

SEPTEMBER, 1972 Volume 29, Number 8 (whole number 315)



BNA TOPICS

Official Journal of The British North America Philatelic Society

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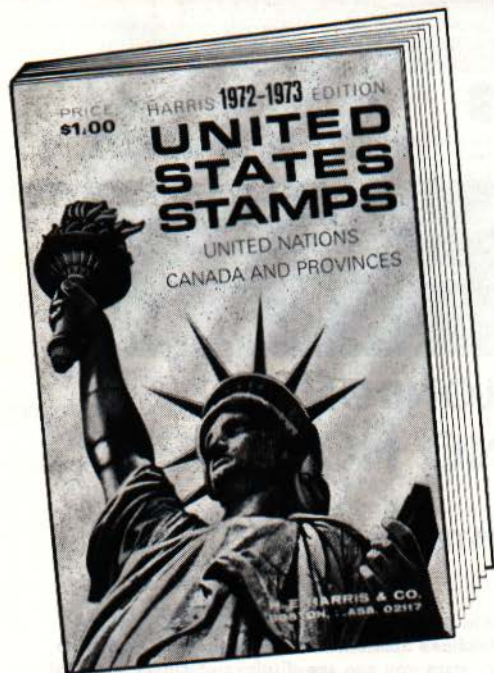
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BNA TOPICS



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*Acupuncture, circa 1917;
note the gripper marks
(left); the better-
known "two large
holes" type (below).*

BY MICHAEL DICKETTS



The Toronto Experimental Coils of the Admiral Issue

In the course of reading the latest in the series of articles by E. H. Hausmann on Canada's experimental coils (February, 1972) my attention was drawn to references to the pinlike punctures observed in both the Edwardian experiments and regular vertical coils of the Admiral issue. The observations of various collectors that these punctures are to be found in fairly common numbers on the 1c green and 2c red coils (Scott 131 and 132), and that they predate the appearance of the 1918 Toronto trials, served to remind me that the full story of this experiment has yet to be told.

For years these punctures, which I prefer to call gripper marks, and the facts surrounding the Toronto vending machine trials, have remained at best a half-told story and veiled by rumor. It is therefore my purpose to summarize what little detail there is, pose several questions and hope that readers will respond by supplying the missing pieces to an intriguing puzzle.

Of the gripper marks themselves, scant attention has been given by authorities in the past. All the major catalogues ignore their existence and even Boggs, Marler and Whiting give them no place in their specialized writings notwithstanding that such marks are readily found in the two coils. Only Jarrett's 1929 handbook gives them a

nod, with the added conjecture that the marks appear "where the two teeth came into operation." More about these teeth anon.

For those unfamiliar with the variety, gripper marks consist of two vertical tears puncturing the stamp in the region of the top frameline and creating a minute elongated V shape. They are spaced approximately 9.5 mm apart. It is quite possible that collectors have passed copies by in the mistaken belief that these are damaged stamps whereas they represent a legitimate collectible variety. My own collection of used copies include a 1c dated Toronto, February 5, 1918 and a 2c bearing part of a 1917 flag cancellation.

The major catalogues, excepting Gibbons and Scott, all list the more prominent coil variety with its two additional large holes which we know as the Toronto experiment. To quote Reiche: "The vertical centering of each pair of holes is about 25 mm. The horizontal centering of a pair of holes varies from 9.5 to about 10.6 mm and the diameter of each hole is 3.2 mm." It should here be mentioned that the centering corresponds with that of the gripper mark variety.

The consensus arrived at after checking Bileski, Boggs, Hansen, Jarrett, Marler and Reiche is that the two-hole variety was on sale to the public on two days during July, 1918, although Hausmann's article states four days. A non-philatelic cover was offered at Sisson's auction about two years ago bearing a pair of these coils dated Toronto, June 3, 1918. It has been privately stated to me by a well-known authority that properly dated copies *must* be on George Lowe's covers; Lowe was the first to learn of the experiment and bought up the mint stock once the Post Office decided to scrap the experiment, using them on his mail until he sold the remainder at a later date.

The location and design of the vending machine itself remains largely a matter of conjecture. It is believed that the machine was installed at the main post office in downtown Toronto, possibly at Yonge and Front streets. Reference is made to an article in February, 1972 *Maple Leaves* by R. S. B. Greenhill wherein it is stated that F. W. Hall devised an adaptation to existing vending machines that would accept stamps having two large holes punched out.

I have a letter from the Postage Stamp Division of the Canada Post Office which confirms that Mr. Frank Hall was active in promoting the use of such a machine in this country. The letter goes on:

"The problem of 'jamming' was common to such machines when used with rolls that were not printed and perforated to the special tolerances required for vending machines and plagued the development of our program for many years. The large perforations to which you refer were related to a development by the Hall company based on the theory that longer tapered pins on the stamp feeding sprocket would hunt and find the larger perforations more reliably than

was possible with smaller pins and smaller perforations."

From all of the foregoing, the following summary emerges. Seemingly the Post Office was dissatisfied with the delivery of stamps from existing machines and, sometime in 1917, began modifications to one or more machines in Toronto that resulted in the appearance of gripper marks on 1c and 2c coils. When these efforts failed in their objective, and hearing of the Hall invention, the Post Office had one machine further modified by means of a large tooth feeder wheel and prepared 1c coils especially for it. This took place between June and July, 1918, following which the idea was dropped and surplus stock disposed of in some fashion.

A number of questions arise from this approximation of the facts. It would be of considerable interest to know the quantity of coils involved as well as the correct dates when experiments began and were abandoned. What is the relative scarcity between gripper-marked and two-holed *mint* coils? How many contemporary used copies of the latter type coil are known to be in collectors' hands? Does anyone have a copy dated earlier than June 3, 1918 or later than "the early days of July" 1918? Similar reports of dated copies of gripper marked coils, both 1c and 2c, would go far towards arriving at a definite period of use.

Were experiments which created gripper marks confined to one machine in the main Toronto post office? That both 1c and 2c coils exist with these marks might suggest that at least two machines, perhaps at separate locations, were involved. Reports on town dated copies would help in this regard.

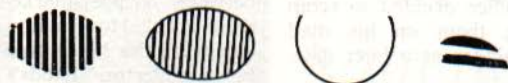
The sudden abandonment of experiments while vertical coils continued for many years remains unexplained. Did machines continue to jam or was some further improvement devised which left no evidence on the stamps? If these machines functioned normally why were vertical coils dropped after the Admiral issue? Does anyone recall when coil dispensing machines were replaced by booklet vending machines?

Hopefully it will be seen that much information is needed before we can close this chapter in the story of Canadian philately. I invite readers to submit their comments or pertinent information to this magazine.

McLEOD

The bulk of the Cents remainders was stored in the customs house in Saint John, N.B., where they remained undisturbed until 1891. In that year the customs house accidentally caught fire; as a result some of the stock of old genuine stamps was damaged and in some the heat melted the gum, so that the sheets stuck together and were separated by soaking in water, thereby losing their gum. It was officially recorded that these stocks gradually found their way into the hands of American dealers through the agency of small boys pilfering the Government stocks!

Every now and then examples of New Brunswick Cents remainders with vague cancellations turn up at auctions, which, it is reasonable to assume, were faked by the American dealers after 1891. In marked contrast to the McLeod fakes, these later cancelled specimens show no post office name (which presumably American dealers did not know) nor date. I recently acquired a mixed lot of about 60 2c and 5c New Brunswick, mostly with cancellations of the following types:



- (1) A rectangle of 8 or 10 thick unbroken bars, open at ends.
- (2) An oval of 13 or 14 thin unbroken bars in an ellipse.
- (3) An irregular circle one or two lines thick, with no name of post office or indicia or other marks.
- (4) Two or three vague dots and dashes without form or meaning and obviously not official postmarks.

Most of these cancellations were very light. As the stamps were genuine, there was no need to apply heavy cancels to hide possible mistakes in the printing of the stamps — a dodge often followed by forgers.

Some of the 60 stamps were not cancelled and had no gum (typical of these late remainders of 1891). I call these late cancels the work of American dealers, since they are certainly not the work of McLeod, nor of the post office, nor of the regular forgers I have named earlier, and I know of no other agency which would have made them. In 1891 used specimens of New Brunswick Cents were, of course, more valuable than unused, and an obvious target for fakers.

I cannot resist the temptation of describing the quaintest forgery I have ever seen. It was a Spiro forgery of Nova Scotia 10c vermilion, in which some accident had created a large hole where the large, full face of the Queen should be. Instead of scrapping this damaged forgery, Spiro went to the trouble of cutting up a genuine stamp and plugging the hole in the forgery.

