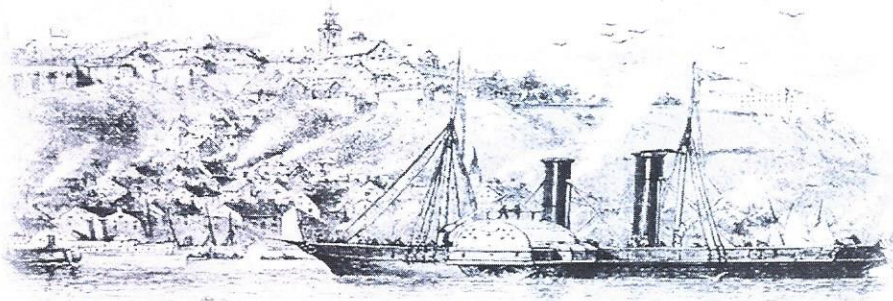


THE STEAMBOAT MAIL OF QUEBEC CITY



A St. Lawrence River Steamboat in front of Quebec City harbor, circa 1860.
Canadian Pictures Drawn with Pen and Pencil by The Marquis de Lorne, The Religious Tract Society, 1885.

Purpose of the Exhibit:

To illustrate the origins and development of Quebec City's St. Lawrence River Steamboat postal services and the usage of the different postmarks used by this service, from the beginning, circa 1809, to the end of the contracted mail routes in 1859.

Plan:

The collection covers 50 years of development of the service (1809-1859) and is presented in 2 main parts:

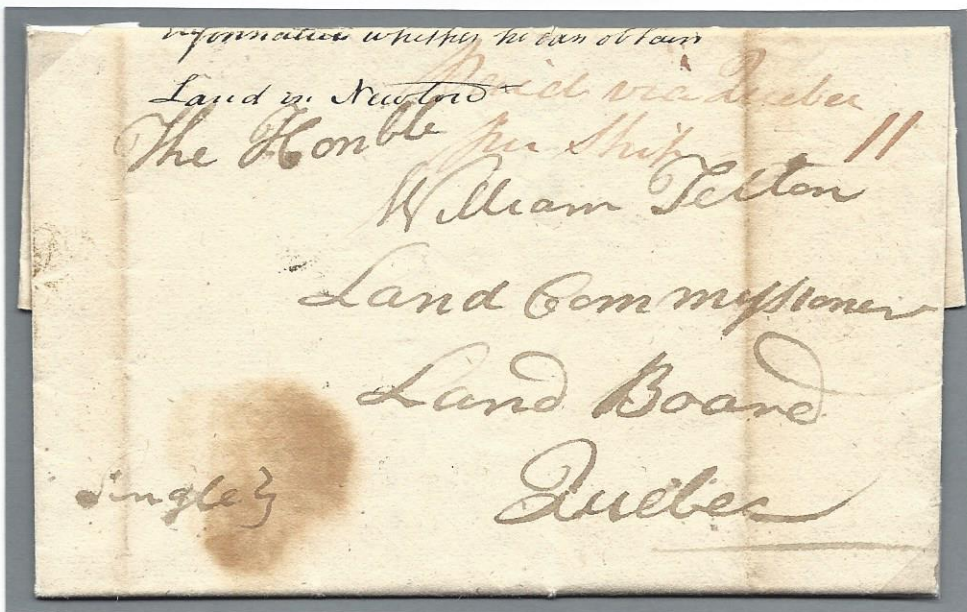
1. Private Steamboats : 1809-1841
2. Contract Steamboats: 1841-1859

Treatment:

This one frame (16 pages) exhibit is presented chronologically and divided in two main parts as noted in the plan. The emphasis is on the usages of the different postmarks used by this service. The postal history of steamboat service, rules, routes, rates, etc. are also explored.

Philatelic Importance:

The port of Québec City was, until the middle of the 19th century, the main entry water highway to North America. The steamboat route from this port to Montreal and beyond was at the time, the busiest summer (May to November) postal route in British North America. It was then supplanted by railroad.



← 5 November 1832

Folded letter mailed from Newton by Coteau-du-Lac (localized southwest of Montreal on the St. Lawrence River), to Quebec carried by ship. Endorsed by Post Office: *Paid via Quebec per Ship 11* (11 pence for 201 to 300 miles).

No official line of steamboat exist at this time from this part of the country to Montreal, but this letter prove that mail was evidently carried on St. Lawrence river by other ships than the official Steamboats.