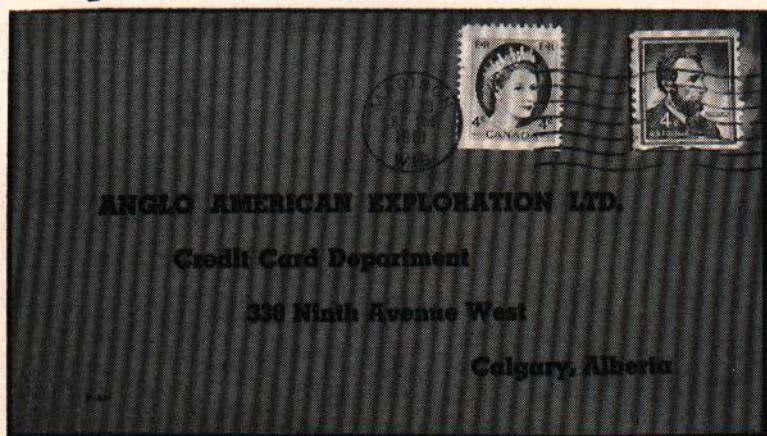


# B·N·A

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# Topics

\* Official Journal of the  
British North America Philatelic Society



SEE "OUR COVER" / PAGE 232

Vol. 18, No. 9, Whole No. 194 / OCTOBER 1961

# Every Student will be Interested

in the *G. P. Bainbridge* Whole World Reference collection which is being sold by auction on October 11th. In this life-time study, the genuine has been compared with the forgeries made by Spiro, Fournier, Sperati, Taylor, Jeffreys and others as well as the various forms of faking. The British North America fill 26 lots — there are 207 British Columbia valued at \$400, 127 Canada at \$750, 135 New Brunswick at \$900 (there is a genuine Connell), 271 Newfoundland at \$450, 122 Nova Scotia at \$200, 63 Prince Edward Island at \$120. There has never been an auction like it and we doubt if there will ever be another. If you cannot borrow a friend's catalogue (Jim Sissons has a few), then you can get one for \$1 by airmail from

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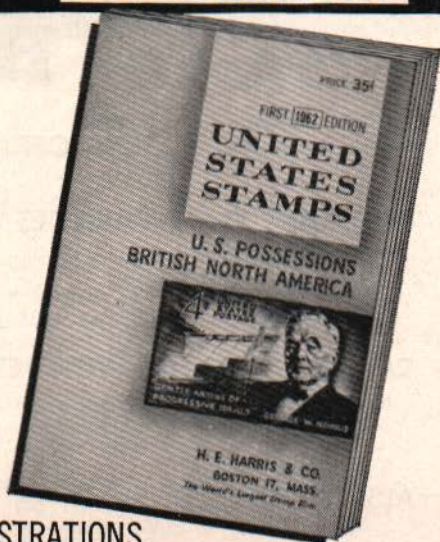
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Official Journal of the  
British North America Philatelic Society

VOLUME 18      NUMBER 9      WHOLE NUMBER 194

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# CENTENARY *of the*

THE MONTH OF September 1961 witnessed the 100th anniversary of publication of the first list of postage stamps, forerunner of the catalogue.

It was a modest 12-page list, unillustrated and unpriced, handwritten and reproduced by lithography, yet a pioneer effort in an entirely virgin field. Those who wish to examine a copy of this genesis of the catalogue can do so in the Crawford Library at the British Museum in London.

The list had been prepared by one whose name ever lives in the libraries of philatelic bibliophiles, even though it is quite unknown to most stamp collectors — the name of Francois Georges Oscar Berger-Levrault, of Strasbourg.

He was born about 1825, into a family famous as printers and booksellers; indeed, the name is still borne by the firm of booksellers in the Place Broglie at Strasbourg. He was certainly one of the earliest French stamp collectors, and the strength of his collection in the eighteen-sixties, when such modern refinements as pictorials, commemoratives and charity stamps were as yet unknown, was truly remarkable. Details of his collection's growth are found in an article by Fred J. Melville in *The Postage Stamp*, Vol. xv, page 46, where one can read that in September 1861 the collection contained 673 specimens, by August 1862

the number had grown to 1,142, in April 1863 it was 1,553, and in July 1864 the total had risen to 1,857.

Following the appearance of his original list, which was entitled simply *Timbres-Poste*, Berger-Levrault devoted himself more and more to the study of stamps and in December 1861 produced a second edition of his list. Then, in June 1862, came the third edition, which was set up and printed from type, and there were several subsequent editions and supplements. His first substantial catalogue was entitled *Beschreibung der bis jetzt bekannten Briefmarken*, etc., which appeared in 1864. His last work was *Les Timbres-poste*, and this was published in 1867.

## World-Wide Correspondence

Berger-Levrault had philatelic correspondents throughout the world, and among them were Alfred Potiquet, the civil servant in Paris, who used Berger-Levrault's original list as the basis of his own catalogue, published in December 1861. Other well-known correspondents of the Strasbourg collector were Georges Herpin, who coined the word philately, and Dr. Jacques Amable Legrand (Dr. Magnus), inventor of the perforation gauge. Then in England there was W. Hughes-Hughes, of the Inner Temple, who carefully kept a record of his



# STAMP CATALOGUE

total expenditure on stamps for his collection and found that it amounted to £69 before he sold his stamps for £3,000; Judge F. A. Phibrick, E. L. Pemberton and Dr. C. W. Viner were others who exchanged letters with Berger-Levrault in his heyday,

All went well until the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War. By that time the Berger-Levrault collection had grown in size to 10,400 stamps, of which 6,300 were unused and about 1,400 were essays. He stated that at that stage he "was only short of fifty postage stamps known at that date, as also a certain number of Australian stamps with their various watermarks, which I had begun to study toward 1866, with my old friends and collaborators, F. A. Philbrick and Dr. Magnus".

The coming of the war and its consequent siege of Strasbourg seems to have put an end to Berger-Levrault's philatelic activities. Whether his collection was lost during the fighting, or whether he was forced to the conclusion that it was too frivolous to collect stamps while precious lives were at stake cannot now be determined.

In its issue dated January 1871 the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* contained a letter from another noted early collector:

Sir,—What became of that useful friend to philately, Mons. Berger-Levrault, during the siege of Strasbourg? Has he been able to save his stamps from the general wreck and re-establish his business, which, if I mistake not, was that of a publisher and bookseller?

*Clifton.*

FENTONIA.

Answer came there none. It was many months before his philatelic friends learned that he had indeed survived the siege and the war itself, but as far as the world of stamps was concerned he faded almost into oblivion. Almost, but not entirely, for Melville mentions a letter containing his reminiscences which he wrote from Nancy some 20 years later.

