

Complimentary and compulsory registration

Complimentary registration occurs when an item, not sent registered, is suspected to contain something of value, and registered by the post office at no charge. This may occur (ww 1) as a result of a censor opening the envelope; it *may* also arise if a cover is damaged, and consequently its contents open to view.

Compulsory registration arises for the same reason, except that the registration fee is charged (to the recipient). It is often extremely difficult to decide whether compulsory registration took place, or whether an item intended by the sender to be registered—but without the registration fee—was mistakenly registered by the accepting post office.

World War I censorship

During the brief periods of civil censorship in Canada during ww 1 (8–19 April 1916 and 1–6 April 1917), letters containing items of value were registered by the censorship authorities, without charge.



Complimentary registration, Victoria–Seattle, 12 April 1916. Rated 2¢ first class & 1¢ war tax; registered two days later, at no extra charge. Not listed in Steinhart, who recorded nine such examples during this censorship period.

CENSORED.

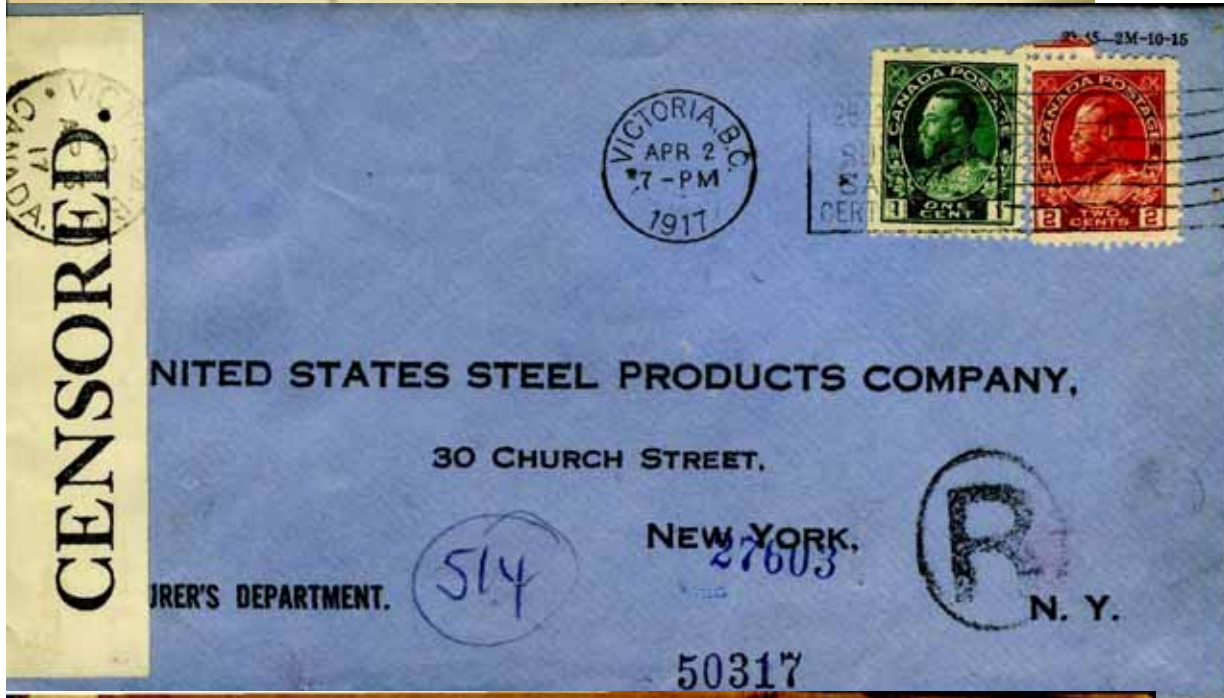




Complimentary registration during 1917 civil censorship

None of these is listed in Steinhart, who recorded four in this period (1–6 April).

Victoriaville–Philadelphia, 2 April 1917. [front] **Rated** 2¢ first class & 1¢ war tax; registered same day at Sherbrooke (ms *Reg for safety* cancelled by Sherbrooke double circle—reserved for special occasions). Experimental Montreal reg'n handstamp.



Victoria–New York, 2 April 1917. **Rated** as above; registered next day at no extra charge.

Censor label reads No. 15 – VA.

