



# BNA TOPICS

Official Journal of The British North America Philatelic Society

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

*1971 was a good year — in fact the best yet, and we want to thank all our friends and customers for their support. It is good to know that our hobby is strong and healthy even when there are some rough spots in the economy.*

*One highlight of the year was the Anphilex show in New York at the end of November. It was probably the most concentrated assemblage of rarities ever gathered together under one roof. The Collectors' Club of New York are to be congratulated for this outstanding effort.*

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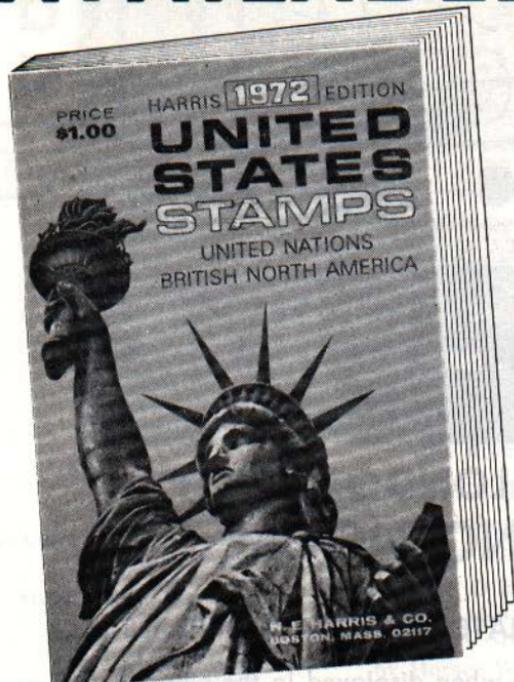
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# The Varied Field of POSTMARKS

by Max Rosenthal

In collecting postmarks one may come across oddities easy or difficult to explain. In this article we'll touch on a few.

## Spelling Errors

Fourteen miles northwest of Cornwall, in Osnabruk Township, Stormont County, was Osnabruk Centre post office. Although the postal guides always spelled its name with an "s", in the 1890s its broken-circle postmark called it OZNABRUCK CENTRE (fig. 1). Apparently the sound of its "s" suggested a "z" to the man who fashioned its hammer. By 1911 a newer hammer spelled the name correctly (fig. 2).

During the 1890s Glen Allan, in Peel Township, Wellington County, used a broken circle postmark inscribed GLEN' ALLAN (fig. 3.) There was no reason for the apostrophe.

## Another Big City Imitator

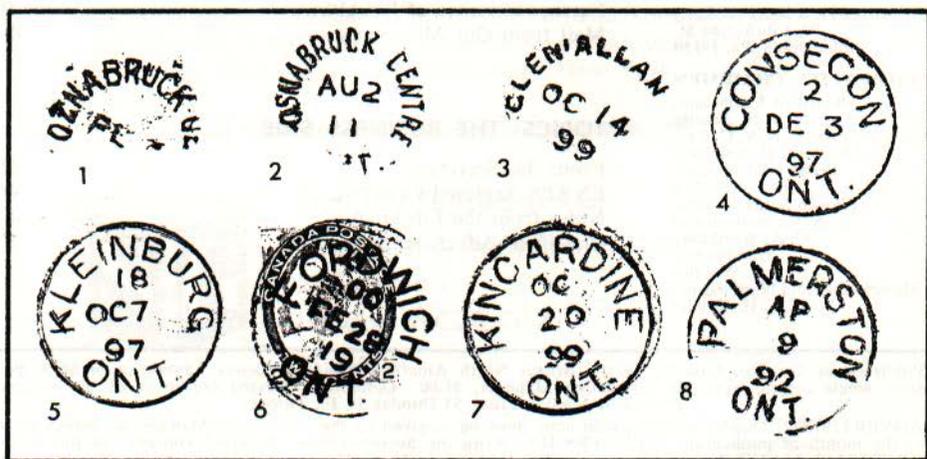
In *Topics*, October 1970 it was mentioned how the small village of Castleton, Northumberland County, imitated big-city post offices by putting the number "10" above the date. I now have it with a "3"

above the date also, and there are possibly other numbers. In every busy post office in large cities these numbers indicated periods or hours of the day. They were not necessary in relatively quiet post offices such as Castleton, nor in Consecond, in Prince Edward County, not so many miles southeast of Castleton, where, at least from 1897 to 1900 one finds the numbers "2" (fig. 4) and "4" above the date.

## Split Dates

To a postmark collector a three-line date occurs when the month, day and year are each given a line, instead of the first two appearing in one line. A variation of this may be called a split date, in which the first two numbers of the year, normally omitted altogether since the fourth quarter of the 19th century, appear at the top, the month and day in the second line, and the other two numbers of the year are seen in their customary position at the bottom.

The Queensville, Ont. postmark shown in the previously mentioned article is in this category. At Kleinburg, in York County, north of Woodbridge, it appears in the sec-



ond half of the 1890s (fig. 5). Between 1898 and 1900 Fordwich, in northeastern Huron County, had another version of the split date, with the first two numbers of the year at the bottom, the other two at the top (fig. 6).

### Three Line Dates

Three line dates of the normal kind, as explained above, appear from a number of post offices, among them: Kincardine (fig. 7), in 1899; Palmerston (fig. 8), during the early 1890s, Brooklin (fig. 9), in Ontario County north of Whitby, in the mid-1890s; and Grand Valley (fig. 10), during the 1890s. In the latter decade Listowel employed three line dates in both its circular and squared circle markings.

### Unusual Top Lines

In the years around 1910, after having gone back to two line dates, Grand Valley used as "E" above the date (fig. 11). Letters of the alphabet were employed in the postmarks of medium-sized cities to indicate periods of the day, but, with a population of less than 1,000, Grand Valley could not have been busy enough to need such indications. An "E" also appears in railway markings to denote an eastward sending. The only railway through Grand Valley runs east and west. To the west lie only small villages, but east leads to the large cities and their more thickly-populated areas. This is not a railway postmark; nevertheless Grand Valley's postmaster may

have used the "E" for mail headed eastwards. Now to find a postmark with "W" at the top, which would be much scarcer, should it exist. The E can also be found reversed.

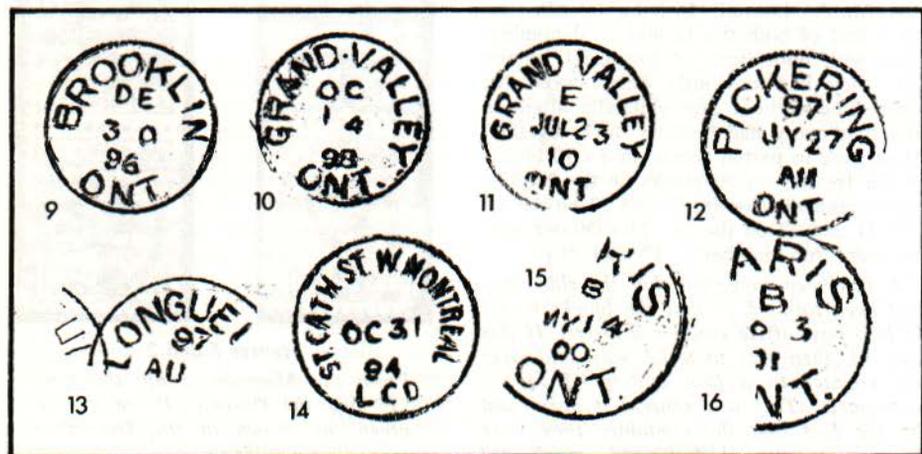
In 1897 one sometimes finds the postmark of Pickering, in Ontario County, west of Whitby, with the year at the top and AM or PM at the bottom, the reverse of the usual situation (fig. 12).