He continued living at Nancy past the turn of the century and it was not until 24th September, 1903, that he breathed his last. He had reached the age of 78. The fate of his stamp collection remains forever a mystery, and no record of its disposal can be traced in the philatelic press.

As the centennial bell tolls for this pioneer philatelist, let every stamp collector remember the name of Francois Georges Oscar Berger-Levrault, whose brain gave birth to a form of publication without which philately today would be unthinkable. ★



## Rounding Up Squared Circles

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

THE OBSERVANT W. M. C. WILLCOCK of Montreal has reported an error date of some interest. It is illustrated here and I append his accompanying note in full.



### ERROR OF DATE :

North Sydney, N.S., Ja 9, 98, ON THE  
MAP STAMP!

"North Sydney seemed to me to be rather a sleepy town. I was there twice, once on my way to Newfoundland in 1919 and again fifteen years later on my return to Canada. The main excitement, if it may be classed as such, was the tri-weekly arrival and departure of the Newfoundland mail boat.

"The above squared circle cancellation bears out these comments. The Postmaster or clerk concerned has failed to note the coming of a New Year. Some other collector of these interesting cancellations may be able to come up with the date this mistake was corrected.

W. M. C. Willcock 995."

Squared circle collectors should look in their albums for other Ja. '98 dates on this stamp. As our correspondent says, some one may discover the corrected year, '99.

I have recently found the following errors from the neighbouring town of Sydney, N.S., due, evidently, to a shortage of type:

OO1, 95; OO2, 95; also OO8, 96 and OO9, 96. I believe these to be October dates. Can any reader extend them or report corrections?

### Clifton, N.B., Revisited

My readers may remember the account in the handbook of my first visit to the

little post office at Clifton, in 1953. I recently found myself once more in this lovely settlement on the Kennebecasis basin. Hoping that I might find the old hammer, I returned to the tiny general store which has for long years housed the post office. The same postmistress greeted me warmly, remembering my former visit. Her nonagenarian mother, her predecessor as postmistress and who must herself have struck the postmarks so eagerly sought for and so rarely found, had passed away. Also, despite some searching, the hammer has never been found.

Collectors are advised not to miss going to Clifton if they are in the vicinity. They will find here and nearby some of the loveliest scenery in the province. Just across the water is Rothesay, almost equally beautiful.

### Pointe au Pic Revisited

For several summers in the 'thirties my family and I spent vacations in this little town on the scenic north shore of the St. Lawrence river. That was before I began to be interested in Canadian postal history and I was entirely ignorant that I was in the home of one of the rarest Canadian postmarks, the 'Pointe a Pic' squared circle (note the error spelling.)

This year my wife and I had the chance to spend a 5-weeks vacation here. Gladly I accepted, with the full intention of picking up one or more examples of the 1883 rarity, and with the hope of seeing the old hammer. Imagine my disappointment at finding a new post office, shiny and modern. The courteous postmaster, a descendant of the former postmistress, Madame Wasser, custodian of the squared circle hammer of the 1890's, assured me the old hammer must have been turned in. Also, it was extremely unlikely that finds of the right sort of material could be made. Years ago the many convents of the province had called in all used stamps which could be found by the faithful parishioners. These, millions of them, were soaked off the envelopes, sold cheaply to dealers and the proceeds devoted to church funds.

Accordingly we must expect only an occasional copy of Pointe a Pic to turn up.



A copy recently discovered (alas! not by me; this space in my album is still empty) was dated Au 13, 93, which may well prove to be the earliest date, for the hammer was proofed on Jy 21, 93.

Not far away is St. Hilarion, the home of the Type One rarity.

The Warrens of P. au P., a numerous clan today, are descendants of a (Scottish?) soldier of General Wolfe's army of 1759, who settled here and married a local girl. Despite their name they are French-Canadian through and through, in religion, language and devotion to their home. Few of them speak the language of their 18th century ancestors.

### Circular Date Stamps

I am gradually finding more and still more evidence of the necessity of studying the circular date stamps in contemporary use at squared circle towns. The following group of Halifax (my pet town) is a case in point:

- 1/ Au 26, 93 — circular
- 2/ Au 26, 93 — squared circle
- 3/ Au 26, 93 — squared circle
- 4/ Au 26, 93 — circular

(The above 2/Au 26, 93, the only copy known to me, came all the way from Australia.)

This complete group of time marks, 1, 2, 3, 4, for Halifax, all same day, is the earliest date reported for Halifax squared circles. Naturally, I have given it a full page in my special book of Halifax indicia. ★

### Canada's Postal Museum Needs Help

THIS SUMMER THE Post Office Department opened a postal museum in Ottawa.

The Postmaster General would like to reconstruct an old post office as part of the display, and would like to locate fixtures that were installed about the middle of the last century.

This is a wonderful idea that our own Bill Hamilton has, and an idea that will appeal to all collectors interested in postal history.

As the Postmaster General has been so helpful and cooperative to us in the past here is a chance to help him. If you know a post office that still has the original fixtures, drop the Public Relations Department a line and leave the rest to them. ★

### RPSC Will Sponsor CANPEX, May 3-5, 1962

PLANS ARE WELL ADVANCED to present CANPEX, the Canadian National Philatelic Exhibition, at Windsor, Ontario, from May 3 to 5, 1962.

This important exhibition will be sponsored by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, on the occasion of its 34th annual convention, with the Windsor "Y" Stamp Club acting as hosts. Although not an international exhibition, it is anticipated that this show will be of international calibre.

The committee is fortunate in having at its disposal excellent facilities for staging a large exhibition in the new Cleary Convention Hall on the river front at Windsor, overlooking the Detroit Skyline, and it is its intention to present a large and truly representative exhibition from the leading collections in North America.

A complete prospectus will be issued later in the year. In the meanwhile all correspondence concerning the Canadian National Philatelic Exhibition should be addressed to the General Chairman, Dr. N. O. Boyd, Kildare Road, Windsor, Ont. ★

### PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEW

The second issue of the quarterly *Philatelic Literature Review* to be edited by the new editor (H. M. Daggett, BNAPS 50) has just appeared.

In addition to the usual listings of new philatelic publications, the latest issue contains a progress report by the editor, a bibliography of articles of the Private Local Posts of Morocco (compiled by Bill Bryan) and a listing of the Confederate States Postal Records in the National Archives and in the Library of Congress (by Arthur Hecht).

A question and answer column appears for the first time. The purpose of this column is to provide a means for obtaining information on any facet of philatelic literature that may be required by the members of the Philatelic Literature Association.

