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FEATURE ARTICLE:

The Plate Problem of the Canada 5c Beaver



B·N·A TOPICS

Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society

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The Plate Problem Of the 5¢ Beaver

By W. E. LEA (#687)

For some time I have been much interested in the endeavours of Canadian Specialists to find some clue to solving the problem of plating this stamp, and I have studied many articles which have appeared in the various philatelic journals of recent years. I have also studied Senator Calder's "Phases of the Canada '59 issue", and the copies of the correspondence which passed between the Printers—The American Bank Note Co. and the Post Office departments so competently tabulated in Volume 2 of The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada, by Winthrop S. Boggs.

While therefore, the notes which I now publish have been made possible by the research of many and various students whose names are household words; it will be my endeavour to take the study one step further.

For many years I have been a collector of the Line-Engraved Stamps of Great Britain, and an ardent admirer of the pre-eminent authority on G. B. line-engraved, Dr. Harry Osborne, whose magnum opus on the repaired impressions of the Great Britain line-engraved plates is a vast well of knowledge for any student interested in plate study.

Perkins Bacon and Rawdon Wright, Hatch & Edson (the firm which amalgamated with other engravers to become the American Bank Note Co.) both used the same method of production, known as siderography, with the sole difference that, whilst Perkins Bacon hardened the steel plates (with the exception of Plate 1a and 2d Plate), the American Bank Note Co., according to all authorities on the subject, used soft or unhardened steel plates. It is thus obvious that to make repairs to any plate, Perkins Bacon must soften or decarbonise the plate before re-entry by the transfer roller was possible. On the other hand, The American Bank Note Co., using unhardened plates, could repair by re-entry whenever impressions became damaged or worn, and it may well have been this facility of quick repair which persuaded the American Company to use unhardened steel plates. It is however, probable that both companies, masters of the production of stamps by the Line-engraved process, used identical methods and principles.

There are still many collectors who believe that a re-entered stamp must

AN EXPLANATION

It has long been our contention that the presentation of lengthy articles in short instalments over a period of many months tends to make the reader lose interest in the subject being discussed, and at the very best makes it difficult to follow when a point or illustration previously published is referred back to, perhaps six months later. We hope to present some important articles over the next few months, and these articles will be presented in one issue, or if extra long in perhaps two or three issues at the most. The first of these is printed this month, starting on this page, and it appears in its entirety. We would be interested in hearing from our readers as to their reaction to this policy.—The Editor.

show some signs of duplications, but Dr. Osborne points out in "Repaired Impressions" that the coinciding re-entry (an impression which does not show any duplications of the engraving) was the usual, whilst the non-coinciding re-entry (an impression showing duplication of some parts of the engraving) was the unusual result of a repair.

In laying down the plate for the 5¢ Beaver stamp, certain guide dots were inserted and deepened to accommodate the side point which was probably suspended from a collar fastened to the mandrel or shaft of the transfer roller. These guide dots which can be seen on copies with the top margins attached, and in the C of "CENTS", commonly called "C. dots", are some 3½mm from the top frame line of the stamp or subject they control. It is then obvious that a transfer roller fitted with a side point should produce exact alignment of the subjects entered on the plate, and indeed examination of a proof sheet of the 1859 5¢ shows, with but one or two exceptions, perfect alignment. One of those exceptions is No. 61 on the plate.



It must be borne in mind that in 1859 the engravers employed by The American Bank Note Co., were highly skilled craftsmen who had already produced for the Canadian Government a number of plates for the pence issues. So excellent was their work that the 1851 6d denomination was printed from a plate of 200 subjects which did not show any trace of either fresh entry or re-entry, indeed the only solitary re-entry known on this plate occurred when the plate was bisected and imprints were added: in one position, not yet ascertained, the imprint shows definite duplications which indicate re-entry.

When reading the articles and notes on this 1859 issue, I have always been puzzled by the assertion that at least two plates were used in its printing, possibly three—although the last might have been a re-entered state of Plate 1—for not one shred of evidence is adduced to enable any philatelist to identify either Plate 1 or Plate 2. Perhaps it is because the inscription does not occur on those stamps perforated 11¼x11¼, and 12x11¼, whilst it is to be found on the marginal pieces perf. 12x12, that some students have been led to believe that these were two different plates.

It is my contention that only one plate was used for the production of this stamp, and that during its period of use it was repaired by re-entry on many occasions. On the first repair a minimum quantity of 22 subjects was re-entered, and on the second repair a minimum quantity of 31 subjects (I postulate a minimum quantity in each case as I have insufficient material to identify the coinciding re-entries). The spots and other marks appearing on these stamps are doubtless attributable to corrosion blemishes which appeared on the plate and increased in number and size during the 9 years it was in service.

Senator Calder states that a search of the records at Ottawa and New York failed to reveal any information respecting the number of plates used for the 5¢ stamp. Considering the completeness of the correspondence covering this issue, I find it remarkable that such information is not contained in

any of the letters but if only one plate were used there would have been no necessity for further reference in any of the communications which passed between the American Bank Note Co., and the Post Office departments.

On examining the copies of this stamp in my collection, and reading the description of the classification of flaws and re-entries, I have been perplexed that a flaw which occurs on all stamps and all printings covered by the three perforation groups has not been given sufficient prominence. This flaw consists of a short line of varying length (due to the wear of the plate) which occurs between the inner and outer frame lines in a parallel position exactly opposite the G of "Postage", about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm from the outer frame line. Mr. Lees-Jones has confirmed by the examination of specimens in his collection that it is extremely strong on the contemporary Die Proofs and Plate Proofs; consequently the flaw is a Die flaw which must have appeared on both subjects on the transfer roller and is reproduced on all 5¢ stamps. As the flaw varies in intensity, due no doubt to the wearing of the plate, it is a fair assumption that it may not be visible on very much worn impressions. On the four specimens of the major re-entry contained in my collection, the flaw is duplicated and quite easily discernible, although the re-entry occurs only on stamps perf. 12x12, that is on stamps produced from a late state of the plate.

On studying Senator Calder's Classification of the 5¢ Beaver Flaws (Appendix B) one is immediately struck by the apparent scarcity of flaws on the stamps perforated $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$ (Nos. 14a, 19, 23, 26, 31, 33a, 34, 47a, 50, 51b, 68, 72, 78, 83b, 86), only 15 out of a total of 86 recorded, and by the fact that whilst some of these flaws appear also on stamps perforated 12x11 $\frac{1}{4}$ in no instance do they appear on stamps perforated 12x12.

Again, it is interesting to note that of the 57 re-entries (many of which are minute) which Senator Calder tabulated, only four occur on stamps from the original plate (i.e. those perf. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$).

Apparently no distinction is made between fresh entries and re-entries; the number of fresh entries could easily be ascertained from the original sheets of Plate Proofs, if any exist. Complete sheets of the Plate Proofs do exist, one overprinted "Specimen" in black, and an irregular part sheet of 75 without the "Specimen" overprint were sold at Harmer Rooke's, New York, on 19th February, 1946, but without examination it would be impossible to identify from which state of the plate they were pulled: a cursory examination of the photographs leads one, however, to the opinion that both of these items were from the same plate, as the subjects are all laid down in identical corresponding positions.

There are 22 re-entries common to stamps perforated 12x11 $\frac{1}{4}$ and 12x12; 31 occur only on stamps perforated 12x12. If all the subjects on the plate were re-entered at the time the stamps were perforated by the 12x12 machine, it might be possible that the pressure of the transfer roller would alter the appearance of many of the Plate flaws or, alternatively, eliminate them completely. If we should accept the view of Senator Calder that at least two plates were used to produce these stamps, it would point to a deterioration in the work of the siderographer employed by the American Bank Note Co., but such a deduction would be in conflict with the evidence afforded by the other plates of this issue, all of which produced vast quantities of stamps, among which very few flaws and varieties are to be found.

Major G. L. E. Chapman in BNA TOPICS, Vol. 7, No. 8, in discussing this problem of the 1859 5¢ under the heading of "Number of Plates", states that Senator Calder, working in collaboration with Elliott Perry of Westfield, N. J., U. S. A., came to the conclusion that the existence of two plates was definitely determined and that moreover a small remnant of evidence remained which might indicate the existence of a third plate. He does not, however, record by what means the two plates can be identified. Major Chapman also

remarks that in 1946 a questionnaire was addressed to the British American Bank Note Co., and to the Canadian Bank Note Co., which elicited the information that the Plate or Plates might possibly have been re-entered as many as 12 times and then proceeds to accept the theory of two plates re-entered 5 times, making seven plates (57,000 impressions each), as propounded by Senator Calder and Mr. Elliott Perry. Two plates re-entered five times cannot make seven plates but only different states of two plates.

