



Trans Atlantic Mysteries — p. 34

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The First Flag Cancel

by LARRY R. PAIGE

The first reported machine cancel to be put into use in Canada appears to be the seven bar cancel from the Imperial Mail Marking Machines first placed into service at Montreal during early March, 1896. This bar cancel has seven bars all ending at the left side, the same distance from the dater dial and is said to have an earliest reported date of use of March 10, 1896 with the latest reported date of March 20, 1896 — *Figure 1*.

The next day, March 21, 1896, a flag cancel was put into service and was possibly used early in the day but only three examples of this cancel have been reported to date, and all three are used late in the evening at 5 p.m., 7 p.m., and 9 p.m. This

cancel is still the earliest reported machine flag cancel to have been used in Canada. With only three reported examples over the years, this cancel has been classified as the key to the collecting of flag cancels of Canada. "The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook" by Ed Richardson lists this flag cancel as Type 1 No. 1. This flag cancel, used without an indicia letter, is referred to by collectors as Type 1 Montreal Blank.

Figure 2 shows a cover from my collection. A brochure in the British Post Office archives of the Imperial Mail Marking Machine Company Ltd. shows an example of the Type 1 Montreal flag cancel with a date of March 18, 1896—3:30. This is believed to be a proof strike.



Figure 1

Machine cancel M-1 reported period of use March 10, 1896-March 20, 1896.

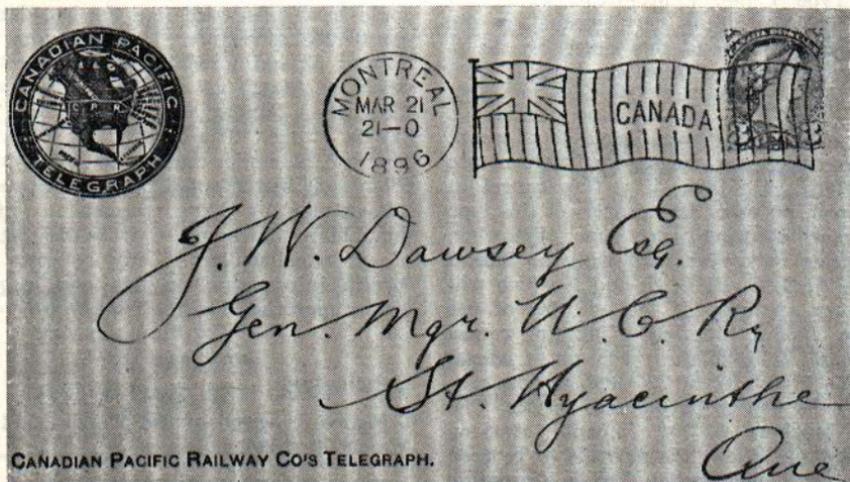


Figure 2

Type 1 No. 1 Montreal, reported for only one day, March 21, 1896



Figure 3

Assumed to be a proof strike from a brochure from the British Post Office Archives



Figure 4

Type 1 Ottawa earliest reported date of use for April 1, 1896

Figure 3 shows a copy of this date. I really think this is a proofing date or a trial strike, as there are no examples of the Type 1 blank for March 21, 1896 or any of the indicia A, B, C, D, E, F, or K has ever turned up from collections with a half hour marking. All covers to my knowledge are on a time basis of 1-24 hours. The Type 1 No. 1 Montreal, no indicia flags, one day use is very unusual, as the next reported use of this cancelling die is reported in use at Ottawa on April 1, 1896 and was in use until at least June 11, 1897.

Figure 4 shows the earliest date of use at Ottawa. With the one reported date of use for March 21, 1896 of a flag cancel at Montreal, no other flag cancels of this type are known used until early June, 1896 when it appears they were used with the indicia letters A, B, C, D, E, E, and F which will be taken up later. If the one day of use of the Type 1 Montreal blank flag cancel on March 21, 1896, was taken out of official use late March 21 or 22, 1896, a new cancelling die had to be put into service. The same brochure of the Imperial Marking Machine Co. shows the next die to be used at Montreal, again believed to be a proofing strike, for March 23, 1896, 15-0 for the seven wavy bar cancel.

Figure 5 shows a copy from the brochure and Figure 6, a cover from my collection, for only two hours later 17-0.

My conclusion of the scarcity of the Type 1 Montreal blank is that there were only three or possibly four days this flag cancel could have been used. The first possible day would have to be March 20th, as it could have been used late the last date of use of M-1A (Figure 1). The second day (Figure 2) and possible third day of use would be March 21 and 22, 1896, but the 22nd was a Sunday and postal use on Sunday is scarce. The fourth day could be March 23rd, earlier than 3 p.m., when M-2A (Figure 5) was proofed. I have arrived at this opinion by doing research myself on the different dates and studying the research of other collectors. If any collector can furnish information on this conclusion, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Conclusion

Figure 1: period of use March 10, 1896-March 20, 1896.

Figure 2: March 21, 1896.

Figure 5: March 23, 1896-May 27, 1896.



Figure 5

Machine cancel M-2A assumed to be a proof strike from a brochure from the British Post Office archives, March 23, 1896 15-0.

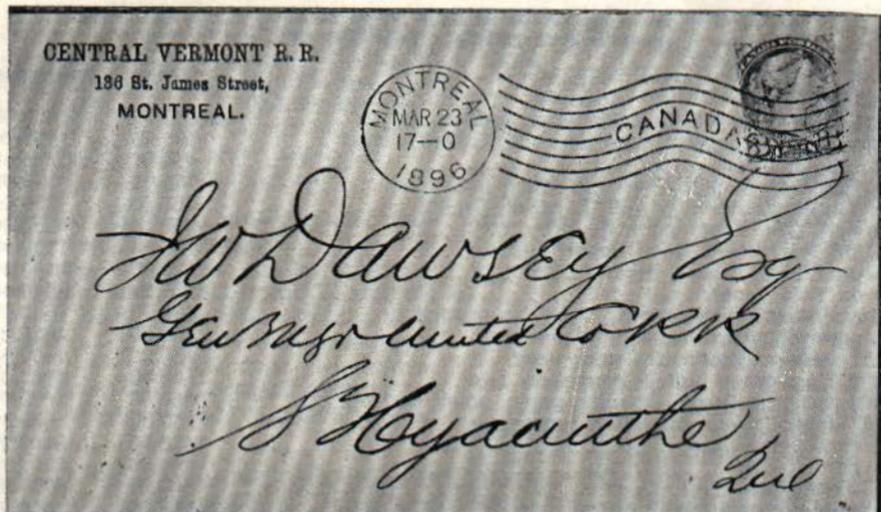


Figure 6

Machine cancel M-2A two hours after proofing date March 23, 1896 17-0.

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3p on Ribbed Paper, used	275.00	1150.00
3p on Thin Paper, used	165.00	340.00
Prince Albert 6p slate gray, lightly cancelled	600.00	1600.00
6p greenish gray, very lightly cancelled	600.00	1550.00
1857 Queen Victoria ½p rose, used	350.00	1450.00
1857 7½p green, lightly cancelled	1500.00	2100.00
1868-76 Large Queen 5c olive green, small part og.	500.00	1000.00
1897 Jubilee Issue 6c yellow brown n.h.	150.00	450.00
\$2 dark purple, o.g.	1450.00	2100.00
\$4 purple, n.h.	1600.00	5000.00
\$5 olive green, o.g.	1600.00	3000.00
6c yellow brown, block of four, n.h.	600.00	1500.00
10c brown violet, top Plate block of ten, n.h.	750.00+	2700.00
The complete set on pieces with Jul 19 1897 and Flag cancels, despite minor faults	4619.25	6250.00
\$4 purple, used	950.00	1600.00
1c orange, used on cover to Mexico		475.00
2c green, used on cover to Budapest, Hungary		360.00
6c yellow brown, on cover used locally	151.75+	550.00
8c dark violet, used on envelope Registered to Bremen, Germany	57.00+	1050.00
15c steel blue, on cover to Bremen, Germany	210.00+	1000.00
1949-50 Ovptd. "O.H.M.S." 50c dark blue green, block of four	1200.00	1600.00
NEW BRUNSWICK		
1851 Imperf 1sh bright red violet, used	2500.00	4500.00
NOVA SCOTIA		
1851 Imperf 3p blue, used	100.00	260.00
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Any collector who specializes in a subject is eager to acquire as much background information on the subject as he can. On many aspects of Canadian philately the modern collector can purchase reference books on his chosen subject. This is because prominent collectors in the past have put the knowledge they have acquired over many years into print so that the likes of us can benefit from their knowledge. We owe them a tremendous amount.

On the subject of precancels practically nothing has been put on paper, and we feel that unless an effort is made, and made soon, much of the background information that has been accumulated over the years by those more 'mature' precancel collectors will be lost. Our efforts at the archives have produced little, because much of the original information and records have been destroyed.

During recent years we have acquired information, jottings, notes, etc. from some of the leading collectors in this field. We have found the information of tremendous interest. It has provided a background that was unavailable elsewhere. We list some of this information in this article, and hope that it will stir others into letting us have any snippets of information that I am sure will be of interest to all students of this fascinating aspect of Canadian philately. We hope that we shall be able to have similar articles in the future, putting this background information into print for future reference. These Notes are not a result of our study, merely comments from others who know far more than us.

Amherst, N.S. It must be every precancel collector's dream to own the three Amherst precancels. As only one complete trio is known, most of us will have to keep dreaming. I have at least had the privilege of seeing them, and identifying them as part of our study of the Admiral precancels. The printing of the three values are:

1c yellow—original die, retouched, wet printing; 2c green—original die, re-engraved, dry printing; 4c bistre—dry printing.

It is reported that a 5c violet and 10c blue were also prepared, but none so far have been found. Any other information on this would be very much appreciated. One other copy of the 1c and 4c are thought to exist, but to date our efforts to substantiate this have failed.

The 2c value I saw was reported to have been purchased in January 1937 from a resident in Nova Scotia. The stamp came from a calendar roll from a lumber buyer S. H. Read of Amherst. The 4c value is also reported to have changed hands in the same year. The price paid was \$5.00 and no doubt the lady from whom it was purchased in Halifax was delighted.

Carberry. A seed company with its head office in Brandon is reported to have been the only user. The company sold spruce and pine seedlings at this branch nursery. A local Carberry printer prepared their catalogues at a cut rate and the Carberry precancel was introduced for use on these mailings. The printing of the catalogue later reverted to Brandon and the precancel discontinued.

St. John. A resident of St. John reports that at the time the 1c green Admiral was in use the province was dry, and liquor had to be sent from Montreal. A local firm sent out circulars to local residents advertising this service from Montreal, and was the only user of this 'prohibition' precancel.

