

# Canadian registration, 1911–1947

Canada's registration system during this period is discussed in detail; this includes some rather obscure aspects, such as COD, through registered mail, money packets, and AR, as well as some very unusual combinations, such as wreck, returned from the Dead Letter Office, and free.

## Contents (Some highlights are itemized)

**Domestic** Various rate combinations shown; highlights include overprinted WAR TAX used in period to pay registration, and massive duovigintuple rate.

*Extra indemnity on registered letters* Introduced 1924 and not popular.

**COD** COD mail sent first, second, or third class was automatically registered. Survival of such items is problematic. Third class (1927), returned to sender 1935.

*Miscellaneous domestic* Use of precancelled stamps on registered mail (not permitted according to regulations); registered mail *dropped* in the mailbox; fancier registration date- and handstamps.

**International (surface)** Illustrating the various rate combinations (including UPU, Empire, and preferred rates) and periods to many different destinations; to Belgium (August 1914); septodecuple rate to Germany (1927); turned (reused) wrapper to Switzerland 1933.

**International (airmail)** Various rate combinations to many destinations; to Oslo via US (1928); very heavy air rates to each of Belgium and Panama (1930); to Grahamland—Operation Tabarin (1944); registration *cancelled* to Harbin (1946).

**Through mail** Registered mail from abroad passing through Canada en route to a third country, and postmarked or censored in Canada. Samoa—Switzerland (1916), to & from St Pierre & Miquelon.

**Postage due registered** Registered mail either short paid or subject to additional charges after mailing (domestic and international). Very difficult to find, and often due to letter dropped in the mail box rather than taken to counter.

**Complimentary and compulsory registration** Registration implemented after letter arrives in post office on detection of valuables, either free or charged. Very often difficult to decide if compulsory registration occurs. Examples during 1916 and 1917 civil censorship; compulsory registration retracted (1933).

**Registered wrecks** Recovered from *Kingstonian* (torpedoed 1918), *Centurion* (airplane crash 1939), and *Eros* (torpedoed 1942).

**Money packets** Special service (at higher postal rate) for registered letters containing material worth more than \$100. Gold brick (twenty \$1 Parliaments on tag, 1931), to US (1935), to UK (1947) (foreign destinations *very* unusual).

**Free registered** Typically to or from federal government offices with at least part of the postage free; not easily found. Free franks by OD Skelton (1938) and NA Robertson (1942), to Internment Camp A (1941), to US (1919), forwarded (at no extra charge) to UK (1916).

**Returned from DLO** (covering envelope sent registered); returned *back* to DLO (1915), to UK with original envelope and its contents, a cheque.

**Avis de réception (AR)** AR form returned from Smyrna under Greek occupation (1920), AR covering envelopes (for return of foreign AR forms, 1912 & 1917), AR card to Turkey (1928), *duplicate* AR card to US (1926), provisional AR card (1926), after-the-fact (subsequent) form (1918) & cards (domestic and foreign) and with second chance (1935), free AR cover 1917, postage due AR cover (1925), AR China clipper cover returned owing to attack on Pearl Harbor (1941).

## Domestic

Registration was 5¢ (with default indemnity up to \$25) until July 1920, when it changed to 10¢, and no further changes occurred during the period of this exhibit. Extra indemnity was permitted from August 1924. Domestic postage was 2¢ per ounce; war tax, in effect April 1915—June 1926 and July 1930—March 1943, added 1¢ flat and from April 1943, the war tax was 2¢.

### Pre-war tax

A few offices used odd-shaped registration handstamps, but these declined in number in the mid-1910s



Regina—Zealandia (SK), 1912. Rated 5¢ registration and 2¢ domestic, paid by single 7¢ Admiral (and a piece of another one). Very unusual eye-shaped large registration Zealandia datestamp, and oval Regina. His NOT CALLED FOR and RETURN TO →.

