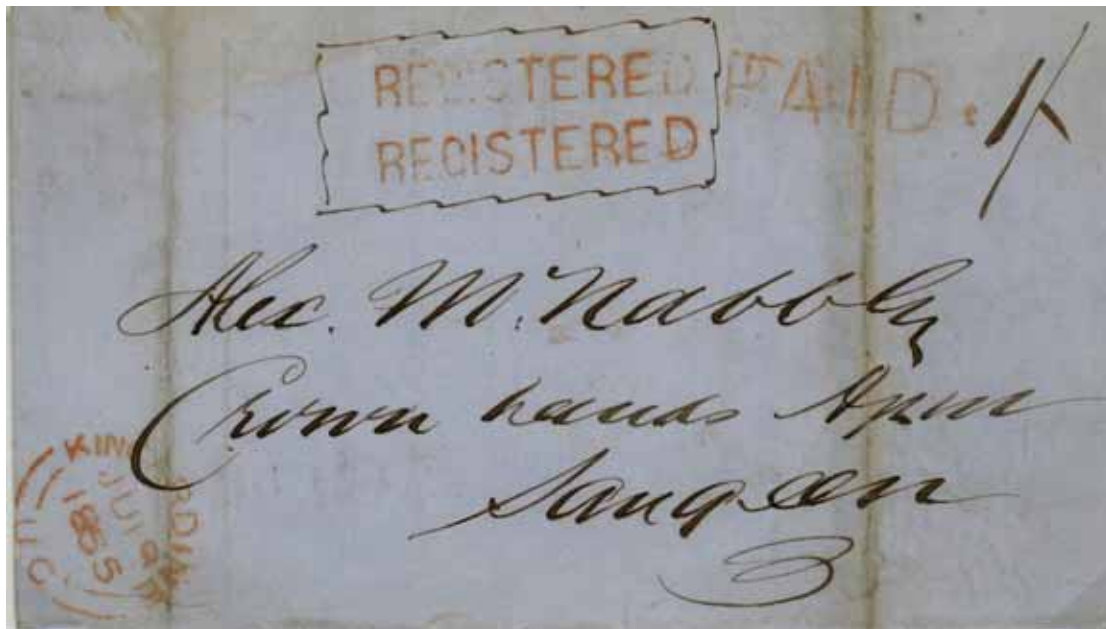
Chippawa–Guelph, 8 May 1855. Postmaster marked *Money*, but this is impossible after 1 May 1855; must have been registered, with number 178.



## Pence era (1855–59) registration

Until 1875, most domestic letters were sent collect, not prepaid in stamps or cash. Registered letters required the registration fee to be prepaid, but not the rest of the postage. Until the issuance of a 1d stamp (1857), the fee had to be prepaid in cash. If the rest of the postage was prepaid, it had to be completely prepaid, and either all in stamps, or all in cash, not a mixture.

Early on, registered items were supposed to be put in registration wrappers—*none* of which survive for the Province of Canada (examples exist for the Maritimes). In this case, we would expect no registration numbers on the item itself, as in the two examples below.



Kincardine–Guelph, quadruple, prepaid, 18 June 1855. The Kincardine PM had a predilection for drawing a box around one or two strikes of his REGISTRATION handstamp (about a dozen examples are known, to 1865). No registry numbers.

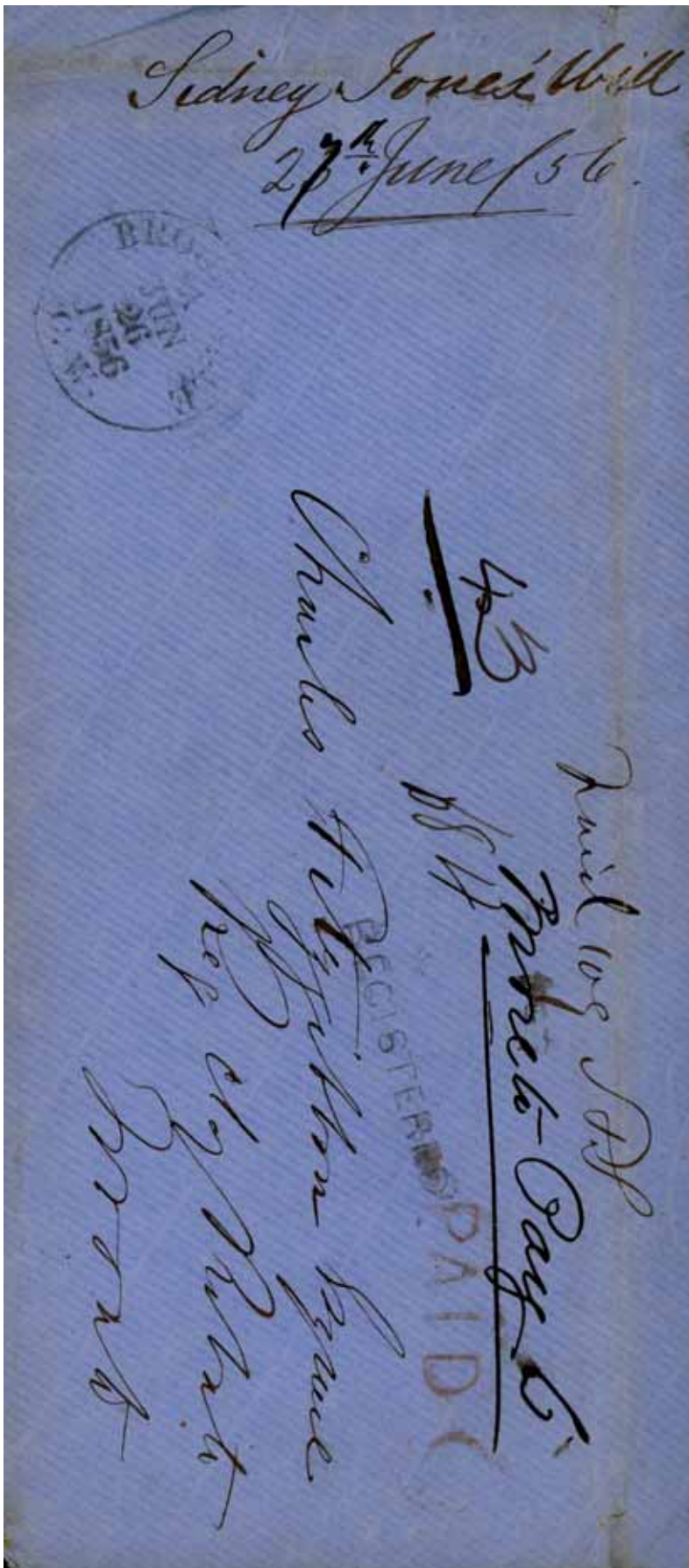
Rated prepaid 1/–cy, quadruple domestic rate (two ounces); indication of payment of registration fee is given by the handstamp.



Chatham (CE)–Montreal, odd registration handstamp, January 1856. Very strange small seriffed italic straight-line REGISTERED handstamp with a squiggle below it; this is a constant feature of the fewer than ten strikes known).

Rated prepaid single domestic.



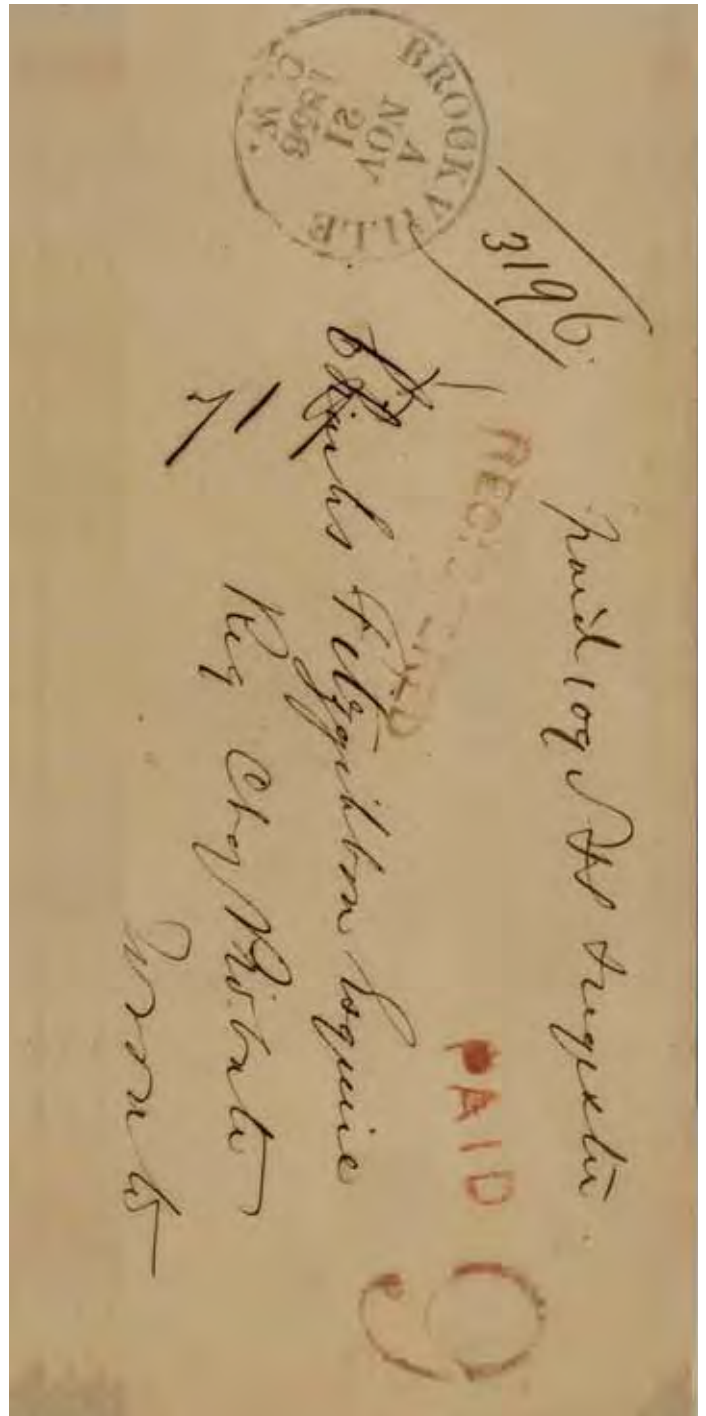


Brockville–Toronto, June 1856. Probably initially pre-paid 9 d (triple domestic); on a subsequent weighing, found to be quintuple, and *More to Pay 6* noted.

## Multiples

Two covers in the same correspondence, paid through the same account, *paid 109 S & S*.

The earlier one was shortpaid, and charged the deficiency—there was no penalty for short payment. How this part payment can happen is mysterious, since the accepting clerk would have had to mark it registered, and would presumably have weighed it.



Brockville–Toronto, prepaid triple, November 1856. Changing BROCKVILLE CW datestamp is known 1856–64, always with an A above the date.

## Boxed registered handstamp

Introduced at the onset of registration; far fewer were issued than of the unboxed.



Port Hope—Chatham (CW), missent to Kingston, September 1855. Prepaid single domestic.



Brighton—Toronto, October 1855.



## Small offices

Even these received a REGISTERED handstamp.



Highland-Creek (UC)—Niagara, September 1858. Earliest recorded strike of datestamp from this town, known used 1858–59. Rated prepaid single domestic.



Hillsboro (UC)—Niagara, July 1858. Datestamp known used February–September 1858. Four registration numbers. Rated single domestic, paid (unusually) with stamp.



Triple, Cannington—Whitby, 1858. Green handstamps; the PAID circle is extremely unusual. Blue Whitby change-line on reverse. ↓↓

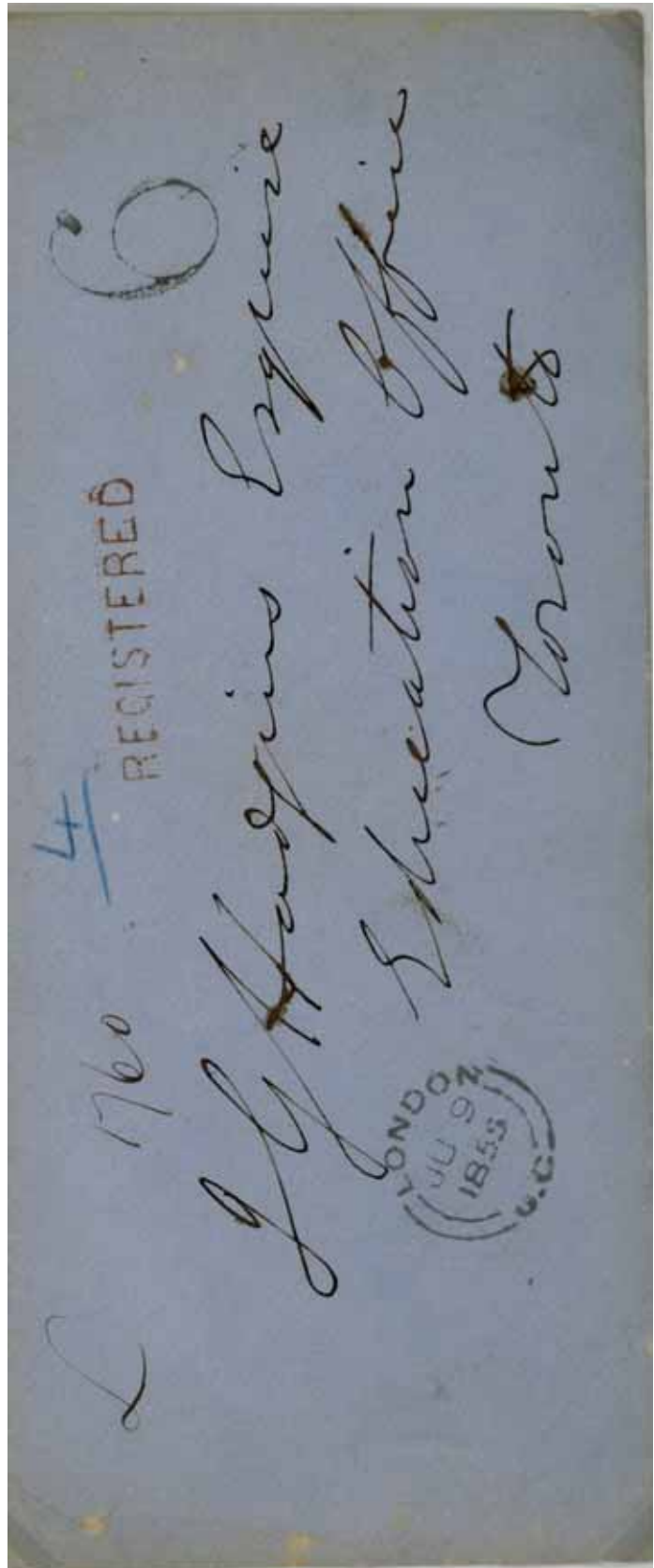
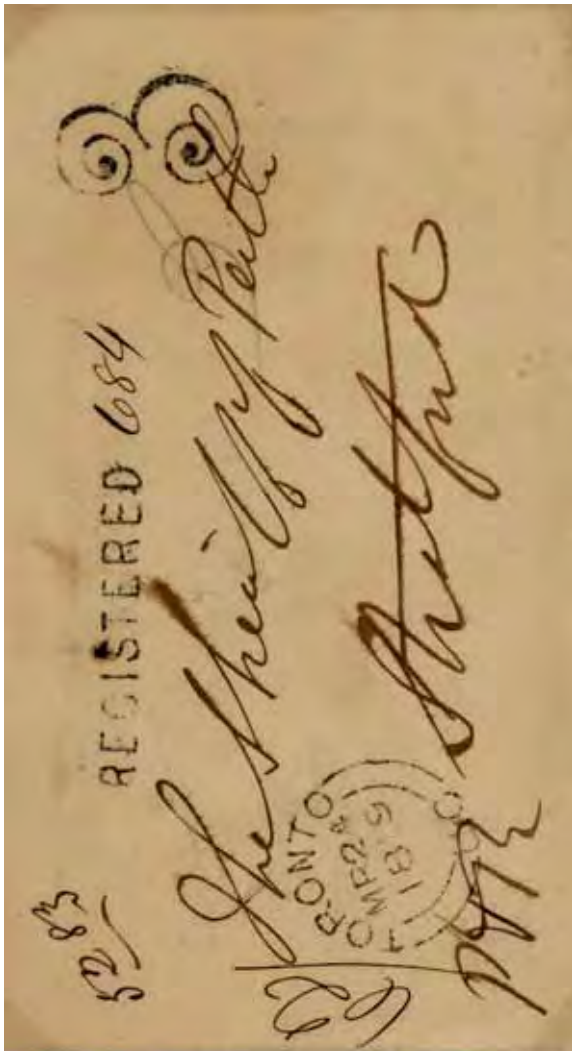
# Collect

Registration fee still had to be prepaid, in cash.

*Double, London–Toronto, 9 June 1855. Very low registration number (4) for a larger town (that of Toronto: 1760).*

Rated double domestic collect, 6 d. →

*Toronto–Brantford, 1859. Three registry numbers.  
Rated single domestic collect.*

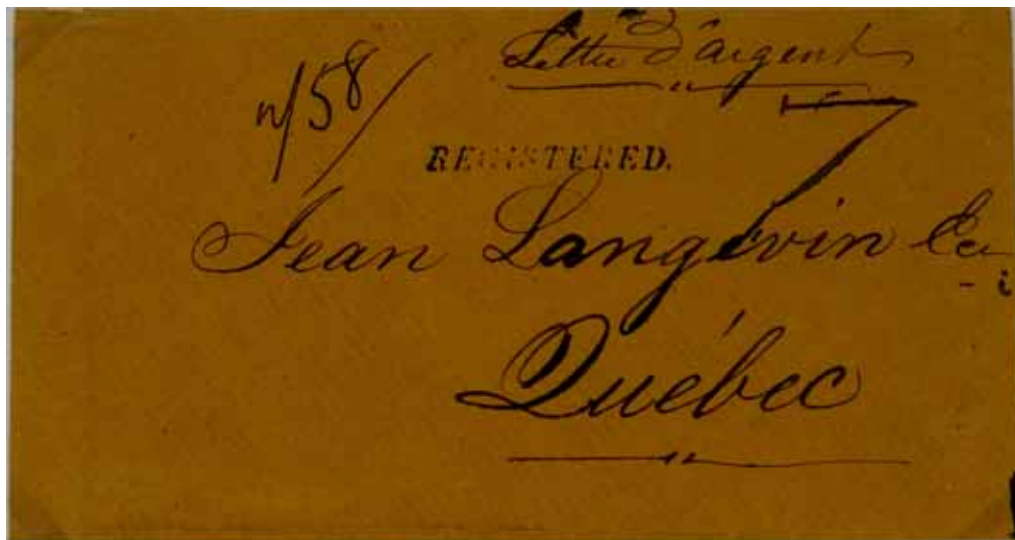




# Conversion to decimal

Canada converted to decimal currency in 1859, the precise date being rather vague. This necessitated rate changes, which were mostly straightforward conversions, e.g., the 3 d domestic rate became 5¢ (if prepaid) per half ounce, and the 1 d registration fee converted to 2¢.

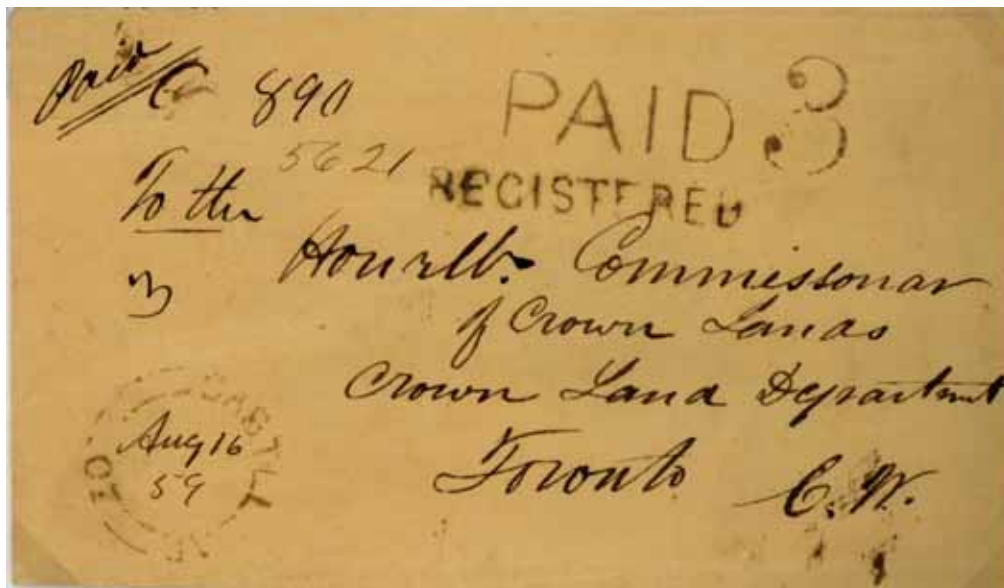
A new feature was instituted for domestic mail: collect mail was charged at 7¢ per half ounce. The practice of requiring either full prepayment (in either stamps or cash, but not mixed) or complete non-payment (that is collect) was continued. However, from 5 December 1865, registered letters could not be sent collect. In any event, the 2¢ registration fee had to be prepaid, and could be in cash or stamps, independently of the rest of the postage. This makes for six possible combinations.



Both changelings

*Lettre d'argent*, Quebec–Montreal, 25 July 1859. Unusual and late use of the French term for the now-obsolete money letter. Small italic *REGISTERED.* handstamp.

Rated collect 7¢ single weight domestic (unpaid), plus 2¢ registration fee paid in cash, implied by presence of registered marking.



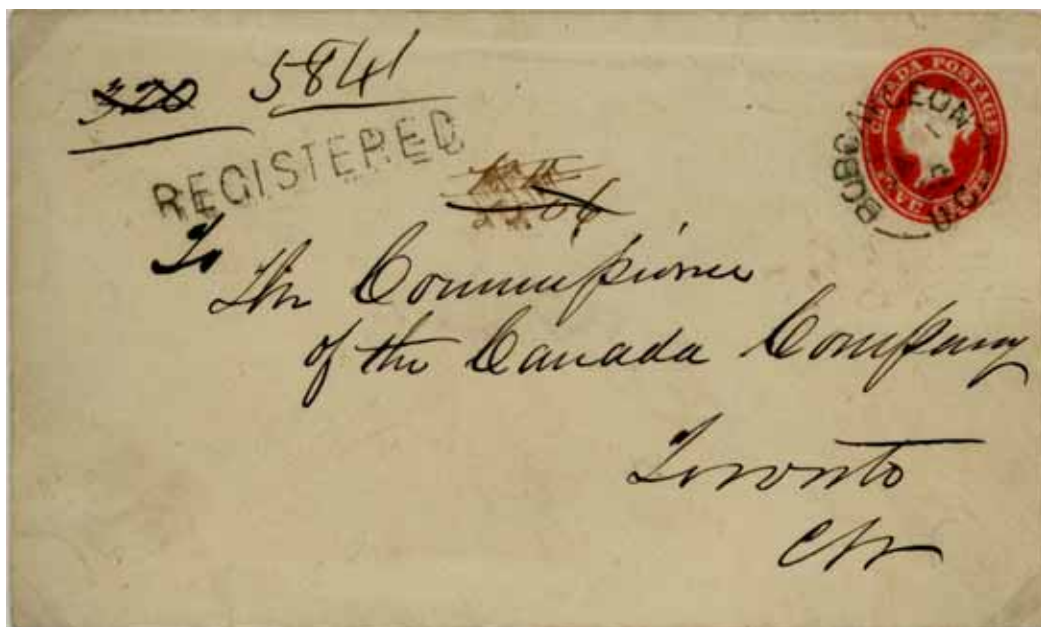
Montreal & Island Pond Grand Trunk RPO, known 1855–62.

*Pence handstamp*, 16 August 1859. Large one-piece PAID 3, giving the rate in currency.

Rated paid 5¢ domestic rate paid in cash, as was the registration fee.

The Castlebar CE double broken circle is the probably the second reported strike of this hammer. The office opened in 1857, and likely had little registered mail, accounting for the low registration number, 3.

Single domestic fee paid with stamps, registration paid in cash



Nesbitt stationery, Bobcaygeon–Toronto, 1862.

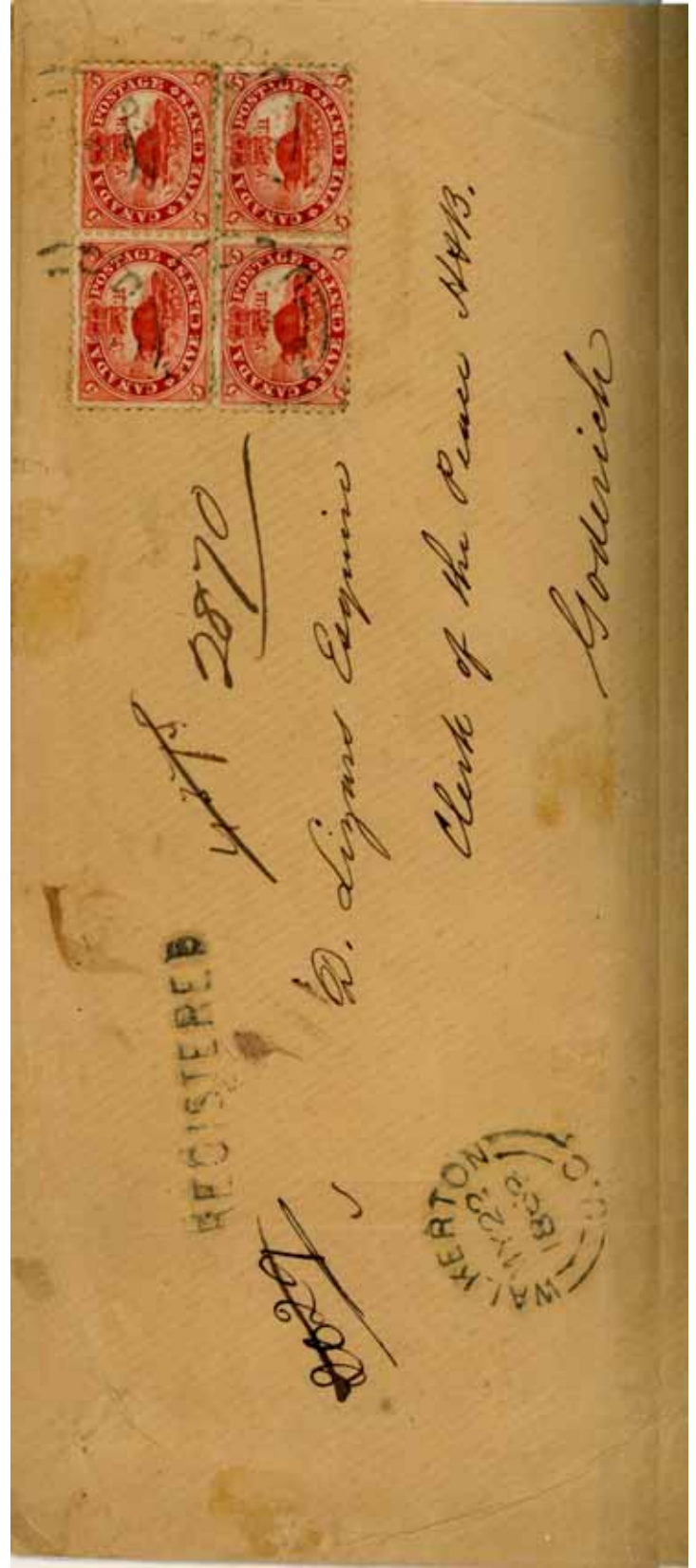


*Paid the hard way*, 1863. From Harley to Simcoe. Although the month clearly reads JY (July), the backstamp (from a much larger office) is dated JA 6; so the Harley postmaster erred.

Harley post office open 1859–; this is the earliest reported strike (JA 5 1863).



Multiple domestic fee paid with stamps, registration fee paid in cash



Triple and quadruple rates, prepaid in stamps, 1865 & 1863. The Walkerton double broken circle (known 1859–1876) was used as a killer on the block of four stamps, by holding it an angle.

Big multiple domestic fee paid with stamps, registration paid in cash

*Dectuple, Lucan-Goderich, 1864.* Ten times domestic rate at 5¢ per half ounce.



