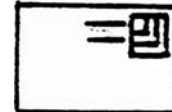


BNAPS

POSTAL STATIONERY NOTES

PSSG



Volume 7, No. 3

July 1988

A NEWLY REPORTED VICTORIAN ENVELOPE

In 1899 the Post Office surcharged the remaining Victorian 3¢ envelopes to 2¢ to meet the new, lower, domestic first class rate. Now, eighty-nine years later, we have a report of a copy of EN4a, the small 1877 3¢ envelope with tongued flap, with the 1899 surcharge. The envelope will be listed in the next edition of the Webb's Catalogue, and has, tentatively, been assigned the catalogue number EN141. This item was apparently properly identified by the owner many years ago, but was never reported to cataloguers.

Bill Walton

ERP UPDATES

There are only a few updates for this issue. However, on rechecking my records, I found that for three items incorrect ERPs have been published previously. Unfortunately, in all three cases, the dates published were earlier than the actual ERP, in two cases by many months, thus members checking their material may have been misled into not reporting ERPs in their collections. Would all members please recheck their postmark dated copies of P34e, P48a and W4.

Corrections

P34e Dec. 14, 1929
 P48a Nov. 28, 1930
 W4 Dec. 19, 1892

Updates

P12b Mar. 13, 1895	P52e Apr. 23, 1935	P57c Oct. 5, 1935
P106d May 4, 1973	P107g Feb. 15, 1972	P117 Mar. 11, 1982
EN28c Aug. 9, 1927	EN67 June 25, 1951	EN67a June 4, 1951
EN108 Mar. 11, 1982	EN109 Mar. 11, 1982 (a)	A31 May 19, 1974

(a) EN109 in the Webb's 5th edition. This envelope was listed as EN108a in the 4th (1983) edition of the Webb's Catalogue.

Bill Walton

* Postal Stationery Notes is the newsletter of the BNAPS Postal Stationery Study Group, *
 * and is edited by Robert Lemire. All information for the newsletter, and *
 * correspondence about the study group, should be addressed to Robert Lemire, Box 549, *
 * Pinawa, MB, Canada R0E 1L0. *

THE NEW WEBB'S --- A REVIEW

Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland
Fifth Edition, 1988
Editors: Earle L. Covert and William C. Walton
Unitrade Press, P.O. Box 172, Station A, Toronto, ON, M5W 1B2
CAN\$14.95

The Fifth Edition of Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland has finally been released. Five years have passed since the last edition appeared, but collectors will find that this one was worth the wait. Between the slick paper, colour illustrated, attractive covers lies a wealth of new and more readily useable information. It is not merely a repetition of the previous edition with a few changes; it is a remarkable, complete revision. Thanks must go to its two editors, Earle L. Covert and William C. Walton, long time and expert collectors of B.N.A. stationery.

There are so many improvements in this edition over the last that it is difficult to mention them in order of importance or to cover them all in a short review. Certainly one of the major changes was separating the regular issues from those not sold over the counter at the post office. Previous editions had, for example, official envelopes listed with regular and special order envelopes; special order and official post cards were listed with the regular issues; private order letter sheets were with the regular ones and precancelled post cards - both post office and privately printed issues were listed with regular issue postal cards. Now they are in neat, easy to use, separate listings.

Another major improvement was the removal of the "chaff" from the listings. Such items as albinos, envelopes with stamps inside, small minor plate flaws and postal cards with private roulettes or perforations, all have been deleted. While everything is collectable according to the vagaries of the individual, everything is not worthy of a place in a catalogue.

The illustrations are better than ever before, and there are many additions especially in the envelope, air letter sheet and precancel sections. There are many other changes too numerous to mention and all for the better.

If there is a major fault to be found, it is the unwieldy numbering system inherited from the previous edition and exacerbated by the further changes made in this one. The editors should think about eliminating this alphabet soup scramble in the next edition. There may be other faults that could be found, but why dwell upon the negative when this is the best catalogue of B.N.A. stationery to be published to date. It is a must for every novice and expert collector of this material.

