

# Canadian registration to 1898

**T**HIS exhibit/exposition is part of a series dealing with postal history of Canada and provinces. My original motivation was to scan and record well over 2000 BNA stampless and early stamped covers that I have accumulated over the past fifty years of collecting postal history. It soon became apparent that these should be organized into relatively small chunks.

Earlier ones in this series (all of which are freely downloadable from Richard Frajola's website):

- *Postal history of Nova Scotia & New Brunswick* <https://www.rfrajola.com/DH/dhNSNB.pdf> and <https://www.rfrajola.com/DH/dhNSNBpart2.pdf>
- *Postal history of Prince Edward Island* <https://www.rfrajola.com/DHPEI/DHPEI.htm>
- *Manuscript town postmarks of Canada* <https://www.rfrajola.com/DH2022/Canadapostmarks1.pdf>
- *Early Canadian town postmarks* <https://www.rfrajola.com/DH2022/Canadapostmarks2.pdf>
- *Canadian postal history (domestic)* <https://www.rfrajola.com/DH/DCPH.pdf>
- *Mail between Canada and the US, to 1875* <https://www.rfrajola.com/DH2023/DHCanadatoUS.pdf>
- *Newfoundland postal history, to 1875* <https://www.rfrajola.com/DH2023/DHNFph.pdf>

Older ones (which will be updated):

- *Mail between United Kingdom and BNA* <https://www.rfrajola.com/mercury/DHE1.pdf>, <https://www.rfrajola.com/mercury/DHE2.pdf>, <https://www.rfrajola.com/mercury/DHE3.pdf>, and <https://www.rfrajola.com/mercury/DHE4.pdf>
- *Canadian DLO returned letter covering envelopes and wrappers* [rfrajola.com/mercury/DH9.pdf](https://www.rfrajola.com/mercury/DH9.pdf)
- *Mail to and from Canada prior to joining the UPU* [rfrajola.com/DH/DHCanadaExternalMails.pdf](https://www.rfrajola.com/DH/DHCanadaExternalMails.pdf)

Planned

- *British Columbia postal history, to 1875*

---

This exhibit is one of two parts that were made out of <https://www.rfrajola.com/DH/DHRegistered.pdf>. The other part is

- *Canadian money letters*

A companion to both of these is

- *Canadian postal history via registration, 1899–1952*

and its companion

- *Canadian postal history: incoming registered mail, 1899–1952*

---

Comments, suggestions, queries, offers of material (to trade) etc, are solicited.

e-mail: [rochelle2@sympatico.ca](mailto:rochelle2@sympatico.ca)

David Handelman, Ottawa

April 2023



# Canadian registration 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.

The scans are usually at 400 dpi (but distillation as a .pdf reduces resolution), but 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*.

This was originally part of a much larger exhibit, covering money letters, as well as registration and money letters in the Maritimes. Canadian money letters now have an exhibit of their own, and the Maritimes items are in the larger Maritimes' exhibits.

This was prepared in the typesetting language T<sub>E</sub>X (but *not* straitjacket L<sub>A</sub>T<sub>E</sub>X). The font family is ITC Elysium.

David Handelman, Ottawa, April 2023  
rochelle2@sympatico.ca



# Canadian registration to 1898

## Synopsis

**C**ANADA 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 adopted registration (to supersede the money letter system) on 1 May 1851 (other provinces at different times).

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. Payment could be made totally in stamps or totally in cash, or it could be sent collect (no mixtures, e.g., stamps and cash, permitted). However, 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 (R L S; 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 R L S were required *not* to be used for the period 1876–ca 1883). Rules about *which* of the three R L S 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, R L S 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 registered letter system, to 1898.

### Organization

The first division is domestic/foreign. Within foreign, we have mail with U S, with U K, and the rest of the world. There are also special subsections in the registered letter section, dealing with registration wrappers, postage due registered, and *avis de réception* (A R).

### Domestic registration

This began 1 May 1855 domestically (in the province of Canada), 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 (RLS). 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.

#### *Highlights (domestic)*

- first week of registration
- 1859 perforated 3 d beaver on intercolonial registered cover
- 1864 dectuple
- 1865 quintuple with registration fee only paid in stamps, rest collect
- 1865 free registered with registration fee paid in stamps
- 1880 quadrodectuple
- 1883 security ribbon
- 1897 quadrodectuple with widow weeds
- 1880s registered drop letter from a very small town
- 1887 registered postal band
- 1894 registered printed matter
- 1882, 1883, & 1887 registered post cards
- 1897 registered letter card
- 1889 voters list
- 1883 registered parcel post
- 1878 free registered to War of 1812 veteran

#### *Registration letter wrapper(s)*

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 Canadian examples have survived (many more exist for the Maritimes).

#### *Highlight (registration letter wrapper)*

- 1871 Halifax–Toronto via Vermont

#### Registered mail with pre-Confederation Maritimes

Not much is known (two items shown).

#### Canada–U S registered mail

Although both Canada and the U S 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 U S* 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, 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 U S 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 U S, 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 U S (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 U S starting a year after it was available domestically. An 1888 Canada-U S treaty permitted mail that was free in one country to continue free to the other; so free registered cross-border mail exists.

#### *Highlights (Canada–U S)*

- 1855 interim period (two)
- 1858 to California
- 1876 early use of 5¢ RLS
- March 1888 2¢ registration fee
- 1897 registered fifth class

#### From U S 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 (U S–Canada)*

- 1857, very early
- 1871, New York–Hamilton
- 1879, septuple rate
- 1890 & 1892, Canadian customs labels

#### Canada–U K registered mail

Registered mail from Canada to U K did not begin until 1856; registered letters from U K 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 U K to Canada than the other way around in this period.

*From Canada to U K* Letter rates from Canada to U K 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¢ R L S was supposed to be used, and subsequently (and until R L S 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¢ R L S period which do not have one (compared to the 18 covers which do).

U K 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–U K)*

- 1855 (November), extremely early
- 1856, to France via U K
- 1870, quintuple ugly cover
- 1877, without R L S, from BC
- 1877, with 8¢ R L S
- 1878, without R L S, and early use of blue cross in U K
- 1885, compulsorily registered in U K
- 1890s, third class
- 1897, printed matter

*From U K 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 U K offices had crown registered handstamps—and so did Halifax (N S), so it might be difficult to determine their origin in some cases.

#### *Highlights (U K–Canada)*

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

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

*Pre-U P U* Canada did not join the U P U until 1878. Registered mail between Canada and other than U S or U K is practically nonexistent in the pre-U P U period; perhaps ten items are known (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 U P U.

*Highlights (Pre-U P U, foreign, coming and going)*

- 1860, registered returned letter wrapper to Red River
- 1861, New South Wales to Canada West
- 1876, Germany to Canada
- 1887, 91, Victoria (Australia) to Canada

*U P U period (1878–1898)* After Canada joined the U P U, the registration fee became 5¢ to everywhere outside Canada (with a few exceptions, to non-U P U-members), and the postage became 5¢ per half ounce (again with a few exceptions, including non-U P U-members, and U P U-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 (U P U period)*

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

*Incoming* Incoming (to Canada) registered mail is almost as scarce as outgoing in both the pre-Treaty of Vienna and Treaty of Vienna periods.

*Highlights (Incoming, U P U-period)*

- 1879, from Germany, rare despite being addressed to Hechler
- 1879, from France
- 1881, photographs (third class) from France
- 1889, printed matter from Italy
- 1894, post card from Vienna
- 1898, from Russia
- 1893, through mail from Japan to U S

*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. More frequently, a notice was sent from the D L O to the sender requesting additional postage, and a reference number supplied. 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 U S & 1898 to Brazil, correctly treated
- 1897 to France, deficient postage applied at Dead Letter Office
- 1892 domestic compulsory registration

*Avis de réception (A R)*

Worldwide, A R (*avis de réception*) had been around (using other names) since the first decade of the nineteenth century, but not in Canada or the U K. For the original members of the G P U (1875), it was required to be offered; however, countries which joined the U P U later (as Canada did in 1878) were not required to offer it, until 1 April 1879. As in the U K, very little use was made of it in Canada (in contrast to other



countries, such as the U S and France), and nineteenth century Canadian A R items can be counted on hands and toes.

A R 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 A R 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 A R 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 A R form returned to the office of origin, which would arrange for its delivery to or pick-up by the original sender. Canada used A R 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 U S, did require a covering envelope, and in the pre-Treaty of Vienna period, Canada would have needed A R covering envelopes.

No Canadian A R covering envelopes are known until 1910. There is a single Canadian A R form known in this period, for a domestic registered item, and a single incoming A R form (for a registered letter from U K to Canada, signed in Vancouver, and returned). There are no Canadian domestic A R covers (that is, registered covers sent with A R service) known in the nineteenth century, and just two incoming A R 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 U S, based on incoming U S A R forms). This required the A R 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 A R form would be signed and sent to the office of origin. Five (or possibly four) Canadian A R covers are known in this period, along with about ten incoming A R covers and two used Canadian A R forms.

### Highlights (A R)

- 1883–84, unique (nineteenth century) domestic use Canadian A R form
- 1891, unique incoming A R form in pre-Vienna period
- 1890, one of the two known incoming A R covers in pre-Vienna period
- 1898, one of the two known Canadian A R forms used in Vienna period normal use
- 1896, the other of the two known used Canadian A R forms in Vienna period, reversed use
- 1893, 1896, & 1897, three of the five known Canadian A R covers 1898 or earlier
- 1893, incoming A R cover from Australian state
- 1897, incoming A R cover from St Pierre et Miquelon
- 1898, incoming A R cover from France, repaid by post office

## Rates

Canada acquired control of its post office in on 6 April 1851, and the domestic rate became 3 d per half ounce (a great reduction from the former mileage-based system). This also covered intercolonial postage, between Canada and the Maritimes. Until decimalization in 1859, the rates that appear on covers are given in what is called *currency* (thus 3 d cy): this was slightly devalued with respect to sterling. Conversion for the period 1851–1859 was set at 73 d cy = 60 d stg, but this is only useful for letters going to, from, or via the United Kingdom.

In 1859, Canada switched to decimal, on par with U S.

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

Initially, 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. When Canada joined the U P U (1878), rates became (mostly) uniformized.

## 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 U S	6 d <sup>viii</sup>	6¢/10¢ <sup>viii</sup>	→	→	3¢	→	→	→
registration to U S	3 d***	5¢	→	→	→	→	→ <sup>iv</sup>	→
registration to other countries	var	var	var	var	var	5¢ <sup>v</sup>	→	→
AR fee <sup>vi</sup>	na	na	na	na	na	na	5¢	→
U P U letter rate	na	na	na	na	na	5¢ <sup>vii</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 U S began 1 October 1856.

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

<sup>v</sup> To U P U countries; registration to non-U P U countries was highly variable; for example, to the Australian states, 15¢ until October 1891, when they joined the U P U. This isn't much of an issue, since covers showing such rates are almost nonexistent.

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

<sup>vii</sup> Surcharges were permitted to some U P U countries.

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

Pre-1875 letter rates to U K 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 countries other than U S or U K are extremely complicated. Rates to non-U P U countries are ridiculously complicated.

### 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 U P U on 1 August 1878.
- Registered letter stamps (R L S) 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, R L S were officially made unnecessary, but this had been in process anyway. R L S 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, R L S 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 U S 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).



- C O D, extra insurance or indemnity, and restricted delivery were not available from the Canadian post office, even domestically, in the nineteenth century. Special delivery (*express*) was introduced on a limited scale on 1 July 1898. I haven't been able to find a registered special delivery cover in the period 1 July–31 December 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 subsub-subtitle.

---

**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 U S registration information (to 1870), Milgram *United States registered mail 1845–1870* is good, and for U S 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 A R (with a chapter on Canada), my book *AR—avis de réception* (PHSC, 2001) is OK, but is now somewhat out of date. The A R book has now been completely updated, and is freely downloadable from Richard Frajola's website, [fracjola.com/DH2019/1ar.pdf](http://fracjola.com/DH2019/1ar.pdf), and there is a Canadian A R exhibit at [fracjola.com/DH2019/4ar.pdf](http://fracjola.com/DH2019/4ar.pdf). The A R 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 A R 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. Registration 1899–1952 is covered in a separate exhibit.



# Canadian registration to 1898

**ON** 1 May 1855, the province of Canada introduced registration, replacing the money letter system. The exhibit covers a great many postal history aspects of registration until 1898. *Canada* means the united province of Upper and Lower Canada until Confederation (1867), then all parts of Canada as they joined.

*Domestic:* Arranged mostly chronologically; early (first week), handstamps, decimal conversion (1859), payment methods, rate changes, registration receipts, violations, registered letter stamps introduced, RLS use changes (1889 & 1893), drop letters, printed matter, post cards, voters' list, third class, parcel post, free.

*Registration letter wrapper:* 1871.

*Cross-border (to United States):* interim period (before a treaty was in place), pence period, cents period & later, compulsory use of 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.

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

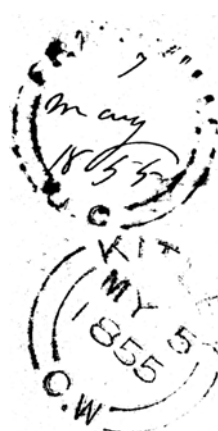
*Avis de réception (AR):* do-it-yourself, first AR form, earliest incoming AR form, pre-Vienna incoming AR cover; Vienna period AR forms, incoming AR form, outgoing AR covers, incoming AR covers, incoming repaired AR cover.



# Domestic 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 P M 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.

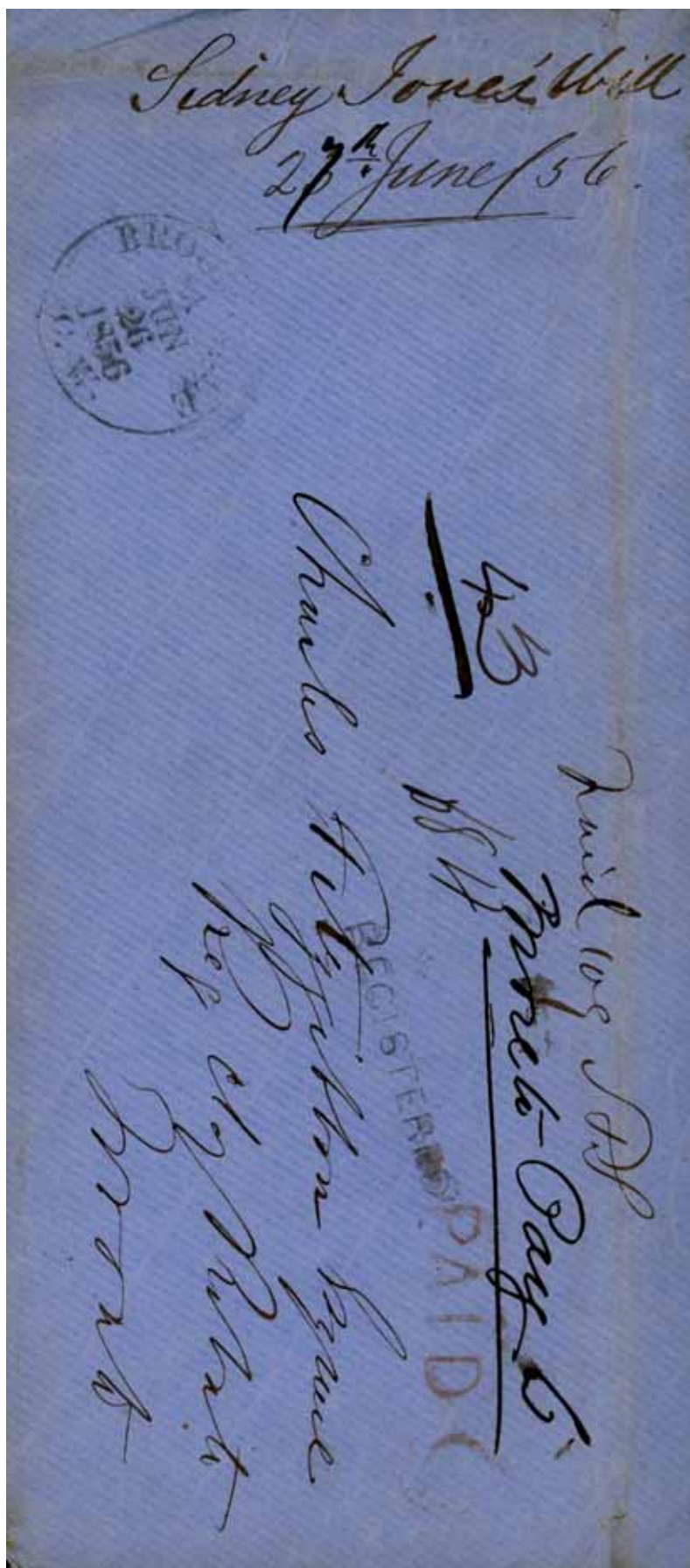
Rated prepaid 1/–cy, quadruple domestic rate (two ounces); indication of payment of registration fee is given by the handstamp.



Chatham (C E)–Montreal, odd registration handstamp, January 1856. Very strange small seriffed italic straightline *REGISTERED* handstamp with a squiggle below it; this is a constant feature of the few strikes known).

Rated prepaid single domestic.



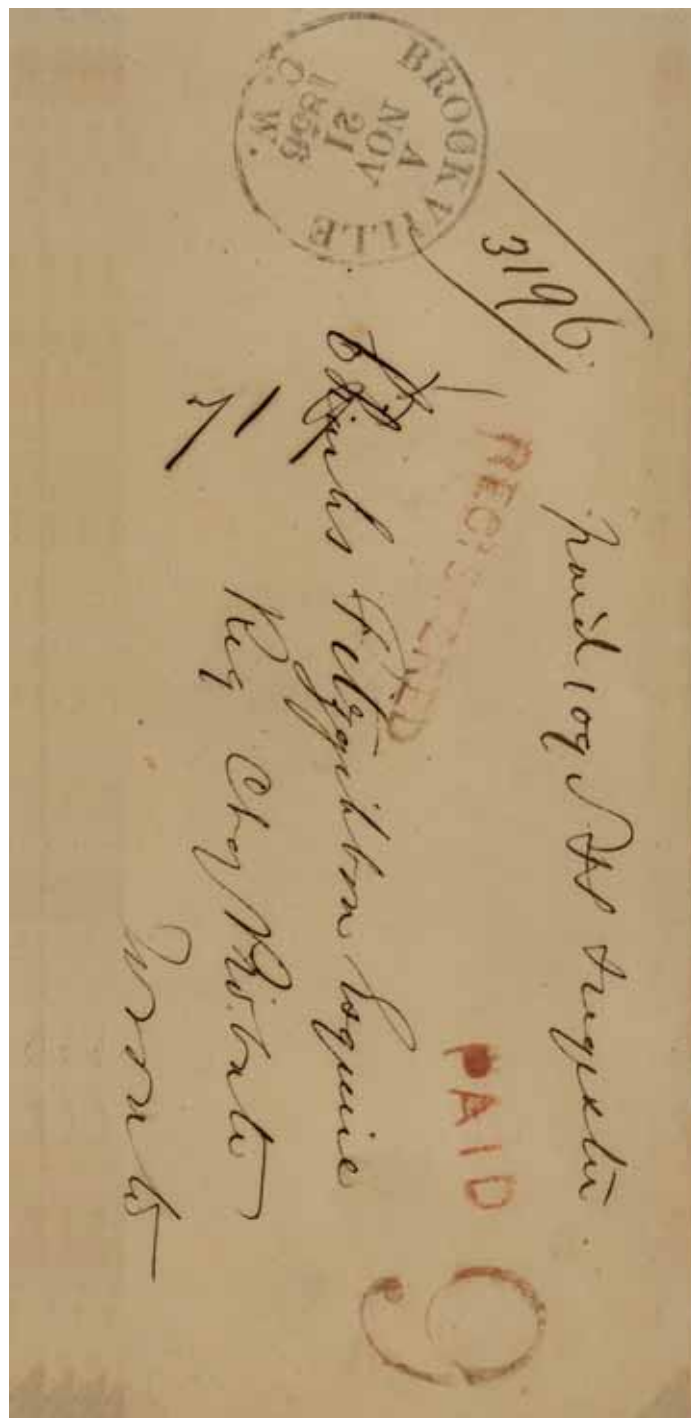


Brockville–Toronto, June 1856. Probably initially pre-paid 9 d (triple domestic); on a subsequent weighing, found to be quintuple, and *More to Pay 6* noted.

## 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 (C W), missed to Kingston, September 1855. Prepaid single domestic.



Brighton—Toronto, October 1855.



Early registered  
Homemade paper



Lyn (C W)—Guelph, 1856. Double rate **PAID 6d**. Via Kingston steamboat. Early strike of Lyn (1858).



## Prepayment of domestic postage

Optional, and could be in stamps or cash; however, the registration fee (1 d) had to be prepaid. The latter was indicated by the presence of a registration marking.



Wallace–Oro (U C), 1855. Domestic postage paid in cash. Originally collect 3, overstruck.

WALLACE U.C known 1855–63.

Double circle **ORO U.C** known 1842–55.



Elgin–Newburgh (C W), 1856. All paid in cash. Green is an unusual colour for Canadian handstamps.

Nonserif double broken circle **ELGIN U.C** previously known only in 1866; post office opened 1850. Of course, it is in Leeds County, not Elgin County!



Nonserif double broken circle **MILLCREEK C.W** previously known 1848–55; post office open 1839–56.



Heavy



Quadruple, Cornwall–Toronto, 7 July 1855. **PAID 1/-**, 4 × 3 d (per half-ounce). Sender has endorsed Money.



Septuple, Port Hope–Toronto, 1858. **PAID 1/9**, 7 × 3 d (per half-ounce).



## Small offices

Even these received a REGISTERED handstamp.



Highland-Creek (U C)—Niagara, September 1858. Earliest recorded strike of datestamp from this town, known used 1858–59.

Rated prepaid single domestic.



Hillsboro (U C)—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 changing on reverse. ↓↓



## Collect

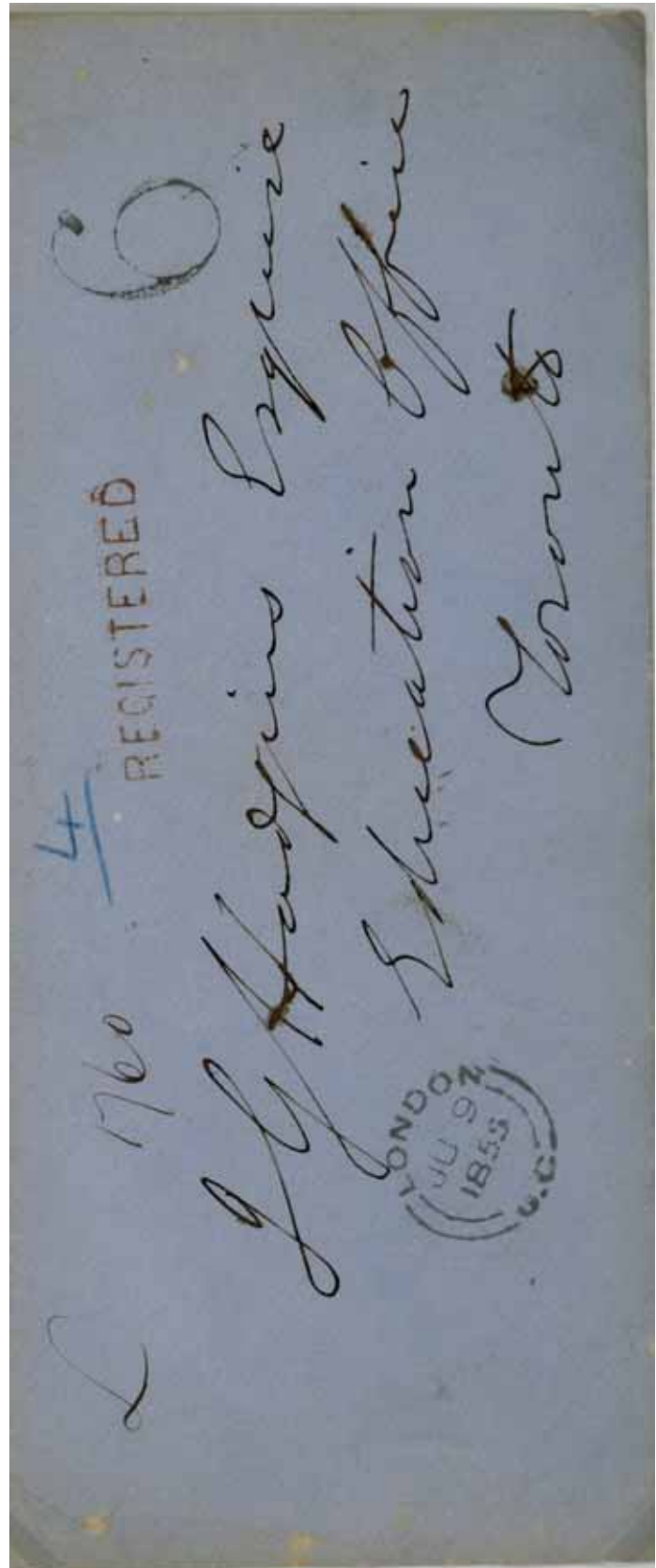
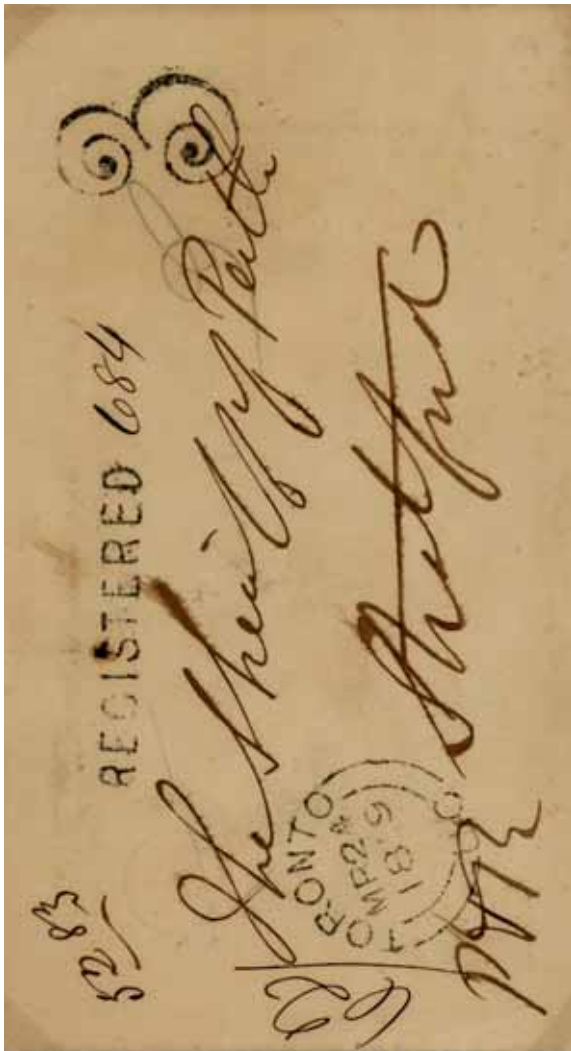
Registration fee still had to be prepaid, in cash.

*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.*





More 3 d beavers



Kingston–Hamilton, 21 June 1857. Registration fee (1 d) paid in cash

Perforated pence, intercolonial

Greene Foundation certificate [G 25385](#)



L'Islet (L C)–Fredericton (N B), 21 June 1859. Single rate paid by 3 d beaver; available from the post office in January 1859. The cents series stamps were issued in July 1859.

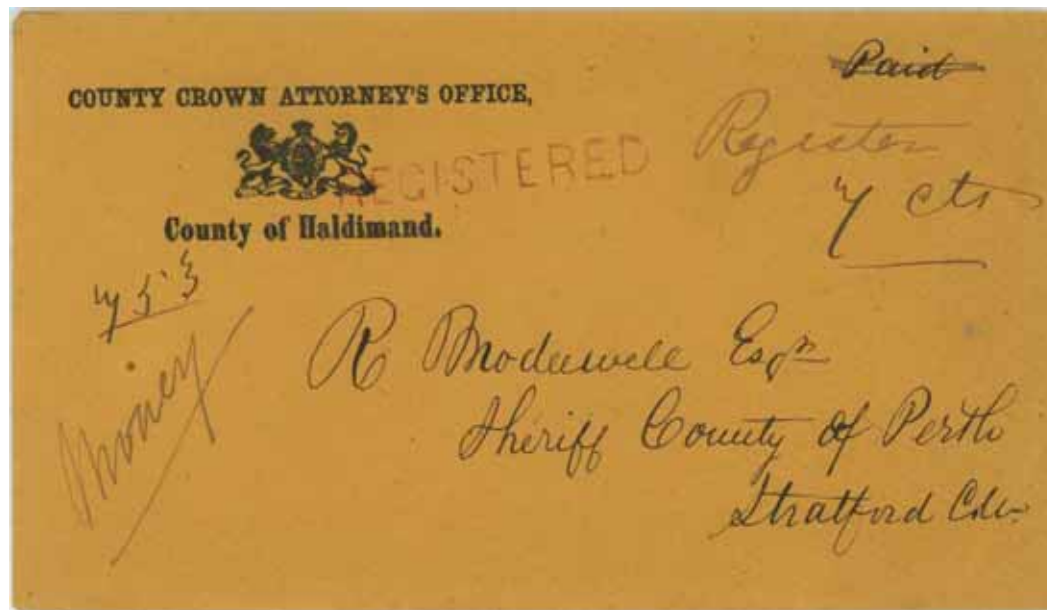
Intercolonial registered material is difficult to find.



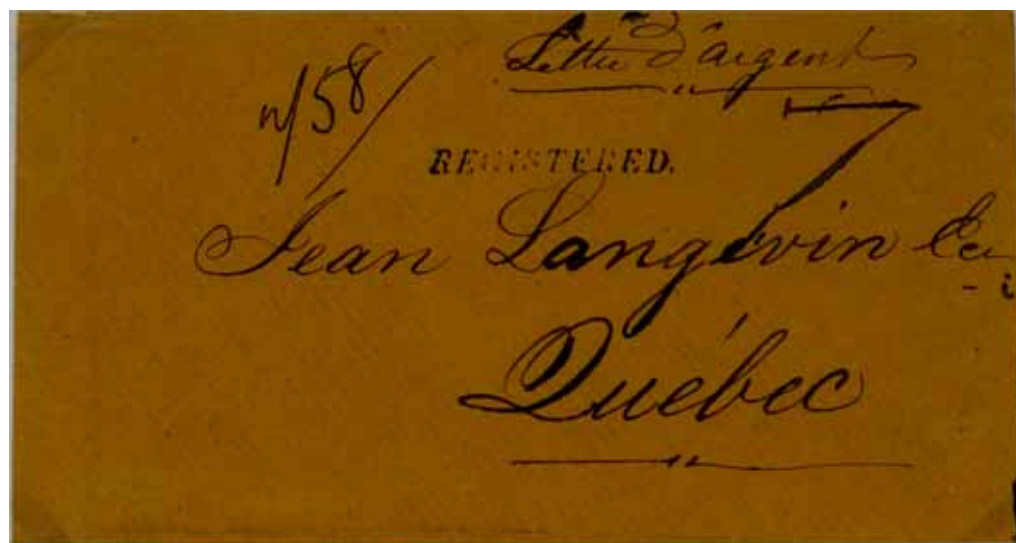
## Conversion to decimal

Canada converted to decimal currency in 1859 (pence stamps remained valid indefinitely); postal rates converted 1 July 1859, although pence markings continued to be used. 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.



*Haldimand County–Stratford* (c w), 9 July 1859 [arrival date]. Very early use of decimal currency. Rated collect 7¢ single weight domestic (unpaid), plus 2¢ registration fee paid in cash, implied by presence of registered marking.



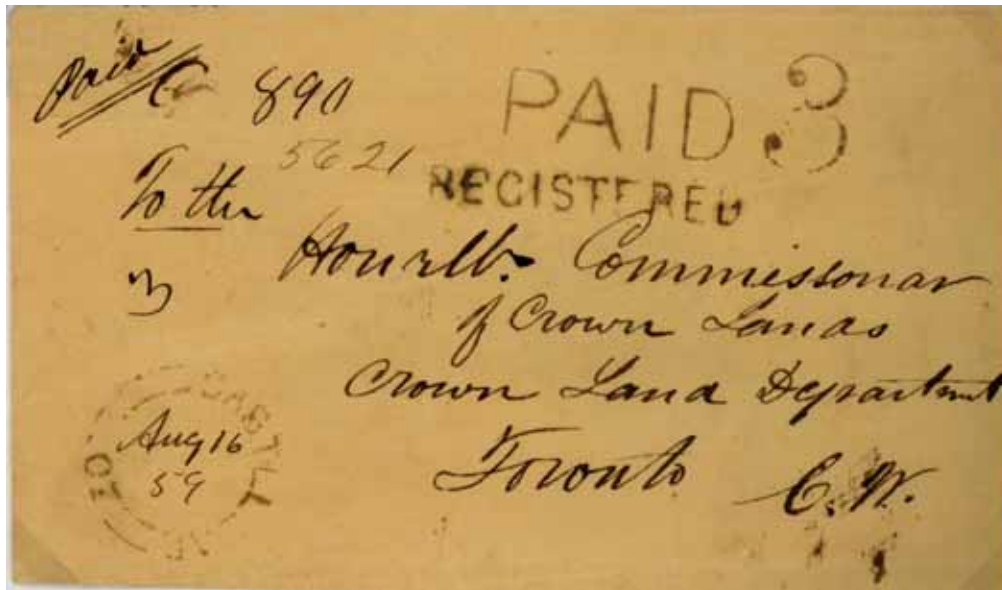
Both changelings

*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.



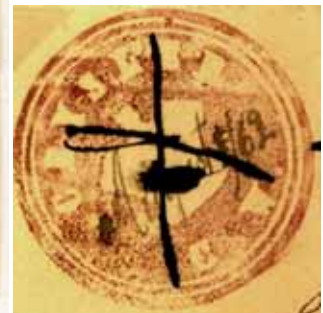
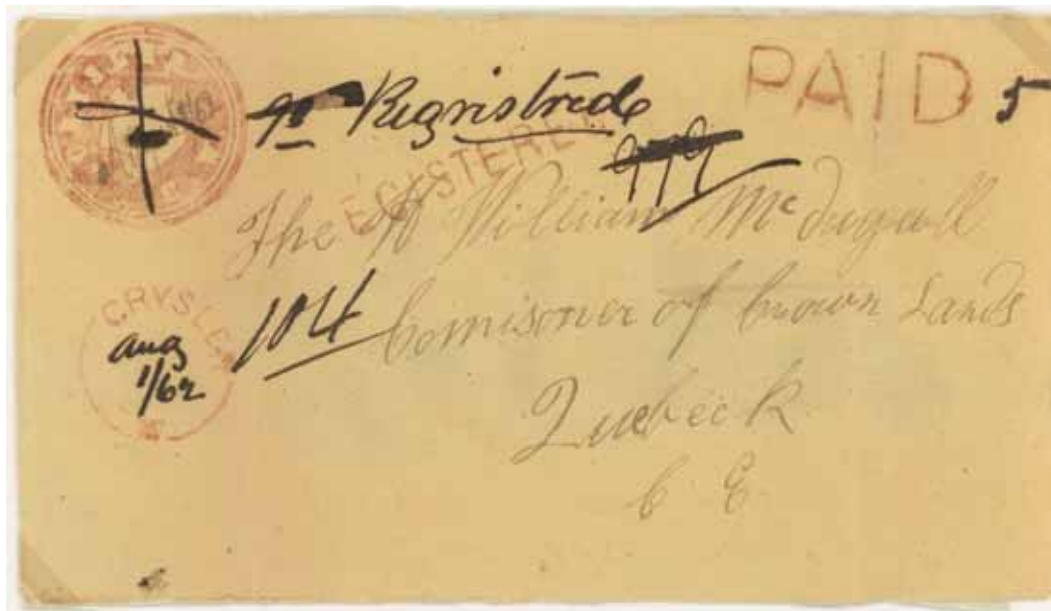
## Cents era



Montreal & Island Pond Grand Trunk R P O, known 1855–62.

