

Canada: The 1933 UPU Preparatory Commission Meeting Stamp

Exhibit Purpose

This traditional format exhibit covers the 5-cent stamp issued to commemorate the 1933 UPU Preparatory Commission meeting held in Ottawa, May 18 - June 28, 1933, to set the agenda for the 10th UPU Congress in Cairo, Egypt in 1934.

Exhibit Scope

The exhibit begins with examples of archival material and details the stamp production. It illustrates an example of a delegate presentation booklet, the markings of the Post Office established for the delegates, examples of delegate mail and examples of various postage rate rates paid by the stamp, both singly and in combination with other values

Importance

The 1933 UPU Preparatory Commission meeting in Ottawa was just the second UPU meeting held outside Europe, the first being the Washington Congress in 1897. It was the first time that Canada hosted a meeting of a fully international organization &, following the Statute of Westminster in December 1931, it signalled the increasing influence of Canada as a sovereign nation.

Rarity and Difficulty of Acquisition

Essays and die proofs in this issue are rare. All examples in this exhibit are one of three or less copies known in private hands and are indicated with red border. As this stamp was produced for the UPU letter rate, valid domestic single usages are difficult to find as most domestic rates were lower than the stamp value. The stamp was available only in larger city Post Offices and often used as makeup on commercial mail rates most of which were not saved. Delegate mail & delegate presentation books are difficult to acquire as only fourteen countries comprised the executive committee participating at the preparatory meeting.

Exhibit Plan

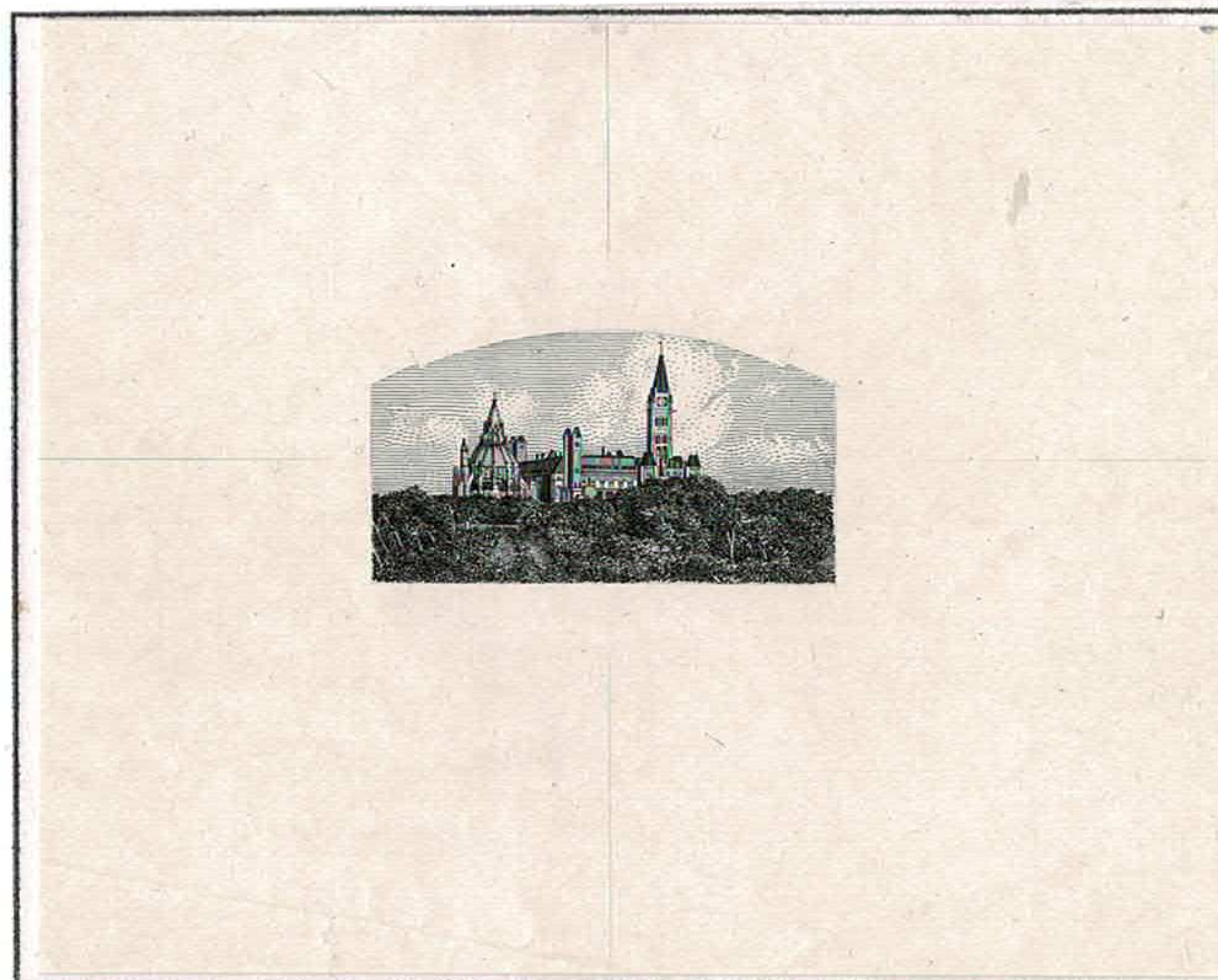
- A. Pre-Production
- B. Production
- C. Delegate Presentation Books
- D. Meeting Post Office
- E. Usages
- F. Epilogue

References

1. **1933 Universal Postal Union Meeting** by Kimber Wald – The Canadian Philatelist Mar-Apr. 2011
2. **Canadian Partially Flown Mail to European U.P.U. Destinations from February 2, 1931**, by Walter Plomish, BNA Topics Jul-Aug 1992.
3. **Canada, Domestic & International Postal Rates & Fees 1870-1999** by Dr. Robert C. Smith & Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz
4. **The Advanced Posting Service** by Charles P. Livermore, BNA Topics Jul/Sep 2006

Rejected Vignette Essay

Stock vignette featuring a partial view of Canadian Parliament buildings from north side of Ottawa River proposed & rejected. No other essays are known.



1 of 3 rejected vignette
copies known

Rejected stock essay

Engraver's File Proofs



Top: Final Vignette
Die Proof, Glazed
Paper

Left: Rejected Vignette
Essay, Glazed Paper

Right: Final
Composite Die
Proof on Glazed
Paper

Only known set of
Engraver's File Proofs

Set of 3 Engraver's File Proofs on Folded Card

Ex. Estate of Engraver

Approved Die Proof



Small die proof mounted on heavy card "Approved 7/3/33"

1 of 2 copies known in private hands Ex. Baillie

Imperforate Plate Block



Upper Left Corner Block, Plate 1 1 of 3 plate blocks known

UPU Specimen



Specimen Overprint e(BPA)

Ex. Tunisian Post Office

B. Production

Production Data, Constant Variety, Maxim Card

Production Data

Issue Date: May 18, 1933

Quantity: 5,100,000

Plates: No. 1 & 2

Sheet Format: 100 subjects, 10H x 10W

P.O. Pane Format: Left & Right 50 subjects

Perforation: 11

Printer: British American Bank Note Co.



Line in 5 Const. Variety Pl 1, Pos'n 20



Pl. 1 Pos 20



Detail – Ref. Billig's Vol. 7

Maxim Card



Aug 14, 1933, on oversized PECO post card. Houses of Parliament from Ottawa River.

B. Production

Plates

UPU Preparatory Commission stamps printed in sheets of 100 subjects & separated by perforations into left & right panes of 50. Two plates numbered 1 & 2 were used, each with inscriptions on UL & UR corners.

Plate 1



Plate 1 Upper Left



Plate 1 Upper Right



Plate 1 UR on registered cover

B. Production

Plates

Plate imprints included only the plate number shown vertically in the minimal sheet margins.

Plate 2

Plate 2 Upper Left



Plate 2 Upper Right



No inscriptions on LL or LR corners

B. Production

Day of Issue

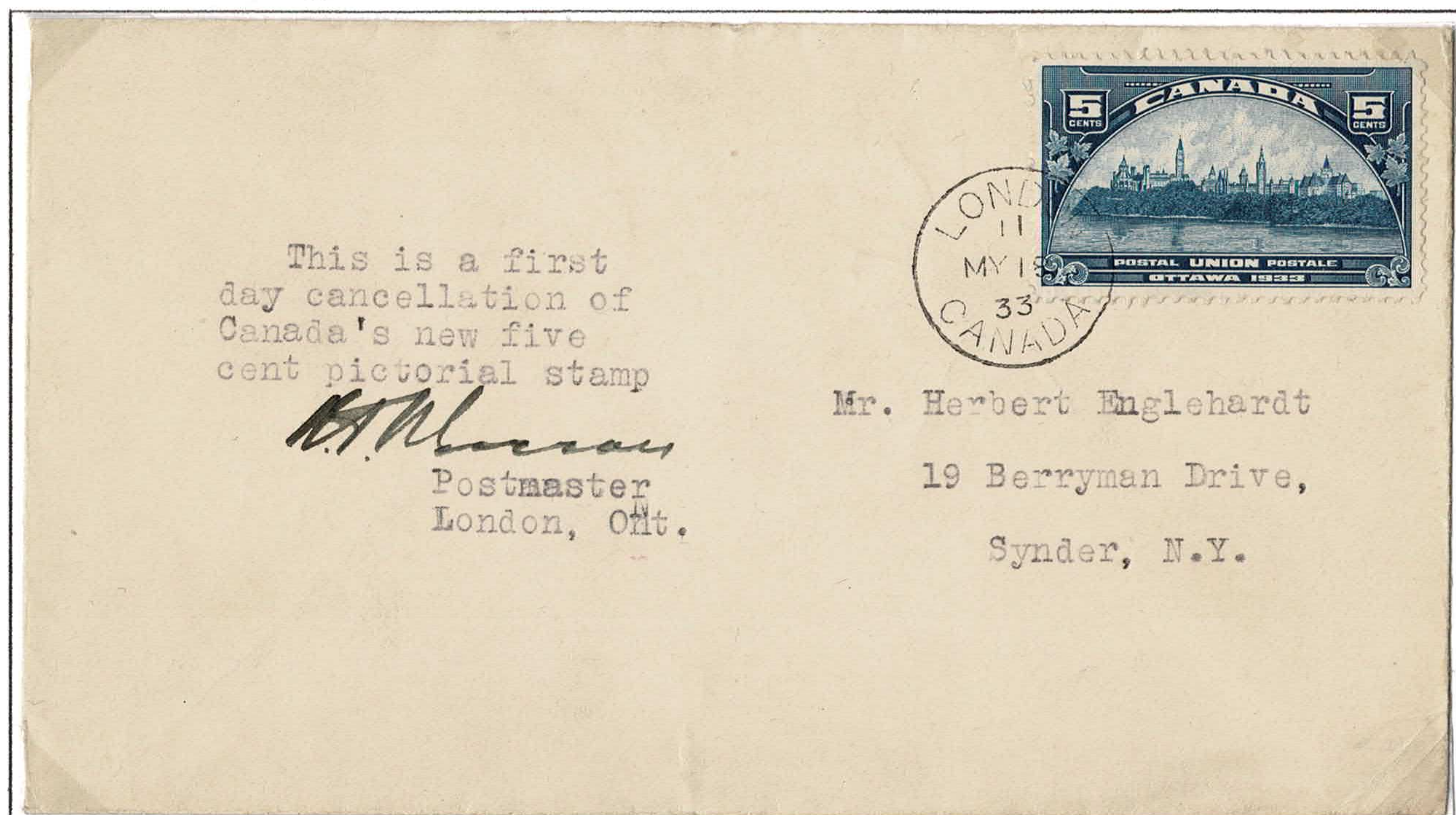
The stamp was issued at 21 city post offices in Canada on May 18, 1933. No custom FDC cachet designs are known as no details of the stamp design were released in advance. FDCs with generic cachets are known from 8 cities. FDCs exist from more than one post office only in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

