

Postal Stationery Notes

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A “fake” surcharge

Pierre Gauthier has submitted an image, shown here, of an envelope that he noticed in an e-Bay offering. The envelope has been overprinted with a strange “2”, as shown here. This is so different from the actual “2 ¢” surcharge (e.g., see Webb’s EN14) that the question is why such an obviously bogus item would have been prepared?



A New Dominion Express Illustrated Money Order Card (and more information about the mysterious Webb P18b) by Chris Ellis

I report here on a newly discovered Dominion Express “Miniature Money Order” illustrated advertising card type. Several express companies used official postal stationery cards illustrated with these miniature facsimiles of their money orders and lists of the different varieties have long been a feature of Webb’s postal stationery catalogues. One such company was the Dominion Express, affiliated with the Canadian Pacific Railway. This company issued such cards from the first introduction of legitimate front advertising on official stationery cards in early 1898 until about 1905 when they replaced their money order cards with advertising stationery cards featuring various shield designs [1].

Up until the Webb’s 5th Edition [2, p. 105] only four Dominion Express money order card types were recorded. Three of these different illustration/text types occurred on the regular Webb P18 One Cent Red Maple Leaf Victoria card with the 83 mm long heading “THE SPACE BELOW IS RESERVED FOR ADDRESS ONLY.” [3]. At that time, the earliest recorded type had a miniature money order filled in with a value of \$25.XX and dated January 12, 1898. Below the illustration were two columns specifying the rates one had to pay for different values of money orders. This card was designated DMX1. In the late 1980s a new variety of card was discovered, which had the same value of \$25.XX and the two rate columns but showed a money order dated January 12, 1897 [4] (Figure 1).

~*****~ ☒☒☒ ~*****~

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Figure 1: Copy of DMX1A (on P18 Card) Used at Nelson, B.C. March 15, 1898.

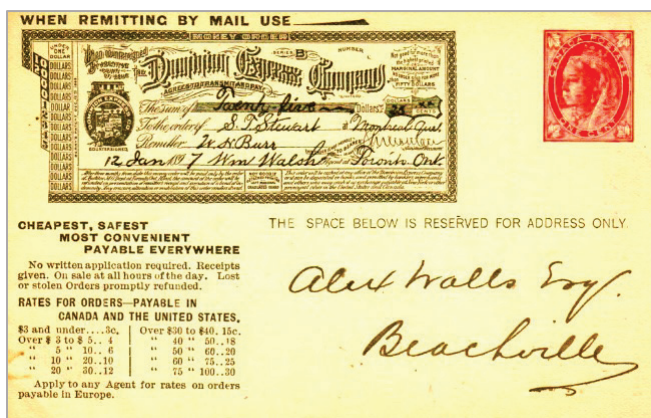


Figure 2: Copy of new card on P18b (contrast enhanced) Used at Beachville, Ontario in June 1898



Figure 3: Close up of address separation line highlighting differences between the P18 and P18b cards (contrast enhanced)

This much rarer card was apparently the earliest card, given not only the 1897 date on the illustration but also the fact all copies I have seen, albeit only two, were used in the first few months of 1898. This new card was added to the next Webb catalogue 6th Edition [5, p. 125] as DMX 1A, although it was erroneously listed as being on the One Cent Red Edward card, a typographic error that was corrected in the subsequent and current (7th Edition) Webb catalogue [6, p. 165].

Recently, I came across a card with the January 12, 1897 money order illustration largely identical to that found on the DMX 1A—the difference is that it is not on Webb P18 but rather it is on the much rarer Red Victoria Webb P18b with an only 75 mm long address separation heading of “THE SPACE BELOW IS RESERVED FOR ADDRESS ONLY.” in taller, thinner letters (Figure 2). An enlargement of the address text is shown below in Figure 3).

The card was mailed by the Beachville, Ontario, Dominion Express agent to a local resident and is not postmarked but has a manuscript date of June 28, 1898 on the reverse. Unfortunately, and as is the case with other Dominion Express cards, there is no printing date for the form on the back, but only the date the form was introduced (“Form 161 – Jan. ‘98”; a notation used for the form type for many subsequent years).

