



KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

January - June 2005

Issue 6

Canada Posts Office Greeting Postcard - by Mike Street

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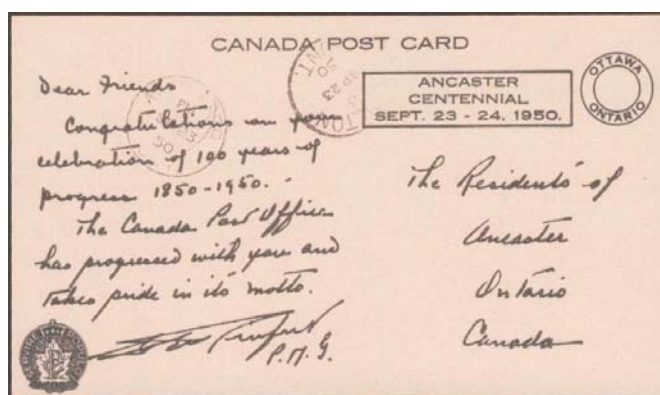
Not long after I started to collect the postal history of Ancaster, Ontario I came across the rather unusual postcard shown here. Cancelled at both Hamilton and Ancaster on September 23, 1950, the face of the card carried an address and a facsimile of a handwritten message from the Postmaster General, G. Edouard Rinfret, K.C., M.P. to the Residents of Ancaster that read:

Dear Friends

Congratulations on your celebration of 100 years of progress 1850-1950.

The Canada Post Office has progressed with you and takes pride in its motto.

E.G. Rinfret, P.M.G



The Post Office motto in the logo at lower left of the card was: *Servire Populo - To Serve the People*.

The card was franked with a permit type indicia, somewhat simulating a slogan cancellation - at right two small concentric circles with OTTAWA/ONTARIO between the lines, and a rectangular box left of the circles enclosing the text: 'ANCASTER / CENTENNIAL / SEPT. 23-24, 1950'.

It was clear that the Post Office had sent one of these cards to each household in Ancaster. I have often wondered what prompted it to do so. The question was heightened by the fact that Ancaster was first settled in 1792 and had its first officially appointed Postmaster in 1812, almost 160 years before this "100th Anniversary".

....Continued on page 17

► Chairman's Notes - by Gary Steele

Stephen has been hard at work putting together another great newsletter for us all. I would like to thank him for his time and energy spent on helping to build interest in one of our favourite areas of philately. I don't know how many members check out the BNAPS website but if you have done so in the past month, you may have noticed that our George VI Study Group was the focus "Study Group of the Month" following the posting of Issue 5 on the BNAPS website.

While doing my one frame exhibit on the One Cent Jubilee stamp for BNAPEX 2005, I came to think that I was not doing the Mufti issue again. Each new area you may exhibit opens up one's eyes to things that may not have been seen in the past. This may help down the road in preparation for your next King George VI exhibit. Even a one frame exhibit can be tough but rewarding. One of the things I have always found about exhibiting is that it really forces a person to go through their material. Doing this you find out that you either have one of two things, either too much of certain areas, like why did I buy 20 of those covers to Cuba, or, not enough or none at all in another area. But that's the fun and challenge in exhibiting our collections and over time we can usually fill those gaps to complete the story.

With fall approaching hopefully Study Group members will have an opportunity to exhibit portions of their collections at local and regional shows. Do write to Stephen or I if you do so we can share this with others through Member's Corner.

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► EFO's & Varieties

The EFO's & Varieties column in Issue 4 featured a LL No. 2 Plate Block of the 1946 20¢ Combine where shifting of the sheet occurred during the perforation process of the vertical lines. Here we see in the LR No. 2 Plate Block of the 1946 7¢ Airmail pictured at left, an example of misperforation that occurred during the process of perforating the horizontal lines of the sheet.

One sometimes sees used stamps of the KGVI period that are "off-centre" where the design has been

shifted 1 or 2 mm towards one side of the stamp and traces of the design appear along the opposite edge. In the block above, the shift is a full 4 mm. I believe post office regulations would have required the destruction of sheets exhibiting such evident faults. Fortunately for collectors, a portion of this sheet survived.

Your Editor would be interested to learn of other examples of mis-perforated, or other unusual KGVI period stamps, Study Group Members might have in their collections.

► Editor's Desk

This current Issue No. 6 of the Post & Mail features the fourth in John Burnett's series of articles on postage rates during the 1937-42 Mufti period. This article completes the picture for Canadian mail to countries in the Americas and future articles will be devoted to destinations elsewhere in the world.

This issue also features articles by Mike Street and Hugh Delaney. Mike's article examines a unique aspect of postal history of Ancaster, Ontario while Hugh's covers aspects of postal history of the Yukon Territory during the King George VI period. The two articles are fine examples of how philatelists can expand the breadth of knowledge of postal and regional history through study and publication of items of localized interest in their collection. I encourage other members to follow Mike and Hugh's lead in this area. This Issue 6 also has items sent by Gary Dickenson and your Editor that follow up on John Burnett's article on mail to British America and Mexico in Issue 5.

An ever present hazard of publishing newsletters is errors that creep in from time to time. In the case of Issue 5, three such errors have been identified, two on the rates table that appeared in John Burnett's article and the third, the editor's misspelling of Peter Kritz's name and his and Ed Harris' email addresses. Your Editor offers his apologies to John, Peter and Ed for these oversights and asks other members to note Peter's and Ed's email addresses are now correct in the Member's Wants section and to change their records accordingly.

Issue 7 of the Post & Mail is now in the planning stages. Gary Dickenson has sent through the first of what he hopes will be a series of articles on First Day Covers during the KGVI reign. Your Editor is on the lookout for additional material for Issues 7 & 8 and hopes that over the next few months members will be able to submit articles for publication.

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 text documents in M/S WORD. Scanned illustrations (using a black background) should be sent as separate electronic files or colour photocopies.

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Postal History during the King George VI 1937 - 42 “Mufti” Era Part IV - Postage Rates to South & Central America

By John Burnett

Parts I, II and III in this series of articles on the Postal History of the Mufti era covered in turn Canadian first class domestic mail, mail to the United States and its Territories and mail to destinations in British America and Mexico. This present article examines Canadian mail to the balance of countries in South and Central America during the early part of the King George VI reign.

