

BNA Topics

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Official Journal

Of The

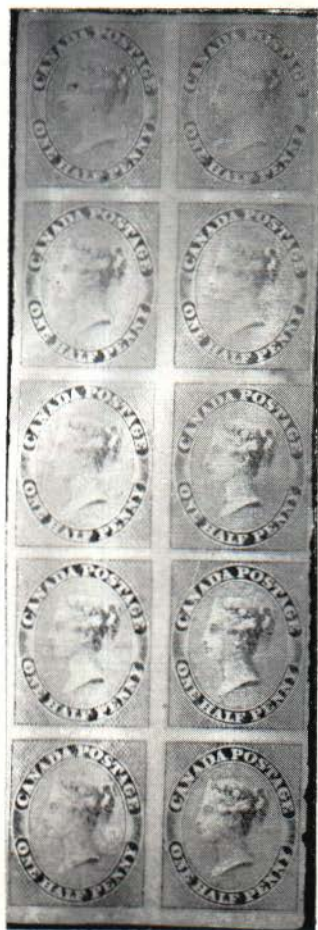
British North America

Philatelic Society

Volume 22 Number 9 Whole Number 237 October 1965

Published October 4th

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BNA Topics

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503 John St.
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September 1, 1965

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Endres, Ray, 132 Clyde Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60202
Gordon, Arthur, M.D., 35-28 63rd Street, Woodside, New York 11377
Jean, Donald, 41-9th Avenue, Richmond, Quebec
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Masko, Paul M., 135 Quaspeck, Blvd., Valley Cottage, New York 10989
Nowlan, Alfred W., 505 Nelson Street, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia
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466 Sparrow, W. H., 125 Lytton Blvd., Toronto 12, Ontario

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CARTER, Roy D., P.O. Box 4006, San Fernando, Calif. 91342 (C) CAN, NFD—19th & 20th century mint & used postage and blocks, Plate Blocks, Coils.O.H.M.S.-G. Mint & used booklet panes. Federal & Provincial Revenues, Mint & used Airmails. 2 & 4-ring numeral and Squared Circle cancellations. Proposed by J. N. Sissons, No. L17.
CHANDLER, Russell R., 208 Centre Ave., New Rochelle, N.Y. 10805 (C-X) CAN, NFD, PROV. Mint & used postage. Coils O.H.M.S.-G Mint & used booklet panes. Mint & used Airmails. Postal Stationery entires. Proposed by C. Westhaver, No. 1442.
DUCKWORTH, Henry E. Univ. of Manitoba, Winnipeg 19, Man (C) CAN—19th century used postage. SPECIALTY—Canada 1868 issue. Proposed by J. N. Sissons, No. L17.
PIGGOTT, E. Reginald, 12 Leverett Ave., Kentville, N.S. (DC-CX) CAN, NFD, N.S. — 20th century mint & used postage and blocks. 1st Day and 1stFlight covers. Plate Blocks, O.H.M.S.-G Mint panes & complete booklets. Precancels. Seals. Mint & used Airmails. Postal Stationery entires and cut-squares. Squared Circle cancellations. SPECIALTY — Canada Plate Blocks. Proposed by E. L. Piggott, No. 629.

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1784 Nault, M. L., 100 DeMontigny St. E., Apt. 2058, Montreal 18, Quebec
1908 Petersen Jeanette M., 2924 S. W. Huber, Portland, Oregon 97219
927 Smith, H. M., 20 King St. W., Toronto 1, Ontario

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MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, August 1, 1965	989	
REPLACED ON ROLLS, September 1, 1965	1	
	<hr/>	
RESIGNATIONS, September 1, 1965	4	990
		<hr/>
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, September 1, 1965		986

THE *Editor's* MAILBAG

Dear Sir

What is happening to the Canadian Postal Dept? I see the June number of Topics was published on June 4th, my copy was posted on June 13th (why 9 days delay?) and arrived here — the nearest area of Europe to Canada — on July 21st, i.e. in 37 days, which is about three times longer than mails from Canada took a hundred years ago!

Is this the best the Canadian Postal Dept. can do?

E. A. Smythies

Tralee, Ireland

Dear Mr. Young:

I was very much interested in the letter in May Topics from Mr. A. J. Quattrocchi about the old cancellers in use at Forfar, Ontario. For a rather obvious reason, covers from Forfar have always interested me, although I have only four of them.

Two of them are cards which were mailed by my wife and I on May 7, 1959 while on our honeymoon. Although written and deposited on May 7 about 3.00 p.m. they were not cancelled until May 8. They show the same cancel illustrated in Topics, but with different spacing and position. This

supports the statement that the two ham-mers are separate.

Another cover dated Oc 7 40 has the killer in still another position.

The oldest cover, DE 19 89, has the same cds but it has a 6 ring target killer tying 1c and 2c small queens. It is addressed to Allegheny, Pa. and is backstamped Brockville, Ont. Canada P.M. De 20 '89 and Allegheny, Pa. Dec 21 10 p.m. 1889 Rec'd.

As to the personal interest in the Forfar cancels, I know of no family connections there and Mr. Baker, the merchant, told me that he had no knowledge of anyone thereabouts with the name Forfar. My father was born at Scarborough and had relatives named Crosby. The 1940 cover is from Mr. R. Odell of Crosby (few miles from Forfar) and is addressed to me.

I also have covers from Keith and Forfar in Scotland, which are about 25 miles apart. The Keith in my name comes from my mothers side of the family.

There is a small town named Keith near Calgary which had a post office at one time but it has now been closed. I am still looking for a cover from there to complete a very personal philatelic collection.

Yours truly,

Keith Forfar

BNAPS REGIONAL GROUPS

Philadelphia—Meets the first Thursday of each month at 7934 Pickering Street, Philadelphia, Pa. *Temagami*—Meet every summer. Alfred P. Cook, Coy Glen Road, Ithaca New York. *Vancouver*—Meets every Friday night at the Y.W.C.A., corner of Burrard and Dunsmuir, at 8 p.m. *Winnipeg*—Meets on a Monday in each month to be decided upon at previous meeting. Harold Wilding 135 Traill Ave., Winnipeg 12, Man. *Edmonton*—Meets twice a year in May and October in a public place, time and date to be announced. Out of town visitors to communicate with Secretary F. N. Harris, 11013-129 Street *Twin City*—Meets at members' homes on second Thursday of each month. J. C. Cornelius, 2309 Irving Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. *Calgary*—Meets second and fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m., Murray Devlin, 1030—12th Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta. *Pacific*—Meets twice a year at the call of the Secretary, Brian F. Milne, 14500 San Jose Street, San Fernando, California.

NOTICE

The last issue of BNA Topics — September was incorrectly numbered 7 whole number 236. It should have read number 8 whole number 236.

Sales Circuit Comments

JAMES C. LEHR, 2818 Cheshire Rd., Devon, Wilmington 3, Delaware

With the November issue of Topics we will enclose a blank sales circuit request card for members to indicate what stamps they would like to receive in circuits. Since this is the only way I have of knowing what you want, let's discuss how this card should be filled out.