As a distinct officially issued card, the P18b card was first *formally* recognized in the early 1980s [7, pp. 34-35]. Research collated and reported by Robert Lemire and Pierre Gauthier [8], [9] suggests the

P18b card was amongst the first ones printed of those postal cards designed to accommodate additions of privately added front/address side advertising, something impossible on earlier card designs. The P18b was apparently released as part of the very first order of One Cent Red Victoria cards from the American Bank Note Company, an order made by the Post Office on January 18, 1898. This order, for a total of 250,000 cards, was the direct outcome of the *Notice to the Public* of December 9, 1897 (released for publication on December 12th), in which the Post Office announced they would allow advertising to be put on the front of the official postal stationery cards for the first time (copies of the original notice have appeared in a least two issues of *Postal Stationery Notes* [10, p. 22], [11, p. 39]; see also references [3] and [12, pp. 34-35]. The first delivery of this initial order to the Post Office (n=15,000) occurred on January 19, 1898 with other deliveries comprising the rest of the 250,000 card order taking place over the next two weeks until February 3, 1898 [9, p. 61]. No other orders were received until February 15, 1898 [8, p. 48] or a date later than postmark evidence indicates both the P18 and P18b were already in circulation (see below). The first delivery of January 19, 1898 included only sheets in 8 card or 16 card format while the deliveries from January 20th to 25th included single cards as well as such sheets. The multiple card sheets were preferred by printers for large advertising orders. After January 25th the 36,000 remaining cards in the deliveries of the initial order only included single cards. As fragments of multiple sheets of the P18b cards survive [9] (their Figure 2), [13, p. 3]) these must have come from the deliveries of the original order up to January 25th, the only ones that had included cards in sheet form. Also, the fact the surviving P18b cards largely have added front advertising suggests a sheet stock origin [9, pp. 61-62]) as does the presence of the Dominion Express card reported here—such a major cross-Canada user with high card demand would be much more likely to use sheet stock rather than printing on individual cards.

Cards of the P18b type are the only Red Victoria cards I know of used in January 1898 (but, to be precise, only one example used on January 28, 1898) based on the Earliest Reported Postmark Postal Stationery listing compiled by Bill Walton [15, p. 32]) and a list of a few known P18b examples compiled by Robert Lemire [8, p. 47]), [14] some years ago. There is also a second example reported by Lemire [8] used on February 8, 1898 or prior to the receipt of the second order of cards by the Post Office on February 15, 1898. The remaining known P18b cards were primarily used in the first half of 1898 but two examples are known used in early 1899 with the latest dating recorded example being a copy mailed on February 27, 1899. The cards were used primarily at Montreal or Hamilton. Yet, the item reported here, as well as another I know of from a Saint John, N.B., business with a Saint John postmark, indicates they were more widely distributed and that our small sample is probably biased towards larger population centres. Of course, it is possible the Dominion Express cards were actually printed in Montreal, which was after all CPR headquarters, before being shipped to local agents. As far as I am aware, only two of the few reported P18b cards were used by the same business and have the same advertisement. I have a card in my own collection postmarked September 5, 1898 with added advertising for Meakins and Co., brush makers, Montreal. An identical Meakins card with exactly the same printed advertisement and used on May 2, 1898, was illustrated, courtesy of Bill Walton, by Lemire and Gauthier [9] (their Figure 4). It would not surprise me if they are both actually on cards from the same printing of the added advertisement.

