

MORE TO PAY

A look at some of the many ways mail to or from Canada required additional payments on top of that already paid.

The most obvious and most common reason is payment for short paid mail. This could be paid by the recipient (usually double the deficiency) or the sender (usually single deficiency). The example below shows the latter.



This first cover shows a short paid 1965 airmail letter to Hong Kong. By this date (1965) it had been decided that it was more efficient to forward letters like this which had a return address – on the reverse in this case. It was marked Canada Port Paye and a card was sent to the sender requesting the payment of the outstanding postage.

E-35

THE TORONTO-DOMINION BANK

4
593 • BEVERLEY HILLS BRANCH
1571 Wilson Ave. at Jane St. • DOWNSVIEW, Ont



Cooperative Centrale Raiffeisen-Bank,

Utrecht, Holland.

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



This earlier, 1956, cover with short paid airmail to Holland shows an earlier treatment. In this case the cover was returned to the sender and the missing postage was added.

MR. ANDREW LING
3538 Hutchison Street
Room 15
Montreal 18, P.Q., Canada

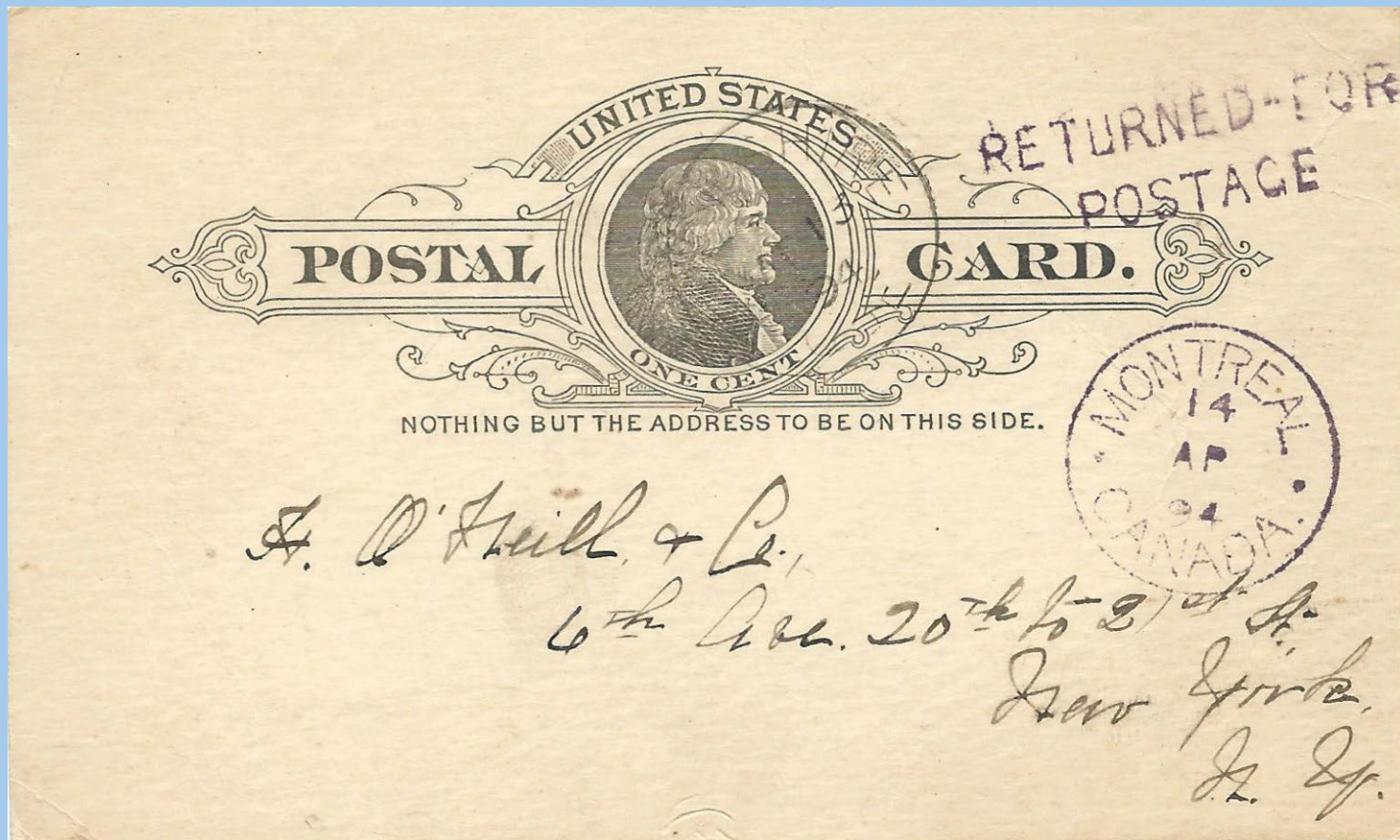
AIR MAIL



The Registrar,
Office of the Registrar.
Room 106 Simcoe Hall,
University of Toronto,
Toronto 5,
Ontario.



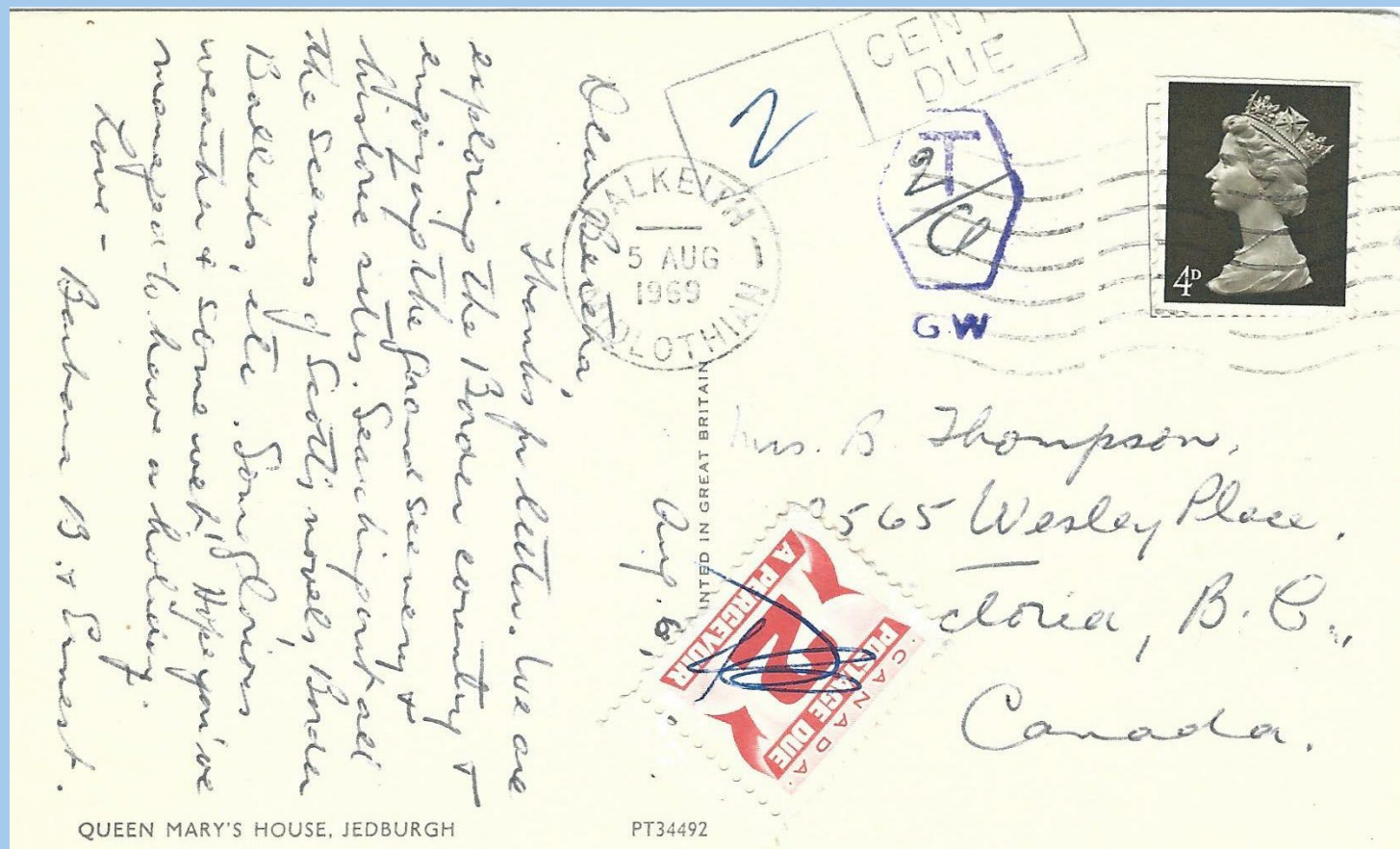
This third cover is interesting because it shows a rather obscure rule concerning airmail postage. By this time (1964) all first class mail was "all up", that is to say airmail transmission was given, where possible, for the normal first class postage (5 cents) fee. However, if air mail was specifically requested, as it was in this case, then the airmail rate of 7 cents applied. The cover was treated in the same way as the previous cover and single deficiency was added.



