



# B·N·A TOPICS

*Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society*

TWO FEATURE ARTICLES:

- ★ **Perforation Varieties in  
Some Later Newfoundland Issues**
  
- ★ **Philately in Canada  
in the 1890's**

**FEBRUARY 1954**

**VOLUME 11 — NUMBER 2**

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# B·N·A TOPICS

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# Perforation Varieties in Some Later Newfoundland Issues

By MARSHALL KAY (#760)

## Part III\*

PICTORIAL ISSUE of July 9, 1924; Scott 131-144; Gibbons 148-162

All values of this issue were released on July 9, 1923 except the 20 cent and 24 cent, placed on sale on April 28, and 29, 1924, according to Boggs. Comb perforate forms are known in all values, and line perforate in most in four types combining two gauges. There are shades of several of the values, and doubtless several printings.

The comb perforate (type #1) stamps are rather constantly about 13.8 x 13.9 for the short and long dimensions. The comb bar ran vertically along the left of horizontally elongate stamps, with comb teeth projecting to the right; in vertically elongate stamps, the bar was at the base with teeth extending upward. The line perforate stamps were impressed by pins in perforating bars of gauges of about 13.7 to 13.8 and 14.0 to 14.1 in all possible combinations. Thus there are four types represented. For short and long dimensions of stamps these have been numbered: #2, 14.0 x 13.7; #3, 14.0 x 14.0; #4, 13.7 x 13.7; and #5, 13.7 x 14.0. The types #2 and #3 are known in several values commonly, whereas the #4 and #5 are infrequent. Types 2 and 3 are like the two gauges in the succeeding first Publicity issue made by the same Whithead, Morris and Company. The separation of the four combinations may prove helpful in identifying printings, for as will be shown, covers seem to have concentrations of certain types for spans of time. The similarity of gauges is such that considerable care must be taken to separate them, particularly along the short side of single stamps. A greater number of mint blocks needs to be examined before concluding that all values in each type have been discovered. The writer's blocks and a few other collected by Ralph Holmes are included: Type #2 in 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 20 cent values; type #3 in 1, 2, 5, 12, 15 and 24 cent; type #4 in 1, 2 and the uncommon 10 cent; and #5 rather rarely in the 3, 4 and 5 cent denominations. Nearly all

\* The first part of this series was published in TOPICS, Vol. 10, No. 1, January, 1953, pages 23-26, the second in Vol. 10, No. 5, May, 1953, pages 139-142.

Corrections: The following errors in statements in the preceding articles in the series have come to my attention:

1. Long Coronation Issue. The base of Table 2, page 25, should record type #3 as 14.1 line, not comb, perforate.

2. Sir Humphrey Gilbert Issue. E. H. Hiscock, T. R. Hutton and D. C. Meyerson have noted that the type #2 line perforate gauge should be recorded as about 13.7 rather than 14.1 in three places on pages 139-140.

3. First Publicity Issue. a) Study of marginal blocks shows that there are two distinct perforation types in the 1 cent value. The "19-hole" variety is as described on p. 142, type #2, 14.1 x 13.8, comb bars horizontal and teeth extending toward the top of the stamp. The "20-hole" variety has nearly the same gauge, 14.1 x about 13.9, but the bars ran vertically and the teeth extended toward the left as in the comb Caribou varieties. This type will be listed as type #5 for this issue. Readers with first-day covers and date cancelled stamps can determine the order of the two printings having these two types of comb perforate stamps.

b) E. H. Hiscock has called attention to the omission of the number 3 after "149 - 5 cent #1," in Table 7, page 141.

used copies also are limited to these types and values, though there are a few additions.

The writer has seen only comb type #1 forms in the 6, 8, 9 and 11 cent values and in some shades. Booklet panes that have been seen are also of this type, produced in 1926. Boggs lists all values as in two combinations, 14 x 14 and 13.5 x 14, but without reference to kind of machine; his types cannot be confirmed.

Distinct color varieties are in several values of the issue, with a number of perforation types among them. The four values known only in comb perforate type and of only one color probably had but one printing. The 6 cent must have been printed in excessive numbers, for it was used for the provisional issue of 1929. The colors listed in several catalogues do not all agree, nor do they seem to confirm to those gained by reference to the new Stanley Gibbons guide. There are several comprehensive color catalogues to which colors can be referred, the Munsell Book of Colors being most widely used, but such books are not accessible to most collectors, have symbol-designated colors, and are of little practical use. Differentiation can be made most readily by comparing them as darker and lighter varieties; often it is difficult to do this without a standard stamp at hand for reference, for most of us do not remember the colors accurately enough.

There are differences among the 2 cent values tending toward scarlet and carmine; the writer has not studied them systematically, but probably they can be correlated with printings. The colors of the 4 cent varieties are very similar, though separated in at least one old catalogue, the Kenmore; they are darker and lighter shades of dark brown-purple or reddish chocolate or plum. The darker is known only in comb type 1 perforation, the lighter in types #2 and #5, the latter infrequently. The 5 cent has quite distinct color shades, dull ultramarine and blue, the darker. Both are known in type #1 comb and the former in type #5 line, the latter in types #2 and #2 line. The 10 cent value is called dark violet by Scott, and listed as #157, violet, and #157a, purple, in Stanley Gibbons, the latter at the higher price, and I

Table 9: Percentage Frequencies of Perforation Varieties in the Pictorial Issue:

Scott No.	Value	Types	(1)		(2)		(3)			Known line types
			Comb #1	Line #2-5	Comb #1	Line #2-5	Comb #1	Line #2, 4	Line #3, 5	
131—	1 cent		56	44	45	55	34	20	46	2, 3, 4
132—	2 cent		54	46	48	57	24	19	57	2, 3, 4, 5
133—	3 cent		62	38	71	29	67	22	11	2, 5
134—	4 cent*		63	37	69	31	65	15	20	2, 5
135—	5 cent*		42	58	32	68	14	19	67	2, 3
136—	6 cent		100	0	100	0	100	0	0	—
137—	8 cent		100	0	100	0	100	0	0	—
138—	9 cent		100	0	100	0	100	0	0	—
139—	10 cent*		96	4	97	3	91	8	0	4
140—	11 cent		100	0	100	0	100	0	0	—
141—	12 cent		67	33	61	39	54	0	46	3
142—	15 cent		47	53	52	48	54	0	46	3
143—	20 cent		73	27	76	24	62	36	2?	2, 73
144—	24 cent		57	43	44	56	36	0	64	3

Types: #1—14.0 comb; #2 and 4 have 13.7 line on long side; #3 and 5 have 14.0 line on long side; see text for further differences not here recorded. (1) 100 or more stamps in each value, nearly all mint; (2) about 90 lots in which multiples were counted but once; includes all stamps not separated into different gauge line types; (3) 50 to 75 stamps in each value, mostly mint, additional to those in other columns. \* Shades, see table 10.



assume the darker. The two are quite distinct, and seem to me more reddish-violet and violet. The lighter shade is common in comb perforation and rare in type #2 line, and the darker or "purple" shade is known only in comb perforation.

Stamps of several types of all values were examined under ultra-violet lamps of several wave-lengths of light. None seem fluorescent. The color differences were somewhat accentuated in some, and some 20 cent stamps that seemed quite similar in ordinary light showed distinctly darker and lighter shades under ultra-violet light. Perhaps more thorough study would yield significant results.

The writer did not separate or in fact recognized the types of line perforate stamps until he had made many counts. Hence, Table 9 indicates the determined frequency of comb and line perforate stamps.

The most dependable measurements of gauges of the line perforate types have been made on mint blocks, where the perforations on the short sides can be taken over a distance greater than that of one stamp. But dated covers must be examined to gain information about the possible printings of the issue. Several hundred of these were available for the lowest values, most in the collection of Dan Meyerson. These were measured and classified as carefully as possible with an Instanta gauge beneath a lens. The records may include a few errors, for there are inaccuracies in separating gauges that differ by so little as .3; readings on individual stamps involve such factors as shrinkage, irregularities in placement of perforating pins and slight errors in the reference gauge. But it is believed that each listed variety is represented by stamps definitely of that type. Most of the covers of the 1, 2 and 3 cent values are in the Meyerson collection, of the 4 in the writer's. In all, 21 covers have 1 cent stamps, 37 have 2 cent, 267 have 3 cent and 31 have 4 cent. Even the abundant covers of the 3 cent include very few for some spans of time. Any collector having a number of these covers should add to our knowledge by reporting similar information, using a similar gauge.

Some of the records show pretty significant changes in the perforations of stamps in use at one time or another, as shown in Table 11. The 3 cent gives the best records, though many gaps should be filled. The comb perforate type #1 stamps were dominant through 1924, in late 1926 and late 1928, when the first Publicity Issue was already in use but comb stamps had been placed in booklets. Line perforate stamps of type #5, about 13.7 (short) x 14.0 (long side) are known from June 18, 1925 to mid-1928; and of type #2, 14.0 x 13.7, almost exclusively in late 1927 and early 1928 with June 8, 1927 the earliest date seen. This suggests that the original printing was comb perforate, and that successive printings were dominantly line #5, comb #1, line #2 and comb again.

