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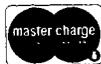
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BNATopics, Volume 62, Number 2, April-June 2005

BNATpics

Volume 62 Number 2 Whole Number 503



The Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd

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The font family is Elysium (ITC) with companion font Prague for display caps.

For an explanation of the **front cover**, see p 4.

This issue is only 64 pages long (rather than the usual 80), owing to a dearth of articles! See page 55.

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... continued on last page ...

BNA*Topics*, Volume 62, Number 2, April–June 2005

BNAPS writing awards 2002–2003

Publications Committee

EACH year BNAPS recognizes writers who contribute to BNA philately. The BNAPS Publications Committee wishes to apologize to the award winners and members of the society for the accidental omission of formal announcements of these awards for the years 2002 & 2003.

The annual *Vincent G Greene Award* is given for the “best article or series in BNATopics” during the previous calendar year. The award is named for one of Canada’s legendary philatelists, the late Vincent Graves Greene OTB, a lifelong advocate of Canadian and BNA philately. Recipients are selected by the Board of Directors from a list of recommendations prepared by members of the Publications Committee. The award is a handsome pewter stein adorned with the BNAPS crest or logo on which the year of the award and the recipient’s name are engraved.

The *Major ER Ritch Toop Military Literature Award* was named in honour of ER Toop OTB, a renowned military postal historian and author. The award is presented to the author of the “best book, article, or series on Canadian military postal history” appearing in any publication in the previous calendar year. A panel selected by the Canadian Military Mail Study Group chooses recipients. The award consists of a stylized certificate and cash honorarium.

For the calendar year 2002, **CR (Ron) McGuire** was selected as the winner of *both* the Vincent G Greene and Major ER Ritch Toop Military Literature Awards. The Greene award recognized Ron’s *Canada Postal Guide* and *Post Office architecture* articles, while the Toop award was given for his article on Canada’s C Force in the Military Collectors’ Club of Canada Journal. The awards were announced at BNAPEX 2003 in London ON. In addition to winning these BNAPS awards, in 2002 Ron completed a writing hat trick. He was also chosen by the Collector’s Club of Chicago as the winner of the Robert Pratt Award for the best article on the philately of Newfoundland for his series on the ss *Caribou* in the Postal History Society of Canada Journal.

The recipients of the Greene and Toop awards for calendar year 2003 were announced at BNAPEX 2004 in Baltimore. The Greene Award was given jointly to **Lola Caron** of Quebec City and **Jean Walton** of Califon NJ for their article *Magdalen Islands postal history 11: post offices*. The winner of the 2003 Toop award was **Steven Luciuk** of Saskatoon for his article *Remembering the Korean War*, which appeared in BNATopics.

Keywords & phrases: Awards

The cover on the cover

The Editor

SHOWN on the front cover of this issue is a recent e-Bay acquisition. It is a registered letter from Halifax to a prisoner of war held on Tucker's Island, Bermuda. It was mailed 11 March 1902 from Halifax, charged 5¢ registration plus double Empire rate (2¢ per ounce). The barred Halifax registration oval registration marking is neither common nor rare.

Six loads of prisoners from the Boer War arrived in Bermuda during the period 28 June 1901–16 January 1902. Of these 4500 men, about 800 were sent to Tucker's Island. A peace treaty was enacted in May 1902, and most soldiers had returned home by August.



Figure 1. On reverse of cover on the front of this issue

If anyone has information about the Union-Castle Line, I would appreciate hearing from them. With incomplete Hamilton Bermuda double circle.

Several members of the de Gourville family served the Boer cause; the addressee, H de Gourville, was not mentioned in references I consulted.

Ron McGuire commented that this is the first Canada to a Boer POW in Bermuda he has seen. That it is also registered (which was my primary interest in this cover) is remarkable, as very little registered mail to POWs survives, and in general registered mail from Canada to Bermuda is very scarce in this period.

Bill Gompel, who is preparing a book on Bermuda Boer War postal history (likely to come out in the latter part of 2006), commented:

I can confirm that your Canada–Bermuda cover is the first and only example recorded. You are correct that incoming registered mail to POWs is at the very least uncommon if not rare in any instance, and of course exceedingly so from Canada. The really unusual aspect of this cover is that it has no censor mark from Bermuda and this in itself is rare, especially for registered mails and, frankly, I do not know how it got to the POW without it! . . . A remarkable item!

Keywords & phrases: Bermuda, Boer War, Empire rate, prisoner of war

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Newfoundland's GPO post cards, 1895–98

Norris (Bob) Dyer

OVER the years, many stamp collectors have been enticed into the hobby by Newfoundland's attractive animal designs, royal family themes, and natural resource issues. During its independence, collectors provided a rich source of philatelic income, much of it through stamp orders from the General Post Office (GPO) in St John's.

Beginning in early 1895, the GPO issued special post cards with stamp lists on the back; these were to inform the public which issues were available for purchase. Three distinct cards were created and used until early 1898. Personal messages and annotations on cards by Postmaster General JO Fraser provided useful information that suggests that errors persist in modern catalogues.

This article describes the three GPO cards, the information they provided, and explain why their use was terminated abruptly in February 1898.

Dramatis personæ

James Oliphant Fraser He was Newfoundland's Postmaster General from 1885 until his retirement in 1901. His relationship with Colonial Secretaries Bond and Robinson was sometimes stormy, but he was an advocate of philatelic sales, serving as a one-man philatelic bureau for many years. He pointed out that philatelic correspondence was attended to "... wholly by the Postmaster General, as the clerks, with their other duties to perform, could not be depended on to act promptly" [1].

Robert Bond He became Colonial Secretary in mid-1895, taking a strong role in the activities of the post office and thereby diminishing Fraser's control. For example, he informed Fraser in 1897 that "... no stamps shall be ordered without the sanction of the Government [Bond] being first obtained" [2]. The 1897 Cabot issue was Bond's idea and he wrongly predicted the issue would reap a tidy sum from collectors as the 1893 Columbian issue had done for the United States.

A change of government forced his ouster in late 1897. His luck turned when a vote of no confidence in the new government in early 1900 allowed him to become Prime Minister and return to the paid post of Colonial Secretary. He continued his interest in philatelic matters at that time.

Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland, post card

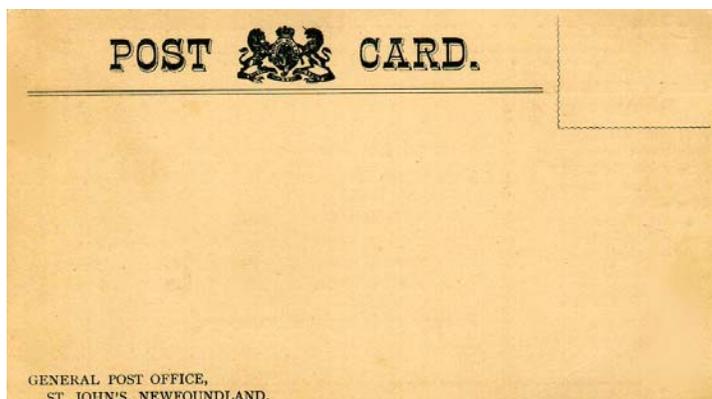


Figure 1. Front of GPO post card type 1

J Alex Robinson He was often highly critical of the post office department. When the 1¢ value of the Cabot set sold out, he editorialized in the *St John's Evening Herald* [2]:

There is the worst kind of blundering evidenced in this and it is hoped that authorities will be prompt and secure another supply before long.

A month later, in November 1897, he resigned as editor of that paper to replace Bond as Colonial Secretary. He further extended control over the post office, criticizing Fraser for pandering to collectors (more about this later); he ordered audits, and that excess stamps be destroyed.

GPO Post card type 1 In *BNATopics* # 107 (1953) p 324, I found this item in the Myerson brothers' column, *Trail of the Caribou* [3]:

Recently we came across a rather odd and interesting item. It was a post card issued by the General Post Office at S John's and though not dated, it was sent through the mails to the United States on May 25, 1896. The back of the card had the list of all the stamps on sale at the General Post Office There was a manuscript notation at the bottom "U.S. bills accepted at ½% discount." We wouldn't mind getting sheets of Nos 29 [12¢] and 31 [24¢] now, we sure would put aside plenty of blocks with the entries . . .

The brothers had obviously seen an example of GPO Post card type 1. Robert Pratt, in his classic study of nineteenth century Newfoundland postal history [1] also mentioned the card:

Fraser [in 1897] had already become aware of the value of sales to hobbyists. As early as 1895, he had special unstamped post cards prepared by the post office, advising philatelists of the stamped adhesives, post cards, envelopes and wrappers available to them. Known as early as May 5, 1895, the card was used as late as May 4, 1897, with a notation signed by Fraser reading "No re-prints (re-issues of 1896). Cabot memorial issue will soon be issued."

LIST OF ALL STAMPS ON SALE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, ST. JOHN'S, NEWF'LAND.	
ADHESIVES.	
Half-cent Black.	Stamped Envelopes, 3 cents and 5 cents. Newspaper Wrappers, 1 cent, 2 cents and 3 cents.
One cent Green.	
Two cents Red.	
Three cents Slate.	
Five cents Blue.	
Six cents Rose.	
Ten cents Black.	
Twelve cents Brown.	
Twenty-four cents Blue.	
N.B.—The cost of	
One each of the Envelopes and Wrappers is 19c.	
Five do. do. do. 85c.	
Ten do. do. do. 1.59.	
Postage and Registration, extra.	
POST CARDS.	
One cent Green.	
Two cents Vermillion.	
Four cents (reply) Rose.	

Figure 2. Back of GPO post card type 1

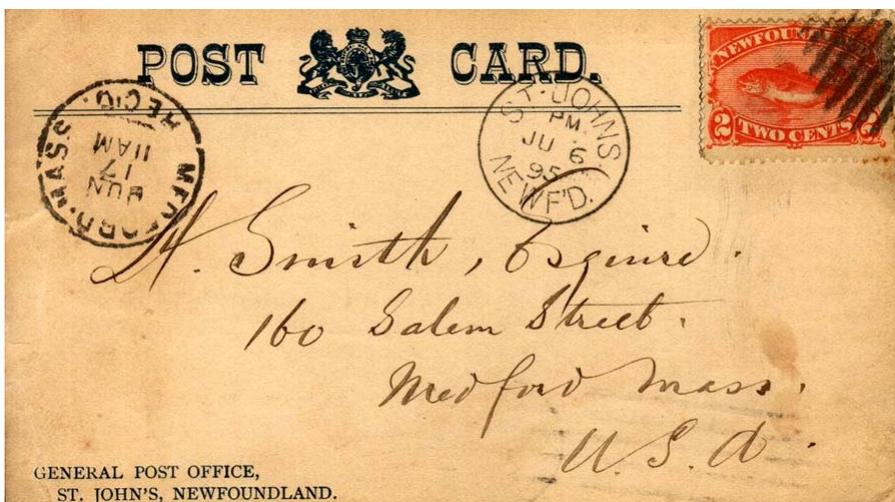


Figure 3. Type 1 used 6 June 1895

Figures 1 & 2 show respectively the front and back of the type 1 card. Figure 3 shows the front of one used 6 June 1895.

Type 1—front The overall card measures 145 mm × 82 mm. There is a horizontal rectangular space intended for a stamp, apparently the 2¢ codfish stamp, as the great majority of these cards were sent to destinations outside Newfoundland. **POST CARD** is in dark blue, double-lined block style type. The lower left inscription is 48 mm long.

Type 1—known use From a quick survey, I have found 1895: May 5, June 6, July 15, August 24 (unaddressed), & December 16; 1896: April 1 & 28, May 25 (unaddressed), August 11; and 1897: May 7.

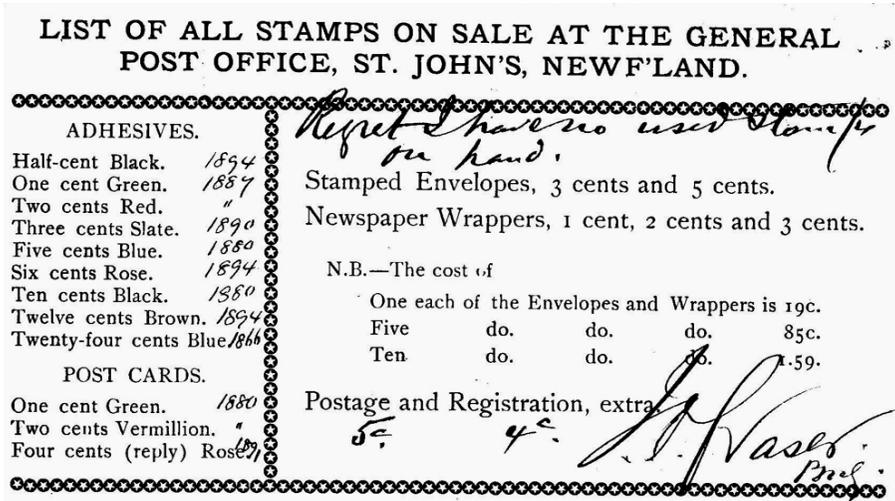


Figure 4. Back of type 1 used 28 April 1896

Type 1—back As Pratt wrote above, there is a list of all available adhesives, post cards, stamped stationery and newspapers on sale at the GPO. The list of adhesives is the most interesting feature of the back, and the one most likely to have led to confusion as some of the values had been issued in different shades or types of paper prior to the 1895 release. At some point, Fraser must have realized this, and wrote the year next to the stamps. I have found these on the two cards of April 1896 (which he also signed).

