

# **B. N. A. TOPICS**

**Centennial Year  
1867-1967**



**Official Journal**  
**Of The**  
**British North America Philatelic Society**

VOL. 24, No. 3, WHOLE NUMBER 253, MARCH, 1967

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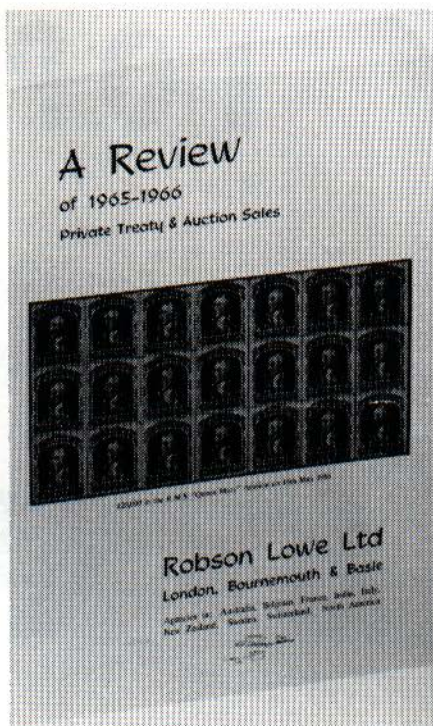
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No. 63, \$3 Jubilee, superb mint .....	150.00	275.00
No. 64, \$4 Jubilee, vf mint .....	150.00	280.00
No. 77b, Victoria booklet cpl. vf .....	350.00	340.00
No. 85a, block of 8 Maps vf .....	240.00	260.00
No. 90a, Tete-beche booklet pane imperf. vf. Holmes .....	400.00	460.00
No. 102, 15c Quebec superb mint .....	13.00	31.00
No. 113, "Sage green" block, superb .....	20.00	180.00
No. 106 var., 3 experimental coils, f-vf mint Holmes .....	90.00	210.00
No. 120a, pair with plate No. mint vf .....	35.00	105.00
No. 149, 150, 153, Tete-beche blocks mint vf Holmes .....	225.00	270.00
No. 158, Bluenose block mint, vf .....	40.00	47.50
No. 223 var., 10c Mountie broken leg mint, vf ....	1.00	210.00
<b>Newfoundland</b>		
No. C5, 50c Columbia mint vf .....	1,250.00	1,450.00
No. C18, \$4.50 Balbo mint vf .....	200.00	260.00
No. C18, on cover vf .....	200.00	785.00

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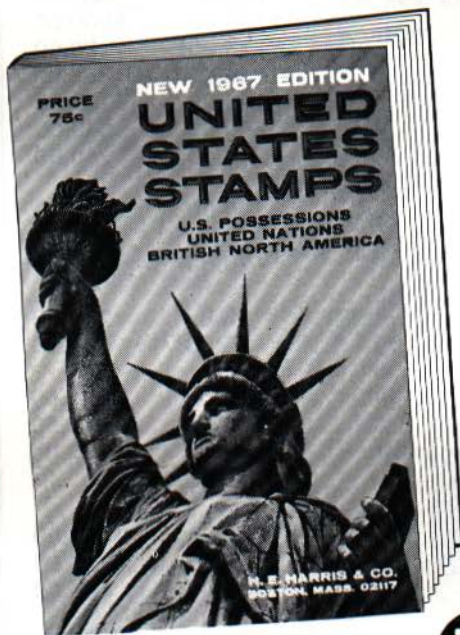
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# BNA Topics

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
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# Monthly Report from the Secretary

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February 1, 1967

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2263 Edwards, Edward D., 37 Crestview Drive, Montvale, New Jersey 07645  
2264 Morris, Edwin W. J., 2519 Lakeshore Blvd. West, Apt. 303, Toronto 14, Ontario  
2265 Testulat, Alex, 112 Rue Couture, Sherbrooke, Quebec  
2266 Watson, J. N., 26 Hillcrest Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario

## APPLICATIONS PENDING

Brooks, Colonel William K., 85th Air Divn. (DM), CMR Box 436, APO New York 09012  
Burnyeat, Charles E., 9623 Alcott Road S.E., Calgary, Alberta  
DeVoss, Colonel James T., P.O. Box 800, State College, Pennsylvania 16801  
Houle, Lloyd D., 45 Ripplewood Crescent, Kitchener, Ontario  
Kaufman, William, 194 Malta Street, Brooklyn, New York 11207  
Miller, John P., One Astor Avenue, Toronto 17, Ontario  
Rowe, Harold Peter, 10965 — 141 Street, Edmonton, Alberta  
Spreen, Wm. F. Jr., 527 King Road N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30305

## APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

- GREER, Roger B., 41 George St., Kentville, N.S. (C-X) CAN, NFD, N.B., P.E.I.—19th century used postage and blocks. Stampless covers. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Precancels. Flag, 2 & 4-ring numeral and Squared Circle cancellations. Perfins. Proposed by B. Scott, No. 965. Seconded by E. L. Piggott, No. 629.
- GUILBERT, Capt. J. G. G. W., 219 Labreche St., St. Jean, Que. (C-CX) CAN—19th & 20th century mint & used postage and blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint booklet panes. Precancels. Federal & Provincial Revenues. Mint Airmails. Postal Stationery entires. Literature. Squared Circle & Duplex cancellations. Proposed by R. J. Woolley, No. 359.
- HANDELMAN, Dave, 47 Cartwright Ave., Toronto 19, Ont. (C-CX) CAN, N.B., N.S., B.C., P.E.I.—19th & 20th century mint & used postage. Pre-stamp & stampless covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. Literature. "Locals". R.P.O., Territorial, Flag, 2 & 4-ring numeral, Squared Circle, Duplex, C.D.S. and early fancy cancellations. Proposed by W. G. Moffat, No. 1951.
- LORD, S. R., 80-16th Street, Roxboro, Que. (DC-CX) CAN—Postal stationery entires and cut-squares. Proposed by W. R. Curtis, No. 2100. Seconded by C. R. Guile, No. 2124.
- MARKELL, Edward K., M.D., 28 Senior Ave., Berkeley, Calif. 94708 (C-X) CAN — mint & used postage. Pre-stamp & stampless covers. Plate Block. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint booklet panes. Federal & Provincial Revenues. Mint & used Airmails. Postal stationery entires & cut-squares. Proofs & Essays. Proposed by W. F. Haley, No. 1674.
- RIDDLE, George J., 1044 Camino Del Retiro, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93105 (C-X) CAN—19th century. SPECIALTY—Squared Circles. Proposed by B. Jacobson, No. 1543.
- ROOKE, E. Douglas, 815-5th St. S.W., Rochester, Minn. 55901 (C-CX) CAN—19th & 20th century mint & used postage. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint & used Airmails. Proposed by P. Horowitz, No. 1428.
- WILKES, L. Barry, M.D., 46 Kemano Rd., Aurora, Ont. (C-CX) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th & 20th century mint & used postage. Plate Blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint & used Airmails. Proposed by A. H. Insley, No. 1301.

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## REPLACED ON ROLLS

- 1027 Watrous, John H., 6 Boxwood Court, Trenton, N.J. 08628

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(Notice of change MUST be sent to the Secretary)

- 1920 Christian, Ralph W., Rm. 230B, State Highway Dept., No. 2 Capitol Square, Atlanta, Ga. 30334  
1273 Cleghorn, John R., 932 Prado Place, Windsor, Ontario  
1757 Drew, Thomas D., P.O. Box 297, Sturgeon Falls, Ontario  
2179 Eisenberg, A. Marc, 5555 West 65th, Chicago, Ill. 60638  
2180 Fiocco, Anthony, 6220-31st Avenue, Apt. 1, Rosemount, Montreal 36, Quebec  
564 Gelinus, Lt. Col. Joseph A., Dunham Army Hospital, Carlisle Barracks, Pa. 17013  
2146 Jackson W/C Russell F., Box 386, CFB Trenton, Astra, Ontario  
2231 Johnstone, F/L R., Box 239 Greenwood, Kings County, Nova Scotia  
516 Law, James, Apt. 200, 100 Ridout Street S., London, Ontario  
2080 Millar, Wendell, 126 Clarence Ave., Syracuse, N.Y. 13205  
832 Parker Ralzemond B., Bldg. B-7A, 3900 Watson Place, Washington, D.C. 20016  
1952 Rohloff, Paul C., 1019 Keystone, River Forest, Ill. 60305  
282 Harmer, Gordon R., 589-5th Avenue, N.Y.C. 10017  
1893 Schenk, John A., 5308 Taku Drive, Apt. 6, Anchorage, Alaska 99504  
2209 Storch, Clarence L., American Bank & Trust Co. Bldg., Tamaqua, Pa. 18252  
2110 Willson, William A., Q.C., 802 Kent Trust Bldg., Windsor, Ontario

### CORRECTIONS

- 2172 DiVeto, James A., 56 Mohawk St., Oromocto, N.B. (not Diveto)  
 2154 Endres, Raymond E., 7352 No. Seeley, Chicago, Ill. 60645 (not Ray)  
 1049 Kitchen, WO1 Ronald, 155 Northcote Dr., Pincoart, Ile Perrot, Que. (not WO2)  
 1871 Paterson Ian A. S., 10073 Jasper Ave., Edmonton, Alta. (not 10037)  
 2160 Smalley, George F., 298 John St., Gananoque, Ont. (not George T.)  
 1030 Smith, Robert C., 10231 N.E. Tillamook St., Portland, Ore. 97220 (not 47720)  
 1859 Wilson-Light, E., Wildrose Farm, Peers, Alta. (not Farms)

### COLLECTING INTERESTS

Miller, John P., One Astor Ave., Toronto 17, Ont. (C-CX) CAN—Mint & used postage. 1st Day covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. Mint, used & semi-official Airmails.

