

ONTARIO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY POSTMARKS, 1867-1981

HISTORICAL CONTEXT & DEFINITION

The present Ontario Legislative Building (Queen's Park building, opened in 1893) is the seventh such structure to serve as Ontario's parliament building. On 1st July 1867 the province joined in Confederation. Toronto was chosen as the capital of Ontario Province, and the legislative assembly moved back to the same Front Street property that had been home to the House of Assembly for the Province of Canada, despite the structure having been damaged by fire in 1861 and 1862. The 1st Parliament of Ontario was in session from September 3, 1867, until February 25, 1871. This was the first session of the Legislature after Confederation succeeding the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada (last session was the 8th Parliament of the Province of Canada).

The Post Office

The exact date of opening of this peculiar Post Office is still unknown (Most likely September 1867). It is still in operation.

The Legislative Assembly Post Office has not been listed in the Postal Guide, probably because it was a non accountant P.O. (i.e. it does not issue money orders, and not requiring a money order office number). In the 1980's, the Post Office was located just to the left of the entrance of the parliament building, and employed six or seven people.

PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this - page exhibit is to present the special postmarks used exclusively by **the Legislative Assembly of Ontario Post Office**, and the various Government departmental handstamps, from its opening in late 1867 to 1981 (End of Post Office Department era). The exhibit is presented by type of postmarks (see plan below) and within each section, by chronological order.

CHALLENGE & RESEARCH

As surprising as it may seem, no systematic study of these postmarks has yet been made of these fascinating postmarks. So, everything remains to be done and I hope that this collection can soon result in the publication of a catalog of these exclusive postmarks.

Items of exception: ●

Original research, new date of usage, etc.: 📖

Certificate or expert signature: ✍️

PLAN OF EXHIBIT

Plan

1. Cds
2. Duplexes
3. Registration postmarks
4. Machine cancellations
5. Auxiliary & Miscellaneous markings
6. Departmental handstamps

MAIN SOURCES & ILLUSTRATIONS

- JARRET, Fred, *Stamps of BNA, Quarterman Pub., 1929 (1975 reprint), 595p.*
- Robertson, Ian S., Ontario Legislative Post Office Metal "Crown" Hammer Replaced, BNA Topics, Sept-Oct. 1987, pp. 21-22.
- *Canada Specialized Catalogue, Toronto, 1987, 162p.*
- *The « Libra » Collections (Part 2), Eastern Auctions catalogue, October 26th, 2012.*
- PHSC Database: <https://www.postalhistorycanada.net/php/postmarks.php>