

BNA *Topics*

▲ Official Journal
of the
British North America
Philatelic Society

JUNE 1957

In This Issue:

- EARLY
CANADIAN
DUPLEX
- EARLY
COLLEGE
COVERS



PLATE CRACK ON 3c SMALL
QUEEN . . . SEE PAGE 155

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EARLY CANADIAN DUPLEX

INTRODUCTION. In a letter published in January issue of BNA TOPICS, I asked the editor why the fascinating subject of Canadian Duplex cancellations had been so long neglected, "a line which gives the Canadian philatelist everything he can desire, scope for original study and research, great variety, unrecognized rarities, etc. . . ." The editor kindly invited me to submit an article on the subject, and in this article I will endeavor to give some idea of the scope, variety and interest of Canadian duplex. But as these have been in use for nearly a century, during which time they have developed an infinite variety, some limitation is necessary to bring the subject within the scope of one article, and my remarks will therefore be confined to duplex of the Victorian era.

Definition. A duplex is an instrument which simultaneously, i.e. at one stroke, dates the cover and kills the stamp. It thus consists of two part, the *dater* and the *killer*, fixed side by side. The dater is almost invariably circular and the killer almost invariably barred. However, circular daters and barred killers have been in common use independently of duplex, and two independent strikes of such daters and killers, which happen to fall close together on a cover, give a superficial resemblance to a duplex strike, and so we get a 'false' duplex. It becomes necessary, therefore, to define clearly some criterion to distinguish with a fair degree of certainty between false and true strikes.

Recognition. It has been established (almost without exception) that true duplex conform to the following two rules:

- i) Regarding the dater as a clock, the killer is found at 3 o'clock and within 3 mm. of the dater.
- ii) The bars of the killer are parallel to, or exceptionally at right angles to, the axis or line of strike of the duplex. In 'false' duplex, one or both of these rules is invariably broken, and together they give the best test to distinguish between 'true' and 'false' duplex. I have seen scores of strikes, sent me as *duplex* both from America and from Europe, which failed to pass the above test, and proved not to be duplex at all!

Classification of Duplex. Before commencing a systematic study of duplex, the first necessity appears to be to evolve a suitable classification of the different

types, and the two parts of the duplex—dater and killer—must be considered separately, as they can be varied independently.

The Dater. The points to be noted are:

SHAPE. Almost invariably circular with (I) a partial outer circle, (II) a complete outer circle, or (III) no outer circle.

SIZE. Present recorded limits are 18 mm. and 27 mm. diameter.

CONTENTS. The typical dater shows:

- i) The name of the town or post office (in the upper arc);
- ii) The name of the province or country (in the lower arc);
- iii) The date across the centre (usually with the year below);
- iv) Certain indicia above the date. These may be:
(a) Blank. (b) Time, i.e. approximate (AM., PM., NT.) or exact (10AM., 3PM.). (c) Number. (d) Letter or word. (e) Any other mark.

All the above points are variable, and so require to be noted when describing a dater.

The Killer. Almost invariably, killers consist of bars arranged in various patterns, as follows:

SHAPE AND SIZE. Circular (18 to 26 mm. diameter), Oval (25 to 31 mm. tall). Irregular.

DIRECTION. Horizontal, vertical, wavy.

NATURE OF BARS. Thin or thick, many (up to 19) or few (down to 7), unbroken or broken.

BROKEN BARS. These may enclose a numeral, a letter, a name, or something else.

These possible variations of killer can combine with variations of dater to produce a large number of different duplex. To cope with so many possible variables, a code is found to be practically essential, and the following code was suggested in our contemporary "Maple Leaves" (August 1956) and has proved to be comprehensive, workable and popular.

The Dater. Three main types, I, II, III, as indicated above.

Indicia: Five variations (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) as indicated above.

Other details, such as diameters, names or letters, etc., to be recorded separately.

The Killer. The main types of bar patterns to be shown with capital letters:

Type A—Circular unbroken horizontal bars;

Type B—Oval unbroken horizontal bars;

Type C—Irregular unbroken wavy bars;

Type G—Circular broken horizontal bars;

Type H—Oval broken horizontal bars;

Type L—Oval broken vertical bars.

The number of bars and their thickness, also diameters of killers to be noted.

Killers with broken bars may enclose: (a) number, (b) letter, (c) town, (d) town and province, (e) town and district, (f) any other.

Several practical advantages follow the adoption of such a code of duplex, for example:

1. All the details of dater and killer of every duplex can be given in a concise and convenient form.
2. This enables the different types of duplex used at any post office over the course of years to be concisely tabulated.
3. In correspondence, it avoids having to give lengthy descriptions. For example, the first Montreal duplex of 1860 (Jarrett 924, Boggs page 573, and the accompanying fig. II) would require the following written description: "Montreal 1860. Dater circular, with partial outer line; killer circular with 13 unbroken horizontal bars". The code description is simply: "Montreal 1860. I.A.13". To give an idea of how the code works and an indication of the data being recorded, a full description of the five duplex cancellations used in Ottawa 1861-1902 is given in a short Appendix to this article.

Main Types of Duplex. The standard types of duplex in the 19th century were I.A. or II.A., which account for over 80 per cent of all duplex recorded to date. All the other main types, B.G.H.L., were exceptional. Type B was used to a very limited extent (to date only seven towns are recorded with this type), but in the Georgian era it became much more popular, and is still extensively used at the present day. Type C., i.e. with irregular shape or with wavy bars, is unknown before 1902 but has become quite common since. Types D.E. and F. (with unbroken vertical bars) are still unknown as duplex either in the Victorian era or later.

Turning to G. and H. types, enclosing a numeral, letter, name, etc., these also were exceptional types and issued to very few offices. On the other hand, as examples were used for many years at some of the largest towns, such as Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, Hamilton, London, Kingston, specimens of these types are quite frequently seen, and have an attractive appearance. Type L. was used only in Toronto and four sub-offices. Illustrations of a number of these exceptional types are shown (Figs. 4-8, 12-15). The Ottawa II.G.19.a (Fig. 6) was used as a duplex for at least 22 years (1881-1902) and also as an early pre-cancel.

