

Postal Stationery Notes

Volume 25 No. 3

Oct 2012

PS Study Group Meeting in Calgary at BNAPEX 2012



Front Row: Iain Stevenson - Jean Walton - Robert Lemire - Barry Moss - Bob Dyer - Art Klass - George Dresser - Dave Armitage - Bill Walton; Back Row: Hans van Dooremalen - Don Fraser - Robert Haslewood - Peter MacDonald - Adri Veenstra - Mike Sagar - Jeff Arndt - Leopold Beaudet - Earle Covert. Present but not pictured: Charles Livermore (someone had to take the picture!).

The Postal Stationery Group met in Calgary, with a fairly large contingent of members present. Chairman Earle Covert called the meeting to order, and after introductions around the room, the floor was open for discussion.

There was a call for articles for *Notes*, and a discussion of what kind of material readers would like to see. New issues have overwhelmed us this year, and Charles Livermore suggested that we put them online. This would allow us to include in *Notes* only the dies, instead of devoting too many pages to showing both sides of the cards. However this feature is not yet available to us, unless some member with server space would like to undertake a PSSG web site. Once the BNAPS web site has been redone, it is possible we can make use of space there. In the meantime, we will reduce the space taken up by new issues, with special mention of any “stealth” or “silent” issues – those you can’t find in *Details* or on the order sheet, such as the new **Write-Me-Back** note cards (see What’s New on page 25)

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Emailed copy of PSNotes: To receive PSNotes in colour in pdf format, send your email to John Grace at jpg1353@yahoo.com. It’s free! If you prefer this version to the mailed version and ONLY want the online version, let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list for Canada Post copies. But you do not need to choose – you can continue to receive both.

PS Study Group Meeting, continued:

It was noted that the **Jubilee packets**, one for each decade of QEII’s reign, and the only way of obtaining the six postal stationery cards contained therein, were now being sold at half price. The original price of each packet was \$5.95; they are now selling online for \$2.97 each. So if you failed to order these earlier, here is your chance to do so – the rest of us will grump a little at having trusted Canada Post to maintain the price. These cards used will probably prove to be scarce as time goes by.

Postcard Factory cards, collected by many present, were discussed. There are, as has been noted, two bar codes on many cards, one being CPC’s inventory number, and the other used by post card outlets to scan for their sale price. Earle has inquired of one helpful clerk, and finds that these cards are still being sold in volume, as they are a favorite with overseas tourists (in particular the Japanese), who are looking for cards and postage – they often come equipped with preaddressed labels to send cards home, and the PCF prestamped cards to anywhere suit these purposes admirably. Retail prices continue to vary, according to whatever the local market will bear.

Create-A-Postcard is still an interesting field of study. The numbers at the lower left of each card represent (we think) a batch number (the prefix), followed by an order number. For computer orders, the order numbers are now in the 26,000s; mobile (phone) app orders are more difficult to understand, as the order number received on confirmation does not seem to be on the card. I use an Android phone, and if the prefix number is a batch number (my latest is 1044) – the order numbers are running only in the 4700s, but it is possible there are different numbers for different apps (Apple, Blackberry, & Android). Pierre was able to order some blank cards from Canada Post (for children to add their own pictures...) and these cards were received with a prefix of SP (for special?). Is anyone else keeping track of order numbers?

The new Webb’s is promised for 2013, and there was some discussion of the new renumbering.

Following these somewhat lively discussions, Mike Sagar gave an interesting talk on the Grand Trunk Railway cards, postulating the possibility that the very distinct shades on the sepia and on some green views might represent separate printings. The sepia views vary from brown to black, and the green views from blue green to yellow green. Material was passed around and questions and discussion followed. Thanks to Mike for an excellent discussion and interesting topic – for further discussion of this area of study, see Bill Walton’s article which follows.



Jeff Arndt & Mike Sagar



~ ☒☒☒ ~ Chrm Covert & Armitage, Stevenson & Moss

THE GTR EDWARD “SEPIA” VIEWS

By Bill Walton (Waltonwmc@aol.com)

Mike Sagar presented a very interesting talk on the Grand Trunk Railway sepia view cards at the Calgary BNAPEX Postal Stationery Study Group meeting. He brought examples to support his thesis that the “sepia” listings actually include black views as well as sepia.

