



BNA TOPICS

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CANADA

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15	35.00	45A, B	15.00	82	15.00
17, A, B	125.00	46	25.00	83	17.50
18, A, B	60.00	47	30.00	84	40.00
19, A	125.00	50/65	1,000.00	87	1.25
20, A	60.00	50	8.00	88	1.25
22, B	45.00	55	20.00	89/95	150.00
23	125.00	58	15.00	93	20.00
23A	100.00	59	17.50	94	50.00
24, B	40.00	60	20.00	95	75.00
25, B	90.00	61	75.00	96/103	80.00
27, A	125.00	62	200.00	99	7.50
28, B	37.50	63	225.00	100	12.50
29, B	45.00	64	225.00	101	12.50
29e	90.00	65	200.00	102	20.00
35A (Mont)	20.00	66/73	42.50	103	22.50
37	10.00	67	1.00	104/22	60.00
37A	50.00	68	1.00	113 Sage green	30.00
38	25.00	69	1.50	158	12.50
39	20.00	70	6.00	159	25.00
40	40.00	71	6.00	176	17.50
40A, B	45.00	72	8.00	177	15.00
35d	25.00	73	17.50	E1	7.50
36e	35.00	74/84	100.00	F1A	10.00
37e	25.00	75	1.00	F1B	20.00
38A	85.00	76	1.00	F2	10.00
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40c	110.00	77A	4.00	F3	60.00
41A	40.00	79	10.00	MR3A	17.50
		80	7.00		

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BNA TOPICS



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Toronto Branch and Street Post Offices

by Dr. Fred G. Stulberg

(reprinted by permission of the author and the American Philatelic Congress)



Early type of duplex cancellation (single ring) mentioned in last month's article.

From this point to the turn of the century, approximately fifteen more offices became part of the Toronto System, either as newly established ones or as former suburban ones that, because of urban growth, found themselves within Toronto's boundaries. It should be mentioned that the statistical information for these was obtained from old postal guides, and by assuming that the post office was established one year prior to the date of the postal guide in which it was first mentioned. In the few cases of obvious contradiction, the date of the earliest known strike is assumed to be correct. It should also be mentioned that as a rule, with exceptions of course, newly established post offices had the name and "TORONTO" in their daters whereas former suburban offices tended towards "ONT." (Ontario), which was provincial designation, even into the twentieth century.

In 1888 the Peter Street Post Office was established at Queen Street West and Peter Street (central section), with J. L. Bird as postmaster. The next year saw no new

post offices, but did find Edward H. Boddy taking over from W. C. Price as postmaster of the Queen Street East Post Office. Also, this same year the spelling of Bleeker Street and Carleton Street were changed. The former became Bleeker with the addition of "c", and postal devices immediately reflected this change except for the Bleeker Street error squared circle, which, for a short period in 1895, showed the older spelling but was almost immediately replaced. The dropping of the "e" for Carleton did not show up in postal devices until almost ten years later. However the highlight of that year was the incorporation of two suburban offices into the Toronto system — Yorkville and Parkdale.

Yorkville was first established as a post office in 1851, about one mile north of the city limits on Yonge Street. By 1880 it was a short block outside the northern boundary, and by 1889 it was within the city limits. A similar situation existed with Parkdale, which was established in 1878 a short distance beyond the western city limits at Queen Street West just west of



A rare "Toronto East" card, with the branch office appearing on both dater and killer.

Dufferin Street. It is interesting to note, that although these two post offices became part of Toronto in 1889 and postal devices reflect this change, they are not listed in the postal guides until 1896 and 1898 respectively.

The last decade of the century started with the establishment of three more post offices. The Bloor Street Post Office was set up at Bloor and Bathurst Streets, (northwest section), with Wm. Gilpin as postmaster; Rusholme Road Post Office at Bloor Street and Rusholme Road, (northwest

section), with Seth B. Stevenson as postmaster; Brockton Post Office at Brock and Dundas Streets, (west section), with J. R. Hill as postmaster. Actually the Brockton Post Office started as Lippincott in 1855 changing to Brockton in 1866, and becoming part of Toronto in 1890.

In 1891, Wm. H. Boddy took over from Edward H. Boddy as postmaster of the Queen Street East Post Office with no change of location. Parliament Street Post Office was established at Parliament Street and Gerrard Street (northeast section), with

Another cancellation, with branch given on dater only. These date from 1882.



H. J. Bourne as postmaster. The following year saw continued expansion with the formation of Gerrard Street Post Office at Yonge and Gerrard Streets, (north central section), with R. W. Boyle as postmaster; Strachan Avenue Post Office at Queen Street West and Strachan Avenue, (west section), with Wm. Calhoun as postmaster; Toronto Junction Post Office at Dundas Street West at Keele Street, (northwest section), with J. S. Kirkwood as postmaster. Toronto Junction was formerly West Toronto Junction, which was established as a suburban post office 1884. Although the name of the post office was changed in 1892, postal devices did not show the change until the following year.

The year 1893 proved to be a busy year. The Carl(e)ton Street Post Office was closed down and a new one called "St. Joseph Street" was opened a block away at St. Joseph and Yonge Street, with H. P. Withers as postmaster. Albert Hudgin of the Dundas Street Post Office relinquished his position to R. Skidmore, only to take it back again the next year. The eastern end of the city finally made a move with the establishment of the Broadview Avenue Post Office at Broadview Avenue and Gerrard Street (northeast section), with C. Sneath as postmaster, and also with Riverside Branch (often in error called Riverside Beach because of B'ch in the dater), at Queen Street East and Broadview Avenue, (eastern section), with C. A. Welsman as postmaster. This post office was actually founded in 1874 as "Don Mount", and changed to "Riverside" in 1881, from which time it remained as a suburban office until it was incorporated into the Toronto system. As though this was not enough for one year, three more post offices were set up. There was the Clinton Street Post

Office at College and Clinton Streets, (west central section), with P. L. Boswell as postmaster; the North Toronto Post Office on Yonge Street about 1½ miles north of the Yorkville Post Office, with W. J. Cook as postmaster; and the York Street Post Office at King and York Streets, (downtown section), with F. W. Ney as postmaster.

From 1893 to the turn of the century, post office activity was kept to a minimum, although something happened each year. In 1894 the Gerrard Street Post Office closed and the Elm Street Post Office opened one block south on Yonge Street, with R. W. Boyle remaining as postmaster. In the meantime S. Armstrong took over from P. L. Boswell at Clinton Street. In 1895 two postmaster changes took place: C. H. Coven at Parliament Street, and W. J. King at Strachan Avenue. The following year was another for the eastern section of town, with the establishment of the Pape Avenue Post Office at Queen St. East and Pape (a few miles east of Riverside), with W. H. Morgan as postmaster; and the Lee Avenue Post Office at Queen Street East and Lee (a few miles east of Pape), with A. S. Smith as postmaster. The postal marks from these two post offices are likely the rarest of all Toronto street post offices for several reasons. First, most of all the land in this area was still farmland (Pape Avenue) or summer cottages (Lee Avenue). Second, by the time the permanent population of these areas reached a respectable number at the turn of the century, the street post offices started to lose their right to handle regular mail, and were allowed to date registered mail only. Thus, as the century grew to an end, an entirely new system had made its appearance.