Castlebar (C E)—Toronto, 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 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.

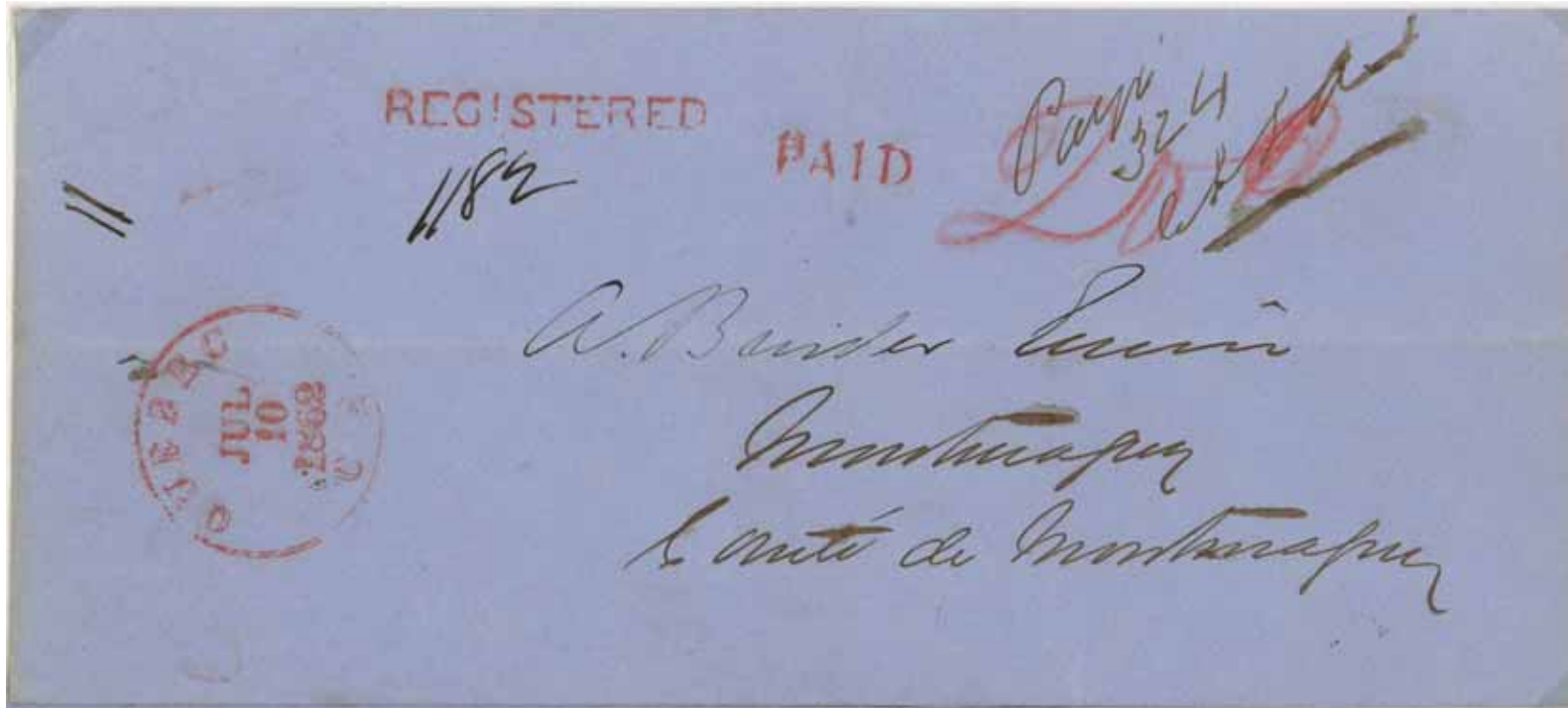


Crysler (C W)—Quebec 1862. PAID 5¢ domestic rate.

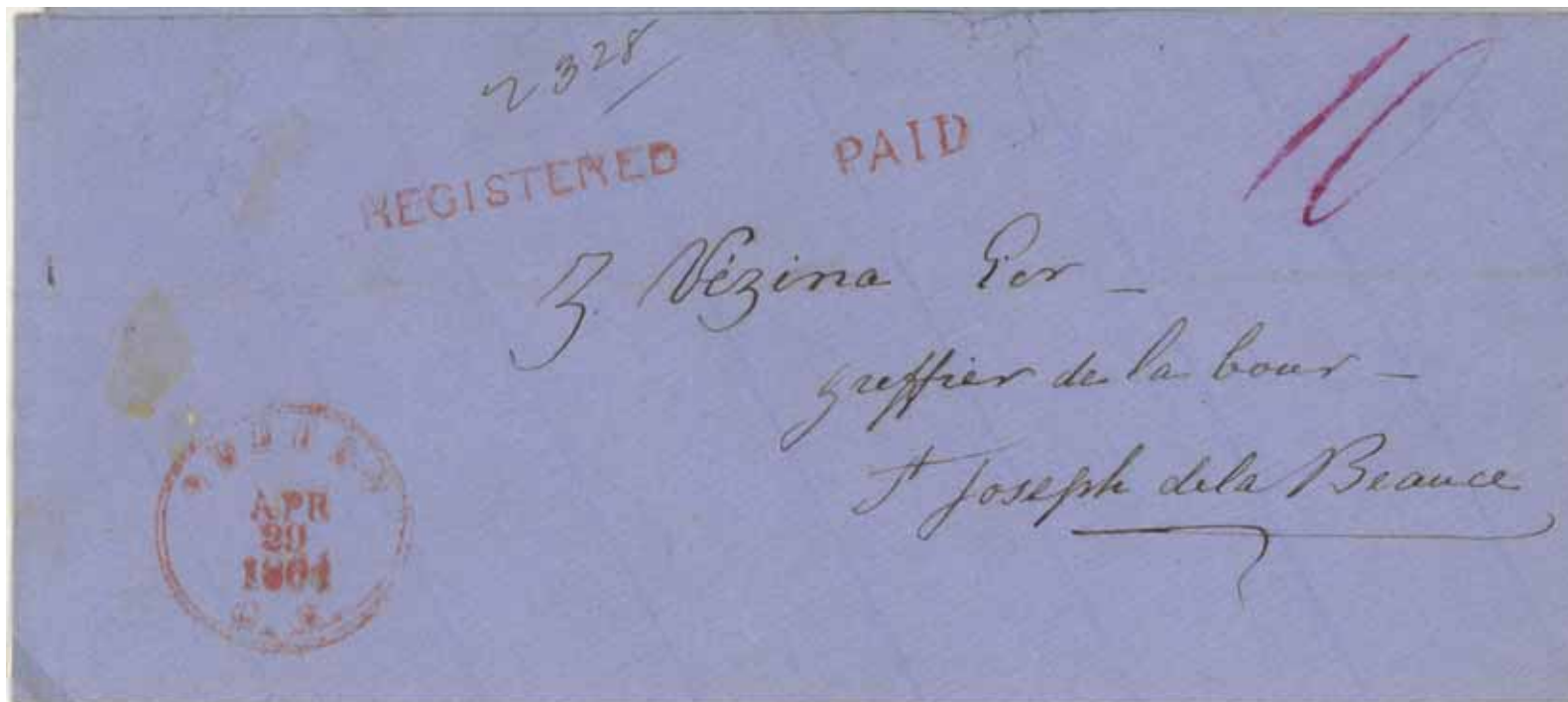
**CHRYSLER C. W.** crown seal normally used for sealing mail bag tags; here dated, then struck through and replaced by broken circle **CHRYSLER C.W.** known 1862–72, earliest reported.



Cents era



Quebec—Montmagny (C E), quadruple, 1862. **PAID 20¢** quadruple domestic (Payé 324 is the post office account number). QUEBEC & RIVIERE DU LOUP R P O.



Quebec—St Joseph de Beauce, 1864. **PAID 10¢** double domestic rate.



## Cents era

Both letter rate and registration fee paid in cash.



Mount Albion–Sandwich (c w), 1863. Fancy **PAID** marking.

Nonserif double broken circle MOUNT-ALBION U.C known February 1863–January 1865 (earliest reported).



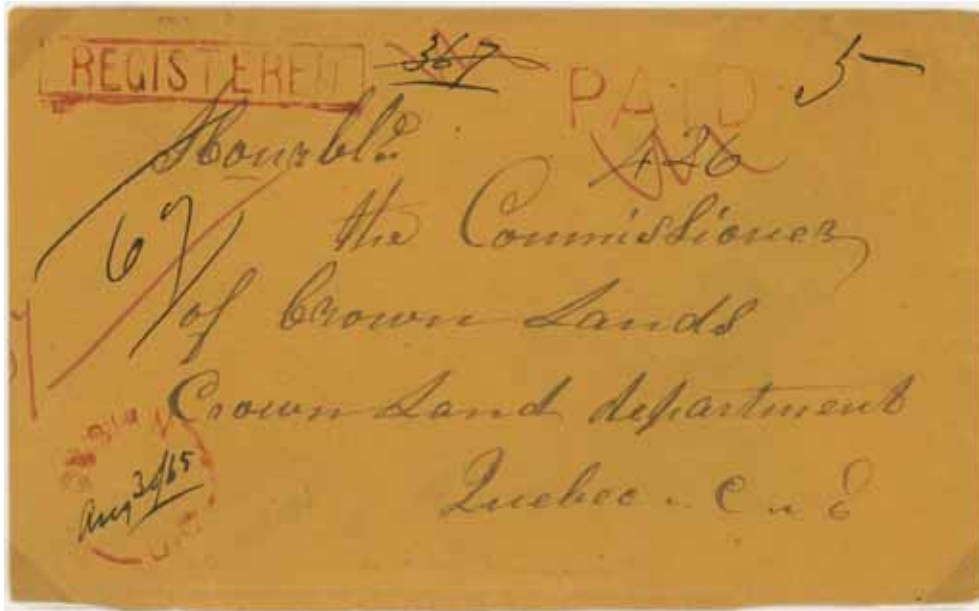
Harrietsville (c w)–Toronto, 1864. Unusual itemization of the rates.

Nonserif double broken circle HARRIETSVILLE U.C, **only reported example**. On reverse G. W. R. (Great Western Railway) R P O.



## Cents era

Both letter rate and registration fee paid in cash.



Ossian (C W)—Quebec, 1865. Boxed **REGISTERED** handstamp  
Broken circle **OSSIAN U.C** known 1864–65.

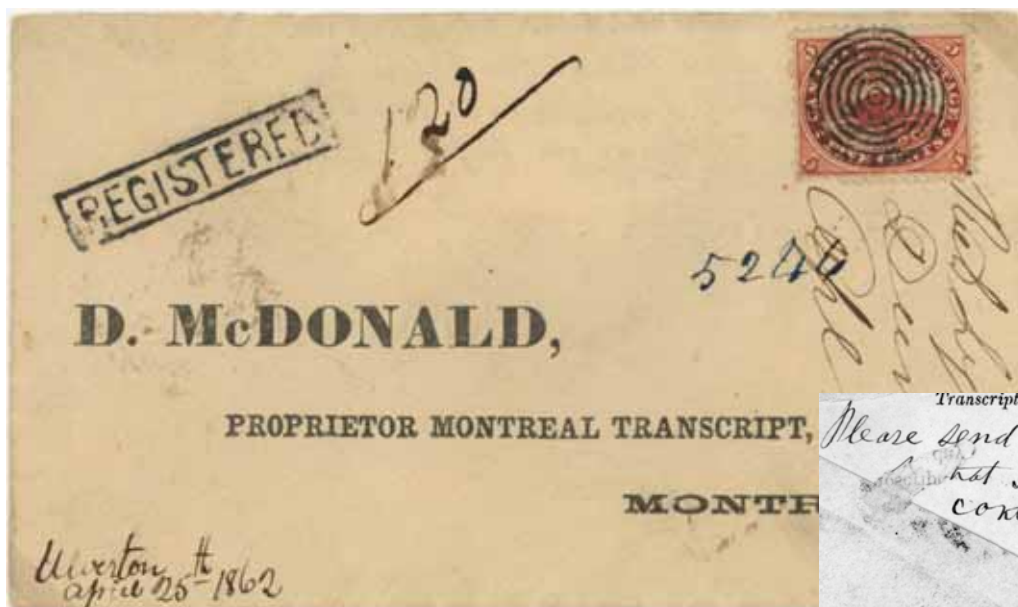


Kincardine (C W)—Sanguen, 1865.

The Kincardine postmaster often drew rectangles around the registration marking.

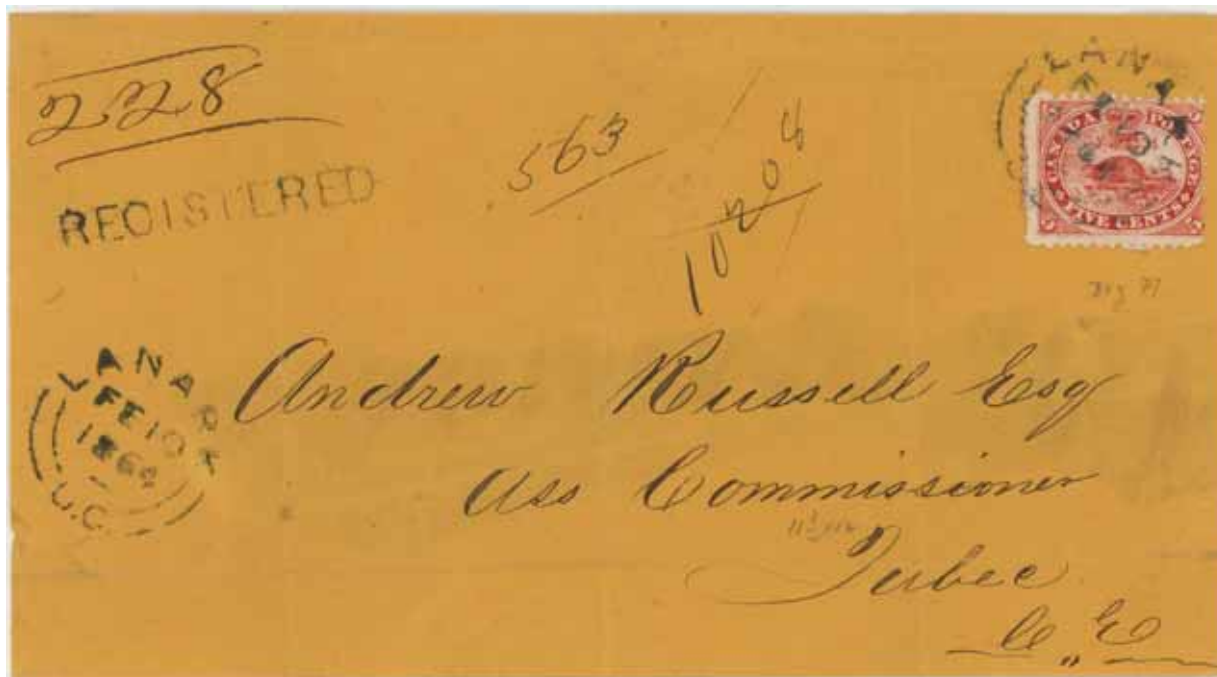
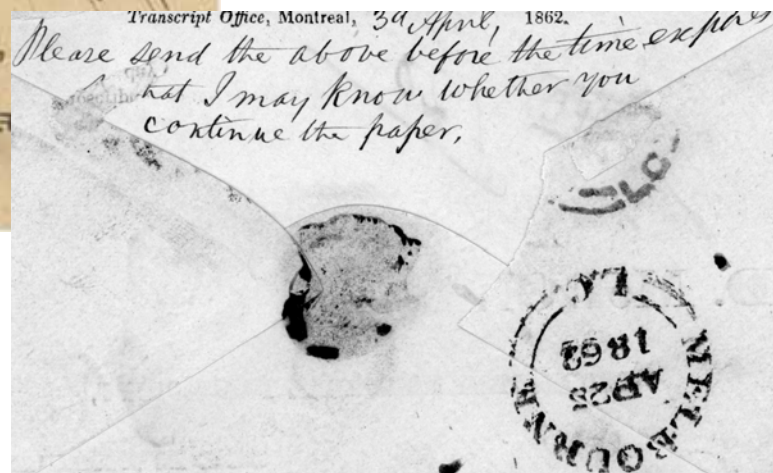


Letter rate paid in stamps, registration in cash



Ulverton (CE)–Montreal, 25 April 1862. Domestic 5¢ rate paid by beaver and 2¢ registration fee paid in cash as indicated by REGISTERED handstamp.

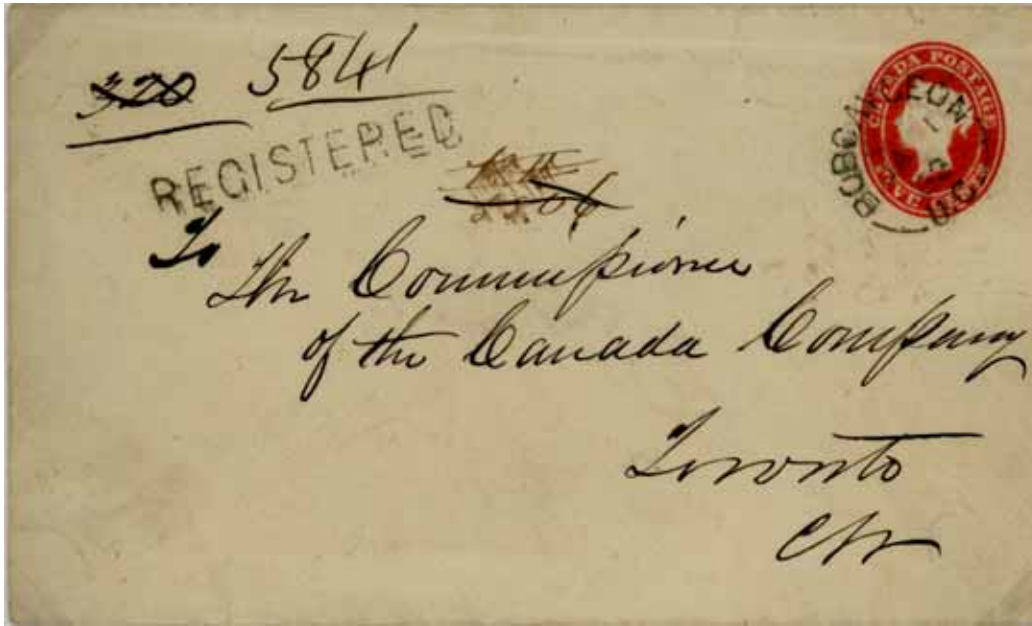
Ms Ulverton, Drummond Co; post office open 1 March 1862–4 March 1954.



Lanark–Quebec 1864. 5¢ domestic rate paid by stamp, registration paid in cash.



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 opened 1859; this is the earliest reported strike (JA 5 1863).



St Andrews (L.C.)—Montreal, 1868. Three weeks before rate change.





Domestic fee paid by stamp, registration paid in cash

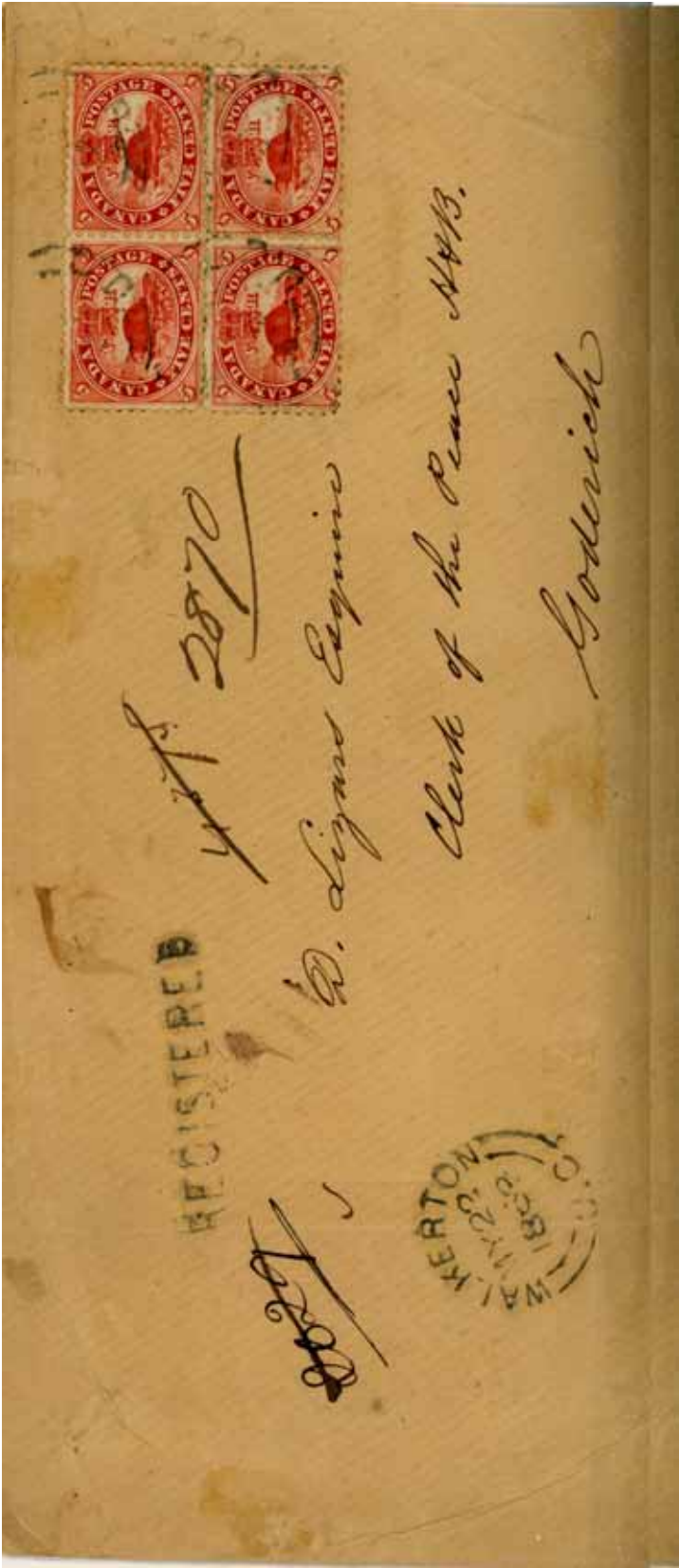


Dectuple, Ottawa-Goderich, 1864. From the clerk of the court in chancery.

8 L.A.  
WEST  
OCT 23  
67



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.



GTRT & S RPO.



*4th*

*50¢*

REGISTERED



*Sam L. Richards Esq  
West York Place  
Goderich ON*



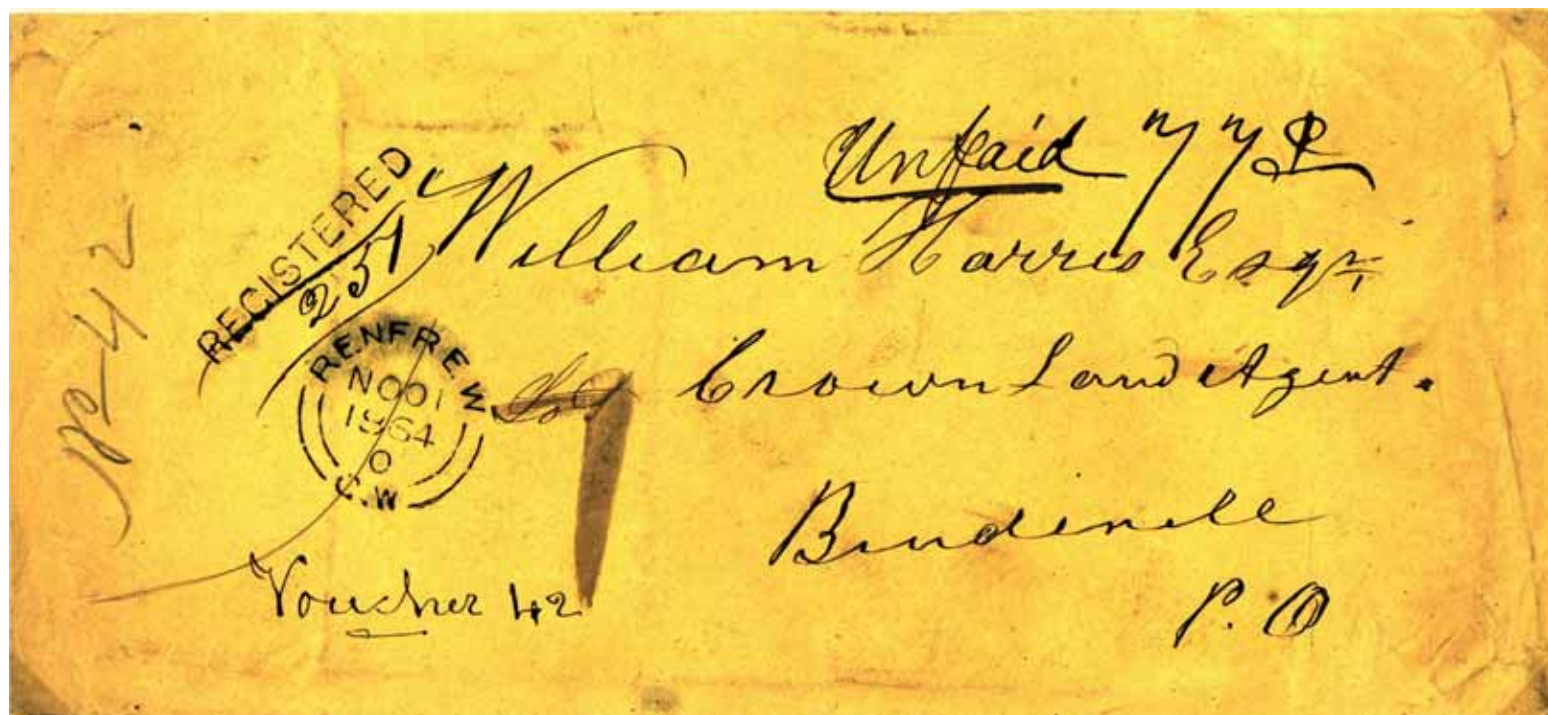
Domestic postage not prepaid (collect), registration fee paid in cash

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 (c w), 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.

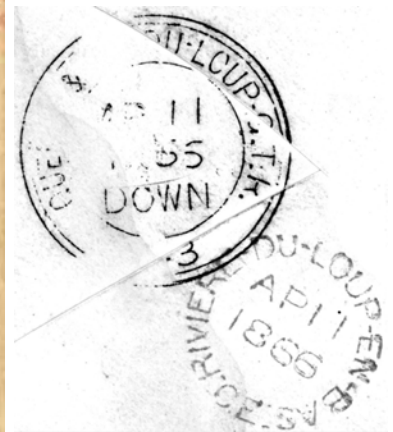


*Quintuple, Montreal–Lacolle (C E), 1865. Charged 35¢ (this is not a registration number, as it is the only number that could possibly be a rate), five times the rate (2½ ounces).*

*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.



## Domestic and registration fees paid with stamps



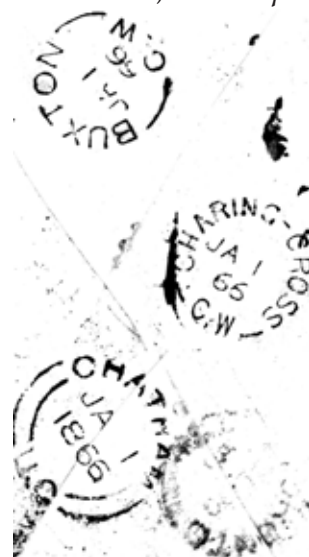
Toronto—Goderich, 1864. Registration fee of 2¢ and domestic rate at 5¢ per half ounce.



Double, Montreal—Quebec, 1864.

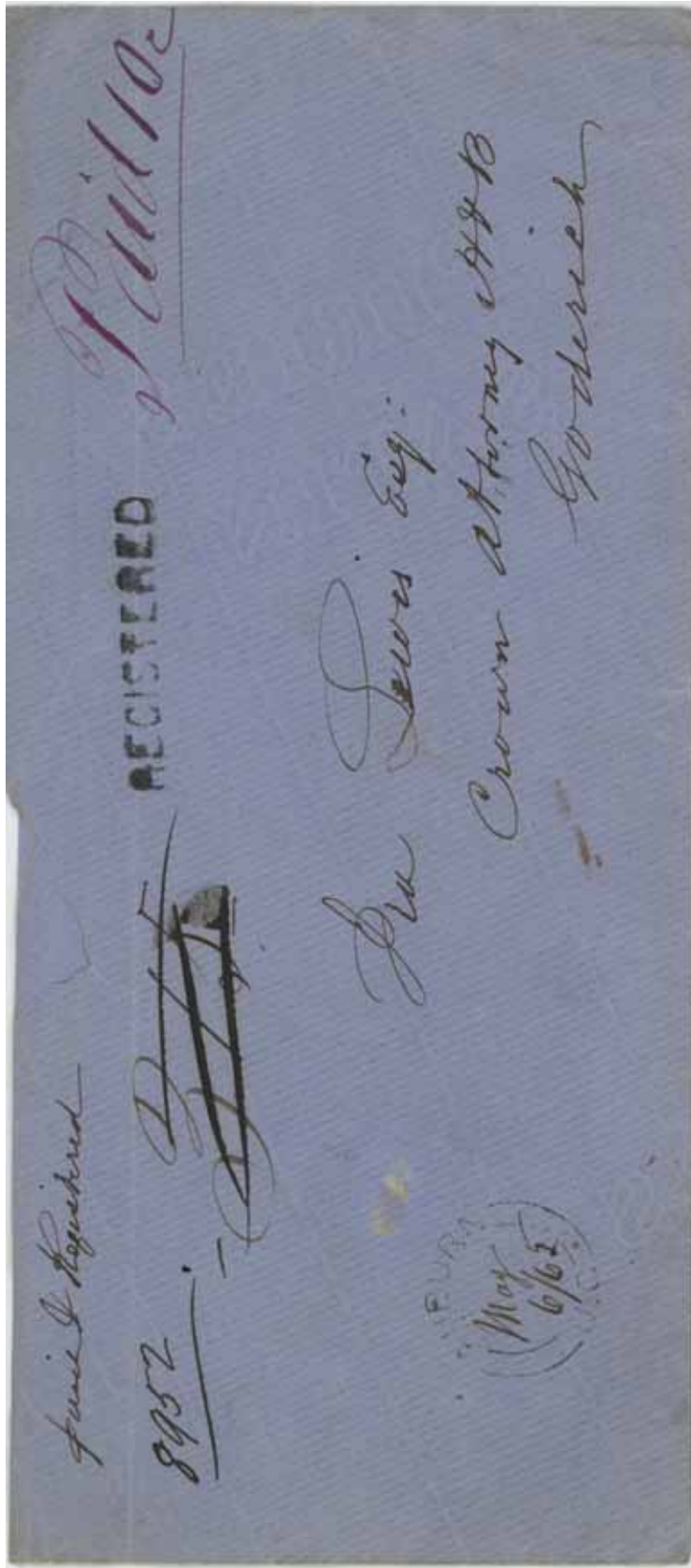


Double, Montreal—Buxton (C W), 29 December 1865–1 January 1866. Berri broken circles (proofed April 1865): BUXTON C.W, first reported example. CHARING-CROSS C.W, second reported example.





All paid in cash



Double, Auburn (U C)—Goderich, 1865. *Paid 10¢.*

Nonserif double broken circle AUBURN U.C, known 1858–65, this being the latest recorded.



## Registration receipts



For a registered letter from Quebec to Kingston, 14 August 1855.



For a registered letter from Montreal to Kingston, 1860. Montreal changing.



## 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 in cash, October 1868. More accurately, charged to Box 1010. Toronto to Guelph.



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.



## Large queens



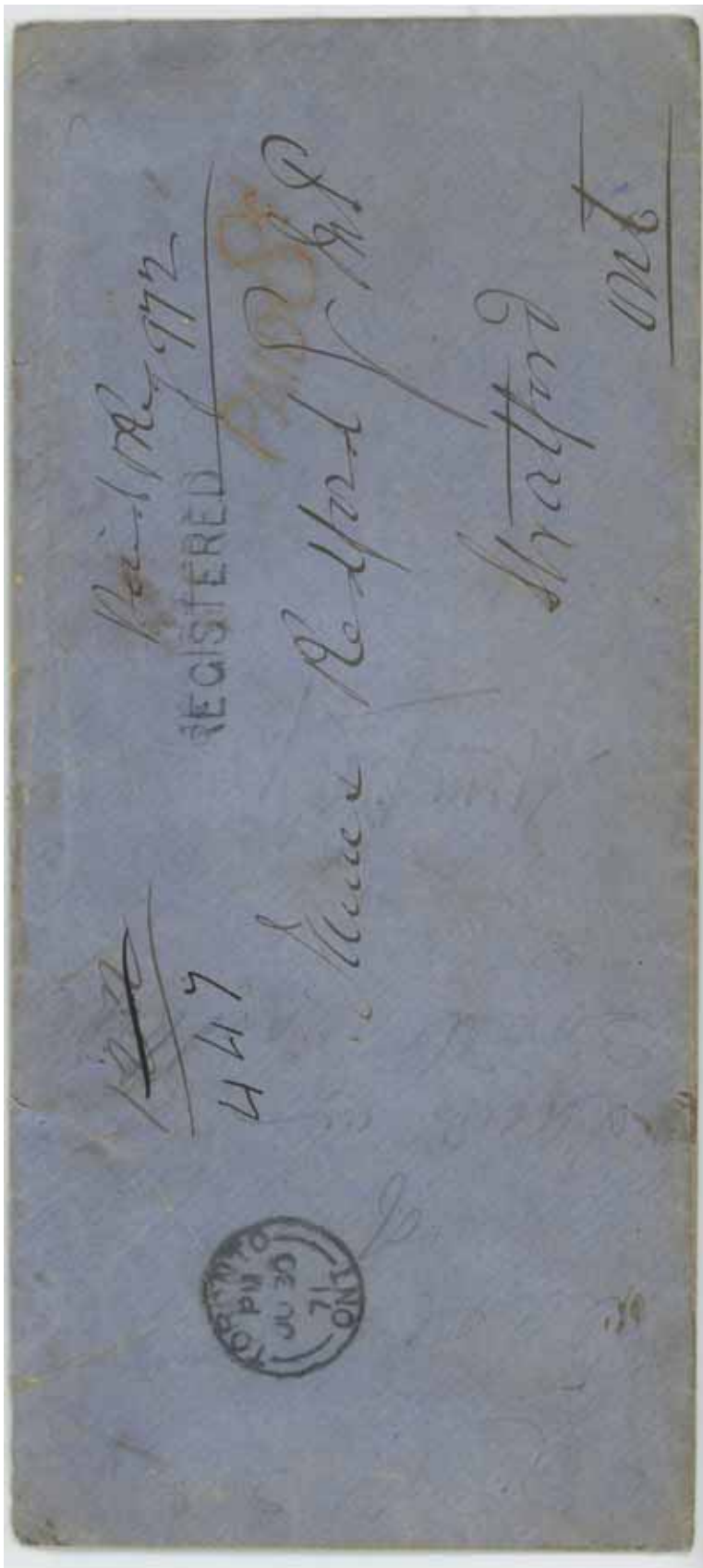
Collingwood–Clarksburg, 1869. Ms registered (by the sender) with registration numbers. Domestic rate paid by stamp, registration fee in cash. *Too late* for the day's despatch.

