Canada's Customs Duty and War Exchange Tax on Periodical Publications and Printed Advertising Matter

- Part 1: Printed Advertising Matter -

by Christopher D. Ryan

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CANADA'S CUSTOMS DUTY AND WAR EXCHANGE TAX ON PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS AND PRINTED ADVERTISING MATTER Christopher D. Ryan

In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in the collecting of covers with Canadian customs markings and revenue stamps. With respect to the revenue stamps, such covers are found with regular customs duty stamps and, for items from the 1940s, with selected excise tax stamps. The latter are most commonly the ¹/₄-cent and ¹/₂-cent values of the Three Leaf series. As a result, it may have been inferred by collectors that the excise tax stamps were used to pay the customs duty. However, this was not the case. The true situation was that the customs duty stamps were used during the 1940s to pay an excise tax, the War Exchange Tax, in addition to paying the duty.

This work examines the history of the customs duty and War Exchange Tax on periodicals and printed advertising matter. Details are presented of the application of the two levies with particular attention paid to rates and prepayment by means of revenue stamps. An examination of the impressions used to mark the covers and cancel the stamps is left to some other student of the subject.

- Part 1: Printed Advertising Matter -

Specific references to printed advertising matter first appeared in Canada's Customs Tariff in 1879. The initial, relatively simple descriptions of "*advertising pamphlets*" and "*advertising pictures or pictorial show-cards or bills*" was expanded upon over time, attaining what was to become its final form by 1897.[1, 2] That year's amendment to the tariff introduced the following, all-encompassing definition of what was dutiable as printed advertising matter. This description was to remain in place throughout the lifetime of the Customs Duty stamps.

• Advertising pamphlets, advertising pictorial showcards, illustrated advertising periodicals;

• Illustrated price books, calenders and price lists, advertising almanacs and calenders;

• Patent medicine or other advertising circulars, fly sheets or pamphlets;

• Advertising chromos, chromotype, oleographs or like works produced by any process other than hand painting or drawing, and having any advertisement or advertising matter printed, lithographed or stamped thereon, or attached thereto, including advertising bills, folders and posters or other similar artistic work, lithographed, printed or stamped on paper or cardboard for business or advertisement purposes.[2]

Revenue stamps for the prepayment of the customs duty were not issued until 1914. In the absence of stamps, various means were used by Canada Customs to collect the duty on advertising matter arriving at their offices. These included the following:

- payment by a broker on behalf of the sender (the preferred method);
- notification of, and collection from, the sender (for shipments over one pound);
- notification of, and collection from, the recipient (for shipments under one pound).[3]

All of these procedures remained options following the introduction of the revenue stamps.

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate two covers from the pre-stamp period. Figure 1 consists of a cover, mailed in the United States as printed matter and customs dated-marked March 10th, 1903, along with the advertising matter that it contained. This matter consisted of a booklet and a form-letter promoting the purchase of corn-futures. Figure 2 shows a large, brown-paper cover that was mailed in the United States in 1905 as printed matter. This cover was marked is marked at right with a three-line violet handstamp that reads as "DUTY PAID. / Advertising Matter, / HALIFAX, N.S.".

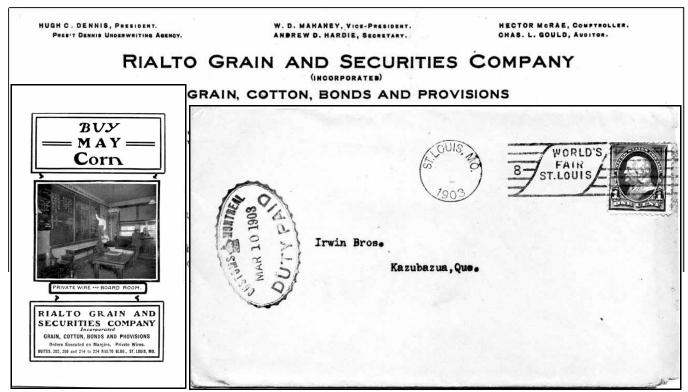


Figure 1: Printed Matter cover from 1903, along with the advertising matter that it contained, dated March 10th by Canada Customs, Montreal.

