



# CANADIAN REVENUE NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Canadian Revenue Study Group of BNAPS

November 1996

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Number 14

## THE EDITOR NOTES ...

**One** addition to Fritz Angst's listing of the New Brunswick probate stamps has been received. Please check your collection.

A research project requires photocopies of Documents bearing

First Issue Alberta Law Stamps.

Please send them to John Gaudio at:

P.O. Box 280828, Lakewood, CO, USA, 80228

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

New Members:

- ☛ Dave Webber, Brentwood Bay, British Columbia.
- ☛ Les Backus, Belleville, Ontario.

Mail Returned. Please advise the Editor of any known address:

- ☛ P.R. Ford, Vernon, British Columbia.

## FIRST ALBERTA LAW ISSUE

Specialized collector has many to exchange or sell and is interested in purchasing.

Contact:

**John J. Gaudio**

P.O. Box 280828, Lakewood, CO, U.S.A., 80228

## 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

## THE WILLOW GROVE GET-TOGETHER

Despite hurricane Bertha, the July 13th meeting of the Revenue Group at Bill Rockett's place in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, was the usual success. Twenty members and spouses dropped in for all or part of the day. Members attending were: Brock Covington, Jim Hanson, Larry Paige, Bill Rockett, C.A. Stillion, Erling van Dam, Ralph Walther, Bill Walton, Ed Whiting and Mervin Woike. — W.C.R.

## BNAPEX '97 — ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

Due to the very large number of visitors expected in Newfoundland during 1997 — the 500th anniversary of John Cabot's voyage — members planning to attend BNAPEX '97 should make their reservations soon. — F.P.A.

## REVENUE GROUP MEETING AT BNAPEX '96

Twenty-five members of the Revenue Group met on August 30th. at BNAPEX '96 in Fort Worth, Texas. It was a very interesting meeting with material, research and studies that went well beyond the standard catalogue in a variety of widely different subjects.

Chairman **Fritz Angst** began the meeting with an announcement of the official membership total of 127 as of December 31st, 1995. He asked for support in the form of submissions to the *Newsletter* and commented upon the events and exhibits at CAPEX '96 in Toronto this past June. Membership Director **Bill Rockett** then reported on the July Willow Grove Get-together.

**Bill Walton** presented a complete revision of Brandom's listing of the long cigar strip stamps in use from 1868 to about 1882/83. Walton's listing placed the multiple paper, perforation and design varieties of these stamps in their proper chronological order. A number of new, Brandom unlisted, varieties were described and suggestions of varieties yet to be discovered were given.

**John Gaudio** gave a very detailed presentation of the specimen overprints on Alberta's First Issue Law Stamps and discussed their possible origin. As part of his ongoing research into all aspects of the Alberta law stamps, Gaudio canvassed the attendees for any and all examples of the First Issue on document.

(Continued on page 2.)

(Continued from page 1.)

**Fritz Angst** displayed examples of Ontario First Issue Law Stamps having both perforations and roulettes on the very same stamp. He offered some thoughts regarding these unusual items. As a follow-up to his article in the March issue of the *Newsletter*, Angst illustrated the differences in the die varieties found in the 1934 New Brunswick Probate Stamps.

With respect to financing, a total of \$101 was donated by the members in attendance in support of the *Newsletter*.

[Following the meeting, **Bill Walton** received extensive notes from **John Harper** regarding the cigar stamps in his own collection. These notes are expected to further expand the listing with the addition of new varieties. However, the basic sequence of papers, perforations, et cetera will not change.]

— C.D.R. from info. supplied by F.P.A., W.C.W. and J.J.G.

**REVENUE GROUP EXHIBITS AT BNAPEX '96**

Of the eighty-four frames exhibited at BNAPEX '96 in Fort Worth, Texas, the Revenue Study Group was well represented with ten frames. Exhibiting members were **John Gaudio**, **Harry Lussey** and **Bill Rockett**.

**Rockett** displayed his extensive collection of revenues from the New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.

