

# BNA *Topics*

▲ Official Journal  
of the  
British North America  
Philatelic Society

JULY-AUGUST *1957*

In This Issue:

The Story of  
The British American  
Bank Note  
Company



Photo: Capital Press Service, Ottawa

George A. Gunderson, art director  
of British American Bank Note Co.,  
at work on David Thompson stamp

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# BNA Topics

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**BRITISH AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY****NINETY YEARS OF SECURITY PRINTING**

1870 — OX CART

men, and stated that through their skill and integrity the customers have been safeguarded over the years. Through superb craftsmanship, security printing in Canada has maintained its traditionally high standards, while adding yet another dimension to the graphic arts as we know them today.

**Nine Canadian Decades Engraved on Steel**

Stacked in a fireproof vault in the company's Ottawa plant is a collection of bulky 'scrap books' in which are pasted precious proofs of every bank note engraved and printed by the company during its 90 years of existence. Other volumes contain die proofs of engraved portraits, vignettes, ornamental borders and various motifs—elements which have comprised the design of countless bank notes, bonds and stock certificates, revenue and postage stamps, produced by the company over nine decades.

As the vault-keeper turns the pages of one book after another for the privileged visitor, a pictorial history of Canada unfolds in these magnificent steel engravings. For the British American Bank Note Company Limited was formed in 1866, a year before the British North America Act and the birth of the nation through Confederation.

Among earlier engravings executed by the company and reproduced in the volume of portraits is a sensitive profile of Queen Victoria, apparently in her late thirties. Engraved by Alfred Jones, a celebrated steel engraver who was a director of British American Bank Note during 1867-69, the profile appeared on the young Dominion's first postage stamps. Widowed for some years, Victoria had by then reached middle age. But not until another dozen years had elapsed did a company engraver show her as an older woman in widow's cap.

Other members of the Royal family appear chronologically in the collection of die proofs. Victoria's son Edward is first seen as a clean-shaven Prince of Wales, later as a grey-bearded Edward VII. His son George V grows older too, as the pages are turned, as does George VI. The earliest engravings of the reigning Queen Elizabeth II shows her as a wistful little princess, while contemporary bank notes printed by the company depict her as she looks today, a regal sovereign.

A sequence of engraved portraits of the Dominion's Prime Ministers is introduced by the striking, mobile features of Sir John A. Macdonald. Another Father of Confederation,

**T**HE STORY of the British American Bank Note Company is essentially the story of highly specialized crafts—steel engraving, siderography and steel plate printing — and of how they have advanced and been so closely related with the financial progress of Canada. Bank notes and stamps are steel engraved, as a safeguard against counterfeiting.

The British American Bank Note Company on its 90th birthday paid tribute to its painstaking and talented crafts-

interests of the company's customers of the company's



Photo: Capital Press Service, Ottawa

We wish to thank George A. Gunderson, art director of the British American Bank Note Company for his co-operation in allowing us to reproduce the information contained in this article from a brochure, "Ninety Years of Security Printing," produced by the company. Mr. Gunderson is shown above at work on the recent David Thompson commemorative, which he designed.

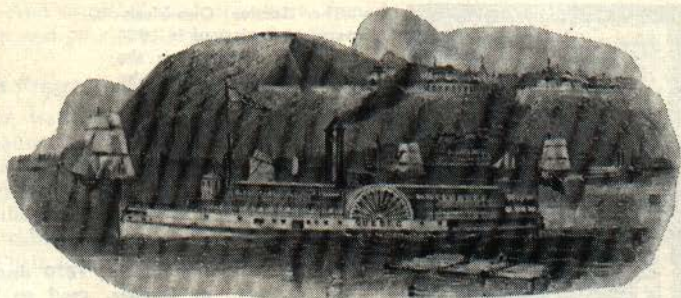


An engraver and designer of great repute, he studied at the Ontario College of Art, Toronto; the Art Students League, Woodstock, N.Y., and the Academie Julianne, Paris. In addition to the reputation he has gained as a letter and picture engraver for the British American Bank Note Company, Mr. Gunderson is also noted as a designer of stamps for Canada and Sarawak, and as an engraver of stamps for Iran, Bolivia, Honduras, Canada and the United States. Before going to the Canadian firm, he was on the staff of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in the United States, and

engraved the picture and portraits for several stamps of that country. The illustrations with this article are from the company's anniversary brochure, with the exception of the Cartier material, which was supplied by Mr. Gunderson on behalf of the British American Bank Note Company. We regret that it was not possible to reproduce line cuts of the original steel engravings, but the work was much too fine.



Sir Georges Etienne Cartier, was honored later when his bust appeared on a 10 cent commemorative stamp from the company's presses in 1931. The noble head of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, his brow haloed with grey hair, follows that of Macdonald. This was not long before the beginning of that Twentieth Century which, Laurier claimed, was to be Canada's. And as the Twentieth Century has unrolled, the artist-engravers of British American Bank Note have continued to immortalize the nation's statesmen on steel.



1872 — QUEBEC STEAMBOAT

Not all the portraits reproduced on notes and securities are those of royalty or politicians. Because a skilful engraving of the human features cannot be successfully duplicated, a fascinating medley of faces—real, imaginary, historical, allegorical—looks out from the pages of the company's die proof collection. Sir Winston Churchill rubs shoulders with Laura Secord, Samuel Champlain with Madame Chang Kai Chek. Distinguished army generals range in history from General Wolfe to General MacNaughton, distinguished Governors-General from Lord Dufferin to Lord Tweedsmuir. And there are dozens of pretty girls. The company's engravers liked to incorporate anonymous heads of the fair sex in their designs for bank notes, bonds and coupons. A favored subject was the bust of a bejewelled, bedizened gypsy woman, possibly the romantic 'ideal' of an early engraver.

