

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

The display that follows was shown at the CPSGB Convention in Grantown on Spey in 2017.

The bulk of the material contained in the display comes from the Camellia PLC collection with some supplementary covers, mainly covering the domestic and cross border rates, from another collection.

Many of the covers were purchased from some of the early Large Queen collections formed by the likes of George Arfken, Horace Harrison, the Duckworths and Gerald Firth and much of this material has not been seen publicly in the last 20 – 25 years.

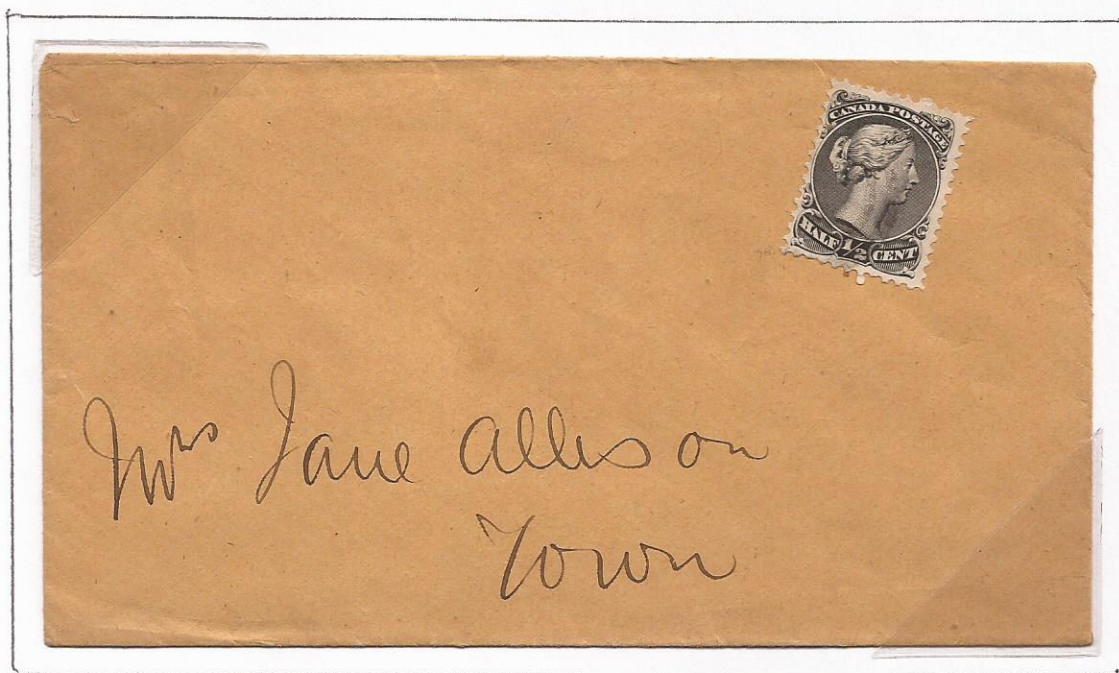
The display does not include all of the Camellia Large Queen material as this would have involved considerable duplication.

For the purposes of this display, the Camellia material was re-mounted and re-researched to provide more information on routing and rates that applied to some of the more arcane destinations.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

1/2 CENT DROP CIRCULAR RATE

The official rate for printed matter sent within Canada was set at 1 cent per oz. in April 1868. The weight limit was raised to 2oz. in 1873 and 4oz. in 1875. However, the Maritime Provinces, in particular, seemed to have a practice of allowing addressed but unsealed envelopes containing circulars or printed matter for local delivery to be sent for just 1/2 cent. This 1/2 cent rate was not authorised but was clearly tolerated in the Maritimes where many postmasters were prepared to overlook Dominion postal regulations following Confederation.



Early 1880's unsealed local envelope containing a circular and subject to the unauthorised 1/2 cent 'drop circular' rate, paid with a 1/2 cent Large Queen. A scarce surviving example of what was, in effect, an early form of 'junk' mail; most of which no doubt ended up in the same place it does now!

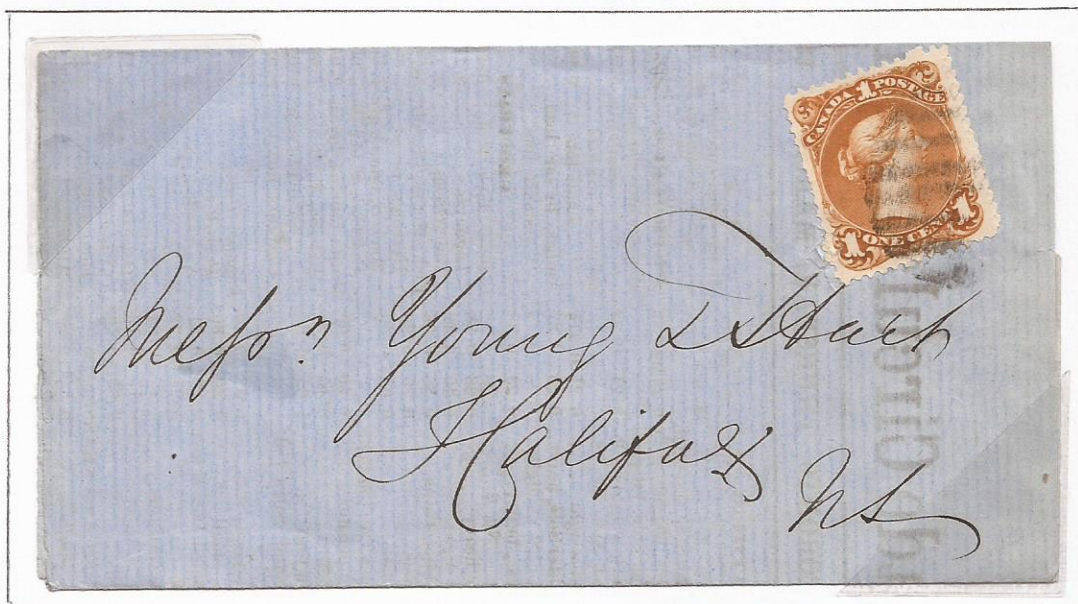
LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

1 CENT DOMESTIC PRINTED MATTER RATE

The official rate for printed matter sent within Canada was set at 1 cent per oz. in April 1868. The weight limit was raised to 2oz. in 1873 and 4oz. in 1875. The colour of the 1 cent Large Queen stamp was changed in early 1869 to avoid confusion with the 3 cents value.



1868 (23rd September) folded notice sent from London, Ontario to Amherstburg. Postage paid by a 1 cent red brown Large Queen. The notice is from the Bank of British North America and relates to bills falling due.



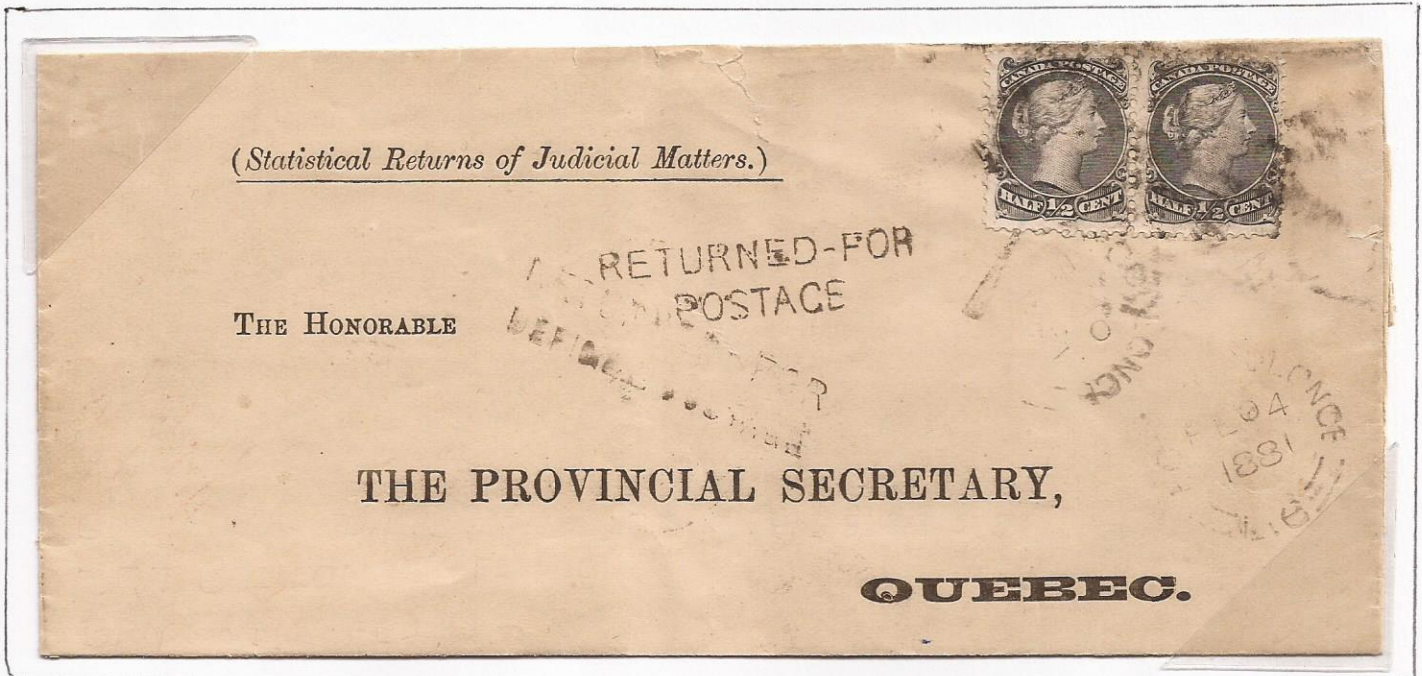
1869 (March) early usage of a 1 cent yellow orange Large Queen on a printed circular mailed from Toronto to Halifax N.S.

(ex. 'Midland')

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

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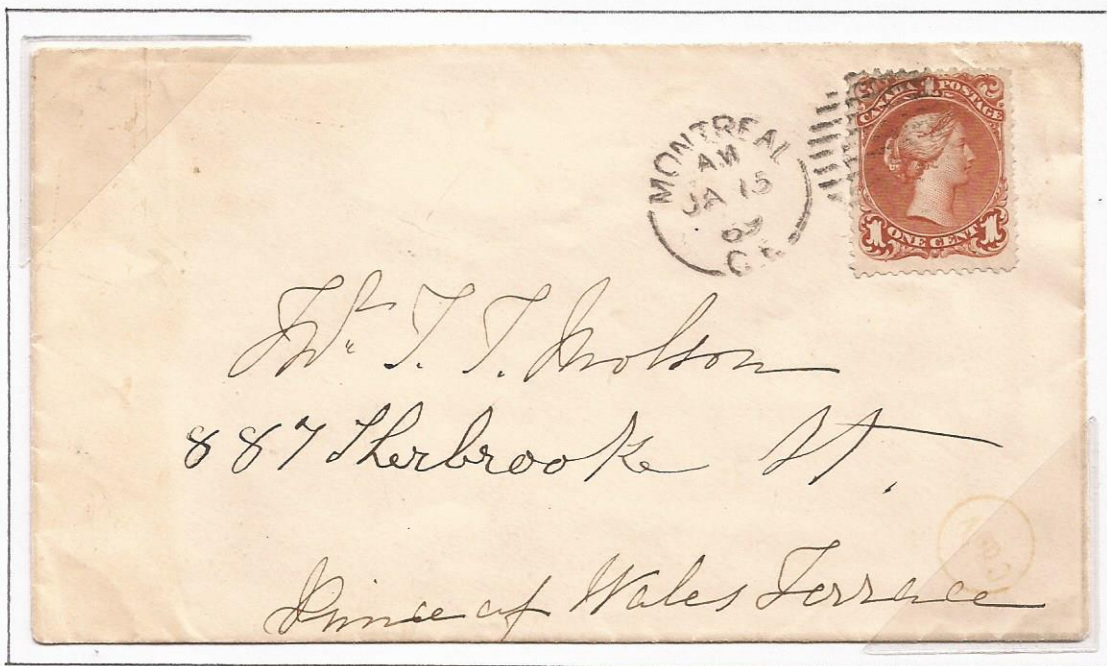
1881 (1st February) statistical return mailed from Fort Coulonge to Quebec. The return was originally mailed without postage as the form was printed 'FREE'. However, it was handstamped both 'RETURNED FOR POSTAGE' and 'RETURNED FOR DEFICIENT POSTAGE' and subsequently franked with a pair of ½ cent Large Queens to pay the 1 cent Printed Matter rate. Mailed from Fort Coulonge on 1st February it went via Bryson (also 1st February) to the Ottawa Dead Letter Office (2nd February) before being returned to Fort Coulonge (4th February) for the addition of postage then via Bryson again (4th February) and Ottawa (5th February) before finally arriving in Quebec on 6th February.

(ex. Lussey)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

1 CENT DROP LETTER RATE

The rate for letters posted for delivery at the same post office was set at 1 cent from 1st April 1868 and remained at this level throughout the life of the Large Queen stamps. Postage had to be prepaid by postage stamp on such letters.



1869 (15th January) drop letter mailed within Montreal. Postage paid by a 1 cent red brown Large queen stamp.

(ex. DeVolpi)



1869 (9th August) drop letter mailed within London, Ontario and franked with a 1 cent Large Queen in the yellow orange shade. The stamp is tied by the 2 ring '6' cancel of London.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

1 CENT DROP LETTER RATE

The practice of bisecting stamps in times of shortage had been fairly widespread in the Maritime Provinces prior to Confederation and, whilst contrary to the Dominion Post Office regulations, the practice continued on an occasional basis into the Large queens period.



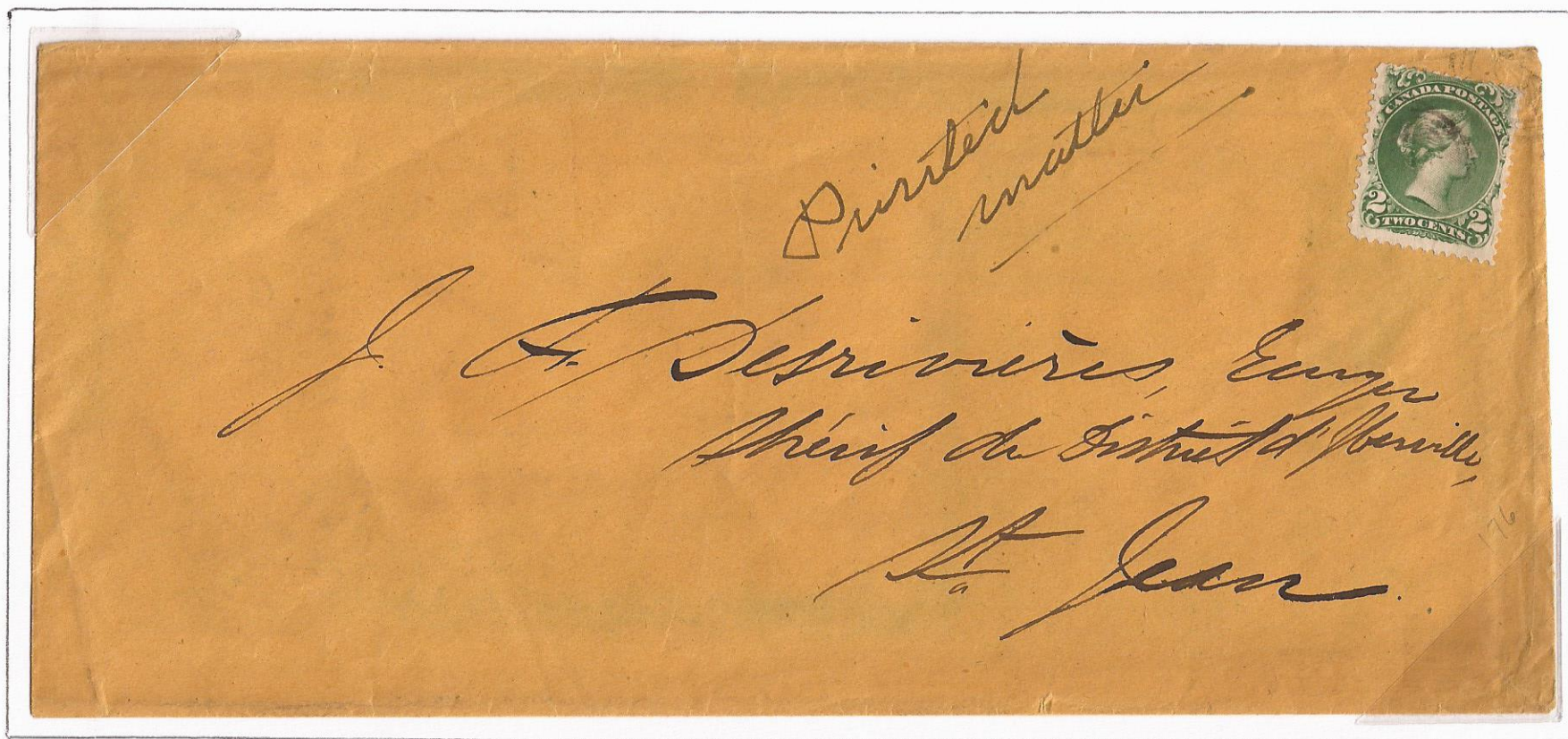
1871 (16th December) drop letter mailed within Halifax N.S. with the 1 cent rate paid by a bisected 2 cents Large Queen. Only a handful of such bisected uses have been recorded.