GTR T & S RPO.



*4/10*

*507*

REGISTERED



*James & Co  
Bank of the Peace  
Goderich*



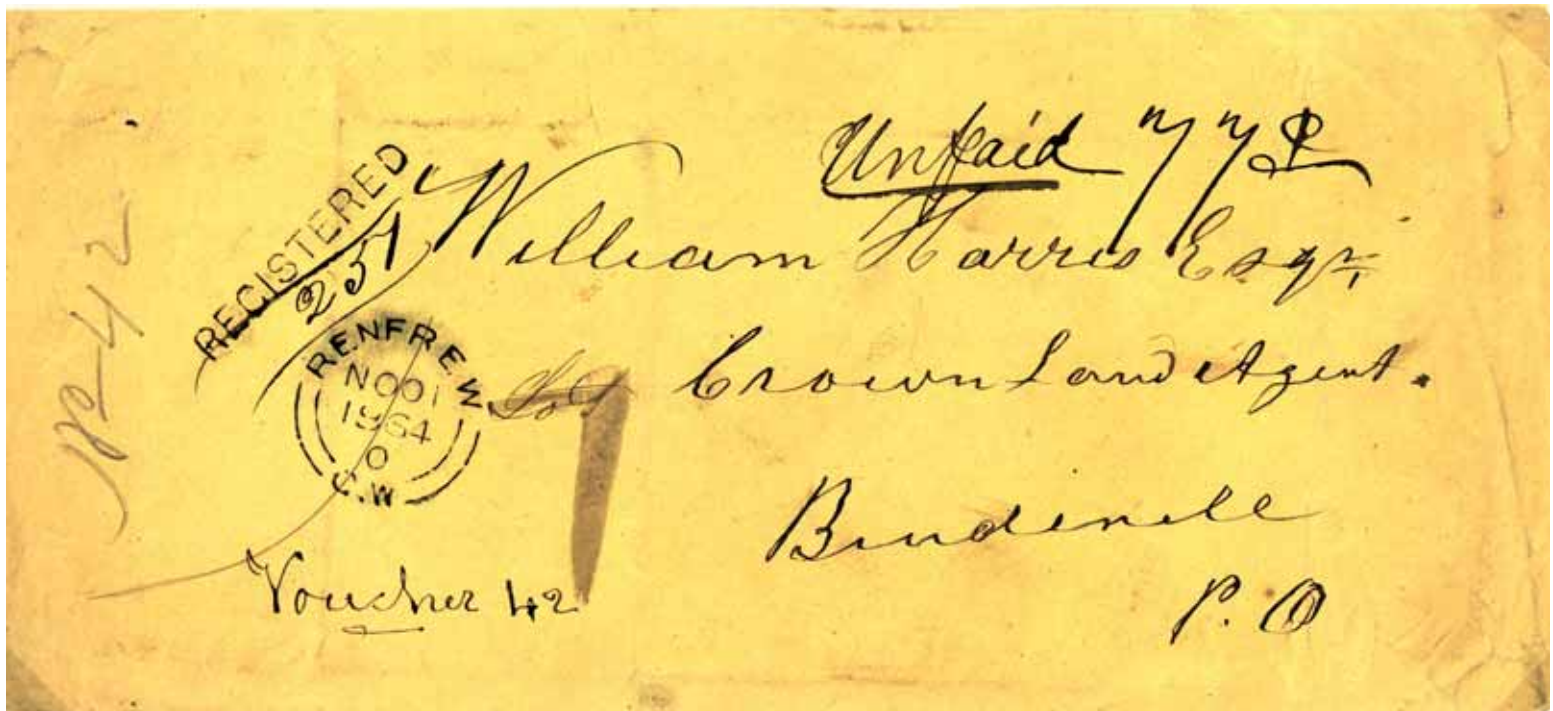
Domestic postage not prepaid (collect), registration fee paid in cash

Prepayment of 2¢ registration fee was compulsory (and if not paid in stamps, indicated by a registration handstamp), but domestic postage was not.

The unpaid (collect) domestic rate was 7¢ per half ounce (1859–1868); however, from mid-1865, prepayment of all postage was required on registered letters (reducing the number of combinations to four).



Triple rate, Too Late, Sorel–L'Assomption, 1865. Charged 21¢ (upper right) to the recipient, triple. Arrived too late for the day's (or week's) despatch.



Unidectuple rate, Renfrew–Brudenell (CW), 1864. Unpaid 77¢ payable by the recipient, eleven times the rate (5½ ounces).

Domestic postage collect, registration fee paid in stamps

The least frequently seen of the six combinations.

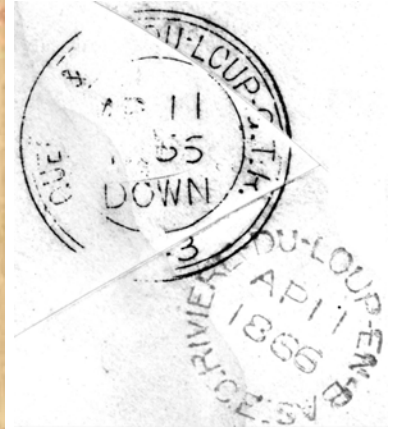


*Quintuple, Montreal–Lacolle (CE), 1865. Charged 35¢ (this is not a registration number, as it is the only number that could possibly be a rate), five times the rate (2½ ounces).*

Montreal Berri duplex. Unusually for a registered letter, no backstamps.



Both domestic postage and registration fee paid with stamps  
The second least frequently seen combination.



Double rate, Quebec–Rivière du Loup en Bas, 1866. Registration fee of 2¢ and double domestic rate at 5¢ per half ounce.

On reverse, QUEBEC & RIVER DU LOUP G.T.R. double circle RPO.



Triple, Toronto–Owen Sound, 1867.

## Rate changes, 1868

Confederation (1867) did not result in rate changes, except that Canadian rates now applied in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. On 1 April 1868, many rate changes took place: domestic postage dropped from 5¢ to 3¢ per half ounce if prepaid, and from 7¢ to 5¢ if collect. Domestic registration was unchanged at 2¢. Continuing the 1865 regulation, *all* postal charges on registered mail had to be prepaid.



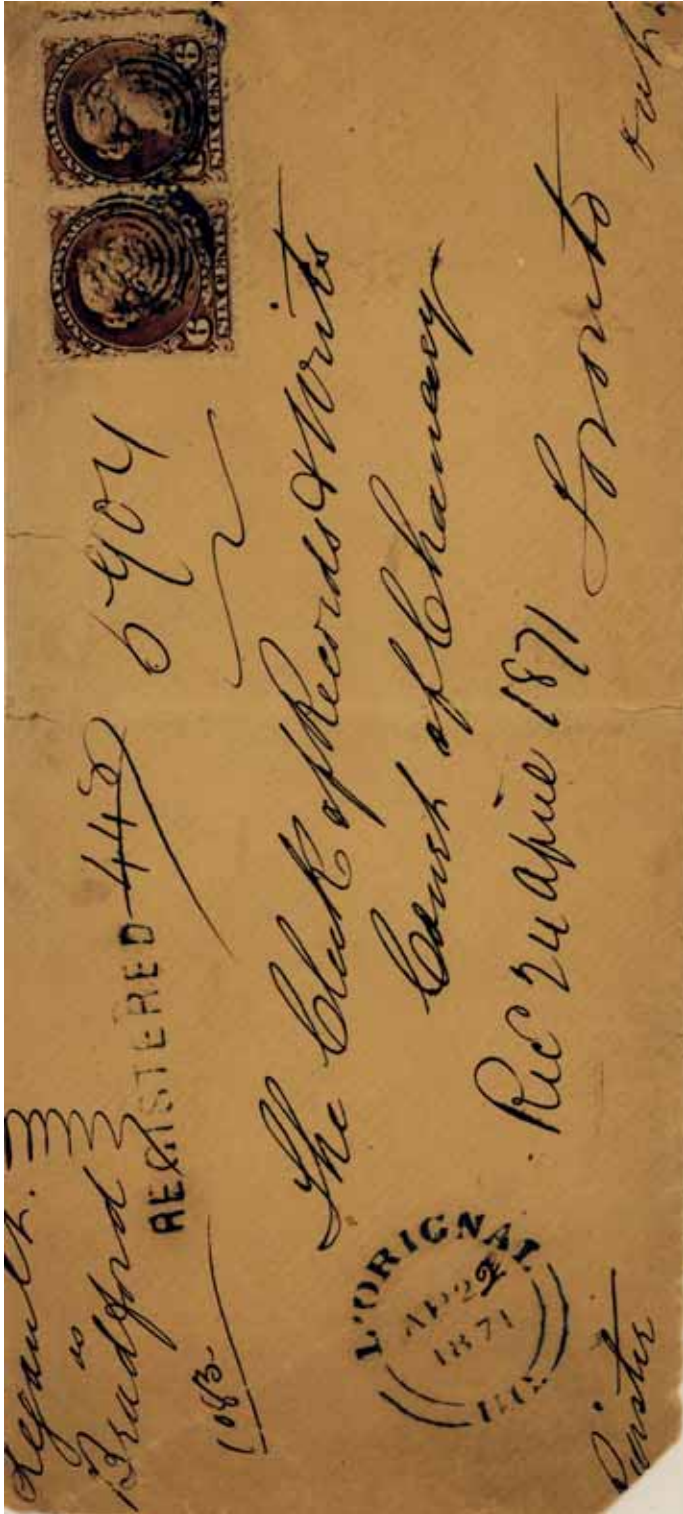
Postage paid with stamp, registration fee in cash, 8 June 1868. From DEMORESTVILLE C.W. (with basal O indicating nothing; latest known strike) to Kingston.



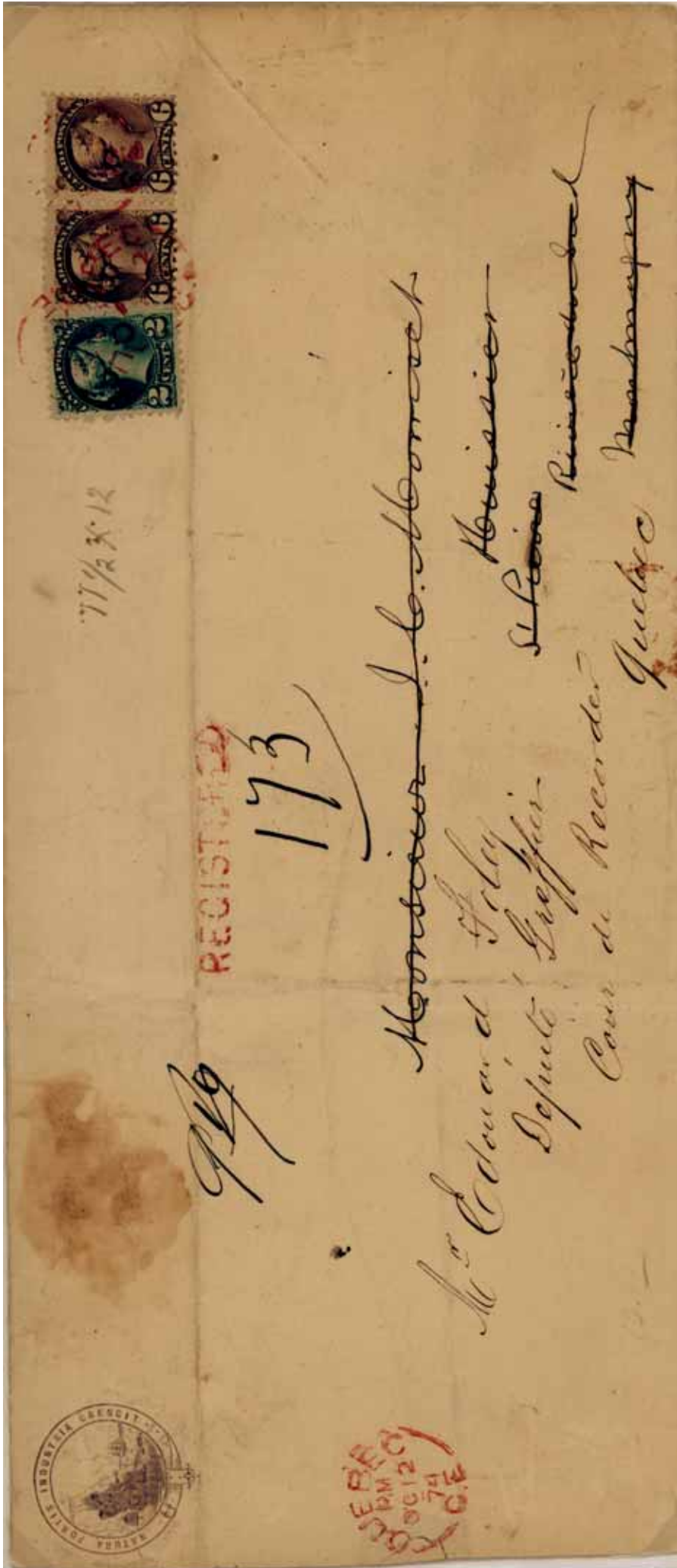
Both postage and registration paid with stamps, 1871. Two-line handstamp REGISTERED/LETTER N<sup>o</sup> in use in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in this period. From Newport (NS) to Scotts Village.



Quadruple, registration fee paid in cash



Postage paid in stamps, registration fee in cash, 1871. Very unusually for a registered letter, no back-stamps (may have been attached to a larger object). L'Original to Toronto; *original* means *moose*.



Quadruple and triple

Quebec-Montmagny, quadruple rate, postage and registration fees paid in stamps, 1874. Rated  $4 \times 3\text{¢} + 2\text{¢}$ .

From the Corporation of the city of Quebec, forwarded back to Quebec.

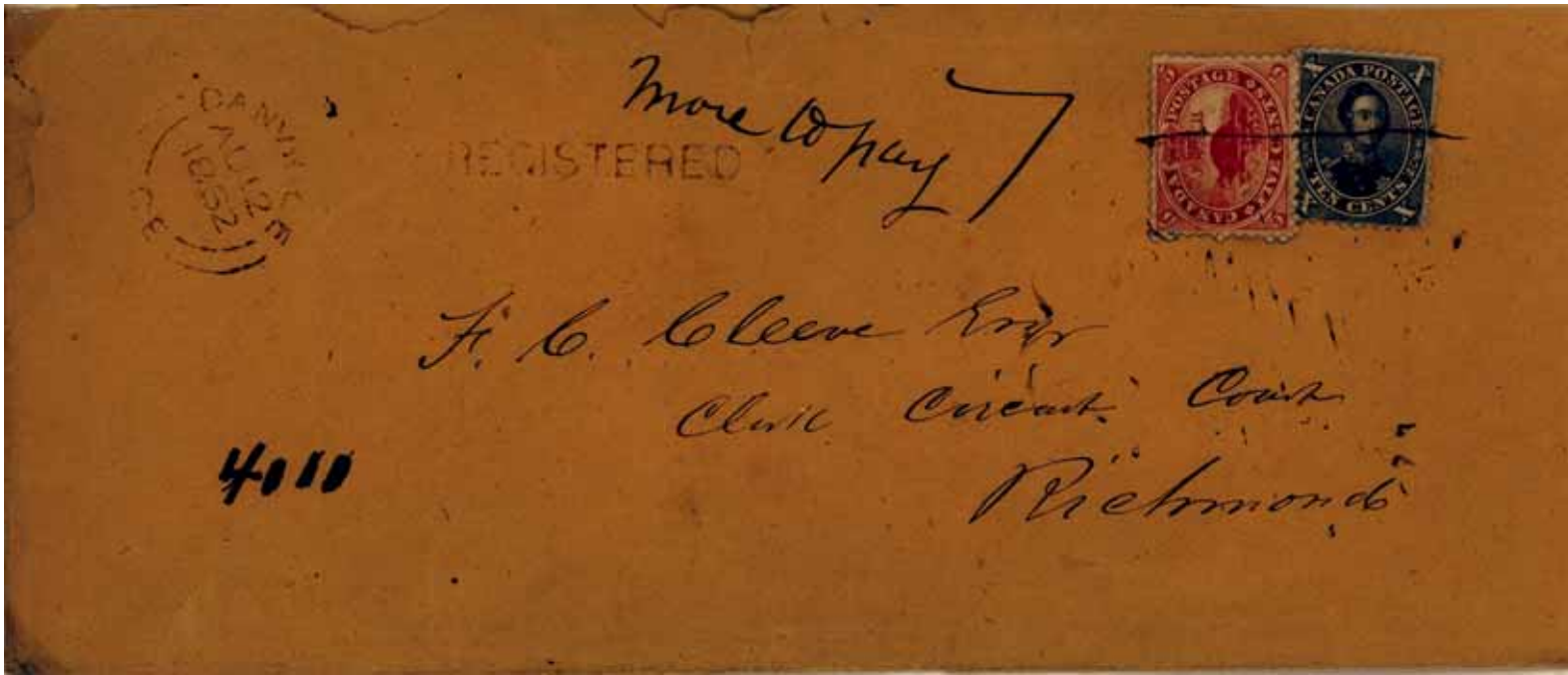
Oungah-Chatham (ONT), triple, all fees paid in stamps, August 1875. One of several recorded strikes of OUNGAH U.C, the latest reported date. ↓↓





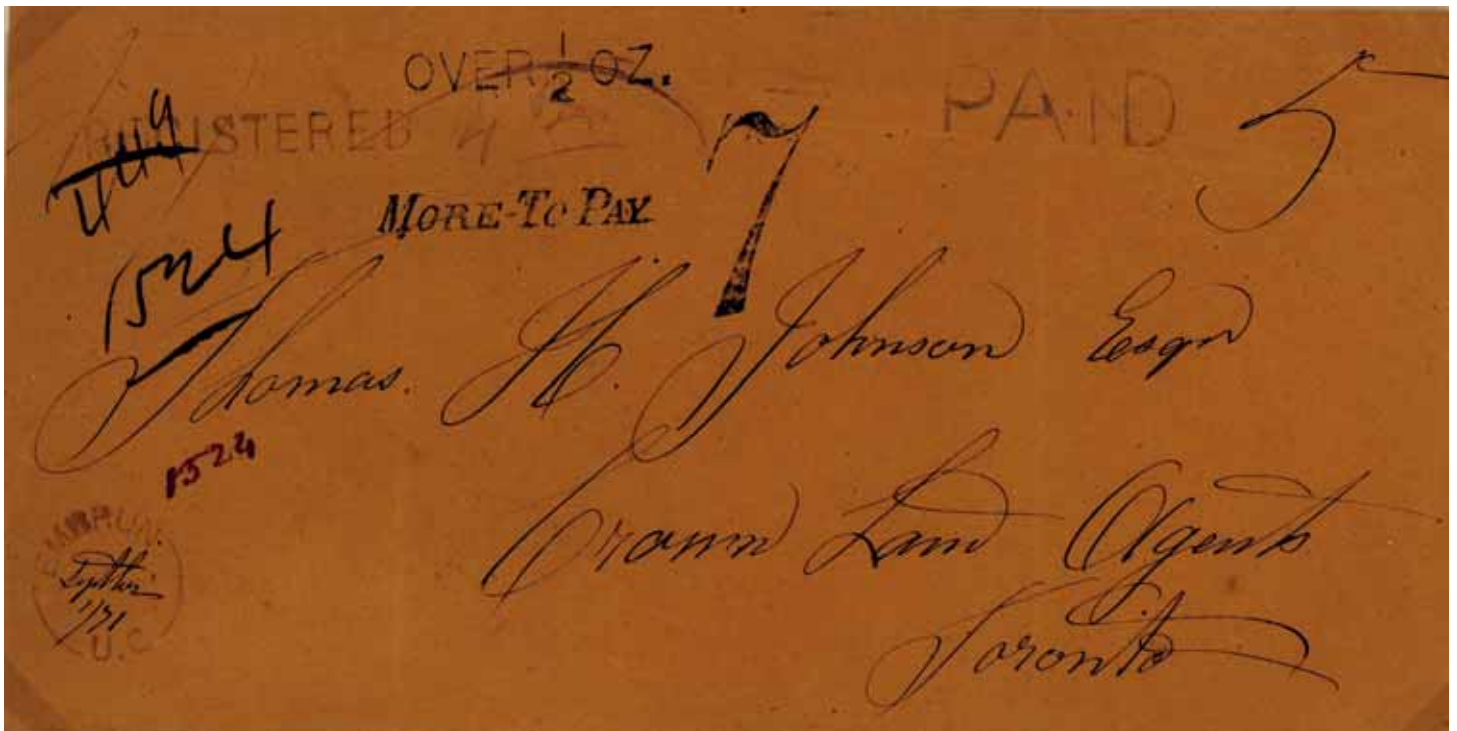
## Partially paid

During 1859–75, shortpaid letters were to be charged at the collect rate per weight, crediting any payment; after 1865, shortpaid registered letters were not supposed to be accepted. However, letters could be reweighed at the destination office, and found to be underpaid, hence charged according to the formula—which was often misunderstood.



*Incorrectly rated, 1862.* Registration prepaid in cash, and triple domestic ( $3 \times 5\text{¢}$ ) applied with stamps. Found to weigh  $1\frac{1}{2}+$  to 2 ounces quadruple), it should have been charged  $4 \times 7\text{¢}$  (collect rate) less  $15\text{¢}$  applied, or  $13\text{¢}$  due.

Instead, it was considered single deficiency, and charged only  $7\text{¢}$ .



*Correctly rated, 1871.* Registration and single domestic (PAID 5, combined registration and  $3\text{¢}$  postage) both prepaid in cash. Found to be OVER  $\frac{1}{2}$  OZ. (double), so charged  $2 \times 5\text{¢}$  (collect rate in this period), less  $3\text{¢}$  prepaid, yielding  $7\text{¢}$  due.

## Compulsory use of stamps

From 1 October 1875, all postage had to be fully prepaid with *stamps*. Violations of this for registered mail (two shown here) are very difficult to find, and typically occur from small towns.



Quadruple rate, Cedar Grove (UC)–Toronto, 14 October 1875. Two weeks after rule change. Rated  $4 \times 3\text{¢} + 2\text{¢}$ . Double broken circle CEDAR GROVE U.C; this is the latest strike reported.



Violation of regulations, Vaudreuil (QC)–Gormley (ON), 8 October 1875. A week after rule came into effect. Rated PAID 5¢ in cash, made up of 3¢ domestic and 2¢ registry fee.

Violation, Dacre (ON)–Toronto, 13 December 1875. Paid in cash as above. Backstamped with two RPOs, B. & O.R.R., and REGISTERED G.T.R. E, and House of Assembly of Ontario.





2¢ registered letter stamp introduced early December 1875

Not November, as formerly believed. Its use on domestic registered letters was *not* compulsory until October 1876, which then continued until 1889.



Triple rate, Halifax–Port Medway (NS), 28 January 1876. Oddly, no backstamps.



Greenbank (U.C)–Armadale (Unionville), 30 March 1876. Via T & N (Toronto & Nipissing) RPO. Latest reported strike of GREENBANK U.C double broken circle.

## Combined postage paid by single stamp

The 5¢ large queen was issued 1 October 1875 to prepay single rate to UK. Coincidentally, it also paid the combined single domestic registered letter rate, and was the first Canadian stamp to do so. The 5¢ small queen was issued February 1876 (within the period of *optional* use of the 2¢ registered letter stamp) for the same reason.



Coaticook (QC)–Napierville, 16 November 1875. Somewhat late use of boxed REGISTERED handstamp. Year-less Coaticook dater is a US-style private order datestamp.



Quebec–Montreal, 12 April 1876. Faint red REGISTERED handstamp.



Heavy



Quatrodeuple (14×), Winnipeg–London (ONT), 1880. Fourteen 3¢ small queens, and the compulsory 2¢ registered letter stamp.



Dectuple (10×), Quebec–St-Joseph-Beauce, 1884. Rated 30¢ in tens and fives, plus 2¢ registration.



Use of RLS changes (1 January–8 May 1889)

According to the January 1889 Canada Postal Guide, 2¢ registered letter stamps (RLS) are now only *preferred* (rather than compulsory) on domestic registered mail. This lasted until 8 May 1889, when the fee changed to 5¢ and—according to one interpretation (the wording is ambiguous)—RLS again became compulsory.



*No RLS*, 22 January 1889. Most likely rated triple 3¢ domestic rate plus 2¢ registration, overpaid 1¢.

Military mail from London (ONT) (with common duplex) to Wardsville. Two pairs (one vertical, one horizontal) of slightly sulphurized carmine shade (issued late 1889).

*With RLS*, 10 January 1889. Sydney Mines (NS)—Ottawa. Usual franking, with slightly sulphurized carmine shade of small queen.



Domestic registration fee changes to 5¢ on 8 May 1889

Now the registration fee (including parcel post and to UPU destinations) was uniform. At least one of the 2¢ or 5¢ RLS were required. Many small post offices had an excess of 2¢ RLS, which would otherwise be useless, and very few 5¢. Registered letter stamps still could not be used to pay any portion of non-registered part of the postage.



Early use, Halifax–Yarmouth (NS), 29 May 1889. Proper use of 5¢ RLS on single domestic. Odd R handstamp applied at Halifax.



Alternative—but acceptable—use, 1889. A 2¢ RLS with 3¢ small queen paying remainder of registry fee. The BUCTOUCHE N.B circle is a receiver; the office of origin is unknown, and presumably did not have 5¢ RLS on hand. All the stamps are slightly sulphurized carmine shades.



Whitewood Station (ASSA)—Aurora (ON), 1891. More information needed.



### Misunderstanding (?) the regulations

Either the May 1889 rule changes (compulsory use of at least one RLS) had not reached Regina a year later, or they were misinterpreted.



No RLS; from the NWMP, 1890. Registration fee mistakenly paid by 5¢ small queen.

From Regina to Fort Saskatchewan (in Northwest Territories; postmark erroneously reads ALTA). Returned to sender four months later, via the Dead Letter Office.

