

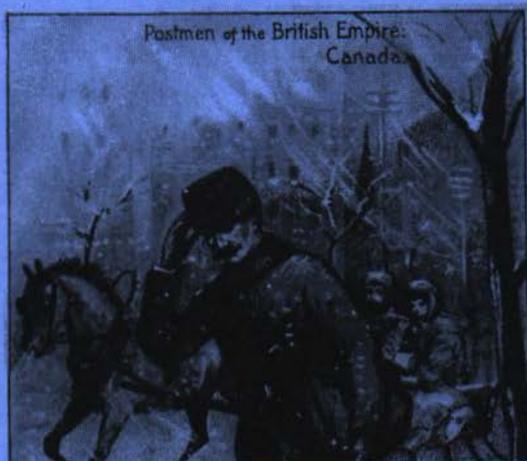
BNA Topics



Whole number 489

Volume 58

Number 4



Featuring

Newfoundland's provisional postcard ...

by Norris (Bob) Dyer

The official Journal of BNAAPS —
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BNA**T**opics



The Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd
Volume 58 Number 4 Whole Number 489

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BNA**T**opics, Volume 58, Number 4, October–December 2001

Editorial: To, from or through

AT the aptly-named judges' critique at BNAPS 2001 (Ottawa), an interesting discussion arose concerning what is appropriate for competitive exhibits at BNAPS meetings. A judge suggested that postal history material that does not originate in BNA should not be considered.

I expressed the view that any postal item that passed *to, from, or through* BNA should qualify. For one thing, the transport of mail *to* (or through) Canada is an essential part of postal service—the treatment of incoming registered, special delivery, postage due or even normal first class mail is as much part of Canadian postal history as that of outgoing or domestic mail.

A second aspect of *to* or *through* mail is the comparison of treatment, services, and rates between other countries and Canada. For example, although international *valeur déclarée* (extra indemnity on registered material) is a standard service from most members of the UPU, until very recently, it was unavailable to or from Canada (although available domestically). A collector taking the parochial *from-only* point of view might not even be aware of VD. Similarly, *international* COD, while standard in most UPU jurisdictions, has never been available from Canada. It is of interest to the postal historian of BNA to determine why these services were never implemented here. In other cases, the services may have been implemented, but only very reluctantly. For example, parcel cards *to* Canada are scarce to rare (depending on the period), but parcel cards *from* Canada seem to be non-existent.

Mail between Canada and some destinations is so rare (especially in the nineteenth century, say with Oceania, or in the stampless period with most countries except the US, the UK, or France), that the only items available are *to* (not *from*) Canada. Moreover, as with airmail services in the "classic" period (to 1930) or turn of the century trans-Pacific mail, showing material *from* (and not *to*) Canada does not tell the whole postal story.

Mail *through* but neither *from* nor *to* Canada exists, but is difficult to find (properly postmarked). *Through* mail reflects a postal route authorized by the Canadian authorities, and thus is a legitimate part of BNA postal history.

There are other examples of valid BNA postal history that the "*from-only*" view would exclude. Mail *from* abroad turned back at the border owing to one of our regular postal strikes, or refused at the border because Canada did not permit entry of the enclosed material (this is very difficult to find!) clearly are part of Canadian postal history, and should be so recognized.

A broad approach to BNA postal history will prevent the tunnel vision that often accompanies ultra-specialization.

Postman of the British Empire

C R McGuire

THE picture postcard on the front cover of this issue of *Topics* reminds us that winter is here, and for those of us not in Florida, what we can expect. It is the Canadian card in set of 14, depicting a circa 1900 letter carrier.

The lovely multicolour chromo-lithographic techniques used on this series leads me to think that they may have been printed in Germany. Germany at the time was the leader in that printing process. There is no indication of a publisher, but J H D Smith [1] lists the set as an advertising premium from the (British) Coleman Starch Company. That surprises me, as one would expect the firm to put their name on the card.

I have seen two examples used in Britain in 1905 with slightly different backs, but identical fronts. This example is franked with Gibbons #217, postmarked GILLINGHAM R.S.O. KENT, with a Whitney type 302 cancel [2] to a Nottingham address. The address is a variation on a theme common in this era—I hope you are doing well & are capable of writing a few lines. We have been waiting for a long time for a letter or postcard. We still live at The address was provided knowing full well that the recipient was aware of it, just to add a little dig for their laxity.

References

- [1] J H D Smith *IPM Catalogue of picture postcards and yearbook*, IPM Publications, Dorking, Surrey (1985).
- [2] J T Whitney *Collect British postmarks*, fifth edition, Compiler, Bentfleet, Essex (1990).

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Money packet rates

Robert C Smith

Date	First rate	Next rate	Additional rates	R? (1)
pre-1922	LETTER RATE			no
1922 04 01	6¢ first oz		5¢ per add'l oz	no
1926 07 01	5¢ per oz			no
1943 04 01	7¢ first oz		5¢ per add'l oz	no
1964 08 10	\$1.75 up to 8 oz	\$2.25 to 16 oz	\$1.00 per add'l pound	yes
1978 04 01	\$2.25 up to 8 oz	\$3.25 to 16 oz	\$1.25 per add'l pound	yes
1979 04 01	\$2.70 up to 8 oz	\$3.90 to 16 oz	\$1.50 per add'l pound	yes
1979 07 01	\$2.75 up to 250 g	\$3.95 to 500 g	\$1.65 per add'l 500 g	yes
1982 01 01	\$4.00 up to 250 g	\$6.00 to 500 g	\$2.50 per add'l 500 g	yes
1983 01 15	\$4.24 up to 250 g	\$6.36 to 500 g	\$2.65 per add'l 500 g	yes
1985 06 24	\$7.40 up to 250 g	\$11.00 to 500 g	\$4.60 per add'l 500 g	yes
1988 01 01	\$7.60 up to 250 g	\$11.35 to 500 g	\$4.75 per add'l 500 g	yes
1990 01 01	\$8.25 up to 250 g	\$12.35 to 500 g	\$5.15 per add'l 500 g	yes
1991 01 01	\$8.60 up to 250 g	\$12.80 to 500 g	\$5.25 per add'l 500 g	yes
1992 01 01	\$9.05 up to 250 g	\$13.45 to 500 g	\$5.50 per add'l 500 g	yes
1993 01 01	\$9.90 up to 250 g	\$14.90 to 500 g	\$5.75 per add'l 500 g	yes
1994 03 01	\$10.20 up to 250 g	\$15.35 to 500 g	\$5.90 per add'l 500 g	yes
1995 01 01	\$10.45 up to 250 g	\$15.70 to 500 g	\$6.05 per add'l 500 g	yes
1995 08 01	\$10.71 up to 250 g	\$16.90 to 500 g	\$6.20 per add'l 500 g	yes
1999 01 01	SERVICE CEASED			

(1) Registration fee included in the rate? "no" in this column means that the registration fee had to be added to the postage, while "yes" means that the registration fee was included.

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- Canada Gazette*: v. 115, Extra number 54, 25 September 1981 (1982 01 01)
 v. 116, Extra number 49, 22 October 1982 (1983 01 15)
 v. 119, Extra number 4, 10 April 1985 (1985 06 24)
 v. 121, Extra number 1, 6 January 1987 (1987 04 01)
 v. 121, Extra number 10, 1987, pp1-104 (1988 01 10)
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 v. 125, Extra number 26, 29 June 1991, pp2176-2236 (1992 01 01)
 v. 126, Extra number 26, 27 June 1992, pp2086-2114 (1993 01 01)
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 v. 128, Extra number 26, 25 June 1994 (1994 10 01)

Keywords & phrases: money packet, rates, registration

Money packets

The Editor

MONEY packet service was designed as an elaboration of registration, in order to handle valuable or potentially valuable material—for example, significant amounts of currency, securities, jewellery, gold, silver, etc. From the 1931 Canada Postal Guide:

Money packets are packets of bank notes, etc., sent mostly by banks or business firms to their branches and to firms or individuals handling money in quantity. Under the term 'money packets' are included bank notes, coin, bullion, gold dust, bonds, and coupons payable to bearer, stocks, and other securities negotiable by bearer.

On the other hand, defaced currency or letters containing items valued at less than \$100 were excluded from the money packet service, and could be sent at the much cheaper first class registered rate. Prior to 1922, money packets were charged the regular postage, plus registration. (See Bob Smith's compilation of money packet rates which precedes this article; the recent rates were obtained from issues of the *Canada Gazette*—a very tedious task.)



Figure 1. Money packet wrapper (1907)

To the Union Bank in Kingsville Ontario, with 89¢ postage representing 42 oz at 2¢ per ounce plus 5¢ registration.

I could not find out when the service originated. It was available on packages to Canada, the British Empire, the US, and Mexico, from 1922, and possibly earlier. In the April 1926 Postal Guide, rates were quoted to other

Keywords & phrases: money packet, registration



Figure 2. Money packet tag (1925)

From Ottawa, with postage of \$5.36 made up of the 10¢ registration fee, and the money packet rate (only in force 1922–1926) of 6¢ for the first ounce, and 5¢ for each additional ounce—for 105oz. The tag is made of heavy duty cloth, rather than the usual cardboard paper.

destinations, but these seem not to have been repeated, and it appears likely that money packets could be sent only to the destinations previously indicated. According to the 1938 Canada Postal Guide, money packets were available only domestically and to the US. I have never seen a money packet to a destination other than Canada, although a mystery candidate is presented later.

Money packets can be huge. Figure 1 shows a portion of a money packet wrapper sent from Toronto (faint circle cancel, far left) to Kingsville in 1907. The postage of 89¢ (including a block of the 20¢ Edward) is made up of 5¢ registration fee, and $42 \times 2¢$ per ounce.

Figure 2 shows a money packet tag attached to a bag or box that weighed 105 ounces, during the short rate period 1922–1926. This was purchased recently from Vance Auctions (July 1999), after about a two year search for a money packet in this rate period. The packet presumably contained bills or coin, to be sent to the head office (?—at any rate, an unspecified branch) of the Royal Bank.



Figure 3. Money packet tag (1931)

From Pioneer Mine BC; the original parcel was likely a heavy-duty box containing gold or silver, with \$20.10 postage representing 400 oz at 5¢ per ounce plus 10¢ registration fee. The tag has a block of 19 of the \$1 Parliament stamps; the other copy (lower right) does not appear to be from the same sheet.

Figure 3 is more drastic: a money packet tag with postage of \$20 in 19 Parliament stamps, and the 10¢ Parliament (the latter paying the registration fee). This comes to 400 oz (25 pounds—about 11.5 kg) at the money packet rate of 5¢ per ounce. As the origin is Pioneer Mine BC, we surmise that the package contained gold or silver brick(s). Precious metals are measured in troy; the parcel weighed about 30.4 lb troy, or about 364.6 troy oz. (There are 12 troy ounces to the troy pound and there is a rounding error in the 30.4—I don't want any nasty letters about the arithmetic.) This seems to be an odd size for a single brick. The large purple oval cancel reads "Registration Branch, Vancouver".

The tag in Figure 4 is an overpaid money packet from one branch of the Bank of Montreal to another. We should remember that banks very often bought large amounts of stamps, then kept them on hand for years (sometimes decades). Here five-year old airmail stamps (of no particular use as airmail stamps) were used, and since the clerk who franked the tag was using someone else's stamps, he thought nothing of overpaying the postage (by 2¢) for the convenience of not having to find 4¢ in postage.

Figures 5A & 5B show the front and back of a postage due money packet tag. The white form, stuck to a deposit file card, has a printed notation with a space to indicate the amount of postage due. From 1 January 1935, there was no penalty on postage due registered items, but complete prepayment

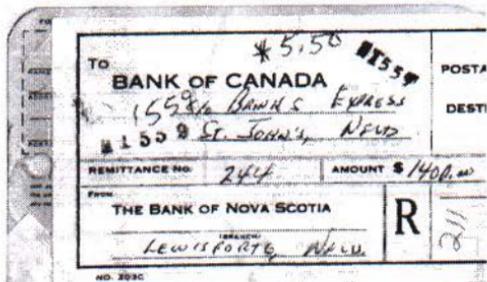


Figure 4. Money packet "not airmail" (1937)

With 12 (a block of ten, and a pair) of the 6¢ overprinted Ottawa Conference 1932 airmail stamp, used to slightly overpay the 70¢ postage. Mailed from the Bank of Montreal in Montreal to its branch in Finch ON. Registration fee of 10¢ plus money packet fee of 5¢ per ounce (12 ounces).

was required (banks may have obtained an exemption from this). The parcel, which weighed 3–4 pounds contained \$1400 (some of this may have been in coin). All postage due registered material is difficult to find.

First mystery item The cover and its reverse in Figures 6A & B is our first mystery item. A registered cover addressed to a securities firm in the US, it has the enormous postage of 82¢ applied. It was not attached to a larger item as the illustration of the back shows. If it were sent merely as a first class registered item, it would have had to weigh 36 ounces (over one kilogram). The envelope is made of paper (not heavy material), and was only slightly reinforced. It does not show the stress that such a heavy load would have caused. There is no indication it was sent by air, and in any event, the rates don't yield anything even close. Another way of making up the postage, extra indemnity for registration, is unacceptable, as this was not available internationally. Parcels could not be registered (i.e., they would have to be sent first class). Unfortunately, the 82¢ is not a possible money letter rate—



Figures 5A & 5B. Postage due money packet tag (February 1978) From Lewisport NF to St. John's. It has postage of only \$1.50, while the amount due \$5.50 is written in on the special form. The \$7 rate is consistent with a weight of up to 4 pounds.

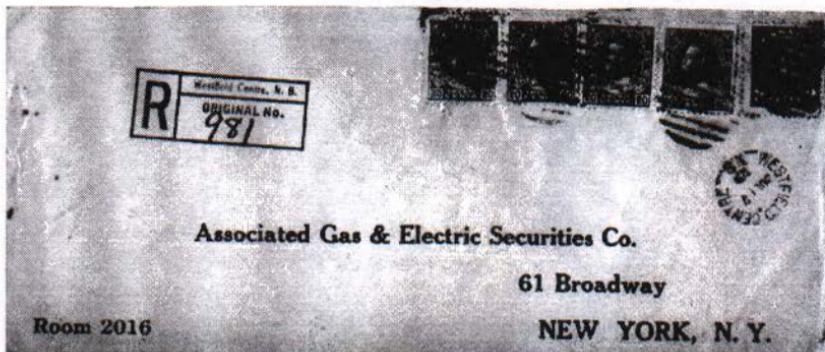


Figure 6A. First mystery item (1929) Candidate money packet to US. If it were a money packet, it would be the only one I have seen to a foreign destination. Unfortunately, it is overpaid by 2¢—and there is a 2¢ stamp on it.

80¢ would cover the registration fee (10¢) and 14 ounces, and no one would overpay by 2¢ with a 2¢ stamp. (The money packet rate to the US was the same as the domestic one.)



Figure 6B. Reverse of 1929 presumed money packet

In addition to various transit marks, there is also a fancy hexagonal handstamp of the internal auditing system of Associated Gas & Electric.

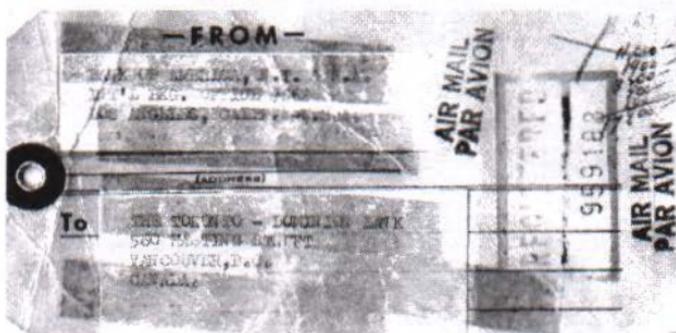


Figure 7A & B. Second mystery item (1966)

Registered tag from the US to Canada. With postage of \$8.67. This was intended as a registered package with extra indemnity—except that this service was not available to Canada. There is a faint Vancouver registration marking on the stamps. The address and return address were covered in adhesive tape, which has since yellowed.

