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Quebec Tercentenary patriotic post card, p 42.

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BNA Topics



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Cover Illustration: Quebec Tercentenary patriotic post card

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Guest Editorial

Jacques Poitras

Philately in the Province of Quebec

PHILATELY has profound roots in Quebec. Our oldest clubs, La Société Philatélique de Québec and l'Union Philatélique de Montréal, were founded in 1929 and 1933 respectively. The two clubs are members of the Fédération Québécoise de Philatélie.

At this moment, about fifty clubs (totaling about two thousand collectors) are members of the Fédération, covering almost the whole of the province from Gaspé to Hull/Gatineau. Although the majority are French speaking, large English-speaking or bilingual clubs such as the Lakeshore Stamp Club and the Ottawa Philatelic Society are also members of the Fédération (Montreal's Baltic Club also adds to the cultural diversity of our membership.)

About twenty clubs are either Youth clubs, or Adult clubs with a Youth section. In 2017, the Fédération produced *My Treasure Chest*, a philatelic guide for kids in French and English that has been distributed all over Canada. It also organizes regular seminars to give kids a good introduction to our pastime. Youngsters are invited to draw their own stamps on a given subject.

This year, to honour the 100th anniversary of aerophilately, planes were the subject. The drawings are presented at the Lakeshore Stamp Show for a public vote, and the three best stamps are reproduced by the Fédération as custom stamps (in sheets, booklets, and on special covers). This year's best Youth stamps will be on display (and on sale) at the Fédération's table during the BNAPEX 2018 convention.

Among our clubs, two have a national instead of a purely regional scope. L'Académie Québécoise d'Études philatélique is composed of about fifteen top level philatelists. Six times a year they hold meetings. Each member must present a program to a meeting at least once every two years. These conferences cover the whole spectrum of philately from thematic to specialised subjects and postal history. The public is invited to participate.

The Société d'Histoire postale du Québec (SHPQ) plays a major role in the dynamics of philately in Quebec. Three times a year it publishes the Bulletin d'Histoire postale et de marcophilie for its seventy-five members from all over Canada. Founded in 1980, to date the SHPQ has published more than fifty different specialised studies about Quebec postal history. Currently it is publishing *The Catalogue of Quebec Postmarks* series.

Three books in this ongoing series have already appeared—the pre-Confederation period, Broken Circle Postmarks, and the Classification Guide, a rational organization of Quebec postmarks.

We are proud to host the BNAPEX convention this September in beautiful Quebec City and hope to make it a great philatelic moment to remember.

Jacques Poitras
President, Fédération Québécoise de Philatélie

Military Post Office 502, Mont-Joli — A short and turbulent history

Réjean F Côté

Establishment of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP)

AT the dawn of the Second World War (WWII), as Canada was a member of the British Commonwealth, the government had already made plans to support Great Britain in a number of ways. British skies rapidly became a battlefield, and it was quickly acknowledged that it was impossible to train pilots and, at the same time, to conduct defensive operations against enemy attacks. It was too risky to have combat and training units sharing the British sky. A solution to this problem had to be found and so it was determined that Canada was the ideal place to train Commonwealth Air Force personnel.

The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) was officially created by an agreement signed at midnight, 16 December 1939 in Prime Minister Mackenzie King's office. Following the signing, King made a speech on the radio, summarizing the agreement:

It will establish Canada as one of the greatest air training centres of the world. Its development will result in a rapid increase in the number of air training schools in the country, and will achieve a steadily increasing output of highly trained pilots, observers and air gunners.... The aim in short, is to achieve, by co-operative effort, air forces whose coordinated strength will be overwhelming [1].

The aim of the BCATP was to open dozens of training schools (in fact, more than seventy) for flight personnel. In addition to the pilots, it would train gunners, radio operators, observers, flight engineers, navigators, and bombers. The schools would be under the command and control of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). The training was also open to other allied nations. [2]

Of all the schools built under the BCATP, the largest were the eleven Bombing and Gunnery (BG) schools. The largest, No 9 BG School at Mont-Joli, 200 km northeast of Quebec City, close to the south shore of the St Lawrence River, was used exclusively for the training of air gunners. In July 1942, it had almost six hundred students, a staff of over one thousand service personnel and one hundred and ten aircraft [3]. The crest of No 9 B&G School is shown in Figure 1.

As early as spring 1942, the presence of German submarines triggered the Eastern Command to send an operational air unit to Mont-Joli. Aircraft from 118 Squadron were the first planes to land at the base, which was still under construction. There was a successive rotation of Squadrons over the years, to conduct convoy protection in the St Lawrence and answer any direct threats from the German submarines. [4]



Figure 1. The No 9 B&G school crest.

Keywords & phrases: World War 2, military postal markings, MPO 502, BCATP

Selecting Mont-Joli, and construction of school

For climatic and geographic reasons, a large farming area located in Sainte-Flavie, close to Mont-Joli, was selected. The lot seemed to possess all the strategic qualities for constructing three, hard-packed, surface runways that could easily support heavy aircraft. The site overlooks the St Lawrence River; in clear weather, the north coast across the river can easily be seen. The airport would be located in the central area, within range of seaway protection. [5]

In total, fifty buildings of all kinds would be constructed at Sainte-Flavie from the fall of 1940 until the summer of 1942. The No 9 B&G School buildings were the same as the buildings at other BCATP bases across Canada. They were constructed on concrete block bases, sturdy enough for temporary use until the end of the war [6].

The firing range for the gunnery training was located along the St Lawrence River in a longitudinal corridor along the coastline, from the eastern limits of the village of Sainte-Luce-sur-Mer to the western limits of Grand-Métis. Planes (Figure 2) towed fabric drogue targets that were jettisoned near the airport before landing.



Figure 2. A Fairey Battle TT (Target Tug) aircraft used at No 9 B&G School. Yellow with black stripes was the standard painting schematic for BCATP training schools.
(Source: <http://ww2drawings.jexiste.fr/>)

Problems establishing MPO 502

The first official communication stating that a military post office was required in Mont-Joli is dated 16 April 1942. The next day, a memorandum was sent to the commanding officer of the Ottawa Base Post Office, requesting that Canadian Postal Corps (CPC) personnel be sent to No 9 B&G School as soon as possible. It was estimated that the personnel required to operate such a post office would be limited to one Sergeant, one Corporal, and one Private. However, the building designated to host the post office had not been built. At that time, No 9 B&G School was operational and more military personnel arrived each day. In the interval all necessary postal services were carried out by the Mont-Joli civilian post office.



Figure 3a. MPO 502 Mont-Joli proof strikes [7].

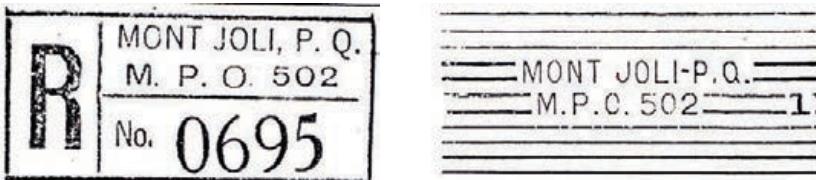


Figure 3b. MPO 502 Mont-Joli proof strikes [7].

The Military Post Office (MPO) 502 designation appears for the first time in a 20 August 1942 memorandum from the Canada Post Office Department (CPOD) in Ottawa, ordering the Quebec District Director, MJA Pouliot, to take all required measures to establish an office at the B&G base at Mont-Joli. The District Director could now plan the acquisition of all required equipment and furniture for the office, including racks for sorting mail and four supports for mail bags. The order was apparently taken seriously, because proof strikes (Figures 3a and b) for three MPO 502 cancellations are dated 31 August 1942.

Three months later, on 16 November 1942, Quebec District Director Pouliot reported to the Chief of the CPOD that all the installations to support a post office at Mont-Joli airfield were now complete. In accordance with procedures, an inspection was to be undertaken on 21 November 1942 by Postal Inspector Dussault in order to ensure that all the standards were met in accordance with order S-14-34. After the inspection, Dussault reported on the six postal counters individually separated with lighting, but also on the many issues that needed to be addressed before the opening of the post office. The shortfalls included no heating in the building, no safe, no racks for sorting mail, no proper separators to manage small change in the cash registers, and no steel security grill going to the ceiling to protect valuables such as money, money orders, and stamps.

On 7 December 1942, the Commander of Training Command No 3 (Quebec) advised Canada Postal Corps (CPC) Headquarters that all shortfalls had been addressed and corrected. Unfortunately, in these communications there is no mention of the person in charge at Mont-Joli to confirm that he agreed. Many messages indicate that the No 9 B&G School Administration Officer was involved in the process but, from the tone of the communications, it is clear that, while the Mont-Joli base was impatient to open the post office, Ottawa was not responding because the heating issue had not been resolved.

It took another two months before things started to move. On 21 January 1943, the Training Command No 3 (Quebec) Commander confirmed by memorandum that all problems had been addressed and that CPC personnel should be transferred. A note also indicated that an additional postal clerk (a Private) was added to the list of personnel.

Postal Inspector Dussault returned to Mont-Joli on 4 February 1943. He confirmed that many improvements had been made, but that there was still no safe and that the separators for small change were also missing. The No 9 B&G Commanding Officer made it clear to Inspector Dussault that he wanted the post office open as soon as possible and, in addition, that the post office was also mandated to provide banking services to assist military personnel in conducting their personal business. No 9 B&G School was already operating at full capacity, with more than twelve hundred military personnel on base—and still, no postal services available. All mail originating from the airfield was sent by truck to Mont-Joli daily. We can imagine the pressure on the small Mont-Joli civilian post office: The town had only 3,500



Figure 4. Post card showing an aircrew student receiving his qualification badge during a graduation ceremony.

Photo: Gelatine Engraving Co Ltd, Ottawa.
(Collection RF Côté).

open a postal bank. However, the No 9 B&G Commander insisted that all remaining shortfalls be addressed before the necessary personnel were transferred. The District Director was again tasked to supply all missing equipment as soon as possible. On 16 March 1943, the RCAF Commander advised Canada Postal Corps Headquarters that everything was ready to open MPO 502.

CPC Order number 70 (Figure 5) was issued on 20 March 1943, confirming the establishment of MPO 502 along with all administrative and logistical details. On the same day, the transfer orders for the CPC personnel were sent to the Quebec District Director. Sergeant JRP Roy was named as Postmaster. The team was completed by Corporal Boulay and Privates Campbell and Renaud. It was recommended that all personnel arrive in Mont-Joli no later than 31 March and that the post office be operational by 1 April 1943. However, there is no mention of postal banking services in the order. That authorization arrived on 23 March.

inhabitants, but it also had to provide full postal services to all military personnel at the airfield as well as any personnel temporarily attached to 9 B&G, such as the student in the graduation ceremony photo, Figure 4, shown at left.

On 15 February 1943, District Director Pouliot authorized the opening of the post office even though some shortfalls had still not been addressed. In addition, he confirmed that representations were being made to the Chief of Financial Services in order to

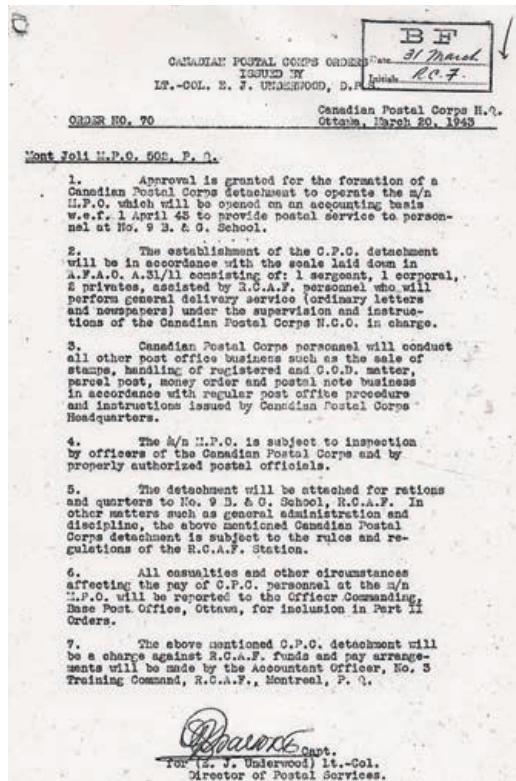


Figure 5. CPC Order number 70, confirming the opening of MPO 502. [8]

MPO 502 barely keeps up with demand

On 29 March 1943, the Quebec District Postal Director sent General Order 514 to all Quebec postal authorities, including the railway post office division. The instructions stated:

Please be advised that a new accounting office will be opened on Thursday, 1st April next, under the name of Mont Joli M.P.O. 502; office number: 0695.

The new post office will exchange at Mont Joli, Railway Station, as follows:

Daily including Sunday with train C. & L. R.P.O. No. 60, at 6.45 a.m.

Daily except Monday with train No. 1 at 6.55 a.m.

The new post office will dispatch to train No. 1, on Monday at 6.55 a.m. and will exchange daily including Sunday with train No. 59 at 9.40 p.m.

It will also exchange daily except Saturday with train No. 2 at 11.35 p.m. and will receive from train No. 2, on Saturday at 11.35 p.m.

Railway Mail Clerks on these R.P.O.s will please govern themselves accordingly. [9]



Figure 6. One of the six MPO 502 postal counters. [10]

As planned, all personnel arrived in Mont-Joli on 31 March. Postal Inspector Dussault was already in Mont-Joli, having arrived the previous day in order to ensure that all postal staff were properly installed and all administrative procedures rapidly carried out. On 1 April 1943, Inspector Dussault, with Sgt Roy's team, took possession of the post office. They spent the day checking that all necessary equipment was available and undertook an inventory of stamps in order to ensure a good start for managing the post office. At 1800hrs that same day, Inspector Dussault left MPO 502, confident that all operation procedures were properly started and all postal staff were competent to carry out their duties to support a military base with fourteen hundred personnel.

Sgt Roy's first monthly report for MPO 502 confirmed how badly needed the postal services were. He reported more than \$784 in stamp sales and \$2,680 in money order purchases, among other things. Those are huge sums of money, considering that the post office was only open from 1130hrs to

1300hrs and from 1600hrs to 1830hrs. His first report did not give complete details on the overall quantity of mail and parcels received and mailed, but he did say that in the first month 1,579 parcels were received. We can easily guess that the fact that all postal activities for the school were now being managed by MPO 502 must have greatly relieved the pressure on the small Mont-Joli civilian post office and its Postmistress, Mme Marcelle Roy.

Sgt Roy's first report raised a flag in the Quebec District because, as of 28 May 1943, an increase from \$900 to \$1000 in stamp inventory was authorized to meet the demand, and on 12 June 1943 the petty cash allowance was increased from \$25 to \$75.

On 1 June 1943, Captain R Stephen, CPC Headquarters Postal Inspector, conducted an inspection of MPO 502. Everything was in good order. And there was one surprise: It was that the staff of four CPC personnel were being assisted by five female clerks from the RCAF.

Management problems at MPO 502

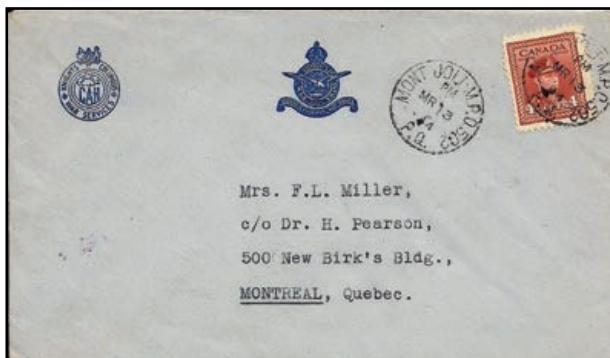
In early July 1943, Sgt Roy wrote to the Director of Postal Services regarding issues with client services. He, in turn, was ordered to reply to all queries addressed to him. There followed a series of communications with regards to the general management of MPO 502: Too much money in the petty cash, monthly reports missing data, and complaints with regards to mail sorting (French mail was being sorted before English mail?) and banking services (in order to use the banking services a client had to have been on base for at least two months?).

