



Public Archives
Canada

Archives publiques
Canada

Manuscript
Division

Division des
manuscrits

DE VOLPI, Charles P.

MG 23, G III 34

Finding Aid No. 1251 / Instrument de recherche no 1251

Prepared and revised in 1981 by David
Walden; revised and updated in 1982 by
Kathy Hayman and in 1985 by Marianne
McLean of the Pre-Confederation
Archives.

Préparé et révisé en 1981 par David
Walden; révisé et mis à jour en 1982
par Kathy Hayman et en 1985 par Marianne
McLean pour les Archives antérieures à
la Confédération.

Canada

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Pages</u>
Introduction	iii
Inventory Entry	iv
Descriptive List of the Collection	1 - 15

INTRODUCTION

This finding aid provides listings for some of the papers collected by Charles de Volpi to document Montreal postal history. The result is a diverse collection of interest for both the historical information contained in the manuscripts and as a source of postal history.

The de Volpi collection was sold by auction in December 1980, in May 1982 and January 1985 and has been partially reconstituted here from a variety of sources. The provenance of each acquisition is noted in the Inventory Entry, a copy of which is contained in the finding aid. Original documents have been placed in the vault and researchers must use the photocopies provided.

The papers are organized chronologically within each acquisition only, creating an inconsistent chronological order for the whole of the collection. This finding aid provides a description of the document, as well as information relating to the significance of the postal markings obtained from both Mr. de Volpi's notes and the Maresch auction catalogues of 11 December 1980 and 26 May 1982.

MG 23 DE VOLPI COLLECTION
G III 34

Originals, 1760-1873. 142 pages. Photocopies, 1678-1886. 8.5 cm.
Finding Aid No. 1251.

Charles De Volpi (1910-1981) was a Montreal businessman who held several senior corporate positions with companies involved with the paper industry. He was also the author of several books of pictorial records of major cities and regions in Ontario and Quebec and an active philatelist.

Finding Aid No. 1251 provides an itemized list of the collection. All original documents have been withdrawn from circulation and placed in the vault. Photocopies of them are filed with the collection.

Miscellaneous correspondence 1760-1886, collected by Montreal postal historian, Charles de Volpi (Originals, 125 pages; photocopies, 8 cm). Acquired in 1980, 1982 and 1985. Originals in vault. Correspondants include British officers and merchants in Canada, fur traders and 19th century public figures.

Three letters and a stampless cover, 1764-1777, from the Montreal postal history collection of Charles de Volpi (Photocopies, 7 pages). Presented in 1980 by C.R. McGuire on behalf of the Canadian Postal Museum.

Une lettre de John Marteilhe à M. Panet fils, 18 janvier 1773, concernant l'affaire légale d'André et Prisque Penisson (Photocopies, 2 pages). Présentée en 1981 par Thomas Alexander de Kansas City, Mo.

Correspondence and stampless covers, 1678-1845, from the Montreal postal history collection of Charles de Volpi (Photocopies, 27 pages). Presented in 1981 by Sam Nickle of Calgary, Alberta.

DE VOLPI, Charles P.

MG 23, G III 34

DESCRIPTIVE LIST

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
1	Archibald Gordon	<u>his wife</u>	14 September 1760	Cover missing
1	Wm. Hay (with a transcript)	Mr. Hay	6 August 1777	"MONTREAL PAID", 9 pence, the rate for sending a letter from 101 to 200 miles (the distance from Montreal to Quebec is 180 miles). The letter was sent from Montreal, 6 August 1777, via Quebec, 23 August 1777, and received in London, 5 November 1777. This is only the second known copy of the "MONTREAL PAID" handstamp.
1	Nicholas Hoffman	Messrs. Johnson & Purss	12 July 1790	Fine strikes of two line straight line, MONTREAL SEPT-r 9 and AUG.t:1 by favour from New York via Albany and put into the mails in Montreal to Quebec. Both rated 9 pence collect.
1	Nicholas Hoffman	Messrs. Johnson & Purss	24 June 1791	
1	Nicholas Hoffman	Messrs. Johnson & Purss	5 May 1792	Fine two line straight line from New York, 5 May 1792, by favour to Montreal. Mailed from Montreal, 14 June 1792, and received at Quebec 16 June 1792.