### The Nation's Story in Vignettes

A delicately engraved early vignette shows Jacques Cartier pointing from his ship toward the future site of Quebec. This vignette was later re-used by the company as an attractive postage stamp. Printed in deep blue and issued in 1934 to commemorate Cartier's landing at Quebec, the stamp won first prize in an international philatelic contest.

A volume of vignettes—engravings of allegorical and general subjects—includes a number of stock vignettes. Sailing ships and paddlewheel steamers, trams and ploughs, St. George and the Dragon, beavers building a dam, coat-of-arms, a miscellany of bison, bears, cows, dogs, hens, horses, moose and oxen, were reproduced again and again in securities and bank notes. The past 90 years are graphically recalled by such vignettes. One portrays the Parliament Building in 1872. Others depict Canadian cities soon after Confederation, including Montreal and its harbor in 1873. The expansion of Canada during the great railroad era can be followed through engravings of vintage locomotives which embellished stock certificates issued by the Intercolonial Railway (which linked central Canada with the Maritimes), the Canadian Pacific Railway (which opened up the West), the Canada Atlantic Railway, the North Shore Railway of Quebec, the North Grey Railway and many other companies long since forgotten.

Vignettes of wheat harvesting and silos recall early days of development in the West, as do handsome engravings of newly-erected provincial legislative buildings in



1892 — C.P.R. ENGINE

← The Cartier Quadricentenary stamp issued in 1934 which was selected as the best design of that year by Gibbons Stamp Monthly.



The original 1870 drawing of Cartier's Arrival at Quebec, used as the basis of the stamp design shown at left. This drawing was also used on early Canadian bank notes.



Manitoba and Alberta. And so on, through the years, Canada's surging expansion in water power, mining, oil, pulp and paper, transport and industry can be followed.

### **The Company . . . It's Progress and Tradition**

When Confederation was in the air, two separate groups of people proceeded with plans to launch a Canadian company to engrave and print postage and revenue stamps, bonds and other financial documents, for the proposed new Dominion of Canada.

Leader of the first group was William Cumming Smillie, who had come to Quebec from Scotland when a boy, then moved to New York where he made a reputation as a script letter engraver. Other members of the Smillie family, then and later, became distinguished bank note engravers. Their name has become synonymous with the highest standards of that exacting craft.

W. C. Smillie started exploring the idea of forming a company—to be called British American Bank Note Company—as early as 1864, when he corresponded with interested political leaders in Canada. He then organized his group, which included Alfred Jones, foremost portrait engraver of his time, and Henry Earle, designer and letter engraver. They acquired a building on Wellington Street, Ottawa, to which they shipped the machinery necessary to fulfil the anticipated government contract.

In 1866, another group headed by George Bull Burland, a one-time newsboy who became a successful lithographer and business man, had been formed in Montreal and independently taken out a charter to operate as British American Bank Note Company. The birth of two indigenous bank note houses, each with similar hopes for patronage, must have embarrassed the Fathers of Confederation, at least two of whom—Etienne Taché and Alexander T. Galt—had originally encouraged Smillie in his aspirations.

Burland held a lease on Matthew's Patent Green Tint, a special bank note tint invented to make forgery difficult. Smillie held a low opinion of the tint as a security precaution, but it may have impressed the government. Whatever the real reasons behind the contretemps, Smillie was urged to join forces with Burland's group by Georges Etienne Cartier, who the following year was to become Minister of Militia and Defence in the first Dominion government.

So the two groups merged. Smillie was made president of the company and Burland manager. Nominal capital was \$100,000. The first entry in the Company's Journal, in August 1866, lists paid-up capital as \$54,000. At the outset, major shareholders were W. C. Smillie, Henry Earle, G. B. Burland and G. Lafricaine. Almost immediately British American Bank Note received an initial order from the government for printing what were known as Provincial Bank Notes, so called because they were payable in different provinces.

### **Three Prosperous Decades**

The company quickly found customers among the chartered banks and for many years its fortunes remained closely interwoven with those of the banking fraternity. . . . The charter obtained by Burland stipulated that "the places where the operation of the company are to be carried out are the City of Montreal in Lower Canada, as their chief place of business, and the City of Ottawa in Upper Canada." In 1871 the plant was transferred from Ottawa to Montreal, then back to the original Ottawa site in 1889. During the next 60 years the premises were enlarged or improved several times.

From the very start the British American Bank Note prospered, although the association between W. C. Smillie and G. B. Burland appears to have been an uneasy one. Smillie retired from the company in 1881, selling his stock to Burland, who thereupon became president and majority shareholder.

No sooner had Smillie resigned than he organized a competitive concern, Canada Bank Note Company. Government orders were not forthcoming, however, and his company experienced a lean time until, in 1891, it was purchased and absorbed by British American Bank Note Company. Another competitor, the Dominion Bank Note Company, had been bought out some years before.

### **The Twentieth Century**

. . . In contrast to the remarkable 1866-1897 period, the company in the early years of this century experienced a reduction in volume of business. Although 11 new banks were formed between 1901 and 1914, 25 banks went out of business or were amalgamated.



SIR JOHN A.  
MACDONALD



SIR WILFRID  
LAURIER

SIR WINSTON  
CHURCHILL →



GENERAL WOLFE

SAMUEL DE  
CHAMPLAIN



PORTRAITS  
OF  
THE  
GREAT



The Great War, however, brought tremendous orders for the engraving and printing of war and victory bonds and for long periods the plant operated day and night. The company's position improved during the boom of the 20's when orders poured in for huge quantities of bonds and stock certificates. The years of depression naturally resulted in a reduction of security orders but there was a steady demand for stamps and supplies from the Canadian Post Office Department.