(ex. Brigham)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

2 CENTS DOUBLE PRINTED MATTER RATE

The official rate for printed matter sent within Canada was set at 1 cent per oz. in April 1868. The weight limit was raised to 2oz. in 1873 and 4oz. in 1875.



1869 (undated) wrapper inscribed 'Printed Matter' and weighing over 1oz. Mailed from Quebec to St. Jean Beauce. Postage was paid with a 2 cents Large Queen stamp.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

2 CENTS ADJACENT COUNTY RATE

Prior to Confederation, there had been a long standing practice in the Maritime Provinces of charging a discounted rate for mail sent to nearby towns. It is unclear if this practice was ever officially sanctioned but it clearly continued in practice after Confederation despite then being unauthorised. The specific practice shown below as one that allowed mail to an adjacent county (in this case even one in a different Province!) to pass for only 2 cents per ½ oz. vs. the normal 3 cents per ½ oz. letter rate.



1868 (2nd December) cover mailed from Sackville, New Brunswick to Shinemeca's Bridge in Nova Scotia and allowed to pass at the Adjacent County rate of 2 cents, paid with a 2 cents Large Queen.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

2 CENTS TRANSIENT NEWSPAPER RATE

Newspapers mailed within Canada, other than from the premises of the publisher were charged at 2 cents which had to be prepaid by postage stamps.

ending till after they subject.
London, and his sister came to
h them.
what precise time the idea of an
or connection
d his
did
was
n h
ith
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Brigham Young's Daughters.

William Cousens Esquire.
Local Superintendent
Ottawa.

In the lower parts of New Y
on New Year's Day, where poison
whiskey did its work, a dozen men w

Mercury.

13, 1870.



TERMS--\$1.50 in advance. Credit \$2.
JAMES INNES, Publisher and Proprietor

as through her habitual calm
womanly indignation as she
e words; but it was gone in a
I said, "And did he not love
e." She answered, "No, my
id not love me."
then, did he wish to marry
he laid her hand on mine, and
ow voice, "You will see."
n told me, that, shortly after
engagement, he came to her
ouse to visit her as an accepted
The visit was to her full of dis-
ent. His appearance was so
moody and unaccountable, and
nent of her so peculiar, that she
he conclusion that he did not
and sought an opportunity to
with him alone.
ld him that she saw from his
hat their engagement did not
pleasure; that she should never
m if he wished to dissolve it;
ature was exceptional; and if,
rer view of the situation, he
romit, she would release him,
is needless to say ever his friend.
his she said, he fainted entirely
opped a moment, and then, as if
with great effort, added, "Then
re he must love me."
did he not?" said I. "What
se could have led to this emo-
oked at me very sadly, and said,
detestation."

—, who gave me my first information.
It is also strongly impressed on my
mind that, Lady Byron, in answer to
some question of mine as to whether
there was ever any meeting between
Lord Byron and his sister after he left
England, answered, that she had insisted
upon it, or made it a condition, that Mrs.
Leigh should not go abroad to him.
When the conversation as to events
was over, as I stood musing, I said,
"Have you no evidence that he repent-
ed?" and alluded to the mystery of his
death, and the message he endeavoured
to utter.
She answered quickly and with great
decision, that, whatever might have been
his meaning at that hour, she felt sure
he had finally repented; and added with
great earnestness, "I do not believe that
any child of the Heavenly Father is ever
left to eternal sin."
She now began to speak of her grounds
for thinking it might be her duty fully
to publish this story before she left the
world.
First she said, that, through the whole
course of her life, she had felt the eternal
value of truth, and seen how dreadful a
thing was falsehood, and how fearful it
was to be an accomplice in it, even by
silence. Lord Byron had demoralized the
moral sense of England, and he had done
it in a great degree by the sympathy
excited by falsehood. This had been
pleaded in extenuation of all his crimes
and vices, and led to a lowering of the

Latest from Red River.

PRISONERS BANISHED.
ST. PAUL, MINN., Jan. 5, 1870.
A despatch from St. Paul's is as follows
—Mr. Laurie, editor of the Windsor
(Canada) Record, arrived in this city yes-
terday with two companions direct from
Fort Garry, which he left on the 11th
ult., but he brings very interesting news
from Pembina up to the 26th ult., in ad-
vance of the mail, having made arrange-
ments to have the latest intelligence sent
him from Pembina. We are indebted to
him for important information regarding
the result of the Court Martial held on
the political prisoners at Fort Garry.
The Court sentenced the whole of them
to banishment from the Territory, except
four prisoners, to wit, Dr. Schultz, Chas.
Muir, S. A. Snow and Wm. Hallet; the
latter a half-breed employed as a spy by
Mr. McDougall's party. What is to be
the fate of these four is not known
though, probably, Schultz is held as hos-
age for the good behaviour of the Sioux
and it is perhaps not deemed prudent to
set them at liberty for other reasons.
In accordance with this statement
there arrived at Pembina the day after
Christmas, under a strong guard, 4
prisoners, all of them Canadians, an
comprising nearly all the Canadian
whom curiosity or political motives had
recently attracted to that country. They
were sent across the lines and warned
not to return.

1870 (13th January) edition of the Guelph Mercury mailed from Brantford to Ottawa and franked with a 2 cents Large Queen to pay the transient newspaper rate.

(ex. DeVolpi and 'Jura')

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

3 CENTS DOMESTIC LETTER RATE

The domestic letter rate was reduced from 5 cents per ½ oz. to 3 cents per ½ oz. from 1st April 1868. This rate applied only if the letter was prepaid. Unpaid mail was charged at 5 cents per ½ oz.



1869 (1st February) advertising cover mailed from St. Catharines, Ontario to St. David's Ontario. Postage was prepaid with a 3 cents Large Queen stamp.



1869 (20th June) advertising cover mailed within New Brunswick and sent to St. John N.B. postage paid by a 3 cents Large Queen and showing a free strike of the E&NAP RPO cancel. (ex. 'Midland')

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

3 CENTS DOMESTIC LETTER RATE

The domestic letter rate was reduced from 5 cents per ½ oz. to 3 cents per ½ oz. from 1st April 1868. This rate applied only if the letter was prepaid. Unpaid mail was charged at 5 cents per ½ oz.



1868 (18th September) cover mailed from Halifax N.S. to Wallace N.S. Postage was prepaid with a strip of three 1 cent red-brown Large Queen stamps.



1870 (28th March) cover mailed from Montreal to London, Ontario. Postage paid by three copies of the 1 cent yellow-orange Large Queen.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

3 CENTS DOMESTIC LETTER RATE COMBINATION FRANKINGS



1869 (2nd March) cover from the Jesse Hoyt correspondence mailed from Cape George N.S. to Pictou N.S. Postage was prepaid with a 2 cents and a 1 cent red-brown Large Queen stamps.



1869 (4th August) cover mailed from Montreal to Cobourg, Ontario. Postage paid by a 2 cents plus 1 cent yellow-orange Large Queen stamps.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

3 CENTS DOMESTIC LETTER RATE UNDERPAID

The initial set of Large Queen stamps had the 1 cent and 3 cents value printed in very similar colours. This appears to have lead to some confusion and possibly even opportunity for defrauding the post office by using the 1 cent stamp in place of a 3 cents value. The problem was apparently sufficiently severe to cause the authorities to change the colour of the 1 cent stamp to yellow-orange in early 1869.



1868 (1st May) cover mailed from Montreal to Dorchester, Ontario just one month after the issue of the Large Queens stamps. Franked with a 1 cent stamp (whether by error or in a deliberate attempt to defraud is unclear) instead of the required 3 cents, the letter nonetheless passed through the mails without comment.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

6 CENTS DOUBLE DOMESTIC LETTER RATE

The domestic letter rate was reduced from 5 cents per ½ oz. to 3 cents per ½ oz. from 1st April 1868. This rate applied only if the letter was prepaid. Unpaid mail was charged at 5 cents per ½ oz.



1869 (8th April) double rate cover mailed from St. Joseph to Quebec. Postage paid by a 6 cents Large Queen stamp. Single usage of this stamp to pay the double domestic rate is surprisingly scarce.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

5 CENTS REGISTERED LETTER RATE

The cost of mailing a domestic registered letter up to ½ oz. was set at 5 cents in April 1868; comprising 3 cents postage and 2 cents registration fee. No single stamp existed to pay this rate until October 1875 when the 5 cents Large Queen stamp was issued, primarily to pay the reduced letter rate to the UK. Although Registered Letter Stamps were introduced in late 1875, their use did not become compulsory until October 1876.



1870 (1st June) registered letter mailed from Montreal to Port Hope, Ontario. The postage and registration was prepaid with a 5 cents Beaver stamp of the 1859 series, the only single stamp franking option available prior to 1875.



1875 (10th November) registered letter mailed from Toronto to Berlin, Ontario with postage and registration paid by a 5 cents Large Queen. This letter was sent a week before the 2 cents R.L.S. was issued.

(ex. Harrison)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

8 CENTS REGISTERED DOUBLE LETTER RATE

The 1867 Post Office act made the registration of letters containing valuables, compulsory for the first time. When postage rates were reduced on 1st April 1868, the letter rate became 3 cents per ½ oz. whilst the registration fee was set at 2 cents regardless of the weight of the letter.

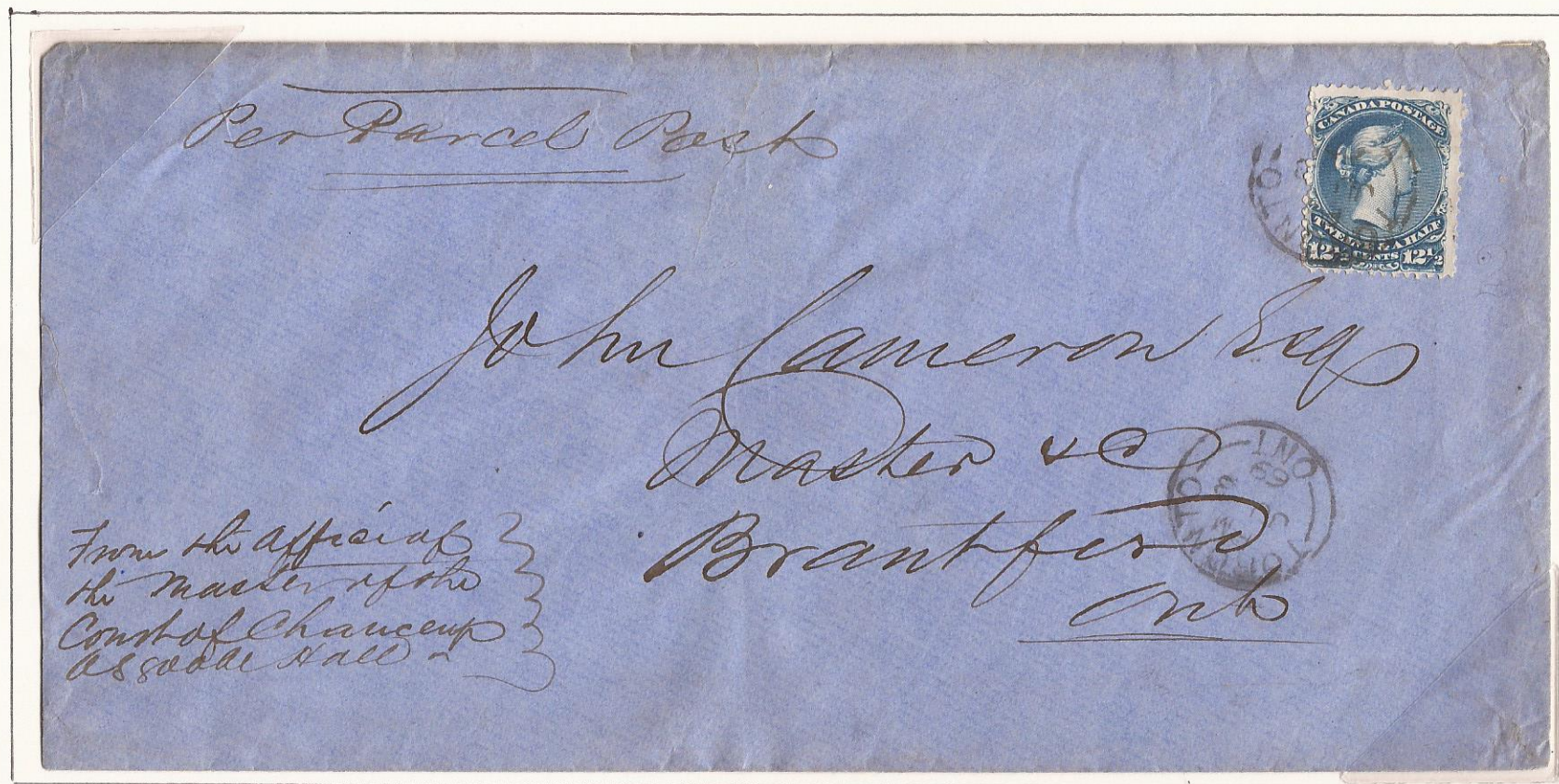


1871 (26th September) registered letter weighing over ½ oz. mailed from Pugwash N.S. to Picton N.S. The postage of 6 cents and registration fee of 2 cents were both prepaid by Large Queen stamps.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12½ CENTS DOMESTIC PARCEL POST RATE

The 1867 Post Office Act confirmed the postal rate for parcels within Canada as 12½ cents per 8 ounces (to a maximum weight of 3lbs; later increased to 5lbs). This rate applied until April 1879 and use on parcel post became the primary use of the 12½ cents stamp after the Canadian Packet rate to the UK was reduced in 1870.



1869 (3rd July) wrapper from a legal firm mailed from Toronto to Brantford. 12½ cents Large Queen used as a single franking to pay the parcel post rate for a packet weighing less than 8 oz.

(ex. Brigham)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

30 CENTS DOMESTIC REGISTERED PARCEL POST RATE

The postal rate for a parcel was 12½ cents per 8oz from 1868 to April 1879. Parcels could also be registered for an additional fee of 5 cents.



1877 (28th May) part of a wrapper from a legal firm to the Superior Court in Quebec, mailed from Arthabaskaville. The two Large Queens pay the postage for a package up to 1lb in weight and the 5 cent Small Queen pays the registration fee. From October 1875 it was possible to pay this fee with a 5 cents Registered Letter Stamp. However some confusing Post Office directives aimed at stopping people from using the 5 cents RLS to pay combined postage and registration on domestic letters resulted in a period when the 5 cents RLS was not used on any form of domestic mail.

(ex. McGuire and Brigham)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

6 CENTS RATE TO THE USA

The letter rate to the USA was reduced from 10 cents per ½ oz. to 6 cents per ½ oz. in April 1868, provided the letter was prepaid. The rate remained at this level throughout the life of the Large Queens.



1868 (21st May) letter from Markham, Ontario to Iowa showing an early example of the reduced 6 cents rate paid with a 6 cents Large Queen stamp.



1869 (22nd May) letter from Sherbrooke, Que to New York. The 6 cents postage was paid with a pair and single of the 2 cents Large Queen stamp.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

6 CENTS RATE TO THE USA UNUSUAL FRANKINGS



1868 (12th October) letter from Montreal to New York. The 6 cents postage was paid with a combination of a 5 cents Beaver stamp from the 1859 series plus a 1 cent Large Queen. The use of these earlier Cents stamps was permitted after Confederation for a 'reasonable period of time'.



1869 (12th April) mourning cover from London, Ontario to New York. The 6 cents postage has been paid with a pair of the 3 cents Large Queen stamp on laid paper.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO THE USA

The letter rate to the USA was reduced from 10 cents per ½ oz. to 6 cents per ½ oz. in April 1868, provided the letter was prepaid. The rate remained at this level throughout the life of the Large Queens.



1871 (7th September) letter weighing over ½ oz. mailed from Montreal to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The 12 cents postage was paid with a pair of 6 cents Large Queens.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12½ CENTS RATE TO NEWFOUNDLAND

The letter rate to Newfoundland was 12½ cents per ½ oz. at the start of the Large Queens period until the end of October 1872. Throughout the period 1868 – 1872, all mail from Canada to Newfoundland passed through Halifax N.S., either on direct sailings from Halifax to St. John's¹ or, during the summer of 1872, to Pictou, N.S. from which port the direct sailing to Newfoundland took place. Mails to and from Newfoundland were fortnightly, except in the winter months of January to March when the service was once every four weeks.



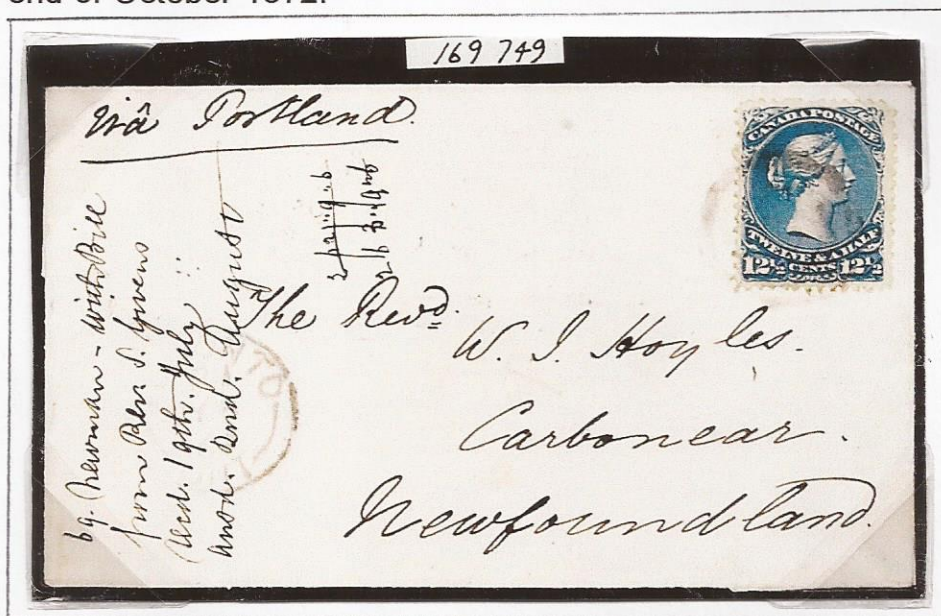
1868 (6th April) cover from Douglastown N.B. to St. John's. Rated 12½ cents with postage paid by a 12½ cents Large Queen stamp. The letter was routed via Chatham N.B. (6th April backstamp) and thence to Halifax where the prepayment of the ocean postage was reinforced by the '4' handstamp in red. The letter was carried on the Inman vessel *City of Halifax* which departed Halifax 25th April arriving in St. John's on 27th April.

