

BNA Topics

APRIL 1958

▲ Official Journal
of the
British North America
Philatelic Society



In this issue:

- Duplex of the Maritime Provinces
- Gum Variations in the Admirals

Mail being put aboard plane
for Estevan-Winnipeg flight of
October 1, 1924—the first air-
mail from Saskatchewan. ▶
See Page 97.

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 4
Whole Number 156

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BNA Topics

Official Journal of the
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Articles

DUPLEX OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES	85
By E. A. Smythies	
DETERMINING THE 'DAY' ON CANCELLATIONS	92
By F/L J. J. Charron	
'STRAND OF HAIR' AND RE-ENTRY	
VARIETIES ON THE 1c SMALL QUEEN	92
By S. Lukow	
GUM VARIATIONS IN THE ADMIRALS	94
By Hans Reiche	

Regular Features

REVENUE GROUP NEWS	91
TRAIL OF THE CARIBOU	93
ROUNDING UP SQUARED CIRCLES	95
NOTES ON CANADIAN AIRMAILS	97
THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG	99
REVIEWS, TRADE NEWS, AUCTIONS	101
OFFICIAL SECTION	103
THE LAST WORD	108

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The Letters

From Mr. Colin MacR. Makepeace, adviser to Mrs. Harriet A. Chaffin, a letter of congratulation, particularly noting:

- The matter was handled with care and dispatch
- They brought much more than they would have had the catalogue been prepared by a less experienced authority
- The total realization from the sale of the collection was substantially in excess of all estimates and this also was very pleasing.

From Mr. J. A. Calder, also comes a letter of congratulation. Again it will be noted that emphasis is made of:

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February 18, 1958

Mr. Bernard Harmer
5 West 48th Street
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Dear Mr. Harmer:

I want to express the appreciation of Mrs. Clafin and myself for the way you handled the disposition of the collection of stamps of Great Britain and the Colonies for us in your recent auction sale. The matter was handled with care and dispatch. I was particularly impressed with the arrangement of the stamps in lots and I am sure, as you arranged them, they brought much more than they would have had the catalogue been prepared by a less experienced authority.

The total realization from the sale of the collection was substantially in excess of all estimates and this also was very pleasing.

Thanking you again on behalf of Mrs. Clafin and myself, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Colin MacR. Makepeace

February 8th, 1958
Ottawa, Ont.

Mr. B. D. Harmer,
H. R. Harmer, Inc.,
6 West 48th Street,
New York, N. Y., U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Harmer:

I have received the results of the sale of my father's New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, etc. which were auctioned on February 3rd. The price realized is considerably over the amount I had estimated and I greatly appreciate the effort you have taken with this material. It naturally helped a great deal to have it in the same catalogue as the "old time" "Clafin" collection.

In checking over the material I can see why it would go better at auction in comparison with a Private Treaty sale.

Again many thanks for your excellent lotting, descriptions, photos, etc., which were responsible for the good prices.

Yours very truly,

J. A. Calder

E. A. SMYTHIES, FRPSL (BNAPS 1440)

Duplex of the Maritime Provinces 1867-1902

Introduction

WHEN the decision to introduce duplex hammers into the post offices of Canada was first made, and a requisition for these hammers sent to Berri of London in 1860, the Maritime Provinces were not yet federated, and had their own stamps and postal arrangements. Hence no arrangements for duplex hammers were made for them, and even such important towns as Halifax and St. John, N.B., were not included in the requisition. The use of duplex in these provinces was delayed for some years, and it was not until October 1867 that the first duplex was brought into use, in Halifax, while St. John, N.B., struggled on without duplex until 1881.

Whether due to this poor start or to the absence of many large towns, the use of duplex has never been very popular or widespread in the Maritime Provinces, and up to 1899 the number of duplex recorded to date show St. John, N.B. (11), Halifax (8), New Glasgow (3), and eight (possibly nine) other towns with one each—a meagre total of 30 in 33 years! However, after the close of the squared circles in or about 1900, the use of duplex expanded somewhat, and by 1902 15 more towns are recorded, each with one duplex hammer, bringing up the total to 45. (Doubtless there are more which have not yet come to light.) But what they lack in numbers, they make up in unusual and interesting varieties, as there are six or eight duplex types known in the Maritime Provinces which were not used elsewhere.

Halifax

The first duplex of Halifax [II.H.14(h)] had a small dater 20 mm. diam. with indicia letter 'A', and a large oval killer 28x20mm. with the letter 'H' in 11 thick horizontal bars (Fig. 1). It was illustrated by Jarrett (1028, but not to scale), who mentioned two sizes of 'H', i.e. 7 mm. and 8 mm., indicating two hammers.

A more obvious distinction between the two hammers is that the later hammer had a larger dater, 25 mm. diam., with indicia number 2, and was still in use in Aug. 1877. The earlier hammer is found on the stamps of Nova Scotia as well as on the Large and Small Cents issues of Canada. These hammers of the first Halifax duplex, usually showing blurred and fluffy strikes, were probably made locally, and show lack of skill in their manufacture. A clearcut strike is rare. I believe there may have been a separate killer (not a duplex) of this 'H' pattern which gave these clear strikes, as I have seen two such strikes which apparently had no dater attached.

In 1877 we find a change of type (II.B), the dater 24½ mm. with letters 'N.S.' and indicia 1-4, the killer oval, 28x23½ mm. with 11 unbroken horizontal bars (Fig. 2). In 1879 there was a further change, the dater smaller, 23 mm., with 'CANADA' instead of 'N.S.', the killer also smaller, 27x22 mm. Specimens of both these occur in the large Proof Book in the Philatelic Foundation (PF Book for short).

In 1881 Halifax adopted yet another

original type of duplex (II.H.14) with the words 'HALIFAX/N.S.' between 14 thin bars in the oval killer, and indicia numbers 1-5 in the dater (Fig. 3). This continued in use for many years, until 1890 at least, and is probably the most common of the Halifax duplex of abnormal type. It is the last Halifax duplex to be recorded in the P.F. Book (in 1881 and 1887).

Three more Halifax duplex of standard (II.A) type remain to be mentioned briefly: (i) 1887-1892. With 10 medium bars in the circular killer, and indicia numbers 1-4 in the large dater 26 mm. diam.; (ii) 1893-1900. With nine thick bars in the killer, and indicia numbers 1-4 in the medium dater 25 mm.; (iii) From 1901, nine thick bars in the small killer 21½ mm. and high numbers 12-20 in the small dater 23 mm. (similar to Figs. 10 and 11).

St. John, N.B.

As mentioned earlier, duplex did not start in St. John, N.B., until 1881. The duplex hammers used in this town between 1881 and 1896 are exceptionally well recorded in the P.F. Book, where we find no less than 18 impressions to cover nine different duplex, evidently covering repeat orders for some of them—in fact, the duplex illustrated in Fig. 6 was issued three times, in 1886, 1889 and 1891.

The earliest duplex, 1881-89, had daters of type II, with the word 'CANADA' and indicia 'AM/PM', and circular killers with 12, 13, 14 or 15 thin horizontal bars (Fig. 4). Overlapping these in time we find duplex with oval killers of quite a different type, with the number '1' inside a small circle enclosed in nine, 10 or 11 thick bars (Fig. 5), which came into use in 1885 and continued until 1894 or later. A third type of duplex also came into use from 1886, the killer having 'No. 1' enclosed in 14 or 15 medium horizontal bars (Fig. 6) and continued until 1896. It will be seen from these data that St. John, N.B., had a quite astonishing number of different duplex types and hammers in simultaneous use between 1886 and 1894.

Finally in 1899-1902, St. John, N.B., had two duplex of the standard pattern of this period (II.A.9 with thick bars, like Figs. 10 and 11), in 1899 with 'AM/PM' and large killer 24 mm., in 1901 with high numbers 10-24 and small killer 21½ mm. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that all indicia numbers—low and high—mentioned above are time-marks, and have no reference to clerks.

New Glasgow, N.S.

This town had a duplex even earlier than St. John, N.B., in 1876 of the standard early type I.A.13 (Fig. 7), which is not infrequently found struck in blue. This town was very conservative in its tastes, since it kept this type, with one minor change, until 1900, a record period of 24 years! The earlier variety had indicia 'AM/PM', the later variety showed blank indicia, a singular reversal of the usual custom! It was not until 1901 that New Glasgow abandoned the old fashioned dater type I and adopted type II with complete outer circle.

Rare Types of Duplex

I must now record a very unusual occurrence. In or about 1881-82 three small towns in New Brunswick—Chatham, Dorchester and Moncton—which had never had duplex before and, as far as I know, never had them again, simultaneously (or nearly so) started to use duplex of a very peculiar pattern. In each case, the dater was the rare type III with no outer line, and the killer the abnormal type B oval with 10 unbroken horizontal bars (Fig. 8). There is no record of these peculiar duplex in the P.F. Book, and their origin is a mystery.