According to the official records as listed in Appendix A of Senator Calder's article, 39,800,000 copies of the 5¢ Beaver were issued which means 398,000 impressions in sheets of 100—admittedly, rather a large quantity to be printed from an unhardened steel plate—but we have evidence that a few years later the plates of the 1¢ small head produced on an average 198,000 impressions, whilst W. S. Boggs records in "Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada", at page 226, that there was ample evidence of unhardened plates giving 200,000 impressions: in a footnote he records that the 3¢ 1861 plates of United States averaged 402,000 impressions. It is, therefore, evident that it would constitute nothing unusual for the plate of the 5¢ Beaver to produce 398,000 impressions.

Again, the record in Volume 2, Appendix H, of the official letters passing between the American Bank Note Co., and the Post Office department, demonstrates that on March 16th, 1859, the Deputy Postmaster-General ordered the following quantities of stamps:

1,000,000	one cent
1,000,000	five cent
100,000	ten cent
100,000	twelve-and-a-half cent
50,000	seventeen cent

At some time prior to 26th September, 1859, the Deputy P. M. General must have increased the order for the one cent and five cent stamps to 1,500,000 of each (Aug. 3rd 1859) for on the 29th October, 1859, an acknowledgment of the deliveries of these quantities was sent to the American Bank Note Co., and a Draft for \$1480 in payment of their account for "engraving and furnishing of Postage Stamps" was also forwarded by separate post. It is difficult to determine how the amount of \$1480 is made up, unless it be that a charge of \$150 per plate was made for all the five plates (this sum was the charge made for the 10d and ½d plates in 1854 and 1857 respectively). According to the records the first order was for:

1,500,000	1¢
1,500,000	5¢
100,000	10¢
100,000	12½¢
50,000	17½¢

and, as the cost was 25¢ per 1000 (20¢ for printing, 5¢ for perforating), the charge should have been ----- \$812.50

Cost of Engraving 5 plates (at \$150) ----- 750.00

making a total of ----- \$1562.50

Possibly the Bank Note Co., made an allowance on the cost of engraving, as the vignettes of the pence dies were used for making the cents dies, which therefore did not require engraving completely, the difference might well have represented a discount.

From the foregoing figures, one would assume that a charge was made for engraving the plates, yet in the letters which subsequently passed between the Post Office department and the American Bank Note Co., up to April 1866—so ably tabulated by W. S. Boggs—whilst the orders for the 5¢ are

given and acknowledged, there is no reference to an additional plate of the 5¢ nor was any charge made for any additional plates for this issue. Clifford A. Howes in his "Canada—Its Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery" states that according to the Post Office records, the average annual payment to the American Bank Note Co., during the nine years the 1859 issue was in use, was under \$2000. As this business was obviously on a much smaller scale than the American Bank Note Co. had expected, a charge would almost certainly have been made; indeed finding the contract unprofitable, the company claimed in 1865 for an advance in price on the ground of increased costs, further evidence, surely, they would not have incurred the expense of preparing new plates without charge.

The final, and incontrovertible proof that only one plate was made for the 5¢ Beaver, is in my opinion contained in the Epilogue to the Provincial issues at page 216 of "Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada" by W. S. Boggs. In the correspondence here cited relating to the disposition of the dies, rollers, and plates of the stamps of the various Canadian Provinces made by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson and the American Bank Note Co., prior to 1867, T. H. Freeland (Vice-President of the American Bank Note Co., writing to R. M. Coulter (Deputy Postmaster General) on February 19th, 1902, states that 3 boxes had been shipped to Ottawa—Box No. 1 containing 11 cancelled Plates of Postage Stamps of the Province of Canada, the list of Plates being as follows:

Item No. 1.	Cancelled Plate 100 stamps	½ penny
2.	Cancelled Plate 100 stamps	1 cent
3.	Cancelled Plate 100 stamps	2 cents
4.	Cancelled Plate 100 stamps	5 cents
5.	Cancelled Plate 200 stamps	3 pence
6.	Cancelled Plate 200 stamps	6 pence
7.	Cancelled Plate 120 stamps	8 pence Sterling
8.	Cancelled Plate 120 stamps	6 pence Sterling
9.	Cancelled Plate 100 stamps	10 cents
10.	Cancelled Plate 100 stamps	12½ cents
11.	Cancelled Plate 100 stamps	17 cents

Therefore, if more than one plate of the 5¢ had been engraved, it would necessarily have been returned to the Post Office Department, in accordance with the instructions of the Deputy Postmaster-General of Canada contained in his letters of October 4th and November 8th, 1901, for the Dies and Plates were the property of the Canadian Post Office Department.

Factual confirmation of this reasoned thesis that only one plate was used for printing the 1859 5¢ Beavers, could be obtained only by an intensive study of all the proof sheets in existence. It would first be necessary to determine the original proof taken before the stamps were printed from the plate—as this proof was invariably pulled in black, I would suggest that specialists interested in the subject should endeavour to ascertain whether a plate proof sheet in black does exist. The contemporary proofs in colour were most probably pulled at various stages whilst the plate was at press. From my own researches on the limited amount of Proof material available, I find that the black proofs have the engraved lines more clearly defined than the Proofs in colour and, at the risk of bringing down upon myself the wrath and cynical criticisms of students with a large amount of Proof material, I would venture to suggest that the Black Proofs were pulled immediately the plates were completed, and are therefore the original Plate Proofs. The Proofs in the colour of the issued stamp, overprinted "Specimen", were probably the samples submitted to the Post Office Department, whilst the proofs in colour of issue WITHOUT the "Specimen" overprint (of which the majority I have seen show the usual criteria of Re-entry) were probably contemporary proofs



pulled at various stages whilst the plate was at press, doubtless after each repair to the plate. There is evidence that the printers DID take a proof from the plate after each repair. The three flaw on stamp No. 10 perf $11\frac{1}{4}$ x $11\frac{1}{4}$ exists in a block of 14 in proof state in the colour of the issued stamp, all 14 stamps re-entered on a plate without Imprint: moreover the shoulder flaw on the 17¢ appears on a proof impression and as this variety occurred only on the last printing, these two examples rather suggest that proofs were pulled during each printing. A further study of the plate proof sheets in existence would without doubt help considerably in establishing the number of repairs by re-entry made to this plate.

Mr. Lees-Jones has ungrudgingly allowed me to examine the material in his collection and I have found many pieces that help to confirm my theory: he has in addition provided me with charts of the North margins of the so-called Plates 1 and 2 and I was immediately impressed by the fact that the imprints on stamps 31 and 81 were laid down in identical positions on both plates. The plate position dots in the West margins were also identical on stamps Nos. 1, 21, and 71 and the C dots on "both plates" were in identical vertical positions on stamps Nos. 1, 21, 51, 61 and 81. If there were two plates, the siderographer who entered the transfer roller and the imprint must have had mechanical assistance, for it would be impossible to achieve such precision by the human hand alone. On the chart of Plate 1, positions 31 and 81 both show imprints, but Boggs, at Page 188, in his Note on Plates of the 5¢, states that imprints do not occur on Plate 1 and 2 and, according to the

Re-entry
No. 9



North East Corner.
Tree Flaw.
No. 10 Re-entry.



No. 20.



Note Double Vertical
Lines in Cross
Hatching in S. W.
Corner. West Frame
Line Double.
No. 30.



No. 40.



Vertical Lines in
Cross Hatching.
S. W. Corner Dou-
ble. West Frame
Line Double.
No. 50.



information I have gleaned from specialists of Canadian stamps, imprints have not so far been found on the stamps perf. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$ or the first stamps printed from the plate: this conclusion points to the fact that the positions 31 and 81 on Major Chapman's chart do not show the position dots and Plate markings from an early state of the plate, and consequently should not have been used for comparison in an endeavour to prove that more than one plate existed.

I have previously stated that spots and scratches, cannot possibly be of any aid in identifying the number of plates, as many of them are probably caused by corrosion, and it is possible that they would alter considerably in appearance during the lifetime of the plate: again, the repair by re-entry which certainly took place from time to time could eliminate flaws in certain positions on the stamp and produce others in a quite different position, thus producing an insoluble puzzle.

