

**11e. "REGISTERED / HAMILTON"** in oval, with "No." in center.  
1873-10-11 to 1876-04-12

This is the first of four different oval registration markings used in Hamilton and it is the **earliest recorded date**. This first type had a "No." inside where it was necessary to add the departing registration number. As it had no date, it was necessary to add a broken circle datestamp in a visible area of the cover.

Several other towns used this type of postmark in Canada. Although not aesthetically pleasing, this is still an important cover as it bears the **earliest use of an oval registration marking in Canada**.

Registration fee paid with a single 2c Small Queen, and postage for 4 times the weight is paid with two 6c Small Queens.



A scarce usage of a single 5c Large Queen used in period, paying the domestic postage plus registration. Greene Foundation cert on reverse.



**11e. "REGISTERED / HAMILTON"** in oval, with "No." in center.  
1873-10-11 to 1876-04-12



This illustrated cover was mailed on February 5, 1876 and bears two strikes of the first oval type registration cancel, plus a broken circle for the date. Although in use in other post offices as early as Dec 13, 1875, the registration stamps were not yet available at Hamilton (see next cover) and thus the fee was paid with a 2c Small Queen. Both stamps on this cover were clearly cut by scissors from vertical strips, making them early precursors to coil stamps.



This cover bears three strikes of the **latest recorded date** of the oval handstamp, and the registration fee is paid with a 2c Registration stamp.  
 This is the **earliest recorded use of a registration stamp at Hamilton.**



**11f. "REGISTERED / HAMILTON"** in oval, with date slugs in center.  
1876-11-15 to 1879-01-08



These stamps are dated the **earliest and latest recorded dates** for this second type of oval registration postmark.



This cover bears three strikes of the second type oval, which now included the date. From now on it would not be necessary to use an additional datestamp instrument to date the dispatch. Registration fee paid with registration stamp and domestic rate postage paid with a 1c and 2c combination Small Queens.



Photocopy of back, showing that because the cover was stamped "Not Called For" in London, it was then sent to the Dead Letter Office, where it arrived on Feb 27, 1878.



**11g. "REGISTERED / HAMILTON-ONT."** in oval, with changeable date slugs.  
1879-03-06 to 1882-04-24



This cover was mailed to the United States using an unusual combination of stamps, all tied by the third oval type registration postmark (five strikes in all). The US registration fee was usually paid using a 5c registration stamp plus 3c in postage, for a total of 8c. The cancel on the 1c stamp was strengthened by pencil.



This cover bears three strikes of the third type oval, two to cancel the stamps, and a free strike to better read the date. A proper usage of the 2c registration stamp to pay that fee, plus a 3c Small Queen to pay the domestic postage to Toronto.



11h. "REGISTERED / HAMILTON-CANADA" in oval, with changeable date slugs.  
1882-05-09 to 1886-03-22



These stamps are dated the **earliest and latest recorded dates** for this second type of oval registration postmark.



