

SYNOPSIS OF EXHIBIT

CANADIAN POSTAL RATES OF THE WAR TAX ERA

1915 – 1926

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PURPOSE OF EXHIBIT:

- To show the various postal rates in effect during the war tax period, with emphasis on the war tax rates.
- To show some of the confusion among the public and postal officials in dealing with this new tax.
- To show some reactions and remedies of the government in dealing with the confusion.
- To show Specialized Postal marking unique to the War Tax rate.

Attempts have been made to show a wide variety of rates and usages, along with a variety of unique handstamps to give insight in how the Post Office dealt with this issue.

EXHIBIT PLAN:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Domestic Rates
- 3 United States and Territories
- 4 Mexico
- 5 Commonwealth Countries
- 6 Universal Postal Union Rates
- 5 Specialized War Tax Postal Markings

WHAT IS PRESENTED:

- Exhibit of postal rates including war tax rates.
- Unique items because of the impact of the war on the home front and public confusion.
- Postal material from start of war tax on April 15, 1915, until repealed on July 01, 1926

WHAT IS NOT PRESENTED:

- Stamp production and varieties are not discussed in this exhibit as it is a postal history exhibit.
- No revenue stamps included as revenue stamps could not be used on mailed items.

CHALLENGE FACTOR:

- Public and post office confusion on this issue led to changes and responses from the Government, including amendments to usages.
- Rates and permitted usages of these stamps changed during the usage period in response to public pressure.
- Specialized hand stamps were utilized by the post office in dealing with the public.
- Exhibit is a result of collecting this material for almost forty years.

MATERIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

The judges' attention is drawn to the following rare and unusual items:

- Covers cancelled on first day of postal war tax.
- Misperfed war tax stamp on registered cover to Australia.
- Conflicts in foreign and Canadian postal regulations regarding "free franked" soldier's mail.
- Announcement of end of Postal War Tax.
- Unique postal markings found on war tax covers and postcards.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Research for this exhibit was done using various catalogues and books –

- * "CANADA The War Tax Stamps" by the BNAPS War Tax Study Group.
- * British North America Philatelic Society journals
- * Royal Philatelic Society of Canada journals

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