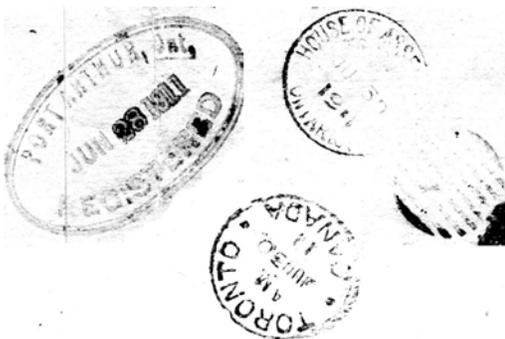


Moncton—Saint John (NB), 1913. Rated as above. Oval Moncton registration handstamp.

Pre-war tax



Octuple rate, Port Arthur (ON)—Toronto, 1911. Rated 5¢ registration plus 8 × 2¢ domestic. Oval Port Arthur registration handstamp. House of Assembly duplex on reverse.

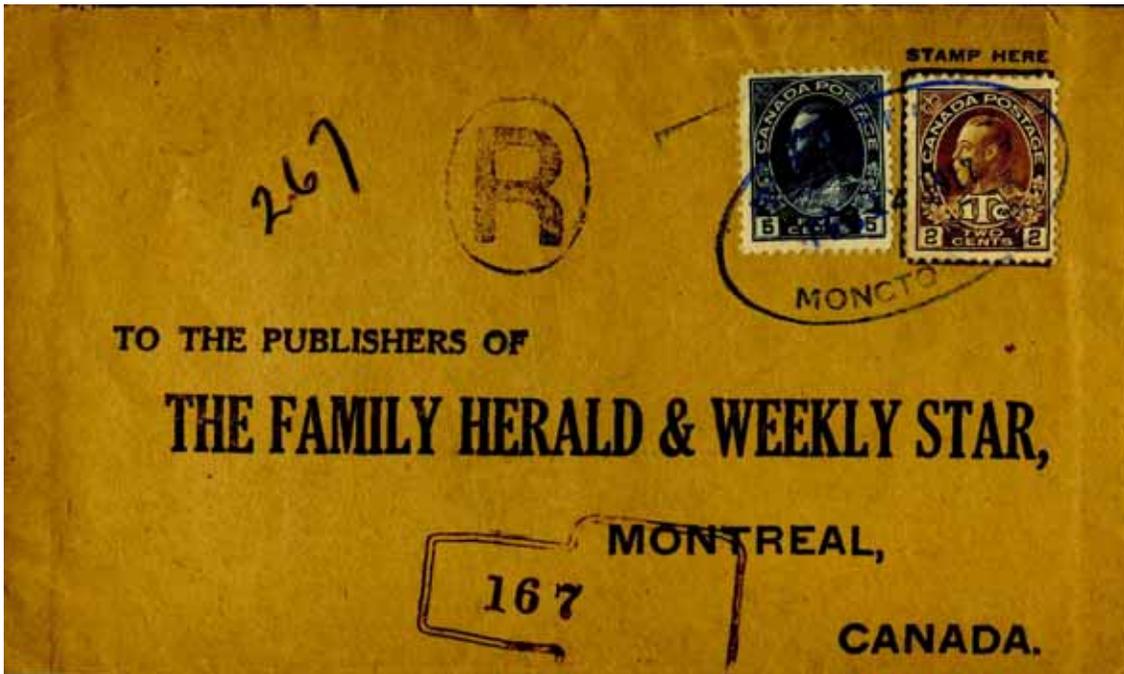


## War tax introduced

On 15 April 1915, a flat 1¢ was added to all first class domestic mail. On 12 January 1912, diagonally overprinted 5¢, 20¢, & 50¢ Admirals were issued, intended for fiscal use only; on 16 April, their use postally was authorized, and subsequently revoked 30 December.



*Nipigon to Indian agent at Port Arthur (ON), with diagonally overprinted WAR TAX, 14 May 1915. Rated 5¢ registration and 2¢ domestic + 1¢ war tax (overpaid 1¢, confusion likely caused by 2¢ War Tax stamp). Oval Nipigon registration handstamp.*



*Moncton–Montreal, 1917. Rated as above. Oval Moncton registration handstamp, and experimental Montreal registration hs enclosing number.*



## Registration fee increases

On 15 July 1920, registration increased to 10¢, with default indemnity up to \$25. Extra indemnity did not become available until 1924.

*Duovigintuple* (22 ×) rate, 1922. **Rated** 10¢ registration, 22 × 2¢ per ounce, and 1¢ war tax.

