



KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

January—March 2004

Issue 2

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A Cover by Many Names - by John Frith

I thought that KGV Study Group members might be interested in seeing this cover as it encompasses such a large number of collecting specialties. The cover originated from the Postal Censorship Department of National War Services and was addressed to the International Red Cross in Geneva Switzerland. The cover is franked with a nice block of eight of the 10¢ War Issue Parliament and a single \$1.00 Destroyer, all perforated with 4 Hole OHMS for official use. I can count nine different collecting areas this cover might fit into including German postal censorship indicated by the circular (**A.x.**) marking.



- City/County Postmarks
- Official Perfin Stamps
- Air Mail
- Rates
- International Destinations
- International Red Cross
- Canadian Postal Censorship
- Foreign Postal Censorship
- OHMS / Wartime Stationary

(Ed. Note: Now that John has set the benchmark of nine for a cross-specialization cover, hopefully other members will send through their favorite "Cover by Many Names")

► Chairman's Notes - by Gary Steele

Here we are with the second George VI Study Group newsletter. I would like to give Stephen a note of thanks and commendation for doing such a nice job on the first one and hopefully many others to follow. So what do we do next?

I have read hundreds of editorials from other editors and presidents of philatelic groups, study groups and societies over the last 25 plus years. There is always a different style, point of view, commentary and monologue of some sort. You just never know what you will read next. We sent out a questionnaire to everyone that signed up, and I do not think we have gotten any back yet. Your suggestions and help will be taken into consideration as we always try to pass it around to have as many points of view as possible. Make up your own questions if you like.

To get as broad coverage as we can in our newsletter, we would like to have as many people as possible join our group and contribute. Even something minor such as informing us of what they have in their collections for comparisons, polls, or population studies. I would rather we start off slow and grow gradually so that we have a chance to do things right. But don't be afraid to pass along copies of the newsletter or forward copies to friends and acquaintances via email.

On that note, it is much easier to send out the newsletters via email. We save time and get it to you quicker. You can print it off on high quality paper like I do for an album and it won't get banged up in the mails or lost altogether. Any funds we save can be used in the future for a handbook or some other project.

King George VI Study Group

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► EFO's & Varieties

This issue's EFO Corner features a nice block of the 5¢ War Issue stamp which exhibits a partial but noticeable "Kiss" print where the letters "ADA" of CANADA are repeated on each stamp to the right of King George's head. Also noticeable is the second impression of "5CENTS5" in the horizontal margins.

The regularity and repetition of the second impressions indicate that the sheet was probably subjected to a repeat printing process. Perhaps some sheets were first "dry printed" and one or more reused instead of being discarded. Remember this is war time we are talking about and I guess every sheet counted.



As always, your editor would be interested in your theory as to how this error came about and also to learn of any unusual KGV period stamps in your collection.

► Editor's Desk

As readers will appreciate this edition of the King George VI Post & Mail has expanded from our modest effort in Issue 1. Your editor is particularly grateful for John Burnett's contribution on domestic postal rates during the Mufti period. As John's article was being compiled, it occurred to me what an excellent framework this article provides our members for future articles.

Following John's lead, I hope members will be encouraged to put pen to paper to describe the rates for the other periods, say for example, the War Issue (from mid 1942 to 1946) or the Peace Issue (from Sept 1946 to 1949). Or how about sending in a cover and note that expands on John's Mufti domestic rates article. Here one would think examples of rates for overweight items might be of interest, or use of the 1935 hi-value Pictorials in the 1937-38 "forerunner" period. I am sure this will make interesting reading for our other members.

We have introduced a Member's Corner in Issue 2. Just drop me a line with any queries, news, comments or want list items you may have for inclusion in future editions.

In Issue 3, we also hope to incorporate our first articles on stamps issued during the King George VI period. Please let your editor know if there are areas you would like to tackle in future issues. We have a lot of knowledgeable people in our study group who are ready to assist with questions we may have, so, please feel free to contact either Gary or I with your queries.

One final housekeeping note: when you are sending images of covers for your articles, the best format is a colour photocopy with a white background while with stamps, a black background in preferred. A brief write-up is included with this Issue that describes the formats that can be readily used in our newsletter.