Rock Island. It has normally been the policy of Canada Post not to precancel commemorative issues. There are the exceptions of the 1897 Jubilee issues and the 1c value of the 1927 Confederation issue which was used from Montreal and Toronto.

In 1935 a second Jubilee issue was produced. For some years previously one of Canada's largest women's garment manufacturers who had their head office in Rock Island had been mailing out their house publication in small and large editions, using 1c and 2c precancels. When the 1935 Jubilees were issued, the managing director of the company, a keen philatelist and precancel collector, thought it would be

nice if he could have the 1c and 2c Jubilees precancelled '1142' for use on their mailings. His request was refused, but after going to the top he finally obtained his 1c and 2c Jubilees precancelled. These are now quite scarce. Can anyone report a multiple piece with the 'weeping Princess'?

Chatham. A local school is thought to have been the only user. They were used on mailings to addresses in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and P.E.I. At this time the Postmaster at Upper Stewiack in Nova Scotia was a Mr. Cox—a keen precancel collector. No doubt he acquired a few copies from undeliverable pamphlet mailings.

Sydney. Mail order parcels were trucked from Moncton to Sydney, Truro and Amherst to get Locality Postal Rates. It is reported that local merchants quickly complained and Ottawa had stocks in these centres returned. Their use was declared improper and remainders were destroyed.

Walkerville. Parke, Davis and Co., Department of Animal Industry was the user for this precancel.

Toronto. Two numbers have been used

which do not appear in the regular catalogue. These are 4530 and the 4600 as both were used only for postal stationery but not stamps. These are the Money Order Office Numbers from Adelaide Street and from the Main Post Office in Toronto.

Vancouver. The 3c violet KG VI, with the number 9780 had only one single mailing to be used for distribution of telephone directories. Type 3-131 was used mainly by Might Directories on circulars mailed for Root, Collier Co. Ltd.

Ottawa. The 8c QE II, blue precancelled stamp is known with the top row in the sheet showing the wide stamp with one missing perforation and which has been mentioned before in this journal. Two main users of this were *Golf Magazine* and the Royal Bank of Canada in Ottawa. On cover these are even more elusive than off cover. Ottawa 1-85 was extensively used by the Electric Bean Chemical Co. Ltd.

Lennoxville. The main user was Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Ltd. Quebec Branch.

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4040 SIMMONS, David R., 550 Battery St., Apt. 320, San Francisco, CA 94111—C. Canada mint singles, Newfoundland mint singles, Canada covers, Property/Casualty insurance covers. Proposed by E. J. Whiting, L-61.
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4044 MINSHALL, John R., 39 Linden Ave., Victoria, B.C. V8V 4C9—C. Canada general; Small Queens; Jubilees. Proposed by A. H. Hall 681. Seconded by W. C. Horning, 2468.
4045 STEINBOCK, Hans, c/o The Calgary Stamp Shop, 613 Centre St. S., Calgary, Alta. T2G 2C6—D. Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland general. Proposed by E. A. Harris, 729, seconded by J. Stobernack, 3429.

- 4046 DODWELL, Henry K., Middle House, Cruck Meole, Hanwood, Nr. Shwrsbury, Salop, England SY5 8JN—C. Postal History, Paquetbot covers/cancels; Ship cards; Atlantic and Pacific Mail, W.W. II; Overseas routes. Proposed by G. Fowles 2297, seconded by R. S. Greenhill, 749.
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- 4048 MADRY, Royal C., 436 Cummings Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452—C. Canada Revenues; Jubilees; Pence, Cents and Large Queens. Proposed by C. A. Gates, 3876, seconded by L. R. Paige, 2384.
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- 4050 ROTH, Edward F., P.O. Box 4252, Parkersburg, WV 26101—D. Canada and B.N.A. Proposed by L. R. Paige, 2384; seconded by C. A. Gates, 3876.
- 4051 STAECKER, Dieter, 384 Regal Dr., London, Ont. N5Y 1J7—C. Canada Postal Stationery, Post Cards, Canada General. Proposed by J. D. Aitken, 3982, seconded by R. V. Furneaux, 3103.
- 4052 CRAIG, Robert J. A., 11660 Seaton Rd., Richmond, B.C. V7A 3G6—C. Canada used singles, 1967 Centennial, Town/Moon cancels. Proposed by E. J. Whiting, L-61.
- 4053 ASKGAARD, Kaare, 2099 Lawrence Ave., Apt. 1407, Weston, Ont. M9N 1H9—C. Canada mint and used, Cancellations, Literature, Admlrals. Proposed by N. N. Sheklian, 3399; seconded by L. H. Hondyk, 3789.
- 4054 ALMOND, Thomas Edmund, 2 Filbert Dr., Tilehurst, Reading RG3 5DZ, England—C. Canada Flag Cancel covers, Squared Circle cancel covers, Postal History covers. Proposed by C. G. Bandler 2923; seconded by R. S. B. Greenhill, 749.

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- 3834 Mida, Hymie, 62 Almond Ave., Thornhill, Ont. L3T 1L2
- 2525 Vicero, Ralph D., 18301 Kinzie St., Northridge, CA 91325
- 3857 Bradley, Whitney L., 122 Sherwood Ave., Kitchener, Ont. N2B 1K1
- 2901 Moir, Brian M., R.R. #4, 4812 Chute Lake Rd., Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 7R3
- 3260 Cox, Richard F., c/o Bank of Montreal, Verona, Ont. K0H 2W0
- 3753 Burgers, Hendrik, 1592 Queensdale Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1T 1R8
- 685 Apfelbaum, Earl P. L., c/o Earl P. L. Apfelbaum Inc., 2006 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19103
- 3081 Sommerfeldt, Heinz, 7254 Willingdon Ave., Burnaby, B.C. V5J 3R7

- L3926 Levesque, Rodrigue, **Chemin Dufresne, R.R. #3, Gatineau, Que. J8P 7G7**
 3819 Osterhoff, Robert J., **2210 Kehrs Ridge Dr., Chestefield, MO 63017**
 1929 Averill, J. E., **P.O. Box 246, Midland, Ont. L4R 4K8**
 3779 Plaskiewicz, Richard J., **1964B Dewert Circle, Honolulu, HI 96818**
 1949 Daniels, Bruce G., **27 State St., Boston, MA 02109**
 2928 Felton, James W., **Box 52494, Sam Houston Station, Houston, TX 77052**
 3975 DiMaria, Dave, **3122 Wellington St., Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 3Y4**
 2410 Eacret, Mrs. Bonnie G., **1790 Jackson, Apt. 204, San Francisco, CA 94109**
 2980 McLean, Raymond, **955 Dingley Dell, Apt. 206, Victoria, B.C. V9A 5R6**
 3961 Fournier, Richard M., **2033 W. 7th Ave., Apt. 111, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1T3**
 419 Davis, W. Worth, **73 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg, Ont. N4G 3T8**
 2862 Powell, Reg. A., **R.R. #2, Holyrood, Ont. N0G 2B0**

RETURNED MAIL

(Information to correct address is needed — this is the address of present record)

(In parentheses after address is the Post Office remark — reason for return)

- 3342 Clark, A. Ainslie, 2 Glen Park Dr., Ottawa, Ont. K1B 3Z2 (Moved, address unknown)
 3248 Babin, Rene C., C.P. 133, Boischatel, Que. G0A 1H0 (Moved, address unknown)
 1140 Hunt, Harris R., Apt. 2B, Golf's Edge—C.V., West Palm Beach, FL 33409
 (temp order — not effective for this class of mail)
 3649 Leitch, Malcolm Fraser, 4336 West 10th Ave., Apt. 1, Vancouver, B.C. V6R 2H7 (Unknown)

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Your Secretary regrets that due to illness it is not possible for him to have the minutes of the annual meeting at the Convention in McAllen, Texas in this issue of TOPICS. For the same reason the reports of the several committees and officers is not included. The result of the balloting for officers and Board of Governors for the term beginning 1 January 1981 is as follows:

President	James C. Lehr
First Vice-President	Michael B. Dicketts
Second Vice-President	Robert H. Pratt
Secretary	Edward J. Whiting
Treasurer	Edmund A. Harris

Members of the Board of Governors whose term expires 31 December 1982:

Lee Brandom, Glenn Hansen, Garvin Lohman, Trelle Morrow, Clarence Stillions.

Members of the Board of Governors whose term expires 31 December 1984:

Leo LaFrance, Ronan McGuire, Wilmer Rockett, William Simpson, Harry Sutherland. Further, the Board, on accepting Bob Pratt's resignation as chairman, elected Leo LaFrance as the new chairman of the board.



AN INVITATION
TO MEMBERS OF
THE BRITISH
NORTH AMERICA
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

•

If you are not already a member of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and would be interested in joining the "Royal", please write to The Secretary, The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Box 1054, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1G5, for membership application forms or information.

•

Members receive *The Canadian Philatelist*, published bi-monthly, and are entitled to use the sales circuit.

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Patriotic Postcard Series

by W. L. GUTZMAN

The Canadian Ensign (WBR 8)

This series is easily separated from a similar series by the size of the flag, which covers about a third of the face of the card. The black and white view also covers only a third of the space, with the result that there is a considerable amount of blank space remaining.

The earliest date so far recorded is on Sept. 9, 1905, but most common usage seems to have been in 1906 and 1907.

Warwick Bros. and Rutter were the publishers, but did not always label the cards, e.g. No. 3022. Normally the publisher's name appeared at the upper right of the face of the card.

Backs of the earlier cards were undivided, with "Canadian Souvenir Post Card" in maroon colour, surrounded by a frame, with designs at either end, all in the same colours. Later backs were divided and showed the elaborate WBR design, in pale blue, of "Canadian Souvenir Post Card."

- 904 Str "Brockville" Smith's Island,
Brockville, Ontario.
947 Centre of the Park, Oshawa, Ont.
974 City Hall, Toronto, Canada
995 The Old Cannon, Digby, N.S.
3002 Regatta on North-West Arm, Halifax,
N.S.
3003 Church Parade at Garrison Chapel,
Halifax, N.S.
3004 Halifax, N.S. From Citadel
3011 Sunbeam Gold Mine, Port Arthur,
Ont.
3014 Victoria Park, Truro, N.S.
3017 The Racquette, Digby, N.S.
3022 St. Mary's Cathedral, Halifax, N.S.
3030 Court House, Truro, N.S.
3061 Irish Guards Band
3108 General View, Apsaque, N.B.
3400 Interior Methodist Church,
Cannington, Ont.
— Steamer Chippewa Toronto to
Niagara Falls
— City, Hall, Toronto

Series No. 100-1100

This very colourful series of Canada-related cards appeared in 1906-1907. Although there were no embellishments of patriotic symbols such as maple leaves, coats of arms, beavers or flags, the subject matter was in each case an obvious salute to the wealth and importance of Canada.

