



# BNA TOPICS

Official Journal of The British North America Philatelic Society

# BUYING

*In last month's advertisement we mentioned that there was some evidence of a levelling trend in B.N.A. prices. Attendance at further sales tends to confirm this suspicion. This doesn't necessarily have to be a bad thing. In fact it could be a good thing, at least until we can see where the economy is going in the coming year.*

*In any case this levelling trend has not affected our buying policy here. We are still offering today's full value for good collections. The only change that we are making is that we will not make an offer today and leave it stand for weeks or months for future acceptance. Offers are made for immediate acceptance and cash payment — deferred decisions are subject to re-assessment if necessary. We think that this is only common sense in today's uncertainties.*

*Meanwhile, if you have a good collection to liquidate, we are interested buyers and solicit a letter or call from you.*

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- 1851 — 6d slate violet/laid paper. ENORMOUS used single of this stamp — shows portion of adjoining stamp at base. Maximum margins — a remarkable stamp. B.P.A. certificate. S.G.2. .... **\$1,000**
- 1852-7 — 3d red/medium wove EXCEPTIONAL CORNER copy of this stamp lightly struck with black target. Lovely stamp! B.P.A. certificate. S.G. 10. .... **\$705**
- 1852-7 — 6d greenish grey/medium wove. SUPERB used copy of this stamp with light cancel and ENORMOUS margins. Shows a small portion of the imprint at top left. B.P.A. certificate. S.G. 13 ..... **\$1,000**
- 1852-7 — 6d greenish grey/medium wove. Fine single, lightly struck with black numeral "5" of Brantford on neat 1858 envelope to Hannah Goodale, Wyoming County, U.S. Most attractive. S.G. 13 ..... **\$880**
- 1859 — 12½c pale yellow green mint CORNER PAIR of this stamp with full sheet margin on two sides. Small perf fault at left but a most attractive and rare item. S.G. 40 ..... **\$470**
- 1859 — 10c purple and a horizontal imprint pair of the 1c rose (slight crease) paying the 12½c rate (underpaid ½c) "pr. Canadian Mail" from Whitby to Dundee, Scotland in 1866. Despite slight crease a very rare item! ..... **\$565**
- 1866 — (June 11th) envelope with original enclosure from Montreal to Jamaica bearing 1c rose, 5c red and 17c blue cancelled in black. Few small perf. faults but a Very Rare combination /destination. .... **\$705**
- 1868 — 1c red brown/thin crisp paper. Most attractive, if slightly o/c BLOCK OF FOUR of this stamp in MINT condition. Rare multiple. S.G. 47. .... **\$880**
- 1868 — 12½c pale dull blue. Extremely fine mint mounted Block of Nine of this stamp. Minute tear but a RARE and DESIRABLE multiple. S.G. 62. .... **\$1300**

## BRITISH COLUMBIA/VANCOUVER ISLAND

- 1860 — 2½d pale dull red. Imperforate. Very fine unused, full margined example of this RARE stamp. R.P.S. certificate. S.G. 1 ..... **\$1050**

## NEW BRUNSWICK

- 1851 — 3d dull red. Single cancelled with m/s and blue grid on entire letter "via Halifax" to ST. JOHN, NEWFOUNDLAND in 1854. Very small faults but an EXTREMELY RARE USAGE. S.G. 2. .... **\$610**
- 1851 — 6d mustard yellow. Fine used single cancelled by a full strike of the RED straight line "PAID". S.G. 2b. .... **\$530**
- 1851 — 6d olive yellow. Fine used single of this stamp cancelled with the RED straight line "PAID". B.P.A. certificate. S.G. 4. .... **\$435**
- 1851 — 1s reddish mauve. Fine used, lightly cancelled example of this RARE stamp with three good margins and clear of design on the fourth. S.G. 5 ..... **\$1050**

## NEWFOUNDLAND

- 1857 — 4d scarlet vermilion fine used, very lightly cancelled single of this RARE stamp. R.P.S. certificate. S.G. 4. .... **\$1050**
- 1857 — 6d scarlet vermilion fine used, lightly postmarked single — very scarce in this condition. S.G. 6. B.P.A. certificate. .... **\$765**

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# BNA TOPICS



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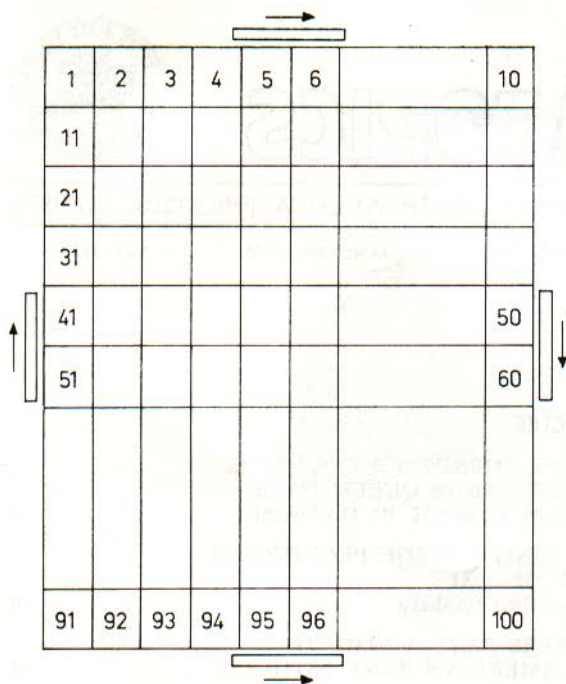
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### III. 1

*Layout of the Large Queen Plates, showing stamp positions and imprints*

## Plates, Imprints and Counters OF THE LARGE QUEEN ISSUE

BY H. E. AND H. W. DUCKWORTH

Information relating to the plates, imprints and counters of the Large Queens has been collected by the late Winthrop S. Boggs (*The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, 1945) and by Robson Lowe (*Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume V*, 1973). Additional information appears in other books and in various articles and auction catalogues. In this note we (a) review the existing information, (b) correct portions of it, (c) add slightly to it and (d) draw attention to missing information.

Each denomination of the Large Queens was printed from a plate comprising 100 subjects, arranged in 10 rows of 10 each. Each plate carried four examples of an imprint—one on each side—in the positions shown in figure 1. In addition to the imprints, several of the plates are known to have carried the value of the stamp (in words) in the top margin, to the left of the imprint. These written-out values are known as "counters".

Three different imprints were used for the issue. Following the terminology of Boggs, these are:

Type III — British American BANK NOTE Co. Montreal & Ottawa.

Type IV — BRITISH AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. MONTREAL & OTTAWA.

Type V — British American Bank Note Co. Montreal.

Attention was drawn to the imprints by Clifton A. Howes (*Canada—Its Postage Stamps and Postal History*, 1911) who sug-

gested that the Type IV imprint was used for all values. The correct identification of the imprint(s) for each value was later

made by R. W. T. Lees-Jones (*London Philatelist*, Volume LIV, page 103, 1945), who also provided most of our present knowledge relating to the counters.