The standard A. type can be conveniently divided into four sub-types, which are characteristic of four different periods:

I.A with 12 or 13 thin bars (Fig. 11). These are the earliest duplex of 1860-75, issued to 20 offices (vide Boggs page 573). As they date before Confederation, they have the letters 'CE' or 'CW' (and not provincial names).

I.A with fewer thicker lines (Fig. 1). These were used chiefly in the 1870-80 period, and show a change in the dater from 'CE' or 'CW' to 'QUE', 'ONT', etc.

II.A with numerous (12 to 15) thin bars (Fig. 2). These are characteristic of the middle period 1880-95, until replaced to some extent by squared circles.

II.A with fewer (8 to 11) thick bars (Fig. 3). Used very extensively in the latest period 1899-1902, but occasionally earlier. This type largely replaced the squared circles. The wide brotherhood of squared circle fans will be interested to see how their pet subject dovetails in with duplex, with which there seems to be some close connection. For example, the indicia very often



Fig. 1. Type I.A.



Fig. 2. Type II.A.



Fig. 3. Type I.A.



Fig. 4. Type II.B.



Fig. 5. Type I.G.



Fig. 6. Type II.G.



Fig. 7. Type II.H.



Fig. 8. Type II.H.



Fig. 9. Type III.G.



Fig. 11. Type I.A.



Fig. 12. Type II.G.8c



Fig. 13. Type I.B.10



Fig. 14. Type II.H.14.a.(1)



Fig. 15. Type II.L.7.a.(4)



Fig. 16. Type II.A.9.

follow the same pattern. Thus those towns with squared circle hammers showing (a) blank, (b) time (AM. or PM.), or (c) numbers, usually had duplex with the same indicia. One of the very few towns with a series of letters, i.e. PARIS, occurs with both hammer and duplex showing the series A.B.C.D.

Another aspect of this dovetailing may be mentioned. Dr. Alfred Whitehead asks why the Montreal squared circle is so scarce? The answer seems to be that Montreal duplex were in common use up to 1897. Conversely, a dozen different duplex hammers were used in St. John, N.B., before 1893, when they fade out as the common St. John squared circle comes in. Thus we see how a study of duplex helps squared circles and vice-versa.

Indicia in Duplex. Duplex cancellations provide a splendid field (possibly the best of all Canadian cancellations) for studying the evolution and development of indicia, which commenced with the simple AM or PM on 14 of the earliest duplex of 1860, to be replaced from time to time by numbers or (rarely) letters, especially in the larger towns.

Incidentally, the evidence from duplex gives strong support to the new theory that these numbers were *time marks*, and seldom connoted 'clerks' numbers', a phrase which appears somewhat misleading. But this is too big a subject to be discussed in this article. However, the indicia on duplex undoubtedly provide a very interesting study of the changes from the earliest time, nearly a century ago, to the present day.

Scope of the Subject. An indication of how the details of duplex are being recorded is given in the short Appendix, but it would be quite impossible in this article to give a complete list of all duplex recorded to date—nearly 300—spread over 150 towns and post offices. (The details would require a handbook! But some 200 are described in the 1956 articles in "Maple Leaves".) But an indication of their distribution amongst the main types can be given. Of the total, no less than 245 are of A. type, 12 to 15 each of B., G. and H. types, and six only of L. type. Toronto, with its numerous street and sub-offices, its 'Depots' and 'Stations', and a number of bizarre and unique varieties of duplex, provides a fascinating study by itself.

The 245 varieties of A. type are divided amongst the four sub-types roughly as follows: (a) 1860—75 (30); (b) 1870-80 (15); (c) 1880-95 (65); (d) 1899-1902 (135). The huge preponderance of the latest sub-type (Fig. 3) is explained by the fact that on the withdrawal of squared circle hammers, not only were many of the older post offices again supplied with duplex, but a large number of new post offices had by then come into existence, and this latest standard sub-type was supplied universally. During the 1890's, the authorities tried various alternative types of cancellations, but to a considerable extent came back to duplex in the end.

Sources of Information. Much of the information in this article is based on a series of articles published in 1956 in our contemporary "Maple Leaves" (including the illustrations, which are reproduced with the kind permission of the editor), and those articles were in turn based on the invaluable co-operation of private collectors and dealers on two continents. In addition, the Philatelic Foundation of New York very kindly gave permission for a collaborator to examine

and report on the mammoth book (20"x14" and 180 pages) of proof impressions of a principal maker of Canadian cancelling instruments of all types during the period 1876-93, a book which is estimated to contain 10- to 15,000 impressions! Member David Wasserman (BNAPS 1390) very kindly undertook the job, and produced an excellent report with detailed description of all duplex impressions (135) in the book, which greatly assisted this research.

However, the present list of recorded duplex cancellations must still be incomplete, and the further co-operation of collectors everywhere, who are interested in the subject, and who may have new varieties to record, is earnestly invited.

Although duplex can be recognized on single stamps, a full duplex strike cannot be seen on them, but requires a cover, a card, a cut-out, or a block, to be studied properly (as with squared circles). It is sad to think how many million duplex strikes were lost when the stamps were soaked off covers! However there still seems to be plenty left (the present list is based on at least 2000), although some of the rarer ones are very difficult to find, and some day the rarity of some duplex will be more widely realized than it is today. Verb. sap!

One attractive feature about collecting 19th century duplex is the wide range of issues on which they are found, from the 1859 decimal issue to Queen Victoria Numerals, a feature not shared by other popular types of cancellations.

Freak Duplex. Amongst the rarer duplex cancellations, we occasionally find one which is surprisingly abnormal. I will mention three examples:

Ottawa 'House of Assembly' Duplex. 1881-87 (Fig. 16). This duplex, which is usually struck in blue, has a circular dater of standard type I, and a killer of standard type A. with nine horizontal bars, *but the killer is at 6 o'clock to the dater and slightly crooked*, thus breaking the '3 o'clock rule' and 'parallel to axis rule' mentioned earlier. (This is the only known exception to these rules!) Several identical copies confirm this freak.