USA postcards were allowed to be used in Canada if Canadian postage was added. In this case none had been so the card was returned to the sender for payment. There is no evidence that the card was paid for and reposted. Incidentally, this ruling caused a lot of confusion when it came to USA reply paid cards and most of the ones I have seen have unnecessary added Canadian postage



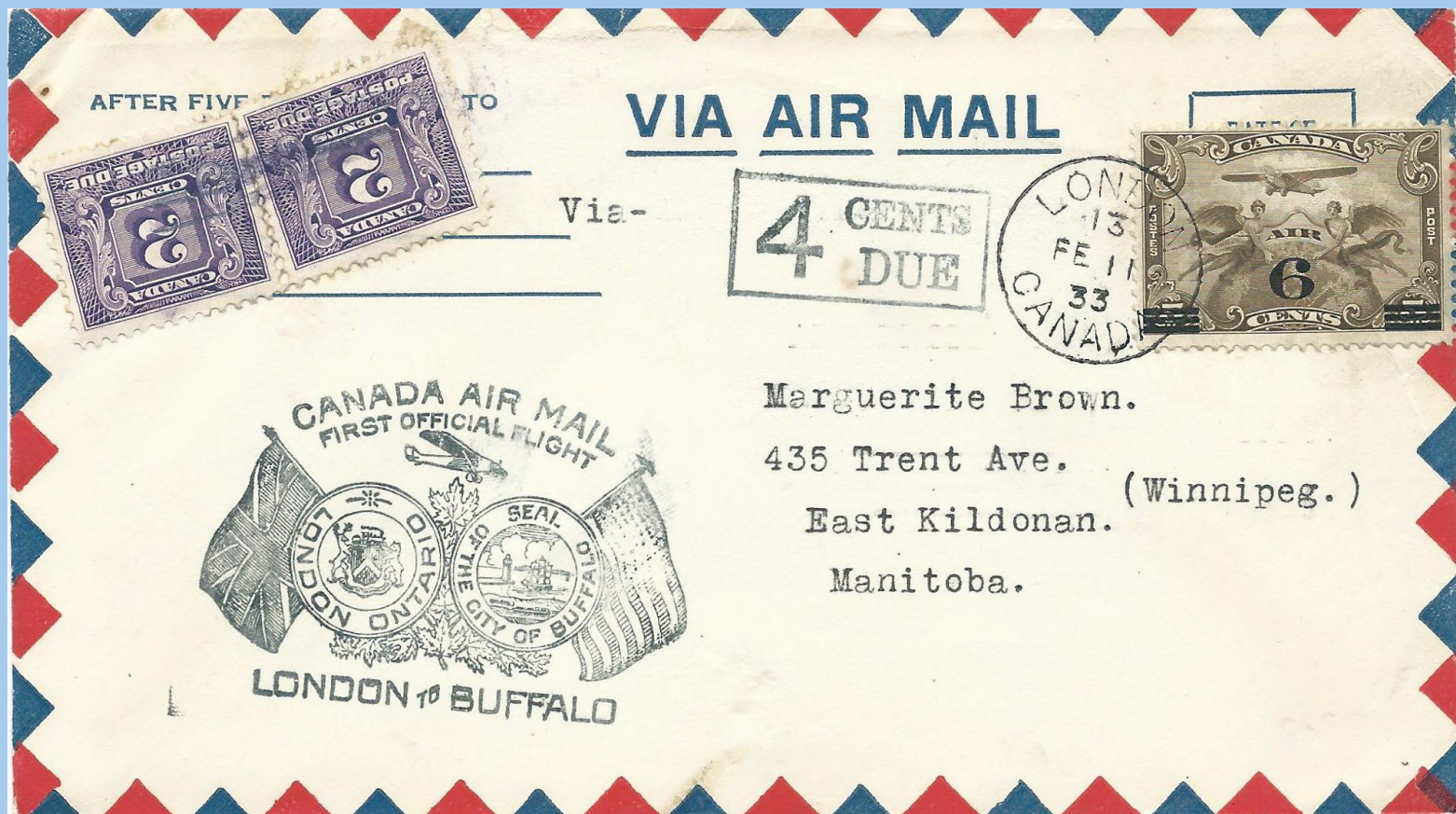
Moving on to short paid mail paid for by the addressee, the cover above shows an airmail letter to Medan, Sumatra. It is short paid 10 cents. The postage due marking represents 10 cents Canadian x 3 gold centimes (the UPU value of 1 cent Canadian in 1950) x 2 (i.e. double deficiency) = 60 centimes. Indonesian postage due stamps indicate the amount collected from the addressee.



The 1969 postcard, shown above, from the UK to Canada is underpaid by 2d. The tax calculation is as follows: amount of deficiency divided by British international surface letter rate. (I am assuming that postcards from Britain to international destinations at this time were the same cost as letters). To find the rate of tax collected in Canada this fraction should be multiplied by the Canadian international surface letter rate which at this time was 12 cents. This would have given a postage due of 4 cents; however, the charge of 2 cents has been calculated by dividing the fraction by the preferred countries surface postcard rate (6 cents).

Next is a fairly common reason for postage due charges – failure to pay the second step payment. The 1939 letter below was over 1oz and required an extra 5 cents for the second ounce for domestic airmail. Charged double deficiency.





The 1933 first flight cover above shows an unusual postage due charge. The letter has been sent from London, Ontario to East Kildonan, Manitoba. The airmail rate for domestic mail is indeed the 6 cents paid by the sender; however, it was sent on the first flight from London to Buffalo, an American route, and the airmail rate to USA was 8 cents at this time, thus the letter is 2 cents short paid and charged 4 cents double deficiency

SHORTPAID MAIL
INSUFFISANCE D'AFFRANCHISSEMENT

February Date 15 1974

M

N. + Mrs. Geof Crealock
R.R. No.
Thorndale Ont. 280 King St.

Mail not bearing sufficient postage has been forwarded to you without collection to prevent delay.

Please remit the amount due by affixing postage stamps in the top right corner and mailing this card.

Pour ne pas en retarder la livraison, l'envoi insuffisamment affranchi a été transmis, sans perception du montant, en apposant des timbres dans la case qui se trouve à l'angle supérieur droit puis postez la carte.

G. C. Mall per E.D.
POSTMASTER—MAÎTRE DE POSTE

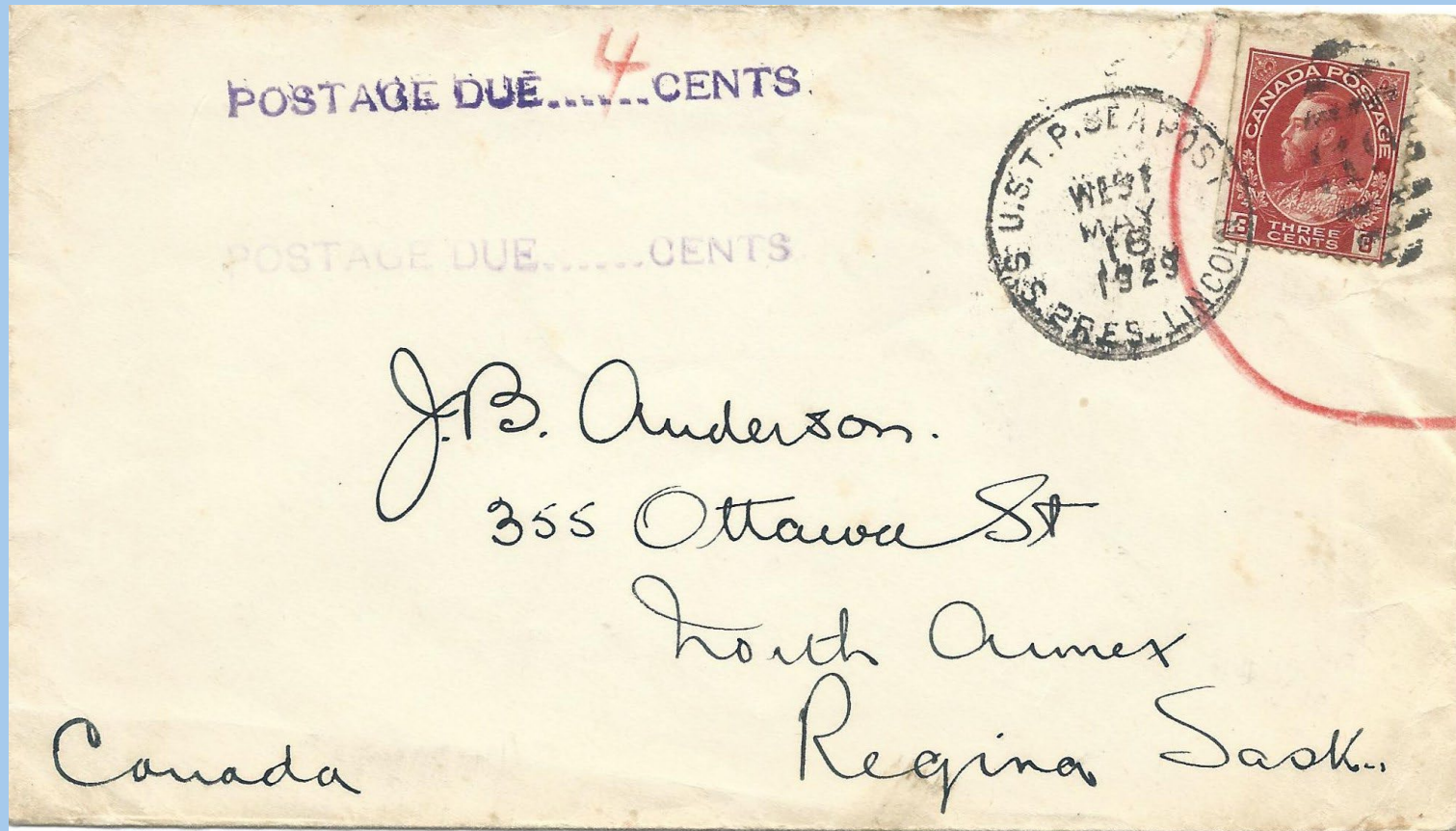
33-86-055 (12-68)

5 R.M.D.

395145
Affix 5
to cover
16 II 1974
CANADA
Appoint
time 5
pour
16 II 1974
CANADA
THORNDALE
E.D.
12 c.
MONTANT DÛ

By the 1970's, cards were left in boxes on rural routes or through letter boxes requesting the recipient to send postage due in the form of postage stamps to the post office. This speeded up the delivery of short paid mail (at least according to the card).

