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Whole number 508

Volume 63 Number 3



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BNA Topics, Volume 63, Number 3, July–September 2006

# BNA pics

Volume 63 Number 3 Whole Number 508

**The Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd**

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The front cover: Postage paid post cards from the Postcard Factory®

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Production Assistants Robert Lemire, Lorraine Street, Mike Street

Advertising Manager Hank Narbonne, Box 102, McDonalds Corners ON KOG 1M0

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... continued on last page ...

# Editorial

*Why are you inside sitting at the computer on such a beautiful summer day?*

The July-September Topics is going to the printer on Friday.

*You just finished the April-June issue.*

We've been playing catch up. With this one we're back on schedule.

*So, how's it goin' with Topics, eh? (I just got back from Tim Horton's.)*

Fair to middling. Some people have been good about sending in new articles.

*Only some?*

Yes, it's strange.

*How so?*

Well, 10-15 years ago there would always be a backlog of five or six issues' material.

*That's a lot. Didn't Topics come out six times a year then?*

See what I mean about strange?

*Is there more competition for articles?*

No, a bit less competition, actually. People simply are not submitting them.

*So you need authors?*

No. Many people seem to say, "I'm not an author." and stop right there.

*What do you need then?*

People willing to put BNA philatelic info on paper - typed, handwritten, any way.

*Maybe they think their subjects might be boring to other collectors?*

If it's interesting to them it will be to others.

*Are you looking especially for submissions on stamps or postal history or ...?*

Any BNA subject at all. That's why we call the journal 'BNA Topics'.

*You're right. Maybe people are having trouble providing illustrations?*

It hasn't been a problem in the past, and images are so much easier to obtain today.

*Don't you need a special camera or a computer and a scanner, lots of techno thingies?*

Not any more. Most Staples and similar stores will scan things for you on the spot.

*You're kidding? It's that easy? Must be expensive.*

Not at all. A couple of bucks - tons cheaper than acquiring the 'techno' equipment.

*Aren't a lot of collectors using computers to write up their collections?*

Yes. Those folks should find it very easy to modify collection info for an article.

*Come to think of it, my grandkids are whizzes at this digital stuff.*

Most kids are these days. You're not alone. Quite a resource for older collectors.

*So you're really saying that it's not all that difficult to put together an article?*

Exactly. It's easy to jot down findings, ideas, summaries, even questions.

*What if someone is not good at grammar or putting things together?*

The important thing is to supply the basic information. We're good at polishing.

*You know, I've found some neat things in my collection lately. I could write something.*

That would be nice.

## In memoriam: Edward Joseph Whiting

*Alan Warren, with notes from Mike Street*

**E**DWARD J. (Ed) Whiting, long-time collector active in the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) and Philadelphia, PA area philately, died June 22, 2006, at the age of 85. Ed was member 61 of BNAPS and was named an emeritus member in 1989. He served the society as Secretary (1974–1982), First Vice-President (1983–84), President (1985–86), and as a Director (1990–92).

In 1982, Whiting was named Historian of BNAPS and served in that capacity until 1999. He was an Associate Editor of *BNA Topics* from 1947–1958; he also wrote articles on and exhibited Canadian material. He served on the host committee of several BNAPS conventions, notably the one held in Philadelphia in 1950.

In 1976, Ed was elected to the Order of the Beaver, the Fellowship of the British North America Philatelic Society, which honours members who have met established criteria in the categories of: distinguished service to BNAPS; service to organized philately in general; contributing freely of his/her philatelic knowledge; and regular attendance and participation at the annual BNAPEX conventions. In 1995, Ed was also named to the BNAPS Hall of Fame for his contribution as Historian. Except when prevented by illness, Ed and Ernestine Whiting attended most BNAPS conventions from 1946 to 2000. They last attended BNAPEX in Baltimore in 2004.

Ed was a Director and Treasurer of INTERPHIL 76, the international exhibition held in Philadelphia in 1976, where he also served on the exhibit frames committee. He was active on the show committee of SEPAD, now the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition, and was Treasurer for over 10 years. He received the SEPAD local merit award in 1973.

He was also active in the Springfield (Delaware County, PA) Stamp Club for many years and produced its newsletter. An underwriter for the State Farm Insurance Company, he served in WW II and retired from the U.S. Army as a Master Sergeant after 30 years. Ed Whiting is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ernestine Rowland Whiting, their daughter Laura, and two grandsons.



**BNAPEX 2006**  
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On behalf of the Officers and Directors of BNAPS and the Sudbury Stamp Club, John and Maureen and Harry and Dorothy wish to extend an invitation to every member to attend the annual convention.

This is a perfect opportunity to get together with old friends, make new ones, see and learn what other members collect by attending the various study group meetings and, most importantly, look through thousands of covers, stamps, cancels and post cards of BNA material.

Come and join us to perhaps add that elusive item you are missing and, of course, to see, feel and taste Northern Ontario hospitality. We know that you will not be disappointed.

Highlights of Events

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- Study group meetings—Friday p.m. to Sunday p.m.
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Harry Machum  
 Show Chairman  
 P.O. Box 123  
 Little Current, ON  
 P0P 1K0  
 dorchum@yahoo.ca

John Frith  
 Advertising and Delegate Co-ordinator  
 P.O. Box 286  
 Copper Cliff, ON  
 P0M 1N0  
 johfrith.sudburystamps@sympatico.ca

## Postage paid post cards from the Postcard Factory<sup>®</sup>—an update

*Robert Lemire*

**W**E all have “little” side collections. The items we thought were interesting, but not too much work, not too expensive. Collections we thought we could work on a few times a year and be well ahead on getting material mounted and written up. The danger, of course, is that the area might be a bit more complicated or extensive than originally assumed. If the collection includes current material, this can happen even if the collection was originally well scoped. Thus it is for the few of us who have been collecting the prepaid view cards (postal stationery) produced by the Postcard Factory<sup>®</sup>.

This series started in 1997, and over the next two–three years it developed from a series of 25 different cards (one of which is shown in Figure 1), all available in three sets from Canada Post, to a series of 85 views (one was issued to private order by the “African Lion Safari”), with just enough complexity that a collector needed to do a fair bit of searching and keep his eyes open for unexpected changes [1]. Single cards were available at many post offices, tourist locations and souvenir shops. Then there were cards reissued with the printing in brown, rather than black (Figure 2). As described in a previous article [1], Canada Post decided, for inventory purposes, that each view should have an individualized product bar code. This meant that at first most of the cards were reissued with stickers bearing the new bar code, and then issued anew with printed individualized product bar codes (Figure 3). Still a nice “little” side collection, but now a collection of over 250 different cards, encompassing just 85 views. Only some of the cards were available on order from the Canada Post Philatelic Service, and a few cards were known from fewer than one-half dozen copies, so there was a reasonable challenge.

Used cards (at least cards with non-philatelic usages) were, and remain, difficult to obtain. It is not that the cards are not used in fairly large quantities, but that most cards used are sent by tourists, not stamp collectors, and are sent primarily to overseas destinations. Why? Consider that a current prepaid Postcard Factory<sup>®</sup> card costs \$1.69 (in postal outlets). An adhesive stamp to send a card overseas would cost \$1.49, so the post card itself costs the buyer only 20¢. At least one dealer and a few collectors have attempted to generate sets of used cards. However, most other used cards, if saved at all, will not resurface for many years.

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Keywords & phrases: postal stationery, picture post cards, Postcard Factory<sup>®</sup>

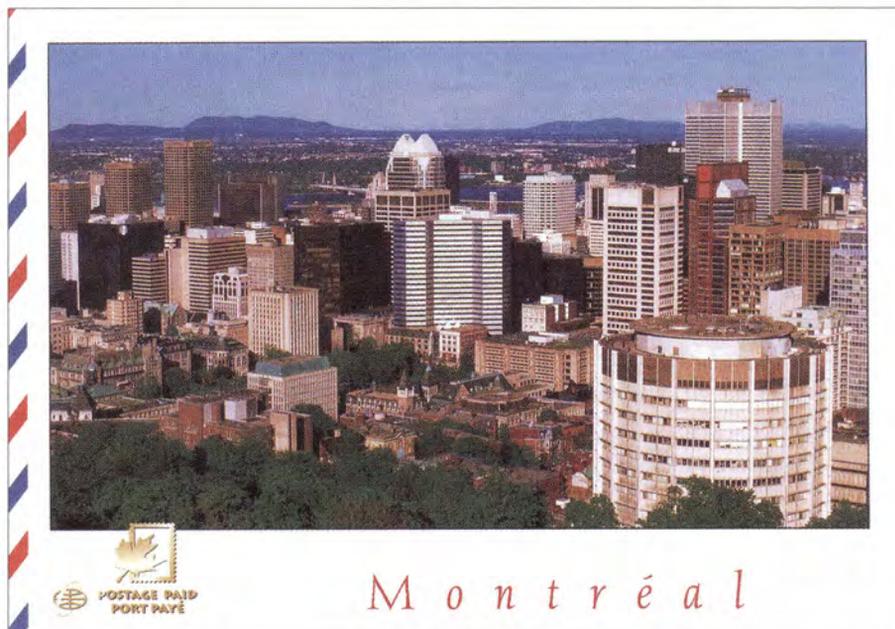


Figure 1. One of the postage prepaid view cards in the original 1997 Postcard Factory® series—MTL107, “Montréal vue du mont Royal”.





Figure 2. On printings of the Postcard Factory<sup>®</sup> card with view C327, the caption was first printed in black, and then the card was reprinted in brown. Later printings reverted to the use of black ink.



Figure 3. Product bar codes on copies of cards with Postcard Factory<sup>®</sup> view CR68: (a) the first bar code (64392 00025) that was initially common to all views issued with a white border; (b) the bar code sticker with the individualized bar code (64392 60048), applied to copies of the CR68 card with the common bar code; (c) the card with the printed individualized bar code (and with the view renumbered as CR068).

Gradually, more than 100 additional views were introduced, but while the original 85 views all had white borders, the new cards were borderless. Most were available from post offices (although different cards in different parts of the country). Others were available only from tourist shops that normally carried other products from the Postcard Factory<sup>®</sup>—items ranging from unstamped view cards to

place mats. Generally, these “Postcard Factory®-only” items were more difficult to track down. Cards for specific post offices or events were also produced (Figure 4). These were fairly easy to obtain (a) if you knew that they existed (not easy), and (b) if you could arrange for your postmaster to get them in from the other office. All cards bore a printed (non-denominational) small-flag indicium (Figure 5a).

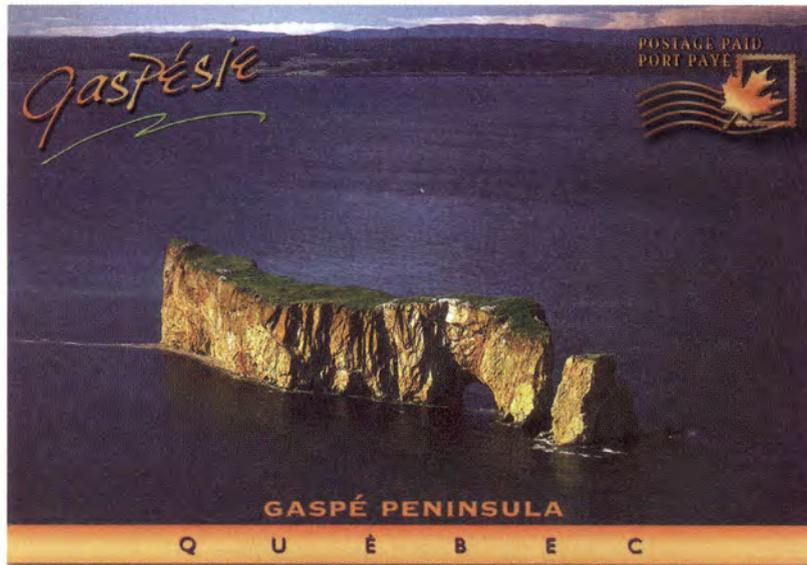
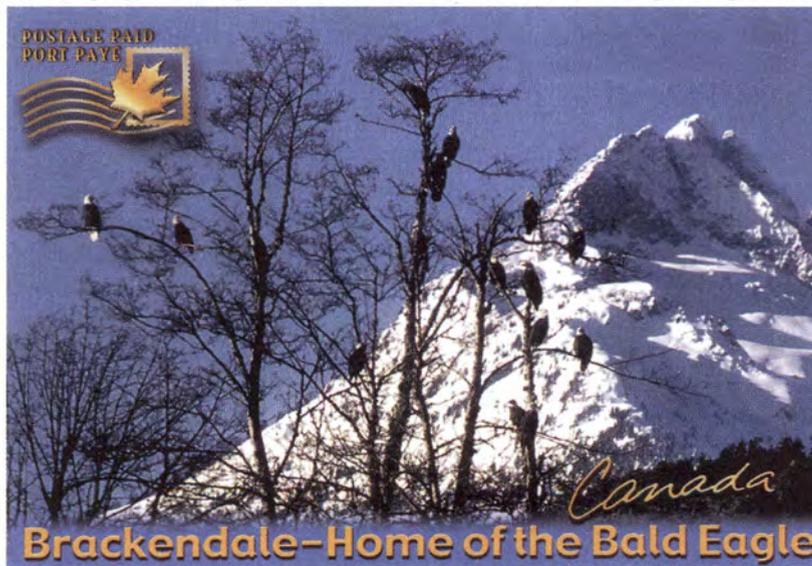


Figure 4. Two prepaid cards produced by the Postcard Factory® for specific post offices.



In 2004, things began to get complicated. First, seven of the original views were reissued without the white border (Figure 6), and the view on an eighth card was modified (Figure 7). Then, several new “Postcard Factory<sup>®</sup>-only” cards were found in western Canada. Finally, late in the year, cards were found with a new indicium, modelled on the 49 ¢ booklet stamp (Figure 5b).



Figure 5. Indicia used on the Postcard Factory<sup>®</sup> cards: (a) upper left, the original 1995 flag indicium; (b) upper right, indicium modelled on the 49 ¢ booklet “leaf” stamp; (c) indicium modelled on the flag stamp issued in 1965.

This was the first new indicium since the original issue in 1997, so its appearance on several of the earlier cards was not especially surprising. What did cause amazement was the discovery, within three months, of cards, in some cases featuring the same view, with yet another indicium, this one modelled on the flag stamp issued in 1965 (Figure 5c). Most cards with the “1965 flag” indicium were found in souvenir shops and drug stores. Most post office stock had the “leaf” indicium, but there were exceptions. By mid-spring, about half of the earlier cards had appeared with the “leaf” indicium, and there were about 20 views known with the “1965 flag”. Then Canada Post released over 100 new prepaid “Postcard Factory<sup>®</sup>” views, all with the leaf indicium, and all with a printed SKU number (*i.e.*, the number used for stock keeping and ordering by Canada Post). In less than six months, more than 200 cards had appeared (not even counting minor varieties). In addition, the new Post Office releases included all of the pre-2004 “Postcard

Factory®-only” views, all but two with the new “leaf” indicium, and one also with the “1965 flag” indicium.

Based on the sequential appearance of cards in various locations, it seems likely that the printing of the “1965 flag” cards actually preceded that of the “leaf” cards and, by mid-summer, few new “1965 flag”-indiciu cards were being discovered.

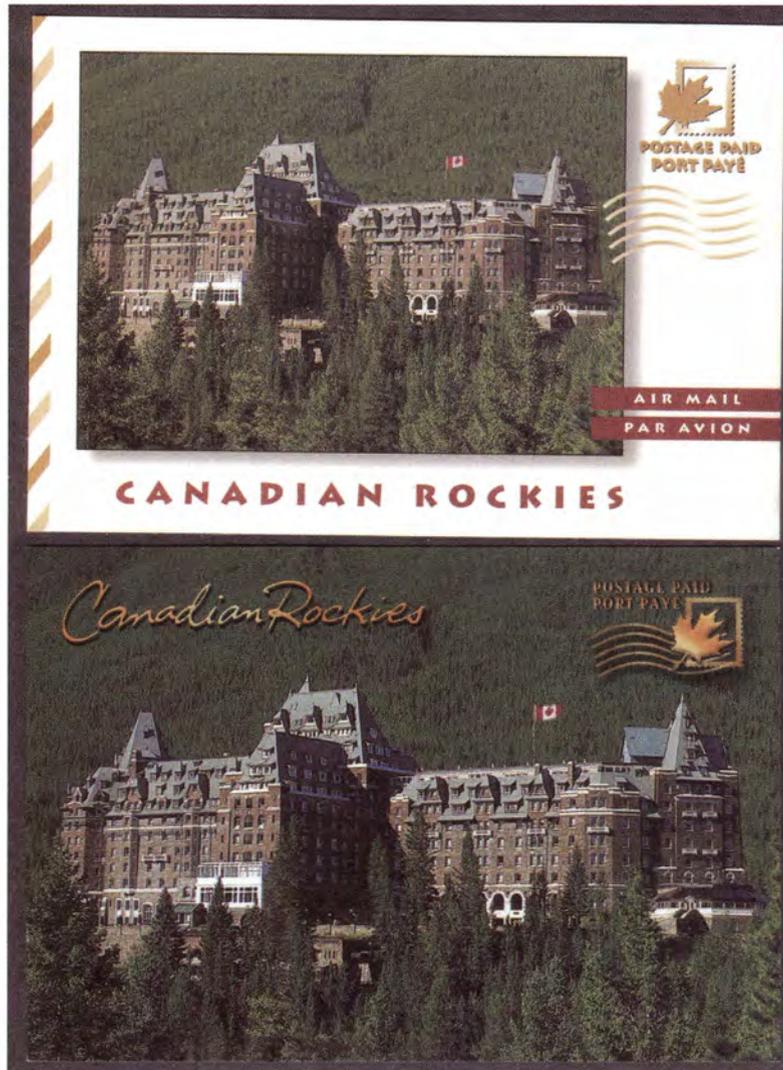


Figure 6. Postcard Factory® view CR 107—the original card with the white border and the 2004 reprinted borderless version.