Secretary having fun, using some stamps issued a decade earlier (typical of banks and stock brokers, as Wood-Gundy was).



Seldom-seen Toronto Term'l St'n A duplex enclosing R.

War tax removed

From 1 July 1926 to 30 June 1931, the war tax was not applied, and domestic first class was 2¢ per ounce.



Nonatuple rate, Bashaw (AB) to Estevan (SK), 1928. Rated 10¢ registration and 9 × 2¢ per ounce.

# Registered drop letters

As opposed to letters which were *dropped* (in the mailbox), drop letters were those for which destination and origin offices were the same (later, in the same town or city). From large offices, registered drop letters are *not* scarce. Rates were 1¢ per ounce to 1915, when the flat 1¢ war tax was added, and in 1943, the war tax changed to a flat 2¢.



Drop letter from Woodstock (ON), 1914. Rated 5¢ registration and 1¢ drop letter rate.



Drop letter from Hamilton, 1919. Rated 5¢ registration, 1¢ drop letter rate, and 1¢ war tax.

From S. J. Hayton  
 9 Adelaide St. W.  
 Winnipeg

WINNIPEG, MAN.  
 ORIGINAL NO. 5539

Inspector of Income Tax,  
 Commercial Building,  
 Winnipeg,  
 Manitoba



ARNOLD, BEDSON & COMPANY LTD.  
 WINNIPEG.

Inspector of Taxation,  
 Commercial Building,  
 Winnipeg, Man.