Figure 4 shows the back of a card mailed 28 April 1896. (He also pointed out there were no “used stamps on hand”). Fraser’s year additions helped, but several were a year earlier than some modern catalogues, and may have reflected order or invoice dates rather than release dates. His reference to the 5¢ blue having been from 1880 is interesting, as the stamp was also released in 1888 & 1894 in different shades. This could have been his error; however, one would assume Fraser knew the difference. The 1880 version is currently listed at considerably higher prices than the other two, although in earlier catalogues the price disparity was not so great.

The most curious year he gave was for the 10¢ black. His date is clearly 1880 but most catalogues show it as 1888. Slip of the pen? On the rather poor image I have of the 1 April 1896 card, his entry looks like 1887. Again, this could have been an invoice date, which would make more sense.

On the backs of type 1 cards sent on 1 April & August 1896, JO Fraser inscribed the following.

Reprints. ½¢ Red, 1¢ Brown, 2¢ Green, 3¢ Blue, 3¢ Brown

These were the notorious 1896 reissues. They were one of the topics on the agenda of the 1900 Commission of Inquiry (on the post office); it was motivated by the *Evening Telegram* to embarrass the government, but nevertheless revealing. Robert Pratt spent a chapter on the inquiry in his classic work [1].

The authority to prepare 100,000 stamps [20,000 of each of those mentioned above by Fraser] was contained in a letter (March 26, 1895) to the British American Bank Note Company, signed by Fraser There were a goodly number of denials concerning the order. No one would admit responsibility. Even the man who signed the order [Fraser] “did not know the reason only 20,000 of these were issued.” The 3¢ stamps were normally ordered in lots of 400,000. Placed on sale during January 1896, the stamps were offered at “selected” windows, and concurrently by other clerks to special customers.

At least one witness felt the order had been made to “please some stamp collector or other.” Chief Clerk George LeMessurier had become involved with Newfoundland dealer Nils Ohman in 1896 in an investment group that dealt with “stamps and other things” but LeMessurier claimed the business post-dated the release of the reissued stamps. Ohman, however, was the “first to receive them [the reissues] and got a goodly amount,” states Pratt [1]. This could easily cause one to suspect LeMessurier’s credibility. On the other hand, Fraser had expressed an interest in selling sets of stamps, and this is, indeed, reflected on the back of the 1 April & August 1896 cards. By May 1897, he had indicated they were no longer available, as noted above.

Most modern catalogues add a sixth stamp—a 1¢ green—to the list of the 1896 reissues, but it was not part of the order documented by Pratt. Fraser’s annotations provide confirming evidence that there were only five stamps involved. There was an issue of the green stamp in 1898, ordered when stocks of the 1¢ Cabot stamp had been exhausted (September 1897). At the time of his book (1986), Pratt recorded that “no important modern book lists these stamps properly.” The only catalogue that has this aspect right today is Stanley Gibbons—see its listing of #62–65a. This includes the five 1896 reprints and the 1898 1¢ green [4]. However, Gibbons fails to list two other 1898 printings that we will hear about shortly, the ½¢ black Newfoundland dog and the 2¢ orange codfish.

GPO post card type 2 The 14-stamp Cabot set, inspired by Secretary Bond, made its appearance 14 June 1897. At the same time, he ordered Fraser to withdraw all prior stamp issues from post offices and replace them with the new ones. Obviously, the type 1 card could no longer be used and a new one was ordered and printed. The new card appeared in July 1897. Figures 5 & 6 show the front and back of the type 2 card, respectively. Figure 7 shows one used 27 July.

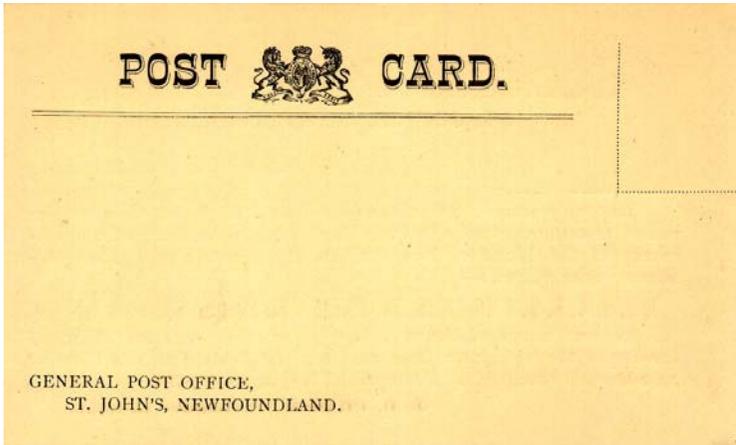


Figure 5. Front of GPO post card type 2

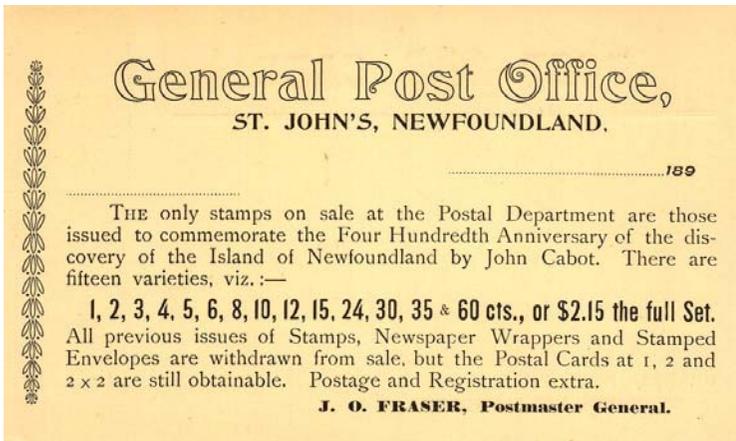


Figure 6. Back of type 2

Type 2 card—front The card measures 144 mm×87 mm. This time, the stamp box is a vertical rectangle, which was undoubtedly to accommodate the vertical orientation of the 2¢ value of the Cabot set. **POST CARD** is in a similar font to that of type 1, but in black. The lower left inscription is 60 mm.

Type 2—known use My survey found the following dates, 1897: 12 July, 27 July, 6 August, 11, 13, & 14 September, 2, 25, & 29 October, 1 November (unaddressed).

Type 2—back The message was clear—the only adhesives on sale were indi-



Figure 7. Type 2 used 27 July 1896

vidual stamps from the Cabot set or the entire set for \$2.15, and all previous stamps, newspaper wrappers and stamped envelopes had been withdrawn. Certain “postal” cards were still available. This time, Fraser’s name and title were on the card, sparing him the need to sign the cards, as he often had done with those of type 1.

There is an interesting error. The fourth line of the text refers to “fifteen varieties” in the Cabot issue. Alas, there were only fourteen in the set. On the back of an unaddressed card dated 1 November 1897, the “fifteen” is crossed out with *14* written nearby. Other writing on the card points to Fraser, so he obviously had found the error.

Speculation led to the exhaustion of the 1¢ Cabot stamp by late September 1897, and the 2¢ value was also in short supply. The plates for the Cabot set had been destroyed and few of the prior 1¢ stamps were left at the GPO. Bond ordered new designs for 1¢ & 2¢ stamps (which became the first values in the Royal Family set of 1897–1901). Fraser recommended to Bond that the 2¢ orange codfish stamp be surcharged 1¢ in the interim, but Bond resisted. As the crisis grew, he relented and allowed Fraser to have the 3¢ Victoria of 1889 surcharged **ONE CENT**.

True to his desire to sell complete sets of the Cabot for philatelic customers, Fraser retained some of the 1¢ & 2¢ Cabots. On the type 2 card of 1 November, he circled the two values and added *exhausted only to be had in sets*.

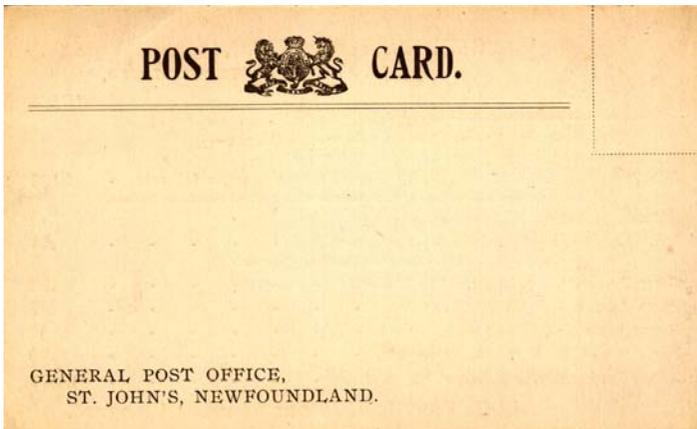


Figure 8. Front of GPO post card type 3

As with some previous cards, he noted the cost of postage and registration. In this case, he added *10¢* which applied to the United States.

On 18 November 1897, J Alex Robinson became Colonial Secretary, replacing Bond, after the Conservative Winter Government displaced Bond's Liberal Whiteway Government. Robinson then left the *Evening Herald*. Echoing his earlier concerns about the lack of 1¢ stamps, and since the new stamps had not yet appeared, he apparently felt the need to do something. On 27 November, he ordered printings of the *old* ½¢ black Newfoundland dog, the 1¢ green Prince of Wales, and 2¢ orange codfish stamp. The two new Royal Family stamps finally arrived 4 December 1897. Supplies of the older designs showed up in 1898 when they were no longer of much use.

GPO post card type 3 Pratt ([1, p 174]) wrote:

Early in 1898 . . . still another card advised [that] this order had been withdrawn [restricting the sale of pre-Cabot issues] and that earlier issues were again on sale in sets. The 1 ¤ 2 cents Cabot were in short supply and the only way they could be obtained was to purchase the full set from the post office in St John's.

Thus, GPO card type 3 appeared. Figures 8 & 9 show the front and back of the card.

Type 3—front The card measures 137 mm × 82 mm. The stamp box is a vertical rectangle again, suitable for use by the 2¢ Royal Family stamp. **POST CARD** is now in a roman type with smaller serifs, printed in black. The lower left inscription is 67 mm.

Type 3—known use 1898: 14 January, 5 February. I have reports of these two but have not seen either. The later date comes from Pratt [1].

GENERAL POST OFFICE, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,		189
THE following Stamps are on sale at this Office:—		
CABOT ISSUE, 1897, Fourteen varieties, viz.:		
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 8. 10. 12. 15. 24. 30. 35 and 60 cents. or the full set,	-	\$2.15
<small>N.B.—The One and Two Cents of this Issue cannot be obtained outside the full sets.</small>		
FORMER ISSUE, Nine varieties, viz.:		
½, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12 and 24 cents, or the set,	- - - - -	.64
<small>N.B.—This Issue is sold only in sets.</small>		
NEW PERMANENT ISSUE, 1 and 2 cents.	- - - - -	.03
POST CARDS, 1, 2, 2x2, or the set.	- - - - -	.07
ENVELOPES and WRAPPERS, the set	- - - - -	.19
Postage and Registration, on one set,	- - - - -	.20
Total cost of One each of all the above,	- - - - -	\$3.28
J. O. FRASER, Post Master General.		

Figure 9. Back of type 3

Type 3—back Apparently the new card was created to reflect what Fraser indicated in November 1897—that you could only buy the 1¢ & 2¢ Cabot stamps as part of complete sets. It also corrected the number of values in the set to “fourteen”. Additionally, it placed back on sale the pre-Cabot adhesives listed on the back of the type 1 cards. Also listed were the two “New Permanent Issue”—the 1¢ red Victoria and 2¢ orange Prince Edward stamps that had arrived in early December 1897. It provided the total cost for the adhesives and stationery. You could obtain one copy of everything on hand for \$3.28 (including postage and registration totalling 20¢). We infer that the new card was released in 1898, as it refers to the “Cabot Issue, 1897.”

It is unclear whether Fraser was authorized to place the older adhesives back on sale at that time. I say this, because much later, in November 1899, Robinson advised Fraser to arrange for the destruction of these “obsolete” postage stamps on 2 January 1900. Fraser issued a notice to this effect in the *Evening Herald*, but subsequently modified it 8 November to “announce that the restrictions on the sale of the stamps issued prior to 1897 would be removed . . .” according to Pratt [2].

When the type 3 card came to Robinson’s attention in February 1898, he became incensed and sent the following directive to Fraser.

Sir:

An advertising card, apparently issued under your direction, has come to my notice. I beg to remind you that the sale of stamps for other than postal purposes is not the province of, but only incidental to, your department, and the Government are not ambitious to place themselves in rivalry with stamp dealers. Already the reputation of the Colony is suffering from speculation in

stamps and silver, and the inevitable results are being experienced. I have to request that you will immediately withdraw these cards from circulation, and for the credit of the Colony, I can only hope that they have not already received a circulation abroad.

Pardon me for reminding you that the Post Office was established for the convenience of the people, and not as a stamp speculating concern, nor as an emporium for the sale of pictures.

This letter is extracted from a 1981 Pratt article in *Topics* [5]. Pratt went on to say “... that the cards did go abroad as several in collections attest.” Pratt also speculated that Robinson preferred more “orthodox stamps bearing the likeness of the Royal Family.”

This was the end of the 1895–1898 GPO sponsored post cards. Of course, Newfoundland did not turn its back on the many collectors around the world who desired its stamps and postal stationery but subsequent lists were more mundane and on paper.