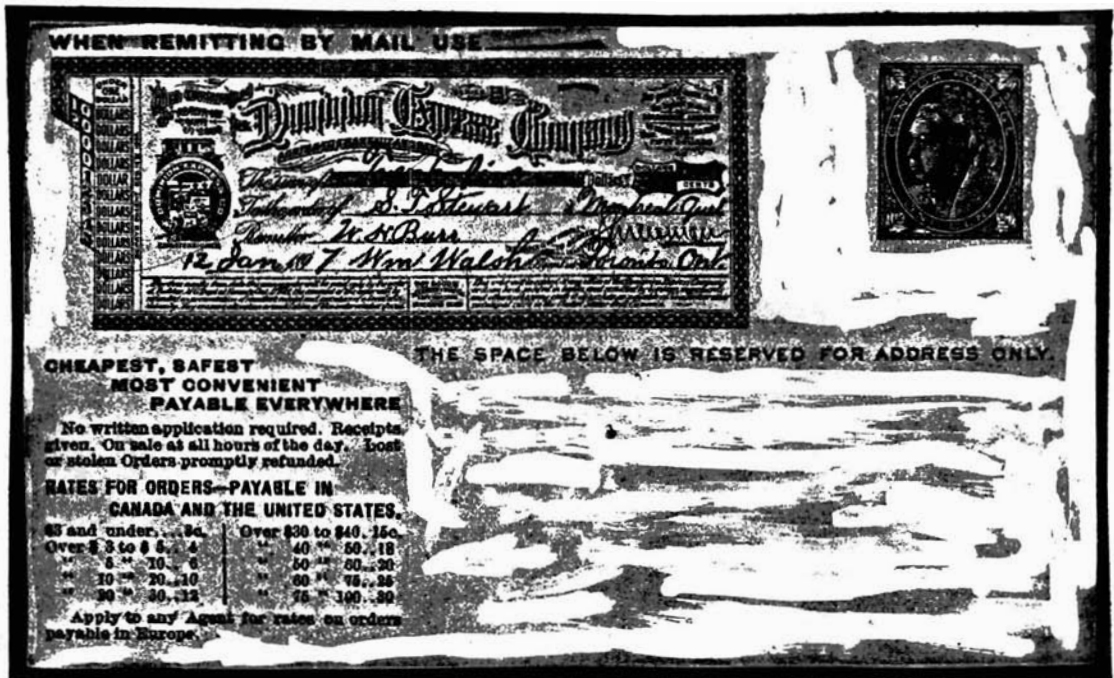
Mark Arons

A NEWLY RECOGNIZED DOMINION EXPRESS CARD VARIETY

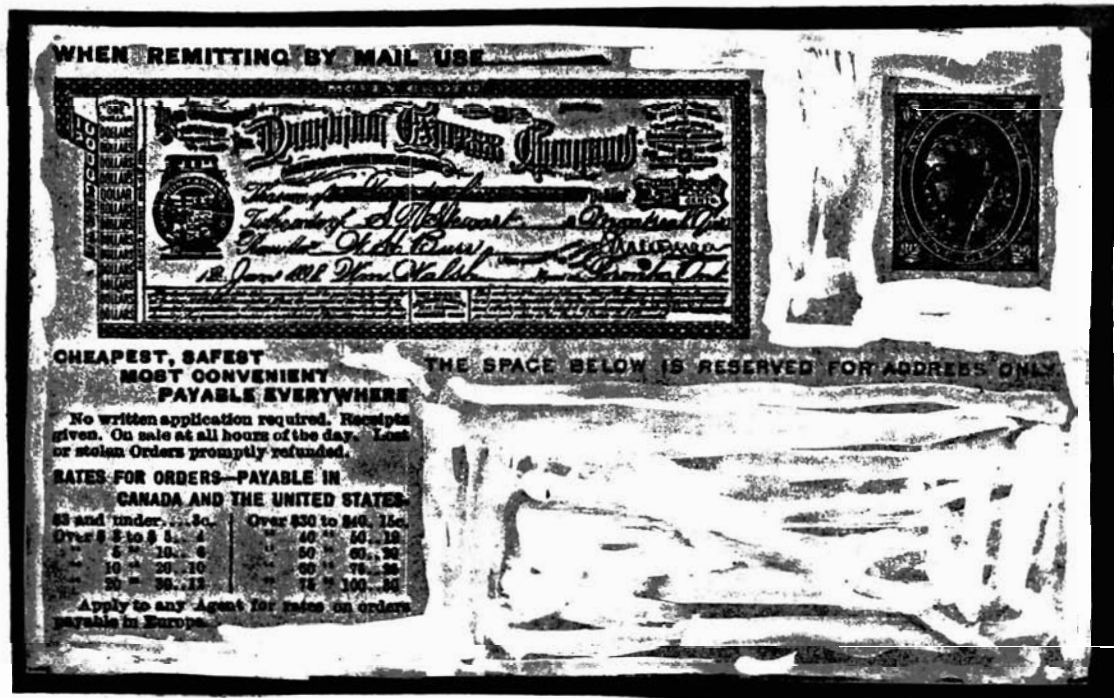
There are two types of Webb DMX-1, differing in the cut of the money order facsimile. Although the names and places on the filled-out facsimile are the same on both types, the handwriting is noticeably different, and the dates differ - "12 Jan, 1897" on the older (and scarcer) type; and "12 Jan, 1898" on the revised facsimile illustration. The two types are illustrated below. According to Bill Walton the "1897" card has been tentatively assigned the Webb's Catalogue number DMX-A1.

Steven Whitcombe

1897



1898



CANADA'S FIRST POST CARDS
PART 3 - DIES AND PLATES OF P1

I have read many different versions of the history of the British American Bank Note Company relative to the printing of Canadian postal paper, and especially relating to the move of operations in the early 1870's from Ottawa to Montreal. Generally, though the versions differ, the time given is around 1873 or 1874. Certainly, the 3¢ Small Queen stamp, Montreal printing perforated 11.5 x 12, is known as early as August of 1873. All this is probably unimportant, except to note that when post card plate 8 (or "H") was laid down in the spring of 1875 (see PSN Vol. 7, pg. 13), the imprint at the bottom of the card still hadn't been changed. However, it must have not been too long thereafter that work was started on a completely re-engraved master die. As with P1, a master die was prepared for the frame, and working dies were built by adding the stamp to this. Three working dies were used for the fifteen (or in one sense sixteen - see below) plates of P2. Most die differences affect the frame and border lines, and are described as follows (see Figure 6):