The same variation appears the same year in the Montreal south bank suburb Longueuil (fig. 13), but there it can be found at least as late as 1905.

### LCD, Montreal

Besides the standard postmarks used at the St. Catherine Street West sub-post office of Montreal, with the street name at the bottom, in 1894 (and probably other years) appear markings with both street (necessarily abbreviated to ST. CATH. ST. W.) and city around the top and LCD at the bottom (fig. 14). These initials stand for LETTER CARRIERS DEPOT. It was located at 532 St. Catherine Street West, apart from the regular post office. There was also a Western Receiving House, at 746 Notre Dame Street West, near the regular post office with the latter name, and postmarks from Notre Dame Street West with LCD are also known. LCD postmarks may have cancelled a kind of way letter mail, handed by customers to postmen on their rounds.

*(continued on page 52)*



And still more details on

# CANADA'S EXPERIMENTAL COILS

by the editor

Back in the March 1971 issue we ran what purported to be the last word on the experimental coil stamps of Canada. Then, in the December issue, we followed that up with what was a further last word on the same subject—the discovery of a quantity of the 1c Edward VII coils in two types of precancel, claimed to be the only known copies.

Well it turns out that a few others exist; dealer William Maresch found that out soon after he issued a small sales brochure offering copies from the find to his clients; phone calls and letters came in which made it evident that at least four other copies exist—which, of course, do not bear the certificates Maresch provided on the copies he sold.

Then Dr. W. B. Hetherington at Hants, England — a most knowledgeable collector and the secretary of the CPS of GB — wrote us about these also, pointing out that even more 1c Edward experimental coils exist. He continues,

*I have had knowledge of these 1c and 2c coils for some time now, and in 1964 our CPS of GB member George E. L. Manley of 151 Ebury Street, London, SW 1, came into possession of an accumulation of partial sheets of the KE VII 1c and 2c stamps precancelled with either the Ottawa parcel roller cancel, or with the official precancel Type "T". These show paste-up strips.*

A few days after this letter arrived, the December issue of *Maple Leaves* turned up containing a short article by none other than Manley himself. In it he described his 1964 find of both the 1c and 2c denominations with both types of precancel, stating that they had obviously been stored for some time without any philatelic attention and that many had become stuck together. Most were in partial sheets, in 8 x 10 blocks in the 1c, and 9 x 10 blocks on the 2c. The plate numbers were 48, 51 and 52 on the 1c, and 71 and 72 on the 2c. The Ottawa rollers were "no number", "1" and "14".

*It has been suggested that the side rows had been torn off so that the blocks would fit into post office counter drawers. If this was so, then this material was sold over the counter to a firm authorized to use precancels. This was somewhat borne out by the fact that the container they were in was a very old-fashioned, much-used*



Figures 1 and 2

From the Maresch group; the type "T" and the Ottawa "1" on the 1c green, as shown in the December issue.

cardboard folder that could have acted as a commercial firm's "stampbook".

Then Manley goes on to describe other material found with the partial sheets: material that "appeared to have been left over from the original coil machine experiments:"

These consisted partially of four complete panes of the 2c that had been trimmed along their top edges and pasted onto the bottom edge of the next sheet, giving one piece of 400 stamps ready for tearing into strips for consequent use as coils. Unfortunately in the separation of the stamps (that had become stuck together) the middle of the three joins came apart. This left a maximum possible of 20 paste-ups; however not even all of these survived the (de-sticking) treatment. Besides the above, there were a few other pieces that had been prepared in a similar manner. About two-thirds of the find consisted of Type "T" both on the 1c and 2c, including a number of doubles on the 1c.

Presumably the remaining coils bore the Ottawa parcel cancels—the "no-number", the "11" and the "14", though Manley doesn't specify how many of which.

Clearly *Maple Leaves* had scooped *Topics* on this one, but thanks to dealer George Wegg and collector Edward F. Burley of Keswick, Ontario, we're back in the running once again with what is clearly going to be the last word in the experimental coils of Canada—at least for a month or two, until yet more information turns up.

It happened that Wegg had a specialized collection of such stamps for a private treaty sale, and like the others, he pointed out that the Maresch find was not an exclusive one since Wegg's collection contained not only a 1c precancelled Edward, but some other coils as well—ones apparently not mentioned in philatelic literature to date. Wegg allowed us to take notes on the collection, and loaned us the more outstanding stamps to be photographed. The collector prefers to remain anonymous, so we give him the code name "Anon".

While we were digesting this information, Edward F. Burley happened to be in town with his experimental coil collection; he, too, has some 1c Edward precancelled coils, obtained many years ago, plus some further data on experimental coils in general. We compared notes, and filled in several further blanks for this article.



Figures 3 and 4

The pairs of punctured holes can be seen just above the horizontal perfs (left); a paste-up strip with no precancel or punctures (right).

Burley's coils have been shown at several stamp shows, and were written up by Doug Patrick in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* in the spring of 1967 at the time the collection was on display at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Burley is a retired automobile company executive and well known in Toronto circles.

The "Anon" collection contained a strip of the 1c Edward, not precancelled, but bearing pairs of pinlike punctures in each stamp, similar in position to the later Toronto experimental coils with the two large holes—apparently the result of having gone through an early coil machine. Could the same machine have also dispensed 2c Edwards and left similar punctures? None are known, but it's possible.

When Wegg saw the "Anon" strip with the pairs of punctures he remembered hav-

ing a small stock of Admiral coils (Scott 132) with identical punctures. He brought them out, and sure enough the punctures were the same—a previously unlisted Admiral coil variety. But if these existed in the 2c carmine of 1915, then why not on the 1c green of the same date? Wegg thought he once had some of the 1c, but couldn't be sure.

Burley, however, filled in on that one; he has a pair of the 1c, and suggests that they're fairly common. Furthermore, he thinks that this machine which left the pairs of punctures on the Edward 2c and the earlier Admirals was the same machine that was later adapted to accept the "two large holes" Toronto experimental coils which were on sale in Toronto for a few days in July of 1918.

And finally our speculation brings us to the Manley find, which contained three types of Ottawa parcel cancel (no number, "1" and "14") in sheets, as well as the "T" type precancel. And in the same "stamp-book" were some coils. Is it not reasonable to assume that the sheets and stripped-and-joined coils were made at the same time and, therefore, that the three types of parcel precancel that existed on the sheets also existed in coil form, even if copies didn't happen to turn up in the Manley find?

Here, then, is our new checklist of experimental coils. The "Anon" and Burley collections and the Manley find give rise to speculation about further experimental coils having existed; these are all listed here:

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### 1c EDWARD VII

---

*Type "T" Precancels:* 17 strips in the Maresch find, eight of them paste-ups; Burley has a paste-up strip of eight (also with the flap over the next stamp); and there appear to be a few in the Manley find, as well as some in sheet form. Boggs doesn't specifically mention this precancel on the 1c. (fig. 1)

*Ottawa "1" Roller Precancel:* 36 strips in Maresch find, 16 of them paste-ups; Manley doesn't specify coils, but he did find sheets. Boggs mentions the existence of this coil (page 353) and dates it August 1913, from Quebec City. (fig. 2) (The Maresch find also includes a double "T" joined to an Ottawa "1".)

*Ottawa "14" Roller Precancel:* Not speci-

fied by Manley, though he states that sheets exist. Therefore none known for certain, but could have existed. (?)