The year 1934 saw two of the many beautiful commemorative stamps engraved and printed by the British American Bank Note, honored by the philatelic press. The Cartier Quadracentenary stamp, issued July 1, 1934, was selected as the best design of the year by "Gibbons Stamp Monthly." In fourth place was the handsome United Empire Loyalists issue. These two stamps, awarded such high honor in competition with the many stamps issued throughout the world in that year, attest to the design and quality of production that symbolizes the care the company gives to the manufacture of fine postage stamps.

## **The Durable Art of Engraving on Metals**

The technique of engraving on metals goes back a long way, but came of age in Germany in the Sixteenth Century with the superb work of Albrecht Durer. An engraver's traditional tool is the burin, with which he cuts a picture directly into the surface of the metal. Or he may use an etching needle to scratch lines through a protective coating on the metal, after which the protective coating is removed. The methods of engraving and etching are usually combined in bank note design.

Next, ink is rubbed or rolled onto the plate, then the surface is wiped clean, leaving ink in the incised lines. When a sheet of paper is laid on the metal plate and subjected to pressure in an intaglio press, a sharp ink impression of the picture is squeezed onto the paper.

Bank notes were once engraved on soft metals like copper. Only a limited number of impressions could be made, and these by hand. Not until Jacob Perkins, an American inventor, introduced the transfer press in 1840 was it possible to print bank notes in quantity and still retain the delicate line effects that make imitation and forgery difficult.

During long, patient apprenticeship, the engravers at British American Bank Note Company have learned to master burin and etching point as other artists do pencil and brush. Except that, instead of working on paper, canvas or copper, they must contend with the cold, unsympathetic surface of polished steel.

The portrait engraver must graduate from vignette or landscape engraving, and before then from ornaments. He is an artist and designer, too, and knows best what designs can be adapted to steel engraving. Steel is not receptive to airbrush and other pictorial treatments which may be perfectly suitable for offset or rotogravure. Instead, it has its own inimitable quality and dignity, and will give graduations from the most delicate hairline to the rich, deep tones of black and other colors.

## **How the Company Processes an Order**

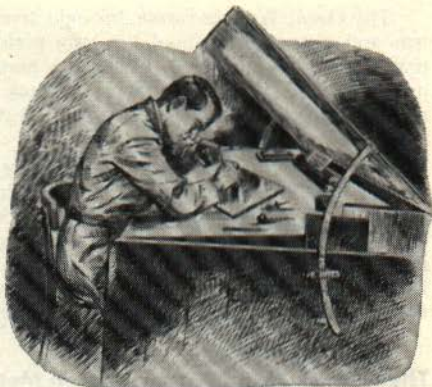
When an order for a security document reaches the British American Bank Note Company, the first step in the engraving department is to prepare a 'model' for the customer. In other kinds of printing this would be known as a lay-out, dummy or comprehensive. . . . Should the order be for a postage stamp, company artists submit large drawings together with photographic reductions to actual size.

After the customer approves the model and final art work is completed and passed, the engraving begins. A number of dies may be engraved for a single document, including the pictorial subject, the text and the title. Specialized engravers sit at their desks on a long, raised platform, under frosted glass canopies which diffuse light and eliminate side light. While engraving the polished steel die, each engraver focuses on the point of his burin through a small magnifying glass held in his free hand. A small vignette may take weeks to engrave and etch, a tiny portrait months.

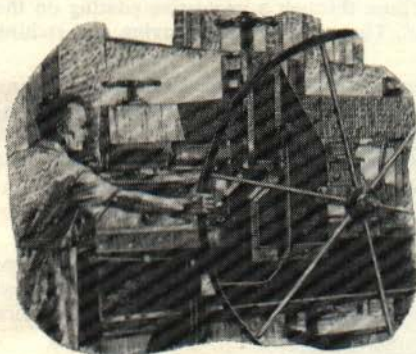
On completion, each steel die is hardened in an electric furnace and sent to the Transfer Department, in which skilled siderographers man a long line of transfer presses. In this unusual craft (there are probably no more than 50 siderographers in North America) engravings are transferred to the final printing plate. Great care, accuracy and patience are needed for the job.



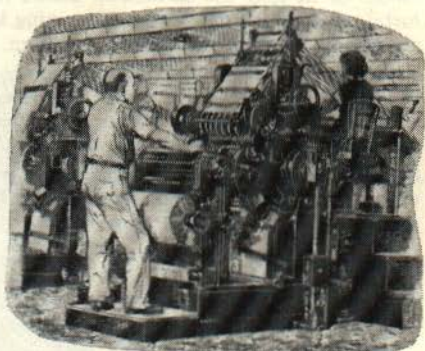
**DESIGNING**



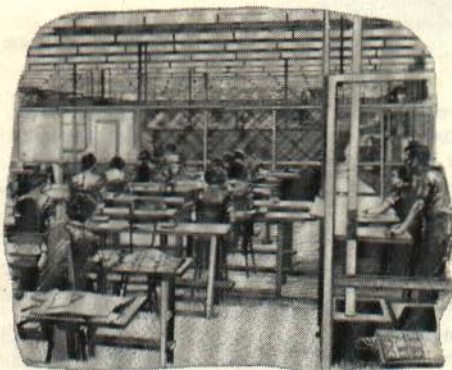
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**Basic operations in the printing of postage stamps and other security printing**

First step in the transfer process is to 'take up a roll' of the engraving. The siderographer rocks a soft steel roll back and forth in his transfer press over the hardened surface of the die. The roll, which is under a pressure of several tons, gradually sinks into the incised lines of the engraving until the design appears in sharp relief on its cylindrical surface.