A summary of the rates and fees applicable for Canadian mail forwarded to South and Central American destinations is shown below. Even though these countries would be classified as non British Empire UPU countries, generally the rates and fees applicable to mail forwarded to these countries were the same as those applicable to mail to Canadian destinations. Rates for airmail letters to foreign destinations varied considerably however, a reflection no doubt of the higher costs associated with this type of service as geographic distances increased between Canada and the destination country.

There were three general rates applicable during the Mufti period for airmail letters to non British Empire UPU countries in the Americas. The first category, which included Cuba, Mexico and other countries in Central America, had the same rate structure as that applicable to the British West Indies and Guiana as reviewed in my Part III article in Issue 5 of the Post & Mail. South America comprised two further categories, one, for the northern tier countries from Ecuador to the Guiana's and then a different rate for Brazil to Peru and points south. Airmail service costs during the first year of the KGVI reign were 25¢, 50¢ and 70¢ per one-half ounce respectively as one progressed south through the three postal rate areas. These rates were adjusted in December 1937 to 10¢, 25¢ and 35¢ per one-quarter ounce respectively, essentially the same as the earlier rate on a unit weight basis but representing a reduction in cost if the sender's letter weighed in at less than ¼ ounce.

Canadian Postage Rates and Fees for Mail to South & Central America (1937 - 42)

| <u>Category</u> | <u>Rates</u> | <u>Effective Periods</u> |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Letter (First Class) | 3¢ first oz., 2¢ per additional oz. | Effective July 1, 1931 through the entire Mufti period |
| Post Cards | 2¢ each | Effective July 1, 1930 through the entire Mufti period |
| Air Mail | | |
| Cuba & Central America | 25¢ each ½ oz; then 10¢ each ¼ oz | Effective July 1, 1935 to December 14, 1937; then, from December 15, 1937 for the balance of the Mufti period |
| Ecuador, Columbia, Venezuela, Fr. & Dutch Guiana | 50¢ each ½ oz; then 25¢ each ¼ oz | <i>ibid.</i> |
| Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay & Peru | 70¢ each ½ oz; then 35¢ each ¼ oz | <i>ibid.</i> |
| Third Class Matter | 1¢ per each 2 oz. | Effective July 1, 1930 through the entire Mufti period |

Additional Services

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Registration | 10¢ for \$25 indemnity (only) | Effective July 15, 1920 through the entire Mufti period |
| Acknowledgement of Receipt | 10¢ at time of mailing (or 20¢ after mailing); | Effective October 1, 1921 through the entire Mufti period |

... Mufti Era Postage Rates to South & Central America

by John Burnett

First Class Surface Letters

The rates for first class surface letters mailed to non British Empire UPU countries in the Americas was 3¢ first ounce, 2¢ per additional ounce, i.e. the same rate as that applicable to British Empire colonies. This was a concessionary rate from the normal 5¢ first ounce, 3¢ per additional ounce rate that generally applied for first class surface letters to non-British Empire UPU countries elsewhere in the world. Illustrated below is a well-marked and traveled cover. 'Mailed at Quebec on January 16, 1939, it was received in Havana, Cuba on February 18, 1939. The letter was redirected within Cuba and finally returned to Havana and from there returned to the sender in Canada.



Letter mailed January 16, 1939 from Quebec City, Quebec to Havana, Cuba and returned to sender in Canada franked at the 3¢ per 1 ounce rate for a First Class Surface Letter to Cuba.

Illustrated below is a double rated surface letter sent in August 1942 from Montreal to Curacao in the Netherlands West Indies. The cover is franked with a 2¢ and 3¢ Mufti to make up the 5¢ rate for a letter weighing up to 2 ounces. A hand stamped censor marking on the front indicates the letter passed through Dutch censorship authorities upon arrival in Curacao. One doesn't often come across double rated surface letters to non British Empire destinations in the Americas and after many years of collecting, this is the only example I have in my collection.



Cover mailed August 7, 1942 from Montreal, Quebec to Curacao, Netherlands West Indies franked with a 2¢ and 3¢ Mufti to pay the 5¢ double surface letter rate to non British Empire destinations in the Americas.

... Mufti Era Postage Rates to South & Central America

by John Burnett

Air Mail Letters

For the early part of the Mufti period the rate of 25¢ per ¼ ounce applied to airmail letters from Canada to destinations in Central America, Cuba and other non-British Empire countries in the West Indies. This rate was reduced to 10¢ per ¼ ounce in December 1937.

The cover below is an example of a double rated airmail letter sent in May 1942 to Guatemala in Central America with the cover being franked with three different Mufti stamps and the 1938 6¢ Airmail Pictorial to make up the 20¢ payment for a letter weighing up to ½ ounce.



Airmail letter posted May 18, 1942 from St. Hyacinthe, Quebec to Guatemala City, Guatemala franked with the 1938 6¢ Airmail; a 4¢, 5¢ and 8¢ Mufti to pay the 20¢ per ½ ounce double airmail rate to Guatemala.

As a US Territory, rates and fees for mail to the Panama Canal Zone were generally the same as those applicable to the United States. For example, regular first class mail to the Canal Zone travelled at the 3¢ per first oz., 2¢ per additional oz. rate. The exception to the rule however were the rates applicable to airmail letters which were, in the case of the Canal Zone, the same as those applicable to other countries in Central America. The envelope below was mailed from Vancouver, British Columbia on March 30, 1938 and is franked with a variety of stamps, including two Mufti's, to make 30¢ which paid the triple airmail rate for a letter that weighed up to ¾ ounce.