What did the sender perceive to be the rates? Indemnity of \$17,800 (see text) costs \$7.60, leaving \$1.07 to cover the airmail. Domestic airmail and airmail to Canada was 8¢ for each of the first eight ounces, and 5¢ for each additional—which can't realize \$1.07. First class to Canada was 5¢ per ounce, which again can't realize the postage.

The only explanation that comes to mind is that the sender put a 2¢ stamp, as she knew that was the single rate to the US, and then at the post office was told the postage was 80¢. Since she was sending (presumably) securities, likely worth a lot more than \$100, the 2¢ was outweighed by the convenience of sticking on four 20¢ stamps rather than three 20¢ stamps and 18¢ in additional postage.

Second mystery item Figures 7A & 7B show the second mystery item. To explain the problem with it, we have to explain the differences between extra indemnity and money packets. Extra indemnity is the payment above the normal registration fee to cover loss or damage above a default amount. In Canada at the time, there was a very limited extra indemnity system; default coverage was \$25, and extra indemnity was available but only up to a maximum of \$100. There was no indemnity at all on money packets. However, the US offered an incredibly complicated extra indemnity system (but no money packet service), with indemnity available into the millions of dollars, and the rates depending on weight, value, and distance. For the complete extra indemnity rates, consult the standard domestic US rates book, Beecher & Wawrukiewicz *U.S. domestic postal rates 1872–1999*; for international rates from the US, consult Wawrukiewicz & Beecher *U.S. international postal rates 1872–1996*. Canadian extra indemnity rates were determined by value, and money packet rates depended only on weight.

The tag, mailed from the Bank of America in Los Angeles to the Toronto-Dominion Bank in Vancouver resembles a typical American extra indemnity tag, especially in view of the computations in the upper right corner—in all likelihood, the 17800 refers to the value of the contents (likely cash), i.e., \$17,800. There is just one problem. Extra indemnity was not available to non-domestic destinations. We cannot be sure how they calculated the rates on this one.

[*This article and the money packet rates article by Bob Smith immediately preceding it are modified versions of articles that originally appeared in the newsletter of the BNAPS Registration Study Group.*]

A continuing feature The late Hans Reiche compiled a number of interesting short philatelic stories. These will be used to fill the white space on the last page of articles. They will be marked **HR**. Unfortunately, we cannot verify these anecdotes—they are presented here for entertainment only!

HR *A Missing gem* Most Admiral collectors would love to own a 5¢ blue major re-entry. Very few exist. The Marler collection contained one, but when it was sold at auction, this stamp was missing from the collection. A different example was recently offered at another auction. (*Hans Reiche*)

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Norris (Bob) Dyer

The small quantity issued has already been disposed of.

—G Le Messurier, 22 July 1889

This post card issue was almost certainly manipulated by Le Messurier with Ohman & Calman.

—William Walton 1988

I do not know if a shortage existed, was contrived or happened. The overprints do exist.

—Robert Pratt 1990

IN 1889, Newfoundland found itself without any 2¢ UPU postal cards, and a local printer was called upon to revalue a small quantity of 1¢ cards. This supply of surcharged cards was manipulated so that few if any were available to the public. Cards used in 1889 are great Newfoundland rarities. This article describes the people involved, the manipulation, and known used cards.



Figure 1. Newfoundland's provisional post card (1889)

The rear card shows wear on the T in the overprint (see Figure 2 for a close-up).

Keywords & phrases: UPU, Newfoundland, provisional, postcard

Dramatis personæ

Before I get to the heart of the 1889 postal card “drama”, I describe two primary players involved in this and other shenanigans in the Newfoundland GPO from 1889 to the end of the century. One can certainly argue that the lack of any recorded rebuke over the handling of the 1889 cards encouraged additional ethical lapses, especially on the part of George Le Messurier Jr. I have been unable to find photographs of either of these gentlemen.

George William Le Messurier Jr He was the son of George H Le Messurier (Sr) and Elizabeth (Brown) Le Messurier. Senior was appointed as “chief clerk” in 1870, and served in that capacity until he retired at the end of 1898. George H also was acting PMG over the period 1880–85, doing a respectable job during a period of postal expansion [1]. He appeared to be rather straight-laced, however, and in his final report as PMG (May 1886), warned:

Care should be had that the persons to be appointed are of sober business habits, as any other are useless.

George H saw no sin in nepotism, though, appointing George Jr as “assistant accountant” in 1882, and daughter Eliza as “office keeper”. Upon Eliza’s death, his wife replaced Eliza in that position. The family cat may also have been employed to catch GPO mice, but that is only a rumor.

The Le Messuriers lived in the GPO itself until the end of the century, when George Jr finally stipulated that it was no longer necessary to occupy the quarters in order “to receive mails at any time of the day or night.”

Let us look at the better side of George Le Messurier Jr. After his father retired, he replaced him as “chief clerk”, and his career extended into the 1920s. For a time, he served as acting PMG (1901 & 1910), just as his father had. George became First Deputy Minister of Post & Telegraphs in 1920, after the PMG position was taken down as part of a reorganization. He helped design the pictorial issue of 1923. Married twice, he was childless, dying in 1943 at the age of 81. He also served as Honorary President of the Church of England Institute, of which he was one of the founders [2].

However, in the early days of his career, George was not above using his position to make a few extra bucks. While James O Fraser, the PMG (1885–1901), had to approve the order of stamps, George, as the accountant/chief clerk could advise him when to do so.

When the need for 2¢ postal cards arose in 1889, George sold essentially all of the 1¢ cards surcharged 2¢ to two stamps dealers, G B Calman of New York and Nils Ohman of St. John’s [3].

It was probably at this time that Le Messurier, Ohman, & another clerk, a Mr DuTot, formed the Newfoundland Stamp Company. George dropped out

around 1892 after Fraser told him to knock it off—what George termed a “little disagreement”. In one transaction he was able to return 700 copies of the 24¢ stamp in which the group had speculated to the GPO, apparently in trade for other stamps (there were more 24¢ stamps around than they had figured). Dealers (e.g., Ohman) received a 5% discount for purchases, so their bad investment resulted in a minor profit.

In 1896, Le Messurier became involved in another company—a “general investment club [that] dealt in stamps and other things.” This lasted for several more years. He claimed he was not involved with his friend, Ohman, when the mysterious 1896 reprints were ordered—20,000 each of the ½¢ red, 1¢ brown, 2¢ green, 3¢ blue, and 3¢ brown. These stamps were super-numerary to existing stocks and the quantities ordered were strangely low (e.g., 3¢ stamps were normally ordered in lots of 400,000), but the released stamps were in different shades and enjoy catalogue status.

The 1896 reprints were sold at “selected windows”, but Ohman got in first “garnering the greatest number of the stamps” [4]. Thereafter, one had to ask for them. Pratt said:

... the noisy *Evening Telegram* got on the PO's back and there was all kinds of flack raised in St John's. Nevertheless, the reprints were sold.

During official hearings on post office doings in 1900, Le Messurier explained that he was not in business with Nils Olman at the time the 1896 stamps were ordered. PMG Fraser, who ordered the stamps, became vague about the matter at the hearings and no one would take responsibility for the order. George may have been the flea in Fraser's ear, but no proof of this arose at the hearings.

Le Messurier Jr also made a few dollars when the 1897 provisional stamps were sold at the GPO in October of that year. Although 40,000 stamps had been surcharged, he limited the initial distribution to the postal clerks at 500–600 while selling them himself “behind the counter”; the opening day sale turned into a stampede. Pratt quotes one unidentified party as saying later:

George Le Messurier Jr advised me how to sell these stamps to advantage. He told me he had sold thousands of stamps to this journalist in Ottawa.

In 1896, the ss *Capulet* had run aground on Newfoundland shores. A supply of 200,000 of the 3¢ grey 1890 Victoria stamp was ultimately recovered after twenty days. They were water-damaged, and many of them stained reddish from the ribboned wrappers. Some still had gum and were usable but 57,000 were stored in the attic of the GPO in an unsecured area. In 1899, Colonial Secretary J Alexander Robinson ordered Fraser to destroy these distressed stamps, and Le Messurier and an auditor named Payn cer-

tified that they had been destroyed. In 1900, it became evident that not all the pink stamps had been destroyed, as at least one person came forward stating he had obtained 9,000 from Payn. The stamps had also been seen used on various correspondence. Fraser initially denied any wrongdoing based upon the signed certificate of destruction by Le Messurier. George finally fessed up that he had been wrong, had been suspicious of Payn, but had signed the certificate without verifying the actual number destroyed.

By December, 1899, Le Messurier could no longer deny the obvious, as Payn had confessed to him. Payn was sacked by the Colonial Secretary. Le Messurier had not told Fraser this at the time, as he had been told the Secretary did not want the information revealed. Apparently some 30,000 stamps had been sold. While there is no evidence Le Messurier benefited by the theft, it seems odd that he hesitated to tell his boss about it.

Despite all this, Le Messurier continued to advance at the GPO for another quarter century. Perhaps that is what was expected of Newfoundland bureaucrats in the nineteenth century, as I doubt basic pay was very high.

Nils Ohman In Pratt's accounts, Ohman first appears in 1886, when a *late letter office* was established at his jewelry store in the Atlantic Hotel Building in St John's. Letters for the US, UK and Canada could be posted there up to fifteen minutes before a ship's departure, for a double rate charge. Ohman was paid \$50 per year and handled late letters until spring 1889.

He was a jeweler, watchmaker, optician [5] and stamp dealer from the 1880s to at least the turn of the century. Many beautiful Newfoundland covers from this period show his corner cards, or cachet on the reverse. Although some collectors disdain mail from stamp dealers, most of his covers I have seen are at the proper rate, using contemporary stamps, although some lack dated postmarks. Without dealers such as Ohman, some Newfoundland stamp varieties probably would not be available at all on cover (e.g., the CENT ONE variety of the Type I 1897 provisionals.)

As discussed above, in 1889, he joined Le Messurier Jr in the Newfoundland Stamp Company; this was possibly at the time of the 1889 surcharged cards. It appears that all known used cards from 1889 were penned by either Ohman or Le Messurier.

Ohman continued to benefit from a relationship with Le Messurier in the 1890s even after their formal business venture ended. However, he ran into problems in October 1897 when caught with smuggled jewelry. The authorities seized it, and sold it for \$220. He had declared bankruptcy the month before. Ohman remained in the stamp business—I have a postal card from him dated 1 December 1897 saying that he was awaiting the release of the 1¢ red Victoria stamp for a potential customer in Halifax.

He was officially back in business in 1898, with his own shop, as watchmaker, jeweler and stamp dealer. He helped redeem himself by discovering forgeries of the 1897 provisionals, especially the rare Type III (already worth as much as \$10, according to the "buy" ads). A fellow watchmaker, William Allan, had walked into his shop showing a stamp purchase of purported provisionals to Nils, and Ohman spotted the stamps as having forged overprints. The authorities were notified, and a printer, Alexander Moore, was charged. Ohman testified at subsequent hearings.

That's why they call them "dealers"

The supply of 2¢ UPU postal card (Webb P4) [6] was exhausted sometime in the first half of 1889. Much of the information I have for this section comes from detailed articles by Robert Pratt and William Walton from 1984–1990, a sort of epistemic slugfest between two experts on many aspects of Newfoundland's postal cards [7–9]. In 1985, Pratt said the shortage developed around June, triggering the production of the 2¢ provisional card (Webb P5, Figure 1). He cites a surcharged card dated 12 June 1889 (Figure 7). This was undoubtedly a card he owned personally until 1975—I will provide more details in the last part of this article describing the known cards. Walton countered that the shortage was earlier, that the issue date was 14 May 1889, and a card is known from that date. He speculated that:

... the delay was likely caused by the disruption British American Bank Note was undergoing in the closing of its Montreal facilities and the consolidation of its production in Ottawa.

Walton says the issue date and quantity were contained in a letter of 1 June 1892 from PMG Fraser to George Watson, publisher of a periodical for collectors, *The Postal Card*. Here is the text of Fraser's letter, as provided by Walton:

Replying to your letter of the 16th of May, I beg leave to inform you that the 1¢ green P.C. which was changed in value to 2¢ was first sold on 14 May 1889. The stock of 2 cents [sic] cards was run out pending receipt of which we had to surcharge the 1¢ card. The number so changed was 700; but few were used through the post as the regular supply came to hand [unfortunately, Fraser does not state when]. Collectors bought in what was on hand.

Pratt refused to acknowledge Walton's correction of the issue date in his 1990 *Author's Reply*, but pointed out that it was difficult to verify dates and production number for the cards:

It is indeed unfortunate that the Post Office of Canada saw fit to destroy all of the Newfoundland Postmaster General's files in 1949, this source of verification material is closed to us, unless some remnants might be found in Ottawa or St John's.

Horace Harrison wrote that a local printer produced the 700 surcharged cards, and that originally it was intended to distribute them to post offices that had requisitioned the 2¢ UPU card [3]. This is when the funny business started. George Le Messurier Jr mailed one to New York stamp dealer, G B (Gus) Calman, in response to a routine inquiry from Calman received five days earlier (described later in the article under "Card 1"). Harrison wrote:

I believe the arrival of the 1¢ revalued 2¢ card in NY evoked a cable response to Ohman who, with the connivance of Le Messurier, purchased all the unsold 2¢ revalued cards at a cost of less than \$14 [*face value*].

Several months later (22 July), Le Messurier used a 2¢ UPU card to tell a dealer in London that:

... the small quantity issued has already been disposed of, principally to G B Calman of 299 Pearl St, N.Y.C., and Nils Ohman, P O Box 371, St. John's, Newfoundland.

One has to admire Le Messurier's candor. If there was a shortage of the 2¢ UPU card, as it appears there was at the time, why did he apparently deny the general public access to the provisional cards, and why did he not try to disguise the fact that he had? Le Messurier used the 2¢ UPU card in July; this suggests that a new supply had arrived by that time. This allows us to set a period of provisional use from 14 May to 22 July 1889. Use after 22 July is probably philatelic, as there were none of the revalued cards for sale after that date, at least according to Le Messurier. The Webb Catalogue does price used examples dated as late as December 1890, but at less than those used May–July 1889.

Walton points out that surcharged values were becoming popular with collectors by 1889, although this card was Newfoundland's first surcharged provisional. Regarding its need, he wrote:

This of course presumes that the exhaustion of the 2¢ cards was genuine, rather than contrived to justify the issue of a revalue.

Trade offers from this period reveal that only a few dealers had access to the card, and those who did (including Calman) publicized it heavily, resulting in high prices, states Walton. Yet prices for unused copies are modest today, given the limited production. Catalogue prices range from \$c50–100 for unused copies. It is the used cards from 1889 that are truly rare.

A look at the 2¢ surcharged card

See Figures 1 & 2. The first shows two mint cards, the one behind having what Pratt described as the "broken" T (in the CENTS overprint). Figure 2 shows a close-up of the surcharged area of the latter card. The 1¢ Prince of Wales card (Webb P3) of 1880 was used for surcharging. Pratt called the



Figure 2. Overprint

Wear on the upper left of the horizontal stroke of the T in CENTS [*this has been electronically massaged to make it obvious—ed*].

broken T a variety. Walton suggested that the left crossbar wore *progressively*, with examples showing “barely visible wear to nearly complete disintegration.” Two cards to Birkenhead (England), Figures 7 & 9 show more wear on the left crossbar than on Figure 2.

There are two parallel bars above the 2 CENTS with the top bar shifted slightly to the right. This is important, as two forged surcharge types are known and in one the top bar is skewed to the *left*, opposite to that of the authentic surcharge. In the second type there is a significant opening where the up and down strokes of the bars of the E approach at the right side of the letter. In the original surcharge these strokes almost meet (as in Figure 2). I have seen no forged surcharges on used cards from 1889 or 1890.

Now we present four used examples of the surcharged card.