Maritime mail had its own rules and the next two slides show the two scenarios where postage due was enforced.

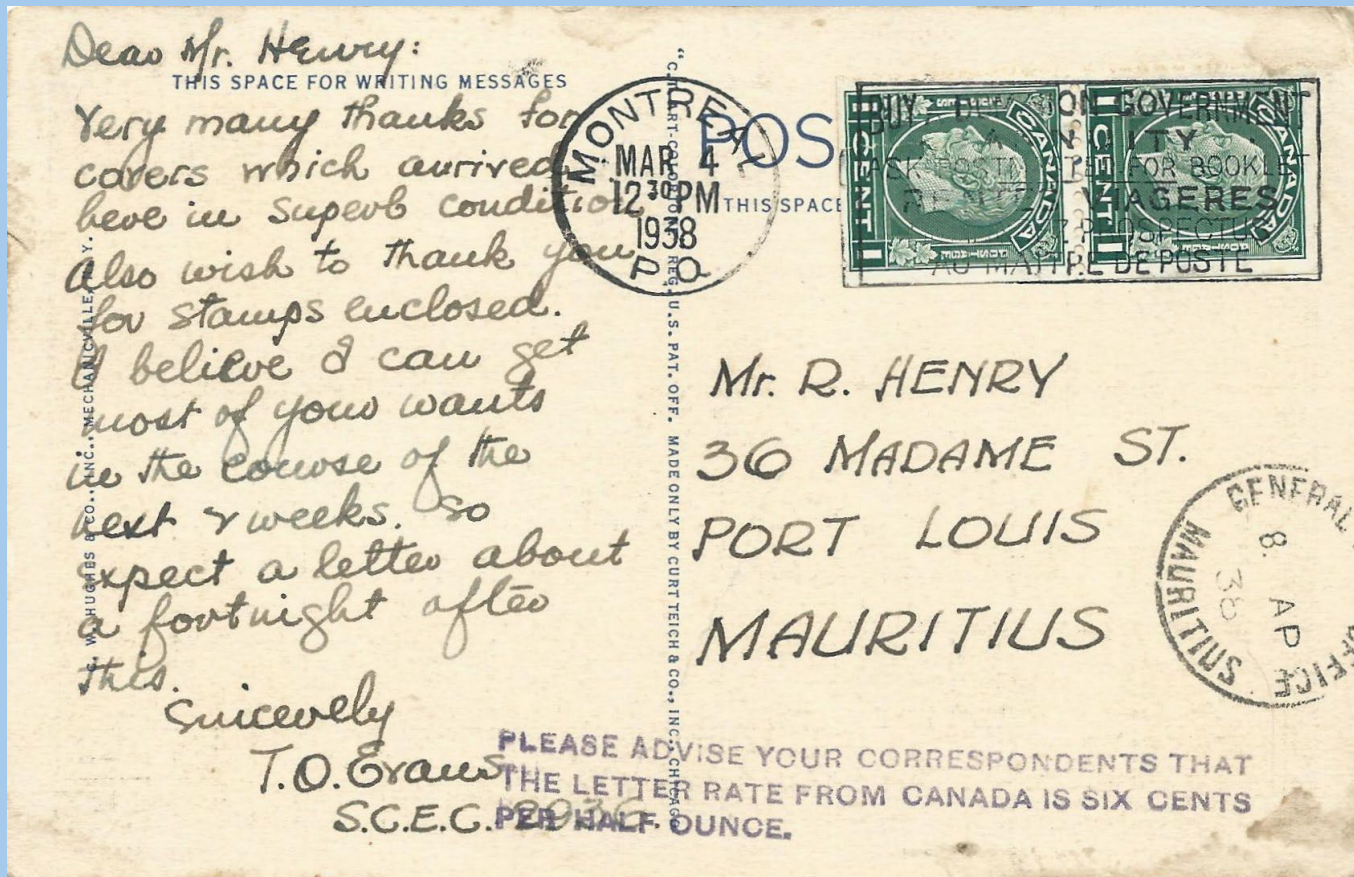


The cover above shows a letter posted on an American ship (USTP President Lincoln) franked with a 2 cent Admiral. Although the cover was addressed to Canada the rule was that mail posted on the high seas should bear the stamps of the country to which the ship was registered, in this case the USA. The Admiral is circled (the universal designation for an invalid stamp) and the cover was hand stamped Postage Due 4 cents.



This second cover has a return address in China. It was posted by somebody on a British ship which obviously only had British stamps on board so was franked with 2 British 1½d stamps overpaying the British letter rate to Canada. Had this been posted on the high seas like the previous letter it would have been fine, but the letter was posted while the ship was docked at Vancouver. The pertinent rule in this case was that mail posted while docked must be paid with stamps of the country in which the ship was docked. Somebody (possibly the purser) has written "Owe postman 4 cents" and the letter has been taxed accordingly.

Postage due was not always collected.



When the Empire airmail scheme was inaugurated in 1938 various changes to the mail rates occurred for many Empire destinations causing confusion. So, the next item is an early EAMS postcard to Mauritius paid at the old postcard rate of 2 cents and thus underpaid for the EAMS postcard rate of 4 cents. It has the rather confusing advice notice "please advise your correspondents that the letter rate from Canada is 6 cents per half ounce."

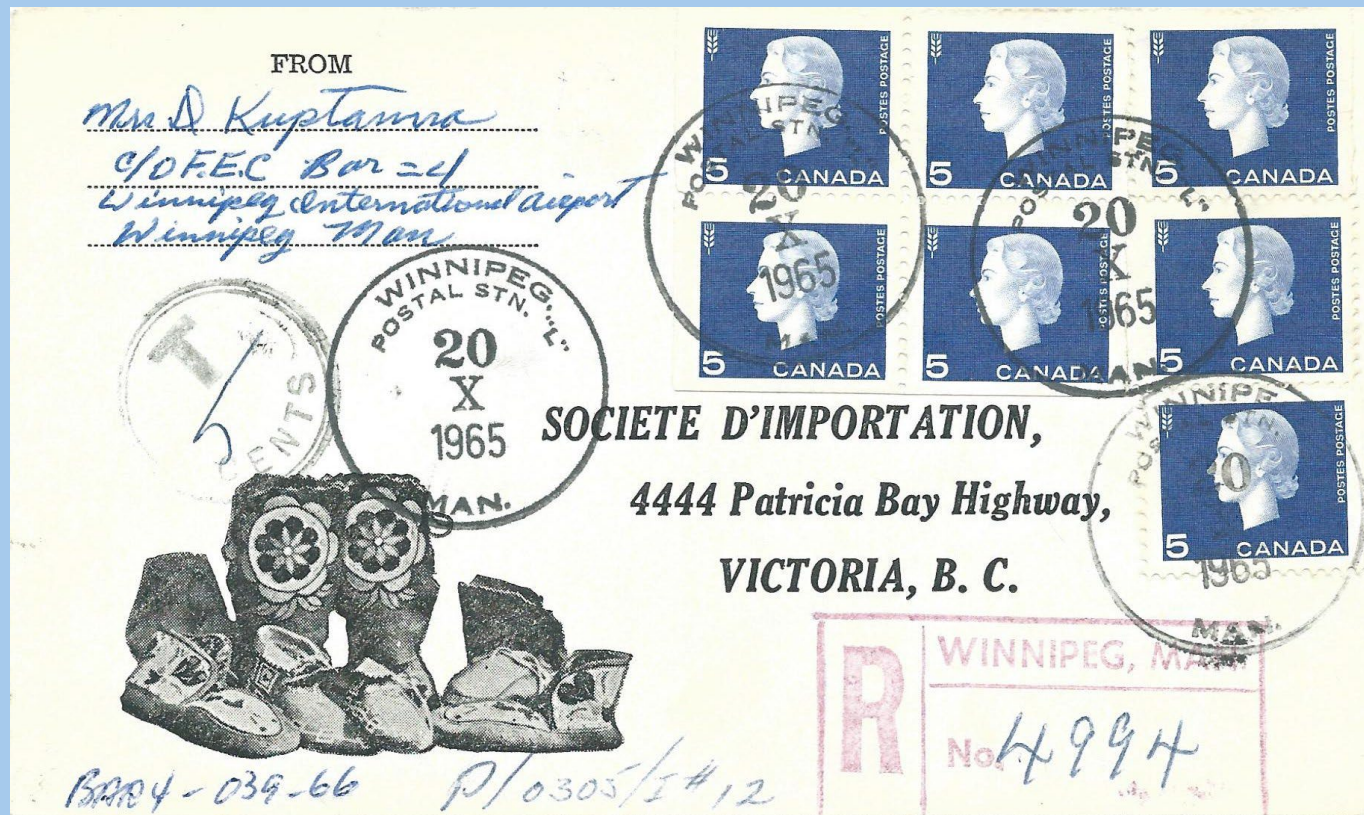
At this early date for the scheme no postage due was charged in many cases and this was the case here.