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Figure 2: Printed matter cover from 1905, marked "DUTY PAID. / Advertising Matter, / HALIFAX, N.S." in violet. (See detail.)



Detail of Figure 2 showing an enlargement of the "DUTY PAID" mark.

Introduction and Use of Customs Duty Revenue Stamps

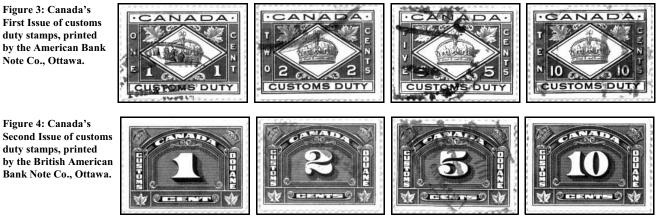
Difficulties experienced by Customs in collecting the duty (presumably on small items from their recipients) led to the August 1st, 1914, introduction of the 1, 2 and 5-cent customs duty stamps illustrated in Figure 3.[4, 5] The 10-cent denomination was issued in October of 1919.[6] Some years later, a new design, as shown in Figure 4, was released. According to a 1948 publication of the Canadian Revenue Society, the 2 and 5-cent stamps in Figure 4 were issued in 1935, the 1cent in 1936 and the 10-cent in 1942.[7] These stamps allowed senders of advertising matter the option of prepaying the duty and thus avoiding delays in Customs. The benefit to Customs would have been the elimination of the effort and time required to collect numerous small amounts of duty from recipients of small, individual pieces of postal matter.

The stamps were available from the Customs Department in Ottawa, the Canadian High Commission in London, England, and the Canadian Mission in Paris, France. The supply of stamps in Paris was maintained from late-1921 or early-1922 until some time at or near the closing of the office on June 10^{th} , 1940. However, only a token supply (\$18 worth)was

Figure 3: Canada's **First Issue of customs** duty stamps, printed by the American Bank Note Co., Ottawa.

Figure 4: Canada's

duty stamps, printed



kept on hand after September 11th, 1939. Available documents suggest that the supply in London was withdrawn during the 1940s and not reestablished until May of 1950. This supply was withdrawn again by July of 1970.[5, 8 to 21]

Canadian instructions regarding the placement of the stamps initially (1914) specified the upper-left corner of the front of the cover.[5] When use of the Canadian stamps was permitted by the United States Post Office on American mail in March of 1915, that authority required that the stamps be affixed to the back side of each cover.[22] With respect to countries other than the United States, subsequent Canadian instructions gave as follows:

- February 16th, 1921 no position specified. •
- May 5th, 1922 duty-stamps to be affixed to the back side.
- June 1st, 1927 duty-stamps to be affixed according to the postal • regulations of the country of despatch. [8, 9, 11]

The 1927 phrasing remained unchanged through to the end of the dutystamps.

Scales for the Pre-payment of Customs Duty by Means of Stamps:

• under the General Tariff

Over the entire period of stamp-use, the scales for prepayment under the 15-cent-per-pound General Tariff were subject to the fewest changes. These scales are given in Table 1.

The initial, 1914 scale for the General Tariff was limited to a maximum of one pound.[5] A provision for additional weight was added in 1927.[11] A 1930 amendment to the Customs Tariff Act raised the minimum duty payable on all tariffs from one to two cents. This was done to encourage the mailing of small items from within Canada.[12, 23, 24] In this scenario, the items would have been shipped in bulk to a customs broker who would then affix Canadian postage and forward them to individual addressees. The only major revision to the weight-classes comprising the scale was made in 1933. [13] A significant result of this revision was the elimination of the three-cent rate.

