

2014 • first quarter

# BNA Topics



Whole number 538    Volume 71    Number 1



Canada's three rarest stamps, p. 10

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The 2¢ Large Queen Laid Paper

As recently reported in the philatelic press, the existence of a third example of the 2¢ Large Queen on Laid Paper was confirmed. The stamp was discovered in a sales circuit book by a collector. He sent the stamp to the Vincent Graves Greene Foundation for a certificate, who after much study and consultation issued a certificate of genuineness in 2013. A full report can be found on the Foundation's website.

This discovery was the first in many decades. The other two examples have certificates dated 1935 from the RPS in London, England. All three singles are faulty to some degree.

We are pleased to have been selected to sell this stamp. It is in our opinion the finest of the three known examples, possessing superior centering and freshness of colour, as well as displaying a dated Hamilton postmark. It will be offered in our October 2014 auction.

Obviously the demand for catalogues will be heavy for this auction and we suggest it is a great opportunity to consider consigning. Why not get in touch to discuss your holdings?

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# BNA pics

Volume 71 Number 1 Whole Number 538

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

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... continued on page 3 ...

## ... Recent Arrivals

*Jeff Arndt and Ron Majors*

WITH the publication of the 2014 first quarter issue of *BNATopics*, Mike Street and Robert Lemire have completed their interim co-editorship duties. Both deserve high praise for not only keeping the journal up to its very high standards while in an “acting” role, but also for having fulfilled editorship duties at two different times. They have paid their dues and deserve a long rest. Both Mike and Robert have unselfishly given their time to train us to take over these official duties and to ease us into our new roles. We thought it might be of interest to readers to introduce ourselves in this our first editorial.

We are both Americans and live on the East Coast: Jeff in Fairfax, Virginia, and Ron near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We have both raised our families, and our children have left the nest. Jeff has been a stamp collector since the age of ten, and a BNAPS member for over thirty years. Predictably, through the years, philately has often had to take a back seat to higher education, career, military moves, and family. Through all of these changes, *BNATopics* has been the constant for him. Its articles helped him to focus on his collection, encouraged him to conduct research, and opened the door for the excitement (and, yes, sometimes heartbreak) of exhibiting. He finally got the courage (and time) to volunteer as co-editor. Now that he has retired from the military, Jeff is able to devote more time to collecting, as well as to give back to the hobby.

Ron has been collecting stamps since the mid-50s, starting with US, but gravitating to British Commonwealth when he lived in England in the mid-70s. Upon his return to the US, realizing that collecting the Commonwealth was a colossal effort, he decided to narrow his field to Canadian stamps and eventually to Canadian postal history. Interested in the classical period, he focused on the Decimal Issue on cover, which—at the time—were freely available and fairly affordable. After reading Ed Richardson’s *Collect Canadian Covers*, featuring the challenges of finding US Civil War patriotic covers used in Canada, he began to focus on locating and cataloguing as many as possible. Ron has been a member of BNAPS for nearly forty years, but has only become active in the last four–five years, having served on the

**Change of address:** Notify the Secretary (address on p 76).

**Missed or damaged copies:** Contact the Circulation Manager, Ken Lemke, BNAPS Circulation Manager, c/o CFS, 3455 Harvester Road, Unit 20 - 22, Burlington, Ontario L7N 3P2 ([kwlemke@sympatico.ca](mailto:kwlemke@sympatico.ca)).

**Manuscripts may be submitted to the Editor in these formats:** (1) electronic, preferably with paper copy, or (2) typewritten (double-spaced), or (3) neatly handwritten. Acceptable electronic formats include MacIntosh- or IBM-compatible formatted diskettes or CDs.

**Illustrations must not be embedded in Word™ or WordPerfect™ files!** PLEASE do not format text files other than for normal paragraphing, italicization, bolding, or underlining. If tables are required, please consult the Editor before preparing a file in WordPerfect™. Illustrations MUST be sent as separate files from text files. (Scans at 300 dpi in .jpg format are preferred for illustrations sent as attachments). Text and image files should be sent to Jeff Arndt by email at [<arndt123@aol.com>](mailto:arndt123@aol.com) or by regular mail to: 4121 Marble Lane, Fairfax VA 22033 USA.

**Publications Committee:** Robert Lemire (Chairperson), Mike Street, Charles Livermore.

Board of Directors and as Pence-Cents Study Group chairman. Ron just began exhibiting in the last three years. He has always enjoyed reading *BNA Topics* and learning about Canadian philately outside of his area of interest. Ron has been a monthly columnist for a technical magazine for over thirty years, but philatelic writing/editing will present a new learning curve. He retired as an analytical chemist on 1 November 2013 and now will be able to devote more time to postal history and co-editing *BNA Topics*.

We look forward to working together and will do our best to make sure that *BNA Topics* maintains the high standards that we have come to expect from it. We all follow different paths in our collecting interests. We hope you find this journal to be a guide to your interest as well as a glimpse into those of your fellow philatelists. As our first pitch as co-editors, let us say that articles are always welcome and encouraged. Share your joy of collecting and your precious philatelic treasures and stories with all of us!

## **Library and Archives Canada and Canadiana.org Partners in digitization, online publication of millions of images from archival microfilm collection**

**L**IBRARY and Archives Canada (LAC) and Canadiana.org have strengthened their long-standing collaboration to considerably increase access to Canada's documentary heritage, by way of a large-scale digitization partnership involving about sixty million images from numerous collections. Over the coming years, this partnership will triple LAC's digital content on the Web, and will allow Canadians to access tens of millions of additional images regardless of where they live, at no charge.

Canadiana.org is a not-for-profit, charitable organization dedicated to building Canada's digital preservation infrastructure and providing the broadest possible access to Canada's documentary heritage. Members of Canadiana.org include a Canada-wide network of public and research libraries that share tools and capacity, lead innovative open-access initiatives, and plan the future of digital preservation in Canada.

LAC's ten-year agreement with its longstanding partner covers the digitization, indexing, and description of millions of personal, administrative, and government documents, as well as land grants, war diaries, and photographs. There will be no charge for Canadians who wish to access these collections at LAC.

Canadiana.org will also transcribe millions of handwritten pages and create related descriptions. Enhanced search tools facilitating access to these records will be available to Canadians free-of-charge at LAC, as well as at hundreds of subscribing libraries in regions across Canada. For a small monthly fee, Canadians will also be able to use the enhanced tools online to conduct advanced searches without leaving home.

Commenting on this announcement in the July-September 2013 SHPQ *Bulletin d'histoire postale et de marcophilie*, Cimon Morin wrote (translated here): "LAC already has close to 1,000 microfilms of Canadian post office archival material. They are mainly the RG3 records of the Canada Post Office Department, and the MG44 records of the General Post Office in London. The effort to digitize these microfilms and make the information accessible to a much greater number of interested people should stimulate more research in postal history."



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See the Exhibit entry form & prospectus inserted in THIS issue of BNA TOPICS

*Important dates:*

June 27: Closing dates for entries    August 28: Exhibit mounting  
August 29: BALPEX opens                August 30: BALPEX awards banquet  
August 31: BNAPS Past-Presidents' Reception & Awards Banquet

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**Exhibiting:** Jeffrey Arndt, email: [arndt123@aol.com](mailto:arndt123@aol.com) ; mail: 4121 Marble Lane, Fairfax VA 22033 USA.

**Other BALPEX 2014 information:** Bob Gibson, BALPEX General Chairman: email [balpex@verizon.net](mailto:balpex@verizon.net) ; mail: BPS 3440 Ellicott Center Drive, Suite 103, Ellicott City, MD 21043 USA; or phone: 410-465-5712 / 443-844-5131.

## Readers write

**BNAPS 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary:** *Robert Lemire* wrote to mention that 24 November 2013 was the 70th anniversary of the first regular meeting of our Society in 1943. According to Vol. 1, No. 1 of *British North America Topics*, March 1944 (the journal's title was changed to *BNA Topics* for the second issue), an initial planning meeting for BNAPS was held in October 1943. Temporary officers “were elected on November 24, 1943” at the “first regular meeting.” Election results were announced in the February 1945 issue of *BNA Topics*, which noted that the “temporary” officers served from 24 November 1943 through all of 1944.

**Brigham Collection first auction:** *Charles Verge* advises that the first sale of The Brigham Collection, now scheduled for 21-22 February 2014, will feature “The Large Queen issue of Canada, 1868-1897.” One of the key items in this sale, the 2¢ Laid Paper variety, is illustrated in “The two-cent Large Queen on laid paper” elsewhere in this issue of *BNA Topics*. Catalogues for the first sale are available from Brigham Auctions, e-mail at [info@brighamauctions.com](mailto:info@brighamauctions.com), by phone at (905) 451-5072, or by mail at Suite 223, Plaza 2, 350 Rutherford Road S., Brampton, ON, Canada L6W 4N6.

**BNAPS at the Smithsonian:** After attending a preview of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum's new William H Gross Stamp Gallery, CA Stillions wrote to say he had seen a BNAPS lapel pin on permanent display in the Stamp Collectors gallery, along with pins from other societies, to highlight the camaraderie that occurs in organized philately. BNAPS members visiting the Museum – perhaps during BNAPEX 2014 BALPEX this August - should look for it.



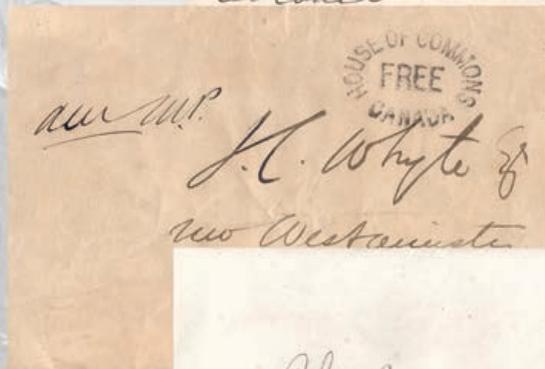
**Illustrated Permit Indicia:** *Earle Covert* sent the “coffee cup” image at left. Apparently Canada Post Corporation is promoting the use of pictures in mailing-permit indicia to businesses and organizations doing permit mailing. The intent is to encourage recipients/customers to look at and open Addressed Admail. To date, at least a dozen different illustrated

permit indicia have been reported, including the one shown below right, used by Canada Post itself on a “Venture One” mailing, submitted by *Mike Street*, and the Lung Association example, below left, which came from *Andrew Chung*.



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**Postal fire at Toronto:** Further to Norman Hoggarth's and Mike Street's article concerning fire-damaged mail at Toronto in the July–September 2013 *BNA Topics*, Peter McCarthy sent a scan of a cover, in his Caricatures and Landscapes collection, that also has a Toronto fire-related handstamp. Peter's cover is obviously from the same era as Figure 2 in the article, but whether or not they were in the same fire is unknown.



Doug Irwin, on the other hand, sent scans of two almost identical covers that definitely WERE involved in the 1974 Toronto fire. The covers were accompanied by a letter from Canada Post apologizing for the “unfortunate occurrence.” Any reader with additional information on any postal-related fire in Toronto is asked to contact the Editor.



### **CORRECTION 1:**

With regard to Judith Edwards' article, “A tale of two ships,” in the October–December 2013 *BNA Topics*, Paul Binney writes, “The cover in Figure 2, sent from CAPO 1, has an Army censor mark and does not belong to the Air Force. It is most likely that the correspondent in this case was with the Edmonton Fusiliers, although a limited number of letters with censor 35 in this time period are known from personnel attached to other units. CAPO 1 was a military post office that served the needs of Army and Air Force

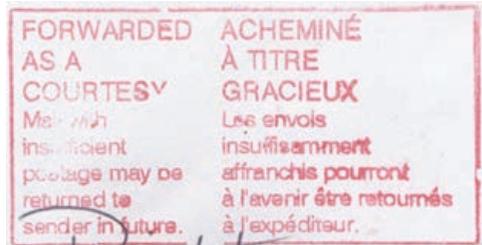
Headquarters personnel in the St. John's area, in addition to other army units serving in defence of the colony.”

## CORRECTION 2:

*Tony Thompson* advises that he inadvertently used the wrong image in his October-December 2013 *BNA Topics* article, “Intaglio printings of the Newfoundland 1¢ “Pile of Cod” stamps.” On page 21 of the article, Figure 2f, “**Underinking and dry print from Plate 3, grey black, Perkins Bacon,**” should be as shown at right. Anyone wishing a copy of this image on dry, gummed paper to apply to their copy of the issue should contact Mike Street at [mikestreet1@gmail.com](mailto:mikestreet1@gmail.com).



## Canada Post Courtesy



*Nick Poppenke*, who studies Canada Post markings of all kinds, sent the accompanying image of a Christmas card mailed without postage from Keswick ON to Toronto on 21 December 2012. He comments, “On this day the Grinch was not working at the Toronto South Central Letter Processing Plant. The letter was allowed to proceed to its destination without postage due being charged. The text in the bilingual red boxed handstamp reads, “FORWARDED / AS A / COURTESY / Mail with / insufficient / postage may be / returned to / sender in future.”

## Members, PLEASE!

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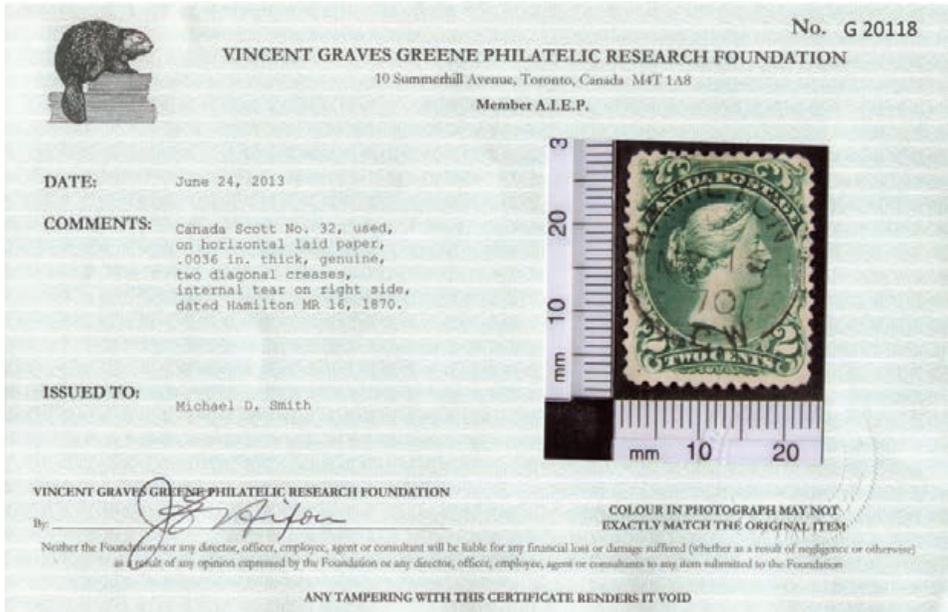
For information about your dues status, or if you need to submit funds, contact the Treasurer.

Postal and e-mail addresses for both are on p. 79 of *BNA TOPICS*.

# The two-cent Large Queen on laid paper

Glenn Archer

ON 16 July 2013, the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation (VGGF) announced that it had issued a certificate of genuineness (Figure 1) for the third known copy of the 2¢ Canada Large Queen on laid paper (Scott / Unitrade # 32) (see Figure 2 for blow-up of stamp). As we go to press, we have been advised that Michael Smith, who discovered the stamp, has transferred the stamp to Eastern Auctions for sale in the fall of 2014.



**Figure 1.** The VGGF certificate issued for the recently discovered example, 2¢ Large Queen on laid paper (Unitrade # 32). Courtesy of Michael Smith.

The story behind its discovery is really the stuff of every stamp collector's dream. The current owner, Mr Smith, who lives in the United States, discovered it in a circuit book while doing a general search of the Canada Large Queens for watermarked stamps. (It has been reported, erroneously, that the discoverer paid \$5 for the stamp.

I spoke with the owner personally and can confirm that the figure was closer to \$60). He contacted a friend, a member of the expert committee for the VGGF, for advice on how to proceed with having it authenticated. The owner submitted the stamp to the Greene Foundation in early 2013 for expertization. The stamp was painstakingly examined for several months before it was declared genuine.

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Keywords & phrases: Large Queen, laid paper, Canada's rarest stamp

In mid-2013, while attending a national stamp show, I first heard of its existence when someone who knows my interest in Canada Large Queens asked me, “I guess you’ve heard the worst-kept secret in all of Canadian stamp collecting...?” and so the conversation continued. I think the secret was well-kept, in truth; but once one seeks “outside” help, you have to share *some* information, and stories like this one travel quickly. After a few additional phone conversations, the VGGF Committee invited me to examine the stamp at its premises and share my knowledge on the issue. In June 2013, I had the privilege of examining the stamp in person, but my involvement was only a small part of the process; the Greene Foundation consulted several outside experts and devoted hundreds of person-hours to expertizing it.



**Figure 2.** Scan of the #32 discovered in 2013. (Courtesy of Michael Smith.)



**Figure 3.** Scan of the gum side, 2¢ laid paper. (Courtesy of Michael Smith.)

## The Canada Large Queen Issue—Laid paper stamps

Only three stamps in the issue have been found on laid paper: the 1¢, 2¢, and 3¢. All of the 1¢ stamps known are in the red-brown shade, suggesting that printing was done before the first 1¢ oranges appeared in late January 1869. The 3¢ are typically a bright orange-red shade, though there are also less common examples in rose-red.

Laid paper is made by dipping a wire mold into a slurry of pulp, collecting the paper fibres onto a wire screen and then allowing the collected fibres to dry into a sheet of paper. It was the predominant method for making paper until the early nineteenth century and the advent of the Industrial Revolution, when wove paper was developed (where the paper fibres are collected continuously on a wove-wire belt). Laid paper shows parallel dark and light lines when held to light, this being an effect from the pattern of the wire screen. It also shows widely spaced “vergere” or “chain” lines that are at ninety degrees to the laid lines. Typically there are thirteen–fourteen laid lines per two centimetres.

There are actually two variants of the laid paper in the Canada Large Queen issue—the so-called “thin laid” and the “thick laid”:

- The thin laid paper is normally only found on the 3¢ Large Queen, though I have personally seen a single 1¢ stamp on the thin laid, and there was apparently a second in the Wellburn collection. It is a relatively whitish paper, has a coarse texture, medium thickness (0.0026 to 0.0030 inches), and took a somewhat blurry stamp impression. Many examples are off centre and have perforation faults.
- The thick laid paper takes an excellent, sharp stamp impression. It has an off-white to buff colour, is relatively thick (most examples are in the 0.0032 to 0.0038 inch range), and the paper fibres are relatively fine. This is the normal laid paper for the 1¢ Large Queen, though I have also personally seen two 3¢ stamps on the thick laid paper.