Figure 7. Postcard Factory® view VAN118—the original card and the 2004 reprinted version, showing the wharf after it was extended.

Two new twists to the tale occurred late in the summer. First, it was noticed that a few of the “leaf”-indicium cards had been reprinted. The reprints of pre-2005 views could be distinguished because reprinted cards bore printed SKU numbers, whereas those “leaf”-indicium cards printed earlier in 2005 (or late in 2004) bore printing identical to that on earlier printings of the same cards (*e.g.*, Figure 8). So far, 12 different cards have been found with the “leaf” indicium, both with and without a printed SKU number. It is suspected that two or three more pairs may be found.



Figure 8. Copies of “leaf”-indicium cards with Postcard Factory® view T198, without and with a printed SKU number.

Second, more “small-flag” indicium cards began to appear (*i.e.*, cards with an indicium that appears superficially similar to the indicium on the pre-2005 cards). It took a couple of weeks, but it soon became clear that (a) the indicium was not identical to the pre-2005 indicium, and (b) there were actually not one, but two new

indicia that differed in size from each other (Figure 9). The background printing behind these new indicia also differs from the background printing on the earlier “small-flag” cards (Figure 5a), and is the same as was used on the “leaf”-indiciu cards (Figure 5b). Actually, the three “small-flag” indicia can be distinguished with a perforation gauge applied to the printed pseudo-perforations!



Figure 9. The two 2005 versions of the 1995 flag indicium on a revised background tablet: (a) at left, 21 mm × 17 mm; (b) at right, 18 mm × 15 mm.

So far, more than 60 of the cards have appeared with “2005 small-flag” indicia, including several of the new view cards first issued in 2005. Of the older pre-2005 views, only approximately 30 have *not* appeared reissued with the “leaf” indicium, and several of the 30 have been found with one of the “2005 small-flag” indicia.

It would seem that the “leaf”-indiciu cards are now being replaced by “2005 small-flag”-indiciu cards. However, it is not clear which of the “2005 small-flag” indicia will eventually predominate, or whether both will continue to be used. For a few cards there have been at least two separate “2005 small-flag” printings—the larger-size die used on one printing, the smaller-size die on another.

Considering the large number of cards, there have been reasonably few major constant errors. Although there are numerous minor typographical errors in the view descriptions (especially those in French), few have been corrected. Some incorrect bar codes were used and then corrected in later printings. Nevertheless, this *small* “side collection” now encompasses more than 750 varieties (approximately 300 different views). Assuming that the “2005 small-flag” indicia continue to be used, and that the set is not supplemented with many new views (in early June 2006,

one additional view was reported), we can expect another 100 to 200 varieties in the next year. More details have appeared in the Postal Stationery Study Group newsletter, *Postal Stationery Notes* [2, 3]. Checklists are also available from the author (rlemire000@sympatico.ca).

The information in this article would not have been available without the help of many dedicated collectors who sought out new varieties, pestered postmasters and Postcard Factory® representatives, and reported new finds. Although it is certain some people will be accidentally missed in this list, help from Pierre Gauthier, Earle Covert, William Geijsbeek, Georg Gerlach, Brian Cannon, Clarence Wigmore, Dick Staecker, Peter Zariwny, Duff Malkin and Don Fraser is gratefully acknowledged.

## References

- [1] R J Lemire, Postage Paid Post Cards from the Postcard Factory®, *BNA Topics* 57, No. 4, pp. 48-54 (2000).
- [2] R J Lemire, PCF Corner, *Postal Stationery Notes* 20, pp. 51-52, 54-55 (2005).
- [3] R J Lemire, PCF Corner, *Postal Stationery Notes* 21, pp. 1-3, 12-13 (2006).

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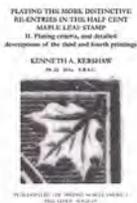


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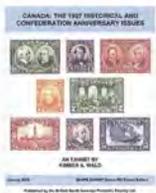
#### Mining - British Columbia's Heritage



**Mining: British Columbia's Heritage**; 2006, by Peter Jacobi. Postal history and postcards take the reader through all aspects of British Columbia's mining industry, from Gold Rush days to the end of the 20th Century. Originally published in 1999, now with scanned images and completely revised. BNAPS Exhibit Series #11. 8.5 x 11, spiral bound, 230 pp, Colour. (Black and white version \$47.95) **\$140.00**



**Japanese Internment In Canada 1941 - 1946 - A Postal History**; 2006, by Ken Ellison. The postal and censorship story of Japanese internees during their period of incarceration in various locations. BNAPS Exhibit Series #39. 8.5 x 11, spiral bound, 86 pp, Colour. (Black and white version \$29.95) **\$70.00**



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### Selected Titles (see website for complete list)

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<i>British Columbia &amp; Vancouver Island Postal History, Colonial Period 1858-1871</i> , by Warren S. Wilkinson, Colour version.	\$102.00
<i>The Law Stamps of British Columbia &amp; Their Uses, 1879-1984</i> , by Ian McTaggart-Cowan, Colour version	\$104.50
<i>Prince Edward Island Philately 1794-1873</i> , by Martyn Cusworth, Colour	\$120.00
<i>Canada Cameo Definitive Issues</i> , by John D. Arn, Colour	\$99.00
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## Shipping

A few of the BNAPS books when shipped individually will qualify for "other lettermail" postal rates which are reasonable; similarly U.S. and overseas "small packet" rates can sometimes apply. Many other packages have to be sent Parcel Post (starting at about \$8.50), or, sometimes, Xpresspost can be less expensive. We will find the most cost-efficient mailing system and charge exact postal charges plus \$2 per order (regardless of the number of books) for packaging and handling. Please e-mail us giving your address with Postal Code or Zip Code and we will give you the exact postage and handling charge. If you do not have e-mail, please telephone. We will do the calculation and return your call.

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## For a penny or two...#2

### The earliest-recorded registered post card

Victor Willson, OTB

**H**ORACE Harrison was omnivorous in his accumulation of registered material, and one of his acquisitions is shown here. At present, the postmark date on this card is the earliest-recorded date for registration of a post card. From their first issuance on June 1, 1871, post cards could be registered domestically and presumably to the US and elsewhere, but no example prior to issuance of the 2 ¢ registered letter stamp (RLS) has been recorded to date.



Figure 1.

The 2 ¢ RLS was issued sometime in late 1875. Harrison, Arfken, & Lussey, *Canada's Registered Mail 1802–1909* (2002), list December 13, 1875, as the earliest-recorded date of use. The card shown as Figure 1 is dated September 1, 1876, and was sent from Whitby, Ont., to Oshawa, Ont. It is an insurance notice of assessment on a premium. Given that more than nine months passed between the earliest-reported date and this usage, one would think that there must be an earlier

(Continued on page 77)

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Keywords & phrases: post card; registration

# Undescribed re-entries in Scott # 18, the twelve and a half cent issue of 1859

*Kenneth A Kershaw Ph. D., D. Sc., F. R.S.C.*

**I**N 1966, Geoffrey Whitworth published an outstanding work on the plating of the early stamp issues of Canada [1], which was augmented subsequently by a volume restricted to plating details of the five cent Beaver, published in 1985 [2]. His work has since remained the fundamental source of plating information. Whitworth devoted a large segment of his life to this research, and it still stands as one of the more outstanding philatelic achievements of the twentieth century.

However, with more recent technological developments, particularly computer high-quality scanning techniques, we now have available very powerful tools that can provide superb and detailed images of postage stamps and allow very exact definition of even the smallest varieties or re-entries in a stamp. This should have made plating easier, but unfortunately the full plate proof sheets or complete commercial printings that were available to Whitworth are now largely very rare. This scarcity and, even more, the extreme expense of this fundamental reference material sadly reduces the research potential of our computer age.

Fortunately, I have been encouraged to initiate an in-depth plating study of a number of these wonderful early stamps. Through the extreme generosity of several Canadian collectors, I have been able to access a number of complete sheets. From these I have archived detailed positional scans of: two states (10 and 11) of the five cent Beaver, Scott #15; the seven and a half pence issue, Scott #9; the twelve and a half cent issue, Scott # 18; and the seventeen cents issue, Scott #19.

I have embarked on an ambitious program to convert these positional scans into a book format that will be published by BNAPS over the next few years. Already, during the early work, a number of new finds have been made, and more will most probably follow. Accordingly, it seems useful to provide advance information from time to time on these more exciting finds.

The new re-entries included here illustrate extremely well the powerful imaging capacity of computer scanning, where high-resolution printing reveals small re-entries otherwise very difficult to see. In addition, it also gives an exact printed image, avoiding the small discrepancies inevitable in hand-drawn images, however carefully they are done.

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Keywords & phrases: 1859 First Cents issue, varieties

Whitworth [1] lists re-entries in positions 51, 61, 71, 72, 80 and an extensive re-entry in position 94. Provided below are high-resolution scans of an extensive re-entry in position 62, with seven additional but more restricted frame re-entries in positions 11, 18, 32, 60, 81, 91 and 100.

## Position 62

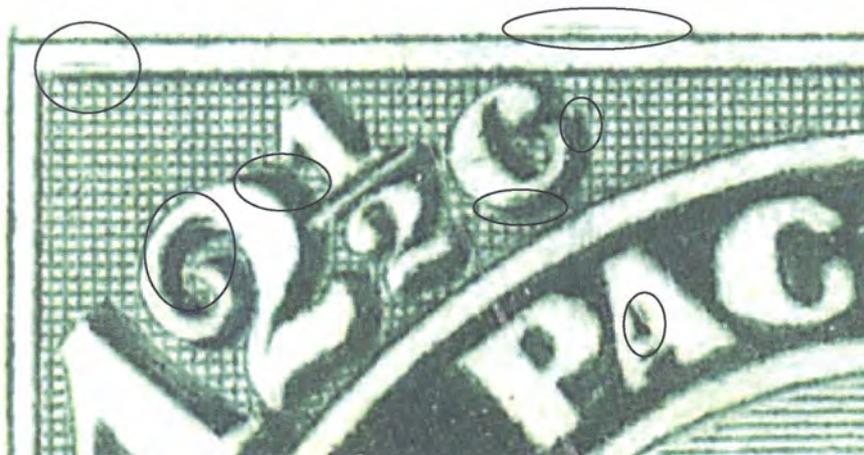


Figure 1. Position 62, upper left corner.

The upper left frame line and neat line (Figure 1) both show short doubling, and the 'A' has clear short doubling centrally (though the lower apparent doubling is a constant variety). The '2' shows the displacement of the re-entry particularly well.



Figure 2. Position 62, left centre.

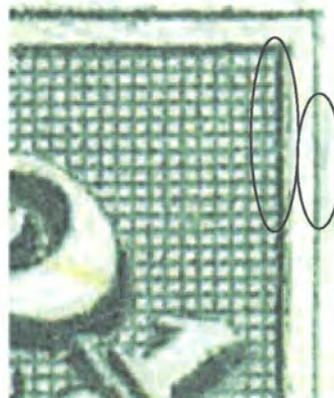


Figure 3. Position 62, top right.

The re-entry is distinct in 'CANADA' (Figure 2) with each letter, at least in part, being doubled. In the TR corner (Figure 3) the frame line and inner neat line are both doubled.



Figure 4. Position 62, lower left.

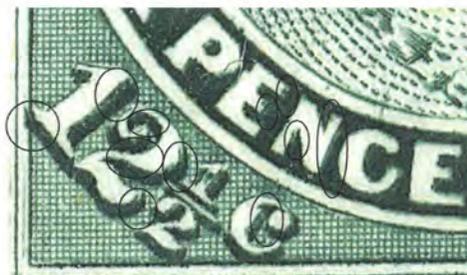
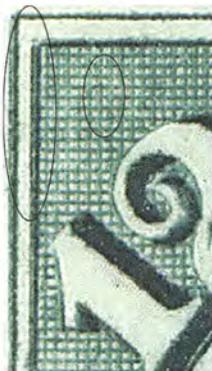


Figure 5. Position 62, lower left corner.

The re-entry in 'SIX' (Figure 4), shows clear doubling of the upper outline of the "S", and strong doubling of the "I". In the LL corner (Figure 5) there are numerous examples of doubling throughout. The base of the '1' projects across the neat line, with both the neat line and frame clearly doubled at the left of the spandrel. There is also clear doubling of the shank of the '1', in most of the outline of the '2', and traces in the small 'C'.

Although not as strong as that in position 94, which extends over most of the stamp, the Position 62 re-entry is remarkable.

## Position 11



The left hand frame is slightly doubled (Figure 6), along with the neat line. The doubling runs down into the 'Canada' portion (Figure 7), almost at the centre of the stamp. The cross hatch in the spandrel is also slightly doubled.

< Figure 6. Position 11, upper right.

> Figure 7. Position 11, centre left.



## Positions 32 and 60



Figure 8. Position 32,  
top left.

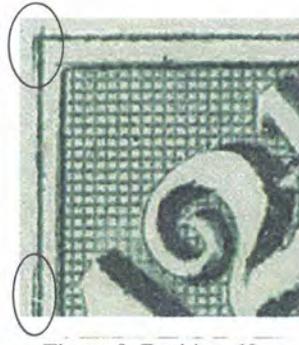


Figure 9. Position 60,  
top left.



Figure 10. Position 60,  
left centre.

In Position 32 (Figure 8), the left hand frame is slightly doubled, along with the neat line. The cross-hatch in the spandrel is also slightly doubled

In Position 60, as in Position 11, the left hand frame and neat line (Figure 9) are doubled down to the centre of the stamp (Figure 10).

## Position 81

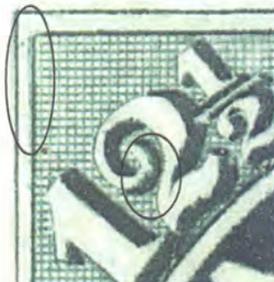


Figure 11. Position 81, top left.



Figure 12. Position  
81, left centre.

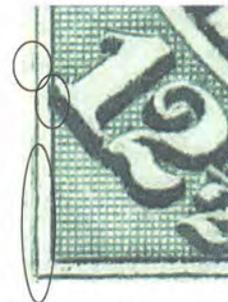


Figure 13. Position  
81, lower left.

There is doubling of the left hand frame and the neat line the whole of the left side, with the re-entered base of the '1' projecting slightly through the neat line. In the centre, remnant cross hatch lines protrude through the neat line.

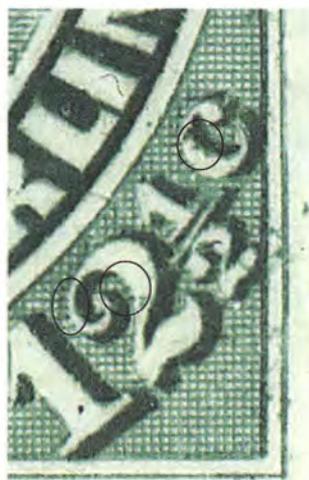
## Position 91



In Position 91, there is a slightly stronger re-entry, with the right hand neat line and frame doubled centrally and the spandrel cross hatch protruding slightly just above the centre (Figure 14). In the LR corner, the hatch lines also extend into the '2' and the small 'C' (Figure 15).

< Figure 14. Position 91, centre right.

> Figure 15. Position 91, lower right.



## Positions 96 and 100

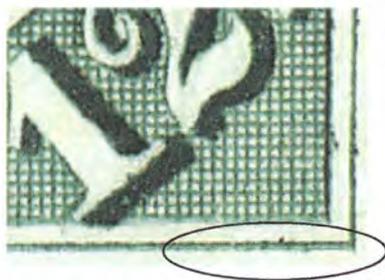


Figure 16. Position 96, lower right.

Finally, two simple re-entries with the lower right hand corner of the frame doubled (Figure 16), and the top right hand frame doubled (Figure 17) in positions 96 and 100 respectively.



Figure 17. Position 100, upper right.

## References:

- [1] Geoffrey Whitworth, *The first decimal issue of Canada 1859–68*, The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1966.
- [2] Geoffrey Whitworth, *The five cents beaver stamp of Canada*. The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1985.

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# Postal history during the King George VI 'Mufti' era (1937–1942) – domestic first class rates

*Gary Steele*

**A**FTER reading John Burnett's article on domestic first class rates during the Mufti period [1], I was able to find a number of items that expand upon the rates and usages he discussed. Readers are encouraged to refer to his excellent summary schedule of rates and fees for domestic (*i.e.*, mailed to an address in Canada) first class mail during the Mufti era, a schedule I have used in this article.

## Letters forward – one to two ounces

Commercial mail more often than not comprised a single-page letter or invoice, perhaps two pages at most. Accordingly, most window envelope commercial covers of the period are found with a 3 ¢ stamp, paying the first class rate for letters weighing up to one ounce. Covers weighing over one ounce, like that shown in Figure 1, with a 5 ¢ Mufti (Scott #235) paying the 3¢-first ounce plus 2¢-second ounce fee, are difficult to come by.

