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BNA TOPICS



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY LTD.

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Whole No. 441

3 The Editor's Page	Vic Willson
5 The President's Corner	Lewis M. Ludlow
6 Sketches of BNAPSers - Charles Firby	Dr.R.V.C. Carr
6 Calendar	
7 What to do at BNAPEX '91	Rob McGuinness
7 Letters	
10 BNAPS Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting held at Galveston, TX, 20 October 1990	
18 BNAPEX '90 Exhibition Awards	
20 BNAPEX '90 - The People	
22 Canadian and U.S.A. Mixed Franking Airmail Covers 1926 to 1928	
29 American Banknote Sale - The 1990 "Proof" Extravaganza	Robert Pratt
34 The RPO Cowcatcher	W.G. Robinson
38 Literature Reviews - BNA Philately in Print	Mike Street
36 Sumass - An Unreported B.C. Colonial Post Office	Cecil C. Coutts
40 Soldier's and Seamen's Letters in the Small Queen Era	George B. Arfken
43 This'n That	Vic Willson
44 Notes	
45 Information for Members	
46 From The Secretary	Chris McGregor
48 Regional Group Ramblings	Jim Goben
49 The Study Group Centerline	Frank Waite
51 Classified	

BNAPS

For officers and member services see 'Information For Members'.
Regional Groups and Study Groups are listed in their respective columns.

BNA TOPICS

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The Editor's Page

by Vic Willson

FRANK WAITE

On behalf of all the BNAPS members who have read Frank's column *The Study Group CENTERLINE* over the years, let me extend my sincere thank you for a fine effort over the years. Frank's pieces were always on time and distilled a great many newsletters into a useful summary.

SURVEY RESULTS

Happy New Year to all BNAPSers and a thank you to the respondents to the survey. While they were few in numbers they were rich in ideas, compliments, and appropriate criticisms. My intent was to generate such thought and, along with the session at the Convention devoted to meeting the Editor, the effort has been a success from my perspective. On to some results. Among the ratings of the types of articles that appear in *TOPICS*, under the *too few* category appeared (at least 25% of responses) short articles, 20th Century, stamps, and cancellations. Others were rated as generally OK, except 27% considered there to be too many postal history articles. About 15 other specialty article types were listed but were invariably nominated by only one person.

As a check on readers' perceptions I reviewed the 1990 articles in *TOPICS* and counted them into the various categories. I was surprised to find that eight articles were properly 20th century, about as numerous as the other categories, except for covers, which were more numerous. There were articles that spanned both centuries, also. Since articles in the various categories were not mutually exclusive the counts were above the total number of articles. The one area I failed to mention in the survey was postal stationery, for which I tallied nine articles. There were only two articles properly classified as stamp articles, focusing on stamp design, production, plating, or distribution. Thus, my sense is that there are more modern articles than you think, but that stamp articles are in short supply in *TOPICS*. When one counts the

number of stamp exhibits at BNAPEX in any given year, the number reflects the emphasis in our literature. The members who write are not collecting stamps - their emphases are on cancellations, postal history, covers, and topical areas. I do not think that this will change and am at a loss to do much other than encourage the few stamp collectors to produce more articles. Do you really want to see more plating studies on the 3d Beaver? I am pretty sure I can get some, after the recent ABN archives sale, as well as articles on the various Provincial issues. That is what you will see in the near future.

Regarding ratings of regular columns, most suggestions for improvement focused on Letters, with some suggesting that more are needed. I suspect others were reacting to the exchanges between members that occurred last year. The remainder of the improvements generally indicated displeasure with specialty columns such as Telegraph Covers and the BC Hotel and Exhibition series. In review it is perhaps inappropriate to call them columns since they properly form a record of a collecting specialty that are serialized instead of being put together into an article series. They were accepted some time prior to my accession and will be completed as accepted. They do fit the concept of short articles in that they typically require less than a page.

Most members who wrote notes accompanying the survey like many shorter pieces over a few long ones. My own preference is to cram as many short pieces into each issue as possible since the issue will then appeal to more readers in some way, and the general response supports this, even though it will be violated occasionally.

There were several criticisms of the quality of recent photos, and I must concur. Mea culpa, particularly since it was my own article that was the worst! While I do have some excuses, in general the comments are right on target, and we will try to get better shots. In some cases it is literally impossible for correspondents to

(continued from page 2)

diskette for IBM (or IBM compatibles) with ASCII format; 3 1/2 inch hard diskette for IBM of any current system in ASCII format; or Macintosh 3 1/2 inch diskette using a major word processing system currently available. All electronic text should be typed flush left margin with right margin left free (no right margin justify). Do not indent paragraphs, an extra line between paragraphs is optional. Do not use special print characters for italics, bold, or underscore (indicate on hard copy in pen or pencil), and do not use automatic footnoting. Diskettes will be returned promptly.

obtain photos without sending them overseas. Also, I have found that half tones, the photographic impressions made for the printing process, are not always even better than good photocopies, and that this is not always predictable. The printing business is not so precise as one would think. Unfortunately, I do not see the final pull, and the judgement of the printer becomes important at the last. I might try to require photos, but I worry about putting us out of business, since we depend on our members for contributions, and if I reject articles for not having photos there may be a serious drop in the material available. This area will receive my special attention.

One member objected to my new column title, *Dissa and Datta*, as maligning Italian-Americans, so I will change it to *This'n That*. I reject his notion that it be merged with *Notes*, as I will retain the latter for philatelic short pieces, while *This'n That* will focus on member doings. I thank the respondent for a careful and thoughtful response.

Regarding Information for Members, respondents were evenly split between retaining the information in every issue and putting it in every other. Thus, we will keep it as is, notwithstanding that it was left off the last one - the printer and I miscommunicated on the galleys.

In general comments several members suggested that a regular column deal with new issues, giving accurate information concerning aspects such as perforations, measurements, issue dates, number issued, and the like. I always assumed that this was routinely available in the popular press, but on reflection real-

ize that not all BNAPSers will receive or retain that information, and that a permanent record is desirable. I receive some of the information in releases from Canada Post, but some is developed outside official channels, such as perf variations, errors, and color varieties. I do not think I have the time or will to do this job and solicit someone to tackle it. I will send them the Canada Post material I receive. Perhaps it might be delayed somewhat to let information be collated beyond the official releases. Any takers?

GALVESTON AND VANCOUVER

While I am prejudiced I think that BNAPEX 90 went pretty well, with a decent attendance. You will see several pieces related to it in this issue. The birdwatchers did well, as attested by the listing of birds seen. Please don't take umbrage at such a listing, for I have found that different hobbies have a way of infusing new and interesting ideas into each other, much as cross-training has been shown to improve performance in sports. I will do an editorial on this some time, linking my professional work in psychology, my hobbies of philately, toy collecting, map collecting, antique collecting, and several other pursuits. Many of you will see links in your interests, too.

It is not too soon to plan to attend Vancouver for BNAPEX 91. I suggest that you make your hotel reservation now, and not delay on travel plans. You are simply missing half of the benefits of BNAPS if you don't attend the Convention regularly.

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The President's Corner

by William G. Robinson, OTB

By the time you read this, the new Officers and Directors of the society for 1991 and 1992 will have assumed their respective places. A number of them are well-known to the members by virtue of previous service in the same or other Offices - but I would like to specially welcome those who are assuming office for the first time. These include Art Klass of Parkersburg, West Virginia as Treasurer; Ken Ellison of Oyama, British Columbia, and Don Wilson of St. John's, Newfoundland, as Directors. Familiar faces in new positions include Charles Firby of Birmingham, Michigan, former Convention Coordinator, as First Vice-President. He is replaced by Jeff Switt of Fort Worth, Texas - well-known to the slogan aficionados. Other Officers and Directors were re-elected to the same positions, and we are fortunate to have such an experienced and capable group to manage the affairs of the Society.

One of the changes we have implemented is the formation of an internal audit committee chaired by Nick Sheklian of Visalia, California, and including Charles Firby as First Vice-President, and Harry Lussey of Atlantis, Florida, representing the members at large. Our new Treasurer has asked for such oversight, and these competent members should be able to ensure that we stay on the straight and narrow financially.

There has been little change in the condition of our now Immediate Past President, Lew Ludlow, since we last reported. Your Secretary and I visited him recently and briefed him on the happenings at Galveston. He appeared to understand what we were saying and asked a few short pertinent questions. Understandably, he is becoming weaker physically from being bed-ridden for so long. His wife, Mac, is coping well, and asked us to thank all those who have written, sent cards, or who signed the greeting card at Galveston. Our best wishes go to both of them.

The Committee hosting BNAPEX '91 at Vancouver, B.C. are hard at work with their planning, and I understand that registration and exhibiting information will be in the next issue of *TOPICS*. In the meantime, anyone requiring information or a prospectus is urged to write the BNAPEX '91 Committee, at Box 35442, Station

E, Vancouver, B.C., V6M 4G8, Canada. Plan to take advantage of your visit to see the many tourist attractions of Western Canada and the Northwestern United States.

In closing, I would like to mention the recruiting of new members. How many of your friends and fellow collectors are interested in stamps or postal history of Canada and the Provinces and are not yet members of B.N.A.P.S. Why aren't they members? Have you done your part to make them aware of the existence and the benefits of the Society? How many new members have you sponsored recently? Let's all do our part to increase our membership, and to make sure that those we have stay with this friendly and informative Society. See you soon.

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More Sketches of BNAPSers

by Dr. R.V.C. Carr

SKETCH No. 237

Charles Firby

Introducing our new President-Elect is a pleasure. Charles, *Chuck* Firby is so remembered for his fine job running our show in 1986 in Darborn. He has been a member of BNAPS since 1971 and has been a staunch supporter ever since. He was instrumental in forming a study group and has exhibited in our shows, winning the Grand Award at BNAPEX '80 for his '59 rate collection.

Chuck is a native of Detroit and began collecting when he was 8 years old. After graduation from Michigan State University, he did his service in the U. S. Air Force. After the service, he was with IBM for 4 years and then joined Roger Koerber Auction firm but later left to form his own Auction House - which, by the way, has been very successful. Not in his notes, I know that he dabbles in antiques, especially oil paintings. He gave me no word of his family so we will question him about this



later.

His vitality will certainly help him as he goes through the chairs of the Society.

Calendar

CALENDAR lists exhibitions and bourses with significant BNA content, and BNAPS Regional Group functions. Information/Prospectus must reach the Editor at least 3 months in advance.

1991

- MARCH 15-17, EDMONTON, ALTA. - ANNUAL SHOW.** The Edmonton Stamp Club Annual Show will be held at the Europa Conference Site, Fantasyland Hotel/Resort, West Edmonton Mall, Edmonton. Admission free. Exhibits, bourse, seminars. Contact John Attrell, Show Chairman, for further information, c/o P.O. Box 399, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2J6
- MARCH 16, OAKVILLE - OAKPEX '91.** The Oakville Stamp Club will be holding its 18th Annual Exhibition and Bourse in Room 'A' of the River Oaks Recreation Centre, 2400 Sixth Line, Oakville, Ontario from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Exhibits, Dealers, Sales Circuit and refreshments. Free admission and parking. Everyone welcome.
- APRIL 3, KITCHENER-WATERLOO - STAMPFEST '91.** Show and Bourse 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Rink-In-The-Park Seagram Drive, Waterloo. Information: B. Martin, Box 1676, Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4R2.
- AUGUST 29-31, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA - BNAPEX 91.** Westin Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver BC (1-800-228-3000). Reserve your room as soon as possible due to other demands on rooms in Vancouver that weekend.

What to do at BNAPEX '91

by Rob McGuinness

BNAPEX '91 will be held at the Westin Bayshore hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia from August 29 to 31, 1991. Vancouver, with a metropolitan population approaching 1.5 million, is the third largest city in Canada, has the largest Chinese population in North America, except for San Francisco, has a cosmopolitan atmosphere, relaxed lifestyle and spectacular scenery.

Vancouver is located some 30 miles north of the U.S. border, on the south shore of Burrard Inlet, a fine natural harbour, in the extreme south-west corner of the Province of British Columbia. Immediately to the north rise the majestic coast mountains. To the west is the Pacific Ocean with Vancouver Island and its attractions. To the south and east are miles of suburbs and farmland in the fertile valley of the Fraser River.

The city contains a wide variety of things to see and do. Within easy walking distance of the convention hotel is the thousand acre wilderness of Stanley Park with wooded walks, a fine zoo and an outstanding aquarium, the killer whale show there is well worth the visit. For those with gardening interests, there are Queen Elizabeth Park, the Van Dusen Gardens, and the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Memorial Chinese Gardens. A panoramic view of the city and area can be seen from the top of Grouse Mountain - which is easily reached by cable car.

Steam railway buffs can enjoy a breathtaking mountain-hugging trip to Squamish, at the head of Howe Sound, on the restored Royal Hudson steam train. There is also a miniature train for children large and small in Stanley Park, and of course the modern Sky-Train urban transit across Vancouver to New Westminster and Surrey.

Museum fans can visit Vanier Park to see both the City and Maritime Museums and the McMillan Planetarium. Housed there is the *St. Roch*, the little R.C.M.P. vessel which was the first ship to navigate the Northwest Passage across the top of North America both ways. The University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology on the campus at Point Grey contains a world-class collection of Northwest Coast Indian artifacts.

Many restaurants are scattered throughout the city, catering to those who enjoy fine dining or casual cruising - ethnic or North American.