1. The service was provided by Cunard in the first half of 1868. Inman took over the contract in June 1868 and provided the service until early 1872 when the Quebec and Gulf Port Steamship Co. took over the service until October 1872.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12½ CENTS RATE TO NEWFOUNDLAND

The letter rate to Newfoundland was 12½ cents per ½ oz. at the start of the Large Queens period until the end of October 1872.



1869 (10th July) cover from Toronto to Carbonear, Newfoundland. Postage paid by a 12½ cents Large Queen. Despite inscription reading 'via Portland', the letter would have been routed via Montreal to Halifax N.S. from where it was carried on the Inman vessel *City of Halifax* arriving in St. John's on 19th July.

(ex. Dale – Lichtenstein and Arfken)



1870 (15th November) cover from Pugwash N.S. to Harbour Grace. 12½ cents postage is paid by a pair of 6 cents plus ½ cent Large Queens. Routed via Halifax (18th November backstamp) from where it was carried on the Inman vessel *City of Halifax* which sailed the same day and arrived in St. John's on 21st November with the letter reaching Harbour Grace on 22nd November.

(ex. Duckworth)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

6 CENTS RATE TO NEWFOUNDLAND

Whilst the letter rate to the UK had been reduced from 12½ cents to 6 cents in 1870, the rate to Newfoundland remained at 12½ cents. This anomaly prevailed for almost three years despite the fact that the Canadian packets carrying mail to the UK passed within a few miles of Newfoundland. Resolution of the anomaly only came in late 1872 when the Allan Line agreed to a deal that allowed their Halifax to Queenstown packets to make monthly stops at St. John's, Newfoundland. The letter rate to Newfoundland was reduced to 6 cents per ½ oz. from 1st November 1872 and remained at this level until 1st October 1875. Even though the rate was reduced, few examples of letters to Newfoundland in this period have been recorded.



1872 (2nd December) cover from Canning N.S. to Harbour Grace sent at the 6 cents rate, paid with a 6 cents Large Queen stamp. This rate was normally paid with a Small Queen stamp which had come into service some months earlier. The letter was routed via Port Williams Station (2nd December backstamp) and Halifax (3rd December backstamp). It was carried on the Allan Line vessel *Austrian* which left Halifax on 3rd December and arrived in St. John's on 5th December. The letter reached Harbour Grace on 6th December.

(ex. Duckworth)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12 CENTS RATE TO BERMUDA

The Canadian Postal Guide lists the letter rate to Bermuda as 12 cents per ½ oz. from 1868 to June 1872.



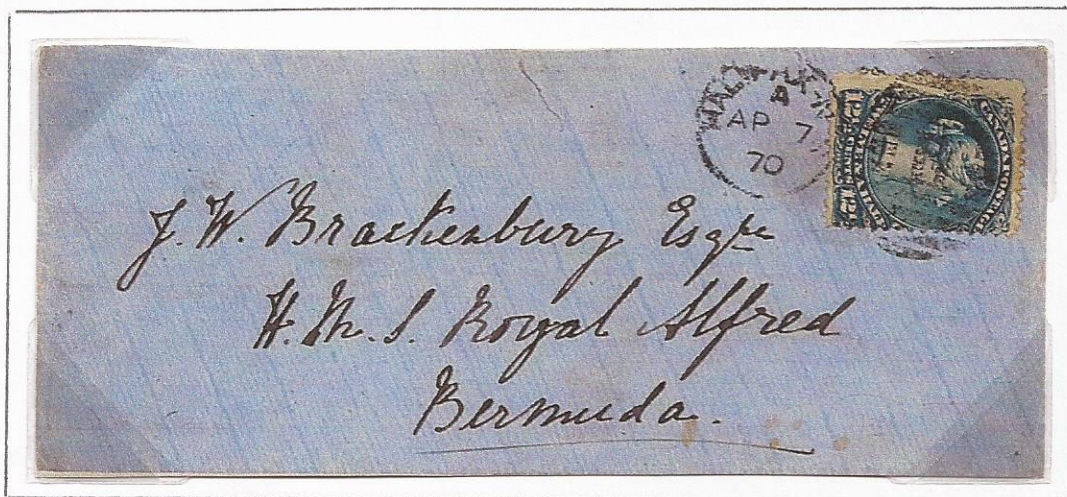
1869 (10th March) cover sent from E. Hale, a member of the Quebec Legislature to his daughter in Hamilton, Bermuda. Prepaid 6 cents for the standard letter rate, it got as far as Halifax N.S. (faint backstamp) before being found overweight and marked in blue crayon (mostly erased later) as 'Insufficiently Prepaid'. It was sent back to Quebec for the sender to add the 6 cents shortage plus a 12 cents fine (=6d sterling) by way of a further strip of three 6 cents Large Queens. The letter was reposted on 8th April 1869 and carried from Halifax by the *Alpha* arriving at St. George on 28th April. The manuscript '8' in red (=4d) was the credit to the British P.O. The strip of three 6 cents stamps have been lifted to show the first Quebec datestamp of MR 10 69 and replaced with hinges.

(ex. Ludington)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12 OR 12½ CENTS RATE TO BERMUDA

The Canadian Postal Guide lists the letter rate to Bermuda as 12 cents per ½ oz. from 1868 to June 1872. However, the mail timetables listed in the *Halifax Citizen* newspaper show the rate as 12½ cents per ½ oz. and all letters to Bermuda sent from the Maritime Provinces during this period appear to have been rated at 12½ cents. Mail was carried to Bermuda by British Packet ships which ran from Halifax to St. Thomas in the Danish West Indies, once a month, calling at Bermuda en route.



1870 (7th April) cover from Halifax N.S. to a person on board H.M.S. *Royal Alfred* in Bermuda. Rated at 12½ cents and paid with a Large Queen stamp of that denomination. The letter was carried on the Royal Mail Ship *Alpha* which left Halifax on 22nd April.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

2 CENTS PRINTED MATTER RATE TO THE WEST INDIES

At the start of the Large Queen period the rate for mailing printed matter to the British West Indies was 2 cents per 4oz. In July 1870, this rate was raised to 8 cents per 4oz if the material was sent via New York but the rate if sent direct from Halifax appears to have remained at 2 cents.



1871 (March) rare surviving example of printed matter mailed to Trinidad from New Brunswick. It is a printed notice carrying details of ships transporting timber during the period 11th to 17th March 1871. Directed 'via Bermuda' it was probably carried on the *Alpha* out of Halifax on 25th March and from Bermuda possibly taken on the ship *Annie* to Trinidad.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

10 CENTS RATE TO THE WEST INDIES

Letters to parts of Central America and some of the West Indies islands could be sent via New York for 10 cents per ½ oz. up to July 1870 after which the rate was increased to 13 cents per ½ oz. The principal mail route from New York to the West Indies was the weekly contract packet of the Atlantic Mail Steamship Company which left New York each Thursday. Besides these regularly scheduled sailings, the New York postmaster made use of steamers plying to Havana en route to New Orleans when these were available.



1869 (20th January) cover from Maitland Co. Hants in Nova Scotia to Havana, Cuba via New York showing an example of the 10 cents rate, paid by 2 x 2 cents and 6 cents Large Queens. The letter was routed via Halifax N.S. (25th January backstamp) and thence to New York by the regular weekly sailing to Portland of the *Carlotta* on 26th January. From New York the letter went to Havana aboard the sidewheel steamer *Santiago de Cuba* which sailed on 30th January arriving in Havana on 4th February (backstamp). This was a Saturday sailing of one of the steamers bound for New Orleans. The 'NAI' oval handstamp is a Cuban marking applied to incoming mail from North America.

(ex. Duckworth)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

24 OR 25 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO THE WEST INDIES

The Canadian Postal Guide lists the letter rate to the West Indies as 12 cents per ½ oz. from 1868 to June 1872. However, the mail timetables listed in the *Halifax Citizen* newspaper show the rate as 12½ cents per ½ oz. and all letters to the area sent from the Maritime Provinces during this period appear to have been rated at 12½ cents. Mail was carried to the Caribbean by British Packet ships which ran from Halifax to St. Thomas in the Danish West Indies, once a month.



1869 (27th January) cover from Halifax N.S. to Puerto Rico. Franked at 25 cents for a letter weighing over ½ oz. Carried on the British vessel *Alpha* which left Halifax on 3rd February (some five days after the nominal date of sailing) and arrived in St. Thomas on 12th February (backstamp) with the letter reaching Puerto Rico on 18th February (backstamp). The '40' handstamp is a Puerto Rico mark for local postage to be collected from the addressee. The partially covered inscription 'Paid until New York' suggests that the sender (from the Spanish Vice-Consulate in Halifax) changed the intended route at the Post Office on learning that the *Alpha* would soon depart for Bermuda and St. Thomas.

(ex. Duckworth)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

24 CENTS QUADRUPLE RATE TO THE BAHAMAS

Mail from Canada to the Bahamas was normally routed via New York. A service was available via Halifax N.S. but was more expensive, less frequent (only monthly) and slower (as it was routed via St. Thomas in the Danish West Indies and then a local packet ship to the Bahamas). The pre-UPU 6 cents per ½ oz. rate shown here applied from October 1875 to April 1878. The cover below is **the only recorded** Large Queen cover to the Bahamas.



1875 (2nd December) cover from St. Catharines, Ontario to Nassau, Bahamas. Weighing over 1½ oz. it was charged at 24 cents (4 x 6 cents rate) with postage paid by a 15 cents Large Queen and 3 x 3 cents Small Queens. Sent via Hamilton, Ontario (2nd December) and New York (15th December). The red manuscript '12' is a US claim for postage from New York to Nassau. The manuscript '1/4' in blue is a delivery charge in the Bahamas.

(ex Ayre and Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12 CENTS RATE TO BRITISH GUIANA

The Canadian Postal Guide lists British Guiana as a destination for the first time in 1874. The letter rate from Canada was set at 12 cents per ½ oz. from that time until March 1879. Mail for British Guiana was carried from Halifax N.S. on the monthly British Packets which went via St. Thomas in the Danish West Indies. Only two Large Queen covers to British Guiana have been recorded.



1876 (4th September) cover from Halifax N.S. to Demerary (Demerara, later known as Georgetown) in British Guiana. The 12 cents rate was paid with a pair of the 5 cents Large Queen stamp and a 2 cents Small Queen. Sent via British Packet and St. Thomas, the letter arrived in Georgetown on 23rd September (backstamp). The manuscript 'l' on the front may be a collect ship letter charge or an inland postal charge in British Guiana.

(ex W.E. Lea and Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

28 CENTS RATE TO THE ARGENTINE

Mail from Canada to the Argentine would normally have been sent via the UK. The cost for this route was 28 cents per half ounce from January 1870 onward (it had been 35 cents prior to this date). A cheaper route was available via New York and onward via US packet, at a cost of 21 cents, but packet ships carrying mail were far more frequent from the UK making the more expensive route desirable. The example below appears to have been prepaid for the UK route but actually carried via the New York route, probably making use of an earlier sailing (see New York transit stamp) and was thus 7 cents overpaid.



1873 (18th October) letter from Charlottetown P.E.I. to Buenos Aires routed via New York. Postage paid by ½ cent + 12½ cents + 15 cents Large Queens for the 28 cents rate via the UK. Manuscript '18' in red for the U.S. claim of 18 cents. The Canadian rate was the US 18 cents plus the 3 cents Canadian domestic rate for the 21 cents total rate via New York. Presumably the US reimbursed the British for their service in carrying the letter from Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Aires. No backstamps. One of only two known covers to Argentina with Large Queen frankings.

(ex. Carstairs and Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

15 CENTS RATE TO SOUTH AFRICA

The 15 cents rate to the Cape of Good Hope and Natal applied from August 1878 to January 1890. The cover below is the only recorded example of a Large Queen stamp on a letter to South Africa. Whilst Canada had joined the UPU in 1878, the Cape of Good Hope did not join until January 1895.



1879 (7th November) letter from Lennoxville, Quebec to Cape Town. Postage paid by 15 cents Large Queen perf 12. The letter was probably routed by train to Boston where it was placed on the Cunard Line vessel *Parthia* to Liverpool from where it passed by train to Southampton. From Southampton, the letter travelled on the Union Line vessel *Nubian* departing 20th November and arriving in Cape Town on 17th December. Cape Town receiver of 17th December 1879. 5d handstamp, probably applied at Liverpool, is the British P.O. claim for inland postage (1d) plus sea post from England to the Cape (4d).

(ex 'Jura')

Mail for the Cape of Good Hope and Natal was routed via England. From April 1868 all such mail was carried on packet ships which left Devonport on the 10th of the month or Southampton on the 20th (unless these dates fell on a Sunday in which case the ships departed the following day). The ships called at Ascension and St Helena on the way to the Cape.

RATES TO SOUTH AFRICA

PER 1/2 OZ.

EFFECT. FROM	RATE
01-01-67	35 CENTS
09-02-70	28 CENTS
OCT-76	16 CENTS
AUG-78	15 CENTS
JAN-90	12 CENTS
JAN-92	5 CENTS

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

2 CENTS PRINTED MATTER RATE TO THE UK

The rate for mailing Prices Current to the UK was 2 cents per oz. at the start of 1868. This rate applied whether the item was sent by direct Canadian steamer or via New York. However, the rate on the New York route was raised to 4 cents per oz. on 1st January 1870. The majority of surviving examples of this rate come from a single correspondence to the same addressee in Poole, Dorset.



1871 (December) Prices Current circular for Friday 29th December mailed from Montreal to Poole in Dorset. Paid at the 2 cents rate with a 2 cents Large Queen. Carried on the Allan Line vessel *Nova Scotian* which departed Portland on 30th December arriving in Londonderry on 11th January 1872. Poole arrival mark on reverse of 13th January 1872.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

15 CENTS RATE TO THE UK

The 15 cents rate to the UK applied to letters up to ½ oz. routed via New York between 16th January 1868 and 31st December 1869. The rate was reduced to 8 cents per ½ oz. on 1st January 1870. Four shipping lines carried mail from New York to the UK in the 1868 – 1869 period. The most regularly used of these was the British Cunard Line which sailed to Liverpool.¹ However, letters could also be carried at this rate by the North German Lloyd (Bremen) line which called at Southampton en route to Bremen ², the Hamburg – American line which called at Southampton en route for Hamburg ³, and the Inman Line which sailed to Liverpool ⁴. Only the first two of these four services provided important supplements to the regular direct sailings from Canada for Canadian mail.



Very early example of the 15 cents rate on a 1868 (13th April) letter from Halifax N.S. to Rugby forwarded to London, England. This rate had been reduced some three months prior to Confederation and whilst the 15 cents Large Queen stamp had been issued to some post offices a few days prior to this letter being sent, it is doubtful if supplies had reached the Maritime Provinces and the postage here was paid by a 5 cents Beaver and 10 cents Consort from the 1859 series. On arrival in England, the letter was forwarded and the forwarding charge of 1d has been paid with a 1d rose-red from plate 74.

(ex DeVolpi and Jarrett)

- 1 The Cunard Line sailed every Wednesday from New York calling at Queenstown, near Cork, where most of the mail was discharged and then on to Liverpool. Mail went onward from Queenstown by train to Dublin, packet to Holyhead and train to London.
- 2 The NGL (Bremen) Line sailed every Thursday from New York calling at Southampton, Cherbourg and Bremen. UK mail was taken off at Southampton and went on to London by rail.
- 3 The Hamburg-American Line sailed every Tuesday from New York to Plymouth, Southampton and Hamburg. Any UK mail was taken off at either Plymouth or Southampton to travel on to London by rail.
- 4 The Inman Line sailed from New York every Saturday for Queenstown and Liverpool.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

15 CENTS RATE TO THE UK BY THE CUNARD LINE

The majority of surviving examples of this 15 cents rate are covers carried on the British Cunard line.



1868 (16th November) letter from London, Ont. To Ellington in England routed via New York and carried on the Cunard Line vessel Java via Queenstown.



