

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

created in the 1860s for all stamps up to that time, widely available in various colors, some with SPECIMEN printed over them. Many versions exist and are fairly easy to acquire, if generally expensive.

Production (Plating, Errors, Varieties). The first stamps were printed on sheets of two 10 x 10 panes, while the latter three values were printed on a single-pane 12 x 10 stamp layout. The paper initially used in the printing process was *laid paper*, and it was soon replaced by *wove paper*. There were many variations in this paper and these varieties are listed and collected.



The ½d, 3d, and 6d were perforated in 1858, and the 6d is much rarer and more expensive than the other two. Forgeries have been made of the 12d for over 100 years; all of them are easy to detect.

Cancels: Stamps were cancelled by ink with a pen, by a hand-held hammer that had a steel head with 7 rings, or other, locally obtained device. In 1860 duplex hammers for many towns were distributed; these had both an obliterating piece and the town name and date on a single hammer to reduce the time needed to cancel the stamp and date the cover. A few homemade specialty cancels, called fancy cancels, are known later in the 1850s. The 4-ring cancels, 54 numbers within 4 rings, were introduced in 1859. See the chapter on cancels for more details. A few railroad cancels were used as mail began to be transported and sorted in mail cars; these are highly sought on cover and stamp.

Rate Studies: Domestic, Other BNA Colonies, U.S., U.K., Worldwide Covers. Firby (1984) estimated that there are fewer than 2,500 total Pence covers surviving. Most of these are 3d single weight domestic covers. All other Pence covers can be expected to be expensive. Foreign rate covers are very expensive and difficult to find except those to the U.S.

Domestic mail one can find in the Pence period includes letters, printed matter and circulars, and newspapers, with one domestic parcel post item (begun in 1859) surviving. Fewer than 150 of such items have survived. Newspapers, circulars, and printed matter to foreign destinations are all rare.

Auxiliary Services (Money Letters, Registration). Letters with money were noted as such early in the Pence period to improve security in transmission, and registration was begun in 1855 for an additional 1d, which was paid in cash since no stamps could make up the rate until the ½d was issued in 1858. Registered and money letters are collectible. Money and registered letters to the U.S. are rare, to other destinations even more so.

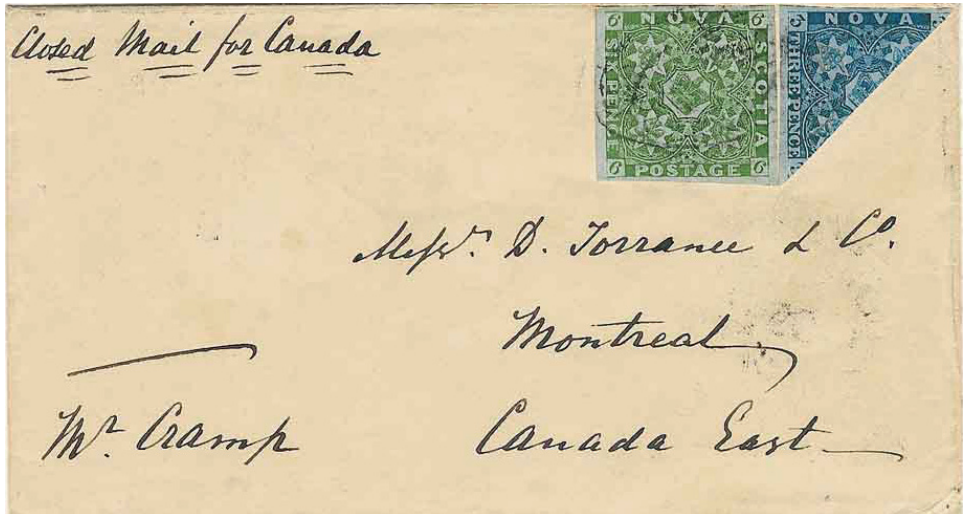
Nova Scotia

Stamps were issued initially in 3d (in blue), 6d (in yellow and dark green), and 1/ (in violet, and the first printing is termed cold-violet) denominations on September 1, 1851, with a 1d following in January 1854.

