

B·N·A TOPICS

Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society



5¢ Re-entry on 6¢ Small Queen



MARCH 1951

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Editor—Gordon P. Lewis, 13 Eastern Ave., Brampton, Ontario, Canada.
 Associate Editors—Jack Levine, R. J. Duncan, E. J. Whiting, Russell Allison,
 Rev. J. S. Bain, V. G. Greene, D. C. Meyerson, W. S. Meyerson,
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Views and Reviews By the Editor

Information Wanted

The following letter has been received from a non-member of BNAPS. If someone could help Mr. Duncan out with the information he seeks, perhaps we will win another member to our Society. The letter reads: "I would appreciate a little information if you can give it to me. Scott Publications Inc. referred you to me. I have a Princess Elizabeth one cent stamp known as the 'Weeping Princess.' What I would like to know is how I can determine that the stamp I have IS the 'Weeping Princess.'

"I also have a King George V three cent stamp with a perfect letter 'D' stamped upside down on the top of the number '3' at the right side of the head. Could you tell me something about these stamps and their present value?" The gentleman's address is: R. Gordon Duncan, 4299 Western Ave., Westmount, Montreal, Quebec.

From "Small Queen" Chairman

The editor has received an interesting letter from Walter P. Carter, chair-

man of the Small Queen Study Group, which reads in part as follows: "... I was born in Brampton in 1885 and my stamp collecting goes back to 1892 when my dear old mother started me off. I delivered milk to one of the greatest collectors of his day, a Mr. Gillis, and have some stamps that he gave me when I was a boy. . . . I specialize in Canada's 1859, 1868 and 1870 issues, some of which I hope to exhibit at CAPEX. Nineteenth century Norway, Belgium, Dutch Indies, Netherlands, and a few British Colonials also provide a big 'kick.' . . . I attended the convention in Philadelphia and had a wonderful time with a grand bunch of BNAPSers." When not collecting stamps, Mr. Carter is Superintendent of Construction and Maintenance for the City of Toronto.

Book on Royal Collection

Collectors visiting CAPEX will have the opportunity of seeing selected pages from the Royal Collection. To these and other philatelists who have viewed this collection at national and international shows in recent years, it will be of interest to learn that a complete official history of the collection will be published shortly, according to an item in Robson Lowe's "Philatelist."

The Royal Collection is housed in over 325 red volumes and 40 blue volumes, the former being the remarkable collection formed by the late King George V, the latter containing that formed by King George VI. The published record will be confined to the "red" collection, i.e. the issues up to the end of the late monarch. Students, both amateur and professional, will find this volume the greatest value in their researches. Collectors will be able to enjoy the permanent possession of superlative reproductions in their original colors of the crown jewels of the finest collection of British Empire stamps ever assembled, including some magnificent B. N. A. material.

An Interesting Publication

"British Colonial Stamps in Current Use September 1949" is the title of an attractively bound handbook received by the editor, and just released by His Majesty's Stationery Office in London. The well illustrated publication comprises historical, geographical and general information from official and other reliable sources on the stamps of the current regular issues of the Colonies, Protectorates, Protected States and Trusteeship Territories with which the British Colonial Office is concerned.

The author, R. Courtney Cade, M.B.E., points out that no attempt has been made to cater for the specialist, in consequence, difference in paper, perforation varieties, shades of color, etc. are being ignored; on the other hand, the 104 pages contain detailed descriptions of designs providing the "topical" collector with a wealth of fascinating material.

The booklet is well produced, printed in pleasing type on high class paper and it is a valuable addition to the library of any collector whose philatelic interests are not confined to filling spaces. Nicolas Sanabria Co., Inc., of 521 Fifth Avenue, New York, have received a supply of this handbook which sells at a very low price.

B. N. A. Articles of Interest

Canada—12d Die and Plate Proofs (Henry Gates), *Essay Proof Journal* No. 29.
Canadian Postal History (A. Gabbitas), *London Philatelist* No. 691.

Canadian Maritimes Today (W. T. F. Castle), *Stamp Collectors Fortnightly* No. 1445, No. 1446, No. 1447.

The "First Killer" of the Dominion of Canada (C. F. Bowman), *Stamp Collectors Fortnightly* No. 1449.

The Maple Leaf Issue—A Study (A. E. Stephenson), *Maple Leaves* No. 18.
1912 Issue 1 Cent Green on Thin Grey Paper (J. P. Macaskie), *Maple Leaves* No. 18.

From the President

Dear Fellow Members:

I am deeply conscious of the honor you have accorded me on my election as your first Canadian President. I will do my utmost to serve you and to continue development of the plans of my predecessors looking to the betterment and progress of the Society.

This is indeed Canada's year, and I believe that we must do all we can to assist in making CAPEX a truly outstanding event. No one will deny that by doing so we shall reap tremendous benefits. I urge you to make your plans to attend as early as possible. I know, from past experience, that you will thoroughly enjoy meeting your fellow members. Come to CAPEX in September. Bear in mind that there is only one 100th Anniversary.

All-out support of CAPEX should be our No. 1 objective for this year. There is, however, another important objective, and that is, a **SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP**. CAPEX will undoubtedly help in this matter, but the real effort must come from all of us as individual members.

The steady growth of the Society is indeed a fine compliment to the founders and to those who have guided our affairs in the past. The more recent development of Study Groups is evidence of, not only new life (if such were needed), but a real desire on the part of these members to spread their own knowledge for the benefit of all, and, secondly, to push further afield in order to obtain answers to problems still remaining unsolved. These Study Groups should be expanded to include still more of the members. By taking part in these groups you will discover increasing satisfaction in your collecting activities.

Now a word about "Topics." Our editor is doing a splendid job, but as a Club Secretary I can sympathize with him, because I know how impossible it is to please everybody. He is continually asking for essays, articles, etc., and, while I appreciate that most of us are modest "types," who do not care to "step in where angels fear to tread," nevertheless we should not be afraid to put our ideas, our thoughts and our knowledge on paper—for the good of the cause. Remember, even the "masters" make mistakes!

"Topics" can be enlarged only with your help, AND with more members to assist in carrying the financial burden.

In conclusion, may I pay tribute to Dick Hedley, the retiring President, and his Board of Governors, some of whom are carrying on for a further term. They, and all the other elected and appointed Officers deserve our grateful thanks for their fine efforts. They are good fellows, all of them.

With best wishes to all,

Yours sincerely,

BURY C. BINKS.

CANADIAN EMERGENCY MARKINGS

By DR. ALFRED WHITEHEAD

Very little has appeared in the philatelic press about the rarely seen "Emergency" or "Timbre Temporaire" markings of the Canadian post-office. They are brought into use, I believe, only after a fire or some other emergency, hence their great scarcity.

Some years ago I acquired proof

impressions of several of these. They came from the estate of the late S. Tanner Green, a postmaster of Quebec City, and a keen philatelist. All are dated late 1929 or 1930, and this probably may be taken as the period of their introduction.

Here is a list of these proof impressions:

Halifax District, Emergency No. 1
Prince Edward Island, Emergency
Montreal District, Emergency
District de Montreal, Timbre Tem-
poreaire

Ottawa District, Emergency No. 5
North Bay District, Emergency No. 3
Toronto District, Emergency No. 2
London District, Emergency No. 1
Winnipeg District, Emergency No. 1
Saskatoon District, Emergency No. 1
Moose Jaw District, Emergency No. 1
Moose Jaw District, Emergency No. 2
Calgary District, Emergency No. 1
Edmonton District, Emergency No. 1
Vancouver District, Emergency No. 1

All of the above are carefully struck upon pairs of the 1¢ yellow of the "Admiral" issue, George V, affixed to small envelopes which show no signs of having passed through the mail.

Now, it does not require much study of these for two facts to be apprehended: (a) that one or more of such markings must have been issued to all Canadian postal districts (the above is a partial list, of course); (b) that the presence of "No. 2," "No. 3," denotes a real need for this type of postmark. But "No. 5" is indeed surprising.

Used examples of these emergency markings are rare, and covers which identify the place of use are interesting and desirable pieces. A corner card or written address of the sender will prove the place of use. The following covers in my collection provide such information:

(1) St. John District, Emergency No. 2, Feb. 22, '43.

Used at Blackville, N. B. (M. S. on reverse). The impression is only fair, due probably to emergency conditions. Collectors of these markings will soon learn to expect blurred and imperfect strikes.

(2) (3) District de Quebec, Timbre Temporeaire, Mr. 9, '42

Two covers with same date, both with blurred strikes, and both with corner cards: (2) Arvida, P. Q.; (3) Kenogami, P. Q.; these places are about four miles apart. At which place was the emergency marking used? It was Major Ian Morgan of Montreal

who "spotted" the above in his firm's mail, and by a most fortunate chance found also a letter from Arvida with a normal cancellation of the same date, proving that it was not at Arvida, but at Kenogami in all likelihood, that an emergency existed.

