



CANADIAN PHOSPHOR TAGGED ISSUES

This is an area of Canadian philately where most items can still be acquired fairly inexpensively. Many items are not common in anyone's stock and the prices are not yet an indication of scarcity. The following is a list of stamps available from our stocks.

CHRISTMAS ISSUES



BNA TOPICS

Official Journal of The British North America Philatelic Society

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Experimental Coils on the 1c Edward

by the Editor

It's been a generally accepted fact that the only surviving Canadian coil stamps from the earliest experiments with vending machines are a group of the 2c Edward VII issue, the red ones. The very first were made up from precancelled strips of the sheet stamps, joined into rows.

But in March of this year a very old man was laid to rest in England. He was 92, and among his effects when he died were strips of stamps of Austria, Sweden, Belgium — and Canada. They turned out to be experimental coil stamps and since the man — F. W. Hall — had been a partner in the London firm of British Stamp and Ticket Co., which sold stamp-vending machines, the discovery of experimental coil stamps in his estate was not, really, too surprising.

What was surprising, however, was that the newly-discovered coils were all of the 1c green Edward VII issue. Some bore the same roller-precancel already known on the 2c red coils, but others bore an Ottawa roller cancel.

There were 271 stamps in the find, all mint and unhinged, made up into strips of between 19 and 114 stamps. The coils had been made from regular sheets torn apart into rows of 10 sheets that had been precancelled in either of the two types above. Then they were rather crudely joined at every tenth stamp by the selvage from one row being pasted up over the top of the stamp in the next row of 10. All were more or less damaged, especially along one side. One strip bore stamps with one cancel joined to a length bearing the second cancel.

The discovery of the 1c green coils, while surprising, is not a total mystery; Winthrop Boggs, in his 2-volume *Canada*, knew that 1c green coils had been made up. On page 353 of his book he states:

In August, 1913, the postmaster at Quebec, having a supply of King Edward 1c and 2c stamps which had been superseded by the new King George V issue, decided to have coils made up rather than return the old stamps to Ottawa. This was done, the stamps being cancelled with the Ottawa "1" obliterator, and placed in stamp vending machines for experimental purposes. They should be collected in paste-up pairs or strips with full gum.

Two pages later Boggs states, under the heading "The first Canadian coils,"

The period of 1910 to 1913 saw the first

experimentation in this form of stamps . . . made from ordinary sheets torn into strips of 10 and pasted together. This was an experiment prepared by the American Bank Note Co. about 1910 for the new vending machines secured from London, England. All specimens were either precancelled as illustrated (and Boggs showed the 2c with the type T roller cancel — with its straight-wavy-straight lines) or cancelled with the ordinary Ottawa parcel roller. Apparently only about 150 copies of this coil survived, of which there are only some 15 paste-ups, part of which would be precancelled, so that the rarity of this item can readily be realized.*

Note that phrase "from London, England". F. W. Hall, prior to World War I, had made modifications to the Dickie and Brown stamp vending machine invented in New Zealand, and his British Stamp and Ticket Co. submitted the new machine to the British post office, which bought them and placed them in use. In fact, machines sold by Hall's firm have been in daily use in England until recently.

Hall also tried, with varying success, to sell the Dickie-Brown machines to other countries.

Prior to making a sales pitch to such countries, Hall no doubt requested coil

* — as in Canada Precancel Catalogue (Walburn).



Types A, B and C from the new find, and the comparable 2c (left to right)

stamps from their post offices. And since coils were something quite new and not readily available, such post offices made them up for Hall from ordinary sheet stamps.

(The original Dickie and Brown machine required the coil stamps it vended to have two large holes placed between each stamp. The English post office didn't wish to deface its stamps in this manner, but there seems little doubt that it was one of these machines that was sold to Canada on a trial basis—and placed in use in Toronto in 1918.)

Toronto dealer William Maresch purchased the entire find of the 1c green experimental coils this fall. To differentiate between the two basic types found, he has designated the most common as type A, the other as type B, and the unique joint-strip bearing both types of precancel as type C.

The 271 copies are all there are, and to assure that stamps from this find will not be duplicated Maresch has numbered every

single copy, signed them, and has photographed them. While one side of most have nibbed perfs, only a few of the strips require support across the perfs to hold them together.

In November, as this is written, Maresch has broken the longer strips down and has already sold over half the items and is about to offer the others in special private treaty to his circle of clients. Others interested would do well to write him immediately.

For the record here is a breakdown of the existing copies:

TYPE A (OTTAWA ROLLER CANCELLATIONS)

- 16 paste-up strips of 6
- 2 strips of 5
- 14 strips of 4
- 3 strips of 3
- 1 "tail" strip of 7 (unique)

TYPE B (TYPE "T" ROLLER CANCELLATION)

- 7 paste-up strips of 6
- 1 paste-up strip of 5
- 7 strips of 4
- 1 strip of 3
- 1 "head" strip of 7 (unique)

TYPE C (TYPES A AND B JOINED)

- 1 paste-up strip of 8 (unique)

In homage to

THE ADMIRALS

— a retrospective view

BY M. B. DICKETTS

Sixty years ago this month the Canadian Post Office gave birth to the first issue of stamps bearing the likeness of the new king, George V. The portrait depicted the monarch dressed in the uniform of Admiral of the Fleet, and the stamps have since become known as the Admiral issue.

It was to become an issue unprecedented in the annuals of 20th century Canadian philately for its profusion of varieties, its range of types and its command of interest among collectors. It is therefore fitting during this diamond anniversary month that we touch briefly on some of the highlights surrounding the issue that have with so much justification captured the imagination of uncounted collectors down through the years.

On December 22, 1911, the 1c and 2c values made their first appearance to the public at large. Between then and 1931 no less than 21 additional sheet stamps were issued bearing the familiar portrait. When we add to this figure 18 coils and part-perforated issues, three imperforated issues, eight overprints, several experimental coils and eight booklet panes, we can see why the Admirals have become the most exciting issue of this century. For sheer abundance of material in every form and type there is nothing comparable today, especially when we recall that every item, with one exception, was issued solely for utilitarian purposes.

Collectors were indeed fortunate that the Admirals came out when they did. Production methods of the day favored us with many varieties. Wear of the plates produced weak entries, resulting in attempts to strengthen the design impression, which have given us the hundreds of retouches which are the delight of the specialist. These production "faults" are the reason why we have more different dies — six in all — than any other 20th century issue.

Again, production methods were respon-

sible for the many re-entries to be found throughout nearly all values of the issue. The major re-entry on the 1c green is among the rarest of all Canadian stamps — in the last 10 years there have been more 12d blacks offered in auction than copies of the major re-entry on Scott 104!

Turning to paper stock used, the Admiral issue is noted for the experimental thin papers for the 2c and 5c during 1924, and a recent discovery by Mr. C. D. Blair has confirmed the existence of horizontal wove paper for some printings of the 10c blue. The change from wet to dry printing between 1922 and 1926 added a further dimension to this remarkable issue.

For those interested in shades, the issue is prominent in their number. The Admiral stamps were the last in which the printers gave little thought to the control of the "approved" color. Plagued by wartime shortage of dye ingredients, the stamps appeared in successive printings in the closest approximation to the accepted color that was currently obtainable. The result is a veritable feast of shades, and collectors are able to assemble a progression of shades which correspond to the many printings of



the lower values. These production problems have produced another great rarity—the pale sage-green shade of the 7c value of 1914, mint copies of which number less than 50. We are still looking for a plate inscription block of this shade and the chances of its discovery appear remote.

