

CANADIAN REVENUE NEWS LETTER

MAY - 1974 # 37

This month's Newsletter is a few days late. This is mainly due to the Postal strike in Canada, which evidently caused a temporary embargo on all mail from here in Willow Grove, to all places in Canada. I have been informed by the local postmaster that this temporary embargo has at last been lifted. So I will probably mail next month's Newsletter about this time of the month in June. If any of you have any News Notes or Adlets for the Newsletter get them into me by early in June. Of course, your hard (ha! ha!) working editor always skips the July Issue..

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Included with this month's Newsletter you will find a very informative and encouraging letter from our # 1 member, Ed Richardson.

Also 2 pages referring to Telephone Franks - next month I will include one more page which is xeroxed copies of the circulars mentioned on page 2 of this insertion. This information is courtesy of our member Monty Kelly. The Xeroxing is courtesy of our publication manager Bob Withsosky.

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I have come into possession of two SPECIMEN overprints which I have never seen before. This SPECIMEN overprint seems to be a rubber stamp job, in black, on the 3¢ blue and the 6¢ purple three leaf Excise Stamps.

Once again it is with sadness I report the death of one of our members, # 193, William (Bill) Nabut. A personal friend, a great guy, he has not been collecting stamps for a very long period. Here in the local clubs his passing will be greatly felt. For already his presence and leadership had made a place which will be hard to fill. He really gave of himself in the many local events in which he participated and I am sure we have lost a great leader in Philatelic circles.

Don't forget - June 22 - Willow Grove, Pa.. -Third annual Revenue get to-gether. Of course, there will be a ladies program.
Starts at 9 A. M. with coffee, and Danish.

BUY AND SELL BUY AND SELL

Give your fellow dealers a chance to buy your duplicates
 by selling to ADLES

Wanted: any Canadian Dead Letters (especially with the Officially Sealed
 Labels used, known as 5-1), stampless, prestamp, stamped, or with
 postage used. Pete Wiedemann - Box 264 - Goderich - Ont - Canada.

WANTED: Canada's COLLECTORS - We offer personalized approvals, want list
 service, price list (GA), regular mail sales, with many rare revenues and our
 regular "Newbuns" bulletin. Contact Canada's largest revenue dealer.
 R. van HAM, Box 131, Peterborough, Ont., Canada K9J 6K8

WANTED: Alberta Government Telephone Franks, especially # T3 to T6
 Keith Cooper, 1004 14th Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 3G9.

FOR SALE CANADIAN REVENUES

Do you know that there are many of these common and hard to get
 revenues in the U.S. Circuit Books? Write Jim for a circuit.
 Jim Lebr - 2018 Cheshire Road - Devon - Wilmington - Del. 19810

WANTED - Canadian Liquor Bottle seals wanted, the long narrow ones, and
 particularly Provincial seals. I also want the more common Federal
 liquor stamps and the case stamps.
 G. V. Viller - 5745 Pallisades Rd. - Milwaukee - Wisconsin 53217

WANTED - Manitoba R112 and 114 New Brunswick R24 perf 11
 Newfoundland - 1904 Caribou perf 13.3 - 2.50 mint
 Nova Scotia R26 Ontario R39
 Howard Martin - 4 Timothy Ave. - San Anselmo - Calif. 94960

QUERED REVENUES FOR SALE

| perforations | price | perforations | price |
|------------------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| perf 11 | .10 | Lat 3 | .10 |
| " | .15 | R65 | " |
| " | .10 | R66 cur | .40 |
| " | .15 | R66 gray black | 5.00 |
| " | .10 | R67 | 1.00 |
| " | .15 | R68 | 1.50 |
| " | .15 | R69 | 1.00 |
| perf 11 | .25 | R70 | 5.00 |
| perforations (perf 11) | .15 | R71 | 20.00 |
| " | .25 | R72 | 5.00 |

REVENUE HANDBOOK - PROGRESS REPORT

Just about once a week, some member of the Canadian Revenue Study Group asks us about the current status of the long promised REVENUE HANDBOOK. Hence this report as of April 1, 1974.

As of the moment about two-thirds of the proposed manuscript is ready for the printer, - if it were to go to the printer today. Yet I know that many of these pages will again be revised before they are finally delivered. Just about every other week we are forced to make changes in some portions already completed, - and not just minor bits and pieces, but ~~the~~ whole new pages, sections, etc.

Just a few weeks ago I read where CRSG member Dudley Atwood had shown some Postal Notes Proofs before the New York meeting of the Essay-Proof Society. So off went Xerox copies of the proof section to Atwood, - and WHAM! Back came numerous wonderful glossy-print photos of unrecorded proofs and essays, that made it absolutely necessary to complet^ely revise the proof section on Postal Notes.

Just look what was necessary for us to do to some sections of the catalogue after the prices realized in the Jissons "Phil Little sale". Also some unrecorded proofs showed up there too!

The B. C. Laws were ^{no} sooner completed to reflect some material which had shown up in the "Phil Little" sale, when WHAMO! again, - CRSG member Howard Martin floors me with some terrific photos of some Fifth Issue oddities, - just out of this world material, - so we must revise again.

So it goes, two steps forward, one back, - a slow method of getting anywhere - but progress never-the-less.

However we are still hoping to deliver the entire manuscript completed to Messrs Jissons and Davenport at Williamsburg this coming September.

Right now it looks like approximately 375-380 pages - 400 illustrations - and while it follows the Jissons numbering system, some changes are absolutely necessary in some sections.

