Parcel cards from and to Canada

Parcel cards (properly known as *despatch notes* or *bulletins d'expédition*) accompany postal items sent by parcel post. After delivery of the item, they were supposed to be signed by the recipient, then returned to the country of origin, and subsequently disposed of. For Canada, this meant destruction—so very few, perhaps sixty, Canadian parcel cards have survived. Parcels sent between Canada, US, UK (and a few other countries) did not require despatch notes. Canadian stamps never appear on parcel cards.

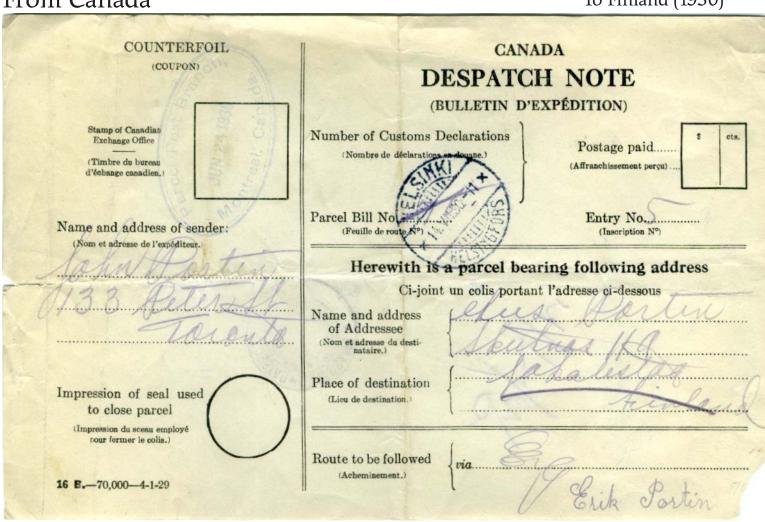
We treat the cards associated to both outgoing and incoming parcels. Registration, insurance (*valeur déclarée*), COD were not (normally) permitted on international parcels to or from Canada.

The first part ("From Canada") shows the evolution of Canadian parcel cards from 1929 to 1970 (print-order dates). Among the highlights are a refused and returned 1934 parcel card from Germany (charged a German fee for the trip back), and a 1947 example to the former concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen.

The second part ("To Canada") shows incoming cards, showing the wide variety of formats (all card thickness, unlike Canada's), methods of franking, and use of stickers for routing instructions and recording the parcel (these are not *registration* stickers).

Highlights include a 1916 card from Norway (very early), a 1924 Italian card to Lady Byng, a 1930 Palestine card (with two customs forms), and a 1935 Italian example erroneously sent with VD and erroneously accepted by Canada.

From Canada To Finland (1930)



Toronto to Jakobstad via Montreal, England, and Helsinki, 1930. • Signed at lower right. (Routing information reads Eng, for England.) • No indication of postage paid

• Print-order data 70,000—4–1–29

No printed text on reverse.



Bradford (ON) to Berlin via Montreal and Hamburg, refused, and returned to sender, 1934. **Rated** 45¢, for under one pound via England.

• Print-order data 60,000—21–10–31

• No printed text on reverse.

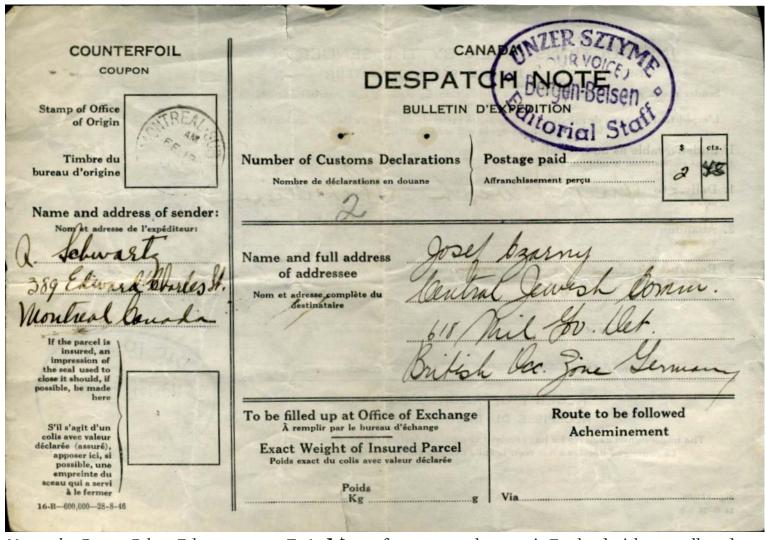


The 595 endorsement may be the fee (in Pfennig) for returning parcel (minimum fee is for 1 kg).