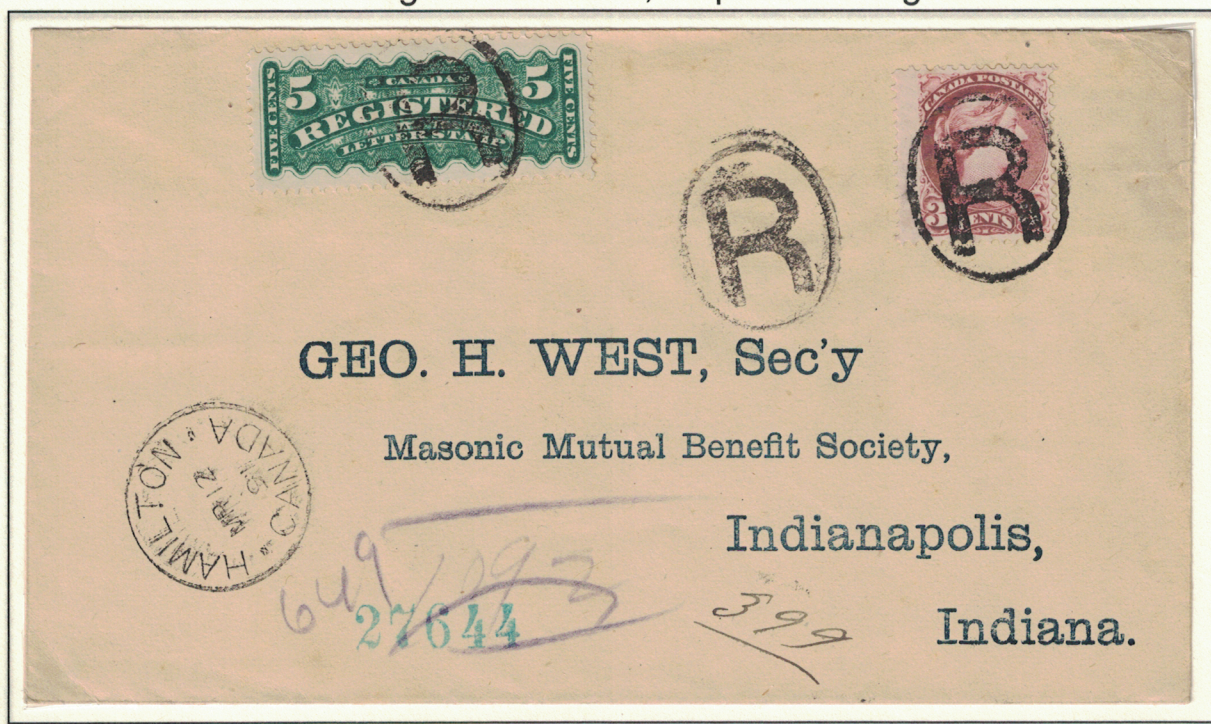
This cover was mailed to the United States using a 5c Registration stamp to pay that fee, plus a 3c Small Queen to pay the postage cross border. Both are cancelled by the fourth type of oval cancel and there are no further free strikes apart from one on the back, which was common practice at Hamilton.



# 11i. Combination "R" in oval and CDS



This is the **earliest recorded date** for this CDS, which was used exclusively on registered mail, right after the oval registration datestamps. It is recorded used on registered mail until 1888-04-09. These CDS were used in conjunction with the R in oval, and this is also the **earliest recorded use of an R in oval handstamp in Canada**. From now until well into the turn of the century, R in oval handstamp would be used on all registered letters, as per UPU regulations.



This is the second type of CDS used in Hamilton exclusively on registered mail. It can be identified by its side dots. It is recorded used from 1889-01-02 to 1895-02-28. Used here on a cover mailed to the US.



# 11j. Combination "R" in oval and CDS with small R indicia.

1895-02-23 to 1897-12-13



This is the **earliest recorded date** for this CDS which was used exclusively on registered mail, and can easily be identified by its small "R" in the indicia slot. This cover was mailed at Pelham Union on Feb 22, 1895 and went through Hamilton the next day, before arriving in New York the day after that. Accompanied by a photocopy of its front.



This is the **latest recorded date** of this CDS.  
This time it is on the front of a cover addressed to New Jersey.



**11k. Combination "R" in oval and CDS with Squat R indicia.**

1895-04-16 to 1902-04-27



This cover illustrates a different CDS which was used exclusively on registered mail, this one can easily be identified by its squat "R" in the indicia slot. This CDS was used during the same period as the previous "regular" R and a proof impression exists dated 1895-03-29.

