

# PRECANCELS CANADA

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE BNAPS PRECANCEL STUDY GROUP

ISSUE NO. 7 - SEPT 2017

## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

It has been several months since the last newsletter, mainly because your authors have been kept busy. We have come to realize that publishing 4 newsletters a year is a lot of work, especially when we have to go looking for news. As a result, we have decided to follow the lead of other Study Groups and only publish 2 newsletters a year.

In addition to the unexpected workload, our Editor, Larry Goldberg, has been dealing with a number of health issues. He is just about clear of all of his problems and is confident that he will soon be healthy again. To give Larry some breathing room, David Marasco has volunteered to step into the breach for a few issues. We are fortunate to have a very knowledgeable pre-cancel specialist available and willing to help out. Many thanks, David.

Still, we have received a few items which should be of interest. As with all specialties, it is the unusual which grabs the spotlight and gets our attention.

However, is there not also a need to review the specialty in-depth every few years? To my knowledge, the most recent full-scale review of the pre-cancel world was conducted by the well-known specialists of H.G. Walburn, J.E. Kramer, H. Reiche, and T.A. Stott. I am sure that most serious pre-cancel collectors have a copy of the results of their work which was published

under the title "The Canada Precancel Handbook". Certainly, this was an extensive review of the pre-cancel world as it was known in 1988.

However, I am equally sure that there have been many studies and finds over the last 30 years. So is it not time to undertake to update this excellent work? The basics have certainly been covered very well. However, the continuous study of varieties and less-well-known areas can offer many opportunities to expand our knowledge of the subject. I am sure that most of you have dabbled in the morass of detail still to be studied and documented.

So how about it. Who is ready to participate in a further in-depth study of the precancel world?

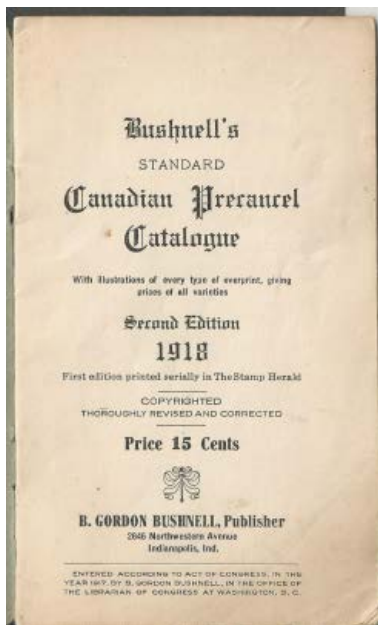
## **EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

While I am happy to help out while Larry is recovering, he will remain the editor, I guess that makes me the "Temporary Assistant Editor". I am still trying to figure out how to use this "Publisher Program" efficiently, and by the time I finish this edition of the Newsletter I should be able to cast aside my "Rank Amateur" status and upgrade to "Modestly Competent". It is important to remember that the editor only "edits" the articles which are given to him. The contents of this newsletter depend upon you! Do you have an interesting item to show us? Some knowledge to share? Or a humorous comment to make? I'd love to hear from you.