### Half-Cent

Several large mint pieces (e.g. Robson Lowe *Encyclopaedia*, Volume V, page 185) indicate that the plate of the ½c denomination carried the Type IV imprint. These also show that the counter consists of the words "HALF CENT" in shaded capitals, located directly above positions 2 and 3.

### One Cent

Several single stamps (e.g. *Boggs*, volume I, page 243) and larger pieces show that the plate for the 1c value carried the Type III imprint, but there is no piece known to the authors which shows the left top margin, where the counter might be expected to be located. There are two blocks, however (positions 7, 8, 17, 18: Dale-Lichtenstein sale no. 7, January 30, 1970, lot 1213, H. R. Harmer Inc., New York; and positions 9, 10, 19, 20: Firth sale, November 17, 1971, lot 78, J. N. Sissons Ltd., Toronto) which show that no counters are located to the right of the top imprint.

Incidentally, the shade and centering of these two blocks suggest that they were once adjacent parts of the same sheet.

### Two Cent

There is considerable material (e.g. Firth sale, lot 105) showing that the Type III imprint was used with the 2c plate, but only two pieces are known to us which shed any light on the counters. One is an upper

left corner block of six with the Bothwell watermark (Reford Sale No. 1, March 1, 1950, lot 536, Harmer, Rooke and Co., New York) which shows no counter above positions 1 or 2. The other is a top marginal imprint block of four (*Maple Leaves*, volume 11, page 300) which locates the major re-entry at position 7 and shows no counter above that position.

### Three Cent

*Boggs* states that the 3c value was printed from two plates, carrying Type III and Type IV imprints, respectively—a statement which also appears in the Robson Lowe *Encyclopaedia*. Although there is ample evidence for the Type III imprint (e.g. *Boggs*, volume 1, page 243), we know of no examples of the Type IV imprint with this value, nor of circumstantial reference to it.

Furthermore, Lees-Jones, who is the original source of most of our certain knowledge concerning the Large Queen imprints, assigns only Type III to the 3c value. Pending further evidence to the contrary, we shall assume that examples of the Type IV imprint do not exist and that only one plate was used for this value.

Both F. Jarrett (*Standard British North America Catalogue*, 1929, page 54) and Lees-Jones state that the 3c plate carried a shaded counter. We have not seen the piece(s) on which these statements are based but presume that the counter is to be found to the left of the top imprint.

### Five Cent

This is the only denomination of the

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## IMPRINTS AND COUNTERS FOR THE LARGE QUEEN ISSUE

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Denomination	Imprint	Counter
½c	Type IV	Shaded, above positions 2 and 3.
1c	Type III	If present, not to right of top imprint.
2c	Type III	If present, not above positions 1, 2 or 7.
3c	Type III	Shaded, in top margin.
5c	Type V	Shaded, above two stamps in top margin.
6c—Plate I	Type IV	Shaded, above positions 2 and 3.
—Plate II	Type III	Shaded, in top margin, not above position 1.
12½c	Type IV	Unshaded, above positions 1, 2, 3 and 4.
15c	Type IV	Not present.

---

Large Queen issue which bears the Type V imprint. In view of its late appearance (October 1, 1875), this is not surprising, since the same imprint was also used with the Montreal printings of the Small Queen issue which began in 1874 (*Boggs*, volume 1, page 282). Numerous examples of the 5c imprint exist (e.g. *Boggs*, volume 1, page 244). The plate also carries a shaded counter, "FIVE CENTS", above two stamps in the top margin (e.g. Jarrett sale, February 3, 1960, Lot 255, J. N. Sissons Ltd., Toronto): this is presumably, but not certainly, located above stamps 2 and 3.

### Six Cent

Charles Lathrop Pack (*Collectors Club Philatelist*, January 1931, page 11; and *London Philatelist*, volume XL, 1931, page 183) first reported that two plates were used for the 6c value and subsequently Lees-Jones correctly assigned their imprints. In Plate I each stamp (except those in the first column) has a guide dot in the lower left corner and the imprint is Type IV.

In Plate II (also, except for the first column) the guide dot is below the "S" of "SIX" and the imprint is Type III. Figure 2 illustrates the guide dots and the imprints. By what must be a typographical error, these imprint assignments have been interchanged in *Boggs'* listing and this error has been perpetuated in the Robson Lowe

*Encyclopaedia*.

We know of no full examples of counters, but *Boggs* (volume 1, page 243) illustrates a single stamp from Plate I with a portion of what must be a shaded counter. In addition, we have three other examples from each of Plate I and Plate II.

The position of the counter for Plate I can be located by making use of characteristic features of the stamps shown in figure 3. The stamp on the left has a prominent dot in the top right frame and the stamp on the right has a slight, but distinctive, re-entry. These two characteristics were described by H. W. Harrison in an article on plate varieties of the 6c Large Queen (*Maple Leaves*, volume 9, page 25), and they occur in the second and third stamps, respectively, of a mint strip of four (Reford sale No. 2, October 5, 1950, lot 822; and Firth sale, lot 188) in which the first stamp is from the left margin. (The fourth stamp in the strip shows a more pronounced re-entry).

Thus, this strip must be from the top row and the stamps in figure 3 must be positions 2 and 3. The counter drawn in figure 3 is copied from a mint block of six of the 6c Small Queen (Reford sale no. 1, lot 654) and matches the traces of counters on our six examples. We presume that the shaded counter for Plate II is also above posi-



GUIDE DOT

Plate I - Type IV imprint



GUIDE DOT

Plate II - Type III imprint

Ill. 2: Guide dots and imprints for the two plates of the 6c Large Queen.



# SIX CENTS



positions two & three

*Ill. 3.: Characteristic features of positions two and three in Plate I of the 6c Large Queen, and bottom portions of the counter located above these positions. The drawing of the counter was copied from an example from the 6c Small Queen, as described in the text.*

tions 2 and 3, but we have no proof of this.

We know, however, that the first portion of the counter is not above position 1. It may be significant that our six examples of counters are all on post-1869 printings. This allows for the possibility that some stamps were printed before the counters were added to the plates.

### Twelve and One-Half Cents

There is material extant (e.g. Firth sale, lots 232, 233 and 234) which shows that the Type IV imprint was used with this value and that the counter, "TWELVE & HALF CENTS", extended above positions 1, 2, 3 and 4. Unlike the counters that are known for the other Large Queens, however, the 12½c counter is unshaded.

### Fifteen Cents

This denomination carries the Type IV imprint but, as L. Gerald Firth has stated (*Canada—The Fifteen Cents of 1868, 1963*), it has no counter. Both of these facts are illustrated by an imperforate block of 20

in the Dale-Lichtenstein sale no. 10 (December 8, 1970, lot 662).