This 1905 postcard is a favourite of mine because it represents a good story. It is a postage due item and at the same time it isn't.



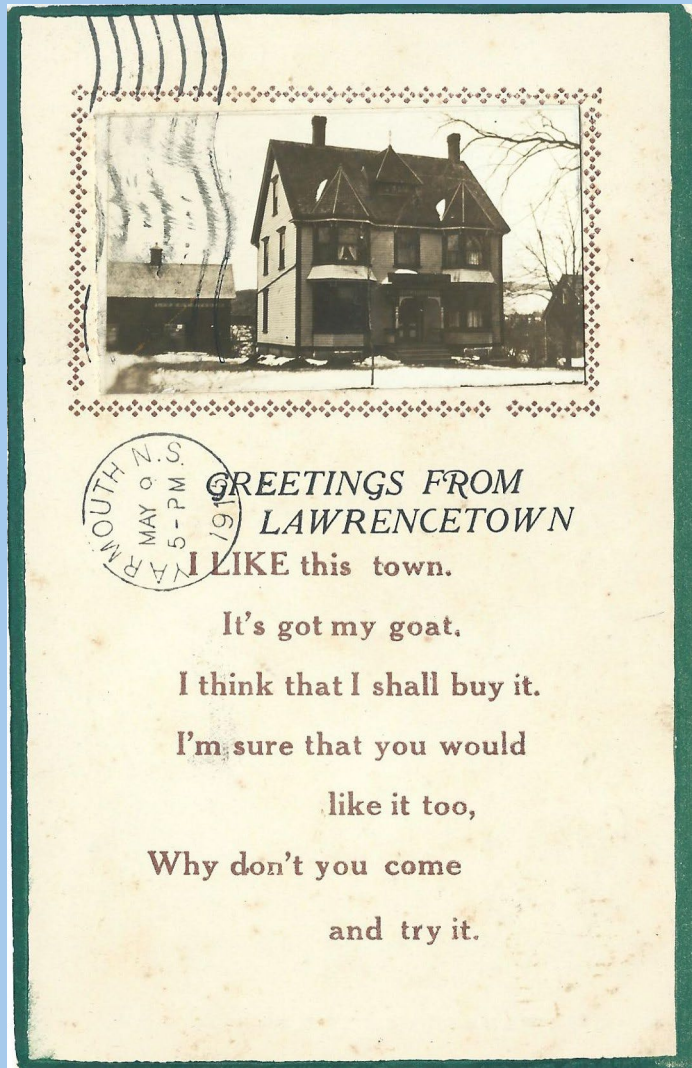
The Canadian sender has correctly franked the cover with the required 2 cents postage, but on the view side. This practice was common at the time, and whilst frowned upon, was allowed – so the card was processed and sent off to France without penalty. However, in France it was assessed as liable for postage due and charged 20 centimes. This was obviously contested and the tax stamp was overprinted rembourse and Madame was presumably refunded her 20 centimes.

With the exception of USA, with whom there was a reciprocal agreement (at least for a long period) that partly paid mail would only be charged the deficiency, most short paid mail was charged at double the deficiency. Around 1936/7 however, the rule for short paid registered mail changed and instead of double deficiency it was only charged single deficiency – only fair since it was the post office clerk who processed registered mail, therefore it was the post office's error.



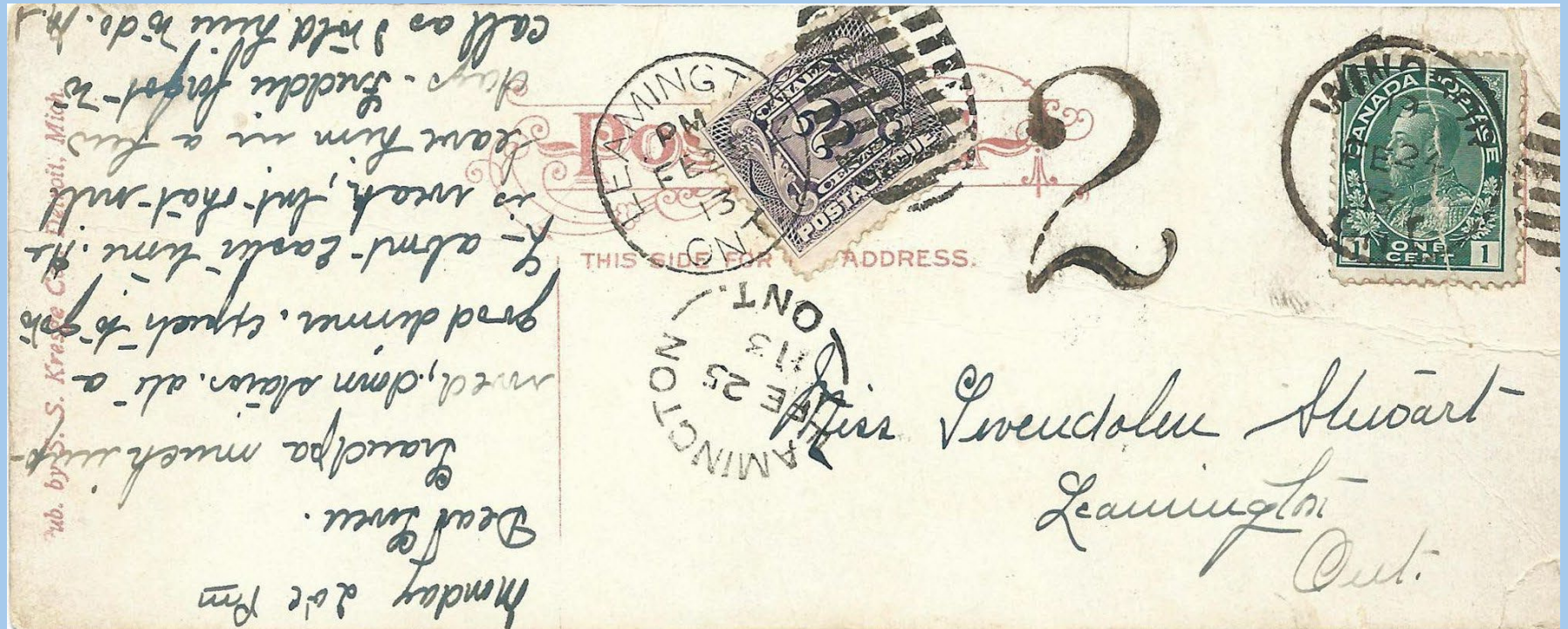
These covers must be quite scarce because they didn't often make mistakes – this is the only one I have for any era.

We move now to mail that was short paid because it wasn't in line with post office regulations.



The two scans above and left show the front and back of a domestic postcard. As can be seen it has a photograph pasted to it. The rule here is a little ambiguous since attachments could be stuck to postcards so long as they were made from paper and did not alter the character of a postcard. Someone obviously decided that this photo was somehow wrong and the card was considered first class mail and charged 2 cents postage due.

This next card more obviously does not conform to the size restrictions for postcards at the time and was again assessed as first class mail and taxed accordingly.



The 1923 cover below shows a fairly common tax offence - the inland revenue war tax stamp was not valid for postage and so the cover was taxed as short paid 1 cent and due 2 cents double deficiency.



The cover below show another pretty obvious breach of the postal regulations. A cut out from a postal stationery card has been used as postage. The cut out has been ringed to show that it invalid. Credit has been given for the 5 cents stamp so only 2 cents deficiency has been charged.



The next 2 covers are a little less common, the first of these is a leather postcard mailed in 1906.



The leather postcard was not to regulations (not only leather but also a fancy shape) and was rated as a letter.

The second is a divided back postcard mailed to USA in 1906.



Divided back postcards had been allowed in Canada for a few years when this card was sent to USA in 1906. However, they weren't allowed in USA until 1907. The majority of cards like this went unchallenged, but this one was charged as a letter (i.e. 2 cents) and charged single deficiency.

We move on now to mail which has been redirected to a location that requires more postage than was originally paid. According to UPU regulations only the single deficiency should be paid on such mail. This could be added by the redirector at the time of redirection or by the final recipient of the mail item. The first two items in this section were paid by the recipient and are both similar. They are both drop letters which were redirected out of the originating post office, the first to another town, the second to a rural route. Both required an extra cent in postage.

