

When Free Franking is not enough...

...Official stamps' role in Parliamentary Mail

“... “Franking” is the process by which Members of the House of Commons, by affixing their **signatures** to an addressed piece of mail, may have that mail delivered postage-free **anywhere in the country**. It is available only for mail that is addressed to places in Canada and **may not be used for parcels, special delivery or other special services** offered by Canada Post.”

From The House of Commons Procedure and Practice

From 1939 until 1963 when Members of Parliament needed to use airmail, special delivery or other special services offered by Canada Post, they used “Official Stamps”

This exhibit looks at those stamps and their use in Parliamentary Mail

Franking and Signatures

“Franking” is the process by which Members of the House of Commons, by affixing their signatures...

Initially real signatures were used but as time and volume progressed a rubber stamp of the Parliamentarians signature were used on the envelope

Below are samples of the signatures used by some Parliamentarians:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. Mackenzie King". The signature is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

William Lyon Mackenzie King

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Louis St. Laurent". The signature is bold and somewhat slanted to the right.

Louis St. Laurent

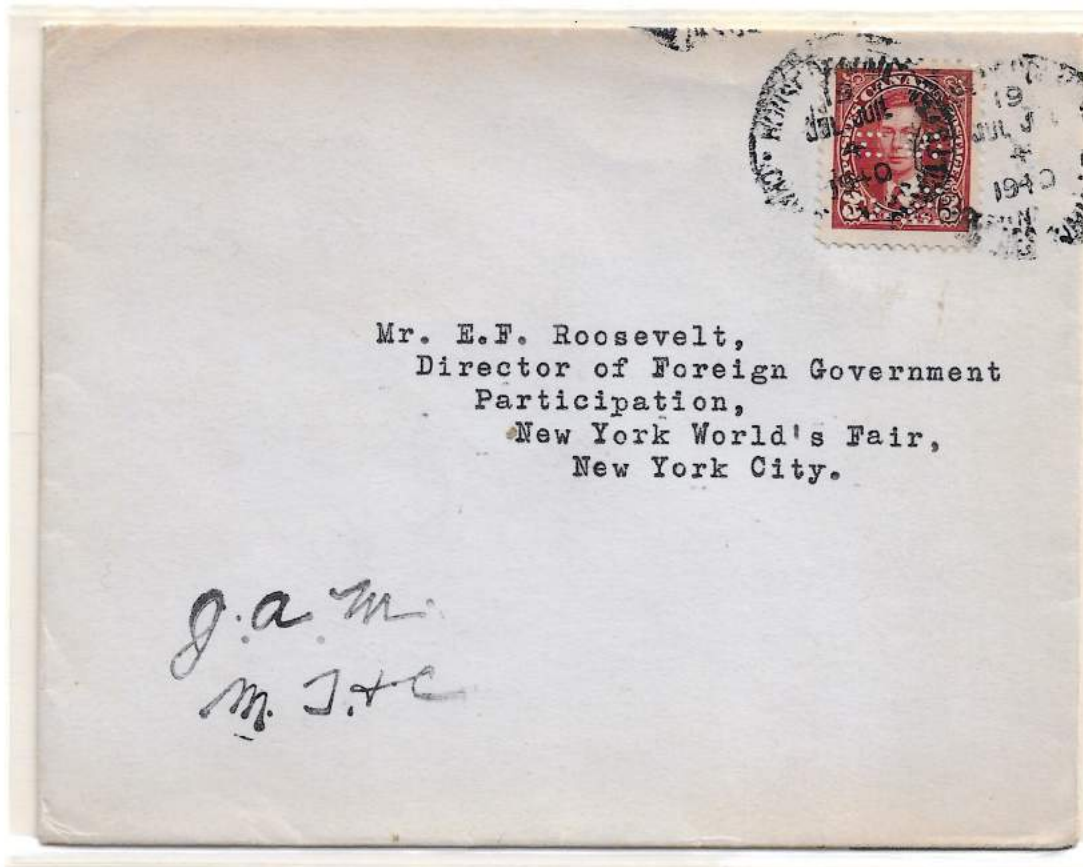
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Diefenbaker". The signature is very fluid and slanted to the right, with a long, sweeping underline.

John Diefenbaker

Other signatures used for mailing purposes are shown in the following pages

Minister writes to New York 1939 World Fair

3 cent stamp perforated Position 4/E to pay for surface mail to USA. Mailed July 4, 1940



NB signature: J A.M. and initials M.T.C. for Minister of Trade and Commerce



James Angus MacKinnon

First elected to the House of Commons for Edmonton West in 1935, 1940 & 1945. During WW II he was Minister of Trade and Commerce. In 1949, he was appointed to the Senate of Canada

Special Delivery Letter from Prime Minister Mackenzie King

Ten Cent Great Bear Lake

perforated position 1/A,

paid special delivery.