*Ottawa "No Number" Roller Precancel:* In 1955 Burley picked up a strip of 10 at Sissons' 100th auction—for \$22. A year later he sold a pair from this for \$20 which, when we compared notes for this article in January 1971, turned out to be the same pair that rests in the "Anon" collection. Others are likely; Manley doesn't specify coils, but says sheets found. (no illustration)

*Pairs of Punctures:* "Anon" has a strip of 7, possibly unique, though difficult to authenticate. Not mentioned in any previous publication; holes 8½ mm apart in pairs, pairs 25 mm apart. Same exists on an Admiral coil (see below). (Fig. 3)

*Paste-up Pairs:* "Anon" has a strip of four with the flap under the next stamp at joint, unlike the first two items above. There are no precancel nor puncture-marks, though pins (had the strip gone through that machine) could have coincided with the perforations and no punctures be shown. A curiosity, since authenticity impossible to determine; mentioned for the record. (fig. 4)

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### 2c EDWARD VII

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*Type "T" Precancel:* Strip of 4 in "Anon", (ex Lichtenstein) plus paste-up strip of four; several in Manley find, and a few others may exist. Manley notes these in sheet form as well. Boggs places date at 1910, assigns number EX-C1. (fig. 5)

*Ottawa "1" Roller Precancel:* Burley has a paste-up strip of 8 plus another strip of 6. The rows were cut apart, likely with a dull knife, rather than torn along the perfs—so that perf holes appear just inside one straightedge, and none appear on the opposite straightedge. Manley doesn't specify coils but states that sheets exist. Boggs mentions these and dates them 1913 from Quebec City together with the 1c above. (no illustration)

*Ottawa "14" Roller Precancels:* "Anon" has a paste-up strip of 8, and others could exist. (fig. 7)

*Ottawa "No Number" Roller Precancel:* Another speculation based on the Manley find, though none are known to us and Manley doesn't specify coils. Boggs doesn't specify a precancel type on his EX-C2, but



Figures 5 and 6  
The 2c type "T" (left); and another  
paste-up with no punctures or pre-  
cancel (right).

this is likely the one he had in mind, placing the date at 1910. Dr. Fred Stulberg, incidentally, knows of postal use for the "1" and "14" parcel roller, but has never seen the "no number" used. (?)

*Pairs of Punctures:* None known, but these could have existed, though it's not likely any have survived. (?)

*Paste-up Pairs:* "Anon" has a strip of 3 (and a pair on cover torn apart through one stamp, as though from a coil machine). A curiosity and impossible to authenticate; mentioned for the record (fig. 6)

## EDWARD IMPERFS

There is no new light to shed on the English, United States Auto-Vending Machine Co. and Heiman-Zorke experimental coils, which are covered fully in the March 1971 issue of *Topics*—except that the "Anon" collection contains a hand-cut example of the Boggs type II roulette without the roulette. This is peculiar, because Boggs mentions only the type I roulette as having been hand-cut, and that this was done only during the early stages of experi-

ments, likely around 1908. Yet the imperf stamps were issued only in the summer of 1909, by which time machines were used to cut the notches and roulettes. Mentioned for the record only. (fig. 9)

## THE ADMIRALS

*Backstamped Admirals:* Referring to the March 1971 *Topics*, pages 93-94, "Anon" is able to add another variety to the five shown; it's a slight change from the one in illustration 2—the circle is smaller, the type face less condensed. In the "Anon" copy the impression is placed halfway down the stamp, so that the date (with its handwritten year) appears above the semi-circle (fig. 10). "Anon" also has two backstamps



Figures 7 and 8

An Ottawa "14" on the 2c red in  
paste-up (left); the 2c Admiral with  
pairs of punctures (right).



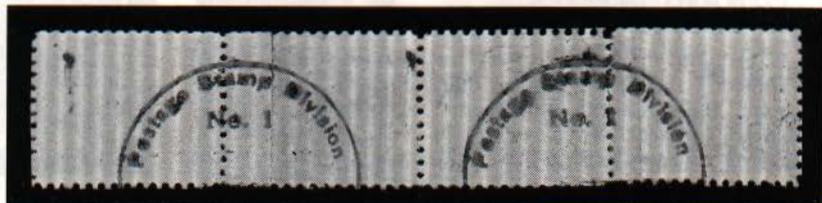
Figure 9: The unlikely hand-cut version of the U.S. Auto-Vending Machine Co. coil made from the imperf Edward.

side by side without the dates on another type of backstamp; one impression covers a regular joint pair, the other an "emergency" break in which the stamps had accidentally come apart during the pasting-up process and had been repaired — and duly authenticated by the second rubber stamp impression. (fig. 11). "Anon" also has several strips of later backstamps with the impression placed upside down, and other joint pairs with no backstamp, some of which are signed "JNS". (Jarrett states that only every other joint pair was back-stamped, but this isn't certain.)

"Anon" boasts two copies of the square backstamp; others are in the Burley and V. G. Greene (ex Holmes) collections, and a fourth is owned by a Toronto dealer. A few others may exist. Probably equally rare are the round types with capital letters and the year written in.

**Pairs of Punctures:** These exist on the September 1915 1c green and 2c carmine Admiral coils (Scott 131 and 132), as stated above (fig. 8)

**Two Large Holes:** The "Anon" collection contains several examples of the 1c green with the holes varying in distance across the pairs. These also exist with the hidden plate no. 2 — Ottawa inscription under the joint at certain paste-up pairs, according to "Anon". And according to Reiche, all copies of this coil have open framelines at the lower-left corner; Burley, however, has a strip with a *closed* frameline, though he admits it could be a forgery. Copies on the covers of stamp dealer George A. Lowe are common, since his shop was within whistling distance of the post office where the machine was set up for four days. As "Anon" says, Lowe brought most of the stamps and literally controlled this issue for many years.



Figures 10 and 11: Top: the circular gackstamp with all-caps lettering and year written in; and, below, the relatively common backstamp but without dates . . . and two in close proximity.

# Envelope Dies of the George V and Elizabeth Issues of Canada

by Horace W. Harrison

The King George V envelopes of Canada are a fascinating field of study for the philatelic specialist, even if one excludes the many special-order varieties, and only considers those envelopes freely available to the public at post offices in the Dominion during the 1911-1937 period.

Little or no work has been published on the working dies used to produce these envelopes. Charles P. Arnold, in 1963, published a mimeod list of Canada envelopes which included two dies of the 3c deeply-embossed-hair type. This is the only reference to working die differences that I can find for the King George V envelopes.

In recent conversations with William H. Maisel, the following working dies were brought to my attention: Webb EN23, 24, and 506; Higgins & Gage 41 and 42; Holmes 1031, 1032, and 1038 are all known with two working dies. Die 1 features a sharp angle between neck and chin line, while die 2 features a rounded neck into chin line (fig. 1).

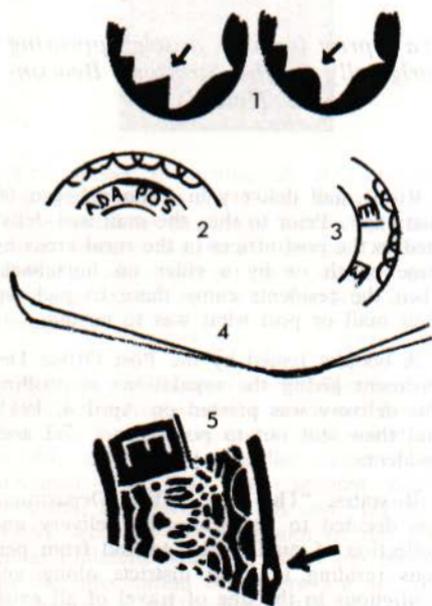
Holmes 1046a, Webb EN28, H&G 45 is known from two working dies; die 1 has border loops which meet the outer frame neatly all around, while die 2 (fig. 2), has crossed border loops above "A" of Canada and below "N" of CENTS. Die 2 may well exist on other 2c denominations besides the number 8 size envelope on which it has been seen.

