
BNA

TOPICS

Vol. 4, No. 10

November, 1947

Whole No. 42

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*Official Publication of the
British North America Philatelic Society*

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CANADA

BNA TOPICS
Official Journal of
The British North America Philatelic Society

Vol. 4 No. 10

NOVEMBER, 1947

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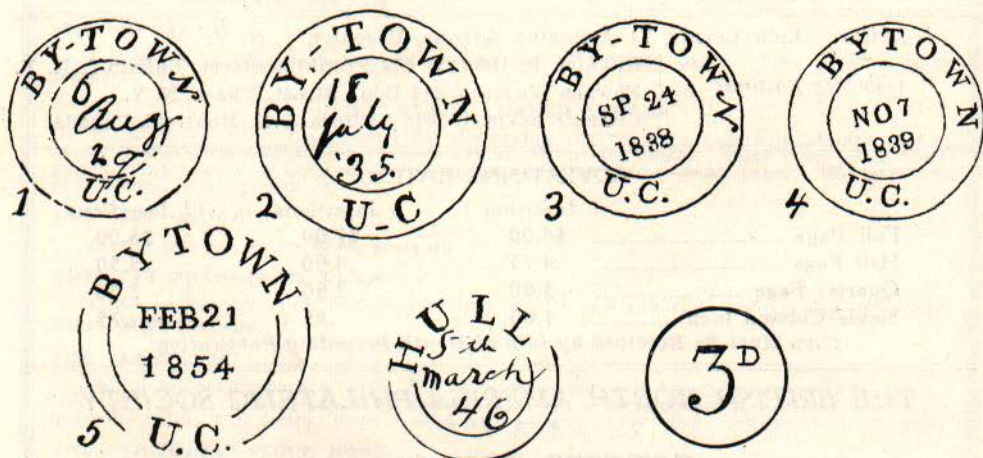
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BYTOWN TOWNSTAMP HISTORY

BY FRANK W. CAMPBELL

Bytown, as the older name of the present Capital of Canada, has always been intriguing subject for study and research in regard to its postal history. Herewith, I feel sure, is illustrated all its postal townstamps.



The vicinity of present Ottawa was settled about 1811, and when the Rideau Canal from Kingston to Bytown got its first boat through (the "Pumper" on May 29, 1832), lumbering had furnished a background for a very considerable commercial center.

The Postoffice was opened April 6, 1829, with M. Connel as Postmaster. A few months previous, a big order was sent to England for townstamps similar to the Hull stamp illustrated, but Bytown, being too late for this first standardization of circular townstamps, did the next best thing—they just used two brass circles, common in printers lists of the period, and inserted printer's type of the variety Caslon Italic.

I searched for years to try to learn whether these brass circles were definitely a standard article of commerce among printers of that period and, at last, I received from the Columbia University in New York a photostat of the circles and ovals sold by the J. Howe & Co., Letter Foundry in Philadelphia in 1830—thus establishing a possible source for these circles so commonly used in (*circa*) 1830 in many Canadian cities; no circles with local type insertions being found before 1829. Illustrated *Fig. 1* is from a cover I own and I have heard of one a month earlier. *Fig. 1* is found only in red ink and was used until 1832.

Fig. 2 was, what I call a brass one. In 1831 an order was sent to England for townstamps but these proved inferior as evidenced by an order in 1839 which complained that they (1831's) wore too quickly, and designating that these new ones be of steel (*Fig. 5*). No. 2 appeared in all colors, violets and greens being known. Nos. 1 and 2 always had the date handwritten. My own collection contains dates from 1833 to 1836 of No. 2. An odd detail is the type of dash used instead of the period between the U and C. This was not used with any other city as noted from over 100 places I have with this style.

Fig. 3 is another local typeset with type dating, all so far noted in red ink. Notice the italic (or sloping) capital N at the end of the name. Dates from 1836-38.

Fig. 4 is actually just new type inserted in No. 3 with the hyphen omitted and the final letter N not sloping; so far, dated 1839, and in red also. No. 4 became badly worn and at times the center circle does not show, leading some to call it a circle style, rather than a double circle. It took much time to prove this to my own satisfaction.