Epilogue

JO Fraser continued to service philatelic requests, and consequently had more conflict with Secretary Robinson and other officials. In September 1899, the comptroller and auditor general, FC Berteau, claimed that the colony had lost \$160–170 as a result of diversion of stamps to Postmaster General Fraser. He recommended accounting changes and that official letters from the GPO to foreign destinations be paid for out of departmental contingency funds. Fraser was obviously annoyed and responded as follows. Let's call it an epitaph to this particular friend of the stamp collector.

I beg leave to explain that, since I first occupied the position of Postmaster General, I have kept in my drawer a general assortment of stamps for the purpose of prepaying foreign postage None of these stamps have ever been sold or exchanged in any way, being used exclusively for postage on foreign correspondence, which is very bulky principally for information on stamps Very rarely is postage sent for replies in such cases, but believing benefits will accrue and the sale of stamps increased, the practice has been to prepay such correspondence; which is attended to wholly by the Postmaster General . . . the sale of stamps is considered of sufficient importance to warrant prepaying of preliminary correspondence.

When apprised (that) any denomination of issues were being exhausted, I have placed a sheet or two of such in my drawer to keep in reserve, and have also done the same when it appeared likely the lot of stamps might be purchased. My chief object in so doing so was to begin an album of all the Newfoundland stamps procurable, but my enquiries of dealers has not enabled me thus far to report to the Government, although I am in hopes of being able to do so.

Any philatelist can only fantasize what great treasures may have lain fallow in Fraser's drawer at one time or another, awaiting the proper customer.

References

- [1] Robert H Pratt *Nineteenth century postal history of Canada and Newfoundland*, Steinway Fund, Collector's Club (1985).
- [2] ——— *Newfoundland—the gray 1890 three cent—ten years of turmoil*, Fifty-Second American Philatelic Congress (1986).
- [3] Frères Meyerson *Trail of the Caribou* BNA**Topics** (1953) p324.
- [4] Stanley Gibbons *Stamp catalogue, Newfoundland listings* (2003).
- [5] Robert H Pratt *Newfoundland—the postage stamps of 1897. A tale of two secretaries. The Cabot and Royal issues*. BNA**Topics** March–April 1981 p3.

To be released at BNAPEX 2005 (Edmonton)

Law stamps of British Columbia and their uses 1879–1984

Ian McTaggart-Cowan's award-winning exhibit has been scanned into #36 in the BNAPS Exhibit Series. Spiral bound, 170 pages, 8.5" × 11" (2005); retail price \$C104.50 (colour), \$C37.95 (b&w).

British Columbia and Vancouver Island postal history, colonial period 1858–1871 Warren Wilkinson's Grand Award-winning exhibit at BNAPEX 2003 in London (ON) has been scanned and can now be viewed as #37 in the BNAPS Exhibit Series. This exhibit was the first ever to be awarded BNAPS' Horace H Harrison Grand Award. Spiral bound, 160 pages, 8.5" × 11" (2005); retail price \$C102 (colour), \$C36.95 (b&w).

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Newfoundland's Sudan booklet— discovery, recognition, origin

CR McGuire

EVER since first learning of the existence of the Newfoundland Sudan booklet—Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue (NSSC) BK1—it has intrigued me to know its true history. This interest was increased by the controversy that surrounded it, Eastern Auctions' 23 August 2002 sale (which featured this booklet as lot #764, estimated at \$7500, realizing \$8000 plus the various percentages), and Dean Mario's article *Newfoundland's 1919 Sudan booklet—bogus or bona fide* (BNA**T**opics Vol 59, #4) October–December 2002 pp 44–51.

Dean's excellent article refers to all the previous references to this booklet, and certainly clearly states his opinion about its status.



Figure 1. Sudan booklet

Described in NSSC as *Complete booklet, "Essay Prototype" with perforations through tabs. Pale salmon cover with two staples (perf 14.1×14.1). Front cover, Sudan Post Office (English). Back cover (Arabic).*

In the summer of 2004, I finally decided to contact John Walsh. During a lengthy telephone conversation, John told me all he knew about the booklet. The information certainly helped me to decide that the booklet *is* in fact genuine and confirmed what I thought from the beginning, that it is actually a printer's essay which was intended to be presented for consideration and acceptance by the Newfoundland post office.

When I gave John my opinion and suggested that the booklet be listed as an essay, he agreed, and assured me it would be shown accordingly in the

Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland, Sudan booklet

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edition of the NSSC. I understand that the next NSSC is now expected to appear before the end of this year as the 2006 sixth edition. I also understand that the new version will have many updates, much new information, and some surprising additions.

As I requested during our conversation, John prepared and sent me what follows. It is the story of the discovery of the booklet, and I think it should be published for the record. I have had the text for many months and have simply been remiss in not giving it to our editor before now. My apologies to all concerned. However, it is a good example of the old adage, *better late than never*.

John Walsh's narrative

In late 1993, C Francis Rowe, a renowned collector of Newfoundlandia, philatelist, and a member of an informal local Newfoundland study group, called me to announce a major discovery. As best I can recall, the following conversation took place.

Rowe: Hi, John, Rowe here. You will not believe what I was given just now.

Walsh: You must've gotten a new bank note for your collection [Francis' passion for Newfoundland currency was greater than for his stamps; his collection became the basis of the Newfoundland Museum's public display].

R: No, but you are close. It's a Newfoundland booklet to complement my booklet collection.

W: Sure, Francis, you have all the booklets. I already sold you the Ayre's booklet and some of the 1932 issue booklets. The other '32 issues you already have. What could be new.

R: Well, a personal friend who was a Newfoundlander and served as a captain with the British Navy in World War I gave me the booklet. He told me he got it while over there, he didn't need to use it and brought it back home with him. He was stuck over there into the 1920s.

W: But the war was over in November 1918. What booklet are you talking about? The earliest Newfoundland booklet I know of was with the 1923 issue.

R: He was still over there long after the war was over.

W: Was he injured and recovering in a hospital?

R: No, but he continued serving over there.

W: Very good.

R: It has "Sudan" printed on the front and has Caribou issue stamps in it.

W: (silence) Well! (longer silence)

R: Hmm, you still there?

W: Yes; you home? Can I leave now and go see this?

R: Well, it's lunch time. But come on over.

W: No problem. I'm on the way. I'll have tea only. (*Rushes out the door.*)

With that call, I became focused on the questions surrounding the origin and nature of the booklet, and of course, of its authenticity.

For the remainder of the afternoon, Francis and I studied the booklet. We observed that the booklet had not been taken apart. There was glassine type interleaving that displayed different advertising writeups that were repeated at regular intervals. Printed on the cover was specific information that also repeated at regular intervals. We noted that the spacing seemed to have been designed around a stamp pane being of smaller-sized stamp images that that of the Newfoundland Caribou issue stamp sizes. Even after being asked several times, Francis declined to name the previous owner. He did volunteer the information that while in the forces, his friend was promoted to an officer's rank, and helped recovering servicemen.

With the booklet remaining unbroken, Francis decided to write the Royal Philatelic Society in London about it, and later decided to visit the postal museum in London and elsewhere if necessary to pursue the trail to its source. But Francis' plans changed and he did not go. However, he did write several organizations for information. Replies were slow, and most were not informative. At this point, Francis, my very good friend John G Butt, and I believed—based largely on what was said by the previous owner who was not a stamp collector—that the booklet was manufactured for and issued gratis to soldiers in hospital who wished to write home to their loved ones.

Later, Sir John Inglefield-Watson, a member of the Sudan study group, provided Francis some useful information on the booklet. The way the print was set up on the card stock, being used front and back, he said, it came from a printing press; as well, the interleaving also had come from a printing press. In addition, the layout was set up for a smaller formatted booklet size item then in vogue and it was printed to enable separation. He noted the spaced repetition of the same printing information.

Sir John further stated, "I believe that your booklet is far less likely to have been an unofficial concoction than to have had some official status." I notice that some other writers assume that Sir John was incorrect, and without having seen the booklet, make ill-formed statements about it.

What the editors of the Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue believe We believe that the original owner most likely worked with the Newfoundland High Commission to Great Britain. We think that he was the contact between the Newfoundland Post Office Department and its contracted printer, Whitehead, Morris & Co.

We believe that the printer proposed packaging stamps in a small, portable format to facilitate carriage and storage. Interleaving was necessary to prevent the panes from sticking together—especially in the African climate.

Advertising was sold on the interleaving panes to finance the venture. Following the example, perhaps, of other countries' booklets, the printer requested some Newfoundland stamps to create a working model. A contemporary issue of special significance to servicemen was offered—the 1¢ green Caribou issue of 1919. Since this stamp was designed to be taller and wider, and the card stock and interleaving material available to the printers was therefore too small, other stock had to be cut to accommodate packaging the stamps.

Finally, was the booklet issued to servicemen, or was it a trial essay? Based on what Francis learned from the original owner, it appears to have been issued in a small quantity. On reflection, however, we believe this Newfoundland Sudan booklet was a trial essay for the booklet programme initiated by the Newfoundland Post Office Department with the Ayre's booklet in 1926 (NSSC BK2).

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The PHSC publishes an award-winning quarterly journal, sponsors seminars on Canadian postal history, offers awards & prizes for postal history exhibits at philatelic shows across Canada, and publishes important books and monographs relating to Canadian postal history. Recent publications include *Allan Steinhart, Postal Historian* (\$29.69ppd to Canada; a few copies remain—get yours *now* before this goes out of print). More monographs and books are planned for the near future. Manuscripts are solicited.

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For more information or membership forms, please contact the Secretary, Stéphane Cloutier, 5048 County Rd 10, Fournier ON K0B 1G0 Canada
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Cover stories (5)

Mike Street

The fourth column in a series concerning unusual, rare, or otherwise interesting postal history. This time we deal with **domestic parcels** & C.O.D.

Ask yourself how often people who do not collect stamps have thrown away parcel wrappers or, at best, torn just the stamps off to give to someone who is a collector. Now you know why people who collect the postal history of an issue or an era are always on the lookout for postal items other than letters. In this installment of the series we will look at parcel and C.O.D. articles mailed within Canada.

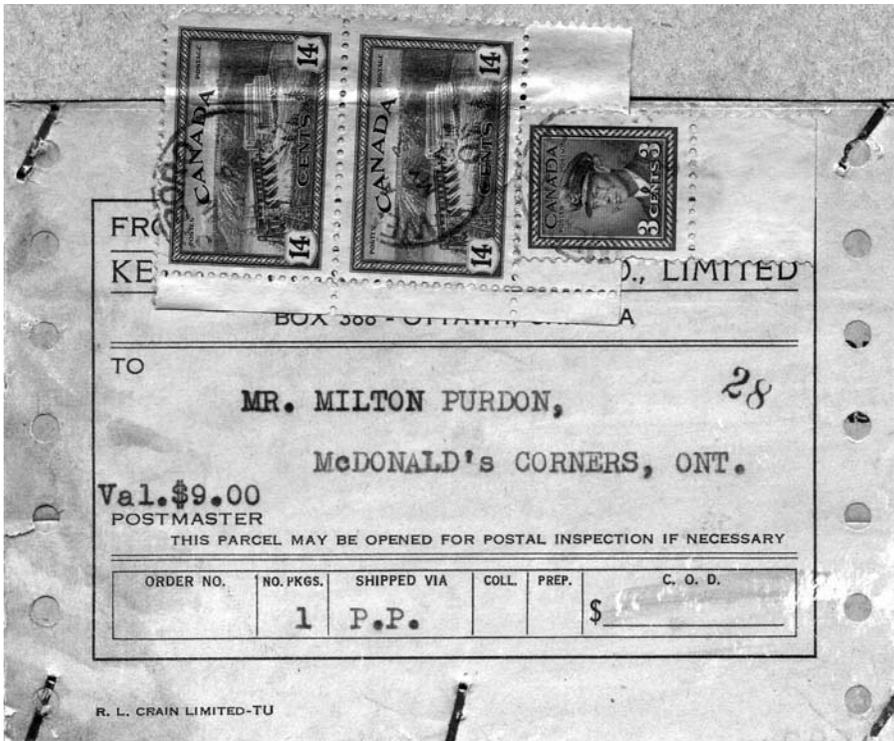


Figure 1. Parcel, Westboro–Nepean ON (1948)

Postage of 31¢, for parcel post within Ontario to a point more than twenty miles away, weighing 68–80 ounces.

Keywords & phrases: parcels, C.O.D., money packets



Figure 2. Large piece, Edmonton–Stettler AB (1947)
With \$1.08 postage.

Parcels

The label in Figure 1 was attached to a parcel mailed from Westboro ON (now Nepean, a major part of the west end of Ottawa) to McDonald's Corners 3 May 1948. The cost for a package between 4 lb, 4 oz and 5 pounds, mailed within Ontario to a destination more than 20 miles from the point of origin, was 31¢. This was paid by a pair of the 14¢ peace Issue (Scott # 270) and a single 3¢ George VI War issue stamp (Sc 252).

Figure 2 shows single \$1 (Sc 273) and 8¢ (Sc 268) peace issue stamps attached to a piece of brown wrapping paper. There is also what appears to be a blue crayon mark vertically through the stamps, similar to part of the cross- or ×-shaped mark used to identify registered items in the United Kingdom. Mailed 26 April 1947 from Edmonton, Alberta Sub. No. 19 to Stettler AB, it looks like a parcel wrapper, but was it? Maybe not.