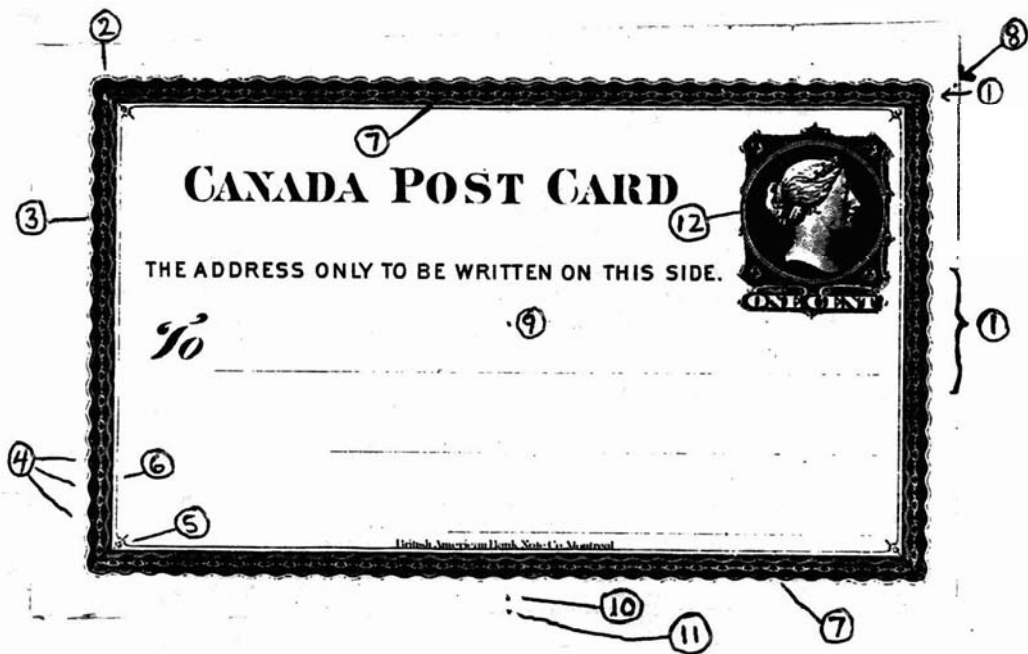


Figure 6. P2, Dies I, II and III.

Die I:

1. Outer frame line complete along the right side (except the extreme top upper scallop, which is broken).
2. Outer frame line may be broken at the 1st scallop at the left of the top.
3. Outer frame line is broken at the 6th scallop from the top, at the left.
4. Inner frame line usually broken in several places towards the bottom of the left side.
5. Inner frame line often broken just to the right of the lower left

- frame ornament, at the bottom.
6. Inner frame line often has several fine breaks about five scallops above the lower left corner ornament, at the left.

Die II:

1. Outer frame line has several distinctive breaks along the right side of the card, between the bottom of the stamp and the middle address line. The extreme top scallop at the right is unbroken.

None of the other breaks noted for Die I (#2 - 6, above) is ever present.

Also, note that the outer frame line along the bottom of the card, and the inner scrollwork border at the top of the card (especially above "ST" of "POST"), are generally quite weak and irregular in both Dies I and II; more so in Die II. (Note, also, that many plates were retouched in some of these weak areas, which is a subject to be covered at length later.)

Die III

7. Generally, all frame lines (inner and outer) are clear and complete, strong and unbroken.
8. There is a constant dot about 2.5mm to the right of the upper-right corner of the card.
9. There is a constant dot about in the centre of the card (about halfway between "TT" of "WRITTEN" and the top address line). Note that subjects 5 and 6 of quite a few Die I and Die II plates have a guide dot in approximately the same location; this is not the same.

Die I was used to lay down plates 9, 10 and 11. All three appear to have been prepared at about the same time, and subjects start appearing from all three in early 1876. The plates were actually laid down in the order: 9, then 11, then 10; this can be determined because some of the features noted above for Die I are progressive in nature, and their development can be easily traced. The three plates share some similarities, as noted:

1. There is a guide dot below the centre of each subject, about 3mm below the outer frame line, under the "nk" of "Bank" in the imprint (#10 on Figure 6).
2. There are rules at the top, bottom and sides of the plate. In very early states, there is a vertical rule down the centre of the plate, but later there are just short line segments between subjects 1-2, 5-6 and 9-10, on each plate.
3. Plate numbers are large, backward* numerals, to the right of the upper-right corner of subject #2 on the sheet. The plate number is known in three locations on plate 11.
4. Plate 11 has guide dots in the centre of subjects 5 and 6 (#9 on Figure 6).

* Plate 10's plate number is a backwards "01"; that is, the "1" is backward (hard to tell with the "0" isn't it?), but the numerals are transposed. The third (and last) known plate number on plate 11 is a small right-reading number.

Die I was never used again, and it appears that plates 9-11 were used for only a short while in their original state. Die II went into use almost immediately, first to lay down new plates; then to re-enter existing plates. Plates 12 and 13 (the first Die II plates) show up by April of 1876 (only two months after plates 9-11 appeared). Plate characteristics for these two plates are as follows:

1. Die II.
2. There is a guide dot about 5mm below the outer frame line at the middle of each subject, positioned about under the "nk" of "Bank" in the imprint (#11 on Figure 6).
3. Both plates have vertical rules at the left and right edges of the plate and short line segments between subjects 1-2, 5-6 and 9-10. Plate 12 has a horizontal rule across the top; plate 13 appears not to. I have not seen evidence of a bottom rule on either plate.
4. Plate numbers (at least in early states) are large and backwards, about 7.5-8.5mm to the right of the upper-right corner of subject #2, with the base of the plate number aligned with the top of the card. Generally only traces of these numbers have been seen. Later (1881 ?), a small, right-reading "12" has been seen about 3mm above card tops, at about the very centre of the sheet, on plate 12. A similar number has been reported on plate 13, but I have never seen it.
5. Plate 13 has guide dots in the middle of subjects 5 and 6 (#9 on Figure 6); plate 12 does not.