### DECEASED

- 1735 Hoffman, Harry E., 3201 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Ill.  
 327 Kreisler, Peter, 3311 North 32nd Street, Phoenix, Ariz. 85018  
 1718 Reid, William Henry, 987-7th Avenue E., Owen Sound, Ontario

### RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- 2131 Almond, John Lewis, 138 Kenwood Ave., Toronto 10, Ontario  
 809 Blanchard, Julian, 1 Sheridan Square, N.Y.C. 10014  
 2056 Bray, Olive (Mrs. R. G.), Hatley, Quebec  
 939 Brown, Lillian S., 5296 Kent St., Halifax, N.S.  
 52 Fifield, Edson J., P.O. Box 2792, Hamilton Sta., Pompano Beach, Fla. 33062  
 1324 Foster, Bertrand A., 358 Mark St., Port Arthur, Ontario  
 1732 Grace, John P., 533 Aylmer St., Peterborough, Ontario  
 1900 Hayne, Andrew, 98 Codrington St., Apt. 10, Barrie, Ontario  
 1313 Hooghkirk, Robert C., Drawer 8, Boynton Beach, Fla. 33435  
 1018 Kline, Robert L., 6250 N. Kenmore, Apt. 303, Chicago, Ill. 60626  
 2187 Renaud, Victor, Knowlton, Quebec  
 799 Robinson, Arthur G., 1606-34th Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta  
 324 Rothermel, L. E., 2315 Forbes St., Jacksonville, Fla. 32204  
 1680 Slate, Rev. William, St. Ann's Church, 7047 So. Park Ave., Tacoma, Wash. 98408

### RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED

Klein, Fred B. Letch, E. H.

### MAIL RETURNED

(Information to present address appreciated)

L117 Nouss, Henry O., P.O. Box 219, Pampano Beach, Fla.

### MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, January 1, 1967 .....	1009	
NEW MEMBERS, February 1, 1967 .....	6	
REPLACED ON ROLLS, February 1, 1967 .....	1	1016
	<hr/>	
RESIGNATIONS, February 1, 1967 .....	2	
DECEASED, February 1, 1967 .....	3	5
	<hr/>	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, February 1, 1967 .....		1011

## THE *Editor's* MAILBAG

Dear Mr. Young,

I would appreciate information from your readers on this rectangular Registered Ottawa MR 30 99 cancel, in box 28.5 x 12.7 mm, concerning earliest and latest use dates and other examples known. I have not seen this type before.

REGISTERED  
 OTTAWA  
 MR 30 99

With regard to the letter from Mr. H. E. Canham in Dec. 1966 issue, I assure you the cover in my possession is genuine. Therefore some additional party other than Mr. Canham or Mr. Rhodes must have had access to the P.O. stocks on the first day. It is possible the P.O. clerk may have made up a few covers prior to the date of mailing so that a Broken X copy was not available for Mr. Canham's use. Or it is possible someone bought stamps at the main Regina post office but mailed covers from the Ex P.O.

Very truly yours,  
 John S. Gordon

Dear Mr. Young,

I recently came across a booklet — frontispiece reads: "Twenty Tales of Canada. No. 1, How Canada got its first postage stamps — by Lyman B. Jacques, price ten cents (copyrighted) Canadian Historical Press". The contents treat of the 3D and the original design of the One Shilling stamp, the latter superseded by the 12D Black.

As indicated this is No. 1 of the Twenty Tales of Canada" it could be the other 19 refer to other events and would not be handled through Philatelic channels. This particular item came from the Marks Stamp Co. back in the hungry thirties I believe. It is not dated — 16 pages — stapled — size approx. 3½" x 6".

It is not mentioned in McCready's 1951 List — Handbook section. Any information re this and the balance of the "Twenty Tales" would be appreciated either by direct mail or answers in your "E.M.B".

Yours very truly

Louis Armson, No. 1781

Dear Sir,

I read with much interest in the December '66 issue of TOPICS, a member's notes concerning the early Quebec covers, for which I'm grateful to him. But why has he withheld this information so long, which would have served as a good basis for an excellent article in TOPICS? I'm glad that my article did bring out unknown facts. In it, I mentioned "Quebec and/or BNA". I had in mind that area which was then known as "Province of Quebec" from 1763 to 1791, rather than the City of Quebec. I purposely included the words "and/or BNA" to exclude any covers under the French Régime. Apparently, it did not have the desired effect. By the way, that "May 3, 1687" cover mentioned in the "Mailbag" notes is a youngster. How about "18 mars 1681" to "Montrealle" or "21 juin 1759" from 'Camp de la Marine' to Montreal as a late, late French Régime cover? These two covers are treated in a lengthy article on the "Postal History of Canada under the French Régime, 1608-1760" which is in course of preparation.

I would like to see more members concentrating their efforts and knowledge on formal articles for TOPICS rather than sitting on the sideline waiting to pounce on unsuspecting writers whose only purpose is to disseminate what little information they may have for the benefit of others

and the Society as a whole. Constructive criticism is most beneficial, more so if handed out in a diplomatic manner and in good taste, such as not revealing names of past owners of philatelic material.

Philatelically yours,

J. J. Charron, 1525

Dear Sir:

Having written you a long letter which you published in the November 1966 issue, I am now prepared to back up my convictions with some action. I submit herewith a few comments on tagged stamps which may or may not be of interest to some members of the Society. Please feel free to publish or not — as you see fit.

#### Findings on Tagged Stamps

Having read Dr. Mercantini's articles with extreme interest over the past months, I would like to pass on a few comments of my own. I do not wish to take issue with the Post Office Department, either, but there are a few questions that I would like to have answered.

In Dr. Mercantini's article, there is a letter from the Post Office Department advising that one sheet of 400 blue 5c 1965 Christmas was fed into the press improperly, causing the phosphor bar to be printed approximately in the centre of the stamp. I submit herewith, three photostats showing the bar in three different locations — two of which are impossible, if there was only one sheet so printed, and if the phosphor is applied before cutting — which I understand is the case.

Fig. 1 — Mint single, as purchased from Bileski in Winnipeg. Bar just touches the printed stamp — with none showing on the white margin. I saw another block of four from the same sheet which I did not purchase, and the bars were in this identical location.

Fig. 2. Used single on cover postmarked Regina Feb. 9th, 1966. Note that the bar reaches past the end of the stamp right to the very edges of the holes. I have one more copy similar to this, also postmarked Regina.

Fig. 3. Used single on cover postmarked Winnipeg. This is the only copy of the four I possess which fits the description forwarded from the POD.

Question — Is it possible that three or more sheets had the phosphor applied in the wrong location?

Question — If record was kept of one sheet — why was it not on others?



I submit also several other photostats of misplaced phosphor as a matter of interest, along with a few details thereof:—

Fig. 4. Used single on cover postmarked Westwin Man, which is a suburb of Winnipeg. This is dated 24 Apr. 66. Phosphor bar is aligned with the "Postes-Postage" on the right of stamp.

Figs. 5, 6, 7, and 8. Four used copies, all postmarked Winnipeg, three of which have the phosphor in decidedly different locations. Furthermore, the dates range from May 1st, 1966 to Oct. 29th, 1966. Both the location of the phosphor, and the dates of commercial use, would make the chance of all these four coming from the same sheet quite remote, to say the least.

Fig. 9. One used copy of the 1c on cover with the phosphor bar well over to the right of the stamp. Postmarked Winnipeg.

Fig. 10. One used copy of the 1954 QE 5c with the phosphor bar almost dead centre. This must be similar to the two 2c values of this issue reported quite some time ago.

Question — Whether found in mixtures, used on cover, or as mint sheets, why would one be classed as a bone-fide error, and not the others? The only thing which they do not have in common is the fact that all but one appears to have escaped detection.