The parcel was refused, and the customs (and storage and handling) fees that would have been charged were rescinded (*Zoll abgesetzt* handstamp on reverse); these were itemized on what remains of the label (intended for remailed or returned international parcels).

To Bergen-Belsen (1947)

Nazi concentration camp 1943–45 (at least 35000 murdered); on liberation, contained 60000 people, of whom 13000 died within a few weeks. Post-War, it housed the survivors (almost entirely Jewish—others were moved to different camps) until they emigrated (mostly to US, Canada, Israel, and Norway).



Montreal to Bergen-Belsen, February 1947. **Rated** \$2.45, for two parcels sent via England, either 3–4 lb and 4–5 lb or 2–3 lb and 5–6 lb.

• Print-order data 600,000—28–8–46

• Printed text (sender's instructions) on reverse.

INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY THE SENDER	TIOTE A TOTAL
INSTRUCTIONS À DONNER PAR L'EXPÉDITEUR	hoellos
Sender must provide for an alternative disposition, by striking out instructions not intended, as follows:	
L'expéditeur est tenu de mentionner une autre façon de disposer de l'envoi, en biffant les indications ci-après qui sont inutiles:—	
If undeliverable as addressed: As cas do non-liveration, by colle delet streng. 1. Deliver to duy Jewesh Obaplain lind a	Sebres lo associa I na suma
2. Abandon	John to I
3. Raturn to sember relates charges graventeed. remoyé à l'expéditeur qui s'engage à payer les frais de retour.	CO. The Contraction of the Co.
Signature de l'expéditeur — Signature de l'expéditeur	ois lonoliba
Address of Sender — Adresse de l'expéditeur	Deigenaguahiag.
RECEIPT OF ADDRESSEE RÉCÉPISSÉ DU DESTINATAIRE	Carron Bolder
The undersigned declares he has received the parcel designated on this bulletin. Le soussigné déclare avoir reçu le colis désigné sur le présent bulletin.	VALZS 83
Signature 19	
16-B-28-8-46	Land position into the control

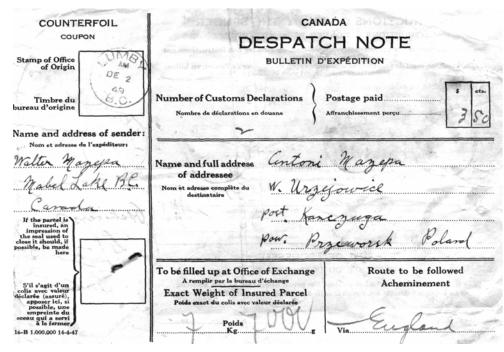
If undeliverable as addressed, . . . deliver to *Any Jewish Chaplin*

The year on the one postmark is unreadable. The camp newspaper, *Unzer Sztyme*, changed its name in late 1947; since the print-order date is late August 1946 and the postmark is dated February, the year must be 1947.



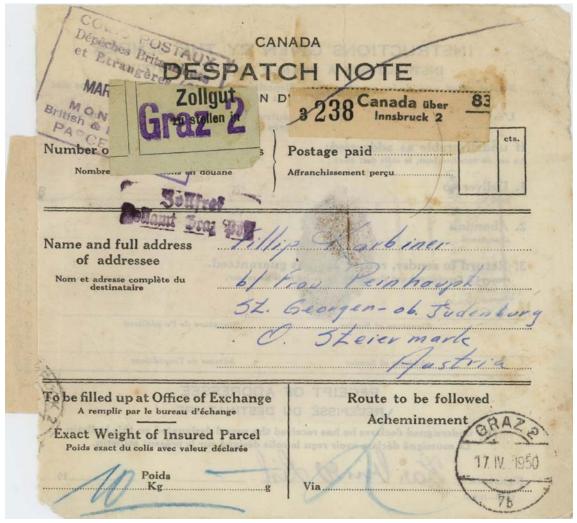
Lumby (BC) to Poland, 1949–50. **Rated** \$3.50 for 15–20 lb (actual weight, 7 kg, just above 15 lb) via England and postage due of 160 Złotys, probably customs handling fees and excise tax.