The earliest recorded postmark for the P18 common regular card dates only 12 days after the earliest postmark for P18b, or on February 10, 1898 [15, p. 32]). While there are two dated P18b cards recorded used prior to that date, as noted above no other orders were received by the post office by that time. Hence, P18 cards must have been included in deliveries in the original *order* along with the P18b cards [9]. Yet, the fact two of the very rare P18b cards were used prior to any known P18 examples seems suspicious to me and may indicate the P18b cards comprised the whole or most of the first day *delivery* of 15,000 cards in sheets. Whatever the case, evidence as a whole suggests the

P18b was replaced very quickly by the P18 card with the longer 83 mm address separation line in thicker but shorter letters which continued to be used for almost six years. Speculatively, apparently the lettering of the address separation line on P18b was too thin and did not register well (and wore out rapidly based on some examples of this rare card I have seen where the “E’s” in particular can be worn at their top right corners). A quick wearing plate may also be suggested by the fact some of the P18b address line cards lack a period at the end of the line [9, p. 62]), perhaps because that had been worn away. Certainly the period itself is faint on the Dominion Express card reported here (Figure 2) in comparison to other published examples or ones I have examined directly. The replacement of P18b with P18 cards could have occurred either after the initial delivery to the Post Office or slightly earlier during the printing process itself at American Bank Note when these problems first may have been noticed.

Quick replacement of the P18b cards and the fact they only seem to have comprised a part of the earliest printing order of 250,000 cards, perhaps even only a fraction of that very first January delivery of 15,000 Red Victoria cards in sheet form, means they are very rare with few survivors. Horace Harrison [13, p. 3]) stated that less than 10 combined mint and used examples were known. Based on lists and illustrations in the existing literature [8], [9], [14], and cards in my own collection, I know that to be a slight underestimate as I can document 12 used examples¹ and at least two unused ones—still very rare! This rarity is reflected in the most recent Webb catalogue listing where, for a used example, the value is 125 times that of an example of the regular P18 of which more than six million eventually were printed [8, p. 48]), [9, p. 61)].

The fact that the card reported here has an 1897 dated money order illustration suggests it was prepared quite early in the era of postal card advertising fronts. In sum, independent information provided by the Dominion Express card is consistent with P18b as the first setting of the Victoria stationery card or among the first cards printed and delivered to the Post Office, in line with the earlier deductions of Lemire [8] and others of its mysterious and still very obscure history. Regardless, given that the 1897 dated Dominion Express money order illustrated cards are very rare compared to the regular 1898 dated cards, and that P18b cards themselves are extremely rare, it is no wonder it has taken so long to find such an elusive combination! Indeed, I suspect the card reported here may be a unique surviving example and may also be the only type of a major advertising card series currently listed in Webb’s that will ever be reported on the P18b—at least, no other ones I know of have been found to date and the earliest reported dates for many, such as the CPR and GTR Railway View cards (e.g., [15]), indicates they were not printed until well into 1898 or some months after P18b was made available and possibly already exhausted from Post Office stocks.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Dick Staecker who first encouraged my interest in Express cards and to Robert Lemire for his patience and especially assistance in suggesting references that saved me from making several errors in this note!!

References

- [1] Staecker, D., - Postal cards used by Dominion Express Company, *Postal Stationery Notes*, **1**, 22 (1982).
- [2] Covert, E. L., Walton, W. C. (editors), *Webb’s Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland*, 5th Edition, The Unitrade Press, Toronto (1988).
- [3] Arfken, G. B., Pawluk, W. S., The P18 Advertising Card, *BNA Topics* **64**, No. 1, 55-62 (2007). (available on the BNAPS website)
- [4] Whitcombe, S., A newly recognized Dominion Express Card variety, *Postal Stationery Notes*, **7**, 21 (1988). (available on the BNAPS website)
- [5] Walton, W. C., Covert, E. L. (editors), *Webb’s Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland*, 6th Edition. Walton Covert Philatelic Publications. British North America Philatelic Society (1993).

1. While 12 used examples are recorded, I was informed by Horace Harrison that two of the used cards in his collection were damaged, if not destroyed, in a fire at his residence.