Berri broken circle CLARKSBURG C.W., proofed 1862, known 1868–78.



Chester–Bridgewater (NS), 1869. Two-line REGISTERED LETTER N<sup>o</sup>, general use (NS & NB). Both domestic and registration fees paid by stamp.



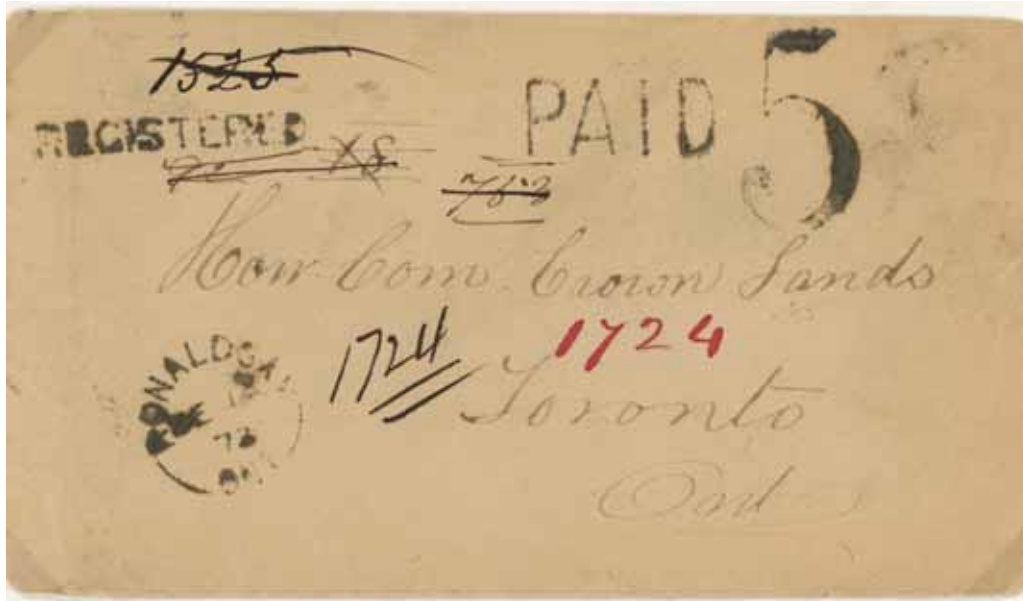


## All paid in cash

Toronto—Stratford, 1871. Double 3¢ letter rate and 2¢ registration. The **PAID 8<sup>c</sup>** ratemark originally read **PAID 8<sup>d</sup>** (the *d* having been cut down to a *c*), and was used for the British packet rate in currency in the mid-1850s.



All paid in cash



Ronaldsay (Ont)–Toronto, 1873. PAID 5, combined letter rate and registration.  
Broken circle RONALDSAY ONT, known 1870–3.



Moorefield (Ont)–Toronto, 1874. Rated with similar handstamps.  
Broken circle MOOREFIELD ONT, known 1874–86, earliest reported strike.



ADDRESS OF REGISTERED LETTERS AND REGISTERED PARCELS, No.

over

UNPAID.

No. \_\_\_\_\_ of Letters Unpaid.....

No. \_\_\_\_\_ chargeable Papers and Printed Matter.

To be collected on Parcels short paid.....

PAID IN MONEY.

No. \_\_\_\_\_ of Letters paid in Money at this Office.....

MISSENT AND REDIRECTED.

Amount of Postage on such Unpaid Letters sent herewith, as have been charged on this office, and which is now reclaimed.....

PAID BY STAMPS.

No. \_\_\_\_\_ of Letters paid at this Office.....

No. \_\_\_\_\_ of Newspapers paid at this Office.....

No. \_\_\_\_\_ of Parcels paid at this Office .....

Total number of Parcels sent herewith, No. \_\_\_\_\_

Letter bill

*Letter bill accompanying the mail between Montreal and St Andrews (Que), 1871.*

Just one registered item listed.



## 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. *ATHOL* 1876

From *Athol*

Stamp of Receiving Office. *SPB 26* 1876

187

## INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

HALIFAX AND AMHERST.  
TRAVELLING POST OFFICE.

Mail going.....

Date.....187

Mail for.....*Athol*

UNPAID.

\$ ..... cts.

No. NIGHT REGISTERED LETTERS.

NAME.	PLACE.
<i>Edmund &amp; Son</i>	<i>Athol</i>
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

Unpaid  
age  
against  
ce on  
erewith  
ded.

Number  
or  
Registered Letters  
and  
Parcels.

3

1876

not be included in this column.

LETTERS AND PARCELS.

PLACE.

*E. H. H. H.*

*H. H. H.*

*W. H. H.*

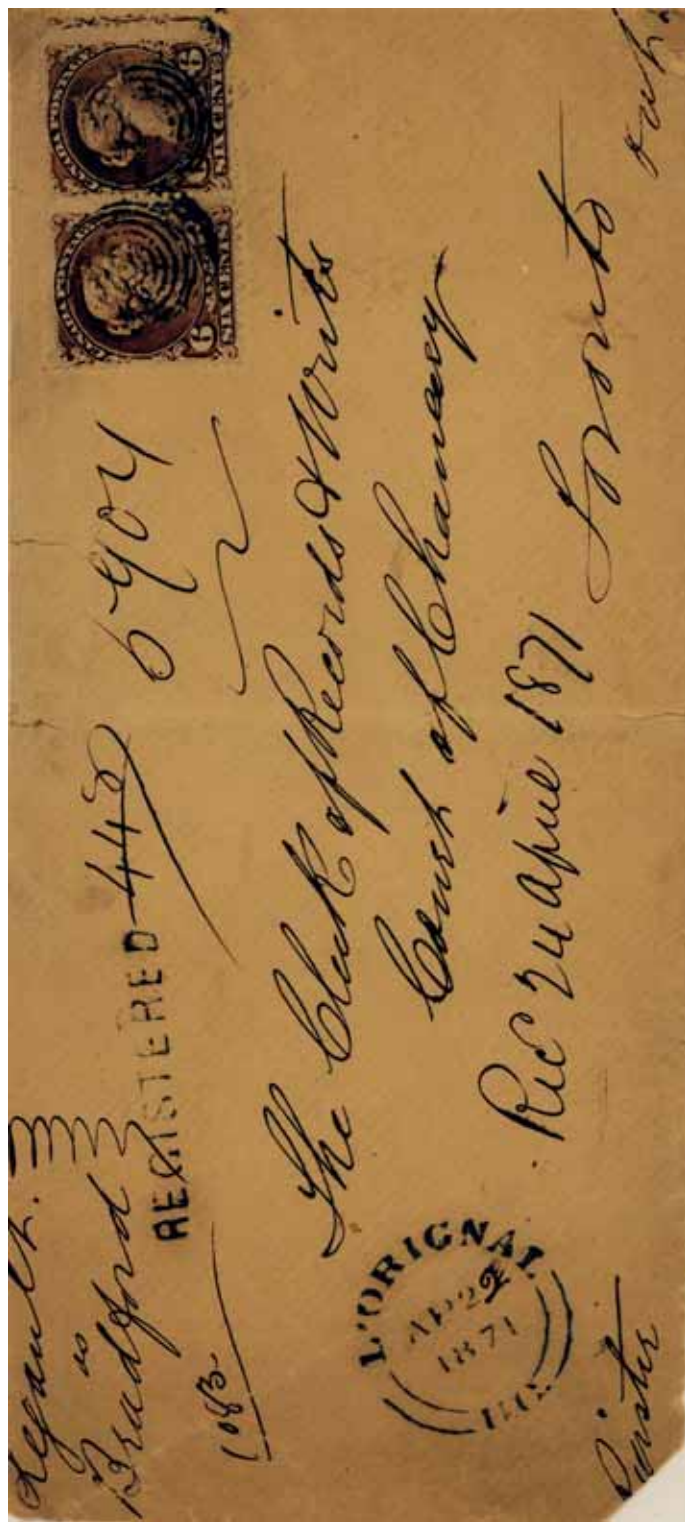
Letter bills, Parrsborough- and Halifax-Athol, 1876. White form has a small double broken circle HALIFAX & AMHERST RPO, known 1875-76.



Heavy, registration fee paid in cash



Octuple, St Bruno—Montreal, 1869. Originally rated 40¢ (8 × 5¢ per half ounce collect); struck out, and replaced by **Paid 24¢** (8 × 3¢ per half ounce prepaid).



Quadruple, L'Original—Toronto, postage paid in stamps, registration fee in cash, 1871. Very unusually for a registered letter, no backstamps (may have been attached to a larger object). *Original* means *moose*.



# Single



Chippawa (Ont)–Welland, 1873. Registration fee of 2¢ and domestic rate at 3¢ per half ounce.

On both sides are boxed REGISTERED/WELLAND-R (railroad) handstamps, and on reverse, the corresponding dater.



Campbellville (Ont)–Hamilton, 1874. Found open and resealed (with initials) by postmaster. Blue cork killer.

Single broken circle [CAMPBELLVILLE ONT](#) known 1874–88.



Single and double



Renfrew (Ont)–Toronto, 1873. Registration fee of 2¢ and domestic rate at 3¢ per half ounce.



Toronto–Frankford, 1874. Double domestic, with registration fee paid in cash.



Single



Woodstock (Ont)–Toronto, 1874. Registration fee of 2¢ and domestic rate at 3¢ per half ounce.



Fenaghvale (Ont)–Toronto, 25 December 1874. Originally marked PAID 3¢ (domestic rate), cancelled and replaced by PAID 5¢, combined letter and registration rates.

Single broken circle FENAGHVALE C.W, previously known 4 November 1873–24 February 1874.



Double

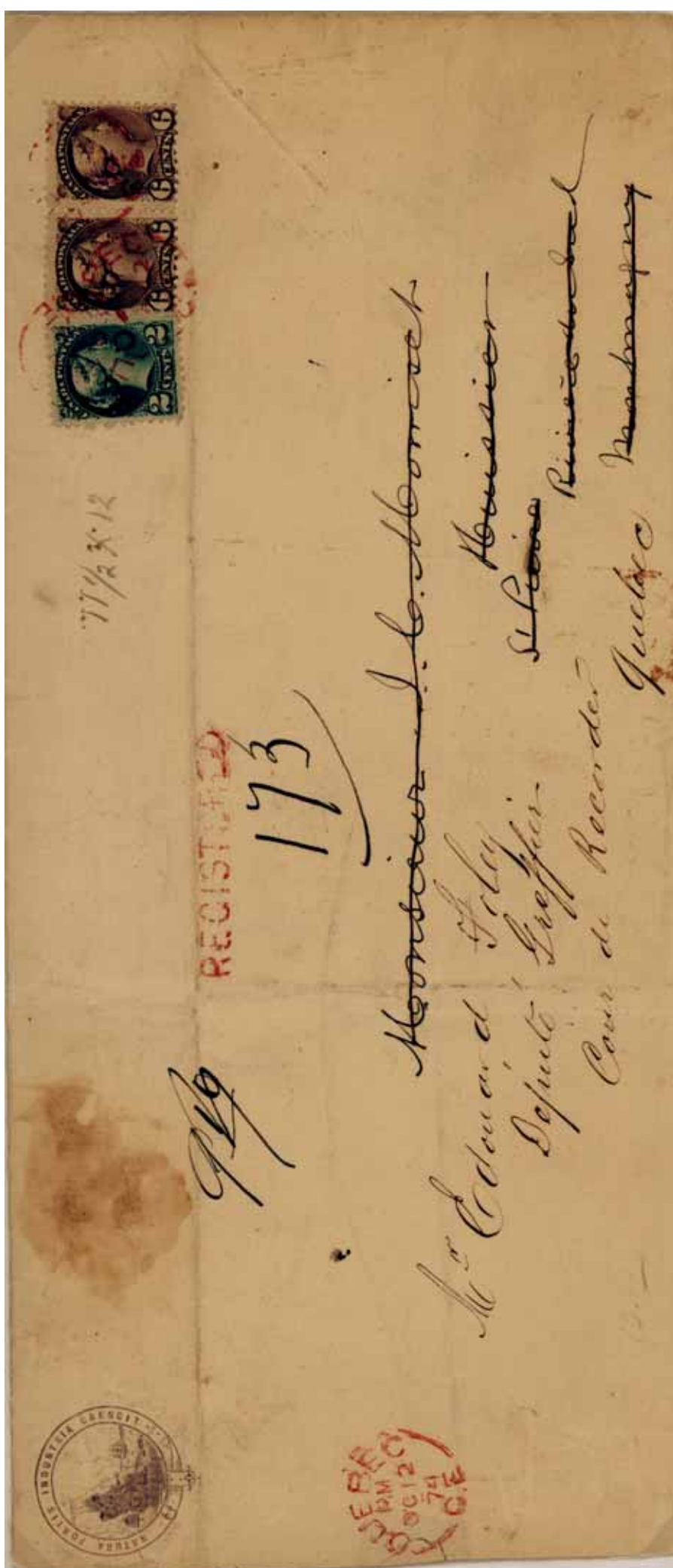


Kincardine (Ont)–Toronto, 1874. Registration fee of 2¢ and double domestic rate at 3¢ per half ounce.



Brockville (?)–Toronto, 1874.





## 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.

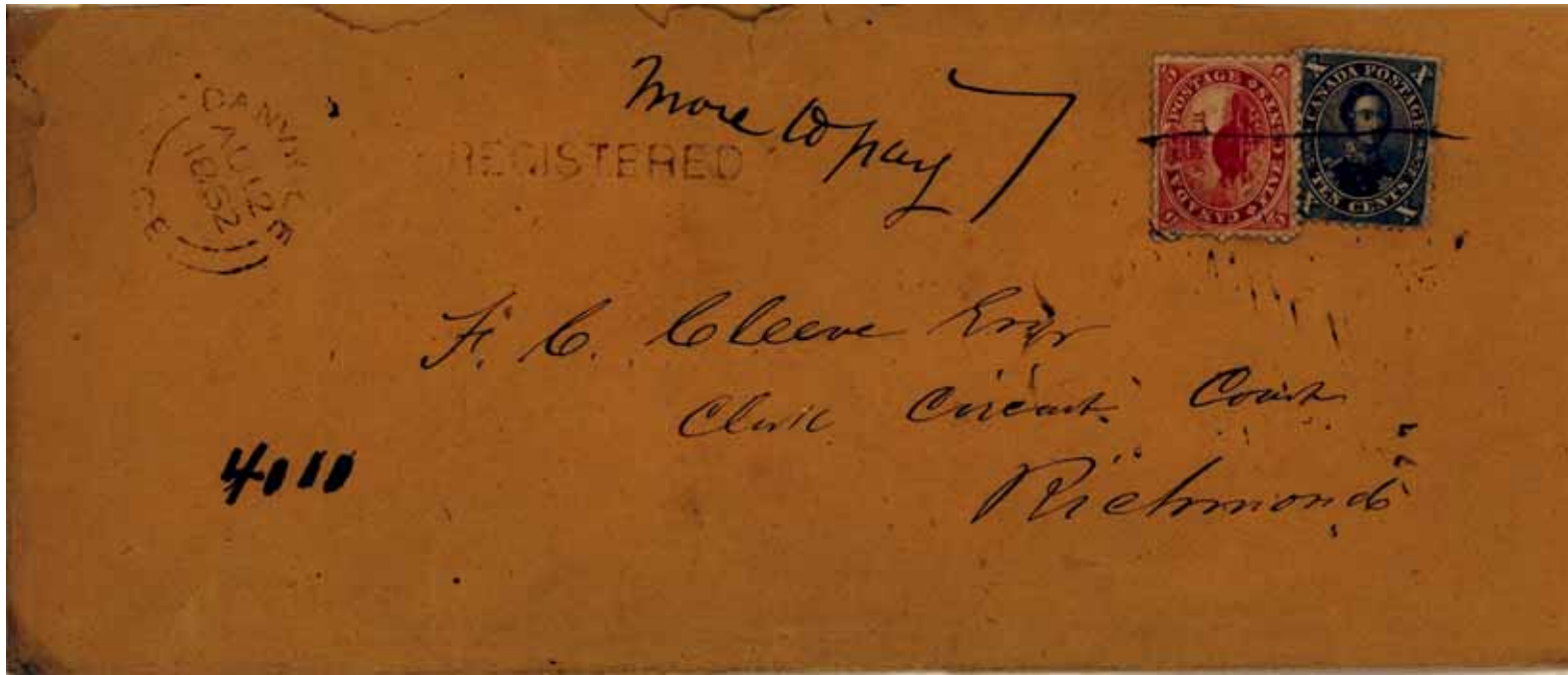
Oungah—Chatham (Ont), triple, all fees paid in stamps, August 1875. One of several recorded strikes of OUNGAH.U.C, the latest reported date. ↓↓





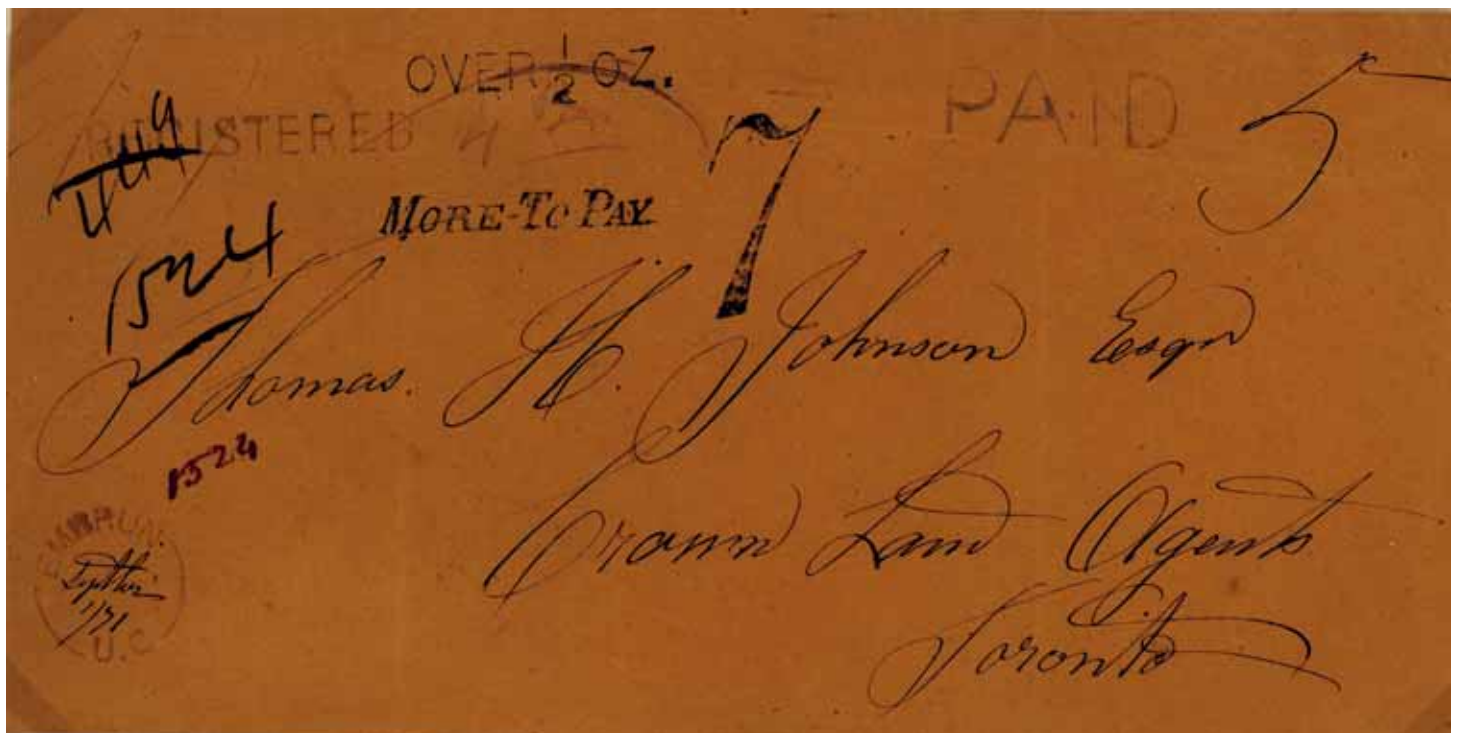
## Partially paid

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.

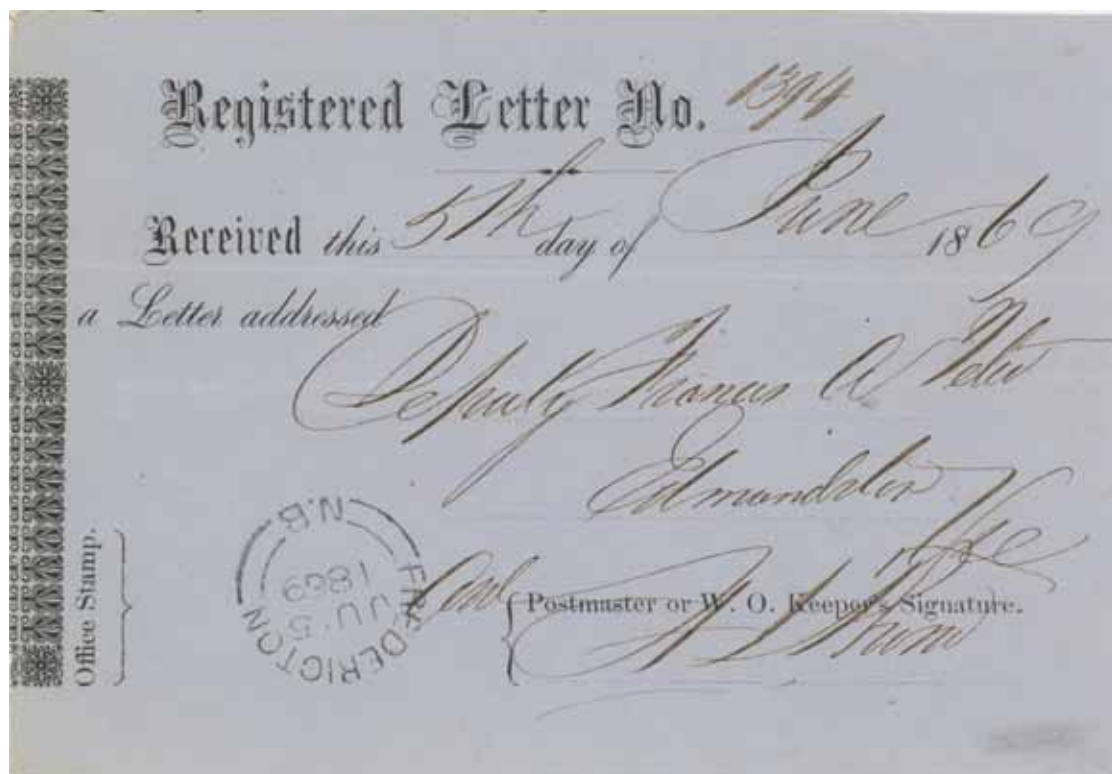
Instead, it was considered single deficiency, and charged only  $7\text{¢}$ .



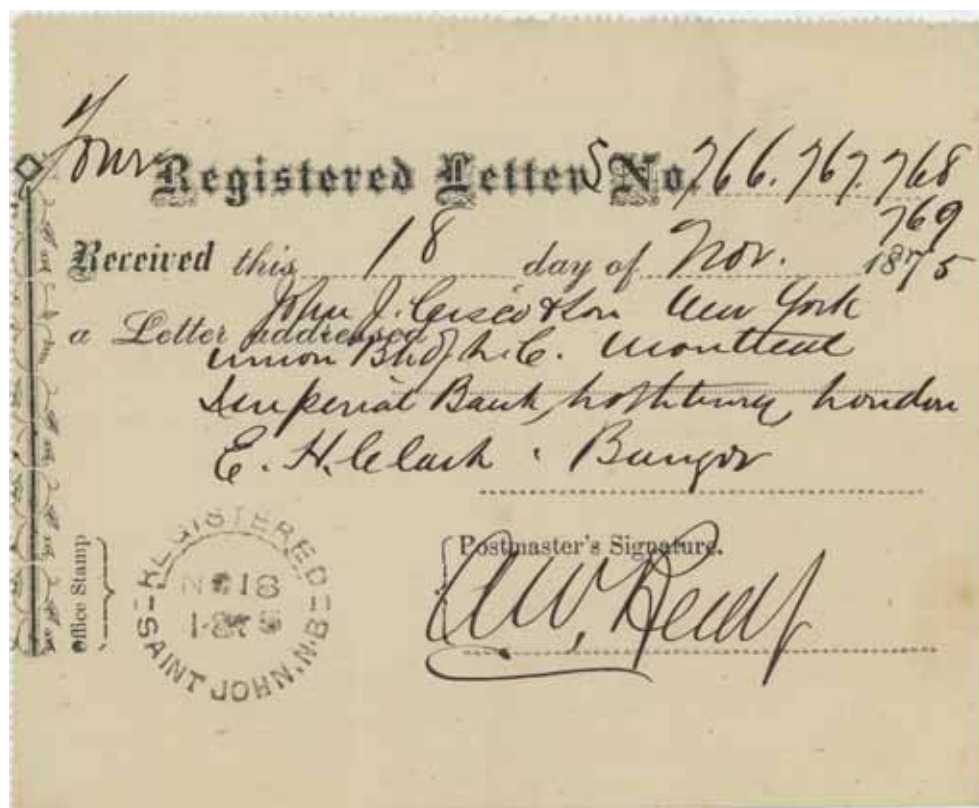
*Correctly rated, 1871.* Registration and single domestic (PAID 5, combined registration and  $3\text{¢}$  postage) both prepaid in cash. Found to be  $\text{OVER } \frac{1}{2} \text{ OZ.}$  (double), so charged  $2 \times 5\text{¢}$  (collect rate in this period), less  $3\text{¢}$  prepaid (exclusive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



## Registration receipts



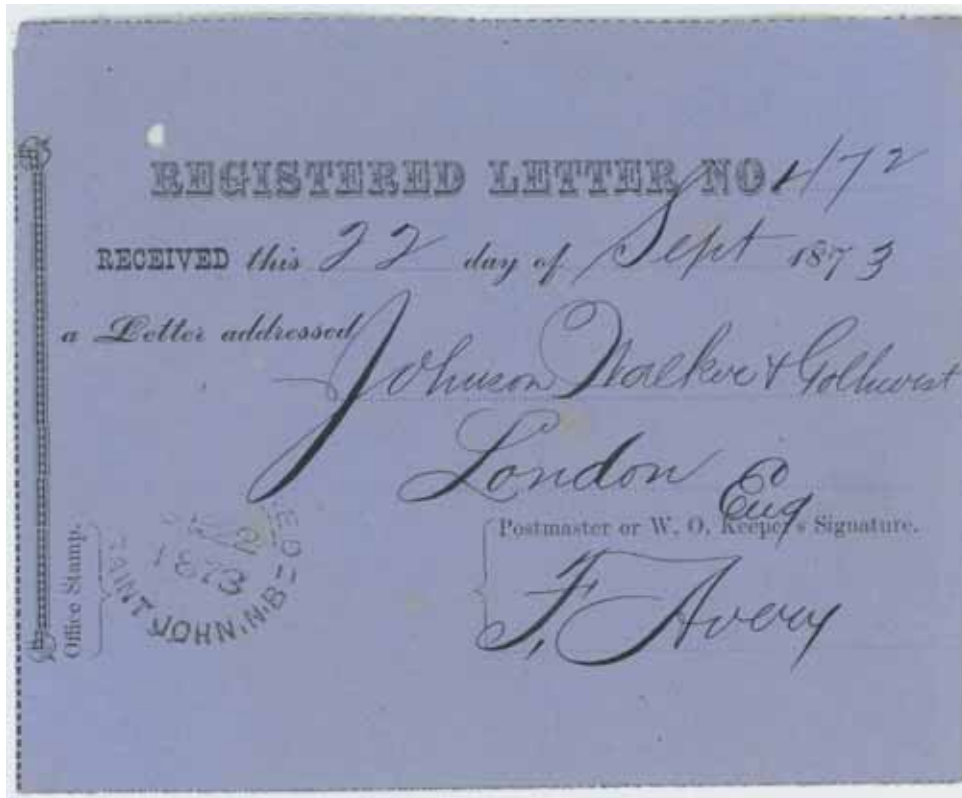
For a registered letter from Fredericton to Edmunston (NB), 1875.



For four registered letters from Saint John to New York, Montreal, London (UK), and Bangor (Maine, Ireland, or Wales), 1875.



## Registration receipts



For a registered letter from Saint John to London (UK), 1873.

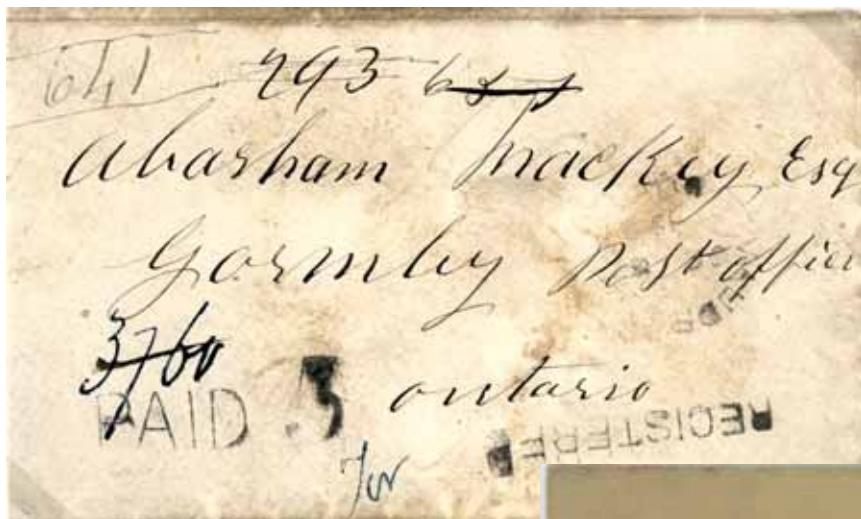


## Compulsory use of stamps

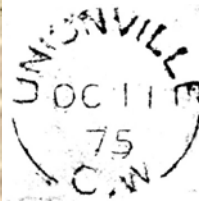
From 1 October 1875, all postage had to be fully prepaid with *stamps*. Violations of this for registered mail (two shown here) are very difficult to find, and typically occur from small towns.



Quadruple rate, Cedar Grove (U.C.)–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 (Que.)–Gormley (Ont), 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 (Ont)–Toronto, 13 December 1875. Paid in cash as above. Back-stamped with two RPOs, B. & O.R.R., and REGISTERED G.T.R. E, and House of Assembly of Ontario.





## Violation of regulations

Payment of all fees by stamps was required from 1 October 1875. Use of the registration stamps were required from 1 October 1876. This does not violate the latter, but does the former, as the registration fee must have been paid in cash.



*Richibuctou (N.B.)—Montreal*, February 1876. Payment of 3¢ domestic letter rate by stamp, and presumed payment in cash of registration fee.

SAINT JOHN N.B. REGISTERED datestamp, then that of Montreal, and finally CARRIER HEAD-OFFICE (Montreal).



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.

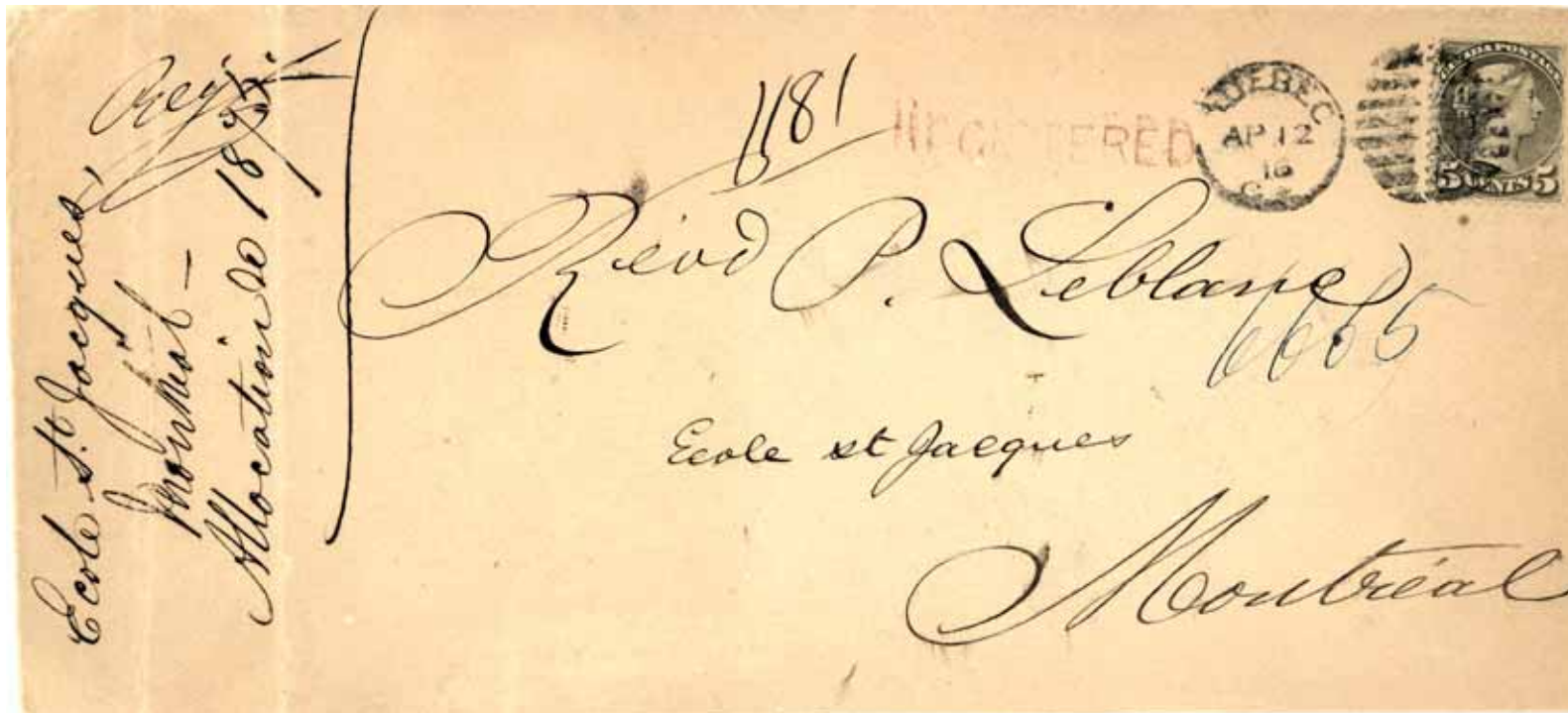


## Combined postage paid by single stamp

The 5¢ large queen was issued 1 October 1875 to prepay single rate to U.K. 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 (Que)–Napierville, 16 November 1875. Somewhat late use of boxed REGISTERED handstamp. Yearless Coaticook dater is a U.S.-style private order datestamp.



