

CANADIAN REVENUE NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Canadian Revenue Study Group of BNAPS

March 1996

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Number 11

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- ☞ New Member: Barry Brown (R5430), Kelowna, B.C.
- ☞ Resignation: W.E. Day, Burlington, Ontario.

ENCLOSURE

Enclosed with this issue is A.E. Hutton Jr.'s *Papermaking & Fluorescent White Dies in Paper*, supplied to the *Newsletter* by dealer Robert Lee of Kelowna, B.C.

THE EDITOR NOTES...

- The Revenue Group needs a speaker for its meeting at BNAPEX'96 in Fort Worth, Texas. Interested parties should contact Fritz Angst.
- Bill Walton has promised to submit the first section of the new tobacco stamp catalogue for publication in the *Newsletter*. Members are asked to take every possible opportunity to remind Bill to submit it in the near future.
- The *Newsletter* needs articles and news items of any length.
- Members may submit ADLETS for free publication.

SUPPORT THE DEALERS WHO SUPPORT US

The dealers listed below support the Revenue Group and *Newsletter*. Why not contact them for your philatelic needs?

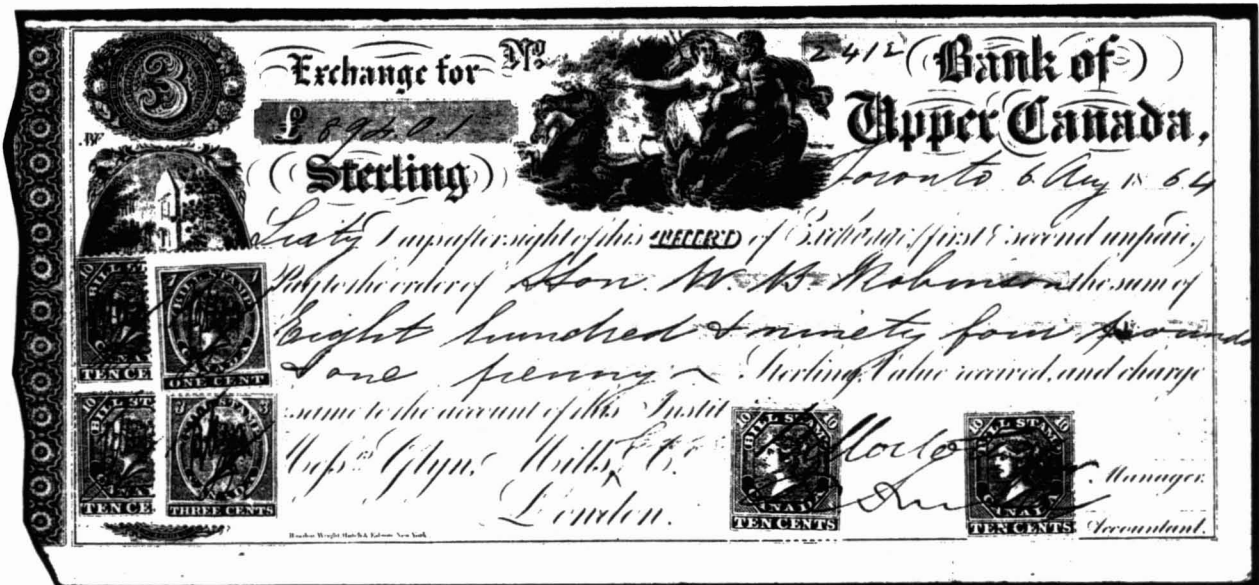
- ☞ Jim A. Hennok Auctions, 185 Queen Street E., Toronto, Ontario, Canada N5A 1S2
- ☞ Robert Lee, 203 — 1139 Sutherland Avenue, Kelowna, B.C., Canada V1Y 5Y2
- ☞ E.S.J. van Dam Ltd., P.O. Box 300, Bridgenorth, Ontario, Canada K0L 1H0
- ☞ Steven Zirinsky, P.O. Box 49, Ansonia Station, New York, New York, U.S.A. 10023

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☞ June 8th to 16th, CAPEX'96, Toronto, Ontario.
- ☞ July 13th, Annual Revenue Group Get-together, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.
- ☞ August 30th to September 1st, BNAPEX'96, Fort Worth, Texas.

EARLY FIRST ISSUE BILL STAMP DOCUMENT

Christopher D. Ryan



Illustrated above is the third part of an August 6th, 1864, bill of exchange for £894.01 (approx. \$4350) issued by the manager and accountant of the Toronto branch of the Bank of Upper Canada. The 1¢ per \$100, or fraction, tax in effect since August 1st is paid by four 10¢ stamps (perf. 12½×12½), one 3¢ stamp (perf. 13½×13½), and one 1¢ stamp (perf. 13½×13½).