### Summary

The facts discussed above are tabulated in the chart. As promised at the start, this information (a) constitutes a review of the evidence relating to the plates, imprints and counters of the Large Queens issue, (b) corrects erroneous published information relating to the 6c imprints, (c) locates the position of the 6c Plate I counter and establishes the existence of the Plate II counter and (d) draws attention to the lack of evidence relating to the use of the Type IV imprint with the 3c value, to the presence or absence of 1c and 2c counters and to the location of the counters on the 3c, 5c and 6c Plate II denominations.

**Acknowledgments:** We are grateful to Mr. R. W. T. Lees-Jones for making available to one of us (H.E.D.) his notes for the article referred to above, which appeared in the 1945 London Philatelist. We are also indebted to Mr. Lorne Coulson who took the photographs for Figures 2 and 3.



## The King George V Provisional Issue of 1932

*By Fred Stulberg*

This stamp (ill. 1) is probably the most enigmatic of any issued by the Post Office of Canada. It went on sale on June 24, 1931 and was of the Admiral design despite the fact that Admiral stamps of this 3c denomination had not been printed for at least five years prior to this date. Also, two other issues of this same value but of different design were in common use during the intervening period. To add to the confusion, the stamps were perforated differently in each direction and the number issued was never disclosed.

The reason for this stamp is easy to explain. A change in postal regulations, effective July 1, 1931, raised the normal domestic letter rate from 2c to 3c. Regulations dictated that stamps paying this rate must be red in color. All 3c stamps of the Scroll issue of 1928 had apparently been used up and none of this color or value had been prepared for the Arch issue of 1930 because the domestic letter rate had changed to 2c at that time. The Post Office must have had a stock of these Admiral stamps in storage and put them into use as provisionals. The big question is, "Where did this stock of stamps come from?"

The story starts in 1924 when a small quantity of Admiral coil sheets of the first printing, die I, (imperf x 8) of the 1c yellow, 2c green and 3c red (ill. 2) found their way to the philatelic market. Their presence in uncut sheet form was rightfully considered a "favor" issue. There was a public outcry and soon afterwards — likely as a peace offering — the Post Office Department, only through its philatelic branch, gave collectors the chance to purchase imperforate sheets of the same denominations, but of the Die II second printing. These, too, were condemned and the rumblings of philatelic discontent persisted.

In 1926 the coil sheets were finally reissued. Like the imperforates of two years earlier (but unlike the first coil sheets) these were the die II second printing and available through the philatelic branch only. Also, the 3c denomination was not issued and the Post Office Department gave plate destruction as the reason for the short set. This proved to be the last year for Admiral stamps — that is to say until 1931 when a maverick issue appeared. It was 3c red, second printing, die II, perforated

12 x 8. The question again arises, "Where did this stock of stamps come from?"

It is unlikely that these were printed from a new or existing plate because sheets of stamps so produced would be imperforate and there would be no reason to perforate them differently in each direction. Similarly, if a stock of imperforate sheets were in storage then they, too, would be perforated the same in both directions before being shipped to post offices throughout the country. Therefore, a large stock of coil sheets, imperf x 8, of this stamp must have been available for this provisional issue. Again, "Where did this stock of stamps come from?"

If we go back to 1926 when the last Admiral stamp was issued we find that, on July 1, the domestic letter rate went from 3c to 2c and a red stamp of this new denomination was needed. The Post Office still had a supply of regular sheets of the 3c stamp on hand and decided to revalue them by means of an overprint. It is well known that this turned into an exercise in futility and wastage was exceedingly high. If, during this dilemma, the Post Office was getting ready to issue the aforementioned coil sheets, there would be a strong inclination to withhold the 3c red value just in case they would be needed for postage. After all, a precedent had already been established when coil sheets of the 2c + 1c War Tax had been perforated 12 horizontally, in July 1916, to provide urgently

needed 3c stamps (ill. 3).

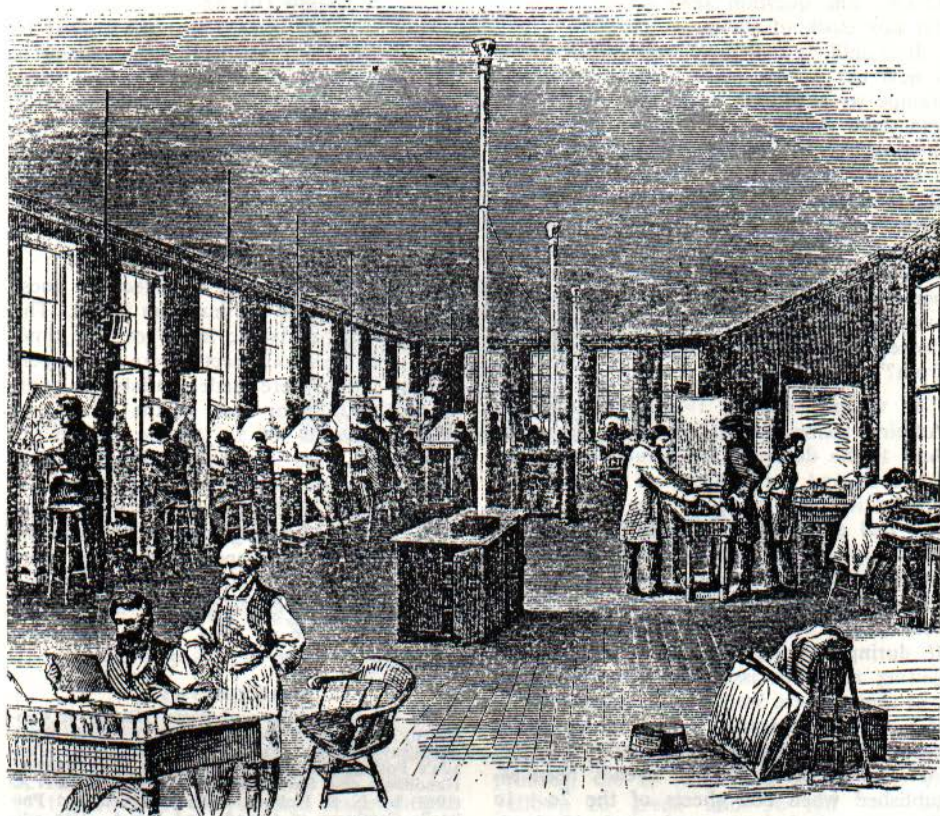
Thus it would appear that the answer to the question that we have been asking is that the missing 3c value of the coil sheet issue of 1926 and the provisional issue of 1931 are one and the same stamp. They were withheld from issue as a contingency measure and when they were not used, they could not be offered to philatelists. After all, had it not been announced that they did not exist? Obviously, they did!

If this is true, then an educated guess can be made as to the numbers issued. The only "special philatelic issue" of that time, other than the coil sheets, were the imperforates. These were made available in numbers of 50,000 for each of the 1c and 2c values, and 100,000 for the 3c. When the coil sheets were issued there were 100,000 stamps of each of the 1c and 2c and, of course, none of the 3c. If, however, quantities of this value had been prepared in the same ratio as the imperforates, then there would have been 200,000. It is likely not a coincidence that the catalogue value of the provisional issue of 1931 is the cost of a stamp of an issue of this quantity.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada by Winthrop S. Boggs; Standard British North America Catalogue (1929) by Fred Jarrett; Canada's Postage Stamps by Doug and Mary Patrick; Handbook and Catalogue of Canada and B.N.A. (1943) by L. S. Holmes; Holmes' Specialized Philatelic Catalogue of Canada and B.N.A., 11th edition; Scotts Postage Stamp Catalogue, Volume I, (1975).