Holmes 1049, a, 1050, a, b, 1054d, 1055, d; Webb EN 31, a, 32, c, d, 34e, 35d; H&G 46, a, c, 51, 53, 55 are known with two working dies. Die 1 as in the 2c, and die 2 (fig. 3), has crossed border loops above "P" of POSTAGE at the right, and below "TS" of CENTS. Die 2 may exist on other 3c denominations in addition to those listed above.

Holmes Design 1131; Webb EN73; H&G 94 also comes with two envelope knives as in figure 4.

In checking through my duplicates to separate dies 1 and 2 of the heavily-embossed hair and beard, I discovered a working die 3 of the 2c value. This newly-reported die 3 has a white triangle in the

outer frame line at the right center, as shown in figure 5.



The discovered copy was on the 2c green, size 10 envelope, both mint and used. Further checking of my 2c envelopes showed that I also had die 3 on the 2c brown used, and a mint 2c red revalued 3c. Calling on Maisel to check his material produced copies of this third working die on both sizes of the 2c red. So far, this die 3 is known to exist on the following envelopes:

| Webb  | Holmes | H&G |
|-------|--------|-----|
| EN28a | 1046   | 45c |
| EN29  | 1047a  | 56  |
| EN29a | 1047   | 56e |
| EN30  | 1048   | 58  |
| EN44  | 1074   | 67  |

It is likely that all 2c denominations will be found with this third working die, and reports from others concerning it would be welcome.

# The Rural Mails

(and mailboxes)

## In Canada

*(a reprint from an article appearing originally in the Stratford Beacon-Herald)*

Rural mail delivery in Canada began 60 years ago. Prior to this, the mail was delivered to the post offices in the rural areas by stage coach or by a rider on horseback. Then the residents came there to pick up their mail or post what was to go out.

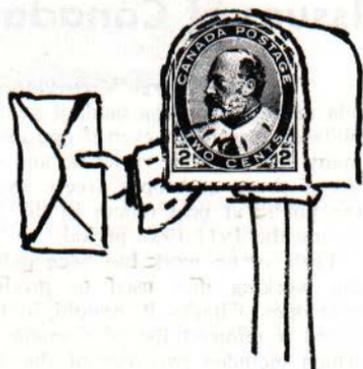
A booklet issued by the Post Office Department giving the regulations controlling this delivery was printed on April 4, 1911, and then sent out to postmasters and area residents.

It states, "The Post Office Department has decided to undertake the delivery and collection of mail matter to and from persons residing in rural districts along and contiguous to the line of travel of all existing stage routes of one mile and upwards in length upon receipt of a properly signed petition for such service from not fewer than fifty per cent of the residents of each of the rural districts traversed by such stage routes.

"Any person taking advantage of the opportunity shall provide and erect a box known as the King Edward mail box.

"It will be located in such a manner as to be reached by the courier without dismounting from his vehicle or horse. This box, the cost of which, with necessary fittings, will be three dollars, can only be obtained from the Post Office Department of Canada."

The post to which the box was to be permanently attached and which was to be provided by the patron, was to be either five inches square or five inches in diameter,



placed three feet in the ground and about four feet, six inches above the road level, erected upon the roadside so as to be conveniently reached by the courier without leaving his rig or dismounting from his horse.

Even in 1911 it was stipulated that during the winter season the roads must be kept open and the approach to the box sufficiently clear of snow to enable the courier to cover his route without being delayed.

When the box was placed lengthwise along the arm it was a notification either to the courier or to the patron that no mail had been deposited but when the box was across the end of the arm it was an indication to the patron or courier that the box contained mail.

Each box was to have conspicuously painted or stencilled upon it the name of the owner.

The booklet also contained regulations for postmasters and couriers.

The King Edward boxes were small. Then on April 21, 1914, came a larger mail box which was a combined letter and parcel post rural mail delivery box. According to a circular issued from Ottawa by Louis P. Pelletier, postmaster general, it was to be 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and 14"

*(continued on page 55)*



# Rounding Up Squared Circles

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

I think the first order of business should be to clear up what may seem to be a slightly confused situation with regard to the October and December columns. At the time that the October column was written, I knew of Mike Squirell's GORE BAY find, but expected that he would write about it in an article in *Topics*, so I made no mention of it in the column. Evidently he, too, has been working under pressure and did not get around to writing an article but merely sent the photos on to our editor who added them to the illustration provided for the October column. At the time I sent in the column which eventually showed up in the December issue, I still did not know that the GORE BAY illustration was in the October issue. As you will have noted, two other devices besides the squared circle hammer were found. Although I have a considerable number of proof strikes of the squared circle to distribute—and requests were already arriving even before I received my copy of December *Topics*—I do not have copies of the other two devices for distribution. The illustration for this month's column includes a view of the GORE BAY hammer face from a photo supplied by Mike.

\* \* \*

After the December column was mailed off to the editor, a photo of the FORMOSA square-cornered strike became available and is included in the illustration for this column. Nels Pelletier, the lucky finder as reported in the December column, has included for comparison an example of the later, round-cornered state of this hammer. The most prominent feature of this hammer



which serves to distinguish it from the hammer shown in the Proof Book is that the 'A' straddles the upper indicia bar. Secondary features are the position of 'OS' with respect to the two short bars; compare with the proof strike, fig. 14 of the 3rd Edition Handbook.

\* \* \*

A letter just received from Mike Squirell corrects some information, obviously faulty, that I had earlier received and passed on in this column. An earlier inquiry had indicated that only two squared circle hammers, NASSAGAWEYA and SUTTON WEST were in the possession of the National Philatelic Museum. Mike has turned up the information that there are actually six hammers held by the Museum. The complete list is as follows:

NASSAGAWEYA—no indicia in the hammer.

PORT MAITLAND—containing indicia: —/SP—/04.

SUTTON WEST—containing indicia: —/DE 21/03.



PALMERSTON — containing indicia:  
—/MY 5/06.

WATERLOO, ONT. — containing indicia:  
—/—/63.

This information is of great interest; if the indicia remaining in the hammers is representative of the last use of the hammer, it might appear that PALMERSTON is a possibility on both Jubilee and Map stamp. With regard to WATERLOO, a cover with date SP 23/63 was illustrated in the September, 1967 issue of *Topics*. As I recall, the post office was moving to new quarters at about that time and undoubtedly the hammer turned up while packing up equipment for the move. Evidently, the hammer was turned over to the Museum some time near the end of 1963, or if not turned over until much later, was not used until after 1963.

\* \* \*

While attending the Halifax convention, we made a side trip to Amherst and had a most pleasant visit with Dr. and Mrs. Whitehead. I mentioned to him the HALIFAX, (2)/JY 59/98 which is listed in the "impossible dates", OCT. 1971 *Topics* (that

column was already written and mailed to the editor before I left for Halifax). Dr. Whitehead was most interested in this, and although he had long since sold his Halifax collection, he still had the records of the dates and time marks it included. He immediately took up the challenge of attempting to determine the date which was in error shown as JY 59. After much hunting for various possibilities, he found that while he had had indicia 1, 3, and 4 for JY 29/98, indicia 2 had never turned up for that date. The fact that an upside-down '5' might be mistaken for a '2', especially since the indicia characters were in mirror image form, suggests that JY 59 was an error for JY 59.

\* \* \*

I came across two additional "impossible dates" to add to the listing in the October column. Bob Doull's display of Halifax cancels included a good example of an interchange, or invert error: HALIFAX, 4/AU 61/98. This might be an interchange error for '16', or an inverted '19'. The second, additional, "impossible date" is owned by Nels Pelletier: TORONTO, 7 PM/OC 50/96, undoubtedly an error for OC 20 or OC 30.