Port Hope 'Cork Insertion' Duplex. 1870. In 1850-61, the postmaster of Port Hope, with 20 other postmaster in Canada (see Boggs page 573) received the standard type of earliest duplex I.A.13 (thin bars). In 1870, the postmaster of Port Hope, with a few hundred other postmasters in Canada (see Jarrett page 536) made for himself a neat little cork cut into eight segments, of which he was evidently very proud and determined to use. So he had the ingenious idea of cutting a hole in the bars of his duplex and inserting his cork, thus creating a 'unique' type of duplex! The recorded copies of this Port Hope cork duplex are dated 1870, so possibly it was not in use very long, and there is evidence to suggest that when one cork was worn out, another was made to replace it.

Toronto Experimental Duplex. 1901 (Fig. 9). For some unknown reason, Toronto experimented for nine months in 1901 with a freak duplex with a very abnormal dater, which is NOT round (but roughly diamond-shaped), it has no outer line, no name of town or province or country. All it has is four short groups of numbers (or letters) at the four corners of the diamond, showing in bold type (a) the hour of cancelling (e.g. 17 = 5 p.m.); (b and c) the month and day; (d) the year, '01. It is quite unlike any other

(Continued on page 156)

3c Small Queen: Three Constant Varieties



FIG. 1

THERE are three rather striking constant varieties of the 3c value of the Small Queen issue which I have never seen reported.

The first is a horizontal line through the upper portion of the 'N' of 'CENTS'. The two copies I have (see Fig. 1) are on the rose of late 1870 and early 1871. This is similar but not the same as the variety illustrated in Sketch 94 in "Dinky Daymus Varieties" by Aubrey Kelson.

The second variety is a plate crack. This appears at the bottom margin of two stamps (see Fig. 2) of the peculiar shade that appeared in the spring of 1887. This crack runs in an irregular fashion from the right margin about one-half



FIG. 2

of the distance across the bottom margin of the stamp. There should be a companion stamp with a crack from the left hand margin but I have never seen an example.

The third variety, of which I am sorry I do not have a picture, occurs on the 3c Small Queen of about 1874. I have one copy dated OC 12, 1874, and the other is of about the same period. This is a straight line, probably a slip of the engraving tool, extending from just below the circle diagonally across the 'E' of 'CENTS'. ★

EARLY CANADIAN DUPLEX

(Continued from page 154)

known dater. Jarret records its use from April to October 1901, but copies are now known to December 1901.

Any collector who finds one of these, or any other 'freak' duplex, has something worth keeping!

In conclusion, I hope I have been able in this article to give some idea of the scope, variety and interest that can be obtained from a study of early Canadian duplex cancellations, which were used for a longer period over a wider range and in greater variety than most other types of cancellations that have received so much attention from Canadian philatelists in the past.

APPENDIX

A description of OTTAWA duplex cancellations. 1861-1901.

OTTAWA, ONT. Capital of Canada. Pop. (1891) 45,000. Sub-offices (today) 42.

Squared circle hammer used—1893-1905.

Duplex hammers used—Five, as follows:

Years	Code description	Details of Dater	Details of Killer	Indicia	Illustration No.
1861-66	I.A.13	mm.	mm.	b	11 type
1881-82	II.H.15.a(I)	21½/C.W.	21/thin	c.(12)	14 type
	Number 1 enclosed in 15 bars. The letter A and the indicia number 12 are both unusual.				
1881-87	II.A.9	25/Ontario	18/thin	a	16
	The 'House of Assembly' duplex, with abnormal killer at 6 o'clock and crooked, thus breaking the '3 o'clock rule' and 'parallel to axis rule', vide illustration. Found usually in blue, occasionally in black.				
1881-1902	II.G.19.a(1)	20/none	20/thin	c.(2-4)	6
	Number 1 enclosed in 19 bars. This duplex was in use for 22 years; it was also used for an early precancel.				
1890	II.9.15.c	?/Canada	?/thin	b	new type
	15 bars enclose the word 'OTTAWA'. Not seen, but recorded in the Proof Book of the Philatelic Foundation, N.Y.				

ILLUSTRATED ADVERTISING:

EARLY CANADIAN COLLEGE COVERS

AMONG the many fascinating groups of illustrated advertising covers awaiting the collector of Canadian material, is that of College covers. Unlike Patriotics, Hotels and Exhibitions, this group has generally been neglected. Perhaps one reason for this is the very small number of such covers coming onto the market. Why is this so? There were a great number of universities, colleges, business schools and the like scattered throughout the eastern provinces long before the turn of the century. Surely there must be many more of these in existence than has come to the attention of this collector.

One does not have to be a specialist in Canadian College covers to appreciate them. One or two examples mounted in the albums along with the stamps of the issue used, will make nice show pieces, with tremendous eye-appeal.

The earliest Canadian College cover to come to the attention of this collector is the 'Wesleyan Female College' cover from Hamilton (illustrated). Franked with a single copy of the 1c 1859 issue, and tied with the circular 'Hamilton U.C./Au 30/1862' it makes an attractive addition to a page of 1c '59's, and illustrates the proper rate for which the stamp was issued—one cent circular rate, evidently carrying a college circular.

We also illustrate two other Canadian College covers of the late 19th century period. These are but a few examples of the attractive cover material available to those who keep their eyes open.

Other Canadian College covers known to this collector include:

4. **Kingston Business College**, Kingston, Ont. A beautifully engraved design covering left half. Used in 1896 from Kingston.
5. **Collège St. Laurent**, St. Laurent, Montreal, P.Q. Lettering only. Used in 1903.

(Continued on page 160)

Pre-Confederation Canadian College cover. Wesleyan Female College, Hamilton, C.W. A single 1c '59 tied with a Hamilton, U.C., circular postmark, August 30, 1862.



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Now ready. Consists of two parts. The visual section illustrates the basic 807 all different postage stamps issued from 1851 to end of 1956.

Illustrations are based on the actual stamps and are in same size. Visual catalogue is permanent, only necessary to buy it once in a lifetime. Upkeep about 10 cents a year.

Second part of catalogue is the check list which will be issued every two years, or oftener if necessary. Prices all stamps in the visual section five ways: singles mint, singles used, blocks of 4 mint, blocks of 4 used, and on covers. Prices also minor varieties and errors. Ample room left to record any other specialty followed by the collector.

Both collectors and dealers will find the Canada Basic Catalogue easy to use. Stamps can be identified very rapidly.

