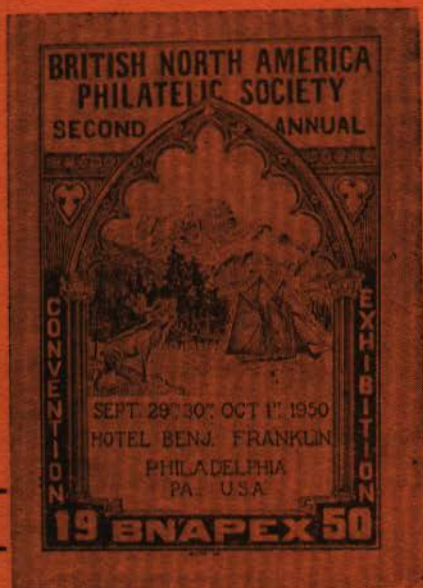


JULY-AUGUST
1950

BNA

Topics

Official Publication of the
British North America Philatelic Society



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**Preparing Your
Exhibit for BNAPEX**

**Breaking Up the
Georges**

Many Other Interesting
Features

Vol. 7 — No. 7

Whole No. 71

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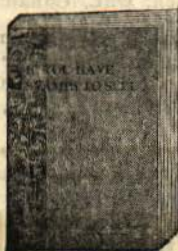
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BNA

Topics

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Canadian Members at CPS of GB Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain was held at the Piccadilly Hotel, London, on Thursday May 11, 1950. As it coincided with the International Stamp Exhibition, an excellent opportunity was thus created for a comprehensive attendance by members, both from the United Kingdom and overseas.

Certain changes in the Executive Committee were made, the most important being the retirement of the President, A. E. Stephenson, F. C. P. S., of Edinburgh. Mr. Stephenson had been President since the Society's inception and its success and growth to one of the largest in the country is to a great extent due to his energy and foresight. His services, however, are retained in the capacity of Treasurer.

The new President is Great Britain's most distinguished student of Canadian philately, R. W. T. Lees-Jones, F. R. P. S. L., F. C. P. S., of Hale,

Cheshire, a public figure too well known to need further introduction.

The highly treasured Fellowships of the Society were awarded to our two Vice-Presidents, D. Gardner and J. C. Cartwright, who have both rendered exceptional service to the Society.

The Aitkens Trophy for the best publication in "Maple Leaves" was awarded to W. H. S. Cheavin, F. R. M. S., R. R. E. S., F. C. S., F. R. P. S. L., for his excellent article on "X-Rays in B. N. A. Philately."

The meeting was followed by a very successful luncheon which was well attended by overseas members and visitors and included amongst the guests of honour Mrs. John D. Dale, the famous daughter of an even more famous father (Mr. Alfred Lichtenstein), Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop S. Boggs and a strong Canadian contingent led by the CAPEX President, Vincent G. Greene; Jim Sissons, Les Davenport and Dr. C. M. Jephcott. Guests from the home country included the inimitable Major Antony Walker and Mrs. Walker and Major A. Hopkins, who appears to be the only member of our Society who has never collected a Canadian stamp.

AN APPEAL FOR THE 1950 YEARBOOK

The 1950 edition of the Yearbook of the British North America Philatelic Society will be combined with the September issue of BNA TOPICS. This book will be issued on September 1, in plenty of time for members to receive a copy prior to BNAPEX 1950.

While BNA TOPICS, during the remainder of the year, is supported by Society funds as well as advertising revenue, this special Yearbook issue must be entirely self-supporting. The cost of this publication is financed by advertising received from members, member-dealers, and dealers outside the Society. If every member of BNAPS used a small \$1.75 space to send greetings to other members, and state their wants and other interesting facts, the Yearbook could operate at a profit, and extra monies could be used to provide a bigger TOPICS during the remainder of the year.

extra monies could be used to provide a bigger TOPICS.

We urge all members to reserve some size space and to ask their friends and favorite dealers to do likewise.

Date of Issue: September 1st. **Deadline for Copy:** August 1st.

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SOME NOTES ON PREPARING YOUR EXHIBIT FOR BNAPEX

By RUSSELL ALLISON

From my observation of last year's BNAPEX and other stamp shows, have resulted the following notes. These notes are by no means original. They have been the subject of many, many excellent articles during the past few decades.

At last year's show, there were thirteen exhibitors who had entered frames for competition out of a membership of 300 or more. Less than 5% of our membership participated.

Perhaps some of you have overlooked the prime purpose of a stamp show. It isn't to "cop" the grand award or any of the others, but it is to let the other fellow know what your collecting interests are and to show off your efforts. Don't let the fact that collectors who are better off financially than yourself, intend to exhibit discourage you from exhibiting. So what! Some of the nicest exhibits I have seen have cost less than \$10.00 to produce but the process of gathering the stamps has been a rather tough one.

I couldn't help but note my pet peeve last year. That peeve concerns those collectors who neglect to write up their exhibits. Don't think that a judge will throw out your exhibit from the competition because you have copied word-for-word the data out of Howe, Jarrett, Boggs, Holmes, or any other reference work. The fact that you have made an effort to dig up this information is generally conceded as research. After all there is very little original research going on.

When you do write up your entry or collection it isn't necessary to go to the extreme of displaying a couple of stamps on a page and devoting the rest of the space to a write up. If you do have something out of the ordinary, by all means do point it out. Don't expect the other fellow to know as much about your specialty as you do. He may, but don't take chances. Write up your exhibit!

Check Your Notes

Try to check your notes against some reliable source. If your information is incorrect according to the

judges this will also disqualify you for awards.

What is rare in Montreal or New York may be common in Vancouver or Chicago. That is why it is a good idea to shy away from markings such as "rare," "very scarce," etc. It might be correct at times to use the word "scarce" occasionally. However, the rule should be to fit your wording and information to the group before whom you are exhibiting.

Using words denoting condition should as a rule be omitted. Just by looking at a stamp one should be able to judge whether a stamp is fine or superb. However, some stamps are known for being notoriously off-center and extremely hard to find in superb or fine condition. A note to this effect is proper, in my opinion, to indicate whether the stamps are in fine condition or in good or poor condition.