While it is realized that Scotts, Minkus, Gibbons etc. will probably not be listing these varieties — indeed the former two not tagged stamps at all, should not a concentrated effort be brought to bear on such catalogue producers as Bileski Commonwealth, and Lyman to at least recognize that such varieties do exist? If we wait for official confirmation from the POD, we may wait some considerable time.

Lastly, BNAPS'er Jack Benningen received from the Philatelic section some matched sets of 5c Christmas 66 in which the color is a decided paler shade of orange. It shows up clearly to the naked eye, and under the UV light. This shade shows up only in the UR blank plate block. Do any others have more of this position, or any other position? These are tagged, incidentally.

Kenneth G. Rose #2224

Dear Mr. Young:

I have just finished reading the January issue of "Topics" and thought I would drop you a line with a few comments.

First of all I trust by now you are aware that there are a few errors as to dates in the article by A. Graham Fairbanks (Nova Scotia). Dates of 1962 and 1960 are shown which of course should be 1862 and 1860. Also under the heading "Perfin Study Group" (by R. J. Woolley) the word "organisation" should be "organization".

I should like to congratulate the person (yourself I assume) who is responsible for adding "Centennial Year 1867-1967" on the "Topics" cover. This will be a reminder in future years of our Centennial Year long after the celebrations have faded from our memory. I have not noticed this on any other Canadian Stamp Publication to date so I think you have a "scoop" in this connection.

I wonder if there is someone in our B.N.A.P.S. who could help me out in the following connection? Holmes (9th edition) lists under "Postal Cards" #'s 1430f and 1430g (different type) and also #'s 1432b and 1432c (different type). I have examined a few hundred of these cards and I can find no **difference** in type used as mentioned in Holmes. Could some member explain in



Question — Why would only one sheet of the 1965 5c Christmas be admitted by the Post Office Department?

detail? I would be most grateful for any information in this connection.

Before closing I must comment on how much I personally enjoyed the article under "The Canadian Stamp Collector" by Mr. G. F. Hansen. This was a very interesting article and I do hope we will have some more along these lines. I think this is the type of article which is most interesting to the "general" Canadian collector.

Yours very truly,  
Allen F. Miller, Life #2140

### SUDDEN DEATH LOSS TO BNAPS

Edmonton Group of Society members has lost an active philatelist and very personable fellow student of the hobby through the sudden death of Dr. William M. Orobko who for the past three years was developing a noon-hour stamp shop as a sideline to his successful dental practice. He died on November 27 at age of 49.

His interests in the hobby were wide

and in Canadians included large and small queens, Admirals, precancels, revenues, semi-official airmails and philatelic literature. His studies of the large queens that were his specialty, was backed by a personally developed file of colored slides which provided screen enlargements for talks.

The distribution of philatelic literature by the noon-hour King's Hobbies Shop in the Birks Building, sparked by his enthusiastic example, has been credited with awakening a greater trend to serious philatelic studies among the Edmonton stamp collectors. Dr. Orobko was an active member of the study group of BNAPSers in the Alberta capital. He visited the recent show in Calgary.

In his profession he had served as lecturer at the School of Dentistry, University of Alberta, and as District Dental Association president. Community service was also extensive and he had served as a public school trustee and chairman of the Board of Health.

He is survived by his wife, daughter, son, and a brother.

## REVIEWS • TRADE NEWS • AUCTIONS

### BUSH PILOT MEMORIAL CENTRE PROPOSED

by A. W. McIntyre

Edmonton served as a jumping off place for northern development in the pioneer days of aviation. Its story is linked with many great names such as Wop May, Grant MacConachie, Punch Dickins, Leigh Brintnell, Walter Gilbert and many others. Edmonton airport was host to Post and Gatty on their trail blazing world flights.

Now there is a call to establish a Bush Pilot Memorial Centre. It has received an impetus from several sources.

In addressing the annual dinner of the American Chemical Society, Dr. W. C. Wonders, former head of the Boreal Institute, University of Alberta, and now head of the department of geography, urged the city to establish a national centre to honor the bush pilots.

He reminded his hearers that the Edmonton International Airport was the site of a national historical marker and its walls carried a large allegorical painting to honor the bush pilots.

"With official recognition already established, it would prove a major attraction, unique in Canada, and a great tourist attraction," he said.

Another factor was a bid from the manager of the Air Museum of Canada for space and sponsorship in Edmonton to house its showing of 30 pioneer planes, said presently under restricted accommodation at Calgary.

Pioneer fliers were honored at a Chamber of Commerce dinner held on the Golden Jubilee of Canadian aviation. They also were honored at a dinner staged in Edmonton during the staging of CANPEX 64. Many a stirring tale was recounted.

### British North Americans total over £20,000

The philatelic year opened at Harmer's American sale of January 2, 3 which included a further portion of Dr. Allan Wilkinson's Newfoundland and rarities from A. Kennedy Kisch of Ireland. An English collector paid a record of £3,000 for the rare "MS. Martinsyde" cover and a fine "Pinedo" envelope sold for £1,550.

## CANADIAN POSTAL GUIDE

1863 (Reprint)

A very interesting item of Canadian Postal History has become available through the efforts of Mr. C. P. deVolpi (B.N.A.P.S. #L 266). Charlie has made arrangements to have the 1863 Canadian Postal Guide reprinted and made available to members through the Handbook Sales Department.

This 40 page book contains the usual Postal Rates along with the Rules and Regulations of the Post Office. A most useful feature is a six page resume entitled "A Few Facts about the Post Office in Canada". This is a very concise but complete history of the Post Office back to the earliest records in 1750.

To all students of Canadian Postal History, this book will be extremely useful.

Copies may be obtained at a price of \$1.50 from Mr. R. J. Woolley, Apt. 206, 1520 Bathurst Street, Toronto 10, Ontario.

## DOCTOR OF MILLIONS

by Seamus Brady

Published by Anvil Books Ltd., this 176 page pocket book is the fascinating story of the rise and fall of Shanahans Stamp Auctions. It describes the meeting of Dr. Paul Singer and the Shanahans and the formation of the fabulous auction and investment firm. Many questions about the robbery which brought about the downfall of the firm, the subsequent arrest and trial of the directors of the company and the outcome of the trials are answered. Well written from first hand accounts and records, this book makes very interesting reading.

S. Kenyon

## SIX PENCE ALBERT VALENTINE

More than a century ago, a Toronto swain sent a Valentine to his Boston sweetheart in this lace-embossed cover, franking it with Canada No. 5, the Prince Albert 6p slate gray of 1855. The red "PAID" and black circular town mark "TORONTO

C.W. FEB 21") add interest to this early, rare cover. It will be auctioned in the spring by Harmer, Rooke & Co., Inc., 589 Fifth Ave., New York. The auctioneers know of no other Valentine cover bearing this stamp.



# More Sketches of BNAPSers

DR. ROBERT V. C. CARR, 117 Robin Hood Way, Sherwood Forest, Youngstown, Ohio

No. 110 Horace W. Harrison, BNAPS 1501

Now here is an organizer and a worker! Having observed him at BALPEX and SIPEX, I can say that Horace Harrison can produce when it comes to philatelic shows — we hope he does as well in his insurance business.

A native Marylander, he resides near Washington at Owings Mills with his wife, Elizabeth and daughter Ellen. He graduated from Princeton in 1943 with honors in history which, no doubt, aided in his love for stamps. Then off to the Navy where he literally sailed the seven seas. He has maintained his Naval Reserve status and is now a commander. In addition, he has found time to be a volunteer fireman, a leader in local business organizations, and is most active in Republican politics, now serving as Secretary of the County Central Committee.

Stamping started in grade school in the form of general collecting but soon centered on the British America field. He won some nice medals, too, as a junior exhibitor. He sold much of his collection to help his way through college but after, it was back to the stamps for a hobby. First it was Australia and Canada but it was not too long until it was all Canada. Plate varieties of the Large Queens and numerical cancellations are his two main interests as seen in *Maple Leaves*. Other writings have appeared in *Topics* and the *Canadian Philatelist*. His recent study on the Registration System might (?) end up in the form of an article in *Topics* — we hope.

Horace is the workhorse of the Balti-



more group and was the Vice President of SIPEX which meant nothing but work and more work — his pride and joy were the frames which he handled. His latest group is designing a stamp collector's insurance program for the American Philatelist Society. It is now in effect and is available to all APS members with lower rates than are usually found with other insurance companies.

This editor is willing to take all bets — Horace will be at the Alpine Inn and will exhibit! How about you?

## CENTENNIAL YEAR 1867-1967

Canada will celebrate its 100th Birthday this year and many events will take place through the Centennial Year including the World's Fair and BNAPEX '67 at the Alpine Inn. The Editorial Officers will endeavour to print Articles on philatelic research in and about 1867. This will be our Centennial Project. Give us your support.

Your Editor.

# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SIMPLE HANDSTRUCK TOWN POSTMARKS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA 1871 - 1901

by Jacques Houser

## I. Introduction

The collecting of British Columbia town postmarks has long been a popular pastime for northwest collectors both in the United States and Canada. Some phenomenal collections have been assembled showing postmarks from as many as 1800 of the over 3000 known Post Offices which now serve, or have served, British Columbia towns. But, generally speaking, these have been town oriented collections with little or no emphasis placed on the different types of postmarks used. Perhaps due to this lack of interest in types, no attempt has been made in the past to catalog the simple handstruck postmarks. Squared circles, flags, R.P.O.'s, duplex, and machine cancels used in British Columbia have found their way into the standard handbooks, but the simpler forms used have escaped classification of their characteristic features.

The simple handstruck postmarks were used in British Columbia before Confederation in 1871, and are still being used in one form or another by the present offices. For convenience though, the present study has concentrated on the types issued by the Federal Post Office Department between July 20, 1871 and the end of the Victorian period — say, December 31, 1901. During this period approximately 453 different offices were established to serve the people of British Columbia.

It seems appropriate at this time to appeal to collectors of postal markings to use the correct terminology when referring to these familiar hand stamps. Of late, collectors have originated many popular and colloquial terms for these markings. The original name, postmark, and the one used by the postal authorities during the period of this study, seems to have been forgotten or ignored. As early as 1830, Thomas Stayner, the Deputy Postmaster General, instructed the Canadian Postmasters to "Postmark every letter that comes to your office to be mailed — that is, mark or write upon it the name of your office and the date in red ink."<sup>1</sup>

In 1846 he sent another reminder to the postmasters, "I must call your particular attention to the necessity for marking your postmarks clear and distinct, so that the name of your office and the date of posting may be perfectly legible."<sup>2</sup> As the years passed great pains were taken to specify that the postmarks should be applied to the face of the letters in the lower left hand corner in such a manner as to not interfere with the address. When stamps were introduced, postmasters were advised that obliterators would be provided to cancel the stamps to prevent their re-use. Until these cancellers were available pen markings were to be employed. Not until April, 1894 could the handstamp so long identified as the postmark be legitimately used to cancel, or obliterate, the stamp.<sup>3</sup> Under these terms the postmark assumed an additional role as canceller, but remained, and still is, a postmark, indicating the office and date of posting.

## II. Types

The classification system introduced here deviates from the classical form of defining types for the sake of simplicity. Strictly speaking, a type or sub-division should encompass only one distinguishing characteristic. However, since it appears that there were only seven different town postmark types issued during the period being considered it seemed justifiable to combine characteristics into types to keep the system simple.

The seven basic types are defined on the basis of treatment of the elements of the town name and the circular format used. (Here the purist would probably call the broken circle stamps type I and the complete circle stamps type II, with the treat-

<sup>1</sup> Winthrop S. Boggs, *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, Vol. II, 1-13.

<sup>2</sup> Boggs, Vol. II, 5-B.

<sup>3</sup> Fred Jarrett, *Standard British North America Catalog*, 1929, pgs. 373, 375.

THE BASIC TYPES

Type I



21, 22 mm

Type II



19-22 mm

Type III



21 mm

Type IV



23 mm

Type V



21-25 mm

Type VI



21-25 mm

Type VII



22, 23, 29 mm

FIG. 1

## THE SUBTYPES

Subtype A - Upper indicia blank



Subtype B - With upper indicia to show handling of mail.



B<sub>1</sub> Transit marking (T)  
B<sub>2</sub> Via San Francisco (SF)

Subtype C - With upper indicia to show time of posting.



C<sub>1</sub> AM, PM, NT system  
C<sub>2</sub> Numerical system

Subtype D - Single line indicia.



FIG. 2

ment of the town name as subtypes A, B, etc.). Examples of the seven types are shown in Figure 1. Subtypes are generated by the information in the arrangement of the indicia. Explanation of the subtypes is given in Figure 2.

Distributions of the types chronologically and geographically presents interesting patterns. Type I appears to be the earliest type issued by the Dominion to the Provincial Post Offices. Offices known by the author to have received this type are shown in table A. Ten of these offices are in the group of thirty-seven reported by Deaville<sup>4</sup> to have become a part of the Federal Postal System before the end of 1872, but only five, or possibly six if Cariboo can be confirmed, are recorded as having used this type before 1876. Unfortunately, the proof book of Pritchard and Andrews at the Philatelic Foundation in New York shows no strikes of the B.C. type I hammers before 1881. Consequently, we have no indication of the extent to which this type was issued before that time. The remaining fourteen or fifteen offices all show use of type I after 1882 except for Emory. A strike dated December 2, 1881 is shown in the Pritchard and Andrews proof book, but no examples of the use of type I from this office is known to the writer. The earliest use of the type I postmark that has come to our attention is February 7, 1872 in Victoria. Other towns have used this type postmark as late as 1900.

The types II and VI are the most common forms of British Columbia postmarks used in this period. Nearly all towns have used one or the other, or both, of these types. The use of type II in Victoria, however, seems to have been quite restricted. The dozen or so examples we know of show usage between April 1, 1876 and August 11, 1877. Type III is known to have been used only in Ashcroft, Victoria and Barkerville; types IV and V only in Victoria. These three types, III, IV, and V, were used more or less concurrently from around 1880 to 1900.

Finally, type VII seems to have been used in New Westminster and Yale. While none of the type VII postmarks are exactly plentiful, the VIII is extremely scarce.

<sup>4</sup> A. Stanley Deaville, *Colonial Postal System and Postage Stamps of Vancouver Island and British Columbia*, pgs. 153-154.

<sup>5</sup> F. Jarrett, *Standard British North American Catalog*, 1929.

An example from Yale is known to this writer only as Figure 284 in "Jarrett".<sup>5</sup> A single example from New Westminster on piece cancelling a one-cent "small queen" is in the collection of a Vancouver collector.

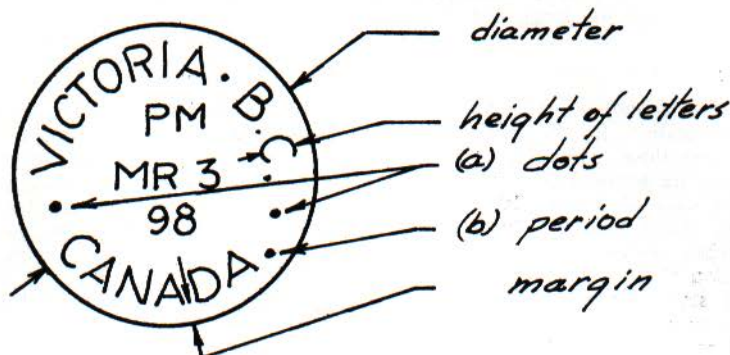
Variation within the types and subtypes can be observed if one considers the diameters, type style and size, and ornamentation. (Diameters mentioned here are to the nearest mm). Examples of type I can be found with diameters of 21 and 22 mm. Type II is known with diameters of 19, 20, 21 and 22 mm. Type III and IV have been seen only in one diameter, 21mm and 23mm respectively. The widest range of diameters has been observed in the cases of types V and VI. Diameters of 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25mm are known. Finally, the type VII which was used at Yale and New Westminster has diameters of 22, 23, and 29mm.

Type V shows four variations in decorations and other minor differences in design which reflect hammer replacement over a period of about twenty years. The earliest form, used from 1881 to at least 1884, has periods after B and C and a dot or a short bar between Victoria and the B of B.C.

The diameter of the circle is 21mm. The second configuration is similar to appearance except for the addition of a period after Canada and a slightly larger diameter. This was used around 1887. The third hammer was similar to the second except for larger letters and a larger circle. Examples of this hammer are known dated 1889, -90, and -91. In 1890 new hammers were in use having a diameter around 23mm and dots before and after Canada and a period after Canada. Two hammers are noted differing essentially only in the height of the letters. By 1893 the 1887 hammer was again in use — this design having the period after Canada, but no dots before or after Canada. By the turn of the century three or four additional hammers had been introduced. Strikes dated 1894 have been observed which appear to have been made by the same type V hammer used in 1881-84. An insufficient number of examples have been examined to date to make positive this supposition. A summary of the periods of use noted for the varieties as well as a sketch defining the characteristic differences is given in Figure 3. It should be noted that in the table for Figure 3 the diameters have been measured between the centers of the lines forming the circum-



## VARIATIONS IN Type V



Type V<sub>1</sub> no dots (a), nor period (b)

Type V<sub>2</sub> with dots (a), but no period (b)

Type V<sub>3</sub> with period (b), but no dots (a)

Type V<sub>4</sub> with both dots (a) and period (b)

Period of Use	Var.	Dia.*	h letters	margin
1881 - 84	V <sub>1</sub>	21 1/2mm	2 1/2mm	1 mm
1887	V <sub>3</sub>	22	2	1 1/2
1889 - 91 <sup>+</sup>	V <sub>2</sub>	23	3	1 1/2
	V <sub>2</sub>	23 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2
	V <sub>2</sub>	23 1/2	3	1 1/2
	V <sub>2</sub>	23	3 1/2	1 1/2
	V <sub>4</sub>	23 1/2	2	1 1/2
1890 - 92	V <sub>4</sub>	23 1/2	3	1 1/2
	V <sub>3</sub>	22	2	1 1/2
1893 - 95	V <sub>1</sub>	22	?	1
1894	V <sub>3</sub>	24	3	2
1895 - 98	V <sub>3</sub>	24 1/2	3	2
1899	V <sub>1</sub>	23 1/2	3	1

One type V 23 mm in diameter in the proof book. Proof date 25-1-81.