The CANADA BASIC ALBUM is also available. Provides spaces for the 807 varieties illustrated in the Canada Basic Catalogue.

Some Comments:

J.E.L., Mt. Prospect, Ill.

"You really have something. It certainly is a radical departure from present catalogs and albums."

T.G.K., Hollywood, Calif.

"Reproductions far and away the best I have had the good fortune to see . . . plan and organization of the catalogue are so well conceived that without hesitation I call this a major advance in the field of philately."

PRICES

1. CANADA BASIC CATALOGUE	3.00
2. CANADA BASIC CATALOGUE CHECK SHEETS	2.00
3. CANADA BASIC ALBUM PAGES	8.50
4. BINDERS to hold about 100 sheets	5.00

A set of sample pages also available and will be sent postpaid on receipt of 25c

SPECIAL \$30.00 OFFER

Consists of all four items as listed above: Catalogue, Check Sheets, Album Pages and one Binder, plus about 300 different and very fine Canadian stamps, worth nearly \$30.00 retail alone; all for \$30.00. The perfect way to begin a collection of Canadian stamps. Cash with order and only 100 units for sale at this figure.

CANADIAN STAMPS

Selections based on Canada Basic Catalogue available on approval on request. Collections running in value from \$100.00 to \$5,000 also on hand, and at times the great rarities. At present have a very fine 12d on WOVE paper used on cover, very likely the only copy of this rarity on the market anywhere in the world. Several 12d on laid paper also on hand.

At all times am in the market to purchase collections and stocks of Canadian stamps, other than packet material. Summer and winter I have a travelling representative who will go to any part of Canada or the U.S.A. to meet collectors and inspect worthwhile properties. Correspondence invited.

FOREIGN STAMPS

Still have large accumulations, also in buying Canadian collections, inevitably good foreign collections, sets and better single stamps are also purchased. All are cleared out at low prices. Suggest a \$10.00 "catch all" assortment very well worth several times the price. Larger groups at \$30.00, \$100, \$500, \$1000 or more, also can be assembled. Indicate main interests.

PROJECT No. 1

Certain Canadian stamps require further study. The first project deals with the 1868 Large Head 1c and 3c on LAID paper. A loan of all copies that may be in your collection most welcome. Pack securely and send by REGISTERED post. All stamps are fully insured from the time they are put in the mail till delivered back to the sender, through a blanket policy with the Union Insurance Society of London, England. Some quite valuable information is already on hand and all cooperating will receive this, along with prompt return of the stamps. Complete data on these too will be released to all users of the Canada Basic Catalogue, very likely within one year.

K. BILESKI

STATION "B"

:

WINNIPEG, CANADA

EARLY CANADIAN COLLEGE COVERS

(Continued from page 157)



Two interesting Canadian College covers. Top: Alma Ladies College, St. Thomas, Ont. In purple. 3c Leaf, tied with St. Thomas 'AM' squared circle cancel, 'MR 25/98'. Bottom: Universite du College St-Joseph, Westmoreland Co., N.B. In black. 2c Numeral. Postmarked 'College Bridge, N.B./Ap 24/00'.

6. **College de St-Cesaire**, St. Cesaire, P.Q. A square picture of building at left. Used from St. Cesaire in 1903.
7. **College de Valleyfield**, Valleyfield, P.Q. Lettering only. Used in 1904.
8. **Ontario Ladies College**, Whitby, Ont. A nicely engraved view of college buildings at left. Used from Whitby in 1909.
9. **Ontario Veterinary College**, Toronto, Ont. A very attractive illustrated cover, with horseshoe, whip and horse's head. All in blue. Franked with 3c Small Queen, used from Toronto, Dec. 19, 1889.

Other Canadian College covers for the period up through 1910 exist, and it may be possible that some collector has quite a showing proudly mounted in his albums.

Other collectors may desire to collect more recent College covers. The writer merely limits 'early' covers to those prior to 1911.

Still another Canadian cover field that challenges the collector! ★



Rounding Up SQUARED CIRCLES

EDITOR: DR. A. WHITEHEAD, 52 Havelock St., Amherst, N.S.

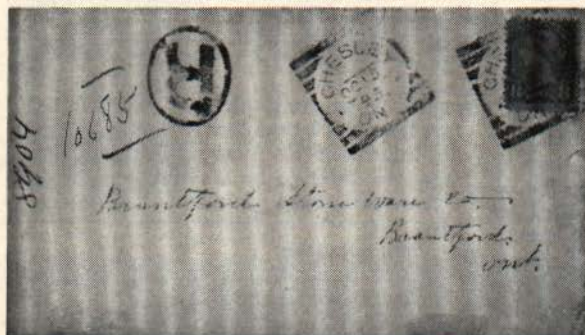


FIG. 1. The real beauty of this cover demands a color photograph. The strikes of the squared circle, two on the face, two on the reverse—all fine—are in an attractive pale blue, not hitherto recorded. In addition there are two R.P.O. backstamps. In all, Vincent Greene, the owner, may be sure he has a most enviable cover.

REVISED DATES FOR ONTARIO (Part One)

(Only those dates which supersede the Handbook are given here)

- Acton**
Earliest: Oc 9, 94. Latest: Dec 19, 02.
- Almonte**
Earliest: Au 1, 93.
- Arnprior**
Latest: Au 31, 08
- Aurora**
Earliest: Oc 15, 94
- Beamsville**
Earliest: De 19, 94. Latest: Fe 16, 98
- Belleville**
II—Earliest: Sp 7, 93. Latest: My 10, 98
III—Earliest: Ju 29, 93!!!
Note: This last is a remarkable date. The chronologies of Belleville and Winnipeg, at which I have been working constantly since the Handbook appeared, are the two most difficult problems presented by squared circles. I need still more material for study. Who will help me in constructing the day-by-day records on which I am now engaged? At least let me examine your duplicates.
- Berlin**
Earliest: Sp 13, 93. Latest: Jy 22, 95
- Blyth**
Earliest: No 7, 93. Latest: Cancel H-book date.
- Blue Vale**
Earliest: No 10, 94. Latest: Ap 23, 95
- Bobcaygeon**
Earliest: De 15, 93. Latest: Jy 31, 08