The number and distribution of covers for the other values is only barely

Table 10: Pictorial Issue—Order of Frequencies among Stamps of different Shades and Colors by Perforation Types:

No.	Value	Color	Types:	Comb Line		
				#1	#2-5	
134—	4 cent	brown-purple, darker		6*	0	*Frequencies are expressed by a scale of 1 to 10, the percentage within each value being roughly the frequency number squared; thus 9 is about 80% and 4 is about 15%. Counts are too few for more than mere approximation.
134A		lighter		3	7	
135—	5 cent	ultramarine, lighter		3	8	
135A		blue, darker		2	5	
139—	10 cent	dark violet, "purple"		6	0	
139A		reddish violet		8	2	

suggestive. In the 1 cent value, line type #3 (14.0 x14.0) is the only one seen until the appearance of comb type #1 in late 1925, and #2 in June, 1927. In the 2 cent, type #3 is again first represented, and abundant in late 1923 and early 1924, when presumably rates permitted widest use of that value. The earliest comb type #1 is on a cover of October 7, 1925, and of line type #5 on one of January 9, 1925. Single covers with line #2 and #4 are dated March 8, 1928 and January 28, 1928, thus giving representatives of all possible gauges in this one value.

The earliest of the 4 cent covers, of October 21, 1925, long after issue, is with comb type #1, which is exclusively represented until the appearance of type #5 on November 4, 1926, and of #2 on June 8, 1927, the dates being of the oldest covers seen. But these records of earliest years are sparse for the lowest values. And the writer has not seen dated covers of the higher ones. The covers supplement the mint blocks and add types not found among the mint blocks studied. Type #1, comb perforate, is found in all four values; type #2, gauge roughly 14.0 x 13.7 for the short and long sides, in all four; type #3, 14.0 x 14.0 in the 1 cent and 2 cent; type #4, line 13.7 x 13.7, in the 2 cent, and type #5, 13.7 x 14.0, in the 2, 3 and 4 cent values.

Table 11. Pictorial Issue—Frequency of types among Dated Covers:  
Number of covers of each type:

Year	Quar.	#151—1 cent			#132—2 cent					#133—3 cent			#134—4 cent		
		#1	2	3	#1	2	3	4	5	#1	2	5	#1	2	5
1923	3rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
	4th	..	..	1	..	..	7	..	..	21	..	..	..	..	..
1924	1st	..	..	..	..	..	22	..	..	29	..	..	..	..	..
	2nd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	..	..	..	..	..
	3rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..
	4th	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..
1925	1st	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
	2nd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..
	3rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
	4th	5	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
1926	1st	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	1	..	..
	2nd	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	11	..	4	..	..	..
	3rd	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	1	2	..	..
	4th	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	1	..	1
1927	1st	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	3	..	..
	2nd	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	6	7	..	4	1	1
	3rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..	1	..
	4th	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	17	..	..	1	2
1928	1st	2	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	13	2	3	4	1
	2nd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	..	..
	3rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	..	..	..	..
	4th	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	1	1
Totals		12	4	8	4	1	31	1	3	198	59	10	17	8	6

Types: Comb type #1, 13.8 (short side) x 13.9 (long side); Line types, #2, 14.01 x 13.8; #3, 14.0 x 14.0; #4, 13.7 x 13.7; and #5, 13.7 x 14.0. Note the varying numbers of covers through different periods of time.

The Pictorial Issue offers one of the best opportunities for further study, for there are several perforation types, shades of some of the values, and prospects that there were several printings of some values of this relatively long-lived issue. For general purposes it can be described as composed of stamps of comb perforation in all values and of line perforation in most in combinations of 13.7 and 14.0 gauges. Only true enthusiasts will be willing to undertake the separation of the four types of the line perforate stamps.

This issue has perforations of two types, comb 14.0 (type #1) and line 14.1 (type #2). Line perforate type 1 stamps have been found in each of the values from 1 cent to 5 cent, inclusive, but not in any higher value. The stamps are all vertically elongate, the comb teeth in type 1 stamps normally projecting from right to left. A few stamps of each of the lowest four values, at least, had the sheet placed in the machine in reverse position so that the teeth project from a comb bar on the left toward the right when the stamp is oriented with the letters right side up; this type is designated #1a.

The perforating needles on the teeth extended a little too far along the short sides of the stamps so that the teeth on the comb bar either slightly intersect or very closely approached the holes made by the endmost needles of the comb teeth of the preceding impression. Normally a single stamp has the appearance of a comb stamp in the upper and lower right corners, a corner hole with perforations evenly spaced to the left and on the side. But the upper left and lower left corners have little or no nib between the corner perforations and those next along the top and bottom of the stamp; in type 1a, this relationship pertains to the right corners. The close approach of perforations of successive impressions is a condition intermediate between the variety of the 1 cent Publicity, type 2, in which the 19 perforating needles on each side were insufficient and left a broad nib below the top corners, and the Gilbert type 1 stamps in which an extra needle brought perforations by the comb bar at the lower corners into nearly the same position as those made by the end needles on the teeth of the preceding impression.

There are distinct shades of several of the values. The line perforate stamps seem limited to single shades, and to represent perforations of parts of printings made in or prior to 1922 but later than September, 1920. Gibbons' and Sissons' catalogues separate shades of the 2 cent as scarlet and carmine-red, of the 3 cent as red-brown, brown and black-brown, and of the 4 cent as mauve and purple. Line perforate type 2 stamps are of carmine-red, black-brown and mauve shades, though other stamps of these shades are also comb perforate. The writer has not been able to separate shades of the 1 cent; line 5 cent stamps tend to be lighter blue than most comb types. The Gibbons catalogue lists the 15 cent as indigo normal color and (as 139a) Prussian blue of much higher price, rising to 6 pounds in recent editions; these shades are barely distinguishable, but not recognizable to the writer except by direct comparison.

There are known to have been plural printings of some lower values, for provisional stamps were printed in September, 1920, to alleviate shortages of 2 cent and 3 cent values, and withdrawn on October 4th, presumably on the arrival of new stocks. The writer has not seen a date stamped line perforate stamp of earlier date than this, nor stamps of the shades of the line perforate stamps. Moreover, illustrations of the Hawker and Martinsyde air mail stamps prepared by overprinting 3 cent Caribou stamps in April, 1919, show them to be comb perforate.

Dated covers in the collection of Dan Meyerson and some in the writer's possession have been studied. The earliest dates for line perforate cancelled stamps on covers is given in Table 12, with data on frequency counts. Line perforate stamps for the lowest four values, 1 cent to 4 cent, are on 13, 10, 18 and 10 covers. A 3 cent of type 1a was cancelled February 27, 1919 at St. Johns East, but others much later. The writer has not seen line perforate type #2 stamps of any value greater than the 5 cent, and except for the shades of the 15 cent which seem comb perforate, it seems very improbable that more than one printing is represented. Though cancelled line-perforate 5 cent stamps have not been seen, one assumes that they were of two print-

ings like the earlier values. Perhaps there were more than two printings of some values.

The frequency counts are of interest in showing the prospects of finding line perforate stamps. But as there are printings, the covers of some years have greater abundance of line perforate stamps than others. For example, the writer has about a score of covers with 4 cent stamps used for postage to the United States after the succeeding Pictorial Issue had been released. Of ten from scattered post offices in 1925, 6 are line perforate, but of an equal number in 1926, only 1 is line perforate. The only conclusion seems that some line perforate sheets were still in use late in the distribution of the Caribou stamps, and retained in local post office and private stocks.

Table 12. Percentage frequencies of perforation varieties in the Caribou Issue:

Scott No.	Mint		Used		All counts			Earliest seen and color of line Type #2
	Comb #1	Line 2	Comb #1	Line 2	Comb #1	Line 1a	Line 2	
115—1 cent	91	9	85	15	90	1	9	April 2, 1923
116—2 cent	94	6	92	8	90	2	8	Oct. 21, 1922, carmine-red
117—3 cent	93	7	85	15	90	2	8	March 15, 1923, dark brown
118—4 cent	90	10	75	25	85	1	14	May 12, 1923, mauve
119—5 cent	64	36	too few		64	0	36	light blue

Types: #1—14.0 comb; #1a—14.0 comb perforated left to right; #2—14.1 line. Almost 100 mint stamps of each value from sets, few in blocks; used stamps nearly all from collections of covers, 36, 60, 151 and 34 in each of lowest four values; cancellations mostly of late 1921 and later.

This article concludes the description of the perforation types of several issues of twentieth century Newfoundland stamps. Two perforation types, one comb and one line, were described in the Caribou Issue; of five types in the Pictorial Issue, four are line in combinations of two gauges; three comb and two line types are present in the First Publicity Issue, one of each in the Gilbert Issue, and a comb and two line types in the Long Coronation Issue. There are distinct shades among the stamps of the first three issues that are related to plural printings of some of the values. There is a dearth of information on dates of printings; cancelled stamps on covers should be reported.