• under the Most-Favoured-Nation Tariff

A reduced rate for printed advertising matter under some form of "Most-Favoured-Nation" (MFN) Tariff began on September 5th, 1923, with the introduction of the Franco-Canadian Convention Tariff. A scale for prepayment by stamps was issued September 20th. The special 12¹/₂-cent-per-pound rate embodied in this Tariff was extended over time to other countries by way of bilateral trade agreements.[10, 36]

As of September 17th, 1930, the reduced MFN Tariff rate was also granted to the Intermediate Tariff. Thus, in respect of printed advertising matter, the MFN and Intermediate Tariffs became equivalent and were treated as such in regulations regarding the use of stamps. Eventually, use of the term "Intermediate Tariff" disappeared altogether from both legislation and regulations.[12, 23 to 27]

The scales for the MFN Tariff are given in Table 2. The 1927 and 1930 alterations described previously for the General Tariff, also applied to MFN Tariff. In May of 1933, the weight classes for the MFN scale were re aligned.[13] The effect of this revision was incrementally higher rates. For example, three cents was now payable on an item weighing over 1 ounce, up to 21/2 ounces, in place of the previous two cents.

As a result of the 1947 international General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the rate for the MFN Tariff was reduced by 20% to ten cents per pound (but not less than 25% of the value), with two cents payable on items of one ounce or less.[26] However, a new scale for prepayment on small items was not issued until January of 1949.[27] This delay may have been a result of a provision in the GATT that exempted most small pieces of advertising matter under sent into Canada under the MFN and British Preferential Tariffs. It is surmised by this writer that a provisional scale for the MFN Tariff may have been used during 1948 in the few instances where stamps could have been applied. This suggested scale, as given in Table 2, was reconstructed by taking 80% of the old rates, allowing for the two-cent minimum and the rounding of fractions of a cent to a full cent.

On January 12th, 1949, a scale that reflected the new ten-cent per pound MFN Tariff was issued.[27] It remained in effect through December 31st, 1979. As of January 1st, 1980, the MFN rate was incrementally reduced each year as shown in Table 2. However, by that date, exemptions had evolved to the point that the customs duty stamps had become obsolete and no new scales were issued to reflect the new rates.[21, 28, 29]

• under the British Preferential Tariff

The lowest rate of duty and greatest level of exemptions were granted to countries covered by the British Preferential (BP) Tariff. This comprised the United Kingdom and what were deemed to be "British" countries, that is, present and former possessions of the United Kingdom, with the notable exception of the United States of America. As of July 1st, 1974, the BP Tariff, under the title of the General Preferential Tariff, was also granted to "developing" countries.[30]

The scales for the BP Tariff are given in Table 3. The initial rate was ten cents per pound, with the minimum payable raised from one cent to two cents in October of 1930.[5, 12, 23]

As a result of a 1932 trade agreement with the United Kingdom, the BP Tariff was reduced to five cents per pound. This new rate took effect on October 13th, 1932, with a minimum payable of two cents. Shortly thereafter, the minimum was lowered to one cent.[31] However, a scale for the new rate was not issued until May 25th, 1933.[12, 13] This left a period of almost eight months during which some provisional measure would have been required. It is surmised by this writer that interim scales may have been devised by taking half of the previous scale and treating half-cents as full cents. (See Table 3.)

NOTE: The commencement dates given in Tables 1 through 3 are "official" dates as taken from statutes, regulations and budget resolutions. In keeping with Canadian practice, rate changes usually took effect immediately, with little or no advance warning. It would, of course, have taken time for the amendments to have become known to foreign sources of advertising matter. In some instances, a new rate was announced in advance of its start date. These instances include the following:

- the Aug 1st, 1914, scale and introduction of stamps,
- the 2¢ minimum of Oct 1st, 1930,
 the US exemption of Jan 1st,
- 1939,
 the MFN Tariff and exemption of Jan 1st, 1948.

Table 1: General Tariff for Printed Advertising Matter.

