

Queen's University at Kingston: A Postal Profile

PURPOSE

The purpose of this exhibit is to show various philatelic elements related to the history of Queen's University in Kingston Ontario.

Queen's University has a rich history as a post-secondary institution. **Queen's roots run deep into the history and national life of Canada.** Much of this postal profile was traced by fortuitous and/or deliberate research in areas surrounding the university's activities, communications and involvement with the community. Its alumni and its contribution to society are part of a rich heritage which is reflected in this exhibit.

The humanitarian effort deployed during WWI, with the #7 Canadian General Hospital, was another example of this institution's valuable contribution and legacy.

SCOPE / TREATMENT

The elements presented generally follow a chronological order.

From 1888 (letter from Principal G.M. Grant) to 2018 (use of illustrated mail permits) a variety of philatelic elements are brought together to illustrate the rich history of Queen's University.

RESEARCH

To better understand the importance of different aspects and role of Queen's University, personal research was undertaken in the following areas:

- No. 5 Canadian Stationary Hospital and No. 7 Canadian General Hospital staffed by faculty and students from Queen's;
- the popularity of University Girl postcards, common not only at American colleges but also at major universities in Canada;
- biographies of some of the famous alumni that have been found on stamps;
- the Ontario School of Mining that had been established in Kingston given its proximity to the Canadian Shield which joined the Faculty of Applied Science when Queen's University became a secular institution in 1912;
- the history between Queen's and McGill universities on both academic and sporting levels dating back to the 19th century and still today, their collaboration continues in publishing with the McGill/Queen's University Press.

KNOWLEDGE

A number of corner card are shown to illustrate the extent to which these were used by the university to highlight the importance of each department.

A number of philatelic elements also led to find out more about them such as the period of use of the university logo on corner cards and the introduction of illustrated mail permits.

Meter advertising was also a popular method used by this institution leading to the use of modern illustrated permits.

RARITY

The original 1888 letter from Principal Grant is an important element in illustrating the importance of fundraising by the university, an ongoing activity for all universities even today. It is an important piece of Queen's history.

The letter to Guy Curtis was certainly a fortuitous find but its existence highlights how this athlete was not only a major figure on campus but an exceptional athlete and coach on the Canadian intercollegiate sports scene.

The Registration box on a Queen's corner cover from 1983 (p.16) is a very unusual marking. A letter "R" is normally found in this box but here a "Q" has been used. No other such marking has been seen outside Kingston.

REFERENCES

* Welcome to Queen's University at Kingston map and guide, circa 1960

www.queensu.ca/encyclopedia

History of #7 (Queen's) Canadian General Hospital