Two more mysterious duplex must be recorded, one of which is however doubtful. St. Andrews, N.B., in 1882 was using a duplex of not uncommon type (II.H.9), the oval killer with nine thick horizontal bars enclosing a small circle. This pattern was also used in Toronto, St. John, N.B., and elsewhere, with a numeral inside the small circle. The peculiarity of the St. Andrews killer is that the circle is blank (Fig. 9), the number which should have been inserted was apparently forgotten! My copy of this unusual duplex was very kindly presented by Dr. Whitehead.

The second mysterious duplex, of which only one strike is known at present and which may not be a duplex at all, comes from Weldford, N.B., a small office which has now disappeared from the list of Canadian post offices. The dater is type I with partial outer circle (and date 1894) and no indicia. The oval killer is **unique** in having 11 vertical bars, i.e., type I.E. (No other killer of this type E is known in duplex.) See Fig. 12. It is possible that these were two independent strikes of a dater and killer which happened to fall close together in approximately the right position. It is hoped that the illustration of this peculiar strike may produce further evidence.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 10



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 11



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 12



One wonders what further surprises the Maritime Provinces may have in store for us!

Mid-period Duplex

Up to the introduction of the squared circles in 1893, only four other towns are so far reported, i.e. Charlottetown, P.E.I., Fredericton, N.B., Sackville, N.B., and St. Stephen, N.B., each with one duplex which were recorded in the P.F. Book as follows: Charlottetown and Fredericton, II.A.9 in 1887; Sackville, II.A.9 in 1885, and St. Stephen, II.A.12 in 1884 (Figs. 10 and 11). These were apparently brought into use again in 1899-1900 after the squared circle cancels had been given up. Indicia are either 'AM/PM' or blank.

Final Period Duplex

After the squared circle period, there was a comparatively widespread adoption of duplex in the Maritime Provinces, and no less than 15 towns are recorded using duplex, all of the standard II.A.9 pattern, but differing in size (Figs. 10 and 11). In addition, Charlottetown had a second duplex with 11 horizontal bars. Details of these, and of all other duplex of the Maritime Provinces recorded to date, are given in the table forming the appendix to this article.

It is hoped that the publication of this article may stimulate readers to examine duplex cancellations in their collections, and look for, and record, any new varieties, of which there are probably an appreciable number. It is only by such co-operation on a wide basis that our knowledge of the duplex of the Maritime Provinces can be increased.

Postscript

Since the above article on Duplex of the Maritime Provinces was written, two more interesting duplex strikes have come to light.

(i) Members Frank Campbell (No. 143) and Willcock (No. 95) have reported the use of the well known Stellarton Star (Jarrett 977) as a duplex combined with a dater as illustrated.¹ This combination was in use for about 12 months from November 1888, and different strikes show appreciable relative movement between the star and the dater. It was probably improvised by the local postmaster from implements in stock. Early strikes of the star show a fine grille which soon wore away. This suggests it



was made of wood, as cork would not have lasted a year, and if metal, the grille would have lasted longer.



(ii) Member Frank Campbell has also reported a very early duplex of St. John, N.B. as illustrated. The dater is of the rare type with two broken rings, and the date is 11 years earlier than the earliest duplex of this town previously known. Possibly this also was an improvised duplex made locally from material in stock. ★

Special Stamp Will Honor British Columbia Centennial

A special centennial postage stamp honoring British Columbia will be issued in May, and first day covers will be available at the 30th annual convention of the Canadian Philatelic Society (VICPEX) which will be held in Victoria, B.C., May 9-11.

Those interested in first day covers of the special stamp as well as VICPEX event covers, should write to Box 771, Victoria, B.C. Covers will be 15 cents each serviced at VICPEX, or 10 cents each plain un-serviced. Striking and distinctive cachets have been designed for these covers making them worthwhile souvenirs of an interesting event.

VICPEX poster seals or stickers have been designed bearing a reproduction of British Columbia's first postmark. These will be printed in sheets of six and will cost 25 cents for two sheets. A letter or card to "Seals," Box 771, Victoria, B.C., will be sufficient when ordering VICPEX poster stamps. Cheques and money orders for stickers, covers and exhibition entry fees must be made payable to VICPEX. ★

¹ See also TOPICS for February 1958, p. 48.

APPENDIX

DUPLIX OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES 1867-1902

Serial No.	Approx. Dates	Details of dater & letters	Indicia	Details of Killer	Illus. No.	Remarks
I. HALIFAX, N.S.						
1.	1867-75	mm. II 20 (blank)	A	Oval, 28 x 20 mm. Letter H enclosed in 11 thick bars.	1	
2.	1875-77	II 25 (blank)	2.3.	As above	1	Larger Dater
3.	1877-79	II 24 1/2 N.S.	2.3.	Oval, 28 x 23 1/2 mm. B type 11 thick bars.	2	In P.F. Book
4.	1879-81	II 23 CANADA	2.3.	As above, but 27 x 22 mm.	2	" " "
5.	1881-89	II 23 CANADA	1-5	Oval, 25 x 17 mm. H type HALIFAX, N.S. enclosed in 14 thin bars.	3	" " "
6.	1887-92	II 26 CANADA	1-4	Circular, 25 mm. A type 10 medium bars.	10	
7.	1893-1900	II 25 CANADA	2-4	As above, but 9 thick bars.	10	
8.	1901	II 23 CANADA	12-20	As above, but 21 1/2 mm.	11	Small Killer

II. ST. JOHN, N.B.

1.	1881-83	II CANADA	AM PM or low numbers	Circular, 13 thin bars	4	In P.F. Book
2.	1882-99	"	" "	As above, but 14 thin bars	4	" " "
3.	1882	"	" "	As above, but 15 thin bars	4	" " "
4.	1889	"	" "	As above, but 12 thin bars	4	" " "
5.	1885-90	"	" "	Oval, 31 x 18 mm. 9 thick bars enclosing 1	5	" " "
6.	1885-94	"	" "	As above, but 10 bars	5	" " "
7.	1889	"	" "	As above, but 11 bars, 28 x 20	5	" " "
8.	1886-91	"	" "	Oval, 27 x 20 mm. 14 medium bars enclosing 1	6	" " "
9.	1886-96	"	" "	As above, but 15 bars	6	" " "
10.	1899	"	AM PM	Circular, 24 mm. 9 thick bars	10	
11.	1901-02	"	High numbers	As above, but 21 1/2 mm.	11	

III. NEW GLASGOW, N.S.

1.	1876-	I 23 N.S.	AM PM	Circular 22 mm. diam. 13 thin bars	7	Sometimes found in blue
2.	1892-99	As above.	(blank)	As above	7	
3.	1901-	II 24 N.S.	(blank)	Circular 24 mm. 9 thick bars	10	

IV. CHATHAM, N.B. V. DORCHESTER, N.B. VI. MONCTON, N.B.

1.	1881-85	III 23 (no outer line) N.B.	(blank)	Oval, B type, 10 thick bars Chatham 28 x 18 mm. Dorchester 24 x 18 mm. Moncton 22 x 19 mm.	8	Rare type
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APPENDIX (Continued)

Serial No.	Approx. dates	Details of dater & letters	Indicia	Details of killer.	Illus. No.	Remarks
VII. ST. ANDREWS, N.B.						
1.	1882	II ^{mm.} 24 N.B.	(blank)	Oval, 27 x 17 mm. 9 thick bars enclosing small circle, which is blank.	9	Rare type
VIII. WELDFORD, N.B. (doubtful)						
	1894	I 20 N.S.	(blank)	Oval, E type 23 x 17 mm.	12	Doubtful type.
IX. CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. X. FREDERICTON, N.B.						
XI. SACKVILLE, N.B. XII. ST. STEPHEN, N.B.						
1.	1884-87	II 24 or 25	AM PM or Blank.	Circular, 24 or 25 mm. 9 thick bars. (St. Stephen has 12 bars.)	10	
XIII. AMHERST, N.S. XIV. ANNAPOLIS N.S.						
XV. CAMPBELLTON, N.S. XVI. GLACE BAY, N.S.						
XVII. KENTVILLE, N.S. XVIII. NEWCASTLE, N.B.						
XIX. NORTH SYDNEY, N.S. XX. PARRSBORO, N.S.						
XXI. PICTOU, N.S. XXII. SACKVILLE, N.B. XXIII. ST. STEPHEN, N.B.						
XXIV. SUMMERSIDE, P.E.I. XXV. SYDNEY, N.S.						
XXVI. YARMOUTH, N.S.						
1.	1900-02	II 22 to 26 N.B., N.S. P.E.I.	AM PM Blank or Number	Circular, 23 or 25 mm. 9 thick bars.	10 and 11	

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REVENUE GROUP

News

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

\$2 Quebec Licenses. Since my inquiry about this stamp in the November issue of TOPICS, I have had a number of BNAPSers write in to agree that this stamp DOES NOT exist in the so-called gray shade, Holmes QL12, Marks Q122. Most everyone seems to agree that the error probably was started when the distinct 'gray-brown' shade was listed. This is generally considered to be just one of the many 'brown shades.' This gray-brown however is scarce, as most copies of this stamp seem to be in the brown or deep brown shades. This gray-brown is not a pale brown shade; it distinctly has a touch of black mixed with the brown ink.