- Bowmanville**
Earliest: De 13, 93. Latest: My 10, 98
- Bracebridge**
Earliest: Oc 23, 94
- Brampton**
Earliest: Oc 2, 93. Latest: Mr 9, 97
- Brantford**
Earliest: Jy 29, 93.
- Burford**
Earliest: Ja 1, 94
- Cache Bay**
Earliest: Mr 22, 95. Latest: Fe 27, 04
- Cardinal**
Earliest: Fe 9, 94. Latest: Fe 14, 98 (The Handbook gave an error.)
- Cheltenham**
Latest: Ap 2, 1920(!)
- Chesley**
Earliest: Ap 28, 94. Latest: Au 31, 95.
(See Fig. 1).
- Cobden**
Earliest: Oc 3, 93
- Cobourg**
Earliest: Sp 8, 93. Latest: No 1, 97
- Comber**
Latest: Ju 14, 96
- Dundas**
Earliest: Ap 9, 94. Latest: Sp 13, 00
- Dunnville**
Earliest: Fe 21, 95. Latest: Ju 20, 99
- Durham**
Earliest: Ju 16, 94. Latest: Au 14, 95

NEXT MONTH: ONTARIO, F-L

FIG. 2. A fine cover with the rare CLARENCEVILLE, Quebec, squared circle, listed in May Topics. Notable for use of the 8c Jubilee stamp. Probably unique.



—C. A. Kemp collection (ex Whitehead collection)

THE OTTAWA POSTMARK OF 1880-1

There have been several recent references in TOPICS to the 1892 postmark, which is distinctly related to the squared circles of the following year, 1893, and is called by some the 'forerunner' of the squared circles. But without doubt, the real Canadian ancestor of the big group of 1893 is itself a squared circle. I have long intended to write briefly about it.

It is listed by Jarrett as No. 371, but as some BNAPS members do not have Jarrett's work, we illustrate it here (See Fig. 3).

My guess is that it was inspired by the squared circles of Great Britain, in use in 1880 and for some time after. The British group showed much variety in the treatment of the corners, and large interesting collections may be formed. Other countries used very similar postmarks, including India and South Africa; and certain Dutch Mail Boats (see "Stamp Collecting," March 8, 1957) used at least two in 1893-4.

Canada's 1880 marking seems to have been used only at Ottawa. It is an attractive design, smaller than the squared circles

of '93, is generally clearly struck, and the few examples I have seen, including Jarrett's illustration, have "3" above the date. I believe the latter to be a clerk's number, not a time mark, but I could be persuaded otherwise.

Some questions:

Are the earliest and latest dates known?

Is "3" always above the date?

Was this postmark used elsewhere in Canada?

A fine strike of the 1880 marking would make an excellent introductory page to a collection of 1893 squared circles.

E. M. Blois (BNAPS 673) and myself are very interested in the clerks' number (found above the date) in use at HALIFAX, N.S., during the month of January 1899. Will all collectors of squared circles report such January dates, with clerks' numbers, to the editor of this page? (Do it at the earliest opportunity, please!) We think that a definite pattern of use may be discovered. News of any conclusions reached will be given in a latter issue.

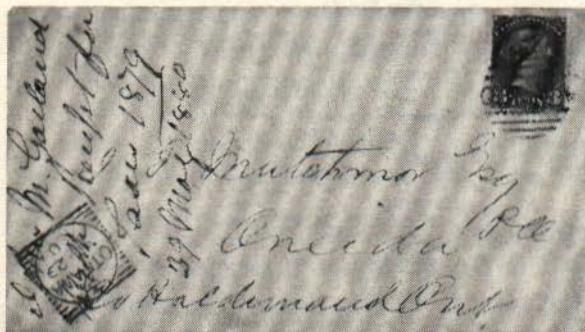


FIG. 3. A fine cover, showing the Ottawa squared circle of 1880, dated very early.

—Collection of Miss May Byers.

Two further specimens of CLIFTON, N.B. (partial strikes) have been verified by the editor of this page. The fortunate finders are Dr. E. C. Banno, Kamloops, B.C., and L. M. Ludlow, San Carlos, Calif., both keen squared circle collectors. This brings the number of known copies of this great rarity to three, the first being a full strike on cover found six years ago by the editor in a rather large lot of N.B. covers—the only known copy on cover.

A new squared circle town has been reported to me. I have still to verify it. If it proves to be the real thing, it will make quite a flutter in the very active group of British Columbia squared circle fans. Are you all agog, B.B., H.M.D., M.H., A.K.? (The alphabetical arrangement here is not kind to the ladies!) Perhaps the most interested will be Dr. McKee, who is almost on the doorstep of this town; Dr. Banno is too far away. ★



REVENUE GROUP

News

EDITOR: E. A. RICHARDSON, 303 Pin Oak Drive, La Marque, Texas



Newfoundland Beer Customs, Excise Duty Paid Stamp

HAVEN'T found this one reported before. It is illustrated herewith. Printed in blue, with the caribou design in centre panel, and measures 130 x 16 mm. Perforated 12 all around and has a face denomination of 10/12 cent.

We'd appreciate hearing from other BNAPSers who have additional information on this item, or who can report other denominations of this same series.

More on Holiday-with-Pay Stamps. In March we inquired about issues of these from Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg. We now have two reports that the City of Winnipeg **did not** issue any of these but the Province of Manitoba did put out a set of eight values from the 1c to the \$5. We hope to have these to illustrate in a later issue, at which time we'll give you a complete listing.

Consular Fee Stamps. If you have not already done so, grab yourself a postcard and send in a listing of any values you may have of these. As announced in March, we

are attempting to find out just what exists. We suspect these things are quite scarce.

Newfoundland Liquor Seals. The liquor seals of most provinces are quite attractive examples of engraving or lithography. Not so with Newfoundland. The only examples seen so far are unattractive type-set labels.

All are on white bond paper, sometimes showing a papermaker's watermark. The paper also shows a distinct vertical or 'quadrille' mesh. They are all imperforate and do not bear control numbers. The actual size of the labels varies with the cutting and do not make for new varieties—they are usually cut approximately 90 by 50 mm.

