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# B·N·A TOPICS

*Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society*



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MARCH 1952

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V. G. Greene, D. C. Meyerson, W. S. Meyerson, G. E. Foster.



## A Royal Philatelist

With the passing of His Majesty King George VI, the British Commonwealth and the world mourns the loss of a sovereign beloved by all. History will regard him as "George the Good." As collectors we have lost a fellow philatelist who took a keen interest in the hobby, and kept up the collection started by his illustrious father. We understand that Queen Elizabeth II is also a stamp collector, but whether or not she will follow philately as keenly as her father remains to be seen. What philatelic changes confront us now! How truly stamps reflect the history of a nation. "The King is dead! Long live the Queen!"

—Rev. John S. Bain.



Fig. 1—A typical Prisoner-of-War Camp. This photo is from the J. F. Davidson collection. Unless noted otherwise, all items illustrated are from the author's collection.

## Prisoner of War Mail—Canada

By LT.-COL. L. W. SHARPE, E.D., Q.C. (#395)

### Part I

#### INTRODUCTION

The care and custody of enemy prisoners of war can become a very serious burden and a gigantic task to a nation in time of war. Canada had a very full measure of this responsibility during the Second World War.

One of the major items in this responsibility, thrust upon a nation with regard to these unwelcome guests, is the handling of their mail. Some information and data concerning this, with regard to enemy P.O.W. confined in Canada, has come my way. I thought others might be interested in it, hence these notes. That they are far from complete I have no doubt. I shall welcome corrections and additional information. What will be given has been carefully checked and every effort made to insure as far as possible its correctness.

I do claim it is an interesting subject and study. I also consider it has a place in Canadian philately and Canadian postal history.

Properly speaking, of course, P.O.W. mail would include both incoming and outgoing mail (figures 2 and 3) and all classes of mail. In these notes it is my intention to confine myself, very largely, to outgoing mail of enemy P.O.W. confined in Canada. For purpose of completeness, I will deal with mail to enemy P.O.W. confined in Canada, originating in Canada. This will include civilian mail to these P.O.W. and to internees. Also there will be considered what might be called official mail concerning them. This will include mail originating in Canada to them in Canada and outgoing mail dealing with and about them. Generally speaking, in these notes, the term P.O.W. includes internees. Little difference was made between these two classes of prisoners in Canada. I confine myself within these bounds because it is intended, at least primarily, these notes will deal with Canadian philately and Canadian philatelic items. I am of the opinion the above can be correctly considered as such. Incoming mail, at least in most instances, cannot I consider be so classed.

Having set out the rule, I shall now give the exceptions. You will find references to other classes of mail both incoming and outgoing. Reference will be made to P.O.W. mail to and from our own P.O.W. Ordinary civilian

mail and other types and classifications will also be mentioned. My excuse for this—greater clarity and completeness. In no such instance or reference will they be dealt with at length or with thought of completeness of study.

## DIVISIONS

When I was giving some thought to the writing of these notes, they seemed to logically arrange themselves into the following divisions:

- (a) **General**
  - Responsibility — handling — volume.
- (b) **Stationery**
  - (1) General notes
  - (2) Envelopes
  - (3) Cards
    - (a) Regular
    - (b) Special purpose
  - (4) Folders
- (c) **Cancellations and Franks**
  - (1) Cancellations
  - (2) Franks
    - (a) General
    - (b) Meters
    - (c) Adhesives
- (d) **Censorship**
  - (1) Military and Internment Operations
  - (2) Civilian or postal
- (e) **Other markings**
  - (1) Military
  - (2) Postal
- (f) **Official Mail**
- (g) **Canadian P.O.W. Mail**

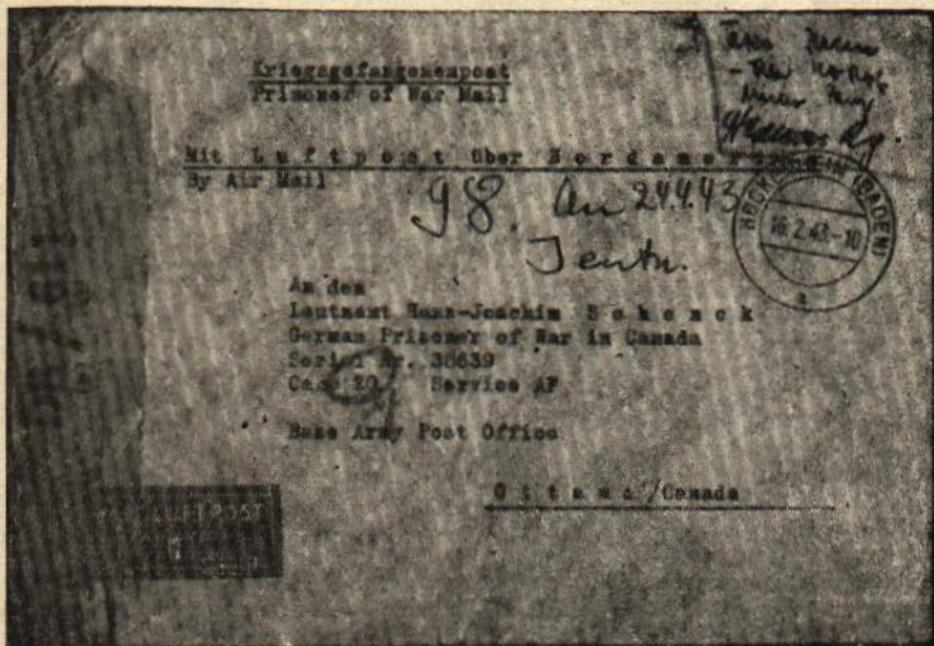


Fig. 2—Cover addressed to enemy P.O.W. in Canadian custody.

(h) **Odd Items**

(i) **Conclusion**

With these divisions in mind I have compiled my notes. There will perhaps be some overlapping and repetition. My intention and desire being to ensure I get all data and information I have into them.

**GENERAL**

It will, I think, be of some interest and value if I give some details of the background or history of the P.O.W. mail of which I write.

During the war, especially in the early days, a pretty strict veil of secrecy surrounded the internment camps. In Canada they remained under the jurisdiction and control of the Department of the Secretary of State, Internment Operations Branch, until the 1st of January, 1943. At that time, they were turned over to and came under the Department of National Defence, Directorate of Prisoners of War. A close liason continued, however, at all times between these two departments. The veil has now been largely lifted and some additional information of interest to philatelists is now available.