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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Postal History during the King George VI 1937 - 42 “Mufti” Era Part I - The Domestic First Class Rates

By John Burnett

The general area of postal history of the King George VI period is one that has received limited attention in the past; often considered too modern for those interested in the classical periods of Canada's postal history. The 1937 -52 period probably represented a peak in terms of active post offices operating in Canada, and this, combined with the expanding use of air mail services domestically and worldwide and the turmoil of world events, creates vast scope for postal history study during the King George VI period. While in some respects there is perhaps too much material to choose from, it has been this writer's experience that there can also be a dearth of specialized items one might need to complete an exhibit up to the highest standards.

In this first of what I hope will be a series of articles that will find their way into future issues of the Post & Mail, I have outlined usage of Canadian postage stamps applied to cover etc. to pay for first class domestic mail service during the “Mufti” period which commenced in April 1937, the first day of issue of the 1, 2, & 3¢ definitives, through to mid 1942 at which time the War Issue appeared. Five first class domestic postal categories and three categories for additional services are illustrated in this current article.

A brief review of applicable domestic first class rates for the period is illustrated below. One immediately notices how stable postal rates were at the time with some rates remaining the same for decades. There was only one rate change in the Mufti period - a reduction in the applicable rate for special delivery from 20¢ to 10¢ per item in March 1939 - an almost unthinkable event in today's terms!

<u>Category</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Effective Periods</u>
Letters (Forward)	3¢ first oz., 2¢ per additional oz.	Effective July 1, 1931 through the entire Mufti period
Letters (Drop)	2¢ first oz., 1¢ per additional oz.	Effective April 15, 1915 through the entire Mufti period
Post Cards	2¢ each	Effective April 15, 1915 through the entire Mufti period
Air Mail	6¢ first oz., 5¢ per additional oz.	Effective October 23, 1931 through the entire Mufti period
Money Packet	5¢ per oz.	Effective April 15, 1915 through the entire Mufti period

Additional Services

Registration	10¢ for \$25 indemnity, 20¢ for \$50, 30¢ for \$75 and 40¢ for \$100 indemnity	Effective August 1, 1924 through the entire Mufti period
Special Delivery	20¢ per item; 10¢ per item	Effective August 24, 1924 until February 28, 1939; then, from March 1, 1939 through to the end of the Mufti period
Acknowledgement of Receipt	10¢ at time of mailing (or 20¢ after mailing);	Effective October 1, 1921 through the entire Mufti period

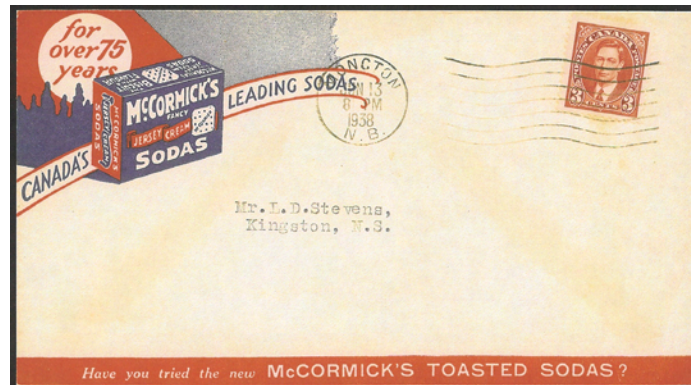
Letters Forward

Canadian Post Office Guides of the day refer to domestic first class mail to destinations outside a local delivery area - i.e. a letter posted in Vancouver, British Columbia to Edmonton, Alberta - as “letters forward”. During the era of the Mufti stamps, the cost of a first class letter forwarded to another delivery area was 3¢ for the first ounce and 2¢ per additional ounce. The cover pictured below is a very nice McCormick's Soda advertising envelope. I have found that good advertising envelopes are becoming harder to find in the KGV era and suggest that collectors keep a sharp eye out for these as they make a great addition to a page in one's collection.

..... Mufti Era Domestic First Class Rates

by John Burnett

Letters Forward ...



Cover mailed on Jan 13, 1938 from Moncton, New Brunswick for delivery to Kingston, Nova Scotia franked at the 3¢ per 1 oz. rate for a Canadian Letter Forward to a domestic destination.

Drop Letters

Drop letters, also known as "City Letters" were letters placed into the "drop box" at the post office for delivery within the delivery jurisdiction of that particular post office branch. The rate for Drop Letters was 2¢ for the first ounce and 1¢ for each additional ounce. The drop letter rate did not apply however for delivery to another post office branch in the same city, or for delivery to a rural postal address. In these cases, normal letter forward rates applied. Be careful when looking at examples of letters with a 3¢ stamp on them; check the address as it might be an example of an overweight drop letter. These are quite scarce and are an interesting addition to one's collection.

