

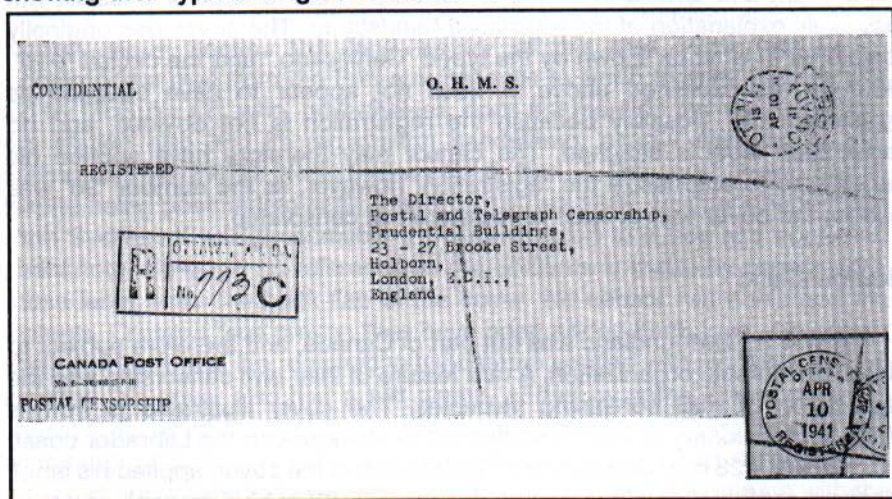
Canada & Newfoundland, World War II Registered by Censor

John N. Tyacke

In WW I Canadian civil censors would occasionally register a piece of ordinary mail that was found to contain something of value. This is well described and illustrated by Steinhart [1] p. 36-42. He describes 13 such covers and, since publication, the total reported is still only 20. The practice appears to have been standard as it is reported from five different censor stations. In some cases the valuable contents were listed on the cover; the idea was clearly to protect the censor who had opened the cover from any complaints if the contents had gone missing. Usually the normal post office registration "R" in oval was applied, as there appears to have been no special censor office registration handstamp. No charge appears to have been raised or collected for this service, although a Toronto cover has had a 5¢ stamp added which was cancelled by the "R" in oval.

Allan Steinhart and I have looked hard for similar covers from WW II but until now, with no success. I have searched the Chief Censor's files in Archives Canada in Ottawa in some detail, but although I did not find any reference to registration by censor, it seemed such an obvious thing to do, particularly as so many censors served in both wars, and as the Supervisor of the Vancouver censor station was the same person in both wars.

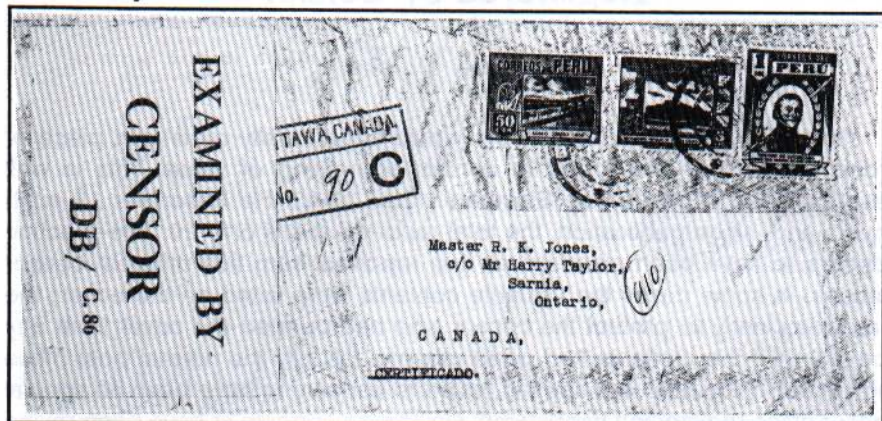
In addition to that there were two registration handstamps used only by head office censorship in Ottawa. A cover addressed to British censorship showing their typical usage is shown below.



Other examples I have were used to return philatelic material to dealers,

and on correspondence to a POW Camp commandant.

Recently discovered by Allan is the cover shown below post marked Lima, Peru 17 July 1942.

