



### CHRISTMAS 1970

# Official Journal of The British North America Philatelic Society

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Fig. 1: Fairbanks' registered cover with postage for 95 cents.

# THE HIGHEST-RATED "CENTS" COVERS by A. Graham Fairbanks

An article on the unique cover (Fig. No. 1), should, I think, start with its description: the stamps are: a 1c red-lilac, a 10c, a block of four 121/2c and a pair of 17c, for a total of 95 cents - all in nice condition and tied by several light strikes of the 11-bar grid. Stamps are applied to the back of a large "end-flap" legal envelope, which is somewhat defective and reduced at right.

Also appearing, in red, is a "REGIS-TERED LETTER No." and in pencil, the figure "9" plus a second figure, unfortunately unclear but probably denoting the rate. Further, in black script, is the registry "No. 1215" and "Contains \$850".

On the reverse are the CDS "Saint John, My 27, 1864" and "Harvey, My 28, 1864".

The letter was addressed to "James Brewster, Harvey, al. Co." (denoting Albert County, as there was another town

of Harvey, in York County). The Harvey on this address is a small coastal town, population about 200, on Chignecto Bay at the north-east end of the Bay of Fundy.

The cover poses some questions, on which I will comment: I believe this has the only known block of 121/2c and one of the two known pairs of 17c appearing on cover.

The letter probably travelled on the European and North American Railway, almost all of the 120-mile journey from Saint John to Harvey - within the short time of 24 hours, though I have other letters to more distant towns, in this same limit.

Of course, the main interest is the high rate - 5c was the domestic rate for each 1/2-ounce, plus 10c registration fee (up to August 11, 1865, when reduced to 5c). This would indicate 17 times the basic rate and

a weight of the letter between 8 and 81/2 ounces.

Apparently this heavy weight would result from bulky legal documents, perhaps with seals attached, and also a heavy seal at missing end of envelope.

One wit suggested to me that possibly some of the \$850 could have been in gold coin !

A more serious idea is that extra stamps were required to cover premium for an "Insured" letter, in addition to the registration. This practice exists today, but I cannot find how far back it existed, although I have seen two Canadian registered letters, with a premium of 6c in stamps for "Insured" and dated 1904.

The cover has a certificate from the British Philatelic Association, stating that it is genuine.

Some history of this cover may be of interest, but should be tied in with its "twin" cover, shown on illustration 2, courtesy of H. R. Harmer Inc., New York.

This "twin" has the second-highest rate known — 79 cents, made up by a 5c, 2 pairs of 10c and 1 pair of 17c; and from the same correspondence as the 95c one, it has all the same type-markings, and was mailed from Saint John on June 25, 1864.

It was sold by Harmer in a Dale-Lichtenstein sale last year to an un-named bidder for the sum of \$2,800 - surely a record price for any New Brunswick "cents" cover.

These covers are first recorded in a New York 1910 sale, as one lot, from the collection of Judge Seybold, Syracuse, N.Y.

I have an original letter, dated 1910, from

an "also-ran" congratulating the buyer, a Mr. Nelton, and stating "I surely thought my bid of \$11.30 would fetch it"(!!)

No further trace until 1942, when the 95c cover turned up by itself in a New York auction of Colonel Green's estate. The buyer is unknown, nor do I know if the Lichtenstein family ever owned this cover, as it did not appear in their series of auctions.

Although he had not examined them, both covers are listed in the Argenti New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Handbook, as showing the two highest-known rates.

Without comment, he evidently understood the rate of 79c, although not a multiple of 5. However, on the other one, he remarked "The curious thing about this cover is the addition of the 1c, since the postmaster or the addresser must have assumed 94 cents to be an underpayment". How did Mr. A. figure that 94c was the correct rate (and the 79c)?

This story on two old covers will exemplify unusually well the added fascination of covers - over and above the stamps alone.

If you are still with me, perhaps some kind reader will advise:

Who was James Brewster?

Why were these (and other) heavy "money" letters sent him and from whom in Saint John?

What is the true explanation of the 79c and 95c rates?

And what happened to the 95c cover from 1910 to the present?



of the cover with postage totalling 79 cents.

# **Orbs and Postal Stations**

#### by Max Rosenthal



The 1890s was a decade which saw various attempts in Canada to combine the circular town postmark and the cancelling obliterator in one device; for instance, the squared circles. A different approach attempted in Toronto, Hamilton, and London in that decade, and Ottawa in the 1900s, was to use a large dater surrounded by two or three circles, instead of the usual single circle. Since these were larger than most single circle daters, I propose to call them "orbs". During the 1900s Toronto postal stations also used orbs, and from there we shall continue to a listing of the postal stations in the few Canadian cities large enough to have them up to the end of the Edwardian period.

#### TORONTO TWO AND THREE RING ORBS

Toronto was the only city to use two-ring orbs. The first device was placed in use at the beginning of 1891. It is 28 mm wide across the outer circle, which is thicker than the inner ring (fig. 1). There is a dot after Canada. Until October 1891 the hour was placed above the date; after that it mostly appears between the line giving the month and day, and the line denoting the year. Time markings in my collection range from 12 a.m. to 1 a.m. It was used until at least August 1897.

In the middle of 1892 appeared a similar marking, but only 27 mm wide across the outer circle, and with a thick dot on either side of the middle (fig. 2). My time markings are 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. They are in the middle line. This postmark appears until 1901.

1891 also saw the introduction in Toronto of the three-ring orb, perhaps not until after the middle of the year (fig. 3). It is 31<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mm wide across the outer circle, thicker than the inner two. The hour shows mostly in the middle line, but is found not infrequently as the top line. Like the second two-ring orbs it appears until 1901. My collections has these time markings: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. to 12 a.m., 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., 11 p.m., and 12 p.m.; 7 p.m. comes both in the regular small size, and a taller and wider version.

#### HAMILTON AND LONDON THREE-RING ORBS

The Hamilton three-ring orb, introduced at the beginning of 1896, has the same dimensions as the Toronto area (fig. 4). However, the time is expressed in nautical terms, that is, at least theoretically, from 1 to 24, with 1 representing 1 a.m. and 24 being 12 p.m. These numbers appear in the top line. I have 11 to 21, and 23. This postmark was used to the end of 1899.

The London three-ring orb also came out early in 1896 (fig. 5). It is the same size as those from the other two cities, but the lettering LONDON CANADA is 2 mm high instead of 3 mm. Time numbering is as in Hamilton. My collection shows 9 to 20, and 22 to 24. Normal usage seems to have been to early 1901, but it reappears in 1911.

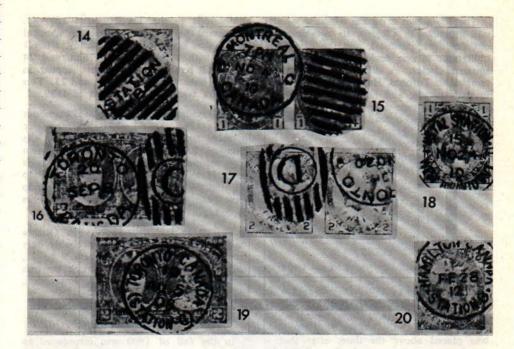
The three-ring orb appears in Ottawa only on Edward VII stamps, probably only from 1906 on. I have numbers 9 to 11, and 13 to 24. It is often struck through cloth. This produces a thick impression, with a mesh effect.

#### TORONTO POSTAL STATION ORBS

In the fall of 1900 was introduced to Toronto a new postal system, soon to spread to the other large Canadian cities; the establishment of postal stations instead of branches, designated by letters of the alphabet instead of names, and sub-post offices designated by numbers, again rather than names. Only registered mail was to be cancelled at the sub-post offices from now on; ordinary mail went to the branches and main post office for postmarking. It began with the replacement of York Street post office that autumn by Station "B", on King Street West at York Street.