All three known examples of the 2¢ Large Queen are on the thick laid (see Figure 3). The printing shade is a deep green, lacking the grassy shade of the earliest printings, the bluish component of the Bothwell paper shades, and the emerald-to-yellow-green shades that appeared in early 1870. It has the appearance of an 1869 shade in my opinion, quite similar to some Duckworth Paper 8 examples, and fully consistent with Lees-Jones' assertion that the shade came from an 1869 printing [1].

It is important to note that the grain of a laid paper is *perpendicular* to the direction of the laid lines, i.e., if the laid lines are horizontal, the grain direction is vertical. Paper fibres shrink on drying and, since wet methods of printing were in use in the nineteenth century, one can expect the laid paper printing impressions to be slightly narrower and taller than those on horizontal grain paper.

## History of the other two known examples [2]

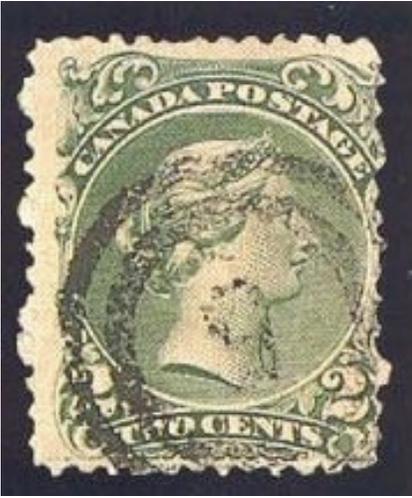
It is quite surprising that a new example has surfaced after seventy-five years of... well, nothing. The history of the first two dates back to the early part of the twentieth century, when primary source material was still available and the Large Queens were not yet a "classic" issue.



**Figure 4.** The Discovery Copy of #32, ex-Ferrary, ex- Reford et al. (Courtesy of Brigham Auctions.)

The first 2¢ stamp on laid paper was reportedly a part of the famous Ferrary collection, auctioned in June 1924 after being seized by the French government for war reparations.

Philip von Ferrary (1850–1917) assembled the most complete worldwide collection of his day, and willed it to the Berlin Postmuseum in 1915, so presumably its discovery predates WWI. It bears a blue straight-line "REGISTERED" cancel. It was owned by Reford for several years before the sale of his holdings in 1950 (the original 1935 RPSL Certificate No. 18955 was issued to him) and has a provenance of several owners up to the current day. It resides in the Brigham collection, and is coming to public auction in early 2014, when Brigham Auctions begins its disbursement of the entire Brigham Collection over the course of several sales.



**Figure 5.** The second known example. ex FE Eaton and Sons leaflet, c. 1986, following their sale of the stamp.

The second example bears a two-ring 5 numeral cancel (Hamilton), and its existence was discovered in 1935 when the estate of an English stamp dealer (JW Westhorpe) was to be auctioned. It is also certified by the RPSL (Certificate No. 18655, issued December 1935). It resided in the Firth collection for decades until its sale in 1971, and it also has an unbroken provenance to the present day. It apparently resides in a major British Commonwealth collection in Southern California.

It is interesting to note that all three examples appear to have a Hamilton connection. The use of blue ink in Hamilton is well-documented in the 1869/1870 period; I have personally seen several CDS and other hammer strikes in both black and blue ink.

### Examination of the “third” known example

A complete technical report on its evaluation of the newest third copy of the 2¢ Large Queen on laid paper

by the VGGF is available freely at <[www.greenefoundation.ca](http://www.greenefoundation.ca)> under “Special Announcement, July 16, 2013.” It is far more comprehensive than the presentation here.

The first, and perhaps most important, step in the authentication process was to take a high-resolution image of the stamp and overlay the image on a known genuine thick laid. There will be some natural variance in the spacing of the laid lines—it depends on the tightness and width of the wires used to make the screen—but the laid lines should overlap, and the printing at the front of the stamp should line up almost exactly. As I noted earlier, the Large Queens laid paper *is a vertical grain paper*. One need only align the inner vignette to do the test; as a vertical-grain paper the image should be taller and narrower than horizontal-grain. The test subject passed this examination, as dimensionally the vignette lined up correctly.

A second test is to examine whether a genuine vertical wove 2¢ Large Queen could have been rebacked. There are known fakes (attributed to Frodel) having laid paper rebacking from genuine postal stationery. The Foundation has several advanced techniques to test this possibility, including varying the wavelength of the light source and checking for spot fluorescence in the near-UV light spectrum. Any attempt to fake laid paper by rebacking would likely involve the use of an adhesive that is not soluble in water, increasing the chance that the deception could be detected by fluorescence or absorption in the UV spectrum. The stamp in question was certainly not rebacked and showed no signs of repair or tampering.

The stamp is the only example that bears a dated cancel. The MR 1870 date is moderately surprising (though determined to be a genuine usage in-period) and provides some new information about the #32, considering that the 1¢ laid paper appears first around October 1868. It is my personal theory that small quantities of thick laid were added to “top

up” the paper orders for mid-1868 and mid-1869, and that printing of the #32 coincided with the usage of soft white paper (Duckworth Paper 8) in the mid-to-late 1869 period.

The printing impression is relatively sharp—consistent with 1¢ laid examples—and the shade an especially deep green (the 1¢ laid paper stamps also show a shade relatively deep in comparison to one-cent stamps on ordinary wove paper). Stamp collecting is, of course, not all forensics—even having never seen one in person, I had an idea what a #32 “should” look like and this stamp met my expectations. It was a pleasure to be a small part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Michael Smith personally for his assistance with this article. Thanks also to Brigham Auctions and the Greene Foundation for additional images and information.

## References

- [1] HE and HW Duckworth, *The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use 1868-1872, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition*. 1986, pp. 85-86.  
 [2] A Little History of #32, *Confederation, The Newsletter of the BNAPS Canada Large and Small Queens Study Group*, No. 7, ed. R Sass, (March 1998), p. 2.

## New book releases

**B** NAPS has released the seventy-fifth volume in the Exhibit Series as well as two new handbooks. We welcome a new author and the return of two authors previously published by the Society.

*Canadian Wilding and Associated High-Value Definitives: Paper Texture, Printings, Periods of Use*, by Rober J Elias. 2014, 88 pages, 8.5 x 11, spiral bound, ISBN: 978-1-927119-32-7. Stock # B4h923.75.1, colour; \$C51.00

This exhibit by Robert Elias presents the most comprehensive research ever undertaken on the paper texture of the Canadian Wilding and associated high-value definitives. It represents the culmination of a succession of studies and exhibits on this topic, which began at the Winnipeg Philatelic Society’s STAMPSHOW ‘99. The final exhibit, at BNAPEX 2012 CALTAPEX in Calgary, received a Gold medal, the Ed and Mickey Richardson Award, the John D Arn White Queen Award, and the APS 1940–1980 Award of Excellence. In addition to the stamps themselves, the exhibit includes a very fine selection of covers showing their use.

Robert Elias is a professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Manitoba. His specialty is palaeontology, and he conducts research on ancient fossil corals and the environments in which they lived. Robert’s philatelic interest is focussed on Canadian stamps and postal history of the early Elizabethan II era, prior to the Centennial



definitive issue. He became a member of BNAPS in 1999 and has been Chairperson of the Elizabethan II Study Group since 2010.

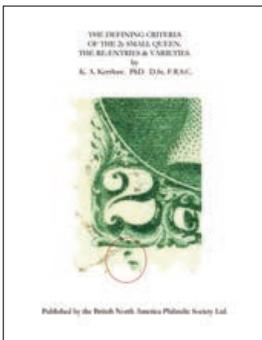
*First Day Covers of Canada's 1937 Coronation Issue*; by Gary Dickinson. 2014, 60 pages, 8.5 x 11, spiral bound, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-33-4. Stock # B4h066.1.1; \$C44.00

After the death of King George V and the abdication of King Edward VIII in 1936, Canada and the other countries of the British Empire were ready for some good news and celebration. Both were provided by the coronation of King George VI.

Philatelically, the 1937 Coronation Issue was the turning point for First Day Cover (FDC) development in Canada. It was the first stamp issued by Canada which resulted in the production of more than 200 different cachets, far more than any previous stamp and rarely equalled in the years following. Canada's commemorative stamp was issued on 10 May 1937, two days before the actual coronation.



In *First Day Covers of Canada's 1937 Coronation Issue*, the more than 200 different known FDCs are illustrated in separate chapters according to the style of cachet, e.g., those featuring the King alone, the Royal Family, words or pictures, crowns, and other printed cachets and rubber stamped and handmade cachets, with a final chapter on First Day Postmarks. Gary Dickinson is the author of six BNAPS books. A brief biography of Gary can be found in *BNA Topics*, January–March 2013, p. 59.



*The defining criteria of the 2c Small Queen—the Re-entries & Varieties*; by Kenneth Kershaw. 2014, 86 pages, 8.5 x 11, spiral bound, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-34-1. Stock # B4h067.1.1; \$C47.95

Similar to his recent 1¢ Small Queen book, Ken Kershaw's new 2¢ Small Queen volume is not a plating book in which stamps are examined position by position. It is a summary of known flaws—strong and weak—that can be found on the 2¢ Small Queen, including “kiss-print” duplicates, tool marks, guide lines and, particularly, guide dots, using a new grid system Ken has developed that locates a guide dot on individual stamps. Although several thousand stamps were examined for this book, Ken is clear that many more are likely to be found. This is Ken's

twentieth BNAPS book; for a brief biography, see *BNA Topics*, January–March 2013, p. 59.

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# A well-travelled Centennial airmail cover

Bill Ferguson

THE cover shown in Figure 1 was mailed on 16 March 1972 from Rexdale, Ontario to a “Cpl Sperandeo, H” in Cyprus. The letter’s journey was not smooth; in fact, it could be said to have hit major turbulence on the way.



Figure 1. 1972 Letter from Rexdale, Ontario to an airman in Cyprus.

Keywords & phrases: Centennials, returned air mail.

Paid at the correct 15¢ per ounce airmail rate with the Centennial stamp of that value (Sc 463), the letter was received in Cyprus at 11AM on 21 March 1972 and forwarded to the RAF base at Larnaca the same day. On 24 March, Field Post Office (FPO) 388 in Cyprus forwarded it to the Royal Air Force base in Malta, where it was processed at FPO 944 on 27 March. The cover then went to the RAF Personnel Management Centre (PMC) of the Ministry of Defence in England, arriving before the end of March. There, a label readdressing it to the RAF station at Gloucester was applied. For some reason, the RAF could not find “Cpl Sperandeo, H” and, on 17 April 1972, another label was added on top of the first by the “PMC and Pay Office Gloucester” with a red handstamp: “RETURN TO SENDER / CORRECT OFFICIAL NUMBER REQUIRED.” The letter was apparently returned to the sender without receiving any further Canadian postal markings.

There is a possible explanation for the cover not reaching the addressee. Between 1964 and 1993, many Canadians served in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. It is possible that “Cpl Sperandeo, H” was a member of this force, but the letter was addressed in error to “RAF Cyprus” instead of “RCAF Cyprus,” causing it to receive the treatment described above. Given that the letter came from Canada, why did the RAF in Cyprus not check with the Canadians stationed there? We will probably never know the complete story, but it makes for a nice item in a Centennial collection.

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# From the mirror to the mirage

*Jean-Claude Vasseur*

RECENTLY, the *Canadian Philatelist* published an article by Rob Moore and John M Walsh concerning the existence of several Newfoundland airmail stamps, the “Halifax” (SC #C3), Figure 1, with an inverted overprint and a partial “mirror image” offset on the gum side [1]. From my point of view, this article is misleading because it introduces the idea of the potential existence of a fifth, previously “unknown” sheet with the inverted overprint.



**Figure 1.** Inverted “Halifax” overprint, Sc #3a.

An “offset” is “the transfer of part of a stamp design or an overprint from one sheet to the back of another, before the ink has dried (also called set off). Such impressions are in reverse...” [2]. The undue transfer to the gum side of a stamp is, by definition, always a “mirror image” of the intended printing. Thus the term used by the authors of the article in question is redundant; “offset” is the preferred philatelic term.

A second point is that the authors seem to ignore how such offsets could happen with the presses that were in use for the printing of stamps at the beginning of the twentieth century. Offsets occurred the same way for stamps, whether during an initial printing or when being overprinted.



**Figure 2.** Bottom portion of block of 1921 Great Britain ½d definitive, SC #A82, showing offset on gum side of bottom two rows, with edge slanting at top.

Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland airmail, overprint, offset

Shown in Figure 2, opposite, is an example of a major offset on Great Britain's George V ½d definitive stamp produced in 1921 (Sc #A82), the same year as the Halifax overprints. Note that, while the bottom row and margin of the offset (at left) shows a full offset, the offset in the upper row is slanting and gets smaller in each stamp toward the left of the block. Figure 2 shows just a part of one of the largest, if not *the* largest, examples of offset known on Great Britain's King George V stamps.

This offset actually occurred when the previous sheet was not ejected and remained folded in the press, leaving part of the just-printed picture exposed at the bottom of the sheet. The next sheet received the normal picture from the plate on the front side and transfer from the exposed part of the previous wet sheet on the gum side.

Coming back to the Inverted Halifax stamp, it is important to realize that *it was not the overprint which was inverted, but the sheet of paper when it was inserted into the press! When the sheet was removed and then turned 180 degrees so the underlying design was upright, the overprint was seen to have been inverted, as well as any offset on the gum side of the previous sheet, whatever the orientation of the previous sheet, upright or upside down.*

Dalwick and Harmer [3] described the four known inverted sheets (actually blocks of twenty-five). The stamps with partial offsets are found on the "Type 2" sheet. Given the cause of the partial offsets just described, there is no need to envisage the existence of a fifth sheet, that is, another "type 2" sheet.

As a collector of the Newfoundland Air Mail, I have surveyed almost everything appearing in collections and sales during the last fifteen years, as well as the previous literature. During my research on the "Inverted Halifax," I have collected pictures of the error as follows: Eighteen from type 1, nineteen from type 2, nine from Type 3, and twenty-four from Type 4. This represents seventy out of the one hundred possible stamps described by Dalwick and Harmer.

Reconstruction is quite easy for the Type 2 sheet, keeping in mind there are six different main varieties of the overprint, positions of which are known, together with alignment variations and perforation misalignments during the initial printing. Illustrated in Figure 3 is my reconstruction of a Type 2 sheet [4]. The two single stamps known with offset are at the bottom in positions 22 and 23, with the overprint upright. The "Halifax" overprint stamp without offset owned by Stanley Gibbons and mentioned in the *Canadian Philatelist* article is at the centre of the top row (position 3). The state of the gum side of the block at bottom right is unknown to me, but could also show the partial offset. If there were a second "Type 2" sheet, the odds are that I, and other collectors over the last ninety years, would have found two examples for the same position in the setting, but we have not.

My conclusion is that a "fifth sheet" with inverted overprint does not exist. It is just a mirage in the imaginations of the authors of the *Canadian Philatelist* article. I also believe the price associated with such items is very speculative. While an inverted overprint (or surcharge) is an "error," "offsets," by themselves, are generally considered printing flaws or "freaks" or "varieties" and are not worth anywhere near as much as true "errors." To promote the partial offset as being more important than the actual inverted overprint is like saying the Apollo 13 near-disaster was more important than the Apollo 11 moon landing. While offsets are not common, they are simply accidents due to the machinery and paper involved in the process.

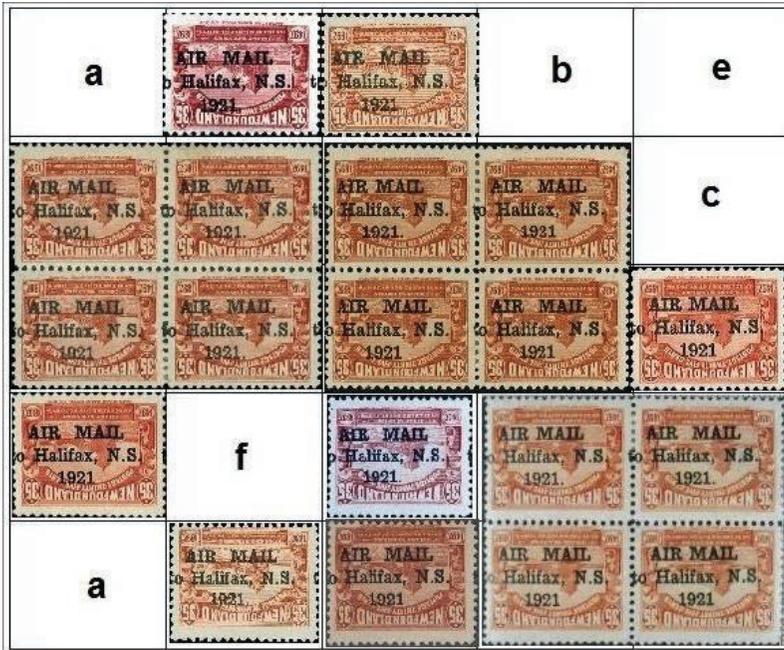


Figure 3. Reconstruction of a Type 2 sheet.

## References and endnotes

- [1] Rob Moore and John M Walsh, “Newfoundland Inverted Halifax Airmails With Mirror Image Offsets discovery finding report,” *Canadian Philatelist*, September-October 2013, p. 293.
- [2] *Linn’s Stamp News*, <[www.Linn’s.com/reference/terms](http://www.Linn’s.com/reference/terms)>, philatelic definition of “Offset.”
- [3] RER Dalwick and CHC Harmer, *Newfoundland Air Mails 1919–1939*, London, CF Hodgson & Son, Ltd, 1953, p. 62.
- [4] The lowercase letters in the reconstruction setting, Figure 3, refer to the six overprint varieties (a-f) at missing places, as classified by Dalwick and Harmer.

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# Girl Guide image on Canada's QE II Diamond Jubilee Issue

TP McDermott

CANADA Post Corporation (CPC) went all out to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Among other items, CPC issued six Keepsake Folders, one a month for each of her reigning decades. The issues were announced in the CPC's philatelic magazine *details/en détail* [1], distributed during the 2012 Christmas holidays. Each Keepsake Folder is related to one of the six decades of her reign. Each folder included a bilingual mini-pane of four stamps (Unitrade #2513i-2518i), a prepaid post card, depicting all the stamps bearing the Queen's image issued during the period (Unitrade #UX265-270) and a fact-filled booklet. Each mini-pane featured four identical stamps, actually a stamp-on-stamp design, and supporting selvaqe text and images that recounted royal visits and other milestones of the period.



**Figure 1.** Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee mini-pane (Unitrade#2515i).

Scouts and Guides on stamps has always been a popular topical collecting area, and collectors have always been interested in identifying the persons pictured on their stamps. The first three Scout stamps (Cape of Good Hope, Scott #178) pictured a youth cadet on a bicycle, young Sergeant Major Warner Goodyear, as well as Colonel Robert Baden-Powell (Cape of Good Hope, Scott # 179-180), the founder of the Boy Scout movement. Both subjects on the stamps were easy to identify because of the strong interest in the Mafeking siege of the second Anglo-Boer War in South Africa and the Boy Scout movement.

