

# **PRESTAMP AND STAMPLESS COVERS TO, FROM, AND THROUGH BRITISH NORTH AMERICA 1685 – 1865**



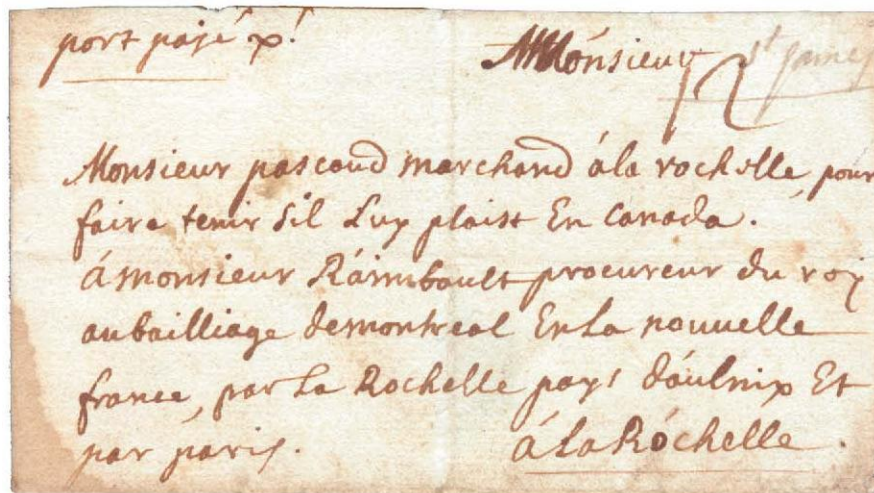
A selection from a collection of covers to, through, and from what is now Canada showing unusual routes, rates, destinations, points of origin, markings, forwarders, shipping lines, express companies, military campaigns, fur trade and exploration, and other more unusual facets of early Canadian postal history including many earliest known to and from parts of Canada, only recorded and few recorded postal handstamps, etc.

The display is a selection of covers from the collection showing a wide variety of the unusual and seldom-seen as a representation.

CANADA to FRANCE – 1685      FRANCE to CANADA – 1710



le jour de la St. Martin, 1685 – Quebec to Paris – The earliest known cover in private hands from Canada to another country with a French Postal Rate.



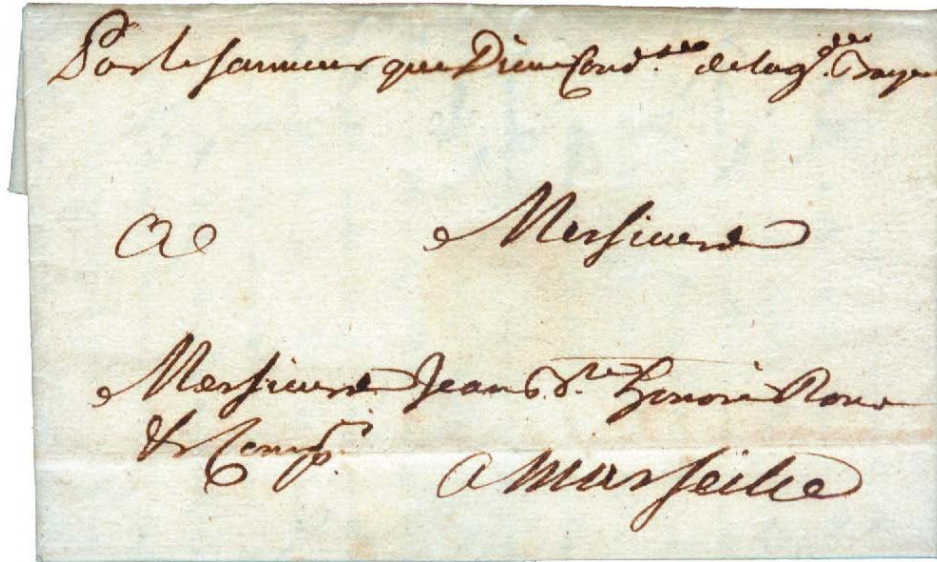
1710 – St. James (De Beuvron), France to Montreal – The earliest recorded cover to Canada in private hands – Also the earliest cover to Canada with a Postal Rate – Through a Forwarding Agent – Also using the name CANADA.