Basic postage paid by franking

for Members of Parliament

mailed in Ottawa May 9, 1947



Insignia for Prime Minister

Embossed on reverse



William Lyon Mackenzie King

(December 17, 1874 – July 22, 1950)

the 10th prime minister of Canada

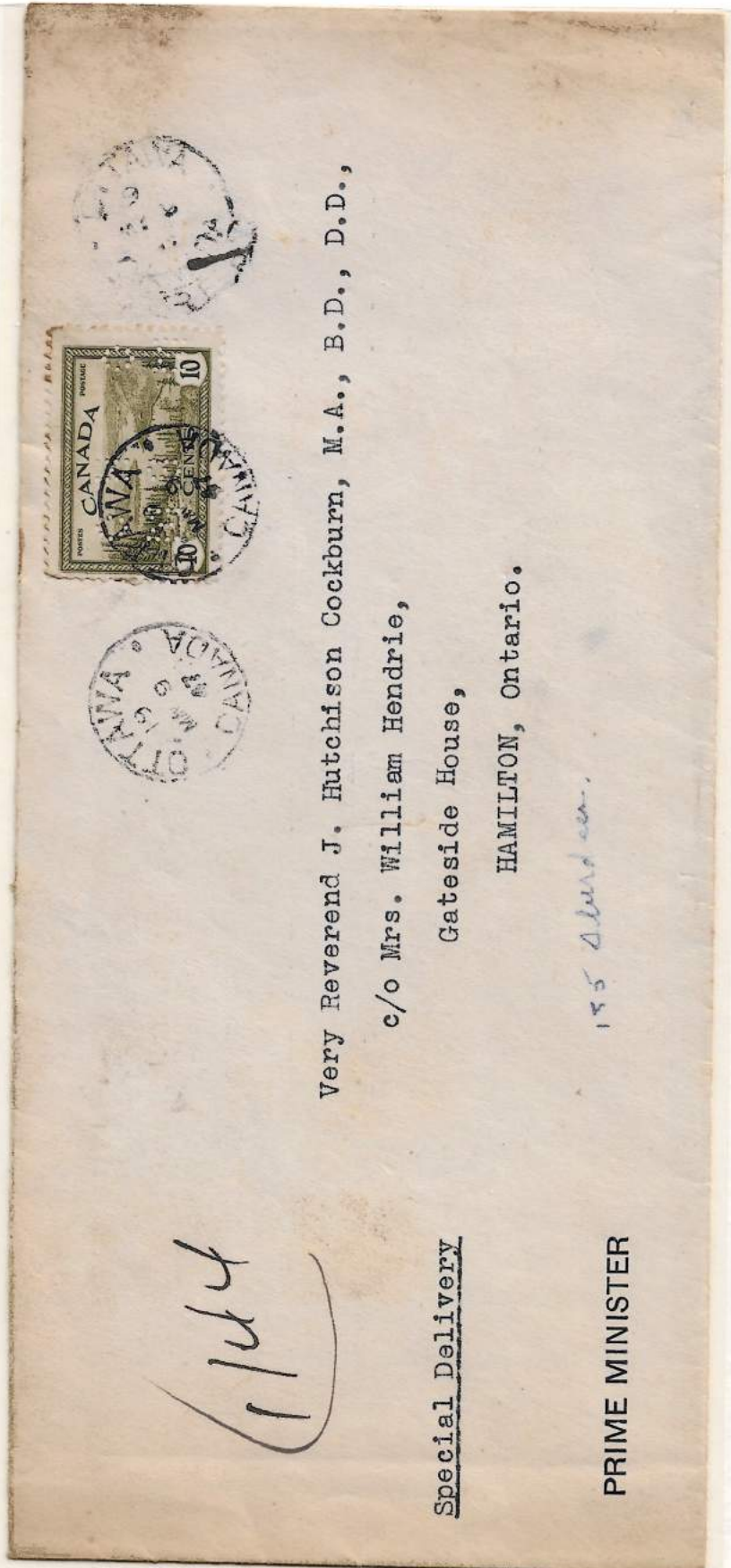
for three non-consecutive terms:

from 1921-1926, 1926-1930 & 1935-1948.

A total of 21 years & 154 days in office,

the longest-serving Prime Minister

in Canadian history.