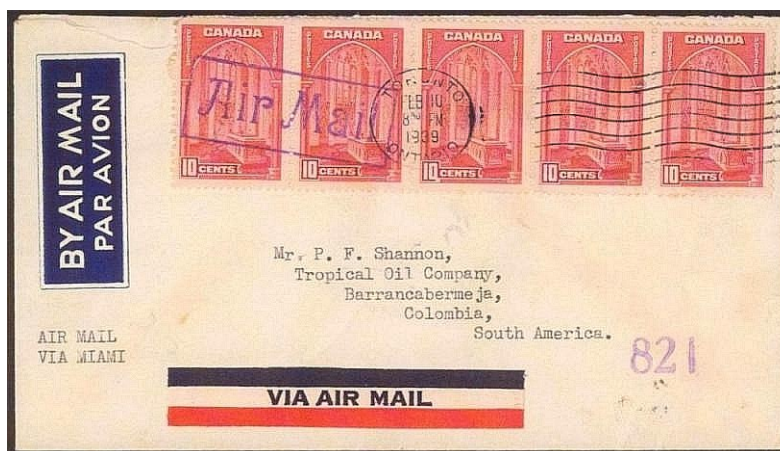
Airmail letter posted March 30, 1938 at Vancouver, B.C. to Cristobal, Canal Zone franked with the 5¢, 6¢ and 10¢ 1935 Pictorial Issue stamps and a 4¢ and 5¢ Mufti to pay the 30¢ triple airmail rate to the Canal Zone.

... Mufti Era Postage Rates to South & Central America

by John Burnett

Air Mail Letters cont'd

Colombia seems to be the easiest South American country to find examples of letters originating in Canada. Finding a cover like the one below is a little more difficult however. Mailed February 10, 1939, a strip of five of the 1938 Pictorial 10¢ Memorial Chamber stamps paid the then double airmail rate of 25¢ per ¼ ounce.



Airmail letter posted February 10, 1939 from Toronto, Ontario to Barrancabermeja, Colombia franked with five 1938 10¢ Memorial Chamber stamps to make up the 50¢ double airmail rate to Colombia.

A letter to Peru is a difficult find and the cover below has a couple of neat features about it. The letter had been sent from Sudbury, Ontario on September 15, 1942. The standard rate in 1942 for an airmail letter to Peru was 35¢ per ¼ ounce. This letter had only 30¢ in postage affixed so it had been short paid by 5¢. There is no evidence of the deficiency being collected in Peru.

Letters posted to South American destinations, particularly from outlying post offices, were relatively uncommon at the time compared to letters addressed to Great Britain or Europe which had an airmail letter rate of 30¢ per ½ ounce. This may explain why neither the sender nor post office staff noticed this letter required an additional 5¢ in postage to make up the required rate.



Airmail letter dated September 14, 1942 from Sudbury, Ontario to Lima, Peru franked with a 1938 10¢ Memorial Chamber and a 1938 20¢ Fort Garry stamp which short paid the 35¢ airmail rate for a letter weighing up to ¼ ounce to Peru

... Mufti Era Postage Rates to British America & Mexico

by John Burnett

Air Mail Letters cont'd

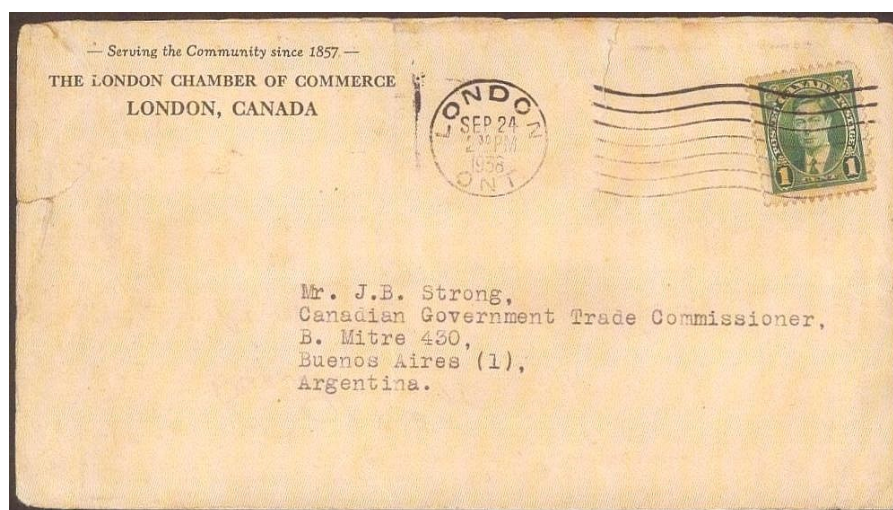
Here is an example of a triple rate letter to South America, in this case Argentina. The letter, sent from Montreal to Buenos Aires in November 1940, is franked with a 5¢ Mufti and the 1938 \$1.00 Chateau de Ramezay to pay the \$1.05 rate to Argentina for airmail letters weighing up to ¾ ounce.



*Airmail letter posted November 4, 1940 from Montreal, Quebec to Buenos Aires, Argentina
franked with a 5¢ Mufti and a 1938 \$1.00 Chateau de Ramezay stamps to pay the \$1.05 triple airmail rate to Argentina*

Third Class (Printed) Matter

Printed Matter mail to international destinations is really quite difficult to find as it was the 1930's equivalent to today's junk mail so presumably most printed matter letters ended up in the garbage. The rate for printed matter was 1¢ per 2 ounces for all destinations in South and Central America during the Mufti period.



*Third Class letter mailed September 24, 1938 from London, Ontario to Buenos Aires, Argentina
franked with a 1¢ Mufti stamp to pay the printed matter rate from Canada to South American destinations.*

... Mufti Era Postage Rates to British America & Mexico

by John Burnett

Additional Services

The fee for registration of letters to South and Central American destinations was 10¢ with an indemnification limit of \$25.00, the same limit as that applied to registered mail sent to destinations in the U.S. and British Empire colonies in the Americas. The 1¢ postal stationery envelope below mailed January 10, 1941 from Vancouver, addressed to Chile, features four 3¢ Mufti's to pay the 3¢ surface letter rate and the 10¢ registration fee. The envelope is marked "Philatelic Material" on the front and I believe that is what caused it to go through the Foreign Exchange Control Board, for, as per postal regulations, certain restrictions applied when mailing new and used stamps to Chile.