Type I: WINE. Three lines of black type, (1) 'NEWFOUNDLAND' sans serif; (2) 'Wine' serifed; (3) 'BOARD OF LIQUOR CONTROL' sans serif.

Type II: WINE. As above but first and third lines are in serifed letters.

Type III: GIN. Similar to Type II. Second line reads 'GIN'. My example also has the price '\$3.00' printed as part of the type-setting, between the second and third lines.

Type IV: RUM. First and third lines as in Type I. Second line reads 'RUM' in serifed let-

ters, arranged vertically at left. 'IR' at upper right, and '3.00' at lower right above 'CONTROL'.

Surely there must be a great many more varieties of these! No hard liquor consumers in Newfoundland? I hope that Newfoundland revenue fans will swamp me with additional data about the seals of the Liquor Control Board.

Back in the November 1956 column, we called attention to some varieties, and raised some questions about the British Columbia Hospital Aid Tax Stamps. Dirk van Oudenol comes through again this month with some interesting additional data, and so we turn the balance of this month's column over to him again.

British Columbia Hospital Aid Tax Stamp Varieties

By P. D. VAN OUDENOL (BNAPS 684)

There appear to be four types of varieties worth recording, as follows: (1) The Enlongated, Five-armed Swastika; (2) Star Position varieties; (3) Defective Figures of Value, and (4) Broken type varieties.

As the writer does not know of any full sheets of these stamps, the study upon which this report is based included the following material:

- 3c L.R. ¼ sheet of 25 stamps.
- 4c Left ½ sheet of 50 stamps.
- 5c Left ½ sheet of 50 stamps.
- 10c U.R. ¼ sheet of 25 stamps.
- \$1 No part sheets were available.

Enlongated, Five-armed Swastika

3c value. This variety appears in the bottom border, third swastika from the right. This variety appears in the same position on every stamp in the eighth vertical column, counting from the left. If continued in the upper half of the sheet, this would be positions No. 8, 18, 28, 38, 48, 58, 68, 78, 88 and 98.

4c value. This variety appears in the upper border, third swastika from left, and swastika is inverted. This would seem to indicate that the swastika borders were set apart from the central group of type, and that the figures of value were inserted last, after the two rows of words. The swastika variety appears on every stamp in the third vertical row, counting from left.

5c value. Same as in 4c except that sheet positions No. 23 and 43 do not have the variety. Where do they show up, in positions No. 58 and 78? If so, are these two similar to the 3c, in the lower right corner? If so, the variety in the upper left is four

times more common than that in the lower right.

10c value. Same as the 3c value.

(RGN Editor's Note: As per my notes in November, my 3c variety is entirely foreign to Dirk's notes; my 4c is like his 3c variety; my 5c would be the scarce type mentioned; my 10c checks with Dirk's, and my \$1 is same as the 10c.)

Star Position Varieties

This variety is in the form of an inverted star. By reconstructing a full sheet from the part-sheets available, and assuming that the star layouts are the same for all values, the inverted stars found are as follows:

Inverted left star—positions No. 82, 94.

Inverted right star—position No. 9.

All copies seen so far of the \$1 show both stars pointing several degrees towards the upper centre of the stamp. It does not appear to be a variety. It would, however, indicate a different setting for the \$1 value.

Broken Type

The 'I' of 'Columbia' is clearly broken near the top end. Again assuming the same wording layout for all values, this would be a constant variety, found in position No. 72 of all values.

Defective Figures of Values

We deal here only with those figures which show an absolute break, numerous figures are flattened but not broken. Again reconstructing the full sheet as was done with the Star varieties, and assuming the layouts were constant, we find several whole horizontal rows in which the figures were defective:

- 3c Horizontal rows No. 6, No. 9, No. 10.
- 4c Horizontal rows No. 4, No. 6, No. 7, No. 9, No. 10.
- 5c Horizontal rows No. 7, No. 8, Uo. 9, No. 10
- 10c None, but stamp positions No. 10, 30 and 39 all have the figure '1' with the entire bottom end of numeral missing, leaving it ½ mm. shorter than normal.

(RGN Editor's Note: As reported in November, I have a copy of the 10c in which the base of the '1' is missing, and also the base of the '0' is open. In the \$1 we have one where the base of the '1' is missing and the base of the '\$' is open.)*

The Windsor 'Y' Stamp Club Bulletin, which has been mentioned in these columns before, scored quite a 'scoop' by publishing part of their most recent issue from the CPS convention in Ottawa, in May, with a complete report of the doings at BYPEX. This is the fourth issue of this publication, and the editors have even improved on the high standard set in previous issues. The editor is P. T. Wakeham, 425 Belle Isle View, Riverside, Ont. ★

The Canada Basic Catalogue and Album. Published by K. Bileski, Winnipeg, Man. Price listed below.

K. Bileski has brought out his long-promised basic catalogue and album for Canadian stamps, and the publication is a radical departure from the usual format of catalogues and albums. Pages of both are uniform in size and are slotted to fit a specially-designed binder system, so that the users' catalogues and albums are always uniform in style and appearance.

The Catalogue: This lists and describes visually every Canadian postage stamp ever issued. Constant paper or perforation varieties are given major numbers; main color shades or watermarked specimens are listed as minor varieties of the basic stamp. All illustrations are based on photographs of the exact stamps and reproductions are in the size of the issued stamp. It is noted the shades show up rather well in degree of intensity of black.

The Canada Basic Catalogue consists of 28 sheets printed on finest polished Kromekote stock, slotted to fit the Canada Basic Album binder system. This is a catalogue that needs to be purchased but once in a lifetime. Additional pages to illustrate new issues or discoveries will be printed as needed and sold at 10 cents a sheet. Yearly upkeep, therefore, should be very small. Price of catalogue, \$3.00.

The Catalogue Check List: This necessary adjunct to the pictorial catalogue consists of 19 sheets that in concise form list and price all the stamps illustrated in the pictorial guide in the following five basic categories: Single mint stamps; single used stamps; blocks of 4 mint (or strips of 4 in the case of coils); blocks of 4 used (strips of 4 coil stamps); used on cover, including parts of wrappers or mailing tags.