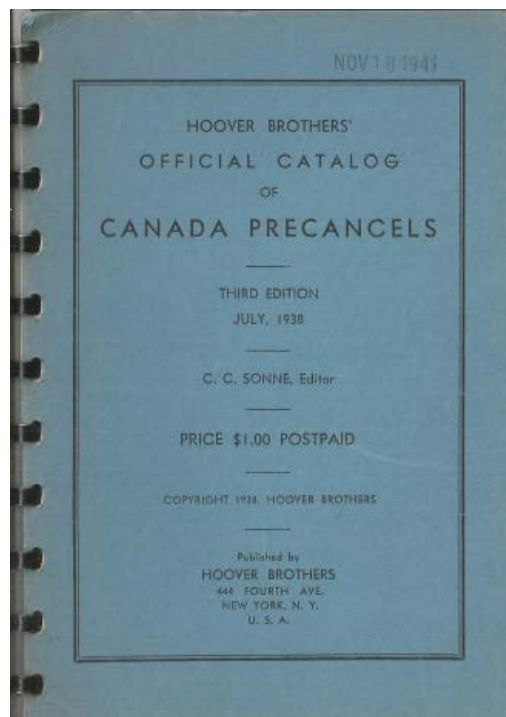
## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Precancel catalogues that we all rely upon in our hobby have a long history, and have been edited by numerous individuals over the many years since 1918 when Gordon Bushnell published the first catalogue. CC Sonne took on the task in 1938, and Geoff Walburn became the editor in 1947. In his later years Geoff Walburn added assistant editors to aid him and it has remained so since that there have been multiple editors. In recent times there were 3 co-editors until Jim Kraemer passed away and was not replaced.

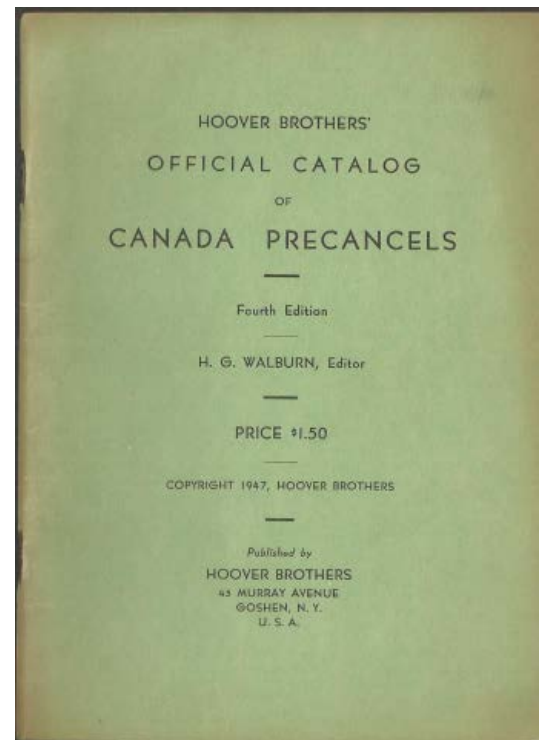
So I am happy to announce that the third editor's spot has now been filled by Kyle Taylor of Petawawa Ontario. He is relatively young, enthusiastic and knowledgeable. He will ensure that the catalogue is well cared for into the future.



Bushnell's Canadian  
Precancel catalogue  
B. Gordon Bushnell editor  
1918



Hoover Brothers'  
Precancel Catalogue.  
C.C. Sonne editor  
1938



Hoover Brothers'  
Precancel Catalogue.  
H. G. Walburn Editor  
1947

# USE OF PRECANCELLED STAMPS TO MAIL MEMORIAL PLAQUES

By Tom Meyerhof

Medals, memorial crosses and plaques for veterans of the First World War were mailed from the Secretary of the Militia Council in Ottawa to recipients or their next of kin. Two examples using precancel stamps are shown below (courtesy of Sean Michel).



Cover Sent to the Mother of Pte. Gibbons

Private Fred Gibbons enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 11 November 1914 at Toronto. On 10 December 1915 he was killed in action in Belgium. This registered cover sent to his mother in England on 15 May 1922 was franked with 58 cents. The empire rate after 1 October 1921 was 3 cents per oz. and 10 cents for registration, suggesting this package weighed 16 oz. His service file indicates he was eligible for a 1914-15 Star which may have accompanied the Memorial Cross and Plaque that were mailed to his mother on 15 May 1922. The bronze Memorial Plaque is about 4½ in. in diameter and weighs about 12 oz. Both memorial items were first issued in 1919 to the next of kin of deceased service personnel.