Current Cape Breton Law Stamps. In the January issue of this column we called attention to the 50c green Cape Breton Island Law Stamp. Since then we have secured copies of the 25c value. It is of exactly the same design as the 50c denomination, except for the figures of value. It is in light carmine. According to W. S. Ingraham (BNAPS 1220) of North Sydney, Nova Scotia, this issue first appeared in 1957.

Manitoba Search Fee. There are two issues of this as listed in Holmes' catalogue, page 292. The one illustrated therein is the earlier issue, 1947, which comes in deep red. The 1950 issue coming in light red has a different type setting. While there are many differences, the easiest test to determine which issue you have, other than the color, is in the words PROVINCIAL/SECRETARY. The type in the early issue is much taller than in the second issue. Each line of type is approximately 1 3/4 mm. high, and the overall measurement of the two lines is 4 mm. high. In the 1950 issue each line of type is only slightly more than 1 mm. high, and the overall height of the two lines is just under 3 1/2 mm.

Consular Fee Stamps. Since our last inquiry about these stamps, we now know of about six collectors, all BNAPSers, who own all or some of the 25c, 50c, \$1 and \$2

values. These appear to be unusually scarce for stamps as recently issued as these! But if these are scarce, what about the \$5 value? **Not one has so far been located!**

The 'Sample' Overprint. Way back in August 1947 issue of BNA TOPICS I wrote a short article on this 'Sample' overprint on certain revenue stamps. Those which I illustrated were on the first provisional issue of War Tax stamps. Some time ago Phil Little (BNAPS 1224) wrote that he also has these with the 'sample' overprint, but in addition, had the second provisional issue so overprinted. We also know that certain denominations of the regular War Tax issue are known with this overprint, and have reason to believe that some of the early Excise issues were so overprinted. We would be happy to hear from anyone having examples of these.

These are not cancellations, neither are they, as was suggested by one contemporary, a special marking for stamps to be put on samples! They are exactly the same as SPECIMEN stamps, the word 'sample' having the same meaning in this instance. This writer has more than a hundred examples of various TAX PAIDS bearing this overprint, some on imperforate proof items, most of which were obtained from official sources. They should be classed, as are specimens, as proofs.

Saskatoon Inspection Stamps. These are indeed scarce. Based on the fact that there are probably not more than **fifteen** complete sets in existence, perhaps we should say they are rare! The toughest item to find is the 25c red of the 1927 issue. The next two in scarcity are the 50c 1913 and the 50c 1927. The 25c of 1911 and the \$1 of 1927 seem to be easier to find, but the 'reversed leaf' variety of the 25c 1911, being found in only one-fourth of the copies, is quite scarce. In spite of their being city government issues, the demand for them seems to be almost as great as for provincial issues. ★

Determining the DAY on Cancellations

FOR SOME YEARS I have been writing up my collection of dated Canadian stamps. It often intrigued me to know on what DAY of the week the cancellation took place, knowing the date, month and the year of the cancellation.

Not possessing any 19th or early 20th century calendars, a mathematical means of determining the day must be used. In seeking a solution, a few problems had to be contended with: (a) distinguishing between normal and leap years, and (b) the irregular number of days in each month throughout the year. However, we do have a starting base for our calculations. First, every four years we have a leap year, and, secondly, the weeks are constant, i.e. seven days each.

Thanks to some ingenious person, a list of 'Month Factors' has been tabulated and we have the following method by which may be ascertained the DAY of the week in any given year during a widely extended period of time. To find the DAY of the week on which fell Dec. 7, 1941 (Pearl Harbor) we proceed thusly:

1. To the last two digits of the year, add $\frac{1}{4}$, i.e., $41+10$ (dropping the remainder) 51
2. Month Factor for December 6

MONTH FACTORS	
Apr.-Jul.=0	<i>If leap year</i>
Jan.-Oct.=1	Jan.=0
May=2	Feb.=3
Aug.=3	
Feb.-Mar.-Nov.=4	
Jun.=5	
Sep.-Dec.=6	

3. Date of month (7th) 7
4. Adding these three figures, we have .. 64
5. This sum divided by 7 (days in week) 9; REMAINDER 1.
This remainder gives us the number of the DAY of the week, in this case 1, being the first day or Sunday. Should the remainder be 0, it is Saturday.

To establish the day for the years 1800 to 1899 (19th century), simply add 2 to the remainder, and for those in the 18th century, add 4.

The above method is no longer valid for dates prior to and including Sept. 2, 1752, as the 'Old Style' calendar was used, the 3rd to the 13th of September having been suppressed to compensate for an annual error accumulated as years rolled on.

Now, we can go ahead and insert the DAYS of our dated copies: e.g. 3c Small Queen dated Oct. 21, 1872, would fall on Monday. ★

'Strand of Hair' and Re-entry Varieties on the 1c Small Queen

THE 'Strand of Hair' variety on the 1c Small Queen has been well known to specialists in this stamp for many years. P. J. Hurst's very fine article concerning this flaw in the October 1956 issue of BNA TOPICS pinpointed the position as being No. 13 on the pane.

The full sheet of 100 stamps from pane 'C' with 'Strand of Hair' variety in No. 13 position which was discovered at the time was considered the final word to its position on the pane. For the last year or so a doubt has crept into my mind when this variety was also discovered with a prominent re-entry at the lower portion, especially the bottom frame line.

I have in my possession several copies in singles and also in strips with the earliest dated MY 24, 96. My latest acquisition is a vertical strip of three with the bottom stamp showing both the 'Strand of Hair' and re-entry varieties. Therefore this stamp cannot possibly be No. 13 on the pane. The only conclusion that can be drawn at this time is that there are two 'Strand of Hair' varieties, one with and one without re-entry, emanating from two different positions on the plate.

Upon comparison, 1c stamps with the 'Strand of Hair' variety, with and without re-entry show the 'Hair' flaw in identical positions on the Queen's head.

I believe there is a good chance that the 'Hair' variety as we know it now is part or parcel of the re-entry. Can anyone contribute more data on this, and perhaps the puzzle can be solved. — S. Lukow (No. 1012). ★

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



ROBSON LOWE LTD., of London, offered a very interesting Newfoundland air mail item in their sale held on Jan. 15. While the status of the item has been classified as bogus in 'Newfoundland Air Mails' by Dalwink and Harmer, it is certainly an interesting bit of Newfoundland aerophilately. The item in question is the 2 cent Queen Mary postcard (Bond NCK1) with the unofficial overprint "1st Atlantic/Air Post/Martinsyde/Raynham/Morgan." This overprint, which is also found on some of the Caribou stamps as well as the 3 cent envelope, was the brainstorm of a Mr. Edwin Cleary, and Dr. Robinson, the Postmaster-General of Newfoundland, has denied that the printing or issuing of these stamps was authorized by the post office. The Cleary covers were cancelled at St. John's on May 17, 1919, but were never included in the 'Martinsyde' mail and it is believed that Cleary took the covers with him when he returned to London. The full story of the issue may be read in the above mentioned book but in the meantime all Newfoundland aerophilatelists will be anxiously awaiting a report of the price realized as the value of the post card is estimated at £75. If we get the prices realized, we will pass the information on to our readers.

Narl W. Scales (BNAPS 1058), of Evansville, Ind., has just shown us a nice '235' cover. The cover is franked with copies of the 2c, Scott No. 46, and the 3c, Scott No. 49, and was posted at St. John's on Sept. 7, 1886. The cover is addressed to Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and both stamps have distinct '235s' in the usual barred ellipse. The stamps on the cover pay the correct rate to Nova Scotia and adds just another cover to the half dozen or so reported previously, without telling us anything new. We still don't know what the strike is even though we are now certain that it is not a registry cancel nor is it a maritime marking. It is

fairly conclusive, though, that it was applied at St. John's and has been seen on local mail, mail to England, Nova Scotia, the United States, and on postcards. Anyone with any ideas please write us, as any help at all will be welcomed.

Bert Zuckerman (BNAPS 1176), of East Wareham, Mass., has written to this column asking for help. Well, it really isn't help—he wants to work with other members who are interested in the same thing that he is: plating both panes of the 1c Guy, Scott No. 87. Bert started on this work using as his base the article that was written by Alec MacMaster and published in TOPICS in late 1949 and early 1950. He also used the article written by Strange and published in 'Philatelic Magazine' during May 1947. He still has some troubles as both of the previous articles were incomplete and he lists the advantages of working together with other collectors as the exchange of information, identification of previously unplated stamps and the exchange of copies, is to the mutual satisfaction of both. So if you are interested why not drop Bert a line—his address is in the current Yearbook.