## Tagging Along

Kenneth G. Rose, Box 7086, Station E, Calgary 5, Alberta

### Requiem in Phosphor

Today is News Year's Day, 1972. In just 13 days from now, phosphor tagged stamps from Winnipeg will be 10 years old. This is far from old as far as philatelists go, but philatelically speaking, it is "getting on", as we say. On Christmas just a week ago, out in Victoria, all the educated guesses — the surmising — and the rumors became the first authenticated death rattle of the phosphor tagged stamps which have been so much a part of the last 10 years of my life — and no doubt a part of the lives of quite a few other philatelists. The signs, and the advice from people closely connected with the stamps originally tagged for use in the Sefacan machine have, since last June, pointed to the end of this phase of our hobby, and I have issued warnings to

all and sundry that the end was in sight. While the burial date has not been established, it is as certain as death, taxes, TV commercials, and World War III.

From a batch of covers that were saved for me in Victoria, I pulled out three — all postmarked Ottawa, and dated Dec. 10, 12 and 15 respectively. From past experience, I always run my UV lamp over any covers I get. (I might forget my wife or my toothbrush, but never my UV lamp). These three covers each bore a normal 6c untagged black, and a current 1c. The reaction under the lamp was so startling that I did not quite believe my eyes, at least as far as the 1c was concerned. From the edge of the design out to the two vertical rows of perfs was the most brilliant apple green tagging I have ever seen. In color, it is very close to the tagging that is used on most U.S. stamps, only much more bril-

liant. In application, it is very similar to my type 4a, which is the normal type 4 which has been applied directly over the perfs, instead of in the centre. It is *not* phosphor, since there is no afterglow, and there is no way I can detect it with the naked eye.

Whether these are part of the first, final, or series of tests that are being conducted I do not know, but letters are now in the mail to anybody I think might be able to shed some light on the subject. I regret that delays in publishing both this and subsequent information will present added difficulties, but any and all findings will be greatly appreciated.

Nobody enjoys the passing of an old friend, and yet I like to think that I am still young enough to look forward to the future with eager anticipation. I am reminded of the old saying—"The King is Dead, Long Live the King"—just as last night, 1971 passed into oblivion, and today we look forward to 1972. I already have formed some opinions about this new tagging, and all of them are on the positive side.

1. Even though not phosphor—the term "tagging" is still correct.
2. With the new very narrow bars over the perfs, errors should be more prevalent.
3. We will all get a chance to study them first-hand—and not have to be so jealous of and dependent on those lucky people in Winnipeg.
4. It just *might* put an end to all this paper and ink experimentation we have been subjected to in the past few years.
5. It *has* to increase the interest in the phosphor tagged issues, which will now become "forerunners", for want of a better word. I was just a little afraid that interest would die if tagged stamps ceased to be issued.

### Miscellaneous items

Before getting into the positive data, I want to cover just a little bit about the recently issued 7c definitive. First I want to make it clear that I do not want to into any serious arguments about the following. I have read Glenn Hansen's column in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, and have heard from several of my correspondents in Winnipeg—all of whom state that the tagged 7c was not available for sale until the afternoon of July 2. I cannot go into detail as to my sources, but I can assure you that the 7c tagged *was* available before that time—no

matter what anybody says. The accompanying photostat is enclosed of a cover that was sent to me, and I only wish I had not returned to Calgary on June 15—I would dearly have loved to have been in Winnipeg over that July 1 holiday.

On the same subject of the 7c, I assume that the emerald green and the grey-green shades have been noticed by all. To the best of my knowledge only the grey green has been tagged, but untagged, both shades have been turning up at random from all over the country. Please keep an eye open for the emerald green shade tagged—it coul dhappen. Both have had a short life with the new 8c rate having gone into effect on Jan. 1.

Quantities tagged reported from Ottawa as follows:

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| C.B.C. 15c .....    | 1,100,000  |
| 7c Definitive ..... | 10,200,000 |

#### New reportings

- 4c Cameo tagged LA Perfin Type 4
- 4c Cameo tagged LA Perfin Type 5
- 4c Cameo tagged LA Perfin Type 6 anon.
- 4c 1954 QE tagged GN perfin Type 1—Dr. W. C. Horning, Victoria.

20c definitive Type 11A—From Philatelic Section, Ottawa.

2c 1954 QE Type 2A—2 used copies—anon.

\* \* \*

Due to circumstances far beyond control, there is usually anywhere from two to five months between the time I write an article and the time it appears in *Topics*. Therefore some of the statements often appear out of date, or superceded by more up-to-date information. I trust you will bear with me when this occurs.

I cite as an example the column in the December issue: it states that the current 1c and two of the high values (10c and 25c) have been reported on fluorescent paper. *All* tagged high values were reported thus about six weeks ago, and all untagged high values have been confirmed on fluorescent paper.



# TOPICS: THE NEWSFRONT

## Those scenic postcards, some news of stamp meetings, and the London Free Press popularity poll . . .

George Penchard, the Halifax wag who edits the Nova Scotia Stamp Club's newsletter, comments on the Maple Leaf in Autumn issue sans lettering, which followed the imperf Maple Leaf in Spring: "Is it becoming a habit? Maybe the leaves of Adam and Eve were issued in error."

Our rumor mill: remember the 15 postcards issued briefly last fall in Ontario, depicting scenes of the CNE, Ontario Place and Toronto? The cards are still not available through the Philatelic Section, but it seems that new sets of cards are being made up showing scenes of other provinces, which will be sold only in those provinces and not be available generally across the country. Will the Philatelic Section eventually stock them all? No word as yet.

At the Newfoundland BNAPEX '72 Convention this fall, the annual general meeting will take place at the first assembly hall of the Newfoundland Legislature, a building which still exists as a museum and archive.

Sad news was received through past president Robert Carr, who writes, "You no doubt know of Stuart Johnstone's passing. . . . He was a prince of a fellow, a fine philatelist, and a dear friend of myself and the members in British Columbia."

The *London Free Press* (Ontario) annual poll of Canadian stamp issues conducted by Stan Shantz and covering the 1971 issues places the Kane painting as the most popular issue, followed by the four Maple Leaf issues and the Carr painting. The poll is taken among readers of the newspaper and is the 14th carried out. At the bottom of the list was the British Columbia Centennial issue; next-to-last was the Papineau.

Well-known BNAPS'er Dr. Ian Taylor of Wheeling, Illinois, was an official delegate of the United Nations Association of the U.S.A. last summer and as such was part of a 22-man tour that took him to India, Iran, Nepal, Turkey and other countries.

BNAPS president Sam Nickle of Calgary, who was recently appointed to the Canadian Stamp Design Advisory Committee, will be the guest speaker at CANPEX '72, the 44th annual convention of the Royal Philatelic Society being held this July in Edmonton. For details on the convention, write to Doris McKay, its publicist, at Box 399, Edmonton.

Meanwhile, Ottawa's ORAPEX '72 is designing a special commemorative envelope

for its convention there in May. The event is planned by the RA Stamp Club (Ottawa Civil Service Recreation Assoc.) under chairman Maj. R. K. Malott of 16 Harwick Crescent, Ottawa.