This stamping suggests that the Toronto branch of this bank had, by

August 6th, already depleted its initial supply of 20¢, 30¢, and 40¢ bill stamps. These denominations were first distributed by the government on July 27th. The use of the 1¢ and 3¢ stamps was made necessary by the unavailability of 2¢ and, in particular, 4¢ stamps. Initial quantities of these two denominations were not shipped by the government to the Bank of Upper Canada (via its Quebec branch) until August 15th and 29th, respectively.

RAILWAY TIES PRECANCELS ARE PLAYING CARD PRECANCELS

Christopher D. Ryan

For some time now, this writer has believed that the railway ties precancels found on the war and excise tax stamps were applied by an unknown playing card manufacturer or importer. This conclusion stemmed from the observation that these particular precancels are known to appear solely on those denominations of stamps which were commonly affixed to decks of cards. This can be illustrated by a listing of the applicable tax rates along with the stamps currently known to the author with railway ties precancels.

1918	Flat 8¢ rate.
1920	Tiered 15¢, 25¢, 50¢ rates.
1921	Tiered 8¢, 15¢ rates.
1926	Tiered 8¢, 10¢ rates.
1927	Flat 10¢ rate.
1941	Flat 15¢ rate.
1942	Flat 20¢ rate.



Figure 1: War and excise stamps with railway ties precancels.
(Courtesy of E.S.J. van Dam Ltd, reproduced with permission.)

Recently, the stamp illustrated in Figure 2 has come to light. This item is very interesting in that it bears both a black "U.S.P.C. CO." precancel and a railway ties precancel. What is more, careful examination of the stamp by this writer and others found the railway ties to have been applied on top of, and thus subsequent to, the USGCC precancel.

The existence of this twice precancelled stamp confirms the assignment of the railway ties precancels as playing card company precancels — specifically, that of the United States

Playing Card Company. However, this assignment raises the question of why USGCC would have used anonymous precancels in the same time period as its personalized precancels.

One highly probable answer is the past existence of special "stock" brands of non-advertising cards prepared by USGCC for general sale to high volume retail customers. These stock brands were of the same quality as USGCC's regular cards but bore no overt indication of having been made by that company. Instead, the cards bore the name of a fictitious manufacturer such as the "Crescent Playing Card Company". The availability of stock brands permitted large retailers to sell playing cards at a discount without undermining the USGCC name or upsetting the card company's smaller clients. (Hartz, 1989; Hochman, 1990) The use of a tax stamp bearing the standard USGCC precancel on these decks would have destroyed their anonymity. Thus, a similarly anonymous precancel would have been required and was evidently provided by the railway ties precancels.



Figure 2: 25¢ war tax stamp with USGCC and railway ties precancels.

References:

Hartz, R. (1989). "Mystery Deck??", *Clear the Decks*, Vol. 3, #2, p. 9.
Hochman, G. (1990). "Ask Gene Hochman", *Clear the Decks*, Vol. 4, #1, p. 10.

(*Clear the Decks* is the newsletter of 52 PLUS JOKER — the American Antique Deck Collectors Club.)

E.S.J. van Dam Ltd. announces the release of its: *March 1996 Canadian Revenue Stamps, Telephone & Telegraph Franks pricelist.*

This pricelist is based on the most comprehensive Canadian revenue stock in existence and **this particular edition is the largest to date** with more items included than ever before. **Stamps are conveniently priced in Canadian\$, which is a tremendous saving for US buyers who get a 25% discount for payment in US\$.**

Both used and uncancelled revenues are offered. Special discounts apply on large purchases. All stamps are of the highest quality and are covered by our "satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded" guarantee.

Copies of the **March 1996 Canadian revenue stamp pricelist** as well as the **February 1996 Canadian Duck & Wildlife Conservation Stamps pricelist** are available **free** to readers of the *Canadian Revenue Newsletter*.

P.O. Box 300, Bridgenorth, Ontario, Canada, K0L 1H0

A POSSIBLE SECOND DIE TYPE FOR THE 1934 NEW BRUNSWICK PROBATE STAMPS
Fritz Angst

As most collectors are aware, several of the 1934 New Brunswick probate stamps (see illustration) and the subsequent rouletted issue come with either a short (with graphics at either end) or long "Canadian Bank Note Company, Limited" inscription under the bottom frame line of the stamp. It is my observation that some of these stamps also come in two die varieties. Unfortunately, I have not had an opportunity to inspect sufficient quantities (particularly with the higher denominations) to determine if both dies can be found in all denominations.

Although there are several differences which help in identifying the differing dies, the easiest of these to locate is in the floral decoration in the lower left corner of each stamp. In Die I, the circle or loop at the left end of the horizontal connecting bar is clear and unbroken. In Die II, there is an extension of one or more of the lines which make up the connecting bar into the circle, thereby creating a notch. Because of this appearance, I have referred to the dies as Die I - "no notch" and Die II - "notch". Once you spot the difference, it is quite easy to recognize the die varieties.