Single copies are available from the Editor, H. M. Daggett, 4078 West 37th Avenue, Vancouver 13, Canada. Membership in the Philatelic Literature Association (including a subscription to the *Philatelic Literature Review*) is \$2 a year. ★



# NUMERAL CANCELS ON CANADA'S LARGE QUEENS

## PART THREE

Part Two Appeared in September Issue

### The Numeral "2" Obliterators of Toronto

AT THE TIME OF CONFEDERATION, Toronto was the second largest Post Office in the Dominion, and as such, was assigned the numeral "2" in the Dominion series of obliterators.

It is our conjecture that the Berri duplex containing 13 broken bars in the obliterator portion, which was issued in the early 1860's, was misplaced or destroyed sometime during late 1868 or early 1869. In any event, it was rarely used after the establishment of the Dominion Post Office Department. The circular date stamp with complete outer circle was frequently used as an obliterator commencing in the spring of 1869. This is not to say that its use as an obliterator did not occur prior to that time, but only to say that its use as such increased noticeably.

We suggest that during the spring of 1869 a vast increase in the amount of mail originating at Toronto; or the loss of the Berri duplex and/or other obliterators; or a combination of both factors resulted in the ordering of additional 2-Ring "2" hammers. We further surmise that Types 47 and 49 were the product of the original supplier of the entire 2-Ring series, thought to have been Berri. We have seen a cover with a Type 47 obliterator dated May 28, 1869, and a Type 49 dated April 12, 1869.

The next unusual type which we have recorded is Type 43 on a cover dated May 31, 1869. Note that this is the earliest date recorded so far for an obviously locally-produced obliterator; and that this type retains the 2-Ring configuration. Thus it is apparent that the introduction of a new obliterator, supplied by the original maker, was insufficient to handle the volume of mail. Shortly thereafter, still more obliterators were required and someone undertook to provide them. The numeral "2" was retained in the design, but the plain double ring surround was discarded for various fancy designs, more satisfying to the artistic nature of the maker.

We record here in chronological order the various Fancy "2" designs which we have recorded on cover:



April 12, 1869 .....	Type 49	Sept. ?, 1869 .....	Type 50
May 28, 1869 .....	Type 47	October 18, 1869 .....	Type 10
August 11, 1869 .....	Type 37	October 19, 1869 .....	Type 36
August 30, 1869 .....	Type 30	November 26, 1869 .....	Type 12
Sept. 6, 1869 .....	Type 1a	December 10, 1869 .....	Type 11
Sept. 10, 1869 .....	Type 32	December ?, 1869 .....	Type 23
Sept. 23, 1869 .....	Type 50	October 10, 1870 .....	Type 38

It should be noted for the record that few, if any, of these fancy obliterations were made of cork. It is our thought that most were probably carved from soft pine, which rapidly deteriorated under the hard usage, resulting in the relatively short life which each type evidently enjoyed, and the consequent replenishment with another artistic achievement. (See Types 1, 1a, 1b and 1c)

We also believe that most of the hammers were carved with very shallow indentations, which rapidly filled up with dried ink and lint from the pads so that only very early strikes in the life of a hammer show clearly the fancier effort of the maker. Thus it is quite easy to fall into the error that a new type has been discovered, when in reality, it is merely a heavily inked or late strike of an already recorded type. It is the belief of one of the authors that Types 7 and 17 are actually strikes from the same hammer, although the illustrations would not lead one to think so. (One must remember that the illustrations are far from exact.) Nevertheless, close examination of actual strikes developed so many points of duplication that it is a distinct possibility that Types 7 and 17 are from the same hammer. It is also a possibility that Types 12 and 33 are from the same hammer, and the same can be said for Types 14 and 38.

We have recorded here as many of these Fancy "2"s as we have seen on the Large Queen issue. Since the use of these carried over well into the Small Queen period, it is quite possible that there are still more types which are only to be found on stamps of the Small Queen issue. Good Hunting!

#### FANCY TORONTO "2" TYPES



TYPE 1



TYPE 1a



TYPE 1b



TYPE 1c



TYPE 2



TYPE 3



TYPE 4

FANCY TORONTO "2" TYPES



TYPE 5



TYPE 6



TYPE 7



TYPE 8



TYPE 9



TYPE 10



TYPE 11



TYPE 12



TYPE 13



TYPE 14  
(Steel Insert)



TYPE 15



TYPE 16



TYPE 17



TYPE 18



TYPE 19



TYPE 20



TYPE 20a



FANCY TORONTO "2" TYPES



TYPE 21



TYPE 22



TYPE 23



TYPE 24



TYPE 25



TYPE 26



TYPE 27



TYPE 28



TYPE 29



TYPE 30



TYPE 31



TYPE 32



TYPE 33



TYPE 34



TYPE 35



TYPE 36



TYPE 37

FANCY TORONTO "2" TYPES



TYPE 38  
(Steel Insert)



TYPE 39



TYPE 40



TYPE 41



TYPE 42



TYPE 43



TYPE 44



TYPE 45



TYPE 46



TYPE 47  
(Normal 2-ring—  
different type 2 inset)



TYPE 48



TYPE 49  
(Normal 2-ring—  
different type 2 inset)



TYPE 50



TYPE 50a



TYPE 51



TYPE 52



FANCY TORONTO "2" TYPES



TYPE 53



TYPE 54



TYPE 55



TYPE 56



TYPE 57



TYPE 58



TYPE 59



TYPE 60



TYPE 61



TYPE 62



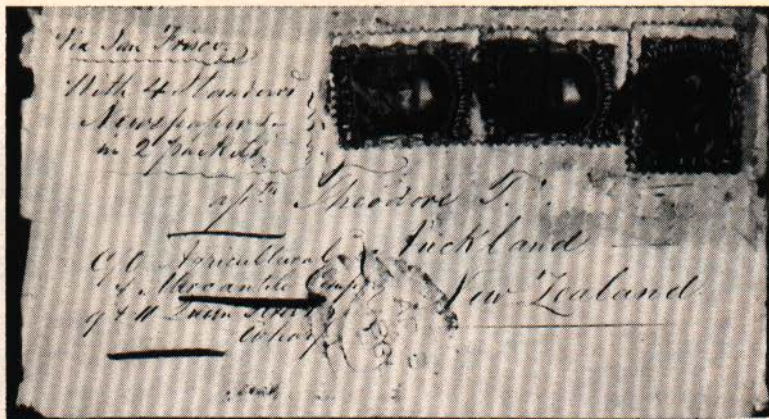
TYPE 63



TYPE 64

*(To be continued)*





DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L4)