Fig. 5 was from a big lot ordered in England early in 1839 but as of August they still hadn't arrived and were thought lost since they had made enquiries at the Halifax wharves for same. I doubt if any earlier date than October 1839 will be found in this style—generally 30 mm. in width. Note the hyphen omitted as in the previous style. This generally occurs in black; very seldom in red.

The HULL illustrated is offered primarily to show the style Bytown might have had if it was established in time to be included in the order to England mentioned previously. The Hull Postoffice was established in 1819. In 1830, it was closed but apparently for a short period. The actual closing order reads:

"Offices discontinued—HULL, 5th Jan., 1830, in consequence of the necessity for establishing an office at Bytown on the opposite side of the river Ottawa, over which there is a bridge, two offices within so short distance of each other could not with any propriety be maintained."

Hull had an income of £30 in 1833, £44 in 1834, £55 in 1855, and \$1485 in 1875. Hull has very few postmark styles, the one after that illustrated being the inch wide Gothic style so common in offices after 1850.

Bytown was very slow to adopt a handstamp "Paid" as the closest is the illustrated "3d" circle, seen in the early 1850's. It was ordered to have prepaid letters stamped in front in red, and unpaids stamped in black on the backs. This was continually called to the attention of the Postmasters but little attention was paid it, evidently.

Bytown had a very large income from the start—£459 in 1832, £860 in 1842, £1705 in 1854. It was no doubt a very laborious job to have to write in the dates on the first two styles of postmarks.

The name, Bytown, originated from Colonel By who arrived in 1827 to take charge of the construction of the Rideau Canal. Bytown was changed to Ottawa on January 1, 1854. I have a photostatic copy of the official notice of change taken from the wall circular of Manitowaning Postoffice that is in Ironsides papers in the Burton Library in Detroit.

❖ ——— ❖

Editor, *BNA TOPICS*

Dear Sir,

Your readers will be interested to know that our London Executive, Miss Ethel Harper, will be operating from our Philadelphia office for a few months from the middle of October.

During the Fall and the Winter, she will be travelling in the Eastern States of America and Eastern Canada, with a view to helping all stamp collectors to derive full benefit of the Auction and Private Treaty Service which Robson Lowe Limited, London and Bournemouth, and Robson Lowe Inc., Philadelphia, are able to give.

Yours sincerely,

ROBSON LOWE LIMITED

❖ ——— ❖

"TOPICS" Advertisers Deserve Your Patronage

THE 1c GREEN KING GEORGE 1912 ON THIN HARD GREYISH PAPER

By GEORGE R. C. SEARLES

What is the history of this paper variety? We all know the 2c and 5c were issued on thin experimental paper. The 1c was not; neither is this paper anything like the experimental paper.

Nobody over here (England) knows anything about it. During the last four years, several dealers and others have examined a copy and declared it to be a "specialist's" item", but had not seen or heard of it before.

It was during 1938 I bought about 10,000 1c green, hoping to find lots of the "hair-lines across" variety. I did not find one. What I did find was a superb re-entry, middle stamp of a strip of three CANADA POSTAGE; this was illustrated in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in May 1942, and of course about thirty copies of this unusual paper. Now for the particulars.

1. All the stamps were postmarked SWIFT CURRENT, SASK. with the exception of three, which were the CABRI, SASK. Postmark, or else the "R" registered.
2. They were from a sheet, as I have one vertical strip of three, a block of four perf. all sides, several pairs the same.
3. All are exactly the same shade.
4. All dated copies are early 1916, January and February, except one late December 1915.
5. Face downward, mixed with the normal paper, they can be picked out with ease.

It appears to me that this sheet, or sheets, slipped in somehow, going to Swift Current, Sa k., and districts.

You have opportunities of comparing this paper with the paper used for Fiscals, etc. Can you solve this riddle? Wartime difficulties have prevented my doing much about it, although I did send to the P. O. Philatelic Branch, Ottawa, who very kindly replied 27/11/46 stating they had no official knowledge or record of the 1c green being issued on this paper.