Mail to USA Senator from Member of Parliament

Mailed February 26, 1951

International mail paid

By 4 cent King George

Overprinted with G

NB House of Commons

Cancellations

Louis Orville Breithaupt

Member of Parliament

for Waterloo North

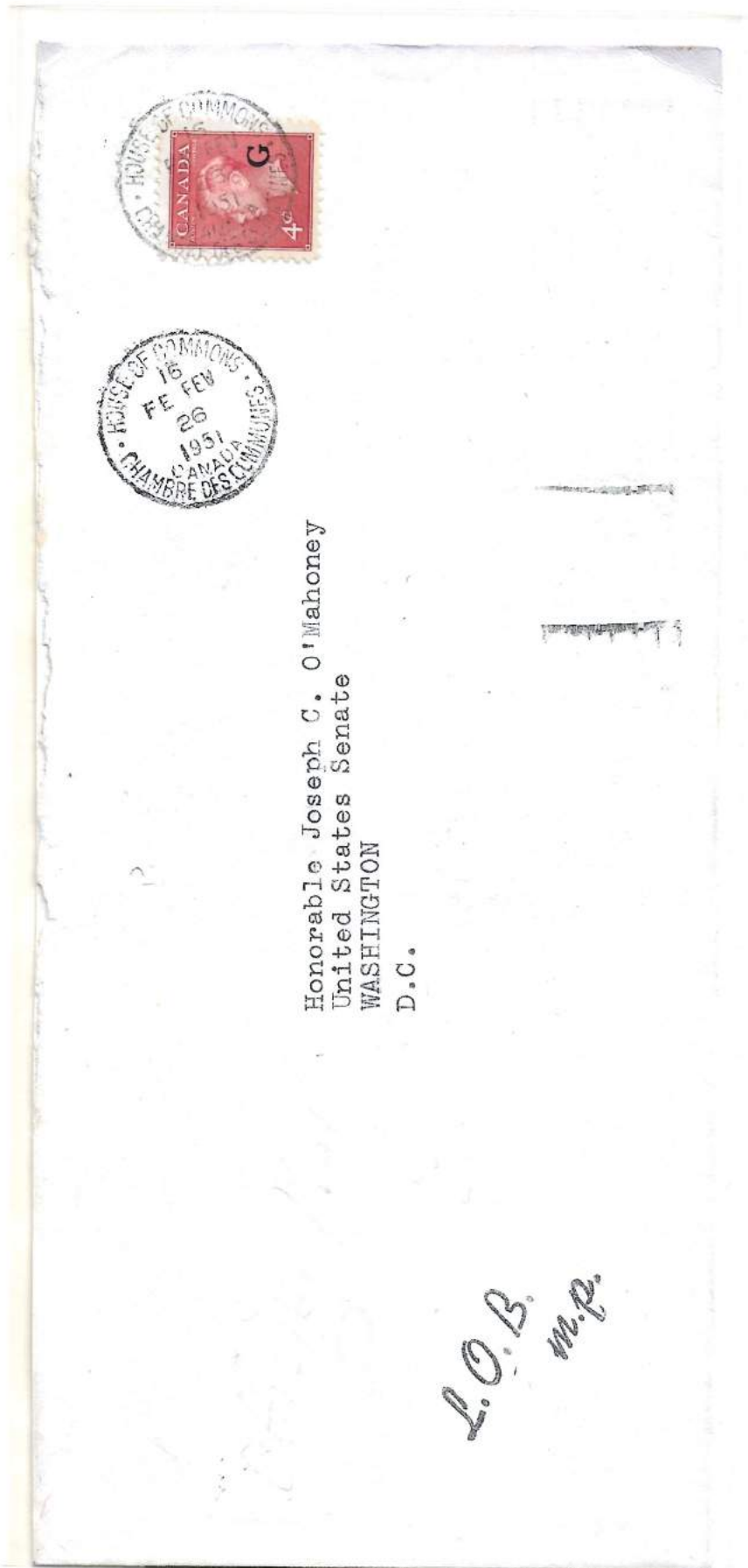
Aug. 19, 1940 – Feb. 18, 1952

Prior to being elected MP he was a Kitchener alderman for four years, and in 1923 became the youngest mayor in the city's history.

Breithaupt was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in 1952 and served until 1957

*L. O. B.
m.p.*

His signature

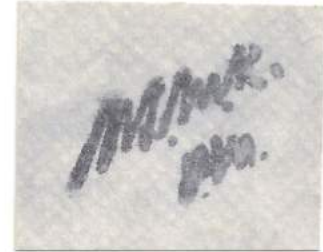


From PM Mackenzie to MP serving in Army in Italy, WWII



Thirty cent Air mail charge paid by
10 cent Parliament Buildings and 20
cents Corvette

Back of envelope is embossed with
crest of The Office of the Prime
Minister



Signature of William Mackenzie King
for franking privileges

Sent by Prime Minister Mackenzie
King to fellow Member of Parliament:



Joseph Allan Johnston

He was elected as London's Liberal
M.P. in 1940; defeated 1945. He served
5 ½ years in the Canadian active army,
including four years' service overseas,
mostly while also an M.P

Captain in the **Royal Canadian Army
Service Corp**

Postmaster General sends letter to Trade Commissioner

NB: House of Commons Cancellation, March 17, 1951, 10 cent postage for Air Mail



Rinfret Signature for Franking:



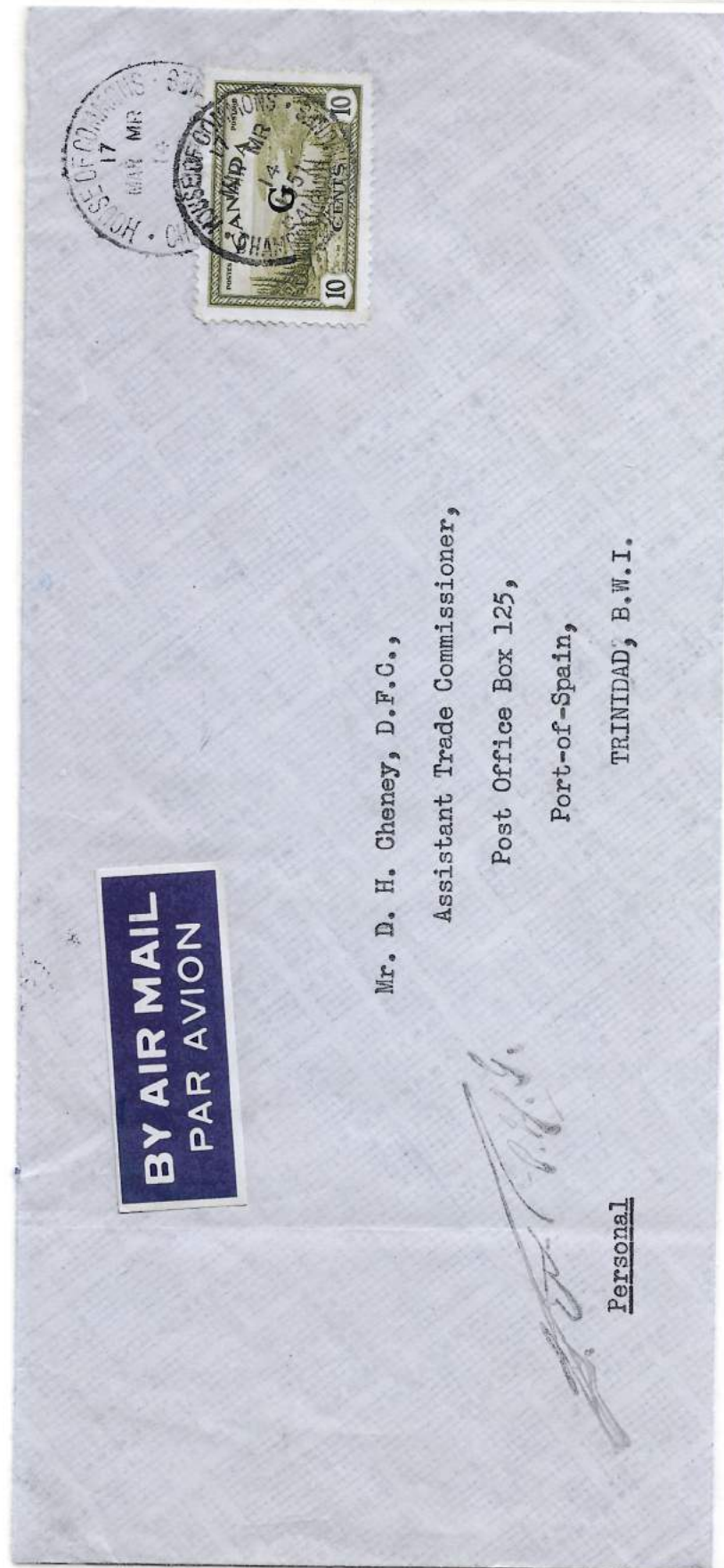
Édouard-Gabriel Rinfrét

Elected to the House of Commons in 1945 for the riding of Outremont. He was re-elected in 1949 and was **Postmaster General** from 1949 to 1952.



Karsh portrait of Donald Cheney

Member of the famous "Dambusters" Recipient of the **Distinguished Flying Cross** After his discharge, he completed an economics degree at Queen's University and launched a career in the foreign service. He served in trade commission posts in Trinidad, Peru, Boston, Chicago, and finally Moscow.



**BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

Mr. D. H. Cheney, D.F.C.,
Assistant Trade Commissioner,
Post Office Box 125,
Port-of-Spain,
TRINIDAD, B.W.I.

Personal

30 cents Double Weight Airmail rate to England

20 cent Pulp and Paper and 10 cent Drying Skins, both overprinted "G"

NB: House of Commons cancellation, December 8, 1952



Signature of C.D. Howe:



Clarence Decatur Howe

Member of Parliament for Port Arthur

In office 14 October 1935 – 10 June 1957

Howe PC was a Cabinet Minister

in the governments of Prime Ministers:

William Lyon Mackenzie King

& Louis St. Laurent from 1935 to 1957.

He is credited with transforming the Canadian economy from agriculture-based to industrial.

During the Second World War, his involvement in the war effort was so extensive that he was nicknamed the "Minister of Everything".



Air Mail and Special Delivery from Minister of Transport



Branch S. Dykes, Esq.,
Vice-president of the Colonial division,
Eastern Air Lines,
10 Rockefeller Plaza,
New-York, U.S.A.