+ Probably only one hammer here. Measurement difficulties.

\* Diameter measured center of line to center of line.

*FIG. 3*

ference of the circles. This seems to be the most reasonable way to accommodate the variations in striking force and technique.

### III. Irregulars

Postal services cannot be expected to ignore their obligation to the public and discontinue operations while changes are being made in the political organization of a region. The case of British Columbia is no exception. When British Columbia became a Province, July 20, 1871, the complete conversion of the Colonial Post Office to Dominion status lagged behind the act. Some offices were closed, new offices were created, and some existing offices operated on a provisional basis until officially established as part of the Dominion system by John Dewe' during his visit to the Province during the summer of 1872. As a result of this period of transition, we find Colonial markings used after Confederation and Canadian stamps and postal markings used from offices before they were officially made a part of the Federal postal system. Such covers from this transition period are known to the author from Cache Creek (type II handstamp), New Westminster (type I), and Yale (type I). No doubt covers from other towns exist. Examples of some of the Colonial postal markings used after Confederation are shown in Figure 4. The sketches 4a and 4d were constructed from data provided by

James A. Pike from a cover in his collection. That in 4e was constructed from a piece shown in the Wellburn collection at V.I.C.P.E.X. 66. The tracings at 4b and 4c were taken from a cover in the collection of the author.

Another deviation from the seven town postmarks described here is the occasional use of the Victoria Money Order Office handstamp as a postmark. Through carelessness or disregard for the regulations this stamp was used instead of the prescribed hammer for postmarks. The tracing of this postal marking shown in Figure 5 is shown through the courtesy of Stuart Johnstone.



Finally, an unusual variation of type III without indicia is known to have been used around 1890. The example shown by Jarrett, and identified as Figure 253X, appears to be a blank type III used in combination with a small cork killer. An example in the authors collection shows the center of the handstamp completely blank. This marking is on a piece of first class

(Continued on page 83)

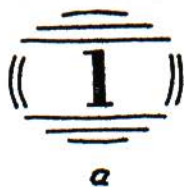


Fig. 4

# The Canadian Stamp Collector

GLENN F. HANSEN, No. 2203, 375 Jefferson Ave., Winnipeg 17, Manitoba

The word "FREE" either in manuscript or handstruck appearing on some early Canadian covers denotes that such covers were carried free of any postal charges. The original use of the "Free" franking was to cover correspondence from and to the various post offices in Canada dealing with post office business. In this respect the word "Free" is the forerunner of "O.H.M.S." and "G" perfins and overprints used during the 20th Century.

After a period of time the "free" privilege was used for the correspondence of various government departments and members of the Senate and House of Commons. The public used the "Free" privilege in writing to the post office and to the Crown Lands Office (Clergy Reserves) when writing upon official business. In April of 1837 both houses of the Legislature of Upper Canada passed a Franking Act which authorized members to send their letters free during the sittings of the Legislature.

The Franking Act was assented to by the Governor but was disallowed by the Home Government in London because, as Stayner had pointed out, it subverted the Imperial Act. Stayner did not make himself popular because of his stated opinion on this and other matters and on his insistence that the

laws of the motherland took precedence over the laws of Canada when it came to administering the postal needs of Canada.

One of the rarest of the early "Free" markings was a circular mark bearing the words "ON POST OFFICE BUSINESS" in a circle with "FREE" in a straight line in the centre. This mark on cover with the name of the Postmaster handwritten on the same cover is valued at \$20.00. The word "FREE" either in manuscript or in a metal type strike is fairly common and is worth about \$1.00 on cover. The handstruck legislative franks of the period after Canada took over control of the Post Office are rarer and rate valuations of from \$5.00 to \$15.00 on covers dated prior to Confederation. These covers should bear the signature of a Member of the Senate or the Legislative Assembly and values can increase if the signature is that of a well known member. Some of these legislative franks are extremely attractive, often bearing a crown and being relatively large in circular shape or in the form of a shield. The use of Senate and House of Commons franks continued after the creation of the Dominion but became quite common so that valuations of between \$1.00 and \$2.50 can be placed on covers bearing these franks dated after 1867.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND 3d FLAWS by C. A. Williamson

All 30 stamps of the last printing of the 3d. blue Prince Edward Island have a constant flaw, having been seen on six full sheets of this stamp and on many singles.

Nineteen of these flaws have been seen on stamps of the first printing with perforation 9. One stamp with perforation 9 has been seen without a flaw and this is stamp No. 2 on the sheet. Seen on a cover in strip of 4 in the collection of the late Mr. Crosby of Banff, Alberta.

It would be very satisfying if one could trace the outstanding 10 flaws to the 9 Perf. issue or from a block or strip or even a pair, find another like stamp No. 2 which has not got a flaw.

Stamp No.

- 11 Flaw in background right third row from top.

- 14 White line downwards from where chin joins neck.
- 15 Right frame line very thick and small dot in oval between 'r' and 'i' of 'Prince'.
- 16 Stroke of colour below 'w' of 'Edward'.
- 19 White spot high after 'Edward'.
- 21 Small spot of colour on neck near Adam's apple.
- 27 Dot on 'n' of 'Pence'.
- 28 Dot under 'h' of 'three'.
- 29 Slight doubling lower left frame line just above value tablet.
- 30 Small flaw in 's' of 'Postage'.

Some of these flaws are quite small but those on numbers 11, 16, 19, 28, 29 and the thickened frame line of 15, can be seen with normal eyesight without a glass.

Many other flaws can be seen on this issue which are not constant.

# Perfin Study Group

R. J. WOOLLEY, Secretary, 1520 Bathurst St., Toronto, Ontario

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## CANADIAN STAMPS WITH PERFORATED INITIALS THIRD EDITION

Writing toward the end of January and as I have today delivered the copy to the printer for the third edition of our handbook it seems appropriate to review the changes that will appear in the revision.

Much credit is due the members of our group for the thorough job of research for the 1961 edition as there are only seven new major varieties since that time plus two designs, previously listed, on which minor differences have been noted when the company concerned acquired a new machine.

Of the new designs, four of them were American companies who had punched Canadian stamps and one only of each design has so far been recorded. The other three are on revenue stamps, one on Newfoundland inland revenue, one on Newfoundland customs duty and the third on the Ontario stock transfer tax.

The two designs added because of the differences noted when a new machine was put into use were noted in the Perfin column in the July-August issue of Topics in 1957. The Bell Telephone Co. seem to have put a new machine into use about 1943. The most easily recognisable difference is in the top bar of the letter "B". In the first machine

the top bar curves down after the first two holes, the second machine having the first three holes in almost a straight line. Now listed as B10 and B10a.

The other company, our C21-CNR, the design having the letter "N" with five holes vertical and three diagonal. On the earlier machine the end of the letter "C" is in line with the second hole of the "N" and the top of the "R" is slightly below the third hole of the "N". The second CNR machine has the letter "C" ending below the second hole of the "N" and the "R" is higher than on the first machine, being in line with the third hole of the "R". This change seems to have taken place around 1928.

The paragraph about punched postal stationery has been changed. I have seen no other wrappers than the 5-hole and 4-hole OH/MS on the 1938- 1c green Geo. VI wrapper, and Mr. Roy Wrigley, the OHMS specialist confirms that he knows of no others. A note has been added confirming the use of the 1c green maple leaf wrapper of 1897 by the Sun Life Assurance Co. and punched SL/ACo.

Many new identifications have been added, most of them of U.S.A. companies for which I am indebted to the Perfins Club.

*(Continued on page 83)*

## P. D. Q.

MERV QUARLES 17344 Mahoney Parkway, Hazel Crest, Illinois 60429

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## EARLY AND LATE CLASSIC PRECANCELS

Precancels were first issued in Canada about 1889. The use of precancels were borrowed from the U.S., the originator of this form of labor saving device.

Mr. L. Gibb of Montreal wrote a description of precancels in the London Philatelist (Vol. I: 100). "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 letters in quantity, these letters are then taken to a private part of the office in back and are

allowed to pass throughout the post without further marking."

A word or two here about Mr. Gibb's "letters". Precancels have never been allowed for use on 1st class mail. In 1893 postal rates in effect were:

1st Class matter includes letters, postcards, legal or commercial papers.