Whilst examining Mr. Lees-Jones' copies of the 5¢ Beaver, I noticed that in a block of 14 proofs of the 5¢ (2x7) from the North-East corner, stamp No. 10 showed the Tree flaw; according to Calder's classification of Plate flaws, this variety occurs only on Plate 1, perf. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$. This fact is enlightening because in this block of 14 proofs almost every stamp shows some indication of the re-application of the transfer roller—No. 9 shows definite duplications; No. 10 shows definite signs of re-entry and although it is not recorded in the classification of re-entries by Calder, it does prove that the variety No. 10 from Plate 1 can be found in at least two states and that Plate 1 was extensively repaired by re-entry. As the block has large margins and no imprints, it must have been re-entered prior to the issue of the Plate with imprints, and consequently cannot possibly be the suggested Plate 3 (Plate 1—re-entered). Fortunately, Mr. Lees-Jones has a fine lot of West-marginal pieces, and I had the opportunity of examining a South-West corner block of 12 proofs in colour horizontally overprinted "Specimen"; this piece shows positions 61, 71, 81, and 91 without Imprint. Position 61 shows that the subject was rocked into the plate at an angle, so that the North-East and South-West frame lines are $\frac{3}{10}$ ths of a mm. higher than the adjoining impression No. 62. The Plate dot in the West margin is $\frac{2}{5}$ th of a mm. higher than the bottom frame line and there is no evidence of re-entry. From the same position on the plate (No. 61) I also examined 8 copies of the stamp perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{4}$ (one on cover dated Aug. 5 1864) and three copies of the stamp perf. 12×12 , of which only two showed the Imprint in the extreme South-West corner, and I found that the S. W. position dot on all the stamps was only $\frac{1}{5}$ mm. above the lower frame line. However, all the stamps show traces of re-entry, the extreme N. W. inner frame line and the bottom frame lines (both inner and outer) show duplication. In addition, the inner frame line at North-East is also double and the plate dot is $\frac{2}{5}$ mm. higher than the line which is found below the lower frame line: it would thus appear that when Impression No. 61 was re-entered the angle at which the original impression was rocked in had been corrected by $\frac{1}{5}$ mm and the position dot had also varied by $\frac{1}{5}$ mm., so that No. 61 could show two different position dots and yet still be from the same plate. As this stamp is found not only perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{4}$, but also perf. 12×12 , both with imprint, it demonstrates that the one plate was used during the period the stamps were perforated by the three types of perforation, that the imprints must have been added to the original Plate or Plate 1 and that the stamps perforated $12 \times 11\frac{1}{4}$ and 12×12 were also printed from the same plate, NOT from two plates as listed by Boggs at Page 188. It is also interesting to note that on the block of proofs No. 61 shows two dots in the C and the issued stamps show the same two dots in the identical position in the C although on worn impressions the upper or smaller dot is hardly discernible, and may possibly be absent altogether on much worn impressions.

It should be borne in mind that the wearing of a plate could result in the thickening of the letters "Canada Postage" and "five Cents"; consequently on a worn impression the C of Cents would broaden and would thus alter the horizontal position of the C dot whilst not affecting the vertical; re-application of the transfer roller would then bring the subject back to its original or normal appearance, resulting in the reversion of the C dot to its normal position. It is therefore inadvisable to attach any importance to the fractional differences between the horizontal positions of the C dots when other criteria indicate similar plate positions.

If any collector possesses copies of the 1859 5¢ from position No. 61 with perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ I would indeed be very happy to have the loan of such material, as I am of the opinion that it may be possible, after examining stamps from this position, to ascertain the date when the first repair to this plate occurred. Also, if collectors would submit stamps perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ from the other west-marginal positions, such stamps might throw additional light on this problem.

Finally, I might also record that up to the present no satisfactory or conclusive proof has been published to alter my opinion that only one plate was made for the 1859 1¢ value, and this plate, repaired when necessary, produced the 275,000 impressions printed for this denomination. ★

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Next Month's Feature Article:

"The Coil Postage Stamps of Canada"

By Edward J. Whiting

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and all who have helped by their sterling efforts to add prestige

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B N A P S

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Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



We haven't had the opportunity to comment on this before. Jim Sissons had a sale on June 25th that contained some unique Newfoundland items. There were 5 items involved and all were die proofs on large card. The first was a die proof of the ½¢ Scott #78 sunk on card. The overall size of the card was 138mm x 190mm while the sinkage was 61mm x 72mm. The second was a die proof of the 3¢, Scott #83, also countersunk, in the color of the issued stamp except that it did not have the imprint. This die was on a card 135mm x 205mm with the sinkage 61mm x 86mm. The 5¢, Scott #84, was there in color of the issued stamp but also without imprint. This die was on a card 130mm x 140mm with the sinkage 61mm x 73mm. All of the above three items realized \$15.50 each. The 4¢, Scott #84, was included but in brown instead of the issued color and also without imprint. The size of the card was 137mm x 198mm with the sinkage 63mm x 77mm. The last die proof was the 1¢ King Edward VII postcard design, Holmes #1676, in the issued color. The size of the card was 125mm x 183mm with the sinkage 63mm x 65mm. The last two items were sold for \$19 and \$30 respectively.

We are in receipt of a letter from Dr. Willan, and as usual it is chock full of information to be passed on to the members. Referring back to our column in the January issue, Dr. Willan suggests that the 2¢, Scott #88 and the 5¢, Scott #91, that we recorded as engraved in black on a glazed surface colored yellow card are probably impressions on transfer paper, for transfer to the litho stone. Dr. Willan has strips of 3 of the 1¢, 2¢ and 5¢ values. Along with his comment on Scott #194 that we recorded as imperf between stamp and bottom margin, Dr. Willan records the fol-

lowing, some of which have been previously recorded in these columns. He reports the 1¢, Scott #163 imperforate between stamp and right margin and the same stamp imperforate between stamp and bottom margin. The 3¢, Scott #165, imperforate between stamp and bottom margin, the 2¢, Scott #186, imperforate between stamp and right margin and the 3¢, Scott #246, imperforate between stamp and right margin. On the matter of engine turnings, Dr. Willan can confirm that it exists on the 1¢, Scott #145, the 3¢, Scott #147, the 10¢, Scott #153 and the 15¢, Scott #156. The distance from the bottom of the stamp to the top of the turning is 12mm, 11½mm, 12½mm and 12mm respectively. Strangely enough Dr. Willan has a block of the 2¢, Scott #146 with a bottom margin extending 15mm below the bottom of the stamp that shows absolutely no turning even though it had previously been recorded on the 2¢ value. That however is what makes stamp collecting the interesting hobby that it is. Last but not least Dr. Willan sends a photo of a stampless cover with a red "FOGO PAID" handstamp with a red 2/. in the center of the handstamp. This is the first record of this handstamp recorded on a cover during the stampless era that existed until 1865. The cover in question was posted at Fogo on Feb. 16, 1863 and is addressed to England. Dr. Willan also submits an example of the exceedingly scarce "HARBOR BRITAIN /SHIP-LETTER" used on a cover with a Harbor Britain date stamp of Sept. 29, 1856. The last item is accompanied by a Royal Certificate. It is a bisect of the 10¢, Scott #27, used on cover and well tied sometime in Dec. 1867. We don't know the point of origin, but it is addressed to Port de Grave and since the rate for an in-

(continued on page 305)



THE POST HORN and SADDLE BAG

JIM GOODWIN'S

B.N.A. Postal History Column . . .

By H. W. L.

COLUMN NO. 16

This is a first attempt to keep this column alive and I hope that the members will be generous in comparing it with previous ones. There will be far less original research showing up in the column until some measure of co-ordination is developed with other collectors and students in the field. However since some of the subjects touched upon in the past could stand a certain amount of elaboration I am going to pursue further the article concerning the early Postmarks of Halifax.

If this is going to make sense to you I suggest that you read it with a copy of the June 1953 TOPICS in front of you, particularly page 163 showing the various illustrations of postmarks. I will also refer at times to the check list which appeared on pages 166 and 167.

As regards the postmarks prior to 1788 I cannot add anything to what Jim wrote but if more information becomes available at a later date it will be passed along to you. However, starting with the postmark which he classified as #2 in the check list and illustrated as "C" on page 163 something can be added. This marking is reported as having been used from 1786. Illustrated herewith is a cover showing this marking and dated FE 4 (1788) and it will be noted that the date appearing outside the box frame is in large type instead of the small type that appeared on the cover illustrated on page 163. In view of the fact that this is the same type that appears on the earliest "Double divided-circular" postmark it provides rather conclusive evidence that it was the original date marking used at Halifax—that is in the 1788 and later period.