Registered 1¢ postal stationery envelope mailed January 10, 1941 from Vancouver, B.C. to Porto Alto, Chile franked with four additional 3¢ Mufti stamps to pay the 13¢ rate for a registered surface letter of up to 1 oz. to Chile

The registered letter to Peru illustrated below has a number of neat features of postal history about it. Mailed from Merritt, British Columbia on December 24, 1940, it was franked with a strip of three 5¢ Mufti stamps to pay the rate for a double weight registered surface letter. These stamps pay 3¢ for the first ounce, 2¢ for the next fraction of an ounce and the 10¢ registration fee.

This censored letter was also inspected under the Foreign Exchange Control Board regulations as evidenced by the handwritten "Passed for Export" notation and initialed "WRL" by the inspector.



Registered letter mailed December 24, 1940 from Merritt, B.C. to Puno, Peru franked with three 5¢ Mufti's to pay the registered surface letter double rate to Peru

Yukon Postal Service during the King George VI Reign

By Hugh Delaney

Stamp collectors usually have at least one particularly favourite area in their collections, perhaps two or three. In my case, family and personal involvement through living in the Yukon resulted in my developing a keen interest in the general and postal history of the Territory. These aspects have recently been reviewed in my article entitled "*Yukon History & Postal History*" which appeared in BNA Topics Whole No. 502 published in the first quarter 2005. This current article provides further information about postal services in the Yukon Territories during King George VI's reign.

On June 13th 1898, the District of Yukon in the North West Territories became a Territory unto itself. Subsequently, in particular due to the Klondike Gold Rush, numerous post offices opened to serve the very mobile population. In total there have been 69 regular postal outlets, subs and franchises in the 107 years since the Yukon attained Territorial status. Today there are 18 postal outlets serving the Yukon.

During the reign of King George VI, between December 1936 when Edward VIII abdicated and February 1952 when George VI passed away, there were 22 post offices in operation in the Yukon. The chart on Table 1 lists the operating post offices during the period.

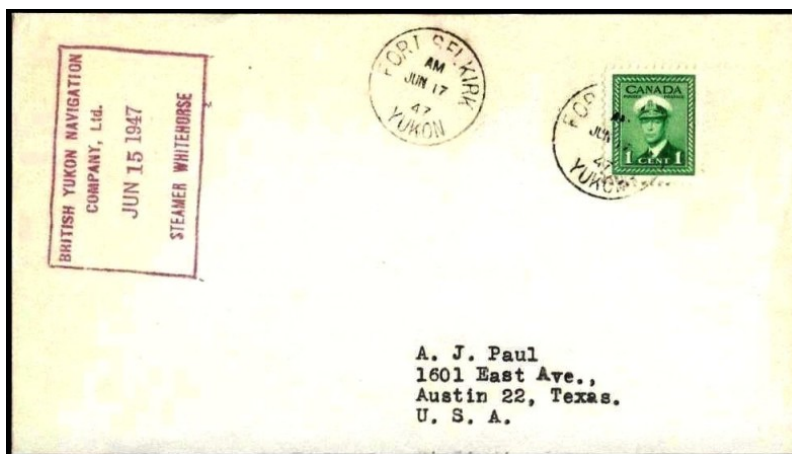
There were also a number of A.P.O.s operated by the United States serving troops who helped build the Alaska Highway and operated the Northwest Staging Route from Dawson Creek, B.C. through White Horse, to Fairbanks, Alaska. The Alaska Highway bolstered the defence of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands as well as supplying Russia with armaments during the Second World War. The Americans were given free franking privileges during this period.



1943 7¢ Airmail with a DAWSON YUKON CDS dated Jun 19 45

Prior to the Yukon Territory being declared, the Dawson (now Dawson City) post office was known as Dawson N.W.T.

With the advent of the Alaska Highway becoming open to public transportation after the war, the British Yukon Navigation Company operated a bus system that collected and delivered mail along the highway to prospectors and trappers. They would stop anywhere along the highway to hand out mail. At the time, every mile of the highway had posts marking its distance from Dawson Creek, the beginning of the highway. The company also operated Sternwheeler riverboats between various points along the Yukon and Stewart Rivers. The pursers aboard the riverboats handled the mail distributed to various wood camps along the route and some used a rubber cancel on the envelopes they handled. Two such strikes are illustrated below, one from the Steamer Whitehorse posted at Fort Selkirk and the second from the Steamer Klondike posted at Stewart River.



Third Class letter posted aboard the Steamer Whitehorse June 15, 1947 routed via Fort Selkirk June 17, 1947 to Austin, Texas franked with a 1¢ War Issue stamp to pay the Third Class (Printed Matter) rate to the United States

....Yukon Postal Service during the King George VI Reign

by Hugh Delaney

Table 1 Active Yukon Territory Post Offices during the King George VI Reign

| <u>Post Office</u> | <u>Opened</u> | <u>Closed</u> | <u>Comment</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| Carcross | Oct. 1, 1904 | Currently operating | Formerly Caribou Crossing |
| Carmacks | August 1, 1908 | Currently operating | Named after one of the original discoverers of gold |
| Champagne | June 1, 1911 | August 10, 1949 | |
| Dawson | June 13, 1898 | Currently operating | Originally Dawson N.W.T., now Dawson City |
| Elsa | May 26, 1949 | Currently operating | |
| Forty Mile | Dec. 1, 1903 | July 31, 1950 | Formerly known as Fort Cudahy N.W.T. |
| Fort Selkirk | Sept. 21, 1937 | Dec. 31, 1952 | Formerly known as Pelly prior to September 1937 |
| Glacier Creek | Dec. 1, 1910 | August 28, 1963 | |
| Granville | June 30, 1930 | Nov. 20, 1966 | |
| Haines Junction | July 1, 1950 | Currently operating | |
| Herschel Junction | April 7, 1925 | Sept. 14, 1938 | Incorrectly identified as part of the NWT until 1930 |
| Hunker | Nov. 1, 1899 | August 23, 1946 | |
| Keno Hill | July 1, 1921 | June 30, 1968 | |
| Mayo Landing | June 19, 1914 | August 2, 1958 | Name changed to Mayo |
| Paris | Oct. 1, 1904 | Feb. 5, 1943 | |
| Pelly | Sept. 9, 1899 | Sept. 21, 1937 | Name changed to Fort Selkirk on September 21, 1937 |
| Radford | August 19, 1905 | March 16, 1939 | Correct spelling was Redford |
| Readford | March 16, 1939 | Nov. 21, 1951 | Name changed from Radford, (still misspelled by P.O.) |
| Stewart River | June 20, 1902 | Sept. 19, 1967 | |
| Teslin | June 1, 1930 | Currently operating | |
| Watson Lake | July 1, 1941 | Currently operating | |
| White Horse | June 1, 1900 | Currently operating | Name now written as a single word - Whitehorse |

