

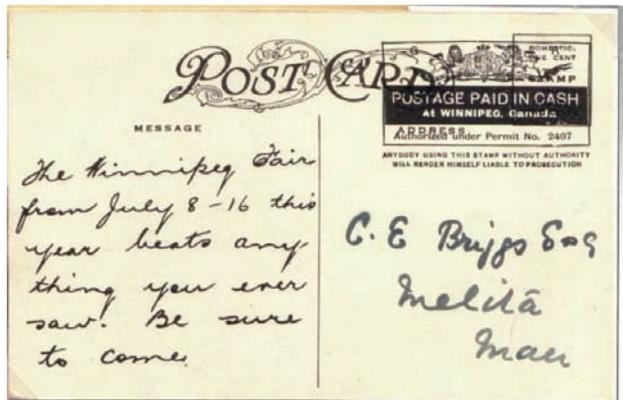
are provided toward the end of this work. Journals of other societies, such as the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the American Philatelic Society, also often include works on BNA collecting, since in both Canada and the U.S. there are many collectors of BNA. Perhaps you the reader already belong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

### Meter Cancels.

Meter machines were developed before WW I but the war delayed their use until the 1920s. Early SPECIMEN and dated examples from Canada can be found with 1923 dates. Pitney-Bowes Co. of the U.S. produced the first meter machines. These were introduced in various cities. With their ease of use for large mailing and good accountability for postage, they



were used by larger companies in the 1920s. Other companies competed for business and different types can be collected to show the varieties used. While never having the interest that stamped mail generates, from a postal history perspective, metered mail shows the same usage, and for modern mail it may be the primary way to show many postal rates. Early metered mail from the 1920s and 1930s to foreign destinations, for example, is quite scarce. Advertising covers and slogans add greatly to their appeal.

## XXI. MAJOR SOCIETIES ASSOCIATED WITH CANADIAN PHILATELY

Stamp collecting and postal history collecting societies are numerous, and many might help you study your specialization. For example, a person who specializes in Canada's involvement in WWII might find advantages in belonging not only to a Canadian society but to any one of the numerous societies dedicated to the study of WWII. Listed below are the four key societies that focus on the stamps and postal history of Canada.

### Canadian-Oriented Philatelic Societies

#### (A) BNAPS (The British North America Philatelic Society)

BNAPS, the sponsor of this book, is a society dedicated to the study of Canadian philately. You can reach them online at [www.BNAPS.org](http://www.BNAPS.org).

Membership carries many privileges:

1. BNAPS produces two quarterly journals. *BNA Topics* is a scholarly publication containing many articles on varied Canadian philatelic subjects. *BNAPortraitS* is a quarterly journal that contains the business issues and news of BNAPS.
2. Regional Group membership allows you to be in regular communication with members close to you geographically. Regions within BNAPS all work a little differently, from one that holds monthly meetings to one