Station "B" got a three-ring orb, 30 mm wide across the outer circle, which is no thicker than the inner two circles (fig. 7). Time is expressed nautically, in the top line. I have numbers 10 to 22. Until 1902 it is very common, but not so much afterwards. Likely only registered mail was cancelled there from then on.

Parkdale, on Queen Street west of Dufferin Street, was an important branch of Toronto until 1903, when Station "C" was opened east of Dufferin. Parkdale then became a sub-post office. A three-ring orb similar in dimensions to that of Station "B" was issued to Station "C" (fig. 8). I have numbers 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 21. It can be found until 1910.



In 1907 Station "C" was also provided with a three-ring orb  $31\frac{1}{2}$  mm across the outer circle, like the old three-ring orb of Toronto, but with all lines of equal thickness (fig. 9). I have numbers 15, 17 and 20 denoting the hours.

Station "F" opened in 1907 at Yonge and Charles Streets, a block south of Bloor Street. Two blocks north of Bloor on Yonge had been another important branch, Yorkville, which now became a sub-post office. I have one copy of Station "F", a two-ring orb, 30 mm wide across the outer circle (fig. 10). Both circles are thin, and number 19 appears at the top.

#### POSTAL STATION DUPLEXES

From 1900 to 1902 Station "B", Toronto, used a duplex in which the obliterator, circular in shape, has three thick horizontal lines at top and bottom, STATION in the fourth line down, and "B" below that, breaking another horizontal line (fig. 11). The dater has TORONTO CANADA, but no date or indicia, so it was probably used on third class mail.

The same kind of duplex, but dated, was employed at STATION "B", Montreal, Que. (fig. 12). It was established in 1904 on St. Catherine Street, not far from the St. Catherine Street Centre post office, Montreal's busiest sub-post office. When one gets only the obliterator on stamp, it appears to be a rule that on a Queen Victoria numeral issue it is Station "B", Toronto, on an Edward VII stamp it is from Station "B", Montreal. Time markings are expressed nautically on the latter.

In 1907, Station "C", Montreal was opened on Amherst Street, there had been on Amherst Street sub-post office from 1900 to 1905. Station "C" used the same kind of duplex as mentioned above for Station "B" (fig. 13).

#### ELONGATED OVAL DUPLEXES

In 1910 Canada began to issue duplex hammers in which the obliterator is an elongated vertical oval of 11 bars. Station "B" and "C" in Montreal both used this type. However, at Station "B" time was indicated nautically, while at Station "C" it was expressed in the regular way. I have in my collection for the latter 1 a.m., 8 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m. More important, STATION "B" was inserted within the bars of the obliterator (fig. 14), but not at Station "C". There a "C" was inserted on each side of the middle of the circular dater (fig. 15). There were both smaller and larger "C"s.

Meanwhile, in Toronto, an older type of duplex, with elongated vertical oval which had been used in Toronto and its four main branches before the turn of the century was issued to two postal stations. At the end of 1906 Station "C" got one (fig. 16). The obliterator of vertical bars surrounding a circle has a "C" in that circle, where the old numbers had been. Time markings are nautical. Station "O" was issued a similar device (fig. 17) with the same kind of time markings.

Station "D", at Keele and Dundas Streets. replaced Toronto Junction in 1908. That was when possession was taken of a new building at that corner, but one already finds this duplex in 1905, when the change was already contemplated, the old Toronto Junction circular markings also show up however, until the spring of 1908.

#### OTHER POSTAL STATION MARKINGS

On its opening Station "D" was also issued a single circle device, inscribed POSTAL STATION "D" around the top, WEST TORONTO ONT. around the bottom (fig. 18). The first two years AM and PM appear at the top; from 1910 on I have numbers 6, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, and 20.

A single circle was also supplied to Station "G", opened in 1907 on Queen Street East, near Broadview Ave., to replace the Riverside Branch (fig. 19). TORONTO, CANADA is seen around the top, STA-TION G in parentheses around the bottom.

Time markings are nautical, and I have 3, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, and 22.

Station A had been opened in Toronto's Union Station in 1903. One does not see it on circular postmarks, because it became the main post office in Toronto housing the electric machine cancellers producing postmarks simply inscribed "Toronto".

Station "E", Toronto was established in 1909 on Bloor Street a block west of Bathurst Street, but I have not seen its postmark. The Bloor Street sub-post office had been at the corner of Bathurst, but by now was a few blocks east.

In Montreal, Station "D" replaced Point St. Charles in 1910, and Station "E" took over from Mile End in 1909, but I have not seen the stations' postmarks either.

The mysteriously named Station X was the first one in Winnipeg, Man. It only existed from 1907 to 1910. In 1908 Station B was opened. Circular markings from either one have not come to my attention. Undoubtedly only registered mail was cancelled at them, with regular items getting postmarked at the main post office.

Station "B" was established in Hamilton in 1909. It used a single circle postmark, with no time indications (fig. 20). The main Hamilton post office was considered to be Station "A", although not called that. The same held true at Montreal and Winnipeg.

This article ends with the reign of Edward VII. Others can carry on from there.

Some Philatelic Posers . . . by E. A. Smythies

# THE DEMONITIZED ISSUE

It has been a remarkable feature of Canadian postal history that even the earliest issues are still valid for postage. One of my many correspondents - a rabid Admiral fan - habitually stamps his letters to me with Admirals.

Still more extraordinary, another correspondent occasionally has a Prince Edward Island cents-stamp of 1872 tucked away amongst the current issues without comment by the post office. Seeing that huge stocks of remainders of these PEI stamps were sold at a tiny fraction of their face value, it is quite a poser why the postal authorities allowed their continued use at face value for postal purposes.

There is, however, one exception - a small set which has been demonitized. I wonder how many of my readers can name these demonitized stamps, and say why they were demonitized, contrary to general practice?

For the answer, see next month's column.

(Fourth of a series)

# Edwardian Envelopes - One and Two Cent

#### Information relative to both denominations

It is likely that there was but one master die for each denomination, supplied by Thomas De La Rue and Sons, London, England1. From these master dies three working dies were prepared for the 1c, and six working dies for the 2c. Apparently there were at least two knives used in the manufacture of these envelopes, and there may have been three. In my opinion, not shared by Bill Maisel, these differences appear to be so minor that it is difficult to distinguish them one from the other without opening up the envelope to its position prior to folding, and comparing it with an envelope already so opened.

#### The three working dies of the 1c Envelope

Die A - Long bar in "G" of "Postage"; thin lettering and scrollwork.

Die B — Short bar in "G" of "Postage"; thick lettering; top bar of "E" of "ONE" shorter than bottom bar; "E" of "CENT" normal.

Die C — Short bar in "G" of "Postage"; thick lettering; top bar of "E" of "ONE" longer than bottom bar; "E" of "CENT" raised.

The 1c Envelope was first issued to the public on March 1, 19052. From dated copies, it appears that Die A was the first working die in use.

#### The six working dies of the 2c envelope

The six dies in question are illustrated below, and fall into these categories:

Die 1: Thin lettering; long bar in "G" of Postage: "E"s are normal.

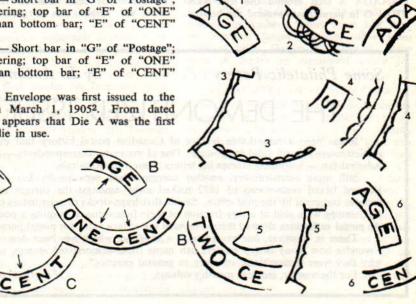
Die 2: One semi-circle under "C" of CENT; "D" of CANADA dropped.