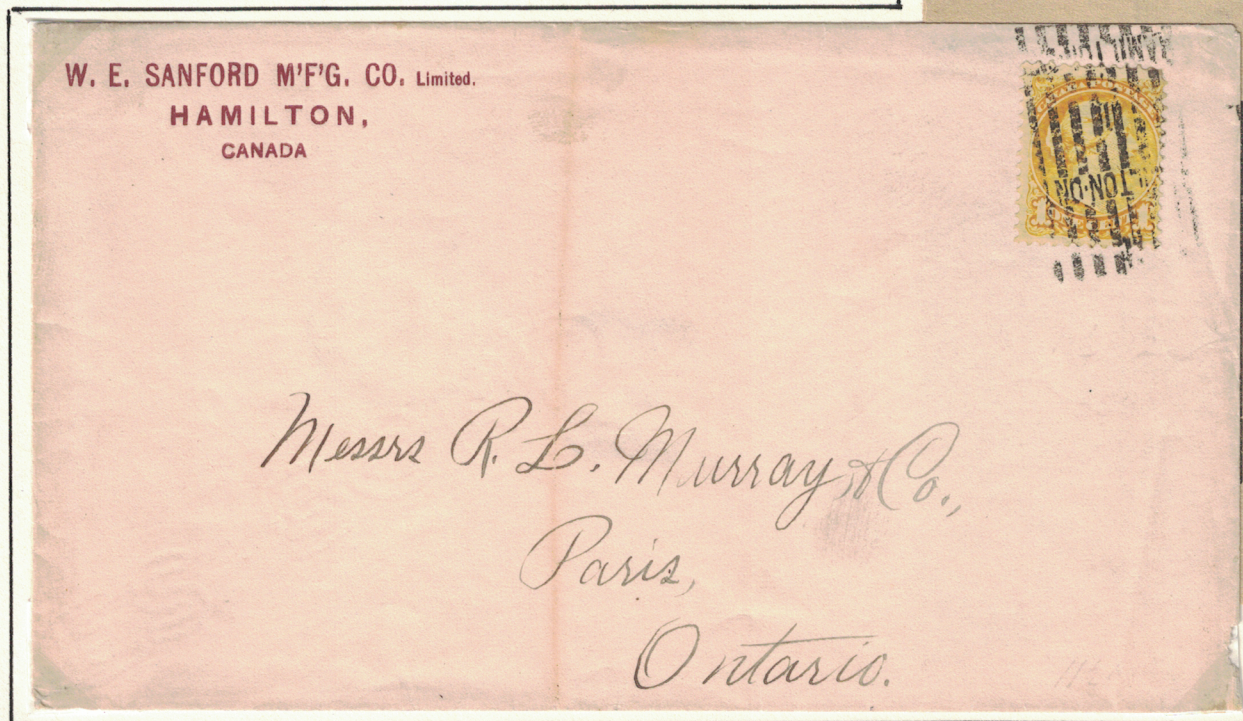
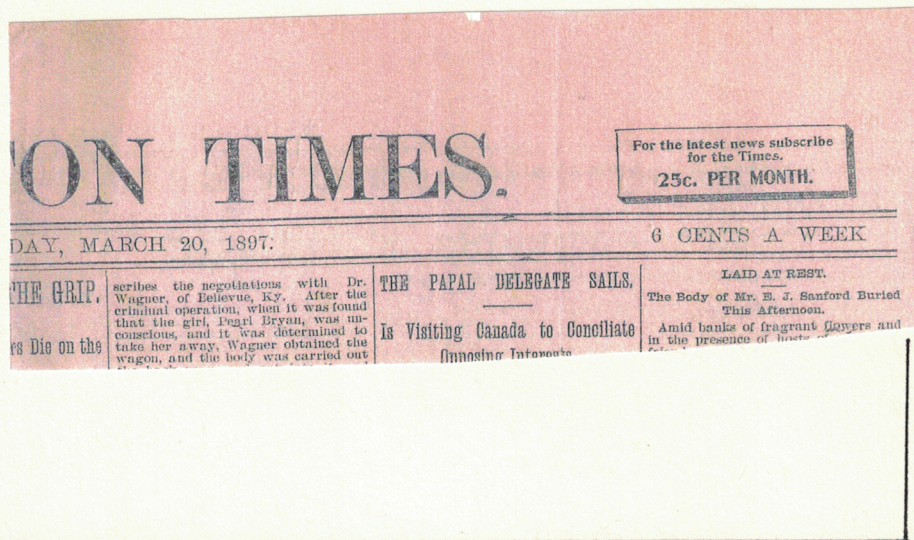


This is a collection of this CDS on different stamps. The 5c Small Queen is dated two days later than the earliest recorded date, and both this, and the earliest example have their **year date reversed**. **This is an extremely rare occurrence on ANY Hamilton postmark.**



## 12. Roller cancellations.

Hamilton roller cancellations are almost impossible to find on cover in the Small Queen period, as they were mostly used on parcels and oversized mail, which was not kept. Here we have a full newspaper header (shown folded in half, with photocopy of other side). A 1c Small Queen stamp was added to have it delivered to Muscatine, Iowa. This is commonly called the Transient rate. Cancelled by a numeral 3 roller.



The only cover I have ever seen with a Hamilton roller cancel, in this case a numeral 1 strike cancelling a 1c Small Queen on an unsealed printed matter rate cover to Paris (Nov. 6, 1897 receiver on back).



## 12. Roller cancellations.

Thankfully, soaked-off stamps can be found, and this is a sample of different stamps cancelled with Smythies Types IA and IB, which were used in the period exhibited here, i.e. Smythies Period I (1894 to 1898)



Type I (no indicia)

Type IB (indicia 1)



Type IB (indicia 2)



Type IB (indicia 3 – unrecorded)

## 13. Parcel cancellations.

Parcel cancels are just as impossible to find on entires as rollers, for the same reasons stated above. In the period treated in this exhibit, only one type of parcel cancel was used in Hamilton: a small double oval with numbers in the centre, probably dates.