First, please fill out all the blanks at the top & bottom. It means a lot of work for me if I have to check exactly what the address and your membership number is. The date tells me how up-to-date this list is and the specialty indicates your major interest. Finally, please check which kind of circuit you wish. In some categories we only have enough books to send out Special

Circuits. You can check both if you desire both.

As far as filling out the rest is concerned, please don't check any categories unless you wish to receive that type of stamp. The more you check, the harder it is to determine what to send. If you want a certain type of cancellation or cover, so indicate. If your interest is limited to one stamp, such as the map stamp or 2c small queen, we probably will never be able to get up a regular circuit. In this case I'll send the one or two books we have if you pay postage both ways.

Finally, send in your card if you are still collecting & give us a chance to help you fill in the blanks.



An early advertising cover of 1903 showing the Halifax and Yarmouth "W" M. C. cancel. Collection E. L. Piggott #629

Before the automobile, radio and factory production lines speeded up the tempo of life and modern machinery came into use, the travelling medicine man and his many lines of merchandise as advertised on this cover of 1903, was a familiar sight in Nova Scotia.

Senior readers will recall such products as "Life of Man Bitters", "Little Gem Pills", "Invigorating Syrup" and the much used vegetable plaster the medicine man carried, and the advice he handed out.

A few years ago a 92 year old often remarked his long life was attributable in a small degree perhaps to good advice from the travelling medicine man, though he did add he had a good start before germs were discovered.

THE IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FOUR MAJOR RE-ENTRIES OF CANADA'S 6c SMALL QUEEN IN THE RED-BROWN AND CHOCOLATE SHADES

By Peter J. Hurst

The 6c value of the Small Queens series was printed, during the so-called "Second Ottawa" period (1888-97), from two plates. The "Montreal & Ottawa" plate (Boggs imprint type IV) which almost certainly printed the yellow-brown stamps from 1872 on, when the first 6c Small Queen appeared, was used in the 'nineties, although with certain subtle changes to the plate, which are too involved and complex to concern us here.

Also in use during the red-brown period was the "Montreal" plate with pearly border imprints (Boggs type V), consisting of panes "B" and "C" respectively, with 100 subjects per pane. It is, incidentally, extremely doubtful that this plate was employed to print any yellow-brown stamps.

A considerable deal of mystery surrounds these plates during the period under discussion and understandably so, since the 6c is one of the scarcer values of the series and multiples are fairly scarce by now. It is impossible here to enter into a comparative discussion of the inherent problems during the last nine years of use of this stamp. The purpose of this short article is to establish and describe the four known major re-entries of the red-brown and chocolate printings.

Identification and plating are based upon study of more than 10,000 copies of the red-brown 6c, including four full panes and many smaller multiples. It will be seen how easily confused these re-entries are without proper and definite cross-reference — preferably visual — and since this is the first time that all four varieties are gathered into juxtaposition, it is hoped that specialists and Small Queens collectors in general will derive assistance and interest from this attempt at clarification.

Following is a descriptive listing of the four major re-entries.

Illustration No. 1:

"Montreal & Ottawa" Plate, Pane "A", Position No. 24

This is probably the least rare of the quartet, and was described and plated several decades ago. It shows three position

dots at the lower left corner, in the configuration typical for the fourth vertical row, and occurs also in imperforate form.

The left half of the bottom frame line is clearly doubled in a diverging fashion, a line runs near the top of the letters "CEN." of "CENTS", and the lower right corner shows doubling. There are strong signs of re-entry in the left "6", and faint extra impressions at the left ornament of leaves.

In addition, the top legend, notably "CANADA", shows pronounced doubling and the upper left corner scroll has an extra bar. It is perhaps too early to debate the life span of this variety, but in any case it should not exist in the chocolate shade, which seems to be represented by printings from the "Montreal" plate exclusively.

Notes common to Illustrations 2, 3, and 4

Among the strongest criteria common to the three following major re-entries—which all come from the same plate — is the mangled, almost mutilated, appearance of the word "CENTS", and the doubling of the dotted lines crossing the Queen's face and neck. In all three cases, only the lower part of the stamp is affected by the action of the transfer roll, in strong contrast to the "A" pane variety, illustration No. 1, where virtually the entire area of the stamp bears signs of re-entering.

Since these three stamps come from the "Montreal" plate, there is no position dot at the lower left corner.

All this has led to understandable confusion on the part of compilers of handbooks and check-lists alike, compounded by the fact that any of these three stamps is rare and missing in some of the most advanced Small Queens collections even as one variety out of the three. It would seem that, by comparison, the yellow-brown major re-entry (Boggs page 276) is from three to five times as common.

It might be added that the similarity of the characteristics outlined above, strongly suggests that technologically the three major re-entries of the "Montreal" plate are closely related, and were possibly executed all three together on the same day and by the same siderographer.





Illustration No. 2:

"Montreal" Plate, Pane "C" (right pane),

Position No. 7.

This shows strong diverging doubling of the right half of the bottom frame line, a number of criteria in the right "6", and heavy duplication of the lower part of the left side of the stamp, including the leaves and the oval.

Illustration No. 3:

"Montreal" Plate, Pane "G" (right pane),

Position No. 81

The lower two-thirds of the left outer contour is very strongly doubled, involving the lower left ornament, the leaves and the oval. The lower right ornament shows a distinct extra line in the right margin, well clear of the design.

The misalignment of the transfer roll shows no angularity as was evident in illustrations 1 and 2 and may be considered as latitudinally off-register only. The doubling of the leaves and oval at left is far better defined than in Position No. 7.

Illustration No. 4:

"Montreal" Plate, Pane "B" (left pane)

Position unknown

This is extremely similar to illustration No. 3, but certain differences establish without doubt that we are dealing with two distinctly separate and unrelated subjects.

To begin with, the doubling at the left side is more widely spaced, this being most easily ascertained by comparing the lowest leaf of the ornamental foliage at left. Also, there is no dot immediately to the left of this leaf, as there is in Position No. 81.

Secondly, the extra line in the right margin near the lower right corner is missing, and the interior of this lower right corner spandrel area is quite worn. And finally, the oval is tripled at right, directly above the topmost leaf.

The specimen shown is dated March 11, 1897.

This is identical to the re-entry from the Dr. Day collection, illustrated in Boggs, page 295, and erroneously described as "No. 7, right pane, Montreal Plate".

P.D.Q.

MERV QUARLES 17344 Mahoney Parkway, Hazel Crest, Illinois 60429

Jim Kraemer of Kitchener, Ontario was the first BNAPSer to write with suggestions for the PDQ column. Among other things he wrote "I might further suggest that an article on the 1897 precancelled Jubilees would be a good one in view of the popularity of this issue."