Subjects from plates 14 and 15 begin to appear around November, 1876. The plates are similar to most Die II plates, sharing the following characteristics:

1. Die II.
2. Guide dot as for plates 12 and 13 (#11 on Figure 6).
3. Both plates have horizontal rules at the top and bottom. There is a vertical rule along the left edge of plate 14, but not the right; no vertical rules have been seen on either edge of plate 15. Both plates have short line segments between subjects 1-2, 5-6 and 9-10.
4. Plate numbers are large and backwards. On plate 14, the early number is about 7mm to the right of the upper-right corner of subject #2, with the base of the number aligned with the top of the card; after 1881 there is a somewhat smaller number, still backward, at about the same height but about 3.5mm to the right of the card. On plate 15, the number is just above the top of the card, about 2mm to the right. Beginning in December, 1878 (end of plate 15's 3rd state), the plate number is gone.
5. On both plates, there are guide dots in the middle of subjects 5 and 6 (#9 on Figure 6).

For quite awhile after the end of 1876 (relatively), no more plates were needed. The first re-entries of plate 9-15 start showing up in the spring of 1877 and, by that fall, each of the first seven P2 plate was re-entered once (with die II). When plates 9-11 - or any plates, for that matter - were re-entered, no new guide dots were ever added.

Next came plates 16 (August, 1877) and 17 (late February, 1878), with the re-entered P1 plate "F" showing up just before plate 17, in early February 1878 - more on that later. Despite the fact that plates 16 and 17 were not terribly close together in time, they are quite similar, sharing the following features:

1. Die II.
2. Guide dot as for plates 12-15 (#11 on Figure 6).
3. No rules or rule segments anywhere on the plate.
4. Early-state plate numbers are large and backwards, and about 3.5mm above and 6mm to the right of the upper-right corner of subject #2. Later plate numbers are smaller and generally closer to the corner of subject #2 ("16" is about 5mm above; "17" is about 3mm above and 1mm to the right).
5. On both plates, there are guide dots in the middle of subjects 5 and 6 (#9 on Figure 6).

By about the end of 1877 (after plate 16 appeared) plates 13 and 15 were already subjected to their second reworking; this time the stamps were re-entered and the inner frame lines (to the right of the stamp) were retouched.