There are a number of ways CRSG members can still be of assistance:

1. Write me if you have even ONE item that ^{is} not listed in Jissons Revenue Cat. (Other than Tax Palds - that is not my territory - see Lee Brandom).
2. Write me if you have even one essay or Proof not listed in the Essay Proof Journal. (If you are not certain, - write anyway)
3. If you have a really good specialized collection of any single Federal or Provincial Revenue section or even of a single issue, - write me and volunteer as "section critic". (I'll send you Xerox pages of your section which you then check against your collection for accuracy).

But do this before June 15th, - the earlier the greater you help me.

ED RICHARDSON
P. O. Box 939 League City, Texas, 77573
~~Route 1/45143 - 5143~~ Phone 1/3 713 - 554 3234



Bell Canada

1050 Beaver Hall Hill
Montreal 128, Quebec
Telephone 514 870-2676

May 2, 1973

R. H. Spencer
Historian

Mr. A.W. Cashman,
Company Historian,
Alberta Government Telephones,
P.O. Box 2411, Zone 15,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Cashman:

This is in reply to your request regarding franks, stamps and tokens in making long distance calls.

As early as 1883 there was an exchange of correspondence between C.F. Sise and H.C. Baker re stamps:

C.F. Sise to H.C. Baker, May 11, 1883:

"...We were speaking (when I was in Toronto) about issuing books of stamps for travellers and others. I do not know if people would buy them. They would of course cost much more than any tickets, and unless we could be quite sure that they would be wanted, it would not pay to go to the expense of printing them.

"The Western Union have a stamp of this description which they issued instead of passes. The stamp is similar to an English revenue stamp, and the book is composed of sheets of six stamps. We could sell a book of sixty stamps (10 cents) for five dollars. Would it not be advisable to see some of those firms who make the most use of Trunk Lines, and ascertain their views? We would have to devise some means for identifying the parties as subscribers or non-subscribers, as the rate - or stamp - would be for the lowest rate paid by a subscriber..."

On May 15, 1883 C.F. Sise wrote again to H.C. Baker:

"...In reference to the stamps, I think you are correct as to our original plan. Of course if a person has a 'subscribers ticket' his stamps will pay for twice as much telephoning as the one who has no ticket. I fear however that the system might prove more productive of trouble than

"profit since we would have to carry our unused but sold stamps as a liability, and if parties travelling do not go to our own office to speak, but use any subscribers' telephone, we would have endless misunderstandings in settlements. Still, it is worth looking into. Subscribers' tickets will probably go to you tonight. I hope they will prove useful..."

On December 16th, 1907 a circular was issued to local managers stating:

"The issue of Annual Card Passes covering the use of this Company's Long Distance Lines will be discontinued on and after January 1st, 1908:

The issue of Coupon Franks, for 1908, will be of three classes:

Series A - Personal
" B - Employees
" C - Contract.

These Coupons are only valid for this Company's line charge between points in Canada.

Holders of Coupon Franks are privileged to settle for Long Distance Tolls between points in Canada with such Coupons..."

On August 25th, 1911 another circular was issued called "Employees' Franks" reading as follows:

"A new form of Frank will be issued, on and after the 1st of September which will cover the use of the Company's toll lines by Officials and Employees on the business of the Company. These Franks will be furnished in two styles, 'Limited' and 'Unlimited', bound in book form of fifty Franks to the book.

"The 'Limited' Frank is to be used in payment of a single message when the employee is away from his office.

"The 'Unlimited' Frank is to be used in payment of two or more messages appearing on one toll bill, such as a monthly office bill."

"Franks" or coupons entitling individuals to free long distance calls were issued by the Bell Telephone Company to executives, officers and long term employees. Books of "Franks" were issued each book having a value of \$25. or \$50. and containing 05 cents, 10 cents and 25 cents stamps.

As far as we know tokens were never used in Bell Canada coin boxes. In 1893 small metal boxes were manufactured and installed in Toronto drugstores beside public telephones, the earliest being installed in the store of Joseph R. Lee. These boxes would only take the small five cent coin and a notice on the box read: "This telephone must not be used unless five cents is put in the box. - Bell Telephone Co." The boxes were not connected to the telephone and the operator had no way of knowing whether the subscriber had paid.

In 1899 fifty small coin boxes were manufactured by the Northern Electric & Manufacturing Company. They had a push button which, when depressed, connected the set to the switchboard after the small five cent coin had been deposited. The first installation of this type of coin box was in Montreal on August 14, 1899 in Nicolle's drugstore. Later our coin boxes were purchased from companies in the United States, coins not tokens were used in these.

The Victoria & Esquimault Telephone Company in British Columbia used tokens in their coin boxes as did some companies in the United States.

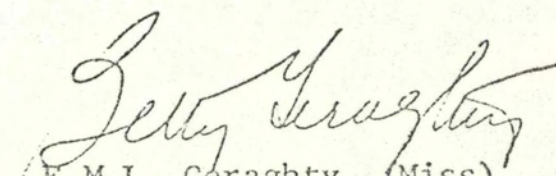
We enclose a copy of the article "A Casual Look At Telephone Tokens" by D.M. Stewart, which appeared in the Canadian Numismatic Journal of August 1964.

In the Telephone Historical Collection are passes issued by Bell for years 1885 - 1907 to Company officials requiring use of Central, Public or Toll office telephones, and message franks from the 1890's to 1959, also some franks of the Kamouraska Telephone Company, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Bell Telephone Company of Buffalo.

I imagine that Bell Canada franks were used out west until our plant there was sold.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,


E.M.L. Geraghty, (Miss)
Assistant Historian.

Encl:
HR/mk