

# 15 Decades of Mail from GB to Canada

## - Rates and Efficiency of Service

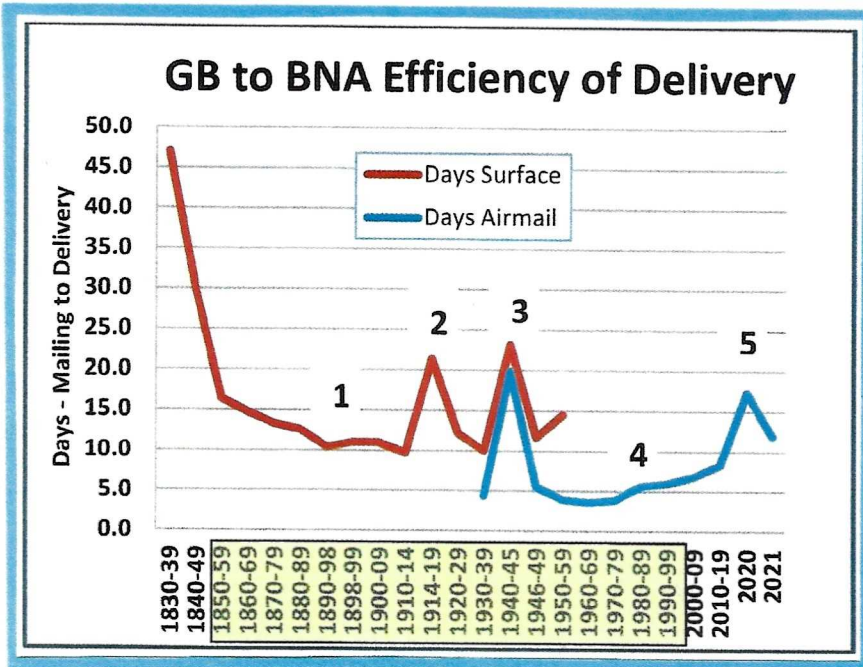
Right: 1886 example, Winchester to Winnipeg, 3d overpays 2½d UPU rate. Shows both mailing date (cancel) and delivery date (Winnipeg Carrier Mark on left). Del. 16 days.

Scope and Plan: 1850 – 1999 with examples for each decade illustrated on a separate page. Study based on searching thousands of covers for information on efficiency of postal services between GB and Canada.



Where both mailing date and arrival available, data have been input into a database enabling analysis by date, area, rate and type of service. I have recorded >1000 covers, sourced from my collection supplemented by information from other sources. ● = Rare/unusual items.

British North America (BNA) has been used to reflect inclusion of the Pre-Confederation North American Colonies.



Efficiency - Horizontal scale is by decade but incorporates significant subsets of the data to reflect critical periods.

- 1) Delivery improvements (technology and infrastructure) throughout Victorian era
- 2) Efficiency decreased during WW1.
- 3) Trans-Atlantic Air Mail to Canada began in 1939 but disrupted by WW2.
- 4) Air Mail efficiency at peak 1950s – 1970s and has declined ever since.
- 5) Preliminary data for COVID is reflected at right of graph but is beyond timeframe of this exhibit.

Rates listed on each page reflect the price for the lowest weight increment of regular mail. Surface Rates declined from 1/2d (14d) in 1850 to 1d in 1898 before climbing to 4d in 1966 (-71% over 116 years). Decimalisation in 1971 set the Airmail rate to 7.5P which climbed to 44P in 1999. (+487% over 28 years). Rate information comes from the Great Britain Philatelic Society website and personal research.