The Series No. appeared in black, on the face of the card, at lower left. Publishers or printers were not mentioned but cards were probably printed in England. A second version of Series No. 900, however, was indicated as being printed by Knowles & Co., London.

Designs on all cards in the series were multicoloured, with creamy-brown backgrounds tending to dominate. Address sides were divided, and printed in brown, in three lines—"Canadian/Private Post Card/The Address to be written on this side."

Series No. 100: An illustration of Uncle Sam and John Bull carrying bags of Pounds and Dollars into Canada.

- 200 The Granary of the World
300 Spying out the Land
400 No title. What reconciles him? etc.
500 A country of swift changes. Man with that tired feeling
600 Uncle Sam "Waal say I used to think I had the biggest land, etc."
700 The Only Drawback—Uncle Sam "It's a fine lookin' country, but darn it all, you can't see it for the wheat."
800 The New Belle—Miss Columbia
900 The National Song of Canada—"Now, then, all together."
1000 Uncle Sam—"Where there is Money to be made, you'll find a Yankee."
1100 John Bull dons a new Fancy Waistcoat.
Also 900 "It's a fine country, but you can't see it for the wheat." Printed by Knowles & Co., London

Horseshoe and Maple Leaves

This "good-luck" series appeared in late 1905 and was used mainly during 1906.

The golden-coloured horseshoe frames a picture which is either in black and white or in shades of brownish-gray. A sprig of green maple leaves appears on either side of the horseshoe.

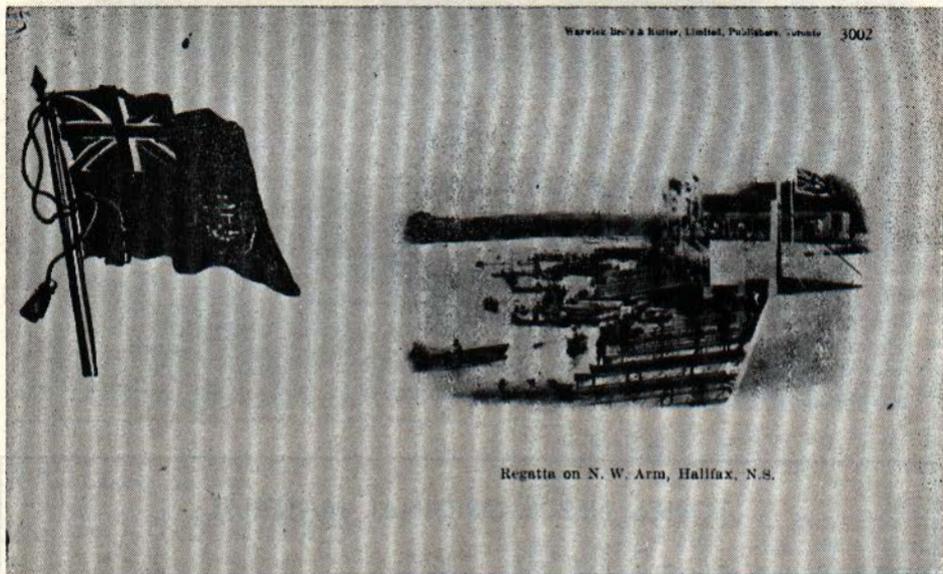
Backs are all undivided and carry the well-known U.P.U. header in blue. The publisher is not indicated on the cards.

Because of the undivided backs, writing frequently appears on the face of the card.

- High Falls Power House, Copper Cliff
Horseshoe only—no scenes
Methodist Church, Aurora
Methodist Church, Burford, Ont.
Sharon Church, Stellarton, N.S.



METHODIST CHURCH,
HURFORD, ONT.



Warwick In's & Butler, Limited, Publishers Toronto 3002

Regatta on N. W. Arm, Halifax, N.S.



TOPICS NEEDS ORIGINAL MATERIAL

FOR PUBLICATION

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

ISSUE No. 1

January 1981 starts my two year term as your President. I appreciate this chance to work with and for every member, since the President should serve as the focal point for members with concerns, complaints, needs, ideas or anything else connected with the operations of BNAPS. Although it is impossible to promise complete satisfaction all the time, I can promise a reply to all correspondence and a follow-up with the proper department on any problems.

This column will be used to report changes as they occur and there are several already. Mike Dicketts' election as Vice President opened the position of Handbook Committee Chairman and Allan Steinhart has agreed to accept this job. Because of his past efforts Mike was able to turn over to Allan three manuscripts reasonably ready for publication, plus several other active leads. In addition, the Squared Circle and RPO Study Groups are handling publication of new handbooks. We intend to have a number of books published by the time of the Ottawa Convention and invite anyone interested in publication to contact Allan.

Bob Jamieson of Islington, Ontario has agreed to be our new Sales Circuit Manager. Bob has approached this difficult job with great enthusiasm and will start functioning as soon as we can close out all the old books. We are working hard to push this "close out" and ask all book owners to be patient for a couple more months. More on this in our next issue of *Topics*.

When Jack Levine started BNAPS many years ago, his main hope was to form a group of collectors where friendship would be just as important as collecting. Let's continue to work together to help BNAPS get closer to Jack's goal. Along the way, we'll also become better collectors.

— Jim Lehr

Letters and Announcements

Arctic Canada Group

Article 6, Section 4, of the constitution of the British North America Philatelic Society allows for the formation of study

groups, provided a minimum of five members express interest in starting a group.

I would like to discover if there is enough interest to form a group devoted to the study of the postmarks and postal history of Arctic Canada. The purpose of this group would be the exchange of information and the trading of philatelic material related to this topic.

While there is a certain amount of interest in this topic in the journals of other societies (notably the *Journal of the Postal History of Canada* and in *Ice Cap News*, the journal of the American Society of Polar Philatelists) there is no organized group researching Arctic Canada.

Such a study group could make a valid contribution to BNA philately through the issuing of a regular newsletter, and, perhaps, with the ultimate aim of producing a comprehensive handbook.

Would any interested members please contact me at the following address: 204-10634-80th Ave., Edmonton, Alta. T6E 1V5. I would be willing to act as corresponding secretary should such a group be formed.

Thank you.

— D. J. Piercey

Excise 8 Cent Red

I have a problem with the Three Leaf Excise issue which someone may be able to answer.

Neither Bond nor van Dam have an issue for the 8 cent red (perf and imperf). I have a note on the 20 cent red: "The 20 cent blue, which was the tax on imported playing cards, did not adhere to the cellophane wrapping. The 20 cent was issued in red for this special purpose as a signal to the printer to apply a special glue to cellophane."

What was taxable at 8 cents? Could the change from red to blue be for a similar reason?

As background, the 20 cent blue was issued January 1940—the red, January 1942. The 8 cent blue was issued September 1942.

Any data would be appreciated.

— C. Kirk Liggett

For Your Calendar

CALTAPEX '81, the annual stamp exhibition and dealer bourse of the Calgary Philatelic Society, has been scheduled for September 25th, 26th and 27th, 1981, at the Calgary downtown Convention Centre. Additional information can be obtained from the Show Chairman, James R. Taylor at P.O. Box 1075, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2K4.

Fredericton Received Way

Both Robson Lowe and Jephcott, Greene and Young recorded this postmark without

the "WAY". Indeed, most examples do not show any part of it and undoubtedly the "WAY" was recessed with respect to the rest of the handstamp. Of all the examples that I have seen over half show none of the "WAY" and most of the rest merely a letter or a part of one.

The addition of the "WAY" indicates that this is a marking for way letters, that is letters handed to a mail courier while on his route between the different post offices and way offices. Jarrett on page 487 states that couriers had a special pouch for such letters and had to mail them at the next post office where they were marked "WAY".

— F. R. Risteen and Ian C. MacRae



Late News

GEORGE WEGG RETIRES

On March 31st, George Wegg is retiring from the presidency of the firm of George S. Wegg Limited. The management of the firm will be in the capable hands of E. H. (Ted) Wright, who has been with the firm for many years.

George Wegg's retirement might perhaps be better described as a semi-retirement as he plans to operate as a philatelic consultant and auction agent after leaving the full time business.

WHY NOT SEND US AN ARTICLE
OR A LETTER FOR PUBLICATION
IN BNA TOPICS?

BNAPEX OF YEARS PAST

This nostalgic list was published in the program of events for BNAPEX '80 last November. The 1955 details have subsequently been filled in. If any members can supply information to complete the remaining gaps *Topics* will update the list in a future issue.

1949	Buffalo, N.Y.	"Newfoundland"	Bill and Dan Meyerson
1950	Philadelphia, Pa.	"Maritime Provinces"	Walter Chadbourne
1951	CAPEX, Toronto	"British Columbia"	Gerald Wellburn, O.T.B.
1952	Ithaca, N.Y.	"Booklet Panes"	Ed Richardson, O.T.B.
1953	Montreal, Que.	(na)	Graham Fairbanks
1954	Niagara Falls, Ont.	"1868 Large Queens"	James D. Smart
1955	Hartford, Conn.	"Admirals"	Harry Lussey
1956	Toronto, Ont.	"P.E.I."	L. S. Crosby
1957	Philadelphia, Pa.	"Canada Pre-Stamp"	Charles de Volpi, O.T.B.
1958	Ste. Marguarites, Que.	"Canada 1851-1868"	Charles de Volpi, O.T.B.
1959	Atlantic City, N.Y.	"Newfoundland"	Harry Goody
1960	Banff, Alta.	"Newfoundland Pence"	Dan Meyerson
1961	Elmira, N.Y.	"The 15c Large Queen"	Gerald Firth
1962	Ste. Marguarites, Que.	"19th Cent. Can. Proofs"	C. M. Jephcott
1963	Williamsburg, Va.	"New Brunswick"	R. V. C. Carr
1964	Muskoka, Ont.	"New Brunswick"	Lawrence Bell
1965	Cape Cod, Mass.	"1937-41 Nfld. Proofs"	Robert Pratt, O.T.B.
1966	Calgary, Alta.	"West. Can. Postal History"	C. de Volpi, O.T.B.
1967	Ste. Marguarites, Que.	"Early B.N.A. Postal Marks"	Clare Jephcott
1968	Lakeway, Texas	(being the 25th Anniversary Exhibition, a non-competitive, totally invitational show was held)	
1969	Vancouver, B.C.	"Canada Pence"	Sam and Rosemary Nickle
1970	Easton, Md.	"19th Cent. Newfoundland"	Robert Pratt, O.T.B.
1971	Halifax, N.S.	(not reported in B.N.A. <i>Topics</i>)	
1972	St. John's, Nfld.	(not reported in B.N.A. <i>Topics</i>)	
1973	Calgary, Alta.	(not reported in B.N.A. <i>Topics</i>)	
1974	Williamsburg, Va.	"Early Can. Post. Marks"	John E. Young
1975	Toronto, Ont.	(na)	R. V. C. Carr
1976	San Francisco, Calif.	"1859 Decimals"	Art Groten
1977	Edmonton, Alta.	"1859 10c Consort"	Fred Godhelpsen
1978	Palm Beach, Fla.	"1868 Large Queens"	Ed Richardson, O.T.B.
1979	Quebec, Que.	"Small Queens"	William Simpson

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

RATES: 15 cents per word per insertion, payable with copy in advance. Copy for classified advertisements should be sent to Dr. Groten, Box 30, Fishkill, N.Y. 12524, U.S.A.