Precancels not allowed on this class of mail.

2nd Class Matter (Canada, Newfoundland and U.S.A.)

Newspapers and periodicals issued less frequently than once a month 1c per lb.

*(Continued on page 83)*

# Constant Plate Varieties of the Canada Small Queens

PETER J. HURST, 3445 Cote Des Neiges Rd., Apt. 329, Montreal 25, Quebec.



Fig. 1

Variety No. 1 shows a re-entry which is confined to the central top of the oval only, consisting of a clear doubling from the "D" of CANADA to "S" of POSTAGE. It is a very well defined variety, hereby reported for the first time, and under no circumstances to be confused with blurred or smudgy outlines of the oval, which are typical printing varieties.

A mint block of four shows this re-entry as the upper right stamp, and copies are recorded dated '96 (no month), Mr. '97 and Ju. '97 (in pair with normal). I have examined a horizontal pair, dated Sp. 2/96, where **both** stamps show the variety unmistakably. Judging from the rarity of this variety, the lift of the plate containing it (or, perhaps, them) must have been ephemeral.



Fig. 2

Illustration No. 2 is in elaboration of Reiche's No. 23. Again, the extra line within the inner oval is extremely clearly defined; the template does not do full justice to reality, and a micro-photograph would show the extra line resting snugly between the two circles forming the inner oval. In addition, there is strong evidence

of a re-entry in "E" of POSTAGE and two flaws in "C" of CANADA. The latter criterion would appear to be of diminishing character, since no 1897 copy I have seen contains it, whereas the earlier copies show it well. Similarly, one copy with flag cancel maintains the chief variety, but shows the "E" of POSTAGE definitely clear.

There exists a plain (without any margins) block of 35, 5 wide by seven deep, where the variety is the fourth stamp in the second horizontal row.

Several letters I received mention the "Two Dots on Neck" variety (Shoemaker's No. 32, Reiche's No. 52), which I first reported fifteen years ago, and one writer questions the diminishing character of the variety. However, this is undoubtedly the case. In my collection I have 22 different dated copies, ranging from Sp. 29/92 (very large dots) to Au. 3/95, where the dots are on the verge of disappearance.

The variety is from the 19th vertical row of the pertinent 200-subject 2nd Ottawa plate, as borne out by a marginal mint block, and is neither from the top nor bottom horizontal row. As the illustration shows, the two prominent flaws near the right "3" always accompany the main variety.



# Report from the Library

STEWART S. KENYON, 15205-74 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta

## DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Through the continued efforts of our former Librarian, Dr. E. C. Black, we have received a further valuable donation from the University of British Columbia. These philatelic journals were originally in the Daggett collection. Once again, the Society owes a big vote of thanks to the University and Dr. Black.

- 3 issues — The Nova Scotia Philatelist (1893)
- 4 issues — The North American Collector (1908)
- 1 issue — Mount Royal Stamp News (1900)
- 8 issues — The Ontario Philatelist (1896-8)
- 1 issue — The Maritime Philatelist (1891)
- 1 issue — Kingston Stamp News (1924)
- 10 issues — The International Philatelist (1892-3)
- 13 issues — The International Philatelic Journal (1930-1)
- 15 issues — The International Collector & Victor Stamp News (1911-13)
- 2 issues — The Philatelic Beacon (1893)

Mr. L. Armson

- 10 issues — "The Collectors Magazine — Le Collectionneur", Holmes Catalog of Canada and British North America — 1935 edition. 4 price lists (Marks, Sissons and Begin).

Mr. J. Paul Hughes,

- Squared Circle Postmarks of Canada (Second Edition) by Whitehead, Greatest Hobby in the World — Stamp Collecting by Patrick. 22 misc. auction catalogues and price lists.

Mr. Douglas Buss,

- Canada Official Postal Guide — 1961

Mr. Warren F. Haley,

- 1 issued "Canadian Philatelist"
- 1 issue "American Revenuer"
- Springers Handbook of North American Cineralla Stamps (1966 edition)

## Additions to the Library

- Canadian Almanac — 1935
- The Airport Journal — Bound volumes Nos. 24, 29, 30, 31 & 32
- Methuen Handbook of Colour by A. Kornerup & J. H. Wanscher.
- Civil Aviation — A 1943 Commentary by Harold D. Phillips
- Canada Yearbook — 1914
- Imperial Airways (and Subsidiary Companies) — compiled by N. C. Baldwin
- Edwardian Stamps of the British Empire by D. B. Armstrong
- Canada's Postage Stamps by Douglas & Mary Patrick.
- Walter Morley's Catalogue of the Revenue Stamps of the British Colonies (2nd edition 1910)
- Doctor of Millions by Seamus Brady (see review)
- Canadian Postal Guide — 1863 (reprint — see review)

## Special Offers

### "B.N.A. Topics"

The Library has been offered Volumes 11 to 20 (inclusive) of "B.N.A. Topics". These are bound into 10 individual volumes in blue buckram with gold lettering on the spine. All are in new condition and should be a very good buy for some member at \$70.00.

We have been fortunate in obtaining a limited number of early issues of "Topics" which we can now offer to members as follows:

	individual issues	complete volumes
Volume 1 to 7	.75	—
Volumes 8 to 10	.60	\$6.00
Volumes 11 to date	.50	\$5.00

### "Maple Leaves"

We have a fairly good stock of "Maple Leaves" which is the journal of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. These we can offer at .50c per issue or \$5.00 per volume. Please do not ask for Volume 3 #3 (whole number 15) as we don't have any extra copies of this very rare issue.

**WHY DON'T YOU WRITE A CENTENNIAL ARTICLE**

# THE VACATION STAMPS

by Roy Marshall, BNAPS 1589 — 10424 McVine Ave., Sunland, Calif. 91040

Trying to answer the likes of Rose #2224, with whom I am in hearty agreement, I'll again try to get an article published on a subject which is but ten years old. Even though it has been proposed by several members, a couple of articles tendered topics have not been approved for publication. Here goes again.

We are rapidly approaching the 10th anniversary of the March 7, 1957 issue of vacation stamps. In the April issue 1957 of popular stamps, the writer had an article re the various fourteen (14) different block combinations available from one sheet (or four panes).

Only 62,500 available (originally)

There were originally printed only the above quantity of fourteen (14) different combination blocks — not counting the four plate number blocks. So if it's rarity that attracts you? This issue should be your happy hunting ground. Or maybe it's the rarity that stops you — especially when Lyman '67 only values a plate number block at 75c if you buy it off page 31, 70c if you buy it off page 19. And remember if anything were to be saved from this issue the plate number blocks would be. I wonder what Lyman would charge (if he could dig it up) for a used block of say — 2331 or 4421. There are fourteen such combination blocks that could be procured from one sheet (4 panes). Lyman has for years dismissed the fun and pursuit of this issue by the statement "A block of four can depict four different scenes" true, but he doesn't point out either, that there is no block with only two different, and that there are only two combinations with four different ie 1234 or 3412. That leaves twelve (12) combinations with three (3) different. (if you think I'm picking on Lyman '67 it's only because his is the latest catalog to hand).

Certain experts have calculated that there are two 4331 blocks in a sheet. That's true if you are lucky enough to be looking at a full set of panes — or a sheet — but let him take two of those blocks and he's robbed himself of getting either of the possible two 4423's. So — in truth from one sheet he can procure only one of each of nine different blocks. The line of reasoning that there are so many of such and such a block in a sheet is not tenable be-

cause you can not get that many blocks when you break up a sheet. Actually there are nine combinations of which only one is available, two combinations of which there are two available, and one combination of which there are three available. Taking out these twelve combinations you are left with material from which you can extract the common combinations of 1234 or 3412. Again assuming that you have taken the plate number blocks, and the lower right corner of the upper left pane ie a 1234. This common (?) material will give you either thirteen blocks of 1234 or eleven blocks of 3412.

For those of you thinking of this issue for the first time #1 is Fishing UL stamp of the block. #2 is swimming UR, #3 is hunting LL, #4 is skiing LR.

The procurable blocks are as follows.

1234	5 including 4 Pl #	Blks 4223	3
3412	11 or you could have had		
	13 additional 1234's	4311	1
3143	1	4421	2
2142	1	4331	1
2344	1	2311	1
1123	1	4423	1
2331	2	4221	1

Thusly you can get 32 or 34 blocks from a sheet. So — out of the 62,500 possibilities on nine different combinations, how many are now around — ten years later? As I said in '57 "this will make for some rare blocks".

Now here is my challenge to the fraternity to answer those who say that we are static. All 1000 (more or less) of you write me setting forth your holdings of mint or used blocks of this issue. If you haven't any tell me so — if you're sitting on 100 copies mint of say 4311, don't be afraid of telling me. I won't disclose individual holdings but will report back the totals of each of the fourteen reported and the total of the specific plate number block positions reported.