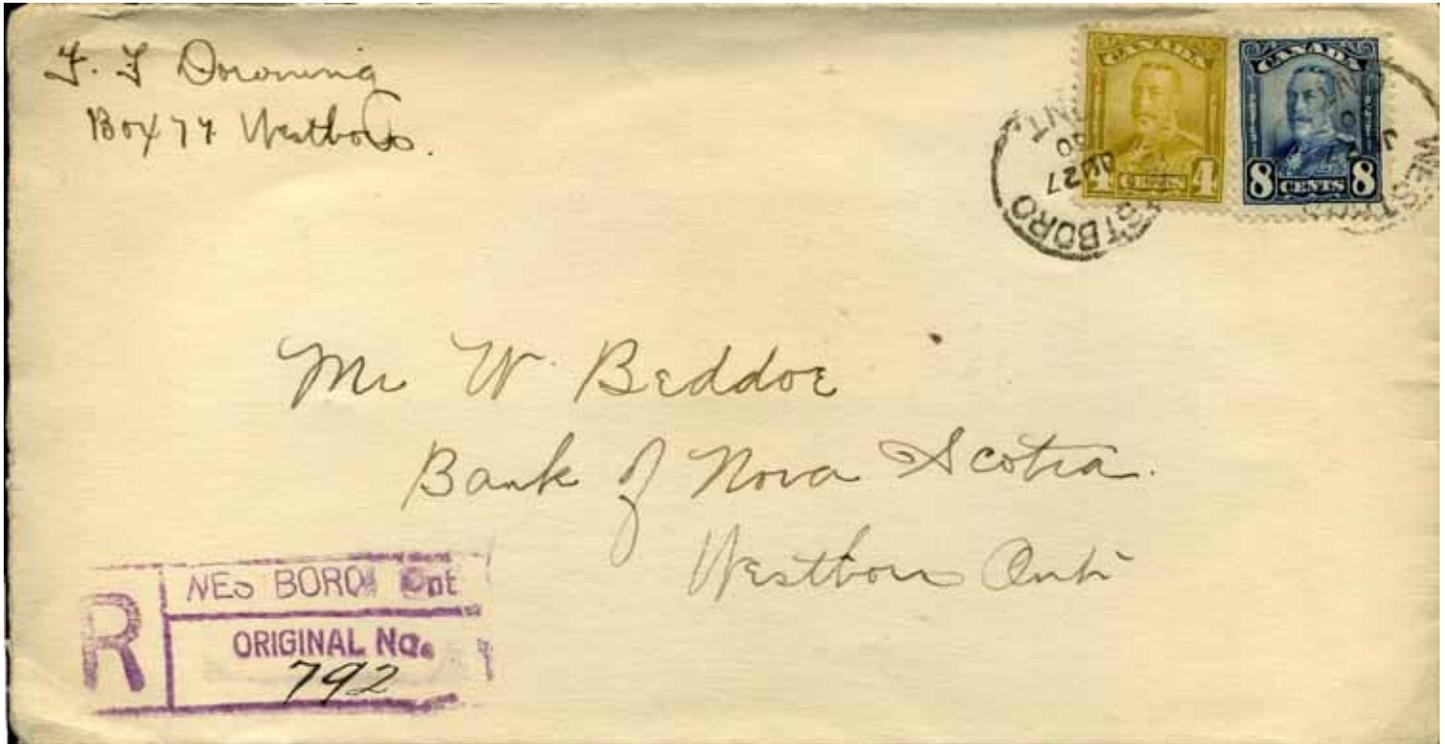
Winnipeg, Man.  
 R No 7134

REGISTERED

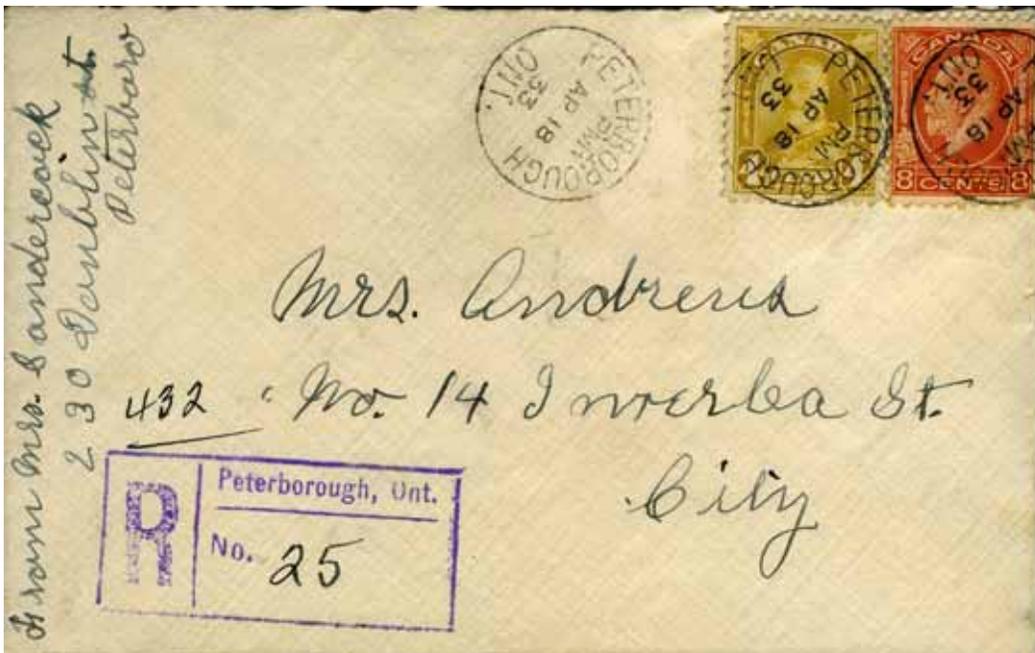
Multiple drop

From 1928–1931, single drop letters were charged the same as domestic; however, since each additional ounce cost 1¢ as opposed to 2¢, multiple drop letters were cheaper than their domestic counterparts. Multiple rate registered drop letters, Winnipeg, 1929. Rated 10¢ registration plus triple (2¢ + 2 × 1¢) and quadruple (2¢ + 3 × 1¢).

Drop letters, smaller towns



Drop letter from Westboro (ON), 1930. **Rated** 10¢ registration, 2¢ drop letter rate (first ounce).



Drop letter from Peterborough (ON), 1933. **Rated** as above.

# Extra indemnity

On 1 August 1924, extra indemnity became available, at 20¢ for up to \$50 indemnity, 30¢ up to \$75, and 40¢ up to \$100; these rates stayed in effect until 1951.

20¢ rate (to \$50)



Montreal–Toronto, 1930. **Rated** 20¢ registration, 2¢ domestic (1928–1931).