But the genuine stamp he cut up was not a Nova Scotia stamp at all, but a Great Britain ½d vermilion of the 1887 Jubilee issue, showing a small side-face of the Queen. And he cancelled the patch with his favourite cancel — the mistaken copy of a N.S.W. cancel!

A BNAPS REPRINT

From The London Philatelist
December 1966

By ROBERT H. PRATT

the
pence
issue
of



NEWFOUNDLAND

- a challenge

This issue and its proofs and reprints have long been of interest to me. I have studied the available records in publications as well as a limited number of stamps and covers in order to classify the various printings into definite identifiable varieties. This study has led me to a possibly disputable conclusion that our present catalogue listings are erroneous and confusing, and that certain stamps are more scarce than realised.

How this came about seems linked to the disruption of World War II and its effect on the publication of the Perkins, Bacon records. It is also related to confusing color, descriptions in the various catalogues and the high price and scarcity of pertinent covers and stamps. I started this search some time ago and had hoped after resolving my thoughts to enlist the aid of Dan Meyerson and Sidney Harris. Their untimely passings have deprived me of their counsel, and I do hope that their collections before being disturbed may be made available to improve these conclusions.

What is now proposed is preliminary to any final conclusion and it is hoped will provoke enough thought to stimulate correspondence and data from those holding covers and stamps so as to provide an accumulation of information. This must aid in either proving or denying the conclusions of this paper.

At the end of this story will be presented a new concept of the actual numbers of stamps sent to Newfoundland, when they were printed, and a new listing of thirty-one actually issued varieties.

Printing and invoicing data

The starting point of the discussion is the printing and invoicing records of the Perkins, Bacon Co. as shown on pages 782 and 825 of Volume II, *Perkins, Bacon Records*. Unintentional typesetting or editing

errors, possibly errors in transcribing original data and perhaps even 'clerk' errors at Perkins, Bacon have resulted in a listing which may not present the true picture.

The following tables are exact extracts with certain appended notes.

TABLE I Printing Records

Year	Week Ending	Printer	Sheets Printed	Good Sheets	Duty	Color	Number Stamps (a)
1856	Sept. 27	Beaven	155	150	2d.	Rose	3,000
1856	June 22	"	257	250	4d.	"	5,000
"	"	"	257	250	6d.	"	5,000
"	"	"	106	100	6½d.	"	2,000
"	"	"	410	400	8d.	"	8,000
"	"	"	106	100	1sh.	"	2,000
"	"	Wood	606	584	1d.	Crimson	70,080
"	"	"	296	275	5d.	"	16,000
"	"	"	211	200	3d.	Green	11,000
1860	May 26	Lewis	267	250	2d.	—	5,000
"	"	"	259	250	4d.	—	5,000
"	June 2	"	267	250	6d.	—	5,000
"	"	"	56	50	1sh.	—	1,000
"	"	"	85	75	5d.	—(b)	3,000
"	"	"	512	500	3d.	—(c)	40,000
"	June 9	"	262	250	6d.	—	5,000
1861	June 15	Russel	—	250	2d.	—	5,000
"	"	"	—	750	4d.	—	15,000
"	"	"	—	250	6d. (d)	(error 6½d.)	5,000
"	"	"	—	500	1sh.	—	10,000
"	June 22	H. Draysey	—	500	(3d.)	—(e)	40,000
"	July 6	Whiley	1,020	1,000	6d.	—	20,000
"	Nov. 16	Wilkinson	—	250	2d.	Red	5,000
"	"	"	—	1,000	4d.	"	20,000
"	"	"	—	1,900	6d.	"	38,000
"	Nov. 23	"	—	600	6d.	"	12,000
"	"	"	—	500	6½d.	"	10,000
"	"	"	—	500	8d.	"	10,000
"	"	"	—	750	1sh.	"	15,000
"	"	"	—	250	5d.	Crimson	10,000
"	"	"	—	80	1d.	"	9,600
"	"	"	625	650	3d.	Green (f)	52,000

(a) This column is added for later comparison with invoice records.

(b) & (c) Here the first error: The values could be interchanged to read (b) 3d. or 6,000 and to read (c) 5d., or 20,000, or the shipping records corrected to the values in the table above—Arnold Strange reports the gumming records are as changed.

(d) An admitted error.

(e) Evidently this duty was either not decipherable from the notes or guessed at. (No value appeared in the record according to Arnold Strange, thus his could be 5d.—If 5d., he quantity would be 20,000.)

(f) Why would there be more 'good sheets' than 'sheets printed'? If the values are reversed, the number 'good' agrees with invoicing. (Confirmed by Arnold Strange—quantity therefore 50,000.)

Arranging this list another way presents an interesting comparison with the Invoice Record to follow.

TABLE II

Date of Printing	1d.	2d.	3d.	4d.	5d.	6d.	6½d.	8d.	1sh.
27 September, 1856	—	3,000	—	5,000	—	5,000	20,000	8,000	2,000
27 September, 1856	70,080	—	16,000	—	11,000	—	—	—	—
26 May, 1860	—	5,000	—	5,000	—	—	—	—	—
2 June, 1860	—	—	40,000(c)	—	3,000(b)	5,000	—	—	1,000
9 June, 1860	—	—	—	—	—	5,000	—	—	—
15 June, 1861	—	5,000	—	15,000	—	—	5,000	—	10,000
22 June, 1861	—	—	40,000(e)	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 July, 1861	—	—	—	—	—	20,000	—	—	—
16 November, 1861	—	5,000	—	20,000	—	38,000	—	—	—
23 November, 1861	9,600	—	52,000(f)	—	10,000	12,000	10,000	10,000	15,000
TOTALS:	79,680	18,000	148,000	45,000	24,000	85,000	17,000	18,000	28,000
GRAND TOTAL:	462,680	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Mr. E. D. Bacon in his *Newfoundland Pence Issues* vol. III, of *The London Philatelist*, (November 1894); W. S. Boggs in his *Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland* (1942); and *The Perkins, Bacon*

Records (1953) all agree on the invoicing of the stamps. Probably all quoted from the same source, herewith the invoice record.

TABLE III

Date Invoiced	1d	2d	3d	4d	5d	6d	6½d	8d	1sh
3 October, 1856	70,000	3,000	16,000	5,000	11,000	5,000	2,000	8,000	8,000
15 June, 1860	—	5,000	6,000(i)	5,000	20,000(i)	10,000	—	—	1,000
11 July, 1861	—	5,000	20,000(h)	15,000	—	20,000	5,000	—	10,000
30 November, 1861	10,080(g)	5,000	50,000	20,000	10,000	50,000	10,000	10,000	15,000
TOTAL:	80,080	18,000	92,000	45,000	41,000	85,000	17,000	18,000	28,000
GRAND TOTAL:	424,080								
Number of Stamps to Sheet	120	20	80	20	40	20	20	20	20
Remainders in 1889	—	—	1,029	18,141	17,205	29,937	4,776	4,165	14,076

(g) According to the printing records, 9,600 stamps were printed—a shortage of 480 stamps or four sheets.

(h) According to the printing records, 40,000 stamps were printed. 20,000 would be correct for 5d.

(i) This refers to notes (b) and (c) printing records, and the values are the same as the gumming records.

Comparing the totals in Tables II and III indicates immediately that something is wrong for the 1d., 3d. and 5d. All the other values agree.

Referring to notes (b) and (c) Table I, if the listing of 3d. and 5d. were interchanged, we would have 500 sheets of 5d. at 40 stamps per sheet or 20,000 5d. and 75 sheets of 3d. at 80 stamps per sheet or 6,000 3d. which would now agree with the invoice record. (And the gumming record per Arnold Strange).

Referring to note (f) if 625 'good' sheets were used instead of 650 at 80 stamps per sheet, we would have 50,000 stamps 3d. which would now agree with the invoice record.

Referring to note (g) the discrepancy of 480 stamps here must account for the 1d. red-brown 'error' S.G. No. 17a, Scott 16. As we shall see later the color of the 5d. on the last printing gradually assumed a red-brown look, and if the shortage was discovered at the end of the run, the four short sheets could have been run off last in the last color.