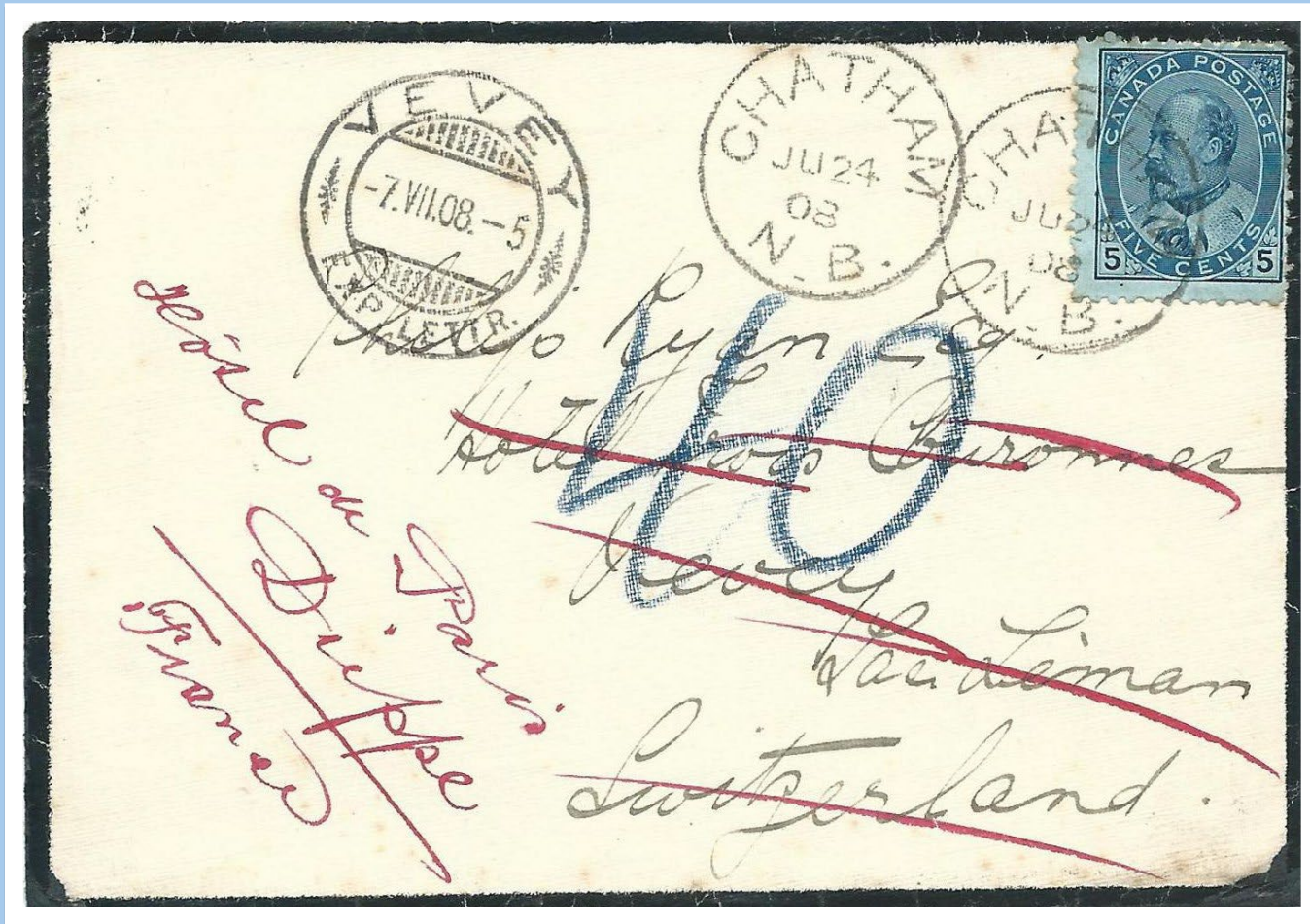


As an aside, this is the only common single usage of the 1 cent postage due stamps.

The cover below shows a correct 2 cents rate to USA. However, it has been redirected to Peru and a 3 cents US stamp added to make up to the 5 cents UPU rate.



Sometimes forwarding mail incurred extra charges for other reasons.



This 1902 letter was sent at the 5 cent UPU rate to Vevey, Switzerland. It was redirected to France. There was no additional postage required as the UPU rate still applied. However, the Vevey dispatching cancel gives the clue as to why a 40 centimes charge was indicated by the large blue crayon 40. It contains the instruction "Exp Lettr". So, the cover was forwarded Express and charged accordingly.

When a registered letter was redirected there was no charge for the redirection as usual, so long as the rate to the new destination was the same or less than to the original destination. However, registration only applied to the first destination. If registration was required for the redirection the mail item had to be re-registered



This cover is a 1942 registered letter to Tahiti paid at the 5 cent UPU rate plus 10 cents for registration. It was redirected to New York and re-registered in Tahiti.

The 1946 cover below is similar to the last – in this case a registered surface letter to Uruguay re-registered and redirected to USA.



As well as re-registering the letter it was also upgraded to airmail. Even if it had been sent to Uruguay as an airmail letter it would still have had to have the airmail paid for onward transmission because, like registration, airmail only applied to the first destination.

This rule can be seen in reverse in the cover below – an airmail letter from Bolivia to Canada which was redirected in Canada.



The cover was only paid with enough postage to pay for redirection first class, not specifically by airmail. However, by 1949 the all up airmail system applied in Canada, which meant that it would be sent by the quickest route, airmail included where appropriate. It is quite possible that this was not a redirected mail item but a reposted one – I can't read the date on the Bolivian postmark. The forgoing remarks would still apply even if it had been reposted, but reposted mail was not the same as redirected mail as can be seen in the next slide.

MORGAN REALTIES LIMITED
~~1455 UNION AVENUE~~
MONTREAL
5477 Earnscliffe Ave., N.D.G.



5477 Earnscliffe Ave
N.D.G
MONTREAL
CANADA

I.C. Morgan, Esq.,
~~C.P.O.~~
~~Constantinople~~
~~Turkey,~~

Bayrak

C. 27

27

This letter was originally posted in Canada in October 1940 to Turkey with the postage paid by meter mark. It was not returned to Canada until January 1941. The rule for redirected mail was that the mail item should be handed back to the postman immediately or as soon as possible with the new address indicated, which was obviously not the case here. This letter was reposted and therefore had to be paid the full postage from Turkey back to Canada.

The next 2 slides show examples of mail which has been upgraded to a higher postal rate.

recd Sat. 22
JOURNAL CROP REPORT *204-14* Mail back on Aug. 25

By : Mrs. Lila Langford Dist : Clyde 14
Filled on Aug. *21*

1. Date cutting of grain crop is expected to begin ? *Sept 1st*
In Wheat ? *none yet* If already started, give pct. cut ?
In Barley ? *Aug 17* If started, give percentage cut ? *5%*
Is lodging of grain serious ? *yes*

2. Estimated yields your district in bus. per seeded acre average ?
WHEAT *30* bus. OATS *70* bus. BARLEY *45* bus.
(Please do best to get fair average preliminary estimates)

3. Percentage of total seeded crop of district lost since heading.
By HAIL *none* By FROST *none*

Comment *On the average, the crop in this district is very good, with spring plowing being rather light.*

CANADA POST CARD

EDMONTON ALTA
AUG 20
4 30 PM
1953
TERMINAL

2 CENTS

Mrs. Lila Langford
Clyde, Alta.

Edmonton,

Please fill in, detach and return crop card.

It is essential that answers should reach The
Edmonton Journal by Thursday of next week
at very latest.

The Edmonton Journal

CANADA POST CARD
(REPLY AUG 21)

1953

Agricultural Editor,
The Edmonton Journal
Edmonton, Alberta.

CROP REPORT

Originally sent as a 3rd class item with only a printed message, this reply paid card required the recipient to fill in details on the printed form. This disqualified it from being a 3rd class item, and so the reply paid section was upgraded to the postcard rate. The card was returned intact which increases its interest as a philatelic item.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

43-74-010 (7-71)

Timbre à date du
bureau destinataire

This Acknowledgement of Receipt card to Russia has been paid at the correct rate of 15 cents on the front of the card (bottom image) and in addition has had the “airmail return” option ticked and an airmail sticker affixed with 10 cents added to upgrade it to airmail.

The card below has also been upgraded to airmail. It is a reply paid postcard to USA (you can just make out the Admiral stamp impression under the airmail stamp) which has had an American 5 cents airmail stamp added for return to Canada.



It's pretty widely known that the Canadian Post Office added postage to servicemen's letters during most of the First World War to avoid charging recipients postage due. However, the cover below shows a blatant disregard of its own rules about the use of mutilated stamps.



How or why such a strange concoction as this came to be used to pay the first class forward letter postage is anybody's guess. I'm not even sure that the payment is correct since the stamps were added at Toronto and forwarded to Bingham, which surely should have been a charge of 2 cents 1st class + 1 cent war tax.