Vancouver is a great starting point for further travel. From here you may travel by ferry through the scenic Gulf Islands to Victoria, the Provincial Capital, on Vancouver Island. You can wander its streets, full of old English charm, visit the Royal Provincial Museum the Parliament Buildings, or take high tea at the famous Empress Hotel. The Butchart Gardens on the Saanich peninsula between the ferry terminus and Victoria are also outstanding, as is the Dominion Astro-physical Observatory in the same area.

Our city is also the starting point for Alaska cruises. Travel up the tranquil Inside Passage to see the grandeur and silence of the Northwest coast. Watch for bald eagles and killer whales. Perhaps you may even be lucky enough to witness the calving of an iceberg from one of the several glaciers which reach down to the ocean.

Whatever your interests, philatelic or otherwise, you are certain to enjoy this visit to Vancouver. Please come and enjoy yourselves.

Letters

OVERPRINT INFORMATION

A year or so ago you printed an article of mine entitled *B.N.A. Specimen Overprints of the American Banknote Company*. The recent auction of the A.B.N.Co's archives has brought to light some new pertinent information.

I had drawn attention to the fact that the non-serifed overprints on the Canada 1864 two cent plate proofs were identical with those of the 1860-63 decimal issue of New Brunswick. As the latter is quite common the same information can be obtained by the study of the New Brunswick overprints.

It was well known that the types of this overprint were AAAABACCCC horizontally but vertical malalignments implied doubts of the vertical format. At that time I proposed that the Specimen overprint plate was 10 * 5 with a double strike on the lower fifty plate proofs, making them identical to the upper pane of fifty with evidence of both vertical and horizontal malalignments to support this hypothesis. This

and further hypotheses were further discussed in a private publication entitled *Specimen Overprints of British North America* of which our library has a copy.

For the first time in recent philatelic history complete sheets of the New Brunswick decimal Specimen proofs overprints without serifs have become available which gives a complete answer to the problem.

I recently received, by the courtesy of Chuck Firby, photographs of two sheets of these New Brunswick overprints - one of which I have enclosed.

If you do not have space to print a copy of this complete sheet, a description may suffice. It shows the overprint on the lower half of the sheet identical with that of the upper half but malaligned to the right 3 mms. and down vertically about 2 mms. Hence all set-tenant malalignments are vertical and occur with the gutter between horizontal rows five and six. This applies to all the 1860-63 issue of New Brunswick with the non-serifed overprint as well as the two cent Canada 1864.

This find completely validates the double strike theory and further supports the theory that both the contemporary Nova Scotia diagonal overprints were printed in a similar manner.

Norman Boyd
Windsor, Ont.

PLATE 4

I have been very surprised that Stanley Lum would question the point as to who reported the existence of Plate 4 of the MAP STAMP as he reported in *BNA TOPICS*/May-June 1990, page 5. Whit Bradley deserves first of all, congratulations on many hours in a labour of love to complete this outstanding BNA Handbook, which Stan does not recognize. Secondly why drag the reviewers into the fray.

BNAPS Map Stamp Study Group Newsletter Vol. 1 No. 4 dated Oct. 1983 indicates Stan as member no 31. Newsletter no. 5 of Vol. 1 dated Feb. 1984 on page 4 indicates that Ray Horning visited the archives and found in Drawer D-10 Panel 1 section E *plate 4 proof engraved in black only on .009 card* Dec. 10 1898 - found unusable and not used for printing.

Surely, Mr. Lum as a member of the unit would have read his first or second edition of the newsletter to which he had so recently subscribed.

This is a hobby, who cares who is on first base first? Only the Oakland A's

Ray Horning

Ottawa, Ont.

CANADA POST ORDERING INFORMATION

Canada Post now offers a toll free phone number *from the USA* IF ORDERING STAMPS. 1-800-565-1336. In Canada we always did have a toll free number, 1-800-565-4362.

The USA agent for Canadian stamps, Stocked & sold in the USA, closed recently. The above phone numbers give you the National Philatelic Center, in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, postal code B2G 2RA. Business hours are 8.30 to 4.30 Eastern Standard Time. They accept Mastercard & Visa. They charge your credit card Canadian dollars, credit card charges you the equivalent in US dollars. No minimum order is required, but a .50¢ charge applies to orders under \$5.00. If more than one Canadian stamp collector in your club wishes to each order less than \$ 5.00, combine all into one phone order to go to one collector & so save the .50¢ each would be charged.

Should you wish a standing order for upcoming stamps you may make a deposit charged on your credit card or on a bank money order, of not less than \$ 2.50 Canadian. They will only mail when total is \$ 5.00 unless you instruct them otherwise, then you would be charged .50¢ for each shipment.

Stuart A. Clark
Winnipeg Canada

BNAPLEX '90

I would like to write a few lines relative to BNAPLEX '90 which was held in Galveston. It was a most interesting show and I believe that those who attended enjoyed their visit to Texas and Galveston.

I want to express my thanks to the members and judges who attended the show for their nice comments about my Galveston Postal History Exhibit which was prepared especially for this show. It was a very kind gesture on the part of the judges to recognize such a display which was in conjunction with the great showing of BNAPS exhibits at their annual show.

All of the Prairie Beavers who were involved with the Show should be complimented for putting on such a fine convention.

Gordon Bleuler
Dallas TX



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MINUTES OF THE 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT GALVESTON, TEXAS, 20 OCTOBER 1990

The President called the meeting to order at 8:45 am, declared the meeting properly constituted, and confirmed that a quorum was present.

The President asked for a moment of silence in respect for the following former members of the Society who had died since the last A.G.M.

R. Seymour Blomfield, H. Max Preisler, John Bryce, Lawrence B. Scott, Marguerite Fortin, Thomas A. Stott, Leo J. La France, Robert S. Thwaites, Paul B. Margeson, William Charles Wright, Edmund L. Marr.

The Minutes of the 41st annual general meeting held on September 24, 1989 at Hamilton, Ontario, were approved as printed on pages 14 to 17 in the Jan / Feb 1990 issue of *BNA TOPICS*.

The Secretary reported that he had received 'regrets' from Robert Heasman, Guy des Rivières and Bill Pawluk about their absence from the meetings at Galveston. This meeting was the first one that Guy has had to miss.

The following annual reports from the Society's officers were received.

The Acting President.

The Officers and Committee members who assumed office in January of 1989 have continued to function well, and the affairs of the Society have been generally well managed. The main problem during 1990 has been the incapacity of President Lew Ludlow, and the need for the First Vice-President to assume the operation of the Society. Lew was functioning well for the first three months of 1990, but suffered a serious stroke on April 1. He had just attended the spring meeting of the Pacific Northwest Regional Group at Chilliwack, B.C. and the inaugural meeting of the Golden West Regional Group at Stockton, California. He was planning to attend ORAPEX at Ottawa, Ontario in April to help form a Regional Group there, PIPEX at Portland, Oregon, in May, and ROYAL '90 at Regina, Saskatchewan, in June to address the

Manitoba Regional Group. Unfortunately, his illness prevented his attendance at these three meetings, and the First Vice-President filled in for him. The First Vice-President and the Secretary also attended the fall meeting of the Pacific Northwest Regional Group at Spokane, Washington in September. It is our intention to continue such visits to major shows and Regional Group meetings to meet the many members who cannot attend these Annual Meetings.

I would like to bring to the attention of this meeting the dedicated work of our Secretary, Chris McGregor, and our retiring Treasurer, Howard Twichell, who have assumed extra loads without problem or complaint during this period of transition. Indeed, all the Officers, Directors and Committee heads have been most helpful and cooperative.

Board Chairman Earle Covert has been developing long range planning procedures. Some work has started on our proposed manual of methods and procedures. Director Bill Pawluk has produced some excellent demographic studies on membership, Manager Elsie Drury has kept the circuits moving, Handbook Committee Chairman Al Steinhart has kept our publishing ventures under control - working with Book Department Manager Dave Clare to produce record sales, while our Editorial Board Chairman, Mike Street has just arranged a new contract with our *TOPICS* printer keeping costs down for 1991, and our Editor, Vic Willson, continues to fill the journal with fine items for all our generalists and specialists. This is most important as the only contact many members have with the Society is through our excellent journal.

Membership continues to be a problem - as it appears to be with all philatelic organizations these days. A special drive by Horace Harrison has brought in nearly 100 new American members this year. Horace sent information and application forms to some 4000 A.P.S. members who indicated Canada as an interest, and applications are still coming in. Despite this, you will note some 76 members were dropped for non-payment of dues last year. Why? When did you last sponsor a new member? We need

every one. Make this your priority in 1991.

The Chairman of the Board.

It was sad to learn of the serious stroke suffered by our President Lewis M. Ludlow during the spring of this year. While we trust and pray for Lew's recovery, things do not look promising.

Our Vice President Bill Robinson has worked hard to fill the void left by our President's illness. Lew and Bill had embarked on a plan of meeting all the regional groups during the last year. Bill has taken over this task and worked hard at fulfilling this by himself.

It has been possible to meet twice with Bill and our Secretary Chris McGregor during the past year. I must express my personal appreciation to Chris. He took over my previous position of Secretary and has been able to not only do the required work but he has done things I only hoped to do. I especially appreciate the work and thought that Chris has put into proposing changes to clarify the Bylaws and make them more workable.

I appreciate the work done by our retiring Treasurer Howard Twitchell. And to all of the Elected and Appointed Officers of the Society I express my appreciation. The work done by Officers and Members of Study and Regional Groups is often overlooked. Thanks to those retiring from the Board this year and to those who let their name stand for election as Officers and Members of the Board. Congratulations to those elected.

I appreciate each person and thank YOU for YOUR efforts. I urge our Members to thank YOUR Officers when YOU see them doing a good job. Remember, the only pay they get is the appreciation they receive from US.

One Member deserves to be singled out - Horace Harrison. Horace approached our Secretary with a plan, to send a letter with an application to join B.N.A.P.S., to all A.P.S. members living in the U.S.A., who listed Canada or Newfoundland as a collecting interest. Horace then sent out and paid for this massive mailing. The Secretary has seen excellent results. I urge ALL Members to give an application to a potential member. Let US, EACH ONE go out of OUR way to encourage and help NEW and OLD Members of OUR Society, to make this Society the FRIENDLY fellowship it was intended to be.

The Treasurer

Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 1989 appear at the end of this article. All figures are stated in US funds.

The Secretary.

The routine tasks such as processing memberships, recording changed addresses and feeding membership data to the editor of *BNA TOPICS* in the form of regular reports and mailing labels, continue relentlessly. Creation of the historic roll of Society members has been completed as far as possible with the material currently available to the Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP

	15 Oct 90	15 Oct 89
Confirmed members	1,416	1,380
Applications pending	1	0
Applications in process	14	14
Membership change during past 12 months	+ 2.61%	- 1.64%

AWARDS

VINCENT G. GREENE AWARD for the best article or series of articles appearing in *BNA TOPICS* during 1989 is awarded to William Charles Walton.

JOHN S. SIVERTS AWARD for the best group of Study Group newsletters to be published during 1989 is awarded to Daniel G. Rosenblat.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD for introducing the most new members since the last Annual General Meeting is awarded to Horace W. Harrison.

EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

Using the criteria for determining emeritus membership approved by the directors' on September 21, 1989, the following members should be granted emeritus membership commencing January 1, 1990.

- L 0622 Barron, Richard
- R 1049 Kitchen, C.W.O. Ronald
- R 0774 Kraemer, James E.
- R 1091 Burton, Blendon L.
- R 0857 McGrath, Edward
- R 1149 Lundberg, John P.
- R 0923 Horton, Samuel J.
- R 1195 Jamieson, Robert A.
- L 0950 Wallace, Jack M.
- R 1221 Johnson, B. Connor
- R 1027 Watrous, John H.
- L 1249 Tharp, Mrs. Alpha C.

The following annual reports from the Society's Department Heads and Committee Chairmen were received.

Admissions Committee Chairman

In line with the recommendations set forth at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors

held at Hamilton, Ontario last year and presented to the membership at the annual general meeting 24 September 1989, the majority of the applications are now being processed automatically by the Secretary's office. Only those applicants not members in good standing of the American Philatelic Society, the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, or the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain are being reviewed by the Admissions Committee. Regrettably, after a careful and lengthy investigation, one applicant was refused admission into the Society. One applicant was later cleared for admission after another lengthy investigation. Another investigation of an applicant is also under way presently. The procedure established by this committee is to investigate thoroughly any applicant when an objection has been filed with the Secretary after publication in *BNA TOPICS* of his or her application for membership. The results of all such investigations are held in the strictest of confidence and are not released to anyone other than the Secretary of the Society.

With the computerization in effect at the Secretary's office, fewer delays in processing applications for membership have been experienced, and the work of the Admissions Committee has been greatly lessened.

BNA TOPICS Editor

The first full year of my editorship has seen a smoother operation than that of the first few issues. The major area for potential problems is the distance between the printer and me, but the use of express mail and occasional electronic communication via both facsimile (FAX) and computer mail has provided rapid communication when needed. Also, the submission of articles in electronic form speeds up the whole process. As time allows I also transcribe various pieces onto diskettes but have found that my goal of sending primarily electronic text is not feasible without secretarial support. At present the printer agrees to perform this, as their desktop publishing is so oriented. The printer changed company names but service was uninterrupted. Costs associated with communication have risen substantially with my editorship but are more than offset by differences in postal fees for mailing in Canada rather than the U.S. This differential may be reduced by GST, however.

The current backlog of material allows for upwards of two years' issues, based on major articles and continuing series. If financial conditions were supportive in terms of weight of the journal for postage, I believe the journal could

expand by four pages. The number of short articles and articles on stamps is small, but reflects the collecting tastes of our authors. I recently ran a survey in my editorial column in *BNA TOPICS* that may help to guide our operation based on interested reader input. This will be reported publicly in the January/February 1991 issue.