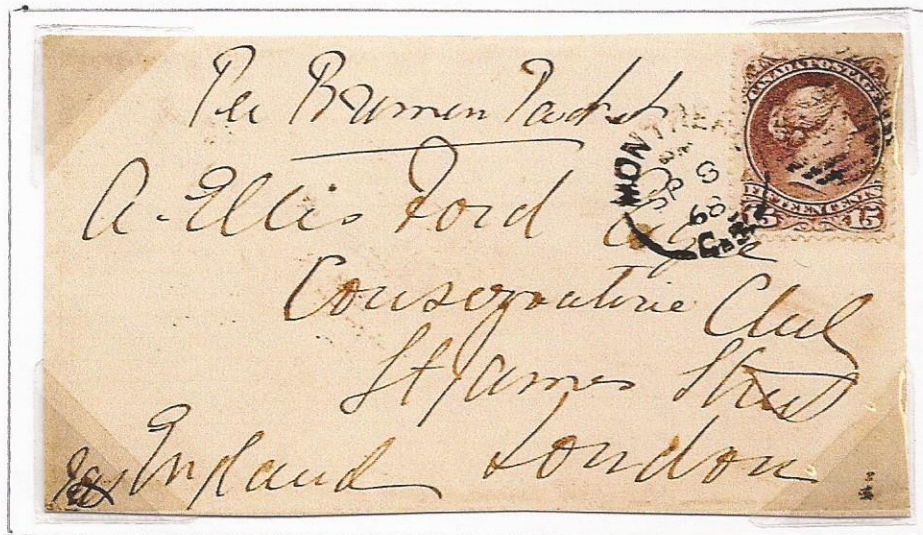
1869 (1st February) letter from Montreal to Ryde on the Isle of Wight showing a combination franking of the 12½ cents and 3 cents Large Queens. The stamps overpay the rate by ½ cent. This combination franking is not so unusual and probably results from the sender originally intending the letter to go by the Canadian service but then realising it would miss the weekly sailing. Routed via New York and carried on the Cunard ship *Australasian*.

(ex. Firth and Jura)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

15 CENTS RATE TO THE UK BY THE BREMEN LINE

The majority of surviving examples of this 15 cents rate are covers carried on the British Cunard line. Much rarer are those carried on the weekly North German Lloyd (Bremen) line sailings. Two such covers are shown below.



1868 (8th September) letter from Montreal to London, England routed via New York and endorsed 'per Bremen Packet'. It was carried on the NGL Line vessel *Hansa* arriving in Southampton on 21st September then onward by rail to London arriving the same day.

(ex. Menich)

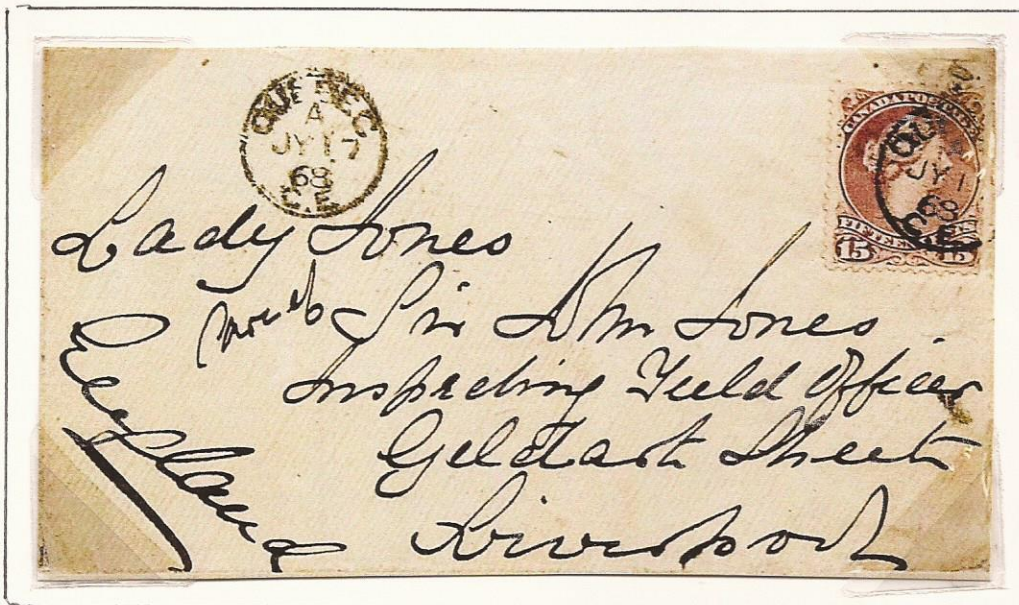


1869 (5th July) letter from Barrie, Ont. to Ireland. Routed via New York and intended for the Cunard ship *Russia* sailing on 7th July with a stop at Queenstown. However, it arrived in New York too late for this ship and was placed on the NGL Line vessel *Deutschland* which sailed on 8th July and arrived in Southampton on 19th July. Carried by rail to London (red LONDON PAID h/s on front) and then back to Ireland (Kells arrival mark of 20th July on reverse). The 15 cent Large Queen is tied by a 4 ring 32 cancel of Barrie struck either in blue or green.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

15 CENTS RATE TO THE UK NEXT PACKET PRINCIPLE

The next packet principle provided that the P.O. could redirect a letter for the sake of expediency and bypass any short payment penalties. Only any difference in rate was due. On rare occasions a letter paid for the more expensive route via New York would be redirected to the cheaper Canadian services. In such cases, the Post Office awarded the additional postage paid 'to its own coffers'.



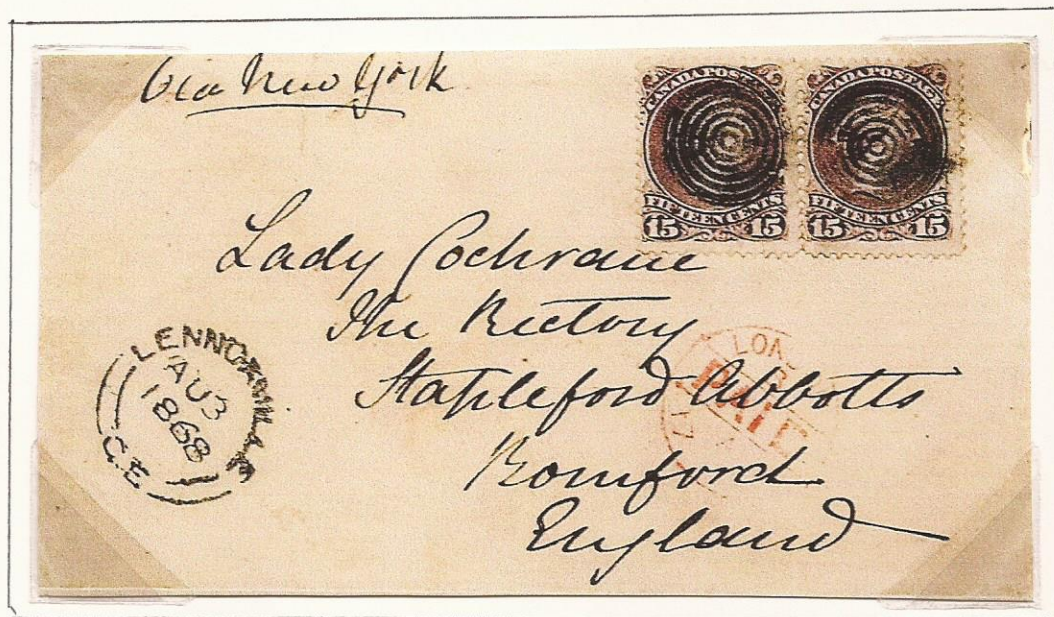
1868 (17th July), rare example of a letter prepaid for the New York route being sent via the Canadian Allan Line service. This letter was mailed from Quebec on 17th July 1868 to Liverpool. The Allan Line vessel *Nova Scotian* had been scheduled to leave Quebec the previous day but had been delayed thus affording the postmaster the opportunity of placing the cover on board. The letter arrived in Liverpool on 29th July (arrival backstamp).

(ex. Menich)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

30 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO THE UK BY THE BREMEN LINE

The majority of surviving examples of this 15 cents rate are covers carried on the British Cunard line. Much rarer are those carried on the North German Lloyd (Bremen) line. The cover below is a **unique** multiple rate cover carried by this seldom used (by Canada) packet line.



1868 (3rd August) double weight letter from Lennoxville, Que. to Romford, England routed via Montreal (4th August backstamp) to New York It was carried on the NGL Line vessel *Weser* which departed New York on 6th August, arriving in Southampton on 16th August then onward by rail to London arriving the same day.

(ex. Menich)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

23 CENTS REGISTERED RATE TO THE UK BY THE CUNARD LINE

The registration fee on letters to the UK from 1868 to 1877 was 8 cents. This had to be prepaid but was often paid in cash.



1869 (15th March) registered letter from Toronto to London, England franked with 2 x 1 cent, 6 cents and 15 cents Large Queens paying the 23 cents rate (15 cents postage plus 8 cents registration). The letter left New York on 17th March on the Cunard vessel *Russia* and arrived in Queenstown early on 26th March reaching central London the following day (registered receiving mark of the West Central London Office dated 27th March on front).

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12½ CENTS RATE TO THE UK

The 12½ cents rate to the UK applied to letters up to ½ oz. carried by direct Canadian shipping services between 1868 and 31st December 1869. The rate had applied since 1859. Two shipping lines carried mail at this rate during this period. The main one was the Allan Line¹ which sailed to Liverpool from Montreal and Quebec in the summer and Portland, Maine in the winter. There was also a fortnightly service by the Inman Line ² from Halifax N.S. to Queenstown.



1869 (10th December) letter from Montreal to London, England showing a late example of the 12½ cents rate. The letter went by rail from Montreal to Portland, Maine and then via the Allan Line vessel *North American* which left Portland on 11th December arriving at Londonderry on the 23rd December. The letter arrived in London on Christmas Day. Postage paid by a 12½ cents Large Queen in the dull blue shade.

- ¹ The Allan Line ran a weekly service in the summer months from Montreal to Liverpool although the mails were put on at Quebec and most were taken off at Moville near Londonderry. Vessels sailed weekly from Quebec on a Saturday. In the winter months (from 1 December to 30 April) the ships sailed from Portland, Maine also on a Saturday. Mail went onward from Moville to Dublin by train and thence by packet ship to Holyhead and train to London.
- ² The Inman line provided a fortnightly service from Halifax N.S. (departing on a Friday) to Queenstown en route to Liverpool. Most mail was taken off at Queenstown and sent by rail from Cork to Dublin, thence by packet ship to Holyhead and onward by rail to London.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12½ CENTS RATE TO THE UK BY THE INMAN LINE

At the end of 1867, the Cunard packet ships stopped calling at Halifax and the Canadian Post Office entered into a contact with the Inman Line to carry mails from Halifax N.S. to Queenstown and Liverpool between 1868 and mid 1871. The rate for sending a ½ oz letter via this route was 12½ cents. The service ran once a fortnight leaving Halifax on Saturday.

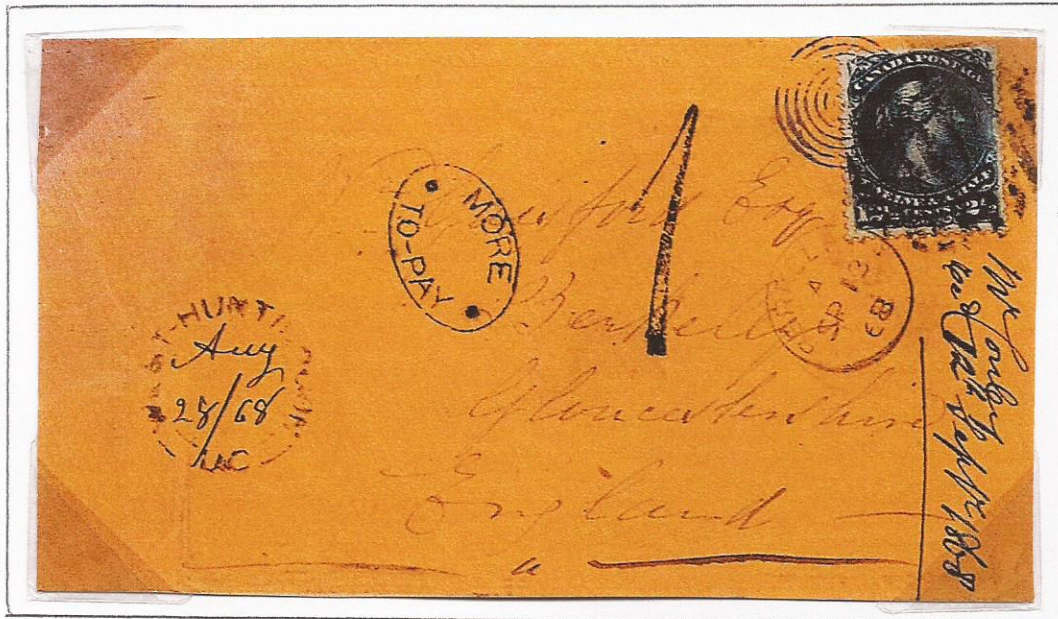


1868 (3rd July) letter from North Sydney, Cape Breton to Bristol redirected to Cheshire on arrival in the UK. The letter was carried on the Inman steamer *Edna* which left Halifax on 17th July and arrived in Liverpool on 27th July. Routed via Halifax (6th July), Liverpool (BR PKT 27th July), Clifton Bristol (28th July), London (29th July), Manchester (29th July) and Altringham (29th July). Postage paid with a 12½ cent Large Queen on thin paper. Manuscript '1' on the front is a collect charge for the redirection in the UK (1d).

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12½ CENTS RATE TO THE UK NEXT PACKET PRINCIPLE

The next packet principle provided that the P.O. could redirect a letter for the sake of expediency and bypass any short payment penalties. Only any difference in rate was due.



1868 (28th August) letter from West Huntingdon Ont. to Berkley, England. At Kingston it arrived too late for the Allan Line packet so was put in the mail to New York where it was placed on the Cunard vessel *Cuba* which departed 2nd September arriving in Queenstown on 11th September. The 'MORE TO PAY' and '1' handstamps were applied at Kingston. The letter arrived in Berkley on 13th September (backstamp).



1869 (13th March) letter from Peterboro Ont. to Brighton, Sussex. Originally prepaid for the Canadian steamer it was dispatched on the first available service, the Cunard vessel *Russia* which left New York on 17th March and arrived in Queenstown on 26th March. Handstamped 'MORE TO PAY 1' which was payable by the addressee. Reverse has Brighton arrival datestamp of 27th March.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12½ CENTS RATE TO THE UK FORWARDED MAIL

Any mail arriving in the UK which required forwarding was subject to an additional charge of 1d.



1869 (January) letter from Canada to London, England forwarded to Leamington Spa. The letter was carried on the Allan Line vessel *North American* which sailed from Portland on 17th January arriving in Liverpool on 28th January. On arrival in London, it was necessary to redirect the letter to Leamington Spa with the additional 1d charge being paid by a GB 1d red stamp. The letter arrived in Leamington on 30th January.



1869 (9th June) letter from London Ont. to London, England redirected to Malvern. Carried on the Allan Line vessel *Peruvian* which left Quebec on 12th June and arrived in Liverpool on 22nd June. The letter would have been taken off at Londonderry and arrived in London the same day the ship made dock in Liverpool. It was forwarded from London two days later and arrived in Malvern on 25th June. A GB 1d red stamp was added to pay the forwarding charge.

(ex Libra)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12½ CENTS RATE TO THE UK UNUSUAL FRANKINGS

Whilst a 12½ cents stamp was available to pay the Canadian packet rate to the UK, people sometimes used other combinations.



1868 (9th May) letter from Oshawa to Blairgowrie in Scotland. The letter just missed the Allan Line *Hibernian* sailing on the 9th and was routed via New York (hence 'MORE TO PAY 1' handstamp). It probably sailed on the Cunard vessel *China* which left New York on 13th May and arrived in Queenstown on the 25th May. The rate was paid with a pair of 5 cent Beavers from the 1859 series and a 1 cent Large Queen. Another stamp, probably a 2 cent Large Queen has either fallen off in transit or been removed.

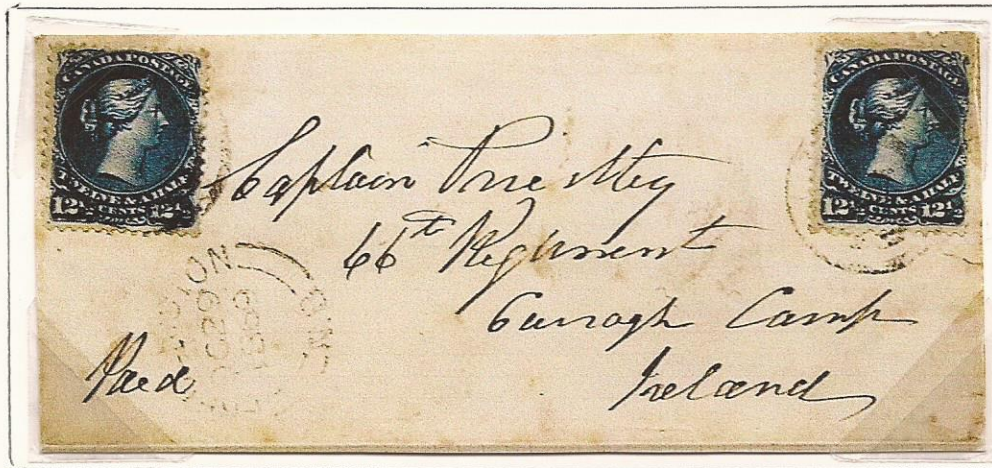


1868 (10th July) letter from Quebec to Dorking in Surrey. Carried on the Allan Line vessel *Nestorian* which left Quebec on 11th July and offloaded mails at Londonderry on 20th July. The letter arrived in Dorking (backstamp) on July 22nd. Postage paid with a pair of 6 cents and a ½ cent Large Queens.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

25 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO THE UK

Letters weighing over ½ oz. and mailed between April 1868 and the end of 1869 were charged at 25 cents on the Canadian packets to the UK.