DIE I

DIE II

At first I assumed that the notched variety (Die II) was simply some sort of plate error created on only one stamp in the sheet. However, after observing multiples of these stamps, I was able to confirm that whole sheets are either Die I or Die II types. Because the rouletted series that follows the perforated series has the "notch" (Die II) in all denominations examined by myself, I have assumed that the "no-notch" (Die I) variety came first.

Below is an itemization of the varieties I have identified to date. Members are encouraged to review their collection for additional findings which I would ask to be reported to the *Newsletter* editor.

10¢		\$2	
- NBP 14a (perf. 12)		- NBP 17 (perf. 12)	
Yellowish paper, short inscription + graphics, regular gum -	Die I	White paper, short inscription + graphics, regular gum -	Die II
- NBP 14 (perf. 12)			
White paper, short inscription + graphics, regular gum -	Die I	\$5	
White paper, short inscription + graphics, regular gum -	Die II	- NBP 18 (perf. 12)	
		Olive, white paper, short inscription + graphics, regular gum -	Die I
20¢		Grey green, white paper, long inscription, PVA gum -	Die II
- NBP 15 (perf. 12)		- NBP 25 (rouletted)	
Yellowish paper, short inscription + graphics, regular gum -	Die II	Grey green, white paper, short inscription + graphics, PVA gum -	Die II
White paper, short inscription + graphics, regular gum -	Die II		
White paper, long inscription, PVA gum -	Die II		
- NBP 22 (rouletted)		\$20	
White paper, long inscription, PVA gum -	Die II	- NBP 19 (perf. 12)	
		Yellowish paper, short inscription + graphics, regular gum -	Die II
50¢		White paper, short inscription + graphics, regular gum -	Die II
- NBP 16 (perf. 12)			
Yellowish paper, short inscription + graphics, regular gum -	Die II	\$100	
White paper, short inscription + graphics, regular gum -	Die II	- NBP 20 (perf. 12)	
White paper, long inscription, regular gum -	Die II	Yellowish paper, short inscription + graphics, regular gum -	Die II
- NBP 23 (rouletted)			
White paper, long inscription, PVA gum -	Die II		

CANCELLATIONS ON ONTARIO TRANSFER TAX STAMPS

Christopher D. Ryan

The cancels applied to Ontario's transfer tax stamps can be divided into two categories: cancels applied by taxpayers and cancels applied by government inspectors. Regulations prescribed the mode of cancellation to be used by taxpayers. However, these requirements were not always followed.

Taxpayers:

The original 1911 regulations specified that *"stamps may be cancelled by writing the word cancelled, the date and the writer's initials or name upon the stamp, or by the use of a perforating machine."*

In August of 1932 new cancellation requirements were introduced. The Treasury Department rulings now provided that stockbrokers, banks, trust companies, and bond dealers were *"to cancel the said stamps by means of a perforator which shall perforate six holes of at least one-eighth of an inch in diameter through each stamp and the document to which same is affixed, or, in the alternative, the perforator may form the word 'cancelled' or the initials of the company, regardless of the dimensions of the perforations..."* These new requirements were taken verbatim from 1931 regulations issued by the federal government in connection with its own transfer tax. Cancellation by means other than a perforator was permitted by the Ontario rulings where important parts of the certificate would have been deleted by the punches. In such cases the agent registering the transfer was allowed to use a rubber-stamp cancel.

Under the 1932 rulings, persons other than those listed above were simply required to *"effectively cancel the said stamps in such a manner as to render them incapable of being used for any other instrument."*

The provision for the use of any cancel other than a perforator was deleted from revised regulations as approved by Order in Council on February 29th, 1940.

Inspectors:

Inspector cancels were applied during audits of company records. As such, these cancels were generally applied some time after the dates of the transfer and stamping of the document. The date at which such a cancel was applied can only be determined in instances where the officer dated and signed his marks. This occurred only once in every *"permanent record examined"* by the inspector.

The interval between the stamping date and the application date of the inspector's cancel was potentially as long as several years. This is illustrated by the following data as derived from stock transfer registers examined by the author:

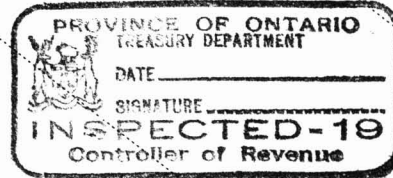
<u>Date Range of Transfers</u>	<u>Date of Inspector's Cancel</u>
7 Sep 1917 to 2 Feb 1926	26 May 1926
16 Mar 1926 to 14 Jan 1930	29 Jan 1930
4 Feb 1927 to 1 Dec 1928	22 Jul 1929

Four designs of inspector cancels are currently known to the author. These are illustrated below in chronological order. The numbers present in the last three designs served as a means of identifying the inspector. Details regarding the period of use for each design remain under investigation. The author would like to hear from anyone with examples signed and dated by inspectors.

Type 1.



Type 2.



Type 3: "INSPECTED" at top, "ONTARIO" at bottom.



Type 4: "SECURITY TRANSFER TAX" at top, "ONTARIO" & name of inspector at bottom.



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