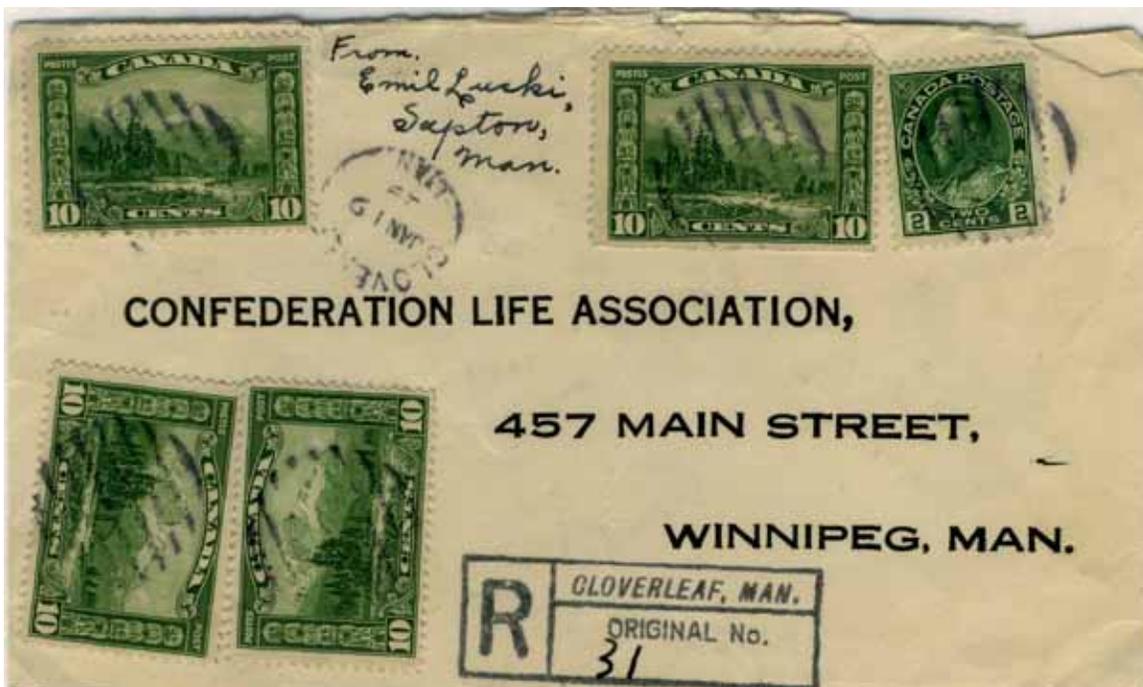
Wasaga Beach (ON)–Toronto, 1934. **Rated** 20¢ registration, 3¢ domestic (1931–1943).

20¢ rate (to \$50)



Dundas—Warton (ON), 1930. Rated 20¢ registration and 2¢ domestic (1928–1931).

40¢ rate (to \$100)



Cloverleaf (MB)—Winnipeg, 1929. Rated 40¢ registration, 2¢ domestic.