Then the roll is hardened and the siderographer impresses its design onto a soft steel printing plate. Several transfer rolls may be rocked onto different areas of the plate, to build up the design shown on the original model. A separate printing plate is made for each color. The plate is then 'proven' by a printer, and this plate is carefully read and examined for the smallest imperfections. A proof is then submitted to the customer for approval.

Steel plate printing requires heavy inks of putty-like consistency which are mixed by the Ink Department to original custom-made formulas to assure permanency and uniformity of color.

After case-hardening, curving and chroming, the steel plate is affixed to the cylinder of a rotary printing press in the Printing Department. Twenty-five such machines, each under the alert eye of a master printer, were built to company specifications. They are used solely for intaglio printing of bank notes, stamps and securities. As each sheet of paper leaves the press, it is individually checked for color and printing perfection by an operator on a raised platform at the delivery end. Further quality control and security checks follow each printing order as it advances through the factory. ★

## Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



**D**R. ALLAN A. WILKINSON, BNAPS 935, Old Perlican, Newfoundland, continues to come up with odd and interesting items. This time it is a POSTAGE PAID cover of the style described as Fig. 5 in our article on the subject in the March 1956 issue of TOPICS. At that time we described our strike as the original one listed by Huber and from which he based his conclusion that this particular strike in green was used only at the outports. We doubted that conclusion as we had covers from the outports with the conventional Fig. 4 strike in carmine. Dr. Wilkinson's cover is struck in carmine and it originates in St. John's which completely disproves the statement in Huber, as well as Boggs, since it simply appears to be just another handstruck POSTAGE PAID, albeit a very scarce one as this is only the second recorded.

We've had the privilege of examining the block of six of the 25c, Scott No 197, perforated SPECIMEN that we discussed last month, and we wish to advise that the SPECIMEN is exactly the same size as the

one on the strip of four of the 6c, Scott No. 168. It is also exactly the same as the SPECIMEN perforation to be found on the strips of three and four of the 1951 air-mails, C6-C8.

Ritchie Bodily, London, England, in his advertisement in the March 29 issue of "Stamp Collecting," lists the 14c, Scott No. 194, in a superb mint imperforate pair. No mention is made whether the pair is vertical or horizontal but nevertheless this is the first indication that the stamp exists in imperforate condition; it had previously been listed as imperforate between stamp and bottom margin. The asking price for the imperforate pair is £24.

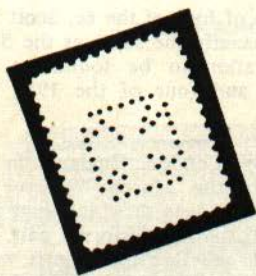
E. H. Hiscock, BNAPS 234, St. John's, Newfoundland, writes in to advise that the LATE LETTER marking on the cover submitted by Dr. Allan Wilkinson and written up in the March issue of TRAIL is definitely of Newfoundland origin. Mr. Hiscock writes that at least from 1931 until union with Canada the Post Office Department imposed

a 'Late Letter' fee of 2 cents extra on all letters mailed on board railway mail cars after outgoing mails had closed at the local post offices. Mr. Hiscock's cover with the handstamp is on one between Deer Lake and St. John's, so there is no doubt that it is a Newfoundland marking.

Before we had a chance to go to press, Dr. Allan Wilkinson sent us another outstanding item for our inspection and examination. This time it was a block of four of the 7c, Scott No. 248, with the most magnificent offset on the back that we have ever seen. This was not the usual type of offset that occurs when a sheet of stamps is placed on another sheet while the bottom sheet is still wet; this is a magnificent example of machine offset. The only logical explanation is that during the printing the plate was inked and the paper never put on the plate. When the plate passed under the roller, the full impression was transferred to the blanket, between the plate and the roller for the protection of the plate. The next time through, a sheet of paper was put on the plate and it received two impressions—the first on the face from the inked plate and the second as an offset on the back from the blanket. If there is another possible explanation, we would like to hear it.

Harmer, Rooke & Co., New York, sold some interesting lots on April 5. They had quite an assortment of the perforated gummed proofs from the sample sheet of the American Bank Note Company, and a copy of the 2c, Scott No. 24, in black, sold for \$20. Seven copies of the 13c, Scott No. 30, in different colors, sold for \$13, \$15, \$14, \$13, \$14.50, \$13 and \$15 respectively, while a trial color proof on thin semi-transparent paper, perforated 12 and gummed, of the 1c, Scott No. 32, in deep red orange, realized \$16.

Two nice Newfoundland lots were sold at Mozian's auction in New York on May 17, the first being a superb mint horizontal pair of the 2c Guy, imperforate between, Scott No. 88b, and selling for \$80. This part perforate is far scarcer than the part perforates of the one cent stamp and is the first offering we've seen of this variety in the past two or three years. The second item was an uncatalogued variety of the 1920 Provisional, Scott No. 127. It is the 2c on 30c surcharge described as 'double' with a Foundation Certificate. We had the privilege of examining this lot and there was unquestionably a doubling, but the second surcharge is much fainter than the original. In any event, the lot realized \$43.50. ★



## PERFIN *Study Group*

SECRETARY: R. J. WOOLLEY,  
359 Ellis Park Rd., Toronto 3, Ont.

EARL B. FORNEY, BNAPS 20, one of our Perfin Group committee, draws our attention to differences in the design of the BT perfin, the Bell Telephone Companies design. This has been noted previously and we were fortunate enough to have the answer ready when the problem was posed for us.

