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**The presentation belongs to the author.**

Thank You for allowing me  
to talk about Ministry of Finance  
5-Hole OHMS

1923 to 1942

# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

- This talk will focus only on selected usages of the 5-hole OHMS perforated officials
- It will illustrate mostly postal history with some selected stamps
- Includes better items including:
  - Registered covers to England
  - Unique Bluenose block of six
  - Postal Stationery
  - Earliest and latest uses
  - Large multiples up to 30
  - Mint Examples



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

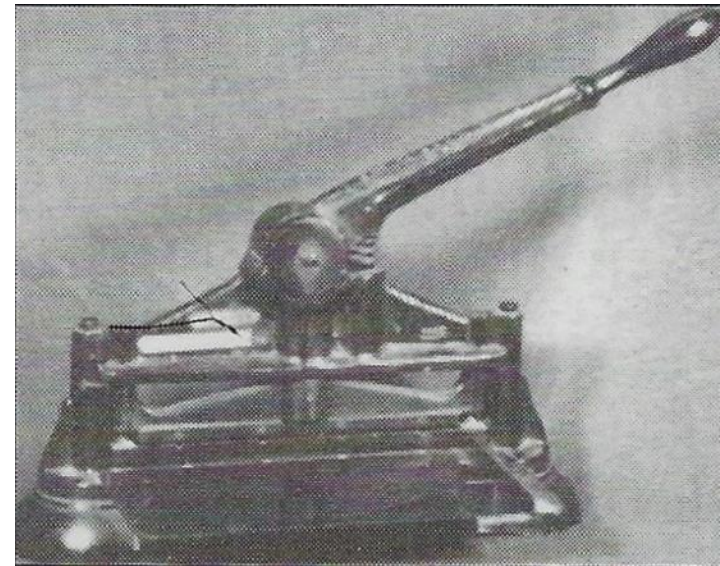
- May 23, 1923 Post Office gave approval to Department of Finance
- Approval was for a pattern with the letters “OHMS” in 2 lines
- Abbreviation for “On His Majesty’s Service”
- Legs of the H and M have 5 holes, hence the name “5-Hole OHMS”





# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

- Government minutes show an order for a perforator
  - B.F. Cummins Model #52
  - Single-lever 5-Die perforator
  - Not a 10-Die machine that Roy Wrigley indicates in his writing
  - Machine was replaced in July 1939 with the 4-hole OHMS.



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

- Stamps perforated in Ottawa for use on foreign mail
- Distributed to 9 Provincial Assistant Receiver Generals
- BNAPS Perfin catalogue records this pattern as O8
- 2<sup>nd</sup> DIE pattern has missing pin in lower curve of “S”
  - Broken “S” variety is in 20% of small stamps and 1/3 of large stamps



DIE 5    DIE 4    DIE 3    DIE 2    DIE 1  
(As viewed from the back)    Broken “S”



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

Earliest Date



Ottawa, ON - October 23, 1923



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

Latest Date - August 5, 1942

Very Scarce OE9 10c on 20c  
Special Delivery. Only known  
copy used on piece.

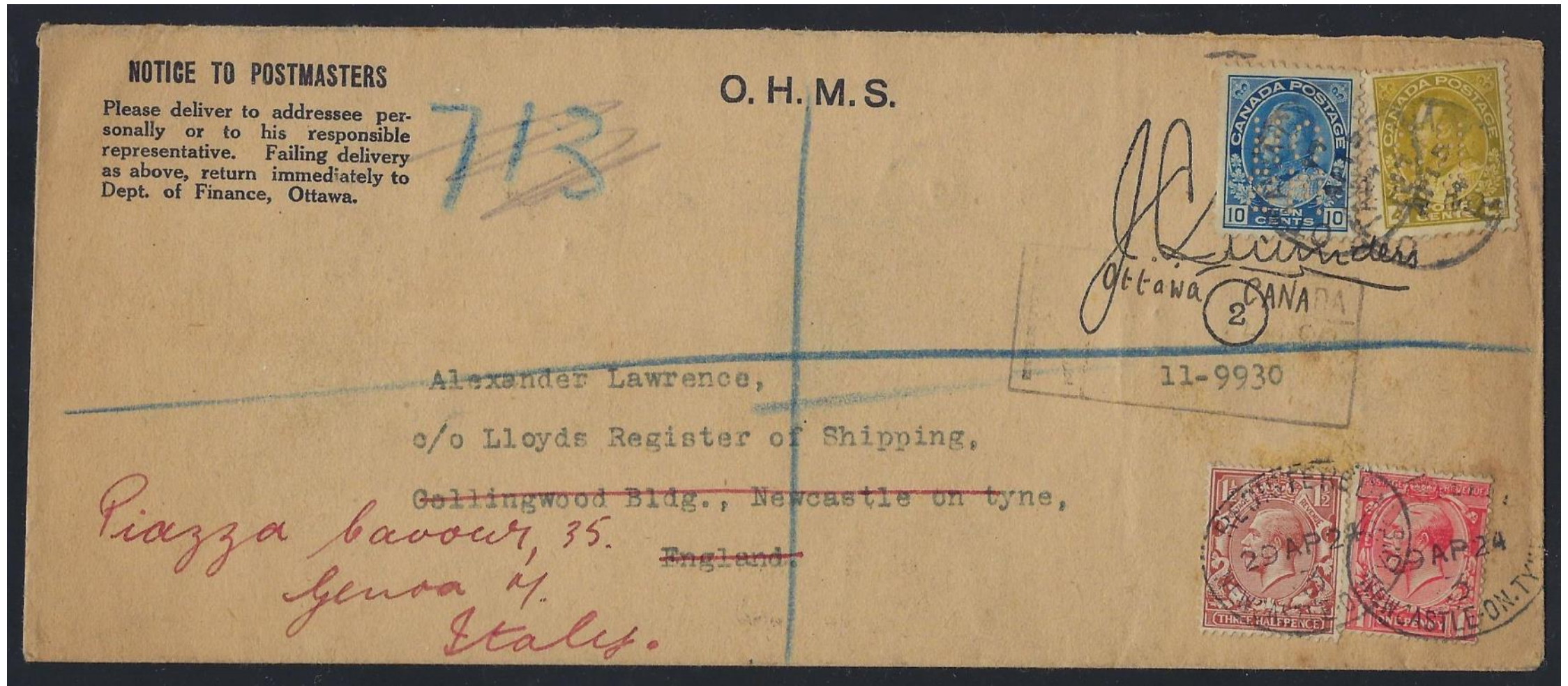
Ottawa, Canada cancel on  
piece with a pair of 4-hole  
OHMS 3c Royal Visit





# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

## Earliest Cover

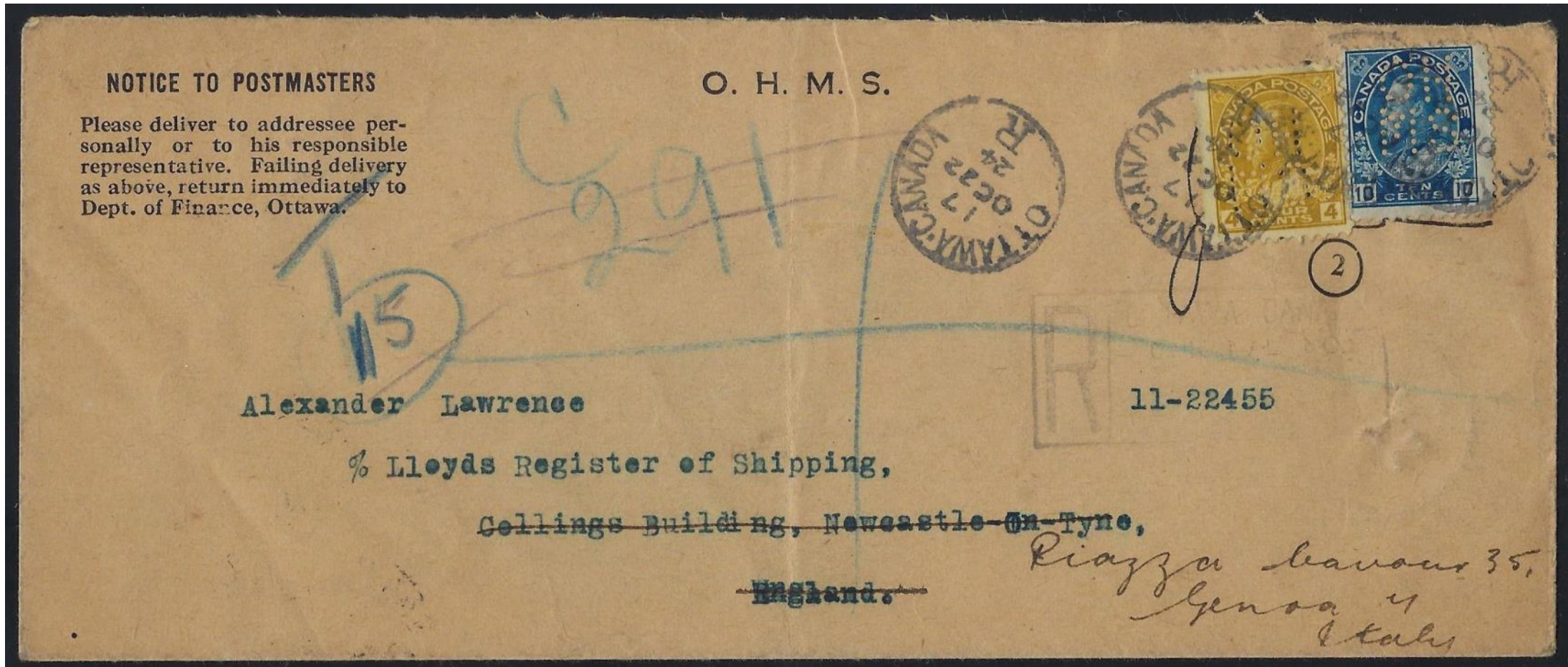


Ottawa, ON - April 15, 1924



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

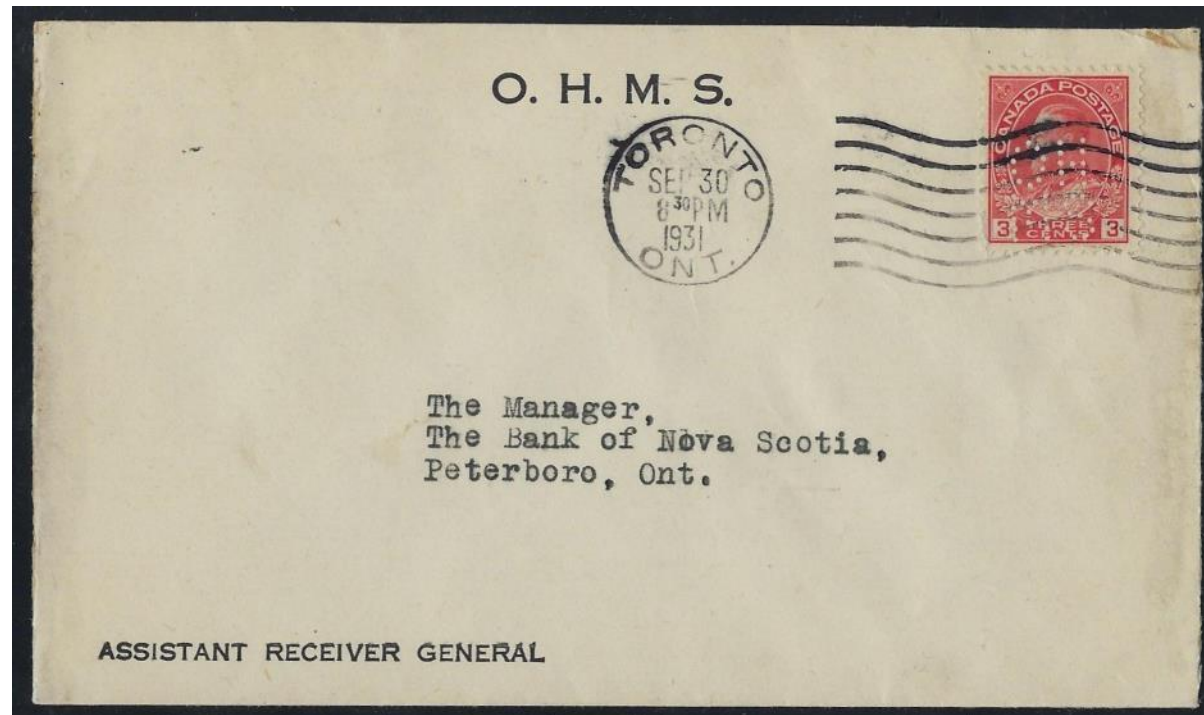
## Second Earliest Cover



Ottawa, ON – October 22, 1924

# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

- Most mail sent out by the Department of Finance was to or from the Assistant Receiver General provincial branches and to banks
- Therefore, not many stamps were retained except by bank employees and civil servants that were stamp collectors.