**Gaudio** presented a detailed and comprehensive study of the

plates, overprint settings and colour varieties of Alberta's First Issue Law Stamps. These included a number of significant items not listed in the van Dam catalogue. Gaudio's exhibit contained numerous examples of broken letter and scroll varieties, "kiss" and double prints, perforation varieties, and fraudulent reuse.

**Lussey's** exhibit focused on the Supreme Court Law Stamps. Of particular interest was the wide array of the "IN PRIZE" overprints, including multiples and documents. Lussey commented upon the multiple overprintings of the law stamps and illustrated the relationship amongst the colour, position and relative time of application of the overprints. Estimates were also given as to the quantities produced of the various varieties.

The two key documents in Lussey's display respectively illustrated the first and second overprintings. The first document was a July 1916 writ bearing two of each of the 10¢ and \$1 "Widow Queen" (series of 1897) along with one of the 25¢ "Young Queen." Each of these stamps was overprinted "IN PRIZE" in both purple and red. The second document, from October of 1916, was affixed with a single of all three values of the second overprinting. This second group comprises the 10¢ and \$1 "Widow Queen" overprinted in red across the top and the 25¢ George V (series of 1915) overprinted in red across the serial number.

— C.D.R., from info. supplied by W.C.R., J.J.G. and H.L.

REVENUE REFERENCE BOOKS FOR SALE Title / Description	Price postpaid when ordering from:	
	Canada (CDN \$)	U.S.A. (US \$) *
<b>Final Release of the Seven-Volume Series: *</b>		
Canadian Revenues Volume Seven -- B.C. and Yukon Revenue Stamps and Most Federal Franks, Seals and Labels. April 1994 (184 pages).	24.50	21.50
<b>Previous Volumes still available:</b>		
Canadian Revenues Volume Six -- Ontario and Quebec. April 1993 (160 pages):	23.50	20.50
Canadian Revenues Volume Five -- The Atlantic Provinces. April 1992 (152 pages). Includes Provincial Amusement and Sales Tax Tickets.	23.00	20.00
Canadian Revenues Volume Four -- The Prairie Provinces. April 1991 (176 pages).	23.50	20.50
Canadian Revenues Volume Three -- Federal War and Excise, Customs, Consular Fee, Postal Currency and War Savings Stamps. April 1990 (168 pages).	21.50	18.50
* Volume Seven, the biggest of the series, also contains an update of the latest information known to the author for each of the previous six volumes.		
<b>WANTED</b>		
Correspondence with Revenuers who collect Playing Card and/or Imperial Tobacco Company (i.e., 6-10D) precancels on War or Excise Tax Stamps. Purpose: To buy, sell and trade duplicates, and to possibly identify not-yet-reported varieties. If possible, please send a list of what varieties you have in your collection and what varieties you have as duplicates, and I will reply in kind. Let's fill those holes!		
Order books from or write to <b>Edward Zaluski, 2696 Flannery Drive, Ottawa, On. K1V 8M2</b>		

## THE PRECANCEL OF A BELGIAN PLAYING CARD COMPANY

Christopher D. Ryan

Member **William Gerlach** (a keen collector of playing card precancels) has submitted the excise tax stamp illustrated below. This item is red with the printed precancel "A.V.G." in black capital letters.



Beginning in 1942, the red twenty-cent value of the Three Leaf excise tax series was widely used for the payment of the tax on playing cards. Other significant uses for this stamp were in connection with the *Retail Purchase Tax* applied during the 1940s to a number of "luxury" goods and the *Entertainment Tax* levied during the same period upon the patrons of establishments such as dance halls, nightclubs, and cabarets. A third, less important use was for the tax on the transfer of stocks and bonds. The tax on stocks was generally paid in cash by brokers to stock exchanges which in turn made a weekly bulk payment to the revenue department. Initially, the exchanges affixed stamps to their weekly report of sales; later they paid in cash.