# Cash on delivery (COD)

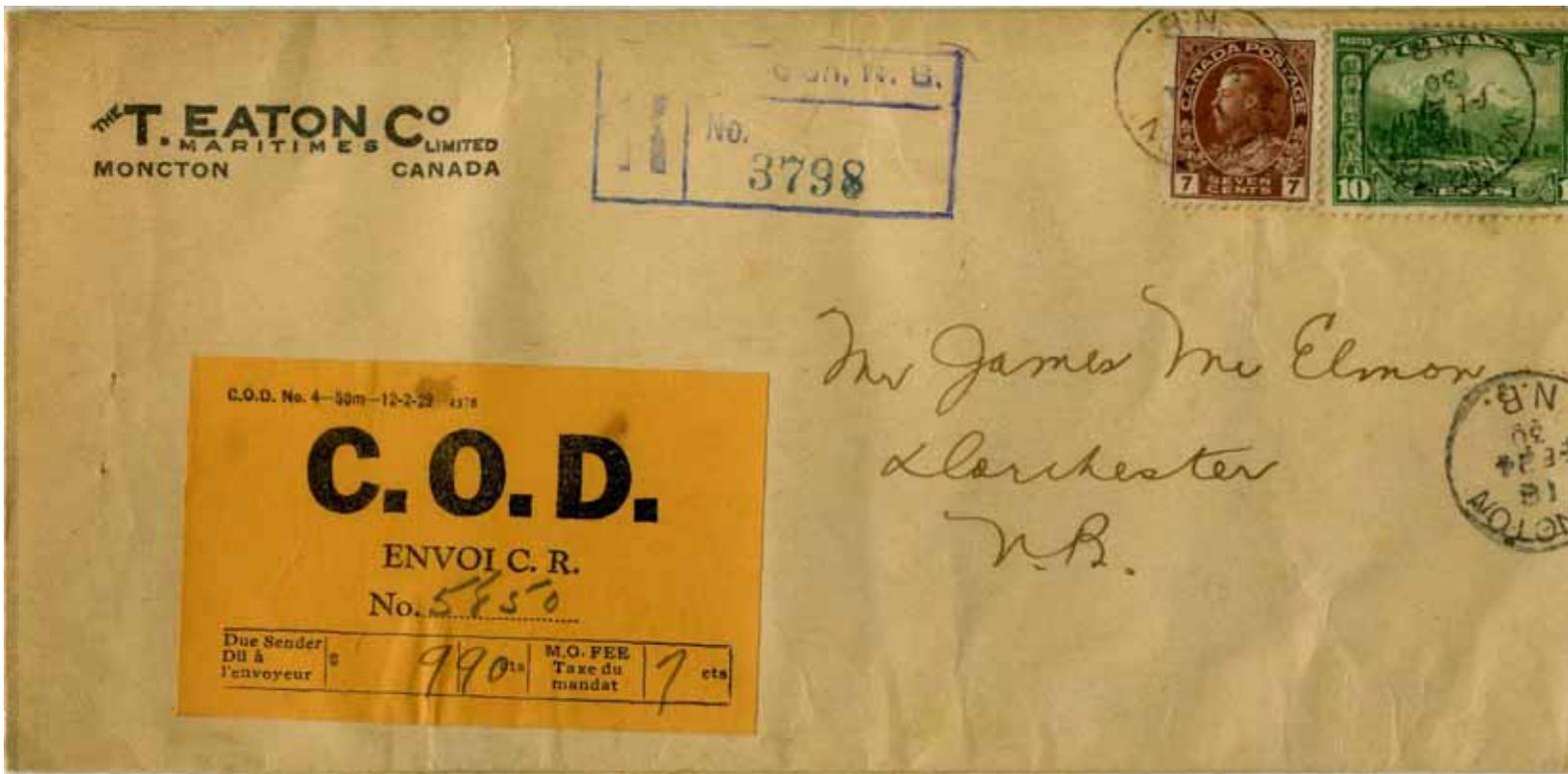
Privately-run COD services were available (through transportation companies) in the early twentieth century, but the post office did not institute it until 1922. Registration was *compulsory* (and was included in the fee) on non-parcel post COD items. COD was only available domestically.

From 1 October 1922–17 October 1940, COD fees were 15¢ (up to \$50 value) and 30¢ (up to \$100 value). In addition, the recipient paid the money order fee for the value of the item. From 18 November 1940–1964, the fees were 10¢, 15¢, 30¢ for values \$2, \$50, \$100 respectively.



COD, with compulsory registration, third class, Kingston–Toronto, 1927. **Rated** 10¢ registration, 5¢ COD, and almost certainly double third class (at 1¢ per four ounces). Likely contained photographs. Early yellow rectangular sticker includes amount due, made up of \$1.06 for the item and 5¢ to pay for the money order to be sent (by unregistered mail!) to the sender.

COD including registration



Toronto–Dorchester (NB), 1930. **Rated** 15¢ COD fee and 2¢ domestic. Orange rectangular sticker. Recipient charged \$9.90 for the Eatons item and 7¢ for the money order.