(To be concluded in next issue)

BNAPEX '70 OCTOBER 8-11

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The Expo Queens

by Hans Reiche



Once again we took a look at our junk box (not Admirals this time) and came up with a few facts. Our search indicates once more that you do not have to spend much money and that almost any new issue can produce new information and a good hunting ground. All you need is patience, an open ear for any rumors, an eagle eye into all post office waste paper baskets (there are only 120 here in Ottawa), a wish to correspond with about 50 collectors (about 10 letters a day) and a gift of the gab to fill up valuable space in *Topics*.

The stamps were issued for the centennial year in 1967 and here we will discuss only the lower denominations from 1c to 6c.

Paper: The continuous effort and research into better and more effective mail sorting methods has resulted in experimental changes to papers used and the treatment of them. Many of these stamps can be found on an ordinary paper, a paper which appears white under the UV light, a paper which is phosphorescent, and a paper which was tagged after printing for use in the Sefacan sorting machine. Because of these various papers the 6c, as an example, can be found exhibiting a brown, red-brown, bright-orange and a dull-orange reflection under the UV light. It would go too far to list all these varieties in this rather general type of article but a number of collectors are hard at work identifying all the papers. Collectors should be cautioned not to expose themselves unnecessarily long to the UV light, direct or indirect; not to wash the various stamps together because of partial contamination which makes sorting in some cases very difficult; and not to use mint stamps and view them from the gummed side, because the gum has its own peculiar UV reflectivity.

Shades: Probably the most pronounced variety can be found in the regular 5c. Two distinct shades can be found, the early light blue shade and the later almost indigo shade. The other values exist in a minor range of shades.

Dies: There appeared to be a new die on some values, but this has been proven incorrect; only a single die exists for each value. The differences which were noted on such stamps as the 1c, 4c and 5c values stem from the fact that certain stamps, booklets and coils were printed by two different machines. The new continuous web-fed press may actually require a differently designed die to do full justice to the high speed printing process. We believe consideration was given by the printing companies to change the dies for printing plates used with this machine but apparently cost ruled this out. The design which is not as clear and sharp can therefore be associated with this type of printing rather than with a change of the die.

Varieties: A number of interesting varieties can be recorded. The early printings of the 6c have an extended frame line at the bottom right. The extension is from 0.25 to 0.5 mm. long. Many of the regular and coil stamps, especially the 5c, show what are called hairlines. Usually hairlines are caused by chrome-surface cracks but in these cases the cause is a scratching damage to the plate by a new doppler blade wiping mechanism. The 3c coil was found with a nice offset on the face which developed from the wax tissue blanket. The printing ink takes many days to dry com-

pletely although every effort is made to heat-dry the printed stamps. A combination booklet pane 5 x 4c plus 5 x 1c was shown to the writer with one of the 1c stamps printed partially in red and brown. This is not a smudge or the use of a wrong color. It is believed that a certain amount of red ink (first printing) was transferred onto the cylinder of the brown 1c (second printing). When this cylinder was inked for printing the brown stamps, some parts of the design were already inked in red and so did not accept any new brown ink. Therefore the red-inked portion printed this part in red and the rest in brown. The 5c booklet of 20 stamps exists with a part of a counter-number in black in the top margin.

Perforations: In one of our recent columns we said that the new perforation is 12 x 12 compared to 10 x 10 in the 6c. We

simply copied the information from the Lyman catalogue, not realizing that this data was incorrect. In fact, the perforations are 12½ x 12. (Sorry for this difference of 0.08 mm. perforation.) The 6c coil was found in strips of 13 and 6, imperforated; many of them got out. The same coil can also be found with a double perforation. The 6c roll of 100 stamps show small paper tabs on the sides of certain subjects. These stem from the remains of the break-away arrangement on the complete 10 rolls before separation into single rolls. A rather astonishing misperforation and miscut exists on the 6c booklet that sells for \$1.50. The normal top row of these booklets consists of two labels and a 6c stamp to the right of the labels. The variety shows a single label, then a 6c stamp and again another label. This indicates that the sheet was miscut by one vertical row.

A philatelic and postal history of NEWFOUNDLAND

a continuing series by Brien C. Damien

A great fire destroyed much of St. John's in November of 1817—among the 150 frame structures destroyed were Solomon's Watch Shop and post office. The devastating holocaust was of such a proportion that recovery took months. Seven weeks after losing his shop, Solomon had things well enough under control so that he could issue this notice:

"The subscriber begs leave to inform the public that he has taken the shop lately occupied by Mr. Thomas Phipard, Watch Maker, where all matters relevant to the post office will for the present be transacted. Simon Solomon, Post Master, who after a residence of upwards of twenty-five years in this town, had the misfortune of being burnt out on the eventful 7th of November last, by which he lost the fruits of his industry since his first coming here. He also intends carrying on his business of Clock and Watch Maker in the above shop, and solicits the commands of a generous public in that line, assuring them nothing on his part shall be wanting to give gen-

eral satisfaction to those who may favor him with their custom."

From this we can surmise that the gap between Solomon and his postal customers was finally bridged, because the post office took precedence in the notice while other activities were relegated to a "second-billing." Solomon, it appears, did not initially survive the effects of the fire, for he was declared insolvent within six months. A member of the Newfoundland Historical Society called Solomon "dictatorial" in a 1940 report; some postal customers might have observed Solomon's traits as punishment for mistreating them. Simon Solomon survived to later reopen his business, bigger and better than ever.

Solomon was perhaps a better watch and clock maker than postmaster. Two of his timepieces still are in existence, in working condition—a grandfather clock owned by Newfoundland Premier Joseph R. Smallwood, and a turnip watch owned by Mr. Nimshi C. Crewe, formerly of the Provincial Archives and now retired.

Aside from the fact that very little is known about the first postal buildings themselves, we do know that they were probably located in the general area of Water Street.

Again in 1826 the post office was raised in status—this time it was moved to a prominent spot inside Solomon's shop, Solomon sacrificing part of his business as a merchant, public accountant, chemist, and administrator of estates. In addition, Governor Sir Thomas Cochrane addressed a request to the General Post Office in London that year, asking that regular mail transmissions be initiated between St. John's and London. It fell upon deaf ears.

It appears that as time progressed, Solomon grew to be more popular despite his dictatorial manner. Years later, after William Lemon Solomon, his son, had become postmaster, the younger Solomon wrote a court official that "should you at any time feel aggrieved by any improper charge made by the officers of this department, that you will not allow the respect entertained by you for my father prevent your taking such action in the matter as you deem advisable."