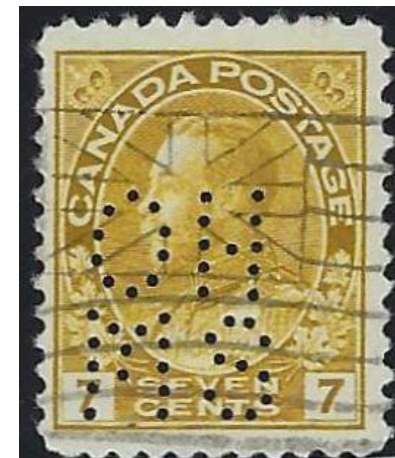
# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

- Even scarcer are mint 5-Hole OHMS stamps as most do not exist
- Some old pricelists from the 1940's do list some 2c, 3c and 10c issues
- The first 8 items are the right stamp from the only known mint pairs (now broken into 2 sets of 8) from the March 1989 Sissons Auction.



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

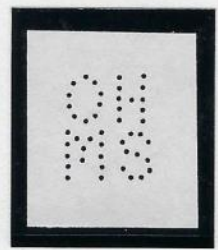
- DoF received approval to perforate stamps in 1923 and the current issues were the Admiral second colours and the start of Dry Printing
- Means 1c Green, 2c Carmine, 5c Blue, 7c Bistre, 10c Plum not current
- In theory they were available for perforating but I have not seen a legitimate 2c Carmine, 5c Blue or 10c Plum and I believe that most of these values are fake 5-hole OHMS perfins
- The 1c Green and 7c Bistre are scarce but available





# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

- All Admirals exist in Position A and C
- Many are in Position B and D
  - Created when sheet is folded along vertical axis before perforating
- Scarce items are the sideways positions of E and F
  - Created when sheet is inserted sideways before perforating
- Even scarcer items are the G and H positions
  - Created when sheet is gum up and sideways before perforating



A



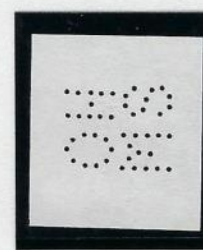
B



C



D



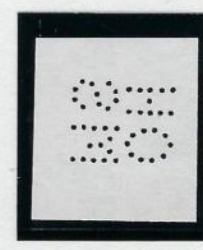
E



F



G



H



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

- When the perforator lever is pressed twice (or more times) before sliding to the next row of stamps the result is a Double Perfin noted by adding an (X) after the position or for triple strikes adding an (XX)
- Perf/Imperf Pairs with one stamp not having the perfin. Add a (Z).



OA208 – EX



OA217 – AXX

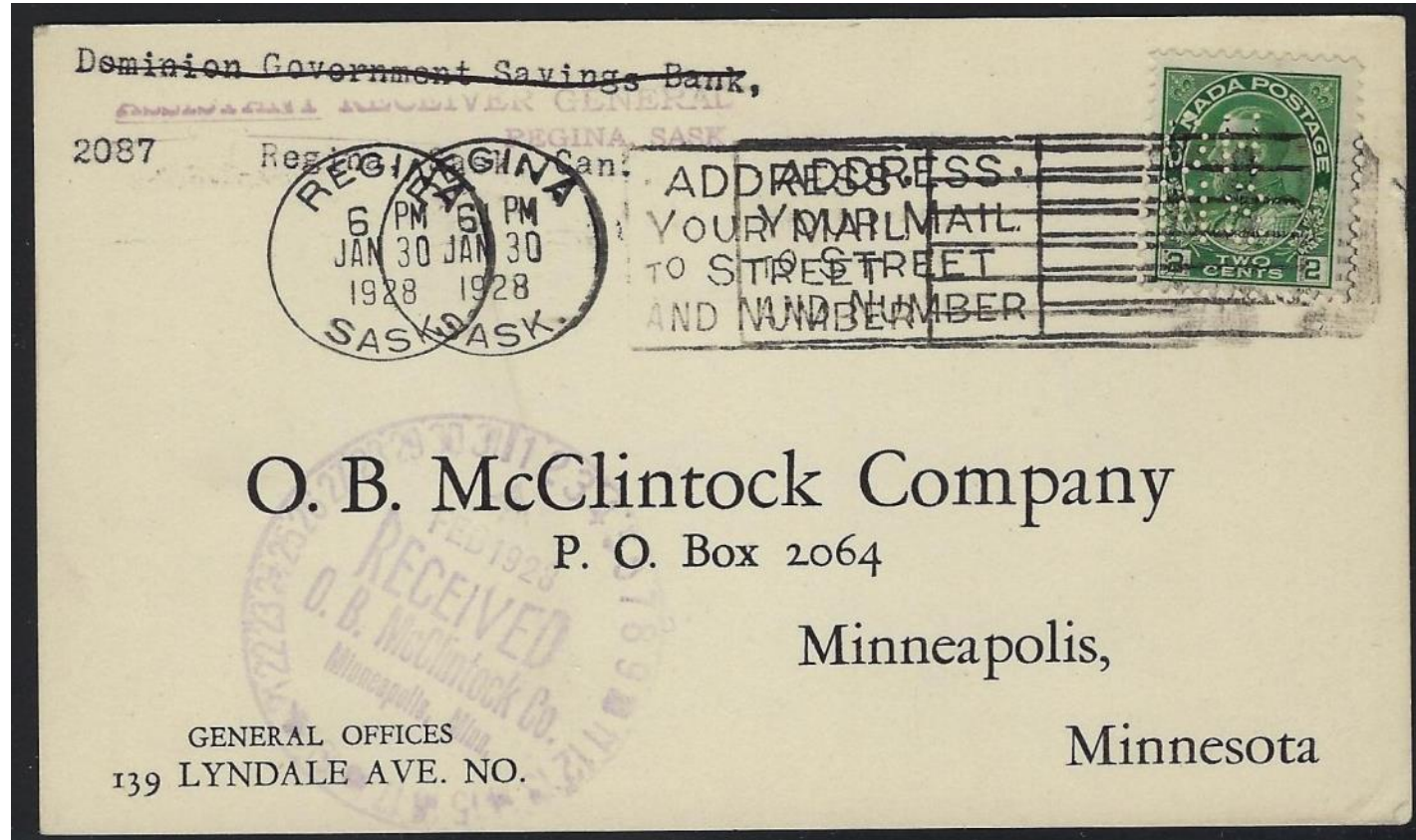


OA167 – DZ



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

## 2¢ Post Card Rate from Regina, SK to USA



### January 30, 1928

### Burglar Alarm Report

PLEASE MAIL THIS CARD THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH

BATTERY TESTS

Upper (or 6 Volt) 22

Lower 12

(Do not test any battery used only for closed circuit)

Does Test Bell ring clear when door is closing? YES

Do All Bells ring clear when testing? YES

Do Timers keep good time? FAIR

REMARKS

Bank \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Date Jan 30 1928

Report made by [Signature]

Form 533-64[M-11-27-]

RECEIVED GENERAL REGINA, SASK.

P.D. 6618



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

2¢ Post Card Rate from Halifax, NS to USA

**Burglar Alarm Report**  
PLEASE MAIL THIS CARD THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH

**BATTERY TESTS**

Upper (or 6 Volt) 35

Lower 10

(Do not test any battery used only for closed circuit)

Does Test Bell ring clear when door is closing? yes

Do All Bells ring clear when testing? yes

Do Timers keep good time? fair

REMARKS

Bank Asst. Rec. General City Halifax

State N.S. Date June 2nd 1928

Report made by M. C. [Signature]

Form 533-64M-11-17J

Asst. Receiver General  
1901 Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

HALIFAX JUN 2 1928 PM 1028 N.S.

HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES

CANADA POSTAGE TWO CENTS

O. B. McClintock Company  
P. O. Box 2064  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

GENERAL OFFICES  
139 LYNDAL AVE. NO.

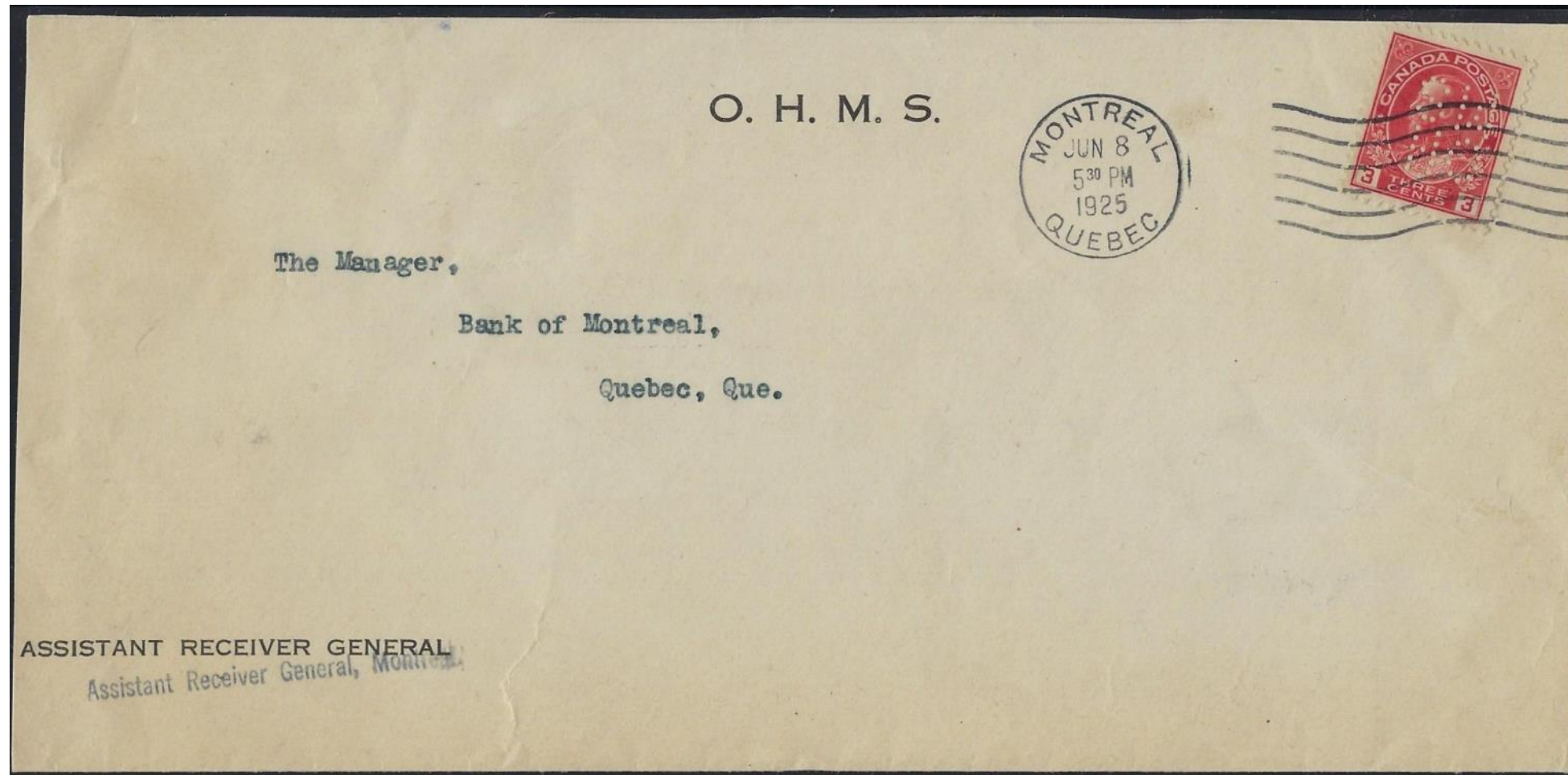
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. JUN 2 1928