Notes (e) and (h) are complementary. Here one of the great challenges appears. For many reasons, the conclusion that it was the 5d. that was printed here—not the 3d.—is reached. It is admitted that the data calls for "3d green" on the invoice. A statement 'green' would automatically force

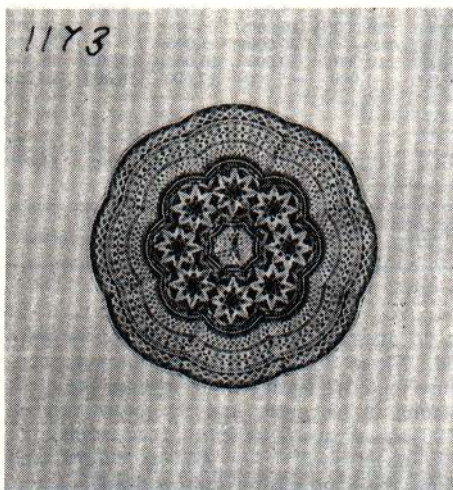
a 3d answer even if the value shown were 5d. Three and five are very easy to confuse in script form. If we assume the clerk wrong in his color and 5d to be correct, 500 sheets at 40 instead of 80 stamps to the sheet would mean 20,000 stamps, and now the invoiced quantities would agree. As we shall see later, other factors add to the validity of this conclusion.

Another point of conflict are my notes (b) and (c) which are complementary to note (i). It must be concluded that the printing records are correct, and that for some reasons the invoice is wrong. This is difficult to believe as payment is involved here, but the logic of the data presented later forces a reluctant change. The total number of stamps invoiced, on which basis payment was made, will not remain the same. Perkins, Bacon were notably inaccurate and loose in their bookkeeping and correspondence.

A thought about the remainders inventoried in 1889:

The 1d and 2d and 3d are notorious for their absence. The 5d remainders were large and spanned not only the last printing, but also the one previous. Which stamps remained in 1865 when the currency changed? How many were used legally, subsequent to this time, to cover payment for postage in sterling or currency not converted?

A long-known fact is again apparent from this data. There were four printings each well separated in time, and therefore there should be distinguishable color and/or paper differences between the various printings. Possibly there are gum differences; but as there have been regummed stamps offered, this can no longer be used as a valid determinant. Any listing of this issue should be in the four printings, and there should be ways of identifying them.



The background die for the 1d and 5d

The papers

In many areas I agree with the writings of Sidney Harris, but I cannot conclude as he does that there are 'thicker' papers as scarce varieties for the last printings. They exist, but only because of normal paper variance.

One aspect of paper making at this time should be considered. Paper sold by the ream or quire not only required a certain number of sheets, but a definite weight per unit of sale. Thus paper makers, especially of hand-made papers, would put aside the heaviest and lightest papers of a batch. When the proper number for a quire or ream had been counted out and weighed, if the lot were overweight, thin sheet would be substituted for the normal sheets until the weight was 'made', or heavier sheets if the pile were underweight, thus maintaining the count. This could account for the

thick or thin varieties often reported. Thick and thin papers are thus seen to be of the same paper, and I would say are not 'scarce' varieties in the true sense.

Donald A. King as long ago as 1894 reported thickness from "paper as thin as pelure" to "as heavy as Bristol Board".

A thorough article by Y. B. Yardley entitled *Notes on the Paper Watermarked Stacey Wise* and other papers used for the printings of "The First Types and Other Matters," in *The London Philatelist*, January 1934, Vol. XLIII, covers the matter of the various papers most completely.

In substance he states that there were three papers. This statement agrees with notes by Jarrett, King and others who have studied the papers. They are:

A—Thick, soft, white, heavy opaque; B—Medium thickness, fairly opaque, hard; C—Thin, hard and semi-transparent.

Paper "A"

This paper is an easily identifiable paper. I have measured 25 un gummed stamps and find the thickness remarkably consistent. It varies from .0031 to .0037 inches over the ink, and by far the greater number are .0035 thick. The paper under a hand glass has a discernible mesh and is fibrous in appearance. Under ultraviolet light it shows up with a bright white reflection. It is opaque and the ink does not show through on the reverse. It was probably machine made, which would account for the mesh and uniformity.

Paper "B"

This paper, too, is readily identifiable. I have measured some 50 un gummed stamps on this paper from the second (orange) printing, and find the thickness varies from .0024 to .0037 inches.

The greatest number occur at .0030 to .0034; the paper has no discernible mesh. Under ultraviolet light it shows a dull greyish surface. It is normally opaque and only occasionally does the ink show through. The paper is watermarked STACEY WISE—1858. It is a fairly hard and smooth paper. It is undoubtedly a handmade paper.

Paper "C"

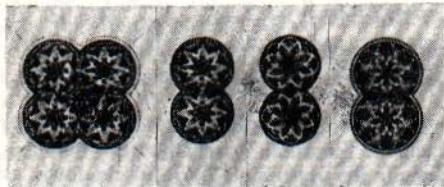
This paper varies from opaque to semi-opaque, rather splotchy in appearance and is an amorphous paper. I have measured

some 50 ungummed examples and find the thickness varies from .0023 to .0037. The greatest number occur at .0028 to .0030 (just below the median of paper B). While there is no discernible mesh, the splotchy opaque and semi-opaque areas are most distinctive. The transition from opaque to semi-opaque can be seen on many full sheets. Under ultraviolet light it appears white, but not as white as paper A. The ink shows through to the back in most cases. The paper is watermarked (Stacey Wise 1858) and is hard and tough. The dull printings show about the same thickness distribution as the bright printings. D. A. King has reported nearly all values can be found on paper exceptionally thick or thin.

Here we find a common denominator between papers B and C; the watermark. The Stacey Wise watermark seems to have been placed in the upper left corner looking from the printed side (upper right from the back where the watermark reads correctly) — starting 76 mm below the left deckle edge and 175 mm from the top. The Stacey Wise is 149 mm long and 13 mm high. The 1858 also 13 mm high starts 53 mm below the left edge and 120 mm from the top deckle edge. It is 47 mm long.

As the mill sheets of paper had thinned deckle edges on all four sides, it is a sure indication of a hand-made or single sheet machine-made operation.

From this we can only arrive at the conclusion that paper C is a derivative of paper B. The difference was probably caused by a new method of handling the pulp or a different beating or bleaching method. Paper thickness variations were common then because paper was mostly hand made. Machine-made papers had just appeared around 1840, and chemical paper came later (circa 1870).



Four rosettes, which all appear on one sheet

It was most unusual to have a consistent paper thickness. The transition from paper B to C probably occurred around the end of 1860. The basic process was probably

not changed too much as the same bits for the watermark were used for both papers. We know the paper came from the same mill. Therefore, the thickness of the paper cannot be used as a determinant of the printing date. However, the color and texture under ultraviolet can.

"Cancelled" stamps

These are the famous sets that caused friction between Perkins, Bacon and Penrose Julian. They were issued in August 1861, and therefore, can only contain stamps from printings of June 1861, June 1860, or September 1856. The ones I have studied are on the opaque, Stacey Wise 'C'



1861 "cancelled" — Chile killer, 30 x 4mm and 19 x 2½mm

paper of the June 1861 printing. The 6d and the 1s are of the dull rose variety. The 3d I have is on Stacey Wise paper and the color is the same as the June 1860 printing. The red-brown 5d reported by Sir Edward Bacon in 1929, and now in the Queen's collection, could only have come from the printing of June 1861. I should like to compare more of these scarce values with the ones I have, especially the 6½d which recently sold at Robson Lowe's auction, and the 3d reported by Meyerson. A study of the colors would by elimination define the November 1861 printings.

Specimen stamps

All values of the last issue are reported overprinted SPECIMEN in black, in serified letters 30 mm long by 4 mm high. The two I have, 6d and 6½d, are in the bright rose of the November 1861 printing. Here it is most interesting to note that the 1c brown-purple, Scott 32a, SG 35 (American Bank Note) and the 5c black, Scott 26, SG 38, also appear with this same overprint.

(continued on page 214)



Rounding Up Squared Circles

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

A report just received brought to mind Dr. Whitehead's comment about Squared Circle strikes on the 15c Large Queen (page 30 of the *Handbook*): "I should look upon a 15c Large Queen from Beeton, Byng Inlet North, Freeport and other such small places, as nothing short of a miracle." Something very close to this has now happened: Max Rosenthal reports the find of the ninth example of BYNG INLET NORTH known to me, and this on the 5c Registry stamp! The town name appears on the stamp, and the day is '25' but the month and year are not known.

* * *

Further information regarding some of the year-date errors listed in last month's column:

NORTH SYDNEY—The '66 error is an error for '99 and not for '96, since the strike appears on 2c purple Numeral.

BRANTFORD — the period of the '80 for '08 error is now defined. Through 19/AU 12/08, the year date was correct; Max Rosenthal reports having 81/AU 13/80 (error time-mark as well as error year-date!). From then, the '80 error is reported on AU 14, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, and SP 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, and for 3/SP 21/80. I now have report that the year date was correct again on 12/SP 22/08. There is little doubt in my mind that the error started with 81/AU 13/80, but at the other end of the error period, it is possible that the error was corrected either late in the day on SP 21 or early in the day on SP 22. Can anyone close the gap further, or report the '80 error for any of the dates not listed?