Simon Solomon, after a continuous service of over thirty years, "Died on Sunday morning last, aged 72 years, deeply regretted by his family and friends. His fun-

eral will take place on Thursday next, at 2 o'clock, from his late residence in Water Street. Tuesday, 10 December 1839."

Solomon was a pioneer on the island which would later become a proud though small country and eventually a Canadian province. His service, despite other activities, low wages, and grave personal financial difficulties, cannot be mildly passed over. From the foundation laid by Simon Solomon grew a large, technologically advanced, and efficient branch of the vast Canada Post Office system, one of the largest in the world.

Upon Simon Solomon's death, his son William Lemon Solomon took full charge of the post office, although unofficially, as it had been in the years of his father's illness. He eventually received the appointment, which brought him a salary of £100 per annum plus commission from newspaper and letter postage amounting to roughly £35 annually. The practice of the postmaster receiving a "cut" of postal revenues was continued, despite a new, more formal association with the General Post Office in London. The much-abused postal officials in Newfoundland and other North American colonies were glad to get whatever they could in this line, in addition to a fixed salary.



Canadian Patriotics

Patriotic Card Study Group — Clarence A. Westhaver

7 Spafford Road, Milton, Mass. 02186

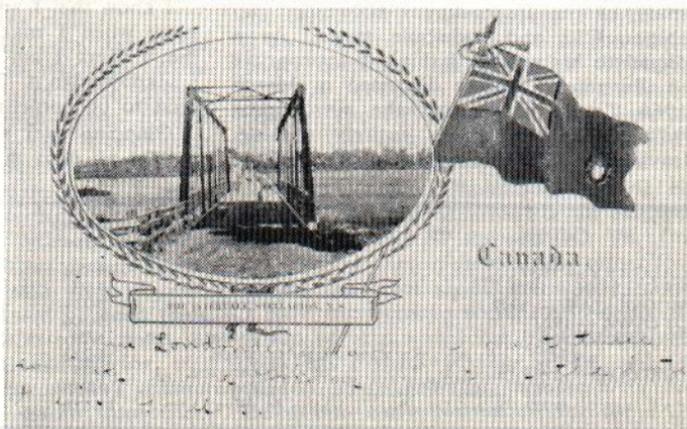
Water Views No. 11
The overall background of the card is white. "Canada" is in light blue.

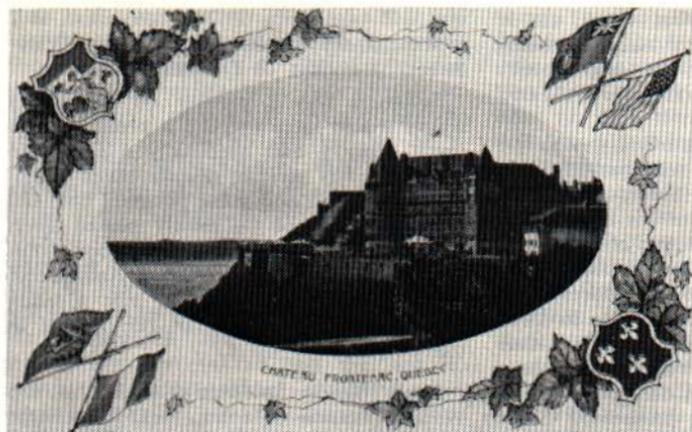
Earliest known use:
August 1, 1905.

Publisher:
Universal Postal Union

Market Price:
\$3.00 to \$4.00

Birds Eye View of
Weyburn, Sask.
Inglis Falls, Owen Sound
Main Street,
Moncton, N.B.
River Scene, Hanover
Shipping at
Chatham, N.B.





Double Crossed Flags No. 12

The card has a white background with shields in the upper left and lower right hand corners; around the shields the maple leaves.

Earliest known use:
September 17, 1909.

Publisher: John E. Walsh,
11 St. John St., Quebec.

Market Price:
\$2.80 to \$3.00.
Chateau Frontenac,
Quebec

Laval, Monument and
Post Office, Quebec
Ste. Foye Road,
Drive and Monument,
Quebec
View from Lower Town,
Quebec
Wolf's Cove, Quebec



Perfin Study Group

R. J. Woolley, secretary, 1520 Bathurst Street, Toronto

It is a long time since we were able to add to the list of perforated precancels, but at the Vancouver convention Fred Hadley was able to show me nine new items to add to the listing which was last published in August 1966 *Topics*. (See chart).

Many of these notes are in reply or comments to letters which have accumulated in my file over the last year or more. I apologize to the writers for my neglect but other BNAPS duties have been loaded on my reluctant shoulders, and something had to give.

Mr. Drew-Smith came to my rescue with three excellent articles, being a detailed study of the International Harvester machines, C12 and code-hole types. As a sequel to his articles I think it appropriate to illustrate a variety discussed in March 1966 *Topics* which had the surrounding "C" of the monogram entirely missing, leaving an "IH" monogram similar to the

current identification used by the company. The code hole type on the same stamp although badly deteriorated identifies the issuing office as Saskatoon—C12q. (See illustration).



I know that I am in good philatelic company when I make an error and, believe me, I think I am in better company when I acknowledge it. The trouble is that errors tend to be perpetuated.

Glancing over some old *Topics* my eye caught an item in Mark Arons postal sta-

	Stamp Issue	Hoover Type	Perfin Cat. No.	Initials
CALGARY — 1937	1c green	4-201	C12f	CHI (Mon)
HAMILTON — 1912	20c olive	4-91	C33	CW/C
MOOSE JAW — 1942	1c green	3-211	S2a	S
OTTAWA — 1922	1c yellow	3-106	C12n	CHI (Mon)
REGINA — 1903	1c green	1-74	C12o	CHI (Mon)
1942	1c green	4-211	P10	PS
TORONTO — 1903	2c carmine	5-75	G6	GM/Co
1912	1c green	7-85a	N1	NA/LIFE
1922	4c olive	11-110	W9	WJG

tionary column of December 1959, and found a quotation from the *Perfin* column of December 1957 stating that there were three known items of perforated OH/MS stationery.

In my ignorance of postal stationery parlance I referred to these items in the handbook as wrappers as they were used to wrap newspapers or printed matter for mailing. They are not wrappers which are distinguished by being imprinted "This wrapper to be used only by publishers and for the sole purpose of mailing second class matter to the United States".

All the OH/MS items I have seen are Postal Bands.

This error was passed by those who checked the manuscript of the handbook and no one has brought it to my atten-

tion since publication in 1955. Apart from this, I have long had some doubt about the existence of one of the items mentioned in my column of 1957 and quoted by Mark in 1959.

I have never seen a perforated five-hole band or wrapper on the 1932 (medallion) or the 1935 stationery. My own collection has the five-hole and four-hole perforated, both of them on Holmes' 1231 or Bond's BPI; any others I have seen are the same as mine, all originating from the Meteorological Division of the Dominion Weather Office.

Roy Wrigley knows of no other than these two and I have no record as to who may have reported the five-hole perf on the 1932 or 1935 issue. Will anyone who has one of these please let me know?