Source: Territorial Offices of Canada by William Topping and William G. Robinson

Only 8 of the 22 post offices that were in service during the King George VI reign remain open today. One is Carcross which evidently continued to use a split ring canceller in the early part of the reign as shown below. A nice example of a partial Mayo Landing CDS on the 1938 \$1 Chateau de Ramezay is also shown below. Other examples of Yukon post office cancels on cover are presented on the following pages.



1937 3¢ Mufti with a CARCROSS YUKON
Split Ring Cancel dated FE 4 39

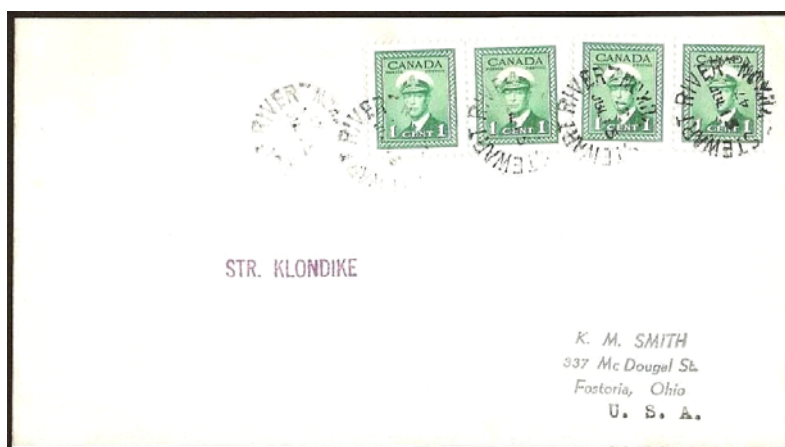


1938 \$1 Chateau de Ramezay with a MAYO
LANDING YUKON CDS dated SP 11 39

....Yukon Postal Service during the King George VI Reign

by *Hugh Delaney*

Below is a cover posted at Stewart River settlement which was located at the confluence of the mouth of the Stewart River and the Yukon River about halfway between Fork Selkirk and Dawson. Stewart was a transfer point for freight heading up the Stewart River to Mayo (Landing) and silver ore being shipped down the river from the Keno and other mines. The cover bears the strike of the Steamer Klondike which plied the Yukon River between White Horse and Dawson during the summer navigation season. The Stewart River post office was located in the Hudson Bay Co. store during the 1940's. As road infrastructure improved in the region, the need for river transportation diminished and the SS Klondike completed its last voyage in August 1955. The Stewart River post office closed in September 1967.



First class letter posted at Stewart River, Yukon Territory July 15, 1947 to Austin, Texas via the Steamer Klondike franked with four 1¢ War Issue stamps to pay the First Class letter rate to the United States

Mayo Landing is situated on the Stewart River about 80 miles upstream from where it flows into the Yukon River. Named after Alfred H. Mayo, a trader who supplied prospectors during the gold rush days of the late 1800's, Mayo Landing served as the administrative centre for the surrounding district as well as the upriver departure point for the S. S. Keno which plied the Stewart River between Mayo Landing and Stewart River settlement. The 1¢ 1938 (Offset) Post Card below was mailed after the rate changes that took effect in April 1951 as it is uprated with an 1¢ Revised 1949 Issue "G" overprinted Official stamp to pay the 2¢ Printed Matter rate.



A prepaid 1938 Post Card (Offset) mailed from Mayo Landing, Yukon to Vancouver B.C. franked with an additional 1¢ Revised 1949 Issue "G" overprinted Official stamp to pay the 2¢ Printed Matter rate

....Yukon Postal Service during the King George VI Reign

by Hugh Delaney

The 1930's saw a tremendous expansion in air services which played a pivotal role in opening up Canada's North. It was common practice to commemorate new official airmail routes as they were established with what are known as First Flight Covers. A new service operated by Pacific Alaska Airways was established between Juneau and Fairbanks, Alaska via White Horse in May 1938. Illustrated below are first flight covers for the two flights showing examples of two different White Horse CDS cancellers used at the time. The covers were both franked with the then current airmail stamp, the 6¢ Daedalus in Flight 1935 Pictorial to pay the airmail rate for mail to a U.S. destination.



First Flight Covers from White Horse, Yukon to Fairbanks & Juneau, Alaska on May 3 & 8 1938 respectively franked with the 6¢ 1935 Pictorial airmail stamp to pay the rate for airmail letters up to 1 oz. to Canadian and U.S. destinations

The first official Canadian airmail flight between Vancouver and White Horse with intermediate stops at Williams Lake, Quesnel, Prince George, and Fort St. John took place in August 1938. The flight originated from Vancouver August 4th and departed on the return leg from White Horse August 6th. Of interest in the case of the cover illustrated below is the use of yet a third CDS canceller by the White Horse post office, in this case featuring the letters "Y.T." for Yukon Territory. The cover is franked with the 6¢ Mackenzie River 1938 Pictorial which had been issued June 15, 1938.