Preproduction. Trial color die proofs are known for all four pence issues (all very rare), as are trial color plate proofs (rare), and plate proofs in black on card (scarce except for rare 3d). The 6d and 1/ usually have SPECIMEN stamps in large letters across parts of some of them. Reprints were made in 1890 of all values with 800 of each.

Production of the stamps by Perkins Bacon of London was in sheets of 160 (10 x 16) on watermarked wove gummed paper. Only about 12 unused cold-violets are known. All stamps were imperforate. Forgeries have been made of all values, but are all poor imitations. Nevertheless, they are collected.

Cancels. The primary cancellations used on NS pence stamps include 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 highly collectible.



Rate Studies: Domestic, Other BNA Colonies, U.S., U.K., Worldwide Covers. Jephcott, Greene, and Young (1964) and Argenti (1962, 1976) provide a comprehensive coverage of rates for which the pence stamps are known. Other than the 3d used on a domestic cover, almost all pence covers are scarce to rare and generally will be expensive. Since many rates required bisecting stamps to obtain the appropriate rate (approved by the NS post office), covers with such rates are highly sought. Several websites currently available show most of the recorded rates, including the Wilkinson exhibit at the Charles G. Firby Auctions website and the Frederick R. Mayer Foundation website.

Classes of Mail. In addition to letter rates, newspapers and printed matter were mailed, but are rare to nonexistent.

Auxiliary Services. Registration of letters was available domestically at 6d, but such registered items are scarce to rare.

New Brunswick



Stamps were issued initially in 3d (in red), 6d (in yellow), and 1/ (in violet) denominations on Sept. 6, 1851.

Preproduction. Trial color die proofs are known for these pence issues (all very rare), as are trial color plate proofs (rare), and plate proofs in black on card (scarce except for 3d which is rare). The 6d and 1/ usually have SPECIMEN stamps in large letters across parts of some of them. Reprints were made in 1890 of all values with 800 of each.

Production of the stamps by Perkins Bacon of London was done in sheets of 160 (10 x 16) on watermarked wove gummed paper. All stamps were imperforate. Forgeries have been made of all values, but all are poor imitations. Nevertheless, they are collected.

Cancels. The cancellations used on NB pence stamps included a set of barred ovals with numbers between 1 and 31, town cancels, British receiving markings such as the Liverpool packet marks, and Atlantic mail boat markings.

Rate Studies: Domestic, Other BNA Colonies, U.S., U.K., Worldwide Covers. Jephcott, Greene, and Young (1964) and Argenti (1962, 1976) provide a comprehensive coverage of rates for which the pence stamps are known. Many rates required bisecting or even quadrisectioning the 1/ stamp to obtain the appropriate rate, and covers with such rates are highly sought. The lack of a 1d stamp prevented some rates from being constructed, even with bisects. The Wilkinson exhibit at the Charles G. Firby Auctions website shows many examples. Destinations other than to the U.S., New Brunswick, and Great Britain are rare.

Classes of Mail. In addition to letter rates, newspapers and printed matter were mailed, but are rare to nonexistent.

Auxiliary services. Registration of letters was available domestically at 6d, such items being scarce to rare.

Prince Edward Island

Stamps were issued in PEI January 1, 1861. Initially, 2d (rose), 3d (blue), and 6d (yellow green) values were issued, with 1d (orange brown) and 9d (violet) added late in the year. In late 1862 some values were reprinted and a 4d (gray black) value added. Color shades varied with additional printings, and a 4½d (yellow brown) was added in 1870. All were printed by electrotype by Charles Whiting of London, done cheaply and often with varieties on poor quality papers. The 2d first printing included a rouletted variety that is a great rarity.

Preproduction. Die essays of the 3d, 4½d, and 6d are



known, as well as trial color plate proofs of all values except the 9d exist.

Production. Stamps were printed in 30-stamp sheets (60 for the 2d), in a 5 x 6 format. The numbers printed range from about 90,000 of the 6d to 690,000 of the 2d. Of these, significant proportions were sold by the PEI government in 1874 to private dealers. This resulted in low prices for mint stamps since then. Forgeries are known, quite poorly reproducing the already poor images.

Cancel. These include circular town cancels, rate and paid handstamps, grid stamp cancels, and a barred oval with 13 (Charlottetown).