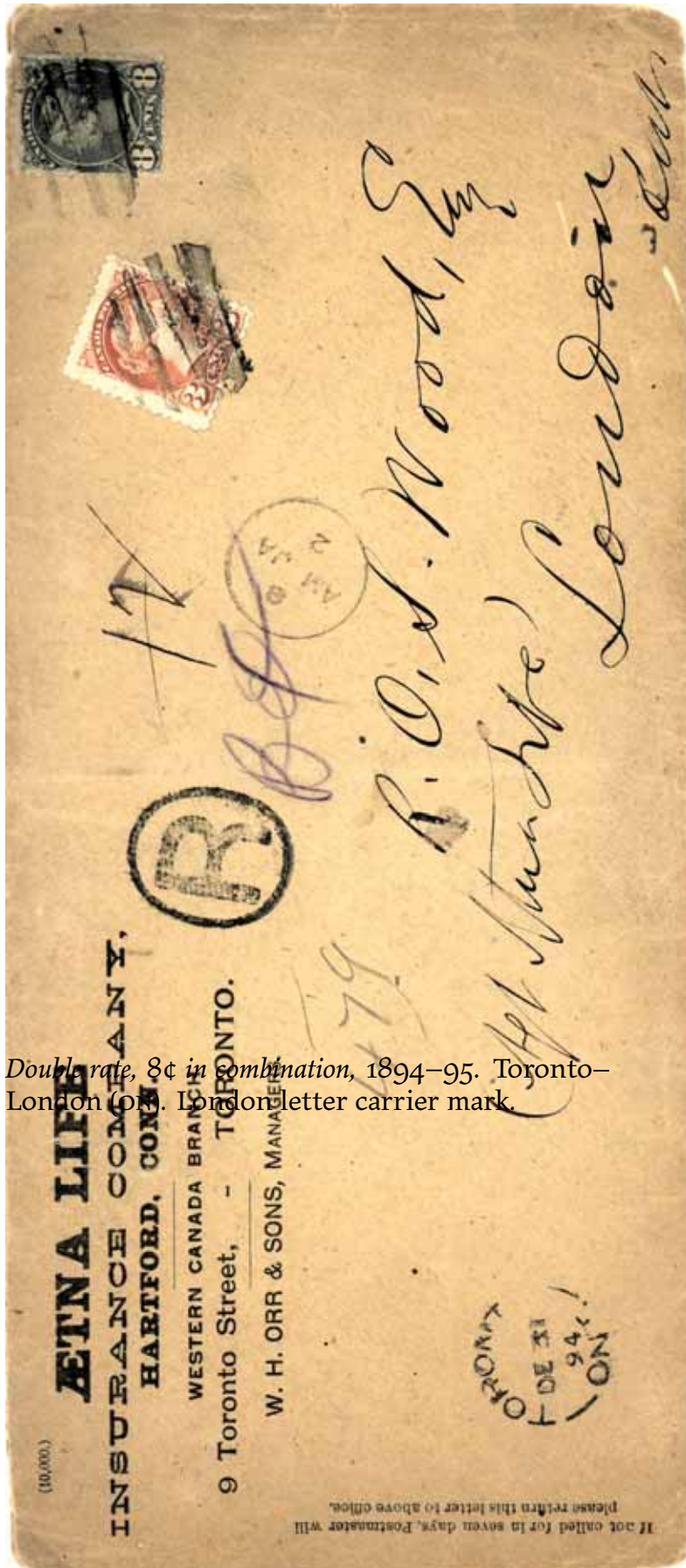




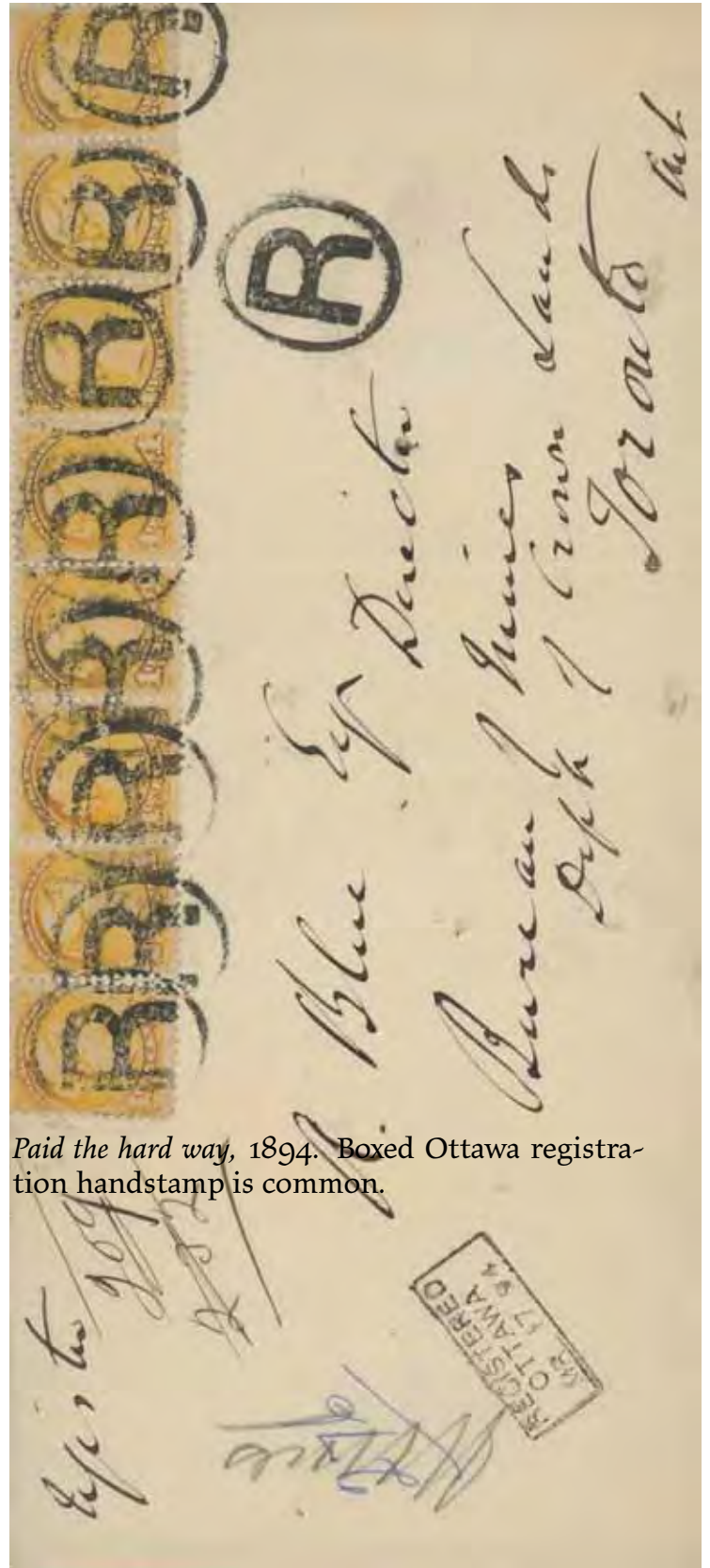
**RLS no longer required**

After 1 August 1893, RLS were no longer required on any registered mail. They remained valid, but only for payment of registration fees.

The 8¢ small queen was also issued on this date. It was the first Canadian stamp *intended* for payment of the combined registry and first weight domestic rate. Solo uses of this stamp are ubiquitous throughout 1893-97, but their use in combination with other stamps is difficult to find.



Double rate, 8¢ in combination, 1894-95. Toronto-London Ont. London letter carrier mark.



Paid the hard way, 1894. Boxed Ottawa registration handstamp is common.



Jubilees issued 19 June 1897

Frankings become much more colourful. Solo 8¢ Jubilee registered domestic covers are relatively common.



Triple rate, September 1897. Rated  $3 \times 3\text{¢} + 5\text{¢}$ .  
Berlin–London (both in Ontario!).

Single rate, 1897. Hamilton–Belleville. Third registration number (5) is very low.



## Maple leaves and numerals

The 8¢ maple leaves and numerals were issued January and October 1898, respectively, to pay the combined first class registered domestic single rate. The latter had an effective period of use of three months, as the domestic rate was reduced on 1 January 1899. In combination with other stamps, these are difficult to find.



Double rate with 8¢ maple leaves, Welland–Toronto, March 1898.



Single, 8¢ numeral, Hammond (ONT)–Montreal, November 1898. Three months' proper use for the intended rate. With Montreal squared circle precursor (hammer III), seldom seen small Ottawa R datestamp, and Canada Atlantic RPO, all unusually clear.



## Registered drop letters

A *drop* letter is one which is mailed to the same office from which it was mailed (a local letter). This definition is sometimes extended to mail within the same city. Until local delivery was available, the rate was 1¢ per unit weight (1859–89). Registered drop letters are merely uncommon from larger centres, but very difficult to find from smaller ones. They typically have just one registration number, and frequently, no backstamps.



*Registered drop letter, Napanee, violating regulations, November 1876. No backstamps and just one registration number. No evidence of any stamps having been applied, this violates the October 1875 regulation that all postage was to be paid in stamps, and that of October 1876, that domestic registered letters required a 2¢ RLS.*



*Registered drop letter from a very small town, 1880s. Brinston's Corners (Dundas County; 1873–1908) did not acquire a datestamp until 1895. Only pen cancels and just one registration number (no backstamps)—the postmaster presumably felt there was no need to mark it up much, as he would be giving the letter to someone he knew.*

## Registered drop letters; local delivery introduced

On 8 April 1889, the drop letter rate increased to 2¢ at those cities with letter carriers (by 1895, there were twelve such). At all other offices, the fee remained 1¢.



Registered drop letter, Clinton (ON), 1891. No letter carrier service, so the drop letter fee was 1¢.

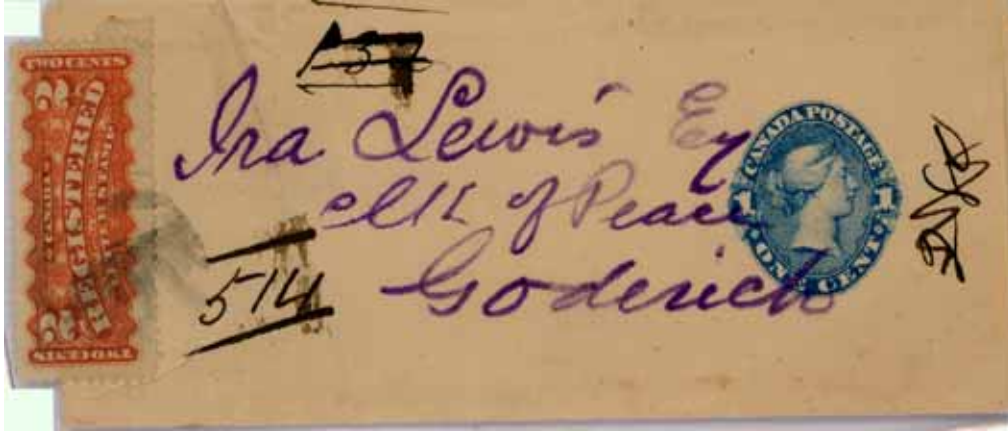


Toronto registered drop letter, no RLS, returned to sender, 1892. Charged 2¢ drop letter fee, as Toronto had letter carriers. An RLS was required in this period.

Three distinct purple handstamps, *Not at address*, *Not in directory*, and *Not called for*.

## Printed matter (third class) masquerading as a drop letter

With the exception of voters' lists, third class (including non-subscription printed matter) could not be registered until 1889. Until that time, they were typically sent as either registered drop letters (if local), or as either registered parcel post or registered first class. Because the drop letter rate was so cheap, even when printed matter could be registered, the former was preferred. These two are from the same correspondence, before and after 1889.



Postal band (printed 1887), sent as drop letter, Goderich, 1887. Rated 2¢ registration, and (embossed) 1¢ drop letter rate, coincidentally equalling the printed matter rate.



Wrapper, sent as drop letter, Goderich, 1890. Rated 5¢ registration (after 1889), and 1¢ drop letter rate, which also equalled the single printed matter rate. This could equally well have been sent as registered printed matter, which was now permitted.



## Registered post cards

Government-issued post cards (1¢), introduced in 1871, could be registered until 10 April 1882; from this date to 4 May 1889, they could not be registered. Until 1895, registered private post cards required first class postage.

Registered post cards are usually legal notifications.



*Crediton—Peterborough, February 1882 (front postmark shows 1881, but this is an error, evidenced by back-stamps and message on reverse).*



*Private post card, treated as letter, London—Hamilton, 1883. First class rate paid by 3¢ small queen.*

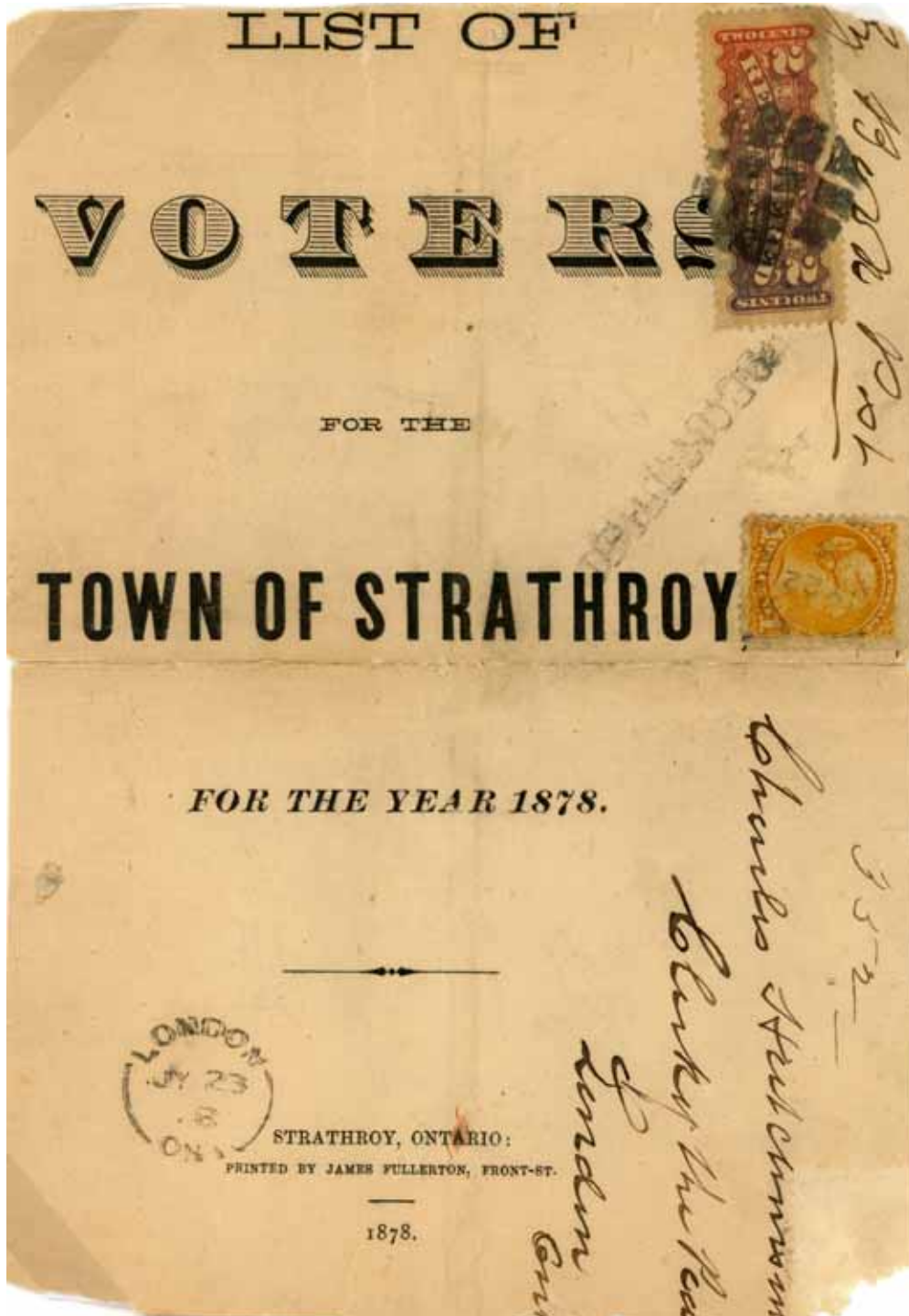
Three strikes of the oval London registered datestamp (about ten examples known) on front, and one on reverse.



*Government-issue post card, treated as drop letter, Quebec, 1887.*

# Voters' list

From 1875, voters' lists were the only form of printed matter (third class) that could be sent registered, until 8 May 1889.

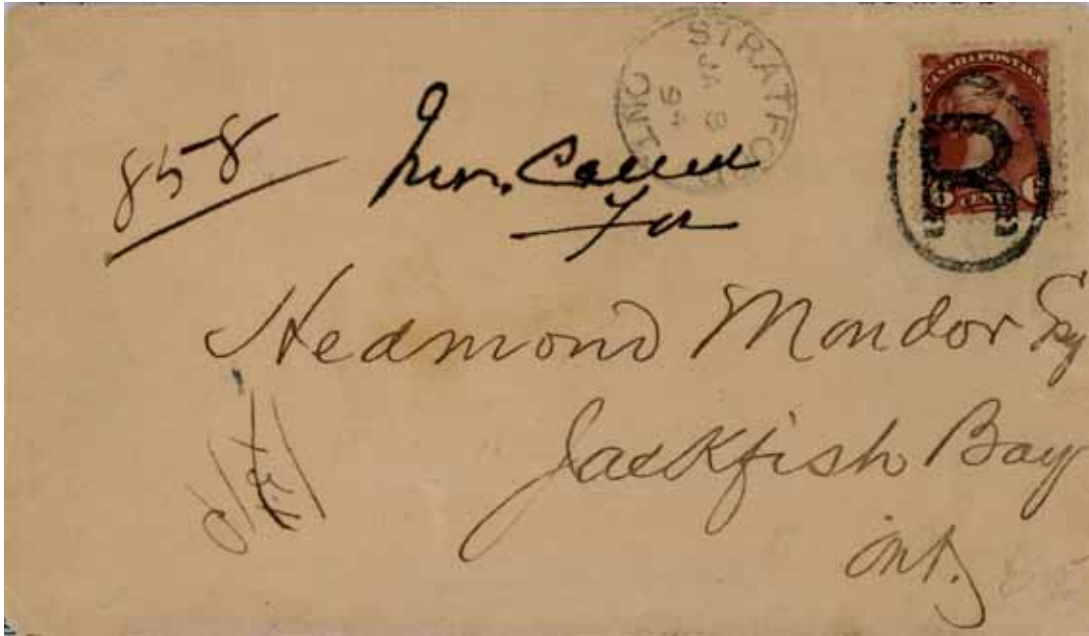


Strathroy (ON) voters' list, to London (ON), 1883. Rated 1¢ per four ounces (third class) plus 2¢ registration. The handstamp on the small queen is dated one day before that of the London free strike, so belongs.



Registered third class

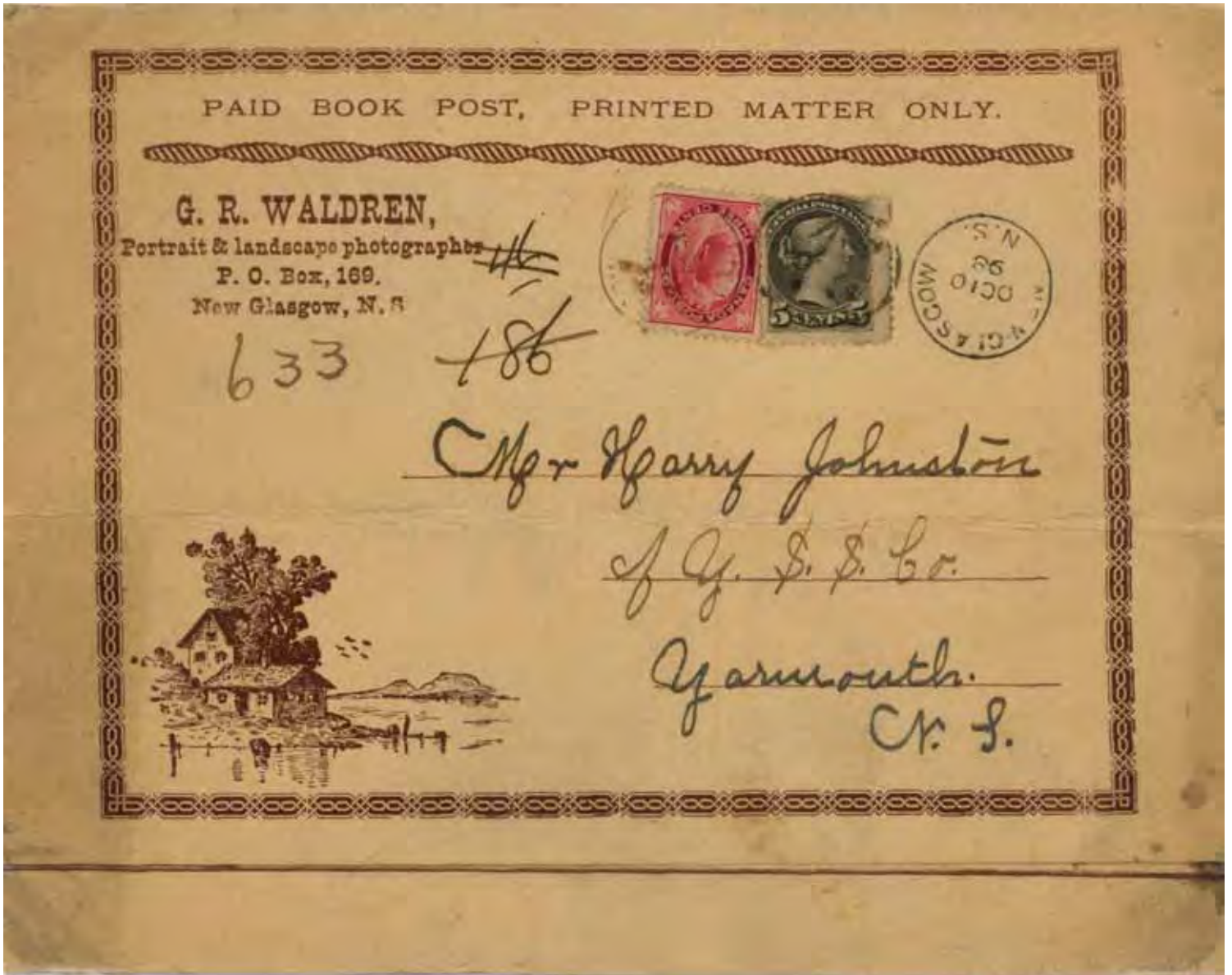
Third class covers a wide range of mail, including non-subscription newspapers, books and other printed matter. The fee was 1¢ per four ounces; however, third class could not be registered until 8 May 1889.



Single printed matter, Stratford–Jackfish Bay, 1894. Single stamp pays combined rates.



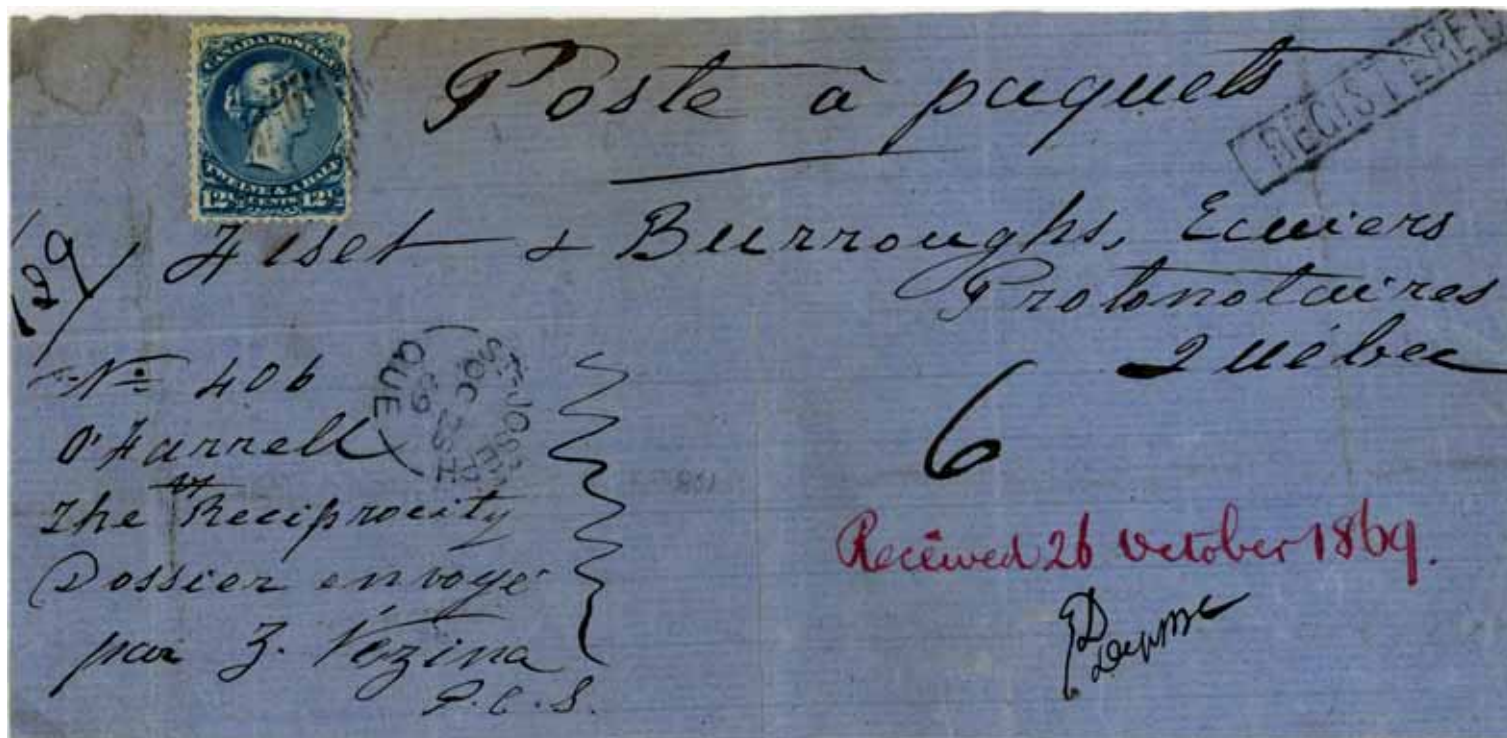
Triple printed matter, New Glasgow–Yarmouth (NS), 1898. Although marked BOOK POST, it likely contained photographs (also third class matter). ↓↓





## Registered fourth class/parcel post

Canada initiated domestic parcel post (later fourth class) in 1859. Registration was available, but at a higher rate than other domestic registered material, 5¢, throughout the subsequent period of this exhibit. Nineteenth century Canadian registered parcel matter is very difficult to find.



Registered poste à paquets (parcel post), St Joseph (QUE)—Quebec, 1869. Parcel post rate 12½¢ per eight ounces (1868–79); 5¢ parcel post registry fee paid in cash.



## Registered parcel post without RLS

From the date issuance of registered letter stamps until about 1883 (the year is uncertain), RLS *could not* be used on registered parcel post matter. Very few examples exist in this period.

*Likely parcel post, Hamilton–London (ON), 1880. Registered but without RLS (at this time only parcel post could be sent registered without RLS, assuming no clerical errors), heavy franking.*

Rated anomalously 39¢, which seems to be sextuple parcel post rate (at 6¢ per four ounces) plus 5¢ parcel post registration, 1¢ underpaid (a stamp could be missing at the extreme right); or the registration fee was mistakenly taken as 2¢, and nominally 1¢ overpaid.

Addressed to a QC (Queen's Counsel; a fancy lawyer), this probably contained legal papers (which could not be sent registered as printed matter, until 1889).

Registered Hamilton oval datestamp; a few dozen examples are known.



## Registered parcel post with RLS

Likely from 1883, registered parcel post matter required a 5¢ RLS. The parcel post fee itself was 6¢ per four ounces (1879–1898).



Double parcel post, Exeter–Goderich, 1883. Although not marked *parcel post*, this was the only class of domestic mail that permitted (and required) the use of a 5¢ RLS in this period.



Wrapper, double rate parcel post, Toronto–Goodwood, 1888. This open to inspection wrapper must have contained printed matter, which could not be registered as such (until 1889); so it was sent as parcel post.



# Letter bills

Sent between post offices as a record of unpaid and registered letters they accompanied. The pink one is generic Form No. 1 (no printing data), and the white one was preprinted solely for registered letters on the night run of the Halifax & Amherst RPO (called TRAVELLING POST OFFICE), printed in a quantity of 15,000.

(Form No. 1.)

## LETTER BILL.

Stamp of  
Despatching Office.

From *Athol*

Stamp of  
Receiving Office.

187

**INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.**

HALIFAX AND AMHERST.  
TRAVELLING POST OFFICE.

Mail going.....

Date..... *Athol* .....187

Mail for.....

UNPAID.

\$      cts.

No.      NIGHT REGISTERED LETTERS.

No.	NAME.	PLACE.	UNPAID
1	<i>Edwin Ross</i>	<i>Athol</i>	
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

Number of Registered Letters and Parcels. **3**

Unpaid amount against bill on herewith added.