Many have been helpful in the preparation. The interest in Newfoundland stamps goes back to the chance that my father in 1897 was selling stereopticon views along Sir John Reids' railroads and steamships when the original provisionals came out. A stamp from his sheet was the first in my boyhood collection. Interest grew and waned interruptedly through the years. A few years ago, the late W. O. Kuempel, an enthusiastic Empire collector, suggested my examining perforations. Edson Fifield, Bill Cheney and Al Leavitt gave particular encouragement in my first venture into Long Coronations; subsequently, dealers have been remarkably patient at my critical appraisal of their stocks and lots. Inevitably I "discovered" Dan Meyerson, who encouraged preparing these articles, and generously placed collections at my disposal. The Editor has been most successful in arranging the text and tables, and in seeing them through without significant errors.

\* \* \*

● In a concluding article in a later number of BNA TOPICS, Mr. Kay will summarize and illustrate the perforation varieties of the several issues of Newfoundland stamps that have been discussed. In the meantime, comments and criticisms will be welcomed.

# Bringing News About People and Stamps

By Rev. J. S. Bain

Philately is going to have big doings on the West Coast in 1954. The 68th annual Convention of the American Philatelic Society will be held in San Francisco, September 15-18. Since this will attract many collectors I am wondering if BNAPS cannot stage something at the same time. We need some stimulus for BNAPS out here. I would like to see some provision made for the awarding of BNAPS medals for members exhibiting in either the APS show or a special BNAPS show. Here is an opportunity to do something out West for BNA stamps. Let the president know how you feel about it. We might be able even to arrange a special BNAPS Sukiyaki dinner at Yamato House!

## BNAPS

I came across a Canadian cover with a straight line cancellation reading "STn. F. TORONTO" tying an E1 special delivery stamp and a 3¢ brown Admiral issue. The date in a circular handstamp is October 24, 1919. Can any reader tell us if other Toronto stations used straight line handstamps similar to this one?

## BNAPS

Old covers with philatelic advertising always have had a fascination for me. Especially those of British North America. Our mention of them from time to time usually brings letters telling of others. Evidently I am not alone in my liking for such items. BNAPSer E. L. Piggott writes and describes two such covers. 1. Illustrated cover—"The Gibraltar of America". Corner card—"The Canada Stamp Co., 592 John Street, Quebec, P. Q." and franked with a 2¢ 1897 Jubilee stamp. 2. Illustrated cover—"The 1¢ N. B. Locomotive". Corner card—"H. L. Hart, BNA stamps

a specialty, Box 231, Halifax, Nova Scotia," and franked with 3¢ small queen and 2¢ registration. Dated 1891.

## BNAPS

At the recent sale of the "Col. Ralph A. Kimble Philatelic Library" Part I by Sylvester Colby, New York, British North America Handbooks sold in nearly all cases at the catalogue price or better. There is constantly a demand for BNA literature which naturally creates strong prices.

## BNAPS

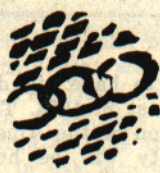
I usually mention the philatelic Christmas cards received. It seems that there were more this year. I think the outstanding one was the card from BNAPSer Gabbitas, Sheffield, England. His card had a reproduction in full color of the painting "Catching the Mail One minute to Six at the Old G. P. O. St. Martins-Le-Grand 1860". BNAPSer Bayley sent another one of his famous Toronto Letter Carriers reproduction of 1887-88. The Stanley Stamp Co. used the design of the current Canada \$1 Totem Pole stamp, and inserted the photos of the staff on the totem pole. BNAPSer Banks sent an envelope cancelled December 25th, Bethlehem, Conn., with a cachet of "Banks Electric" showing Arthur and Donald (his two children) looking out of an automatic washer and dryer! BNAPSer MacMaster sent a photocaricature of himself seated at a desk looking at stamps. Of course an actual copy of a Newfoundland stamp was attached. What other stamps would he look at! BNAPSer Brisley sent his famous Canada 1898 Map Stamp which he had Sir William Mullett's autograph, reproduced on a greeting card. To all those other BNAPSers who sent cards I deeply appreciate the kind wishes expressed.



1168



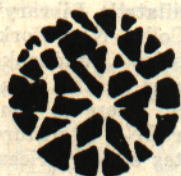
1169



1169A



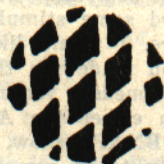
1237



1238



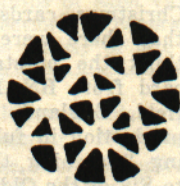
1239



1240



1241



1242



1243



1244



1245



1246



1247



1248



1249



1250



1251



1252

# CANCELLATIONS ON THE SMALL QUEENS

(See opposite page)

Here are some more Fancy cancellations used between 1870 and 1897, as reported by the Members of The Small Queen Study Group. If you can identify any of them as to place and time of use, please write to the Editor of Topics or to the Secretary of the Group.

Cancel No.	Found used on	Used at	Date of use
1168	3¢		
1169	—	Lennoxville, C. E.	1875
1169A	3¢	—	1870s
1237	3¢	—	1880s
1238	1¢, 2¢	Kingston, Ont.	1876
1239	3¢	Ottawa, Ont.	1876
1240	3¢	Souris, P. E. I.	1889
1241	3¢ (in blue)	Sherbrooke, Que.	1876
1242	3¢	L'Orignal, U. C. (?)	1873
1243	3¢		
1244	3¢		
1245	3¢	—	1880
1246	3¢	—	1870s
1247	3¢	—	1870s
1248	3¢	—	1870s
1249	3¢	—	1890s
1250	3¢	—	1880s
1251	3¢	—	1890s
1252	3¢	—	1890s

## THE UNHALLOWED

In cataloguing portions of my collection for sale, I find a number of items unlisted by Scott, hence relegated to the category of the un-blessed. Specialists, nonetheless, delight in these, so here you may find that oddity for which you have been searching. All are mint superb singles, except as noted.

96	½¢ sepia, major re-entry	-----	\$2.50
112	5¢ violet, recut frameline	-----	.50
119	20¢ olive, recut frameline	-----	2.00
139	2¢ on 3¢, wide setting (pair)	-----	4.50
144	5¢ violet, line in left 5	-----	2.00
144	5¢ violet, scratched plate (3)	-----	2.50
162	1¢ orange, major re-entry	-----	4.50
163	1¢ green, major re-entry	-----	4.00
173	10¢ olive, missing spire	-----	3.50
191a	3¢ on 2¢ red, long moustache	-----	3.50
192	3¢ red, broken E	-----	1.75
196	2¢ brown, broken medallion	-----	1.25
199	5¢ blue, re-entry in CANADA	-----	6.50
203	20¢ red, broken X	-----	4.00
211	1¢ green, Weeping Princess	-----	6.50
218	2¢ brown, mole on forehead	-----	.75
226	50¢ violet, re-entered frame	-----	5.00
226	50¢ violet, major re-entry	-----	8.50
233	3¢ carmine, frayed collar	-----	.75
C5	6¢ red brown, molting wing	-----	2.75

NELSON BOND, 1625 Hampton Ave., S. W., Roanoke 15, Virginia

# Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



There is an advertisement in the November issue of the "LONDON PHILATELIST" that is of interest to the Newfoundland specialist. The London branch of H. R. Harmer has a page of offers by Private Treaty and two of the items concern the Newfoundland specialist. The first is a copy of the 15¢ Air of 1931 with the L & S Postage overprint, only in this case the overprint reads up instead of down. Reputedly only one pane of 25 are supposed to exist. The asking price is 55 Pounds. The second one is described as "Postage Due, 1949 perf. 11, 10¢ violet, a complete vertical strip, top pair variety imperf between". Only 3 sheets with this variety have ever been recorded so that at best there can only be 30 such pairs. The asking price for this item is 65 Pounds. It is interesting to note that the three sheets with the part perf pairs were discovered in the stock of the Stanley Stamp Co., of Vancouver, B. C.

Alec MacMaster who first reported the aniline paper in the case of the 4¢ Geo. V Coronation Issue of 1911, now turns up another variety that we have had the privilege of examining. The stamp in question is the 5¢ Royal Visit, Scott #249, and the design of the stamp is clearly visible through the back. According to Alec the ink is not aniline as he checked it with a lamp, yet that is the impression it gives. Since at least one sheet must exist, Alec is curious to know if any other member has an example of this variety.

The Dec. 11, 1953 issue of "Stamp collecting" carries an advertisement by the firm of Bridger & Kay, Ltd., that is of interest to Newfoundland collectors. It is described as follows "1911 Engraved (S. G. 113) 9¢ sage green, block of four showing part of

papermaker's watermark, the letters E T & O in double line capitals". The asking price for this block is 25 Pounds. We have never heard of the papermaker's watermark found on this issue previously but we are certain that Dr. Willan will be able to give us a full report on that matter after he reads this bit.