So far as the best type of album page to use, the blank or quadrilled page 8½x11 inches, or as close to this size as possible, is desirable. Since the size of the album pages are just about the same except for a binding, size is a minor problem.

If you have a flair for printing by hand you are all set to write up your exhibit. If you have use of a type-writer then you are also lucky. A lettering set of some sort is the best substitute for either of the above. These sets contain a plastic lettering guide and a pen. The style of the lettering depends upon the type of lettering guide. I have found that a large size and a small size case is ideal. Fortunately it doesn't take long to get used to the set, and the lettering has that professional look. I have found that the WRICO set is ideal. Would be glad to pass on a source of supply if a lettering set of some sort isn't available in the stores near you. WRICO sets sell from \$5.00 and up.

Excellent Articles

If you can obtain the use of Numbers 1, 3, and 4 of Volume I of the "Stamp Specialist," edited by H. L. Lindquist of "Stamps" magazine, New York City, you will find four excel-

lent articles on how to arrange and mount an exhibit. The Elbe File and Binder Company, of Fall River, Mass., prints a booklet written by Harry Weiss of "Weekly Philatelic Gossip," which contains numerous ideas on mounting. This booklet is free to those sending a self-addressed stamped envelope.

There are probably as many different ways of mounting stamps as there are stamps to mount. The usual plan is one of a symmetrical arrangement. If this type of arrangement fits your exhibit by all means do it. A variety of symmetrical arrangements tend to make the display

pleasing and attractive to the eye.

After the album pages are ready, take a few minutes to arrange them if possible so that the display is balanced. A number lightly written on the back of the pages would be greatly appreciated by the exhibit committee.

Remember the prime purpose of BNAPEX is to provide a place where you can exhibit your stamps, and a place to meet other BNAPSers. All it takes to prepare and exhibit are nine pages of covers or stamps or both. A little write-up will help. Make BNAPEX-1950 a success by showing part of your collection. So long. Will see you in Philadelphia.

Bringing News About People and Stamps

By Rev. John S. Bain

The first prospectus of the Canadian Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition to be held at Toronto, Canada, September 21 to 29, 1951, has been released. This long-awaited brochure which is, of course, tentative and may be changed, has some serious omissions for an exhibition of this type. The classification of exhibits on page 21 should in my humble estimation have in Section 1, Group 10 the addition of the word "Specimens." Further in section 1, there is no provision for stampless covers and postal history of Newfoundland! Section 1, Group 14, which embraces the four Canadian provinces, should, in a centenary exhibition of Canadian stamps, be extended to provide a separate section for each province. Every B. N. A. collector who has any helpful suggestions for making this an outstanding show should write to the General Manager, "CAPEX," 70 Bloor Street West, Toronto 5, Canada. Remember the next edition of the prospectus to be published late in 1950 is the final edition. Write your suggestions now!

BNAPS

The London International Stamp Exhibition 1950, London, England, has published the list of awards. In the report the International Jury stated that they found "the competition in this exhibition to be the strongest in

their experience." In such company we find BNAPSers G. E. Wellburn, taking a Gold Award of Honor for his pages of Canada, and British Columbia and Vancouver Island. But that is not all—BNAPSers L. G. Tomlinson was awarded a Silver Medal for his Prince Edward Island; BNAPSers E. A. Richardson and C. G. Kemp received a Certificate for Bronze Medals for their Canada and Prince Edward Island respectively. To top it all, we find two BNAPSers in the person of B. K. Denton and Dr. Mario Diena serving on the International Jury. Well done BNAPSers!

BNAPS

Many thanks to BNAPSers Leslie G. Tomlinson and A. Gabbitas for their philatelic thoughtfulness in mailing the special International Stamp Exhibition envelope bearing the Maltese cross cancellation.

BNAPS

In my pursuit of the Canada Map Stamp I came across a piece of information that should be shared with other BNAPSers. Believe it or not that unpredictable BNAPSers Walter Bayley, made a find several years ago of about 40 sets of first day covers of the Map stamp, cancelled Berlin, Ontario, 12-25-98. What a find! Leave it to Bayley to turn something up like that!

BREAKING UP THE GEORGES

By HARRY W. LUSSEY

Well BNAPSers you may either thank or blame Jack Levine for this article. He twisted my arm once too often so here it is. You will find that I am deliberately using broad terms in describing colors and am avoiding being specific as to dates of issuance. This is because there is always a great deal of controversy over such details and my objective is to help some collectors set up the framework for a specialized collection of the Georges rather than to give the snipers a field day. Furthermore if I mention an item I have the material to back it up in my collection and I am not working from hearsay or records that may or may not be entirely accurate. If you want detailed data on the issue you should refer to Marler's book. He not only had access to the necessary records but he also had the stamps themselves to prove the records and that is extremely important.

Any issue which was current for a period of about 16 years is bound to provide a fertile field for specialization because of the usual changes that will take place over any extended period, such as shades, rate changes, etc. However, during the period that this issue was current there were such unusual developments as a war shutting off the source of supply of certain basic ingredients for the manufacture of colored inks, numerous changes in rates as the result of the need for additional revenues to wage war, and finally the change-over to a new method in the manufacture of stamps. These and other facts of lesser importance are the basic reasons why there is such tremendous scope for specialization in this particular issue.

Even as recently as 1935 it was possible, in New York at least, to build up a very fine showing of Nineteenth Century Canada without spending a small fortune. The reason was that there was not too much known by the average collector about Canada at that time. Since then however the writings of Howe, Jarrett, Holmes, Boggs, etc., have either been published or else have become read to a point where there is a great deal more known about Canadian stamps, and as a consequence the Scott Catalog has incorporated much additional data regarding shades, perforations and watermarks with the result that new varieties have been recognized and assigned values in keeping with their rarity. Accordingly, anyone deciding to specialize in the various Nineteenth Century issues had better be well heeled with cash or they will find the going rather slow and rough. As yet, however, the average collector is not too enthusiastic about the Georges because it is a relatively recent issue and he just can't visualize the stamps ever becoming even moderately scarce. For similar reasons we find that very few dealers recognize the relative scarcity of certain varieties. This set of conditions however can change very suddenly and as more and more collectors and dealers become conscious of the number of recognizable varieties in the issue it will ultimately be given more detailed listing in Scotts. Then it will be too late to pick up the little things that go to make up a nice showing unless you do it in stiff competition. We hear a lot these days of the so-called investment opportunities in certain stamps but the best investment anyone can make is to learn through studying his stamps the ones that are scarce and pick them up before they are advertised as being rare.