Die 3: 51/2 arcs between panels on right; Flat even border loops; 3 semi-circles under "C"; "D" of Canada normal.

Die 4: Panel line above "CENTS" extended to the border would intersect at a juncture of loops; 41/2 arcs between panels on right.

Die 5: Left front of bust points to "O" of TWO and there are 5 arcs between panels on the right; Normal "E"s and "G".

Die 6: Center bar of "E"s are very thick; bar of "G" is long and also has a vertical serif.



A diversity in the	110	2	3	204 2	5	6
Lettering	Thin	Thick	Thick	Thick	Thick	Thick, center bars of "E" very thick
Left-front of bust points	between WO	between WO	between WO	at O	at O	at O
Bar of "G"	long	short	short	short	short	long, with vertical serif
Semi-circles under "C"	3	1	3	3	3	tent the 3
Semi-circles under "TWO"	3	2	3	3	3	3
Panel line above "CENTS" extended	intersect a loop	intersect a loop	intersect a loop	meets at a junct.	intersect a loop	intersect a loop
Border loops are	even, join frame	high, even, join frame	flat, even, join frame	uneven, seldom join frame	high, even, join frame	high, even, join frame
"D" of "CANADA"	normal	dropped	normal	normal	normal	normal
Arcs between panels at "L"	51/2	51/2	51/2	5	51/2	51/2
Arcs between panels at "R"	5	5	51/2	41/2	5	nose 1 5 provin
Bond die (4)	A	D	B	С	none	none
Holmes die <sup>(2)</sup>	T all	Ia	none	п	none	none

The 2c Envelope was first issued to the public on January 12, 1905<sup>3</sup>. From dated copies, it appears that Die 1 was the first working die in use.

Working die in use. References: (1) Winthrop H. Boggs, "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada", Vol. I, page 528; Vol. II, pages 4-S, 5-S, and 6-S: Chambers Publishing Company, 1945; (2) L. Seale Holmes, "Holmes Spec\_hlized Philatelic Catalogue, 14th ed., revised, 1968: Ryerson Press, Toronto; page 312; (3) Fred Jarrett, "Stamps of British North America, with a check list of the Postal Stationery of Canada, by T. L. Derwent Kinton, M.A.", pages 152 and 153: Fred Jarrett, 1929; (4) Nelson Bond, "The Postal Stationery of Canada", pages 10, 95-99: Herman Herst, Jr. 1953. In addition to the above-mentioned reference works, I have had the invaluable assistance of Mr. William H. Maisel, the internationally-recognized authority on U.S. Envelopes. Fortunately, Mr. Maisel has been interested in Canada Stationery for many years as his secondary interest. The third working die for the 1c envelope and the 6th working die for the 2c envelope were both brought to my attention by his studies in the working due field. He is now working on problems of the dies of the King George V envelopes, concerning which I can find nothing previously recorded, so that his work on the KGV envelopes will open new and original fields when published. Any who may have done unpublished work on the KGV envelopes and is interested in pooling information should write to Bill Maisel at 1507 Norman Avenue, Lutherville, Maryland, 21093.



BNA TOPICS / DECEMBER, 1970 / 323

### A philatelic and postal history of NEWFOUNDLAND

#### (a continuing series of articles by Brien C. Damien; part ten)

Two new innovations were made in September 1863 with the introduction of parcel post and letter carrier service in St. John's. Two carriers worked daily delivering letters for a charge of 2c each in addition to regular postage. Gradually, the carrier service expanded to its current level with many, many carriers touching at each residence in St. John's daily. In 1883, parcel service was initiated with Great Britain.

Pillar boxes — predecessors of the modern mail collection boxes of today — were introduced in 1863. Before that year, anyone wishing to mail a letter had to take it to the post office. Pillar boxes were erected at Stations along the later-constructed Newfoundland railway, where clerks could pick up mail for processing in the post office car of a train.

Railway post offices were used from the earliest railroading days in Newfoundland. Consisting of a separate car traveling in a train, the RPO was used for postmarking and processing mail while en route to its destination. The RPO had distinctive markings: Newf'd T.P.O., N'W'F'L'D. RY TPO, N.N. & W. Railway T.P.O., N. & N.W. RY TPO, St. J. & P.A.B. R.P.O., St. J's & P.A.B. R.P.O., St. J's & C. (Corner Brook) R.P.O., C.B. Railway T.P.O., Con. Bay Ry. P.O., Heart's Content Ry. T.P.O., Bay de Verde Ry. P.O., Hall's Bay R.T.P.O. After 70 years, two months, and six days, the last RPO ran from St. John's to Corner Brook and back again on September 30 and October 1, 1968.

The RPO has since been replaced by a containerized mail process. Where mail formerly was loaded into bags at St. John's, placed aboard an RPO, transported to Port aux Basques, removed from the mail car and loaded aboard a ferry, taken to North Sydney, and deposited from the ferry into the North Sydney mail processing center, it is now loaded into a container at the St. John's post office, trucked across the island, and then transported intact to the North Sydney centre. These containers are more easily handled than loose bags, and fit neatly onto a trailer rig or in the hold of

one of the Strait ferries, the William Carson, or Leif Eriksson. Containerization has cut nearly six hours off the old 30-hour St. John's-North Sydney run, in some cases cutting a full day off time between posting and delivery.

After the retirement of Postmaster-General William Lemon Solomon, John Delaney, a former Member of the House of Assembly who had looked after the post office while in the House, took over as the second PMG and the third chief executive of the post office. Delaney served until 1885, when he was succeeded by James O. Fraser, who served until 1902. H. J. B. Woods served from 1902 to 1917, and was followed by Newfoundland's last PMG, Dr. J. Alexander Robinson. The chief executive of the postal department became a cabinet minister in 1919, and the first Minister of Posts and Telegraphs was William Wesley Halfyard, a Liberal who held office from 1919 to 1923 and again from 1928 to 1932; he was responsible for the planning and design selection for the 1923 pictorial stamp issue. He was followed by Thomas Bonia, who served from 1923 to early 1924, and Matthew E. Hawco who also served for a few months in 1924. William J. Woodford was the next incumbent, holding the position from 1924 to 1928 and again from 1932-1934.

An important figure of this era who perhaps outshadowed his superior officers was William Campbell, Deputy Minister of Posts and Telegraphs appointed in 1924. He planned a new parcel post system, wrote acts extending insurance and cash-on-delivery benefits, designed the publicity issue of postage stamps in 1928, negotiated a postal treaty with the United States Post Office whereby Newfoundland received \$10,000 annually for transport of American parcels (where no money was received before), and planned and initiated the North Sydney mail sorting office, which revolutionized mail distribution for Newfoundland.

Due to economic conditions and near bankruptcy of the colonial government, the House of Assembly voted to suspend re-

sponsible government in 1934, and allow a British Commission of Government to rule the island. Under the administration of the Commission, which lasted until 1949, there were five secretaries of posts and telegraphs, in the following order: P. J. O'Halleran, Major E. E. Harper, G. D. Fraser, Major J. Haig Smith, and William S. Roddis. The Commission was a caretaker government with small resources, and so little postal progress was made, although the Commission and World War II put Newfoundland on her feet economically.

During the Commission years there was

a significant use of airmail, in part due to the establishment of U.S. air bases at St. John's, Stephenville, Goose Bay, and Gander. Prior to this airmail was primarily of an experimental nature. Sidney Cotton, Newfoundland's foremost air pioneer made winter flights to northern Newfoundland points and Labrador. This of course continued through Confederation.

