
PRECANCELS CANADA

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE BNAPS PRECANCELS STUDY GROUP

ISSUE No. 2 - WINTER 2015

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

INITIAL MEMBERSHIP RESPONSE

When the urge to re-launch the BNAPS Precancel Study Group took shape, there was little expectation that many collectors would be interested. Membership in other Study Groups usually numbers between 10 and 75, but there are no available stats that provide an average. As precancels are not among the most popular specialities, we just plunged in and waited for a reaction.

Little did we expect that the response would be as overwhelming as it has been. The initial list of those interested was about 20, then it grew to about 35. Then, David Marasco of Ocean Park Auctions contacted those on his mailing list and now we are up to 59 and still attracting interest from others. How many will sign on? It is hard to say; time will tell.

Larry Goldberg has produced an excellent first Newsletter. It was professionally done and Larry has set a standard that may be difficult to maintain. So let's help him by providing articles.

Mike Street has offered to prepare something about the new catalogue for *BNA Topics* in 2016. Also we have a review of the new Precancel catalogue by Kyle Taylor which can be found on page 7 of this newsletter issue,

In the last newsletter, there was an article on the different types and areas of precancels which can be the focus of a collection. While I am often tempted to explore several of them, I am trying to restrict my efforts to varieties and nailheads. (This is probably because my initial purchase of a precancel collection had a significant collection of both of these.) The main reason for my selecting these two areas lies in the fact that they are relatively easy to find. Dealers seldom have recognized them and good buys are often available. Buying a collection of inexpensive precancels will often provide hours of pleasure in finding and identifying these variations.

Recent precancel catalogues list varieties and there is a separate publication about them. However, no description standards have been formulated. The area is still largely unexplored and documented. When it comes to nailheads, there is nothing documented.

I encourage you to select an area which still has to be investigated. A listing of the known different specialities was included in the last issue. Good luck, good hunting, and have fun.

Andy Ellwood
Chairman

EDITOR'S NOTES

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

As Andy mentioned in his "Chairman's Message" on the previous page, our study group has grown to 59 members since the last issue.

Here is a list of new members have joined our ranks since the last issue of the newsletter. We hope that you enjoy the study group and that you will share your knowledge of Canadian Precancels with your fellow members.

Welcome to: Don Able, Chris Anstead, Jeff Arndt, Tim Arthur, Leopold Beaudet, Joe Bettinger, Daniel Bass, Jacques Charbonneau, Louis Fointaine, Tim Henderson, George Henshilwood, Sean Keane, Gene Kessler, Gilles Lamoureux, Charles Livermore, Peter McDonald, Ron Majors, Peter McCarthy, Tony Parker, Jon Platt, Bernard Smith, Yan Turmine, Don Wainwright, Wayne Walton, and Terry Williams.

Glad to have you aboard!

OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOUR INVOLVEMENT

As I look back on the rapid rise and fall of the old BNAPS Precancel Study Group, the obvious reason for its failure was a lack of involvement on the part of the membership. There is said to be a rule of thumb among organizations run by their memberships that 10% of the membership does 90% of the work. I have found this to be true in every sort of group including, but not restricted to, scout troops, churches, chambers of commerce, *et al.*

How are we doing? Nine people out of our 59 having contributed something to the group's newsletter and the group as a whole. That comes to a little over 15%. It makes us better than average, but not worthy of any sort of enhanced bragging rights.

What can you do? You can recruit new members, write an article, comment on an article ... use your imagination.

NEW IN THIS ISSUE

We have added two new columns to the newsletter beginning with this issue.

First, we have a column for show and tell, which we call "Show & Tell." (Pretty clever, eh?) It is an opportunity

to show off any interesting material you have in your own collection. Any articles of this nature should be sent to me at Img@imgcomm.com.

The second column will be called "Precancel Puzzles." Its purpose is to allow you a venue in which you can pose questions about the identity of items from your collections. Tim Arthur has agreed to help coordinate and edit this column. Send your questions and images to him at myface3@aol.com.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE & IMAGE SUBMISSIONS

ARTICLES. If at all possible, please send all articles as Word-compatible or generic text files, e.g. suffixes ending in either .doc, .docx or .txt. If you cannot offer any of these, please contact me with information on the format you can send. I may be able to convert them for you or figure out an alternative.

IMAGES. The preferred format and resolution for images is jpeg at 300dpi or higher. If you cannot meet these specs, please check with me before sending them.