Rounding Up Squared Circles

Dr. W. D. Moffatt, Hickory Hollow, RR-3, Ballston Lake, N.Y. 12019



A minor correction to the March column: the JU 1/98 date for QUE. & CAMP. M.C. LOCAL is, of course, about 2½ months earlier than the Handbook earliest date, and not 1½ months earlier.

I have a note from Jim Lehr saying that he is confronted with an increasing number of requests for squared circle circuits but does not have enough books to put together even a single circuit. It is to your advantage to nurture this interest by making some of your duplicate squared circle material available. Write Jim Lehr (2818 Cheshire Road, Devon, Wilmington, Delaware 19803) for some blank circuit books; I believe that they are still only 10 cents each. He would be pleased to send them by return mail, along with some notes on arrangement of material and pricing.

The illustration for this month's column shows several year-date errors from Clar-

ence Kemp's collection. The RAT PORTAGE '64 is an error for '94 (page 33 of the Handbook); the GUELPH '99 is a fine example of the error for '96 (page 20 of the Handbook); the SMITHS FALLS '66 is an error for '96 (page 50 of the Handbook); and the BROCKVILLE '78 is an error for '98 (pages 20 and 23 of the Handbook). The RIVIERE DU LOUP inverted '98' in the upper indicia slot is an error variety new to me.

According to the Handbook, the SMITHS FALLS '66 error occurred for an extended period from late SP through OC, '96. One would think that in view of this rather long period, the error should be readily found; I have not been so fortunate. Among the group of errors sent me by Clarence, are SMITHS FALLS, SP 22, SP 24, and OC 23, '66. Note, however, that the error persisted into early November, for the JAN.

'68 column carried listing of NO 2/66 for this town. Clarence sent two examples of the RAT PORTAGE error: AP 17/64 and MY 26/64. The AP 17 is a new early date for this error; the Handbook listing, page 20, suggests AP 20 through JU 19 as the error period, while the town listing, page 33, gives the period as AP 18 to JU 18 (similar small discrepancies appear in the Handbook because new record dates were entered in the town listings right up to the last minute during typesetting and proofing, while earlier chapters had been completed).

Charles Blair, of Westland Michigan, reports a new early date for BURFORD: DE 27/93, two days earlier than the previous earliest.

D. A. MacFadyen, of Dix Hills, N.Y., reports several indicia varieties for NORTH BAY, as follows:

AM/JU 19/96 A(M)/JY-/6
8-/Y10/96 PM/JY 24/96 P(M)/JY-/96

PM is known for this town, but the town listing, page 47 of the Handbook, lists PM for every year from '93 through '00 except for '96 and '99. The '8' time mark is also known (8/JY 13/96—May 1965

Topics), but I have not heard before of an AM mark for this town.

As a most remarkable coincidence, I have received from H. A. Paterson, of Liverpool, N.S., a color photo of a strike of NORTH BAY, AM/JU 19/96!

D. A. MacFadyen also reported THREE RIVERS, (blank)/JY 2/98 in which JY 2 is inverted; it would be interesting to know if this is known corrected on the same day.

I have had very little response to my suggestion of a new roster to reassess the RF of squared-circle towns; the few who did write were all in favor of it and I think I shall go ahead with preparations with the assumption that we will receive the co-operation of this column's readers. Tentative plans impose no limit on collection size (previous roster centered on collections in the 200-plus range); a count of all towns with an RF of over 35 (in contrast to the RF of 70 or higher in previous roster); provision for a cover count; and listing of strikes on Jubilee, Map, Large Queen, and Registry stamps. This much greater coverage is possible because of the availability of computer assistance. I shall start to prepare some report forms which will enable us to determine the details with a minimum effort on your part.



British Columbia Notes

by Charles Melvin Williams

REVELSTOKE HAD ITS STATION

History may have its grand definitions in scholarly texts, but reduced to simplest terms it is the accounting of people and their reactions to various stimuli. In these records of events we see the good, the bad, the selfish, the greedy—in fact all the characteristics of people behaving as people have and always will behave. Sometimes the outcome is tragic, sometimes amusing; frequently so insignificant that only a postal historian would be aware that something out of the ordinary had taken place.

The existence of two post offices in Revelstoke, B.C., during the last decade of the 19th century is a good illustration of this relationship. Stubborn people met head-on and produced waves which were barely detectable 85 years later. Finally,

someone asks, "Why?," and a story of people being people is revealed.

Revelstoke as we now know it had its beginning in the keen mind of A. S. Farwell, who was sent into central British Columbia in 1880 to explore the possibility of townsites in the area. Recognizing the potential of the region where Revelstoke now stands he filed a claim for a townsite which he named Farwell. Later when the CPR surveyed for their right-of-way through the valley it desired to go through Farwell's townsite, but the principals could not agree upon a price. After much heated argument the CPR took the matter to court, but to their surprise and consternation lost their case. Rather than yield to Farwell they selected another route, bypassing Farwell's townsite, and planned their station and

Revelstoke Station
postmark:
The text of the card
indicates that it
was written by
Mr. Finlayson on the
train and posted
when the train
stopped at Revelstoke



yards on the higher ground overlooking the valley. With the driving of the last spike completing the CPR trans-continental railroad November 7, 1885, Farwell settled down to the business of becoming an important rail-river junction.

By 1886 there was need for a post office to serve the community. On February 2 of that year one was established in Thomas Gordon's store in Farwell's townsite, and called Farwell. Within six months the name of the office was changed to Revelstoke, to honor Lord Revelstoke, who headed the banking firm of Barring Brothers, which was instrumental in financing the construction of the railroad. Could this have been the CPR's way of getting the best of Farwell?

With the passage of time the community began to develop in two distinct areas. The first was in Farwell's original townsite which soon was referred to as "lower town". The second area was concentrated around the CPR station and shops. Because of its location on the hills east of the original town it became known as "upper town". As the population of "upper town" grew the residents felt that they deserved better mail service than was provided by the post office in "lower town" and petitioned for their own office. On August 1, 1891, the new post office was opened in Bourne Brothers' store located on Pacific Avenue East near the CPR depot. Henry J. Bourne was named post master and the name chosen for the new office was Revelstoke Station.

For a little more than 10 years the community was served by the two post offices. Then on September 6, 1901 the *Kootenay*

Mail carried the announcement that "... the Postal Department has made arrangements for the establishment of a central Post Office for Revelstoke. Mr. A. McRae to be Post Master." The September 20 issue of the newspaper stated that the new office would be located in the ground floor of the Odd Fellows Hall. And finally, the October 4 issue told how the "... move had been completed without any delay in the arrangement of the mails, which were available in the boxes as usual Tuesday morning." Thus, on October 1, 1901 the bandages were removed from the old wounds for the last time and an exceptional facet of Post Office Department operation in British Columbia came to an end. Since that date a single post office has served the community and few wonder why the eastern portion of Revelstoke is sometimes referred to as "upper town" and the western portion as "lower town".