Many complaints were addressed to the Postmaster-General in Ottawa, who ordered an investigation. On 18 November 1943, in a confidential memorandum, Major FA Warner, Halifax Postal Services Inspector, was asked to send an inspector to Mont-Joli as soon as possible to look into the situation at MPO 502. On 22 November 1943, Lieutenant JA Inglis was sent to Mont-Joli. In the presence of Sgt Roy, Inglis conducted a detailed inspection of all services offered by MPO 502.

Lieutenant Inglis' report is interesting because all the allegations were denied. The complaint about mail sorting was rapidly solved. One soldier had complained that he did not receive his daily letter from his wife living in Quebec City. It was found that two letters had arrived in a single day. After checking the postmarks on the letters, Inglis concluded that the wife mailed one of the letters too late and that it was put on the following day's train with that day's letter.

Another complaint, about banking services, pointed to a problem at the civilian Mont-Joli post office and not at MPO 502. Lieutenant Inglis personally met Mme Roy to inquire about the situation. She indicated that more than one hundred and fifty military personnel working at the airfield were actually living off the base in Mont-Joli. She argued that it was therefore more practical for those individuals to conduct their business at the Mont-Joli civilian post office. However, that post office had refused to open banking accounts for military personnel because the time required to do that slowed down daily civilian postal activities. It seemed clear that the presence of two post offices in the same village was posing problems. Lieutenant Inglis reported that Mme Roy was warned that having military personnel living in the village was not a reason to refuse to give them appropriate mail and banking services, but at the same time,

Figure 7. Cover from MPO 502 to Montreal on 13 March 1944 with the original 23 mm small circle MPO 502 cancellation. This type of stationery was common at RCAF bases because it was distributed free to military personnel by the Knights of Columbus, whose logo is at the top left corner. (Collection RF Côté)



in her defence Lieutenant Inglis indicated that a large quantity of mail, parcels, and periodicals addressed to MPO 502 were actually being sent directly to the civilian Mont-Joli post office. No reason was given to explain this situation, which caused enough difficulty for the Mont-Joli post office that supplementary personnel had to be hired to lessen the workload. The amount of misdirected mail was such that a truck was sent at 0930 daily, including Sundays, from MPO 502 to the Mont-Joli civilian post office to pick up the mail.

Inglis' report concluded that the No 9 B&G School Commanding Office was very satisfied with the postal services from Sgt Roy's team. However, to meet the demand, the Administration officer changed MPO 502's opening time from 1130hrs to 0830hrs. In addition, as the Christmas period was near, extra RCAF personnel were sent to MPO 502 to assist the postal clerks and speed up the processing of parcels.



Figure 8. Post card mailed on 4 August 1943 to the Montreal borough of Outremont. A soldier writes to his family indicating that he is in charge of the firing range. (Collection RF Côté)

Staff rotation

On 7 June 1944, a memorandum sent to No 9 B&G School announced the transfer of a new postal clerk—Private Watson was to replace Private Moore at MPO 502. The MPO 502 archives do not mention Private Moore, but other information indicates that RCAF personnel were gradually replacing CPC personnel.

On 13 June 1944, a letter from the Postal Services Director sent directly to Sgt Roy orders him to answer all communication sent since May. In the MPO 502 archives, however, there is no correspondence for May 1944. One thing is sure: Sgt Roy was threatened with disciplinary measures. On 19 June, another letter from the Postal Services Director indicates that the May report has still not been received.

The missing report was sent to CPC Headquarters one week later. Annexed to it was something new, a Monthly Progression Report. This report listed all postal staff employed at MPO 502, and gave an efficiency and competence review and potential for promotion for each individual. The first Monthly Progression report is undoubtedly incomplete, but it does provide a good summary of the team's performance for May 1944. Under Sgt Roy's leadership, MPO 502 had five military personnel: Corporal Wall and Privates Moore, Riel, Weaver, and Burrell. Their efficiency reports indicate that they had an acceptable level of knowledge and displayed good discipline.

On 12 July 1944 the Postal Services Director sent another order to Sgt Roy to supply complete reports as per scheduled deadlines. From the tone of this letter, Sgt Roy's job at MPO 502 was nearing its end. The June Monthly Progression Report was completed and sent to CPC Headquarters quickly. Curiously, the personnel efficiency evaluation had changed drastically: all display good discipline but, in general, their knowledge is rated as unacceptable. Sgt Roy is harsh towards his subordinates. Even Private Wilson, newly arrived at MPO 502, is severely evaluated.

In August, the situation at MPO 502 was clarified by Sgt Roy's monthly report for July 1944. The CPC staff had been reduced from four men to three and, in addition, Sgt Roy had to train new postal clerks arriving from the RCAF. Given this situation, Roy indicates that he cannot properly supervise his team and that he has not had any 48-hour periods of time off since 19 April. Furthermore, the team has difficulty maintaining proper service at the MPO 502 counters and meeting trains as scheduled to receive and transfer mail bags, often at impossible hours. In short, Sgt Roy and his team were exhausted.

The July 1944 Monthly Progression Report, however, showed five postal clerks still on duty. This report was filed by Corporal Boulay, who was part of Sgt Roy's original staff when MPO 502 opened in April 1943. CPC Headquarters reaction was immediate. A letter dated 14 August 1944 asks the Ottawa military post office Commander to transfer a new Sergeant to MPO 502. On 16 August 1944, Captain Chevrier, Interim Commander at the Ottawa Military Post Office, replied that Corporal AFJ Bisson would be transferred to MPO 502 on 29 August, with a promotion to the rank of Sergeant. The transfer would be fully complete and official on 6 September under the supervision of Postal Inspector Dussault.



Figure 9. Registered mail cover from MPO 502 to Montreal mailed on 16 June 1944. (Collection Ron McGuire)

As soon as the newly promoted Sgt Bisson took charge of MPO 502, he seems to have faced some difficulties. On two occasions, CPC Headquarters asked him to send the various monthly reports for August 1944. These reports, still written by Corporal Boulay, who had assumed the interim responsibility in August, were sent on 21 September. Somewhat more complete, the reports provide some interesting facts about the personnel evaluations. It was quickly apparent that *none* of the personnel had a level of knowledge adequate to providing postal services. But the most disturbing report was that discipline had gone from good (B), to unacceptable (D), within a month. We can conclude that having a Corporal as interim Postmaster must have caused

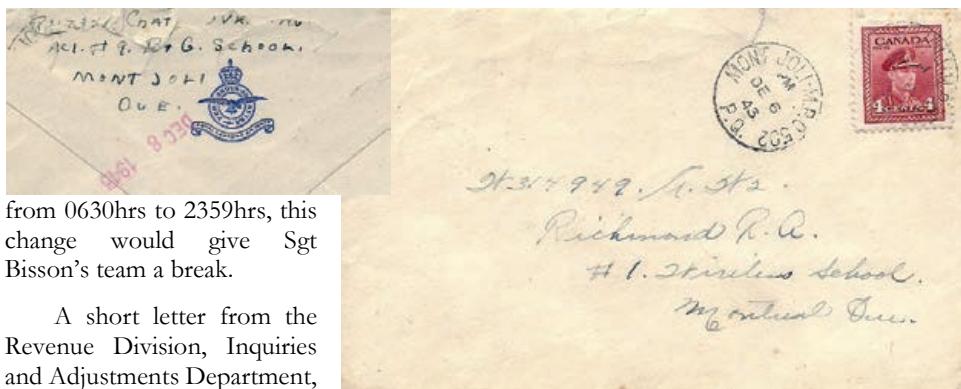
New postmaster

As soon as the newly

some friction within the team. Sgt Bisson had to rapidly correct the situation and rebuild cohesiveness amongst the staff at MPO 502.

Sgt Bisson's first monthly report, for September 1944, is fully complete and typed, a huge difference from previous reports. However, on the Monthly Progression Report, even though we see an improvement with MPO 502 staff, half of the evaluations are missing. Sgt Bisson carefully explained that he could not proceed with the evaluation of all personnel because postal clerks from the RCAF had no financial experience, and MPO 502 was still undermanned. In the same report, it is noted that military strength in Mont-Joli is now 1,679 military personnel. Even though the number of military personnel was somewhat reduced in Mont-Joli, compared to the summer of 1943 when more than 2,500 military were on No explanation of this sudden increase in banking operations is offered.

The October 1944 report shows major changes in MPO 502 daily operations. No exact date is given, but sometime during the month the schedule for receiving and transferring mailbags from or to the Mont-Joli train station changed for the first time since the opening of the post office. The new schedule was to have one departure, at 1930hrs, and two arrivals, at 0745hrs and 0900hrs. Compared to the previous four daily receipts and departures, ranging



from 0630hrs to 2359hrs, this change would give Sgt Bisson's team a break.

A short letter from the Revenue Division, Inquiries and Adjustments Department, to the Quebec District Director dated 23 October 1944 refers to an audit conducted at MPO 502 on 31 May 1944. Since an audit is a very important external activity, it is strange that this was not mentioned in the May 1944 monthly report. The 23 October letter indicates that a shortage of \$65 in money orders is still present. In addition, a debit note (No. 17194) for a shortfall of \$4 was attached with a comment that this amount should be claimed from the Postmaster at the time, Sgt Roy.

The last postmaster

During the fall of 1944, as the advance of Allied troops in Europe was progressing well, the end of the war was already being anticipated, and consequently the closure of all BCATP schools was in view. On 3 November 1944, a memorandum from CPC Headquarters sent to CPC postal facilities at RCAF stations indicated that many of them would soon cease their operations, and many CPC and RCAF personnel would thus be over-strength. In effect, the

Figure 10. Cover mailed 6 December 1943. The return address on the reverse shows that the sender is from No 9 B&G, probably writing to a colleague at No 1 Wireless School in Montreal, which was served by MPO 406. (Collection RF Côté)

memorandum was a general transfer message to move RCAF postal clerks to replace CPC postal clerks. On 7 November 1944, another message indicated that a Sgt JPR Varin would be transferred to 9 B&G School Mont-Joli as the Postmaster, effective 22 November 1944. In order to reassure the base Commanders, it was stated that the non-commissioned officer being transferred would be able to administer a military post office, and that it would not be necessary to have a postal inspector on site during the change of responsibilities. In addition, actions were already being taken to send additional RCAF personnel to assist the Postmaster.

7-1-67

TO CANADIAN POSTAL CORPS HEADQUARTERS	MONT JOLI M. P. O. 502
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AT M.P.O. NO. _____	
FOR THE MONTH OF <u>December 1944</u>	
Total strength of camp all ranks <u>1557</u>	CANADIAN POSTAL CORPS JAN 8 1945 HEADQUARTERS
Office Hours: From <u>11³⁰</u> To <u>13^{00 hrs}</u> From <u>16³⁰</u> To <u>18^{00 hrs}</u> .	
Hours at which mails despatched <u>19^{30 hrs}</u>	
Hours at which mails received <u>08^{00 hrs - 09^{00 hrs}}</u>	

Figure 11. Straight-line cancel used on an MPO 502 administrative form, the December 1944 Monthly Progression Report. [11]

Sgt Varin, who became MPO 502 Postmaster on 22 November 1944 and stayed until the post office closed, wrote the November 1944 monthly report. The Monthly Progression Report made it clear that the team of five CPC military personnel had been completely replaced by eleven personnel from the RCAF. The effective staff strength at MPO 502 was more than doubled despite the constant personnel reductions at No 9 B&G School.

MPO 502 closure

On 21 March 1945, CPC Headquarters requested that MPO 502 close on 12 April 1945 because No 9 B&G School would soon end operations, and it was very unlikely that the school would be reactivated. However, it was requested by the Financial Division that post office equipment stay on-site just in case the war dragged on and bases had to be reactivated on short notice. Leaving the equipment would make it easier to restart the post office.

On 12 April 1945, No 9 B&G School Commander Group Captain JMW St-Pierre wrote to the Quebec Postal District requesting that the MPO 502 closure be put on hold as plans were being considered to make Mont-Joli a permanent RCAF base. In fact, it had been decided to make Mont-Joli a permanent RCAF base, but that decision was changed. Bagotville was selected as the site of a permanent base and is still in operation today.

Mr George C Avery, Acting Chief Superintendent of Post Office Services, confirmed on 14 April 1945 that MPO 502 would be closed no later than 16 April even though six hundred military personnel were still on the base.

The last Monthly Progression Report for MPO 502, covering the period from 1 to 16 April 1945 inclusive, was written by Sgt Varin on 17 April. MPO 502 was now closed and all accessories and cancellation equipment stored. (The straight line cancellation identifying MPO 502 usually found on reports was not used on the last one.) In the remarks section of this report, we find the following comment:

This office was closed on April the 16th 1945. Remains open as a mail room only.

We can presume that the offices were still used, but only as a mail room managed by RCAF personnel for mail transferred to or from the Mont-Joli civilian post office. A letter from the Financial Branch of the Post Office Department sent to the Quebec District Director on 21 April 1945 confirms that authority had been granted to remove from MPO 502 all remaining money orders and money from the bank, and to update all administrative documents concerning the official closure of MPO 502.

Table 1. MPO 502 Statistics

		1943 Apr to Dec	1944	1945 Jan to Apr	TOTAL
Stamp sales	Regular	\$11 002.50	\$14 877.83	\$3 436.57	\$29 316.90
	War Savings	\$56.50	\$53.50	\$10.00	\$120.00
Money Order Sales	Quantity	2 470	3 109	677	6 256
	Value	\$39 228.69	\$50 933.48	\$11 263.74	\$101 425.91
Money Orders Paid	Quantity	759	1 023	209	1 991
	Value	\$12 048.59	\$14 409.71	\$3 394.31	\$29 852.61
Postal Note Sales	Quantity	383	395	91	869
	Value	\$757.79	\$1 512.77	\$223.75	2 494.31
Postal Notes Paid	Quantity	329	437	75	\$841
	Value	1 234.94	1 609.92	293.95	3 138.81
Postal Bank	Deposits	\$43 736.00	51 957.68	\$15 476.00	\$111 169.68
	Withdrawals	\$23 393.00	\$27 395.00	\$5 199.00	\$55 987.00
Registered Mail	Issued	2 764	3 366	994	7 124
	Received	4 121	5 035	1 072	10 228
C.O.D.	Issued	1	0	1	2
	Received	271	334	67	672
Special Delivery	Issued	204	316	110	630
	Received	147	200	38	385
Mail (Letters)	Sent	ND*	176 000*	39 500	215 500
	Received	ND*	180 000*	52 000	232 000
Parcels	Sent	ND*	5 650*	1 700	7 350
	Received	16 037	20 905*	3 192	40 134

ND* = No data or data missing

Conclusion

Looking at the statistics in Table 1, for a post office only opened for a period of two years, we can easily conclude that the postal staff were very busy and can also understand that at one point they were exhausted, particularly in 1944. Most of the military personnel stationed at Mont-Joli were on the base just for a short period of time and continued to maintain close contact with their families and friends, which explains the large volume of mail, parcel and

postal banking operations at MPO 502. In addition, many military personnel were from the United States, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. The volume of mail to these destinations also had to be large.