The area that caused me the most problem last year was the classified ads, but the problem appears to be solved by Bob Lee's suggestion to include the issue of the last printing of each classified. In a related area our ad/text ratio has been fairly consistent at .25. This is not troublesome but a lower ratio might be considered by increasing the number of pages if costs are manageable.

I received a number of constructive criticisms of my handling of Letters to the Editor. These generally supported a greater degree of external review when a letter included a majority of content similar to that of an article. This will in general be implemented on an *ad hoc* basis.

Mike Street continues to serve *BNA TOPICS* by doing a final proof at the printer's establishment prior to publishing. That in no way makes him responsible for editor's goofs but does assist in solving problems that would otherwise delay publication by several days.

I have received several letters encouraging me to submit *BNA TOPICS* to national or international level exhibitions that judge philatelic publications. I support this concept and have requested that the Board approve both submissions and costs, which I expect to be modest, not because of any personal need for recognition, but because our organization will perhaps achieve greater visibility.

BNA TOPICS Editorial Board Chairman

This report marks the end of the first complete year of *BNA TOPICS* being edited in Texas and printed in Ontario. Although the distance causes some difficulties, thanks to the people involved, the arrangement on the whole seems to be working out well.

One of the mysteries of the recent past has been solved. We have learned this year that the Society owns enough Vincent G. Greene Award mugs to last us until the year 2008. The mugs are currently in the possession of our historian, Ed Whiting.

The use of an international mail consolidation service for mailing copies of *BNA TOPICS* to overseas members has continued. With the new company, copies are being delivered to members in the United Kingdom and Europe in

approximately two weeks. Other destinations take a little longer.

Looking ahead, it is my unfortunate duty to inform the Board and the Members that on January 1, 1991 imposition of the new Goods and Services Tax in Canada will significantly raise the cost of printing and delivering *BNA TOPICS*. Printing costs, which until now have not been taxed, will now be subject to a 7% levy. Another 7% will be levied against the cost of postage. The net increase will be around 10%, or \$300 per issue. Should the Ontario Provincial Government 'piggyback' onto the GST, an additional 8% levy could be added to both the printing and postage costs.

In December 1989 the Canadian Government announced the end of postal subsidies for publications. This put an end to our effort to obtain Second Class mailing privileges for *BNA TOPICS* through Philaprint. Two weeks ago Philaprint advised that, based on new information received by them, we should again try to proceed with an application. This is in progress. If successful, the money saved will offset the effects of the GST, at least initially.

In the coming year we will reassess the finances of *BNA TOPICS* in the light of the GST and the outcome of the application for Second Class mail privileges. I will work with the Treasurer and Editor to determine the current costs of publishing and mailing *BNA TOPICS* in the United States. I have recommended to the Board that it authorize the Executive to move the printing and mailing of *BNA TOPICS* to the United States if the financial review indicates that this will be to BNAPS' advantage.

In closing I would like to add my thanks, and those of the members of the Editorial Board, to Vic Willson for continuing to produce one of the finest philatelic journals.

BNA TOPICS Circulation Manager

Duties fall into two ranges:

1. retrieve undeliverable copies of *BNA TOPICS*, and obtain changes of address for the secretary, and
2. replace missing and damaged copies of *BNA TOPICS* and sell back issues.

Income is generated from the second item, expenses from both. Listed below are the income and expenses.

Year	Income C\$	Income US\$
1985	284.00	
1986	243.50	
1987	659.50	95.00

1988	137.50	2.00
1989	500.50	265.50
1990	255.00	

Year	Expense C\$	Expense US\$
1985		
1986	115.78	
1987	417.73	48.45
1988	304.39	
1989	284.65	
1990		

BNA Topics Advertising Manager

Display advertising income for the period July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990 was down 11% from last year and 15% from two years ago.

Classified advertising income for the same period was up 17% from last year and down 39% from two years ago.

Book Department Manager

During the last year the book department handled 89 orders for books, and supplied the library with 15 new titles.

Circuits Manager

Thanks to Bob Jamieson the changeover in managers was accomplished in as smooth a way as possible, but inevitably there has been some slow down in service to members. Nevertheless during this period a little more than \$7,000 of members material has been sold and \$8,500 has been returned to members through retirements. \$978 was returned to BNAPS through commissions and \$292 contributed to the insurance fund.

The new sales books are a larger size but the same capacity. It is hoped that larger circuits can be sent out while still taking advantage of the oversize letter rate. Parcel post costs would be nearly double. A U.S. currency account has been opened to deposit U.S. cheques and it is working out very well. Calculations are made using the daily dollar figures. About half the operation is now computerized, making it easier and less prone to error.

I would like to thank all those who have written notes and letters. They have been appreciated and I have tried to reply to all. I hope to improve sales during the coming year, but I can only send out what you send in. So please keep filling those books with good material.

Conventions Coordinator

I look forward to the opening of BNAPEX '90 and would like to thank Vic Willson and his committee for their efforts in producing what is

certainly another great BNAPEX.

The 1992 Chicago Show is on schedule and will be held at the Holiday Inn in Mandelin, Illinois on September 11-13. Bob Schlesinger is the Convention Chairman and is being assisted by our good friends Basil Burrell and Steve Whitcombe. I have enclosed a flyer (with an area map) of the hotel-site for this show.

I have been corresponding with J.J. Macdonald, Dave Cole and lastly Marilyn Murphy of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club in regards to their sponsoring the 1993 Convention. One of their problems is that the club apparently has very few BNAPS members. I feel that with J.J. Macdonald's support we can overcome the problems they have and I believe that the 1993 Convention will be held in Halifax.

The Calgary group had shown an interest in hosting the 1995 Convention, chaired by Bill Pawluk. However, I recently received a letter from Bill announcing their withdrawal from consideration, I regret to say. Perhaps they will reconsider and find a way?

The upcoming schedule is as follows:

- 1991 Vancouver, B.C. - Bill Robinson
- 1992 Chicago, IL - Bob Schlesinger
- 1993 Halifax, N.S. - (Hopefully)
- 1994 Open for U.S. hosts
- 1995 Open for Canadian hosts
(Quebec venue would be great)
- 1996 Open for US hosts
- 1997 St. John's, Nfld. - President,
St. John's Stamp Club

I am still seeking potential host groups to come forward to host our National Convention in the open years noted above. As of January 1, 1991, I will be passing this responsibility on to our new Convention Coordinator, in order to have more time to dedicate to my duties as First Vice President. If anyone would like to discuss the possibility of their group hosting a show, please talk to myself or the new coordinator at your convenience. We will be around and more than willing to show you how easy it is.

It has been a pleasure serving the Society in this position and I am certain the new coordinator will do a fine job as my successor.

Historian

Work on the *Members Handbook* has gotten as far as the first draft. I have surveyed all issues of *BNA TOPICS*. I now must review and attempt to complete.

The membership listing is complete and, here also, I must now review and attempt to pick up any loose ends.

The picture gallery has been inactive due to full effort having been expended on the handbook. I anticipate to be able to put some time on it during the coming year.

I must keep on reminding the members that whatever they have they no longer want or need that pertains to BNAPS. I will be much appreciative of having it turned over to the Historian for the archives.

Librarian

The library has experienced a considerable lending activity this past year. In addition, numerous requests for copies of articles and study group newsletters have been processed. While not specifically authorized by the Board, the Librarian has responded to modest requests for copies by providing them at no cost to the person requesting them on the assumption that such action was in the spirit of the Board in authorizing free mailing to borrowers of books and monographs. The cost is not prohibitive and makes things easier for all concerned. Requests for copies of complete sets of newsletters cannot be handled in this way, of course. Rather, the sets are loaned and the borrower is free to copy as much or all as he or she wishes. Incidentally, lending sets of newsletters has been a thriving activity. For example, the Small Queens Newsletter has been on loan almost constantly.

Without going into detail, preparing a condensed version of the holdings of the library has been tedious and enormously time consuming. I am grateful for Vic Willson's generous assistance and computer expertise and largely because of this we are making available a manageable listing of books, monographs, and holdings of journals and auction catalogues. These are being distributed free to persons attending the 1990 meeting.

There is still much to be done and now that the Librarian is semi-retired, it is hoped that the catalogue of holdings of file materials will be completed in a few months and be available for distribution. That will terminate what has been a long and sometimes frustrating process of conversion to a computerized system. Your patience has been much appreciated.

Study Group Coordinator

At the present time there are twenty active study groups within BNAPS. I am pleased to report that over half of the study groups now have more than one officer. More members are agreeing to actively support the study groups which means a stronger base from which to

operate. The newsletters from most of the study groups are coming out on a regular basis with even greater information. Summary of the subjects can be found in Frank Waite's column in *BNA TOPICS*, the Study Group Centerline. For those BNAPS members not participating in a study group, I suggest that you write any of them requesting their latest newsletter and check it out for yourself.

Committee on Elections

467 ballots were cast of which four were spoiled. The following officers have been elected by acclamation:

President - William G. Robinson
 First Vice President - Charles G. Firby
 Second Vice President - Robert V.C. Carr
 Treasurer - Arthur Klass
 Secretary - Chris McGregor

The following regular directors have been elected by vote of the membership: Allan Steinhart, Ken Ellison, Garvin Lohman, J. Don Wilson, Jack M. Wallace.

Report on the Directors' Meeting held on October 17, 1990.

The Board resolved that the charge for the annual Membership Roster should be such that costs would be recovered. Accordingly, the price of the roster was increased to \$4.00. The 1990 Roster should be available in January 1991. Members wishing a copy should send \$4.00 to the Secretary with a request for same.

Because only a few membership applications now require a proposer and seconder, the terms

of reference for the President's award were changed from *proposing* to *introducing* the most new members since the last Annual General Meeting.

The Treasurer reported that BNAPS carried the following insurance: Circuits: \$63,500, Library: \$30,500, Book Dept: \$8,500. The directors resolved that the Circuit and Book Dept. coverage be considered adequate, but that the Library coverage should be reviewed by the President together with the Treasurer and Librarian, and adjusted as they see fit.

The recommendations from the Editorial Board Chairman, the Editor of *BNA TOPICS*, and the Conventions Coordinator were approved. The recommendation from the Study Group Coordinator was not.

OTHER BUSINESS

Upon motion duly seconded, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the actions of the directors and officers of the Society since the last Annual General Meeting be and they are hereby approved.

James C. Lehr spoke briefly about the Order of the Beaver and announced that Earle Leslie Covert had been elected a Fellow.

The meeting was reminded that the next convention would be held at the Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver, B.C., Canada from August 29 to 31, 1991, and that the registration fee would be considerably less than the \$175 figure being rumored at the 1990 convention.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

William G. Robinson, Chairman

BALANCE SHEET ON JUNE 30, 1990

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash in banks	14,437.00
Cash held by dept. heads	17,580.00
Certificates of Deposit	77,078.00
Accounts receivable, advertising	1,059.00
Book inventory	4,821.00
Library	<u>100.00</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

115,075.00

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sales circuits payable	15,051.00
Prepaid membership dues	<u>9,252.00</u>
Total current liabilities	24,303.00

EQUITY

Insurance fund, appropriated	863.00
BNAPS Foundation funds	34,038.00

Members' equity June 30,1988	49,146.00	
Add equity for current year	<u>6,725.00</u>	
Total members' equity	<u>55,871.00</u>	
Total equity		<u>90,772.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>115,075.00</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1990

INCOME

Membership dues	23,029.00	
Interest income	7,424.00	
Sale of library books	123.00	
Advertising, <i>BNA TOPICS</i> etc.	4,961.00	
Book department	7,914.00	
Sales circuits	<u>841.00</u>	
Total income		<u>44,292.00</u>

EXPENSE

Cost of books sold	4,891.00	
Stationery and supplies	3,748.00	
Postage	371.00	
Insurance	1,134.00	
Bank charges	17.00	
<i>BNA TOPICS</i> printing and distribution	23,492.00	
Legal	1,091.00	
Medals and plaques	887.00	
Advertising	12.00	
Study Groups stipends, free memberships	734.00	
BNAPS meeting, conventions, etc.	<u>1,190.00</u>	
Total expense		<u>37,567.00</u>

NET INCREASE IN MEMBERS' EQUITY

6,725.00

ARE YOU GOING TO VANCOUVER? BNAPEX '91, AUGUST 29, 30, 31

AN INVITATION

TO MEMBERS OF
THE BRITISH
NORTH AMERICA
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Members receive *The Canadian Philatelist*, published bimonthly, and are entitled to use the sales circuit.

If you are not already a member of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and would be interested in joining the "Royal", please write to the Secretary, The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Department B, Box 5320, Station F, Ottawa, Ontario K2J 3J1, for membership application forms or information.