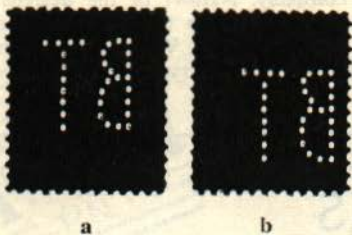
Both of the designs are illustrated and lettered 'a' and 'b' for reference purposes.

Careful comparison will note four major differences in the formation of the letters.

### Design 'a':

1. The vertical stroke of the 'T' is centered under the crossbar.
2. The top of the letter 'B' curves downward after the first hole from the vertical row.
3. The hole forming the crossbar of the 'B' is horizontally placed opposite the fourth hole down of the vertical stroke.
4. The two loops of the 'B' are curved at the crossbar.





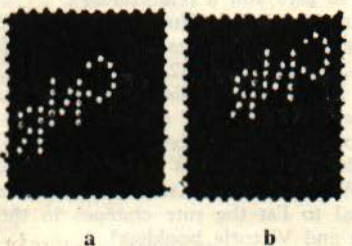
#### Design 'b':

1. The vertical stroke of the 'T' is centered slightly to the right of the centre of the crossbar.
2. The top of the letter 'B' curves down after the second hole from the vertical row.
3. The hole forming the crossbar of the 'B' is slightly lower than the fourth hole down of the vertical stroke.
4. The two loops of the 'B' are less curved where they meet the crossbar.

Design 'a' was the first machine used by the Bell Telephone Company and was a British machine made by Sloper and Company. This design will be found on the 1912 to 1926 issues. When this machine wore to the extent that it had to be replaced, the replacement was purchased from the Cummins Business Machine Co. of Chicago, who supplied a machine with the same size of letters but with the differences in formation of the letters as noted above.

Design 'b' will be found on all recent issues. The actual date of the change is not known to the writer, but collectors with BT perfin of all issues can establish the approximate date of the change by examination of their stamps. You will probably find one issue at least that comes with both types of design.

As we are on this subject, we should also mention a similar difference in C21, the CNR perfin, which was brought to our attention some time ago by Ron McMurrich, BNAPS 780.



It will be noted that letters on type 'a' are higher in relation to the preceding letter than in type 'b'.

1. 'C' on type 'a' ends opposite the second hole of the vertical stroke of the 'N'. On type 'b' it is below the second hole.
2. The second vertical stroke of the 'N' ends between the second and third hole of the 'R' on type 'a', whereas on type 'b' it ends opposite the third hole down.

Type 'a' is the earlier machine and is found on the Admiral issues, and type 'b' is the one currently in use. Although we have no definite information on the subject we believe that the reason for these minor differences in the formation or placement of the letters is the same as with the BT design—a new machine, but not necessarily by a different manufacturer. These machines have been made for over 50 years and it is reasonable to suppose that during that length of time a manufacturer would make slight changes in the way that the letters are formed. This might occur when improved methods were applied to the building of the machines, or could be for mechanical reasons.

A third design with some differences is reported by Wally Gutzman, BNAPS 1300, on the C1 design with initials CB.



#### Type 'a':

1. The letter 'C' appears narrower than type 'b'.
2. The upper loop of the 'B' is narrower than the lower.
3. The crossbar of the 'B' has only one hole.

#### Type 'b':

1. The letter 'C' appears wider than in type 'a'.
2. The two loops of the letter 'B' are the same width.
3. The crossbar of the 'B' has two holes horizontally.

Both these designs appear on the Edward VII issue. We have only a tentative

identification of the user—Cheney Bros. of the U.S.A. These machines could belong to two different users, or the difference be intentional to identify different offices of the

one company. Neither of the designs have been reported since the Edwardian period and both are scarce. We would welcome information on either type. ★

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# COOK'S BOOKS

ALFRED P. COOK, Coy Glen Road, Ithaca, N.Y.

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## No. 1

**A**T THIS POINT it might be well to consider the possibility of forming a study group for the study of Booklets and Panes of Canada and Newfoundland, similar to that formed for the study of perfin. From the material in the hands of many of our members could come a pamphlet which, if presented as ably as the Perfin Group study, could be published as another BNAPS publication arising out of the interest and co-operative efforts of its members. If all members have filled out the questionnaire which recently appeared in TOPICS, we have a list of those interested. They can be contacted in writing as to whether or not they would co-operate by using their knowledge and material to further the study group effort. Let's hear from some members on this.

By way of kicking off, here are a number of questions, notes, and observations based on my collection which might interest the booklet and pane collectors.

The first Newfoundland booklet—the one with the pink covers, containing Scott No. 131a (one pane) and No. 132a (two panes), has a variety with two back covers—a collating error.

The panes, too, have a variety which comes from the centre of the sheets from which they were torn. These sheets have a guide line cross at the top centre and left side centre in the selvege or margin. Since only five panes were torn from each sheet, the pane from the centre of each sheet carries this cross in the color of the stamp. It should be four times as scarce as the other panes, and a booklet with these panes should be four times as scarce as those without it. These should be listed as are the 'Plate' and 'No.' panes and booklets of certain Canadian issues emanating from the British American Bank Note Company.

Who has a line by line comparison of

seven different texts of Victoria booklets, or any line comparisons of this booklet, for that matter? The same goes for the Edward booklets. There are at least three different 'no date' texts, plus 1st June 1907, 1st November 1907, and two different texts of 7th July, 1908. These changes in the Edward booklets are textual and substantive; not merely of type, type setting, or editing. We shall illustrate these later.

Who has Edward hairline panes? Let's do a survey on these.

Who has Newfoundland panes with hairlines?