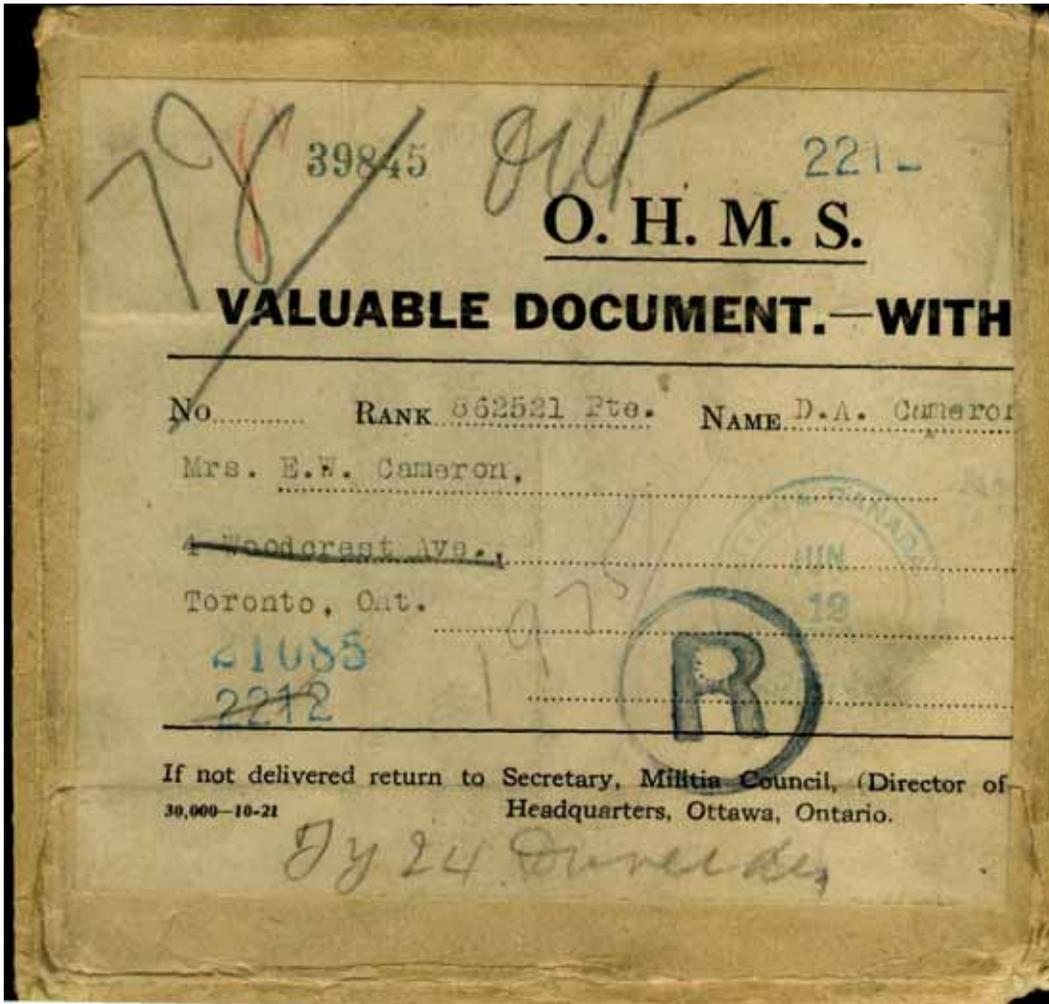


Saskatoon–Zelma (SK), 1933. **Rated** 15¢ COD fee and 3¢ domestic. Older style rectangular sticker. Recipient charged \$4.58 for the item and 10¢ for the money order.



## Registered with precancelled stamps

Use of precancelled stamps was not permitted on registered mail; however, the post office seems to have turned a blind eye to the mailing of decorations and medals to WW I veterans.