(4) District de Quebec, Timbre Temporeaire, Feb. 19, '41, A.M.

(5) Quebec District, Emergency, Feb. 19, '41, P.M.

Here is an interesting group, both from the Quebec District, and both with the same date. The P.M. cover shows Baie Comeau as the place of origin. May we not conclude that the A.M. cover also originated at Baie Comeau? This seems probable, although I know of no other such example of duplication of French and English marks. Both markings are clearly struck, suggesting that normal conditions had returned.

(6) (7) District de Montreal, Timbre Temporeaire

Two covers: (6) dated Jan. 11, '43; (7) dated Jan. 14, '43. (6) is very blurred, whilst (7) shows a superb strike; evidently things were settling down. (6) has a corner card, St. Eustache, P. Q. (7) shows a poor impression on the stamp of the roller obliteration "St. Eustache, Que.," as well as the emergency marking alongside. There is a slight indentation of the rim at "TI" of "TIMBRE" on both covers.

(8) (9) (10) (11) District de Montreal, Timbre Temporeaire

Four covers, dated Mar. 17, 21, 26, and 27, 1945. All show the rim damage at "TI" of "TIMBRE," mentioned above. Only one shows any sign of place of origin that dated Mar. 27, which came from Ste. Adele-en-Haut, P. Q. In this group the progress from confusion to normalcy is clearly shown by the gradual change from blurred to perfect strikes.

(12) Ottawa District, Emergency No. 1, Oct. 10, '42.

In this strike there is "505" above the date. Can any reader explain this? There is no corner card.

CANADA: PLATE IMPRINTS 1930-31 ISSUES

By MAJOR K. H. WHITE

Many of our members may have idly wondered why the newly-formed Plate Block Group was called into being. It would seem inconceivable that denominations issued just 20 years ago could offer our group a welter of inconsistencies—and that goes for a great deal of joy and some tribulation.

These issues were printed by the "British American Bank Note Coy., Ottawa." Values up to and including the 10¢ were printed in sheets of 400, and divided into four panes of 100 stamps, gutters being wide enough to preclude imperforate edges. Values 12¢ to \$1.00 were printed in sheets of 200 and cut into four panes of 50 stamps with imperforate edges along the cuts. Sheets as originally printed were to have the imprint "PLATE No. ___" vertically at each of the four corners, always reading up on left, and down on right. These notes are proof it was not always as simple as all that.

162. 1¢ Orange, Die I, Plates 1 & 2

Imprints appear at all four corners both plates.

164. 2¢ Green, Die I, Plates 1 to 6 (incl.)

This denomination leaves the plate collector writhing with angry frustration. The plates should have been 400 subjects, and yet nothing seems to come out correctly. Left vertical strips of 20 show at 6th stamp the numbers 1 (with "C" reversed at 7th stamp)—2—3 and 4; between 5th and 6th stamp "PLATE No. 5" and same position "PLATE No. 6" (with the "devil's finger print" to the right of "PLATE").

Right vertical strips of 20 show "PLATE No. 3" and "PLATE No. 4" at bottom Lower Right—between 5th and 6th stamp "PLATE No. 5" and "PLATE No. 6."

PLATE No. 4 has imprint at all four corners. PLATE No. 3 has imprints at Upper Right and Lower Right corners. PLATE No. 5 LEFT shows the "devil's finger print" to the right of "PLATE" and PLATE

No. 6 LEFT appears without it.

Note: Plate No. 4 is most objectionable, having five imprints where only four can exist. Sheets of 600 subjects seem to be the only solution.

168. 4¢ Bistre, Die I, Plates 1 & 2

Imprints appear at all four corners and mid-centre vertically, both left and right. The centre imprints can always be identified by a difference in spacing between "No." and "1"—again between "No." and "2."

169. 5¢ Violet, Die I, Plates 1, 2 & 3

Imprints appear at all four corners on all three plates.

171. 8¢ Dark Blue, Die I, Plate 1

Imprints appear at all four corners but lower positions very rare. Unusual instance of "PLATE No. 1" appearing at both upper corners on a strip of 20 stamps.

173. 10¢ Green (Library), Plate 1.

Imprints on all four corners.

A double paper variety exists (writer possesses a pair).

A large figure "1" appears at the extreme lower corner of the upper left pane.

174. 12¢ Grey Black (Quebec Citadel), Plate 1

Imprints at all four corners.

175. 20¢ Red (Harvester), Plate 1

Imprints on all four corners.

176. 50¢ Blue (Grand Pre), Plate 1

Imprints at all four corners, and also at centre positions Left and Right, these being quite different in character to the corner imprints.

177. \$1.00 Olive (Mt. Cavell), Plate 1

Imprints at top corners, also at centre positions. Lower positions must exist, and should like to hear from anyone possessing them.

163. 1¢ Green, Die I, Plates 1 & 2 Die II, Plates 5, 6, 7 & 8

Imprints at all four corners, all plate numbers.

165. 2¢ Red, Die I, Plates 3, 4, 5 & 6 Die II, Plates 7 & 8

PLATE Nos. 3 & 4 have imprints

at all four corners, and Upper Left panes at 6th stamp have the addition of numeral 3 (PLATE 3), and numeral 4 (PLATE 4).

PLATE Nos. 5 & 6 have imprints at all four corners, and between 5th and 6th stamp on all panes "PLATE No. 5" (Plate 5), and "PLATE No. 6" (Plate 6).

PLATE Nos. 7 & 8—Imprints at all four corners both plates.

**166. 2¢ Brown, Die I, Plates 5 & 6
Die II, Plates 7, 8, 9 & 10**

PLATE Nos. 5 & 6 have imprints on all four corners and in addition between 5th and 6th stamps all four panes both plate numbers.

PLATE Nos. 7, 8, 9 & 10 have imprint on all four corners all plate numbers.

**167. 3c Deep Red, Die II, Plate Nos.
1, 2, 3, 4 & 5**

Imprints on all four corners all plate numbers.

170. 5¢ Dull Blue, Die I, Plate No. 3

Imprints on all four corners.

**172. 8¢ Orange, Die I, Plate Nos. 1, 2
& 3**

PLATE No. 1 has the imprints at both top corners of Upper Right pane (block of 40 stamps). PLATE Nos. 1 & 2 have imprints on top corners, also lower which are very hard to secure. PLATE No. 3 seems to be a straightforward job of imprints on all four corners, with strong hairlines top margins. No centre positions in this denomination, it is thought.

**190. 10¢ Green (Cartier), Plate Nos.
1, 2 & 3**

Imprints on all four corners, all three plates. PLATE Nos. 2 & 3 do exist, as the writer has them.

**184. 3c Carmine, Perf. 12x8, Plate
Nos. 13, 14 & 15**

Top positions only with HORIZONTAL imprints. Distinct differences on all three plates between Left and Right positions.

**191. 3¢ on 2¢ Red Provisionals
Die I, Plate Nos. 3, 4, 5 & 6
Die II, Plate Nos. 7 & 8**

Please see details covering the imprint locations on No. 165 2¢ Red.

Fortunately hold vertical strips of 20 on nearly all possible positions, all plate numbers, so No. 191 is also a perfect check on the details covering No. 165.

"Phantom Plate Numbers" always seem to be a different number, or different numbers, to the actual plate numbers of the pane.

* * *

The foregoing notes were compiled to portray the rather difficult and laborious task we have, as a Plate Number Study Group, to sift and sort so much information on so many denominations. However, if one collector can take one of his albums, at random, and from the material assembled therein, write these notes, possibly it is not going to be such a job after all. We are many, with a great wealth of material at our command.

Does Anyone Know the Answers?

Where, oh where, did the original sheets go—of the King Edward 2¢ Imperforate plates 13 and 14?

Students of this stamp know the story as told by Howes in his book "Canada Postage Stamps." Supposedly these got out one way or another in an irregular manner. Supposedly they were found by a Chicago man and later sold to Charles Severn of early Mekeel's Weekly fame. Later the post office department issued these in quantity from plates #13 and #14, thereby destroying the philatelic value of Mr. Severn's "find."

Many years ago Mr. Severn's philatelic holdings were disposed of—does anyone know where these original sheets of plates #13 and #14 are today? Or have they long since been broken up and disposed of? If anyone could shed even the slightest bit of light on this subject, it would be greatly appreciated and will help in my research in these issues.—Ed. Richardson, 217 Columbia, Ithaca, N. Y.

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



The value of a name. Don't let anyone tell you that an item from a famous collection doesn't bring a higher price at auction than it would if it were part of an ordinary collection. In the January TRAIL we discussed an item formerly from the Pack collection which was being sold as part of the Brigham collection. When it was sold in 1944 it brought \$725; when sold in December 1950, the same cover brought \$260.