ADMISSION FEE — \$5.00 ANNUAL DUES

Canadian member — \$18.00
US member — \$20.00
Overseas member — \$20.00

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- | | |
|--|--|
| ADMIRAL ISSUE | NUMERAL ISSUE |
| ADVERTISING COVERS | OFFICIAL STAMPS |
| AIRMAIL & FLIGHT COVERS | OFFICIALLY SEALED STAMPS |
| AIRMAIL STAMPS | O H M S PERFINS |
| ALBERTA POSTAL HISTORY | ONTARIO POSTAL HISTORY |
| BOOKLETS & BOOKLET PANES | PATRIOTIC COVERS & POSTCARDS |
| BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAL HISTORY | PENCE ISSUES |
| CENTENNIAL (1967) ISSUE | PERFINS (PRIVATE) |
| CINDERELLA MATERIAL | PLATE BLOCKS |
| DEAD LETTER OFFICE | POSTAGE DUE ISSUES |
| DISASTER COVERS | POSTAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS & LARGE LOTS |
| DUPLEX CANCELLATIONS | POSTAL STATIONERY |
| EDWARD VII ISSUE | PRECANCELS |
| EXHIBITION & FAIR COVERS | P.E.I. POSTAL HISTORY |
| FANCY, NUMERAL & SPECIALTY CANCELLATIONS | PROOFS |
| 1859 FIRST CENTS ISSUE | QUEBEC POSTAL HISTORY |
| FIRST DAY COVERS | QUEBEC TERCENTENARY |
| FLAG CANCELLATIONS | RAILROAD POST OFFICES |
| FOREIGN COVERS | RATE COVERS |
| FORGERIES | REGISTERED COVERS |
| INTERNATIONAL MACHINE CANCELLATIONS | REGISTRATION STAMPS |
| JUBILEE ISSUE | REVENUES |
| LARGE QUEEN ISSUE | ROYAL TRAINS COVERS |
| LEGISLATIVE MARKINGS | SASKATCHEWAN POSTAL HISTORY |
| LITERATURE | SEMI-OFFICIAL AIRMAILS |
| MANITOBA POSTAL HISTORY | SHIP CANCELLATIONS, MARKINGS & VIEWCARDS |
| MAP (1898) ISSUE | SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS |
| MAPLE LEAF ISSUE | SMALL QUEEN ISSUE |
| MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY | SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS |
| MOON, MOTO & POCON CANCELLATIONS | SPECIMEN OVERPRINTS |
| NASCOPIE POSTAL HISTORY | SQUARED CIRCLES |
| NEW BRUNSWICK POSTAL HISTORY | STAMP COLLECTIONS & LARGE LOTS |
| NEW BRUNSWICK STAMPS | STAMPLESS COVERS |
| NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL HISTORY | VARIETIES |
| NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS | VIEWCARDS |
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| NOVA SCOTIA POSTAL HISTORY | YUKON POSTAL HISTORY |

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BNAPEX '90

EXHIBITION AWARDS

GRAND AWARD

Allan Steinhart - Prestamp and Stampless mails 1685 - 1865

MEDALS

GOLD - George Arfken : Canada's Small Queen Era: Postal Rates and Regulations Governing Overseas Letter Mail
J.C. Arnell : The Transitional Decade from Sail to Steam on the North Atlantic

Richard Mallot : Pioneer Airmails

Allan Steinhart : Prestamp and Stampless Mails 1685 - 1865

VERMEIL - Max Guggenheim : Yukon Territory Postal History

Ken Kutz : British Columbia and Yukon Gold

Wilmer Rockett : Telegraph Covers of Canada

Victor Willson : Canadian Postal Rates: Domestic, BNA, and U.S., 1859 - 1875

SILVER - Ken Ellison : The Canadian Army in Newfoundland and Labrador 1940 - 1946

Richard Mallot : Crash Covers

Clint Phillips : Fancy Cancellations on Small Queens

Rich Toop : Canadian Military Mail 1827 - 1920

John Wannerton : World War II POW and Military Covers

SILVER-BRONZE +

FELICITATIONS - Jeff Switt : Postal Operations of the Foreign Exchange Control Board 1939 - 1945

SILVER-BRONZE - Ed Christman, Jr. : Canadian Semi Official Airmail Stamps and Covers

Vic Drozd : Prince Edward Island

Jim Felton : Canadian Orb Cancellations

Roger Grigson : Cancellations and Postmarks 1870 - 1899

Maurice Hewitt : Canadian Semi-Official Airmails and Flight Covers

BRONZE - Fred Hollenbeck : Flag Cancellations of Canada

Peter McCarthy : Post Office Cancels

Erick Middleton : A Study of the Canadian Pacific Railway Advertising Mail

Ray Skrepnek : George VI Official Stamps of Canada

Wilmer Rockett : Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Revenues

COURT OF HONOUR

Gordon Bleuler - Tremont House - 19th Century Postal History

ED and MICKEY RICHARDSON AWARD

JEFF SWITT - Postal Operations of the Foreign Exchange Control Board 1939 - 1945

The exhibit best representing one or more of the following: research, originality, innovativeness, presentation - sponsored by the Texas Prairie Beavers Regional Group.

VINCENT G. GREENE AWARD

WILLIAM C. WALTON

The Vincent G. Greene award is given annually for the best article, or series of articles, to appear originally in *BNA TOPICS* during the previous year. The winner is chosen by a vote of the Board of Governors and the Executive. The winner for 1989 is Bill Walton for his series of articles *Newfoundland Postal Stationery*.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

HORACE W. HARRISON

Horace W. Harrison has been named as the winner of the President's Award for proposing the most new members accepted into the Society in the previous calendar year. At his own expense he contacted every American Philatelic Society member who listed CANADA as a collecting interest and stimulated over 100 enquiries about BNAPS.

THE JOHN S. SIVERTS AWARD

DANIEL G. ROSENBLAT

The John S. Siverts Award is presented annually to the editor of the best Study Group newsletter published during the previous calendar year. The 1989 winner, selected by the Study Group Coordinator, the Chairman of the Board, the President, the Editor of *BNA TOPICS*, and the Editor of the *Study Group Centerline* column, was Dan Rosenblat, Editor of the *Slogan Box*, newsletter of the Slogan Study Group.

ORDER OF THE BEAVER

The Order of the Beaver was awarded to Dr. Earle L. Covert of Hay River, NWT. Dr. Covert was inducted into the Order during the Business Meeting at BNAPEX 90. Selection is made by the members of the Order.

BNAPEX '91

Thursday - Friday - Saturday

August 29 - 30 - 31, 1991

Westin Bayshore Hotel

Vancouver, B.C. 1-800-228-3000

BNAPEX '90 - THE PEOPLE



Grand Award winner Alan Steinhart with judges Chuck Firby, Mike Street, and Bill Robinson.



Jeff Switt with the Ed and Mickey Richardson Award for best researched exhibit at BNAPEX '90



Julia Rosenblat accepts the John Sieverts Award for husband Dan.

All photos by Paul Burega.



Vinnie G. Greene Award winner Bill Walton.



George Vancouver, alias Jack Wallace, touts BNAPEX '91 in Vancouver.

BNAPEX '90 **The People**



Quilt winner Helen McGregor (L) with Raffle Chair and first quilter Carol Willson (R).

CANADIAN AND U.S.A. MIXED FRANKING AIRMAIL COVERS 1926 TO 1928

by Walter Plomisch

Foreword

Many fine articles have been published on Canadian Pioneer Airmail. Such pioneer Canadian flights as Richard Peck's, Catherine Stitson's, and the 1927 London to London flight have been ably chronicled by Dick Mallott. Semi-official Canadian airmail services have also been extensively written about by numerous authors and many fine collections have been put together on both these subjects, some awarded international gold medals. Some of the covers in the Pioneer Canadian Airmail exhibits qualify as major Canadian postal history rarities. This article is not about these two well covered subjects.

About 8 years ago I started to look for an original subject of Canadian postal history I could start to build a collection of. Almost every conceivable Canadian philatelic subject had been written on or exhibited already, but I wanted to collect an area somewhere between 1927 and 1945. I am not a wealthy collector, and like most people with limited resources I needed to pick a postal history subject that I was realistically able to take on - something that I had a chance for reasonable completion with, but that had not been widely collected before. After much thought and consideration I finally chose Canadian Airmail Postal History. I sought commercially flown mail to foreign destinations and tried to assemble the collection based on the rate structure and routing of those covers. The first thing I did was to locate all available articles on the subject. This took only a short time, as I found there was none to be found. Aside from a few good articles on Canada's air letters and airgrams by Rich Toop and others, not much else was in print. This pleased me in a way, because a wonderful opportunity was presented to me. I could now start from scratch and see what I could find out about Canadian Airmail Postal History. In the beginning, I started to search all the dealers' cover boxes and stocks, but quickly found out that the covers were also not to be found.

With a few covers bought to whet my

appetite, I decided I would soldier on and concentrate on the 1926 to 1945 era. I then flew to Ottawa to the Canadian National Archives and started to sift through the airmail postal documents. Five days later, and armed with hundreds of photostats, I returned home. I was hooked really badly by now. The more I read, the more complex I found Canadian airmail postal history to be. After another year of searching for covers I returned to Ottawa and spent another five 12 hour days in the Postal Archives and Canadian Postal Museum, photostating like mad. After all this I found a pretty good idea on how the Canadian post office developed its early airmail service, and had an almost complete set of airmail rates, routes, and maps on airmail service to foreign destinations. The post office archive records in Ottawa are not complete, and I found I have a few grey areas to contend with. I am hoping a trip to postal archives in Washington D.C. and London, England, will help to shed light on these. I am also writing a book on this subject based on my personal Canadian airmail collection. It will also explain all Canadian international postal airmail rates and routes they were flown on. I'm hoping these articles will help create an interest in this field and I will be able to tell if there is a demand for this type of book. Any feedback from readers will be much appreciated.

I also decided from the beginning to follow two collecting rules. **Rule one:** no cacheted first flight covers or cacheted special event covers would be in the collection, only commercially flown covers. **Rule two:** no philatelic covers with ridiculous over frankings, only covers with stamps in their proper period of use paying proper airmail rates. These restrictions can really slow down your ability to acquire material. I had seen too many fine exhibits with first rate postal history material on the frames, soiled by inclusion of philatelic covers. I can just hear some of you now crying, *but that's the only way you can get certain Canadian stamps on cover.* Not so! Many early Canadian airmail rates up to 1935 were very high. It is not impossible to

have a non-philatelic Canadian airmail cover franked with 20 cent, 50 cent, or even 1.00 Canadian stamps. Early airmail rates to South America were very high, and combinations of these high value stamps are very possible on commercial Canadian airmail covers. Most philatelic or 1st flight covers are addressed to airmail collectors, foreign consulates or in care of postmasters. I consider this all low-grade material, not worthy of a postal history exhibit. Some may differ, but I stand firm on this point. With great patience and determination these commercial Canadian airmail covers can be found and when assembled in one collection look awfully nice.

In the early Canadian airmail time period many scarce to rare interesting usages are known such as the Seattle-Victoria seaplane mail in 1919, the Cairo-Basra Aerial Service, the early S.C.A.D.T.A. usages to the interior points of Columbia by airmail, and the mixed franking usages of Canada and United States postage for Canadians utilizing the early 1926 to 1928 U.S. airmail service. My first articles on Canadian airmail will deal with these Canadian and United States mixed frankings, a most unusual idea of using stamps mailed from one country to prepay an airmail service in another country and be sanctioned by both countries.

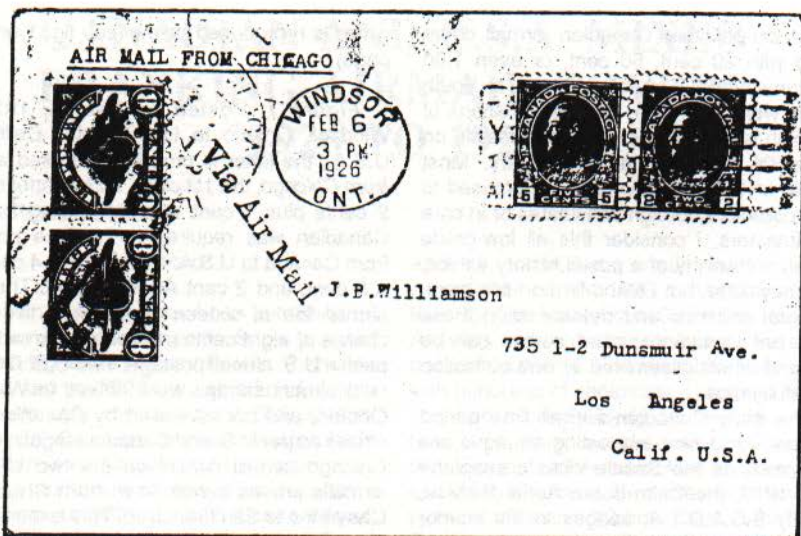
Canadian and United States mixed frankings via U.S. airmail services to U.K. and European destinations 1926-1928

The United States government operated a limited airmail service between Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York commencing on May 15, 1918. Because of Public demand the service was expanded from New York to San Francisco on July 1, 1924. This new service was divided into 3 stages or zones. New York - Chicago, Chicago - Cheyenne, and Cheyenne - San Francisco. The flying time was a little over 30 hours. This U.S. government-operated airmail service was available in the U.S. only, and mail from Canada could not be accepted on these airmail services at this time. Many letters and inquiries were received by the Canadian post office officials in Ottawa asking when Canadians could utilize this service. Finally after negotiations with Washington, Ottawa announced that Canadians could now avail themselves of this U.S. airmail service on letters posted in Canada. The first mention of this service is in the July 1925 monthly supplement to the Canadian Postal Guide,

which is reproduced below (see fig. 1 on next page).