On 15 December 1945, the military airfield was officially transferred to the Department of Transport [12]. This closure put an end to the military operations at Mont-Joli. The presence of the No 9 B&G School and other units that successively occupied the airfield left its mark in the region. Today, the current location of the Mont-Joli Regional Airport is still the same as it was during WW2. Almost all of the School's other buildings have since disappeared, although some were moved to other areas of Mont-Joli or to Sainte-Flavie and still exist [13].

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Postal beginnings at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville post office, Québec

Cimon Morin

THE post office in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville was opened 6 January 1837. As depicted in Figure 1, Sainte-Thérèse is located eight miles northeast of Saint-Eustache and two hundred and nine miles from Quebec [1].



Figure 1. Map of Upper and Lower Canada, including New Brunswick and part of Nova Scotia, exhibiting post towns and mail routes. TA Stayner, DPM, January 1847 (LAC, NMC-11742).

At the opening of the office, a postal route was initiated from Saint-Eustache to Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville, with mail services once per week. The distance between them was eight miles, and David Mitchell, the postmaster of Saint-Eustache, was granted the contract for the sum of £10 per year. From 1844 on, there were two mail deliveries per week. The Mitchell contract specified "... that transport will be on horseback, horse-drawn carriage or sleigh," leaving Saint-Eustache on Mondays and Fridays after the arrival of mails from the Montreal route. At that time, the mail reached Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville in less than ninety minutes. After remaining on-site for two hours, the transport returned to Saint-Eustache as quickly as possible at an expense of £18 per year [2].

With the opening of the post office in Saint-Jérôme on 6 July 1845, another postal route was established from Montréal to Saint-Jérôme through Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville, a distance of fifteen miles. This first contract was awarded to E Valiquette, for the sum of £8 per year. In 1848, the mail passed on this road three times a week. The contract was awarded to Joseph Ménard, replaced in 1849 by François B dit Desrochers.

Keywords & phrases: Postal history, Quebec, Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville

Finally, another contract for mail service was also granted to James Parke, beginning on 6 February 1848, to transport mail from Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville to Saint-Martin, a distance of nine miles at a rate of £ 25 per year [3].

Early postmasters of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville

Table 1 names the early postmasters from the post office's opening in 1837 until 1863. These postmasters are discussed in turn in the next section.

Table 1. Listing of early postmasters

Postmaster	Period
Neil S Scott	6 January 1837–Winter 1837/1838
Alfred A Andrews	winter 1837/1838 – 5 January 1839
John Morris	6 January 1839–10 September 1863

Neil S Scott

Neil S Scott, merchant, was appointed postmaster of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville at the opening of the office on 6 January 1837 [4]. During the summer, Scott was involved in the Rebellion of 1837 and was arrested on 8 February. We can therefore conclude that the postal service was temporarily interrupted in the winter of 1837-1838. In a subsequent letter to the Postmaster General of England, TA Stayner stated that "... it was impossible to get Scott's latest quarterly account statements" [5].

Born in Scotland about 1813, Neil Scott was the son of William Scott and Catherine Ferguson. He was the younger brother of William Henry Scott, a merchant of Saint-Eustache. He studied at the College of Montreal from 1822 to 1824. He then moved to Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville in the county of Terrebonne. There, he opened a general store where he was a merchant by profession and also postmaster.



Figure 2. Signature of postmaster Neil S Scott.

In the 1830s, and at the time of the 1837-1838 rebellion, Scott was recognized as one of the leading patriots of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville. From 1834 until 1837, he attended a few rallies promoting the Ninety-Two Resolutions drafted by Louis-Hippolyte Papineau and later denouncing the Ten Resolutions of British Colonial Secretary Lord Russell. The end of 1837 marked a turning point in Scott's political thought. Contrary to such *patriotes* as Girod and Chénier at Saint-Eustache, who openly advocated taking up arms, Neil Scott, like his brother in Saint-Eustache, was more moderate in his actions.

Nevertheless, after the fall of Saint-Eustache, General Colborne ordered Colonel Maitland and his troops to burn down Neil Scott's home, and other dwellings owned by heads of the Patriots of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville. However, with the intervention of the priest Ducharme, Scott's properties were saved from fire. Always suspected of sympathy with the patriots, Neil Scott was arrested in February 1838 and jailed; however, without evidence of guilt and with evidence in his favour, he was released on 27 February 1838. According to the account of a man named Bastien, Scott would never have driven inhabitants of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville to rebellion and was always a loyal subject of Her Majesty. Neil Scott died about 1846 [6].

Alfred A Andrews

Alfred A Andrews was probably named Postmaster during the winter of 1837-1838 following the dismissal of Neil Scott; however, this is not a certainty. We recovered two letters he wrote to Québec in September and October 1838, charged at 11d. This would not have been the case if he had been Postmaster, since he would be entitled to free franking privileges [7]. Another source indicates that he resigned between 6 July 1838 and 5 January 1839 [8].

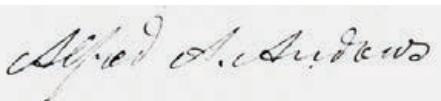


Figure 3. Signature of postmaster Alfred A Andrews.

John Morris

John Morris was born 22 March 1795 at Coupar Angus in Scotland [9]. Married there to Amilia Campbell, they had two children David and Thomas, the latter born in Sainte-Thérèse. In 1827, at the age of 31, John Morris left Scotland to make his fortune in North America. He worked at Molson's until 1840, but then he acquired—from James Porteous, who was in financial difficulty—his home, his distillery and trade shop on Church Street. Morris died at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville on 5 January 1871 at the age of 75 [10].



Figure 4. Signature of postmaster John Morris.

Morris was appointed Postmaster on 6 January 1839 [11]. His clerk, Alex Garrie, was mainly assigned to his business, but also overlooked the post office. His first son, David Morris, succeeded him as Postmaster in 1863,

receiving an income of £4 18s 5d for the year ending 5 July 1840 [12]. He also used his franking privileges, which he estimated at £4 per year. He received and sent one hundred and forty letters and one hundred and nineteen newspapers annually [13].



Figure 5. Letter sent by Postmaster John Morris using franking privilege «Free J. Morris P.M.» and dated 5 March 1841. Note the double circle postmark in green. [LAC, RG4-B52, Vol. 4, № 242]



Figure 6. The “Castel Morris” built by Thomas Porteous in 1813 and purchased by John Morris in 1840. The Post Office in Sainte-Thérèse-de Blainville was located in Morris’ home [14].

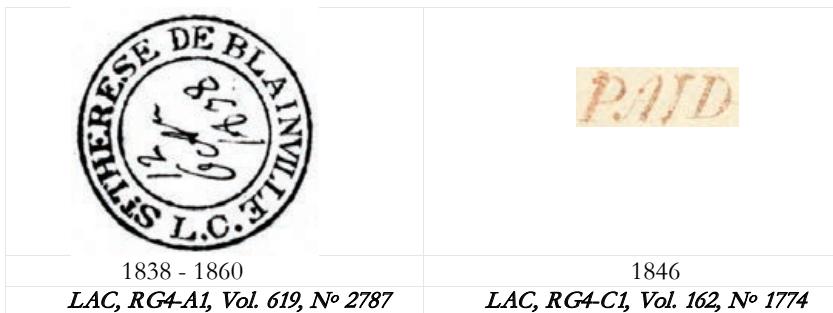


Figure 7. Early postal markings of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville

Table 2. Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville P.O. Number of letters received each week [15].

1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	Average
22	9	11	17	21	19	30	18

Figure 5 shows an 1841 letter written by Mr Morris on which he used the free frank privilege. His residence in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville, which also served as a post office, is depicted in Figure 6. Figure 7 displays two postmarks used during Morris’ tenure as postmaster, while Table 2 shows the average number of letters received each week at the post office during the years of his tenure. The right-hand column of Table 2 shows the average number per week over the seven-year timeframe.

Abbreviations used in text, figures and references

LAC: Library and Archives Canada

RG: Record group

MG: Manuscript group

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Preferential rate across the St Lawrence River at Quebec: Mystery solved

Mark Berner, MD

THE existence of the preferential rate between Quebec City and Levis, across the St Lawrence River, has been known for some time by virtue of many covers demonstrating this lower rate, 1d in the Pence era, 2¢ prepaid in the Decimal era, and 2¢ in the Large Queen era.

Background

Despite the evidence of existing covers, Article 58, in the 1852 *Canada Post Office Guide*, Part IV, Postage Rate On Letters [1], states that for letters weighing not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce there is a uniform charge of 3d between any place in Canada and any other place in British North America (Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton). Apart from drop letters, there is no provision for a reduced rate.

Two articles have been published in *BNA Topics* discussing this subject. In 2008, George Arfken and Charles Firby [2] wrote about nine covers demonstrating the reduced rate and, in 2013, I authored an article that presented additional covers and updated the census, bringing the total to seventeen known covers [3]. However, the justification for this rate had been a mystery until relatively recently. This article discusses newly reported covers, including a new Earliest-Reported Date (ERD) and a new Latest-Reported Date (LRD), and gives a reinterpretation of a cover previously described in 1979. An updated census, now at thirty-two covers, is included. There are now three recorded covers demonstrating the unpaid preferential rate of 3¢ in the Decimal (Cents) era [4]. Of particular interest is the recent discovery of documented evidence that justifies the preferential rate.

Newly reported covers

Red paid one penny handstamp

Figure 1. Folded letter from Quebec to Point Levy 11 April 1857 (ex de Volpi).

The first example (Figure 1) demonstrates the preferential rate beautifully. It is a folded letter with striking red "PAID / QUEBEC. L.C. Apr 1857" double split-ring cancel (Jarret 555, Boggs H35 CMPQ 20-1-11-8) and "1d / PAID at QUEBEC." cancel (Jarret 527, Boggs H64, CMPQ 20-1-11-5) to Point Levy.



Keywords & phrases: Preferential postal rates, Quebec Levis

New earliest-reported date

The origin of the cover in Figure 2, below, is unknown, but it probably comes from an island or a small village down the St Lawrence River. It is endorsed “Favor of Sieur Olivier Montmigny.” It was dropped at Pointe Levy East on 9 May 1854 (manuscript postmark), arriving in Quebec the following day (circular receiver dated 10 May 1854).



Figure 2. Earliest-reported date. Folded letter likely originating down the St Lawrence. Posted at Pointe Levy East on 9 May 1854 to Quebec. Courtesy Grégoire Teyssier.

Re-rated drop letter

Originally intended as a Quebec drop letter at the ½d rate, the cover in Figure 3, dated 29 August 1856, was subsequently redirected to Point Levy and re-rated at the 1d preferential rate. There is no receiver on the back.

Figure 3. Folded letter dated 29 August 1856. Originally intended as a Quebec drop letter, it was redirected at the preferential rate to Point Levy. Courtesy Grégoire Teyssier.



Paid with two 1¢ Decimals

The letter in Figure 4, dated 31 December 1863, was sent from Levis, CE, endorsed “[to] Me Langevin avocat / 2 cents / Dans la cote de la Canoterie / Haute Ville Quebec.” The Quebec receiver on the back is also dated 31 December 1863



Figure 4. Letter from Levis CE, mailed “DE 31 63” to Québec. Paid with two 1¢ Decimals. Same day receiver on the back reads Quebec LC.

New latest reported date



Figure 5. Latest-reported date. 2¢ large Queen tied by Quebec duplex, 4 Jan 1872, to South Quebec. Redirected to Lyster and charged 3 cents due (manuscript), with no credit for partial payment. Courtesy of Grégoire Teyssier.

Paid with a 2¢ Large Queen, the cover in Figure 5 was sent from Québec to South Québec (Levis) on 4 January 1872. There is a same day receiver on the back. The letter was redirected to Lyster (county of Megantic) and charged 3 cents due (manuscript), with no credit given for partial payment.

Document authorizing preferential rate

In 2015, Ferdinand Bélanger published his research [5] on the discovery of the document authorizing the Quebec-Levis preferential rate in the Records and Correspondence sent by the Postmaster General [6]. The actual text is shown in Figure 6 below. On 16 November 1851, WH Griffin, Secretary to Postmaster General James Morris, wrote to John Sewell, Postmaster for Quebec, indicating that the Minister authorized a reduction in the rate to one penny for mail carried between Quebec and Levis.

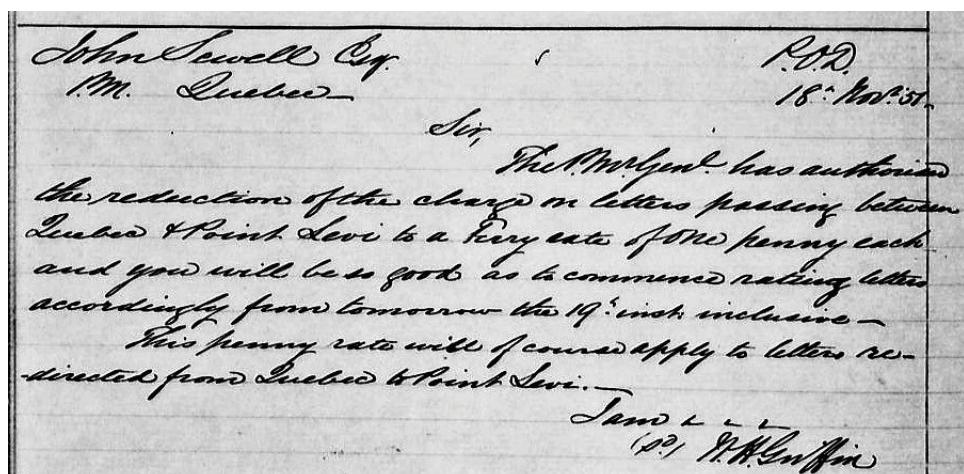


Figure 6. Excerpt from the records and correspondence sent by the Postmaster General authorizing the Quebec-Levis preferential rate.

The text of this communication reads as follows:

John Sewell Esq.
P. M. Quebec

P.O.D.
18th Nov 51

Sir,

The P.M. Genl. has authorized the reduction of the charge on letters passing between Quebec & Point Levi to a Ferry rate of one penny each and you will be so good as to commence rating letters accordingly from tomorrow the 19th inst inclusive.

This penny rate will of course apply to letters re-directed from Quebec to Point Levi.

I am etc. etc. etc.
W.H. Griffin

Re-interpretation

In *Canada's Pence Era*, [7] there is an illustration (Figure 7) of an unpaid cover sent from Québec on 3 May 1856. It is described as going from Québec to Magog (Eastern Townships), to Richmond, and then to its final destination, Sherbrooke. The fact of the initial destination being Point Levi seems not to have been appreciated.

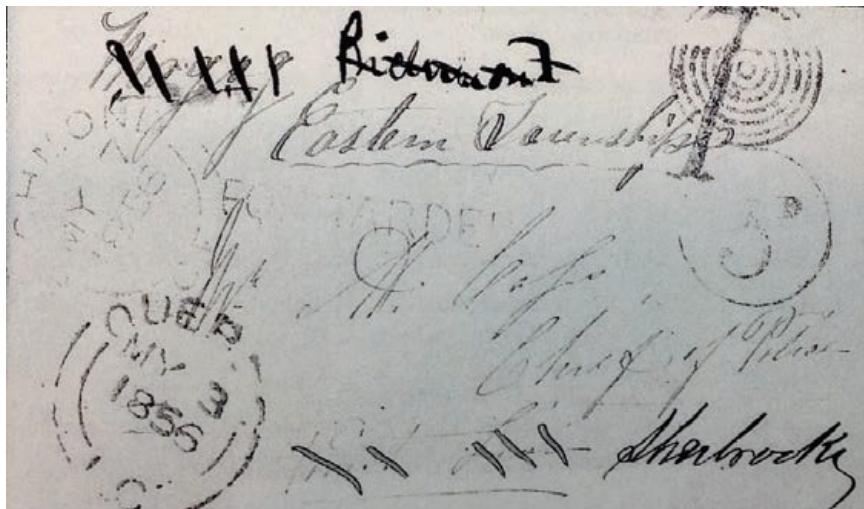


Figure 7. Folded letter from Quebec to Point Levis MY 3 1856, forwarded to Sherbrooke.
As the letter was re-directed, the preferential rate of 1d was cancelled in favour of the regular rate of 3d. Courtesy of VG Greene Philatelic Research Foundation.