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
1	S.L. Willis	Chas. Cox & Son	15 February 1814	Written at Isle-aux-Noix, mailed at Montreal, 19 February 1814, via Halifax, 12 April 1814, and received at London, 1 June 1814. The letter was rated 2N1 -- single rate, and paid. The letter did have an enclosure and the British rated it double at 4/4 -- note crown and strike out of 2/2 single rate.
1	Colonel R. Williams	Messrs. Cox & Son	17 March 1814	From Isle-aux-Noix, 14 March 1814, via Montreal, 19 March 1814, via Halifax, 26 April 1814 to London. Rated PAID 4N2, pre-paid double.
1	Alexander McPherson	James Cuthbertson	7 October 1828	Montreal's first circular hand stamp, in use from 1828 to 1834.
1	<u>W.</u> Badgley	A.E. Hart	18 February 1829	Montreal's first circular hand stamp. Rated 4/6 -- 6 times the rate of 9d for distance of 101 to 200 miles.
1	Peter McGill (with a statement of John Clark's account)	Samuel Street	1 March 1830	1/4 collect -- rate applicable for a distance of 401 to 500 miles.
1	_____	John Davidson	22 March 1833	Cover only. Marked TOO LATE. 1/6 rated double rate from Montreal to Quebec.
1	J. Stewart	George S. Boulton	13 April 1833	Montreal's first circular hand stamp. 1/2 rate applicable to distance of 301 to 400 miles.

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
1	François Jobin Sr. (with a note by W. Hands, 22 August 1834)	W. Hans [Hands]	4 August 1834	Late usage of this hand stamp.
1	Thomas H. Murray	Capt. J.C. Murray	26 March 1838	Rate of 1/4 pence paid postage from Montreal to the lines. 18 3/4 cents paid postage from The Lines to New York. 1/8--8 pence paid ship letter postage from New York to Liverpool; 1 shilling paid postage from Liverpool to Greenock.
2	Louis St. Ange Charly	William Grant	29 August 1764	This exhibits the earliest known Canadian combined post office and rate marking.
2	James Farquharson	Robt. Willocks	1 May 1775	M8d -- Montreal 8 pence sterling. 8 pence sterling, equal to 11 pence currency or 2:16 Troy rate effective on distance of 101 to 200 miles, effective 10 October 1765. From 1764 to 1771 the rate markings on domestic covers were mostly in Troy only. From 1771 to the end of March 1775, most covers were rated in both Troy and currency. The latest usage of Troy ratings seen by Mr. de Volpi is 24 April 1775. Ninety-five percent of covers were collect, and markings were in red or

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
2	Daillebout de Cuisy	Monsieur Beraust	27 avril 1777	<p>black. Commencing in 1775, the post office not only eliminated Troy markings completely on domestic mail, but also the currency ratings, and adopted sterling. This system stayed in effect until 1 April 1777. Early records indicate that no mail was handled by the Canadian post office from 7 November 1775 to 21 June 1776.</p> <p>This is the earliest known currency marking. The same rate structure applied upon the reopening of the post office and continued until 29 March 1777, when Sir Guy Carleton stated in a decree "An ordinance for regulating the currency of the province" (<u>Quebec Gazette</u>, 10 April 1777) that the value of the shilling sterling was established at one shilling, one pence currency.</p> <p>In April 1777 straight currency markings were employed. The earliest seen by Mr. de Volpi is 27 April 1777; the latest is 17 November 1777. These are exceptionally rare since combined sterling and currency markings were used in 1778, the currency in the upper right hand corner and sterling in the upper left.</p>