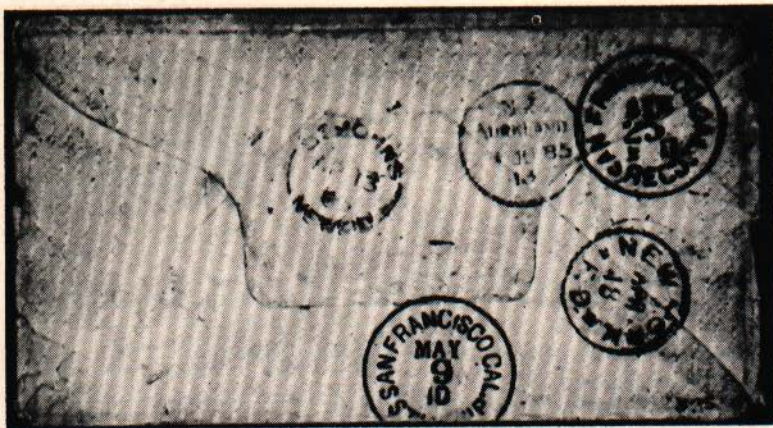
## Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, to Auckland, New Zealand

AT THE LAST ASDA Show held in New York the latter part of November 1960 we made a very fortunate purchase of a cover from the New York firm of Vahan Mozian. The cover franked with 3 copies of the 10c Prince Consort on the white paper, Scott No. 27a, was posted at Harbor Grace and addressed to Auckland, New Zealand. The cover was marked via San Francisco and posted at Harbor Grace on April 13, 1885, and backstamped at St. John's the same day. The other backstamps were as follows: New York F.D. (Foreign Division or Department) Apr. 18, 1885, and then San Francisco, Cal. F.D. on Apr. 25. There was a further San Francisco backstamp applied on May 9, and finally an Auckland, N.Z. strike of June 1, 1875. Now to our practised eye the cover looked genuine but after all covers to New Zealand during that period had not been

previously recorded so we thought that we would try to get incontrovertible proof that the cover was genuine and there were two fields that needed confirmation, the backstamps and the rate. Our first trip was to the Library of the Collectors Club of N.Y. where we got our first bit of information to the effect that the U.S. official Postal Guide for May 1885 listed a mail departure for New Zealand on May 9th. Our next step was to try and get the name of the boat that carried the letter and for that bit we took the liberty of writing on December 29th to Daniel Rosenblat, BNAPS No. 1445 of San Francisco. His reply dated January 4th arrived while we were away on a business trip and we must say that Dan has his troubles.

We had originally written to him because the New York Public Library had no file of San Francisco papers for 1885 and we were distressed to





learn from Dan that neither did San Francisco as the earthquake of 1906 had destroyed all of this material and replacement had been very spotty. However Dan was ingenious and went across the Bay to Oakland and sure enough he found a file there that listed departures and for May 9th he listed four boats bound for Queenstown.

We then wrote to an old correspondent, Stan Wood (BNAPS No 221), Auckland, New Zealand, to learn if any of the four boats had put in at Auckland on June 1st. On February 15th, Stan replied that he could not find any record of the four boats mentioned in the *New Zealand Herald*, and furthermore he asked if we meant Queensland instead of Queenstown as there was no town by that name in either New Zealand or Australia.

Recourse to my youngsters' Encyclopedia proved how right Stan had been because the town of Queenstown, the present Cobh was on the Southwest Coast of Ireland. So on February 18th we wrote back to Dan to ask him if he would go back to the *Oakland Tribune* and see if he could find anything bound for Australia or New Zealand that left on May 8th or 10th,

and his letter dated Mar. 18th came back listing the Br. Stmr. *Australia* as having cleared San Francisco on May 9th bound for Honolulu and Sydney.

A letter dated April 14th came back from Stan and I quote: "The *Australia* arrived at 1 a.m. on the 1st June with English and American mails. —Discharged pilot at San Francisco 4.10 p.m. on the 10 May 1885".

We had now nailed down the fact that all of the cancels had been substantiated, but what about the rate, was it correct or had stamps been added or removed? In our own library we have a Newfoundland Yearbook for 1897 but that wasn't of much help as it listed the rate as 5c per ½ oz. Back we went to the Collectors Club and there we learned that New Zealand had not entered the U.P.U. until 1891 so that the rate of 5c per ½ oz. meant nothing as that was only put into effect in 1891.

Our next visit was back to the N. Y. Public Library and they had a Newfoundland Yearbook for 1888. However it brought us closer to the answer but not close enough as it listed the rate as 12c per ½ oz. From  
(Continued on page 231)



# Canada Post Card

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



## POSTAL STATIONERY PANORAMA

EDITOR: MARK L. ARONS, 204 Muriel Street, Ithaca, New York

OUR QUERY IN THE July-August issue of TOPICS as to whether there were any collectors, unknown to us, who had over 200 varieties of "Railroad Pictorial" postal cards drew a blank. We can only come to one of two conclusions: either there are none, or summertime is not conducive to letter writing. We are still interested in knowing how many serious adherents there are to this branch of the hobby. Perhaps, the 200 Club was the wrong approach, as our only purpose was to gather information about these colorful padposts, with the hope that there would be enough to warrant revising Nelson Bond's list. If your collection numbers two or 200, any new information will be equally welcome.

### Forces Air Letters

Again, we are straying from the straight and narrow of postal stationery collecting. The Forces Air Letters, which came into use during World War II, are not technically postal stationery, but who wants to be that technical. Our gain, by accepting them,

will be someone else's loss. As military operations have been extensive since their inception, and it does not seem likely that they will abate in the foreseeable future, we think that this field has interesting possibilities.

The classic war issues are quite scarce, both used and unused, and even the modern

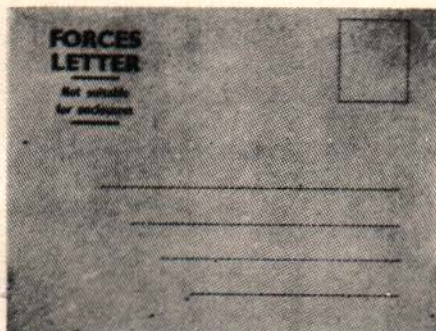


FIG. 1

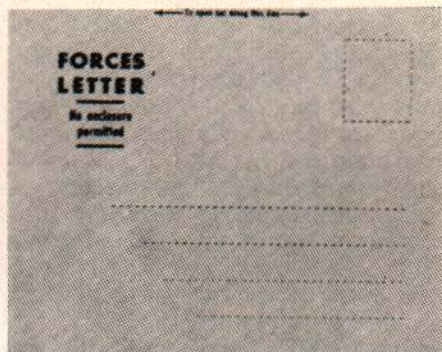


FIG. 2

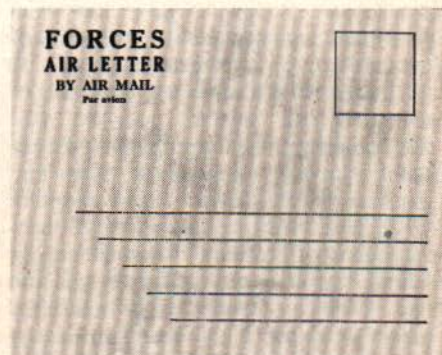


FIG. 3



issues are difficult to find used. However unused copies of the current sheets are available, at no charge, in most Canadian post offices.