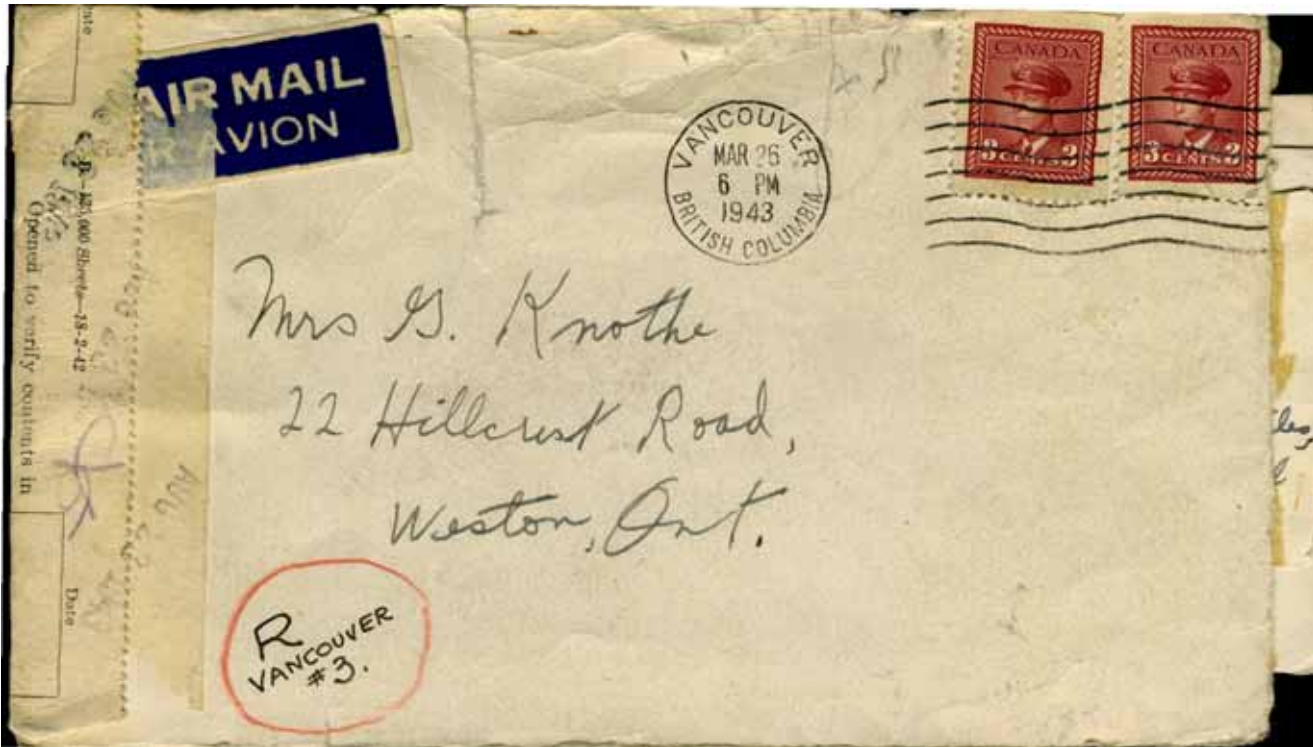


Toronto–Utica, stamp added by censor, 5 April 1917. **Rated** as above, except (as occurs with the *other* known Toronto example), 5¢ registration fee paid with stamp added—over the flag cancel—by post office or censor).

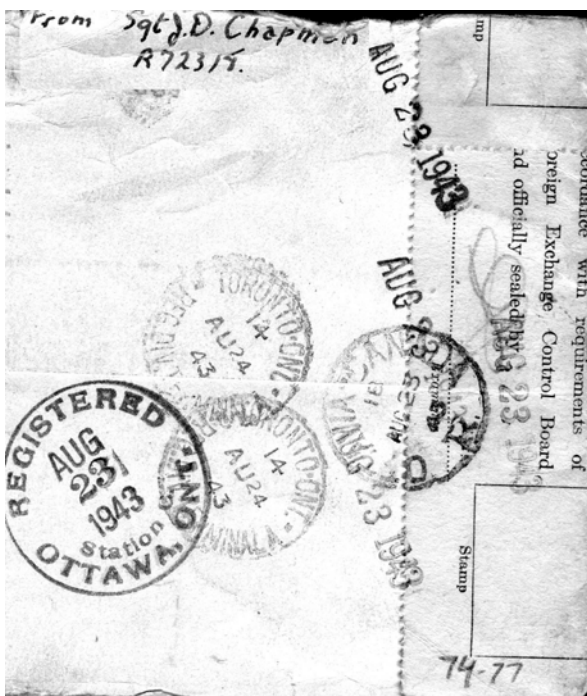
Censor label reads No. 24 – TO. and TO 357.