June 2, 1928



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

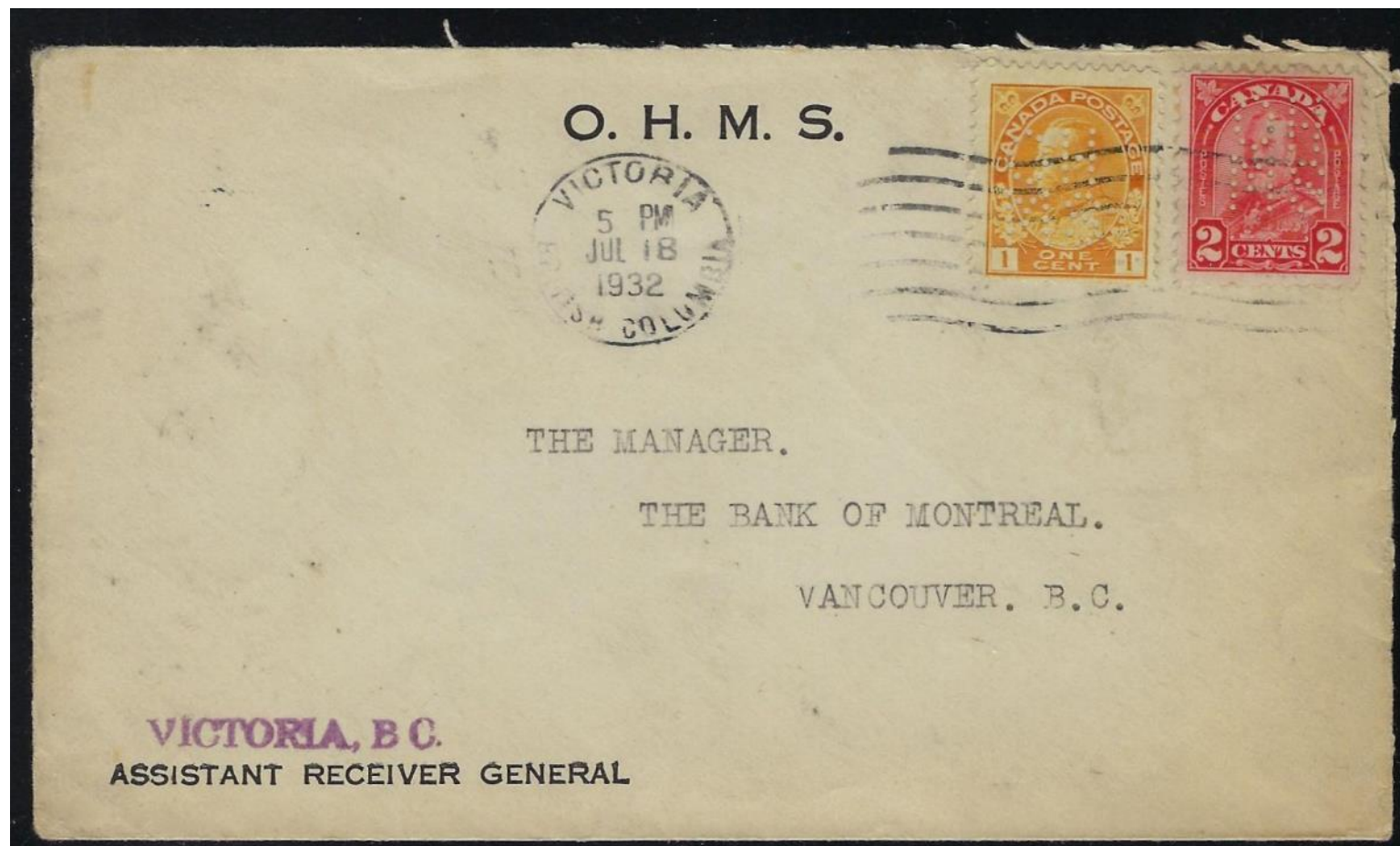
3¢ Letter Rate from Montreal to Quebec City