Research for the events depicted here was made available to the author through the friendly assistance of several good British Columbians: Mrs. Mary Daem, of Revelstoke, furnished information on the early history of Revelstoke through her letters and her booklet, written with Mrs. E. E. Dickey, *A History of Early Revelstoke*. Newspaper accounts were located by Willard E. Ireland, provincial librarian and archivist for British Columbia. Finally, the list of British Columbia post masters and their terms of office (compiled from Postal Department records by George Melvin, of Vernon, B.C., and published in the 30th Report of the Okanagan Historical Society, 1966), provided helpful clues as to who to look for, and dates, when searching the files of the *Kootenay Star* and *Kootenay Mail* in the archives. (It is only fair to state here that George does not agree with the newspaper account naming McRae as post master of the centrally located post office in 1901. Post office records show Frank B. Wells as post master of the Revelstoke post office from 1890 to 1912; perhaps the newspaper was misinformed—or the post office records incomplete. It is not likely that the discrepancy will ever be resolved, so take your pick.)

The Canadian Stamp Collector

Glen Hansen's further notes on Newfoundland

In January of 1943 a 30c stamp was issued honoring the Memorial University College, perforated 12½, unwatermarked. In 1946 this stamp was overprinted "Two Cents". On April 21st, 1947 a new design of the 4c stamp of the Royal Family set was issued showing an older Princess Elizabeth. This was in honor of her 21st birthday. Also in 1947 a single stamp was issued honoring John Cabot's arrival in Newfoundland. This was a 5c value, perforated 12½ and watermarked with the Coat of Arms and was Newfoundland's last regular postage stamp.

Newfoundland issued two sets of Postage Due stamps. The first set, issued in 1939 was perforated 10¼ x 10 on white wove unwatermarked paper. Values were 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c and 10c. The stamps were lithographed. In 1949 1c, 2c, 3c and 4c values were issued perf. 11 x 9 unwatermarked and a 10c value was issued perf. 11 watermarked.

In 1905 Newfoundland issued its Officially Sealed stamp engraved and printed by the American Bank Note Co. This was on blue paper, perf. 12 and is known on both

watermarked and unwatermarked paper. This stamp is a wonderful example of the engraver's art and bears a remarkable portrait of King Edward VII in uniform. The large size of the stamp has given the engraver scope for showing his workmanship.

Newfoundland has a remarkable history of airmail flights and airmail stamps. The honor of being the first in the British Empire to issue an airmail stamp goes to Newfoundland which issued its first airmail stamp on April 12th, 1919. The 3c Caribou stamp was overprinted "FIRST TRANS-ATLANTIC AIR POST. April, 1919." Only 200 stamps were so overprinted and 76 copies remained after taking care of the scheduled mail for the flight. These were sold for \$25.00 each for a benefit fund. The flight did not take place until May 18th and the plane was forced down in the Atlantic a bit better than halfway across. The pilot and crew were rescued by a Danish steamer and another ship salvaged the plane and the mail so that the letters did reach their destination safely even if not completely by air. This flight is known as the Hawker Flight after the pilot, Harry Hawker. Another abortive flight, the "Martinsyde" Flight, was almost ready when Hawker took off. There were 182 covers prepared for this one with the legend "Aerial Atlantic Mail, J.A.R." appearing in manuscript on the 3c Caribou stamp which had been used for the Hawker flight. The "Martinsyde" flight was finally abandoned and the mail was taken by boat to England in January of 1920.

TOPICS: THE NEWSFRONT

In conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the Collectors' Club of New York, an international philatelic exhibition of major importance is to be held in New York's Waldorf-Astoria hotel from November 1 to 7, 1971.

All exhibits will be by invitation only, and over 100 collectors will be requested to display their most outstanding pieces in the 500 frames to be provided. The Collectors' Club expects that famous and unique items which have not been available for viewing in many years will be displayed.

It has been reported that Jim Harris (No. 2304) is very ill and would appreciate hearing from BNAPS members.

North York (Toronto) alderman Joseph Gould is being sent to Ottawa by his Board of Control to try and convince the Post Office Department that it is passing up \$30 million by not turning out special-issue stamps for collectors. No stamps with a face value of more than a dollar have been made since 1897, Gould said, and such a set would now bring in \$170 million, of which \$30 million would be purchased by collectors.

Auction News

J. N. Sissons' winter sale in Toronto on February 25 and 26 grossed \$134,632.50. A mint 12d black fetched \$8,000 and a unique block of the 10d mint Cartier (ex Gill and Fox) sold for \$5500; an 1858 6d brown-violet mint ("probably the handsomest copy in existence") went for \$2000; and one of two known mint copies of the 1859 10c (Scott 16) chocolate brown sold for \$1400. A 1969 6c orange coil strip of 11, 10½ of them imperforate, fetched \$1050.

Included were the Jim Law 1868s; most of his large Queens sold well over catalogue. A 15c used with script watermark (Scott 30d) but centered to the top, went for \$1000; it lists at \$450.

Post Office Department NEW ISSUES



Four-color issue designed by
Toronto artist Dennis Burton

Henry Kelsey, credited with being the first explorer of Canada's western plains, will be the subject of a commemorative issue marking the 300th anniversary of his birth. The Canada Post Office will release the six-cent stamp on April 15.

Apprenticed to the Hudson's Bay Company in 1684, Kelsey explored the Canadian west as an agent to open new avenues of trade, living and travelling with the native Indian tribes for forty years, and enduring on equal terms with them.

Kelsey kept a meticulous account of his journeys, describing the geographic features of the land in great detail. It was

not until some 200 years after his death that these handwritten documents were uncovered in the library of Dobb's Castle, Ireland. With their discovery in 1926, the validity of Kelsey's explorations was confirmed.

Designed by Dennis Burton of Toronto, the Henry Kelsey stamp is red, blue, yellow and dark brown in colour and measures 40 mm. x 24 mm.; 34,000,000 of the stamps are being printed by the British American Bank Note Company (Ottawa) using three-colour gravure and one-colour steel.

Customary first day cover service will be provided by the Canada Post Office.

TRADE TALK

Topics columnist Glenn Hanson is issuing the first of what he expects will be an annual publication, *The Guide Book and Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, with "average collector" in mind. It will retail for \$4.75.

The Winnipeg Philatelic Society is sponsoring *Manipex 70* in late June, the name given to the 42nd RPS of Canada convention being held in Manitoba. One of the highlights: a contest for a better stamp design than the one actually used on Canada's Winnipeg Anniversary commemorative.

H. E. Harris & Co. advises that 1969 supplements are now available for owners of its world-wide and United States albums.

The new supplement fits all Harris Masterwork Loose-Leaf World-Wide Albums (Standard, Citation, Senior Statesman, Statesman) copyrighted 1968 or earlier. It may also be used with the Ambassador and Traveler Albums. The supplement, which provides additional pages for 94 countries and colonies, is priced at \$2.95.