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## Post Office Department **NEW ISSUES**

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On January 17 the Post Office announced three new stamps. The first is an 8c issue commemorating the World Figure Skating Championship being held in Calgary this March; the issue measures 30 x 36 mm,

(continued on page 50)

# TOPICS: THE BUSINESS SIDE

## BNAPS: ELECTED OFFICERS

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| PRESIDENT          | Sam C. Nickle, 1208 Belavista Cr., Calgary, Alberta  |
| VICE-PRESIDENT     | Alfred P. Cook, Coy Glen Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850  |
| SECRETARY          | Jack Jevine, 2121-G North Hills Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 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.<br>1970-1972 — Dr. R. A. Chaplin, S. S. Kenyon, Wilmer C. Rockett.<br>1971-1973 — James C. Lehr, James A. Pike, Robert H. Pratt.<br>1972-1974 — G. B. Llewellyn (chairman), C. R. McNeil, D. G. Rosenblat. |

## *From the Secretary*

JACK LEVINE  
Raleigh, North Carolina

### New Members

- 2740 Burrell, Robert M., 120 Spartan Crescent, Pointe Claire 710, Quebec  
2741 Burrows, Alan G., Box 519, Station "K", Toronto 12, Ontario  
2742 Hawley, James E., R.R. No. 3, Maple Blvd., Truro, Nova Scotia  
2743 Hiuser, Cecil F., P.O. Box 3073, Windsor 30, Ontario  
2744 Long, Paul V., 157 Pearl Street, Apt. 304, Hamilton 12, Ontario  
2745 Marley, Kenneth W., 2235 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, California 95050  
2746 Philmus, Dr. Robert, 7925 Kingsley Road, Apt. 1403, Montreal 267, Quebec

### Applications Pending — "A" Group

(Applications shall be pending in two successive issues of the magazine)

- Arnold, Mrs. Ronald P., 1532 East Badillo Street, Covina, Calif. 91724  
Coomber, Richard A., 3552 Peter Street, Windsor 10, Ontario  
De Ment, Lex C. Jr., 1000 Huron Street, Apt. 302, London 25, Ontario  
Dowsley, Douglas B., 3831 Cedar Hill Cross Road, Victoria, B.C.  
Jackson, Lucius, P.O. Box 529, Burlington, Vermont 05401  
Jonasson, Sig. H., 304 Bemford, Melfort, Saskatchewan  
Rauscher, Dr. Herbert E., 4060 Grove Street, Painted Post, New York 14870  
Symmes, William D., Box 101, Underhill Center, Vermont 05490

### Applications Pending — "B" Group

- Aldous, John G., 6574 Quinpool Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
deMontigny, Jacques, 3335 Ridgewood Avenue, Apt. 6, Montreal 247, Quebec  
Hunter, D. R., P.O. Box 507, Frobisher Bay, Northwest Territory  
Manson, W. L., 10 Prestwick Crescent, Willowdale, Ontario  
McSweeney, George, 941 Hay Court, Sarnia, Ontario  
Nixon, Walter C., 5 Shrewsbury Park, Dublin 4, Ireland  
Saunders, Roy, 146 Memorial Drive, Gander, Newfoundland  
Schwerdtfeger, Dr. C. F., 6405 McKenzie Place, Vancouver 13, B.C.

### Applications For Membership

(Objections must be filed with the Secretary within 30 days after month of publication)

- BAILEY, Major William J., 282 De Montenach St., Beloelil, Que. (C) CAN — 19th and 20th century mint and used postage. 1st Day covers. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint booklet panes. Precancels. Mint and used Airmails. SPECIALTY — Canadian Military cancels and covers. Proposed by G. F. Hansen (2203).
- BARRON, Gordon, 33 Zachary Court, Toronto 19, Ont. (C-CX) CAN — mint and used postage. Literature. Flag and Duplex cancellations. Proposed by G. F. Hansen (2203).
- CARON, Mrs. Lola, 1094 de Salaberry Ave., Quebec 6, Que. (C) CAN — 19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Proposed by V. G. Greene (L40). Seconded by W. H. P. Maresch (1808).
- CLARK, Alexander M., M.D. Pubnico, Yarmouth, N.S. (C) N.S. — pre-stamp, stampless and stamps on cover. Literature. Proofs and Essays. Postal History of N.S. Proposed by G. Penchard (2672).
- FEAR, Robert M., 7 Parker St., Apt. 86, Dartmouth, N.S. (C) CAN — 19th and 20th century mint postage. 1st Day covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint booklet panes. Proofs and Essays. Proposed by G. Penchard (2672). Seconded by E. Tizard (1911).
- LIVERMORE, F. Frank, 1834 Lake Sue Dr., Orlando, Fla. 32803 (C-CX) CAN, NFD, PROV — 19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Plate Blocks. OHMS-G. Mint booklet panes. Precancels. Federal and Provincial Revenues. Mint, used Airmails and on cover. Postal Stationery entires. Literature. All cancellations. Proposed by C. W. Siddaway (2503). Seconded by K. F. Goldsmith (2555).
- MORGAN, Ian C., 22 Holton Ave., Westmount 217, Que. (C-CX) Canadian Airport postcards and AMF postmarked covers and cards. 1st Flights. SPECIALTY — World-wide postcards with views of airports postmarked at airports. Proposed by J. Levine (L1).
- PERRY, Gordon F., 19 Glenridge Crescent, St. John's, Nfld. (C-CX) NFD — 19th century mint and used postage and blocks. Pre-stamp and stampless covers. Plate Blocks. Provincial and Tax-Paid Revenues. Mint, used Airmails and on cover. Postal Stationery entires. Literature. Proofs and Essays. Varieties. Proposed by J. N. Sissons (L17).

SEAMAN, Charles D., 621 Skylark Park, 2526 Hgy. 580E, Clearwater, Fla. 33515 (C-CX) CAN — Postal Stationery entires. Post Cards. Proposed by J. Levine (L1).  
 SINGER, Peter, P.O. Box 818, New Westminster, B.C. (D) CAN, NFD, PROV. Proposed by F. R. Hadley (1274). Seconded by J. C. Bryce (2504).

#### Changes of Address

(Notice of change must be sent to the Secretary; any other office causes delay)

- 1525 Charron, Jacques J., 1980 Chemin de Chambly, Apt. 14, Longueuil, Quebec  
 1231 Debnay, Philip L., 12303 Jasper Ave., Apt. 202, Edmonton, Alberta  
 2154 Endres, Raymond E., 204 West St. Anthony St., Effingham, Ill. 62401  
 2506 Hebert, Dr. Francois, 1 Shorncliffe Ave., Montreal 217, Quebec  
 1856 Lehr, James C., 2818 Cheshire Road, Devon, Wilmington, Dela. 19810  
 2436 Marshall, Albert W., 120 Oakdale Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14618  
 1006 St. Laurent, J. C., R.R. 1, Salmon Arm, B.C.  
 2431 Walton, Wayne J. A. Jr., 368-5 North Roosevelt, Columbus, Ohio 43209

#### Correction of Address

- 2687 Aldred, Wendell C., George School, Newtown, Pennsylvania 18940

#### Resignation Received

- 781 Petch, Harold E., Bancroft, Ontario

#### Resignations Accepted

Bishop, William J. Cox, Donald G. Davis, Kenneth M.

#### Deceased

- 1781 Armonson, Louis, Box 8, Sarah Street, Gravenhurst, Ontario  
 1859 Wilson-Light, E., P.O. Box 362, McBride, B.C.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

Annual dues of \$6.50 are due and payable January 1, 1972, for the year 1972. Any such dues for 1972 not received by the Treasurer before April 1, 1972, shall cause such unpaid member to be suspended from receipt of the magazine until such unpaid dues shall have been received by the Treasurer together with the amount of \$1 add to such amount of dues (\$6.50+1) to pay the cost to the Society of removing and replacing mailing stencil. THIS RULING SHALL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED!