LETTER ENGRAVING ROOM.

## Harper's pays a visit to the American Bank Note Company

*(another portion of the February, 1862 article in Harper's New Monthly Magazine; the same premises were earlier occupied by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson, the printers who made the first Canadian stamps in 1851.)*

These rollers are in a sort the types from which a portion of a bank note is "set up." The selection and arrangement of them for any particular bank belongs to the Modeling Department. When a person wishes a note or series of notes prepared, he must first show that the bank is legally established, and that he is authorized to procure its plates. Without this precaution the Company will not undertake the work. In designing a note there are several points to

be considered. The various denominations must all be different in appearance, and none of them must resemble any note of any other bank. Each must combine the various kinds of work adopted as securities against frauds, and must, moreover, present a handsome appearance. Then a bank frequently wishes its notes to have some special adaptation to its title or location.

A "Farmer's Bank" will naturally wish an agricultural scene to appear on its notes;

a "Merchant's Bank" will wish a commercial; an "Artisan's Bank" a mechanical scene; and so on.

Then there will be prepossessions in respect to portraits. If the directors are Democrats, they will probably wish Jefferson or Jackson, Douglas or Wright; if Republicans, Lincoln or Seward, Scott or Chase. An Eastern bank will likely wish Webster, a Western one Clay, a Southern one Calhoun.

The agent examines the portfolios containing proofs of the dies in the possession of the Company. He has ample scope for choice, for there are some 20,000 of them. Of these probably 5,000 are vignettes, 5000 portraits and emblematical figures, and 10,000 checks and counters. Aided by the officers of the Company, who take care that in combination and arrangement the notes of each bank shall be easily distinguishable from those of any other, this part of the plate is agreed upon.

Then the general style and arrangement of the lettering is settled, and a sketch of the note is made. The vignettes, portraits,

checks, and counters are now put upon the plate in their proper places by the transferring machine, and the plate is passed to the Letter Engraving Room, where the lettering is performed by hand. Here also is room for the display of artistic talent, for a good and bad lettered line differ almost as much as a good and a bad vignette or portrait.

The Lettering Room employs a much larger number of artists than the Pictorial Room, because the lettering of each note must be to a great extent peculiar to it, while vignettes or portraits may be used, in different combinations, upon any one of a thousand. Here also the principle of division of labor comes in. One man's forte is German text; that of another is ornamental letters; that of a third is script. Each executes that part in which he excels, and the combined result of their skill appears on every note.

Our plate is now finished: the main one, that is, which is to be printed in black; for most bank notes now have the back and a

*(continued on page 20)*

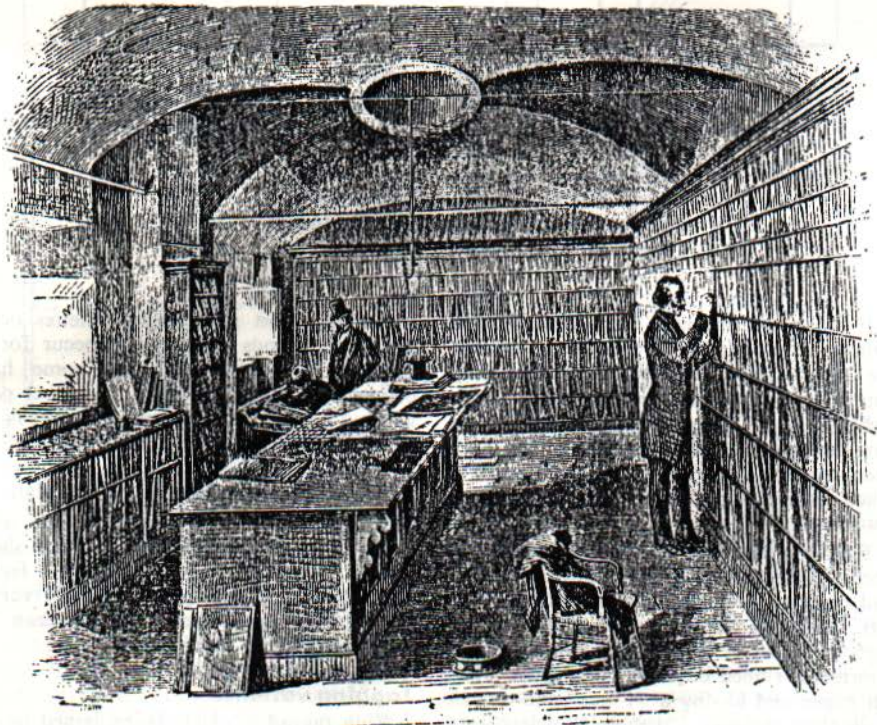


PLATE ROOM.

# varieties of the 25c pictorial cover design booklets

BY GREG WALEN



- 1 — 6c top frame line missing or faded.  
2 — 6c corner frame line missing.  
3 — 6c bottom frame gaps.



- 4 — 1c LR corner frame missing.  
5 — 1c LL corner frame missing.  
6 — 1c left bottom frame missing.

If you are a specialist of *Centennial Definitives* or a collector of Canadian varieties, the 25c design cover booklets should keep you busy for a long time. Varieties usually occur in the 25c booklets with OP-2 tagging and white sealing strips. There have been varieties reported in the booklets with black sealing strips but these have not been confirmed.

I have a suspicion that the varieties that occurred because of worn plates have stopped before the end of the life of the booklets. This can be backed up with the fact that the booklet with OP-2 tagging, high fluorescent-ribbed cover, 8c stamps on whitish paper and having a 71 mm pane do not have plate varieties and those booklets were the last out of the vending machines.

For the most part, these varieties occur for short periods only. Some occur for as few as 40 booklets whereas some have counts up in the thousands. I am not positive but I have doubts whether or not figure 7 is a worn plate variety. I am inclined to think it is a variety which occurred as the result of an obstruction on the plate.

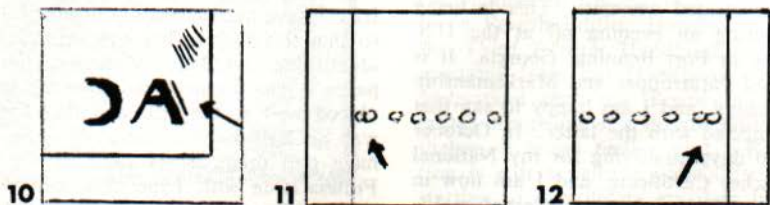
Some other plate varieties occur as a result of either over-inking or plate shifts. Figure 9 is a recent variety which I feel is a result of over-inking whereas the variety shown in figure 10 could have been the result of a plate slip or shift.