1869 (29th October) double rate letter from Fredericton N.B. to Ireland. Carried by the Inman Line steamer Baltimore which departed Halifax on 5th November and arrived in Queenstown on 13th November. Receiving cancel from Curragh Camp dated 13th November on the reverse. Postage was paid by two copies of the 12½ cents Large Queen.



1869 (3rd December) double rate letter from Quebec to London, England. The 25 cents rate was paid by a pair of the 12½ cents Large Queens. Carried on the Allan Line steamer Nestorian which left Portland on 4th December and arrived in Londonderry on 13th December. London arrival mark of 15th December.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

8 CENTS RATE TO THE UK

The 8 cents rate to the UK applied to letters up to ½ oz. routed via New York between 1st January 1870 and 30th September 1875. The rate was reduced to 5 cents per ½ oz. on 1st October 1875. When the postal rate was reduced, the four shipping companies who carried mail were informed that their remuneration would drop from 8 cents per letter to 2 cents. Initially, all of them refused to carry mails at the lower rate. However, a fifth shipping line, the Guion Line who ran ships between New York and England but who had not previously carried mails agreed to the new terms ¹ and over the first few months of 1870, the four original lines were all obliged to fall into line ².



1871 (6th November) cover from Ottawa to London, England which was routed via New York, leaving on the Guion Line steamer *Nevada* on 8th November and arriving in Queenstown on 21st November and London on 22nd November. Postage at the 8 cents rate was paid with 2 cents and 6 cents Large Queens. Guion carried mail for London did not received a PAID/LIVERPOOL/US PACKET handstamp.

(ex. Duckworth)

1. The Liverpool and Great Western or 'Guion' Line sailed every Wednesday from New York calling at Queenstown, near Cork, where most of the mail was discharged and then on to Liverpool. Mail went onward from Queenstown by train to Dublin, packet to Holyhead and train to London.
2. The NGL (Bremen) Line sailed every Saturday from New York calling at Southampton, Cherbourg and Bremen. UK mail was taken off at Southampton and went on to London by rail. Until the end of 1871, the Hamburg-American Line sailed every Tuesday from New York to Plymouth, Southampton and Hamburg. Any UK mail was taken off at either Plymouth or Southampton to travel on to London by rail. By late May 1870, the Inman Line agreed to carry the Irish mails from New York every Saturday for Queenstown and by mid June even the stubborn Cunard Line agreed to carry the Thursday mail from New York to Queenstown and Liverpool.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

8 CENTS RATE TO THE UK



1871 (12th June) letter to U.S. Navy Personnel forwarded by B.F. Stevens, London, the United States Despatch Agent. Sent from Montreal to a Naval Lieutenant on the *US S.S. Plymouth*. It was carried on the Guion vessel *Idaho* which left New York on 14th June arriving in Queenstown on 26th June and London 27th June. The oval cachet of B.F. Stevens was in use from September 1869 to July 1879.



1875 (28th September) cover from Montreal to Liverpool showing a very late example of the 8 cents rate (the rate was reduced to 5 cents per ½ oz. just three days after this letter was posted). Carried on the Inman Line vessel *City of Berlin* which left New York on 2nd October arriving in Liverpool on 11th October. Postage was paid with a 5 cents Large Queen and a 3 cents Small Queen. This is the **earliest recorded use** of the 5 cents Large Queen stamp.

(ex. Montgomery)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

8 CENTS RATE TO THE UK NEXT PACKET PRINCIPLE

The letter rate to the UK via New York was reduced from 15 cents to 8 cents on 1st January 1870. The Post Office continued to employ the 'Next Packet Principle' which provided that the P.O. could redirect a letter for the sake of expediency and pocket the difference in postal rates.



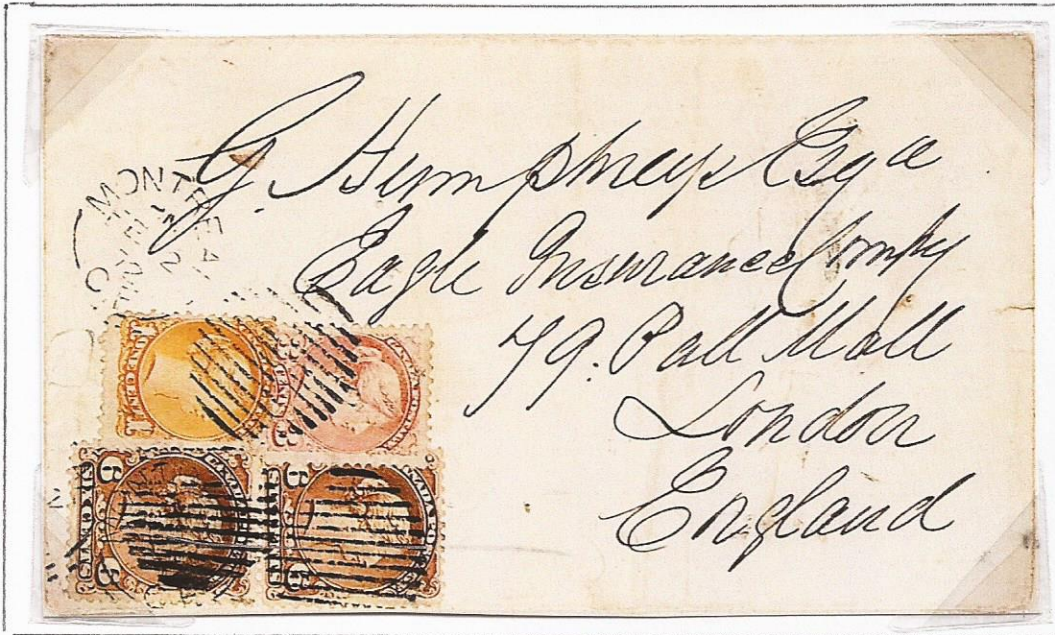
1870 (28th February) cover from Toronto to Annan in Scotland. Endorsed 'By Bremen Line' it was intended for a Bremen sailing from New York on Thursday 3rd March. Unknown to the sender, there were no Thursday sailings from New York at the time. It was therefore sent by the Allan Line packet *Peruvian* out of Portland on 6th March, arriving in Londonderry on 16th March and Glasgow on the 18th. Already overpaid 1 cent for the New York route, it was 3 cents overpaid for the service. Note that the GLASGOW PACKET PAID handstamp was only applied to mail carried on the Canadian steamers.

(ex. Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

16 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO THE UK

Letters weighing over ½ oz. were charged at 16 cents if routed via New York between 1st January 1870 and 30th September 1875.



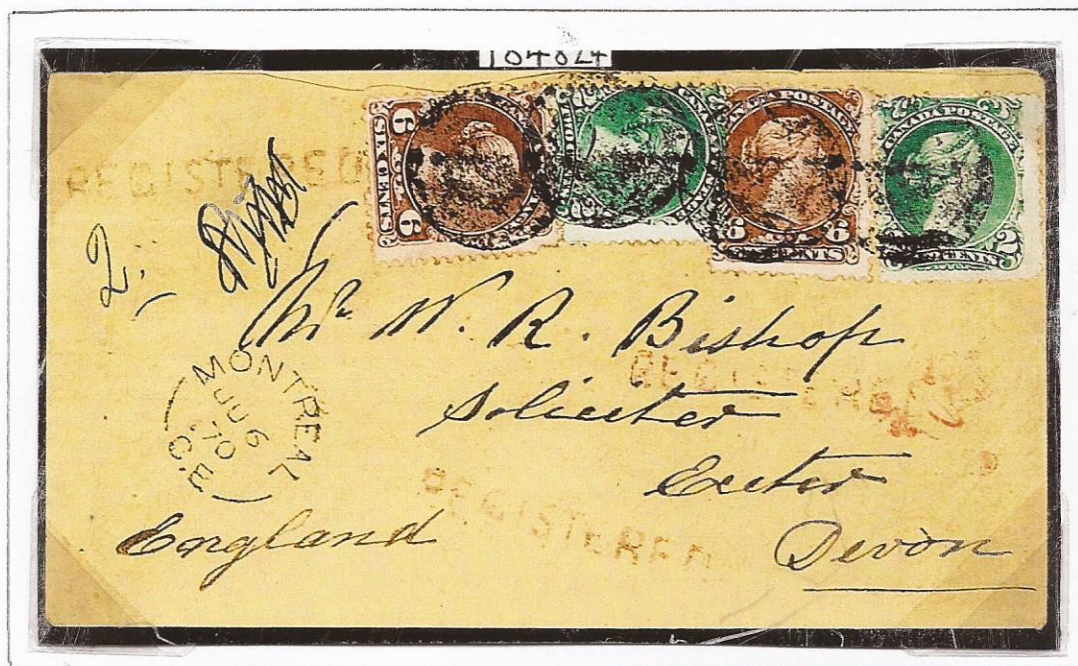
1872 (12th February) letter from Montreal to London, England charged at 16 cents with postage paid by two 6 cents Large Queens plus 1 cent and 3 cents Small Queens. Routed via New York, it was carried on the Guion steamer *Minnesota* which left New York on 14th February and arrived in Queenstown on 24th February with mails arriving in London on 26th February (backstamp). The first available Canadian Packet sailing was not until the 17th February from Portland.

(ex. Duckworth)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

16 CENTS REGISTERED RATE TO THE UK

Registered letters were charged at 16 cents (8 cents per ½ oz. postage plus 8 cents registration fee) if routed via New York between 1st January 1870 and 30th September 1875. It was quite common for the registration fee to be paid in cash so fully stamped examples of this rate are scarce.



1870 (6th June) registered letter from Montreal to Exeter charged at 16 cents with postage and registration paid by two 6 cents and two 2 cents Large Queens. Routed via New York, it was probably carried on the Hamburg – American Line vessel *Silesia* which left New York on 7th June arriving in Plymouth on 17th June and London the following day.

(ex. Harrison)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

16 CENTS REGISTERED RATE TO THE UK NEXT PACKET PRINCIPLE

Registered letters were charged at 16 cents (8 cents per ½ oz. postage plus 8 cents registration fee) if routed via New York between 1st January 1870 and 30th September 1875.



1871 (19th July) registered letter from Toronto to Ovaun in Ireland. Paid for the New York service with 6 cents and 2 cents Large Queen stamps paying the postage and registration fee paid in cash, the Toronto postmaster realised that the letter was too late to make the Guion sailing of the *Minnesota* which left New York that day. With the next New York sailing being a NGL ship on the 20th bound only for Southampton, he elected to send the letter via Quebec on the Allan Line *Scandinavian* which departed on 22nd July arriving in Londonderry on 31st July and Dublin on 1st August (backstamps). This was a day earlier than the Inman line *Brooklyn* which left New York on 22nd July reached Queenstown. Next Packet principle and another 2 cents for the Canadian P.O.!

(ex. Harrison)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

6 CENTS RATE TO THE UK

The 6 cents rate to the UK applied to letters up to ½ oz. carried by direct Canadian shipping services between 1st January 1870 and 30th September 1875. Two shipping lines carried mail at this rate during this period. The main one was the Allan Line¹ which sailed to Liverpool from Montreal and Quebec in the summer and Portland, Maine in the winter. There was also a fortnightly service from Halifax N.S. to Queenstown² initially provided by the Inman Line up to mid 1871 and by the Allan Line thereafter..



1870 (19th January) letter from Hamilton to London, England showing a very early example of the new 6 cents rate. The letter was carried on the Allan Line vessel *North American* which left Portland on 23rd January arriving in Londonderry on the 2nd February. The letter reached London on 3rd February.

(ex Arfken)

- 1 The Allan Line ran a weekly service in the summer months from Montreal to Liverpool although the mails were put on at Quebec and most were taken off at Moville near Londonderry. Vessels sailed weekly from Quebec on a Saturday. In the winter months (from 1 December to 30 April) the ships sailed from Portland, Maine also on a Saturday. Mail went onward from Moville to Dublin by train and thence by packet ship to Holyhead and train to London.
- 2 The Inman line provided a fortnightly service from Halifax N.S. (departing on a Friday) to Queenstown en route to Liverpool. Most mail was taken off at Queenstown and sent by rail from Cork to Dublin, thence by packet ship to Holyhead and onward by rail to London. When the Allan Line took over this service in 1871, the ships initially left Halifax on a Saturday but this was changed to a Tuesday in October 1871.

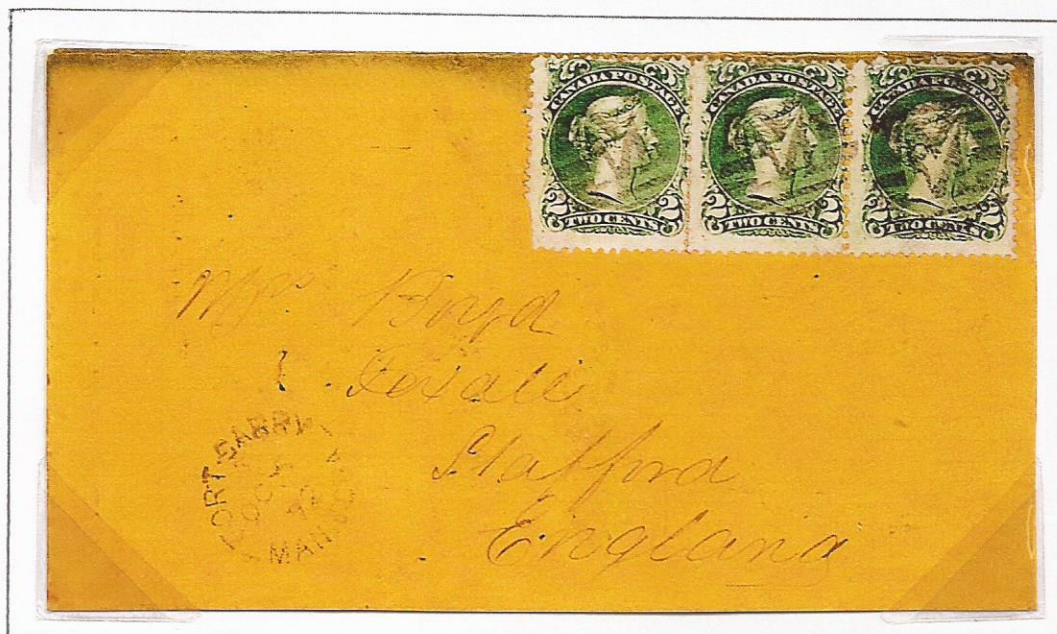
LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

6 CENTS RATE TO THE UK



1870 (24th March) mourning cover from Ottawa to Hertford, England carried by the Inman Line vessel *Etna* which left Halifax on 25th March arriving in Queenstown on 5th April. The 6 cents Large Queen is in the black brown shade typical of early printings.

(ex Menich)



1872 (5th October) cover from Fort Garry, Manitoba (latterly Winnipeg) to Stafford, England. The letter was sent via Hamilton (12th October transit on reverse) and carried on the Allan Line vessel *Austrian* out of Quebec on 19th October arriving in Londonderry on 28th October and Stafford on 29th October (backstamp). Franked by a strip of three 2 cents Large Queens tied by the fancy 'M' cancel of Fort Garry. A very early letter from Manitoba to England.

(ex Menich)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

6 CENTS RATE TO THE UK NEXT PACKET PRINCIPLE

The letter rate to the UK by Canadian steamer was reduced from 12½ cents to 6 cents on 1st January 1870. The Post Office continued to employ the 'Next Packet Principle' which provided that the P.O. could redirect a letter for the sake of expediency and bypass any short payment penalties. Only any difference in rate was due.



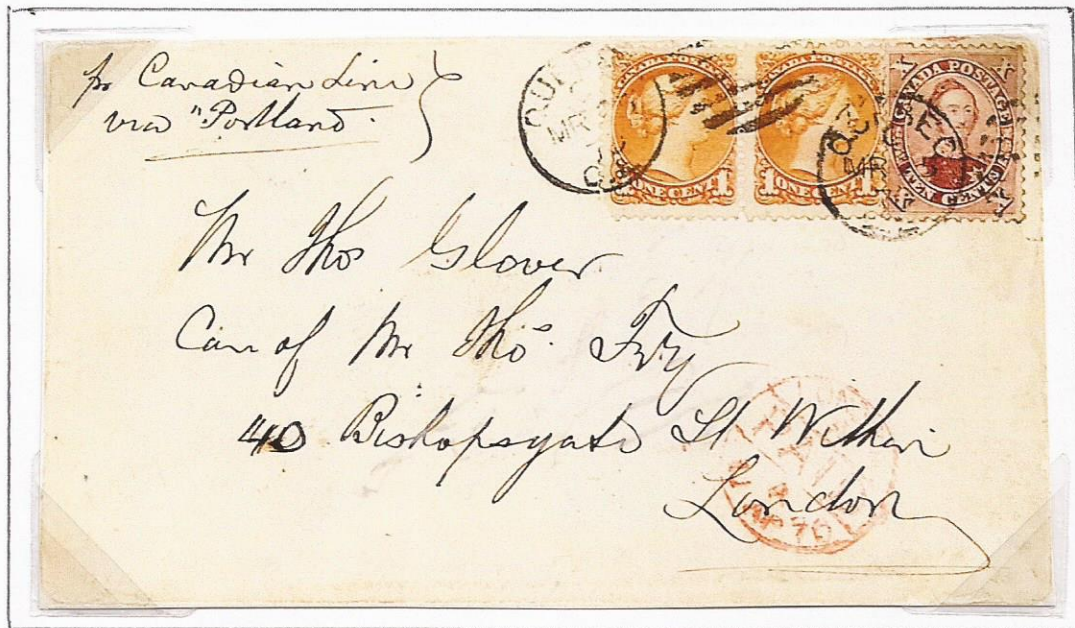
1871 (8th July) cover from Montreal to London, England. Just too late to make the 9th July sailing of the Allan Line *Prussian* from Quebec, this letter was routed to New York and carried by the Guion steamer *Wyoming* which left New York on the 12th July arriving in Queenstown on 22nd July. Handstamped '1' (penny collect) for the deficient postage via the New York route. Arrival backstamp of 24th July in London.

