

varieties due to the complex printing process of three colors are sought and collected. There are plate varieties due to re-entry and retouching, including doubling of some areas, as well as imperforate stamps. Design proofs, die proofs, and plate proofs in various states are recorded and collected. Full sheets are still available, although scarce to rare, and blocks can be purchased without great expense. Cancells include squared circles, town cancells, and precancells.

VI. 19TH CENTURY DECIMAL PERIOD: CANADA, NS, NB, PEI, NF, VI & BC

Canada

Stamps were changed from pence to cents on July 1, 1859, with 1¢ (newspapers, printed circulars, and drop letters), 5¢ (domestic, letter rate), 10¢ (U.S. letter rate), 12½¢ (letter rate to the U.K. via Canadian ship), and 17¢ (letter rate to U.K. via New York) issued. In 1864, a 2¢ stamp was issued for soldier's letters and for circulars to the U.K.

Preproduction (Proofs and Essays). A variety of trial color die proofs for all stamps exist in brown, red, blue, green, and black, as do trial color plate proofs and plate proofs in issued color. Some have SPECIMEN overprinted in red or black. One can build an extensive showing of these, but they are not cheap.

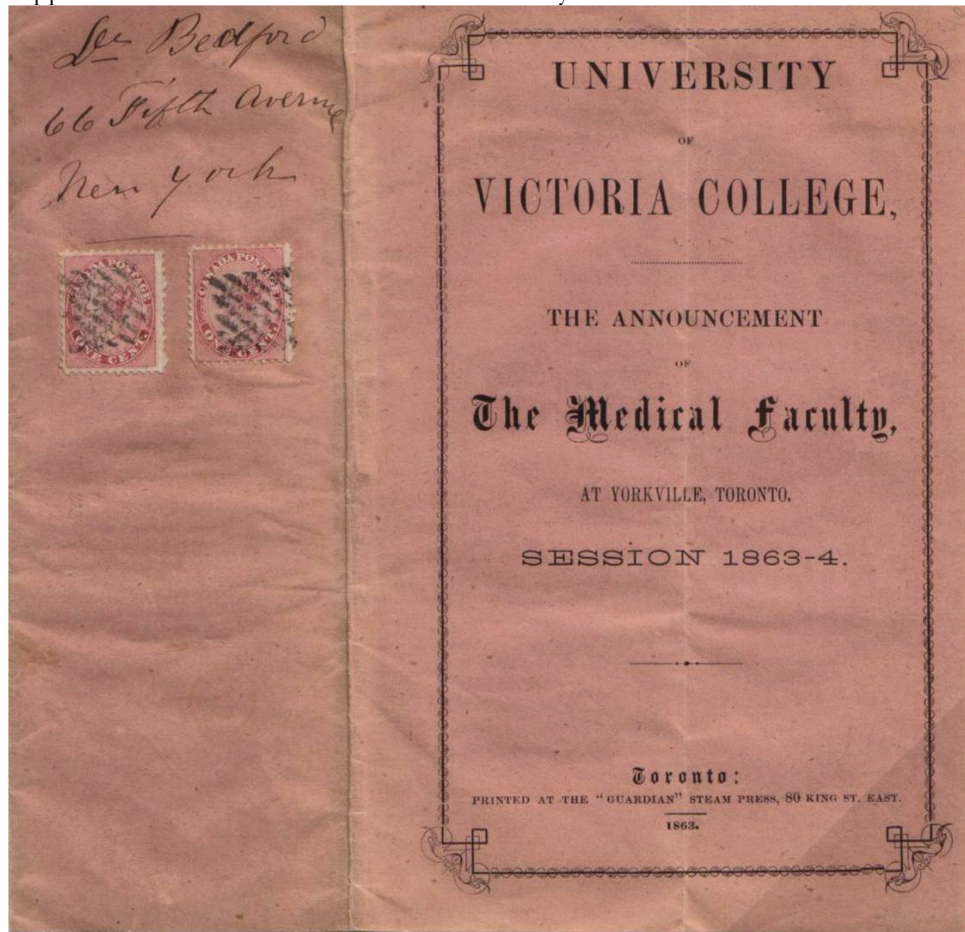
Production (Plating, Errors, Varieties). Several researchers have done extensive plating of these stamps, and they have recorded many plate varieties. These stamps were all perforated about 11¼ to 12 depending on the printing order. Imperforate sheets of all except the 5¢ were issued; the few remaining examples are rare and expensive. The stamps were printed on sheets of 10 x 10 stamps. Mint blocks and multiples are rare and expensive, while used blocks are more common, although scarce. Imprints