Then follows a section wherein are priced used pairs, imperforate pairs, booklet panes, etc. There are additional columns that can be used by the collector for checking off varieties in any other specialized field he may pursue. The third section of each check list sheet is for listing minor varieties. The most prominent varieties are listed and priced, and others will be listed in future editions, Mr. Bileski states. The prices listed are those of the publisher, who intends to publish priced check lists about once every

two years, keeping current market prices up to date.

The check list is printed on fine Opaline Parchment album paper, set of 19 sheets \$2.00 (slotted for insertion in Canada Basic Album binder); on good grade bond paper, set of 19 sheets, \$1.00.

The Album: Consists of 83 sheets which, in proper sequence, provide spaces for every single stamp illustrated in the 28 sheets of the above-mentioned catalogue. Paper used is the magnificent crisp Opaline Parchment fourdrinier card, imported from Belgium.

Spaces for stamps are arranged to best show off any stamp, group of stamps or sets. There is no overcrowding, a minimum of descriptive print, and no decorations whatsoever. All emphasis is on the stamps. The only decorative feature will be the title sheet, emblematic of Canada, which will be available later. The Canada Basic Album set of 83 sheets costs \$8.50.

A special Vinyl-covered binder to house the catalogue and album sheets, with an exclusive metal mechanism for instant insertion or removal of pages, is available at \$5.00. This binder is housed in a slip case and holds approximately 100 sheets. Catalogue sheets, check list sheets and album pages are all uniform in size and can be arranged in the binders in any order required.

We have seen copies of all the above items, and can certainly recommend them to our readers. You are urged to write to Mr. Bileski in answer to his advertisement on the centre pages of this issue, and secure complete information on this new approach to an album and catalogue for Canadian stamps.

Shanahan's Stamp Auctions Ltd., 39 Upper Great George's St., Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, Ireland, placed the first of a series of full page advertisements in our May issue, advertising their popular auction sales. This active firm celebrated its third birthday with an extensive sale in May. In celebrating their anniversary, Shanahan's report that their sales figures have quadrupled for the second year in succession, and continued expansion is underway. We personally know of collectors who have made purchases through the sales staged by this firm, with complete satisfaction on all sides.

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



THIS time it was Alec MacMaster, BNAPS 484, Vancouver, B.C., who amazed us by showing two previously unrecorded cancellations on postage stamps of Newfoundland. The first was a copy of the 2c yellow green, Scott, No. 46, issued in 1880, with a clear black "PAID AT ST. JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND" Crown Circle. The last time that we saw this strike was on a cover dated sometime in 1849; it was introduced in mid-1846 and remained in use until it was replaced by the circular "ST. JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND PAID." It was always struck in red and we never saw other than in red on the covers of the correct period. Yet here is Alec with the cancellation in black on a stamp issued in 1880. We checked as thoroughly as we could and the cancellation certainly seems genuine. The answer? We haven't the slightest idea. Can anyone help?

As though the above wasn't confusing enough, Alec also sent along a copy of the 24c, Scott No. 31, with a "91" strike in a barred ellipse. No, it wasn't the "A91" found on the stamps of the Virgin Islands at a later date, but rather a distinct "91." Can anyone help us out on either of the two above mentioned cancels?

In the March 15 issue of "Stamp Collecting" Richie Bodily, London dealer, advertises two Newfoundland "SPECIMENS" that are very interesting. The first is a block of six of the 6c, Scott No. 168, with a large-lettered "SPECIMEN" perforated across the block of six. The second item is a block of six of the 25c, Scott No. 197, with the same description. Both items are listed at £5. While we have seen "SPECIMENS" of the 6 cent value before, this is the first recorded on the 25 cent value. In our collection we have a strip of four of the 6c, Scott No. 168, perforated "SPECIMEN" in a word 72 mm. long and 16 mm. high. We wonder as to the size of the "SPECIMEN" in the two advertised items.

All Newfoundland airmail collectors

should have been in New York at the office of John A. Fox on February 26, when he auctioned off the Dr. Charles C. Lieb collection of airpost stamps of the world. And we must say that Newfoundland was a rather large part of that world, as among the items offered were the following: A mint Hawker sold for \$1500, while one on a flown cover went very reasonably at \$1100. A pane of 25 of C2, showing the complete setting of the surcharge, changed hands at \$275, and a flown 'Alcock-Brown' cover franked with a copy of C2 realized \$75. In the case of the Halifax issue, a stamp with inverted overprint, wide space and no period, was knocked down at \$265. An absolutely superb mint copy of the De Pinedo, Scott C4, sold at a new high of \$3600, while a block of four of the same stamp (one of two known) didn't stop until it reached \$16,500.

A flown cover of C4 sold for \$475 and a flown cover with the uncharged stamp went at \$145. A mint block of the Columbia Scott C5, changed hands at the very reasonable price of \$1300. A copy of the 50c, Scott C7, with imperforate left margin (an oddity) was knocked down for \$12.50. A horizontal pair of the 50c imperforate vertically sold for \$87. This was the water-marked stamp, Scott C10. A vertical pair, imperforate horizontally, of the \$1, Scott C11, brought a much higher figure when it sold for \$135. A block of four of the Balbo, Scott C18, went at \$92, and a flown cover brought the very handsome price of \$57.50. Die proofs in color on white bond of Scott C9-11 brought \$70, \$50 and \$110 respectively, and a set of the Labradors in the same condition and sold as one lot, didn't stop until the figure reached \$430. A strip of three of C9 and C10 and a strip of four of C11, all perforated "SPECIMEN," brought the fantastically high price of \$170.

We apologize for a printer's error in the April issue which named our genial librarian "Bob Armstrong." He lives at Armstrong, B.C., but the name is still Duncan. ★



OFFICIAL SECTION

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

A LETTER . . .

From the President

GEO. B. LLEWELLYN, 315 MAPLE AVE., SOMERTON, PHILADELPHIA 16, PENNA.

A Nominating Committee, consisting of Mr. Charles P. deVolpi, Chairman; Mr. Graham Fairbanks and Mr. C. George Kemp, has been appointed for the purpose of selecting three candidates for election to the Board of Governors when the terms of J. T. Culhane, H. W. Lussey and Lloyd W. Sharpe expire. The final list of nominees will be published in the July-August issue and the ballots will be mailed with September Topics.