A Starting Point

A logical starting point in setting up a study of the Georges would be to segregate the various groups created by the conditions which prevailed during the life of the stamps. When the stamps were first issued, in 1911-1912, the method of manufacture called for the printing to be done on damp paper with the grain running vertically. After drying the sheets were gummed and of course in the process of drying the design had a tendency to shrink horizontally. This resulted in a stamp that was narrower than at the time it was originally printed. It has been my experience that stamps prepared by the wet process are usually deeper in color.

Subsequently, along about 1922, a new method of manufacture was introduced and this called for the printing of stamps on dry pre-gummed paper.

The changeover was gradual and from 1922 to 1926 some values were printed by one process and some by the other. Obviously stamps printed by the new method could not shrink after printing and therefore maintained their original size. These relatively wider stamps invariably show the lines of engraving more sharply due principally to the fact that the ink was applied to dry paper. While a re-working of a plate, or chroming to protect the surface, have been advanced as reasons for a sharper design it has been my experience that in instances where a stamp was printed in the same color by both processes the wet, or narrow, variety is always less clear and sharp than the dry, or wide, variety.

Since we are dealing with paper shrinkage it must be realized that all stamps printed by one process will not be identical in size since the extent of shrinkage will depend on several factors. However, as a general guide it will be found that wet printings will measure about $17\frac{1}{2}$ millimeters in width whereas the design on stamps prepared by the dry process will measure a full 18 millimeters. This difference may not seem too impressive but it is almost as great as the difference between the flat and rotary printings of United States stamps current at about the same time and they have been given recognition in the catalogs.

Wet or Dry?

A fairly satisfactory means of telling whether a stamp is a wet or dry variety is to measure it with an 8c blue or a 10c bistre brown both of which were printed only by the dry process and are therefore always wide. This can be done by any one of several means. I have found that by trimming off the top perforations and margin of an 8c blue and superimposing the clipped stamp on the one to be classified it is relatively easy to tell whether it is a wet or dry printing. When multiples are used, horizontal of course, it is much easier because the difference in size is multiplied by the number of stamps in the strip. However care must be exercised as I have found that the spacings between the stamps on the sheets are not always uniform, particularly in the case of the 50c and \$1 values. If mint stamps are being worked with it will be found that the gummed side of the dry printings will show an embossed effect due to having been printed after gumming. This is not a sure test for \$1 value however because the lines of the design were so deeply cut that even in the wet printings an embossed effect is apparent.

The following check list shows whether any given stamp comes in either or both printings.

Comes in	Narrow		Comes in	Wide	
	Wet Printing	Dry Printing		Wet Printing	Dry Printing
1c Green	yes	no	7c Olive Bistre	yes	no
1c Yellow	yes	yes	7c Red Brown	yes	yes
2c Carmine	yes	no	8c Blue	no	yes
2c Green	yes	yes	10c Plum	yes	no
3c Brown	yes	yes	10c Blue	yes	yes
3c Carmine	no	yes	10c Bistre Brown	no	yes
4c Bistre	yes	yes	20c Olive Green	yes	yes
5c Blue	yes	no	50c Black	yes	yes
5c Violet	yes	yes	\$1. Orange	yes	yes

The colors assigned to the foregoing are purely for the purpose of identifying the stamps in a general way. Practically all values exist in several distinct shades and sometimes the difference in shade will serve to identify the type of printing.

For my own convenience I have broken the issue down into four groups in sequence of issuance. This may help you in making your own segregation.

GROUP #1—Original issue and subsequent new values (Wet printings—narrow)

Value	Approximate date of issuance	Value	Approximate date of issuance
1c Green	December 1911	3c Brown	August 1918
2c Carmine	December 1911	4c Bistre	July 1922
		5c Blue	December 1911
		7c Olive Bistre	December 1911

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THE BANQUET

The annual banquet will be held in the Betsy Ross Room on Saturday evening. At this time the awards will be presented. The feature of the evening will be the talk by **BNAPS**er V. G. Greene, President of CAPEX-51, who will have a fund of interesting information to pass on to all who attend.

BOURSE AND AUCTION

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THE DATES . . . SEPT. 29th, 30th, OCT. 1, 1950

Hosts . . . The Philadelphia Group

Value	Approximate date of issuance	20c Olive Green	January 1912
10c Plum	January 1912	50c Black	January 1912
		\$1. Orange	July 1923

GROUP #2—Color changes (Wet printings—narrow)

Value	Approximate date of issuance
1c Yellow	June 1922
2c Green	June 1922
5c Violet	February 1922
7c Red Brown	December 1924
10c Blue	February 1922

GROUP #3—Current when changeover to the dry process took place (Dry—wide)

Value	Approximate date of issuance	Value	Approximate date of issuance
1c Yellow	November 1924 *	7c Red Brown	uncertain *
2c Green	November 1924 *	10c Blue	August 1924 *
3c Brown	December 1922 *	20c Olive Green	July 1924 *
4c Bistre	May 1925 *	50c Black	March 1925 *
5c Violet	April 1925 *	\$1. Orange	uncertain *

* The date for the 3c is official—in other cases I have shown the date which Marler reports that the plates which were subsequently used for the dry printings were approved. Naturally there was a delay, ranging from perhaps weeks to months, before an approved plate was actually placed in use. However that gives us some idea of how early it is possible for Dry printing varieties to have been used. All plates prepared for the 7c Brown and the \$1 Orange were used for both Wet and Dry printings, no guide is therefore available as regards the probable time of changeover. Dated used copies will give the only clue.