We certainly are in a quandry. For years we have steadfastly and stubbornly refused to get interested in Newfoundland stamps with reversed watermark and the pairs that exist with and without watermark. The prime reason was that we had no idea as to how these pieces could be mounted and displayed in our collection. However, due to a very fortunate purchase we are now faced with the problem of whether to fish or cut bait. The other day we purchased a few plate blocks of the 1932-38 issue and amongst them was a nice example of Plate 1 on the 1c, Scott No. 184. Imagine our surprise when upon further examination we learned that the watermark was reversed. Amongst the other pieces was a superb upper

left corner block of 9 (3x3) of the 1c Long Coronation, Scott No. 233, in the elusive comb perforation. The nice thing about this block is that it contains the variety 'hook in mouth' found on stamp 23. The nicer thing about the same block is that the last

vertical row of three is without watermark, making it a very nice philatelic item. That's it—I guess we are hooked and will now begin collecting reversed watermarks, and pairs with and without watermarks. How do we mount them, though? ★

HANS REICHE (BNAPS 783)

GUM VARIATIONS in the Admirals

I DO KNOW that this subject has been a matter for study by many Admiral specialists, but so far I have not seen an article published on the various gum varieties. It is obvious that an issue so full of interesting varieties and in use for over 12 years required numerous changes in dies, inks, papers and gums. Any Admiral specialist should thus be concerned about the gum as much as he is about the papers. This article is in the form of an observation rather than a completed study and should encourage others to bring forward their findings. No attempt has been made to classify the various gum variations with certain printing periods but this will certainly have to follow.

Due to the various types of papers and different printing methods used for this issue the ink often penetrates the paper to such an extent that viewing the gummed side of the stamp the gum appears light or dark in shade, depending on the color of the actual stamp. A deep carmine 2 cents may give the impression of having a dark gum when actually the gum may be very light in shade. This phenomena seems to be noticeable on the wet printing especially. A method must be found to avoid this viewing error when studying the gum. I have found that there are two tests to which the gum can be subjected. Black light is a very useful tool and variations in gum will show up easily under this type of light.

The other method uses ordinary daylight. The test can be successful when holding the stamp at an angle against the daylight and viewing the gummed surface. In this way the influence of the paper is minimized

and only the surface of the gum will determine the actual color.

Two major gum types can be found in the Admirals. The first shows a clear brown color. This type has a number of shade variations of which the light yellow shade is the brightest. The next one can be classified as a deep yellow shade, then a brown-yellow and a deep brown shade. This classification can be obtained under normal daylight. The black light will show a yellow color on all the brown gum types.

The other type is a white gum. Under the black light this gum will be white in appearance regardless of the shade. Here the lightest shade is white, the very light brown shade follows and a darker light brown shade can be found. These three shades originate from the basic white gum. The shade variations are not due to gum aging but probably to slight changes in the gum compounds.

Both the white and the brown gum exist with a smooth and a rough surface. The smooth surfaced gum is very shiny and few impurities can be noted. The surface is evenly covered and gum cracks appear as very fine, short lines which can only be seen with a magnifying glass. The rough surfaced gum appears as a dull gloss with uneven distribution of the gum. The number of impurities is increased, showing many fine black and brown spots. The gum cracks are noticeable with the naked eye and are deeper than in the white gum. They appear as long lines crossing the entire stamp surface. The brown gum exhibits strong cracks more often than the white gum.

The gums studied were those of all the Admirals, all denominations, and the War Tax stamps. ★



Rounding Up SQUARED CIRCLES

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

We are sorry to report that Dr. Whitehead's continued illness has made it impossible for him to prepare the material for this column for this issue. We hope his condition will soon improve and that he will once again be able to resume his writings on the squared circles.—The Editor.

RE LOCATIONS OF SQUARED CIRCLE TOWNS

I quote from a recent letter to me:

"Your attention to the following may already have been made. On page 26 of 'The Catalogue,' we read under Prince Albert: 'On the Can. North'n Ry., Northern Terminus of Qu'Appelle, Long Lake & Sask. Ry.' Pretty old data. Under Regina, same page, 'Headquarters of N.W.M.P.' And why is the C.P.R. given as serving numbers of places and not C.N.R.? Outside of these errors [sic], it's a fine catalogue."

In replying to my correspondent, I asked him to note that at the foot of page 6 of the handbook I had said that such information was drawn from 'Lovell's Gazetteer' for 1906 (the nearest source I could discover

to the squared circle period, (1893-1900). Most of my readers have realized that I wished to base such information upon historical facts, the best way, I am sure, in dealing with historical matters. And the facts are true as regards that period, especially in the case of the railways. The C.P.R. was still far ahead of the other western lines, many of which were not yet built. Also, as most Canadian R.P.O. collectors know, certain tracts of railways (in the West particularly) changed hands not only once but twice! I am still of the mind that the historical approach was necessary; information as to modern conditions is very easy to secure, but the story of 60 years ago is a very different matter.

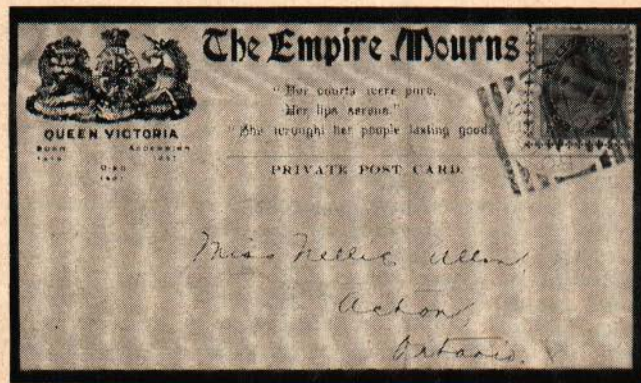
By the way, I was led into error in the case of locations of Niagara, Ont., and Union, B.C. I shall deal with these in a month or so.

THE CHATHAM SQUARED CIRCLE

Also from a recent letter:

"Although not, yet, a member of BNAPS may I comment on the letter from Dr. Day in 'Mailbag' in the February issue.

"I would like to suggest that the dash in



A Queen Victoria mourning cover with ROTHESAY, N.B. squared circle cancellation. (E. A. Richardson collection)

the Chatham squared circle is, in truth, a 'one', and that the strike is not Canadian but English! In support of this I enclose a strike of this mark on the Q.V. 1d lilac.

"The English 'squared circles' appear to be contemporary with or a little earlier than the Canadian, although I myself have no copies earlier than 1880. For some reason they are not nearly so keenly collected as the Canadian. They are not so spectacularly handsome as the Canadian marks, but the larger types with solid corners are undeniably attractive, and the neat symmetry of the smaller types has an appeal of its own. The wide variety in the designs makes them very 'collectible' to my mind.

"My own collection has items from 17½ to 30 mm. square, with from one to four unbroken circles, corners varying from a triangle 5 mm. deep to a mere dot, and with corners varying from a perfect square to almost a star shape due to the differences in the lengths of the arcs. Among the inscriptions may be found county, town and street names, sorting tenders (RPOs to you!), stations, docks and so on. Another group has minute numbers let into the corners or centre of the lower portion of the arcs to denote postal districts in the larger towns. In addition, London had a number of local varieties, in which the corners are square, but an octogan(s) surrounds the inner circle, sometimes solid and touching it, giving a watch glass effect, while the corners may contain dots, triangles or rays. In other words, lots of room to explore."

E. Lerpinière.

Box 683, Lively, Ont.

The above letter bears out our remarks on this 'squared circle' in the March issue of TOPICS.

From **Ann Dorian** (No. 1526):

Re Mr. Brown's letter on squared circles—I thought he might like to know that I have the Ottawa S.C. minus indicia, tying a 2c Admiral to a piece also. Perhaps someone would tell us when, why and by whom this was used. ★

Members Display Stamps

Four members of BNAPS contributed to a stamp display sponsored as part of a series of hobby exhibits by the Brampton (Ont.) Recreation Association. Among those supplying material for the two-week show were James W. Catterick (No. 647), W. J. Foster (No. 748), A. F. Harrison (No. 1384) and G. P. Lewis (No. L506).



Perforation Variety

Above is shown a perforation variety consisting of a vertically imperforate pair of Scott No. 320, which was recent found by F. E. Eaton of the Stanley Stamp Co., Vancouver. The variety was discovered by Mr. Eaton while sorting an accumulation of Canadian material at his home. The item has since been sold. ★

Name Executive For London 'International'

The executive committee which will be responsible for the management of the London International Stamp Exhibition to be held in the Royal Festival Hall in July 1960, has now been appointed. As announced previously, Ewart Gerrish, O.B.E., president of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, will be chairman. The exhibition is being sponsored by R.P.S.L. and the British Philatelic Association, and members of the executive will be:

Royal Philatelic Society—H. R. Holmes (vice-chairman), Thomas Allen (hon. treasurer), Lt.-Col. S. E. Sands, T.D.; R. A. G. Lee and Capt. B. Rogers-Tillstone, R.N.Rtd.

British Philatelic Association—Robson Lowe (vice-chairman), Frank A. Godden, Cyril H. C. Harmer, W. E. Lea and W. Ramsay Strachan.