- [6] Covert, E. L., Walton, W. C. (editors), *Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland*, 7th Edition, Walton Covert Philatelic Publications, Saskatoon Stamp Centre, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (2004).
- [7] Postal Stationery Study Group, Headings on Canadian postal cards - the beginning of a new study group project, *Postal Stationery Notes*, **2**, 33-37 (1983). (available on the BNAPS website)
- [8] Lemire, R., Webb P18b - A scarce card (but order book figures provide little help), *Postal Stationery Notes*, **5**, 47-48 (1987). (available on the BNAPS website)
- [9] Lemire, R. J., Gauthier, P. The P18b advertising card, *BNAPS Topics* **64**, No. **3**, 60-63 (2007). (available on the BNAPS website)
- [10] Harrison, H., Regulations for the address side of the one cent Post Card, *Postal Stationery Notes*, **15**, 20-22 (1999).
- [11] Harrison, H., Copies of some of the old regulations and some of the correspondence with the Canadian Post Office relating to Canadian post cards, *Postal Stationery Notes*, **17**, 37-39 (2002).
- [12] Steinhart, A. L., *The Postal History of the Post Card in Canada, 1878-1911*, Mission Press, Toronto (1979).
- [13] Harrison, H., *Canada's Business Postal Cards*, BNAPS Exhibit Series Publication No. 22, (2000).
- [14] Lemire, R., Who has P18b?!, *Postal Stationery Notes*, **6**, 1 (1987). (available on the BNAPS website)
- [15] Walton, W. C. (editor.), *Earliest Reported Postmark (ERP) Listing for the Postal Stationery of Canada and Newfoundland*, *Postal Stationery Notes*, Special Issue No. 4, Postal Stationery Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society (1994). (available on the BNAPS website)

Earliest Reported Postmark (ERP) project—updates and corrections *by Bill Walton*

Here, courtesy of Pierre Gauthier, are some updates to the Earliest Reported Dates for Elizabethan-issue post cards as listed in *Postal Stationery Notes*, Vol. **27**, pp 35-37.

Cameo Issues

- P94c 1964-04-02
- P94d 1964-09-24 (text date)
- P94i 1966-02-14 (text date)

Centennial Issues

- P101a 1967-07-31
- Pierre caught the erroneous date, 1966-07-08, in the listing (editor's error): 1966 would have been well before any Centennial issue items were prepared. At present the previous ERP, given in the list in *Postal Stationery Notes*, Special Issue No. 4 (June 1994), is retained.

1969 Gasparo Surcharges

- P107b 1969-?-14 (our first date for this card, and thus quite nice even without a legible month)

1969 BABN Surcharges

- P107g 1970-05-22
- P107k 1969-05-15 (text date) as properly noted in the list in *Postal Stationery Notes*, Special Issue No. 4 (June 1994).

An updated list of ERPs for more stationery items will appear in the next issue of *Postal Stationery Notes*. Many thanks go to Pierre Gauthier for his continuing help.

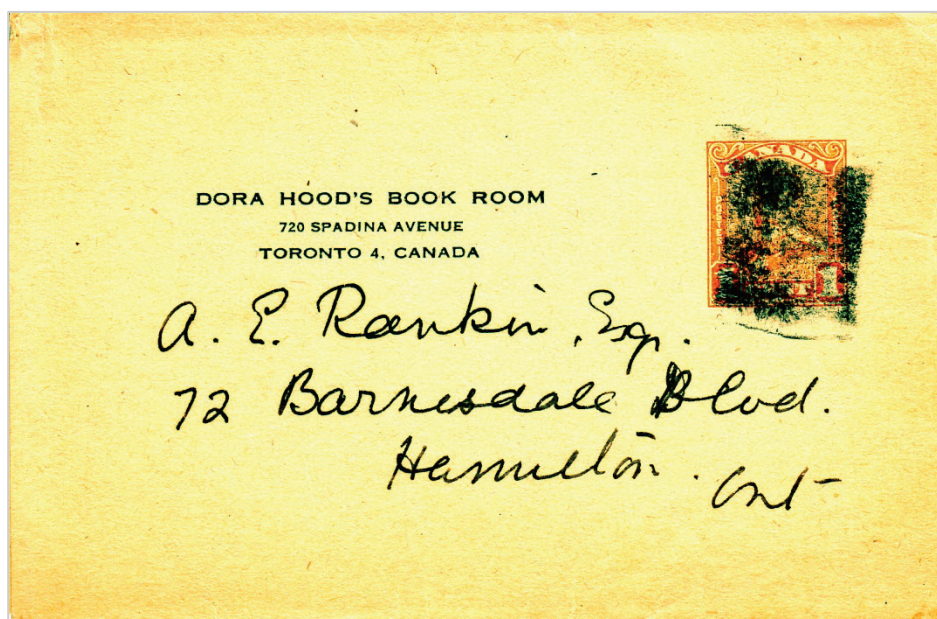
If you have a card, envelope or wrapper which has an earlier date than the date listed here, please send photocopies (300 dpi) of both the front and back to the editor of *Postal Stationery Notes* or directly to Bill Walton <Waltonwmc@aol.com>.