The 1969 supplement for the U.S. Liberty Album covers stamps issued during the calendar year 1969 by the United States and United Nations. The 1969 supplement for the Harris U.S. Plate Block Album includes all U.S. commemoratives issued during the calendar year 1969, and retails for 75c.

TOPICS: THE BUSINESS SIDE

BNAPS: ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Dr. R. V. C. Carr, 117 Robin Hood Way, Sherwood Forest, Youngstown, Ohio 44511
VICE-PRESIDENT	Sam C. Nickle, 1208 Belavista Cr., Calgary, Alta.
SECRETARY	Jack Levine, 511 Peyton St., Apt. C, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610
TREASURER	Leo J. LaFrance, Box 229, Ossining, N.Y. 10562
BOARD OF GOVERNORS	Nine sitting; three elected every year for a three-year term: 1968-70 L. M. Bell, R. H. Pratt, D. G. Rosenblat 1969-71 A. P. Cook, G. B. Llewellyn (Chairman), C. R. McNeil 1970-72 Dr. R. A. Chaplin, S. S. Kenyon, Wilmer C. Rockett

Memo from the President

DR. R. V. C. CARR
Youngstown, Ohio

An article in the February issue of *Topics* critical of various actions of the officers is answered by me in the *Letters* column. It is unfortunate that we must wash our dirty linen in public where all may see; better a personal letter to either me or the officers involved. So often, these problems can be resolved without name-calling and inaccuracies as found in this article.

Our new editor, Edward Hausmann of Toronto, recently sent me a four-page memo of suggested plans to improve *Topics* in the future and the plans were both original and sound. With Ed's professional training as an editor, I have high hopes for

Topics' future. And he seems so darn exuberant, too!

A plea for volunteers for Librarian and Circulation Manager has brought some letters which give encouragement that we might have a replacement or two in the near future.

My plea has been, and is still — more material for *Topics* from the members, be it specialized or general — just get it in. It has been a never-ending task seeking articles; between Russ McNeil and me, literally hundreds of notes and letters have gone out begging. "We try harder" — won't YOU?
Dr. Robert V. C. Carr

From the Secretary

JACK LEVINE
Raleigh, North Carolina

New Member

2519 Anderson, Jack C. F., 302 Bate Crescent, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Applications Pending

Blander, Jack, 7910 Cote St. Luc Road, Apt. 711, Montreal 267, Quebec
Forbes, David Murray, Box 16, Site 5, Goose Airport, Newfoundland
Forbes, David Murray, Box 16, Site 5, Gander Airport, Newfoundland
Forget, Maurice A., 269 Avenue Les Erables, Laval-Sur-Le-Lac, Quebec
McIsaac, Lorne D., Mt. Pleasant, R.R. 1, Stickney, New Brunswick
Townsend, L. J. Len, 660 Lee Road, Kamloops, British Columbia
Vicerio, Ralph D., Dept. of Geography, San Fernando Valley St. Col., Northridge, California 91324

Applications for Membership

(Objections must be filed with The Secretary within 15 days after month of publication)

- BOUDIGNON, Robert F., Box 639, Copper Cliff, Ont. (C-CX) CAN—19th and 20th century used postage and blocks. Pre-stamp and stampless covers. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Used Booklet panes. Christmas Seals. Federal Revenues. Used Airmails. Postal Stationery entires and cut-squares. R.P.O. and Squared Circle cancellations. Proposed by R. J. Woolley, No. 359.
- FRED, Chas. D., 354 Amherst St., Winnipeg 12, Man. (C-CX) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Coils. O.H.M.C.-G. Mint, used, semi-official Airmails and on cover. Proposed by H. W. S. Wilding, No. 1040.
- HAWTHORNE, James T., 103 Whitney Ave., Hamilton 15, Ont. (C) CAN, NFD, PROV—Mint and used postage. Proposed by C. R. McNeil, No. 649. Seconded by R. V. C. Carr, No. 1427.
- OBERMAN, Milton, 34 Northover St., Downsview, Ont. (C-CX) CAN—Used postage. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Used booklet panes. Literature. Fluorescent cancellations. Colour varieties. Proposed by R. J. Woolley, No. 359.
- PICKARD, George Edmison, 222 Waverley St., Winnipeg 9, Man. (DC-X) CAN, NFD—Mint and used postage. Plate Blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint booklet panes. Mint and used Airmails. R.P.O. cancellations. Proposed by J. Levine, No. 11.

SOANES, Dr. S. V., 64 Airdrie Road, Toronto 17, Ont. (C) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Pre-stamp and stampless covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint and used booklet panes. Precancels. Federal and Provincial Revenues. Mint, used and semi-official Airmails. Postal Stationery entires and cut-squares. Literature. Proofs and Essays. 2 and 4-ring and Squared Circle cancellations. Proposed by J. F. Webb, No. 1210. Seconded by R. J. Woolley, No. 359.

Changes of Address

(Notice of change MUST be sent to the Secretary. Any other office will cause delay)

- 1153 Arons, Mark L., 4713 Corinne St., New Orleans, La. 70127
 2462 Barnes, Austin E., P.O. Box 744, Peoria, Ill. 61602
 2391 Baugh, Charles W., M.D., Box 787, Orillia, Ontario
 892 Bonar, John J., 30 Greenhill Gardens, Edinburgh, Scotland EH 10-4 BP
 1514 Burton, Capt. R. L., Box 104, Aylesford, N.S.
 1432 Davies, Chesterton M., 15 Green St., Charlottetown, P.E.I.
 1632 Davies, Donald H., Dept. of Chemistry, St. Mary's University, Halifax, N.S.
 2218 England, Mark, Box 684, Tisdale, Sask.
 1749 Genberg, Gosta P., Eriksbergsgatan 11430, Stockholm, Sweden
 2102 Gregg, Arthur E., 13112 Churchill Crescent, Edmonton, Alta.
 1501 Harrison, Horace W., Box 5780, Baltimore, Md. 21208
 2515 Hogbin, James D., P.O. Box 82, Hyattsville, Md. 20781
 2204 Hoff, Gordon E., 37 Blvd. Lannes, Paris 16e, France
 2117 Howe, John E., 2454 Ainslie Crescent, Niagara Falls, Ont.
 1783 Irvine, Alan F., 32 Redford Road, R.R. No. 2, London, Ontario
 2118 Jamieson, Robert H., 98 Creswell Drive, Beaconsfield, St. Anne De Bellevue 880, Quebec
 1049 Kitchen, CWO Ronald, 9 Pearl St., Gloucester, Ontario
 2061 Lea, William E. Jr., 1 The Adelphi, John Adam St., London W.C. 2, England
 2000 Mitchell, Wallace B., 163 Church St., Watertown, Mass. 02172
 2382 Mullen, John G., 11019 N.E. 51st Avenue, Marysville, Wash. 98270
 1315 McCallum, Reside, 3 Lansdowne Gardens, Pointe Claire 710, Quebec
 2383 Nalon, John, 290 First St., Gananoque, Ontario
 2159 Nowlan, Alfred W., P.O. Box 353, New Glasgow, N.S.
 2120 Rodriguez, S., Abelardo, P.O. Box 9366, San Diego, Calif. 92109
 1056 Rosenthal, Harry W., 3601 Monroe, Lake Charles, La. 70601
 2402 Shapiro, Sam, No. 6 Valleyview Crescent, Edmonton, Alberta
 1773 Stonier, Peter F., M.D., No. 26—380 Pemberton Terrace, Kamloops, B.C.
 2261 Tretthewey, Ross, 479 Nelson St., Kingston, Ontario
 2394 Turner, Thomas W., General Delivery, Tukwila P.O., Seattle, Wash. 98188
 2312 Verity, David M., Chiefswood, R.R. 2, Huntsville, Ontario
 2363 Webber, Gary E., 619 Nadine Crescent, Richmond, B.C.
 717 White, Thomas D. L., 12620—99th Avenue, Surrey, B.C.