Complimentary registration, World War II

Heavily censored contents (pieces cut out). Sent by RCAF sergeant stationed at Dutch Harbor, Alaska carried to APO 945 (Seattle), and apparently mailed there. Censored, likely at Vancouver (tape is under the FECB tape), where it was registered, and then sent to Ottawa where it was checked again, this time by the Foreign Exchange Control Board.



Alaska—Weston (ON), via Seattle & Vancouver, 1943. **Rated** 6¢ domestic airmail.



Compulsory registration

Often very difficult to decide if compulsory registration has taken place.



Covered by post office sticker. Indicates originally charged 20¢ postage, double deficiency for registration; the addressee thereupon *refused* the letter. On return to post office, charge covered and *refused* struck through (backstamps confirm this story).

Likely contained money.

Alexandria (ON)—Toronto, *refused and accepted, postage due retracted*, 1933. **Rated** 3¢ domestic; initially **Rated** 3¢. Alexandria PM registered the item, endorsing it *Drop Letter/ Placed under Registration by PM*. Use of *Drop letter* is incorrect, as this was intended only when the sender indicated it was to be registered and applied the correct postage, but dropped it in a mail box.



Toronto—England, 1932. **Rated** 5¢, paying the UPU rate, rather than the 3¢ Empire rate (2¢ overpayment credited to postage due). Registered at *Montreal* (not at the office of origin, Toronto), charged 80 centimes, double 10¢ – 2¢ (16¢). Blue cross applied in UK.

Compulsory registration (incoming)

During WW II, most covers that were registered by the censor were charged for registration—hence compulsorily registered.



St John's (NF)—Oshawa, 1943. **Rated** 7¢ airmail to Canada, and charged 50 centimes (10¢, single deficiency registration) by Newfoundland censor (tape with Morse V is that of Newfoundland). Oshawa National Revenue handstamp on both sides.



Registered wreck covers

A very unusual combination



Egypt–Southampton (ON), 26 March 1918. Most likely carried on the British ship *Kingstonian* (Leyland & Co), torpedoed by German sub U-68 on 18 April 1918 in the Mediterranean, en route from Alexandria to Marseilles; towed to Sardinia, it was torpedoed again 29 April and sank. Boxed DAMAGED ... applied in Liverpool. Arrived at destination 8 June 1918.



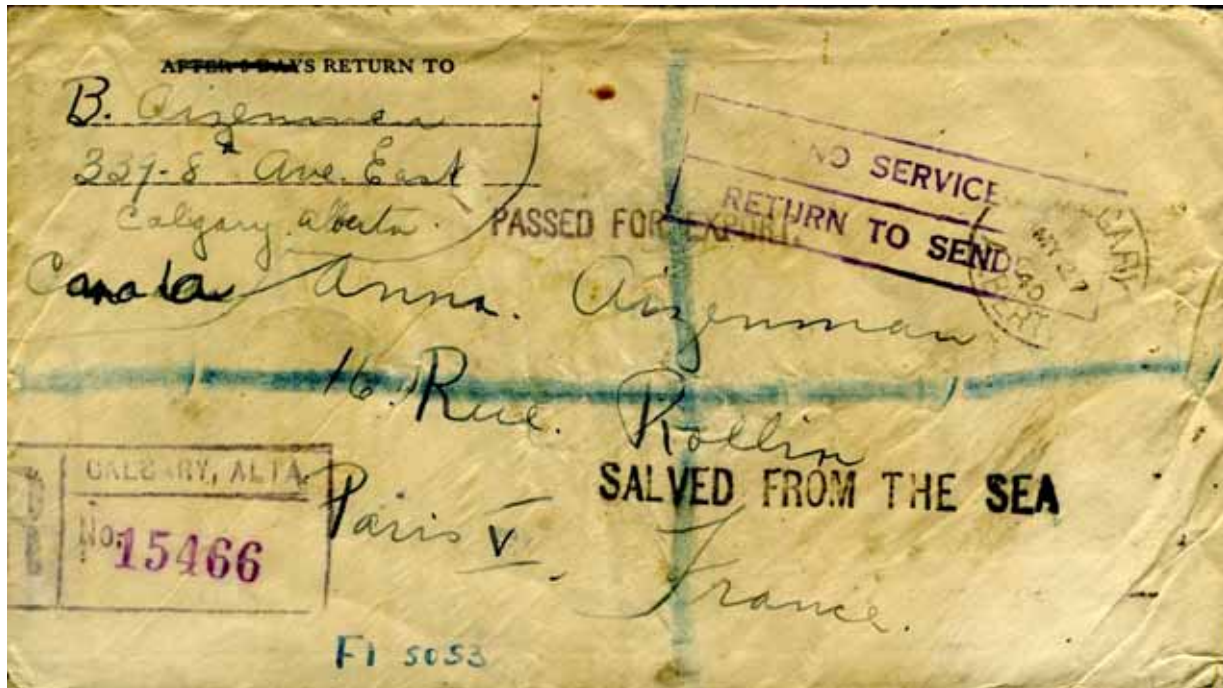
Adelaide (Australia)–Ingersoll (ON), 6 June 1939. Recovered from Imperial Airways *Centurion*, which crashed in the Hoogley River, near Calcutta, 12 June. Sent to Liverpool (UK), where it was sealed and (re-) registered. Arrived at destination 28 June 1939, a remarkable performance.