Generic Cachet, Hamilton, Ontario



Hamilton, Ont., Day of Issue May 18, 1933

Postmaster Signed, London, Ontario



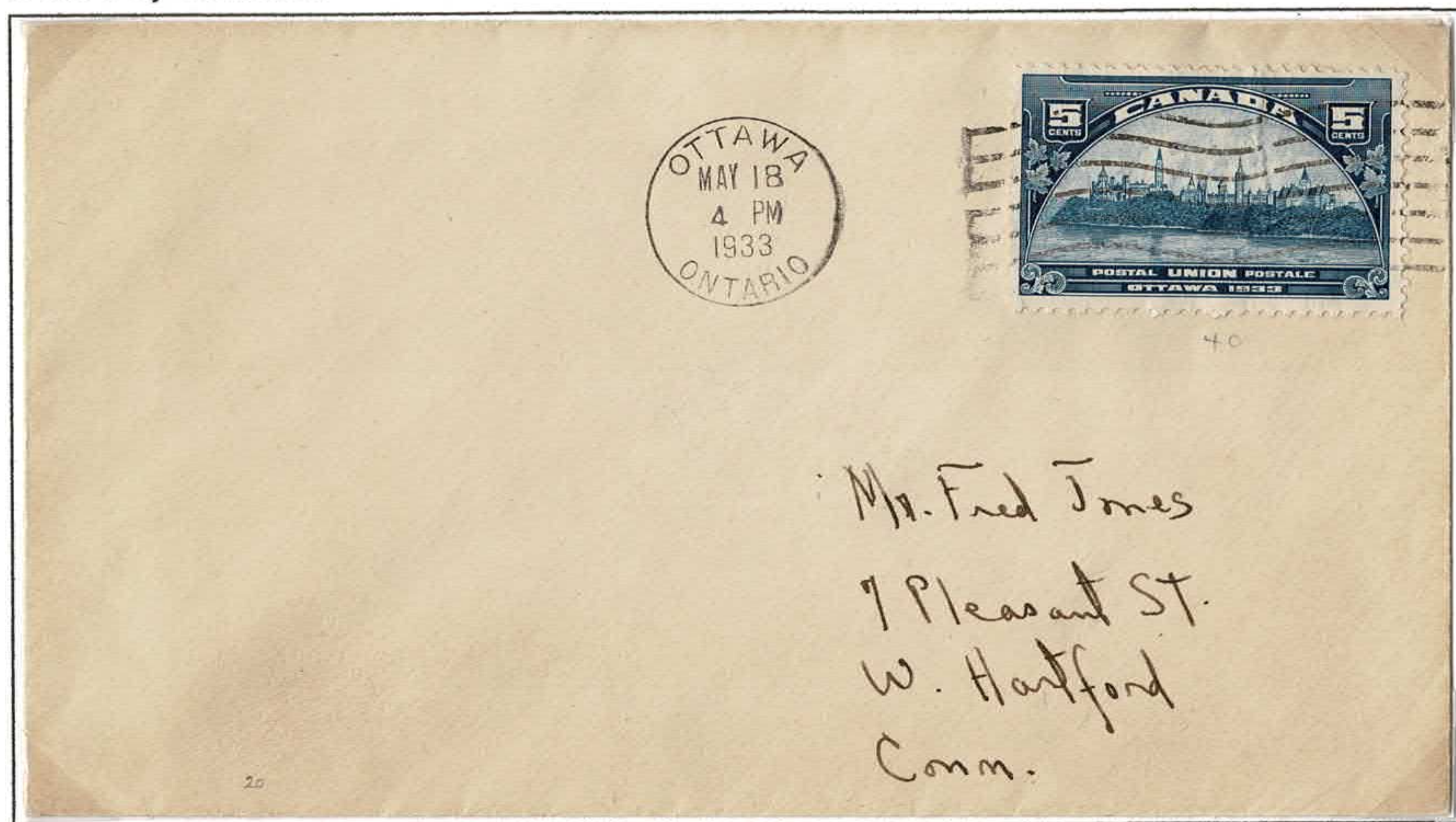
London, Ont., Day of Issue May 18, 1933 – Signed by Postmaster

B. Production

Day of Issue

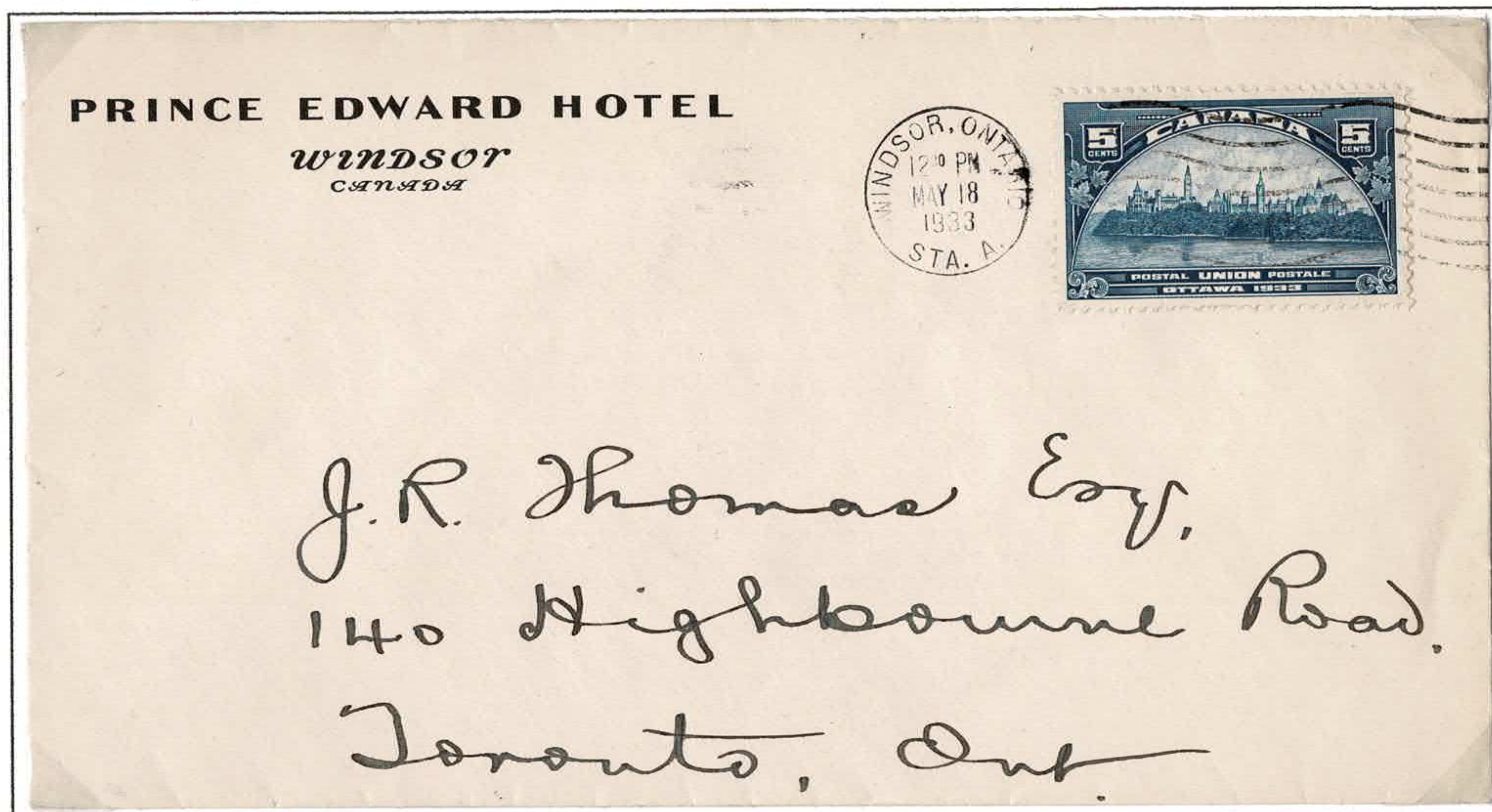
The UPU Preparatory Meeting stamp did not receive general distribution to all post offices because it paid the UPU letter rate for which smaller post offices had little demand.

Ottawa, Ontario



Ottawa, Ont., Day of Issue May 18, 1933

Windsor, Ontario



Windsor, Ont., Day of Issue May 18, 1933

B. Production

Day of Issue – Multiple Toronto Post Offices

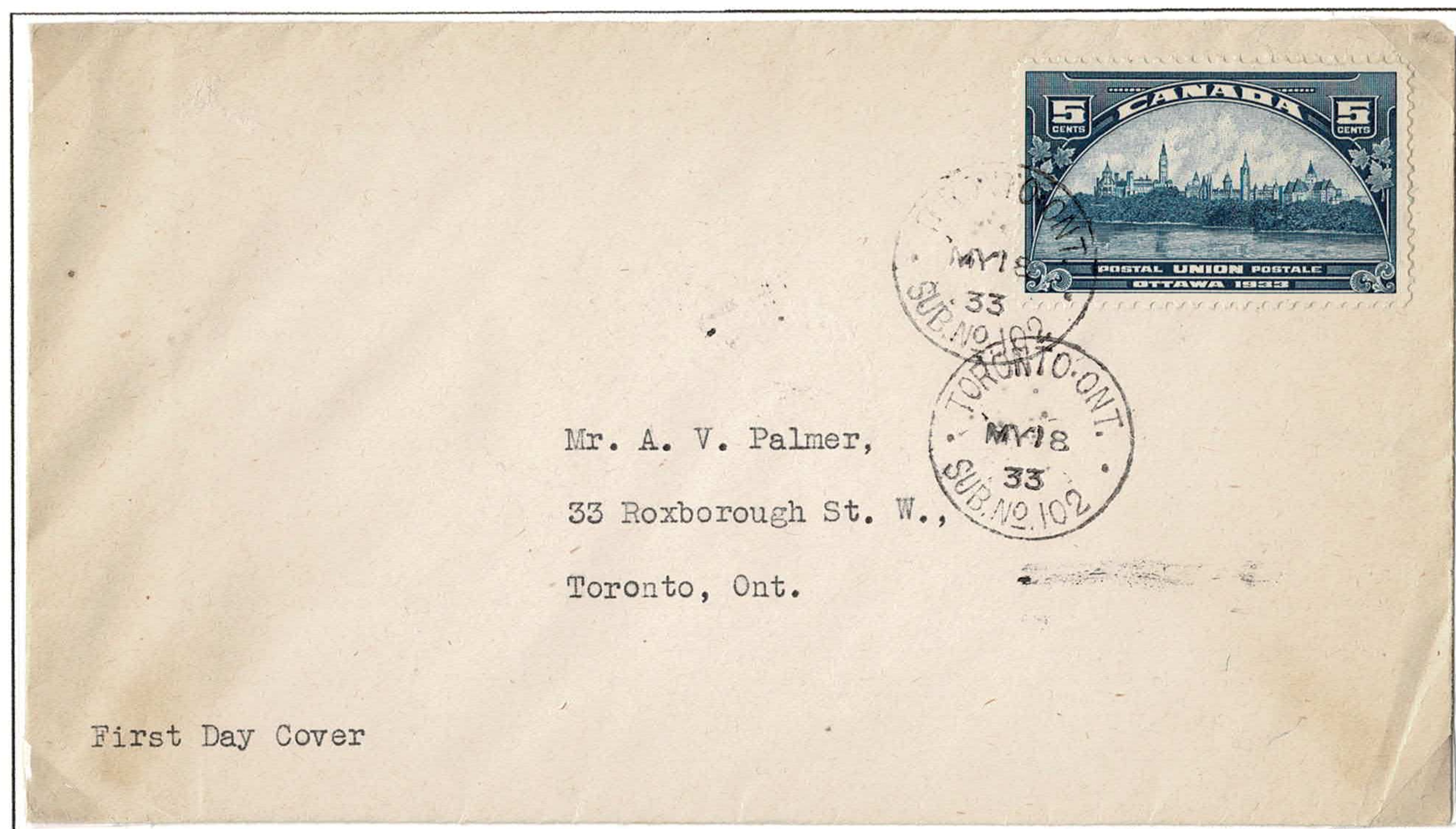
The stamp was issued at 21 city post offices in Canada on May 18, 1933. FDCs with generic cachets are known from 8 cities, as no details of the stamp design were released in advance for custom cachet design preparation. FDCs exist from more than one post office only in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

Toronto Terminal A



Toronto, Ont., Terminal A, Day of Issue May 18, 1933

Toronto Sub No. 2



Toronto, Ont., Sub No. 102, Day of Issue May 18, 1933

C. Delegate Presentation Books

Germany

The delegates exchanged gifts of Presentation Books containing current issue stamps from their countries.