The covers below are again two nice examples of advertising envelopes, the Nickerson's Bros Limited envelope addressed to a Mr. Wm. Walsh in "Town" (Liverpool, Nova Scotia), while the Lawson & Jones cover, franked at a 3¢ rate, is addressed to a street address in the "City" (London, Ontario). The latter was likely paid as a letter forward to another post office in London although it is possible this is an example of an overweight drop letter paid for up to two ounces. There was nothing wrong with putting the full postal address on a drop letter and no doubt there were probably other identifiers used such as "Village" or perhaps in very small locations, just the name and street number of the intended recipient, something to keep in mind when rifling through those dealer's boxes.



Two Drop Letter rate covers, one mailed Feb 7, 1940 for delivery in "Town" (Liverpool, N.S.) at the 2¢ Drop Letter rate, a second, mailed Aug 31, 1940 for delivery in "City" (London, Ont), at a 3¢ rate for a Drop Letter of up to 2 ounces.

..... Mufti Era Domestic First Class Rates

by John Burnett

Postcards

Domestic postcards were charged at a 2¢ rate for all domestic destinations.

Air Mail Letters

Mail delivery speeded by air really took off throughout the 1930's. Initiation of airmail service between two postal destinations were often marked by the issue of commemorative First Flight Covers and Canadian covers of this nature can be found throughout the Mufti period. The domestic airmail rate was 6¢ for the first ounce and 5¢ for each additional ounce. The Post Office issued airmail stamps during the period and the 6¢ stamp depicting a Mackenzie River steamer and twin engine bush plane in Canada's Northwest Territories was issued in June 1938.

Pairs of the 3¢ Mufti were often used to make up the airmail rate. This was the case for the very interesting airmail cover illustrated below which mailed from the Postmistress at Churchill, Manitoba, a Mrs. S. Philbin, to Mr. C.J. Crux, Postmaster in Edmonton Alberta. Contained in this Arctic area airmail letter is a note that defines the end of dog team mail in the Eastern Arctic. The enclosure note from Postmistress Philbin addresses a query she had obviously received from Mr. Crux and reads as follows:

March 27/38

"Yours of March 7th re dog teams to Pond Inlet. I regret that there is no such trip being made this year. Our last dog team mail leaves here Thursday the 29th for Chesterfield, Baker Lake, and Repulse Bay."

Yours truly
Mrs. S. Philbin

The transportation of mail by dog team, in the region of Hudson Bay, ended in 1938. Mail to these and other places in the Eastern Arctic would now be carried by the R.M.S. Nascopie and eventually by air.



Airmail cover mailed Mar 27, 1938 from Churchill, Manitoba for delivery to Edmonton, Alberta franked with two 3¢ Mufti's (from the lower right hand corner of Plate 3) to meet the 6¢ per 1 oz. rate for an Air Mail Letter.

Money Packets

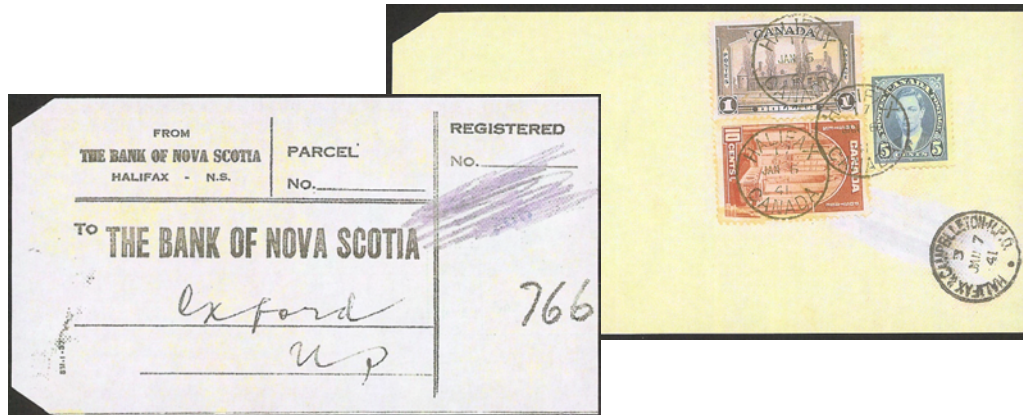
The final domestic first class mail rate illustrated in this article is the "Money Packet" rate. It was quite normal during the Mufti period for banks to send money to other branches. The rate for Money Packets was 5¢ per ounce. Money Packets were sent by Registered Mail and so incurred an additional charge of 10¢ for this service. Each Money Packet had a label attached and the one illustrated overleaf shows money weighing some 21 ounces for a \$1.05 rate plus 10¢ for registration was being transferred by the Bank of Nova Scotia in Halifax to its branch in Oxford, Nova Scotia.