Thanks, Jim, for your letter so here goes with the Jubilees. The dates of issue, numbers released to the public (unprecancelled of course, as we have no record of what was issued precancelled), colors, source of design are all noted in existing major works and need not be repeated here.

Two different bar type precancellations have been noted on this set.

TYPE T — two straight bars with large deep wavy line between. Noted by Walburn as being used at Toronto.

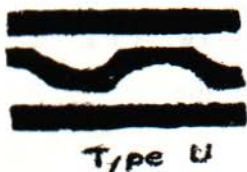
TYPE U — two straight bars with a bold heavy square shouldered wave between. Noted by Walburn as being used at Montreal.



Type T

Mr. Hetherington in "Canadian Precancels" Maple Leaves Vol. 2, Page 104 wrote this group was in "continuous use from 1894 to 1903" and "were cancelled by electrotype a sheet at a time."

Little seems to remain in the official records today but 23 March 1923 Arthur Web-



ster, Secretary, Post Office Department, Ottawa, wrote to BNAPSer J. Harvey Westren of Toronto "As regard the forms of precancellation by lines and bars etc., used in connection with the older issues of postage stamps, such as the Jubilees, as far as the facts can be ascertained the stamps were at that time precancelled by hand with a "roller" made locally for the purpose. The form of cancellation consisted of two parallel straight lines with a waving line between them. Each post office precancelled its own stamps in this way which might account for variations in the design used."

Mr. L. Gibb of Montreal wrote to the Editor of LONDON PHILATELIST (Vol. I, Page 100) that:

"After some little trouble I found the post office would upon receiving whole sheets of stamps, cancel them, and then hand them back to any known firm to be placed on letter in quantity, these letters are then taken to a private part of the office in bulk, and are allowed to pass through the post without further marking."

A word or two to explain "letters" above. Precancels were allowed only for use on circulars, magazines and parcels, never on first class letters.

In the first edition of the Canadian Precancelled Postage Stamp Catalogue, 1923, edited by Frank S. Thompson only eight Jubilees were listed precancelled:

1c, 2c*, 3c, 10c*, \$2* Type T
1c, 3c, 50c, Type U

Those marked * were not in the Thompson collection. The 7th Edition of the Noble

Catalog (reviewed by BNAPSer Woolley in the July-August 1965 Topics) lists the following:

	TYPE T	TYPE U
1c orange	X	X
2c green	X	
3c rose	X	X
5c blue	X	X
8c violet	X	X
10c brown violet	X	
15c steel blue	X	X
20c vermilion	X	X
50c ultramarine	X	X
\$1 lake		X
\$2 Purple	X	

The 1c and 3c Type T are the only specimen commonly seen. The \$2 Type T is very rare; while the \$1 type U is perhaps unique. It is owned by BNAPSer R. B. Hetherington who discovered it during the "Fifties".

The 8c Type T was not catalogued until the 5th Edition (1954) and is now one of the sixteen stamps listed at \$40 in the 7th Edition of the Noble Catalog.

The Official Catalog lists the Jubilees as being found precancelled normal, double prints; triple prints and vertically.

The questions still requiring an answer:

Were the precancellations made from an electroplate a sheet at a time or from a roller?

Are all the Jubilee precancels listed.

It is my opinion that the 1/2c, 6c, \$3, \$4 and \$5 do not exist precancelled because of the very small quantity issued for general use. It is possible that other values not hitherto reported may come to light.

Fellow BNAPSers please assist me in the 1964 BNAPS Census of Jubilee precancels. Drop me a note at 17344 Mahoney Hazel Crest Ill. 60429 USA and let me know what you have in your collection. As soon as the results are in I will include them in a PDQ Column.

Please send changes of address to the Secretary

JACK LEVINE, 203 Tranquil Dr., Oxford, N.C., U.S.A.

REGISTERED LETTER STAMPS

5c Plate II, The Problem of the "Straight Edge"

by E. A. Smythies, F.R.P.S.L., F.C.P.S.

The stamps printed from this remarkable plate introduce a problem which is very difficult to explain. Since the publication of the R.L.S. handbook, a good deal of new information about this freak plate has become available, and the following points may be regarded as established or highly probable.

(1) It was made in 1886, with a solid block of 100 impressions 10 x 10, instead of the usual two panes 5 x 10, one above and one below. Thus the guillotine was not required to separate two panes.

(2) This unusual setting made it unfit for the perforating machines then in use, which made it very unpopular and it was set aside without being used and without being properly finished off, i.e. there were no imprints

(4) Perforating the sheets must have been quite a problem, as the impressions were too close together vertically and the ten rows too long horizontally to fit the machines.

(5) Whether in consequence of this or for some other reason, stamps from this plate are frequently found with one long horizontal edge, as illustrated below.

Note how the straight edge cuts into the stamp design above.

(6) These "straight edge" stamps were almost certainly sold in that state from the post offices, and have been recorded on mint blocks, pairs, stamps on covers etc.

(7) They were not due to the omission of a row of pins in the perforating machines, because they appear (and disappear) irregularly. For example straight edges are known



or marginal inscriptions but there were a mass of guide-lines, position dots, re-entries (or rather fresh entries) etc. which should have been removed in the finishing off process but were left.

(3) In late 1892, i.e. six years later, when a big demand had arisen for registered 5c stamps, due to this rate being then universal, this plate was brought out of storage and used for printing 5c sheets, still in its unfinished state, so that the blemishes appear on the stamps — and incidentally help considerably in plating. Printing of R.L.S. stopped early in 1893, so this plate was used for a short time only.

below stamps 12, 13, 14 of the plate, and these same stamps are known perforated normally all round. Again they have been found in the 6th, 7th and 10th vertical rows near the bottom of the plate, possibly stamps Nos. 76, 77 and 80. (These also are found perforated normally). And there are examples in other horizontal rows, with straight edges and without.

(8) Examples on covers or with C.D.S. showing P.O. of origin are practically all from smaller post offices and not from the larger towns.

(9) No case has yet been recorded of a vertical pair "imperf between". Nor have

any examples been found of vertical straight edge. Nor of a stamp with two straight edges.

(10) These straight edges are practically confined to this one plate and brief late printing, and are not found on other plates or printings.

These are the relevant facts so far as they are known. What do they suggest as the probable or plausible reason for their appearance? It was thought at one time they might be due to guillotine action, but the guillotine was not required to sever two

panes on this plate, and anyway would not be used near the top and bottom of the sheet. They are obviously not due to trimming after purchase from a post office, nor to the omission of a row of pins in the perforating machine. Why are they limited to this one brief printing and to smaller post offices? Had the unique and unsatisfactory lay-out of this peculiar plate something to do with it? It is quite a problem? I hope some ingenious reader of this note will think out a plausible explanation of these "straight edges", for I frankly confess I cannot.

The Proof Corner

ROBERT H. PRATT, 3097 W. Mill Road, Milwaukee, Wis. 53209

Newfoundland "progressive die" proofs form a most interesting study. They exist for the De La Rue issues and the later Perkins Bacon issues. Even the Guy issue of 1910—1911 have some interesting varieties.