Miss Eileen Evans, public relations officer of the British Philatelic Association, has been appointed organizing secretary of the exhibition. All correspondence should be addressed to Miss Eileen Evans, Organizing Secretary, London International Stamp Exhibition 1960, 41 Devonshire Place, London W.1, England. ★

The Brampton Stamp Club with an active membership of ten, showed 12 frames of philatelic material which ranged from Canadian 19th century and modern covers, through West Indies, Tibet and Nepal, Great Britain, United Nations, Vatican, Israel and European countries. Homer Thompson, a C.P.S. member, is president of the club. ★

Notes on Canadian Airmails

By N. PELLETIER (BNAPS 1268)



FOR THE flight of October 1, 1924, from Estevan to Winnipeg, 2,000 envelopes and 1,128 special air stamps were printed in pairs. Actually, 950 stamps were used on envelopes; 100 were held as pairs; 12 copies had the surcharge reversed, and four were without surcharge or imprint of wording and date. This left 62 mint single copies. The late Donald Dunbar, former editor of 'The Estevan Mercury', designed the red and black stamp. Stamps and envelopes had each been sold for \$1 to help defray the cost of the flight. The Post Office Department granted special permission for this flight and supplied a special cancellation.

Flight Lieutenant E. A. Alton, an experienced air pilot employed at commercial flying that summer in Western Canada, was engaged for this flight. Included in the mail to be delivered were greetings to all the Lieutenant-Governors of the Canadian provinces; the Prince of Wales; philatelic societies, and friends in many parts of the world. Actually this flight was made to advertise Estevan and to promote resources development.

From the October 2, 1924, issue of 'The Estevan Mercury' a description of the flight and its results may be read:

The Disaster

"Before starting on the flight, Lieut. Alton said that circumstances could not be

more favorable for the complete success of the venture. He had spent a whole week overhauling his machine and had installed a new engine at a cost of \$800.00. The flight from his airdrome at St. Francis to Estevan had been one of the most enjoyable in every detail. Before starting on the flight, Lieut. Alton made a preliminary ascent and circled the town, just to make absolutely certain, then returned to pick up his mechanic and the sack of mail. Postmaster Griffiths and C. A. Manlove were there to see the flight started and the first air mail from Saskatchewan sped on its way at 80 miles an hour, and quickly disappeared in the east. It was expected that Brandon would be reached at 10:30 where a stop would be made to take on a new supply of gasoline. The flight was due to arrive at Winnipeg at 12:35 a.m., the total distance of the flight being 288 miles.

"Anxiously, word of safe arrival was looked for from Brandon, but none came until 1:30 p.m., when a phone call came from Lieut. Alton to Mr. Manlove, telling of the disaster. Shortly after passing over Bienfait, Lieut. Alton observed engine trouble developing and made a quick descent to find what the trouble was. He alighted on a field east of Bienfait, and in gliding to a stop, his machine ran into a concealed rock pile, smashing both wings of the aircraft.



Postmaster Charles D. Griffiths handing the mailbag to Lieut. E. A. Alton. C. A. Manlove (now BNAPS No. 988) is holding envelope in left hand.

"Leaving the wrecked plane, Lieut. Alton returned to Bienfait in time to deliver the sack of mail to the mail clerk on the Souris train, who carried it to its destination.

"In discussing the misfortune, Lieut. Alton said that this is the first serious mishap that has befallen in the eight years he has been engaged in commercial flights, and he was much chagrined at his failure to perform the most interesting mission that had been entrusted to him since his eventful war service. Mr. Manlove admitted sore disappointment with the turn of luck. The venture, had it been entirely successful, would have furnished valuable data for the government postal department in determining the possibilities of the air service for mail purposes."

Mr. Colin A. Manlove (BNAPS 988) had organized this flight. He supplied us with a photograph and official details on quantities of stamps and envelopes printed. Mr. Manlove is a Vancouver public accountant under the firm name of Manlove and Company. He anticipates retiring soon, and we hope that he resumes his interest in aerophilately.

Lieut. E. A. Alton was also an itinerant post-war barnstormer, owned his own aircraft, and made his home in Manitoba. He later acquired a prominent position with the Ford Motor Company Aeronautical Engineering Department. No further record can be found. ★

Some Comments on Canada's Plate Block Controversy

Editorial opinion in philatelic publications seems to be strongly opposed to the sale of plate blocks through the Philatelic Section if they are not also on sale at post offices. Some sample opinions follow:

TOM MORGAN, Editor of 'Stamp Collectors' Annual: I'm such a simple lifer that so far as collecting stamps is concerned, I am only interested in items which can be freely purchased over a post office counter. Which is one reason why I am not particularly happy about the latest innovation by the Canadian Postmaster-General.

... Collectors of Canadian stamps will still be able to obtain plate numbers, for panes of stamps with these numbers will be offered for sale to collectors through the Philatelic Section at Ottawa.

... Canadian plate numbers are in four positions on every plate, so if you are interested in

(Continued on page 104)

THE *Editor's* MAILBAG

SOME NEW INFORMATION ON NOVA SCOTIA

DURING my spare hours as a student at Dalhousie University, I read the various philatelic publications at the Dalhousie Library and Nova Scotia Archives, as the Archives are located on our campus. As my main philatelic interest is in the stamps, literature and postal history of Nova Scotia, I avidly read all material dealing with this topics.

Recently I was in the reading room of the Archives with the intention of finding out the correct date of issue of the One Penny Nova Scotia, and the librarian said that they had various post office papers which I could look at. She gave me one folder which was labelled "Post Office Accounts, 1853." When I started to leaf through the various receipts, bills and reports, I was greatly surprised to find a purchase order listing the quantity of sheets, price of plates and printing of the One Penny Nova Scotia.

As I knew that certain information was unknown about certain quantities printed for the 1 penny, 3 pence, 6 pence and 1 shilling, I immediately asked for the Accounts for 1851. They yielded up the original bill from Trelawney Saunders for the first printing of the 3 penny, 6 penny and 1 shilling, quoting the quantities printed in August of that year.

Knowing that the records of Perkins Bacon gave certain figures for quantities printed, I find that their records were apparently wrongly interpreted in some cases (e.g. Mr. E. D. Bacon quoted in 'The London Philatelist', Vol. 24, p. 31, that 5,000 3 pence were printed, whereas in reality the number printed was 5,000 sheets of 160 stamps per sheet, or 800,000 stamps.)

These Post Office Papers date from 1813-1867 and contain some of the most valuable and revealing information about the stamps of Nova Scotia. At present the Provincial Archivist has given me permission to remove all articles pertaining to philatelic material and to file them under separate cover. Eventually, I plan to write an article on the information found which I hope you will print. This will probably be written with the help of G. C. Baugild (BNAPS 759).

The following is the information found which gives us the correct date of issue to the public of the One Penny Nova Scotia. The first article is Circular No. 6 sent to postmasters throughout the province.

General Post Office,
Halifax, 18th May, 1853

Sir:

In order to afford every accommodation for the pre-payment of Letters by stamps, I have to inform you that PENNY POSTAGE LABELS have been procured and are now ready to be issued to the public; each sheet will contain one hundred and twenty labels, equal to Ten Shillings, and should you require any, by making the proper application, a supply will be forwarded.

I am, Sir
Your Obed't servant,
A. Woodgate,
P.M. Genl.

The same day, **May 18th, 1853**, the following notice was published in the Halifax newspaper, 'The Daily Sun':

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In order to afford every accommodation to the Public for the prepayment of Letters by Stamps PENNY POSTAGE LABELS have been procured, and are now ready to be issued.

A discount of five per cent will be allowed to Merchants and others purchasing Five Pounds worth and upwards.

General Post Office
Halifax, 16th May, 1853.

A. Woodgate,
P.M.G.

This notice would indicate that the first day of issue was May 18, 1853, and not May 12, 1853, as many had understood from the writings of Donald A. King. With reference to Mr. King's article published in Volume XVIII of the Nova Scotia Historical Society Collections, I find that all his references were to Postmaster Reports given before the Legislative Assembly, and to

the letter books of the Post Office which confirms indication that Mr. King did not have access to the Accounts.

The above Volume XVIII of the Nova Scotia Historical Society Collections containing King's illustrated article may still be purchased from the Nova Scotia Historical Society, c/o Dr. B. Ferguson, Provincial Archivist, Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax, N.S., for the sum of \$3 plus 25 cents postage, either in hard back or soft back cover.

John H. M. Young (No. 1523)

Information Wanted

I wish you would publish this letter in TOPICS as I am in hopes that if you do so I may obtain some information on the question asked herein.

For many years I have been interested in Soldiers' Covers and Wartime Mail. Some time ago there came into my possession a book apparently kept by a clerk at Terminal "A" Station in Toronto. It was a personal record of the use of certain cancellations during a period of years. Among the cancellations in the book was one that intrigued me, not from the type of cancellation but for the reason of its use in Toronto. If any person who reads this letter can give me any information concerning this I will appreciate it.

The cancellation is the ordinary round single line dater, 21 mm. in diameter. At the top it has CAMP BORDEN, ONT. At the bottom the year date, 1916. In the middle two lines—date and time. To the right are seven wavy lines, much the same as Type 5 machine cancellations shown in McCready's book. It of course has no letters or numerals in the lines.

The memo on it does not show the period of use, but this particular strike is dated the 8th of July, 3 p.m., 1916.

