

Anyone with information on this stamp?



Pioneers of Transatlantic Mail Service

Throughout the early 1800s, thousands of immigrants arrived in what was to become Canada, seeking a new beginning. As they built their new lives in a new land, many sought to maintain a link and communicate news with friends and relatives overseas, leading to the creation of transatlantic steamship mail service. Not one, but two shipping moguls were able to fulfill this most essential service. The Cunard Line, run by Sir Samuel Cunard, began to deliver the mail from Liverpool to Halifax in 1840. Similarly, the Allan Line, run by Sir Hugh Allan, began to ship mail from Liverpool to Quebec City in 1856. On May

Cunard was born in Halifax on Nov. 21, 1787 (died April 28, 1865), the son of a Halifax carpenter and timber merchant. After serving in the War of 1812, he played an increasing role in his father's business, building its few sailing ships into a large fleet. By the 1830s, he had become very wealthy. He also became a member of the Council of the Twelve, a group established in 1719 to advise Nova Scotia's governor, deliberate on bills in the legislature's upper house and act as a civil court of appeal. In 1839, he made a submission to the British government to begin regular steamship mail service across the Atlantic. He was



28, 2004, Canada Post paid tribute to these men for their mail delivery innovation by issuing two commemorative 49-cent stamps.

By opening the lines to regular communication between England and Canada, Cunard and Allan helped to shape the future. Regular mail overseas allowed families, separated by an ocean, to keep in contact with each other. This type of overseas mail delivery helped to join Canada first with Britain and then with the rest of the world.

"These two men showed the world that it was possible to have regular contact with loved ones and business associates, even when separated by great distances," said Anne Joynt, president and CEO of Canada Post, "a tradition which Canada Post now continues. Cunard and Allan were mail pioneers and we're proud to honour their work, and carry on their tradition."

granted his request and began service the following summer with an initial trip by the **UNICORN**, followed by regular trips by the paddlewheel steamship **BRITANNIA** (which made the voyage from England to Halifax Harbor in 14 days). Cunard was one of the first Nova Scotians to build a successful business empire. His company grew to be one of the great 20th-century passenger lines, launching such famous ships as the **QUEEN MARY** and **QUEEN ELIZABETH**.

Allan, born on Sept. 29, 1810 (died Dec. 9, 1882), was a shipping magnate, railway developer and financier. In 1826, he came to Canada from his birthplace of Scotland and settled in Montreal. In 1853, he persuaded the Government of Canada to subsidize a transatlantic line to carry the mail.

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