• Print-order data 1,000,000—14–4–47 • Properly signed by recipient *before* postage dues applied.



To Austria (1950)

Only Canadian despatch note I've seen with its counterfoil removed (they should all be that way!).



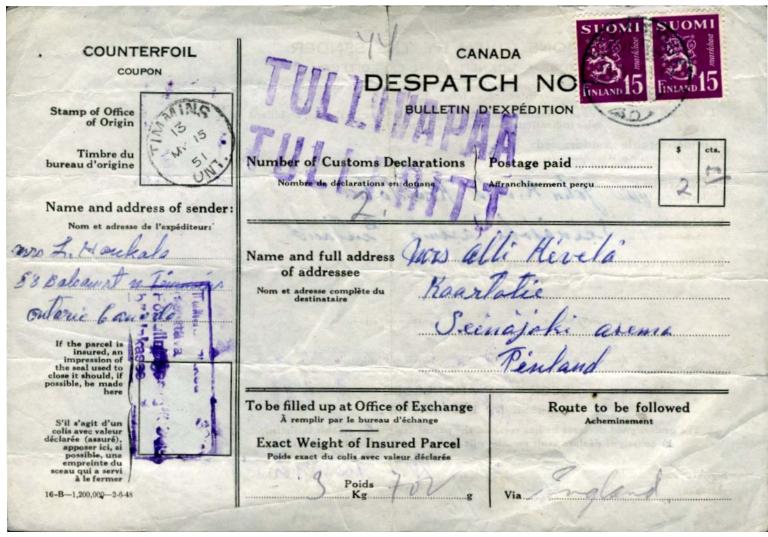
Montreal to Steiermark via Graz, April 1950. No indication of Canadian postage; the weight appears to have been 10 kg. With Montreal British & Foreign Office parcel post handstamp. *Zöllfrei* (duty-free) at Graz.

• Print-order data —18–9–47; earliest printing without number printed. But some despatch notes with later printing dates do give quantities.





Customs clearance charge of 4 Schilling, 80 Groschen; most of the stamps were presumably on the back of the counterfoil.



Timmins (ON) to Finland, 1951. **Rated** \$2 for 7–8 lb via England. Purple bilingual (Finnish/Swedish) handstamp means duty-free. Finnish stamps pay customs handling fee (30 Markaa).

• Print-order data 1,200,000—2-6-48

• Properly signed by recipient.

	RECEIPT OF ADDRESSEE RÉCÉPISSÉ DU DESTINATAIRE
	igned declares he has received the parcel designated on this bulletin. ssigné déclare avoir reçu le colis désigné sur le présent bulletin.
Le sou	ssigne declare avoir reçu le cons designe sur le present bunetin.
Signature	ssigne declare avoir regule considerine sur le present bunetin. All Birvel 19



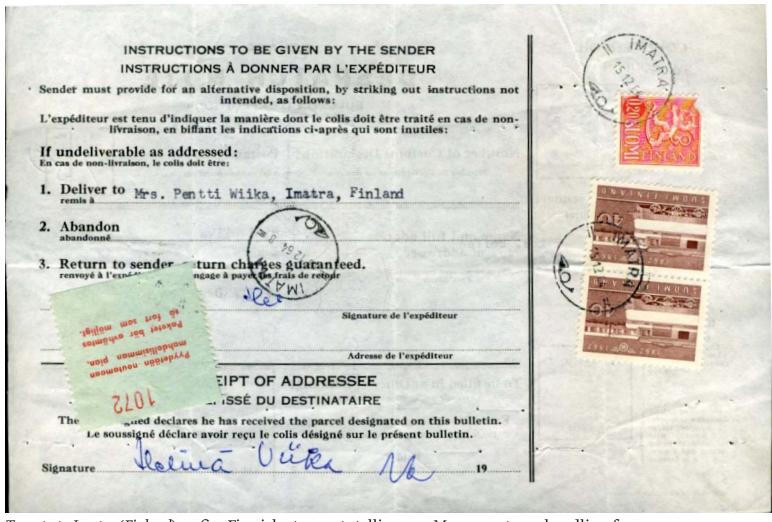
Mont Rolland (QC) to Visciano (Napoli), 1959. Italian stamps (both parts) total 70 Lire, likely the customs handling fee.