Fellow student, I anxiously await news. What do you know of this? What can you find out? I shall be most grateful for any information.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor, *BNA TOPICS*

Dear Sir:

Mr. E. H. Hiscock, #234, of St. John's, Nfld., writes to advise of a correction in our listing of additional T.P.O. cancellations which appeared in the August, 1947, issue of *BNA TOPICS*. He says,

"By the way, scratch #72 from your T.P.O.'s. That's a Purser's date stamp, similar to a Railway Agent's and serves the same purpose, except that Pursers do not *officially* handle mails. All of the Railway Coastal Steamers have a Mail Office on board and the official cancellation could be any of the various T.P.O.'s, depending on the route the steamer happens to be covering at any one time. Occasionally, a Purser will cancel ship's mail covers containing Bills of Lading, etc. with the ship's date stamp, especially if he is pressed for time or the official mail bag is cloed and ready to send ashore. I don't know how the Postal Authorities view this procedure, but would imagine that they turn a 'blind eye'. In any event the amount of mail thus cancelled would be very small, but I can vouch for the fact that mail bearing Type #72 cancellation originates as described. I've seen it done and it is not a T.P.O. marking."

There it is. So, let's change our listing.

Sincerely,

W. S. AND D. C. MEYERSON

REPORTS and REVIEWS

By ED. WHITING

Wouldn't you know that a fellow (like me) who keeps quiet for the whole summer and carries a good thing like that through September and October would come through with a story like having been working and not able to get his mind to stamps. Well, that's yours truly; at an international conference attempting to make new regulations for the air waves. I couldn't even keep my files up on the incoming auction catalogues. I've now returned to Philadelphia, permanently I hope.

I visited the exhibition at the Free Library of Philadelphia and it was a real joy to see such a wide range of material. Newfoundland was amply represented by Mr. William K. Philler of Philadelphia. Some of the highlights of his two frames were 4 pre-stamp covers and a very nice collection of the '57-62 issue which to me were outstanding for the lightness of the cancellations. It was also interesting to note that the frame by the American Bank Note Co., containing what they consider the "30 stamps representing the best types from the Engraver's viewpoint", showed the following members of the B.N.A. family: New Brunswick #10, 17c black; Nova Scotia #10, 5c blue; Canada, 12 pence black (specimen); and Newfoundland #25, 5c brown.

In front of me, laying on its back and accusing me of neglect, is a very nicely gotten up green booklet with a very familiar name to all B.N.A. collectors. It is the 9th edition of Vincent's catalog of Canada & B.N.A. which appeared during the summer. It is, as always in the last, a well arranged book and is a credit to the publishers, A. H. Vincent of Montreal and the York Stamp Co., Ltd., of Toronto. It is regrettable that the revenue section is omitted in this edition and we hope it will reappear in later editions. An added feature is the listing of the

Affiliated Clubs of the Canadian Philatelic Society on the back cover as well as mention of the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club, the Union Philatelique de Montreal and B.N.A.P.S. A worthy booklet. Congratulations Mr. Vincent.

❖ ————— ❖

"OFF THE CUFF"

V. G. GREENE

An illusive Canadian stamp in mint condition is the 4c 'Medallion' of 1932. This stamp went off the Ottawa agency list rather suddenly three years ago. A prominent Canadian dealer, in a list just published, prices it at \$1.00 against a catalogue value (1947) of 22c.

The late George A. Lowe, well known Toronto dealer, bought the remainders of the Newfoundland "pence" issue from the St. John's post office in the early 1920's. It is believed there were only a few hundred sheets (of 20 stamps each) in the lot most of which were of the 4d and 6d value although a few blocks of the 3d green were included. Mr. Lowe started selling these sheets at \$6.00 each and after a few years raised his price to \$10.00. The Kenmore Stamp Co. bought Mr. Lowe's remaining sheets of the 6d value in the 1930's.

BNAPster Bert Denton and his attractive wife have arrived in London on their way to India. Many collectors consider him the outstanding authority on B.N.A. stamps among the younger generation.

On a recent visit to St. Louis, a dealer offered Mr. Denton ten superb copies of the 5c Beaver for \$5.00, which he promptly bought. In the lot he found a perfect example of the major re-entry and four minor re-entries. When his friend, BNAPster Earl Edwards, heard about it he remarked, "well, at any rate, Bert will be in India for at least five years and the rest of us my have a chance!"