Keywords & phrases: Diamond Jubilee, Girl Guides, Queen Elizabeth II

While many of the persons pictured on other commemorative Scout stamps are nationally-known Scout leaders, identification of younger Scouts and Girl Guides is often a problem. Nevertheless, philatelic researchers still try their skills. Following is the story of my attempt to identify a young Girl Guide appearing on one of the 2012 Diamond Jubilee mini-panes.

Of interest to Scout and Guide stamp collectors is the third mini-pane (Unitrade #2515i covering the years 1973–1982), which features four stamps incorporating the design of the 1977 25-cent stamp.(Unitrade #704) that honoured the Queen's silver anniversary. This mini-pane is depicted in Figure 1. Like the other decades' mini-panes, a collage of pictures or images and year dates are pictured on the left side and bottom selvages. The bottom right corner features a picture of the Queen, holding a bouquet of posies, chatting with a Brownie (Girl Guides aged 7-8), and examining her uniform. Figure 2 is a blow-up of this portion of the mini-pane. The Queen is escorted by a Canadian Group Commander, and two other people, one in a military uniform and the other a young man, can be seen in the near background.



**Figure 2.** A magnified image from the lower right hand corner of the mini-pane of Figure 1, showing the Queen examining the uniform of a young Girl Guide. The photo was taken in 1979, when the Queen was visiting Canadian Forces Base Namao, north of Edmonton.

Although I missed it, *Linn's Stamp News* of 12 March 2012 pictured this mini-pane and reported that the Queen was speaking with a young girl in a Brownie uniform, though the article did not say anything about the Brownie herself. In fact, other artwork covered that portion of the mini-pane. Just two years before, CPC honoured the Girl Guides' 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a stamp.(Unitrade#2402). Who would have expected to see another stamp with a Girl Guide on it so soon? So it was easy to miss this Scout/Guide collectable. Interestingly, the Guides pictured on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary stamp were identified [2].

When Tony Manson, a friend and Scout-on-stamp collector in the Toronto metropolitan area, received his standing order of new issues from CPC, the Guide uniform quickly caught his attention and he told me about his find. After going through my pile of back issues of *Linn's*, I did locate the article on the mini-pane, but apart from the word "Brownie," No other information was provided. Tony, with family connections in the Canadian Air Force, felt that we could easily identify the Commander and subsequently where the photo was taken but unfortunately we had No luck there. I contacted CPC's Stamp Designer group directly and, after checking their archives, they forwarded the caption from the back of the original photograph used in production of the mini-pane: "Queen Elizabeth II chats with eight-year old Brownie Julia Whitehead after receiving a bouquet of posies upon her arrival at Canadian Forces Base Namao, just north of Edmonton, AB on 1 August 1978.

The Queen, along with Prince Philip and their sons, Prince Edward and Prince Andrew, then began a week-long visit to Edmonton and Northern Alberta." The photo was taken by Rod MacIvor of Canadian Press. There was No mention of the Group Commander's name. Why would the caption include the second sentence? Could those in the background be Prince Philip and the two young men Andrew (who would have been 18 years old at the time or Edward (14 years old)? Although neither of the military men is of the right "proportions" to be Prince Philip, he did receive a Canadian Armed Forces title in 1953, so he could quite correctly have worn a Canadian military uniform.

The reason for the Royal Trip was the opening of the 11<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Games in Edmonton. Originally known as the British Empire Games (and various other intermediate names), the current name was established at these very games in Edmonton. Held every four years, they fall in the second year of the Olympic cycle. The Games were a boon to the city of Edmonton, which was undergoing a revival at the time. Rather than improving an existing stadium, the city decided to build a new one, along with four other sports venues and their Light Rail Transit (LRT) system, which included underground sections beneath the downtown business centre.

Researcher Alan Meech reported that, at the time, it appears that there were only three Julia Whiteheads of that age in Canada. She was most likely a member of a military family, and might have moved around the country. He was unable to identify her beyond this, and she has not yet been located. Julia would now be about 44 years old and might be just ending her avocation as a leader of her daughter's Girl Guide troop. Maybe she is now a Trefoil Guild member (an alumnae leader) still enjoying the guiding sisterhood. Did she recognize her picture on this postal issue? Can anyone help identify her and provide any information on her subsequent Girl Guide life, assuming she continued it?

There is yet another Girl Guide connection to the Diamond Jubilee. Page 3 of the second (1963–1972) Keepsake Folder booklet includes a picture of the Queen, again holding a bouquet of flowers while talking to a Girl Guide. This picture might have been taken either during her 1964 or 1965 visits. Since this is only an informational booklet and not a stamp or other type of postal paper, this item has limited philatelic collecting interest. These booklets and the post cards could only be obtained by purchasing the related Keepsake Folder which also included the stamp mini-pane.

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to Tony Manson, Liz Wong of the Canada Post Corporation, and Alan Meech for their research help. I can be contacted at [tpwzrmcd@hotmail.com](mailto:tpwzrmcd@hotmail.com) or 25 Hillside Ave, White Plains NY 10601-1111 USA. Note: this article is an adaptation of Reference [3]. For more information on the Scouts On Stamps Society International (SOSSI), check out [www.sossi.org](http://www.sossi.org), or for the Scout and Guide Stamps Club (SGSC) [www.sgsc.com.uk](http://www.sgsc.com.uk).

## References

- [1] Canada Post *details/en détail*, Vol. XXI, No.1, January–March 2012.
- [2] *Scout on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) Journal*, Vol. 60, No. 1 (January/February 2011), p. 22.
- [3] *Scout and Guide Stamps Club (SGSC) of UK Bulletin*, Vol. 57, No. 2 (March–April 2013), pp. 14–16.



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# World War II: Veterans Guard of Canada in Bahamas and British Guiana

*Eric P Yendall FRPSL*

**S**HORTLY after the outbreak of WWII in September 1939, Canada formed the Veteran's Guard of Canada (VGC), comprised of Volunteer WWI veterans between the ages of 40 and 65, who were considered too old for regular military service. For the most part, this "Home Guard" force was assigned to guard prisoner-of-war and civilian internment camps in Canada. In 1942 however, following a request from the United Kingdom, the decision was made to assign some VGC companies to guard duties overseas to reduce the requirement for active duty personnel in these positions. VGC companies were formed and assigned to Newfoundland, the Bahamas, Canadian Forces HQ, Great Britain, and to British Guiana. Three shiploads of mules were dispatched from New York to Karachi between March 1944 and April; this involved 179 VGC "mule-skinners" escorting 1,600 mules destined for the Burma campaign. Mail from these VGC servicemen can be identified from censor and Orderly Room handstamps. Very few examples are known to exist.

## Bahamas

Number 33 VGC Company, with six officers and 151 other ranks, was present in the Bahamas from June 1942 until September 1943, designated as "N Force." They were most likely assigned to general guard and security duties at Government House—the Duke of Windsor was then Governor of the Bahamas—and possibly at the port and airfield.

The roughly-opened cover illustrated below (Figure 1) was sent in September 1943 by



**Figure 1. Veterans Guard of Canada, 33 Company, Base Post Office, Canada, printed on the reverse.**

Private W Ball to his family in Saskatchewan, Canada. The return address, "Veterans Guard of Canada, 33 Company, Base Post Office, Canada," was printed on the reverse. As with other known covers from "N Force," it bears Bahamas stamps to cover the 10d airmail rate to Canada, with the stamps cancelled by a rectangular handstamp with centre bar in purple ink. This is a

dumb-killer used at the Nassau GPO as a security cancel for Forces mail. The front of the envelope shows a censorship manuscript signature and a red circular 33 Coy VGC Orderly Room hand-stamp dated SEP.20 1943.

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Keywords & phrases: King George VI, military, Veterans Guard Company

## British Guiana

From January 1942 until January 1945, Number 34 Company VGC, consisting of two officers and thirty-six NCOs, provided port security for ships carrying bauxite to Canada for conversion into aluminum, a strategic war material used in aircraft production.



**Figure 2.** Number 34 Company VGC.

Illustrated here are two covers (Figure 2 and Figure 3) sent by airmail to Canada by members of the Veterans Guard of Canada. Such VGC covers from British Guiana are rare.

Postmarked 6 AP.1944 and endorsed “On Active Service,” the cover above, Figure 2, from Sergeant W Ratcliffe, is addressed to his family in Kingston, Ontario. It bears British Guiana stamps totaling 44¢, the airmail rate to Canada. Censorship is indicated by the presence of the Canadian Army Crown-Circle-301 handstamp applied in British Guiana. Over the handstamp is the censoring officer’s signature. The same style handstamp, #304, was used by the VGC in the Bahamas. The only marking on the reverse is the sender’s name.



**Figure 3.** VGC member in British Guiana to VGC member in Toronto.

The cover in Figure 3 was sent by Sergeant T McKeigue to a member of the Veterans Guard in Canada serving with 5 Company, which was tasked with guarding Internment Camp “M” or #22 in New Toronto, just west of Toronto on the shores of Lake Ontario. This camp held enemy merchant seamen and civilians. On the front of the cover, the sender has written “On Active Service.” Censorship is indicated with the signature of the responsible officer over the purple rectangular orderly room handstamp, which reads, “ORDERLY ROOM// No. 34 COMPANY//-- DEC 1943//VETERANS GUARD OF CANADA.” The cover bears British Guiana stamps to the value of 44¢, the airmail rate to Canada. It is postmarked 17 FE 1943. Apart from the sender’s name, there are No other markings on the reverse.

The next three covers (Figures 4, 5, and 6) are not likely to have originated with the VGC Company in British Guiana, but they do present a mystery. Townsend and Howe (see References) while mentioning, but not elaborating on, the Canadian presence in British Guiana, and providing some detail on the postal markings of the American forces stationed there, state quite categorically that “[t]here were No British troops stationed in British Guiana during either of the two wars.”

If that is the case, then who applied the British Army style Crown-Circle hand-stamps and where were they applied? Such unit handstamps were usually assigned to units and applied at the sender's location. The cover addressed to Ireland has the UK PC 90 label applied over the crown handstamp, suggesting that the handstamp was not applied in the UK.



Figure 4. British Army Crown-Circle cancel number 8897.



Figure 5. British Army Crown-Circle cancel number 8799.



**Figure 6.** British Army Crown-Circle cancel number 8896.

If the handstamps were applied in British Guiana, why were three different numbered handstamps allocated to, and used in, that colony?

The Canadian Army did use this British-style handstamp in some locations: was

British Guiana one of them? Could

these hand-stamps have been used by British military staff liaising with the locally based American forces? Perhaps our colleagues in the Forces Postal History Society can lend us a hand here. None of these covers shows any markings at all on the reverse. All have been censored in British Guiana as evidenced by the presence of the censoring officer's signature. Two of the covers appear to be family correspondence and not addressed to Canada as one might expect from the VGC unit, and both appear to have been self-censored by the sender.

To conclude this picture of the Canadian Veterans Guard service overseas, No.1 General Duty Company with six officers and 231 other ranks was assigned to Canadian Forces Headquarters in London, England; while No.42 Company served at St. John's, Newfoundland as part of "W Force," with a strength of three officers and eighty other ranks.

The previously mentioned "mule skimmers" remained to escort the mules from Karachi across India into Burma. Identifiable mail from all these units is very scarce to rare and very much worth the occasional trawl through dealers' postal history boxes. Let me know if you find anything! My email address is: <eyendall@rogers.com>.

## References

- [1] WA Townsend and FG Howe: *The Postage Stamp and Postal History of British Guiana*; Royal Philatelic Society of London, London, 1970.
- [2] Harold G Gosney and Gale J Raymond, Canadian Troops in the Bahamas in World War II, *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 28, No. 2, June 1988.
- [3] Jack Davis, "The Veterans Guard of Canada," *The Canadian Military Mail Study Group Newsletter*, #56, January 1984.

## Endnotes

This article first appeared in *GEOSIX*, Whole Number 249, September 2013, the journal of the King George VI Collectors Society. Article reprinted with the permission of Eric Yendall and the King George VI Collectors Society. The Society's website URL is: <www.kg6.info>.

## Free franked mail from Sir Wilfrid Laurier

*Gordon McDermid*

ON the second of February 1903, Sir Wilfrid Laurier wrote and mailed a personal letter from his office as Prime Minister of Canada to a family friend, Madame Emma Albani, the world-famous Canadian soprano and concert performer of the era. The envelope was franked FREE, and research of the letter's background makes it apparent that it met the Government and Post Office regulations for the privilege of free mail service. It was a personal and official letter, so no postage would have been required, providing the Member of Parliament initialled the front, lower left side of the cover.

It was interesting to learn that there is correspondence related to the proper usage of free mail—dated 1895 and onward—held on microfilm at the National Archives. Included in it are several illustrations with detailed descriptions of early Government franks [1].



**Figure 1.** Front of postal cover from Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

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Keywords & phrases: Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Free Franked Mail, stampless, Privy Council



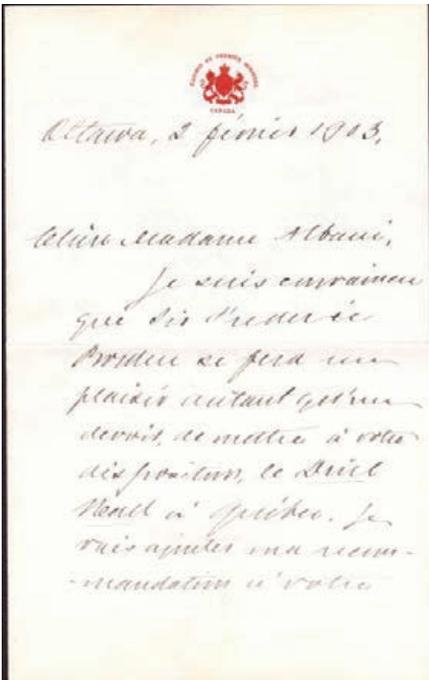
**Figure 2.** Back of postal cover, with seal.

The envelope (Front, Figure 1 and Back, Figure 2) holding the letter is franked with the free mail stamp used by the Government of Canada up until December 1926 [1]. On the stampless cover, the keyhole-shaped black frank reads “OTTAWA CANADA 17 FE2 O8” in the complete circle, and “FREE” on the bottom section. The envelope is addressed, in Laurier’s handwriting, to Madame Albani at Toronto. He has added his initials “W.L.” and the notation “P.C.” for Privy

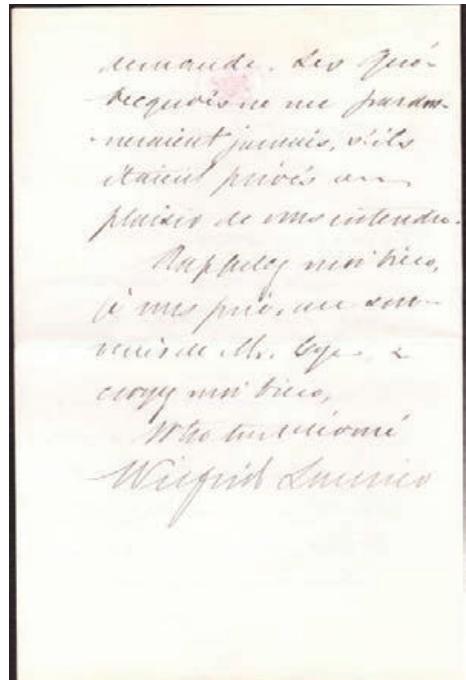
Council” to the lower left as required. The envelope was redirected from the Toronto

address to Tecumseh House, London Ont. The reverse of the postal cover has a receiving backstamp for Toronto, 3 February 1903, and a red wax seal with the letters in fancy French scroll, which I believe to be the seal of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Prime Minister Laurier’s handwritten letter (Figure 3 and Figure 4) entirely in French was not an easy read, but with some help it became clear, and further research revealed an amusing story about politics and music, and the probable advantages of having a personal friendship with the Prime Minister.



**Figure 3.** Page 1, letter to Madame Albani.



**Figure 4.** Page 2, letter to Madame Albani.

The original letter reads:

*Ottawa, 2 fevrier 1903 / Chere Madame Albani, / Je suis convaincu que Sir Frederic Borden se fera une plaisir autant qu'un deavis de mettre a votre disposition le Drill Hall a Quebec. Je vais ajouter ma recommandation a votre demande. Les Quebecois ne me pardonneraient jamais s'ils etaient prives au plaisir de vous entendre. / Rappelez moi bien, je vous prie, me souvenir de Mr. Gye. + / croyez moi bien, / Votre tout devoue / Wilfrid Laurier.*

In English, the letter reads:

*Ottawa, 2 February 1903, / Dear Madame Albani, / I am convinced that Sir Frederic Borden will be pleased to put at your disposal the "Drill Hall" at Quebec. I will add my recommendation to your request. The Quebecois would never forgive me if they were denied the pleasure of hearing you. / Speak of me well, I pray you, remember me to Mr. Gye, + / believe me, / yours truly / Wilfrid Laurier*

The letter and envelope were acquired from an auction in London, England. They were in a collection of Madame Albani's correspondence (including letters from Queen Victoria) and other papers. The collection was unsorted and has never before been available to the public.

Documents from the National Archives of Canada reveal the story behind the Prime Minister's letter to the opera singer. The story begins with a letter from Dr. Charles Harriss [2], who had an extensive career in music and was a major organizer of concerts in Canada and throughout the British Empire. He was making arrangements for Madame Albani's Canadian tour, and on 1 January 1903 he sent a letter from his Earncliffe Ottawa home (formerly the home of Sir John A Macdonald and currently the residence of the British High Commissioner to Canada) to Colonel Pinault, Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence in Ottawa. His letter reads [3]:

*Madame Albani is desirous of singing in Quebec on February 13. As there is no public building available in that city, Madame Albani desires me to present her respects to the Honourable the Minister, and to ask if she might be allowed the privilege of using the Drill Hall for her concert on the date mentioned. Would you very kindly aid me in this matter; and with my best respects to the Honourable Minister and Yourself, believe me, Yours very truly, Charles E. Harriss.*

The letter of request was worked through the military bureaucracy of Colonels and Generals and, on 15 January 1903, the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence sent a reply to Dr. Harriss. It read [4]:

*With reference to your letter of the 1st instant, applying for the use of the Drill Hall, at Quebec, for a concert to be given by Madame Albani, on February the 13th, I have the honour to inform you that the General Officer Commanding reports that he is unable to recommend the Hall being used for this purpose owing to its being required for drilling and other purposes on the date named.*

It seems that Madame Albani began a correspondence with her friend the Prime Minister at that time. Prime Minister Laurier replied to Madame Albani on 2 February 1903 (Figure 5). After his talk with the Minister of Militia and Defence, a follow-up memo was sent on 9 February 1903, from the Private Secretary of Minister of Militia and Defence to the Deputy Minister and the General Officer Commanding, stating that "The Minister

desires use of Drill Hall to be given to Madame Albani for afternoon and evening of 19th instance.” [5] Finally, according to Quebec newspapers of the day, Madame Albani held her concert in the Drill Hall on 19 February 1903 to an "... immense audience of enthusiastic admirers whose applause became unbounded and the prima donna was compelled to return to the stage to sing five times in succession ...”[6]. The Celine Dion of her day, without a doubt!