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
2	_____	D.B. Viger	1 October 1834	Backstamped Liverpool ship letter. This is the only copy seen of the "MONTREAL EXCHANGE" handstamp.
3	John Marteilhe	Monsieur Panet, fils	18 janvier 1773	Rated in ms 11d and M2:16 (M for Montreal; 2 pennyweights; 16 grains of silver; 11d currency).
4	de Rochebelle	Dominique La Matté de Lucière	28 July 1678	Earliest Canadian cover in private hands.
4	Alex. Auldjo	Tench Tilghmas	14 August 1784	Letter from Montreal via Quebec with American 11 Se Bishop Mark rated 2:16 (2 pennyweights, 16 grains of silver) to Baltimore. This is the earliest Post-Revolutionary War cover from Canada to the United States.
4	_____	Adam Mabane	15 September 1788	Montreal SEPT-r. 15 two line strike.
4	Thomas Porter	William Yates	18 September 1811	Cross border letter by favour from Quebec, 18 September 1811 with MONTREAL 24 SEPT. 11 two line postmark (CS XIV) to Butter Nuts in Oswego, N.Y. with PAID 7 & 20 (¢) collect with Burling(ton) 28 Sep ms.
4	Thomas Stirling	Messrs. Cox & Son	2 January 1814	Letter from Cornwall mailed at Montreal, 22 January 1814 via Halifax (Fleuron) to London, England, 3 April 1814 rated PAID 4N2, double packet rate.

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
4	Sir Richard James Lawrence O'Connor	George Browne	17 April 1814	From KINGSTON AP 17 1814 and mailed at Montreal 23 April 1814 to Quebec rated 9.
4	_____	E.D. Morgan	29 June 1840	Montreal's third circular hand stamp (large split-double red). Very early date for this hand stamp. 4½ pence per sheet of paper, or enclosure, paid rate to the lines. 18-¾ cents is U.S. postage for distance of 150 to 400 miles effective March 1825.
4	John Carter	Messrs. Seth Low & Co.	10 September 1841	Montreal's third circular hand stamp. Paid 4½ pence; 18-¾ cents collect -- rates as above. Canadian postage was paid by charging to box 70.
4	_____ Holmes	D.S. Kennedy	30 July 1842	Montreal's third circular hand stamp. Paid 9 pence double rate to the lines; 37-¾ cents double rate from the lines to New York.
4	Jason C. Pierce & Sons	Messrs. Miller, Edmonston & Allan	19 October 1843	Montreal's third circular hand stamp. 1 penny collect drop letter rate.
4	_____	J.B.N. Papineau	14 January 1845	Cover only. Montreal's third circular hand stamp. ½ collect double rate.
4	_____	John Robinson	27 July 1845	Cover only. Montreal's third circular hand stamp. 4½ pence collect.

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
4	John Frothingham	Joseph Tarn	1 October 1829	Montreal circular and straight line SHIP (24 x 6) both ideal strikes in red cover to London rated 2/8, with large part of step type DOVER SHIP LETTER reverse. The SHIP straight line is very rare and the only one hitherto recorded.
5	Le Marquis de la Jonquière François Bigot	_____	15 October 1750	Grant of whaling and sealing privileges.
5	E.W.C.R. Owen	Lieut. [David] Wingfield	13 May 1815	Naval order.
5	J.M. Cadotte	_____	14 February 1817	Affidavit.
5	William E. Parry	Duke of Buckingham	1 July 1824	Cover missing
5	_____	William Hands	6 August 1821	Drummond Is. Post Office
5	T.G. Anderson	William Hands	22 September 1827	Drummond Is. Post Office.
5	_____	William Hands	12 November 1828	Drummond Is. Post Office.
5	John Stuart	Governor, H.B.C. Northern Department	5 December 1827	To go by the Winter Express
5	A.M. Hay	Roderick Hay	27 August 1830	Portsmouth Ship-Letter written at York Factory. 8d incoming ship-letter fee plus 1/5 inland postage from Portsmouth

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
5	_____	_____	6 January 1831	to Dingwall plus ½d Scottish toll claim. Voyageurs fund.
5	Peter Skene Ogden	John Stuart	27 February 1837	Deal Ship Letter. 2/8 sterling double rate collect. ¼ ship letter rate, including ship captain's fee plus ¼ inland postage.
5	Robert Campbell	John Stuart	15 March 1837	Deal Ship Letter. ¼ collect. 8d incoming ship-letter fee, plus 8d postage from Deal to London.
5	John M. McLeod	John Stuart	14 March 1838	Deal Ship Letter. ¼ collect. 8d ship-letter fee, plus 8d postage from Deal to London.
5	George McKenzie	Andrew McKenzie	2 September 1841	Written at Esquimaux Bay and mailed at Quebec. The rate of 1/10½ currency was the rate applicable to distance of 701 to 800 miles, per sheet of paper or enclosure, effective 1 June 1792. Quebec to St. Thomas, U.C. was 705 miles. 4½ pence was charged for forwarding from St. Thomas to London, for a total of 2/3 currency - collect.
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	Captain Murray	15 June 1843	St. Louis via New York, America-Liverpool Transit, Paid 15 cents, 1/ - collect.