According to the 1947 *Canada Official Postal Guide*, articles mailed by parcel post could not be registered (with two exceptions—see below), so that possibility must be discarded. At the time the maximum weight for any parcel

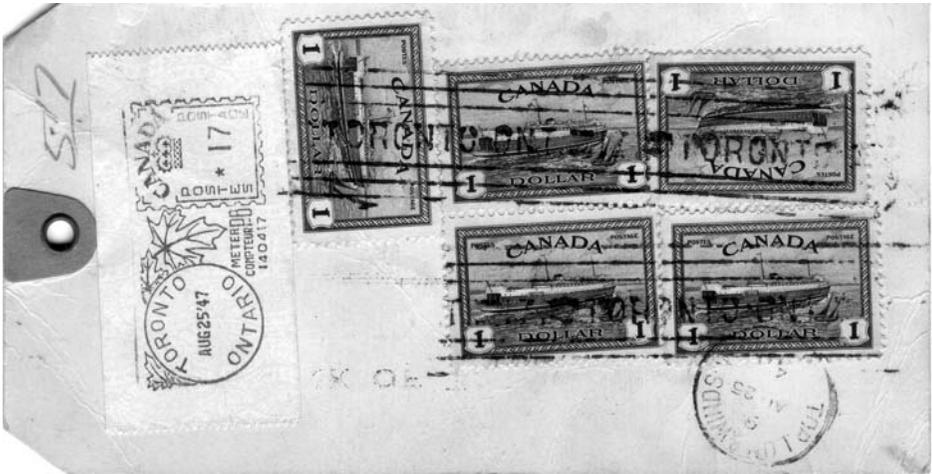


Figure 3. Money packet tag, Toronto–Oil Springs ON reverse (1947)

With \$5 in stamps and 17¢ on the meter tape, making up 10¢ registration fee plus money packet fee for 10 1-ounce at 7¢ for the first ounce and 5¢ for each additional.



Figure 4. Front of money packet tag in Figure 3

mailed in Canada was 25 pounds, and the maximum parcel post rate for 20–25 pounds was 90¢. A parcel was automatically insured for a value of up to \$50 without additional postage. Extra insurance to a maximum of \$100 was available upon payment of an additional 12¢. Thus postage for a parcel weighing 20–25 pounds and insured for an amount exceeding \$100 would have been \$1.02—6¢ less than the postage on the wrapper. In 1947, it was

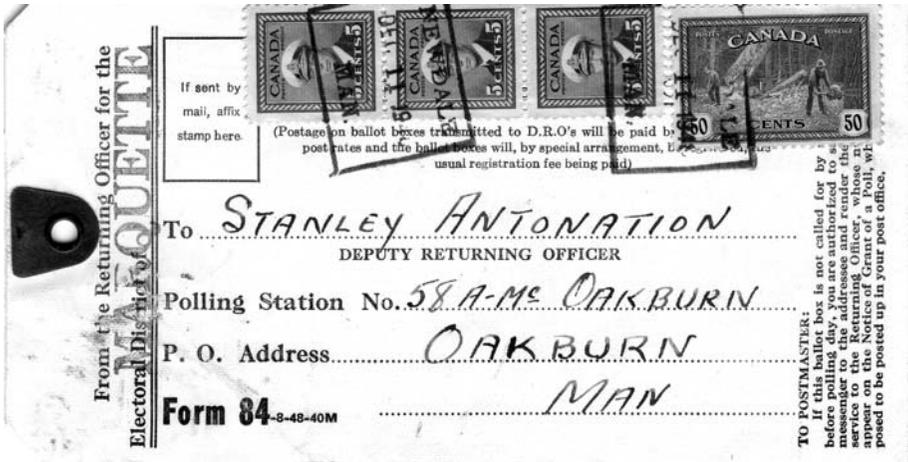


Figure 5. Ballot box tag, registered parcel post (1948)

From the area Returning Officer to the Deputy Returning Officer; registration fee 10 ¢ and 5 ¢ parcel post rate for a parcel weighing 148 ounces.

more likely that the sender of such a large parcel would have purchased the exactly required stamps at a post office, rather than using postage kept at home and overpaying even a relatively small amount such as 6 ¢.

What could have required exactly \$1.08 in postage? The search ultimately led to the letter mail section. The first class rate for non-local delivery within Canada was 4 ¢ for the first ounce and 2 ¢ for each additional. A quick calculation showed that a 53-ounce "letter" would cost exactly \$1.08. A letter that weighed 3lb, 5 ounces would be pretty big, but the arithmetic works. I believe that this wrapper actually enclosed a heavy package mailed at the first class letter rate. The crayon mark was a *blue* herring.

Sending large amounts of money through the mails has been a practice of Canadian banks for a long time. The tag in Figures 3 & 4 was attached to such a bundle. Mailed from Toronto to Oil Springs ON (near Sarnia, site of the world's first oil well), the \$5.17 postage was paid by five \$1 peace issue stamps (Sc273) and a 17¢ Pitney-Bowes meter tape. As shown by the postmarks, the package was registered 25 August 1947 at Toronto's Postal Terminal A and the stamps on the tag cancelled by a TORONTO-ONT=17= roller cancel (Lee type Q). It arrived in Oil Springs the next day, by train, as attested by the TOR. LON & WINDSOR RPO cancellation (Ludlow 0-356). The rate of postage for money packets was 7 ¢ for the first ounce and 5 ¢ for each additional ounce or fraction thereof, and it was also necessary to pay the 10 ¢ registration fee. Registration and the first ounce took up the



Figure 5a. Turned ballot box (1955)

Top is mailed from the Returning Officer for Nanaimo & the Islands to Fulford Harbour (BC), with \$1.40 in postage. Bottom shows the return trip, with small rectangular registration handstamp applied at Fulford Harbour, and larger receiving registration hammer (partially shown) applied at Nanaimo. The vote concerned a liquor plebiscite. —from the—hic!—editor's collection.

17¢ on the meter tape, leaving the \$5 in stamps to pay for 100 additional ounces. Thus the total weight of the parcel was 6lb, 4–5 ounces. For more information on money packets, see [s] & [H].

Election time in Canada results in all kinds of material going through the mail, including ballot boxes being sent by area Returning Officers (RO) to local Deputy Returning Officers (DRO) in smaller towns. The exception(s) to the rule that parcel post could not be registered (in effect on domestic mail since ca 1922, on international mail since 1914) occur with the mailing of ballot boxes. From the area RO to the DRO (before the election), and vice

versa (after the election), ballot boxes were to be sent as registered parcel post [1]. From the Returning Officer (before the election), postage had to be paid in stamps; from the District Returning Officer (after the election), postage was free, at least for federal elections.

Figure 5 shows a tag for an accompanying ballot box, mailed 11 December 1948 from Newdale to Oakburn, both in Manitoba. A 50¢ peace issue (Sc 272) and three 5¢ George VI War Issue (Sc 255) stamps paid 10¢ registration and 55¢ for a parcel weighing 9lb, 4 ounces. A boxed R Newdale registration handstamp is on the otherwise blank reverse of the tag.

Figure 5a, from the Editor's collection, is a 1955 *turned* ballot box cover. That is to say, it was originally attached to the ballot box sent from the RO for Nanaimo & the Islands to the DRO in Fulford Harbour. It was then reused to return the ballot box to the RO. The postage from the RO is metered \$1.40, made up from 20¢ registration fee in effect at the time and \$1.20 parcel post for 15–20 pounds and more than 20 miles within BC. Below it is the preprinted return use, addressed to the Returning Officer, mailed from Fulford Harbour. It has had \$1.40 in postage applied (regrettably, hardly anything is left of the second 50¢ stamp). If you look carefully at the image, you will see impressions of thumb tacks at all eight corners, obviously indicating how this was attached to the ballot box.

This example seems to contradict the earlier assertion that the return postage (from the DRO to the RO) was free. However, in this case, the vote concerned a liquor plebiscite—not a federal election.

Cash on delivery (COD)

The envelope in Figure 6 was mailed NO(V) 28, (19)38 at Toronto Sub. No. 125. It passed through the Registration Division at Toronto's Postal Terminal A before going to the addressee in London ON (indistinct arrival date). It looks straightforward—10¢ for registration, 8¢ postage, paid by a 10¢ Mountie (Sc 223) and single 3¢ & 5¢ George VI Mufti stamps (Sc 233 & 235)—but it isn't. The COD label on the back, tied by a Sub.125 cancellation as seen in Figure 7, is the focus of the difficulty.

In 1938, the COD fee was 15¢ for a parcel valued at \$50 or less, 30¢ if valued over \$50 and up to \$100. The COD fee was charged in addition to regular postage, and was paid by postage stamps affixed to the article. According to the Postal Guide, the COD fee also covered insurance **or** registration. Insurance (up to \$50 for the 15¢ COD fee) was covered for parcels prepaid at parcel post rates. Registration, with a maximum indemnity of \$25, was covered when the article was prepaid at other than parcel post rates. The M(oney) O(rder) Com(mission) in the box on the triangular COD



Figure 6. Registered COD Toronto–London (1938)
COD label on reverse (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Reverse of cover in Figure 6
With yellow triangular COD etiquette.

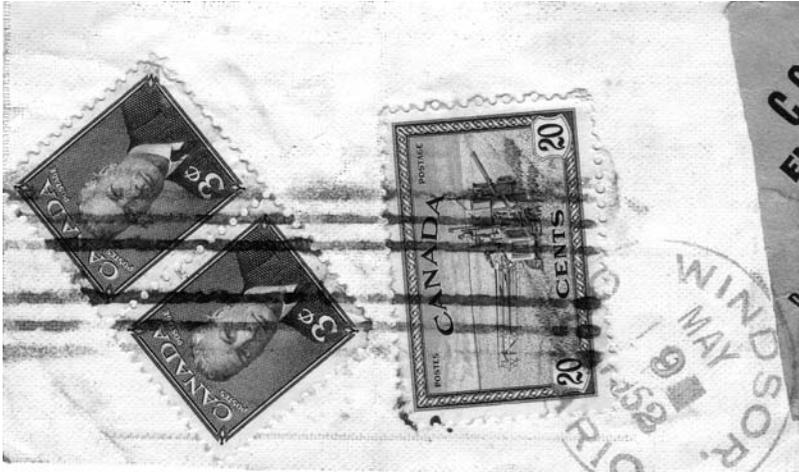


Figure 8. Peace issue parcel post COD (1952)

Charged 15¢ COD fee (value \$6.42) and 11¢ parcel post rate (more than 20 miles distant, within Ontario).

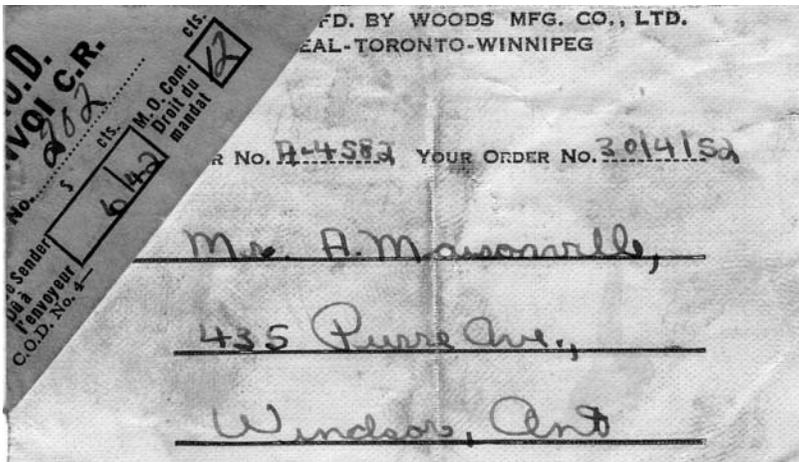


Figure 9. Address side of cover in Figure 8

label was payable by the recipient and so does not enter into postage payable for this cover. See below in this article for more about the money order fee.

After subtracting the 15¢ COD fee from the 18¢ postage paid we are left with an unaccounted-for 3¢ in postage. Since the item was registered, this meant that the packet was sent by first class mail. The cost of an out-of-town first class letter was 3¢ for the first ounce, so the envelope weighed



Figure 10. COD tags (1947 & 1948)



Figure 11. Reverse of tags in Figure 10

up to one ounce and was mailed COD, first class. Being this light, perhaps it contained a hard-earned Boy Scout badge? Thanks very much to Gary Steele of Halifax for supplying this most interesting item.

One of my best finds, and first ever peace issue COD item, is illustrated in Figures 8 & 9. While scouting stamp shops in Windsor (a long time ago) during a visit to nearby relatives, I spotted this tag in a junk box and

was *very* pleased to pay the grand sum of 25¢ for it. The 26¢ in postage, paid by a single 20¢ peace (Sc 271) and a pair of 3¢ George VI *Postes-Postage* stamps (Sc 286), was cancelled by a six-bar roller with no city or town name. Addressed to Windsor ON, the MFD. BY information on the tag suggests that it was mailed from Montreal, Toronto, or Winnipeg. A Windsor receiver dated 9 May 1952 overlaps the roller cancel.

In May 1952, COD service cost 10¢ for values up to \$2, 15¢ for values over \$2 but not exceeding \$50, and 30¢ for a value over \$50 but not exceeding \$100. The COD label says that the value of the package was \$6.42, so the fee on this item was 15¢. Since it was not registered, the remaining 11¢ paid a parcel post rate. The Postal Guide rate table for Ontario says that 10¢ was the maximum rate for a parcel up to one pound mailed in Windsor to a local address, while a ten ounce parcel mailed from a point more than 20 miles away would have cost 11¢. Because the 11¢ rate could have applied from anywhere in the country, the originating post office is uncertain, but it was most likely Toronto.