GROUP #4—Color changes and additional values (Dry—wide)

Value	Approximate date of issuance
3c Carmine	December 1923
8c Blue	September 1925
10c Bistre Brown	August 1925

From the foregoing it will be possible to set up the basis for a highly specialized collection of Georges. It will also be possible to arrive at some reasonable conclusions as regards the relative scarcity of the Wet and Dry printings of the same stamp. For example the 3c Brown was first issued in 1918 and the first dry printing could not have been made until the last few days of December 1922 and probably not until 1923. In December 1923 the color was changed to Red. Wet printings of this stamp must be far more common than the Dry printings although this does not make the latter rare.

All Kinds of Variety

As you proceed with your collecting of the Georges you will find that the issue offers all kinds of varieties. The retouches on certain values are extremely interesting and far from common. Re-entries range from the flyspeck variety to one which will stand comparison with the majors of the early pence issues. You can always buy a major re-entry of the 3d Beaver if you have a fifty dollar bill handy—just try to find the major re-entry of the one cent George in any dealers stock. Dated town cancellations are far from common and covers showing the correct usage of the values above three cents are distinctly elusive.

If your interest extends into the plate number field there is no issue in Canada that approaches the Georges in possibilities. You not only have many plates but the added feature of different types of imprints and numbers some of which seem to be extremely difficult to locate. Then too you have the machining, or lathe work, that appeared on the bottom of sheets for a period of several years, and in several types. Who said that Twentieth Century Canada holds no interest for the specialist? Remember you don't "find" Nineteenth Century stuff any more—you pay for it, and how! Today you can still "find" a lot in the Georges but tomorrow it will be too late.

Fortunate Flaws

By RON TUCKWELL

(No. 3)

(Editor's Note — We continue our series of articles by Mr. Tuckwell, which first appeared in *The Canadian Magazine* in 1937. As the original articles were written for readers of a general magazine, they have been edited slightly for presentation in *TOPICS*. All drawings are by the author.)

The "Cockeyed" King

Coil stamps produced some queer and scarce items. There was the 1931 coil issue which collectors (with no thought of rudeness) termed "Cockeyed Kings." A two-cent stamp, issued in three different colors—red, brown and green—on it there cropped up every so often a printing from a retouched die, which so distorted the right eye of the King as to make very apt the term applied to it.

Historical Issue

In the Historical Issue of 1927 a ten cent olive green was scheduled to appear picturing Sir Etienne Cartier. It did not appear with the others—but came along two years later, and it provided an error variety in which the letter "A" in the name beneath the portrait is enlarged; also another in which there is an added bar beneath the centre bar of the letter "E" in the name "Cartier." There are several other good varieties in this stamp—in particular the "Dirty Shirt" one, which shows a number of lines across Cartier's shirt front.

Ottawa Conference

On the three cents value of the Ottawa Conference issue of 1932, no less than three error varieties cropped up. One, showing the "E" of "Postage" smashed, is worth money today; another showing a bar breaking the tips of the letters "OSTES" in "Postes" will also bring a premium; the third, showing a thin red line running down the white space between the figure "3" and "C" of Conference, with color dots in the opposite "3," is worth forty times what it cost at the time! In



the five cents blue of that issue several errors occurred; among them is one with a line through the "C" of Cent; another with a dot in "O" of "Conference"; still another has dots in top and bottom loops of second "C" in "Conference."

1932 Regular Issue

In 1932 appeared another regular issue with still another portrait of the King; this was the "medallion" portrait issue, and it produced two remarkable varieties which quickly became famous. One known by the term "Blue Nose King" (again with no hint of rudeness) had the blue shading lines around the King's head extended across the bridge of his nose, and also into several white spaces in borders. The other had a re-entry that cut across the second "A" in Canada, and placed thin blue lines in various places in white of oval and borders. Either of these nickel numbers can be sold today for at least a couple of dollars, unused!

World's Grain Exhibition

Now let's amble along to the "World's Grain Exhibition, Regina," overprinted in 1933. Twenty cents it cost . . . but in making that overprint the letter "X" was broken at the top crosspiece (next to letter "H") in one die; it occurred only once in a sheet of fifty. In this big red stamp another variety occurred; this also was in the overprinting—in which the letters "GRA" in Grain are out of plumb. It has additional value on that account.

List Received—We have received the list of prices realised at the Postal History Auctions held by Robson Lowe Ltd., London, May 17. Anyone interested contact the Editor.

BNAPSers in the NEWS

Collection Rated Best—H. A. MacMaster, New Westminster, won top exhibition award of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs in Portland at the week-end (May 29).

Mr. MacMaster exhibited a bisected Newfoundland stamp of 1856 along with other Newfoundland varieties. The rarity was a half of a shilling stamp which the issuing government allowed to be cut in half during a shortage of six-penny stamps. Mr. MacMaster received the Eugene Church trophy.—Vancouver Sun.

In Gallery for Weeklies—Members of the Manitoba Division of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association now have their own parliamentary correspondent.

He is R. W. Tuckwell, veteran editor of the Pilot Mound (Manitoba) Sentinel, who sold out his interests recently. He took his seat in the press gallery of the Manitoba Legislature at the opening of the 1950 session and will contribute a regular column to all CWNA divisional members entitled "The Past Week in the Legislature." He is eminently suited for his new duty, having twice won the premier editorial award of the Manitoba division, CWNA.—Canadian Printer and Publisher.

Pictured With Windsors—In a recent issue of the Montreal Standard, BNAPSer Louis S. Crosby is pictured in conversation with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor on the terrace of the Banff Springs Hotel. The picture appeared as part of an article on the recent visit of the Duke and Duchess to Canada and the United States.

Death Takes Two Members Recently

Mr. George H. Henshaw of Montreal, a member of BNAPS, died on June 12. Well known in philatelic circles, Mr. Henshaw was ever ready to assist others, and his genial cordiality and kindness will be remembered and missed by many.

Word has also been received of the death recently of P. P. J. Bucke, Brandon, Man., also a member of BNAPS. No details are available at time of going to press.

34 of 918 Frames Devoted to B. N. A.

Out of a total of 918 frames on display at the London International Exhibition, there were only 34 devoted to B. N. A., which included Canada and the Provinces, or 3.7%—considered by many to be a very poor showing.