Can you identify the centre panes from the sheet in the comb perf Newfoundland panes? There is only one of these for every four of the 'normal' panes.

Surely there are many items in the collections of our members which could and should be written up.

Why does Holmes show two prices for several booklets, and there are some pretty big differences there, too?

Everyone interested in Canadian booklets and panes should read the articles by BNAPSer Nelson Bond. They appeared in the September 29, October 27, November 24, December 29, 1945, and January 26, March 30, April 27, May 25, June 29 and September 28, 1946 issues of "Weekly Philatelic Gossip." Not only do they go into minute detail, but they are also guaranteed to give you a real chuckle.

Our Mr. Ralph Hunter also contributed a fine series of articles in "WPG"—October 4, 11, 18 and 25, 1952.

If it is logical to list booklets with 'Post Office,' 'Postal Notes' or 'Les Mandate' and 'Recommandez,' or the rate changes on the interleaves of the first George VI issue and the War issue booklets, why is it not just as logical to list the rate changes in the Edward and Victoria booklets? ★



# Rounding Up SQUARED CIRCLES

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

## REVISED DATES FOR ONTARIO (Part Two)

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



FIG. 1. FOREST, Ont. From the W. L. Jackson collection. Lettering has been strengthened for reproduction purposes.

### Flesherton

Earliest: Mr 6, 94

### Forest

Earliest: Ja 14, 98; Latest: Ap 9, 98

(See Fig. 1)

### Formosa

Latest: My 16, 1907

The editor of this page still expects that Formosa will be found as a true Type 2. The few known copies are of sub-type 7.

### Fort William West (discovered since the handbook appeared).

Earliest: Ju 11, 94; Latest: Ja 30, 97

### Galt

Earliest: Au 23, 93; Latest: Jy 5, 95

### Georgetown (Sub-type 3)

Latest: Mr 10, 03

### Glamis (Sub-type 2)

Latest: Mr 20, 03

### Glencoe

Earliest: Au 1, 93; Latest: Fe 7, 98

### Goderich

Earliest: Fe 7, 94; Latest: Ap 6, 05

### Gore Bay

Earliest: Ap 7, 95; Latest: Au 22, 1927

### Grafton

Earliest: De 8, 94; Latest: Jy 20, 98

### Gravenhurst

Earliest: Oc 11, 93

### Guelph

Earliest: Sp 22, 93; Latest: Fe 25, 99

### Hagersville

Earliest: Ja 28, 95; Latest: My 2, 98

### Hamilton

Earliest: My 7, 94; Latest: Ju 12, 1914  
Above the date: Numbers 8 to 24 inclusive.  
Some of these are rare.  
R.F.: 15

### Harriston

Earliest: Sp 12, 93

### Hawkesbury

Earliest: Fe 12, 94

R.F.: 25

### Humberstone

Earliest: Oc 13, 94; Latest: Mr 28, 98

R.F.: 40

### Huntsville

Earliest: Fe 15, 94

### Ingersoll

Au 26, 93; Latest: My 13, 98

### International Bridge

Earliest: Au 31, 93; Latest: Fe 7, 95

Early strikes in purple.

R.F.: 40

### Iroquois

Earliest: My 16, 94; Latest: Oc 11, 00

### Kincardine

Latest: Ap 6, 99

R.F.: 30-40

### Kingston

First Hammer—Latest: De 23, 93

R.F.: 25

Second Hammer—Earliest: Ja 5, 94; Latest: Ju 28, 99

### Lakefield

Earliest: No 24, 94; Latest: Ju 12, 04

Above the date: 1, 2

### Lanark

Earliest: Fe 12, 94; Latest: De 8, 99

### Leamington

Latest: Au 13, 99

### Lindsay

Latest: Ap 29, 05

Above the date: AM, PM; also 1, 2, 3, 4; also blank

### Listowel

Earliest: Jy 9, 93; Latest: Ap 2, 00

The date is generally in three lines, but two-line dates are known.

### Little Current

Earliest: Jy 6, 94; Latest: Jy 24, 00

R.F.: 25-30

### London

Earliest: Fe 5, 95; Latest: Still in use on certain types of airmail.

Above the date: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18; also AM, PM; also blank.

Sub-type 3.

NOTE: London also used a Type 1 hammer.

### L'Original

Earliest: Ap 26, 94; Latest: Oc 1, 01

Postmaster: Wm. Wright. Pop., 4,500.

### Lucknow

Earliest: Au 23, 95; Latest: Sp 5, 00



FIG. 2. The newly-found strike of MISSION CITY, B.C. The rather faint marking has been strengthened somewhat. From collection Lewis M. Ludlow.

### Another Squared Circle Town Discovered

By Lewis M. Ludlow (BNAPS 1465)

It is a pleasure to report that a new town can now be added to those eagerly being sought for by squared circle devotees—namely MISSION CITY, B.C. The writer, a neophyte to squared circles, was avidly canvassing philatelic outlets in the San Francisco area, merely acquiring and identifying later, and in the accumulation observed the 'B.C.' cancellation on a 3 cent cut-square of the 1888-91. Having used the handbook as a bible, and not finding it there, chagrin was the reaction. However, with a good glass and an atlas, elation took over. Dr. Whitehead's verification made it complete. The squared circle cancellation is a true Type Two, Mission City, B.C., dated Sp 2, '93; no indicia above the date.

### Still Another 'Clifton, N.B.'

The editor of this page is able to report the acquisition of a second cover with Clifton, N.B., this time franked by the 3 cent Small Queen. It is dated Sp 28, 97. This late date (the other known copies all show a blurred year '93', which could be '95') is rather surprising in view of the extreme rarity of the cancellation. The score now stands at two copies on covers, and two partial strikes not on cover.