Presentation book from the German delegation containing the 1930-32 regular issue, airmail and welfare stamps of Germany.



An inscription inside the front cover translates to "*Presented by the German delegation on the Preparatory Committee of the Universal Postal Union in Ottawa May 1933*"

ÜBERREICHT
VON DER DEUTSCHEN ABORDNUNG
AUF DEM VORBEREITENDEN AUSSCHUSS
DES WELTPOSTVEREINS
IN OTTAWA
MAI 1933

D. Meeting Post Office

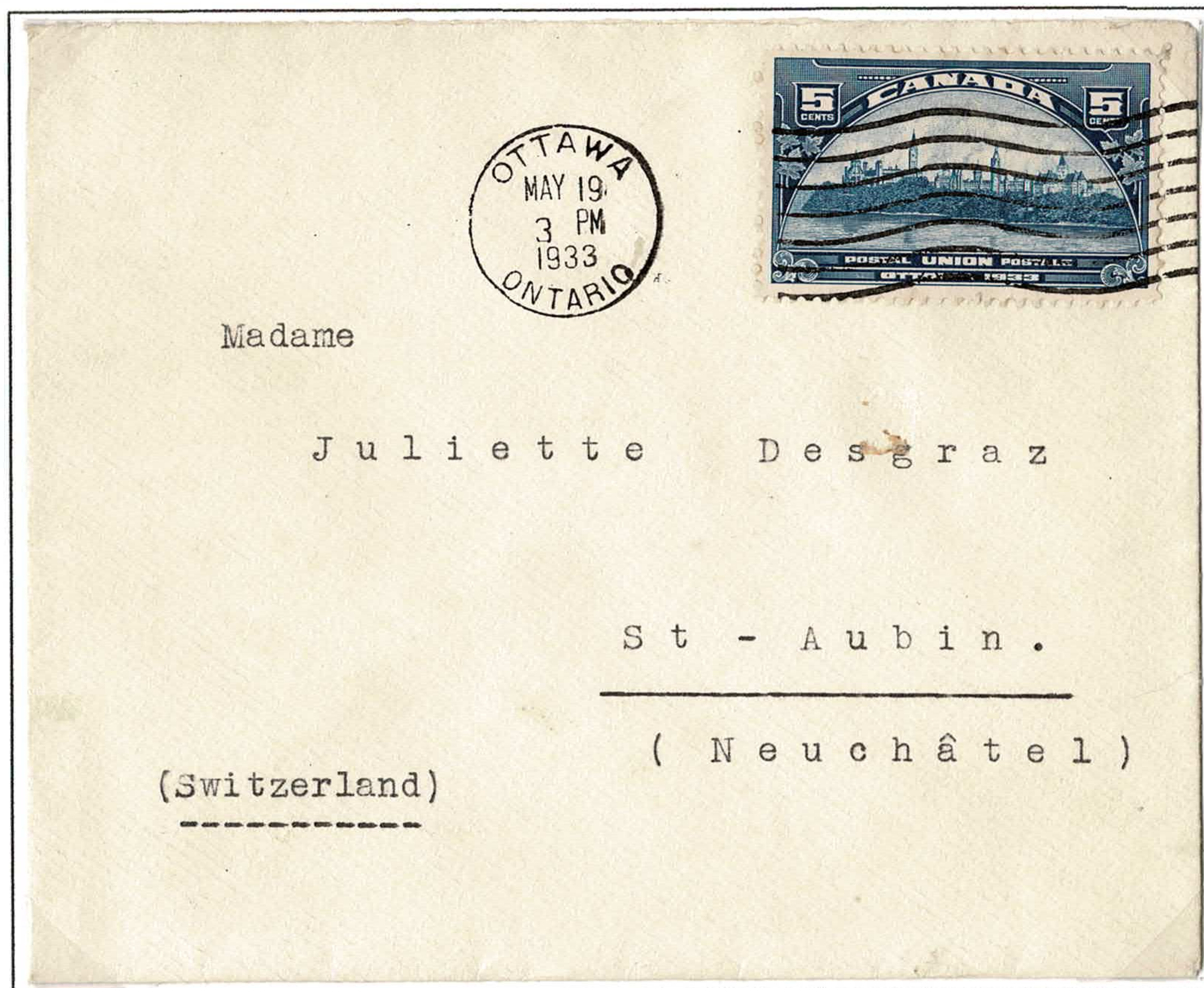
Postal Markings

Two UPU Preparatory Commission date stamps were prepared for the special Post Office at the meetings. The double ring circular date stamp was not available at the start of the meetings.

Temporary Ottawa Machine Cancel



Preparatory Commission
Meeting emblem on
delegate stationery
backflaps



Ottawa May 19, 1933, - 2nd day of meetings. Std. Ottawa machine cancel used.

Double Ring UPU Circular Date Stamp

The 27mm Circular Stamp not proofed until May 23, 1933, 5 days after meetings opened

Sample Strike



All circular cancels
seen have the month
in French



May 24, 1933 – **First day of use** Commission Preparatoire UPU circular date stamp.

D. Meeting Post Office

Oval Cancel & Delegate Post Cards

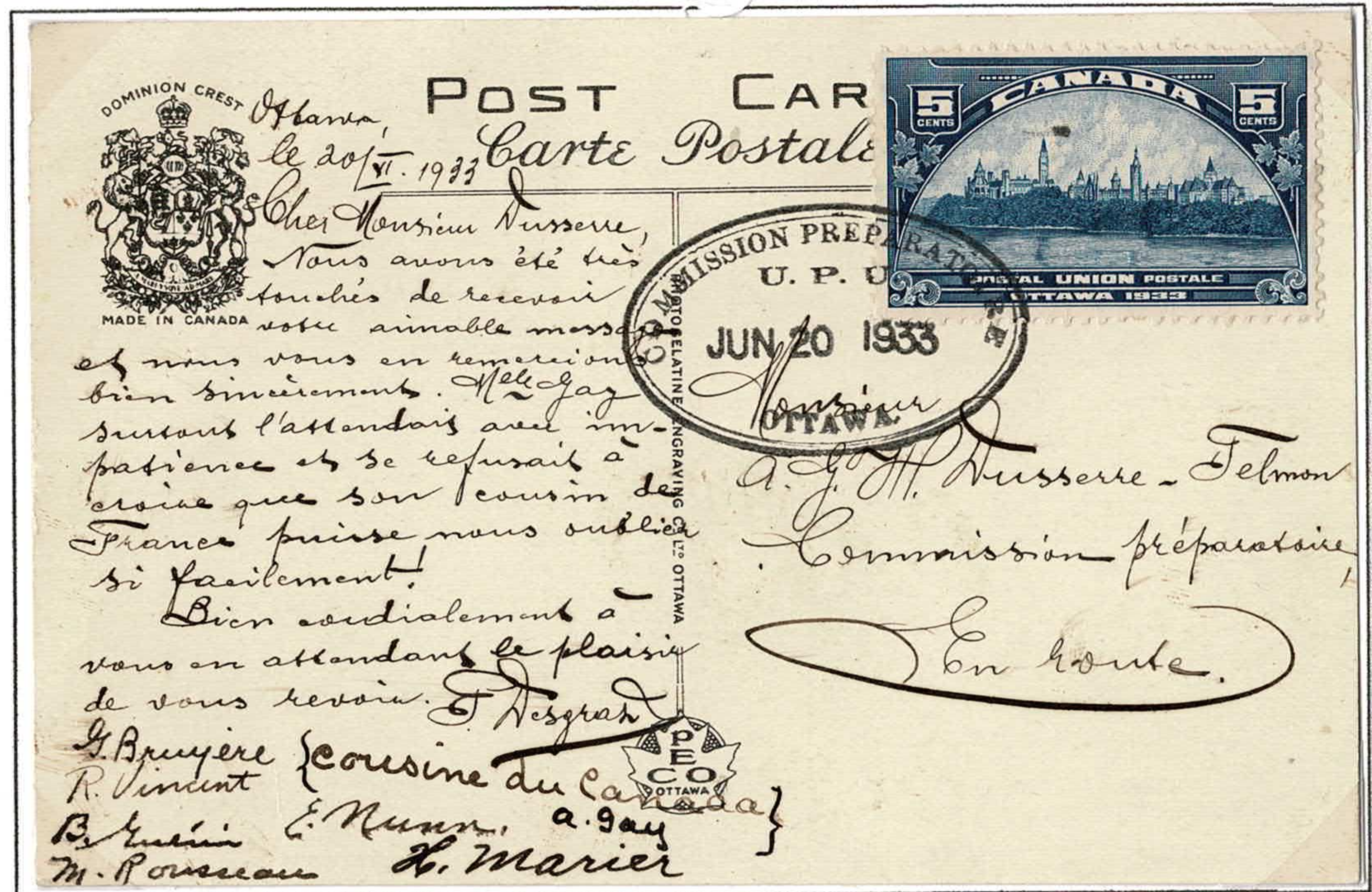
Oval UPU Date Stamp

UPU Preparatory Commission 41mm W. x 25 mm H oval double ring cancel was available throughout the Meeting period but less frequently used than the double ring cancel.