..... Mufti Era Domestic First Class Rates

by John Burnett

Money Packets...

A nice feature of these money packet labels is the postal use of higher value stamps. Both the 1935 and 1938 Pictorials high values were in general use during the Mufti period. In addition, Money Packets varied considerably in weight and it is possible to collect all sorts of combinations of these stamps on Money Packet labels accordingly.



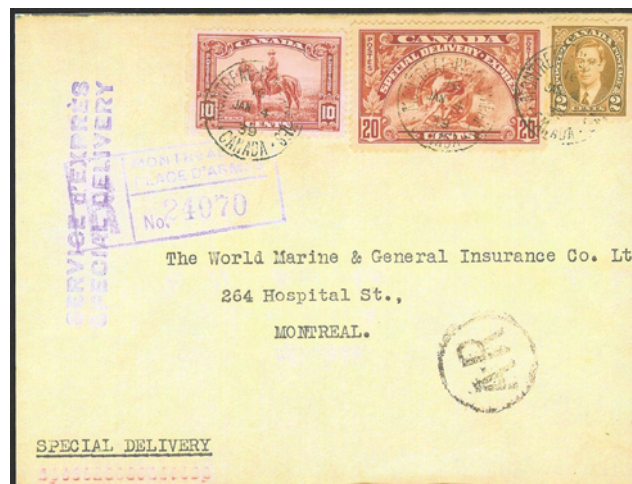
*Money Packet forwarded Jan 6, 1941 from the Bank of Nova Scotia in Halifax to its branch in Oxford, Nova Scotia.
The Money Packet travelled overnight by rail as evidenced by Halifax & Campbellton R.P.O. Jan 7 41 CDS*

Additional Services...

Three forms of Special Services could be requested from the Post Office for domestic first class mail during the Mufti period. The cover shown below is franked as follows:

- a 2¢ stamp to pay the Drop Letter rate for delivery within the City of Montreal
- a 20¢ special delivery stamp paying the rate for that service
- a 10¢ stamp paying the fee for a registered letter

The circular hand stamp **A•R** indicates the sender had requested an "Acknowledgement of Receipt" for which a further fee of 10 cents would have been paid at the time of mailing. Both the 10¢ "Mountie" and the 20¢ "Allegory of Progress" special delivery stamp were issued in 1935 and even though quantities of the 1938 Pictorials were now available, the Post Office continued to sell stocks of earlier stamp issues through the Mufti period.



*Registered (Drop) letter sent Special Delivery on Jan 4, 1939 from Montreal Place d'Armes P.O.
with a circular Acknowledgement of Receipt hand stamp.*

A Doubled Rated 1943 Cover to India

By Doug Lingard

Airmail covers during the KGV period are a fascinating area for postal history buffs. About 15 years ago, I came across a Montreal dealer who had a number of covers addressed to a Mr. Sinclair who was situated in Bombay, India. The covers ranged from late 1939 until near the end of the war and illustrated the different routes that were used for sending airmail letters to India, i.e., the Empire route through Great Britain, the Pan Am Clipper route via San Francisco, and later, the Pan Am Clipper route via Miami and Africa.

This \$2.00 rated cover was probably the most interesting of the lot in that it was properly franked with a pair of \$1.00 War Issue Destroyers, to meet a rate that one seldom finds properly used.



*Airmail cover mailed on Feb 11, 1943 from Toronto, Ontario, for delivery to Bombay, India
franked at the \$2.00 per ½ to 1 oz. rate for a Canadian Airmail Letter to India.*

This particular letter contained photographs mailed from Toronto (Roller Cancel dated February 11, 1943). With the photographs enclosed, the letter must have been "overweight" as the stamps pay the \$2.00 per ½ to 1 ounce "double" rate via Miami and Africa to India. While the sender doesn't provide a return address, he or she clearly indicates the letter should follow the Miami/Africa route.

The letter was censored by Indian censors and shows the use of Indian censor tape and hand stamps (censors DHC/37 and DHC/73). It would appear that the letter took a little over three months to reach Mr. Sinclair as evidenced by the Cumballa Hill - Bombay May 16, 1943 CDS. A very unusual use of these KGV War Issue \$1.00 Destroyer stamps.