Measurements of the type suggest that it was the same size as the letters used in making up the Postmark itself. No problem was presented in using this type in conjunction with the Straight Line postmark but when the double divided-circular marking came into use difficulties arose. The type was so large that it was impossible to fit the date inside the center of the postmark. This will be seen from the cover illustrated and dated OC 4 (1788) and that appearing on page 163 and dated OC 25 (1788).

Two covers bearing the divided-circular postmark dated Dec 29 1790 and Apr 3 1795 are illustrated to demonstrate two points. In the first place these, together with the one illustrated on page 163, cover the period from April 18 1790 to April 3 1795 thus proving that the small type date was substituted between Oct 1788 and April 1790 and was in use through 1795. Jim mentions a cover dated June 18 1789 but it is not certain, although implied, that this cover also showed the small type date. If such is the case the usage of the large type date with this postmark must have been shortlived.

An examination of the three covers also shows that the date, in small

POSTMARK MAY 12 '96
NOTE BOX FRAMELINE

Letter from ...
...
...
...
...

LETTER DATED 5 OCT '87
POSTMARK FE 4 (88)
NOTE LARGE TYPE.

...
...
...

LETTER DATED 3 OCT 1788
POSTMARK OC.4 (88)
NOTE LARGE TYPE

...
...

7th Feb
LETTER DATED 7 FEB 1795
POSTMARK APR 3 '95
NOTE POSITION OF DATE.

LETTER DATED 6 NOV 1790
POSTMARK DEC 29 '90
NOTE POSITION OF DATE

...
...

...
...

...
...

type, is almost perfectly centered in the postmark. Perhaps it is risky to draw conclusions but unless the person applying the postmark enjoyed an uncanny degree of accuracy the date must have been inserted in the center of the postmarking device and applied in a single operation. It is possible that the large type was used as a stopgap until such time as the necessary smaller type could be obtained.

The final cover to be discussed is that bearing the May 12 1796 marking in a rectangle. It is illustrated herewith and while the marking was described and discussed in the June issue no illustration appeared. On page 167 type 5 was described as this marking "within a double lined frame" measuring about 72mm x 28mm. Type 6 was the same, except that it was "within a single lined frame", and measured about 67mm x 25mm. If you care to study the illustrated cover you will notice that traces of a double lined frame exist at left, right and bottom. In correspondence with Jim on this point he agreed that it was probably one instrument and as a result of wear only the inner line was clearly evident during that latter part of its life. The inner measurements of the double lined frame are the same as those given for the single lined frame postmark. The single lined frame specimen in the Goodwin collection is dated March 4 1796 whereas the one shown here is dated May 12 1796 so the characteristics are probably alike.

There is one point that is not clear on the subject of this marking and that is that Type 5 was described as "serifed S. L. townmark" whereas type 6 is described as "S. L. Townmark, serifed capitals only". This may indicate two types of lettering and therefore a different postmark but in his correspondence with me Jim merely stated that "the two types were probably one."

Any further information regarding the Halifax postmarks will be welcomed by the writer in his effort to keep "The Post Horn and Saddle Bag" going and of interest to the membership. ★

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED COVERS

By E. L. PIGGOTT (#629)

No. 6

In this the Coronation year of Queen Elizabeth II, who bestowed on Winston Churchill "The Order of the Garter," it is timely to illustrate this patriotic cover of World War II and quote the inscription which appears under the portrait:

"We shall not Flag or Fail. We shall go on to the End."

Now Sir Winston, it is of interest to record that this beloved man accepted Knighthood in the Coronation year of the great-great granddaughter of Queen Victoria, in whose reign he began his long career as soldier, politician, statesman and chronicler of history. One can also mention that when King George I desired to make this great man a Knight back in the bitter moments of his 1945 defeat as Prime Minister, Churchill asked the King: "Why should I accept the Order of the Garter from your Majesty when Your Majesty's people have just



given me the order of the boot?"

It is timely to mention also that at the luncheon given in May last by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in Westminster Hall, part of the British Houses of Parliament, Sir Winston convulsed the distinguished audience by saying that he had to be particularly careful what he said about the Constitution of the United States. "But I can say" he added amid applause, "that no constitution was ever written in better English." ★

CANADA PRECANCELS

by H. G. WALBURN (#243)

Earlier this year there appeared an advertisement in a leading U. S. philatelic magazine, which read as follows:

"Unusual opportunity. Canada Precancel collection for sale. Except for four items, there is at least a normal or invert of every number. Most have both normal and invert and also the doubles. Many are one or two only items. Most of the errors and sub-varieties are included, and there are many blocks, coil pairs and several sheets, also revenue and envelope precancels. It is one of the best Canada Precancel collections."

This was something no red blooded collector of Canada Precancels could resist, the only difficulty being in connection with the figures following the \$ sign. However, knowing how many rarities the collection must contain, I purchased it and have been able to add a good number of otherwise unobtainable items to my own already extensive collection, and also acquired some valuable duplicate material.

The history of the advertised collection is interesting. It is in two sections—(1). The F. W. Campbell collection; (2). Items added by the late owner, Dr. G. C. Mynchenberg. The basic collection had been formed over a period of many years by F. W. Campbell from material gathered from many sources, including Frank S. Thompson of Winnipeg, pioneer chronicler of Canada Precancels and editor of the early editions of the Canada Precancel catalog 1923-25; C. C. Sonne; editor of the 1927-38 editions of the catalog; H. L. Chandler of Montreal, and many others.

Some of the outstanding material includes the following: A block of 12 Calgary 1-74a (1¢ Ed. VII inverted) with one row normal, i.e. three vertical pairs with the precancel tete-beche. (The only other known tete-beche precancel is Toronto 13-17li, the first 4530 numeral on the 1¢ medallion issue). A block of 12 Victoria 1-76a (5¢ Ed. VII). Amherst, N. S. complete, the only known collection with this town complete. Also Car-

berry, Chatham and Sydney, N. S. Kingston 1-89 (5¢ blue 1912) a great rarity. Montreal 4-80 (50¢ Ed. VII), the invert 4-80a is not uncommon, but the normal is very rare. North Battleford, St. Thomas and Vancouver \$1.00 orange. Peterboro 1-74 and 1-89 and the only known copy of St. John 2-75a (2¢ Ed. VII 3rd class). Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Brandon, Man., precancelled on the same stamp. Three different bar precancels on the 15¢ "large cents", 1869. Many rare Bar precancels on the 20¢ and 50¢ Queen Victoria, 1897 Jubilees and 1898 Map stamp.

One unusual item is a block of the 1¢ green Geo. V 1912 precancelled "Chicago Illinois". Apparently some mint Canada stamps were used in payment to a mail order house and precancelled by them along with the usual quota of U. S. postage.

A complete list of all the rarities in the collection would take up more space than the editor would probably care to allow me, so I will close these notes with a letter from an old time collector of Canada precancels, who was instrumental in rescuing from oblivion a number of varieties from the Maritime provinces, and the reply, which is interesting in that it throws some light on the reason for the great scarcity of many precancels—one printing for a special user, with a limited circulation, and then no more.

Letter from Mr. J. D. Cox, Upper Stewiacke, N. S., to Postmaster, Sackville, N. B.: "I notice you are using precancelled stamps at your Office, X-945. I enclose 25¢, kindly send me a few for my collection. Is the present issue the first you have had, and have you only the 1¢ value."

Reply from the Postmaster, Sackville, N. B.: "We had special permission to use these precancels for a special mailing, the patron using the whole order. Sorry we have none available but have picked up a couple from returned mail. This is the first time we have used precancels, and used only the 1¢." ★

TO THE EDITOR...

3d Canada Variety

Dear Editor: In a recent Topics I note there is recorded a new variety of the 3d Canada. This reminds me of a piece I have had, about which I have not been able to find a solution. Perhaps some member can assist. It concerns a strip of four three-pence.

This strip was offered to me after the Jephcott sale held by Harmer, Rooke in May 1935. It is illustrated in the photo plate and is Lot 28. The context says it has a re-entry—actually that is Plate 1, No. 53, and in the strip is the stamp next to the bottom one. So the strip is 33/43/53/63. There is no doubt as to its being 53, with doubling in the N. W. corner, etc. That being established, No. 33 should show the plate variety of Line through PE of PENCE and a line in the oval under PE. In the stamp of the strip (No. 33) there is no trace of either line through PE or line in surrounding oval. I have carefully examined the strip in benzene and under a quartz lamp to see if two pairs have been joined together—but there is no sign of any tampering in any part of the strip.