June 8, 1925

# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

3¢ Letter Rate from Victoria to Vancouver

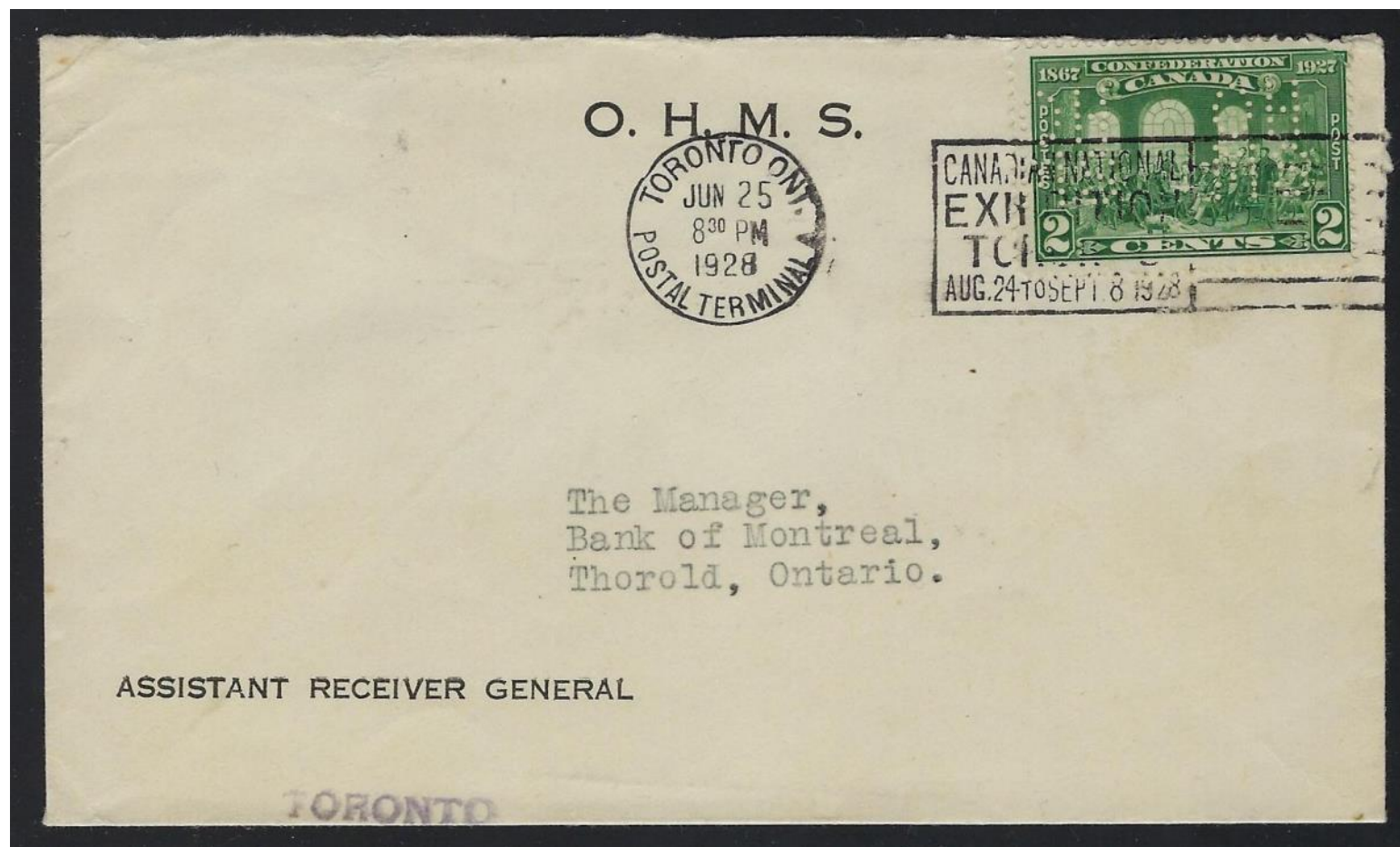


July 18, 1932



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

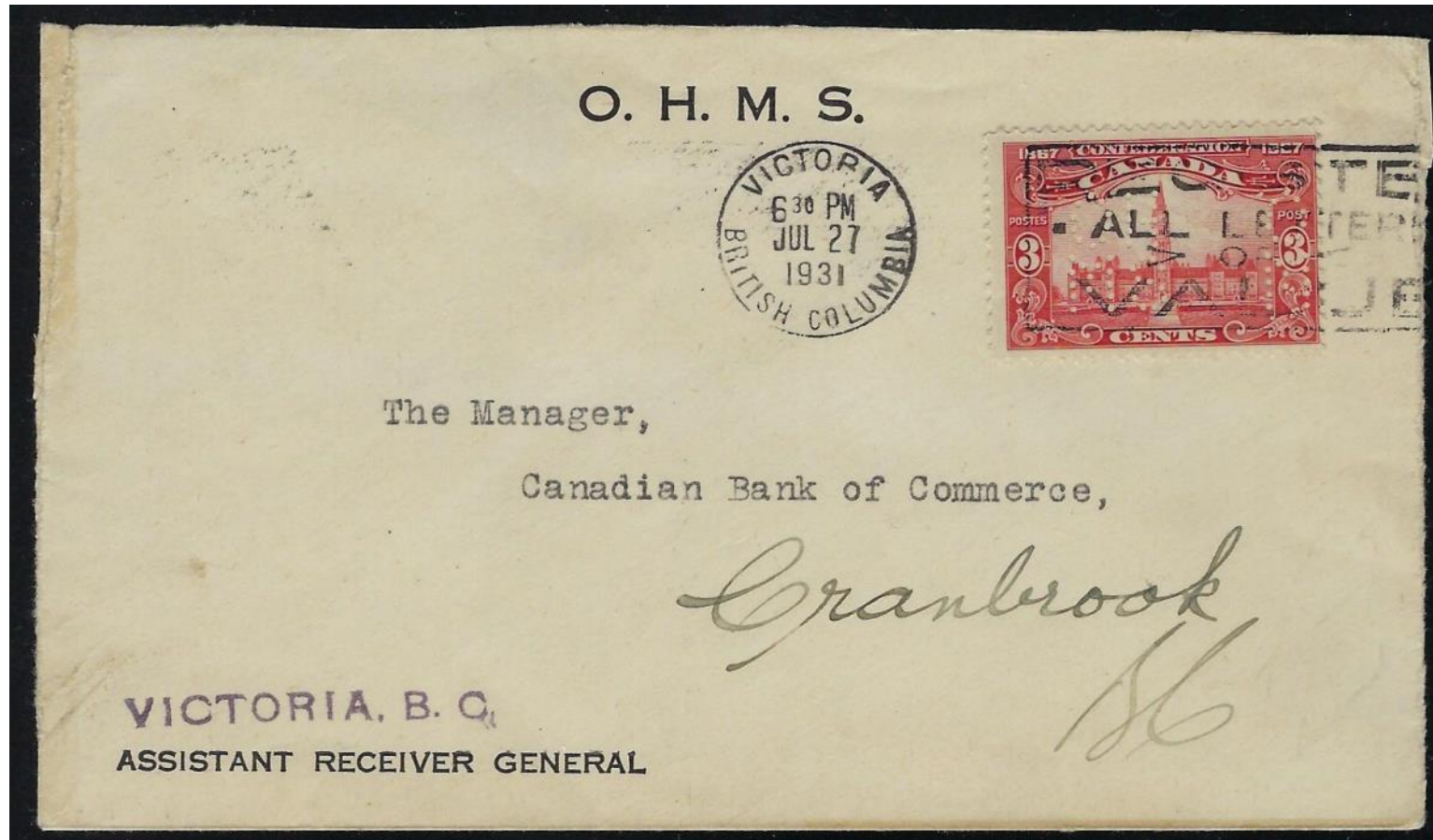
## 2¢ Fathers of Confederation Cover



June 25, 1927

# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

3¢ Parliament Confederation Cover



July 27, 1931



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

**Cancels from all 10 Known User Cities**

**National Office, Department of Finance – Ottawa, ON**

## **Provincial Assistance Receiver General Offices**

**Victoria, BC**

**Calgary, AB**

**Regina, SK**

**Winnipeg, MB**

**Toronto, ON**

**Montréal, QC**

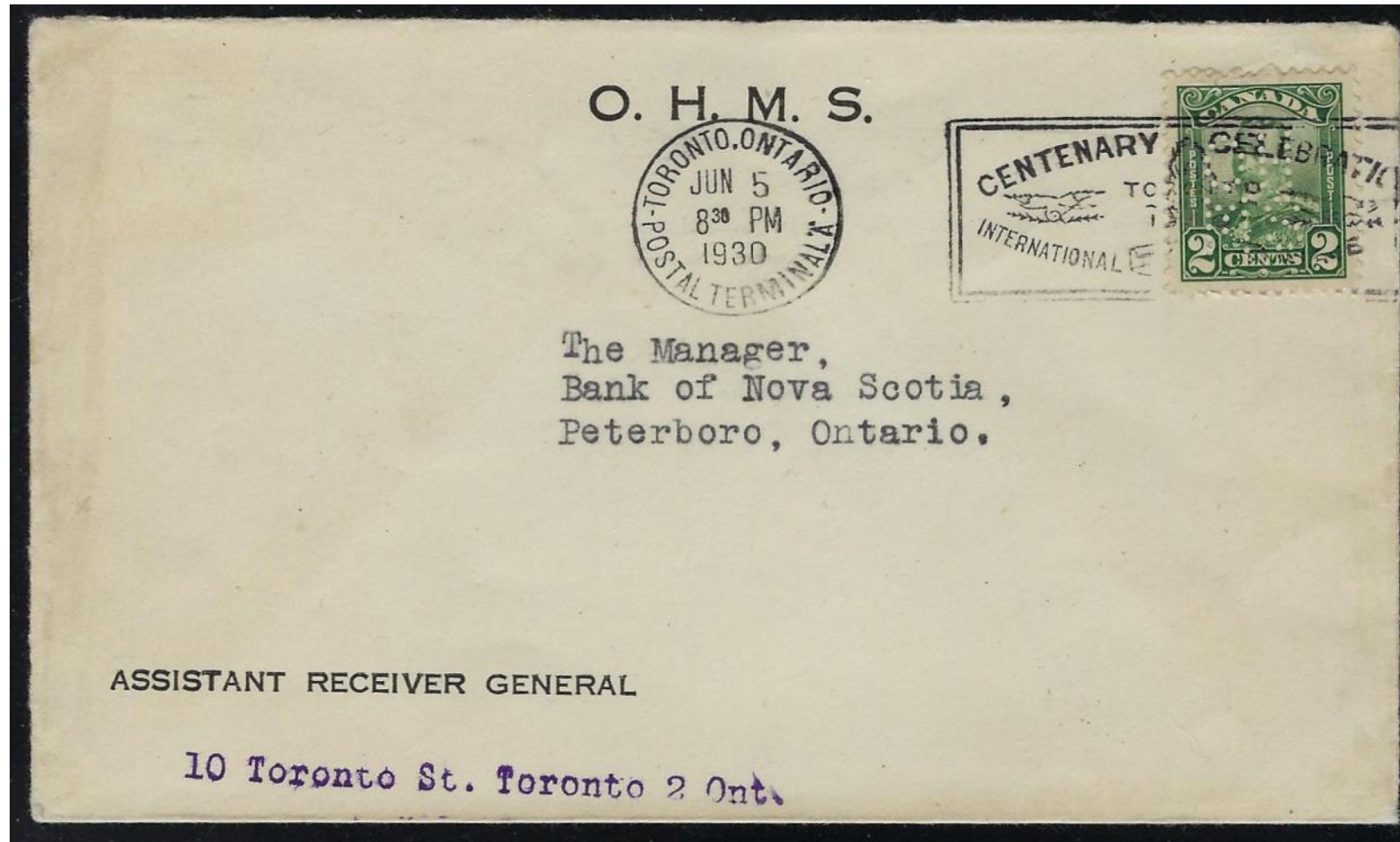
**St. John, NB**

**Halifax, NS**

**Charlottetown, PE**

# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