Card #1. 14 May 1889 to GB Calman Esq, New York (Figure 3) This is the earliest reported date (ERD) for the card and the card from accountant and clerk, George LeMessurier Jr that probably triggered Calman's interest in the cards. The message from LeMessurier was as follows:

Genl. Post Office, St. John's Nfld. 14th May 1889

Dear Sir: Yours of the 20th April to hand 9th instant with stated enclosure.
The Postal matter not received and do not expect for some time yet.

Yours truly Geo. LeMessurier Chief Clerk

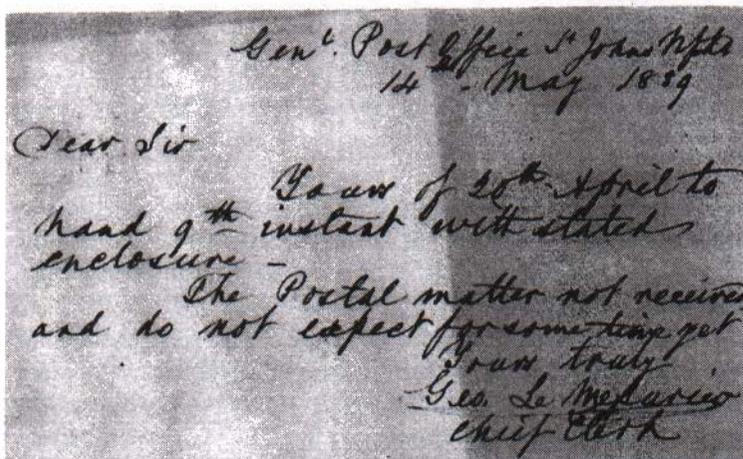


Figure 3. Card # 1; earliest use of the provisional post card (14 May 1889)
To stamp dealer Calman from Le Messurier.

Obviously the message was not what caught the attention of Calman, but the postal card on which it was written!

Card # 2. 15 May 1889 to TA Verkrugen Esq, Hamburg (Germany) (Fig 4 & 5)

The message on reverse of this card reads:

Received your postal last mail, strange you have not heard from me as I have written twice since receiving the £2.16.0. will write again next mail. with best regards I remain yours faithfully [signature crossed out]

NB this is a provisional Card. Only 700 issued. Will be rare



Figure 4. Card # 2; use a day later
From Ohman (?) to Hamburg.

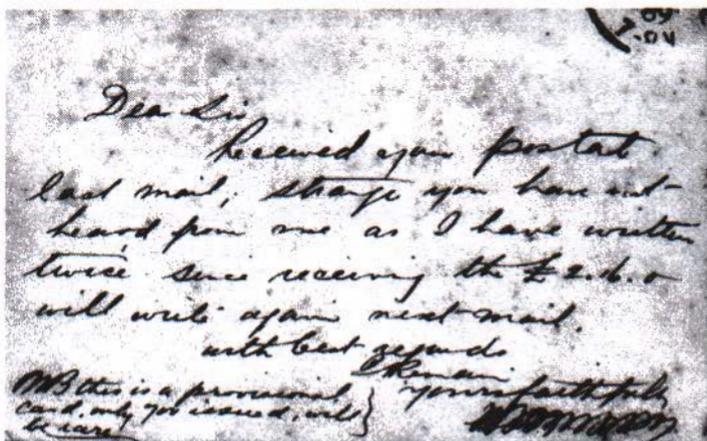


Figure 5. Reverse of card in Figure 4

There are several things to chew upon here. On the second day of their availability, the sender was aware that that only 700 cards were issued. The writer's name was crossed out. I have concluded it was written by Nils Ohman. Figure 6 shows the message side of a card sent by him in 1892, (three years after the P5 issue). Note the way Ohman crosses his "t"s with long slashes, extending to the right of the upright. Compare the way he

Dear Sir. 2nd Jan 1892
 Yours of 9th Dec 91 has been
 duly received, and note what you say
 about the adv in Holiday No which of
 course is a little better; but, on the other
 hand will have a larger circulation than
 ordinary issues of your Paper. I am sorry
 to say that I have not received the Paper
 in which the adv is to appear as yet; however
 I forward by present mail no. 1/2 so as to keep
 it going, and will send the remainder by next
 mail, and at the same time will let you know
 about wanted stamps.
 yours
~~N. Ohman.~~

Figure 6. Postcard from Ohman (1892)
 Showing his handwriting, to compare with that in Figure 5.

writes *will*. A close examination of the initial portion of the crossed-out signature appears to reveal an "N".

Ohman wrote the card of 15 May to Germany, but who crossed out his signature? Why would the receiver? Most probably, Nils had second thoughts and crossed out his signature just before he mailed the card. Why? It may have been guilt [*in a stamp dealer?*—ed] from just having made a large purchase of the 700 surcharged cards intended for the public, a breach of propriety of sorts. Unless there is a hidden message here, however, the card does not offer any of those "illicit" goods.

Harrison contends that the card of 14 May card from Le Messurier to Calman in New York led to a cable response from Calman to Nils Ohman in St John's to buy the stock. Let us study this card in that context. Could a postal card postmarked 14 May in St John's to Calman in New York, result in a cable back from Calman to Ohman so that Ohman had enough time to buy a supply of the cards and send this one to Germany the following day? I posed this question to Colin Lewis (who has a gold award exhibit on nineteenth century Newfoundland postal history) who told me that "Calman could have cabled Ohman on 15 May, but he certainly would not have had been in possession of the P5 card sent to him by Le Messurier."

More likely, Le Messurier contacted Ohman (a local dealer), around the same time he sent his card to Calman. Ohman bought a supply on 14 or



Figure 7. Card #3; provisional card (12 June 89)
To George Burrow (England).

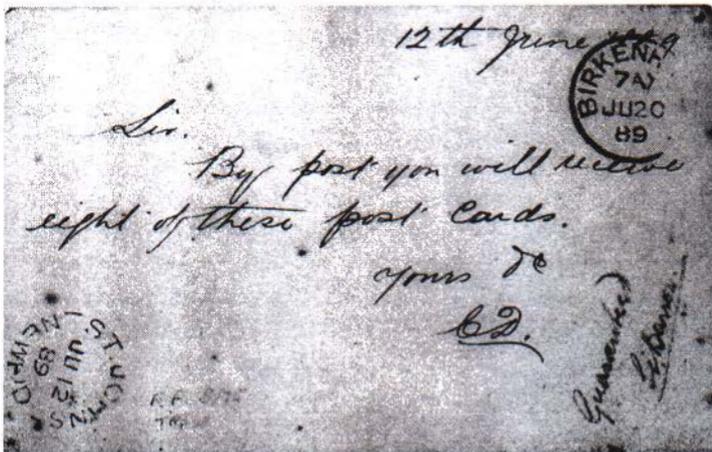


Figure 8. Reverse of card in Figure 7

15 May. Le Messurier must have held some in reserve for Calman as he did eventually get some, per George's card of 22 July (mentioned earlier), stating the cards had been sold "principally" to both Ohman and Calman. I have found no evidence that any cards were actually sold to the public.

This card came from the collection formed by Captain Douglas Campbell RN. It was sold at the Spink November 1999 sale for about \$C915.

Card # 3. 12 June 1889 to George Burrow, England (Figures 7 & 8) The message on reverse is: "12th of June, 1889. By post you will receive eight of these post cards. Yours &c. GD"

To the right you may be able to see *Guaranteed G Burrow* and lightly next to the St John's postmark, *R.P. 5/75 Trade*.

This card was part of Horace Harrison's exhibit, *Newfoundland Postal Stationery 1873-1941*, and sold at auction by Robert Lee in 2000. Horace had not seen any other examples of this card used in 1889. About the St John's postmark on reverse rather than front, he said it sometimes happened, and was not invalid. The note at the lower left is his. He obtained the cover from Robert Pratt in 1975 in exchange for two 1849 Newfoundland covers to Europe. This card is undoubtedly the one Pratt referred to in his article in *BNATopics*. However, Pratt showed minimal interest in his *Topics* articles on the 1889 issue and looked askance at Walton's fuller exposition, "A lot of paper and time is spent on depreciating [*deprecating?*] the 1889 overprints in a manner greater than their importance would indicate."

That did not mean he felt his card had minimal value, for when he found the letters Horace had traded him for the card were worth less than the \$200 he felt the card was worth, he wanted to renege on the trade. Horace stood his ground (of course!). He wrote an e-mail follow-up to me:

Do not forget the Carter inflation when considering the \$200 tag for P5. \$200 was a lot of money in 1975. I bought a top of the line Ford 4-door sedan for about \$2500 about that time.

My original interpretation of the message was that *GD* would send Burrow eight mint cards in a packet. The appearance of card # 4 that follows raises a question about that, as you will see. And who was *GD*? Look at the slash of the "t" in *these*, as well as the word *will*. Once again, we have Nils Ohman at work and more secretive than ever. Had the "sell-out" of the cards to Ohman and Calman been broadcast to the PMG Fraser or the public? As Alice said, curiouser and curiouser. This card sold at the Lee Auction of October 2000 for \$c950.

Card # 4. 12 June 1889 to George Burrow, England (Figures 9 & 10) The message reads "12/6/89 Fresh salmon is selling for 3d per lb. Will you send for one? Yours &c GD"

This card was sent on the same date and to the same addressee as card # 3, with the same postmarks. Again, the author is Nils Ohman. The message seems rather silly and appears to be just a filler. The watchmaker stamp dealer is selling salmon now? Does it mean Ohman's message on card # 3 promising eight cards meant eight used cards? A subsequent card might provide the answer.



Figure 9. Card # 4 Same day use as in Figure 7
Same addressee, too.

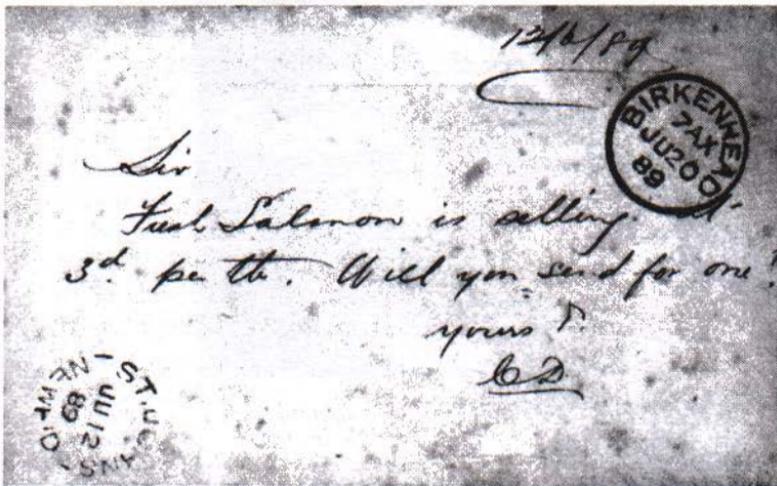


Figure 10. Reverse of card in Figure 9

This card appeared in a Vance auction sale at the end of last August (2001); Vance Carmichael, the proprietor, said it was in a large lot (three cartons) of post cards of the world with no other used P5. So it appears a coincidence that individual cards have come to market in 1999, 2000, & 2001. It sold for \$1050.

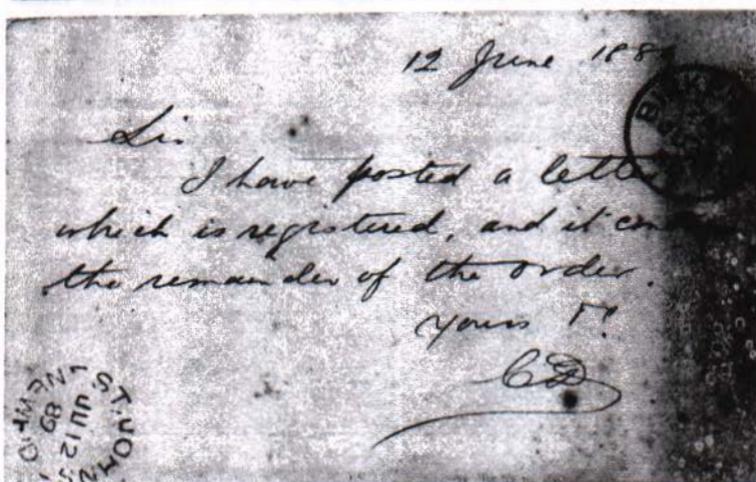


Figure 11. Card #5; same day as previous two

Card #5. 12 June 1889 to George Burrow, England (Figure 11) This is yet a third card sent by Nils Ohman to Burrow at the same time; all these cards were postmarked identically and on the message side. The message reads "I have posted a letter which is registered and it contains the remainder of the order. Yours &c GD"

Perhaps this was the third and last card sent to Burrow by Ohman, with the remaining five cards sent unused by registered letter. I would not be surprised, however, if other cards to Burrow are out there, somewhere.

Conclusion

The Newfoundland provisional postal card was issued 14 May 1889 in a quantity of 700. Essentially all of them were sold to two stamp dealers, Nils Ohman and G B Calman. It appears a new supply of the 2¢ UPU postal card had arrived by 22 July 1889. Only five of the provisional cards are known used in the provisional period, one being from George Le Messurier Jr of the GPO, the other four from Nils Ohman. There may be others extant including more from Ohman to George Burrow of Birkenhead, England. There is no evidence of use of these cards in 1889 by members of the public. Three used cards have come to the market over the period 1999–2001 realizing in the range \$c925–1050. The author would like to know if any reader has another card used in 1889. Please alert the Editor and provide xerographic copies of the front and back if possible.

I want to thank the experts I called upon to help me with this article, especially Colin Lewis, Horace Harrison, Vance Carmichael, and William Walton. I am also grateful for the illustrations provided me by the owners of the known cards.

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Vignettes of the Old West: The birth of the CM & S Company

Pete Jacobi

THE birth of the CM & S Co, presently better known as Cominco Ltd, makes a wonderful story which even I, after having worked for this company for 23 years didn't know until I started collecting historic mining company covers.

The setting is Rossland (BC) in 1890. Few people inhabit this region but a number of prospectors from Washington, Idaho and Montana are roaming through the territory of southern British Columbia looking for gold and minerals recognizable to the naked eye. Two prospectors from Colville, Washington named Joe Moris and Joe Bourgeois come across some good looking gold-copper ore outcrops on Red Mountain above present day Rossland, and stake five claims. To record them they mount their horses and ride for three days to reach Nelson on the south shore of Kootenay Lake, the location of the nearest mining recorder. They record the *War Eagle*, the *Centre Star*, the *Idaho* and the *Virginia* claims. Since they have no money, they offer the fifth claim, the *LeRoy* to the mining recorder, Eugene Sayre Topping, if he were to pay the recording fee of \$2.50 per claim for all five claims. Topping agrees, pays the \$12.50 and becomes the owner of the *LeRoy* claim.

By now, it is late autumn, snow is starting to fall, our prospectors go back to Colville, and the mining recorder Topping travels to Spokane to raise capital for mine development. He is a good salesman and raises sufficient capital which results in the formation of the "LeRoy Mining & Smelting Company of Spokane", incorporated in the state of Washington in 1891. The following spring, development of the ore shoots begins and everything that glitters is put into jute sacks and transported to the nearest smelter at Butte, Montana. Transport is arduous and expensive as these sacks are taken seven miles by packhorses from location above Rossland to the nearest steamer landing at Trail Creek Landing (present day Trail) on the Columbia River. Here the load is transferred onto paddle wheelers which take this freight down to Northport, Washington, where in turn it is loaded onto the Great Northern Railroad for transport to Butte, Montana.