Is it any wonder that down through the years some of our most renowned philatelists have interested themselves in the Admiral issue? Fred Jarret's comprehensive listing and description, in his 1929 handbook is, even today, superior to that of the Scott catalogue. Dr. Lewis Reford was a prominent collector of the issue during the thirties, while R. W. (Canada) Jones had the finest collection of Admirals in Great Britain during the troubled times of the World War II post-war period.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Hon. George Marler for his pioneering study of the issue, researched over many years and published in 1946. For the first time the immense variety of types, with all subdivisions, were made available to readers of his scholarly *Notes on the 1911-1925 Issue*. This work revealed, among other things, that there still remained many areas requiring investigation and diligent research. Marler, himself, has recently filled in one such gap with the publication by BNAPS of his *Booklets of the Admiral Stamps*.

Throughout the years, Hans Reiche has consistently brought to our attention the results of his study of the issue. This culminated in 1965 with his revision of the Marler handbook, *Canada—The Admiral Stamps of 1911 to 1925*, which gathered together all that had been learned since 1946. A recent supplement by Reiche brings us as up-to-date as possible, as far as printed sources go.

The interest shown by such notable collectors as G. Drew-Smith, F. W. L. Keane, H. W. Lussey, A. G. McKanna, E. A. Richardson, D. G. Rosenblat, Mel Logan, E. A. Smythies and Donald Young, *et al.*, is supported by the unnamed hundreds of us who have fallen under the spell of collecting and studying the Admirals. Each have their individual specialty, while delighting in the issue as a whole. Their contribution to the body of knowledge on the issue is testimony to the challenge the Admirals offer all.

It is the infinite variety of collectible forms which have made these stamps so popular throughout their history. Because of this, we are free to develop our particular interest to the nth degree, realizing that in the pleasurable accomplishment of building up our collection, the opportunities to discover something new remain ever valid.

(continued on page 330)

compiled from articles
written by C. M. Jephcott
and Henry Gates,
with new information
recently disclosed

IMPERFORATES and part perforates of Canada, 1859 to 1942

Second of two parts

ADMIRAL ISSUE — 1912 TO 1926

The imperforates of the 1c yellow, 2c green and 3c carmine were on sale to the public through the philatelic agency at Ottawa and were relatively common — though in recent years prices for them have risen rapidly; a set in blocks now fetches \$80.

In 1923 unsevered coil stamp sheets were given out as a favor; there were 200 each of the 1c yellow, 2c green and 3c carmine, imperf horizontal, and 20 panes of 100 of each were set aside. Later these extra panes were sold as a lot and then broken up. In answer to protests by collectors the 1c and 2c were re-issued and sold through the philatelic agency, but on different paper.

(These are described fully in *Topics*, whole number 300, page 119.) Wide-gutter varieties of the original printings exist.

The 1c, 2c and 3c values also exist in imperf tete-beche booklet panes — the scarcest of all the imperforate tete-beche panes. The higher values of this issue also exist imperforate — the 4c, 5c, 7c, 8c, 10c, 20c, 50c and \$1.

Scott		Qty.	1972 \$ pr.
136	1c yellow—plates 179, 180	50,000	17
137	2c green—plates 188, 189	50,000	17
138	3c carmine—plates 126 to 131	100,000	6



110a	4c olive bistre, plate 6	200	125
112a	5c violet—plate 23	200	125
114a	7c red-brown—plate 7	200	125
115a	8c blue—plate 1	200	125
118a	10c bistre brown—plate 25	200	125
119a	20c olive green—plate 9	200	125
120b	50c black-brown—plate 4	200	125
121a	\$1 orange—plate 1	200	125

Coils: first printing

126-var	1c yellow, perf hrz—no imp.	2,200	—
128-var	2c green, perf hrz—no imprint	2,200	—
130a	3c carm., perf hrz—no imprint	2,200	100

Coils: second printing

126a	1c yellow, perf hrz—no imp.	50,000	3
128a	2c green, perf hrz—no imp.	50,000	3
105b-var	1c yellow—tete-beche pane	7	—
107c-var	2c green—tete-beche pane	10	—
108a-var	3c carmine—tete beche pane	7	—

In these lists, the prices are given for mint pairs and are taken from the 1972 Scott catalogue.

WAR TAX ISSUE — 1915

Only one sheet of the die II is known; it came on the market, says Jephcott, in 1924. Then in 1928 two imperf sheets of the die I were distributed, and a few years later more imperfs from the first die appeared, plus sheets imperfed both vertically and horizontally. The statement in the *War Tax Stamps* handbook (Reiche, page 30) that F. T. Norris destroyed copies of the die I imperfs had been confirmed, and the number of these has been set at 1,500. It's said he burned them and then flushed them down his toilet with no ill effects to the

plumbing at Bay City, Michigan. One pair of the die II imperf sold at a Sissons auction three years ago at \$250.

Scott		Qty.	1972 \$ pr.
MR4c	3c brown, die II—plate 17	100	250
MR4b	3c brown, die I—plates 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14	3,000	30
MR4b-var	3c brown, die I, perf hrz—plates 3, 4	400	—
MR4b-var	3c brown, die I, perf ver—plates 3, 4, 14	400	—

(With 1,500 copies destroyed of MR4b, only 1,500 remain in circulation.)

HISTORICAL, CONFEDERATION & SCROLL — 1927 TO 1928

Twenty-one different stamps comprise these three issues, and each exists partly perfed as well as imperf—a trick no doubt inspired by the partly-perfed War Tax die II stamp that had come to light during the mid-1920s.

This period marked the heyday of the favors; no such post-office gimmickry was ever carried out in Canada with such abandon as on these issues, and a record number of them were made: 4,500 of each of 20 of the stamps, divided equally between imperf, perf vertical and perf horizontal.

That these were favors is quite obvious, but interestingly enough the part-perf syndrome in Canadian stamps began and ended with these issues even though full imperfs issued as favors continued until the 1942 War Issue; perhaps the postal authorities felt that giving out part-perfed stamps was carrying things too far—though they never came right out and said they were stopping the part perfs; indeed, the postal authorities have never come right out and admitted that they ever gave out imperfs at any time, except for the four sold at the philatelic agency (the Edward and Admirals).

The Scroll issue also marked the last of

the tête-beche booklet pane imperfs that were given out as favors.

Some partly-perfed stamps have appeared after 1928 but all these are from sheets that missed the perfering machines and may be termed as flukes, freaks or oddities. They continue to turn up to this day, of course, along with accidental imperfs. After the Scroll issue and up to the War issue (the period covered by this article) there have been five such oddities:

- 1930 1c green (imperf) Scott 163d
- 1932 5c blue (imperf ver) Scott 199a
- 1932 10c dark violet postage due (imperf hrz) Scott J10a
- 1935 5c blue (imperf ver) Scott 221a
- 1937 \$1 violet (imperf hrz) Scott 245a

Jephcott mentions that the 1c green was discovered in an Eastern post office, the 1932 being found in British Columbia, the 1935 stamps turning up in Montreal and Ottawa, and the \$1 in London, Ontario. (He also cites a story of a later 1c airmail turning up in British Columbia without perfs; a postal clerk there took it home and provided perfs on his wife's sewing machine, and sold the stamps over the counter the next morning, "presumably to non-collectors.")

The facts of the matter would therefore seem to be that someone had access to a source from which the stamps were obtained. They positively are not stamps that were found in post offices by accident. Someone in the Canada Post Office must have released these stamps to those who acquired them, or someone in the printing plant shop where the stamps were produced is the guilty party.