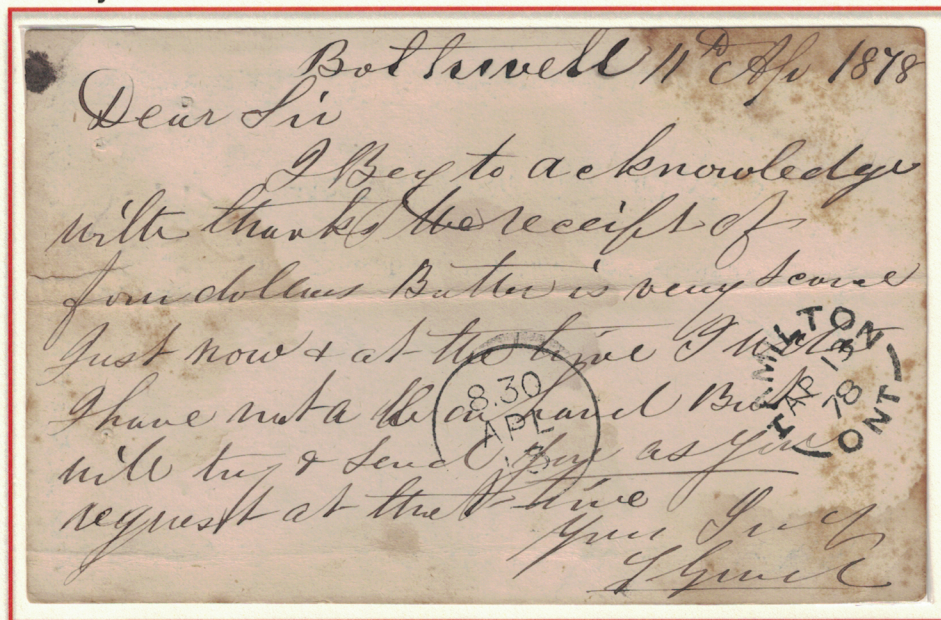


## 14. Carrier postmarks.

Mail carriers postmarked the mail they delivered. These always show the day and month of delivery, and at first they showed the time of day and later, as there were more mail and thus more deliveries in a day, numeral time marks were used. There are 12 different Types in the period concerned, and a few are shown here.