If you need something from this issue enclose a self addressed stamped envelope and I'll swap a letter with you from one of the fraternity that tells me he has some surplus that he would like to dispose of.

If there is a good reply to this article we could take up? The horizontal and vertical pairs, triples and quadruples.

Have fun collecting.

# Canada's Semi-Official Airmails

by DANIEL G. ROSENBLAT (BNAPS 1445) Apt. 404, 2235 Laguna St., San Francisco

The recent sale by H. R. Harmer Inc. of the Dr. R. H. Shradly Collection of Air Post Pioneer and Semi-official stamps included a very imposing Canadian section of 129 lots, better than a quarter of the entire sale.

This is probably the largest selection of Canadian semi-officials to come to the market at one time since the Matthews sale of 1960, and in addition to its size the collection was an outstandingly fine one that included all of the rare standard items with the exception of the very elusive Grand Army of Canada stamp, as well as a surprisingly large assortment of scarce errors and varieties. The London to London issue which had been part of the collection was disposed of by private treaty prior to the auction. The purchaser was John Cornelius of Minneapolis, and an article in "Western Stamp Collector" indicates that he was also the purchaser of many of the other rarer items included in the auction. It would be interesting to know how the price of the London to London compared with the \$5250 that it realized at the Matthews sale six years ago.

The auction prices were generally quite strong, I would estimate an average of about 85% of Sanabria Catalogue. There was especially notable strength in the prices of the more unusual errors and varieties, indicating that there is a growing number of specialized collectors in the field who are willing to bid aggressively for distinctive material.

The highest priced individual item in the Canadian section was a complete vertical strip of five of the Moose Jaw Flying Club stamp which brought \$380. While there is no catalogue value for such a complete strip, the price represents slightly more than catalogue for the five stamps as singles.

The Aero Club of Canada 1918 issue was well represented in the collection by the variety with numerals in an o.g. single (\$32), a tete-beche pair (\$60) and on cover Ottawa-Toronto, September 4th, 1918 (\$180). The variety without numerals included a tete-beche pair with slight faults (\$170), on cover Toronto-Ottawa, August 26th (\$62.50) and on cover Ottawa-Toronto, September 4th (\$140). This latter item may well be under priced since the variety with-

out numerals had a very limited usage on the September 4th flights and the catalogue value for the stamp on cover represents the much more common usage of the stamp on the August flights.

Of special interest in this section was the tete-beche pair of the variety with numerals, one stamp with red flames omitted, which brought \$240 and is probably unique.

The Aero Club of Canada 1919 issue included proofs (\$40), on cover (\$26) and a complete sheet of 10, unused but rubbed and stained (\$82.50). A vertical pair of the Estevan-Winnipeg stamp brought \$32 and a single with inscription reversed, slightly faulty, brought \$105.

The Laurentide issues included a complete pane of two of the first issue (rouletted at the side) which realized \$92.50, a complete booklet of the second issue (green, rouletted top and bottom, without printing on the back) which sold for \$50 and a complete booklet of the red stamp (\$45).

The Northern Air Service stamps included a very rare complete sheet of 20 (\$165) and a first flight cover with single line cachet which sold for a surprising \$19 against a Holmes catalogue value of \$12.50.

The Jack V. Elliot stamps included several imperf. pairs of both issues and a complete unsevered sheet of 16 of the swastika background variety (\$115). A similar double sheet of 16 of the first Elliot-Fairchild issue brought \$140.

One of the few items which seemed to have sold rather cheaply was the quite unusual Fairchild Air Transport sheet of ten in two shades of blue with both horizontal and vertical tete-beche pairs (Sanabria S16d), bringing \$75 against a catalogue value of \$150.

The Patricia Airways and Exploration section contained no less than 38 lots which averaged nearly \$40 per lot, indicating that the various surcharges and overprints of this issue are considerably sought after. Only one lot seemed to have been really "stolen", a complete sheet of the first issue (perforated, on yellow paper) with the route inscription in blue-black (the "Official" stamp) and including the number 8 position with the "tO" error instead of "TO". Catalogued as singles only the sheet has a value of \$97.50 but realized only \$36.



A reversed die proof on card of the Yukon Airways issue brought \$70, indicating that proofs of the semi-official issues have a strong following. Other proofs included in the sale also brought good prices.

In the Commercial Airways section a complete sheet of ten, imperforate, of the black "AIR FEE" stamp brought \$155, and a most unusual usage on cover of a pair of these imperf. stamps brought \$62.50. An imperf. pair of the purple stamp brought \$50 and a sheet of 10 of the imperf. orange stamp realized \$80.

Even the Miscellaneous Balance of the Collection, including unauthorized, uncatalogued and forged items, brought \$62.50 against an estimated cash value of \$25-\$50.

All in all the results must have been quite satisfactory to Dr. Shrady and to H. R. Harmer, Inc., the entire sale realizing \$43,665. It is of course also very satisfactory to those of us who collect these issues to realize that such a strong interest in them prevails. I was interested to note that an article on the sale in "Western Stamp Collector" read in part:

"It was generally expected that the Canadian semi-officials would sell well."

"Always popular over the years, they have recently received attention from specialist groups adding considerably to the knowledge and interest in the stamps and flights."

I must assume that our own SOAMS study group of BNAPS shares in this mention of "specialist groups", indeed I do not really know of any other group who is doing much in this area nor of any other regular literature on the subject other than this column. However, if there are others I would certainly hope that they will be brought to our attention.

I do not know what circumstances decided Dr. Shrady to dispose of his collection at this time, and I certainly hope that the decision was not a reluctant one on his part brought about by any misfortune. However, it must be admitted that one of the major drawbacks of the field has been the extreme shortage of material in the market, and the dispersal of so fine a collection will go a long way toward strengthening many other collections and reawakening interest. Of course, John Cornelius has probably managed to gather in many of the best of the items, and his collection must surely now rank as one of if not the very finest known.

Nevertheless, I know that the few items that I was able to obtain have added a great deal to my own collection and I dare say that the notation "ex Shrady Collection" will appear in many albums for years to come.

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## Canadian Revenue Study Group News

LEO J. LA FRANCE, 27 Underhill Rd., Ossining, N.Y. 10562

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### YUKON-DAWSON PROOFS

Your editor recently acquired two proofs of the above issues which are not listed in Holmes. These are both of the large variety measuring about 25 x 38 mm, are printed on india and mounted on card. They are a \$2 Dawson Mining Court orange brown in color and a \$3 Yukon Territorial Court olive green in color. Can anyone else report having proofs of these issues and in what colors?

### GEORGE VI SUPREME COURT LAWS

It has recently come to the attention of your editor that a 25c value (not overprinted) appears to exist in this issue. It appears in both a blue and a milky blue color and has been seen in both used and unused condition. None of the current REVENUE CATALOGS list this denomina-

tion. The Canadian Revenue Society catalog edited by the late Dr. French and published in 1942 listed a 25c value but it was unpriced.

Can anyone shed light on the existence of this issue and we would surely like to hear from those of your who have copies of this stamp.

### SECOND VARIETY OF THE \$30 ON \$1 SUPREME COURT LAW (Sissons R73)

In June of 1966 Jim Sissons acquired a small supply of the \$30 on \$1 Supreme Court Law Stamp. While this in itself was a great find, you can imagine Jim's surprise when he found that about one-half of the find (perhaps 20 stamps in all) turned out to be with a totally different type of surcharge. This new variety has 1. \$30 in

*(Continued on page 82)*

# CANADA - ONE CENT 1859

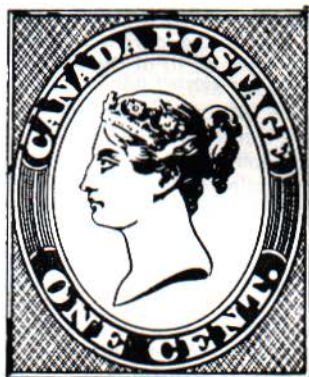
## A STUDY OF PLATE VARIETIES

by Stewart S. Kenyon

Continuing the study of the One Cent 1859 started last month with the Imprint Positions, this article will illustrate and describe as fully as possible, one of the main re-entries. It is proposed to continue this series of articles by taking as many as possible of the Plate Varieties in turn and providing as much information as is obtainable. At the beginning, however, it should be mentioned that there will probably be many errors and omissions made in the interpretation of these varieties and the writer will welcome information from any collector who may be able to add to or correct statements made.

The study is based on information contained in articles by Major G. A. E. Chapman, D.S.O. published in the "American Philatelist" in February 1950; Mr. G. Whitworth published in the "London Philatelist" from November 1965 to April 1966 and study of stamps contained in my own collection. For the past ten years, I have been accumulating copies of the One Cent 1859 with a great deal of emphasis on re-entries and plate flaws. It is hoped that my findings combined with those of Major Chapman and Mr. Whitworth will prove of interest and value to other students of the 1859 Issue.