Our sympathy and condolences to Earle Covert and his family

We were saddened to learn of the death on July 12 of Audrey Covert, wife of our study group's Chairman. She was well-known to members who have been to BNAPEX conventions over the years, as she attended most conventions from the time Earle joined BNAPS in 1971 through 2012, after which travel became too difficult for her. She will be missed by all of us who knew her. Our sympathy and condolences to Earle and his family.

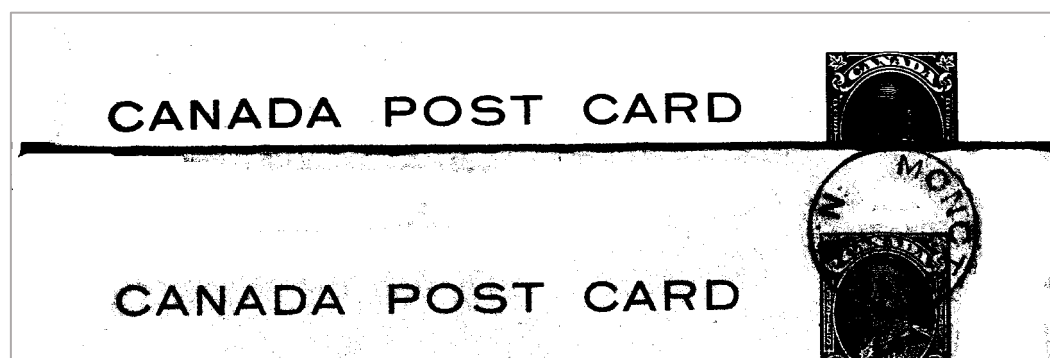
Another printed corner on a postal stationery wrapper

Here is an addition to the examples that were shown in PSN Vol. 25, pp. 34-36, 46-49, Vol. 26, pp. 7-8, 18-19, 29—a corner for Dora Hood's Book Room on a copy of W14.



A minor setting variety on a George V post card

Recently I was comparing the “CANADA POST CARD” heading on copies of Webb’s P57a, P60b, P58, and P59 (Front Face Issue). The stamp impressions on the regular cards P57a, and P60b are typographed, and those on the reply cards are offset. However, the headings on all copies in my collection measure ~82 mm except for P58. On two copies of that card, including one with a postmark of October 15, 1935, the heading measures approximately 83 mm. On two other copies, including a Legault First Day Cover, October 1, 1935, the heading measures ~82 mm. Though the difference is small, there definitely is a difference. What do other members find on their copies of the Canadian Bank Note Company Front Face and Profile Issue cards of the 1930s?



83 mm
heading
on P58

82 mm
heading
on P58

Postal Stationery Study Group meeting at BNAPEX 2016

The BNAPS Postal Stationery Study Group will hold its annual meeting on **Sunday, October 2 at 12:30 p.m.** during BNAPEX 2016 at the Fredericton Inn, Fredericton NB (meeting room to be announced—check your show programme).

Stamp impressions with printed initials on private-order stationery of the 1960s and 1970s— an addendum *by Robert Lemire*

In the last issue of *Postal Stationery Notes* Vol. 27, page 38) I discussed the introduction of initials appearing next to the printed stamp impression for several types of post cards and forms printed to private order. Reference was made to a letter, dated 1966, June 3, from L.V. McGurran, Director of Accounting (Post Office Department, Postage Stamp Division) to the District Director of Postal Services (Canadian Archives file RG3-acc. 86-87/396 file 13-19-20), authorizing a procedure that “the letters H.E.P.C. would be included in all postage stamp plates which may be required.