Sample Strike

All oval cancels seen have the month in English

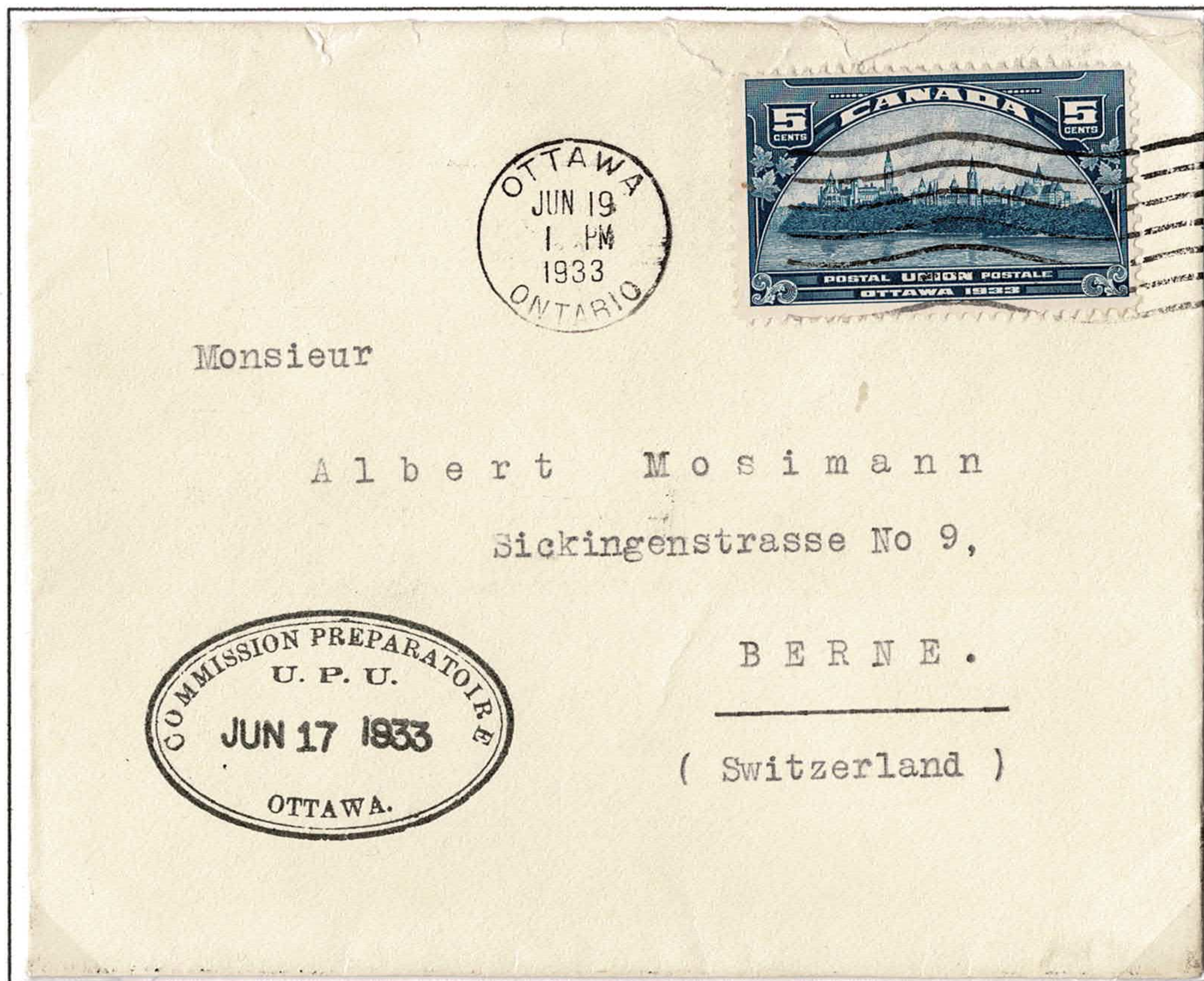


Jun 20, 1933. Addressed "En route" for pick up upon addressee's arrival.

In addition to the UPU Preparatory Meeting Stationery delegates were provided with PECO post cards like the one above with scenes from Ottawa and the surrounding area.

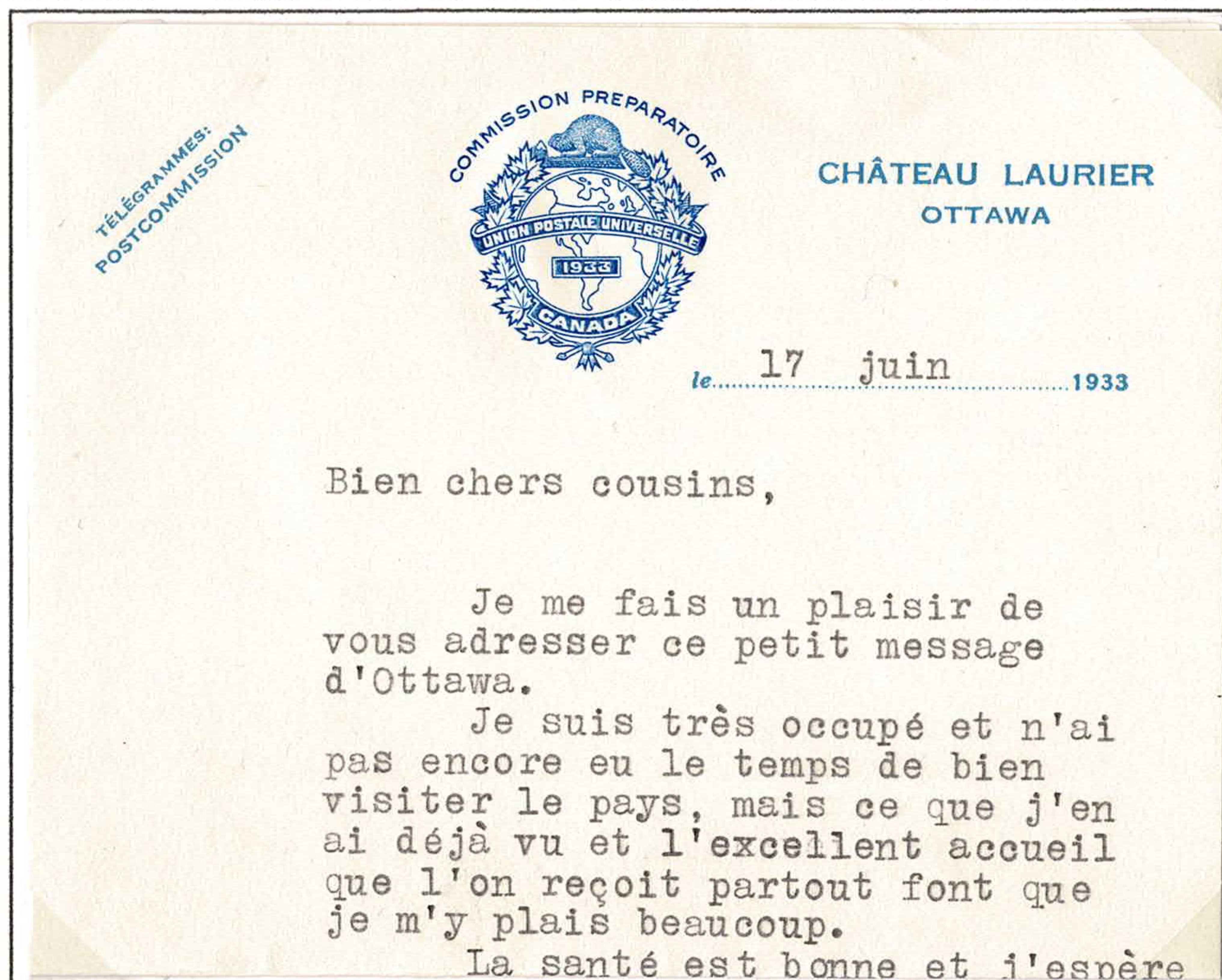


Reduced image of above Delegate Post Card with Houses of Parliament scene from Ottawa River.



Oval handstamp applied at Conference P. O. Sat. June 17, 1933, same date as enclosed letter.
Ottawa machine cancel applied Mon. June 19, 1933, to cancel stamp upon entering external mails.

Enclosure - Letter from UPU Staff Member to Cousins in Berne



Dated June 17, 1933 – sending greetings, impressions of Ottawa, & advising of Conference envelope being sent to office colleague who lives in same building as cousins.

D. Meeting Post Office

Last Day of Meetings Souvenirs

Delegates & UPU Staff Members commemorated last day of meetings using both conference postal markings



June 28, 1933, Last day of meetings mail to personal address in Berne Switzerland. Double ring circular cancel tied stamp plus clear favour strikes of both circular & oval conference cancels.



June 28, 1933, Last day of meetings, unaddressed & favour canceled conference stationery envelope.

E. Usages

Perforated Initials

Companies & organizations privately perforated stamps with insignia to prevent theft & misuse. Only 33 governments agencies and large companies privately perforated that 5 cent UPU stamp. With domestic letter rate at 3 cents most organizations would not have maintained stocks of higher value stamps

Different orientations of the perforated initials exist from some companies. Position 1 is when the perforated initials are in the same orientation as the stamp image when viewed from the stamp face. Position 3 is when the stamp image and the perforated initials are 180deg different. Perforated Initials on the stamps below are position 1 unless noted differently.



Bell Telephone



Bell Telephone Pos'n 3



Canada Steamship Lines



Greenshields Ltd



Legislative Assembly



Parke Davis



Province of Saskatchewan



Sun Life



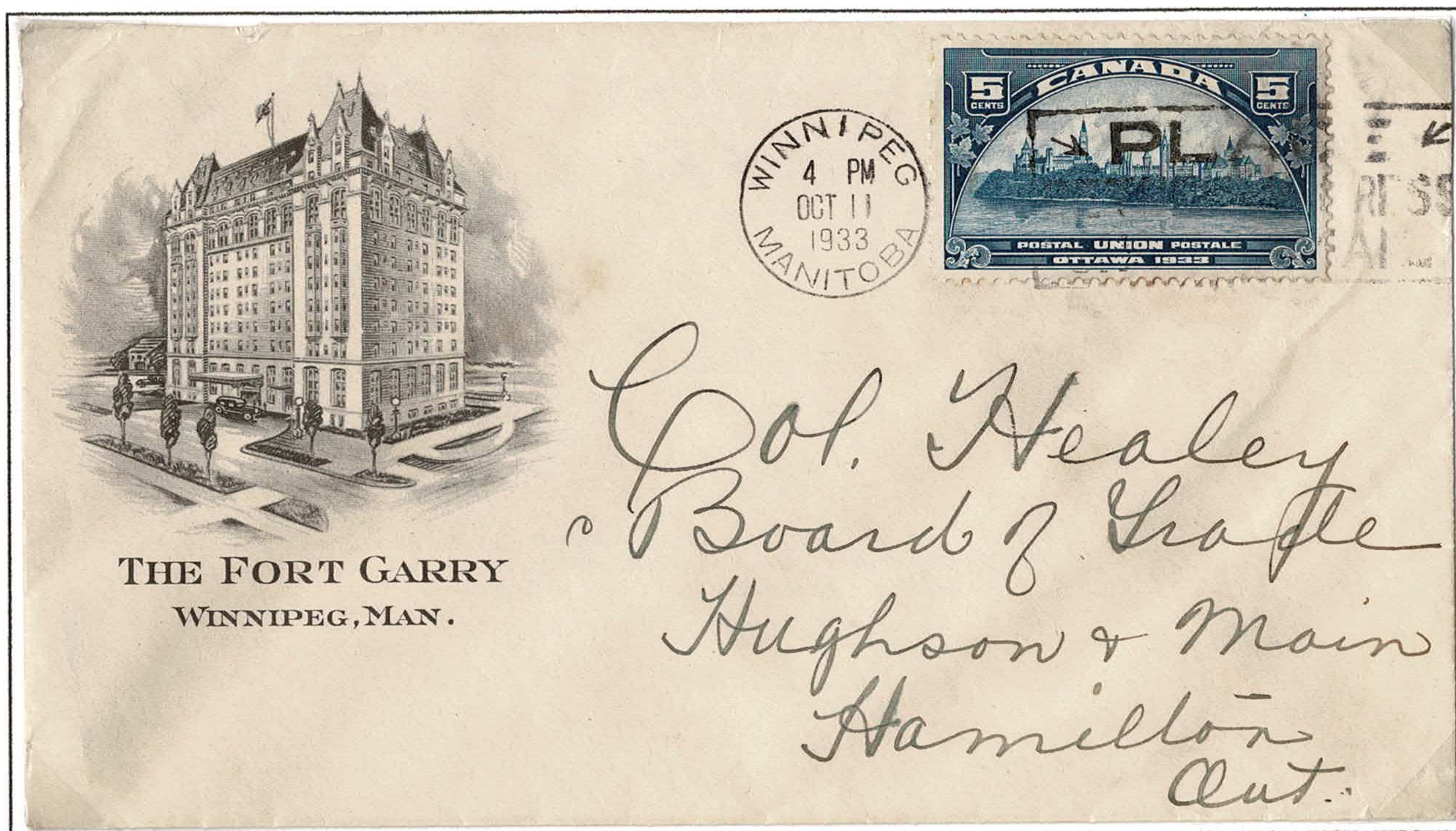
Travellers Life

E. Usages

Double Wt. Domestic & British Empire Rates

Domestic Letter Rate-Double Weight

The domestic letter rate from Jul 1, 1931, to Mar 31, 1943, was 3 cents for the first oz and 2 cents for each additional oz.