In the April 1948 issue of Topics we showed how it was possible to distinguish between a proof and a trade sample of the 12¢ stamp, Scott #28. We have now discovered a definite means of distinguishing between the proof and the trade sample of the 5¢ value, Scott #25. It is more important in the case of the 5¢ value as gummed perforated examples of the trade samples are known in the 5¢ value. We have seen them in black and they look exactly like the 5¢ value, Scott #26. All of the trade samples are marked with a dot in the color of the stamp about 2/5ths of the way down in the left margin just a bit to the left of the frame line of the design. Neither the proofs nor the issued stamps are marked with this dot. The perforated and gummed proof is so much like the regular stamp #26, that only the other day while examining some lots up for auction at one of the most famous of auction houses we came across just such an item incorrectly described. It was listed as "5¢ black, well centered. Very fine o.g." When brought to their attention the lot was immediately withdrawn. The mistake was made in good faith as the gummed perforated trade sample would probably command as high a price as the mint well centered copy of the black 5¢ seal. We imagine that the lot will

be sold at that time with an explanation as to the true identity of the lot and all mail bids disregarded.

We're not too sure of the facts, but as far as we are concerned the true nature of the perforated gummed trade samples has only lately been realized and it was Clarence Brazer (BNAPS 149) who first set us right on the subject. Up until six months ago they were always described as perforated trial color proofs and when Clarence first told us what they were, he had to prove it to our satisfaction. This he readily did by going through his stock of the 13¢, Scott #30, and showing us the curl in the left margin alongside the numeral circle. Reference to the sample sheet illustrated on page 68 of the June 1947 Topics will show our readers what we mean. It proved beyond doubt that they were perforated and gummed trade samples and not trial color proofs. Strangely enough, though, we have never seen any examples of the 12¢ value, Scott #28, in the perforated and gummed condition. The reason for it may be that the scroll work on the sample sheet comes so close to the design that it would spoil the appearance of the stamp. We've seen examples of the 2¢, Scott #24, the 5¢, Scott #25 and #26, the 10¢, Scott #27, and the 13¢, Scott #30. If the 12¢ does exist in this condition, we would be very much interested in hearing about it.

It's just a question of knowing what to look for. Sometime ago Ken Minuse (BNAPS 67) got us interested in the re-entry on the 24¢ blue, Scott #31. Ken specializes in this issue and has been looking for this item, stamp #9 in the plate, as shown in Boggs on page 53. Well, we looked long and

(continued on page 58)

Sketches of BNAPSers

By V. G. Green



MERVYN V. QUARLES

Recently elected to our Board of Governors, Mervyn V. Quarles was born at Augusta, Ga., on October 8, 1921. Married, no children, he is employed in the Freight Traffic Department of the Norfolk & Western Railway Company.

Mr. Quarles started collecting stamps when he was twelve but his interest lagged while attending the University of Cincinnati. After four years of active service he resumed his collecting and having been introduced to our Society, he turned his interests to the stamps of British North America. He began specializing in Prince Edward Island in 1948 and in September of that year, along with L. G. Tomlinson, Louis S. Crosby, and R. J. Duncan, formed the P. E. I. Study Group. They have collaborated in a series of articles which will appear in BNA Topics this year, entitled "Worthwhile Varieties of P. E. I." The Study Group is also working on the P. E. I. section of Fritz Billig's Handbook, Volume II.

Philatelic articles by Mr. Quarles, mainly concerning Prince Edward Island and other B. N. A. Provinces but including other parts of the Brit-

ish Commonwealth, have appeared in Straight Edge (prizewinning magazine of the Roosevelt Philatelic Society of Chicago), BNA Topics, Weekly Philatelic Gossip, American Philatelist and Stamp Collectors Fortnightly.

During the 2nd Great War Mr. Quarles was a sergeant in the Field Artillery and served in the Central Europe Campaign in 1944 with the U. S. Forces. He is a member of the American Philatelic Society, Roosevelt Philatelic Society (Chicago) and his presence on our Board of Governors should prove a benefit to the Society as well as a help to President Binks.

Circuit Sales Topics

Amount of sales since my last report totals \$189.30. Four books were retired and 30 new books were entered. One of the books retired had an original value of \$19.30—consisting of 20 items (blocks)—it just had to make one circuit to sell \$13.15 worth. Reason—good stamps, priced right will sell quickly!

Here's another good example—a book of used Newfoundland just entered last month and now out on a circuit not yet completed has accounted for over \$40 worth of sales out of an original value of \$166. The reason is obvious—the owner used good judgement in pricing his material.

If you have some desirable stamps for sale—try the BNAPS Sales Circuit. Blank books are still only 5 for 25¢. Better buy now as printing and paper costs will probably advance. Send your order to the Circuit Sales Manager:

Harold R. Mevers, 101 W. 60th St., New York 23, N. Y.

TRAIL — From page 57

hard and the other day a right corner block of six of the proof came up for sale. We knew what to look for and it was there. We say was, because it now is in the collection. Now to get a block of four of the stamp.

MOUNTINGS OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PRINTING PLATES

By FRANK W. CAMPBELL

I am more than ordinarily interested in printing methods by which adhesive stamps are produced. While most stamps have been printed from steel plates in which the design is sunk, still a close second is lithography and surface printing—which of these two last methods is most used would be quite debatable. A fourth method now growing in popularity is rotogravure, which is not unlike the method of printing the illustrated supplements to American and Canadian week-end newspapers.

When I heard that the Prince Edward Island printing plates were stored in the vaults of the Royal Philatelic Society in England I had Leslie G. Tomlinson of Betley, England, contact someone who would give me accurate details of these printing plates.

These plates were made from electrotypes of an engraved die that was to be printed from the surface, as common printer's type or a rubber stamp would also do. They were molded the required number of times and arranged very accurately to fit the desired sheet arrangement.

All were soldered onto a metal plate, which in turn was mounted on a wood base, and trimmed to type-high (.918 of an inch).

The detail of the three plates examined is repeated here, as written to me:

3 cents—10 rows of 5—Cliches appear to be soldered on to a metal plate, in turn fastened to a block of wood by screws (?) through from the back. No pins of any metal showing on front.

12 cents—5 rows of 10—Soldered onto a metal plate, which is attached to a wooden base by means of screws through the edges of the plate on both sides and at bottom. Also pins between stamps at top, between 1 and 2, 5 and 6, and 9 and 10 on top row; also on the 4th row between stamps 5 and 6. This plate appears to be bottom part of a larger plate.

4 pence—6 rows of 5—Soldered on-

to plate, and the whole attached to a wood block with pins (a diagram sent indicating 8 pins scattered about evenly over the area).

This word "soldered" is what intrigues me, as I have had much experience in mounting electrotypes in odd ways. If I were mounting such a plate today, I would lay a sheet of tin or some other low-melting-point metal on a copper plate, then very carefully position each "stamp" and by a method of pressure and heat melt the sheet of tin to a point where it would automatically attach very firmly each item to the copper base. The mention of "soldering" in each of above indicates extremely careful work was necessary to work in such a narrow space as is available between the stamps.

Individuals assembled in a plate as here are liable to have one corner up-or-down as compared to the next stamp, which makes press work rather difficult, the mounting by heat-and-pressure (called "sweating" at times) being more satisfactory.

Three Methods Used

I was wondering how the whole plate was attached to the wood base, as the space between stamps is rather narrow for nailing. An examination of the three methods indicates the artisan of that time had his troubles, as he used three distinct methods:

3 cents—screwed from back.

12 cents—screws through edges at front.

4 pence—nails (or pins) from front between stamps.

The 3 cents with "screws from back" probably had the screw inserted into a lump of solder on back of the plate in predetermined positions for the screw to be inserted through the wood base—now called "anchoring" and commonly done where no edge exists on which to insert nails.

Some of these stamps were changed during the printing, as damage is evident on some that in later print-

ings were minus the damaged this-or-that. Also some units were grouped in 5 or 10, then an electro made, and the larger unit used as part of the whole plate arrangement.

Printing Method Comments

A few comments about stamp printing, not necessarily applying to this Prince Edward Island survey are timely.

Electrotyping or stereotyping are two surface plate making usages that are somewhat similar.

Electrotyping can be moulded from any substance that is not water soluble, as the acid bath in which the metal is deposited on the carbon coated surface of the mould would dissolve many substances. Rubber was used in early electrotyping experiments, while nowadays a paraffin wax relative is almost exclusively in use.

Stereotyping was used in the late 1700's, and could have been used to do a tolerably good job of printing the first English penny black stamp in 1840. This method needs a soft molding material that can be hardened by heat, while under pressure on the type or die until the heat dries the material to a consistency where melted type metal can be poured into the matrice made from the type or die. Plaster of Paris was used in the early experiments, but a paper pulp base is in use today.

Electrotype methods can be used to take a mould from a wood cut, but the dampness and heat for stereotyping would damage the wood "die."

I have seen in print lately in two places where electrotyping was used to "transfer" impressions from a steel intaglio (sunken) die to make a surface printed style of printing plate. I cannot figure out any possible way in which this could be done, as the sunken lines would no doubt vary in depth, which would make some low lines when reproduced.