Recently in going over some covers that we haven't looked at for the past 6 or 7 years, we came upon one that struck our fancy, it was an airmail cover with the following printed in the upper left corner "First Day Cover / Inaugural Air Service / Gander, Newfoundland, to / Helsinki, Finland / June 19, 1947. The cover is postmarked at Gander on Jun. 19, 1947, and backstamped at Helsinki, on June 22, 1947. We immediately checked the bible for Newfoundland Airmail collectors, "Newfoundland Airmails" by Harmer and Dalwick, and surprised to find that this flight was unrecorded. We're sure that a letter to Cyril Harmer in London will provide us with all the information that we need concerning this flight.

In the March '52 issue of TOPICS, we mentioned having discovered plate "2" in the lower left selvedge of the 3¢ brown, Scott #133. Not too long ago while rummaging through some old magazines we started to read an article in the June 1929 issue of "The Stamp Lover" written by A. B. Perlin. We were surprised to read, "I have seen some sheets of the three-cent showing the number "2" in the extreme left corner at the bottom of the sheet . . . I was informed at the wholesale department of the G. P. O. that only a few sheets showed this number and that none were seen until recently (April 1928)." So much then for what we thought was an original discovery.



# Philately In Canada In the 1890's



Stamp collectors of today are likely to look upon the years before the turn of the century as a time when philately was still in its infancy, and confined mainly to small boys. A glance at some of the periodicals concerned with stamps which were published at the time will soon convince them otherwise. There were already veteran philatelists, and one of these, John Reginald Hooper, wrote in "The Philatelic Advocate," published in Berlin, Ontario, 1897, these lines:

"The whole civilized world once looked upon stamp collecting as a crazy schoolboy whim. I have seen the scoffer and derider of twenty-five years come in under the roof, after years of indecision. Then the philatelic papers and societies sprang up. I remember my astonishment, twenty odd years ago, when I was told about and actually saw men collectors. The name given to it, 'stamp craze', died out, and in its place sprang up the more euphonious title of 'philately'. In a paper partly devoted to stamps, and partly to coins, which was published in 1877, twenty years ago, I advised stamp collecting to be named timbrophily, but, after a lengthy discussion in England and America, philately won the day. I started actually in 1869, and have been interested in stamp collecting ever since".

The "Philatelic Journal of Canada", printed in London, in October 1892 estimated that there were over six

By MAX ROSENTHAL (#1104)\*

hundred thousand persons in the whole world interested in stamp collecting. The Shah of Persia was said to be an ardent stamp collector, and to possess a number of rarities. Auction sales were already going strong in the United States. In this same issue the receipt was announced of the S. B. Bradt Company's auction sale list, consisting of five hundred and ten lots. In 1897 "The Philatelic Advocate" still had to admit though, that even to many philatelists the news that a single stamp had been auctioned off for one thousand and ten dollars was a great surprise.

## First Dealer in 1861

According to the September 1886 issue of the Canadian Philatelist, of Toronto, the first stamp dealer and collector in the United States arose in 1861, the first handbook appeared in 1863, and the first philatelic paper in 1864. But this was the "Stamp Collectors Record," of Montreal, the first in North America.

It would appear that almost from the beginning those of German nationality or ancestry led in this hobby, both in numbers and enthusiasm. I have already mentioned "The Philatelic Advocate". This was published in Berlin (now Kitchener) Ontario, from 1894 to 1901, and it was the official organ of the Dominion Philatelic Association, and was a monthly. Starnaman Brothers were the editors and publishers, and the subscription rate was twenty-five cents a year.

In December 1897 the "Boys Own Philatelist", a young collectors monthly, appeared from Berlin. It was the official organ of the Boys Own Philatelic Association, which was organized on November 1, 1897, with twelve charter members, from Berlin, Toronto, and Hamilton, in Ontario, as

\*An address given to the Stratford (Ont.) Philatelic Society and the Stratford Junior Stamp Club.

well as Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, including the secretary pro-tem, W. A. Lydiatt, of Toronto, and W. R. Lydiatt, his son.

The cover of this first issue showed a photograph of Henry A. Chapman, a man then already past fifty, but as he expressed it "one of the boys". In March 1897 he began publishing "The Perforator". According to the "Boys' Own Philatelist", in September of that year "The Perforator" began giving illustrated sketches of lady philatelists, and Mr. Chapman said that this did much to benefit his journal. He was a member of twelve philatelic societies at the time.

Also in this December 1897 issue, the "Boys Own Philatelist" reported that the membership of the Dominion Philatelic Association was rapidly nearing the three hundred mark. Twenty-five numbers of the "Boys Own Philatelist" were published from the first issue until April 25, 1899, numbers eleven to twenty appearing under the name of the "Canadian Philatelic Weekly", and twenty-one to twenty-five as the "Canadian Philatelic Review".

#### Ads in German

"The Montreal Philatelist", published from April 1898 to June 1907, showed its Germanic origin much clearer, proclaiming itself the best German-American stamp paper in the world. Many of its advertisements were actually in the German language, and any in English were translated into German free on request. The "Philatelic Journal" of London, Ontario, reported in October 1892 that there were more stamp collectors of German nationality, both on this continent and abroad, than of any other. I don't know whether this still holds true, but there is no doubt that right up to this day people of German ancestry stand out as stamp collectors, and you have only to look at some of the names on the membership lists of the senior and junior stamp clubs in Stratford to confirm this.

The "Philatelic Journal of Canada" was published monthly in London from October 1892 to March 1893 only. In its first number, an advanced



collector gave the following advice to beginners and young collectors: "If you are a beginner, collect only used specimens, and of the cheaper class, as these are the only ones not liable to be counterfeit, reprint and other means of deceit. Collect such specimens as were used postally only, and such as are treated in a standard catalogue. Adhere to these advices, until you are promoted to the higher sphere of philately, as a young collector. If you are a young collector, or somewhat versed in the art of collecting, you may extend your attention to both used and unused postage and revenue stamps. You may also study watermarks and perforations. Do not yet collect surcharges, as they are often counterfeited, you will continue in that fashion, not forgetting the side issues of philately, including journalism, and philatelic socialism, until you have reached the third and foremost stage of the scientific collecting, better and properly known as philately."

I can't help wondering what he meant by philatelic socialism, but he was likely referring to the social side of the hobby. One thing which you will notice in his advice to beginners were his warnings about counterfeit and fraudulent stamps. There was a lot of bother about fakes in those days, something with which most collectors of today are rarely concerned, "The Philatelic Journal" quoted from the issue of "The Philatelic Fraud Reporter" of June 1892, in which the Standard Stamp Co. of St. Louis, Mo. had six pages full of frauds, which had cost collectors an aggregate loss of nearly one thousand five hundred dollars.

A little further down, the "Philatelic Journal" had the headline "Another fraud exposed". The object of this exposé seems to have been a young



fellow, and he was located not far from Stratford. The article said, "We have long wondered that it was never remarked by any journal or society that Thomas O. Pardoe Jr., the irresponsible boy, of Ingersol, Ontario, was a fraud all through his career as an advertising dealer. His name had been contained in the 'Philatelic Fraud Reporter' several times, and yet not once did any journal dare doubt the reliability of his gift offers and wonderful bargains."

### Young Fraud

It would appear that another young man was not so upright either. The same issue of this London magazine gave the following report from New York City "Walter Thorne, juvenile New York dealer, no longer works for the firm who rents Box 1566. He was recently discharged."

"The Boys Own Philatelist" quoted Joseph M. Courtney as writing:—"Some of our dealers have been acting as the intermediary of some God-forsaken colony in the Atlantic, or some never heard of island in the Pacific, whose ruler is desirous of replenishing his empty treasury at the expense of the philatelic world."

Coming back to New York notes section of the "Philatelic Journal", mention is made of N. F. Seebeck, a man famous, or infamous, in philately. Between 1890 and 1899, certain South and Central American republics had a whole flock of issues produced by his firm. Seebeck held contracts with Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Salvador, for their issues to be printed by the Hamilton Bank Note Company of New York, which gave him the right to make reprints of the stamps to sell to collectors.

So, the "Philatelic Journal" claimed that the philatelic funny man of New York was circulating a yarn that

there was a plot among New York dealers to depose Queen Victoria, and place Mr. N. F. Seebeck on the British throne. This was in order to have a fresh lot of stamps every year for all the British Colonies.

What were these stamps that could be bought around 1890 in Canada? It was of course the stamps of the Small Cents issue of Queen Victoria which were current then, the issue that has since become such a field for collectors' interested in its shades, paper, perforations, and other varieties. Moreover, the fifteen cents stamp of the previous large cents issue was still being used.