Newfoundlanders voted during the summer of 1948 to end the responsible government system as well as the Commission of Government.

(To be concluded)



R. J. Woolley, secretary, 1520 Bathurst Street, Toronto



The Easton convention is now a thing of the past and although the attendance was down and exhibits somewhat below the usual high standards of BNAPS I think both suffered from the closing dates of Philympia in London where BNAPS collections made an impressive showing.

The meeting did fortunately supply the material for this month's column. A good friend had saved a small lot of perfins for me, one of which was one of those rare items, a previously unlisted design, illustrated above.

The stamp is unusual in that it is another E1 recently mentioned in a column which listed four companies who had previously punched this stamp in the USA to prepay for special delivery of their mail after arrival at its destination in Canada.

This again is an example of the same usage and reference to the American Perfin Club catalogue identifies the user as their B120, the B. F. Goodrich Company and used from one of their offices either at Boston, Mass. or Akron, Ohio. The stamp has a roller cancellation applied in Toronto.

This addition to our catalogue will be listed as: No. Description Name of user Issue R.F.

B13 BFG/Co 2H5 1-2/4 1-2 B. F. Goodrich E1 100 Co., Boston, Mass., Akron, Ohio

Another item from this small lot of Perfins is a copy of the 2c Small Queen punched JH/S. This is the scarcest design to be found on this issue. The few copies of this design previously reported have been on the 1c yellow. The 2c has a roller cancellation with a legible MONTREAL QU. This suggests it may have been used for third class mail, as we think were the known copies on the 1c yellow.

Finally, two nice 3c Small Queen issue, late printings, both with nice town-dated cancels had been hopelessly spoiled by being perforated "PA" and "AID". The joker who produced the *Province of Alberta* perfin reported some time ago is either at it again or now has a pal with a *Paid* cancellor available for him to play with.

These new listings should be added to the handbook:

Cat. Init. Desc.	User	Issue	RF
N12 NS/C 2H51/2-5	Nat. Supply	1912	100
	Co., Detroit	,	
	Mich.		
W13a WU H5	West. Union	E1	100
	Telegraph Co	<b>D</b> .	
	Portland, Or	e.	

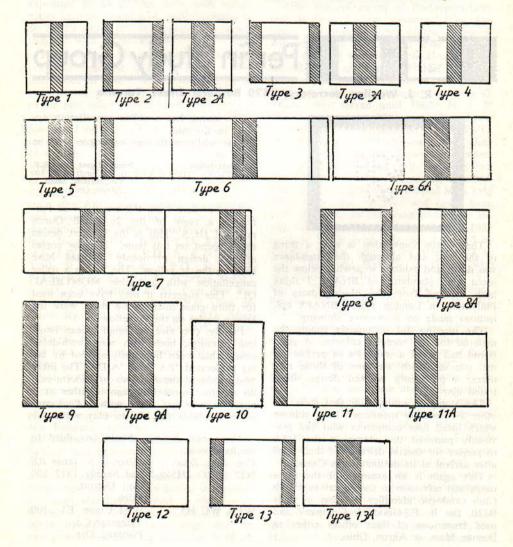
BNA TOPICS / DECEMBER, 1970 / 325



Kenneth G. Rose, 87 Wildwood Drive, Calgary 5, Alberta

Here is a chart listing the 13 basic types of tagged markings, plus seven variations. Space did not allow us to run this illustration in the September issue of *Topics*, while the original published chart (in December 1969) did not show five of these types.

Neither the stamps nor the bars are shown to scale. The chart is intended to show the major types, and misplaced bars, and the approximate position of each. All the "A" types are errors and can appear as one bar in any location on a stamp.





# British Columbia Notes

by John Henry

A new Vancouver's Island colonial frank

(Reprinted by permission of The Western Express, October 1968)

Several years ago the damaged cover front shown in fig. 1 was purchased from an east coast dealer. Victoria franks were expensive and this one appeared to be reasonably priced for its condition; certainly, I can make no claim for recognizing the frank as being unusual.

Shortly after the purchase I was advised by several students of colonial Vancouver's Island postal history that the frank was unknown to them and perhaps not genuine. An enquiry to the dealer revealed that he knew nothing of the cover and brought his assurance that he would refund the purchase price if it were not what he sold it to be. But by then I was so curious that no consideration was given to returning the cover.

Efforts to confirm the authenticity of the frank led down many dead-end streets. A search through Brooklyn city directories of the period made for me by the chief of the History Section of the Brooklyn Public Library disclosed that the addressee *did* live in Williamsburg, a district of Brooklyn, at the time of the correspondence. However, nothing could be found by the chief archivist of the British Columbia Archives to indicate that the writer was ever a resident of Victoria. This, of course, was a disappointment, but could easily be interpreted to indicate that the writer was only a transient on his way to or from the gold fields.

A literature search was initiated and finally in Canada Post Offices - 1755-1895, compiled by Frank W. Campbell, a tracing of a similar frank was found. Mr. Campbell disclosed that the tracing had been taken from a photograph sent to him by Stanley Ashbrook about 1951 or 1952. He knew nothing of the origin of the photograph or the cover shown. After many more frustrating dead-ends the trail led to Dr. Polland who had a photo given to him by Mr. Ashbrook of the cover showing the frank traced by Mr. Campbell. He knew nothing of the cover or its present location and expressed an opinion current at the time he had received the photo that the cover was a fake. This conclusion, drawn by those having examined the photo in the early 1950s, was based on a belief that the 3c United States stamp represented no known rate or combination of rates from Canada to San Francisco at that time and that the Victoria frank had not previously been reported.

The presence of two covers with the Victoria frank was encouraging and needed only verification of the postal fees charged to add credence to the claim of authenticity

for the franks. This verification was quickly found in Deaville's Colonial Postal Systems and Postage Stamps of Vancouver Island and British Columbia where the 1858 postal rates announced by the Victoria post master are quoted on page 45. This, plus other references on pages 51, 75 and 102, indicates that the rates to California and the east coast of the United States were made up of, first, the colonial postage of five cents, then, the United States for the distance the letter traveled inside the United States. These would be 3c and 10c for California and the east coast respectively. Not until 1870 was a postal treaty established between British Columbia and the United States whereby a fee paid in British Columbia stamps would cover delivery of a letter to its destination in the United States and visa versa. There is ample evidence in Deaville that United States stamps were available at the post office in Victoria for letters going to that country. Although these United States stamps were not usually cancelled in the Victoria post office the 3c red on the Benton letter probably received the strike of the Victoria frank because it was an unconventional location. Mr. Stuart Johnstone of Vancouver, B.C. has suggested that since the majority of the covers he owns or has seen have the Victoria frank in the upper left hand corner it was probably the custom that soon grew into a habit. As a result the postmaster was quite likely to apply the frank in his usual manner before noting that a stamp was there. It should also be noted that the Vancouver's Island post office had established more or less regular service with the United States through San Francisco making express company handling of the mails unnecessary.

The Benton letter shown in Fig. II has been located. It is in possession of Samuel Ray of Chicago, through whose courtesy the picture is shown. He reports that there are no indications on the cover that it is not what it appears to be. On the strength of the evidence collected to date it appears that the list of known Victoria franks should be increased to six. Chronologically the new frank falls between the "Custom seal" and the Victoria V.I./Post Office in double line oval. That only two examples have been noted after all these years seems unbelievable, but strange things have and will continue to happen adding zest to our search for western covers.



# **Rounding Up Squared Circles**

#### Dr. W. G. Moffatt, Hickory Hollow, RR-3, Ballston Lake, N.Y. 12019

I should correct an error in the September column which carried a listing of unmatched zeroes in 1900 year dates reported by Norman W. Scales. The fact is that he does collect squared circles — but only on cover or card — and indeed has an extensive collection of them.