Place. *St. John's*

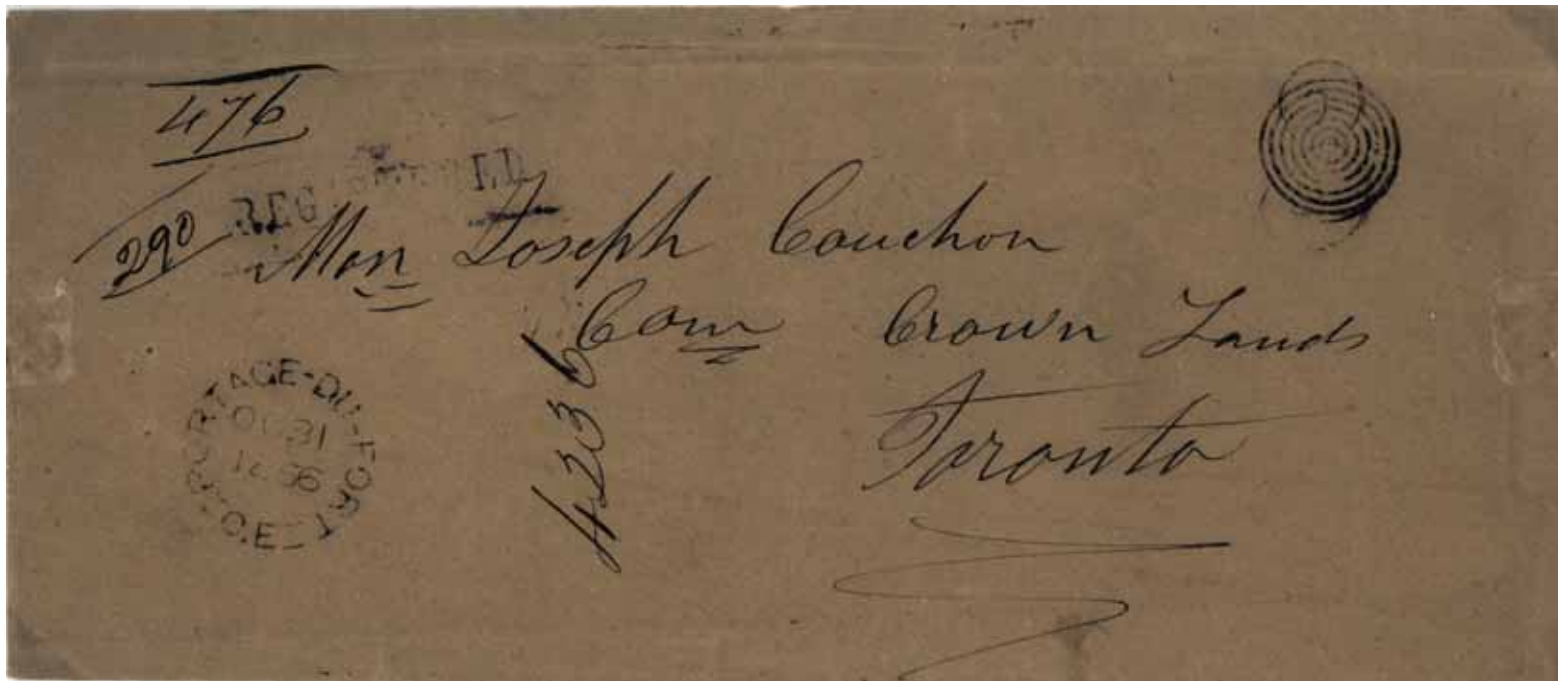
Place. *St. John's*

Place. *St. John's*

Letter bills, Parrsborough- and Halifax-Athol, 1876. White form has a small double broken circle HALIFAX & AMHERST RPO, known 1875-76.

## Free (domestic) registered mail

Here *free* refers to domestic postage; registration always had to be prepaid (except on mail from the Post Office Department). In 1851, postmasters' perquisites were removed; however, letters to government offices or officials within ten days of a session of parliament were free, as were letters from departments. The most commonly seen address is Crown Lands.



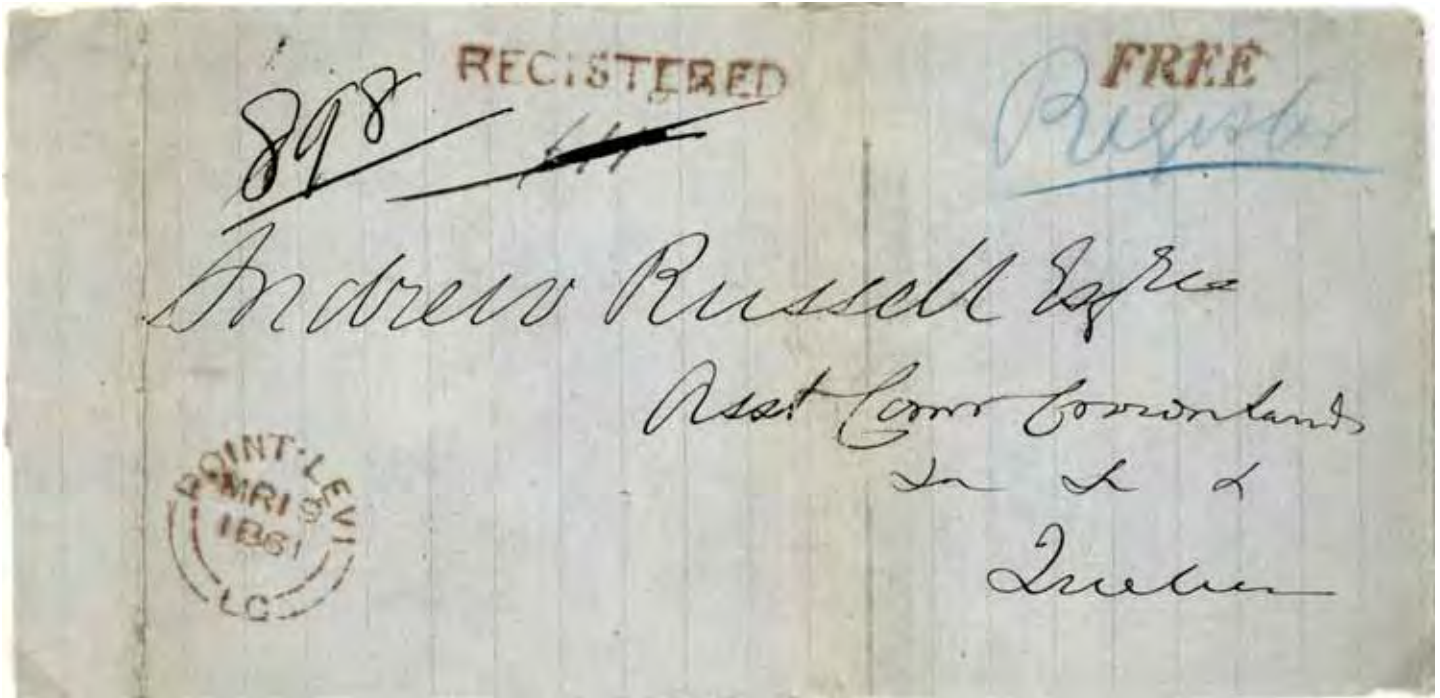
*Free, but not so marked; Portage-du-Fort (CE)–Toronto, Halloween 1856. Originally sent as registered collect (the 1 d registration fee being paid in cash), but the black 3 was overstruck, likely in Toronto, as the letter was mailed within ten days of a session of (provincial) Parliament to a Government office, hence free.*



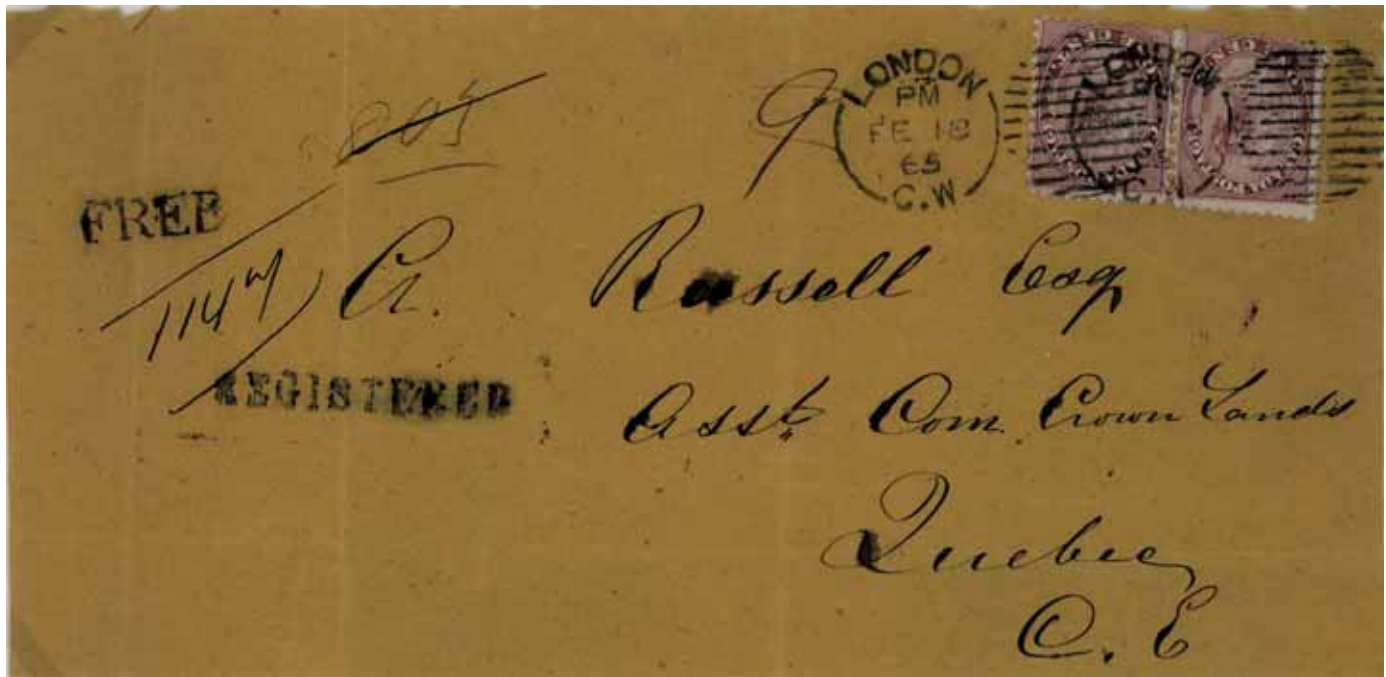
*Free, Bosanquet (UC)–Toronto, 1858. As above, the collect 3 was overstruck, this time with four-ring numeral 19 en route, at London (UC), and marked FREE. One of a handful of strikes of Bosanquet.*



Free registered mail, cents period



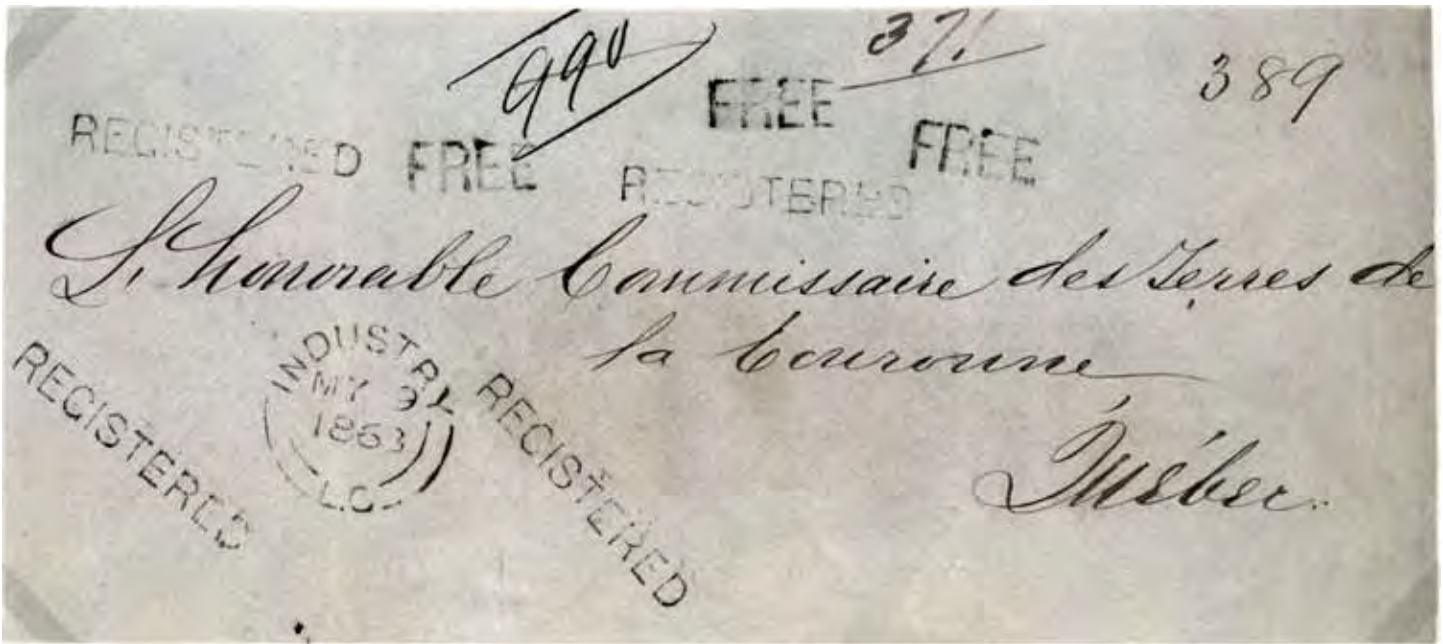
Point-Levis-Toronto, 1861.



Registration fee paid in cash, London (C.W)-Toronto, 1865. Extremely unusual payment of registration fee (2¢) in stamps on an otherwise free cover.



Free registered mail, cents period



Multiple handstamps, Industry (LC)–Quebec, 1863 [front only]. The postmaster wanted to ensure that everyone got the message: the letter is REGISTERED (four times), and domestic postage is FREE (three times). At most one other strike of Industry is known.



Merrickville–Ottawa, March 1867. Originally stamped PAID 5 (domestic rate), this was overstruck FREE (within ten days of a session of Parliament). Earliest reported strike of Merrickville C.W. datestamp.

Free registered Parliamentary mail



Free franked, House of Commons (Ottawa)–Toronto, November 1867. Just after Confederation. Franked A Mackenzie MP, then leader of the Opposition, and later Prime Minister. The oval registration marking is known on about five covers.



Clerk of the Crown in Chancery–Returning Officer, 1873. Part of a large package containing printed Parliamentary documents.



To a veteran of the  
War of 1812—in 1878!

**TO BE REGISTERED.**



830

1502

REGISTERED

**O. H. M. S.**  
PRINTED.

Mr. John Landon

Militiaman of 1812-15.

Post Office: Fitzroy

County of Carleton

Province of Ont

*Mrs. E. M. ...*

Ottawa-Fitzroy (ON), 1878. On reverse is ARNPRIOR C.W broken circle (second latest date recorded).

To Sgt John Landon, a veteran of the War of 1812; he continued to receive an annual \$30 pension until his death in 1885 (Sessional papers 48 Victoria).

An envelope this large would have contained more than just a cheque—likely papers to be filled in.

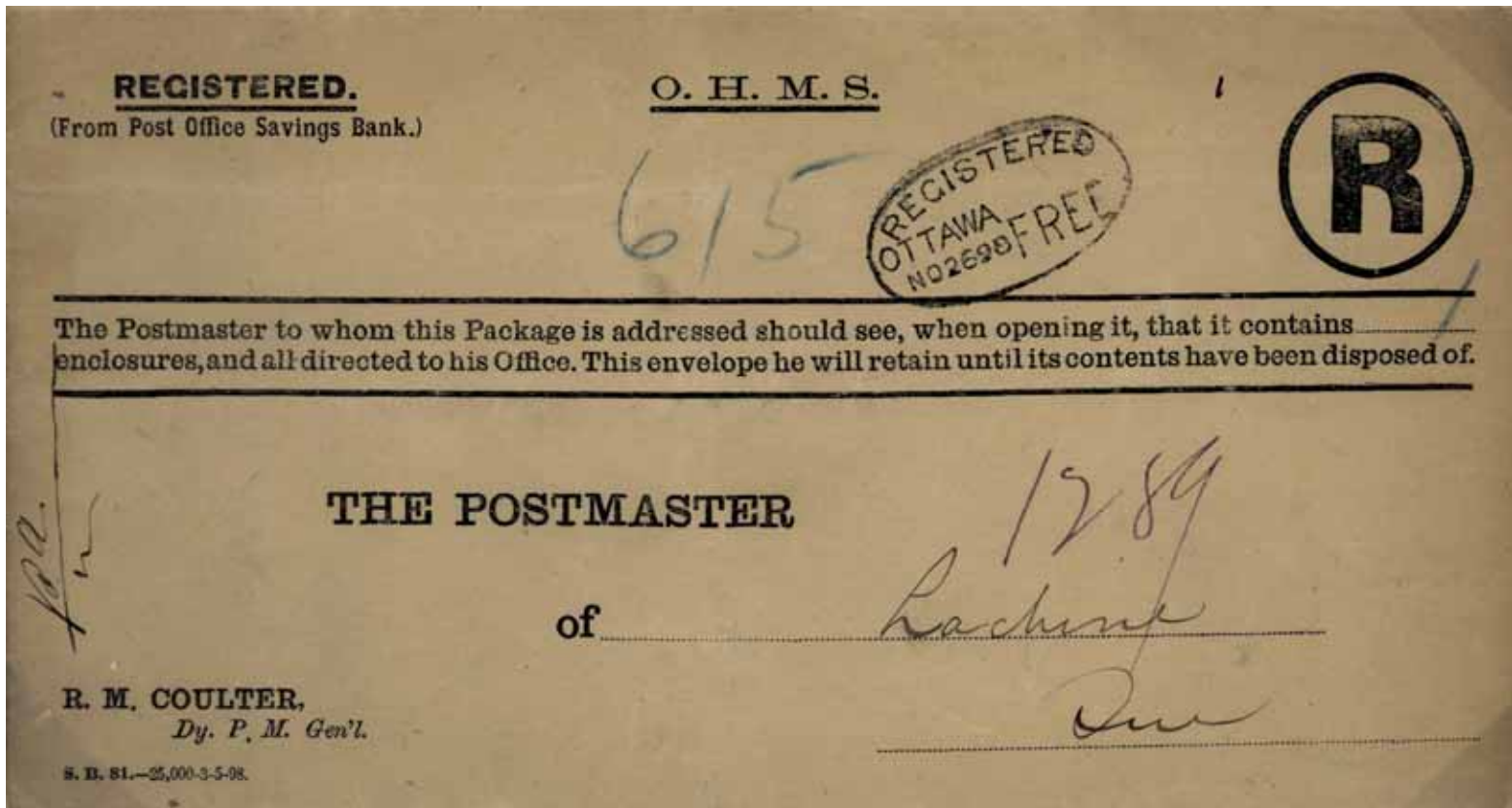


Postal savings bank

Often having the only bank branch in a small town, the Post Office Savings Bank existed 1870–1968 (only closing after pressure from the obscenely profitable chartered banks).



Certificates of deposits, Quebec-PM at Cross Point, 1880. Print data 30,000-5 5-'79



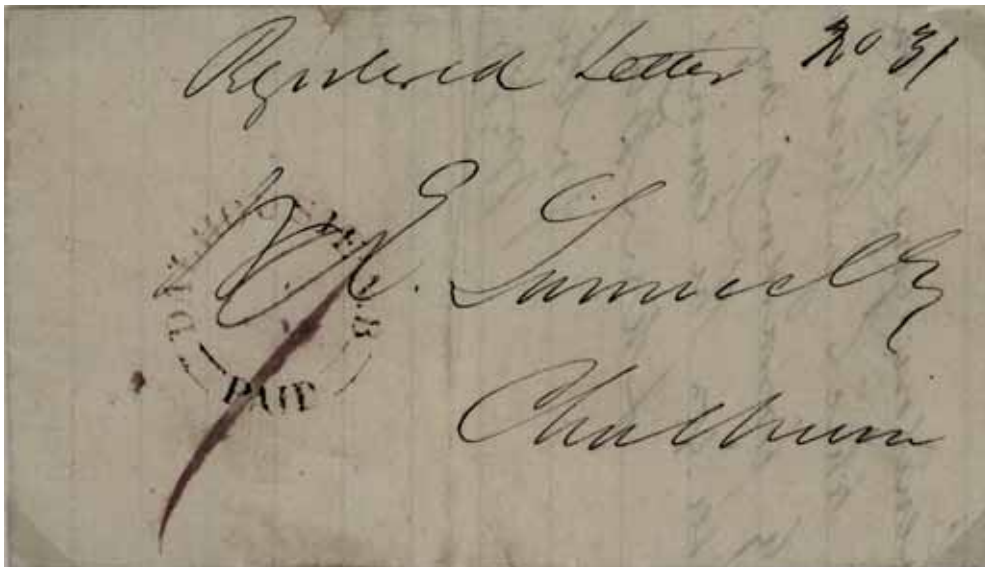
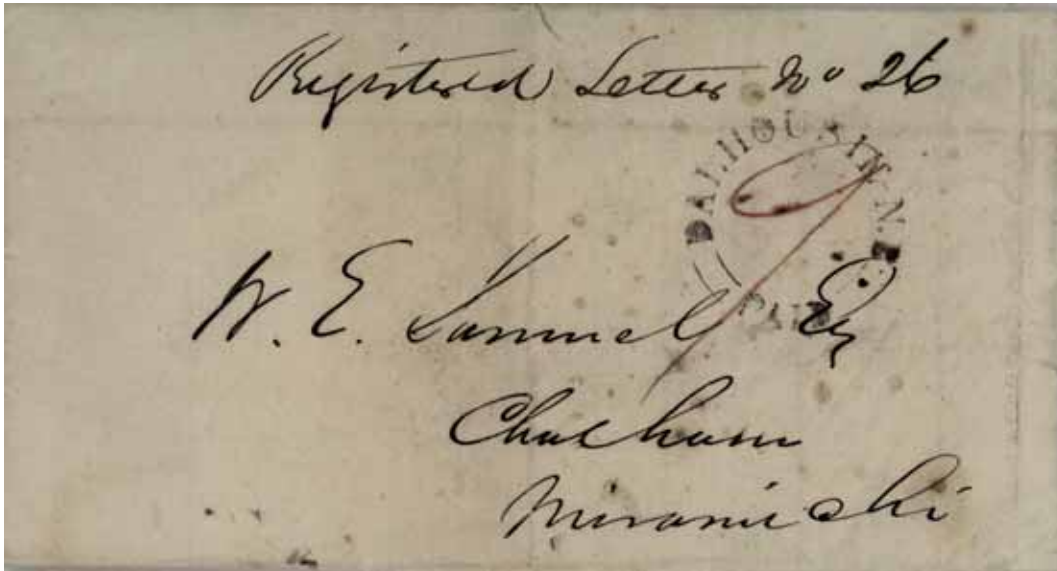
POSB-Lachine PO, 1898. Based on its size, may have contained an updated passbook. The print data (s.B. 81.—25,000-3-5-98) now includes SB, for Savings Bank. The Ottawa registered free oval was formerly considered scarce, but many examples exist.

# Pre-Confederation registered mail in the Maritimes

The *Maritimes* constitutes what are now three provinces, New Brunswick (NB), Nova Scotia (NS), and Prince Edward Island (PEI). They replaced their money letter systems by registration at different dates: NB, 6 July 1851; NS, 6 July 1851; PEI, ca 1855. On joining Canada (NB & NS, 1 July 1867; PEI, 1 March 1873), rates and practises became those of Canada. Registered mail in this period is much less frequently seen than that of Canada.

## New Brunswick

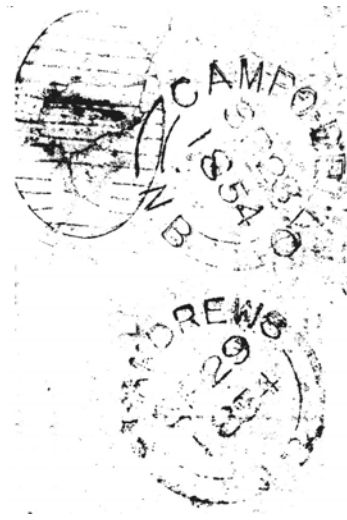
Took control of its post office 6 July 1851, but did not adopt registration until a year later. The registration fee was 6 d cy (until 1860, when decimal conversion occurred) with compulsory prepayment of *all* postage on registered letters.



*Dalhousie–Chatham*, 7 & 14 September 1852. Same correspondence, a week apart. Given registration numbers 26 & 31; since these did not restart until they reached at least 999, we conclude that only six registered letters passed through the Dalhousie post office in that week!

Rated prepaid 9 d cy in cash, made of 6 registration and 3 d single domestic rate.

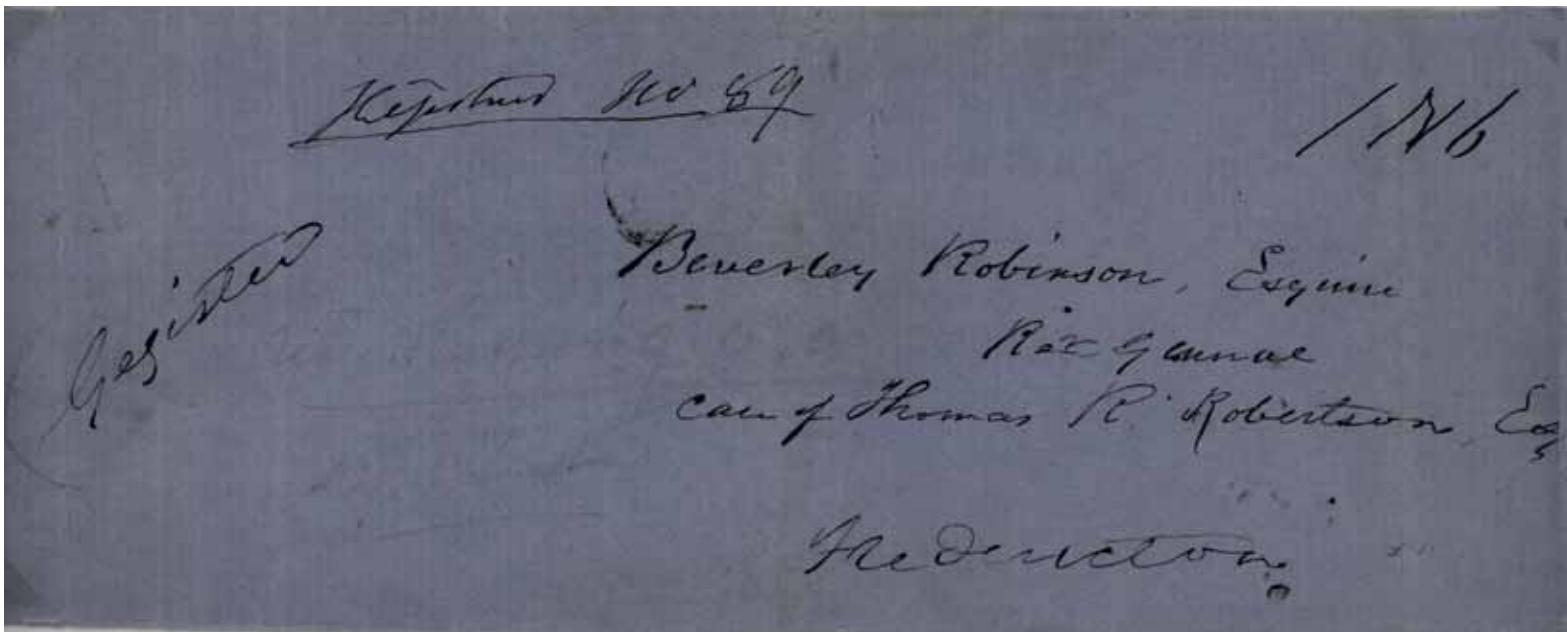
New Brunswick, 1852–1860



Campobello–St Andrews, 1854. Rated 6 d registration fee prepaid in cash (implied by *Registered No. 42* at top) and 3 d domestic rate paid in stamps (strip of three).

Campobello number 7 in grid killer.

Greene certificate #18059.



Quadruple, Salisbury–Fredericton, 1858. Rated 1N6 ostensibly made up from 6 d registration fee and  $4 \times 3$  d per half ounce domestic. Regulations required prepayment of all the postage (non-registered letters could be sent collect), but there is no indication of this—unless the rate was marked in red ink, which has degenerated in time to black.





New Brunswick,  
intercolonial

Letter and registration rates to the province of Canada were the same as domestic, 3 d per half ounce, converting to 5¢ in 1860, and 6 d, converting to 10¢, respectively.



Same addressee, Woodstock–Papineauville (CE) & Fredericton–Newborough (CW), 1856 & 1861. Rated prepaid 9 d (1856), and prepaid 15¢ (1861), both single.

The sender of the 1856 letter (CLO, Crown Lands Office) has marked it *Money letter*—four years after the money letter system ceased in New Brunswick.



St John–Kingston, 1857. Rated pre-paid 9 d combined registered single letter rate. Two-line REGISTERED LETTER-Nº handstamp was part of general issue to offices in NB & NS.

## Nova Scotia, 1851–1860

Nova Scotia introduced registration on 1 July 1851, the same day as its post office became autonomous. Domestic (and to the rest of British North America) registration was 6 d cy, prepayment required. Domestic postage became 3 d per half ounce on the same date. The money letter system ceased.