Mine development leads to the discovery of rich ore veins in 1893 and rumours that Spokane capital is involved causes a major staking rush on Red Mountain. A townsite company is formed and a town site is laid out in

Keywords & phrases: West, Cominco, gold mining



Figure 1. Rossland, 1890s

This photo (from the BC Archives) shows Columbia Avenue looking west at the locating of the townsite. Ross Thompson's cabin can be seen in the background, and Rossland's first post office, which opened 1 March 1895, to the immediate front left

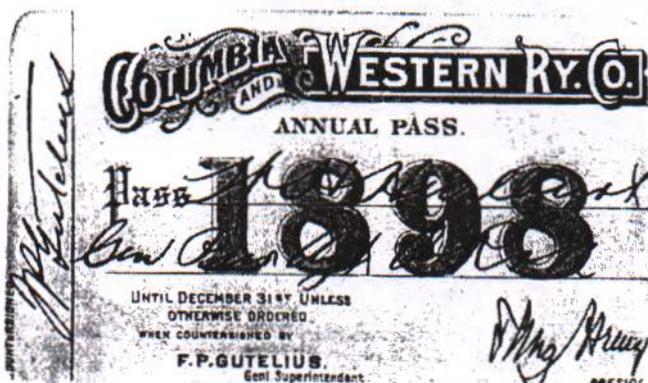


Figure 2. Columbia & Western Railway annual pass (1898)

1894. It is named Rossland after Ross Thompson, builder of one of the first cabins and pre-emptor of 160 acres of land.

News of the strike quickly spread throughout the Pacific Northwest and



Figure 3. Trail (Creek) (1895)

Earliest known post card of Trail Creek Landing. It shows Topping & Hanna's Trail House and a sternwheeler of the Columbia & Kootenay Steam Navigation Company at the dock. The mouth of Trail Creek is to the left of the boat.

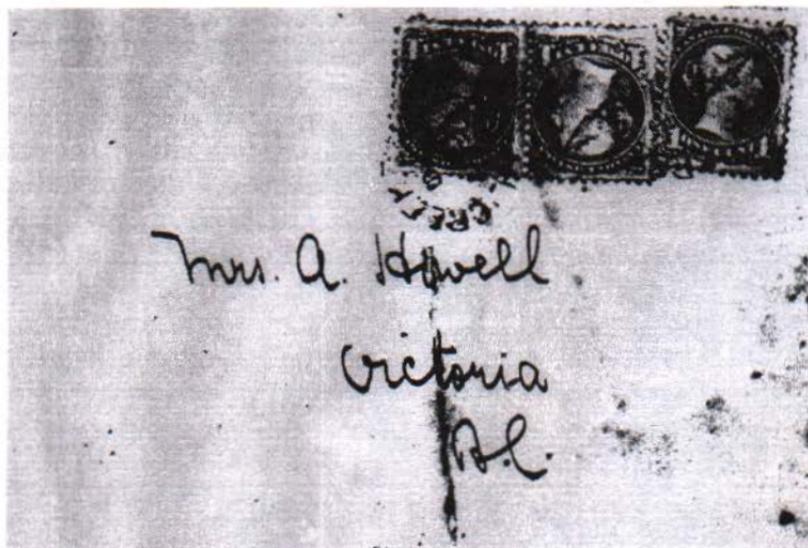


Figure 4. Trail Creek broken circle (1897)

Dated 8 January 1897, one week after the official closing of the post office. The new Trail canceling hammer was likely not yet available.

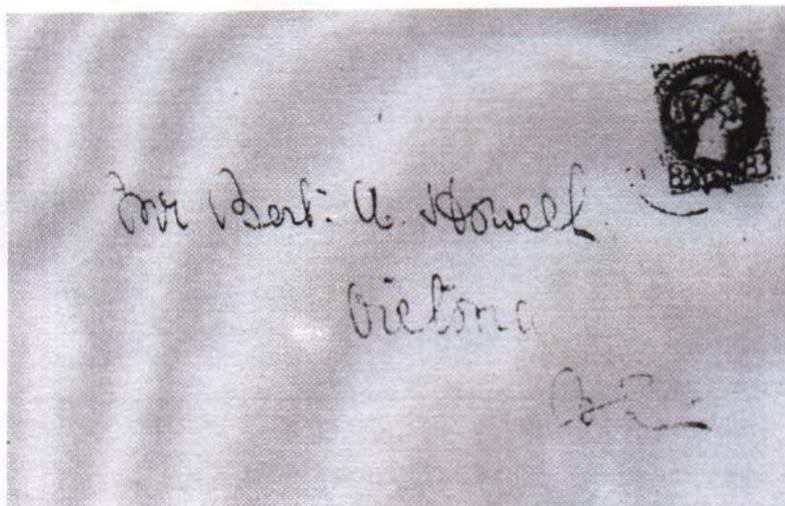


Figure 5. Trail broken circle (15 October 1897)

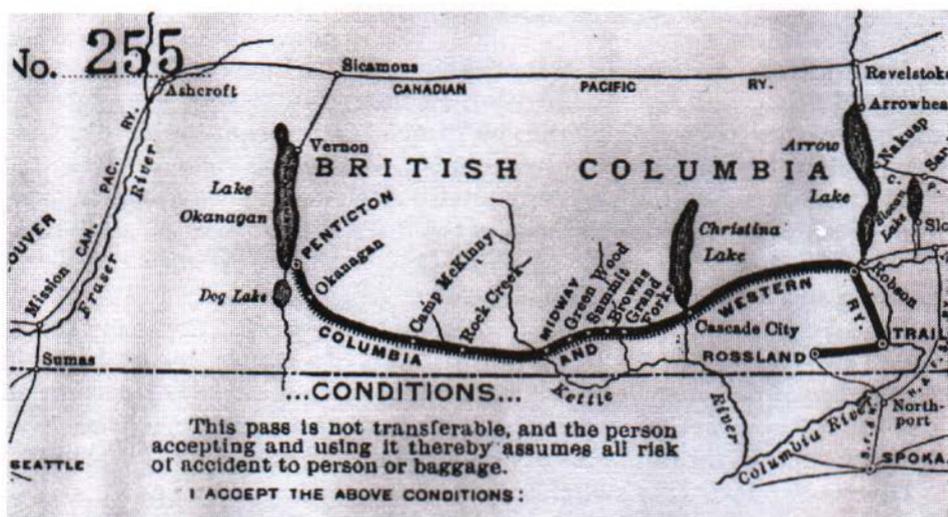


Figure 6. Reverse of pass c & w Ry Co
Shows its right-of-way, and the projected route.

mining men, financiers and entrepreneurs come to see for themselves. One of these is a bright and energetic young mining engineer named Fritz Augustus Heinze, a graduate of the Columbia School of Mines in New York, who made his fortune at an early age as a copper baron in the state of Montana.

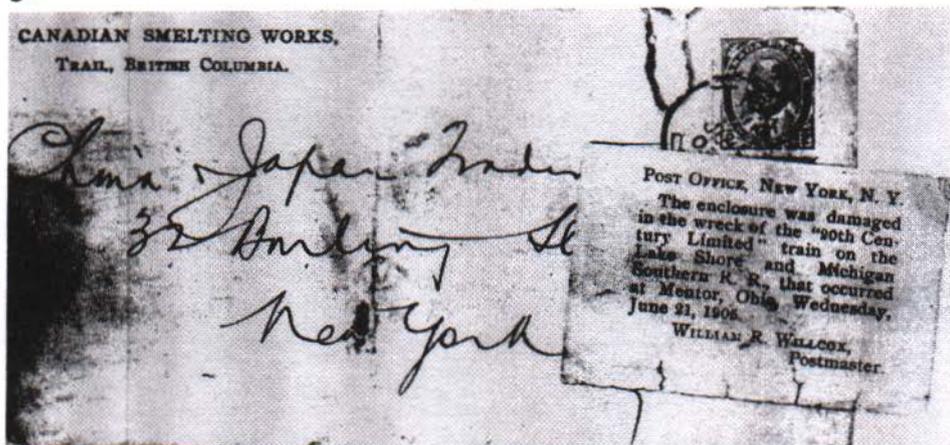


Figure 7. Canadian Smelting Works corner cover (1905)

Franked with the 2¢ first class letter rate to the United States, cancelled at Trail, backstamped at Rossland 18 June. It arrived in New York on 23 June 05 after being damaged in a wreck on 21 June.

He quickly recognized the potential for a smelter to process the Rossland ores and negotiated a contract with the LeRoy mine to treat 75,000 tons of its ore. This action was followed in quick succession by his purchase from Col E S Topping (the mining recorder, who by this time had settled at Trail Creek Landing and pre-empted 160 acres) of the level bench above Trail Creek Landing plus one third of the town site lots. At the same time, he commissioned a survey for a narrow gauge tramway between Trail Creek Landing and Rossland.

In 1895, he incorporated the BC Smelting and Refining Company, out of which eventually grew Cominco. Construction of a copper smelter began in September of the same year. It proceeded at great speed, was blown in on 1 February 1896, a mere five months later! On 11 June 1896, the Trail Creek Tramway, named the Columbia & Western Railroad, rolled into Rossland.

Now the story briefly switches to Trail Creek. Originally known as *Trail Creek Landing*, it owes its birth to the enterprising Eugene Sayer Topping, the mining recorder. After selling his LeRoy claim to Spokane interests, saw a business opportunity catering to travelers bound for the budding mining camp of Rossland. He formed a partnership with fellow American, Frank Hanna, and moved from Nelson to the mouth of Trail Creek to build a two storey log cabin named Trail House, offering meals and accomodation to the passengers disembarking from the Columbia River steamers landing at the beach right in front of their building.

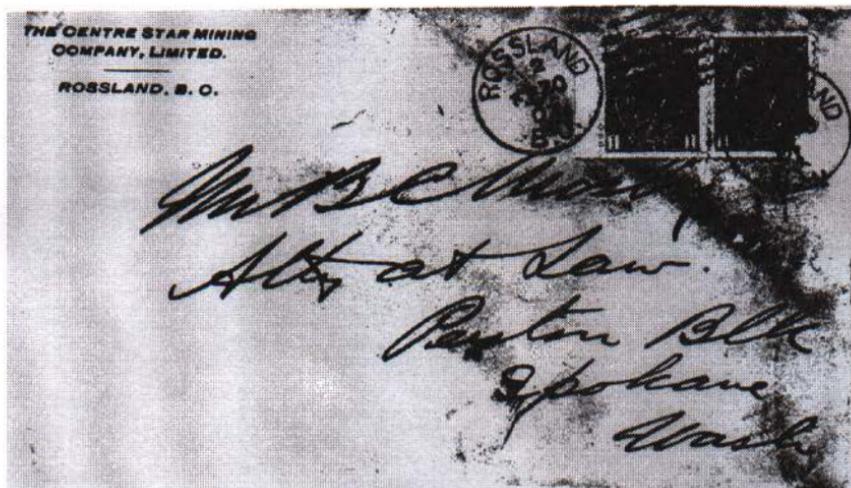


Figure 8. Centre Star Mining Company corner cover (1902)

Originally dated 20 February 1901 but the postmaster must have realized his error and changed the indicia to 1902; this corroborated by the backstamp at Spokane dated 21 February 1902.

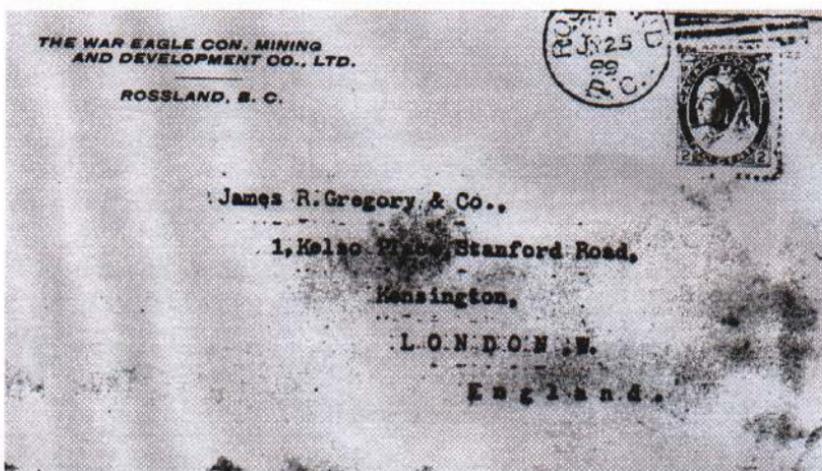
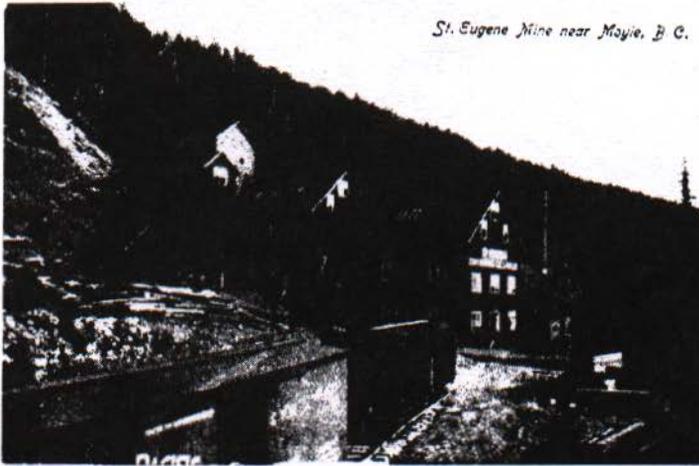


Figure 9. War Eagle Consolidated Mining & Dev't Co corner cover (1899)

Franking of 2¢ pays the Empire penny post rate.

The first post office was opened in Trail House on 1 July 1891 for the community known as Trail Creek. Only a split-ring cancel is known for this post office. The post office was renamed Trail and moved to more spacious quarters on the corner of Bay and Helena Streets on 1 January 1897.



St. Eugene Mine near Moyie, B. C.

Figure 10. St Eugene Mine in Moyie

Discovered in 1873 and became part of the CM & S Co on its formation in 1905. No postally used corner covers have surfaced thus far.

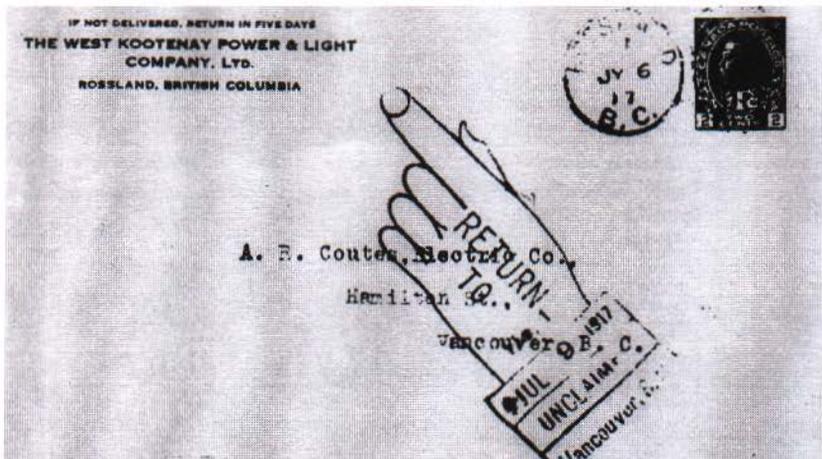


Figure 11. Early WKP & L Company corner cover (1917)

Cancelled by Rossland duplex DBC-324.

We are now closer to the formation of CM & S Co. During the 1890s, competition was being waged between the CPR and expansionist American railroads, such as JJ Hill's Great Northern, over access into southern British Columbia. Early in Fritz Heinze's shaping of his British Columbia empire,

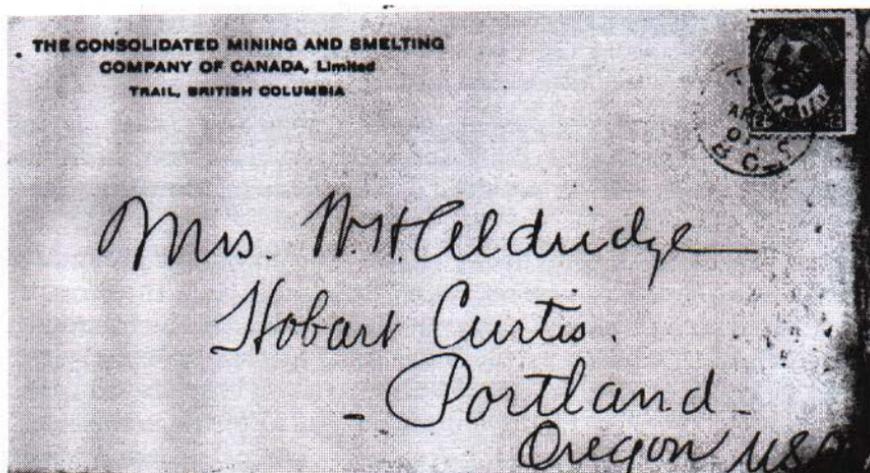


Figure 12. Aldridge cover from CM & S Co (1908)

Addressed to Mrs W H Aldridge, likely by her husband Walter Hull Aldridge. Backstamped at Rossland. The routing was by the Red Mountain Railway to Northport and on to the Great Northern to connect to Spokane and Portland.

he had secured for his railroad the right-of-way from Trail Creek to Robson and onward to Penticton, in order to have an outlet for smelter products to the coastal markets.