The authors state that “[a] black ‘1’ may have been an erroneous re-direction charge but it was cancelled out. Redirection was free. The encircled black 3d was the regular postage to be collected upon delivery.”

In light of the new knowledge about the authorized preferential rate, it is possible to re-interpret the comment about redirection. At the time of mailing, 1d was the correct rate from Québec to Point Levi. But since the ultimate destination was Sherbrooke, the preferential rate no longer applied. Therefore, the 1d mark was cancelled (by a concentric circle) in favour of the regular 3d fee, to be collected at destination.

Discussion

There are now thirty-two known covers demonstrating the preferential rate between Quebec and Point Levis during the period from early 1854 to early 1872, a span of nearly eighteen years. It is surprising, though, that the earliest-known cover is dated some two and one-half years after the rate was authorized.

I welcome information about additional covers and further thoughts about this rate. Please contact me by email at <drmberner@videotron.ca> or through the Editor.

Current census

The census of covers demonstrating the preferential rate across the St Lawrence River at Quebec is found in Table 1. The dates are listed as they appear on the postmarks. Likewise, the spellings of “Pointe-Levy,” “Point Levi,” and “Pointe Levis” are listed as they appear on the covers. The asterisk in the first column denotes covers found since writing my previous article in 2013 [3]. The final column lists the references in *BNA Topics* where illustrations may be found: A/F refers to the Arfken and Firby article [1], RM refers to an article written by Ronald Majors [8], MB A refers to my 2013 article [3], and MB B refers to this article.

Table 1. Québec - Point Levi preferential rate covers

Census: Thirty-two covers						
	Date	From	To	Franking	Addressed To	Illustration
RATE 1d						
*	1854-05-09	Pointe Levy East	Québec	SFL 1d	Monsr. Fortier Er. Avocat	MB B2
*	1854-10-18	Point Levi	Québec	SFL 1d	Mr Langevin	
	1855-02-20	Québec	Pointe-Levy	SFL 1d	Chs Bourget Esq	MB A1
	1855-03-02	Québec	Pointe-Levy	SFL 1d	Chs Bourget Esq	MB A2
*	1855-06-19	Québec	Pointe Levis	SFL 1d	Chs Bourget Esq	
*	1856-05-03	Québec	Point Levi	SFL 1d		MB B7
*	1856-08-29	Québec	Pointe Levi	SFL 1d	Felix Fortier Esq	
*	1856-08-29	Québec	Point Levy	SFL 1d	F Felix Fortier Esq	MB B3
*	1856-09-01	Québec	Point Levi	SFL 1d	Felix Fortier Esq	
*	1856-12-24	Québec	Pointe Levi	SFL 1d	Felix Fortier Esq	
*	1856-12-26	Québec	Pointe Levi	SFL 1d	Felix Fortier Esq	
	1856-??-24	Québec	Point Levi	SFL 1d	Rev John Casey BD	MB A3
	1857-02-20	Québec	Point Levi	SFL 1d	Felix Fortier Esq	A/F 1
*	1857-04-11	Québec	Point Levy	SFL 1d	F. Fortier Esq	MB B1
	1857-11-24	Point Levi	Québec	½d horiz pr #8	Henry Atkinson	A/F 2
	1858-05-01	Point Levi	Québec	½d vert pr #8	Rev Edmond Langevin	A/F 3
	1858-05-01	Point Levi	Québec	½d vert pr #8	Augustin Gunther	A/F 4
*	1858-05-06	Québec	Lévy	SFL 1d	Felisque Fortier	
	1858-08-18	Point Levi East	Québec	½d vert pr #8		

Date	From	To	Franking	Addressed To	Illustration
1858-11-06	Point Levi	Québec	½d vert pr #8	Jean Langevin	MB A4
1859-01-29	Québec	Pointe Levi	½d horiz pr #11	F. Fortier Esq	A/F 5
1859-04-04	Québec	Point Levi ouest	SFL 1d	Felix Fortier Esq	MB A5
RATE 2¢					
1859-08-31	Québec	Point Levi West	SFL 3 (black)	Felix Fortier Esq	MB A6
* 1859-10-31	Point Levi	Québec	envl 3 (black)	Andrew Russell Esq	
* 1859-12-03	Point Levi East	Quebec	envl 3 (black)	Monsieur Francois Hällie	
1862-02-13	Point Levi	Québec	envl PAID 2	Henry J Morgan Esq	
1862-10-01	Québec	Point Levi	1¢ vert pr #14	Felix Fortier Esq	RM 1
1863-10-20	Québec	Pointe Levis	1¢ vert pr #14	Felix Fortier Esq	A/F 6
* 1863-12-31	Levis	Québec	2 × #14	M Langevain Avocat	MB B4
1865-07-24	Levis	Québec	envl PAID 2	Henry J Morgan Esq	
1868-06-06	Québec	P. Levi	2 × #22	Henry King Esq	MB A7
* 1872-01-04	Québec	South Quebec	1 × #24	Messrs King Bros	MB B5

Acknowledgements

My sincere appreciation to those fellow philatelic researchers who have collaborated in this ongoing project—Ferdinand Belanger, Grégoire Teyssier, Hugo Deshaye, and Cimon Morin.

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- [3] M Berner, “Preferential rate across the St. Lawrence River at Quebec,” *BNA Topics*, Vol 70, No 3, pp 8-15 (2013).
- [4] During the Pence era, there was no penalty for unpaid mail. But in the Decimal (Cents) era, the rate for prepaid mail became five cents, and the rate for unpaid mail became seven cents. It is my contention that three cents represents the unpaid preferential rate. See reference 3, pp 11-12.
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- [8] RE Majors, “The Quebec-Point Levi 1d/2¢ Covers,” *BNA Topics*, Vol 66, No 3, pp 53-54 (2009).

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Pre-1867 Quebec City postmarks—Part 1

Grégoire Teyssier

THIS catalogue of pre-1867 Quebec City postmarks is the result of many years of collecting, reading, and researching. It is the first time such a work has been completed, and I sincerely hope that, despite its shortcomings, it will be useful. I want to first thank Mike Street for encouraging me to complete this formal listing that I started many years ago.

This work would not have been possible if others, before me, had not published the fruits of their labours: Books, articles, auction catalogues, and private collections of the last sixty years or so have been consulted (see References below). I would like to thank all these authors, past and present, and also the dealers who permit me to consult their stocks—in particular my friends Hugo Deshaye and Bill Longley. I would like also to express my gratitude to my good friend Marc Beaupré, who never hesitates to share his vast collection and knowledge. Finally, to all my other “old” Quebec friends, especially Guy des Rivières, Jacques Charron, Christiane Faucher, Cimon Morin, and Jacques Poitras, who permit or permitted me to share my passion: a warm Thank you! *Merci!*

Postmark categories:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Early Manuscript Rate Marks (M) | (12) Legislative Council (LC) |
| (2) Straightline (SL) | (13) Government Auxiliary markings (GA) |
| (3) Bishop (B) | (14) Transatlantic Tax Marks (T) |
| (4) Bishop Holder (BH) | (15) Free Markings (F) |
| (5) Circle Date Stamp [Cds] (C) | (16) Due Rate Marks (DR) |
| (6) Duplex (D) | (17) Paid Rate Marks (PR) |
| (7) Obliterators (O) | (18) Cross Border Rate Postmarks (CB) |
| (8) Paid postmarks (P) | (19) Money Letter Marks (ML) |
| (9) Steamboat (SB) | (20) Registered Marks (R) |
| (10) Ship (S) | (21) Auxiliary Markings (A) |
| (11) Legislative Assembly (LA) | |

Key elements of the catalogue:

(1) Abbreviations:

- CMPQ = *Catalogue des marques postales du Québec*
 CS = Canada Specialized Catalogue
 LQ = Large Queen Issue
 SQ = Small Queen Issue
 ERD = Earliest-Recorded Date

LRD = Latest-Recorded Date

B = Black ink

R = Red ink

RO = Red-Orange ink

Date: Month-Day-Year or Month-Year
or Year

Keywords & phrases: Postmarks, Quebec City, pre-1867

BNA Topics, Volume 75, Number 3, July–September 2018

(2) Numbering system:

Since, to date, there is no clear and uniform nomenclature system in our complex postmark field, I have tried to create one. It is an alpha-numeric numbering system that I think is logical and simple. The capital letter refers to the type/usage of the postmark. For example: SL for Straight-line mark; C for Circle Date Stamps (CDS), SB for Steamboat, S for Ship, LA for Legislative Assembly, etc. (see Postmark Categories), followed by a serial number (1, 2, 3, ... attributed chronologically to each postmark in the same category); followed, when necessary, by number(s) for eventual subtype(s) (.1 .2, .3, etc.).

For example: C9.1 = Circle date Stamp No 9, Subtype 1

(3) Rarity factor system:

The Rarity Factor (RF) system is inspired by one created by Daniel Davis. Attribution of an RF to each postmark is based on my twenty-five years of experience collecting this particular subject, analysis of auction results and dealers' stocks, and personal communication with fellow collectors. With few exceptions, only items available on the market to collectors—not what is hidden in Public Archives or those of other Associations/Organizations or Societies—have an RF. That said, nothing is static in our world, and new discoveries can always change everything

The rarity factors:

RF 1 - Very common

RF 2 - Common

RF 3 - Scarce

RF 4 - Rare (5-15 known)

RF 5 - Very rare (2-4 known)

RF 6 – Unique to date

RF 7 - Only proof strike recorded

To paraphrase M Jean Pothion (1930-2014), famous French Postal history dealer and prolific author, rarity factors are for the “silent majority.” In his view, an RF should be taken “with tweezers” and used only to orient the reader/collector/dealer. Rarity and value are two different things: We all know that the value of a cover depends on many factors, such as supply and demand, quality of the piece, association with other postmarks, the date of use, the destination, the route, the importance of the text, the notoriety of the sender and/or recipient, among others things. Consequently, I encourage you to see these rarity factors as mere indicators.

(4) Illustrations:

Some of the illustrations are taken from articles, collections, or books previously published (see reference list below, with thanks to their authors); others are simple scans of originals, mostly from my own collection. High-quality reproduction is not always possible, but those which follow allow us, at the very least, to get an idea of what the postmarks look like.

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Main private collections consulted:

Charles De Volpi; Guy des Rivières; Christiane Faucher-Jacques Poitras; Beaupré; Jacques Charron; Ain; Fred Stulberg; Anatole Walker; Grégoire Teyssier.

Principal auction firm catalogues consulted:

R Maresch & Son; Robert A Lee; Longley Auctions; Sparks Auctions; Eastern Auctions; Firby Auctions; Jim A Hennok; Ron Leith Auctions; Robert A Siegel; Argyll Etkin Ltd; Grosvenor.

And finally...

In this article I have tried to present, to the best of my capabilities and knowledge, the most complete listing of pre-1867 Quebec City postmarks available to date (Table 1). Even with the amount of effort expended, this catalogue likely contains unintentional mistakes and/or omissions. As this type of listing is always a work in progress, I appeal to all those who share the same interests to inform me of their discoveries and advise me of any corrections, improvement of dates, and any other useful information. I sincerely thank, once again, the philatelic friends who have assisted me in this project.

NOTE: The balance of the table will appear in the next issue of *BNA Topics*, 2018Q4.

Table 1. Pre-1867 Quebec City postmarks

#	Illustration	Ink	ERD	LRD	RF	Notes/References
M.1		R RB B	10.12.1764	03.31.1774	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuscript rate (Various forms exist) • Expressed in pennyweight (dwt) • Known: Q2.3; Q2.4; Q2.8; Q2.16; 2.16; 6.16 • Written on front of letters
M.2		B	08.19.1776	-	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuscript rate (Various forms exist) • Expressed in Currency • Q Paid 8d • Should exist for 1765-1776
M.3		B	11.17.1777	09.17.1778	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuscript rate (Various forms exist) • Expressed in Currency and Sterling • See: 8 + 9 (most common); 2 + 2N3
SL.1		B 06.1765 10.1781	06.20.1796	5	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Quebec handstamp postmark • 35 mm × 5 mm • Applied on back (3 known on front) • Generally used with Bishop mark • According to CMPQ: 1780-1796 • Boggs PMI ; CS #1 ; CMPQ #20-1-1-1

Table 1. Pre-1867 Quebec City postmarks (continued)

#	Illustration	Ink	ERD	LRD	RF	Notes/References
SL.2		B	06.1799	04.1800	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straight-line handstamp on 2 lines : Month ; Day, • Year (2 last digits) • 34 mm × 13 mm • Struck on back • CS#II; CMPQ #20-1-1-2 recorded it in 1799 only.
SL.3		B	06.1801	06.1804	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straight-line handstamp on 2 lines : Complete year (4 digits) ; • Month; Day • 34 × 13 mm • Struck on back • CS #III ; No recorded in CMPQ
SL.4		B	01.20.1800	1808	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straight-line handstamp on 2 lines : Day; • Month; • Complete year (4 digits) • 34 mm × 13 mm • According to some authors, used as early as 1799 • (Unconfirmed) • Struck on back • CS #IV ; CMPQ #20-1-1-2a (1800-1809)

Table 1. Pre-1867 Quebec City postmarks (continued)

#	Illustration	Ink	ERD	LRD	RF	Notes/References
B.1		B; Bro wn; Re d-Bro wn	11.06.1775	1799	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $\varnothing = 15 \text{ & } 17 \text{ mm}$ • Almost always applied on back • Could be used alone (Rare); Mostly with straight-line or Bishop holder mark. • Boggs PM24
BH1		B	04.1770	07.23.1790	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop Holder • $\varnothing = 28 \text{ mm}$ • Applied on back • The Bishop mark could be applied in center or aside • Boggs PM22 ; CS #I ; CMPQ # 20-1-12-2a (1772-1791)
BH1.1		R	06.25.1772	-	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one known (Cavendish 2006 Auction: Ex Sanderson)
BH2		B	06.30.1791	09.1791	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop Holder • $\varnothing = 28 \text{ mm}$ • The Bishop mark could be applied in center or aside • Used as departure mark or transit • Only 2 recorded in private hands • CS #II ; CMPQ #20-1-12-3

Table 1. Pre-1867 Quebec City postmarks (continued)

#	Illustration	Ink	ERD	LRD	RF	Notes/References
BH3		B	09.1791	05.1798	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop Holder • Ø = 33½-34mm • Applied on back • Used as departure mark or transit • The Bishop mark could be applied in centre or aside • Boggs PM24 ; CS #III ; CMPQ #20-1-12-5 (1791-1798)
BH4		B	1798		4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop Holder • CMPQ #20-1-12-5
BH4.1		B	1799		5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop Holder • Called "Fleuron" cds • 4 sub-types known • General usage: 1809-1832 • Used as departure, receiver or transit • On front or back
C1.1		B R	10.23.1809	1831	2 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # C1.1 • Type Ø = 32 mm • Short wings ; Long QUEBEC • Year complete • Jarret #226 ; CMPQ #20-1-12-6

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Quebec Tercentenary camp postmarks

Wayne Schnarr

THE Quebec Tercentenary celebrations of 1908 were organized with commercial and political goals around the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the landing of Samuel de Champlain at Quebec.