Rate Studies: Domestic, Other BNA Colonies, U.S., U.K., Worldwide Covers. Lehr estimated about 800 pence covers exist. Most of these are domestic, and covers going anywhere else are scarce to rare. Covers to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada, U.S., Great Britain, France, British Guiana, and Burma are recorded.

Auxiliary services. Registration was available, but examples are rare.

Vancouver Island and British Columbia



Stamps were issued for Vancouver Island and British Columbia early in 1860. Initially, a 2½d (rose) was issued for use in both colonies. In 1865 with the joining of the two under the name British Columbia a 3d (blue) was issued. These were the only pence stamps issued.

Preproduction. Progressive die proofs in black, die proofs in red, and plate proofs in red of the 2½d exist, and trial and as-issued die proofs in black, red, green, brown, buff, and blue of the 3d are known, as well as a probable plate proof in blue. A reprint of the 2½d was made in 1862 in a single sheet for the International Exhibition in London in bright orange rose.

Production. The 2½d was printed in 4-pane sheets of 60 stamps in a 10 x 6 format. About 230,000 were printed. The over 1.1 million of the 3d were printed, but over 850,000 were destroyed, leaving about 250,000 probably issued. The 2½d is known unused with blocks of 18, 26, 12, 6, and a number of blocks of 4. A used block of 8 is recorded. The 3d was almost always cut into strips, and only one block of 4 is recorded used. Mint blocks of the 3d are scarce, and a block of 20 is known. Lithographed forgeries are known.

Cancels. An oval with POST OFFICE VICTORIA and coat of arms was commonly used, as well as an oval Post Office Victoria Vancouver Island cancel. New Westminster and



Nanaimo also had an oval cancel. A set of barred ovals with numbers between 1 and 35 (not all numbers used) were issued and some can be found

on both pence 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. Since almost all mails went through San Francisco in this period, there can be U.S. cancels as well as British cancels.

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 all foreign destinations required transit through the U.S., arrangements were made to have U.S. postage stamps available in the major post offices to pay the U.S. portions of the fees. This continued until postal agreements with the U.S. no longer required



them. An example is shown above.

Auxiliary services. Registration was available but covers are very 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.

VIII. FRENCH AND BRITISH PERIOD PHILATELY (1685–1851)

British North America (Lower and Upper Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island)

This period is entirely stampless for both internal and outbound mail (no Canadian stamps were issued until 1851). As such, the focus of collectors is on postmarks, rates, and routes. The collection of stampless covers—also termed ‘folded letters’—was not popular until postal history became a major area of research a few decades ago. Now the scarcer stampless covers are quite expensive, depending on their postmarks, mail routes, contents, and signatures.

French Period Philately, 18th Century

There are a few available covers between 1685 and 1760 that show delivery between Quebec and Montreal or from either to France. These are expensive and very hard to obtain.

British Period Philately, 1763–1851

There is little available material to collect prior to 1800. The first part of the period was devoted to consolidation of British mails, with Benjamin Franklin as the first postmaster of all BNA colonies. The American Revolution severely restricted mails between the BNA colonies and Great Britain. The latter part of the 18th century was devoted to consolidation and development of the BNA colonies. Again, relatively little material is available. By 1800, things settled down a bit, and more mail flowed as commerce was developed, but the 1812–1815 war between the United States and Great Britain again interrupted shipping and communication. Some interesting rates are found, and collectors and authors such as Allan Steinhart and Jack Arnell have documented this period through to the years when Canada and the other Maritime colonies took over their own postal systems in the early 1850s. Also, several collectors, notably Dorothy Sanderson and Dr. John Robertson, have studied the postal history between Canada and the U.S. Collecting in this period, given the absence of stamps, tends to focus on postal history. Domestic, cross-border to the U.S., interprovincial mails among the BNA colonies, and mail to other countries prior to 1851 (and even well into the Pence issue) is so limited that it is difficult to do anything other than find an example or two. Steinhart had the most extensive showing of such material; his collection was sold in Europe a few years ago. Some collectors focus on only mail from or to one of the colonies. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island all have their own separate histories around which there have been notable collections. Shown below is a stampless cover from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, to Edinburgh, Scotland, sent in 1803 and believed by Steinhart to be the earliest cover from PEI to