In *Figures 1, 2 and 3*, we show, in that order, what we believe to be the last three issues. The printing of the first two is in brown, on a lighter brown overlay on tan paper; the fold is the American Air Mail Catalogue's fold A, commonly known as the "United States" or "3" fold. The printing of the third is in red on gray paper with no overlay; the fold is the B fold, "British" type or "Book" fold, similar to the recent stamped Air Letters of Canada.

With the help of Ray de Montigny (BNAPS 1582), we have been able to gather together a number of the last two issues (*Fig. 2 and 3*) and will send either or both, gratis, to anyone who cannot procure them at his post office.

### Special Order Postal Cards

Most of the Special Order postal cards, of the Victoria, Edward and George V periods, came about because of the popularity of the postal card as an advertising medium. Inscriptions were moved or deleted to make room for an ad on the front, or a larger card was used to accommodate a large ad, or a merchant thought his ad on a blue card would attract more attention.

For some reason, the popularity of advertising on the front of cards waned in the later George V period, and the George VI issues turned up a meager number of Special Order cards. However, we did see the emergence of a new kind of Special Order card — the form card. In the March 1960 issue of TOPICS, we reported a George VI 1 cent plus 1 cent, green, reply form card used by the District Superintendent of Rehabilitation, Department of Veterans' Housing; and in the December 1959 issue, three types of Canadian National Express form cards, the first of the George VI issue, and the other two of the 1953 Elizabeth issue.

We feel sure that we are due for a bonanza of Special Order form cards in the near future. *Figure 4* shows a new one which came to our attention recently. The stamped impression is the 2 cent green 1953 Elizabeth issue, the card is of normal size but on a cheap quality, light brown manila paper. The card is used for returning meter readings to the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario. The illustrated card is rouletted on all four sides and all printing is the color of the stamp. We do not



FIG. 4

know anything further about this card and would appreciate any information you may have.

Unfortunately, information on Special Order stationery is not available from official sources. We can depend only upon the collector's luck and his willingness to report any new finds. So keep a sharp lookout and let us know about anything new and different that turns up. ★

### Harbour Grace, Newfoundland To Auckland, New Zealand

(Continued from page 229)

the looks of the envelope we had a feeling that it had carried enough letter sheets to exceed the  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. weight but twice times 12c was only 24c not 30c.

Letters to all of our old correspondents were to no avail, no one could give us the rate to New Zealand in 1885. At last we had a brainstorm and on April 26th we wrote to the Director of the Gosling Memorial Library in St. John's and enlisted his help. Sure enough early in May we had a reply from Mr. Donovan, the Director, to the effect that the Newfoundland Almanac for 1885 showed the rate to be 15c per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.

So at long last after  $5\frac{1}{2}$  months of assiduous work on our part and on the part of our friends we were able to say with certainty that the cover we had bought so many months previously was genuine in all respect. It was fun while it lasted as long as it turned out right. ★



# PAGES FROM A BNA SCRAPBOOK



Items gathered and clipped by R. J. Duncan and G. P. Lewis

ITEM No. 24:

*BNA Topics*, December 1944.

**THE MAP STAMP OF 1898** (F. Walter Pollock) — Those who await my every word with bated breath will have to inure themselves to the unhappy fact that their favorite oracle, like so many of his ilk, sports pedal extremities compounded of aluminum and silica (clay).

Another of the Delphic tribe, one Steven Rich by name, has for some time disputed the popular understanding and belief that the Map stamp of 1898 was produced by a process or method of lithography, and in these pages and elsewhere, and on the basis of oracular utterances of the past, I have undertaken to tell Steve that he was slightly more than merely damp.

And now it appears that the wetness is of my own personage; in brief, Steve is right and I and Howes and Deaville are wrong — the stamp was typographed and not lithographed; that is, as to the colors thereon.

Howes has said that the color work was "doubtless printed on the sheets by lithography" and those who followed this authoritative writer were pleased to accept his statement without question, as he seems to have been in close touch with the authorities when he wrote his standard book. The facts, as revealed by an official examination of the original sources in Ottawa, are "that the colour printing was done by means of electrotype plates . . . the plates would consist of a zinc base with a copper surface. The first printing was the oceans; the second printing was the British Empire in red; and the third printing was the steel-engraved basic design in black."

Of what small matter of prestige as compared with the revelation of truth and the suppression of error!

*EDITORS NOTE* — A further note from Mr. Pollock appeared in the February issue in which he corrects his theory regarding the order in which the colors on the Map stamp were printed. The actual printing order was stated to be: black, red, blue. He also states that the electrotype plate was likely backed up with lead rather than zinc, this being the usual procedure.

ITEM No. 25:

*The Stamp Collector's Exchange Club Magazine*; May-June 1945

**THE REASON WHY . . .** The 8c orange of the Maple Leaf issue of 1897 comes in an orange brown shade. A printing was made at the end of 1898 in that shade, and used by the T. Eaton Co. in the mailing of catalogues and other similar pieces of mail. It is not known if the printing was made especially for them, or if just happens that they secured the whole printing and used it. ★

## OUR COVER . . .

The item pictured on this month's cover was sent in by Dirk van Oudenol (BNAPS 684), new editor of our Revenue Group column (which, incidentally, is missing this month, but through no fault of Dirk!). The cover illustrated bears a current 4c Queen Elizabeth stamp of Canada tied with a Madison, Wisconsin postmark, together with correct prepayment by a U.S. 4c Lincoln. Dirk doesn't advance any theory as to why the Canadian stamp appears on this cover, but does make an interesting item for our magazine.



# CONSTANT PLATE VARIETIES OF THE 10c SMALL QUEENS



WITH 41,000 IMPRESSIONS of the only 100-subject plate used, producing the total of all 10c Small Queen stamps printed, it is not surprising that no plate variety of this denomination has been recorded to date. While the writer has yet to see a proven re-entry on this value, two very definite flaws exist, both constant and of sufficient strength to warrant their listing.