• Print-order data 8M-Pads—19-8-53

• Properly signed by recipient.

COUNTERFOIL		or enorativitavit
	DESPATCH	NOTE
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Stamp of Office of Origin 20	BULLETIN D'EXPI	ÉDITION
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		11/0
	Nombre de déclarations en douane Affranci	hissement perçu
Name and address of s	sender:	
Nom et adresse de Perpédi	teur:	1
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Isnat of Wall	Name and full address MR. PASTUL	E. CAMANNA.
6 + D 00	of addressee	the second of the second of
Man hellalla		
J. K. L M	Nom et adresse complète du CARSSO-U	1. Nº9 VISCIANA
29	Nom et adresse complète du CaRSSO - U	1. Nº 9 VISCIANO
9.2-	Nom et adresse complète du CGRSSD-U	DI NA POLI
9-2-	Nom et adresse complète du CGRSSD-U	Di-NA POLI-
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insured, an impression of the seal used to	Nom et adresse complète du CGRSSO-U	DI-NA POLI-
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insured, an impression of the seal used to close it should, if possible, be made here	Nom et adresse complète du CGRSSO-U Mala- To be filled in at Office of Exchange A remplir par le bureau d'échange	Di-NA Poli-
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insured, an impression of the seal used to close it should, if possible, be made here S'il s'agit d'un colls avec valeur déclarée (assuré), apposer ict, si possible empreinte du secau qui a servi	To be filled in at Office of Exchange A remplir par le bureau d'échange Exact Weight of Insured Parcel Poids exact du colls avec valeur déclarée	Di-NA Poli-
insured, an impression of the seal used to close it should, if possible, be made here S'il s'agit d'un colls avec valeur déclarée (assuré), appossible, une empreinte du	To be filled in at Office of Exchange A remplir par le bureau d'échange Exact Weight of Insured Parcel Polds exact du colls avec valeur déclarée Poids	Di-NA Poli-

Rated \$1.65, 3–4 lb, surface via England.



Toronto to Imatra (Finland), 1964. Finnish stamps totalling 100 M pay customs handling fee.

• Print-order data 8500 PADS OF 100—31–1–62

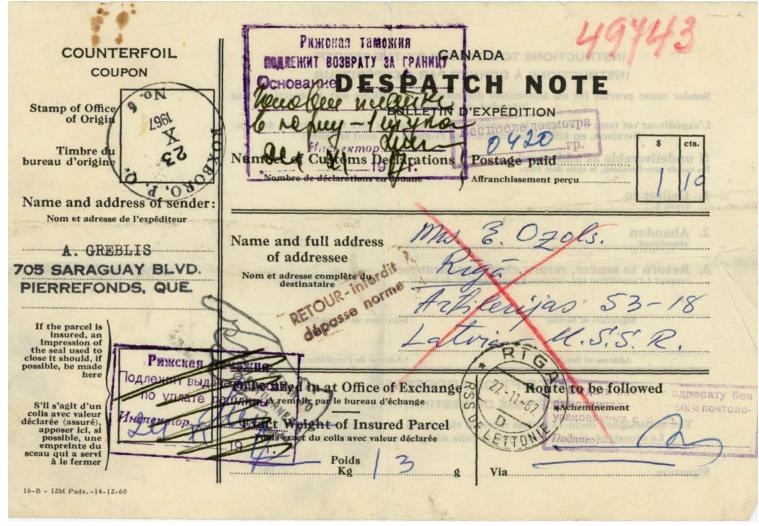
• Properly signed by recipient.