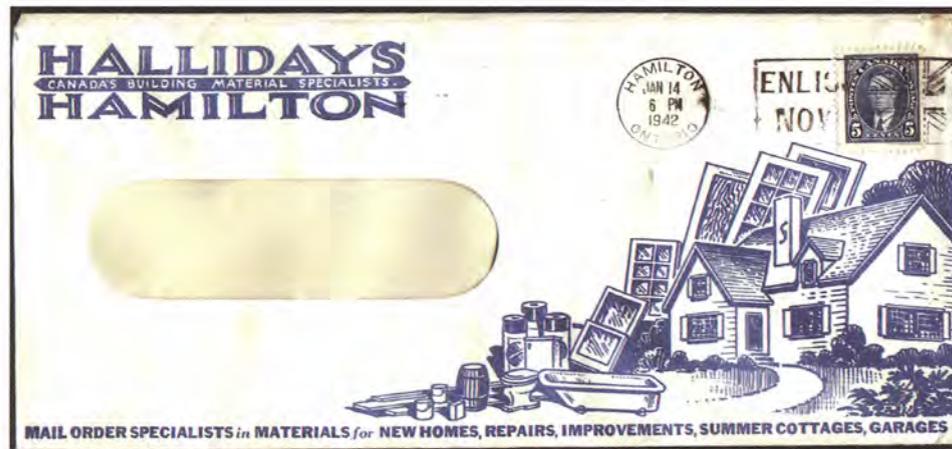


Figure 1 A 5 ¢ Mufti, paying double surface mail rate to a destination outside Hamilton.

A 5¢ franking could also mean the letter had been rated for up to four ounces at the

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Keywords & phrases: domestic rates, Mufti

drop letter rate for delivery within the same city or post office branch's district. It is highly unlikely in this case, though, as letters of such a substantial weight usually show some sign of creasing or wear, which is not apparent here. This leads me to my next subject—a nice example of an overweight drop letter.

## Drop Letters—two to three ounces

John Burnett writes [1] that it is difficult to be entirely certain if a letter, franked with a 3 ¢ stamp for delivery within a large urban area, is an overweight drop letter paid up to two ounces, or a normal first class letter paid for delivery to another post office branch in the same city. One can be more certain an overweight drop letter is involved if the rate paid is exactly 4¢—2¢ for the first ounce and 1¢ for each additional ounce up to three ounces. Conveniently, no other rate combinations for domestic first class mail delivery during the Mufti period would result in a 4¢ rate. Therefore, if a cover, posted and addressed within the same city, is franked with stamps totalling 4¢, it is almost certainly an overweight drop letter.

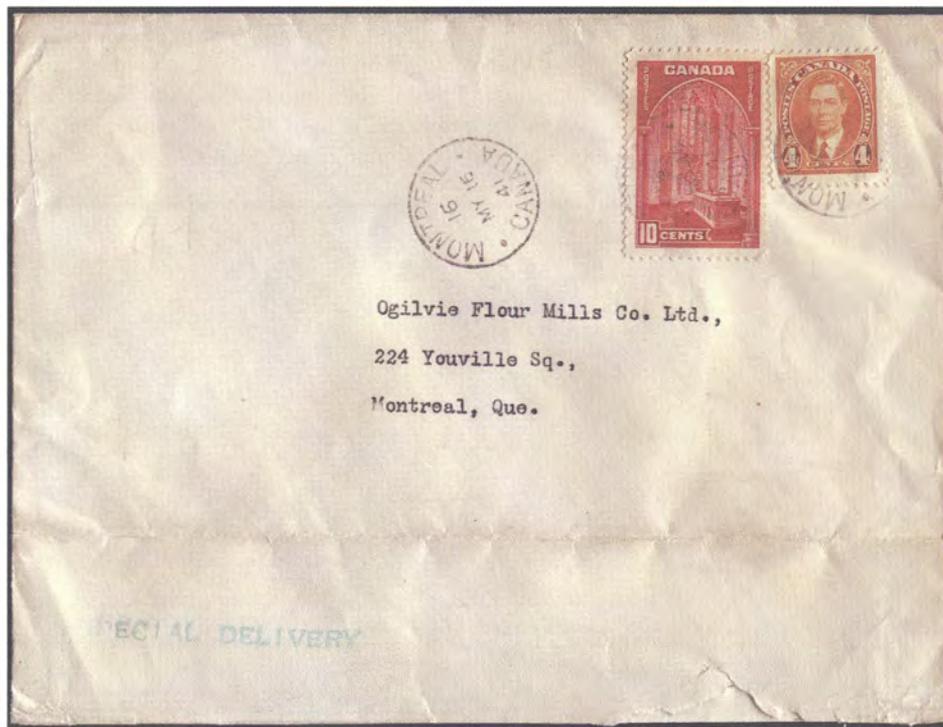


Figure 2. Special delivery letter mailed at drop letter rate for over two and under three ounces.

Figure 2, above, shows a nice example of an overweight drop letter, paid for a weight between two and three ounces by the 4 ¢ 'Mufti' definitive (SC 234), and also franked with a 10 ¢ 1938 'Memorial Chambers' pictorial (Sc 241) to pay the special delivery fee. This item is interesting in that it features the 4 ¢ definitive in a seldom-seen use, paying a specific fee, in this case, the triple-weight drop letter rate. The cover has creases along the top, left and bottom edges, and a distinct fold, most likely from being of abnormal thickness as it traveled through post office machinery.

## Registered against loss only

The cover in Figure 3, below, demonstrates an unusual aspect of registration, a case where the post office has limited its liability for a registered letter by excluding loss due to damage of contents, indemnifying the sender only for total loss of the letter (up to a value of \$25).

Section 192 of the 1938-39 *Postal Guide* [2] states: "Indemnity for damage to articles of a fragile nature will be given only in those cases in which the article is conspicuously marked 'Fragile—Handle with Care'. Indemnity will not be given for damage to an article (sent at letter rate) containing glass, crockery, greases, semi-liquids, or any articles of an exceptionally fragile nature". This applied to all classes of mail except parcels paid at parcel rates, which were not eligible for registration.

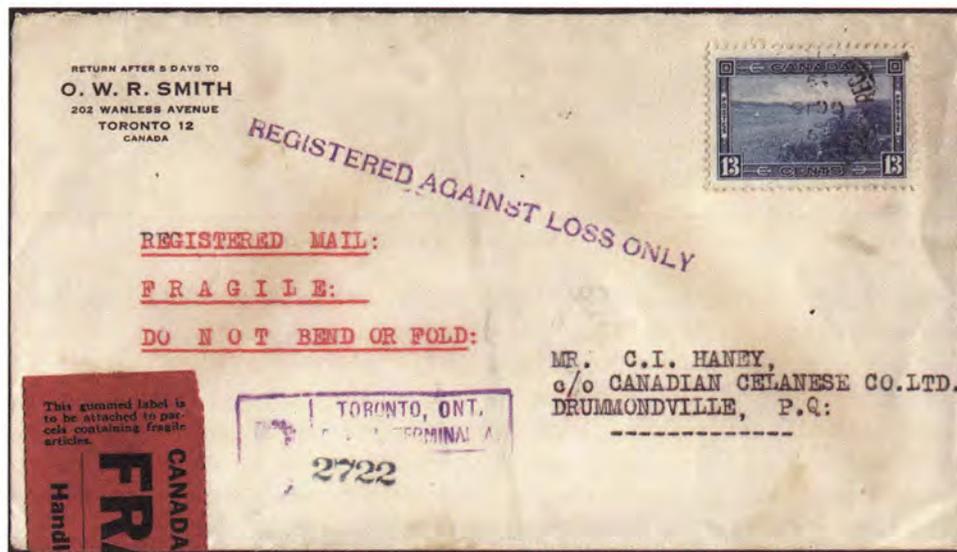


Figure 3. Letter with fragile contents registered against loss only.

One can only speculate what delicate item had been enclosed in the envelope. Whatever it was, the sender had taken the time to type 'FRAGILE' and 'DO NOT BEND OR FOLD', in red, to highlight the desire for special care in handling of the

letter. The post office in turn affixed its special 'FRAGILE - HANDLE WITH CARE' label, and must also have advised the sender that the contents were not indemnified for damage, before affixing the purple 'REGISTERED AGAINST LOSS ONLY' hand-stamp. A single 13 ¢ 'Entrance to Halifax Harbour' pictorial (Sc 242) paid both the 3¢ domestic first class letter rate and the 10¢ registration fee.

## Triple registration fee— indemnity not to exceed \$75



Figure 4. Triple registered letter, indemnified for loss not to exceed \$75.

Mailed from Lestook, Saskatchewan on 5 March 1941, the cover in Figure 4 is a seldom-seen example of payment of a multiple registration fee. The vast majority of registered covers are prepaid for the basic level of indemnity, which in 1941 cost 10¢ for protection up to \$25. Adding 3¢ for normal first class mail explains the 13 ¢ 'Entrance to Halifax Harbour' pictorial stamp (Sc 242), but not the 20 ¢ Fort Garry definitive (Sc 243). The only explanation for the latter is that the envelope contained something of value (perhaps a cheque, given the addressee), and the sender asked for \$50 extra indemnity, at a cost of 10¢ for each additional \$25 of coverage.

Note the airmail sticker. If this letter had been sent by airmail, an additional 3¢ postage would have been required. It appears the sticker was ignored, and the letter actually traveled by a surface route, as the reverse shows a RIV & SASK. R.P.O./No. 2 transit dated MR 5 41 and an Ottawa receiver dated MR 7 41.

## Acknowledgement of receipt

The sender of a registered letter could request an Acknowledgement of Receipt (A–R) by return mail, for a fee of 10¢ in addition to the normal cost of registration. The A–R card would be forwarded with the letter, endorsed by the recipient, and returned to the sender as proof of delivery. During the Mufti period, most A–R cards were franked with the 10 ¢ Memorial Chamber (SC 241) stamp. The A–R card in Figure 5 is somewhat unusual in that three 3 ¢ (SC 233) and a single 1 ¢ (SC 231) Mufti definitives are affixed. It accompanied a registered item, mailed from Medicine Hat, Alberta to Norton, Alberta on 13 August 1938.



Figure 5. 1938 Acknowledgement of Receipt card from Medicine Hat to Coleridge, Alberta.

The card in Figure 5 is also unusual in that a Certificate of P.O. Registration was apparently cut from a mailer's registration log book and glued to the card to show the address of the intended recipient of the registered item. The certificate was marked '221', the same registration number written on the A–R card, and initialled by an authorized post office staff member. It also received a large AR in a circle marking and a different Medicine Hat cancellation from the one used to cancel the stamps. The combination was received at Coleridge, Alberta on 13 August 1938.

A sender could ask for an Acknowledgement of Receipt card to be sent subsequent to the actual mailing of a registered letter. In this case, the fee would be 20¢. These are scarce! I am still looking for an after-delivery domestic A–R card for my collection, and I know at least one collector who needs one for his issue.

## Turned cover – parcel rate



Figure 6. Address and return side of 1940 mailing card for film containers in Nova Scotia.

How often in postal history does one find a double-sided mailing card, with not only both sides used but also with different stamps applied to each side? The card in Figure 6 was franked with 55¢ in postage, to pay the parcel post fee for a nine pound, four ounce package mailed to any post office more than 20 miles away but

within the Maritime provinces. It was sent by the Film & Filmslide Library, Department of Education, Halifax, N.S. to Martins (misspelling Martin's) River, N.S., in January 1940. To pay the rate, a 50 ¢ Vancouver Harbour (Sc 244) and a 5 ¢ Mufti (Sc 235) were affixed to a preprinted card, which was then inserted into a special slot on a film box. After being used, the card was turned over and readdressed from Martin's River to Halifax, with a pair of 20 ¢ Fort Garry (Sc 243), a 10 ¢ Memorial Chamber (SC 241) and a single 5 ¢ Mufti paying the same rate. This is an example of a postal history item you never really expect to see and are surprised by when it does show up. (The only problem with this item is that one cannot show both sides at the same time in an exhibit!)

## Airmail post card

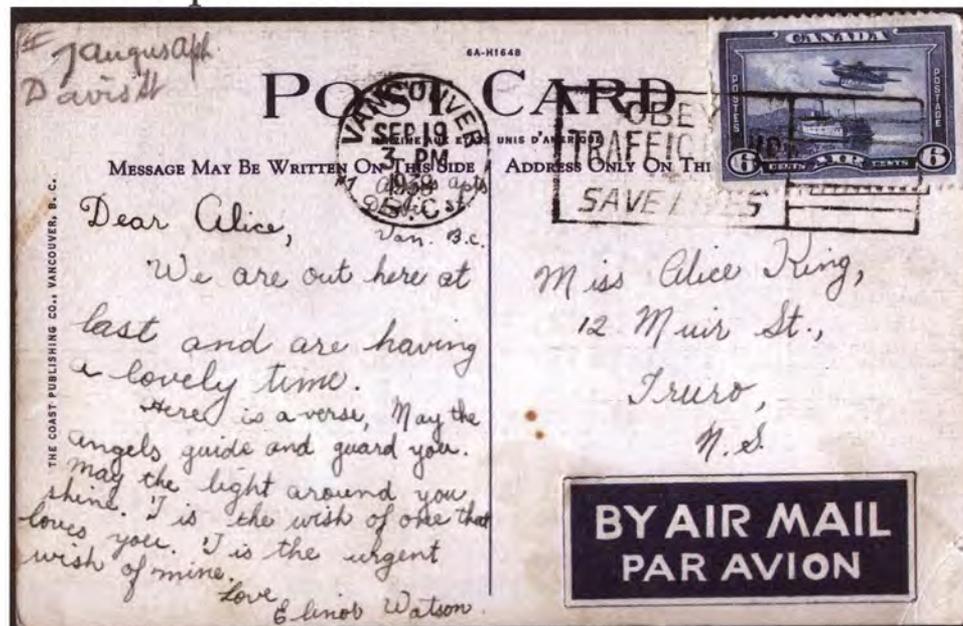


Figure 7. Postcard sent by airmail in 1938.

Figure 7 shows a post card carrying a 'BY AIR MAIL/PAR AVION' sticker with postage paid by a 6 ¢ airmail stamp (Sc C6). Section 2 of the *Postal Guide* says, "Special Air Mail stamps or ordinary postage stamps may be used to prepay all classes of Air Mail at the rate of 6 cents for the first ounce and five cents for each additional ounce or fraction thereof when addressed to places in Canada..." [2]. There is no separate mention of post cards sent by airmail, so they too would have been covered by this rule. The card was mailed on 19 September 1938, from Vancouver to Truro, N.S. Although seemingly ordinary, it is not easy to find a card mailed by airmail in the Mufti period.

## Returned dead letter



Figure 8. A 3 ¢ Mufti, paying postage due for returned dead letter.

On 1 September 1937, the District Dead Letter Office in Vancouver, B.C. returned to the sender a letter it had been unable to deliver, enclosed inside a preprinted ‘ambulance’ envelope requesting ‘POSTAGE DUE 3’ (cents). Instead of the postage due stamps normally affixed for this purpose, payment was made using the 3 ¢ Mufti (SC 233) cancelled on ‘SEP 5, 1937’ at New Westminster Sub (Post Office) No. 4.

Collectors of any issue are always pleased to find a stamp of their issue used as a postage due, and extremely pleased if one turns up on such a nice postal history cover.

### References:

- [1] John Burnett, Domestic First Class Rates during the 1937–1942 Mufti Era, *BNA Topics* 61, No. 2, pp. 45-51 (2004). This article was originally printed in Issue 2 of *The King George VI Post and Mail*, newsletter of BNAPS’ King George VI Study Group.
- [2] *Canada Official Postal Guide 1938–39*, Section 192. King’s Printer, Ottawa, January 1938.

# What's new?

## National Archives of Canada philatelic collections (28)

*Cimon Morin*

This column is provided on a regular basis in order to publicise new acquisitions and activities within the philatelic area at the Library and Archives Canada (LAC). Researchers who wish to use the LAC facilities should contact, in writing, Library and Archives Canada, Reference Services, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0N4. Telephone: 1-866-578-7777 (toll free in Canada and the US); Fax: (613) 995-6274; Internet website: <http://www.collectionscanada.ca>. For reference inquiries, please use the "Contact Us" form on the LAC Internet main web page.

### New acquisitions

*Frederick Warren Perkins fonds* [multiple media] 1904–1997. 44 photographs, two plates, one plaque, 22 prints, three postage stamps, one post card, 30 cm of textual records. The fonds consists of records related to the work of Frederick Warren Perkins, a Canadian Bank Note Company siderographer and Director of special projects. It includes correspondence and a daily journal of his works from 1951 to 1971. The journal records information such as the starting date of each job, the order number, the name of the customer, the hours charged including overtime, and other detailed information on transfers, plate numbers, etc.

The fonds consists also of records related to the International Association of Siderographers (IAS) from 1904 to 1997, including correspondence, convention invitations, minutes, bank records, union constitutions, by-laws, account books (1913-1959), and records of legal procedures. The fonds further includes 44 photographs of F. Warren Perkins, the biennial conventions of the IAS, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Jacob Perkins, steel plate process inventor. It also contains two steel plates (banquet invitation and logo of the IAS), three postage stamps and one bank note of the Centennial of Canadian Confederation, 22 prints and one plaque (biennial convention) of 1969. Finding Aid CPA-246 [R11602].

*Mike Street fonds* [textual records] 1977–1980. Three cm of textual records. The fonds consists of a file on the Grandpex '79 stamp show held at Cambridge (Ontario), April 26–29, 1979, and contains correspondence and details about the organization

of the show and of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada 1979 Convention [R11310]

*John H. Stratton fonds* [textual records] before 1990. Four cm of textual records. The acquisition consists of textual records of John H. Stratton, relating to philatelic activities such as associations, postal history, research and presentations (speeches). Also included are documents on the Admiral issue, Large Queen issue, Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society, Middlesex postal history, Postal History Society of Ontario, Stratford Stamp Club and articles by Max Rosenthal [R11278].

## Previous acquisitions

*Fonds Anatole Walker* [textual records, graphic material, philatelic records, objects] 1779-1999. 67889 postal covers, 2456 photographs, 100 postal cards, 39 medals, two plaques, 1,02 m. of textual records. The fonds relates to the collecting and research activities of Anatole (Larry) Walker of Montréal. It deals exclusively with Quebec postal history from the early days to more modern times. The fonds includes early postal covers of Lower Canada (including his specialized collection of the 1829 type, double circles, *etc.*), as well as covers and postmarks from the modern period. The photographic collection includes pictures of post office buildings taken during the period 1978 to 1990; correspondence with other philatelists and medals received at exhibitions, as well as his research notes on Quebec postal history [R9622].