The re-entry that is illustrated with this article is the one that appears to be most prominent and the most readily located. Major Chapman records a copy dated October 30, 1862 but from my findings and those of Mr. Whitworth, this appears to be unlikely. Mr. Whitworth is of the opinion that the re-entry originated in the second group of perforations and this is borne out by the fact that of the 13 copies in my collection, none are perforated 11.6 x 11.6 which would be the case if the re-entry was on stamps in use in October 1862. It is to be noted that although Major Chapman records this date he shows that the stamp was perforated 12. It is possible that this early date is in error. The earliest copy noted by Mr. Whitworth is August 30, 1865 and my earliest is dated July 1, 1865. Comparison with other dated copies would seem to place my copy as coming from a



State 1



State 2

printing from order number 18 placed with the printers on March 30, 1864.

By August 1866, the doubling of the south-east frame had disappeared and this is described by Mr. Whitworth as the second state of the re-entry. He records a copy dated August 28, 1866. It would appear that the plate had been further repaired and several signs of the original re-entry are no longer visible. It is also noticeable that on the earlier copies, the frame lines show definite signs of weakness, whereas by August 1866 the frame lines had been strengthened.

# Sales Circuit Comments

JAMES C. LEHR, 2818 Cheshire Rd., Devon, Wilmington, Delaware 19803

Circuit sales in 1966 totaled \$6157.54 vs \$3325.22 in 1965. Earnings were as follows:

## Earnings for 1966

### Income

Commission on circuit sales at 8% .....	\$492.60	
Insurance charge at 2% of value of books submitted in 1966 .....	267.27	
Interest on savings account .....	186.98	
Blank circuit book sales .....	30.42	
Postage Donations .....	13.00	990.26

### Expenses

Net postage cost .....	80.33	
Printing .....	42.00	
Type 1965 Annual Report .....	3.00	
Telephone call — located circuit .....	3.00	128.33
Net earnings, 1966 .....	\$861.93	

During 1966 we got 188 new books but retired 313 books. This leaves us with 185 books to start 1967 vs the 311 books we

started 1966 with. Thus we cannot continue sales at this rate unless we get more new books in 1967 than we did in 1966. In fact, we now have 20 fewer books than we had when I received the circuits and started 1965. We have gotten 23 new books in the first 13 days of this year, which is a good start. Actually, 60 of the books returned in 1966 were entered in 1966, so get those stamps into the circuits and we will do the rest.

Just a reminder, we can't accept covers & stationery & booklet in the circuit books because of the high postage cost and low value 1 unit weight of these. We also have a minimum book value of \$25. We have a particular need for Western Cancellations, Large Queens, booklet panes, airmails, proofs & essays & revenues (particularly higher priced material). Of course, we can always use all the other varieties also.

I would like to take time here to thank all of you who sent notes and cards during the year and at Christmas. You folks are the nicest part of this job.

## SOLID RUBBER ROUND DATER No. 1

by J. R. Hill, BNAPS, 1159; C. T. Walker, BNAPS 1725

Around 1930 a rubber cancellor was issued to all offices handling special delivery or registered mail. This cancellor was to be used as a backstamp for these items but they did, and still do use the cancellor occasionally for first class mail.

This is one of the rare examples of this cancel on cover. The ink is usually purple, but as in this case may be blue.



Fig. 1

There are three basic types of this cancel. The first type is illustrated on the cover.

The second contains a star in the design as illustrated above.

The third is like photo I but is oval in shape.

Although these cancels are known for all provinces, our interest is mainly Alberta and Saskatchewan. The following have been noted for Alberta :

Altario, Amisk, Berwyn, Bonnyville, Bowden, Calahoo, Camrose, Caroline, Clive, Dewberry, Duhamel, Elworth, Fort McMurray, Gibbons Station, Grand Prairie, Greencourt, Hardisty, Heath, Hilda, Kahwin, Meeting Creek, Notikewin, Red Deer, Smoky Lake, Spedden, Stony Plain, Sundre, Trochie, Westlock, Whitelaw.

The following have been noted for Saskatchewan:



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Baring, Biggar, Big River, Elfros, Fenton, Gladmar, Glamis, Hepburn, Kindersley, Madison, Medstead, Mont Nebo, Paddockwood, Parkbig, Primate, Rockhaven, Stockholm, Theodore, Tonkin, Totnes, Verigin, White Bear, Wood Mountain Station.

## REVENUE GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 79)

thinner figures, 2. Only the two "1" at top are blocked over; instead of three long bars, there are two groups of 6 small squares, 3. Only the two "1" at bottom are blocked out, instead of two long and two short bars, there are two squares made up of four small squares each. Both of these varieties remain very desirable rarities of the 1st water.

Can anyone else report owning one of these new varieties? I'm sure Ed Richardson could use the information for the new C.R.S.G. catalog.

### NON-EXISTANT

Jim Sissons also calls attention to the fact that the \$20 Orange Ontario Law Stamp as listed in his Revenue catalog Ontario (R 90) does not exist and should be removed from the next edition.

### HONORAIRES FEES — NEW VARIETY

Adolph Koeppl has shown Ed Richardson an interesting variety of the HONORAIRES FEES issue, Sissons R 74. This is the 10c value, the large (18½ mm) over-

print, perforated 11, with a DOUBLE OVERPRINT.

Can anyone else confirm this variety?

### PRECANCELLED WAR TAX AND EXCISE STAMPS

In 1964 Tom Perkins (CRSG #79) made a survey of all known copies of these popular stamps.

Through the courtesy of E. L. Piggott I have just had the opportunity of seeing one of the scarcer varieties reported. This is Holmes FWT 7 1c orange, perf. 12, with a "Div." 17" in black. There were only four members who reported this stamp. The coil variety with this overprint was more plentiful by a factor of 12. In view of this how about checking your collections and see how many more of the perf 12 all around might turn up. We'd sure appreciate your information.

### THANKS

As usual our thanks to Ed Richardson, Jim Lehr, Dudley Atwood, E. L. Piggott and all who help to write this column through their efforts in reporting new finds and raising questions on many subjects.

Keep it coming fellow members and we will always have plenty of grist for the mill.

**CONTINUE TO GET NEW MEMBERS**

## PRECANCELS

(Continued from page 74)

3rd Class Matter (Canada, U.S.A.)

Bulk Transit Newspapers 1c per 4 oz.

Single Transit Newspapers ½c each.

Book post and other printed matter 1c per 4 oz.

4th Class Matter. Domestic parcel post 6c per 4 oz.

5th Class Matter. Articles of general merchandise not entitled to lower rate 1c per oz.

I believe "his" letters were circulors moving under the 3rd class rate of 1 cent for four ounces.

## PERFINS

(Continued from page 74)

Rarity factors are changed very little. A few of the high rarity factors are reduced slightly as I have heard of these scarce designs being added to collections.

Additions have been made in the columns reporting the use of perfins on revenue stamps and of the companies who have perforated precancels. No specialist listing has been included of the precancelled perfins as the individual stamps punched by each company have been considered to be more of a special branch of precancel collecting. Our last list of these appeared in Topics of August 1966.

The new edition of the handbook now illustrates 223 major designs including the BT and CNR second machines and to complete a perfin collection 51 additional stamps would be needed to include all code hole varieties. A total of 274.

The revised edition available 15th February. Any orders arriving in March will be delayed until mid April due to the writer's winter holiday.

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## B.C. CANCELS

(Continued from page 72)

mail. It is interesting to note that a type V postmark has been applied on the rear of the cover to provide the necessary date and time of posting.

### IV. Conclusion

A system has been presented for classifying the simple hand-struck town postmarks of Provincial British Columbia to the end of the Victorian period. No effort has been made to extend the study to the "squared-circle", duplex, R.P.O. or machine applied postmarks since these are skillfully analyzed and catalogued in the existing literature. The various plain and fancy killers have also been avoided. It would be folly to claim, or the reader to expect, completeness in this brief introductory survey. If correctness alone is achieved the author will be extremely thankful. Much assistance and encouragement has been received from Frank W. Campbell and from prominent collectors in the Pacific Northwest in compiling the data from which these notes were prepared. However, the responsibility for all errors in the interpretation of the data is claimed by the author.

#### TABLE A

##### Towns With Type I Postmarks

Barkerville, Cariboo (?), Clinton, Clover Valley, Comox, Dog Creek, Drynoch, Emory\*, Esquimalt, Hall Prairie, Kamloops, Langley Prairie, New Westminster, North Arm, Pavilion, Port Moody, Quesnell, Upper Sumas, Victoria, Yale.

\*See text.

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WANTED — Canadian covers with good strikes of the World War II Blackout Cancellations. Richard S. Wilson, 92 Dennis Street, Manhasset, New York 11030 (253)

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