Even lead is commonly used to mold for electrotyping from when the pattern is very flat, of steel or copper, and the design closely arranged, as the dots in a halftone plate.

Lithographing was done from stone in the 1700's, but is now almost

exclusively done from curved aluminum or zinc sheets. After printing starts it is quite difficult to repair damage to lithograph plates.

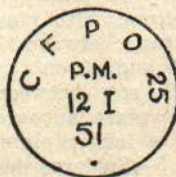
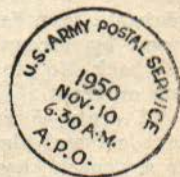
Mounting of stereotype or electrotype pieces on individual wood bases, then locking them together to make a plate of 50 or 100 stamps is an almost impossible job, and I have never heard of it being done. The wood pieces twist, and get out of alignment, and make a straight edge for perforating-to almost impossible. Also, the whole mass buckles up the center and makes press work very difficult. Still, I have seen printed articles indicating this is a common method of making a printers "form" to print from.

Type has been used to print temporary issues of stamps, and it works very satisfactorily, as compared to the "pieces of wood" idea.

Canadian Army Mail From Korea

By H. LLOYD BANNER

The advance guard of Canadian troops to Korea had their letters cancelled by the U. S. Army Postal Service "A. P. O." until about the middle of November when the main force arrived. Then their letters were all cancelled "C. F. P. O. #25" (Canadian Field Post Office #25). In November the C. F. P. O. #25 used Roman numerals "XI" for the month, but in December I have no record; in January '51 they have used the "I" for the month before the day, also in some cases after the day.



Bringing News About People and Stamps

By Rev. John S. Bain

A reply to an advance release of my column containing notes on CAPEX was made by the genial manager, Leslie A. Davenport, in last month's BNA Topics. Mr. Davenport has been in the stamp business a long time. His opinion on such matters is highly valued. Staging a show of this magnitude has many problems and will cost about \$50,000. It is easy to stand off and criticize the work of others. However, I believe what I wrote was a fair appraisal. In his personal letter to me, Mr. Davenport says, "Apparently you have not studied the new 'set-up' thoroughly or you would not make some of the statements you have. Newfoundland is now a part of the Dominion of Canada, hence their Postal History or Stampless would fall into the first Group under the heading of Provincial and Dominion issues." On the contrary I have studied the new "set-up." If what Mr. Davenport states is true then I look down and see that Groups 4 and 5 are devoted to Newfoundland stamps, separated from Canada. In other words separate the stamps but not the postal history! My contention for changes here and elsewhere is simply this. This is the ONE BIG CHANCE for B. N. A. philately to put on a highly specialized show. If it is not done here, when and where will it be done? I cannot imagine for instance the putting together in competition Canada proofs and essays against that of Newfoundland. It is done in Group 2. The answer I fear to all this is NOT unwillingness on the part of the CAPEX committee, BUT a lack of general support for the show. I am informed that with the CAPEX awards costing \$3,500 wholesale, a number of cuts on groups have been made. In other words if we want a highly specialized B. N. A. show we will have to get behind it better. The last prospectus listed 240 memberships in CAPEX. Out of this number BNAPS accounts for 84. The CAPEX guarantee fund

listed 119, of whom 54 were BNAPSers. A lot more are needed. Let's start local CAPEX auctions in our clubs with donated material. Then send the proceeds for a sustaining or life membership. If 100 clubs would contribute \$25.00 by such means an additional \$2,500 would be available for CAPEX use. I will be happy to mention such in this column. Can I hear from 100?

BNAPS

Congratulations to BNAPSer Merwyn Quarles on graduation from the College of Advanced Traffic, and best wishes as he starts in DePaul University. A very busy man this, but still finds time to turn out all the wonderful articles for the Prince Edward Island Study Group. If you want something done always ask the man who is too busy.

BNAPS

One of the regular advertisers in BNA Topics, H. E. Harris & Co., world renowned stamp dealers in Boston, Mass., gave B. N. A. a boost by offering as a prize for giving the correct identity in "What's My Name?" two mint copies of Nova Scotia #8 and #9 retailing at 30¢ each. Right nice copies they are, as I have two before me. These are part of the great purchase that Arthur A. Bartlett made for a syndicate, when he paid \$18,000 to the Canadian government for the Nova Scotia remainders.

BNAPS

I am sure that all BNAPSers will join with me in wishing the first president of our society, Walter R. Hoffman (BNAPS #10) every success as he joins the staff of M. Meghrig & Sons in New York. He will be in charge of sales promotion and advertising. Drop in and see Walter at 116 Nassau Street when in the big city. Perhaps he may have some BNA items!!

THE CHANCE

To Meet Your Fellow Membe

YOU HAVE SEEN THEIR NAMES in print, you have seen their photos in many cases, you have corresponded with them . . . NOW see your fellow BNAPSers in person. You will be able to contact more of them in Toronto, Canada, September 21-29, than at any time past or future. This will really be the chance of a lifetime to meet and swap notes (and stamps!) with the many collectors who have only been "names" to you before.

CONVENTION HOTEL . . .

Convention headquarters for BNAPS will be the King Edward Hotel, which is also the headquarters of CAPEX, and for other society conventions as well . . . truly a great gathering of philatelists under one roof. In addition there are many other first class hotels in Toronto, which should assure accomodation for all. But reservations should be in early if you don't want to be "left." Send your reservation NOW to: Lloyd W. Sharpe, 7 Hughson Street South, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON . . .

It is the present intention of the BNAPEX Committee to hold a luncheon on Friday, September 28, with the annual meeting of the Society to follow. The exact convention dates will be announced next month.

SPECIAL AWARDS . . .

In addition to the awards made by CAPEX at this great International Exhi-

BNAPEX



SEPTEMBER

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bition, the exhibits of BNAPS members will be judged independently by a board of our own judges and awards made accordingly.

THE CONVENTION CITY . . .

Few cities in North America have names older than Toronto. Its documented history dates from 1615, when Indians guided Etienne Brule to their "place of meeting." In 1749 the French established the first white settlement on the site, but by 1759 French-English rivalry forced the French to destroy their fort. In 1793 the first organized English settlement was established and Fort York was built in 1794. By 1834 the population had increased to 10,800 and the city of Toronto was incorporated. Today Toronto is Canada's second city in population, but is the country's leading city in industrial production, car loadings, payroll and salary volume, bank clearings, automobile ownership, number of telephones per thousand of population, and many other factors and features which designate the greatness of a city.

FOR THE LADIES . . .

The ladies will not be forgotten during this big show, as special events will be held for their entertainment. In addition, Toronto is served by a host of stores of all sizes catering to the visitor with outstanding stocks of English china and woolens, furs, linens, sterling silver and diamonds. The main establishments of two of Canada's nation-wide stores are here, and the smaller specialty shops are wonderful, presenting both utility and luxury goods in great variety.

BER 1951



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50-55-56-58-59-60

Small Head 3c 1870 (any shade)

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-89
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#73 10c, Leaf, Very Fine Mint Block of 4	22.50
#82 8c, Numeral, Very Fine Mint Block of 4	12.50
#85 & 6, Very Fine Mint Blox of 4, Set of 2	3.50
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#90b, 2c Ed. Booklet 1½ Panes in cover. Average Mint	100.00
#91, 5c Edward, Very Fine Mint Blox of 4	6.25
#93, 10c Edward, Very Fine Mint Blox of 4	25.00
#158* 50c Bluenose, T. Pl. of 4, "Ottawa No. A2 936 Y", Fine	22.50
#158* 50c Bluenose, T. Pl. of 6, "Ottawa No. A3 936 Y", Fine	32.50
#208* 3c Cartier, Hor. Strip 4, Wide spacing in cent., fine \$15, VF	17.50

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VARIETY

HUNTING

in Canada

Ron Tuckwell



The King's Cleft Beard

A notable error in the last portrait issue of the late King George V is known as the "Cleft Beard." It ranks with the "Mole on Forehead" and "Big Whisker" and "Blue Nose"—but is much lesser-known. The "cleft" is a pronounced red mark running from well up in the King's beard near his chin down into the collar of his uniform, doubtless caused by something defacing the die. The error can be

spotted easily without a glass, as it puts quite a dinge in the monarch's beard.

Another curious and little-heard-about error variety in this 3¢ red stamp is the "Lip Pimple"—a red mark just below the King's bottom lip at the left corner of the mouth looking exactly like a pimple.

Still another curious but highly-prized error-variety in this 3¢ is the "Smashed Nose"—in which, due to a badly-battered plate, the King's proboscis is mashed almost flat.

NOTES ON THE 'ADMIRAL' SERIES

By J. P. MACASKIE

(PART II)

2 CENT RED. PERF. 12

Early printings are in various rose shades. Later on, deeper colors are more frequently found, usually carmine, one main exception to this being the bright (aniline) shade of 1915/16.