1 Aug 1914 through 2	4 May 1933	25 May 1933 through 15	25 May 1933 through 15 Feb 1984					
Bulk Rate: 15¢ per por (17 Sep 1930: minimu	und am of 35 % of the value		Bulk Rate: 15¢ per pound, with a minimum of 35% of the value.					
Scale for Prepayment	via Stamps.	Scale for Prepayment via	Scale for Prepayment via Stamps					
Weight	Duty	Weight	Duty					
1 ounce or less	1¢ (1 Oct 1930: 2¢)	1 ounce or less	2¢					
over 1, up to $2\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	2¢	over 1, up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	4¢					
over $2^{1/4}$, up to $3^{1/4}$ oz.	3¢	over $2\frac{1}{2}$, up to 4 oz.	5¢					
over $3\frac{1}{4}$, up to $4\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	4¢	over 4, up to $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	6¢					
over $4\frac{1}{4}$, up to $5\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	5¢	over $5\frac{1}{2}$, up to 7 oz.	7¢					
over $5\frac{1}{4}$, up to $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	6¢	over 7, up to $8\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	8¢					
over $6\frac{1}{2}$, up to $7\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	7¢	over $8\frac{1}{2}$, up to 10 oz.	9¢					
over $7\frac{1}{2}$, up to $8\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	8¢	over 10, up to 11 oz.	10¢					
over $8\frac{1}{2}$, up to $9\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	9¢	over 11, up to 12 oz.	11¢					
over 91/2, up to 101/2 oz	. 10¢	over 12, up to 13 oz.	12¢					
over 10 ¹ / ₂ , up to 11 ³ / ₄ o	z. 11¢	over 13, up to 14 oz.	13¢					
over 11 ³ / ₄ , up to 12 ³ / ₄ o	z. 12¢	over 14, up to 15 oz.	14¢					
over 12 ³ / ₄ , up to 14 oz.	13¢	over 15, up to 16 oz.	15¢					
over 14, up to 15 oz.	14¢	Each additional pound	15¢					
over 15, up to 16 oz.	15¢	-						
(1 Jun 1927: Each additional pound 15¢) (Sources: Reference Notes 5, 8 to 15, 19 to 21, 23, 24, 27)								

Table 2: Most-Favoured-Nation Tariff for Printed Advertising Matter.

5 (20) Sep 1923 through 24 May 1933		25 May 1933 through 31	l Dec 1947	1 Jan 1948 through 11 Jan 1949		
Bulk Rate: 12 ¹ / ₂ ¢ per pound		Bulk Rate: 12½¢ per pound (2 May 1936: minimum of 27½% of the value.)		Rate: 10¢ per pound, 2¢ if 1 oz. or less, minimum of 25% of the value		
Scale for Prepayment via S (Issued 20 Sep 1923) Weight $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounces or less $1\notin$ (1 over $1\frac{1}{4}$, up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz. over $2\frac{1}{2}$, up to $3\frac{3}{4}$ oz. over $3\frac{3}{4}$, up to 5 oz. over 5 , up to $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz. over $6\frac{1}{2}$, up to $7\frac{3}{4}$ oz. over $7\frac{3}{4}$, up to 9 oz. over 9 , up to $10\frac{1}{4}$ oz. over $10\frac{1}{4}$, up to $11\frac{1}{2}$ oz. over $12\frac{3}{4}$, up to 14 oz. over $12\frac{3}{4}$, up to 14 oz. over $15\frac{1}{4}$, up to 16 oz. (1 Jun 1927: Each addition	Duty Oct 1930: 2¢) 2¢ 3¢ 4¢ 5¢ 6¢ 7¢ 8¢ 9¢ 10¢ 11¢ 12¢ 13¢	Scale for Prepayment via Weight 1 ounce or less over 1, up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz. over $2\frac{1}{2}$, up to 4 oz. over 4, up to $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz. over 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, up to 7 oz. over 7, up to $8\frac{1}{2}$ oz. over 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, up to 10 oz. over 10, up to $11\frac{1}{2}$ oz. over 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, up to 13 oz. over 13, up to 14 oz. over 14, up to 15 oz. over 15, up to 16 oz. Each additional pound (*fractions of a cent paid	Duty 2¢ 3¢ 4¢ 5¢ 6¢ 7¢ 8¢ 9¢ 10¢ 11¢ 12¢ 12½¢* 12½¢*	Scale for Prepayment via - Scale not issued until 1 Surmised interim scale a Weight 1 ounce or less over 1, up to 2½ oz. over 2½, up to 5½ oz. over 2½, up to 7 oz. over 7, up to 8½ oz. over 7, up to 8½ oz. over 8½, up to 10 oz. over 13, up to 14 oz. over 14, up to 16 oz. Each additional pound	2 Jan 1949.	
12 Jan 1949 through 31 l Bulk Rate: 10¢ per pound,	Dec 1979	1 Jan 1980 through 31 E Rate: 8.75¢ per pound (2	Dec 1980	minimum of 24.4 % of the	e value.	
minimum of 25% of the value		1 Jan 1981 through 31 Dec 1981 Rate: 7.50¢ per pound (2¢ if one ounce or less), minimum of 23.8% of the value.				
Scale for Prepayment via S	•					
Weight 1 ounce or less over 1, up to 3 oz.	Duty 2¢ 3¢	1 Jan 1982 through 31 E Rate: 6.25¢ per pound (2		minimum of 23.1% of the	value.	
over 3, up to 5 oz. over 5, up to 7 oz over 7, up to 9 oz.	4¢ 5¢ 6¢	1 Jan 1983 through 31 E Rate: 5.00¢ per pound (2		minimum of 22.5% of the	value.	
over, 9, up to 11 oz. over 11, up to 13 oz. over 13, up to 15 oz.	7¢ 8¢ 9¢	1 Jan 1984 through 15 F Rate: 3.75¢ per pound (2		minimum of 21.9% of the	value.	
over 15, up to 15 62.5¢over 15, up to 16 oz.10¢Each additional pound10¢No scales were issued for the rates introduced during the 1980s since the stamps had been rendered obsolete during the early 1970s. (Sources: Reference Notes 5, 8 to 15, 19 to 21, 23 to 15)						