First Flight Cover from White Horse, Yukon to Vancouver, B.C. on August 6, 1938 franked with the 6¢ 1938 Pictorial airmail stamp to pay the rate for airmail letters up to 1 oz to U.S. destinations

Mufti Era Air Mail Cover to Mexico

by Gary Dickinson

In his article on postage rates to British America and Mexico in Issue 5 of the Post and Mail, John Burnett notes (page 5) that "...examples of mail to Mexico are very hard to find," and that he had "...not found a 25 cent franked letter to Mexico paying the airmail rate in the 1937 period". Among my collection of First Day Covers of the 1937 3¢ Coronation issue, I found the cover illustrated here which is addressed to Mr. E.H.E. Bouchier in Mexico, D.F. It is franked with two pairs and four singles of the 3¢ Coronation stamp along with a single 1¢ Mufti for a total of 25 cents. There are Air Mail stickers on the front and back of the cover, and a Toronto flag cancellation along with six faint Toronto Terminal A C.D.S. cancellations. On the back of the cover is a Mexico, D.F. receiving stamp.



Airmail letter posted May 10, 1937 from Toronto, Ontario to Mexico D.F., Mexico franked with eight 3¢ 1937 Coronation stamps and a 1¢ Mufti to pay the 25¢ per ½ ounce airmail rate applicable to destinations in Mexico.

Mufti Era Air Mail Cover to Montserrat

by Stephen F Prest

John Burnett's article on rates to British America included a nice cover addressed to St. Lucia which reminded me of a similar cover in my collection. Here we have an air mail letter mailed from the military training facility in Debert, Nova Scotia to the tiny island of Montserrat. The cover passed through St. John's, Antigua and then Plymouth, the former capital of Montserrat. Today, Camp Debert is closed, but at its peak it housed more than 40,000 men from all over Canada and the Commonwealth. The Howes were a well established family in Montserrat and the Gage Estate was an important land holding lying between the former capital Plymouth and the Soufriere Volcano. The Soufriere volcanic eruptions in the late 1990's completely destroying the Gage Estate and the town of Plymouth which today stands abandoned. In all, quite eventful changes in circumstances since this cover was mailed from Canada in May 1942!



Air mail letter posted May 20, 1942 from M.P.O. 603, Debert, Nova Scotia to Gages (Estate), Montserrat, B.W.I. franked with a 1938 10¢ Memorial Chamber stamp to pay the 10¢ per ¼ ounce airmail rate to British America destinations.

► TOPICS Revisited (Part III - BNAPS TOPICS Vol. 7 & 8)

by *Stephen F. Prest*Introduction

Issue 4 & 5 of the Post & Mail listings of articles and notes drawn from TOPICS Volumes 1 to 6 issued between 1944 to 1949. The information provided below in this Part III of TOPICS Revisited is drawn from TOPICS Volumes 7 and 8 (Whole Nos. 65 to 86) issued in 1950 and 1951.

1935 Pictorials & Special Delivery Issues

The 1935 high value pictorials were in current use for the first year and a half of the King George VI reign until they were superseded by the 1938 Pictorials issued in June and November of that year. **Ronald Tuckwell's** article on the 1935 Pictorials entitled "*Fortunate Flaws*" which first appeared in The Canadian Magazine in August 1938 is reprinted in **Whole No. 68** (April, 1950). Further notes on varieties identified on the 1935 Pictorials can be found in **R.M. Bryan's** article entitled "*Canadian Varieties*" in **Whole No. 70** (June, 1950) and **Ron Tuckwell's** "*Variety Hunting in Canada*" columns in **Whole Nos. 74, 79 & 86** (Nov 1950, April & Dec 1951).

1937 Coronation Issue

Notes on varieties to be found on the 1937 Coronation stamp appear in **Ron Tuckwell's** "Variety Hunting in Canada" column in **Whole No. 73** (Oct 1950).

1937 Mufti Issue

Notes on varieties identified on the 3¢ Mufti appear in **Ron Tuckwell's** "Variety Hunting in Canada" column in **Whole No. 77** (Feb 1951).

In **Whole No. 86** (Dec 1951), **H. Reiche** provides some background information on the production and other aspects of the 3¢ Mufti coil stamp in his article entitled "*Varieties of the 1937 Coil Stamps (3 cents)*".

1938 Pictorials & 1939 Special Delivery Issues

In **Whole Nos. 65 & 66** (Jan & Feb 1950), **S. F. Pell** writes in a letter to the Editor that he has a very dark shade of the 1938 \$1.00 Chateau de Ramesay stamp in his collection.

1939 Royal Visit Issue

Notes on varieties identified on the 1939 Royal Visit stamps appear in **Ron Tuckwell's** "Variety Hunting in Canada" column in **Whole No. 72** (Sept 1950).

1942 War Issue

In **Whole No. 68** (April 1950), **Jack Levine's** "What's in the Mail" column contains notes about the horizontal gutter variety of the 3¢ rose violet War Issue stamp. A photograph of a gutter block of eight of this stamp entitled "*A Canadian Oddity*" appears in **Whole No. 69** (May 1950) courtesy of **George S. Wegg**.

1949 John Cabot Commemorative Issue

In **Whole No. 86** (Dec 1951), **Rev John F. Bain's** column contains further information about the designs used for this stamp and the spelling of the name of Cabot's ship, the Matthew.

1950-51 Resources Issues

A brief article on the 1950 10¢ Fur Resources Issue appears in the "New Canadian Issues" column in **Whole No. 73** (Oct 1950). A summary of the Post Office announcement regarding the new \$1.00 Fishing Resources stamp appears in **Whole No. 76** (Jan 1951).

► TOPICS Revisited (Part III - BNAPS TOPICS Vol. 7 & 8) ... continued**1951 Stamp Centenary Issues**

A brief article on the stamps to be issued in September 1951 to commemorate one hundred years of Canadian stamps appears in the "New Canadian Issues" column in **Whole No. 73** (Oct 1950).

"Duke of York" Stamp

The two cent brown of the 1935 Jubilee issue pictured King George VI as the then Duke of York. Notes on varieties identified on this stamp appear in **Ron Tuckwell's** "Variety Hunting in Canada" column in **Whole No. 80** (May 1951).

"Emergency" Markings

In **Whole No. 78** (March 1951), **Dr. Alfred Whitehead's** article entitled "*Canadian Emergency Markings*" describes a number of covers from the King George VI period which have the rarely seen "Emergency" or "Timbre Temporaire" markings of the Canadian post office.

"Imperforates"

In **Whole No. 67** (March 1950), **Clarence W. Brazer's** article entitled "*Canada Imperforates are Proofs*" contains notes applicable to the imperforated Canadian stamps of the KGVI era.