I promised Mike I’d go through my own material once back at home. What I was looking for was distinctly different allocatable shades, and a pattern of use to support the idea of distinct printings.

After the first Edward group of 8 green views, 8 new “sepia” views came into use, beginning at the end of 1904 (by November). They continued in use into early 1907, when the same 8 views appeared in green.

There is usage pattern, but less clear-cut than I expected. I examined the 45 “sepia” cards in my collection, and found not two but three shade groups. For simplicity, I would call these yellowish brown, violet black, and black. The three Beaumaris cards below (all GTR C10) illustrate the three shades, with an additional overlap for side-by-side comparison.

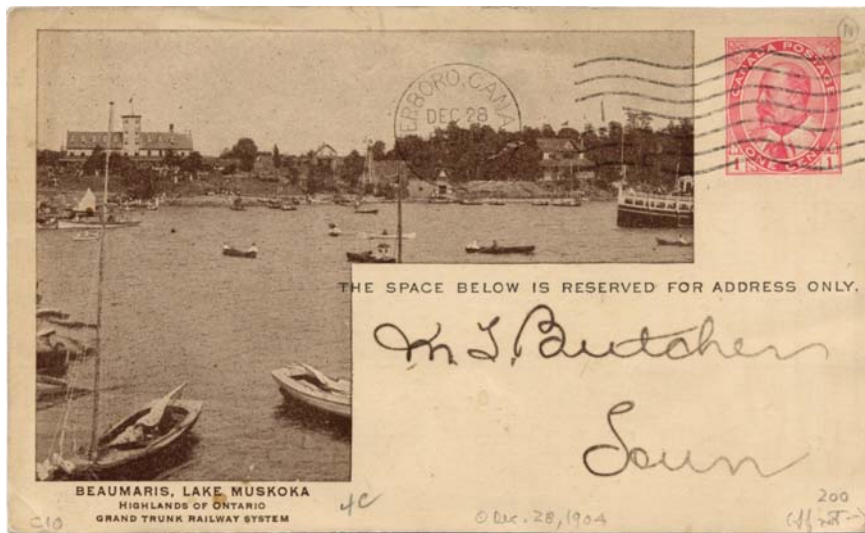


Fig. 1: “Sepia” GTR C10, Beaumaris, Lake Muskoka in yellowish brown.



Fig. 2: “Sepia” GTR C10, Beaumaris, Lake Muskoka in violet black.



Fig. 3: “Sepia” GTR C10, Beaumaris, Lake Muskoka in black.

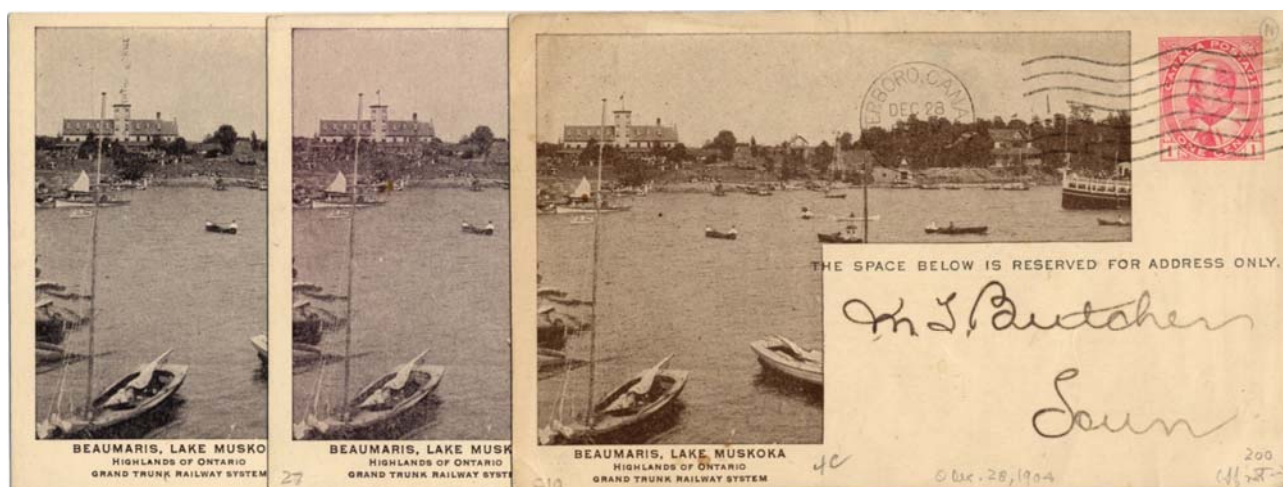


Fig. 4: All three shades overlapped (black, violet black, & yellowish brown) for easier comparison.