## Tagging varieties

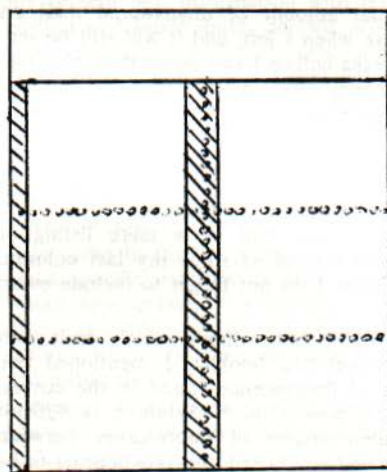
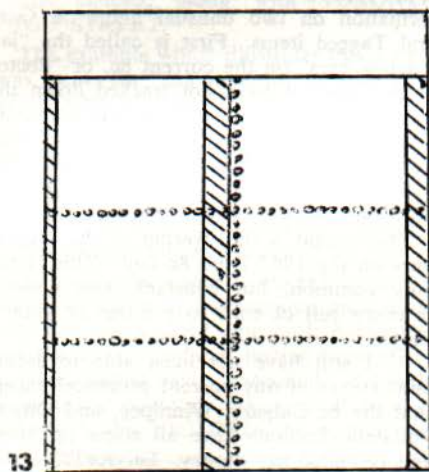
With tagged booklets being issued by the thousands you are bound to run into tagging



7 — 1c LR gap in 1c numeral.  
 8 — 1c UR goose egg variety.  
 9 — 1c UR plane in sky variety.



10 — 1c LR doubling of "A".  
 11 — double perf on left.  
 12 — double perf on right.



13 — tagging shift. 14 — missing bar on right.

varieties. A few that have been discovered including the above two examples.

### Perforation varieties

If you have been looking closely at your 25c design cover booklets, you would have noticed the double perforations on either side of the pane. (See figures 11 and 12).

I do not think these varieties are caused by bent perfing pins but the result of some

sort of device which ends the pane in a complete perforation. I would appreciate hearing from anybody who knows why these double perforations occur.

Other perforation varieties would include complete misalignment of the pins which shifts the row of perforations into the stamp design. This occurs more frequently on the vertical rows of perforations rather than the horizontal rows.



Kenneth G. Rose, Box 7086, Station 'E', Calgary T3C-3L8, Alberta

## Some random thoughts

Having left school some 38 years ago, and being now in my fifth year of retirement I find it somewhat difficult to be back at school trying to absorb information in large concentrated amounts. This is being written during an evening off at the U.S. Army base in Fort Benning, Georgia. It is a combined Paratrooper and Marksmanship training school, and I am happy to say that I am connected with the latter. In October I spent 10 days qualifying for my National Rifle Coaches Certificate, and I am now in the process of obtaining my International—assuming of course I do not get accidentally drafted into the U.S. Army, and end up somewhere in a "peacekeeping" operation.

I mention this only because there was an abnormal amount of unanswered mail on my desk when I left, and it will still be several weeks before I can get at that, plus any that arrives between the time I left and the time I get back to it. I must ask my correspondents to bear with me, and be prepared to have some issues of *Topics* minus my regular Tagging Along column. However, like MacArthur, I shall return.

This column will be a mere listing of what has transpired since my last column, and I hope I do not forget to include every item.

1. In the last column, which dealt with the current 25c booklet, I mentioned two grades of fluorescence found in the covers. There is now a third. While it is difficult to match grades of fluorescence between papers and cardboard, this one appears to be very close to the Keane-Hughes grade eleven. It appears to be common.

2. While on the subject of Keane-Hughes work on the 1967 definitives, I understand that at the last BNAPS convention it was decided against publishing this work. I feel this was a great mistake, and it adds one more reason to the list of why I should not pursue my own work on tagged issues. It is discouraging to see years of work on research vanish into thin air.

3. The current definitives have produced a few more errors. I have now secured an

untagged copy of the 8c, and also one with type O11a. Likewise the 8c coil. We are still missing reports of the 1c, 3c and 7c with Type O11a.

4. Two panes of the first Fitness issue showed up in Calgary with a single bar on the left. I have not revised my master list as yet, so that this format has not yet received an identifying number. Actually, on these panes it was the perforation which was misplaced well to the left, and therefore there was no half bar on the right side. I also have two mint copies each of the second Fitness issue with Type O5a, and these are from different panes, so presumably there are others around.

5. Reported from Hamilton, the Nellie McClung stamp with Type O6a.

6. I have had several requests for information on two unusual items on General Tagged items. First is called the "jail window bars" on the current 8c, or "doctor blade" lines. I have not tracked down the cause of this as yet, but it is very common, and varies from 4 to 10 thin tagging lines running almost vertical from the top of the pane to the bottom, and usually covering only one vertical strip of 10 stamps.

The second is the overlap of the tagging bars on the 1967 issue 8c coil. This is not only common, but constant, and appears in every roll of coils to a lesser or greater degree.

7. I still have not been able to secure mint copies of any current precancel except that the 6c Calgary, Winnipeg, and Ottawa Philatelic Sections have all come up blank and refunded my money. Service???

8. The Calgary Post Office Mail Processing Centre was supposed to become operational several months ago, and on October 22 the PMG made a special trip out here to open it officially. I have yet to see the fluorescent coding marks on Calgary mail. Third class mail has been taking up to 3½ weeks for delivery, and a percentage of all classes of mail has vanished into thin air. So much for progress at the largest installation of its kind in Canada. Perhaps we should return to 6c first class, and the promise of next day delivery.





# Rounding Up Squared Circles

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



Column No. 131: A second example of VICTORIA, Hammer IV has turned up, and in a form which, in my opinion, relegates it to a back-of-the-book listing of bogus cancels, along with TORONTO-HIGH STREET.

The example which illustrates this column was sent for examination by Alan W. Wolff who observes that there isn't much doubt about its character since it is an 1898 date on a stamp which was not issued until 1901. The indicia — PM/ JY 11/ 98 — is identical with that in the strike on 1 centavo ECUADOR, illustrated in Figure 27 of the Third Edition Handbook.

Although the stamp is marred by several hinge remnants, it has original gum otherwise and has a slight gum curl; it evidently did not have benefit of having been affixed to cover before being "cancelled". I wonder what other country's stamps will turn up next with the VICTORIA IV cancel; per-

haps with ECUADOR and NYASSA as precedents, BORNEO isn't really out of the running!

A group of eight collectors met at a Squared Circle seminar at the Williamsburg Convention to discuss format and content for a Fourth Edition Handbook. Although the Third Edition Handbook is no longer available from our Handbook Chairman, I understand that our Board of Governors tabled discussion of a Fourth Edition. Nonetheless, it is my feeling that a Fourth Edition is still a definite possibility and I am starting to consolidate my data in order to be prepared when the opportunity arises.