Send all materials to me at Img@imgcomm.com with the exception of material destined for the "PRECANCEL PUZZLES" column, which should be sent to Tim Arthur at myface3@aol.com.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I was waiting in line at Sam's Club the other day and noticed a sign with a quote by the late Helen Walton, wife of the late Sam Walton, founder of Sam's Club and Walmart. It seemed just right for our group:

*It's not what you gather
but what you scatter
that tells what kind of life you lived.*

It seems to me that her words offer the consummate reason to share your knowledge with fellow members. If you agree, scatter some information and effort our way.

Best wishes for the new year.

Larry Goldberg
Editor

PRECANCEL PUZZLES

Here is your opportunity to get opinions from fellow collectors, who may be more knowledgeable, about Precanceled stamps that you have not been able to confidently classify. We will publish one or more scans of stamps and request opinions regarding its catalogue identification.

Then, it is up to you to email us your opinion of what the proper classification is and why you came to that conclusion. The following issue will contain an expert opinion(s) and an explanation as to why they came to their conclusion. We will also ask that members look at your anonymous opinions and point out what they

are seeing that may have lead them to a different conclusion. If successful, we hope to make this a regular entry in the newsletter and will ask you to start submitting stamps to have the group look at and offer their opinions.

In this issue we will start with a 10 cent small queen (shown below left at approximately 150% of actual size) that I picked up on ebay.

Send your opinions on either precancel to Tim at myface3@aol.com.

NAME THAT PRECANCEL -1



My first question to the group is "Is this a precancel?" If you think it is, what bar precancel style is it?

Tim Arthur

NAME THAT PRECANCEL-2



I purchased a large precancel lot by auction and am curious to know what would be in such a large lot that showed catalogue value in four digits.

I did come across one that makes me wonder. It sure does not look like any ordinary cancel that I have ever seen. It has bars across it but I am uncertain as to whether or not it would be a type V cancel that got doubled (V-104D Double). Found it amongst some admirals. If this cancel is genuine then the stamp in the scan shown will also be a new variety in the type V group or it may even be an unlisted type. I made scans of both sides of the stamp.

What are your conclusions. (See scans above.)

Lou Fontaine

BAR PRECANCELS 1

WERE TYPES R & S PRECANCELS PRINTED FROM THE SAME ROLLER?

Type R and S are thought to have been produced by the same roller, at least in part. The 1¢ small Queen images (Figure 1) show the extreme variation of types R and S. Where would you draw the line between the two? The

block of the 3¢ small queen, Figure 2 (on the facing page) shows the top two rows with type S overprint and the bottom 3 rows with the type R overprint

David Marasco



Figure 1. These overprints show the variation between the central waves of types R and S. Upper left shows a long central wave, gradually reducing to a flat central wave at the lower right. Types R and S were known to have been produced by the same roller.



Figure 2
(Shown courtesy of Bruce FIELD)

Ocean Park Auctions

Announces the sale of

**The Duncan MacDonald
Collection**

OF CANADIAN PRECANCEL STAMPS

One of the most comprehensive collections of these illusive locals ever formed. To be sold in 4 installments beginning in June, 2016.

Canadian stamps and Postal History also offered bi-annually.

If you would like to be placed on our mailing list...
Get in touch with us at:

Email: oceanp@telus.net
Telephone: 206-905-9925
Mail: 13293 24th Ave, Surrey, BC, Canada V4A 2G4

**SPECIAL OFFER
TO STUDY GROUP MEMBERS**

The Canada Precancel Handbook which was produced in 1988 by Messrs Walburn, Kraemer, Reiche & Stott is the best book on Canadian Precancels which is readily available. With nearly 200 pages, it has a wealth of diverse and in-depth knowledge about the subject.

Certainly a "must have" for the serious Precancel collector. Normally sold by BNAPS through Unitrade at \$16.95, the SG has a few copies available at \$11.00 Cdn to Canada and \$9.00 US to US addresses, including shipping.

Contact Andy Ellwood at:

andy_ellwood@rogers.com

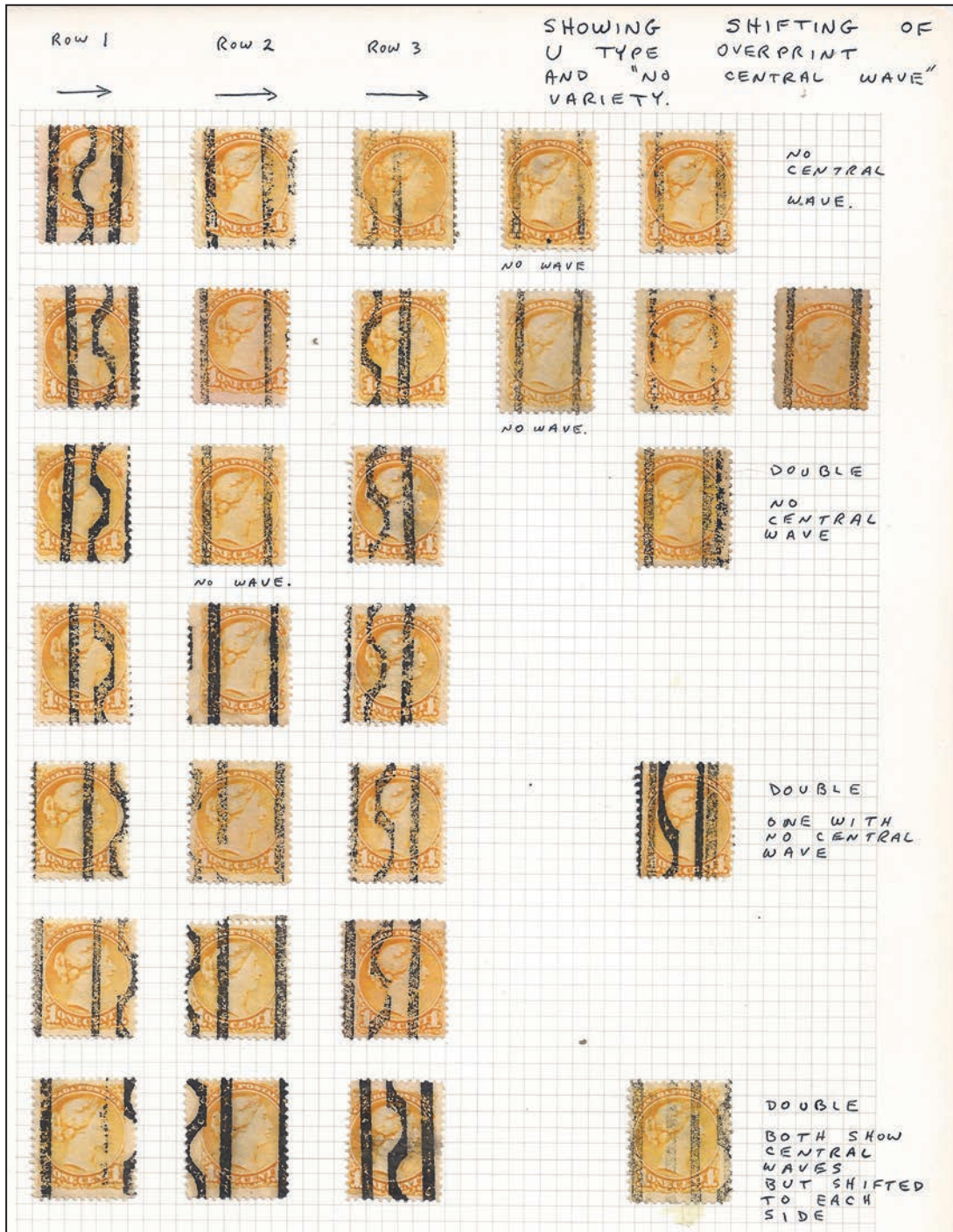
BAR PRECANCELS-2

"THIN" BAR TYPE A PRECANCELS?

There have been reports of type A precancel overprints with "thin" bars. Some writers in the past have described these as being a sub type of type A. The images of 1¢ small Queens (below) show that the type U roller, which is thought to have consisted of 5 impressions by some previous writers, could shift across the face of the sheet producing the type U overprint

which shows only the two straight bars when applied vertically on the small queen sized stamps. They should not be mistaken for the type A overprint whose bars are considerably wider.

David Marasco



Reduced to 67% actual size

BOOK REVIEW

THE STANDARD CANADA PRECANCEL CATALOGUE 7TH EDITION

The latest edition of the Standard Canada Precancel catalogue continues to enhance and broaden the study of Canadian Precancels. Specializing in an area of stamp collecting that continues to grow in popularity, this latest edition is an essential reference book for the serious collector of Canadian Precancels.