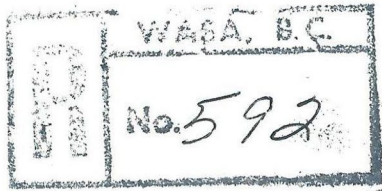
This next example of a soldier's letter is rather more straightforward.



The letter was received at Vancouver on 16th May 1916, it was franked with a 2 cents stamp to pay the drop letter rate + 1 cent war tax. It was forwarded to USA the next day at the first class forward rate of 3 cents (or 2¢ + 1¢ tax). It is probable that this extra charge was paid for by the forwarder of the letter rather than the Post Office since Canadian soldiers' mail to USA was not free.

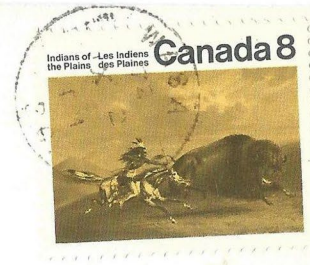
Compulsory registration

WASAVIEW SERVICE LTD.
HUSKY SERVICE -- ALL CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
TELEPHONE 422-3350 -- WASA, B.C.



*Director of Lands,
Parliament Bldgs,
Victoria, B.C.*

Attention: A. Anderson



TAX. 50

14

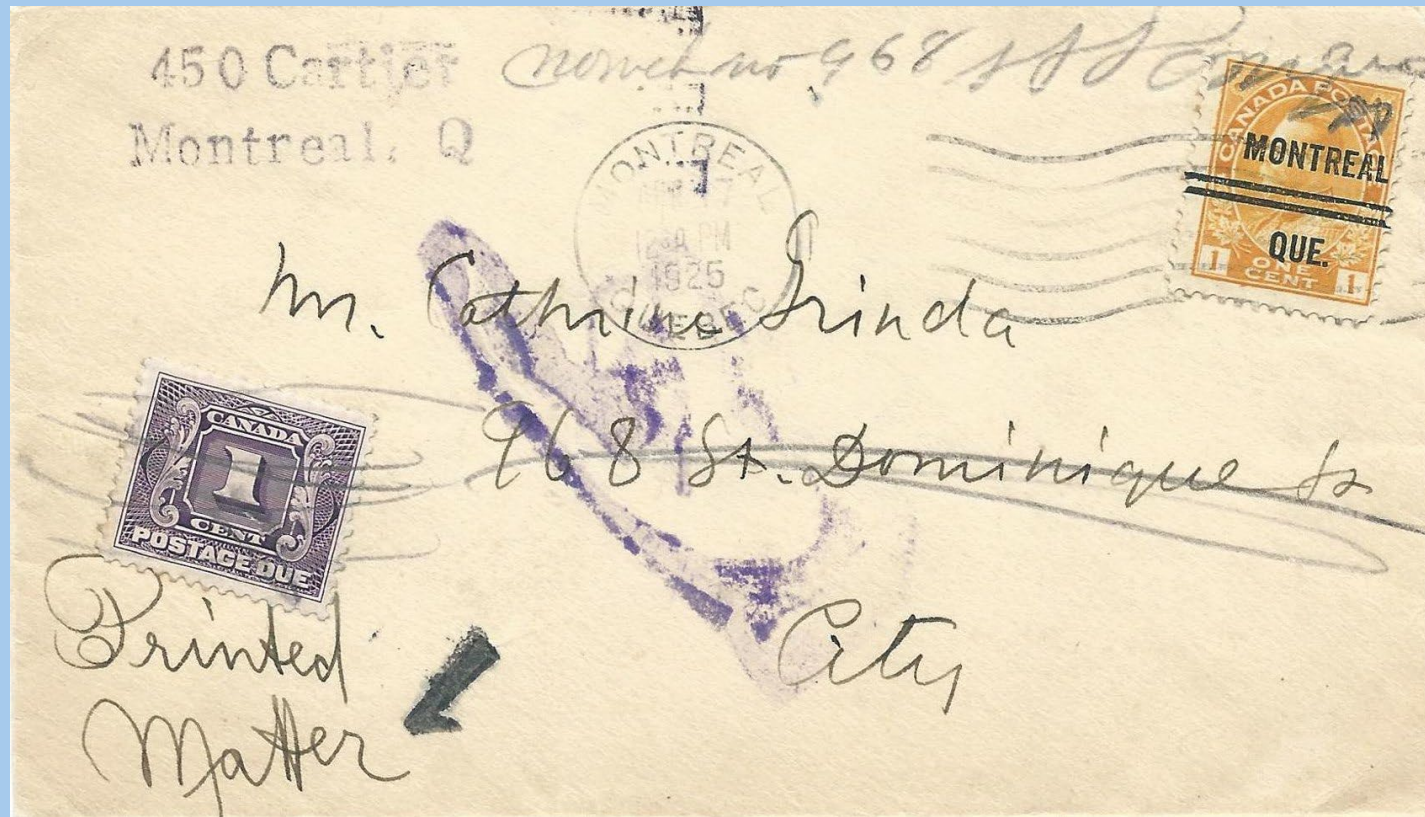
This letter was sent from Wasa, BC by first class mail in 1972, but at the post office at Wasa it was found or suspected of containing something of value and was compulsorily registered. The recipient was charged 50 cents for the registration fee. I am not sure whether this was collected – there is no postage due stamp and when a similar thing happened to me (I had a letter returned from Canada which had been compulsorily registered) I did not have to pay any postage due.

Compulsory registration



This next cover is similar, but in this case the letter was not queried in Canada, but opened in Prague in what was then still Czechoslovakia and found to contain cash or similar and compulsorily registered and taxed. Once again there is no evidence that the tax was collected

Some returned mail was charged for the return. One category of mail that was charged in this way was 3rd class mail with a return address. The charge was always equal to the cost of postage



1925 3rd class letter costing 1 cent and charged an additional 1 cent for return.

Returned mail with complications



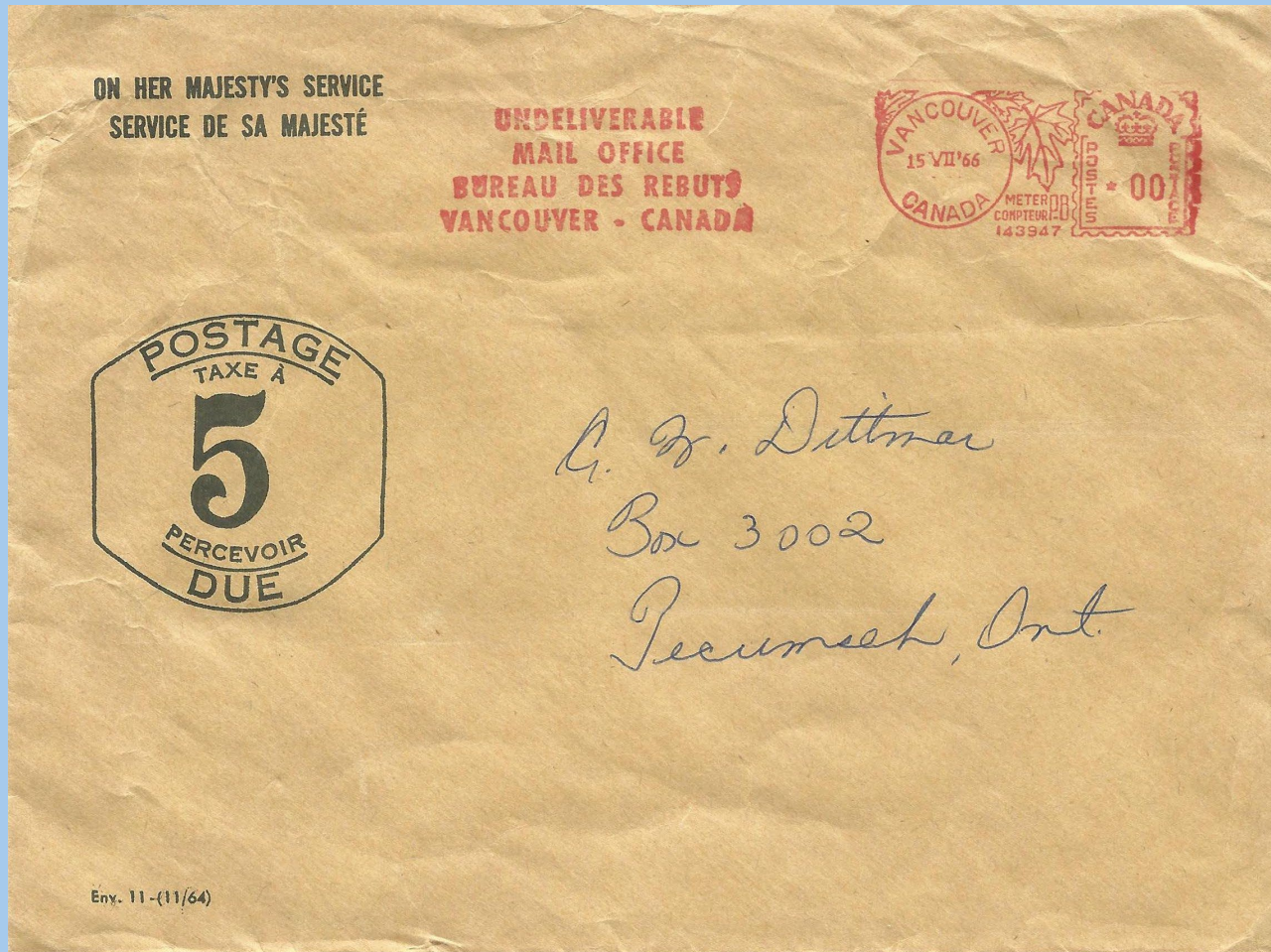
This cover shows an example of 3rd class mail wrongly addressed and returned to sender. By this time (1963) the cost had risen to 2 cents and so the fee for return was 2 cents. This was paid (see 2nd 2¢ Cameo) but the address was amended and the cover was effectively redirected and accepted by the Post Office as such and delivered with no further charge being made.