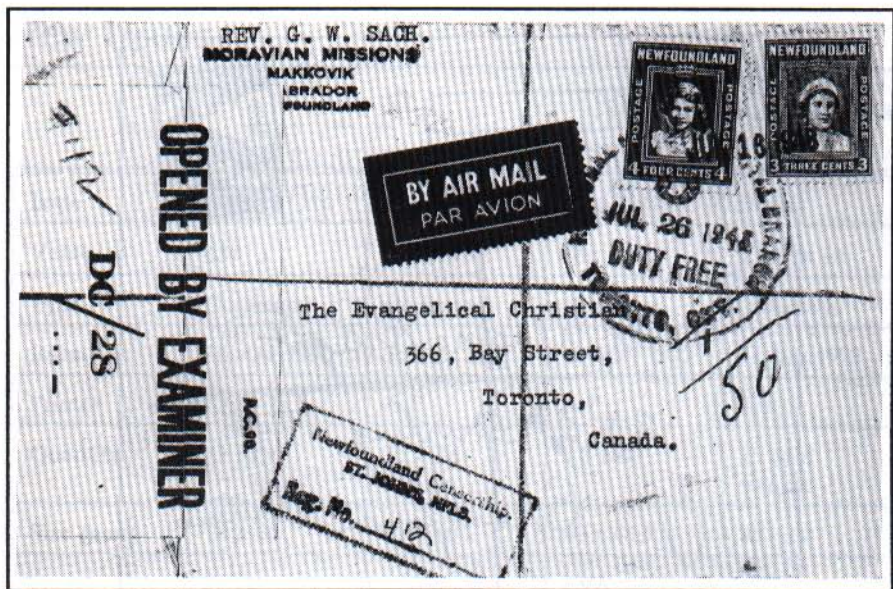


It appears to have travelled ordinary mail to Ottawa [as there are no registered handstamps before arrival in censorship], where, on being opened by censor #86, it was found to contain something of value. Perhaps the sender "S K Jones" sent his young relation "Master R K Jones" some cash for his birthday. The censor handstamped the cover with the Censorship registration marking, although he then inadvertently covered the "R" with his label. It was entered in the censorship office registration book as #90 [some of these registration books are still in the archives.] It then received the "Ottawa Canada R Jul 22 42" handstamp of the Ottawa registration department and arrived in Sarnia on 23 July. There is another possible but less likely explanation of the registered handstamp. The cover was originally registered in Lima as shown by the typed "Certificado." and the circled "910", although, as explained above, it does not appear to have travelled as registered mail, possibly because the registration is not obvious, and no registration label is attached. The censor may therefore have applied his handstamp to emphasize the registration; however, as the number "90" was added, the cover was at least re-registered at censorship.

Newfoundland

In WW II Newfoundland was not part of Canada, and therefore subject to British censorship organization. A rare feature of their civil censorship was the registration of mail containing valuables. The cover illustrated is from a Moravian Missionary in the tiny settlement of Makkovik on the Labrador coast.

Censor #28 in St John's found "\$5.00 cash" in the cover, applied his label, received confirmation of the contents [censor "#42" in blue crayon], and then applied the rectangular boxed "Newfoundland Censorship./St. John's, Nfld./Reg. No" handstamp in black, with ms #412. Note the blue crayon



registration lines crossing back and front of the cover, including label, and the "T/50". This attempt to collect twice the registration fee of 25¢ does not appear to have been enforced. I know of one similar cover, two months earlier in May 1943, with the same procedure followed by censor #29, \$10.00 cash, confirmed by censor #27, registration #Z48. Another cover of September 1943 airmail to UK has the same handstamp. This rare marking was not reported by Gayle Mayo in her articles [2].

A remarkable feature of North American close cooperation on censorship in WW II was the Newfoundland censor station on Canadian soil at North Sydney, Nova Scotia. The long history of this mail office, set up to accommodate mail from the Port-aux-Basques to North Sydney ferry, is well told by McGuire [3], who, nevertheless, does not mention the censor station. This station also had its registration handstamp, usually stamped in red, reading "REGISTERED/ North Sydney C./ R. No.....". The cover shown below, despite being postmarked at St John's on 19 Dec 1943, was not opened until North Sydney. It was presumably a Christmas card to a boy and contained a banknote, although no reference to the contents is made by censor #37, whose label seals the back flap of the cover. No censor has confirmed the contents. Crossed blue crayon lines have been added back [over the censor label] and front, and the registration handstamp applied with ms "1945". When acquired this cover also had a 10¢ stamp, added by some former owner to "improve" it, which was between the 5¢ stamp and just slightly over the handstamp and obscuring the St John's machine cancel. I have removed it, as it does not appear to have been added at North Sydney [compare with the Toronto added 5¢ stamp in WW I]. Doug Hannan has informed me of three other covers with this handstamp, all dated in 1944. In February a cover from



Nfld to Los Angeles, censor #38, confirmed by #35; in March from US Navy Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif. to Nfld, censor #41 confirmed by #20; in July from Port-aux-Basques, Nfld to Sydney, NS, censor #27.