Figure 1. Posted on Feb. 6, 1926 at Windsor, Ontario to Los Angeles California, U.S.A., the letter is properly endorsed *airmail from Chicago*, the 1st class 1st oz. letter rate of 2 cents plus 1 cent war tax totaling 3 cents Canadian was required for surface postage from Canada to U.S.A. It is overpaid 4 cents by a 5 cent, and 2 cent Admiral issue. The U.S. airmail fee of sixteen cents for a two zone charge of eight cents per zone is correctly prepaid in U.S. airmail postage. Two U.S. C4 eight cent airmail stamps were affixed in Windsor, Ontario, and not cancelled by Canadian post offices as per U.S. and Canadian regulations. A Chicago airmail cancel on the two U.S. C4 airmails proves it was flown from Chicago to Cheyenne to San Francisco. This is the earliest airmail cover I have seen mailed in Canada and flown over the U.S. airmail service to destination. This cover was most likely mailed from a collector to a collector. At first glance it looks commercial but overpaid 4 cents for surface charge to U.S.A. There is a companion cover shown in Allan Steinhart's book, *The Admiral Era: A Rate Study 1912-1928* (Toronto: Hennok, 1981; p.50). It was mailed the same day to the same person with the same U.S. airmail franking. For variety I suppose he added a Canadian twenty cent special delivery and no Canadian surface postage. It was struck 6, double 3 cent postage due fee required. Until I find a commercial cover to replace this one I will have to break rule one. I would be very interested to know if any of you collectors out there have an airmail cover from Canada with U.S. C4 to C6 pre-affixed in Canada to utilize U.S. airmail services.

On February 15, 1926, the three zone U.S. government airmail service was expanded by adding privately - bid contract airmail routes. This expansion changed the rate structure in the Canadian post office guide supplements. The new rates to prepay U.S. airmail services from Canada were now eight cents per oz. for each contract service desired and 5¢ per oz. for each zone desired. The contract services are very lengthy and cannot all be reproduced here. This rate system stayed in effect until February 1, 1927, when a uniform rate of 10¢ per 1/2 oz. was introduced in the U.S.A. The rate for airmail from Canada to be prepaid for U.S. airmail services in U.S. postage stamps was also 10¢ per 1/2 oz. This stayed into effect until



New York-San Francisco Air Mail Service.—Postmasters are informed that letters and other articles except those liable to damage from freezing, may be posted in Canada for transmission by the United States airmail service between New York and San Francisco, provided such articles are endorsed "Via Air Mail" in the upper right-hand corner immediately below the space reserved for postage stamps; that they are properly prepaid as regards Canadian postage and that the air mail postage is prepaid in United States postage either by ordinary United States postage stamps or by special air mail stamps issued by the United States Postal authorities.

The New York-San Francisco air route is divided into three zones, terminating at Chicago, Cheyenne and San Francisco. The aerial postage for each zone is 3 cents per ounce or fraction thereof.

Postmasters at the place of mailing in Canada should not cancel United States postage stamps on articles intended for transmission by this air service, but should cancel the Canadian postage only. Such letters and other articles should be placed on the top of packages made up for United States Post Offices or railway post offices.

Figure 1

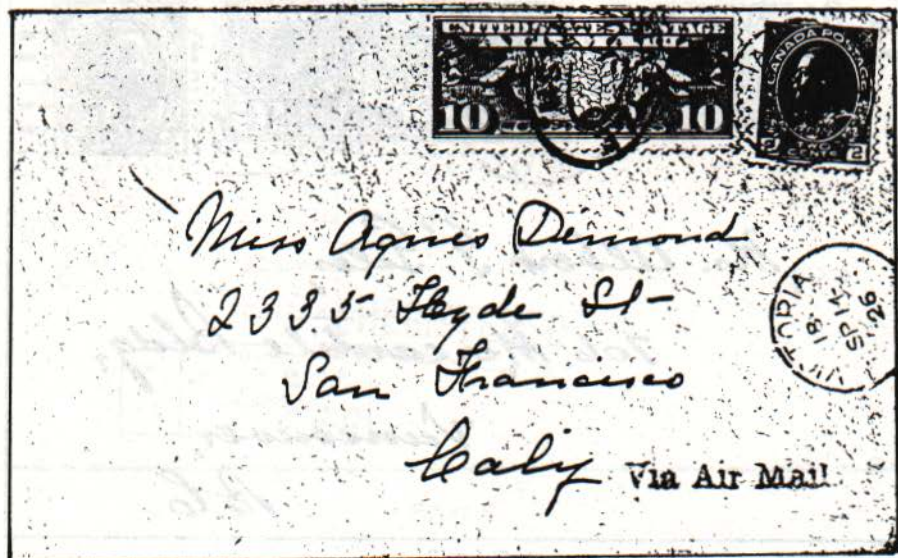
October 1, 1928, when the rate was lowered to 5¢ 1st oz., 10¢ each add. oz. This time period prior to February 1, 1927 was known as the U.S. airmail service *period of confusion*. One exception to these 3 zone and contract airmail U.S. services was the Seattle to San Francisco or Seattle - Los Angeles contract U.S. airmail service. The rates charged to Canadians to prepay these services from Canada in U.S. postage stamps were Seattle to San Francisco, 10¢ per oz., Seattle to Los Angeles, 15¢ per oz., plus 5¢ extra per oz. for each zone travelled. Of course, additional surface postage from Canada to U.S. paid in regular Canadian stamps was needed. This contract service is listed below (See Fig. 2 on following page).

Figure 2. Posted on September 14, 1926, at Vancouver, B.C., to San Francisco, it is correctly paid at two cents Canadian for surface postage and 10¢ per oz. with U.S. 10¢ airmail stamp to pre pay U.S. contract air charge. Since it did not pass through an airmail zone it

did not require the extra 5¢ per oz. in U.S. postage. The Seattle - San Francisco - Los Angeles contract service did not begin until February 15, 1926. The cover arrived from Canada on February 15, 1926, at Seattle and is backstamped San Francisco, September 16, 1926, 4.30 pm, so it was obviously flown.

Because of this very confusing airmail rating system the U.S. post office decided to introduce the uniform airmail rate of 10¢ per 1/2 oz. anywhere in the U.S.A. where airmail services were available. This put an end to the nightmare postal clerks and the public had in rating airmail covers, with separate air charges for 3 zone and contract airmail as desired by sender.

Figures 3 and 4 are examples of covers mailed in one Canadian city, then flown via U.S. airmail services for delivery in another Canadian city. This was agreed upon by the U.S. post office to expedite mail from east coast to west coast Can. cities or vice versa.



Seattle-Los Angeles Air Mail Service.—Postmasters are informed that letters and other articles may be accepted for transmission over the new United States contract air mail route between Seattle, Wash., via Portland and Medford, Oregon, San Francisco, Fresno and Bakersfield, Cal., to Los Angeles, Cal.

The schedule of this air mail route is as follows:—

South daily	Effective September 15, 1926		North daily
3.45 a.m.....	Lv.....	Seattle.....	2.00 p.m.
5.45 a.m.....	.....	Portland.....	12.00 noon.
8.15 a.m.....	.....	Medford.....	9.30 a.m.
12.00 noon.....	.....	San Francisco.....	5.30 a.m.
2.00 p.m.....	.....	Fresno.....	3.30 a.m.
3.30 p.m.....	.....	Bakersfield.....	1.45 a.m.
5.00 p.m.....	Ar.....	Los Angeles.....	12.01 a.m.

Such articles should be endorsed "Via Air Mail" in the upper right hand corner, immediately below the space reserved for postage stamps. They should be properly prepaid as regards Canadian postage, and the aerial postage should be prepaid by United States postage stamps or by special air mail stamps issued by the United States service, at the rate of 10 cents per ounce or fraction thereof, with the exception that mail matter entering the air service at Seattle and addressed for delivery at Los Angeles or vice versa, should be paid at the rate of 15 cents an ounce or fraction thereof, with 5 cents additional for each zone (see July Supplement to 1925 Postal Guide), travelled over the United States Transcontinental Air Mail Route (New York to San Francisco).

Postmasters at the places of mailing in Canada should not cancel United States postage stamps on articles intended for transmission by United States Air Mail Services, but should cancel the Canadian postage only. Such letters and other articles should be placed on the top of packages made up for the United States post offices and railway post offices.

Figure 2

Via Air Mail



Mr. Albert F. Giles,
706 Mercantile Bldg,
Vancouver,
B.C.

Figure 3

Figure 3. Posted on March 22, 1927, Montreal to Vancouver, B.C. via U.S. airmail. The Pasco, Washington, March 25, 1927, transit backstamp proves it was flown in the U.S.A. The U.S. 10c airmail stamp was cancelled with a Montreal machine cancel contrary to regulations, along with the 2 cent admiral surface charge.

Figure 4. Posted on April 5, 1927 Victoria B.C. to Montreal P.Q., the U.S. ten cent Monroe definitive shows an example of regular U.S. postage used from Canada to pre pay U.S. airmail service in lieu of a U.S. airmail stamp. Cancelled on April 5, 1927, at Seattle Wash. terminal station where it entered the U.S. airmail system and was flown to New York and

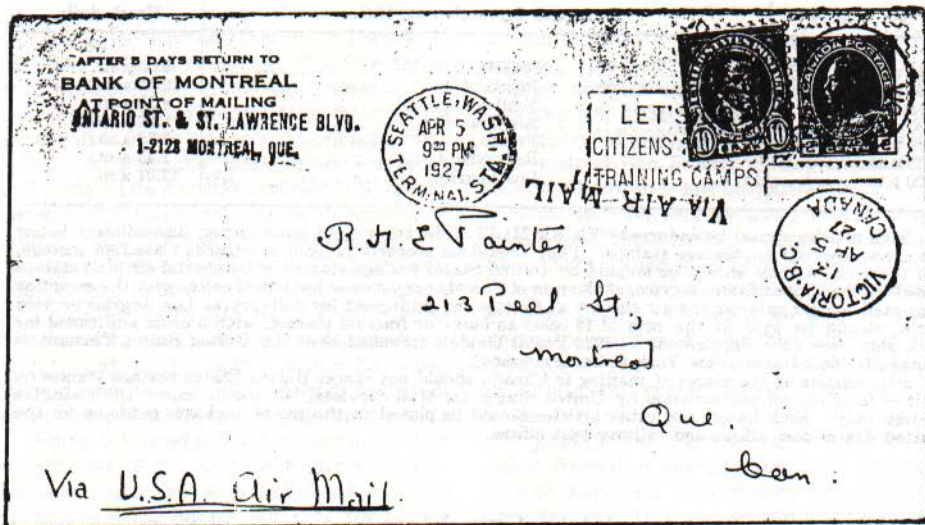


Figure 4



Figure 5

has a N.Y. N.Y.2 April 9, 1927, receiver, the cover was then forwarded to Montreal for delivery by surface means.

U.S. airmail stamps were sold to the Canadian public at certain Canadian post offices such as Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, mostly cities close to the U.S. border. I have seen an interesting letter stating that about \$40.00 per month in U.S. airmail stamps were sold at the lobby desk of the Empress Hotel in Victoria, B.C., in 1928.

Figure 5. Posted on July 15, 1927 at Toronto, Ontario registered to Alameda, California, U.S.A., the cover is properly endorsed *airmail from Chicago*. An Alameda receiver dated July 19, 1927, is on the back. Registered mail flown via U.S. airmail services from Canada is not easy to find. The twelve cent Canadian map stamp pays the 10¢ registration fee and 2¢ surface fee. These combination U.S. and Canadian covers are found until the issue of Canada's first airmail 5¢ stamp on September 21, 1928. An agreement, however, was worked out with the U.S. airmail charges from Canada prepaid in Canadian postage. This actually began on August 7, 1928, but would have to be paid in Canadian regular postage because the first Canadian airmail stamp was not issued until September 21, 1928. On August 1, 1928, the U.S. airmail charge was reduced from 10¢ per 1/2 oz. in the U.S.A. to 5¢ 1st oz., 10¢ each add. oz. The U.

S. C11 5¢ Beacon airmail stamp was issued on July 25, 1928, for this purpose. This leaves a short time of only seven days you could have the 10¢ per oz. U.S. airmail fee paid with two 5¢ U.S. Beacon airmails, also only six days to use the C11 U.S. Beacon from Canada to pre pay the new 5¢ 1st oz. 10¢ each. add. oz. which came into effect on August 1, 1928. After August 6, 1928, you could pre pay U.S. airmail charges in regular Canadian postage. I have no covers to show these two Beacon airmail stamp possibilities mailed from Canada to prepay U.S. airmail charges.

Figure 6. Posted on August 11, 1928, to Ottumwa, Iowa, U.S.A., requesting special delivery and U.S. airmail service. Posted after the August 7, 1928 beginning of prepayment of U.S. airmail fees in Canadian postage, it is correctly prepaid with 5¢ Laurier at 5¢ 1st oz, which also included surface transmission to nearest U.S. airmail field, and surface delivery to destination after being flown in the U.S. to the closest point that airmail delivery was available. The twenty cent Canadian special delivery stamp paid for special delivery service to Ottumwa, Iowa (Fig. 6 on next page).

This covers the combination usages from Canada of Canadian surface postage and U.S. regular airmail stamps preaffixed in Canada for prepayment of U.S. airmail services.

(to be continued)



Figure 6



THE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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AMERICAN BANKNOTE SALE THE 1990 "PROOF" EXTRAVAGANZA

by Robert Pratt, OTB

The NEW YORK GOLD RUSH - 1990

My impressions of Christie's Auction Sale of the American Bank Note Company's proofs and record sheets held in New York City, September 12 to 15 with lot viewing on the 7th and 8th and 10th and 11th. With emphasis on the Philatelic Sale of September 13th, as related to me by some who were in attendance.