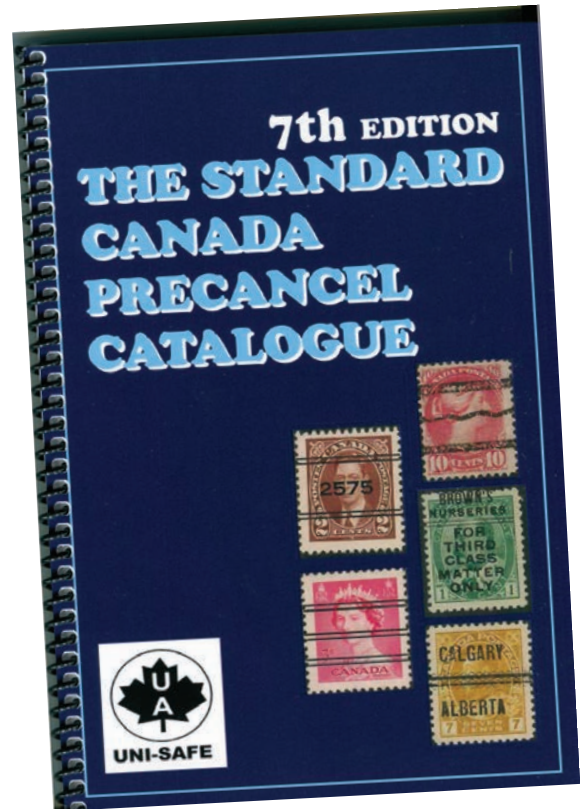
Building on the information from the Standard Canada Precancel Catalogue 6th Edition (copyright 2010 Unitrade press), the editors have refined and expanded the content to incorporate additional reference material and previously unidentified Canadian precancel varieties that have come to light since the last edition.

As noted in its Table of Contents, the catalogue is practically organized into what I would term an "introductory section" and four main parts, each part dealing with specific types of precancels.

The introductory section incorporates reference material and pertinent information for the collector to refer to while using the catalogue. New in this edition is the inclusion of an illustrated Guide to Bar Precancels, prepared by the BNAPS Precancel Study Group, and a listing of the Montreal "21" forerunner precancels. Part I provides a listing of all known styles of Bar Precancels. Part II provides a listing of all known Town and City Precancels. Part III lists known Canada Precancels with Perforated Initials. Part IV lists Canada Constant Precancel varieties, introducing with this edition a refined numbering system and expanding by 15 pages since the last edition to include previously unidentified constant precancel varieties. The catalogue finishes with the inclusion of a practical illustrated Addendum of hard to identify Precancel types, a welcome addition to assist collectors in their determination of type.

In closing, the editors have once again been able to maintain the Precancel pricing guide relevancy through continual comparison of current market value realized at auctions. The consolidation and further expansion of reference material from other sources into this latest edition benefits both novice and serious collectors alike. The spiral binding format lends well to allowing the catalogue to lay flat for a double page view. The compact size chosen and reference material included makes this catalogue an easy companion for travel. The editors should be commended for their efforts.

Kyle Taylor



The Standard Canada Precancel Catalogue 7th Edition
David Marasco and Bruce Field
Unitrade Press. 6 x 9 inches, 108 pages. © 2015

SPECIAL OFFER TO STUDY GROUP MEMBERS

The latest Precancel catalogue - the 7th edition - is normally sold through Unitrade at \$18.95. The SG has a few copies available at \$11.00 Cdn to Canadian addresses and \$10.00 US to US addresses, including shipping.

Contact Andy Ellwood at:

andy_ellwood@rogers.com

SHOW & TELL

AND THEN THERE WERE THREE

I was happy to find a copy of the Montreal 1-47-1 precancel (Figure 1) at the US Precancel Stamp Society annual convention in Boxboro, MA this year. I knew it was scarce but I didn't realize how few were known. Apparently, now there is one more than previously suspected.



Figure 1
My Montreal 1-47-i

The Lussey sale catalogue of 20 February 1998 offered a copy of the same stamp as one of "two copies known." Unfortunately, I only have a photocopy of the this catalogue and a scan of the image is so lacking in contrast that the precancel itself is barely visible.

A second copy was shown in the Izzett/Walburn sale catalogue of 25 October 2013. A scan of the stamp offered appears as Figure 2.