The three taxes just mentioned neither required nor readily lent themselves to the use of precancelled stamps. In addition, the 1950 contract between the government and the British American Bank Note Company specified that the red twenty-cent excise tax stamp was to have "special gum". In a 1964 article William Kuttner indicated that this gum had been employed "to assure proper adhesion under almost any circumstances." Kuttner also commented that "the 20¢ value was used mainly for playing cards, and the colour was changed to red to aid in identification." Therefore, any printed precancel on the red twenty-cent stamp is certainly that of a playing card manufacturer or importer. This would include the "A.V.G." precancel illustrated above.

A search of reference works concerning North American and European playing card manufacturers yielded one probable origin of the "A.V.G." precancel: *Antoine Van Genechten* (A.VanG.) of Turnhout, Belgium. A.VanG. operated from 1856 through 1970 and was one of Belgium's most significant playing card manufacturers. In the absence of a "A.V.G." precancelled stamp on an identifiable wrapper or package it is believed by the author that this precancel is the product of this Belgian company.

A.VanG. was one of two heirs to the printing firm of *Glénisson-Van Genechten* which had been producing playing

cards since 1841. A.VanG. took particular interest in advertising cards and in supplying markets throughout the world. Recipients of this company's cards included Australia, Canada, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Portugal, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, and Vietnam. The company went to great lengths in tailoring its export products so as reflect the culture of each market.

At present, the "A.V.G." precancel is known to Gerlach only on the red twenty-cent Three Leaf excise tax stamp. Both he and the author would very much like to learn of any other stamps bearing this (or a similar) precancel. Gerlach may be contacted at P.O. Box 580, Westerville, Ohio, USA, 43086.

### References:

- Belgium, *Memo from Belgium – Facts and Comments – The Turnhout Playing Card Industry 1826–1976*, Brussels: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1976, pp. 93-107.
- Bond, N.S., *A Catalogue of the Federal Revenue Stamps of Canada from 1 July 1867*, Montreal: Canadian Revenue Society, 1953.
- Canada, Contract with the British American Bank Note Company - 1950, National Archives of Canada, Records of the Department of Finance, RG 19, Volume 556, File 150-5 C&E (1950).
- Kuttner, W.R., *Colors of the Excise Stamps, Series of 1935*, B.N.A. Revenue Newsletter, Volume 3, # 1, May 1964, pp. 2-3.
- Tilman, E., van Autenboer, E., *Turnhout?*, Turnhout, Belgium: Nationaal Museum van de Speelkaart, 1983, pp. 1, 19-23.

**The Newsletter Needs Your Input!  
Your Articles, Long or Short!  
Your Unique, Unusual or Interesting  
Stamps or Documents!  
Additions to Angst's Probate Listing!**

### WANTED TO BUY:

#### Saskatchewan Revenues,

SE1, SE1a, SE4a, SE13a, SE15a,  
SE18a, SE26a, ST10a, ST11a.

Send photocopy with price (specifying Canadian or U.S. \$) before sending stamps.

**Gary McLean**

P.O. Box 8142, St. Paul, MN, U.S.A. 55108

### OFFICERS OF THE REVENUE STUDY GROUP

#### ☞ Chairman and Treasurer:

Fritz Angst, W2200 First National Bank Building, 332 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A., 55101.

#### ☞ Membership Director:

Bill Rockett, 540 Overlook Avenue, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., 19090.

#### ☞ Newsletter Editor:

Chris Ryan, 569 Jane Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6S 4A3.

# PRECANCELLED STAMPS ON DECKS OF PLAYING CARDS

— Part 2 —

Christopher D. Ryan

(Continued from Issue #12, May 1996.)

The following group of decks from the United States Playing Card Company (USPCC) represents the bulk of the playing cards comprising the horde mentioned previously. These cards date from the period of 1918–early 1920s and, with respect to the stamp tax, represent three different rate structures. The assignment of individual decks to specific tax rates was done in view of the entire group and relative wholesale prices as given by a printed wholesale price-list which accompanied a September 1923 letter from the Windsor, Ontario branch of USPCC. This letter and price-list are reproduced in the Appendix along with calculations designed to approximate the manufacturer's sale price. From 1920 to 1927 the rate of the stamp tax was based upon this price.