To start with the first "burin" scratches on a die block and follow the stamp to its completion and then plate proofs, the stamp with its varieties and finally to covers in actual use is the "final" in stamp collecting.

Only in this way can a complete record of any one stamp be gathered together. It is particularly interesting if the artist sketch can be located and the various die proofs are dated.

For instance the 4c Perkins Bacon of 1929 received its first scratches on the die block on the 29th and 30th of May 1929. The die was "finalized" on the 3rd of July 1929 and assigned die #797. The stamp issued on the 26th of August 1929, relatively a short span.

The 10c value of the same issue began life on the 18th of July and after several changes in sky shading was "finalized" on the 29th of August. The die number was added September 2, 1929 and the stamp was issued Oct. 5, 1929, again a relatively short span.

The 8c value is a different story. I don't know where it was started but it was

"finalized" 25 Nov. 1929, received its die number (855) 20 Feb., 1930 and was not issued as a stamp until 1 April, 1931—a long time.

How many of you know that die and plate proofs of the 14c and 28 values, similar to the 1928 De La Rue values, were prepared in 1929 and 1930 but never issued. In fact two dies of each were prepared with the early one of each being rejected.

Unless you collect proofs you will be unaware of the "Color Trials" that were submitted for the De La Rue 1928 issue. Some four groups were sent for approval. They make an interesting study and I fear very few collectors would know how to separate the color trials from die proofs. It can be done and the results are a most satisfactory "page" for your collection.

The photographic "essays" used by De La Rue for preparation of their stamps from 1911 has some 21 essays of which only 6 were finally used to prepare stamps. The 2c value of this stamp has the same vignette as that used in South Africa 1c issued in 1910.

Without the proofs to study, all this "trivia" probably would not be known. It does something to the completeness of the study and the pleasure of your hobby to add this data to your pages. Proofs are fun — and scarce.

More around the corner

CONTINUE TO GET NEW MEMBERS

HISTORICAL MEMORANDUM OF THE CANADIAN POSTAL SERVICE WITH THE ARMIES IN FRANCE, BELGIUM AND GERMANY 1914-1919

PART 14

No. 475093 Sergeant **A. H. Hammill**, who died at the 36th Casualty Clearing Station in Belgium on the 26th November, 1918, following a severe attack of Bronchitis.

Sergt. Hammill was in charge of the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Field Post Office and took sick while his Brigade was on the advance into Germany. Notwithstanding his illness he continued on duty until evacuated to hospital, where, as stated, he subsequently passed away. His body was buried in the civil cemetery in Nivilles, South of Brussels in the vicinity of the historical battleground of Waterloo.

Sergt. Hammill was highly respected, and his devotion to duty at all times was largely responsible for the very efficient postal service given his Brigade. Before enlistment the deceased was a railway mail clerk in the Winnipeg district.

No. 35249 Sergeant **E. M. Wilkinson** of the Canadian Postal Record Branch, France, died in the Military Hospital, Rouen, France, 19th April, 1919, of Bronchial Pneumonia. From the time of his enlistment in the Postal Corps in 1915 Sergt. Wilkinson gave loyal and efficient service. He was a man of sterling character; highly esteemed and respected by all ranks who deeply regretted his untimely death. Before enlisting for active service Sergt. Wilkinson was employed in the Victoria Post Office.

The following Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers were awarded military honours:

Lieut-Colonel **K. A. Murray**: Awarded Order of the British Empire (Military Division) 1st January 1919 and mentioned in despatches on 12-1-16. 13-11-16 and 31-12-16.

Major **F. A. Warner**: Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

35213 S/Sergt. **H. W. Livingstone**: Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

71274 S/Sergt. **R. Kent**: Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

35208 S/Sergt. **D. V. McPherson**: Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

35225 S/Sergt. **W. M. McClellan**: Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

In concluding the Chapter on Staff, it is perhaps fitting that I should here respectfully record my feeling of deep indebtedness to the following for the kindly assistance and help I have at all times received:

(1) The Honourable the Postmaster-General of Canada (Colonel **P. E. Blondin**), who visited the Canadian area in France in January 1918 for the purpose of inspecting the postal arrangements. He made a very close inspection of the entire services from the Port where the mails are received to their delivery to regimental mail orderlies at the various Field Post Offices, and, in order to satisfy himself that the mails were being handled expeditiously throughout, he personally visited the front line trenches and witnessed deliveries to units in action.

It was very gratifying and encouraging to the whole of the Canadian Postal Corps that Colonel Blondin was able to express himself so highly pleased with the Postal Service which he considered equal to that afforded in civil life.

(2) Colonel **George Ross**, I.S.O., Officer Administering the Canadian Postal Corps. By his constant personal interest and advice in all matters appertaining to the efficiency of the Postal Service; by his unflinching energy and sacrifice of personal convenience during his visits to the field of operations (when, by the way, he gratified his natural desire to 'do his bit' by firing several shells from a Howitzer gun into the enemy ranks); and by his abundant and kindly interest in the personal well being of every member of the Corps he has won for himself a degree of high esteem amongst us, which will remain as one of the pleasant memories of the War. We cannot speak too highly of our Chief and we salute him with the respect he so richly deserves.

(3) The Director of Army Postal Services (Brig.-General **W. Price**, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., V.D.) and his Officers, to whom I desire to place on record my deep appreciation of their unflinching kindness to the members of the Canadian Postal Corps and the invaluable assistance given us at all times.

We are indeed pleased and gratified that it was our privilege to have been associated with the staff of the Royal Engineers Postal Section in contributing to the comfort and convenience of our gallant troops.

Rounding Up Squared Circles

Editor: DR. A. WHITEHEAD, 52 HAVELOCK ST., AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA

THE TWO FORMOSA HAMMERS by Dr. W. G. Moffatt

It now appears certain that two distinct squared circle hammers were prepared for Formosa, Ont., and that the well-known round-cornered hammer is not an altered state of the Proof Book Hammer (Figs. 4 and 14, respectively, of the third edition Handbook). There has been some speculation on this subject (see, for example, this column in January 1964 Topics), and in an effort to resolve several questions, photographic enlargements were made from which tracing overlays could be compared. Fig. 1 shows, for side-by-side comparison, tracing of enlargements of the Proof Book hammer, and of a round-cornered strike from my collection; in anticipation of what follows, the Proof Book hammer is referred to as Hammer I, State 1 and the round-cornered hammer is referred to as Hammer II, State 2.

In preparing Fig. 1, the magnification was adjusted to result in the same size circle within the bars of the two strikes. This may, or may not, have been the case in the actual hammers; from the evidence, they were not precisely the same. However, it did not seem proper to enlarge them to the same outside dimensions because of the suspicion that the left side and bottom bar of the round-cornered hammer had been cut down somewhat during alteration. In any event, one photograph was of an actual strike while the other was of an illustration which, in all likelihood, was not exactly true size and some basis was needed for obtaining illustration of comparable size. At the magnification used — approximately $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$ hammer face — the photographic screen used in preparing the Handbook illustration of the Proof Book hammer was prominent enough to surely result in further degradation on reproduction; for this reason, tracings are shown in Fig. 1 rather than the photographs.