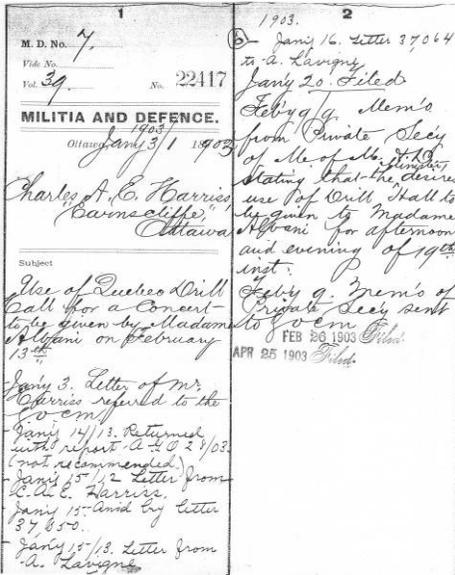


Figure 5. Canada Archives summary of file correspondence.

At the age of 11, Wilfrid left home to study in New Glasgow, a nearby town largely inhabited by immigrants from the British Isles. Over the next two years, he had the opportunity to familiarize himself with the language and culture of English-speakers. In 1864, Laurier earned a Bachelor of Civil Law at McGill University’s Faculty of Law in Montreal. He was Valedictorian of his graduating class and is considered one of Canada’s great statesmen. The first francophone Prime Minister, Laurier is well-known for his policies of conciliation, nation-building, and compromise between French and English Canada. He argued for an English-French partnership in Canada. “I have had before me as a pillar of fire,” he said, “a policy of true Canadianism, of moderation, of reconciliation.” Laurier was also well regarded for his efforts to establish Canada’s as an autonomous country within the British Empire. His fifteen-year tenure remains the longest unbroken term of office among Prime Ministers, and his nearly forty-five years (1874–1919) of service in the House of Commons is a record in Canadian politics, unmatched by any other politician [7][8].

and the prima donna was compelled to return to the stage to sing five times in succession ...”[6]. The Celine Dion of her day, without a doubt!

To conclude, I have provided brief biographical notes about Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Madame Emma Albani. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, PC, GCMG, KC, BCL, DCL, LLD, DLitt—baptized Henri-Charles-Wilfrid Laurier (1841–1919)—was the seventh Prime Minister of Canada, in office from 11 July 1896 to 7 October 1911. He was born in Saint-Lin (today called Saint-Lin-Laurentides), Quebec. He grew up in a family where politics was a staple of talk and debate. His father, an educated man with liberal ideas, enjoyed a certain degree of prestige in the town. In addition to being a farmer and surveyor, he occupied such sought-after positions as mayor, justice of the peace, militia lieutenant, and school board member.



Figure 6. Post card with 1927 Prime Minister Laurier stamp.

Canada Post issued a Sir Wilfrid Laurier stamp on 29 June 1927 (Figure 6) and Caricature Definitive on 17 October 1973.



**Figure 7.**  
Madame Albani.

Madame Albani (Emma Lajeunesse (Gye), 1852–1930) (Figure 7), born in Chambly, Quebec, was a world-famous Canadian operatic and oratorio singer of the nineteenth century. She married Ernest Gye and lived in England. Madame Albani was a favourite of Queen Victoria and the Royal Family and, in 1901, she had the honour of singing at the private family funeral service for Queen Victoria in the chapel at Windsor Castle [9][10]. She was in Canada for a two-month tour [10] in 1903, the date of the letter from Laurier. Canada Post issued a Madame Albani cover and stamp on 4 July 1980 in recognition of

her historical contribution to music in Canada (Figure 8).



**Figure 8.** Day of Issue cover with Emma Albani stamp.

## References

- [1] Fred Jarrett, *Standard British North America Catalogue*, 1929, p. 559.
- [2] Charles AE Harriss, *The Canadian Encyclopedia 2012*, Historical Foundation of Canada.
- [3] Library and Archives, Canada letter M&D 22417 of Charles Harriss, 1 January 1903.
- [4] Library and Archives, Canada letter M&D 22417 of Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence, 15 January 1903.
- [5] Library and Archives, Canada MD, No. 7, Vol.39, No. 22417 file summary sheet entry, 9 February 1903.
- [6] *Quebec Daily Mercury*, 20 February 1903.
- [7] Biography Collections, canada.gc.ca, Sir Wilfrid Laurier.
- [8] The Canadian Encyclopaedia, Biography of Prime Ministers, Sir Wilfrid Laurier.
- [9] Biography Collections, canada.gc.ca, Emma Albani.
- [10] Emma Albani, *Forty Years of Song*, London: Mills & Boon, 1911.

## Endnotes

Figure 1 through Figure 3 and Figure 5 through Figure 7 are from the collection of Gordon McDermid. Figure 4 is photocopied from Archives Canada RG9 Series document, iia1, Vol. 359, p. 7, file 22417.

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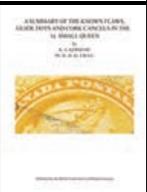
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	<p><b>Postal usages in the Province of Quebec and Lower Canada until 1831</b>, 2013, by Christiane Faucher and Jacques Poitras. A fascinating look at the seldom-seen postal history of Quebec during the French regime and up to 1831. Spiral bound, 86 pp <b>\$51.00</b></p>
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# Study group centreline

*Derek Smith*

**C**ENTRELINE presents brief summaries of the specialized research done by BNAPS members as published in the newsletters of its many Study Groups. This column reviews those received between the end of August and the end of November.

## British Columbia

Issue #87. Editor Bill Topping shows an 1897 cross-border cover from Cranbrook, BC to Victoria. It was, as usual, routed *via*, and cancelled at, Jennings, Montana and then through Seattle to Victoria. It bears both Canadian and US stamps, as required.

Bill furthers his study of Letter Mail Flats, illustrating some used at Vancouver postal stations and depots.

A 1937 letter that outlined conditions of a competitive examination to be a letter carrier in Trail, BC, is shown. A transcript of an interview with Ralph Spence, a CPR RPO clerk, is reprinted from a 1990s (probably) issue of *The Morning Star* newspaper. Also, more articles are reproduced from the 1960s newsletter of the Vancouver Postal Union—*The Mail Bag*. Studies on Grandview, Richmond, and postal stations “A,” “F,” and “S” are featured.

A piece by the late Bill Robinson gives details of the history of the post office at Eagle Pass, which was open for only fourteen months, from 1 March 1885. A letter from there, dated 1 September 1885, is shown.

## Dead Letter Office

Issue #11. Brian Plain presents Part 2 of his study of the Victoria Post Office and Undeliverable Mail. This article covers the “expansion period” from 1 July 1898 as the POD decentralized dead letter services and established the BC DLO in Victoria. In 1902, a second BC branch was opened in Vancouver, and the Victoria operation was limited to Vancouver Island mails. Brian provides details of the procedures and instructional markings used (and many ignored) by the Victoria office and discusses the reasons for treatment of a letter by the DLO. He also illustrates the DLO circular and oval dated Branch Office hammers.

Gary Steele discusses a new ERD for a single oval DLO handstamp used in Vancouver on 4 September 1917 on a short-paid letter to Tacoma, WA. Only three examples of this type have been reported.

## Elizabethan II

*Corgi Times*—Issue #126. Paul Smith presents a major study of Canada’s “Computer Vended Postage.” He surveys the development of the kiosk system, testing done in Canada, and the introduction in late 2012 of kiosks using Wincor Nixdorf vending machines. Postage rates available either on stamps or labels are outlined. The stamp design and printing characteristics are detailed. Existing kiosk locations are listed.

Leonard Kruczynski discusses the causes of spacing varieties between stamps of the 8¢ Library Centennial coil stamp. As CBN used the same press until 1998, similar spacing differences are noted in subsequent coil production.

Editor Robin Harris outlines the regulations related to customized postal indicia available for Addressed Admail.

Issue #127. An anonymous collector discusses his discovery of the first-used counterfeit of the 4¢ Cameo stamp in February 1965 in Montreal. The Post Office claimed the stamp, and their subsequent actions resulted in recovery of a cache of 750,000 other copies. The stamp was not returned.

Bill Robertson reports three varieties—on the 50¢ Olympic Arts stamp, on the 50¢ Constitution issue, and doubling of the inscription on the 4¢ Beneficial Insects pane. Gary Norris obtained an official FDC of the 61¢ Kiosk stamp with the stamp placed upside down on the cover. William Walton has obtained an “oddball” blue essay showing the head of Pope John XXIII, and text “Montreal/5¢/CANADA.” Correspondence accompanying the find does nothing to clear up its purpose.

Canada Post has announced its 2014 planned stamp program, which will include two types of definitives and seventeen commemoratives issues.

Issue #128. Earle Covert illustrates an Addressed Admail window envelope with a Canadian Cancer Society corner featuring the Society’s logo.

Jean Lafontaine and Earle Covert present scans proving that there were two different printings of the Kiosk stamp. Andrew Chung noted that the second printing was known by spring 2013.

Editor Robin Harris details the issue of six Superman stamp designs in three formats. Included is a coil roll of 75 stamps, reflecting the seventy-fifth anniversary of his appearance. In September, Canada Post issued items showing the seven Canadian NHL team jerseys (stamps in two formats and also post cards) and stamps with the logos of the seven teams.

## **First Day Covers**

*First Impressions*—Issue #17. Harold Houston provides details on six cachets produced by the Brockville-Prescott Stamp Club and used by members to make their own FDCs from 1978 until 1984. He lists the known FDCs (Scott numbers 721-1010).

Gary Dickinson studies the cachets produced for the thirty-five stamps issued for the 1976 Montreal Olympics. The Post Office, Colorano, and Kingswood/Fleetwood made covers for each set of stamps, while more than twenty others made them for one or more issues. More than 150 different cacheted FDCs are known, and Gary illustrates twenty-two of them.

John Van der Ven discusses and illustrates four basic cachet designs and some associated varieties that were used by Gordon Bazeley of Toronto on FDCs of various stamps issued between 1958 and 1966.

## **Illustrated Mail**

Issue #1. Editor John Burnett has produced the first newsletter of the “Illustrated Mail” Study Group, which was formed at BNAPEX with Ken Lemke as Chairman. John outlines possible parameters for the inclusion of various material—and importantly, exclusions such as picture post cards, simple corner logos, and first day covers.

Issue #2. Charles Livermore submitted three very early advertising covers—all without illustrations. One, although undated, is believed to be Canada’s first, with the other two dated 1841 and 1845. An 1854 advertising cover from Russells Hotel in Toronto is listed as

the earliest-recorded printed, illustrated hotel cover in Canada. Two modern covers with Mufti stamps were shown, one from the Scott Fruit Company and the other cover is an advertising cover for Trask Engines.

## Large and Small Queens

*Confederation*—Issue #53. Editor Glenn Archer comments on the discovery of the third 2¢ Large Queen on laid paper, verified by the VGG Philatelic Research Foundation. It was a late usage dated 16 March 1870. The (unidentified) “discoverer” describes how he found it, and his identification process.

Jim Jung has found two copies of Plate 1 6¢ Large Queens with very small “dashes” in both “6”s.

Wayne Smith and Glenn Archer have conducted a census of Large Queen 3¢ single-rate covers. They count 374 multiple frankings, and 1,596 with the one value. Bill Radcliffe shows a number of scarce Large Queen singles and covers bearing New Brunswick numeral grid cancels.

CR (Ron) McGuire displays an 8¢ registered 1897 cover, which could not be delivered and was sent to the Dead Letter Office. After inspection, it was resealed with a brown Officially Sealed Dead Letter label. Although he has never seen the CPOD criteria for use of the label, Ron believes that they were used only on letters containing “something of value” in the envelope.

John Burnett shows two unusual covers. One is a 3¢ rate pre-Confederation cover from Halifax to Charlottetown mailed in January 1873. The other is a registered post card dated 1884. Post cards could not be registered, so this was sent as a drop letter to qualify.

## Military Mail

Issue #210. Jerome Jarnick described the operations of RAF Ferry Command, established in 1941, and its successor No. 45 Group, to fly US-made aircraft to the UK. He shows a photo of operations at Dorval, and letters from its bases at Dorval and later Gander. One cover contained a letter which is transcribed in full.

Paul Binney expands upon Jerome’s earlier-published study of mail from “Q Force” based at Debert, NS from August 1941 until February 1942. He suggests that Jerome’s criteria for identifying correspondence from the base was too restrictive, and he illustrates covers to back up his thesis.

Colin Pomfret shows a cover addressed to “Madame Pope” in Germany, sent from Shilo Military Camp in Manitoba in 1950. Colin then discusses the duties of her husband, Lt General Maurice Arthur Pope. The sender was a relative who, while serving in Korea, was awarded the Military Cross.

Editor Dean Mario illustrates both sides of a post card from the Vernon, BC Museum, bearing an archival photo reproduction of Vernon’s first cadet corps, “circa 1914.”

## Newfoundland

*Newfie Newsletter*—Issue #153. Gary Dickinson reports on FDCs produced by Reverend EA Butler, bearing Newfoundland stamps and issued from 1928 to 1947. They were addressed both to him and to his customers.

Bruce Robertson's 1878 cover from Cow Head to Clifton near Bristol, England (*Newfie Newsletter*—Issue #152) leads to a discussion of life at Cow Head and the importance of the steamer service as a lifeline to coastal communities. With input from Malcolm Montgomery, the routing and postal rating of the letter is provided, including discussion of an additional fine for underpayment of postage.

Barry Senior submitted an unusual St. John's cancel on a 2¢ Caribou dated 1921 with the perforated initials "G.K." on the stamp. Rob Moore sent a scan of a 1923 cover with the same St. John's marking. Editor Dyer indicates that the initials stand for George Knowing.

Jean-Claude Vasseur has discovered another Balboa return flight cover addressed to India. Norris (Bob) Dyer presents page 15 of his exhibit of the 1897 One Cent overprint, illustrating type III in a once-only seen strip of three and on a November, 1897 cover (with a 4¢ Cabot) to the US. Also, there are "Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year from Rev. E. A. Butler"—his 1952 Christmas card.

## Pence-Cents

Issue Volume II, No. 2. In this the fourth edition from the new study group, Glenn Archer discusses his find of a possible grilled Canadian Cents issue stamp in an untouched, old-time collection that had no stamps in it after 1940. Although the VGG Foundation gave a negative opinion, the 1¢ Victoria stamp shows clearly visible "grill" lines and was probably not faked, since it also contains the E-flaw variety, which commands a premium. Glenn speculates that it may have been an attempt at grilling similar to the anti-counterfeiting-measure experiments conducted in the United States around the same time.

A major re-entry of the one-half penny (perforated) is the subject of an article by Jim McCormick. The stamp shows a doubling along the lower frame line and inside the letters HALF PENNY and POSTAGE. The stamp also has a horizontal stitch watermark. He also shows a dramatic kiss print on a 5¢ Beaver, as well as a used strip of six (or maybe five-and-a-half, since two of the stamps were damaged) of the same stamp.

Jim Jung continues his "Hunting for..." series, this time focusing on the half-penny imperforate. He shows several re-entries and paper varieties such as wove and ribbed, as well as a stitch watermark variety with a certificate.

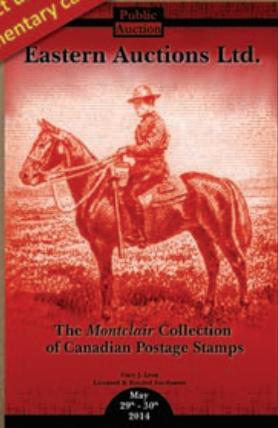
Ron Majors discusses an overweight US printed matter stamped envelope sent to Canada, for which the 1¢ due was paid with an added stamp rather than a "1" in manuscript that was more common. Postage due stamps were not available during the decimal era.

## Perfins

*The BNA Perforator*—Issue #139. The presentation of Gary Tomasson's exhibit of OHMS fakes is continued, with a detailed discussion of the "fake die" machines as well as "hole by hole" hand-produced fakes. Gary also presents numerous updates to the fifth Edition of the Handbook.

Barry Senior shows a Curzon Brothers (CB) perfin, and this leads to discussion of the English firm's Canadian agencies. Gary Steele has found two remarkable large envelopes with 1¢ and 2¢ Canadian Customs Duty BM/C (Boston Music Company) stamps attached to the reverse—the latter with a 1924 Saint John NB Duty Paid handstamp. Editor Jim Graham illustrates six covers with Maclean Publishing Co Ltd perfins on Admiral Issue stamps. Each cover has a different Maclean publication masthead.

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1988 Greene cert.

1933 20c Grain Exhibition  
overprint imperforate NH block  
Broken X variety on top right stamp  
2004 Greene cert.



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mint NH imperforate  
pair, "Man on the Mast"  
plate variety  
2000 Greene cert.

We hope that you will be able to attend this auction, which will be held in conjunction with the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada annual exhibition.

## Postal Stationery

Issue Volume 26, No. 1. Mike Sagar has discovered a CPR card, a sepia view of Mount Stephen with a 2¢ brown Arch, used in 1932. This was the final railway card issue, and this is only the eighth view confirmed of fifteen issued.

Colin Banfield sent a scan of a new earliest-reported postmark for the first post card —3 June 1871.

**The earliest-reported use of the first Canadian pre-stamped post card, Webb's P1, with a Hamilton C. W. split ring showing JU 3, 1871, and confirmed on the back by the Medical Registration Office/Province of/Ontario JUN 3 1871 handstamp marking.**



Vic Willson lists all known overseas usages of Canada first UPU card, the 2¢ issue of 1879—with many additions to his list over the past two years.

Earle Covert and Bill Walton illustrate printed corners on more post bands and wrappers—the Northern Miner (1925), Winnipeg Tourist and Convention Bureau (1925), and a souvenir wrapper made for the Ford Employees Stamp Club in Windsor, ON.

George Dresser shows both sides of a 1¢ green Edward post card sent with a Special Delivery stamp mailed in 1904. On the reverse is an etching of the Weston “Model Bakery” in Toronto.

Canada Post continues to issue a slew of new post cards—in the three months from July to September there were two additional Stella cards (one of these has been reported with a “missing colours” error), four more Canadian Recording Artists, and seven NHL-Jersey cards. A new group relating to Superman in honour of his Canadian co-creator, Joe Shuster, came out in September.