By article 36 of the "Convention Relative to Treatment of Prisoners of War" concluded at Geneva, Switzerland, on the 27th of July, 1929, each belligerent must periodically fix (no definite time is stipulated) the number of letters and postcards P.O.W. of different categories are to be permitted each month and must so notify the other belligerent. The number allowed German P.O.W. might differ from the number allowed Italian or Japanese prisoners. Some balance I presume is intended or arrived at in respect to the number allowed our personnel in the other belligerent's custody. They must be sent by the shortest available route and cannot be withheld or delayed as a disciplinary measure other than, of course, the infringement of the regulations actually governing their use or security regulations. On our part these conditions were strictly adhered to, even in spite of and in the face of evasion and non-performance of them by our enemies. Japan, of course, was not a signatory to this convention.

In Canada no difference was made in regard to the nationality of the internee or P.O.W. Their correspondence had of course to be written only on official stationery issued to them.

Ordinary Letters — Form I.O. 17 (M.F.M. 316)

Business Letters — Form I.O. 19 (M.F.M. 445)

Postcards — Form I.O. 20 (M.F.M. 317)

The maximum amount of correspondence allowed I am informed did vary from time to time. Toward the end, certainly, after hostilities it was four postcards and four letters a month. It was, except for protected personnel (doctors, chaplains, etc.), never more than this. Certainly, the privileges were greater in most instances than those accorded our P.O.W. in enemy custody. When in 1945 lines were added, the number of lines permitted to be written were restricted for reasons dealt with later in the notes. Writing had to be in ink, except in specially permitted cases when pencil was allowed. In addition to the above, notice of arrival, illness, death, escape, etc., were sent in accordance with the regulations under the convention to the next of kin. In later days extra cards were allowed to acknowledge gifts and parcels. These, purely a form acknowledgement, were allowed to take care of the many complaints received of no acknowledgement to the sender. No doubt the P.O.W., as they formerly had to do, were loath to use one of their basic allotment for this purpose. No restriction was placed on the number or amount of mail they could receive.

P.O.W. were allowed to correspond in their own language but special permission was required for the use of other than their own.

By article 38 of the Geneva Convention and International Postal Regulations, (ordinary surface mail), all letters and remittances of money or valu-



a tag on a bag in transit he did not open the bag, it being sent direct to its destination. All tags I have seen are a rather deep yellow in color and have printed on them the letter "K" in gothic type 19 mm high. I am informed only the one type and color were used. The letter "K" was, I believe, the code initial for the part of the B.A.P.O. handling enemy P.O.W. mail. The tag is made of fairly thick but pliable cardboard 8 5/6" by 2 5/8" high. They are well made, of good quality with a smooth almost chalky finish. The reinforcements front and back are heavy reddish brown paper. There may have been more than one printing. All printing is in black.

The bags had, usually, almost from the start of hostilities, in addition to the usual post office seal, a small special seal of lead. This seal was hard to distinguish and perhaps lead to the adoption of the tag. The seal (figure 4) was approximately 1/2" in diameter and 1/4" thick. On the front in the centre a crown above "Canada" and below "P.O." On the back in the centre "I.O." for Internment Operations. The seal continued in use after P.O.W. were taken over by the Department of National Defence.

As I said earlier, prisoners-of-war can be a great responsibility and burden. Perhaps I should say something about them, in particular about those we in Canada had to look after.

When P.O.W. were first brought to Canada, I am informed, they were really under the supervision of the British and British officers, who had a lot to do with the setting up of the camps. In the first instances there were two distinct branches, one for P.O.W. and one for internees. As the British officers withdrew and returned to their home bases the two branches were virtually merged under distinct Canadian control. Figure 1 shows a pretty typical P.O.W. camp.

The Department of National Defence (Army) has supplied me with the following figures.

**Held for United Kingdom**

Combattant P.O.W.	31,465
Enemy Merchant Seamen and Civilian Internees	4,170
Refugees	2,284
	<hr/>
	37,919

**Canadian Custody**

Civilian Internees	2,241
Enemy Merchant Seamen	174
	<hr/>
	2,415
	<b>Total 40,334</b>

The United Kingdom Government was responsible for the cost of maintaining those held for them and the Canadian Government the smaller number held by them. They were unable to give a breakdown by nationalities. The, so to speak, rights and privileges of the various classes differ. In Canada, generally speaking, though confined separately, they were all given the higher scale of privileges. P.O.W., including protected personnel, are properly speaking those coming under the Geneva Convention. The internees are those confined under the Defence of Canada Regulations and similar acts in the United Kingdom. They were, however, referred to in official correspondence as



Fig. 4—Front of small lead seal attached to bags containing P.O.W. mail.



5- Picture of Nazi funeral held at a P.O.W. camp. J. F. Davidson collection.

P.O.W. class I and Internees P.O.W. Class II.

That they were well treated I know from my own observation. That some of them appreciated their treatment is shown by this extract from a censored letter, dated July 29, 1945, sent by a P.O.W. to his wife in Germany showing his reaction to films about conditions in German concentration camps:

"I think very often about the misery at home caused by the Nazis. Only lately I saw a film about GERMAN concentration camps. Were these GERMAN people who let the prisoners starve and even burned them? One feels ashamed to be a GERMAN when one sees such pictures. What kind of lies did they tell us and how have we been deceived; the poor people believed in everything and we have to suffer for this faith! . . . Now I can also understand why we are so hated throughout the whole world and in spite of that our treatment here is very good."

They were allowed to carry out many of their own rituals, for example at funerals (see fig. 5) a burial. I shudder when I think of the treatment our P.O.W. often got (known also from my own observation overseas).

I understand by about the end of January 1947, there were nominally 40 P.O.W. left in Canada. Most of these were at large having escaped and had not been recaptured. For they did escape sometimes! By this time, January 1947, P.O.W. affairs were being speedily wound up. The Directorate of P.O.W. had actually in, I believe, October 1946 been done away with and affairs turned over to a small P.O.W. section in the Directorate of Administration. All P.O.W. camps had, in theory, been closed by January 1947. I believe, however, a small camp was kept open in or near Hull, Quebec, later than this.

As to the volume of P.O.W. mail handled I regret I have been unable to get figures. Some figures might be arrived at by computation with the figures given of the number of P.O.W. The Post Office Department were unable to supply me with any figures as to volume. As to the cost of handling they say "Under International postal regulations ordinary surface mail to or from Prisoners of War is transmitted free of postage."

As a general observation, as a result of my searching for them, I find P.O.W. mail rather difficult to find. Unused specimens scarcer than used. I

speaking of course of those items ex-Canada. I regret that it is difficult to tabulate most of the information. Where it could be done to any real advantage, I have done it as best I can.

(To be continued)

## CONTROL NUMBERS ON GEORGE VI STAMPS OF CANADA

By T. B. HIGGINSON (#378)

My interest in this subject was first aroused when I noted that the controls on the first eight plates of the 1¢ 1937, which I knew were quite plentiful, ran from 906 to 1329, whereas that on plates 10 and 11, which were anything but common, was 968A. I wondered if there was any relationship between the control number and the scarcity of the plate, and set about an investigation, with the following results, which I present for the interest they may possibly have for fellow plate block collectors.