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
6	James Stewart Clouston	James Stewart	15 September 1845	Ship Letter Brighton, 8 pence sterling collect.
6	Charles Beardmore	Nathaniel	13 January 1847	From Fort William via Bytown and Montreal to London. Rated $\frac{1}{4}$ cy = $\frac{1}{2}$ stg. collect; received and forwarded with one penny adhesive; overweight and 2d more to pay.
6	Charles Beardmore	Mrs. Beardmore	21 June 1847	From Moose Factory by H.B.C. Courier to Lachine, L.C. to London. Via Boston per Royal Mail Steamer, 1s 2d collect.
6	Charles Beardmore	Mrs Beardmore	29 October 1847	Rated $\frac{1}{2}$ sterling collect, equal to $\frac{1}{4}$ currency.
6	Charles Beardmore	Nathaniel	21 June 1848	Cover missing.
6	Charles Beardmore	Mrs. Beardmore	23 June 1848	Rated 2/4 2s. 4d. collect double rate.
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	Captain Murray	25 July 1852	Rated "8" (English postage); Straight line SHIP LETTER; Glasgow and Greenock "Arrivals".
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	Captain Murray	16 December 1852	Favour letter.
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	Thomas Keir	17 December 1852	Cover missing.

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	James Murray	18 December 1852	Ms. date Dec. 20 and Paid; also rated "19" and ms. via New York.
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	Captain Murray	28 August 1853	Cover missing.
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	Mrs. Murray (mother)	28 August 1853	Cover missing.
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	Captain Murray	3 February 1854	By favour.
6	Alexander Ross	James Ross	14 June 1854	Large 10 (cents collect) and oval black "United States 6d".
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	Captain Murray	27 October 1855	Via Red River, Nov. 6 1855 hand drawn circular postmark; large Paid 24 (cents) in reddish brown large circle (the rarest of the Red River Handstamps); and large red 19 (cents) with ms. Via New York (the 24¢ rate is via American Packet, Collins Line, as no British Packets were available due to the Crimean War).
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	Captain Murray	4 April 1856	Favour folded letter
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	Captain Murray	14 May 1857	Via New York by Royal Mail Steamer rated 24 (U.S. Packet via Collins Line); American Liverpool 31 May transit.

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	Captain Murray	13 March 1858	Cover missing.
6	Alexander Hunter Murray	Captain Murray	23 June 1858	Via St. Paul, M.T., 19 July with ms. "Via New York & Liverpool"; rated "Paid 24 (cents)" - U.S. Packet Rate via Collins Line.
6	_____	Postmaster, Toronto	19 March 1860	Rated 10 cents collect; Official Dead Letter Office Registration
6	James M. Yale	Hudson Bay House	1860	Account and cover.
7	Abraham Lincoln	_____	23 June 1863	Power to Negotiate Treaties.
7	James Nisbet	Rev. Alex McLean	23 September 1866	Cover missing.
7	Charles Mair	George Taylor Denison	9 February 1869	Cover missing.
7	Charles Mair	George T. Denison, Jr.	20 February 1869	Rated 10, via Pembina Dakota
7	Charles Mair	George T. Denison, Jr.	9 July 1869	Stamp removed or fallen off - underwritten paid.
7	Fred	George	24 August 1870	Transcript only.
7	Thomas Richards	_____	15 August 1869	Cover missing.
7	Thomas Richards	James Hackland	30 September 1869	Cover missing.