Winnipeg Man., Oct 11. 1933 to Hamilton Ont.

British Empire Surface Mail – Double Weight

Surface rate to British Empire Jul 1, 1931, to March 31, 1943, was 3 cents per first oz. plus 2 cents for each additional oz.



Harriston Ont. to Scotland Oct. 25, 1933

E. Usages

Registration Fees

Registration fee was 10 cents with maximum of \$25 indemnity from July 15, 1920, to April 1, 1951.

Domestic Registered Drop Letter – Free Carrier Delivery (FCD)

FCD drop letter rate was 2 cents for first oz. & 1 cent per oz. thereafter April 15, 1915, to March 31, 1943.



Montreal, Que., FCD July Aug 14, 1933, with 10 cent Registration Fee.

Domestic Registered Letter

Domestic surface letter rate was 3 cents for first oz. & 2 cents per oz. thereafter from July 1, 1931, to March 31, 1943.



Peterborough Ont., June 2, 1933, with 10 cent Registration Fee.

E. Usages

Overweight Reg'd Letter & Parcel Post

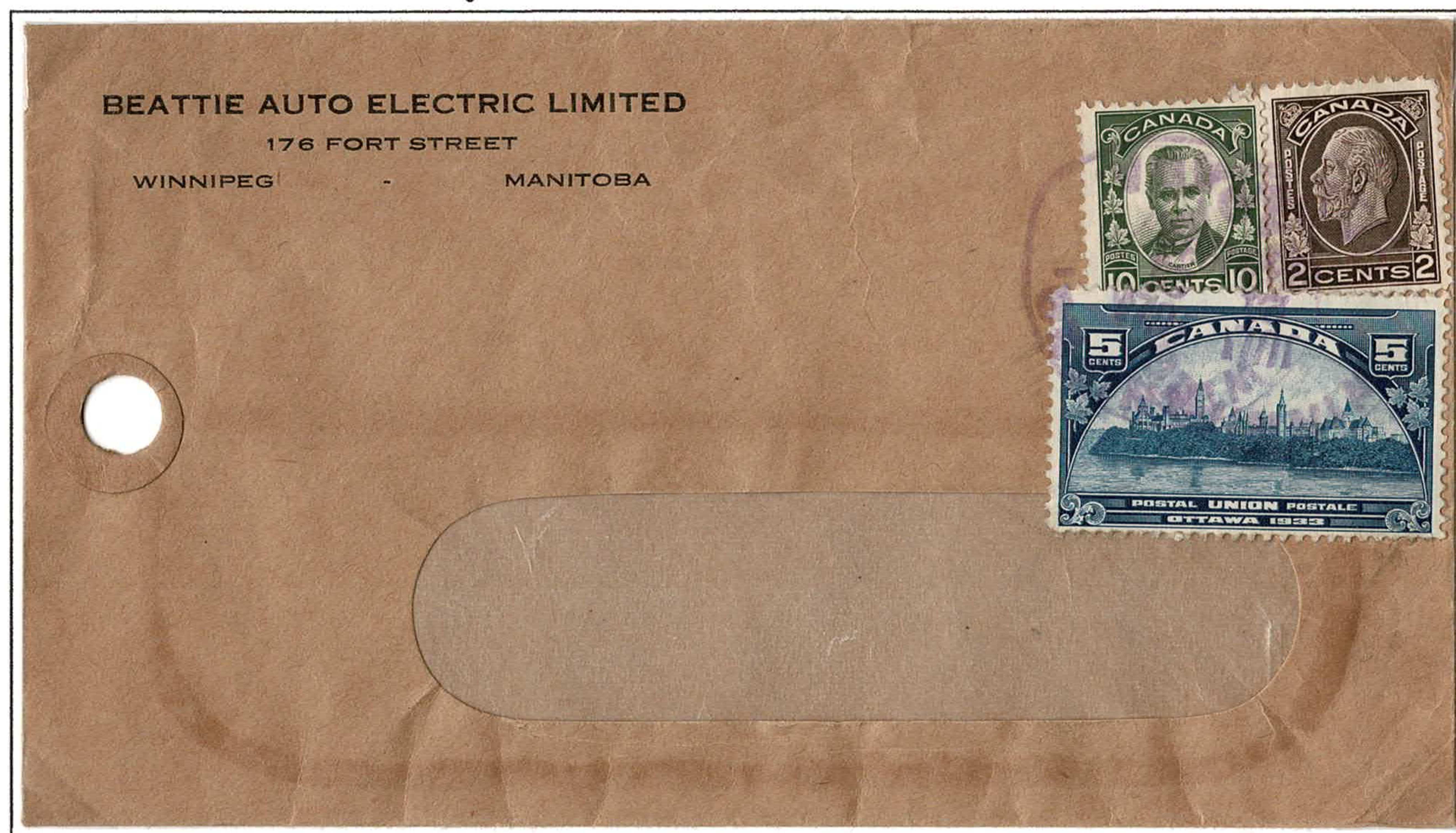
Overweight Registered Letter Rate to USA – 4 oz.

Reg'd Letter Rate: 3 cents for 1st oz plus 2 cents for each additional oz. or part thereof plus 10 cents registration



Spadina Ave., Toronto, Aug 30, 1935, to North Dakota, USA

Parcel Post-Manitoba to any Post Office in Ontario/Saskatchewan-2 lbs-17cents



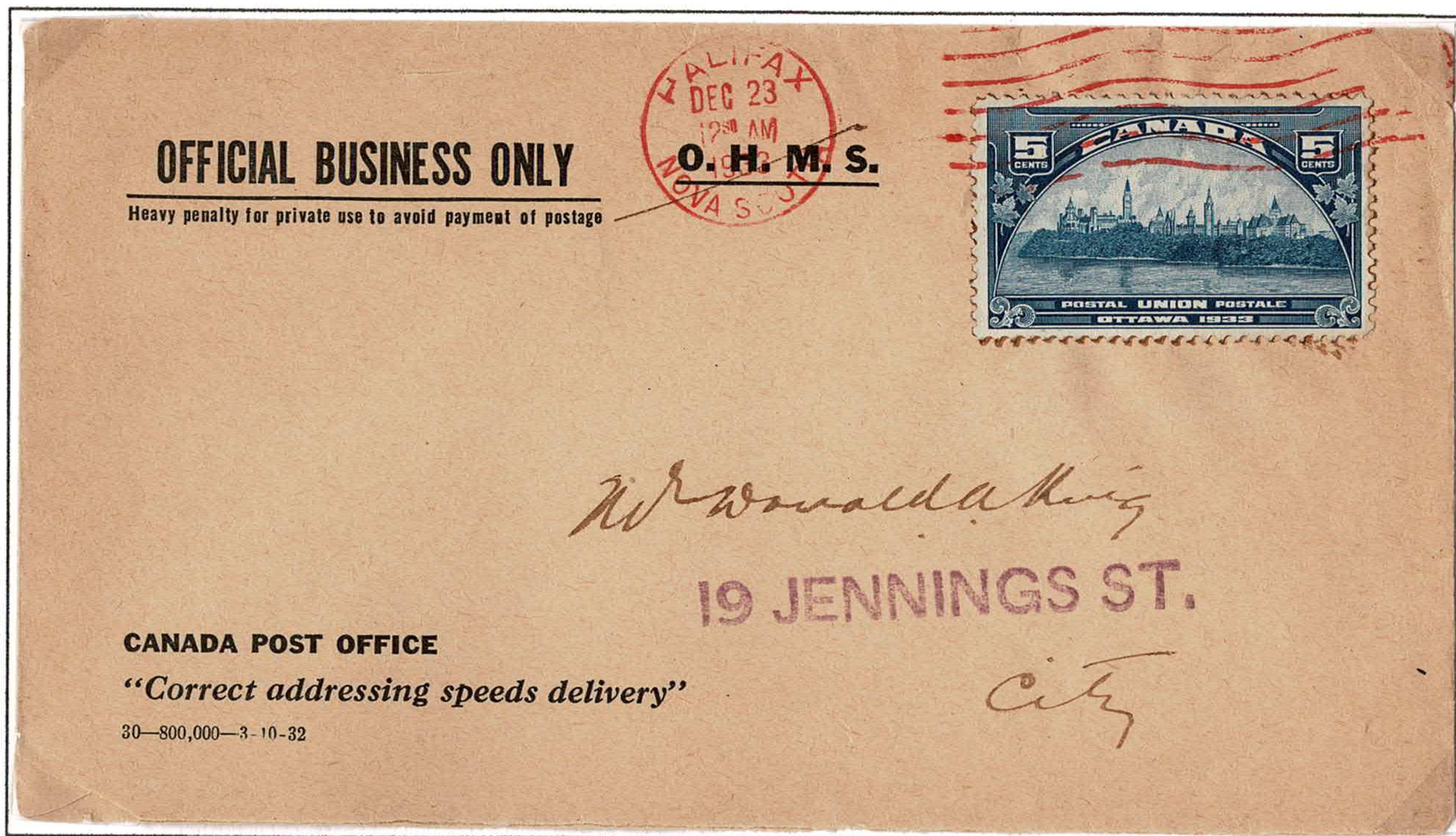
Winnipeg, Man. Circa 1934 paying 2 lb Parcel Post rate to a neighbouring province

E. Usages

Advanced Posting Service & Money Letter Packets

Advanced Posting Service

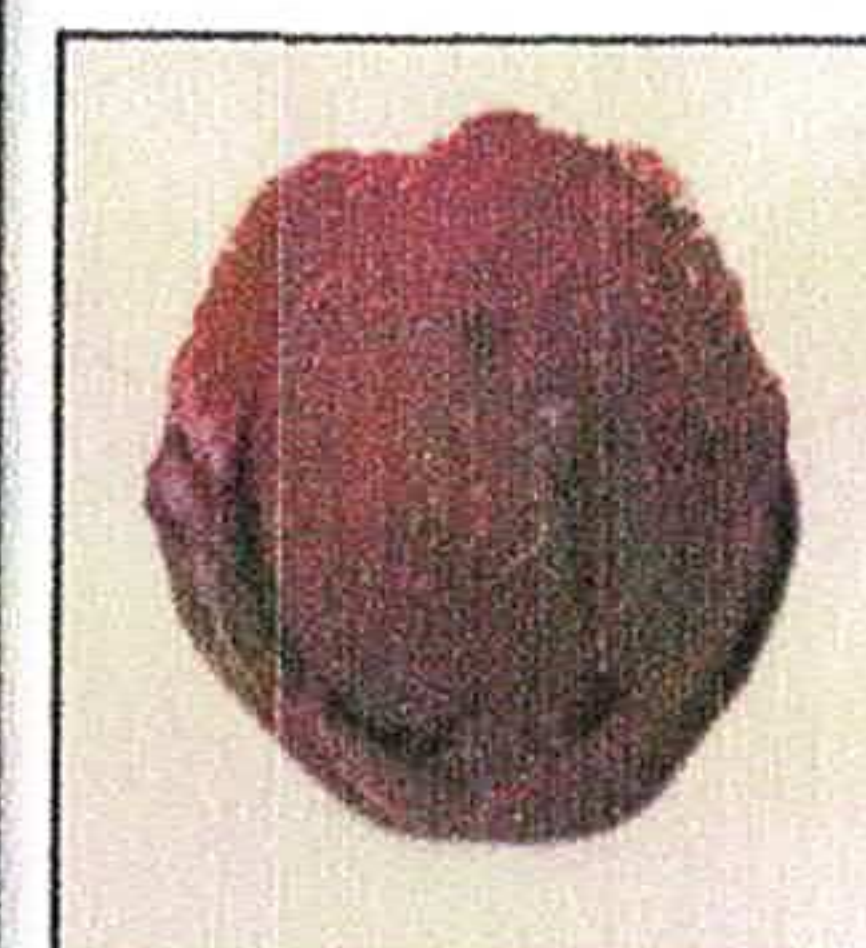
The Advanced Posting Service (APS) offered 1926 until 1945. APS allowed for early mailing of Christmas greetings for delivery last delivery day before Christmas. Each letter received a red machine cancel.