The Editorial Board of BNA's Topics reserve the right to accept or reject any submitted advertisement based upon its own consideration at the time of submission.

FOR SALE

POSTCARDS—Neudin 1980 France/International Catalogue, 500 pp., 40,000 prices, 350 illus., 1,000 addresses \$18.50 plus \$1.00 shipping. D. Anderson, 3070 Le Boulevard, Montreal H3Y 1R7.

LARGE COLLECTION — Canadian plate blocks in matched sets and single corners — 20 to 40% discount from Lyman's. Also complete booklets, postal stationery, used stamps, etc. Mint New Zealand, Guernsey and Jersey. Let me know your wants. Good prices and service. Fred Kraemer, Box 504, Kelowna, B.C. Can. V1Y 7P1.

WANTED

PRE-1900 DATES — on stamp or cover of these British Columbia towns: Ruby Creek, Sea Island, Sinclair, Slocan Junction, South Saanich, Sproat Lake, Stanley, Sucker Creek, Swansea, Telegraph Creek, Union Bay, Waterloo, Watson, Webster's Corner, West Fairview, White Valley. Write J. A. Pike, 5805 Balsam St., Apt. 801, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4B8.

CANADA FOR SALE

MODERN MINT CANADA — sent against your want list on approval. Older, mint and used, issues also available. References please. Mattatuck Philatelics, P.O. Box 550, Barberton, Ohio 44203 U.S.A.

BUY, SELL, EXCHANGE

CANADIAN POSTAL STATIONERY — wanted to buy or trade, including special order envelopes, railway express cards and pre-cancelled cards. Dick Staecker, 384 Regal Drive, London, Ont. N5Y 1J7.

LITERATURE

OUT OF PRINT OR CURRENT TITLES — We welcome your inquiries. Philately in Print, Box 72, Station 'A', Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5W 1X4.

1948 SILVER WEDDING ISSUE

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TOPICS

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GET TOGETHER
AND FORM
A REGIONAL GROUP

Newfoundland - The Postage Stamps of 1897

A tale of two secretaries The Cabot and Royal Issues

by ROBERT H. PRATT

(PART I)

FOREWORD

If this article seems to be a one sided conversation, it is! The data from which it was assembled comes from the letter files of the Colonial Secretary of Newfoundland, the telegraph files of his office, and the newspapers of the times. All of these records are available to those engaged in research in the Newfoundland Archives, the Colonial Building, St. John's. Also, information can be gleaned from the Gosling Library in St. John's. It has been impossible to find any of the Postmaster General's records, except those contained in his annual reports, printed yearly in the *Journal of the Assembly*. All of his records are deemed to have been destroyed (why?) when Newfoundland joined Canada in 1949. The references are far too many to list in detail or to footnote. Important letters are quoted verbatim, as that is the only way one can assimilate a feeling for the personalities involved.

— Robert H. Pratt — June 1980

Procurement of the stamps — The Cabot Issue 1897

For the Commonwealth the year 1897 was to be the Diamond Jubilee Year of Queen Victoria; for Newfoundland, Cabot took precedence over the Queen and the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the Colony was celebrated. The Colonial Secretary Robert Bond, in addition to his other duties, was in charge of postal affairs. He took this extra office seriously. The Secretary's office informed Postmaster General Fraser on February 17, 1897:

Sir,

Referring to your note of date the 6th. ultimo addressed to Mr. Berteau of this Department relative to the proposed "CABOT" issue of Postage Stamps. I think we should

consider the matter not only from the financial, and if I am correct in that view would it not be well to make our number of designs and value of stamps as large as possible?

The United States made a very large sum of money out of the "Columbian" issue. I see no reason why this Colony may not expect a handsome return from its Cabot issue.

I have thought that the following values would be about right, viz: — 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, 36, and 48, the complete "Cabot" issue being the value of \$2.04. I shall be glad to receive your views anent the matter, and also to learn how many stamps of each denomination you consider it would be desirable for the Government to order.

R. Bond, C.S.

On February 19th, Bond wrote to the American Bank Note Company, New York. Gentlemen:

The Government of this Colony having decided upon the issue of a Cabot series of postage stamps, I have the honor to ask you to undertake the execution of the same in accordance with the designs and in the following quantities, to wit:

400,000	of one cent postage
400,000	of two cent postage
1,000,000	of three cent postage
400,000	of four cent postage
400,000	of five cent postage
400,000	of six cent postage
200,000	of eight cent postage
200,000	of ten cent postage
200,000	of twelve cent postage
200,000	of fifteen cent postage
100,000	of twenty-four cent postage
100,000	of thirty cent postage
100,000	of thirty-five cent postage
100,000	of sixty cent postage

I have to request that you will be good enough to submit for my approval proofs of the designs and colors before printing

the quantities named and that all correspondence in relation thereto will be direct with this department.

R. Bond, C.S.

It is obvious that the P.M.G. had made some recommendations, as the 48 cent value was dropped in favor of the 60 cent stamp, and the 36 was changed to a 35 cent duty. The next correspondence was logged on March 25th when Bond again wrote the Bank Note Company.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of date the 12th. inst. and to confirm the following cablegram transmitted to you this day, namely: "referring to your telegram of the twenty second inst. and letter of 12th just to hand models perfectly satisfactory, proceed with engraving at once and expedite as much as possible writing by mail and returning models".

The models which are returned under cover of this are, as I have stated in my cable, perfectly satisfactory. I have no alteration to suggest, even as regards colors, the choice of which is admirable. I notice what you say about stamps being in one color. If this could be avoided, and the stamps appear on completion as per models, it could be preferable, but I suppose that is impossible (bi-colored?). I have to request that you will be good enough to make a special effort to have the stamps, or a portion of them at least, ready by June. On completion of the work you can either draw upon me for the cost stated in your letter or I will remit you the sum on draft on New York. I would like you to have two hundred complimentary cards nicely prepared with a complete set of stamps affixed as per enclosed design, each to be of the size of the paper containing designs.

R. Bond, C.S.

This letter is interesting in that it provides the order for the presentation cards which were given to distinguished citizens and persons who could assist in the sale of the stamps. Bond was a salesman, and he used his position to enhance Newfoundland in the eyes of the world, by stamp and presentation card.

Berteau, the chief clerk for the Secretary, wrote to Fraser on June 6th regarding a loss of security which had upset Bond.

Sir,

I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to acquaint you in reply to your note of the 28th instant re. the new issue of stamps, that the books can be ruled and values written after their arrival. He has further directed me to say that *none* of our citizens have seen the designs as *no eyes have seen them excepting his own*, unless the letters enclosing them have been opened after leaving the office.

H. C. Berteau

In the same vein the irritated Secretary wrote the Company on the 9th, and to the P.M.G. on the same day. He followed this with another order to the P.M.G. on the 12th.

Gentlemen:

With reference to my letter of date the 19th February last, handing you an order for a Cabot Series of Postal Stamps for the Government of this Colony and in which I observed "that all correspondence in relation thereto will be direct with this department". I have been displeased to have handed to me by the Postmaster General a letter addressed by you to him of date May 26th, covering a bill of lading for five boxes containing the stamps aforesaid. I have also been surprised to learn from the Postmaster General that the plates and all particulars of design of the said stamps are known both in Canada and the United States. The object in directing procurement direct from the Government of this Colony and of the request in the last paragraph of the letter was for the purpose of securing absolute secrecy in relation to the Series until the Government had decided upon the date on which they should go into circulation and to thus prevent speculators in stamps from cornering any particular denomination. I much regret therefore that the desire of the Government in this particular has been thus limited by the non-observance of the Government's desire by your employees.

I enclose herewith a draft for the sum of \$5050.50 (five thousand and fifty dollars and fifty cents) United States Gold to cover amount of invoice and I have to thank you for your prompt attention.

R. Bond, C.S.

(9 June)

Sir,

Referring to your letter of date 3rd June

Glimpses of BNAPEX '80

McAllen, Texas









Members of the Order of the Beaver line up, back row, left to right, Harry Lussey, Edward Whiting, Robert Pratt, Edward Richardson, James Pike and James Kraemer. Front: Wilmer Rockett, Leo La France, Vincent Greene and Alfred Cook.



At informal gathering: H. Lussey, Sam Nickle, R. Pratt and E. Richardson.



More formal scene is BNAPS Board meeting, November 5.

instant and enclosure. I beg to return a letter from J. W. Scott & Co. Limited, which can be attended to as soon as the issue of stamps has been ordered. The Government ordered the Cabot Series direct so as to secure absolute secrecy and I have been surprised therefore to learn from you that there has been publicity given to the plates and values both in Canada and the United States and that no instructions to the American Bank Note Co. as regards correspondence have been departed from. I have written the said Company strongly with regard to this matter and at the same time have forwarded to them a draft for the amount of invoice.

In view of the importation of the stamps above referred to, the Government regret that you have ordered any stamps without first having obtained their approval, and I am to request that in future no stamps shall be ordered without the sanction of the Government being first obtained. I am also to ask you to furnish me at an early date, with a certified list of all the stamps at present in your possession.

R. Bond, C.S.

(12 June)

Sir,

I am to request you to address a Circular to all Post Offices in this Island acquainting Postmasters and Postmistresses in charge, that on and after the 24th instant all postage stamps will be called in, to be replaced by those of the Cabot issue, and asking them to requisition for such stamps as they may require.

In order that your Department may be supplied with stamps of the new issue during the currency of the stock, I am to request you to be good enough to furnish us with a requisition for such quantity of the several denominations, as you will need for the immediate wants of the Department; as it has been ordered by the Government that the balance shall be placed in the Treasury, to be withdrawn thereafter into the General Post Office, only upon your requisition signed by the Colonial Secretary. With respect to the stamps of the Cabot issue that are sent you, it is required that a special account be kept of the disposition of the same, including among other things, to whom they are sold and quantities to each vendor, (so far as possible).