COUNTERFOIL COUPON Stamp of Office of Origin Timbre du bureau d'origine Name and address of sender: Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur Mrs. T. Wiika 61 Tilson Rd. Toronto 7, Ont. Ganada	DESPATCH NOT BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION Number of Customs Declarations Postage paid			; cts.		
If the parcel is insured, an impression of the seal used to close it should, if possible, be made here S'll'a'ngit d'un colts avec valeur déclarée (assuré), apposer ici, si possible, une empreinte du sceau qui a servi à le fermer	To be filled in at Office of A rempile par le bureau d'éc Exact Weight of Insuree Poids exact du colls avec valeur Poids Kg	Exchange hange d Parcel déclarée	Route to b	be followed		

Rated \$1.50, likely 2–3 lb surface via England.

To Latvia, and returned (1967)

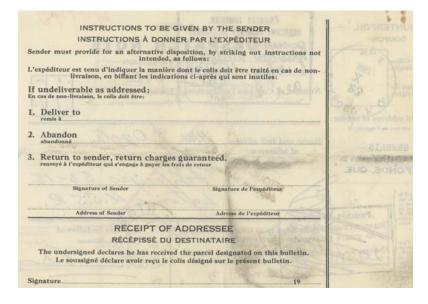
Returned to sender despatch notes are very unusual.

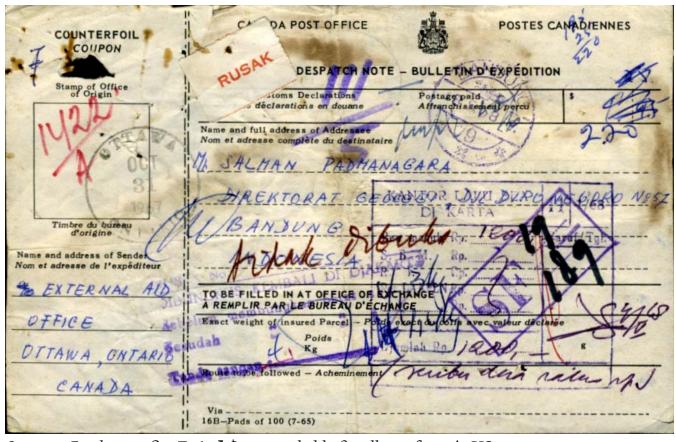


Roxboro (*QC*) *to Latvia* (*via Riga*), 1967. Charged \$1.10 Canadian postage, apparently for a 7 + kg parcel. Returned after the normal pick-up period expired.

Print data: 12м Pads.—14—12—60; used almost seven years after printing.

Despatch notes have a section on reverse for the sender to indicate whether the parcel should be abandoned, returned, or redirected in case of non-delivery. In this case, the sender did not fill it out. It was returned anyway (and he would have been charged an amount equal to the original postage).





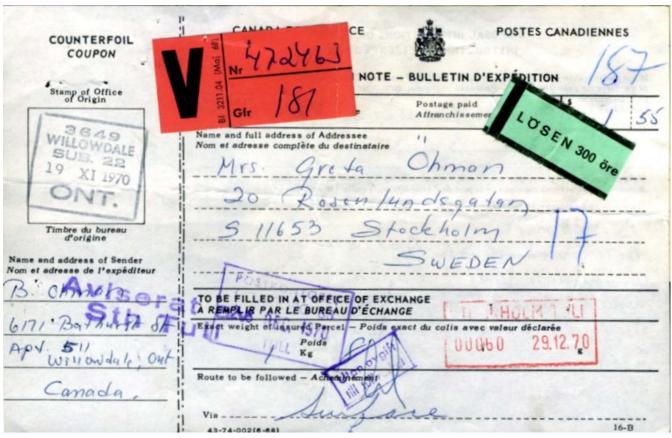
Ottawa to Bandung, 1967. Rated \$2.20, probably 8–9 lb, surface via US.

• Print-order data 8500 Pads of 100 (7–65)

• Properly signed by recipient after arduous trip.