As discussed in *Postal Stationery Notes*, Vol. 27, page 30, the only printings recorded for the 3¢ Cameo Hydro cards (in the same Canadian Archives file) were:

Apr. 1964 406,800 _ + 3¢	form 3-64
Apr. 1965 437,400	form 2-65
June 1966 504,000 _ + 3¢ (HEPC initials)	form 57091 rev. 3-66,

and the first usage permitted with the initials would, presumably, have been on the card with Webb’s Catalogue number HKP94o.

Recently in a correspondence with Earle Covert, it was established that he possesses a copy of the Hydro form 57091 rev. 3-66 with a 3¢ impression, but *without* the HEPC initials. Thus, it appears that the use of the stamp impression *with* the initials HEPC may have been introduced part way through the June 1966 printing, and that less than 504,000 3¢ cards were prepared with the HEPC initials.

New envelope date reports

Robin Harris has reported a new printing date on the current #10 flag envelope, and your editor has noticed new dates on the #10 envelopes sold in packages:

Flag: 10.14.15

Animals: 11.25.15

Flowers: 11.25.15

PCF Corner

By Robert Lemire: rlemire000@sympatico.ca – July 7, 2016

Erhard Nachtigall has reported a major finding. What we have been calling Die IIIc exists in two forms (or at least there are two types of the tablet surrounding the stamp impression) which I will attempt to show below). The difference is best seen under a magnifying glass (Erhard says that he can separate the varieties unaided, but my old eyes are incapable of doing this).



PCF Die IIIc Type “r”



PCF Die IIIc Type “s”

The area with blue lines in the lower-left of the tablet is one of the easier places to look see the difference. On the earlier “r” printings the lines slant / at about a 7 degree angle, and are sharp and well-formed. In the “s” printings the slant of the lines is \ at about a 30 degree angle from vertical, and the lines are broken. The darkest blue tablets seem to be from the earlier “r” printings, but the shades vary enough that this isn’t a foolproof test. Bill Walton has suggested that the difference in appearance of the indicium tablet may result from a change in the screen that was used in the printing. Earle Covert wonders if there was a change in the security printer.

Based on short-lived changes done by PCF in 2009-2010 and in 2012, it seems that tablet type “r”, was used until sometime between 2010 and 2012, after which only type “s” was used.

Of course “reports of new cards” only can pin down when a card was found, not when it was printed. Furthermore, I suspect that PCF may not always have sent printed sheets of cards to the security printer until there was a need (*i.e.*, they may have stored cards until a need was perceived). Also, distribution of fully prepared and stamped cards may have followed printing by several months. That said, here is what we know:

1. All the cards with underlay U3 were found in 2012, and all are tablet “s”. Therefore only tablet “s” was being used by then (but *some* RCMP cards with UR2 underlay have tablet “r”);
2. The Versions Niagara-on-the Lake card (CST 7905) was prepared in 2009, and has tablet “r”. The indicia on the first reported (mid-2009) Die IIIc versions of O 260V and WHS040V were prepared with tablet “r”, and these cards were first found with the indicium at the top.
3. Several of the cards known with the stamp impression at the top of the card have been found with both tablets.
 - a. My mid-2009 lists do not distinguish “top” and “bottom” versions, but a December 2009 list indicates several “top” cards and more were found in early 2010;
 - b. In several cases when borderless versions replaced a version with a border, the card with the stamp impression at the top was reported before the card with the stamp impression at the bottom;
 - c. My files indicate that by late 2010 we were actively searching for “bottom” versions when “top” versions with Die IIIc already had been reported. This suggests that the appearance of “top” versions was reasonably short-lived, and that “s”-tablet cards may have been appearing by mid-late 2010;
 - d. C 85, borderless, reported in the first half of 2010, has only been found with tablet “s”, whereas a number of other cards that made the transition from “border” to borderless versions at about the same time are known with both tablets. Borderless C007, C013, T049, and VQ 099 reported before mid-October 2010 have been found only with tablet “s”, as has T 058 with a printed SKU# and only one bar code (December 2010). Therefore by that time the second tablet was definitely being used. Of course tablet “r” copies of these cards may yet appear, but that will not affect the line of reasoning used here.