The clever paragraph on PETITCODIAC in TOPICS for May (p. 130) was by W. M. Wilcock, BNAPS 995, and the cover illustrated is from his fine collection. Our apologies for the absence of his name in this connection.

### Quiz No. 1

1. What is the earliest known squared circle, Type One?  
What is the earliest known squared circle, Type Two?
2. What is the full lettering on the three squared circle R.P.O.'s?
3. What towns used TWO squared circle hammers, Type Two?

(For answers, see page 191)

### Another Deletion From the Handbook

Several keen collectors have been examining the copy listed in the handbook as METCALF, Ont. The only visible portion of the town name on this partial strike was the letters '...ALF'. It is now considered certain that this should be regarded as an impression of MARKDALE, with the final 'E' incomplete, although very sharply struck. Accordingly, collectors should delete Metcalf, Ont., from the handbook and from their want lists.

### Another Doubtful Town (Type One)

Collectors have become doubtful of COLEMAN, Ont., Type One, listed in the handbook from Boggs' list of Type One in his Vol. I, p. 625. Does anyone know of an impression of Coleman? The writer has already recorded his conviction that two other towns of Type One—Montreal, Que., and Springhill Mines, N.S.—do not exist.

### Are You Eligible for the Roster?

If so, read the following carefully.

The following questions have been sent to me. Appended to each is my answer.

- Q. Where a town used two or more hammers, do these count as two or more in the total?
- A. NO. Of course, this opinion is open to debate, and I should like to hear from advanced collectors on this matter. The basic idea of the Roster is that the count should be for DIFFERENT TOWNS. I do think, however, that the separate listings in the handbook of BLEEKER St. and BLEEKER St. imply counting them as two.
- Q. What about SCHREIBER (a), (b), and NANAIMO (a), (b)—does the 'broken circle' (b) for each of these count as a separate cancel?
- A. Yes, I think this is reasonable, as the (a) and (b) states are so different in appearance. (This will increase the total given in TOPICS, Feb. '57.) Other 'states,' as in ALMA, WINGHAM,

QUE & CAMP MC LOCAL No. 20, should not be counted separately.

- Q. Is a backstamp on cover acceptable when the collector has no other example?
- A. YES. A case in point is PARIS STATION, Ont., almost unattainable as a cancellation, and very rare as a backstamp.
- Q. Is a 'cut-out' acceptable; that is, a strike not on a stamp and cut from a cover?
- A. YES. At least two towns are represented in my collection solely by cut-outs. I know that other advanced collectors regard such as collectible items.

#### To all Roster Applicants:

Those collectors who have sent me earlier applications in writing are asked to complete the ROSTER FORM (See TOPICS for May) and forward to me at once. To do so will greatly facilitate the project and will lead to a more reliable count and analysis of results. Sign and date your 'missing' list and BE SURE TO INCLUDE IT.

#### Notes on Indicia

Most collectors of squared circles are greatly interested (as they should be) in that part of the indicia found above the date, in the case of some towns. Frequent questions reach me dealing with this matter. A recent one is this:

Are these known: Brockville, AM; Athens, PM; Bowmanville, AM; North Bay, AM; Prescott, AM; Sarnia, AM, PM (both); Moose Jaw, AM; Calgary, AM?

This, from a collector of squared circles on 3c Small Queens only, sent me to my albums, where I found the following:

Sarnia: AM, PM, but on 1899 and 1900 copies only. The sole AM copy was dated Oc 31, '99.

Calgary: AM—Mr 21, '99; Fe 21, '00.

I drew a blank with the remainder of the above list. Perhaps others can give us information.

There is much variability in indicia, not only in comparing this town with that, but also in the case of the same town. Take PRESCOTT, for instance. In August 1893, blank above the date; 1894, PM (I did not find AM); later strikes, blank again. Why these vacillations? Whim? Caprice? Regulations? In my experience CHARLOTTETOWN shows the greatest variability of any squared circle town—AM, PM, Blank, 1, 2, with shuttlings back and forth; and then the rare 3, and the extremely rare 5! (Why is 4 not found here? Are these numbers

CLERKS, or as more and more collectors seem to think, Time Marks?) I shall attempt to deal with Charlottetown very soon. I may not be able to answer the above questions, but I hope to be able to improve upon the chronology given in the handbook.

I might here point out that AM seems to be quite rare in some towns. In a very big lot of ST. JOHN, N.B., I have few with AM.

#### Sunday Dates

Sunday dates are being sought for by some collectors. They are eagerly looked for in Europe. Sunday dates are common for HALIFAX, N.S.; not rare for WINNIPEG, BELLEVILLE, and some other towns. Why should they be so rare in certain other cases? I have found only two, after much search, for ST. JOHN!

#### The Present Worldwide Interest in Cancellations

The new president of the R.P.S., London, W. Ewart Gerrish, O.B.E., read a paper at the recent annual Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, which readers of this page are advised to secure when it becomes available. It was entitled "Today and the Next Decade—Will Cancellations Lead Collecting?" and was followed by a very lively discussion. This was reported in "Stamp Collecting" of May 24, just to hand as I write. ★



Shown here are the two U.P.U. stamps to be issued on August 14, to commemorate the 14th Congress of the Universal Postal Union. The Congress will be held in Ottawa commencing on the day of issue of these stamps. Both denominations will be printed in blue.



# OFFICIAL SECTION

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MONTHLY REPORT . . .

## From the Secretary

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

June 15, 1957.