### Jubilee Issue

On June 19, 1897 the famous jubilee issue came out. In its October issue of that year, the Philatelic Advocate had this dispatch from Ottawa, dated September 10. "The transitory nature of the jubilee stamps was illustrated today by the destruction of the plates from which the stamps were engraved. The ceremony was witnessed at the building of the American Bank Note Company by the Postmaster General, Deputy Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Department, and by Mr. Stanton, the head of the postage stamp branch. This will probably cause a rise in value."

In December, the "Philatelic Advocate" reported that the Jubilee stamps were still in great demand. "If it keeps on, the demand will exceed the supply," it said. "The Philatelic Messenger," of St. Stephen, New Brunswick, in November 1897 said this in its Halifax notes: "The last few sets of the Canadian Jubilee, up to the one dollar, have been sold out at this office. A few copies of higher denomination, from the twenty cents up, are still to be obtained. The half cent of the present issue are not to be obtained, the issue being nearly exhausted."

The half cent stamp which is mentioned was the tiny stamp in the small cents issue. Back in October of that year, C. S. Applegath wrote in the Hamilton notes of the "Philatelic Advocate" that the sale of this value had been stopped in his city,

except to publishers who did not have second class mailing privileges. In that case, they had to produce their publications before the stamps would be sold to them.

Getting back to the "Philatelic Messenger," of St. Stephen, New Brunswick, and its November issue, the Toronto letter reported there that "the half cent value of our new issue of postage stamps was placed on sale here about the middle of the month. The engraving is coarser than that of the previous issues, and the lettering is very commonplace." It was signed by Uncle Zeb. He was referring to the half cent gray black stamp of the new regular issue, which we now call the Maple Leaf issue of Queen Victoria. The half cent came out in November 1897, but the other values not until December 1897, and January 1898.

The "Philatelic Advocate" of December 1897 did not think much of this stamp either. It stated, "The half cent variety of Canada's new issue was placed on sale in Toronto November 8. Collectors here do not admire the choice of such a plain design, when we only get a new issue every thirty years or so. Those earrings must have drawn her face out of shape."

In the same issue, Charles S. Applegath reported from Hamilton that on November 9 the first stamps of the new issue had made their appearance at the post office there. He wrote, "The half cent is the same size as the other stamps, the one cent being green instead of yellow." Seemingly, the one cent value appeared in Hamilton before December.

"The Montreal Philatelist" commented in April 1898 that the high values of the new Canadian stamps were not on sale yet, there being a large supply of the fifteen, twenty, and fifty cent stamps of the old regular issue left. As a matter of fact, the Maple Leaf issue never went above the ten cent value, and, beginning in June 1898, was replaced by a numeral issue of Queen Victoria. This did finally get a twenty cent value in December 1900, but no fifteen cent stamp was again issued, ex-

cept in the Quebec Tercentenary set of 1908, and no new fifty cent stamp appeared until 1908, when it was part of the regular issue of King Edward VII. Of course, in 1951 a fifteen cent stamp came out, as part of the Postal Centenary CAPEX set.

#### Scott's the Standard

Then as now, Scott's was the standard postage stamp catalogue on this side of the Atlantic Ocean. "The Philatelic Journal of Canada" reported in October 1892 that the fifty-third edition of Scott's Catalogue had been announced to appear shortly. Obviously, when Scott's first began publishing their catalogues, it must have been more often than once a year, or the edition of this year would not have been such a high number, but by this time it was a yearly publication. This edition was to consist of over four hundred pages, with over three thousand five hundred illustrations. The announcement that the price was advanced to fifty cents must have made many wonder what prices were coming to, even though Scott's paid the postage.

We can only wonder then what people thought when the "Philatelic Advocate" of December 1897 announced that Scott's fifty-eighth catalogue, the 1898 edition, was to cost fifty-eight cents, although it was also sent postpaid. It already had over six hundred pages, but we should realize that the pages were small then.

It is interesting to note what the dealers were paying for, and selling for, the jubilee stamps in the year of their issue, 1897. The publisher of the "Philatelic Messenger," of St. Stephen, Matthew R. Knight, of Oak Hill, New Brunswick, offered mint jubilee stamps in the November 1897 issue of his magazine at these prices: half cent, 50¢; six cent, 75¢; one two, three, five, eight, ten, and fifteen cents, with a total face value of forty-four cents all together 75¢; twenty cents, 25¢; fifty cents, 65¢; one dollar, 1.35.

In the "Philatelic Advocate" of December 1897, Dr. J. W. Fowler, of Dubuque, Iowa, offered to buy some jubilee stamps at these prices: half and six cents, each, 8¢; two cents,

per hundred, 25¢; five and ten cents per dozen, 50¢; eight cents, 10¢. Apparently the one cent and three cent values were too common for him to be interested in them.

We cannot help but smile at prices which seem so ridiculously low now, but one thing should be noticed. Looking at it from a comparative basis, those values which are the higher priced ones now, were usually the higher priced ones then, too, because they were always the scarcer stamps. Note the prices for the half cent and six cent values in mint condition, already selling for several times their face value in the same year as they were issued. Of course, now these two are just as scarce, or more so, in used condition.

"The Philatelic Messenger" was published monthly in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, from October 1896 to February 1902, lasting longer than most of the philatelic periodicals of the time. I could find only one stamp publication mentioned which still exists today, "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News", of St. Louis, Missouri. In October 1897 the "Philatelic Advocate" of Berlin, Ontario, quoted Mekeel's to this effect. "We were the first to apply the word enterprising to the publishers of the "Philatelic Advocate". All United States monthly magazines are outdone by the "Philatelic Advocate'." Then, continued, "When an old, established, and influential Journal like the weekly speaks of us in this manner, it ought to convince every collector that he should subscribe to this paper."

### Harsh Words

But the "Philatelic Advocate" in the very same issue did not have such kind words for a fellow Canadian publication. It said, "We feel sorry for the editor of the 'Halifax Philatelic Magazine'. We were unaware that his eyesight was bad until he got off the following about the Dominion Philatelic convention. 'No readable account of the convention has yet appeared.' We have a pair of leather spectacles we might loan the editor, but we use them when we receive a 'Halifax Philatelic Magazine', to see

if we cannot find something not written by the editor himself."

In the "Philatelic Advocate" of October 1897, in the Hamilton notes, C. S. Applegath wrote that Hamilton was in the field for the 1898 convention seat of the Dominion Philatelic Association. He proclaimed that his city could boast of nearly two hundred collectors. He probably included only adults in this number. Anyway, in the December 1897 issue he could proudly announce that Hamilton had been selected as the 1898 convention seat of the Dominion Philatelic Association.

There were other societies in Canada before then. "The Toronto Philatelic Journal," with Geo. A. Lowe as editor of its philatelic department, announced in October 1887 that, owing to the efforts put forth during the summer, the formation of the Canadian Philatelic Association had become a thing of reality. In February 1888 it became its official organ, but it was only published from March 1885 to July 1888. However in December 1887 it announced John R. Hooper, as secretary pro-tem of the Canadian Philatelic Society, an ancestor in name of the present national society.

Moreover, the "Philatelic Journal", of London, mentioned in October 1892 that the Philatelic Society of Canada had no official organ yet. Whether this was connected with the previous society is hard to say, now. Several cities had local stamp clubs, also, and some of these were chapters of the national societies. A few of them still exist today.

Finally, the importance to which philately had attained by 1890's may be seen in the fact that two leading exhibitions included stamps among their exhibits. The "Philatelic Journal" of October 1892 mentioned that the stamp exhibit at the world's Columbian Exhibition, in Chicago, in 1893 was expected to consist of over five hundred thousand dollars worth of stamps.

At the same time the United States post office department announced its intentions of issuing a special set in honor of the Columbian celebration,

to be in use only during 1893, at the end of which the stamps of the regular issue would again return to use. This is of course, the now famous Columbian issue, worth quite a bit more than even the Canadian Jubilee set. Those were the days to buy stamps at the post offices.

### Stamp Show Success

In October 1897 the "Philatelic Advocate" reported that the philatelic exhibition in connection with the Toronto Industrial Fair, from August 30 to September 12, was a great success. This is the present Canadian National Exhibition. Newfoundland and Canadian Jubilees were shown in abundance, it mentioned. By Newfoundland Jubilee was meant the Cabot issue of 1897, which not only commemorated the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Newfoundland, by John Cabot, but also the sixtieth year of the reign of Queen Victoria, which was the only purpose of the Canadian issue.

This should show that philately has an already long and busy history behind it. A glance at the index of the Toronto reference library shows that a vast amount of philatelic literature, dating from the 1860's to the present, can be found there and you can be sure that even they are far from having everything written only in English on the subject. With one exception, the earliest Canadian periodical to be found there is the "Canadian Philatelist," a monthly, issued in Toronto. This had no connection with the present "Canadian Philatelist". They have a copy of the September 1886 number.

The exception is a reprint of the Stamp Collectors Record, number one, published in Montreal February 15, 1864 by S. Allan Taylor. This was reprinted by Jack R. Cooke, of Hickson, of the Stamp Collectors Exchange Club, and distributed by him at CAPEX. So back in the 1890's philately was already well set on its present course. Magazines, papers, catalogues, and societies, both national and local, existed, to help philatelists with the hobby of stamp collecting.