The CPR, in its quest for railroad on the Canadian side, hired Walter Hull Aldridge, a classmate of Heinze's, to negotiate the purchase of his railroad interests. After lengthy negotiations, a deal was struck in early 1898. Heinze sold his interests to the CPR for a rumored two million dollars; it included his BC Smelting and Refining Company.

W H Aldridge, a mining engineer, was appointed manager of the smelter complex, which was renamed *The Canadian Smelting Works*. Soon the copper-gold ores from Rossland dwindled in volume. In order to keep the smelter in operation, lead-silver ores from the Slocan district were taken in as well. Aldridge embarked upon a programme of expansion and innovation.

The need for a secure feed supply for the smelter resulted in the amalgamation of five companies in 1905 to form the *Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company of Canada Limited*. The five founding companies were: the Canadian Smelting Works (Trail), the Centre Star Mining Company (Rossland), the War Eagle Mining Company (Rossland), The St Eugene Mine (Moyie), and the Rossland Power Company

Illustrations 7-12 show the individual companies philatelically.

Canada's postal sesquicentennial

CANADA acquired control over its postal system and issued its first postage stamps in 1851, making 2001 the sesquicentennial of these events. Dale Speirs kindly provided copies of two relevant announcements, from 1849 and 1851.

The first is from the Journal of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, concerning the 1849 session. Recall that at this time, the Province of Canada referred to the Union of Upper and Lower Canada, which amounts to small portions of what are currently Ontario and Quebec, whereas British North America includes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland as well. The Committee formed to consider the establishment of a General Post Office in the Provinces of British North America proposed several Resolutions. These are wrapped in the highly prolix language of the period, so I will just extract the salient points, and compare with what happened two years later.

First, there should be a uniform 3d (Provincial currency) rate throughout BNA, and no transit fee be implemented between the Provinces (this was implemented). Second, prepayment of postage remained optional (implemented), and no free franking be permitted (?). Third, that engraved postage stamps allowed for prepayment (implemented); fourth, that newspaper, pamphlet, and magazing postage be allowed to remain at the present rates, with the power to each Legislature to send them free of charge.

The second document is a Post Office circular, distributed by the newly-appointed James Morris from the then-capital of the Province of Canada, concerning the new stamps. This was obtained from the *Bathurst Courier* (Perth, Upper Canada), printed 2 May 1851, and is transcribed in full here. The italics, spelling, and capitalization are unchanged from the original.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The following Circular has been issued from the Post Office Department in regard to the new stamps

Stamps for the Pre-payment of Postage on Letters.

Department Order [No. 4.]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Toronto, 21st April, 1851.

Postage Stamps are about to be issued, one representing the Beaver, of the denomination of Three Pence; the second representing the head of Prince Albert, of the denomination of Six Pence; and the third representing the head of Her

Keywords & phrases: postage stamp, sesquicentennial

Majesty, of the denomination One Shilling; which will shortly be transmitted to the Post-Masters at important points for sale.

Any Post-Master receiving Stamps from this Department, will, by the next mail, acknowledge the receipt of the amount. At the expiration of each Quarter, with his Quarterly Postage Account, he will render an account of Stamps, on a form which will be hereafter supplied, charging himself therein with any amount which remained on hand at the close of the preceding Quarter, and with the amounts received during the Quarter just ended, and crediting himself with the amount then remaining on hand. The balance of the account so stated, representing the amount of Stamps he has sold or disposed of, the Postmaster will add to the balance due on his return for the some Quarter for Postages.

Any Letter or Packet, with one or more stamps affixed, equal in amount to the Postage properly chargeable thereon, may be mailed and forwarded from any Office as a pre-paid Letter or Packet; but if the stamps affixed be not adequate, to the proper Postage, the PostMaster, receiving the Letter or Packet for transmission, will rate it with the amount deficient in addition. This Regulation concerning Letters short paid, has reference only to Letters passing within the Province.

Stamps so affixed are to be immediately *cancelled* in the Office in which the Letter or Packet may be deposited, with an instrument to be furnished for that purpose. In Post Offices not so furnished, the Stamps must be cancelled by making a cross [×] on each with a pen. If the cancelling has been omitted on the mailing of the Letter, the Post Master delivering it will cancel the in the manner directed, and immediately report the Post Master who may have been delinquent, to the Department. Bear in mind that Stamps must invariably be cancelled before mailing the letters to which they are affixed.

Letters and Packets pre-paid by Stamps, must be entered in the Letter-Bill separately, from other pre-paid Letters—and in like manner in the Monthly Sheets.

J Morris
Postmaster General

Of interest is that Morris refers to a "One Shilling" stamp, rather than 12 penny. Of more interest is the date—21 April. Morris says that the stamps are "*about* to be issued", suggesting that they had not yet been issued. No one is sure of the date of issue, but this circular confirms the widely held belief that it must be later than the 21st.

HR Up in Smoke A grocery shop in Winchester, near Ottawa, had what looked like a crate full of used stamps. These went back to about the 1910 period. Many collectors who passed by the store made offers to buy the lot. However, the owner was always reluctant to sell. One day he made a deal with me that appeared reasonable. I told the owner to hold the crate until next week, when I would pick the lot up and pay for it. A couple of days later, before returning to Winchester, I read in the paper that the store had burned down and with it the crate of stamps. (*Hans Reiche*)

Legislative & regulatory marks used as cancels

Dave Lacelle

THE article was prompted by the observation of a fellow member of the Fancy Cancels study group that some fancy "cancels" may have been applied by other Government agencies than the post office, or may have uses other than cancelling the stamps.

When stamps with legislative, or regulatory cancels are soaked from their covers, or otherwise lose their accompanying information (such as origin, routing directions, special rate instructions, etc.), they may appear as fancy cancels. A *fancy cancel* may be defined as a postage obliterating mark which expresses some degree of creativity on the part of the user. In other words, officially produced markings in isolation can be interpreted as fancy cancels. This article is not intended as a definitive statement on legislative and regulatory markings, and will include only those cases where these markings are used as stamp cancels.



Figures 1a, b, & c. Government crown cancels
Lacelle # 1297 (this refers to [1]), L1273, & L1407.

Many legislative and regulatory cancels include a crown or official crest. A good example of this type of cancel are the crown seal cancels (e.g., Figure 1a). These were issued to each post office upon opening, and were supposed to be used for official post office business such as sealing mail bags, official correspondence to Ottawa etc. Sometimes they were used to officially seal other mail which had become opened in transit and they were occasionally used as an impressive (but unofficial for private mail) seal on the back of registered mail. All of these uses involved sealing wax. This was usually red,

Keywords & phrases: fancy cancel, legislative markings



Figures 2a, b, & c. Ottawa crown cancels
L1283, L1284, & L1285.

and occasionally black. Gold and silver sealing wax were also available, but were not used by the post office.

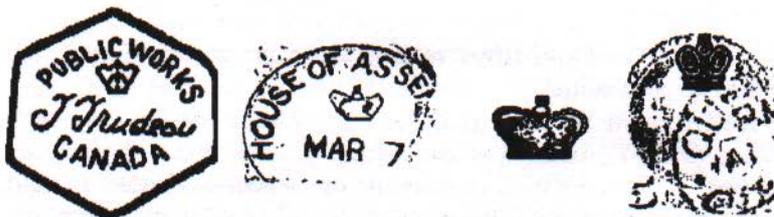
Other government agencies also used sealing wax for “sealed tenders”, confidential items (a thin ribbon was sometimes placed under the seal to make the “accidental” breaking of it impossible or to authenticate valuable papers). Thus one of the origins of the expression “red tape” of government. [*This expression is usually attributed to ancient China, where the Mandarins would wrap red tape around files which they felt were closed—thus also the expression to cut through red tape, meaning to reopen the file. —ed*] Some post offices occasionally used their sealing wax hammers with ink as cancels. This may have been just playfulness, or the use of whatever was handy. They do not make very high quality cancels, and often the post office name cannot be read. Over 65 identifiable examples are known, and are listed in an appendix of [1]. It is not certain when the use of post office wax seal hammers were discontinued, although it appears to have been in the early 1940s.

Other Government crown markings may have been occasionally used as cancels. The two BC examples (Figures 1b & c) illustrated are known from single cancel strikes. The Ottawa crown, presented here in its three possible varieties (Figures 2a, b, & c) has been suggested as a legislative marking used at the House of Commons post office. This was derived from a cover with House of Commons (and other) markings. The cancel was actually used in the main Ottawa post office just across the street from Parliament for items requiring special handling. This type of material included Government free franked mail that also required stamps, such as registered items, overseas mail etc. The cancel has also been noted on non-governmental mail, possibly mixed in with official mail.

Two later Free Ottawa markings (Figures 3a & b) are also known. The first is known as a cancel, and marking, used about 1895–1905. The other one is (so far) known only as a proof. As described above, Government



Figures 3 a & b. Ottawa Free crown cancels L1285; the second one is not known on stamp.



Figures 4 a–d. More crowns

The first is a Government departmental marking rarely found on stamp. The third and fourth are likely fake.

mailings sometimes required postage stamps. These stamps would be cancelled with the Free Ottawa mark. Two other Legislative markings included small crowns (Figure 4 a & b). The first is known as cancel use in only one case, possibly accidentally falling upon the stamp, and the second (House of Assembly, Toronto), has been seen cancelling stamps many times. Many other Government departments used markings similar to the Public Works hexagon, but have not been seen cancelling stamps.

It has been suggested that the two small crowns (Figures 4 c & d) are Government marks used (perhaps) by postal inspectors. Both are far more likely to be bogus.

Bogus regulatory “cancels” were produced in the 1890s by Halifax stamp dealer Henry Hechler. These consist of small queen stamps or stationery overprinted with the words OFFICIAL (Figure 5 a) or SERVICE. Hechler also produced some other very unofficial military markings, such as ‘63 Rifles” (Figure 5 b), OS (Figure 5 c). etc.

Other types of Legislative and regulatory fancy cancels also exist. Post office inspection markings may have been the origin of the entire Toronto 2 series (e.g., Figure 6 a), and possibly also the Ottawa 8s (Figure 6 b; note the patriotic VR), and the Kingston 9s (e.g., Figure 6 c). The Postmaster-General



Figures 5a, b, & c. Hechlerisms



Figures 6a, b, & c. Toronto, Ottawa & Kingston numerals
L29, L95, & L104.



Figures 7a & b. Encircled letters
L334 & L239.

reports indicate that payment for cutting the Toronto 2 corks came from the Toronto post office, not the Toronto main post office. This was despite the fact that the person paid to carve them worked for Toronto main office, and not for the post office. As post office markings, they verify first that the specific item has been inspected (to confirm appropriate postage), and then they function as a cancel. This rather limited use is probably why these cancels are scarce.

The "C in circle" cancel (Figure 7a) had a similar use to the Ottawa Crowns described above. This too was used at the Ottawa main post office, the "C"



Figure 8a & b. Legislative Assembly and ??
L569.



Figure 9a, b, & c. Foreign instructional markings on Canadian stamps
Respectively, British Foreign Branch, Newspaper Branch, and French *payé à destination*.

apparently indicates origin at the House of Commons, although very similar markings (Figure 7b) were used by mail carriers in Kingston and Hamilton. These latter items occasionally occur as cancels, presumably used on way letters, which were received by the carrier on his route (or way), and thus never went through a post office for cancelling.

It has been suggested that the LA cancel (Figure 8a) used at Toronto in 1879 may stand for Legislative Assembly; this has not been confirmed. In an earlier era (c 1830–70), *on his/her majesty's service*, frequently abbreviated OHMS, meant that the letter was to travel by the official post office, and not by private or favour carriage. I have seen two small queen stamps with a "On H.M.S." typeset cancel and an OHMS pen cancel; both are suspect.

There were also many official post office straight line instructional markings which were supposed to appear on covers, parcels, routing slips etc, which were occasionally pressed into use as cancels. Included are REGISTERED, PAID, TOO LATE (for the day's despatch), AR (*avis de réception*) and even paradoxically FREE. These were probably used as they were the first thing handy, and could function as a cancel after the instructional marking had been applied. As these are just typeset markings, they do not qualify as fancy cancels.

Some RPO straight line town name bundle markings are also known, as

well as a few railway ticket cancels. Many of these are undoubtedly philatelic inspired, and lack the personal creativity of fancy cancels. I have seen two different airmail cancels on 3¢ small queens, last printed in 1897!

Other examples of legislative and regulatory markings, this time of foreign origin, on Canadian stamps, are the British Foreign Branch FB (Figure 9a), Newspaper Branch NPB (Figure 9b) and the French *payé à destination* PD (Figure 9c) occasionally found on stamps of Canada and other countries.



Figure 10a & b. Marine markings
L260.

Some of the marine markings (Figures 10a & b) may also be considered to be regulatory in that they indicate the type of mail and the approval of conveyance. This is stretching the definition a bit, and I have probably stretched the patience of the readers.

References

[1] D M Lacelle *Fancy cancels on Canadian stamps* BNAPS (2000).

[This article is a slightly modified version of an article that appeared in newsletter # 25 of the BNAPS Fancy Cancel study group.]

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(31) Canadian Postal Guide **ILLUSTRATED**

C R McGuire

One of a series (initially 1983–89, and recommencing in 2001) illustrating points from Canada Postal Guides.

THE Diamond Jubilee stamps were issued on 19 June 1897. While the 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 5¢, and 8¢ (paying, respectively, the circular rate, the drop letter (with local delivery) rate, domestic rate, UPU rate (or the registration fee by itself), and the combined registration plus domestic rate) stamps were issued in sufficient quantities for actual use, the half-cent and the 6¢ stamps were not. Fearing that a consortium could monopolize the latter two, the Post Office restricted their sale to sets, which made them a very expensive proposition. Figure 2 shows the post office form that accompanied the delivery of this issue to post offices.



Figure 1. Shortpaid FDC (1897)

Drop letter at Ottawa, 1¢ underpaid, charged double deficiency.

Commercial first day covers of this issue are not unknown, especially to squared circle collectors. However, we present such FDCs showing unusual

Keywords & phrases: Jubilees, *real* first day covers

N. B.—Requisitions for full sets of the Jubilee Stamps will be filled until the issue is exhausted.

E. P. S.

Post Office Department, Canada,

POSTAGE STAMP BRANCH,

Ottawa, June, 1897.

Sir,—

I am directed by the Postmaster General to send you herewith a supply of the Jubilee Stamps and 1 c. Post Card, equal to one month's ordinary requirements of your office. Should this quantity prove insufficient, it will, on your requisition addressed to this Branch, be supplemented, but as the Jubilee issue is limited, it would be necessary for you to apply early in order to secure further supplies of the same.

I am also to instruct you not to sell any of the accompanying stamps or post cards before the opening of your office at the regular office hours on the 19th June instant,—the eve of the anniversary they are intended to commemorate.

These stamps and cards are, of course, like the ordinary issues, to be sold at face value.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. P. STANTON,

Postmaster.

Superintendent.

2047.

Figure 2. Post office form (1897)

Note the instructions not to sell the stamps before the official day of issue.

uses. Figure 1 shows a drop letter (same city) FDC mailed at Ottawa, with the 1¢ Jubilee. For a city with local delivery, the rate was 2¢, so the letter was shortpaid 1¢, and thus charged double deficiency 2¢, as indicated by the large handstamped 2.