## Railway Post Offices

Issue #227. Editor Ross Gray reports a newly discovered RPO registration marking—a rubber, straight-line “FROM SWAN R. & P.A. R.P.O. TR. / R” used 13 May 1937. The postal clerk on this leg of the letter’s journey from Cranberry Portage, MB to Australia recognized that postage applied was sufficient for registration, and improvised this handstamp to indicate his registration of the item.

Ross produced detailed hammer studies of Welland Rail Road markings used on the Welland Railway from 1864 to 1876 and two hammers used by the G. W. RWY. / ACCOM. (Accommodation Train) used from 1885 until 1892—even after the GWR was taken over by the Grand Trunk Railway in 1884.

Michael Millar sent a postal cancellation used on the Royal Train in 1973. Since Canadian RPO service and special cars had been discontinued, space was made for this RPO in a regular baggage car.

Issue #228. Ross Gray shows a CPR West of Winnipeg crown wax seal applied by a mail clerk to close an unsealed registered envelope discovered in his RPO. He also shows a MOOSE JAW TERMINAL R.P.O. used in 1940 on internal post office correspondence. Stephen Sacks scanned a registered cover struck with SASK. & PR. ALBERT R.P.O. / E.S. HENDERSON, Tr. – 60, DE. 29, 27. This is an unrecorded train number, and an early date.

Sioux Allen sent a scan of an 1884 cover mailed at Norwood, ON to Ireland, carried on the CPR route between Smith's Falls and Montreal *via* Calumet and Ottawa, before the direct Montreal-Smith's Falls line was completed in 1887.

## Revenues

Issue #82. Erling van Dam illustrates and provides details on the lithographed forgeries of Quebec's 10 CENTS and 15 CENTS Chomage/Unemployment Liquor Tax stamps. Erling especially emphasizes the quality of the printing of the Coat of Arms on the forgeries, making comparison with the Coat of Arms on the recess-printed issued stamps.

Brian Peters describes the World War II distribution of cigarettes on a duty-free basis to Canadian troops on active service, including discussion of Canadian and UK official labels affixed to parcels containing them. He also shows a seal Imperial Tobacco put on the packages as well as unofficial labels reminding recipients that the cigarettes cannot be sold.

Dale Speirs shows the use of revenue stamps on cheques, promissory notes, and estate tax forms in Eckville, AB, where Dale was born. Editor Christopher Ryan discusses the use of Excise Tax stamps on memoranda denoting the transfer tax for stock and bond trades made off the Exchanges. Until 1947, these were applied to individual trades; afterwards, they were used to denote monthly bulk payments submitted to National Revenue Canada.

*NOT in the newsletter.* Christopher has compiled a Subject Index for all eighty issues of the Canadian Revenue Newsletter, from 1993 to March 2013.

## World War II

*War Times*—Issue #54. David Whiteley presents a study on the handling of mail to Axis and Axis-occupied countries from 1940–1943. Thomas Cook & Sons acted as an intermediary, initially *via* Amsterdam and later *via* Lisbon. Conditions regarding length of letters, contents, rates, and mailing procedures are detailed, as are procedures for POW mail, which was sent free of postage. Gil Vatter has studied the procedures and marks used on private post cards and postal stationery cards during World War II at Canada's seven Censor Stations. Censor marks are described by text and size. Where available, Gil notes the earliest- and latest-reported dates.

David Hanes submitted a scan of a registered window envelope mailed JAN 31, 1945. In addition to the blackout cancel, it has an empty registration box. David believes that the letter was likely sent as a drop letter within the Gaspé area.

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# An 1881 Small Queen cover to the Dakota Territory

*John Watson*

IN a pair of articles titled “Canadian Letters to the American West in the Nineteenth Century” in *BNA Topics* [1] Victor Willson presented twenty covers mailed to American Territories with the earliest dates then known for such mail. The cover in Figure 1 may be of interest as it shows a somewhat earlier date for a Canadian cover to the Dakota Territory.

Mailed in Fairfield East, Ontario where it was date-stamped AU 9 / 81, the letter picked up a Brockville, Ontario backstamp on the same day. Sent to Michelle, Dakota, it was forwarded to Plankington in the same state.

The nice thing about this cover is that, because it was re-routed, it picked up the Mitchell, Dakota transit stamp shown in Figure 2, showing a date of AUG 14 1881, a journey time of just five days. Mitchell’s first post office opened in 1879 [2], so I imagine that this is a fairly early postmark for this town.



**Figure 1.** 1881 letter from Fairfield East, Ontario to Michelle, Dakota



**Figure 2.** Mitchell cancellation.

of just five days. Mitchell’s first post office opened in 1879 [2], so I imagine that this is a fairly early postmark for this town.

## References and endnotes

- [1] Victor L Willson, “Canadian Letters to the American West in the Nineteenth Century,” Parts 1 and 2, *BNA Topics* Whole No. 469, Vol. 53, No. 4, October–December 1996, and Whole No. 470, Vol. 54, No. 1 (January–March 1997).  
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Keywords & phrases: Small Queen, postal history, Dakota Territory

# Another look at the 1929 Newfoundland trial surcharges

Norris R Dyer, OTB

**I**N 1999, I first wrote about the two trial surcharges for the 1929 provisional, Scott #160, *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* (NSSC) #164 [1]. Much has happened in the intervening fourteen years to facilitate research. I have returned to the topic with three times the number of examples I found in 1999.

## Philatelic research

I want to preface the meat of this article with a short dissertation on philatelic research—some good news and some bad news. First the good! Today’s tools for philatelic research are truly wonderful. Digital cameras, flatbed scanners, informational websites, and auction catalogues with sharp colour images have made research much easier and more satisfying. Almost all major British North American (BNA) auctions have become available online, with the ability to download images.

There are websites like *The Stamp Auction Network* (<stampauctionnetwork.com>) that are valuable for classic BNA research; another is the “rarities” listing by the Robert Siegel auction house (<siegelauctions.com>). Several years ago, John Walsh pointed out the *Philatelic Foundation* website (<philatelicfoundation.org>). Lastly, another great site is *Philatis, The Postal Archives of Canada* (<collectionscanada.gc.ca>). All these sites have search functions.

Now for the bad news: Outside of official printing numbers from government records, or Letter Bills for famous flights, there is often no empirical evidence to support pronouncements by so-called historic experts. There is now a valuable additional tool for BNA research—the Horace Harrison library of all back issues of the *BNA Topics* (thanks to people like John Walsh and Charles Livermore for putting them online). Many issues contain well-documented research, although there are also some stamp columns of limited use today. These reports featured examples of newly-discovered rarities, with no photos or detailed information. At the time, collectors might have responded, “How wonderful!” Now a typical (and appropriate) response is: “Show us!”

Unfortunately, many stamp catalogues still do not require “Show us!” but often base their listings on anecdotes, some of which are almost a century old! One example that continues to haunt Newfoundland philately is the listing of an inverted surcharge on Scott #130b and Stanley Gibbons #147c. As early as 1927, Fred Jarrett discounted the alleged sighting [2]. NSSC does not list it, but Scott and Gibbons persist, even though there is no documentation of an example, even after more than ninety years. Scott tries to have it both ways, listing the item *sans* price, with a footnote to the effect that the item is “questioned by experts.” Gibbons even prices the phantom item!

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Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland, surcharge, 1929 provisional, plating

BNA Topics, Volume 71, Number 1, January–March 2014

Even classic Newfoundland philatelic experts are fallible; this is why we continue to do research today. If we relied upon these experts one hundred percent of the time, there would be limited need for further study, or even for *BNA Topics*, for that matter. Of course, one must allow for the times in which they wrote and conducted research. Those were the days before the Internet and before digital images or scans were easily obtained. They often had to rely on anecdotes when documented evidence, such as printing records, was not available. CHC Harmer in Newfoundland Air Mails [3] is a respected expert, yet new research can still correct him.

For example, Jean-Claude Vasseur and I are showing that there is no evidence that the 1919 Handley-Page St. John's mail had examples bearing the "Atlantic Aerial Mail" handstamps. He also stated that just "a few" covers from the Harbour Grace mail of the same flight bear the cachet but, of the twenty-six examples we have seen, one hundred percent have the cachet [4]. This is just one example of recent air mail research updating the literature, much of it by Jean-Claude Vasseur, by the way.

Winthrop S Boggs has much valuable information in his classic *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland*, but this work is not without errors either [5]. Looking at the same Handley-Page flight date, he stated there were fifty-six covers from Harbour Grace, but Harmer cites the Letter Bill that shows one hundred-and-nineteen. My point is that it is up to modern researchers, with the excellent tools we now have available, to augment/correct the experts when necessary.

## The 1929 trials

During August of 1929, the Post Office ran out of the 3¢ King George V and Queen Mary definitive of the Publicity Issue, which were used primarily for inland letters. Earlier that year there had been a change in printers to Perkins Bacon & C subcontracting for Dickinson & Co. The previous printer, Whitehead, Morris Ltd, had refused to hand over the plates of the 1928 set. Although re-engraved 2¢ and 3¢ values had been released on 10 August, Patrick Hamilton in the "*Publicity*" Issue and 1929 Provisionals, from 1957 [6], states that the initial consignment was too small and was exhausted by the twelfth of the month. For those of you not familiar with Hamilton, he was a prominent philatelic author from the 1930s to the 1950s. He wrote *A Hundred Years of Postage Stamps* (1939), and *The Empire in Stamps* (1941), among others. At least one of his books was on sale on eBay when I wrote this.

While awaiting a fresh shipment, the government authorized a provisional issue. One thousand sheets of one hundred (100,000 stamps) of the 6¢ 1923 "Upper Steadies" definitive from the "Pictorial Issue" were handed to Dr Thistle's company, Trade Printers & Publishing Ltd of St. John's, with instructions to surcharge them to THREE CENTS in two lines over a lower bar obliterating the 6¢ tablets. Winthrop Boggs [5] writes that the sheets of one hundred were broken into four 5 x 5 blocks and the margins stripped off. Hamilton continues:

*The first setting to be made up showed a space of 5 mm. between the bottom of the word CENTS and the horizontal bar [below]. Two sheets [blocks] of twenty-five were overprinted with this in black, and it was seen that the space allowed was too large. The gap between CENTS and the bar was then reduced to 3 mm. and two more sheets [blocks] were overprinted; this setting being more suitable was then approved.*

The printers suggested that the final surcharge be in red, and the work proceeded. Figure 1 shows the two trials. The 5 mm is called Type I, and the 3 mm Type II. The final setting of



**Figure 1.** The two trials: the 5 mm at left and 3 mm right.

twenty-five in red is shown in Figure 2, below. The most obvious varieties are in Positions #1, 15, and 23, where the “C” of CENTS is under the “T” of THREE. The stamps were released on 23 August 1929. To complete the saga, the consensus of opinion is that three blocks, or seventy-five stamps, of the final surcharge were inverted.



**Figure 2.** Final setting with red surcharge of the 1929 provisional.

Now to the dispute! Boggs and Hamilton describe the process in the same fashion, however Boggs shows:

E24. “THREE CENTS” on 6¢ gray black. 5 mm. spacing (100)

E25. “ “ 3 mm. spacing (50?)”

I bolded the “?” as it indicates Boggs was apparently uncertain how many 3 mm were produced. The *Scott 2012 Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers* [7] states: “The stamps with black surcharges, type I and II, were first or trial printings, and were not issued. There were 50 examples of each, value, each \$1,000.” The NSSC [8] shows:

TS5 THREE CENTS (black) on 6¢ slate 5 mm [0.100 M]

TS6 THREE CENTS (black) on 6¢ slate, 3 mm [0.050 M]

The NSSC’s editor, John Walsh, tells me he is using Boggs’ numbers, absent the “?”. Neither my copy of the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* nor Stanley Gibbons show any production numbers. Because of this uncertainty, and with the help of more modern tools, I decided to do some in-depth research to supplement the cursory study I did in 1999. The 1999 study had only seventeen examples. Table A shows the twenty-six different examples of Type I, and Table B shows twenty-five of Type II for a total sample of fifty-one. Analysis of these results can be found at the end of this article. Data was obtained from the websites mentioned at the beginning of the article and after reviewing about 150 catalogues and pricelists. John Jamieson of Saskatoon Stamp Company also provided some images, and additional examples were provided by several Newfoundland specialists. Sources included (Table A and Table B): Lichtenstein Auctions of 1968–70, Sidney Harris Auctions of 1968–70, Cavendish (Zurich Sale) of 1991, Henry Schneider auction of 1996, Spink Auction of 2004 (270 Newfoundland lots), Sir Gawaine Ballie auction of 2006, Eastern Auctions catalogues from the 1990s until now, various auctions of Robert Lee, Maresch & Sons, Harmers of London, Harmers of New York, Charles Firby, Victoria Stamp Company, Robson Lowe, Christie’s, etc., Indigo prices list (Ed Wener) 1990–1996, and several examples provided by collectors.

**Table A. Three cents 5 mm above bar—Type 1**

#	Auction/Owner	Date	#	Auction/Owner	Date
1	Harmers of London	1 February 1958	14	Sotheby	6 May 2013
2	Harris	1 October 1968	15	Sotheby	6 May 2013
3	Lichtenstein	1 January 1970	16	Eastern Auctions	10 January 2013
4	Lichtenstein	1 January 1970	17	Eastern Auctions	10 August 2013
5	Lichtenstein	1 January 1970	18	Spink	11 January 2013
6	Lichtenstein	1 January 1970	19	Private owner	13 March 2013
7	Siegel (block) U.L. *	1 May 1998	20	Private owner	13 March 2013
8	Siegel (block) U.R.	1 May 1998	21	Philatis Canada (block) U.L.	13 March 2013
9	Siegel (block) L.L.	1 May 1998	22	Philatis Canada (block) U.R.	13 March 2013
10	Siegel (block) L.R.	1 May 1998	23	Philatis Canada (block) L.L.	13 March 2013

11	Harmers of London	1 July 1999	24	Philatis Canada (block) L.R.	13 March 2013
12	Ivy & Mader	1 September 1999	25	Philatis Canada	13 March 2013
13	Eastern Auctions	6 June 2013	26	Philatis Canada	13 March 2013

\* Position #1, C of CENTS under T of THREE

NOTE: There were eight examples of the 5 mm in Lichtenstein auctions of 1968–1970.

**Table B. Three cents 3 mm above bar—Type II**

#	Auction/Owner	Date	#	Auction/Owner	Date
1	Indigo (Ed Wener)	1 May 1991	13	Eastern Auctions	10 August 2013
2	Firby	1 March 1994	14	Eastern A. (block) U.L.	10 August 2013
3	Firby	1 March 1994	15	Eastern A. (block) U.R.	10 August 2013
4	Eastern Auctions	1 December 1992	16	Eastern A. (block) L.L.	10 August 2013
5	Saskatoon Stamp Co.	2 February 2013	17	Eastern A. (block) L.R.	10 August 2013
6	Eastern Auctions *	4 June 2013	18	Private owner	13 March 2013
7	Sotheby	6 May 2013	19	Philatis Canada (block) U.L.	13 March 2013
8	Sotheby	6 May 2013	20	Philatis Canada (block) U.R.	13 March 2013
9	Firby	8 September 2013	21	Philatis Canada (block) L.L.	13 March 2013
10	Eastern A. (strip of three) L.**	10 August 2013	22	Philatis Canada (block) L.R.	13 March 2013
11	Eastern A. (strip of three) M.	10 August 2013	23	Philatis Canada	13 March 2013
12	Eastern A. (strip of three) R.	10 August 2013	24	Philatis Canada ***	13 March 2013
			25	Maresch	13 November 2013

\* Position #15, C of CENTS under T of THREE

\*\* Position #1, “

\*\*\* Position #23

NOTE: There were eight examples of the 3 mm in Eastern Auction of August, 2010.

NOTE: The complete name of the Philatis Canada website is *Philatis—Postal Archives*’ of the Library and Archives Canada. I use “3-13” as the Date for these items as this is the date of this study and they reside in the archives.

I exchanged e-mail with John Jamieson about the study. He commented [9]: “I think there are far more of type II. I had 1 copy of 160i, but no scans in computer. Have 8 listings for 160ii but one was twice so 7 different stamps (at most)”. John sent me scans of five items but did not have scans of the Type I. He also did not have scans of the two Type IIs. This would have added to the distinct images I was able to use. John Walsh wrote [10]:

*Boggs as well as Lowe states all the margins were stripped off these 6-cent stamps prior to overprinting. THIS IS INCORRECT for one of these essays. Do a check of the price lists of Ed Wener (I do not have lists pre-1990). He had it for sale in his listings. He had sold to him 8 of these overprinted surcharged essay types. How do I know? It is because I sold them to Wener. The top selvedge margin with the printers + in the center of the sheet margin was on a block. Which type I cannot recall.*

I believe this sale was in the 1970s or '80s. John Walsh was correct and a number of margin copies are included in the survey. He says he has no photos of the margin copies he sold. Many of the stamps in the survey were "repeats," and several ran in at least three auctions.

I found the easiest way to distinguish within the types was by the bottom bar and the way it fell against the 6¢ tablets. If two samples were close, I would then check the centering and perforations.

## Analysis of results

There were twenty-six 5 mm copies versus twenty-five 3 mm copies, or only four percent more. This hardly suggests that there were one hundred percent more of the 5 mm released. If, in fact, fifty of each were produced, then the sample size is fifty-one percent, which indicates a very credible sample. Over the years, in surveying air mails, samples average about fifty percent. If there were one hundred of the 5 mm produced and fifty of the 3 mm, then the sample sizes would be twenty-six percent for the 5 mm and fifty percent for the 3 mm. This seems like a significant disparity.

The most logical conclusion of my updated study is that an equal number of each trial was released. This does not prove that the production was fifty each (as Scott suggests); it could also have been one hundred each, but fifty seems to be a reasonable number.

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- [4] Editor, *The Newfie Newsletter*, Newfoundland Study Group, Number 148, July–September, 2012, pp. 11–14.
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- [8] John M. Walsh and John G. Butt, *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue, 6th edition*, Walsh's Philatelic Services, St. John's, NFLD, 2006, p. 28.
- [9] E-mail communication with John Jamieson, 14 March 2013.
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# A new look at Alberta hunting stamps

*Clayton Rubec and Dale Stover*

IT has been almost fifty years since the first Alberta hunting stamp was issued in 1964. In order to mark this anniversary, the authors initiated an Alberta project in early 2012. We are reviewing the cataloguing of all the hunting licence (AW1-AW1302), resource development (AWR1-AWR29), and Wildlife in Trust for Safekeeping and Education (WISE) Foundation (AEP1-AEP4) stamps of Alberta as listed in [1].