— from an editorial in **Popular Stamps**, April 1955

The Post Office Department does not mention that two imperforate panes are taken out prior to the presses beginning to roll. One of these panes is mutilated by perforating each stamp with a large hole and is retained by the manufacturer for record purposes. The other is retained by the Department, and is mounted in the official frame displaying design material and proofs, and the content of these frames are audited periodically.

— from an editorial in **Popular Stamps**, May 1955

Confederation Issue		1972	1972		1972		
Scott		Qty.	\$ pr.				
141a	1c orange—plates 4, 6	1,500	25	150b	2c, green—plate 1	1,500	20
141a-var	1c, imperf ver—plate 6	1,500	—	150b-var	2c, imperf ver—plates 1, 3	1,500	—
141a-var	1c, imperf hrz—plate 6	1,500	—	150b-var	2c, imperf hrz	1,500	—
142a	2c, green—plate 13	1,500	25	151a	3c, carmine—plate 1	1,500	25
142a-var	2c, imperf ver—plate 13	1,500	—	151a-var	3c, imperf ver—plates 2, 3	1,500	—
142a-var	2c, imperf hrz—plates 13, 14	1,500	—	151a-var	3c, imperf hrz—plates 1, 2	1,500	—
143a	3c, carmine—plates 1, 2, 3	1,500	25	152a	4c, bistre—plate 1	1,500	25
143a-var	3c, imperf ver—plates 1, 3	1,500	—	152a-var	4c, imperf ver—plate 1	1,500	—
143a-var	3c, imperf hrz—plates 1, 2	1,500	—	152a-var	4c, imperf hrz—plate 1	1,500	—
144a	5c violet—plate 2	1,500	25	153b	5c, violet—plate 2	1,500	25
144a-var	5c, imperf ver—plate 2	1,500	—	153b-var	5c, imperf ver—plates 1, 2	1,500	—
144a-var	5c, imperf hrz—plate 2	1,500	—	153b-var	5c, imperf hrz—plates 2, 3	1,500	—
145a	12c, blue—plate 2	1,500	25	154a	8c, blue—plate 3	1,500	25
145a-var	12c, imperf ver—plate 2	1,500	—	154a-var	8c, imperf ver—plate 1	1,500	—
145a-var	12c, imperf hrz—plate 2	1,500	—	154a-var	8c, imperf hrz—plate 3	1,500	—
E3a	20c, orange—plate 1	1,500	50	155a	10c, green—plate 2	1,500	30
E3a-var	20c, imperf ver—plate 1	1,500	—	155a-var	10c, imperf ver—plate 1	1,500	—
E3a-var	20c, imperf hrz—plate 1	1,500	—	155a-var	10c, imperf hrz—plate 1	1,500	—
Historical Issue				156a	12c, gray—plate 1	1,500	30
146a	5c, violet—plate 2	1,500	25	156a-var	12c, imperf ver—plate 1	1,500	—
146a-var	5c, imperf ver—plate 2	1,500	—	156a-var	12c, imperf hrz—plate 1	1,500	—
146a-var	5c, imperf hrz—plate 1	1,500	—	157a	20c, carmine—plates 2, 3	1,500	30
147a	12c, green	1,500	25	157a-var	20c, imperf ver—plates 1, 3	1,500	—
147a-var	12c, imperf ver	1,500	—	157a-var	20c, imperf hrz—plates 1	1,500	—
147a-var	12c, imperf hrz	1,500	—	158a	50c, blue—plate 2	1,500	100
148a	20c, carmine	1,500	25	158a-var	50c, imperf ver—plates 2, 3	1,500	—
148a-var	20c, imperf ver	1,500	—	158a-var	50c, imperf hrz—plate 3	1,500	—
148a-var	20c, imperf hrz	1,500	—	159a	\$1, olive green—plate 1	1,500	150
Scroll Issue				159a-var	\$1, imperf ver—plate 1	1,500	—
149b	1c, yellow—plate 1	1,500	20	159a-var	\$1, imperf hrz—plate 1	1,500	—
149b-var	1c, imperf ver—plates 1, 3	1,500	—	C1a	5c, olive—plate 1	1,500	75
149b-var	1c, imperf hrz—plates 2	1,500	—	C1a-var	5c, imperf ver—plate 1	1,500	—
				C1a-var	5c, imperf hrz—plate 1	1,500	—
				149a-var	1c, yellow—tete-beche pane	150	—
				150a-var	2c, green—tete-beche pane, plate 2	150	—
				153a-var	5c, violet—tete-beche pane	150	—

ISSUES OF 1930 TO 1942

In this, the final period for post office favors, the quantities varied between 100 and 300—a marked tightening-up of specially-made stamps. In 1948 the post office issued implicit instructions that no further part-perfs and imperf stamps were to be given out ever again. It is presumed that copies of imperfs of most Canadian issues from the 1920s to the present are in the post office's own vaults, and the announcement in November 1971 that the post office plans to open a philatelic museum in Ottawa should result in these stamps being put on public display. (See *Newsfront* in this issue).

Scott	1930 Issue (Arch)	Qty.	1972 \$ pr.
163d	1c green	100*	300
173a	10c olive green	100**	300
174a	12c gray—plate 1	150	200
175a	20c brown-red—plate 1	150	100
176a	50c blue—plate 1	150	100
177a	\$1 olive green—plate 1	150	100
* — freak ** — likely a freak			
Sir G. E. Cartier			
190a	10c green—plate 1	300	100
Medallion Issue			
195-var	1c green—plate 1	300	—
196-var	2c brown—plate 1	300	—
197-var	3c red—plate 1	300	—
198-var	4c ochre—plate 1	300	—
199-var	5c blue—plate 1	300	—
199a	5c blue, imperf ver—plate 1	100*	300
200-var	8c orange—plate 1	200	—
201-var	13c violet—plate 1	200	—
* — freak. Oddly enough the Scott catalogue does not list the straight imperfs of this issue.			
1933 and 1934 Commemoratives			
202a	5c blue—plate 1	150	150
203a	20c brown-red—plate 1	150	150
204a	5c blue—plate 1	150	150
208a	3c blue—plate 1	250	150
209a	10c olive green—plate 1	100	200
210a	2c red-brown—plate 1	150	150
1935 Jubilee Issue			
211-var	1c green—plate 2	200	—
212-var	2c brown—plate 1	200	—
213-var	3c carmine—plate 2	300	—
214-var	5c blue—plate 2	200	—
215-var	10c green—plate 2	300	—
216-var	13c blue—plate 1	300	—
Again — not listed by Scott.			
1935 Regular Issue			
217c	1c green—plate 2	300	50
218c	2c brown—plate 1	300	50
219b	3c carmine—plate 2	300	50
220a	4c ochre—plate 1	300	50
221b	5c blue—plate 1	300	50

221a	5c blue, imperf ver—plate 1	400*	80
222a	8c orange—plate 1	300	50
223a	10c carmine—plate 2	300	75
224a	13c violet—plate 1	300	75
225a	20c olive green—plate 1	300	75
226a	50c violet—plate 1	300	75
227a	\$1 blue—plate 1	300	75

King George VI

231c	1c green—plate 1	200	50
232c	2c brown—plate 2	200	50
233b	3c carmine—plate 2	200	50
234a	4c yellow—plate 1	200	50
235a	5c blue—plate 1	200	50
236a	8c orange—plate 1	200	50
241b	10c dark carmine—plate 2	150	75
241a-var	10c carmine-rose	150**	—
242a	13c blue—plate 1	150	75
243a	20c brown—plate 1	150	75
244a	50c green—plate 1	150	75
245b	\$1 violet—plate 1	150	75
245a	\$1 violet, imperf hrz—plate 1	25*	600
* — freak ** — possible freak			