I hope some member can throw some light upon this problem. Possibly No. 33 was cleaned off and re-entered—that fact I do not know, but is the only solution I can foresee.

With good wishes to all members, and continued success in the journal's good work.

R. W. Lees-Jones (#493)

N. S. 1¢ Imperf. Vertically

Dear Editor: Re Mr. E. L. Piggott's article in the June issue, I would like to qualify his statement regarding the 1 cent Imperf. Vertically Nova Scotia (block of 12) on show at the Public Archives of the Province, Halifax, N. S. This is indeed one of the

largest blocks known—a similar block is owned by a private collector here in England and I have seen it many times. Two London dealers have, or had a few months ago, blocks of 8 and 6, and I possess a pair. I have always understood that only one sheet of 100 was issued; thus, we can account for 40—can we account for the complete sheet? I would be very interested to know if other members can help to locate the other 60.

Another point—can any member confirm that the 2¢ New Brunswick Imperf. Horizontally is only known without gum?

I have been trying for some time to get a pair of the 1¢ New Brunswick Imperf. Vertically, so far without success. Can any member help me get this item?

In conclusion may I, as a new member, congratulate Mr. H. G. Bertram (#523) on his most excellent letter re B. N. A. Handbook. The separate books idea is, in my opinion, just what is wanted, but can we not have separate books for the Provinces?

H. L. Darnell (#1043)

Registration Stamps Perf. 12x11½

Dear Editor: After reading Mr. W. T. White's article in the April issue of Topics on the 12x11½ perforation of the Registration stamps, I took time out to check every copy in my possession. The results were quite gratifying, so I would like to report on them at this time.

On the 2¢ I found four copies off cover, including one dated Andover, N. B., Nov. 22, '78, and one on cover from Richmond, Que., dated Nov. 1, '81. Because of the relative scarcity of this perforation, I believe that town and dated cancels are of great importance.

As to the 5¢, I would like to report

a fourth copy following Messrs. White, Lussey and Dilworth. The copy was submitted to Mr. White, who found it identical to the one in his collection. Mr. Dilworth reported the Hamilton Registry cancellation on one of his copies of the 2¢. My 5¢ perf. 12x11½ has the same Hamilton, Ont., Registry cancellation dated 1879, but the month and day are not plain. Again, because of the obvious scarcity of this stamp, I feel the town and year information to be of extreme importance in helping to solve the mystery of this stamp.

John Siverts (#59)

More for "Squared Circle" Fans

Dear Editor: I have enjoyed the recent data on "Squared Circles" furnished by members Col. McLellan and James Catterick. After careful analysis of my various covers, I find that I can add the following data for what it may be worth from my small collection:

St. John, N.B. Type a, PM above date.
Lakefield, Ont. Type b, 2 above date.
Winnipeg, Man. Type b, 4 above date.
Winnipeg, Man. Type a, 4 above date.
York Street. Type a, 3:30 above date.

All of the above are on 2¢ or 3¢ Maple Leafs. The year in each case is 1898.

Leland I. Neff (#903)

Unusual Markings

Dear Editor: A couple of months ago I picked up a couple of covers that bear markings never described in print—I think! Anyway, the one cover that I have before me defies reproduction in a manner anywhere near a close resemblance. It is a REGISTERED—PAID 9d, two lines and enclosed in a box. The cover is used to the United States, so that the rate is correct. . . .

Russell Allison (#520)

Canadian Proofs

Dear Editor: When a die is to be partially used for the manufacture of a new die, a transfer roll is first

made from the old die. This transfer roll has ridges to indicate the design instead of depressions as in the die proper. It is, therefore, comparatively easy to scrape off the ridges not required and after hardening the transfer roll, rock in the balance of the design on a piece of steel which subsequently has the engraving completed to produce the new stamp.

There have been so many inaccurate statements made about this work that I was attracted by an article in the July issue of The Essay Proof Journal which describes the process of change of the Pence designs to manufacture dies for the 1859 issue. This article appears on pages 159 to 163 and I would consider it worthwhile material for BNA Topics, if you could get permission to use it.

H. G. Bertram (#523)

● From P. H. Thorp, Editor, Essay Proof Journal: "Am very pleased to grant permission to reprint from the E-P-J the article on Canadian Proofs by Mr. Henry Gates as published in our issue No. 39. . . ." This article will very likely appear in our November issue—Editor.

Variety on 4¢ Coronation

Dear Editor: I am enclosing a photo showing an outstanding variety that has been found on the 4¢ Coronation issue. This, you will note, consists of a white line that passes through the 7th stamp in each row of the sheet.

So far as I know of five sheets that have been found with this variety. Peculiarly, two of these sheets are on Plate No. 2 U.L., and three sheets of Plate No. 3 U.L.

A. K. Grimmer (#81)

5 HOLE O.H.M.S. PERFS.

Yes, we have them. What do you need? OA114, OA215, OAE9 etc. OA234—\$1. (retails \$4.) with your want list. We save you \$'s on GEO. VI-ELIZ. 11 stamps (e.g. Nfld. D3a—\$1.25). Start collecting B.W.I. now—selection obsolete Geo. VI sets—\$10. Coronation Album—\$2. Free lists. Send wants.

JACKSONS

2 Frimette Cres., Toronto 9, Canada

Bringing News About People and Stamps

By Rev. J. S. Bain

When this column is read BNAPEX 53 will be history. However, we have it on good authority that BNAPS will be invited to hold the 1954 convention in Newark, N. J., by the Philatelic Exhibitions, Inc. If accepted, they promise to put on an exhibition of principally British material. Here is an excellent opportunity to advance the collecting of BNA and also to bring BNAPS to many collectors. I am sure that we can look forward to a miniature "CAPEX" in 1954. Our own William C. Peterman is on the Advisory Committee of Philatelic Exhibitions, Inc., so we have good representation for BNAPS.

BNAPS

BNAPSer Ed Goodale writes about the Canadian centenary meter slogans I mentioned in my column for June, 1953. He states, "I was editor of the C.P.S. sheets in 1940, and made arrangements to put our total issue of bulletins through the Postage Meter Company's meter for a period of two or three months. The C.P.S. paid for the slogan and paid the postage. The total issue for each month would be less than 200 copies, so when meter slogans come into their own they will be classic items. The patriotic meter slogan "There Always Be An England" on a flag was used in Ottawa in 1941 by the Colonial Coach Lines. The classic of the meter slogans is the 1937 Coronation slogan in purple on the Canada Postage Meter envelope. They sent out complimentary copies to all their customers in Canada June 1937, and the total sending according to their own figures was just over 400." All nice items if you can find them!

BNAPS

A brochure has come to our desk entitled "The First Stamp Magazine Looks At Early Canadian Stamps" by Max Rosenthal, Toronto, Canada, a new member of BNAPS, listed in this issue. As the title indicates the comments found in "The Stamp Collect-

or's Magazine", London, England, on Canadian stamps are given. This periodical, the first stamp magazine in the English language, ran from 1863-1874. It is a welcome addition in philatelic literature, especially to those who have no access to a reference library. BNAPSer E. Rushton, 98 Normandy Dr., Stratford, Ontario, Canada, is given as the publisher but no price is indicated. It is neatly mimeographed, letter size (8½x11), and consists of eight pages.

BNAPS

Information is desired about one "Hugh W. Becket, Box 19, Montreal, Canada, Dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps." His advertisement appeared in "The Stamp Collector's Record," Albany, New York, July 1, 1865, New Series No. 7. Does any BNAPSer know of price lists, stationery, etc. of this early Canadian stamp dealer? ★

SMALL 3c QUEENS

A wide selection of shades
and cancellations
now available.

Largely from the
Grimmer collection
including the famous
12½ PERF.

Correspondence invited not
only for the above group
but for anything in
BRITISH AMERICA

L. A. Davenport
230 Lonsmount Drive
Toronto 10 CANADA

Sketches of BNAPSers by V. G. Greene

No. 49—AUBREY KELSON

The subject of this sketch, Aubrey Kelson, was born in London, England, on Nov. 29, 1879, and moved to Canada when he was 19. He served with the C. E. F. for four years in the First World War, attaining the rank of Major although his permanent rank in the Army is Captain. For over thirty years he was associated with the Columbia Phonograph Co. of New York as a representative in Ontario but when the business closed during the depression of 1933 it left him "on the rocks". Fortunately he had his stamp collections to fall back on and on Nov. 1, 1937, he decided to go into the stamp business under the name of "Stamp Haven" which was derived from his thought of a haven for stamps. His store on Bay Street in Toronto, near the Union Station, it was a success from the start, and the writer spent many a happy hour poring over Aubrey's stock and talking "shop"; perhaps it was the fact of so many collectors dropping in to talk "shop" that decided Aubrey to move to Deseronto in Dec. 1947 and devote all his time to the "mail" trade which by this time had assumed large proportions.