The weaknesses of design apparent on the 1¢ value are again in evidence on the 2 cent value, the emphasis being on the right-hand value tablet and the lower-left frame junction line.

The period 1915/1916 is a rather confusing one in view of the numerous retouches and the worked-over die, and the writer gratefully acknowledges the help obtained from G. C. Marler's clear explanation of this problem.

The relief breaks which are to be found are so numerous that many collectors may be content with a selection of the main types. At the risk of being accused of including too much detail, a rather long list is set out below:

Type
1. Original die. Very fine vertical

lines in the upper spandrels.

- 1a. As above, but spandrels worn. Practically no trace of vertical lines. (Earliest date noted has been 13th March, 1912)
- 1b. One small break in the vertical line of the right-hand value tablet about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm from the top. (Noted April, 1912)
- 1c. Two small clear breaks in the vertical line of the RH value tablet, one at the top, the other about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm lower down. (Noted June, 1912)
- 1d. One small clear break at the top of the vertical line in the RH value tablet. (Noted Aug., 1912)
- 1e. Vertical line of RH value tablet broken or very weak in the top half for a distance of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. (Noted Sept. 1912)
2. Retouched die. Strong vertical lines added in the upper spandrels. The earliest examples found of this type have all been in a rather muddy rose shade. Earliest example found has been 18th April, 1913, but, as it is probable

that the retouching was done about the same time as the one cent die, earlier copies will, no doubt, be known.

- 2a. One small break in the lower-left frame junction line. (Noted October, 1913)
- 2b. Two breaks in the lower-left frame junction line. Two slightly different types of this have been seen on numerous copies, one usually late 1917, the other 1921.
- 2c. Vertical line of the RH value tablet very weak, almost entirely missing on some copies. (Noted November, 1915, on the bright aniline shade only.)
3. Worked-over die. According to Marler this was used only for Plates 93 and 94. All copies seen have been in the bright aniline shade. The characteristic of this type is a clear retouching, with lines of medium thickness, of the vertical lines of the upper and lower-left and the lower-right spandrels. Also strengthening of the right-hand frame junction lines and the RH vertical tablet line.

Retouches.

During late 1915 some plates were evidently extensively retouched and numerous copies have been noted showing different types. The majority show heavy retouching of all vertical spandrel lines, the right-hand frame junction lines and the vertical line of the right-hand value tablet. Less frequently, copies will be found showing retouches to two or three of the spandrel lines. These may be distinguished from type 3, mentioned above, by the heavier retouch lines and the darker colour of the stamps. Other retouches have been noted as under:

(a). On the original die.

1. Right-hand value tablet strengthened by a medium-thickness vertical line which extends below the tablet for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm.
2. Left-hand value tablet strengthened by a medium-thickness vertical line which extends upwards into the spandrel for about 2mm.
3. Right-hand value tablet partially

strengthened by the addition of a short thick vertical line.

4. Irregular vertical line added in the upper-left spandrel.
- (b). On the retouched die.
1. Vertical line of the RH tablet strengthened by a line which widens towards the bottom, suggesting a slanting cut.
 2. Vertical line added in the lower-right spandrel, extending into the value tablet.
 3. Right-hand frame line strengthened irregularly.
 4. Top frame line strengthened irregularly. Several types have been noted. On two copies, both with a straight edge at the left, a thin line about 3mm long slopes up to the left from the centre of the top frame above "P" of "POST-AGE."
 5. Thick irregular line added in the upper-left spandrel.
 6. Thick irregular line added in the lower-left spandrel.

Re-entries.

These have been few in number compared with the one cent value.

1. On type 1. Strong doubling of the first "A" in "CANADA" and of "AGE" of "POSTAGE." Other traces to be seen in the white ovals near the letters mentioned.
2. On the "Retouched-plate" type of 1915. A long line outside and parallel to the left-hand frame line, the left-hand figure "2" also being partially doubled.

A number of minor re-entries have been noted showing slight doubling of the bottom line in the right-hand value tablet, and others showing slight doubling of the lines in the upper-right spandrel.

Coil stamps.

The writer has been able to examine only a few hundreds of these, and therefore does not consider that the following notes are complete.

Horizontal. Imperf. x Perf. 8.

1. Original die. Very fine vertical lines in the upper spandrels. Some copies show signs of wear, but



1B.



1C.



1D.



1E.

Sub-types on the original die of the normal 2¢ stamp (i.e.—Perf. 12 all round)

none are so pronounced as those found in the normal perforated issue.

- 1a. Two small clear breaks in the vertical line of the RH value tablet. (Same as type 1c in the normal issue).
- 1b. Vertical line of the RH value tablet weak and broken in the top half.
2. Retouched die. Strong vertical lines added in the upper spandrels. Early shades are rose, later scarlet or carmine.
- 2a. Small break in the lower-left frame junction line.
- 2b. Vertical line of the RH value tablet very weak, often entirely missing. Right-hand frame junction lines also very weak. (Dates of this mostly 1917)
- 2c. $\frac{1}{4}$ mm line of colour about $\frac{3}{4}$ mm to the right of the frame line in the lower right-hand corner.

Retouch.

Vertical line of the right-hand value tablet strengthened by a line which extends into the spandrel above. On the original die type.

Vertical. (a). Perf. 8 x Imperf.

Only one type has been noted, as follows:

Original die. Vertical line of the right-hand value tablet broken in the top half. (See type 1e in the normal issue).

(b). Perf. 12 x Imperf.

The writer's copies have all been of the type of the retouched die, and no differences have been noted in these. Marler also mentions copies from the original die in exactly the same state as the Perf. 8 x Imperf. coil.

No re-entries or retouches have been found on the coil stamps except the one mentioned above on the horizontal coil.

Booklets.

1. Original die. Fine vertical lines in the upper spandrels. The writer has one copy dated February 10th 1912, and this must be a very early date in view of the fact that the first two booklet plates were approved on January 17th 1912. (Post Office information, per Marler.)
- 1a. Small clear break at the top of the vertical line in the right-hand value tablet.
2. Retouched die. Strong vertical lines in the upper spandrels. No easily recognizable differences have been found. The early printings, however, are in a deep rose shade, the later ones being in scarlet or carmine.

Hairlines.

These were mentioned generally in the introduction to this series. On the two cent value it is surprising that hairline copies from the original die are often found dated 1914. It seems probable that these are a late release from the Post Office stocks, because they all appear to be the same type as copies dated 1912, which presumably are from Plate 4. On the other hand Plate 52, which both Marler and Jarrett have stated to have hairlines of a less extensive nature, should be from the retouched die, and should therefore be easily distinguishable. The writer has a number of copies from the retouched die showing faint hairlines, mainly in the lower half of the stamp.

(To be continued)

LOOKING HERE ... LOOKING THERE

with Russell Allison

Wonder who the lucky fellow is who bought the huge Goodchild holdings of stampless covers for \$320? Someone was very, very fortunate. If I remember correctly, the late Mr. Goodchild was responsible for much of the stampless information of the 1943 edition of Holmes' Handbook and Catalogue of Canada and B. N. A.

The Magdalena Wise collection of Canada and B. N. A. realized some great prices for the superb material offered for sale. In Canada, a copy of No. 1 Beaver with huge margins on all sides realized \$46; No. 4a full sheet margin with imprint, \$38; 4a, large margins and numeral cancellation, \$15; another, large margins, \$18; 4d, similar condition, \$28 and \$23; No. 5, three large margins with one small margin, \$76; No. 7 10d blue, large margins, \$112.50; No. 8 ½d rose, similar condition, \$36; an almost perfectly-centered vertical pair of the 3d perf. 12x12, \$58; a block of four of No. 19, 17c blue in immaculate condition, centered beautifully, with perfs. touching design at top, \$156; a used block of eight of the 10c dull rose (45a), \$16; and a used block of four of the 50c Widow, \$11. The lot I mentioned last month—the British Columbia No. 9 5c red, described as precancelled in blue, realized \$6; New Brunswick 1851 6d olive yellow No. 2, large margins, neat cancel, cat. \$55, realized \$51. Another copy cancelled "23" in black, \$56; the 1/- red violet No. 3, margins all around with "8" in blue, realized \$180. Newfoundland 5c black, No. 26, on cover, cat \$15, brought \$17; nice prices on other lots. Nova Scotia No. 2 3d blue, \$15.50 on cover, \$13.50 off cover; 1/- red violet, No. 6, large to very large margins, light black cancel, extremely fine, cat. \$275, brought

\$177.50.

The Harmer, Rooke sale of January 9 and 10 had the following pieces:

Canada — A bottom right corner sheet margin of 50 (10x5) of the 1c yellow (No. 35) with imprint "British North America Bank Note Co., Ottawa," mint with slight separation, \$13; 3c No. 37, similar block of 50 (5x10), part of imprint and "Three Cent" at top, \$14; 2c No. 36, bisected and used as 1c on small piece, \$8. Superbly centered copies (mint) of the \$2, \$3 and \$4 Jubilee brought \$42, \$46 and \$50.