The frequent absence of registration numbers, particularly in the early period, suggests that registration wrappers were used to enclose them. These wrappers (shown later) are more frequently seen from Nova Scotia than from any of the other Maritime provinces or the province of Canada.



Double, Halifax–Kentville, 1854. Rated prepaid 1/ cy, made up from 6 d registration and 2 × 3 d domestic. Sender has used the obsolete term *Money Letter*. Standard (and extremely common) Halifax tombstone, indicating payment.



Triple, Halifax–Bridgewater, April 1860. Although NS converted to decimal on 1 January 1860, the previous currency was still in use. Rated 6 d registration plus 3 × 3 d per half ounce.

No backstamps, but a faint BRIDGEWATER NS double broken circle on the front of the cover.

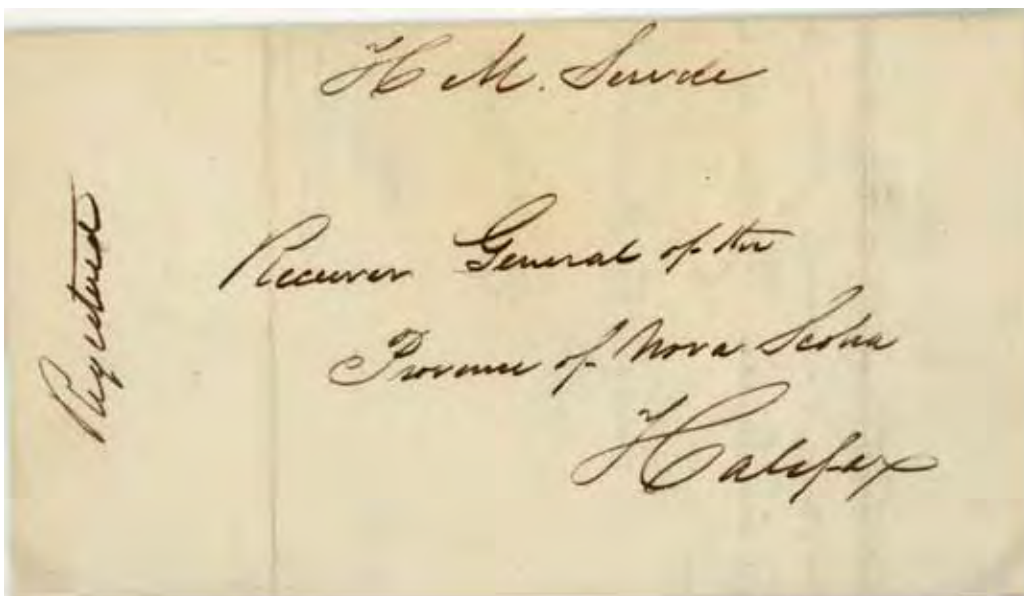
## Nova Scotia (partially) free

The sender's endorsement *OHMS* (On His/Her Majesty's Service) or similar is often seen on pre-Confederation BNA covers. The modern meaning is that it is eligible to pass without postage through the mail. However, at the time, it almost always meant that it was to be sent through (Her Majesty's) mail (as opposed to private carrier or via a friend), and that the sender hoped—usually fruitlessly—that it would be free. The items below show that occasionally at least the domestic postage was free. In both cases, the address was the Receiver-General of Nova Scotia, so that it was plausible that the domestic postage was free (but there are lots of covers to the same addressee that were not free).



*Domestic postage free, Antigonish–Halifax, 1855.* An even later use of the term *Money*, four years after the money letter system had ceased to exist. Rated prepaid 6, the registration fee; since there are no other charges, it appears that the 3 d domestic rate was not charged.

One other strike of the Antigonish 6 ratestamp is recorded (JJ Macdonald), in 1855.



*Null rate, Canso–Halifax, 1856.* Endorsed *Registered* and *HM Service* (both by the sender), there are no postmarks at all. Docketing indicates it arrived four days after mailing. It presumably was enclosed in a registration wrapper, but it appears that no postage was paid.



Nova Scotia, 1860–1867

NS converted to decimal on 1 January 1860, and the rates changed to 10¢ for registration and 5¢ per half ounce domestic letter rate. Halifax acquired a crown registration handstamp (in use 1862–66), similar to those of a few British offices.



*Quadruple, Halifax–Kempt (Hants County), 1863.* Rated 10¢ registration plus 4 × 5¢ per half ounce, all paid in stamps. Unusually clear Halifax crown in black.

Old habits die hard—*money letter* (endorsed by the sender) had been obsolete for twelve years.

Backstamped Halifax (origin) & Newport. Kempt Shore is a tiny community in the district of West Hants; it had no post office, and mail was sent to Newport.

*Halifax–Grand Narrows (Cape Breton), 1865.* Rated pre-paid 10¢ registration and single 5¢ domestic. With worn red Halifax registered crown.

Backstamped Halifax (origin), Sydney (transit), and St Peters (nearest post office to destination). Grand Narrows (a strait of Bras D'Or Lake) was and still is an extremely tiny community (2001 population: 15). ✓✓



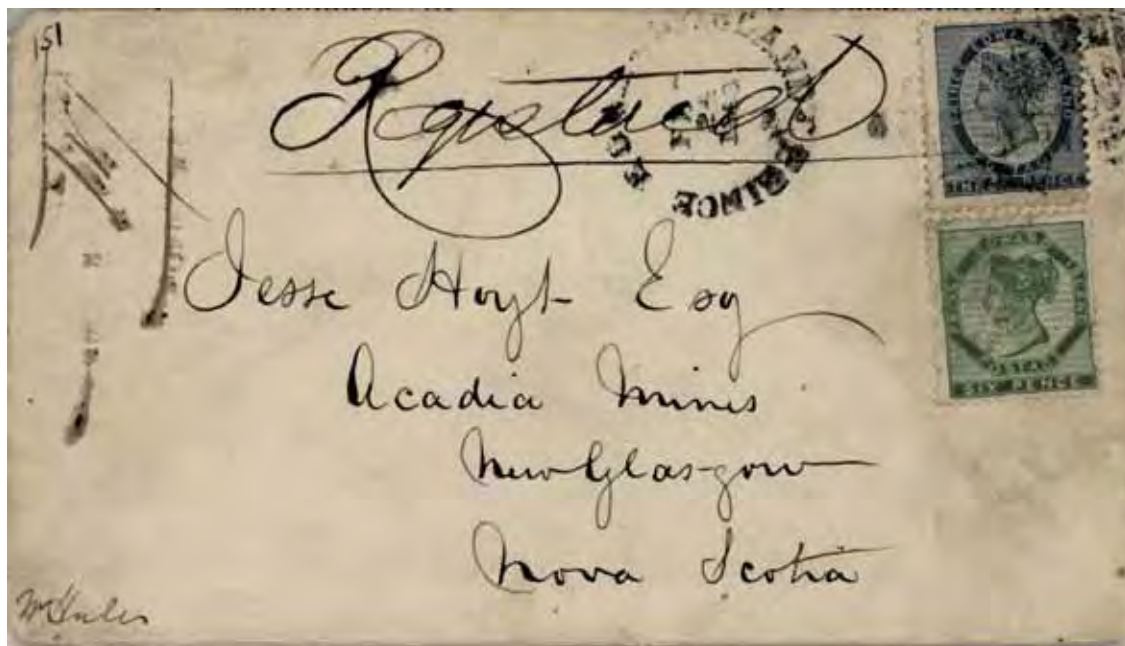
## Prince Edward Island

PEI was economically backward (a consequence of the system of absentee landlords), so not many registered letters exist. Information about the registration system is also sparse; registration began in the early 1850s. PEI joined Confederation on 1 July 1873, and at that point, its rates became those of Canada.

Island currency was equivalent to about two-thirds the corresponding amount in sterling, much more heavily devalued than the currency of Canada, NS, & NB.



*Registered Summerside drop letter, 1856.* Rated 3 d Island currency registration fee, and 1 d drop letter rate (the latter is quite difficult to find for PEI in this period), presumably prepaid, although there is no such indication.



*Charlottetown–Acadia Mines (NS), 1868.* Rated 6 d registration fee and 3 d intercolonial within BNA. The registration number appears at the left, and may be *III*. The typeset datestamp on the front, reading PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND was used at Charlottetown, the principal town. Via Amherst and Truro.

# Prince Edward Island, 1871

Some time after March 1871, the registration fee changed to 3 d (precise date unknown, but the implementing legislation was passed in March); this lasted only until the end of the year, when PEI finally converted to decimal (1 January 1872). Only two registered covers are known in this rate period.



Charlottetown–Stellarton (NS), December 1871. Rated 3 d registered and 3 d intercolonial. Ugly datestamp on front is standard broken circle CHARLOTTETOWN PEI.

Greene certificate #13757.

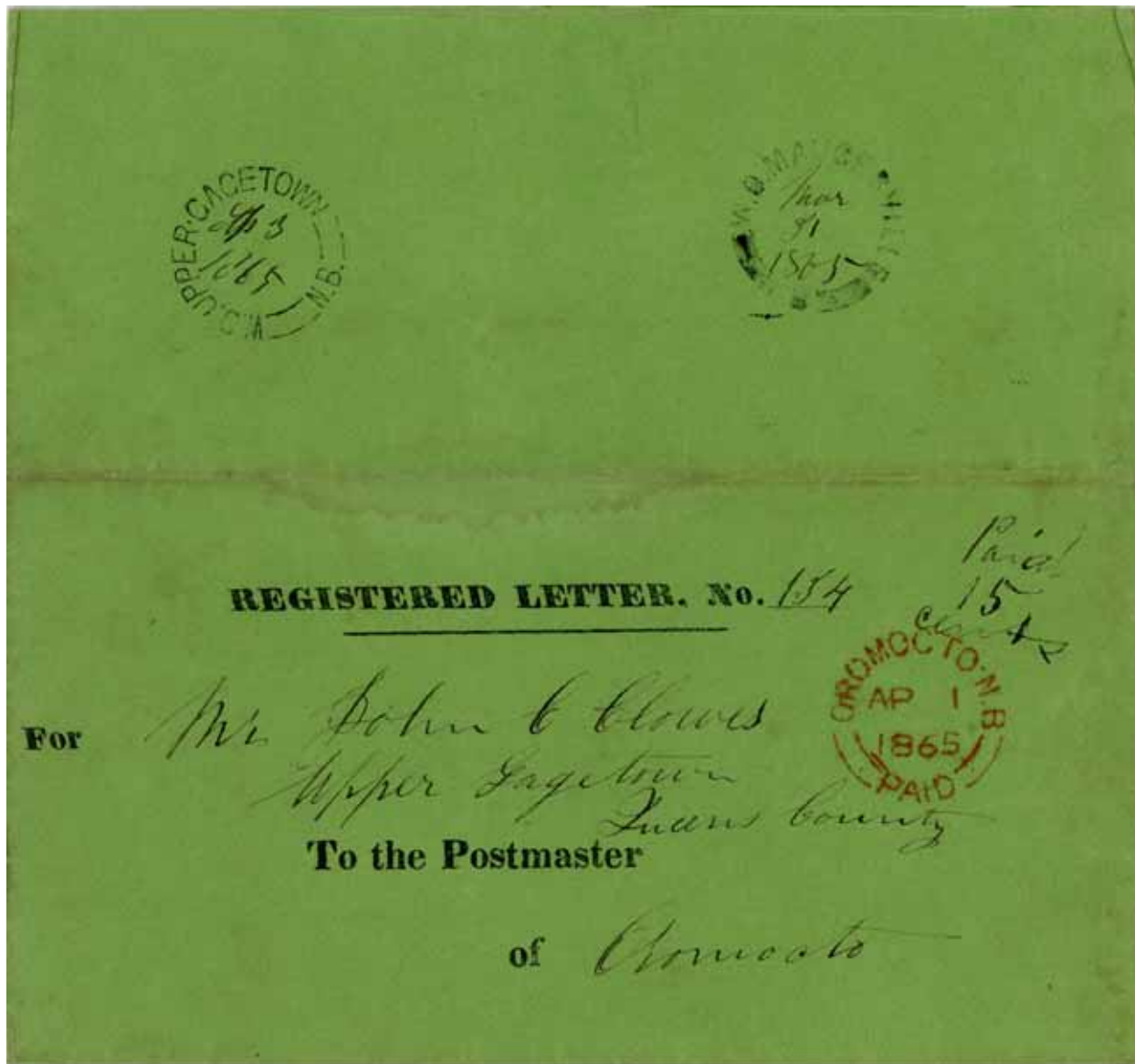




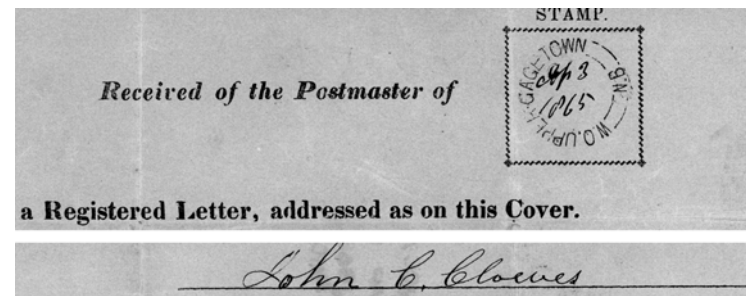
# Registration letter wrappers

Often called *registered letter wrappers*, these are similar to money letter wrappers. Registered letters were (frequently) wrapped in these for post office to post office transmission, and they were signed by the recipient of the enclosed registered letter. The destination post office kept the wrapper for one to two years, and then it was disposed of, usually destroyed. As a result, very few have survived—none from the province of Canada in the pre-Confederation era, a handful from New Brunswick, one from Prince Edward Island, and a few dozen from Nova Scotia.

Based on the practice in UK, it is not clear when it stopped, but very likely it simply wound down—as the amount of registered mail increased, the awkward procedure became an increasing nuisance.



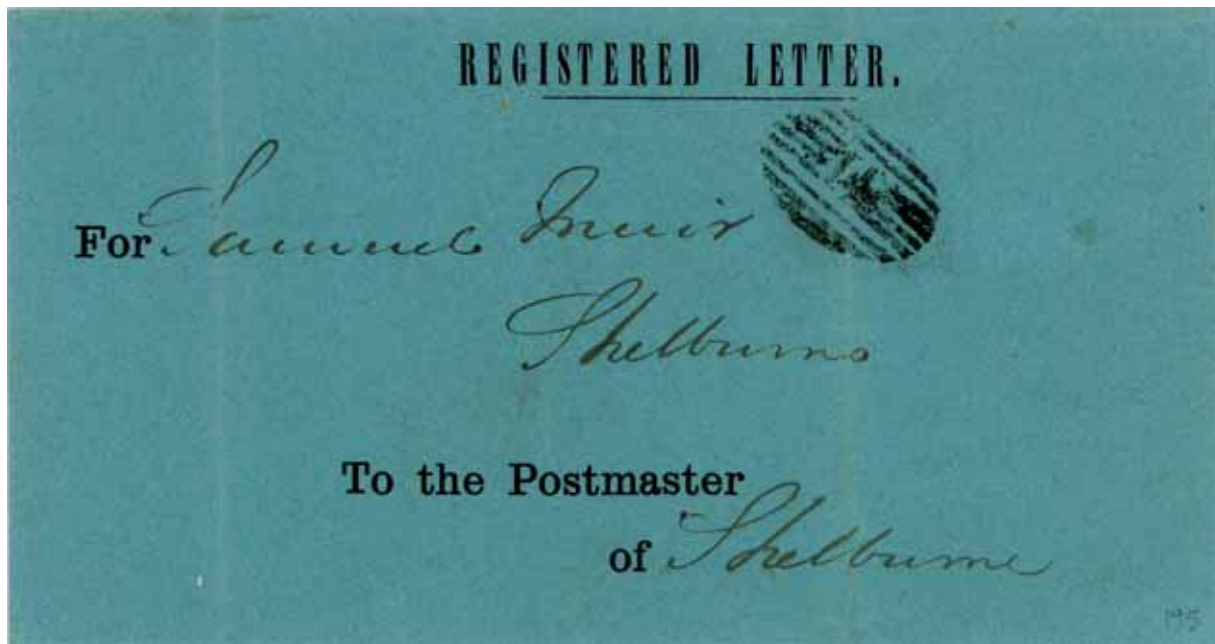
New Brunswick registration letter wrapper, 1865. Contained a registered letter from Maugerville Way Office to Upper Gagetown Way Office (NS & NB way offices were very small postal outlets for the distribution of mail along the routes of the mail carriers), transitting Oromocto (the nearest post office). Rated *paid 15¢*, combined 10¢ NB registration fee & 5¢ domestic letter rate. One of three NB registration wrappers.



The white area represents a very large vertical space. Signed by the recipient of the registered letter.

## Nova Scotia registration letter wrappers

There are (at least) three different printings in the 1860s, suggesting wider use of these than in the other provinces.



Registration wrapper for a letter Halifax–Shelburne, 1864. The killer is a Halifax H.

## REGISTERED LETTER.

Received of the Postmaster of  
a Registered Letter as directed on this Cover.

186

The Sending as well as the Receiving Postmaster is on no account to neglect Stamping this Cover.

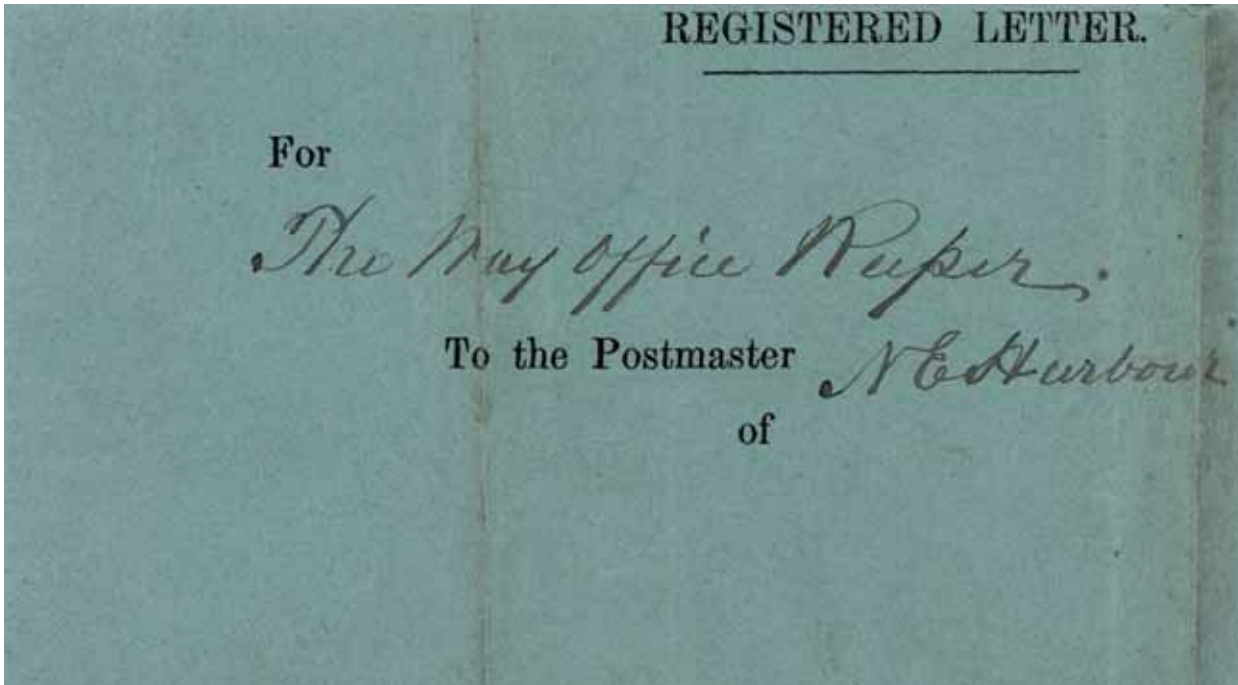
N. B.—The Postmaster will keep this Receipt as a proof of the delivery of the Letter, and apply to the Postmaster General for a further supply of these Covers, when necessary.

STAMP.

Generic interior of Nova Scotia registration letter wrappers. Typefaces vary. White areas represent very large vertical spaces.

## Nova Scotia registration letter wrappers

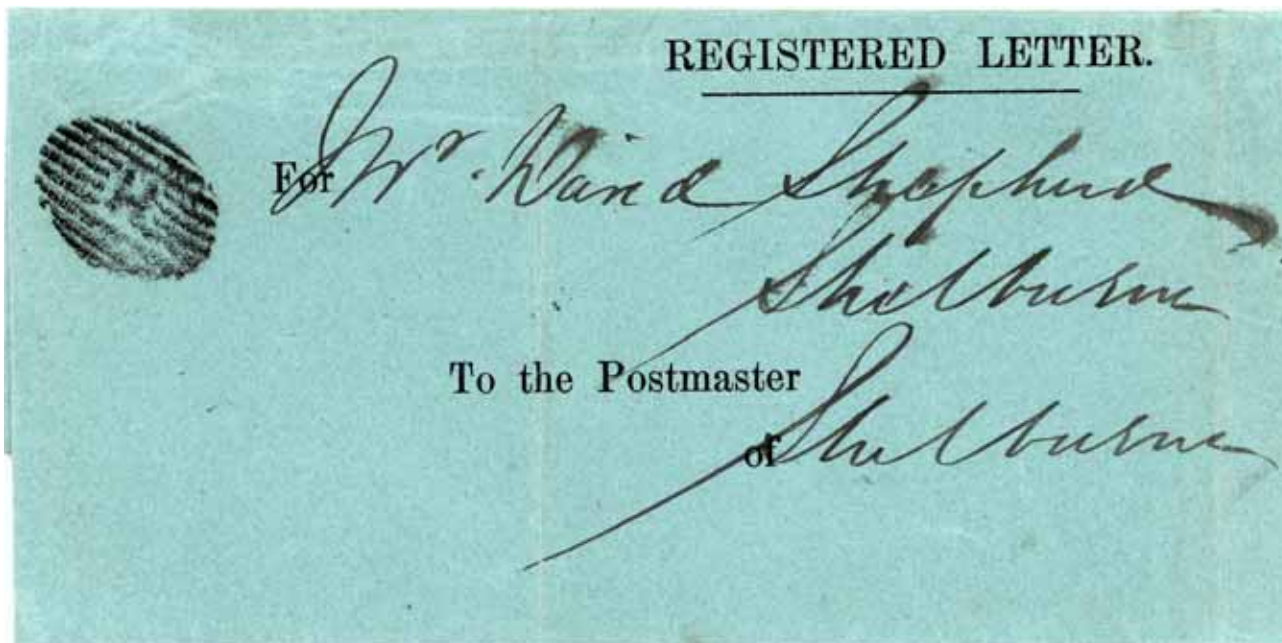
Two almost identical printings. The only significant difference lies in the vertical space above the rule. Since these are both folded letter wrappers, the apparent locations of the text will vary depending on the size of the cover they enclose, and subsequent folding caused by filing.



*For a registered letter, Shelburne–Northeast Harbour Way Office, 1863.*

## REGISTERED LETTER. REGISTERED LETTER.

At the same scale; the rule at left (top cover) is further distant from the lettering than the rule at right (lower cover).

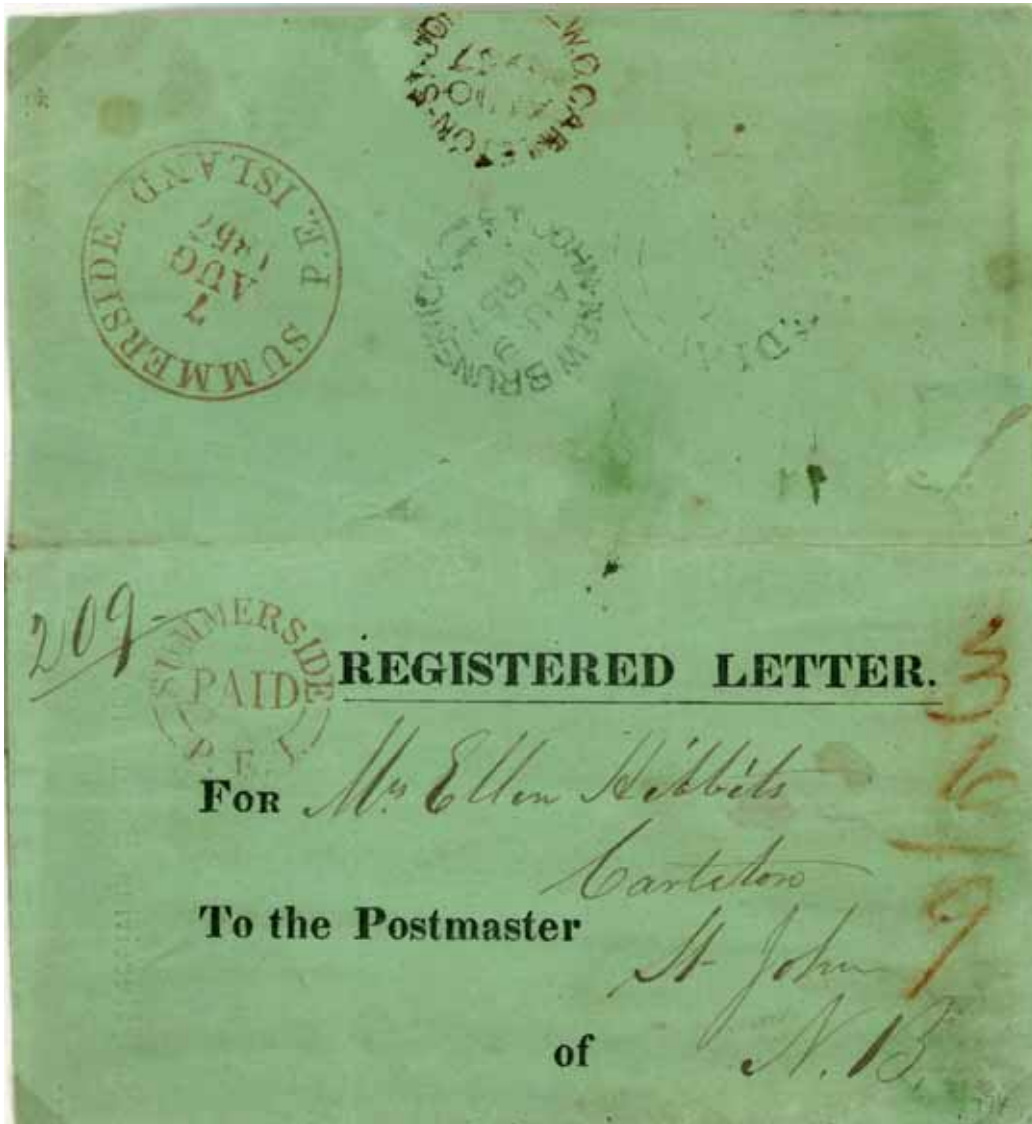


*For a registered letter, Halifax–Shelburne, 1863. With Halifax H in grid.*



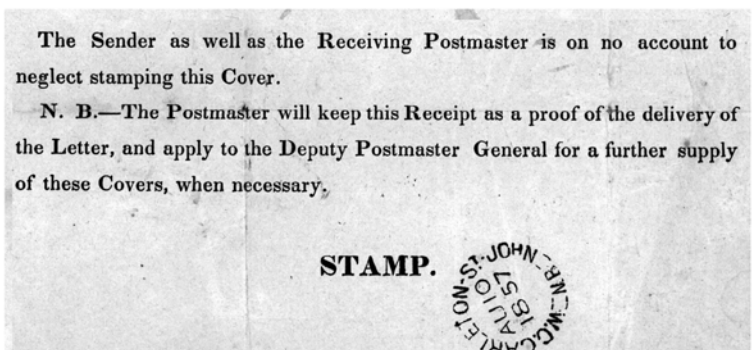
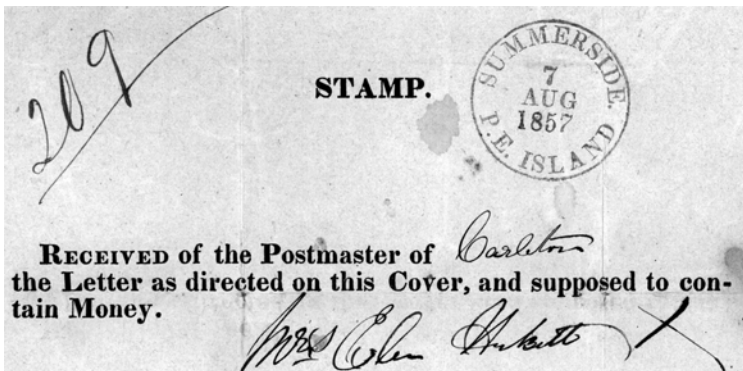
# Prince Edward Island registration letter wrapper

Only known example.