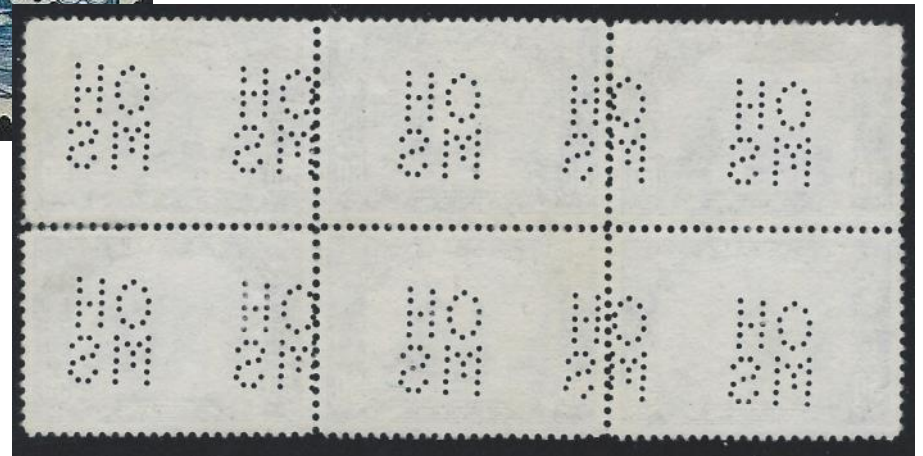
2¢ Scroll Cover – June 15, 1930





# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

50¢ BLUENOSE – UNIQUE BLOCK OF SIX





# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

## 12¢ Surface Registered Letter to England Mixed Use

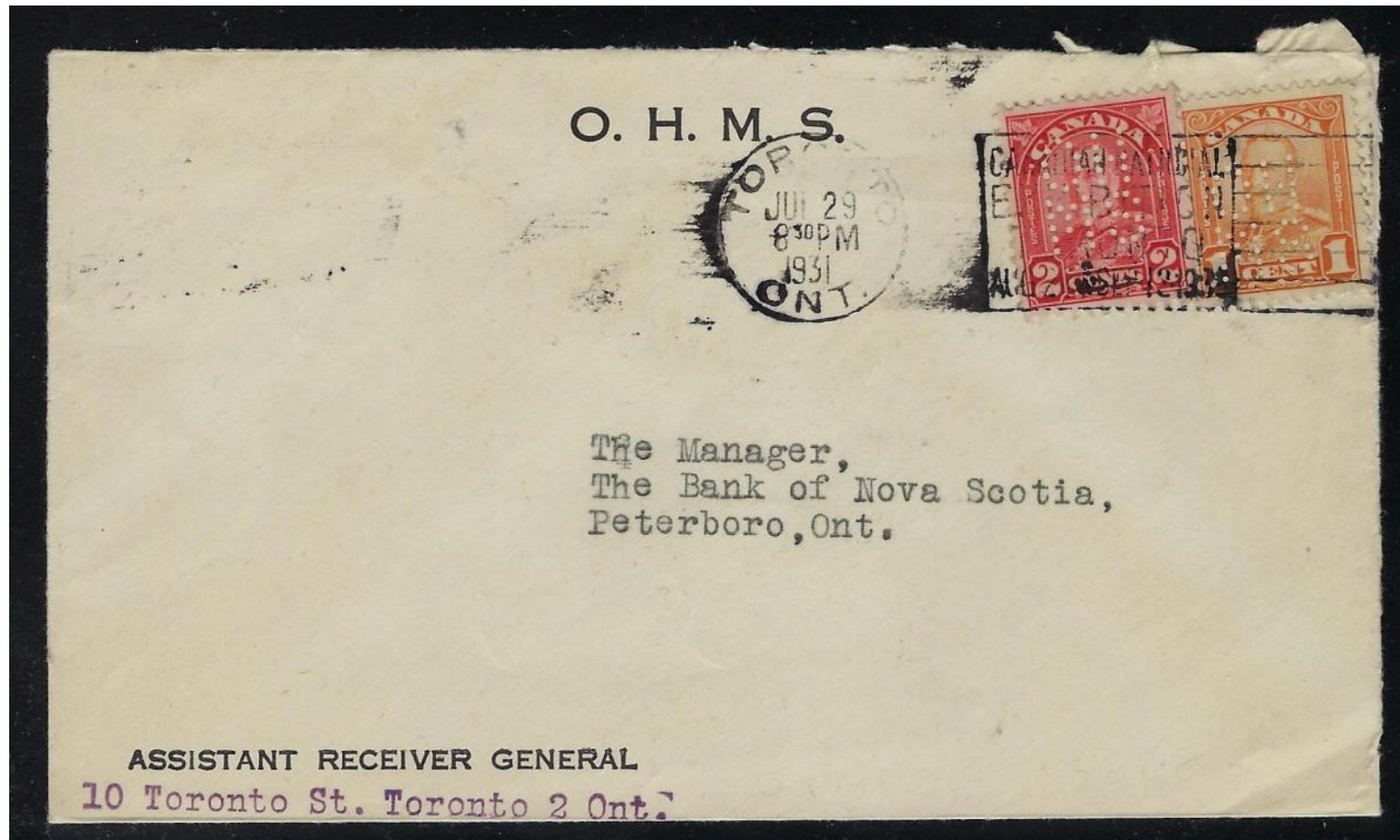


April 18, 1931



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

3¢ Surface Letter Rate Mixed Use

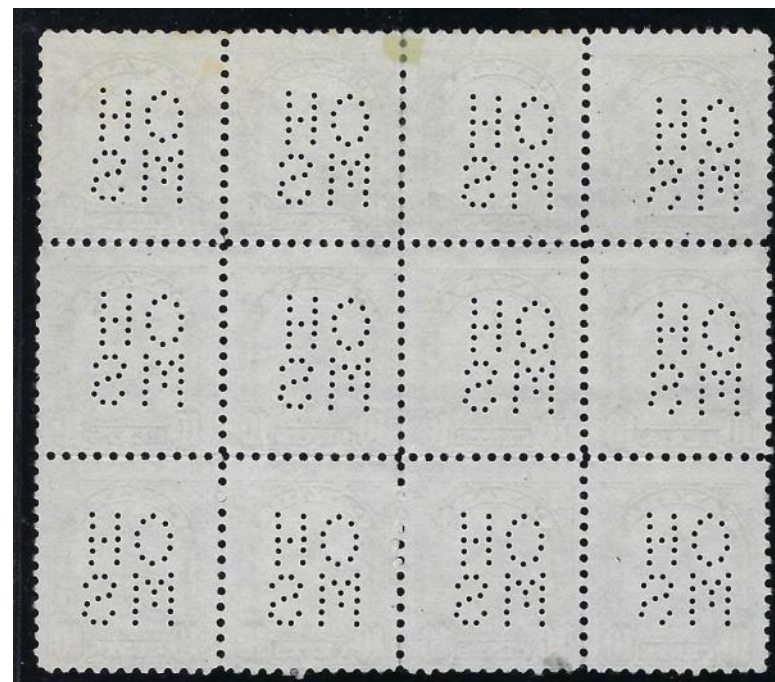


July 29, 1931



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

10¢ Parliamentary Library - Scarce Block of 12

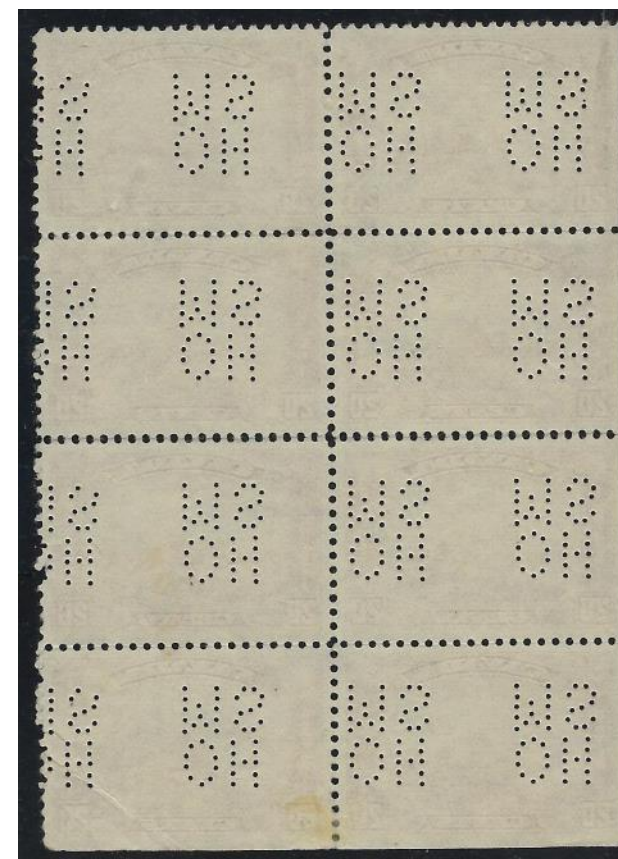


Position AS / A / A / A



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

20¢ Harvesting - Scarce Block of 8

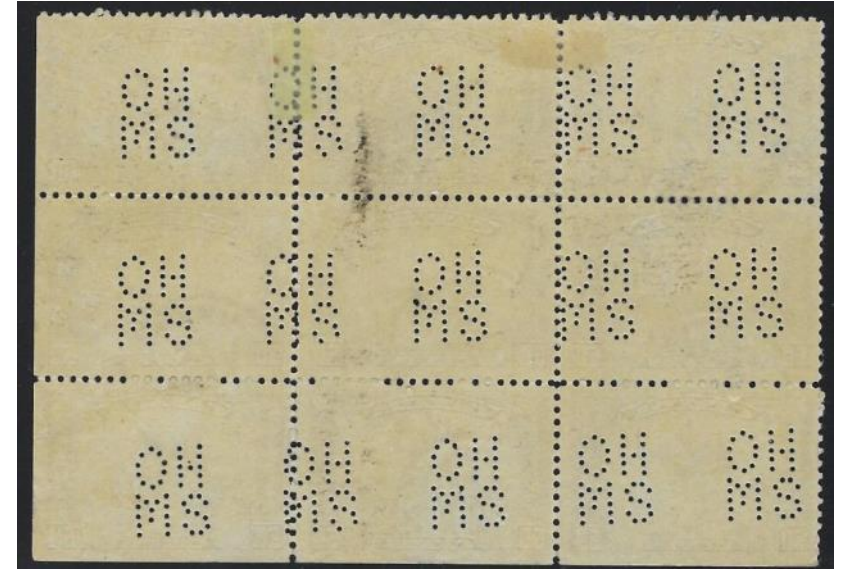


Position C / CS