Halifax, N.S. Dec 23, 1933, Overpaying drop letter rate by 3 cents. Addressee was former Halifax Postmaster who retired the previous month.

Money Letter Packet

Money Letter packet rate was a 1st class rate at 5 cents per oz plus mandatory 10 cent registration fee used mostly for interbank transfers of bank notes & securities. Banks usually sealed money packets with their wax seals.



Imperial Bank
Wax Seal
On Back

Brandon, Man., Aug 22, 1933, Imperial Bank interbranch Money Packet

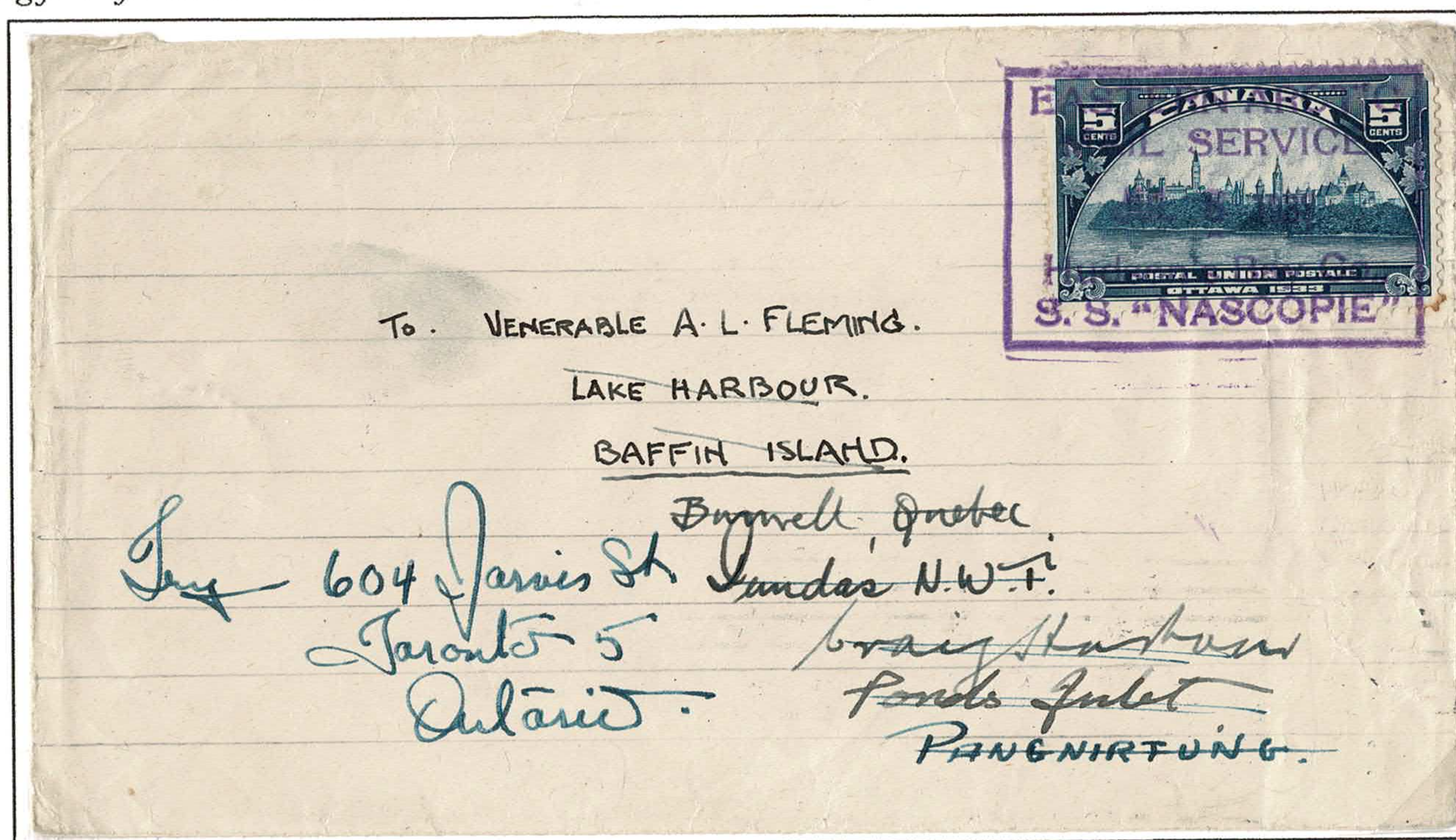
E. Usages

Eastern Arctic Mail Service – S.S. Nascopie

S.S. Nascopie, fitted with an ice breaker hull made annual 3-month voyages from Montreal to arctic communities & Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) stations bringing supplies and replacement personnel. S.S. Nascopie also provided the Eastern Arctic Mail Service. Remote communities, RCMP stations, & annual S.S. Nascopie voyages & Mail Service strongly supported Canada's Arctic sovereignty.

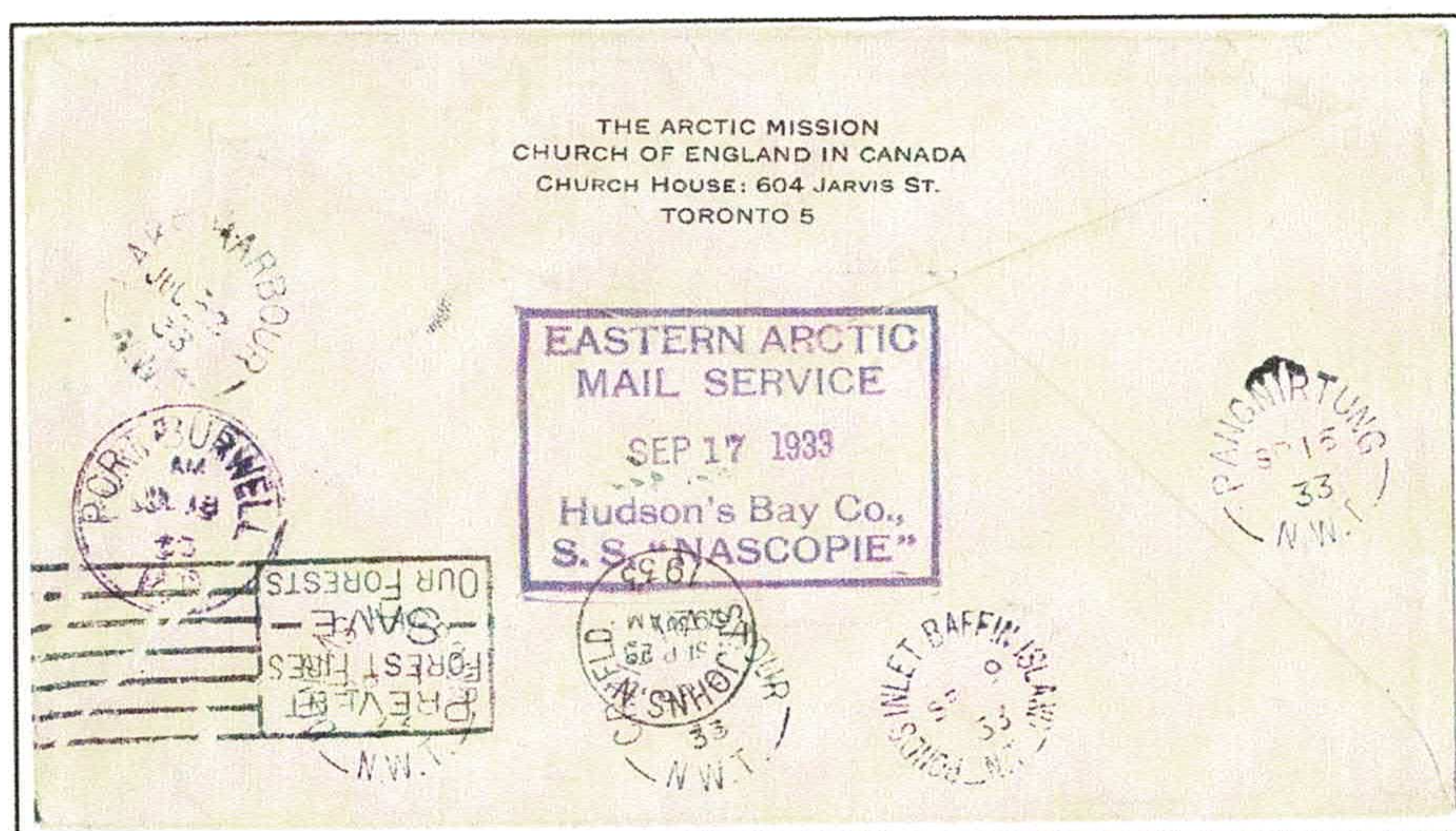
Venerable A. L. Fleming

"There is a man who has the North Pole in his parish; he is the Venerable A. L. Fleming who is now in England raising funds for the Arctic Missions" - Auston Hatton, London Daily Herald, March 21, 1933.



Montreal Jul 8, 1933 – Eastern Arctic Mail Service, Hudson's Bay Co. S.S. Nascopie Cancel on departure date. Multiple ports are listed as the sender did not know at which port Fleming might be at for delivery. He was not at any port & letter was returned.

Verso -Reduced



Journey Backstamps

Port Burwell P.Q	JL 18, '33
Lake Harbour NWT	JL 22, '33
Dundas Harbour NWT	SP 1 '33
Craig Harbour NWT	SP 4 '33
Pond's Inlet NWT	SP 9 '33
Pangnirtung NWT	SP 16 '33
St. John's NFLD	SP 28 '33

S.S. Nascopie Eastern Arctic Mail Service, Sep 17, 1933, boxed purple stamp applied on back at Pangnirtung.