A comparison of the two strikes illustrated in Fig. 1 shows numerous points of difference; note, as an example, the positions of the two O's in the two strikes. In Hammer II, the M of FORMOSA and N of ONT are centered on a vertical axis whereas a line through the centers of M and N is rotated clockwise about the vertical axis

in Hammer I. There is also a difference in the position of the R of FORMOSA, but by far the most prominent difference is in the position of the A in the town name: in Hammer I, the A lies between the indicia bars while in Hammer II, the A straddles the upper indicia bar. There is also a difference in the thickness and spacing of the bars, and the side pieces of Hammer II are taller than those of Hammer I.

So much for the differences in the placement of the lettering with respect to the surround of bars the lettering does look quite similar in the two strikes, and one can almost imagine that a good match could be obtained if the lettering of Hammer I could be rotated slightly in the counterclockwise direction. Then the positions of F, O, R, and final A would be correct, and the axis through M and N would be correct. Of course, this is leaning over backwards to devise a scheme by which the round-cornered hammer could result from modification of the Proof Book hammer — the longer side pieces of the round-cornered hammer indicate that this could not be the case. Then, too, there are noticeable differences in the lettering — the shape of the S's the spacing between F and first O, the parallel-sided M in the Proof Book hammer versus the slightly pinched-at-the-base M in the round-cornered hammer. It seemed clear that there had to have been two different hammers, but to settle the question of the similarity of the lettering, additional enlargements were made to an even greater size. This time, an attempt was made to match the lettering, rather than to match the circle cutting the bars. Fig. 2 shows the results of two attempts to match the lettering, first by matching the lettering circles, and second, by matching the distance between the upper left corner of F and the top point of A.

On the basis of the foregoing, it is quite clear that two different hammers are presented by the two strikes. A number of interesting possibilities are now open. Imagine, for example, that Hammer I was used in its initial state for a while, after which the corners were rounded for some reason (perhaps the clerk had a heavy hand,

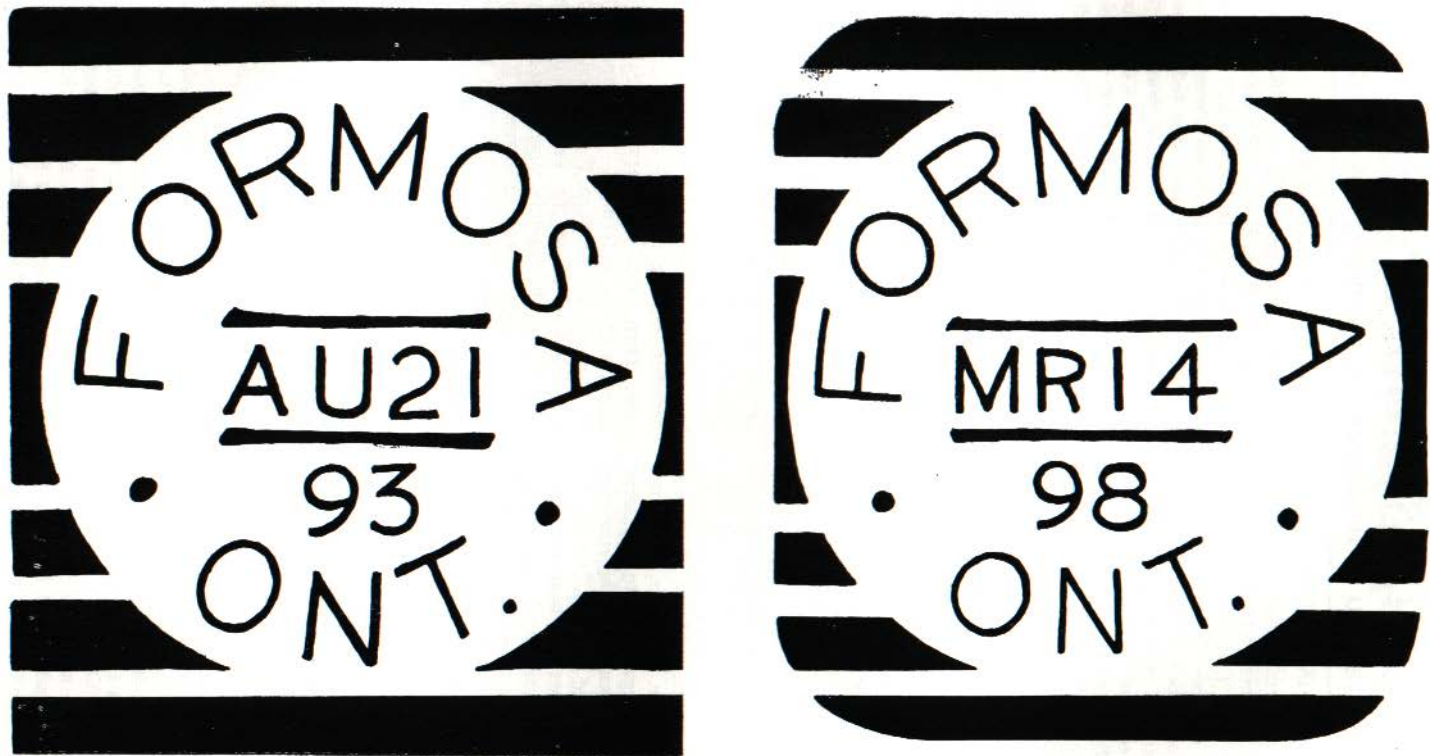


Figure 1—Comparison of the two FORMOSA hammers; left: Hammer 1, State 1; right: Hammer II, State 2.

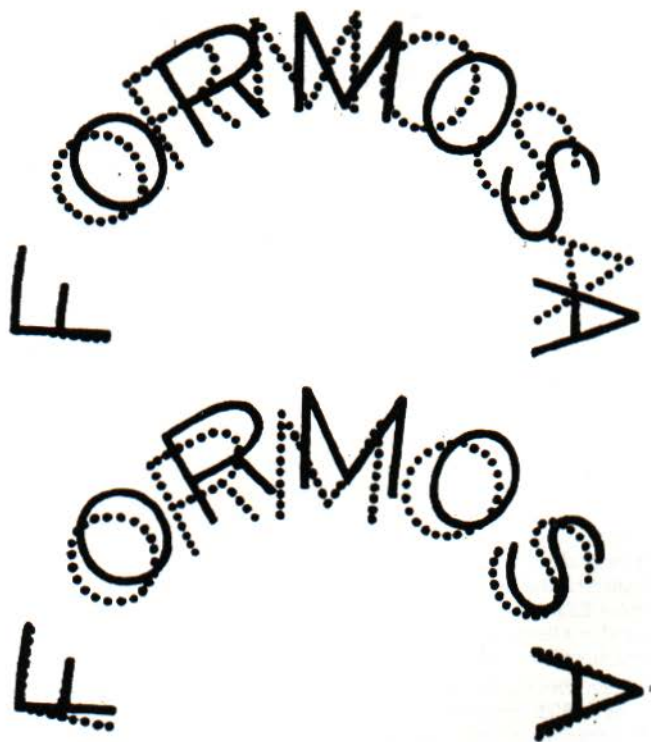


Figure 2—Comparison of the lettering in the two FORMOSA hammers; upper, matching of lettering circle; lower: matching of extremities of the lettering. Solid lettering is Hammer I; dotted lettering is Hammer II.