Lloyd W. Sharpe (No. 395)

Overprinted War Tax Stamps, 1915

With reference to the letter from F. W. L. Keans (January TOPICS) I have a commercial used cover postmarked CHICOUTIARE, QUE., and fully dated Sept. 12th, 1915, with a copy of the 5 cents War Tax overprinted stamp used in conjunction with the 2 cents War Tax (S.G. No. 230).

The cover is entire and shows no special markings for postage due or other underpayment signs, and there can be little doubt that the War Tax overprinted stamp was accepted for postal payment by the post office as late as September 1915.

S. Cohen (No. 1474)

Although I am only a new member, I wondered if I might comment on Mr. Keane's letter in the January TOPICS re the Inland Revenue 1915 overprints?

I often wondered why either of these overprints appeared at all. The War Revenue Act permitted the use of ordinary postage stamps for revenue purposes, and I have several examples of both high and low value stamps used in this way. Such overprinting would have no value for accounting purposes, as there would be no indication of which ordinary postage stamps would be used as revenues.

There would therefore be no need to waste the first issue by withdrawing them from circulation on the ground that they might be used as postage stamps, or that I.R.D. accounting might be thwarted in some way.

As far as postally used copies of the first issue are concerned—it was my impression that only used copies on cover or full piece, bearing the correct postage for the prevailing rates, could be accepted as "genuine," which seems to me to limit their use to registered letters, packets and parcels. Even then, they ought to be postmarked before March 5, 1915, when postmasters were instructed that the first issue stamps were definitely not valid for postal use. It would be interesting to know how many covers or full pieces conforming to the above requirements actually exist, as I have yet to see one.

Ann Dorian (No. 1526)

C.N.E. Cancellations

As I have already informed you, I am working on Canadian National Exhibition cancellations. I would appreciate it if you would publish this letter in TOPICS. Perhaps some member can give me some information with regard to the questions asked. I would certainly appreciate hearing from anyone who can help me.

QUESTIONS:

1. Has anyone ever seen a cover or other indication of the use of the name Canadian National Exhibition either before or during the year 1907.
2. Has anyone a cancellation of the usual form advertising the Canadian National Exhibition for the following years: 1924, 1925, 1942, 1947, 1948, 1950 and 1951?

I have some record and information with regard to these questions but it is hardly substantial enough to confirm the findings and I would like confirmation.

Lloyd W. Sharpe (No. 395)

● CAPSULE REVIEWS

1958 PRICE LIST OF THE STAMPS OF CANADA. Published by Phillip S. Horowitz, 22-57 79th Street, Jackson Heights 70, N.Y.

BNAPSer Horowitz has produced a very complete listing of the stamps of Canada, Newfoundland and the provinces of B.N.A., with prices for both unused and used singles.

NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. Compiled by Rev. H. H. Heins, Liberty, N.Y.

This very interesting compilation by BNAPSer Heins is not for sale, but has been prepared for the purposes of securing American copyright. When actual publication is carried out it will be undertaken by Robson Lowe Ltd., London, England, and its subsidiary, Regent Stamp Co.

THE 32nd RESUME OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE H. R. HARMER ORGANIZATION. Season 1956-57. Published by H. R. Harmer Ltd., London, New York, and Sydney, Australia. Price 2 shillings.

This annual resumé of past activities always makes interesting reading, and this edition reports record business for the Harmer Organization during the period under review. Of course the Caspary sales form an important part of the report, but there were many other major collections dispersed and the booklet makes an interesting addition to any philatelic library.

First Day Cover Line

Reg Gollop, 109 College Ave., Ottawa, Ont., who designed the official CAPEX cover among others, has produced a very neat and attractive design for the forthcoming British Columbia commemorative to be issued in May.

BNAPSer A. C. Johnson Joins Canada Stamp Co.

Canada Stamp Co., Willowdale, Ont., announces that BNAPSer A. C. Johnson (No. 381) will be associated with them in handling Canada Stamp Auctions and will look after the lotting and mail lists for British Empire and foreign material. This will allow other members of the staff more opportunity to look after the B.N.A. group and break down into fine small lots so buyers need bid on the exact item they need without having to buy a large group of other material.

B.N.A. Material Brings High Prices at Harmer Sale

The Alfred Clafin Commonwealth collection and the Senator J. A. Calder collections of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, etc., sold by **H. R. Harmer Inc.**, 6 West 48th St., New York, in February brought some high prices for fine material. Some of the figures realized for B.N.A. material are as follows:

CANADA—1851 laid paper 3d red, vertical pair with blue target cancellation, \$170; 6d grayish purple, used horizontal pair, \$170; 1868 laid paper 1c brown red, unused, small faults, \$475; 3c bright red, unused, centered, few perfs a little shortened, \$525; 1903-08 1c to 10c imperf, unused pairs, \$170; 1926 2c (type b) on 3c, n.h. block of four, upper pair with second surcharge inverted, \$160.

NEW BRUNSWICK—1851 3d red, bisected on cover with two 3d (one with faults) on cover to England, \$380; 3d red, bisected with 6d olive yellow on cover to England, \$300, and another at \$310; 6d orange yellow, very fine used, \$105; 6d olive yellow and 3d dark red on cover, \$160; 6d olive yellow, bisected on letter, \$270; 1sh. dull violet, used, very fine, \$600; 1860 Connell 5c, unused vertical pair, upper stamp tiny thinning, probably unique as a pair, \$1350.

NEWFOUNDLAND—1857 8d scarlet vermilion, diagonally bisected, on letter, frame line touched in corner, \$440; 1876-79 rouletted 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, in o.g. blocks of four, sold individually to a total of \$560; 1891 "One Cent" on 3c, type II surch. in red and black, position 41, o.g., tiny thin and crease, \$550; "Hawker" 3c on flown cover, supplementary mail, \$1100; 1930 "Columbia" 50c on 36c on flown cover, \$400.

NOVA SCOTIA—1d red brown, horizontal pair with left sheet margin, large part o.g., \$650; vertical strip of three on cover, \$360; 1851 3d bright blue, o.g. block of four, right stamp just cut into, \$270; 3d blue on letter, \$85; 3d bright blue, pair and diagonal bisect unsevered on letter, \$210; 6d dark green, minute rust spot, superb, \$220; 1sh. dull violet on piece with 3d blue, \$400.

Valuable B.N.A. Included In Harmer, Rooke Sale

The extensive general collection of the late W. J. K. Vanston of South Orange, N.J.—strong in United States and British North America—will be sold by **Harmer, Rooke Co., Inc.**, 560 Fifth Ave., New York, in a series of three auctions starting in the spring and finishing next fall.

The B.N.A. section is richly provided with many covers, bisects on cover, blocks, matched plate blocks, unusual Canada cancellations of 1868-93, rare British Columbia covers, mint Nova Scotia 1851-63, New-

foundland Pinedo on cover and Hawker unused, and a fine array of Canada's Large and Small Cents issues. There is also a 12d black on cover.

The date of the first Vanston sale will be announced later.

Harmers Pass Million Mark Again

During the second session of the British Commonwealth auction held Feb. 3, 4, 5, **H. R. Harmer Inc.**, New York, passed the million dollars auction total for their current season that commenced Sept. 16, 1957.

Twelve auctions (including two Caspary sales) only were necessary to reach a total of \$1,021,792. It is expected that approximately a further 13 auctions (with Caspary Sales 13 and 14 included) will be held before the season ends in July.

This is the third consecutive season that **H. R. Harmer Inc.** have hit the million mark.

Latest Information on Plate Blocks From Philatelic Agency in Ottawa

The following is the latest information received from the Philatelic Section on the subject of plate blocks:

(1) In order that plate number blocks which will be available from the **Philatelic Section, Financial Branch, Ottawa**, may be purchased by philatelists with a minimum number of postage stamps, effective immediately, following are the reduced quantities to purchase to procure a plate block in each denomination:

Denomination	Min. Quantity incl. Pl. Blk.
1c, 2c or 3c	20 stamps
4c, 5c, 6c or 7c	10 stamps
10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 50c, \$1.00	4 stamps

(2) Plate number blocks printed in the future may be purchased in any one or all four positions for commemoratives as well as regular issues. All future issues of commemorative stamps commencing with the British Columbia Centennial stamp in May 1958, and new plate numbers of regular issues will be available on the new basis, commencing with,

- Plate No. 9 of the 1c denomination;
- Plate No. 11 of the 2c denomination;
- Plate No. 3 of the 3c denomination;
- Plate No. 15 of the 4c denomination;
- Plate No. 15 of the 5c denomination;
- Plates No. 3 of the 6c and 7c denominations;
- Plate No. 5 of the 10c denomination;
- Plates No. 3 of the 15c, 20c, 25c, 50c and \$1.

There is no change in the quantities of stamps that must be purchased to obtain a plate number block of stamps printed from plates prior to those mentioned above.

Previous plate numbers in each denomination have been available through post offices with the exception of those listed in the following paragraph.

(3) The "Press" stamp issued Jan. 22, 1958, the "Geophysical Year" stamp issued March 5, 1958, plate No. 10 of the 2c regular issue, plate Nos. 13 and 14 of the 4c regular issue, and plate No. 14 of

the 5c regular issue were printed without plate numbers, and therefore plate blocks are not available from any source.