About 30 roster forms are now returned and no examples of SHERBROOKE 'NT' or MILLTOWN 'MM' are yet reported. However, confirmation of RODNEY '2' is now to hand. Stan Cohen reports having 2/ -P 14/ 98. According to the Handbook, '2' is known in September, 1898. From Stan's copy it is not clear whether the month is AP or SP so I presume that some other example must exist which establishes SP as the month. I might add that I really don't think MILLTOWN 'MM' exists because the type slugs which printed AM and PM were single slugs carrying two letters; that is, they were not made up of two separate characters. I believe that 'MM' will be found to be a bounced or blurred AM or PM much after the fashion of the ST. HYACINTHE 'HM' which was later found to be a poorly-inked and bounced 'PM'.

Dr. Edna Walck reports a surprising late date for ARNPRIOR 3-line date: JU/ OC 1/ 06. This is almost two months later than the latest date reported in the Handbook, JU/ AU 7/ 06.

Stuart Johnstone reports a new late date for GOLDEN, B.C., a backstamp: JA 30/ 97.

Tom Southey has sent me a photo of an interesting pair of HALIFAX I strikes. The first is 2/ NO 24/ 96, completely normal. The second strike is for the same day, but 3/ NO 24/ 96, in which the three lines of indicia are correctly placed with respect to

each other, but the entire block of indicia is upside down with respect to the rim lettering. I suspect that an error of this sort would be spotted almost immediately and corrected so that perhaps no more than a couple of strikes would be made.

Larry Killeen, of Williams Lake, B.C. sent for examination a 'nude' GLENCOE on 2c purple Numeral. There is no doubt that it is a genuine 'nude'—I can find no hint of inking anywhere in the area where the indicia would normally occur.

A second example of GLENCOE 'nude' is reported by Dr. Whitehead. This one is on Map stamp. The previously recorded late date for GLENCOE is FE 8/ 98. Although no indicia appear in the strike, the fact that it is on Map stamp means that the hammer saw some use - perhaps sporadic, and perhaps for some special purpose - as late as December, 1898. Collectors who have copies of the Map stamp check list should add this town to the listing. No other examples of GLENCOE on Map are reported yet, although several roster forms with extensive listings of squared circles on Map stamp are now returned to me.

Norm Brassler suggested that I call attention to a feature of ALMA, second state, which might cause some confusion. Among several examples of this hammer dated later than the earliest date reported for the 'reduced' version, all seemed to be the thick-bar variety. He sent one, MR 25/08 on private post card, which seems to exhibit no cutting-down of the top bar, and a very minor thinning of the bottom bar. Close examination, particularly of the top bar, shows that the density of inking gradually fades away to nothing along the outer edges of the top and bottom bars. I am of the opinion that instead of bevelled outer bars, as at NAASAGAWEYA and WINGHAM, the outer bars of this hammer merely had the edges rounded. Thus, with no necessity of rocking the hammer, a wide bar would be produced when struck on a thick, soft card or bulky envelope, fading away to nothing where the rounded edges of the hammer barely contacted the paper. In other words, the "thin lines" are not of the same kind as the "thin lines" found on sharp strikes of NASSAGAWEYA or WINGHAM.

Mr. Norman Brassler reports a new addition to the list of squared circle towns known on the 5c Registry stamp: GOLDEN, B.C., FE 23/95. This is also a new early date for GOLDEN. He also reports KAM-LOOPS, BC on 3c Jubilee — the first example of this town reported to me on any denomination of Jubilee, and thus a new addition to the list of towns known on this issue.

\*

Russ Zinkann, M.D., reports a new early date for BOBCAYGEON, first state: DE 13/93; also, a new date (the fourth known date) for CALGARY 'blank': MY 16/ 96. He also reports the very first example known to me of ASHCROFT STATION on the Jubilee issue; his copy is on the 1c denomination. Those who have copies of the Jubilee check-list should update it to indicate that this town is finally reported on Jubilee.

### The Ottawa and Prescott Railway - - some notes by Dr. E. S. Mercantini

I recently acquired a cover at auction which interested me because I am a resident of Ottawa. It is a cover with "corner card" of the Ottawa and Prescott Railway franked with a 5c Beaver and cancelled in black with a four circle "27" postmark. Also on the face of the cover in the lower left hand corner is a black cancel CITY OF OTTAWA No. 5, 1861, U.C. On the reverse is a receiving cancel QUEBEC No. 7, 61, L.C.

The Bytown and Prescott Railroad Com-

pany was incorporated on August 10, 1850, and the first sod was turned in September 1851. The first Prescott to Ottawa train ran on December 1854 and the line was completed in 1855. The name was changed to Ottawa and Prescott Railway Company on May 30, 1855 after Bytown became Ottawa.

There are two versions of the motivation and interests behind the promotion of the railroad. One version is that the railroad between Ottawa and Prescott was promoted by a group of Americans, mainly to carry lumber and to operate in connection with an American railroad which terminated in Ogdensburg, opposite Prescott on the St. Lawrence River. The Ogdensburg Railroad, as it was then called, opened in 1850.

The other view states that a railway between Ottawa and Prescott was conceived and planned by Ottawa interests anxious to take the opportunity offered by the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway between Montreal and Toronto, to link Bytown with these two commercial centres via Prescott.

Indeed, it may well be that the conception of the railroad was due to interests at work on both sides of the border.

The Ottawa and Prescott suffered the same financial fate as most other small railways built in the flush of railway construction in the 1850s. It foundered almost immediately and justified none of the original or subsequent investments made by Ottawa citizens and the city itself.

Gillam in his A History of Canadian RPOs, states, "The RPO established on this line at the time of its opening used postmark to 0.52 but this was apparently quickly changed to O. 250 upon the renaming of the railway in 1855. Postmarks O. 251-252A were introduced later and one at least remained in use until 1870 (O. 251) and possibly later. The postmark R. 152 was probably brought into use in 1867 when the railway was renamed. Its use as late as 1875 is known, by which time O. 253 appears to have been brought into use as well. This was later replaced by postmarks O. 296, 297 of which the former remained in use until November 26, 1957 when RPO services were at last withdrawn after a continuous history of more than a hundred years.

# TOPICS: THE NEWSFRONT

#### New paper discovery, some new shades, and some news about airplane flights

Bob Binnie, a Toronto collector who expects to join BNAPS shortly, tells us that he checked about 1,500 copies of the 5c and 6c Christmas stamps just issued, and that about 25 to 50 per cent of these are on ribbed paper. The ribbed paper is used on the 10c and 15c denominations while the lower values are normally on a smooth paper. It's difficult to make a distinction on the mint stamps, but the difference is quite noticeable on copies with no gum.

And Al Miller of Belleville sends in two samples of the Henry Kelsey stamp, noting the color difference in the sky (one has orange and purplish streaks, the other has yellow streaks) and the man's face (the first is chocolate-brown, the other gray-brown). Two Toronto experts figure that these variations are within the acceptable tolerance of modern-day multi-color printing and are not significant, but variety-seekers will likely wish to collect both types.

A press release from BOAC reports that \$3 million worth of stamps, from over 50 USA collections, was airlifted last September by the airline to and from London's Philympia exhibition. Stringent insurance requirements limited the maximum value that could be carried on any one plane, so that six separate flights were used, all under "utmost secrecy," and each escorted through BOAC's diplomatic locker. On the return flights the stamps were transported to the New York vaults of H. R. Harmer, Inc. and from there returned to the owners.