#### Dropped For Non-Payment of Dues

- |                          |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2098 Apple, B. Nixon     | 2521 Forfar, David M.    | 2494 Re, Luigi I.       |
| 2217 Buss, Douglas B.    | 548 Funk, Boyd D. P.     | 2326 Ryan, Alan P.      |
| 2549 Cameron, Allan F.   | 1862 Grenier, Guy        | 2385 Sisman, John E.    |
| 1080 Hutton, Tom R.      | 1674 Haley, Warren F.    | 1208 Stokely, N. F.     |
| 2298 Jasper-Batson, A.   | 570 Harper, Major G. B.  | 1305 Stott, Thomas A.   |
| 2508 Killeen; Larry G.   | 2528 Hawthorne, James T. | 2565 Todd, Janis E.     |
| 2093 Skinner, E. J.      | 1097 Levine, Irving      | 2593 Vogel, Frank       |
| 2317 Smyrloglou, Eli     | 826 Loveys, Newton       | 2607 Weller, Dr. S. L.  |
| 1406 Stillwell, H.       | 2248 Moore, James H.     | 221 Wood, Stanley A.    |
| 1920 Christian, Ralph W. | 1481 Nicholson, Eric A.  | 2674 Yoxall, Roy        |
| 2294 Decker, Robert L.   | 2478 Phair, Dr. George   | 2579 Zawadski, Marek J. |
| 2389 Dratch, Benjamin G. | 1022 Porter, L. Tupper   | Zelonka, Ron A.         |

## MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

|   |      |      |
|---|------|------|
| TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, December 1, 1971 .....  | 1191 |      |
| NEW MEMBERS, January 1, 1972 .....        | 7    | 1198 |
| RESIGNATIONS, January 1, 1972 .....       | 3    |      |
| DECEASED, January 1, 1972 .....           | 2    |      |
| DROPPED FROM ROLLS, January 1, 1972 ..... | 36   | 41   |
| TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, January 1, 1972 .....   |      | 1157 |

# 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.  
**Edmonton** — Out of town visitors: write F. N. Harris, ste. 307, May Flower Apartments, 11808-100th Ave., Edmonton 11, Canada. Meets twice a year in May and October in a public place; time and date to be announced.  
**Calgary** — Meets fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m., Secretary: Mrs. Jack Benning, 157 Wildwood Drive, Calgary 5, Alberta.

The library has received an important donation from Philip Little Jr., in the form of 32 photos and a typed text of the *In Prize* overprints on Canada law stamps. The photos show the overprinted stamps with the documents concerned, from the World War I period. The only other reference to these overprints, I have found, is in the *Popular Stamps'* column (March, 1956) *Hollow Tree*, by BNAPS'er Ed Richardson.

The library has received the *Canada Post Office Annual Report, 1970*. L. H. Scisco has donated an article originating in the *Independant Forester* entitled "The last gentleman of a gentleman's war". It gives a brief history of Canada's participation in the Boer War.

In September 1971, I was in London for the Ontario Postal History Seminar, which was very successful with 65 philatelists attending. At this meeting Edward Phelps gave a talk on researching postal history and brought many valuable reference books from the Frank Campbell collection. He also donated to the library a copy of his *Postal History of Lambton County Post Offices* containing 17 pages of text and seven pages of plates showing various cancellations.

Colin Stroup, also at the meeting, donated photostats of his articles published in the *Beamsville Post Express* on the postmarks of the town of Lincoln and its vicinity.

The library needs copies of the *Essay-Proof Journal* from 1960 to date, *Canadian*

*Revenue Society Bulletin*, and *The Philatelist* (GB) to complete its files.

If any members are interested in obtaining a strike of the Gore Bay negative crown post office bag seal, I have a few strikes; please send a self addressed stamped envelope.

Every few months more news comes to the surface regarding the fifth volume of the Robson Lowe encyclopedia of British Empire stamps, which is expected to be published this year. Robson Lowe himself describes the BNA section:

"Perhaps the easiest way of giving the reader a picture of this part is to describe one of the smallest, British Columbia. After two pages of preliminary notes on the geography and history . . . one has the postal history of Vancouver Island (4 pages) and British Columbia (7 pages), a list of the postmasters, a catalogue of the handstamps, a list of the express companies' stationery, labels and handstamps, a history of the cancellations, a list of colonial post offices, six pages on the adhesives and a bibliography. The adhesives have a commentary on the design, the plate and marginal inscriptions, die and plate proofs, color trials and "specimen" overprints, varieties, covers, blocks, reprints and forgeries and postal stationery—all the information that I want to know when writing or editing or expertising or valuing—and I feel if I want the information, then you will."

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## NOMINATIONS: BOARD OF GOVERNORS 1973-1975 TERM

In order to remind members that nominations are in order for the Board of Governors 1973-1975 term, we are publishing the following extract from the by-laws:

**Article IV, Sec. 3:** "Nominations may be filed with the secretary by any regional group, or by any five members in good standing, at any time provided they arrive in time to be published in Topics 90 days before the annual convention."

This year the secretary hopes to issue ballots with the June-July issue, and in the same issue the editor hopes to give a brief biography of all the persons on the slate.

Names of nominees will be published as they are received; remember, this is a good time to start thinking about putting your hat in the ring—or asking suitable persons to put their hats in the ring. Remember, any five members can make a nomination, so get together now and think about it . . .



Voorheis  
M. Ditmars  
No. 769

## VOORHEIS DITMARS

**A Maritimes pharmacist who's been collecting stamps since 1908**

Voorheis was born in Bear River, N.S. After the usual schooling he attended Dalhousie University and Maritime College of Pharmacy, then registered as a pharmacist in New Brunswick in 1921.

He has been actively engaged in that profession for 50 years. Since retiring in 1970 he has been working all over the province as a relief pharmacist.

He started his first stamp collection in

1908 and when that was stolen he neglected it for about 20 years. Restarting as a general collector, he continued sporadically until 1945 when he began collecting in earnest. Later he narrowed his interests to Canadian stamps.

Since he has always "collected everything and anything that even faintly resembled a stamp," he has vestigial collections of many Canadian sidelines.

Ditmars sold most of his foreign collections about three years ago and when he retired, he confined his British Colonies to seven countries, in order to the issues of Canada.

In between working at his profession and with stamps, he plays a bit of bridge.

—Dr. R. V. C. Carr

## ...and some doodles by The Editor

It is just beyond the first week in February as this is written — the last item for the February issue. *Topics* has never been this late since I've taken it over two years ago, a point for which I apologize; the delay is due to several things ranging from sickness to my being out of town frequently, from an overload at the printer's to extra time required to write the revisions on the experimental coil story (which I fear is somewhat wordy). But I hope to make up the delay over the next two issues, and have things back on schedule.

Several people have volunteered anecdotes to add to December's story on how the part and imperf issues came to get into public hands, though these don't add substantially to the information given. But one reader faulted us on some hard facts, for which we blush deeply: Dr. Lewis Reford died in June 1969, and Alfred T. Lichtenstein in February 1947, the writer says.

Next month's issue will be largely devoted to the first serious study of the current definitive issue, as compiled by a trio of two west coast experts and another from the east. Anne Cottenden of Halifax joined F. W. L. Keane of Victoria, B.C. and J. Paul Hughes of Sidney, B.C. in an article that includes several charts and check lists — and covers paper varieties, tagged stamps, gum types, precancels, and the various panes, booklets, coils and cello-paqs. (No, Virginia, a cello-paq is not a string ensemble.) Hughes, in fact, does double honors next month; he also compiled the 1971 *Topics* index which will appear in that issue.

In January we happened to be in Ottawa and looked in on James E. Kraemer, the recently-appointed curator of the National Philatelic Museum there. A delightful and obviously most competent chap he is — and a full story on him and his work, and his plans for the museum, will be carried in the next issue.