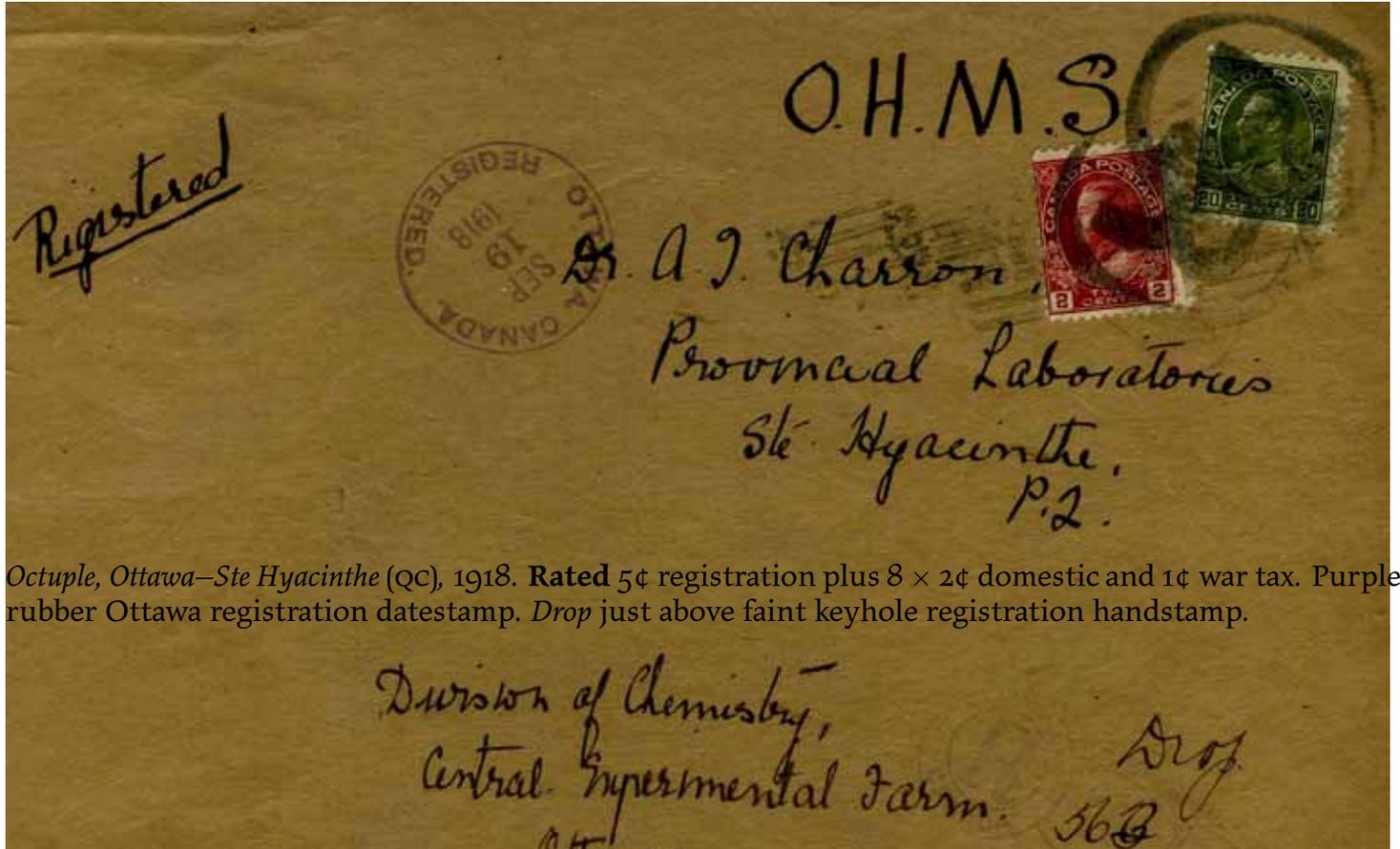
Ottawa-Toronto, forwarded, fourteen times rate, 1922. Rated 10¢ registration, 14 × 2¢ per ounce, and 1¢ war tax. Standard mailing of medals and decorations (cover is intact; it originally contained a box). Most others I have seen are addressed to the soldier himself, but this is addressed to his wife or mother—possibly he had died in the war.



Inverted precancels on all but the 20¢; this is quite common.

Dropped in the mail box

Ms Drop refers to a letter intended to be registered, but dropped in a mail box. If properly prepaid, it would be registered by the post office, at no extra charge. (In UK, posted out of course, and charged.)



Octuple, Ottawa–Ste Hyacinthe (QC), 1918. Rated 5¢ registration plus 8 × 2¢ domestic and 1¢ war tax. Purple rubber Ottawa registration datestamp. Drop just above faint keyhole registration handstamp.



Triple, Vancouver–Pitt Meadows (BC), 1940. Rated 10¢ registration, triple domestic (at 2¢ per ounce, and 1¢ war tax. It may have been eligible for third class, but was mailed at first class.