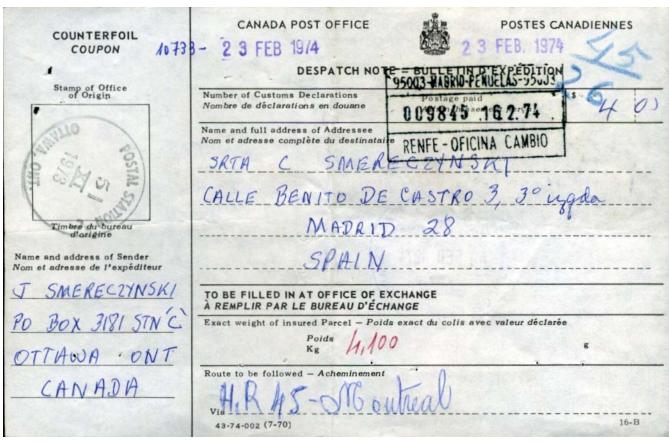
Total of 100 Rupiah paid in fiscal stamps—the parcel was valued at 1200 Rp, according to the three attached fee schedules.



Willowdale (ON) to Stockholm, 1970. **Rated** \$1.55, probably 3–4 lb by surface via England. In Sweden, **V** (*valeur déclarée*) sticker added. Charged 3Kr customs duty in Sweden.

• Print-order data 43-74-002 (6-68)

• Not signed by recipient.



Ottawa to Madrid, 1974. **Rated** \$4, 9–10 lb surface via England and France.

• Print-order data 43-74-002 (7-70)

• Properly signed by recipient.

To Canada

Somewhat easier to find than despatch notes from Canada.



Trondheim (Norway) to Winnipeg via Bergen-Newcastle, 1916. Rated 2.34 Kr.

Not signed by recipient.





The purple **R St J** handstamp (at lower left) is a registration marking known in fewer than five examples, here recording the parcel post number (the parcel was *not* registered).

Large blue ${\bf H}$ is a Hamburg transit mark.

Marggrabowa (Germany—now Olecko in Poland) to St Jacobs (ON) via Hamburg and Halifax, 1925. **Rated** 3.4 Marks.

• Signed by recipient.

From Italy to Lady Byng

Lord Byng of Vimy (1862–1935) was Governor-General of Canada (1921–26), during which the eponymous constitutional crisis (so-called) occurred. This is addressed to Lady *Elizabeth* Byng at Government House (where governors-general live), but Lord Byng's wife was named Marie Evelyn, and they had no children.



Rome to Ottawa via Cherbourg, 1924. **Rated** 14 Lire (included imprinted 2L). With the accompanying Italian customs form, in two copies.

• Not signed by recipient.



Zürich to Edmonton via Germany and England, 1929. **Rated** 6.55 SFrancs.

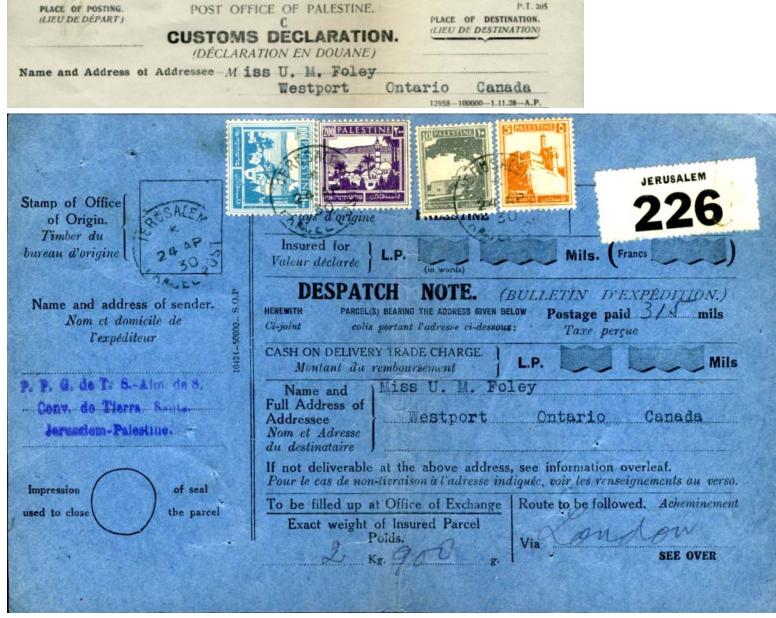
Contained a package of kitchen garden seeds weighing 1.06kg, and a pruning knife (serpette).