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# Vignettes of the old west:

## 9. The Squared Circle cancels of the Kootenays

*Peter Jacobi*

**T**HE Kootenay region of British Columbia occupies the area between the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) main line on the north, the US border to the south, the Alberta–B.C. border on the east and, on the west, an imaginary line between Revelstoke and Rossland.

The region came to life first with the completion of the CPR line, followed by numerous mineral discoveries in the Slocan Valley, Rossland and Kimberley, and, finally, with the opening of the great coal deposits of the Crowsnest Pass area. The opening dates of the early post offices generally follow the establishment of boom towns such as Rossland, Nelson, Kaslo and Sandon during the 1880s and 1890s.

The first cancellation hammers supplied by the Post Office in Ottawa were always of the split-ring types. These overlap with the issue of squared circle hammers which were in use for only a few years in the 1890s. The six squared circle hammers of the Kootenays will be illustrated in alphabetical order:

### Donald

Located 18 miles NW of Golden on the CPR main line, Donald was named for Donald A. Smith, (later Lord Strathcona.), who was an influential director of the CPR both during and after construction. Its post office had two periods of operation, the first between April 1, 1886 and February 1, 1903. With a total of 148 squared circle strikes known, it has a rarity factor (R.F.) of 40. Figure 1 shows a Type II Donald squared circle cancel on



Figure 1. Donald squared circle on a cover to the U.S.

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Keywords & phrases: Squared circles, British Columbia, Kootenays

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a cover to Cheyenne, Wyoming dated November 3, 1896. The backstamps show a November 8 arrival at Cheyenne, and redirection to Omaha (Nebraska), where it arrived on November 22. Here it was again re-addressed, to South Omaha, arriving there on November 23. It seems delivery was attempted until December 18, when it was returned to Omaha, arriving on the same day per a straight line backstamp.

## Golden

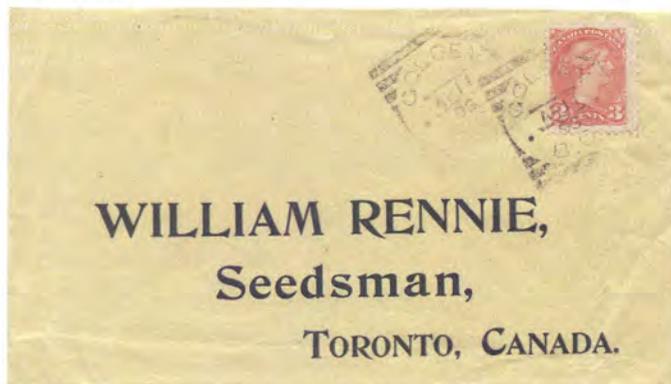


Figure 2. Golden Type II squarred circle dated April 11, 1896.

Golden, 50 miles west of the Alberta–B.C. border, was originally a CPR construction camp named ‘Golden City’, so-called in an effort to outdo a nearby promotional mining development at Castle Mountain called ‘Silver City’. In time, the ‘City’ part of the name was dropped. Golden

became a junction station after 1907, when the Kootenay Central Railway built a line south to connect with the CPR’s British Columbia Southern Railway through the Crowsnest Pass. The Golden post office opened on April 1, 1887. At R.F. 55, some 79 squarred circle strikes are known.

## Kaslo

Kaslo is located 32 miles NE of Nelson, on the western shore of Kootenay Lake. On July 29, 1891, the first mining claims were registered at the head of Kaslo Creek. When the assays became known, a wild staking rush ensued in the Slocan Valley. Boat passengers were



Figure 3. Kaslo Type II squarred circle dated August 14, 1897.

unloaded on the beach at the mouth of Kaslo Creek. A tent city was born almost overnight and became Kaslo, named after an early French Canadian prospector,

Jean Kasleau. It became the gateway to the Slocan Valley and was the terminus of the Kaslo & Slocan Railway. The post office opened August 1, 1892. Four hundred and ten strikes of the Kaslo squared circle, R.F. 25, are currently known from between 1895 and 1897.

## Revelstoke

Revelstoke is also on the main CPR line, about 40 miles west of Golden. Originally opened as Farwell on February 1, 1886, the post office's name changed to Revelstoke a few months later, on June 1, 1886. Very little is known about Revelstoke's squared circle cancellation. Only a proof book strike and one example, on a stamp, have been found to date, giving it a RF of 250, the highest possible.



Figure 4 (at right). The only known strike of the Revelstoke squared circle cancellation [2]

## Rossland



Figure 5. The Rossland squared circle, dated May 4, 1896, on a 3 ¢ Small Queen paying the domestic letter rate for a one oz. letter. The Letter Carrier's mark shows delivery in Victoria May 8, 1896.

Located five miles west of Trail and three miles north of the US border, the area came to life in 1890, when two prospectors from Colville, Wash., staked out five promising mining claims on Red Mountain.

Early development led to the uncovering of a rich copper-gold ore body, which started a major staking rush that led to the formation and incorporation of the city of Rossland, named for Ross Thompson, early settler and pre-emptor of 160 acres of town site land. The post office was opened on May 1, 1895. Some 59 strikes of the squared circle, R.F. 65, are known.

## Sandon

Located seven miles east of New Denver on Carpenter Creek, the town was named after early prospector John Sandon. It became prominent due to the discovery, in the immediate vicinity, of numerous rich mining properties such as the 'Noble 5' group, the Payne, the Wonderful' and the 'Reco' properties. Its

post office opened August 1, 1895 and closed August 20, 1962. At R.F. 50, 100 squared circle strikes are known.

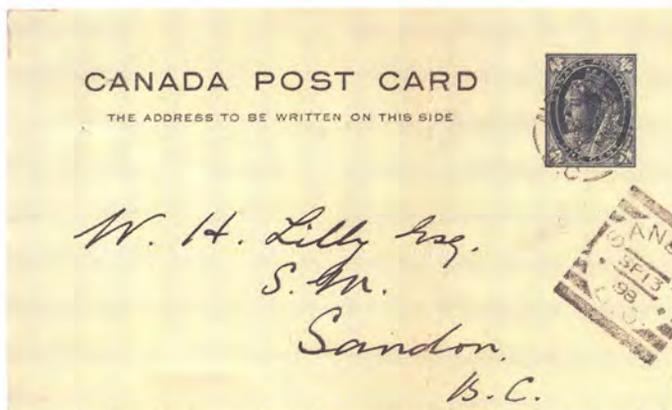


Figure 6. Sandon squared circle receiving cancel, September 13, 1898, on a postal stationery card mailed from New Denver, B.C.

## References

- [1] John Gordon, *The Squared Circle Cancellations of Canada*, 5th Edition, BNAPS, 2001.
- [2] Figure 4 image courtesy of the estate of the late Jim A. Hennok.

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# Thanks for the smokes!

*P Charles Livermore*

## Introduction

**A**BOUT a dozen years ago, I retrieved the card shown in Figure A from a junk box at a stamp show. Sent during World War II, it acknowledged receipt of a parcel of cigarettes. I was intrigued and set to wondering what kind of collection might be built from this single card. Twelve years later, having gathered several albums of acknowledgement cards and related materials, I can begin to tell the story.

Soldiers—hot or cold, wet or dry—wanted their cigarettes, and Canada made sure her troops got them. This might seem strange, given current attitudes towards smoking, but the prevailing attitude during World War I and II was very different. Cigarettes provided a quick and easy form of recreation that helped soldiers deal with the alternating boredom and stress of war.



Figure A. First cigarette card ever found by the author.

During World War I, no less a figure than General John J Pershing is reported to have said to the British Minister of War: “You ask what we need to win this war. I will tell you. We need tobacco, more tobacco—even more than food.”[1]

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Keywords & phrases: military mail, advertising, cigarette cards

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Figures 1–3 show samples of cards acknowledging receipt of cigarettes during World War I. While mail from soldiers was sent without charge, postage stamps for the domestic rate were affixed at Canadian mail centres. This practice was discontinued in July 1917. Notice in Figures 1 and 2 that the postage stamp covers the original military postmark. Figure 3 illustrates that a postage stamp was not always added, as the card of January 22, 1915, appears to have been delivered without one.

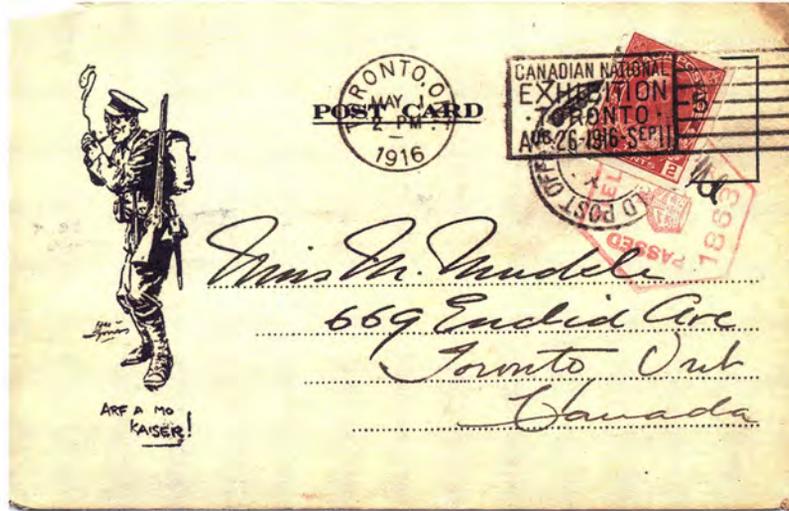


Figure 1. During WWI, a stamp was applied at major Canadian mail centres.



Figure 2. A second example of a WWI card.



Figure 3. This WWI card did not have the domestic rate stamp added.

I have been able to find out little about the World War I distribution scheme for cigarettes, except to be able to confirm that WWI acknowledgement cards are scarcer and more expensive than those of World War II. Consequently, the rest of this article will deal with World War II.

In 1944, the *Canadian Cigar and Tobacco Journal* reported on results of surveys conducted in overseas camps, as well as on comments in letters from servicemen. Both revealed that—next to letters from home—the troops wanted cigarettes [2].

To ensure that the boys received them, a delivery system was developed which involved the cooperation of Canada's citizens, private industry, the Canadian Post Office, the Parliament of Canada, and the military. This effort was considered important to the morale of both the folks at home and the fighting forces overseas. It let the soldier in the field know that he was remembered, and reminded the folks at home that they, too, were part of the war effort. The chart in Figure 4 (found, along with other information included in this article, on Archives Canada microfilm [3]) shows the path taken and the methods used to get cigarettes to the troops. The letters, forms and ephemera discussed and illustrated below are a sampling of the material available to those interested in this aspect of philately.

The first Canadian troops sent to England arrived December 18, 1939 [4]. An article published in the *Ottawa Citizen* on December 20, 1939, reported that the "Hon. W. D. Euler, Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced today that gifts and parcels to members of the Canadian fighting forces now in the United Kingdom will be permitted entry there free of duty." Participation in the program was simple: (1) Money was sent to the cigarette companies by individuals, service organizations or clubs organized in stores and factories. (2) The tobacco companies

packaged the cigarettes and attached acknowledgement cards to them. (3) The cigarettes were shipped to the troops via both civilian and military postal facilities. (4) Soldiers wrote messages on the attached cards and mailed them to the donor of the cigarettes. (5) Receipt of these cards encouraged future donations and shipments.

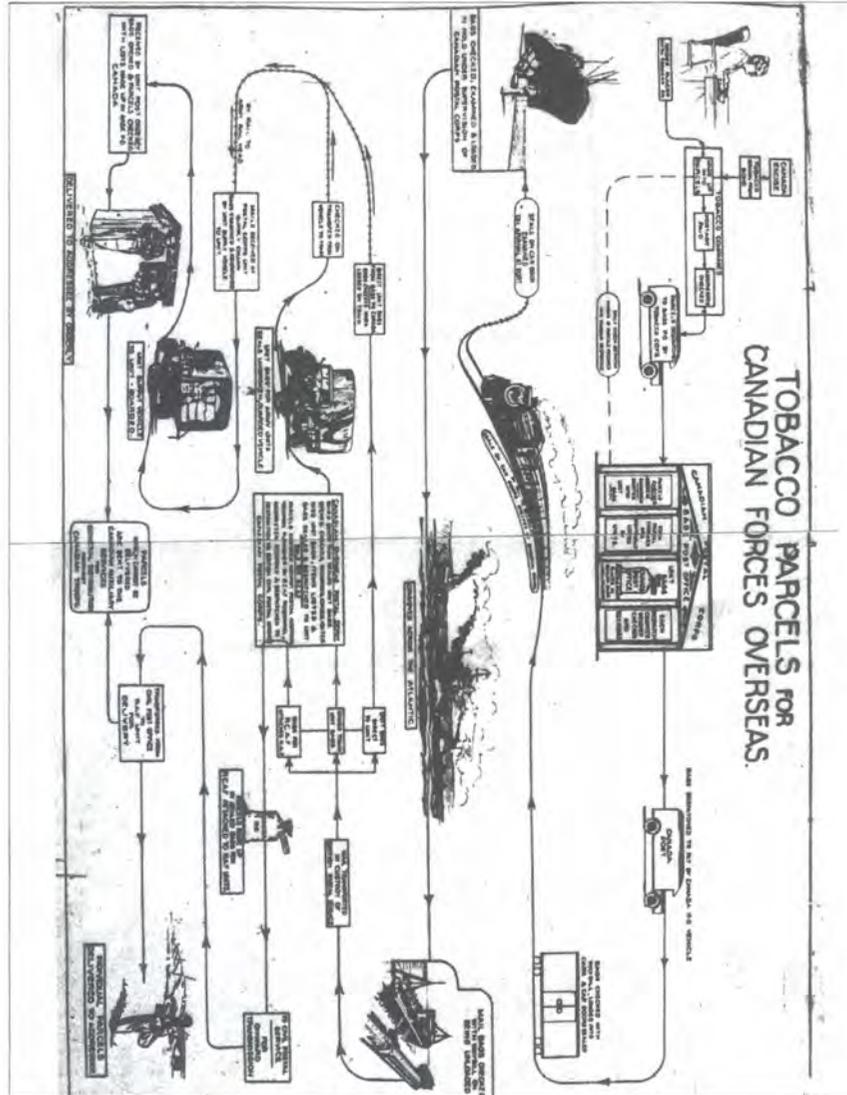


Figure 4. The travels of a cigarette from the folks at home to the boys overseas.

## How it worked

The following set of cards shows this process at work. Figure 5 (front and back) is a card from a tobacco company (Imperial in this case), acknowledging receipt of \$30.00 for multiple shipments of tobacco to selected recipients. I have seen very few of these. Most acknowledgement cards appear to be for single shipments to individuals, as illustrated in the next figure.

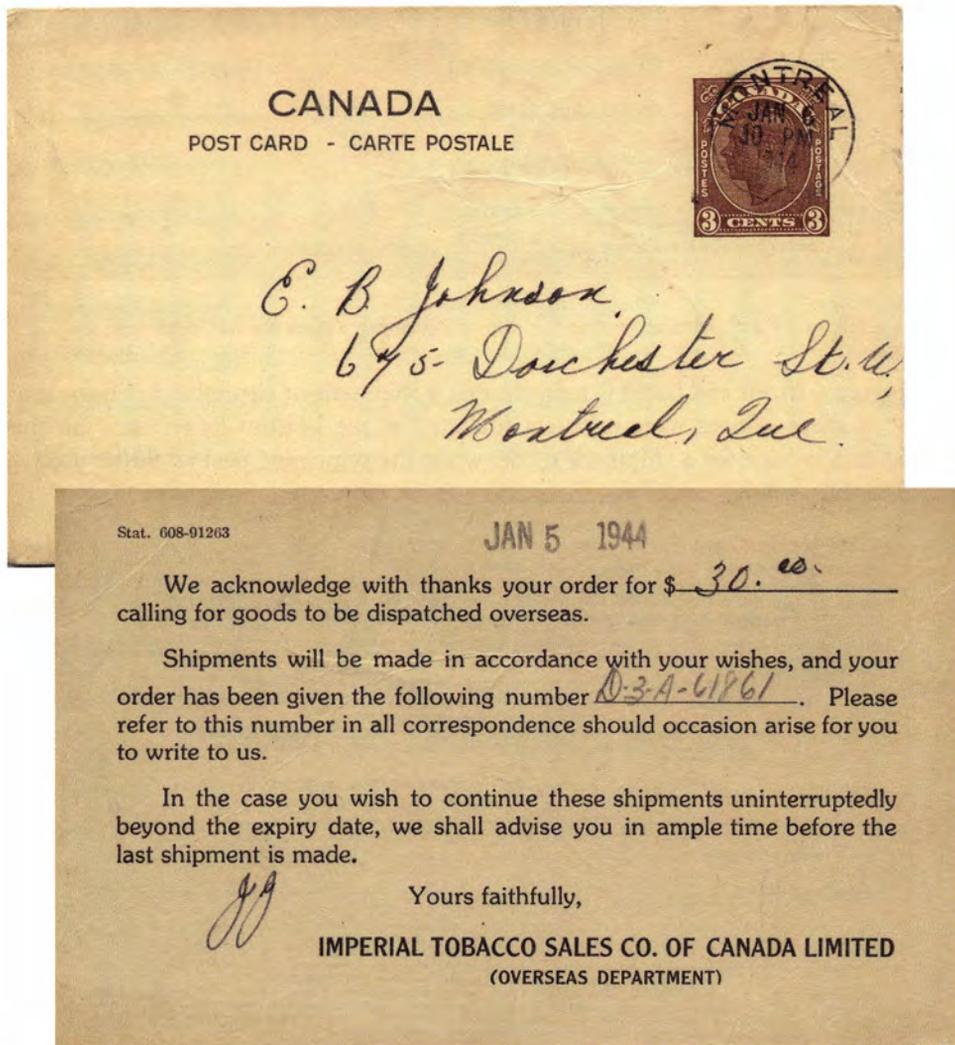


Figure 5 (front and back). Acknowledgement of payment for a cigarette order.