CIRCUS - CIRCUS

It should have been billed as the largest, most important and most beautiful auction on earth - but, it wasn't. It turned out to be the biggest success and at the same time the biggest disaster of the decade - if that is possible. This was a sale for the dealer with deep pockets and a confirmed list of customers - there was little incentive for the true collector to compete. The listing of the items to be sold was broad in scope but lacking in detail and specifics, and left the seeker of information with little to satisfy his desires. The catalogues, at least twenty dollars apiece, were beautiful examples, in colour, of the auctioneers art - but, as historic references of the lot contents they were totally inadequate and inaccurate. The four days of lot viewing and four days devoted to the sale, held in cost excessive New York City, proved that Barnum was right - and sometimes twice a day. Viewing of the lots by visiting customers was difficult to accomplish, because of time limits, the size and number of the lots and the many customers requiring attention. Withdrawal of 181 lots just prior to the sale of the 13th, 22.5% of the total number, set a new record for buyer irritation. The result:- lots advertised for sale were *Not as advertised*. A beautiful and thoughtful gift - approved by many - was so thoroughly mishandled and announced so brazenly that it became a rotting albatross instead of a generous beneficence, graciously given. There were also Clowns in attendance - as befitting the *Sale of the Century*.

SENTIMENT IGNORED

Money Too Tough for Tradition, was a headline in the Chicago Tribune of 19 Septem-

ber 1990, page 10. The news referred to Atlanta obtaining the 1996 Olympics. It continued - *TOKYO - In the end it was money and technology versus sentiment and history. And money won.* Substitute *NEW YORK* -. The sale is over. With hammer price greater than the hidden reserve or the expected results of the sale, the bloated totals are being tallied. When complete, nothing will remain except to add the results to the Bank Note Company's assets.

The contents of the lots are being distributed to the new owners, the destruction of years of sequestered information contained in the notes on the pages of proofs and stamps and other bits of paper, is about to begin. When finished, history will be obliterated. As the scissors fall silent, and the severed pieces are further disbursed in tiny lots, any attempt to recreate the valuable data that was inscribed on those retained records will be impossible. What a loss! History erased, sentiment ignored. What is past is done. The forest has been destroyed, the ground cleared and burned, and the tiny hoard of gold salvaged.

Cheaper by the Dozen

My old friend and auctioneer, Jim Sissons, used to chant that statement at every auction he attended. How astute, how true! This sale in particular, demonstrated the virtue of the thinking. Can you imagine a collector who would buy a lot of 4000 plus proofs in order to select for his collection a possible 15 or 20 different items? Or is an auction lot of this dimension more suited to the activities of a dealer with a large customer list and the capability to dissect the mass into individual varieties and furnish his customers select items? Isn't this an opportunity for the dealer-dissector with a known market, to improve his financial position in the process? And there were only 42,000 plus plate proof type items of Newfoundland to dispose of, and many, many more of Canada. In the Newfoundland section of 107 lots, (the sale of 13 September) there were four such large lots, and several others at about half that size. Some lots were purchased at prices of about \$5.00 per item, or around \$20,000.00 for the whole. The proofs probably will be sold for \$10.00 to \$15.-

00 each (and perhaps more depending on scarcity, ect.) I can hear the purchaser laughing all the way to the bank to pick up his loan. His future profit and well being have just been guaranteed. And that doesn't tell the whole story. The descriptions are so inaccurate that, as written, they depreciate the estimated value of the lot. The discerning dealer will soon be able to identify those items that have been unreported, and congratulate himself on his astute purchase of imperforate stamps, gummed and ungummed. (File record sheets on stamp paper) instead of plate proofs, and the scarce overprinted stamps with the Banknote *Specimen* rather than the impressions of the UPU country of receipt. He may even find unknown Plate Numbers or Factory order numbers, and sheet configurations, such as gutter blocks, to improve the value of his purchase.

Cheaper by the dozen, you bet. This auction was a dealer paradise.

Conditions of Sale.

From the introduction - We have made a conscientious effort to have our descriptions convey the condition of each lot. -

The property described in this catalogue, which description may be amended by-

If condition were the only criteria, the words are fine. However, the need was for more specific descriptions of the material included in the lots. I cannot give Christie's a gold star for the lot descriptions. It is apparent that the good folk who were employed to write the descriptions were more familiar with European printers methods than they were with the manner of printing and record keeping on this side of the Atlantic. As a result too many lots had a grab bag mixture of goodies, instead of a studied allocation of the various types of material in the files.

It is sad that Christie's did not consult with some of us who could have assisted them to a more accurate listing of their product. There are many knowledgeable collectors and students who would have willingly assisted the auctioneer in preparing this most important sale. The results would have been increased accuracy, a listing that could be used by historians to record exact detail, and undoubtedly an increased value of the items sold. Those of us who might have been called, probably would have happily worked as unpaid consultants, with a small byline to acknowledge our contribution. Expense? - Time and that's about all.

More Conditions.

3. *Christie's reserves the right to withdraw any lot before or at the sale.*

Christie's reserves the right to vary the terms of sale, and any such variance--

At a normal sale these reservations usually apply to one or two lots removed because they are apparent to all as being defective, and removing them is for the good of the purchaser as well as the company. No one will complain.

This sale (on the 13th) on the other hand, produced a reported extensive removal of 181 lots from the 797 in the sale. Twenty two & one half percent is no small number and will not go unnoticed. Not only that - at the time the removal was announced, at the beginning of the sale on the 13th, it was also revealed that those lots had been gifted to the Canadian Archives, for inclusion in their philatelic collection, and that in addition, the Archives would be bidding on certain lots not gifted, which they would buy under extended terms.

The uncoordinated announcements of the removal indicated confusion, a lack of decision and either excessive speed or incredible slowness. It seemingly took three announcements to define some lots, and to finally announce those that were unavailable. 126 lots of Canada's 647 (19.5%), 41 of Newfoundland's 107 (38%) and 14 of 43 Provincial lots (32.5%) were listed. And at that, one lonely lot bore two different numbers in the last two releases, seems as if nobody knew the correct one. At the end the Archives left with 234 lots, 148 of Canada, 70 of Newfoundland and 16 Provincial, 29% of the total. Newfoundland was raped for 66% of its available material. The Archives spent in excess of \$170,000.00 U.S. in addition.

Another Silly Symphony

How stupid this action turned out to be. I have long urged and approved the transfer of suitable material to the Archives and I do applaud the final result. The insensitive manner in which it was accomplished, only proves how lacking in improving human relations the management at the new Bank Note Company seems to be. Most probably the Company employs a Public Relations or Marketing person (as they are now defined). If they do - was there consultation? I can not imagine how the matter could have been handled in a worse manner. The harm to the Corporate image of Christie's and the Company has been vast, and the derogatory thoughts will not soon disappear. I assume that Christie's hands were tied and that

the Company demanded the removal under the terms as stated. There were obvious ways in which this matter could have resulted in beautiful compliments for all concerned - instead of the bad odor that now obscures the pleasant scent of a willing gift.

Not as Advertised

The sad and distasteful consequence of the sale resulted from the fact that people who had traveled a long way (some, several thousand miles) and who had put up with the excessive costs of New York, were left without previously advertised lots to bid on. In my own case, not being able to attend the sale, I had given seven lots to an agent to bid for me. His commission, had he secured the items, would have paid many of his expenses. He was disturbed and out of pocket not a few dollars. I felt obligated and sent him a check for a goodly sum. He bawled me out quite thoroughly and concluded by saying *I am sending the check back*. He is an honest gentleman with great integrity. I will be glad to reward him in the future, and also to give my highest recommendations about him to other collectors. If only there were more with his attributes, this would be a better world to do business in.

A Better Mousetrap

As a suggestion, here are several ways in which this matter could have been handled and which would leave a more pleasant taste in peoples' mouths.

TAKE 1. - There seems to be no reason why The Bank Note Company, Christie's and the Archives representatives could not have convened, prior to the printing of the Catalogue and decided which items would be removed from the sale. I understand there were requests and meetings prior to the sale which were inconclusive. The lots would then not appear in the catalogue to torment those who would otherwise have made a bid for them. Realising that the omission would leave an incomplete listing of the material in the files, this could be overcome by citing the gifted material in a separate section at the end of the catalogue which could also contain an explanation of the gift.

TAKE 2. - If the catalogue were already printed, as seems to be the case, mailing of the catalogue could be held up until the Archives gift could be finalized. This might make it necessary for the sale date to be changed, and it would be important to do so. Then those lots

reserved for the Archives could be listed in Boldface letters WD - withdrawn - on a separate sheet. An explanation of WHY would have to be included, so that people would not bid on the lots, which would not be called on the floor. The integrity of the total listing would be maintained, the bidders informed, the gift explained.

TAKE 3. - An even simpler method would be to leave everything as printed, have the representative of the Archives or Christie's man bid the lots for the Archives until each lot was securely priced to sell to the Archives. The individual bidders would have had some fun, they would be disappointed, the sale would go on as scheduled, the listing would be complete, and about the only document would be *well you sure can't outbid the guy that prints the money*. As an additional benefit, a value would be established for the lots which might be useful in valuing a gift. If, at the end of the sale, an explanation of the gift, or the extended terms were deemed to be appropriate that could be handled by a printed handout or an announcement.

LAUDABLE but ODIUS

In the aftermath of the sale I am left with the uncomfortable feeling that this whole affair was undertaken with too much emphasis on quickly converting the artifacts into liquid assets. I am also concerned by the fact that my old friend and knowledgeable auctioneer Robbie Lowe, was not more intimately concerned with the sale. I believe that had his council and advice been sought the sale, while laudable would have had a better result without being odious. The sales of the De La Rue and Waterlow archival material were both well handled, well described, well recorded and full of information for the historian and collector as well. The sales were not abruptly rushed into the public arena. I missed Robbie's concurrence in this sale.

Out of the mess I have just described, one shining light appears. Elizabeth Pope espouses the qualities that Robbie Lowe expressed for so many years. I do hope that her employers recognise the stellar person that they have placed in an important position, and will see that it becomes more important and rewarding in the future. As a result of the sour feeling now reported by many collectors and agents, it has been suggested that I remove my interesting collection of pre-stamp and stampless Newfoundland from next years sale by Christie's. I have considered that option and have concluded that it would not be appropriate. The material

was given to Christie's because of their knowledge of the subject. Robbie's name has been belittled by the activities outlined above. I do not feel that the blame should rest on him. There is enough to pass around to others.

The time had come to give the collecting community the opportunity---

So stated the foreword to the sale. If the *collecting community* consists of the dealers - the mission has been accomplished. If the true collector was intended to benefit, that must come later and at greater cost. It is a relief to know that one can view a maximum collection of proof material if one will visit the Canadian Archives. The cost of this effort to collectors can not be measured in dollars alone, the turmoil attendant on the presentation gifted to the Archives will last for a long time. Personally, I feel that Christie's is indebted in some small degree to those of us who would have placed bids, but that the Bank Note Company is heavily indebted to all. They could relieve that burden by making sure that the correspondence files, the factory files (if available), and any other information not dispensed in these sales, would be made available to appropriate people, to be faithfully recorded for the future. In doing so, they would recognize the collector and his influence in making these bits of paper valuable.

END OF SALE

Now - AFTERSALE AFTERTHOUGHTS

OF INTEREST - It is estimated that the total of all sales in this group, philatelic and numismatic, will deliver in excess of 6 million dollars to the Bank Note Company. 3747 lots of proof material thus averaged in round numbers, an estimated \$1600.00 per lot for the Company. Not bad for *found money*. Stamp and Paper Money collectors will probably shell out twelve to fifteen million, if all the goodies listed find a home in some collection. It is rumored that another hoard of numismatic proofs exists which will be sold later, returning an amount similar to the last sale. If this is so, on the basis of the number of shares issued to the original company, the *found money* from the sale of the probably unrecorded file material assets would amount to approximately \$.40 (40¢) per share. Collector interest provided the increased value.

Atlantic City can't Trump this

Were the new owners aware of this value?

Who knows? However, if you remember the sale of certain large framed collages of proofs in September 1988, you can assume that they did. This sale, originally 43 lots, left the floor as 14 lots. The hammer price on the basis of the original lotting, came out to \$1,360.00 per lot. This sale on the basis of estimates provided about \$1,600.00 per lot. On this foundation the Archives gift of 181 lots rewarded them with a round sum of \$290,000.00 U.S. or \$333,000 Canadian. Not a bad day at the Gambling table.

For those new to this field, The Essay Proof Society can be a wonderful source of information and association. The British North American Philatelic Society offers companionship to those collecting Canada and the Provinces. And So - to close:

L.B.O.

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The RPO Cowcatcher

A Guest Column by William G. Robinson, OTB
5830 Cartier Street,
Vancouver, B.C. V6M 3A7



Figure 1

The material for this column has been supplied by long-time RPO collector Ross Gray, of Lindsay, Ontario. Ross is another of the dedicated researchers who keep turning up additional material, and his present work is both varied and interesting.

The first item is spectacular. It is a previously unreported private clerk stamp inscribed C. CHAVOT / MONTREAL / CANADA / Railway Mail Clerk. (Figure 1). It is dated March 21, 1889, and is struck in violet on a three-cent Small Queen cover from North Coaticook, Que. to Island Pond, Vt. The cover has a Coaticook, Que. transit backstamp, and a partial Island Pond, Vt. backstamp.

There is a light smudgy cork cancel on the stamp which Chavot either missed or felt was insufficient so he cancelled it again. It is obvious

from the routing that this Clerk was working the Montreal and Island Pond RPO at the time. This cancellation is type 1M, and will be listed in the *Ticket Stamp* section of the catalogue.

Figure 2 shows an unusual Western discovery - W-3A - Blaine and Vancouver / R.P.O. - with the direction shown as *E*. This is a north-south run, so this must have been a clerk error, and is the first report of this direction. In addition, the April 17, 1911 date is almost a year earlier than the previously reported early date for this run. The hammer was proofed December 29, 1910, so we are getting close to the possible first date of use.