Cover Sent to the Sister of Pte Keough

There was no indication of the service person associated with the contents of this registered cover mailed from Ottawa to Detroit on 29 March 1924. An online search of Library and Archives Canada service personnel records for the First World War revealed a Private Edmund Keough who had enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 3 April 1916 at Summerside PEI. On 2 September 1918 he was killed in action in France. His service records indicate a Memorial Cross and Plaque were mailed to his mother on 12 January 1922. While not indicated in his service file, his mother had died in 1921 and so presumably the original registered package would have been returned to the Director of Records who would have sought out the closest surviving relative. This cover was thus sent to his sister Irene likely now living in Detroit. The 39 cent franking suggests the contents, the Memorial Cross and Plaque, weighed 14 oz. at 2 cents per oz. plus 10 cents for registration and 1 cent war tax.

# Towns & Cities

1903 - circa 1932

Ottawa, Ontario Type 3



Victory Medal



General Service Medal

Ottawa Canada, Registered / Nov / 30 / 22  
Vancouver B.C. / AM / De 5 / 22  
Registration Branch Vancouver B.C. / De 5 / 1922  
Postal Station "F" Vancouver B.C. / Letter Carrier Branch / Dec 5 / 1922  
Registered Armstrong B.C. / Dec 7 / 1922

Paid 17¢ - 10¢ Registration + 1¢ War Tax + 3 x 2¢ per oz. letter rate containing WW I veteran's service medals

One page of Bruce Field's Precancel Exhibit, showing the wrapper and the medals it contained.

Why and how were precancels used? This bulletin explains.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA

# NOTICE to the PUBLIC

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POSTAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF

## Pre-cancelled Postage Stamps

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Pre-cancelled postage stamps may be used as postage on third class matter only.

Third class matter may be posted prepaid by pre-cancelled stamps only when the postage on any one mailing aggregates twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars or over, that is,—the minimum amount of third class matter bearing pre-cancelled stamps that may be posted at one mailing is 2500 pieces each bearing a one-cent pre-cancelled stamp, or 1250 pieces each bearing a two-cent pre-cancelled stamp, or 500 pieces each bearing pre-cancelled stamps to the value of five cents or over, or equivalent lots.

Third class matter in above mentioned quantities prepaid by pre-cancelled stamps will be accepted when mailed at the office the name of which is printed upon the stamps.

*BY ORDER,*

**R. M. COULTER,**  
Deputy Postmaster Gene

27 B.—500-30-7-06.

Reference: PHSC Journal #37, page 17, March 1984

Constant Varieties Anyone?



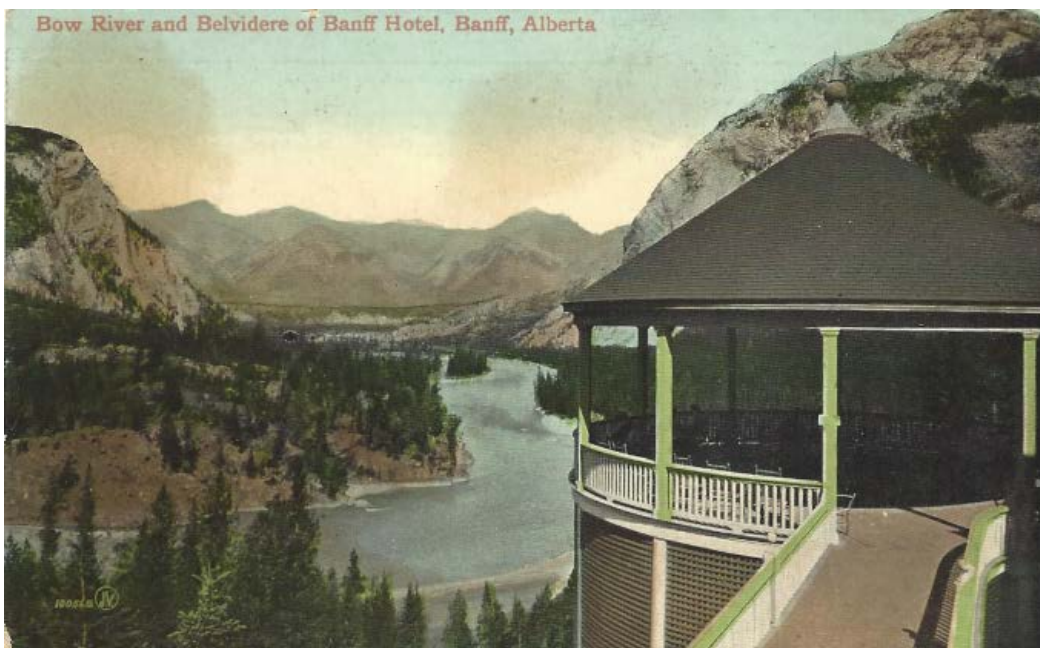
This delightful cover was sent in by George Dresser. It is franked with a copy of Regina Constant Variety # BC-2-1 listed on page 88 of the Canada Precancel Catalogue, 7th edition. While this is not an uncommon Constant variety, to find it on a cover as appealing as the one shown above is quite special.