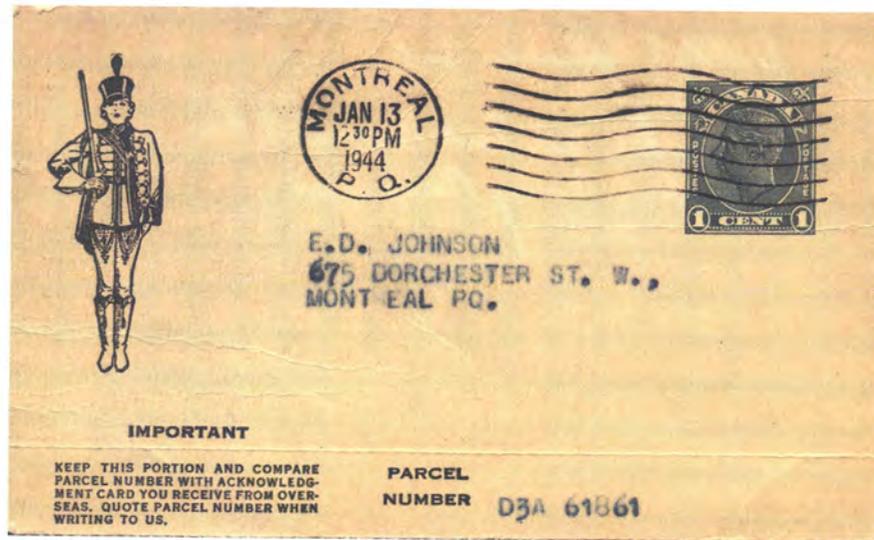


Figure 6 (front.). Card portion sent to the donor indicating a package has been sent.

Figure 6 (front and back) is a notice that a shipment of cigarettes has been sent. Many of these notices were privately rouletted at the bottom to create a tab that served as a receipt for a shipment made, while the remaining part could be used to place further orders.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER WHICH HAS HAD PROMPT ATTENTION. STAT. 604-91962  
 IF NECESSARY TO WRITE TO US, PLEASE QUOTE PARCEL NUMBER SHOWN ON REVERSE SIDE.  
 DETACH AND KEEP THIS RECEIPT PORTION — USE FORM BELOW FOR YOUR NEXT ORDER.  
**IMPERIAL TOBACCO SALES COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED**

BRANDS LISTED BELOW CAN BE SENT TO MEMBERS OF ALL CANADIAN ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS AND CANADIANS IN UNITED KINGDOM FORCES, AT RATE OF \$1.00 FOR EACH 500 CIGARETTES ONE BRAND OR 1 LB. TOBACCO OR 1 ROLL COPENHAGEN; VOGUE PAPERS INCLUDED WITH SWEET CAPORAL TOBACCO.  
 1000 OR MORE CIGARETTES OF EACH BRAND CAN BE SENT FOR \$2.50 PER 1000 IF TO ONE ADDRESS.  
 YOUR TOBACCO DEALER WILL ACCEPT ORDERS AT A NOMINAL CHARGE OF 10% FOR HIS SERVICE.  
 OR YOU MAY MAIL REMITTANCE TO:  
**"SWEET CAPS" — P.O. Box 6000 — MONTREAL, QUEBEC**  
**IMPORTANT - PRINT NAMES AND ADDRESSES CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS.**

SWEET CAPS.....	WINCHESTER.....	CAR, CORPS.....	SWEET CAP. CIG. TOBACCO.....	AMOUNT OF REMITTANCE
OLD VIRGINIA PIPE TOBACCO.....	CLUB CHEWING TOBACCO.....	COPENHAGEN.....		

TO: **REG. NUMBER** .....

**RANK AND NAME** .....

**FULL DETAILS OF UNIT** .....

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS ARE ON THE REVERSE SIDE.  
 THIS OFFER SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION WITHOUT NOTICE. OUR RESPONSIBILITY CEASES WHEN PARCELS ARE DELIVERED TO POSTAL AUTHORITIES OR OTHER CARRIERS. IF PARCELS ADDRESSED TO MEMBERS OF CANADIAN ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS CANNOT BE DELIVERED OR FORWARDED TO ADDRESSEE THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO CANADIAN POSTAL CORPS OVERSEAS, DUE TO WAR CONDITIONS, TROOP DISPOSITIONS ETC., POSTAL AUTHORITIES SUGGEST THAT THREE MONTHS BE ALLOWED FOR OVERSEAS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Figure 6 (back). Reverse serves as an order form for more cigarettes.

The cigarette companies created a variety of order cards using standard postal stationery post cards available from the post office; to date, no tobacco-related special order postal stationery items have been seen.

Given this fact, a large variety of the order cards are available. I have about a dozen different examples in my collection. It should be noted that many cards with the same design will be found with different printing order or stationery stock numbers (Figures 6 and 16, upper right).

The card in Figure 7 was attached to the shipment and served as the acknowledgement card to the relatives or organization back home that sent the cigarettes. Approximately two dozen types of these cards exist. There are also varieties in card numbers and typefaces.

Note that the order number is the same on all three cards. This is the only set of matched cards I have seen in the 12 years I have been collecting this material.

No special order cards are known to have been printed by the post office for this system. The 1 ¢, 2 ¢, and 3 ¢ George VI cards were all used, but the vast majority were the 1 ¢ George VI cards, which paid the printed matter rate.

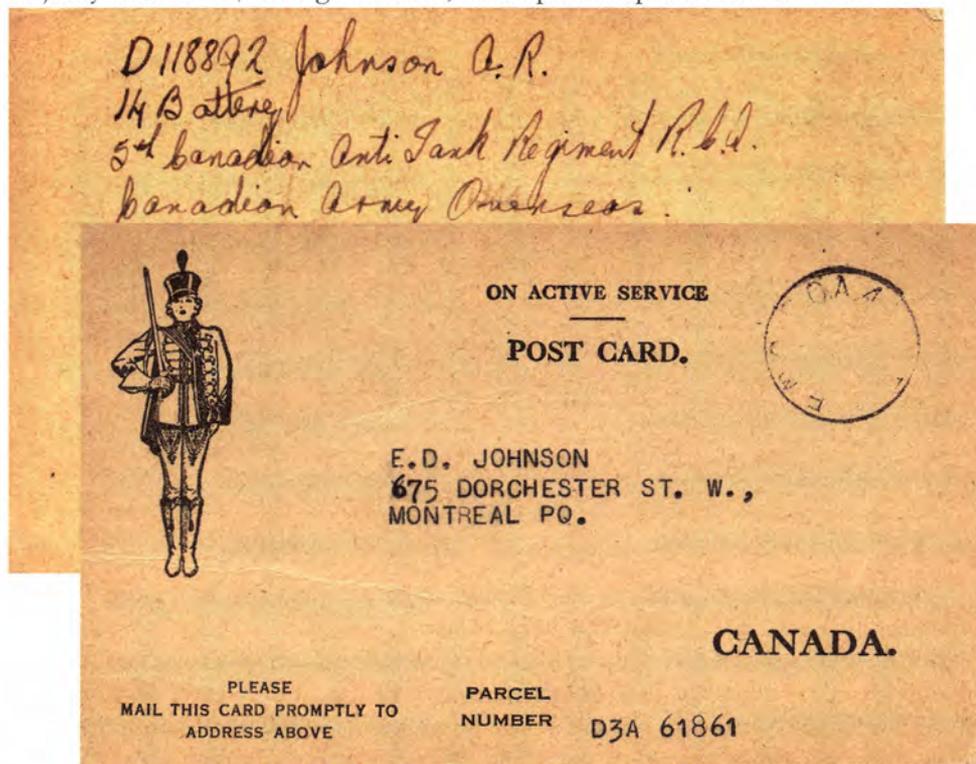


Figure 7 (front and back). Card attached to the package from Figure 6, with terse acknowledgement.

## Promotional efforts

Cigarette companies had an obvious interest in alerting the public to the possibility of sending cigarettes to the troops and placed advertisements in newspapers, including the one shown in Figure 8, published in *The Globe and Mail*. The earliest advertisement I have found was printed in *The Ottawa Citizen* on January 24, 1940, just over a month after the first Canadian troops arrived in Great Britain.

# SEND SWEET CAPS TO THE BOYS OVERSEAS

*Through the co-operation of the Customs Departments of the United Kingdom and France, cigarettes may be sent tax free to members of the C.A.S.F. overseas and to Canadians in the B.E.F. in the United Kingdom and France only.*

**\$1.00 WILL DELIVER 300  
SWEET CAPORAL CIGARETTES**

**NOTE** Minimum quantity is 300, but you may send as many multiples of 300 as you wish.

For your convenience use form printed below and mail, with remittance for "Sweet Caps," P.O. Box 6000, Montreal, P.Q.

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Rank and Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Sender's name and address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This is a very attractive offer for clubs, groups and business organizations desirous of making collections to send smokes to soldiers overseas. Write for full particulars.



When sending your order, be sure to give the number, rank and name, and unit of soldier overseas, also your own name and address as sender.

A postcard bearing sender's name and address will be enclosed in each parcel for acknowledgment of gift.

This Offer Subject to Cancellation or Change Without Notice.

Our Responsibility Ceases When We Have Delivered the Goods to the Postal Authorities.

Figure 8. An advertisement for sending smokes "for the boys overseas".

Promotional items such as the Bridge score card shown in Figure 9 were included in packages of cigarettes sold at home. Countless service organizations established in factories and offices solicited information from new inductees, usually people from the company or local area, through the use of post cards (Figures 10 a & b). I have an issue of an Eaton's house organ which congratulates employees for their generous contributions to the tobacco fund. Cigarette trading cards (Figures 11, 12) were also employed as reminders to potential buyers both to send cigarettes and of wartime shortages (Figures 13-15).



While most cards included with cigarettes were either trading or promotional cards, a few served as notices that the troops overseas were first in line for cigarette shipments or that cellophane was in short supply.

Figures 11 and 12 show two of the pictures featured on the front of the trading cards. Figures 13, 14 and 15 illustrate how different information was printed on the backs of the cards, sometimes promoting cigarette sales, and often advising buyers of wartime realities associated with manufacturing and distributing cigarettes.

Figure 9. Promotional bridge score card found in a box of cigarettes.

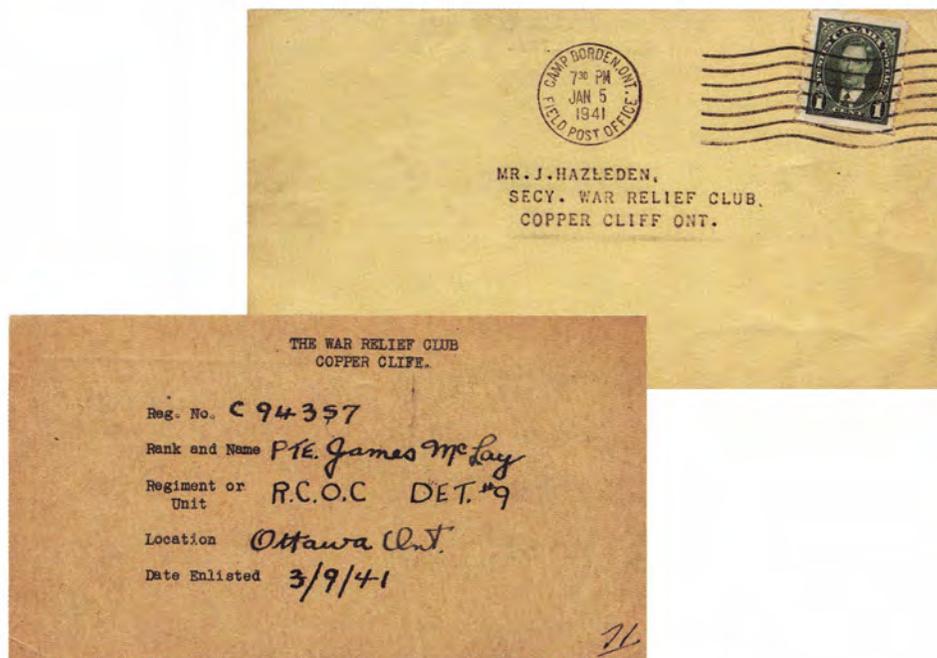


Figure 10 (front and back). Sign-up cards mailed from an induction centre.



THE "BOLINGBROKE"

Figure 11. Airplane trading Card used (in part) to Promote "smokes for the boys".

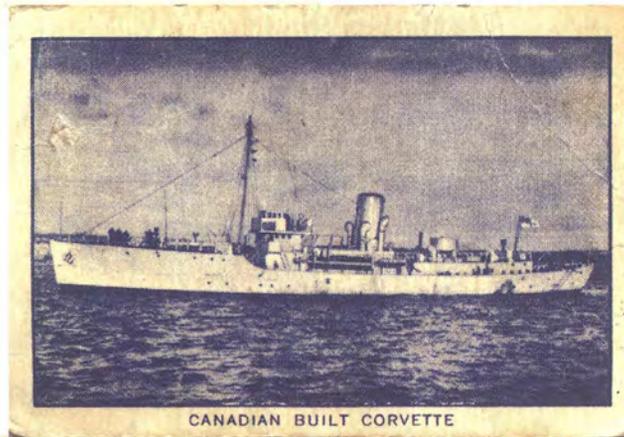


Figure 12 (at right): Ships also appeared on trading cards.

DUE TO  
 "WARTIME RESTRICTIONS"  
 WE ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN  
 OUR FULL REQUIREMENTS OF  
 "CELLOPHANE".

Figure 13. Wartime restrictions on a package insert card.

**OVERSEAS**  
**"BRITISH CONSOLS"**  
**"EXPORT" OR "LEGION"**

**\$1<sup>00</sup> SENDS 300**  
**CIGARETTES** or  
 1 lb. Tobacco—**BRIER SMOKING** or any  
**MACDONALD'S FINE CUTS** (with papers)  
 to Canadian Soldiers in Great Britain and any  
 Soldier in B.E.F. (France).

**\$2.50 SENDS 1,000**  
 cigarettes to any Single  
 Military Address Overseas

Mail Order and Remittance to:—  
**OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT**  
**W. C. MACDONALD INC.,**  
 Box 1929 Place d'Armes, Montreal, Canada  
 This offer subject to any change in Government  
 Regulations

**SEND THE BOYS THE BEST**

Figure 14. A reminder to send "smokes".

UNPRECEDENTED DEMANDS FROM THE  
 BOYS OVERSEAS FOR CIGARETTES OF  
 OUR MANUFACTURE HAVE BEEN THE  
 CAUSE OF A SLIGHT DELAY IN FILLING  
 ORDERS FOR DOMESTIC USE. WE HOPE  
 YOU AGREE WITH US WHEN WE SAY  
 THEIR REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE  
 FILLED FIRST.

Figure 15. Troops were first in line for cigarettes.

## Tobacco depots

In 1944, once parts of Italy had been secured by the Allies, a Canadian tobacco depot was opened on June 19, 1944. Prior to this (and to the opening of another depot in Great Britain on September 1, 1944), packages of 1000 could be ordered from the cigarette companies. A notice in the postal bulletin indicated that once the depots in Italy and Great Britain were open, parcels of 1000 would no longer be available. A smaller parcel of 300 became the standard order, but a soldier could order as many of these as he wanted. The order cards in Figure 16 illustrate this change. Figure 16a shows a line of text indicating that \$2.50 will buy 1,000 cigarettes; Figure 16b shows that line crossed through; and Figure 16c shows that the line has been eliminated.

The July 1944 *Postal Guide Supplement* states:

"Orders will be placed in the same manner as at present, either with the tobacconist, or direct with the Company. When the Company receives the order, a label covering each 300 cigarettes ordered will be prepared, complete with postage and particulars. Then the Post Office takes over. The labels are recorded and sent overseas by air transport. Upon arrival at the Tobacco Depot, the labels are attached by members of the Postal Corp to parcels of the particular brand of cigarettes ordered, and then dispatched to the addressee...."