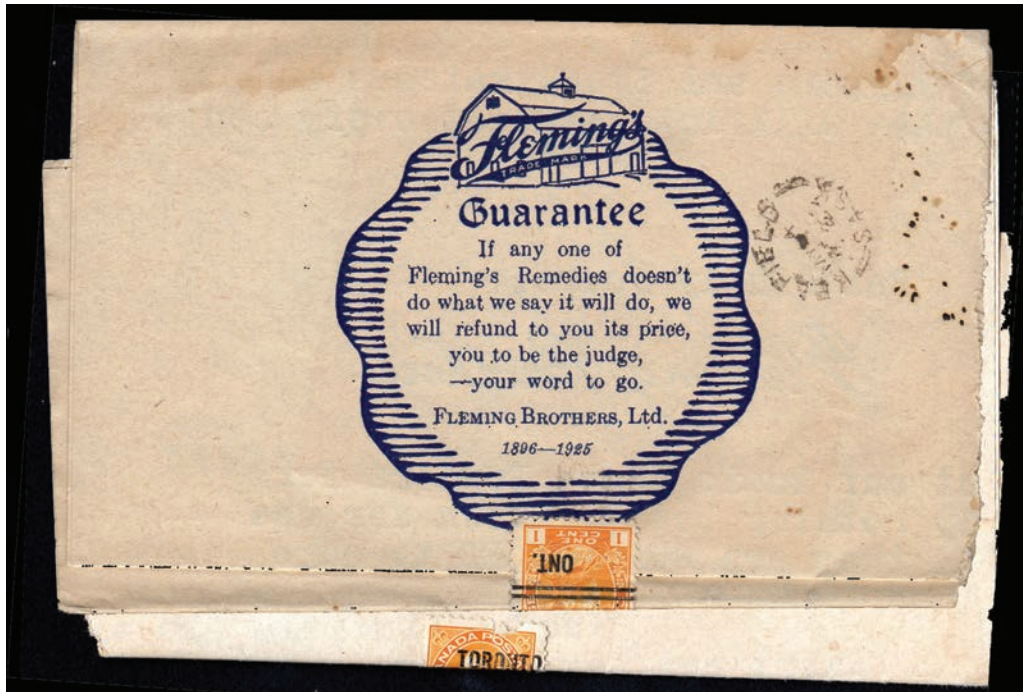


Figure 3
Izzett/Walburn copy
Lot 204

My copy is very similar to the Izzett/Walburn copy, probably within one or two positions away on the original sheet. I've always wondered where the population figures come from and I suspect that reporting new finds will decrease the perceived scarcity. I for one don't mind reporting and adding to the body of knowledge about precancels.

Charlie Adrion

THE DUAL PURPOSE PRECANCEL



Precancelled stamp (Toronto 11-105) circa 1925 also used as a seal on an advertising piece. Never see that very often. Kelfield, SK broken-circle receiver cancel appears on back.

Larry Goldberg

PRECANCEL COVERS

I am always looking for aspects of precancels which don't seem to have been explored yet. Probably one of the most under-explored aspects are precancel covers. Of course, the fundamental use of precancels was for bulk mailings, at least for the initial years. So there must be a wealth of material out there, but I seldom get anything but a smile and a "sorry, no" when I ask dealers about them at shows.

- Several reasons for this can quickly be put forward:
- there are no established price listings
- nobody seems to have them for sale
- * there is little attractive about them
- it is too easy to fake them as there are no other cancels to establish date and sender

there are so many of them that nobody saved them

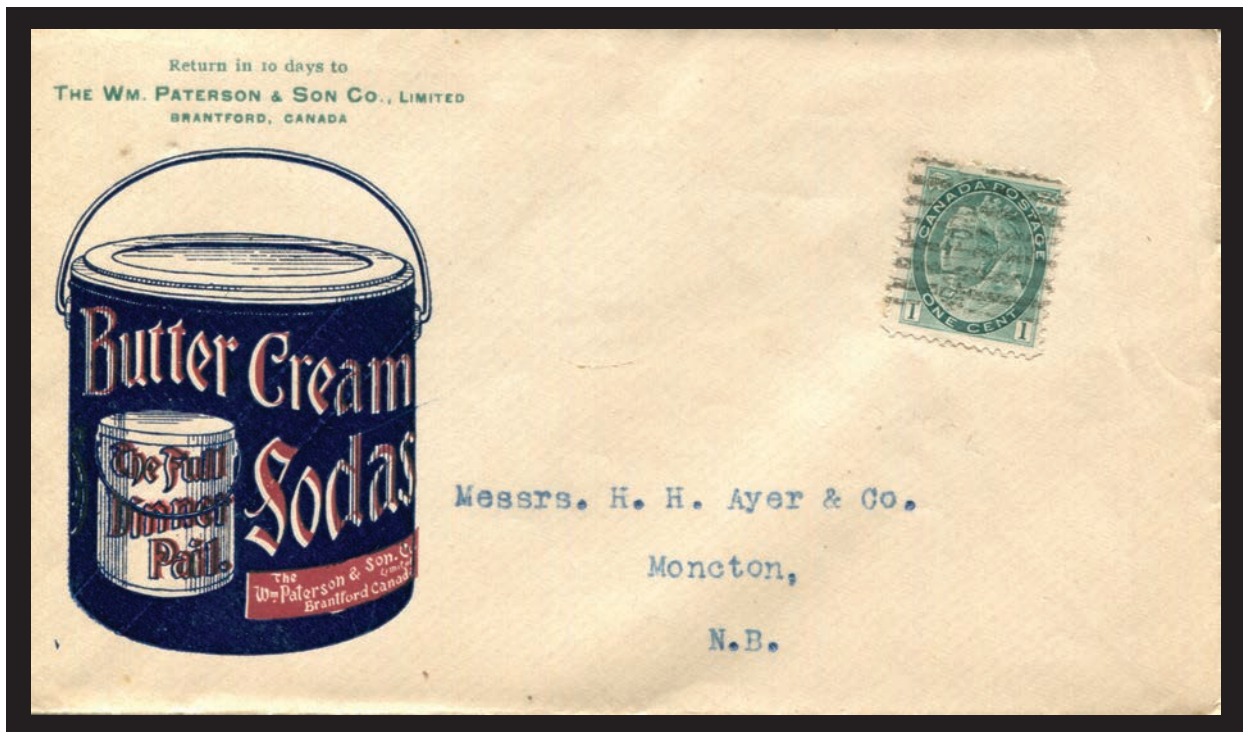
OK, but that has never stopped collectors before in similar situations. Certainly, many precancels were used on advertising mail and those covers can be very attractive. Most covers would have been stamped