It would be surprising if similar procedures were not followed in other British commonwealth civil censorship stations, to protect the censors as well as the recipients, but I cannot recall having seen them reported.

[1] Steinhart, Allan I. "Civil Censorship in Canada During World War I". The Unitrade Press, Toronto 1986.

[2] Mayo, Gayle. "Civil Censorship in Newfoundland - World War II". Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, Vol 1, No 3. of April 1974, and "An Update" in Vol 8, page 22 of December 1980.

[3] McGuire, C.R. "The Newfoundland Post Office Mail Assorting Office, North Sydney, Nova Scotia 1906 - 1949", 1980, private reprint of the article originally published in the Postal History Society Journal #20.

Issue	Stanley Cup	Textiles	"The Owl"	Hotels
Value	43¢	5 x 43¢ s-t	86¢	5 x 43¢ s-t
Type	Commem.	Commem.	Commem.	Commem.
Issued	16 Apr 1993	30 Apr 1993	17 May 1993	14 Jun 1993
Printer	CBN	A-P	A-P	A-P
Quantity	15 MM	15 MM stamps	8.8 MM	15 MM stamps
Size (mm)	30 x 36	41 x 40	40 x 48.5	35 x 30
Gum	PVA	PVA	PVA	PVA
Paper	CP	H	H	H
Process	6CL	6CL	6CL + 1 colour foil	6CL
Pane	25	10 (booklet)	16	10 (booklet)
Tagging	G (4 sides)	G (4 sides)	G (4 sides)	G (4 sides)
Perf.	13.3 x 13.3	13.2 x 12.5	12.5 x 13.2	13.3 x 13.3
Teeth	24 x 20	27 x N/A	25 x 32	24 x N/A

Provincial/Territorial Parks (Canada Day sheet): 12 x 43¢ s-t; Commem; 30 Jun 1993; CBN; 15MM stamps; 40 x 26 mm; PVA; CP; 7CL; 12; G (4 sides) perf. 13.0 x 13.1; 24 x 20 teeth.

ABBREVIATIONS: 6(7)CL = six (seven) colour lithography; A-P = Ashton-Potter; CBN = Canadian Bank Note Company; CP - Coated Papers; G = general tagging; H = Harrison; MM = million; N/A = not applicable (depends on how the booklet was trimmed); s-t = se-tenant.

Kenojuak Ashevak's "Drawing for The Owl" is the sixth stamp in the annual Masterpieces of Canadian Art series. It is certainly well done. There are two changes from the previous stamps: the foil colour has been changed to gold from silver, and the rate is the 86¢

international letter rate rather than the previous generic 50¢ value. Being an actual rate, it will see greater use by the general public, which is good; but its primary use takes it out of the country, which may make it hard for North American collectors to find used.

The Hand-crafted Textiles and Hotels booklets and the Parks sheet are also well done.

Canada Post seems to be keeping the number of stamp issues per year to a reasonable number, but the number of individual commemoratives in those issues is large. In the first half of 1993 there were 4 designs in the Canadian women se-tenant issue, 5 in the textiles booklet, 5 more in the Historic Hotels booklet and 12 in the Canada Day sheet, plus one Stanley Cup stamp and one art stamp - a total of 28 individual commemoratives in six months (an average of more than one a week). While not difficult to get hold of mint, the used collector certainly faces a challenge.

There is an error in the Summer 1993 (No. 10) Canada's Stamp Details and Summer 1993 Collections of Canada

publications, since both list the Historic Hotels as being printed on Coated Paper. In fact, they are on Harrison paper, as indicated by the philatelic selvedge on the stamps and (if you look closely) the "Presenting" card. Direct comparison of the paper with other stamps printed on Harrison and Coated Paper (paper shade, thickness and transparency, and gum colour) confirms that it is Harrison paper.

The following information is taken from Canada Post's booklet Canada's Stamp Details (but see above), with the exception of stamp sizes, perforations and number of teeth. These are my own measurements, and are given as (HORIZONTAL) x (VERTICAL).

The data for the Canada Day sheet (Parks issue) are given after the table, followed by a list of abbreviations.

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