often when the hammer was not struck squarely). Assume then that Hammer I was used for a while in its altered state and was then lost or damaged beyond repair. A new hammer was obviously requisitioned, but failure to find a proof strike of the new hammer is not significant — the Proof Book only carried proofs with dates and punched holes in the envelopes too up until late 1895, even accounting for the missing pages, whereas the earliest recorded date for the altered state of Hammer II is in late 1896. Two possibilities now emerge:

- (1) If the same clerk were still on duty, he might remember his trouble with square cornered state of Hammer I, and immediately alter the new Hammer II before putting it in service.
- (2) If the same clerk were still on duty, but had forgotten his trouble with the square cornered hammer, or if a new clerk who knew nothing of this

problem were now keeper of the new hammer, it might have seen some service in its initial state before alteration.

Thus, depending upon circumstances, there might be two or three additional versions of FORMOSA hammers yet to come to light.

Of course, one might equally well start with another hypothesis and arrive at a different conclusion. A summary of the possibilities, assuming no more than two hammers no more than two states of each hammer, is given in the following table in which X indicates the state exists and 0 indicates the states does not exist:

	Possible Combination							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hammer I, State 1	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O
Hammer I, State 2	X	X	O	O	X	X	O	O
Hammer II, State 1	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O
Hammer II, State 2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

(Continued on page 236)

POSTAL SERVICE IN THE EARLY DAYS IN YORK COUNTY

By Max Rosenthal

The central artery of York County is Yonge Street, laid out by Governor Simcoe in the 1790's to run north from York (Toronto) to Lake Simcoe. After the establishment of York post office about 1789 it was the only one in the country for a quarter of century.

The two main features of York County's early history, postal and otherwise, are the immigration of minority Protestant sects, most prominently the so called Pennsylvania Dutch, actually of German origin, and the struggle between the ruling Family Compact and the Reformers, the latter led until the 1837 Rebellion by William Lyon Mackenzie, in the 1840's and 1850's by Robert Baldwin, who eventually formed a government with Lafontaine. Baldwin's papers in the Toronto Public Library include correspondence on postal matters, and postmarks of the period, which will be mentioned.

One of these Pennsylvania Dutch settlers, Elisha Beman, in 1802 married Esther, widow of Christopher Robinson, and thus became stepfather to the Robinson brothers, who were destined, as members of the Family Compact, for a prominent place in Canadian politics. In 1804 Joseph Hill, who had built the first mill in Whitchurch Township at the future site of Newmarket, a mile east of Yonge Street on the Holland River, sold it to Beman. James Kinsey was the miller, and built the first store and dwelling which in 1812 Peter Robinson purchased.

This was the beginning of a "new market" for the settlers and for trades, eliminating the necessity of the long, hard journey to York. Letters of 1808 and 1810 sent by Beman are still headed "Whitchurch", but, in a letter sent April 1, 1810 to York merchant Quetton St. George (Toronto Public Library), Robinson already uses the heading "Newmarket", writing: "Will you please to send me three pieces more of shrouds as I find I shall want more of that article before the communication opens, that sent per Mr. Beman came safe to hand. Probably no opportunity may offer for ten days, but I would wish you to keep for me until one does offer."

In 1815 Beman sold five acres to Andrew Borland and William Roe came to New-

market. With his partner Borland he engaged in an extensive fur trade with the Indians from the north. With the Robinsons' connections with the Family Compact it is not surprising that W. B. Robinson became postmaster when Newmarket post office was opened in 1822. On a letter written on February 27, 1830 by Titus Willson (Peter Robinson Papers, Ontario Archives) is postmarked a small double circle broken by Newmarket, with "March 5, 1830" written in.

On July 13, 1832 Deputy Postmaster-General T. W. Stayner wrote from Quebec to York postmaster J. S. Howard (Ontario Archives): "I am under the necessity of troubling you to get Mr. Garbutt the Newmarket courier to sign the within receipt for his quarter urges to 5 July last, and to send it to me. Mr. Robinson has behaved very ill in this business as he has many others connected with this Post Office district, and loath as I am to resort to such extremities, I shall, I fear be obliged to remove him for his negligence is beyond all endurance.

"I was obliged to send away my July accounts without the voucher in question, and Mr. Robinson has promised repeatedly, time after time that he would obtain and forward it to me. Whether he has paid Garbutt or not you will be able to learn from the carrier." In 1837 William Roe became postmaster of Newmarket, serving for 40 years. A letter from M. McDonagh, Point of Mara, Lake Simcoe (Baldwin Papers), sent on May 2, 1841, still has the old type of postmark, but in red. McDonagh was to become the first postmaster of Mara that year.

A letter sent on December 28, 1842 by B. W. Smith, formerly postmaster of Keswick, but new in Newmarket, is already cancelled with a large double circle broken by Newmarket, U.C., with the date set in type. It is in red, whereas one on a letter of Robert H. Smith, of April 21, 1849, is black.

J. E. Howard came to Upper Canada in 1819, being shortly afterwards appointed assistant to William Allan, postmaster of York. In 1828 Howard replaced him as

postmaster. There were public conveyances on Yonge Street at least as early as that year, when George Playter established a stagecoach line. Plans were made to establish two new post offices in York County.

William Parsons had settled at the future Thornhill about 1820. There, with Benjamin Thorne, after whom the village was to be named, he carried on farming, flour milling, leather making and retail and wholesale business. On November 21, 1828 Howard wrote to Parsons (Howard Letter Book, Toronto Public Library).

"Having recommended to the Postmaster-General that a post office be established at Thornhill on Yonge Street and that you should take charge of the same, he has been pleased to give his assent thereto, and has sent me the customary bond and oath of office, which I now beg leave to enclose you in order that you may have it filled up with your own name and those of two securities. One of the forms of the oath you will subscribe yourself, and the other by the person who may have occasion to act at any time during your absence. When you complete the bond, etc. you will forward them again to me that I may immediately to Quebec so that your commission and the necessary blanks may be here in time to commence by the next quarter say 5 January. I would also beg leave to inform you that a post office is to be established immediately in Markham of which Mr. Jas. Johnston is to be postmaster and from which a weekly service will be run to your office".