The Special War Revenue Act of 1918 required the affixing by playing card manufacturers and importers of a stamp (or stamps) to the value of 8 cents for every 54 cards (or fraction thereof) in a deck. The Act did not specify the time of payment for the stamps. However, regulations decreed that manufacturers were to make monthly payments of the tax beginning July 1st, 1918. These payments were to be accompanied by an attested statement of quantities of cards produced and shipped during the preceding month. As security for the monthly payments manufacturers were required to post a bond for the sum of 125% of the estimated maximum monthly tax. In addition, an excise officer was assigned to supervise the daily production and shipments. The privilege of monthly payments was not accorded to importers who thus were required to purchase the stamps upfront.

Beginning with the 1920 introduction of a graduated tax rate based on the manufacturer's selling price the Act specified that the

stamp tax on cards was payable "at the time of sale by the manufacturer." Regulations issued subsequent to this change — the earliest set known to the author is dated 1923 — reduce the posted security to 100% of the estimated monthly tax and make no mention of the monthly payments or excise supervision. However, retention of a security bond made specifically conditional on the payment of the excise tax does imply retention of the monthly payments. In addition, monthly payments were the norm with other, non-stamp, excise taxes.

The decks in this group bear two different types of the USPCC precancel. In the first type (Figure 8) the company name in the second line is all serified capitals. In the second type (Figure 9) the company name is in an unserified typeface. All of the precancels in this group of decks are black in colour.



Figure 8. Type I



Figure 9. Type II

The "6x Hornet" deck in Figure 10 with its gold edges would have been a medium priced item. As such, had it been sold in the 1920-27 period it would have been taxed at a rate greater than 8¢. Thus it appears to originate from the the May 1918 through May 1920 period when a flat 8¢ tax was in effect. The attached stamp bears a Type I precancel.



Figure 10.

The "606 Congress" deck in Figure 11 represents one of USPCC's most expensive products. The attached 50¢ war tax stamp (with inverted Type I precancel) indicates that this deck was sold by the company in the period of May 1920 through May 1921 when the following rates were in place:

Effective May 19th, 1920;

- 25¢ per deck for cards selling for up to \$36 per gross,
- 50¢ per deck for cards selling for more than \$36 per gross.

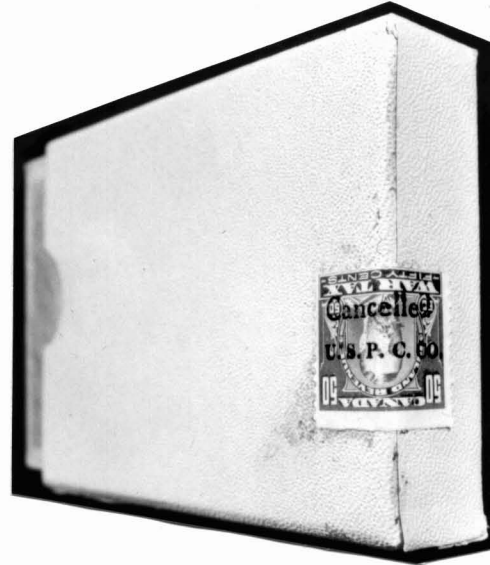
Effective June 17th, 1920;

- 15¢ per deck for cards selling for up to \$24 per gross,
- 25¢ per deck for cards selling for over \$24, up to \$36 per gross,
- 50¢ per deck for cards selling for over \$36 per gross.

The May 19th rates were announced in the May 18th budget speech and, like most Canadian tax changes, immediately put into effect. The June 17th rates were a later modification which alone were embodied in the final statute. While the statute made the new rates technically retroactive to the May 19th, House of Commons Debates and a Canadian Manufacturers' Association publication indicate that no rebates were given.