10 cent Inuk Hunter and 7 cent Canada Goose, paying for airmail and special delivery to the USA

Members of Parliament receive free mailing privileges for standard domestic mail. Airmail and special delivery and international mailing costs are not covered by "free franking".

Free Franking provided under signature of Member of Parliament

In this case George Marler, Minister of Transport

His signature:



NB the M.T. for Minister of Transport

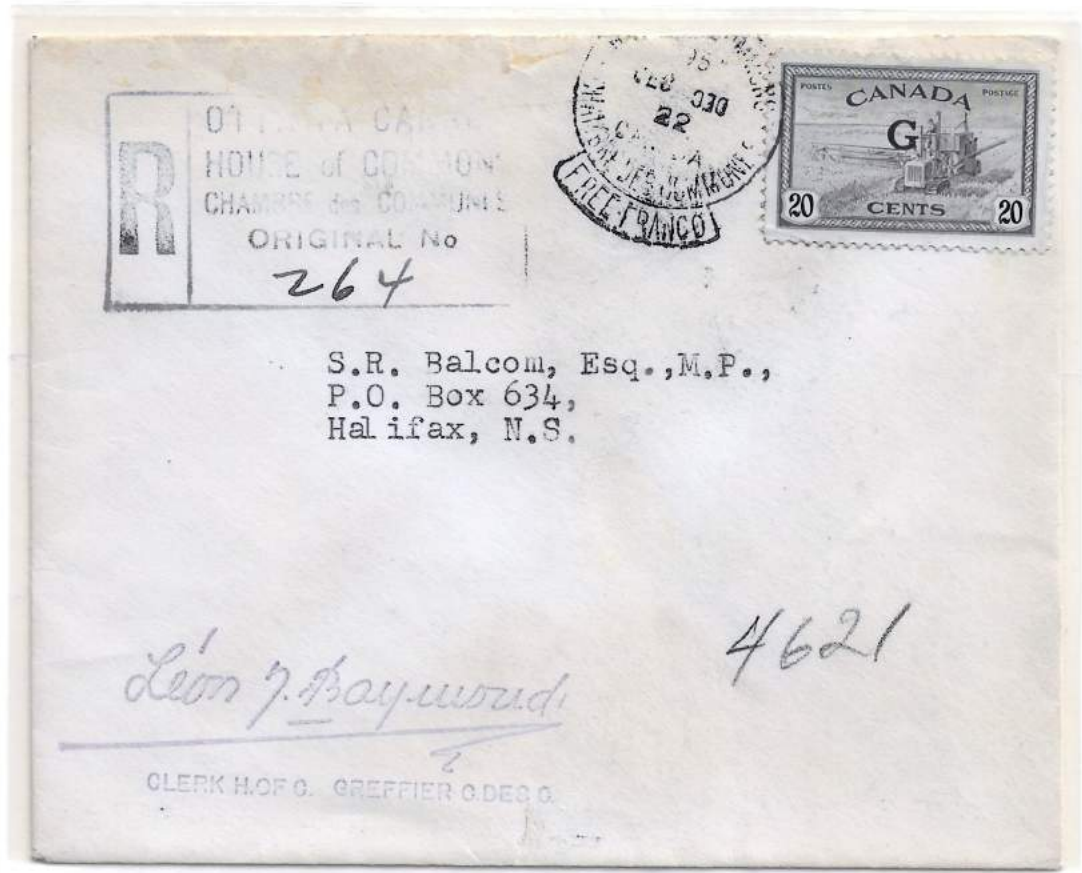
George Marler

Marler successfully ran as a Liberal candidate in the provincial district of Westmount-Saint-Georges in a by-election held on March 23, 1942. He was re-elected in the 1944, 1948 and 1952 elections.

Marler resigned from the legislature on June 30, 1954 and was appointed to the federal cabinet of Louis Saint-Laurent as minister of transport. Later that year he won a by-election and became the Member of Parliament for the federal district of Saint-Antoine—Westmount. He was re-elected in the 1957 but was defeated in 1958.

Three Different House of Commons Cancellations

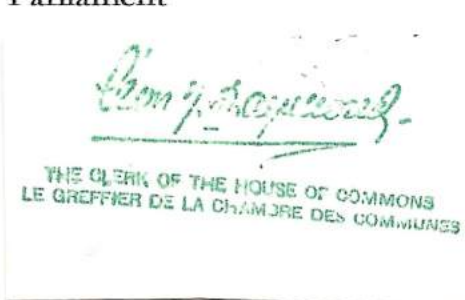
From The Clerk of
the House of Commons
December 1951,
NB "FREE FRANCO"
in lower cancellation
20 cent Combine paid for
Registration



Samuel Rosborough Balcom, elected 1950, defeated 1957

Léon-Joseph Raymond

First elected to Parliament in the Wright riding in the 1945 general election. With riding boundary changes, Raymond entered the 1949 federal election at the new Gatineau riding and won the seat. He was appointed Clerk of the House of Commons on 5 August 1949 and resigned his seat in Parliament