NEWFOUNDLAND to ENGLAND 1705

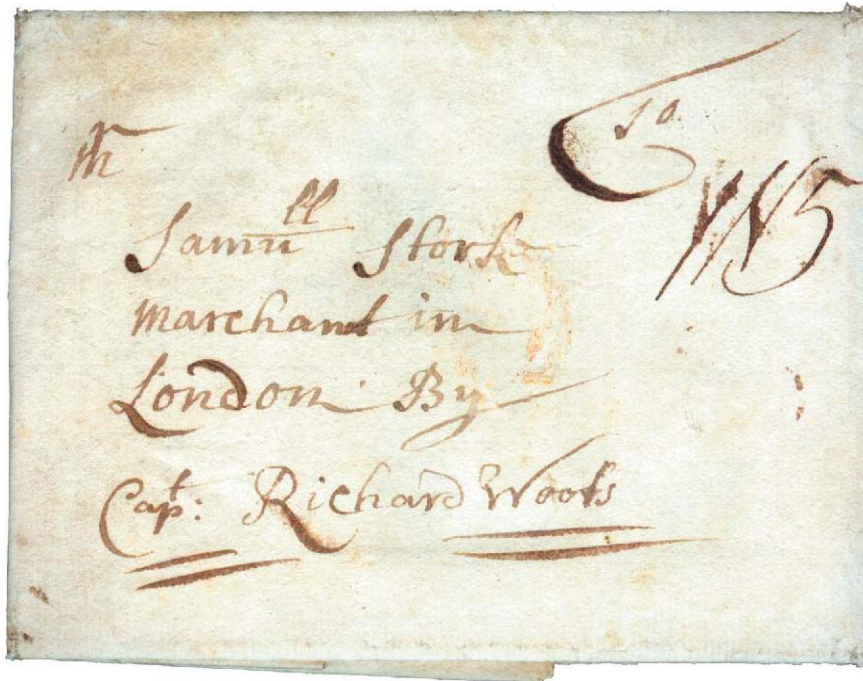
1709 – September 12 – BONAVIDA and September 25 – ST. JOHN'S to LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND By private ship – same correspondence – one with a BRISTOL Bishopmark and the other with a LONDON Bishopmark. Supposedly the EARLIEST covers from NEWFOUNDLAND in private hands.



LABRADOR to FRANCE – 1733 and NEWFOUNDLAND to ENGLAND – 1732



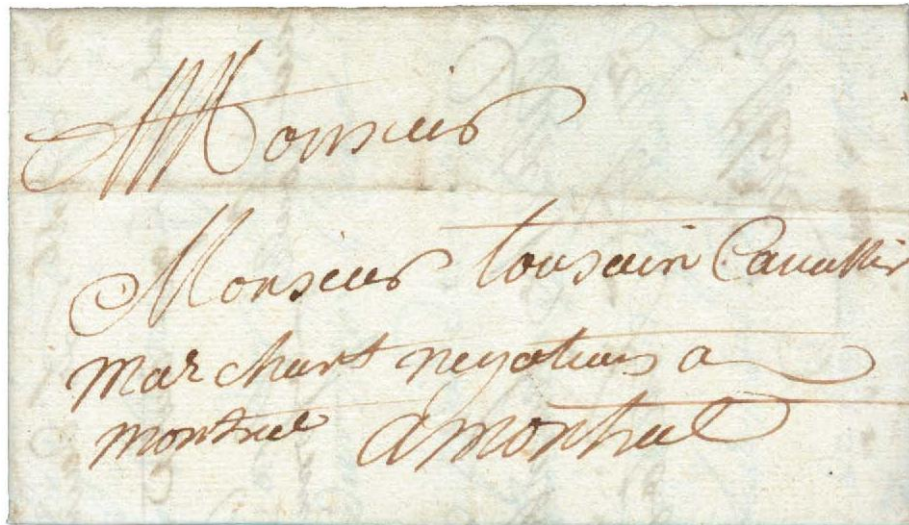
1733 – Isle a Bois, Labrador to France – The earliest Labrador cover reported in private hands. Ex. Wellburn.



1732 – Ferryland, Newfoundland to London, England – Formerly the earliest reported cover from Newfoundland in private hands. Ex. Pratt.

UNITED STATES to CANADA – 1783 and circa 1734 to 1739

Both covers are in the period when both Detroit and Montreal were part of the French Regime.



Detroit, U.S.A to Montreal 1738 – The earliest recorded cover from Detroit in private hands.



Detroit to Montreal – 1734 to 1749 from Robert Navarre, Royal Notary and King's Warehouse Controller at Detroit (1734 to 1749) – no date – The second earliest cover reported from Detroit in private hands.