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

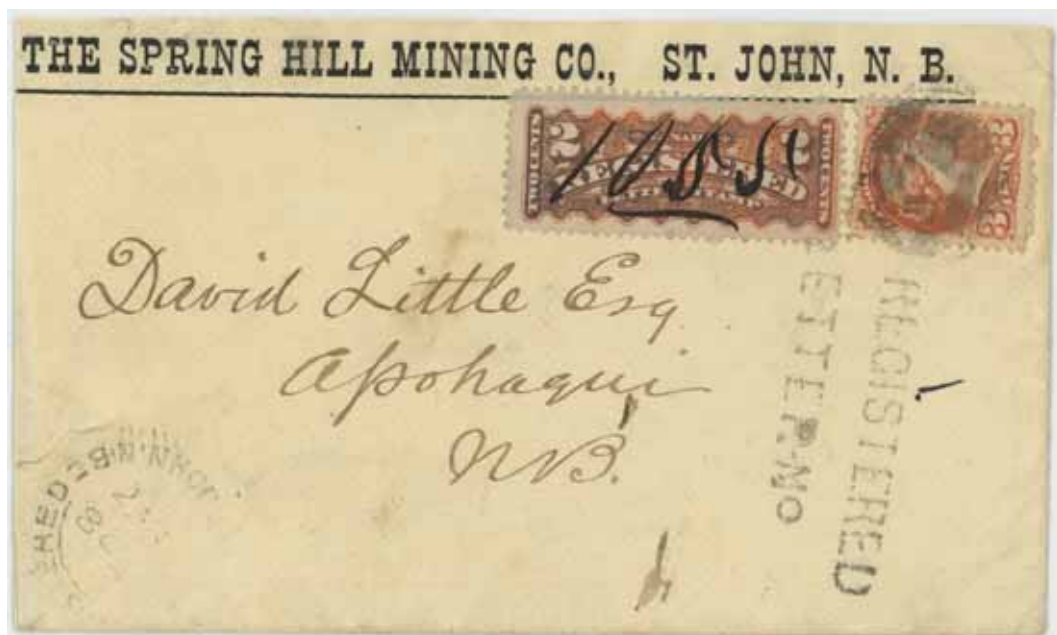


## Two-line registration handstamp

Used in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The registered octagon was used at Saint John and Halifax.



Truro—Amherst (NS), 1875. Combined registration and single domestic letter rates paid by 5¢ large queen.



Saint John—Apohaqui (NB), 1877. On reverse, ST JOHN & AMHERST INTERCOLONIAL R W Y R P O.



Saint John—Rockland (Carleton Co, NB), 1878. With REGISTERED LETTER NO on reverse.





## Boxed registration handstamp

A small number of offices were issued boxed REGISTERED handstamps in 1855. This is a late use.

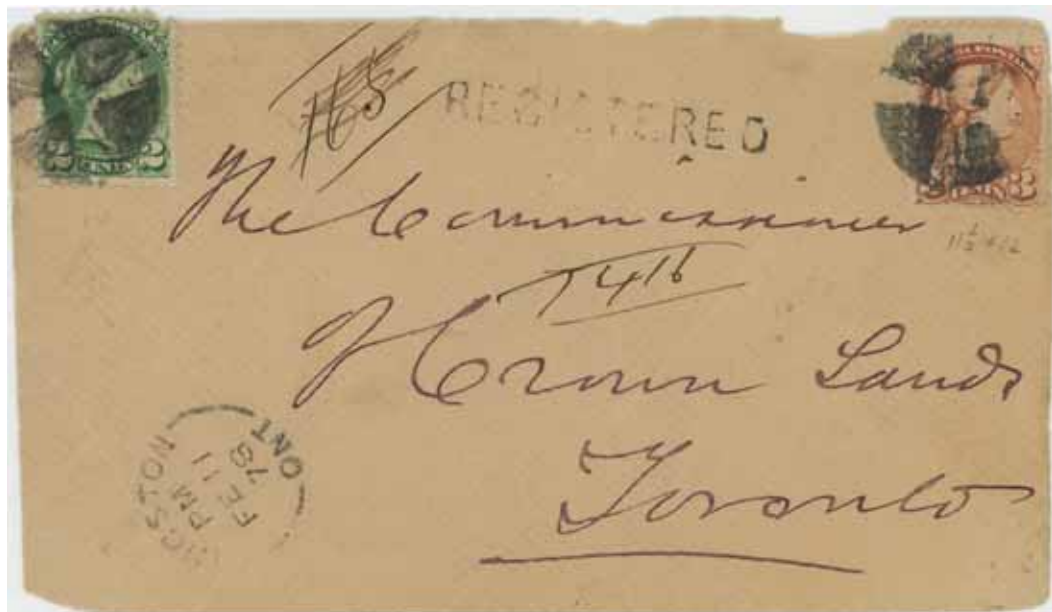


Allisonville (Ont)–Napanee, 1877. Single domestic. Double broken circle ALLISONVILLE U.C known from 1852; this is the latest reported date.



## Violation of the regulations

From October 1876–1889, the 2¢ RLS was required on registered letter mail (except, briefly, for parcel post). But occasionally, either the office had no RLS, or the postal clerk simply forgot. Kingston, Napanee, and especially Montreal were large enough offices that they should have been aware of the regulation and had RLS on hand.



Kingston–Toronto, February 1878. Combined registration and domestic paid by single 5¢ stamp.



Napanee–Toronto, December 1878. Not only did the postmaster not use an RLS, but apparently allowed the registration fee to be paid in cash (another violation); double 3¢ domestic.



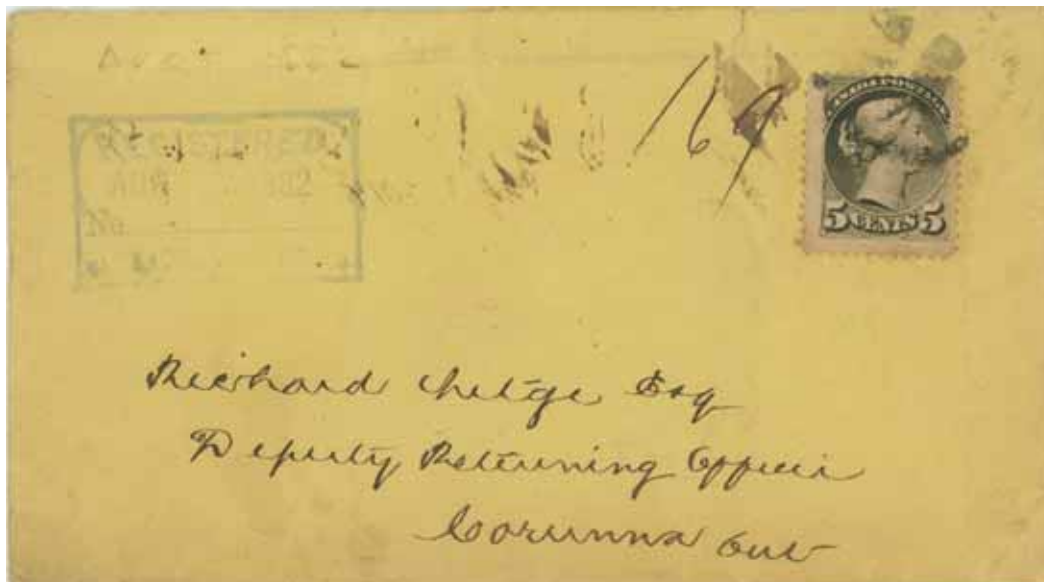
Montreal–Hamilton, 1880. Oval Hamilton registered datestamp.



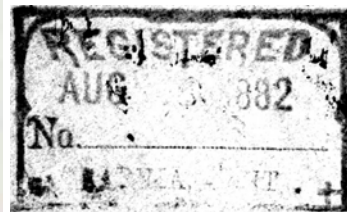


# Violations of the regulations

No RLS



Sarnia-Corunna (Ont), August 1882. Combined registration and domestic paid by single 5¢ stamp. Very odd registration handstamp.



Montreal-Ottawa, 1883. Overpaid 1¢.



Papineauville-Montebello (Que), 1882 [front]. Triple 3¢ domestic.



## No RLS



30¢  
26 ST.  
Rev. Sister St. Mary Alfred  
Congregation de Notre Dame  
St. John Baptist St.  
Montreal, P.Q.

*Summerside* (P E I)—*Montreal*, 1885. Registration fee paid by regular stamp. Summerside plus sign fancy cancel.

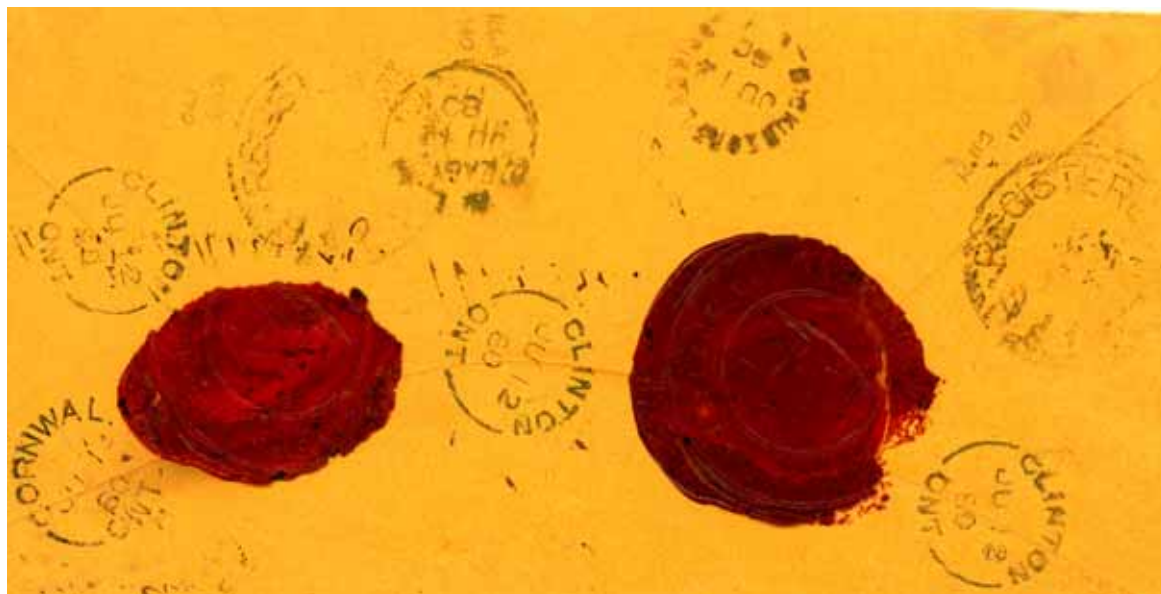


Registration number 0

I have no idea what this is supposed to mean.



Clinton–Dickinsons Landing (Ont), 1880. Triple domestic. Registration number 0? Large circle registered R P O datestamp.





Manitoba



Lintrathen (MB)–Winnipeg, 1882.



## Peterborough oval registered handstamp

Known from proof books, this is only the second example reported.

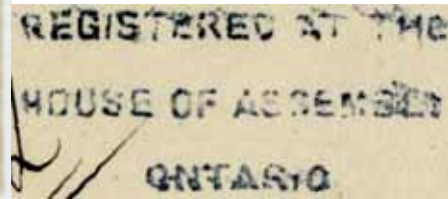


*Peterborough–Toronto, 1886. One faint strike on front, two on the back (equally faint), all three at right, images manipulated to show postmark. Also on reverse is a Toronto oval registered postmark.*





## House of Assembly registration marking



Ontario Provincial House of Assembly (Toronto)–Sarnia, 1887. In addition to the straightline, there is also a duplex of the House of Assembly.



Heavy



Windsor (Ont)—Toronto, septuple 1882. 7 × 3¢, 2¢ registered letter stamp. Unusual registered handstamp (cut down from that of R P O), used at Windsor.





Heavy



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



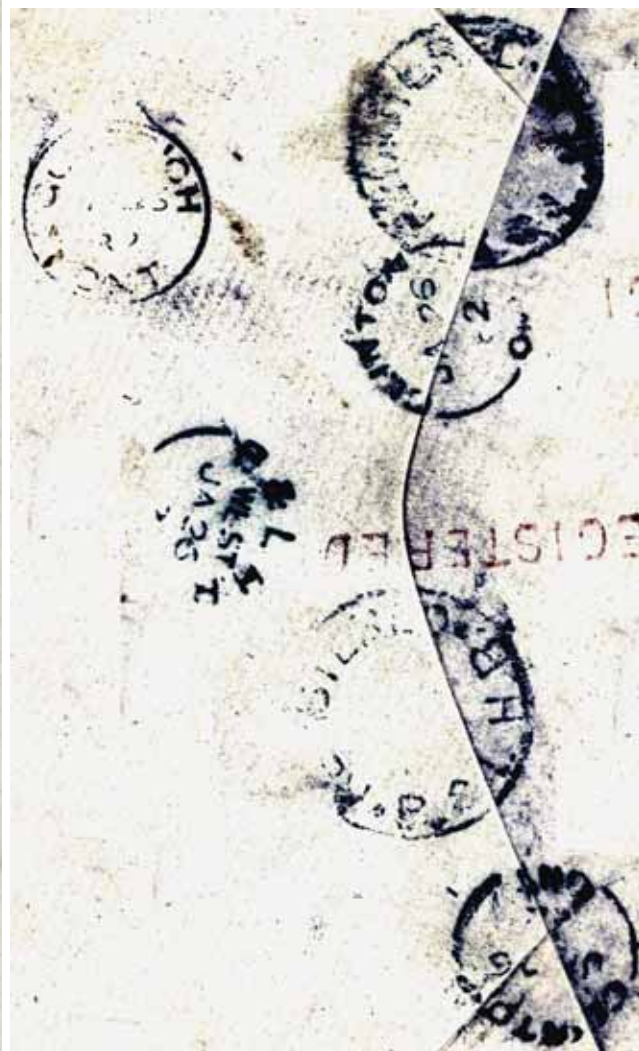
Dectuple (10×), Quebec–St-Joseph-Beauce, 1884. Rated 30¢ in tens and fives, plus 2¢ R L S, all killed by two-ring numeral 3 (Quebec).



Heavy



Clinton (Ont)—Goderich, septuple 1882. Rated 7 × 3¢, 2¢ registered letter stamp.  
Large circle R P O, REGISTERED P & L H B.

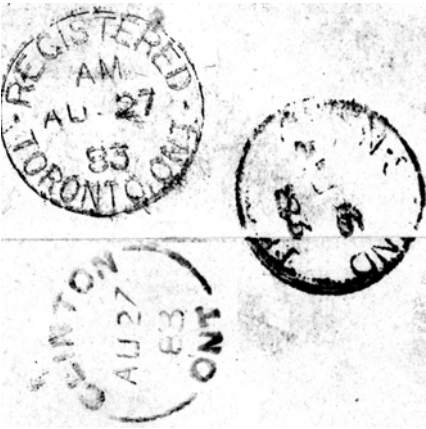




Heavy



??-Clinton (Ont), quadruple 1883. Postage 4 × 3¢ and 2¢ registered letter stamp.  
Toronto circle registered datestamp.





Heavy



Hamilton—Roxton (Ont), sextuple July 1886. Postage  
3 × 3¢ and 2¢ registered letter stamp.

First year of use of large bold **R** in Canada (these  
were ordered from UK).





## With ribbon

Ribbons, more usually blue or green, were occasionally used in UK (predating blue crayon crosses) on registered mail as a security feature (going through the envelope and attached by a wax seal, as here), much more rarely on Canadian mail.



I consent that the return to this Com-  
mission be opened by the Registrar.  
15 January 1883



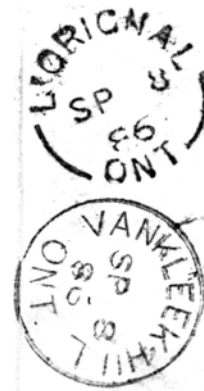
Heavy



Fournier-L'Original (Ont), quadruple 1886. Postage 4 × 3¢ and 2¢ registered letter stamp.

Second reported strike of this hammer of broken circle FOURNIER ONT (other strike: 1875); next hammer proofed December 1886.

L'ORIGINAL ONT (the moose) broken circle extends known use by two years.





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

According to the January 1889 Canada Postal Guide, 2¢ registered letter stamps (R L S) 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)—R L S again became compulsory.



No R L S, 22 January 1889. Most likely rated triple 3¢ domestic rate plus 2¢ registration, overpaid 1¢.

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

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





## Prince Edward Island



Caledonia (P.E.I.)—Charlottetown, 8 January 1889. With carmine shade of 3¢ small queen. Both CALEDONIA·P.E.I. and ORWELL·P.E.I. (transit marking) have CANADA at base.



## Domestic registration fee changes to 5¢ on 8 May 1889

Now the registration fee (including parcel post and to U P U 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 (Ont), 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.





## Interpreting the regulations

By 1891, RLS were only preferred, not required, on registered letters.

Toronto–Welland, 1891. Double 3¢ domestic rate, plus 5¢ registration.

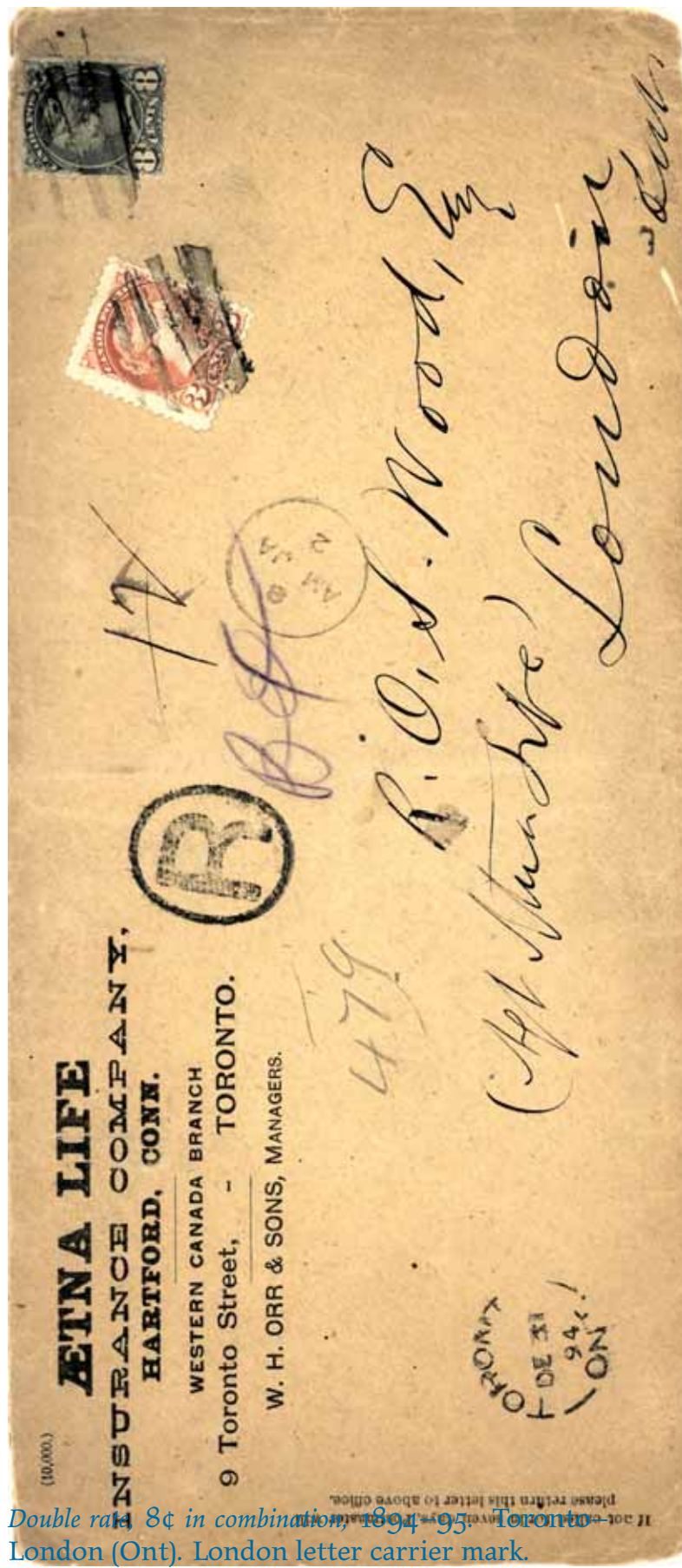




## RLS no longer required

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.



Somenus (BC)–New York, 1897. Rated as at left.



Other franking



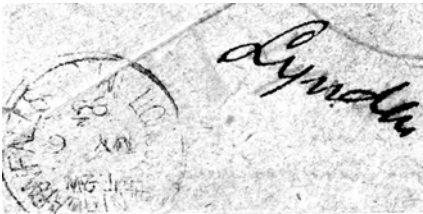
*Paid the hard way 1894. Boxed Ottawa registration handstamp is common.*

*Halifax–Boston, three notices, non-reclamé, returned to sender, 1894.*





Other franking



Stony Creek (Ont), 1893. Paid the hard way.



Heavy



Yarmouth—Bridgewater (N S), quatroductuple, 1897. 14 × 3¢ plus 5¢ registration.



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.





Jubilees



Hampton (P E I)–Truro (N S), August 1897. Single rate, 3¢ plus 5¢ registration.



## 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.



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



Maple leaves and small queens, Poplar (Ont)–Toronto, March 1898.



## Numerals

The 8¢ numeral had an effective period of use of three months, as the domestic and U S rates were reduced on 1 January 1899.



Single 8¢ numeral, Port Perry (Ont)–Toronto, November 1898. Three months' proper use for the intended rate.



Single 8¢ numeral, Hammond (Ont)–Montreal, November 1898. With Montreal squared circle precursor (hammer III), seldom seen small Ottawa R datestamp, and Canada Atlantic RPO, all unusually clear.



Shortpaid, not caught



*Shortpaid, East Side of Pubnico (N S)—Yarmouth, 15 December 1898. Evidently anticipating the drop in domestic rate to 2¢.*



## Registration number 1

Registration numbers turned the corner at 999, except in cities where they could go up to 99999. Thus a 1 is rarely found.



*Roland (M B)–Toronto, 1897. Post office changed its name to Roland in 1890, but this is a very small village.*



## 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 half-ounce (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, against 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.*



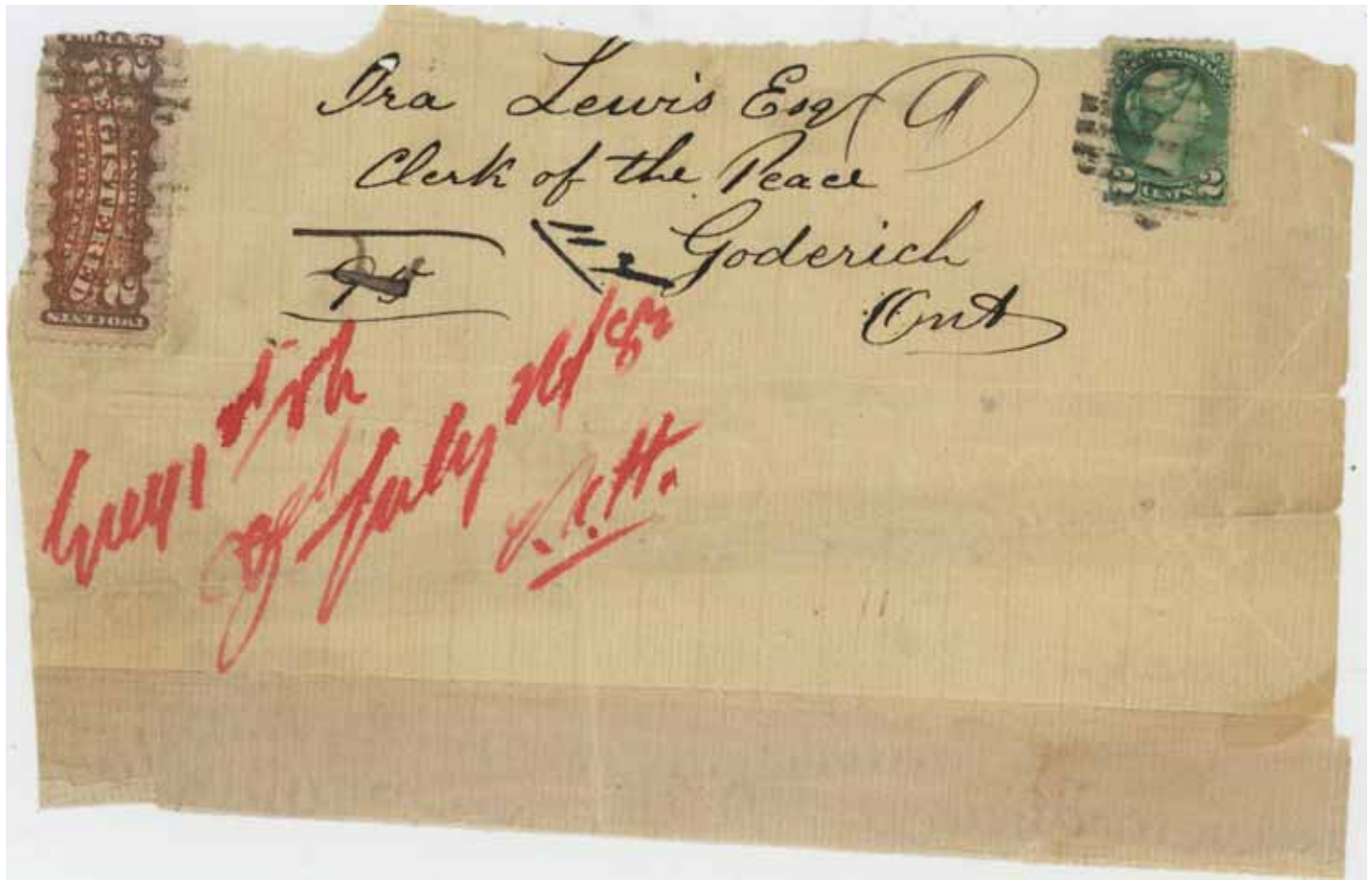
*Petrolea (Ont) drop letter, 1877.*



*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 letter



Registered double drop letter, Goderich (Ont), 1883.



## 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 (Ont), 1891. No letter carrier service, so the drop letter fee was 1¢.



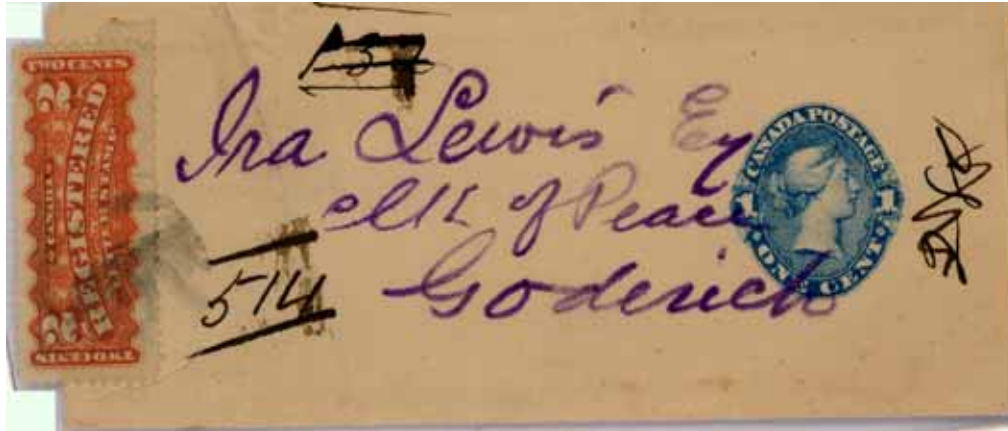
Toronto registered drop letter, no RLS, returned to sender, 1892. Charged 2¢ drop letter fee, as Toronto had letter carriers. An RLS was required in this period.

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 third class

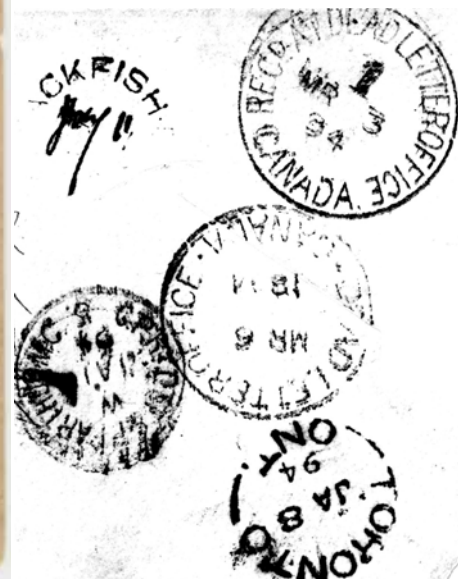
Third class covers a wide range of mail, including non-subscription newspapers, books and other printed matter. The fee was 1¢ per four ounces; however, third class could not be registered until 8 May 1889.



Toronto–Spencerville (Ont), 1894. 1¢ book post (third class) plus 5¢ registration



## Printed matter

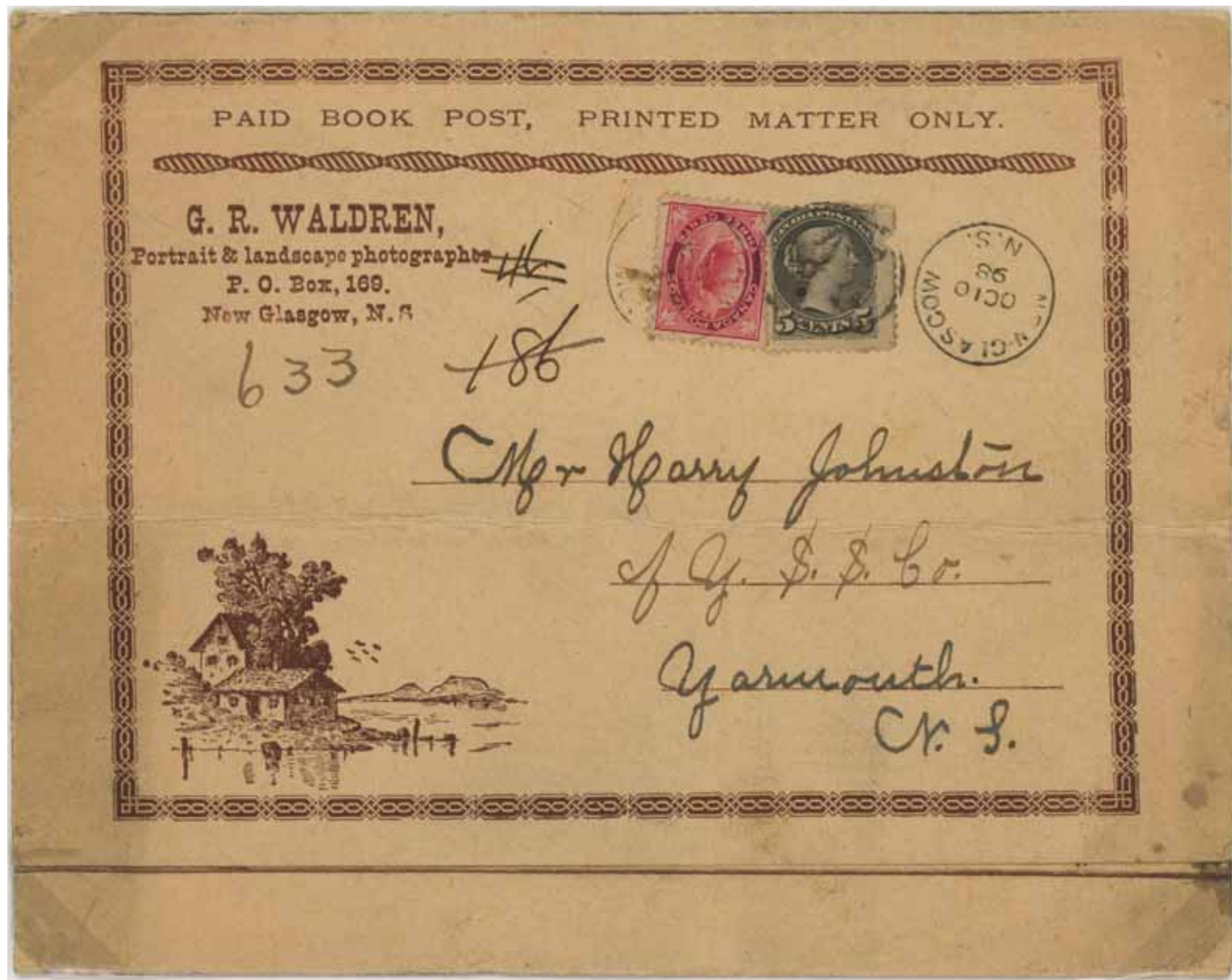


Stratford to Jackfish Bay (Thunder Bay, Ont), 1894. 5¢ registration and 1¢ printed matter (envelope was unsealed). Not called for and returned to sender via the Dead Letter Office

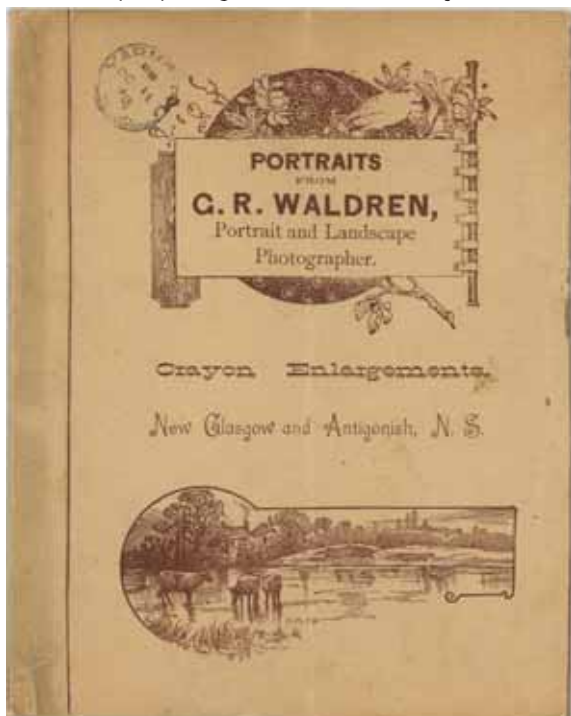
JACKFISH·BAY ONT broken circle, proofed 1883; this is the first reported strike.