Among my 45 cards were 16 used examples, showing the following:

1. Yellow brown cards (4 used) are my earliest, with usages in Nov. 1904 and December 1904. Two later usages in Oct. 1905 and April 1906 are from smaller offices.
2. Violet black cards (8) in my collection are used from Feb. 1905 to Sept. 1905.
3. Black cards (4) – the sharpest printings – occur in Feb. 1907 (2 examples), April 1907, and a late usage in Sept. 1907.

These usage groupings do suggest at least three discrete shade groups. Note, however, my lack of 1906 usages, making the possible introductory period of the black cards uncertain.

My small sample of cards – certainly too small for definitive findings – would tentatively suggest that the brown views had a relatively short life, as did the final (and nicest) black views. Reports of used examples of each group from other members should shed more light here

Thanks to Mike for opening an interesting door here. The next edition of Webb’s will note a range of shades in this column of cards.

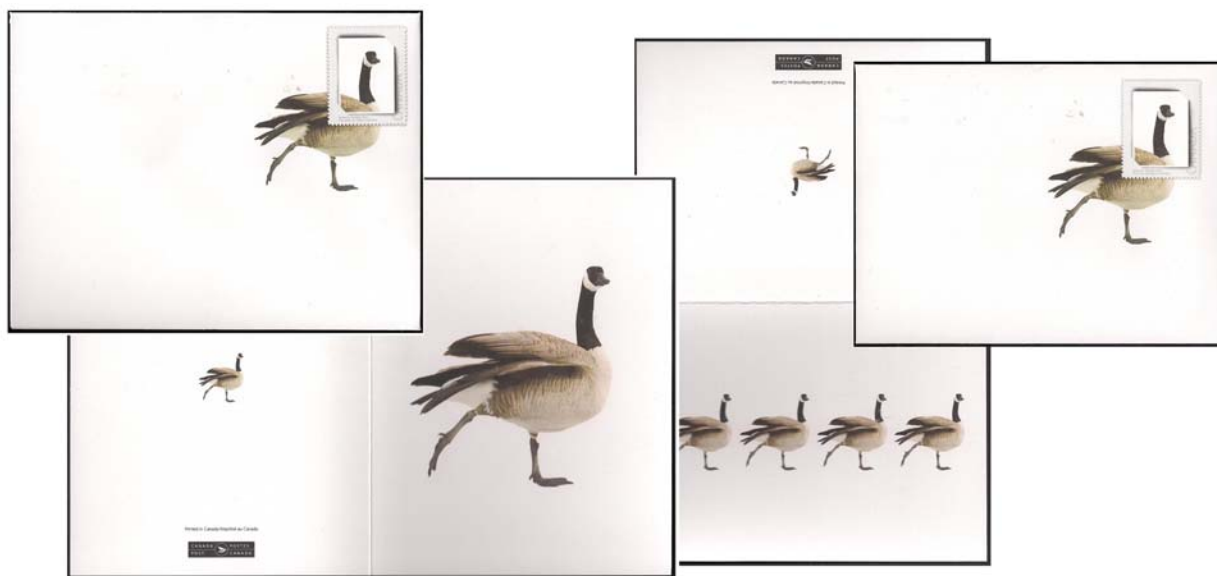
Mike raised other GTR questions in his presentation, including the first two Victoria groups – the A column with 7 views, and the B column with 9 views. In the next issue of *Notes*, I’ll attempt to lay out the three sequential groups of 8 cards these represent.