Commemoratives — 1937 and 1939

237a	3c carmine—plate 1	150	200
246a	1c green & black—plates 1-2	150	100
247a	2c brown & black—plate 2-2	150	100
248a	3c carmine & black—plate 2-1	150	100

War Issue — 1942

249d	1c green—plate 2	200	50
250c	2c brown—plate 2	200	50
251b	3c carmine—plate 1	200	50
252d	3c violet—plate 12	200	50
253a	4c green-black—plate 1	200	50
254c	4c carmine—plate 6	200	50
255a	5c blue—plate 1	200	50
256a	8c red-brown—plate 1	200	50
257a	10c brown—plate 2	100	100
258a	13c green—plate 1	100	100
259a	14c green—plate 1	100	100
260a	20c chocolate—plate 2	100	100
261a	50c violet—plate 1	100	100
262a	\$1 blue—plate 1	100	100

Postage Due — 1932 to 1935

J10a	10c violet, imperf hrz—plate 1	100*	150
J11a	1c violet—plate 1	200	50
J15a	1c violet—plate 1	200	45
J16a	2c violet—plate 1	200	45
J17a	4c violet—plate 1	200	45
J20a	10c violet—plate 1	200	45
* — freak.			

Air Mail — 1935 to 1943

C5a	6c red-brown, imperf ver	—	2000*
C5b	6c red-brown—plate 1	250	200
C6a	6c blue—plate 1	150	200
C7a	6c blue—plate 1	100	225
C8a	7c blue—plate 2	100	225
CE1a	16c blue—plate 1	100	225
CE2a	17c blue—plate 1	150	200
* — listed in Scott; a possible freak or forgery.			

Special Delivery — 1933 to 1942

E5a	20c henna brown—plate 1	150	100
E6a	20c carmine—plate 1	100	150
E7a	10c green—plate 1	100	100
E8a	20c carmine—plate 1	150	150
E10a	10c green—plate 1	100	150

ON QUANTITIES: James N. Sissons feels that the figures of 1,500 stamps of each type on the 1927-28 issues is too high, and that only about 500 of each type were made, for a total of 1,500.

ON PLATES: To last month's listing of plates used on the 2c carmine stamp of the King Edward VII issue, Scott 90a, add plate numbers 31, 32 and 43 to numbers 13 and 14 given. (Announced in the May, 1965, issue of *Topics*.)

How did over 110,000 stamps from Post Office vaults get into public hands?

(culled from recent conversations
with four Toronto authorities)

What strange intrigue lies behind the imperfs (and part perfs) of the 1927 to 1942 issues? It's a tale that has never yet been told and now — 25 years after they first began appearing in the marketplace — many of the details are forever lost.

Still, one can paint a fairly complete picture; what follows is based on recent talks with editorial board chairman Vincent Greene, and dealers J. N. Sissons, Leslie Davenport, and the venerable Fred Jarrett. Their stories conflict in certain details (we give both versions below) but the general picture is quite clear: that, after retaining some for himself, a highly-placed postal official made the entire series of imperfs available to a wealthy collector, in exchange for favors. He, in turn, held some and passed the rest on to three other wealthy collectors.

This all took place in the later 1930s through to the early part of World War II. By the mid-1940s the five principals were no longer able to keep the stamps to themselves and small quantities began turning up on the general market. Soon after all but one of the five had died and by the early 1950s large quantities appeared for sale. Today, Sisson says, no large stocks remain; they are now widely distributed.

But first a prologue — by way of a shadowy story that passes briefly across the stage. The facts cannot be proven, but the late George Lowe, a long-standing Toronto dealer, said that around 1929 he had written the Post Office Department to suggest that it print up 4,500 copies each of the then-current stamps — but unperfed and partly-perfed. Lowe would then buy them all at face value and, since they would never be used for postage, the POD would stand to make about \$3,400 for very little effort. The POD agreed, Lowe got a cheque ready in payment, and the stamps were made: 21 of them covering the Historical, Confederation and Scroll issues. But then a new administration came into power which felt the whole scheme was “unethical” and Lowe never received the copies. Lowe told that story years later to Vincent Greene.

And now we introduce the five main characters, in order of appearance:

- *A. Stanley Deaville*, an executive in the POD during the 1930s who had access to the POD's stocks of stamps; in 1928 wrote a book, *The Colonial Postal Systems and Postage Stamps of Vancouver Island and British Columbia*. When he died in the late 1940s, many imperfs were found among his effects.

- *Fred Norris*, the Bay City lumber business owner mentioned earlier, who for years had an inside track with the POD. “Among his friends,” Gates writes, “were the top Canada Post Office officials from whom he obtained the imperforates for his collection.” His collection of earlier imperfs was already widely known.

- *Allard F. Brophy*, a Montreal umbrella manufacturer, collector, part-time dealer, and good friend of Norris (and likely Deaville). He died in 1968.

- *Dr. Lewis Reford*, a Montreal physician who had what Sissons calls “a great collection” — and, one can say, some good connections as well. He died in the late 1940s.

- *Alfred T. Lichtenstein*, of Red Bank, New Jersey, owner of one of the most famous collections in history. He died in 1956.

And here is some necessary background, culled from *Popular Stamps*:

It seems it was the custom of the bank note companies to supply six sheets of imperf stamps of each value of any issue; one was for the Department's museum, another for His Majesty's stamp collection, and the remaining four were at the "direction of the Postmaster General".

When the curtain opens it is about 1935. Deaville is anxious to acquire, for the post office, a set of mint Canadian stamps from the 19th century. He turns to a collector for help — one who will bid for them at auctions, and buy them from collectors and dealers. In exchange he will give him imperf stamps of recent issues from those four postmaster's sheets. Presumably no money will change hands. The post office wants the older stamps for its archives and will later put them on public display, or it wants them as a gift to be made to King George VI in 1939, or perhaps both.

Sissons and Jarrett both say he turns to Norris — a logical choice because Norris has already been dealing with the post office for years. He is also discreet, well liked, and well connected.

Norris, says Gates, "kept plate-number blocks of 10 x 2 [from the sheets he acquired] and the balance were sold through dealers, or to his friends." Gates is talking about the earlier issues, but we can assume that he continues the practice during the 1930s.

Davenport disagrees with the theory that Norris is Deaville's contact. After the Admirals, Norris "was largely out of the picture," he says. Instead Davenport says that Brophy is Deaville's contact.

But no matter; Sissons and Jarrett say that Norris keeps some of the stamps and sells the rest to Brophy anyway. Soon after that Brophy's instincts as a dealer surface, and he sells many of his imperfs to Reford and Lichtenstein.

By now World War II has started. Deaville continues to trade off imperfs, right up to the 1942 war issue. Brophy sells a few of his stamps to Lowe, Davenport and a few others, but for the most part the imperfs aren't known to the general public. In Boggs' *Canada*, published in 1946, no mention is made of the imperfs from 1927 to 1942.

There is comedy relief in our scenario; at one point Deaville tries to recover some of the imperfs from Davenport; he turns up with a postal inspector and says it's illegal for Davenport to own such stamps. Davenport simply laughs and reminds Deaville who was responsible for the stamps' leaving the post office vaults in the first place. Deaville doesn't appear to be well liked and descriptions make him out to be rather sanctimonious.