The large C.O.D. on the tags in Figure 10 suggests that the stamps on the reverse (Figure 11) paid COD fees. This is not the case. On the back of each tag can be seen the partly obscured text, SCHEDULE OF MONEY ORDER COMMISSION, including Revenue Tax 3¢, followed by a table of rates. The stamps paid the commission, and were applied by the originating post office after this portion of the tag was returned by the receiving post office to confirm that the item had been delivered to the addressee and the payment money order to the sender. The pair of 8¢ peace issue (Sc 268) stamps paid the 16¢ fee for a money order for \$10–20. The cancellations tell us this article was dispatched from Midland ON to Desjarlais AB on MR 10, (19)47 and the return portion of the tag had arrived back in Midland by MR 29, (19)47. The single 10¢ peace issue (Sc 269) paid the 10¢ fee for a money order for 1¢–\$5. According to the cancellations, this article left Midland for Honey Harbour ON on JUN(E) 25, (19)48 and the tag returned to Midland on JUL(Y) 19, (19)48. The purpose of this process was to ensure that the Midland Post Office got accounting credit for selling the money orders.

For more information on COD, including rates and practices, see [H2].

It can take a lot of time to unravel the postage paid for mailing an article, but solving these puzzles can be both fun and rewarding. In the next installment we will look at international parcels.

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References

- [C] Canada Official Postal Guides 1938–39, 1947, 1947–Reprint (1949) and 1952–53.
 [H] David Handelman *Money packets*, BNA**T**opics Vol 58 (2001) pp 6–12.
 [H2] ——— *Cash on delivery*, J Postal History Society of Canada # 100, p 54.
 [S] Robert C Smith *Money packet rates*, BNA**T**opics Vol 58 (2001) p 5.
 [SW] Jeff Switt, J Postal History Society of Canada # 38, p 19.

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Stampless corner (4)

The Editor

The fourth in a series of occasional articles covering the stampless period in Canadian postal history. This column concerns concessionary rates allowed military personnel serving in the Empire.

SOLDIERS and sailors serving in the British Army or Navy were entitled to a special concessionary rate on mail received or sent out. This column discusses examples to or from Canada.



Figure 1. Soldier's concessionary rate (1802)

Mailed from Quebec to Montreal, with handstamp **PAID** 1d; the normal postage was 9d cy. Commanding officer's endorsement at lower left. There is a faint Quebec straightline on reverse, dated 3 August 1802. The sixth (British) regiment was stationed at Quebec 1799–1806.

From [R] (the authoritative book on British and some Empire rates before 1840), concessionary rates for the military were introduced in 1795, and

Keywords & phrases: stampless, soldier's concession, Bermuda, British Guiana, yellow fever

modified occasionally thereafter. The only personnel eligible for these cheap rates were sergeants and below (although seargeants-major were sometimes excluded) and their equivalent ranks (seaman, soldier, etc). Excluded were commissioned officers, warrant officers, midshipmen, and various odds and ends, such as civilian employees.

The 1795 act gave the rates as 1d if prepaid from the solider (seaman, etc), and 1d collect if addressed to the soldier; this applied only to single weight letters, but was good from/to anywhere in the British Empire. If the letter from the soldier were sent collect, it would be charged the usual rate, which could be quite substantial; if it were prepaid to the soldier, it would also be charged the full rate. In 1806, the rules were modified so that the concessionary postage had to be prepaid in either direction, otherwise the full rate would be charged.

In 1823, special concessionary rates were applied to the East Indies (the Indian subcontinent); from there, mail had to be sent collect, and was charged 3d, made up of 1d concessionary rate and 2d gratuity (to the captain of the private ship carrying the mail). This was increased to 4d in 1840.

Soldier's letters (as they are traditionally called, even if sent by seamen) are usually easy to identify. The lower left corner will typically have a signature of the commanding officer of the sender, frequently written at a 45° angle from upper left to lower right, together with his rank and unit. Figure 1 shows an 1802 example mailed from Quebec to Montreal. The signature at the lower left reads *WF Macbean/Lt Col Com of 6th Regt*. In this case, it was conveniently marked *a soldier's letter*, but not many are so indicated. This is quite early for a Canadian soldier's letter (to or from Canada).

As observed previously, commissioned officers were not eligible for the concessionary rates. Figure 2 shows such an example, mailed in 1814 by a British officer in Antwerp (Belgium) to *America*, meaning British America. It went via Halifax and Montreal. The rates marks are faint, and will likely not show in the image, but full rates were charged.

The 1834 item in Figure 3, although in bad shape, with faded handwriting, is likely the only known one to BNA with an India soldier's letter handstamp. The commanding officer's endorsement appears above the address, in slightly more legible handwriting, *JL Fletcher Sr Lt HMS Curacoa/Madras Africa*. He misspelled *Curaçao*, and located Madras in Africa. It was rated in conformance with the rules above, 3d collect combined concessionary rate and gratuity according to the handstamp, and then rerated (manuscript) 4d, charged the almost ubiquitous 1d local delivery fee at Halifax. While the address is so faint as to be almost unreadable, there is a standard Halifax NS circle (at least the NS is legible) below and to the right of the big circle.

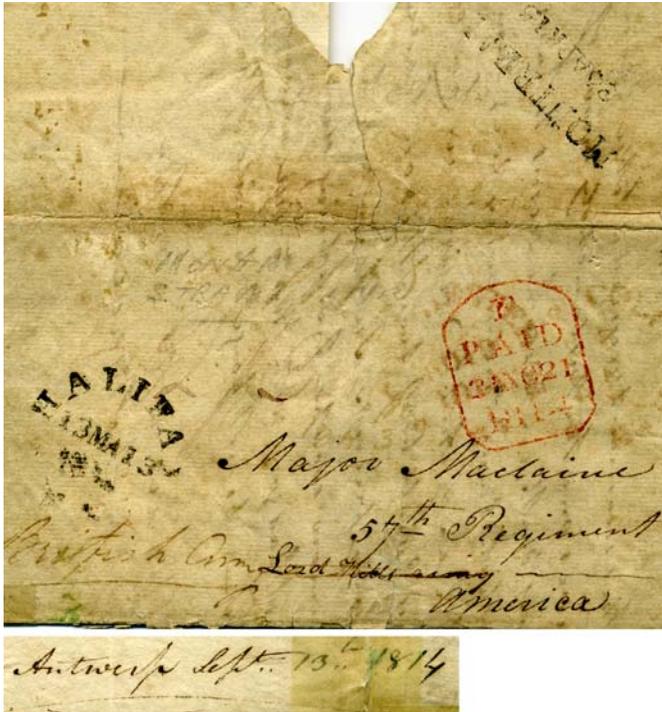


Figure 2. Officers' mail ineligible for concessionary rates (1814–15)

From Antwerp, arrived in Colchester (two faint red date stamps at right), 19 & 20 November 1814. The rating is complicated, and part of the following is conjectural. The faint rate marks are (in red) *Pd* 2/3, (red or black) 1/8, and (red or black) 3/3. The red 2/3 (stg) is prepaid and is made up of the packet rate (1/3) from Falmouth, and the internal UK rate from Colchester to Falmouth (360 miles, 1/1, less one penny for transatlantic service).

The 1/8 possibly refers to the rate Antwerp–United Kingdom (it had just recently changed from 1/4). There is a problem—how could the transatlantic fee be prepaid? Thanks to Kevin Preece for his comments on the rates.

On arrival at Halifax (four blobs marking, dated 13 March 1815), it was charged an additional 3/3 (currency), obviously collect, equivalent to 2/10 sterling, covering a single rate for a distance 1400–1500 miles, which would put the address far to the west of York (Toronto). There is a Montreal straightline transit mark, dated 20 April 1815.

It was addressed to Major Maclaine, 57th Regiment, given initially as part of Lord Hill's Army, which was struck through and replaced by *British Army*. Lord Hill was one of Wellington's high-ranking officers, participating at Waterloo, and was still in Europe at the time.

The 57th regiment (Middlesex, 1755–1966, known as the *Die hards*, from which that expression came into use in English) had been shipped to Canada in May 1814 to participate in the War of 1812, which was almost over. Most of the regiment had returned to the UK by August 1815.



Figure 3. India Soldier's letter to Halifax via London (1834)

Large brown red postmark (the character after the *R* is an ampersand &) is Robertson InSol-5 ([T, 196]), known use 1823–1848, not listed in other than black; however, the reddish brown colour could be a result of exposure. The ship carrying it to England is unknown; however, from Falmouth, it was carried on the packet *Lady Pelham*, arriving in Halifax 22 September. This also accounts for the notation *Packet* appearing to the right of the big circle. Condition is terrible, but this is the only India soldier's handstamp letter to BNA of which I am aware.

The rest of the article is devoted to a recent acquisition, a lot of eleven soldiers' letters to Montreal, over the period 1827–1841. Not all are illustrated. They are from the same soldier, Mark Josephs, who rises through the ranks, from private to colour sergeant (all the while, remaining eligible for the concessionary rate), to his in-laws, named Borrowdale. He was posted in various places, including Ireland, Bermuda, and British Guiana.

There was a twelfth item in the lot, which sets the stage—an undated letter from the Chaplain to HM Forces, Montreal, to Mr Borrowdale.

Montreal May 7th

I think it my duty to inform you that your daughter Elisabeth is going to commit a foolish act which may occasion her sorrow as long as she lives. She is about to unite herself to a common soldier of the 76th regiment.

I have nothing particular against the character of the young man. But I know what are the miseries and indecencies of a common barrack room, and I regret that so respectable a young woman should throw herself into such a situation.



Figure 4. Borrowdale correspondence, from Ireland (1827)
Addressed by Mark Josephs to his sister-in-law.

Indeed both your daughters are in every point of view so respectable that any father might be proud of them and I have always treated them as daughters rather than as servants.

On the present occasion, I have given to Elisabeth the advice of a father, but her heart appears to be set on the marriage and all counsel is in vain. As she is under 21 years of age, she cannot marry without your consent. I request therefore you will write to me by return of post, either giving or withholding your consent. Direct to . . .

The paper is watermarked 1823, and the first of the soldier's letters to the Borrowdales is dated 1827. Although the chaplain did not give the soldier's name, his regiment, the 76th, is consistent with that of Mark Josephs, the sender of the rest of the letters. (And he does start off as soldier.) The letter is addressed to Odletown, an alternative spelling for Odelltown on the Island of Montreal, which had a post office from 1878 to 1913.

Figure 4 shows the earliest soldier's letter in the correspondence, 1827, mailed from Waterford, Ireland (76th Regiment, light infantry), to Miss Ann Borrowdale (sister of his wife) care of the same Chaplain (BB Stevens) in Montreal. It looks the way a soldier's letter is supposed to—his name, rank and unit across the top, and the endorsement by his commanding officer at an

angle to the left. (Slightly atypically, the handwriting goes to the upper left.) There is a very large ms *Pd 1d* in red, indicating the prepaid concessionary rate, a faint large red Waterford circle, and a small British tombstone paid marking. He talks of potatoes being plentiful in Ireland (this was before the Irish potato famine).

There are three more soldiers' letters from Ireland (explicitly, postmarked at Tiperrary and Cashell) in the period 1828–1830, to his father-in-law; the 1828 letter is endorsed *Corporal Josephs*, and the 1830 letter is endorsed *Sergeant*. The next letter is from Athlone, also in Ireland, and is dated 1832. It begins:

Dear Sir

Athlone 3rd September 1832

It is now nearly two years since I wrote to you and have received no answer, which surprises both myself and my wife, as neither of us can in any way account for your sorry silence, a silence that gives my Elizabeth . . .

. . . This country is in a sad state, what with agitation and the cholera raging in almost every town in Ireland. . .

Elizabeth was spelled with a *z* here, but with an *s* by the chaplain. The next letter, about six months later, acknowledges his father-in-law's reply. Then there is a long gap, until 1839. Now Josephs is colour sergeant of the regiment, and he is stationed in British Guiana. Figure 5 shows this soldier's letter. There is a very rough circular handstamp of Demerara (in two parts) on reverse, and a common Montreal double circle on the front. There are no rate marks at all, but presumably it was conveyed at the prepaid 1d rate.

The letter is filled with the usual pathos:

Caponey Essequibo 19th June 1839

Dear Father and Mother,

With pleasure I now write to inform you that I received your welcome letter dated 16th August [1838] and feel quite happy that you are all well. As this leaves us all at present thanks the Almighty—the West Indies is a very unhealthy climate. We have lost our fine children, a boy and girl, named Thomas and Mary, since our arrival in the West Indies, and the regiment has lost three hundred and twenty besides women and children.

We have still two children, a boy and girl, named Henry and Ann; Henry eighteen months old, and Ann ten years. We are sincerely sorry to hear of the death of Hannah [?] and hope that Henry and Margaret have recovered their health.

I read in the papers of a skirmish having taken place between a party of the rebels and the volunteers of Oddle Town in which the volunteers behaved with greater spirit.

