



KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

October—December 2003

Issue 1

KGVI Study Group Forms at BNAPS 2003

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|--------------------------|----------|--|--|
| Chairman's Corner | 1 | Doug Lingard, BNAPS Vice President Study Groups chaired a kick-off meeting of the new King George VI Study Group during BNAPEX 2003 London. Everyone in attendance spoke briefly about their collecting interests. Following consensus that indeed there was sufficient interest to form the new King George VI Study Group, Gary Steele kindly volunteered to become Study Group Chairman, Simon Claughton, Treasurer and Stephen Prest, Newsletter Editor. | BNAPEX 2003 was well attended and congratulations are in order to John Burnett, a King George Study Group member, whose exhibit " <i>Postal History of the Canadian 'Mufti Issue' of 1937-1941</i> " was awarded a Vermeil medal at BNAPEX 2003. |
| EFO Corner | 2 | Other exhibits at BNAPEX 2003 that featured items related to the King George VI period included John Fretwell's " <i>Canadian Coils</i> ", Vic Wilson's " <i>Canada Airmails to Central and South America 1928-1939</i> " and Ken Mcgee's " <i>Canada 1930-39</i> ". Charles Livermore's " <i>Thanks for the Smokes</i> " portrayed Post cards, letters etc that outlined the distribution of cigarettes to Canadian troops overseas during WWII. | |
| Editor's Corner | 2 | In all, eleven philatelists attending the inaugural meeting of the Study Group signed up as fully paid members. In addition, a number of other attendees to BNAPEX 2003 indicated a strong interest in joining and a number of members indicated they would be forwarding articles for future newsletters. | |
| A Cover Story | 3 | | |

► Chairman's Corner

We hope this Issue 1 of the King George VI Post & Mail will serve to stimulate further contact among the members of the Study Group. Enclosed with this first newsletter you will find a brief questionnaire that we hope you will take a few minutes to complete and return to either myself or Steve our Editor. Your responses will be of great assistance in providing initial direction for the Group.

Being a new study group, I would encourage members to ask other BNAPS members to join the King George VI Study Group. It will be important that we spread the word over the next few months so we can build upon the good foundation established at BNAPEX 2003.

Regarding the POST AND MAIL, it is the intention to issue our newsletter quarterly, at least for the current year. Steve advises that we have considerable flexibility to expand future newsletters beyond the current format. Study papers of varying length can be accommodated and depending upon your responses, could be incorporated in a single newsletter or spread out in parts in over two or more newsletters.

As always, the success of the newsletter will be largely dependent upon the material forwarded for publication by study group members. I encourage you write on topics of interest to you that are related to Canadian philately during the King George VI period so that these can be shared with other members of the Study Group.

King George VI Study Group

The King George VI Study Group operates under the auspices of the British North American Philatelic Society (BNAPS)
- *The Society for Canadian Philately.*

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► **EFO Corner**



Here is a little item that falls into the oddity class. Is a bi-coloured 1¢ "Mufti" definitive, green for the most part but with the lower portion of the stamp definitely yellow in colour. The stamp appears to have been genuinely used in the post as evidenced by the bar and two dots characteristic of the "V" for Victory slogan cancel which covers in part both the yellow and green portions of the stamp.

Any theories on how this error may have come about? It is hard to imagine someone would have gone to the great length of forging the stamp just to put it on an envelope to send it through the post. The yellow colour is a reasonable match for that was used on the 4¢ Mufti. Maybe a small amount of yellow ink was left on the inking roller between runs — who knows??

Your Editor is always interested in learning about unusual stamps of the KGVI period. You never know, there may be an "undiscovered" item worthy of catalogue status lurking out there. And please, do send in your theory for the bi-coloured 1¢ Mufti!

► **Editor's Corner**

It is always somewhat daunting to produce a first edition of a newsletter given particularly your Editor's relative novice status within BNAPS. I was given a real helping hand by Doug Lingard who, on very short notice, contributed "A Cover Story" for our first edition and by our Chairman, Gary Steele, who took time to review and comment on Issue No. 1 of the KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

A brief word about our newsletter title is perhaps in order. As you may be aware, there are currently two national newspapers in Canada; the Globe and Mail and the National Post. Given the objects of BNAPS and our KGVI Study Group, it seemed appropriate that our Newsletter could readily borrow from the same themes - hence the title KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL. Now, if we could only increase our readership up to a few hundred thousand, we would really be making progress in the philatelic community!

Your Editor would hope that the Newsletter will serve the members of the KGVI Study Group as a forum for expanding the body of knowledge with respect to Canadian postage stamps and their usage during the KGVI period. In many cases, individual philatelists have completed fulsome reviews of their topics and I would hope that we will see some of these studies submitted for publication in the POST & MAIL. Other areas of study may be less complete and given the geographic distances separating our members, the collaborative research needed to complete a topic is often quite difficult to achieve. Future issues of the POST & MAIL will explore the aspect of "work in progress" articles. Your Editor encourages members to submit such articles to be shared amongst Study Group members.

KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

King George VI Post & Mail is produced in Word using Microsoft Publisher. Manuscripts can be submitted to the Editor either by mail or, preferably, in electronic format with scanned illustrations sent as separate files or colour photocopies and text documents in Microsoft Word.