The cover below is very complicated and incorporates several of the points already made with the addition of an extra charge – returned foreign mail.



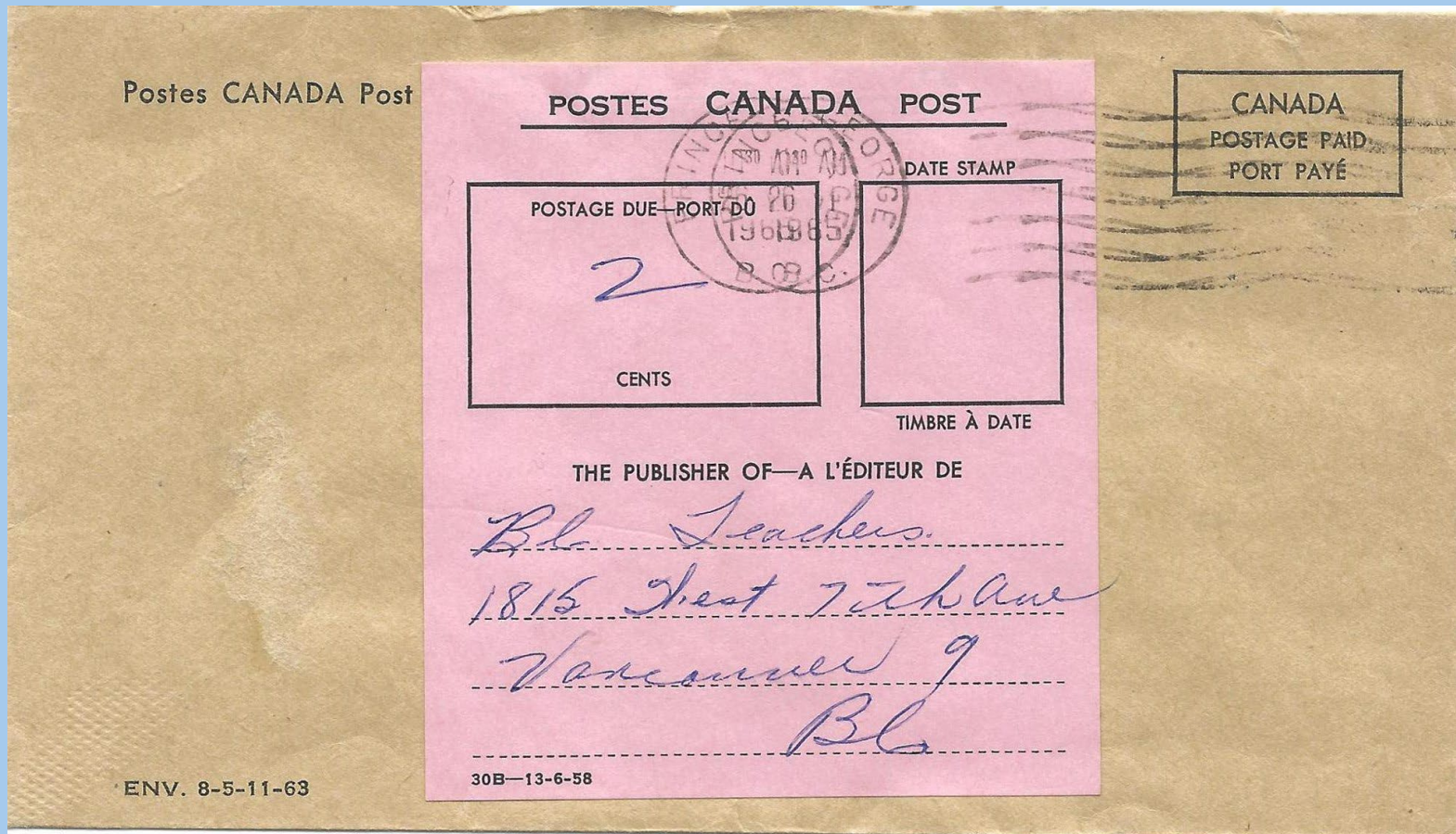
It was posted in Victoria BC on 22nd February 1951 addressed locally. On being redirected to Hemel Hempstead UK it was taxed 1 cent (3 centimes) to make up the Empire/foreign preferred rate as previously noted. Arriving at Hemel Hempstead on 10th March it was further redirected to Hobart Australia at no extra charge because the rate to Australia was the same as that to UK, but without the tax being paid. It arrived on 26th April. In Hobart it was redirected once again to Adelaide, arriving here on 4th May. In Adelaide the tax was finally paid. I'm not sure who paid the tax, even though a 1d Australian postage due stamp has been added and cancelled, because it was marked "NOT KNOWN BY LETTER CARRIER ADELAIDE". It was eventually sent to the DLO Adelaide on 11th July and then to the Vancouver DLO where it was received on 18th September and returned to sender. This is where the new charge was made. Domestic mail with a return address was not charged a return fee, but returned foreign mail was – at this time 3 cents, as can be seen by the boxed hand stamp.

Returned mail which had no return address either printed or written on the envelope was returned to the Dead Letter Office (later known as the Undeliverable Mail Office), opened, and if an address was found was sent to the sender in a DLO envelope and charged a return fee



1966 example of this practice. The fee was 5 cents.

Return fee for undeliverable magazines.



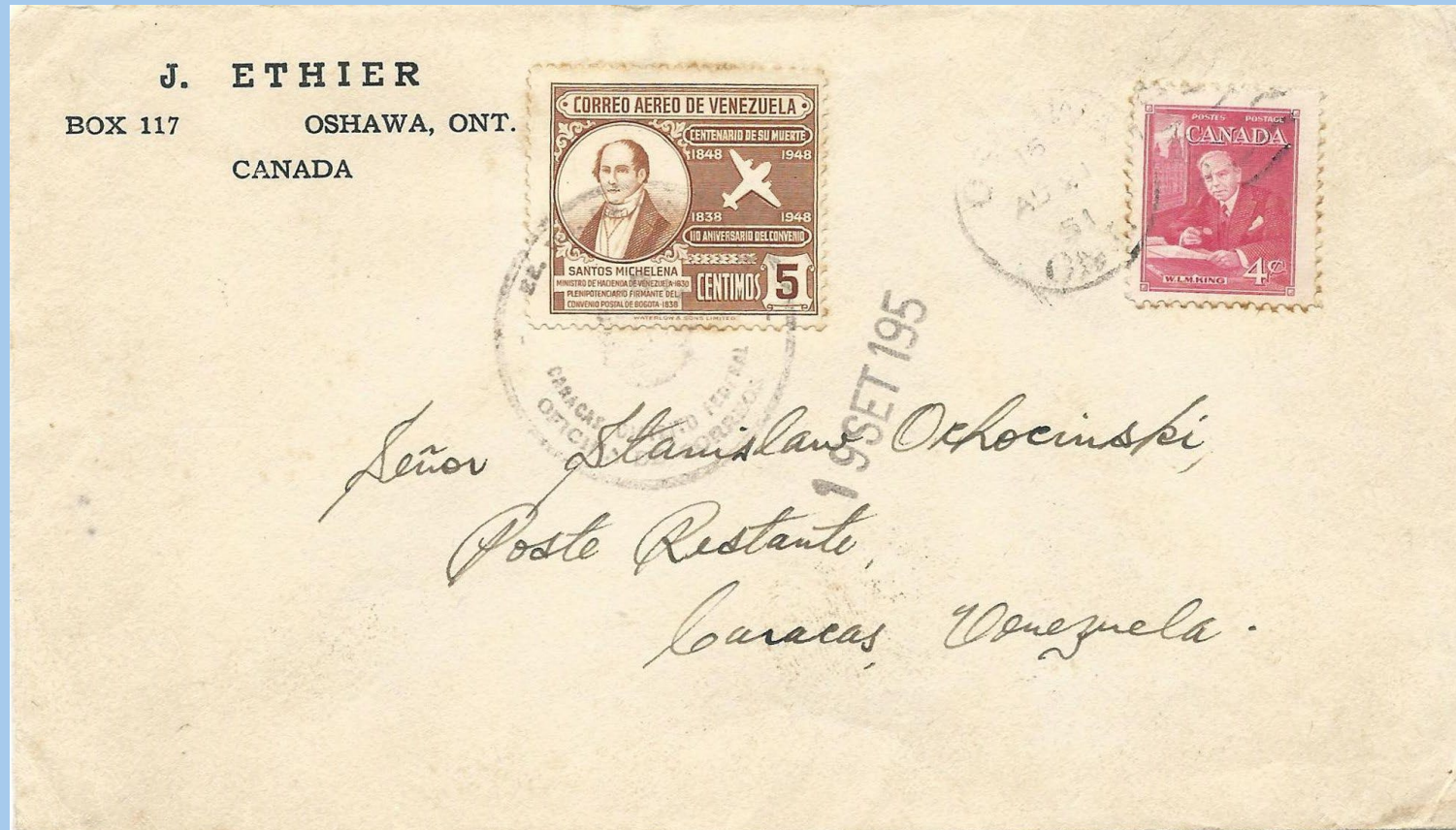
The next example of a return fee was for the return of an undeliverable magazine to the publisher. Again, the fee varied over time, but in this case (1965) it was 2 cents.