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

50¢ Grand Pré - Scarce Block of 9

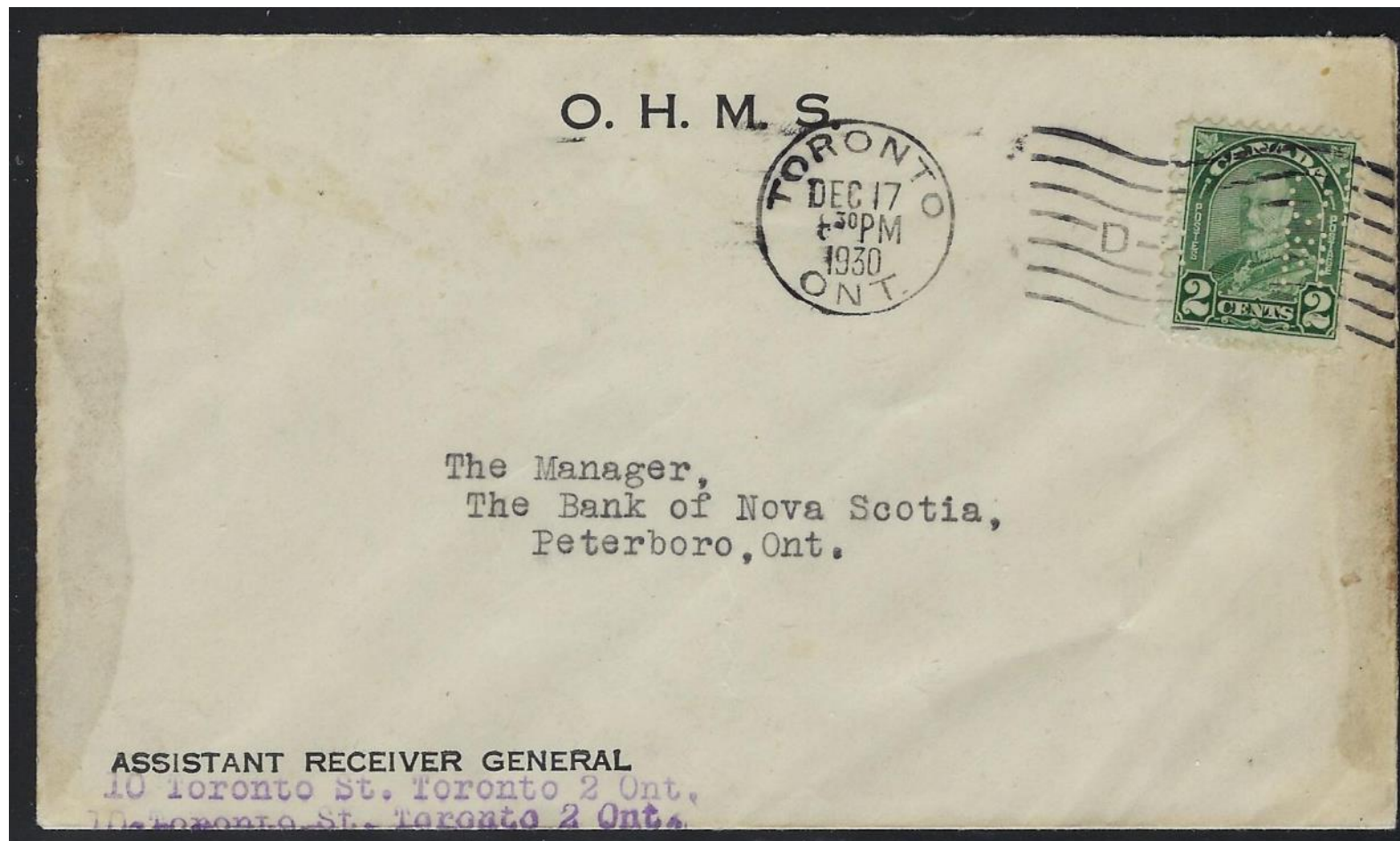


Position B/B/B/BS/B



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

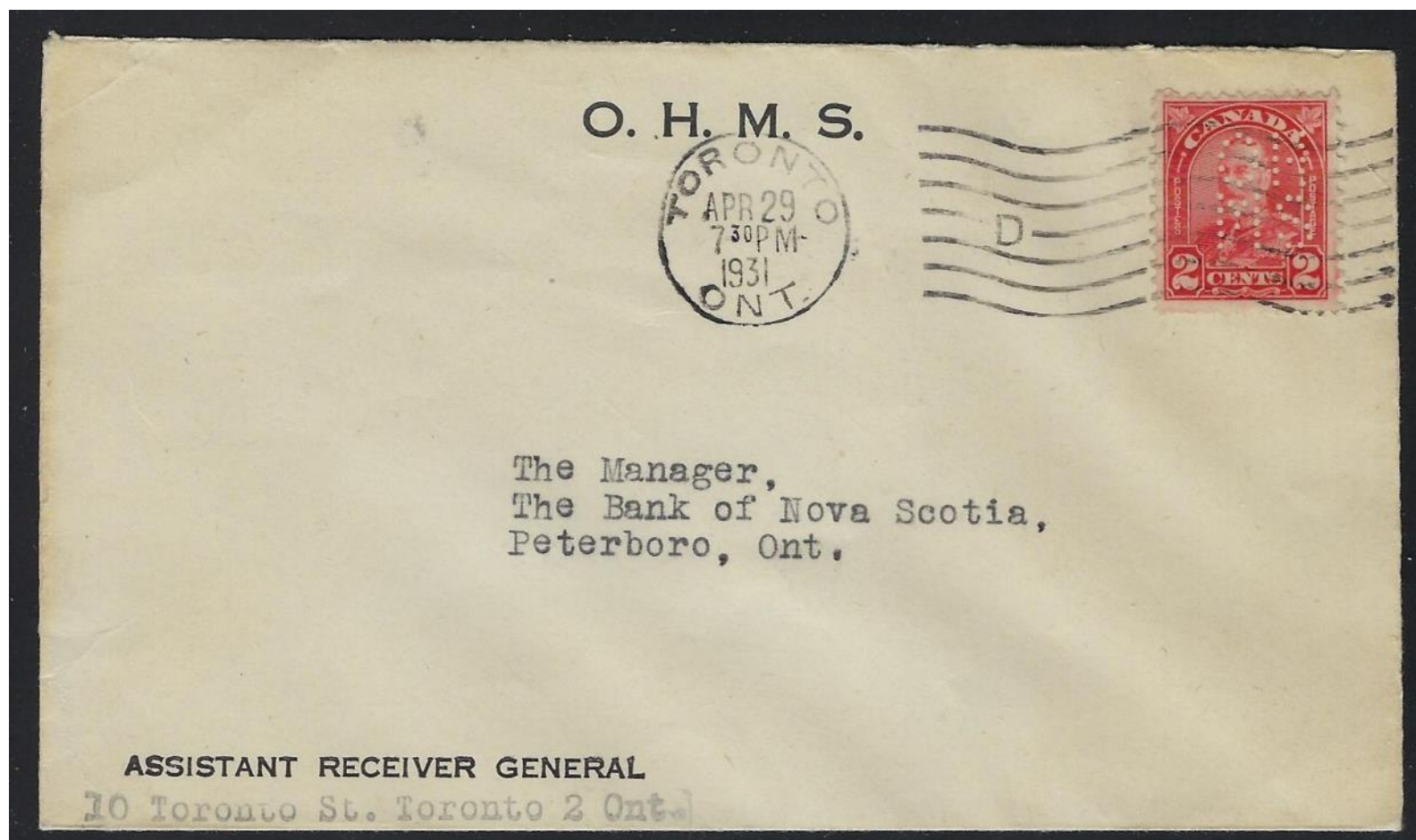
2¢ Green Leaf & Arch Issue



December 17, 1930

# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

2¢ Deep Red (Die 1) Leaf & Arch Issue

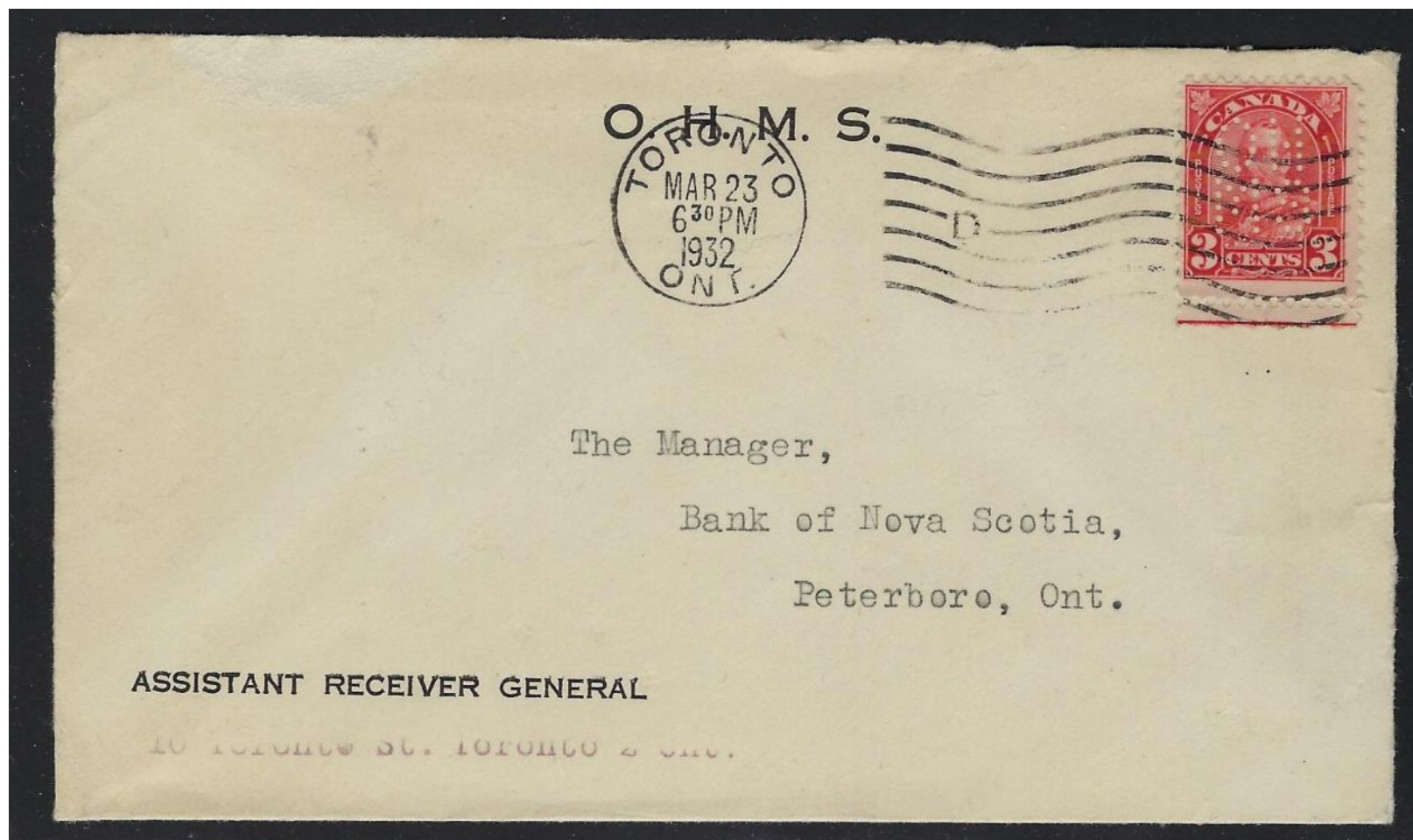


April 29, 1931



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

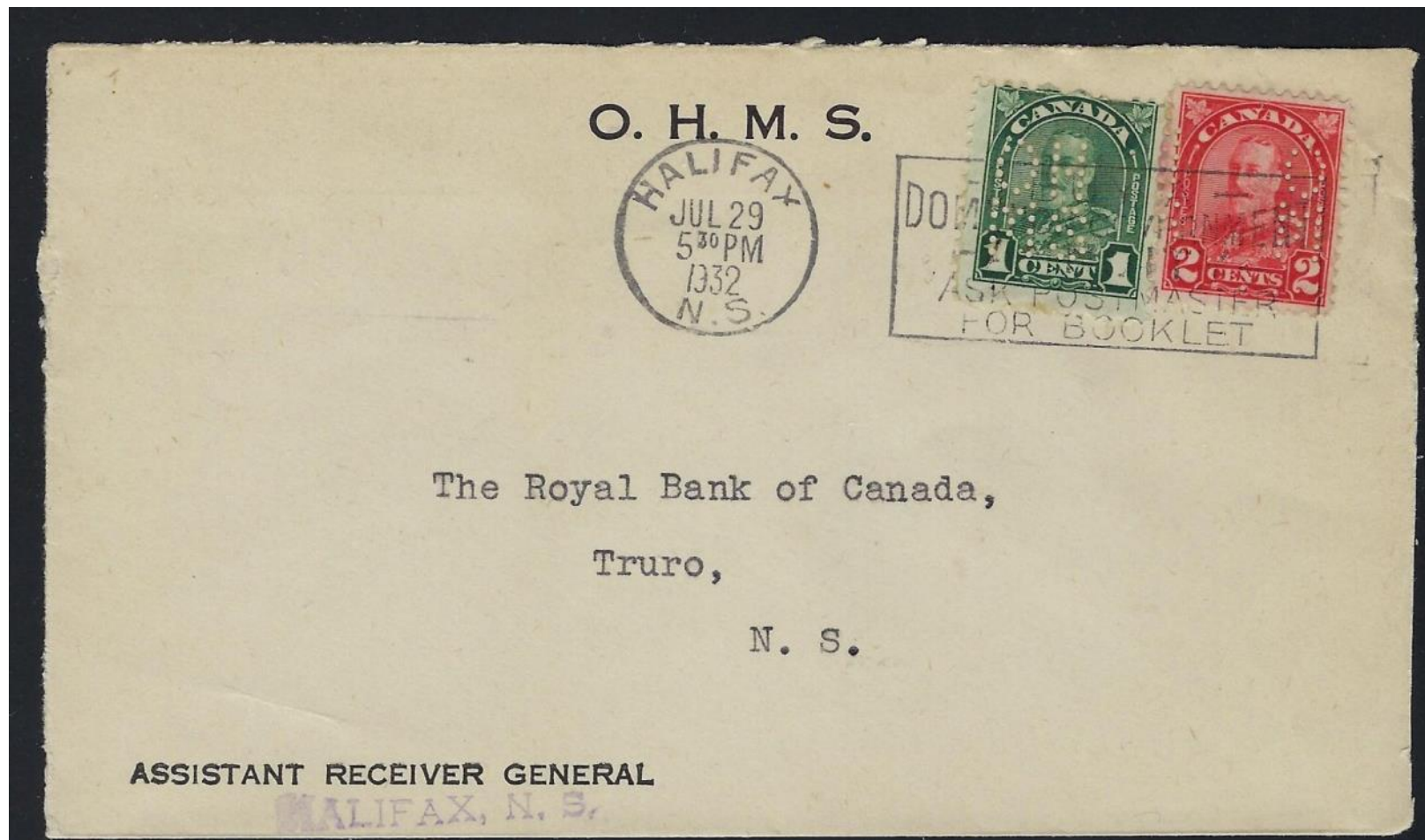
3¢ Deep Red Leaf & Arch Issue



March 23, 1932

# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

1¢ (Die I) and 2¢ (Die II) Leaf & Arch Issue

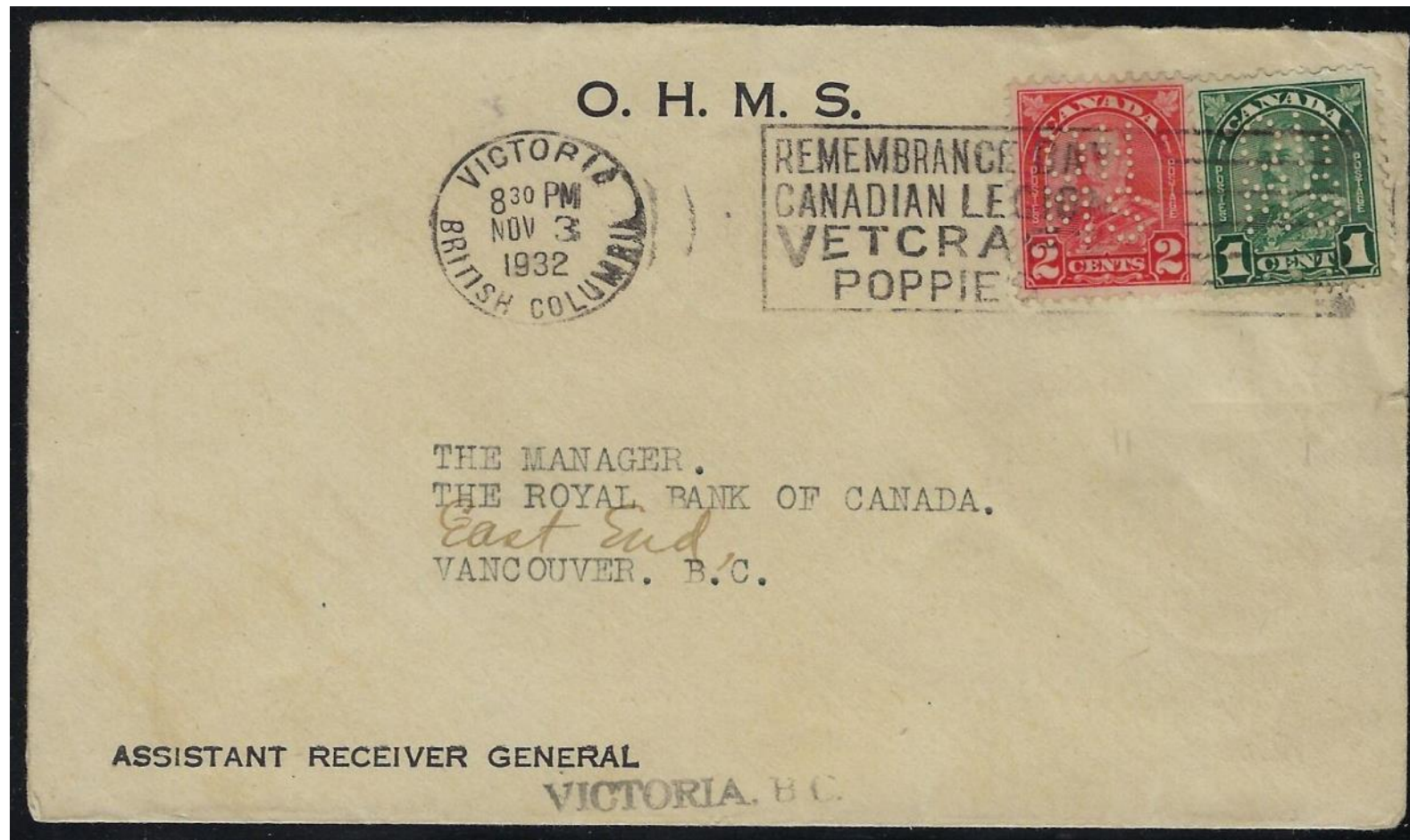


July 29, 1932 – Halifax, NS to Truro, NS



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