Among the events that took place was one of the largest gatherings of military forces on Canadian soil prior to the outbreak of WWI. Canadian troops were billeted in four camps—Camp Levis (Quebec and the Maritimes, 3,000 soldiers), Salaberry Park (a small group of regular troops), Savard Park (Quebec and Ontario, 8,000 soldiers) and Ville des Tentes (civilian tourists). There was also a “Press and Militia” area. Each had a post office that was open between 20 July 1908 and 31 July 1908 [1, 2, 3]. An extensive series of Patriotic post cards, such as the one illustrated in Figure 1, was also issued.



Figure 1. Quebec Tercentenary patriotic post card. (Courtesy: VintagePostcards.ca)

In the following listing, the “Number” given is the one currently assigned to the postmark in the new BNAPS *Canadian Military Postal Markings*, Volume 1 [4]. The “B&T Number” is the number assigned to this postmark in the Bailey and Toop catalogue. [5]

Keywords & phrases: Quebec Tercentenary celebrations, military postal markings

CAMP LEVIS

NUMBER: Q80

PROOFED: 1908-07-09

SIZE: 23 mm

RF: E

NOTE: One cover known dated 1908-07-24

B & T NUMBER: M1-4



CARRÉ DE SALABERRY

NUMBER: Q81

PROOFED: 1908-07-16

SIZE: 23 mm

RF: E

NOTE: Several stamps and covers known dated from 1908-07-18 to 1908-07-22

B & T NUMBER: M1-10



PARC SAVARD

NUMBER: Q82

PROOFED: 1908-07-09

SIZE: 23 mm

RF: E

NOTE:

B & T NUMBER: M1-8



VILLE DES TENTES

NUMBER: Q83

PROOFED: 1908-07-09

SIZE: 23 mm

RF: E

NOTE: One stamp known dated 1908-07-25

B & T NUMBER: Unlisted



QUARTIERS PRESSE ET MILICE

NUMBER: Q84

PROOFED: 1908-07-16

SIZE: 23 mm

RF: E

NOTE: No usage reported

B & T NUMBER: Unlisted



Acknowledgements

Thanks to Ferdinand Bélanger and Grégoire Teyssier for their assistance with this section.

References and endnotes

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New issues

William JF Wilson

Wild bees

TWO wild bee species native to Canada are featured on stamps released by Canada Post on 1 May. *Agapostemon virescens*, sometimes called Bicoloured Agapostemon or Bicoloured Metallic Green Bee, is shown in the stamp on the left in Figure 1. (Members of the genus *Agapostemon*, together with a few other genera, are known as sweat bees because they are attracted to the salt in human sweat.) The stamp on the right shows *Bombus affinis*, or Rusty-patched Bumble Bee. The rusty patch for which it is named is visible on the upper side of the abdomen (the trailing section of the bee) in Figure 1, and is found on males and workers (females), but not generally on queens [1].



Figure 1. *Agapostemon virescens* (left) and *Bombus affinis* (right).

A. virescens is one of eight species of *Agapostemon* found in Canada [2], found from coast to coast across southern Canada and the northern United States. It is generally common between 37° and 47° latitude (therefore including southern Ontario and Quebec) [3, 4], but it can also be found north to about 50° latitude from British Columbia to Manitoba, and south to Texas and Florida [3].

In the world of bees, most species are solitary [5]. A lone female builds her own nest, constructs cells in the nest, provisions the cells with pollen and nectar to nourish the young after they hatch, and lays one egg in each cell. She then fills in or otherwise closes off the nest to protect the eggs. The young develop alone until after their last molt, when they emerge into the world as adults.

Agapostemon virescens behaves in many respects like a solitary bee, but has improved on the idea by combining it with the advantages of communal living [4, 5]. In the spring, after emerging from hibernation, a number of females excavate a vertical main burrow (sometimes with side branches) up to about forty centimetres deep into the ground. (Unless otherwise specified, the information in this paragraph is from [4].) In a manner similar to a solitary bee, each female (of which there can be thirty or so in the nest) individually digs her own lateral burrow several centimetres in length [3] horizontally off the main burrow, constructs her own cells at the end of the burrow, provisions them with pollen and nectar, deposits an egg in each cell, and fills in the burrow. When the young mature, they dig their way back to the main burrow. The mothers remain with the nest for up to three weeks after the young emerge, and then die. The young males leave to patrol nearby flowers, waiting to mate with young females as they forage for pollen, and do not return to the nest. Instead, they sleep on flowers and in crevices, and die before spring. The young females remain with the nest, joining the older females in foraging for pollen and guarding the nest. They then dig new branch burrows off

the main burrow, and hibernate there for the winter. Having already mated with the males, they are ready to start new colonies the following spring.

A. virescens readily accepts outsiders of its own species into the nest [4]. Partly because of this, it has been given the honour of being Toronto's (un)Official Bee, according to a City of Toronto publication, *The Bees of Toronto: A Guide to their Remarkable World* [6]. The reasons given are that it is easy to recognize, it is common in Toronto, and it welcomes newcomers.

Before looking at our other bee, *Bombus affinis*, let's first look at the highest degree of social organization that exists among bees; namely, eusociality. Three conditions have to be met for a species to be eusocial: (1) the young are cared for cooperatively; (2) there is a reproductive division of labour in which the queen and the drones (males) have sole responsibility for reproduction, while the workers (non-reproductive females) do almost everything else; and (3) there are overlapping generations of adults in the colony. (The latter condition is satisfied because the workers are the queen's adult daughters).

The most familiar example of a eusocial bee, and also perhaps the most familiar bee of any kind for most people, is the domesticated European (or western) honey bee, *Apis mellifera*. There is a single queen in each hive who does nothing but lay eggs, and there can be thousands of workers who act cooperatively to care for the young, forage for pollen and nectar, and maintain the nest. After emerging from the cell in which she developed, the queen mates with a dozen or more drones from whom she collects enough sperm cells to last her for life (two to five years), and then she spends the rest of her life laying eggs.

Bumble bees (including *Bombus affinis*) are also eusocial, but they differ from honey bees in two important ways. First, honey bee colonies survive the winter, and therefore they can last for many years. In a bumble bee colony, on the other hand, all bees die in the fall or winter except for the young queens. The latter preserve the species by hibernating over the winter and then starting new colonies the following spring [1, 7]. Thus, honey bees are *perennially* eusocial, and bumble bees are *annually* eusocial. Second, a honey bee queen cannot survive alone. When an old queen leaves the nest to establish a new colony, she has to take a swarm of workers with her. In the case of bumble bees, however, not only can the queen survive alone, but the survival of the species *depends* on her ability to do this. After emerging from hibernation in the spring, a young bumble bee queen searches for a suitable nest site, collects nectar and pollen from flowers to support the production of her eggs, fertilizes the eggs with sperm that she kept stored after mating the previous fall, and takes on all responsibilities for nest maintenance, foraging for pollen and nectar, and caring for the young females as they mature into worker bees [1, 7]. It is only as the workers mature and take over these responsibilities that the queen's role changes into that of simply laying eggs. Later in the summer, when not as many new workers are needed, the eggs develop into males and next year's queens. After the males mature, they leave the nest and wait for a chance to fulfil their only job in life, while the young queens remain in the nest until the end of the season [1]. They then leave to mate with the males and find a place to hibernate for the winter. As mentioned above, the old queen, the workers, and the males all perish, and the young queens establish new colonies the following spring.

Bombus affinis is one of forty-one bumble bee species in Canada [2] and about two hundred and fifty in the world [7], and it is one of the earliest bumble bees to emerge from hibernation in the spring [1, 7]. The colony lasts approximately from April to September, and can produce

up to a thousand workers, one of the larger colony sizes for bumble bees [1, 7]. Usually, *B. affinis* nests are located one-to-four feet below ground in abandoned rodent burrows or other cavities, but occasionally they are found above ground [1, 7].

Many bee species in Canada and in the rest of the world are in trouble. I could find no information on *Agapostemon virescens* in this regard (one hopes that no news is good news), but such is definitely not the case for *Bombus affinis*. A few decades ago, it was common in suitable habitat within an area having roughly the shape of an inverted triangle, with its base extending eastward from southeastern North Dakota through southern Ontario and southwestern Quebec to Maine, and its apex in Georgia [1]. However, surveys conducted in Ontario from 2005 to 2009 specifically to look for *B. affinis* found only three individuals, and these at only one location (Pinery Provincial Park) [7]. The conclusion from the study was that *B. affinis* in Ontario had declined in abundance by at least 99 percent over the previous thirty years. In the United States, surveys have found a range contraction of about 87 percent and a decline in abundance of 95 percent [1, 8]. As a result of these findings, *B. affinis* became the first bee species to be listed as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in 2010 [7], and in 2017 it became the first bee species in the continental United States to be listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act [8]. As of 2010, therefore, *B. affinis* is considered to be in danger of extirpation in Canada, with natural replenishment from US populations considered to be unlikely because of the steep declines observed there [7].

An excellent nineteen-minute film on *Bombus affinis* is available (see reference [8]) and is well worth watching.

The information in the accompanying table is from the Canada Post website:
<https://www.canadapost.ca/web/en/blogs/collecting/list.page?cattype=collecting&cat=stamps>
Canada Post's *Details* publication, and philatelic inscriptions on the stamps. Where the number of lithographic colour dots on the stamp selvedge differs from that published by Canada Post, the selvedge is taken as correct. Stamp size, perforations and number of teeth are my own measurements, and are given as (HORIZONTAL) × (VERTICAL).

References and endnotes

- [1] The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, *PETITION TO LIST / the rusty patched bumble bee Bombus affinis (Cresson), 1863 / AS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES UNDER THE U.S. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT*, prepared by Sarina Jepsen, Elaine Evans, Robbin Thorp, Rich Hatfield, and Scott Hoffman Black, January 31, 2013. Available at <<http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Bombus-affinis-petition.pdf>>.
- [2] Margarita Miklasevskaja, Jakov Musafija, and Laurence Packer, *Bees of Canada* website, <<http://www.yorku.ca/bugsrus/resources/galleries/boc>>. Laurence Packer is a professor in the Department of Biology at York University in Toronto, and a melittologist (a person who studies wild bees).
- [3] John Pickering, *Discover Life* website, http://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20q?guide=Bee_genera. Click the link to the appropriate bee genus on the left side of the screen, then scroll down on the main screen and click the link for the particular species. John Pickering is Senior Research Scientist at Sam Houston State Natural History Collections in Huntsville, Texas.
- [4] Judith Abrams and George C Eickwort, "Nest Switching and Guarding by the Communal Sweat Bee *Agapostemon Virescens* (Hymenoptera, Halictidae)," *Insectes Sociaux*, Paris, Vol 28, No 2, pp 105-116, 1981.

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- [8] *A Ghost in the Making : Searching for the Rusty-patched Bumble Bee*, A Day’s Edge Productions Film, directed by Neil Losin and Morgan Heim, written by Neil Losin and Clay Bolt, 2016. Available at <<http://www.rustypatched.com/>>.

Table 1. 2018 Commemoratives

Stamp	Illustrators	Queen Elizabeth II	Bees	Memorial Cup
Value	5 × P (s-t on SS)	P	2 × P	P
Issued	15 Apr	20 Apr	1 May	18 May
Printer	L-M	L-M	CBN	L-M
Pane	Bk: 10	Bk: 10	Bk: 10	Bk: 10
Paper	C	C	C	C
Process	5CL	3CL	4CL	5CL
Qty (1000s)	Bk: 1500 ^(a) SS: 80	Bk: 300 ^(a)	Bk: 140 ^(a)	Bk: 140 ^(a)
Tag	G2S	G3S	G4S	G4S
Gum	Bk: P-S SS: PVA	P-S	P-S	P-S
Size, mm	Three 32 × 40 Two 32 × 32	33.5 × 26.5	31 × 31	48 × 24
Perf	Bk: Simulated SS: 12.5 × 12.5	Simulated	Simulated	Simulated
Teeth	Bk: Simulated SS: Three 20 × 25 Two 20 × 20	Simulated	Simulated	Simulated

Footnotes for Table 1:

^(a) Number of booklets, coil packets, or souvenir sheets.

Abbreviations for Table 1:

numberCL = (number of colours) colour lithography; Bk = booklet; C = Tullis-Russell coated paper; CBN = Canadian Bank Note Company; G(number)S = general tagging (number of sides); L-M = Lowe-Martin; P = permanently equal to the domestic rate; P-S = pressure-sensitive; PVA = polyvinyl alcohol; s-t = se-tenant; SS = souvenir sheet.

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New Titles

C\$ Retail

	<p>Foreign Exchange Control in Canada / The Role of Canada Post 1939-1951, Eldon Godfrey. A new exhibit benefiting from the 28 years of research and study of the operations of the Foreign Exchange Control Board since the first FECB exhibit in 1990. 2018, Spiral bound, 150 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-88-4. BNAPS Stock # B4h923-100-1. BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 100!</p>	C\$70.00
	<p>Postal History of Camp Borden 1916-2016, A. David Hanes. Postal history illustrates the story of one of Canada's most important 20th-century military bases. 2018, Spiral bound, 178 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-84-6. Stock # B4h923-096-1. BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 96.</p>	C\$77.50
	<p>Booklets and Coils of Canada / The Canadian Postal System Enters the Machine Age / A Study of the Printing Dies and Plates (1900-1935), Gordon W. Turnbull. Postal history illustrates the story of one of Canada's most important 20th-century military bases. 2018, Spiral bound, 88 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-85-3. Stock # B4h923-097-1. BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 97.</p>	C\$54.00
	<p>Steamship Mail in the Early Decimal Period of Newfoundland 1865-1910, David Piercy. A major study of the coastal communications of Newfoundland in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. 2018, Spiral bound, 146 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-86-0. Stock # B4h923-098-1. BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 98.</p>	C\$69.00
	<p>Saskatchewan Territorial Mail: 1846 to 1905, Harold Kellett. The development of postal services in the region that emerged from the Northwest Territories as the Territory and subsequently the Province of Saskatchewan. 2018, Spiral bound, 88 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-87-7. Stock # B4h923-099-1. BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 99.</p>	C\$54.00

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More New Titles (See website for complete list)

C\$ Retail

	<p>Canada's Prime Ministers on Stamps and First Day Covers. Gary Dickinson. A 150th anniversary year review of the stamps and first day covers issued to honour the Prime Ministers of Canada. 2017, Spiral bound, 90 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-82-2. Stock # B4h092-1</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C\$49.95</p>
	<p>Canada's Barrel Handstamp Cancels. David Oberholtzer. A thorough study of a type of canceller used in Canada for a well-defined period in the Elizabethan era. 2017, Spiral bound, 134 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-83-9. BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 95. Stock # B4h923-095-1.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C\$59.00</p>

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Readers write

Member Dean Mario comments on Colin Pomfret's article on Canadian air training bases. [BNA Topics Vol. 75, No. 2, Second Quarter, 2018, pp 23-27]. I'm writing to clarify a couple of aspects of Colin's excellent article for accuracy. Firstly, the rare strike from Camp Mohawk illustrated in Figure 11 on p 27 is not a "circular date stamp" but is rather a "broken-circle" or "split-ring dater". Secondly, the writer of the card as Colin speculated "*may have been an orderly in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps (RCAMC)...*" but more likely he meant "*may have been an orderly in the Canadian Army Medical Corps (CAMC)....*" Checking the Library and Archives site, the sender according to his service number was Arthur Gordon Burrell, born 9 December 1896 in Arundale, Sussex, England and lived in Medicine Hat, Alberta. He was a dental student and most likely was an orderly in the Canadian Army Dental Corps (CADC) instead of the CAMC, which is actually shown in manuscript on the message side of the card in Figure 11. Mr. Burrell was transferred from the 175th Battalion to the 207th, then from the 207th to the CADC.