In conclusion, it appears that the transition from the first tablet to the second occurred in early to mid 2010. A closer examination of reports may (or may not) refine this estimate. There still are a few unexplained exceptions on cards from the transition period, but the change *by the security printer* does seem to have occurred *deliberately*, and *at a specific time*. Because of the more than five-year delay before the change was noticed by collectors, a number of cards were reprinted and issued with the second tablet version before copies with the first version were secured. It appears that more than 100 “Die IIIc” cards with tablet version “r” have been reprinted with tablet version “s”. A preliminary (and tentative) list has been assembled, and is available from the author on request. My thanks to Dudley Nash who provided the pictures on page 37.

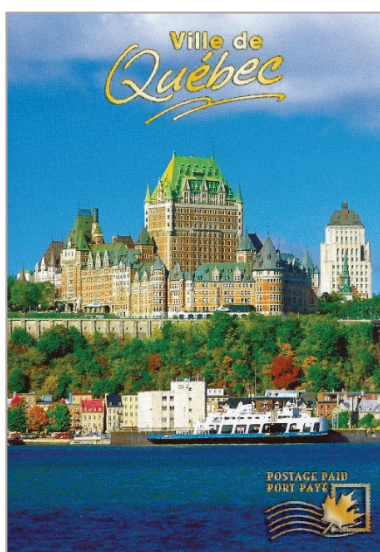
New PCF Views (Die IIIc, tablet type “s”)



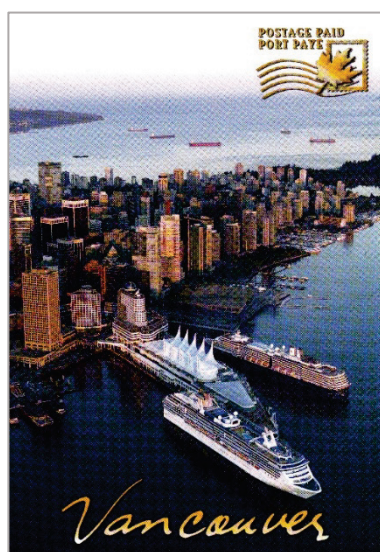
VQ 2248



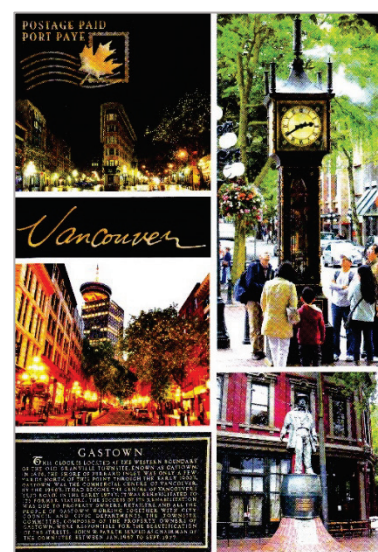
VQ 8367



VQ 516



VAN 4158



VAN 5140



TOR 5148

All cards shown are Die IIIc (“s”).

Other new cards found (Pierre Gauthier, Robert Lemire, Dudley Nash) include:

- CY 096, MAN 024V, NFLD 020 (all “s”);
- CR030 with the main heading on the “stamp” side of the card reading only “CANADIAN ROCKIES” rather than the bilingual “CANADIAN ROCKIES /ROCHEUSES CANADIENNES” (both “r” and “s”);
- G 044, NB 090, NF 154, NF 199, T198, WHS007 with PCF in the logo (all “s”);
- NF187 with the old caption, a SKU#, but no PCF in logo (both “s”).