(4) Stamps with plate blocks sold through the Philatelic Section are printed from the same printing plates as stamps sold through post offices which do not bear plate number inscriptions on the selvage.

Caspary Auction Brings \$130,000

The twelfth of the 16 auctions scheduled for the disposal of the \$3,000,000 Caspary collection was sold by **H. R. Harmer Inc.**, New York, on February 24-26 for a total of \$130,492.



Use Easter Seals

Easter Seals Again Available

Canadian Easter Seals are again available for 1958 from Bert L. Baulch, 29 Indian Valley, Port Credit, Ont., Canada. Particulars of the items available will be found in an advertisement in this issue.

The seal this year is printed with a boy and girl alternating vertically and horizontally. Colors are yellow and mauve.

This is the tenth year that this material has been made available to collectors through Mr. Baulch, who is BNAPS member No. 1213. ★

T.H. & B. Re-union May 3

Before they were discontinued in 1951 because of dwindling membership in the participating clubs, the 'T.H. & B' parties sponsored by Toronto Stamp Collectors Club, Hamilton (Ont.) Philatelic Society and Buffalo (N.Y.) Stamp Club, were popular get-togethers, meeting alternately in the three cities. This year there will be a revival in the form of the '1st T. H. & B. Re-union' to be held May 3 at the Wentworth Arms Hotel, Hamilton, Ont. ★



OFFICIAL SECTION

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MONTHLY REPORT . . .

From the Secretary

SECRETARY: JACK LEVINE, 209 PINE TREE ROAD, OXFORD, N.C.

March 1, 1958

NEW MEMBERS

- 1534 Lefferts, Jacob R. V. M., 288 Bernard Street, Kelowna, British Columbia
1535 Robertson, K. M., 307 Murray Street, Port Arthur, Ontario
1536 Tunna, Norman C., 720 Poplar Road, Calgary, Alberta

APPLICATIONS PENDING

- Cogin, Willard H., 1192 Juno Avenue, St. Paul 16, Minnesota
Gordon, Peter C., M.D., 18 Bellevue Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Langstroth, R. S., M.D., 190 St. John Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

- BALASSA, Frank, 610-17th Avenue, Lachine 32, Que. (C-X) CAN—20th century mint and used postage. Plate blocks. Literature. Specialty: Plate blocks. Proposed by F. G. Atkinson.
- CLAY, Harry G., P.O. Box 84, Westlock, Alberta (C-CX) CAN, NFD, N.S., N.B., P.E.I.—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Plate blocks. Coils. OHMS. Mint and used airmails. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37.
- DOOLITTLE, Frederick W. Jr., 301 B. & O. Bldg., Baltimore 1, Md. (C-X) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Mint and used airmails. Proposed by H. W. Harrison, No. 1501; seconded by H. E. Reinhard, No. 298.
- JACOBSON, CWO Benj. S., USN, U.S. Naval Hospital, Chelsea 50, Mass. (C-C) CAN—19th century mint and used postage. Plate blocks. Coils. OHMS. Mint and used booklet panes. Flag, slogan, 2 and 4-ring numeral cancellations. Proposed by W. H. Russell, No. 587; seconded by W. T. Pollitz, No. 763.
- JARMAN, Geoffrey L., St. Marguerite Station, Que. (C) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. 1st day and 1st flight covers. Mint and used airmails. Proposed by C. P. deVolpi, No. L266.
- NIELSEN, Henry, Box 11, Sta. "F", Toronto, Ont. (D-X) Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37.
- SAGAN, Alec A., 9750-89 Avenue, Edmonton, Alta. (C-CX) CAN—19th and 20th century mint blocks. Plate blocks. OHMS. Mint airmails. Specialty: Plate blocks. Proposed by E. A. Harris, No. 729.
- SAUVE, John, 614 Notre Dame Ave., St. Lambert, Que. (C-X) CAN—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Coils. OHMS. Used booklet panes. Mint and used airmails. RPO and "on the nose" cancellations. Specialty: Used blocks of four. Proposed by J. J. Charron, No. 1525.
- SCHOLL, Frederick L., 130 W. Jefferson St., Syracuse 2, N.Y. (D) CAN, NFD—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Pre-stamp covers. Plate blocks. Coils. OHMS. Mint and used booklet panes and complete booklets. Mint and used airmails. Postal stationery entires. Literature. RPO, flag, slogan, 2 and 4-ring numeral cancellations. Proposed by W. H. King, No. 1386; seconded by A. H. Zahm, No. 1212.
- TAYLOR, William J., Rydyard, Mich. (DC-X) CAN—19th century mint and used postage. RPO cancellations. Varieties. Specialty: 1859-65 issues, cancellations and varieties. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37.
- TURNER, Edward Charles, R.R. No. 3, Salmon Arm, B.C. (C) CAN, NFD—Mint and used postage and mint blocks. Coils. Mint and used airmails. Proposed by R. J. Duncan, No. 37
- UTBERG, Neil S., Rt. 2, Box 431, Edinburg, Texas (C-CX) CAN, NFD, PROV—Federal, Provincial and Tax-paid revenues. Proposed by E. A. Richardson, No. 168.
- VERNON, Stanley M., 7936 Bonfield Ave., No. Hollywood, Calif. (C-CX) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Pre-stamp and stampless covers. OHMS (perf.). RPO, Territorial, flag, slogan, 2 and 4 ring, squared circle cancellations. Specialty: Squared circle and "on the nose" cancellations. Proposed by B. F. Milne, No. 1476.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS RECEIVED
(Changes of address should be sent directly to the Secretary)

- 1357 Brandom, Lee W., P.O. Box 471, Refugio, Texas (from Lake Charles, La.)
 893 Busch, William J., 1201-6th St. (Box 405), Cranbrook, B.C.
 1325 Jarnick, Jerome C., 3706A West Orchard, Milwaukee 15, Wisc. (from APO, San Francisco, Calif.)
 962 McMurry, Jack W., 1214 Norview Ave., Norfolk 13, Virginia.
 1331 Showers, J. Grant, 9 Sarnia Road, C Block, Apt. 17, London, Ont.
 1306 Tanner, Leonard W., 6146 Main St., Vancouver 15, B.C.
 402 Thurston, Henry, Box 214, Montrose, N.Y.

MAIL RETURNED
(Information of present address requested)

- Atkinson, F. E., 106 Stephen Drive, Toronto 14, Ont.
 Chapman, Jack M., Ste. 11, 178 Machray Ave., Winnipeg 4, Man.
 Dean, Arthur J., 670 Riverside Drive., New York City 31, N.Y.
 Dean, Neville Bryan, Electric AF/D Lighting, USAF, Goose Bay, Labrador.
 Gray, J. A., 26 Wellington St., Kitchener, Ont.
 Stephenson, Robert W., 344 East Granet, Hazel Park, Mich.
 Tupper, Garn H., 2290 West 3rd Ave., Vancouver 9, B.C.

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- 909 Bowie, L. Graham, Rt. 2, Butler Pike, Ambler, Penna.
 852 Fairburn, Thos. C., c/o Box 1, Stanley Park, Vancouver 5, B.C.
 513 McMorran, Gordon A., Souris, Man.
 346 Wheeler, Donald C., Smith Road, Binghamton, N.Y.

RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Chilcott, Milton B. | Ilsley, Allison P. | Prescott, John C. |
| Golden, S. Morley | Kent, Stafford E. | Robertson, Struan C. |
| Hall, Leonard | Macklin, Walter | Schmitt, John G. |
| Hill-Tout, Charles B. | Mozian, Herant | Trabant, George C. |

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

- 1530 Smolinske, Jack D., R.R. No. 1, Albion, Indiana

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, Feb. 1, 1958	954	
NEW MEMBERS, March 1, 1958	3	
		957
RESIGNED, March 1, 1958	12	
DROPPED, March 1, 1958	1	13
		944
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, March 1, 1958	944	

JACK LEVINE, Secretary.

SOME COMMENTS ON CANADA'S PLATE BLOCK CONTROVERSY

(Continued from page 98)

obtaining a few cyphers on a bit of selvedge which cannot be obtained at a post office, go right ahead. Frankly, I don't like these things specially made for collectors.

U.S. POSTMASTER-GENERAL A. E. SUMMERFIELD: . . . We realize that Canadian collectors will still be able to secure special printings with plate numbers through the Philatelic Section at Ottawa, but we do not believe it advisable to have one form of sheet for general sales and another for philatelic purposes.

PHILATELIA in 'Philatelic Magazine': Much controversy has been aroused by the decision of the Canadian P.M.G. to drop plate numbers from stamps in current use but to keep them on those sheets sold by the Philatelic Section. I have never been over-keen on the collecting of stamp edging myself but I can understand the dismayed feelings of those who do.

Still, this solution seems the worst possible—an artificial remedy for a complaint which is semi-

imaginary. If modern printing processes and accounting no longer require the continuance of plate numbers, why not accept the fact as a bit of postal history and leave it at that.

After all, it would have been hardly logical to oppose the introduction of the perforating machine because some philatelists liked to collect imperforates!