Table 3: British Preferential Tariff for Printed Advertising Matter.

1 Aug 1914 through 12 Oct 1932		13 Oct 1932 through 24 Nov 1932		25 Nov 1932 through 24 May 1933		25 May 1933 through 15 Feb 1984	
Bulk Rate: 10¢ per pound		Bulk Rate: 5 ¢ per pound, minimum of 2¢ per item.		Bulk Rate: 5¢ per pound minimum of 1¢ per item.		Bulk Rate: 5¢ per pound.	
Scale for Prepayment via Stamps		Scale for Prepayment via Stamps		Scale for Prepayment via Stamps		Scale for Prepayment via Stamps	
Weight	Duty	- No scale issued.		- Scale not issued until 2	.5 May 1933.	Weight	Duty
$1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces or less - 1¢ (1 C	Oct 1930: 2¢)	Surmised interim scale as follows:		Surmised interim scale as follows:		3 ounces or less	1¢
over $1\frac{1}{2}$, up to $3\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	2¢					over 3, up to 6 oz.	2¢
over $3^{1}/_{4}$, up to $4^{3}/_{4}$ oz.	3¢	Weight	Duty	Weight	Duty	over 6, up to 9 oz.	3¢
over $4^{3/4}$, up to $6^{1/2}$ oz.	4¢	$6\frac{1}{2}$ ounces or less	2ϕ	$3^{1/4}$ ounces or less	1¢	over 9, up to 12 oz.	4¢
over $6\frac{1}{2}$, up to 8 oz.	5¢	over $6\frac{1}{2}$, up to $9\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	3¢	over $3^{1}/_{4}$, up to $6^{1}/_{2}$ oz.	2ϕ	over 12, up to 16 oz.	5¢
over 8, up to $9\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	6¢	over $9\frac{1}{2}$, up to $12\frac{3}{4}$ oz.	4c	over $6\frac{1}{2}$, up to $9\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	3¢	Each additional pound	5¢
over $9\frac{1}{2}$, up to $11\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	7¢	over $12^{3/4}$, up to 16 oz.	5¢	over $9\frac{1}{2}$, up to $12\frac{3}{4}$ oz.	4ϕ	-	
over $11\frac{1}{4}$, up to $12\frac{3}{4}$ oz.	8¢	Each additional pound	5¢	over $12^{3}/_{4}$, up to 16 oz.	5¢		
over $12^{3/4}$, up to $14^{1/2}$ oz.	9¢	1		Each additional pound	5¢		
over $14\frac{1}{2}$, up to 16 oz.	10¢			1			
(1 Jun 1927: Each additional pound 10¢)				(Sources: Referen	ice Notes 5, 8 to 15, 19 to 21, 2	3 to 29, 31)