Figure 3 shows payment for circular distribution; presumably there were more stamps on the back—a single 2¢ would pay for only two circulars. A first day cover to the United States with proper payment of the 3¢ single rate is shown in Figure 4.

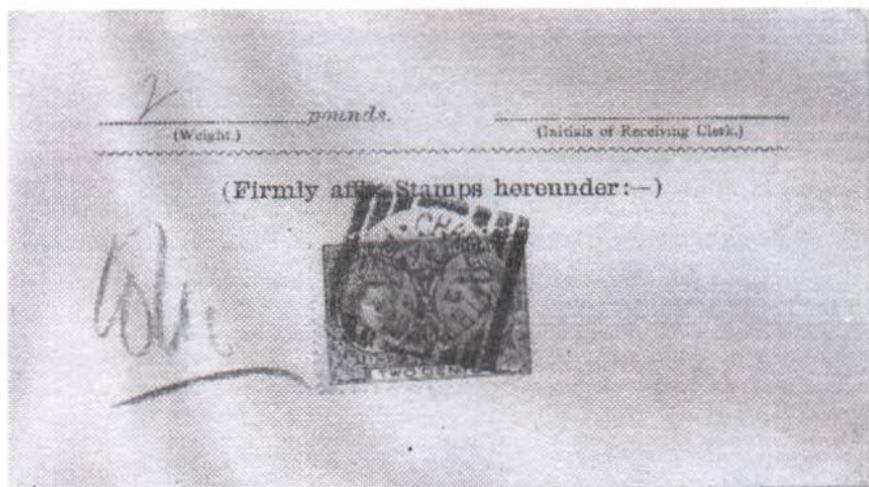


Figure 3. Payment for circulars FDC (1897)
At Charlottetown.



Figure 4. FDC to the US
To Baltimore.

Mentioned in the post office form (Figure 2) are the 1¢ printed stationery cards, intended for use as domestic postcards. Unused, these are very com-



Figure 5. FDC Jubilee stationery card



Figure 6. FDC Jubilee stationery card to England
Stamp added to make up UPU postcard rate.

mon, but examples used on the first day of issue are not. Figures 5 & 6 show two FDCs of these cards. The first is mailed from Carleton Place to Ottawa, and the message on reverse is of interest:

Acacia Villa, June 19th 1897

Whenever I got home, I went over to see about those stamps for you, but they said they had more spoken for these items [*than*] they would get, but I waited and went over this morning in hopes of getting some, but they did not send them any at all, although they have written for them. Am very sorry I could not get them for you.
—I.I.M.

The second (Figure 6) is an international use, with a 1¢ stamp added to make up the 2¢ UPU postcard rate. The message here is also interesting:

Our postman has just brought this card for me and says there are only a few issued "Jubilee Postcards". Therefore I think it will be a bit of a treasure. The more one thinks of it, the more wonderful this Jubilee seems. We are sending all our men for a grand rehearsal today. They seem very keen on keep the thing up with credit in these parts—that is to say, the Canadians seem very keen on it.

Lovely English weather today. Hope your Jubilee will be a success in Jubilee Park.

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HR *Some sheets of Admirals* C Bond of Montreal used to sell large quantities of full sheets cancelled for bulk mailing. Practically all the values of the Admirals, including the war tax stamps with their plate inscriptions and lathe work, were represented. Each sheet was priced at \$15. One of them was the 2¢ carmine with type c lathework, catalogue value about \$4,000. It had a roller cancel from Ottawa. (*Hans Reiche*)

Presentation booklet: 1960 PUAS Congress, Buenos Aires

J C Jarnick & A Chung

THE eighth Congress of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain was scheduled to be held in Buenos Aires during September 1960. The Canadian Post Office Department ordered 200 booklets to be manufactured by the Canadian Bank Note Company, at a cost of \$1087.80 including sales tax, for presentation to the delegates at the conference.



Figure 1. Front cover of presentation booklet

The book measures 135mm × 210mm and is bound in a hard, dark blue imitation leather cover (Figure 1) bearing the Canadian Coat of Arms and CANADA stamped in gold. A 14-ring spiral plastic hinge, concealed by the wrap around cover, holds the pages. The first page reads

Keywords & phrases: PUAS, presentation booklet

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
CANADA
VIII CONGRESS
POSTAL UNION OF THE
AMERICAS AND SPAIN
BUENOS AIRES
ARGENTINA
1960

The Spanish equivalent is on the next page.



Figure 2. Some of the stamps in the booklet

The stamps are affixed to seven pages, separated by glassine interleaves with a description of the stamp in English and Spanish. The stamps housed in the booklet (Figure 2) are blocks of four of the 5¢ Royal Visit stamps (1957 & 1959), horizontal pairs of the 5¢ mining industry, 25¢ chemical industry, 20¢ pulp and paper industry, 5¢ free press, 5¢ & 15¢ UPU, 5¢ international geophysical year, 5¢ oil development, 5¢ national health, 5¢ girl guides, 5¢ NATO, 5¢ anniversary of flight, 5¢ St Lawrence Seaway, 5¢ first elected assembly, 5¢ 350th anniversary of Québec, 5¢ British Columbia, 5¢ Plains of Abraham, 5¢ Dollard des Ormeaux, 5¢ David Thompson, 5¢

La Verendrye, 5¢ fire prevention, 5¢ hockey, and a block of four of the 5¢ Canada all-seasons recreation stamp.

The Canadian Bank Note Company delivered 20 parcels containing the 200 booklets to the Post Office Department on 26 August 1960. Four of the 200 booklets were defective. At the suggestion of J A MacDonald, Director of Financial Services, one of the defective booklets was transferred to the Departmental Philatelic Museum.

References

National Archives of Canada, RG3, all acc 86-87-396, Box 17, File 60-8-6-18.

The Postal History Society of Canada invites applications for membership



The PHSC publishes an award-winning quarterly journal, sponsors seminars on Canadian postal history, 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). More monographs and books are planned for the near future. Manuscripts are solicited. **Coming soon:** AR—*Avis de réception* (c150 pages, wireO bound, dealing with worldwide AR, emphasizing Canada & the US).

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The convention is hosted by the Inland Empire Philatelic Society in connection with their annual *Apple Harvest Show*—200 Ameripex-style frames of exhibits for both BNAPS and Apple Harvest.

What's new?— National Archives of Canada Philatelic Collections

Cimon Morin

This column is provided on a regular basis in order to publicize new acquisitions and activities within the philatelic area at the National Archives of Canada (NA). Researchers who wish to use the NA facilities should contact, in writing, the National Archives of Canada, Reference Services, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa ON K1A 0N3 [fax: (613) 995-6274; e-mail: reference@archives.ca; Internet website: <http://www.archives.ca>]

Former acquisitions

Henry D Hicks collection [philatelic record, textual record] [1903–1988]; one postage stamp, proof, photo vignette, sepia toned; one folder; one postage stamp essay, blue watercolour drawing. Fonds consists of one postage stamp-sized model used for all denominations of the 1903 King Edward VII definitive issue of Canada, one postage stamp essay in blue watercolour from the 1932 definitive issue of Newfoundland, and four autographed dinner menus, prepared for the 1978, 1983 & 1988 birthday dinners of V G Greene, well-known Canadian philatelist. The autographs are those of fellow philatelists and stamp dealers. (R4137)

Barbara Griffin fonds [graphic material] [1985]; 16 prints silkscreen. Fonds consists of 16 silk screen prints created by Barbara Griffin. Eleven prints were prepared for the 1985 postage stamp issued to commemorate the Canadian Girl Guide movement on the 75th anniversary of its founding. Two prints are unrelated to the Canadian Girl Guide Movement and were used to demonstrate the artists skills as a designer and three prints are in the form of commercial business cards, advertising Barbara Griffin's design business. (R5195)

Elizabeth Hutchinson collection [philatelic record] [1897–1978]; c 2,499 postal covers, c 73 postal stationery items & postal cards, two postage stamps, 12 labels. Collection consists of a variety of private and official commemorative and first day of issue postal covers and postcards, as issued by Canada, United States of America, Great Britain, Australia, Pitcairn Islands, and

Keywords & phrases: National Archives of Canada

other selected foreign countries, the Vatican City and the United Nations; set of 12 adhesive labels featuring the official Provincial and Territorial Flowers of Canada; set of 14 adhesive labels entitled, Prime Ministers of the Dominion of Canada, 1867–1963; set of 14 stamps from The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, featuring various Stations of the Cross (R3764).

International Mailing Systems Ltd fonds [philatelic record] [1986]; 37 postal markings. Fonds consists of postage meter indicia for machines issued 1986 & 1987, by International Mailing Systems Ltd. The communities include: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Markham, Mississauga, Rexdale, Timmins, Toronto and Willowdale, Ontario (R4652).

Jonathan C Johnson collection [philatelic record] 1900–1950; 6,639 postage stamps, 348 postal covers. Collection consists of stamps, covers, postcards, cheques, forms, tags, documents, wrappers, and telegrams to which perfins are affixed. These make up an organized study of all the known perfin insignia used in every province of Canada (not including the Yukon and NWT for which no perfins are recorded or known), as well as a study of the perfin insignia of all the American businesses, with Canadian links that are known to have used Canadian stamps in this manner.

The collection is divided into eight sections: section 1 (A1–C58) includes Newfoundland perfins, postage due and Admiral issue perfins; section 2 (C59–L7) comprises Intercolonial Railway and Precancel perfins; section 3 (M1–P9) contains Militia Department and National Defence perfins; section 4 (P10–S20) has Sun Life Assurance Company perfins; section 5 (T1–#1) has Gutta Percha and Rubber Ltd, and W J Gage Co perfins; section 6 (C40–C46) consists of Canadian National perfins and their forerunners; section 7 (C49–C53) contains the Canadian Pacific Railway perfins of the late 1960s; and section 8 (O7–O9) includes OHMS and Canada Unemployment Insurance stamp perfins. Finding Aid: CPA–206. (R3749)

ORAPEX Ottawa 4–5 May 2001

Ottawa's national stamp exhibition, the 41th annual RA Stamp Club & Bourse; at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, in the Curling Rink (brrr—wear a sweater); Saturday 4 May, 10 AM–6 PM and Sunday 5 May, 10 AM–4 PM. Parking and admission free.

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New Issues

William J F Wilson

IT has become traditional that each year the Christmas stamps are among the most attractive stamps issued by Canada Post. This year's Christmas Lights stamps are no exception, with a nice balance of lit trees against a night-time scene featuring a traditional winter activity—a sleigh-ride on the 47¢, skating on an outdoor pond on the 60¢, and building a snowman on the \$1.05 stamps.

Table 1. June–July 2001

Stamp 	Edmonton championships	Pierre Trudeau	Roses souvenir sheet	Roses booklet
Value	2 × 47¢ S-T	47¢	4 × 47¢ S-T	4 × 47¢
Issued	25 Jun	01 Jul	01 Aug	01 Aug
Printer	AP	AP	AP	AP
Pane	16	pane 16, ss 4	4	12
Paper	C	P	JAC (2)	JAC (2)
Process	9CL (1)	7CL	9CL (2)	9CL (2)
Qty (10 ⁶)	4	pane 6, ss 2	1.2	12
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	PVA	PVA	PVA	P-S
Size (mm)	30 × 47.8	32 × 40	64 × 30.43 (3)	64 × 30.5 (3)
Perf	12.7 × 12.6	13.1 × 12.5	12.5 × 13.1	diecut
Teeth	19 × 30	21 × 25	40 × 20	NA

- (1) Canada Post's *Details* booklet (Vol X No 3, Jul–Sep 2001) lists 7CL, but the stamp selvedge shows nine colour "dots".
- (2) The *Details* booklet (op.cit.) lists 9CL and JAC paper for both the booklet and the souvenir sheet. The selvedge on the Roses booklet shows J for JAC paper, but shows eight bold colour "dots" plus two white "dots" that become visible under strong reflected light. The souvenir sheet does not have either colour dots or an identification letter for the paper.
- (3) The *Details* booklet (op.cit.) gives 30.43mm and 30.5mm as the heights. My own measurements suggest that the stamp height is slightly less than 30.5mm for both formats, but I can't confirm the value given by Canada Post.

According to Canada Post's *Details* booklet (Vol X No 4, Oct–Dec 2001), the first person in the world to decorate a tree with electric lights was Edward H Johnson, a colleague of Thomas Edison. Johnson placed a string of

Keywords & phrases: new issues

80 small, homemade light bulbs on the tree in his home in New York in 1882, and wired the lights to flash on and off as the tree rotated. Flashing lights are still traditional for many people, though not many have their trees mounted to rotate. Strings of lights were offered commercially around 1890, and the custom of lighting trees electrically made its way to Canada around 1896.

There is an interesting bit of circularity in the early years of electrically-lit trees, in that the custom could only spread as quickly as homes were wired for electricity, but in fact it was the electric light bulb that provided the major spur for wiring homes. Thus electric lighting was both a cause (for room lighting) and a result (for tree decoration) of the spread of electricity.

Table 2. August–September 2001

Stamp	Peace of Montreal	Jack Shadbolt	Shriners	Greetings	Theatres
Value	47¢	\$1.05	47	5 × domestic rate	2 × 47¢
Issued	03 Aug	24 Aug	19 Sep	21 Sep	28 Sep
Printer	AP	CBN	CBN	AP	AP
Pane	16	16	16	5 & 5 stickers	16
Paper	C	C	C	JAC	C
Process	6CL (1)	5CL+1 col foil	5CL	10CL	4CL (2)
Qty (10 ⁶)	4	4	5	continuous	4
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	PVA	PVA	PVA	P-S	PVA
Size (mm)	48 × 27.5	40 × 48	29.9 × 40	40 × 31.5	30 × 48
Perf	12.5 × 13.1	13.0 × 13.3	13.4 × 13.0	11.7 × 11.7 (sim'd)	12.7 × 12.5
Teeth	30 × 18	26 × 32	20 × 26	NA (diecut)	19 × 30

(1) The *Details* booklet (op.cit.) lists 5CL, but the selvage shows six colour dots.

(2) The *Details* booklet lists 5CL, but the selvage shows four colour dots.

Compared to the 1700th anniversary of Christianity in Armenia commemorated on the Armenian Churches stamp earlier in 2001, the Great Peace of 1701 may seem like a recent event; but still it is not often that we see a tercentenary on Canadian stamps. Three that come to mind are the Quebec Tercentenary set of 1908, the voyage of the *Nonsuch* (issued 1968), and the 1970 stamp marking the tercentenary of the birth of Henry Kelsey. The Great Peace reconciled the Huron, Iroquois, and other tribes who had been warring since Champlain arrived in North America almost a hundred years earlier, and allowed the subsequent relatively peaceful expansion of New France.

Table 3. October–November 2001

Stamp	Hot Air Balloons	Christmas	YMCA	Legion
Value	4 × 47¢	47¢, 60¢, \$1.05	47¢	47¢
Issued	01 Oct	01 Nov	08 Nov	11 Nov
Printer	CBN	CBN	CBN	CBN
Pane	8	(1)	16	16
Paper	C	C	C	C
Process	6CL	47¢ 7CL 60¢, \$1.05 6CL (2)	5CL (3)	7CL (4)
Qty (10 ⁶)	8	(1A)	4	3
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	P-S	PVA	PVA	PVA
Size (mm)	42.5 × 31	40 × 30.5	30 × 36	56 × 26
Perf	dc	12.5 × 13.1	13.3 × 13.3	12.5 × 13.1
Teeth	NA	25 × 20	20 × 24	35 × 17

(1) The pane consists of 25, the booklet of the 47¢ stamp contains 10, and the booklets of the 60¢ & \$1.05 stamps have 6.

(1A) The 47¢ stamp was issued in a quantity of 64.815million, the 60¢ in a quantity of 10.922million, and the \$1.05 in a quantity of 10.922million.

(2) The *Details* booklet (Vol X No 4, Oct–Dec 2001) simply lists 7CL for the set, but the selvedge on the 47¢ shows seven colour dots for the scene and one more for the lettering and value, and the 60¢ and \$1.05 stamps shows six colour dots for the scene and one more for the lettering and value.