Third class



New Glasgow—Yarmouth (N S), 1898. Undoubtedly contained photographs. 5¢ registration and triple 1¢ per four ounces.





## Registered post cards

Government-issued post cards (1¢), introduced 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 backstamps 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.*



# Registered letter card



Dundas (Ont)–Ayr (Ont), 1897. Unusually (for a letter card), had an enclosure. Rated 5¢ registration and 3¢ domestic letter. Dundas squared circle.

2719 ~~Dund~~  
Wm Hieborn  
Oct 30/97

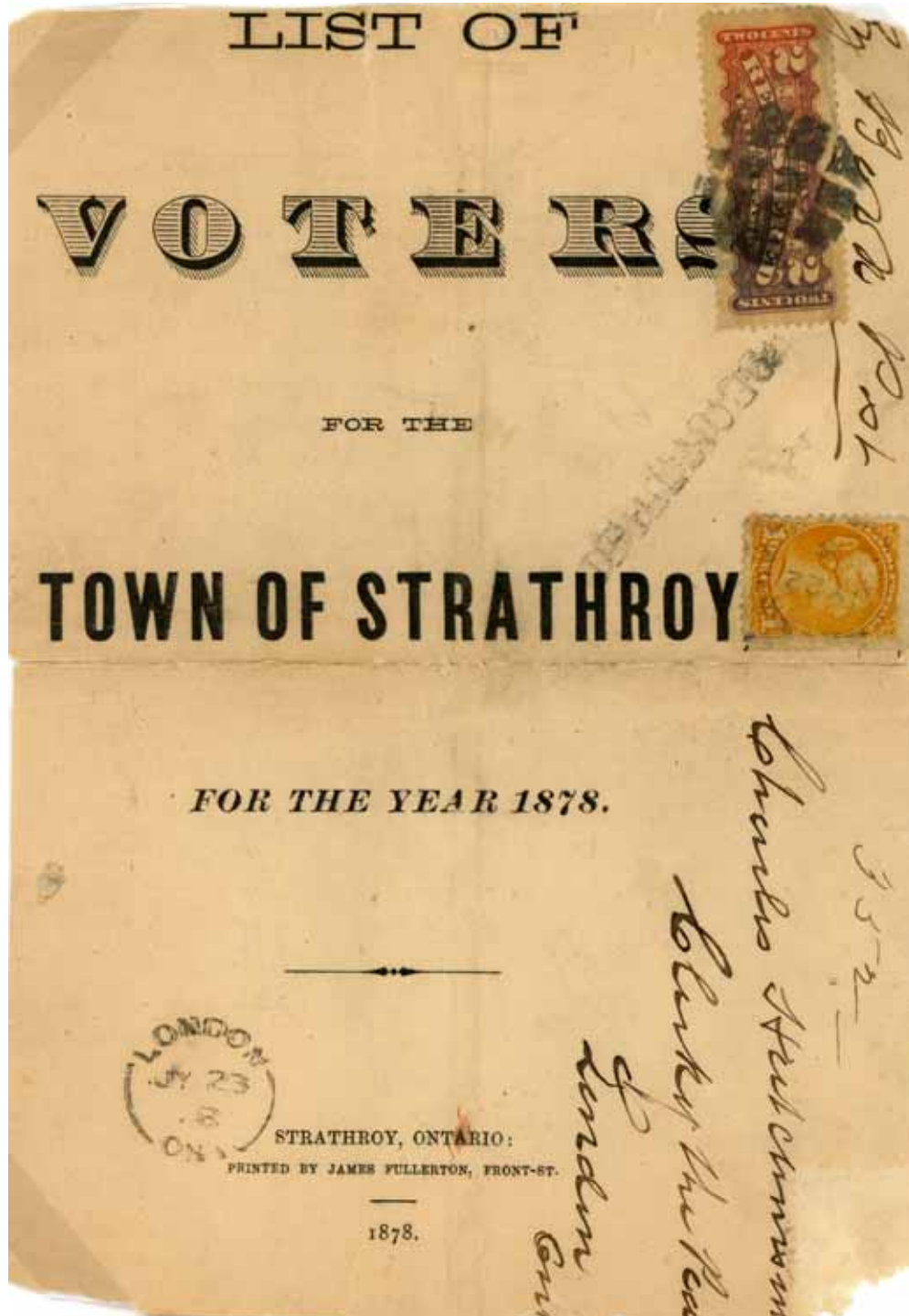
Enclosed find  
Thirteen dollars  
\$13 <sup>on note</sup> ~~on note~~ <sup>on note</sup> ~~on note~~  
due by me in favor  
Wm Hieborn

Chas Hieborn



## Voters' lists

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



*Strathroy (Ont) voters' list, to London (Ont), 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.



145-487

Clinton  
Aug 13  
1892

145-487

La Cleve to  
Clerk of the Peace, C. P. Mason

Proven Lites

145-487

# POLLING SUB-DIVISION NO. 2.

No. of Polling District	Name	No. of Lot or Part of Lot	Street	Qualities, how holder, or next, owner or mortgaged owner
154	Knosman Henry	30, 131	William	M F & Owner
155	Looseport Samuel	31, 132	William & Hamilton	M F & Tenant
156	Lutz Calvin	31, 53	William	M F & Owner
157	Mattson George	31, 11	Main	M F & Tenant
158	Mathews John	31, 133	William	M F & Owner
159	McVittie F	31, 48	Main	M F & Owner
160	McLain John	31, 131	Main	M F & Tenant
161	McNair Henry	42	Southers	M F & Tenant
162	Nordman James	31, 10	Main	M F & Tenant
163	O'Brien Benjamin	31, 10	Main	M F & Tenant
164	Parkinson James	31, 16	Carling	M F & Tenant
165	Parkinson John	31, 4	Gidley	M F & Owner
166	Perkins Charles	31, 13	William	M F & Owner
167	Perkins Charles H	29	William	M F & Owner
168	Peterson Nelson	32	Archers	M F & Tenant
169	Richard Robert	31, 17	Main	M F & Tenant
170	Roberts Edward	31, 17	Main	M F & Tenant
171	Sawall Henry	31, 43	Southers	M F & Tenant
172	Sawall Samuel	31, 43	Main	M F & Owner
173	Scott Robert	31, 27	William	M F & Owner
174	Scott George	31, 13	Main	M F & Tenant
175	Scott Albert	31, 13	Main	M F & Tenant
176	Scott George	31, 13	Main	M F & Owner
177	Smith Thomas	31, 4	Gidley	M F & Owner
178	Spockman Hugh	31, 15	Main	M F & Owner
179	Spockman Edward	31, 15	Main	M F & Owner
180	Spockman John	31, 15	Main	M F & Owner
181	Spur Robert	31, 15	Main	M F & Owner
182	Stewart James A	31, 10	Main	M F & Tenant
183	Stewart John	31, 11, 12	Main	M F & Tenant
184	Taylor Thomas	31, 10	Southers	M F & Owner
185	Taylor James	16	Gidley	M F & Owner
186	Taylor John W	11	Gidley	M F & Owner
187	Taylor John	31, C & 3	Gidley	M F & Owner
188	Tish John	31, 13	William	M F & Owner
189	Trott William	32	John	M F & Owner
190	Vandy John	31, 21	Arch	M F & Owner
191	Wadsworth William D	31, 21	Main	M F & Owner
192	Weeks James	9	Main	M F & Owner
193	Whitlock William	31, Cor 2	Carling	M F & Owner
194	Wigand Lewis	31, 11, 12	Gidley	M F & Tenant
195	Willard Daniel	31, 4	Gidley	M F & Owner
196	Willis James	31, 16	Carling	M F & Owner
197	Wood Daniel	31, 11	Main	M F & Tenant

## PART 2 - Persons Entitled to Vote at Municipal Elections Only.

208	Armstrong George	31, 13	William	Owner
209	Atkinson Richard	31, W cor 2	Main	Owner
210	Atkins John	34	William	Owner
211	Bell John	34	Archers	Owner
212	Brown Ave	10	Main	Owner
213	Burckhardt John W	31, 12	Main	Owner
214	Chase Edith	3	Main	Owner
215	Farmer Mary Ann	31, 30	Main	Owner
216	Fake Richard	17	Gidley	Owner
217	Gardner Ann	31, 13	William	Owner
218	Hoppe Harrison	31, 3	William & Main	Owner
219	Knight George	31, 11	William & other prop	Owner
220	Long Irene	31, cor 1	Southers	Owner
221	Mace George A	31, 13, 2	Main	Owner
222	McNair B H	31, 10	Main	Owner
223	McNair John	31, 10	Main	Owner
224	Moore Elizabeth	31, 13	Main	Owner
225	Southworth Charles	31, 12	Main	Owner
226	White William J	31, 11, 12	Main	Owner

## PART 3 - Persons Entitled to Vote at Elections for the Legislative Assembly Only

198	Harvey James	31, 7	Main	M F
199	Kinnison Thomas	31	William	M F
200	Scott William Jr	31	Main	M F

# POLLING SUB-DIVISION NO. 3

Comprising that portion of the Village of Kester, on the west side of Main street from and including the north side of Gidley street, to next Boundary.

## PART 1 - Persons Entitled to Vote at both Municipal Elections and Elections to the Legislative Assembly

227	Alch James	31, 25, 33	William	M F & Owner
228	Anderson George	37, 48	Victoria	M F & Tenant
229	Asmud W Van	3	Carling	M F & Owner
230	Austin Mrs Francis	77	Lake Road	M F & Owner
231	Barnes Peter	31, 16	Main	M F & Tenant
232	Barnes John	31, 16	William	M F & Tenant
233	Barnes Peter	31, 16	Gidley	M F & Owner
234	Barnes Peter	31, 16	William	M F & Owner
235	Barnes Peter	31, 16</		



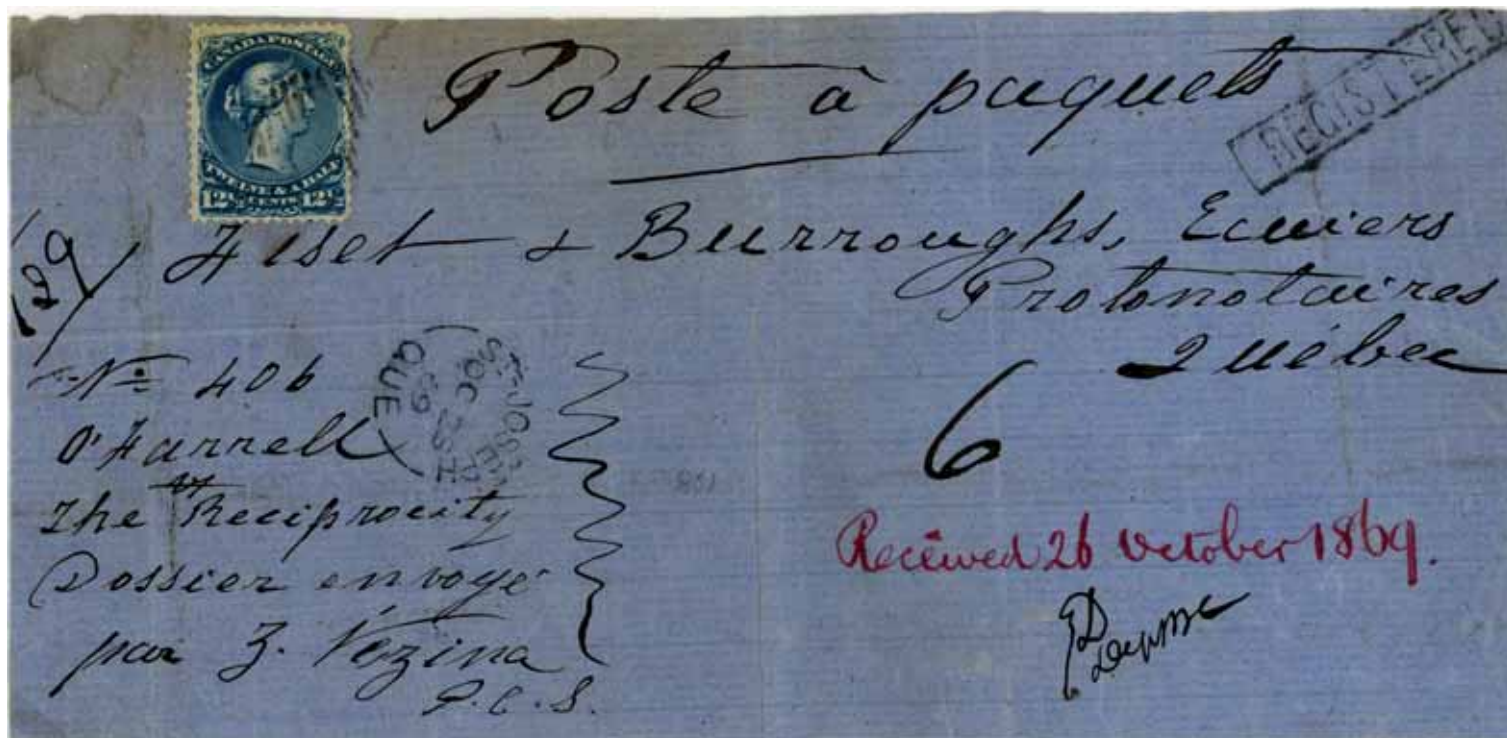
[illegible]

POLLING SUB-DIVISION NO. 2.					
No. of Poll	Name	No of Lot or Part of Lot	Street	Residence, house holder, in part, tenant's name, or no. of lot and part	
124	Kloman Henry	30, 131	William	M F & Owner	
125	Lange Joseph	11, 2, 3	Wm and Nelson	M F & Tenant	
126	Lane Calvin	10, 23	William	M F & Owner	
127	Matson George	11, 11	Main	M F & Tenant	
128	Matheson John	C, 1, 2	William	M F & Owner	
129	May William F.	10, 48	John	M F & Owner	
130	McNish John	S, 1, 11	William	M F & Tenant	
131	McNish Henry	43	Sutcliffe	M F & Tenant	
132	Northam James	34, 10	Main	M F & Tenant	
133	O'Brien Benjamin R.	C, 1, 10	William	M F & Tenant	
134	Parkinson James	R, 16	Carling	M F & Tenant	
135	Patterson John	11, 4	Gilley	M F & Owner	
136	Peckham Charles	10, 1, 2	William	M F & Owner	
137	Perkins Charles H.	29	William	M F & Owner	
138	Perkins Nelson	32	Archery	M F & Tenant	
139	Pickard Robert	1, 1	William	M F & Tenant	
140	Pinkney Edward	1, 1	William	M F & Tenant	
141	Quinn Henry	11, 43	Sutcliffe	M F & Tenant	
142	Sanders Samuel	A	Main	M F & Owner	
143	Shall in Robert	32, 27	William	M F & Owner	
144	Shaw George	11, 12	Main	M F & Owner	
145	Shaw William	11, 12	Main	M F & Tenant	
146	Shall Abner	10, 10	Wm	M F & Tenant	
147	Shall Charles	10, 11, 12	Main	M F & Owner	
148	Shall George	10, 11, 12	Main	M F & Owner	
149	Shall Thomas	11, 4	Gilley	M F & Owner	
150	Spickman Hugh	11, 15	Main	M F & Owner	
151	Spickman Edward J.	11, 15	Main	M F & Owner	
152	Spickman John	11, 15	Main	M F & Owner	
153	Spicer Robert	11, 15	Main	M F & Owner	
154	Stewart James A.	N, 11, 10	William	M F & Tenant	
155	Stewart John	11, 11, 12	William	M F & Owner	
156	Taylor Thomas	N, 10	Sutcliffe	M F & Owner	
157	Taylor James	16	Gilley	M F & Owner	
158	Taylor John W.	11	Gilley	M F & Owner	
159	Taylor John	11, 11, 12	William	M F & Owner	
160	Tink John	N, 11, 2	William	M F & Owner	
161	Trot William	30	John	M F & Owner	
162	Vasey John	30, 31	Arch	M F & Owner	
163	Watson William D.	9	Main	M F & Owner	
164	Weeks James	9	Main	M F & Owner	
165	Whitlock William	W, Cor 2	Carling	M F & Owner	
166	Wheeler Lewis	11, 12	Gilley	M F & Owner	
167	Wheeler Daniel	11, 4	Gilley	M F & Owner	
168	William James	R, 16	Carling	M F & Owner	
169	Wood Daniel	34, 11	Main	M F & Tenant	



## 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 (Ont), 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.

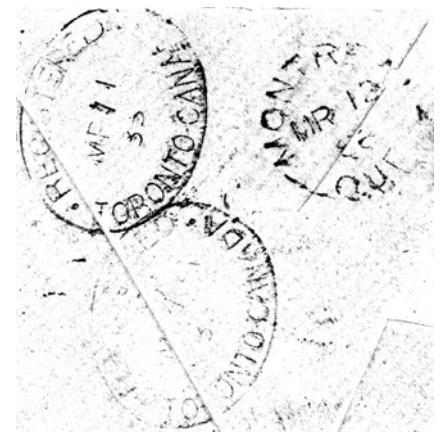


## Registered parcel post with RLS

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.



Parcel post, Toronto–Montreal, March 1886. As above, not marked *parcel post*. Single rate. Toronto registered oval. A very early use of the R in oval (1886)



Registered parcel post with RLS

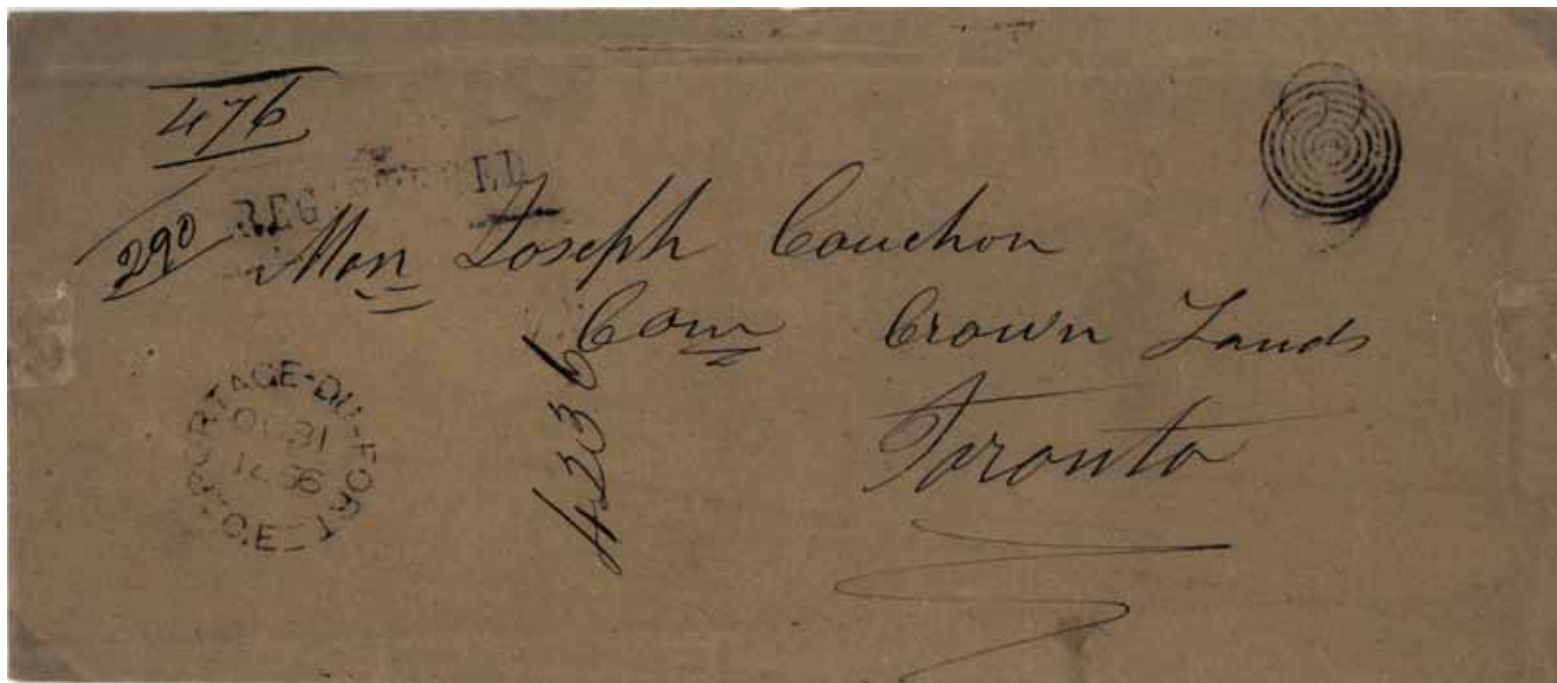


*Registered parcel post, Toronto–Montreal, 1888. This open to inspection wrapper must have contained printed matter, which could not be registered as such (until 1889); so it was sent as parcel post.*



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



Free registered mail



Legislative Assembly (Toronto)–Hamilton, 1856. Part of large parcel.



## Free registered mail



Free, Tamworth (U C)–Toronto, 1857. Widely spaced **F R E E**.

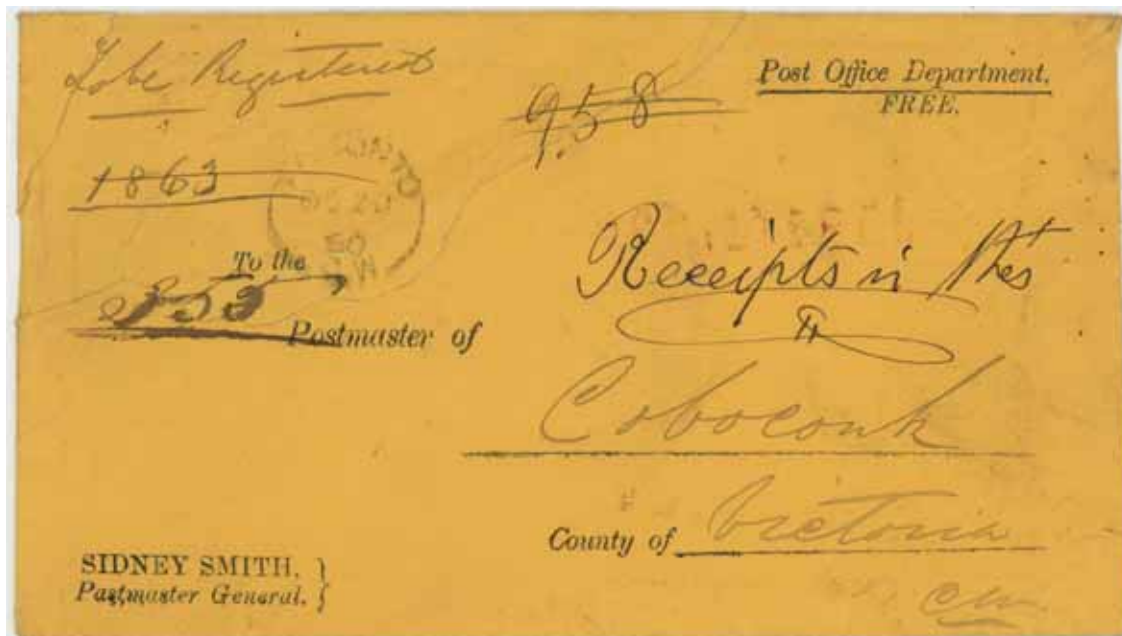


Free, Bristol (L C)–Toronto, 1858. This time, marked **FREE**.

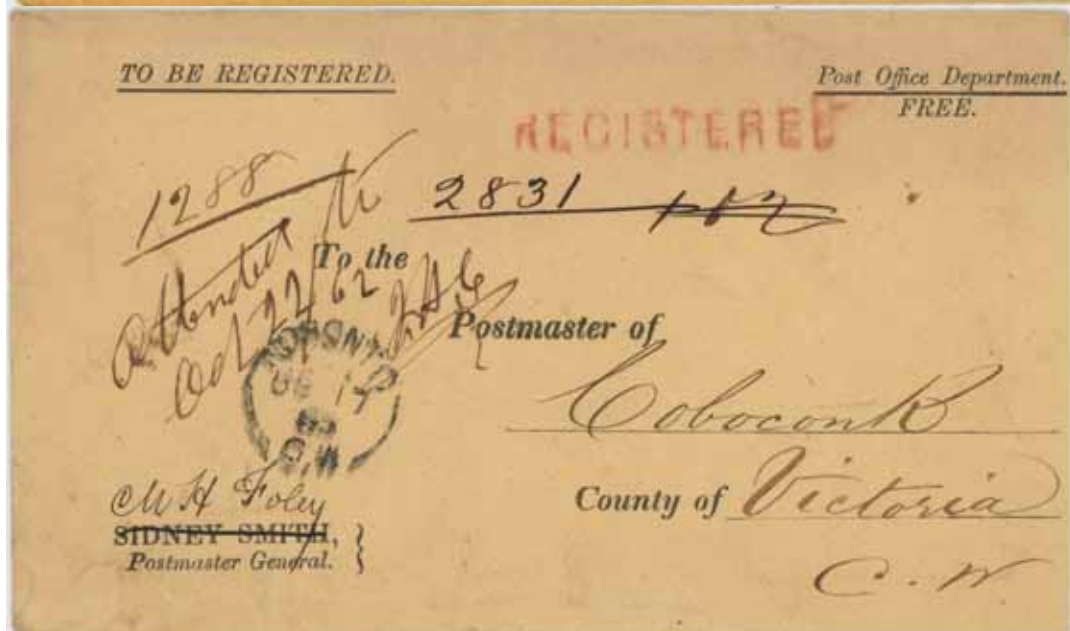


Free (official) registered mail, cents period

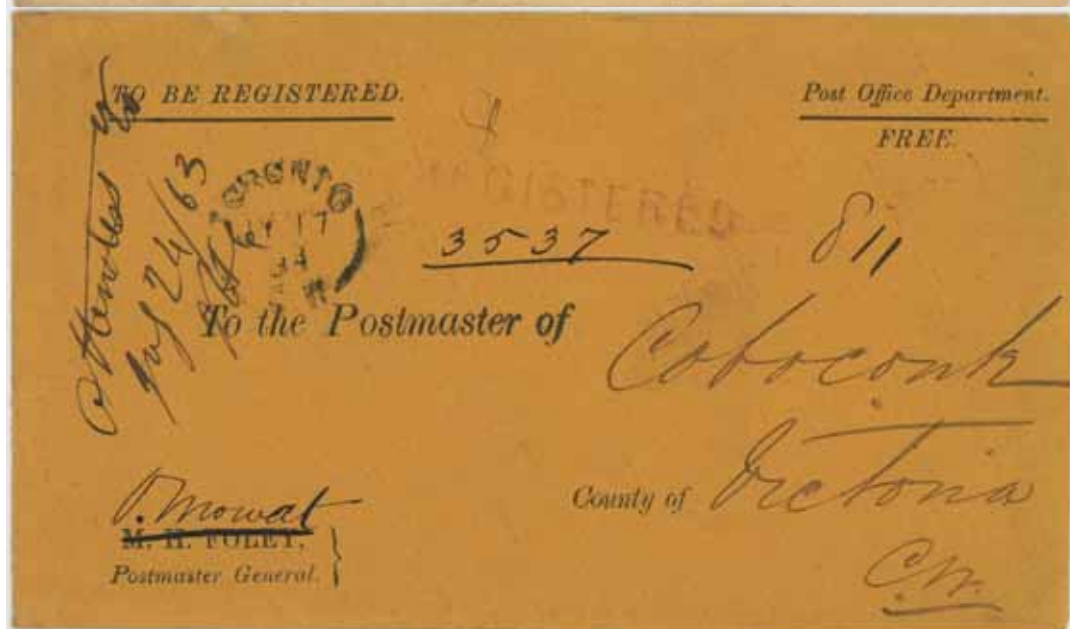
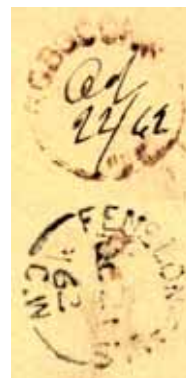
Contained cheques for the postal contractor carrying the mail between Coboconk and Fenelon Falls.



Postmaster-General Sydney Smith  
to Coboconk P M, 1861.



Postmaster-General MH Foley to  
Coboconk P M, 1862.



Postmaster-General Oliver Mowat  
to Coboconk P M, 1863.





# Covering letters for cheques to contractor

Post Office Department,  
 QUEBEC, 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 1862

SIR,

I enclose a cheque for \$ 16 <sup>25</sup>/<sub>100</sub> being the amount due to the Contractor for carrying Her Majesty's Mails between Cobocouk and Oakhill during the quarter ended the 30 ultimo.

I will thank you to give the cheque to Mr. Amos Frew the Contractor, on his signing, before a witness, the receipt sent herewith, in which please to fill in the date of payment, and return it in the enclosed envelope, as soon as practicable.

I am,

Sir,

To Postmaster

of

Cobocouk

☒ You will please be careful to see that when the cheque is made payable, and by no

2000-S, 1862.

Post Office Department,  
 QUEBEC, July 7<sup>th</sup> 1863

SIR,

I enclose a cheque for \$ 10 <sup>83</sup>/<sub>100</sub> being the amount due to the Contractor for carrying Her Majesty's Mails between Cobocouk and Oakhill during the quarter ended the 30<sup>th</sup> ultimo.

I will thank you to give the cheque to Mr. Amos Frew the Contractor, on his signing, before a witness, the receipt sent herewith, in which please to fill in the date of payment, and return it in the enclosed envelope, as soon as practicable.

Your obedient servant,

M. H. FOLEY,  
 Postmaster General.

the receipt is signed by the party to whom the cheque is made payable, and by no other.

Post Office Department,

QUEBEC, July 7<sup>th</sup> 1863

SIR,

I enclose a cheque for \$ 8 <sup>66</sup>/<sub>100</sub> being the amount due to the Contractor for carrying Her Majesty's Mails between Cobocouk and Amelon Falls during the quarter ended the 31<sup>st</sup> ultimo.

I will thank you to give the cheque to Mr. Amos Frew the Contractor, on his signing, before a witness, the receipt sent herewith, in which please to fill in the date of payment, and return it in the enclosed envelope, as soon as practicable.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M. H. FOLEY,  
 Postmaster General.

To Postmaster

of

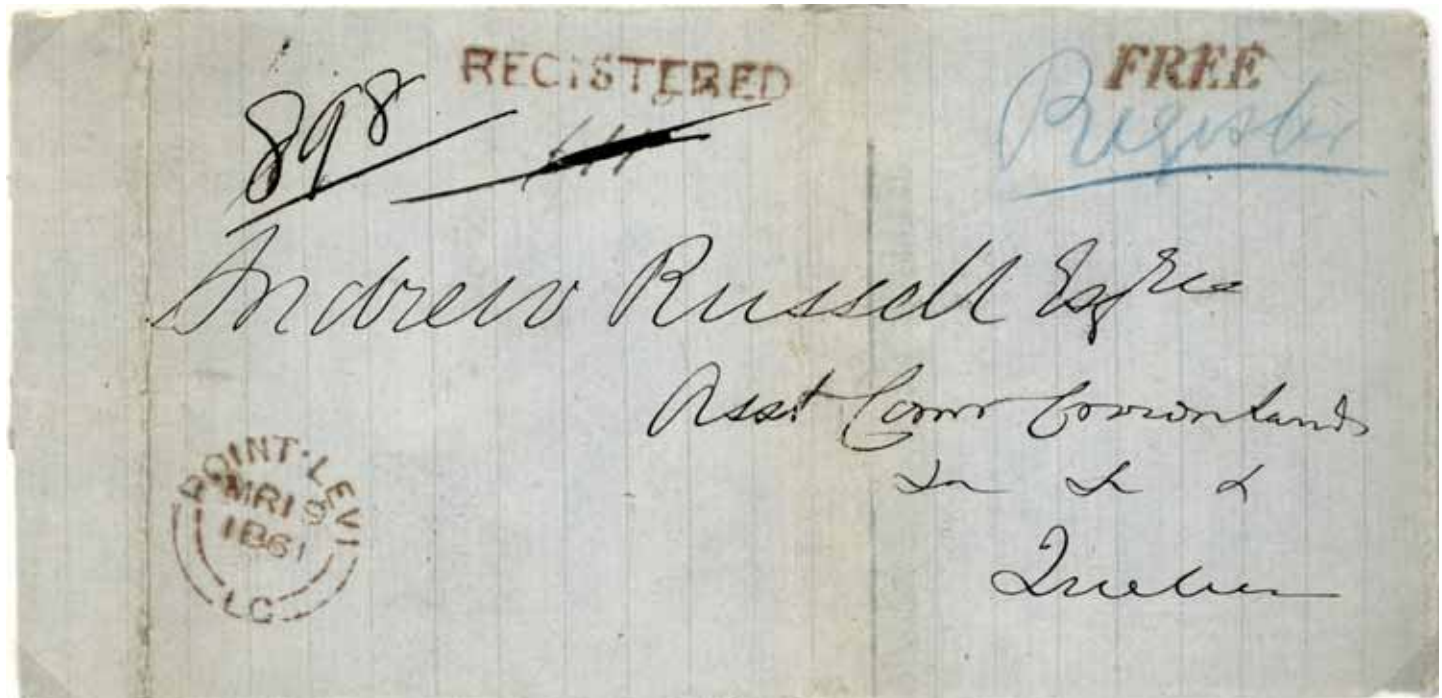
Cobocouk

☒ You will please be careful to see that the receipt is signed by the party to whom the cheque is made payable, and by no other.

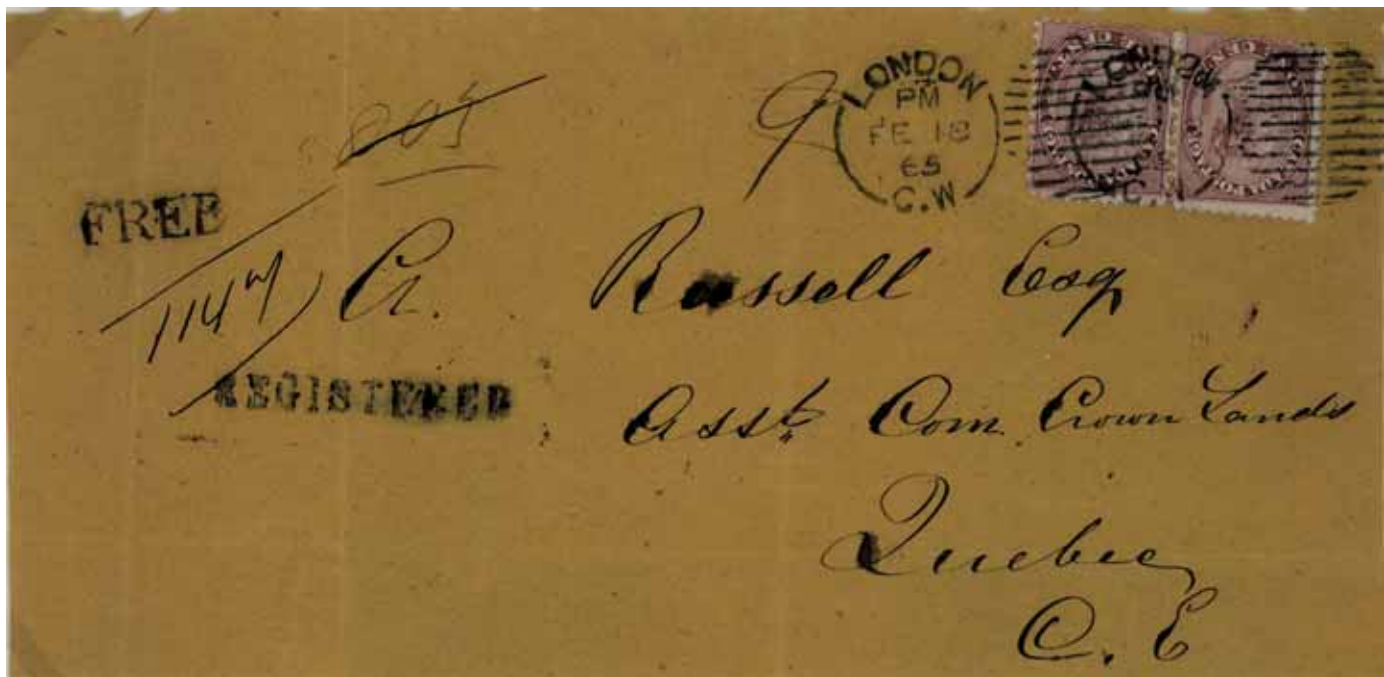
2000-S, 1862.