S.S. Nascopie departed Pangnirtung NWT@5:00 on Sep 18, '33

E. Usages

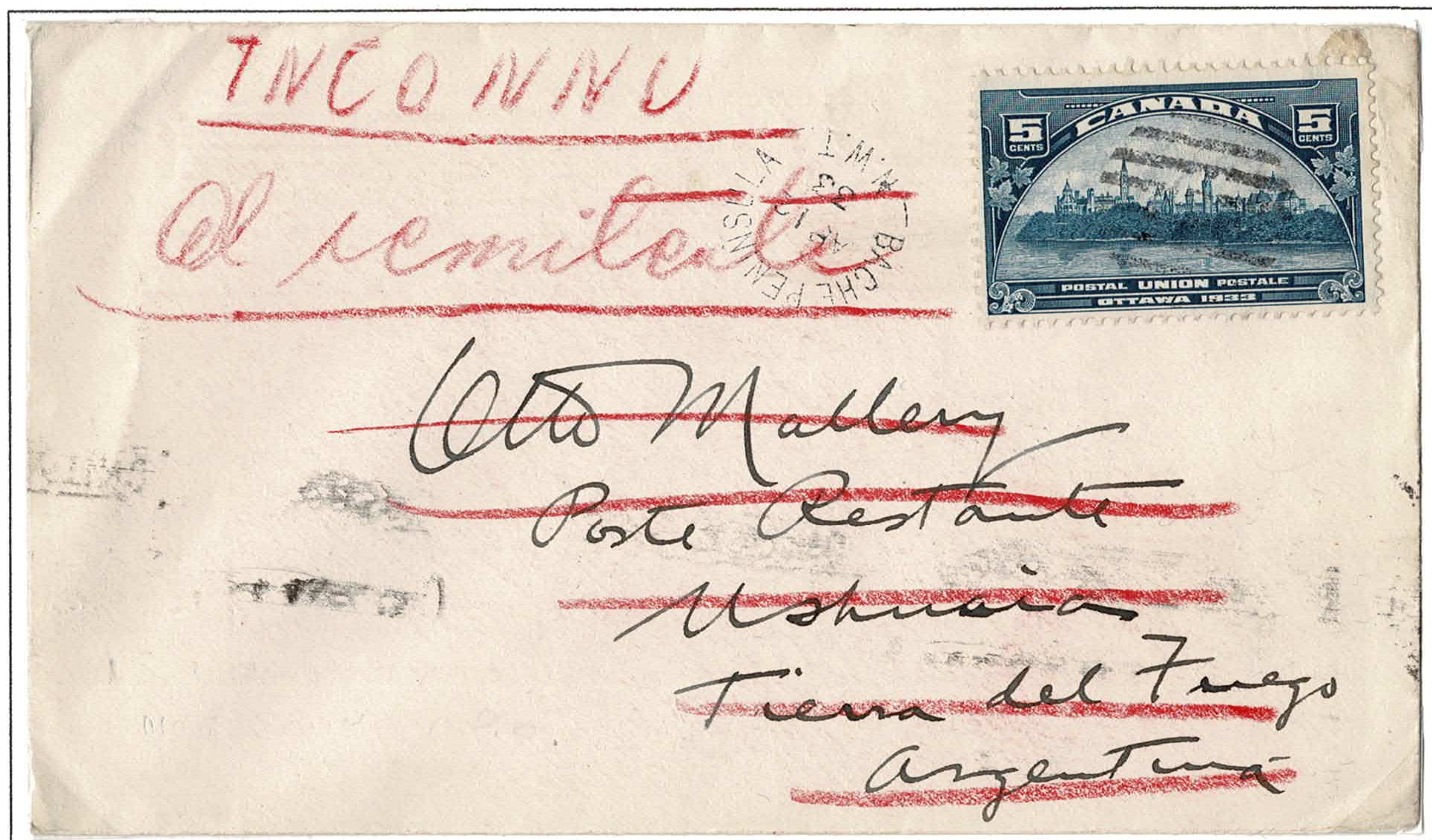
Eastern Arctic Mail Service – S.S. Nascopie

Bache Peninsula, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) station @ 79° 10' N, 76° 0' on Ellesmere Island in Canada's Arctic was world's most northern Post Office, established in 1926. Heavy ice conditions prevented ships from reaching the station in 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1932. Geologist Dr. H. K. E Kruger & small team passed through the area in 1930 & were never seen again. RCMP searched for his team for 2 years to no avail. Decision made to close the Bache Peninsula RCMP Station & Post Office. Closure & overland departure to Craig Harbour, further south on Ellesmere Island occurred on April 12, 1933.

Most Northern to Most Southern Post Offices

Otto Mallery mailed this letter under separate cover to Postmaster (PM) at Bache Peninsula sometime between May 18, 1933, when the stamp was issued & July 8, 1933, when the S.S. Nascopie departed Montreal. Instructions provided to the PM were to post this letter addressed to Ushuaia, Argentina, from Bache Peninsula. However, on April 12, 1933, the Bache Peninsula RCMP Station & Post Office personnel and equipment had been moved to Craig Harbour. Upon Nascopie arrival at Craig Harbour on Sep 3, 1933, Otto's separate cover to Bache Peninsula PM was opened and this enclosed letter was mailed from Craig Harbour & cancelled with Bache Peninsula hammer with the April 12, 1933, closure date. Upon being returned to the ship, Eastern Arctic Mail Nascopie purple handstamp dated Sep 7, 1933, added to back.

Otto's letter addressed to himself arrived in Ushuaia Argentina, the most southerly post office in South America at an unknown date. It was marked "INCONNU" (UPU standard for *Unknown*) in French and "Al Remitente" (Spanish for *to the sender*) in red pencil. Return voyage transit marks are from Buenos Aires, Argentina April 13, 1934, and Montreal April 27, 1934, and finally Inspection Division, Dead Letter Office, Ottawa May 4, 1934.



Bache Peninsula, NWT, April 12, 1933

E. Usages

Airmail - Domestic and to USA

Domestic Airmail - Single Weight

Domestic Airmail rate Oct 23, 1931 – Mar 31, 1943 was 6 cents per first oz. plus 5 cents for each addition oz.



First Flight Kenora to Red Lake, Dec 11, 1934

USA Airmail Rate – Single Weight

Airmail rate to USA rate Aug 1, 1932, to Jun 30, 1934, was 8 cents per 1st oz. plus 13 cents for each additional oz.



Rainy River, Ont., Sep 11, 1933 to Toledo Ohio, USA

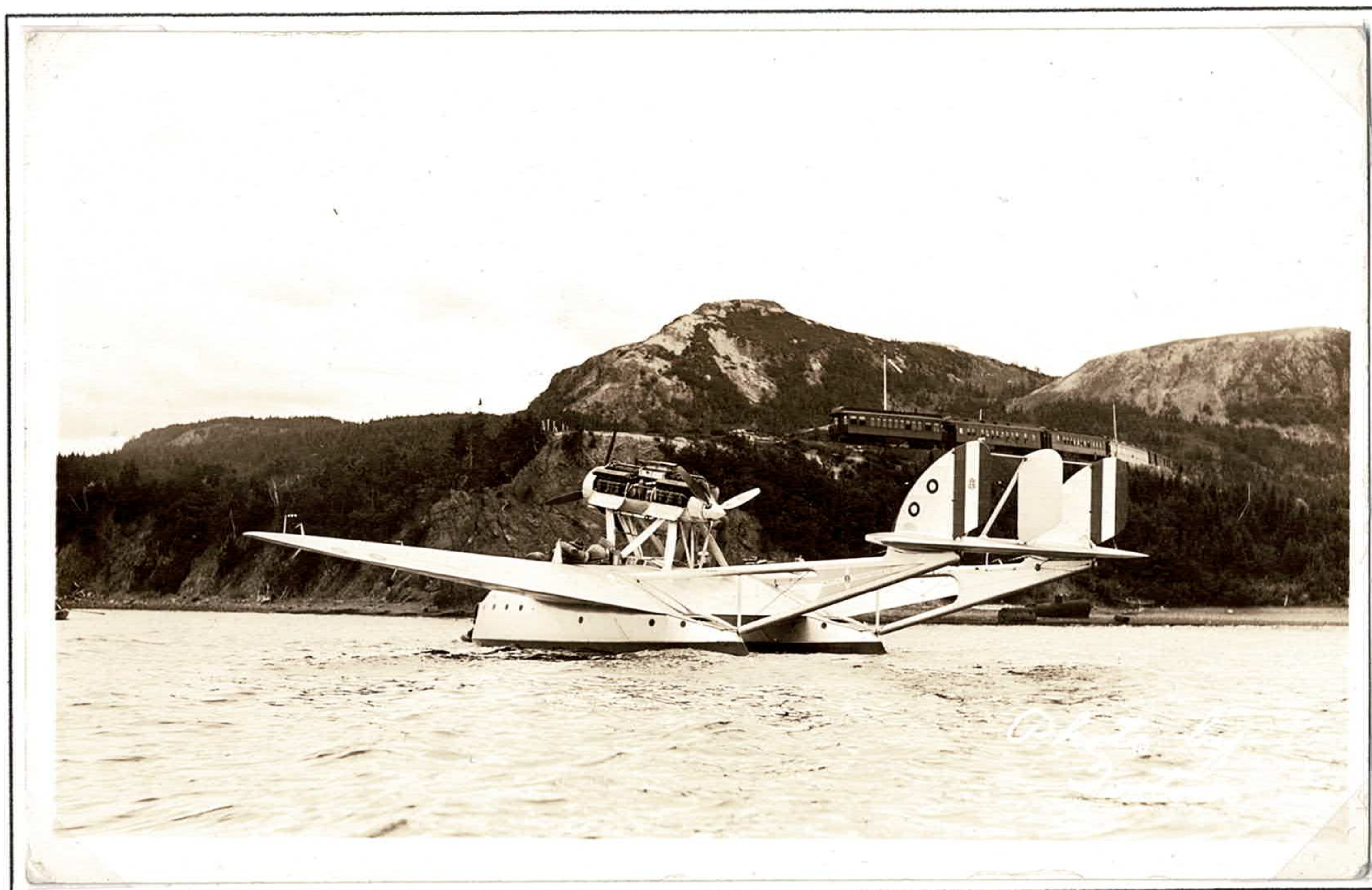
E. Usages

1933 Cruise of Gen. Balbo - Rome to Chicago

On July 1, 1933 General Italo Balbo set out from Orbetello, Italy for a multi-leg crossing of the North Atlantic to the Chicago World's Fair in a fleet of 25 Savoia-Marchetti S.55X seaplanes with a crew of 100 men. After one plane crashed while landing at Amsterdam with the loss of a life, 24 planes continued on to Chicago. Upon reaching Cartwright, Newfoundland, the number of aviators who had successfully crossed the North Atlantic rose from 28 to 127.



UPU stamp part of \$1.45 rate on cover carried on the 7th leg of the flight, Montreal-Chicago, Jul 15, 1933



Real photo post card of one of Balbo's S.55X seaplanes at Shoal Harbour Nfld on the homeward journey. Balbo's fleet remained at Shoal Harbour for 2 weeks, Jul 26 - Aug 8, 1933 waiting for good weather in the North Atlantic before deciding on an alternate southern route via the Azores.

E. Usages

Commemoration of Major Aviation Events

Collectors Commemorated two major aviation events which occurred in 1933 with special covers.

Italian Good Will Tour – En Route to World's Fair, Chicago

In addition to flown mail on Gen Balbo's planes, the event was commemorated on cover sent by regular airmail.



Montreal, Que., Jul 14, 1933

Willie Post Circles the Globe – First Solo Flight

An innovator in high altitude flying, Post discovered the Jet Stream and contributed to the development of the first pressurized suit for high altitude flying.