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
7	Thomas Richards	Charles Stuart	27 December 1869	Cover missing.
7	Thomas Richards	Charles Stuart	6 March 1870	Cover missing.
7	Thomas Richards	Charles Stuart	7 December 1872	Cover missing.
7	James Vincent	Charles Stuart	15 May 1873	Cover missing.
8				Riel Essay in red brown, inscribed - République canadienne - surrounding a symbolic "Liberty Head" similar to one used on French stamps - less than 6 copies known to exist.
8	G.J. Wolseley	George Taylor Denison	29 March 1870	Paid 3 (cents) rate per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce effective 1 April 1868. Postage was paid by charging to Box 308.
8	_____	_____	14 May 1870	Standing Orders for the Red River Expeditionary Force
8	Alfred Dufrene	Louis Riel	25 May 1870	Cover missing.
8	F.C. Denison	George Taylor Denison	2 July 1870	Cover missing.
8	<u>J.E. Gay</u>	_____	9 July 1870	Rapport du jour.
8	F.C. Denison	G.J. Wolseley	30 April 1871	Cover missing.
8			1875	Advertisement. "Half-Breed Lands in Manitoba".

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
8			[1885]	Advertisement "Saskatchewan Buffalo Robes".
8			[1885]	Photographs: Riel Leaders; Mosawahoh; Poundmaker; 4 Blackfoot Chiefs.
8			[1885]	Woodcuts: William Robert Oswald; Arthur T.H. Williams; Frederick D. Middleton; William D. Otter.
8	R.S. Ryerson	Mr. Ryerson	1 April 1885	Telegram.
8	F.N. Gisborne	B.S. Jenkins	6 April 1885	Telegram.
8	F.N. Gisborne	John Horn	10 April 1885	Telegram.
8			[1885]	Photographs: General Middleton <u>et al</u> at Fort Gary; troops marching over ice.
8	_____	Jas. Wayling	13 April 1885	Cover only.
8	_____	Jas. Wayling	15 May 1885	Cover only.
8	Charlie Winter	W.B. Winter	15 April 1885	One cent postcard.
8	Charlie Winter	W.B. Winter	17 April 1885	One cent postcard.
8	W.J. Tupper	Charlie (Tupper)	16 April 1885	One cent postcard and two cents soldiers' rate.
8	_____	Henry R. Smith	1 May 1885	FREE franked

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
8	_____	Henry R. Smith	11 May 1885	3 cents, rate per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, effective 1 April 1868
8	E. Ryerson	George Ryerson	6 May 1885	3 cents, rate per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
8	John Horn	_____	7 May 1885	Cover missing.
8	Henry R. Smith Jr.	Charlie	15 May 1885	Transcript only complete.
8	G.S. Ryerson	Mary	15 May 1885	Cover missing.
8	Henry R. Smith	Arthur M. Smith	21 May 1885	One cent Post Card.
8	Dr. Ryerson	_____	25 May 1885	Cover only - Great Britain 5d.
8	Lt. Col. Forrest	John Horn	26 May 1885	Cover missing.
8	W.H. Forrest	John Horn	27 May 1885	Cover missing.
8			<u>[1885]</u>	Photographs: Fort Qu'Appelle; Indian Mission School; Chief Crowfoot.
8	Lt. Col. Jackson	Lt. Col. Forrest	2 June 1885	Memorandum.
8	John Horn	Lt. Col. Gleichen	5 June 1885	Telegram.
8	_____	R. Hillier	10 June 1885	Cover only. 3 cents.
8	Le Vasseur	John Horn	13 June 1885	One cent Post Card.
8	G.S. Ryerson	Mrs. Ryerson	16 June 1885	Cover missing.

<u>File</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description and/or Notes re Postal History</u>
8	G. Guy	Col. Forrest	1 July 1885	Memorandum.
8	_____	Mrs. Myles	9 July 1885	2 cents soldier's rate
8	William D. Otter	Howard A. Kennedy	12 July 1885	Cover missing.
8	John Horn	Lt. Col <u>[Eventura]</u>	24 June 1886	Telegram.
3				Supplement. Honour Roll. Northwest Field Force.
9	Duncan Finlayson	T. Bouthillier	13 March 1857	Discusses payment of a promissory note.
9	Donald A. Smith	Henry Connolly	24 June 1872	Lateness of Connolly's accounts from Rigillette & district
9	Thomas Anderson	C. Rankin	20 Jan. 1876	Reports on state of post at Abitibi.
9	Alex Fraser	Colin Rankin	15 Dec. 1876	Reports difficulty of getting a clerk unexpectedly.
9	Murdoch Matheson	G. Grieve	20 Apr. 1885	Concerning problems with John Smith
9	A. McBride	C.C. Farr	21 June 1889	Shortage of supplies.