The first act ends in 1948 with the post office announcing that no further imperfs or similar issues will ever again be allowed to get into public hands.

The final act begins in 1949 when Sissons purchases the Brophy collection for \$100,000 — much of that value being in the imperfs. Then the floodgates open; by this time Reford, Norris and Deaville have died. The Reford collection is put up for auction by Harmer Rooke & Co. of New York; it takes three sales, in February and October of 1950, and in February of 1951.

The Norris collection goes to his daughter, Mrs. Gordon Parks, who survives him by only a few years and Sissons buys the stamps in her estate in 1950. He also ends up with the imperfs found in Deaville's effects.

In January 1953 Gimbels of New York offers part-perfs and imperfs from the Lichtenstein collection, mostly from the 1928-29 period (the ones Lowe said he instigated) and including the tete-beche panes, and dealer Minkus offers other imperfs from the collection. And Sissons is advertising imperfs for over-the-counter sale.

As we draw the curtain in 1968, Lichtenstein has died 12 years before and Brophy has just passed on, having lived to see his imperfs scattered far and wide.



Those CNE Postcards . . .

were signals crossed
in Ottawa?

by E. H. Hausmann

It wasn't since the early 1930s that the Canada Post Office had issued picture post cards. Yet there they were, 15 of them, in full brilliant color, being sold at the Canadian National Exhibition last fall—virtually unannounced, selling like there was no tomorrow, the postal officials at Ottawa trying their best to field complaints by col-



lectors, and all at a time when no one except tourists really bothers going to the CNE any more.

And all the scenes on the cards were of the Toronto area—its CNE, its Ontario Place, its old and new City Halls, its lake-front, its skyline and its ferry boats; the rest of Ontario was ignored, as was the rest of the country.

And furthermore there were those 7c imprinted "stamps" on the address side of the cards which showed, in miniature, the scene that appeared full size on the face of the postcards—creating, in a sense, a whole new issue of 15 colored items.

The postcards sold were offered in three sets of five cards for \$1 a set, or individually for 20c. Rumors say they were sold at Ontario Place (a marina-exhibition-park complex built out over the water outside the CNE) and at a third location as well. But the known outlet was the CNE, during its run from August 19 to September 1.

One set, it is reported, had an over-the-counter life of 19 days, another 12 days, and the third six days. Other reports say they were sold out within four days of their appearance. One report is that 20,000 copies of each card were printed and that 1,600 were sold at the CNE.

Meanwhile the post office people in Ottawa were kept busy explaining the whole



thing away; it was a "merchandising test program" they said, "conducted by the Marketing Branch of the Canada Post Office" — which, to date, hasn't issued its own stamps.

And the post office hurriedly explained that it would likely make the cards available to collectors through its philatelic branch. But so far no announcement of it has been made and it's a safe bet that the printers, Ashton-Potter Ltd. of Toronto, are hurriedly printing up more copies to pacify collectors who missed them when they first went on sale.

But collectors will miss having them post-marked at the CNE post office, which is open only during the exhibition each year. And if the second printings don't match the first, in every way, there'll be a great deal of speculation going on — a thing the postal people deplore and do everything in their power to prevent.

The whole operation is bound to create further embarrassment:

The Marketing Branch, presumably, tries to find new ways of selling postal items — such as designing and offering for sale those plastic stamp storage boxes in 1967. It was probably given approval to experiment with the picture postcard project, but it appears it went ahead on its own to make what amounts to 15 new postage stamps, using

designs that promoted only one section of the country, and didn't bother alerting collectors to the scheme — all points which the parent body, had it been consulted, would likely have corrected.

Ottawa now says that "sizeable quantities were printed" on the initial press run but this is rather doubtful since quantities at the CNE ran out and they are still not available from the philatelic department. You can bet that new subjects, showing scenes in other provinces, are also being made up to pacify the politicians. And it's another good bet that someone at the Marketing Branch has gotten his wrists slapped over the whole incident.

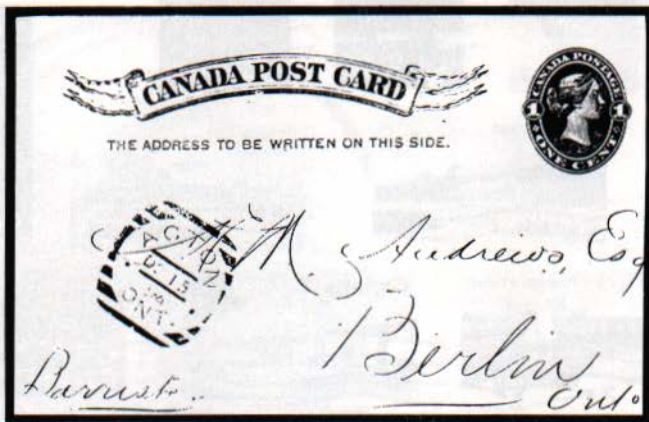
Then there's the matter of living persons being shown on the news "stamps", a point that has risen among collectors. But on this count, perhaps, the Post Office department is in the clear; the policy of never using living persons (other than the reigning monarch) on Canadian stamps surely doesn't apply in the case of general scenes where the people shown are only incidental.

Meanwhile a CNE-post-office-cancelled set of the 15 post cards is fetching around \$30 in Toronto. But aside from all the controversy, there's one thing everyone seems to agree on; the 15 picture cards are very pretty things indeed.



Rounding Up Squared Circles

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



Through courtesy of Graham Noble, I am able this month to provide an illustration of a complete strike of the rare ACTON, Hammer I. I should judge from the appearance of the strike that the corners had been ground off, or filed off, much after the fashion of the round-cornered FORMOSA hammer, and that the upper and lower bars—particularly the latter—had also been filed.

This strike provides a late date for this hammer, the present early date being DE 11 (presumably, '94) reported some while ago by Dr. Hollingsworth. Note, too, that this late date—DE 15/94—is also the Proof Date for the second hammer. Will the owners of the three off-cover strikes of ACTON I reported in the recent Roster please check to see if their strikes also exhibit rounded corners?

Another remarkable find has been made, this reported by Nels Pelletier who has sent me a photostat of an almost complete strike of the square-cornered FORMOSA hammer, on a pair of 3c Small Queens. The existence of strikes of the square-cornered hammer has been in question since Dr. Whitehead noted in his column in December, 1962 *Topics* that such a strike, dated AP 10/95 had been reported to him but that the owner wished to remain anonymous for the time being. He does not now recall who reported it, and this strike did not turn up in the recent *Roster*. I have

not been successful in finding out who reported it. But, back to the copy reported by Nels this carries the date OC 8/96—just about a week prior to the earliest reported example of the round-cornered hammer (present earliest: OC 15/96). Further, this strike is from the same hammer which was later modified to produce the rounded corners, and *not* from the hammer shown in the Proof Book (Fig. 14 of the 3rd Edition *Handbook*). For those unfamiliar with the differences, compare the FORMOSA strikes shown in figures 4 and 14 of the *Handbook*, noting particularly the position of the final "A" in the town name; in the well-known round-cornered strikes, and in the square-cornered strike owned by Nels, the legs of the "A" straddle the upper indicia bar, while the proof strike shows the "A" lying between the indicia bars.

Thus, it seems the Handbook listing for this town should be revised to read:

FORMOSA, First Hammer

Proofed: Au 21, 93

Earliest:

Latest: (No examples yet reported)

FOORMOSA, Second Hammer

First State (Sharp, square corners)

Proofed: Unknown

Earliest:

Latest: Oc 8, 96

Second State (Corners rounded)

Earliest: Oc 15, 96

Latest: My 16, 07

The situation with regard to the AP

10/95 square-cornered strike is still in question; it could be from either hammer. If the owner of this strike should chance to read these lines, will he please drop me a line to let me know which hammer the strike is from?