## TO THE EDITOR...

### "Postmarks of Mexico"

Dear Editor: A great number of collectors have been waiting for information regarding the publication of the well known standard work, "Postmarks of Mexico", which we have had in course of preparation for some time.

This book covers all the postmarks of Mexico of the classic period 1856-72, and aims to illustrate well-known postmarks, and also all forged and misapplied types. It is a large (8x10) book of approximately 150 pages, consisting almost entirely of illustrations. Owing to the size of the work, the resources of our printers, and the wish that collectors should have at least a section of the book at the earliest possible moment, it has been decided that it will be produced in five parts. This will considerably speed up production. The price of the ordinary edition is £5-5-0.

H. Garratt-Adams (#491)

### ELECT OFFICERS

The following officers were elected at the annual meeting of the B. N. A. Collectors Club of Montreal: President, P. J. Hurst; vice-president, A. G. Fairbanks; secretary, Mrs. H. C. Cooke; treasurer, S. Brooks; directors C. G. Kemp, E. Sault, C. deVolpi, W. Macklin.

At the recent ASDA show held in New York, Jim Sissons displayed two very fine Newfoundland items. The first was a superb horizontal mint pair of the 2d orange, Scott #11, priced at \$150, and the second was an off center block of the 5¢ brown Seal, Scott #25, priced at \$350. To our way of thinking the pair of the 2d orange was outstanding.





THE POST HORN and SADDLE BAG

JIM GOODWIN'S

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

By H. W. L.

COLUMN No. 20

### SHIP LRE Double Oval and Crown Mark in Canada?

This month we illustrate three covers all of which bear a marking that we are having a great deal of difficulty in placing as to point of origin. The marking resembles the double oval and Crown SHIP LETTER QUEBEC or HALIFAX but instead of Ship Letter we have a very distinct SHIP LRE.

In my limited reference material appears a SHIP LRE marking of the straight line type used at Halifax in the 1780's. Aside from this marking I have been unable to locate any reference to other markings employing this wording. If it is safe to draw any conclusions in advance it would seem reasonable to proceed on the assumption that the Ship Lre spelling probably preceded the Ship Letter form wherever it was employed.

Since this column is primarily a call for help from those of our readers who have had far more experience than yours truly it would seem desirable that we furnish you with all possible information regarding the three covers. The top cover is dated at Liverpool June 24th 1817 and the contents deal with the condition of the commodity markets thus offering no help. In manuscript on the face appears the notation "per John J Mary" apparently the boat which carried the letter.

The second letter is dated June 7th 1817 with no town name appearing. In a different handwriting is a second letter on the same sheet with that being dated at Glasgow May 31 1817. The latter is probably a letter which John Parker, the writer of the letter in question, received to be transmitted to Millar and Parlane and he had it copied on his letter sheet. Contents shed no light on the problem. Two manuscript notations on the face are "per James" and "Single". The former no doubt refers to the boat that carried the letter and the latter marking was perhaps to emphasize the fact that while two letters were included it was a "single" letter according to the postal regulations.

The third letter is dated at Irvine (?) May 2 1817 and in part states "I take the liberty of introducing to you Capt Nield (?) of the Brig Roberts & have just to say any favor you can do for him I shall consider it as done to me". The writer was James Giffen. On the face is the manuscript notation "per Brig Robert".

All three letters are addressed to Millar & Parlane which stamps them





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as having come from the fabulous Reford accumulation of old covers. I mention this in the hope that some reader may have acquired similar covers in the Reford sales conducted by Harmer Rooke in New York during the past couple of years. It will also be noted that the rating of 11½d is the same on all three and since one is marked "single" we may assume that the letters were all single and accordingly the rating in excess of 4½d must be due to mileage or other charges rather than a double rate.

While I cannot locate Irvine offhand it seems evident that all three letters originated outside Canada and arrived by ship hence the SHIP LRE marking. The final destination of the letters was Montreal and in view of the 11½d rating it is evident that they did not reach Montreal by boat. If they had the rating would have been far less. I have noted several covers bearing Quebec Ship Letter markings in the 1815-1835 period which are rated 2½d when addressed to Quebec whereas those addressed to Montreal are rated 11½d. There is therefore some justification in assuming that these letters probably were landed by boat at Quebec. Further evidence lies in the fact that a large number of the letters in the Millar & Parlane correspondence addressed to Montreal carried the Quebec Ship Letter marking.

These covers showing the SHIP LRE marking are dated 1817 and I have covers showing the same type of marking reading SHIP LETTER QUEBEC dated 1815. Accordingly why the change from the more modern Ship Letter form to Ship Lre IF the marking was applied at Quebec. Furthermore why is it that on all five covers examined the top part of the marking is sufficiently clear to leave no doubt about the SHIP LRE yet the bottom part appears as a blur, even though it is struck with apparent equal force?

Jim's formula for getting information was to stick his neck out so here goes! At the end of the blur is a marking that looks like an "L" on all three covers. My guess is that the Quebec SHIP LETTER marking became lost or broke up under use sometime after 1815 and as a stopgap replacement an old Liverpool Ship Lre handstamp was substituted after the name had been burnished out or mutilated to a point where it would no longer be readable.

Let's go! Who knows if the boats mentioned touched at Quebec or Montreal. Who has similar covers? Does anyone have a similar marking reading Ship Letter Quebec on a letter dated after June 1817? Was there any period around 1817 during which a ship letter marking was customarily applied at the port of departure rather than at the port where the letter was turned over to the post office?

## PERFINS

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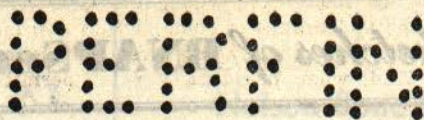
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## Study Group

R. J. WOOLLEY, Sec.

When such an eminent philatelist as Mr. F. Hugh Vallancy of Great Britain found the collection of stamps perforated with the initials of firms of sufficient interest to make a detailed study of their origin and use, and of their official status with the British Post Office Department, we lesser lights of philately in Canada need offer no apologies in endeavoring to emulate his most excellent example.

We are indebted for much of the information in this current article to Mr. Vallancy who published his Stamp Collector's Handbook #1 in 1933 on British Stamps Perforated with Firm's Initials.

Our "PERFINS", so named by the coining of a word of the first syllables of "perforated" and "initials", are known in Britain as SPIFS, Stamps Perforated with Initials of Firms, with a final "S" added to pluralise the coined name.

It would appear that, as the usage of postage stamps increased, the problem of protecting stamps from theft by both the Post Office authorities and by the large commercial houses, increased in proportion. Stamps would be removed from mail in transit by dishonest postal clerks, and would be purloined from large firms by employees either for resale or for personal use.

Prior to the introduction of the practise of perforating stamps with identifying designs, several firms were allowed to print their names on the backs of stamps, and these will be found on the penny reds of G. B. (Scott's #33) and include Copestake Compton, Boyd, Hitchcock Williams, Great Eastern Railway and the Oxford Union Society (O. S. U.) who

also overprinted the same initials on stamps of the same issue.

Official correspondence from the General Post Office, London to Messrs. Joseph Travers & Sons in November 1867, indicates official objection to the practise of overprinting.

Early in 1868 a Mr. Joseph Sloper invented a machine designed to perforate a full sheet of stamps with a design registered on each stamp, in one operation. On February 16th, 1868, he addressed an enquiry to His Grace the Duke of Montrose, then Postmaster General, asking for an official statement regarding his position and authority to continue his work. The P. M. G.'s reply, dated 13th March 1868 states in part "he will not object to the perforation of postage stamps in the manner described by you, with a view to protect merchants and others, as far as possible, from the theft of the stamps used by them."

In the records of Messrs. Sloper the first entry for a stamp perforating machine appears to be from a Mr. J. T. Allman, a publisher in London, and the design is recorded as TJA.

The extent to which the practise of perforating developed in Great Britain is indicated by the highly specialised collection of Mr. Charles Bein, who records in his collection more than 7200 different perforation designs of which more than 700 appear on the penny reds.

The advantages to be gained in the protection of postal accounts were soon apparent, and the practise eventually spread to Continental Europe, and by 1880 stamps with initials perforated were in use in Belgium, Ger-

(continued on page 58)

## Sketches of **BNAPSers** by *V. G. Greene*

### No. 53—PETER V. HURST

BNAPSer Peter V. Hurst was born in Vienna, Austria, on Jan. 4, 1917, and was educated there, attending the University of Vienna (mechanical engineering) and later, colleges in England and Canada. Holding the degree of B. Sc., he is in the engineering business in Montreal.