\* \* \*

Starting with this column, I will review my present best information with regard to earliest and latest dates, periods of use, indicia, and other pertinent information. In order to conserve space, I will list periods of use using earliest and latest dates known to me; following this, I will list the year dates within that period for which I have no record of use of the hammer; if no such statement appears, then I do have record of use for every year in the period.

In order to further conserve space, I will make specific mention of time marks only where appropriate; if no mention of time marks is made, you may presume that according to my records, the time mark slot was invariably blank.

Please review these listings and let me know of any changes which need be made.

## TYPE ONE (Thin Bars) SQUARED CIRCLE HAMMERS

ALDERGROVE, B.C.: OC 8/ 95 to JY 10/ 07

No strikes reported for '98, '00, '01, or '04-06.

BEAVERTON, ONT.: MY 4/ 93 to MR 9/ 01

Time marks: Early strikes, blank; 1 and 2 in February 1894 (FE 9 to FE 27); then AM, PM to end.

BEETON, ONT.: MY 6/ 98 to FE 15/ 01

No strikes reported from Proof Date (MY 18/ 93) to above earliest reported date.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.: AP 28/ 93 to SP 29/ 01

Time marks: Early strikes, blank; then PM to end of use. AM, once reported, has never been verified. Please report dates of "blank" time mark strikes.

Year date errors: JA 1/ 78 to JA 5/ 78 (for '98) PM/ MR 23/ 89 (for '98)

Other errors: MR/ PM 14/ 99 and MR/ PM 15/ 99

BYNG INLET NORTH, ONT.: JY 25/ 93 to MR 1/ 95

COLEMAN, ONT.: Unreadable date on only known example.

(continued on page 22)

# TOPICS: THE NEWSFRONT



Last October one of our members, and frequent contributor to *Topics*, Horace Harrison was the recipient of two outstanding awards. During the United Postal Stationery Society's convention in Chicago he received the Grand Award for the best exhibit in the U.S. of postal stationery for the year ending June, 1974. The prize-winning exhibit was of "Canadian postal stationery with advertising on the face, emphasizing the co-operation between the Post Office Department and the advertising industry."

Harrison also won the John N. Luff Award for distinguished philatelic research for his numerous writings on Canadian stamps and postal stationery. Congratulations on these well-earned awards!

\* \* \*

From the October issue of *The Postal Histo-Mine* we learn that steel cancelling devices continue to be proofed in the records of Pritchard and Andrews, Ottawa. Each month date stamps and slogan cancellations are added to the proof book, and a number of recent ones are illustrated in this excellent philatelic magazine. A separate proof book displays all the rubber stamps manufactured by Sterling Marking Products, also located in Ottawa.

Another of our members, Jon Whitrock of Decatur, Illinois, won first place for a showing of Canadian revenues and second place for his exhibit of Semi-Official Air-mails at the recent Illinois State Fair Philatelic Exhibition.

Canada Post announces that a competition has been organized for children under the age of 13 to submit designs for the 1975 Christmas stamp issues. A similar contest in 1970 attracted more than 50,000 entries. The designs are to 'reflect the essence of the Christmas spirit and the freshness and variety of young minds.' The competition will be organized through provincial departments of education and closes on February 14, 1975.

\* \* \*

Writing in his Canadian column in *Linns Weekly Stamp News*, December 16, 1974, David Gronbeck-Jones proposes the use of five recent issues as typical examples of the five degrees of paper fluorescence, viz.: DULL, LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH and HI-BRITE. The stamps he suggests are DULL (Diel, No. 515); LOW (Frontenac, No. 561); MEDIUM Laporte, No. 558); HIGH (Christmas '74); HI-BRITE (7c coil, No. 549). Examples could be mounted on a card for easy reference. (But see also letters to the editor on p. 19.)

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## TRADE TALK

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An association, to be known as New York Stamp Auctioneers, has been formed to raise the standards of stamp auctioneering and to expand the success of philatelic auctioneering in New York City which is now a multi-million dollar business. Member Bernard Harmer was elected pro-tem president and the association's address is c/o Donald Wallace, Whitman and Ransom, 522 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10036. Out-of-town auctioneers who hold auctions in New York are invited to join.

The stamp market continues to soar with the inflationary times. H. R. Harmer, Inc., report that their November 7 and 8 sale of U.S. stamps realized \$151,187 which brought Harmer's 1974-1975 season total to \$920,000.

H. E. Harris & Co., Inc., advise they are expanding and have acquired a 20,000 square foot warehouse in Boston to add 25 per cent to their operations in that city.



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## Post Office Department **NEW ISSUES**

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Canada Post will issue its second set of semi-postal stamps on February 5, 1975, in conjunction with the 1976 Olympic Games. The designs by Wallis & Matanovic, Toronto, will feature water sports. Printing is by the Canadian Bank Note Company, Ottawa, in four color lithography.

The denominations are 8c plus 2c surcharge; 10c plus 5c surcharge; and 15c plus 5c surcharge. Quantities of 25, 15 and 15 million, respectively, will be issued.

The stamps will be perforated 13, with PVA gum on paper coated on one side, general tagged, in panes of 50 stamps per denomination. They will measure 36 mm x 30 mm (from perf to perf). Plate inscriptions will be in the side margins, facing in at the four corners and will bear the printer's and designer's names. The usual first day cover service will be offered.

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# TOPICS: THE BUSINESS SIDE

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## **BNAPS: ELECTED OFFICERS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	James A. Pike, 5805 Balsam St., Apt. 801, Vancouver, B.C.
<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b>	Alfred P. Cook, Coy Glen Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	Leo J. LaFrance, Box 229, Ossining, New York 10562
<b>TREASURER</b>	Edward A. Harris, 620—75 Avenue N.W., Calgary, Alta. T2K 0P9
<b>BOARD OF GOVERNORS</b>	Nine sitting; three elected each year for a three-year term: 1973-1975: Ed Richardson, Wilmer C. Rockett, S. S. Kenyon 1974-1976: James C. Lehr, E. H. Hausmann, Robert H. Pratt 1975-1977: G. B. Llewellyn (chairman), C. R. McNeil, D. G. Rosenblat

---

As indicated by retiring President Al Cook in December's Topics, Ed Whiting has stepped into the breach and will act as temporary Secretary until new elections are held. Ed hopes to have affairs organized to the point that the Secretary's page will return in the February issue. Meanwhile we ask all for their indulgence during this transitional stage.

# Memo from the President

JAMES A. PIKE  
Vancouver, B.C.



I am honored to be able to serve the Society in the capacity of President for the ensuing two years. A look at the roster of names of Past Presidents makes one realize that there is a high standard to maintain.

Certainly we are fortunate in having a dedicated group of officers and a fine Board of Governors to guide our affairs. Remember that your constructive suggestions will always receive consideration.

Please include in your list of New Year's resolutions those long contemplated articles for *Topics* and preparation of approval books for the Sales Department.

My best wishes to all of you in 1975.