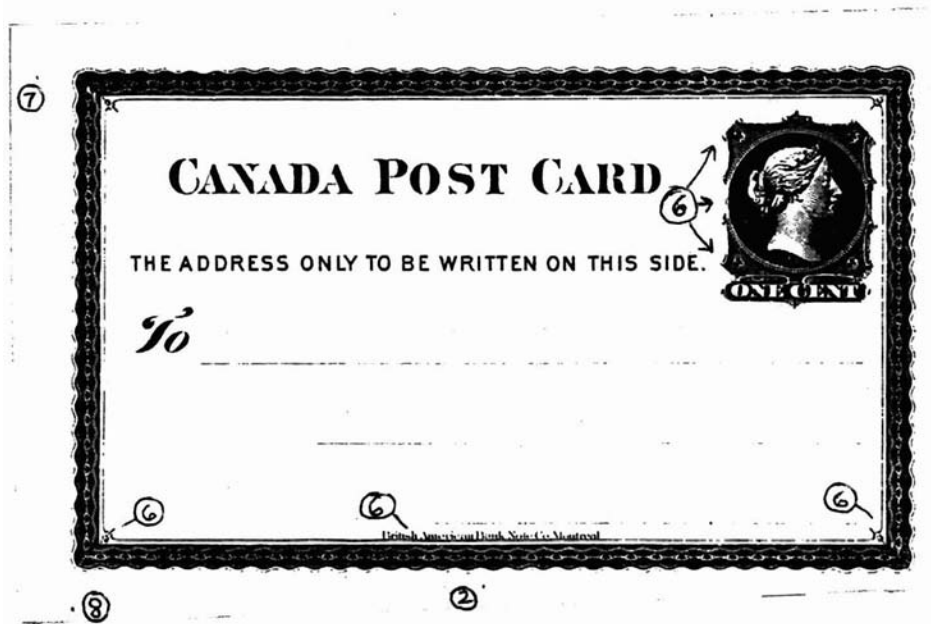


Figure 7. P2 re-entered over P1.

Very early in 1878, subjects from the re-entered plate "F" start to show up. These are generally quite easy to pick out, as the reconditioned plate has a number of unique Features (Figure 7):

1. Die II, over P1 die II.
2. Guide dot is very small and faint (left over from P1), and located about 2mm below the outer frame line, below "Ba" of "Bank".

3. A vertical rule has been added, down the centre of the plate, and is quite faint. Vertical rules at the left and right edges of the plate (from P1 states) are still present. Because the actual design of P2 is larger than P1, the cards are not centred between the left and right rules, being closer to the right.
4. Plate number still has not been seen.
5. There are no guide dots in the middle of subjects 5 and 6.
6. On all subjects, some traces of the P1 design can be seen, especially in the imprint and corner ornaments, and in and around the stamp.
7. On most subjects, the dots to the left of the upper-left corner of the card (#8 on Figure 4, PSN Vol. 7, pg. 12) are still present.
8. There are several large dots in the horizontal gutters between vertical pairs of subjects, at the extreme left of the card.

Between late February, 1878 (when plate 17 appeared), and late that fall, many early plates had some stamp re-entering done (usually without any retouching); some plates were fully re-entered. (Even plates 16, "F" and 17 saw at least one more state before the end of 1878.) Then, very late in 1878, a very distinctive type of retouching was started on plates 13, 14 and 16: the letters of "CANADA POST CARD" were strongly retouched with vertical/diagonal scratches. (These plates were subjected to even more extensive work in early 1879 and this will be covered in more detail later.)

Also late in 1878, plate 18 was laid down and put into service. This is the last of what I have come to call the early "P2" plates (in which the Die II plate was used to some extent before massive frameline retouching). Plate details are as follows.

1. Die II.
2. Guide dot as for plates 12-17 (#11 on Figure 6).
3. There is a very faint vertical rule down the centre of the plate, and an extremely faint horizontal rule across the centre of the plate (through the middle of subjects 5-6). By the end of the first state, the horizontal line is virtually gone.
4. Plate number about as for plate 17.
5. There are guide dots in the middle of subjects 5 and 6 (along the faint rule) (#9 on Figure 6).

The period from the beginning of 1879 to late summer of 1880 saw no new plates, but a great deal of work on the plates in use at the time. Most of the plates were re-entered at least once during the period, and most had the outer frame line and the left side of the stamp retouched; some were even more extensively retouched. Plate use was obviously very heavy during the period.

Finally, in August of 1880, subjects from plate 19 start to appear. Plate 19 is the first of the "late" die II plates of P2 (in which the subjects were all significantly retouched before the plate was used). Plate 19 has the following characteristics:

1. Die II. Outer frame line retouched on the top, left and bottom; the frame line breaks at the right side of the card are present.

2. Guide dot a bit higher than on plates 12-18 (about 4mm below "nk"). Guide dot is quite large on most subjects (#11 on Figure 6).
3. No rules anywhere on the plate.
4. Plate number is a medium-sized, backward "19", about 5mm above the right end of subject #2 on the sheet.
5. There is no guide dot in the middle of subjects 5 and 6; but there are similar dots: a bit higher, on subjects 3 and 4; and a bit lower, on subjects 9 and 10.
6. On each subject, the left side of the stamp is retouched (#12 on Figure 6).