Figure 11.



As of May 10th, 1921, the stamp tax on playing cards was reduced to 8¢ per deck for cards selling for up to \$24 per gross, and 15¢ per deck for cards selling for over \$24 per gross. Thus both medium and high-priced decks were now subject to the same tax rate of 15¢. This tax structure remained in effect through April 15th, 1926.

Figures 12, 13, and 14 respectively illustrate decks from

USPCC's low, medium, and high-price categories. These represent the 1921 rates and bear the Type I precancel illustrated in Figure 8. The "6 Hornet" deck in Figure 12 could have originated from either the 1921 rates or the pre-May 1920 flat 8¢ tax. This deck probably represents the 1921 rates as it was during the effective period of these rates that the source of the entire group of decks had ceased operations.



Figure 12.





Figure 13.

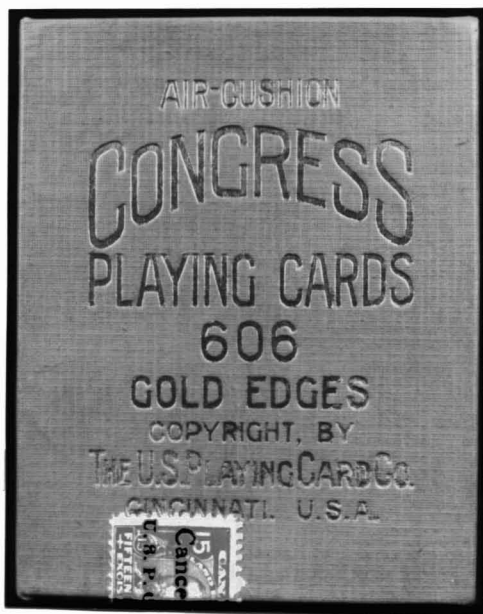


Figure 14.



Figures 15, 16, and 17, like the previous three figures, also represent USPC's three price groups. However, the stamps on these particular decks bear the Type II ("sans-serif") precancel illustrated in Figure 9. The "606 Congress" deck in Figure 17 was manufactured in Windsor, Ontario, unlike the two previous

"Congress" decks which had been imported from the United States. The Windsor-made "Congress" decks would appear to mark an extension of the Canadian production line during the early 1920s.

*(To be continued.)*

Figure 15.



Figure 16.

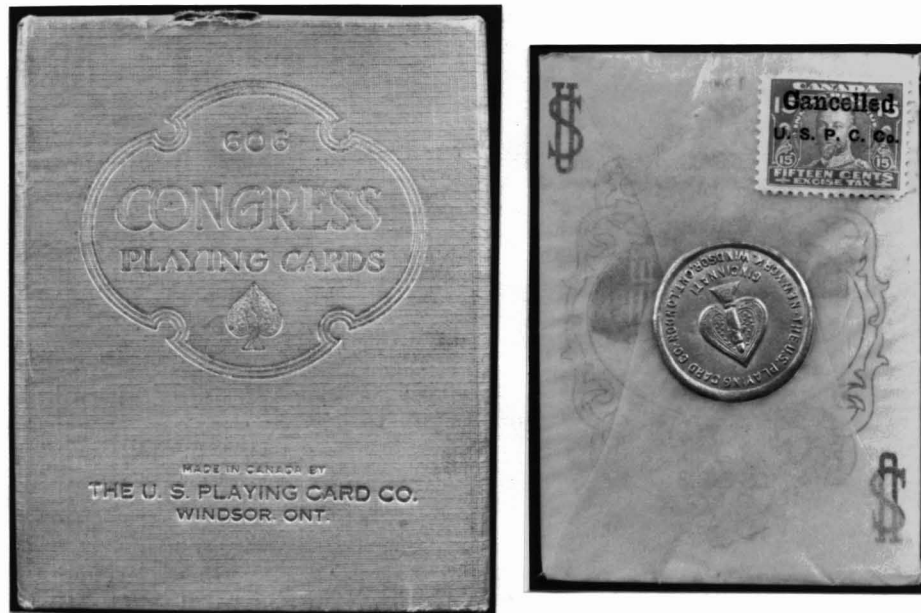


Figure 17.