SMITHS FALLS — '66 error for '96. I have just come across NO 3/66 thus extending the known period of this error to AP 19 through NO 3/66.

* * *

There are two additional towns to be included in the preceding listing of errors which appear in the year date slot, and which look like perfectly good numbers, except that they lie outside the known span of use of the hammer. Just reported to me by a collector who wishes to remain anonymous:

ORILLIA — '84 error for? This strike is FE 22/84. If an error for '94, then the error was corrected at least by FE 26/94.

And I had forgotten about the following error in my own collection:

BELLEVILLE II — '91 error for? The strike reads 3/DE 20/91. I suspect that this error came about when the date was changed from DE 19 to DE 20 and the year date numbers were thrown back into the indicia box instead of the '19' which was then inserted in the year date slot, transposed to '91'. If this is the cause of the error, then time marks 1 and 2, and possibly 4 should also exist for DE 20. On the other hand, it is possible that the error occurred in changing dates from DE 16 to DE 17; again, we can suppose the year date numbers to have been thrown back into the indicia box, and the '16' inserted, upside down, in the year slot, yielding '91' for DE 17 through DE 20 at least.

A second kind of year-date error is that in which partial or complete inversion of the indicia has resulted in the year date appearing in the upper slot, and looking like a perfectly good number except that it lies outside of the span of use of the hammer. Several examples of this kind of error follow:

STE. CUNEGONDE—63/SP 16/- - This interesting error, in which the normal year-date slot is empty, reported by Sandor Beny.

RIVIERE DU LOUP STATION—86/FE 2/ — Normal year date slot is empty; undoubtedly an error for '98.

WELLINGTON — 66/-/- - Middle indicia slot, and normal year-date slot empty; undoubtedly an error for '99.

* * *

I am not quite sure just how to classify the next year date error; the year date appears in the upper slot, but is upside down, as is the day and month. See fig. 14 of the 2nd Edition *Handbook*. If the strike is turned so that the town name is upside down, the indicia reads: JU 24/39.

* * *

A third category of year-date error is that in which the error date lies within the normal

span of use of the hammer, but is known through auxiliary information to be a mistake. Several examples of this kind of error follow:

NORTH SYDNEY — JA 9/98 on Map stamp. Since the Map stamp was not issued until December, 1898 this has to be an error, probably for JA 9/99. Can it be that there were not three 9s available? This error is listed on page 20 of the 3rd Edition *Handbook*; I also have this error with the same date, JA 9. Can anyone report other JA dates for '98 on Map stamp?

TORONTO-PARLIAMENT STREET — PM/SP 21/96 on 3c Jubilee. Since the 3c Jubilee was not issued until June of 1897, this strike has to be an error. See Fig. 40, 3rd Edition *Handbook*. According to the figure caption, backstamps of other towns show the correct year date to be '97. A sec-

ond example of this, also on cover, and also carrying '97 backstamps, is reported by Nels Pelletier.

QUE. & CAMP. M.C. LOCAL Hammer I (No. 5 at base) — My records show the following sequence of strikes:

AP 7/97 on 3c Leaf; AP 8/97 on 3c Leaf; MY 16/97 on 3c Leaf; JU 6/97 on 3c Leaf; JY 9/97 on 3c Numeral; these indicate a rather long run of '97 error for '98 (or conceivably, '99) since the 3c Leaves was not issued until JA 15/98, and the 3c Numeral, until JU 21/98.

This type of error is easily overlooked, and I feel sure that many more examples exist.

* * *

In next month's column, I will list the remaining categories of errors involving the year-date, as shown in my records.

The 1c green Admiral coil, perf 8

by Harry W. Lussey

Michael Dicketts invites comment or information regarding his article on the 1c green perf 8 Admiral coil. It is true that copies used prior to 1917 are far from common. However, judging by what I have it is probable that more were used than is generally realized. Many were no doubt machine-cancelled on post cards and show no date, unless they are on cover. Obviously vending machines would not be in use in smaller towns or in more than a few locations in the major centres. The separation problem no doubt curtailed the demand. Finally the number issued likewise contributes to the scarcity.

Now as to what exists in the early years: Let us start with the report in the October 1963 *Topics* of a copy dated October 18, 1912. In 1962 Anne Dorian, who had a great collection of used Admirals, decided to liquidate. She offered a pair on a commercial cover postmarked Winnipeg Oct. 18, 1912 for \$50. It was sold before I received the offering so I never had the opportunity of examining it. At the same time Anne offered a severed pair on cover dated April 18, 1913 with a Vancouver "Mid-

Summer Fair" cancel. This was priced at \$3 and I missed it too.

Those in my collection include the following earlier usages:

1. Single on Edward 1c envelope post-marked Upper Stewiacke N.B. Oct. 30, 1913.
2. Single plus a copy of the 2c on piece of a military cover dated Ottawa Nov. 24, 1915.
3. Singles of the 1c and 2c perf 8 coils on cover dated Montreal March 22, 1916.
4. Strip on cover from Winnipeg dated Dec. 27, 1916.
5. Pair off-cover with bottom part of machine dater and killer showing 1916 very clearly.
6. Strip of 3 off-cover dated Montreal Jan. 18, 1917.
7. Strip of 3 off cover Montreal Duplex "6" dated March 11, 1917.

If I locate other examples in my Admiral material I will pass the information on to Michael.

TOPICS: THE NEWSFRONT

Michael Dicketts is working with C. Russell McNeil on research for a forthcoming *Topics* article on booklet-pane entires on the 1967-72 definitive issue. To secure as many varieties as possible from the mid-1969 to the end of 1971 period, they would appreciate hearing from members who would loan them booklet pane covers. Drop Dicketts a line at 910 Colbourne Avenue, London 11, Ontario. Those loaned will be returned postpaid, and should include any major and minor types in booklets selling at 25c, 50c, \$1 and \$1.50.

The first general meeting of the Postal History Society of Ontario since its founding early last summer will take place on Saturday, October 14 at Brantford, Ontario. It will be a day-long session which will include a small exhibition, seminar with two speakers planned, and a bourse. The Brantford Stamp Club will be host for the meeting, to be held in the parish hall of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Murray and Colbourne Streets.

The National Postal Museum in Ottawa continues to grow through donations, which range from complete libraries to specialized collections of recent issues, early documents, a hand-cancelling machine and 50-year old postal notes and money orders. The department unearthed some items from old post offices, including an old postal wicket and several early postal hardware items.

In March Canada Post is holding a "Postal Users' Conference" with 200 of its largest customers from across the country. About 300 are expected to attend, and many of them can be expected to air their beefs when the subject of improvements they would like to see in the postal system comes up.

Writer Gorden Vaughn reports in *Linn's Stamp News* that a new style of precancel will be issued this fall on the 1c, 5c and 6c stamps of the new definitive issue. A mine of information, he also says that the 20c ferry with Winnipeg tag and PVA gum is a new item on the bureau list, and that the 25-cent booklet of the 8c slate with Ottawa tagging, issued last December 8, is sold out at the bureau. A cunning dealer bought the last 500 in stock.

He also reports that Roy Wrigley, the OHMS specialist and dealer, is going to publish a booklet on these particular issues which he is now writing; he hopes to have it published early next year.

In another issue of *Linn's* he states that post offices in the Nova Scotia area where

he lives tell him that the printing orders for recent commemoratives are far too small. He says, "unless a person makes a daily trip to the post office to purchase stamps, he never sees 50 per cent of the commemoratives." The smaller post offices are receiving only a few panes of each. They are supposed to be on sale for from seven to nine days—but last, in some cases, only hours.

(For further comments on the post office, see page 212.)

Post Office Department **NEW ISSUES**

We must have missed the press release, but better late than never: On September 8 the post office continues phasing out the 1967-72 definitive issue with the release of new 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c and 50c stamps.

The Canada Post announced the subjects chosen for the special and commemorative issues in its 1973 stamp program.

Jeanne Mance (1606-1673) founder of the Hôtel-Dieu in Montreal and the first secular nurse in North America; 300th anniversary of her death.

François Xavier de Laval (1623-1708), first bishop of Quebec and founder of the Séminaire de Québec; 350th anniversary of his birth.

J. E. H. MacDonald (1873-1932), Canadian painter and member of the Group of Seven; 100th anniversary of his birth.

Prince Edward Island centennial year marking the 100th anniversary of its entry into Confederation in 1873.

Nellie McClung (1873-1951), Canadian writer, and champion of women's rights in the 1920s; 100th anniversary of her birth.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police,

founded in 1873 as the North West Mounted Police, will be featured in an issue commemorating its 100th anniversary.

