

A MYSTERIOUS COVER

Bob Szymanski

I've sent this cover to our Catalogue Editor **Roy Gault** as a gift, which in some sense it's simply being re-patriated. But what's the story?



Wm R. Long,
Yarmouth,
Nova Scotia,

U.S.C.S. No. 1493

It has **Wm R. Long**, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, on the flap, and was mailed to **Th Endeman Esq** at 1 Rue des Italiens, Paris 9e, France. It bears four U.S postage stamps to the value of 5 cents, crossed out in pencil, and also has two GB Perfinned stamps to the value of 2½d postally cancelled 1.45PM, 7 AP/38, Victoria Docks S. O., E17. The Perfin is “US/L” (U1790.01M), used 1920-1939 by the ‘**United States Lines**’. The red ‘**U.S.C.S. No. 1493**’ cancel on the back is almost certainly from the ‘United States Customs Service’, and the receiving mark says PARIS IX, RUE HIPPOLYTE LEBAS, 9 *, 8 IV/1938.

I suspect that Nova Scotian **William R Long** went to New York, and while there intended to send a letter to his friend Thomas Enderman living in Paris, but didn't. In passing through customs his letter (and contents) were passed by Customs. On arrival in the UK he approached someone in the employ of the ‘United States Lines’, on whose ship he had just travelled, asking to have his letter posted, which the employee duly did, crossing out the U.S.A. stamps in the process. The letter arrived in Paris the next day. Any better ideas?