Figure 5: German cover of Oct 12th, 1928, representing the 1-cent rate applied to advertising matter of 1 ounce or less under the General Tariff scale in effect from August 1914 through September 1930.



Figure 6: German cover of Sep 28th, 1929, representing the 2-cent rate applied to advertising matter over 1 oz, up to 2¹/₄ oz under the General Tariff scale in effect from August 1914 through May 1933.



Figure 7: French cover of Feb 13th, 1925, representing the 2-cent rate applied to matter over 1¹/₄, up to 2¹/₂ oz under the Most-Favoured-Nation Tariff, Sep 1923 - May 1933.

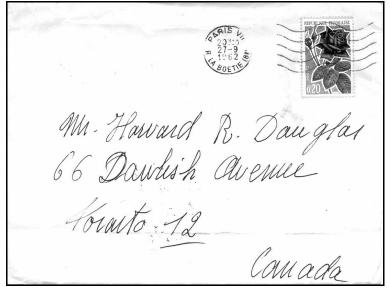


Figure 8: French cover of Sep 27th, 1962, representing the 2-cent rate applied to matter of 1 ounce or less under the Most-Favoured-Nation Tariff, Jan 1948 - Dec 1979.

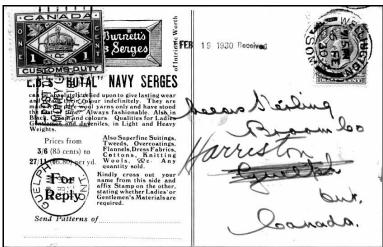


Figure 9: British postcard of Feb 6th, 1930, representing the 1-cent rate applied to matter of 1½ oz or less under the British Preferential Tariff, Aug 1914 - Sep 1930.

Examples of Customs Duty Stamps on Cover

The German covers illustrated opposite in Figures 5 and 6 are examples the 1 and 2-cent rates from the scale introduced August 1st, 1914, for the General Tariff. The weight classes represented by the duty-stamps are '1 ounce or less' and 'over 1, up to $2\frac{1}{4}$ ounces,' respectively. The 5 and 10pf postage stamps respectively paid the printed-matter rates for items of 50 g (1.76 oz) or less and for over 50 g, up to 100 g (3.53 oz).[43, 44]

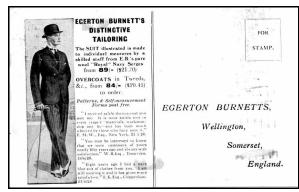
German advertising matter was subject to the General Tariff until December 31st, 1932.[33] Thereafter, the MFN Tariff was in effect until the September 1939 outbreak of the Second World War.[34] Following the war, the western portion of the country was readmitted to the MFN Tariff as of October 14th, 1948.[35]

The French cover illustrated at left in Figure 7 represents the 2-cent rate under the scale introduced September 20^{th} , 1923, for the MFN Tariff. This rate applied to items weighing over $1\frac{1}{4}$, up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. The 15c postage stamp paid the printed-matter rate for items of 50 g (1.76 oz) or less.[43,44]

French advertising matter was subject to the General Tariff until September 4th, 1923. As of September 5th, the reduced MFN Tariff was introduced with scales for prepayment by way of stamps issued September 20th.[10, 25] Effective September 17th, 1932, France was moved to the General Tariff, then back to the MFN Tariff on June 10th, 1933.[36] France's MFN status was suspended in November of 1940 due to wartime conditions. France returned to the MFN Tariff on February 1st, 1945.[37]



Stamp affixed to the back of the cover shown in Figure 8.