Of the 34 frames, six were not for competition, 10 were invited exhibits, and presumably the balance of 18 frames were for competition.

There were two exhibitors from the U. S. A.—Mrs. John Denny Dale with six frames (invited Exhibit), and one from our friend Ed. Richardson. There were three exhibitors from Canada—Gerald Wellburn with seven frames, D. W. Partridge with one frame, and C. G. Kemp with one frame.

However, the honors certainly came to this side of the pond. Gerald Wellburn got a gold medal, and Ed. Richardson and C. G. Kemp got bronze medals.

Leslie Tomlinson, an English member of BNAPS, also got a silver medal for P. E. I., which made two awards for this province!

It is sincerely hoped that there will be a better showing of B. N. A. at CAPEX in 1951.—C. G. Kemp.

SALES TOPICS

For the second quarter of 1950 sales totaled \$174.97, but this was enough to retire 27 books with sales of \$281.37 to the owners.

Only 26 active names are on my buying list at present. Many have been removed for infraction of the rules, some by their own request, and some because of resignation from BNAPS.

A few circuits have been delayed in the past, but let's KEEP THE CIRCUITS MOVING! If you are looking for stamps at really attractive prices—write me for a trial circuit.

HAROLD R. MEYERS
101 West 60th St.
New York 23, N. Y.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

TREASURER

WILLIAM C. PETERMAN, Treas.

P. O. Box 348

Caldwell, New Jersey



LOOKING HERE... LOOKING THERE

with Russell Allison

Congratulations to Mr. G. E. Welburn for winning a Gold Award at the London International Exhibition with his showing of Canada, British Columbia, and Vancouver Island; and to Mr. Ed. Richardson for winning a Bronze Medal at London with his showing of Canada.

The Small Queens Study Group, under the direction of Dr. Armand Gellinas, 55 Fox Street, Fitchburg, Mass., is well underway. The Three Cent Small Queen was chosen to be the subject of the first project. A tentative schedule has been drawn up by Dr. Gellinas and has been distributed to the members on record. Also a starting list of thirty reference articles has been compiled and distributed. If you are interested in joining this study group, please write to Dr. Gellinas.

News comes from the Prince Edward Island Study Group under the direction of Mr. Mervyn Quarles, 8200 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago 19, Ill., that the first list has been released. This list goes into perforations, bisects, dies, imperforates, and other varieties. A tentative price has been placed on most of the stamps listed after a careful survey of recent auction prices and prices asked on the open market. Mr. Quarles is very interested in hearing from anyone who has covers bearing the stamps of Prince Edward Island.

The Bulgarian Postal Administration has announced that the prohibition of the exportation and importation of postage stamps to and from that country affects private dealers only in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian State Commercial enterprise known as ROZNOISNOS has a monopoly of the importation and exportation of stamps.

New Post Offices:

Dauveriere, N. B., May 2
Doncaster, Ont., May 11
Moose Heights, B. C., May 1
Shearstown, Nfld., May 1
Juskatla, B. C., March 13
Ryderville, Ont., March 16

Now is the hour to get together your exhibit for BNAPEX. This exhibit and doings promises to beat last year's BNAPEX by a mile. Saying this hurts in a way because I was on last year's committee. Robson Lowe will conduct a B. N. A. auction on Friday night. Now is the hour also to send in your order for seals and cachets. Those who missed out on last year's seals can still buy them. Better act quickly because there are only a few sets left.

Name Tentative Officers For Plate Block Group

Tentative officers for the new Plate Block Group of BNAPS members have been named as follows:

Chairman, Major H. K. White, 3564 S. W. Marine Drive, Vancouver, B. C.; Vice-Chairman, E. B. Forney, 1932 Princeton Ave., St. Paul 5, Minn.; Secretary, Arch. Millar, P. O. Box 920, New Westminster, B. C.; Committee Members: F. B. Higginson, Finch, Ont.; R. J. Duncan, P. O. Box 118, Armstrong, B. C.; F. C. Bricker, Listowel, Ont.; H. G. Bertram, Dundas, Ont.; George C. Marler, 360 St. James St. W., Montreal; Dr. C. M. Jephcott, 323 Rosemary Road, Toronto.

A. K. Grimmer of Temiscaming, Que., and H. L. Warren of Magog, Que., have been chosen as honorary officers of the group.

All those interested in becoming members of the Plate Block Group should indicate their desire by dropping a line to the Secretary as soon as possible.

Maritime Miscellany



by W. W. Chadbourne

This month is perhaps as good as any to publish a pet peeve that may have irritated other Maritime Province collectors. It is the practice of auction cataloguers to follow religiously the alphabetical order of the Scott catalog in listing countries—the U. S., of course, being an exception for firms in the United States. The result is that New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island are isolated toward the end of any given sale. By the same token, British Columbia is separated both from Canada and from the others.

Now if it were only a matter of reading the catalogs and preparing bids, there would be no great complaint, although it would be so much more convenient to find them all contiguous to one another. But what happens when the collector attends a sale? If it is a one-day affair, say in the afternoon, he waits for the British Columbia at 3 o'clock. At 3:30 the Canadians begin to appear. Then about 5 or 5:30, after sitting through France, Hong Kong, Manchukua, ad nauseam, the Maritimes (including Newfoundland) finally are reached, interspersed with Nicaragua, Norway,

Pakistan and Peru. A whole afternoon, or worse still, both an afternoon and evening are used up sitting, sitting, sitting! If a two-day sale is scheduled, in nine cases out of ten, the Canadian and Maritime sections will be catalogued on separate days. This puts the collector on the horns of a dilemma, with the result that he decides, perhaps to attend neither.

Could there be any possible objection on the part of the auction houses in correcting this situation? I know of no mechanical difficulty, for the preparation of the catalog usually is based on a card index or loose leaf arrangement. Certainly the Scott catalog is not gospel or a rule of procedure, even if the numbering and pricing are commonly observed. Needless to say, the above remarks do not apply to sales made up almost wholly of British North America material.

Would not the following resolution be in order at our convention business session in September? **RESOLVED:** That the convenience of our members would be furthered if, in the publication of auction catalogs, auction houses were to list the stamps of British Columbia, Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in a section entitled "British North America," preferably located alphabetically where Canada is presently listed. Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be printed in TOPICS and that members as clients of auction houses bring the resolution to the latter's attention.