**Type I** – Time of day / MMM / DD

1878-04-13 to 1885-03-04

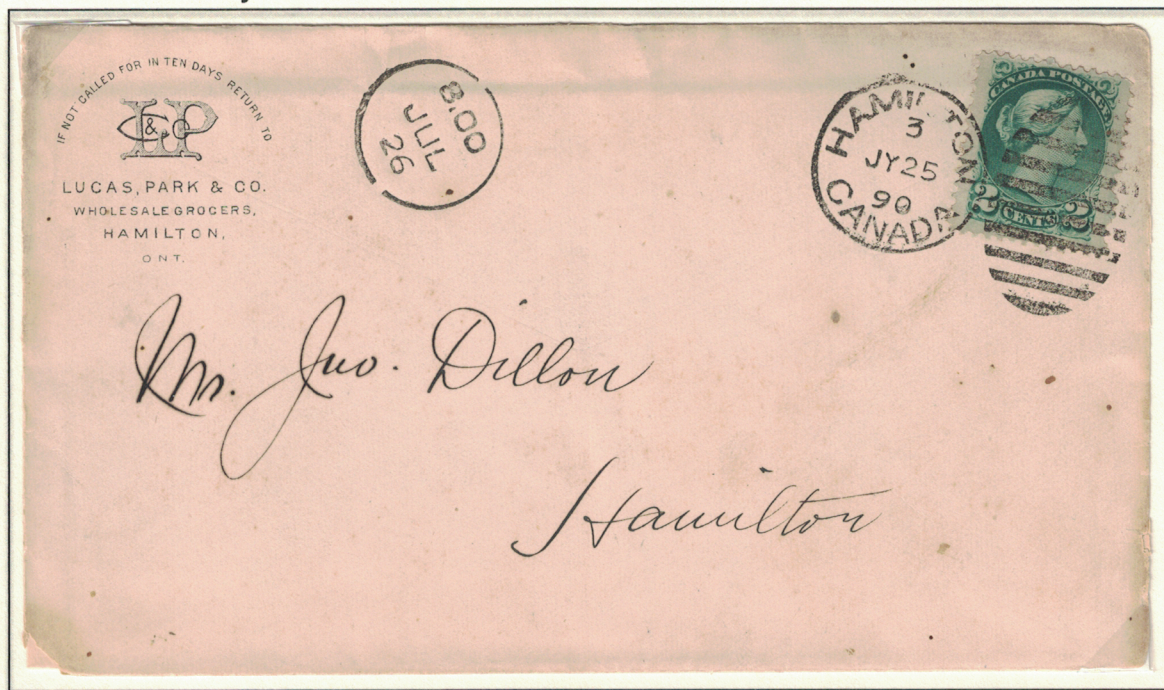


This Type I is the **earliest recorded use of a carrier postmark at Hamilton.**

Used here on a post card from Bothwell.

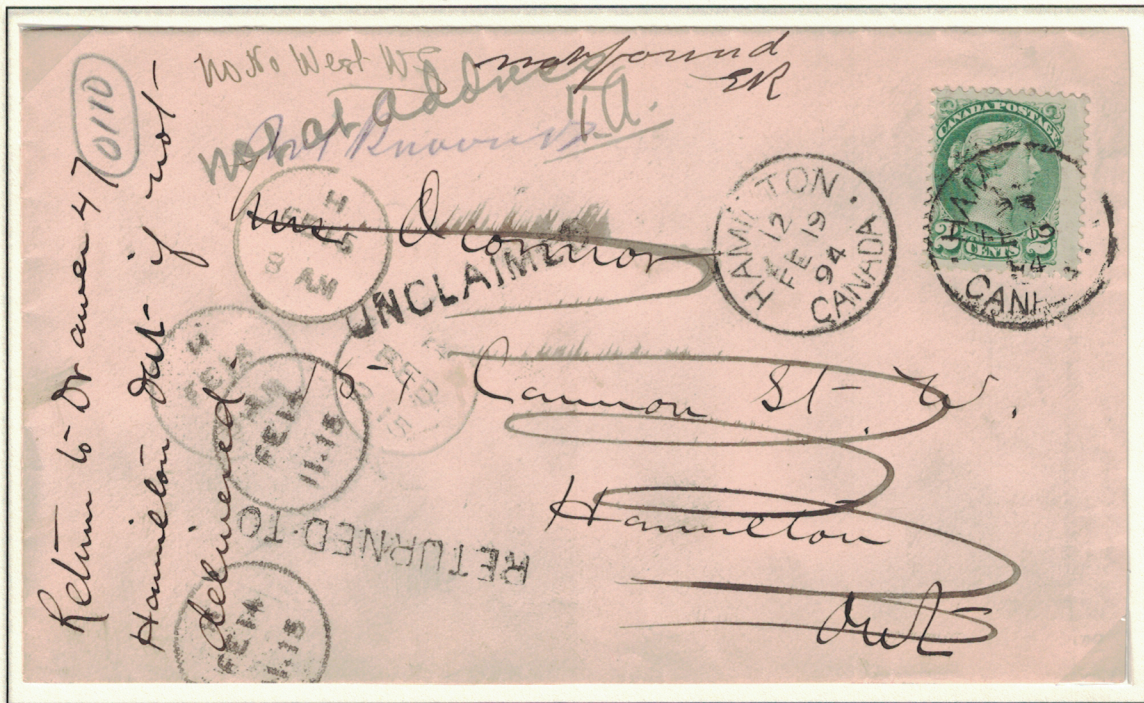
**Type III** – Time of day / MMM / DD

1885-06-24 to 1891-02-03



This cover was mailed at 3pm on Friday July 25, 1890 and was delivered the next morning at 8am. It is franked with a blue green 2c Small Queen, of the Montreal Gazette printing. The drop letter rate (for delivery by carrier) changed to 2c on May 8, 1889.





This cover was mailed at Hamilton and franked 2c for the local delivery rate, at 11pm on Feb 13, 1894. There are 4 Type IV and one Type V carrier markings indicating 5 delivery attempts. Delivery was not possible, and it was returned to drawer 47, which belonged to the Asylum for the Insane on Feb 19.