(3) The *Details* booklet (op.cit.) lists 5CL. The stamp selvedge shows six dots, but one is a highly-reflective white that appears to have been used only in the selvedge.

(4) The *Details* booklet (op.cit.) lists 5CL but the selvedge shows seven dots.

Abbreviations. 5 (6, 7, . . .) CL: five (six, seven, . . .) colour lithography; BKL: booklet; AP: Ashton-Potter; C: Tullis Russell Coatings (coated paper); CBN: Canadian Bank Note Company; DC: die cut; G4S: general tagging (four sides); JAC: Canadian Jac; NA: not applicable (straight-edged stamp, or width depends on how booklet was trimmed); P: Peterborough paper; P-S: pressure sensitive gum; s-t: setenant; ss: souvenir sheet; sim'd: simulated.

One anniversary that is disappointingly missing from the 2001 issues is the centenary of the birth of long-distance radio transmission by Marconi on 12 December 1901 [*whether Marconi could have heard radio signals has been disputed, particularly by supporters of the Canadian inventor, Reginald Fessenden (for whom a stamp has already been issued)—ed*]. Marconi travelled to Newfoundland's Signal Hill to receive the first trans-Atlantic radio signal, using a 500-foot receiving antenna hoisted aloft by a kite in a gale-force wind. The transmission proved that radio signals could reach far beyond the horizon, thus showing the possibility of instant world-wide communication. Canada Post commemorated the centenary of Marconi's birth with a stamp

on 15 November 1974, showing Marconi and Signal Hill; but except for a brief mention in the text (not on the stamps) on the kites booklet of 1999, nothing has been released to mark the anniversary of the actual transmission. I wonder if this is because the signal was unfortunate enough to have been transmitted in December [or it could have been the dispute with Fessenden, or that Nikola Tesla has a stronger case than Marconi, or that Marconi supported the Italian Fascists later in his life ... —ed]. For good reason, Canada Post releases its annual collection more than a month before Christmas; but this makes it difficult to commemorate December anniversaries, at least in the month in which they occurred. Considering how important long-distance radio communication has been to the development of Canada, it would have been nice to see a stamp commemorating its birth.

Canada Post announced a rate increase for this winter, and according to the *Details* booklet (op.cit.) a slate of new definitives was scheduled for 3 December. However, the stamps didn't materialize, and a poster in a local postal outlet shows a release date of 2 January.

The information in the tables is from Canada Post's *Details* booklet and the Canada Post website,

<http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/collecting/default-e.asp?stamp=stamps> and from philatelic inscriptions on the stamps. Size, perforations, and number of teeth are my own measurements, and are given as horizontal × vertical.

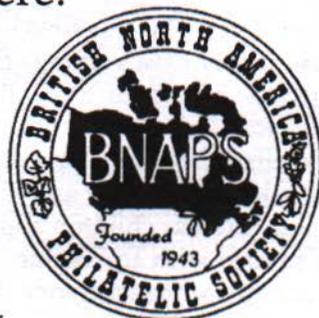
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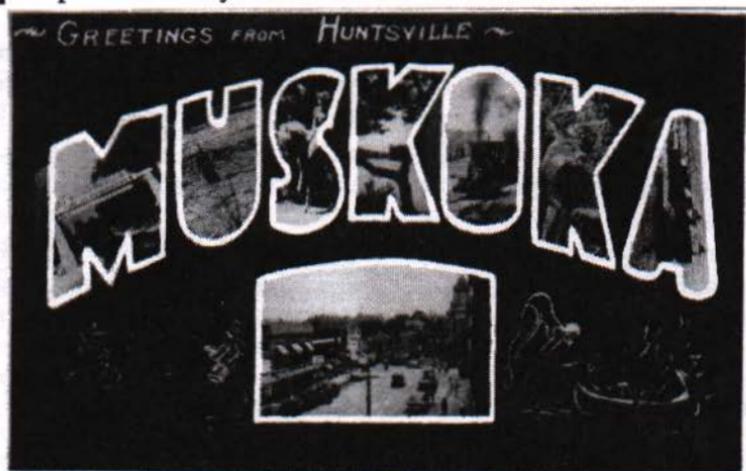
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Book Reviews

☞ *Companion guide to Muskoka District post offices 1861–1999* by Susan M Sheffield (2001), soft cover, wire spiral bound, 272 pages; ISBN 0-9681196-1-1. Keyboard House Publishing (Meadowlark RPO, Box 67039 Edmonton AB T5R 5Y3); price: \$C39.95 postpaid in Canada, \$US32.50 in the US, \$US35 elsewhere. Contact the author at muskoka@telusplanet.net

THE postal history of



comes alive in Sue Sheffield's latest book, the result of over five years' intense work. It may have a strange title, but believe me, it will become the constant *companion* of any serious collector of Muskoka material. It is an invaluable reference. This book is not just for postal historians, but will be useful to generalist historians, genealogists, or anyone interested in this area.

Muskoka is familiar and fondly remembered by many as a vacation destination, often as children and for a succession of summers. That is how Sue fell in love with the region. She spent summer holidays with her grandparents (to whose memory the book is dedicated) at their home, Lone Pine Lodge, near Port Severn.

During those summers, she began collecting picture postcards of the district. Just six years ago, its postal history began to intrigue her—so much so, that she decided to write this "guide". Sue is founding member and secretary of the PHSC's *Muskoka postal history society study group*, and a regular contributor to its newsletter.

With permission of the author, Sue extracted the appropriate entries from Robert C Smith's *Ontario post offices* (Unitrade), and listed them alphabetically, forming List 1. Each entry in the list includes its township, opening & closing dates, and name changes, in addition to other information. An additional List 1a gives neighbouring post offices, not in Muskoka. This could be useful to collectors unsure of the locations of these offices. List 2 gives post office number(s), names and dates for postmasters. This can be useful, for example, to determine if the advertisement on a corner card was for the postmaster's business, or if a postcard was sent by PMS during their tenure. The precise dates of operation of summer offices (obviously important in a resort area such as Muskoka) are also included. List 2a gives the corresponding information for the neighbouring offices. Comments, such as the exact location of the post office, add to the usefulness.

List 3 gives the post offices listed chronologically by date of opening. The earliest office to open was at Severn Bridge, 1 January 1861. It is one of only 13 post offices currently open (now 12 with the recent closing of Torrance). There are also five franchise operations and one summer office, Beaumaris. At its peak, Muskoka had 204 post offices, of which 86 were summer offices, the largest number among Canada's vacation regions. Lists 4 & 5 have the offices listed alphabetically within each township, and chronologically within each township. Lists 6–9 deal with summer offices, chronologically, alphabetically, and by township. The final list (10) gives the postmasters alphabetically and with dates of birth where known. Critics might suggest that the information in List 1 is repeated unnecessarily. However, this arrangement is much more convenient for the reader.

Of particular interest to military collectors are the illustrations and detailed coverage of Little Norway and POW Camp C (later Camp 20).

There are sections on the methods of conveying the mails, including an 1879 stage & steamer timetable, mail contracts and routes. There is a good overview of the post office savings bank.

One of the most useful sections in the book is the seven page "Post office commerce 1861–1875". It lists annual revenues; together with other factors, this helps determine the true scarcity of postmarks. Unfortunately, revenues for subsequent years were unavailable.

There is a 17-page section dealing with handstamps, which will be of interest for collectors of general Canadian postmarks. Courtesy of Paul Hughes and Robert A Lee, the known proof strikes of broken circles, CDs, and duplexes for the Muskoka offices appear in subsequent sections.

Clear illustrations abound. These deal with post office premises, employees, contractors, modes of mail transport, picture postcard views, several

covers and post cards with early uses of postmarks, There is even an amusing period cartoon, just one indication of the depth of research undertaken by the author.

The 23 full-page maps are invaluable for locating offices; these are courtesy of Eric Manchee, and are typically township maps with longitude and latitude, scaled 1:250,000. These form a small part of his Atlas Project.

There are numerous personal recollections from those associated with mail delivery, interesting quotes and excerpts from publications, diaries, letters, and postcard messages, together with interviews.

I have long felt that books that are likely to be used heavily should be spiral bound. This one is wireO bound, superior to the continuous spiral binding that often unravels. Either type allows the book to lie flat for ease of use. Unlike a perfect-bound book, this will not come apart.

I am pleased that Sue has again utilized the front, inside and back covers for text and illustrations, as she did with her first publication, *Canada post office losses caused by fire, 1889-1917*. She also includes an index, table of illustrations, and of course, table of contents, and the references are well documented. The non-glossy paper makes it easy to read. There is an excellent list of other published sources, both philatelic and non-philatelic.

A superb review of the this book appeared in *The Muskoka Sun*. According to the reviewer, " . . . with this book, Sue Sheffield has left her permanent imprint on Muskoka history . . . ", and that it is " . . . one of the most important local historical sources" for the region. These remarks also reflect my estimation of Sue's contributions to Muskoka's postal history.

I believe that this book is a model for anyone contemplating the postal history study of a province, district, county, or city. I will be following it closely in my work on the 19 townships of Pontiac county (QC). I cannot recommend this book highly enough. The \$39.95 price includes postage and the insidious GST. This is a bargain price for a useful addition to the postal historian's library.

C R McGuire

☞ *Squared circle cancellations of Canada*, fifth edition; a BNAPS handbook prepared by the *Squared Circle* study group, edited by John S Gordon (2001), soft cover, spiral bound, 334 pages (8½"×11"); from Saskatoon Stamp Centre, P O Box 1870, Saskatoon SK S7K 3S2; price: \$C36.95, BNAPS members \$C32.95. For more information, contact by e-mail at ssc@saskatoonstamp.com

THE eagerly anticipated fifth edition of the handbook is here and provides a significant 20-year update to the core information in the previous, fourth, edition. That was co-edited by Dr William Moffatt, to whom the fifth edition is dedicated. The new edition provides a reference tool useful to beginners as well as specialists. There are many changes, which go beyond incorporating a vast number of new or revised reports, to include new research material together with noticeable changes to the organization, layout and format.

The new edition is still comprehensive, but more consolidated. This is evident in section I, where the editor has gathered the background and general knowledge needed to understand and enjoy Canadian squared circle cancels. It begins with an explanation of the why's, when's and how's of the introduction of squared circles in Canada, first in 1880–81, and then more widely in 1893. It describes the various types of hammers and their states, and the history and benefits provided by access to the Proof Book. Following this are detailed sub-sections (for the specialist) dealing with indicia (including anomalies and errors), timemarks, and rarity factors. Overall, this section provides a good foundation for the detail that follows. The editor's conversational and fluid style helps the reader through the more technical passages, and the enthusiasm that he exudes is tangible.

Owing to the subject matter, the book is quite "listy", and section II begins with a list of the type I & II squared circle towns and hammers. These lists (and also those in the Appendices), are comprehensive and valuable. They can be used to formulate check/want lists from almost any perspective. Section II is the heart of the book, with 225 pages of information regarding all the individual hammers and states. Descriptions typically include a gazetteer-like paragraph, proof date (with enhanced illustrations of strikes) along with earliest and latest reported dates of usage, the timemarks, their patterns of use and matched timemarks reported, error indicia, continuity of use, use on special stamps (this aspect has been expanded considerably from the fourth edition) and the newly-added contemporary cancel identification. New information on the relative scarcity of timemarks has been added; this is particularly useful for cities such as Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton, which used many different timemarks over long periods of time. I hope that this data can be expanded further in the future.

Section III deals with identification of partial strikes. Although there is greater detail in sections I & II of this edition than in those of its predecessor, some sections—such as the third—contain less. The previous edition was thought by some to present too much detail for a general audience. It is obviously expensive and impractical to have each edition carry over *all*

the detail from previous editions; some judgment calls had to be made by the editor. He makes frequent acknowledgments of sources and refers to related material. For more detail on subjects such as the separation of hammers, nude strikes, fakes & forgeries, and the Postal Museum's collection of handstamps & cancellation proofs, collectors should procure (or hang onto) earlier editions, particularly the fourth.

Section IV covers the squared circle precursors, both the 1880-81 true precursor and the barred circle precursor introduced in 1892. It handles these in essentially the same fashion as the type I & II hammers in section II.

Appendix A is a great aid to collectors; it shows the revised inventories and rarity factors for all hammers, on and off cover, with special tallies for Jubilee and Map stamps (great collector favourites). Appendices B, C & D are for the more specialized collector, and contain tables dealing with continuity of use, squared circles on specific stamps, and varieties, respectively. Appendix E (new) consists of a chronological list of proof dates, and Appendix F (new) provides various forms which collectors can use as templates to inventory their collection (and one hopes, report to the study group). The lists and forms in the Appendices might be even more useful if also placed with date and other core data in a separate and compact companion document, in the style of Bailey and Toop's *Canadian military post offices to 1986*.

The format of the handbook has changed significantly. While the cloth-bound fourth edition was more elegant and had more bookshelf "cachet", the new spiral bound version offers economy. It lies flat when opened, thereby avoiding the spine damage one sees on heavily used clothbound books. The larger format allows for more information on each page. Text is generally well organized, easy to find and read.

There are a few problems related to readability. The illustrations are frequently grey and grainy, and the Appendices (particularly A & C) would benefit from additional design work, and the inclusion of lined rows or columns to assist the reader. The covers on the book do not appear to be very robust; future printings ought to be offered with stronger and better protected covers, perhaps similar to those on the new Unitrade catalogue.

The halcyon years of Canadian squared circle use were more than a century ago, so it is surprising that there is still so much interest in collecting them. More surprisingly, new discoveries are still being made—in this edition, a new hammer for Calgary, and new hammer states for Yarmouth and Bobcaygeon. The fifth edition and the undiminished interest can largely be attributed to the diligent efforts and enthusiasm of the study group and the editor of this edition, Jack Gordon. My hat is off to them as we look forward to the next century of collecting these Victorian beauties. —B Kalbfleisch

Readers speak

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

From Dean Mario (*Saskatoon*) on WW I Canadian nurse service in Russia (*Topics* # 486, p 46–47) by Jon Johnson

I'm able to add another cover from nursing sister Edith T Hegan, which complements the one shown in Jon's article (Figures 1 & 2). The cover bears a similar Cyrillic Anglo-Russian Hospital cachet in magenta and is addressed to Nurse Hegan's parents in St John (NB). As it was still in the early days of the Russian Revolution, it appears to have been intensely scrutinized by Russian censors.

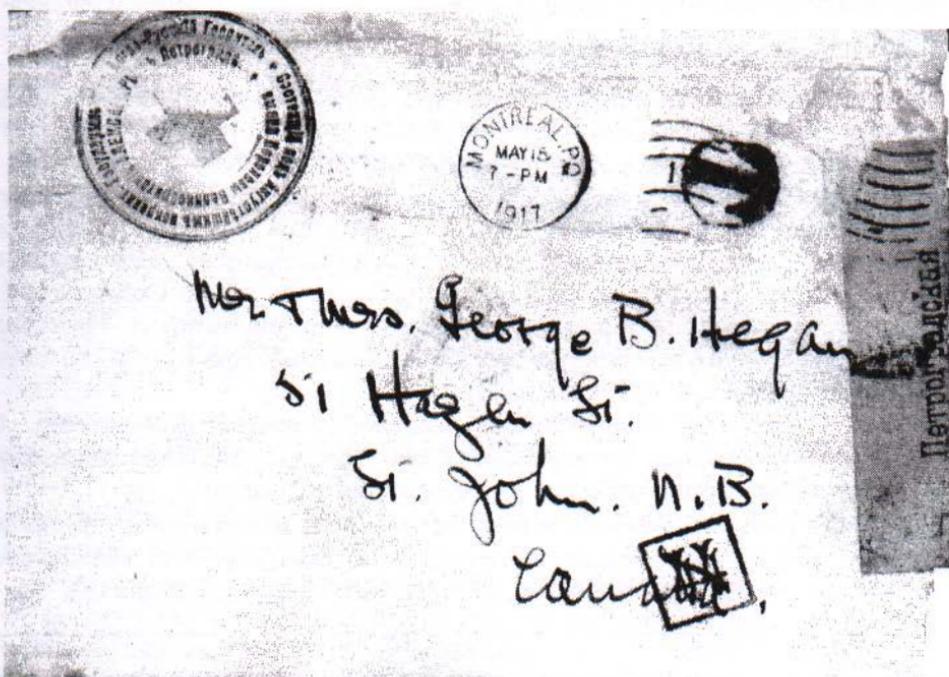


Figure 1. Russian revolution cover to St John, April 1917
With Anglo-Russian cachet and Petrograd censorship sticker.