The first variety shows fairly extensive pitting, of possibly corrosive character, in the "0" of the lower right numeral "10". Its location on the plate is position No. 21, as confirmed by study of a full sheet of the 10c, and the credit for its original discovery should go to the late Dr. Reford (see faint pencil annotation on the margin of lot No. 1127, illustrated in the catalogue of the second auction). Copies are known dated April '93, December '93 and January '96 respectively.

A strong diagonal scratch in the "1" of the lower right numeral "10" represents the second variety, whose plate position is No. 88 on the above-named sheet. Here, the dated copies are from June '95 and October '97, but a specimen is known in the late lilac shade which was mixed prior to the second Ottawa printings.

Needless to say, both flaws have their counterparts in a sizable number of similar ones occurring on other Small Queens denominations, the damage on position No. 21 strongly evoking the criteria of the pitted top row subjects (positions No. 6, 7 and 10) of the "B" pane of the 6c value, two of which were first described by Mr. Lees-Jones twelve years ago. ★



## NEW NOTES ON

## CANADIAN FLAG CANCELLATIONS

## PART 13

*(Part 12 appeared in June issue)*

## THE MYSTERY FLAG CANCEL

*Collection of Doug Crawford (BNAPS 1646)*

IN THE SEPTEMBER 1960 issue of BNA TOPICS, we illustrated this "mystery" flag cancel. The 3c Diamond Jubilee shown here was the first example recorded, and was shown to us by Doug Crawford (BNAPS 1646).

In August 1961, Rev. Elroy Treit (BNAPS 1830) forwarded for our examination a second example. This confirmation example is on a pair of the 2c Small Queen issue, late printing. The cancel of the Treit pair is inverted in relation to that on the Crawford example.

Interestingly enough both examples show the cancel slanting downward to the left. This would be the normal expected strike made from a handstamp used by a right-handed person. This, and the fact that the only two known examples are inverted in relation to each other, would tend to rule out this cancel as being a machine type Flag cancel.

The cancel is approximately 45 mm. long by 15 mm. high. This is somewhat smaller than the Type 2 flag cancel which measures approximately 58 mm. by 19 mm. This handstamp type also differs from Type 2 in that it does not bear the word "CANADA" in the central horizontal bar. It bears no resemblance to any of the other flag cancels.

While it is possible that it was used earlier, it is quite likely that this cancellation was used at about the time of the Diamond Jubilee issue, and not much before. However neither of the two known examples are dated.

At present it is not known where this cancel was used, and most likely this will await someone making a "find" of an example on cover. Until then it remains Canada's "mystery" flag cancel. ★



## ADDITIONAL NOVA SCOTIA EXHIBITION AND FAIR COVERS

SINCE THE ORIGINAL article on this subject appeared in the January 1961 TOPICS, the author had added several new items to his collection and descriptions of others have been sent to him. So with due thanks to BNSPSers Norman Blassler, R. A. Peters and Clarence Westhaver, the following are added to the list of covers advertising Nova Scotia Fairs and Exhibitions.

### Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibitions

- 1881 Dominion Exhibition held in Halifax, N.S.  
1898, Sept. 22-9, small picture in corner showing race track and two sulkies, black  
1909, two types, 1) a map in black; 2) a road map in black and a domed building topped by Nova Scotia flag, in black  
1915, September 8-16, cancellation  
1930, August 30, special Halifax Post Office cancel for Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition  
1934, Progress Exhibition — August 27 to September 3

### Halifax Carnivals

- 1902, November 14-18, Football Carnival, showing picture of players in red square  
1914, in addition to cancel of August 3-8, Fire Department and Summer Carnival has a picture of fire engine in red

### Other Fairs

- Dartmouth's Natal Day, August 4, 1898 with picture of 1897 regatta, blue  
Sydney Summer Carnival, 1899, two photographs of harbor, black  
Cape Breton Island Exhibition, (October 3-6, 1916), at Sydney cancellation, but plaque in corner shows dates September 29-October 3, 1914  
Sydney's Anniversary, 1960, Cape Breton calls, piper in green, map of Cape Breton in red  
Amherst Maritime Winter Fair, December 17-19, 1901, no design  
Amherst Maritime Winter Fair, December 16-18, 1902, no design  
Amherst, 1902 Coronation Celebration, large picture of Edward VII in red  
3rd Amherst Maritime Winter Fair, December 16-18, no year given (1903)

- Amherst Maritime Winter Fair, December 6-9, 1915, no design  
Amherst Winter Fair, November 5-10, 1937, Amherst Hotel in corner  
Amherst Old Home Week, July 10-14, 1910, a circle corner card in red  
Windsor, July 1, 1897, Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration, portrait of Queen in blue in left corner  
Lunenburg, September 15-19, 1953, Fisheries Exhibition, banner in blue carried by two fisherman  
1920, September 27-29, 'Pictou County and North Colchester Agricultural Exhibition' across top in red  
1923, July 15-21, Pictou's Old Home Week and 150th Anniversary of the landing of the ship *Hector*, on back poem and people being led ashore from ship by piper  
Annapolis, 7th, 1939, Valley Apple Blossom Festival floral design in corner in green  
Annapolis County Exhibition at Lawrence-town, September 22-25, 1953  
24th Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival, June 1-4, 1956, floral design at Kentville  
'Apple Blossom Festival June 1-4, 1958' cancellation and in green in corner five trees and 'Municipality of Kings County, Canada's Best Apple District, Kentville, Nova Scotia'  
27th Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival, May 30-June 2, 1959, floral design, at Kentville

Two other interesting Exhibition covers in the author's collection are the 1899 Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition flag cover mailed from Ludington, Michigan on August 12, 1899 to Halifax, Nova Scotia; and the 1900 Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition flag cover mailed from Halifax, September 13, 1900 to St. Pierre et Miquelon and beside the Canada 2c Numeral Queen is a French Colonies (J19) 30c postage due.