I think there will be room for only one further item in this column, against a most fascinating discovery. Mike Squirell has tracked down the GORE BAY squared circle hammer. It was found at the GORE BAY Post Office, with the indicia NO 9/31 still in the hammer — undoubtedly strikes

later than the presently reported late date JAN 30/28 remain to be found. The hammer has now been returned to Ottawa, but before its return, Mike arranged to make a sufficient number of first-rate strikes that every Roster participant can have an example. I expect that Mike will give details of his discovery in *Topics*. Through Mike's courtesy, I have a more than adequate number of strikes to distribute; if you would like a copy, please drop me a line, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of the strike.



Tagging Along

Kenneth G. Rose, Box 7086, Station E, Calgary 5, Alberta

Time for another column of odds and ends but first a comment. As you know, I have spent considerable time and effort researching tagged stamps, and there were many occasions when I felt that much of it was a waste of time since so few collectors and dealers had any serious interest. I feel this situation is changing for the better — my correspondence is increasing and last week something happened to make me understand how Bannister felt when he broke the 4-minute mile, and how Hillary felt when he reached the top of Everest. In a word, tagged stamps have "arrived".

I had an offer from a Winnipeg dealer, previously unknown to me, of a Manitoba Centennial stamp with type 11a bars, for \$500. While I have only heard of four of these, and it has proven most difficult to obtain, the price was a little unrealistic, and was naturally refused. However, I do know of one firm offer of \$125 for a damaged copy forwarded early this year. Also, an offer has been made of \$125 for a mint pane of the 3c Cameo showing an offset down the left hand row of stamps on the back.

Gentlemen, in case you did not hear or read the advice of Messrs Bileski, Mercantini and Rose to get on the band wagon before it is too late — your time is running short. These *are* legitimate Canadian issues, and the end of their use is getting very close.

Correction — My correspondent advises that the 4c Cameo tagged LA perfin Type 6 was erroneously reported.

New — The current 1c, and 25c have been seen on fluorescent paper, and the 10c repeated thus. (All normal tagging).

New — The current black 6c with Type 4 was received in the Winnipeg depot 7 September, 1971 and is the die 2 re-engraved stamp.

Unknown — Christmas tagged received from Winnipeg today (8 Oct.) show the 6c on dull paper, and the 7c on fluorescent. Untagged, they are *both* on fluorescent.

New — Current 1c (Type 3) and 4c (Type 6) now in my collection with new No. G16 G.N. perfin.

Almost a year to the day after issue, a copy of the 1970 6c Christmas was brought to my attention *untagged*, but with traces of Type 12 bars on the selvege. This is probably accounted for by the fact that the two values were printed together on one sheet, tagged together electronically before being cut into panes, and the fact that 4 million more 5c were tagged than 6c. A check of my untagged stock produced two blocks of 10 showing about 4 mm. of type 12 bars on the selvege. I only had two, so it is better to be born lucky than rich.

New — The current 5c and 6c black reported used with fluorescent No. 5959. Still no official word as to the reason for this, but I am still trying.

New — Current 5c now in my collection with Type 4a bars, in others words the narrow 4 mm bar printed over the rows of perfs, instead of in the centre, and therefore showing two bars where there should be one.

TOPICS: THE NEWSFRONT

In November, Postmaster-General Jean-Pierre Côté announced a plan to establish a national philatelic museum to be located on the ground floor of the Sir Alexander Campbell Building at Confederation Heights.

Côté made the announcement at Quebec City on the occasion of the official opening of a philatelic sales counter in the downtown post office.

"The national philatelic museum will house a collection of our country's best known stamps as well as many of the artists' original drawings, approved designs, imperforates, and many other items unique to Canadian philately," Côté said, adding that he hoped the national museum would be a reality before 1974, perhaps even sooner.

In starting a national philatelic museum, Canada is following in the footsteps of a number of other countries whose stamps are famous, including Great Britain, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Germany and the United States.

"This museum will promote a greater awareness of our cultural heritage," Côté said. "It will also promote wider interest in our stamps, both inside and outside Canada."

Although the Canada Post Office possesses many of the stamps it has produced over the years, the museum's collection will be augmented by donations from private collections, philatelic associations, and some purchases.

In October the Canada Post Office admitted that an undetected manufacturing flaw has resulted in the issue and sale of at least two partially imperforate sheets of the Maple in Spring stamp. They were among the total issue of 26 million stamps of this design which were released on April 14 this year.

The stamps were supplied to post offices in sheets of 50, comprised of five horizontal rows of 10 stamps per row. The four upper rows are not perforated and the bottom row is perforated along the bottom edge only. The two faulty sheets are identical in this respect.

Post Office Department **NEW ISSUES**

Twenty-six million stamps depicting the maple leaf in winter were issued by the Canada Post Office on November 19. The 17c stamp measures 24 mm by 40 mm and is printed in a process of five-color lithography by Ashton-Potter Limited of Toronto.

This is the fourth and final issue of the special stamps designed by Miss Alma Duncan of Galetta, Ontario, for the "Maple Leaf in Four Seasons" series. The stamp's design shows two maple leaves, brown and slightly furled, against the contrasting whiteness of freshly fallen snow.

Orders for official first day covers may be combined with orders for mint stamps and forwarded to the philatelic service.



A new 8c stamp in the current definitive series will make its appearance on December 30, 1971. The design shows the Library of Parliament at Ottawa and the stamp is in slate-black.

The coils are being printed by the Canadian Bank Note Co., which also designed



the stamp; the sheet stamps are being printed by the British American Bank Note Co.

Plate numbers are 1 and 2, with marginal inscriptions appearing on those panes ordered through the philatelic agency. Quantities of the stamp are being tagged but no marginal inscriptions will appear on such stamps.

The showing of the Library on the stamp ties in which UNESCO's proclamation that 1972 be declared International Book Year. The Library is a separate building to the rear of the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings; the original building was completed in 1876, survived a fire in 1916 in the Centre Block but another fire in 1952 damaged much of the Library and portions of it were rebuilt. It was reopened in 1956.

The Canada Post Office today released the schedule for the commemorative and special issues in its 1972 stamp program. Among these will be the first of a new series of multiple issues on Canadian Indians.

- 1 March: World Figure Skating Championships.
- 7 April: World Health Day — Heart Disease.
- 17 May: 300th Anniversary of the Appointment of Frontenac as Governor of New France.
- 6 July: Canadian Indians (first of a series).
- 2 August: **Earth Sciences:**
 - 24th International Geological Congress
 - 22nd International Geographical Congress
 - 12th Congress, International Society of Photogrammetry
 - 6th Congress, International Cartographic Association
- 11 October: 100th Anniversary of the Death of Cornelius Krieghoff.
- 8 November: Christmas issue.

Auction News

The sale of the L. Gerald Firth Large Queens, offered by J. N. Sissons on November 17, was a memorable event; there were over 100 people on the floor and with sales

totalling \$175,100 it was the largest auction session ever held in Canada.

Robert Lyman, representing Mercury Stamp of New York, and A. L. Michael, chairman of Stanley Gibbons Ltd. of London, were the major buyers. Lyman purchased the used 2c green on laid paper at \$25,000.