Peter started collecting stamps as a youngster (haphazardly, as most of us did), and dropped it during his 'teens. He started collecting again in Canada in 1947 after seeing the \$1.00 Train Ferry stamp in a post-office. (He had worked on the mechanical details of that ship for more than two years, being with German & Milne, Naval architects, who designed the ship). After several months he began to specialize in B. N. A. and a couple of years ago gave up the Provinces and confined his studies to Canada exclusively, with principal interests centered on the "Pence" and "1859" issues with emphasis on plate varieties and re-entries. He has a choice collection of these issues, and, being a young man, it is the writer's opinion that in a few years his collection will rank with the best in the country.

One of the foremost philatelic writers on Canada, Mr. Hurst is Associate editor of "Weekly Philatelic Gossip", his first article being "Canadian Rarities" published in 1948. Other articles from his pen include "The first printing order of the 10¢ Prince Albert" which dealt with the chocolate shade; "Herald of Confederation" which was about the envelope containing the original draft of Canada's confederation; "Fakes & Forgeries of Canada"; "Notes on Problems on Canadian stamps" and several interesting short articles on varieties in the "Small Cents" issue which he had discovered during research.

Peter is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and all principal B. N. A. societies. His oth-



er hobby is bridge, and, being a bachelor, he plays a great deal of it during the winter months in Montreal.

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### Perfin Study Group

From page 57

many, France, Denmark, Switzerland and Austria.

Three departments of the British Government had special machines prepared for their own use. The stamps used by the Board of Trade between 1882 and 1904 were perforated with a Crown and the initials BT below, and during parts of 1895 and 1896 the Office of Works used a design with Crown and OW below, and as late as 1933, when Mr. Vallancy wrote his booklet, H. M. Stationery Office was using a design of Crown and SO.

Work already done by the study group indicates the first usage of perforated initials on Canadian postage stamps during the 1890's. We would be pleased to hear from any BNAPS member with perfin on the small Queen's issues dated prior to April 1894.

# The Month's NEWS

## FORM NEW GROUP IN WINNIPEG

A new group has been formed by members of B. N. A. P. S. living in and around the city of Winnipeg, Manitoba. A meeting was held November 22 last at which actual organization took place. Alex Stewart (#1087) was appointed chairman of the group, with E. P. Warren (#711) as secretary.

A second meeting was held December 7, at which Dr. Murray Campbell gave a talk on early Red River Postal History, illustrated with an album of Red River covers loaned by the Province of Manitoba. The data in this album was originally collected by Dr. Campbell, and had been beautifully written up by Member Tom Miller. Another meeting was planned for January 11, at which the topic was to be "O. H. M. S.—Early and Modern".

## REVENUE SOCIETY FORMS GROUP WITHIN B. N. A. P. S.

The formation of a Canadian Revenue Study Group within the framework of B. N. A. P. S. has been concluded, and this will likely mean that the Canadian Revenue Society will be disbanded. Members of this Society who are not already members of B. N. A. P. S. will receive a complimentary copy of BNA TOPICS and complete information on our Society, and it is expected that the majority will become members.

Wilmer C. Rockett will be chairman of the new study group, and Prof. R. DeL. French will serve as secretary-treasurer. The group will be managed by a committee of five, and four members already appointed are Wilmer C. Rockett, Prof. French, Charles Armstrong and Colin MacR. Makepeace.

BNA TOPICS

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## WANTED

**SQUARED CIRCLE** postmarks on 1898 Map Stamps. G. P. Lewis, 34 Jessie St., Brampton, Ont., Canada. (99-tf)

**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.

## WANTED

**WILL EXCHANGE** plate block O27 lower right for upper right or lower left position. George G. Trabant, "Times", St. Petersburg, Florida. (110-2t)

## FOR SALE

**CANADA, British Empire.** Want lists please. E. K. Allen, 240 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, N. S., Canada.

## LITERATURE

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## From the President...

This month I am privileged to give the membership a short preview on something that a committee has been working hard on for several months and full details will appear in the March issue of TOPICS. It was decided to give you this preliminary information because we want everyone to have that additional month in which to work on an exhibit for Niagara.

About six months ago a group of your Officers and Directors got together to see if something could be done about the exhibition problem. Certain shortcomings were evident but realizing that it would be utterly impossible to create the perfect exhibition, all efforts were centered upon curing the main sources of irritation and trouble. Numerous problems were touched upon but two stood out in sharp relief—in competition 20th Century material does not have a chance against 19th Century material—and collectors of moderate means feel they do not have a chance in the average show against the wealthy collector or the collector who has built up an outstanding collection over a period of many years and obtained today's rarities as yesterday's moderately priced items.

The committee was not concerned with whether or not members were justified in withholding their material from the exhibitions for these reasons. After all that is a matter of individual opinion. What they were concerned about was the elimination of conditions which might be causing the "average" collector to refrain from exhibiting. I think the decisions reached will go a long way toward encouraging everyone to exhibit instead of driving many away.

At Niagara this fall there will be three BNAPS Medals for 20th Century competition. This means that the collector with OHMS, Admirals, Plate number blocks etc. who felt that he had no chance against Joe Philatelist's pence rarities can now enter his material in competition with other exhibits of 20th Century material and he will have as good a chance as the other fellow to win one of the prized BNAPS medals.

One other very important decision was to limit the scope of each individual entry in such a manner that no one could overpower the other exhibitors with an array of superlative covers and multiple pieces from the pence issue down through the '59s, Large and Small Queens, Jubilees and Provinces. This is going to be done by restricting an exhibitor to any one of several 19th Century groups, as will be disclosed in March. What this means is that an exhibitor will be able to show his pence OR Large Queens OR his 1859's but NOT a combination of two or more. It is believed that this should go a long way toward putting all collectors on a fairly even footing. The collector with an excellent collection of all 19th Century issues will be forced to choose the issue, or group to be more correct, which he intends to exhibit. On the other hand the member having a collection of lesser scope, being limited perhaps to the Small Queens, can now enter in the knowledge that he will be competing against only a limited part rather than the whole of another member's extensive collection of all phases of 19th Century.

Furthermore it is felt that by limiting the scope of each exhibit we should see more of the truly specialized material that is the backbone of a collection—shades, cancellations, different usages on covers, etc., and a little less empha-



sis on money items. After all if a collector is exhibiting 19th he is going to show the cream of his entire collection but if he is limited to 1859's, for example, he will show far more of that issue in singles, shades, cancellations, etc. and it should bring more philatelic knowledge into the exhibits.

Summing up it amounts to this. If you enter your Small Queens you will compete directly with every other 19th Century exhibit BUT all other exhibitors will likewise be limited to a single group, which in 19th usually means one issue. On the matter of Medals for the 19th Century Classification you will have to wait until next month for details but you will not be disappointed.

Your Committee has worked hard. They have wrestled with all kinds of ideas, suggestions and objections in an effort to get the exhibits out for Niagara in '54. Personally I think the fellows have done a terrific job for the membership as a whole. The fellow with the top flight collection still has the edge but the fellow with the smaller specialized collection can win if he has it properly written up and if he knows his stamps—and that is the way it should be. With our membership we should have 50 entries in the 19th alone at Niagara. At Montreal we only had nine, yes that is right only NINE, 20th Century exhibits and if that figure is not raised to 29 at Niagara I will have overestimated the willingness and ability of BNAPSers to get in there and do things for the first time.

## From the Librarian...

### LIBRARY REPORT FOR 1953

CREDITS	DEBITS
By Credit Balance (Jan. 1, 1953) \$2.94	Postage ..... \$11.92
From Treasurer ..... 50.00	Books, magazines, etc. purchased 21.75
Rentals ..... 2.00	Supplies ..... 6.55
Donation ..... 2.00	Freight ..... 5.97
	Express ..... 10.25
	Credit Balance ..... .50
<b>\$56.94</b>	<b>\$56.94</b>

Total loans for 1953, 309; increase over 1952, 41 loans.

Donations received from: Stanley Stamp Co., H. A. MacMaster, H. H. Parker, J. P. Clement, R. C. Hunter, G. C. Marler, A. Kelson, G. L. Hearn, J. S. Siverts, Rev. F. A. Ramsey, W. M. Sprung, H. Reiche, J. Levine, J. N. Sissons, A. K. Grimmer, J. R. Barraclough, H. L. Paine, G. Hagen, D. Meyerson, J. Chambers, and others, including a friend who wishes to remain anonymous.

R. J. Duncan, Librarian.

## From the Sales Manager...

### LOOKING BACK and LOOKING AHEAD

We were looking over our columns and conversations with you last year and we realized how very hopeful and sometimes ambitious our headlines were at the time they were written. Let's look back at some of them.

"Every circuit sells—every book sells."

"Large 'Heads'—Small 'Heads' are sure-fire sales—you can't miss."

"We guarantee you sales beyond your expectation."

"We offer you buys sometimes to your pleasant surprise."

"Over \$400.00 a month means a lot of selling."

Yes, there were some pretty strong statements in our column but the final proof shows they were not overly ambitious or too hopeful. Our statement for Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1953, offers the very gratifying figures of sales of \$4163.07 and a net profit of the department above all costs of \$203.37! We think this report is wonderful and we sincerely thank each and everyone of you who helped make these figures possible.