Joseph Howe (1804-1873), journalist, orator, politician and premier of Nova Scotia during pre-Confederation days; 100th anniversary of his death.

Christmas stamps will be continued.

Canadian Indians, the series begun in 1972, will continue with stamps of the Algonkian Indians.

New post cards

Canada Post is marketing scenic, pre-stamped postcards—similar to those sold last fall at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.

Called "Canada Cards" they went on sale

July 24 in larger post offices. They portray typically Canadian scenes and places of historic interest. Each bears an 8c postage-paid indicia, and the cards are packaged five to a set, and sell for \$1.

The postage indicia is a miniature of the full color photo appearing on the front.

There are 18 sets in all: three each for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, two for Alberta and one each for the remaining provinces, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

Post Offices carry the cards depicting scenes of their respective provinces only. However philatelic counters in Toronto, Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa, have sets of all provinces available. All sets may be ordered from the philatelic service.

THE 80 NEW "CANADA CARDS"

NEWFOUNDLAND

Bay de Verde
Salvage
View of St. John's from Signal Hill
The Harbor at St. John's
Rose Blanche

NOVA SCOTIA

Clock Tower atop Citadel Hill
Longfellow's Evangeline,
Grand Pré National
Historic Park
Peggy's Cove
Cabot Trail, Cape Breton
Coastline near Summerville

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Village of New Glasgow
Rustico Harbor
Park at Royalty Point,
Malpeque Bay
Red Clay Country Road
Wharf, Malpeque Bay

NEW BRUNSWICK

The Legislature Building,
Fredericton
Covered Bridge near Sussex
F. D. Roosevelt's summer
home, Campobello Island
Royal Kennebecas Yacht
Club, Millidgeville
Reversing Falls, Saint John

QUEBEC

- 1) Man and His World,
Montreal
Wood Carving, Port Joli
Lower Quebec City
Covered Bridge, Kiamika
River
Old Mill Frélichsburg,
Missisquoi
- 2) Autumn in Notre-Dame-
du-Laus
The Saint-Benoît-du-Lac
Abbey
Skyline view of Montreal
Percé Rock, Gaspé
Peninsula
View of Chateau Frontenac
from Citadel, Quebec
City
- 3) Pastoral scene on St.
François River, Lower
Richmond

Saint-François Church,
Ile d'Orléans
The Citadel, Quebec City
Quebec Maple Sugar bush
Place des Arts, Montreal

ONTARIO

- 1) Night view of Toronto
Aerial view of the
Thousand Islands Bridge
York University Campus,
North York
Deer in Algonquin Park
Upper Canada Village
- 2) Sunset view of Parliament
Hill
Black Creek Pioneer
Village, Toronto
Toronto City Hall
Shakespearean Festival
Theatre, Stratford
"The Sleeping Giant",
Lake Superior, Thunder
Bay
- 3) Canadian Horseshoe Falls
at Niagara Falls
Ontario Place, Toronto
Changing of the Guard on
Parliament Hill
Thousand Islands Bridge
Ontario Science Centre,
Toronto

MANITOBA

Village of St.-George, on
Winnipeg River
Manitoba's Legislative Bldg.,
Winnipeg
Fort Garry Gate, Winnipeg
Golden Boy atop Provincial
Legislature, Winnipeg
Lower Fort Garry, Winnipeg

SASKATCHEWAN

Combines on the Great Regina
Plain
Saskatchewan Legislative
Building, Regina
Downtown Lake at sunset
Fort Walsh
A Prairie scene, Prongua

ALBERTA

- 1) Valley of the Ten Peaks,
Moraine Lake
Maligne Lake, Jasper
National Park

Snow Dome Glaciers,
Jasper National Park
Aerial view of Edmonton
Farming and Ranch country
in the Foothills
2) Strip farming in the Rocky
Mountain Foothills
"Hoodoos" erosion in the
Badlands near Drumheller
Waterton Townsite at Water-
ton Lakes National Park
Aerial view of Calgary
Banff

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- 1) Vancouver skyline with
English Bay
Capilano Suspension Bridge
Vancouver
Vancouver Planetarium at
twilight
Totem Poles in Stanley
Park
Long Beach, Vancouver
Island
- 2) Aerial view of Vancouver
Causeway and Parliament
Buildings, Victoria
British Columbia Railway,
Lillooet
Diamond Head Chalet,
Garibaldi Park
Kamloops Lake
- 3) Parliament Buildings,
Victoria
Juan de Fuca Straits,
Victoria
Emerald Lake
Paddle steamer and log
booms near Pitt
Meadows
Vancouver skyline at night

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND YUKON

Rackla Range of Richardson
Mountains, Yukon
Miles Canyon near Whitehorse,
Yukon
Sunset over Treslin Lake,
Yukon
Alexandra Falls, N.W.T.
Aerial view of Tuktoyaktuk,
N.W.T.

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Catalogue, 1973 edition, 800 pages, published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., of London, England.

This is the 75th edition of this work and 35 pages are devoted to new issues of the past 12 months. There are price changes affecting almost every country listed, and—among the BNA listings—Gibbons continues to insist that the Canada 12d black comes on laid, thin wove, and medium-hard wove paper.

Curiosities such as this, and there are several others in the BNA entries, are now near-legendary in the Gibbons and Scott catalogues—a perpetration into perpetuity, as someone remarked. One almost gets the impression that these two monarchs of philatelic cataloguery consider themselves above fact itself, and that if they stick with the notion that certain stamps exist when in fact they don't, bringing them up year after year in their catalogues—then, indeed, the stamps will finally materialize one morning out of a sense of sheer obligation.

But it would be unfair to suggest that Gibbons and Scott consider themselves omnipotent; rather we should think of these constant-plate errors as a kind of quaint custom. Following the release of the new Scott catalogue next month, we hope to carry an item in *Topics* listing the non-existent stamps in both catalogues.

But these things aside, the Gibbons catalogue is as impressive as ever; its introductory pages—covering watermarks, perfs, printing methods and a dozen other subjects, plus an international glossary in five languages—is a primer on stamp collecting. Its listings are remarkably thorough for a general catalogue, and now that the British are on the decimal system one can even use the book to conveniently find the price of a stamp.

* * *

Checklist and Catalogue of Canadian Postage Stamps Perforated, and overprinted, "OHMS" and "G"—5th edition, 32 pages, 6 x 9 inches, \$3. Published by the author,

Roy Wrigley, and available from dealers or direct (see his advertisement in this issue).

Wrigley points out that this edition contains 25 additional varieties, and 206 price changes, from the fourth edition three years ago. There are dozens of illustrations and Wrigley's numbering and classifying system, which has become standard for this series of stamps, is fully explained. A list of government departments using these issues is given, blackout cancellations are listed, and on the later overprinted officials quantities released are included for most stamps. It would be difficult to see how anyone could collect Canada's official stamps without this catalogue.

Auction News

H. R. Harmer second BNA auction in three months was held in New York on July 18 to 20. Classic and more recent Canada imperfs were in abundance, with several great rarities of the maritime provinces. Total realization was \$81,745, 30 per cent over the estimate.

A Newfoundland 1857 4d scarlet unused fetched \$1,145 despite faults; an Air Post 1931 unwatermarked set in imperf pairs and NH fetched \$725, and a 1933 Balbo on flown cover \$250.

In Canada, an 1851 3d red, used, sold at \$220; an 1851-55 3d red horizontal pair with OG went for \$500 despite faults. An 1857 ½d rose unused sold at \$190, and a used copy at \$130. An 1859 1c rose imperf block (Scott 14a) went for \$1,350 despite touching margins, and a 17c blue imperf pair, no gum, sold at \$1,250.

An 1864 2c rose with "27" cancel sold at \$37.50, and a 6c dark brown used fetched \$150; and a 5c gray OG went for \$190, an 8c mint blue-gray at \$90, and a 10c brown-red with OG at \$110.

A block of four \$1 Jubilee OG sold at \$625, a single \$3 OG at \$270, and a \$5 mint at \$330. A Quebec set in mint blocks of four sold at \$340.

TOPICS: THE BUSINESS SIDE

BNAPS: ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sam C. Nickle, 1208 Belavista Cr., Calgary, Alberta
Alfred P. Cook, Coy Glen Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
Jack Jevine, 2121-G North Hills Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27610
Leo J. LaFrance, Box 229, Ossining, N.Y. 10562
Nine sitting; three elected every year for a three-year term.
1970-1972 — Dr. R. A. Chaplin, S. S. Kenyon, Wilmer C. Rockett.
1971-1973 — James C. Lehr, James A. Pike, Robert H. Pratt.
1972-1974 — G. B. Llewellyn (chairman), C. R. McNeil, D. G. Rosenblat.