The 2c laid paper, one of two copies known, was offered publicly for the first time at this sale. The other copy had been in the Reford collection and was sold in the early 1950s by Harmer, Rooke Ltd. of New York for \$3,400; Lyman said it is in about the same condition as this copy and now is owned by a Canadian. For the Sissons sale, buyers came from far afield: London, New York, Cleveland, Montreal and Winnipeg.

Other highlights: a ½c watermarked single mint (Scott 21b) at \$4,750; a mint block of 24 brown-red 1c at \$3,750; a mint strip of five of the 1c yellow at \$1,900, a mint block of six but in orange at \$8,500, and a corner block of four of the same at \$3,300. A margin block of 17 of the 2c green, mint, fetched \$2,700 and a block of 16 in deep green on crisp paper sold at \$5,750.

The unique mint bluish-green 2c in a block of 18 showing the complete Clutha Mills watermark sold at \$9,500.

A mint margin block of four of the 3c pale rose red on thin paper sold at \$3,600 and a mint block of nine of the 5c olive green at \$5,750; a block of 10 mint 6c light brown with sheet margin and NH at \$5,750; a block of four of the 12½c deep blue on thick paper sold at \$1,500; a block of eight at \$2,100 and another block, of 15 with a partial imprint, sold at \$5,000.

Two single mint copies of the 3c on laid paper sold at \$2,900 and \$2,000. Proofs or essays of all the values (many of them unlisted) sold at good prices — up to \$1,000 — and the great majority of stamps in the sale sold at well above catalogue price.

(The sale did not include the famed 15c stamps in Firth's Large Queen collection; he has decided to continue collecting these.)

The following evening (Thursday, November 18) Sissons offered a more routine sale. As startling as any price paid was the sale of the two-volume Boggs' *Canada* at \$115.

TOPICS: THE BUSINESS SIDE

BNAPS: ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Sam C. Nickle, 1208 Belavista Cr., Calgary, Alberta
VICE-PRESIDENT	Alfred P. Cook, Coy Glen Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
SECRETARY	Jack Jevine, 2121-G North Hills Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27610
TREASURER	Leo J. LaFrance, Box 229, Ossining, N.Y. 10562
BOARD OF GOVERNORS	Nine sitting; three elected every year for a three-year term. 1969-1971 — G. B. Llewellyn (chairman), C. R. McNeil, D. G. Rosenblat. 1970-1972 — Dr. R. A. Chaplin, S. S. Kenyon, Wilmer C. Rockett. 1971-1973 — James C. Lehr, James A. Pike, Robert H. Pratt.

From the Secretary

JACK LEVINE
Raleigh, North Carolina

New Members

- 2711 Arcand, Paul J., 790 Colonel Jones, Apt. 11, Quebec 10, Quebec
2712 Beny, Sandor, 8280 Querbes Avenue, Montreal 303, Quebec
2713 Burt, John M., 509½ East Walnut, Bloomington, Illinois 61701
2714 Derry, Michael, 219 Beechy Drive, Richmond Hill, Ontario
2715 Feiner, Melvin, P.O. Box 1158, Alhambra, California 91802
2716 Ferguson, Prescott W., 46 Congress Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
2717 Graham, R. J., 329 Catherine Street, Thunder Bay (F), Ontario
2718 Hale, James, 823 Bem Avenue, Pickering, Ontario
2719 Macdonald, M. R., M.D., 30 Armshore Drive, Halifax, Nova Scotia
2720 Machin, John A., 313 — 2nd Avenue S.E., Weyburn, Saskatchewan
2721 Menard, Jean-Paul, C.P. 574, Sept-Iles, Quebec
2722 Moisel, Carl H., D-7600 Offenburg, August Hund 4, Germany
2723 Olson, Donald T. Jr., 1410 West 28th Place, Eugene, Oregon 97405
2724 Parker, John A. Jr., 2008 Hague Towers, Norfolk, Virginia 23510
2725 Parker, King Jr., 1341 North Main Street, Walnut Creek, California 94596
2726 Pitt, J. C., No. 114 — 2655 Warren, Kimberley, British Columbia
2727 Stein, Henry, 2541 Sweetbriar Drive, Campbell, California 95008
2728 Wagman, Morton S., 43 Topcliff Avenue, Downsview, Ontario
2729 Weingarten, Norman P., 78 Shavian Blvd., London 72, Ontario

Applications Pending — "A" Group

(Applications shall be pending in two successive issues of the magazine)

- Allen, D. J., 16520 — 79A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta
Brakefield-Moore, Robert S., c/o RCMP, P.O. Box 88, Elphinstone, Manitoba
Coe, Kenneth R., 6 Springbank Crescent, Kitchener, Ontario
Crofton, C. P., 521 Melvin Avenue, Sudbury, Ontario
Globus, Saul, 5565 Cavendish Blvd., Cote St. Luc 266, Quebec
Howson, Wm. S., R.R. No. 1, Ballieboro, Ontario
Kelman, Fred, 111 Ridelle Avenue, Apt. 903, Toronto 19, Ontario
Phillips, L. Gene Jr., 229 Sotir, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548
Pugh, Kenneth W., 644 — 13th, Brandon, Manitoba
Thompson, George C., 1951 Parkwood Terrace, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Applications Pending — "B" Group

- Burrell, Robert M., 120 Spartan Crescent, Pointe Claire 710, Quebec
Burrows, Alan G., Box 519, Station "K", Toronto 12, Ontario
Hawley, James E., R.R. No. 3, Maple Blvd., Truro, Nova Scotia
Hiuser, Cecil F., P.O. Box 3073, Windsor 30, Ontario
Long, Paul V., 157 Pearl Street, Apt. 304, Hamilton 12, Ontario
Marley, Kenneth W., 2235 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, California 95050
Philmus, Dr. Robert, 7925 Kingsley Road, No. 1403, Montreal 267, Quebec

Applications for Membership

(Objections must be filed with the Secretary within 30 days after month of publication)

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COOMBER, Richard A., 3552 Peter St., Windsor 10, Ont. (DC-C) CAN, NFD, PROV — Mint postage. Seals, Revenues. Literature. Proofs. Proposed by G. F. Hansen (2203).
DE MENT, Lex C. Jr., 1000 Huron St., Apt. 302, London 25, Ont. (D) Proposed by J. Levine (L1).
DOWSLEY, Douglas B., 3831 Cedar Hill Cross Road, Victoria, B.C. (C-CX) CAN, NFD — 19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. 1st Day, 1st Flight Tagged covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint, used and complete booklets. Precancels. Provincial Revenues. Mint, used, semi-official Airmails and on cover. Postal Stationery entires and cut-squares. Literature. Shade varieties Small Queens. SPECIALTY — B.C. postmarks. "Tagged". Proposed by K. M. Robertson (1535).

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- 2082 Black C. F., Flat 9, 24 Hyde Park Square, London W2 2AB, England
- 2522 Forget, Maurice A., 201 Corot (Shore), Apt. 508, Nun's Island, Montreal 201, Quebec
- 2221 Karr, James S., 536 — 49 Avenue S.W., Calgary 6, Alberta
- 2599 Lamontagne, Jacques, P.O. Box 853, Place D'Armes, Montreal 126, Quebec
- 2503 Siddaway, Charles Wm., 119 Spooks Branch Road, Asheville, N.C. 28804
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- 257 Trace, Elmer C., 3520 — 214th S.W., Mountlake Terrace, Wash. 98043

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*Austin V.
Mifsud,
No. 1590*

AUSTIN V. MIFSUD

A medal-winner with his fine B.C. collection, one of the best known

Quite a few years ago, I received a most pleasant letter from a fellow British Columbia collector and from that letter there has grown a lovely philatelic friendship by mail. I finally got to meet Austin V. Mifsud at the 1969 Vancouver show and what a grand display of B.C. he had to show us! You see, we B.C. collectors are a tight-knitted little group — Gerry Wellburn (the father of us all), Stuart Johnstone (second in command and what a lovely commander he is), Jim Pike, Austin, and myself.