The New Brunswick section was composed of 24 lots of essays and proofs. Most lots were sold for one-fifth to less than one half catalogue. The Nova Scotia section had 26 lots of essays and proofs.

Harmer, Rooke auction, January 23, 24 and 25: Canada—1859 17c orange imperf. trial color plate proof on India (19TC3), catalogue \$20, realized \$12.50; War Tax 1916 2c plus 1c brown, type I, imperf. block of four, cat. \$60, realized \$33. Nova Scotia—1853 1d red brown, margins all around, light cancel, \$40. Prince Edward Island—Imperf. pairs 3d blue (No. 6b), 4d black (No. 9) and 3c rose (13a), \$6, \$4 and \$5 respectively.

H. R. Harmer of New York is auctioning a specialized 19th century Canada collection on April 2, 3, and 4.

CANADIAN PHILATELIC LITERATURE

CANADIAN STAMPS

By Patrick Hamilton

116 Pages, illustrated — \$3.00

Philatelic Literature of other countries also.

W. J. Rozmin

3935 South Campbell, Chicago 32

5c Re-Entry on 6c Small Queen



In January Topics Russell Allison described how this re-entry, which Boggs calls "the most remarkable variety in Canadian stamps," came into his possession. Mr. Allison has had this item photographed and enlarged as above. The re-entry appears on the second stamp of the bottom row of the block pictured, on the "AN" of CANADA and the "A" of POSTAGE, as shown in the enlarged picture. Also, the frame line can be seen crossing the top of the crown. The next time you see a chocolate shade of the 6¢ Small Queen look at it closely—you may be lucky too!

A FEW RAMBLING NOTES ON THE W. R. KING LIBRARY AUCTION

By R. J. DUNCAN

As the late W. R. King was for many years a good philatelic correspondent of mine, I took a particular interest in the auction of his philatelic library by Sylvester Colby in New York in December.

The B. N. A. section of Mr. King's library was very fine and the prices realized on B. N. A. handbooks, catalogues, etc., were very good. Possibly the star item of the sale was Lot 398, Howe's "Canada." This copy,

bound in red cloth and gilt and in immaculate condition realized a price of \$80. The estimated value was only \$50.

There was only one of Jarrett's books offered—Lot 397, "Postage Stamps of Canada." This was Jarrett's first book. With an estimated value of \$7.00, it realized \$9.00, which I consider was a very high price. Neither of Jarrett's B. N. A. Catalogues were offered at this sale, although I notice that a copy of his 1927 book is offered (Lot No. 805) in Sissons' Auction, February 8 and 9, 1951. This book is not often offered at auction, and I find that it is much more rare than the 1929 edition.

Another book that is seldom offered is Poole's "Handbook on Canada," and I consider it the scarcest of all specialized books on this country.

Lot 395, Dalwicks & Brunels hand books on Prince Edward Island realized their estimated value of \$4.00. This was a very fine price and shows how scarce they are now getting, for a few years ago they could be picked up for 25 cents each.

Lot 390, four early Canadian revenue catalogues, with an estimated value of \$5.00, realized \$6.50, which shows there must be considerable interest now in Canadian revenue stamps.

Lot 392, two catalogues on Canadian precancels, did not do nearly as well as the revenue catalogues; still they did very good, realizing \$4.00 with an estimated value of \$3.00.

Lot 401, the B. N. A. Handbook of the Philatelic Society, London, published in 1889, with an estimated value of \$27.50, brought \$40 for a very rare handbook. This copy was evidently in very fine condition.

Lot 402, Poole's Handbooks on British Columbia, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia realized \$6.50, which certainly indicates how scarce many of the Poole handbooks are fast becoming.

Magazine Prices Not So Good

B. N. A. philatelic magazines did not bring any of the fine prices of the handbooks and catalogues, however. In fact, many a bargain was

to be had in this section. Many of the sets were not complete, and I suppose this had a tendency to hold down prices. I consider the estimated values in these very low, also.

In my opinion the greatest bargain of the auction was Lot 689, containing "Canadian Philatelic Weekly," London; "Canadian Philatelic Weekly," Toronto; "Philatelic Courier and Stamp Collector's Journal," Halifax, and "Useful Instructor," Halifax. These are all scarce, but Heckler's "Philatelic Courier and Stamp Collector's Journal" is now rare. With an estimated value on this lot of \$10, it realized \$8.00. I recently saw an advertisement offering a bound set of Heckler's "Philatelic Courier" in immaculate condition for \$250.

Lot 714, "Postman's Knock," St. Johns, N. B., complete, realized \$26.50 which was a very reasonable price for this exceedingly rare set.

Lot 695, "Dominion Philatelist," 1889-97; a complete set of 76 numbers with an estimated value of \$22.50, realized \$15.00. This was indeed a bargain, as the last two numbers are rarities.

Lot 686, "Canadian Journal of Philately." This was the deluxe Canadian philatelic publication of the '90's, published by Henry Ades Fowler, who died recently. This generally brings from \$5.00 up, but it went for a song at this sale—only \$1.00.

Lot 709, "Philatelia," Montreal, 1935-38. Part set estimated at \$5.00, brought \$4.50. A complete set of this magazine, which was bilingual, is very rare. This magazine is not fully appreciated today, but it contained many valuable notes on B. N. A. by Messrs. Marler, Belanger, Jarrett, Moir and others.

Lot 700, "Halifax Philatelist." A complete set estimated at \$7.50, realized a mere \$2.75. I feel sure if B. N. A. collectors had realized what a gold mine of information it contained, especially on Nova Scotia and New Brunswick by the late Donald A. King, it would have brought a much higher price. I still consider him one of the greatest of the students of the stamps of Canada, and his writings provided

(continued on page 73)

Various and Sundry *By G. E. Foster*

Extensive collections of philatelic literature are very few, and frequently inaccessible to those desiring the use of reference material in the further study of their stamps. The hunt for some wanted paper or volume is more maddening than the chase after some elusive stamp. These hunters have their inning, however when some property like the King library, sold at auction by Silvester Colby, Inc., comes on the market. Two BNAPSers, De Volpi and R. J. Duncan, obtained several lots, and John Fox and Fritz Billie were floor bidders.

We list a few prices paid; "Album Weeds," Earee, 3rd ed. \$42; "Spain," by Moens, his magnum opus, \$16.00; "Canada" by C. A. Howes, \$80.00; "Mekeel's Weekly" from 1891 to 1948, \$75; "Stanley Gibbon's Monthly Journal," 1890/1913, \$85.00; "Philatelist," Brighton, Eng., 1867-76, containing the "Spud" papers with the stamp reprints, \$60.00.

Lot #486, "The Southern Philatelist," Charleston, 1889-1896, rolled time back nearly six decades for the writer. This was a very readable, well printed monthly, edited by Gus J. Luhn. We were a subscriber to this periodical for some years, duly remitting our 25¢ annually as our subscription expired. This lot in two fine volumes fetched \$9.25. After the sale Steve Rich was telling me that this item had originally been the property of the late Geo. B. Calman.

HELP WANTED

The Plate Block Group is hard at work gathering material in preparation for the eventual publication of their Plate Block Catalogue. There are a few minor points to be clarified in some of the earlier issues, and the more help the group can get from the members, the more complete and correct will be the final outcome. If you have any information which might prove useful, get in touch with Major White at 3564 S. W. Marine Drive, Vancouver, B. C., Canada.

CANADA

17	Prince Albert	12.50
20	2c Rose	8.50
120	Geo. V 50c Black	9.00
140A	Double Surcharge	10.00
176	50c Grande Pre	7.50
141	Plate Blk. Macdonald ...	1.00
198	Plate Blk. 8c	5.00
203	Broken "X" Block	4.00
204	Royal William Block ...	1.50
208	Plate Block Cartier	1.00
209	Plate Block Loyalist	4.00
203	Plate Block (creased) ...	3.50
211	Weeping Princess Blk. ..	7.50
210	Plate Blk. New Brunswick	1.00
216	Plate Blk. Royal Yacht .	9.00
217-27	1935 Pictorial	2.50
226	Re-entry block	8.50
241-45	1938 Pictorial	2.25
249-62	1942 War Issue	3.00
268-73	2.25
259	Plate Block	1.00

NEWFOUNDLAND

87-97	Guy Issue (less 92)	30.00
104-14	(less 110-106 no gum) .	28.50
73	35c Iceberg	6.00
115-26	Caribou Issue	15.00
131-44	1923-4 Pictorials	15.00
128	3 on 15 narrow	9.00
145-59	1928 Publicity	8.00
163-71	1929 Publicity	8.00
172-82	1931 Publicity	20.00
188	Block—Prince of Wales .	2.75
192	Block—Princess Elizabeth	3.00
212-25	Gilbert Set	20.00
233-43	Coronation Long Set	3.00
251	Blk. broken "S" surcharge	3.50
252	Sir Wilfred Grenville Blk.	.60
253-66	1941-44 Re-Issue	2.00
255	Block with broken "A" ..	.50
C3A	1921 Halifax Flight	10.00
C6-8	1931 Unwatermarked	8.50
C9-11	1931 Watermarked	15.00
C10	used (Register cancellation)	3.50
C11	used (Register cancellation)	15.00
C12	used 1932 DO-X	32.50
C13-17	1933 Labrador set	20.00
C16	1933 Labrador	8.50
C17	1933 Labrador	7.00
C18	1933 Balboa	30.00

All mint unless otherwise mentioned.