Efficient operation of the plan makes it necessary to adopt a standard size parcel of 300 cigarettes for the members of the Canadian Army or R.C.A.F. overseas." [5]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER WHICH HAS HAD PROMPT ATTENTION. STAT. 604-94288  
 IF NECESSARY TO WRITE TO US, PLEASE QUOTE PARCEL NUMBER SHOWN ON REVERSE SIDE.  
 DETACH AND KEEP THIS RECEIPT PORTION — USE FORM BELOW FOR YOUR NEXT ORDER.  
**IMPERIAL TOBACCO SALES COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED**

BRANDS LISTED BELOW CAN BE SENT TO MEMBERS OF ALL CANADIAN ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS AND CANADIANS IN UNITED KINGDOM FORCES, AT RATE OF \$1.00 FOR EACH 300 CIGARETTES ONE BRAND OR 1 LB. TOBACCO OR 1 ROLL COPENHAGEN; YOGUE PAPERS INCLUDED WITH SWEET CAPORAL TOBACCO.  
 1000 OR MORE CIGARETTES OF EACH BRAND CAN BE SENT FOR \$2.50 PER 1000 IF TO ONE ADDRESS.  
**YOUR TOBACCO DEALER WILL ACCEPT ORDERS AT A NOMINAL CHARGE OF 10% FOR HIS SERVICE.**  
 OR YOU MAY MAIL REMITTANCE TO:  
**"SWEET CAPS" — P.O. Box 6000 — MONTREAL, QUEBEC**  
**IMPORTANT - PRINT NAMES AND ADDRESSES CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS.**

---

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER WHICH HAS HAD PROMPT ATTENTION. STAT. 604-95490  
 IF NECESSARY TO WRITE TO US, PLEASE QUOTE PARCEL NUMBER SHOWN ON REVERSE SIDE.  
 DETACH AND KEEP THIS RECEIPT PORTION — USE FORM BELOW FOR YOUR NEXT ORDER.  
**IMPERIAL TOBACCO SALES COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED**

BRANDS LISTED BELOW CAN BE SENT TO MEMBERS OF ALL CANADIAN ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS AND CANADIANS IN UNITED KINGDOM FORCES, AT RATE OF \$1.00 FOR EACH 300 CIGARETTES ONE BRAND OR 1 LB. TOBACCO OR 1 ROLL COPENHAGEN; YOGUE PAPERS INCLUDED WITH SWEET CAPORAL TOBACCO.  
 1000 OR MORE CIGARETTES OF EACH BRAND CAN BE SENT FOR \$2.50 PER 1000 IF TO ONE ADDRESS.  
**YOUR TOBACCO DEALER WILL ACCEPT ORDERS AT A NOMINAL CHARGE OF 10% FOR HIS SERVICE.**  
 OR YOU MAY MAIL REMITTANCE TO:  
**"SWEET CAPS" — P.O. Box 6000 — MONTREAL, QUEBEC**  
**IMPORTANT - PRINT NAMES AND ADDRESSES CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS.**

---

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER WHICH HAS HAD PROMPT ATTENTION. STAT. 604-97088  
 IF NECESSARY TO WRITE TO US, PLEASE QUOTE PARCEL NUMBER SHOWN ON REVERSE SIDE.  
 DETACH AND KEEP THIS RECEIPT PORTION — USE FORM BELOW FOR YOUR NEXT ORDER.  
**IMPERIAL TOBACCO SALES COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED**

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS NOW LIMIT THE CONTENTS OF PARCELS OF CIGARETTES TO 300.  
 THE FOLLOWING BRANDS CAN BE SENT TO MEMBERS OF ALL CANADIAN ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS AND CANADIANS IN UNITED KINGDOM FORCES AT THE RATE OF \$1.00 FOR EACH 300 CIGARETTES ONE BRAND, OR 1 LB. TOBACCO, OR 1 ROLL COPENHAGEN, YOGUE PAPERS INCLUDED WITH SWEET CAPORAL TOBACCO.  
**YOUR TOBACCO DEALER WILL ACCEPT ORDERS AT A NOMINAL CHARGE OF 10% FOR HIS SERVICE.**  
 OR YOU MAY MAIL REMITTANCE TO:  
**"SWEET CAPS" — P.O. Box 6000 — MONTREAL, QUEBEC**  
**IMPORTANT - PRINT NAMES AND ADDRESSES CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS.**

SWEET CAPS.....	WINCHESTER.....	CAN. CORPS.....	SWEET CAP. CIG. TOBACCO.....	AMOUNT OF REMITTANCE
OLD VIRGINIA PIPE TOBACCO.....	CLUB CHEWING TOBACCO.....	COPENHAGEN.....		

TO: REG. NUMBER.....  
 RANK AND NAME.....  
 FULL DETAILS OF UNIT.....

**SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS ARE ON THE REVERSE SIDE.**  
 THIS OFFER SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION WITHOUT NOTICE. OUR RESPONSIBILITY CEASES WHEN PARCELS ARE DELIVERED TO POSTAL AUTHORITIES OR OTHER CARRIERS. IF PARCELS ADDRESSED TO MEMBERS OF CANADIAN ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS, CANNOT BE DELIVERED OR FORWARDED TO ADDRESSEE, THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO CANADIAN POSTAL CORPS OVERSEAS. DUE TO WAR CONDITIONS, TROOP DISPOSITIONS ETC., POSTAL AUTHORITIES SUGGEST THAT THREE MONTHS BE ALLOWED FOR OVERSEAS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Figure 16. Reduction from a maximum of 1,000 to 300 per shipment.

Several of the tobacco companies created special Christmas acknowledgement cards. Figures 17 and 18 illustrate two such cards.

The British Columbia government distributed cigarettes through British Columbia House in London (Figure 19 front and Figure 20 back).



Figure 17. Special cards were printed for Christmas.



Figure 18. Another Christmas card.

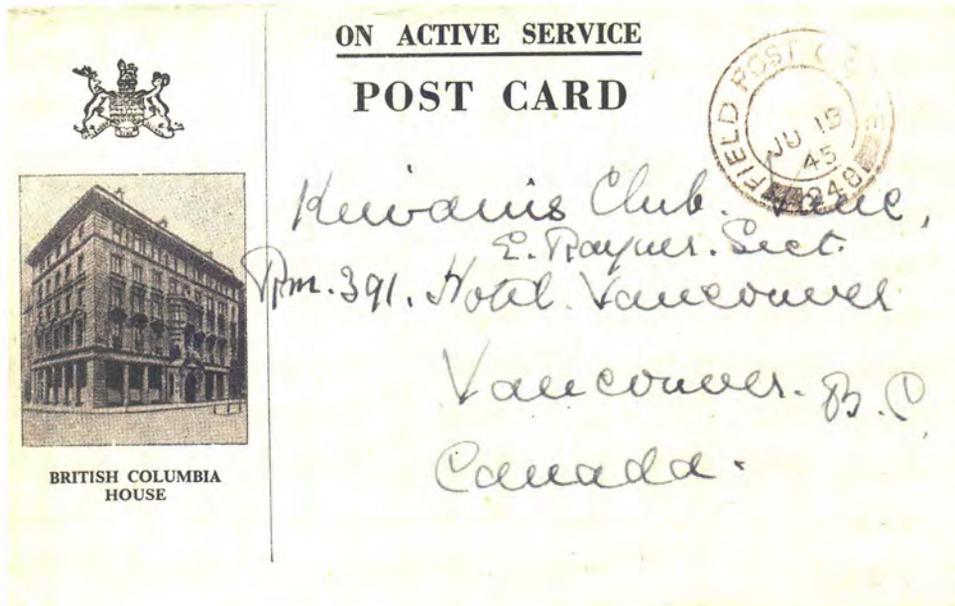


Figure 19. British Columbia House in London also had cigarettes.

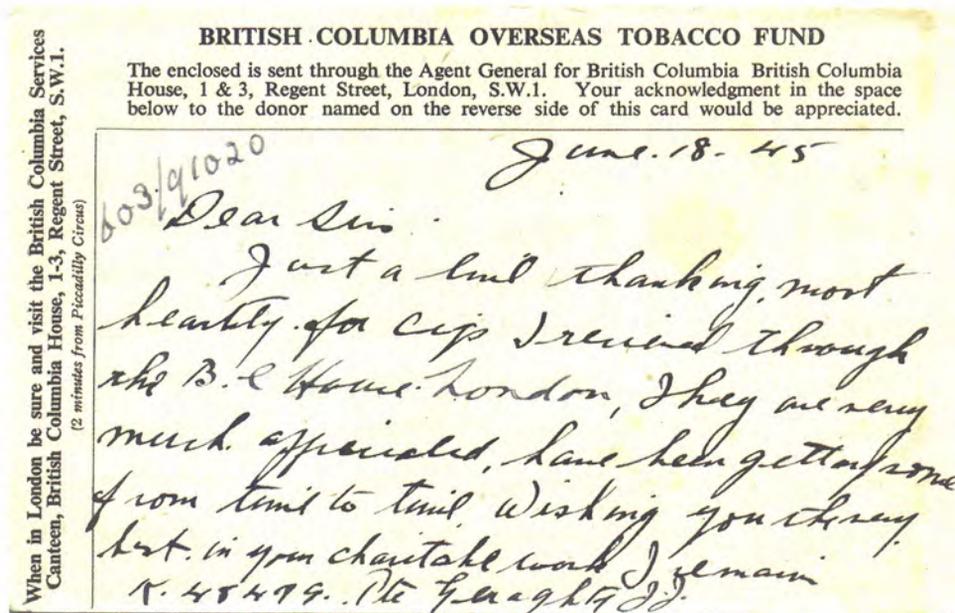


Figure 20. Acknowledgement for "cigs" received through B.C. House.

## Undelivered cigarettes

Given the uncertainties of war, lost packages were inevitable. Figure 21 shows a form letter from the Royal Canadian Air Force regarding a package that could not be delivered to its intended recipient. This and other cards indicate that such undelivered packages were sent to other legitimate outlets for distribution.

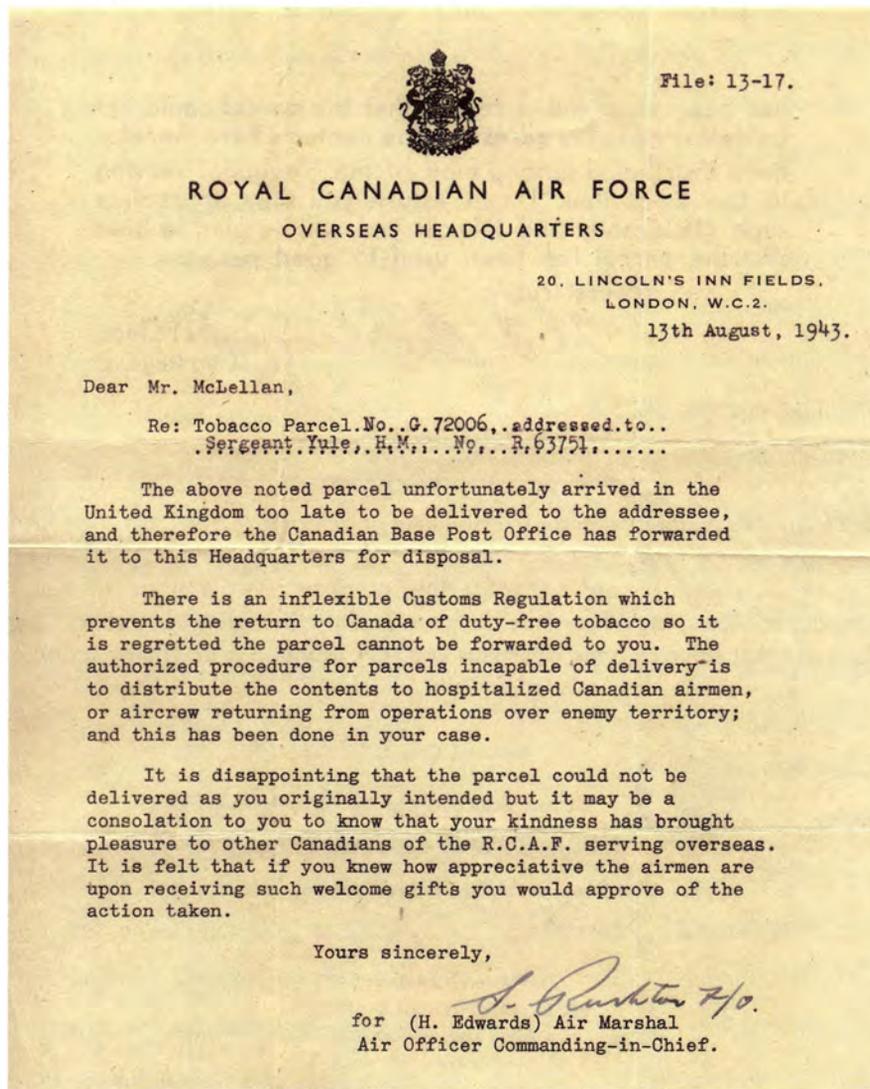


Figure 21. Cigarettes were redistributed if necessary.

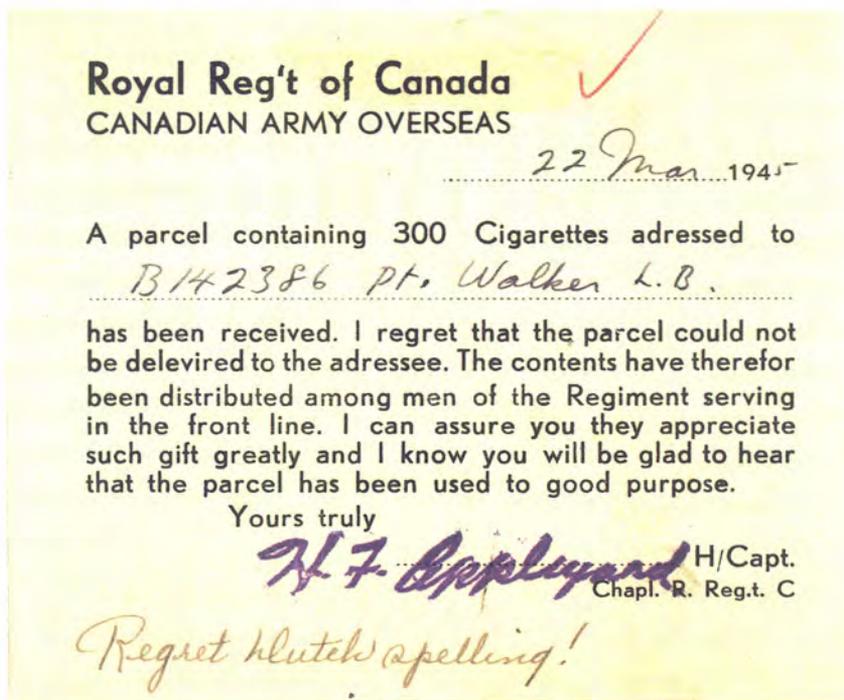


Figure 22. Another notification of the redistribution of cigarettes.

Figure 22 shows a card used for this purpose. In the haste of war, the proofreader missed some of the more bizarre spellings, including “delevired”. Figure 23 illustrates that ships carrying cigarettes were not immune from enemy action.

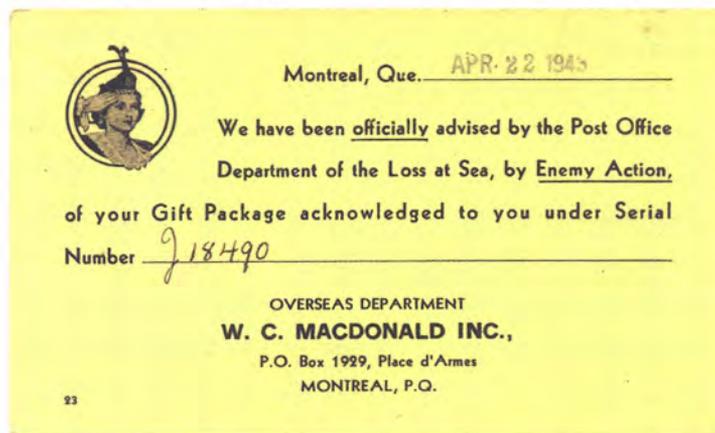


Figure 23. Cigarettes were sometimes lost due to “Enemy Action”.

## Prisoners of war

Arrangements were also made for the delivery of cigarettes to Canadian prisoners of war. Figure 24 is a letter sent to all camps; it indicates that mass shipments of cigarettes were made to them.

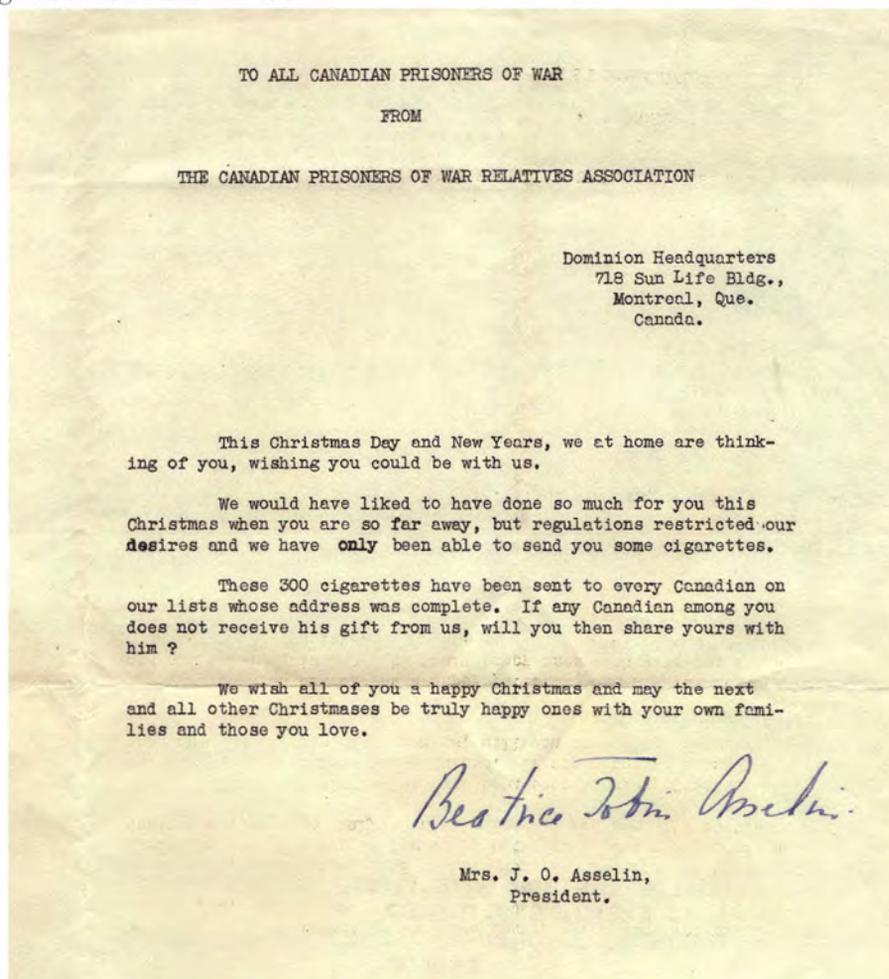


Figure 24. Prisoners of war were also included in the distribution scheme.

