


# The Business Mail of *Clayton & Sons*, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1882-1951

**Purpose:** This exhibit demonstrates the variety of business stationery - corner cards, illustrated mail, postcards, return mail, and ephemera - of Clayton & Sons (and subsequent company name iterations) a clothing manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer of Halifax, Nova Scotia during the period 1882 to 1951, which covers most of the life of the firm on Jacob and Barrington Streets. It also provides examples of the wholesale/suppliers and customers/dealers that are part of the firm's business mail from March to June 1900, during the heyday of the firm, and includes the bicycle shop! and Provincial Exhibition covers.

**Background:** To provide for her family, the recently widowed Mary Clayton established a second-hand clothing business in her Duke Street home. In 1869, with her sons Edward and William, the business moved to Argyle St as a clothier and tailoring concern *M. Clayton & Sons*. The business thrived and grew and in 1875 the business again moved to, and remained at Jacob Street operating as *Clayton & Sons*. Corner cards (return address only) represent the beginning period of mail in this exhibit. By 1903-04 several four to five storey buildings were built in the block that faced Jacob and Barrington Streets. This marks the beginning of the illustrated mail period which continued throughout the remainder of the business's history. The company name was changed to *Claytons Limited* about 1950 which is shown on a few mail pieces. The firm survived until it closed to avoid bankruptcy in 1955.

**Scope:** The exhibit is developed to show a chronological progression of mail of Clayton & Sons, especially through the corner cards and illustrated motif. Titles on each page introduce each section and provide an approximate known usage period.

Covers are displayed with design information indicating printing method and unique design elements, followed by philatelic information (rates, cancellations, etc). Additional research that aids the story is denoted with a  symbol.

## Exhibit Plan

Title	Page
Title	1
Corner Cards	2-8
Illustrated Mail - Factory	9-17
Pre-printed Return Mail	18-19
Postcards	20-22
Bicycle Department	23-25
Provincial Exhibition	26-27
Suppliers	28-29
Customers	30-32



Lithographed - Rare Destination - McNabs Island (Halifax Harbour)  
3¢ Confederation Jubilee tied by OCT 3 / 1917 International Postal Supply machine dater  
and Flag slogan cancel "Help to Win the War / Buy War Savings Certificate" (late usage)