## ...and some doodles by The Editor

Our feature article this month on the Large Queens is another contribution from our father and son team out in Winnipeg: the Duckworths, Harry and Henry. We are proud to offer members the results of their study and research, as we are to all our contributors, and hope that your response will spur them on to further writings.

Which brings up a point worth repeating. All of our writers rely upon you to contribute your part in expanding our knowledge on various aspects of collecting. When they ask for verification or added data, don't just leave it to the next guy—check what you have and write them a letter.

Reports continue to trickle in of minor errors found on current issues, particularly booklets. The latest one we heard was of missing figures of value on 1c stamps of the current 25c booklet. These were found in Sarnia, and the story made the front page of the *London Free Press* in December. Amounts up to \$100 each were mentioned as a probable price value. The number of flaws to be found these days among recent issues is such that there are more than enough to go around for everyone and perhaps we'll soon be paying a premium for a 'perfect' copy.

BNAPS is currently experiencing a crisis in personnel brought on by the untimely death of a number of stalwart members, and the resignation of others who have served us loyally for many years. Compounding this are changes following the annual elections and we can see that an extra burden has been placed on officers of BNAPS. These latter need our support, especially during the next few months, and we ask your indulgence if the system hits a snag.

# MAIL FROM OUR MEMBERS

## Fluorescent standards

Whatever happened to the proposed "standards" that were to have been set up at the BNAPS annual convention in Williamsburg, in regard to fluorescent papers? Was nothing done? Was such a study group held? Why is it that nothing has been reported of this in recent issues of *Topics*? Certainly any such standards that ever might be established would, of course, have to include the use of an ultra-violet lamp, and I am stunned to think that there are those that think such standards can be established without the use of this light source.

— A. Kinkajou

\* \* \*

## More on fluorescent standards

I was astonished to read Mr. Hansen's comments on my Standards Card in the August *Topics*.

Briefly:

1) I suggest no theory, only offer a working standard of description for fluorescent papers. I know that ultra-specialists identify 17 different papers for the Centennial definitives. Do the vast majority of the collectors of this issue want a standard with 17 different levels? My experience is an emphatic *no!* Of course, anyone who wishes to do so can use that many levels: I think we can still live together in peace!

2) Without a standard of reference the term "100% fluorescent" is meaningless! The HIB on my Standard is hibrite by anyone's standards. A few catalogues (including Mr. Hansen's!) use the term hi-brite for some less fluorescent papers, which can be confusing. (The 8c Library does not exist on true HIB). If you use my Standards Card you will NOT be thus confused.

3) The *method* by which the stamps are produced is not in question here. The Harris Standard describes the *level* of fluorescence, however it may have been produced.

I could elaborate at great length on all the above points and many more. Any interested persons are welcome to contact me as I am only too glad to correspond on

these fascinating topics. Unfortunately, Mr. Hansen has declined to discuss these matters with me. Surely open and constructive discussion is essential to the proper development of this new aspect to our hobby.

— Peter Harris

\* \* \*

## Help wanted

In the Hartnat Auction of October 27th, last year, lot 17 was a cover mailed from Halifax on November 23, 1903 to River Dennis Sta., N.S. In addition to the c.d.s. backstamp, there was a large oval marking (described in the auction catalogue as a "cachet") reading:

S.S. River Dennis/Cape Breton N.S.

Last month, I attended a local bourse and, to my surprise, one of the dealers was offering a similar cover as a paquebot cover and for a very fancy price.

Obviously, it is not that and I'd be grateful if someone can explain the significance of this supplementary postal marking.

— John Wilsdon

\* \* \*

## Nova Scotia postmarks

Can anyone advise me if a study has been made of the postmarks of Nova Scotia to include the hundreds of rural post offices that have now been phased out?

My collection of these interesting cancellations has grown to the point that I am in need of additional information. Anyone who can help is asked to communicate with the writer at 621 Skylark Park, Clearwater, Florida 33515. Many thanks.

— Charles D. Seaman

\* \* \*

## Christmas stamps 1969

It might be of interest to report the so-called "find" of proof sheets of the 1969 Christmas stamps; imperforate plate blocks and se-tenant gutter blocks containing the 5c and 6c values are known to exist. Notwithstanding the mystery surrounding their appearance, it is of particular note that the 5c and 6c values were printed together on the same sheet, and then later separated.

— Hans Reiche

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### HARPERS — *continued*

part of the face in colors, for which separate plates are used. This complicates the process, and renders the work of the counterfeiter more difficult. But its special object is to afford security against photographic imitations.

At one time it seemed that photography and kindred arts would destroy every guarantee against counterfeit notes. Give the photographer a camera, a few dollars worth of chemicals, and a quire of paper, and he could produce fac-similes of any note without limit. No matter how perfect the engraving, or how elaborate the machine work, he could in a few minutes make a copy

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## EXCHANGE

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exact to the minutest point. Science was invoked to remedy the evil which it had occasioned.

Now photography can not, as far as we know, reproduce colors. Red, yellow, blue and green, act like black upon the photographic plate. A red-haired man, for example, when photographed, wears a head of unimpeachable raven hue; the yellow of a footman's gorgeous plushes appears black in his photographic picture.

So parts of bank notes were printed in red, blue, yellow or green. These parts when photographed appeared black, as well as the part which were so in the genuine

*(continued on page 24)*

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# Double Christmas

BY HANS REICHE



A new outstanding find was recently made by Stan Lum. The last 6c Christmas stamp is printed in four colors: green, rose, blue and black. The find shows the entire black portion printed twice.

Although the doubling gives the heavier black design of the stamp a shadowy effect, the words Christmas/Noel appear distinctly twice. The doubling is to the right of the design and is not as strong as the first, (or is it second), impression? The appearance is too clear and uniform to suggest a kiss print and unlikely to be an offset.

Very few such varieties can be found on recent stamps. The flower series some years ago produced one in the Newfoundland stamp and another can be found on the Maple Leaf 5c of 1963. All these are eagerly sought after by specialists. The photo was produced by Bill Searle and shows the doubled stamp.

## SQUARED CIRCLES — continued

CUMBERLAND, ONT.: JU 9/ 93 to MR 31/ 00

DUTTON, ONT.: MY 5/ 93 to JA 17/ 11

No strikes reported for '02, '05, '06, '09, or '10.

Time marks: Blank until '01; then PM. AM has never been reported.

Year error: JU 24/ 39 (all inverted)

GRIMSBY, ONT.: MY 20/ 93 to MR 30/ 99

Time marks: Blank until MY/ 95; then AM, PM to end.

LONDON, ONT.: State One: AP 28/ 93 to AP 9/ 94

Time marks: PM only.

LONDON, ONT.: State Two: AP 24/ 94 to SP 21/ 99

Time marks: AM-JA 11, 14, 15/ 95 only.

PM—to SP/ 96 (?)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5—SP/ 96 (?) to end.

LONDON EAST, ONT.: JU 6/ 93 to OC 14/ 01

MANSONVILLE, QUE.: JY 5/ 93 to NO 25/ 98

MONTREAL—POINT ST. CHARLES, QUE.: MY 15/ 93 to MR 20/ 99

Not reported for '95 to '98 inclusive.

