



CENTENNIAL DEFINITIVE
STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER



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NOTES FROM YOUR EDITOR

Due to the sporadic publishing schedule of the Centennial Newsletter, the BNAPS executive have put the newsletter on the "inactive" list. The Executive has strongly advised me to desist publication; Centennial items are to be published by the Elizabethan Study Group run by Robin Harris. For this reason, this is the last issue of the CDSG. There are 44 members that have paid dues which entitles them to 3 or 4 issues. Since this is the last issue, you will find a cash rebate enclosed. The funds remaining after publishing this issue (\$518.40) will be passed along to Robin. I hope this is acceptable to all members.

There is, however, another option for Centennial Collectors to communicate. Centennial member George Mayo has put up a website exclusively for the use of Centennial collectors. There is no fee involved. I would urge members to check out the website at <http://centennial1967.ca>. Overleaf you will find a sneak peek of the home page.

IN THIS ISSUE

Even today, the book "Canada The 1967-73 Definitive Issue" edited by Fred Keane and Paul Hughes, remains the bible for the Centennial Collector. Fred Keane was in regular correspondence with an American collector, Trafton Smith; this correspondence came into my hands through the BNAPS secretary in 1996. It consists of 100 pages of typewritten material covering the period 1968 to 1974. I am including a few abstracted paragraphs that I hope will give you some insight into the mind of this great philatelist. What is amazing (and encouraging) is that he did all that work when he was well into his seventies, and not too healthy to boot! He did not even own a UV lamp till 1972. The following paragraph from a letter he wrote in 1969 summarizes my position in life (although I am not into my seventies yet), and may offer an explanation for the lack of Centennial newsletters in the last year. After an accident that required hospitalization, Fred writes:

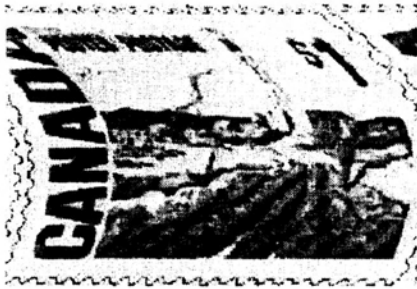
Moreover, this misadventure has borne in upon me how vulnerable a person of 71 is, taking into consideration the fact that I have no near relatives. I realize, more than ever before, that I have far too many philatelic interests, and that I must begin at once to reduce their number, and to get the material in shape where it can be handled by other people. I have about 25 single-country collections, besides many Canadian sidelines, and some plating projects, etc. When I retired from my job, six years ago, I looked forward to having lots of leisure for all my stamp projects, but now the weeks and months seem to slip by, with comparatively little accomplished.

You will find a few more clips on page 742. I hope to scan all 100 pages and pass it along to Robin and the BNAPS librarian. By the way, you can now access all but the last few issues of the newsletter at bnatopics.org/hhlibrary/newsletters/n-cen.htm. Past issues have dealt with "Plastic Flow" on the 15 cent; in this issue I tackle the 8 ct Alaska Highway and the 6 cent black varieties. But be careful: I spent big bucks on a 15 ct Bylot plastic flow that I now think may just be overinking/smudging! As well I continue my update of the Fluorescence Tables. According to the Tables, there is a HB 8 cent slate untagged coil. This is not listed in any catalogue and I have never seen one. Have You?

REMINDER You can still reach me at

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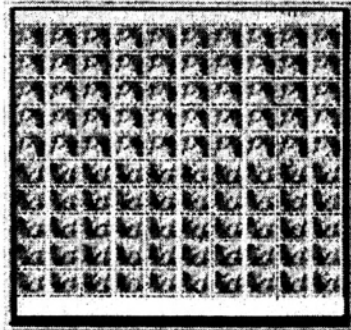
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The Virtual Meeting Place for Centennial Stamp Collectors



The Rare 1967 'Little Sisters' Brown Experimental Sheet

As a passionate fan / collector / seller / sometimes writer of Canada's 1967 Centennial Issue, I invite you to this new web space. It is my hope that it will become a *Meeting Place* for Stamp Collectors of all regions of the world to meet and participate in the *discovery* of this wonderful issue. I don't anticipate that Centennial Collectors will begin to rush to this web space without a reason for it is only through the participation of each one of us that we will see this site develop and grow. Your participation is welcomed to this, '*the Canada 1967 Centennial Stamp Issue Virtual Meeting Space*'. I do ask that your submission, reviews, posting be related to Canada's 1967 Centennial Issue. Membership is Free and your Participation is most welcomed.