Harmer was one of three commissioners designated by Philympia to aid in the transfer of collections for the show; the others were Robert Siegel and Ezrea Cole.

For the record, the flight last summer commemorating the Toronto-Hamilton Grand Army venture 50 years before was made in a twin-engine Comanche, CF-AKC, piloted by Reg Reynolds (ex-RAF and KLM). Flown from Buttonville to Hamilton Civic Airport (and return) were Paul Eaguy (deputy postmaster general), Toronto mayor William Dennision and Donald Hartford (CFRB president, and the plane's owner); 325 covers were flown both ways, plus 30 of CFRB's flown from Toronto to Hamilton.

### FOUR RECENT BOOKS AND BOOKLETS

The Essays and Proofs of British North America, compiled by Kenneth Minuse and Robert H. Pratt, 1970. 200 pp, \$15. Published by Sissons Publications, Maryland.

Here is a well-printed hard-cover book, generously illustrated, and issued under the direction of the Essay-Proof Society, Inc. and its catalogue committee. Basically it's a catalogue.

While the illustrations vary in quality, most are a cut above the usual; the descriptions of each item are done with care and it is obvious that everything known about these limited items can be found within the covers of this book, including varieties and printers' sample sheets. Scott numbers are used, followed by a coding system compiled by the Society.

To the specialist in this field it goes without saying that ownership of this volume is mandatory. But to the BNA collector whose interests lie elsewhere this is also a most fascinating book. What BNA collector, for example, can fail to be intrigued by seeing reproductions of the vignette-only of the 6d packet post stamp, and several unissued trials of the Large and Small Queens — or progressive etching of the Jubilee heads, sketches for a definitive Victoria issue done at the turn of the century, and essays of 15c and 50c values for the Numeral issue - or the proposed Macdonald-Cartier issue, or the Grand Pre issue looking strangely unbalanced because the word "Post" appears instead of "Postage"? Or be intrigued by a proof of the overprint used for the De Pinedo flight stamps, or even by proofs of "various defacements on dies used for Herts Philatelic Society menus and invitations"?

#### Canada: The Admiral Stamps of 1911 to 1925, part two, by Hans Reiche. Privately printed, available through regular sources. 1970, 50 pp., \$2.

Hans Reiche, a frequent contributor to these pages, was responsible for updating, in 1964, the standard Admiral reference work (*Notes on the 1911-1925 Series*) written in 1949 by George C. Marler. This latest handbook is a further study of this issue and forms a supplement to the original. In it Reiche has incorporated virtually all the data that has appeared since 1964 in various articles, mostly from this magazine and *Maple Leaves*, plus information gleaned from his own correspondence with collectors around the world, and his own research. He covers varieties, cancellations, perforations, proofs, plate inscriptions, perf guides, overprints, the war tax issues, and runs down the individual values. While the draftsmanship on the illustrations is somewhat clumsy, and the binding is that kind that forces the book to spring shut, this is a vital book for any Canadian specialist, and Reiche should be commended on his painstaking work.

#### Booklets of the Admiral Stamps of 1911 to 1925 by George C. Marler, P.C. A BNAPS handbook, 60 pages, \$3.

While Hans Reiche has been updating Marler's original book twice over, Marler himself — the undisputed authority of the Admiral issue — has been exploring a new field of study in this, his first book since 1945. None of this material has appeared before in article form; BNAPS' handbook editor Robert Woolley took the manuscript over last summer and turned out the finished book early last month.

This reviewer feels that a handbook of this importance might have deserved a better printing job than one done by typewriter and offset printing, with a soft cover and saddle stapling. A hard-cover volume, to match the original 1949 book by Marler. would not have been out of order. Lack of funds in the BNAPS kitty prevented this, however, and Woolley compromised by producing it by the cheapest method but in record-breaking time. (Insufficient funds for projects such as this is a valid argument for BNAPS' raising its annual membership fees by a dollar or two more than the minimum amount needed to make ends meet each year.)

Marler's book actually begins with the Victoria and the Edward booklets and then gets down to the hard business of the Admiral panes. In his now-familiar thoroughly-detailed style, Marler, covers virtually every aspect of the panes under examination — the plates, the booklet cover-pages, the full-sheet layouts, the information pages that accompanied the booklets, the tête-beche forms, the quantities issued, transfer rolls, statements issued by the post office department pertaining to the booklets, guide dots, hairlines, shrinkage, paper grain, alignment, dies, retouches, defective transfers, re-entries, and, by heaven, Marler even covers die changes on the coats-of-arms on the booklet covers.

Certainly this is *the* definitive work on the Admiral panes, and will obviously join the previous work by Marler (and its two follow-up books by Reiche) as a standard reference book on this most interesting issue. But it's a pity about the printing job though...

-E.H.H.

#### Lyman's 1971 BNA Catalogue, published by J. K. MacRory, .75.

There are 3,719 price changes in this popular catalogue which is basically a retail dealers' price list and which reflects the current market. A quick glance at the prices shows that most have risen, reflecting a continued popularity for BNA issues. The format remains the same as in past years.

**Auction News** 

The R. Maresch and Son auction in Toronto on October 30 and 31 rang up some impressive sales; a Canada Scott 4 3d very fine sold for \$575, a 50c Widow Weed perfectly centered fetched \$92.50, a Broken-Legged variety Mountie \$135, and an almost-centered &c Registered \$105. All these were mint, lightly hinged.

Other items of interest were a 10d brilliant blue Scott 7 with generous margins, mint, that had been skillfully restored; it went for \$180. Two mint 1c rose (Scott 14) were offered; the first, perf 12 x 12 and superb unused sold for \$52.50, and the second, perf  $11\frac{3}{4}$  and OG/VF, sold for \$62.50.

\* \* \*

The long-awaited J. N. Sissons sale saw several "new record prices" paid. The auction ran over four sessions on November 11 and 12 in Toronto. Among the highlights:

A 3d Beaver (Scott 1) on an immaculate Perth to Upper Canada College cover (1851) sold at \$240, and a 6d Albert on a

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Montreal to New York cover (1851) brought \$230. A VF used Cartier "with enormous margins" went for \$270, and a 7½d Scott 9 on a Hamilton to London (1857) brought \$625 (which Sissons calls "reasonable"). A 3d Beaver (Scott 12) Belleville-Brockville 4-ring "2" sold at \$330. A single mint well-centered Consort (17a) sold at \$180, and a 1c yellow-orange Large Queen, fine mint (Scott 23) sold for \$135.

A British Columbia mint (Scott 2), OG and VF, went for \$130; a mint 5c bright red OG and fine from that province (Scott 14) sold for \$200. A PEI mint 2d (Scott 1) centered with wide margins and part OG and VF sold for \$85, while a Newfoundland revenue (R-35), the \$100 Caribou perf 14 claret (fresh but creased, used), offered for the first time at auction, fetched \$550.

From the third session, a used 6d slategrey Canada (Scott 5) with full margins, VF and lightly cancelled, sold for \$330. A 1920 Grand Army mint semi-official airmail, discovered in a dealer's stockbook (one of two known) and slightly creased and thinned, fetched \$4,000. And record prices were paid on four items: a Quebec set of singles, NH with wide margins and mint, sold for \$175, while VF dollar-value Jubilees, mint, went as follows: a VF deepcolored \$2 for \$500, a VF \$3 for \$420, and a NH/VF \$4 with margin for \$400. These Jubilees were almost perfectly centered.

On the fourth session, the Boggs catalog continued to hit high prices — \$72.50 on two sets and \$70 on the third set offered. These was strong bidding on a lot of 22 VF Admiral blocks, which sold for \$270, and a plum 10c LL corner block of the same issue with type A lathework sold for \$180. Another record price was made for a three-block set of the Admiral part-perf first printings, NH and VF: \$440.