• Not signed by recipient.

squet (caisse, panier etc.) orde avec valeur déclarée ou lettre, etc. acco (cassa, cesta, ecc.), scatola con valore besignazione del contenuto* Designazione del contenuto* Designazione del contenuto* Designazione del contenuto* Valore di oggi singola merce nel pacco, nella merce nel		s - Peso	Gewicht - Poid	Einzelwert der Ware in Paket, Wertschachtel oder Briefsendung		Paket (Kiste, Korb usw.) Wertschachtel oder Briefsendung
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Customs declaration, attached by paper clip and pin.

From Palestine (1930)



Jerusalem to Westport (ON) via London, 1930. **Rated** 315 mils—Palestine packet rates unknown in this period.

• Not signed by recipient.

Description	Contents (Désignation du contenu) To be described, it possible, in both French and English	Value of		Weight (Poids)			
including special marks & numbers of the sender (Espèce et marques et numéros spéciaux de l'expéditeur)	N.B.—The nature and value of the contents should be accurately stated and, as far as possible, in accordance with the classification of the customs tariff of the country of deciration. The name of the country of deciration. The name of the country where the goods were produced or manufactured abound be given in all cases, whether it is Falestine or not.	-	Valeur)	(b)	rut)	LA	let er)
	Religious articles		500	-		-	
	,					-	
			Mary Mary Control				•
EROSAL 10 8 4 24 AF	which this Declaration relates does not contain exported from Palestine absolutely or to the property of the p	of w	to which	the	prohit parcel licence	is do	to be
	Description including special marks & numbers of the sender (Egine et anaeres speciaux de l'expéditeur)	Description including special marks a number of the sender	Description including special marks & numbers contained to the described, it possible, in shooth French and English N.B.—The nature and value of the contents should be with the classification of the customs tariff of the country of extensions of the contents of the country of of t	Description including special marks a mushes event and the special marks a numbers of the described, it possible, in shooth French and English N.B.—The nature and value of the contents should be marks a numbers of the sender (Espice et mark) and a far as possible, in accordance with the classification of the customs tariff of the country of contents of the content	Description including special marks a must be described, it possible, in both French and English N.B.—The nature and value of the contents should be marks a numbers controlled the classification of the customs tariff of the country of destination. The name of the country of origin of a content of the customs tariff of the country of destination. The name of the country of origin of a content of the customs tariff of the country of destination. The name of the country of origin of a content of the customs tariff of the country	Description including special marks a number of the contents of the place of the marks a number of the contents should be a content of the contents should be securately stated and, as far as possible, in accordance with the classification of the customs tariff of the country of desiration. The name of the country of desiration of the customs tariff of the country of the contents of the country	Description including special marks a number of the contents should be securately stated and, as far as possible, in seth french and English securately stated and, as far as possible, in secondarse with the classification of the customs tariff of the country of desiration. The name of the country of orders are stated of the country of desiration. The name of the country of orders are stated of the country of desiration. The name of the country of orders are stated of the country of desiration. The name of the country of orders are stated of the country of desiration of the name of the country of orders are stated of the country of desiration and the classification of the country of desiration of the cou

Rest of customs form (two copies), showing contents of package—religious articles, valued at only 500 mils (cf, postage).



On reverse of card.

From Italy (1935; improperly sent with VD) and Yugslavia (1936)



Venice—Toronto, improperly sent with VD, 1935. Canada did not accept insured (valeur déclarée) parcels; this should have been stopped at Italian exchange point.

Rated 41.60 Lire • Not signed by recipient.



Zagreb—Winnipeg, 1936. **Rated** (?) 6.80 Dinars +2 Di Yugoslav outgoing customs fee, paid by fiscal on reverse.

Via Hamburg (etiquette and unclear purple hs), Salzburg, Munich (hs reverse), and Montreal.

 Not signed by recipient.