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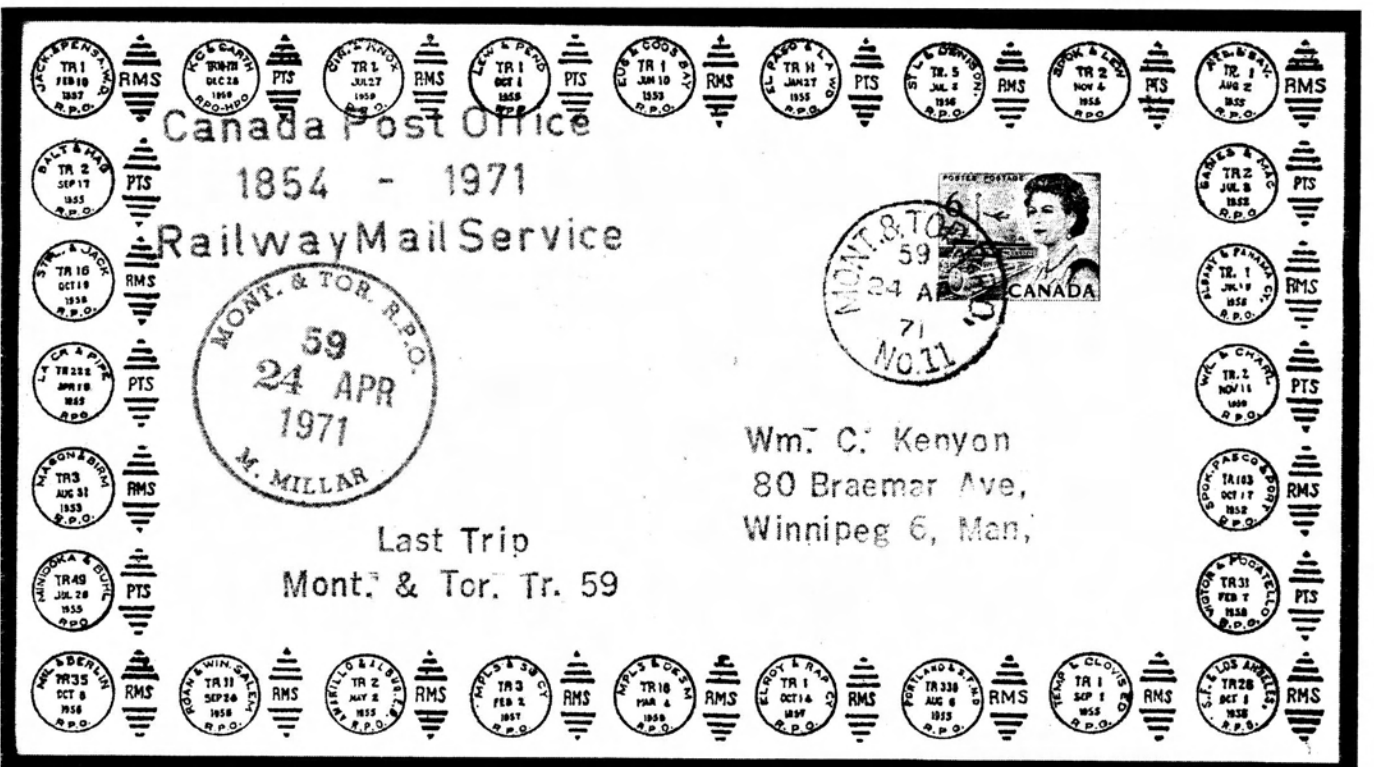
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Who's Online

There are currently, 2 guest(s) and 0 member(s) that are online.

