

A COVER TO CANADA

This cover was despatched on 19th September 1937 from Salisbury to a modest town in Canada. Addressed to Miss Mollie McLaren, c/o Miss Mollie Miller, Oyama, Near Vernon, British Columbia, perhaps the letter enclosed was from one cousin to another?

Oyama is a small neighbourhood in the Okanagan Valley, named after Field Marshall Iwao Oyama who fought in the Japanese-Russian War from 1900 to 1905. Oyama was also the name given to the first post office in the area which was established between 1906 and 1908.

Although the cover is marked "BY AIRMAIL" the Jusqu'a marking indicates it was not paid for beyond London so presumably made its way by sea and rail to Winnipeg where (it is assumed) the "D.w." mark was applied indicating that the cover was to continue west by rail and not revert back to air mail transit.

Jusqu'a
mark
applied
in
London.



D.w. handstamps are usually found on mail before 1932 or after 1938, so 1937 is quite unusual. Although there was no Canadian air mail service westward from Winnipeg towards British Columbia in 1937, covers from Winnipeg to the Vancouver area could be sent by air mail through the U.S.A.



After a journey of 24 days, the cover finally arrived in Vernon from whence it was sent on to its final destination – Oyama – on 12th October 1937

The Miller family is mentioned in a history of Oyama, compiled by the local Womens' Institute in 1951. Fruit growing and packing were the major industries, and a Cannery built to process tomatoes was managed by a Mr. F. Miller.