You wish to know how long our regiment is likely to remain in the West Indies; that is quite uncertain as it entirely depends on the state of affairs in Canada. If that country continues in a disturbed state, it will be the means of our re-

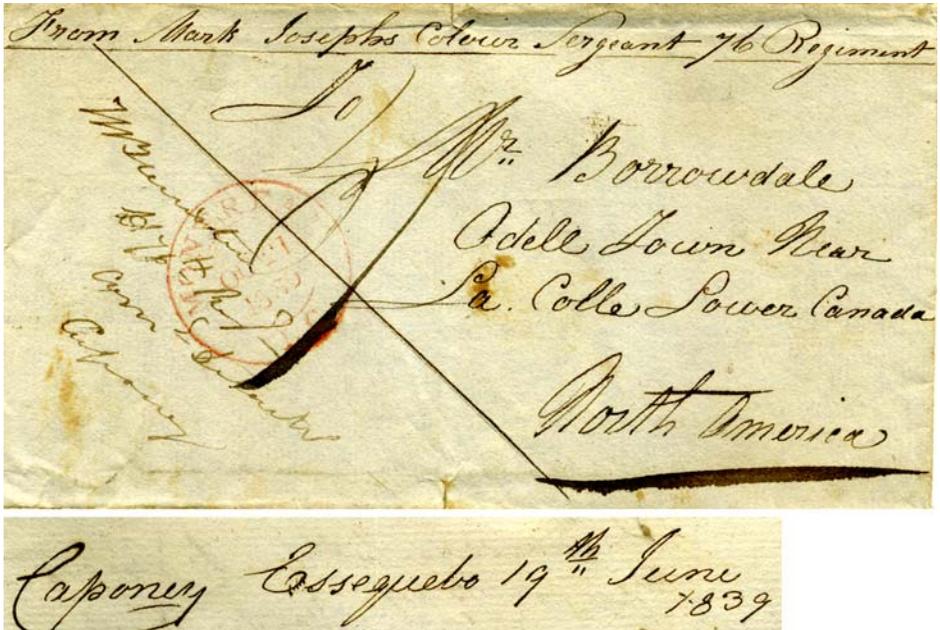


Figure 5. Borrowdale correspondence from Essequibo (1839)

Dated *Caponey Essequibo*, the latter is now spelled with an *i*. I couldn't find any reference to Caponey (or Capony, or Caponi, . . .). The officer's endorsement is largely illegible. Now addressed to Odell Town near La Colle. There is a very poor strike of Demerara (only DEM is readable) on reverse.

moval to America sooner than otherwise, as there is only one regiment before us, namely the 67th and the at-present under orders. However, I have every reason to believe that our stay in the West Indies will not exceed more than one year.

I have little more than two years to complete the period of twenty one years service, when if please God spares me and I hold the same rank as at present, I shall be able to get my discharge with a pension of one shilling and eight pence per day. Although I could now get my discharge and about fifty pounds as a compensation for past services, which sum would no more than defray the expenses of passage either to England or Canada, and then what little ready monehy I am in possession of besides; amounting say to about one hundred and forty or fifty pounds sterling, the savings of our industry, would go but a very little way in setting us for life unless we received some assistance on our [xxx].

Betsey [Elizabeth] wishes to know your advice on the above. Likewise the age of yourself and her mother as well as which of her sisters and brothers are at home with you, . . .

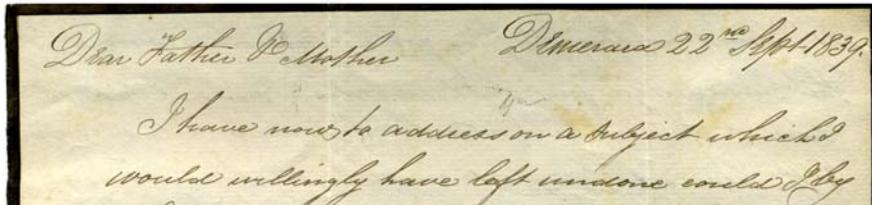


Figure 6. Borrowdale correspondence from Demerara (1839)

Large red manuscript *Pd 1*, and faint black Demerara handstamp on reverse. The small tombstone is a common London marking, the double outline indicating evening duty. Obviously the letter was carried from British Guiana to London, then to Falmouth, and back across the Atlantic. Black-bordered mourning letter (the paper on the back really is in a different colour from that of the front).

The “unhealthy conditions” likely refers to the epidemic of yellow fever that broke out in British Guiana in 1837, about which more in the next letter. The skirmish of course refers to the 1837 Lower Canada rebellion; since news travelled slowly, it is not surprising he didn’t read about it until almost two years after it occurred.

The next letter (Figure 6), datelined Demerara, again with the poorest of strikes, is on black-outlined mourning paper. It is dated 22 September 1839, just a few months after the previous one.

Demerara 22 September 1839

Dear Father and Mother

I have now to address on a subject which I would willingly have left undone could I by that means have kept the melancholy news I have to relate from reaching you by any other channel, as I am aware that it will be received with the deepest regret. But if it is felt so by you what must be my grief to yours, you have certainly lost a beloved daughter but me an affectionate wife and one who in the army had scarce a parallel both as a wife and mother.

She died of the yellow fever after three or four days sickness and what still heightens my misfortunes I was in hospital with the fever at the time she was fallen sick. I had not even the melancholy satisfaction of attending her in her last moments.

Dear Father and Mother, I hope you will not take this too much to heart, as I am now thank God get quite sound, consequently the children are not quite orphans, altho' I cannot take care of them as their mother could. The children are both very well and the fever which raged so much in the Colony is now much abated and scarce any case latterly has been fatal.

We lost about 70 men in three months besides six officers and the band [xxx], and about seven women and seven children, which is about one man out of three according to the number of men we had here so after all I have to thank God that he spared me to look after the children when such a number has been taken off with the same complaint that seized me.

The regiment expected to leave here about April or May for Barbados, when we shall either be sent home or go to America, but whether the regiment leaves or not, the Commanding Officer has promised to send me to the Depot as soon as the draught arrives if God spares me so long.

I have sent you a lock of my wife's hair cut off a few days previous to her being sick as I think you will prize it more than anything else I could have sent you.

Give my kind love to my brother and sisters and let them know that we had been laying it out a few days before we were seized with the sickness to go and stop with them. But it pleased God to take her before hand. Ann sends her love to all, and should it please God to spare us, I trust we shall all meet again in the course of a few months as it is my intention to settle along with you after I am discharged. . . .

More bad luck befalls Colour Sergeant Josephs. His next letter, datelined Hamilton, Bermuda 4 June 1841, gives his rank as private soldier. He explains in his letter, this one addressed to his sister-in-law Margaret Borrowdale, that he was complaining too loudly that his CO's promise (in the letter immediately above) to get him out of the West Indies had not been kept. This resulted in a drastic demotion. The cover, in addition to being a soldier's letter to Canada from Bermuda, has a very scarce large Bermuda Paid handstamp on reverse; however, this also appears on the next cover, which is illustrated here.

The final one in the correspondence (Figure 7) is the most remarkable

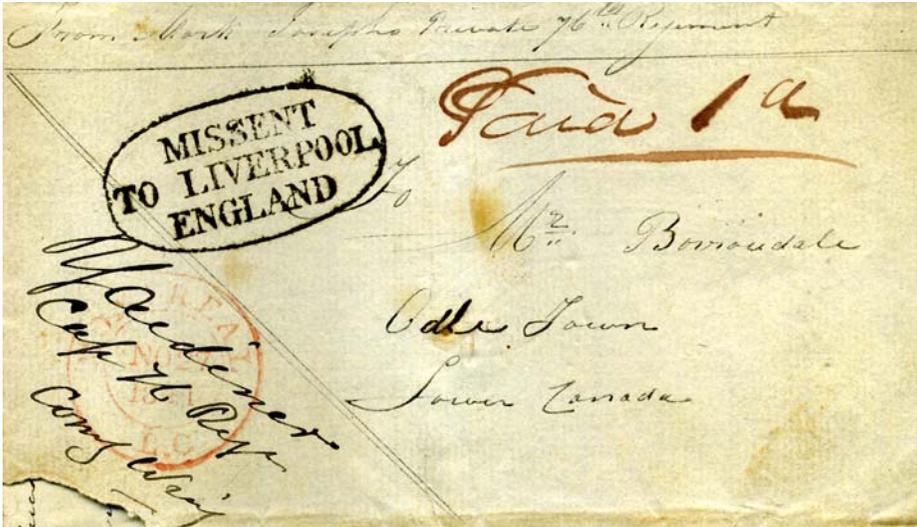


Figure 7. Missent to Liverpool soldier's letter to Canada (September 1841)

Mailed from Hamilton Bermuda with rare large Bermuda Paid handstamp on reverse, shown in Figure 7a. This is the second recorded strike of the missent handstamp. Also with common Montreal double circle receiving mark, dated November 1841.

Kevin Preece was kind enough to supply the following information about the route. From the date of the Bermuda handstamp, the letter was likely carried by the *Margaret* on that date, arriving at Halifax on 11 October. Presumably, it was misdirected at this point, and put aboard the *Acadia*, leaving Halifax on 18 October, arriving in Liverpool on 29 October. Then it was put aboard the *Caledonia* leaving Liverpool 4 November, arriving in Halifax 16 November (and Boston on the 18th).

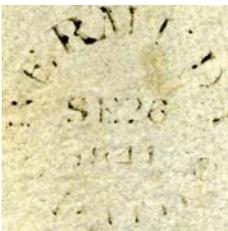


Figure 7a. Bermuda Paid circular handstamp on reverse (26 September 1841)
One of five recorded (in black).

in terms of postal history. Mailed from Hamilton (Bermuda) in September 1841, it not only has the rare Bermuda Paid handstamp on reverse (the fifth example in black—including that on the previous letter—that Danny Han-

delman and I could find a record of), but has an exceptionally clear strike of the missent to Liverpool oval. This is recorded in [T, 161] with proof date of 3 December 1840, and the comment *not seen*. This is the second example in the literature (that we could find), the first also having Canadian content. It appeared on a domestic Upper Canada money letter mailed 3 July 1841. This was lot # 312 of Cavendish Auctions Vivien Sussex golden jubilee sale of 6 March 2002. It was ex-Steinhart(!), and sold for £2,800 plus the vig.

The content of the letter in Figure 7 is rather interesting. We find that the marriage took place 28 May 1827 *in the protestant church of Quebec*. This letter is in reply to a letter from his father-in-law in which the latter terms Josephs' demotion a disgrace to his family. Josephs replies that demotions take place for trivial reasons, and he had been offered promotion (presumably to his former rank) on two occasions, but declined, as it would have required staying longer in the army. He gives his mailing address as Halifax-on-Eton (England) where the 76th will be stationed. And that is the last that we hear of former colour sergeant Mark Josephs.

Danny and I managed to find some information on the 76th regiment on the Internet. The following is summarized from [B] and other sources. The regiment was formed in 1787, and served in India 1788–1806. It arrived in BNA in 1814, and the War of 1812 ended, the 76th was left in Canada to assist in watching the border, and continued until 1827, when it was recalled to Britain. It left the West Indies to go to Nova Scotia in 1841 (so had Josephs stayed on, he would have returned to BNA), and removed in 1842. It did not participate in any wars.

References

- [B] www.bermuda-online.org/britarmy.htm
- [R] David Robinson *for the Port & Carriage of letters*, published by the author, Scotland (1990).
- [T] Colin Tabear *Robertson revisited*, James Bendon, Limassol, Cyprus (1997).

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Book Reviews



↻ Auction catalogue: *The Allan L Steinhart collection of prestamp and stampless covers to, from and through British North America 1685–1865*, HA Harmers SA (Zürich), taking place 26 May 2005, pp vi + 231. Annotated by Bill Longley. Oversized format, perfect bound, colour images. Published by the auction house, Via Balestra 7, 6900 Lugano, Switzerland.

ALLAN STEINHART was the foremost collector of and researcher in Canadian postal history ever. When he died prematurely in 1996, it sent a shock wave through the Canadian postal history community—the dealer/collector who regularly dug up rare and exotic material and then wrote it up for posterity, would no longer be supplying his clients with new stuff, nor satisfying numerous editors desperate for articles.

His particular specialty was BNA stampless postal history. He found early (frequently, the earliest) material to or from foreign destinations, important historical documents and letters, did a major study of Canada–France postal history, In the decade since his death, it appears that interest in the stampless period has declined (at least, that is my impression). Instead, county and other regional postmark collecting have become fashionable. Thus I was somewhat surprised when it was announced that his material would be auctioned off this year.

The material in the catalogue is organized by destination/origin; Allan thought that incoming and through mail was just as important postal history as outgoing. This is standard in other countries' postal history, but meets resistance for BNA, for reasons I do not understand.

The first item in the catalogue (lot #1001) is the 1685 Quebec–Paris cover, described as the earliest known cover in private hands from New France. (Allan told me that he had been offered one or two 1672 covers from New France to La Rochelle, but at such an exorbitant price that he had to turn them down; these aren't referred to in the lot description.) The estimate was SF7,500–10,000 (a Swiss franc is very close to a Canadian dollar); it went for SF47,500! The next lot, the earliest cover from abroad to New France went for SF32,500, with an estimate of SF7,500–10,000.

After the New France covers, there are 39 pages dealing with mail between Canada and the United Kingdom (inexplicably called *England* in the catalogue), and 17 for Canada–France mail. These were two of Allan's favourite



Figure 1. New Orleans to Sardinia, wrecked off Nova Scotia (1847)

Lot # 1370, an extremely complicated route and rating, just the sort of thing Allan loved. Estimated SF 1,500–2,000, it went for SF 4,500. For the explanation, see the catalogue!

subjects, indeed these collections were published in Hennok's series of books on Canadian philately. Then comes the extensive Canada–US mail. After this, each of the provinces, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, is treated in the same way.