Unlike Jon's cover, this one had been forwarded to the Petrograd Censorship Office, where it had been opened and received a resealing label indicating censorship (Casey & Evans type R1). This label was used from December



Вскрыто. В. ценз. №

П. В. О.

Figure 2. Reverse of previous cover

The image has been cropped; on the right is a clear version of the magenta censorship rectangle that is barely visible on the cover.

1915 to November 1917. On reverse is a Petrograd rectangular censor mark, in magenta as well. It is C & E type P18, known used January 1917 to October 1918; a clearer image is shown on the right of Figure 2.

There is also a boxed magenta control mark 44 (C & E type C1) on the front, which may have been a sorting mark, or it could have indicated the review of the cover by a censor supervisor, or most likely, by a foreign language specialist. This marking was known used January 1916 to October 1918, and the control numbers used at Petrograd exceed one hundred. The cover ultimately received a Petrograd backstamp dated 25 April 1917, 20 days after Nurse Hegan arrived back in England!

The cover also bears a black Russian circled T postage due marking. A Montreal machine transit marking of 15 May 1917 was applied; presumably, the Admiral stamp was attached for forwarding purposes.

My reference for the information on the Russian censorship marks is pp 386, 389 of *Postal censorship in Imperial Russia*, Vol II, by Peter A Michalove & David M Skipton, published in 1989 by John H Otten (Urbana IL).

From Patrick Campbell (Pierrefonds) on the editorial Error—or printer's waste (Topics # 487)

A friend gave me a copy of this issue of BNA**Topics**, knowing of my interest in the intervention force in Siberia; the fine article of McGuire & Narbonne (*A Siberian Expeditionary Force discovery*, pp 42–49) was indeed most useful.

However, your editorial was also most interesting, particularly as I had investigated the same field in an article, *Money for old rope*, in the Canadian

Philatelist (Vol 52, number 1, January/February 2001). When I submitted it to the [then-] editor, I suggested that my views might be too controversial, but Bill Pekonen, to his credit, agreed to put the cat among the pigeons.

My article expressed a similar view to that of your editorial, asking how such a mass of questionable material managed to escape from a supposed security printer, and how much other material, such as complete sheets of mint stamps [for postage], is passing out by the same route. To our surprise, not a single reader responded to the article, so I suppose that Canada Post has gauged public reaction correctly.

You asked that specialized catalogues investigate the matter, and that collectors avoid what may be printer's waste. My point is that the judging of philatelic exhibits is also involved. Should an exhibit with this material be judged superior to an otherwise equivalent exhibit that lacks the spurious, if dramatic, imperfect stamps, or should the higher medal go to the exhibit of verifiably genuine material?

Do stamps with bizarre perforations, missing colours, significant shifts and inverted centres belong in a philatelic exhibit when the errors would be apparent to a blind man on a fast horse? It should be possible to make a list of some of this material (from any dealer's catalogue) with the shop that printed the issue; a pattern would likely emerge. It would make a good subject for an article.

I look forward to seeing what your readers think of this matter.

From Albert Govier (UK) on the Editor's book review of The Chalon Heads (Topics # 487 p 66)

The editor's review of the novel *The Chalon heads* made me realize how rarely the postal system is featured in fiction. The only other example familiar to me is a book by English author Anthony Trollope, *John Caldigate*, published in 1879. It is published currently by Penguin Books as part of a series to include all of Trollope's writing, including his autobiography.

If anyone in the nineteenth century had the ability and knowledge to write about the workings of the postal system, it was Trollope. His childhood and adolescence were both miserable, and in 1834, there followed a further trying time lasting seven years, the period of his clerkship at St Martin's-le-Grand—the headquarters of the GPO. Around this time, a superior was Sir Rowland Hill, he of the penny post [and the first postage stamp, although this was merely PR for penny postage—ed]

Trollope was not an easy person to get along with—one of his good friends described him as

Crusty, quarrelsome, wrong-headed, prejudiced, obstinate, kind-hearted and thoroughly honest.

In his later years at St Martin's, he exhibited all of these qualities.

In 1841, he was made a surveyor's clerk for the Post Office, and was sent to Ireland (possibly to get him out of someone's hair). Thereafter he blossomed. All the work he was called upon to do (latterly his field was international) was performed meticulously; he was innovative. One instance of the latter was his suggestion for roadside pillar boxes [*"mail box" in North America; these were introduced here in the 1860s—ed*], which was implemented in 1853. Later, he was sent to many countries, including the US, to negotiate postal treaties. When he retired from the Post Office in 1867, he was asked to negotiate a further treaty with the Americans—and he had a difficult time. [*Trollope is briefly mentioned in this context in History of letter post communication between the United States and Europe 1868–1875 by George Hargest, on pages 149 & 169 of the second edition.—ed*]

After his retirement, he became a full-time author with an enormous output—50+ novels and many non-fiction works. Nathaniel Hawthorne described his work as "just as English as a beef steak."

Back to the novel *John Caldigate*—the named character became indebted at university, quarrelled with his father, sold his rights to the family entail and with the proceeds, sailed for New South Wales to prospect for gold. On the long voyage, he had a liaison with a lady, and he recklessly continued it on arrival in Sydney. He was successful at the gold fields, sold out, and returned to England a wealthy man. He patched up the disagreement with his father and married a local girl. However, the lady of the voyage, together with mining associates, came to England and accused him of bigamy.

He was subsequently charged, convicted and sentenced to prison. The principal evidence against Caldigate was a letter admittedly written by him but according to him, never mailed. When the letter was produced in court, however, it was stamped and franked. At this point, Mr Bagwax (Trollope liked odd names for his secondary characters), a postal employee, then undertook an investigation of the letter, along lines that Trollope himself would undoubtedly have used in real life.

To go further into the tale would spoil things for the stamp buff who wants to read the book. It is a substantial tome, published originally in three volumes, but full of many strong characters whose actions and personalities are painted so vividly that the reader eventually knows them as real people.

[*Do readers know of other philatelic novels? There are so few that I don't insist on Canadian content.—ed*]

With the study groups

Herbert A Trenchard

THE BNAPS study group publications offer the specialist a rich and wide spectrum of philatelic research. However, even the general collector can give valuable insight from them, and I recommend them to all philatelists. In my reviews below, I report on what I perceive as the highlights, and even then space constraints limit me to only a few words. Most of the study groups now have websites where information on their activities and publications is available. I highly recommend that the interested philatelic researcher review them.

The April and August bulletins of the Air Mail Study Group are at hand. In the April issue, there is a continuation of the series depicting autographs of pilots who flew in the Canadian airmail service. The current autographs are from the large collection of Brian Wolfenden. In the same issue, the editorial group headed by Dick MacIntosh gives further revisions and additions to the sixth edition of the *Air mails of Canada and Newfoundland*. In the August issue, Jim Brown replies to questions about the Vancouver-Victoria Air Line operated by Wells Air Transport Ltd, located at Wells Air Harbour in Victoria (BC). He writes a brief history of the company and the Wells Air Harbour facility from the mid-1920s to their demise. The August issue also includes a further discussion of the reason for the 1¢ franking found on covers bearing the Cherry Red Airlines 10¢ adhesive.

In the July 2001 publication (Vol 10, #2) of the British Columbia Postal History Research Group, two interesting covers are analyzed. One is a registered cover from Vancouver to Charlottetown (2 August 1938) with an AR (*avis de réception*) mark. This is a reprint of the article by Chris Anstead appearing earlier in the newsletter of the Canada RPO study group. In newsletter 154 (May-June 2001), William Topping writes a further analysis of the travel route of this cover. Bill Robinson studies the probable route of a 1937 cover from Terrace to Honolulu discussed in an earlier newsletter. The August 2001 newsletter also describes the grand opening ceremony of Vancouver Fraser Heritage Club Railway Post Office on 26 August 2001.

In Volume 19, #1 (January-March 2001) of the Canadian Re-Entry Study Group newsletter, three re-entries of the 1¢ King Edward VII are illustrated (two "very strong", one "major"), all in unknown positions. There are also three major misplaced re-entries of the 5¢, two in unknown positions. Harry Voss shows a misplaced entry of the 6¢ large queen; Bob Tomlinson contributes an illustration and description of the 3d beaver, plate position A91.

The Military Mail Study Group newsletter for August 2001 is almost entirely devoted to Canadians' participation in the Spanish Civil War, 1936–1939. Although Canada had no official involvement—it passed a law in April 1937 making it a crime for Canadian citizens to enlist on either side—about 1200 Canadians joined the “International Brigade”. The relevant sections from Ronald G Shelley's *Postal History of the International Brigades in Spain, 1936–1939* are included. Editor Dean Mario also reviews Shelley's book.

Chris Ryan continues his richly illustrated and highly detailed contributions to the *Canadian Revenue Newsletter*. The April 2001 issue contains part one of his *Canada's customs duty and war exchange tax on periodical publications and printed advertising matter*. The June 2001 issue contains part two, as well as part two of his *Unusual match tax items*. The August 2001 issue contains part three, the conclusion, of the customs duty series. The indefatigable Ryan also presents a most interesting article *The excise tax and excise duty on malt syrup for home brewing, established 23 March 1933, revoked 1 October 1948*.

Whole number 77 (August) of the Centennial Definitive Study Group newsletter contains an article by George Mayo on cylinder varieties of the 8¢ Library of Parliament definitive (Scott # 544). Mayo also describes some plate flaws found in an intact pane of # 543, consisting of green dots and lines. Joseph Monteiro writes further on the misperforated booklet panes for the 50¢ centennial booklets (Scott booklet Bk 71) issued November 1972.

Corgi Times, newsletter of the Elizabethan 11 Study Group, has had a change in editor. Vol 9, # 6 (whole number 54) was the last for editor John D Arn, who stepped down after a nine-year stint. His final issue included another missing colour item from the G D Mass collection. Mirko Zatka presents part three of his *Modern Canadian paper varieties*. Joseph Monteiro writes an intriguing article about two stamps which were advertized, illustrated and printed by Canada Post Corporation with the intention of issuing them during the World Figure Skating Championship (19–25 March 2001). They may or may not have been actually sold to the public. Have any been found?

Issue 55 (July–August 2001), with new editor Robin Harris, contains an article by the prolific Joseph Monteiro about the recently issued 47¢ Pierre Elliott Trudeau stamp having an unrecorded tagging variety. There is a table of the missing colour variations found on the stamps issued from October 1969 to January 2001.

The 1898 Canadian Map Stamp newsletter of May 2001 (issue # 5) has a very interesting report by chapter president Fred Fawn on his famous, but still controversial Map cover with a 2 December 1898 Toronto flag cancel, which would be the earliest reported postmark. Part of the controversy is whether the Map stamp could have been available in Toronto when the ear-

liest announced release date was 2 December in Ottawa. Fawn reported that he recently found a Map stamp bearing a portion of the what appears to be a portion of a Toronto postmark with the same date as the cancel on his cover. Both items are illustrated in colour. Roger Boisclair adds new information about the existence of the two states of Map plate 5, state 1 before the plate was re-entered, state 2 after. His large colour illustrations show the differences between the two states for the eight plate positions known thus far. New editor Dr John T Anders has made his second issue a noteworthy one.

The two latest newsletters (March and July 2001) of the Fancy Cancel Study Group both contain revisions and additions with illustrations, to editor Dave Lacelle's *Fancy cancels on Canadian stamps, 1855-1950*.

I received three numbers of the *Newfie newsletter* of the Newfoundland Study Group. All are rich with short but interesting articles. Issue 88 (May/June 2001) has articles by Colin D Lewis (*Wreck of the SS Labrador*) and Dean Mario (*HMS Norfolk in Newfoundland*). Issue 89 (July/August 2001) has articles by Bob Dyer (*Clayton-Cousens' Alcock Covers*) and Colin Lewis (about the travels of a prices-current sent from St John's to Oporto, Portugal). Number 90 (September/October 2001) contains articles by the prolific authors Colin Lewis (*The one-cent green Cabot*) and Dean Mario (1939 *Royal Visit revisited*). All three issues contain a page from El Supremo's collection of Newfoundland postal stationery (1899-1941).

Post Card Matters, the newsletter of the BNAPS Post Card Study Group, contains interesting descriptions of unusual post cards. Vol 2, #4 (September 2001) has colour illustrations of four cards related to the McCarthy-Pelkey match, Calgary, 1913, a fight that ended with the death of McCarthy, and led to a ban on professional boxing in Alberta. John Cheramy tells the story. Jack McCuaig illustrates some publishers' sample cards. One of several other interesting articles is also by John Cheramy. He illustrates the Ottmar Zieher US post card modified for a Victoria (BC) stationer.

Two issues of *Postal stationery notes* of the Postal Stationery Study Group are at hand, and I was immediately attracted by the high quality colour photocopies. In the May 2001 issue, six privately precancelled postal cards are shown in colour. The issue includes a review by Robert Lemire of Webb's *Postal stationery catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland* (seventh edition, 2001). The July 2001 issue illustrates the 30¢ aerogramme (1978) missing the blue colour. Illustrations of railway express Cards of the Canadian Express Company (CEX 18-21) are included as part of a continuing series.

Issue #13 (May 2001) of *War Times*, journal of the World War II Study Group, includes some articles by editor Chris Miller, dealing with the Foreign Exchange Control Board form B; the Regina dead letter office; Labrador

dog team mail, and the handstamp STAMP FALLEN OFF, probably applied at Halifax. This issue also includes part one of a reprint (supplied by Dave Whiteley) of *Official history of Vancouver censorship*, 11 September 1945, by the District Director, G H Clarke. This reprint is concluded in #14 (August 2001) which also contains part one of the *Development of civil censorship in Canada 1939-45*, by Dave Whiteley. Editor Miller writes on the 1940-46 prisoner of war internee franks.

Issue # 4 of *Precancels/Canada* of the Canada Precancel Study Group includes three articles by Duncan MacDonald. One is about his specialized collection of 10¢ small queen precancels; another shows a few "rare or unusual" precancels.

Issues # 1 & 2 of Volume 23 (2001) of the *Round-Up Annex* (Squared Circle Study Group) are devoted to newly reported squared circle postmarks (with many illustrations) to be added to the next edition of their catalogue.

Vol 29, # 5 (May-June 2001) of the newsletter of the Canadian RPO Study Group contains a detailed update of the late Lew Ludlow's 1985 study of the CP Ry, West of Winnipeg markings (1881-1883). Several members contributed illustrations of "emergency" postmarks. Prolific editor Chris Anstead writes an interesting article about a letter that he found in a cover with a Sherbrooke, Richmond & Montreal RPO cancel dated 30 July 1940. The Volume 29, # 6 issue (July-August 2001) has an article discussing and illustrating two RPO cancels used for the Hereford Railway (Quebec) between 1908 and 1925. Two covers with wax seal markings are shown. One is a previously unreported crown marking used on the Montreal & Saint John run in 1893. The other is on a registered cover which has had sealing wax applied to an unsealed flap, and the wax seal is impressed with the normal CP RY OTT & PT ARTHUR MC I hammer.

This is my final report on the BNAPS study group newsletters. President Horace Harrison, a friend and colleague for forty years, asked me to take the position in an emergency, and one cannot say no to El Supremo. I now step down and return to my other philatelic activities. My best to all of you.

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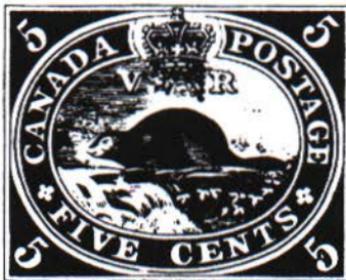
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