Unlike mail to active service personnel, letters and packages to Canadian prisoners of war could be sent free of postage. Instead of the usual \$1.00 for 300 cigarettes, the postage reduction meant that only 76¢ was required to pay for the order.



## Conclusion

In most cases, acknowledgement cards were simply mailed with a brief greeting added to the pre-printed text. It brought me special pleasure therefore to find the following, a more extensive and imaginative response, enclosed in an envelope with an acknowledgement card. It was sent in April 1941, during the Blitz. The author's name is unknown.

Now this is just a jingle,  
An attempt at silly rhyme,  
To thank you, for the carton  
Which arrived, in nick of time.

They tell me you are jesters,  
Who are fond of playing jokes;  
I'm sure that I'll laugh with you,  
If, in jest, you send me smokes.

When nerves are all a-tingle,  
And old Jerry's dropping stuff,  
Then there's nothing gives me courage,  
Like a cigarette to puff.

For then I laugh at Fritzie  
Shout, "Damn you! Do your worst,"  
And—cursing—dive for shelter,  
As the bombs about me burst.

I grovel in the darkness,  
Plunging flat upon my chin,  
While, overhead, is ack-ack,  
Breaking forth in hellish din.

The earth is in convulsions,  
The debris's falling round,  
But I still go on a-smoking  
As I'm lying on the ground

And after it's all over,  
When the shrapnel's ceased to fall,  
I puff a little harder,  
As I lean against a wall.

I hesitate a moment,  
'Ere I venture forth once more,  
Very conscious of the Jerries,  
Who, above me, still do roar.

My duty, it is calling,  
And I cannot dally here,  
But, 'ere I think of leaving,  
I would tender thanks, sincere.

The boys and I are grateful,  
Please believe us, 'tis no jest,  
In closing, we say, "Thank you"  
And wish you, "All the best."

As the arrangement for sending cigarettes to the troops was not an officially sponsored effort, it is difficult to put a date to its end. The latest date I have found on a cigarette order card is January 1946. July of the same year is the latest I have seen on an acknowledgement card. The *Canada Official Postal Guide, Supplement* for

December 1946 indicates that special regulations regarding ordering cigarettes for Canadian troops overseas were extended to December 31, 1946 [6].

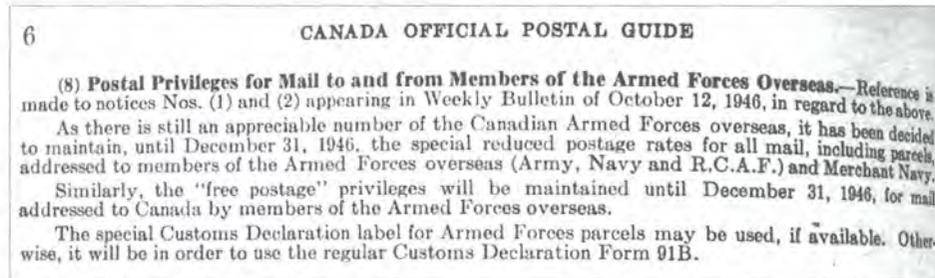


Figure 27. Special rates for all mail to the boys retained until December 31, 1946.

I would enjoy corresponding or talking with anyone interested in these cards and especially with anyone who has knowledge to share about them. More illustrations can be seen on my website at URL

<http://charleslivermore.com/pcopen.html> and click on "Cigarette Cards".

## References

- [1] Richard Klein, *Cigarettes are Sublime*, Duke University, Durham 1993, pp. 135, 136.
- [2] Smokes—for the men behind the guns, *Canadian Cigar and Tobacco Journal*, February 1944, p. 8.
- [3] Library and Archives Canada, Record Group 3, Series C-2 (Finding Aid number: 3-5)
  - a) Volume 2759, Reel T-1683, File: 35-23-9, W.S. - S.M. - Pilfering of parcels to Canadian Soldiers listing Tobacco. File: 35-23-10, W.S. - S.M. - Tobacco Scheme, Depts. U.K. & Mediterranean.
  - b) Volume 2759, Reel T-1684, File: 35-23-11, W.S. - S.M. - Tobacco & Cigarettes, Exemption from Duty, Enquiries. File: 35-23-12, W.S. - S.M. - Tobacco parcels Duty free to civilians at C.M.H.Q. London. File: 35-23-13, W.S. - S.M. - Tobacco parcels despatched via USA to Italy and Middle East.
  - c) Volume 2765, Reel T-1693 File: 35-31-10, W.S. P.O.W. Tobacco parcels addressed to POW.
- [4] W J Bailey, E R Toop, *The Canadian military posts*. Volume 2: Between the wars and world war II; Edited by Edward B Proud. Edward B Proud, 1984.
- [5] *Canada Official Postal Guide, Supplement*, Canada Post Office, July 1944.
- [6] *Canada Official Postal Guide, Supplement*, Canada Post Office, December 1946, p. 6.

[www.canadacovers.ca](http://www.canadacovers.ca)



## New book releases from BNAPS

JULY was again a busy month for the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) Book Department. Details of three new books follow. Coming soon: the revised Railway Post Office catalogue and the post-1946 update to the Canadian Military Postal Markings catalogue.

*A Canadian Postal History 1897-1911 The Maple Leaf, Numeral, and King Edward Era*; George B. Arfken and William S. Pawluk, 2006. 320 pp, 8.5 x 11. ISBN: 0-919854-71-0 (colour edition, spiral); 0-919854-72-9 (b&w edition, spiral); 0-919854-85-0 (colour edition, hardbound). Stock # B4h021.11 (colour, spiral) \$160.00; Stock # B4h021.11HB (colour, hardbound) \$225.00; B4h021.1 (b&w, spiral) \$C49.95



*A Canadian Postal History, 1897-1911* is a wonderful and amazing book, even if the authors don't mind saying so themselves. Modesty aside, it should be 'The' definitive book on this period for decades to come. This is postal history—rates, routes and postal markings of the latter part of the reign of Queen Victoria and that of Edward VII, illustrated by almost 400 covers in beautiful colour. Unusual routes such as Indochina via Vancouver, Shanghai and Hong Kong are noted. Postal markings such as the encircled T/15 are discussed, second to fifth class mail explained, and unusual uses such as a registered post card shown.

This was a period of change. Numerous new regulations, new stamps and new services came into being. Among the new stamps were the Jubilees, Numerals, Maple Leaves, Imperial Penny Postage and the Edwards, not to mention the first-ever special delivery and postage due stamps issued by Canada. One denomination disappeared: no more ½ cent stamps!

Why did the Canadian domestic rate drop to two cents per half ounce on January 1, 1899? Why were postage due stamps issued? Why was a post card charged as a letter? These and many other questions are raised and answered in terms of regulations of Canada or the Universal Postal Union, and often in terms of what lay behind the scene. The three new services—special delivery, insurance of registered mail and Acknowledgment of Receipt (AR)—are covered in detail. The earliest-known date use of each definitive stamp is provided. Among the covers are many rare examples of a single stamp used to pay a correct rate.

*A Canadian Postal History, 1897-1911*, the work of two dedicated authors, with contributions from 18 collectors and four dealers, is a treasure chest filled with rarities, some never shown publicly before, that transcends any individual collection.



*One Hundred Years over the Waters, Mail by Ship in and around Nova Scotia from Mid-18<sup>th</sup> to Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century*; J MacDonald, 2006. Spiral Bound, 86pp, 8.5 x 11 — BNAPS Exhibit Series #40. ISBN: 0-919854-83-4 (colour), 0-919854-84-2 (b&W). Stock # B4h923.401 (colour, spiral); \$C52.00; B4h923.40 (b&w, spiral) \$C27.95

J.J. MacDonald, a true Nova Scotian, was the pre-eminent postal historian of his native province and author of *The Nova Scotia Post: Its Officers, Masters and Marks, 1700–1867* (Unitrade, 1985). In addition to describing the development and organisation of the postal system in Nova Scotia, the book had the primary objective of presenting a complete listing, with accurate illustrations, of all Nova Scotia postal markings.

J.J. viewed his exhibit, *One Hundred Years over the Waters, Mail by Ship in and around Nova Scotia from Mid-18<sup>th</sup> to Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century*, as a fun project. Gems from a lifetime of collecting are used to illustrate how mail was carried by sea to and from Nova Scotia, as well as within Nova Scotia, from the mid-1700s to the time Nova Scotia entered Confederation. During this era, prepaid letters replaced collection of postage on delivery; towards the end of the period steam ships were replacing sailing ships.

Features of the exhibit include letters from the 1750s and 1760s, scarce ship letter markings, covers bearing the name of the ship that would transport them, one salvaged from a shipwreck and others that had a gratuity paid to the ship's captain for transport on a private vessel, an example carried by a friend as a Letter of Favour, and unusual rates. Nova Scotia changed from sterling to decimal currency on October 1, 1860. One of the covers, used on October 2, 1860, is the only recorded cover franked with both sterling and decimal stamps. There are also two genuine bisects: an 1857 cover from Parrsborough to Liverpool, UK has a bisected 3d Nova Scotia stamp, and a 1865 cover from Halifax to St. John's has a bisected 2 ¢ stamp.

*One Hundred Years over the Waters* will be of interest not only to postal historians, but to anyone interested in the history of Nova Scotia itself.

*The Dead Letter Office in Canada 1830–2002, An illustrated postal history, Second Edition*; Brian C. Plain, 2006. Spiral Bound, 156pp, 8.5 x 11. ISBN: 0-919854-87-7 (Colour), 0-919854-88-5 (B&W). Stock # B4h022.11 (colour, spiral) \$C91.00; B4h022.1 (b&w, spiral) \$C35.95.



Shortly after embarking on a personal study of items of undelivered Canadian mail, Brian Plain discovered that there was no comprehensive reference dealing with the Dead Letter Office in Canada. What little information was available consisted of a few articles in philatelic journals and the occasional

mention in a book. Only after several years spent combing through dealers' stock, tracking auction sales, and researching material did a clear picture of this rather obscure postal service finally emerge.

At the prompting of philatelic friends, Brian decided to collate his findings in a book, *The Dead Letter Office in Canada 1830–2002*, published in 2003 by Auxano Publishing. More than 100 pages of Dead Letter Office history were illustrated in colour by many covers, some unique, and complemented by the first-ever identification of DLO handstamps by type, as well as 23 pages of tables listing known DLO cancellations. BNAPS is pleased to present the second edition. Not only have the listings been expanded by seven pages, the numbering system has also been completely revised so that it can be used for future reference in articles, books and catalogues.

The primary purpose of *The Dead Letter Office in Canada 1830–2002* is to make collectors aware of the history and operation of the Dead Letter Office. Students of BNA postal history should find the information provided will assist them to more clearly define the travels of a mailed item. For town cancel specialists, the databases provided will help identify markings they might wish to pursue for their own collections.

The author hopes his small contribution to the philatelic literature of Canada will be of benefit to a wide range of collectors, and that it might serve to stimulate more interest in collecting 'back of the book' material.

Prices given above are retail prices in Canadian Dollars. BNAPS members receive a 40% discount from retail prices. BNAPS books are available from: Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 112 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 5B6, Canada. Phone: (613) 235-9119; [www.iankimmerly.com/books/](http://www.iankimmerly.com/books/) See details in Ian's advertisement in this issue.

## The Postal History Society of Canada invites applications for membership



The PHSC publishes an award-winning quarterly journal, sponsors seminars on Canadian postal history, offers awards & prizes for postal history exhibits at philatelic shows across Canada, and publishes important books and monographs relating to Canadian postal history.

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For more information or membership forms, contact the Secretary, Stéphane Cloutier, 255 Shakespeare St, Ottawa ON K1L 5M7 Canada, e-mail: [cloutier1967@sympatico.ca](mailto:cloutier1967@sympatico.ca)

## These scarce covers look more like discards

*John Burnett*

There is no doubt that reading up on your favourite area of BNA collecting can help you build your collection. At first glance, the three covers illustrated in this article do not look very appealing. I never would have purchased them had I not known a little bit of history.



Figure 1. 1882 letter from Ingersoll, Ontario to Bow River, NWT via Montana, USA.

In 'Canadian Letters to the American West in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century', a two-part article in *BNA Topics* [1], Victor Willson wrote that mail from Canada to the early western territories of the United States is really scarce. Although more than a bit tattered, my covers are examples of these hard-to-find uses.

The cover shown in Figure 1 enclosed a letter addressed to Major James Walker, the superintendent of the North-West Mounted Police (later the RCMP) at Bow River, Northwest



Figure 1a. Transit mark.

Keywords & phrases: postal history, 19th century, USA western territories

Territories. It was sent from Ingersoll, Ontario and endorsed 'via Ft. Benton, Montana, USA'. The North-West Mounted Police post was located at Ft. Calgary on the Bow River, in what was then the Northwest Territories and would later become part of the province of Alberta. Ft. Benton is approximately 75 miles south of the Canadian border, some 365 miles from Calgary. A Windsor, Ontario transit strike (Figure 1a) on the reverse of the envelope dates the letter to March 17, 1882.

The letter would have traveled by rail to Detroit, Michigan, then onto Omaha via Chicago. At Omaha, the envelope would have been transferred to a boat or river barge and run up the Missouri River to a point near Ft. Benton. From there, it would have traveled via a stage or ox cart north to the small settlements along the Bow River in Canada.

In 1882, the North-West Mounted Police had an establishment of eight men at Ft. Calgary. Mail had to travel the southern route through the United States, because the rail head of the Canadian Pacific Railway, then under construction, was still in Manitoba, some 600 miles east of Ft. Calgary, and would not reach Calgary until August 1883. Ft. Calgary did not get its first post office until October 1883.



Figure 2. Vankleek Hill, Ontario fancy cancel on 1871 letter to Nebraska Territory, USA.

The cover shown in Figure 2 is addressed to Bellevue in the Nebraska territory. Almost as ratty as the cover in Figure 1, this letter has a couple of very interesting characteristics. The envelope has been franked with a pair of 3¢ Small Queens, of the first Ottawa printing, making up the proper 6¢ first class letter rate to the United States. The Small Queen stamps on this cover are the "printed on soft thick paper" variety. This is evidenced by the thickness of the paper and the perforation inserts still adhering to the stamps. The letter was posted on November 28, 1871 in Vankleek Hill, Ontario, located close to the Ottawa River near Hawkesbury, about halfway between Ottawa and Montreal.

To establish how this letter made it to the Nebraska Territory, we have to make a couple of assumptions. Because of the location of Vankleek Hill, the letter could have taken one of two routes—via the Grand Trunk Railway to Windsor (Detroit), or south to New York and then west into the United States. The ‘TOO LATE’ marking on the front of the cover indicates that it missed the pick-up, but whether this occurred at Vankleek Hill or at the mail car is unknown. I believe most of the mail from eastern Ontario used the Grand Trunk to Detroit, and our letter would have gone via Chicago and Omaha to Nebraska.



Figure 3. An 1889 cover to Dakota Territory, USA franked with a 3 ¢ Small Queen.

The cover shown in Figure 3, also well worn, is franked with a single 3 ¢ Small Queen stamp. Mailed March 7, 1889 at Montreal, the letter is addressed to Valley City, Barnes County in the Dakota Territory. At the time, postage to the United States was 3¢ per half ounce prepaid with postage stamps. The envelope likely traveled via the Grand Trunk Railway to Detroit, then continued by rail to St. Paul, Minnesota via Chicago. From St. Paul, the letter would have traveled overland into the Dakota Territory.

As you can see, all three covers are in terrible shape, and would not have caught my eye had I not read an informed article in *BNA Topics*. Western Territorial mail is both fascinating and getting hard to find, so just because a cover looks ratty, don't pooh-pooh it before you understand where it is going and how it got there.

## References

- [1] Victor L Willson, Canadian Letters to the American West in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Part 1, *BNA Topics* 53 No. 4 (1996); Part 2, *BNA Topics* 54 No. 1 (1997).
- [2] John Burnett. This article is a modified version of one that appeared in *Linns Stamp News*, November 12, 1999.

# Study group centreline

*Robert Lemire*

**T**HE purpose of this column is to bring to the attention of BNAPS members some of the fascinating specialist work being done within each BNAPS study group. This is a fairly short column as we are trying to catch up on the schedule for *BNA Topics*. Highlights are provided for newsletters that have arrived in my mailbox from mid-May 2006 through June 2006.

*World War II* In *War Times* #32, Charles LaBlonde asks why the markings “PRISONER OF WAR MAIL” and “Red Cross Postal message Scheme” are so seldom seen on Canadian mail sent to the Geneva Red Cross during WWII. Bob Vogel presents the second part of his series on illustrations of patriotic cachets from the Toronto office of Bell Telephone. Editor Gary Coates shows a previously unreported censor marking; Peter Burrows provides a reference list for a series of patriotic covers; and from Gil Vatter there is an update on a variety of the Hamilton, Ontario ‘Victory’ slogan cancel. Bill Pekonen supplies a supplement that lists known slogan-cancel ‘blackout’ markings (based on earlier work by Cecil Coutts, H E Guertin and a previous ‘Blackout Study Group’). Proof dates (when known) and earliest- and latest-reported dates of use are recorded, along with cities of use (though in some cases the wartime attempts to confuse the enemy may now also be confounding collectors).