## Type IVa – H / MM DD / numeral time mark 1894-04-18 to 1902-06-05



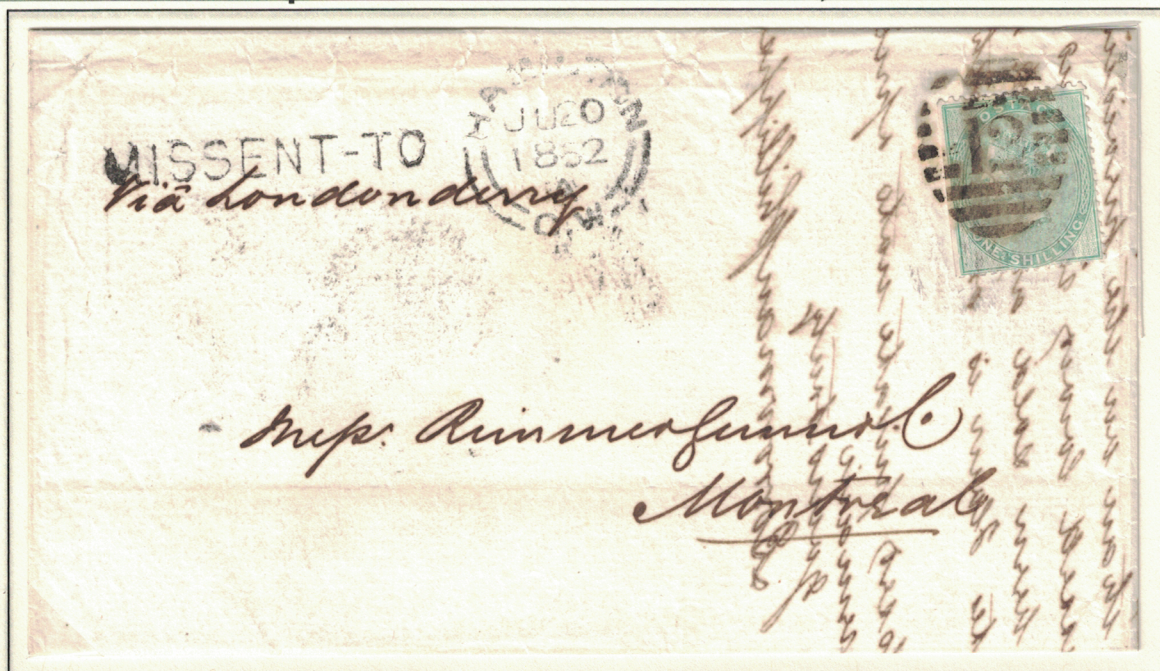
This cover front was mailed at the 2c local delivery rate at Hamilton at 2pm on Jul 3, 1897. A carrier attempted delivery on the same day, as evidenced by the Type IVa marking. He then crossed-out the Hamilton address and wrote a Toronto address, where it was dispatched the same evening at 7pm. It was deemed short 1c for its travel to Toronto and handstamped "2" for double the deficiency. A carrier in Toronto wrote "refused JP", crossed-out the name and address with a thick crayon, handstamped the cover "REFUSED" and handstamped it RETURNED TO WRITER in a pointing finger.



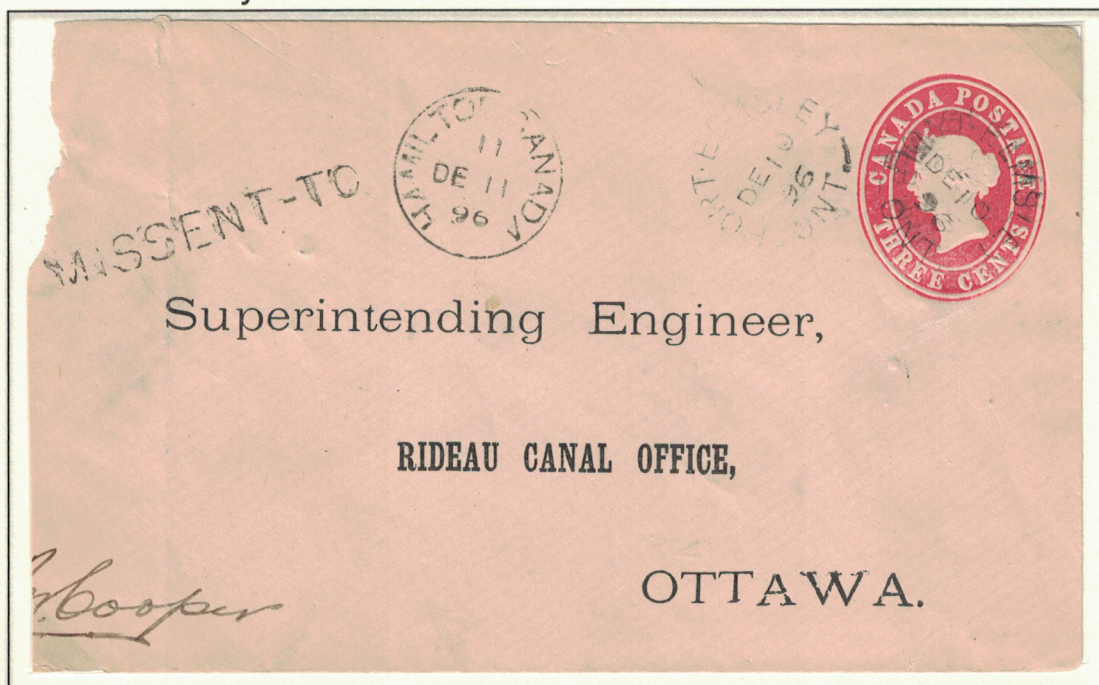
## 15. Instructional handstamps.