From the Secretary

JACK LEVINE
Raleigh, North Carolina

New Members

- 2809 Ayrton, Lawson F., 4052 Grapehill Avenue, Burlington, Ontario
2810 Berry, W. M., 3015 Whitmore Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan
2811 Campbell, Ronald D., 4010 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, Ontario
2812 Flatters, Frank G., Canada Post Office, Confederation Heights, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0B5
2813 Franklin, Dr. A., 965 Bay Street, Apt. 1806, Toronto 1, Ontario
2814 Groten, Arthur H., M.D., 3120 Schoolhouse Lane (Jeff A-10), Philadelphia, Pa. 19144
2815 Hanes, Arthur David, 231 Winnipeg Crescent, Curtis Park, New Brunswick
2816 Hart, Peter F., M.D., 125 Cottingham Street, Toronto 190, Ontario
2817 Hill, Thomas W., 318 Fisher Avenue, Apt. 6, Rockford, Illinois 61103
2818 Jackson, Ralph M., 75 Albert Street, Apt. 503, London 12, Ontario
2819 Mackie, G. Ronald, 318 Friendship Avenue, West Hill, Ontario
2820 Manning, Mrs. Judith, Box 28, Suite 1, Parkdale, R.R. 1, Armdale, N.S.
2821 Miess, Robert B., 19 Speid, Box 592, Lennoxville, Quebec
2822 Steer, Malcolm D., 86 Hawthorne Place, Montclair, New Jersey 07042
2823 Stephens, Gib, 868 Grosvenor Street, Woodstock, Ontario
2824 Therien, Dr. Normand, 255 Candiac, Apt. 12, Sherbrooke, Quebec
2825 Yager, W. R., 943 Garfield Street North, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 2N5

Applications Pending — "A" Group

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

- Brace, L. Stephen, 1400 S. Joyce Street, A-602, Arlington, Va. 22202
Braun, Alfons, 10731 King George Highway, Surrey, British Columbia
Gibbs, Charles F. Jr., 4374 Sandy Creek, Utica, Michigan 48087
Giles, O Earle, Port Williams, Kings County, Nova Scotia
Gronbeck-Jones, David, P.O. Box 239, Oromocto, New Brunswick
Laine, Edward W., 6541—30th Avenue, Montreal 409, Quebec
Levesque, Ulric, 716 Fifth Avenue, C.P. 684, La Pocatiere, Kamouraska, Quebec
Machin, Frank R., 985 Abbey Road, Victoria, British Columbia
Mark, Kenneth Y., 4592 West 2nd Avenue, Vancouver 8, British Columbia
McGuinness, Robert M., Box 443, Burns Lake, British Columbia
McLure, Gordon, 44 Greendell Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2M 2P8
Noakes, R. E., P.O. Box 5004, CFB Petawa, Ontario
Roan, John R., 34795 Mt. Blanchard Drive, Abbotsford, British Columbia
Rowe, C. Francis, 13A Winter Avenue, St. John's, Newfoundland
Scrimgeour, K. G., 227 Hanna Road, Toronto 17, Ontario
Servas, Frank Jr., 87—12 251st Street, Bellerose, New York 11426
Sweeten, Ronald John, R.R. 4, Trenton, Ontario
Teunissen, A. B., 46221 Airport Road, Chilliwack, British Columbia
Vanderburgh, George A., M.D., Base Hospital, CFB Borden, Ontario
Zrobok, Roman, 11503—128 Street, Edmonton 41, Alberta

Applications Pending — Group "B"

- Armstrong, Harold B., 1644 Rainsance Way, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109
Blaser, Mark, R.D. No. 1, Center Valley, Pennsylvania
Churley, Gerald Herbert, 221—220 Seevnth Street, New Westminster, B.C.
Compton, Richard A., 229 Ridgedale Road, Ithaca, New York 14850
Fiala, E. J., 15232—84 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5R 3X8
Guggenheim, Max, Leuengasse 2A, CH4000, Basel, Switzerland
Johnson, Charles, 51 Tunstall Avenue, Senneville, Quebec
Johnson, F. H., 16 Orchard Park Drive, West Hill, Ontario
Johnson, Peter K., 899 Alward Street, Prince George, British Columbia
Kalbfleisch, James G., 140 Manchester Road, Kitchener, Ontario
Kirby, Frank S., 9190 East Saanich Road, Sidney, British Columbia
MacLarty, Mrs. Joan K., 2515 Laurier Crescent, Prince George, B.C.
Murray, Alexander W., 45 Grenoble Drive, Apt. 1902, Don Mills, Ontario
McGuire, C. R., c/o Postal Museum, P.O. Department, Confederation Heights, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0B1

Nabut, William J., 8206 High School Road, Elkins Park, Pa. 19117
Perraton, Claude, 164 Roseval, Ste-Rose, Ville De Laval, Quebec
Powell, Reg. A., 4434 Steele's Avenue East, Milliken, Ontario
Ramsay, David James, 25 Fielding Crescent, Hamilton 54, Ontario
Stanton, Dr. R. G., Dept. of Computer Science, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Man. R3T 2N2
Stewart, C. D., 5026—6th Avenue, Delta, Vancouver, British Columbia
Stubens, Frederick R., 22 Brynston Road, Islington, Ontario
Templeton, R. L., P.O. Box 1537, St. John's, Newfoundland
Thorn, Jean, 1071 Cathedrale, Montreal 101, Quebec

Applications for Membership

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

- ANDERSON, Leon S., 619 Pine Haven, Houston, Texas 77024 (C) CAN—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and mint blocks. 1st Day covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint booklet panes and complete booklets. Federal, Provincial and Tax-Paid Revenues. Mint and used Airmails. Postal Stationery entires. Literature. Proofs and Essays. R.P.O., Territorial and Squared Circle cancellations. SPECIALTY — Bill Stamps. Proposed by E. A. Richardson (168).
- ARMCTRONG, George M. Jr., 510 Eder Ave., Wyckoff, N.J. 07481 (C) CAN, NFD, PROV — 19th century. Postal Stationery cut squares. Proposed by R. J. Woolley (359).
- BARNES, G. G., Box 111, Sunderland, Ont. (C-CX) CAN, NFD, P.E.I., N.S. — 19th and 20th century Mint, used booklet panes and complete booklets. Precancels. Federal and Provincial Revenues. Mint
- BARNES, H. L., Box 348, Buchans, Nfld. (DC-C) CAN, NFD — Mint and used postage. Coils. OHMS-G. MMint, used booklet panes and complete booklets. Precancels. Federal and Provincial Revenues. Mint and used Airmails. Dated copies 3c Small Queens. Proposed by J. Levine (L1).
- BOEHM, Col. C. R., 2623 Queenswood Drive, Victoria, B.C. (DC-C) CAN, NFD, PROV — Mint and used postage. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint, used booklet panes and complete booklets. Precancels. Mint, used, booklet panes and complete booklets. Precancels. Mint, used, semi-official Airmails and on cover. Proposed by K. M. Robertson (1535). Seconded by E. Brakefield-Moore (1826).
- BUCKLER, Lester H., 6 Riverside Blvd., Thornhill, Ont. (C-X) CAN, NFD, PROV — 19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Pre-stamp covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint booklet panes. Flag, 2 and 4-ring numeral cancellations. SPECIALTY — Registered Mail. Proposed by G. F. Hansen (2203).
- CASUCCIO, Samuel P., 6048 Yonge St., Willowdale, Ont. (DC-CX) CAN — 19th century. Pre-stamp, stampless and 1st Day Covers. Squared Circle cancellations. Proposed by G. F. Hansen (2203).
- CLARKE, A. J., 1327 Richmond Road, Burlington, Ont. (C) CAN, NFD, B.C., N.B., N.S. — Mint and used postage and mint blocks. Proposed by G. F. Hansen (2203).
- COWDREY, Carl W. H., 41 Atlantic Ave., Fitchburg, Mass. 01420 (C-C) CAN, NFD — Mint postage. Pre-stamp and stampless covers. Literature. Proposed by R. W. Lamson (145). Seconded by A. R. Thomas (1441).
- DAWE, William A., 3 Gooseberry Lane, St. John's, Nfld. (C) NFD — 19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. 1st Day and 1st Flight covers. Provincial Revenues. Mint and used Airmails. Slogan cancellations. Proposed by G. Olivier (2570). Seconded by R. H. Pratt (1982).
- DIBBLEY, Larry D., 1020 Garden Court, Windsor 16, Ont. (C) CAN, NFD, B.C., N.B., N.S. — 19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Current 1st Day covers. Ontario Revenues. Mint and used Airmails. Proposed by J. Levine (L1).
- SIBBET, D. E., 25 Ripley Crescent, Winnipeg, Man. R3T 0J3 (DC-X) CAN, NFD, PROV — 20th century mint and used postage and mint blocks. Pre-stamp and 1st Day covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. OHMS-G. Complete Booklets. Precancels. Christmas Seals. Federal and Provincial Revenues. Mint Airmails, Postal Stationery entires. SPECIALTY — Paper varieties (Elizabeth) and Tagged. Proposed by J. Levine (L1).
- STANLEY, W. J., P.O. Box 692, Brantford, Ont. (D) Production of Handbooks. Proposed by J. Levine (L1).
- SZEKER, Joseph F., 542 Queenston Rd., Apt. 708, Hamilton, Ont. (C-CX) CAN — 19th century. Prestamp covers. Squared Circles, Flag, Cork and Sea Post Office cancellations. SPECIALTY — Squared Circles. Proposed by J. Levine (L1).
- SQUIRES, Douglas J., 14 Ridge Road, St. John's, Nfld. (C-CX) NFD — 19th and 20th century mint postage. Precancels. Provincial Revenues. Mint Airmails. Postal Stationery entires. R.P.O. cancellations. Proposed by W. P. Taylor (2241). Seconded by G. Olivier (2570).
- TALMAN, John H., 74 O'Hara Ave., Toronto 3, Ont. (D) CAN, NFD, PROV — 19th and 20th century. SPECIALTY — Booklets. Proposed by D. Verity (2312).