If you haven't developed an interest in the Constant varieties, I invite you to keep an eye out for them, there are plenty of different kinds readily available and usually at a very low cost too!

## Improper use of Precancels

Here is a colourful example of improper use submitted by George Dresser. Franked with Bridgeburg precancels on a postcard depicting Banff Alberta, no postal cancels or markings.

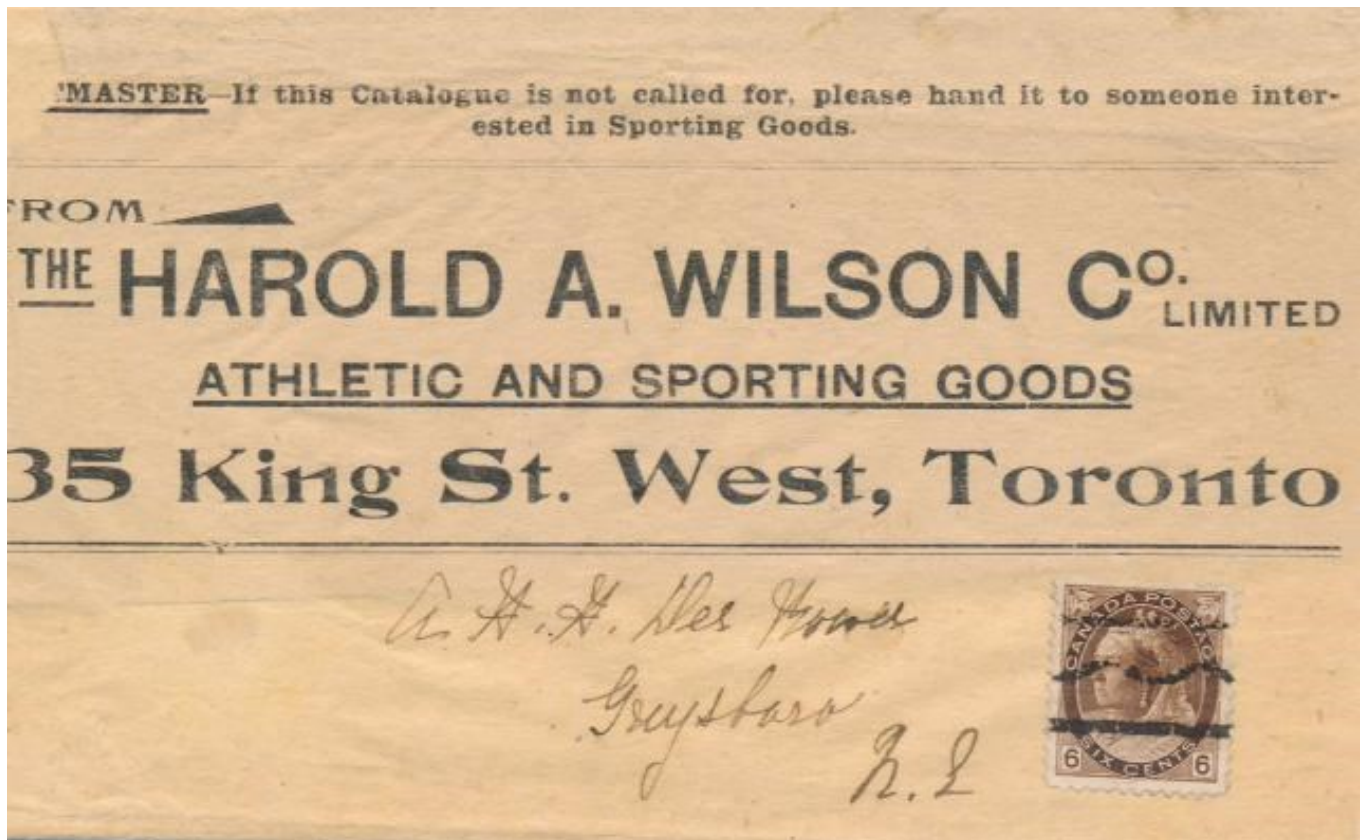
George writes: "A first glance this looks like a post card from Bridgeburg, Ontario to Woolloongabba, Queensland, Australia with a pair of Bridgeburg, Ontario Style 1, 1-89 precancels paying the 2 cent Empire Rate. However, on further thought, why were precancels used on a private post card and why are there no cancellations from either the originating or the receiving post offices? With a second glance I have concluded that this post card was never mailed. Your thoughts? "