With reference to your letter of yesterday's date, I am to acquaint you that in

future no stamps, whether they be reprints or of a new design, are to be ordered, except in the same way as obtains with regard to other requirements of your department, i.e. upon requisition signed by the Colonial Secretary.

R. Bond, C.S.

The interest of the Government in the purchase of stamps began again with Mr. Bond's acceptance of the Colonial Secretary post in November 1895. Prior to this the stamps were all ordered by the Postmaster General, mostly it seems through delegation to those under him. The last two letters imply that the Postmaster General, following his usual course, had ordered postage stamps. Could it be that he had ordered the Royal Issue, being unaware of or insensitive to the Bond preference and order for the Cabot issue. Undoubtedly the Royal Issue would have been more orthodox and in keeping with the celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This could have caused the confusion of the Company writing to the P.M.G. and also to the thought that the designs and values were publicized in adjacent countries. Yet Fraser was advised in February that the Cabot issue was contemplated. Therefore, if he surreptitiously ordered the Royal Issue, it would have had to have been before February and he would have had to remain silent about it until the mixup on arrival of the Cabot Issue, occurred. It is too bad that the P.M.G.'s files and correspondence do not exist. The reference to "reprints" could only be directed at Fraser's order to the British American Bank Note Company on March 25th 1895 for the 100,000 stamps, 20,000 each ½, 1, 2, and two colors of the 3 cent stamps, which he felt were necessary to fill out sets and which were not placed on sale until early 1896.

As directed Fraser prepared a Notice for the post offices, and this was dispatched on June 14th.

GENERAL POST OFFICE
St. John's, Newfoundland

14th June, 1897

The Postmaster,

Dear Sir, — By order of the Government, I have to inform you that on and after the 24th June inst. the stamps at present in use are to be called in, to be replaced by those of the Cabot Issue.

You will please at once make a requisition for all stamps required for the use of

the Public in your settlement, and return all stamps on hand of the present series, retaining only sufficient for the public requirements while your order goes to the General Post Office.

J. O. Fraser

The Cabot Issue on postage stamps was officially on sale at the Post Office on June 22nd, 1897. This was the "First Day of Issue". At some time previous instructions must have been given to destroy the working iron of this series, as the following indicates:

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY
78 to 86 Trinity Place, New York
June 23rd, 1897

It is hereby certified that from the plates of the Cabot Series of Postage Stamps engraved by this Company in the months of April and May 1897, there have been printed as follows:

400,000 stamps 1c; 200,000 stamps 10c;
400,000 stamps 2c; 200,000 stamps 12c;
1,000,000 stamps 3c; 200,000 stamps 15c;
400,000 stamps 4c; 100,000 stamps 24c;
400,000 stamps 5c; 100,000 stamps 30c;
400,000 stamps 6c; 100,000 stamps 35c;
200,000 stamps 8c; 100,000 stamps 60c;

And in addition, one hundred (100) sets of the above stamps, being one stamp of each value; all of which have been delivered to the Post Office Department of Newfoundland. [Only 100 presentation sheets, what happened to the other 100 Bond requested?]

It is also further certified hereby that on this date, and in the establishment of this Company in the city of New York, in the presence of

JOSEPH OUTERBRIDGE,
JOHN M. GREATA.

There have been destroyed the fourteen (14) steel plates from which the above stamps were printed; together with 7 rolls and 14 original dies or engravings from which such plates were laid down. No other good impressions of stamps from the said plates have been taken; and the bad impressions therefrom, made in the course of printing, have been destroyed by burning.

John E. Currier, Asst. Secy.

We hereby certify that on the twenty-third day of June 1897 we saw the above mentioned 14 steel plates, 7 rolls, and 14

original dies or engravings destroyed by the American Bank Note Company, New York.

J. M. Greata
J. Outerbridge

This disposed of the possibility of printing more of the Cabot Series which turned out to be a most popular issue. The *Evening Telegram* on August 13th, copied a complimentary article from a London paper titled "Stamp Language — The Story of our Oldest Colony told by its Postage". In part:

"Postage stamps are not often made the vehicle for conveying to the outside world the history or the resources of a country. To Sir William Whiteway and Hon. Robert Bond, of Newfoundland, must therefore be accredited a very brilliant idea. It is an idea that one marvels at not having occurred to other colony makers and nation builders before . . .

"Through the medium of this handsome 'Cabot Issue' of postage stamps many of the opinions and notions concerning this oldest of Britain's Colonies are likely to be subverted. To begin with, the stamps are not only beautifully printed and their colors artistically chosen, but their values and designs are extremely well arranged. — *The London Daily Mail*.

It would appear that the Mother Country approved of the 'advertising' stamps. Stocks of the low value stamps began to disappear rapidly, possible because of the distribution of the 100 advertising or presentation cards. Trouble began in August when the Secretary responded to a letter from the P.M.G. on the 18th:

Sir,

I have considered the matter of the one cent Postage Stamp, to which you directed my attention and if you will send one of your clerks here he will receive all the 1 cent stamps and 1 cent wrappers deposited by you in this office, which you will please pass into circulation in lieu of the one cent Cabot issue.

R. Bond, C.S.

Presumably this took care of the situation. However, the P.M.G., with his penchant for sets, held back some of the Cabot 1's and restricted the sale of this issue to sets only. Someone must have approached him about purchasing the remainders of the Cabot issue, as Bond sent him instructions on September 1st:

Dear Mr. Fraser:

Referring to your note of this date, if you can dispose of the whole stock of Cabot stamps at *their face value* to any one purchaser do so.

R. Bond, C.S.

It was reported that the following stock of stamps was on hand on September 10th. From this it is easy to see how the low values disappeared. After the 1 cent, which soon vanished, the 2 cent values ceased to exist in November.

	Number issued	In stock Sep. 10, '97
1c	400,000	15,000
2c	400,000	70,000
3c	1,000,000	650,000
4c	400,000	260,000
5c	400,000	250,000
6c	400,000	300,000
8c	200,000	120,000
10c	200,000	110,000
12c	200,000	140,000
15c	200,000	150,000
24c	100,000	60,000
30c	100,000	55,000
35c	100,000	55,000
60c	100,000	55,000

There must have been discussion within the Government about disposing of the Cabot stamps as Bond wrote Fraser on September 10th and followed this with a letter to the American Bank Note Company on the same day.

Sir,

Referring to your communication of yesterday's date, I beg to say that the Government will not dispose of the old issue of stamps, envelopes and wrappers at the present time. (***) with a view to meeting the possible demand for one and two cent stamps to replace those of the Cabot issue I have ordered a quantity of those denominations, say 4,000 sheets of each, which will no doubt be sufficient until the proposed new issue has been decided upon. (***) — emphasis marks are mine)

Gentlemen:

Send new designs for 1 cent and 2 cent. Have engraved and ship 4,000 sheets each as quick as possible.

This is obviously a different request than one to reprint Cabot stamps, whose dies and plates had been destroyed on June 23rd. Knowledge of a previous request for designs of a different series of stamps must

have been given to Bond. The letter to the P.M.G. led to a later furor (April 1899) under a new Colonial Secretary (Robinson) to determine if an additional 400,000 stamps of the 1 and 2 cent CABOT stamp had been printed in June 1897. Another advice followed on September 18th.

"Referring to your letter of yesterday's date stating that the stock of one cent stamps is nearly exhausted, and asking that the two cent stamp of the old issue (orange-cod fish) may be surcharged for one cent, I am to say that as the new one and two cent stamps have been ordered they are expected here shortly, the Government (***) do not consider it desirable that this should be done unless their use is most absolutely necessary (***)"

However stamps were surcharged 1 cent. Not the 2 cent value but the 3 cent value of 1890, which existed in various shades of grey. The work was done locally, so these overprints became the first provisional issue and the first stamps to be produced in Newfoundland. Seemingly the Postmaster General selected the 3 cent value because he had been denied the use of the Orange 2 cent stamps. Three different varieties of overprint occurred, as might be expected with job shop printing. The Red and Black trial overprints came from this venture.

The Liberal Whiteway government, which had mitigated the financial crisis of 1894, was overthrown in 1897 and the Conservative Winter government came into power. The exchange of portfolios probably took place about November 1st. J. Alexander Robinson, presently not an admirer of Bond and both Proprietor and Editor of the *Daily News*, took over as Colonial Secretary. On April 4th, 1898 Robinson had this to say to P.M.G. Fraser about the Red and Black overprint essays and his rival:

Sir,

In reply to your favor of the 1st instant relative to the surcharged 1 cent stamps in black and red, I can only say that the stamps in question, about 40 in number, were given by my predecessor to the clerks in this office and I do not consider myself competent to demand or justified in demanding back from them, what is theirs. For the action of my predecessor, I am not responsible, although had the surcharge been done during my incumbency of the office, I should certainly have in-

sisted upon the immediate destruction of the damaged ones, the red ones, and the red and black.

J. Alex Robinson

Robinson relinquished the Editorship of the paper on November 18th 1897, while remaining as Proprietor until October 24th, 1898. The *Evening Herald* did not approve of the change in Government or the new Colonial Secretary. On November 15th its Editorial page carried the following bellow.

"the public have been inconvenienced for a long time through the neglect of the Government to provide sufficient postage stamps of the new issue (Cabot), and now the 2-cent ones are practically sold out. A stock of 1-cent are expected on the Portia and it would have been quite as well when ordering these, if some of the other denominations were obtained also. The postal revenue has been enormous this year owing to the Cabot issue and the past quarter's returns put the figures up to nearly \$40,000, as compared to the whole year's returns of 1896 which only reached \$44,000, there is evidently money in postage stamps if properly handled."

Robinson acted soon thereafter and dispatched a telegram to the Bank Note Company on November 17th: "When may we expect stamps, delay causing serious inconvenience." Then an extraordinary event occurred on November 27th. The new Colonial Secretary wrote Lt. Col. Burland of the British American Bank Note Company, who was staying at the Cochrane Hotel in St. John's:

Sir,

Referring to our conversation of Thursday last, I am instructed to say that the matter is still under consideration, but that it is not probable that a decision can be reached for some weeks. Meanwhile you

will please cable the British American Bank Note Company, an order for:

150,000 — ½ cent stamps

100,000 — 1 cent stamps

100,000 — 2 cent stamps

of the late issue.

As soon as the matter is settled, I will communicate with you at Ottawa.

J. Alex Robinson

These were to be of the type used before the advent of the Cabot issue. They served little purpose, arriving well after the American Bank Note stamps. Many of them were later destroyed in 1900, when they ended up as remainders. Why return to the 'old' company? Did the new Colonial Secretary panic when faced with a shortage of stamps, was he unaware of the orders which had already been sent to the American Bank Note Co., or did the unknown answer to the Telegram cause this action? December 9th saw the culmination of this episode when Robinson wrote the American Bank Note Company.