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The Centennial era saw the closing of many P.O.'s, but did you know that the R.P.O. system ended in 1971? John Aitken wrote an article on Centennial R.P.O.'s way back in 1985 (Vol 25 & 26, pages 154-165). Here are two of at least four different "Last Run" covers which I have acquired recently. Different in that they have different frames (note that the lower one has US train cancels). I presume that they have something to do with the RPO Study Group?



I have a fair number of 8 cent Alaska Highway plastic flow varieties. I have an upper right corner mint single and a used block (without any selvage) of 4 that I will discuss first:



Fig 1 UR mint single



Fig 2 used block, upper row



Fig 3 used block, lower row

Now compare the patterns in Fig 1 and 2 with the blowup of the upper right corner in The Saskatoon Stamp Co ad as shown on the next page. All three plastic flow patterns are pretty much the same. I conclude that the plastic flow pattern is more or less constant and that my block without selvage (Fig 2 and 3) is from row 1 and 2 columns 4 and 5.

I also have a LR corner block, with selvage to the right and bottom shown to the right (Fig 4 and 5), so that establishes the (different) patterns for rows 9 and 10. I have two more mint blocks, with selvage at the right only (shown below in Figures 6 to 9. I presume that since there is no selvage top or bottom, that they are somewhere from rows 3 to 8.



Fig 4 Row 9



Fig 5 Row 10



Fig 6 block a (upper)



Fig 7 block a (lower)



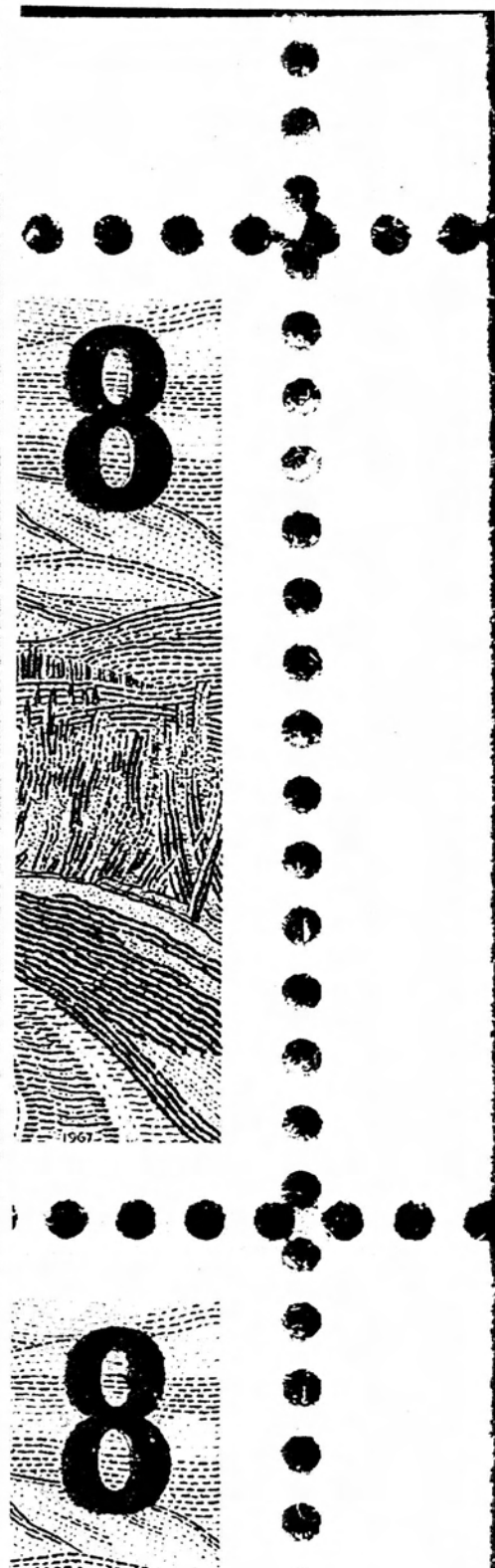
Fig 8 block b (upper)



Fig 9 block b (lower)

Finally, at the top of page 740, two more used singles with totally different patterns. This makes a total of ten more or less different Plastic Flow patterns.

