



CENTENNIAL
DEFINITIVES
STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER
Number 42
Winter 1889

Editor:
Doug. Irwin
2250 Lawrence
Ave East #406
Scarborough, Ont.
M1P 2P9

Copy of a \$1 die proof displayed at CAPEX 87
(copied from a slide)

In this newsletter, we present the last of the Canadian Bank Note Company proofs which were on display at Capex. Following the exhibition, I wrote to the National Postal Museum requesting information concerning the British American Bank Note Company printings. True to form, the National Postal Museum couldn't even be bothered replying in any matter to my request.

Over the past two years, interest in the study group by our members seems to be on the decline. Some of the various areas of study brought little or no replys and if it were not for the CAPEX material, we really would have had difficulty putting out a newsletter. We still have a couple of regular contributors and because of their efforts, we will have enough material for the rest of this year. Perhaps because we are dealing with only one issue, we have exhausted all information and areas of study. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome.

We also present in this newsletter, the first of a two part article by John Aitken describing the use of Acknowledgement of Receipt cards during the Centennial period.

CANADA

POSTES POSTAGE

1⁰⁰



Enlargement of the progressive die proof of the \$1
(note the different style of \$1 and lack of shading)

\$1 Centennial

Printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company

Designed by Rapid, Grip and Batten, Ottawa

Engraved by Yves Baril, CBNCo.

Quantity printed - 50,345,000

Plates used - 2

Acknowledgement of Receipt (A-R) Cards. by John Aitken

One of the several special services offered by Canada Post during the Centennial period was Acknowledgement of Receipt (A-R).

By attaching an A-R form to a registered item, a sender could obtain a receipt from the recipient at the time of delivery. It was also possible to send a form subsequent to the registered mailing and obtain confirmation of delivery from the postmaster at the office of destination.

I have not been able to determine just when the service was introduced. The Postal Guide for 1883 does not mention the service for domestic mail, but does cover it in the foreign section. Allan Steinhart suggested to me recently that the service might have been introduced in 1875 with the formation of the Universal Postal Union. Allan has a form franked with a 5¢ Small Queen in 1878 to acknowledge a letter sent within Canada. Nevertheless, the first reference I have been able to find to A-R service in the Domestic Mail section of the Postal Guide is in the 1905 edition. It is not in the 1900 edition, which is the next earliest I have seen.

In the 1920's the forms were replaced by cards.

The original fee for sending an A-R form, either attached to the registered item or subsequent to mailing, was 5¢ in postage affixed to the form. These rates were in effect until 1921.

From Oct 1, 1921 to May 31, 1967 the rates for domestic A-R cards were 10¢ at time of mailing and 20¢ after mailing.

The cards for registered mail to a foreign destination enjoyed the same rates except that about 1954 an additional feature was added. In return for additional postage sufficient to pay the airmail letter rate for the card (or double the airmail rate

for follow-up cards) airmail service could be obtained instead of surface delivery. Note that from Jan 1, 1966 to Dec 31, 1975 there was a special international airmail postcard rate of 10¢ applicable to postcards from Canada to all countries except the USA. A-R cards to the USA, its territories and possessions was treated the same as domestic mail.

On June 1, 1967 A-R card fees increased to 15¢ at time of mailing and 25¢ for follow-up cards. The rate did not change again until Sept 1, 1976.

In the latter half of the 1970's some changes were made to the A-R card procedure. Except for follow-up cards the postage for the card was no longer affixed directly to the card, but instead to the registered letter. A Canada Post permit was printed on the card. (I have a permit card with form date 8-75 used in 1980.) Also the postal guides stop quoting a rate for follow-up cards to international destinations.

Collecting an example of each Centennial period A-R card rate presents a real challenge. There are several reasons for this.

The first has to do with the short period between issue of the Centennials and the rate change.

The second relates to the variety of odd combinations possible most of which I at least have never seen.

The third is a familiar one, typical of this period. Post Offices practices were changing. In late 1973 Certified Mail Service was introduced. For 40¢ plus postage (10¢ less than the minimum registration fee) mailers could obtain a receipt, just as they had with A-R cards. For many of the A-R users, such as lawyers credit companies and brokerage houses, this represented not only a saving in postage, but also possibly faster delivery not slowed by

Registered airmail letter rate 50¢ + 15¢ with "AR" handstamp on front of cover

P. O. Box 398
Prince George, B.C.



Suit in P.A. 17

DOUBLE REGISTERED LETTER
~~Mr. & Mrs. Marko Spaheli~~
32 Gurbin
Murten, Switzerland

AR



PRINCE GEORGE B.C. 17 11 1971

PRINCE GEORGE B.C. 17 11 1971 "A"

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.
POSTAL STATION "A"
No. 3745

Nicht abgeholt
Non réclamé
Non ritirato

7406

PRINCE GEORGE B.C. 17 11 1971

REAL A.M.F. 111

MURTEN 23-6.71-8

PRINCE GEORGE B.C. 17 11 1971

PRINCE GEORGE B.C. 17 11 1971

PRINCE GEORGE B.C. 17 11 1971 "A"

W. V. CROUSE
Box 762
AMHERSTBURG, ONT.

870



Mr. Fred Jarrett
Box 302

Adelaide St. P.O.
Toronto, Can.

ORDER SENT
DATE EXPÉDIE
FINAL NOTICE
RETURN ON
RETOURNEZ LE
NOV 5 1968

870

AMHERSTBURG, ONT.
No. 77

AR

Registered domestic rate 50¢ + 6¢ with "AR" handstamp on front of cover.

EARLIEST DATES NEWS

In some of our past newsletters, we have reported on our results in searching for earliest dates, particularly on the hibrites. We can now push back our earliest date for the 6¢ orange hibrite sheet stamp by two days to August 12, 1969. Our thanks to Koizumi Kazuma for this information.