The third item is 0-160, LON. & SOUTH / R.P.O., dated September 11, 1941, with the unusual and previously unreported direction shown as *PM*. This is shown in Figure 3.



Figure 2

Who says there is nothing new under the sun? Please keep looking, and report any new finds to the writer at 5830 Cartier Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 3A7.



Figure 3

SUMASS - AN UNREPORTED B.C. COLONIAL POST OFFICE

By Cecil C. Coutts



*Codville Landing, B.C. 1865-1866
Homemade Postal Marking.*

Settlers in the Chilliwack and Sumass (early spellings) areas in 1865 were faced with a pressing need for postal services. The only post offices in the Upper Fraser Valley were at Fort Langley on the west and Fort Hope to the east. Ultimately, the government was petitioned to establish a post office closer to home. James Codville was operating a store and hotel at Codville Landing on Nicomen Island (north side of the Fraser River); steamers were stopping there on a regular basis and this seemed a logical place for a post office. The Colonial Government agreed and on 9 July 1865 the first rural post office in British Columbia was opened. Codville was appointed postmaster without salary. Mail for Chilliwack and Sumass was transported across the river by Indian canoe. An official postmarking device was never issued for Codville Landing. The postmaster did however fashion a handstamp from wood. Only one example of this extremely scarce postmark is known. Codville Landing Post Office was short lived. Sources say it closed before April 1866. We do know that Samuel McDonald bought Codville's holdings and that Codville left the area by 1869. There is no confirmation to date that McDonald succeeded Codville as postmaster.

Postal history remains mute as to the existence of a post office in this area between 1866 (when Codville Landing closed) and 1872 when Sumas opened as a Dominion Government office. Gold miners and others were settling in the Chilliwack and Sumass districts in ever increasing numbers yet there did not seem to be a post office. This six year gap in custody of the mails cried for an explanation. Research led the author to an answer in the 30 October 1867

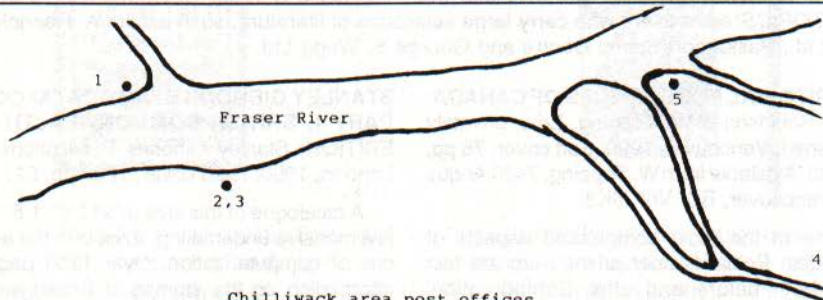
issue of the BRITISH COLUMBIAN (a New Westminster newspaper.) I must say, my heart quickened when I read the following. A *POST OFFICE FOR SUMASS*. - *We are glad to learn that a post office has been established at Sumass, and that Mr. D. Miller has been appointed Post Master. He was sworn in yesterday. This appointment will involve no charge upon the revenue. The Sumass settlement is a very important one, and the post office will be a great convenience to settlers. Mr. Miller is the right man in the right place.* David Miller opened the first store on Sumass prairie at Miller's Landing in 1866.

Let us jump now to 1872, a year after British Columbia entered Confederation. The first Federal post office in the area was opened 1 July at Sumas (Miller's Landing) and you guessed it, David W. Miller was named postmaster. This strengthens my belief that a Colonial post office existed at Sumass. Such being the case, the next logical question would be whether Sumass was issued one of the British Columbia numeral cancellers. Post office allocation of some of these devices has never been determined - could one of these be Sumass? Surely, and office which was open for nearly six years must have had a postmark/cancelling device. The author would be pleased to receive any information regarding Sumass (Colonial) Post Office.

As a final note, references tell us once again that Codville Landing post office closed in 1866 and reopened as *Chilliwack* in 1872. One publication goes so far as to say the two were on the same site. Geographical fact does not substantiate this assumption. Codville Landing was about three miles downstream from Chilliwack Landing and on the opposite side of the river. The first Chilliwack post office opened 1 September 1872 in the farm home of John McCutcheon, one mile inland from Chilliwack Landing. I do not see a direct connection between Codville Landing and Chilliwack post offices. If one wants to determine a succession from Codville Landing then he would have to look at Sumass before Chilliwack.

References:

1. British Columbian (1866-1868) New Westminster, B.C.
2. Chilliwack Progress (Newspaper) 1892 - Chilliwack, B.C.
3. Deaville, Alfred Stanley. The Colonial Postal Systems Of Vancouver Island And British Columbia 1849-1871. London 1929.
4. Campbell, F.W. Canada Post Offices 1755 - 1895. Quarterman Publications Boston 1972.
5. Wellburn, Gerald E. The Gerald E. Wellburn Collection. G.E. Eaton Auction - Vancouver, B.C. 1972.
6. Melvin, George H. The Post Offices Of British Columbia 1858 -1970. Vernon, B.C. 1972.
7. Chilliwack Museum and Archives.



Chilliwack area post offices

1. Codville Landing	1865-1866	(On Nicomen Island)
2. Sumass (Colonial)	1867-1872	(At Millers Landing)
3. Sumas (Federal)	1872-1889	(" " ")
4. Chilliwack	1872-1874	(McCutcheon Farm)
5. Chilliwack	1874-1887	(At Chilliwack Landing)



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Literature Reviews

BNA Philately in Print

by Mike Street

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TERRITORIAL POST OFFICES OF CANADA; W.G. Robinson & W. Topping, Eds.; privately published, Vancouver, 1990. Soft cover, 76 pp, \$14.00. Available from W. Topping, 7430 Angus Dr., Vancouver, BC V6P 5K2.

One of the most complicated aspects of Canadian Postal History arises from the fact that, both before and after Confederation, boundaries in the west and north were set up only as people moved into the areas, and then expanded as development proceeded. With the vast territory involved, this was no easy task.

Except in British Columbia, where the transition was much simpler, as populations grew or political matters were resolved, territories and districts such as Athabaska, Assiniboia and Keewatin were shuffled and then joined. Eventually the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories emerged, more or less as we know them today.

Naturally, Post Offices were established. The postal history complications can be stated simply. "Which post office belonged to what territory, and when?" "Where did it go, and when?" This book helps answer the questions.

Following the format of its predecessors, the *Territorial Post Offices of Canada* checklist includes: Names of offices, with changes of name where this occurred; location; opening and, if applicable, closing dates; and known cancellations. A rarity factor, based on the number of reported markings, regardless of type, is given for each office. In addition, a brief history of the area is given. Anyone trying to make sense of this period will be grateful to the authors.

The publishing team of Robinson and Topping has finished its monumental task, listing all post offices west of Ontario. Many would rest at this point, but not these two. A footnote to *Territorial Post Offices* indicates that an update to their British Columbia book is in the works, with more than 10,000 changes already made!

STANLEY GIBBONS STAMP CATALOGUE - PART 1, BRITISH COMMONWEALTH 1991 EDITION; Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd., London, 1990. Hard cover, 1200 pp, £27.

A catalogue of this size (8"x11.5", 1.5" thick) is a massive undertaking, even with the advances of computerization. Over 1100 pages of information on the stamps of Britain and the Commonwealth is presented in small, but quite readable, type. A small selected bibliography of philatelic literature has been added this year.

The Canada section, 29 pages long when the commercials (i.e. advertisements) are omitted, includes a surprising amount of detail on varieties, from shades and re-entries through important bisects, to tagging on more recent issues and even a short item on the ill-fated 'Stick-n-Tick' of the mid-1980s. Where known, the names of Designers and Printers are given, and there are many notes on the production of the stamps. An index of stamp designs since 1942 is included.

Although more expensive, *Stanley Gibbons Part 1* is a better guide than *Scott Volume 1* for BNA and Commonwealth collectors whose interests do not include the US or the UN.

POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE 1990-1 FALL/WINTER EDITION; H.E. Harris & Co., Inc.; P.O. Box 7082, Portsmouth, NH, USA 03802-7802; 1990. Soft cover, 416pp, \$5.95US (+ \$1.50 postage & handling if ordered direct from the publisher).

H.E. Harris' rebound from recent business setbacks continues. The thin mail order catalogue many of us bought stamps from as kids is now a whopping 400 pages long and, starting with this edition, is being printed twice a year.

Essentially a retail price list for stamps of the US, UN, Canada and the Provinces, as well as accessories, the catalogue includes a general guide for collectors and a specialized identifier for some of the tougher US issues. BNA listings are straightforward, and do not include varieties.

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Soldier's and Seaman's Letters in the Small Queen Era

George B. Arfken



Figure 1. A soldier's letter, JY 2 WINNIPEG, CANADA, paid the proper 2c soldier's letter rate. Courtesy of William L. Simpson.

The Small Queen Era [1] records 22 Small Queen soldier's letters and 2 seaman's letters. This article, in Table 1, lists four additional soldier's letters. It also illustrates one of the seaman's letters, #23 in reference [1].

Table 1.

Four Additional Small Queen Soldier's Letters

1. MY 3 85 WINNIPEG 2c Small Queen
From Henry Hechler, certified by T.J. Walsh, Major Commanding Detachment Saskatchewan Landing, N.W.T. To Fritz Hechler (son)
J.N. Sissons, Sale 113, lot 244 Dec. 7, 1955. No photo.
2. JY 2 WINNIPEG, CANADA 2c Small Queen
From ?, Queen's Own Rifles, certified by A.A. Miller, Lt. Col.
To Miss Brown, Toronto, B/S TORONTO JY 6 85
Illustrated in Figure 1, above.
3. JY 3 C.P.R.Y. WINNIPEG 1c Small Queen on 1c entire
From Captain Henry Hechler, To Halifax
4. JY 8 (estimate) 1c Small Queen on 1c entire
From Captain Henry Hechler, To Halifax, B/S HALIFAX, JY 14 1885
Nos. 3 and 4 were sold by Harmers of N.Y.,

Sale 1937, lot 1549,
Jan. 30, 1970. No photos.

[1] *Canada's Small Queen Era, Postal Usage during the Small Queen Era, 1870 - 1897*, George B. Arfken, Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, Toronto, 1989, pp. 88-90.

This brings the number of reported Small Queen soldier's and seaman's letters to a grand total of 28. As a matter of passing interest, 10 of the 26 soldier's letters are from Captain Henry Hechler. Stulberg's article [2] contains much interesting information about Captain Hechler.

[2] *Henry Hechler: Saint or Sinner*, Stulberg, Fred G., *Am. Phil. Cong.* vol. 39, pp. 203-211, 1973.

Figure 2 shows a seaman's letter, #23 on the list of reference [1]. While not a new listing, this is the first time this letter has been illustrated in a philatelic journal. The cover was posted at Esquimalt, B.C. on January 1, 1895. The writer, D. Sampson, was attached to the H.M.S. Pheasant. The *Domtic* on the cover at top center is puzzling. Is it an abbreviation for domestic? Alan Selby has suggested that it might stand for Dom. first class.



Figure 2. A letter from Seaman D. Sampson to Mrs. Nancarvis in England. The cover was properly certified and paid the 2¢ seaman's letter rate. ESQUIMALT, B.C., JA 1 95. Courtesy of Alan Selby.

Figure 3 offers a second ESQUIMALT cover. With the same date stamp, the same handwriting and the same address, this cover must also be from Seaman D. Sampson. However, Seaman Sampson registered this cover and paid the 5¢ UPU rate to England, why the 5¢ UPU rate? Why not the seaman's letter rate of 2¢? Had D. Sampson been stripped of his 2¢ seaman's letter rate privilege? Perhaps, but let's see what the Canadian postal regulations said about registering soldier's and seaman's letters.

The first of a new series of postal guides in the Small Queen era appeared in October 1875. Under the heading *Soldiers' and Seamen's Letters, and Letters to and from Militia when on Active Service*, paragraph 7 on p. viii stated:

The usual registration fee must be prepaid on all registered letters sent to or from soldiers, seamen, or Militia on active service, under the above regulations, in addition to the 2 cents postage thereon.

This statement included soldiers and sea-

men in Her Majesty's Service. It was a clear statement that registration was permitted and did not forfeit the 2¢ special rate.