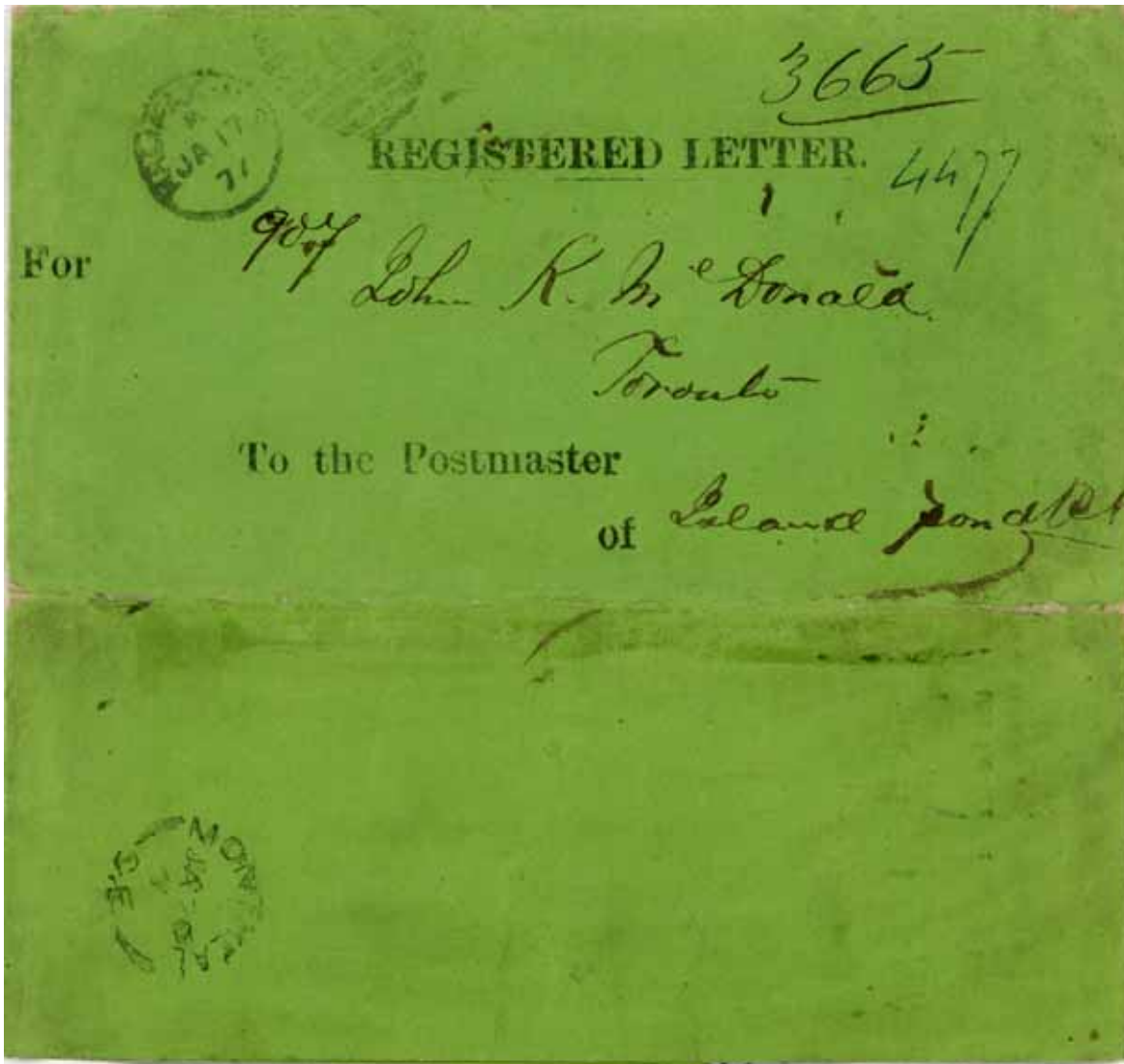
For a registered letter from Summerside to Saint John (NB), 1857. Similar interior wording to the Nova Scotia registration wrappers, but a different typeface. Rated 6 d registration fee (apparently; there are no reliable sources for PEI registration fee in this period), possibly for intercolonial mail, since domestic mail in this period seems to have had a registration fee of 3 d) and 3 d intercolonial letter rate.

Fewer than ten examples of the SUMMERSIDE P.E.I. PAID handstamp have been reported; the large SUMMERSIDE P.E. ISLAND dater is known 1853–74, but with year slug only in 1857. The W.O. CARLETON-ST. JOHN datestamp is known 1852–57, after which the way office became a post office.



## Post-Confederation registration letter wrapper

A few are known (to 1875), all originating from Nova Scotia.

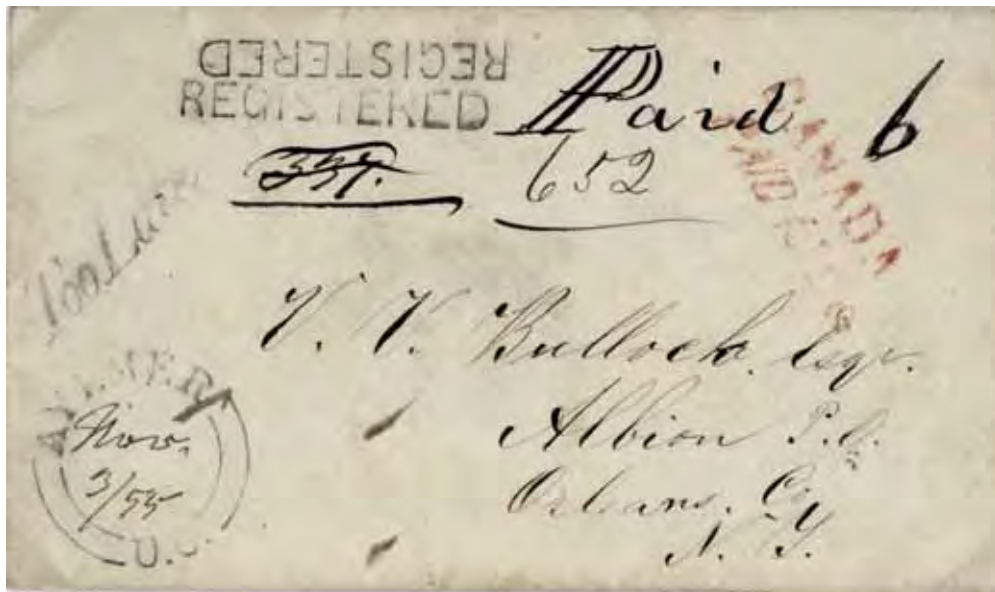


*Halifax–Toronto, via Island Pond (VT) and Montreal, 1871.* The second 1 in the year of the Halifax duplex is tilted so that it resembles a 7. The wrapper was printed in 1870, after Confederation. A different style (and colour) from that of the 1860s NS wrappers.

Unsigned on the interior, not postmarked at Toronto or Island Pond (Montreal & Island Pond RPO carried mail), possibly meaning that it was ignored. The us post office likely did not know what to do with it.

## Registered mail between US and Canada, 1855–1898

Canada initiated its registration system in May 1855, but this did not extend to mail to the US until an agreement became effective October 1856. In the interim period (16 months), registered mail to the US was considered registered to the border, and the domestic registration fee of 1d was charged. After the agreement, the registration fee to the US was 3d, which converted to 5¢ in 1859. With the exception of one month in 1888, it remained at this rate until 1920.



Interim period, Aylmer (UC)–Albion (NY), November 1855. Rated (prepaid) 6d single rate to the US, plus 1d domestic registration fee (indicated by the REGISTERED handstamps).

Sent *Too Late* for the day's (or week's) despatch. Standard two-line CANADA PAID 10 CTS exchange mark.



Gosfield (UC)–Tower Hill (IA), May 1859. Unusual 3<sup>d</sup>, indicating registration fee to US. Single domestic rate to US.

Blue GOSFIELD double broken circle; backstamped at AMHERSTBURG and WINDSOR.



Canada–US registration, pence period (1856–1859)



Combined rate handstamp, Montreal–New York, 1858. Indicates total of 6d single to US plus 3d registration fee to US. Only reported example of this handstamp.

(Common) Montreal tombstone.



To California; Camden-East (C.W)–Red Dog, 1858. Rated (prepaid) 9d cy (treaty rate to California) at left, plus 3d registration, totalling 1/ cy. This translated to 20¢. Notation at upper left, *pd 43*, refers to sender's post office account. Via the Kingston–Cape Vincent exchange.

## Canada-US registration, cents period (1859-1868)

When Canada converted its postal rates to decimal (ostensibly 1 July 1859, but this is not a hard date), the rates to the US were converted proportionately; 3d registration fee became 5¢, while domestic registration was 2¢, and the letter rate to the US became 10¢.

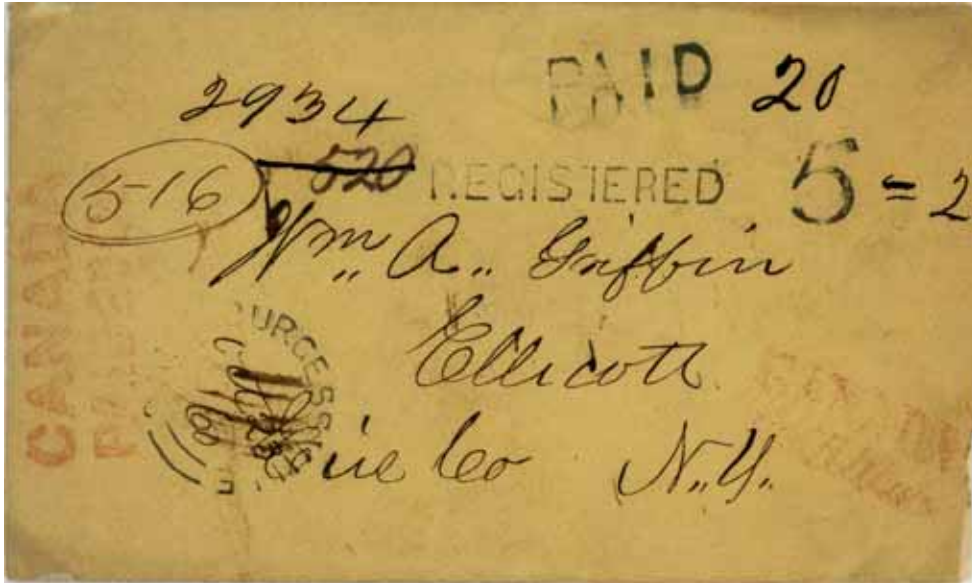


Dundas-New York, 16 July 1859 (two weeks after decimal conversion). Standard exchange mark, probably applied at Clifton.



Carronbrook (C.W)-New York, 1862. Itemized rates. Only two or three strikes reported of CARRONBROOK C.W broken circle.

Canada–US registration, cents period, double



Double, Burgessville (U.C.)–Ellicott (NY), 1860. Rated double 10¢ to us, plus 5¢ registration.

At left in red is the seldom-seen exchange marking

**CANADA  
PAID 20 CTS**

At lower right (also in red) is the more usual exchange mark, CANADA PAID 10¢, obviously applied in error.

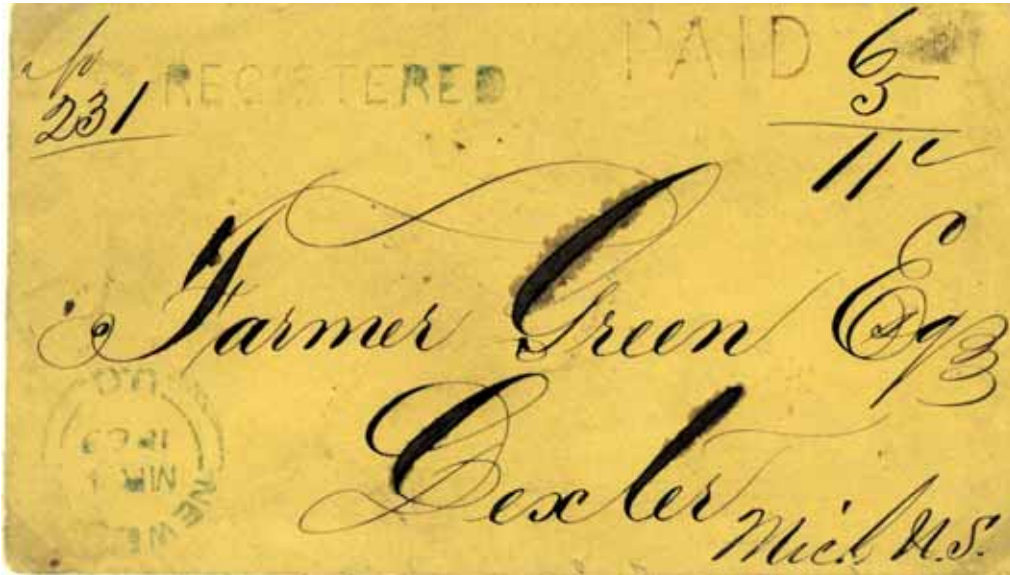


All paid in stamps, Hamilton–New Haven, January 1868. Rated as above.



Canada-US registration 1868-1875

The letter rate to the us dropped to 6¢ per half ounce if prepaid on 1 April 1868 (collect was 10¢, but all postage to the us on registered letters had to be prepaid).



Newbury (U.C)–Dexter (MI), 4 March 1869. Single letter rate (6¢) plus registration fee itemized upper left. Late use of NEWBURY U.C double broken circle by six months.



Sextuple rate, Windsor–Bay City (MI), 1873. Rated 41¢, made up of 6 × 6¢ per half ounce, plus 5¢ registration fee to the us. Endorsement at lower left indicates that the envelope was used in a court case.



## Canada–US registration 1875–1898

On 1 January 1875, the single letter rate to the US dropped to the same as domestic, 3¢; in addition, from this date, all letters to the US had to be prepaid in stamps only (no cash). When the use of the 2¢ RLS became compulsory on registered domestic mail (October 1876), the 5¢ RLS became compulsory on registered mail to the US.



Ste Marie-de-Monnoir (LC)–Crown Point (NY), 4 February 1875. Single letter rate, 3¢, plus 5¢ registration fee.



Hamilton–Buffalo, 1875. Overpaid 1¢; there is no reasonable explanation for this. Hamilton oval registered marking; a few dozen examples are known.



Canada–US registration, 5¢ RLS becomes compulsory

1 October 1876.



Walton (ONT)–Boston, 14 October 1876 (date corrected from 15 October). [front] Very early use of 5¢ RLS. Second reported strike of WALTON ONT.



Two 2¢ RLS from a small town, December 1876. Registration fee paid by the RLS stamps, plus the 1¢ small queen. This use was countenanced when the office had no 5¢ RLS.

From ROUND-HILL NS (faint; upper right); backstamped at Saint John. Blurred Boston registered date-stamp on the front.



## Canada-US registration

Some authors consider registered covers from Canada to the US in the period 1875-1879 to be rare, particularly if they have RLS. While they are uncommon, there are plenty of them around.



No contents, Barrington (NS)–Portland (ME), 1877. Endorsement at left reads, *Received Nov 13, 77, and opened by Wm E Woodbury in the presence of CW Pickett. Nothing enclosed.*

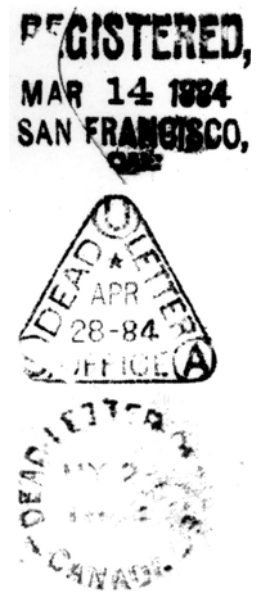


Town of origin unknown, to Boston, 1877. Only an RPO, ST. JOHN & AMHERST-I.C.R. on reverse. Very unusual.



Montreal–Colorado, 1878. Unusual destination from Montreal in this period.

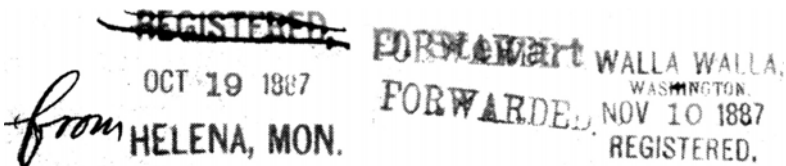
Canada-US registration; forwarded or returned to sender



Both countries' Dead Letter Offices; Victoria-San Francisco-Ottawa, 1884. Held at SF over a month, then stamped UNCLAIMED and sent to the US DLO; from there, it was sent to the Canadian DLO (Ottawa). Marginal inscription on 5¢ RLS.



Extensively forwarded; Fredericton-Helena (MO)-Walla Walla (WA)-San Francisco-Los Angeles; triple rate, 1887.





## Registration fee to US reduced for one month (1888)

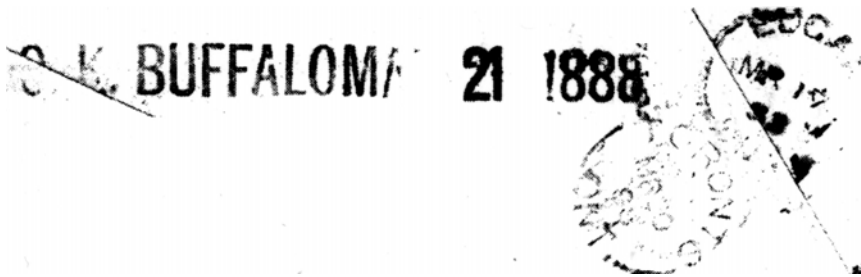
On first class letters to the US, Canada unilaterally lowered the registration fee to 2¢ (the domestic fee) effective 1–31 March 1888. This was probably the result of a mistake in Canada Postal Guide supplements sent to postmasters. After US protest, the fee was restored to 5¢ on April Fool's Day.

Fewer than twenty covers with the reduced fee have been reported. More probably exist, since registered material to the US is quite common in the 1880s (and later).



2¢ registration fee to the US; Edgar (ONT)–Providence, 17 March 1888.

Two of the registration numbers are very low (3, 5); one of them was probably applied at Edgar. Low Canadian registration numbers are fairly difficult to find, since for smaller towns, they did not turn the corner until they reached 999. In contrast, US offices typically restarted at 1 every quarter.



The Buffalo transit marking reading OK was likely intended for letter bills.



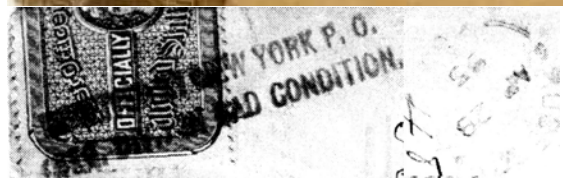
## Later RLS period

An RLS was required on all registered mail 8 May 1889–30 July 1893, although a single 2¢ was sufficient (provided the entire registration fee was paid in stamps).



Two 2¢ RLS, 12 June 1889. Registration fee paid with the two RLS and 1¢ small queen. From Rivière-du-Loup Station (with CANADA at base) to Lancaster (MA).

The letter, on Intercolonial Railway stationery, included \$5 to pay for a setting of *your best Plymouth Rock eggs*, to be sent by express.



Received in damaged condition, and examination of envelope requested, April 1893. us officially sealed stamp.

From Rydal-Bank (Algoma District) through Bruce-Mines (faint strike on reverse) to Ottawa, then to the us.

## No RLS in the later RLS period

As was the case for domestic mail, an RLS was required 8 May 1889–30 July 1893 for registered mail to anywhere. This cover is the twin of the domestic 1890 registered cover without an RLS from the NWMP, addressed in the same hand.



Regina–New York, returned, 1890. Registration fee erroneously paid by 5¢ small queen.

Various handstamps, including a New York DLO registered box, REMOVED/PRESENT ADDRESS UNKNOWN (and an equivalent manuscript endorsement), UNCLAIMED, . . . . Dead letter office marks of both countries appear.





## Registered fifth class to the US

This class contained miscellaneous material sent open for examination. It was available to the US 1 March 1888–31 December 1898 (and is much more difficult to find to the US than domestically). The rate was 1¢ per ounce.



Only 1 lb of tea, vigintuple rate, Halifax–Baltimore, 1897. Rated 5¢ registration fee plus  $20 \times 1¢$  for twenty ounces. The tea container, likely metal, probably weighed four ounces. Obviously *not* philatelic, despite the franking by various stamps lying around.

Sent to a patient or employee at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

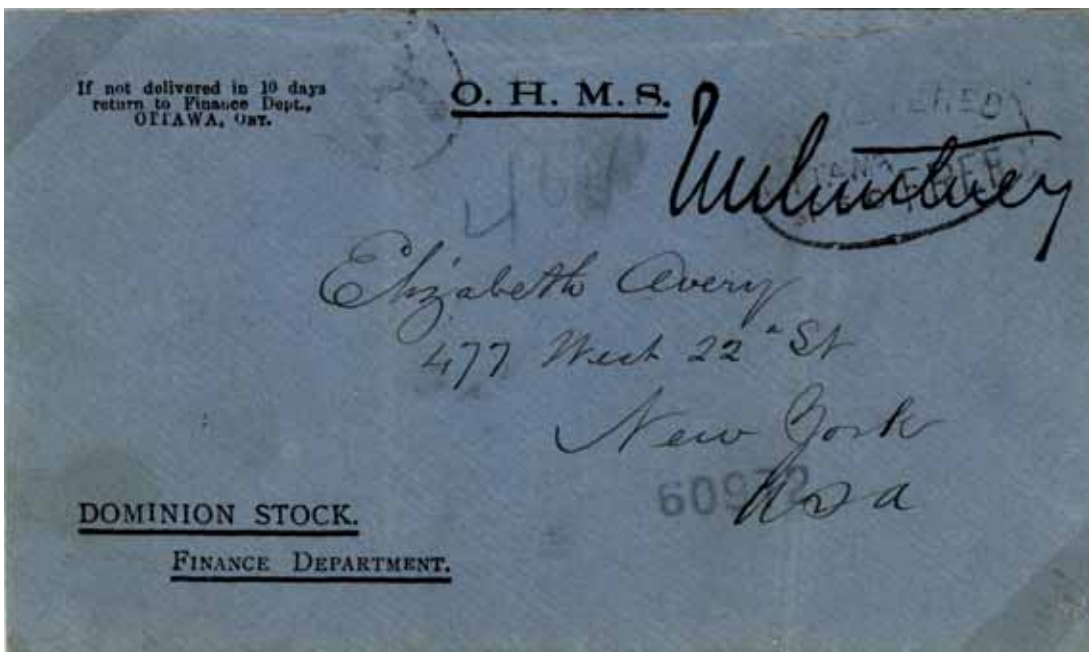




Registered free mail to the US

From 1888, mail between US & Canada that was free in one country required no additional postage to the other.

*House of Commons—Philadelphia, 1893. Free franked MP J Griffin, with House of Commons date-stamp and the inevitable Ottawa free registered oval.*



*Department of Finance—New York, 1895. Free franked, and with faint strike of the Ottawa free oval.*



*Ottawa PO—Minneapolis, 1898.*

## US–Canada

Although the US instituted (domestic) registration in 1855, it did not permit registration to Canada until an agreement effective 1 October 1856. It seems to be more difficult to find US–Canada registered mail in the period to 1880 than the other way around.



Portland (ME)–Montreal, March 1857. Early registered letter to Canada. Rated (faint red ms) 10¢, rate to Canada, and 5¢ registration (to Canada), not marked (as usual), all prepaid. The lower number, 35, was probably applied at Portland, and the higher one, 420, at Montreal.



Anomalous rate, New York–Hamilton, 1871. At this time, registration was 15¢, and the letter rate to Canada was 6¢, so this is 2¢ overpaid (unusually, the franking was on reverse).



## US–Canada

On 1 January 1874, domestic registration dropped to 8¢, rising to 10¢ 1 July 1875; this also applied to registration to anywhere.



Anomalous rate, Kokomo (IN)–Elmira (ONT), 1873–74. Registration is 5¢ (?) and the rate to Canada still 6¢. No indication of missing stamps. Possibly the postmaster confused the rate to Canada with the domestic rate (3¢).

The boxed REGISTERED G.W.R. is one of a number of registration markings applied on Canadian RPOs. Some so-called experts consider them scarce, but they frequently appear on incoming registered matter from the US.



Anomalous rate, New York–Toronto, 1874. Registration fee 8¢ plus 6¢ letter rate to Canada, shortpaid by 3¢. Presumably the clerk confused the domestic rate (3¢) with the rate to Canada.

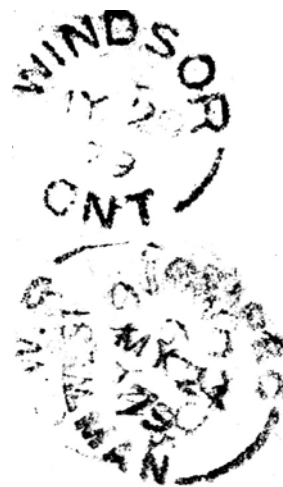


## US-Canada

The registration fee remained 10¢ over the period 1875-1893. On 1 February 1875, the letter rate to Canada dropped to 3¢ per half ounce.



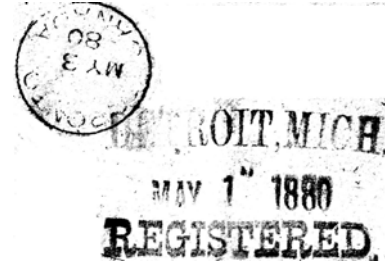
Anomalous rate, Visalia (CA)-Ottawa, March 1875. Registration 8¢ and letter 3¢, so this is likely a convenience overpayment of 1¢. At least this time, the backstamps are clear.



Septuple rate, Middleton (NY)-Winnipeg, 1879. Rated  $7 \times 3\text{¢}$  (per half ounce) plus 10¢ registration. With REGISTERED GWR ACCOMDN, another Canadian RPO registration marking.



Octuple rate, Grand Forks (DT)-Toronto via Detroit, 1880. Rated 10¢ registration fee plus 8 × 3¢ per half ounce.



To Cartwright (ONT), 19 July 1881. Office of origin not determined. Boxed REGISTERED G.W.R. EXPS marking is latest reported strike (by six months).

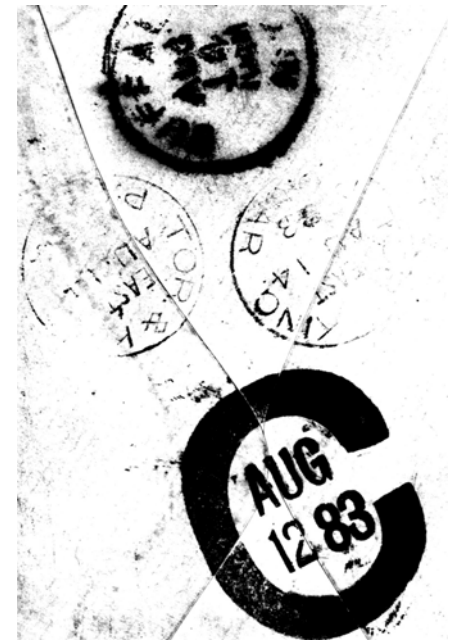




US-Canada



East Boston-Pictou, 1881. Single rate.



Triple, Corsicana (TX)-Deseronto (ONT), August 1883. An unusual place of origin for mail to Canada.



## Customs labels on incoming registered mail

These are the only two known examples of customs labels used in Canada in the nineteenth century. They were the precursors of customs handstamps, which seemed to have begun use in the 1910s. The labels appear to have been applied at Windsor.

Both covers are between stamp dealers (unfortunately): Mekeel to Ketchum and Kæstner to Schmalz. First class letter rate to Canada became 2¢ per half ounce 1 October 1883, and per ounce 1 July 1885.