Resignations Received

- 1524 Beck, Allen C., Rogue Valley Manor, Medford, Oregon 97501
 2018 Huard, Raymond A., Box 190, Domremy, Sask.
 1635 Kuttner, William R., c/o R. M. Cooperman, 402 Great Falls Rd., Rockville, Md.
 2026 Mack, Millard H., 2133 Luray Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45206
 1642 McLellan, Robert F., Q.C., 129 Queen St., Truro, N.S.
 2044 Powers, Theodore R., P.O. Box 1861, Columbus, Ga. 31902
 1143 Starr, Dr. F. A. E., 335 Hyde Park Road, London 73, Ont.
 1260 Swenson, Einer C., 426—5th Avenue Drive, Princeton, Ill. 61356

Resignations Accepted

- Cleaver, Ivan H. Constantine, Aeneas, M.D. Rice, George E.
 Savage, Dorothy L. Tygett, Joseph N., M.D.

Deceased

- 1980 Hilton, M. S., P.O. Box 73, Elkhorn, Wis. 53121
 687 Lea, William E., The Adelphi, John Adams St., London W.C. 2, England

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, February 1, 1970	1076	
NEW MEMBER, March 1, 1970	1	
RESIGNATIONS, March 1, 1970	5	1077
DECEASED, March 1, 1970	2	
		7
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, March 1, 1970		1070

BNAPS Regional Groups

- Philadelphia** — Meets the first Thursday of each month at 7934 Pickering Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
Temagami — Meet every summer. Alfred P. Cook, Coy Glen Road, Ithaca, New York.
Vancouver — Fourth Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m.; Dickinson Room, Stry Credit Union Building, 144 E. 7th Avenue, Vancouver.
Edmonton — Meets twice a year in May and October in a public place, time and date to be announced. Out of town visitors to communicate with Secretary F. N. Harris, 11013—129 Street.
Calgary — Meets fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m., Secretary: Mrs. Jack Benningen, 157 Wildwood Drive, Calgary 5, Alberta.

Sales Circuit Report

JAMES C. LEHR
Wilmington, Delaware

Nineteen sixty-nine was another good year for the Sales Circuit Department, with sales at \$7110—we've now broken the \$7000 barrier for the first time. During the year we served 231 different members, a good percentage of the total membership. Equally important was the fact that new books submitted during the year increased significantly over the previous year (198 vs 155). This was the major reason for our increased sales; if all the members would send on their duplicates, we could easily sell \$10,000 worth and more.

Last year saw another first: two members sold over \$1000 worth of stamps through the Sales Department—the \$1000 figure being another barrier that was broken (I was the number-two man), while

a third member sold over \$900 worth. I already have close to \$300 in sales for 1970, so perhaps I can catch up with the number-one man, Vinnie Greene.

For the third year, the most popular category was revenue stamps. Other groups high in total sales were general Canada, admirals, and pre-cancels. We would sell much more in the other groups if we could only get more material; this is particularly true for all types of cancellations, particularly squared circles, dates and towns, and any early cancellations. We also need a greater constant supply of coils, booklet panes, officials and provincial stamps.

If the members would keep new books coming, 1970 could be the best year so far.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

RULING enacted by the Board of Governors of the British North America Philatelic Society assembled in session at the Annual Convention, October 7, 1967:

Any member, delinquent in the payment of dues by April 1st for that current year, shall be subject to denial of receipt of the Society magazine, *BNA TOPICS*, at the discretion of the Treasurer, until such delinquent dues shall have been received by the Treasurer. Any such delinquent and denied member shall be required, at the time of payment, to reimburse the Society with the additional amount of the Dollar (\$1.00) for expenses incurred for the removal of and replacement by the Society of their stencil on the mailing list.

ARTICLE IV, Section 3. ELECTIONS: At least 150 days before the opening date of such election year Convention and Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint 5 members of the Society to serve and function as a Nominating Committee whose prime purpose shall be to prepare and present a slate of candidates for the elective offices to be voted.

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL MAIL FOR TOPICS

Editor, *Topics*, c/o Mr. V. G. Greene
77 Victoria Street Toronto 1, Ontario

CHANGE OF ADDRESS — NOTICE TO PUBLISHER

All changes of address **MUST** be sent to the **SECRETARY**. Please do not send to any other officer of BNAPS. Sending the change to the Editor or Circulation Editor will cause delays.

JACK LEVINE

511 Peyton Street, Apt. C - Raleigh, N.C. 27610

JACQUES HOUSER

**An engineer, sportsman and councilor —
as well as an ardent postal historian**



*Jacques
Houser
BNAPS 2030*

Jacque's interest in stamp collecting was generated years, and I mean *years* ago by the stamp columns in *Boys Life* and *American Boy*, but he did not consider himself a serious collector until the late 1940s. At that time, he began to collect and study the issues of Austria. By the mid-1950s, his interest in stamps, as stamps, had waned and he was completely converted to the study of postal history.

In the early 1960s Jacque began a study of the post marks of the post offices of British Columbia between the time of joining the Dominion and the end of the Victorian period. A preliminary resumé of this study was presented in the March 1967 issue of *Topics*. When completed, the study will present a description of all postmarks used by the offices operating during the stated period. The study of the so-called carrier marks of Canada, also presented in *Topics*,

has been a secondary project for him for the past few years.

Philatelic society memberships reflect his interest in postal history. They include, in addition to BNAPS, The Collectors Club (New York City), C.P.S. of G.B., Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Postal History Society of the Americas, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Western Cover Society, The American Philatelic Congress, and The Philatelic Literature Association.

His professional training was in Engineering (M.S. from the University of Michigan), and he has been employed as a practicing engineer or teacher since graduation. At present he is about to complete his 23rd year with The Boeing Company in Seattle.

In addition to his philatelic activities, he is interested in sailing, hiking and camping, and has been stamp collecting merit-badge councilor for the Boy Scouts for many years.

Jacque is one of the Vancouver group which I have needled into the starting of a British Columbia column, and he has been as enthusiastic as any with several items of interest showing up as articles in *Topics*. We hope his efforts are contagious to his fellow Vancouverites.