Anthony Thompson's article "Gum: The later Newfoundland issues printed by Perkins Bacon, Waterlow, and others," published in *Topics* 2018Q1 was missing a table. It follows below. My apologies to Anthony – Editor

Table 1. Gum on the 1930s and 1940s Newfoundland stamps.

Printers, issues (Scott no.)	Surface	Colour	Cracking	Crack orientation
Perkins Bacon 1930s (183-248, C6-C11, except below)	glossy, streaking common	off-white to medium brown	obvious, large straight sided cells	none
Waterlow 1940s (253-270, except below)	silky (satin), smooth	off-white to light brown	normally hard to see, mostly straight sided cells, gum creases common to not present	none, except gum creases at $\approx 45^\circ$ crossing to form grid pattern (when present).
Bradbury Wilkinson 1935 (226-229), 1937 (230-232), 1939 (249)	semi-matt	off-white	closely spaced wavy parallel lines with abundant cross cracks	parallel lines at $\approx 45^\circ$ in one direction only.
Canadian Bank Note Co. 1941 (Sc 252), 1943 (Sc 267, C19)	glossy	off-white to light brown	closely spaced \approx straight parallel lines with abundant cross cracks	parallel lines at $\approx 45^\circ$ in one direction only.
John Dickinson 1939 (J1-J6), 1946-1949 (J1a-J4a)	semi-glossy	near white	closely spaced straightish parallel lines with abundant cross cracks	parallel lines at $\approx 45^\circ$ in one direction only.
John Dickinson 1949 (J6a)	semi-glossy, streaking common	light brown	obvious, large straight sided cells	none

"Readers write" continues on page 64

BNAPS business and reports

President's column

Eldon Godfrey, OTB

"Time flies when you are having fun" (*Farlex Dictionary of Idioms*)

AH, yes, when you are enjoying something, time seems to move more quickly. And so it is that my two-year term as President of BNAPS is rapidly drawing to an end, and this, the Third Quarter 2018 President's Message, shall be my last.

When a term of office draws near to its conclusion, one thinks of the many individuals, seventeen elected Executive and Board Members, eighteen Committee Appointees, twenty-five Study Group Leaders, and fifteen Regional Group Leaders who have contributed to the efficient operation of the Society and who have made the task of the preceding two years relatively straightforward and satisfying.

On behalf of all members of BNAPS, I wish to record deepest thanks to retiring Board Members Richard Fleet, Adri Veenstra, and Charles Livermore, who has, during the past two years, also served as our Chairman of the Board.

Thanks are also extended to David McLaughlin, who retires from Publicity to take on the role of International Liaison of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and Jon Johnson who retires from Awards to be followed by newcomer David Freeman, who brings extensive experience in stamp-exhibition organization.

For two years, my recurring theme has been YOU. YOU and your colleagues are the Society; individually and collectively, YOU shape and direct the future of our Society. At present, the Society publishes the quarterly journal *BNA Topics*, which is received by all members; it convenes the annual exhibition and bourse BNAPEX; and by its dynamic website presence (thank you, Leo Beaudet, Dave Bartlet, Charles Livermore, and others), the Society provides research sources, calendars of events, access to Study Group newsletters, and other current news. Under the umbrella of the Society, the Study Groups and Regional Groups function in bringing BNA philatelists together.

Co-Editors of *BNA Topics*, Ron Majors and Jeff Arndt and Circulation Manager Ken Lemke ensure our journal finds its way to your letter box, BUT in addition to their outstanding work, this publication cannot exist without the contributions of articles by YOU, the members. Do not be shy! Share your discoveries with an article about a cover or stamp(s) of particular interest to you. I guarantee that there are other members out in BNAPS-land who will enjoy your discovery through *Topics*.



As you are undoubtedly aware, BNAPEX 2018 will convene during the days of 21-23 September in Quebec City. I encourage YOU to attend BNAPEX 2018, not only to enjoy the friendships of fellow members (they are your friends—you just have not met yet), enjoy outstanding exhibits, and meet the dealers who support BNAPS and provide your treasures. I am sure many of you have not previously had the opportunity to visit historic Quebec City. BNAPEX 2018 provides that opportunity: YOU will not be disappointed!

Speaking of outstanding exhibits, at BNAPEX 2018 I invite you to look at the array of exhibits as catalogued on the BNAPEX 2018 website. It is doubtful that the postal history of Quebec has ever been so amply displayed to BNAPS members for at least forty years. And as YOU read through this issue of *BNA Topics*, undoubtedly you will learn even more about some of the rich history of this mainly French-speaking province.

It is truly fitting that “The Lola Caron Award” will be presented at BNAPEX 2018 for the first time. Though noted in my message of the first Quarter of 2018, I consider it worth repeating here: The award will be presented at this and any subsequent BNAPEX featuring an exhibit of Quebec Postal History that receives a Vermeil or higher award. The award celebrates the significant contribution made by Mme Caron to the study and bibliography of the postal history of Quebec. I look forward to celebrating the initial presentation of “The Lola Caron Award.”

And so, my term has run its course. Moving forward as Past President, I shall lend a hand at any time I can be of assistance, and I extend best wishes to my successor.

With warm regards to all, and—as always—good treasure hunting!

Eldon

From the Secretary—Report date: 11 June 2018

Andy Ellwood, OTB

(10 Doris Avenue, Gloucester, ON K1T 3W8, <andy_ellwood@rogers.com>)

Membership fees

Membership fees for 2018 are C\$35 for Canadian members, \$30 US for US members, 26 GBP for UK members, and C\$40 for members from any other country. The membership fee schedule was confirmed (with no change) at the last BNAPS AGM. For applications submitted during the second and third quarter of the year, the fees are 75 percent and 50 percent of the annual fees, respectively, while for those submitted in the fourth quarter, the fee is 25 percent plus the full fee for the coming year. Three-year memberships can be obtained at a 10 percent reduction. Application fees can be paid through PayPal, using an online application available on the BNAPS website (www.BNAPS.org) or by sending a cheque to the Treasurer or to the Secretary.

Applications for membership

After the receipt of an application for membership, the applicant is classified as a new member. The person’s name and membership number are printed in the next issue of *BNA Topics*. If no objection from any other member is received within approximately 60 days, the applicant is confirmed as a Regular Member.

New members—applied from 20 March 2018 to 11 June 2018

R-6988 Robert Humphries, Lebanon, NH	R-6995 Terry Klassen, Chilliwack, BC
R-6989 Stephen Rust, Beaumont, CA	R-6996 Geoffrey A Meyer, Les Éboulements, QC
R-6990 Valerie Mayers, Napanee, ON	R-6998 David Biltek, Victoria, BC
R-6991 Jean-Pierre Pare, Ottawa, ON	R-6999 Gary Belyea, Edmonton, AB
R-6992 Mark Boyce, Edmonton, AB	R-7000 Norbert Hobrath, Strongsville, OH
R-6993 Richard Baxter, Ottawa, ON	R-7001 Zhi Chen, Anderson, IN
R-6994 Brian Damien, Brunswick, ME	

All applicants assigned membership numbers between **6974** and **6987** have been confirmed as Active Regular members of BNAPS with full membership privileges. Their names were published in the previous issue of *BNA Topics*, Vol 75, No 2, 2018, p 63.

Deceased

L-4118 Jean-Claude Lafleur	R-2604 Jacques C Schiff, Jr
E-2431 Wayne Walton, Jr.	R-6100 Charles K Hirschert

Members reinstated

R-6906 George E Alexander	R-6403 Jeffrey Orbach
R-6786 David G Cottenden	R-6464 Martin J Schofield

Members Dropped

R-6917 Louis Abbott	R-6920 Barry McGuire
R-6058 John T Bailey	R-6654 John C Miller
R-6376 Marc Beaupre	R-6101 James O'Connor
R-6432 Brian C. Boggs	R-5972 Orville F Osborne
R-5432 John Cheramy	R-5358 Steven Perch
R-6244 John J Clement	R-6623 Joel Peterson
R-4080 Alan L Crowther	R-6781 Barry Pitt-hart
R-6953 Joe Darby	R-6156 Peter A Rafle
R-6020 NF Lee Dowsley	R-5160 R Murray Reid
R-5208 Scott J Edgett	R-6009 John E Rempert
R-6946 Rosette Elkeslassi	R-6634 MT Schilling
R-6029 Michael D Feinstein	R-5348 Philip J Spangler
R-5861 Peter B Feuser	R-5147 David B Tamblyn
R-6924 Garner Field	S-99124 Philatelic Library Serials University of Texas At Dallas
R-6087 Charles S Flynn	R-6841 Barbara Van-Helsdingen
R-4741 William R Geijsbeek	R-6724 Chester Vanwhy
R-6705 Julian J Goldberg	R-5824 Kimber A. Wald
R-4985 James L Grimwood-Taylor	R-5975 Alfred N Weiner
R-6406 Tony Hine	R-6812 Marcus Woodward
R-6834 James Inverarity	R-6936 Tommy Wortley
R-6733 Charles A Jones	R-6145 Eugene J Zhiss
R-6960 Steven Mart	R-5428 Steven G Zirinsky
R-6163 Denny R May	
R-5834 Andrew J McFarlane	

Member resigned

R-6780 Thomas McDonald

Postal address changes between 20 March and 11 June 2018

R-6981 David Best, Hampton, ON
 R-6186 Paul G Bourgoин, Grand Falls,
 NB
 R-3797 William G Burden, Windsor
 Junction, NS
 R-6994 Brian Damien, Brunswick, ME
 R-6420 Larry A Kemp, Woodbury, MN

R-6995 Terry Klassen, Chilliwack, BC
 R-6417 Peter Maresch, Aurora, ON
 R-6990 Valerie Mayers, Napanee, ON
 R-6996 Geoffrey A Meyer, Les
 Éboulements, QC
 R-6795 Mark Oakley, Vernon, BC
 E-3046 Ray Simrak, Tecumseh, ON

Email address changes between 20 March and 11 June 2018

R-6330 Peter Hellsten, Winnipeg, MB
 R-6417 Peter Maresch, Aurora, ON
 R-6795 Mark Oakley, Vernon, BC

R-6403 Jeffrey Orbach, Rockaway, NJ
 R-6975 John Schorn, Silver Spring, MD

ACTIVE member and non-member count by membership type

Total active members: 975

Note: Exchange/non-member subscriptions (21) are not counted as active members.

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Regional group rant

David Bartlet, OTB

Overview

SPRING was slow in coming across the Great White North and, as a result of escaping the spring chores, we were all provided with opportunities to participate in a Regional group meeting, share in the philatelic camaraderie, work on our collection or prepare that next exhibit. You will be reading this when summer is in full swing and, of course, your thoughts will be of the upcoming BNAPEX convention in Quebec City. While there are few Regional meetings in July and August, you should be able to catch one in September. I can be contacted by email at any time at regionalgroups@bnaps.org. Please send all of your meeting notices and reports to me there and we will post them on the BNAPS' website and the Facebook pages.

Reports below are from Atlantic, Calgary, Dixie Beavers, Golden Horseshoe, Golden West, and Prairie Beavers regional groups.

Around the Region Reports

Excerpts of the various regional meetings are shown here; the full reports can be seen on the website on the webpages for each regional group.

Atlantic

There have been several meetings held over lunch in the last few months for BNAPS members in the Halifax region. About ten members attend each meeting, but different members attended different meetings so, in reality, twenty members have participated. Contact Gary Steele if you want to be included in these lunchtime meetings.

Wednesday, 16 May, saw one of the Halifax area BNAPS luncheon meetings. Ten locals along with a “foreign” member, Pat Burns, arrived with a variety of Show-and-Tell items. Among the items shown were several purchases from the recent ORAPEX show in Ottawa, including some significant additions to John Hall’s “Canadian Art on Stamps” collection, and a very highly franked Cyprus cover showing a pair of the £1 George VI definitives (the first seen on cover by Jack Forbes in all his years of collecting this issue). Gary Steele had a variety of items from ORAPEX and Bob Soper passed around some pre-cancel covers. Hugh Rathbun showed Registered Letter items. Gary Coolen is still hunting for Reply Coupons.

There was discussion about the upcoming NOVAPEX 2018, with particular attention to encouraging exhibit entries, both for the One-Frame Team competition, and Multi-Frame efforts. Member Sean Weatherup had recently staged an exhibiting seminar to try and promote exhibiting to members of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club (NSSC). Discussion also continued about hosting of BNAPEX in the Halifax area for 2020, and the NSSC executive has given Gary Steele permission to explore that possibility.

Calgary

The Calgary group holds monthly meetings in September through June. Meetings run from 7 PM to 9 PM, with ten minutes of general business, a presentation, then a round table Show-and-Tell.

On 11 April, eleven members came to hear a presentation by Jon Johnson, who had dug through the back of his closet of covers, to bring along all those things collectors have gathered over the years and never decided what to do with. Following the presentation, there was no shortage of back-of-the-closet material and of many new acquisitions brought in to Show-and-Tell. Other meeting topics included the club spring show and bourse, and discussion of the Edmonton National exhibiting results and upcoming exhibitors for ORAPEX.

On 9 May, the group met and ten members enjoyed a presentation by Hugh Delaney on airmail stamps and aerophilately. A discussion followed, on the upcoming Catherine Stinson flight on 9 July, and members were provided with an itinerary of the event and the commemorative cover that has been produced. As usual, a Show-and-Tell followed the meeting, and a variety of interesting items were shown by the members.

The June meeting was held on 13 June and attended by only six members due to a conflict with another meeting scheduled at the same time. A discussion was held about the various preparations that have been made for the Brian Peck 100th Anniversary flight on 24 June, and for the Katherine Stinson flight on 9 July. Earle Covert presented his ORAPEX exhibit on salesmen's "I will Call" postcards. The Show-and-Tell event provided additional cards that exist out in collectors' hands. This was the last meeting before the summer break. The group restarts meetings the second week of September.

Dixie Beavers

The Dixie group will meet in Charlotte, North Carolina at the CHARPEX show in July 2018.

Edmonton

The Edmonton Regional Group has continued its routine of informal monthly meetings. Members bring items to discuss in the group; generally, six members attend each meeting. With the regular attendance of Jim Watt from Hamilton, we are now regaled with much more related to classic Canada pence issues, in addition to our regular discussion of Alberta- and BC-postal history and related post cards. An end of season dinner will be held on 21 June. A report of this meeting will be provided in the next Regional Group Rant.

Golden Horseshoe

The Golden Horseshoe Regional Group meets five times a year at the Rousseau House from 10AM-4PM, with pre-meeting activities including discussion and visiting local dealers. After lunch, the meeting opens with business and a presentation. Because of Easter and Passover falling on the last weekend of the month, the March gathering of the GHRG was brought forward to 24 March. One would think there would be an improvement in the weather at the end of March but no, old man Winter just kept hanging on.

It was sad to have to report that Betty Beddows, wife of the late stamp dealer John Beddows and Co-Hostess with John of BNAPEx 2011 North Bay, passed away on 17 March. Betty also looked after the Youth Table at stamp shows in and around the southern Ontario area. Several regular GHRG members attended Betty's memorial service on this day.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Larry Cherns, who told us about mail correspondence to and from Dunnville, Ontario, in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Thanks, Larry—and also thanks once more to Simon Claughton for providing the audiovisual.

Although still Spring, it felt like Summer had finally arrived in southwestern Ontario as twenty-two members and guests met on 26 May for the last meeting of the season. As usual, coffee was ready and waiting as the day began with informal gathering and philatelic chatter.