There were no casualties, and most of the mail was recovered.



Recovered from the *Eros*

The *Eros* was a 5888-ton Canadian vessel coming from Montreal, carrying 200 tons of badly-needed small arms, just after Dunkirk (24 May–4 June 1940). It was heavily damaged (but with no casualties) by the German submarine U-48 on 7 June 1940 off the coast of Ireland near Donegal, and subsequently towed to safety and repaired. Most of the mail was from Canada.



Calgary–Paris, returned after the fall of France, 27 May 1940. SALVED FROM THE SEA and sealing tape on reverse applied at Liverpool. Stamps obviously came off before recovery from the *Eros*.

The Nazi attack on France began in May, continuing through June, with Paris falling on the 14th. In any event, the cover was stamped NO SERVICE/RETURN TO SENDER in the UK, and returned to Canada, initially to the Ottawa DLO, and then to sender, in mid-August.



Money Packets

Money packets are packets of bank notes or other items whose value exceeding \$100. From 1 April 1922, money packet service (which involved security) became available, initially at 6¢ for the first ounce, 5¢ for each additional, plus 10¢ registration. There was no indemnity available. It was available domestically, to the US, and the UK, as well as some other countries (which changed in time) at the same rates. Prior to this date, such packets were sent as first class registered mail (no indemnity), although they may have received extra security.

Pre-Money Packets

Charged as first class registered



Winnipeg–Melville (SK), 1917. **Rated** 89¢, made up of 5¢ registration, and 42 ounces domestic rate, which should have been $42 \times 2¢ + 1¢$ war tax, underpaid 1¢, evidently a miscalculation. No backstamps, as envelope attached to large parcel. Turquoise RPO with clerk's name.



Saint John–Woodstock (NB), 1916. **Rated** 5¢ reg'n and $44 \times 2¢ + 1¢$ war tax for 44 ounces. Portion of a canvas envelope.

Money packet service introduced

Charged 10¢ registration and 5¢ per ounce + 1¢ war tax; this rate was in effect 1 April 1922–30 June 1926.



Winnipeg–Rainy River (ON), 12 April 1922. Rated \$3.11, made up of 10¢ registration and weight of 60 ounces (60 × 5¢ + 1¢). Possibly the earliest known Canadian money packet.

