

# THE SHIP MAIL OF QUEBEC CITY (1763- 1914)



Québec and its Port, circa 1820 - Original (circa 1870) hand-colored engraving

## Purpose & Scope

The purpose of this 5 frame collection is to present the maritime postal history, rates and postmarks of Quebec City used specifically by this service, from the origins of the Postal service in 1763 (after an introduction to the French Regime) until the eve of the First World War, when the ships were requisitioned for the transport of troops and where the entire maritime service has been disrupted.

## Background & Treatment

The Port of Quebec was, until the end of the 1860's, the most important in Canada and the third in importance in North America after New-York and New-Orleans. It was one of the main gateways to North America. From 1763 (Beginning of the Canadian official postal system) to 1844 (date of transfer to Montreal), Quebec hosted the headquarters of the Postal Administration of our country. Quebec City also acted as a major Post Office for the exchange of transatlantic and Cross-border mails. That is to say the importance that the Maritime Quebec Post Office had at the time. The exhibit is presented chronologically as per plan (Administration eras and rates).

1. To 1851 - Ship & Packets Letters
  - 1.1 Introduction
    - 1.1.1 French Regime
    - 1.1.2 Military Administration
  - 1.2 British Administration
    - 1.1.1 Ships' handstamps & Rates
    - 1.1.2 Consignees' Letters
    - 1.2.3 War of 1812
    - 1.2.4 Forwarding Agents
    - 1.2.5 Free Mails
    - 1.2.6 Mails to Europe
    - 1.2.7 Soldiers' Letters
    - 1.2.8 Freight Money Letters
2. 1851-1859 - The Canadian Administration
  - 2.1 The Allan Line
    - 2.1.1 British & Canadian Packets via Halifax
  - 2.2 The Cunard Line
    - 2.2.1 Via Boston & New York
    - 2.2.2 The Crimea War
3. 1859-1867 - Canadian & U.S. Packets
  - 3.1 Canadian Packets
  - 3.2 Fines on Unpaid/Underpaid Letters
  - 3.3 U.S. Packets
4. 1868-1878 - Canadian & U.S. Packets
  - 4.1 Six cents Canadian packets
  - 4.2 Eight cents U.S. Packets
  - 4.3 Five cents preferred rate
3. 1878-1914 : The UPU
  - 5.1 UPU rates
  - 5.2 British Empire rate
6. Conclusion