G. Eric Thompson

423 Sunnyside Ave., Ottawa, Ont., Can.

To the Editor

Position Dots— Small Queen Issue

Dear Sir: Like Mr. Littlefield, in his interesting article in the February issue of "Topics" re position dots on the 10¢ Small Queen—Ottawa printings, I have never seen the position dot on the 10¢ value in any other place than in the lower left corner, and I feel, with him, that Mr. Boggs in writing of the Ottawa plates should have exempted the 10¢ plates from his generalization. Surely the evidence points to the continued use of the Montreal plates rather than to new plates showing a position dot totally at variance with all other values, yet at the same time conforming exactly to the Montreal plates? Position dots in the Ottawa printings are truly, as Shoemaker says in regard to the 3¢, "occasional," whereas, as Mr. Littlefield himself states, the position dot on the Ottawa 10¢ shows up in 90% of the stamps examined.

Frankly, despite the comprehensive coverage of Boggs fine work, I do not find it a reliable authority on position dots. For example on page 287 we find the following:

"Stamps showing a position dot at left side of medallion indicates a late Montreal plate or Ottawa plate made previous to 1892. When the position dot shows at the right side of the medallion it indicates an Ottawa plate made in 1892 or later."

I have in my collection 3¢ Small Queen's with position dot on the LEFT bearing postmarks dated in the late '90's—two copies as late as the latter part of 1897. It may, of course, be claimed—apart from paper and shade—that these could be "carry-overs," BUT no such claim could be made for the 3¢ stamps I hold having position dot on the RIGHT side with postmarks bearing dates in 1889, 1890 and 1891.

Moreover, believe it or not, I have one copy bearing the position dot on both the left AND the right. The Small Queen Study Group have a tre-

mendous job in hand in trying to unravel and elucidate the intricacies and mysteries of this fascinating issue.

W. T. White

Interesting Stampless Covers

Dear Sir: I recently acquired some stampless covers of Canada, about 50 in all. One in particular was very interesting to me as it was written in 1811. The man who wrote this letter, I believe, was an officer on H. M. Ship "Macedonian," River Tagus, Off Lisbon, Sept. 25, 1811. The letter is well written on a very good grade of laid paper, with a beautiful watermark. This man tells about Lord Wellington's army before Ciudad Rodrigo, Portugal, which was occupied by a French garrison in a state of starvation. The French army, which was very strong, wished to relieve the garrison, but because of the position of Wellington's army, the garrison was forced to surrender. The writer tells of Lord Wellington's army capturing about 500 French cavalry.

He also mentions that the "Macedonian" had been at sea for two months without any luck in taking a prize. The letter is very interesting throughout, but the ending is of most interest as he tells of rumors of an American war, which would be a good thing for the navy, but he did not know how it would be beneficial to Nova Scotia! (This war, of course, did take place, in 1812.)

Among these letters were quite a few addressed to a John V. Woolsey, Victoria and New Westminster, British Columbia, via New York and California. This John V. Woolsey must have been connected with the Treasury and been a man of some importance, and also done considerable travelling as I have one letter addressed to him at San Francisco. These letters were all addressed from about 1859 to 1864, and I believe the route they took was from New York by boat to Panama, across the Isthmus of Panama by mule, thence by boat to San Francisco, and by steamer to Victoria, V. I. Perhaps some BNAPS member could tell me something re-

garding John V. Woolsey, and also about the correct route these letters took, as some of them were written during the course of the American Civil War.

I also found two letters addressed to Sanford Fleming, and one signed with the initials "S. A. F."—I am wondering if Sir Sanford Fleming had a middle name starting with "A." Perhaps some member can tell me this.

I have looked up facts relating to Wellington's army in the Standard American Encyclopedia, and this verifies the story mentioned in the 1811 letter.

Charles McDonough.

Answer to "Gadabout"

Dear Sir: In response to "Gadabout's" article in January Topics, permit me to state that I personally feel that 2500 members is not necessary to make our Society great. BNAPS would be great with only one hundred members who were sincerely interested in it.

Most big philatelic societies lack the personal touch—that is, they become so large and impersonal, that the only advantage the average collector derives from them is the use of his membership number on the top of his printed stationery. The net result of becoming this big is wholesale loss of membership yearly due to non-payment of dues. This means continual drives to keep up the membership to a set figure. These membership drives bring in a good many persons who have been "high-pressured" and these are the fellows who drop out when they receive their first dues payment notice. Another drive—more fellows who were "high-pressured"—more dropped for non-payment of dues—"round and round she goes" until no one knows just who belongs to the society and who does not. Any fellow who doubts the truth of the foregoing statements is referred to the "S. P. A. Journal," February, 1951, in which 546 names were listed as Lapsed Memberships or better than 10% of the total membership dropped for non-payment of

dues. Why all these losses? The society is too big and offers too little to the average collector.

What do I have in mind for BNAPS? I will try to enumerate the points I think should be stressed to make our Society the best of its type in the world:

1. Advertise our Society—place it before all sincere B. N. A. collectors, refraining from "high-pressure" methods at all times.
2. Bring all the foremost B. N. A. writers and collectors into the Society.
3. Retain the PERSONAL TOUCH. This is one point that cannot be stressed too much. Ask any of the fellows who have attended our conventions. They will all say the same thing, "The only thing wrong with BNAPS Conventions is that they are only held once a year."
4. Limit our membership to 1000. This may sound like a low figure, but to make our membership desirable, it must be made difficult to obtain. BNAPS needs only sincerely interested members—the others are no asset philatelically or otherwise.

In this year of CAPEX let us all make an honest effort to interest people in our Society so that we may increase our membership, but let us always keep in mind that quality is more desirable than quantity.

James T. Culhane.

KING AUCTION—from page 70

the basis of much which has since been written about them.

Lot 399, McCachlan & Co., Catalogue, Montreal, 1865, realized \$17.00. This is a new one to me, but I do know of a descriptive catalogue of that date published in Montreal by R. McLachlan & Co., and I expect the above is a misprint for this. If so, it is one of the earliest of Canadian catalogues and is indeed a rarity.

Lot 400, Morell's Philatelic Directory, 1886, realized \$4.50. It is interesting to note that the author of this directory is possibly a member of

(continued on page 76)

Maritime Miscellany



by W.W. Chadbourne

Sitting at the same dinner table with Jim Sissons at BNAPEX in Philadelphia, he called my attention to an unusual cover in the Reford Sale, Part 1. This was lot 1261, a Nova Scotia cover, bearing a horizontal pair of the penny #1 and a single of the three pence blue #2, to New York with circular "Boston 18 Feb. 5 cts.," a five pence rate. I had a dim recollection of another similar cover and have since looked it up. In a Harmer Rooke sale of June 6-7, 1945, lot 383, was a cover with the same combination of stamps, also to New York, with circular "Br. Packet Boston Apr. 25" on the front and backstamped "Halifax April 21, 1858." This cover brought \$125; the Reford item, \$285.

The interesting fact about these two covers is that they are evidence of the existence of a packet rate of five pence from Halifax to the United States while the regular overland mail route via St. John, St. Andrews, and Robbinston, Maine, the interchange office, was six pence. This 5

pence rate was, of course, the forerunner of the 8½¢ packet rate after introduction of the decimal issue.

A New Brunswick cover franked with a 5¢ olive green dated Feb. 23, 1861, has just been purchased. This is as early a date as I have seen, but logically it should not be an "early." Would appreciate information on earlier dates. On my cover the stamp is cancelled with circular black town "Bend of Petitcodiac." Town cancellations on N. B. stamps are not common as grid killers were generally used.

BNAPEX Committee News

Charles F. Foster, 81 Cheritan Av., Toronto, has agreed to act as treasurer for BNAPEX-51, and those members who are willing to act as patrons of the Society's third annual convention should get in touch with him at once.

Hotel accomodation will be at a premium in Toronto during the week of CAPEX, so reservations should be made at once. Mail your request to Lloyd W. Sharpe, 7 Hughson Street South, Hamilton, Ont., Canada.

Publicity for BNAPEX will be under the direction of Topics Editor Gordon P. Lewis, 13 Eastern Ave., Brampton, Ont., Canada.