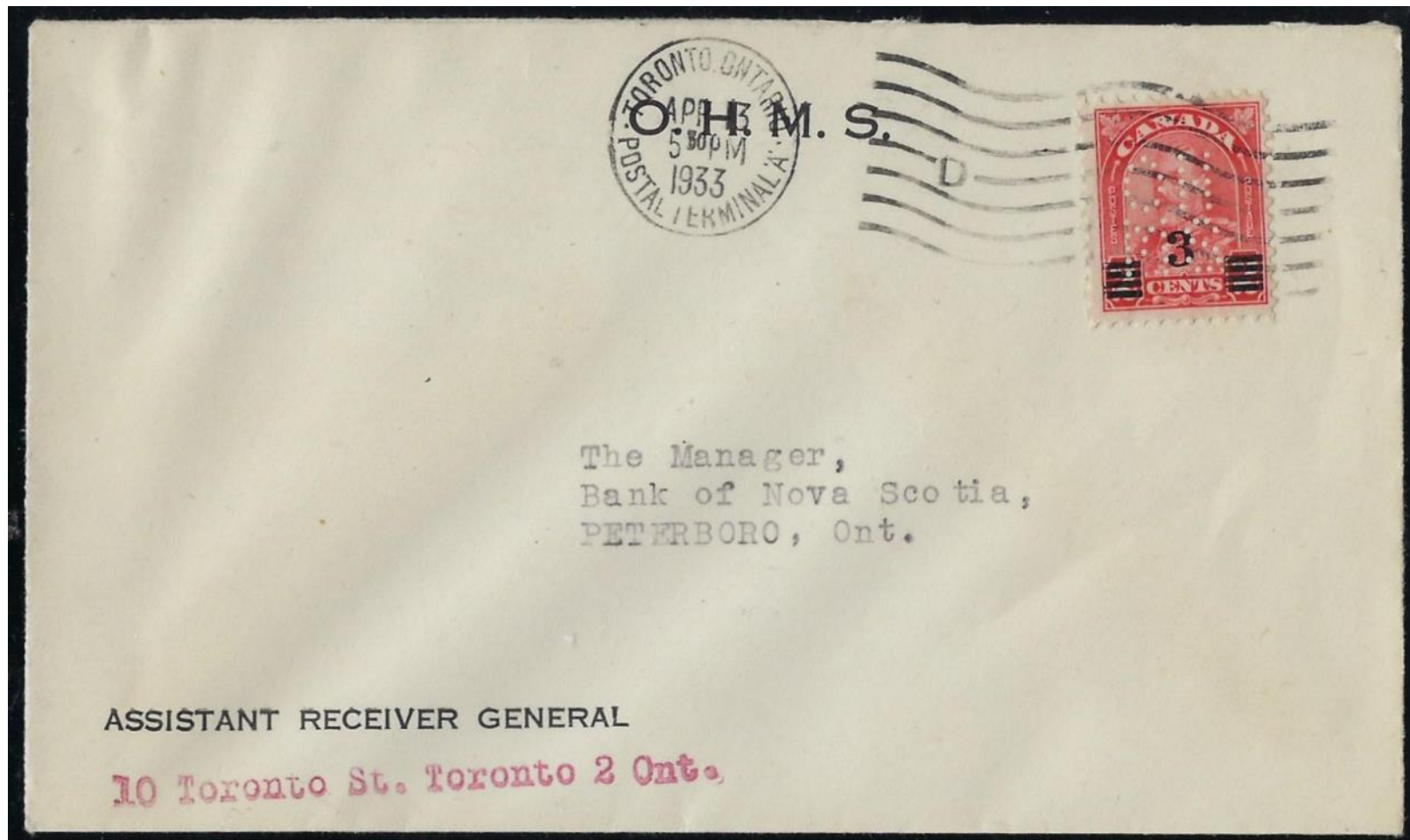
2¢ (Die II) and 1¢ (Die I) Leaf & Arch Issue



November 3, 1932 – Victoria, BC to Cranbrook, BC

# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

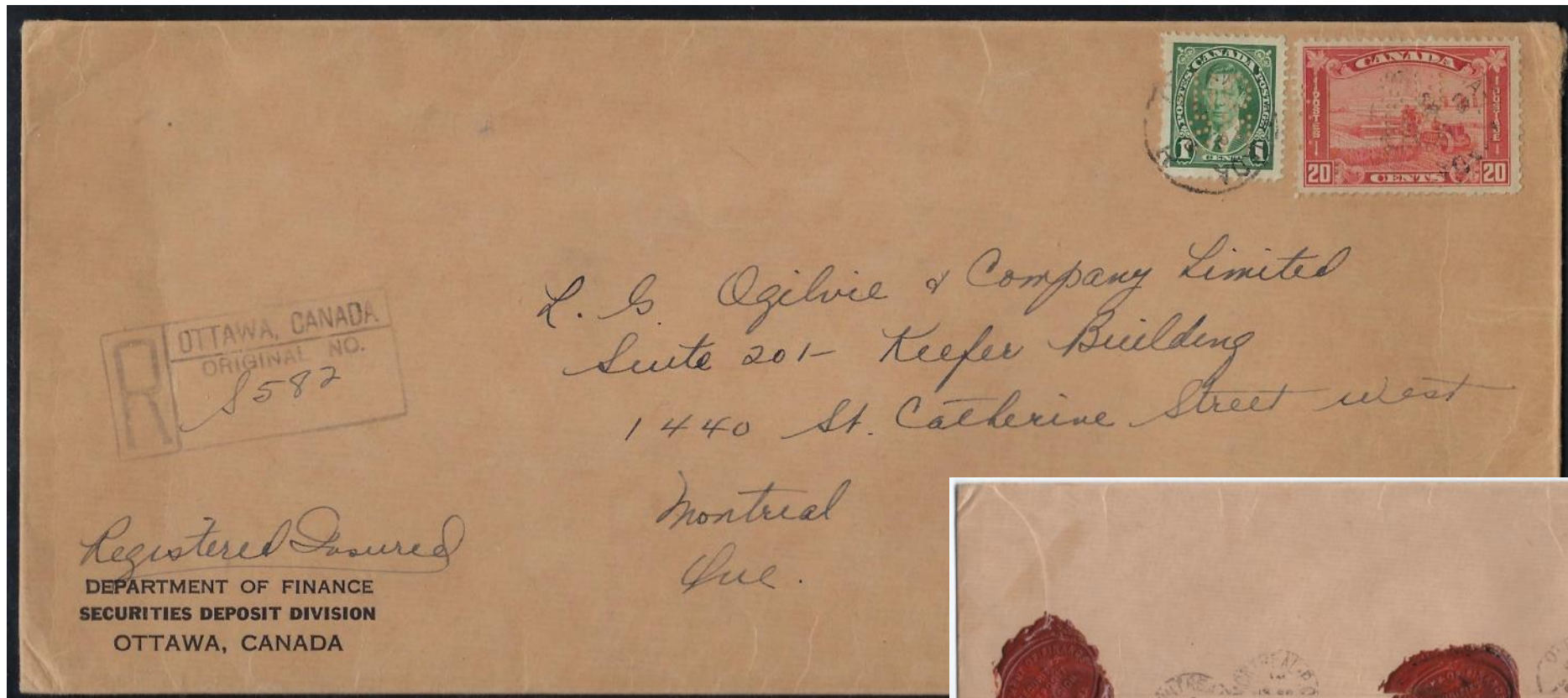
3¢ Overprint on 2¢ Leaf & Arch Deep Red (Die II)



April 13, 1933 – Toronto, ON to Peterboro, ON



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS



**Department of Finance**

**Securities Deposit Division**

**21¢ Registered Insured Rate Cover – September 12, 1939**



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

1932 Medallion Issue – Unique Set of Blocks (ex. Steinhart)

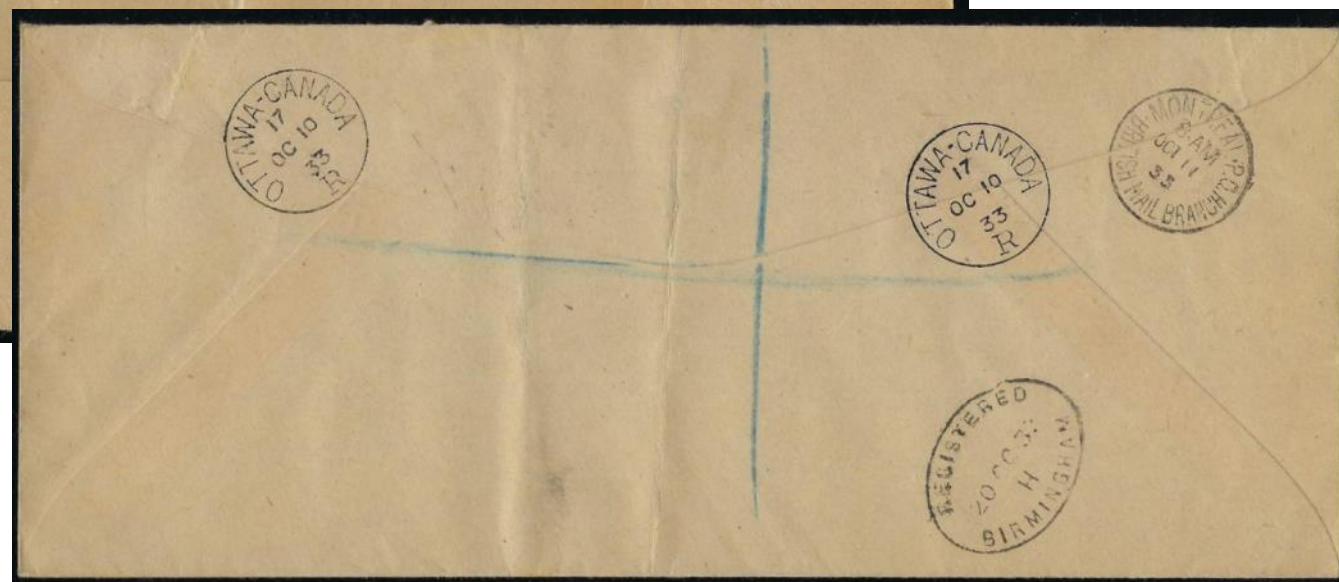


Note: 4c is a  
Plate Block



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

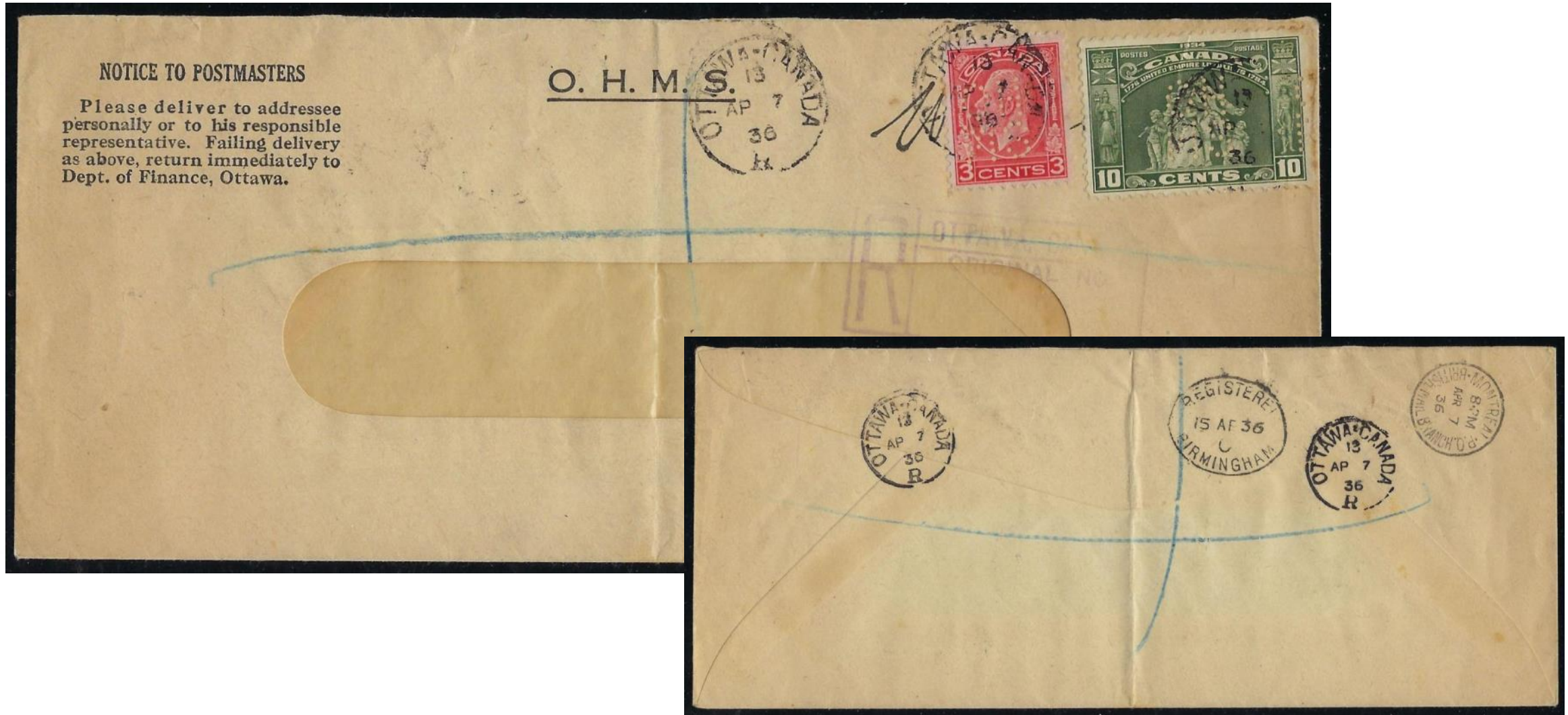
13¢ Registration Rate Cover to England – October 10, 1933





# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

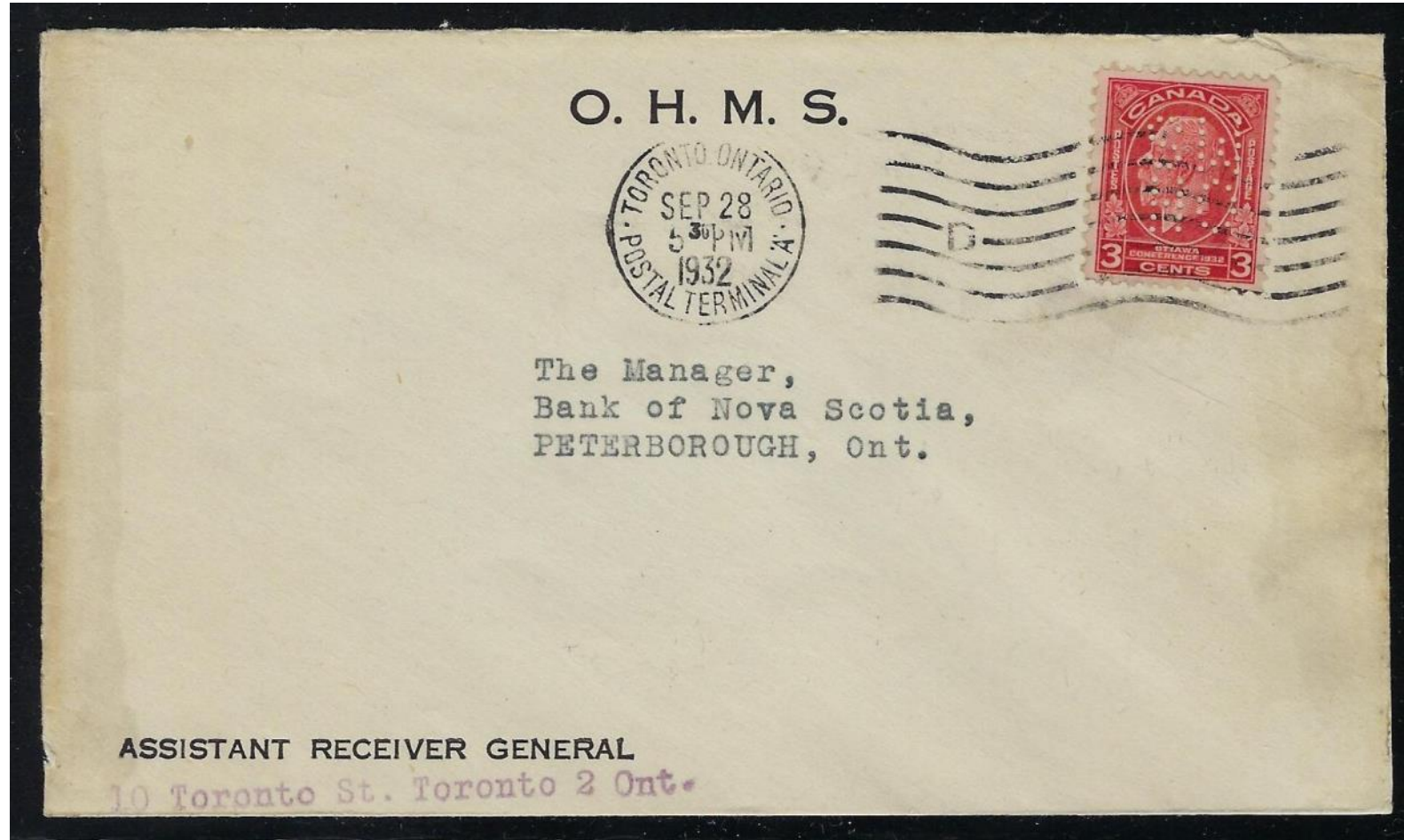
## 13¢ Registration Rate Cover to England – April 7, 1936





# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

3c Ottawa Economic Conference

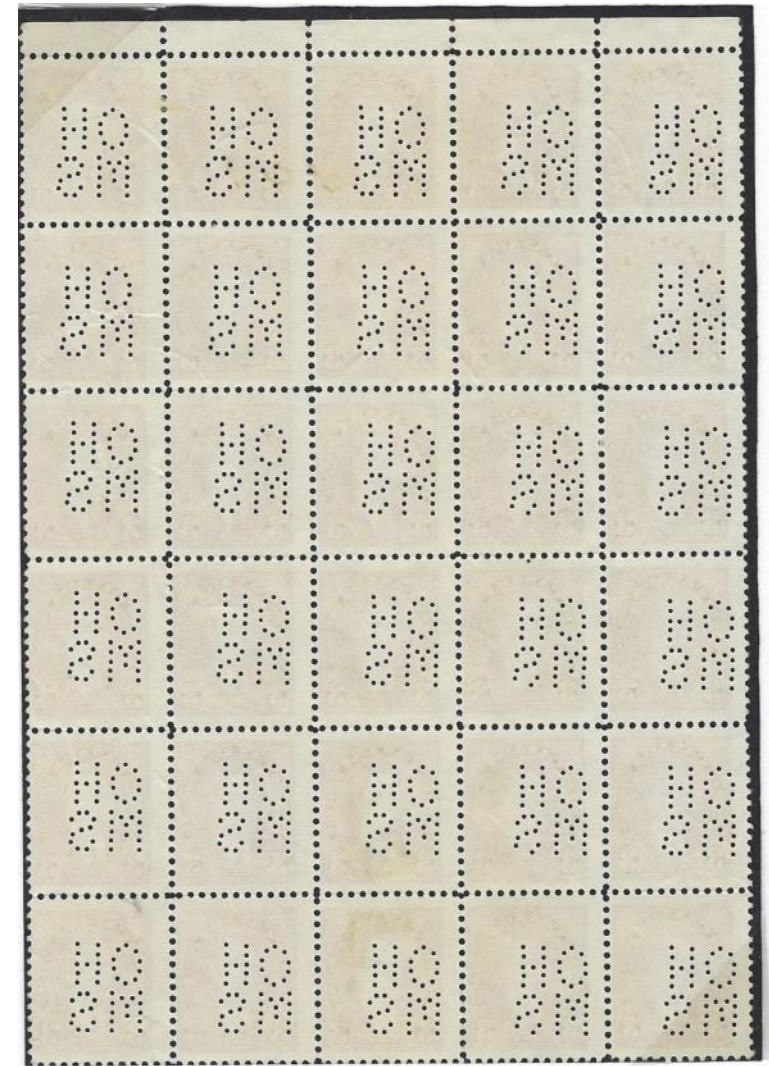


September 28, 1932



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

1937 George VI Issue – Block of 30



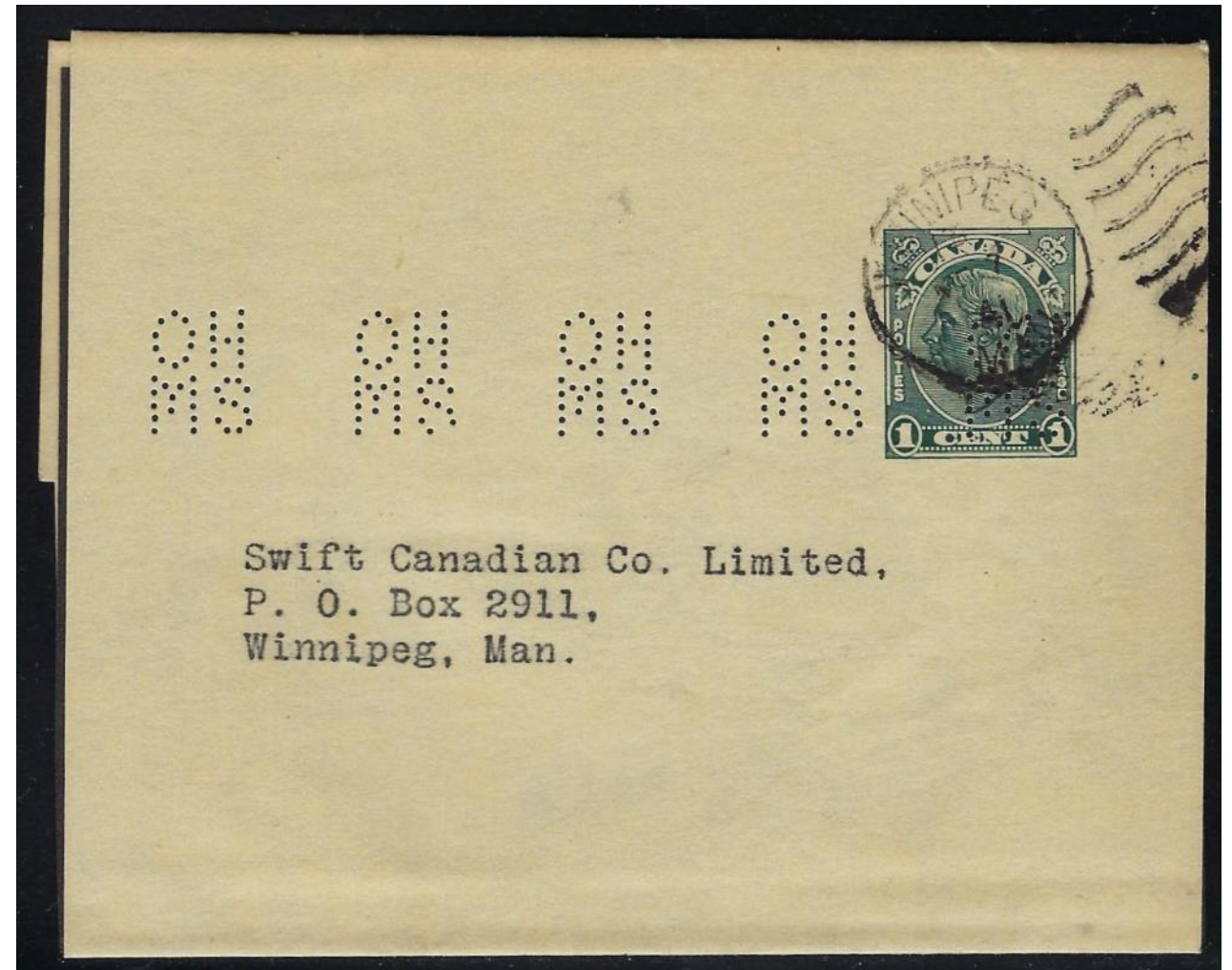
Largest Complete Die Setting 5-Hole OHMS Multiple



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS

King George VI Postal Wrapper – March 7, 1941

- Most are used from Winnipeg, MB.
- Cover shows all 5 dies in position A
- Broken S variety in position 2.



# Canadian 5-Hole OHMS Ministry of Finance Usage Only 1923 to 1942

By Patrick Durbano

October 23, 2019