"I have the honor to enclose a draft on the National City Bank, New York in your favor, for the sum of \$758.45 to cover amount of your invoice of 23rd November for stamps. These have come to hand safely and are satisfactory."

The "Portia", from New York by way of Halifax, arrived in St. John's at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday Dec. 2nd. The *Daily News* of December 4th carried the following:

Our New Stamps

The new issue of the one and two cent stamps arrived by the "Portia" on Thursday afternoon. The engraving on the one cent stamp represents Queen Victoria and on the two cent, the Prince of Wales. The color is of a yellowish shade. These stamps will probably be on sale at the Postoffice during the afternoon.

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U.S. Adhesives from Red River Settlement

by CHARLES P. DE VOLPI

One facet of Canadian postal history, and in fact United States postal history, was the usage of United States stamps in Canada, in this case from Red River Settlement.

Adam Shortt and Arthur G. Doughty wrote in "Canada and its Provinces", published 1914:

In 1853 the isolation of the settlers was much alleviated by the United States Government, which established a monthly post between the end of its railway system in the North-West and Pembina on the borders of the Hudson's Bay territories, 65 miles south of Fort Garry. The Territorial Government placed a courier on the route between Fort Garry and Pembina. As the territories had no means of connection whatever with Canada or any other British possession, they became virtually a dependency of the United States post office. From 1853 until 1869 *all letters posted in Fort Garry (Red River Settlement) were paid in United States stamps*, and, in addition to the stamps, a penny sterling was charged for conveyance to the United States office at Pembina. All letters entering the territories from Pembina were charged a penny to take them to their destination in the Territories. At the time the territorial service was taken over by the post office inspector on behalf of the Canadian post office there were seven offices. This little system was administered by a postmaster at Fort Garry (Red River Settlement) under the direction of the governor and council of Assiniboia. When the Canadian post office took charge of the service it arranged with the United States government for the regular exchange of mails between Fort Garry and Windsor Ontario.

J. J. Hargrave writes in his book "*Red River*" Fort Garry, Red River 27th March, 1869; published by John Lovell, Montreal, 1871:

In 1853 a public mail service was first organized by some of the settlers, in prosecution of which postal communication took place once a month between Fort Garry and Fort Ripley

in Minnesota, then the most advanced of United States post offices. In 1857 the American Government established an office at Pembina, on the United States frontier, at the point where it is intersected by the Red River, and carried a mail to that place once a month, and more recently once a fortnight. It was met by a courier from the settlement, and brought by him over the seventy miles which intervene between Fort Garry and Pembina.

In 1862 the American Government having organized a bi-weekly mail system to Pembina, the authorities in the settlement increased their periods of communication to once a week. The expenses of the local Red River mail service are defrayed by a charge of one penny on each letter weighing less than half-an-ounce, one half penny on each newspaper, and two pence on each magazine passing through the office. No local postage stamps exist, and so far as the outside world is concerned, American stamps are used for outgoing letters which, as the United States authorities do not recognize the official capacity of our postmaster, are supposed to be posted at Pembina. There is, however a postmaster in the colony who receives an annual salary of £20. Each trip between the settlement and Pembina both ways occupies between three and four days, and costs twenty-five shillings in wages paid the runner, who travels on horseback in summer and uses a dog sledge during the winter months.

Letters and other matter are constantly arriving for different individuals employed in the vast territories of the company in the Northern Department. These are received by the company's agent at Fort Garry, where a regular private post office exists, in which accounts are kept open with the officers and servants resident inland. At certain seasons packets are dispatched to the various parts of the country, containing the letters and papers which have accumulated for transmission. These packets on their return bring out let-

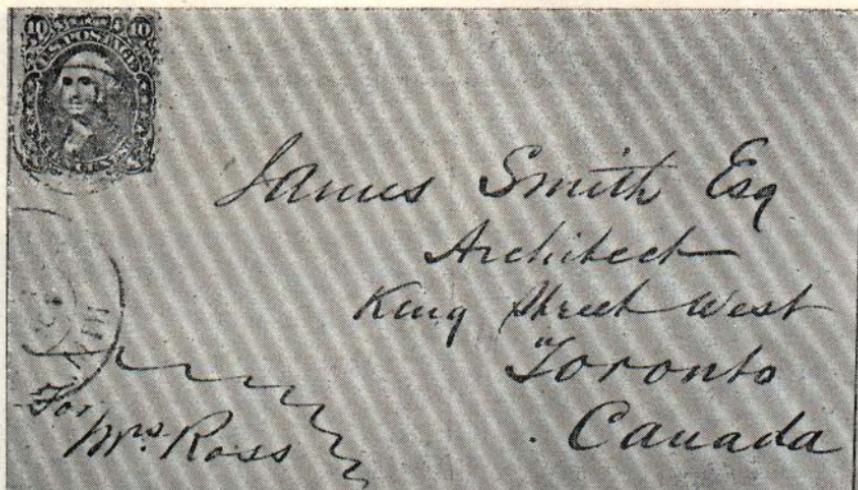


Figure 1

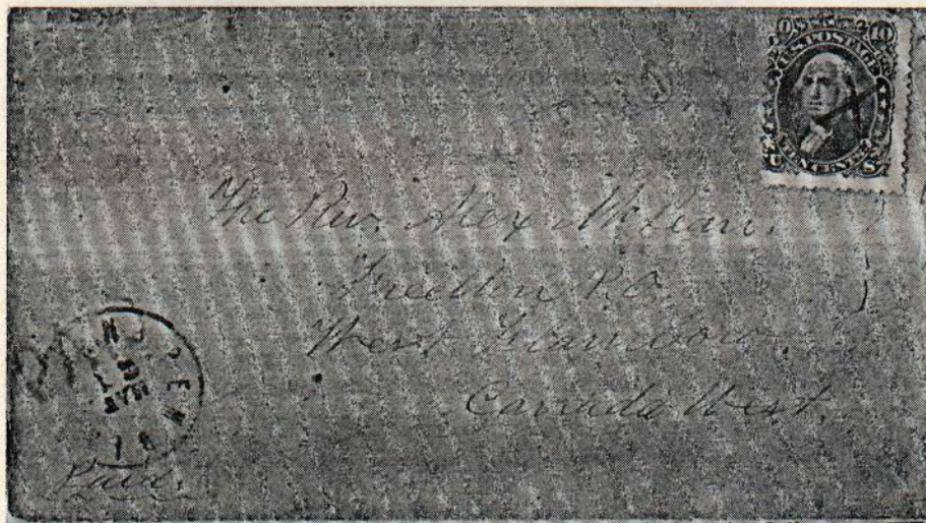


Figure 2

ters, after being duly weighed and stamped in the Company's office are forwarded by the local mail for postage at Pembina in United States territory.

Joseph James Hargrave, fur-trader and writer; born April 1, 1841, at York Factory; died Feb. 22, 1894. Son of James Hargrave and Letitia (Mactavish). He was for a time in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, but is chiefly remembered as the author of "Red River" (1871) in which he made use of his father's extensive papers.

The earliest usage of United States

adhesives from Red River settlement is via Saint Paul, Minnesota July 16th, 1863 (figure 1). There is a chance that this cover was taken to Saint Paul by courier and mailed from there. The next date I have is from Red River Settlement March 16, 1864, via Pembina Min. Mar. 21, 1864 (figure 2). The next is from Red River Settlement July 28, 1864, via Pembina Min. Au. 2, 1864 (figure 3).

In 1865 the letters were handstamped Pembina, Dakota, when Pembina, Min-

nesota became part of Dakota Territory. Cover via Pembina, Dakota, Dec. 11, 1865 (figure 4).

The rate was changed from ten cents to six cents in 1869 (perhaps late 1868). The earliest six cents cover I have seen

is via Pembina, Dakota Mr. 2nd, 1869 (figure 5), and the latest via Pembina, Dakota Sp. 30, 1870 (figure 6).

These covers are great rarities and actual proof of United States adhesives used abroad.



Figure 3



Figure 4

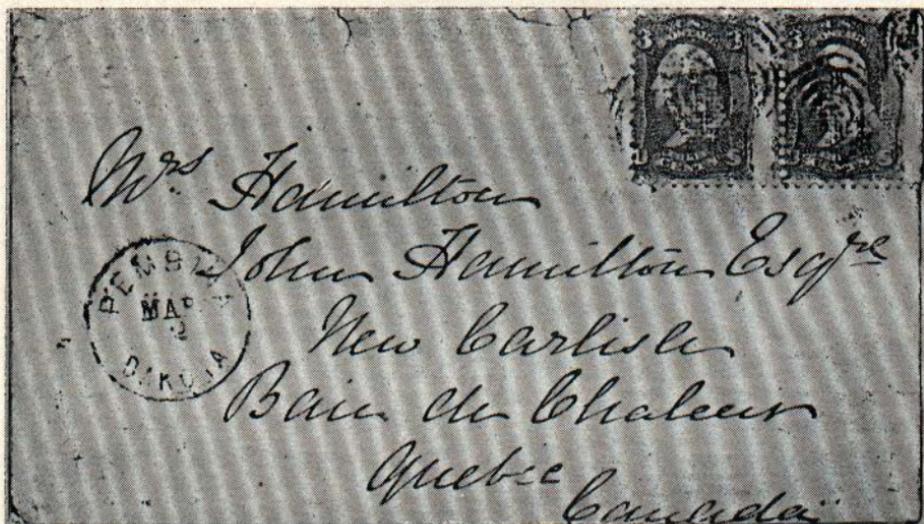


Figure 5



Figure 6

Some Trans Atlantic Mysteries

by ALLAN L. STEINHART



No. 1

Cover No. 1 was mailed at Peterboro, Ont. on Nov. 3, 1837 addressed to Manchester, Eng. endorsed "single sheet" and via New York". It was rated PAID 1/8½ which consisted of 9d. Cdn. postage from Peterboro to Kingston, a distance of 101-200 miles plus 18¾c United States postage from the border to New York, 150 to 400 miles, which converted to 11½d cy. for a total of 1/8½ prepaid cy. At the border exchange post office a red Kingston Nov. 8 UP-CAN datestamp was applied along with a "PAID 18¾" in red signifying the prepaid 18¾ United States postage. The cover was forwarded to New York and probably carried by an American sailing packet from New York to Liverpool where a LIVERPOOL SHIP LETTER was applied on receipt in Britain and the cover rated 1/3 stg. collect, 8d inwards ship letter rate plus 7d inland postage. All of these rates are proper and collect. There is a red "5" handstamp on the cover. This is the mystery. Is it pence currency, U.S. cents, or sterling pence? What is the purpose of the "5" handstamp? Is it just a handstamp struck in error and therefore without meaning.