This is an important group of stamps that alone constitute over twenty-five percent of all the stamps listed in [2]. To date, Alberta is the only group of Canadian hunting licence stamps that is in the van Dam catalogue. However, hunting licence revenue stamps exist for eight other provinces or territories in Canada. Similarly, fishing licence revenue stamps exist for six provinces, but only two of those groups of stamps have so far been included in the van Dam catalogue.

We started this project because the lists in [1] unfortunately have numerous factual errors, inconsistencies, and omission and inclusion errors. But we hope our efforts will be a positive improvement on, and not any kind of critique of, the original effort completed in the late 1980s. While we have not yet finished editing our revised cataloguing effort, we felt it would be of interest to release some initial findings.

First, some background: Ian McTaggart-Cowan and Erling van Dam collaborated to publish the first comprehensive list of these Alberta stamps for the years 1964–1981 in the 1984 edition of the van Dam catalogue. Dr. McTaggart-Cowan closely followed published regulations on what hunting licences were to be issued each year, assuming they were produced in the form of an adhesive stamp. This is not always true. Later editions of the van Dam catalogues extended this listing through 1997. These catalogues remain the definitive listing used by collectors and dealers.

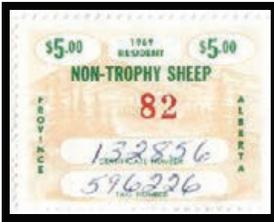
Oddly, the Alberta hunting stamps are listed in what appears to be random order. But this is not the case, as was clarified in an article by Ian McTaggart-Cowan [3]. He had access to Alberta Government sales data for these stamps for the 1964–1985 period, for Resident, Non-Resident Canadian, and Non-Resident Alien licences. In his article [3], he provided some data for Resident stamps, listing the top twenty-three stamps sold each year for 1964 through 1985. This methodology was thus used to list the stamps by year in [1].

While one preference would have been to simplify the list by arranging stamps alphabetically, we agreed that many collectors find the listing helpful as is, because it presents the most common stamps first and the rarest last. So we stuck with McTaggart-Cowan's original method of listing [3]. However, it remains clear that even the most common surviving hunting stamps from Alberta today are low in total numbers. A good estimate of the most common stamp would be fewer than 200 copies now in existence. The rarer stamps include all of the Non-Resident (Canadian and Alien) issues, all Resident and Non-Resident Special stamps, and numerous stamps issued in very low numbers to begin with.

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Keywords & phrases: Alberta, Alberta Hunting Stamps, revenues, hunting stamps

We then faced the task of correcting errors and removing stamps that do not exist, plus adding any new stamps (Figure 1) discovered since the original list was compiled. Figure 1 is a 1969 Alberta Resident Non-Trophy Sheep hunting stamp that is not listed in [1]. It is the only Alberta hunting stamp in 1969 with the year in the design; and only two copies are



**Figure 1. Non-listed 1969 Alberta Resident Non-Trophy Sheep hunting stamp. Only two copies are known to exist (image from Clayton Rubec).**

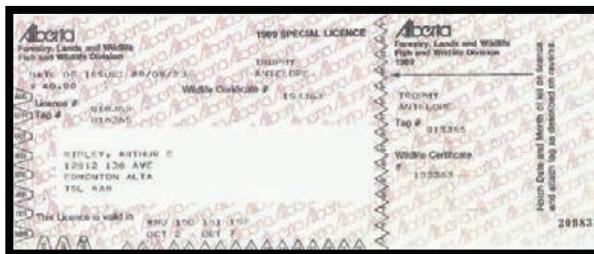
known to exist. To do this, we compiled a digital database of images in colour of all the stamps in this group and used this data base to guide the editing task. So far, this database includes digital colour images of 1,080 stamps and seventy-six stampless cards. These images comprise eighty-four percent of all the actual Alberta stamps that we now feel exist, and fifty-four percent of the stampless cards that we think may exist. We have now separated the “stamps” known to be stampless cards in the Resident Special category and a few other pre-1970 stamps now proven to be paper licences without a stamp.

(1,280 unique adhesive stamps in total). This is five percent fewer than the total number of Alberta stamps envisaged in [1]. This accounts for all deletions and additions of stamps, and exclusion of all stampless cards to avoid their further confusion with the stamps. Figure 2 is a paper Spring Bear Hunting Licence for a Non-Resident Canadian without any fee stamp. It is listed as a stamp (AW10) in [1], but no such stamp exists. The listing of this stamp should be deleted, as it exists only as a paper document. However, Resident Special Licence stampless cards are valid licences and are revenue items produced from 1988 to 1997. As we have not seen any Non-Resident Special Licence stampless cards, we assume they do not exist. In the 1960–1969 period, a few low-demand licences exist only as stampless paper forms.

In terms of collecting these stamps, we now believe that 1,232 Alberta hunting licence, forty-five revenue development, and three WISE foundation stamps exist



**Figure 2. Spring Bear Hunting Licence for a Non-Resident Canadian, no fee stamp. (image from Dale Stover).**



**Figure 3. Two-part Trophy Antelope Resident Special Licence limited to Wildlife Management Units 150, 151 or 152 on 2–7 October 1989 (image from Dale Stover).**

Our cataloguing project is still ongoing. We will be creating a separate listing of the Resident Special Licence stampless cards and adding a section for stamps with no residency class indicated. Figure 3 is an example of a two-part Trophy Antelope Resident Special Licence limited to Wildlife Management Units 150, 151 or 152 on 2–7 October 1989. This stampless Licence is listed as being a stamp (AW824) in [1]. It should not be listed as a stamp; rather, it is better listed separately as a stampless licence document.

A small number of stamps issued from 1964 to 1969 were used in more than one year. Where such a stamp was used in this manner, it will be noted and no new catalogue number assigned to it after its first use. Duplicate and non-existent (never printed) stamp listings will be deleted; newly found stamps (yes this is still occurring—as recently as February 2013) will be added. The exact wording on the stamps for species covered by a licence will be corrected if necessary. All fee values listed will be standardized to be the face value without Goods and Services Tax (GST) included. Other editing corrections such as properly listing the colour of the stamps will be done.

Here are some findings so far, with the number of copies listed:

- (a) Alberta hunting licence (AW) stamps listed in [1]: 1,308.
- (b) Alberta hunting licence stamps now known to exist as adhesive stamps: 1,232.
- (c) Resource Development (AWR) stamps listed in [1]: 31.
- (d) Resource Development (AWR) stamps actually in existence: 45.
- (e) WISE Foundation (AEP) stamps listed in [1]: 4.
- (f) Wise Foundation (AEP) unique stamps: 3 (the 1996 AEP stamp is identical to the 1997 AEP stamp).
- (g) Total number of stamps listed in [1] for Alberta (AW, AWR and AEP groups): 1,343.
- (h) Alberta stamps that do not exist or are deleted from our new listing because they are duplicates or listing errors: 46 stamps. In addition, a total of 116 stampless cards listed as stamps in [1] are thus not stamps and will be removed. Thus, 162 items listed in [1] are to be deleted.
- (i) We are creating a separate listing of all the stampless Special Licence cards or otherwise stampless licence paper forms. It will be at least 145 items.
- (j) Stamps not previously listed (new finds): 74 stamps. Another 25 previously unlisted stampless cards have been added and more likely exist. There are thus a total of 99 new items, so far.
- (k) Stampless cards visually verified to exist: 76 out of 141 cards that we currently believe exist.
- (l) Proofs (incomplete stamps) seen: 5.
- (m) Stamps with printing errors creating doubled type, doubled colour printing or spelling errors (new or already listed): 6.
- (n) Existing catalogue listings requiring edits in the colours, format, residency class, wording, spelling, or the fee value stated in [1].

Our new catalogue list for Alberta will eventually appear. This is subject of course to further new finds cropping up as we go, and to filling in more of the data gaps for the sixteen percent of the Alberta material that we have not yet visually verified. Clayton hopes to incrementally release new listings for all Canadian jurisdictions, updating information published in [2].

For example, complete listings of the hunting stamps of Nova Scotia up to 2010, the hunting stamps of the Northwest Territories, a single fishing stamp of Prince Edward Island, and the hunting and fishing stamps of British Columbia up to 2012 are now available. Extensive but still incomplete data sets of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick hunting stamps also now exist. Huge gaps for Saskatchewan fishing, Quebec hunting, and Ontario hunting and fishing stamps still exist. No adhesive hunting or fishing licence stamps for Newfoundland, Nunavut, or Yukon have been seen. Do any exist?

Our thanks are extended to several individuals who have contributed additional scans or copies of Alberta material for use in this project, including: Fritz Angst (Minneapolis, Minnesota); Roger Beals (Hemming, Minnesota); Earle Covert (Raymond, Alberta); Erling van Dam (Bridgenorth, Ontario); and Edward Zaluski (Ottawa, Ontario). A few images in our digital data set were also derived from online dealer and eBay sources.

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# A well-travelled Small Queen UPU cover to France with a provenance—almost!

Ronald E Majors



Figure 1. 1893 Cover from St Catharines, ON, to von Ferrary, Paris, France.

At first appearance, the cover pictured in Figures 1 and 2 is a fairly ordinary Universal Postal Union (UPU) letter sent from Canada to France at the then-current 5¢ per ½ ounce rate. Mailed from St Catharines, Ontario, the envelope was addressed to Philip La Renotiere von Ferrary, with the city destination only—Paris, France—identified. At the time, von Ferrary, pictured in Figure 3, was the Duke of Galliera but, when asked his occupation, he proclaimed that he was a *stamp collector*.

This legendary stamp collector was born to the de Ferrari family, rivals of the Rothschilds, and his father was one of the richest businessmen in Europe at the time. The younger von Ferrary (following his father's death, he changed the spelling of his name after renouncing all of his titles) assembled, at the time, the most complete worldwide classic collection that ever existed or is ever likely to exist.

Among his extremely rare stamps and covers were the unique Treskilling Yellow of Sweden, the 1856 one-cent Black on Magenta of British Guiana, the only unused copy of the two-cent 1851 Hawaii Missionary, and the only-known cover featuring both values of the first Mauritius “Post Office” stamps. The list goes on.

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Keywords & phrases: von Ferrary, small Queen, France, DLO



Figure 1 Back of von Ferrary cover to Paris, France

There are two interesting aspects of this cover: (1) The underlying reason why this letter was sent to von Ferrary in the first place, and (2) The multiple handstamps and manuscript notations depicting its journey and problems encountered. To understand these aspects, I would like to retrace its routing. It was mailed by William A Beatty from St Catharines on 15 January 1893. Evidently, Beatty was a stamp dealer and auctioneer who advertised his auctions in the *Ontario Philatelist*, a stamp newspaper published in the nineteenth century [1].

A handstamp on the back of the cover indicated it passed through Toronto on JA 16, '93, probably sent abroad via Portland or Boston since, undoubtedly, the St Lawrence River was frozen and ships weren't coming to Montreal, the fairweather point of ship departures to England. There is no indication which port the letter actually passed through on its way to England. It did arrive there though, having first been received by the office dealing with damaged mail. On the letter are two different types of officially-sealed labels. The differences in the paper and printing on the two sets of stickers are apparent. The "Found Open and Officially Sealed" with the Crown and VR sticker on the front left hand side of the envelope were applied en route to France. Evidently, the envelope was somehow damaged during transit from Canada to England. As depicted in Figure 2, on 1 February 1893, one of these Found Open and Officially Sealed labels (on the back right hand side) was endorsed by inspector 9B in black ink manuscript with the date 2.1.93. Once the envelope was sealed and repaired, it was forwarded to the London transit office. Two London transit marks in red dated the next day, 2 February 1893, on the front indicated that it was ready to send on to France. Some additional accountancy markings were applied on the front. First two large "5<sup>D</sup>" handstamps in black were applied, then crossed out with blue crayon. Evidently, these accountancy marks were to indicate the amount due to the British Post Office, but the 5¢ rate should have taken it to the final destination so the 5<sup>D</sup> was crossed out. A circled "T" on the front usually indicates postage due and may have been applied in London also. The cover also has some additional accountancy marks, a circled "3"

in red and an oval “8/6” in black, on the back. The source of these marks (British or French) is not clear or, as speculated later, could have been handstamps associated with the Dead Letter Office (DLO) office in Canada where the letter eventually ended its long journey.



**Figure 2. Count Philip La Renotiere von Ferrary.**

We do know that the letter made it to France as evidenced by the French 50-centime postage due stamp affixed to the front of the cover. Although the letter was addressed only to Paris, France, with no street address, the French postal authorities were still able to locate the well-known Count, who was born in the sumptuous Hotel Matignon on Rue de Varenne in Paris and lived there all of his life. At the top of the back of the letter, written in black ink manuscript, one can see “257 Rue de Var....,” the remainder of the street name being blocked by the Officially Sealed sticker. When an attempted delivery was made, von Ferrary—or someone else in his household—refused the letter as evidenced by the *Refusé* in manuscript. When returned to the French post office, a rectangular blocked *REFUSÉ* handstamp was applied on the back, and “*Retour a l’envoyeur 9*” (Return to sender) on the front to begin the long journey back to Canada.

The first stop on the return journey was the London transit office. Some additional markings indicate that perhaps the letter was not in the best state. On the back is a large, purple, rectangular handstamp in French and English (the latter mostly hidden by an “Officially Sealed” sticker) that states (here in English)—“*arrived in bad condition in the London Returned Letter Office.*” It is possible that the cover was further damaged during its transit to France and back again; the damaged letter was first encountered at the Returned Letter Office (RLO) where it was opened by an inspector and the contents were revealed. In red ink, a manuscript was written vertically on the left hand front side. It reads “*When received in R.L.O. London contained 1 sealed packet with 18(?) Canadian 1/2c stamp \_\_\_\_\_*” (the last word is covered by a sticker).

In addition, the addressee (von Ferrary) and the delivery city (Paris) were crossed out with the same red pen. Next, to repair the damage and to secure the letter, the RLO put additional stickers on the top and bottom of the envelope which stated “Officially Sealed in the Returned Letter Office, London.” These stickers were a different colour and had different printing than those applied initially on the way to France.

With the envelope now being secured, it was returned to Canada and immediately sent to the DLO where, on the back, a CDS receiver handstamp was applied on FE 16 1893. The next day a smaller DLO CDS was applied. Underneath the larger DLO handstamp are two circular shift stamps marked “3” in red and “8/6”—these may indicate the numbers of the Post Office employees working that shift who applied the receiver(s). Underneath the smaller DLO handstamp (dated FE 17 93) is a faint shift marking (square) with a small Maltese cross on the bottom, the letters “O” on the right hand side and what appears to be the letter “K” on the opposite side. The next step in the process would have been to insert the entire into a Dead Letter Return envelope which, of course, will never be found. [2]

Since there was no street address for Mr Beatty, apparently no attempt was made to deliver it, although strangely there is a very faint purple handstamp of WA Beatty, St. Catharines, Ont. diagonally struck across the back. It may have been applied by Mr Beatty, when he was eventually tracked down and received the letter. Somewhere, the cover was roughly opened, and some of the officially sealed stickers applied in London removed, as evidenced by the missing piece on the left hand side of the back.

Now, the question arises, why did Mr Beatty send a number of ½¢ stamps to Count von Ferrary? Perhaps Dealer Beatty thought that von Ferrary was interested in purchasing these stamps for his collection and sent them to France hoping he would make a sale. If the stamps were unsolicited, it might be likely that von Ferrary or his secretary refused the letter since he was unaware of Mr Beatty, who was identified on the front and back of the letter. It could be that von Ferrary or his secretary actually opened the letter, saw what the contents were, and put the stamps back in the envelope, wrote “*refusé*” on the back and gave it back to the postman without sealing it. This could explain why the letter was received in damaged condition at the London RLO. Obviously, we will never know, but the travels of—and attention paid to—this little cover were remarkable.

## References

- [1] [http://archive.org/stream/ontphilat18969800postuoft/ontphilat18969800postuoft\\_djvu.txt](http://archive.org/stream/ontphilat18969800postuoft/ontphilat18969800postuoft_djvu.txt)  
 [2] Gary Steele, private communication, 15 November 2013.

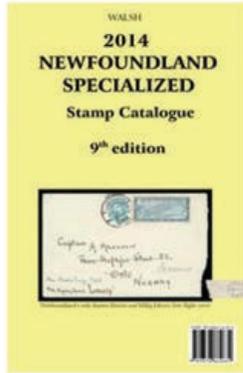
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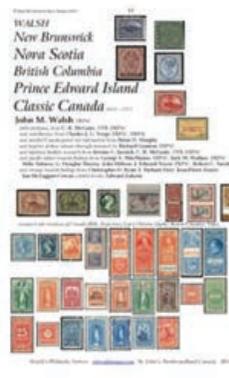
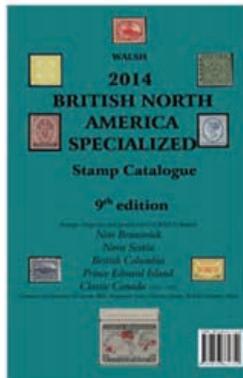
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## The first Canada Post Office Department Dead Letter Office “Officially Sealed” label

CR McGuire, OTB FRPSC

THE envelope in Figure 1 was postmarked with a “TORONTO / PM / OC 30 / 97 / CANADA” circle date stamp (CDS) cancellation; two additional strikes were applied across the back flap. The 8¢ Small Queen paying the domestic first class registered rate was tied and cancelled with the “R” in oval handstamp. The “BROCKVILLE / AM / OC 31 / 97 / ONT.” CDS mark on the reverse confirms receipt in Brockville the next morning.



**Figure 1. 1897 registered letter from Toronto to Brockville with Dead Letter Office Officially Sealed label affixed.**

When the addressee did not claim the letter, the “NOT-CALLED-FOR” handstamp was added, and the cover sent to the Dead Letter Office (DLO) in Ottawa, on “AM / DE 1,” shown by the same Brockville CDS on the front. This was in compliance with point 4 of the “Dead and Undelivered Letters, &c.” regulation in the 1897 *Canada Official Postal Guide* which states: “The reason for the non-delivery of every letter or other article of mailable [sic] matter must be stamped or written on the address side thereof before being sent to the Dead Letter Office.” It arrived at the DLO the same day, according to the nicely struck “RECD AT DEAD LETTER OFFICE / 1 / DE 11 / 97 / CANADA.” (Figure 2), and was opened to determine the name of the sender.

The DLO record number “92170” was added, and a copy of the first DLO Officially Sealed label (Unitrade OX-1; Walsh OS -1) used to seal the envelope after examination. Unfortunately, the label was not tied, even though a poorly struck and different DLO CDS was added. This hammer, with the same text as the DLO receiver but no device number,

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Keywords & phrases: Officially Sealed, Dead Letter Office

was applied on “DE 15.” Note also that the distance between the “e” of “OFFICE” and the “A.” of “CANADA” is much shorter. December 15 was probably the date the envelope was put into the so-called “ambulance” envelope to be returned to the sender, who was required, during the period 1 October 1875 to 31 December 1898, to pay a returned letter fee of three cents. The introduction of the lower domestic letter rate on 1 January 1899 reduced the charge to two cents.