The first thing I discovered was that control numbers since 1937 rise and fall within certain limits which are, roughly, 500 and 1400. This rise and fall can be charted as a graph, using the following data.

The first control number of the 1937 set is 905. In 1938 with the pictorials we come to 1132, and in 1939 with the Royal Visits to 1394. Then comes the drop, to 510A, which is also a Royal Visit number, and 535A in the 2¢ 1937 issue. Continuing upwards we reach the end of the 1937 issue in 1942 with 1006A and the beginning of War Issue with 1055AA. In 1943, with the new postage rates in effect, we reach 1285AA, the beginning of the 4¢ red (of which more hereafter!). Later we reach the upper limits of our scale, the 4¢ going to 1391 and the 1¢ to 1392. Again the drop, this time to 520, in the 3¢ mauve.

In 1946 comes the Peace Issue at 892 and in 1947 the Bell stamp, 977. (At this point the Post Office temporarily dropped control numbers, and the next few commemoratives are without them, as is the recent Royal Visit stamp.)

In 1949 the War Issue reached an end with plate 50 of the 4¢, which has the same control (1285) as had plate 1! The wheel had come full circle indeed! With the Unrevised Issue, 1298 to 1302, we reach another crest and plunge to 538 for the oil stamp of March 1950, and 539 for the Revised stamps of November 1949. It is obvious that the numbers are not related to the date of appearance of the stamps, but rather to the sequence in which they were ordered or begun. The unrevised Issue, for example, was prepared long before the Revised, although it appeared later.

On the way up the current rise we have such landmarks as 753, the fur stamp of October 1950; 823-26, the Capex Issue (showing how long it was in preparation); 870, the fish stamp of February 1951; 933 and 946, the Mackenzie King and Borden stamps respectively (does this indicate more care with the former?), and 1035, which is the highest number I have seen to date. If the cycle continues, I would predict another drop about a year from now.

### The Issues in Detail

So much for the general picture—now to examine the various issues in detail, beginning with that of 1937.

The numbers at the beginning of each issue are easy to follow, and this is no exception. They run from 905 to 910, accounting for the six low values. Then they begin to jump, so that the 1¢, for example, goes 906—1263—1324—



Control 1394 on Plate No. 4-3 of 1c Royal Visit Issue, 1939.

1329—847A—968A. The last number, as I mentioned before, is that of plates 10 and 11, the tough ones. In the 3¢ a clue is given to the scarcity of plates 12-23—they are all "A" numbers, from 598A to 1006A respectively. In the 5¢ we find the scarce plate 3 has a different number (813A) from the other two (909).

The high values of 1938 run smoothly again, from 1132 to 1137 (counting the 6¢ Air). None of these went into higher numbers.

The Royal Visit Issue did not furnish the clues to the reason for the "impossibles" which I had hoped to find, because I had only one of them (2-4 UL of the 1¢) to study. The 1¢ has only two numbers, 1358 and 1394, up to plates 5-1 and 5-2, where it adds 510A. Similarly, the 2¢ has only 1357 up to plates 3-1 and 3-2 where it adds 513A, and the 3¢ only 1359 up to plate 5-2 and 5-4 where it adds 514A.

The War Issue begins with the 1¢ at 1055AA and runs down the alphabet to the \$1 at 1055L. Peace Issue runs 892A to 892F; Unrevised 1298 to 1302, and Revised, first plates, 539 to 543.

In conclusion, I must state that I did not find as many clues to relative scarcity as I had hoped. I believe we should strive for the objective I have so often pointed out—a list of plates issued and quantities printed therefrom, which the Post Office has indicated we can have if we want it badly enough. How about it?

#### CHECKLIST

of Control Numbers on George VI Stamps of Canada

Value	Scott	Control	Plate Numbers
1c 1937	231	906	1, 2, 3, 4
		1263	5
		1324	6
		1329	7, 8
		847A	9
		968A	10, 11
		2c 1937	232
964	5		
535A	6		
596A	7, 8		
600A	9, 10		
810A	11		

Value	Scott	Control	Plate Numbers
		812A	12
		818A	13
		927A	14
3c 1937	233	905	1, 2, 3, 4
		1048	5, 6
		1053	7, 8
		1256	9, 10
		1278	11
		598A	12, 13
		674A	14, 15
		844A	16, 17
		960A	18, 19
		1003A	20, 21
		1006A	22, 23
4c 1937	234	908	1
5c 1937	235	909	1, 2
		813A	3
8c 1937	236	910	1
3c Coronation	237	946	1, 2, 3, 4
10c 1938	241	1132	1, 2
13c 1938	242	1133	1
20c 1938	243	1134	1, 2
50c 1938	244	1135	1
\$1.00 1938	245	1136	1
7c Air, 1938	C8	1137	1
1c R. V. 1939	246	1358	1-1 to
		1394	4-4
		1358	5-1
		510A	5-2
2c R. V. 1939	247	1357	1-1 to
		1357	2-2
		1357	3-2
		513A	3-2
3c R. V. 1939	248	1359	1-1 to
		1359	4-4
		1359	5-2
		514A	5-4
1c 1942	249	1055AA	1, 2, 3, 4
		1110	5
		1119	6, 7, 8
		1392	9, 10
		578	11
		587	12
		651	13, 14
		697	15, 16
		702	17, 18

Value	Scott	Control	Plate Numbers
		817	19, 20
		863	21
		933	22, 23
		961	24, 25, 26, 27
		1061	28, 29
		1170	30, 31
		1219	32
2c 1942	250	1055BA 1121	1, 2, 3, 4 5, 6
3c 1942 (Red)	251	1055CA 1122 1137	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 7, 8, 9 10
4c 1942 (Grain)	252	1055D	1
5c 1942	255	1055E 595	1, 2 3, 4
8c 1942	256	1055F	1
10c 1942	257	1055G 1262 582 596 698	1, 2 3 4 5 6
13c 1942	258	1055H	1
20c 1942	260	1055I	1, 2
50c 1942	261	1055J	1
10c S. D.	E10	1055K	1
\$1 1942	262	1055L	1
6c Air	C7	1055M 1187	1 2
16c A. S. D.	CE1	1055N	1
3c 1943 (Mauve)	252	1168 1202 1245 520 577 633 650 696 838 962 1062 1149 1171 1220	11 12 13, 14 15 16, 17 18 19, 20 21 22, 23 24, 25 26, 27 28, 29 30, 31, 32 33, 34
4c 1943 (Red)	254	1285AA 1305 1311 1366 1391	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 7, 8 9, 10 11 12, 13, 14, 15