Fee for extra Special Delivery runs.



This cover has been paid 25 cents for the Special Delivery and 5 cents first class postage. It is annotated "No answer 1/2/64 and a time which looks like 7.50 something SD7 (the mail carrier)" and "No Letter Box". It was hand stamped Tax Charges 0.25. 25 cents in postage due was added and the letter was presumably subsequently delivered. Like the single deficiency registered letter shown earlier, I believe that this charge is a pretty rare thing, since it is only the second one I have ever seen.

Canada had a free General Delivery service, but some countries charged a fee for this (also called Poste Restante in many countries). France was one such country as were some of the Central and South American countries.



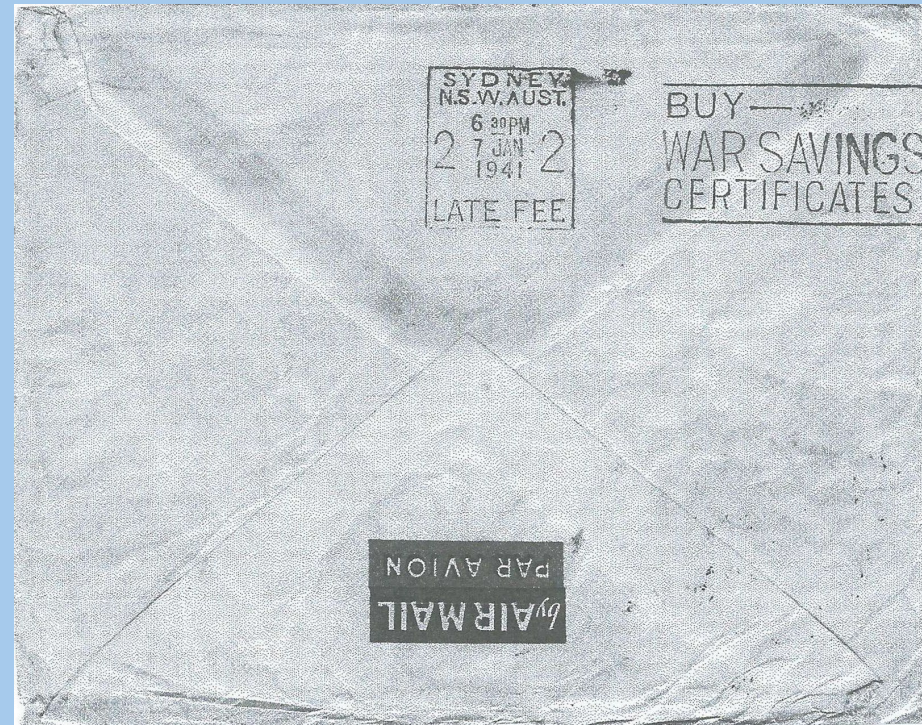
This cover was sent to a Poste Restante address in Caracas, Venezuela in 1951 and was charged 5 centimos for the Poste Restante fee.

Customs charges and 'administration' fees

This slide and the next show the front and back of an envelope sent to me containing a winning lot from an auction house in Canada. As can be seen it was charged a customs duty fee.

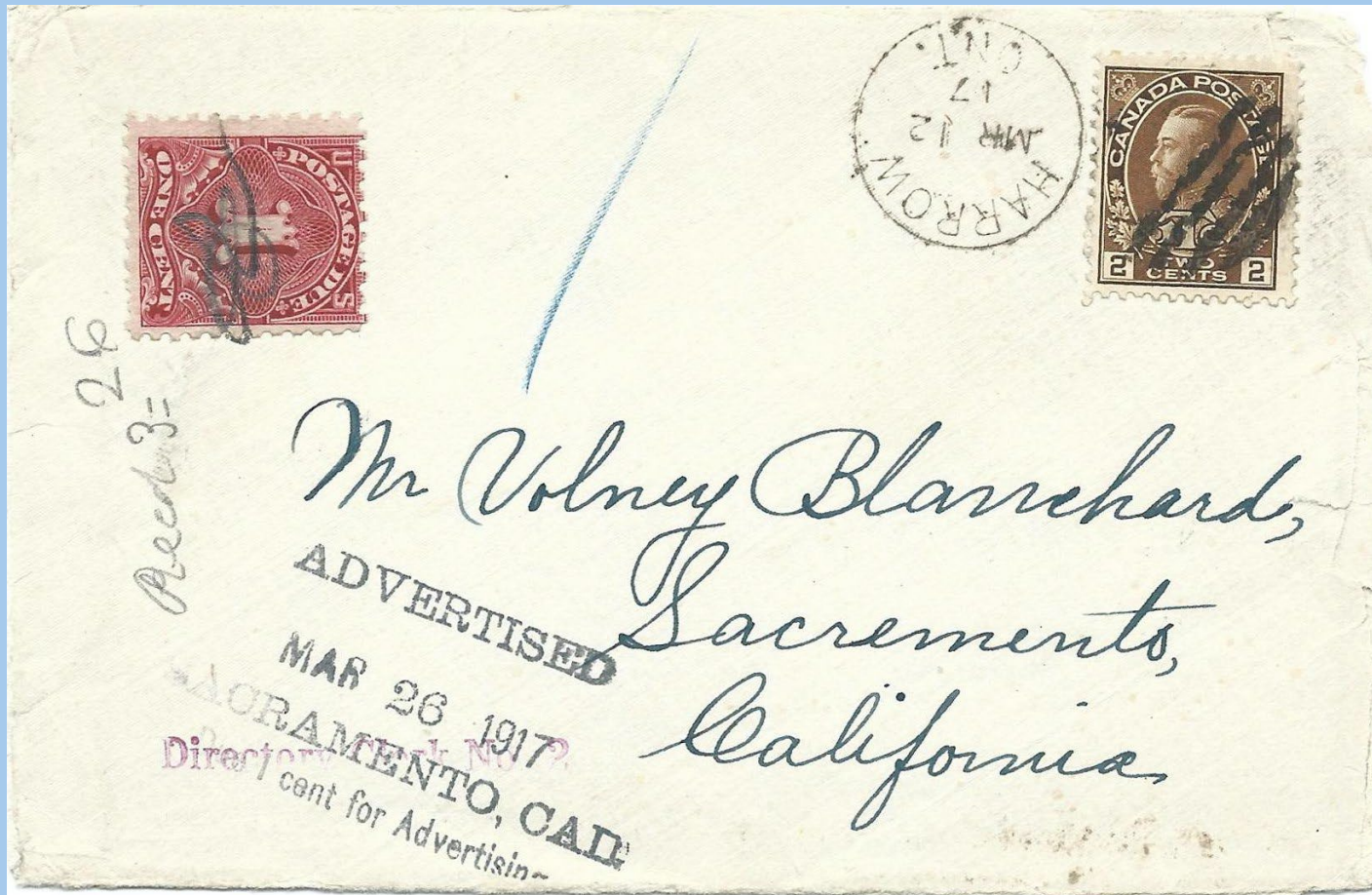


A puzzle!



This cover presents a bit of a puzzle. In general, it is straight forward. It is a 1940 Transpacific rate to Sydney, Australia, correctly paid 90 cents. On arrival in Sydney it was forwarded to Melbourne; so far so routine and I have already discussed this type of cover. The back of the cover (below), however, has a boxed hand stamp Sydney Late Fee and two large 2s. This gives rise to the first question late for what? I know that in Britain this often meant that the letter was too late to be posted directly into the letter box on a train but could be included in the train mail for a late fee. Is this a similar thing here for inclusion in a train or plane's mail? In any case the letter was sent on to Melbourne where it was charged 3d. This gives rise to the second question – was this the late fee and if so why 3d when the late fee hand stamp was marked 2? I can offer two explanations but have no idea whether either is correct; firstly, the hand stamp figure (2) was some sort of time indicator and that the late fee was actually 3d; secondly, since the arrival date on the Melbourne receiver is unreadable, it may be that the late fee meant that it was too late for redirection and that this was actually reposted, giving rise to a late fee of 2d and a postal charge of 1d. I am inclined to think it was the former but would welcome comments at the end of the presentation. Whatever the answer, it is a pretty interesting cover.

A charge for Advertising



This final cover is also quite unusual – a letter to Sacramento correctly paid but very imprecisely addressed. As can be seen from the hand stamp it was advertised and presumably collected as there are no DLO markings. The unusual thing is that it was charged 1 cent for advertising – not something I've seen before but maybe it's common on US mail?