MOUNT FOREST, ONT.: JU 3/ 93 to AP 28/ 01

NEW GERMANY, ONT.: AU 19/ 94 to DE 30/ 04

Not reported for '98 to '01 inclusive, nor '03.

Time mark: although time mark slot was almost invariably empty, the abnormal 19/ JY 30/ 04 is known; 19 is probably part of year date, and not a time mark.

OTTAWA, CANADA: First period—MY 3/ 93 to DE 4/ 05

Second period—Nude (completely devoid of indicia) on Admiral issue.

Time marks: 1 to 8, inclusive, until 1900. 1 to 24, inclusive, from 1900. Blanks, occasionally, during entire period. 9, prior to 1900, is probably inverted 6.

No dated strikes have been reported with dates later than DE 4/ 05, and no nude strikes have been reported on issues earlier than Admirals.

RAT PORTAGE, ONT.: MY 8/ 93 to MY 21/ 97

Year date errors: AP 17/ 64 to JU 20/ 64 inclusive and NO 3/ 64 (for '94).

ST. ANN'S, ONT.: JY 24/ 93 to SP 8/ 08

Not reported for years '94-'95 or '99-'04.

ST. HILARION, QUE.: JU 19/ 93 to AU 14/ 97

Not reported for '95 or '96.

Date usually in three lines: day at top, month in center, year at bottom. Two-line dates, blank at top, month and day in center, year at bottom, are known in March and April, 1894.

SHANNONVILLE, ONT.: JU 27/ 93 to SP 6/ 06

Not reported for years '01 to '04 inclusive (used as backstamp after 1900?).

Time marks: Blank only; time mark '1' for '93 has not been verified.

SPRINGHILL MINES, N.S.: MY 11/ 93 to OC 20/ 93

TERREBONNE, QUE.: MY 6/ 93 to FE 14/ 06

Not reported for '00, and '02 to '04 inclusive.

THREE RIVERS, QUE.: MY 20/ 93 to AU 28/ 02

WESTVILLE, N.S.: JY 3/ 93 to AP 20/ 08

Not reported for '02 to '05 inclusive.





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## HARPERS *continued*

notes. But unfortunately all the colored inks in use were of such a nature that they could be discharged, with more or less facility, without disturbing the black ink.

The counterfeiter would remove these colors, photograph the remainder of the note, and then print in the proper colors an imitation of the colored parts. An additional process was thus rendered necessary for the manufacture of a photographic counterfeit, but this was an easy one, and the labor was more than repaid by the security which was supposed to be given to any note printed in colors.

The production of an indestructible colored ink thus became a desideratum. This has been held impossible. Absolutely it is probably so. We presume no ink can be devised which may not be removed by chemical or mechanical means, or by a combination of both. Thus the coloring matter of the black ink used by printers is carbon finely pulverized. Put this dry upon paper, and it may be brushed off with a feather; mix it with water, and when the liquid evaporates the powder can be rubbed off.

In printer's ink the carbon is mixed with oil, which binds it to the surface of the paper. Now an alkali combined with oil produces soap, which can be washed away. Let a piece of printed matter be saturated with alkali; wash it carefully with water and the oil disappears, leaving the carbon free. The problem, however, was to produce a colored ink, not indeed absolutely indestructible, but one which could not be removed from a part of the note without, at the same time, discharging the black ink of the remainder. Even this was pronounced impossible. "The New American Cyclo-

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paedia" says: "No tint has yet been discovered which may not be chemically removed from the paper."

This important desideratum has, we believe, been attained in the "Green Ink," for the use of which the American Bank Note Company holds the exclusive patent. Four years ago it was submitted to the examination of the most eminent chemists. Among these were Messrs. Hunt of Montreal, Gibbs of the New York Free Academy, Torrey of the Assay Office, Horsford of Harvard, Silliman of Yale, Henry and Hilgard of the Smithsonian Institute.

The composition of the ink was explained to them, and they were requested to apply to it the most searching tests known to chemistry, with such new ones as they could devise. They all replied, in substance, that they knew of no chemical means by which the green ink could be destroyed without, at the same time, destroying the texture of the paper on which it was printed; and it could be removed mechanically only by means which would, at the same time, remove the black carbon ink combined with it on the same note.

Most of these eminent chemists have recently been asked whether in the interim any new discovery has been made which would lead them to change their former opinion. They all reply in the negative. We may therefore assume that the green ink which appears so largely upon the Bank Notes and United States Treasury Notes prepared by this Company, affords a perfect security against photographic counterfeits.

The public must learn just what parts should be in green. If they do not in any bill appear of that color, or if they do appear in any other, the note may be assumed to be a photographic counterfeit.

The finished plates are now deposited in the Plate Room, from which they can only be removed when actually wanted for printing, and never except by a written order from the Secretary of the Company.

It is in the fourth story of the building, and can be approached only by narrow passages communicating with those leading to the various departments. At night these are patrolled by armed watchmen, who have duplicate keys to every room except this. Just before the door, and at the point where the passages converge, is the room of the Janitor, a gray-headed, jolly Hibernian, who

*(Continued on page 28)*

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seems to be always at his post.

Through the half-opened door of his den we catch sight of a formidable brace of blunderbusses, a discharge from which would effectually sweep the narrow passages. He points out to us also a series of cunningly devised "peep holes," as he calls them, through which he can watch everything going on without himself being seen. Long habit has made him so watchful that he cannot sleep comfortably without getting up half a dozen times in the night to take a peep through these holes to assure himself that all is right, and that the watchmen are duly performing their rounds.

The entrance to the Plate Room is secured by double doors of "chilled iron," with burglar-proof locks. These doors are never unlocked for a moment unless the keeper is within. Entering, the room looks like the casement of a fortress. Walls, roof, and floor are all of solid granite. The two windows, which look out upon the street, 60 feet below, appear like embrasures, showing the massive structure of the edifice.

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# COMPETENCE

It is unfortunately true that rare early British North American stamps are more likely to be "as represented" when offered in Turin, than early Italian States offered in Toronto.

In such a hypothetical case, lack of knowledge is a more probable handicap than dishonesty. One must also comment that an Italian collector is more likely to show interest in early classic Canada than a Canadian collector in Sardinia.

I maintain a library of several hundred items and also have a reference of **genuine** stamps covering the range of classic issues of the world. This reference includes most of the rarities in second rate quality.

Should you wish to take up a new country or collecting group, do not hesitate to consult me. Despite the fact that you may feel that local sources will not be able to supply you, I can probably give a general idea of the availability of the material in your proposed field.

One of the frequent problems in selecting a new country is that the collector finds that after he has reached a certain "plateau" that additional material is almost unavailable. This is the case with some small colonies, etc., but if a wide enough field is selected I am sure that I will be able to locate stamps for the prospective collector. This applies whether the country is Afghanistan or Transvaal.

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