Cover No. 2 was mailed at Montreal and the stamp was cancelled by a Beri duplex MONTREAL PM OC 29 63 CE. It is addressed to what appears to be "MORBIHORN", France. It was probably carried by the Allan Lines HIBERNIAN which sailed from Quebec Oct. 31, 1863 and arrived at Liverpool Nov. 11, 1863 and is enclosed on the reverse "via Liverpool". The following datestamps appear on the cover in addition:

- Nov. 12 — ANGL-CALAIS — French entry datestamp
- Nov. 13 — Nantes a Paris
- Nov. 13 — Vannes
- Nov. 14 — London AA — blue
- Nov. 11 — London Hx PAID

Along with these datestamps are an oval red French pd indicating total prepayment plus a red + in a circle from Britain and a short paid — ½ fine British handstamp which is crossed out. The cover was returned to Canada probably by the Cunard packet "Arabia" which sailed Nov. 14 from Liverpool arriving at Boston Nov. 27. There is a datestamp of receipt of Montreal of Nov. 28, 1863 on the reverse. Somewhere on its journey the stamp on the cover was



No. 2

removed before the rate of 2/3 was applied to the cover. The cover is variously rated, 1/0, 1/4, 2/3 and 75 cents. The mysteries posed here by this cover are several;

1) what stamp was on the cover? Where did it come off? Was it removed or did it fall off?

2) What are the explanations of the 1/0, 1/4, 2/3 and 75 cent rates?

Cover No. 3 was mailed from England to Canada endorsed "per Great Western" and rated 1/4 stg, probably double the 8d stg. per 1/2 oz. outward ship letter rate from anywhere in the U.K. A black SHIP-LETTER 23 SEP 43 LIVERPOOL datestamp was applied and on receipt in New York on Oct. 7 New York ship handstamp was applied and the cover rated 77c United States collect. The cover was forwarded to Queenston, the Canadian border exchange post office where it was rated 3/11 1/2 cy., the conversion of the 77c U.S. plus the Canadian postage. The 77c consisted of 2c inwards United States ship letter fee plus 25c per rate from New York to the border, a

distance over 400 miles. 27c U.S. converted to 1/4 1/2, 25c converted to 1/3 cy. If the 77c was converted to 3/7 or 43 pence, this leaves only 4 1/2 d, the proper single rate from the border to St. Catharines, Ont. The questions posed by this rating are as follows:

1) Why was the cover rated double in Britain, triple in the United States and single in Canada?

2) If this is not correct, is part of the 77c postage the 25c freight money charge on an inland private steamer packet letter?

3) Are the differences in the rates just post office error?

These three covers had some features which have puzzled me and I do not have the answers. Perhaps someone out there who has spent more time than I studying trans-Atlantic rates can offer some explanations for these apparent mysteries to me. Please write if you can help:

ALLAN L. STEINHART
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The PVA Gum Enigma

by DOUGLAS IRWIN

Centennial Definitives Study Group

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Canada Post Office began to replace the dextrine gum on postage stamps with polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) gum. The Centennial definitives were current at this time and PVA gum made its first appearance in the new 25c booklets (Bk 65a) of the 6c black definitive in December 1970. Shortly thereafter, the sheet stock and coils of the Centennial definitives were converted to PVA gum. The type of paper was also changed with the issuing of the sheets of PVA gummed Centennial definitives, as the dextrine gum definitives had been printed on an off-white or creamy coloured paper, while the new PVA gummed definitives were found

to be printed on a brighter white paper.

The 15c Bylot Island (463) was initially issued on February 8, 1967 with dextrine gum in plates 1 and 2. The appearance of PVA gum on the 15c definitive in 1972, coincided with the issuing of a new plate (No. 3) by the Canadian Bank Note Company. Thus it appeared, and catalogues had led us to believe, if the 15c Bylot Island had dextrine gum, it was printed from Plates 1 or 2 and if it had PVA gum, then it came from Plate 3. However, examples have recently been found of the 15c Bylot Island with PVA gum from Plates 1 and 2 as well as Plate 3.



Figure 1: Frame 28

Figure 1 shows a normal plate block of the 15c Bylot Island, on white fluorescent paper with PVA gum and a Plate No. 3 inscription. Figure 2 shows a lower right corner, which, due to a fold in the paper after printing, was improperly perforated and trimmed. The inscription on the selvage

should have been trimmed off the field stock sheet, but due to the paper being folded, the inscription remains. From this, we see the printing plate used was Plate No. 1, the paper is medium fluorescent (duller than Plate 3 fluorescence) BUT the gum is PVA!



Figure 2(a): Frame 26

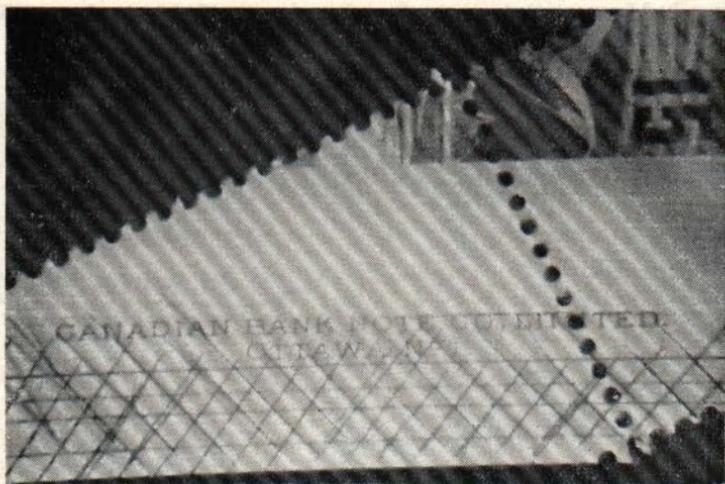


Figure 3(a): Frame 25

Figure 3 shows a lower right corner block which again due to a paper fold, results in improper perforating and removal of the inscription from the selvage. The stamps are Winnipeg tagged and printed on dull fluorescent paper (same grade of fluorescence as the other field stock of PVA gummed Winnipeg tagged stamps carried by the Philatelic Service) *but* the gum is PVA!

David Gronbeck Jones has also recently written about a similar discovery.¹ He describes a lower left plate block of the 15c with PVA gum and a Plate No. 1 in-

scription being retained due to the paper folding prior to the trimming of the selvage. He describes the paper as being of low fluorescence under ultraviolet light, differing from the fluorescence grade of either Plate 1 or Plate 3 inscription blocks.

These interesting discoveries tend to indicate that the new printing plate (No. 3) was used to print the PVA gummed philatelic stock while the field stock (with inscriptions to be removed) was printed from this new plate (No. 3) as well as the old printing plates (No. 1 and No. 2). Since it is now clear that the PVA gummed 15c Bylot

Island stamp was printed from all three plates issued, what about the other PVA gummed values of the Centennial definitives? Were they only printed from the later plates (as Philatelic plate blocks indicate) or were they too printed from all the plates issued? Our enigma continues!

This article, it is hoped, is the first in a series by the newly formed Centennial definitives study group. In future issues of *Topics*, we plan to write about recent discoveries which have come to light in the Centennial definitives, dealing with one denomination at a time. If anyone has any interesting items or information and is willing to contribute to the study group, please drop us a line at:

Centennial Definitives Study Group
2250 Lawrence Ave. East, No. 406

Scarborough, Ontario M1P 2P9

Cet article est le premier d'une série d'articles du groupe d'étude de timbre courant centenaire nouvellement formé. Vous trouverez dans les prochaines émissions de la revue *Topics* des articles concernant les plus récentes découvertes au sujet des timbres courant centenaire. S'il y a parmi vous des gens qui ont des informations et qui sont intéressés à participer au groupe d'étude ils peuvent nous contacter au:

Centennial Definitives Study Group
2250 Lawrence Ave. East, No. 406
Scarborough, Ontario M1P 2P9

Nous pouvons répondre en français si desirez.

1. *Canadian Stamp News*, Volume 4, No. 13, p. 21 (1979).



Frame 2(b): (Enlargement of inscription) Frame 27



Figure 3(b): Frame 29 (Enlargement of inscription)

Canada Post Office - Domestic Rates and Postmarks

by CHARLES P. DE VOLPI

The Favor Letters

The commission appointed in 1840 brought to light the fact that 50% to 83% of all letters, documents, bills, circulars, etc., were carried illegally, and not through post office channels. This applied to domestic, cross ocean and cross border correspondence.

The variation in percentage is based on the reports from postmasters from all sections of Canada.

This huge amount of "Bootleg Mail" was mainly due to the high cost of Post Office service, and also in a great many cases to the slowness of delivery.

This illicit mail was handled by ship captains, voyageurs, travellers, stage coach drivers and, in fact, practically anyone travelling.

This is a part of the report of the commission of 1840 which thoroughly explains the situation:

"It is felt almost universally throughout these Colonies that the existing rates of letter postage are too high. From every Province, and almost every District of British North America, we have received strong remonstrances against the continuance of the present scale; and, how much soever our correspondents may differ as to details, it will be seen from the Appendix that, whether the question be treated as affecting the revenue of the Department or the social and commercial interests of the country, they concur generally in urging the necessity of some considerable reduction. The extent to which correspondence is repressed by those high charges must be mere matter of conjecture; but as a chief inducement to the illicit traffic in letters, some idea may be formed of their injurious effect upon the revenue from the following statement, abridged from communications addressed to us by persons of respectable station, resident in all parts of the country. The printed correspondence will shew that the names here given are but a selection.

"From the western section of what was

lately Upper Canada, Colonel Furlong, the officer commanding on the frontier and stationed at Amherstburg, writes that the letters are there forwarded by private hand on all occasions. Mr. Jones, Registrar of the County of Kent, writes from Port Sarnia, that the letters sent privately within the District (the Western) are about one third of its unofficial correspondence. Mr. Ermatinger, the Post Master at St. Thomas, in the adjoining District of London, estimates them for the route between Quebec and the head of Lake Ontario, at nearly one half of the whole correspondence. Mr. Wilkes, a lawyer, residing in Brantford in the Gore District, thinks that for the whole Province they form at least the half of all letters actually sent. From Hamilton, Mr. Ritchie (the Post Master) and Mr. Ferrie (the late M.P.P. for the Town) speak of the almost universal prevalence of the practice.

On the Niagara frontier, Messrs Hepburne, Stayner and Davidson, the Post Masters at Chippawa, Queenston and Niagara, speak of their number as very great. And Mr. Rykert, late a Member of the Parliament of Upper Canada, residing at St. Catharines, thinks them at least equal to those mailed.