► Member's Corner

John Frith wrote to say he has contributed articles to various newsletters in the past, including BNAPS Military Mail Study Group and the Squared Circle Study Group. John personally collects WWI CEF material and, as many of you know, is a postal history dealer specializing in military and civil censor mail. John should be a great contact for study group members interested in this area. John can be contacted either by email at johnfrith.sudburystamps@sympatico.ca or by regular post at P.O. Box 286, Copper Cliff, Ontario, Canada, POM 1N0.

Barry Danard wrote to say that the "Bi-coloured 1¢ Mufti" featured in the EFO Corner of Issue 1 looked to him like a chemical accident of some sort, perhaps a very localized industrial spill! He mentions that he shall experiment to see if the bi-coloured nature can be replicated and report back to us if successful.

John Munro-Cape gave a presentation at the October 2003 meeting of the BNAPS St. Lawrence Regional Group on various aspects of the KGVI War Issue 1¢ Coils (Nos 263 & 278) and we plan to include John's study on these two stamps in an upcoming issue of the Post & Mail. John writes to say he is specializing in the 1¢ War Issue (in all its forms) and would be interested in exchanging want lists or items with other members. John can be reached by regular mail addressed to R.R. #3, Picton, Ontario, K0K 2T0 or by telephone at 1-613-476-5133.

John Burnett wrote a few notes regarding exhibiting his KGVI Mufti period postal history collection as follows; "I have exhibited this (Mufti) collection at BNAPEX in 2000 and 2003 with my latest attempt receiving a vermeil award. My first attempt received a silver with one judge making the statement 'You should be pleased with a silver because it is 1930's material you know!' I must say that statement infuriated me somewhat as I think some material from the KGVI era is darn hard to find. All said, my vermeil medal in 2003 is appropriate for the collection status at that time as I know what I have to do even yet to bring it up to a gold level. In the meantime, I am very pleased we have established the BNAPS King George VI Study Group and look forward to being a regular contributor to our newsletter."

Gary Steele writes to remind us of the upcoming "**Royal*2004*Royale**" RCPS Convention to be held in Halifax May 28 to 30th. Gary plans on exhibiting Canadian covers to foreign destinations carrying postage dues or regular stamps starting with small Queens up to and including the full King George VI era from 1937-52 for the show.

Steve Prest gave a presentation on Precancelled Mufti Plate Blocks and other stamps of KGVI era stamps at the Auckland Philatelic Society meeting in New Zealand in early February. **Gary Steele** provided Steve with long distance assistance in putting this presentation together which was well received by members of the APS. Steve even included a "plug" for BNAPS and our KGVI Study Group but so far we have not been overwhelmed by membership applications from "down under".

J. Eirwyn Jones has recently joined the study group and is hoping to correspond with other members who share his collecting interests in Canadian KGVI Booklets. Eirwyn can be reached by mail at 10 Low Green, ATHERTON, Manchester, United Kingdom M46 9HS or by email at eirwyn.jones@btinternet.com.

Simon Cloughton, our Study Group Treasurer, reports that we had thirteen fully paid up members as of the 2003 year end. Total receipts for the year were \$130.00 and disbursements were nil for the period ending December 2003.

► Other News

Our KGVI Study Group received an honorable mention in BNAPS' Canadian Military Mail Study Group November 2003 Newsletter. Special thanks to member **Mike Street** and **Editor Dean Mario** for alerting members of the CMMSG of the establishment of our new study group. Mike also has written to say he is working on an Air Letter article for an upcoming Post and Mail issue.

Steve Roth, Editor of the Presidential Era Study Group of the United States Stamp Society/Bureau Issues Association quarterly newsletter "The Prexie Era Newsletter" sends his best regards to our study group, noting that there could be much overlap and information of mutual interest in our group's respective newsletters and we plan to swap electronic copies of future issues for the information of respective members. Steve plans to advise the Prexie group membership of the existence of our BNAPS KGVI Study Group in their quarterly newsletter. Steve would be most pleased to hear from you and can be contacted by email at smroth@starpower.net or by mail at 1280 Twenty-First Street, NW, #209, Washington, DC 20036-2343.

Cimon Morin, of the National Archives of Canada has written to say Issue No. 1 of the Post & Mail has been deposited in the Philatelic Library in Ottawa. **Ellen Peachey** has also written to let us know the Post & Mail has been incorporated into the American Philatelic Research Library in State College, Pennsylvania.