With noon approaching and looking forward to another scrumptious lunch from the kitchen of the Rousseau House restaurant, we settled in to eat and begin the afternoon program. The speaker for the afternoon was Ken Lemke, whose topic was the history of the Lady Boats, a fleet of five luxury liners operated by the Canadian National Steamship lines from 1928 to 1952 that carried freight and mail in addition to passengers. The main topic of course was mail. It was an interesting presentation, and we thank Ken for it. We also thank Simon Claughton for providing the electronics.

Two important notices were, first, that BNAPEX 2018 being held in Quebec City from 21-23 September. The late date was chosen so as to be there during the peak foliage period. We would like to see the Golden Horseshoe Regional Group well represented at the convention. It's a great place to visit, and the host group has lots of interesting activities planned. The second notice was that the first GHRG meeting for the season will be held on 9 October. This is still a tentative date because the venue is undergoing major renovations. Brian Peters will be the October speaker and his topic will be Revenues.

Golden West

The Golden West Regional Group met as scheduled during the WESTPEX 2018 Stamp Show at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel. Five people gathered on Saturday, 28 April. All were BNAPS members, including two from the Calgary group. Sadly, the attendance was the lowest ever for our WESTPEX meeting.

This year's program was presented by Steve Davis from the Calgary group, who walked us through his one-frame exhibit, "Canada War Issue 6¢ & 7¢ Airmail Issues 1942-43: Rates & Usages." This year there was also a second BNA exhibit entitled "The Uprooting of British Columbia's Japanese Canadians, 1942-1949." It was exhibited by Louis Fiset and received the BNAPS award for the best BNA exhibit at WESTPEX.

Lower Canada

The Lower Canada group will hold its inaugural meeting at BNAPEX on Saturday, 22 September at noon. All BNAPS members are welcome to attend, especially those who will be within driving range of the Montreal/Quebec City area.

Manitoba NW Ontario

The Manitoba NW Ontario presently has no meetings scheduled due to the ill health of the group leader. We would hope that one of the current group members could take over leadership of the group, so please contact Dave Bartlet if you can help.

Midwest

The Midwest Regional Group directed by Richard Judge will meet at the big APS/Topical Stampshow in Columbus, OH, from 9-12 August. There will be an informal, hour-long meeting scheduled for Friday, 10 August at 1pm. We would really appreciate some help from attending members by giving short (5-10 minutes or more) talks on subjects that interest them. It is a general meeting, so non-members interested in Canadian philately are welcome. Please consider going to the meeting and giving a talk about what interests you.

Pacific Northwest

The Pacific Northwest Regional group will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with VICPEX in Victoria, BC at the Comfort Inn over the weekend of 4-5 October 2018. Attendees will not only obtain philatelic knowledge but partake of a great show at the same time. A registration form for this event is on the Regional webpage of the PNWRG.

Prairie Beavers

The Prairie Beavers met in College Station, TX, on 7 April. Those present included Larry Ballantyne, Denise and Jay Stotts, John Furlong, Dave Nickson, John Seate, Frank Senz, Gary Giroux, Egil Trondsen, Vic Willson, Dave Bartlet, George Watkins, Mike Yestrumsky, and George Dresser. Mary Elizabeth Dresser and Carol Willson joined the group for lunch.

Following coffee and doughnuts provided by George Watkins, the day's meeting began with sharing books and other literature that members brought. The recent Booklets and Coils of Canada the Canadian Postal System Enters the Machine Age a Study of the Printing Dies and Plates (1900 -1935) by Gordon W Turnbull, released February 2018 was circulated. After a period of informal sharing and trading/selling, visitor Dave Bartlet presented his material on vended automation of Canadian postage. Members were quite intrigued by the section on kiosk stamps of the last few years.

Following a club-hosted lunch, complete with a cake made by Carol Willson, George Dresser conducted the business meeting. Dave Bartlet summarized regional group activities; a clothesline Show-and-Tell followed. Dave Bartlet gave a short presentation on Cello-Paks of Canada, very interesting to members not familiar with that area of 1960s collecting. A silent auction of donated items raised over \$100 for the group's treasury. Vic Willson gave a talk on "Canadian Mail from March 1930 to 7 December 1941 to Asia, Australasia, and the Far East," showing the numerous rate and route options of the period. The day's meeting ended with a dinner at a great barbecue place and evening conversation at Vic and Carol Willson's home.



Attendees at the 7 April Prairie Beavers Regional Group Meeting:
First row, left to right, Gary Giroux, John Furlong, Egil Trondsen, Frank Senz, George Watkins Second row, left to right, George Dresser, Larry Ballantyne, John Seate, Jay Stotts, Denise Stotts, Vic Willson, Dave Bartlet, Mike Yestrumsky, David Nickson.

St Lawrence Seaway

The St Lawrence Seaway Regional Group held its semi-annual meeting at ORAPEX in Ottawa on 5 May 2018. Cimon Morin presented his research on "The Mail Transportation in Quebec 1763-1851: Postal Routes and Mail Contracts." Attendees were impressed with the well-rounded presentation—no surprise given Cimon's career at the Canadian Postal Museum and National Archives. The next Group meeting will be held in Perth in October.

Readers write (cont'd.)

Dealer Gary Lyon provided some useful information about stamps changing colour. In the December 2017 issue of *Gary's Notebook*, he writes: As stamp dealers we see a lot of stamps, far more than collectors or even members of expert committees will see in their lifetime. Examining such an enormous amount of material over a period of many years is, of course, a big advantage. This is why dealers can often spot problems that have previously been missed.

One thing we have been noticing lately is that many stamps seem to be changing colour! It is usually evident in stamps that are yellow or orange but other colours can change as well. The culprit? It appears that black plastic stock pages and stock cards could be the problem, even though they are advertised as being chemically inert. Storage in these popular products over a long period of time is definitely not recommended.

One way to protect your purchases is to remove them from the packaging and mount them in your collection as soon as possible. For mint stamps, we recommend Hawid or similar style mounts. Even if using manila stock sheets or white-paged stock books, the mount will give further protection from moisture and other possible damage. Old fashioned hinges are also fine for used stamps.



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Study group centreline

Peter McCarthy

CENTRELINE presents brief summaries of the specialized research done by BNAPS members as published in the newsletters of its many Study Groups. This column reviews those received between 15 March and 15 June 2018.

British Columbia.

Andrew Scott, editor of the *British Columbia Postal History Newsletter*, always has a favourite front page cover. In the June issue, Andrew posts a nice clean 1897 cover from John Clayton of Bella Bella to RJ Williams, the publisher of the BC Directory, with an interesting tale. Andrew also invites those with interesting covers to consider being part of "My Favourite Cover." A couple of fine BC items sold at a recent Schuyler Rumsey auction and are illustrated. Morris Beattie has contributed part 1 of the Postal History of Powell River Region, complete with periods of operation, finances, postmasters, and hammer types, along with illustrations. Tracy Cooper submitted an article on the BC patronage appointments made by Senator Hewitt Bostock, based on the acquisition of a 1909–1911 appointment book. Tracy also gives a thumbnail sketch of the life of Senator Bostock. Glenna Metchette wrote a story about Joe Crosson, considered a mercy pilot of the far north. Gray Scrimgeour provided a story of early mail to Coquitlam, first known as Westminster Junction, with the first Postmaster of Coquitlam being Robert B Kelly. Brian Copeland illustrates a cover sent to Harvey's Island from California that was finally determined to be Knapp Island. From the cover comes an interesting story of the ownership and history of the Island. Ending the newsletter is an illustrated list of recent BC post office cancellations.

Confederation

Glenn Archer, the editor of the Large and Small Queen Study Group newsletter, *Confederation*, begins the April issue with a front-page article by Vic Willson, pertaining to the largest mint block and imprints of the 12 1/2¢ Large Queen. Vic goes on to describe other blocks from past sales and elaborates on his study to date. Ron Smith has done a mini-study of the fancy cancel Fredericton "F" apparently used between 1884 and 1885, as per the Smythies example shown. Ron, in his search and study, has not seen another from this period. Jim McCormick has done a lengthy, well-illustrated article on the 6¢ Small Queen "ghostly head" plate, showing guide dots and guidelines, and where the ghostly head appears. Jim thanks Ted Nixon and Guillaume Vadeboncoeur for their contributions. Tom Meyerhof recently acquired a 3¢ Small Queen stamp with an x-shaped mark on the Queen's neck. Tom is asking for others to confirm this possible constant variety. Michael Smith has discovered a third variety of "The Earring Variety" on the 1¢ Small Queen. This is a plate scratch first discovered by Brian Hargreaves. The final article from Guillaume Vadeboncoeur discusses whether an illustrated strip of seven 1¢ Small Queen stamps could be from plate 4.

Elizabethan II

Robin Harris, editor of *Corgi Times*, newsletter of the Elizabethan II study group, begins the March-April issue pointing out that, in the release of the From Far and Wide coils and notes, all the stamps were packaged after the day of issue. One needs to take note of Robin's appeal

for articles, which actually applies to all BNAPS members and all study groups. Andrew Chung has discovered two previously unreported flaws appearing on the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia floral issues of 1964–1966. Ingo Nessel submitted Part 1 of an illustrated article on the usages of the 1985 Parliament Booklet. Robin also notes that Ingo was recently elected as a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, the oldest philatelic society in the world. Congratulations Ingo. Gunther Sawatzki sent in a batch of admail indicia envelopes, of which a sampling is shown. Earle Covert has been recording and providing updated listings. Take note of Earle's email address (ecovert@gmail.com) if you want to be included on the list. Dave Bartlet sent in a very interesting story on Kiosk stamps and some of its problems: clearly, he has a couple of keepers here. Andrew Chung provided a post card mailed in 1935, announcing Prime Minister RB Bennett's radio speeches. It features a picture that closely resembles the image of him on the 5¢ stamp from the Caricature issue of October 1973. Accompanying the article is a previously unreported 5¢ Bennett stamp printed on gum side with a VGG certificate.

Robin Harris, along with the aid of Andrew Chung, came up with an interesting story concerning \$1.10 postage due in 2007, on piece, with the 52¢ year of the pig stamp. Included is an interesting rate chart that helps calculate what the mailing costs and weight should have been. Next, Robin explains the Lowe-Martin Die cutting called pattern 19, providing a good illustration of the process. Robin further explains the new tagging mat used by Lowe-Martin that has produced several tagging flaws. Ending *Corgi Times* is an article about the plastic flow on the 15¢ Bilot Island stamp from the 1967–1973 Centennial issue.

The May and June issue of *Corgi Times* first tells us of an error in the Queen Elizabeth II sixty-fifth anniversary booklet. The cover is apparently gummed while the stamp is not. A set of stamps honouring emergency responders will appear in September. Larry Margetish found what he claims to be a new early period of use for the 20¢ cent stamp from the Landscape issue of 1976. Ingo Nessel continues with part two of his article on the use of the 1985 Parliament Booklet stamps, in an interesting, well-illustrated article on what is termed modern postage. We look forward to the next installment. Robin then takes us back fifty years to the 1968 stamps along with a full description—what a presentation to young collectors! Kevin Hans suggests an opportunity for modern-day cover collectors—the International Youth Service (IYS) was a penpal network based in Turku, Finland, that operated from 1952 to 2008. Canadian covers to the IYS will offer a wide range of rates from the Elizabethan period. Jeffrey Arndt ends the newsletter with an illustration and explanation of a 1962–63 souvenir card, with each stamp being overprinted SPECIMEN.

Fancy Cancels

In the April issue, Dave Lacelle, editor of *Fancy Cancel & Miscellaneous Markings Newsletter*, announced that Mike Street advised him that the third edition of the fancy cancel book will probably be ready in July. Good news for those who have been long awaiting Dave's book. In the April newsletter, Mike Halhed and Ron Smith provided corrections to the Collingwood fancy cross. Paul Varty also sent in a fancy cancel cross now identified from Kilarney, Ontario. A hammer produced by P&A of a crown in the centre of rays was sent in anonymously and is illustrated along with proofs and a story. Dave illustrates a number of fancy cancels with requests for ideas from the membership such as one provided by Mike Street, described as a "beehive" design. Information is also requested about the Newfoundland "T" cancel. Brian

Hargreaves sent in a cancel on a 2¢ Small Queen, suggesting that it is foreign. Ron Smith and Peter Baxter sent in a host of cancels. The newsletter ends with Fakes, Bogus, and Spurious items.

First Day Covers

Gary Dickinson is the editor of *First Impressions*, the newsletter of the First Day Study Group. Gary begins with an article, based on a story published in 2001 by Bruce Perkins, asking if we (the consumers of FDCs) are becoming extinct. Ken Thibault sent along an article on how his company worked with the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce to produce the Wilding Winnipeg Tag first day covers on very short notice. Peter McCarthy provided an uncommon FDC of the Alexander Graham Bell stamp with a letter enclosed. The cover is now part of the Bob Vogel collection. John van der Ven is truly a researcher. In the next article he writes a follow-up to George Basher's article on Australian cachet maker AJ Peake and his Canadian products (first appeared in Issue 5 in 2010). It's an interesting well-illustrated story of the man and his work as a cachet maker. In addition, he contributed his art to many publications. One member asks others how to best store your FDCs. Send your ideas and methods to Gary at gandbdickinson@shaw.ca. Finally, George Basher contributed an article showing a 1937 postage meter FDC whose contents predicted the end of postage stamps. A gorgeous cover.

Military Mail

The *Canadian Military Mail Study Group newsletter* is edited by Dean Mario, who opens the April issue with a post card sent in by John Watson. The card was sent from a Canadian in a Dutch internment camp to a Canadian soldier in a German POW camp. It made for an interesting WWI article. The BNAPS book release of David Hanes' *Postal History of Camp Borden, 1916–2016* is announced and the book reviewed. Jon Johnson is doing a study on the Canadian Merchant Navy between 1939 and 1947. He shows examples of covers and cancels. In his survey, he asks for scans of any covers you may have to further his survey. Alan Baker sent in a cover addressed to an RCAF pilot officer that was re-directed to Dunwich, an RAF depot, asking if anyone can decipher the scrawl (please inform the editor). John Watson shows a cover sent postage free from a civilian internee in China handled by the Japanese Red Cross. Any comments? John also contributed two post cards sent to France during WWI that feature unusual postmarks. The first reads "destination invaded"; the second is a straight line reading "controlled by military authority." Following is a cover with an unusual orderly room marking. Unfortunately, however, Doug Sayles did not list orderly room markings in the catalogue. Ending the newsletter are two covers from Ceylon with RAF Censor markings.

Newfoundland

You will notice with the April–June edition of the newsletter that Malcolm Back, the editor, brings to your attention the change in the masthead from *The Newfie Newsletter* to *The Newfoundland Newsletter*. "Newfie" is considered derogatory to many Newfoundlanders. Also note that Malcolm has taken the position of "INTERIM Chairman" until a new Study Group chairman is found. The newsletter is dedicated to the "Challenge" and crossing of the North Atlantic by Alcock and Brown. Carl Newswanger sent in a post card addressed to Albany, New York and redirected to Star Lake, NY, dated 1903, with postage due. He asks several questions, including this one: Does the W.G. monogram mean that it was written by Wilfred Grenfell? Hopefully, the questions will be answered by the next edition. John Walsh provides

a new, earliest-known use for post card 16, depicting 1¢ King George V dated 16 April 1932, two years earlier than the previously earliest-known use. John also sent in an image of a full sheet of the 5¢ overprint on the 25¢ Cariboo stamp with an interesting story attached. Brian Stalker offers the fruits of some great research in an interesting story about a cover dated 1935. It features a CROSS ROADS split ring filed down cancel and was used at White Roads post office as an interim device. Brian also responds to an old favourite, which is a postal stationery card from a Grenfell nursing sister with the initials CW who, it turns out, was Cecilia Williams. Steve Rust, in going through thousands of King George VI green 2¢ stamps, came across some plate cracks and is looking for more information about them. Anthony Thompson added a second comment about the crosshatched variety of the 3¢ Queen Elizabeth stamp that appeared in the previous newsletter, offering still another point of debate that ends this edition of *The Newfoundland Newsletter*.