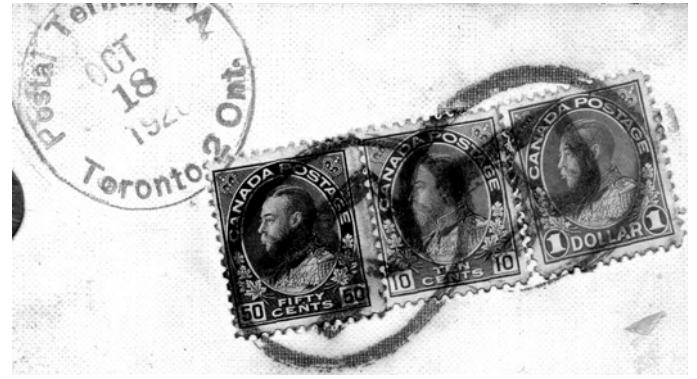
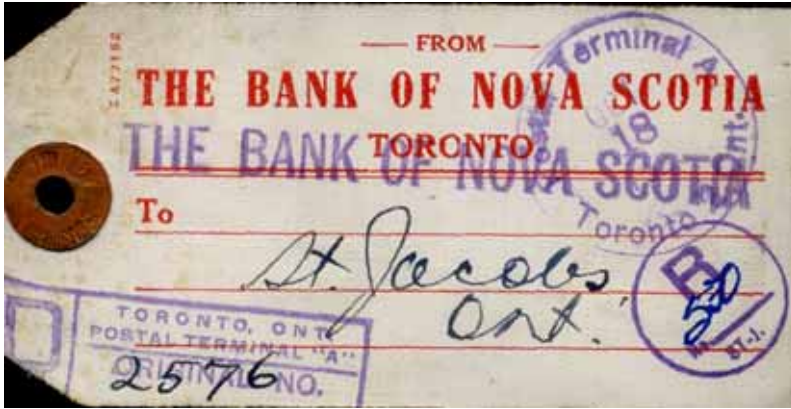


Ottawa–Montreal, 1925. Rated \$5.36, made up of 10¢ registration and weight of 105 ounces (105 × 5¢ + 1¢).



Money packet rate change

Effective 1 July 1926–31 March 1942, the fee was 10¢ registration plus 5¢ per ounce.



Toronto–St Jacobs (ON), October 1926. **Rated \$1.60**, made up of 10¢ registration and weight of 30 ounces (30 × 5¢). Fancy St J registration cancel (five examples known).



Barrie–Lions Head (ON), 1932. **Rated \$2.10**: 10¢ reg'n and weight of 40 ounces (40 × 5¢). Ms Value \$1,000 endorsement violates regulations (value notation not permitted on registered mail). Part of large wrapper.



Montreal–Windsor, 1941. **Rated \$3.95**, made up of 10¢ registration and weight of 77 ounces (77 × 5¢).



Gold brick, Pioneer Mine (BC)—Vancouver, 1931. Rated \$20.10: 10¢ reg'n and 400 ounces (400 × 5¢) or 25 lb (although gold is usually measured in troy). Heavy cardboard tag.

Bank overpayment with old airmail stamps, Montreal—Finch, 1937. Rated 72¢: 10¢ reg'n and 12 ounces (12 × 5¢), 2¢ overpayment, likely to use up 1932 stamps still on hand. ↓↓



BANK OF MONTREAL,



Further money packetrate change

Effective 1 April 1943–1964, the fee was 10¢ registration plus 5¢ per ounce plus 2¢. The bottom tag is *not* from a money packet, but shows that caution must be exercised in deciding that the service applies.



Montreal–Pont Rouge (QC), 1946.
Rated 77¢: 10¢ registration, 2¢, and
13 × 5¢. Stamps are perf 8 coils.



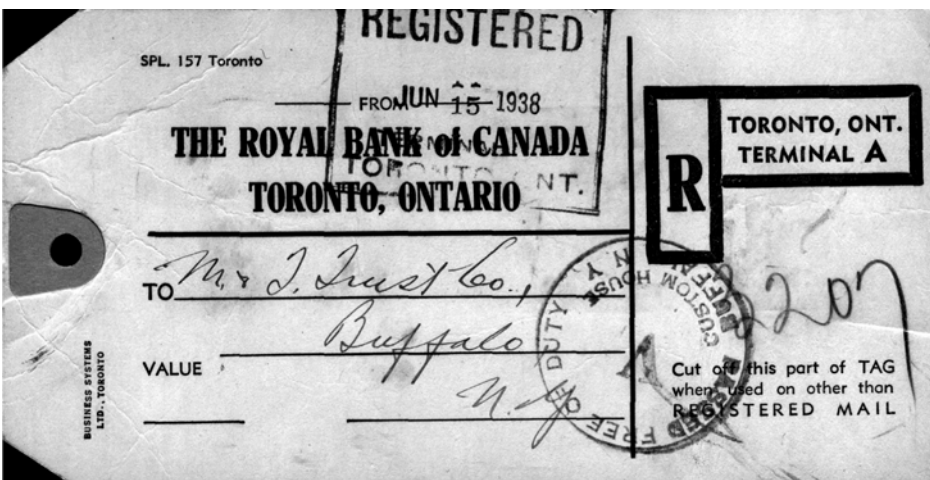
Not a money packet, Ottawa—?, August 1946. Montreal B & F DIV (British and foreign division) suggests a foreign destination; the rates suggest air mail to a destination requiring 20¢ per ounce in this period, such as some places in South America (10¢ registration + 8 × 20¢).