Aubrey started to collect stamps in 1890 and his early favorites were Great Britain, Canada, Chile, Belgium and France. In 1905 he decided to confine his collecting to the British Empire, specializing in certain issues of Canada and Great Britain. Many of our members will recall the three frames of "Penny blacks", all superb, which he showed at Hart House in Toronto in 1940, and his collection of the 15¢ value of the "Large Cents" issue of Canada was also of the first rank. Both these collections were sold intact and still remain in the hands of the original purchasers.

The oldest Canadian member (in length of membership) in the American Philatelic Society, Aubrey is also a member of the Toronto Stamp Collectors Club, Canadian Philatelic So-



ciety, Vancouver Island Philatelic Society and a charter member of the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association. He has written several articles for the philatelic press and a popular series was the "Dinky Damus" column in "Popular Stamps" which has recently been published in book form. This book contains illustrations of varieties in stamps, mainly Canada, and the writer can recommend it to all collectors who are interested in re-entries and plate flaws of Canadian stamps.

Aubrey's other hobbies are cricket, fishing and photography, but the study of stamps has been his greatest love. Up until a year ago he owned an extensive forgery and reprint collection and in his early days would walk a mile to obtain a forgery for his collection! Unfortunately, an operation several months ago has made him take things easy for the moment but all BNAPSers will be glad to know he is much better and business is again humming at "Stamp Haven" in Deseronto! ★

Some Notable Errors in Canadian R.P.O. Markings

By DR. ALFRED WHITEHEAD (#192)

Canadian collectors have a small but exceedingly interesting group of errors in the field of railway cancellations, some very rare, some quite common. I have known of these for years, and had the privilege of reporting some of them to Mr. T. P. G. Shaw in time for inclusion in his fine catalogue. There may be others still to be reported, and I shall be most grateful to receive information of such. Most of the errors I deal with here are of this century; in fact, I know only of two which date from the Victorian era.

The list follows, and is arranged regionally as in Shaw's scheme: Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, and Westerns.

THE MARITIMES

- (1) CONNERS & RIVIERE DU LOUP R.P.O.; a double error for "Connor" (New Brunswick). Shaw's M-28.
- (2) CONNORS & RIV. DU LOUP R.P.O.; error for "Connor". Shaw's M-29.

Among railwaymen this place name is known as "Connors", so the second of the above is hardly an error; but the P. O. GUIDE and the Can. Official Railway Guide both give "Connor". However, there can be no doubt that "Connors" is an error.

No. 2 above, superseded "TEMISCOUATA RWY." (Shaw's R-163), of which my last date is Nov. 1, 1904. I have M-29 dated Nov. 8, 1904 one of my closest follow-ups. No. 1 above did not appear for several years later, for my earliest is Ja. 15, 1915. Both markings are fairly common.



FIG. 1—HALIFAX & CAMPBELLTON R.P.O. (error for "CAMPBELLTON"), dated Fe. 2, '32. Train number: 3.

- (3) HALIFAX & CAMPBLETTON R.P.O.; error for "Campbellton".
This is not in Shaw; I discovered it too late for listing. My earliest is Fe. 22, 1913, and as it was in regular use until at least 1947 (probably later) it isn't rare. This is only one of many hammers used on this important run during the years 1913-1947.
- (4) HALIFAX & CAMELTON; error for "Campbellton". Not in Shaw.
I don't think that this, by the wildest stretch of imagination, could be regarded as an abbreviation, so it may fittingly be included among our errors. Mr. Shaw himself reported it to me; my records make no note of the period. I have never seen it, and it must be a first-class rarity.
- (5) McADAM & EDMUNSTON R.P.O.; error for "Edmundston".
(Shaw: M-72)
My earliest is Sp. 21, '03, on the Q. V. 2¢ Numerals; my latest, Fe. 20, '09. It was superseded by ST STEPHEN & EDMUNDSTON R.P.O., and in listing this (M-113), Shaw repeats the original spelling error "Edmunston". (These things are fatally easy to do!) My earliest of M-113 is Mr. 12, '09.



FIG. 2—McADAM & EDMUNSTON R.P.O. (error for "EDMUNDSTON"), dated My 4, '08. Direction mark: S. (Cancellation "strengthened").

QUEBEC

- (6) BEECHERS FALLS & DUDSWELL Jnc. R.P.O.; error for "Beecher".
Shaw's Q-9
- (7) BEECHERS FALLS & LIME RIDGE R.P.O.; error for "Beecher".
Shaw's Q-10.

As Beecher Falls is in Vermont, these were dealt with in my article on Canadian International R.P.O.s, TOPICS, May, 1953.

- (8) MONT. & TORONTO P.R.O.; error for "R.P.O.".
I reported this in time for listing as Q-164A in Shaw's catalogue. It is a first class rarity; it must have been withdrawn as soon as the error was detected. I have not heard of an example outside of the cover which I picked up for 3¢ in a Montreal dealer's about ten years ago; it is dated No. 26, '31.

- (9) SHER. & LAKE MEGANTIE R.P.O.; error for "MEGANTIC".
Shaw's Q-278.

This error, used for about four years on the C.P.R. between Sherbrooke and Megantic, is generally faint or smudged, and is difficult to decipher. My dates run from No. 23, '14 to No. 18, '18. Rare.

ONTARIO

This province gives us three major errors, fine and striking, together with another of rather less interest.

- (10) LONODN & SARNIA R.P.O.; error for "London".

I reported this in time for its listing as O-155A. I have dates from Au. 17, '18 to 1947; it may be in use even now; I am weak in R.P.O.s since '47, and cannot be certain. It is not scarce. The earliest specimens show direction marks: T1E, T2W; later copies show train number 6.

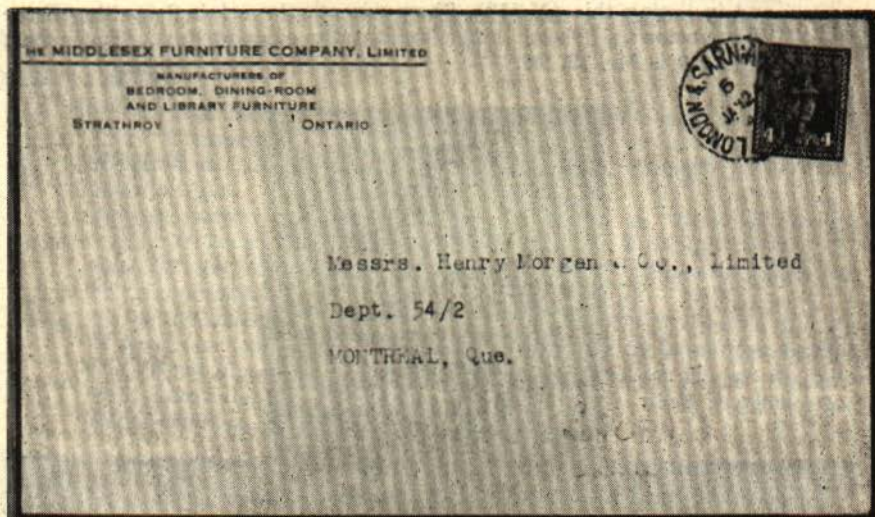


FIG. 3—LONODN & SARNIA R.P.O. (error for "LONDON"), dated Ja. 24, '45. Train number: 6.

- (11) OTTAWA & GREENVILLE, MAIL CLERK No. 1; error for "Grenville".

This is the classic error among Canadian railway markings. As there were no less than four, yes, FOUR, hammers with this error; and at least three of them show an attempt at correction by deleting the second "E", thus: "GRE NVILLE", we have here the most remarkable single group of Canadian R.P.O.s. I wonder if there is a complete showing in any collection! I should like to hear of it.

Jarrett lists two errors: 1618xxxa, and 1620xa. He lists and illustrates three of the corrected hammers: 1638xxx, 1620x and 1631. Boggs does not list the errors, being content with "Grenville", but illustrates all three corrections, copying Jarrett's illustrations faithfully, even to dates and direction marks, etc. As he nowhere gives Jarrett "credits" it may be that both distinguished writers drew these and other identical illustrations from an earlier publication which is unknown to me.