Back of the postcard shown in Figure 9.



Figure 10: British wrapper of February 25th, 1915, representing the 2-cent rate applied to matter over 1¹/₂ oz, up to 3¹/₄ oz under the British Preferential Tariff, Aug 1914 - Oct 1932.



Figure 11: British cover of January 17th, 1931, representing the 2-cent minimum introduced to the BP Tariff for items of $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz or less as of October 1st, 1930, and in effect through November 24th, 1932.

The French cover in Figure 8 represents a very late usage of a customs duty stamp. It illustrates the 2-cent rate for items of 1 ounce or less under the 10-cent per pound MFN Tariff in effect from January 1st, 1948 through, December 31st, 1979. This item, mailed as printed matter, postmarked September 27th, 1962, and customs date-marked October 23rd, is doubly scarce due to its French origin and a provision in the 1948 MFN Tariff that exempted most small items.

Figures 9 and 10 represent the 1 and 2-cent rates from the scale in effect under the BP Tariff as of August 1st, 1914. The 1-cent rate was in effect through September 31st, 1930, and applied to items of 1½ ounces or less. The 2-cent rate applied to items over 1½ ounces, up to 3¼ ounces and remained in effect through October 12th, 1932. The ½d postage stamp on the items in Figures 9 and 10 paid the printed-matter rate for items of 2 ounces or less.[43, 45]

The 2-cent minimum, introduced to the BP Tariff as of October 1st, 1930, is represented by the British cover shown in Figure 11. This item is postmarked January 17^{th} , 1931, and customs date-marked January 26^{th} . The $1\frac{1}{2}d$ postage stamp paid the letter rate for items of 1 ounce or less.[43, 45] The 2-cent minimum was reduced to 1 cent as of November 25^{th} , 1932.

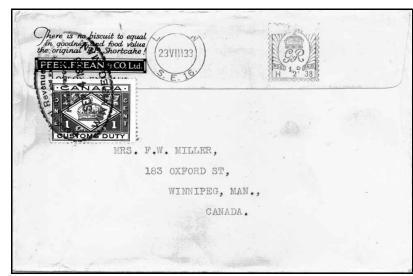
The reduced 1932 BP Tariff of 5 cents per pound is represented by the covers in Figures 12 and 13. The 1-cent rate shown in Figure 12 applied to items of 3 ounces or less as per the scale issued May 25th, 1933. Similarly, the 2-cent rate shown in Figure 13 applied to items over 3 ounces, up to 6 ounces.

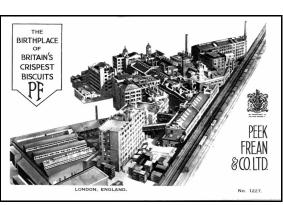
The Decline and End of the Use of Stamps

Beginning in 1935, a series of exemptions were introduced that incrementally rendered the customs duty stamps obsolete by the early-1970s. The chronology of the exemptions granted to advertising matter is as follows:

March 23rd, 1935 — Matter from British Preferential (BP) Tariff countries when related exclusively to the products of those countries.[38]

January 1st, 1939 — Matter from the United States when in individual packages valued at \$1 or less and not advertising goods or services sold or provided by a Canadian source.[39]





Back of the cover shown in Figure 12.

Figure 12: British cover of August 23rd, 1933, customs date-marked September 4th, representing the 1-cent rate applied to matter of 3 ounces or less under the BR Tariff scale in effect May 1933 through February 1984.

