

stamps. At present there are no expensive tobacco stamps of Canada, although recent interest has driven prices upward significantly.

Tobacco stamps can be collected as singles or in sheets. Most have serial numbers on them to maintain records of use. Some have plate numbers and imprints, or coupon receipts that were intended to be torn off once the stamps were used. A great many remainders were held and later sold to collectors when late 19th century stamps were no longer used. These were erroneously labeled as proofs, but are in fact regular stamps that never received serial numbers. Recently a large number of plate proofs on india paper pasted on card have become available from the American Bank Note Company sale of proofs that took place in 1990. A few die proofs exist but they are rare and expensive.

XIX. PHILATELIC LITERATURE

Most specialists soon accumulate articles, catalogues, and books related to their topics. Often, as collecting interests change, the accumulation approaches library size. Some collectors become so interested in the philatelic literature that they specialize in the works themselves. This collecting can greatly aid in understanding a specialty area or an entire field of collecting, but may simply be the collecting bug focused on the literature. A few decades ago, it was at least feasible to assemble a reasonably complete worldwide philatelic literature library, and quite a few comprehensive collections were developed. More recently the sheer volume of books on all the different collecting areas probably prohibits ever again pursuing completeness. Even in BNA philately, the expansion of major reference works from about ten in 1970 to hundreds today requires a significant expenditure, as new works quite commonly command \$100+ each. Nevertheless, a time-tested recommendation is that spending money on a library always pays off, particularly in advanced knowledge that develops a keen eye for rare items not seen by others. We can attest to this personally because many rarities have come our way for the price of the ordinary item because of our libraries.

Libraries typically consist of four elements: books, auction catalogues, articles from philatelic journals, and newspapers. More recently, scans and listings from internet auctions and sites are saved. At the end of this work, we list what we feel is a list of the general works most BNA collectors will find useful. Beyond those, searches of various stamp society websites, such as the BNAPS site, will lead to more specialized works. Also, online searches using good browsers such as Google or a good research library can quickly locate additional works. While many auction companies have BNA stamps for sale, the auction catalogues typically collected are those of companies that specialize in BNA material or who occasionally conduct auctions predominantly or entirely of BNA material. The only current stamp newspaper that emphasizes BNA material is the *Canadian Stamp News*. The majority of specialized research articles will be found in *BNA Topics* (journal of BNAPS), *Maple Leaves* (journal of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain), and the *PHSC Journal* of the Postal History Society of Canada. Addresses of these societies

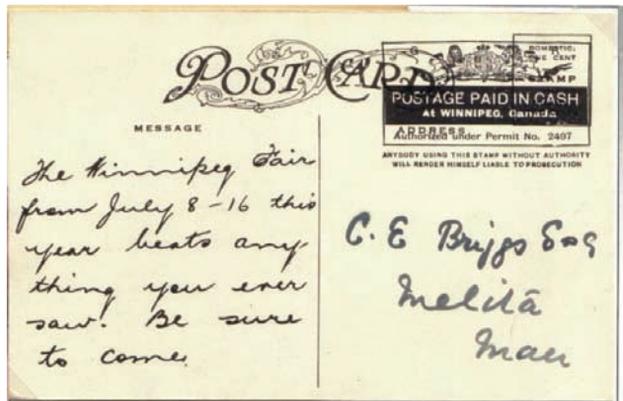
are provided toward the end of this work. Journals of other societies, such as the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the American Philatelic Society, also often include works on BNA collecting, since in both Canada and the U.S. there are many collectors of BNA. Perhaps you the reader already belong to one or both of these.

The internet has already changed the way collecting is done through online auctions and websites. Material that was difficult to find a decade ago now is often seen through these venues. For personal use, it is quite permissible to copy an image from the computer to store it either electronically or in print. Since the image is owned by the person who has established the website (or the image is used by permission of another owner), in general it is not permissible to use that image in any public way without obtaining permission from the owner. The law varies by country, however, and one must verify the permissible usages where one lives. In our own experience, we have seen and documented items that have never before been described, such as new plate flaws in stamps and new destinations and frankings. The discoveries themselves cannot in general be copyrighted since they appear in a public venue, so that they may be described, even though without permission the image cannot be used. We have found most image holders are very generous in permitting use of their image for nonprofit uses.

XX. PERMIT MARKS AND METER CANCELS

Permit Mail

Starting in the year 1903, companies mailing large volumes of advertising and catalogues no longer were required to put stamps on each item. They could print on each cover or card a boxed mark very like a stamp that indicated the town of mailing and the permit number that they were assigned by the Post



Office. The form of this printed marking changed over time, and there is now available a catalogue of these compiled by Dick Staeker. The first permits were rectangular with E and R in the top corners (Edward Rex). The first permits under George V's reign had G and R, but these were later dropped. Permits changed in size and shape over the years but are still in use today on "junk" mail that many people receive. Early permit covers and cards are scarce, and if there is interesting advertising on a cover, it will command a premium.