In addition to the three "cartwheel" types showing the altered wording: "GRE NVILLE", all contemporaries, without doubt, I have still



FIG. 4—OTTAWA & GREENVILLE, MAIL CLERK No. 1 (error for "GREENVILLE"), dated Sep. 6, 1864. Direction mark: DOWN. Note that this date is subsequent to the three corrected hammers shown in Jarrett and Boggs.



FIG. 5—OTTAWA & GREENVILLE, MAIL CLERK No. 1; dated Nov. 4, 1859. One of the three corrected hammers; Jarrett's 1618XXX. Note the space after the first "E" in GREENVILLE. The error second "E" has been deleted.

another "cartwheel" showing "GREENVILLE" and dated Sep. 6, 1864, three years later than the latest of the illustrated "GREENVILLE" hammers. All four have the same wording at top, and all four have "MAIL CLERK No. 1" at the base. Why were four hammers, contemporaries, needed for the same clerk? Is there a story here? Page the stalwarts: Frank Campbell, Harry Lussey and R. P. Hedley. I hope they will add to my brief notes on this extraordinary group. The true correction, a later hammer, is Jarrett's 1629.

(12) St. THOMAS & WINOSOR Ry. P. O.; error for "Windsor".

I discovered this too late for inclusion in Shaw's Catalogue. This clear error was in use in 1893 and 1894, and so belongs to the Small Queen's period. But it may also be found on Edwardians, for it was brought back into use in 1907. I have the following runs of dates:

First period: Sp. 1, '93 to Sp. 12, '94;

Second period: My. 20, '07 to Ju. 14, '09.



FIG. 6—ST. THOMAS & WINOSOR RY.P.O. (error for "WINDSOR"), dated Ap. 27, '94. Direction mark: E. (Cancellation "strengthened").

The story of stamp auctions from the solicitation of the material to be sold until its final delivery to the purchaser and settlement with the consignor is incorporated in our new booklet—

"THE APFELBAUM AUCTION STORY"

There is also included advice on how to collect so that you will receive a higher percentage of your investment when you sell. The booklet frankly states what can and what cannot profitably be sold at auction.

We urge you to send for one even if you are not at present interested in buying or selling. We venture to suggest that you will put it with your valuable papers for future consultation by yourself or your executors. It is free. Request yours now.

Earl P. L. Apfelbaum

1428 So. Penn Square

Phila. 2, Pa.

(13) TORONTO & NORTH BAY, MCC. T.R., No. 3, error for "M.C. G.T.R."

This is the second of two hammers intended to have the same lettering. The first hammer (Nov. 13, '93) correctly shows "M.C. G.T.R." (Mail Clerk, G.T.R.), but its replacement of 41 years later has undoubtedly a second "C", and lacks two periods; too, the space is wrongly placed. Even if there had been no error a hammer replacement with the original lettering would have been an anachronism, for the G.T.R. had been merged into the Can. Nat. Ry. as far back as Jan. 30, 1923, according to the "Statutory History of Canadian Railways". The dates of the two hammers are:

Hammer 1, with flat topped "3" and correct wording: from No. 20, 1893

Hammer 2, with round topped "3" and error wording: from Ju. 21, 1934

Neither is rare.

WESTERN

- (14) BRAN. & LAN. P.R.O., No. 2; error for "R.P.O." The first hammer, No. 1", is correctly lettered. These hammers were used between Brandon, Man., & Lanigan, Sask. on the C.P.R. My dates for the error are from No. 23, '33 to about 12 years later.



FIG. 7—BRAN. & LAN. P.R.O. No. 2 (error for "R.P.O."), dated Sp. 12, '39.
Train number: 59.

It will be seen that I have listed only two "P.R.O." errors. I am assured that there is still another, that also being a Western. I should be glad to have information on this point. ★

New 50c "Textile" Design

The Canada Post Office Department announces that on November 2, 1953, a new 50¢ postage stamp will be issued, displaying a subject representing the textile industries of Canada.

The main element of the design will display on the left, a representation of a bobbin from which threads unwind through an old fashioned spinning wheel to appear at the right

as folded cloth.



Letters Found in Stampless Covers Add to the Pleasure of Collecting



Maybe it's not stamp collecting or even postal history except in a broad sense, but one of the greatest pleasures of stampless cover collecting is the reading of messages found inside those old folded letters.

Frequently the letter makes the cover far more interesting by revealing something of the personality of the writer and explaining the circumstances under which the message was penned. The collector with imagination can read many things into the messages. Many he will find, provide fascinating footnotes to history.

Such a cover, owned by Charles McDonough of Philadelphia, Pa., is illustrated here. Written in 1811 by a surgeon on board a British naval vessel which was supporting Lord Wellington's campaign against Napoleon, the letter gives some of the "war news" as well as discussing personal matters and mentioning rumors of trouble between the U. S. and Great Britain—a disagreement which resolved into the War of 1812.

The cover itself is of some interest since it is addressed to Nova Scotia and shows the manuscript rate marking. However, the contents provide the most interest, so the letter is reproduced here in full with spelling and capitalization as in the original.

H. M. Ship Macedonia
River Taguez, Off Lisbon
September 25th, 1811

My Dear Sir:

Your kind & friendly letter to Messrs. Goodale and Turner in my favour for One Hundred Pounds has left an impression of gratitude on my mind which I assure you can never be obliterated and I here take the opportunity of declaring to you that I consider myself and not my Father as your debtor for the above sum with lawful interest for the same until paid which I hope fortune will enable me to do ere long.

Mr. Goodale gave me a polite reception & took receipts from me at two different periods for One Hundred Pounds, which debt I sacredly promise shall be most honourable refunded.

We have had no luck as yet in the Mecedonian, but surely fortune must relent before long. We have been on a two month cruise and during that time have see nothing like a Prize.

Lord Wellington is at present before Cuidad Rodrigo Portugal which is occupied by a French garrison in state of starvation & the French army which is very strong wish to relieve the garrison, but on account of the position of Lord W. between the

French Army and the besieged it is likely the garrison will be obliged to surrender at discretion. Five Hundred of the French cavalry were taken a few days since in a partial skirmish which took place and Lord W is entrenching and otherwise securing himself in such a manner that he says he can concentrate the whole of his army in a very short time in any part of the situation he has taken up.

We have heard rumours of an American war which would be a good thing for the Navy but I do not know how far it would be beneficial or the contrary to Nova Scotia.

Wishing you, your family and connexions every happiness & requesting you will be good enough to let my Father, Mother & friends hear of my welfare & that you will acknowledge the receipt of this letter, believe me, My Dear Sir,

Your Obligated & Sincere Friend
Michael O'Brien, Surgeon

Mr. John Albro
Halifax
Nova Scotia

P.S. I think we shall be on the Lisbon station for some time yet & therefore request that you act accordingly.

—From "Western Stamp Collector."★

Trail

(continued from page 289)

land letter was 5¢ at that time it is a magnificent example of a bisect correctly used.

Tom Hutton, one of our new members from London, England, submits a new plate number not previously recorded. The item in question is plate "3" in the U. L. corner of Scott #189 in the comb perf. Previously the line perf 13.7 and 14.1, as well as comb perf had been recorded with a reverse "2" in the U. L. corner.

Alex MacMaster reports a very nice find, it is a used copy of the 7¢ long Coronation in the scarce comb perf on cover. The interesting thing about the cover is that it is First Day, the first record of its use at that early date. We're passing the information on to Marshall Kay, the expert on this issue. ★

Thanks are extended to Arthur J. Dean (BNAPS #199) for his kindness in auditing the books of the Society for the current year. The Treasurer's Report which appeared in the last number of Topics was in accordance with this audit.

Classified Topics

Reserved for Members of
BNAPS Only

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

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LITERATURE

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COPY FOR CLASSIFIED TOPICS

should still be sent to the Editor, rather than to the Advertising Manager. This copy must reach the Editor by the 15th of the month. Display ads go to the new Advertising Manager, by the 10th of the month.

B. N. A. Postage - Revenues

W. V. STEPHENS
P. O. Box 889
Paterson, California

From the President...

Dear Fellow BNAPSers:

message this month is going to be short as we are all thinking in terms of what is going to happen at Montreal, etc., and there is little of current interest otherwise.

However, I am glad to report that Major Hamilton White writes me that the new edition of the Plate Block Catalog is coming along. He also is enthusiastic about the help that has been forthcoming regarding the imprints. Thanks a lot to those who have pitched in.