Money packets to foreign destinations

Although money packets were permitted to some foreign destinations, no examples are known other than to US and UK, and even these are difficult to find. Rates are the same, regardless of destination.

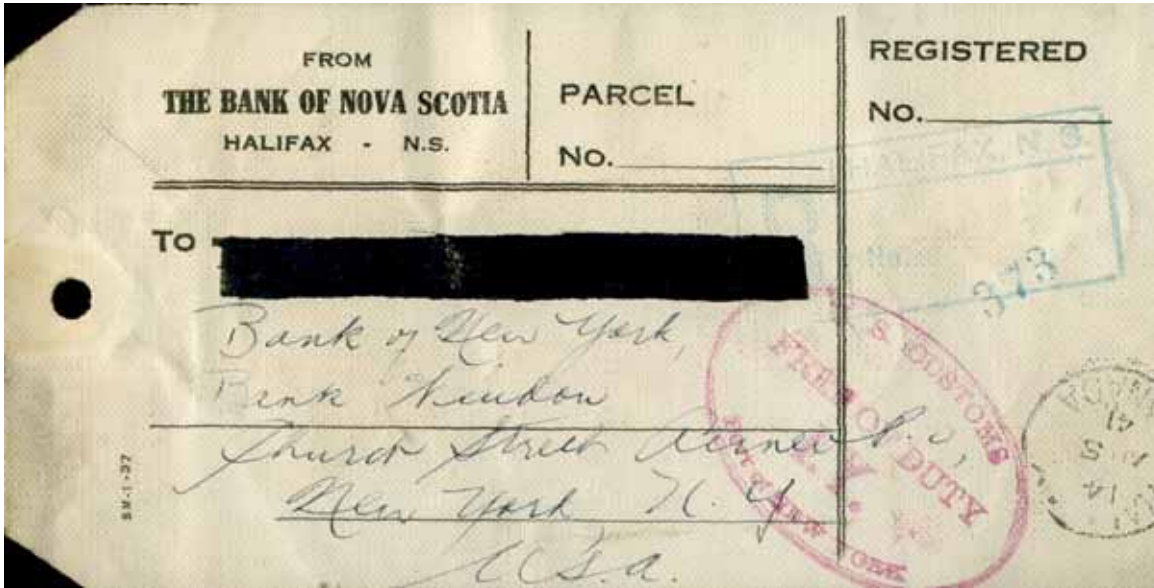


Toronto–Cleveland, 1935. Rated \$8.35, made up of 10¢ registration and weight of 165 ounces (165 × 5¢).



Toronto–Buffalo, 1938. Rated \$3.05, made up of 10¢ registration and weight of 59 ounces (59 × 5¢).

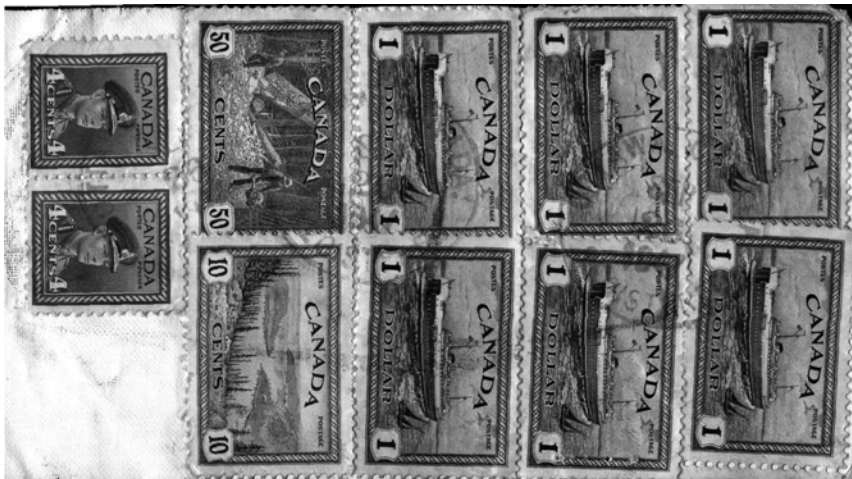
Money packets to US and UK



Halifax–New York, 1941. Rated 90¢: 10¢ registration and weight of 16 ounces (16 × 5¢).