LIBRARY REPORT

The Librarian reports the following donations, and extends thanks to the donors:

Received
 Air Letter Sheet Catalogue
 P. E. I. Cancellations (Tomlinson)
 Philatelic Magazines
 Billig's Latest Handbook
 Ten Penny Beaver (Sprung)
 \$2.00 cash
 Philatelic Handbook of Jamaica
 (Aguitar)

Donors
 Major Ian C. Morgan
 Author
 R. P. Hedley
 Meyerson Bros.
 Author
 F. W. Campbell
 Author
 —R. J. DUNCAN, Librarian

PRECANCELS ARRIVING—H. G. Walburn, Kelowna, B. C., reports the arrival of the first precancels on the new postage stamps. The three reported to date are: 1c coil on the unrevised issue; "4530" (Toronto) and "3360" (Edmonton) on the 1c of the revised issue. Edmonton was the first numeral to be reported.

To the Editor

Another "Combination" Cover

Dear Sir: It may seem a bit presumptuous on my part to be writing to BNA TOPICS before I have been properly introduced, but I understand that the July issue will formally carry my acceptance for membership. As I have read the April and May issues of TOPICS and looked through the Yearbook, I begin to feel as though I were already a member. Why not? We're all in the same boat—collecting Canada and B. N. A., and what better field could there be? . . .

Jack Levine says that all hands will have to pitch in and furnish material for the Editor if he is expected to keep the publication going. So, while still feeling a warm glow from being posted for membership, I thought that the members would like to hear about a cover which I managed to pick up. How, or why, or where does not enter into the telling—not yet, anyway.

My issue of TOPICS, in covering L. D. Shoemaker, makes the statement that "he owns one of the most beautiful 'combination' covers of Canada—2c large Queen, with 3c small Queen, perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, a rare item. Shown on page 275 of Boggs' 'Canada'."

I also own a copy, posted from the same office (Truro, N. S.) addressed to the same man (Jesse Hoyt). My copy is postmarked Se. 22, 1871, while Shoemaker's is Ma. 8, 1870. Mine is also a registered cover.

So I pat myself on the back at owning such a beautiful combination cover, illustrated in Boggs, and am pleased to know that Mr. Shoemaker is the owner of a rare item. Me, what have I got? Merely a scarce cover. How come? Well, you see it was this way—somehow or other someone working the perforation machine or machines evidently had a day off, and on that day off, whoever took his place made a slight adjustment to the gauge and changed it from 12 to 12 plus. And I got the 12 gauge on my cover while Mr. Shoemaker got the 12-plus.

Just one little half perforation prevented me from getting my name, or rather my cover, listed with the great

or near-great. Oh well, such is stamp collecting, and really I do love that cover of mine, notwithstanding.

L. P. Vienno-Michaud.

The New Groups

Dear Sir: I wish to offer you my best wishes for success as Editor of BNA TOPICS, and to add a word of thanks to Mr. Jack Levine for the splendid work he did in bringing TOPICS to its present status.

As one specially interested in the 3c Small Queen Issue of 1870, I am heartily in sympathy with Dr. Gellnas' proposal to form a study group on this issue, and hope that this will materialize, and I am sure that the reprinted article by Mr. Shoemaker in the May issue of TOPICS will convince all that he should be included to take a prominent and active part in such a group.

I am aware that he is presently very much interested in the study of the 3c Small Queen perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, and is making an inventory of known copies both on and off cover, that is now well advanced. Fairly recently he contributed an article on this variety to "Stamps." A reprint of this, without doubt, will reach many who are now unaware of it, and thus tie in nicely with his reprinted article in May TOPICS.

I am also interested in suggestions from Mr. F. C. Bricker and T. B. Higginson to form a study group on the Plate Blocks of Canada. This phase of collecting has spread very rapidly during the past ten years, and, without doubt, will become increasingly popular.

I am well aware of the work involved in such a project, for during 1943 to 1945 I accumulated data on the Royal Visit Issue Blocks. The result of this study was published in "Popular Stamps" in September 1945. "Relative scarcity" can only be approximately determined by securing the opinions of collectors based on their experience, and deducing therefrom a multiplier that fairly represents this experience.

In the Royal Visit study it was found that certain plate numbers and positions were much more common in some areas than in others, and also that, though the Philatelic Agency reported the issuance of a definite num-

(Continued on next page)

Sketches of BNAPSers

By V. G. Green



F. WALTER POLLOCK

One of the reasons why BNAPS'er F. Walter Pollock is so keenly interested in Canadian stamps is that he has many strong roots in the soil of Canada. His maternal grandfather was Guillaume Couture, the composer, and his mother, wife and son were all born in Montreal.

Mr. Pollock was born in New York City on February 10, 1901; married since 1928, and is an accountant with the New York Central System. He has a son 20 years old who is a student in chemical engineering at Columbia University.

Like most youngsters, Walter was mildly interested in stamps while at school but in 1930 he was given a large box of old Canadian stamps and his interest and study of the stamps of Canada may be said to start from that time. In 1936 Mr. Pollock asked Harry Lindquist why "Stamps" didn't cover Canada regularly and Mr. Lindquist retaliated by asking him to do the job himself! For nine years he edited "Canada Corner" in "Stamps" and then dropped out but couldn't stay out; he went back to writing a column for "Western Stamp Collector" in 1946 and is still at it.

Although Walter has a collection of the stamps of Canada, it is the information about them, rather than the acquisition which interests him most. He is now one of our foremost authorities on Canadian stamps and his column in W. S. C. is eagerly read by nearly all students of this popular country.

Mr. Pollock's other hobby is reading and collecting first editions but the latter becoming too expensive he has given it up! He is a member of the Teaneck Stamp Club, the C. P. S. of Great Britain, Canadian Revenue Society and the Philatelic Library Association.