Free registered mail, cents period



Point-Levis-Quebec, 1861.



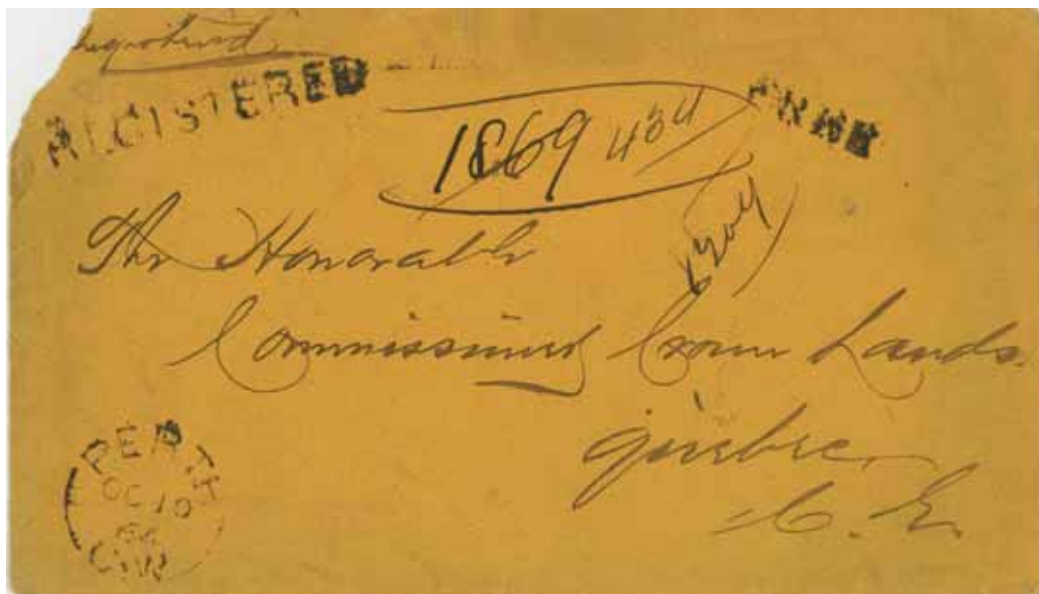
Registration fee paid in cash, London (C.W)-Toronto, 1865. Extremely unusual payment of registration fee (2¢) in stamps on an otherwise free cover.



Free registered mail, cents period, to Crown Lands



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.



Perth—Quebec, 1864. PERTH C.W broken circle, known 1864–70.



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.



## Registered official mail



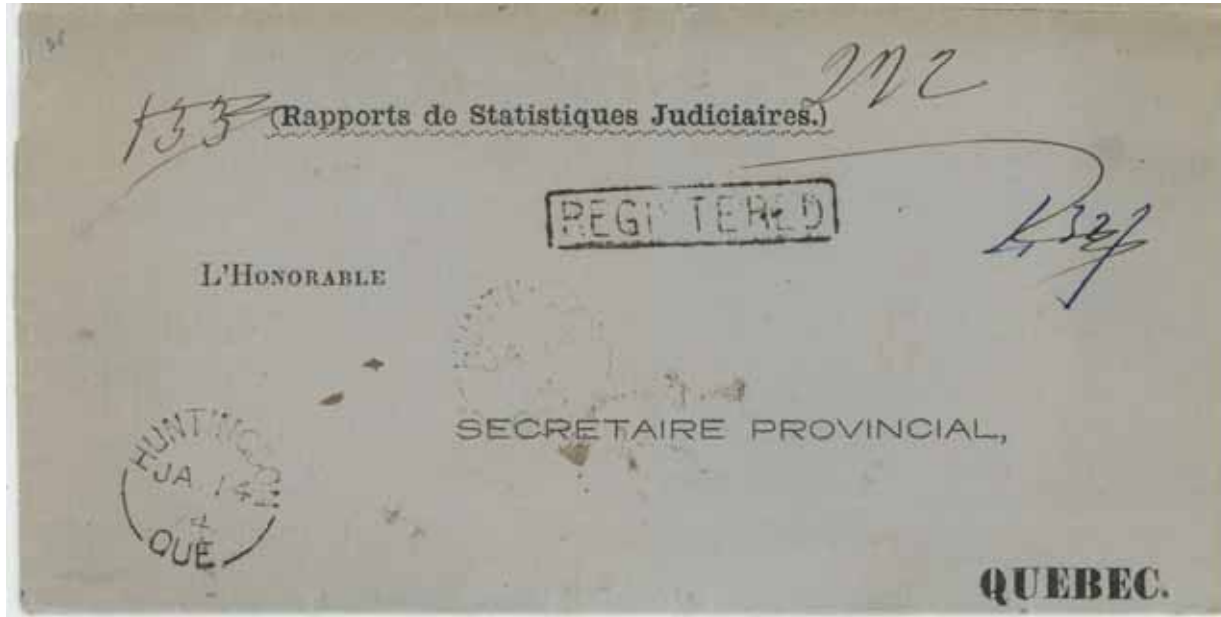
Free franked, Toronto–Guelph, November 1868. Very faint **PAID 3** handstamp; whether this means it was paid for out of Box 101 (upper left), or was struck out is unclear. Generic government stationery.



Free franked, Ottawa–Montreal, 1874. Seal reads Department of Agriculture. Stamped signature JC Taché.



Registered official mail



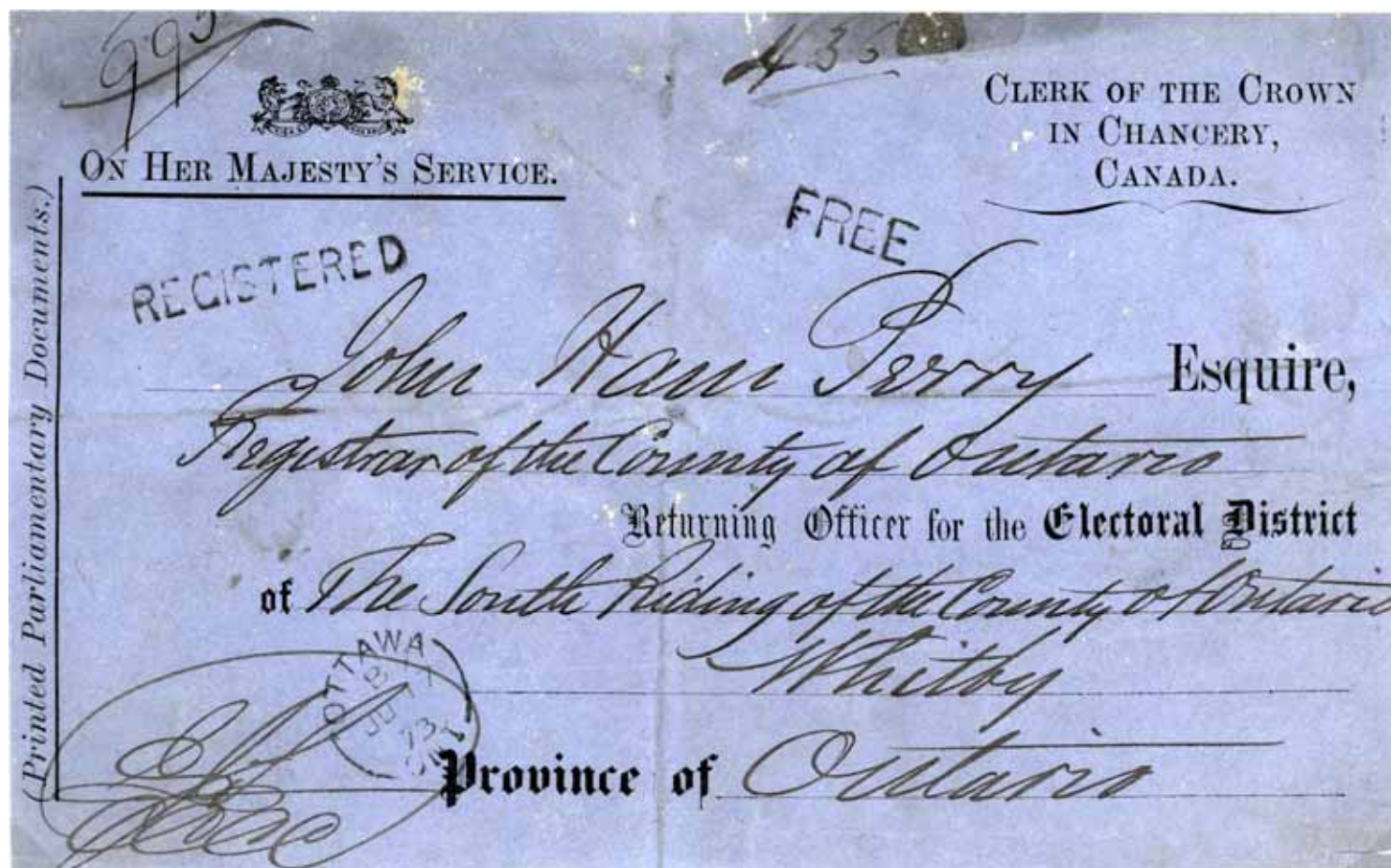
Free franked, Huntingdon (Que), November 1874. Boxed REGISTERED.



## 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

Wm. E. Mearns

Militiaman of 1812-15.

Post Office:

Fitzroy

County of

Wentworth

Province of

Ont.

Ottawa-Fitzroy (Ont), 1878. On reverse is  
ARNPRIOR C.W broken circle (second lat-  
est date recorded).

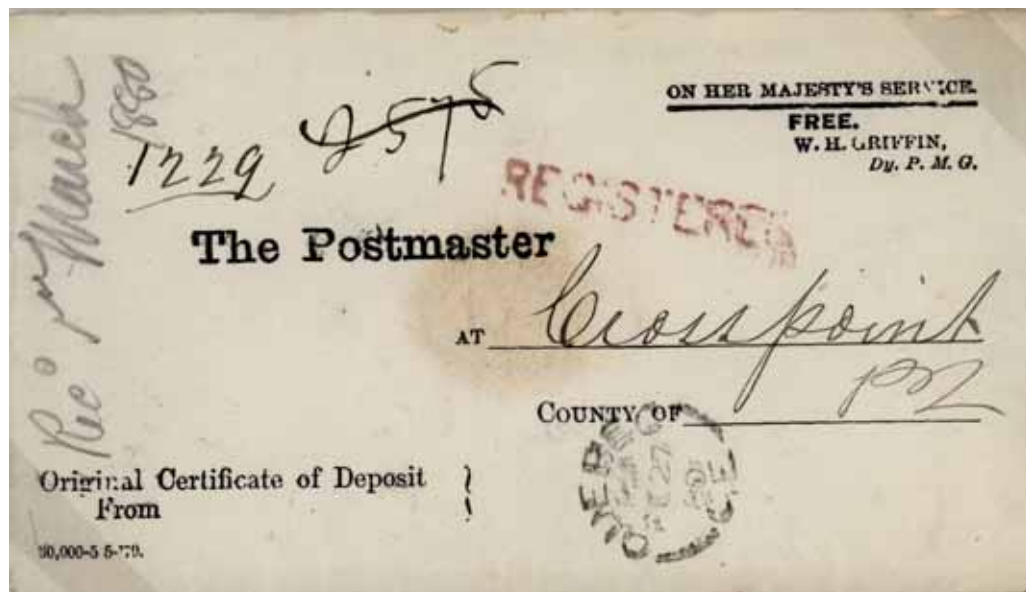
To Sgt John Landon, a veteran of the  
War of 1812; he continued to receive an  
annual \$30 pension until his death in  
1885 (Sessional papers 48 Victoria).

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

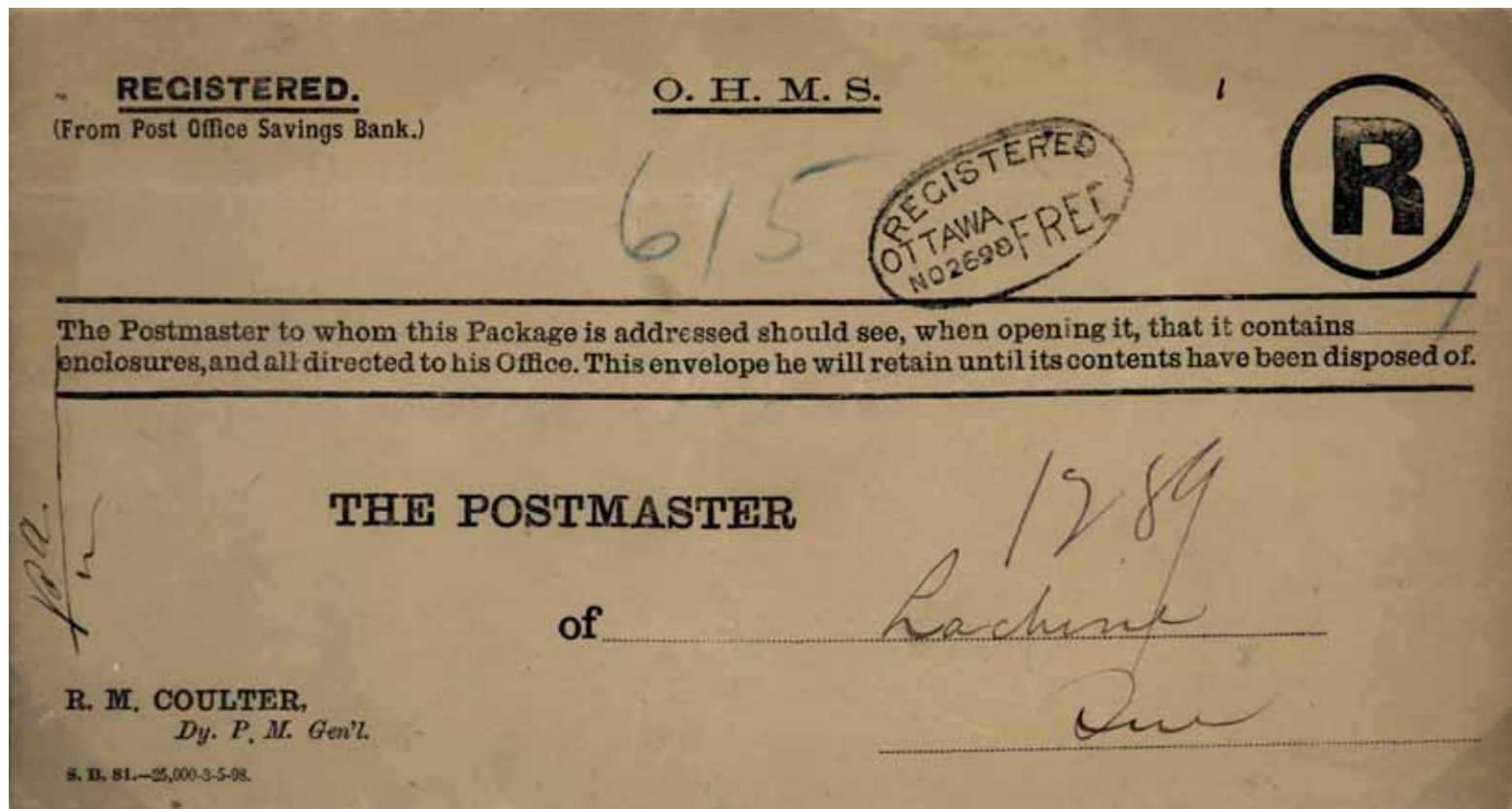


## Postal savings bank

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.



Finance department



Ottawa—Mount Forest, 1881. Ottawa FREE duplex.

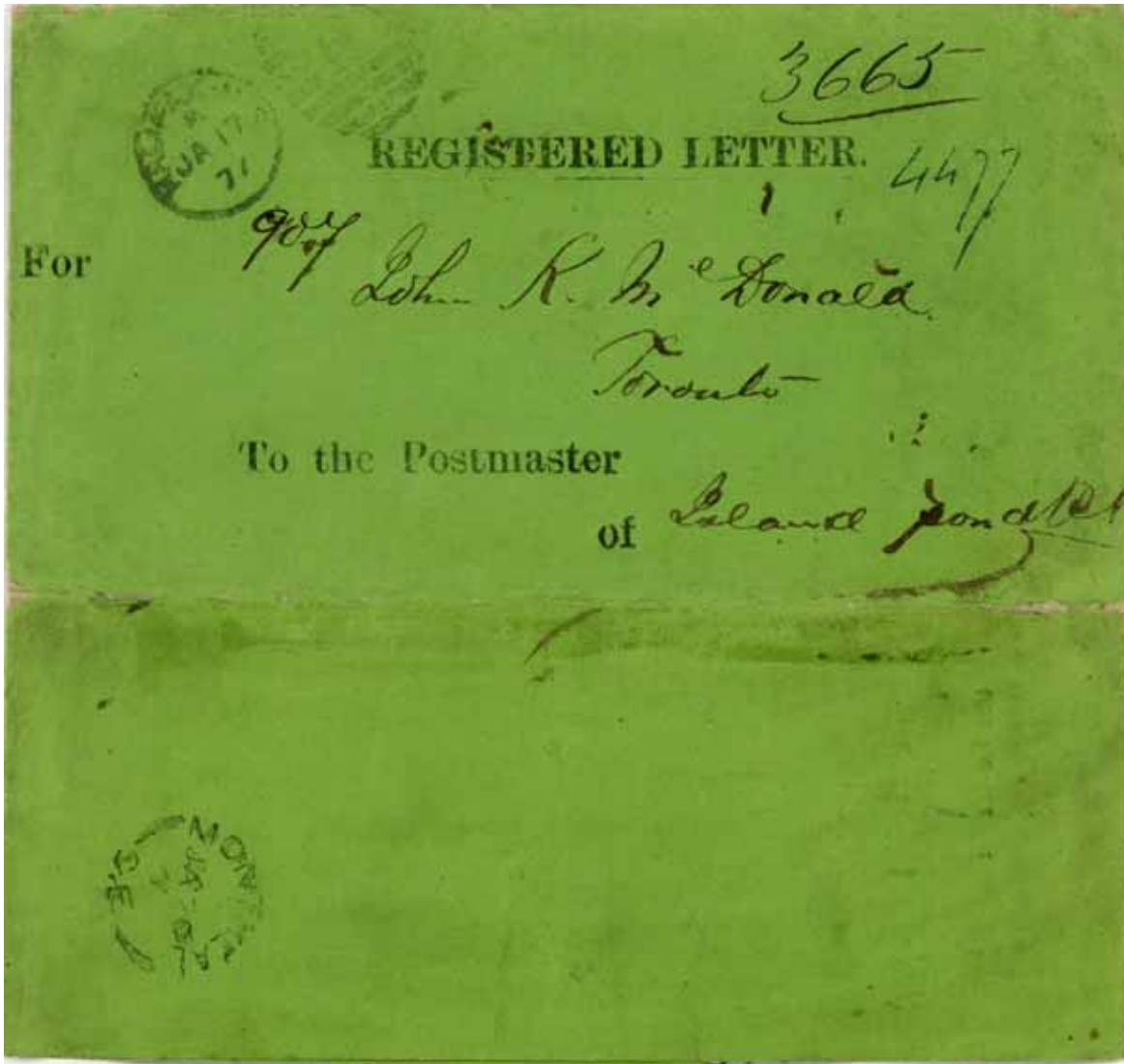


# Registration letter wrapper

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—one 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.

## 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.



## Registration receipts

CERTIFICATE OF POST OFFICE REGISTRATION.

No. *501*

Registered this day a *fully prepaid* Letter addressed to  
*Mr A. H. Smith*  
*Mr. H. H. H.*  
*Mr. B. B. B.*

DATE STAMP.  
 TORONTO P.O.  
 9681  
 4  
 JUL 1895

Postmaster.

N.B.—A certificate is to be given for every letter accepted for registration, whether the party posting the letter applies for one or not. A Postmaster failing to give a certificate for every such letter incurs a serious responsibility.

Postmasters will please to notice that the above receipt purports to be for a FULLY PREPAID letter. They should therefore see that the letter is fully prepaid before accepting it.

50 B.—75,000 sheets 7-2-95. [OVER]

Two different receipt forms, 1895. The double oval Toronto registered postmarks are rarely seen.

*Points to be noted in connection with Registered Letters or other registered articles.*

1. The letter should be fully and precisely addressed in a distinct hand-writing. In like manner the receipt given therefor by the Postmaster should be distinctly written and carefully stamped and numbered.
2. A person posting a Registered letter should not leave the Post Office till he has obtained his receipt.
3. The letter shou'd bear stamps to the full amount of the postage and registration fee. The sender should attend to the due pre-payment of his letter himself. A Postmaster is only *responsible* for doing that which it is his *duty* to do, and it is not his duty to place stamps on letters for other people.
4. The letter should be in good order when handed to the Postmaster, that is it should be enclosed in a suitable envelope carefully sealed with wax or gum.
5. Letters for registration should be brought to the Post Office some time before the mail closes.
6. Persons receiving registered letters that call for acknowledgement would frequently save trouble to themselves, to their correspondents and to the Post Office by acknowledging them promptly.

CERTIFICATE OF POST OFFICE REGISTRATION.

No. *199*

Registered this day a fully Prepaid Letter addressed to  
*Mr A. H. Smith*  
*Mr. H. H. H.*  
*Mr. B. B. B.*

DATE STAMP.  
 REGISTERED  
 DEC 12 1895  
 TORONTO P.O.

Postmaster.

N.B.—A certificate of Registration is to be given for every letter accepted for registration, whether the party posting the letter applies for one or not. A Postmaster failing to give a certificate for every such letter incurs a serious responsibility.

[OVER]



# Registered mail with pre-Confederation Maritimes

NB and NS introduced registration (replacing their money letter systems) on 6 July 1852 and 6 July 1851 respectively. The fee was 6 d, and all postage was to be prepaid.



Fredericton (NB)—Papineauville (CE), 1856. The sender has written *Money letter*, but the postmaster inscribed *Registratn*. Registration of 6 d and letter rate within BNA (except Newfoundland) 3 d, all prepaid.



Fredericton—Newborough (CW), 1861. NB had converted to decimal, and registration (which could now be collect) was charged 10¢ if prepaid, the equivalent of 6 d; rate within BNA converted to 5¢ if prepaid.



# 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*, Tyrconnell (C W)–Ridott (IL), August 1855. Charged 6 d single rate to the US, plus 1 d domestic registration fee (indicated by faint **REGISTERED** handstamp and ms). Standard 10¢ exchange marking.



*Interim period*, Aylmer (U C)–Albion (NY), November 1855. Rated (prepaid) 6 d single rate to the US, plus 1 d domestic registration fee (indicated by **REGISTERED** handstamps). Standard exchange marking **CANADA PAID 10 CENTS**



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



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

(Common) Montreal tombstone.



To California; Camden-East (C W)–Red Dog, 1858. Rated (prepaid) 9 d cy (treaty rate to California) at left, plus 3 d 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



Gosfield (U C)–Tower Hill (IA), May 1859. Unusual 3<sup>0</sup>, indicating registration fee to U s. Single domestic rate to U s.

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



## 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 U S were converted proportionately; 3d registration fee became 5¢, while domestic registration was 2¢, and the letter rate to the U S became 10¢.



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



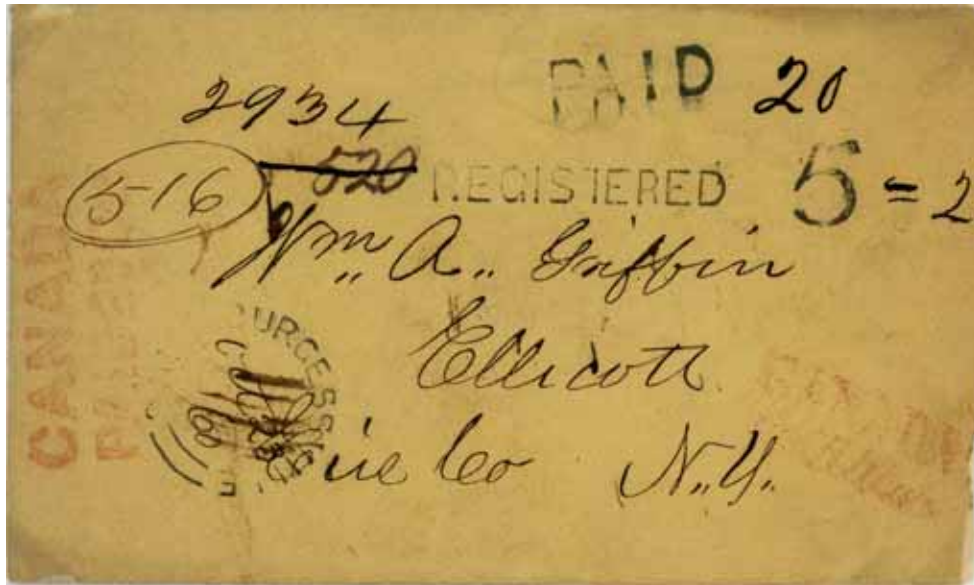
London (C W)–Pittsburg, 1861. Registration and letter rates paid in stamps.



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 U S, 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 CTS*, applied in error.



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



Canada–US registration, cents period, double



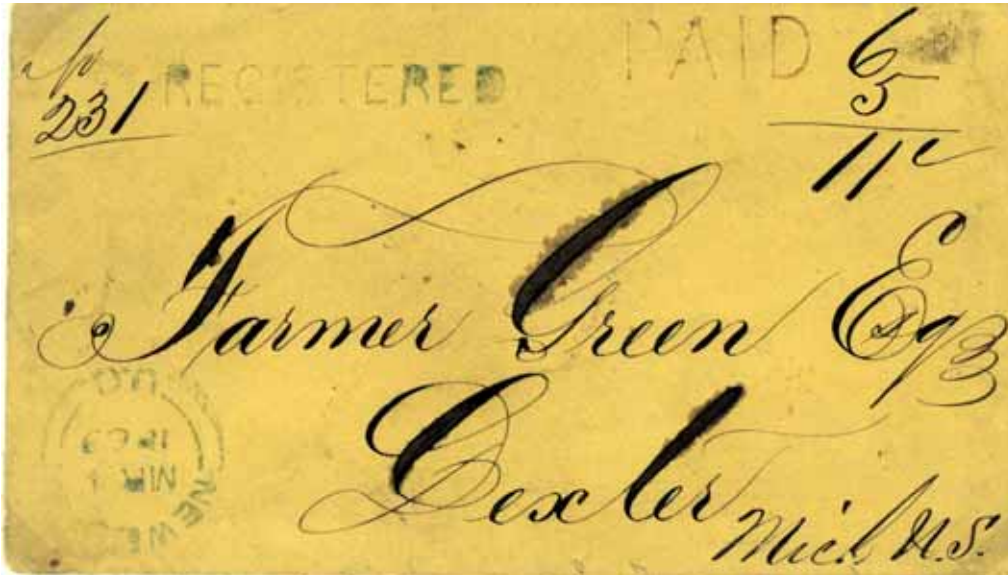
*St David's (Ont)–Maplewood (MA), 1860. Itemized paid 10¢ to US, plus 5¢ registration. Standard exchange marking.*

Nonserif double broken circle ST DAVIDS U.C known 1859–66.



## Canada–US registration 1868–1875

The letter rate to the U S dropped to 6¢ per half ounce if prepaid on 1 April 1868 (collect was 10¢, but all postage to the U S 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.



Montreal–Island Pond (VT), 1870s. Originally 3¢, domestic letter rate; replaced by 11¢.





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

WINDSOR  
AU 50  
73  
ONT



## Canada–US registration 1875–1898

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



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.

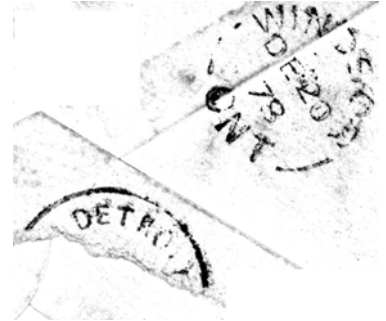
From ROUND-HILL NS (faint; upper right); backstamped at Saint John. Blurred Boston registered datestamp on the front.



Canada-US



Montreal–Castle Rock (CO), 1878.  
Single 3¢ to US, plus 5¢ RLS  
to US. Via Windsor-Detroit  
exchange.



Campbellton (NB)–Cincinnati, 1879.  
Rated as above.



Grenville (Que)–Delaware Center (NY),  
1880. Rated as above.





Quadruple, Cooksville (Ont)-Iowa, 1880. 4 × 3¢ to U.S.  
Legal commentary on reverse.





Canada–US registration; forwarded or returned to sender



**REGISTERED,**  
MAR 14 1884  
SAN FRANCISCO,  
CAL.

DEAD LETTER OFFICE  
APR 28-84

DEAD LETTER OFFICE  
CANADA

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.

**REGISTERED**  
OCT 19 1887  
from HELENA, MON.

**FORWARDED** WALLA WALLA,  
WASHINGTON.  
**FORWARDED** NOV 10 1887  
**REGISTERED**



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

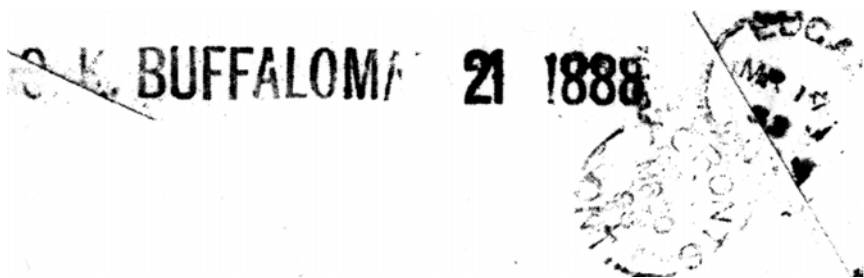
On first class letters to the US, Canada unilaterally lowered the registration fee to 2¢ (the domestic fee) effective 1–31 March 1888. This was probably the result of a mistake in Canada Postal Guide supplements sent to postmasters. After US protest, the fee was restored to 5¢ on April Fool's Day.

Fewer than twenty covers with the reduced fee have been reported. More probably exist, since registered material to the US is quite common from the 1880s on.



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.



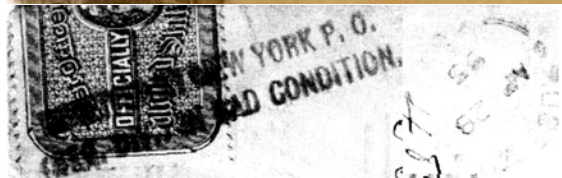
## Later RLS period

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. U S officially sealed stamp.

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



## 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 (Northwest Mounted Police, precursor to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police) and 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.





From P.O. Drawer 1466.  
Winnipeg Canada

257 REG-REGISTERED NO. 10563

475 Thos Rain Walker Esq  
of Williams Diamond & Co  
~~Hotel Deseronto~~  
~~Monterey~~ San Francisco  
9428 Cal. Ind California  
USA

FORWARDED.  
FORWARDED  
11259

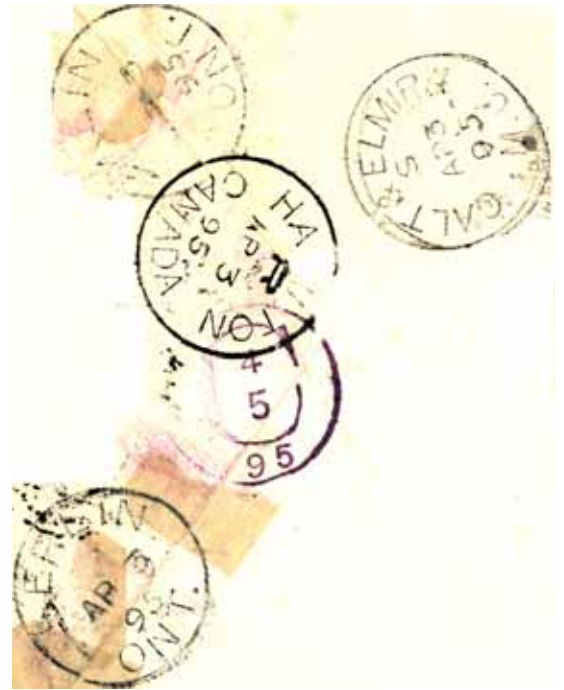
257 REG-REGISTERED NO. 10563

475 Thos Rain Walker Esq  
of Williams Diamond & Co  
~~Hotel Deseronto~~  
~~Monterey~~ San Francisco  
9428 Cal. Ind California  
USA



## Use of 8¢ small queen

This was issued to prepay the combined single rate, domestic or to U S, plus registration. Its use otherwise (as here) is unusual.



Berlin (now Kitchener, Ont)–Floral Park (NY), 1895. Double 3¢ to U S plus 5¢ registration.



### Use of 8¢ Jubilee

Similar to the 8¢ small queen, this was issued to prepay the combined single rate, domestic or to U S, plus registration; its use otherwise is unusual.



*Halifax-Reading (PA)*, 1898. Double 3¢ to US plus 5¢ registration.





Quintuple



N B Receiver-General's Office, Fredericton-Somerville (MA), 1898. 5 × 3¢ to U S plus 5¢ registration. Institutions (here a provincial government office) often bought large quantities of stamps and continued to use them for years. There probably wasn't much opportunity to use high denominations.







Saskatoon (Sask), 1898. Single 3¢ to U.S. plus 5¢ registration.



8¢ numeral

Paid combined registration and rate to U.S., 1 October–31 December 1898.



Dawson (N W T)—New Jersey, 18 November 1898. Two-line handstamp,

RECEIVED AT VICTORIA B.C.

IN DAMAGED CONDITION

Victoria roller (unusual on registered cover).



Strathcain Station (M B)—New York, 7 December 1898.