## APPENDIX

Windsor, Ont. Canada, Sept. 18, 23.

Dear Sirs:-

Answering your kind favor of September 7th would say that we endeavored to explain in our letter of August 25th why the price list was omitted [from the sample book], this being due to the fact that our distribution is through the wholesale trade only. In case however, you desire to place any orders for shipment from our factory, to be charged through any of the wholesale dealers, we will be pleased indeed to give the matter our very best attention and enclose a small slip containing net prices of various grades.

Very truly yours,  
The U.S. Playing Card Company

Brand Names	Quoted Wholesale Price per Dozen	Calculated Values per Gross (144)			
		A Wholesale Price per Gross	B "A" Less an Arbitrary 25% Wholesale Mark-up	C "B" Less 2¼% Sales Tax Levied on Manufacturer's Selling Price	D "C" Less 8¢ per Deck Stamp Tax
999 Steamboat 343 Cadets	\$2.90	\$34.80	\$27.84	\$27.23	\$15.71
6 Hornet	\$3.10	\$37.20	\$29.76	\$29.11	\$17.59
515 Picket	\$3.35	\$40.20	\$32.16	\$31.45	\$19.93
155 Tourists 29 Fauntleroy	\$3.45	\$41.40	\$33.12	\$32.39	\$20.87
					"C" Less 15¢ per Deck Stamp Tax
33 Apollo	\$5.35	\$64.20	\$51.36	\$50.23	\$28.63
45 Texas, 48 Pinochle 133 Columbia Whist 808 Bicycle - margin	\$5.50	\$66.00	\$52.80	\$51.64	\$30.04
516x Picket, 831x Vogue 808 Bicycle - allover	\$5.75	\$69.00	\$55.20	\$53.99	\$32.39
202 Sportsman	\$7.10	\$85.20	\$68.16	\$66.66	\$45.06
303 Army and Navy	\$7.65	\$91.80	\$73.44	\$71.82	\$50.22
68x Nile Fortune 357x Revelation Fortune 606 Congress 606w Congress W	\$9.00	\$108.00	\$86.40	\$84.50	\$62.90

### NOTES:

1- The figures in column "D" represent an *approximation of the manufacturer's selling price*. The tax rates of eight or fifteen cents are those in effect at the time of the price-list.

2- In 1923 a 2¼% sales tax was levied at each of the wholesale and manufacturers' levels. It is not clear from the letter if the quoted prices were inclusive or exclusive of the wholesale sales tax. Thus, it was not used in these calculations. To include the wholesale sales tax in the quoted prices would reduce the price in column "D" by 60 to 71 cents for decks at the 8-cent tax rate and \$1.11 to \$1.86 for decks at the 15-cent tax rate.

3- The choice of a 25% mark-up was arbitrary, representing the approximate midpoint of the possible range of mark-ups. The actual mark-up is unknown to the author. Given the quoted wholesale prices, the 8 and 15-cent tax rates, and, to a lesser extent, the mode of the calculations, the wholesale mark-

up could have been only in the approximate range of 14 to 38 percent. Mark-ups outside of this range are mathematically impossible. For example, a contradiction occurs at higher mark-ups in that the application of the 15-cent tax to the "33 Apollo" brand yields a manufacturer's sale price to which the 8-cent tax would have applied and vice-versa.

4- A Canadian Manufacturers' Association publication dated June 1st, 1927, and a Revenue Department circular dated January 1st, 1935, specifically stated that the stamp tax was to be included in the manufacturer's sale price for the purpose of the sales tax calculation. It is not known to the author if this policy applied in 1923. The above calculations assume that it did apply. Excluding the stamp tax from the sale price would increase the value in column "D" by 25 cents at the 8-cent tax rate and 48 cents at the 15-cent tax rate.