What's New in Postal Stationery

The newest silent (unannounced by Canada Post) issue is 4 sets of **Write Me Back** cards. These are envelopes and cards with preprinted domestic postage. Each set included 1 large and one slightly smaller envelope, each with a matching note card. The point is to send a card to someone, such as a grandchild, supplying the receiver with a card and prepaid envelope for an answer, much like a wedding invitation with a paid reply envelope and card. Clever, and attractive – but salable? These were a forced delivery to local outlets, so should be available in post offices across Canada, but to order, look under gifts & art/note cards, or ring up Antigonish (at 1-866-476-8292. – they should recognize the name “Write me back but just in case, the order numbers are below:

Write me back- Ladybugs	242876	\$3.99
Write Me Back - Flowers	242877	\$3.99
Write me back- Frogs	242878	\$3.99
Write me back- Geese	242879	\$3.99

These were available July 16, 2012.



Showing one example (the Goose set) of the large and small domestic pre-paid envelopes and matching cards (opened flat). While the designs on the cards are different, the envelopes in each set bear the same stamp die in the same size. Stamp dies are shown below.



While the stamp die within each Write-Me-Back set is the same (including in dimensions), the two envelopes in the set are very different: the larger envelope is a cross flap envelope 165x122mm (5" by 6.5"), the smaller reply envelope is a side seam envelope, 141x112mm (4.375" by 5.75").

Write-Me-Back envelopes shown at right, darkened for contrast.



Write-Me-Back Envelopes

Jubilee Post Card #6



Shown above is the stamp die of the sixth and final postal card available in the Jubilee Keepsake folders.



This card was issued on June 1, showing the Elizabethan stamps from the 2002-2012 decade of Queen Elizabeth's reign. The folder in which it is contained is already on sale at half price (\$2.97).

Signs of the Zodiac

Set of 4 post cards:

Postage Paid to anywhere post cards showing signs of the Zodiac. The first four cards in this series were issued over a period of several months in 2011 – these cards were issued as a set of 4 on July 23, 2012. The final four in this series are due out in 2013.



CFL Football post cards – 9 different – one for each Canadian CFL team and one for the Grey Cup



~*~ ☒☒☒ ~*~

A set of 9 cards – one for each of the 8 teams, and one for the Grey Cup itself, issued August 16, 2012, with prepaid postage to anywhere.

PCF Corner

(Robert Lemire: rlemire000@sympatico.ca)

Since the last issue of PSN a few more “new” PCF cards have been reported--one a flipped view (Robert Lemire), and four new views (Raymond Gagné). All these new cards are Die IIIc. [This was written pre-BNAPEX – further updates will follow in your next issue. – Ed]

PCF-T3H (borderless)

CR 217V (stamp impression at the bottom)

This now is known both with the stamp impression (IIIc) at the same end of the card as the bottom of the image and at the opposite end of the card to the bottom of the image.

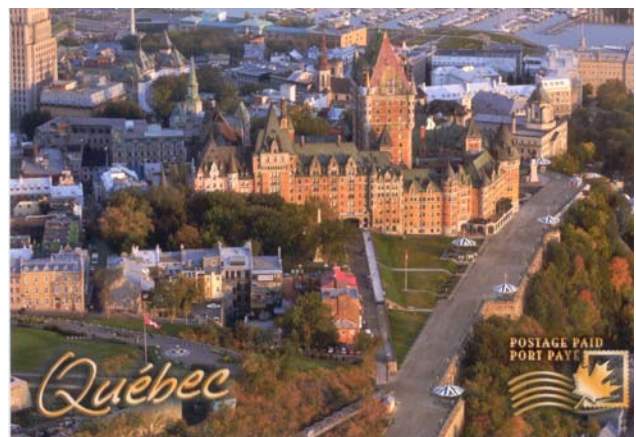
Details of the New Views

The new view cards are 2-bar code types and have no printed SKU number.

<u>card #</u>	<u>view</u>	<u>bottom-left bar code</u>	<u>top-middle bar code</u>	<u>SKU#</u>
VQ 3826	The many faces of Quebec City	64392 00409	73418 29200	none
VQ 3865	Beautiful autumn in Quebec City	64392 00409	73418 29193	none
VQ 3866	Le petit Champlain winter and summer	64392 00409	73418 29194	none
VQ 3871	View of the Old Port	64392 00409	73418 29201	none



VQ 3826



VQ 3865



VQ 3866



VQ 3871

UNUSUAL AND EXOTIC POSTAL STATIONERY USAGES

The tenth in our continuing series. We would welcome more contributions to this series from other members.