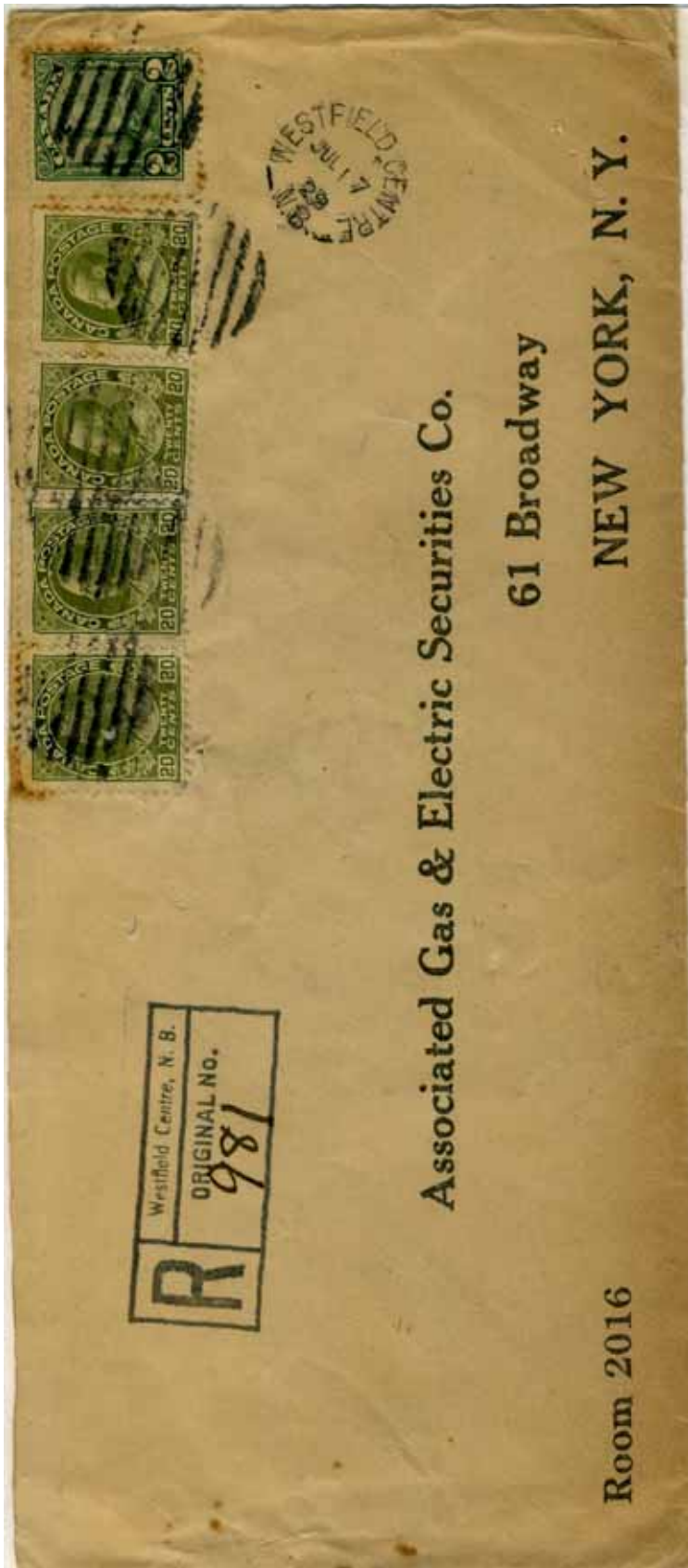


Ottawa–Whitehall (London), 1947. Rated \$6.68: either overpaid by 1¢ or 4¢ stamp missing [no partial cancel]—10¢ reg'n & weight of 131 or 132 ounces (at this time, money packet rate was 2¢+ 5¢ per ounce).