(ex. Duckworth)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO THE UK

Although sent in the heart of the Large Queen period, the double rate cover below is a unique example of one franked with stamps from both the preceding and following stamp issues (and no Large Queens!)



1870 (25th March) double rate letter from Montreal to London, England charged at 12 cents with postage paid by a 10 cents Consort from the 1859 series and two 1 cent Small Queens from the first printing. Endorsed 'per Canadian Line via Portland' it was carried on the Allan Line vessel *Austrian* which left Portland on 27th March and arrived in Londonderry on 9th April with arrival in London on 11th April .

(ex. Dale-Lichtenstein and Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

12 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO THE UK

Letters weighing over ½ oz. were charged at 12 cents if routed via Canadian Steamers between 1st January 1870 and 30th September 1875.



1870 (11th August) double rate letter from Barrie, Ontario to Dublin charged at 12 cents with postage paid by two 6 cents Large Queens. The letter was carried on the Allan Line vessel *Nestorian* out of Quebec on 13th August arriving in Londonderry late on 21st August and Dublin on the 23rd August (backstamp).

(ex. Duckworth)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

5 CENTS RATE TO THE UK

From 1st October 1875, the letter rate to the UK was reduced further to 5 cents per ½ oz. More significantly, this new rate applied regardless of the route taken.



1875 (17th December) letter from St. John N.B. to Edinburgh showing an early example of the new preferred 5 cents rate paid by a 5 cents Large Queen stamp. Originally endorsed 'via Halifax' then 'via Portland' and finally 'via New York', it was carried on the Cunard vessel *Russia* leaving New York on 22nd December and arriving in Liverpool on 31st December with mail reaching Edinburgh on 1st January 1876 (backstamp). The ship was under contract to the US Government on its eastward voyages.



1877 (31st August) letter from Whycocomagh, C.B. to Braemar in Scotland with postage paid by a 5 cents Large Queen stamp. Although the 5 cents Small Queen stamp had been issued in 1876, this small post office apparently had a big stock of the Large queen stamp as it continued to use them for many years.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

10 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO THE UK

The letter rate to the UK was 5 cents per ½ oz. from October 1875 onward, regardless of the route taken.



1875 (22nd November) double rate cover from Toronto to Edinburgh charged at the 10 cents (2 x 5 cents) rate. Postage has been paid with a pair of the 5 cents Large Queen stamp. The letter was carried by the Cunard ship *Bothia* from New York. Arrival backstamp from Edinburgh of 4th December. The writer, George Brown, who sent the letter to his wife, was one of the Fathers of Canadian Confederation and was editor of the *Toronto Globe* newspaper at the time this letter was sent.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

15 CENTS TRIPLE RATE TO THE UK

The letter rate to the UK was 5 cents per ½ oz. from October 1875 onward, regardless of the route taken. The 15 cents Large Queen stamp continued in use until the end of the 19th century.



1896 (23rd April) cover from Ottawa to London, England weighing over 1½ oz. and charged at the 15 cents (3 x 5 cents) rate. Postage has been paid with a 15 cents Large Queen stamp tied by an Ottawa squarish circle cancel.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

20 CENTS TRIPLE REGISTERED RATE TO THE UK

The letter rate to the UK was 5 cents per ½ oz. from October 1875 onward, regardless of the route taken. The 15 cents Large Queen stamp continued in use until the end of the 19th century. The registration fee on mail to the UK had been reduced from 8 cents to 5 cents at the end of 1877.



1884 (9th May) registered cover from Montreal to Birmingham, England weighing over 1½ oz. The postage was 15 cents (3 x 5 cents) plus the 5 cents registration fee. Postage has been paid with a 15 cents Large Queen stamp with a 5 cents Registered Letter Stamp paying the registration fee.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

30 CENTS SEXTUPLE RATE TO THE UK

The letter rate to the UK was 5 cents per ½ oz. from October 1875 onward, regardless of the route taken. The cover below shows a very late use of the 15 cents Large Queen stamp.



1898 (9th February) cover from Ottawa to London, England weighing over 3 oz. and charged at the 30 cents (6 x 5 cents) rate. Postage has been paid with a 15 cents Large Queen stamp plus 1 cent, 6 cents and 8 cents stamps from the 1897 Maple Leaf issue.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

51 CENTS TRIPLE RATE TO FRANCE

All letters from Canada to Continental Europe were routed via the Foreign Branch of the G.P.O. in London, England for inclusion in the regular British mails for European destinations. The rate from Canada to France was 17 cents per ¼ oz. at the start of the Large Queen period and remained at this level until February 1870.



1868 (18th May) cover mailed from Peterborough, Ontario to Dunkerque. Weighing over ½ oz. the letter was subject to triple rating and a postage charge of 51 cents. Postage was paid with four copies of the 1859 series 10 cents stamp from printing order 25 (including an imprint pair from plate positions 92 and 93) plus 2 cents, 3 cents and 6 cents Large Queens, all from the first printing. The letter sailed on the Allan Line vessel *Peruvian* which left Quebec on 23rd May and arrived in Londonderry on 1st June. Then by rail and Holyhead packet to London arriving on 2nd June and onward to France arriving there on 3rd June. The manuscript '11' on the front is a British charge (11d) for postage from the UK to France. The 'PD' handstamp indicates that the letter was fully paid to destination.

(ex. Jarrett)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

17 CENTS RATE TO FRANCE

All letters from Canada to Continental Europe were routed via the Foreign Branch of the G.P.O. in London, England for inclusion in the regular British mails for European destinations. The rate from Canada to France was 17 cents per ¼ oz. at the start of the Large Queen period and remained at this level until February 1870.



1869 (5th February) cover mailed from Quebec to Le Mas D'Azil. Correctly rated at 17 cents, postage was paid with 2 cents and 15 cents Large Queens. The manuscript '4' on the front is the British Claim for 4d postage from the UK to France. The letter was routed via Portland, Maine and carried on the Allan Line vessel *Nestorian* which left Portland on 7th February arriving in Londonderry on 15th February. The letter reached the Foreign Branch in London on 16th February. One of only two covers recorded paying this rate with Large Queen stamps.

(ex. Godden and Cohen)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

16 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO FRANCE

The letter rate from Canada to France was reduced twice during 1870; firstly to 12 cents for a ¼ oz. letter then to 10 cents for a ¼ oz. letter. Ratings after mid 1870 were complicated by the fact that the British rate to France had been reduced from 4d per ¼ oz. to 3d per ⅓ oz. Thus letters deemed double rate in Canada could be judged single rate in the UK.



1872 (26th February) cover from Halifax, N.S. to Cognac in France. The letter apparently weighed over ¼ oz. but less than ⅓ oz. The postal rate from Canada was 16 cents (10 cents for the first ¼ oz. then 6 further cents for the second ¼ oz.) The rate was paid rather impressively by eight copies of the 2 cents Large Queen. Manuscript '3' in red on the front is the British claim of 3d for the postage from England to France. Carried on the Allan Line vessel *Caspian* which left Halifax on 27th February and arrived in Queenstown on 6th March. The letter reached the London Foreign Branch on 8th March and Calais on 9th March.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

16 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO FRANCE

Between July 1870 and the end of 1875, the letter rate from Canada to France was set at 10 cents for a $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. letter and 16 cents for a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter.



1874 (25th September) cover from Quebec to Bordeaux. The letter apparently weighed over $\frac{1}{4}$ oz but less than $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. The 16 cents rate from Canada was paid with a 15 cents Large Queen and 1 cent Small Queen. Manuscript '3' in red on the front is the British claim of 3d for the postage from England to France. Carried on the Allan Line vessel *Samaritan* which left Quebec on 26th September and arrived in Londonderry on 6th October. The letter reached the London Foreign Branch on 7th October and Calais the same day.

(ex Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

5 CENTS RATE TO FRANCE

The letter rate to France was reduced to 5 cents per ½ oz. after Canada joined the UPU in 1878. In this UPU period, most mail to France continued to be routed via England. However, the example below suggests that at least some of it was shipped direct to France.



1885 (12th September) cover from Montreal to Paris. Mailed at the post 1878 rate of 5 cents and paid with a very late usage of the 5 cents Large Queen stamp. The cover shows no London transit mark and it would appear that it travelled in a post bag made up at Montreal for direct shipment to France.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

23 CENTS RATE TO GERMANY

Prior to February 1870, the letter rate to all parts of Germany was 23 cents per ½ oz. Mail was routed via the Foreign Branch of the G.P.O. in London and normally carried through Belgium.



1869 (19th February) cover from Montreal to Limbach in Germany. Postage of 23 cents was paid with ½ cent, 2 x 2 cents, 6 cents and 12½ cents Large Queen stamps. The letter was carried on the Allan Line vessel *Austrian* ex Portland (21st February) arriving in Londonderry late on 2nd March and London on 4th March. Forwarded from London to Germany by closed mail through Belgium, it entered the German Postal System at Aachen on 5th March. The manuscript '6' on the front is the British Claim of 6d against the Canadian P.O. for postage from the UK to Germany. The 'PD' handstamp applied in London indicates fully prepaid to destination.

(ex. Duckworth)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

23 CENTS RATE TO GERMANY

Prior to February 1870, the letter rate to all parts of Germany was 23 cents per ½ oz. Mail was routed via the Foreign Branch of the G.P.O. in London and normally carried through Belgium.



1869 (24th May) cover from Waterloo, Ontario to Wurtemberg. Postage of 23 cents was paid with 2 cents, 6 cents and 15 cents Large Queen stamps. The letter was carried on the Allan Line vessel *Moravian* which departed Quebec on 29th May arriving in Londonderry on 7th June with mail reaching London on 8th June. Forwarded from London to Germany by closed mail through Belgium, it entered the German Postal System at Aachen on 9th June. The manuscript '6' on the front is the British Claim of 6d against the Canadian P.O. for postage from the UK to Germany. The 'PD' handstamp applied in London indicates fully prepaid to destination.

(ex. Firth)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

16 CENTS RATE TO BAVARIA

From February 1870 to October 1872 the postal rate from Canada to the southern German states of Baden and Bavaria was set at 16 cents for a ¼ oz. letter. Six covers showing this rate have been recorded; all from the same correspondence. The example below is interesting in that it shows an incorrect British Claim. Later letters from the correspondence show a correct claim of 3d.



1871 (3rd November) cover from Montreal to Munich. Postage of 16 cents was paid with a 15 cents Large Queen and a 1 cent Small Queen. The letter was carried on the Allan Line vessel *Samaritan* which departed Quebec on 4th November arriving in Londonderry on 13th November with mail reaching London on 14th November. It was forwarded from London to Germany by Belgium (Ghent backstamp). The manuscript '6' on the front is an incorrect British Claim of 6d against the Canadian P.O. for postage from the UK to Germany via France. Note that the Large Queen stamp on this cover has been replaced to improve appearance.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

16 CENTS RATE TO BAVARIA

Mail from the UK to the southern German states of Baden and Bavaria could be routed either via France or Belgium. The latter route was preferred as it avoided the higher French postal charges. The letter below is another example of one with an incorrect British Claim for the French route when the letter was sent via Belgium.



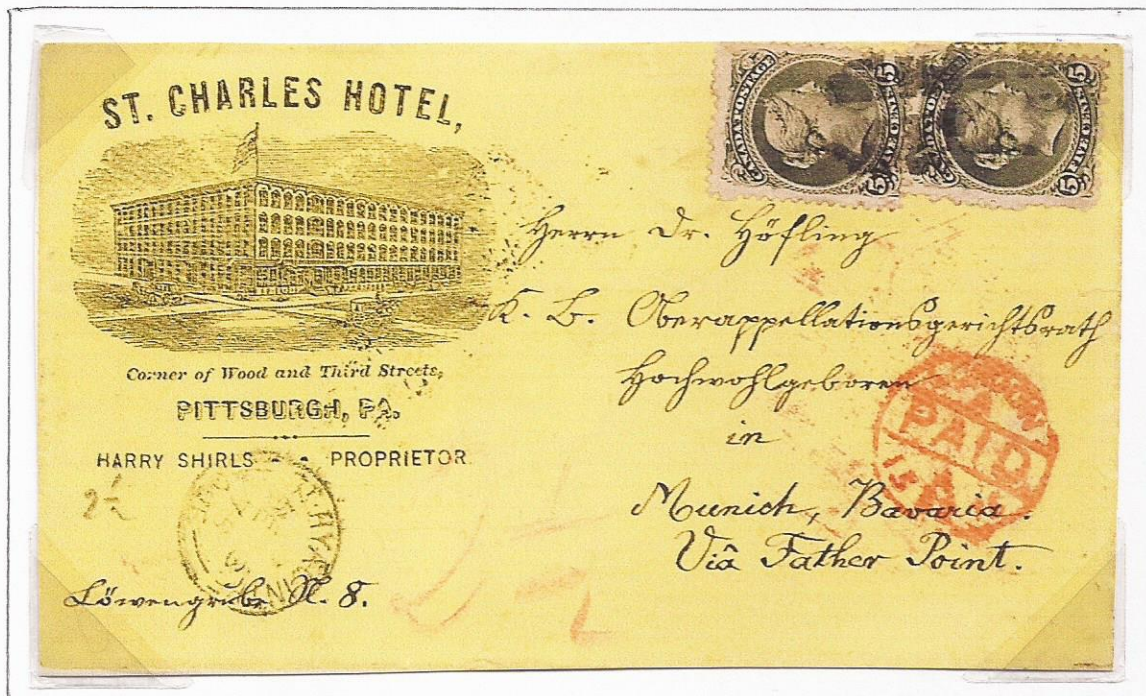
1871 (22nd December) cover from the Fisher correspondence from Montreal to Munich also showing an incorrect British Claim (it should have been 3d via Belgium). The franking was again a 15 cents Large Queen with a 1 cent Small Queen. Carried on the Allan Line vessel *Prussian* which left Portland on 24th December arriving in the UK on 2nd January 1872 with the letter reaching London on 3rd January and passing via Belgium into Germany at Aachen on 4th January before arriving in Munich on 5th January.

(ex. Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

10 CENTS RATE TO GERMANY

In October 1872, the letter rate from Canada to all parts of Germany was reduced further to 10 cents per ½ oz. following reductions in the British rates to Europe. This rate applied until April 1877. Mail was still routed via the Foreign Branch of the G.P.O. in London and then via Belgium.



1875 (3rd December) advertising cover from St. Hyacinthe, Quebec to Munich. Franked with two copies of the 5 cents Large Queen stamp to pay the 10 cents rate. The letter is endorsed 'via Father Point'. The sender no doubt realised that the letter may miss the next vessel from Quebec and so routed the letter to Father Point 180 miles downstream of Quebec on the St. Lawrence. Probably carried on the Allan Line vessel *Sardinian* to Londonderry and then on to London by rail and Holyhead packet arriving in London on 15th December. Receiving backstamp of Munich dated 16th December. The manuscript '2½' is the British Claim of 2½ d for UK postage to Germany.

(ex. Menich)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

58 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO ROME

The letter rate from Canada to Rome and the Papal States was 29 cents per ¼ oz. in 1867. The rate was a consequence of Canada's 12½ cents per ½ oz. rate to the UK and Britain's 11d per ¼ oz. rate to Rome. The rate was reduced to 21 cents per ¼ oz. in September 1869 when the British rate to Rome was reduced. However, the British P.O. were not always very good at informing Canada of such changes and small Canadian post offices, in particular, often continued to use out of date rates to unusual destinations for some time.



1869 (16th December) cover from St. Gregoire, Quebec to Rome. Weighing over ¼ oz, the letter was rated incorrectly at 58 cents (double the old 29 cents rate). Franked with 2 x 1 cent, 6 cents and 4 x 12½ cents Large Queen stamps. The dates don't match any Allan Line sailing so the letter was probably routed to New York and carried on the Cunard vessel *Siberia* to Queenstown. It arrived in London on 3rd January and passed through Calais on 4th January. The use of the New York route should have incurred an additional charge but as the letter was overpaid anyway, the British P.O. accepted it as fully paid to destination. One of only three recorded 29 cent rate covers to Italy.

(ex. Wood and Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

29 CENTS RATE TO ROME

The letter rate from Canada to Rome and the Papal States was 29 cents per ¼ oz. in 1867. The rate was reduced to 21 cents per ¼ oz. in September 1869 when the British rate to Rome was reduced. However, the British P.O. were not always very good at informing Canada of such changes and small Canadian post offices, in particular, often continued to use out of date rates to unusual destinations for some time.