I was very pleased to learn that the dormant Twin City Group has been re-activated and held their second meeting in April. Mr. John C. Cornelius has been appointed recording secretary and has kept me informed of the group's activities by means of two very chatty letters.

To stimulate interest in BNAPS, the group put on a one frame show for the Minnesota Stamp Club in May, and will do this again for the Twin City Philatelic Society in June.

They have asked for information pertaining to the mailing of a newspaper, "The Toronto Globe", dated October 25, 1862. It is franked with the 1c 1859, and cancelled with a four-ring No. 13 of Galt, Ontario, and bears the usual printed newspaper sticker, "2296 John Fleming", but the address on the sticker has been cut off. "John Fleming, Dundas" has been written in manuscript on the top of the paper.

The boys think the paper was forwarded from Galt to Dundas for the 1 cent postage but would like to know how the paper was forwarded from Toronto to Galt, apparently without franking. If anyone can help them by answering this, please communicate directly with John C. Cornelius, 2309 Irving Avenue, Minneapolis 5, Minnesota.

GEO. B. LLEWELLYN.

MONTHLY REPORT . . .

From the Secretary

JACK LEVINE, 325 LINK AVE., SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

May 15, 1957.

NEW MEMBERS

- 1474 Cohen, Stanley, 51 Westfield Road, Birmingham 15, England
- 1475 Koke, Joseph A., Box 389, Dauphin, Manitoba
- 1476 Milne, Brian F., 14500 San Jose Street, San Fernando, California
- 1477 Paterson, Henry A., Box 424, Liverpool, Nova Scotia
- 1478 Stewart, John J., Apt. 421, Clifton Manor, 5 Elm Avenue, Toronto, Ontario

APPLICATIONS PENDING

- Atkinson, Joseph C., 3130 Caverna Drive, Bakersfield, California
- Kuhn, William S., 15815 Alta Vista Way, San Jose 27, California
- Nicholson, Eric Anthony, Temple Hill Officers Mess, RAF, Changi, Singapore 17
- Pilling, Henry N., 1125 Rock Creek, R.D., Gladwyne, Pennsylvania
- Sherrin, Samuel C., P.O. Box 743, Petrolia, Ontario
- Wilsdon, Jack, 135 Hyde Park Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario

APPLICATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

117 Nouss, Henry O., P.O. Box 1056, Pompano Beach, Florida

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**(Objections must be filed with the Secretary within 15 days after month of publication)**

- DOZIER, R. L. 1102-20th St., Huntington, W. Va. (C) CAN—20th century mint and used postage and used blocks. Plate blocks. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint booklet panes. Precancels. Mint airmails. SPECIALTY: Officials. Proposed by E. McIntyre, No. 598.
- SHAVE, Alec A., 6466 Sterling, Detroit 2, Mich. (CX) CAN—19th century mint and used blocks. Stampless covers. Plate blocks. Flag, 2 and 4-ring cancellations. Proposed by G. P. Lewis, No. 506.
- STANWAY, G. Edward, 11 Shelley Ave., Valhalla, N.Y. (C) CAN, NFD—19th and 20th century used postage. Coils. OHMS-G. Used and semi-official airmails. Proposed by D. C. Meyerson, No. L3; seconded by W. C. Peterman, No. L8.
- WRIGHT, G. B., E2 Norris Crescent, Toronto 14, Ont. (C) CAN—19th century mint and used postage. Mint booklet panes and complete booklets. Precancels. R.P.O., territorial, flag, slogan, 2 and 4-ring, squared circle cancellations. SPECIALTY: 'Small Queens'. Proposed by J. Levine, No. 1.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS**(Changes of address should be sent direct to the Secretary)**

- 367 Burke, Joseph, 94 Hamilton Ave., Staten Island 1, N.Y.
- 50 Daggett, H. M., 4078 West 37th Avenue, Vancouver 13, B.C.
- 788 Dickenson, James, Box 330, Milestone, Sask.
- 1433 Hall, Edward, 679 Windermere Ave., Ottawa, Ont. (from N. Vancouver, B.C.)
- 1402 Holland, H. J., 354 East 18th St., Hamilton, Ont. (from England)
- 1080 Hutton, Tom Reay, 5 Elm Close, Amersham, Bucks, England
- 1195 Jamieson, Robert A., 11 Arthur Street, Binghamton, New York
- 1325 Jarnick, Jerome C., 1/Lt., A03049520, Box 34, 79th Air Rescue Squad., APO 334, San Francisco, Calif. (from Milwaukee, Wisc.)
- 1104 Rosenthal, Max, 6 Audley Ave., Toronto, Ont.
- 1186 Watson, H. J. Michael, 17 Ravenscliffe Ave., Hamilton, Ont.
- 539 Young, H. M., M.D., 414-19 Yarrow Bldg., Victoria, B.C.

Dolbec, Paul H., Box 505, Quebec, Que. Mail returned "No Forwarding Address." Information to present address would be appreciated.

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- 968 Duncan, George, 90 Auburn St., Peterborough, Ontario
- 216 Fox, W. Norman, 18 High Park Blvd., Toronto, Ontario
- 405 Whiting, Mrs. E. W., 309 W. Buffalo St., Ithaca, N.Y.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

McLeod, J. H. M., 12203-125 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

DECEASED

- 625 Millar, Archie D., 1464-18th Avenue, New Westminster, B.C.
- 1329 Rex, Harry O., 161 West Main Street, Plainville, Conn.

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, April 15, 1957	941	
NEW MEMBERS, May 15, 1957	5	
		946
RESIGNATION, May 15, 1957	1	
DECEASED, May 15, 1957	2	
		3
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, May 15, 1957	943	

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Call for Nominations

Article IV, Section 3. Elections: (Extracts) Three (3) members to the Board of Governors shall be so elected by ballot each year for a term of three (3) years.

Nominations for the offices to be elected may be filed with the Secretary by any Regional Group of the Society or by any five (5) members in good standing. At least 120 days before the date of such election, the President shall appoint three (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 the offices to be elected.

JACK LEVINE, Secretary.

• The Exchange Lists scheduled for publication in this issue are being held over until September, when it will be possible to publish the complete lists in one issue for handy reference. ★

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