Raymond's Signature as Clerk and insignia on reverse of envelope

20 C official Pulp & Paper

Paying for Registration

Mailed December 8, 1954

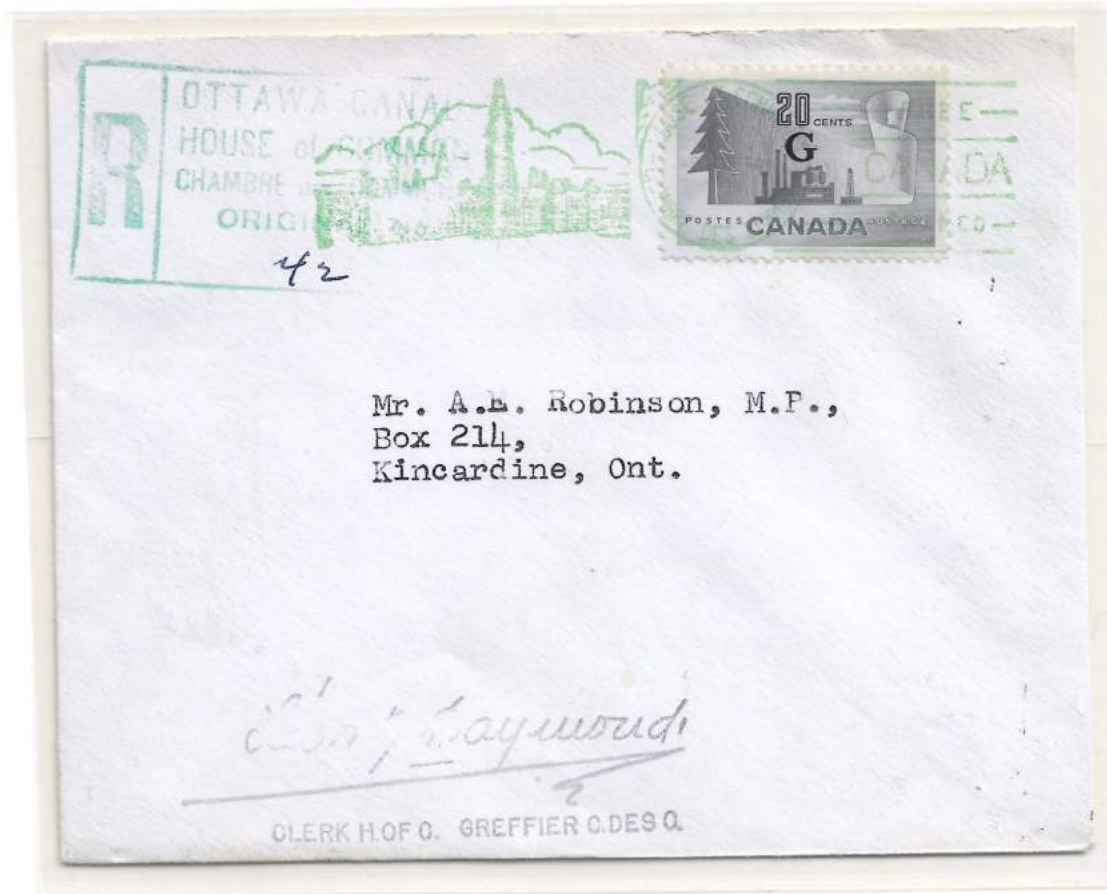
NB Hof C Cancellation

Includes words:

FREE FRANCO

Profile picture of Parliament

Buildings in Ottawa



20 C Paper Making

Paying for registration

Mailed December 12, 1951

NB Different Hof C

Cancellation

Envelope still sealed,

and nothing is inside



Surface Rate to Argentina

Domestic mail is free for Members of Parliament, but International and Trans Border Mail was not. Here is 5 cent King George VI Stamp paying surface rate to Argentina