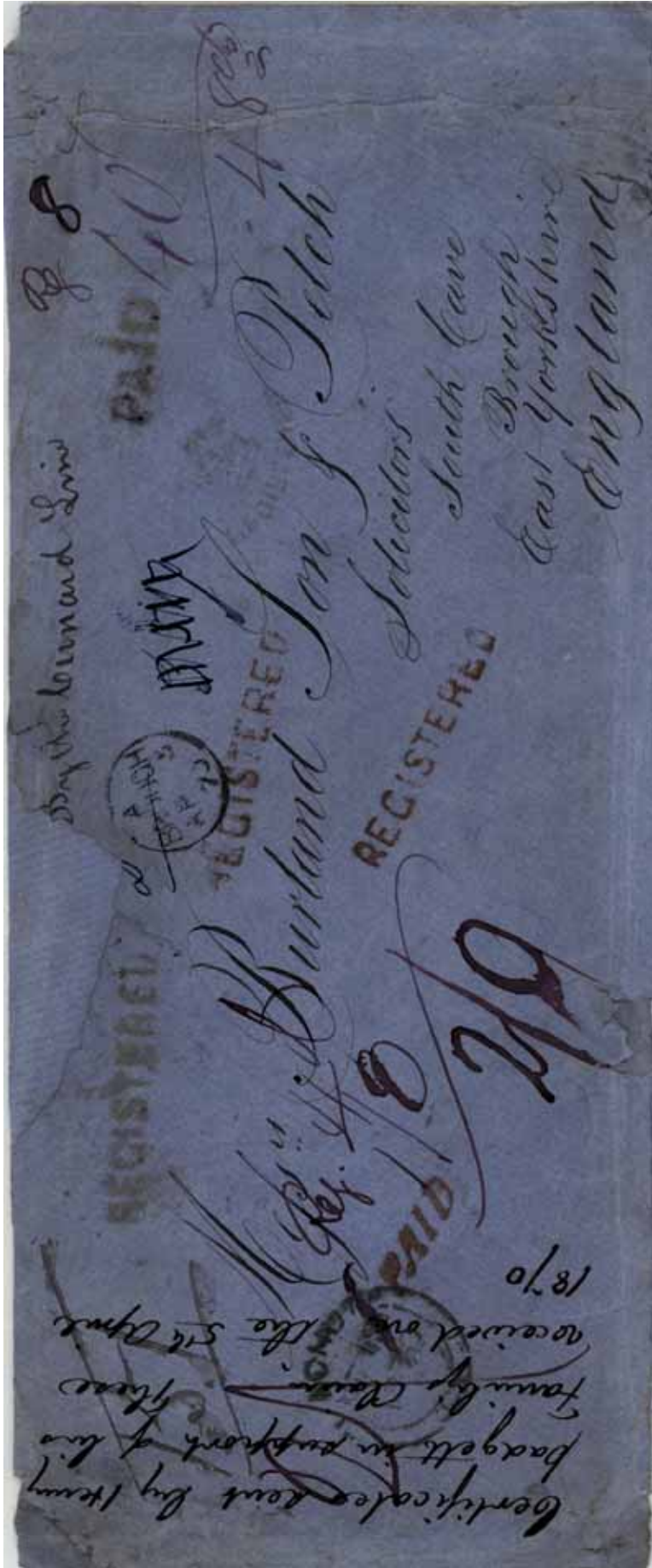
Mekeel (St Louis)–Ketchum (Belleville), triple rate, 1890. Trimmed by about 2 cm at left.



Kæstner (Chicago)–Schmalz (Berlin ONT), triple, 1892. Schmalz is the second most devaluing Canadian dealer to have as sender or recipient (Hechler being by far the worst).

# Registered mail between Canada and UK

Although UK implemented it domestically in 1840, registration between Canada and UK was not available until 1856. Canada to UK registered mail is rarely seen pre-1880, while the reverse direction is somewhat easier to find. From Canada, the registration fee to UK was 8¢, 1 Feb 1866–31 December 1877.



*Quintuple, Lachute–Brough (Yorks), 1870.* Via the more expensive *Cunard* line, rated (upper portion) 8¢ registration to UK plus  $5 \times 8¢$ , compulsorily prepaid, here in cash. Also marked in equivalent sterling (red, near bottom), likely at Montreal.

Two different REGISTERED straightline handstamps, the brown-red applied at Lachute, and the dull brown at Montreal. There is a faint crown registered cancel near the address, probably marked on arrival in UK.



Registered to Ireland

July 21. 1875

M<sup>r</sup> Ellw (Duke)

with Power of Attorney  
from his daughter  
Marg. Jane Keith

TORONTO  
JUL 25  
1875

REGISTERED

Jennett Duke Esquire

New Park

Ballymote

County Sligo  
Ireland

PAID  
DERRY  
JUL 20 75





## 8¢ or 5¢ registration stamps expected; none available?

From about March 1876 to December 1877, the 8¢ RLS was supposed to be used on registered matter to the UK, failing that, at least one other RLS. However, it is likely that offices in British Columbia, even the capital (Victoria), did not receive any.

While there are about 16–18 proper uses of the 8¢ RLS in this period, there are just a handful of registered covers to UK without any RLS.

When the registration fee to UK dropped to 5¢ (1 January 1878), a 5¢ RLS was required.

The letter rate to UK dropped to 5¢ on 1 October 1875; this lasted until it dropped to 2¢ on XMAS 1898.

The crossed blue lines were applied on registered mail in the UK, beginning some time in April–June 1878 (on incoming Canadian letters).



Victoria (BC)–Nottingham, double, June 1877. Rated 18¢, made up of 8¢ registration plus 2 × 5¢. Passed through Windsor (ONT), on route to Robin Hoods Chase in Nottingham.



No 5¢ RLS, Thorold–Bessbrook (Armagh), May 1878. Aside from missing the required RLS, this is rated anomalously, overpaying by 1¢ the registration and letter rates (5¢ each).

Fairly early standard blue crayon registered cross applied in UK. The red LONDONDERRY COL PACKET datestamp is known 1877–89.

# Almost normal registered letters to UK

Registered mail to UK from small offices is more of a challenge.



Chatham (ONT)–Dublin, 6 January 1882. Probably an inconvenience overpayment of 1¢ of 10¢, made up of registration and letter rates to UK, 5¢ each.

Octagonal REGISTERED CANADA datestamp applied at Halifax.



Appin (ONT)–Harrogate (Yorks), 18 January 1882. Properly rated.



Chesley (ONT)–Harrogate, September 1882. With both Halifax octagon and worn red crown registered handstamp (fairly late use) probably applied at Liverpool.



Lots of stamps



*Sextuple, Vancouver–London, June 1893. RLS were still supposed to be used (until August) at this time, but apparently this was not insisted upon. Rated 35¢, made up of 5¢ registration plus 6 × 5¢ per half ounce. Different London hooded registration stamps.*

*Paid the hard way, St-Sebastien (QUE)–Dublin, 1895. Single letter rate. With 1855-issue REGISTERED stamp.*





## Compulsory registration in UK

Letters believed to contain items of value were subject to compulsory registration in many jurisdictions, including Canada and UK.



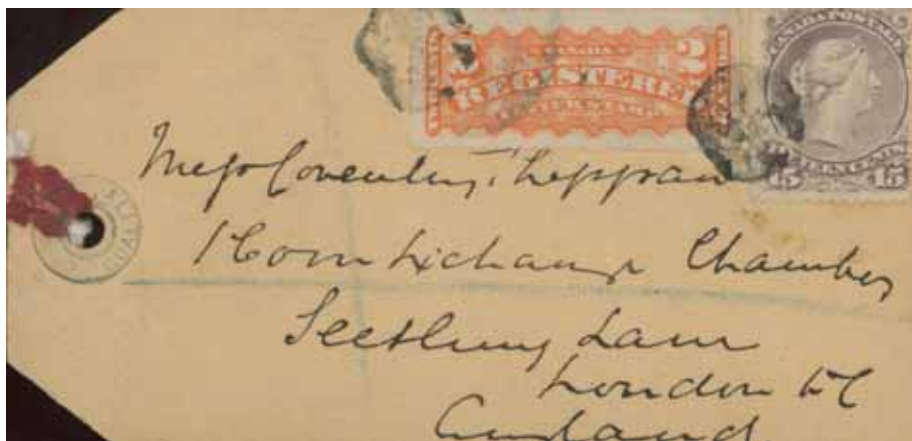
Compulsorily registered in UK, refused and returned to sender, Maxwell (ONT)—Hull, 6 May 1885. Originally sent unregistered at the single letter rate to UK, 5¢. Contains coin noted, and registered with CAUTION sticker applied on reverse. The normal registration fee of 2d was quadrupled for this special service, to 8d, payable by the recipient.

Arrived at Hull 25 May, forwarded to London EC 27 May, where it was *Refused* (bottom; presumably addressee unwilling to pay the 8d), and returned to sender, arriving at the Canadian Dead Letter Office (Ottawa) 19 June. Whether the sender had to ransom it is unclear.

Three nineteenth century compulsorily registered covers from Canada to UK are known; this is the only one returned to sender.

## Third class

Use of the 2¢ RLS (instead of the 5¢) to UK was permitted only after 8 May 1889. Few registered letters use RLS after 1893, so the date range of this tag is 1889–93. This is consistent with the shade of 15¢ large queen (roughly pre-1892).



*Tag, probable printed matter, 1889–92. With 5¢ registration fee, the remaining 12¢ can be made up in either of the following ways.*

- (a) Twenty-four ounces book or other printed matter (third class) at 1¢ per two ounces, or
- (b) twelve pounds bulk newspaper rate (available pre-1892) at 1¢ per pound.

The second possibility is not very likely, as the addressee is not a publisher or distributor.

There are no backstamps.

## UK–Canada

Owing to confusion at the GPO, registration to Canada was not authorized until 1857. Nonetheless, several such covers exist in 1856.



Very early registered cover UK–Canada in the registration period, Belper–Montreal, 15 August 1856. (Registered UK covers to Canada are known in the latter's money letter period.)

Rated 6d stg to Canada by British (Cunard) steamer, and 6d registration fee. The large red *ms 1* indicates the amount in sterling to be credited to the Canadian post office.

Mailed from BELPER (in green; on reverse), where the stamps have been cancelled with a 64 grid; thence to DERBY and LIVERPOOL.



London–Ingersoll (CW), 1859. Rated 8d by Canadian steamer plus 6d registration. Crown registered and orange oval handstamps applied at London.



## Crown registration handstamps

London and Liverpool each had one—but so did Halifax, and they are indistinguishable. The first cover, Dublin to Nova Scotia, shows one; it cannot be from Dublin (since it did not have one). Hence it must be from Halifax.



Halifax registered crown, Dublin–Lower Horton (NS) 1864. Rated 6 d registration and 6 d to Canada via British steamer. Travelled directly from Queenstown (Cork) to Halifax on the *Cunard Arabia*.

Grid 186 is a Dublin office. Faint standard Halifax oval at lower right. LOWER HORTON NS has date inverted; there are no other backstamps.



London registered crown, to St Catherines (CW), 1863. Carried on the *Cunard Asia*. Rates as above. Wing margin.

## Allan versus Cunard

Allan line carried mail direct to Canada, while Cunard carried it to New York, whence it came to Canada in a closed bag. Postage for Allan line routing was 6d per half ounce, while that via Cunard was 8d (1859–68). The latter was suppose to be faster, but both covers below, from Lombard Street (in the City) to central Canada, took about fifteen days.



Allen line, Lombard Street–St Catherines, 1862. Rated 6d via Allan and 6d registration. Carried on the Allan Anglo-Saxon, arriving in Quebec 2 July 1862. Grid 24 and semicircle Lombard Street registration handstamp (D time mark); London crown and oval registration marks.



Cunard, mourning cover, Lombard Street–West Farnham (CE), 1861. Rated 8d via Cunard; markings same as above, except LS time mark is C.



## Allan vs Cunard, part II

Transatlantic letter rate to Canada was 3 d by Allan and 4 d by Cunard, 6 January 1870–30 November 1875; both dropped to 2½ d on 1 October 1875. Registration was 4 d, 1 February 1866–31 December 1877.



Double, Allan line, Stoneycroft–Hereward (ONT), 1873. Rated 4 d registration and 2 × 3 d via Allan Line. Liverpool double circle registered datestamp on the front. STONEYCROFT thimble. FERGUS ONT on reverse.



Single, Cunard, Lombard Street–Ottawa, January 1875. Rated 4 d registration and 4 d via Cunard.



Misrated, mourning, Glasgow–Ottawa, November 1875. Letter rate dropped to 2½ d; overpaid by half-penny.



## More rate changes

On 1 January 1878, the registration fee dropped to 2 d, while the letter rate to Canada remained at the UPU rate, 2½ d. Both these persisted until XMAS 1898, when the letter rate dropped to 1 d.



London–Toronto, 1886. Rated 2½ d UPU rate and 2 d registration. From London, West Central District Office (WCDO). The oval Toronto registration datestamp is difficult to find.



London–Paris (ONT), 1895. Combined postage paid by single stamp.

Mailed at 128A QUEEN VICTORIA ST BRANCH OFFICE EC (small oval datestamp on back and front). London rubber hooded registration datestamp. The Hamilton circle with the squat R was a transit mark for registered items.

# To and from the rest of the world

Canada adhered to the UPU in August 1878; as a result, registration became 5¢ to (almost) everywhere, and the letter rate, 5¢ per half ounce to (almost) everywhere except the US. Prior to Canada joining the UPU however, rates were a confusing mish-mash. Moreover, registered covers to or from Canada (other than from US or UK) are extremely difficult to find.

## Pre-UPU

### To Red River Settlement



Returned registered letter wrapper, forwarded to Red River, 1860. At this time, letters that could not be delivered and with no return address were sent to the Dead Letter Office, where they were opened, the address determined, and wrapped in this type of folded letter sheet to be sent back to the post office where the sender could pick up the mail. There was a 5¢ fee for this service (1859–68).

If the original letter were registered, the returned wrapper would be registered, and charged the registration fee. At the time, the fee to Red River was 5¢ (as opposed to 2¢ for domestic mail). Thus the total payable by the sender 10¢, as indicated on the wrapper.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, QUEBEC.

DEAD LETTER OFFICE, 19th March, 1860

The Postmaster of Montreal will cause the enclosed Letter directed to Mrs. Minnie Minn containing 5¢ to be delivered to Red River on payment of the Postage charged on this Cover, and be very particular to take 10 Ch Receipt upon the enclosed form, and transmit it immediately, under cover, to the Postmaster General, for the DEAD LETTER OFFICE, Quebec.

If after being Advertised, the Letter should not be claimed, the Postmaster will return it under cover to the DEAD LETTER Office, taking credit in Dead Letter Bill, for the Postage charged on this Envelope.

Ms Pembina Minn, indicating the route.

- Only known registered matter to Red River
- Only known returned letter wrapper/covering envelope for the period 1859–68
- One of two items showing the 5¢ returned letter fee for 1859–68, which is otherwise undocumented

Prior to the conversion to decimal in 1859, the returned letter fee was 1 d cy—which should have translated to 2¢. This is one of the very few rates which was not simply its equivalent in decimal.



Pre-UPU: from Australia (NSW), with postage due



Tenterfield (NSW)–Barrie, December 1861. Rated 1/10 including the 6d registration stamp; the rate Australia–Canada via Marseille was 1/8, ostensibly unpaying the letter rate by 4d. In addition, the registration stamp only covers registration from Australia to UK; an additional 6d was needed to cover registration from UK to Canada.

Deficient 6<sup>d</sup> registration  
and 5<sup>d</sup> postage

On reverse, *Deficient 6<sup>d</sup> registration*; but the second line, *and 5<sup>d</sup> postage*, appears to be an error for 4d. In addition, there is a tiny 6 (not shown in scan), just below the 5<sup>d</sup>; this may be the penalty (in effect since 1859) applied in UK on short paid letters. On front, are various rate marks, 9<sup>d</sup>, 10<sup>d</sup> struck through, and 7<sup>d</sup>; these are possibly British claims on the postage due, although it is unclear what is going on. It appears that the total postage due is  $6 + 5 + 6 = 1/5$ .

Tenterfield 84 in sunburst; London registered oval date stamp and red registered crown (on the registration stamp); partial Sydney datestamp and very partial Barrie CW receiver on reverse, not shown.



## Pre-UPU: Germany to Canada

While Germany was part of the UPU in 1876, Canada was not. However, German rates to Canada were UPU rates, beginning in 1875 (when the GPU was formed).



*Triple, Bremerhavn–Economy (NS), July 1876. Rated 80Pfennig, triple the UPU rate of 20 Pf per 15 g plus 20 Pf registration fee (20 Pf = 25 ctm = 5¢ at this time). Just 13 days passage (to Halifax—no backstamps at the tiny village of Economy). Missing one centimetre at right.*

# UPU to Treaty of Vienna (1 August 1878–30 June 1892)

Registration to all other UPU countries is fixed at 5¢; letter rate is 5¢ per half ounce to almost all UPU countries (some supplementary charges were permitted). Canada itself required use of RLS.

To Denmark and Germany



Grand Forks (NS)–Slagelse (Denmark), 1884. Rated 5¢ registration fee and 5¢ UPU letter rate. Only Canada–Denmark registered cover recorded in this period.



Fort William (ONT)–Hamburg, 1888. Rated as above. The FORT WILLIAM ONT broken circle (on both sides) is very faint.

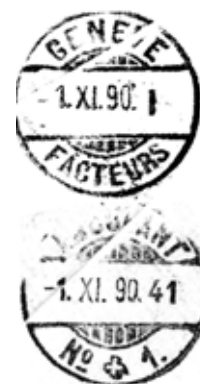
UPU to Treaty of Vienna; to France and Switzerland



Different time marks

*Presque-Isle–Paris Exposition*, April 1889. Single rate, overpaid 1¢. Known use of PRESQUE-ISLE ONT hammer is 1888–89. With lop-sided oval London registered datestamp. RLS shows a portion of marginal inscription (lower right).

*L'Exposition Universelle* (6 May–31 October 1889) was held on the centennial of the storming of the Bastille. The Eiffel tower was built for it. This letter was mailed before the exhibition was open; even so, it had a post office.



Swiss RPO

*Quebec–Geneva*, 1890. Single rate. Small oval London registered datestamp.



# Changeover: Treaty of Vienna (1 July 1892–31 December 1898)

Other than substantial changes to AR (*avis de réception*), the UPU Treaty of Vienna did not affect registration practises much. However, registered mail to foreign destinations becomes easier to find in this period.

## To Belgium



*Pre-Treaty of Vienna, Ottawa–Brussels, double, March 1892.* [front] Originally rated FREE (rectangular Ottawa registered datestamp) and free franked from the Geological Survey of Canada, it was realized that since it was going outside North America, the letter had to be fully franked. Rated 5¢ registration fee plus  $2 \times 5¢$  UPU letter rate.

With London registered oval and Belgian carrier marking.



*Treaty of Vienna, Montreal–Brussels, 1893.* Single rate. Two different London registered ovals (with different dates) and Belgian carrier marking (blue 221).

The straightedge on the RLS is from the gutter in sheets of plate 2.

Treaty of Vienna period, to Argentina and Mexico

South and Central American destinations from Canada are difficult to find in this period.



Toronto–Buenos Aires, 1894. Rated 5¢ registration fee plus 5¢ UPU letter rate. Via New York. I know of no other pre-1899 Canadian registered covers to Argentina.



Ayr (ONT)–Mexico, 1897. Single rate. With Mexican *Certificado* (registered) etiquette. Two other pre-1899 Canada–Mexico registered covers are known.

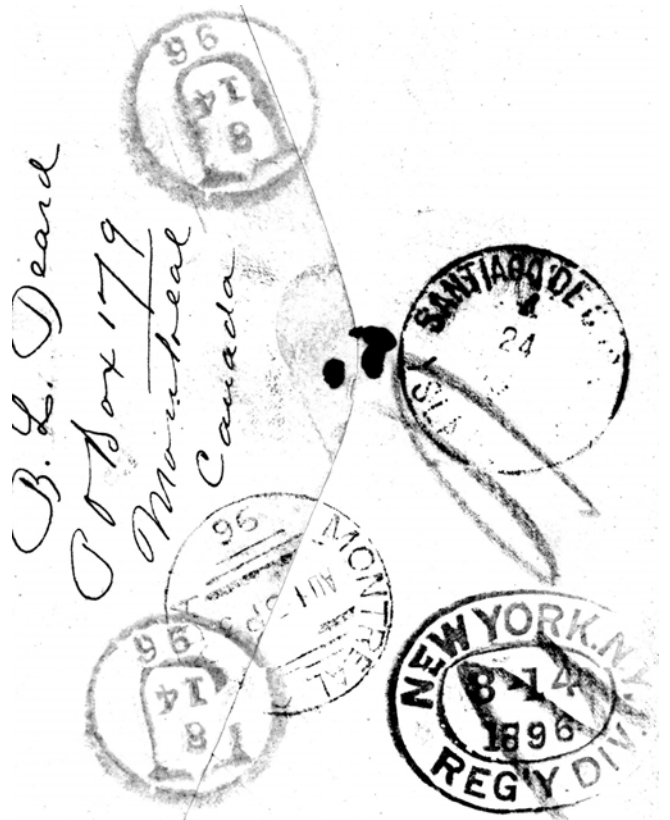


Treaty of Vienna, to Cuba



Montreal–Santiago de Cuba, double, 1896. Rated 5¢ registration fee plus 2 × 5¢ UPU letter rate, paid with 30 half-cent small queens (blocks of 14 & 10, two pairs, and two singles).

Stamps cancelled by large crude R applied at Montreal (along with Montreal squared circle precursor). Usual translucent New York exchange etiquette.





# Treaty of Vienna, to Brazil & Bolivia



Hamilton–Rio, returned to sender, 1898. Single (5¢ + 5¢), paid the hard way. Returned to sender (unclaimed), via us (New York; purple box on front and large purple oval on reverse) Dead Letter Office. Usual New York exchange etiquette.



Berlin (ONT)–La Paz, 1898. Single rate. Berlin postmaster has used cinderella (which was not supposed to be applied to the front of envelopes) to record registration number.

Treaty of Vienna, to Germany & Netherlands



Owen Sound–Hamburg, 1894. Ostensibly single rate, overpaid 2¢. Registered oval datestamps of Liverpool and London.



Printed matter, sextuple rate, Montreal–Rotterdam, 1897. Rated sextuple 1¢ per two ounces plus 5¢ registration on embossed postal band. Foreign registered printed matter from Canada is extremely difficult to find in this period.



# Pre-Treaty of Vienna (1878–1892), to Canada

Third class from France; pre-UPU from Australian state



*Samples, business papers, etc., Paris–Montreal, 1881. Contained (early) photographes (ms just below and to the right of the corner sticker). Rated 25 centimes registration and 5 ctm for this class (roughly equivalent to third class). From a printer and engraver. With red oval London registered datestamp; on reverse is Liverpool double circle registered datestamp. Encircled 16 is a French letter carrier mark.*



*Pre-UPU, Williamstown (Victoria)–Yarmouth (NS), 1890. Australian states did not join the UPU until October 1891. Rated 4 d registration fee plus 6 d single (not the UPU rate) to Canada.*



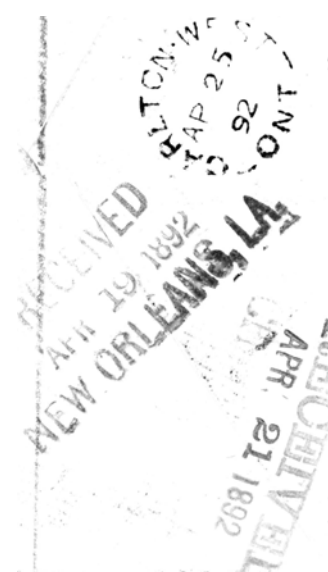
Pre-Vienna, Switzerland & British Honduras to Canada



Basel–St Angers (QUE), 1891. Rated 25 centimes (5¢) for each of registration and UPU letter rate. *Einschreiben* is German for registered. With hooded London registered datestamp.



Belize–Carlton West (ONT), April 1892. (Treaty of Vienna was not effective until 1 July 1892). Rated 10¢ registration and 10¢ letter rate, the latter a UPU-authorized surcharge (ceased before 1893). Stamps are double surcharged, 6 and 10, the former in different colours. Via New Orleans and Chicago.



Broken circle CARLTON·WEST ONT (York county, 1878–1907), known used 1890–92; latest reported.

# Treaty of Vienna (1892–98), to Canada

From Peru & Trinidad



Lima–Toronto, 1893. Rated 21 centavos (10 cvo on reverse); registration 10 cvo and letter rate to Canada via Panama 11 cvo (via San Francisco, it would have been 10 cvo).



Trinidad–Montreal, 1896. Rated 2 d embossed registration fee (on reverse) and 2½ d UPU rate. Montreal squared circle precursor on reverse. Postmark on front reads TRINIDAD REGISTERED.



Vienna period; post card from Vienna & letter from Russia



Registered post card, Vienna–Winnipeg, 1897. Rated 10 Kreuzer registration fee and 5 Kr post card rate. Via New York and St Paul (Minnesota). Registered post cards are difficult to find in this period.

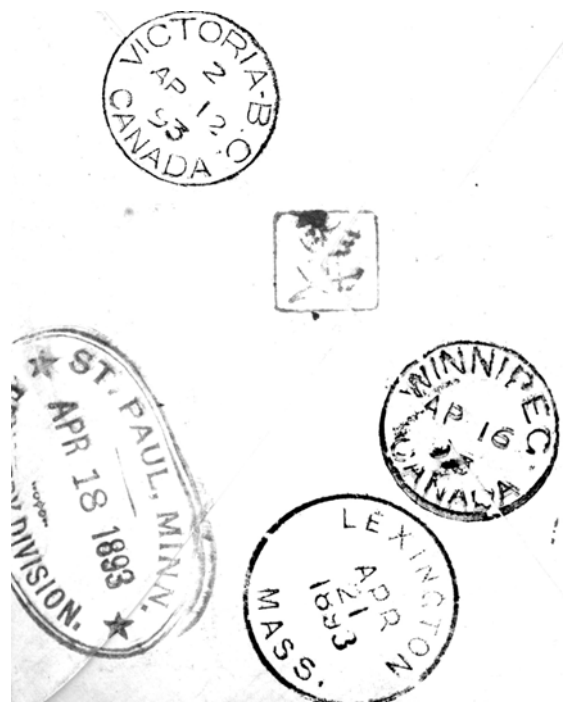


Moscow–Dundas (ONT), 1898. Rated 10 kopeks for each of registration and UPU letter rates. Purple hand-stamp at top (zhakazhnoe) means registered.

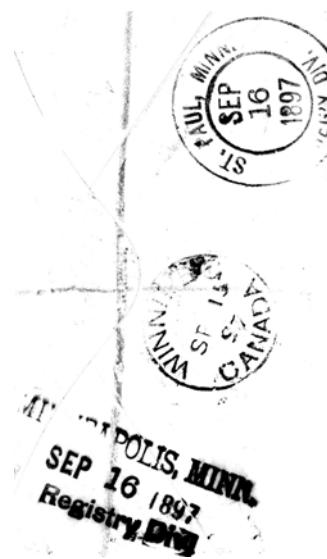


## Vienna period; through mail

Mail from Australasia to other destinations often transitted Canada, usually in closed bags (so there would be no Canadian postmarks). However, some such mail was postmarked in Canada. Examples are extremely difficult to find.



Tokyo-US, via Victoria and Winnipeg, 1893. Rated 10 sen for each of registration and UPU-letter rates. From Winnipeg, it went to Lexington (MA) via St Paul.



Tasmania-US, via Winnipeg, 1897. Rated anomalously 7½ d; all sources give registration fee of 3 d and UPU-letter rate of 2½ d per half ounce. This is likely double rate, shortpaid ½ d. Faint rectangular Hobart registration handstamp in centre, and stamps killed by duplex held at an angle.

Likely sailed on the Canada-Australia line ship *Warrimoo*, departed Sydney 16 August 1897, arriving at Victoria (no marking, unlike cover above).