Value	Scott	Control	Plate Numbers
		521	16
		589	17, 18
		613	19, 20
		616	21, 22
		654	23, 24
		695	25, 26
		713	27, 28, 30
		725	31, 32, 33, 34
		784	35, 36
		914	37, 38
		932	39, 40, 41, 42
		1097	43, 44
		1148	45, 46
		1121	47, 48, 49
		1285	50

7c 1943 (Air)	C8	1285BA	1, 2
		598	3, 4
		745	5

17c 1943 (A. S. D.)	CE2	1285CA	1
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14c 1943	259	1286	1
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8c 1946	268	892A	1, 2
10c 1946	269	892B	1, 2
14c 1946	270	892C	1
20c 1946	271	892D	1, 2
50c 1946	272	892E	1
\$1 1946	273	892F	1

7c Air	C9	892G	1, 2
17c Air	CE3, 4	892H	1
10c S. D.	E11	892I	1

4c Bell	274	977	1, 2
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1c Revised	284	539	1, 2, 4, 5
		790	6, 7
		840	8

2c Revised	285	540	1, 2, 3
		954	4

3c Revised	286	541	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
		792	6, 7
		968	8, 9
		1035	10

4c Revised	287	542	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
		663	6, 7, 8, 9
		791	10, 11
		928	12, 13

5c Revised	288	543	1, 2, 3
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1c Unrevised	289	1298	1, 2
2c Unrevised	290	1299	1, 2
3c Unrevised	291	1300	1, 2
4c Unrevised	292	1301	1, 2
5c Unrevised	293	1302	1, 2

50c Oil	294	538	1
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Value	Scott	Control	Plate Numbers
10c Fur	301	753	1, 2
\$1 Fish	302	870	1
3c Borden	303	946	1, 2
4c King	304	933	1, 2
4c Capex		823	1, 2
5c Capex		824	1, 2
7c Capex		825	1, 2
15c Capex		826	1

### NOTES

1. No control numbers on Scott numbers 275-283 inclusive.
2. Control numbers on all changed color plates same as original color. (E.g.: Pl. 6, 7, 10 of 3¢ Mauve War Issue, are same as corresponding plates of 3¢ Red.)
3. Since writing this, I have received confirmation from Mr. Carpenter of the P. O. Department that the numbers between 500 and 1400 are used for postage work. Some of the numbers in this range are used for printing plates and appear on the selvedge, while others are assigned to other phases of postage work and do not appear. I wish to thank Mr. Carpenter for his help in this matter.

## AN APPRECIATION

Major K. Hamilton White, of Vancouver, B. C., and the Plate Block Study Group have made a decided contribution to the Society through their publication of the Standard Plate Block Catalogue of Canada, royalties from which are being paid to BNAPS. A cheque for \$25 has already been received from the Major, with the promise of more to follow. The following letter of appreciation has been sent to Major White on behalf of the Society by D. C. Meyerson, Chairman of the Board of Governors.

Dear Major White:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the membership of the British North America Philatelic Society for the magnificent gesture made by yourself and the Plate Block Group in arranging to have the Society receive a 5¢ royalty on each of the books on Canadian Plate Blocks sold by the Stanley Stamp Company.

The Society is indeed proud of the very fine Handbook that you prepared and they are looking forward to bigger and better things from the Group.

Sincerely

Daniel C. Meyerson  
Chr. Board of Governors

# The Month's NEWS

The B. N. A. Collectors Club of Montreal elected S. Brooks as president at their annual meeting. Other officers are: Major Robert Watson, vice-president; Dutton Copp, secretary; Allen Christensen, treasurer; Reg. Barraclough, Graham Fairbanks and Peter Hurst, directors . . . The Pottstown (Penna.) Stamp Club, SPA Branch No. 118, is sponsoring Pottstown's Bicentennial Stamp Exhibition and Bourse which will be held in the Oddfellows' Temple, Pottstown, Pa., on April 25-26-27. Prospectus may be obtained from Chester M. Mathias, Box 47, Pottstown, Pa., U. S. A. . . . Linn's Weekly Stamp News will again publish a special BNAPS-BNAPEX edition this year, to appear July 23. This will provide some good publicity for BNAPEX-52 to be held at Ithaca, N. Y., August 21-24 . . . The Canadian Philatelic Society has announced its next convention for April 17-18-19, at London, Ont. . . . Hon. G. Edouard Rinfret has resigned as Canadian Postmaster-General to accept a judicial appointment. . . . One of our regular advertisers, Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1, have acquired the rarest normal stamp of Great Britain, the 1902 King Edward VII 6d overprint "I. R. Official," and will be offered for sale shortly in London. Other than a mint pair and a single as well as a used single in the Royal Collection, no genuine copies are known to exist in private hands. This copy was discovered by a Canadian philatelist, Robert Lyman of Toronto, while on a visit to Switzerland.

## TOPICS Ads Get Results

## To the Editor

Dear Sir:

Within the past few weeks I have just learned something that all collectors of Pre-stamp Canadian covers should know. Take to the hills, men! We have been betrayed by the writings of Boggs, Jarrett and Konwiser-Campbell. Goodwin, the Old Saddle Man, is wasting his time and ours by showing and talking about the crumbs that have appeared in TOPICS to date.

Fellows, take my advice and throw away the Bishop Marks, Straight Lines, Fleurons, Ship Letter and Steamboats, Quebec Triangles, etc. The thing that makes a pre-stamp cover collection of Canada is "Westerns and Territorials." If you ain't got them you ain't got nuttin'.

This vital piece of information would never have come to light if it had not been for a recent Stamp Show at which one of New York's greatest philatelic authorities—ask him yourself—made it known to the judging group.

Ithaca is only six months away so we must get on the ball. Won't someone offer me some dope on the pre-stamp Territorials?

Harry W. Lussey (#167)

E. L. Piggott (#629) writes as follows: "Is you is or is you ain't agreed that shade varieties exist in the Canada Responsible Government issue of 1948?" After looking at the two specimens enclosed by Member Piggott, "we is" . . . as there is certainly a variation in shade between the two stamps.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A number of members have written in regarding the mention of "Permit Postage" in recent issues of TOPICS. Complete lists of these interesting items have been received from at least two members, and these will be included in the next issue.

# Bringing News About People and Stamps

By Rev. John S. Bain

One of the last real old time dealers of the famed philatelic Nassau Street, New York, has passed away. Gustav Burger, the last of three brothers, died on January 8, 1952. With him died the fascinating stories of philately of the past that were going to be put into a book, but were never written. I remember my first attempts to try and get Arthur and Gus to talk and show me items that they had. The whole atmosphere was one of indifference. It seemed that there was a reluctance to part with information and stamps, until . . . I happened to mention Eli Marks, of Toronto, Canada. With the mention of his name their faces lit up and my battle was over. When I returned home from CAPEX I had a letter from Gus enclosing some copies of the "Baldwin's Railroad Postage." They knew the notorious S. Allan Taylor, and had some unique items of that era. What collector has not had the urge to go through that old safe sitting behind the counter crammed and jammed with items until they fell on the floor when touched. "I think I have that item in there somewhere," Gus would say, and if found you would eventually get it. What treasures must be awaiting the light of day! One of these days BNA philately will be enriched when the Burger holdings are disposed of. Rare and unique items should be uncovered that have been kept from collector's hands for years. Another chapter is finished in the annals of philately.