The same day Howard wrote to Johnston. "I am happy to inform you that the Deputy Postmaster-General has given his assent to an office being established at your place and that you become P.M. You will please make an agreement in writing with some person to go once a week to Mr. Parson's where another office is to be and from whence you will get your mail — the distance is not more than 10 or 11 miles and the trip going and coming may be performed in much less than a day. I therefore think that the sum which I inferred the P.M.G.5s. that is 2c. 6d. each trip or per week is quite sufficient, indeed I should not be willing to allow more. As the mail leaves this every Thursday for Newmarket I should suppose that Friday morning would be the best time for your courier to leave your place."

For more details on Thornhill and Markham see Early York County Post Offices,

BNA Topics February 1963. A letter from W. W. Baldwin, Toronto to John Large, Millbrook (Buttonville), Markham, sent August 11, 1834 (Toronto Public Library), is postmarked on receipt with a medium-sized double circle enclosing Markham, U.C. with 21 Aug, 34 written in. A letter from Alexander McLernan, Montreal to the Postmaster, Thornhill (Ferguson Burrows Papers, Ontario Archives) has the same type of postmark applied at Thornhill, but in blue. Feby 24, 1845 is written in.

In 1831 were opened in York County, Georgina (Sutton), Holland Landing and Lloydtown post offices. The first postmaster at Holland Landing, where Yonge Street reached the Holland River south of Lake Simcoe, was George Lount. A letter from him in the Ontario Archives to Peter Robinson, York has the manuscript postmark "Holland Landing, Dec. 13, 1831" written in two lines and encircled by an oval, all in red. On a letter from Thomas Roy, Red Mills to Francis Newbigging (Allan Papers, Toronto Public Library), written September 30, 1834, is postmarked with a medium-sized double circle enclosing Holland Landing, U.C. in blue, with Oct 7, 34 written in. Railway surveyor Roy wrote: "There was no post nor would the coachman take a letter is our reason for not writing before."

A letter from Lount to Crown Lands Commissioner A. N. Morin, Kingston, sent on April 17, 1843, is postmarked with a large double circle broken by Holland Landing, U.C. and the date is set in type. On a letter from W. Reid (Baldwin Papers) sent June 28, 1847 the same postmark appears in red.

The mail ran from Holland Landing to Georgina, which for several years was the nearest post office to settlers in northern Ontario County and even western Victoria County. Its postmaster was J. O. Bouchier, and what is now Jackson's Point, where Sutton reaches Lake Simcoe, was then called by an Anglicized form of his name, Butcher's Point. A letter from William Johnson, written March 13, 1845 (Baldwin Paper) is cancelled with a medium-sized double circle enclosing Georgina, U.C. with "March 19, 45" written in.

Joseph Watson was postmaster of Lloydtown, in the northwest corner of King Township. His manuscript postmark is to be found on a letter (Ontario Archives) he sent to W. Chewitt, York, "Lloydtown, June 8, 1832" being written in two lines.

Deputy Postmaster-General Stayner's letters to York postmaster Howard (Howard-MacLean Papers Ontario Archives) reflect the agitation carried on by William Lyon Mackenzie to have more post offices established in the back country north of York. From Quebec on October 11, 1831, he wrote:

"I have just answered Mr. Mackenzie's letter on the subject of the dozen new offices recommended by him and proceed to notice what you have said on the subject. As regards the candidates for Scarboro,' Mackenzie in a subsequent letter says that Thomson no longer has a tavern, so that that is no more an objection, but do you endeavor to ascertain who would make the most efficient postmaster (if the line is established) I will appoint him.

"I agree with you that if the line is made to Stouffville it had better start from York thru Markham and so on to Stouffville, doing away with the by-courier from Thornhill to Markham.

"I am at a loss what to say about an office at Hope (Sharon). Mr. Lount's plan shows it to be about four miles from his office and as far from Newmarket — I wish you would give me your opinion on the expediency of having an office there.

"With regard to the office in Etobicoke — being upon the present established mail route to Hamilton would not lead to any extra expense.

"Mr. Charles D. Sheldon has been recommended as postmaster for Stouffville in a petition sent to me thro' Mackenzie in Aug. 1829. I think from the specimen I have had of Mr. Boyer's writing (which I include for your observations) that he is not so much of a scribe and man of business as his rival candidate, but on the other hand you say that Sheldon's correspondence is extensive. Which under these circumstances would you advise me to appoint?"

Sheldon became the first postmaster of Stouffville in 1832. John Boyer did become postmaster in the early 1840's. In 1832 Peter Secor became the first postmaster of Scarboro. He belonged to a branch of the Secord clan which retained the original French Huguenot spelling without the final "d". The same year Truman Wilcox opened Etobicoke post office, replaced in the early 1840's by William Goble, who ran the 'Old Mill' on the Humber River below Dundas Street. A letter in the Ontario Arch-

ives from William Thistle, Etobicoke to Richard H. Thornhill, Crown Lands Office, Kingstown, written July 24, 1841, has the manuscript postmark "Etobicoke, 28th July 1841", written in two lines. Thistleton was named after the Thistles, the post office with that name opening in the mid 1840's and having A. Thistle as postmaster.

On November 19, 1831 Stayner wrote to Howard. "I have before me your letter. You begin by speaking of the proposed office in the village of Hope, which you seem to recommend should be established, and it probably will be by and by, but I cannot comprehend how the establishment of an office there is to be a saving to the Dept., as you allege. You say the Georgina courier may terminate his route at Hope instead of Newmarket, but, surely then, an additional courier will be wanted in the first instance to convey the mails from Newmarket to Hope, so what 'saving of expenses' is to be made, I cannot discover."

On April 3, 1834 Stayner sent to Howard a suggested list of new post offices. Among them were Hope, Richmond Hill, one 13 miles north of Thornhill, at the present Aurora, Vaughan, near the present Woodbridge; Farr's Mills, on the west side of the Humber River, across from the present Weston. Vaughan post office was not opened until 1837, Weston not until 1842, and Whitchurch, at Aurora, not until 1846.

In 1835 Hugh D. Willson became postmaster when a post office was opened at Hope, which had been founded by David Willson, Builder of David's Temple there, who had split his own sect away from the Quakers of Yonge Street near Newmarket.

In 1832 James Hogg bought land in the community at the crossing of the West Branch of the Don River at Yonge Street, ever since popularly called Hogg's Hollow. He owned a mill and was in other business ventures. When York Mills post office was opened there in 1836 he became postmaster, succeeded in 1839 by W. Hamilton. Later in the 1840's Cornelius Van Nostrand, a descendant and namesake of one of the original Loyalist settlers of Dutch origin became postmaster.

Also in 1836 was opened a post office at Richmond Hill, with James Sinclair as postmaster. A letter from B. W. Smith, Whitchurch (Baldwin Papers) is postmarked with a medium-sized double circle enclosing Richmond Hill, U.C. "17 April, 41" is written in. The opening of the Northern

Railway in 1853 put an end to most stage-coaches on Yonge Street, except that mail was carried from Toronto by stage to Richmond Hill until the electric railway was constructed in 1895.