Changes of Address

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

- 2375 Baird, Donald W., 442 Grandview Avenue, London, Ontario
2320 Cottenden, David G., P.O. Box 449, Bridgetown, Nova Scotia
L164 Hedley, Richard P., 28 West Fourth Street, Dunkirk, New York 14048
1669 Kenwood, Clifford W., 18 Linda Street, Ormond Beach, Florida 32074
146 Lee, Chester E., 12702 Abra Drive, Rancho Bernardo, San Diego, Calif. 92128
1412 Smith, Joseph Raymond, 38 Evergreen Rd., Lowestoft, Suffolk, England
2606 Stevens, Patricia (Mrs. Henry), P.O. Box 417, Alton, N.H. 03809

Collecting Interests

McGUIRE, C. R., c/o National Postal Museum, P.O. Dept., Confederation Heights, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0B1 — CAN, NFD, PROV — 19th and 20th century used postage and blocks. Coils. OHMS-G. Used booklet panes. Used Airmails. Cut-squares. RPO, 2 and 4-ring, squared circle cancellations.

Resignation Accepted

Fowler, Alan J.

Resignation Received

1933 Button, Maurice Oxley, 207 Sparks Street Mall, Ottawa, Ontario

Deceased

1012 Lukow, Stanley, 472 McKenzie St., Winnipeg, Manitoba

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, July 1, 1972	1193	
NEW MEMBERS, August 1, 1972	17	1210
RESIGNATION, August 1, 1972	1	
DECEASED, August 1, 1972	1	2
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, August 1, 1972		1208

THE LIBRARY

Thanks to George Wegg's promptness, we were able to run a last-minute item in the August issue on what may prove to be one of the major decisions BNAPS has had to face in recent years: whether or not to donate the BNAPS library to the National Postal History Museum in Ottawa.

While the matter will come up for full and open discussion at the Newfoundland convention this month, some letters on the question have been passed along to the editor. Most are in favour of our retaining the library at Lively, Ontario, under the excellent direction of librarian Michael Squirell.

Here are some of the comments so far:

- "I have written president Sam Nickle expressing a negative opinion on handing over the library to Ottawa. . . . I feel there have to be pretty good reasons and safeguards before this valuable material is taken out of our direct control."
- "Imagine the bureaucracy we may have to go through to get a loan of our own books. I suppose while Mr. Kraemer is there it could be ok, but what about the future?"
- "(The transfer) will in no way occur unless we have too much power on one side of the table. There is a tremendous investment in (the library) . . . and in no way do I think the Society would see its way clear to releasing it to the museum in Ottawa—there are just too many extenuating circumstances involved to go the route suggested by the group that met at Edmonton."
- "I am in favor of turning our library over to Ottawa if the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada does the same. But the Royal's library is small, since most of it was destroyed by fire a few years ago."
- "I pointed out that 45% of BNAPS membership are from the U.S., 10% from Great Britain and a smattering elsewhere, and only 45% are Canadians. It is *not* a Canadian society; neither is it a U.S. society. Therefore there are problems that would have to be worked out before I, for one, would agree."
- "Slow down—don't move too fast. We need our library and have got along thus far on our own. Let's make sure we are right before we proceed."

Notes from the Librarian

MICHAEL SQUIRELL
Lively, Ontario

The book *The Postal History of British Columbia* is slated for publication this month; members wishing to see a prospectus of this major work in postal history should write George Melvin, 3400 21st Avenue, Vernon, B.C., enclosing a self-addressed envelope. The many chapters were contributed by well-known B.C. philatelists, with the forgery section by E. A. Smythies.

I have only one response to data about Andre Frodel, the west-coast forger; I would like to know if any members had actual

correspondence with him, and what methods he used for selling his wares—advertisements and the like. This is needed to round out the library files on him.

Members who have the new library list (available from the Handbook Committee) are requested to use the numbering code when ordering articles or books, as well as the subject classification.

Thanks to contributions from Bob Woolley, Alfred Cook and others we have again

(continued on page 214)

AN EDITORIAL

Canada Post (as the Post Office like to be known now) will hold a conference in Ottawa next month with 200 of its biggest users from across Canada. It hopes to hear from them about how it can improve its service. It's unlikely that any philatelists will be present; philatelists don't really "use" the postal system in the sense of sending out vast quantities of mail—but there's growing evidence that the postal authorities are using the philatelists. And perhaps the taxpayers.

If Canada Post wants input from collectors as well as users, it might wish to consider these thoughts—which are being heard with growing frequency in the Toronto area, and probably elsewhere:

1 The National Postal History Museum is carrying on an aggressive campaign to round up material for exhibit later on. Its latest press release describes nine major contributions; one of them alone has an estimated value, says the release, of "several thousands dollars." Museum manager James Kraemer had earlier stated that tax concessions would be given to Canadian donors.

This poses an interesting question: who evaluates the contributions? In fact, who decides whether an item is worth accepting to begin with?

Kraemer told *Topics* earlier this year he intends to set up a museum advisory board, comprising experts in philately and museum management. Presumably the philatelic experts would have, among their duties, the task of passing judgment on these points. But to our knowledge such a board has not yet been established; meanwhile contributions continue to flow in. Tax concessions may be fine, but when they are given without proper control it's a matter of concern to the taxpayers-at-large.

2 The number of special and commemorative stamps has grown from six over a 10-year period (1940 to 1950) to around 15 a year since 1968, with two bonanza years, 1964 (21 stamps) and 1970 (27, including 12 at Christmas). Is the post office really anxious to commemorate events by bringing such stamps to the attention of the broad public?

Gorden Vaughn, a Maritimer writing in *Linn's Stamp News*, thinks otherwise: "The ordinary taxpayer in Canada is not getting a fighting chance to use a commemorative stamp on a letter under the present system." The system is to print so few commemoratives that the average post office is sold out of them in a day or two. "If the idea behind a commemorative stamp is to put a message across to the public, this is not being accomplished with such small printings," he says.

And he adds, "If the idea is to sell stamps to collectors without providing a service for the money paid, this is, of course, being accomplished."

The latest evidence of this is the four earth-sciences stamps' which come in small sheets of 16 15c stamps; the small format encourages collectors to buy the full sheet, at \$2.40. But in the margins, Canada Post has cleverly placed a two-line inscription, which turns up in four different positions. Thus the avid collector must buy all four sheets—at a cost of \$9.60. Placing the inscription in all four places has no justification, other than to pull more money out of the pockets of collectors, whose religious devotion to their hobby wouldn't permit them to indulge in a "buyers' strike". It is a cynical and inexcusable variation on a stamp issue.

3 Canada Post, like its counterparts in other countries, goes to great lengths to try to prevent stamp oddities from getting into public hands—things like misprints and other errors. This is to prevent speculation.

Yet *Linn's* reported recently that the 25-cent booklet of 8c stamps with the Ottawa tagging, issued on December 30 and now out of print, is no longer available at the philatelic bureau in Ottawa. *Linn's* says the remaining 500 booklets were sold in bulk to a single dealer. It's obvious that the dealer bought them as a speculation; it's equally obvious that the post office department is aware of this. It might consider giving collectors a break by limiting sales of bulk quantities on items which are in short supply.

E. H. Hausmann

MAIL FROM OUR MEMBERS

Flag cancellations

I was interested to read John Wilsdon's account of how Canada's most recent flag cancellation came into being. (June-July *Topics*.)