Sales this year are off to an excellent start—even better than last year's average. We were very hopeful in our statements last year but we sure ex-



pect to make some startling ones this year. Of course, any success we have is largely due to you and again we quote from a column—"We are selling and will never stop needing so please don't stop sending." Please?

One last quote which is always in order too. "We are always trying to provide new services to you and what better way to know how better to serve you than to hear them directly from you."

James T. Culhane, Sales Manager  
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## Report of the Secretary ...

JANUARY 15, 1954

### NEW MEMBERS

- 1139 Crane, David B., Simmonds Road, Murrayville, B. C., Canada  
1140 Hunt, Harris R., Laurel Way, Norfolk, Conn.  
1141 Lee, Walter S., Clinton, B. C., Canada  
1142 Newsam, Guy V., 3380 Ridgewood Road, Apt. 304, Montreal, Que., Canada  
1143 Starr, Dr. F. A. E., 73 Main Street East, Lambeth, Ont., Canada

### APPLICATIONS PENDING

- Barker, Arthur B., P. O. Box 726, Waterbury, Conn.  
Condit, Harold V., P. O. Box 1391, Orlando, Fla.  
Galley, "Mac", 201 East Spring St., Fayetteville, Arkansas  
Harris, Frederick N., 11013 - 129 Street, Edmonton, Alta., Canada  
Leacock, Leonard H., Mount Royal College, Calgary, Alta., Canada  
Lundberg, John P., 11232 - 95A Street, Edmonton, Alta., Canada  
McGregor, Christ, 6398 Carnarvon St., Vancouver 13, B. C., Canada  
Williams, Ronald M., 12224 - 125 Street, Edmonton, Alta., Canada  
Killey, Robert J., 212 Borebank St., Winnipeg, Man., Canada

### REPLACED ON ROLL

- 316 Clougher, Nugent M., 26 Craven Street, London W.C. 2, England  
72 Jamieson, Raymond A., Box 235, Almonte, Ont., Canada  
916 Patten, Paul, 306 E. State St., Ithaca, N. Y.

### APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

- Arons, Mark L., 204 Williams St., Ithaca, N. Y. (C) CAN—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Colls. Precancels. Mint and used airmails. Postal stationery. Literature. SPECIALTY—Postal Stationery. Proposed by E. A. Richardson, No. 168. Seconded by A. C. Allen, No. 365.  
Churchill, L., 3257 W. King Ave., Vancouver 8, B. C., Canada (DC) CAN, NFD—Mint and used postage. Colls. O.H.M.S. Mint and used booklet panes. SPECIALTY—Geo. V., 1912-22. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484. Seconded by J. M. Wallace, No. 950.  
Davis, Franklin O., 633 Concord Circle, Trenton 8, N. J. (C) NFD—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Mint booklet panes. Mint and used airmails. Postal stationery entires. Proposed by G. E. Foster, No. 293. Seconded by F. L. Hofbauer, No. 582.  
Daw, Rev. William Henry, Box 125, Dundas, Ont., Canada (C) CAN. 19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. 20th century covers. Plate blocks, colls, O.H.M.S. Mint and used booklet panes. Mint air mails. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37. Seconded by G. P. Lewis, No. 506.  
French, R. DeL., 7481 Upper Lachine Rd., Montreal 28, Que., Canada (CC) CAN—Tax-Palds. SPECIALTY—Cigar, cigarette, tobacco and snuff stamps. Proposed by W. C. Rockett, No. 249. Seconded by C. MacR. Makepeace, No. 107.  
Hicks, Donald G., 53 Salisbury Ave., Toronto 5, Ont., Canada (CX) CAN—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Stampets and 1st Day covers. Postal stationery entires. Literature. 2-ring cancellations. SPECIALTY—3c Small Queen. Proposed by G. P. Lewis, No. 506. Seconded by M. Rosenthal, No. 1104.

- Hill, James R., 1309 Osler St., Saskatoon, Sask., Canada (C) CAN—20th century mint and used postage and blocks. 1st Day covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S. Booklets complete. Mint and used airmails. Proposed by G. M. Hill, No. 1095. Seconded by G. H. Moxham, No. 1051.
- Loukin, Alexander, 710A West 173rd St., New York City 32 (DCX) CAN, NFD, PROV—Mint and used postage. Coils. Proposed by W. S. Meyerson, No. 11. Seconded by D. C. Meyerson, No. 3.
- Millman, W. Logan, 435 Christina St. North, Sarnia, Ont., Canada (C) CAN, NFD—20th century mint and used postage and mint blocks. Plate Blocks. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37. Seconded by J. Levine, No. 1.
- McMahon, J. S., R R #1, Headingley, Man., Canada (C) CAN, NFD, NB, NS—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Coils. O.H.M.S. Mint booklet panes. Federal and Provincial revenues. Mint and used airmails. Postal stationery entires. Proposed by E. P. Warren, No. 711. Seconded by A. W. Stewart, No. 1087.
- Wilson, Charles B., 2700 Park Drive, Bellingham, Wash. (C) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and mint blocks. Pre-stamp covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S. Mint booklet panes. Mint and used airmails. Proposed by H. A. MacMaster, No. 484.
- Woods, Walter H., 18 Glengowan Rd., Toronto 12, Ont., Canada (C) CAN, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Plate Blocks. SPECIALTY—1912-24 issues. Proposed by V. G. Greene, No. 40. J. N. Sissons, No. 17.
- Young, Dr. Cecil, 122 Bloor St. West, Toronto 5, Ont., Canada (C) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. O.H.M.S. 2 and 4-ring cancellations. SPECIALTY—Small Cents 1870-88. Proposed by D. A. Young, No. 785. Seconded by A. E. Edwards, No. 225.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- Allison, Russell, 2451 Whitney Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y.
- Gray, J. A., 26 Wellington St., Kingston, Ont., Canada
- Lawson, James W., 104 Newton Manor, 1826 Nelson St., Vancouver 5, B.C., Can.
- Persinger, M. Vern, Gen. Del., Junction City, Oregon (from Toledo, Ore.)
- Sharpe, Lloyd W., 7 Hughson St. South, Hamilton, Ont., Canada
- Weiland, Henry, Glenview Drive, Stoney Creek, Ont., Canada (from Hamilton)

#### RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- 132 Barraclough, Dr. W. W., 69 Roxborough Drive, Toronto 5, Ont., Canada
- 1008 Bentley, Percy, 119 W. Pender St., Vancouver 3, B. C., Canada
- 1046 Grosser, Herbert F., 3603 W. North Avenue, Chicago 47, Illinois.
- 1031 Haley, George H., 400 Petroleum Bldg., Calgary, Alta., Canada
- 1048 Kilner, J. W., 6225 Princeton Avenue, Seattle 5, Wash.
- 778 Morison, Ralph G., 75 Whitney Road, Short Hills, N. J.
- 756 Pregler, Merrill M., 1596 Auburn Street, Dubuque, Iowa
- 1014 Wain, Eric J., 285 Edison Street, Montreal 23, Que., Canada

#### RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED

- Dodds, Dr. Gordon A., 3910 - 48th Place N. E., Seattle 5, Wash.
- Guertin, H. E., 46 Duggan Avenue, Toronto, Ont., Canada
- Hollowbush, Frank A., 1531 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.
- Tullmers, Hubert A., Jr., 3654 N. W. 13th Street, Miami 35, Fla.

#### DECEASED

- 805 Arrowsmith, W. S., 8 Argyle Court, Regina, Sask., Canada
- 881 Crawley, Frederick A., P. O. Box 752, North Sydney, N. S., Canada

#### MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, December 15, 1953 .....	792
NEW MEMBERS, January 15, 1954 .....	5
REPLACED ON ROLL, January 15, 1954 .....	3
	800
RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED, January 15, 1954 .....	4
DECEASED, January 15, 1954 .....	2
	6
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, January 15, 1954 .....	794

# California

I am making a trip to western Canada and the United States in March, according to the following itinerary:

San Diego, Calif.—March 23rd-25th	
Los Angeles—March 25th-30th	Vancouver, Victoria—Apr. 10th-18th
San Francisco-Oakland— March 31st-April 5th	Edmonton, Alta.—April 19th
Portland, Oregon—April 6th-8th	Calgary, Alta.—April 21st-22nd
Seattle, Wash.—April 9th	Regina, Sask.—April 23rd-24th
	Winnipeg, Man.—April 25th-27th

En route I plan to pass through Jamestown, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Louisville, Evansville, St. Louis, and Kansas City, and on my return trip from Winnipeg through Minneapolis and Chicago. I will have attractive material for sale and will be in the market to buy. Should you live along my route and have any philatelic business to discuss, please contact me at the earliest opportunity.

I handle classic singles, multiples, proofs, essays, covers, etc., of practically all countries. If you wish to dispose of a fine specialized collection of early Turkey, don't hesitate to call on me—I am likely to be interested.

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