## BNAPS

The query "Is This A Stamp?" submitted by BNAPS'er Herman Herst Jr., in BNA TOPICS for January 1952, and further supplemented by additional information from BNAPS'er C. B. D. Garrett in the February issue, brought to our attention an item about which very little is known. For years the only word appearing in reference works was two lines in BNAP-

Ser Jarrett's book, page 98: "Introduced February 1903, for prepayment in cash of quantities of third class matter. Printed on wrapper or cover in black or dark blue." The illustration accompanying this text is different than the one supplied by BNAPS'er Herst. The Jarrett illustration shows the type used in the Edward reign and early George V. I looked for one of these items for years and finally secured an entire wrapper printed in brown for the John A. Bruce & Co., Hamilton, Canada. It differs slightly from the Jarrett illustration in that it does not have the lines above and below the centre inscription. I also have an entire similar to BNAPS'er Herst's type with the corner card reading, "City Treasurer's Department, Toronto." Also I have other singles of 1¢ and 2¢ denomination with a 1¢ in red, and the rest in black. In addition to these I have others in which the centre inscription reads "Postage/Paid In Cash /Parcel Post" in a 6¢ denomination printed in black and also green. These have permit number but no town. Then as recently as three weeks ago I picked up a similar copy to the Jarrett one issued in George V reign, with a copy of the 1¢ green Admiral issue, Scott #104, placed over it and cancelled, Montreal, 1917. Perhaps there are other BNAPS'ers who can help us write the further story on these items. Who printed them? What arrangements were made under the permit for payment? Could they be printed in any color? These are some of the questions that remain to be answered.

## Curbside Mail Service

It is reported that the post offices in Edmonton and Calgary, Alberta, have provided Curbside Letter boxes for the use of motorists only, where letters can be mailed without leaving the car.

# Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



In the April '51 issue of TRAIL we mentioned that we had examined 600 copies of the 4¢ rose lake, Scott #189, for the presence of line perforated copies and had found none. Our observation at that time was that these line perforated copies were not included in the first printing as all of our copies were used between 1933-35. In the recent issue of "Stamp Collecting" for Dec. 14, 1951, Mr. F. B. Kettle of Bromborough, Cheshire, writes to the editor to the effect that the line perforated 14.1 stamps were in use between November 1936 and June 1937 from the dated copies in his collection. The only copies of the 13.7 line perforated copies that he has appear to be dated 1938. Does anyone have any additional information.

This matter of plate numbers is really becoming more and more intriguing each day as numbers are discovered on stamps printed prior to the 1932 issues that are popularly

supposed to mark the beginning of plate numbering. The earliest record of a plate number thus far is the one found on the 3¢ Queen Alexandra, Scott #83, issued in 1898. (See Fig. 1). The block illustrated shows a reverse "4" in the upper right corner selvedge and the number "F-5610" over the top pair. Both these markings are in the color of the stamp and we are anxious to learn if any other numbers are known for this particular stamp or any of the other stamps in this series.

Boggs lists the existence of plate numbers on the three lower values of the Caribou issue of 1919. Quoting from Boggs:

"The plates consist of one hundred subjects (10x10), arranged in two panes of one hundred for the 1¢, 2¢, and 3¢. Each pane is surrounded by double marginal lines 4mm apart, and spaced about 10mm from the stamp design, at the top and sides, and 15mm from the stamp design at the bottom. Outside the



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

marginal lines, and opposite the fifth horizontal row, at the right or left depending on the pane, is the plate number. The 1¢ is plate 3, 2¢ plate 2, and 3¢ plate 1."

In the Feb. '51 issue of TOPICS, we advised that a block of four of the 1¢ used on cover during 1923 showed a plate 2. It is therefore possible that other plate numbers exist for the 1¢, 2¢, and 3¢ values.

While visiting the stamp dealers in Boston last Fall, we came upon still another stamp with a plate number that had not previously been listed. In this instance it was the 3¢ value of the 1923 set, Scott #133. (See Fig. 2). The block in question shows a "2" in the lower left selvage corner. Information is required as to whether any other values in this same set have also been found with plate numbers.

## ANOTHER "KICKING MULE"

By RICHARD S. SOLOMON, Ph. D. (#125)

Several months ago an article appeared in the "Western Stamp Collector" concerning a newly discovered "kicking mule" cancellation, by Herman Herst Jr.; the article illustrated the cancellation on a 3¢ small queen, and subsequently another article on the same stamp and cancellation was published by Mr. Herst in the September, 1951 year book issue of TOPICS.

It was pointed out in both of these articles that the cancellation was normally used by three small west coast U. S. postoffices on U. S. stamps. Heretofore no example had been found on a Canadian stamp, although mention is made of the existence of this cancellation on Canadian stamps of the Small Queen issue in both Lee Cornell's hand book on the kicking mule cancellation, and Fred Jarrett's hand book on Canada. Mr. Herst's Canadian kicking mule was sold to Mr. Cornell.

Evidently the 3¢ Small Queen referred to above has been the only published example of this cancellation as used on a Canadian stamp.

Illustrated here is another kicking mule cancellation, this time on the 1¢ yellow small queen which is in the author's collection. There is probably one other kicking mule cancellation on the 1¢ yellow Small Queen which was sold several years ago at auction by Mr. A. C. Needham of Boston, Mass. Mr. Needham writes that



as far as he can remember the cancellation illustrated here is not the one he sold. Therefore altogether there probably are three examples of cancellations of this type and that is all that we have knowledge of at present.

The writer has not been able to exactly identify the date of the 1¢ Small Queen illustrated here. The stamp, by analysis of the paper and color, appears to be of the intermediate period between 1885 and 1887. The stamp itself is not in perfect condition since it has a thin spot and a crease, but considering the rarity of this cancellation, we cannot complain. The writer has measured the dimen-

sions of the cancellation very closely and it agrees in every respect with other published illustrations. Mr. Lee Cornell states that, "From the looks of the mule, it is genuine. It is strange that after years of searching by myself and others for a genuine example of the mule on a Canadian stamp that two different ones should turn up in less than a year—the same comments that were made relative to the mule Pat Herst found would apply to your stamp."

