

The Dawn and Dusk of 'Streets': Gottingen Street, A Case in Point

Synopsis

Purpose

This single-frame exhibit is intended to illustrate the generally short-lived postal practice of including the name of the street on which a post office was located in its official name. Halifax's Gottingen Street post office makes the point.

Organization & Treatment

The exhibit opens with introductory elements: a Halifax street map, a picture post card showing a contemporary view of the neighbourhood, specimens of the stamp issues in common use during the life of the office, and examples of its CDS and roller cancellations.

A copy of a local newspaper article announcing the opening and a cover postmarked on the first day of operation confirm the official record of opening on March 1, 1894. Advertising covers, business return envelopes, stamp dealers' covers and special event covers dated into 1903 then reflect the busy commercial character of Gottingen Street at that time.

The final page of the exhibit includes the latest known date of the Gottingen Street cancel on something other than registered covers or individual loose stamps of registered letter denominations. This appears to coincide roughly with the introduction of rapid cancelling machines in the Halifax main office late in 1902 and the systemic shifting of regular mail processing out of sub offices to main offices. Registered covers on the last page then show its use on an Edward cover in 1906 and on an Admiral cover in 1917. The other registered covers on the last page are consistent with Canada Post's archives information that indicates changes in the office's location, name and functional status from sub office to postal station. The first name change, to "S.O. North End", coincided with its re-location to Cunard Street. The office was subsequently elevated to the status of postal station and re-branded as "Halifax North End" and later again with the curious designation "Halifax Halifax North".

Significant Items

The first day cover bears a manuscript "2" indicating that it was only the 2nd registered items processed by the office - framed in RED.

The post card framed in RED on the stamp dealers' page displays a rare rate for a registered post card to England.

One of the van Malder covers on the dealers' page is addressed to an historically significant jurisdiction, North Germany.

Information Sources

Searle, Graham; *The Early Development of Postal Stations in Toronto: 1900-1918*,
CPSofGB Maple Leaves, Vol 34, p. 363 (July 2016).

Sessions, David F.; *The Early Rapid Cancelling Machines of Canada*; CPSofGB 1982, P.
109.
Canada Post archives on line

History of the Collection

The items in the exhibit have been drawn from material collected over a period of about 20 years.