It came naturally that Austin became a B.C. collector as he was a native Vancouverite. His early schooling was in England where he was introduced to stamping (bought his first B.C., the 3d blue, at the age of 14). He returned to Vancouver and

completed his education to become a banker. This was interrupted by a stint in the RCAF during World War II. Home again but now to San Francisco to enter the retail furniture business and real estate ventures in the Bay area.

It was at this time that Austin became a BC. specialist in earnest which was climaxed with his Silver Medal at Vancouver — and here the competition was rough; so much so that the judges gave extra gold and silvers — unheard of before. Here, I quote Gerry Wellburn — “Here at the Vancouver show is represented 75% of all the decent B.C. material in existence”.

In addition to B.C., it is natural that he would become a Wells Fargo “buff” as that company was the important express in the B.C. postal history. He also collects “Chalon” heads — and Camerons? (he didn’t explain just how he get into that one).

Austin told me little of his personal life but I do know that he just loves to take visitors out to see the early gold mine towns.

— Dr. R. V. C. Carr

...and some doodles by The Editor

It passed without our noticing it, but last month was the last in E. A. Smythies’ series called *Philatelic Posers*. But we haven’t heard the last of the Ireland-based 86-year-old collector; there’s a handbook of his in the works, and we’ve got articles coming up by him on BNA forgeries.

Good news for Canadians; in last month’s letters column it was suggested that we carry a story about the impending income tax laws here as they apply to collectors. Last week a member volunteered to write such an article, and he’s most qualified to do it: he’s J. Douglas McCulloch, a chartered accountant and the resident Toronto partner of a large firm specializing in tax work.

It was a pleasure to receive M. D. Dickett’s article on the Admirals; usually, on such anniversaries, no one thinks of commemorating the event until it’s too late. But thanks to him, we are able to pay tribute to the one of the great Canadian issues, 60 years after its first stamps went on sale in 1911. Our thanks too, to William Maresch for his help in the Coil article in this issue, and to the four gents mentioned on page 318 for their help researching the imperfs of the 1930s.

MAIL FROM OUR MEMBERS

Late "way mail"

Possibly the enclosed cancel is of interest to readers. I didn't realize "Way Mail" occurred so recently, since way letters go back a century or so.

— Alan W. Wolff



Flag cancels

On page 228 of the September 1971 *Topics* there appears an article on Canadian flag cancels, carrying the appended initials JBS.

It is stated in the article that the type 4 flag (VR under crown at centre, 1837 at left and 1897 at right) illustrated in the article was used at Montreal in April, two months before release of the Jubilee issue. I should like to point out that this cancel was also used at Ottawa (see illustration) and I have copies carrying the following dates:

- Oct. 30, 1897 (2 copies),
- Nov. 11, 1897 (2 copies)
- Feb. 4, 1898

In his study of Canadian flags published in *Topics* in March 1960, page 71 *et seq* Richardson lists a variety of this cancel which he calls 6a, used at Ottawa, and with the 1897 at the right missing and states that this needs confirmation. It is probable that the missing 1897 is really the result of an incomplete strike, since the copies in my collection all show (see illustration) the 1897 quite clearly.

— Colin H. Bayley

Blocks at bargains . . .

In 1948 a strange item came into the old store at 15 Richmond St. East in Toronto. It was a pane of the 3c violet War Issue

(Scott No. 252) with a gutter approximately 3/8 of an inch wide at the right and then two more vertical rows of stamps. This made a pane of 120 stamps, which was something new in Canadian philately. It was undoubtedly an error caused by part of the sheet being folded over (or under) and the guillotine slicing the edge of row 12 instead of through the gutter.

In my innocence I sold all of the gutter blocks of eight at about \$35 a block. I haven't seen one since. The story was written up in *Popular Stamps* at that time.

Now come the coincidence. Today, over 20 years later, another almost identical pane of 120 has come into my hands. It is upper left plate 10, and I strongly suspect that this is the upper pane of the same sheet, as I have seen no other reports of this variety in the intervening years.

The first pane turned up in the estate of a Toronto collector in 1948, but nothing was known of its origin. The recent discovery was reported to have been brought to the late Aubrey Kelson at his store at Toronto's Bay and Front Streets by a postal clerk who found it. Mr. Kelson im-



mediately sold the pane to a Toronto collector who has had it in his collection ever since. I wonder where the first five gutter blocks are now?

The new find is *not* offered at \$35.00 a block!

— George Wegg

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ADMIRALS *continued*

It is surely this latter aspect that gives spice to the collecting of these stamps, and enhances their appeal.

In paying tribute to the Admirals, and to all who collect them, I would make this simple plea. Share your knowledge. No other 20th century issue offers such scope for original research and discovery. We owe it to ourselves, as well as to others, to

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write up our experiences, problems or findings. Only thus can the issue fully gratify the pleasure it has given to those who devote their collecting interests to it.

Let us all give praise to time and circumstance which gave to us the first Georgian definitives 60 years ago. In these times of quality control and other methods aimed at uniformity we should be grateful that the Admirals offer the most exciting collecting experience of this century. Happy birthday!

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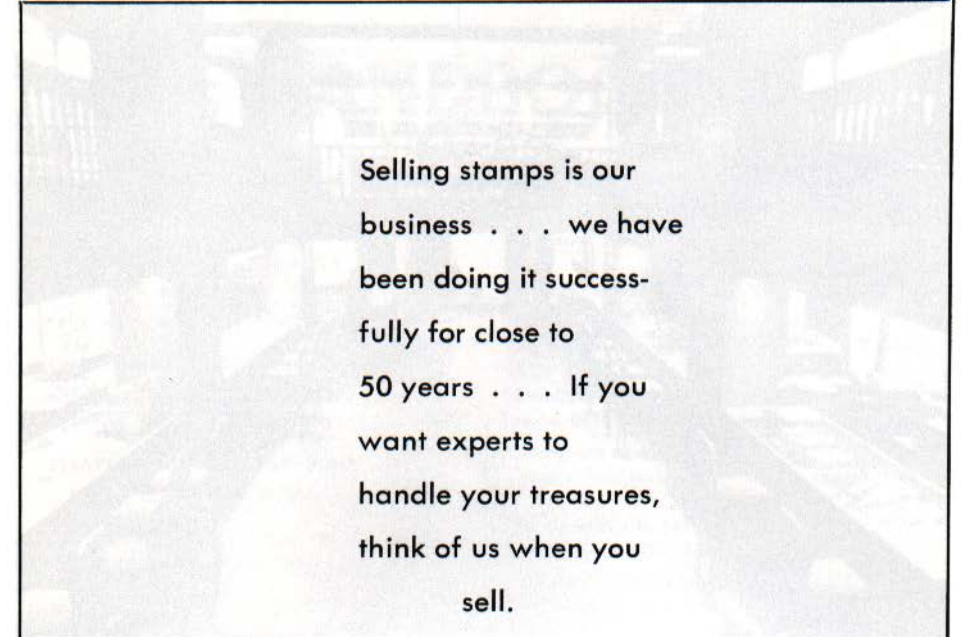
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