## LARGE PARCELS

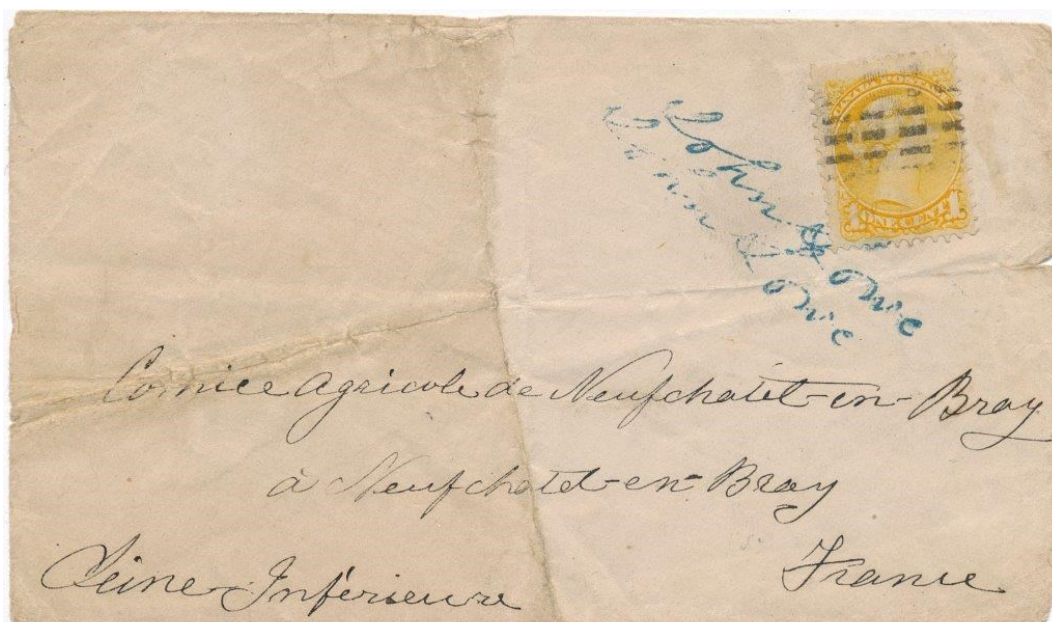
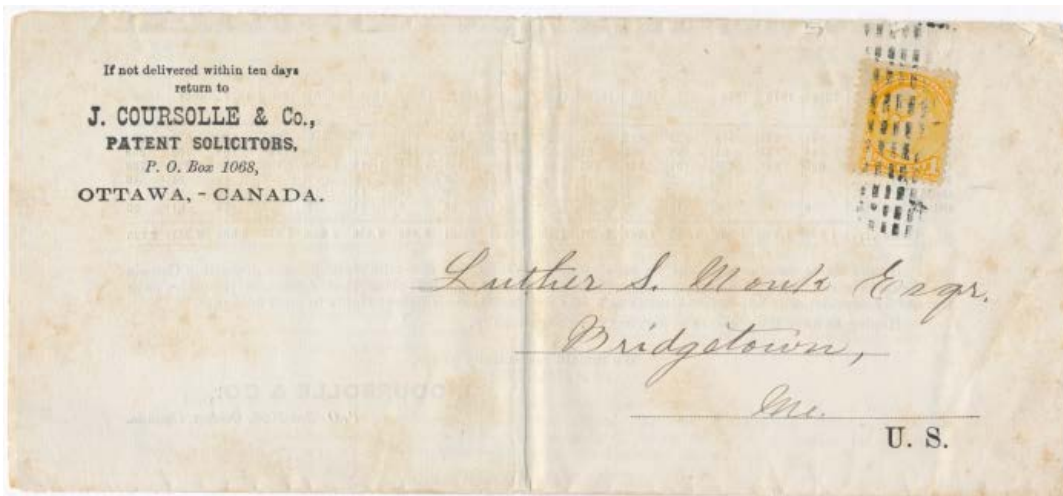
Have you ever wondered why you almost never see higher denomination precancelled stamps on cover? Send us your comments and theory. There are many higher denomination precancels which are relatively common, the 50 cent Widow Weeds comes first to mind. Has anyone an example on cover that they can show us?