More recent issues sold for near-catalogue prices: a block of mint Bluenose NH at \$97.50, a similar block of the \$1 Parliament at \$210, a VF set of the 1937-38 issue in mint blocks at \$77.50, and 35 NH blocks of "G" overprints sold at \$200.

We expect to have highlights of the last Dale-Lichtenstein sale, held by H. R. Harmer in New York on December 7 and 8, in the next issue.

# S: THE BU!

#### BNAPS: ELECTED OFFICERS

#### PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER BOARD OF GOVERNORS Dr. R. V. C. Carr, 117 Robin Hood Way, Sherwood Forest, Youngstown, Ohio 44511

Sam C. Nickle, 1208 Belavista Cr., Calgary, Alta. Jack Levine, 21216 North Hills Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610 Leo J. LaFrance, Box 229, Ossining, N.Y. 10562 Nine sitting; three elected every year for a three-year term: 1968-70 L. M. Bell, R. H. Pratt, D. G. Rosenblat 1969-71 A. P. Cook, G. B. Llewellyn (Chairman), C. R. McNeil 1970-72 Dr. R. A. Chaplin, S. S. Kenyon, Wilmer C. Rockett

#### Memo from the President DR. R. V. C. CARR Youngstown, Ohio DR. R. V. C. CARR

What is there to say, after two years as your president, that I might have forgotten? There must be someone who has been failed to be thanked for all that they have done to further the society, so if one has been inadvertently overlooked, I apologize. There have just been so many grand people to help me and many of these were at Easton to enjoy the "down east" hospitality whipped up by the Harrisons.

Unfortunately, Ray Peters had to resign as Permanent Convention Chairman but hopes to be with us in Halifax next August

- our thanks to Ray for his many years with this job.

BNAPSers did very well at Philympia and this was duly observed at Easton: A large gold medal with special award, a large gold, a gold with special award, two golds, a vermeil, a large silver, and a bronze; a very good showing for the small number of BNAPSers showing.

In closing, please give Sam Nickle the splendid cooperation you gave me, help get some new members for BNAPS, and write that article for Topics!

## From the Secretary

#### JACK LEVINE Raleigh, North Carolina

#### **New Memebrs**

Droeske, Carl W., Box 1695, Medley, Alberta 2572

- Droeske, Carl W., Box 1695, Medley, Alberta Hilton, Harold Victor, 40 Sabrina Road, Wichtwick, Wolverhampton, Staffs., England James, Lorne, 36–2705 Cook Street, Victoria, British Columbia Laurence, Hugh, 418 Fairview Drive, Whitby, Ontario Monkman, Don, Box 7, Cookstown, Ontario Parsons, Donald R., 34 Harding Avenue, Braintree, Massachusetts 02184 Pawluk, William S., 2637–6th Avenue N.W., Calgary 42, Alberta Zawadzki, Marek J., Staszica 12 m 5, Kielce, Poland 2573
- 2574
- 2575
- 2576 2577
- 2578
- 2579

#### **Applications Pending**

Applications Pending Berube, Clement W., 26 Tremont Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts 01841 Butters, John C., General Delivery, Greenwood, Kings County, Nova Scotia Cassidy, James A., 28 Winslow Road, Brookline, Massachusetts 02146 Felix, John, 91 Augusta Avenue, Apt. 409, Toronto, Ontario Foley, J. E., 40 Edgemere Road, Livingston, New Jersey 07039 Hofstetter, Michael Robert, 30 Charles Street W., Apt. 420, Toronto 5, Ontario Litton, Jason J., M.D., 444 Woodcrest Drive, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055 Martin, R. Thomas, 264 Clark Street, Saline, Michigan 48176 Milliken, John A., M.D., 228 Alwington Place, Kingston, Ontario Rivkin, Michael, 67–38C 190th Lane, Fresh Meadows, New York 11365 Senez, E. Norman, 1259 Cartier, Montreal 133, Quebec Sharpe, Milton F., 805–1 Evergreen Place, Winnipeg 13, Manitoba Thompson, Stewart F., 35 Elm Street, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia Vogel, Frank, 7490 7th Avenue, Montreal 453, Quebec

#### **Applications for Membership**

(Objections must be filed with the Secretary within 30 days after month of publication) CLIFFORD-JONES, Neville, Shoes Farm, Ockley, Surrey, England (C-C) NFD-19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Pre-stamp, stampless, 1st Day and 1st Flight covers. Precancels. Seals. Mint, used Airmails and on cover. Literature. Territorial cancellations. SPECIALTY-Covers Pre 1900. Airs. Proposed by R. H. Pratt, No. 1982. Seconded by R. V. C. Carr, No. 1427

EMERSON, Robert W., 155 Ledgewood Road, Dedham, Mass. 02026 (C) CAN, NFD-19th and 20th century mint and used postage. 1st Day covers. Literature. Proposed by J. Levine, No. L1.

GREEN, Mrs. D., Box 1140, Yellowknife, N.W.T. (C-CX) CAN – 19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. 1st Day covers. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint and used Airmails. Literature. Proposed by G. F. Hansen, No. 2203.

JAMIESON, G. G., M.D., 955 Beach Drive, Nanaimo, B.C. (C-X) CAN, NFD — 19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Plate Blocks. O.H.M.S.-G. Proposed by G. F. Hansen, No. 2203.

KAASALAINEN, Capt. E. Y., 146 Costello Ave., Ottawa 6, Ont. (C-CX) CAN - 19th and 20th century used postage and blocks. R.P.O., Territorial, 2 and 4-ring, Squared Circle, Duplex, Towns, Streets on Small Queens. SPECIALTY - Small Queens. Proposed by G. F. Hansen, No. 2203.

LAMONTAGNE, Jacques, 5601 Des Plaines St., Montreal 410, Que. (C-CX) CAN - 20th century mint postage and blocks. 1st Day covers. Literature. Proposed by G. F. Hansen, No. 2203.

MACLEOD, Dr. K. J., 466 Bello St., Arvida, Que. (C-C) CAN, NFD - 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. 1st Day covers. Plate Blocks. Colls. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint and used Airmails. Proposed by G. F. Hansen, No. 203.

MAYO, Leon D. Jr., 3710 11th Avenue N.E., Apt. 304, Seattle, Wash. 98105 (C) CAN (19th century only), NFD — 19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Proposed by W. P. Taylor, No. 2241.

McDANIEL, C. L., 112 Meadwobrook Dr., Bloomington, Ill. 61701 (C-C) CAN — 19th and 20th century mint and used postage. 1st Day covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint booklet panes. Mint and used Airmails. Literature. SPECIALTY — "Tagged" issues. Proposed by G. F. Hansen, No. 2203.

O'CALLAGHAN, Edward, 182 Dunvegan Court, Sudbury, Ont. (C-C) CAN, NFD, PROV — 19th and 20th century mint and used postage. 1st Flight covers. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint booklet panes. Precancels. Mint, used, semi-official Airmails and on cover. Constant and freak varieties. Proposed by M. Squirell, No. 2372. Seconded by B. Boudignon, No. 2526.

SCHIFF, Jacques C. Jr., 536 W. 111th Street, New York, N.Y. 10025 (D) Proposed by E. J. Whiting, No. L61.

SNELL, John V., 39 Snowdon Ave., Toronto 12, Ont. (C-CX) CAN, NFD, B.C., N.S., N.B., P.E.I. – 19th and 20th century mint and used postage. O.HM.S.-G. Precancels. Federal Revenues. Mint and used Airmails. Postal Stationery entires. R.P.O., Squared Circles and Fancy cancellations. Proposed by W. G. Moffatt, No. 1951.