Since there are a great many Provincial Exhibition cover years missing, plus probably numerous other fairs, the author would still like to hear from others who may have items missing from the two published lists.—JOHN T. PRATT (BNAPS 1055) ★



# Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



FORTUNATELY WHEN WE started our specialized listings we had a feeling that they weren't complete and the years have borne out our beliefs. Among our most recent acquisitions are four additions to the lists and as expected they are all previously unrecorded. If you will refer to our listing of Scott's No's. 183-199 in the January '59 issue of TOPICS you will find our first two additions: they are imperforate plate blocks and very nice items indeed. To our two imperforate plate blocks of the 2c (Scott No. 186) and the 5c (Scott No. 191) must be added Plate Block E3a, an imperforate example of an U.L. Plate 3 in imperforate condition for stamp Scott No. 187, and for the 4c Scott No. 189 must be added Ele, an example of the reversed U.L. Plate No. 2 in imperforate condition. Then referring to September '59 when the Gilbert issue was listed, we must add under stamp Scott No. 212, the letter F—SPECIMEN punched along a horizontal strip (of three) of the comb perforate stamp, and the same must be added for the 2c, Scott No. 213, as we have just purchased examples of each. We wonder if the higher values exist so marked as we have never seen record of them.

All Newfoundland-collecting BNAPSers should be eternally grateful to W. E. Lea (BNAPS 4687), London, England, for the help that he has so often given we collectors when we were in doubt. Readers of our column will remember that in April we wrote about a part perforate strip of 20 submitted by Dr. Allan A. Wilkinson (BNAPS 935), Old Perlican, Newfoundland. The strip was Scott No. 186 but at the time of writing we knew neither the die number nor the perforation. Through the kind offices of Bill Lea we have now been privileged to look at such a strip and we can report that it is from Die 2 in the comb perforation 13.2 x 13.2. Therefore, if all readers will refer to our specialized listing of this issue published in the January '59 issue of TOPICS, we will have these

changes to make. The item listed under "C" should now become "C1" and this item herein described will now be added as "C2". Thank you very much. Bill, for enabling us to straighten out this thorny problem.

We have just received the prices realized for the sale run by Robson Lowe, (BNAPS 510), London, England, at their London office on July 12, 1961. Some of the realizations are very interesting, as the six items that I am going to describe are listed as comprising an original find of proofs, the dies of which are believed to have been engraved by Wolfenden. The first is a die proof of the 15c Industrial in deep blue dated "3 Dec., 1929". This is a die proof of the re-engraved, unwatermarked stamp, Scott No. 170. In addition, the die proof also bears the manuscript notation "Soften clouds". This probably unique item realized \$44.80. The second lot consists of a finished die proof and a die proof of the head only of the 3c, Scott No. 187, in steel blue instead of the issued color, orange brown. The finished die proof incidentally is complete with die and both items sold for \$58.80. The third item is a die proof of the 15c, Scott No. 195, in issued color and marked in pencil "Proof before erasure". This lot was knocked down to its new owner at \$36.40. The next two lots were die proofs of the long Coronation Set. The first is an unfinished proof of the 15c, Scott No. 239, lacking the background to the head and frame, and it changed hands at \$37.80. The second Coronation die proof was that of the 20c, Scott No. 240, complete in issued color, and it was sold at \$39.20. The last lot of this original find is a progress die proof of the 4c, Scott No. 247, without the frame but printed in claret rather than the issued light blue; this last lot realized \$32.20. The reason that all of these prices realized are in odd amounts is that I have transposed them from pounds and shillings to dollars and cents.



Two of the semi-official airmails that were issued by Newfoundland in 1922 were offered for sale by Harmer, Rooke at their New York sale on Sept. 26, 1961. A perforated block of four of the 15c Vickers Vimy flight in dark brown and dark blue fetched the handsome figure of \$81. A slightly similar block but now in blue and brown only without the dark overtones realized the same price. These stamps, while not catalogued in Scott, are catalogued in Sanabria, the bible of airmail collectors and are listed as Sanabria Nos. 502 and 503 respectively. The 500 series shows that these are not officially issued stamps. ★

### New Philatelic Society Active in Montreal

"LE CERCLE DES PHILATELISTES de Montreal" successfully completed a year of brisk activities in September. The first meeting was held on September 20, 1960, when over 30 collectors gathered to form a philatelic club. Since then it has grown by leaps and bounds, now boasting over 100 members.

Meetings attracting more than half the membership are held on the first and third

Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at 4242 Papineau Ave., in Montreal. It is a local club and visitors are always welcomed.

For more information, Montreal collectors are requested to write to Le Cercle des Philatelistes de Montreal, 4811 Colonial Ave., Montreal 14, P.Q., Canada. ★

### The New First 1962 Harris U.S. and B.N.A. Catalogue



THE FIRST 1962 EDITION of this famous catalogue contains 160 pages and nearly 2000 illustrations. It features a special "Americana" section, United Nations issues complete, and the extensive B.N.A. section. Published by the catalogue department of H. E. Harris & Co., Boston 17, Mass. — the world's largest stamp firm — it is priced at only 35c, post-free to any point in the U.S. and Canada.

This newest edition of the Harris U.S.-B.N.A. Catalogue follows a record-breaking demand for the previous 1961 editions, and contains hundreds of up-to-the-minute price changes, carefully listed throughout its information-packed pages. It continues to serve as one of the most accurate barometers of the current market, and is a much sought-after guide and reference for collectors throughout the world.

Canadian issues continue to show great strength. This is especially true in issues covering the period 1851 to 1933, in which the most significant changes have occurred.

Among the earlier issues, the 1868 15c unused violet (No. 29) has risen from \$2.65 to \$3.25. The 1908 5c Quebec unused (No. 99) is \$2.95, — up from \$2.50. The 1912 1c coil, perf. 8 horiz., unused (No. 132), has increased from \$6.50 to \$8.50.

Special deliveries, dues, and officials include, as does the plate block section, a fair share of increases. Generally, activity in the provinces continued light. ★

## The Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

offers a further source of information  
for B.N.A. specialists through the  
columns of its official publication . . .

MAPLE LEAVES



For information write:

JIM WOODS, Editor  
2 Hengrave Road  
Honor Oak Park  
London, S.E. 23, England





# OFFICIAL SECTION

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MONTHLY REPORT . . .

## From the Secretary . . .

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

September 1, 1961

### APPLICATIONS PENDING

- Campbell, A. Craig, M.D., 20 Abercrombie Road, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia  
Downs, Ralph W., 484 Brunswick Avenue, Toronto 4, Ontario  
Grenier, Guy, 603 Besserer, Ottawa, Ontario  
Happy, John, 141 Hammersmith Avenue, Toronto 13, Ontario  
Kearsley, Ken, Box 371, Barrie, Ontario  
Lounsbury, R.H., 215 East State Street, Ithaca, New York  
Winder, John W., 122 Grant Blvd., Dundas, Ontario

### APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- Conn, Clair C., 1911 Monon Ave., Lafayette, Ind. (C-CX) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint booklet panes. Mint Airmails. Proposed by J. Levine, No. L1.  
Forster, H. Walter, 1013 Westview St., Philadelphia 19, Pa. (C) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and mint blocks. Mint booklet panes. Mint and used Airmails. Proposed by D. C. Meyerson, No. L3.