Raymond Gagné has reported finding 25 cards with the line Printed in Canada moved slightly to the right. Eric Nachtigall has reported shifts in underlays on a number of cards, and Pierre Gauthier has reported some setting varieties with respect to the text and a few of the recycling logos. More on these next issue. Some may (or may not) correspond to cards prepared with the different tablet types.

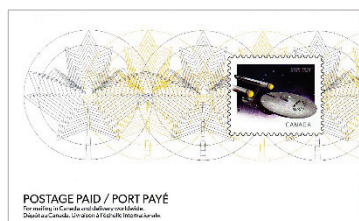
A PCF error

Dudley Nash has reported a striking error on a post office copy of NB 090 (tablet “s”), shown at the right. Because the stamp impressions are applied to large uncut sheets (usually incorporating cards with several different views), there should be similar error copies of several other cards at post offices. An added bonus is that this is the first (and, so far, only) reported copy of NB 090 with “PCF” in the logo.

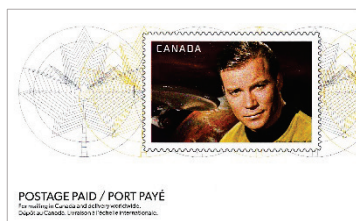


Yet more postage-prepaid cards from Canada Post

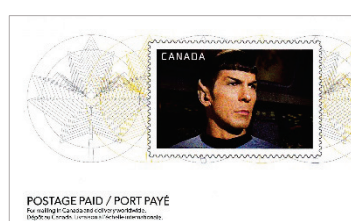
Canada Post has issued new postage-prepaid cards, this time a set of five Star Trek cards and a new set of birds, both sold *only* as sets (CAN\$12.50 each set plus applicable taxes—Canada Post order numbers 262452 and 262448, respectively). These are noted here “for the record”. Unlike the tourism and Chinese New Year cards, stationery sold in such packages is unlikely to be used except by one collector to another.



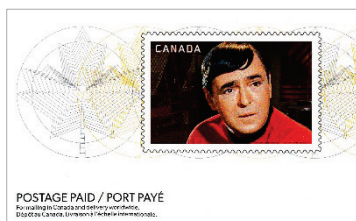
Enterprise



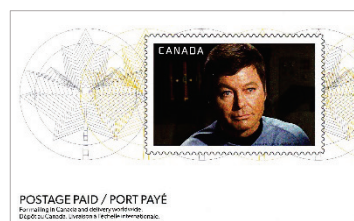
Captain James T. Kirk



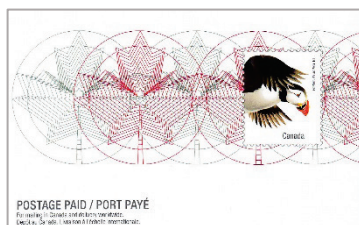
Commander Spock



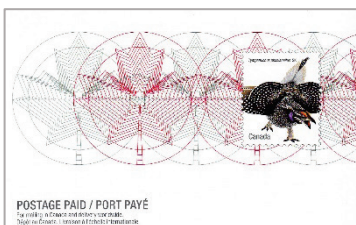
Lt. Commander Montgomery “Scotty” Scott



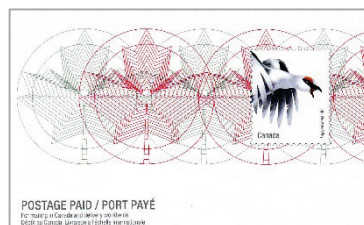
Dr. Leonard “Bones” McCoy



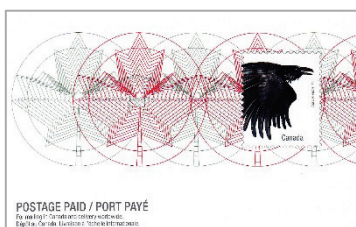
Puffin



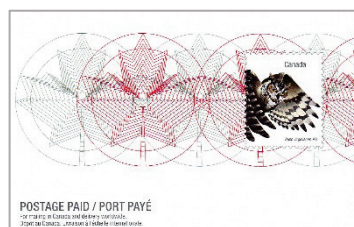
Grouse



Ptarmigan



Raven



Owl