Louisbourg November the 22<sup>d</sup> 1746.

Sir

This is to Acquaint you I have taken the liberty of writing to you by C. Dupes wherein I inclosed a Packet from London which I saw on board a Ship & thought it my Duty to forward it accordingly. I had also wrote to you for my Regimentals, for I have been reflected on for deserting the Regim<sup>t</sup> on a Review Day without them, being the 1<sup>st</sup> of present therefore should be obliged to you if you would Order them to be sent to me the first opportunity this Winter, there last ye Irish Recruit I drill every Day & they come on very well I take the liberty to Acquaint you I should be proud of the Honour of yr. Commands here being w<sup>th</sup> the greatest Respect

Sir

J. Most Obed. & Affec<sup>n</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

W. Cosby

Sir W<sup>m</sup> Pepperell

NOVA SCOTIA to the UNITED STATES – 1748 and 1750

Two covers dated 1748 and 1750 from ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, NOVA SCOTIA to BOSTON, U.S.A. These are the earliest reported covers from Nova Scotia to another country in private hands.

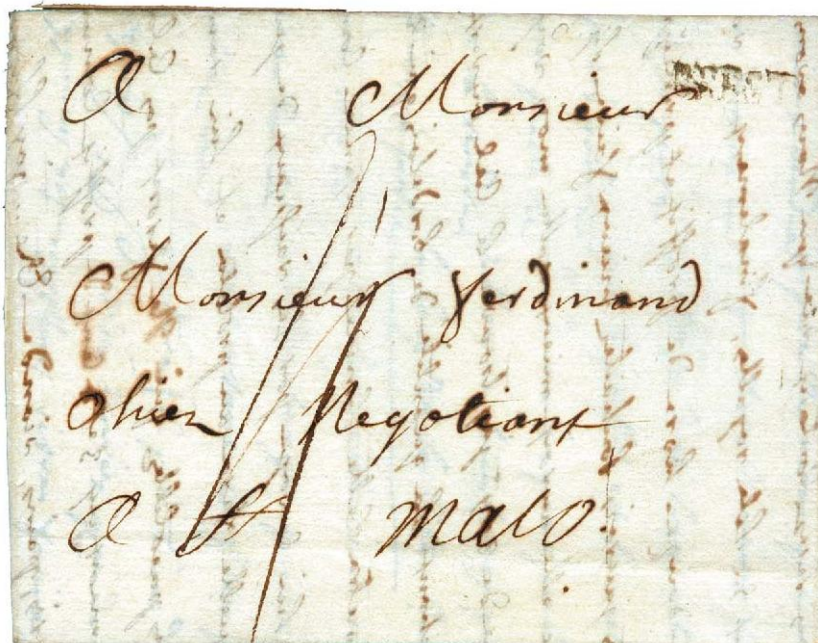


CANADA to FRANCE – 1749 and 1758

Two of the earliest covers known from Canada to France  
with Postal Handstamps in private hands.



1749 – Quebec to Montauban, France – With the **Bordeaux – Fleur de Lys “ B” Postmark**



1758 – Quebec to St. Malo, France with a **BREST Straightline Handstamp**.  
Both covers to Canada during the French Regime.



BELGIUM and FRANCE to CANADA – 1751 and 1758

At Monsieur  
Monsieur le pauvre pere marchand  
dans la rue des ripens a miens pour  
faire tenir a mi de la roie  
marchand marchand dans la p...  
de notre dame a que bel dans  
que bee  
DE LIEGE Canada  
a Quebec  
a quebecy.

1751 – Liege, Belgium to Quebec with an albino – DE LIEGE – handstamp via a Forwarding Agent at Amiens, France – Liege was in France at this time – Possibly the earliest cover in private hands with a postal handstamp to Canada

troisieme  
a Madame  
Madame la Seigne  
Portneub  
a Montreal

1758 – Paris, France to Montreal – 'troisieme' indicates a triplicate letter.

NOVA SCOTIA to ENGLAND – 1752

November 2 and 13, 1752 – HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA to LONDON, ENGLAND from Governor Hopson. These are two of the earliest recorded covers from Nova Scotia to a foreign part. Both were carried on the same ship and bear the Bristol – B – Handstamp.



NOVA SCOTIA and NEW BRUNSWICK to UNITED STATES – 1752 and 1758



July 24, 1752 – Halifax, Nova Scotia to Newport, U.S.A. – The earliest recorded cover from Halifax in private hands.