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 1393 Kemp, Clarence A., 10 Benvenuto Place, Apt. 101, Toronto 7, Ontario  
1635 Kuttner, William, 114 Douglas Road, Roselle, New Jersey  
1471 Poole, Charles, 5 Mayo Ave., Box 672, R.R. No. 2, Ottawa, Ontario  
1445 Rosenblat, Daniel G., 660 W. Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo, California

### MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, August 1, 1961	1034
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, September 1, 1961	1034

## URGENTLY NEEDED!

### ARTICLES FOR BNA TOPICS

The cupboard is almost bare . . . and if members do not come to our rescue, we may not have enough copy to produce a magazine in December . . . and what about the months following? Your help will be appreciated—please keep it filled with good material!



# THE B.N.A. MARKET PLACE

## Classified Topics

Reserved for Members of BNAPS

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. 149tf

100 CANADIAN POSTCARDS 1870-1900 issues. Fine for shades, town and duplex cancellations; also some unused. A snap at \$5.00. Many used Canadian stamps available on a per 100 basis at prices that will surprise you. S. Lukow, 472 McKenzie St., Winnipeg 4, Man. 172tf(40w)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in any of the following I will be pleased to send you approvals: 2-Ring Numerals on Large and Small Cents; 4-Ring Numerals on 5c Beavers and Large Cents; Squared Circles on postcards, mostly common ones; Duplex, Railroad and Flag cancellations on postcards. Choice selection of issues from 1859. Correspondence a pleasure. Walter P. Carter, 47 Risebrough Ave., Willowdale, Ont. 172-6t

### SQUARED CIRCLES

WANTED on 3c Small Queen: Belleville, "4" above the line, April 26, '97. Dr. C. S. McKee, McKee Rd., R.R. No. 3, Abbotsford, B.C. 170-tf

WANTED FOR RESEARCH: Halifax Squared Circles. Any with Blank Above the Date. Also De 4, '96; De 19, 20, 21, '96; Ja 21, '97; Mr 30, '97; Sp 27, '98; Oc 18, 19, '98; Fe 10, '99. In the following the complete date and number above the date (given first in each case) most essential: 14-Au 26, '93; 3-No 27, '93; 4-No 27, '93; 1-De 26, '93; 3-De 26, '93; 3-Ja 4, '94; 3-My 20, '94; 4-My 20, '94; 4-Ju 3, '95; 1-Jy 21, '97; 3-Jy 21, '97; 1-Au 4, '97; 3-Au 4, '97; 3-Oc 29, '97; 4-Oc 29, '97; 3-Fe 4, '98; 1-Mr 4, '98; 3-Mr 4, '98. Will purchase or give generous exchange. Dr. Alfred Whitehead, 52 Havelock, Amherst, N.S. \*

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-tf

### WANTED

EDWARD 5 CENTS: Pairs, strips, blocks, wanted for study. Will purchase or borrow, and return via airmail. Dr. Hollingsworth, 17 Mellish Rd., Walsall, Staffs., England. 192-2t

SISSON'S Auction Catalogues. Single numbers or runs equally welcome, with or without prices realized. H. M. Daggett, 4078 West 37th Avenue, Vancouver 13, B.C. 190-4t

CANADA WANTED—Early singles. From 1922 to date wanted blocks, coils, booklets, mint or used; will purchase or trade. Have European or U.S. collections, strong in Austria; also wanted, Austrian used blocks. Joseph Bush, 4601 N.E. 3rd Ave, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 172-ft

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P.I.LATELIC EXHIBITION material: catalogues, programs, souvenir seals, slogan cancels and other related material. H. M. Daggett, 4078 West 37th Avenue, Vancouver 13, B.C. 190-4t

## Moving? Notify the Secretary

*If you have moved or plan to move, or change your residence or mailing address, please notify the Secretary. Many members overlook this very important data for the records, and for the mailing of BNA TOPICS. Always include postal zone number, and also your BNAPS membership number. Many letters and copies of the magazine are returned because an old or improper address has been used. Your co-operation is solicited.*



# The Last Word

... *From The Editor*

## **New Printers for TOPICS . . .**

ALTHOUGH MEMBERS MAY NOTICE little difference in the physical appearance of our magazine, commencing with the September issue it is being produced by a brand-new printing firm. TOPICS has been printed by Mission Press, in Toronto, since April 1954, and we have always been appreciative of the efforts of this firm in producing a quality magazine for the Society within our rather limited budget. Behind this effort were two gentlemen connected with the management of Mission Press, C. F. Downie and John Macdonald. When the new printing firm of Macdonald-Downie Limited came into being in August of this year, it was only natural that TOPICS should be one of their accounts. The editor welcomes the opportunity of being able to continue working with the gentlemen who have extended many favors and been of great assistance in our publication problems over the years. May this association long continue!

## **Society Produces Handbooks Number 4 and 5 . . .**

BRINGING TO FIVE the total number of handbooks published by BNAPS, *Constant Plate Varieties of the Canada Small Queens* by Hans Reiche and *Canadian Stamps With Perforated Initials* by BNAPS Perfin Study Group were released in September. The former is the amended material which ran serially in TOPICS, brought together in convenient booklet form, while the latter is the second edition of the booklet originally published by the Society in 1955. Members and others are urged to add these handbooks to their philatelic libraries. The next handbook project will be the publication of *Canadian Flag Cancellations*, by Ed Richardson, which should be ready early in the new year.

## **PICKUP . . .**

*From The Collectors Club Philatelist*

## **It Is Not Rare, If You Have to Explain It**

A MEMBER, WHILE SPEAKING on his exhibit here at the club said: "This is rare." Another sitting next to us remarked: "That is a lot of tripe; there are about ten copies of that stamp known. It is not rare."

Philatelists do not share the same view on the use of the term, rare. Since there is no agreement, the word, "rare," seems to defy a definition that may be generally applied. "Webster's Dictionary" defines rare as "of a relatively small class." Thus, price is not the determining factor. A cancellation, postmark, a relatively common stamp on a cover or one from a less popular country can be rare, although none will command high prices in the current stamp market.

Can a useful definition be used for a philatelic rarity? The view of a great philatelic authority, now deceased, is recalled. He said that if one had to explain a philatelic item, then it could not be rare. If one will think about this, he will find much logic in such an explanation. Consequently, philately might accept the following definition:—"If one has to explain or tell others about it; if the majority do not know it—then it is not rare."



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