David Willson of Hope openly supported William Lyon Mackenzie's reform ideas, and, when the rebellion of December 1837 failed, Hope post office was closed. Postmaster George Lount of Holland Landing was another supporter. This undoubtedly led to his being replaced as postmaster by J. Doane in 1833. His brother, surveyor Samuel Lount, was hanged for his part in the Upper Canada Rebellion. C. D. Sheldon had been replaced as postmaster of Stouffville in 1835 by W. H. Doyle. Now it was closed, not to reopen for a few years.

Toronto's postmaster, J. S. Howard, was removed from office by Lieutenant-Governor Sir Francis Bond Head at the end of 1837 on the unfounded suspicion of being in sympathy with Mackenzie's attempt to overthrow the government. He was replaced by the postal inspector for the Western District, Charles Berczy.

A post office was reopened at Hope in 1841, under the name of Sharon, with John Hogaboom as postmaster. New post offices did not get hammers for postmarking right away. A letter sent by David Willson (Baldwin Papers) is stamped Paid in red, but has "Sharon, 15 Oct, 1841" written, with an oval drawn about it, also in red. Another letter from Willson, sent two years later, is already postmarked with a medium-sized double circle broken by Sharon, U.C., with 11th July 1843 written in red.

The same type of postmark appears on letters in the Ferguson-Burrows Papers in the Ontario Archives from King post office, which was also established in 1841.

When B. Smith, Whitchurch wrote on August 24, 1841 to Robert Baldwin, Toronto he dared not use the public mail, declaring, "Enclosed you have a letter for Mr. Lafontaine which please forward immediately. I would not trouble you for two reasons — first should I mail at N. Market our P.M. would take the hint and a little coincidence as in the case of Samuel Weller upsetting the coach might be resorted to and cause inconvenience, as some people think

all things fair in elections and secondly I could not vouch for what he might do."

Smith was the first postmaster of Keswick post office, opened at Roches Point in 1836. On March 14, 1843 he wrote from Newmarket to Baldwin.

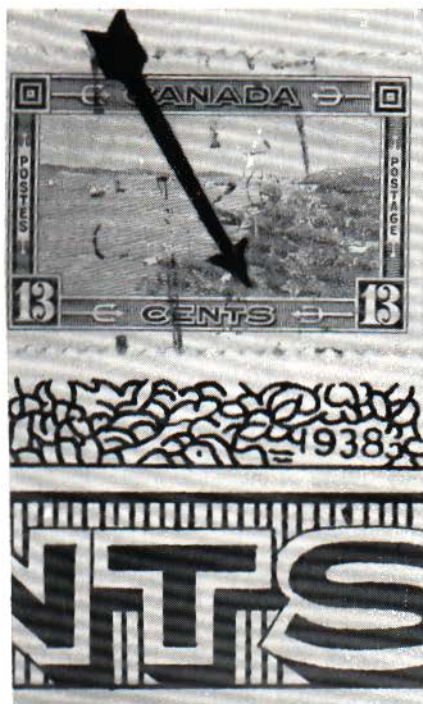
"Having tendered my resignation as postmaster at Keswick (to the D.P.G.) and having recommended Sephas Goode as my successor, I write to give my reasons for so doing, more especially as Capt. King informs me that the P.O. Surveyor has recommended the removal of the office to another place about three miles distant" The other location was at Medina, to which Keswick post office was moved, but not until 1870.

He continued: "The person who acts as deputy now (Stennett) resided until last July in my house at Keswick where the post office was originally located, and on his removal I allowed Stennett to keep the office at his new residence until further orders, acquainting the head of the Department with this fact and the cause: but in appointing a new man I think some person in the village should be named as it will some day be a place of business for the surrounding country." Goode became the next postmaster.

On March 11, 1849 John Button and William Morrison of Millbrook, Markham Township, wrote to Baldwin. "We beg leave to inform you that we have made another try to get a post office in Mill Brook village. We the undersigned desire that you will attend to it and we do think by your assistant that we will have it granted as you know the situation. We trust that you will hasten it on as there are others about to make an effort to get it at Unionville which is not the centre between the two post offices". The two post offices were Markham, where Arch. Barker was postmaster, and Thornhill. "We were talking with Mr. Barker this morning and he did recommend to Mr. Dewe the Postmaster-Surveyor that the fourth concession was the place for the office."

Millbrook got the post office, but, there being already one with that name, it was designated Buttonville, after one of the signatories, while the other, Morrison, became postmaster.

— YEARBOOK — NEXT MONTH —



"SECRET DATE"

or

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NO. 22

1938

13c HALIFAX HARBOUR

—R. H. Larkin No. 958

SIPEX PROSPECTUS READY

The initial Prospectus for SIPEX giving details of the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in Washington, D.C., May 21-30, 1966, is now available.

Copies already have been mailed to all who have requested them. Collectors, dealers and societies desiring the Prospectus should write to the SIPEX office.

The 32-page Prospectus lists rules and

regulations for exhibitors and for dealers, hotel information and application forms. Early application is advised since a projection of requests for information indicates that the available frames will be more than exceeded.

For a copy of the Prospectus write to SIPEX, 408 A St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

(Continued from page 231)

I will not attempt to guess which combination represents the true state of affairs; combination #8 represents the present situation, and anywhere between zero and three additional states of the two hammers may yet be found. The FORMOSA story is not

likely to be closed with the finding of a square cornered strike, especially if it turns out to be Hammer I. As a parting remark, I think it important that all collectors look at their FORMOSA strikes again to see if perchance their round-cornered strike has the A lying between the indicia bars, rather than straddling the upper indicia bar.

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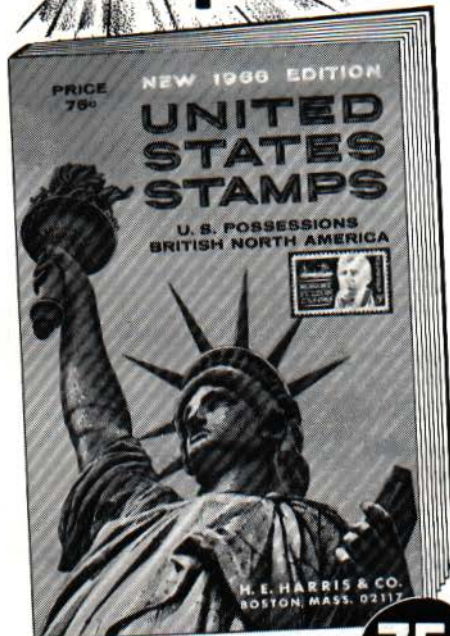
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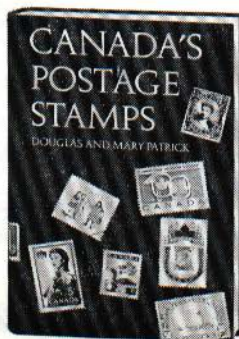
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