Mr. Pollock was one of the founders of the British North America Philatelic Society. When Jack Levine had the idea in 1943 of starting up a group of B. N. A. collectors he wrote Mr. Pollock who gave the idea some publicity in his column. Finally, Jack got the use of the Collectors Club for the first meeting on October 28, 1943, and asked Walter to assist in arranging the procedure. From this humble beginning our Society has grown until today it is the leading Society in the world devoted to the study of the stamps of British North America.

LETTERS—From page 163

ber of plate numbers. One of these, viz: 3c Pl. No. 5-1 has never been found, and several other numbers have rated the title of "impossibles," due to their scarcity.

I therefore hope that TOPICS will support the suggestions of Messrs. Bricker and Higginson.

A. K. Grimmer

Early TOPICS Wanted

If any members of BNAPS have any spare numbers of the early issues of BNA TOPICS, please send them to the Librarian, as the numbers in the Library are the worse for wear.

MacMaster Joins Stanley

H. A. MacMaster, Newfoundland specialist and BNAPS'er extraordinary in the enthusiasm department, has joined the staff of the Stanley Stamp Company, Vancouver.

700

Copies of BNA TOPICS are distributed each month to B. N. A. collectors. Take advantage of this opportunity to reach the collectors who are especially interested in what you have to sell or want to buy.

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



G. Lewis

Two fellow BNAPSers have risen to defend the future of Newfoundland stamps first belittled by George van den Berg in the March 18 issue of "Stamps." In his article he held out very little hope for the future of Newfoundland stamps, terming the country "dead" philatelically. In the April 15 issue of "Stamps" both Gordon Harmer, BNAPS #282, and Jim Sissons, BNAPS #17, have risen to the defense and a very vigorous defense it is. In their capacities as head of the largest auction house in America, and the leading B. N. A. dealer in the United States and Canada respectively, they are well qualified to speak. Both are strong in their denials that interest in Newfoundland has waned and Gordon Harmer goes on to say that the future of the stamps of Newfoundland is very bright. Jim contends that while the prices of some of the Newfoundland stamps have declined since the high of 1946, the drop is not comparable to that experienced by choice U. S. and other philatelically live countries.

A point that everyone seems to have missed when discussing the decline in prices is that the decline seems to have taken place for the most part when the pound was devalued last September. The only ones really reaping the benefit of the reduced prices in Newfoundland stamps are the collectors from the dollar countries. Auction prices in Great Britain are every bit as high now in Pounds as they have been in the past few years. If Americans were to figure their purchases on a \$4 Pound and not a \$2.80 Pound, they would soon realize that prices have remained firm. What we have experienced is a levelling off of the world's market and not a decline in prices.

As far as we are concerned, we think the future is as bright as it ever was, particularly for the 19th century items since a good many collectors of Canadian stamps have decided to

collect Newfoundland stamps since the Confederation.

We are in receipt of a letter from Stan Calder, BNAPS #326, and he mentions an item that we haven't seen as yet and we wonder if any of our members have found a similar item. He has just acquired a very nice block of Scott #42 with a clearly broken block on the cap of the first stamp. Anyone with a similar item please communicate with Mr. Calder.

We have just come across something that was entirely new to us. Our findings are purely a result of deduction but we are presenting them here anyway in the hopes that they can be substantiated or confirmed by one of our readers. Many years ago we were surprised to learn that the first Coronation set, Scott #'s 104 to 114 inclusive, came in two different perforations. The 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c and 10c values when originally issued were comb perfed 13½, the 6c, 8c, 9c, 12c and 15c values were line perfed 14. That gave us the idea that the issue was printed in two groups. This idea was dispelled when we later found examples of the 1c, 2c and 5c values in the line perf 14. However, one of the lots in Sissons' last sale put us back on the track. Lot #323 listed this set with the 1918 emergency printing of the 1c, 2c and 5c values. An examination of this lot showed that the emergency printings were in the line perf 14. This brought us back to our original idea that some of the values were printed at one time and the balance later. We now think that we have confirmed this idea as we have but recently purchased the entire set in plate proof blocks of four in black. An examination of these proofs reveals the coincidence that the 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c and 10c values were printed on thick white paper whereas the other 5 values were printed on thick

(Continued on next page)

REVIEWS

Sissons' B. N. A. Catalogue, 1950.

The latest edition of this catalogue of the stamps of B. N. A. at prices available from J. N. Sissons, has been received. Prices listed reflect the active market in these issues. Mr. Sissons states: "The early issues are firm to stronger, late nineteenth and early twentieth century in steady demand, recent speculative material off a bit. The pound devaluation has had practically no effect on British North America stamps as the holdings in the sterling area are not sufficiently large to enable any appreciable exports." Copies of this catalogue may be obtained at 25 cents, as advertised on the back cover of this magazine.

Tips for the General Collector of British Empire Issues, by Aubrey Kelson, Deseronto, Ontario. This interesting little pamphlet by BNAPS'er Kelson contains a number of valuable tips for collectors of British Empire generally and Canada and Newfoundland in particular.

The American Air Mail Catalogue of Air Letter Sheets, edited by L. B. Gatchell and Ian C. Morgan. Air letter sheets were used extensively by Military personnel during World War II, especially among British and Empire forces. Later they were also introduced for use of civilians, and continue in use in a great many countries today. This catalogue lists and prices the air letter sheets issued to 1949, and is published by the American Air Mail Society, Albion, Pa. (56 pages, price \$1.50).

—G. P. L.

Trail of the Caribou—From page 165

white card. The fact then that part of the issue is comb perfed and the proofs on paper while the balance is line perfed and the proofs on card leads us to the deduction that they were not printed at one and the same time. We would welcome any comment on this situation.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Article IV, Section 3. The elective officers of the Society shall be so elected by ballot in the odd numbered years, during January.

Nominations may be filed with the Secretary by any five (5) members in good standing not later than 90 days prior to the date of election. At least 90 days prior to the election date, the President of the Society shall select and appoint three (3) members of the Society to serve and function as a Nominating Committee whose prime purpose shall be to prepare and present a slate of nominees for each elective office to be voted. Each nomination made shall be published in BNA TOPICS not less than 60 days prior to the election date.