In further correspondence, Mr. Fred Jarrett says, "I have never seen this cancellation on a Canadian stamp but that does not mean it could not exist." He goes on to say that all of the sources from which he has gathered evidence leads him to believe

that such a cancellation "would not have been made and supplied upon the request of Canadian postmasters." Mr. Jarrett adds that most local attempts to carve out original cancellations were not executed particularly well. He also recollects that many years ago he has a vague memory of seeing a kicking mule cancellation in violet ink.

The author's conclusion on the evidence at hand is that this cancellation was probably applied at the Port Townsend, Washington, U. S. post-office on a Canadian stamp which somehow arrived uncanceled. The principle purpose however of this article has been to record the existence of a second kicking mule cancellation on a Canadian Stamp.

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## VICTORIAN-ERA COVERS

By RICHARD P. HEDLEY (#164)

The Diamond Jubilee celebration of Queen Victoria was the occasion of many items of interest for the philatelist. In addition to the famous set of Jubilee stamps for the event, there were cancellations at the time of the celebration and also covers. The writer has attempted for some time to form a collection of this material, also bringing into the collection, the very colorful mourning covers that were brought out just a short time later—after the Queen's death Jan. 22, 1901. The net result of this collecting activity has



Fig. 1

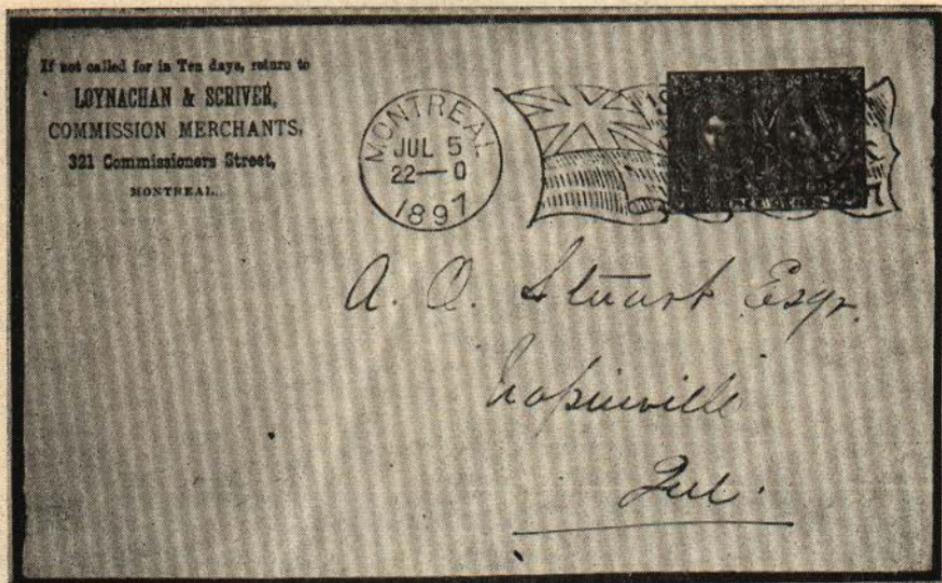


Fig. 2

been a disappointing few. However, we have decided to show in these pages, the progress that has been made.

In describing the material, it should fall into three classes: (a) the cancellations applied during the year 1897; (b) the covers used at the same time; (c) the mourning covers beginning in 1901.

Figures 1 and 2 show the machine cancels applied, and are Jarrett's type 1430 and 1431. Jarrett type 1430a (not shown) is evidently rare—I do not have one in my collection and in fact, have never seen it.

In class (b) figures #3 and #4 illustrate a cover and a postcard. Photo #4a is the reverse side of the postcard. I have seen two others of #3, and thanks to Vincent Greene this one is in my collection. No. 4 is the only example of any postcard seen and is very interesting with pictures of Toronto



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 4a

University, Ontario Legislative buildings, Victoria University, armouries, etc.

In Class (c) photos #5 and #6 illustrate two mourning covers, the first being very pretty, with the stamp and flag in red—all the rest black. In the second, the Queen's picture and circle both in black. As far as the mourning covers are concerned, I do know of two more varieties of which I hope eventually to be able to secure photos and will describe in these pages.

As before stated, searching has produced very few of this type of cover and it is hoped that this description of these items will bring to light further information or possibly new varieties. The writer will appreciate hearing from any reader.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

## CIRCUIT SALES TOPICS

Since the first of this year sales amounted to \$218.64—17 new books were entered, and 15 books retired, with \$189.73 going to the owners.

Mailing costs have gone up again, and in order to offset the increase, circuits are being made with a longer than the usual list of names. In order that those on the lists will receive the

books as quickly as possible, please co-operate by forwarding within the prescribed time of three days, **NO MORE**. Circuits must be sent by Registered Mail, which means First Class, not Parcel Post.

Blank books for entering material in the circuits are still only 5 for 25¢. Send your order, or any questions regarding the circuit, to the Sales Manager: Harold R. Meyers, 42 W. 35th St., New York 1, N. Y.

# VARIETIES OF CANADIAN SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARK OF 1893—SECOND TYPE

By WM. L. JACKSON (#235)



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

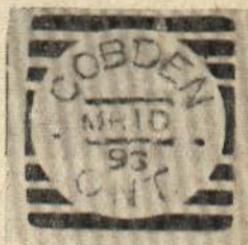


Fig. 3

As a follow-up to the splendid and informative articles by Dr. Whitehead on the 1893 Squared Circle Postmarks appearing in October and December TOPICS 1951, I think, some of the varieties that have been found in the Second Type should be of interest at this time. Of course this is by no means final, as the study has just begun and additional information is bound to be reported by others later on.

On a closer study of the second type (shown as Fig. 1 in Dr. Whitehead's article, Dec. page 339) we find the most general type of hammer in use shows a straight solid bar across the top and bottom of the postmark, while those issued to Arnprior, Cornwall, Dunnville and Glamis (Ontario), also Farnham (Quebec), the top bar is cut into on the inside to form part of the circle (see Fig. 1). Those issued to St. John (N. B.), Lakefield, Rosseau, Bleecker and York Sts., Toronto (Ontario), Medicine Hat (Alta.), and the Napinka & Winnipeg Rly.

Mail Car, the bottom bar is cut into to form part of the circle (see Fig. 2). It is also possible that the two hammers reported by Dr. Whitehead for St. John (N. B.) were in use at the same time, as I have two covers from St. John, the first dated Feb. 11/96 showing the circle cutting into the bottom bar, the second dated Feb. 12/96 with a straight solid bottom bar.

A third variety may be found in the hammers issued to Cobden, Port Hope, and St. Thomas (Ontario) where the circle cuts into the inside of both the top and bottom bars (see Fig. 3). As the outside measurements of all these postmarks are relatively the same, including the general type, with the diameter of the circle slightly larger in the varieties to that of the general one, it might appear at first, the larger circle was made so that a larger letter could be used for the post office name, etc. This does not seem to be the case, as we find the same size of letters used in many of the general postmarks as that used in the variety postmarks. Could these varieties have been produced accidentally in the process of the making of these hammers?