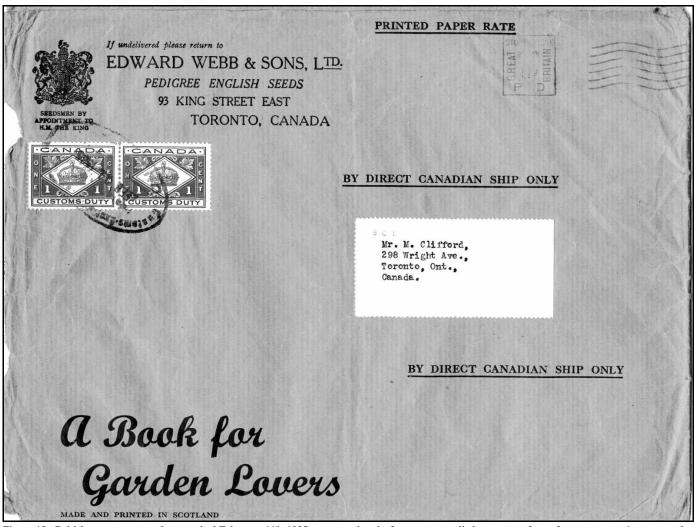


Figure 13: British cover, customs date-marked February 11th, 1935, representing the 2-cent rate applied to matter of over 3 ounces, up to 6 ounces under the BP Tariff scale in effect May 1933 through February 1984.

January 1st, 1948 — The exemption of 1939 was extended to all MFN Tariff countries, which included BP Tariff countries and the already exempt United States.[26, 27]

June 6^{th} , 1972 — All matter, regardless of origin, imported by mail when the sum of the applicable customs duty and excise sales-tax did not exceed 1.[29, 40]

November 20th, 1974 (retroactive to September 12th)

— All matter, regardless of origin, that met one of the following conditions:

- consisted of only one document, or
- consisted of only one copy of each of several documents, or
- did not exceed 1 kg (2.205 lbs.) in weight, regardless of the number of documents,

when the name of a foreign supplier of the goods or services was clearly indicated and no Canadian source was mentioned.[29, 40]

From covers seen by this writer, it appears that the 1935 exemption significantly reduced the use of the customs stamps on advertising matter from BP Tariff countries. Aside of the 1940-1945 period of the War Exchange Tax (WET), the 1939 exemption significantly reduced the use of the customs stamps on advertising matter from the United States. The 1972 and 1974 exemptions almost completely terminated the usefulness of the customs duty stamps. Thereafter, only bulk-shipments of advertising matter printed abroad for goods and services provided by a Canadian source were subject to duty.

During the 1940-1945 period, all advertising matter from non-BP Tariff countries was subject to the 10% WET for which stamps could be used in payment. Since available examples of this tax originate only from the United States (presumably due to wartime conditions), it will be discussed in the second part of this work.

The obsolescence of the customs duty stamps by the 1970s was noted in an internal 1980 Revenue Canada study. This document indicated that during a three-year period ending May 22nd, 1980, only eleven sales of the stamps were made, totalling \$101.60. Of these sales, only six were for *"advertising purposes,"* the rest being made to stamp collectors. A further four transactions comprised refunds in the amount of \$1,417.70 for stamps returned to the Department.[29]

It was also noted in the report that during a recent six-month period only one shipment bearing duty stamps was processed in Ottawa. Furthermore, this advertising matter was determined to have actually been free of duty under two of the exemptions detailed above.[29]

The result of the Revenue Canada study was a decision to not reprint the regulations governing the customs stamps. Such an action had been contemplated to reflect the new MFN Tariff rates that were being introduced annually from January 1st, 1980. (Table 2.) Yet, despite the obvious obsolescence of the Customs Duty stamps, the legislative authority for their use was not repealed until February 16th, 1984.[28, 42]

(The second part of this article will discuss and illustrate printed advertising matter from the United States of America.)

Reference Notes

- [1] Canada, Statutes, 42 Vic., 1879, ch. 15; 45 Vic., 1882, ch. 6; 49 Vic., 1886, ch. 33; 50-51 Vic., 1887, ch.39; 53 Vic., 1890, ch. 20; 57-58 Vic., 1894, ch. 33.
- [2] Canada, Statutes, 60-61 Vic., 1897, ch. 16.
- [3] McDougald, J., Customs Memo 1305B of Nov. 30th, 1904, National Archives of Canada, Records of the Post Office Department, RG 3, Vol 621, File 26988.

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