of the printer can be found on stamps from all four sides of the sheet. The 2¢ is the most expensive, as about 850,000 were issued, compared to 27.5 million of the 1¢, almost 40 million of the 5¢, 5.7 million of the 10¢, 3.2 million of the 12½¢, and 600,000 of the 17¢. While one might expect the 17¢ to be more costly, apparently many more were saved on mail to England than

the 2¢. Mint copies of the 17¢ are generally tougher to find than any other stamps except the first printing of the 10¢ issued in a black-brown ink. These are often confused with the much more common brown 10¢ stamps, and buying a true 10¢ black-brown should be either accompanied by a certificate or after experience in seeing them.

Cancels: The duplex cancels issued late in the Pence period were commonly used, along with 7-ring cancels. The 4-ring cancels of the late Pence period also continued throughout the Decimal period with the exception of 16, apparently lost before the Decimals were issued, and 48, whose reported single strike is questionable. Town date cancels from the 1840s onward can be found on stamp even though they were supposed to be struck on the cover. A few fancy cancels were created and used but



are rare. Railroads began to use cancels on the cars that carried mail, so RPO (Railway Post Office) cancels are keenly sought.

Rate Studies: Domestic Other BNA Colonies, U.S., U.K., Worldwide Covers. Firby (1984) tallied unusual usages of the Decimal stamps, excluding common usages, listing the domestic, interprovincial (to NS, NB, PEI, NF, and BC), U.S., U.K., and foreign rates. About 135 covers with all frankings are recorded to the U.K., for example, with perhaps 30 from soldiers in Canada, with only 3 paid using the 2¢ stamp. Fewer than 100 covers to all other foreign destinations are known.

Covers to any destination other than the Maritime colonies, U.S., and the U.K. will be expensive to acquire.

Auxiliary Services. Domestic registered letters can be collected. Those to the U.S. are scarce, and to other destinations quite rare.

Nova Scotia

Stamps were issued denominated in cents following currency reform in 1860. The values included 1¢ (printed matter after 1861), 2¢ (drop letters, printed matter before 1862), 5¢ (domestic, and British North America letter rate from Halifax), 8½¢ (Halifax to U.S. prior to May 1862, to Newfoundland before May 1862, both rare), 10¢ (letter rate to U.S. as of May 1862 or double domestic letter rate), and 12½¢ (letter rate to U.K.).

Preproduction. An essay of the 1¢ is reported to exist. There are die proofs in black and a few other colors for all stamps, and also trial color plate proofs, and plate proofs in black and color of issue. Most plate proofs exist with SPECIMEN overprint in red or black.

Production of the stamps by the American Bank Note Company resulted in issue on October 1, 1860 in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) on unwatermarked gummed paper. About 1.1 million 1¢ stamps were issued, 1.5 million of the 2¢, 4 million 5¢, 600,000 8½¢, 1 million 10¢, and 600,000 12½¢ stamps. All were perforated 12 on a white paper, with small printings on toned paper. Since remainders were sold to Stanley Gibbons via Bartlett & King in 1895, unused stamps are more common generally



than properly used stamps. The number of remainders is estimated at 94,000 for 1¢, 2¢, and 8½¢, 47,000 for 10¢, and 23,500 for the 12½¢. Note that the 5¢ was not included, and unused copies are many times more expensive than the others. Bisections of the 1¢, 2¢, 5¢, and 10¢ exist paying part of various rates. All are rare. Stitch watermarks are known on all stamps except the 12½¢.