There are a couple of points, however, which I should like to make in the interest of accuracy. First, the cancellation as depicted was in use for *four* days only, viz.: September 28 to October 1, 1967. Member Wayne Curtis reported use on the final day in the *Canadian Philatelist* (January/February, 1969).

Secondly, a similar cancellation, but minus the flag staff and with the addition of four short horizontal bars located between the Expo symbol and the lettering, was in general use in Ottawa starting on September 1, 1967 and probably continuing until the end of that month. Lacking the staff it cannot be considered a flag cancellation. Other differences include different shaped lettering in the indicia which reads 'Ottawa Ontario Canada' while 'Canada' is dropped in the case of the flag cancel.

— M. B. Dicketts

Prices on postal stationery

I was much interested in H. W. Harrison's January article on the 1968 revalued envelopes but am confused at discrepancies in the listings and in the valuation between this article and Webb's 1971 catalogue.

1. Webb's catalogue lists:

EN 89b 5c on 3c No. 8 Canadian scene precan.

EN 91a 6c on 4c No. 10 Canadian scene, and

EN 93a 6c on 5c No. 10 Canadian scene as having been printed by International Envelope Co. with the open "c". Harrison lists:

6c on 5c No. 8 (Webb's EN 93)

6c on 5c No. 10 (Webb's EN 92)

6c on 4c No. 10 (Webb's EN 91a)

Were five different envelopes actually overprinted with the open "c"?

2. Harrison gives the numbers printed by Gasparo of the 6c on 4c no. 10 as 882,000 and by International as 747,000; yet I obtained the Gasparo for 20 cents mint and am being asked \$10 for a used (and torn

envelope) copy of the International, 6c on 4c no. 10. Is this in fact the relative availability of these two envelopes?

3. I wonder if anyone has the numbers printed for EN 88, 89, 89a compared to 91 or for EN 92, 92a compared to EN 93, 93a? I have been offered EN 89 5c on 3c no. 8 Canadian scene for \$10 mint yet paid only 20 cents for EN 89b and c. They are all Gasparo printings. EN 88, 89, 89a, 92, 92a are not priced in Webb's catalogue.

4. I am interested in the source of a different surcharge type on post card P103 (Webb's catalogue). The differences are as follows:

	regular	other
overall diameter	23mm	23mm
height of letters	2mm	2½mm
height of numeral 5	5mm	4mm
stance of numeral 5	slanted	straight
distance of overprint from stamp imprint	2mm	9mm

Was this other type of revaluation used on any other cards? Is it a trial printing or just a new one, or what? It was valued in a recent auction catalogue at \$25.

— B. Connor Johnson, Ph.D.

Semi-official air stamps

Semi-Official Air Mail collecting seems to be widespread enough for BNAPS to have a study group formed. Recently I needed some advice and had to use FBI techniques to locate other collectors of this material. I found the members most helpful and willing to give advice, once I was able to locate them.

I would like any serious SOA collector to send me his name and I will make up a roster and send copies to everyone on the list. Perhaps a little group letter or the like could result. Since the material is so hard to find and so expensive, perhaps we can help each other.

The list will be restricted to those whose names appear on it, and I am willing to take the responsibility for a first communication. I'm also wide open to any suggestions.

— Benjamin L. Marcus
11 Dendron Road
Peace Dale, R.I.
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LIBRARY *continued*

enlarged our library. Among the items received:

- Six issues of The London Philatelist 1943, 1949, 1954, 1960 editions of the Holmes handbook
- 50 auction catalogues including Argenti, Reford; with prices
- The American Philatelist, BNA issue, Sept. 1951
- Fipex catalogue with awards listed
- Canadian Railroad Cancellations, 1944 edition — T. P. G. Shaw
- Third edition, Wrigley's perforated officials handbook
- Standard Canadian Revenue Catalogue, 1945
- Canadian Philatelic Yearbook, 1925
- Development of Postal Rates in Canada, 1763-1851 — W. E. D. Halliday
- Postal History of Canada — Frank Campbell
- and many articles, including Cadbury's on Canada's coils, Timpany's on official stamps, Piggott's humorous piece on illustrated covers, and "The Canadian Round Table" explaining the Montreal and Ottawa printings of the Small Queens.

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CANADIAN LITERATURE: Some obsolete material, send for list. R. J. Woolley, 1520 Bathurst Street, Apt. 205, Toronto 10.

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NEWFOUNDLAND *continued*

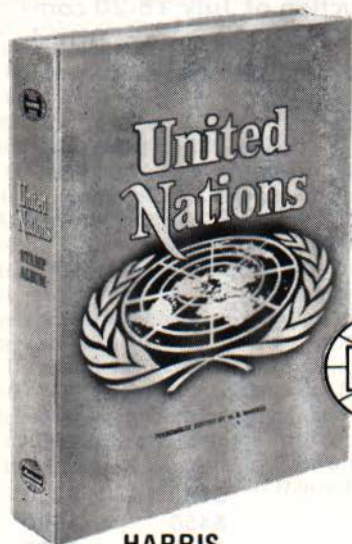
Either the same rubber stamp was used over a period of years, or all values were overprinted around 1871 at one time. I am inclined to feel the latter assumption is the most likely. If this is so, all the pence Specimen stamps should be in the bright rose color of the last printing. I should like to see any other values that exist overprinted thus.

It is interesting to note that another specimen overprint in purple in serified letters 19 mm by 2.5 mm appeared on stamps issued in 1877 and earlier, but so far as is known, not on any pence-issue stamps. This is interesting in conjunction with covers. Newfoundland entered the Universal Postal Union on January, 1879, and these overprints may be related to this fact.

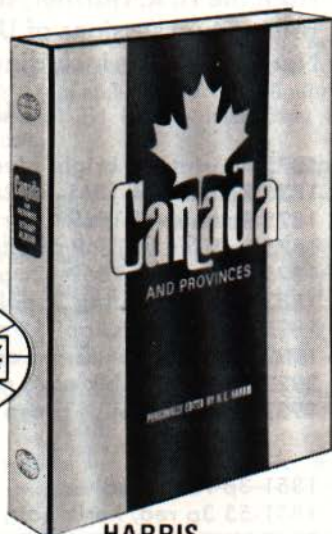
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1875 Re Issue of 1869 2c brown, used	\$ 80	\$ 92.50
1875 Re Issue of 1869 6c blue, part o.g.	\$325	\$ 340
1875 Re Issue of 1869 12c green, o.g.	\$425	\$ 450
1883 Special Printing 2c pale red brown, 1.h. ...	\$175	\$ 240
1895 Trans-Mississippi \$2 orange brown, o.g.	\$475	\$ 650
1909 Bluish paper 6c red orange, 1.h.	\$325	\$ 550
1922-25 50c P.L. blk of 6, n.h.	\$100	\$ 125
1929 Kansas 8c olive green PL. blk of 4, n.h.	\$170	\$ 220

CANADA

1851 3p red, used	\$180	\$220
1851-55 3p red, horiz pair, o.g.	\$450	\$500
1857 ½p rose, unused	\$180	\$190
1857 ½p rose, used	\$100	\$130
1888-93 5c gray, imperf pair, o.g.	\$ 95	\$190
1897 Jubilee \$1, blk of 4, o.g.	\$520	\$625
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That 1860 commemorative

I just read with interest E. A. Smythies' *Counterfeit Corner* piece on the McLeod made-to-order cancellations on New Brunswick remainders. To my chagrin, I then realized that the 17c stamp which I had submitted to illustrate my article in the April issue is, in all likelihood, one of these McLeod items.

It bears the Paquetville strike, dated SP 6 64. While the date is not one of those listed by Smythies, it falls in the same week with the last one he lists (SP 9).

On the other side of the situation, an article appeared in *Linn's Stamp News* (August 14, 1972) indicating that the world's first commemorative stamp was likely the 1871 locomotive issue of Peru, but mentioning several other prior contenders for the honor, the earliest of which appeared in 1861.

If my contention is justified, that the 1860 New Brunswick 17c was the first British royal visit commemorative, then perhaps it could also have been the first commemorative stamp of any sort, in the world.

— Henry H. Heins

Ottawa tagging

Are any BNAPSers finding ways of mounting the Ottawa tagged stamps in their collections in such a way that they are protected from other stamps in their collections? I have found that this tagging bleeds through the glassine pockets in my stock books and also through the covers in the booklets of Ottawa tagged stamps. I would appreciate any ideas the members may have.

And while I'm asking for personal favors, would any members have a cover dated between 1846 and 1848 from Manitowaning, Ontario? I'd like to hear from them very much.

— Michael Squirell

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