1870 (13th April) cover from Stottville, Quebec to Rome. Despite being sent some 6 months after the rate had been reduced to 21 cents, this letter was still charged at the old 29 cents rate. The rate was paid with 2 x 2 cents and 4 x 6 cents Large Queens plus a 1 cent Small Queen stamp. The letter was routed via Montreal (13th April) and Portland, Maine onto the Allan Line vessel *Peruvian* which departed Portland on 16th April with mails reaching London on 28th April. From London the letter passed through Paris on 29th April and arrived in Rome on 2nd May. The letter was returned to Canada arriving in Montreal on 4th June and Stottville on 8th June. The manuscript '6' on the front is the British Claim of 6d for postage from the UK to Rome. One of only three recorded covers to Rome and the Papal States mailed at the 29 cents rate.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

28 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO SWITZERLAND VIA NEW YORK AND FRANCE

From July 1870 to October 1875 letters could be mailed from Canada to Switzerland at a rate of 10 cents per ½ oz. if routed via Belgium or 14 cents for ¼ oz. and 24 cents for ½ oz. if routed via France. An additional 2 cents per rate was charged if the letter was routed via New York on the way to the UK.



1871 (10th January) unusual example of a letter sent to Switzerland via the more expensive French route. Mailed from Montreal to Clarens (Vaud), it was also routed via New York and charged a total of 28 cents (24 cents postage to Switzerland plus an extra 4 cents to cover the double transit rate via New York); paid by a strip of four 6 cents and pair of 2 cents Large Queens. Carried by the Cunard vessel *Calabria* which left New York on 12th January and arrived in Queenstown on 22nd January with mails reaching London on 23rd January. The manuscript 1/2 is the British claim which comprised:-

2d for the transit charge via the US (collected for the U.S.)

2d for the British share of the sea post from US to UK and

10d for the double British postage from UK to Switzerland via France

Giving a total of 14 pence = 28 cents; conveniently leaving nothing for the Canadian Post Office!

(ex. Duckworth)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

**20 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO SWITZERLAND
VIA BELGIUM**

From July 1870 to October 1875 letters could be mailed from Canada to Switzerland at a rate of 10 cents per ½ oz. if routed via Belgium or 14 cents for ¼ oz. and 24 cents for ½ oz. if routed via France. Not surprisingly, the majority of such mail was routed via Belgium.



1872 (6th December) double rate cover from Ottawa to Chur in Switzerland routed via England and Belgium and charged at 20 cents. Postage was paid with a 15 cents Large Queen stamp plus 2 cents and 3 cents Small Queens. The letter was carried to England on the Allan Line vessel *Polynesian* which departed Portland on 7th December and arrived in Londonderry late on 16th December with mails reaching London on 18th December. The letter arrived in Chur on 20th December (backstamp).

(ex. MacLennan and Godden)

10 CENTS RATE TO SWITZERLAND

169 561

PETERSBURG
JA 14
76
ONT

M. L. M. Mathias Reismann
Eisenstraße No 1345
Vill. de Basel En Suisse
En Europe

PAID

CANAL POSTAGE
5 CENTS
CANAL POSTAGE
5 CENTS

(ex. Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

16 CENTS RATE TO NORWAY

The letter rate from Canada to Norway had been 27 cents per ½ oz. at the start of the Large Queen period but was reduced to 16 cents per ½ oz. in February 1870. This 16 cents rate applied up to the end of September 1875.



1875 (29th June) cover from Newcastle, N.B. to Tonsberg in Norway rated at 16 cents and paid with a 15 cents Large Queen and 1 cent Small Queen. The Large Queen stamp is on vertical wove paper (Bothwell watermark paper from Firth Group III). The Small Queen stamp is perf 11½ x 12. Probably carried on the Allan Line vessel *Polynesian* which departed Quebec on 3rd July arriving in Londonderry on 12th July with mails reaching London on 13th July.

(ex. Laycock)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

10 CENTS RATE TO NORWAY

From October 1875 letters could be mailed from Canada to Norway at a rate of 10 cents per ½ oz. this rate applied until August 1878 after Canada joined the UPU when the rate dropped to 5 cents per ½ oz.



1876 (29th July) cover from Quebec to Tonsberg in Norway rated at 10 cents and paid with two copies of the 5 cents Large Queen stamp. The letter was carried on the Allan Line vessel *Peruvian* which departed Quebec on 29th July arriving in Londonderry on 6th August with mails reaching London on 7th August. No Norwegian arrival marks. The inscription '2½' in red is the British claim of 2½d for postage from the UK to Norway.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

23 CENTS RATE TO GIBRALTAR

The letter rate from Canada to Gibraltar was 23 cents per ½ oz. from 1859 to February 1870. Whilst a number of 1859 Cents issue covers to Gibraltar are known from a single large correspondence, the cover below is believed to be the only recorded Large Queen cover to Gibraltar mailed at this rate.



1869 (17th May) cover from St. John, N.B. to Gibraltar. Franked with 2 cents, 6 cents and 15 cents Large Queen stamps to pay the 23 cents rate. The stamps are tied by the 2 ring '7' cancel of St John. The letter was carried to the UK on the Inman Line steamer *City of Cork* which left Halifax on 21st May and arrived in Queenstown on 31st May. Mail was forwarded to London via Dublin and Holyhead arriving there on 1st June. From London, the letter would have been sent to Southampton and carried by ship to Gibraltar. The manuscript '8' on the front is the British Claim of 8d against the Canadian P.O. comprising 2d British share of the Halifax – Queenstown service plus 6d British postage from the UK to Gibraltar.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

16 CENTS RATE TO MALTA

The letter rate to Malta was 16 cents from February 1870; comprising 3d transatlantic charge plus 6d postage UK to Malta less 1d to avoid double UK internal postal charge = 8d or 16 cents. The example below is believed to be the only recorded Large Queen cover to Malta.



1871 (7th August) cover from Sydney C.B. to an officer serving on *H.M.S. Lee* in Malta. Postage was overpaid by ½ cent with 2 x 2 cents and 12½ cents Large Queen stamps. The letter was routed via Halifax N.S. where it was placed on the Inman Line vessel *North American* which left Halifax on 12th August arriving in Queenstown on 21st August with mails reaching London on 23rd August. From London, the letter was sent to Southampton to join the P&O vessel *Mirzapore* which left on 2nd September reaching Malta on 11th September. However, *H.M.S. Lee* had left Malta some time earlier; returning to Sheerness in Kent on 23rd August after over four years service in the Mediterranean. The letter was accordingly put back on the P&O vessel *Massilia* which departed Malta on 15th September and arrived in Southampton on 24th September before being forwarded to Sheerness. The '6' handstamp in red on the front of the cover would appear to be a UK handstamp confirming the postage rate to Malta. The '1' handstamp in black is a UK forwarding charge for inland postage to Sheerness from Southampton. The addressee, a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery should really have been exempt from such forwarding charges but his rank and position may have been unclear from the address.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

22 CENTS RATE TO INDIA

Letters to India were all sent via the UK. A variety of routes were possible giving rise to a large number of possible rates. Assuming the cheapest route combination, the rate was initially 30 cents per ½ oz. in 1868 falling to 22 cents (some suggest 23 cents) in February 1870 and 16 cents in October 1876. Additional costs were incurred if the letter was routed via New York en route to England and also if routed via Brindisi en route to Suez. The extraordinary cover below was probably overpaid by 1½ cents, though may have been franked to allow passage via New York if required. Postage was paid with 2 x 2 cents, 6 cents and 12½ cents Large Queens plus an early 1 cent Small Queen.



1870 (11th June) cover mailed from Quebec to Madras in India and sent to a serving officer in the British Army. The letter was carried on the Allan Line *Moravian* which left Quebec on the 11th June. The letter arrived in London on 21st June and received two accountancy marks in red. On the right is a 1d handstamp (credit to the Colonial post office in India) and left of centre a manuscript '11', a UK charge of 11d on Canada. The letter travelled on the P&O line vessel *Delhi* out of Southampton on 25th June arriving in Alexandria on 8th July then ex Suez on the *Sumarta* on the 9th July arriving in Bombay on the 21st July and Madras on the 26th July. Unfortunately, by this time the addressee, Lt. Ingle had been transferred to Barbados so the letter was shipped back from India to the UK (by the vessel *Baroda* ex Bombay 10th August arriving Suez 26th August, then by the *Tanjore* ex Alexandria 27th August arriving Southampton 9th September and London 10th September). It was dispatched out of Southampton to Barbados on the vessel *Nile* leaving 17th September and arriving in Barbados on the 4th October. Alas, the letter arrived in Barbados too late also as Lt Ingle had returned to England by this time. So the letter was sent back to England for a third time arriving in Newton Abbott on 31st October where it hopefully, finally caught up with the addressee after 142 days. The sender paid 23½ cents of postage which was 1½ cents overpaid for the route taken. However, serving officers in the British Forces did not incur forwarding charges (other than on mail sent within the UK) so all of the additional journeys this letter took were free – making it a fairly good deal!

(ex Richardson and Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

30 CENTS RATE TO SIAM VIA NEW YORK

Siam does not even get a mention in the Canadian Postal Guides until 1877 so we may assume that little mail was sent from Canada to Siam in the Large Queens period. The letter rate was the same as that to China; 28 cents per ½ oz. via England with a 2 cents surcharge if routed via New York. From England, the mail would have been routed via P&O packet ships from Southampton to Galle in Ceylon via Alexandria and Suez (an additional surcharge would have been payable had the letter been routed overland from England to Brindisi). From Ceylon, the mail would have been transferred to other P&O vessels bound for Hong Kong and carried to Singapore then transferred to local ships for the final leg to Bangkok.



1868 (4th July) cover from St. John N.B. to Bangkok routed via New York. The postage of 30 cents was paid with a pair of 15 cents Large Queens. The letter was sent via New York and departed there on the Hamburg – American Line steamer *Saxonia* on 14th July arriving in Southampton on 26th July and London on 27th July. From London, the letter was returned to Southampton to join the P&O vessel *Syria* which departed 8th August bound for Alexandria where it arrived on 21st August. It was then routed via Suez, leaving on the 23rd August on the P&O ship *Simla* arriving in Galle on 5th September. From Galle it was carried on the P&O vessel *Columbia* which departed on 9th September arriving in Singapore on 15th September, finally reaching Bangkok on 28th September. **Only recorded cover to Siam in the Large Queen period.**

(ex. Laycock and Firth)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

23 CENTS RATE TO AUSTRALIA

Prior to 1873, mail from Canada to Australia was normally sent via the UK. An alternative service via the USA and Panama did operate up to early 1869 and a cheaper route through the USA via San Francisco was also available but was neither continuous nor reliable in the period prior to 1873. From London, mail was forwarded once every four weeks via Suez as an extension of the service to the Far East. The 23 cents per ½ ounce rate applied up to February 1870 when the rate was reduced to 16 cents per ½ ounce. Both rates applied to mail sent to any of the Australian States and/or New Zealand.



1868 (8th October) letter from Salisbury N.B. to Victoria mailed via England at the 23 cents rate. The letter is backstamped at Sackville N.B. (9th October) and was then carried on the Inman Line vessel *City of Washington* which departed Halifax on 24th October reaching Queenstown on 1st November. At the London Foreign Branch (backstamp 2nd November) it was included in the next 'slow' mail from Southampton, eventually reaching Melbourne (backstamp 21st January 1869) and the final destination of Woods Point (23rd January 1869) some 88 days after being put into the mails in New Brunswick. The letter was unclaimed at Woods Point and despatched from there (2nd August 1869) to the Dead Letter Branch in Victoria (4th August 1869 back stamp). The manuscript '8' represents the British Claim for the 6d postage from the UK to Australia plus the 2d British share of the sea conveyance from Halifax to the UK.

(ex. Carnegie)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

23 CENTS RATE TO AUSTRALIA

Only five Large Queen covers have been recorded showing this rate to Australia via the UK. A second example is shown below.



1869 (3rd March) mourning letter from Brantford, Ontario to Melbourne. Carried on the Allan line *Moravia* ex Portland (7th March) to Londonderry (16th March) then via London Foreign Branch (London Paid 17 March datestamp on front) to Southampton where it was placed on the P&O ship *Syria* (departing 20th March) for Alexandria (arriving 4th April), then P&O ship *Nubia* ex Suez (departing 4th April) to Galle, Sri Lanka (arriving 18th April) and finally P&O ship *Avoca* ex Galle (departing 22nd April) to Melbourne (arriving 12th May). Backstamped Hamilton 4th March 1869 and Melbourne 12th May 1869. Overall journey time was an impressively low 71 days for such a complex route. The '6' in mss on the front of the cover indicates the British claim of 6d postage from the UK to Australia. There was no British claim for the trans-Atlantic passage as the letter was carried on the Canadian line.

(ex. Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

8 CENTS RATE TO VICTORIA

This 8 cents per ½oz non-UPU letter rate applied between October 1875 and August 1878 on mail sent via San Francisco. The mail was carried by the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. who ran packets between San Francisco and Sydney. The 8 cents rate to Victoria only covered the postage as far as Sydney, N.S.W.



1877 (1st October) letter from Toronto to Melbourne sent via San Francisco. Franked with a 15 cents Large Queen, the letter was either overpaid 7 cents for the single rate or underpaid 1 cent for the double rate. Routed via Detroit, San Francisco and Sydney. The letter was carried on the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. vessel *City of Sydney* which departed San Francisco on 10th October arriving in Sydney on 8th November. From there it travelled on the steamer *City of Melbourne* which departed Sydney on 10th November arriving in Melbourne on 12th November; a 43 day transit from Toronto. The manuscript '5' is a collect charge for the 5d postage from Sydney to Melbourne.

(ex. Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

16 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO VICTORIA

This 8 cents per ½oz non-UPU letter rate applied between October 1875 and August 1878 on mail sent via San Francisco. The mail was carried by the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. who ran packets between San Francisco and Sydney. The 8 cents rate to Victoria only covered the postage as far as Sydney, N.S.W.



1876 (4th November) double rate letter from Sydney Mines, C.B. to Melbourne, Victoria. The letter was routed via Halifax N.S. (16th November backstamp), Montreal (18th November backstamp), Detroit (23rd November), San Francisco and Sydney. From San Francisco, the letter was carried on the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. vessel *Australia* which departed on 7th December arriving in Sydney on 4th January 1877. From Sydney, the letter was carried on the *City of Melbourne* which departed 6th January arriving in Melbourne on 8th January 1877 (66 day transit from Cape Breton). Correctly franked for the 16 cents rate with two copies of the 5 cents Large Queens and a 6 cents Small Queen. One of only two covers recorded with this franking; both from the same correspondence. The '5' handstamp on the front is a collect charge for the 5d postage from Sydney to Melbourne.

(ex. Arfken, Menich and Gross)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

15 CENTS RATE TO NEW SOUTH WALES

A 15 cents per ½ oz. rate applied to letters sent from Canada to New South Wales via San Francisco between August 1879 and December 1888. The cover below shows an interesting example of a letter mailed via this route but then returned to Canada.



1888 (16th May) cover from Newmarket, Ontario to Sydney. Charged 15 cents for the route via San Francisco and across the Pacific with the postage paid by a 15 cents Large Queen stamp. The letter was carried from San Francisco on the Oceanic Steamship Co. vessel *Alameda* which departed San Francisco on 3rd June and arrived in Sydney via Honolulu and Auckland on 28th June. The letter was returned to Canada most probably being carried back on the same vessel, the *Alameda*, which left Sydney on 11th July and reached San Francisco on 6th or 7th August. The letter arrived back in Ontario on 13th August. The '6d' inscription would appear to be a claim by the New South Wales post office on Canada for the return postage.

(ex. Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

45 CENTS TRIPLE RATE TO AUSTRALIA VIA SAN FRANCISCO



1883 (June 20th) large letter mailed from Guelph, Ontario to Sydney, Australia and then forwarded to Parramatta. Paid at the triple rate (up to 1½ oz.) and endorsed 'via San Francisco'. Postage was paid with a strip of three of the 15 cents Large Queen. The letter was carried from San Francisco on the Pacific Mail Line vessel *Zealandia* which departed San Francisco on 30th June and went via Honolulu and Auckland arriving in Sydney on 25th July (arrival backstamp). The manuscript '135c' on the front in red is a USA claim of 135 centimes. Note that Australian boxed handstamp 'NOT KNOWN BY LETTER CARRIER' presumably applied before the letter was sent on to Parramatta. The manuscript '4' mark is most likely a forwarding charge applied in Australia.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

15 CENTS RATE TO NEW ZEALAND

In 1868 and 1869, the letter rate from Canada to New Zealand was 22 cents per ½ oz. with letters routed via New York and Panama. The completion of the US Trans-Continental railway in 1869 opened a new, cheaper, route via San Francisco at a cost of 15 cents per ½ oz. and this rate and route became the preferred option for sending mail to New Zealand in the period up to late 1872 even though it was not entirely reliable. Initially, mail from San Francisco was carried by the Hall Line which ran a monthly service via Honolulu to Auckland and Sydney New South Wales. The Hall Line collapsed in March 1871 and the service was taken on by the Webb - Halliday Line (United States, New Zealand and Australia Steamship Line). Webb operated four paddle steamers on the service in 1871.



1871 (22nd May) cover from Wolfville N.S. to Turahina, New Zealand. Inscribed 'via New York' and 'via San Francisco' and charged at 15 cents, postage was paid with a 15 cents Large Queen. The letter would have missed the first 1871 sailing which departed San Francisco on 24th May so would have travelled on the June sailing on the Webb Line vessel *Nebraska* arriving in Auckland from Honolulu on 21st July. Received at Turahina on 28th July.