Cancels. The primary cancellations used on NS decimal stamps are the same as used for the pence issues: an oval with horizontal lines, town cancels, U.S. Boston circular daters from the Halifax packet, and British receiving markings such as the Liverpool packet marks. Atlantic mail boat markings are similarly highly sought.

Rate studies: Domestic, Other BNA Colonies, U.S., U.K., Worldwide Covers. Domestic circulars are scarce to rare, the 2¢ county rate relatively common, 5¢ domestic covers common, the 8½¢ single usage rates very rare and expensive, 10¢ covers to the U.S. relatively common, and 12½¢ covers to England somewhat scarce compared to the others. Multiple rates are generally rare. Other noteworthy covers, all rare, include 15¢ rate covers to California, 17¢ rate covers to the U.K., 23¢ rates to Spain, Malta,

India, Ceylon, and Australia, 25¢ double rate covers to the U.K. (rare), 33¢ to France, and a few higher rates.

The NS stamps could be used after Confederation with Canada until April 1, 1868, so that NS stamps are legitimate Canadian stamps after July 1, 1867. A few can be found on cover along with Canadian Decimal stamps, and these covers command high prices.

Auxiliary Services. Registration of letters was available domestically for 10¢, these being scarce to rare. Bisepts of the 10¢ paying 5¢ of the fee are known.

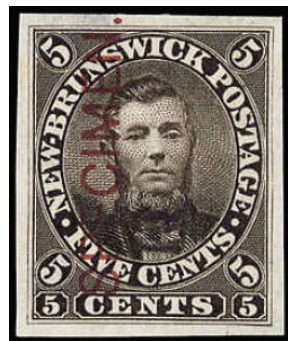
New Brunswick

Stamps were issued denominated in cents following currency reform in 1860. The values included 1¢ (printed matter), 2¢ (drop letters after 1863, books and pamphlets after 1865), 5¢ (domestic, and British North America letter rate), 10¢ (letter rate to U.S., double domestic, letter rate), 12½¢ (letter rate to U.K. via Canadian mail), and 17¢ (letter rate to U.K. via New York).



Preproduction. An essay of the 1¢ is reported to exist. Die proofs in black and a few other colors are known for all stamps, as are trial color plate proofs, and plate proofs in black and color of issue. Most plate proofs exist with SPECIMEN overprint in red or black. One of the great controversies in early stamp production resulted from Postmaster Connell producing a 5¢ stamp with his likeness. Along with a die essay, imperforate proofs were prepared to include SPECIMEN overprints, as were 50,000 stamps on perforated, gummed paper. About 100 stamps were apparently saved by the family, but most were lost in a fire. Perhaps 20 remain, none certifiably ever used.

Production of the stamps by the American Bank Note Company resulted in issuance in late June or early July 1860, in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) on unwatermarked gummed paper. About 600,000 1¢ stamps were issued, 400,000 of the 2¢, 2 million 5¢, 600,000 8½¢, 600,000 10¢, 400,000 12½¢ stamps, and 100,000 17¢ stamps. All were perforated between 11.6 and 12 on a white paper. Early printings of the low values tend to be rare unused. Used stamps of the 1¢, 2¢, and 5¢ are not scarce, and even the higher values are not difficult to find. Unused blocks of four of the 1¢ to 5¢, are uniformly rare, and few larger multiples exist. Larger mint blocks of the higher values are obtainable. Bisepts are known of the 10¢ paying a 5¢ rate. Many fakes exist and are quite good.



Cancels. The primary cancellations used on NB decimal stamps are the same as used for the pence issues: an oval with horizontal lines and numbers between 1 and 31, town cancels, U.S. Boston circular daters from the

Halifax packet, and British receiving markings such as the Liverpool packet marks. Atlantic mail boat markings are similarly highly sought.

