

HALIFAX BUILDINGS ON COVER 1865 - 1935

Synopsis

Theme

This is a single-frame thematic exhibit. The title summarizes the theme: illustrations of Halifax buildings on advertising covers.

Purpose

The exhibit is intended to showcase the charming philatelic products that were produced by a bygone marketing practice.

Organization & Treatment

The 20 buildings are numbered and their locations marked by corresponding numbers on the title page map. A summary of the enterprises and the nature of their businesses accompanies the map.

The covers in the vertically central pages of the exhibit shed extra light on some aspect of the history of the buildings or the enterprises they housed. The rest of the covers have been arranged around the periphery of the exhibit with the objective of producing an overall appearance for the exhibit.

The caption for each building gives a brief description of its location, and its year of construction and disposition (if those are known).

The finely lithographed images are the point of the exhibit. They are key to the charm of the covers, so where possible, the printer has also been identified. Postal system information (franking, rates, destinations, etc.) are not considered relevant to the theme.

Significant Items

Two pre-Confederation covers (#1 and #7) are scarce/rare - framed in RED.

Seven of the illustrated buildings are still in use after as much as 175 years - framed in GREEN.

Information Sources

Hutchinson's Directory for Nova Scotia for 1864/65

McAlpine's Halifax City Directories, for 1869-1910
Personal research at the Nova Scotia Archives
Personal research at the Halifax Regional Municipality Archives
Personal walking tour

History of the Collection

The pool of covers from which the exhibit items have been drawn has been collected over a period of about 10 years. A number of the covers are the only specimens found or seen in that period:

- #1 McNeill
- #2 Morse's Teas 1914 Admiral cover
- #3 Brown Bros.
- #4 Methodist Book Room
- #6 Gordon & Keith
- #7 Halifax Hotel pre-Conferedation, 1885 & 1889 covers
- #8 Albion Hotel
- #18 Wentzell's 1914 Admiral cover

Two covers have not been included in the exhibit due to the difficulty of showing their locations on the title page map (King Edward Hotel, James Hillis Foundry). Several others were left out because of physical defects (W & C Silver, Green Lantern Building, Oxford Street Methodist Church).