An official ballot shall be prepared by the Secretary containing all nominations, spaces for marking against each name, and space for the signature and number of the member casting the vote. No ballots other than the Official Ballot shall be valid. Ballots shall be returned to the Committee on Elections which shall be appointed by the President at a time prior to the election. The Committee on Elections shall canvass the vote and report the results at the election meeting and refer a similar report to the Secretary for filing and notice in BNA TOPICS. A plurality of all votes cast shall be required for the election of an officer. If no one candidate shall receive a plurality of the votes cast for such office, the Committee on Elections shall cause to be issued new ballots for the election to this office.

Report of the Secretary

JUNE 15, 1950

NEW MEMBERS

- 652 Brown, Paul L., 82 King Street E., Brockville, Ont., Canada
 653 DesBrisay, Ian G., R. R. 1, Box 2246, Penticton, B. C., Canada
 654 Jennings, Carl, 29 James Street S., Hamilton, Ont., Canada
 655 Maguire, Hugh Scott, Fraser Mills, B. C., Canada
 656 McMartin, Arthur K., R. R. No. 1, Ladner, B. C., Canada
 657 Paul, Francis A., 86 James Street, Fairfield, Conn.
 658 Profit, Arthur R., c/o Bank of Toronto, Winnipeg, Man., Canada
 659 Vienno-Michaud, Laurier P., New Boston, New Hampshire
 660 White, Maj. K. Hamilton, 3564 S. W. Marine Drive, Vancouver, B. C., Can.
 661 Wilson, William E., Wood Avenue, Armstrong, B. C., Canada

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- Bedard, William Lucien, P. O. Box 637, Detroit 31, Mich. (DCX) CAN, NFD—19th & 20th century mint postage and blocks. 1st Day Covers. Mint & Semi-Official airmails and on cover. Plate blocks of Canada. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37.
 Chivers-Wilson, Victor, 4234 Fraser, Vancouver, B. C., Canada (C) Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37.
 Southey, Charles F., Young, Sask., Canada (C) CAN—19th century used postage & blocks. Precancels. R. R., Territorial, 2-ring and 4-ring cancellations. Early western cancellations of 1c & 3c Small Queens. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37.

ADDITION TO EXCHANGERS

- Brown, Paul L., 82 King St. E., Brockville, Ont., Can. (CX) CAN—Mint postage & blocks. Used "Pence." Mint & used booklet panes and complete booklets. Coils. Mint airmails. Postal stationery. 2-ring cancellations on Small Queens. Mint Plate blocks.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- Cook, Alfred P., 112 Pearl St., Ithaca, N. Y. (from Glenbrook, Conn.)
 Hofbauer, Frank L., N. Delsea Drive, Millville, N. J. (from Trenton, N. J.)
 Hurst, Peter J., 2043 Vendome Ave., Montreal, P. Q. (from Toronto, Ont.)
 Meschter, Daniel Y., Kinderhook, N. Y. (from Hanover, N. H.)
 Meschter, Elwood Jr., P. O. Box 138, Gibsonia, Pa. (from Chicago, Ill.)

RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

- Smith, K. M., 337 McDougal St., Fostoria, Ohio

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- 610 McCardell, Frank C., 27 Rita St., W. Warwick, R. I.
 612 Powers, John F., 564 Cranston St., Providence, R. I.
 465 Volk, F. Snyder, Pittstown, N. J.

NEWFOUNDLAND MINT BLOCKS

FINE CONDITION		DUPLICATES—ONE OF EACH	
#249 Royal Visit .....	.85	#267 Memorial College, First Day Cover .....	.40
250 Provisionals, 2c on 5c, broken tail on "2"	1.00	268 Provisional, 2c on 30c, plate block .....	.65
251A Provisional, 4c on 5c, broken "S" in Cents	3.00	269 4c Princess .....	.20
252 Grenfell .....	.45	270 5c Cabot .....	.25
First Day Cover .....	.10	First Day Cover .....	.15
		C19 7c Air Mail .....	.25

GORDON P. LEWIS

13 Eastern Ave., Brampton, Ont., Canada

BNA TOPICS

Official Journal of
The British North America Philatelic Society

Vol. 7 — No. 7

July-August, 1950

Whole No. 71

ADVERTISING RATES

	1 Insertion	6 Insertions	12 Insertions
Full Page	\$8.00	\$7.00	\$6.00
Half Page	4.75	4.00	3.50
Quarter Page	3.00	2.50	2.00
Single Column Inch	1.00	.85	.75

Copy Must Be Received by 15th of Month Preceding Publication

NOTES and COMMENTS

By The Editor

Nothing in The Mail!

If readers wonder why Jack Levine's column, "What's in The Mail?" is missing this month . . . it's just that there was no mail! As Jack himself says, "My column depends on getting material from the members—no stamp information, just gab—and, no mail no column." Come on, fellas, how about a little information, a scrap of an idea, or what have you? Jack wants to hear about it, and through him, the members at large.

"Otherwise he has given plate block collectors a very good article and deserves commendation."

BNAPEX Medals

Illustrated below is the beautiful medal about which Bill Kemp wrote so enthusiastically in Jack Levine's column last month. Henry Thurston is the designer, and they come in gold, silver and bronze. Why not try and win one for yourself at Philadelphia?

And How About that Article?

Speaking of receiving mail, how about the members sitting down and putting some of the results of their research and collecting on paper and sending it along to the Editor. Many thanks to those members who have answered our appeal for material . . . but we want to build up a back-log this summer so that in the fall we will be able to plan ahead in presenting the type of magazine BNAPSers want. We are having to do plenty of writing ourselves in order to fill the pages—how about a little help!

Choose your own subject—as long as it's B. N. A.

A Correction

BNAPSer A. K. Grimmer writes: "There is a slip-up in Mr. Arch. Millar's notes on War Issue Plate Blocks (June TOPICS). In the last paragraph he states that there was no printing of the one cent Pl. No. 3. This is incorrect, as I hold both sheets and blocks of this plate number.



Stamp Sales = = = in London

In spite of the times, London remains the world's chief market for fine postage stamps, but it is to deal with special conditions that we have branches of our auction house in Bournemouth and in Philadelphia as well as an agency in Australia and in India.

Typical of our weekly auctions are those being held during the current month.

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