As a registered letter, it may have contained something of value, probably a cash payment for Dr Bourne’s medical services, requiring the use of the DLO label to seal the envelope. Like many similar covers, the label is creased because it was folded over the edge of the envelope to make the seal; however, unlike the majority of used seals, it is not severed in half. Fortunately, the addressee opened the envelope along the top, not down the side as the DLO employee had.

The vast majority of letters processed by the DLO were simply returned unsealed to the sender in an “ambulance” envelope. Despite decades of searching I have never found the Canada Post Office Department (CPOD) criteria for the use of any of the four different “Officially Sealed” labels by DLO employees to seal an opened envelope. While I assume such criteria must have existed, until I see them I will continue to believe that something of value must have been found to justify their use, as in the case of this letter.



**Figure 2.** DLO receiving cancel.

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# New issues

*William JF Wilson*

## A regiment, a battle, and an artist

THE fourth stamp in Canada Post's *Regiments* series was released on 18 October 2013. The first three were issued as a set in 2012, honouring The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, and The Royal Regiment of Canada. This year's stamp (depicted in Figure 1) honours The Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment on the occasion of its 150th anniversary (1863–2013).



**Figure 1**

The modern Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment came into being on 15 March 1920, with the amalgamation of The 49th Hastings Rifles and The 16th Prince Edward Regiment. According to the Regiment's website ([www.theregiment.ca](http://www.theregiment.ca)), the history of both earlier regiments extends back to United Empire Loyalist militias in Hastings County and Prince Edward County in the Midland District of Upper Canada in the early nineteenth century: the former to 1804 with the formation of the 1st Regiment of Hastings Militia, and the latter to 1800 with the formation of the 1st Regiment of Prince Edward Militia. Cost-saving measures by the government in 1954 saw the Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment absorb the Midland Regiment, the 34th Battalion and the Argylls, the latter with a history extending back to the formation of the 15th Battalion of Volunteer Militia (Argyllshire Infantry) on 16 January 1863. This date is now regarded as the founding date for the Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment.

The Regiment saw extensive action in both world wars, including the Battles of the Somme, Ypres, and Amiens in WWI and the capture of Sicily, the push up the Italian peninsula, and the liberation of Holland in WWII.

Featured centrally on the stamp is a painting, *Assault on Assoro*, by Montreal-born landscape painter and war artist Edward Fenwick (Ted) Zuber (1932- ). The assault depicted

took place during the invasion of Sicily by the Allies in WWII. The seaborne invasion began on 10 July 1943, with landings by the British Eighth Army on the south and southeast coasts of the island and the American Seventh Army on the southwest coast. The 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Division, part of the British Eighth Army, landed near Pachino at the southern tip, and over the next ten days was able to advance relatively steadily into the central part of the island. Further progress was, however, blocked by a strong German presence on Monte Assoro which, at 906 metres, towered over the surrounding terrain. The easier, west side of the mountain was heavily defended, and the east side appeared almost impossibly steep. The Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment was, nevertheless, assigned to capture the summit by a night ascent up the east side. The operation began at 21:30 on 19 July, with an assault company of about sixty carefully selected volunteers in the lead. Reaching the top at dawn, the Regiment took the enemy completely by surprise and secured the summit. Further action from the summit, attacks from below, and artillery fire brought the mountain under Allied control by the morning of 23 July. That and the capture of the nearby town of Leonforte by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade allowed the Division to resume the push toward the Straits of Messina.

Ted Zuber's skill as a military and landscape artist comes not only from his formal training at *École des Beaux-Arts de Montréal* and his Fine Arts degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., but also from his experience as a combatant in the Korean War. He had developed a strong interest in painting while very young and, after leaving high school, he began a five-year apprenticeship in Kingston as a commercial photographer, a career that he felt could support his art [1]. However, he also grew up during WWII, when the prevailing ethos was that men wore uniforms. The Korean War began on 25 June 1950 and, by August, he had taken a break from his apprenticeship and signed up. After sixteen weeks of basic training at Camp Borden, Ont., followed by training in parachute jumping and Arctic survival, he became a parachutist with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment. When the battalion was posted to Korea in April, 1952, he saw action first at Hill 187 and then joined a new rifle company at Hill 355 (Little Gibraltar) as a Bren Gunner [1]. (Hills in the Korean campaign were identified by their elevations in metres above sea level.) In October, he was invited to take a sniper course. Ted Barris [2], who interviewed Zuber, wrote this: "Because of his photography apprenticeship, Zuber immediately understood the optics of sniper scopes and geometric angles. His art experience helped him recognize perspective, distinguish man-made versus natural positions, and make field sketches that a camera couldn't capture." His task was to destroy enemy snipers before they could hurt UN forces (in particular, the Canadians).

Zuber's military career ended in early 1953 with a grenade blast [2]—a new recruit dropped a primed grenade with a four-second fuse. Instead of trying to hurl it away, the recruit panicked and ran. When it exploded, Zuber was far enough away that his wounds were limited to receiving shrapnel in his buttocks and legs; others weren't so lucky.

About twenty years later, realizing that he was starting to forget some of his wartime experiences, he decided to put his memoirs on canvas [1]. These paintings drew the attention of the Canadian War Museum, in part because Canada had not sent a war artist to Korea. Although Zuber had made many reconnaissance sketches as a scout, and a number of personal sketches, his role in the Battalion had been a combatant, not an artist. An artist-veteran, painting the war from experience, was welcome news to the museum, and many of

his paintings now hang there. Later, in recognition of his artistic skill, he was selected by the Canadian Armed Forces Civilian Artist Program as Canada's only official war artist in the Gulf War, serving as a commissioned captain. Zuber is in fact the only Canadian to have received service medals from both the Korean War and the Gulf War [2].

The information in the accompanying tables is from the Canada Post website, <<http://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/personal/collecting/stamps/2013/index.jsf>> Canada Post's *Details / en Détail* publication, and philatelic inscriptions on the stamps. Where the number of lithographic colour dots on the stamp selvage differs from that published by Canada Post, the selvage is taken as correct. Stamp size, perforations and number of teeth are my own measurements, and are given as (HORIZONTAL) x (VERTICAL).

## References and endnotes

- [1] EF Zuber, talking to Liana Voia on Blogtalkradio, 22 November 2012 <<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/multiplearts/2012/11/22/ted-zuber--war-artist-landscapes-painter>>
- [2] T Barris, 2009. *Breaking the Silence: Veterans' Untold Stories from the Great War to Afghanistan*. Thomas Allen Publishers, Markham, Ontario, pp 125-134.
- [3] ABBREVIATIONS: *number*CL = (*number of colours*) colour lithography; Bk = booklet; CBN = Canadian Bank Note Co.; G4S = general tagging (four sides); L-M = Lowe-Martin; P = permanently equal to the domestic rate; P-S = pressure-sensitive; s-t = se-tenant; SP = special pane; SS = souvenir sheet.



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**Table 1. 2013 Commemoratives** (all are on Tullis Russell-coated paper; tagging G4S)

Stamp	NHL	Superman	Community Foundation	Hastings & Edward Regiment	HRH Prince George of Cambridge	Saint Anne	Christmas Crafts
<b>Value</b>	7 x 63¢ Jerseys (s-t on SP) 7 x 63¢ Logos (s-t on SS)	6 x P (5 s-t on SS)	63¢ + 10¢	P	P	63¢	63¢, \$1.10, \$1.85 (s-t on SS)
<b>Issued</b>	03 Sep	10 Sep	30 Sep	18 Oct	22 Oct	22 Oct	22 Oct
<b>Printer</b>	L-M	L-M	CBN	L-M	L-M	L-M	L-M
<b>Pane</b>	Bk: 10 Coil: 50	Bk: 10 SS: 5 Coil: 75	Bk: 10	Bk: 10	Bk: 10	Bk: 12	63¢: Bk 12; \$1.10, \$1.85: Bk 6; SS: 3
<b>Process</b>	( <sup>Ⓟ</sup> SP, SS: 7 <sup>Ⓟ</sup> A,C,F: 7CL; B,D,G: 6CL, 7CL( <sup>Ⓟ</sup> ) E <sub>3</sub> J,M,N; SS: 5CL; H <sub>1</sub> J,K,L; 4CL SP: 7CL + embossing <sup>Ⓟ</sup> A,C: 2; 8; B,E,F,G: 2; 1	Bk: 6 SS: 0.25	5CL	6CL	7CL	6CL	63¢, \$1.85: 7CL \$1.10: 8CL
<b>Quantity (million)</b>	D: 1.4; H <sub>1</sub> J: 1.75; I,L,M,N: 1.05 K: 0.7; SP: 0.25; SS: 0.23	3	3	1.5	3	9.6	63¢: 20.4 \$1.10: 3.78; \$1.85: 3.66; SS: 0.16
<b>Gum</b>	Bk, coil: P-S <sup>Ⓟ</sup> SP, SS: PVA	Bk, coil: P-S SS: PVA	P-S	P-S	Bk: P-S SS: PVA	P-S	P-S
<b>Size, mm</b>	Jerseys (SP): 40 x 32 Logos (SS): 24 x 20	Bk, SS: 32 x 40 Coil: 20 x 24	24 x 36	40 x 30	32 x 32	25.9 x 31.9( <sup>Ⓟ</sup> )	22 x 24
<b>Perf</b>	( <sup>Ⓟ</sup> SP: 12.5 x 12.5 SS: 13.3 x 13.0	Bk, coil: Simulated SS: 12.5 x 12.5	Simulated	Simulated	Bk: Simulated SS: 12.5 x 12.5	Simulated	Bk: Simulated SS: 13.6 x 13.3
<b>Teeth</b>	Bk, coil: Simulated SS: 16 x 13 Bk, coil: Simulated	Bk, coil: Simulated SS: 25 x 20	Simulated	Simulated	Bk: Simulated SS: 20 x 20	Simulated	Bk: Simulated SS: 15 x 16

(<sup>Ⓟ</sup>) Jerseys: A, Canadiens; B, Senators; C, Maple Leafs; D, Jets; E, Flames; F, Oilers; G, Canucks. Logos: H, Canadiens; I, Senators; J, Maple Leafs; K, Jets; L, Flames; M, Oilers; N, Canucks; SP, special pane (jerseys); SS, souvenir sheet (logos).

(<sup>Ⓟ</sup>) Listed as 6CL in Canada Post's *Detailed*. (<sup>Ⓟ</sup>) Listed as 26.25 x 32.25 in Canada Post's *Detailed*.

BNA Topics, Volume 71, Number 1, January–March 2014

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## Postal potpourri 22. Post Office handling of “Special Service” mail entering Canada

Earle Covert, OTB

A series about items that can be purchased or found at post offices in Canada, or new series of labels and markings used on Canadian mail, with an occasional side-trip back in time.

CANADA Post designates mail coming into the country via the EMS (Courier), Registered, Xpresspost and Customs systems as “Special Service”. All require special labels on the envelopes or packages. Many of the labels have M, T, or V in the lower left corner. Our local Postmistress was quick to tell me the practical use for these letters. She told me that if a special service item is refused or otherwise not deliverable, it has to be returned to the sender via the postal entry point into Canada. Apparently all mail entering Canada currently comes only through Montreal, Toronto, or Vancouver. In this article, we are looking at how this mail is treated once it arrives.

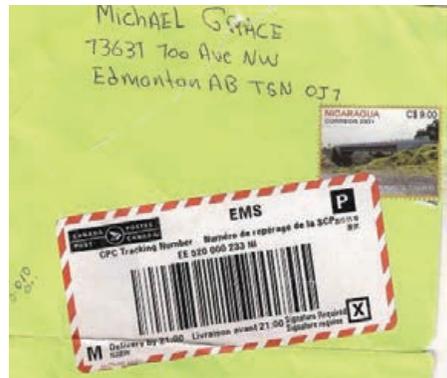
Not all Registered mail from outside Canada receives an additional Canadian label. Figure 1 is a variable



**Figure 1.** US meter and Registered Mail cover without a Canadian label.



**Figure 2.** Registered Thailand Post cover, sent without a Canadian label.



**Figure 3.** Letter with EMS label entering Canada.

rate elephant stamp and a Registered Thailand Post label, sent 21 January 2013. No Canadian label was added. Figure 2 is a US meter and Registered Mail label, sent 11 August 2012, also without a Canadian label being added.

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Keywords & phrases: Special Services, EMS, Registered, Xpresspost, Customs

Figure 3 shows an EMS (Courier) label applied to a letter from Nicaragua for no apparent reason. Note the date and time (16 November 2011 at 08:31) that the cover entered Canada, recorded under the “P” at the upper right corner of the EMS label. There is nothing under the Canadian label. This is the entire envelope.

Originally the EMS, REGISTERED MAIL, and XPRESSPOST labels were printed in red and black. Early in 2013, Canada Post Corporation, in an apparent cost saving measure, started printing these labels in black. An example of a black Xpresspost label is shown in Figure 4. At the same time the Postage Rate Charts went from three colours to black only.

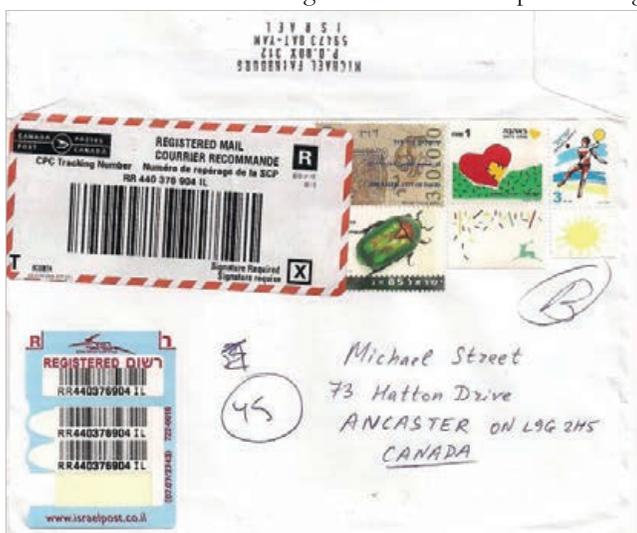
The XPRESSPOST label in Figure 4 was dated 6 February 2013 at 06:47. The Collect Customs label was applied 11 February 2013 at 12:10. At least at this time Collect Customs labels remain in yellow and black. A large Canadian Border Import Form (not shown) confirms the Customs processing date. The parcel was mailed in Massachusetts 1 February 2013.



**Figure 4.** Xpresspost and a Customs label, both with “M” for Montreal.

The Registered Letters from Israel and the United Kingdom shown in Figures 5 and 6 both have Canadian Registered mail labels added. Figure 5 is a Canadian Registered Mail label in red and black, with “T” at lower left, processed in Toronto on 13 November 2012 at 22:12, with a Registered label from Israel. Figure 6 is a Canadian Registered Mail label in black with T, at lower left processed in Toronto on 29 January 2013 at 15:56, with a British “signed for R” label.

The UK postage paid with a Gold Horizon Machin head label. The difference between these two and those shown in Figures 1 and 2 is that signatures were not required for those in Figures 1 and 2, but were required for those in Figures 5 and 6. The difference appears to be that the Registered labels from Israel and the United Kingdom included multiple small tag labels intended to be removed and applied to a form used to confirm delivery. These somehow informed Canada Post that a signature was required. This is confirmed by the “Signature Required X” in the lower right corner of the Canada Post Registered Mail label.



**Figure 5.** Canadian Registered Mail label in red and black with “T” at lower left.



**Figure 6.** Canadian Registered Mail label in black with “T” and British “signed for R” label.



**Figure 7.** Xpresspost Label in black only, with “V” at lower left.

A United States Post Office International Priority envelope is shown in Figure 7. An Xpresspost label in black for the equivalent Canadian service was added in Vancouver. The black label on lower right side was prepared and added in Vancouver (processed in Vancouver on 1 January 2013 at 12:57) and directed the package to its destination in London, Ontario. There is a “V” at lower left that shows the letter was processed in Vancouver on 1 January 2013 at 12:57.

## Postal history of Alberta: Morley and the Stoney Nakoda Reserve

*Dale Speirs*

**S**TRADDLING the Bow River where it exits the Rocky Mountains is the Stoney Nakoda Reserve. The bands that make up the Nakoda are part of the northern branch of the Sioux nation. They settled in the Bow Valley sometime in the late 1700s as a result of migration from smallpox-infested homelands.

In the late 1800s, the first missionaries arrived in the area, seeking to convert the tribes to Christianity and to try to settle them into Reserves. The three bands of the Nakoda continued to roam along the foothills until 1877, when they signed Treaty #7, which established several reserves. None of the other Nakoda reserves had post offices, so they will not be mentioned further.

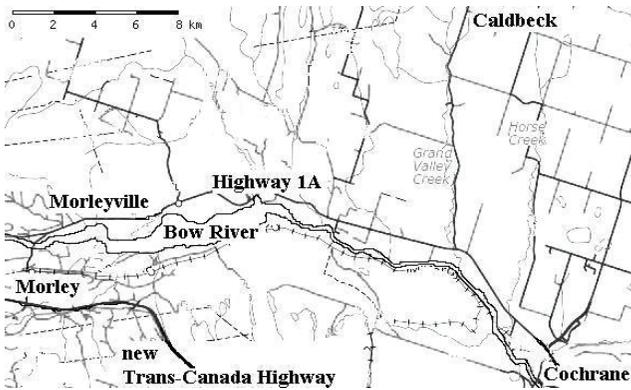
The Reverend George McDougall and his son John, also a minister, established a settlement called Morleyville in 1873. It was named after the Reverend Morley Punshon [1]

---

Keywords & phrases: Alberta, postal markings, Nakoda Reserve

Morleyville was not a compact settlement with grid streets; rather it comprised various businesses and homes scattered over several kilometres of the north bank of the Bow River.

The church mission was relocated a few kilometres westward in 1875 into a regular hamlet on the south bank, about which time the name was simplified to Morley, although the original name continued to show up on maps for decades. The location chosen for Morleyville/Morley was on the bottomlands of the Bow River valley just downstream from the entrance to the Rockies. This had been a traditional camping area for seasonal hunting and gathering, so McDougall felt there would be less resistance from the Nakoda if they



**Figure 4.** Map of Morleyville Alberta.

Today there is a two-lane paved road called Highway 1A. In the late 1950s, a new, four-lane, divided Trans-Canada Highway was constructed. It shortcuts across the prairie steppe from Calgary instead of taking the scenic route along the river, then briefly cuts through the southwest corner of the Reserve as it drops down into the river valley along the south bank before entering the Rockies (Figure 1). Both roads bypassed Morley, and its population, circa 2012, was about 50 people. Figure 2 looks west along the new Trans-Canada Highway as it cuts through the Reserve and descends into the Bow River Valley. The bottomlands are part of the Reserve, and Morley is hidden from view by the spruces at centre right of photo.