NID



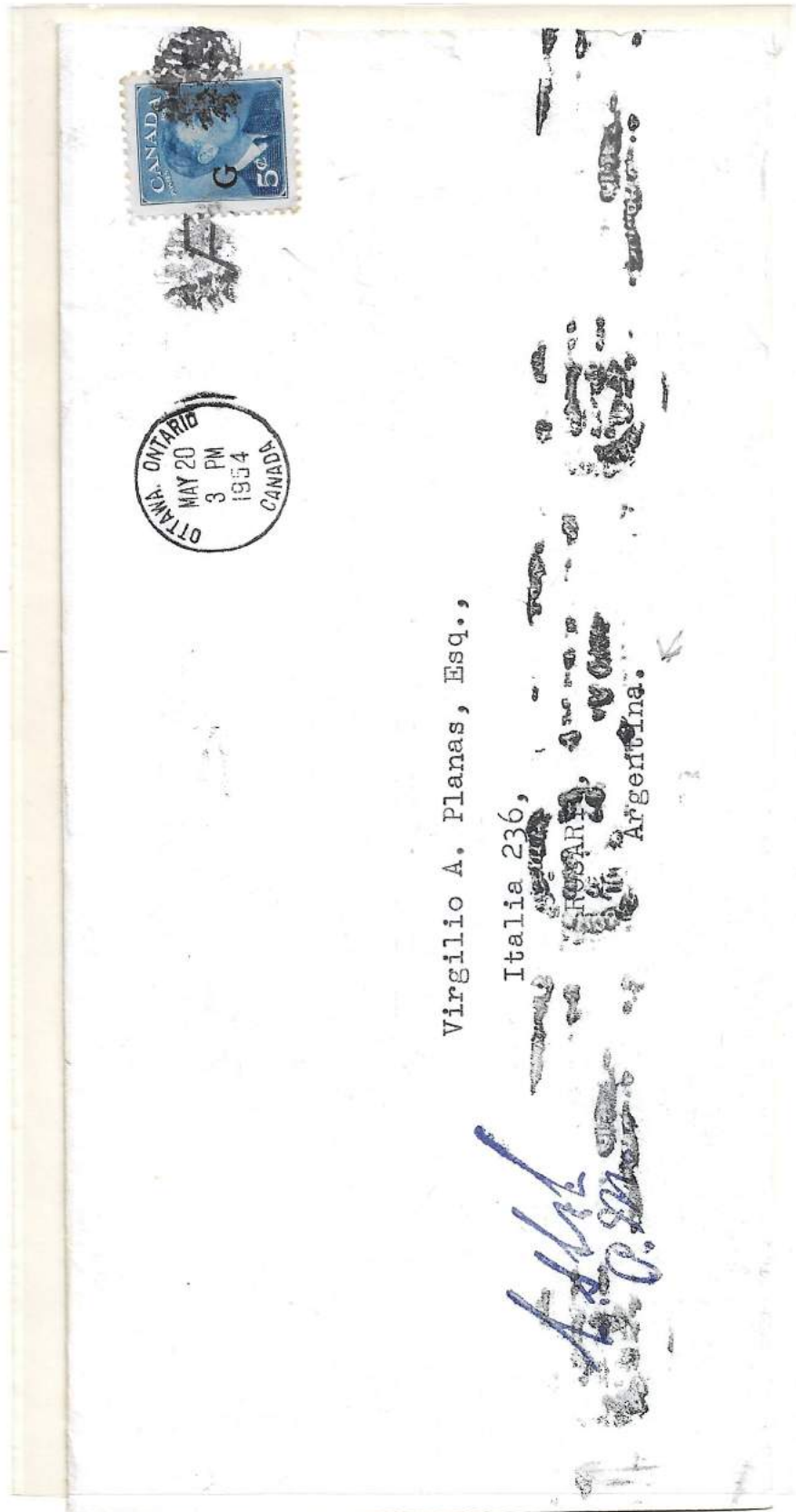
Signature of Louis St Laurent



Louis Stephen St. Laurent

Served as the 12th Prime Minister of Canada from 1948 to 1957.

The second French Canadian to hold the office, St. Laurent strongly advocated against communism, and was an enthusiastic proponent of Canada joining NATO in 1949 to fight the spread of the ideology. According to historian Donald Creighton, he was an "eminently moderate, cautious...man...and a strong Canadian nationalist."