### 15a. "MISSENT TO".

Once in a while mail would end up in Hamilton that had not been addressed there. **Only two examples of this handstamp are known used in Hamilton, both shown here:**



This cover was mailed from London, England on June 5, 1862 and addressed to Montreal, "Via Londonderry". It was therefore franked with a 1sh Queen Victoria paying the double weight rate by Allan Line Steamer. It was mistakenly sent to Hamilton, and received with the usual datestamp on back on June 20. Once the mistake was identified, it was handstamped "MISSENT TO" on front, alongside a double broken circle. Finally arrived Montreal on June 22.



This cover was addressed to Ottawa and missent to Hamilton. It finally arrived Ottawa on December 12, 1896, only two days after it left Port Elmsley.

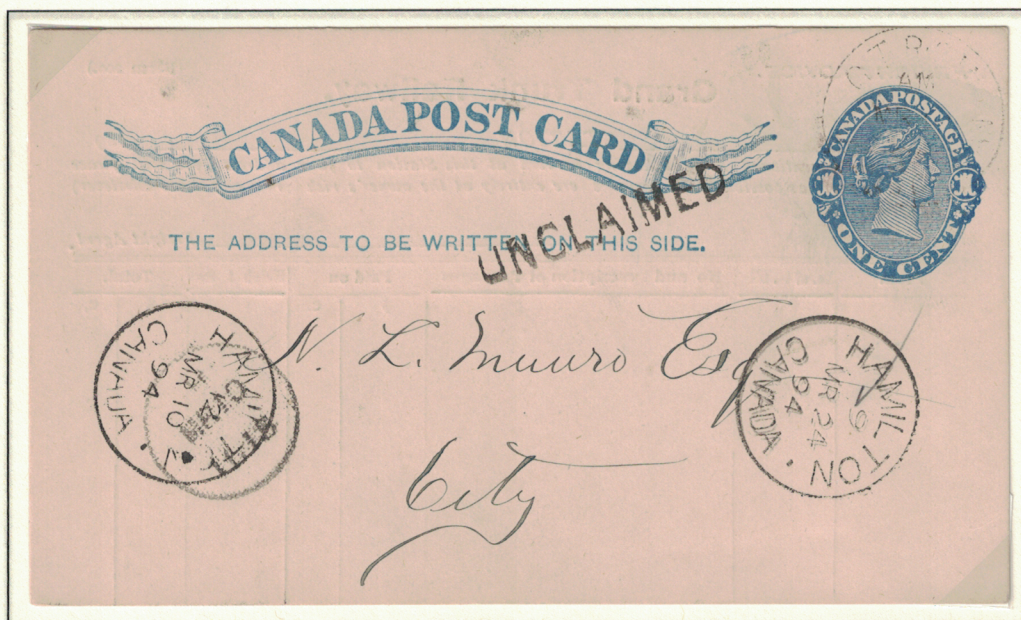


## 15b. "FORWARDED"



This folded letter was mailed at Hamilton on Feb 14, 1857 and addressed locally. Someone found out the addressee had moved, and so it received **the only known example of the FORWARDED handstamp in Hamilton**, as well as a second (different) datestamp, this time to send it off to Waterdown, where it was finally received on Feb 16.

## 15c. "UNCLAIMED"



One of only a handful known, this handstamp was applied on a stationery card mailed to Hamilton in 1894, which was never received by the addressee. It received the UNCLAIMED handstamp and then mailed back to the Grand Trunk Railway office (in Hamilton) 2 weeks later.