*George VI* Issue 8 of the King George VI Post & Mail has been distributed. John Burnett discusses Mufti-era rates to destinations in Africa. In addition to several covers to South Africa, John shows mail addressed to Algeria, Belgian Congo, and Nigeria, plus a nice printed-matter item from Toronto to Bugondo, Uganda. Gary Dickinson illustrates first day covers produced by seven different production methods. Also, Gary Steele shows 15 postal history items (first class postage rates to British America and Mexico) that augment items shown in an earlier article by John Burnett. Among the many lovely covers are a short-paid airmail letter to Newfoundland, with Newfoundland 4 ¢ and 1 ¢ postage due stamps, a two-ounce cover to Pebble Island West, Falkland Islands (with Montevideo, Uruguay transit markings), and a triple-rate letter sent by airmail to Trinidad (75¢ total).

*Military Mail* The May 2006 newsletter contains updates to Colin Pomfret’s listing of Type 2 censor markings allocated to the First Canadian Division in France (January 1915). Articles on the history and construction of the Vernon Army Camp are reprinted from *Target* (newsletter of the Okanogan Military Museum Society).

Other contributions were from Dean Mario (a 1916 cover to Canada from someone serving in the Indian army in Palestine), Mike Street (more on mail sent through PO Box 9000, Montreal), David Collyer (more details on WWII trans-Pacific wartime mail service) and Bill Robinson (comments on recent articles on military cancellations).

*Newfoundland* Newsletter #119 contains a contribution from Joseph Schlitt concerning a 1925 bank tag. Postage was \$2.21, paid with three copies of the 60 ¢ King Henry VII stamp, two 20 ¢ stamps and a 1 ¢ stamp. The total amount does not appear to mesh with rates listed in the *Walsh and Butt* catalogue. Two 1937 small-town covers with bisected stamps are shown, and the question is raised as to whether these might have been authorized usages. The pages from Carl Munden's abandoned outposts exhibit show covers and cancellations from North Arm, Woods Island, Bear Cove (White Bay), and Horse Islands. There are single pages devoted to the continuing presentation of pages from Colin Lewis' Newfoundland postal history exhibit and Horace Harrison's exhibit of Newfoundland postal stationery.

*RPO Cancels* Volume 34, #3 contains an article by Brian Stalker, in which three cancellations used on the Sarnia branch of the Great Western Railway (1859 to 1887) are discussed. The question is raised as to whether a strike from one of the 'proofed' hammers of the second cancellation (RR-76) has ever been found on stamp or cover. There also is a review of postmarks used on the Ottawa and Waltham and the Ottawa and Maniwaki lines. These lines were later absorbed into the Canadian Pacific Railway. Several unlisted cancels, known only from proof strikes, are shown. Updates to previous hammer studies and new reports were received from Brian Stalker, Warren Bosch, Ross Gray, Joel Stern, Peter McCarthy, John Cheramy, Colin Campbell and Bob Lane.



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## Cover stories (8)

Mike Street

The eighth column in a series presenting unusual, rare or otherwise interesting postal history. This time (and not for the last time) we seek to show that ‘modern’ postal history, *i.e.*, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, can be just as interesting as that of the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.



Figure 1. 1974 cover from Canada to Argentina.

JOHN Hillmer provided the first two covers discussed in this installment. In Figure 1, we see an airmail letter mailed in Calgary, Alberta on 19 May 1974, addressed to an individual receiving his or her mail at the Poste Restante (not *Poste Restaurante!*), or General Delivery window, in the main post office (*Correo Centrale*) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Two 8 ¢ Queen Elizabeth ‘Caricature’ issues (Scott 593) overpaid the 15 cents per first ounce airmail rate.

What adds some nice philatelic ‘colour’ to this cover are the large ‘V’ handstamp and 30 ¢ (*centavos*) Argentinean stamp, added to the front and cancelled on 27 May 1974. As far as can be determined, the ‘V’ was applied to direct the cover to General Delivery, and the 30 ¢ stamp paid a charge assessed on mail picked up at that window.

John’s second ‘Caricature’ stamp cover (Figure 2) was mailed in Banff, Alberta on 28 August 1977. The 2 ¢ (Sc 587) and 10 ¢ (Sc 593A) stamps were supposed to

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Keywords & phrases: international, Centennial issue, Caricature issue

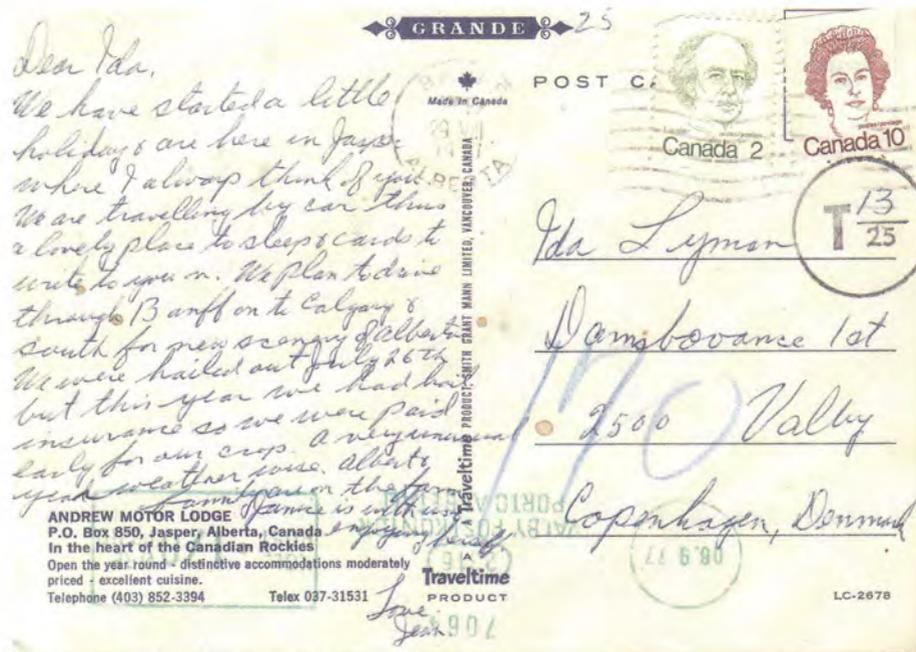


Figure 2. Short-paid postcard to Denmark, 1977.

pay an overseas airmail post card rate to Denmark, but in 1976 that rate was abolished and post cards became subject to letter rates. In 1977, the proper rate was 25 cents. With 12 cents postage paid, the 13-cent difference was indicated in the postage due "T" handstamp, where the number "13" was written in ink on the line above the "25", which gives the correct rate in Canadian funds for the post card.

The Danish postage due charge applied by a meter machine (Figure 3) nine days later on 6 September 1977 provides added 'colour', literally and philatellically.

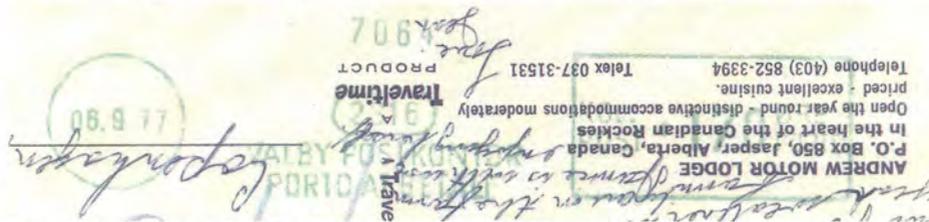


Figure 3. Close-up of Danish postage due meter on Figure 2.

As can be seen with perhaps a small amount of strain, the Danish charged 0.170 krone. The same digits were also written, without decimal point, in blue above the cancellation. This value was arrived at by calculating  $13/25$  of the overseas letter rate then in effect in Denmark. As it turns out, the  $13/25$  tariff was wrong [3].



Figure 4. Front of cover from Canada to Romania—or maybe not.

Thanks to Doug Irwin for the next two covers. The first, shown in Figures 4 and 5, was mailed from Hamilton to Romania on 28 November 1972. A 15 ¢ Centennial (Sc 463) paid the correct rate for a letter under one ounce.

Few immigrants to Canada after World War II were from Romania (because of its location behind the Iron Curtain), so the volume of mail to that country from Canada was limited. In this cover, the first indication of something more unusual than just the destination lies in the boxed handstamp and 'P.T.O.' handwritten in red ink on the front of the envelope. The top line of the box reads, in English, 'UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED'. There is a red check mark beside 'INSUFFICIENT ADDRESS'. One would expect such an endorsement to be in French, used in non-English countries for UPU notations. So, what's going on here?



Figure 5. Reverse of cover in Figure 4, showing transit backstamps and return endorsement.

Turning the envelope over, we immediately see, also in red, a line under the return address and the notation 'R.T.S.', or 'Return to Sender' in *English* postalese. Also present are two backstamps in black ink. The first, dated 4 December 1972, was applied in Salisbury, Rhodesia. Rhodesia??? The second, dated 8 December 1972, was applied in K\_\_we (possibly Kolwe or Kitwe), Zambia. Zambia???

Again, what is going on here? The answer, it seems, is that a post office employee in Canada read 'Romania' as 'Rhodesia' and put the letter in the container going to that country. Seven days later it was processed in Salisbury, after which it went on its way to Zambia. Although it is easy to see the possible 'Romania'—'Rhodesia' error, why the letter was sent to Zambia is not readily evident. The strange thing is that when the postal clerk in Zambia wrote 'R.T.S.' he or she doomed the letter to be sent back to Canada, where it arrived without ever going near Romania. Go figure.



Figure 6. Canada to Bahrain, 1969.

The final item in this installment is a letter with a 20 ¢ Centennial (Sc 464) paying for air mail from Vancouver, B.C. to Awali, Bahrein ('Bahrein' is the archaic English spelling and remains the spelling in French). The Kingdom of Bahrain, which means 'two seas', is an archipelago in the Persian Gulf off the coast of Saudi Arabia. The islands are, for the most part, level expanses of sand and rock.

A causeway connects Bahrain to Saudi Arabia. Aside from the destination, the next unusual aspect of this item is the stamp itself. In 1969 the air mail rate to Bahrain, considered by the post office to be in Asia, was 25¢ per half ounce. The question becomes, “Why is there no indication of postage due assessed or collected at either end of the letter’s journey?” The answer seems to lie in the fact that Bahrain, although considered by the post office to be in Asia, was understood by most people aware of its existence to be in Arabia or the Middle East, and thus on the African continent. The airmail rate from Canada to Europe and Africa in 1969 was 15¢ per half ounce. It would appear that the postal clerk who sorted the envelope in Vancouver thought Bahrain was in Africa and that the cover was overpaid by 5¢, therefore postage due was not even a concern. With no indication of short payment applied in Canada, the clerk in Bahrain, unless extremely conscientious, had no reason to assess postage due. Thus are neat postal history items born!

## Submitting items for cover stories

BNAPSers are invited to submit favourite covers for inclusion in this series. Please FIRST contact me by mail (73 Hatton Drive, Ancaster, ON L9G 2H5) or email <mikestreet@hwc.org>. Please do not send covers or illustrations until requested.

## References

- [1] Robert C Smith, *Selected Canadian postage rates 1859–present*, R.C. Smith, Ottawa, 2005.
- [2] Robert C Smith and Anthony S Wawrukiewicz, *Canada—domestic and international postal rates and fees 1870–1999*, The Press for Philately, Snow Camp, NC, USA, 2000.
- [3] In 1964, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) abandoned the use of gold centimes in tax markings and calculations for international surcharged mail. In its place, the UPU required the country of origin to mark, beside the normal “T”, a fraction made up of double the deficiency in the numerator (top), and the minimum foreign letter rate in the denominator (bottom), both in the currency of originating country. The fraction thus indicated the proportion of the foreign letter rate payable as postage due. The destination country was supposed to multiply this fraction by its own foreign letter rate, resulting in the amount due from the addressee in the currency of the destination country.

Thus, the cover shown in Figure 2 was improperly rated in Canada. The fraction should have been double the 13¢ deficiency, so 26/25, and the charge in Denmark .340 *kroner*. Thanks to Gary Steele for his help in obtaining this information.

Source: Michael Furfie, *British Postage Due Mail 1914–1971—A Study of Uses of the Pre-Decimal Postage Due Stamps*, ISBN 0-9522208-0-6, Michael Furfie, Ashford, England, 1993, p. 58.

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# Postal potpourri

## 10. Canada Post—Laurentian Bank deposit service

*Earle Covert* A revival of an earlier series focussing on new items that can be purchased or found at post offices in Canada.

OVER the past 20 years, Canada Post has introduced a number of products and services which have frequently been changed and, sometimes, abandoned. Postpack was discontinued, as was Special Delivery. In its place, a different service—Special Lettermail—appeared. It, in turn, was replaced by Xpresspost and Priority Post (now Priority Courier.)

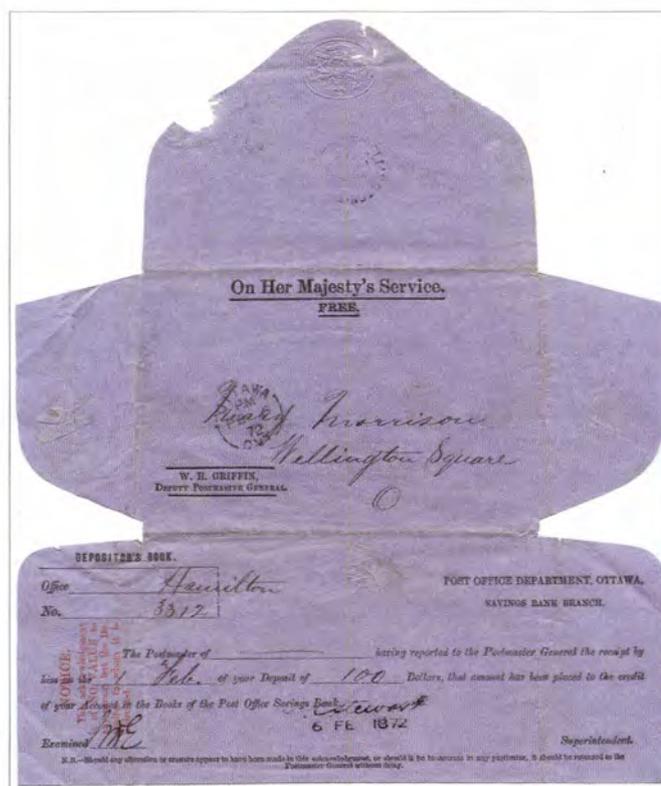


Figure 1. 1872 post office savings bank confirmation of deposit.

Keywords & phrases: Post Office savings bank, deposit service, Laurentian Bank

BNA Topics, Volume 63, Number 3, July–September 2006

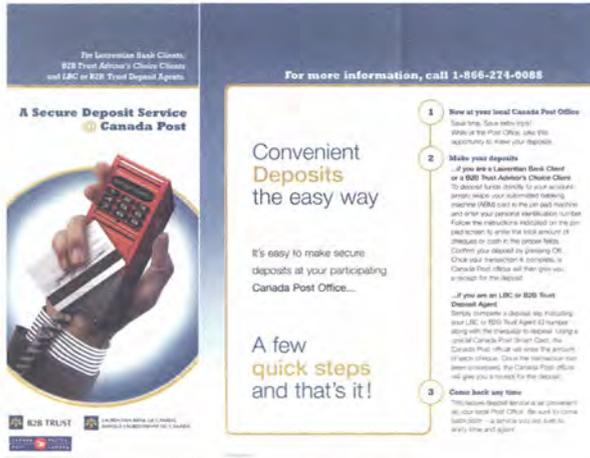


Figure 2. Front and back of English brochure. Note the ABM card, and the mailbox being used as a phone.

Deposit slips (Figure 3) and Advisor/Client Transaction Record sheets (Figure 4) were both produced in a book of forms. Each included a copy for Canada Post (indicated at lower right of each form).

A Priority Courier bill of lading (Figure 5) was also created. This was used when cheques and other deposits were sent to the Laurentian Bank in Montreal.

Basically, Canada Post's role was to receive and verify deposits to Laurentian Bank accounts. Clients could then write cheques and use their automated bank machine (ABM) cards as debit cards when shopping and for other transactions.

For roughly one hundred years, the Canadian post office operated a savings bank, using forms such as the one shown in Figure 1.

In 2001, Canada Post introduced a new service in conjunction with the Laurentian Bank of Canada (Banque Laurentienne du Canada). A brochure was prepared and appeared in major corporate post offices (Figure 2.)

Figure 3. Deposit slip.

Figure 5. Bill of lading used to send deposits from Canada Post to Laurentian Bank.

The deposit service was not widely used. Several of the larger corporate Canada Post offices report that few or no customers used it. Some smaller corporate offices claim they were not informed about the service. Finally, on February 15, 2005, the service was discontinued by mutual agreement (Figure 6).

**>> Outlets participating in the Laurentian Bank/B2B Trust Deposit Authentication Services Program**

**Laurentian Bank/B2B Trust Deposit Authentication Services Program discontinued**

**C**anada Post and the Laurentian Bank have mutually agreed to discontinue offering Laurentian Bank's Point-of-Deposit services in Canada Post outlets as of February 15, 2005. An instruction letter was sent to participating outlets the week of February 4, 2005.

Figure 6. Notice of discontinuance of the deposit service.

Future Potpourri articles will feature seasonal items; some of the newer change-of-address cards; Xpresspost envelopes used to carry passports; and other unusual post office material. Happy looking.

### For a penny or two ...#2

(continued from page 18)

registered card somewhere. Registration of cards, however, was a rare activity in the 1870s and, given that no registered card has been reported with a 2¢ Small Queen after the 1871 issue date of the post card, the likelihood of such a noticeable item turning up now seems remote. If someone wanted an item registered, it was surely of some importance, and one would not likely put an important message on a card, even though doing so would save 2¢. Nevertheless, hope springs eternal for new material of this sort.

## A CANADIAN POSTAL HISTORY 1897-1911

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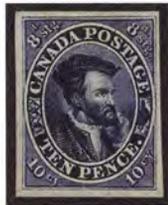
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