# Postage due registered

Mail which was intended to be registered but *shortpaid* was not supposed to be accepted, and if it had been accepted, it was to be sent to the DLO and subsequently returned to sender (1868–1905). However, this process was frequently not followed, and instead it was delivered with double (sometimes single) deficiency charged.

A letter mailed as unregistered but found to contain valuables was *compulsorily registered*, and either single or double deficiency charged (there was no clear policy on whether double or single deficiency for registered letters).



Travelled east on the B & L H R (RPO) to Ottawa, then back on the same railway.

Correctly treated: sent to DLO and returned to sender, Bright–US, 27 July 1883. Rated 3¢ letter rate to US, and has only a 2¢ RLS rather than the correct 5¢ RLS for US destinations. Hence 3¢ short. Faint RETURNED FOR INSUFFICIENT POSTAGE. Faint DEAD LETTER OFFICE CANADA (29 July) on reverse.

*Claims \$25 (but only \$21 found when opened) when opened at the D.L.O.*

Opened at DLO; endorsed *Claims \$25* but only \$21 found when opened at the D.L.O.



Correctly treated: Upper Stewiacke–Brazil, returned to sender, 1898. Rated 5¢ registration plus single UPU-letter rate—but was double rate. Notation at extreme left, *shortpaid 5¢*. Sent to Halifax branch DLO (same day); probably placed in covering envelope; according to docketing was returned to sender.



Postage due registered, not returned to sender  
 Violation of the regulations, but occurred frequently



Delivered and charged double deficiency, Maple–Richmond Hill (ONT), 1888. Rated as single, found to be double, so shortpaid by 3¢, charged 6¢. Maple is a short distance from Richmond Hill.



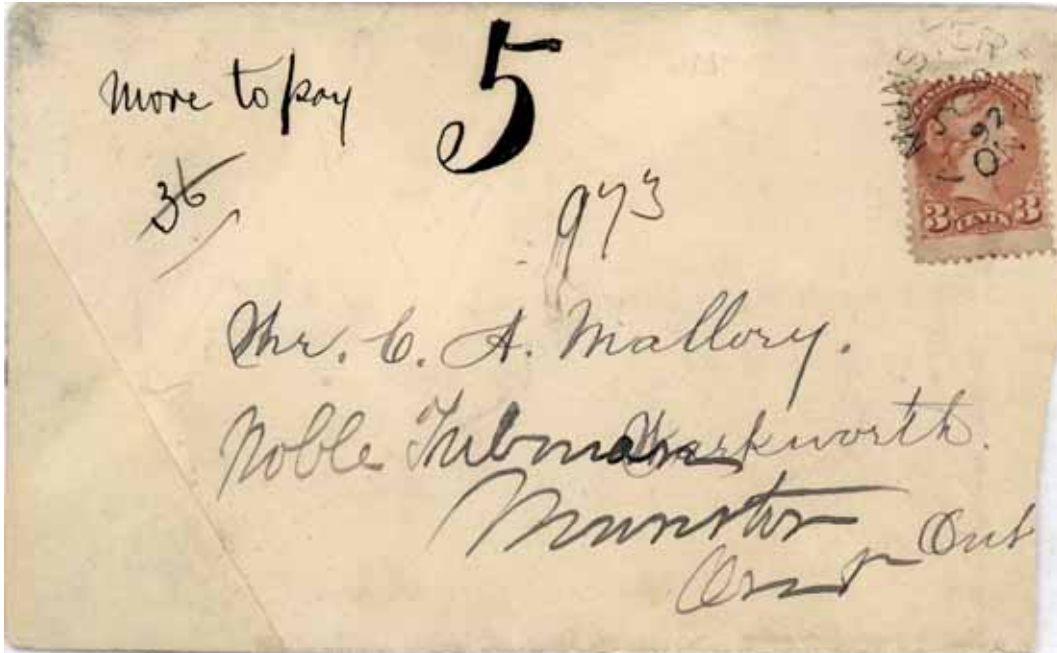
Sent to DLO, deficient postage supplied, Langevin (QUE)–Lille (France), 3 May 1897. Rated as single (5¢ for each of registration and first letter rate UPU), found to be double, hence shortpaid 5¢. Sent to Ottawa branch DLO (as indicated by the dates on reverse), where 5¢ small queen was applied and cancelled with the Ottawa encircled C, and it continued to Lille (arrived 20 May 1897), via London.

Likely a notice was sent to the sender to pay the additional 5¢.



## Compulsory registration

If an unregistered letter is suspected to contain cash or securities, it will be registered, the registration fee charged as postage due, sometimes charged double. It is often difficult to decide if compulsory registration has occurred, since there are no special postmarks or unusual remarks applied in Canada (unlike the UK). Examples are very difficult to find.



REGISTERED  
OTTAWA  
JY 30 92



Munster (ONT)–Warkworth–Munster, 1892. Originally sent unregistered, it passed through Ottawa (not far from Munster), where it was registered, marked *more to pay 5* (the registration fee) and marked on reverse. There are also two registration numbers. Badly reinforced at lower left.

Earliest reported strike of MUNSTER ONT by ten years (proofed October 1891).



Charteris (QUE)–Knowlton, 1892. [front] Similar to the one above, except that the registration handstamp is on the front. Almost all known covers to the Star Card Company are fronts.

## Weird postage due



Postage due recognized in US, Frankford (ONT)–Morris (OH), 1884. Missing the 3¢ letter rate to the US—but not realized in Canada. US domestic letter rate was 2¢, so charged double deficiency (4¢).

US postage due stamps endorsed *Morris O[hio] June 7 84*. Only a few strikes of this FRANKFORD ONT datestamp known, this being the latest reported. The RLS is an upper marginal copy.



Remailed and reregistered, January 1889. How else to account for 5¢ (domestic letter rate 3¢ plus registration 2¢ till May 1889) due? Originally addressed to Wales (Stormont County); this was altered, *to Lundy* (no backstamp, but Lundy post office did exist in Kent County, 1885–90). It was probably originally picked up by a family member in Wales, who returned later with the new address.

From EAMERS CORNERS ONT (Stormont County; earliest reported strike). Less than one centimetre has been trimmed from the left.

## Weird, part 2

This pair of covers, mailed from Quesnelle (BC) to Victoria in the same month and from the same correspondence, were both registered, and the only postage paid was the 3¢ of the stationery, missing the 5¢ registration fee. The first one seems to have gone through without any notice, but the second one was caught, and charged double deficiency, *Due 10¢*.

Most likely, a clerk en route suspected that valuables (such as cash) were included (the addressee is a bank manager), and *compulsory registration* applied.

For the first cover, the clerk erred in not charging for registration (resulting in *complimentary registration*), but the same clerk (note the pencilled registration numbers) smartened up by the time the second one arrived, and charged double deficiency.

Both have only an uninteresting Victoria backstamp. Quesnelle became Quesnel around 1900.



Probable complimentary registration, Quesnelle–Victoria, 1 August 1896.



Probable compulsory registration, Quesnelle–Victoria, 29 August 1896.



# Avis de réception (AR)

Also known as *acknowledgment of receipt*, *advice of delivery*, *return receipt*, *double registered*, *Rückschein*, . . . , this is a service wherein a document signed by the recipient of the registered letter is returned to the sender. While the GPU/UPU mandated it from the onset (1875), Canada did not offer it until it was made universal for UPU members, April Fool's Day 1879.

Very little nineteenth century Canadian AR material is known: only one domestic AR item, three AR forms, five AR covers (registered envelopes provably sent with AR), about ten incoming AR covers, and one AR form incoming from other than the US. No Canadian domestic AR covers or any AR covering envelopes are known in the nineteenth century. The AR fee was 5¢ (1879–1918). After-the-fact AR service was not available until 1899, beyond the scope of this exhibit.

In the pre-Treaty of Vienna period (1 April 1879–30 June 1892), no Canadian AR covers are known; however, it appears that the AR fee was placed on the form, and the latter was sent (attached to the registered cover) to destination. During the Treaty of Vienna period (1 July 1892–31 December 1898), the form was prepared in the destination country, and the AR fee applied to the registered cover.

## DIY AR

This unofficial method of obtaining acknowledgment of receipt was cheaper than AR service. AR service seems to have been practically unknown in Canada, even within the legal community.



*Do-it-yourself* AR, 1882. Domestic post card from the postmaster at PORT-HOPE ONT AU 28 82, pre-addressed by the sender of several different registered letters. The card reads, *The registered letters referred to in yours of the 26th were duly received and delivered personally to the parties addressed.*

The card was subsequently used in at least two legal cases (exhibits D and E).

Post Hope Post Office  
Aug. 28/82

The registered letters referred to in yours of the 26<sup>th</sup> were duly received and delivered personally to the parties addressed.

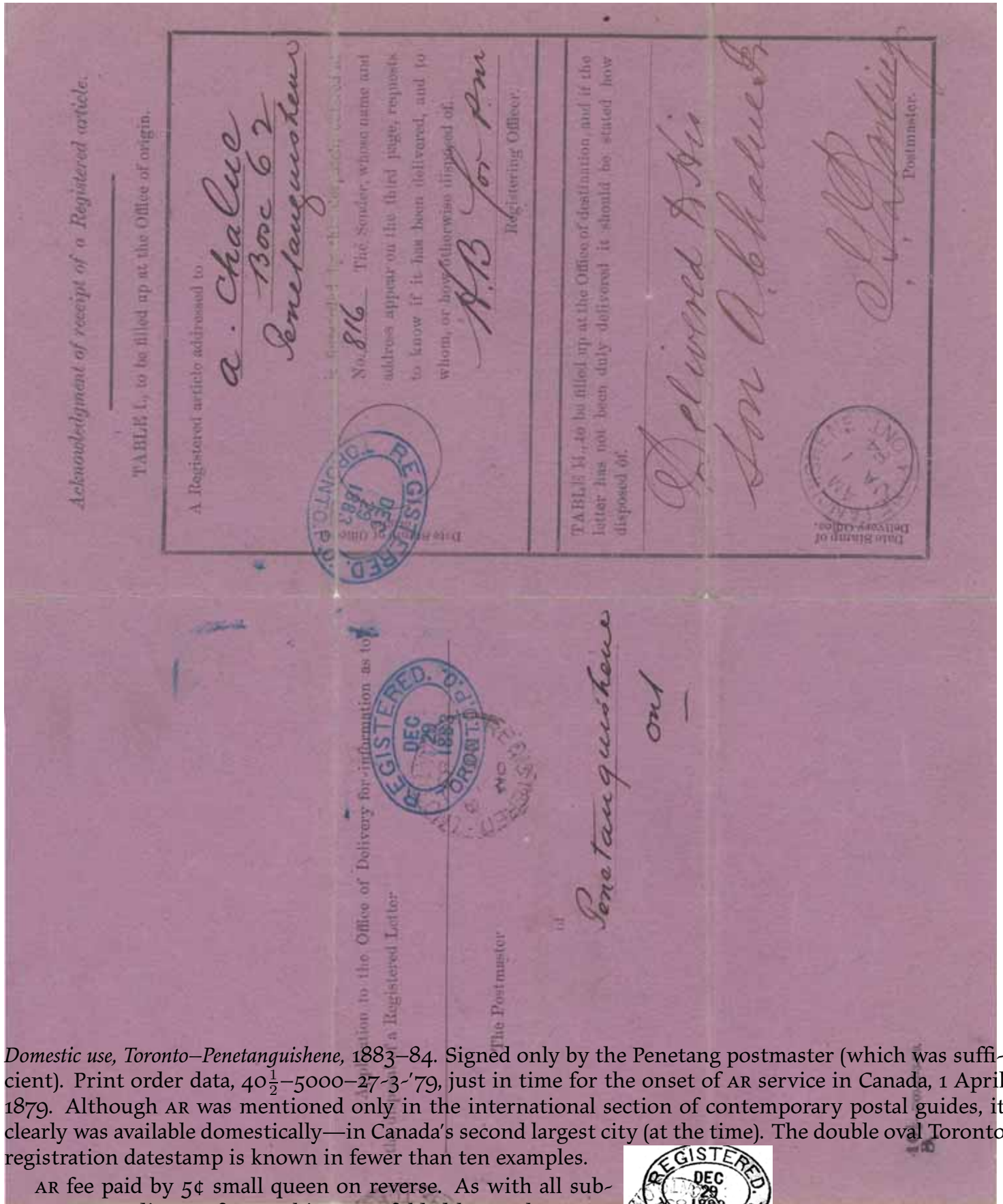
J. B. Smith  
P.M.

A law firm sent this pre-addressed card to the local postmaster to receive acknowledgment that the registered items had been delivered.

This cost 1¢ for the card and 3¢ for the covering envelope; sending the registered letters with AR would have cost 5¢ per item (for AR service). This saved considerable postage for a multiple registered mailing. It is possible that the senders did not know that AR service was available.

# First Canadian AR form

- Only known Canadian domestic use AR *item* of the nineteenth century
- Only known example of a Canadian AR form in the pre-Treaty of Vienna period (1879–1892)



Domestic use, Toronto–Penetanguishene, 1883–84. Signed only by the Penetang postmaster (which was sufficient). Print order data, 40½–5000–27-3-79, just in time for the onset of AR service in Canada, 1 April 1879. Although AR was mentioned only in the international section of contemporary postal guides, it clearly was available domestically—in Canada’s second largest city (at the time). The double oval Toronto registration datestamp is known in fewer than ten examples.

AR fee paid by 5¢ small queen on reverse. As with all subsequent Canadian AR forms, this was a folded letter sheet, not requiring a covering envelope for its return to the sender.





# Pre-Treaty of Vienna (1879–1892) incoming AR form

No outgoing international use Canadian AR forms are known in the pre-Vienna period.

- Only incoming (to Canada) AR form in the pre-Vienna period.

22

Postmasters.—No. 68. Administration de la Grande Bretagne.

## AVIS DE RECEPTION.

Acknowledgment of Delivery.

d'un objet recommandé adressé à } M. Jacob Weiss & N. J. Mac-Farlane  
of a Registered Article addressed to } à Vancouver British Columbia

Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé a l'adresse susmentionnée  
The undersigned acknowledges that the Registered Article addressed as above

est provenant de } M. German Embassy  
and sent by } à London

a été dûment livré le Vancouver 18 .  
was duly delivered the 11 February 1891

du destinataire }  
of addressee } Jacob Weiss.

Signature \* }  
du chef du Bureau distributeur. }  
of the Chief of the Delivering Office. } J. Miller PM

\* Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le Chef du Bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et renvoyé sous recommandation par le premier courrier.  
† The name and full address of the sender of the Article must be entered in this form at the Issuing Office.

G & S [1142] 20,000 3/88

British AR form, Charing Cross (London)—Vancouver, 1891. Properly signed and date stamped in Vancouver. This British AR form, on heavy paper (not card stock), required a covering envelope for its return (unlike all Canadian AR forms). AR fee paid by 2½d stamp (UK was one of the few countries whose AR fee exceeded its registration fee, the latter being 2d). No markings of any sort on reverse.

- One of three known pre-Treaty of Vienna British AR forms to anywhere (all different printings).



## Pre-Treaty of Vienna incoming AR cover

No AR covers (that is, registered letters provably sent with AR) of Canadian origin are known in the pre-Vienna period.

- One of two known incoming (to Canada) AR covers in the pre-Vienna period (the other is addressed to Hechler, so probably should not count).



Received in bad order, L'Anse (MI)–Montreal, 1890. US formula for AR was *return receipt demanded*, and this was a free option (the US was one of very few countries that did not charge for international AR service).

Rated 10¢ registration fee and (double)  $2 \times 2\text{¢}$  rate to Canada (equals the domestic US rate). With 1889 US officially sealed stamp. Via Detroit (likely where the officially sealed was applied) and Windsor.



AR during the Treaty of Vienna AR period (1 July 1892–31 December 1898)

During this period, AR or its equivalent was required to be stamped or endorsed on registered material for which AR service was desired. More importantly, the AR form was to be prepared in the *destination* office (so for a registered letter from France to Canada, a Canadian AR form would be prepared and sent to the original sender in France). This also required the AR fee to be paid in stamps on the registered cover (some countries already did this, but most simply had put the AR fee on the accompanying AR form, which was no longer possible).

2493

ADMINISTRATION DU CANADA.  
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA.

**AVIS DE RÉCEPTION**  
**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT**

{ d'une lettre recommandée } enregistré sous le N° 545, et adressé à  
{ d'un objet recommandé }  
of a Registered letter entered under N°  
article } and addressed to

Montreal Philatelist à Montréal le 25 juillet 1898.  
to on the

Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre recommandée } à l'adresse sus-  
{ qu'un objet recommandé } mentionnée  
The undersigned acknowledges that a registered letter addressed as above

et provenant de Paris  
and posted at

a été dûment livré le 6 août 1898.  
was duly delivered on the

Signature (\*)  
du destinataire : A. Baeh  
of the addressee: Redacteur The Montreal Philatelist  
du chef du bureau distributeur :  
of the Postmaster of the office of destination: 451, rue Saint-Jacques

Stamp of the office of destination: MONTREAL CANADA AUG 2 P.S. 98

(\*) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire et par le maître de poste du bureau distributeur, puis être envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.  
(\*) This acknowledgment of receipt should be signed by the addressee, and by the Postmaster of the office of destination; it will then be transmitted under registration, by the first mail, to the office of posting of the article to which it relates.

39 B.—2,500 2-11-92.



In book form (unfolds to foolscap size, with address on the other side). All AR forms were returned as registered letters, hence the large encircled R.

Once received at Paris, the office of origin would arrange to send it to the sender of the original registered letter.

Canadian AR forms were folded letter sheets, so did not require AR covering envelopes.

Canadian AR form for a registered letter from France to Canada, 1898. This illustrates normal AR procedure during the period. Prepared in Montreal, properly signed and handstamped, and returned to office of origin as a registered folder letter sheet. Print order data 39 B.—2,500 2-11-92 (six year gap between printing and use). • One of two Canadian AR forms known used in the Vienna period.



# AR service with the US, part 1

This was the discovery example for Canadian AR forms in the Vienna period. It seems to follow the usual procedure, that is, a registered letter from the US was sent with AR service, and the form prepared in Canada, in this case, at the destination office, Vancouver. However, at least eight US AR forms AR representing registered items in the *same* direction. To have been consistent with the Treaty of Vienna, they should have have been for registered items from Canada to US.

ADMINISTRATION DU CANADA.  
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA.

## AVIS DE RÉCEPTION ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

{ d'une lettre recommandée } enregistré sous le N<sup>o</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, et adressé à \_\_\_\_\_  
{ d'un objet recommandé }

of a Registered letter entered under N<sup>o</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, and addressed to \_\_\_\_\_  
M. *Arthur Supply Store* le \_\_\_\_\_ 189\_\_\_\_  
to *Vancouver* at the \_\_\_\_\_

Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre recommandée } à l'adresse sus-mentionnée  
{ qu'un objet recommandé }

The undersigned acknowledges that a registered letter addressed as above

Timbre du bureau distributeur. et provenant de *Dayton Ohio*  
and posted at \_\_\_\_\_

a été dûment livré le \_\_\_\_\_ 189\_\_\_\_  
was duly delivered on the \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (\*)

du destinataire : *Lawrence King* du chef du bureau distributeur : *S. C. Cornwall*  
of the addressee: of the Postmaster of the office of destination:

(\*) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire et par le maître de poste du bureau distributeur, puis être envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.  
(\*) This acknowledgment of receipt should be signed by the addressee, and by the Postmaster of the office of destination; it will then be transmitted under registration, by the first mail, to the office of posting of the article to which it relates.

39 B.-2,500 2-11-02.

1239 Post Office, DAYTON, OHIO.  
Registered 1896 from  
Vancouver  
addressed *Arthur Supply Store*  
*Vancouver B.C.*  
*J. C. King* P. M., per

This form is returned to sender  
for postoffice marked with original  
of registered post.

US registration receipt for the registered item.

REGISTRY DIVISION  
DEC 12 1896  
DAYTON OHIO  
REGISTERED  
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION.  
Administration des Postes du Canada.

**R**

Le Receveur des Postes  
The Postmaster  
*Dayton Ohio*

6744

POST OFFICE SERVICE  
FREE

*702*

**R**

Canadian AR form for registered letter from the US to Canada, Dayton (OH)–Vancouver, 1896. Same print order as preceding example. • Second of two Canadian AR forms known used in the Vienna period.



## AR service with the US, part 2

One of the eight reported US AR forms addressed to Canada in the Vienna period, all for registered items to Canada; does *not adhere* to Treaty to Vienna practices. No US AR forms are known in the other direction.

Some pairs of countries, e.g., New Zealand & Australia, adopted the practice of filling out the AR form at the office of origin (as occurred both pre- and post-Vienna) on mail between them (and otherwise adhering to Vienna procedures). While no documentation is known for this between US & Canada, the eight US AR forms would be consistent with it, and the example on the previous page is an anomaly (or an oversight, or the original AR form was not received at Vancouver).

(3870.)  
A<sup>bis</sup>

**U. S. Post Office Department.**

**RETURN RECEIPT  
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION  
RÜCKSCHEIN** 1047

for a registered article entered under No. \_\_\_\_\_, and addressed to  
d'un objet recommandé enregistré sous le No. \_\_\_\_\_, et adressé à  
für eine Einschreibsendung No. \_\_\_\_\_, an  
M Catharine, at Supply Store, the \_\_\_\_\_, 18  
M \_\_\_\_\_, à \_\_\_\_\_, le \_\_\_\_\_, 18  
M \_\_\_\_\_, in Vancouver - B.C., 18  
Canada

Stamp of the office of origin. The undersigned certifies that a registered article to the above address  
Timbre du bureau distributeur. Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionnée  
Stempel der abliefernden Postanstalt. Der Endesunterschriebene bescheinigt dass eine Einschreibsendung an die obige Adresse

and originating at Dayton <sup>OH</sup>, has been duly  
et provenant de Dayton <sup>OH</sup> # 134, a été dûment  
und angegeben in \_\_\_\_\_, wurde vorschrifts mässig

Stamp of the office of delivery. delivered the \_\_\_\_\_, 18  
Timbre du bureau distributeur. livré le \_\_\_\_\_, 18  
Stempel der abliefernden Postanstalt. abgeliefert den \_\_\_\_\_, 18

Signature (\*) Laurence Kip  
Signature (\*)  
Unterschrift (\*)

of the addresser: \_\_\_\_\_ of the Chief of the office of delivery:  
du destinataire: \_\_\_\_\_ du chef du bureau distributeur:  
des Empfängers: \_\_\_\_\_ des Chefs der abliefernden Postanstalt:

(\*) This Return Receipt must be signed by the addresser, or if the regulations of the country of destination allow it, by the Chief of the office of delivery, placed in an envelope, and returned under registration by the first mail.  
(\*) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et renvoyé sous recommandation, par le premier courrier.  
(\*) Dieser Rückschein muss vom Empfänger unterschrieben werden, oder wenn die Bestimmungen des Empfangslandes es erlauben von dem Chef der abliefernden Postanstalt, in einen Briefumschlag gelegt, und als Einschreibsendung mit der ersten Gelegenheit zurück gebracht werden.

Typical trilingual US AR form. Prepared en route, at St. Paul (MN), where it likely crossed the border (to travel via Winnipeg to Vancouver).

US AR forms are not at all scarce, even in the nineteenth century.

This space is reserved on counterpart for particulars connected with dispatch of registered piece.

Registered Letter Parcel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Received 1/17 1897  
Post Office, St. Paul, Minn.

addressed to Catharine  
Supply Store  
Vancouver B.C.

from J. C. Kip

P. M., per \_\_\_\_\_

US registration receipt for the registered item (full size).

US AR form for registered letter from the US to Canada, Dayton (OH)–Vancouver, 1897. Same correspondence as the preceding. Signed and handstamped at Vancouver, and returned to sender. US AR forms required a covering envelope for their return, unlike Canadian folded letter sheets.



Outgoing AR covers



Three of the five non-philatelic Canadian registered covers sent with AR (hence AR cover) known 1879–1898.

*St John–Middletown (CT), 1893.* Rated 5¢ RLS (registration), 3¢ letter rate to US, and 5¢ AR fee. Earliest Canadian AR cover, and only one with an RLS.



*Halifax–Cedar Rapids (IA), 1896.* Rated combined registration fee and letter rate to US paid by 8¢ small queen, and 5¢ AR fee.

Very clear AR handstamp showing no wear—consistent with being rarely used.



*London (ONT)–Leipzig, 1897.* Rated 5¢ for each of registration, AR, and UPU letter rates.

With US-style AR formula *Return receipt demanded*, and obviously rubber *Rückschein* handstamp; this was applied routinely in Germany on all incoming AR covers.

Hooded London registered datestamp. Trimmed at left.



## Incoming AR covers

Fewer than ten non-philatelic ones are known in the Vienna period.



Sydney (Australia)–Montreal, 18 May 1893. Standard Australian AR in oval cancel, in use for many decades.

- Earliest known Australian state AR cover  
Rated 3d registration and 2½d for each of AR and UPU letter rate, underpaid by ½d (stamp is overprinted 7½d, no evidence of missing stamp).

Carried on the *first run* of Canada-Australia Steamship line (the *Miowera*, Sydney–Honolulu–Vancouver). Only one other cover to Canada is known from this run (and is unregistered).



San José (Costa Rica)–Toronto, 1896. Rated 5 centavos registration fee, 5 cvo AR fee, and 10¢ UPU-letter rate with authorized surcharge.



## Incoming repaired AR cover

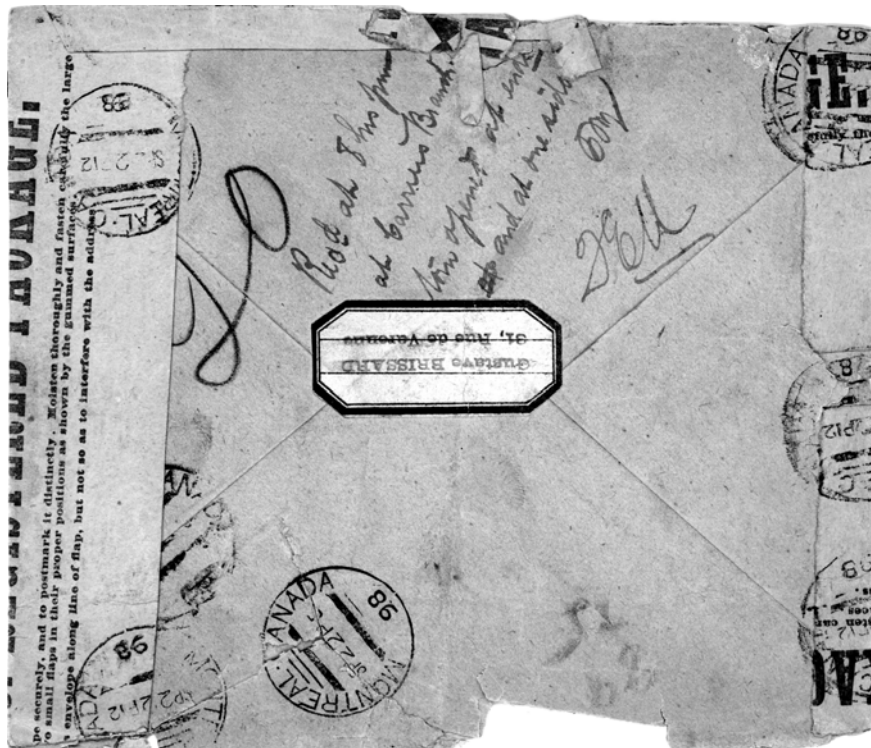
Montreal clerk used pieces of the covering envelopes for registered mail sent between post offices (themselves rare) to partially repair the envelope.



French octagonal AR handstamp is here.



Quintuple, Paris–Montreal, 1898. Rated 25 centimes registration, 10 ctm AR, and 5 × 25 ctm per 15 g.



On reverse, *Rec'd at 8 hrs at Carrier's Branch* [Montreal], *torn open at ends and one side*, followed by two sets of initials.

Repaired with portions of Canadian post office registration package, used to send registered mail between post offices (very few have survived intact); Montreal precursor datestamps (eleven of them) have been applied where the sealing took place, some underneath.

The following pages did not make the cut

Sextuple, all paid in cash



Toronto-Bond Head (ONT), 1872. Rated  $6 \times 3\text{¢} + 2\text{¢}$ .