- Conclusions:
1. The Plastic Flow occurs ONLY in column 5.
 2. All my copies are on the Speckled Fluorescent paper that was used in 1968.
 3. There are probably 20 different varieties (based on a layout of 3 horizontal by 2 vertical panes of 50 on the printing plate (see Beudet's article on p. 27 of Robin Harris' Centennial book).



038 CANADA 461iii 8c Alaska Highway PLASTIC FLOW variety. Slight to strong DOUBLING of "8" on all 8 stamps in right column of this UR corner margin block of 24 (3x8). (Darnell #517ca) Rare.
 44278.1 VF NH CS over \$520.00 \$495.00



Fig 10 used single



Fig 11 used single

I started my search for the “plastic flow” variety on the 6 ct black (Die II) by going through several hundred used copies. I got quite excited because I rounded up a few dozen (cat \$ 35 ea). Then I started to look through my mint stock and turned up a UL corner block with all four positions showing “plastic flow”. At \$75 each, I got even more excited. Then I started to think: that’s odd: my block comes from the left side of the pane, and occurs in column 2 even more strongly than in column 1. The stamp with the most significant “plastic flow” is shown below:



In addition to a deformed 6, the C in CANADA had “prongs”; the Queen’s hair is somewhat extended, just like the over-inked variety called “scratch on forehead” from the 8 cent library. A few of the used copies I put aside had S/E on the right, indicating that they came from column 10 on the sheet. Then I uncovered a MINT UR corner block and all the pieces of the puzzle fell into place. Here is a scan of row 2 column 10:



Note the difference: a distinct line next to the 6, No “prongs on the C, and no streaks in the Queen’s hair. Also, there were no signs of anything unusual in column 9. I believe this block has the genuine “plastic flow” variety, albeit not the most striking example. Perhaps this variety is not as dramatic as occurs on the 15 cent Bylot or the 8 cent Alaska Highway, hence it is often “embellished” in most catalogues.

I have skipped over the 6 cent black and 7 cent coils because there is nothing to update. The 8 cent coil is much more complicated. Based on mint copies, I have added one more level (the 2) in the regular (untagged) listing, and two more levels (the 0 and 6) in the GT region. In the regular issues, the 0 and 4 levels are not common. The 9 level would be a HB, but I have never seen one listed in any catalogue nor do I have one, mint or used. Perhaps this came from a tagged run that was not tagged by mistake. At any rate it is extremely rare if it exists at all. You will need a glass to see the fluorescent fiber flecks. The fluorescent fibers are much smaller than in the "Speckled Fluorescence" papers. The 0 level paper has no flecks. The density of flecking increases from the 1 to 2 level. The 0 level in the OP2 tagged list is not common.

8 CENT SLATE COIL

Perf 10

		Regular					General Tag OP2						
Keane/Hughes		A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
PAPER	white	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
GUM	PVA (dull)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
INK SHADE	dark slate	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
UV BRIGHTNESS		1	0	4	9	2	1	9	5	8	2	0	6
UV COLOUR:	black/light grey flecks	•				•	•				•		
INK/PAPER	black/ bright ivory no flecks		•									•	
	black on blue flecks			•					•				•
	black on blue-white flecks				•			•		•			
NOTES		b	a	c	d	b	e	f	g	f	e	h	g