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 446 Needham, Richard M., P. O. Box 1881, Pataskala, Ohio
 447 Pearce, Dr. Joseph A., Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, B. C., Can.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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 Britton, J. Edgar, Summerland, B. C., Canada (C) B.N.A. and British America. By R. J. Duncan, No. 37.
 Bryan, R. M., 3484 West 26th St., Vancouver, B. C., Canada (C) B.N.A. By B. C. Binks, No. 74.
 Carr, Grant C., Port Robinson, Ont., Canada (CX), CAN, NFD, N.B., N.S., P.E.I.—Postage, mint and used. CAN, NFD—A'mails, blks., covers. CAN—Coils, precancels. By R. J. Duncan, No. 37.
 Harmer, C. H. C., 39-42 New Bond St., London W. 1, England (DC) Newfoundland Air-mails. By Ed. Whiting, No. 66.
 Harris, E. D., Hilliers, V.I., B.C., Canada (DC) Br. Colonies, Iceland, U. S. A. By R. J. Duncan, No. 37.
 Kent, Lindley C., 214 E. Upland Road, Ithaca, N. Y. (C) British Colonial. By Ed. Richardson, No. 168.
 Kuhn, W. S., 1727 Ivy Street, San Mateo, Calif. (C) B.N.A. By R. J. Duncan, No. 37.
 Miller, Thos. J., 215 Thompson Drive, St. James, Man., Canada (C) CANADA—postage, mint and used, blks., varieties. By R. J. Duncan, No. 37.
 Pierce, Arthur, 721 Widener Bldg., Philadelphia 7, Pa. (DC) Bermuda, St. Vincent, Hong Kong. By D. C. Meyerson, No. 3.
 Voos, Daniel W., 40 West Main St., Mohawk, N. Y. (C) Philatelic Literature. By R. J. Duncan, No. 37.
 Weddup, Arthur G., Sicamous, B. C., Canada (CX) NFD—Postage, mint and used, covers, varieties. By R. J. Duncan, No. 37.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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 Lidman, David, 64 Pascaek Road, Park Ridge, N. J.
 Llewellyn, George B., 118 W. Champlost Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Roub, Frank, 831 Hamlin Street, Evanston, Ill.
 Rowe, H. H., 135 Henderson Avenue, Ottawa, Ont., Canada
 Siverts, John S., 1816 James Ave., No., Minneapolis, Minn.
 Smith, R. R., 392 Marathon Street, Los Angeles 27, Calif.
 Wallace, William H., 30 Third Street, Oceanside, N. Y.
 Whitehead, Dr. Alfred, Mt. Allison University, Sackville, N. B., Canada

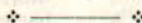


NOTICE

The results of the voting on the proposed amendments is:

124 ballots voted.

Proposal #1—(Dealers holding elective offices)	YES	96	NO	23
" #2—(3 types of membership)	YES	116	NO	8
" #3—(Dues for regular membership \$3).....	YES	115	NO	8
" #4—(Dues for contributing member \$10).....	YES	117	NO	3
" #5—(Life Membership Fee \$50)	YES	118	NO	5
" #6—(Honorary Life Membership)	YES	116	NO	7
" #7—(Nominating Committee)	YES	118	NO	3



Propose Your Friend to BNAPS

INDEX TO CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINES

By R. J. DUNCAN

THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PHILATELIST

Published at Charlottetown, P.E.I., by J. L. Jost. One number only, April 1888, size 6 x 9, with colored paper wrapper.

B. N. A. CONTENTS

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

SOME OLD POST OFFICE STATISTICS

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

Published at Merriton, Ont., by the Canadian Publishing Co. One number only, size 6 x 8, with colored paper wrapper.

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THE CANADIAN ERRORS

CANADIAN REGISTRATION STAMPS

NOVA SCOTIA BILL STAMPS

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND VARIETY

THE OTTAWA PHILATELIST

Published at Ottawa, Ont., one volume in four numbers. No. 1, 6 x 9, published by F. L. Chevrier; Nos. 2, 3, 4 by W. J. Sabourin, size 6 x 8½. No. 1 was dated December and should be October 1892. Colored paper wrappers.

Vol. I, No 1 Oct. 1892; Nos. 2, 3 December, No. 4, April 1893.

B. N. A. CONTENTS

CANADA'S REGISTRATION STAMPS No. 1.