EDITOR OF 'CANADIAN PHILATELIST':

. . . We have always opposed this mania for plate blocks, which we envisage as being purely a means of making a 'fast buck'. It certainly does not smack of true stamp collecting. ★

<p>B.N.A. Mint, Used, 19th and 20th century Want lists filled — varied stock Please let me hear from you. PHILIP S. HOROWITZ 22-59 79th St., Jackson Heights 70, N.Y. Members BNAPS, ASDA</p>

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Many Early Covers, Bisects and Blocks.

CANADA includes a 12p Black on cover, cancellations of 1868-93, a fine array of Large and Small Cents, and matched Plate Blocks.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S Pinedo on cover, and the Hawker, unused.

Rare **BRITISH COLUMBIA** covers and **NOVA SCOTIA** 1851-53.

Ask for catalogs of the Vanston sales!

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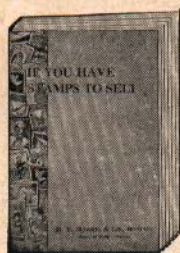
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RATES—2 cents per word per insertion; 500 words to be used as desired, \$8 00.

COPY for Classified Topics should be sent to Gordon P. Lewis, 37 Eldomar Ave., Brampton, Ont., to arrive before the 1st of the month previous to publication date.

FOR SALE

PRICE LIST of used Canada on request. W. C. McClammy, Rocky Point, N.C., U.S.A. 149ff

BETTER CANADA. Sets, singles, mint blocks. Send want lists (with references). H. G. Saxton, 139 Twelfth Ave. N.E., Calgary, Alta., Canada. (98ff)

CANADA OFFICIALS collection of 79 varieties with one on cover, and four rare 5-hole perf. OHMS, \$10.00. Canada Officials Checklist, listing 729 varieties, \$1.50. Canada Officials Catalogue, pricing all major varieties, \$1.50. Selections of Canada Officials or Canada Revenues sent on request, or send want list. Roy Wrigley (APS, BNAPS, CPS, etc.), 2288 Bellevue Ave., West Vancouver, B.C. 151-ff

HAVE A NICE SELECTION of 19th century Canada used, 20th Century mint and used, 4 Ring Numeral on 5c Beavers, 2 Ring Numeral on Large and Small 3c, Squared Circles on post-cards, entires, Railroad, Flag and Duplex cancellations on postcards; and new issues. Correspondence a pleasure. Send me a list of what you need, Walter P. Carter, 47 Risebrough Ave., Willowdale, Ont. 154-3t

Q.E. II (G.B.) Visit to Canada and U.S.A., 2 covers for \$1. Also Naphthadag 1st day cover (6 vals.) \$1; and mint N.D.'s. Rare Inter-Parliamentary 12/8/57 London covers \$1 (also ditto on Air Letter Sheets); and other interesting material (G.B.). Price lists sent. Prompt delivery by air mail. Send orders plus postage to G. L. Barron, Bellemoor Road, Southampton, Eng. 154-3t

EXCHANGE

CANADA OFFICIALS AND REVENUES wanted in exchange for Canada Postage or Plate Blocks. Roy Wrigley, 2288 Bellevue Ave., West Vancouver, B.C. ff

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS LATELY?

If you plan to move, let the Secretary know ahead of time . . . then no missed copies of BNA Topics.

EXCHANGE

CANADA—Early singles. 1922 to date mint or used blocks, including booklets. Will exchange for U.S. mint or used, also FDC world. General first flight covers including fine Zeppelin mail. Almost anything of Austria, including rare postal stationery mint or FD cancelled. Stamps of the world mounted by country. Joseph Bush, 61 W. 74 St., New York 23. 146ff

WANTED

WANTED—CANADA ON COVER. Prefer commercials but personals accepted. Need coils especially. Must be in right time span, commems.—3 months; regulars—until next issue. Also clear strikes so there is no guessing. Dealers or collectors please write for want list. David Russell, 1541 Randolph Rd., Schenectady 8, N.Y. 156-1t

WANTED FOR CASH—Squared circle, two-ring numeral and fancy cancels on or off cover, Small Queens only; also illustrated and corner card covers. George Hicks, Listowel, Ont. 142-ff

SQUARED CIRCLES WANTED—Will buy or exchange Beeton, Byng Inlet, St. Hilarion, Freeport, Great Village, Northport, Wolfville, Butternut Ridge, Newcastle Creek, Matane, Pointe A Pic, St. Polycarpe, Stanstead, Sutton, Alma 1st, Angus, Blue Vale, Blyth, Forest, Fort William, Millbrook, Nassagaweya, Pontypool, Simcoe, Bleeker, Waterdown, Watford, Estevan, Ashcroft Station, Revelstoke, Lambton Mills. L. M. Ludlow, Box No. 64, Grosse Ile, Michigan. 151-ff

WANTED—The following Halifax squared circles, any stamp, on or off cover. The complete date and the number above the date (given first here in each case) most essential. Generous exchange or will purchase. August 1893: any date, any number above; 3-De 14, 93; 4-Au 29, 94; 3-Ja 9, 96; 4-Sp 28, 96; 4-Oc 6, 96; Dec 20, 21, 22, 96, any number above date; 3-Jy 3, 97; 4-Jy 14, 07; 1-Jy 27, 97; 4-Au 14, 97; 4-Au 24, 97; 1-Au 27, 97; 4-Sp 7, 97; 1-Sp 16, 97; 3-Sp 28, 97; 1-Oc 23, 97; 1-Oc 26, 97; 4-Ja 30, 99; 3-Fe 9, 99; also Nov 3, 97, any number above the date; 1, 3, 4 (three stamps, of course) Nov. 30, 97. Dr. Alfred Whitehead, 52 Havelock St., Amherst, N.S. x-ff

SQUARED CIRCLES, Type 2: Lambton Mills, Millbrook, Mission, Revelstoke, Simcoe, Massagawa, Watford, Freeport, Fort William West, Waterdown, Forest, Blythe, Cache Bay, Clifton, Yennoxville, Point Au Pic, Stanstead, Sutton, Estevan, Matane. Type 1: Aldergrove, Beeton, Byng Inlet North. DATES: 1891—Jan 4, 9, 18. Feb 8, 22. Mar 15, 17. June 7, 14, 21. Aug 16. Sept 6, 13, 20, 27. Nov 22. 1892—Jan 24, 31. Ap 24. May 22. July 10. Au 28. Nov 20. 1893—June 11. Dec 24. 1894—Ap 15. July 15. Sept 2, 23. (On 3c Small Queen). What do you wish in exchange? Will give dates in 1880s as far as I have them, as well as in 1890s. C. S. McKee, M.D., McKee Rd., R.R. No. 3, Abbottsford, B.C. 155ff

The Last Word

SOME SECOND THOUGHTS ON PLATE BLOCKS

... *From The Editor*

NOW that a lot of the excitement attendant upon the government's decision to discontinue the use of plate numbers in the printing of Canadian postage stamps, and the subsequent amendment to this decision in that plate numbers would be printed but would be removed from the sheets before delivery to post offices, has died down, we have had time for some second thoughts on the whole subject. It is our considered opinion that *if blocks or sheets containing the plate numbers are not available from local post offices throughout the country, they are not collectible items*—are, in fact, so much 'printer's waste', perhaps in the same class as the somewhat doubtful imperforate items of modern Canadian stamps which have come on the market during recent years.

Of course, there is no law which says a collector may not collect anything he likes, and it is one of the charms of our hobby that there are so many different ways in which collections may be built up—all of them tailored to the tastes of the individual collector. But all the worthwhile methods of assembling a collection at least concentrate on material which is (or was) available over the stamp counters of most of the post offices in the country. One may argue that 'Officials' are not available in this way, but because of their 'official' status mint copies could not conceivably be obtained in any way other than through the Philatelic Section.

With all respect to those who collect them, both plate blocks and 'Officials' seem to have degenerated into what could almost be called a 'racket', with inflated prices for many items. If collectors want to pay these prices, more power to them, for after all it is the demand which creates the high prices. But there have been many 'accumulators' of plate blocks who seem to have been more interested in their money-making properties than in a truly philatelic endeavor. It is possible that it was this type of individual who was the most outspoken against the decision to discontinue the plate numbers.

But when all this activity concerned issues which were available from the post office, they at least had an air of respectability. But this is not the case with future plate blocks, which will be available from the Philatelic Agency only and not over the counter at local post offices. If this is not 'made-to-order' material for collectors, what is? If the post office can operate more efficiently without having plate numbers on post office sheets, then they are to be commended for eliminating them. Efficiency in the post office department is as desirable as in other government departments.

The department should not be blamed for allowing Canada's name to be cheapened throughout the philatelic world by the sale of items specially made for collectors, for it has only gone along with the rather hysterical outcry from many collectors and stamp societies throughout Canada and the United States.

We would rather the Postmaster-General had stuck to his initial decision to do away with plate blocks entirely if that meant more efficiency in the individual post offices, but we repeat that if the plate number blocks are not made available at post offices then neither should they be on sale at the Philatelic Agency. ★

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