July 12, 1758 – Fort Cumberland, New Brunswick to Easton, Maine. One of the two earliest recorded covers from New Brunswick in private hands. – Former French Fort Beausejour surrendered on June 17, 1755 – Seven Years War, from a Colonial soldier – Contents: "... went on shore and killed two indians and scalped them..."

BELGIUM and FRANCE to CANADA – 1752 and 1757

A Monsieur  
Monsieur Hubert Joseph De la Croix  
Marchand Bourgeois de La ville de Québec  
dans La nouvelle France. e.g.  
à Québec

1752 – Esseneux, France (now Belgium) to Quebec

À Madame  
Madame la veuve  
de Sorbucet  
à Montréal

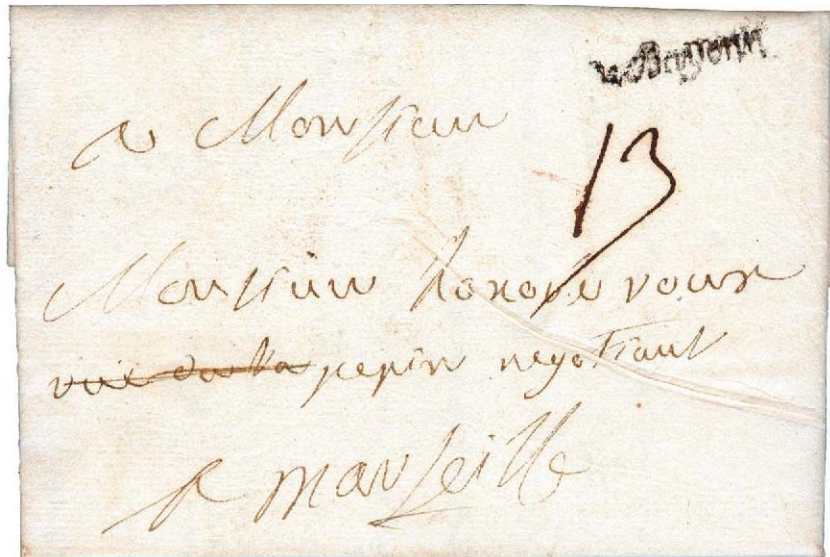
1757 – Paris, France to Montreal

- Both covers to Canada under the French Regime.

CAPE BRETON ISLAND to FRANCE - 1755

1755 – June 14 – LOUISBOURG, CAPE BRETON ISLAND, NEW FRANCE to MARSEILLES, FRANCE by ship with a – de BAYONNE – Handstamp rated 13 sols COLLECT, from Pierre-Andre de Suffren a future admiral of France.

The ONLY reported cover from French Nova Scotia in private hands.