Pence Cents

Jim Jung is the editor of the *Pence-Cents Era Study Group Newsletter*. In the May 2018 issue, he promotes the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada's publication in which he was a participant. Following this, Vic Willson offers a lengthy article on an update on the Berri Duplexes, first done by Bob Lee. Members are asked to comment and fill in some of the blanks. Jim has resurrected an article that first appeared in the first edition of the newsletter about stitch watermarks. It explains where these watermarks come from and illustrates the paper-making machine; it also includes examples and ideas about where they most likely can be found. Ron Majors has written an extremely interesting article on Turned Covers during the Pence-Cents era, a practice of re-using paper by turning received letters inside out and writing replies and addresses on the blank sides of the original or, sometimes, cross-writing on Ron shows some great examples of a topic that would make a great one-frame exhibit. That brings this issue to an end.

Postal Stationery

Well, Robert Lemire is still the "Interim" editor of the *Postal Stationery Notes* newsletter. He begins the May issue with an article from Jean Levesque and Richard Logan on a previously unreported set of George V envelope press proofs. While Bill Walton and Earle Covert work on completing the fifth edition of Webb's, the ERP project is on the back burner. Pierre Gauthier has found a new pre-cancel user for the 2¢ George V card—the Montreal West Municipal Association. Pierre Gauthier and Earle Covert illustrate the 2017 Santa Letter stationery. In the "Post Card Factory Corner," Robert reports that Erhard Nachtigall has three new cards that appear on the PFC website. In addition, a new design for the Canada Post Xpresspost envelopes is shown. Bringing the newsletter to a close is Part 3 of the Railway Express Company advice flimsy forms. This is an illustrated account of the 2¢ printings for Canadian Pacific Express.

Precancels

David Marasco has replaced Larry Goldberg as editor of the *Precancels Canada Newsletter*. In this latest issue, in response to requests, the newsletter focusses on a variety of precancels on covers. Shown is a pen-and-ink postmaster precancel on a 3¢ Small Queen and the earliest-known Montreal 21 roller forerunner, showing the 1 November 1888 date; a lovely block of eighteen 1¢ Small Queens on a partial wrapper; a scarce use of an inverted Montreal precancel

on a 5¢ Edward VII; and a postal receipt with ten 10¢ Queen Victoria numerals paying for the delivery of one hundred pounds of newspapers. David ends by saying "... he gave you what you asked for so it is up to you to share what you have."

Railway Post Office

In the January–March issue of the RPO *Newsletter*, Ross Gray, the editor, shows on the front page a new late date for the St John & Montreal, BM Caldwell clerk stamp on a nice clean cover, from his own collection. A 1921 cover from Rush Lake, SK to San Francisco provided some interesting new reports, illustrated with a map indicating the routing at least to Empress,



RY-28.02 C.P. RY WEST OF WINNIPEG/2., blank, JY 27, 83, is the first report of a blank direction indicium for both the hammer and the listing.

including the first report of a west direction movement and the first report of a train 67 between Moose Jaw and Nelson. Hammer studies have always been an important part of the newsletter, and Ross provides five for Ontario and BC hammers. Also from the editor's collection are new clerk handstamp finds for the Portal & Moose Jaw RPO. The next several pages are taken up with reports of early and late dates along with direction and

train number changes. Sean Weatherup has come across a host of new finds mostly on letter bills, which will look good in his exhibit. Wayne Schnarr, Richard Hautala, Brian Stalker, and Murray Smith sent in new early dates for various markings, and Georg Gerlach discovered a new clerk handstamp reading MOOSE JAW DISTRICT? R.HILL Tr. 138. AUG 14, 1952. It will be listed as WT-1036.55. Ending the newsletter is a story submitted by Morris Beattie about a Railway Mail Service supervisor using his handstamp illegally on a private post card to save postage.

Re-entries

Dots and Scratches is the newsletter of the Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties Study Group. Michael Smith is its editor. Scott Robinson sent in an extensive article titled "Musings on the Position 61 Re-entry of the 12½¢ Victoria stamp" illustrating the stamp, before plate repair and after. Images are provided thanks to John Jamieson, Ralph Trimble, and Michael Smith. Michael Smith offered an illustrated article of two 1¢ Small Queens with plate scratches found in a bundle lot of one hundred. Ron Smith and Bill Burden have combined to show a neck flaw constant plate variety on the 2¢ Small Queen. Shown in this issue is a dated copy on a bulk mail receipt. Earl Noss reported an example on a mint block of four. Ron and Bill would welcome input. Jim Jung, with the help of Larry Fitzgibbons, submitted an article on a 5¢ Small Queen discovery of a plate crack on the lower left numeral. Larry offered a nice cover showing a strip of three with the flaw on the last stamp. According to Jim this is a startling discovery. Michael Smith ends the newsletter with an article entitled "A Mysterious Blotch of Colour" on two 6¢ Small Queens with different size blotches on the right numeral. Michael is skeptical, suggesting the possibility of the stamps being altered, but he is willing to be proven wrong.

Revenues

The March issue of the *Canadian Revenue Newsletter* edited by Christopher Ryan has several nicely illustrated articles from various contributors. Peter Martin has rediscovered a variant of the embossed 1915 Inland Revenue Stamp and provides an interesting article about it. David Hannay has spent nineteen years hunting for the 1968 Fisherman unemployment insurance stamp without a specimen overprint. He also submitted an illustration of a plate scratch on an uncancelled 20¢ series of the 1915 weights and measures inspection stamp. Then he shows and asks if anyone has seen a possible counter on a Quebec law stamp. Finally David shows two examples of double precancel on 10¢ and 20¢ excise stamps on the United States International Playing Card Company card packs with quite an interesting story to go along with the illustrations. Fritz Angst provided a lovely copy of a weights and measures certificate with a verification label affixed. He continues with an illustrated article on the progressive proofs of Edward VII weights and measures stamps, followed by an unlisted variety of a Tobacco stamp overprint from Royal Canadian Tobacco. Clayton Rubec sent in an illustrated list of the Newfoundland lobster and salmon canner identification labels. Editor Christopher Ryan shows the tobacco strip stamps from the 1880 and 1881 series perforated and rouletted. He then supplies an article, with thanks to Fritz Angst, Gordon Brooks, Earle Covert, and Robert Lemire on the list of current excise stamps for tobacco products. And a new one to be looking out for: proposed federal excise stamping and provincial marking of Cannabis. Three more articles by Chris Ryan wrap up the newsletter: (1) mystery of the series 1883 stamp in black for 500 Manilla Cheroots; (2) series 1883 Cigar stamp with obsolete forms of cancellation; and (3) description of thirteen Ontario municipal user-pay garbage tags and bags.

Squared Circles

The *Roundup Annex*, the newsletter of the Squared Circle Study Group, is edited by Gary Arnold. The April issue is predominantly made up of examples from Laurent Belisle's exhibit of Province of Quebec squared circle cancels that will be shown at BNAPEX 2018 in Quebec City. Many new finds are listed. In addition, Gary shows a nice clean registered cover on the front page, with a Martintown squared circle showing an inverted day date. The 3¢ and 5¢ stamps are also cancelled with the same strike. Hopefully some of you will have been successful bidders of material from the Ted Kerzner estate.

The June issue of the newsletter lists new reports and updates with a few nice illustrations. Terry Sitch sent in an auction lot comprising a short set of Jubilees all with Merriton, Ontario squared circle cancellations, dated 30 October 1897. Laurent Belisle has done a study of the use of the Granby, Quebec squared circle. He believes it was used as a canceller with the CDS used as a dater. A list of the covers used in the study is provided. It appears that Laurent also provided an article with illustrations that indicate the Montreal hammer was used as a pre-cancelling device—an interesting story that ends the newsletter.

Postscript

As you read this, BNAPEX 2018 being held in Quebec City is just around the corner. We hope to see you there and hope you will share your philatelic experiences in the various Study Group seminars. Quebec City promises to be a great experience.

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AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Minutes of AGM 2017**
- 3. Moment of silence for departed members**
- 4. New Emeritus Members**
- 5. Summary report, 2018 Directors meeting**
- 6. Summary reports, Elected Officers**
- 7. Summary reports, Appointed Officials**
- 8. Financial reports and audit**
- 9. Dues rate for 2018-2019**
- 10. Conventions, 2019-2021**
- 11. Other business**
- 12. Adjournment**

BNAPEX 2018 Ville de Québec - Quebec City—September 20-23, 2018**Study Group Meeting & Seminar Schedule (as of 15 July 2018)****This schedule is tentative. Please check the show program for the final schedule.**Questions? Contact Eldon Godfrey <ecg@godfrey-godfrey.ca>**Thursday, 20 September 2018**

Time	Seminar/Meeting	Chair	Speaker/Topic	Room
0900-1600	BNAPS Board of Directors	Charles Livermore	Annual meeting	Carmen

Friday, 21 September 2018

Time	Seminar/Meeting	Chairman	Speaker/Topic	Room
Time slots are available on the hour between 1000 and 1500. Please contact Eldon Godfrey <ecg@godfrey-godfrey.ca>				
1500-1600	Admirals	Leopold Beaudet	Annual meeting	Carmen
1600-1700	Fancy Cancels & Miscellaneous Markings	David Lacelle	Research material for 3 rd Edition of Fancy Cancel Handbook	Ravel

Saturday, 22 September 2018

Time	Seminar/Meeting	Chairman	Speaker/Topic	Room
0700-0800	Order of the Beaver	Bill Walton	Breakfast (private)	Plaza Restaurant
0800-0930	Order of the Beaver	Bill Walton	Annual Meeting (private)	Carmen
1000-1100	Revenues	Fritz Angst	Annual meeting	Carmen
1000-1100	Squared Circles	Paul Grimm	Annual meeting	Ravel
1100-1200	Newfoundland	Malcolm Back	Chris Hargreaves - Air Mail through Botwood - (1939 - 1945) Covers & Censorship	Carmen
1100-1200	Postal Stationery	Earle Covert	Annual meeting	Ravel
1200-1300	Lower Canada Regional Group	Hugo Deshaye	Inaugural Meeting: David McLaughlin - Householder Mail	Ravel

1300-1400	Pence / Cents	Ron Majors	Annual Meeting	Ravel
1300-1500	la Fédération québécoise de philatélie (FQP).	Jacques Poitras	Annual General Meeting	Carmen
1400-1500	Library and Archives Canada, Vincent G Greene Foundation, American Philatelic Research Library	Kathy Hartley	Meet the Librarians - philatelic research possibilities, means of access, other matters of interest to philatelists.	Ravel
1500-1600	Elizabethan II	Robert Elias	Show & Tell	Carmen
1500-1600	Perfins	Jim Graham	Gary Tomasson & Jonathan Johnson, The Growth of the 5-Hole OHMS Perfins	Ravel
1600-1700	George VI	Gary Steele	Mike Street – Peace Issue Rates 1946-52	Ravel

Sunday, 23 September 2018

Time	Seminar/Meeting	Chairman	Speaker/Topic	Room
0800-0900	BNAPS Annual General Meeting	Eldon Godfrey BNAPS President	BNAPS Society business and members' meeting	Ravel
0930-1100	BNAPEX Judges' Critique	Mike Street Jury Chairman	Jury Review of Exhibits	Carmen
1100-1200	Christmas	Peter MacDonald	Annual Meeting	Carmen
1200-1300	Precancels	Andy Elwood	Annual Meeting	Ravel
1200-1300	Regional Group Coordinators	Dave Bartlet, VP Reg Groups	Annual Meeting	Carmen
1300-1400	Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada	Ingo Nessel	Dr Mark Berner, Preferential Rates Across the St Lawrence River at Quebec – Mystery Solved	Carmen
1400-1500	Canadian Military Mail	Jon Johnson	Mike Street - Correspondence Home from an Ancaster Doctor in Belgium and France during World War I	Ravel
1500-1600	Dead Letter Office	Gary Steele	Annual Meeting	Carmen
1500-1600	Re-Entries & Constant Plate Varieties	Bill Radcliffe	Annual Meeting	Ravel
1600-1700	Large & Small Queens	Bill Radcliffe	Annual Meeting	Ravel



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BNAPS exchange circuit news

Andy Ellwood OTB

THE new material received to date has been posted to the Circuit. Some nice earlier material, as well as George V & VI and Admirals have been added. I am expecting another fifty new sheets in the next three months, with an emphasis on back-of-the book items. I've noticed that a few older members are retiring their collections and are offering them as singles or sets. It seems that auctions don't fetch strong prices, even for hard-to-find items/collections. Prices continue to be dropping for normal items and collections, while dealers' prices seem to be holding at established levels. Contact me by email at andy_ellwood@rogers.com or (613) 737-2317.

Classified advertisements

RATES FOR 25 words—\$6 Canadian, 20¢ for each additional word. All ad copy and payments should be sent to the Advertising Manager, Hank Narbonne, 136 Murphy St., Carleton Place, ON, K7C 2B4 Canada, to be received by the fifteenth of March, June, September, or December for the next issue of BNA Topics. Ads requiring photos, cuts, logos, and other production tasks will incur charges at a nominal, industry standard rate. These costs will be billed to the advertiser. Please identify the number of issues in which the ad is to appear. All payments should be made to BNAPS Ltd., at the rates listed above, in Canadian dollars or US equivalent.

FOR SALE

CANADA, NEWFOUNDLAND COVERS. Thousands scanned, online at www.donslau.com, Stampless to WW II—have a look. Don Slaughter, Box 8002, RPO Sherwood Forest, London, ON, N6G 4X1 (4-13).

POSTAL STATIONERY OF CANADA. All eras and types. Online at www.postalstationery.ca or write for my latest list: Mike Sagar, 3920 Royalmore Avenue, BC V7C1P6.

WALSH BRITISH NORTH AMERICA Specialized Stamp eCatalogue 11th edition, 2018, Colour 674 pages; and **WALSH NEWFOUNDLAND** Specialized Stamp eCatalogue 11th edition, 2018, Colour, 823 pages. www.nfldstamps.com.

MORRIS COLOUR GUIDES FOR CANADIAN STAMPS, Large and Small Queens and Related Issues or Admirals; contact Collateral Philately at jafrb@aol.com or phone 902-434-1960.

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DECIMAL COVERS: rates; multiple stamps, domestic-, cross-border-, overseas-destinations, turned letters, illustrated especially patriotic covers. Send scan and price to Ron Majors at ronald.e.majors@gmail.com or phone 610-399-1509.

LITERATURE

OLD ISSUES OF BNA Topics Needed: Volumes 1-15; please consider donating unneeded issues to BNAPS. Contact Ken Lemke, BNAPS Circulation Manager, c/o CFS, 3455 Harvester Road, Unit 20-22, Burlington, Ontario L7N 3P2 <kwlemke@sympatico.ca>.

OLD ISSUES OF BNA Topics FOR SALE: Add valuable info to your library. Will do first come, first-served basis. Contact Ken Lemke, information above.

BNAPS elected officers: Executive and Directors

British North America Philatelic Society Ltd

Society Home Page: <http://www.bnaps.org>

Elected officers: Executive

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<ecg@godfrey-godfrey.ca>

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