## Morley

The Morley post office opened on 15 October 1888, in a general store. Its first postmaster, Robert Scott, was married to George McDougall's granddaughter and was in partnership with George Kidd Leeson [3].

were settled on an area they already knew in an area they already knew [2]. The Stoney branch of the Nakoda, along the Bow River, had their Reserve around the Morley mission, surveyed in 1879.

The transcontinental railroad came through Morley in September 1883. The Nakoda Reserve was later penetrated by the original Trans-Canada Highway along the north bank of the Bow River.



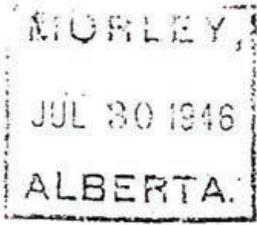
**Figure 5.** Nakoda Reserve, Bow River valley.

Leeson and Scott had several trading posts along the foothills, of which the Morley store was one. Leeson had originally come out west in 1880; he was a mail courier whose company hauled mail in the area from Saskatchewan to the Rocky Mountains. When the railroad came through Calgary in 1883 and made oxen freighters redundant, Leeson settled on a ranch near Morley and took over the store/post office from Scott on 1 January 1891. Like Scott, Leeson was a restless entrepreneur. He left the post office on 2 September 1909, off in search of new real estate and other investments.

Fred M Graham was the longest-serving postmaster of Morley, holding the position from 25 October 1909 until 13 December 1942, when James Rodger took over. Graham, like Scott, was also married to a McDougall granddaughter; they were brothers-in-law. Rodger died in office on 13 October 1945, and his widow Janet briefly managed as postmaster. On 20 February 1946, Lloyd Wyburn Kidd took over the store and post office and stayed until 30 September 1964. The Kidd family had been prominent in the area since pioneer days and had operated the Leeson and Scott store in earlier times. Leeson himself was a distant relative of the Kidds. The present-day post office in nearby Kananaskis Village lies at the foot of Mount Kidd. Figure 3 shows a proof

strike of the MOON cancel, dated shortly after Kidd took over. Although no Kidds had been postmasters before Lloyd, their various daughters had served as postal clerks for previous postmasters [2].

Since the transcontinental railroad pre-dated the Morley post office, the mail was always received by train. In the 1950s, trucks began to take over mail carriage, travelling along the Trans-Canada Highway both old and new. Two short-term postmasters came and went in the middle 1960s after Kidd retired. For the first time, control of the post office passed to the Nakoda when SF Powderface took office on 2 September 1969. He was succeeded by Lou Crawler, who served from 19 August 1970 until 31 August 1974. After August 1974, the post office became a function of the Stoney Nakoda Administration; it still is today. Figure 4 shows a well-inked strike of the current postmark. The four screws that hold the cancel in place are visible around the edge of the postmark.



**Figure 6.** Morley MOON postmark, proof.



**Figure 8.** Morley POCN postmark.



**Figure 7.** Caldbeck split-circle proof.

### Caldbeck

Caldbeck was a ranch house post office in the foothills northeast of the Nakoda Reserve. It was named after a manor house in Cumberland, England, where John Peel of the famous hunting song lived. Although located in traditional Nakoda hunting grounds, the Caldbeck area was not part of the Reserve but was opened up to homesteaders. The post office existed from 1 June 1913 to 31 July 1928, and its only postmaster was Mrs Georgina Patterson. A proof strike of its postmark is shown in Figure 5. Georgina and her husband James were Scottish immigrants who married in Calgary in

1902 and then homesteaded in the foothills. They had three sons and hosted numerous relatives and friends, who lived with them for various intervals. As of 1936, twenty-three children (of whom the first twenty-two were boys) had been born in the ranch house/post office [4].



**Figure 9.** Caldbeck cover to Dresden, Germany.

The cover shown in Figure 6 was sent by Walther K Hesse, who emigrated from Germany in the 1920s and took up a homestead at Caldbeck with a friend, also German. They did not work to improve the homestead, but instead took long walks through the foothills for no apparent reason and showed an unusual interest in obtaining maps of the area. The local ranchers were convinced they were spies since the Caldbeck and Cochrane area was on a vital east-west transportation line. Hesse's friend returned to Germany after a few years, but Hesse stayed on. When World War II broke out, Hesse was interned at the Seebe camp just west of Morley. He never returned to his ranch at Caldbeck.

## References

- [1] A Karamitsanis, *Place Names of Alberta, Volume 1, Mountains, Mountain Parks, and Foothills*, University of Calgary Press, 2000, pp. 171.
- [2] AO MacRae, *History of the Province of Alberta, Volume 1*, Western Canada History Co, Calgary, 1912 pp. 494, 593-594.
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- [4] Cochrane and Area Historical Society, *Big Hill Country: Cochrane and Area*, Cochrane and Area Historical Society Alberta, 1977, pp. 22, 60–63, 115–116, 405–406, 586–587, 705, 711.

**In BNA Topics  
Jul-Oct 2014  
The 100<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
of World War I**

As announced at BNAPEX in Charlottetown, *BNA Topics* 2014Q3 will feature WWI-related articles on: Admiral Stamps, Canadian Airmen in Canada, Texas and England; Cinderellas; Civilian censorship; Domestic and international postage rates; Field Post Office mail to Canada; Flag Cancels; Hospital Ships; Mail to the front; POWs and Internees; War Savings Stamps; War Tax Stamps.

# BNAPS business and reports

## President's Column

*Norris (Bob) Dyer*

### 2013 MEMBER SURVEY

**D**ESPITE delays in getting survey systems in place and running as planned, the response has been excellent: At least fifty percent of members have completed the survey either online or by a hard copy response. The deadline of 15 December has just passed as I write this, so detailed results are not in yet. BNAPS bought a subscription to SurveyMonkey, and that will allow us to easily tabulate online entries. The 125 or so hard copy responses will take more work, but everyone's input will be counted and all suggestions and evaluations closely examined. Committee members plan a detailed report that will be in the second quarter issue of *BNA Topics*. At some point, a report will also be added to the Members' area of our website.

Peter MacDonald and I have skimmed through almost 400 of the 544 completed surveys and done some quick number-crunching. We find, for example, that ninety-four percent rated *BNA Topics* as "Excellent" or "Very Good" (other options were "Good" and "Poor"). Also, eighty-four percent of members rated "the value you get for your BNAPS dues" as "Excellent" or "Very Good." We asked for volunteers for various projects, and the response was quite generous. It will provide us additional human resources for our all-volunteer Society. Many valuable suggestions for improvement to existing services have been made, and there are some expressions of dissatisfaction as well. All of this will be important for the Board to consider and decide upon changes as well as any new services, to help fashion a bright future for BNAPS.



### The new website– Let's communicate – Sign up!

Until now, communication among Society members with a shared interest has primarily occurred at the annual convention or in Regional and Study Groups. The updated website now provides another option. Members can log in and configure their data to allow connections with others with shared interests. Let's say that a member wants to suggest a meeting of an Association or Society at a stamp convention. The member could use the site to link to members who belong to them. Here's another possibility: Imagine someone is interested in collecting and trading certain BNA varieties. That might not warrant a "study group," but an ad hoc group could be set up. This new capability will work only if members allow other registered members access to their information. So log on and participate. The process is easy, and the more who do this, the more successful this new approach will be.

### BNAPEX 2014

Ten years ago we held a joint convention with BALPEX in Baltimore, Maryland. We are going to do that again this year over the Labour Day weekend in August. See the ad on Page 5 about BALPEX 2014 BNAPEX. Also note the enclosed entry form and exhibit prospectus.

## Regional group rant

*Jack Forbes*

### Overview!

**T**HE latter days of 2013 saw the completion of the BNAPS Membership Survey – with electronic and mail-in participation. The response rate from the membership was far higher than results historically noted for similar questionnaires—a tribute to the interest of our members in the Society’s activities. In his column in this issue, there is a brief comment on preliminary findings by our President, Bob Dyer, so I would like to dwell on just one aspect of the survey response, that regarding participation in Regional Groups. It seems that a considerable number of our members don’t realize that they automatically become members of the Regional Group in the particular geographic area where they reside. We encourage anyone in doubt to go to the BNAPS website, and determine their particular “home group.” Having done that, we would further encourage everyone to become active in the activities of their Region.

### Feedback

The report on the meeting of eight of our Regional Group Representatives at BNAPEX 2013 in Charlottetown has elicited some interesting feedback. In no particular order, we have received photos of several banners that might be used to promote our Society at any shows or exhibitions where the local Regional Group is “staffing” a booth. We still haven’t enough information to come up with a design that might be universally acceptable, so please continue with your suggestions and examples. It also appears that a few regions aren’t aware of the availability of BNAPS awards, which can be presented to exhibitors of BNA material at shows in their area. These are available from Jon Johnson (jcjperfins@hotmail.com); however, please provide sufficient lead time to allow Jon to get them to you.

### Regional group reports

Information on group activities so far this Fall has been somewhat sparse! Please remember to advise me (JAFRBS@aol.com) and our website coordinator, Dave Bartlet (dave.bartlet@shaw.ca), of the dates of upcoming meetings, with agendas, if available, and any notices of other events (Stamp Shows, Bourses, etc.) in your areas. It is also important that copies of your meeting reports be sent to both of us, so that we may pass on information that is of considerable value and interest to our membership as a whole.

A summary of the reports we have received to date follows. As we only provide brief outlines of the meetings in this column, please check out the BNAPS website for further details on activities in your particular geographical area.

The *Golden Horseshoe Group* gathered at their usual venue, the popular Rousseau House Restaurant in Ancaster, for their first meeting of the Fall season. The meeting followed the usual agenda, starting with visits by attendees to two dealers’ tables, where they could pick up items for their collections. After lunch, announcements were dealt with, and included notice of several new BNAPS book publications, as well as a report on BNAPEX 2013 in Charlottetown. An auction to help defray some of the meeting costs is a fun part of the proceedings, and leads in to the presentation by the guest speaker. This month, Garfield Portch spoke on the Foster & Freeman Video Spectral Comparator that has been installed at

the Vincent Greene Foundation. This unit will expand the Foundation's capabilities related to the expertization of philatelic material. A Show-and-Tell segment provided several interesting items to round out the afternoon's activities.

The *Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Group* held their Fall get-together with a program of Show-and-Tell presentations. The six speakers provided useful information on a wide variety of items, ranging from Booklet planning through Coil misperforations, Postage Due Markings, Interrupted Mail examples, and Post Cards. Refreshments were provided.

Richard Judge, coordinator of the *Midwest Regional Group*, arranged for a meeting room at CHICAGOPEX 2013, in hopes that some BNAPS members might be in the area. Early indications were that none of the group's members would be able to attend.

## Reminder

As part of his continuing efforts to promote a possible *Florida Regional Group*, Mark Isaacs is planning a meeting in conjunction with the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition being held from 7–9 February 2014. Mark encourages all members in the area at the time to attend—whether they are residents or visitors—and asks for assistance in this organizing effort.

## BNAPS at local stamp shows

The *Golden Horseshoe Group* once again had a booth at the CSDA Show in Toronto in late September. Thanks to this group for their continuing promotion of our Society. We hope their initiative in this regard will encourage other Regional Groups to follow suit to make more collectors aware of the advantages of joining BNAPS. In addition to attending the CSDA show, the Golden Horseshoe Group meets five times a year.

## From the Secretary—Report date: 20 December 2013

*David G Jones*

(184 Larkin Dr, Nepean, ON K2J 1H9 <[shibumi.management@gmail.com](mailto:shibumi.management@gmail.com)>)

## Membership fees

Annual membership fees are \$C35 or equivalent in US dollars, C\$40 for members from outside North America. Membership applications submitted during the second or third quarter of the year should be accompanied by 75 or 50 percent, respectively, of the annual fee. Applications submitted in the fourth quarter of the year should be accompanied by 25 percent of the annual fee, plus the full fee for the coming year. Three-year memberships can be obtained at a ten percent reduction in cost. Send application form and cheque or money order to the Secretary.

## Applications for membership

After receipt of an application, the New Applicant's name and membership number are printed in the next issue of *BNA Topics*. If no objection from any other BNAPS member is received within approximately 60 days, then the applicant is listed as a "New Member" in the next issue of *BNA Topics*.

(Application date: between 22 October and 19 December 2013)

R-6747 John McWilliam, Woodstock, ON

R-6748 Edmund Goldshinsky, Hamden, CT

R-6749 Tom Moyes, Fallbrook, CA **C:** *Newfoundland*

R-6751 Peter MacDonald, Toronto, ON

R-6752 Ronald Emery, Contoocook, NH

R-6753 Mike Walsh, Wainfleet, ON

### **New members**

All applicants 6622-6731 have been confirmed as full members of BNAPS.

### **Mailing or E-mail Address Changes** (Received 22 October–19 December 2013)

R-5106 Robert G Anderson, Brantford, ON

R-5103 John E Armstrong, Bright's Grove, ON

R-6646 Kerry J Bryant, Victoria, BC

R-4851 Russell H Burkhard, Burke, VA

R-6741 George M Burse-Hanning, Surrey, BC

R-3814 Andrew Chung, Hamilton, ON

R-6548 John Cranmer, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, UK

R-6577 M Timothy Creech, Blaine, WA

R-6467 Gary A Douglas, Niagara Falls, ON

R-6501 Andre Dumont, Chambly, QC

R-6752 Ronald Emery, Contoocook, NH

R-6370 Martin B Evans, Okehampton, UK

R-6103 Louis Fiset, Seattle, WA

R-6001 Edward J Foley, Billerica, MA

R-5675 Albert R Govier, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland

R-6731 Maxime S Herold, Brampton, ON

R-6735 Stuart Keeley, Thorold, ON

L-5006 Keith P Klugman, Seattle, WA

R-6171 Arno Kolster, San Francisco, CA

R-6329 Pascal Leblond, Thurso, QC

R-6600 Karl Mackinnon, Barrie, ON

R-5524 R J Maclennan, Truro, NS

E-2835 Robert M McGuinness, West Vancouver, BC

E-71 John L Norbeck, Edina, MN

R-6170 Brian J Paul, Whitehorse, YT

R-4373 Colin Pomfret, Millgrove, ON

R-3605 Garfield J Portch, Etobicoke, ON

Z-99031 American Philatelic Research Library, Bellefonte, PA

R-6557 Bruce Robertson, London, UK

E-2604 Jacques C Schiff, Jr, Hackensack, NJ

R-6081 Graham Paul Searle, Banchory, UK

R-3290 P T Spencer, Sunderland, ON

R-4400 Brian T Stalker, Heathfield, UK

R-6404 Peter Vander Valk, Fonthill, ON

R-4849 Charles J G Verge, Etobicoke, ON

R-3499 John M Walsh, St. John's, NL

R-6429 Susan Whitehead, Greenville, SC

R-4863 Gerald F Wiley, Watertown, NY

R-6272 Neilson Wood, Jr, Fairless Hills, PA

## Resigned

R-4954 James E Shew  
 R-5566 J Richard Blackburn  
 R-6472 David W Link

## Deceased

R-4812 Joel Stern

## Classified advertisements

***RATES FOR 25 words—\$6 Canadian, 20¢ for each additional word.** All ad copy and payments should be sent to the Advertising Manager, Hank Narbonne, 136 Morphy St., Carleton Place, ON, K7C 2B4 Canada, to be received by the fifteenth of March, June, September, or December for the next issue of BNA Topics. Ads requiring photos, cuts, logos, and other production tasks will incur charges at a nominal, industry-standard rate. These costs will be billed to the advertiser. Please identify the number of issues in which the ad is to appear. All payments should be made to BNAPS Ltd., at the rates listed above, in Canadian dollars or US equivalent.*

### FOR SALE

**CANADA, NEWFOUNDLAND COVERS.** Thousands scanned, online at [www.donslau.com](http://www.donslau.com), Stampless to WW II—have a look. Don Slaughter, Box 8002, RPO Sherwood Forest, London, ON, N6G 4X1 (4-13)

### LITERATURE

**OLD ISSUES OF BNA Topics FOR SALE:** Add valuable info to your library. Will do our best to fill want lists. If on hand, issues from No 1 on may be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Write to Ken Lemke, BNAPS Circulation Manager, c/o CFS, 3455 Harvester Road, Unit 20 - 22, Burlington, Ontario L7N 3P2 <[kwlemke@sympatico.ca](mailto:kwlemke@sympatico.ca)>.

**YOUR OLD UNUSED BNA Topics:** Donations (pre-1975 issues only) solicited and gratefully accepted. Will pay postage, but write first. Send list of available items to: Ken Lemke, BNAPS Circulation Manager, c/o CFS, 3455 Harvester Road, Unit 20 - 22, Burlington, Ontario L7N 3P2 <[kwlemke@sympatico.ca](mailto:kwlemke@sympatico.ca)>.

### WANTED

**ADMIRAL PERIOD SQUARED CIRCLE CANCELS:** On cover/postcard or stamp; contact me with items available/price; have same for sale/trade. BNAPS/APS. Gary Arnold <[forestgda@gmail.com](mailto:forestgda@gmail.com)>.

**LETTER CARDS WEBB'S L5a and L7a:** The thin glazed paper varieties, properly used in period (pre-1906), not philatelic (bank forms preferred) with no extra adhesives. Contact me with items available/price. Robert Lemire <[rlemire000@sympatico.ca](mailto:rlemire000@sympatico.ca)>.



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### **BNAPS BOOK DEPARTMENT CLEARANCE SALE**

#### **Prices have been reduced on the following books:**

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
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| b4h325.1 Firth 15 cent Large Queen:                        | was \$150.00, now \$79.95  |
| b4h368.0 Gems of Canadian Philately:                       | was \$295.00, now \$149.00 |
| b4h481.0 Philatelic Fantasies:                             | was \$19.95, now \$14.95   |
| b4h282.0 Pre-Cancel Handbook:                              | was \$16.95, now \$9.95    |
| b4h717.0 PO Dept. & Parliamentary Record:                  | was \$14.95, now \$9.95    |
| b4h429a.0 Cdn. Military Postal Markings (B&T), vol. 1, S/B | was \$44.50, now \$29.95   |
| b4h430a.0 Cdn. Military Postal Markings (B&T), vol. 1, H/B | was \$74.50, now \$39.95   |
| b4h429b.0 Cdn. Military Postal Markings (B&T), vol. 2, S/B | was \$44.50, now \$19.95   |
| b4h430b.0 Cdn. Military Postal Markings (B&T), vol. 2, H/B | was \$74.50, now \$24.95   |
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