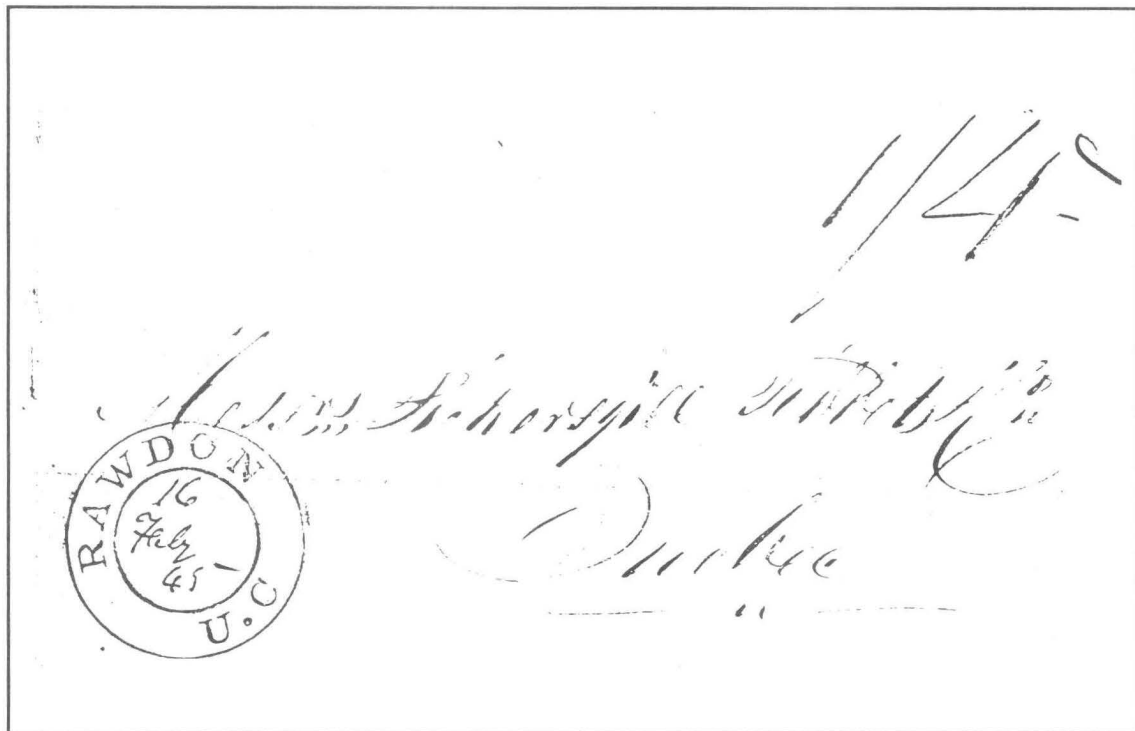


THE DOUBLE-CIRCLE MARKING OF RAWDON, UPPER CANADA

By Jacques Poitras



While I was searching through what is left of the Lower Canadian crown lands papers, in the archives here in Quebec City, I absentmindedly looked at the Thomas Griffith correspondence. Griffith was the crown lands agent and postmaster at Rawdon, near Joliette, L.C., and he wrote profusely. Since most of the fine strikes were taken out of this correspondence decades ago, it seemed that nothing of interest could appear, although dozens of "RAWDON L.C." double-circles were still left.

Suddenly, two covers caught my attention. They were dated with a "RAWDON U.C." double

circle and had been mistakenly classified with the Lower Canadian material. At home I realized that the listings of neither Campbell or De Volpi made mention of this double-circle marking. I also found that two post offices called Rawdon had been created, almost at the same time: one in 1831 in Montcalm county in Lower Canada, the other in 1832 in Hastings county in Upper Canada. Both received a double-circle postmark of the same type, the only difference being the identification of the province.

The "RAWDON U.C." marking is obviously a scarce one. So far we have seen only three

copies, dated between August 1843 and February 1845 (this last one, illustrated below, having been reported by Allan Steinhart). There may be some left in dealers' boxes.

If the letter "U" is not clear, it can still be determined by the rates. For example, the rate between Rawdon, U.C., and Quebec City was 1s 4d against 9d for Rawdon, L.C.

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