The Western and Northern material comes up next, with some spectacular items. Lot # 1440 is the 1858 Red River manuscript cover. There are about 10–12 Red River manuscripts known (according to a JPHSC article by David Whiteley), typically selling for \$5,000 (of course, there are many dozens of Canadian towns for which a unique manuscript is known—each of these might reach \$75 on a good day). This one is different—it is smaller! I don't regard differences in size or shape of manuscripts as significant, but according to the catalogue hyperbole, it is unique. Apparently, the high bidder and underbidder on this lot didn't know much about it (or didn't care); it sold for an incredible SF 55,000.

The remainder of the auction consisted of other overseas material and large lots.

The lot descriptions (except for those of the larger lots) are very detailed, and one could learn a lot of postal history from perusing the catalogue. One should also learn to be skeptical of auctioneers' descriptions. Virtually all items of importance are illustrated, and in full colour.

Even many of the large lots were viewable on the Internet—and live bidding was available on e-Bay. The optimal procedure was to view the lots on e-Bay, then send in your bids by e-mail or to an agent (before the auction), rather than attempting to bid live. Why? Well, in addition to the European 18% vigorish,* successful live bids via e-Bay were hit with an additional 5 points. (The prices quoted above and below are pre-vig; add 18%+ or 23%+ shipping to get the real cost.) It was fascinating, however, to watch the prices changing as the e-Bay screen was refreshed.

The large lots (euphemistically called *balance lots*) were disappointing—not for what they contained (some of which was fantastic), but for the limited descriptions. For example, lot # 1556, consisting of 80 covers France–Canada (many of which I presume were in the published Canada–France collection), was probably much better than described, and went under the SF7,500–10,000 estimate (SF5,500). Almost all of the large lots sold for well under the estimate, frequently half or less.

I can understand a very large auction house not wishing to lot individually (or in small groups) items that are not up to the quality of the stars, but it does a disservice both to collectors and to the owner to offer large clumps of underdescribed material. If the house cannot or will not break them up, then it should offer that material to a smaller firm that will do it. Otherwise, there is a possibility of abuse.

It is very difficult to estimate the price on this sort of material, especially with the Canadian stampless market in the doldrums. This is reflected by the percentage of prices that did not fall in the range of the estimates—a quick sampling yielded about 90%! I had hoped that the prices would have been higher than they were. While there were some extremely high prices, the vast majority of the material went for less than what was expected.

The prices realized were available (on the Internet) quite soon after the individual lots closed. However, while the prices on the floor were in increments of Swiss francs, what was published on the net was the equivalent in US dollars, but *rounded to the nearest increment*. This caused confusion (at least for me), because it was usually not possible to determine whether you were the winning bidder or the underbidder. I suspect this unwanted translation was to ease the way for US bidders. If I were American, I would be insulted by the implicit assumption that I cannot or will not perform the arithmetic needed to convert from a foreign currency to dollars.

The lot descriptions are very detailed (except, as described above, for the

* Usually called *hammer fee*, but I prefer the argot term. Fans of Telly Savalas (*Kojak*) will know that the short form is *vig*.

large lots), much more than in almost any other auction catalogue I have seen. The images are excellent, and the index is very detailed. Unusually and commendably, there is even a reference list. (My name is unique among those in the list of references—it is misspelled.) The catalogue is excellent, and the publisher should be congratulated (for that aspect of the auction). Everyone who is interested in BNA stampless material should get a copy of this catalogue.

This is an important record of *the* BNA stampless collection.

Editor



☞ BNAPS exhibit series book # 35 *Prince Edward Island philately 1794–1873*, Martyn Cusworth, pp187. Over-sized format, coil bound, colour images. Published by BNAPS (2005). Available from BNAPS book department, c/o Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 112 Sparks Street, Ottawa ON K1P 5B6; phone (613) 235–9119, e-mail kimmerly@iankimmerley.com

THIS is Martyn Cusworth's important pre-Confederation PEI collection, digitally scanned in colour. It won the Allan Steinhart (reserve grand) award at BNAPEX 2004 in Baltimore. Much of the collection was sold at a Firby auction earlier this year, so this book will become a significant document in PEI philately.

Prince Edward Island did not issue stamps until 1861, and their use was optional, so pages 3–48 are devoted to stampless postal history. PEI's development was stultified by absentee landlords in Britain, so far fewer covers exist for the Island than for Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. Nonetheless, there is an interesting variety of postmarks and some rates and routes material shown.

Irritatingly, the postmarks are numbered and described according to the 1987 book by James Lehr, *Postage stamps and cancellations of Prince Edward Island 1814–1873*. This work was based on a very limited sampling of material, with authoritative-sounding assertions based on the slimmest of evidence (similar to some other recent books on Canadian postal history). Why a collector would choose to use Lehr, rather than Douglas Murray's *2000 postmarks of Prince Edward Island* (and its companion work on PEI post offices), is mysterious to me. Lehr's book is incomplete at best, and often unreliable; Murray's is scholarly and systematic, and strives for completeness.

References that are useful for PEI postal history and philately include the section on the province in Robson Lowe's *Encyclopædia* (Volume v, 1972),

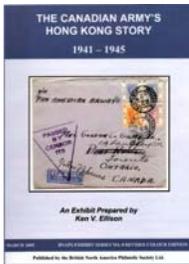
as well as Tomlinson's 1948 article in the *Journal of the Royal Philatelic Society London*, and a very obscure publication by Tomlinson & Clougher (printed in a run of 100). This limited reference list shows how difficult it is to obtain postal history information on the province.

Pages 49–164 show PEI stamps, on and off cover. There is a lot of outstanding material here, including one of five known examples of the rouletted (rather than perforated) 2d, and some extremely rare registered covers.

The next section, pp 166–181, is devoted to postal relations with other jurisdictions, e.g., incoming mail from the other provinces, as well as UK, and the US. Spectacular covers from India and France conclude this portion of the exhibit.

The final six pages deal with fakes, forgeries, and bogus items. These pages were prepared in a different font, and might not have been part of the original exhibit. Faked cancellations are shown on p 165. There is a lot of faked PEI material (especially covers) out there, and this section will serve as a useful warning to collectors.

There is no substantive table of contents, nor an index. There is no space before left parentheses in the write-up, and this is a little distracting. The illustrations are superb; this is one publication where the additional cost of the colour version is fully worthwhile. *Editor*



☞ BNAPS exhibit series book # 8 *Force C—the Canadian Army's Hong Kong story 1941–1945*, Ken Ellison. Oversized format, coil bound, colour or black & white. Published by BNAPS (2005). Prices not including shipping or GST, \$C33.95 (B & W), \$C89 (colour), from BNAPS book department, c/o Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 112 Sparks Street, Ottawa ON K1P 5B6; phone (613) 235–9119, e-mail kimmerly@iankimmerley.com

MILITARY postal historians and other enthusiasts interested in rare material and a fascinating story will be very pleased with an entirely new version of Ken V Ellison's original 1998 *Force C*, BNAPS Exhibit Series book (# 8) reprinted recently by the Publications Committee.

This new edition has been reprinted using quality computer-scanned originals (instead of earlier master photocopies), and the difference between the 1998 and 2005 versions is remarkable. New technology and printing processes have greatly improved the illustrations and now the books can be obtained in both full colour and black & white editions.

The colour review copy shows dramatic improvements in the quality of the images of the postal markings. In the previous edition, some markings (especially those in blue, carmine, or magenta) were difficult to see, but now the colour scans make them completely legible. Presumably the black & white scanned version is equal in quality. Those who have never experienced Ken's wonderful award-winning exhibit in person can rejoice with this new book!

All of the rare and elusive Force C material from the 1998 edition has been included, and several interesting pieces have been added. Force C mail is arguably among the rarest of Canadian military postal history (given the tragic circumstances surrounding the contingent), yet Ken has managed to add several more items to elaborate the story. The addition of a few poignant period photographs also adds to the exhibit book. The extra collateral material, both postal history and documents, is welcome; these items have greatly enhanced the publication.

Although some of the book's illustrations have been reduced, the overall effect with the other pages is now more uniform and attractive. Several have been enlarged to show detail and are now better defined. One of the noticeable improvements is the larger print in most of the text. I also appreciated the addition of the author's photograph and some biographical information.

There are a few minor cosmetic observations which might have improved the new reprinted version. Some text could have been placed above and below the illustrated material. The use of white space is often repetitive, with pages frequently appearing to be the same. Correcting this would have resulted in a more attractive exhibit. Curiously, there is outlining on some illustrations but not around others. These are minor criticisms, and they do not detract from the substantial improvement over the earlier version.

Collectors and students of military postal history will immediately recognize the importance of this new volume. Not only is the story of Force C an important one in Canada's military past, but Ken Ellison's exhibit and its treatment of the postal aspects of the Force deserve praise and attention. Rarely does one have the opportunity to view a near-complete collection of the postal history of an obscure Canadian military force. This new work is highly recommended.

Dean W Mario

What's new?— Library and Archives Canada Philatelic Collections

Cimon Morin

Former acquisitions

Lester E Small fonds [graphic material] 1950–90, 341 photographs: negative, black & white, some colour. Fonds consists of various photographs of British Columbia and Yukon Territory post offices. [R4551]

Julian C Smith collection [philatelic record] 1851–1872, seven postage stamps. Collection consists of Province of Canada/Canada unused postage stamps including 3d beaver (1851); ½d Queen Victoria (1857); 10¢ Prince Albert (1859); 3¢ & 15¢ large queen (1868); 1¢ small queen (1872). [R4600]

EA Smythies fonds [philatelic record, textual record, graphic material] 1857–1894, 697 postage stamps and other material. Fonds consists of stamps and related philatelic material collected by EA Smythies. Smythies took particular interest in fakes and forgeries and this is reflected in the fonds. Many of the stamps are themselves forgeries, including one complete pane. Among the material is a set of six notebooks and writings which pre-date the publication of Smythies' books.

The writings cover BNA forgeries, registered stamps and cancellations, and the postal history of Hampshire, among other topics. The fonds is comprised of 390 postage stamps [forged; Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Vancouver Island, Canada, and British Columbia], 307 postage stamps [genuine; Newfoundland (1857–1894), New Brunswick (1851–1860), Nova Scotia (1851–1863), Vancouver Island (1865), British Columbia (1865–1871), and Prince Edward Island (1862–1872)], one pane of postage stamps [forged], seven sheets of plate proofs [Nova Scotia (1860–1863), one leaf [bearing engraved letterhead], 18 postal covers [bearing nineteenth century Prince Edward Island postage stamps], six volumes of notes, and two black & white photographs. Forgers discussed include Jean de Sperati, Angelo Panelli and Philip Spiro. [R3853]

Michael J Squirell fonds [philatelic record, graphic material] 1852–1951, 165 postal covers, eight photographs black & white, one print. Fonds consists of a research collection, 1852–1951, of 164 Canadian postally used covers and

Keywords & phrases: National Archives of Canada

postage stamps, entitled *North Shore and Manitoulin Island post offices*, bearing various postmarks of communities located in Algoma, Nipissing, Sudbury, Manitoulin Island, and other Ontario districts; and miscellaneous research notes relating to the North Shore and Manitoulin Island postal cover collection; and a photograph of the Gore Bay, Ontario squared circle steel postage stamp cancellation hammer.

Fonds also contains seven original photographs depicting various scenes of the Dominion Land Survey Party, Peace River, District of Alberta, March 1907–December 1909. Fonds also contains a postally-used cover addressed to Thomas Garland, Caledonia post office, Ontario, bearing a Providence Bay postmark, 12 April 1880. The fonds also contains a private issue photo postcard bearing a 1908 Gore Bay squared circle postmark, that depicts a native encampment at Gore Bay, Ontario. [R3856]

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an invitation to join the



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Two polar bears fighting in a blizzard?

No one wants to see an article like this—a blank space. But that's what we'll get unless the Editor receives more articles, letters, fillers, and what-not for *Topics*. This issue was only $\frac{4}{5}$ of its usual size and months late largely because of a lack of material.

Readers speak

A column for readers to express their views, ask questions, or add information to previously published articles.

From Rob McGuinness (BC), on the red “carded” label, appearing on the front cover of Topics #502, described on p 77

Rob provided scans of one postage due and four registered covers each with a red *carded* etiquette, used in the period 1981–86, all addressed to British Columbia.



Figure 1. Don Mills–Richmond, deep red sticker (June 1981)
With print data 86 571 099; the 1 is very faint.

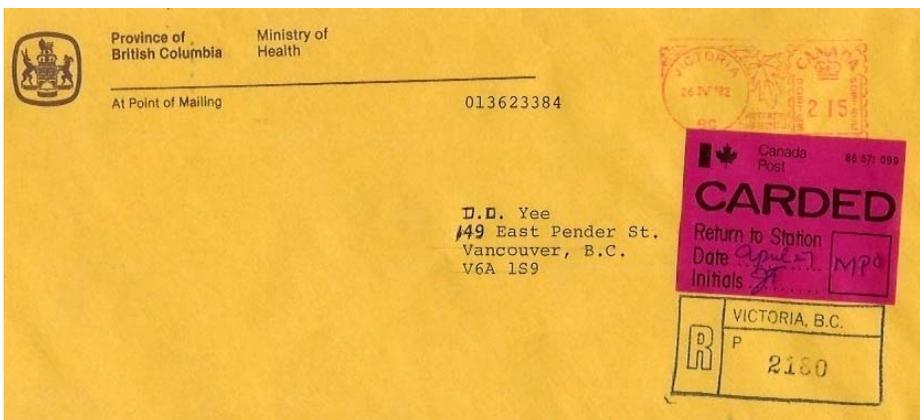


Figure 2. Victoria–Vancouver, deep red sticker (April 1982)
Same print data.