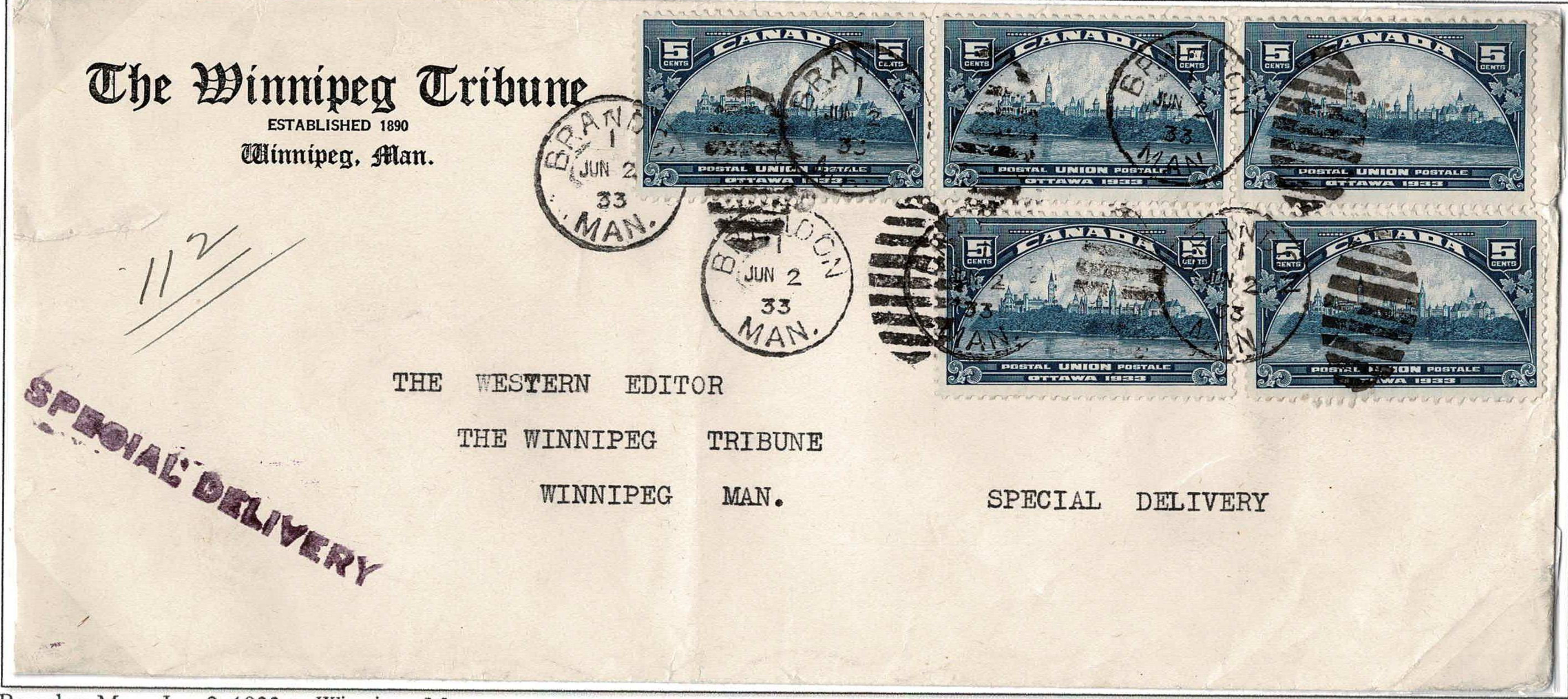
Edmonton Alberta Jul 22, 1933.

E. Usages

Domestic Special Deliver Letter – Double Weight

Domestic Special Delivery Fees, Unaddressed Boxholder & Non-letter Mail

Special Delivery Fee – 20 Cents Oct 23, 1931 to Feb 28, 1939 plus 3 cents for first oz. and 2 cents each additional oz. Jul 1, 1931 to Mar 31, 1943



Brandon Man., Jun 2, 1933 to Winnipeg Man.

Rural Route Unaddressed Boxholder Rate

Unaddressed circulars, flyers, prices current and other printed matter mail could be distributed to every Rural Route box holder at the rate of 1 cent per 2 oz for Rural Route delivery as far as the quantity lasts. Bulk payment with postage stamps was made on special forms.



Watford Ont., Aug 17. 1933. Bulk payment for delivery of 225 flyers on Watford Rural Routes

Non-Letter Mail

Parcel Tag



Ceepeecee B.C. Nov 23, 1933 – 65 cents postage – Addresses to Geological Survey, Dept of Mines, Ottawa & most likely tied to a bag of mineral samples.

Third Class - Printed Matter



Block of 9 UPU stamp (45 cents). Exclusive use of obliterator without a date cancel suggests third class matter, which was not required to be date cancelled.

E. Usages

UPU Letter Rate - Surface

The surface rate for international letters was 5 cents per ounce.

To Germany



Sutton Bay Ont. Dec 5, 1933, to Aurich East Frisia, Germany

To China



Calgary AB, May 25, 1933, Transit Hong Kong June 16, 1933, Arrival Fukien (Fujian) China Jul 27, 1933

E. Usages Europe

International Airmail to Europe

Airmail service to Europe began Jul 1, 1931, with transatlantic portion being by surface. 10 cents per 1/2 oz rate remained in place until transatlantic air transport began Jun 24, 1939. Rate then increased to 30 cents per 1/2 oz. including transatlantic portion by air.

To France



Montreal, Que., May 31, 1933 – Arrived in Paris June 9, 1933

To Italy

Domestic airmail rate from Jul 1, 1931, was 6 cents including 1 cent war tax for 1st oz. Cover below underpays Natashquan-Rimouski 1st flight rate by 1 cent. 10 cents covers transatlantic surface & airmail in Europe.



Natashquan P.Q. Dec 18, 1936, Transit Rimouski P.Q. Dec 19, 1936, Arrived Trieste Jan 8, 1937

E. Usages

International Airmail

Airmail to South American Countries, except British Guiana

The airmail service to all South America countries except British Guiana began on Feb 2, 1931, at the rate of 45 cents per ½ oz rate. The single rate for all countries remained on place until June 30, 1934.



Toronto Ont., Jun 2, 1933 – Arrived in Barranquilla, Columbia June 5, 1933

Airmail to West Indies, Mexico, Cuba, Central America & Br.

The airmail letter rate to these countries was 15 cents per ½ oz from Feb 2, 1931, to June 30, 1934.



Windsor, Ont., June 29, 1933 – Arrived in St. Lucia, B.W.I July 5, 1933

Routing based on standard routings at the time

- Surface to Detroit
- USA Contract Air Mail
Routes: Detroit to Chicago, Chicago to Miami
- Foreign Air Mail Route No. 6 Miami to Castries, St Lucia



Verso
Castries, St. Lucia
July 5, 1933

E. Usages

International Registered Letter Rates

The registration fee was 10 cents in addition to the 5 cent UPU surface letter rate.

To Finland



Montreal Jun 26, 1933

To Switzerland



Vancouver BC, Oct 10, 1933

To Austria



Barriere B.C Oct 10, 1933

To Germany



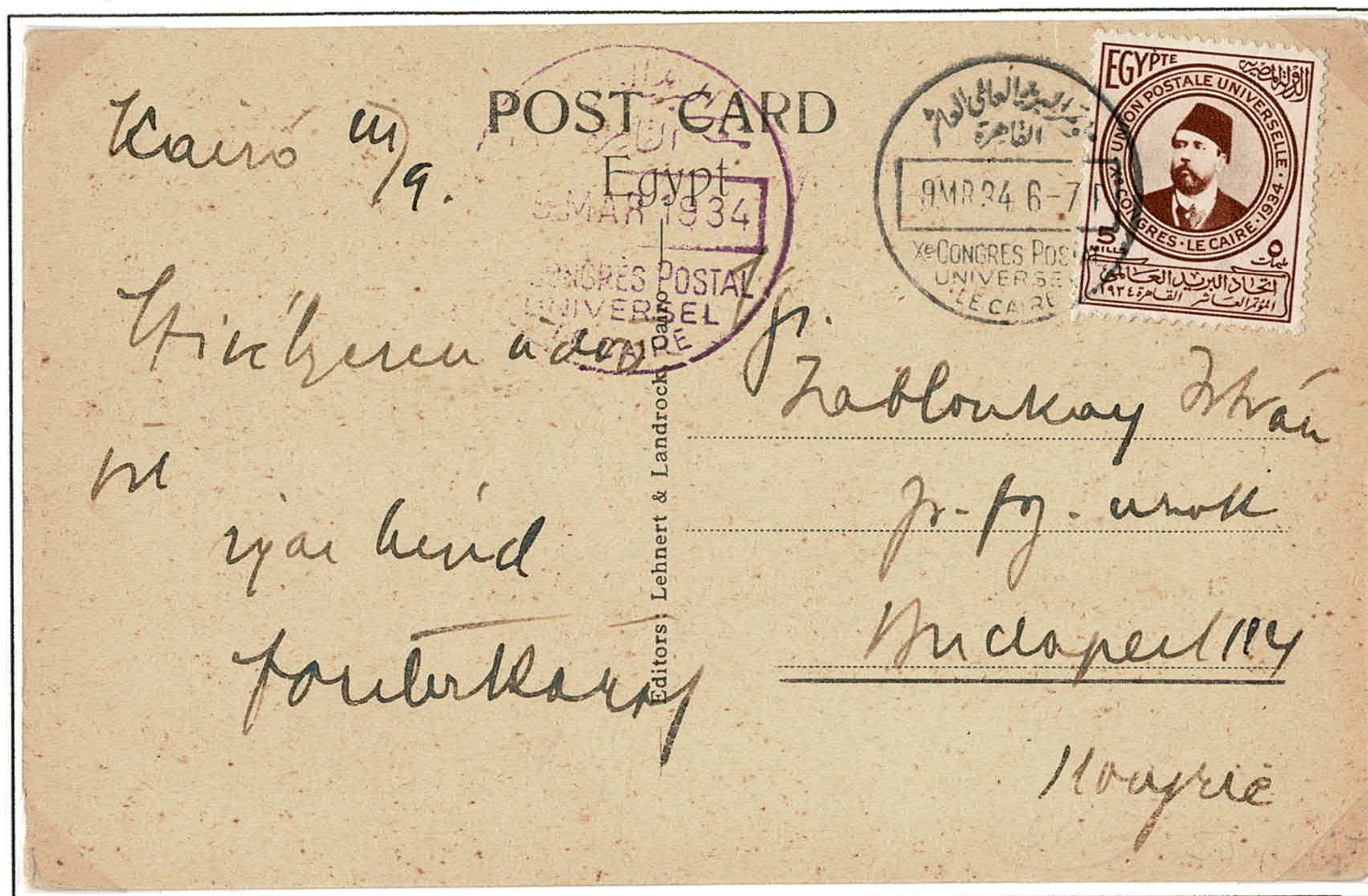
Vancouver BC, Oct 10, 1933

F. Epilogue

1934 UPU Congress, Cairo & 1957 UPU Congress, Ottawa

The 1933 UPU Preparatory Commission Meeting in Ottawa May 18 – June 28, 1933, developed the agenda for the 10th UPU Congress in Cairo, Egypt in 1934. Canada hosted the 14th UPU Congress in Ottawa Aug 14 – Oct 3, 1957.

Cairo, Egypt



Egypt Post Card mailed March 9, 1934, to Hungary with 1934 UPU Congress stamp & cancels

Ottawa, Canada



14th UPU Congress, Ottawa, Stationery & Stamps, Souvenir Cover Sept 27, 1957.