Newfoundland

In **Whole No. 65** (Jan 1950), the **Meyerson's** "Trail of the Caribou" column contains notes on the Perf 13½ comb varieties of Newfoundland's 1937 Long Coronation set.

H. A. MacMaster's article entitled "*Newfoundland Plate Blocks*" in **Whole No. 79** (April 1951) contains information relating to the reissued definitive stamps of 1941.

In **Whole No. 81** (June 1951), **H. A. MacMaster's** article entitled "*An Unchronicled Newfoundland Variety*" contains information about Newfoundland's postage due stamps. A follow-up note on this article appears in the **Meyerson's** "Trail of the Caribou" column in **Whole No. 82** (July-Aug 1951).

A photograph of a corner block of nine of the Newfoundland 10¢ Postage Due imperforate between the first and second rows appears on the front cover of **BNA Topics Whole No. 84** (Oct 1951). This block also shows the "Postage Due" variety (Position 23). The story of how this variety was discovered also appears in **Whole No. 84**.

Official Stamps - Overprinted

In **Whole No. 66** (Feb 1950), **H. A. MacMaster** writes about the "Missing Period" variety on the O.H.M.S. overprints in his "*Some Short Notes*" article.

In **Whole No. 75** (Dec 1950), **T. B. Higginson** wrote an article entitled "*Some Observations on the O.H.M.S. Overprint Plate Blocks*".

In **Whole No. 80** (May 1951), **1st Lt. Vern Persinger** article entitled "*On His Majesty's Service*" contains a listing of identified plate numbers and known position blocks of the "G" overprints. This article also contains notes and observations about Canada's official stamps of the King George VI period.

Official Stamps - Perforated

In **Whole No. 74** (Nov 1950), **W. C. Gordon** wrote an article entitled "*Revised List of Canadian O.H.M.S. Issues*".

In **Whole No. 76** (Jan 1951), **Alex MacMaster** passed along some information about an OHMS perforation variety of the 1939 20¢ Fort Garry Pictorial for **Jack Levine's** "What's in the Mail" column.

► TOPICS Revisited (Part III - BNAPS TOPICS Vol. 7 & 8) ... continued**Official Stamps - Perforated (cont'd)**

In **Whole No. 79** (April 1951), 1st **Lt. Vern Persinger** article entitled "*On His Majesty's Service*" contains notes on how one might distinguish stamps which have "fake" perforations. **Lt. Persinger's** article in **Whole No. 80** (May 1951) contains a listing of identified plate numbers for 4 hole OHMS perforated blocks. A series of Letters to the Editor commenting on Lt. Persinger's articles appear in **Whole No. 81** (June 1951).

Philatelic Literature

Updated listings of publications and other philatelic material held at the time in the BNAPS Library can be found in **Whole Nos. 72, 83 & 84** (Sept 1950, Sept & Oct 1951) in **Robert J. Duncan's** articles entitled "*The Library*".

The Editor's "Note and Comments" column in **Whole No. 76** (Dec 1950) contains a reference to an article about (Canada's) George VI Issues which appeared in No. 5 of "Philatelic Newsletter".

Plate Blocks

In **Whole No. 68** (April 1950), **Arch. Millar** wrote a brief article on "*War Issue Plates*". **A. K. Grimmer** adds further comment on this subject in the Editor's "Notes and Comments" column in **Whole No. 71** (July-Aug 1950).

A. K. Grimmer's letter to the Editor in **Whole No. 71** (July-Aug 1950) makes mention of a study of the plate blocks of the 1939 Royal Visit Issue which appeared in the September 1945 issue of "Popular Stamps".

Plate Varieties

In **Whole No. 72** (Sept 1950), **Paul L. Brown** wrote a brief article that describes a few varieties which appear on stamps of a number of plate blocks issued during the King George VI period.

Postage Rates

Mention is made of April 2, 1951 as being the "First Day" for the new Canadian Registered Airmail Rate (27 cents) in **Jack Levine's** "What's in the Mail" column in **Whole No. 80** (May 1951).

Precancels

In **Whole Issue No. 86** (Dec 1951), **H. G. Walbrun** provides information on precancelled stamps of the 1949/50 Revised /Unrevised KGVII Definitive Issues.

Secret (or Hidden) Dates

James W. Catterick's letter to the Editor in **Whole No. 73** (Oct 1950) contains information about "Hidden Dates" to be found on Canadian stamps issued during the King George VI era.

Travelling Post Offices

Leslie Mitchell wrote a brief article entitled "*Newfoundland Travelling Post Offices*" which appeared in **Whole No. 50** (July 1948).

.... Canada Posts Office Greeting Postcard

by Mike Street

The pressure of other activities kept me from researching the matter until recently. Most of the answer was not hard to find. An article on page 7 of the Friday, Sept. 22, 1950 Hamilton Spectator, was headlined:

ANCASTER INCORPORATED AS TOWNSHIP CENTURY AGO

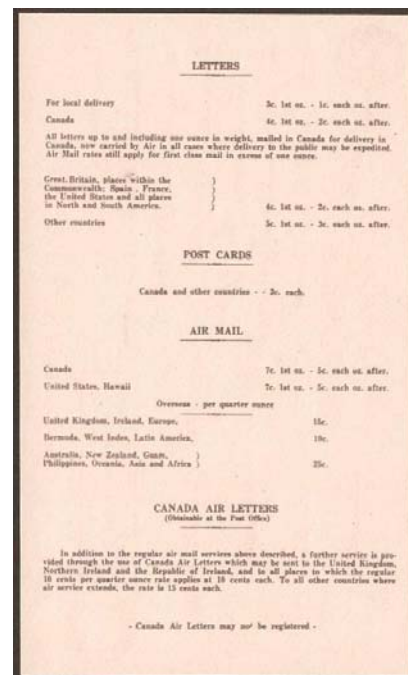
OPEN AIR DANCE, PARADE OF FLOATS AMONG EVENTS PLANNED ON WEEKEND

The Township of Ancaster is having a birthday party over the weekend. Although the Township may not look it, it is 100 years of age and feeling as spry as the day it was incorporated back in 1850. Many years before that, Ancaster - which means 'important camp' - had surpassed the neighbouring villages of Hamilton and Dundas in importance.