Another postmark of interest and one on which I require additional information, is Formosa (Ontario). See Fig. 4. I have only two late covers, dated March 1898 and April 1904, both showing the postmark with the four corners cut diagonally across, making an eight-sided figure, instead



Fig. 4

James E. Walker  
Merchant.  
Schreiber, Ont.



James E. Walker.  
Merchant.  
Schreiber, Ont.



Fig. 5

of the general four-sided one. Could this be an additional new type of this postmark or did the postmaster of Formosa file off the corners? Possibly, some member has an earlier date of this postmark and could report if the corners are on or off.

Recently I was very fortunate in obtaining a good copy of the Schreiber Broken Circle and here for the first time together I believe, are shown the original and broken postmarks, (see Fig. 5). The stamp on each cover has been purposely eliminated in order to show the postmarks clearly, the original dated July

6th, 1896, ties on a 3 cent Small Queen, while the broken circle dated April 15th, 1899 ties on a 2 cent Map.

It is very interesting to note that Mr. H. M. Dilworth reported in his letter to the Editor (April 1951, page 100), he has a Schreiber broken circle dated September 6th, 1897, which is exactly 15 months later than my original. Who can close in the gap?

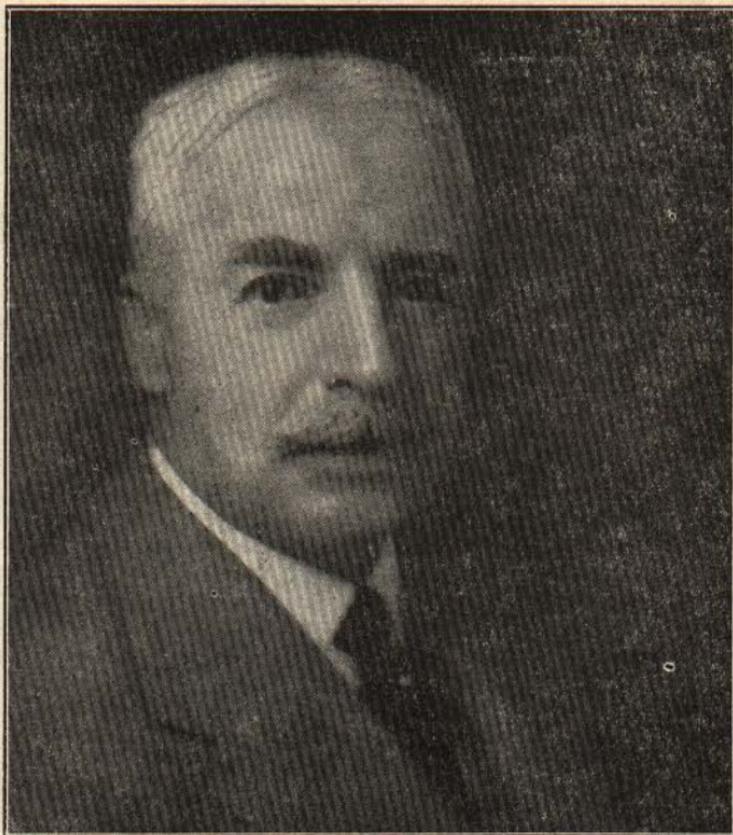
My thanks to Dr. A. Whitehead and Mr. Chas. F. Foster for their interest and kind assistance in gathering information regarding the above postmark and I am awaiting with keen interest the Doctor's next article.

## Sketches of BNAPSers by V. G. Greene

One of our earliest members (number 16) is Lt.-Col. John Skillman O'Meara who was born at Quebec on July 18, 1875, and still lives in that celebrated city. Educated at Le Séminaire de Quebec and Laval University, he is a retired manufacturer and was an active member of the Canadian Militia and Canadian Expeditionary Force from 1892 to 1919. A former O. C. Royal Rifles of Canada he was successively D. A. A. & Q. M. G., A. A. G. and G. S. O. (1), Mili-

tary District No. 5, during the First Great War.

Colonel O'Meara started collecting stamps in 1886 and as early as 1897 he joined the Philatelic Society of London (now the Royal) and is now their senior member. In 1946 he was elected an honorary life fellow, the highest honor that famous society can bestow. He is also honorary president of the Quebec Philatelic Society and an early member of the Collectors' Club and the Canadian Philatelic



LT.-COL. JOHN S. O'MEARA

Society. In recent years he joined the American Philatelic Society and the Essay-Proof Society. The Colonel is keenly interested in the stamps of British North America, particularly Canada, of which he has an outstanding collection.

Still an active fisherman, Colonel O'Meara was former president of Stadacona F. & G. Club, also of the Orleans F. & G. Club, both in the Lake St. John District of Quebec. Curling is another sport that has attracted the Colonel since youth and he is an honorary life member of the Victoria Curling Club, Quebec;

also of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club of Scotland (Canadian branch).

In reviewing the career of Colonel O'Meara, one cannot help being impressed by the fact that such a busy and prominent man could keep actively in touch with the hobby of philately for 66 years, and at the age of 76, travel from Quebec to Toronto to attend CAPEX and meet fellow collectors. All members of the British North America Philatelic Society will wish the Colonel many more years of health and happiness and the enjoyment of the greatest of all hobbies, stamp collecting.

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## IN THE NEXT ISSUE

A further instalment of the "Prince Edward Island Handbook" will appear in the April issue of BNA Topics, together with another instalment of "Prisoner of War Mail—Canada," and a number of fine short articles on many aspects of B. N. A. philately.

# Report of the Secretary

FEBRUARY 15, 1952

## NEW MEMBERS

- 880 Chaplin, C. J., Box 30, Almonte, Ont., Canada  
881 Crawley, Frederick Austin, P. O. Box 752, North Sydney, N. S., Canada  
882 Day, Frank Jr., 20 E. Second St., Corning, N. Y.  
883 Glass, Laurence G., R. R. 4, London, Ont., Canada  
884 Harper, George T., 411 Dryden Road, Ithaca, N. Y.  
885 Hollowbush, Frank A., 1531 Walnut St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.  
886 MacNutt, W. S., History Dept., Univ. New Brunswick, Fredericton, N. B., Canada.  
887 Robertson, Struan C., 2 Park Terrace, Upper Montclair, N. J.  
888 Tullners, Hubert A. Jr., 3654 N. W. 13th Street, Miami 35, Florida.  
889 Woodside, Donald J., 65 James St. E., Brockville, Ont., Canada.

## APPLICATIONS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- 622 Barron, Richard, c/o Grand Theatre, Calgary, Alta., Canada  
490 Webb, Honer, 220 W. Fourth St., Bloomsburg, Pa.

## REPLACED ON ROLLS

- 560 Halliday, W. E. D., 420 Lisgar Rd., Rockcliffe Pk., Ottawa, Ont., Canada.

## APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- Bartow, Edward, Chemistry Bldg., Iowa City, Iowa (C) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and mint blocks. 1st Day and 1st Flight covers. Plate Blocks. O.H.M.S. Proposed by M. Kay, No. 760.  
Benwell, Dr. C. E., 222-3rd St., New Westminster, B. C., Canada (CX) CAN—Mint and used postage. Mint booklet panes. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484. Seconded by J. B. Slough, No. 727.  
Bonar, John James, Eldinbrae, Lasswade, Midlothian, Scotland (CC) CAN—19th century mint and used postage. Pre-stamp covers. Stationery entires. Proofs. R.R. and 2-ring cancellations. SPECIALTY—Small Queens, Maple Leaves and Numerals. Proposed by L. Baresch, No. 575. Seconded by A. B. Auckland, No. 363.  
Busch, William John, 513-13th Avenue (Box 440), Cranbrook, B. C., Canada (CX) CAN—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and mint blocks. Plate blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S. Mint and used airmails. Literature. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster No. 484. Seconded by F. B. Eaton, No. 608.  
Bushell, Eric S., 6133 Somerled Ave., Montreal 29, Que., Canada (C) CAN, NFD, PROV—Proposed by C. G. Kemp, No. 85.  
Crouch, Robert Gordon, 283 Riverside Dr., Swansea, Toronto, Ont., Canada (D) Literature. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37. Seconded by G. H. Crouch, No. 737.  
Hollingsworth, Dr Charles W., 192 Lichfield Rd., Walsall, Staffs, England (CC) CAN—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Mint booklet panes. Precancels. Stationery entires. Literature. R.R., flag, slogan and 2-ring cancellations. SPECIALTY—Map stamp. Maple Leaf. Re-entries. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37. Seconded by G. B. Harper, No. 570.  
Jolly, Arthur Stanley, 133 De Beck St., New Westminster, B. C., Canada (C) CAN, NFD—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Coils. Mint and used airmails. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484.  
Kiefaber, W. H., 634 Woods Rd., Dayton 9, Ohio (CX) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and mint blocks. Pre-stamp and stampless covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. Mint and used airmails. Literature. Proofs and Essays. Proposed by J. Levine, No. 1.  
Lane, John, 38 Lorne Ave. E., Brandon, Man., Canada (DC) CAN, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Coils. O.H.M.S. Precancels: Mint and used airmails. Literature. Territorial, flag, slogan, 2-ring, 4-ring, and other cancellations. All queen cancellations on Canadian stamps. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37. Seconded by Mrs. E. K. Allen, No. 126.  
La Perriere, Charles A., 207 N. State St., Ann Arbor, Mich. (C) CAN, NFD, N.S., N.B.—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. R.R. and T.P.O. covers. Airmails on cover. R.R., territorials, 2 and 4-ring, dated town,

fancy and T.P.O. cancellations. Proposed by J. Levine, No. 1.  
 Marsden, Philip Sydney S. F., 164 St. Albans Ave., London W. 4, England (C) CAN, PROV—Mint and used postage. Pre-stamp and stampless covers. Plate blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S. Mint booklet panes and complete booklets. Pre-cancels. Mint, used and semi-official airmails and on cover. Stationery entire. Literature. R.R., territorial, flag, slogan, 2 and 4-ring cancellations. Proposed by L. Baresch, No. 575. Seconded by G. B. Harper, No. 570.  
 Martin, Hubert Ernest, Tranquille Farm, Tranquille, B. C., Canada (CX) CAN, NFD—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. 1st Day and 1st Flight covers. Mint and used airmails. Literature. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484. Seconded by F. R. Lobbs, No. 667.  
 Neff, Leland I., 1543 Hyland Ave., Arcadia, Calif. (CX) CAN, NFD, PROV—Mint and used postage. Coils. O.H.M.S. Mint and used airmails. Proposed by G. P. Lewis, No. 506

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Chivers-Wilson, Victor, 4234 Fraser, Vancouver 10, B. C., Canada  
 Gates, Henry, Box 1094, Pittsburgh, Pa. (from Detroit, Mich.)  
 Gaylord, S. B., 1991 S. Bates St., Birmingham, Mich.  
 Hurst, Peter J., 1455 Drummond St., Apt. 416, Montreal, Que., Canada  
 Norbeck, John L., 311 E. 24th St., Minneapolis, Minn.  
 Noxon, R. C., 1822 Dublin St., New Westminster, B. C., Canada (from Ottawa)  
 Watkins, Herbert G., 510 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, Man., Canada  
 Woolley, R. J., 359 Elms Park Rd., Toronto 3, Ont., Canada

#### RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

426 Affleck, W. N., 96 Agnes St., Oshawa, Ont., Canada  
 149 Brazer, Clarence W., 415 Lexington Ave., N. Y. C. 17  
 705 Carter, Ralph G., 506 25th St. E., Saskatoon, Sask., Canada  
 310 Eastman, G. H., Box 143, Imperial, Calif.  
 580 Gladish, W. M., 75 Belmont Ave., Ottawa, Ont., Canada  
 341 Guertin, J. Paul, 527 Zion St., Hartford 6, Conn.  
 792 Harmia, Vincent C., 412 S. Diamond St., Centralia, Wash.  
 546 Meschter, Daniel Y., Kinderhook, N. Y.  
 437 Meschter, Elwood Jr., P. O. Box 138, Gibson, Pa.  
 457 Pierce, Arthur, 1820 Lewis Tower, Philadelphia 3, Pa.  
 158 Sollinger, W. C., 6071 S. Harper Ave., Chicago 37, Ill.

#### RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED

Balderson, Dr. R. M., Box 152, Palmyra, Pa.  
 Kobylarz, Albert G., 204 Morris Ave., Summit, N. J.

#### MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, January 15, 1952 .....	662
NEW MEMBERS, February 15, 1952 .....	10
REPLACED ON ROLLS, February 15, 1952 .....	1 11
	663
RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED, February 15, 1952 .....	2 2
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, February 15, 1952 .....	661

#### OFFICIAL NOTICE

##### REPORT OF ELECTIONS

For Board of Governors 1952-55 (Three to be elected):

Lloyd W. Sharpe .....	152
Harris A. MacMaster .....	136
Nelson S. Bond .....	120
Charles McDonough .....	110
Wilmer C. Rockcitt .....	57

Proposed Amendments to Article III, Section 4, and Article V, Section 4, of the Constitution and By-laws of the British North America Philatelic Society as adopted November 24, 1943:

No. 1 .....	For 134	Against 37
No. 2 .....	For 131	Against 42

Respectfully submitted:

(Signed) C. H. Fee,

Chairman, Ballots Committee.

# Classified Topics

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

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