In the last issue of TOPICS I really stuck my neck out but it has paid off as regards the problem of the 10c 1859. So far I have received only one letter but it contains a wealth of information and very logical thoughts regarding the color problem. This letter is from a professional in the printing business and if I can get his consent I intend to have it reprinted in the next issue. The fellow is a real gentleman—he didn't tell me I was nuts but furnished an awful lot of evidence in that direction, and I liked it.

As you will see, the Year Book is up to the customary high standard and also a success from a monetary viewpoint thanks primarily to the efforts put forth by that human dynamo (when you get it started) George Bert Hughie Llewellyn. The cooperation on the part of the membership and professionals in the philatelic field is evidenced by the fine volume of ads which appear in the book.

On the subject of a Catalog there will be a report made after the meeting to be held in conjunction with the Montreal Convention. There has been considerable interest shown but whether or not it has been sufficient to justify the undertaking is something that will have to be very carefully weighed.

HARRY W. LUSSEY, President.



From the Sales Manager...

GUARANTEE

We guarantee you sales beyond your expectation. That may sound like idle boasting but we have seen it happen every time. Every circuit we send out with 19th century Canada (especially) sells amazingly well. Like everything else, the quality and condition must be better than "space filler". In fact, premium quality material priced at premium is selling very well. Very fine condition "pence, cents, large & small queens" just can't miss. Proof of the guaranteed chances of selling this type of material is the fact that we never have enough because, for one reason, anything we do receive is "sold out" very soon after it is circulated. We've asked you to give things a try and to see for yourself but in this instance you don't have to try—we guarantee sales beyond your expectation. If you have 'em, we sure can use 'em. Please.

We offer you good buys sometimes to your surprise. How about 40c for Plate No. 1 of the Canada "Coronation"? Some of these were placed in the cir-

cuits before their complete story became known. The same happened on the 12x1½ registration stamp. We can't guarantee you such buys all the time but they happened once or twice and can happen again. However, we can guarantee you an excellent chance to find something you need and have been wanting. Nothing ventured, nothing gained? Sales of \$3000.00 for 8 months are proof that members are finding things they want. Hop aboard.

Reporting that sales are high is a very pleasant duty and we are never averse to doing it. In fact, as we said before, the higher they go the more ambitious we become. We see the way to bring you higher and higher sales reports—your duplicate 19th century material will do it. If you have it, please enter it and, watch our future reports.

James T. Culhane, Sales Manager
119 Montgomery Avenue
Coleston, Norristown, Pa.

(Blank books 10c each—3 for 25c)

Report of the Secretary ...

SEPTEMBER 15, 1953

APPLICATIONS PENDING

- Adams, William T., Box 1104, San Jose 8, Calif.
Adsit, Douglas, 2315 West 6th Avenue, Vancouver, B. C., Canada
Brown, Mrs. G. E., 219 Wedgewood Ave., Riverview Hgts. (via Moncton), N. B., Canada
Burton, Dr. Blenheim L., P. O. Box 889, Los Alamos, New Mexico
Carroll, Dr. John J., 1070 West 33rd Avenue, Vancouver 13, B. C., Canada
Christensen, E. J., 11612 - 94 Street, Edmonton, Alta., Canada
Gillmore, Donald E., 1435 Parkview Terrace, Hillside 5, N. J.
Hill, Gordon M., 1932 - 29th St. S. W., Calgary, Alta., Canada
Lee, J. Chang, 220 Union Blvd., St. Lambert, Que., Canada
Levine, Irving, 435 Webster Avenue, New Rochelle, N. Y.
Mason, A. F., 491 Windsor Avenue, Penticton, B. C., Canada
McLeod, J. M. H., 10041 - 118 Street, Edmonton, Alta., Canada
Netherton, Dr. W. J., 857 Winnipeg Street, Penticton, B. C., Canada
Penny, D. G., Ste. 2, Erickson Block, 249 Main St., Penticton, B. C., Canada
Prescott, John C., 100 - 17th Avenue N., St. Petersburg 2, Fla.
Rock, Patricia Margaret Collins, 254 Maitland Rd., Islington, Newcastle 2N, N. S. W., Australia
Rosenthal, Max, 354 Queen Street E., Toronto, Ont., Canada
Sault, Earl E., Ormstown, Que., Canada
Schroth, J. Donald, P. O. Box 91, Blue Island, Ill.
Spung, Richard B., 161 Madera Street, Watsonville, Calif.
Webb, William C., 38 Norman Road, Newark 6, N. J.
Wener, Henry, 11151 - 88 Avenue, Edmonton, Alta., Canada

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

(Objections must be filed within 15 days after month of publication)

- Burns, Dr. O. G., Maple Creek, Sask., Canada (CX) CAN, NFD—Mint and used postage and blocks. Plate Blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S. Mint booklet panes. Mint, used and semi-official airmails. SPECIALTY—Canada Plate Blocks. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484. Seconded by G. H. Moxham, No. 1051.
Calhoun, Richard S., c/o The Arctic Philatelist, P. O. Box 75, Sitka, Alaska (DCC) CAN—Covers above the circle. Proposed by J. Levine, No. 1.
Day, Arthur D., 878 Weston Rd., Toronto 9, Ont., Canada (D) Proposed by G. P. Lewis, No. 506.
Hendee, Homer W., N. Freeman Rd., Orchard Pk., N. Y. (C) Proposed by R. P. Hedley, No. 164. Seconded by H. M. Rubis'ak, No. 1057.
Horne, Brien, 2709 Montcalm Crescent, Calgary, Alta., Canada (CX) CAN, NFD—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Pre-stamp and stampless covers. Mint and used booklet panes and complete booklets. Pre-

cancels. Mint and used airmails. Stationery entires. R. R. Cancellations. SPECIALTY—Plate blocks. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484. Seconded by G. H. Moxham, No. 1051.

Hill, Albert, 736 - 17th Ave. W., Calgary, Alta., Canada (C) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Plate blocks. Mint and used booklet panes and complete booklots. Mint and used airmails. SPECIALTY—Queen Victoria Issues. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484. Seconded by G. H. Moxham, No. 1051.

Morell, Major Harry, Maple Street, Sutton, Que., Canada (C) Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37.

Mallett, Frank McL., 3183 Summit St., Columbus 2, Ohio (C) CAN—Used postage. 1st Day covers. Mint and used booklet panes. Coils. O.H.M.S. Used and semi-official airmails. Stationery entires and cut-squares. Literature. Proposed by J. S. Siverts, No. 59.

Richardson, Sidney T., 410 - 11th Ave. N. W., Calgary, Alta., Canada (CX) CAN—Mint and used postage and mint blocks. Plate Blocks. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484. Seconded by G. H. Moxham, No. 1051.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Billings, 1231 Riverdale Ave., Calgary, Alta. (from Vancouver, B. C.)

Galt, Alex F., 54 Admiral Rd., Toronto, Ont.

Gordon, John S., 35 N. Evergreen Ave., Woodbury, N. J. (from Ithaca, N. Y.)

Morrison, Lt. C. O'G., 134 San Carlos Av., Sausalito, Calif. (from Annapolis, Md.)

Tupper, Garn. H., Ste. 4, 2200 W. 5th Ave., Vancouver 9, B. C.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

Vowles, L. T., Bell House, Westbury-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, England

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, August 15, 1953	780
RESIGNATION ACCEPTED, September 15, 1953	1
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, September 15, 1953	779

OFFICIAL NOTICE

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

ARTICLE IV, Section 3—As amended Annual Meeting 1950.

Three (3) members to the Board of Governors shall be so elected each year by ballot during January for a term of three (3) years.

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

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

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Librarian

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New York Group—Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York City.

Philadelphia Group—Meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7934 Pickering St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Twin City Group—Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.

Niagara Frontier Group—Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2403 Weston Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Vancouver Group—Meets on the 4th Monday of each month (8 p.m.) at 2091 West Broadway, Vancouver, B. C.

STUDY GROUPS

Prince Edward Island Study Group—Chairman, Leslie G. Tomlinson; Secretary, Mervyn V. Quarles, 8255 S. Ellis Ave., Chicago 19, Ill., U. S. A.

The Small Queen Group—Chairman, Walter P. Carter; Secretary, E. M. Blois, 4 Cartaret St., Halifax, N. S.

Canadian Plate Block Study Group—Chairman, Major K. H. White; Secretary, Arch. Millar, Box 920, New Westminster, B. C., Canada.

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