Surface Rate to Greece

Paid by 5 cent blue King George VI

NB OHMS overprint on stamp

Mailed October , 1951



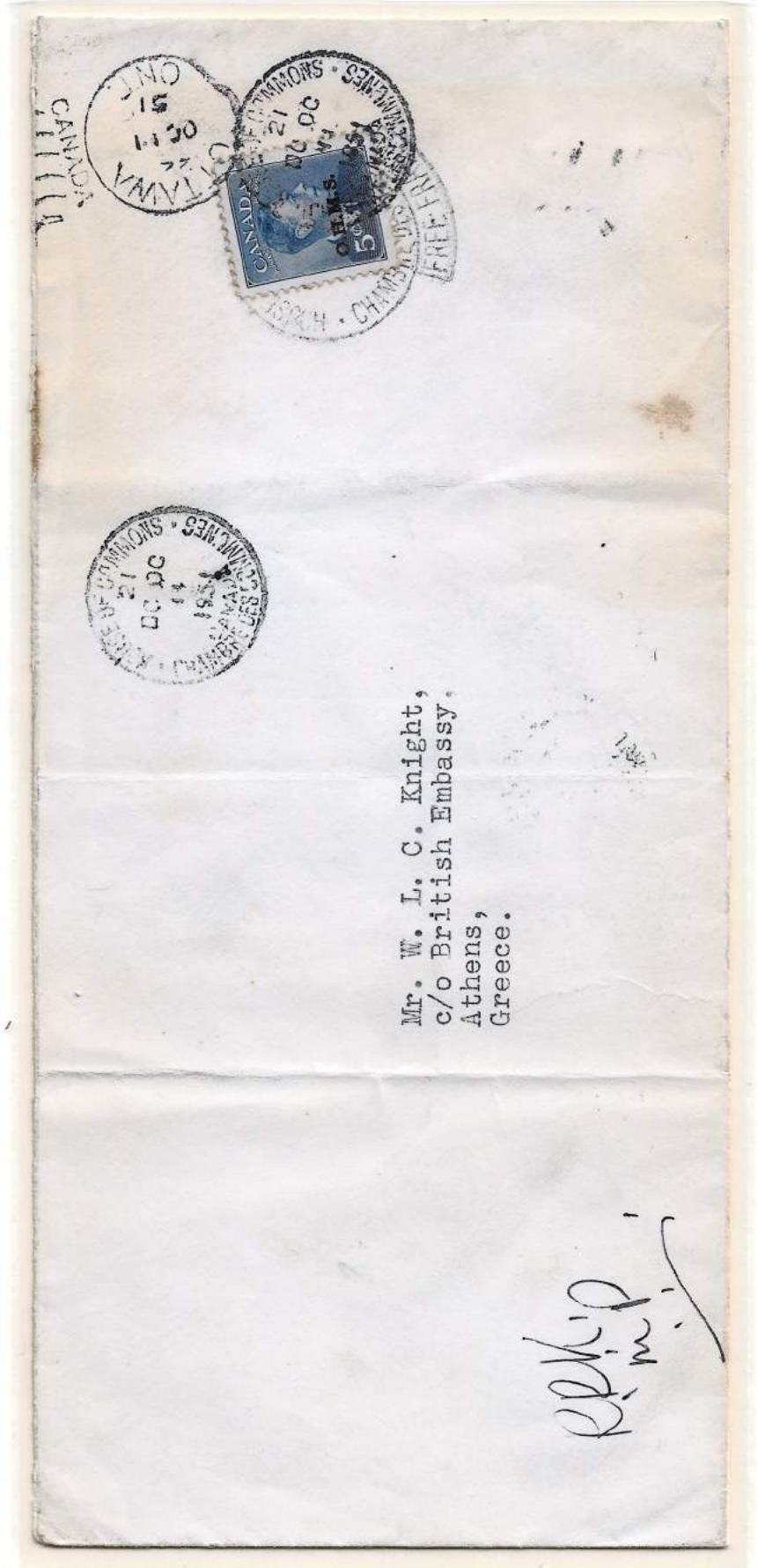
Robert Ross Knight

Member of Parliament

for Saskatoon

In office June 1949 – June 1957

His Signature



Mr. W. L. C. Knight,
c/o British Embassy,
Athens,
Greece.

Personal note from PM Diefenbaker

Mailed June 18, 1960 to his uncle, his father's brother: Edward Lackner. Diefenbaker Edward was a farmer along with his brother, John's father and they both taught school

This note was received in Regina on June 19th, Edward died June 20th, 1960



John George Diefenbaker

13th Prime Minister of Canada, in office June 21, 1957 – April 22, 1963

The 13th prime minister of Canada, serving from 1957 to 1963. He was the only Progressive Conservative party leader between 1930 and 1979 to lead the party to an election victory, doing so three times, although only once with a majority of the seats in the House of Commons.

Surface Rate to the USA

5 cent blue Queen Elizabeth II

Overprinted G

Paid for surface rate to USA

Mailed November 21, 1962



Jack Davis PC

Member of the Canadian Parliament
for Capilano Coast—Capilano (1962-1968)
In office Sept. 27, 1962 – May 9, 1974
In 1962, Davis was elected to the House
of Commons for the riding of Coast—Capilano.
He was re-elected in the following year & was
appointed Parliamentary Secretary to
PM Lester B. Pearson. Davis was re-elected
in 1965, 1968 & 1972. P. E. Trudeau
appointed him Minister without Portfolio,
Minister of Fisheries, Minister of Fisheries
and Forestry, and the first
Minister of the Environment
in the English-speaking world.
He was defeated in the federal election of 1974.
There is a Victoria Office building named
after Jack Davis is located at 1810 Blanshard Street



Mrs. Elisabeth Calladine,
Employment Representative,
Campus Personnel Office,
University of California,

RECEIVED

NOV 27 1962

PERSONNEL OFFICE
LOS ANGELES

J. D.
M.P.

Letters from the Governor General

To the left
Mailed May 21, 1941, Special Delivery
Paid by Coat of Arms Special Delivery
Perforated Position 1/A
NB FREE cancellation
NB Signature of Assistant Secretary to
the Governor General, Earl Athlone,
uncle of George VI



Crown Crest on Reverse on both envelopes

Below
Mailed 1958
Handwritten note to Chef at Grand
Hotel, Birmingham from Secretary to
Governor General. GG at this time
was Rt. Hon Vincent Massey, the first
Canadian to be appointed GG
International Postage and Airmail Paid
by 5 cent blue Queen Elizabeth and 10
cent Inuk Hunter, both overprinted G