## Last day of the combined 8¢ rate

The domestic and U S rates dropped to 2¢ per half ounce on 1 January 1898. Registration remained at 5¢.



Lebreton Flats (Ottawa), 31 December 1898. The day, 31, is clearly visible on the negative image. Lebreton Flats is adjacent to downtown Ottawa.



## Registered fifth class to the US

This class contained miscellaneous material sent open for examination. It was available to the U S 1 March 1888–31 December 1898 (and is much more difficult to find to the U S 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.

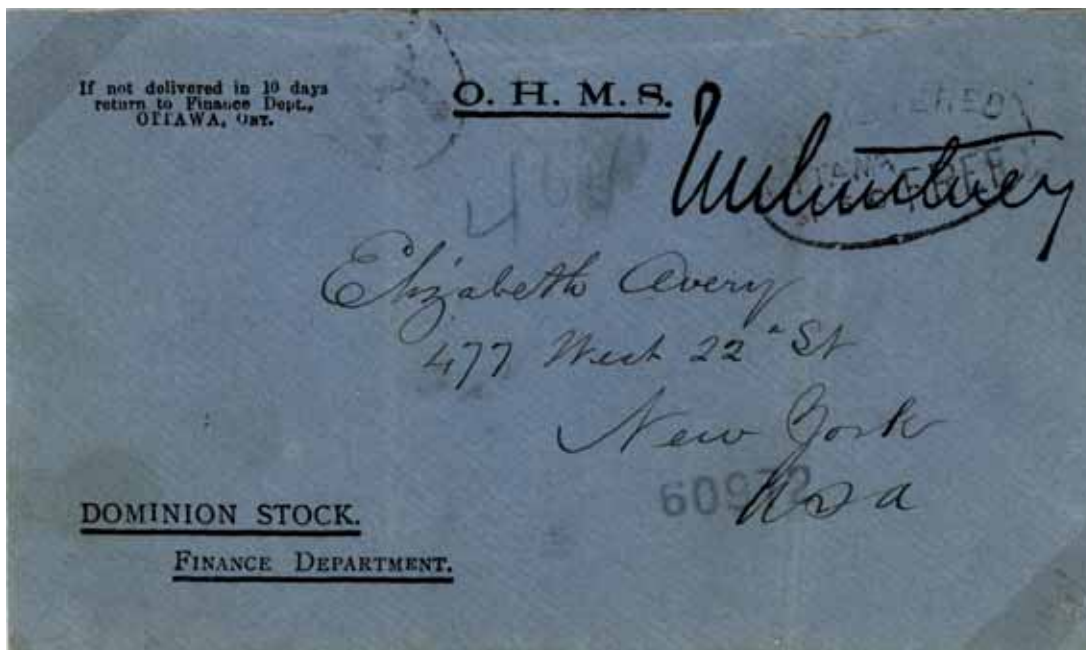




Registered free mail to the US

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 datestamp 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 U S 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 U S–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 U.S.



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.

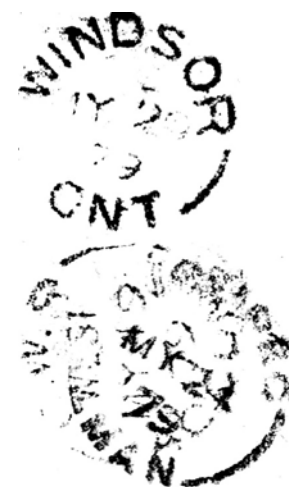


## US–Canada

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.

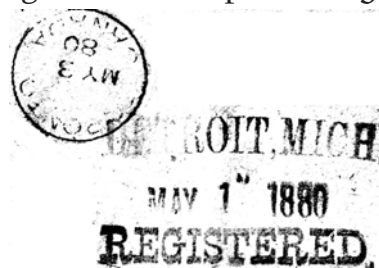


Septuple rate, Middletown (NY)–Winnipeg, 1879. Rated  $7 \times 3\text{¢}$  (per half ounce) plus 10¢ registration. With REGISTERED GWR ACCOMDN, another Canadian RPO registration marking.





*Octuple rate, Grand Forks (DT)–Toronto via Detroit, 1880.*  
 Rated 10¢ registration fee plus  $8 \times 3¢$  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).







Quintuple rate, North Adams (MA)—St John's (C E), 1879. Rated 10¢ registration fee plus  $5 \times 3¢$  per half ounce. Notarized on reverse.



Marginal inscription, Continental Bank Note Co



US-Canada



West Acton (MA)–Windsor (N S), 1877. Single rate.



East Boston–Pictou, 1881. Single rate.



Triple, Corsicana (TX)–Deseronto (Ont), August 1883. Texas is an unusual origin for mail to Canada.



# US-Canada



New York-Sunderland (Ont), November 1881. Boxed straightline REGISTERED/G.W.R-ACCOMD (R P O). 10¢ registration plus 3¢ to Canada.



Rapids (NY)-Georgetown (Ont), November 1881. Single.





## 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 officially not available until 1856 (the first cover here is dated 1855!). Canada to UK registered mail is rarely seen pre-1880, while the reverse direction is somewhat easier to find.



The year 1855 is visible.

Port Hope to London, November 1855. Boxed straightline REGISTERED applied at Toronto, crown REGISTERED at London (or Liverpool). Normally, registration fee was not marked in Canada, but prepayment of it was indicated by the registration handstamp. Canadian domestic registration fee at this time was 1 d cy, but there were no protocols for the registration to UK (in 1856, it became 6 d stg). Charged 6 d stg UK registration fee at London.

British packet postage prepaid PAID 8 d. Stg. 10 d cy, likely applied at Port Hope.

## Canada to France via UK

Probably the earliest cover registered in Canada to a destination other than UK or US.



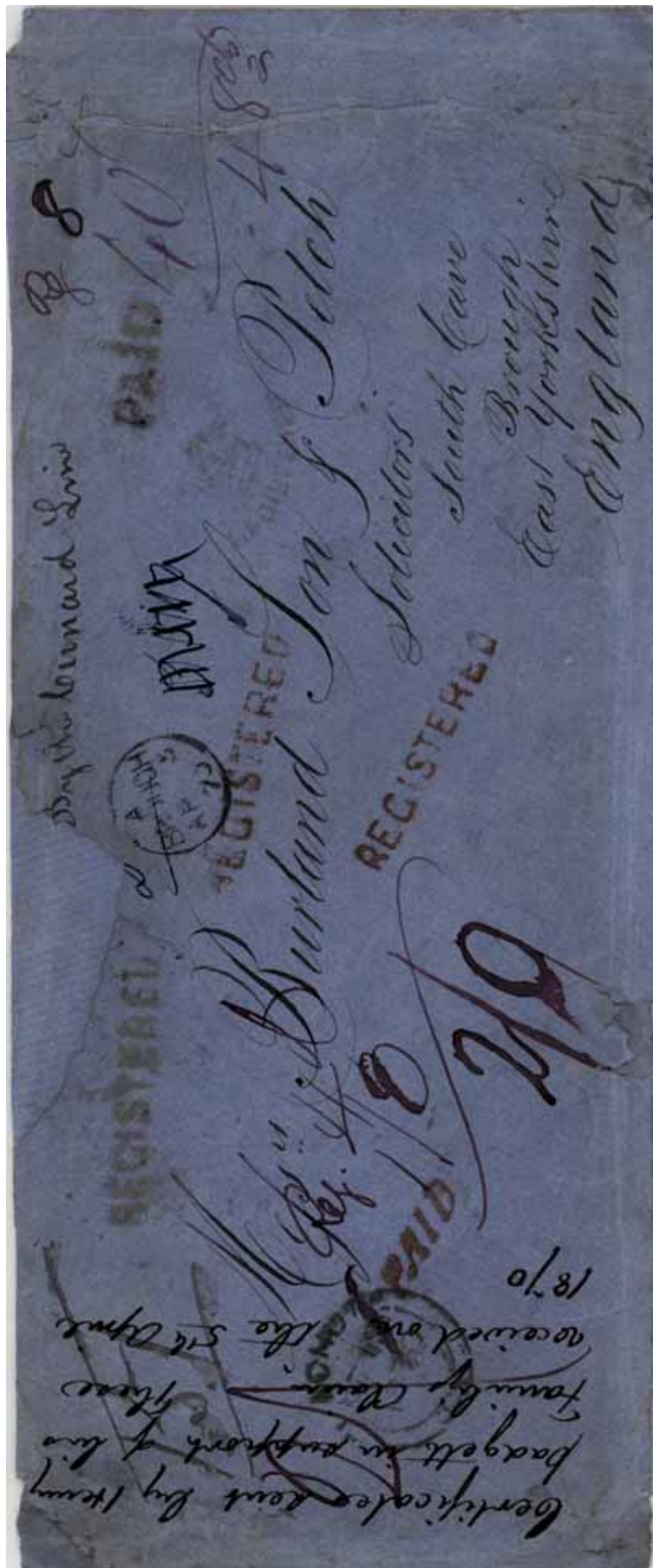
Quebec to Larochelle, March 1856. Straightline REGISTERED applied at Quebec, crown REGISTERED at London (or Liverpool), and CHARGÉ applied in France.

Rated 2/7 stg and its equivalent 3/2 cy. Rates were 8 d stg (respectively, 6 d stg) per half ounce from Canada to UK by UK packet (respectively, Canadian packet) and 4 d stg per 7 g UK–France. Registration fees were 1 d cy (Canada), 6 d stg (UK), and 20 ctm [= 2 d stg] (lettre chargée en France). At ¼<sup>+</sup>–½ oz, the charge including Canadian registration would have been only 2/1 stg (or 1/11 stg). However, the Quebec postmaster at Quebec probably did not understand the registration fees (or charged the UK registration fee twice, once for incoming, once for outgoing).



## Canada to UK

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

Double, Toronto-Ballymote (Sligo), July 1875.  
Rated 8¢ registration fee plus 2 × 6¢  
via Canadian packet (Allan Line).

The red circle PAID DERRY COL PACKET  
(Londonderry; port of call for Allan  
Line ships) is known 1862-75.





## 8¢ registered letter stamp

Issued in late 1875, this was compulsory on registered letters to U K from late March 1876 to the end of 1877, when the registration fee dropped to 5¢. Only 16–18 proper uses are known.



Ottawa–Manchester, 21 April 1876. Third earliest 8¢ RLS cover reported. Rated 13¢, made up of 8¢ registration plus 5¢ to U K. ex-Brigham

—or not

It is likely that offices in British Columbia, even the capital (Victoria), did not receive any. In this period, registered letters to U K *without* an RLS are far more difficult to find than those with. There are just a handful of registered covers to U K without any RLS.



Victoria (BC)–Nottingham, double, June 1877. Rated 18¢, made up of 8¢ registration plus  $2 \times 5\text{¢}$ . Passed through Windsor (Ont), en route to Robin Hoods Chase in Nottingham.



## Almost normal registered letters to UK

When the registration fee to UK dropped to 5¢ (1 January 1878), a 5¢ RLS was required. Registered mail to UK from small offices is more of a challenge. The blue crayon cross was applied in UK (Canada never used this).



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.



To United Kingdom



Winnipeg—London, June 1892. 5¢ registration plus 5¢ per half ounce.





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.

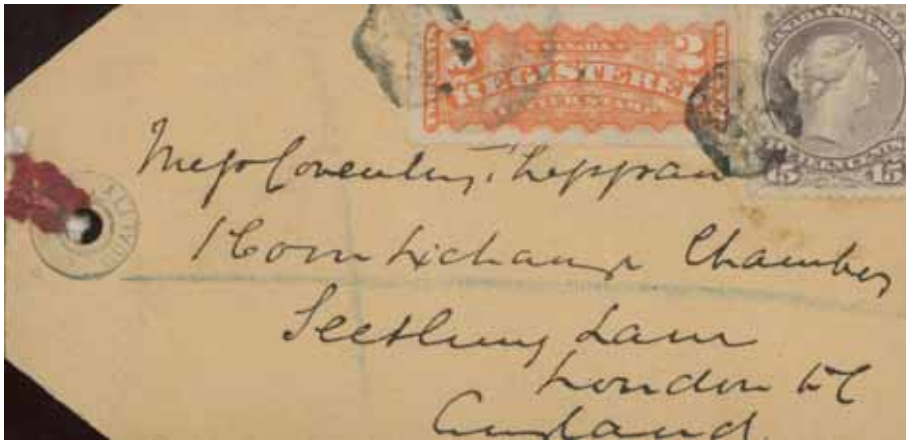
Arrived at Hull 25 May, forwarded to London EC 27 May, where it was *Refused* (bottom; presumably addressee unwilling to pay the 8d), and returned to sender, arriving at the Canadian Dead Letter Office (Ottawa) 19 June. Whether the sender had to ransom it is unclear.

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 likely 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.

No backstamps.



## Printed matter to United Kingdom

Book post and other printed matter rate to U K was 1¢ per two ounces.



*Quadruple other printed matter to U K, 24 June 1897. 5¢ registration fee and quadruple rate to U K. Part of large envelope.*



To United Kingdom



Triple to UK, Canada (Dominion) Day, 1 July 1897. 5¢ registration fee and double letter rate to UK. Originally thought to be postage due (T and  $\frac{4}{25}$ ), possibly to misinterpreting the denomination of the 10¢ small queen; this was subsequently corrected.



## 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 U K–Canada in the registration period, Belper–Montreal, 15 August 1856. (Registered U K covers to Canada are known in the latter's money letter period.)

Rated 6 d stg to Canada by British (Cunard) steamer, and 6 d 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 (C W), 1859. Rated 8 d by Canadian steamer plus 6 d registration. Crown registered and orange oval handstamps applied at London.



Irvine (Ayrshire, Scotland)–Ottawa, 1859. 6 d by British steamer (Debited 2) plus 6 d registration.






UK to Canada, registration receipt

**No. 22** **REGISTERED LETTER.**

**Received** this *4<sup>th</sup>* day of *Nov* 185*8*

a Letter addressed *W<sup>o</sup> John West*  
*Beachville*  
*County of Oxford*  
*Upper Canada*

Office Stamp. {  {

Postmaster, or Letter Receiver's Signature. { *[Signature]*

*For a registered letter from Market-Weighon (Yorkshire, U K) to Beachville (Oxford Co, C W), 1858.*



## 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 Dublin did not have one). Hence it must be from Halifax.



Halifax registered crown, Dublin–Lower Horton (NS) 1864. Rated 6d registration and 6d 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 (C W), 1863. Carried on the Cunard *Asia*. Rates as above. Wing margin.



## Crown registration handstamps



Lombard Street (London)—St Catharines (Ont) 1859. Rated 6 d registration and 8 d to Canada via Cunard. London crown registered handstamp. Small *REGISTERED* may have been applied at St Catharines.



Same correspondence, 1860. Only registration number on reverse.



## 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 supposed 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 Catharines, 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 (C E), 1861. Rated 8d via Cunard; markings same as above, except LS time mark is C.



## Allan vs Cunard, part II

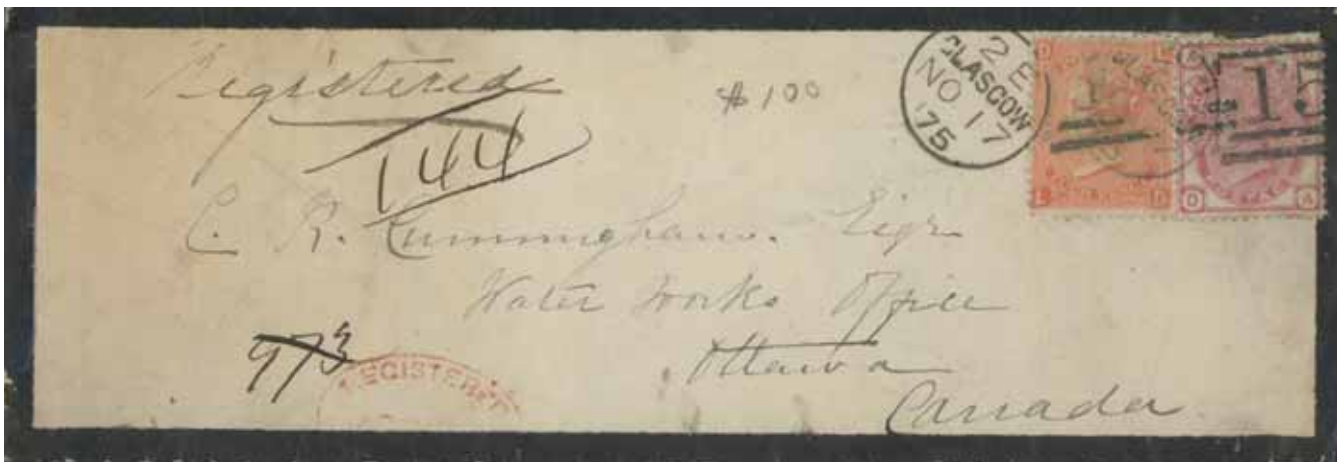
Transatlantic letter rate to Canada was 3 d by Allan and 4 d by Cunard, 6 January 1870–30 September 1875; both dropped to 2½ d on 1 October 1875. Registration was 4 d, 1 February 1866–31 December 1877.



Double, Allan line, Stoneycroft–Hereward (Ont), 1873. Rated 4 d registration and 2 × 3 d via Allan Line. Liverpool double circle registered date stamp 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.





## UK–Canada



Lampeth–Hamilton, 1873. Rated 4 d registration and 3 d via Allan Line. Liverpool double circle registered datestamp on reverse.



Lombard Street London–Sunnyside (MB), July 1875. Rated 4 d registration and double 3 d via Allan Line. Liverpool double circle registered datestamp on reverse.

Manitoba became a province in 1870. Sunnyside was covered by the first treaty between Canada and First Nations. It was not incorporated until 1880.







## More rate changes

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



Somerset House (London)–Woodstock (Ont), 1884. Rated 2½ d UPU rate and 2 d registration, overpaid 1 d. From London, West Central District Office (w c d o).



W C D O–Toronto, 1886. Rated 2½ d UPU rate and 2 d registration. The oval Toronto registration datestamp is difficult to find.



UK to Canada

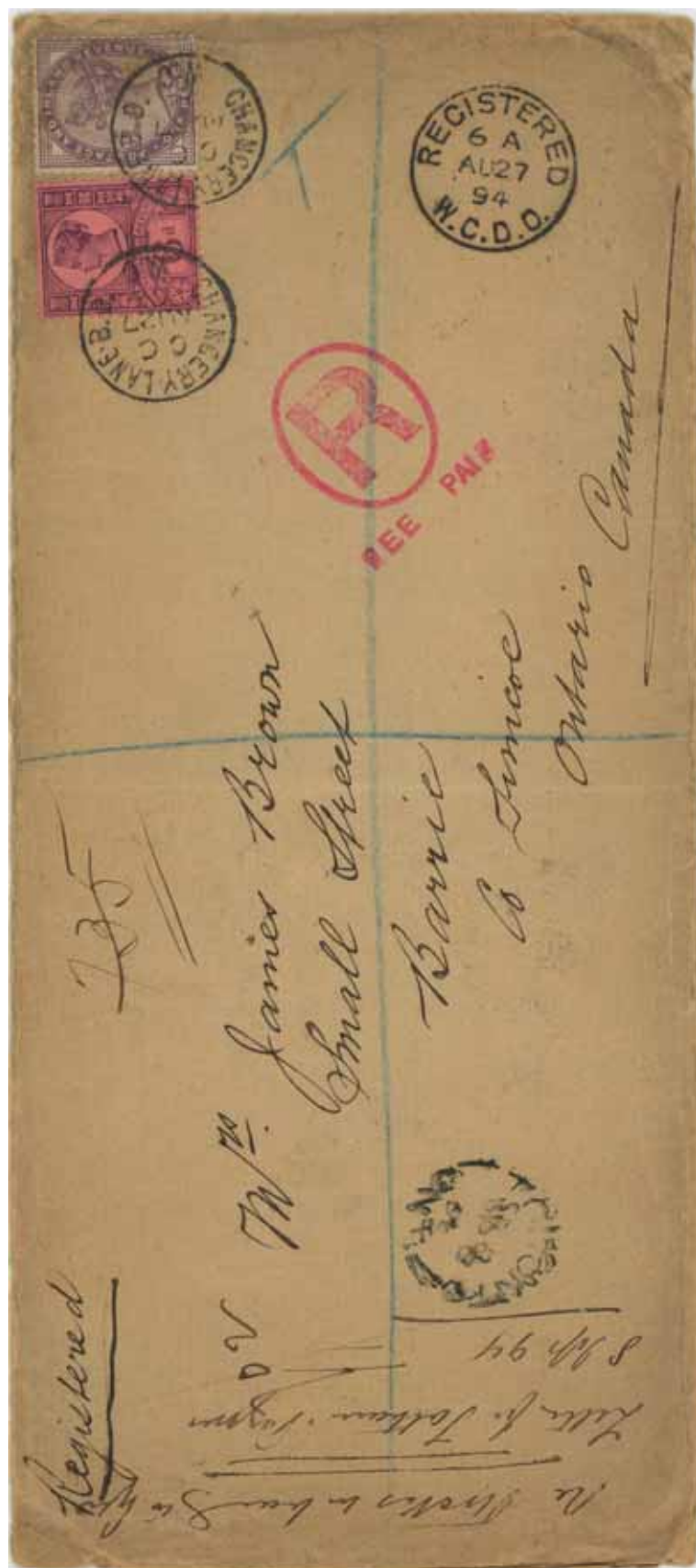


London–Paris (Ont), 1895. Combined postage paid by single stamp.

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.



UK to Canada



Chancery Lane (London)—Barrie (Ont), 1894. Double 2½ d U P U rate and 2 d registration.

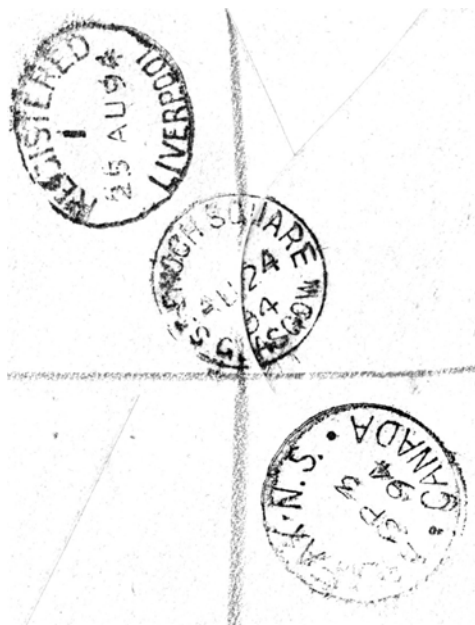




UK to Canada



Glasgow–Halifax, 1894. Quadruple 2½d UPU letter rate and 2d registration. With [CUSTOMS CANADA](#) applied at Halifax.

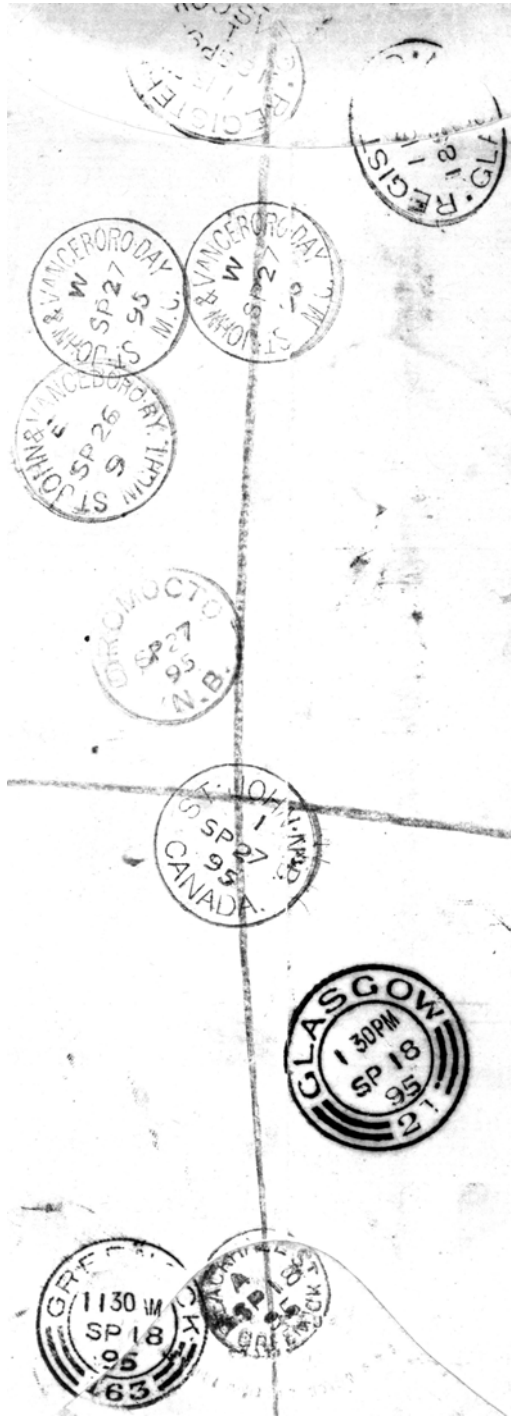




UK to Canada



Blackhall Street (Greenock)—Oromocto (NB), 1895. Triple 2½ d U P U letter rate and 2 d registration.



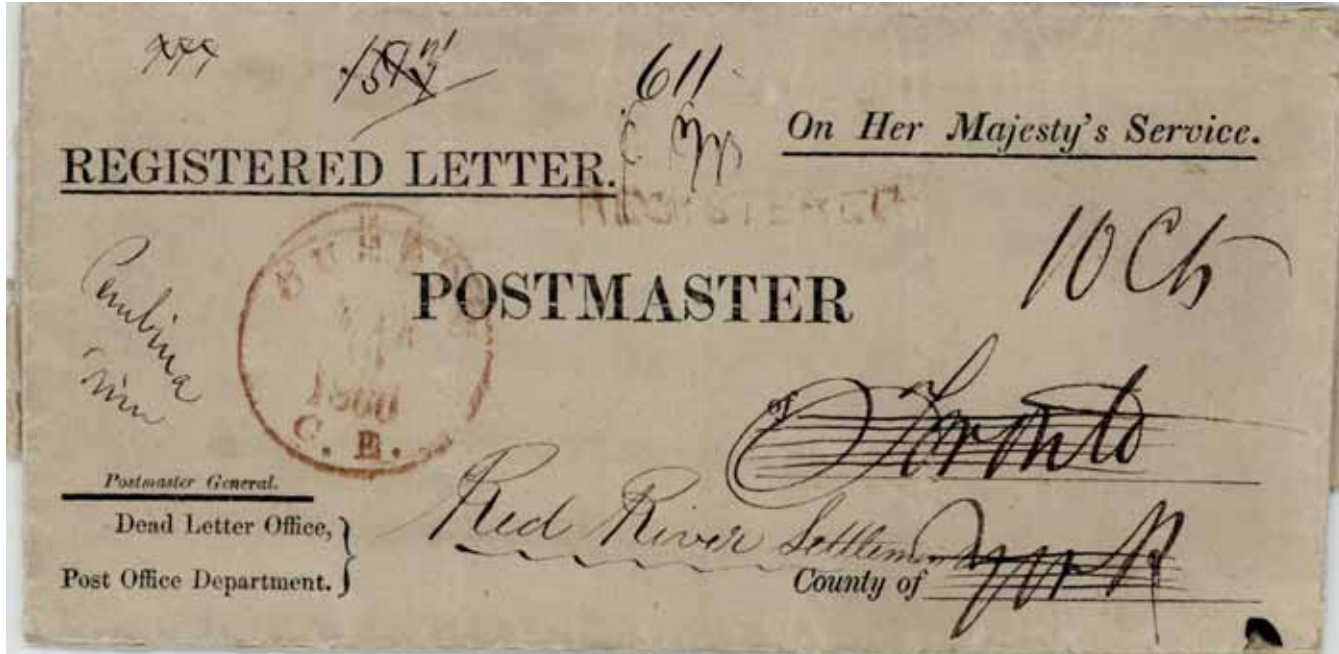


# To and from the rest of the world

Canada adhered to the U P U 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 U S. Prior to Canada joining the U P U however, rates were a confusing mish-mash. Moreover, registered covers to or from Canada (other than from U S or U K) 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 Yminto will cause the enclosed Letter directed to Mr. John P. P. P. containing 5¢ to be delivered to The Writer

on payment of the Postage charged on this Cover, and be very particular to take 25 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 underpaying the letter rate by 4 d. In addition, the registration stamp only covers registration from Australia to U K; an additional 6 d was needed to cover registration from U K to Canada.

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 U K 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.

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 U K 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 (c w) receiver on reverse, not shown.



## Pre-UPU: Germany to Canada

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



Triple, Bremerhavn–Economy (NS), July 1876. Rated 80 Pfennig, triple the U P U 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.



## Pre-UPU from Victoria (Australian state)

Australian states did not join the U P U until October 1891.



Pre-UPU, Wangakalla (Victoria)—St Catherines (Upper Canada!), 1887. Australian states did not join the U P U until October 1891. Rated 4 d registration fee plus 6 d colonial rate to Southampton, and 4 d via packet through US to Canada.

The designation *Upper Canada* had been officially superseded in 1842, although many postmark devices manufactured in the 1850s still used it. The *U* in *U.N. America* might have meant *United*.



Pre-UPU, Williamstown (Victoria)—Yarmouth (NS), 1890. Rated 4 d registration fee plus 6 d single (not the U P U rate) to Canada via San Francisco.



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

Registration to all other U P U countries is fixed at 5¢; letter rate is 5¢ per half ounce to almost all U P U 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¢ U P U 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.



OFFICIALLY SEALED.

9

3/23

109

A Sua Eccellenza  
Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri  
Roma, Italy.

REGISTERED

MONTREAL  
MAY 1883  
CANADA

ROMA  
ITALY  
MAY 1883

*Pinkie*

**FOUND**

**OFFICIALLY SEALED**

**FOUND AND OPEN**

**R**

**OPEN**

**BRISBANE**

**RECEIVED**

**NOV 10 1968**

**903**

*7866*



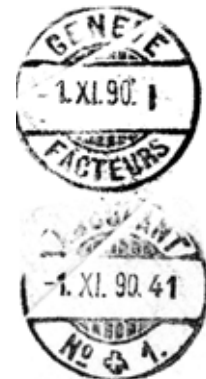
## To France and Switzerland



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 R P O

*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 A R (*avis de réception*), the U P U 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  $2 \times 5\text{¢}$  U P U letter rate.

With London registered oval and Belgian carrier mark.



*Treaty of Vienna, Montreal–Brussels, 1895.* The straightedge on the R L S is from the gutter in sheets of plate 2.



Quick

REGISTERED  
DITTAANIX  
2 95  
DUE

Belgique. 863

POSTAGE

RECEIVED

Commis du genre militaire  
Camp of Beverloo  
Belgium.



Treaty of Vienna, To France



Ottawa—Paris, forwarded to Crécy, 1897. Government mail abroad was not (usually) eligible for free franking, so charged 5¢ U P U letter and 5¢ registration. Roller cancel unusual on registered mail.





## 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¢ U P U 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 Brazil & Bolivia



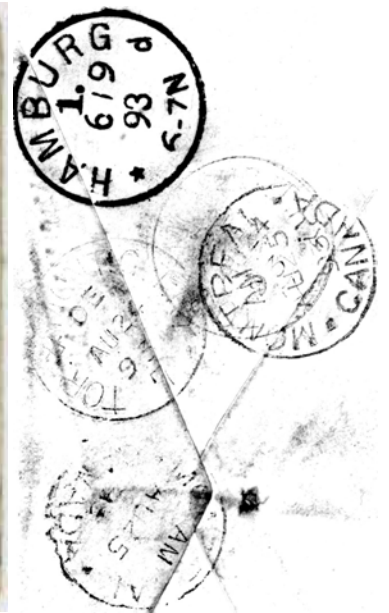
Hamilton–Rio, returned to sender, 1898. Single (5¢ + 5¢), paid the hard way. Returned to sender (unclaimed), via U S (New York; purple box on front and large purple oval on reverse) Dead Letter Office. Usual New York exchange etiquette.



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



Bethany (Ont)–Hamburg, 1893. Rated 5¢ registration fee and 5¢ U P U letter rate. Earliest reported BETHANY ONT large lettering broken circle by four years.



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



To Germany



Montreal–Nürnberg, 1894. Postage of 11¢, presumably single rate overpaid one cent (with half-cent stamps!).



New Westminster (BC)–Hamburg, 1894. Registration and U P U-letter at 5¢ each.



To Germany



Barkerville (BC)—Bamberg (Bavaria), 1897. Double U P U letter rate plus 5¢ registration, with 1¢ overpayment.



Morden (Man)—Dingolfing (Isar, Germany), 1898. Double U P U letter rate (5¢ per half ounce) and registration (5¢). Transparent German incoming registration etiquette (for incoming mail exchanged at Verviers-Cologne). Senders *ms frei* (free) at lower left is a leftover from a previous era in German postal history—it means the sender is not required to pay any postage.



## Treaty of Vienna, to Netherlands



*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.*



Treaty of Vienna, to New South Wales



Halifax–Sydney (NSW), 1896. Postage of 10½¢, made up of 5¢ for each of registration and first weight U P U, with half-cent overpayment. Montreal squared circle precursor.

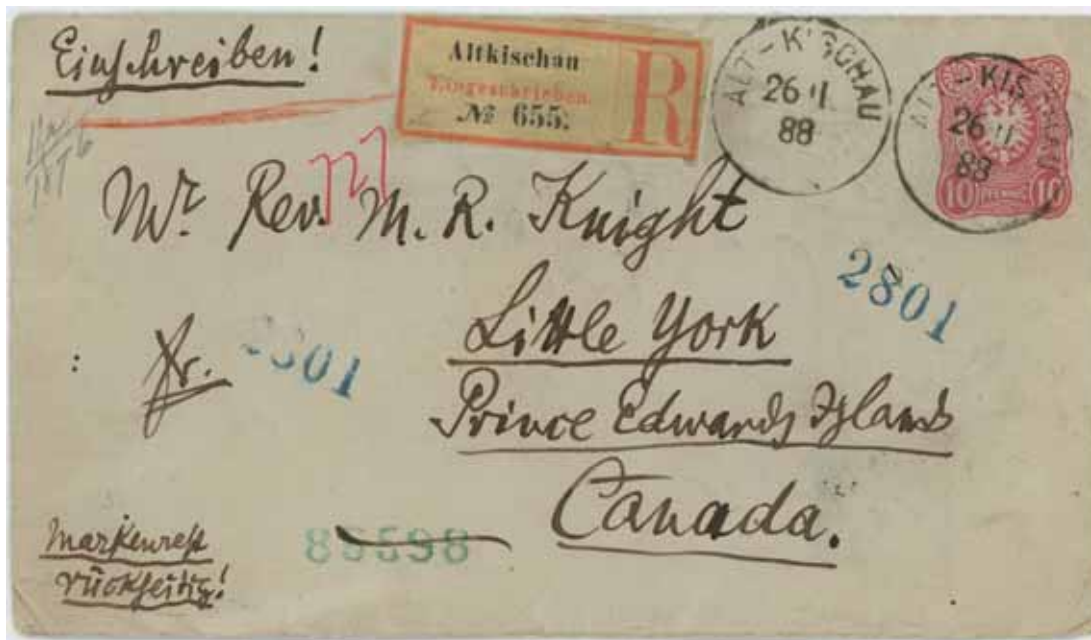


# Pre-Treaty of Vienna (1878–1892), to Canada

From Germany



Darmstadt–Halifax, via London, 1879. Rated 20 Pfennig for each of U P U letter rate and registration (20 Pf = 25 centimes). Unfortunately, to (later) stamp dealer Henry Hechler.