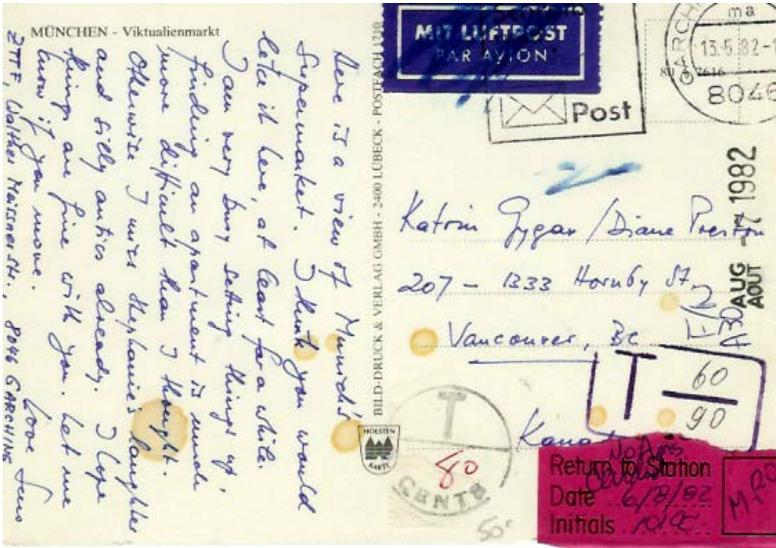


Figure 3. Postage due Germany–Vancouver, deep red sticker (August 1982)

Charged 80¢ postage due—no postage was applied, and the airmail sticker was defaced, indicating surface mailing; the top portion of the sticker has been deliberately removed to avoid covering the German due marking. The notation *MPO* is clearly visible in the box. Evidently an abnormal use of the sticker, as the card was not registered; however, the postage due had to be collected.

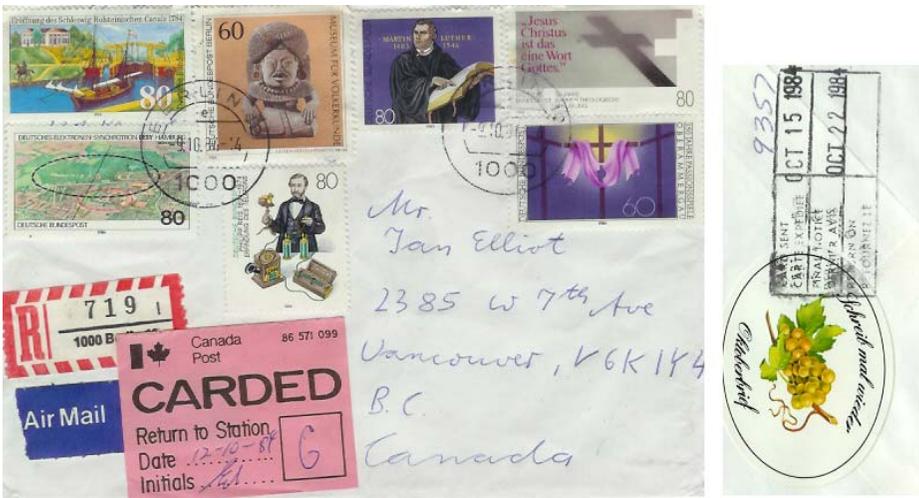


Figure 4. Germany–Vancouver, pale red sticker (October 1984)

Same print data on etiquette, but colour is much paler.



Figure 5. Ontario–Vancouver, pale red sticker (June 1986)
Again with MPO in the box.

All are worded Return to Station, but the colour changes from deep red to pink. *Carded* is applied to a letter which could not be delivered because it required a signature and the addressee was not in; a card was left notifying the latter where to pick it up. With the exceptions of the example shown last issue and Rob's examples, I have only seen the word as either a manuscript notation or part of a handstamp.

The change in colour from deep red to a paler shade runs parallel with the change in colour of the registered redelivery stickers. Originally denominated 25¢, these were used on registered covers for which a card had been left, and the would-be recipient requested (by phone) that another attempt at delivery be made. They are also known in denominations of 50¢ and 75¢, and are the same deep red as the carded stickers.

Far less well known are their successors; these were redelivery stickers with the amount charged to be written in. Their colour is the same pale red as the carded stickers in Figures 4 & 5, their shape and size the same as that of the denominated redelivery stickers.

—Editor



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Study group centreline

Robert Lemire

THE purpose of this column is to bring to the attention of BNAPS members some of the fascinating specialist work being done within each BNAPS study group. We have fallen a bit behind in reporting (the column was omitted from one issue of Topics) so, in an effort to catch up, highlights are provided for newsletters that have arrived in my mail box from mid-March through June 2005.

Air mail The April 2005 issue of the Air Mail study group brings a new editor, Tom Watkins, and a new title, *The Pilot's Log*. An unusual cover is shown on the front page of the issue—a (Canadian National) telegram bearing two semi-official airmail stamps. The cover was carried by Western Canada Airways, but never passed through the Canadian postal system.

There is an interesting article on the Queen Charlotte Airlines featuring a commercial cover from Alert Bay to Vancouver, carried as part of an unofficial courtesy service before being put in the Canadian postal system. The editor also shows a number of regular airmail covers (transatlantic, to the US with proper usage of American airmail stamps, and to French Guiana) and covers properly used in Canada with semi-official stamps (BC Airways and Patricia Airways).

Admiral issue Leopold Beaudet, editor of the Admiral Study Group newsletter, may not prepare many issues each year, but every newsletter is long and of very high quality. The 84-page April 2005 issue touches on many different facets of the Admiral period. Andy Ellwood provides both a comprehensive list of Admiral Issue precancel types, as well as a list of stamps that would constitute a relatively inexpensive basic collection. An article by Stan Lum shows a registered item from militia headquarters in Ottawa to Toronto bearing five (four 1¢ and a 10¢) Ottawa precancel stamps. John Watson discusses and illustrates a number of different post card rates in the Admiral period.

Leopold Beaudet has articles on scarce lathework (the special lathework found on the 3¢ brown, plate 77), on blank Admiral stamps, and on imprint material from plate 23 of the 3¢ brown. Sandy Mackie offers the second part (a further 29 pages!) of his article illustrating rural mail delivery covers for different rates in the Admiral period.

There are two series of shorter articles, one on the 1¢ green stamp (by Richard Morris, Sandy Mackie, and Leopold Beaudet) and the other on the 3¢ brown stamp (Leopold Beaudet, Ralph Keir, and Richard Morris). They

include a discussion of a major re-entry on the 1¢, which contains useful comments attributed to re-entry expert Ralph Trimble. Also, plate 92 of the 3¢ brown (not listed by Marler) has now been reported and illustrated. There are a number of other items, such as varieties of the 10¢ plum (Richard Morris); printing order numbers for the 7¢ bistre (Charles Séguin); covers bearing coil stamps (John Fretwell); extensive doubling on a copy of the 5¢ blue (Ralph Keir and Leopold Beaudet).

RPO cancels Volume 33, # 4 of the newsletter features the RPOs established on the family of rail lines that began with the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway. The earliest known cancels are from 1857. Later cancels (after 1887) show the line as part of the Grand Trunk system (Goderich & Fort Erie, Goderich and Brantford, Brantford & Fort Erie). After 1901, the name of the post office for the town on the Canadian side of the bridge across the Niagara River, Bridgeburg, appeared in the RPO cancels, rather than Fort Erie. In 1923, the line became part of the Canadian National system, and later RPO runs included Bridgeburg & London, Stratford and Goderich, and Toronto, Stratford and Goderich.

Revenues In the March 2005 issue of the Canadian Revenue Newsletter, Chris Ryan presents part 3 of his series on the Ontario municipal garbage tags and bags. These modern revenues are complex and many issues are easily overlooked until they become difficult to obtain. Therefore, it requires considerable effort to obtain a good representative collection. Richard Fleet describes company cancels found on revenue stamps of the second bill issue, with emphasis on cancels from two firms, William Price, lumber merchant, and John Redpath, founder of Canada & Dominion Sugar Co.

Map stamp Orville Osborne's editorial in issue # 19 of the map stamp newsletter discusses whether any two copies of the 1898 map stamp are likely to be identical in appearance. Also illustrated in the same issue are some previously unpublished notes by Ron Winmill (proposed book pages) concerning map issue stamps that were precancelled at Toronto.

Newfoundland In *Newfie Newsletter* #112, editor Bob Dyer shows a lovely (scarce) Newfoundland dead letter office envelope used in 1939. Philatelic preparations for the 2005 re-creation of the 1919 *Vimy* (Alcock and Brown) flight from Newfoundland to Ireland are described. The flight has since been completed, and it will be interesting to hear whether all the arrangements for carrying mail went as planned. Dean Mario discusses messages from two Newfoundland stamp dealers, as found in air letter sheets from 1947 and 1949. There is a colour picture of a full sheet of 100 of the 1897 red Victoria, and further pages of Colin Lewis' Newfoundland postal history and of Horace Harrison's Newfoundland postal stationery exhibits.

World War II Charles LaBlonde shows a variety of covers addressed to the Royal Bank of Canada—some opened by the censor, some not, and with no obvious reason for the different treatment. John Munro-Cape continues his quest to put together a complete list of the Angus McMillan patriotic covers. There are believed to be 172 different, and John is still missing information on 11 of them

Queen Elizabeth II The March–April issue of the *Corgi Times* looks at the many recent issues from Canada Post. Editor Robin Harris explores the printings of the three flower definitives, first issued just last December. The die cutting on the coils is such that essentially every stamp in a strip of ten is different. There have been two different printings, and a number of additional collectable varieties have appeared. Then, for the 85¢ and \$1.45 values, there are paper and tagging varieties, and two different locations for the colour guide dots on the \$1.45 booklet. Leopold Beudet has an interesting article on three missing strike perforation varieties from the 1980s. There is a new international reply coupon as reported by Andrew Chung.

John Arn asked why there is narrow selvedge on some blocks of Winnipeg-tagged cameo issue definitives. In the May–June issue of the newsletter, Leopold Beudet provides the answer—the plate layout for the issue was set up so that each sheet was cut into six panes of 100. The margin is very narrow on either side of the central pair of panes, and hence, those panes have narrow selvedge. Walter Krasowski and Jim Watt have provided information on some experimental tagging applied to a limited number of 4¢ and 5¢ Wilding issue definitives prior to the issue of Winnipeg tagged stamps.

Postal stationery There are two articles in the May issue of *Postal Stationery Notes* that are follow-ups to earlier pieces. In one, a variety of meteorological labels from the late 1940s and early 1950s are shown. Peter Zariwny has provided illustrations of four different settings on the 2¢ brown George VI label. Then, Peter shows a spacer card to be added to the list earlier prepared by Mike Sagar. These cards were used to separate batches of envelopes in boxes of revalued stock. The new spacer card (on blue paper) bears an impression of the 15¢ surcharge and multiple impressions of the 17¢ surcharge. There is more information on the latest PostCard Factory issues, and (thanks to the late Horace Harrison) a 1905 post office memorandum that recommended discontinuing the sale of all postal stationery.

George VI In issue #5 of the newsletter, John Burnett presents part III of his series on Mufti era postal rates, with illustrations of covers to Mexico and British America (Jamaica, Trinidad, St. Lucia, Newfoundland, Bermuda, British Guiana, and British Honduras). Again, Gary Steele expands on the rate information that John presented in the previous issue (rates to the

United States and its territories, 1937–1945). Covers are shown that illustrate special delivery, airmail, registration, and money packets. Two precancel strips with warning notices are shown, as is a strip of the 1¢ of the 1950 issue (without *Postes-Postage*) with the precancel lines misprinted.

Military mail An article in newsletter #169 of the Canadian Military Mail Study Group initiates a study into the many WWII internment crowned censor markings. Two tables are provided. One lists the known markings, arranged by censor number, with camp letter and number noted along with the earliest and latest reported dates. The second table is a reference list of the POW and internment camps.

Other items in the newsletter touch on a wide variety of topics. Dave Hanes shows two 1930s covers related to the RCAF fire patrol in Manitoba. Colin Campbell illustrates a 1967 cover with Sagehill (SK) markings from RCAF radar squadron Dana. Colin Pomfret shows two items from 1919 related to the Canadian forces in Siberia. Walter Verhaart provides an illustration of a post card mailed in 1941 through a field post office in Britain.

Fancy and miscellaneous cancels David Lacelle has forwarded newsletter #38, which contains several updates to discussions in previous issues (e.g., crown wax seals, the Enquiry Office, Post Office Toronto oval as used on bulk mailing receipts, and the use of the *Public Works* hexagon marking). He also shows some bogus fancy cancels on stamps from the 1930s. There is a short discussion (with illustrations) of free mail addressed to government departments. Also several interesting small queen issue items are illustrated including two covers bearing bisected 6¢ stamps—in one case possibly genuine, in the other case probably not.

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Yours sincerely,

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