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An Interesting 1949 Egyptian Censored Canadian Cover

By Doug Lingard

When I first unearthed this cover mailed at Toronto and addressed to a Toronto address, I thought it was being sent to a crew member of an Imperial Oil great lakes tanker. As a boy, I had seen these small great lakes tankers come and discharge their cargos at the fuel storage tanks in Cobourg, Ontario. It seemed the sender had probably franked the cover with a 4¢ rather than a 3¢ stamp which was required for local delivery in Toronto, so that the letter could be forwarded without additional charges to which ever lake port the *S. S. Imperial Charlottetown* was in on October 30th 1949. All very well, but, how on earth did the letter's contents end up being censored by Egyptian authorities especially as there is no indication the cover was redirected to the Middle East? Although there were hostilities at the time in the region, hence the reason Egypt was censoring mails in 1949, it is highly unlikely Egypt had a censor office in Toronto!

After puzzling over the use of Egyptian censor tape on a cover with no indications it had left Canada, I purchased it, since one seldom finds foreign civilian censor tapes on Canadian covers except during the WWI and WWII periods. I was certain there was an interesting story behind this cover and I hoped some day I might discover what it was!



Front of the cover showing the Egyptian censor tape and hand stamps and the fact that the letter was mailed in Toronto on October 30, 1949 for delivery to a Toronto address.

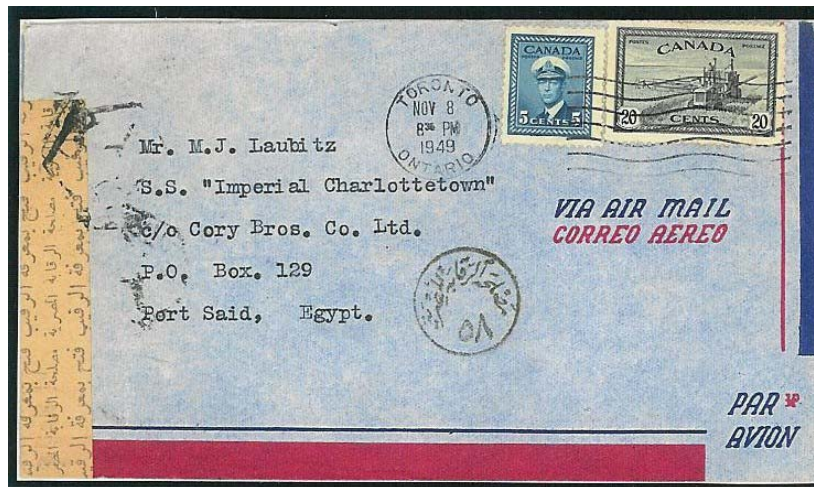


Reverse of cover showing the rest of the Egyptian censor tape and the sender's Toronto return address

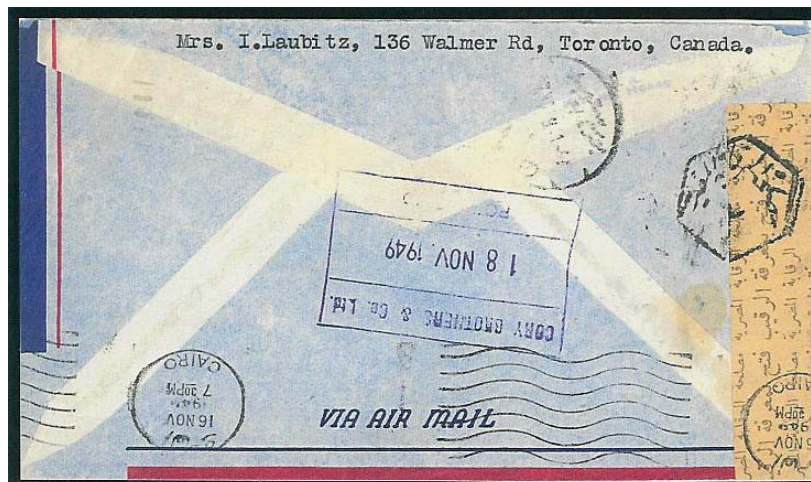
..... A Second 1949 Egyptian Censored Canadian Cover completes the story

As I continued through the dealer's cover box and began looking at his Peace Issue covers, the reason for the Egyptian censorship of the first cover suddenly appeared. There was an airmail cover posted 9 days later and addressed to the same individual on the *S.S. Imperial Charlottetown*. It was censored as well, however this cover was addressed to the ship c/o Cory Brothers Co. Ltd., Port Said, Egypt. This was a British shipping agent company that provided services for ships and their crews at many large ports, such as Port Said. Rather than being a small great lakes tanker as I had surmised, the *S.S. Imperial Charlottetown* was actually a large ocean going tanker and was in the middle east picking up a cargo of oil.

So the answer to the puzzle would seem to be that Imperial Oil Shipping Ltd. collected covers for the crew members of the *S.S. Imperial Charlottetown* at their Toronto address and then forward them in a larger airmail packet to their shipping agent Cory Brothers & Co. Ltd. at Port Said. The Egyptian censor authorities would have opened the larger packet, likely duly marked with an incoming Cairo date stamp as was the case with the letter sent directly to Cory Brother & Co. Ltd., and then inspected individual letters in the packet. This accounts for the Egyptian censor tape on the first cover but no re-directional markings. Mrs. Laubitz likely knew Port Said would be a port-of-call for the *S.S. Imperial Charlottetown* and sent her letter directly to Cory Brothers, getting the full treatment by Egyptian postal authorities along the way and, in the process, helping this philatelist solve the mystery of Egyptian Censored Canadian Covers!



Front of cover showing Egyptian censor tape and hand stamps, mailed on Nov 8, 1949 and franked at the 25¢ per 1/4 oz rate to Africa. Cover was sent directly to *S.S. Imperial Charlottetown* c/o Cory Brothers Ltd. at Port Said.



Reverse of cover showing Egyptian censor tape and hand stamps, a Cairo Nov 16, 1949 machine cancel transit marking and a Cory Brothers & Co. Ltd., Port Said office receiver hand stamp dated 18 Nov 1949.