Rate Studies: Domestic, Other BNA Colonies, U.S., U.K., Worldwide Covers. Domestic circulars are scarce to rare, the 2¢ is not known used singly. Domestic covers paid with the 5¢ are common, 10¢ covers to the U.S. relatively common, 12½¢ covers to England scarce, and the 17¢ a great rarity, two or three known. A correspondence to Newfoundland to J & W Boyd & Co. resulted in perhaps a dozen 14¢ rate covers paid either with 10¢ + 2 x 2¢ or 10¢ + 4 x 1¢. Multiple rates to anywhere are generally rare. Other noteworthy covers, all rare, include 13¢ rate covers to Newfoundland (before 1864), 15¢ rates to California, 17¢ rates to the U.K., 22¢ rates to the British West Indies, 25¢ double rate covers to the U.K. (rare), 26¢ and 28¢ rates to Newfoundland, 40¢ domestic rate, and a few higher rates.

The NB stamps could be used after Confederation with Canada until April 1, 1868, so that NB stamps are legitimate Canadian stamps after July 1, 1867. A few can be found on cover with Canadian Decimal stamps, and these command high prices.

Auxiliary services. Registration of letters was available domestically at 10¢, such items are scarce to rare. They include bisects of the 10¢ paying 5¢ of the fee.

Prince Edward Island

Stamps were issued in decimal currency January 1, 1872. Denominations included 1¢ (brown) with 300,000 issued, 2¢ (blue) with 100,000, 3¢ (red) with 290,000, 4¢ (yellow) with 200,000, 6¢ (black) with 300,000, and 12¢ (violet) with 200,000 issued. In March 1874 most of these remainders of these stamps were sold after PEI joined Canada in 1873, resulting in relatively inexpensive catalogue values of most mint values. The 2¢ and 3¢ had the fewest remaindered.

Preproduction. One essay of the 3¢ exists. The original plates for the decimal stamps were sold by the printer in bankruptcy, and stamps were printed from them for the



London Philatelic Society. They can be considered die and plate proofs; values included 3 and 12¢ (plate proofs), and 1, 3, 4, and 6¢ (die proofs). Imperforate plate proofs in color and paper of use are known for all values.

Production. Stamps were printed in a 10 x 10 format on poor quality paper using an electrotypes process. The gum was of poor quality, and the stamps were of poor quality overall. For this reason, multiples can be difficult to find or maintain in good condition.

Cancels. These include circular town cancels, rate and PAID handstamps, grid stamp cancels, and a

barred oval with number 13 (Charlottetown). Since the stamps were in use only about a year and a half, cancels are more difficult to find on decimal stamps than on the pence issues generally.

Rare Studies: Domestic, Other BNA Colonies, U.S., U.K., Worldwide Covers. Lehr estimated only about 60 3¢ covers exist, and even fewer of any of the other stamps used singly or in combination due to the short period of usage, a total of under 200 decimal covers of all frankings has been recorded. Only two single uses of the 12¢ and only four of the 2¢ bisected on cover have been recorded, all great rarities. Most of these are domestic, and covers going anywhere else are rare. Covers to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada, U.S. (6¢), and Great Britain (8¢, and 9¢, overpaid), and 12¢, and 24¢ to Argentina are recorded.

Auxiliary Services. Registration was available at 4¢, but examples are rare.

Vancouver Island and British Columbia

Stamps: Decimal currency stamps replaced the two pence stamps in 1865, although the change to decimal currency took place in 1862. A 5¢ stamp in rose (7,200 issued) and 10¢ in blue (7,200 issued) both with “Vancouver Island” as part of the design



were issued. These were followed by overprinted 3d stamps in various denominations.

Preproduction. Trial die color proofs of the 5¢ and 10¢ in black exist, and a die proof in black of the 2¢ on 3d is known.

Production. The first issue was imperforate, and the 5¢ is a great rarity on or off cover. The 10¢ is costly but obtainable. The stamps were then perforated 14, with about 100,000 of each. These were soon followed by overprints of pence stamps never regularly issued first perf 14, then perf 12 ½ (no 2¢) with denominations 2¢

on 3d brown, 5¢ on 3d rose, 10¢ on 3d lilac, rose, 25¢ on 3d orange, 50¢ on 3d violet, and \$1 on 3d green. The 10¢ and \$1 were never issued to the public. Only 4,800 each of the perf 12 ½ stamps were printed, so they are all expensive. The 2¢ perf 14 had over 2.1 million printed, with 244,000 of the 5¢ and 10¢, almost 500,000 of the 25¢, 370,000 of the 50¢, and 118,000 of the \$1. Some stocks (about 1,000) of the 10¢ and \$1 were destroyed. Blocks of four of the 5¢ and of six of the 10¢ perforated exist, as well as mint blocks of the perf 14 overprints. A block of 4 of the 25¢ mint perf 12 ½ is known as well as mint pairs of all overprints.