15d. "ADVERTISED" and "'ADVERTISED & / NOT CALLED FOR"



This cover was mailed from the Department of Immigration in Toronto on Aug 12, 1873 and addressed to "Market Square" in Hamilton (no receiver). The addressee was not found, and so an ad was published advertising to have it picked up, which it never was, and so it was sent to the Dead Letter Office in Oct 1873. The cover received two different handstamps (both in dark red), which are **the only known examples used at Hamilton**, as well as **the only known HAMILTON C.W broken circle in red**.

This cover shows a faint Crown Ontario Public Works handstamp at top right – because this was mailed in the middle of summer, the free-franking probably did not apply and the cover was rated PAID "6" in red.

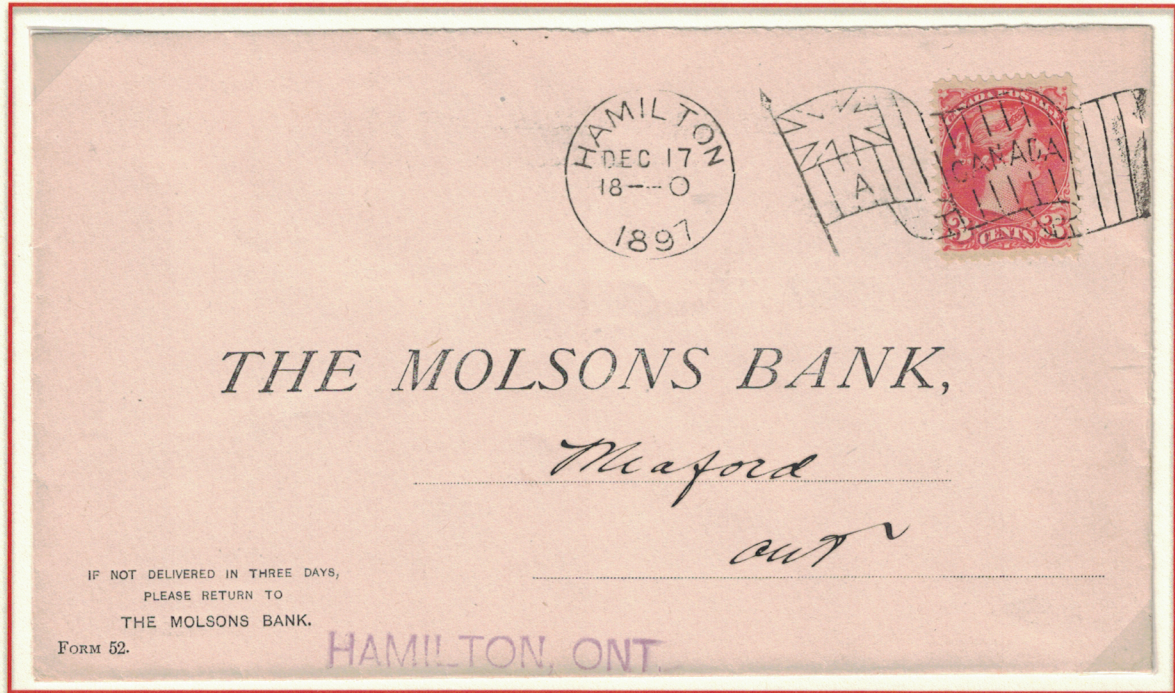


Photocopy of part of the back.



## Epilogue: Two Bickerdike Machines Take Over.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1897 the Hamilton post office received two postmarking machines, manufactured by the Canadian Postal Supply Company, called the *Bickerdikes*. At first, each machine produced cancellations comprising of a dater and a flag obliterator, one with indicia A and one with B. These machines would now cancel the great majority of regular mail for the next 6 years, until they were replaced by *International* machines.



This cover shows a postmark from machine A, dated Dec. 17, the **second day of recorded use**. Postmarks from the A machine in this period are scarcer than the B's and are also less commonly seen on covers.

In this exhibit you will have seen all the postmarks used in Hamilton up until the advent of mechanization of mails. A vast majority of the information contained within, especially in regards to the dates of use of these postmarks, has never been published or exhibited before.

Some stats on this exhibit:

- A total of 279 covers or cards are shown, plus a number of stamps.
- 27 items are framed in red, which means they are deemed important either to Canadian or Hamilton postal history.
- There are 89 earliest recorded postmark dates shown.
- There are 83 latest recorded postmark dates shown.
- There are 55 items of which only one to three examples are known.