### NEW MEMBERS

- 1479 Atkinson, Joseph C., 3130 Caverna Drive, Bakersfield, California  
1480 Kuhn, William S., 15815 Alta Vista Way, San Jose 27, California  
1481 Nicholson, Eric Anthony, Temple Hill Officers Mess, R.A.F., Changi, Singapore 17  
1482 Pilling, Henry N., 1125 Rock Creek Rd., Gladwyne, Pennsylvania  
1484 Wilsdon, Jack, 135 Hyde Park Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario

### LIFE MEMBER

- L117 Nouss, Henry O., P.O. Box 1056, Pompano Beach, Florida

### REPLACED ON ROLLS

- 432 Gabbitas, A., 56 Blair Athol, Banner Cros, Sheffield 11, England

### APPLICATIONS PENDING

Dozier, R. L., 1102-20th Street, Huntington, West Virginia  
Shave, Alec A., 6466 Sterling, Detroit 2, Michigan  
Stanway, G. Edward, 11 Shelley Avenue, Valhalla, New York  
Wright, G. B., E2 Norris Crescent, Toronto 14, Ont.

### APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

- Carter, Fred, 2055 E. 34th Avenue, Vancouver 16, B.C. (C) CAN—20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Plate blocks. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint booklet panes and complete booklets. Precancels. Mint and used airmails. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37; seconded by H. A. MacMaster No. 484.  
Clem, Lt. Col. Wesley A., 19882 Times Ave., Hayward, Calif. (CX) CAN, NFD—Postal stationery entireties. SPECIALTY: 19th and early 20th century pictorial covers. Proposed by E. A. Richardson, No. 168.  
Eley, John Henry, 365 Howard Ave., Nanaimo, B.C. (C) CAN, NFD—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Coils. Mint and used airmails. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37.  
Kalinowski, Victor W., Rt. 3, Box 701, Albany, Oregon (CX) CAN, NFD—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. First day and first flight covers. Plate blocks. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint and used airmails. Proposed by J. Levine, No. 1.  
Moore, Ralph R., 180 Prospect Street, East Orange, N.J. (CX) CAN, N.B., N.S., P.E.I.—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Plate blocks. Coils OHMS-G Complete booklets, Mint, used and semi-official airmails and on cover Literature. Proposed by D. C. Meyerson, No. 3.  
Veale, Kenneth B., Box 206, Winnipeg, Man. (CX) Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37; seconded by H. G. Walburn, No. 243.  
Weeks, Spencer, 407 University Avenue S.E., Minneapolis, Minn. (CX) BNA general. Revenues. SPECIALTY: Postal cards and advertising cards. Proposed by J. C. Cornelius, No. 1401; seconded by J. L. Norbeck, No. 71.

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

(Changes of address should be sent directly to the Secretary)

- 1462 Busteed, Frank F., M.D., Providence Hospital, 17th and E. Jefferson Sts., Seattle 22, Wash. (from Calif.)  
1000 Cassels, Stewart G., 275 Dawlish Ave., Toronto 12, Ont.  
569 Fhy, Joseph E., 1109 South White Ave., Compton 1, Calif.  
666 Hodder, Rev. Morley F., 45 Long Pond Rd., St. John's, Nfld. (from Scotland) (till 9/1). Boston U. School of Theology, 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, Mass. (from 9/1).  
421 Lawson, James W., 101-1826 Nelson St., Vancouver 5, B.C.  
802 Weiland, Henry, 4927 Draper Ave., Montreal 29, Que. (from Stoney Creek, Ont.)

### RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED

Duncan, George

Fox, W. Norman

Whiting, Mrs. E. W.

### MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, May 15, 1957 .....	943
NEW MEMBERS, June 15, 1957 .....	6
REPLACED ON ROLLS, June 15, 1957 .....	1
	950
RESIGNATIONS, June 15, 1957 .....	3
	3
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, June 15, 1957 .....	947

### OFFICIAL NOTICE NOMINATIONS

For **BOARD OF GOVERNORS:**

**James T. Culhane**, Norristown, Pennsylvania  
**Leslie A. Davenport**, Toronto, Ontario  
**Clifford R. Schuman**, New York, New York

By: Nominating Committee: Messrs. deVolpi (chairman), Fairbanks, Kemp.

Not hearing to the contrary by September 15, 1957, the Secretary will cause the above names to be entered on the Official Ballot for the election of three (3) members to the Board of Governors for the term of 1958-1960.

JACK LEVINE, Secretary.

## Geo. E. Foster

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## Answers to Squared Circle Quiz

(See page 188)

1. Brockville, Ont., April 28, '93.  
Belleville, Ont., June 15, '93.
2. QUE & CAMP MC LOCAL No. 5  
QUE & CAMP MC LOCAL No. 20  
NAPINKA & WINNIPEG MC No. 1  
NAPINKA & WINNIPEG MC No. 2  
SOURIS & WINNIPEG MC No. 1  
SOURIS & WINNIPEG MC No. 2
3. Halifax, N.S.; Hull, Que.; Montreal, Que.; Kingston, Ont.; Markdale, Ont.

### TOPICS WANTED

The CPS of G.B. Library needs the following back numbers of BNA Topics:

Vol. I—Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5. Vol. II—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8. Vol. III—Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10. Vol. IV—Nos. 1, 4, 5.

If you can help, write G. P. Lewis, Editor.

## COVERS

CANCELS — ILLUSTRATED

## Jack's Stamp Farm

Route 6, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada

## CANADA

O.H.M.S.-G PLATE BLOCKS

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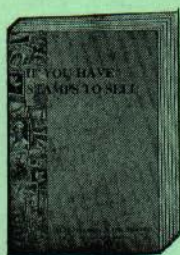
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