Alt Kischau (now Stara Kiszewa, Poland)–Little York (P E I), 1888. Rated as above.



UPU to Treaty of Vienna; from France



Place du Théâtre (Paris)—Lotbinière (Que), 1879. Rated double U P U at 25 centimes per 15 g plus 25 ctm registration. Via London.



Rue des Capucines (Paris)—Ottawa, forwarded to Warton (Ont), 1889. Rated as above. Two different London registration ovals.



## Third class from France, Italy



*Samples, business papers, etc, Paris–Montreal, 1881. Contained (early) photographs (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.*



*Printed matter, Florence–Montreal, 1889. Cloth envelope. Rated 25 centesimi registration and double 5 ctm per 50 g for printed matter (*stampe*) and magazines to Canada (in effect March 1888–June 1892). With red oval U K (London?) registered datestamp.*



From Germany



Hamburg–Montreal, 1890. Quadruple at 20 Pfennige U P U letter rate per 15 g and 20 registration.





# Pre-Vienna, Switzerland & British Honduras to Canada

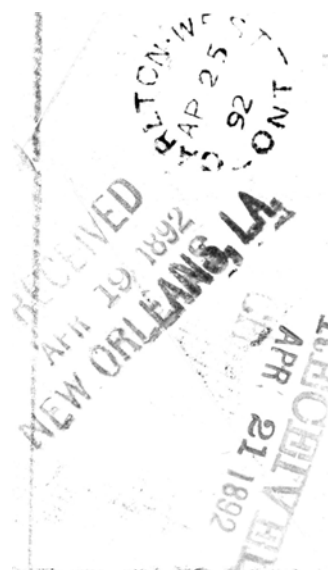


Basel–St Angers (Que), 1891. Rated 25 centimes (5¢) for each of registration and U P U letter rate. *Einschreiben* is German for registered. With hooded London registered datestamp.



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 U P U-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.



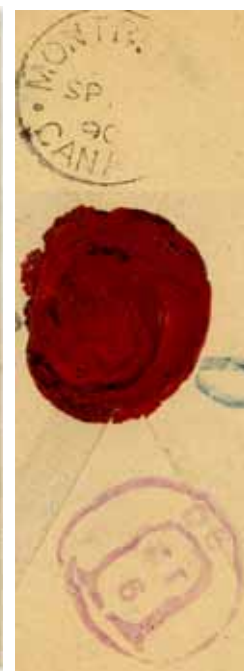


## Pre-Vienna, Uruguay and Mexico to Canada



Montevideo—Toronto, A R?, 1888. Double U P U letter rate including authorized surcharge, 10 centavos per 15 g; registration 10 cvo. This leaves 5 cvo.

Pink paper adhering at right could be part of an A R form. A R fee was 5 cvo. Purple O.K. BUFFALO intended for letter bills.



Vera Cruz—Montreal, 1890. Rated 10 centavos registration and double U P U letter rate (5 cvo per 15 g).



# 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).



Mexico–Hampton (NB), 1893. Postage of 30 centavos: registration 10 cvo and letter rate to Canada was 5 cvo per 15 g; this would make quadruple rate, which is difficult to believe.



# Treaty of Vienna, Newfoundland to Canada



Heart's Content (NF)—Halifax, 1896. Rated 3¢ to BNA and 5¢ registration. St John's squared circle precursor on reverse. Postmark on front reads TRINIDAD REGISTERED.



St John's—Halifax, 1897. Rated as above.



Treaty of Vienna, Trinidad to Canada



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.



# Treaty of Vienna, Barbados to Canada



Barbados–Belleville, 1896 [front]. Postage of 5 d: registration 2 d and U P U-letter 2½ d; overpaid ½ d.



Barbados–Winnipeg, 1897. Rated 2 d embossed registration fee (on reverse) and double 2½ d U P U rate.



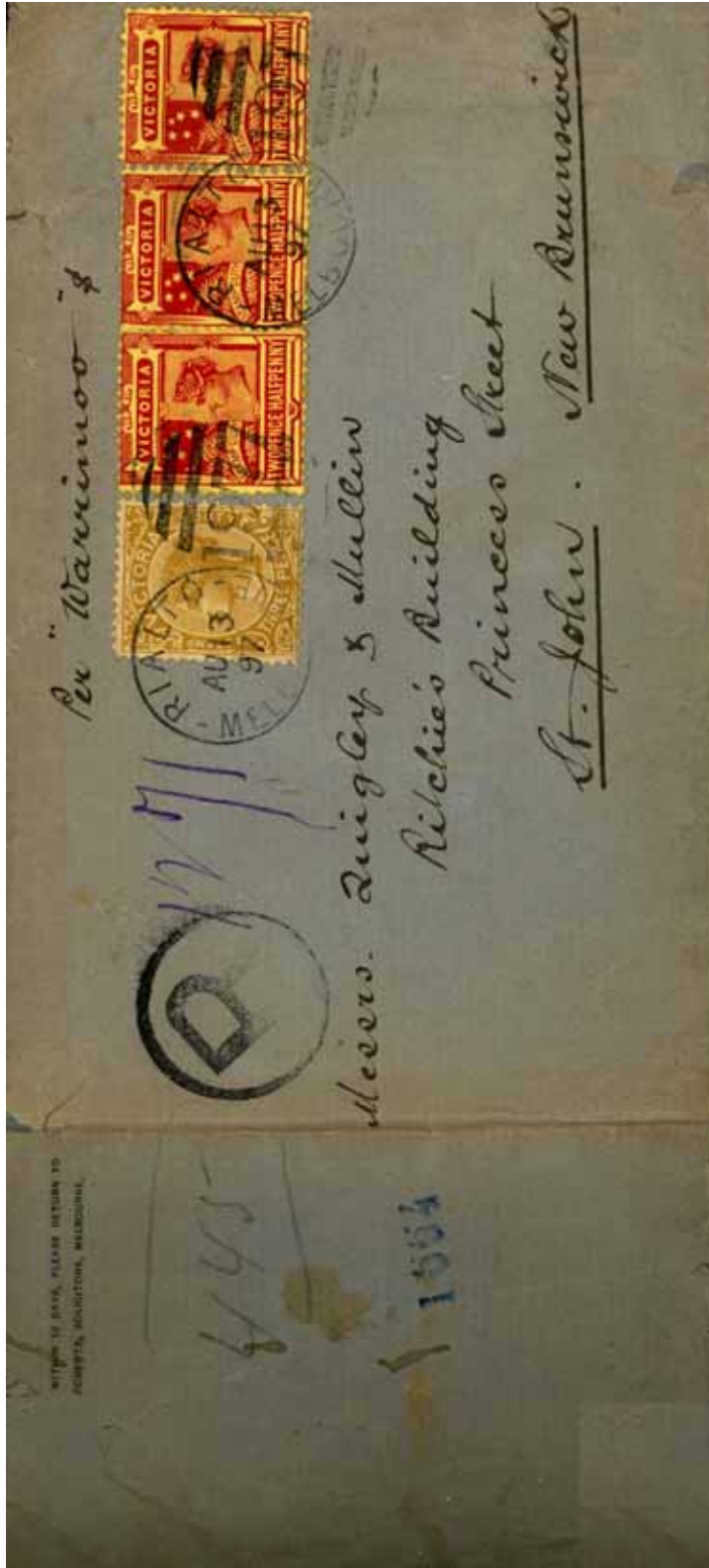
Treaty of Vienna, New South Wales to Canada



Braidwood (NSW)–Hamilton, 1897. Rated 3 d registration and 2½ d U P U, overpaid ½ d.



# Treaty of Vienna, from Victoria



Rialto (Melbourne)—Saint John (NB), 1897. Rated 3 d (embossed on reverse) registration plus quadruple 2½ d per half ounce, overpaid ½ d (either that, or the sender did not realize the registration fee was already paid, and the cover was triple).

Via the Warrimoo of the Canada-Australia line.





# Treaty of Vienna, Gibraltar and British Honduras to Canada



Gibraltar–Point St Charles (Montreal), 1895. [U P U] gives 20 c, and doesn't list letter rate.



Belize–Brockville, 1897. [U P U] gives 10¢ as registration fee and regular postage as 5¢; if correct, this is underpaid. Windsor (Ont) squared circle.





# Treaty of Vienna, Jamaica & Cape of Good Hope to Canada



Kingston (Jamaica)–Montreal, 1896. U P U letter rate, 2½ d and registration 2 d.



Klein Poort–Toronto, 1897. Postage of 8 d: registration 4 d, U P U letter rate, 2½ d per weight; probably double rate underpaid by 1 d.



From Spain



Malaga–Hamilton, 1897. 25 centimos for each of registration and U P U letter rates. Via London (red small oval registration datestamp). Hamilton R cds and carrier mark.



# Letter and post card from Vienna in Vienna period



Vienna–Hampton (NB), 1894. Postage totals 50 Kreutzer made up from 10 Kr registration and septuple U P U rate at 10 Kr for the first 15 g and 5 Kr for each additional. NB R P O at lower left.



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.

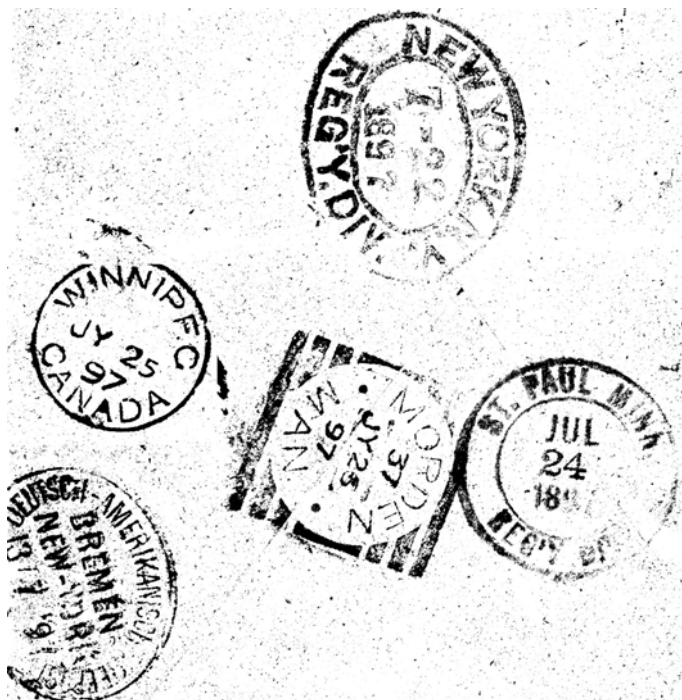




From Germany



Hamburg–Morden (MB), 1897. 20 Pfennige for each of registration and U P U letter rates. Via Deutsch-Amerikanisch Seepost. Morden squared circle.





From Russia



Moscow–Dundas (Ont), 1898. Rated 10 kopeks for each of registration and U P U letter rates. Purple handstamp at top (*zakaznoe*) means registered.



Vienna period; from Finland



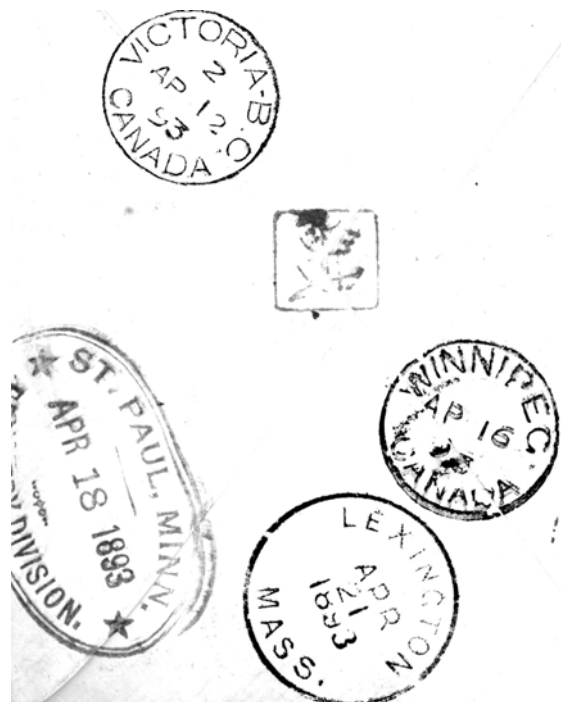
Kuopio to Toronto, 1895. Rated 25 Pen for each of registration U P U letter rate.





## 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 registration and double U P U-letter at 5 S per 15 g. From Winnipeg it went to Lexington (MA) via St Paul.



Tokyo—US via Montreal, 1893. Rated 10 sen registration and single U P U-letter.



Through mail



Tasmania—U.S., via Montreal, 1896. Rated anomalously 7½d; all sources give registration fee of 3d and U.P.U. letter rate of 2½d per half ounce. This is likely double rate, shortpaid ½d. 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).



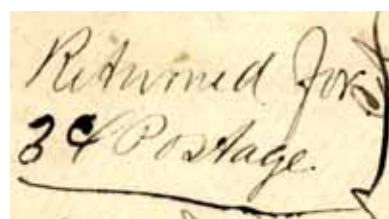
Gympie (Queensland)—St John's (N.F.) via Montreal and Halifax, 1896–7. Rated 3d registration and 2½d U.P.U. rate. Both Montreal and St John's squared circle precursors on reverse.



# Postage due registered

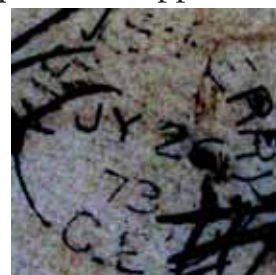
Mail which was intended to be registered but *shortpaid* was not supposed to be accepted, and if it had been accepted, it was to be sent to the DLO; then a notice was (probably) sent out to the sender, who would send the amount due, and the DLO would apply the stamps; if no payment was received, it would be returned to sender (1868–1905). However, this process was frequently not followed, and instead it could be 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).



Correctly treated: sent to DLO, and deficient postage applied, Kirk's Ferry (Gatineau, Que)—U S, 1873. Rated 3¢ letter rate and 5¢ registration to U S, and found to be double rate, hence 3¢ short; the 3¢ small queen was applied in Ottawa.

The KIRKS-FERRY C.E broken circle is not reported in [MP], although the office is.





# Postage due registered



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 (Ont)—U.S., 27 July 1883. Rated 3¢ letter rate to U.S., and has only a 2¢ RLS rather than the correct 5¢ RLS for U.S. 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 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 U.P.U.-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

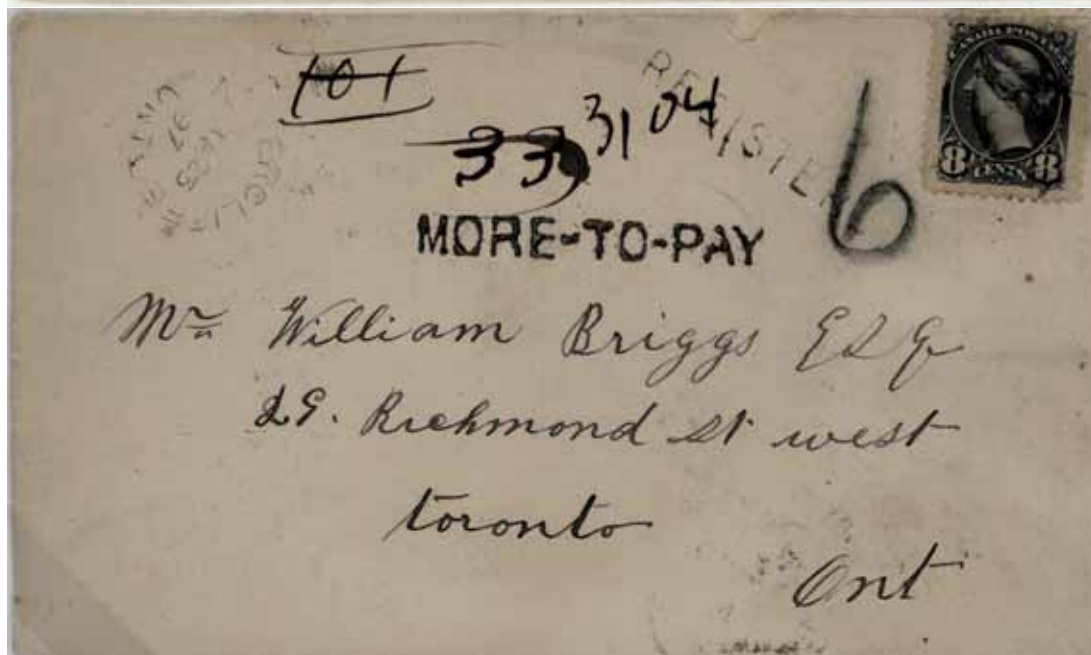
Occurred frequently



*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.*



*Double deficiency, Shetland–London (Ont), March 1889. Rated as single, found to be double, so shortpaid by 3¢, charged 6¢.*



*Double deficiency, Attercliffe (Ont)–Toronto, 1897. Rated as single, found to be double, and charged 6¢.*





## Postage due registered, not returned to sender

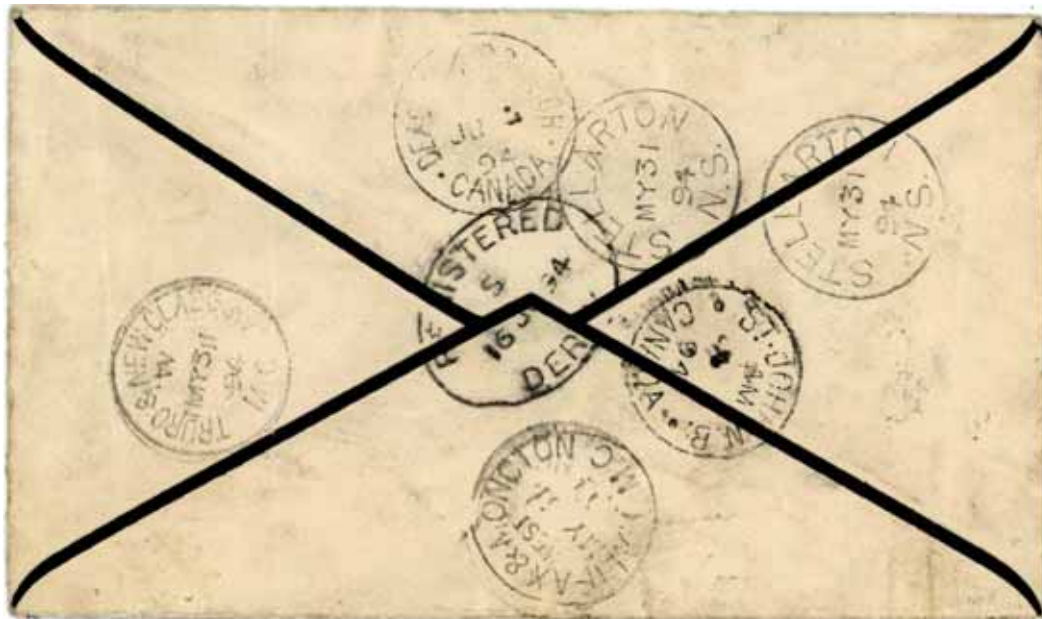
Sent to DLO, opened for return address, notice sent to sender of deficiency requesting payment; on receipt of payment, stamp applied at DLO, and sent off.



Sent to DLO, deficient postage supplied, Stellarton (NS)—Derby (UK), 1894. Rated as unregistered (5¢); indelible pencil registration number (partially covered by 5¢ stamp) suggests registered at Stellarton. Marked *short 5¢*, and sent to DLO in Ottawa to determine return address.

After payment was received, 5¢ small queen applied and killed with usual **R**, and letter sent off. Blue crayon cross and registration number applied in UK.

Mourning cover.





## Postage due registered, not returned to sender

Sent to DLO, opened for return address, notice to sender of deficiency, requesting payment; on receipt of payment, stamp applied at DLO, and sent off.



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 U P U), 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.

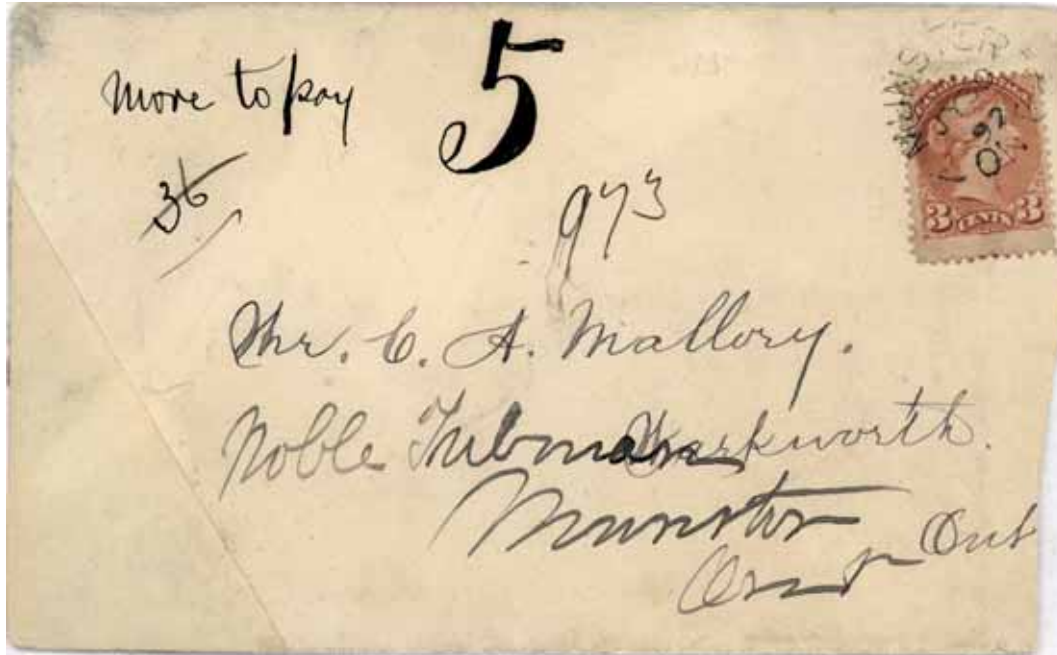


Sent to DLO, deficient postage supplied, Galt—Liverpool (U K), July 1897. Shortpaid by 2¢ (5¢ registration plus 5¢ to U K—only 3¢ of the latter was paid. Sent to DLO, where 2¢ small queen was applied and cancelled with the Ottawa encircled C, and sent on to destination.



## 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.

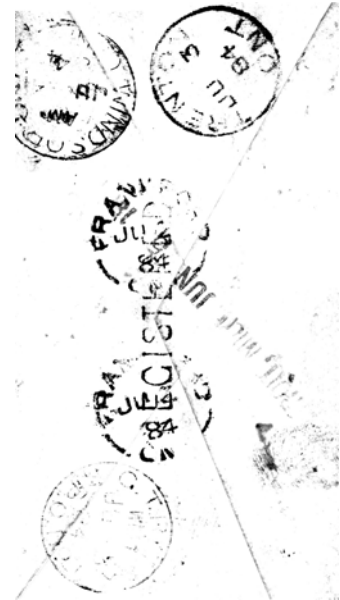
Earliest reported strike of MUNSTER ONT by ten years (proofed October 1891).



*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¢*.

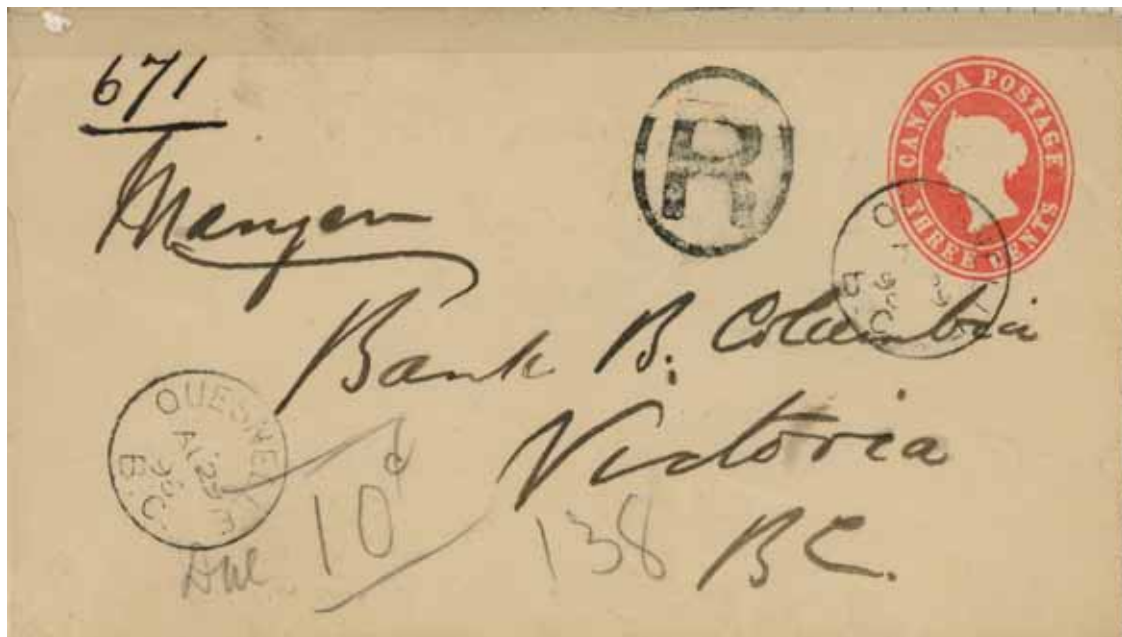
Most likely, a clerk en route suspected that valuables (such as cash) were included (the addressee is a bank manager), and *compulsory registration* applied.

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 G P U / U P U mandated it from the onset (1875), Canada did not offer it until it was made universal for U P U 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 U.S. 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).

Port Hope Post Office  
Aug. 28 1882

The registered letters referred to in yours of the 26th 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)

*Acknowledgment of receipt of a Registered article.*

TABLE I, to be filled up at the Office of origin.

A Registered article addressed to  
*a. Chaluc*  
*Bosc 62*  
*Penetanguishene*

is forwarded by the Registrar, enclosed in  
 No. *816* The Sender, whose name and  
 address appear on the third page, requests  
 to know if it has been delivered, and to  
 whom, or how otherwise disposed of.  
*H.B. for pm*  
 Registering Office

TABLE II, to be filled up at the Office of destination, and if the  
 letter has not been duly delivered it should be stated how  
 disposed of.

*Delivered to his*  
*son A. Chaluc*  
*C.H. Harting*  
 Postmaster

Delivery Office  
 Date Blurred

Delivery to the Office of Delivery for information as to  
 a Registered Letter

DEC 29 1883  
 TORONTO P.O.

Penetanguishene  
 out

DEC 29 1883  
 TORONTO P.O.

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-Vienna (1879–1892), incoming AR form and AR cover

No outgoing international use Canadian A R forms or A R covers are known in the pre-Vienna period.

- Only incoming (to Canada) A R form known in the pre-Vienna period; one of two incoming A R covers.

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

### AVIS DE RECEPTION.

Acknowledgment of Delivery.

d'un objet recommandé adressé à } M. Jacob Weiss & A. 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

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

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

du destinataire  
of addressee

Signature \*  
du chef du Bureau distributeur.  
of the Chief of the Delivering Office.

Jacob Weiss. J. Mac-Farlane

\* 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 A R form, Charing Cross (London) to Vancouver, 1891. Signed and dated in Vancouver. Heavy paper (not card); required covering envelope for its return (unlike Canadian A R forms). No postmarks on reverse.

A R fee paid by 2½d stamp.

- Only three British A R forms are known in the pre-Treaty of Vienna period.



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

Rated 10¢ registration fee and (double) 2 × 2¢ rate to Canada (equalling 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° , and addressed to  
Montreal Philatelist to Montreal le 25 juillet 1898 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 81.  
and posted at

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

Signature (\*)

du destinataire : D. Baeh  
of the addressee: Rédacteur The Montreal Philatelist  
451 Saint-Jacques

du chef du bureau distributeur :  
of the Postmaster of the office of destination:

Stamp 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 2-11-92.



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 three Canadian AR forms known used in the Vienna period.



## AR service with the US, part 1

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

Only reported Canadian A R form to US in this period.

ADMINISTRATION DU CANADA.  
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA.

**AVIS DE RÉCEPTION  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT**

{ d'une lettre recommandée } enregistré sous le N° \_\_\_\_\_, et adressé à \_\_\_\_\_  
{ d'un objet recommandé } article \_\_\_\_\_

of a Registered { letter } entered under N° \_\_\_\_\_, and addressed to \_\_\_\_\_  
{ article } \_\_\_\_\_

M. *Catholic Supply Store* le \_\_\_\_\_ 189\_\_\_\_  
to *Vancouver* 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  
{ article } \_\_\_\_\_

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 : \_\_\_\_\_  
of the addressee : \_\_\_\_\_

du chef du bureau distributeur : \_\_\_\_\_  
of the Postmaster of the office of destination : \_\_\_\_\_

Stamp of the office of destination. *VANCOUVER DEC 11 1896 PM 11:30*

(\*) 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.

1239 Post Office, DAYTON, OHIO.  
Received 1896 from *Union American*  
addressed *Catholic Supply Store*  
*Vancouver B.C.*  
*J.C. Eby, P. M. per*

Letter { No. }  
Post { No. }

This space is reserved for acknowledgment  
of registered items  
for postmasters received with receipt

US registration receipt for the registered item.

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

Le Receveur des Postes  
The Postmaster  
at *Dayton Ohio*

6744

Stamp of the office of destination. *VANCOUVER DEC 11 1896 PM 11:30*

Canadian A R form for registered letter from the US to Canada, Dayton (OH)–Vancouver, 1896. Same print order as preceding example.

- Second of two Canadian A R forms known used in the Vienna period.



## AR service with the US, part 2

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

Some pairs of countries, e.g., New Zealand & Australia, adopted the practice of filling out the A R 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 U S & Canada, the eight U S A R forms would be consistent with it, and the example on the previous page is an anomaly (or an oversight, or the original A R 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 d'origine. Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionnée  
Stempel der abliefernden Postanstalt. Der Endesunterscribene bescheinigt dass eine Einschreibsendung an die obige Adresse

and originating at Dayton \_\_\_\_\_, has been duly  
et provenant de 1/7-97 #1 134 \_\_\_\_\_, a été dûment  
und angegeben in \_\_\_\_\_, wurde vorschritts 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 addressee, 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 geschickt werden.

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

U S A R 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. 134  
Post Office, 1897  
Received 1/7  
addressed Catharine Supply Store  
Vancouver B.C.  
P.M., per \_\_\_\_\_  
1897, from \_\_\_\_\_

U S registration receipt for the registered item (full size).

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





## Outgoing AR covers

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

*St John–Middleton (CT), 1893.* Rated 5¢ R L S (registration), 3¢ letter rate to U S, and 5¢ A R fee. **Earliest Canadian A R cover, and only one with an R L S.**



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

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



*London (Ont)–Leipzig, 1897.* Rated 5¢ for each of registration, A R, and U P U letter rates.

With U S-style A R formula *Return receipt demanded*, and obviously rubber

*Rückschein* handstamp; this was applied routinely in Germany on all A R covers incoming via Seepost.

Hooded London registered datestamp.

Trimmed at left.



## Vienna period; incoming AR covers

Fewer than ten non-philatelic incoming to Canada A R covers are known in the Vienna period.



↑ *St Pierre (St Pierre et Miquelon)–Montreal, 1897. Rated 25 ctm for each of registration and U P U letter, and 10 ctm A R fee. Only known pre-1930 A R cover of St Pierre et Miquelon.*  
ex-Grabowski

← *Sydney (New South Wales, Australia)–Montreal, 18 May 1893. Standard Australian A R in oval cancel, used for decades.*

### • Earliest known Australian state A R cover

Rated 3d registration and 2½ d for each of A R and U P U letter rate, underpaid by ½ d (stamp is over-printed 7½ d; no evidence of missing stamp).

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





## Vienna period, incoming covers



San José (Costa Rica)—Toronto, 1896. Rated 5 centavos registration fee, 5 cvo A R fee, and 10¢ U P U-letter rate with authorized surcharge.



Vancouver (Washington)—Toronto, 1895. Rated 8¢ registration and 2¢ letter to Canada (international A R was a free option on registered mail from the U S). Standard U S endorsement indicating A R, *Return receipt demanded*. Shockingly, only a handful of U S—Canada A R covers in the Vienna period are known.





## Incoming repaired AR cover

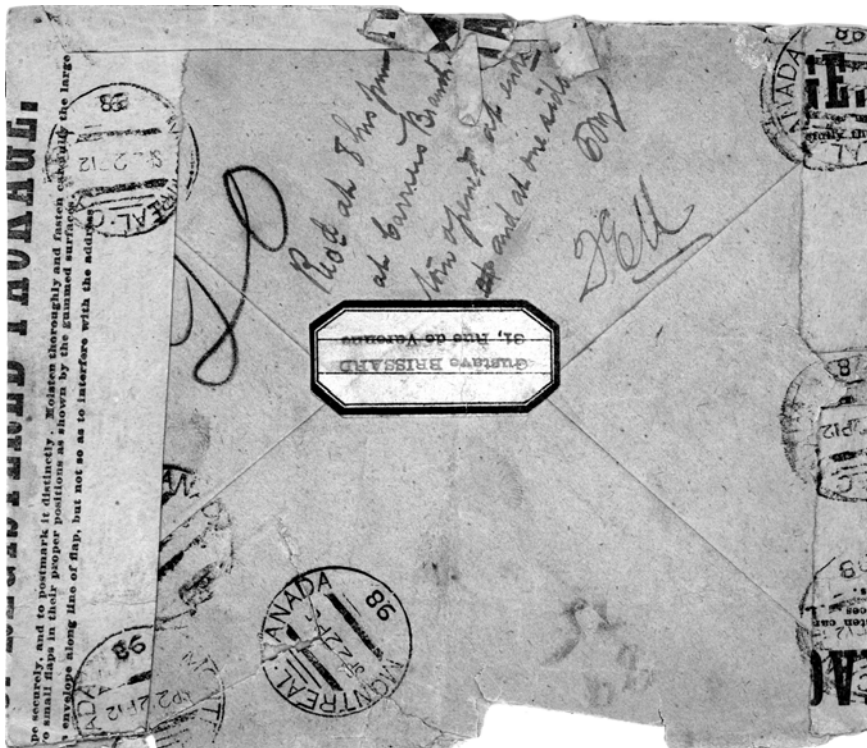
Montreal clerk used pieces of the covering envelopes for registered mail sent between post offices (themselves rare) to partially repair the envelope.



French octagonal A R handstamp is here.



Quintuple, Paris–Montreal, 1898. Rated 25 centimes registration, 10 ctm A R, 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.