

SYNOPSIS

SOLO USAGES OF CANADA'S ONE CENT SMALL QUEEN STAMP: 1870-1897

Overview: This exhibit illustrates how a single one cent stamp could carry the mail in Canada during the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century, using the one Small Queen issue as an example. The Small Queen issues offer a complex study of printing, perforation and color varieties. This exhibit, however, deals only with the solo usages of the one cent Small Queen, not with the stamp itself. There were five basic one cent rates, all of which are in the exhibit.

- 1) Drop letters—sealed envelopes mailed and delivered within the jurisdiction of the same post office.
- 2) Private postcards.
- 3) Printed matter—unsealed envelopes containing advertisements, pricelists, circulars or other documents without written messages.
- 4) 5th Class—miscellaneous matter not covered by the previous rate, including books, photographs and part-printed government forms.
- 5) Transient newspaper rate to UPU nations, after Jan 1881.

Highlights: Drop letter from Assiniboia, North-West Territories, a very rare territorial usage.

Private postcards with illegal advertisements and return addresses on face.

Invitation to a funeral sent by printed matter rate.

Insurance policy illegally sent as printed matter.

Early use of one cent stamp Oct. 1870, seven months after issuance.

Special photographer's rate on unusual pictorial envelope.

Challenge factor: This exhibit has been built over time by searching for the best examples available to exhibitor. Printed matter was the "junk mail" of its time and thus was likely to be mishandled or discarded. Thus, condition is always a problem.

References:

Arfken, G. Postal Usage during the Small Queen Era: 1870-1897. V. G. Green Philatelic Research Foundation. 1989.

Steinhart, A. The Postal History of the Post Card in Canada: 1871-1911. Jim A. Hennock, Toronto. 1986.