...and some doodles by The Editor

With this issue of *Topics* some changes have taken place in format with the object of tidying up the magazine here and there, and perhaps making it a little brighter. In any event the changes you see here are the only major ones that have been planned for the time being—though, of course, I hope to make improvements as time goes on.

There is a fair amount of material on hand, though the bulk of it tends to favor three subjects: postal history, Newfoundland, and early airmail flights. There is always a need for short (half- to two-page) pieces, particularly on such things as precancels, flag cancellations, postal stationery, and (for one article per issue) general subjects.

In future issues we'll be carrying stories on Maritimes airmail flights, parcel post cancellations and Admiral lathework, to name a few; we also hope to do a piece on the part-perfs and imperfs from 1927 to the war issue, and how they came about.

MAIL FROM OUR MEMBERS

The last word on a most touchy subject . . .

Regarding Dr. Mercantini's article in February's *Topics*; as president, I feel I must answer to the membership to the charges laid before us:

• Constructive criticism is always welcome, but personal abuse is uncalled for and in poor taste.

• Membership: by reading your old *Topics* you will find the constant plea for us to get new members. However we are a specialized organization and do *not* have the appeal of a general society such as the RPSC and the BPSC, nor do we desire "joiners"—in one year and out the next. BNAPS has never been of this caliber for its 25 years.

• Too-specialized articles: if one would read the *President's Message* month after month, you would notice that we plead for any articles—specialized or general. Before my taking office there was a period when *Topics* had no material in the bin, so the size of the magazine was cut and several issues were dropped. By the super-human effort of a few, this problem has been partly resolved, but it can revert back quite easily unless this constant push to get material is kept up; better the writer had chided the membership, rather than those who have been doing their level best to improve things. Thus, I can again state that *Topics* has improved, but *you*—the membership—will determine its future.

• The writer should read his *Topics* more thoroughly; the nominating committee does *not* select the Greene Award for the best article or series of articles in *Topics*; in last month's issue (March) a letter from Robert Woolley explains the method once again.

To imply that Max Rosenthal has been selected as the winner for so many years because he has "friends" is (to quote the good doctor) "Hogwash." I venture to say that few of the Board members even know Max personally; for myself, having voted consistently for him and his imaginative articles (most of them *unspecialized*), I have never met the man until last year. This personal slur is unforgivable.

• The attack on John Young is also in poor taste, and in error. A small group of BNAPSers voluntarily gave John a life membership for his years of service to the Society as editor; it is something these men wanted to do, feeling that he had served the Society well.

• If this Society was run by men of lesser caliber, the good doctor's letter would have been rejected. But this is a democratic group, and it *was* printed. I do feel, however, that the Editorial Board should have edited out the personal attacks.

• I have personally answered the doctor's letter in a much less restrained tone.

—Dr. Robert V. C. Carr
president

Dr. Mercantini reports that he has received numerous letters supporting his view that more articles should appear on contemporary collecting. While he makes no mention of the negative reaction the other portions of his letter have created, he says that he really likes the Society and its journal, and expects to write further articles.

Correspondence, critical or otherwise, is always welcome on these pages provided it stays within ethical bounds. The matter of personalities raised by Dr. Mercantini is now closed—as indeed are all letters containing personal abuse.—the editor.

The four-hole perfed OHMS

In February's *Topics*, the letter by F. Walter Pollock interested me; he refers to the 4-hole or "B" type perfed-OHMS.

The "A" type (or 5-hole) was in use in 1920 by the Receiver-General and his assistants in various provinces, with the holes punched at the office of the user. The type "B" 4-hole were first put in use after July 1, 1939 and the post office did the punching; Boggs states this on page 727 in the punched-OHMS section (volume 1).

Mr. Wrigley is working on a new listing of these stamps; when it will be issued I do not know. But a reprint of this portion of Boggs may be of interest to members,

even though his list of 4-hole OHMS is not complete, as more were added after the book was published.

— A. E. Kreger

Bas-reliefs by Emanuel Hahn



Some time ago the late sculptor Emanuel Hahn gave me two items that I recently photographed.

One is from the original cast that was made for the 1953 Queen Elizabeth coronation stamp; the second is for one of the proposed issues of King George VI, who died during the time the issue was being planned. Note the fleur de lis superimposed on the leaves at the bottom; this isn't shown in the Holmes illustration.

— N. A. Pelletier

The strands move back in time

In a letter to *Topics* (October 1969) I reported an early date of July 24, 1895, on "strand" position 26. In response to that letter Dr. Russ Zinkaan (No. 1793) submitted to the writer, for verification, two strand copies with earlier dates. Both dates are on position 13 with the earliest being April 15, 1895 (c.d.s. Halifax).

Since Mr. Hurst has established both strand positions as being on Plate-C it becomes academic as to which position has the earliest date, as one will support the other, providing both strand retouches were made on the plate at the same time.

The previous early date of October 14, 1895 stood for over ten years but it has now been advanced twice in just a few months. Is any other collector able to advance it further on the "strand" variety?

— Charles D. Blair

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In December, 1969, through a Press release, The Post Office Department in Ottawa, announced that one sheet of 400 of the 6c Christmas Stamp had escaped from the printers and inspectors, with one of the four colours completely omitted. This colour was the BLACK, and means that the stamps were completely devoid of the numeral "6", the words "CANADA" and "Christmas Noel", the date "1969", the black frame line around the stamp and the black shading lines of the central design.

Of the 400 stamps thus released in error, only 209 were reported as being recovered by the Postal sleuths, thus leaving 191 copies unaccounted for, and of which, a large part could be in collectors' hands.

The most readily apparent feature of the error is the startling, completely blank, red tablet at the bottom of the stamp where the figure of value and the words "CANADA" and "Christmas Noel" should be.

This stamp is obviously, the greatest Canadian rarity since the now well known, "Seaway Invert", and, this Christmas stamp along with the "Seaway Invert", are the ONLY two major errors of this type ever recorded in Canadian philately. From the standpoint of "eye appeal" the Christmas error is very much more startling and impressive.

It was known that a few of these errors were placed on covers containing Christmas Cards with overseas destinations. Those that were known for certain, were postmarked at the South Burnaby, B.C. Post Office and very strenuous and successful efforts were made to recover these Envelopes intact, since they may well be, the only surviving covers.

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It is unfortunately true that rare early British North American stamps are more likely to be "as represented" when offered in Turin, than early Italian States offered in Toronto.

In such a hypothetical case, lack of knowledge is a more probable handicap than dishonesty. One must also comment that an Italian collector is more likely to show interest in early classic Canada than a Canadian collector in Sardinia.

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One of the frequent problems in selecting a new country is that the collector finds that after he has reached a certain "plateau" that additional material is almost unavailable. This is the case with some small colonies, etc., but if a wide enough field is selected I am sure that I will be able to locate stamps for the prospective collector. This applies whether the country is Afghanistan or Transvaal.

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