Stamps overprinted SPECIMEN and CANCELLED are known, intended as reference copies for postal authorities of various countries. Typographed forgeries are known.

Cancels. An oval with POST OFFICE VICTORIA and coat of arms was commonly used, as well as an oval PAID/Post Office Victoria, Vancouver Island cancel. New Westminster and Nanaimo also each had an oval cancel. A set of barred ovals with numbers between 1 and 35 (not all numbers were used) were issued and they can be found on the decimal stamps. The extensive operations of express companies such as Wells Fargo, Bernard's, Dietz & Nelson, etc. produced cancels for these companies that occur on the stamps. Mails that went through San Francisco in this

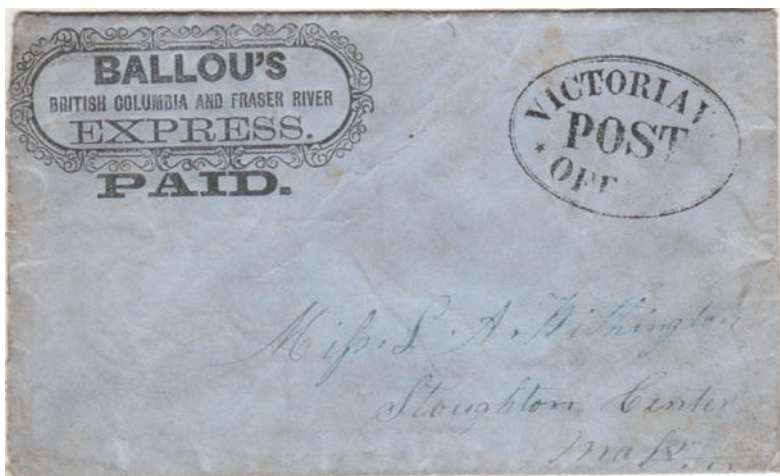
period acquired U.S. cancels as well as British cancels if their letters were addressed to the U.K. or overseas via the U.K.

Rate Studies: Domestic, Other BNA Colonies, U.S., U.K., Worldwide Covers. Almost all covers are expensive for these stamps. In addition to domestic use, covers to the U.S., Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Great Britain are known. Since U.S. stamps were available at the major post offices to pay the U.S. portion of a rate, combination covers with B.C. and U.S. stamps are highly sought and usually they are very expensive.

Auxiliary Services. Registration was available, but registered covers are extremely rare. Express companies forwarded mail to and from gold camps for various fees. Some companies had stamps that were affixed in addition to the colonial postage.

The wonderful collection formed by Gerald Wellburn won many international grand awards showing the stamps and postal history of this area; it is the standard

against which
all collections
are now
judged. A
beautiful
book
showing this
material was
published in
1987 by
Daniel Eaton.
While
expensive, it
can be found
in philatelic
literature dealers' stock or occasionally in auctions.



VII. 19TH CENTURY PENCE PERIOD STAMP ISSUES: CANADA, NS, NB, PEI, NF, VI & BC

Canada

Stamps: Stamps were denominated in pence and the 3d was issued May 1, 1851, a 6d on May 6, and 12d on July 19. The letter rate to Great Britain was 7½d by Canadian packet or 10d via the Cunard Ship Line via New York, thus a 10d stamp was issued December 22, 1854, and a 7½ stamp May 23, 1857. Finally, a new law required newspapers sent by someone other than the publisher be paid by the ½d stamp issued July 24, 1857.



Preproduction (Proofs and Essays). A variety of essays for the 3d stamp were created for the proposed stamp, and all are rare. Only a 3d die proof is known but additional die proofs were