RACE FROM HAMILTON

While 18 or more runners toe their marks in Hamilton, the official opening of the Centennial will take place in Heming Park in Ancaster. The runners will leave the Court House in Hamilton at 2:30PM and will follow the first rural route ever formed in Canada. The eight mile course follows a route along Main Street, Number Two Highway and the Jerseyville Road to Heming Park.

The first runner to break the tape in Heming Park will bear a message from the Postmaster General congratulating the citizens of the Township on their one-hundredth birthday.



Reverse of Ancaster Post Office Postcard
showing selected postage rates applicable
circa September 1950

Clearly the combination of the Township's anniversary and it being the terminus of the first rural route in the country had resulted in the card being produced and mailed. A copy of the card itself was the message carried in the race. Then a 'village' and township of approximately 6,800 people, Ancaster was recently forced into amalgamation with the adjacent City of Hamilton. The population of what was then Ancaster is today over 40,000 people. Research into exactly who arranged for the Ancaster card is ongoing.

I have never seen a similar communication from the Post Office to citizens of any other municipal entity, before or after 1950. Since this took place in the prosperous post-war era, it is possible, perhaps likely, that it was repeated somewhere else in the country during the remainder of the reign of King George VI. If anyone is aware of anything even remotely similar please get in touch with me at 73 Hatton Drive, Ancaster, ON L9G 2H5 or by email: <mikestreet@hwc.org>

Precancelled Stamps - Warning Strips

Here is another warning strip block from a sheet of the 1¢ Mufti precancelled, in this case, with the Yorkton, Saskatchewan Money Order Office Number (7977).



Plate 6 Lower Left Sheet of the 1¢ Mufti overprinted for issue as precancelled stamps
with the Yorkton, Saskatchewan Money Order Office Number (7977) - (Courtesy of Steve Prest)

► Member's Corner

Barry Danard wrote to say he really enjoyed reading Issue 5 and passed on his appreciation to John Burnett and Gary Steele for their visually stunning articles.

Eugene Yount wrote to say that he had attended the Royal 2005 held in late May in London, Ontario. Speaking of the Royal 2005, congratulations are in order to Study Group members **John Munro-Cape** whose exhibit, "*The One Cent of the Canadian War Issue*", was awarded Silver and **Peter Kritz** whose exhibit, "*Christmas Seals of Canada, National Campaigns 1927-77*", was awarded Bronze.

John Burnett wrote to advise of a correction relating to the rates for First Class Surface Letters and Postcards to Mexico which appeared in his Part III article on Mufti period postal history in Issue 5. Essentially these classes of mail to Mexico enjoyed the same rates as those to destinations in Canada, the U.S. and South and Central America and not the higher rates that applied generally to non British Empire U.P.U. countries.

The error arose when your Editor referenced the corresponding rates found on Table 6 for non British Empire U.P.U. countries in the Smith and Wawruckiwicz book "*Canada - Domestic and International Postal Rates and Fees 1870-1999*". Upon further research through the Canada Official Postal Guides published in the 1937-42 period, John was able to confirm that Mexico and other the non British Empire U.P.U. countries in the Americas enjoyed the same rates as those for surface letters and postcards to Canadian destinations.

In April, **Steve Prest** gave a PowerPoint presentation on King George VI precancelled plate blocks at meetings of the Taranaki and North Shore Philatelic Societies in New Plymouth and Milford, New Zealand respectively.

► Members' Wants

1942 War Issue 1¢ Green John Munro-Cape specializes in the 1¢ War Issue (in all its forms) and is looking to buy/sell/exchange items related to these issues. John can be contacted by mail at RR #3 Picton, Ontario, Canada K0K 2T0 or by telephone at 1-613-476-5133

KGVI Booklets - All Issues Eirwyn Jones is looking to buy/sell/exchange KGVI booklets and has duplicates to offer. Eirwyn can be contacted by mail at 10 Low Green, Atherston, Manchester, United Kingdom M46 9HS or by email at jennifer.jones45@btinternet.com

KGVI Used Plate Blocks Ed Harris is interested in used plate blocks for his KGVI collection and has a few duplicates for trade or purchase. Ed can be contacted by mail at 620 75th Ave. NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2K 0P9 or by email at harrise@shaw.ca

Cracked Plates



Following on from **Doug Lingard's** note in Issue 5, **Mike Street** sent a scan of the cracked plate block shown on the left. It is the 1¢ cent Upper Left Plate Block No. 5 of the Revised 1949 Definitive Issue. This block has catalogue status.

The cracked Upper Left Plate Block No. 3. of the 1942 War Issue 10¢ Parliament Building is from your Editor's collection. This cracked plate is unlisted in current catalogues.

Hopefully other members of our Study Group will be able to forward further examples of cracked plate blocks to your Editor future editions of the Post & Mail.



ERRATUM: Peter Kritz's last name and his and Ed Harris' email addresses were misspelled in the Members' Wants column in Issue 4 & 5. Study Group members are asked to note the correct spellings which appear below. Your Editor regrets the inconvenience these errors have caused.

1937 - 42 Mufti, Pictorial Issue etc. Gary Steele is looking for covers, proofs, plate blocks, misperfs etc. of all issues in the Mufti period.

Dead Letter Office Covers - All Issues Gary is also looking for DLO covers for the 1937 - 52 period.

KGVI Covers with Foreign Postage Dues Gary is also interested in underpaid Canadian covers to foreign destinations charged/marked Postage Due and paid with foreign dues or regular stamps. Gary can be contacted by mail at 6 Braemont Court, Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, Canada B4E 3A1 or by email at gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca

1949 Postes - Postage OHMS Peter Kritz is looking for O285 & O286 (2 & 3¢ KGVI Poste - Postage issue) on cover. Peter can be contacted by regular mail at RR #3, Hanover, Ontario, Canada, N4N 3B9 or by email at pkritz@coldwellbankerpr.com