# MAIL FROM OUR MEMBERS

## More oddities . . .

This is my first time in writing to BNAPS Topics as I am a fairly new member. I found something that I feel will be of interest to you and the rest of our members.

While looking at my OHMS overprints the other day I find Scott CO-1 that I bought at the Ottawa philatelic agency some few years ago has the letter "O" with an open space in the top.

Has anyone reported an item like this, or does anyone have more information on this type?

Also have a Scott 503 with a small red dot over the head of the middle girl—almost, you might say, a small halo. This is the only one I have found in looking through a used lot of some 50 stamps.

—Maurice Quittenton

## Still ore oddities

I have noticed *horizontal* unsevered pairs and strips of the recent 6c and 7c coil stamps. I know how these come about, but perhaps many of your readers have not heard of them I am surprised that there has been nothing in your magazine on this, or have I missed something? Would you care to comment in this subject? Any ideas on their value?

—Dr. Sidney V. Soanes

## Reiche on Quantities

A comment on the very interesting article on imperfs and part perfs, which appeared in the December issue of *Topics*.

Scott 136 was also issued on plates 175 and 176; it has never been established if this means that more than 50,000 were issued, or if this quantity should be equally divided amongst the four plates.

The quantity for 126-var should be 900; for 128-var 700; and for 130a 600. This is a considerable difference from what is listed but Fred Jarrett and others I have corresponded with on this question agree that this is the actual quantity. For 126a and 128a the quantity should read 100,000 instead of 50,000.

For 105b-var and 108a the quantity is 10. A detailed analysis of this and the reason for the quantities is given in my handbook.

It might be of interest that there was once a stock of one sheet of almost all the imperfs issued in the vault of the Post Office. Because of many inquiries and after some few sheets getting out the authorities decided to return the sheets to the bank note company for destruction; this was about 12 years ago. A few of these sheets did appear, however, and I remember that one Ottawa dealer located a complete sheet of Scott 241.

—Hans Reiche

*Why couldn't the postal authorities destroy their own stamps? —the Editor.*

## And still more oddities



Among many oddities that come to light in Queen Elizabeth issues is this one of 1969 Christmas (Scott 503).

I refer to this as the "Golden Chain" variety; note three links over the child's shoulder. I believe this to be a random variety, and if any of our readers has turned up a similar copy I would be very pleased to hear from them.

—Mark England

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## NEWS *continued*

25,000,000 will be released on March 1, it is being printed in one-color lithography by the Canadian Bank Note Company, was designed by Design Workshop of Toronto, and marginal inscriptions will appear on the four corners of each pane of 50 stamps obtained from the Philatelic Service.

But far more interesting is the announcement that, on March 17, two high-value definitives will be issued — a new \$1 and, for the first time since 1897, a \$2 value. The stamps will not show Queen Elizabeth as a baby princess in one panel and another portrait of her as an adult in a second panel; instead they will depict "designs in the urbanization of Canada, illustrated by modern and historic city skylines." They'll be horizontal, 48 x 30 mm, and multi-col-

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## TRADE TALK

ored. The biggie is being issued "in response to a need shown in postal operations."

The H. E. Harris Co. of Boston announced several new items recently. First there's the *Top Buying Prices* booklet for 1972 which covers BNA, the USA and possessions. It's 48 pages, costs 25c and is available through Harris directly (see their ad in this issue for address).

They've also added a new large size in their Crystal Mount line; it's 4½ inches high and packed six 15-inch-long tubes to a package, available at about one dollar.

And finally there are the 1971 illustrated album supplements for the firm's Worldwide



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## Large Duplexes

In *Topics* for October 1970, an article mentioned turn-of-the-century duplex postmarks used at Cobourg and Pembroke, with daters 27 mm. wide, and lettering 4 mm. high. Paris, Ontario, used a similar duplex at that time, approaching that size. From 1899 to 1900 Paris employed a duplex with nine bars in the obliteration like the other two, in which the dater has a diameter of 26½ mm., the lettering for the town and province being almost 4 mm high

(fig. 15). The alphabetical time designations are small, the same size as the lettering and numerals in the date, I have "B" and "C", but "A" and "D" should theoretically exist. From 1901 on exactly the same duplex has "A" to "D" in larger lettering (fig. 16), and one or both numbers representing the day are also large, sometimes the abbreviations for the month as well, I have a 1908 copy in which the "8", but not the "O", is large. In 1899 "AM" and "PM" were also used in the dater, a usage which reappears in 1902, but alphabetical letters reappear afterwards.

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high. The new boxes would be ready for delivery around June 15 and were to cost \$4.50.

The holders, who had already paid three dollars for the King Edward box, were allowed, on their returning the automatic self-locking signal device and their paying an additional \$1.50 to the department to get the new one. The department made good the balance of the purchase price.

Misses Alda and Alma Murray, St. Pauls, who are the couriers along R.R. 2 St. Pauls, say there are still two of the King Edward boxes along their route. On request they measured one and found it was 18½" long, 6½" wide and 8½" deep.

Members of the Murray family have been delivering mail, parcels and, until this summer, the Beacon Herald, along this route for 48 years.

R.R. 2 St. Pauls was first inaugurated on June 1, 1913, with Dan McLeod of St. Pauls as the first courier. He continued until 1918 when Bill Thom, also of St. Pauls, took over and had the job for almost five years. Then Bill Clipperton, R.R. 2 St. Pauls, carried the mail until November of 1923.

It was then that the late George Murray, St. Pauls, father of the present couriers, acquired the job. Mr. Murray would take the route throughout the winter months when the going was often tough. Those were the days of the horse and cutter and no snow plow service for rural roads. Mrs.

Murray would take the mail during the summer, for being farmers as well as mail carriers, her husband was kept busy with the seeding, haying and harvesting.

In recalling her days delivering mail, Mrs. Murray has often told her daughters that the time she made with the horse and buggy depended on how many people came out to talk to her, pointing out that it was easy for folks to watch for and waylay a horse and buggy to have a chat as well as pick up their mail.

When Mr. Murray died in 1935, Mrs. Murray carried on with the help of her two daughters. When she died in December, 1957, they took over completely.

From horse and buggy or cutter, they graduated to a model "T" Ford and recall delays on the route while they fixed flat tires. For quite a number of years they got good service from their model "A", and now make the 27-mile round trip through parts of Downie and Fullarton townships in a 1970 model car.

Mail boxes are larger and for the past four years are sold at hardware stores instead of from the Post Office Department. The prices range from \$11.47 to \$15.97 depending on the metal and style.

Some are all aluminum, some galvanized steel, some steel painted aluminum and others metal coated with baked enamel. There is a metal flag on the top of the new boxes which is used to indicate if there is mail placed within either by the courier or the box owner. If the flag is upright, there is and if in a horizontal position, it is empty.

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## STARTING A NEW COUNTRY

Most collectors sooner or later reach a "plateau" at which point they frequently find a lack of forward impetus in their current field. There are numerous possible reasons for this situation to arise;

1. The collector may have started out with a "type" or space-filling kind of collection, and his interests switched around to more specialized areas.
2. He may have picked a narrow specialized field, and over-estimated the availability of material.
3. His collecting area may have become too expensive for him.
4. During his time of collecting important sections of material held by other collectors may have been diverted to museums, or otherwise permanently removed from the market.

And so forth, leaving the collector with the problem of "where to go from here".

This decision is too complex to cover adequately on a page such as this, but I will be happy to discuss the matter without obligation with any collector who cares to contact me.

The corollary question is the fate of the old collection. Again there are alternatives;

1. Holding intact as an investment.
2. Keeping some sections for incorporation with the new project, and disposal of the balance.
3. Sale by private treaty.
4. Sale by auction.

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