SURCHARGED STAMPS. LATE DELIVERIES. No. 2



NEWFOUNDLAND 1897 CABOTS "CANCELLED TO ORDER"

Take out your collection of Newfoundland stamps and turn to the Cabot issue. Examine your used copies of the four highest values. Are any of them cancelled in red over a corner of

the stamp? Yes? Lift them and see if any bear full gum. They should because that is the way they left the Post Office, cancelled and with full gum.

Sounds paradoxical doesn't it, but here is the story as originally told by H. E. Huber in his *Notes on Newfoundland* and amplified subsequently by W. S. Boggs in his *Postage Stamps & Postal History of Newfoundland*.

In November 1920, the Postal Authorities decided to destroy the remainders of the 24c, 30c, 36c and 60c Cabot stamps as they had been in the vaults for 23 years and there was no further use for them. It was planned to deface the stamps and then burn them.

A handstamp was used to deface the sheets. The cancellation (*illustrated*) in red was placed in the center of each block of four so that no single stamp shows more or less than a quarter of the cancellation.

After \$175 worth (the figure is Boggs') had been thus defaced, the order was countermanded and the cancelled stamps were sold to a collector at 10% below face. The remainder of the stamps went back to the vault.

W. S. AND D. C. MEYERSON



BRINGING NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE AND STAMPS

BY REV. JOHN S. BAIN

From what I have learned from others, and from my own experiences, the CIPEX dealers' booths turned up some real fine B.N.A. material and at bargain prices. For instance, the 1859 issue in used blocks of four, below market price; Canadian Patriotic envelopes; a 5c Beaver on cover with the 'log in waterfall' variety. Myself, I picked up cut-squares, used, of the first two Canadian stamped envelopes, 5c and 10c, both having a 5c Beaver used in combination with the envelope! That's what I call a real CIPEX "souvenir".

BNAPS

Contrary to what I sometime hear, the market for B.N.A. is still holding up and appears to be very strong. From a personal survey of some dealers during my travels the story is, "We can sell good B.N.A. material when we get it, but we haven't had any for some time". Such being the case, I would remind all BNAPSers to get out their duplicates and get them into the BNAPS Sales Circuit where it reaches collectors who are looking for such material. Now is the time to sell!

BNAPS

The new Bileski pages are out for Russia, Great Britain and Airmails of the World. This brings us closer to a page that is anxiously awaited; namely, the page for Newfoundland. With the continued beautiful work of the artist Arthur Szyk, and the high standard of production, the Newfoundland page should be one of the highlights of the entire series.

BNAPS

BNAPster Reg. Barraclough, #33, of Montreal, sends a note together with samples of the remaining copies of the "press releases" of Canadian postage issues that are available at Ottawa, Canada. They are, at this time of writing, the 10c to

\$1.00 plus the Special Delivery of the 1938 issue, the entire 1942 issue, the 1946 issue, the Bell stamp and Citizenship issue. These "press releases" are put out by the Public Relations Department of the Post Office and are sent to newspapers, stamp magazines, and the Postmasters of Canada to acquaint them with the designs of the forthcoming stamps. They are available without charge. Thanks, Reg., for mine.

BNAPS

Already, the Bell stamp is showing signs of a brilliant future. Wholesale price at present is around the 6c mark per mint copy. This writer has no information of the number issued but judging by the catalogues, Canadian commemorative issues have good futures.

By the way, the Bell Telephone has reprinted the article "Miracle Men of the Telephone" from the *National Geographic Magazine* of March, 1947, and are distributing the reprint without charge through their local offices. This is an excellent source text for information, pictures and write-up material.

BNAPS

Rumors are flying about a new Canadian airmail stamp being issued. There hasn't been any official announcement about this nor about the story of a new issue of postage stamps. While at CIPEX, I once again heard BNAPS enter the suggestion of a National Parks series.

BNAPS

I guess everyone expected this would happen and didn't get "hurt". The latest list of price changes from the Scott Publications notes the corrected price for Canada coil #133 as \$4.50, mint and used. Other changes are: 29a: \$40, & 10 — 30a: \$50 & 12 — 35d: \$15 & 1.75 — 36e: \$12 & 1.75 — 37e: \$9 & 1 — 38a: \$10 & 1.25 — 39b: \$10 & 1 — 40c: \$40 & 8.

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