10: A well-travelled post card.

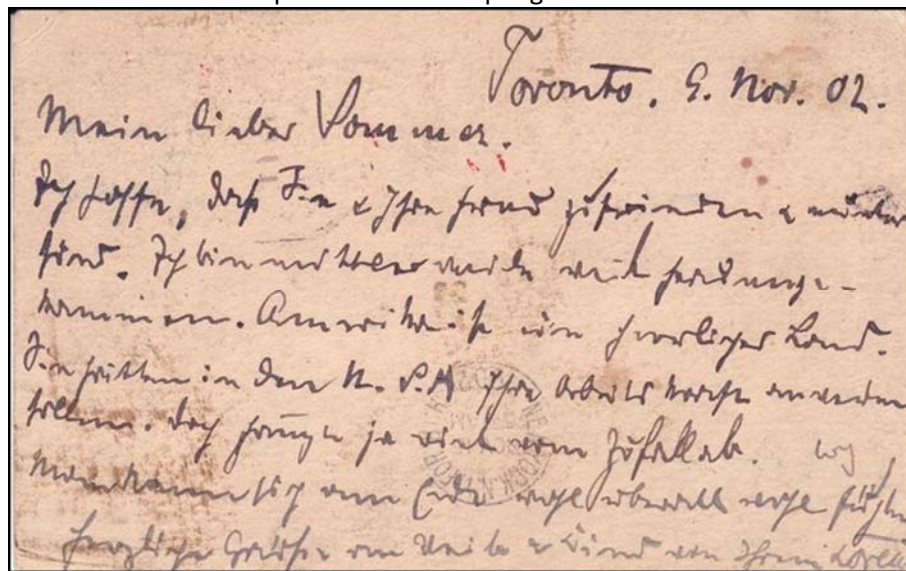
By Hans van Dooremalen

I recently acquired a 2 cents Maple Leaf postcard (Webb P21), which went on a long and unusual journey.



Fig. 1a: P21, sent November 9, 1902, to Sumatra. It received no less than ten cancels in its journey, as well as one manuscript “missent to Taipeng” notation.

Fig. 1b: A New York transit mark is shown on the back of the card, dated November 15, 1902.



It was written in Toronto on November 9th, 1902 and addressed to Tandjoeng Poera on the east coast of Sumatra in the Dutch East Indies (see map below).

The numbers below correspond with the numbers on the map:



1. It was postmarked in Toronto on November 9th, 1902. It was sent via New York and has a transit marking, dated November 15th.

From there it was sent on its way, first across the Atlantic and from England on the P&O line, through the Suez Canal. It arrived in Penang in the Straits Settlements on December 17th. There the mistake was made.

Instead of forwarding it to the Dutch East Indies (to Tandjoeng Poera) it was sent to Taiping in the Federated Malay States, not far from Penang, where it arrived on the same day.

2. The postmaster in Taiping discovered the mistake and forwarded the card to the exchange office in Singapore, where it arrived on December 23rd.

3. Since 1878 the Dutch East Indies post office had 2 postal agencies in the Straits Settlements (Singapore and Penang). The purpose of the agencies was to expedite the mail packets arriving from Europe and Australia by sending them straight to the right island of the Dutch East Indies instead of sending them to Batavia (Jakarta) first. In most cases several weeks could be gained in this way. These postal agencies were located in the building of the Straits Settlements post office itself.

As this card was addressed to the Dutch East Indies, the postmaster in Singapore handed it to the DEI agency there. It was received by him on the same day.

Being a card addressed to East Sumatra, the agent in Singapore forwarded it to his colleague in Penang, where it was received on December 26th.

4. From there it was forwarded to Medan, a larger city on Sumatra, where it received an indistinct receiving mark.

5. The last stage was that to Tandjoeng Poera, where it was received on December 28th.

This card again shows, that when collecting postal stationery, postal history is just as important. A simple card can become a real gem.

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