with the receiver cancel or with redirection markings. Covers mailed by firms often displayed their firms on the upper corner. Covers with a mixture of precancels and regular postage were not uncommon. And so on and so on

So, I put out a challenge out to all precancel aficionados. Do you have an accumulation of precancel covers in your back closet? Have you ever tried to categorize them? Would you be interested in developing a basic 'catalogue' of these covers. Contact me and let's see if this is an area for further development.

Attached is a cover with a Brantford precancel which I recently bought at an auction. It sold for \$160 Cdn. Now some of its value can be attributed to the lovely illustration. Some of the value is due to the fact that it is unlisted as a precancel and so is classified as a roller cancel. However, roller cancels normally do not have the city name in the precancel. Which of course opens up the area of "roller precancels", but that is a subject for another time!

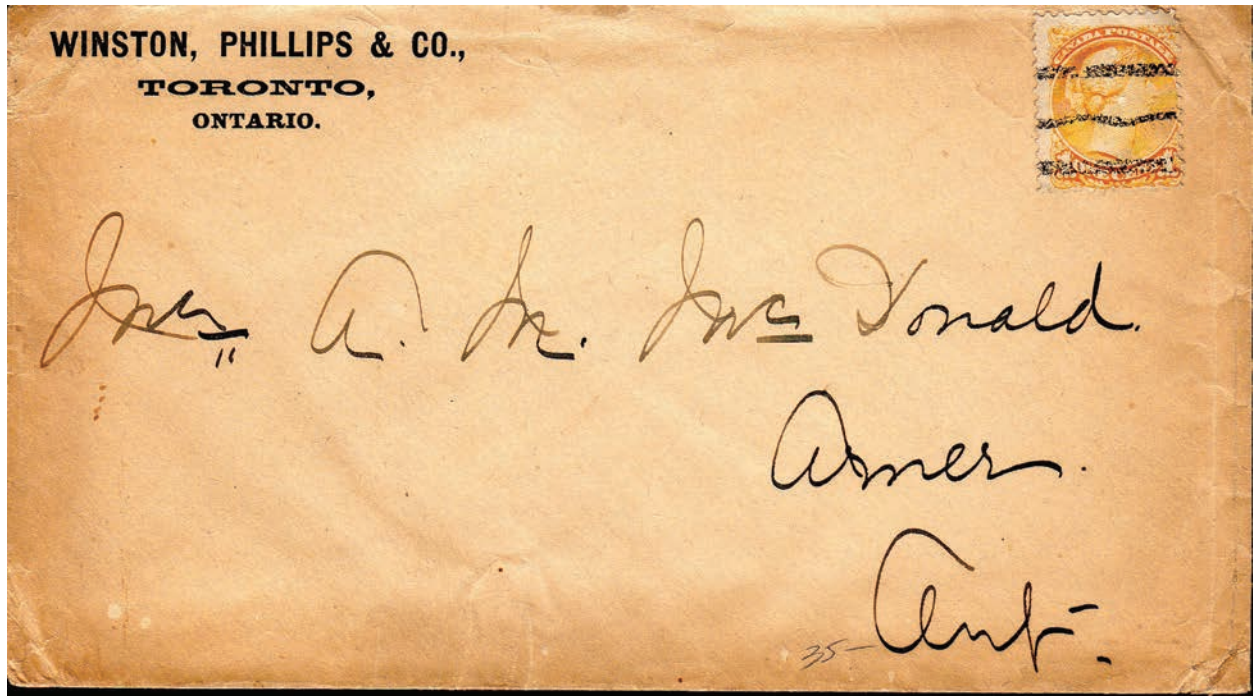
Andy Ellwood



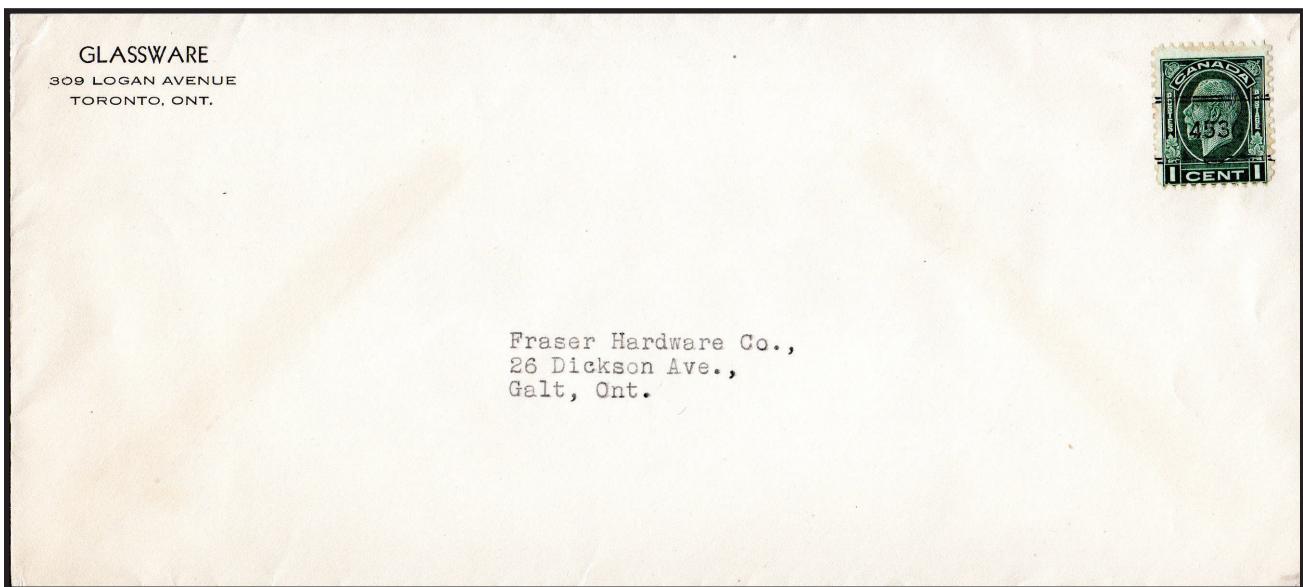
AN ASSORTMENT OF PRECANCEL COVERS

Herewith, a sampling of covers from my personal collection of precancel covers,

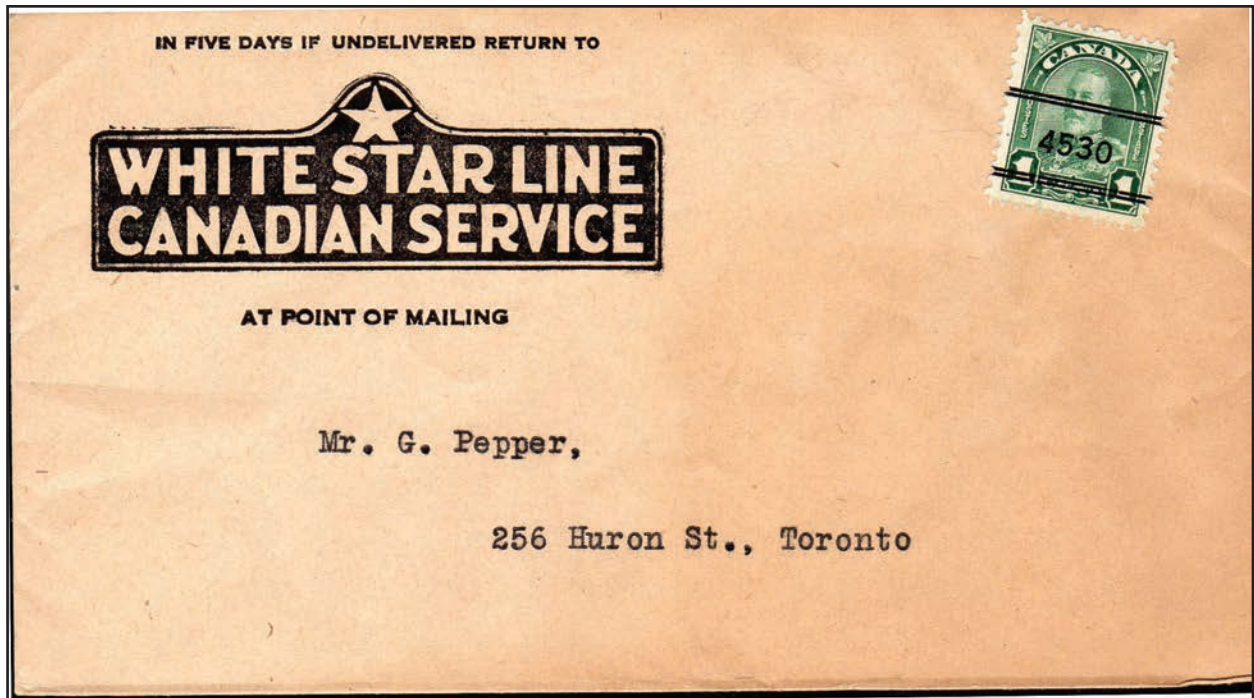
Larry Goldberg



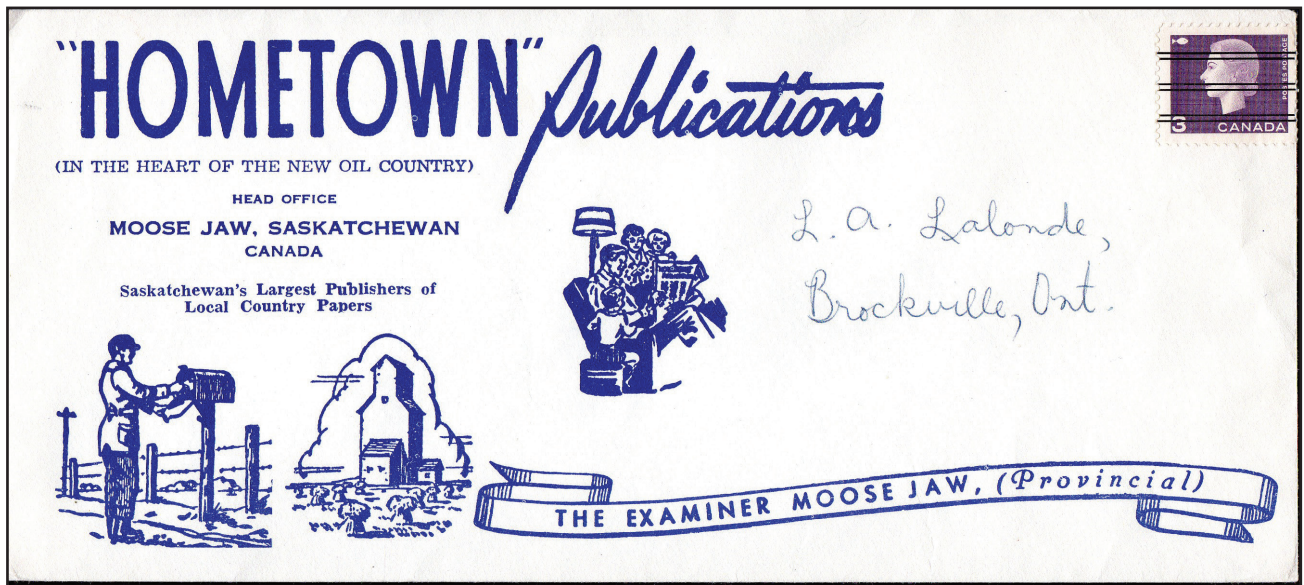
R-35 Toronto precancel on cover from Winston, Phillips & Co., a now-defunct Toronto publisher. My assumption is that the letter was directed to either Amery or Ameronto, Ontario. My guess is the latter, Actual size.



13-195 Toronto precancel to Galt. Approximately 75% of actual size



13-163 Toronto precancel on cover from Toronto office of White Star line sent to local address. Actual size.



X-403 precancel on an advertising piece presumably from Moose Jaw, SK to Brockville, ON. Approximately 75% of actual size

**DID YOU LIKE THIS ISSUE?
DO YOU WANT TO SEE ANOTHER ONE?**

If you answered "YES," then send us your questions
your articles, and scans of your interesting precancels.

The next issue depends on you getting involved.

**IF YOU NEVER SEE ANOTHER ONE,
BLAME YOURSELF!**