14 June 1755 – Louisbourg, Cape Breton Island

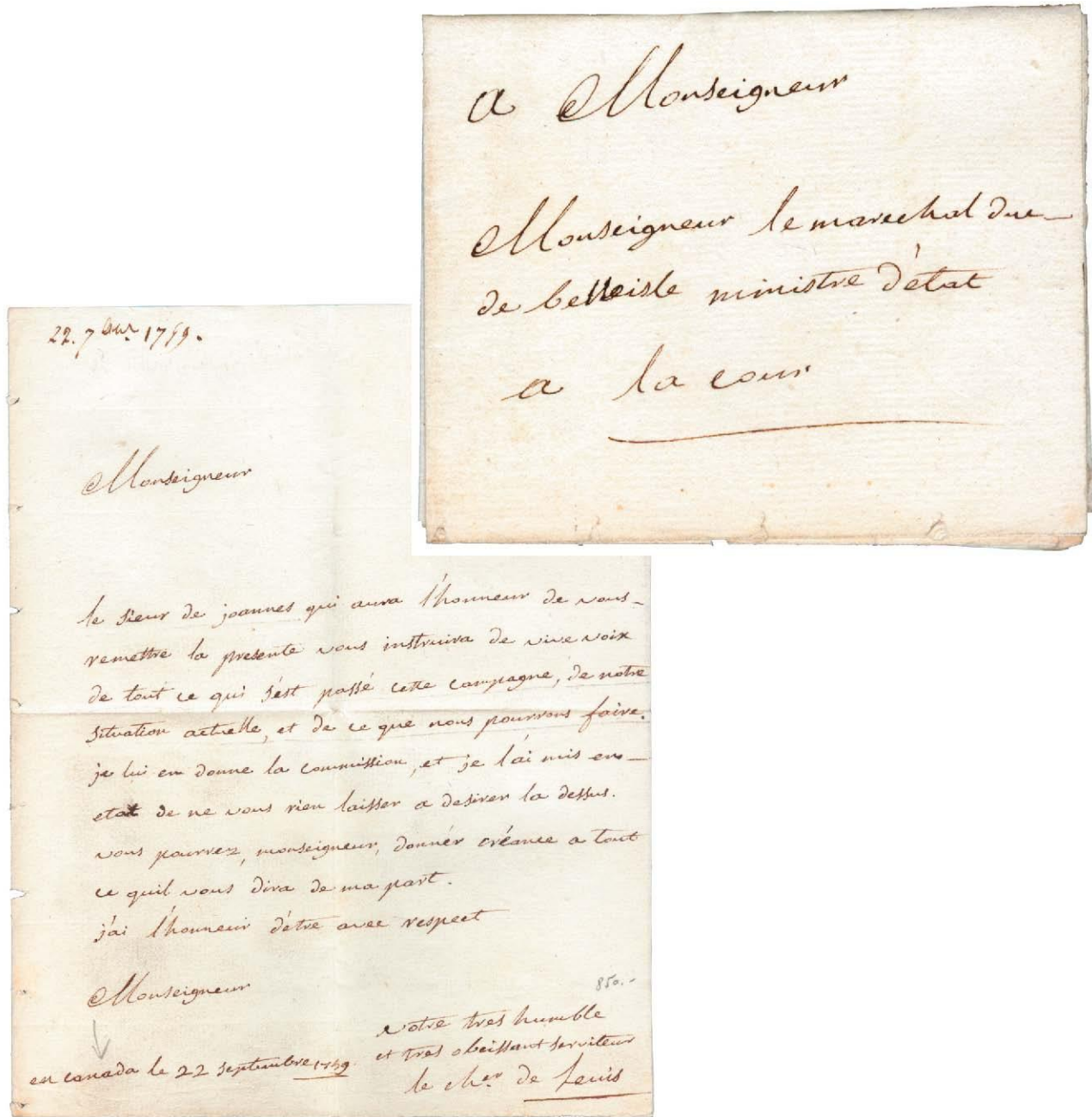


1758 December 20 – Louisbourg, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia to Boston, U.S.A. – From a British Officer just after its capture from the French.



1759 March 10 – London to a British Officer at Louisbourg – Addressed to – *Colonel Frasers Regiment New York or elsewhere in North America* – Fraser's Highlanders were at Louisbourg after participating in its capture – preparing to sail to attack Quebec.

NEW FRANCE to FRANCE - 1759



September 22, 1759 – QUEBEC, NEW FRANCE to PARIS, FRANCE

On this date De Levis was in camp at Jacques Cartier, Quebec with the balance of the army

From the Chevalier Francois De Levis, commander of the French army in Canada after Montcalm's death to the Marshall Duke De Belle Isle, Minister of State of France, dated 9 days after Quebec's fall. A letter of introduction for Sieur De Joannes, Town Major of Quebec carrying verbal and written reports of the campaigns in Canada during the past seasons including the loss of Quebec.

De Levis was one of the most important military men in Canada's history, eventually becoming a Duke and a Marshall of France.

CANADA to SCOTLAND – 1760

A handwritten letter cover on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in brown ink in a cursive script. At the top left, the number '42' is written in red ink. The main text reads: 'James Farguharson Esqr of Invercauld by Aberdeen North Britain'. There are some faint, illegible markings and a large, stylized initial 'M' or 'W' in the lower left quadrant.

August 22, 1760 – Camp before Fort Levis on Isle Royal to Scotland – Chimney Island near Prescott, Ontario

– The earliest cover from British Ontario in private hands – A military letter from a Highland Officer describing the journey from Fort Ontario of the British Army including a sea battle with French warships and the siege and capture of Fort Levis.

A handwritten letter cover on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in brown ink in a cursive script. On the left side, there is a red wax seal impression with the word 'YORK' visible. The main text reads: 'James Farguharson Esqr of Invercauld by Aberdeen North Britain'. There are some faint, illegible markings and a large, stylized initial 'M' or 'W' in the lower right quadrant.

A second letter from the same correspondence, dated July 2, 1761 from Crown Point.