(ex. Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

15 CENTS RATE TO NEW ZEALAND

In 1868 and 1869, the letter rate from Canada to New Zealand was 22 cents per ½ oz. with letters routed via New York and Panama. The completion of the US Trans-Continental railway in 1869 opened a new, cheaper, route via San Francisco at a cost of 15 cents per ½ oz. and this rate and route became the preferred option for sending mail to New Zealand in the period up to late 1872 even though it was not entirely reliable. Initially, mail from San Francisco was carried by the Hall Line which ran a monthly service via Honolulu to Auckland and Sydney New South Wales. The Hall Line collapsed in March 1871 and the service was taken on by the Webb - Halliday Line (United States, New Zealand and Australia Steamship Line). Webb operated four paddle steamers on the service in 1871.



1871 (1st August) cover from St. Vincent-de-Paul (a small Canadian prison town) to Dunedin. Postage of 15 cents was paid by a pair of 6 cents Large Queens and a 3 cents Small Queen. Routed via Montreal (1st August backstamp) and Detroit (PAID ALL DIRECT date stamp of 3rd August on front) to San Francisco from where it was carried on the Webb Lines' vessel *Nebraska* which arrived in Auckland on 12th September. Backstamp receiver from Dunedin dated 19th September.

(ex. Cohen and Arfken)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

15 CENTS RATE TO NEW ZEALAND

Between 1874 and 1888, letters could be sent from Canada to New Zealand via San Francisco at a rate of 15 cents per ½ oz. Initially, this mail was carried by the Pacific Mail Line which ran a monthly service from San Francisco until the summer of 1885. Thereafter, the mail service was shared by the Oceanic Steam Ship Co. and the Union Steam Ship Co. Canadian mail was sent via Sarnia or Windsor to Detroit and then onward to San Francisco.



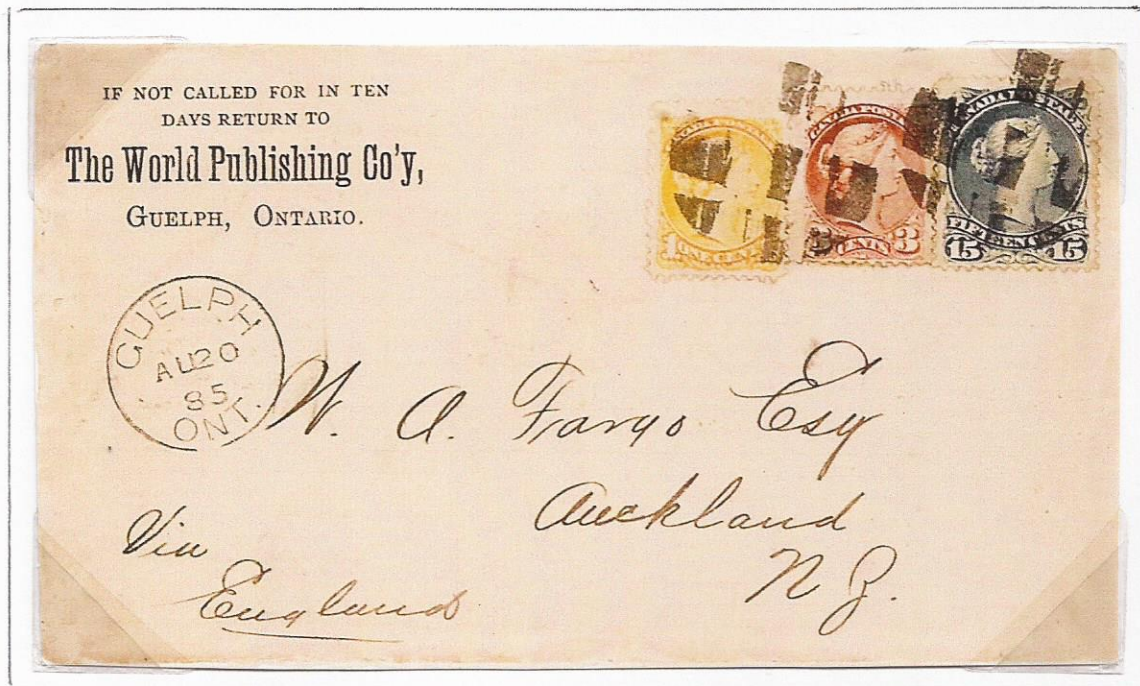
1885 (18th June) cover from Ottawa to Auckland sent via Windsor (19th June backstamp) and San Francisco (26th June backstamp). Rated at 15 cents and paid by a 15 cents Large Queen. The envelope bears the frank of W.H. Griffin one of Canada's greatest postal officials. He was not eligible for free postage on mail going outside of Canada. The letter was carried on one of the last mail runs by the Pacific Mail Line on their vessel *City of Sydney* which arrived in Auckland on 27th July (backstamp). The inscriptions '45c' in red is the US claim for 45 centimes for postage from Detroit to San Francisco.

(ex. Menich)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

19 CENTS RATE TO NEW ZEALAND

Between October 1882 and October 1891, letters could be sent from Canada to New Zealand via England at a rate of 19 cents per ½ oz. Very little mail was transported this way as the route via San Francisco was both cheaper (at 15 cents per ½ oz. falling to 12 cents in 1889) and faster. However, the Trans-Pacific packet service via San Francisco was disrupted for almost a month in August 1885.



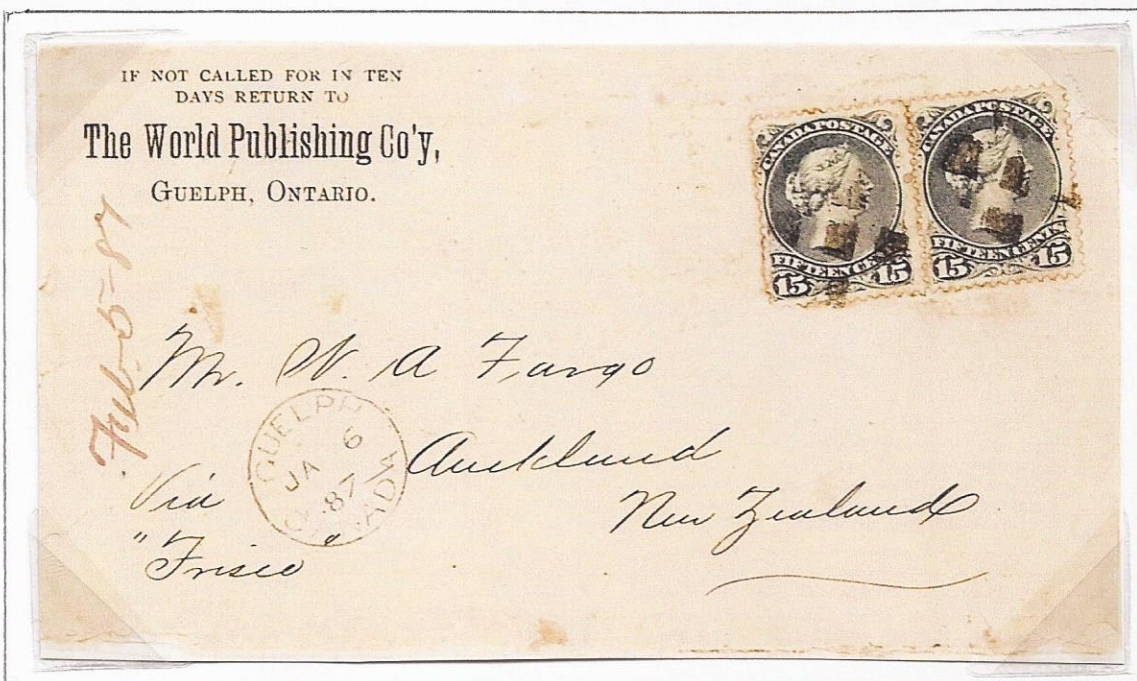
1885 (12th August) cover from Guelph, Ontario to Auckland sent 'via England' during the outage of the Trans-Pacific packet service. Rated at 19 cents and paid by a 15 cents Large Queen plus 3 cents and 1 cent Small Queens. The letter arrived in Auckland on 20th October (backstamp). **This is the only recorded Canadian cover paying the 'via England' rate.**

(ex. Menich)

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

30 CENTS DOUBLE RATE TO NEW ZEALAND

Between 1874 and 1888, letters could be sent from Canada to New Zealand via San Francisco at a rate of 15 cents per ½ oz. From mid 1885, the mail service was shared by the Oceanic Steam Ship Co. and the Union Steam Ship Co. Canadian mail was sent via Sarnia or Windsor to Detroit and then onward to San Francisco.



1887 (6th January) double rate cover from Guelph, Ontario to Auckland sent 'via Frisco'. Rated at 30 cents for a letter weighing over ½ oz. and paid with a pair of 15 cents Large Queens. Carried from San Francisco via Honolulu on the Oceanic Steamship Co. vessel *Alameda* which arrived in Auckland on 5th February. Backstamped with Auckland arrival mark of 5th February.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

45 CENTS TRIPLE RATE TO NEW ZEALAND VIA SAN FRANCISCO



1887 (June 22nd) large letter mailed from Guelph, Ontario to Auckland, New Zealand. Paid at the triple rate (up to 1½ oz.) and endorsed 'via San Francisco'. Postage was paid with a strip of three of the 15 cents Large Queen. Carried from San Francisco via Honolulu on the Oceanic Steamship Co. vessel *Alameda* which arrived in Auckland on 22nd July (arrival datestamp on reverse). The manuscript '135c' on the front in red is a USA claim of 135 centimes.

LARGE QUEEN POSTAL HISTORY

90 CENTS SEXTUPLE RATE TO NEW ZEALAND VIA SAN FRANCISCO



1888 (23rd May) large package weighing up to 3 ounces mailed from Guelph, Ontario to Auckland, New Zealand and sent via San Francisco. The rate was 6 x 15 cents = 90 cents. Paid with a strip of six of the 15 cents Large Queens. The right hand stamp in the strip shows the 'Pawnbroker' variety from plate position 10. Transit stamp from San Francisco (28th May) and carried on the Oceanic Steamship Co. vessel *Alameda* via Honolulu which arrived in Auckland on 23rd June (arrival datestamp on reverse).

LETTER RATES TO THE UK
(ALL PER ½ OZ)

	From Canada ¹	Via New York ²
To 15 th Jan 1868	12½ cents	17 cents
15/1/68 to 31/12/69	12½ cents	15 cents
1/1/70 to 30/9/75	6 cents	8 cents
1/10/75 onward	5 cents	5 cents

1. *Allan Line from Quebec or Portland to Londonderry and Liverpool*
Inman Line from Halifax to Queenstown 1/7/68 to 30/6/71
2. *Cunard Line from New York to Queenstown and Liverpool*
North German Lloyd (Bremen) Line from New York to Southampton en route to Bremen
Hamburg American Line from New York to Southampton en route to Hamburg
Inman Line from New York to Queenstown and Liverpool
Guion Line from New York to Queenstown (from Jan 1870 onward)

LETTER RATES TO FRANCE VIA THE UK

	Direct ex Canada	Surcharge for routing via New York
1 Jan 1867	17 CENTS PER ¼ OZ	5 CENTS
1 July 1868	17 CENTS PER ¼ OZ	3 CENTS
9 Feb 1870	12 CENTS ¹	3 CENTS
1 July 1870	10 CENTS ²	2 CENTS
1 Jan 1876	10 CENTS PER ½ OZ	NIL
1 August 1878	5 CENTS PER ½ OZ	NIL

1. Rates in this period were 12 cents for the first ¼ oz, then 20 cents for ½ oz, 32 cents for ¾ oz and 40 cents for 1oz.
2. Rates in this period were 10 cents for the first ¼ oz then 16 cents for ½ oz, 26 cents for ¾ oz and 32 cents for 1oz.

LETTER RATES TO GERMANY VIA THE UK

	BADEN/BAVARIA	PRUSSIA/SAXONY
JAN 1867	23 CENTS PER ½ OZ	23 CENTS PER ½ OZ
FEB 1870	16 CENTS FIRST 1/4OZ THEN 12 CENTS PER 1/4OZ	10 CENTS PER ½ OZ

	ALL GERMANY (PER ½ OZ)
OCT 1872	10 CENTS
APRIL 1877	5 CENTS

Pre 1875 rates assume letter passed from Canada to the UK by Canadian steamer. If routed via New York a surcharge per ½ oz. would have been payable (see Rates to France sheet).

LETTER RATES TO SWITZERLAND VIA THE UK

	VIA BELGIUM	VIA FRANCE
JAN 1867	26 CENTS PER ½ OZ	26 CENTS PER ½ OZ
FEB 1870	10 CENTS PER ½ OZ	16 CENTS ¹
JULY 1870		14 CENTS ²
OCT 1875		10 CENTS PER ½ OZ
AUG 1878	5 CENTS PER ½ OZ	5 CENTS PER ½ OZ

1. Rates via France in this period were 16 cents for the first ¼ oz then 28 cents for ½ oz, 44 cents for ¾ oz and 56 cents for 1oz.
2. Rates via France in this period were 14 cents for the first ¼ oz then 24 cents for ½ oz, 38 cents for ¾ oz and 48 cents for 1oz.

LETTER RATES TO ITALY VIA THE UK AND FRANCE

	ROME AND THE PAPAL STATES	REST OF ITALY
JAN 1867	29 CENTS PER ¼ OZ	23 CENTS PER ¼ OZ
29/9/1869	21 CENTS PER ¼ OZ	
9/2/1870	18 CENTS ¹	16 CENTS ²
1/7/1870	16 CENTS ²	14 CENTS ³
1/7/1871	14 CENTS ³	
1/6/1872	14 CENTS PER ½ OZ	14 CENTS PER ½ OZ
OCT 1875	10 CENTS PER ½ OZ	10 CENTS PER ½ OZ
AUG 1878	5 CENTS PER ½ OZ	5 CENTS PER ½ OZ

1. Rates in this period were 18 cents for the first ¼ oz then 32 cents for ½ oz, 50 cents for ¾ oz and 64 cents for 1 oz.
2. Rates in this period were 16 cents for the first ¼ oz then 28 cents for ½ oz, 44 cents for ¾ oz and 56 cents for 1 oz.
3. Rates in this period were 14 cents for the first ¼ oz then 24 cents for ½ oz, 38 cents for ¾ oz and 48 cents for 1 oz.

LETTER RATES TO SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES VIA THE UK
(ALL PER ½ OZ)

	BELGIUM	NORWAY	SWEDEN
OCT 1868	19 CENTS	27 CENTS	23 CENTS
FEB 1870	10 CENTS	16 CENTS	16 CENTS
OCT 1872	10 CENTS	16 CENTS	14 CENTS
OCT 1875	10 CENTS	10 CENTS	10 CENTS
AUG 1878	5 CENTS	5 CENTS	5 CENTS

Pre 1875 rates assume letter passed from Canada to the UK by Canadian steamer. If routed via New York a surcharge per ½ oz. would have been payable (see Rates to France sheet).

LETTER RATES TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

(ALL PER 1/2 OZ.)

DATE	VIA ENGLAND				VIA USA					
	WESTERN A. SOUTH A.	VICTORIA NSW QUEENSLAND	TASMANIA	N.Z.	WESTERN A. SOUTH A.	QUEENSLAND	NSW	VICTORIA	TASMANIA	N.Z.
JAN 1867	23 CENTS	23 CENTS	23 CENTS	23 CENTS	22 CENTS	22 CENTS	22 CENTS	22 CENTS	22 CENTS	22 CENTS
FEB 1870	16 CENTS	16 CENTS	16 CENTS	16 CENTS						
OCT 1870					15 CENTS (2)	15 CENTS (2)	15 CENTS (2)	15 CENTS (2)	15 CENTS (2)	15 CENTS (2)
OCT 1872	16 CENTS VIA SOUTHAMPTON 22 CENTS VIA BRINDISI				10 CENTS	10 CENTS	10 CENTS	10 CENTS	10 CENTS	10 CENTS
OCT 1873					↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
JAN 1874					10 CENTS	10 CENTS	15 CENTS	10 CENTS	10 CENTS	15 CENTS
OCT 1875					8 CENTS (1)	8 CENTS (1)	↓	8 CENTS (1)	8 CENTS (1)	↓
JUL 1876					↓	15 CENTS	↓	↓	↓	↓
OCT 1876	16 CENTS VIA SOUTHAMPTON 20 CENTS VIA BRINDISI				↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
AUG 1878	15 CENTS VIA SOUTHAMPTON 19 CENTS VIA BRINDISI				5 CENTS (1)	12 CENTS	12 CENTS	12 CENTS	5 CENTS (1)	12 CENTS
AUG 1879					7 CENTS (1)	15 CENTS	15 CENTS	15 CENTS	7 CENTS (1)	15 CENTS
OCT 1880	15 CENTS	19 CENTS	15 CENTS	19 CENTS	↓	↓	↓	↓	15 CENTS	↓
OCT 1882	↓	↓	19 CENTS	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	12 CENTS	↓
JAN 1889			5 CENTS	5 CENTS	5 CENTS	12 CENTS	12 CENTS	12 CENTS	12 CENTS	12 CENTS
OCT 1891	5 CENTS	5 CENTS	5 CENTS	5 CENTS	5 CENTS	5 CENTS	5 CENTS	5 CENTS	5 CENTS	5 CENTS

(1) The 15 cent and subsequent 12 cent rates via the USA were for direct mail via San Francisco paid to destination. The 8 cent, 7 cent and pre-UPU 5 cent rates were by an indirect route and were paid only to the port of debarkation.

(2) There was no regular or reliable route to Australia and New Zealand via the USA prior to 1873

(3) 5 cent UPU rate applied to all Australian States and New Zealand from October 1891.