Catalogue Numbers used below are from the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue (2008 edition)

a-	550i*:	DF, PVA	Dec 30/71
b-	550 :	F, PVA	Dec 30/71
c-	550ii*:	MF, PVA	Dec 30/71
d	550iii*	HF, PVA	Dec 30/71
e-	550p :	F, GT2, PVA	Dec 30/71
f-	550pii :	HF, GT2, PVA	Dec 30/71
g-	550piv* :	MF, GT2, PVA	Dec 30/71
h-	550pv*:	DF, GT2, PVA	Dec 30/71

*These are suggested new catalogue listings

CLIPS FROM THE FRED KEANE CORRESPONDENCE MAY 1968 - JANUARY 1975

At first, Fred did all his work relying on the visible differences in paper; relying on his friend trafton smith for the UV work. The idea of some sort of monograph is mentioned in this clip from January, 1971:

We felt that if no one publishes some form of simple guide to these stamps, while they are still readily available, the collector of the future will find it almost impossible to disentangle a random mixture of, say, the 6¢ orange and 6¢ black in the form of used singles. So we started, some months ago, to assemble what data we could, based on differences which were visible to the average man who did not possess advanced equipment. I should mention here that, so far as we know, there are only two or three U.V. lamps in the possession of the three-hundred-odd collectors in this immediate area.

From a letter dated July 16, 1971. HB still referred to as the visible "bright white" paper; comments on the shortage of 1 cent needed to make up from the 6 to the 7 cent rate that came into effect July 1.

I much appreciate your verification of the 1¢ definitive on bright white. We are still awaiting supplies of the 1¢, which has been exhausted in Victoria since July 5, and I understand that this shortage applied all over Canada. There was an unofficial "courtesy period" from July 5 onwards, during which 6¢ postage was accepted without charge for postage due. This period was supposed to end on July 15, on the assumption that 1¢ stamps would then be available, but as they did not arrive I assume that the "courtesy" still continues. It was only disseminated verbally, by all P.O. employees, and, so far as I know, has not appeared in print.

From a letter dated Nov 17 1971:

The three copies of the 6¢ black, Die 1, perf.10, on bright white, from the large booklet, were a real godsend, and enable us to nail this item down definitely. We had not seen one previously, but, by a curious coincidence, just a few days ago a friend in England sent me to look at a horizontal strip of three from the same booklet, also perf.10 and also bright white. Much to my surprise, he said in his letter that he has found this item, in singles, to be relatively common in mixtures which he has examined over there. This is contrary to your experience, and we ourselves have never seen a specimen used in this part of Canada. I am asking my friend to send me three or four singles, just as a check.

I can add a few comments to this clip. Just last week, I dropped in to the last store-front stamp operation left in Winnipeg(North Main Stamp CO.) The proprietor, Johnny Richards, proudly showed me the HB \$1.50 6 cent black perf 10 booklet mentioned above. I got the impression he had a few more. He said that the HB booklet was more available in Winnipeg than in the rest of Canada. I looked up my used stock and I found that 1 in 15 were HB. Mike Painter in his inventory of 85,000 used Centennials (Newsletter page 124) found that 1 in 23 were HB. Since my used inventory is weighed in Winnipeg material, maybe Johnny is right. And finally on June 24 1972 he and Paul Hughes are using a UV lamp:

I have nothing much fresh to tell you, except for one important item. A couple of weeks ago I had a visit from a friend in the Vancouver area, who sorts over enormous quantities of mixture, all on small pieces. He showed us nine specimens of the 6¢ orange sheet stamp, perf. 12½ x 12, with brilliant fluorescence and tagged with Winnipeg Type 3. This was entirely new to us, and Paul and I checked the nine stamps several times, very carefully and in complete darkness. The after-glow was very distinct, and we have no hesitation at all in accepting the variety as authentic. The owner does not wish to sell any of the nine. He estimates that they came from several millions of mixture, and he hopes to get a few more as he continues his sorting. I think you might wish to check all your perf. 12½ x 12 on bright white paper, as we feel that the after-glow might readily be overlooked because of the brilliant fluorescence, although when one is specifically watching for the after-glow it is easy enough to see.