Mr. Howard, the late Post Master of Toronto, now resident at Trafalgar, thinks that exclusive of letters franked by Post Masters those sent by private hand equal the number mailed.

Similar opinions are expressed by persons residing at Toronto. By Mr. Berczy the Post Master, the Honorable John Macaulay, late Post Master at Kingston, the Revd. J. Roaf, Mr. Hawke the Emigrant Agent, the Honorable J. S. Macaulay, Messrs. J. S. Baldwin, T. D. Harriss and others; as well from the country lying behind Toronto, by Capt. Steele, M.P.P. for Medonte, and Mr. Hamilton, the Post Master at Penetanguishine.

Mr. E. Perry, a Merchant of Cobourg, is of opinion that five-sixths of all the letters passing between places on the Lake

shore in summer evade the Mail. Messieurs Ferguson and Sandford of Peterboro, in the rear of Cobourg, the latter the Post Master of the place, represent the proportion there as very large at all seasons. Mr. Bockus, the late Member of Parliament for the County of Prince Edward on the Bay

of Quinté writes from Picton, that not more than half the correspondence of that place is carried by mail; and the Baron of Rottenburg, an officer stationed at Belleville, also on the Bay of Quinté, says that in that neighbourhood, in summer, the greater part is carried privately by the Steamboats.

These are a few examples of this "bootleg" or "favor" mail.



Fig. 1 — From Montreal, May 11, 1775
 "Per favor of Mr. Sam'l Morin."



Fig. 2 — From Niagara, February 3, 1817.
 "Hon'd by Mr. Bowman."

Miss Miller & Parlame
Politicians of
Mr J. Cook Jr
Sweets
Kontual

Fig. 3 — From Frelighsburg, November 27, 1819.
"Politeness of Mr. J. Cook Jr."

William Hands Esq
per by
Mr Perry
Sandwich

Fig. 4 — From Amherstburgh, July 1, 1824.
"Fav'd by Mr. Perry."

This letter was carried by "the postman" and addressed to William Hands, postmaster at Sandwich. First paragraph reads "Enclosed I have sent you sixty dollars and with the bearer, the postman, four dollars in silver, etc.

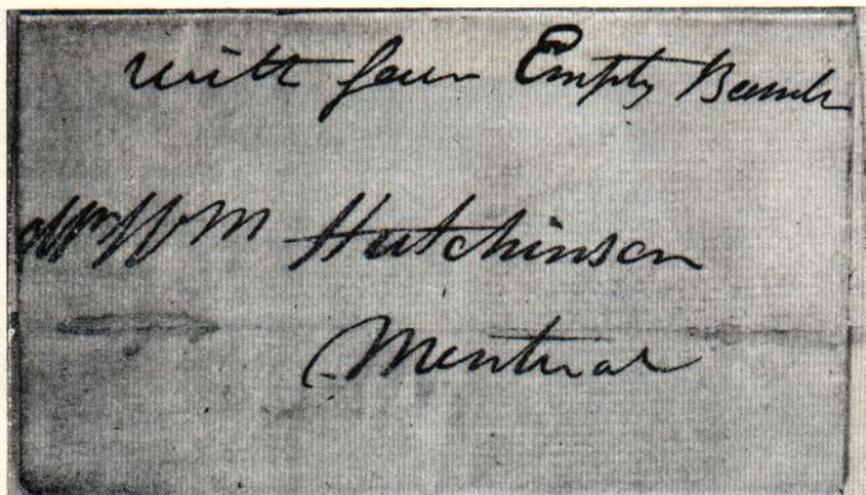


Fig. 5 — From St. Johns, L.C., July 24, 1813.
"with four empty barrels."

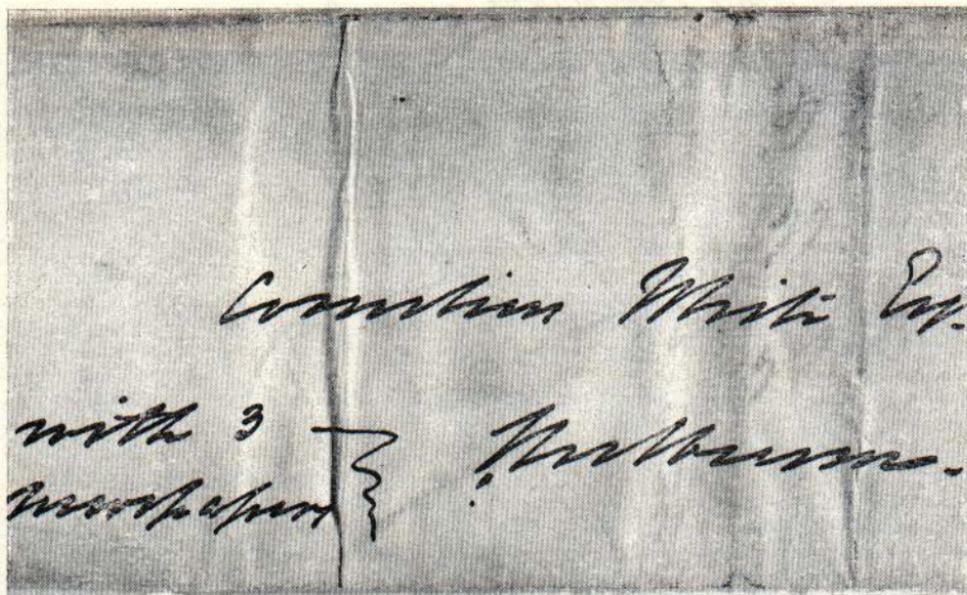


Fig. 6 — From Montreal, December 24, 1834.
"With 3 Newspapers."

Although these covers have no official post markings whatsoever, they are more than worthy of any postal history collection. They do show how the largest share of mail was carried. They can be collected from or to nearly every town or city in Canada.

The following are also of exceptional interest, partially carried by favor and partially through post office channels.

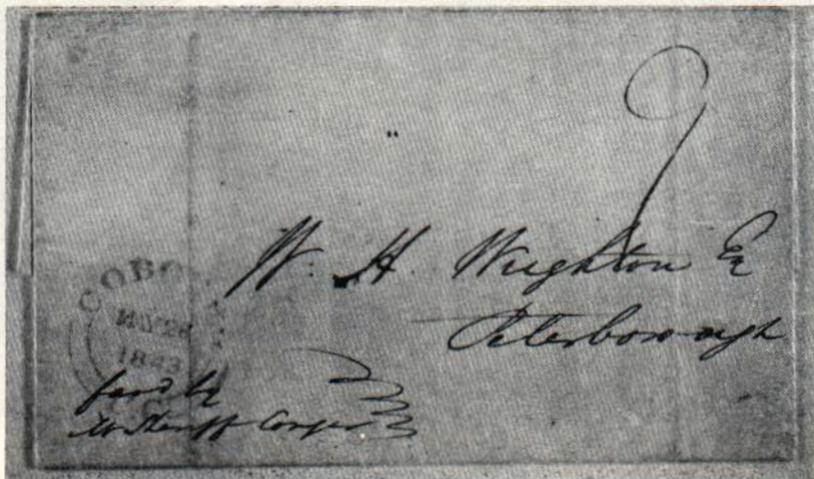


Fig. 7 — Letter from Kingston, U.C., dated May 27, 1843.

Carried by favor by Mr. Sherriff Conger to Cobourg, U.C., and mailed there, May 28, 1843. Letter was double and rate charged 9 pence. Double Rate from Kingston to Peterborough 17 pence. A saving of 9 pence.

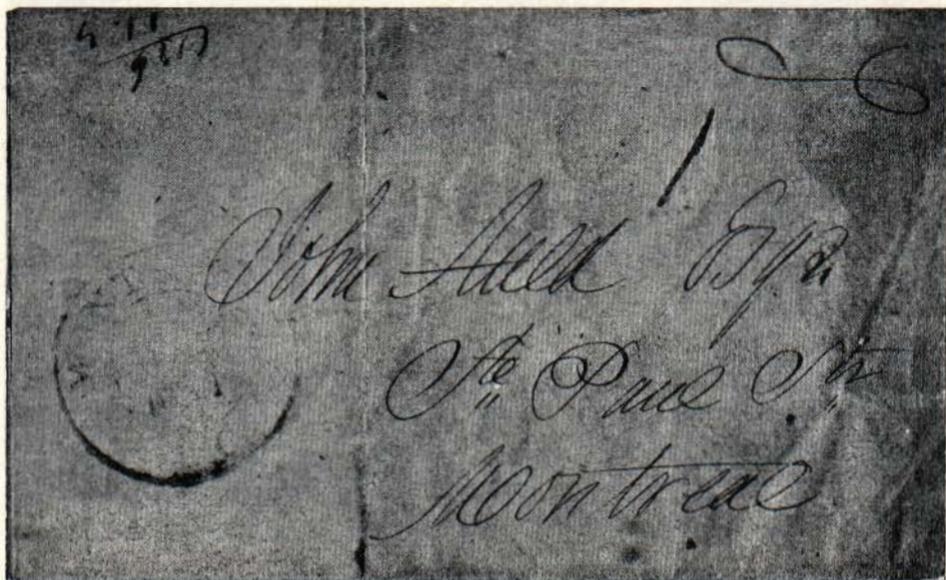
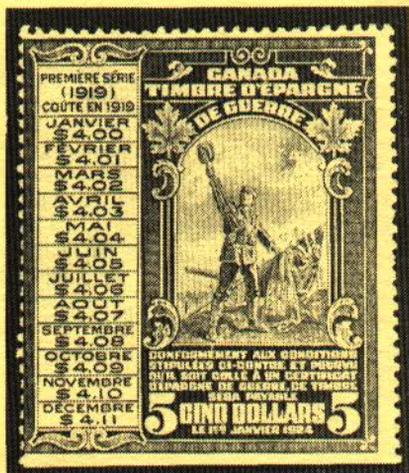


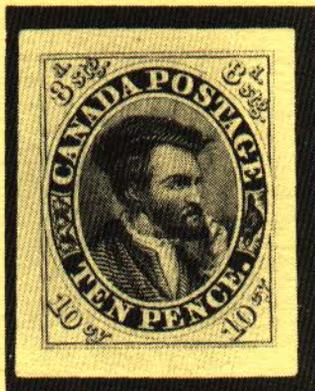
Fig. 8 — Letter from St. Therese, L.C., dated September 18, 1841.

Carried by favor to Montreal, and mailed there as a drop letter at one penny. A saving of $3\frac{1}{2}$ pence on the official rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ pence for distance under 60 miles.

Next: Charge Account Letters



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