STEVENS, Patricia (Mrs. Henry), 5 Lenox Road, Derry, N.H. 03038 (C-CX) CAN, NFD — 19th and 20th century mint and used postage. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint and used Airmails. Literature. "Tagged". Proposed by J. Levine, No. L1.

WELLER, Dr. Sydney L., 3620 Ridgewood, No. 705, Montreal, Que. (DC-CX) CAN-19th and 20th century mint postage and blocks. Errors on cover. Plate Blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Precancels. Airmails. R.P.O. cancellations. Proposed by G. F. Hansen, No. 2203.

**Changes of Address** 

#### (Notice of change Must Be Sent to the Secretary. Any other office will cause delay)

Brooks, Col. William K., 3310 Ramey Circle, Orlando, Florida 32809 England, Mark, Box 755, Tisdale, Sask. Heins, Rev. Henry H., 22 Marwill St., Albany, N.Y. 12209 Lackner, Robert J., 7841 N. 60th, Apt. 6, Milwaukee, Wisc. 53223 Smyrloglou, Eil, Box 85, Lachine 600, Quebec Trankner, Harry, 35 Hardale Crescent, Hamilton 56, Ontario

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- 1760
- 2317

2512

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Boetter, Clem

**Resignation Received** 

1619 Downing, Lester L., 10 Crescent Road, Concord, Mass. 01742

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TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, November 1, 1970		11114	

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Meets the first Thursday of each month at 7934 Pickering Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Meet every summer. Alfred P. Cook, Coy Glen Road, Ithaca, New York. Fourth Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m.; Dickinson Room, Stry Credit Union Building, 144 E. 7th Avenue, Vancouver. Philadelphia — Temagami — Vancouver -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. Meets fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m., Secretary: Mrs. Jack Benningen, 157 Wildwood Drive, Edmonton -Calgary -Calgary 5, Alberta.

### Further Sketches of BNAPSers...

Number 144 in a series



### A. G. FAIRBANKS

#### A Montrealer with roots that go back a long way in America

A. Graham Fairbanks BNAPS 635

I find that two Fairbanks brothers came from England to Boston in 1633 and built a frame house (1636) which still stands (the oldest frame house in the U.S.), and it has been in the family for 334 years. One brother even became authorized (1639) to send and receive letters at 1d each which made him the first postmaster (but not the first PMG, who was Ben Franklin) in North America.

A. Graham Fairbanks' great grandfather had a shipping line and a stage coach service in Nova Scotia, the latter being mentioned in Jephcott, Greene, and Young's Postal History.

Another ancestor was Vice-President of the U.S. and Fairbanks, Alaska is named after him — but enough of the past, and on to the present history of Graham.

A native of Montreal, he is an electrical engineer graduated from McGill University. After 10 years of wandering over Canada with Canadian Comstock Co. Ltd., he formed his own electrical firm. During World War II he was on the bureau which was in charge of defense contracts for Quebec and Nova Scotia. Five years ago Graham retired and now spends his time with his gracious wife (my favorite joketrading correspondent) visiting their son in Florida, traveling about a bit, doing a bit of fishing and photography, and, when I can prod him, writing a few philatelic articles.

Stampwise, Graham is another childhood collector but in no time started to specialize — at one time, much of Canada, U.S., Great Britain, Cape of Good Hope and a few others. Now all of that is gone and it is strictly the 1868 Canada, and his fabulous Nova Scotia and New Brunswick stamps which we have seen at BNAPS and Royal shows winning top awards (including BNAPS' Grand Award at Montreal in 1953.)

He is a fellow of both the Royal of Canada and of London, the APS, CPS of GB, and other stamp organiations. He has written many articles for *Topics*, the Royal, Gibbons, and the SPA.

May I add that Graham makes a fine personal friend and that he is a most generous philatelist in sharing his knowledge. -Dr. R. V. C. Carr

### ... and some doodles by The Editor

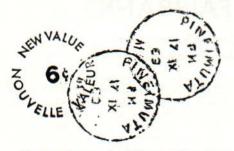
It's Christmas time again, and greetings to everyone . . .

We had considered writing a lengthy poem to mark the event (like the New Yorker does each year at this time) in which we would have included such hoary old chestnuts as the girl who asked the philatelist if he had read any good booklet panes lately, or the one about the Chinese collector who told an eager dealer, "You are admiring my stamps too much; philately will get you nowhere" — but decided against it.

This issue we welcome back two more contributors who have been away from these pages for some time — Graham Fairbanks of Montreal, and Horace Harrison of Baltimore. We have on hand a lengthy series by Horace which will begin early next year, on hotel covers — most of it quite new.

Next month (January) is the annual directory issue.

# MAIL FROM OUR MEMBERS



My knowledge of sidelines (other than "tagged" stamps) is sadly lacking. Therefore the attached may be very common, though it was the first time I had run across the "revaluation" overstamped cover, with no stamp to revalue.

-Ken G. Rose

### More news on those rare postmarks

### PrinceEdwardIsland SHIP LETTER

On page 271 of October *Topics* I noted a possible "find" of a PEI Ship Letter on cover. Before the article was printed I saw in an auction catalog that such an item had been found. Somebody's luck!

The crowded drawing above is from a tracing in the GPO, London, England, handbook, of a page of ship-letter handstamps made in 1841.

A handstamp in italic capital letters is in that list, for St. Margaret's Bay, N.S. — so some fortunate one find may add that to the list of Ship handstamps.

In 1851 Newfoundland had ship-letter handstamps made for 24 destinations. I have heard of none in use, but all were in sans-serif capital letters.

The COBOURG straight-line cancel on page 263 (*Postmark Oddities* by Max Rosenthal) is probably the bundle marker seen on adhesives, supplied to mark tied packages of letters in transit. It was a handy cancel for a block in this instance. I have seen it on adhesives for North Battleford quite frequently. The CASSIAR BC mark on page 271 was once the farthest-north post office in Canada; it was a mail route that cost \$200 a month, carrying mail down the Stikine river to Fort Wrangel, Alaska, and by USA mail southward. The Glenora, B.C. office was on that river and the office operated from 1875 to 1886; it was near the Telegraph Creek post office of later years. The Fort Wrangel, Alaska, post office was established in 1868.

The Metlakatla mark illustrated has a personal tie with me, as I was in Prince Rupert, B.C., in 1907, and Indians from that settlement often came by canoe to the settlement of maybe 100 people that was then the start of Prince Rupert. I was a printer on a very small paper, with a footpower printing press, the foot in question being my own. There, in 1907, is where I should have started collecting scrap-basket contents with probable Yukon and NWT covers.

As I expected, one collector wrote telling me the Dorchester mark illustrated was in wrong province. Nova Scotia is correct for that period as the boundary adjustment of it and New Brunswick was made final only in 1859, while that instrument was made about 1835. The indefiniteness of the period probably is why many postmarks near the boundaries had no province noted.

Other marks on page 271 group are in the "wrong" province, but this is another instance of boundary adjustments; i.e. — The Pas, Cree Hill and Fort Smith.

- Frank W. Campbell

#### Late mail

The following is an excerpt from a letter by C. Russell McNeil, circulation manager, to the postmasters at Ottawa and Toronto, and to his Member of Parliament:

I am enclosing two envelopes, both addressed to Ithica, N.Y. Both were mailed on September 18, 1970 and delivered to the destination on October 22, 1970.

We would like an explanation of why it takes nearly five weeks by computerized mail operation to deliver third-class mail from Toronto's station "A" to Ithica—about 210 miles. One could walk faster in five weeks. — C. Russell McNeil

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