B·N·A TOPICS

Official Publication of The British North America Philatelic Society

Subscription \$3.00 per year

ADVERTISING RATES

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

Copy must be received by the Editor
by the 15th of month preceding publication

Report of the Secretary

FEB. 15, 1951

NEW MEMBERS

- 712 Ayre, Charles Arthur, R. R. 2, Petrolia, Ont., Canada.
713 Casey, L. A. (Pat), Rice Hotel, Houston 2, Texas.
714 Haac, Norman M., 4341 Orchard St., Philadelphia 24, Pa.
715 Thorne, James T., 91 Glen St., Malden 48, Mass.
716 Ward, Kenneth S., 456 Dominion St., Winnipeg, Man., Canada.
717 White, Thomas D. L., 4598 West 14th Avenue, Vancouver, B. C., Canada
718 Woods, Lt. Col. Henry G. J., 605 W. Pender, Vancouver, B. C., Canada

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- apRoberts, G. I., 1575 W. 15th Avenue, Vancouver, B. C., Canada (C) CAN—19th & 20th century mint & used postage. Plate Blocks. Coils. Mint & used booklet panes. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484. Seconded by D. C. Lee, No. 636.
- Jackes, Dr H. L., 1826 W. King Edward, Vancouver, B. C., Canada (C) CAN—19th & 20th century mint & used postage and blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S. Mint & used booklet panes. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No 484. Seconded by D. C. Lee, No. 636.
- Johnston, Gordon, Sanatorium P. O., Ont., Canada (CX) CAN, NFD—19th & 20th century mint & used postage and blocks. Plate Blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S. Proposed by G. S. Johnson, No. 218.
- Latimer, Russel, New Norway, Alta., Canada (CDX) CAN—19th & 20th century mint & used postage and blocks. Pre-stamp, stampless, 1st day and 1st flight covers. Seals. Mint & used airmails. R. R., territorial, flag & slogan cancellations. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37. Seconded by J. Levine, No. 1
- Lethaby, Hubert, 79 Wellington, Victoria, B. C., Canada (CX) CAN—Plate blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S. Mint booklet panes. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484. Seconded by D. C. Lee, No. 636.
- Newberry, Roger, 839 Fort St., Victoria, B. C., Canada (DX) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th & 20th century mint & used postage and blocks. Plate Blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S. Federal & provincial revenues. Mint, used & semi-official airmails. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37. Seconded by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484.
- Parker, H. H., Box 566, Rt. 1, Daves Ave., Los Gatos, Calif. (CC) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th century mint & used postage. Coils. Literature. Proposed by J. Levine, No. 1.
- Richardson, R. M., 216 King St. East, St. John, N. B., Canada (CC) CAN, NFD—19th & 20th century mint & used postage and mint blocks. Plate Blocks. Proposed by A. B. Peatman, No. 518. Seconded by J. Levine, No. 1.
- Slough, J. Burton, 2473 East 29th Avenue, Vancouver, B. C., Canada (C) CAN, NFD—19th & 20th century mint & used postage. Pre-stamp & stampless covers. Coils. O.H.M.S. Mint & used airmails. Stationery entire. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484. Seconded by Lt. Col. F. B. Eaton, No. 608

REPLACED ON ROLL

- 311 Hadley, Raymond F., 443 Lombardy Rd., Drexel Hills, Pa.
456 Miller, Thomas J., 215 Thompson Dr., St. James, Man., Canada

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- Epstein, Joseph, 30 Sherwood Rd., Rockville Center, N. Y.
Gaylord, S. B., 1601 Henrietta, Birmingham, Mich.
Piggott, Earle L., c/o Eastern Supervisor Office, Bank of Nova Scotia, St. John, N. B., Canada (from Halifax, N. S.)
Thomas, Alice C., 8308 Cadwalader Rd., Elkins Pk., Philadelphia 17, Pa.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

- Ranger, A. P., 140 Hamilton Rd., New Westminster, B. C., Canada

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- 632 Beaven, M. H. C., 4204 Pleasant Valley Rd., Vernon, B. C., Canada

- 202 Bessell, R. P., 2208-12th St. W., Calgary, Alta., Canada
 227 Goldstein, Samuel P., 1704 Stenton Ave., Philadelphia 41, Pa.
 556 Kruger, John, 1619 Athol St., Regina, Sask., Canada
 585 Morell, Maj. Harry, M. D., Maple Ave., Sutton, Que., Canada
 656 McMartin, Arthur K., R. R. No. 1, Ladner, B. C., Canada
 176 Pendree, Reginald H., Kindersley, Sask., Canada
 91 Smith, R. R., 1330 S. Olive St., Los Angeles 15, Calif.
 670 Tait, H. Sinclair, M. D., Weston State Hospital, Weston, W. Va.
 277 Willcox, Frank, 465 St. John St., Montreal, Que., Canada

It has been brought to our attention that the following members' names were omitted from the Membership listing as published in the 1950 Yearbook edition, September 1950. We sincerely regret the error.

- 569 Fhy, Joseph Elton, P. O. Box 263, Gardena, Calif.
 651 Reader, Harry W., 2266 Turner Rd., Windsor, Ont., Canada

We wish to express our appreciation of your patience with, and understanding of, our late mailing of 1951 Membership Card.

Classified Topics

Reserved for Members of B.N.A.P.S.

Rates 2c per word. Minimum 15 words per ad. Three insertions at the price of two. 500 words, at will, \$4.00 payable in advance. Scott's numbers used unless otherwise specified.

CANADA, NEWFOUNDLAND, BRITISH COLONIES, UNITED STATES. Older issues for serious collectors. References. Want Lists. E. K. Allen, Stamp Studio, 5 Chestnut St., Halifax, N. S.

STAMPLESS COVERS OF CANADA wanted for my collection. Please price individual covers. Hugh McLellan, Champlain, N. Y.

SEND 10c for attractive 36-page magazine with full information. For the greatest value in Philately JOIN: Stamp Collectors' Exchange Club, Box 2A, Hickson, Ont.

CANADIAN PLATE BLOCKS—Since 1927. Wanted to buy or exchange. T. B. Higginson, Finch, Ont., Canada.

O.H.M.S.—Used ½ retail, F.-V.F.: 233 (30) 5-hole, 253 (20), 256 (20), 259 (80), 270 (10), complete \$15.00. C. C. Peace (90) used \$5.50. Nova Scotia No. 2 on cover \$6.00. CE3 (25) V. F. mint \$10.00. Wanted—Australia 170 mint. George VI Colonial collections former before 1943. W. Jackson, 550 Balliol St., Toronto 12, Ont., Canada.

WANTED—Covers bearing copies of the 20c and 50c Widow; also a used block of four of the 20c Widow and a block of the 8c Small Queen; fancy cancels on all values of the Small Queens. Russell Allison, 712 Seventeen St., Niagara Falls, N. Y.

WANTED — NEWFOUNDLAND — ESSAYS — PROOFS — FORGERIES — COVERS. Scotts 24 to 31 ONLY. I will buy or trade good Nfld. for any I can use. Ken. Minuse, 1236 Grand Concourse, Bronx 56, N. Y.

WANTED—Illustrated covers and hotel covers of Nova Scotia. Send on approval. E. L. Piggott, Chester, Nova Scotia.

KING AUCTION—from page 73

BNAPS today.

I notice that this sale did not contain any copies of BNA Topics. I believe some of our early numbers will be included among the rarities of B. N. A. philatelic literature.

Take lot No. 692, which contained "Canadian Philatelist," Rouleau, Sask. "Canadian Philatelist," Toronto, 1928-29, and "Canadian Stamp Collector," Toronto, 1932-33, and brought the sum of \$5.00. Why, the two articles contained in "The Canadian Philatelist," Toronto, by Jarrett and Studd, are worth the price alone!

I may say that the majority of these items are available to our membership from the BNAPS Library.

THE

**"C. F. DENDY-
MARSHALL"**

"C. HEYGATE-VERNON"

"P. C. LITCHFIELD"

"BERTRAM McGOWAN"

"W. E. SUGDEN"

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The first portion of this magnificent collection of nineteenth century Great Britain will be offered for sale on April 11th and 12th, and June 6th and 7th in the auction rooms of Robson Lowe Ltd., at 50 Pall Mall, London, S. W. 1

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1897 \$5.00 Blue Supreme Court

Very fine blocks (Marks \$20+) ----- \$9.00
Singles \$2.25

1865 3c to 9c Bill Stamp Proofs

7 vars.—B20-26

Very fine blocks (Cat. \$210) ----- \$50.00
Singles \$15. Pairs \$27.50

POSTAGE

1935 Silver Jubilee 1c-13c complete

Six imperforate blocks, superb ----- \$525.00
Pairs \$262.50

1942 War Issue 1c-\$1 complete

Fourteen imperforate blocks, superb ----- \$600.00
Pairs \$300.00

1931 10c Cartier

Imperforate block, superb ----- \$75.00
Pair \$37.50

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