Throughout the rest of 1880, existing plates were worked on. A common type of work during this period was re-entering of the stamp, an activity that generally obliterated earlier retouching that may have been done along the left side of the stamps. Even plate 19 had its stamps re-entered by the end of 1880. About that time, and into 1881, address line retouching became fashionable, and several plates were so treated.

Early in 1881, the last three Die II plates appeared: 20, 21 and 22. As for plate 19, these plates had all had extensive retouching before use (but the retouching, about the same for these three plates, differs from the initial retouching of plate 19). The general characteristics for these plates are:

1. Die II. Outer frame line retouched on all four sides (most subjects).
2. Guide dot more like plates 12-18 than plate 19.
3. No rules anywhere on the plate.
4. Plate number on plate 20 very much like plate 19; plate numbers on plates 21 and 22 more like early plate 18. The "1" of "21" appears to be double. In later states, plate 22 has an added number, this being about 5mm above the left end of subject #1.
5. Only plate 22 has guide dots in the middle of subjects 5 and 6; this plate has similar dots on subjects 7 and 8.
6. The stamps are not retouched.

By early spring of 1881, Die III came into being. Die II was last used, probably shortly after plates 20-22 were laid down, to re-enter plate 19 (which was then retouched in a manner very similar to plates 20-22). Die III was used to lay down plate 23 (with subjects showing up in May 1881); and to re-enter plate 17, probably in the summer of 1881. Plate 23 is different from most previous plates in some ways. Note the following:

1. Die III, no retouching.
2. Guide dot like plate 19.
3. No rules anywhere on the plate.
4. Plate number is medium-sized, backward "23", about 7.3mm above the right end of subject #2 on the sheet.
5. In addition to the central dot common to all die II subjects, 8 of 10 of the plate 23 subjects have additional dots, centred horizontally and at varying heights (on subjects 5 and 6, about in the middle). On subjects 7 and 8, there is a faint arc below "WRITTEN".

After plate 17 was re-entered with Die III, no other full-card re-entering appears to have been done. However, stamp re-entering continued, as well as address line retouching, through the end of 1881 and into 1882.

By that time (spring of 1882), the end had come for recess-printed 1 cent post cards. Obviously, with all this constant plate maintenance, the BABNC wasn't making much on the deal, and they managed to convince the Post Office that surface printing was the wave of the future. The UPU-rate cards continued to be printed by recess through the early Admiral period, but that's another story.

Following is a (very) brief summary of plate activity for P2:

<u>PLATE</u>	<u>FIRST USED</u>	<u>LAST USED</u>	<u>NUMBER OF STATES</u>
9	February, 1876	mid-1882	6
10	February, 1876	late 1881	5 or 6
11	February, 1876	mid-1882	6
12	April, 1876	mid-1881	6
13	April, 1876	mid-1880	6
14	November, 1876	mid-1882	8
15	November, 1876	mid-1881	6
16	August, 1877	mid-1880	5
"F"	February, 1878	late 1880	4
17	February, 1878	mid-1882	8
18	December, 1878	late 1881	4
19	August, 1880	mid-1882	4
20	January, 1881	mid-1882	3
21	January, 1881	mid-1882	3
22	January, 1881	mid-1882	3
23	May, 1881	mid-1882	3

The total comes to 800 different. So far, it's taken me about 2000 cards to come to about 85% of the total; it could easily take another thousand cards (or more) to find the still-missing 125 or so varieties.

Steven Whitcombe

PLAN TO ATTEND BNAPEX'88

BNAPEX'88 will be held September 8th to 10th, 1988, at the Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia. BNAPS conventions are fun, but they are also an excellent way to meet other collectors with similar interests. There will be study group meetings, an exhibition and a bourse. As usual a good number of Postal Stationery Study Group members will be in attendance. Make your reservations early (especially your hotel reservations - a large convention in nearby Norfolk will make accommodations scarce for those who have not reserved their rooms before August 1st).