

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

another country. This cover illustrates several features that collectors of this period focus on: the rate due in Scotland of 3/9 (3 shillings ninepence), a London (UK) receiver, manuscript inside from “St. John’s Island” (the earlier name for PEI), and a docketed receiving date of June 28. This cover was sent via a private ship, and the captain received 1d as a carriage fee.

*Postmarks.* Each colony began to use various postmarks. Some are *straight-line cancels*, with the name and colony abbreviation in a single line. Some have a date below. Also, *circular cancels* began to be used with the date in the middle of circular town and colony names. Quebec used so-called *Bishop’s marks*, which emulated English postmarks. These are circular, with Quebec forming the circle, some with circular lines outside and inside, at least one with no lines, and a date in the middle. Mail traveling by ship to and from England was often marked with *ship letter postmarks*. These are found as ovals, straight-lines, and various multi-line configurations. Legislatures in both Upper and Lower Canada began using postmarks in 1849, and these can be found on covers, including postage-free, called free-franked, material



sent from the legislatures when they were sitting. After 1800, more towns began to use straight-line marks and double-line circular cancels with the town name between two concentric circles. These are much easier to obtain and collect, many

found in the 1830s and 1840s into the 1850s, until the colonies began to use new canceling devices and daters. As commerce increased, the need to send valuables led to *Money Letter postmarks* that indicated enclosed currency.

*Rates and Routes.* The study of rates in the 1800–1851 period is complex, with distance and number of sheets determining the rates. Domestic mail in each colony is certainly collectible, with money letters providing additional variations. Cross-border mail with the U.S. is a popular focus for both collectors of Canada and U.S. material. Various towns were designated as customs and mail exchange points and have associated cancels that are collected as routes. Foreign mail is uniformly rare from all the BNA colonies except to England or Scotland. Covers to France and Portugal are next most likely to be found, followed by various European countries. Mail to any other continent is so rare that only single examples to many countries are recorded. The North American war of 1812–1815 and somewhat after provides an interesting challenge to find various special rates due to blockading and

currency inflation. With the introduction of steamships in the late 1830s, a collector can find trans-Atlantic mail carried by early steamships. River steamboats also had mail clerks for Canada, and steamboat mail is very collectible in the late 1840s into the 1850s.

## IX. 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY NEWFOUNDLAND

“Newfoundland was a self-governing Dominion of the British Empire from 1855–1933, when it became a Crown Colony. In 1949 it united with Canada.” – *Scott Classic Stamp Catalogue, 2007*.

Newfoundland issued almost 300 postage stamps while a Dominion and Crown Colony, 30 pieces of postal stationery, and almost 75 revenue stamps. Because of that, it provides collecting opportunities for general collectors as well as material for specialists or topical collectors. It attracts those who collect definitive or commemorative stamps, airmail stamps, postal stationery, revenues, varieties, postal history/rates, as well as those just fond of stamps from the earlier years of philately. There are no “wallet-busters” in Newfoundland’s 20<sup>th</sup> century issues except for several very rare airmails.

### The Pence Issues (1857–1865)

“In 1856 the British Government authorized the issue of Newfoundland postage stamps, which were placed on sale from 1 January 1857. Stamps were slow to become popular and many continued to send letters unpaid, the recipient paying upon delivery...” – Colin Lewis, BNAPS Exhibit Series #42.

The 1857 emanations were imperforate in nine values from 1d to 1s, in various shades of brownish claret and scarlet vermilion. The 3d issue was a triangle—the only 19<sup>th</sup> century BNA triangle—in yellow green. A second printing in 1860 was of just five of the values, from the 2d to 1s in orange or Venetian red. The last printing in 1861 had all the values again, in violet brown, rose lake, and green for the 3d triangle. Common rates were 3d for local and inland (colonial) letters, and 6d for mail to Great Britain.



The stamps were recess-printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co. (London) in various sheet formats, from as few as 20 stamps (5 x 4) to as many as 120 (12 x 10). Some of the stamps in the last two sets are watermarked STACEY WISE 1858 and copies showing the watermark sell for a premium. Essays of the 3d, 6d, and 1s were produced followed by plate proofs of all stamps. These were in black. Proofs in bright colors are Perkins Bacon trade sample sheets from 1902 onward. These are also fervently collected by specialists.

Quantities issued of some of the pence issue are quite low, especially the 1s stamps of the first two printings (only 1,000 of Scott #15, for example), making