

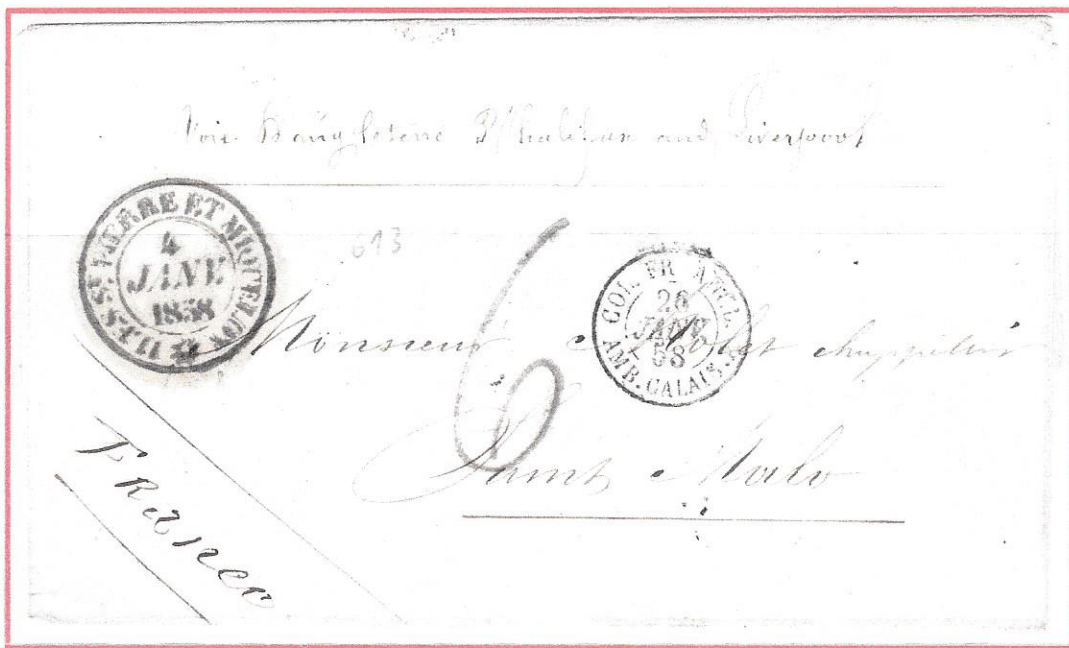
# CANADA GATEWAY TO SAINT PIERRE'S MAIL. Canadian Postal Markings on Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon Mail 1858-1961.

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this exhibit is to show postal markings applied to SPM letters sent to Halifax as their final destination or in transit to other places in Canada, France or the United States. There was no direct transatlantic connection between Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon (SPM) and North American or overseas countries. Letters posted in SPM were sent to Canada and then forwarded to their destination.

Most mail was directed to North Sydney, Nova Scotia (16 hours sailing time). During the winter months (from the end of December to the beginning of April) when the North Sydney harbor was blocked by ice, the mail was directed to Halifax (34 hours sailing time). In Halifax the mail was processed in the regular postal system and was carried overseas through the city's connections to England via transatlantic packets.

A relatively large amount of mail was taken from SPM in loose pouches rather than closed bags. The loose mail was not cancelled in SPM but at the nearest port where it was delivered before being forwarded. Hence some of the markings were applied in Saint-Pierre (closed bags) while others were cancelled in Halifax, North Sydney or Saint John's, Newfoundland (mail carried in loose or open bags). During WW2 there was no open bag mail as all pieces had to pass censure.



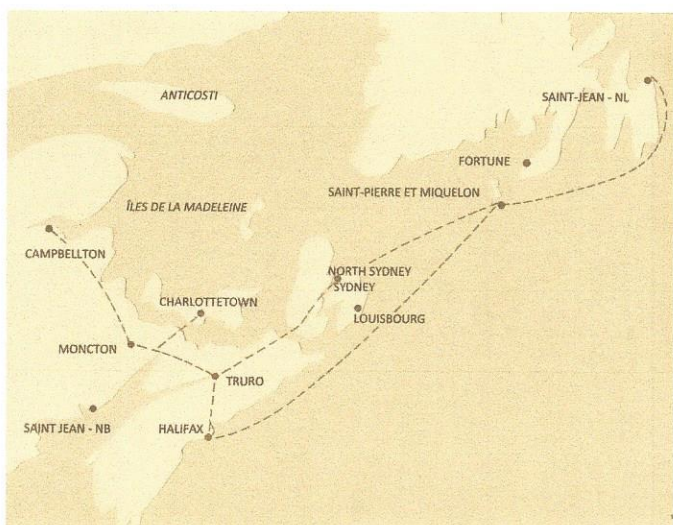
Ex. Robert G. Stone

*Voie d'Angleterre par Halifax and Liverpool*

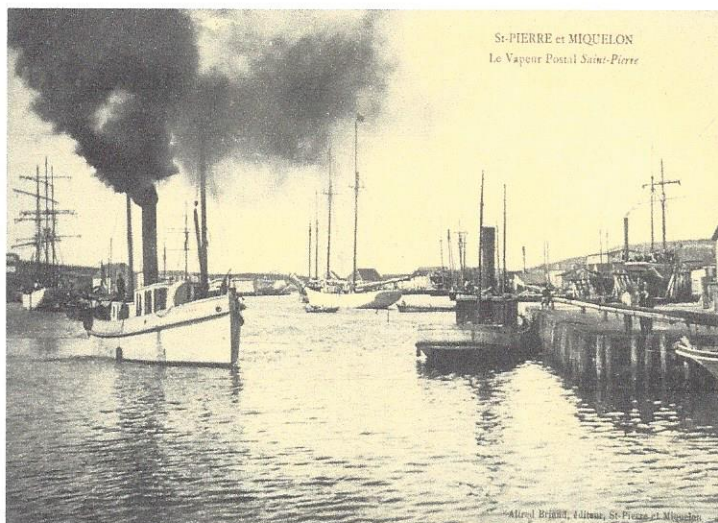
This early cover from SPM to Saint-Malo, France, bears the manuscript indication *Voie d'Angleterre par Halifax et Liverpool* (Via England through Halifax and Liverpool). This routing is confirmed by the receiving mark in Calais COL.FR. ANGL. (Colonies Françaises. Angleterre). The early dated postmark from Îles St. Pierre et Miquelon and the Calais transit marking appear at front. The manuscript 6 decimes is the fee to be paid by the recipient for the transportation of the letter from Calais to Saint-Malo (316 miles). The Saint-Malo receiving mark is on the reverse. The letter took 23 days to reach its destination.

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## PLAN



Map showing the relative positions of Saint-Pierre, Halifax, North Sydney and St. John's.



The Saint-Pierre postal steamer in Saint-Pierre harbour circa 1900.

Examples of postal markings on mail destined to Canada, France or the United States, passing through Halifax, as well as North Sydney, and Saint-John's are shown. The marks applied to the SPM stamps are exhibited in chronological order: cork cancels, linear *Paquebot* markings, circular dated postmarks, duplexes, machine cancels as well as the Posted-at-Sea hand stamps and slogan cancels.

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