The above example sent in by George Dresser, courtesy of David McLaughlin.

## Response from Bruce Field

In answer to Tom Meyerhof's request for comments about the stamps shown on page 6 of Issue number 5 of the newsletter, there is no way to say with certainty that they are precancels. They may possibly be, but because they are not on cover it is impossible to say if they are precancels. When Harry Lussey's precancel collection was sold in 1998 by Robert Lee, lots 2 and 3 were 10 cent Small Queens and had similar cancels to the ones in Tom's scan. They were both described as Belleville Ontario # 45b pink sm. qn. with segmented cork cancel used as precancel. I don't think it was a cork cancel but a roller and it could have come from Ottawa. I have attached two scans of covers from my collection. Figure 1 shows a roller cancel similar to the one on Tom's stamps tying a one cent small Queen to a circular from patent solicitors in Ottawa. It is going to the United States and is dated in 1890. Figure 2 shows a one cent small Queen precancelled with a similar roller attached to a Free Franked cover to France. As Free Franking was only for domestic mail the one cent stamp was added to pay the circular rate. There are two impressions of the sender's signature. The sender was John Lowe. He was the deputy minister of agriculture at the time. There is a French receiver strike on the reverse dated 13 Aout 1889. It is not known if this cancel was unique to Ottawa or if any other post offices had similar cancellers.



## A NEW 21 ROLLER FORERUNNER

Ben Heintzberger sends along a nice new find, the 21 roller cancel on a pair of 1/2 cent leafs. The 21 roller cancel was used in Montreal on the Pence and First Cents issues and then retired from postal use. It was resurrected for use precancelling the small queens in the late 1880's.



Used as a postal cancel



Used as a precancel

### REMINDER:

This is your Precancel Newsletter, share your knowledge and precancel stamps with other precancel collectors by sending an article to the editors.

David (marascod@telus.net) AND Larry (lmg@lmgcomm.com)