Mystery money packet rate

This apparent money packet is 2¢ overpaid with a 2¢ stamp. A similarly overfranked (by 2¢ with a 2¢ stamp) money packet is known in 1941. The envelope likely contained securities and thus was eligible for money packet service. Parcel post matter could not be registered, nor could this have been sent first class (36 ounces could not possibly fit in this envelope), not could extra indemnity have applied (not permitted to US), leaving only money packet as a possibility.



Westfield Centre (NB)—New York, 1929. Rated 82¢: 10¢ registration and weight of 14 ounces (14 × 5¢) with 2¢ apparent overpayment.

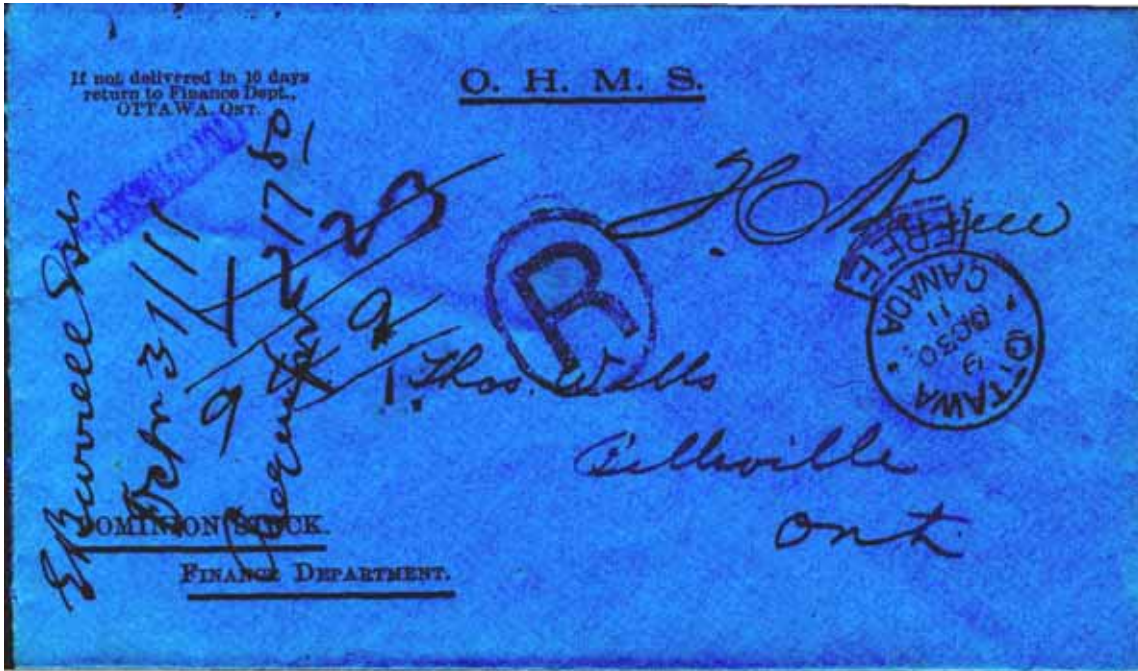
Postmasters at small offices would almost never deal with money packets, so it is possible that a clerical error was made at the office of origin.

Envelope reinforced by sender.

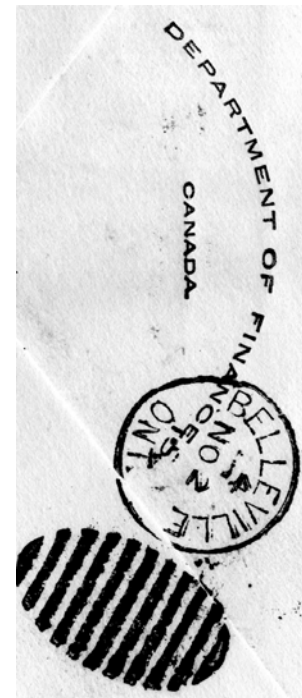


Free registered mail

Here *free* refers to any portion of the postage, e.g., first class fees might be charged but registration not (or vice versa); this it typically to or from federal government departments. The combination of free registered mail is relatively uncommon domestically. Owing to an 1887 treaty, mail free in Canada would continue free to the US, and it is thus possible (but not easy) to find free registered mail to the US.



Dominion Stock [bonds], Finance Department, Ottawa–Belleville (ON), 1911. Handstamp franking, and relatively common OTTAWA·FREE datestamp. Purple Belleville registered oval on reverse.



Department of Finance, Ottawa–Belleville, 1915. Unusual purple double ring R.