The postal regulations had changed by 1895 when Seaman D. Sampson mailed his letters. Starting in October 1880, the postal guides distinguished between 2¢ rate domestic letters for the militia and 2¢ rate letters for British servicemen. The January 1895 Official Postal Guide treated soldiers' and seamen's letters in two places. On p. vii, referring to letters to and from the militia on active service, we read *There is no reduction however in the registration on such letters when registration is required. So 2¢ letters to and from the militia could be registered. This 2¢ rate (per oz.) for the militia was limited to domestic letters.*

If we assume that Seaman D. Sampson was not in the militia but was a seaman in Her Majesty's Navy, then the regulations on pp. xxxviii-xxxix applied. For D. Sampson, the 2¢ seaman's letter was not 2¢ per oz. but, rather, 2¢ for a letter not over 1/2 oz. Of particular importance here, there was no mention of registration. We can guess that the Esquimalt

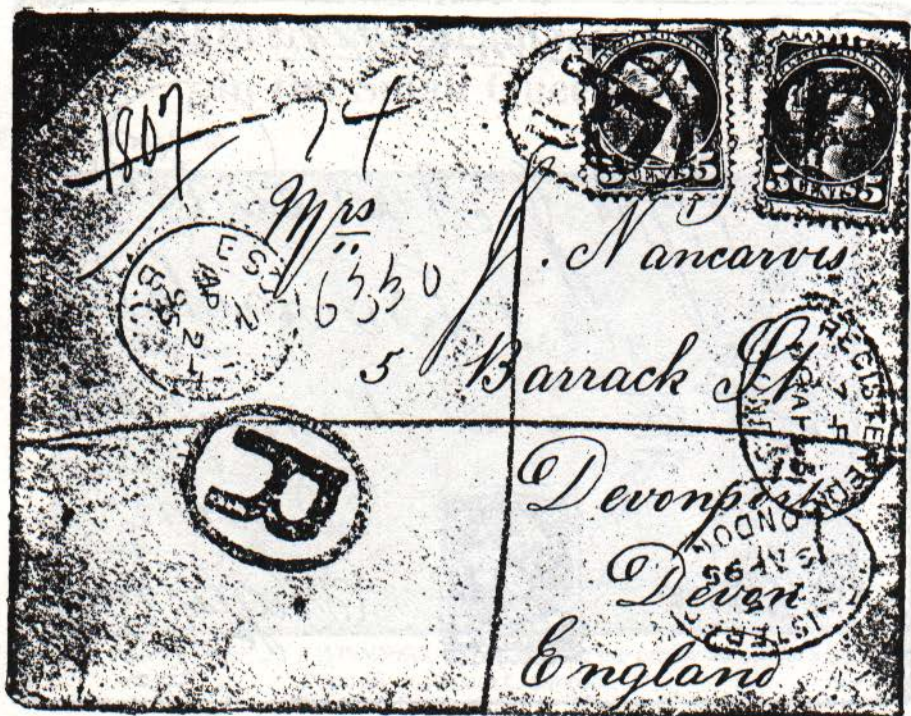


Figure 3. A registered letter to Mrs. Nancarvis in England, also from Seaman D. Sampson, paid the 5c UPU rate. ESQUIMALT, B.C., AP 2 95. [5-38]

postmaster, rightly or wrongly, interpreted no mention of registration to mean that Seaman D. Sampson's 2c seaman's letter could not be registered. If he wanted to register his letter, he

would have to pay the regular 5c UPU rate. Seaman D. Sampson did want to register his letter (Figure 3) and he did pay the 5c UPU rate.

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THIS'N THAT

by Vic Willson

BNAPEX 90 was an opportunity to see so many BNAPSers. Both Bill Rockett and Harry Lussey continued their strings of perfect attendance, neither having ever missed a BNAPS convention.

Mr. Hans Steinhardt, 133 Apache Dr., Hendersonville NC 28739-6062, is helping Mrs. Sue LaFrance sell Leo's library of philatelic books. A double weight SASE with U.S. stamps will get you a list of available material with prices asked.

The commendation for the greatest distance in attending the Galveston convention went to John and Alicia Wannerton of Kenilworth, South Africa. Not far behind were Max and Mathilde Guggenheim of Basel, Switzerland.

One of my pleasantest experiences was meeting Ken Kutz, the President of the New York Collectors' Club, who exhibited material from the BC and Yukon gold fields, receiving a vermeil. Ken pitched right in to help the Prairie Beavers set up the frames on Wednesday. He has published a wonderful book on collecting mining-related material, *GOLD FEVER*, in full color.

The oldest member of the Prairie Beavers, Alex McDonald of Thunder Bay, was a whirlwind of work during the frame takedown, working harder and more effectively than several members half his age.

Paul Burega took lots of photos at the convention, as did Don Wilson. Paul is credited with the photos in this issue. Incidentally, Paul was at last report the BNAPS member with the most study group affiliations, something like 13. Anyone top that now? Al Steinhart may be close.

Speaking of Al Steinhart, it was gratifying to see his unparalleled exhibit of prestamp and stampless BNA transatlantic take the grand award, especially since no one before him has really attempted anything so ambitious and difficult.

It was extraordinarily nice to have both Tom Hillman of the National Archives and Cimon Morin of the Postal Museum both attending the convention and giving talks. Since they deal with complementary materials they inform each other occasionally as well as those who hear them speak.

Charles Livermore, a professional librarian, is progressing nicely with his project to produce a database of all *TOPICS* articles that will allow easy access by subject heading. We have that capability in a much more limited way with the BNAPS library, but not at the article level. Mr. Livermore reviewed with many members the list of subject headings and its crosslistings.

One surprise attendee at Galveston was Harry Sutherland, who was able to squeeze the visit in. It was my pleasure to meet him for the first time. Bev and Stu Clark were unable to attend due to illness at the last minute, as occurred also with Guy des Rivieres. We all hope they have improved.

Dr. Ian Taylor reported to me on his attendance at the CPSGB meeting in October, the only U.S. BNAPSer there. Jim Brown of BC gave a presentation at the Chesterfield meeting on precancels and his exhibit won an award. Of course there were many U.K. BNAPS members in attendance, including David Sessions, Bill Collie, John Hannah, Dr. Charles Hollingworth, Allan Judd, Charles King, Sandy Mackie (who recently wrote me a nice letter on *TOPICS* issues), John Parkin, Mike Perry, Dr. Allan Salmon, Dr. Dorothy Sanderson, Brian Stalker, John Wannerton, and Geoffrey Whitworth. John Wannerton also won an award for an exhibit.

I noticed that Dr. Taylor has continued to receive local, regional, and national honors for his professional and pro bono service, including membership in the Honor Roll of the American Veterinary Medical Association, to be formally awarded at the AMVA meeting in July, 1991.

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Tricoloured Heron	Willet	Belted Kingfisher
Reddish Egret	Long-billed Curlew	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
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C Newfoundland
Proposed by: Secretary
- R4945 Bernier, Douglas R., P.O. Box 1487, Kemptville, ON, Canada K0G 1J0
C Canadian mint singles, plate blocks, K strikes
Proposed by: T. Shaman, 4305
- R4946 Montgomery, Malcolm B., 26 Cambridge Road, Southampton, U.K. SO2 0RD
C Trans-Atlantic postal history
Proposed by: J.C. Arnell, 4376; Seconded by: D. Sanderson, 2782
- R4947 Powers, Alan C., P.O. Box 539, New Windsor, MD, USA 21776
C/D Commemmoratives, postal history, airmails
Proposed by: L.R. Paige, 2384; Seconded by: C.A. Stillions, 2695
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Proposed by: Secretary
- R4949 Tucker, John C., 8 Imperial Road, London, ON, Canada N5X 2G6
C Canada - M&U, Centennials, varieties
Proposed by: J. Aitken, 3982; Seconded by: G.W. Mills, 2425
- R4950 Gottesman, Michael R., P.O. Box 176, Westmount Stn., Montreal, QC, Canada H3Z 2T2
C/D Centennials, Definitives, SON cds
Proposed by: Secretary
- R4951 Thomson, Brian J., 127 Devonshire Crescent, Saskatoon, SK, Canada S7L 5V6
C Small Queens, Admirals, Cdn postal system development
Proposed by: Secretary
- R4952 Govier, Albert R., 13 Kilnford Drive, Dundonald, Kilmarnock, Scotland, United Kingdom
C Newfoundland only
Proposed by: Secretary

REINSTATED

Includes previous 'Mail Returned' - address now supplied

- R4107 Giffen, Bentley B., 16256 Laguna Street, Victorville, CA, USA 92392

DECEASED

- R4282 SCOTT, Laurence W.

EXPELLED

For conduct unbecoming a member

- R4455 WARR, Jr., Bertram C.J., c/o Warr's Pharmacy Ltd., Happy Valley, NF, Canada A0P 1E0

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Notice of change MUST BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY

Any other office causes delay

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R3309 DALPE, Jean-Guy, 4812 Joseph-Poulin, St. Hubert, PQ, Canada J3Y 8W4
R3687 HILLMER, John M., P.O. Box 3277, Stn. D, Willowdale, ON, Canada M2R 3G6
R4286 STEWART, Donald W., 439 Pinegrove Avenue, Shelburne, ON, Canada L0N 1S0
R4542 WASHINGTON, Thomas, P.O. Box 820 Torii Station, APO SF, CA, USA 96331-1608
R4573 WISEMAN, James P., P.O. Box 211, Debert, NS, Canada B0M 1G0
R4800 CASEY, Douglas M., 2905 Parkdale Avenue, Halifax, NS, Canada B3L 3Z2
R4812 STERN, Joel, 1309B Oakmont Road, Charleston, WV, USA 25314
R4925 Dailey, David G., 2045 Christensen Avenue, West St. Paul, MN, USA 55118

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Last given address shown - please notify Secretary of any changes known

- R3583 DUCKWORTH, Harry William, 395 Elm St., Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3M 3N6

APPLICATION REFUSED

- R4865 Neelin, John K., 2465 Queens Avenue, West Vancouver, BC, Canada V7V 2Y9

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Regional Group Ramblings

by Jim Goben

REGIONAL GROUP COORDINATOR: Dr. Robert V.C. Carr, 117 Robin Hood Way, Youngstown, OH 44511

REGIONAL GROUP REPORTER: Jim Goben, 304 W. Lincoln St., Bloomington, IL 61701

PRAIRIE BEAVERS: Howard Twichell, 5200 Keller Springs, No. 530, Dallas, TX 75248

CALGARY: Phillip Wolf, 636 Woodbine Blvd. S.W., Calgary, AB T2W 4W4

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA: Garvin Lohman, 1541 Sacramento St., Apt. 3, San Francisco, CA 94109

MID-ATLANTIC: To be announced.

GOLDEN HORSESHOE: Marilyn J. Cassie, General Delivery, Port Carling, ON L1S 2T6

MANITOBA-NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO: Robert Lemire, P.O. Box 549, Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0

PACIFIC-NORTHWEST: Colin Campbell, 1450 Ross Road, Kelowna, B.C. V1Z 1L6

MID-AMERICA: Robert Schlesinger, 523 Highland Grove Dr., Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

The Mid-America Group met on November 3, at the Public Library, in Glenview, Illinois. There were several discussions led by Bob Schlesinger. The most important of these was the planning of the 1992 BNAPS Convention. Another topic of interest was attracting and retaining new members.

Basil Burrell gave an outstanding presentation of the Semi-Official Airmail stamps. Both Basil's material and information were top notch. The next official meeting is slated for Compex '91 on Memorial Day weekend in Chicago.

The Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Group has been busy this fall. They met on October 13, at the Winnipeg Show. Robert Lemire spoke on *Modern Postal History - The Opportunity is Now*. The emphasis was on the period of 1980 to the present. This was an opportunity to learn about and enjoy the modern period. It was announced in this Newsletter that Don Amos has received a prestigious aerophilately award. Congratulations Don.

The Group met again on November 17 for a show and tell type program. These programs can be very enjoyable as one often sees some fine material and learns a bit more about it.

This is a short column as I have received no other communication from our various groups. Please keep me informed of your meetings and plans for events.

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191

ARE YOU COMING TO BNAPEX?

The Study Group Centerline

by Frank Waite

STUDY GROUP COORDINATOR: Jonathan C. Johnson, P.O. Box 6118, Calgary, AB T2P 2C7

STUDY GROUP REPORTER: Frank Waite, 110 E. McMillan St., Newberry, MI 49868

PERFIN: Floyd McNay, 8019-160 St., Edmonton, AB T5R 2G9

BNA PERFINs: Michael Hargraft, Trinity College School (Staff), Port Hope, ON L1A 3W2

CENTENNIAL DEFINITIVES: John Aitken, P.O. Box 2021, Lambeth, ON N0L 1S0

DUPLEX CANCELLATIONS OF BNA: Robert A. Lee, #203-1139 Sutherland Ave. Kelowna, BC V1Y 5Y2

FANCY CANCELS: Dave Lacelle, 369 Fullerton Ave., Ottawa, ON K1K 1K1

FLAG CANCELS: John G. Robertson, 10 Pergola Rd., Rexdale, ON M9W 5K5

CANADIAN KLUSSENDORF STUDY GROUP: Allan Steinhart, Apt. 1910, 45 Dunfield Ave.,

Toronto, ON M4S 2H3

MAP STAMP: W.L. Bradley, P.O. Box 6, Honey Harbour, ON P0E 1E0

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R.P.O.'s: W.G. Robinson, 5830 Cartier St., Vancouver, BC V6M 3A7

SEMI-OFFICIAL AIRMAILS: Robert Marcello, P.O. Box 961, Boston, MA 02103

SLOGAN CANCELS: Jeff Switt, 3962 Belford, Fort Worth, TX 76103

SMALL QUEENS: Bill Burden, P.O. Box 152, Truro, NS B2N 5C1

SQUARED CIRCLES: Gary D. Arnold, 10533 Countryside Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL: Dr. J. Arnell, Box HM 1263, Hamilton, Bermuda

1972-78 DEFINITIVES & LANDSCAPES: D.J. Moore, Box 29, Aylesford, NS B0P 1C0

NEW GROUPS FORMING

GEORGE VI RATES: Dave Dixon, P.O. Box 1082, Oakville, ON L6J 5E9

ON THE FRINGES

I have a feeling that Canada Post and the U.S. P.O.D. are jointly trying to curb the collection of used stamps. Nearly all high value stamps I receive on auction lots, or odd sized envelopes, are either pen cancelled or roller cancelled. With due apology to Bob Lee, and his study group, I don't relish a smudged roller cancel on my used stamps.

Tom Almond's **Flag** group newsletter is devoted to revisions of the *Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook*. D. Lingard and L. Paige revise the data for the data for the 1896-7 flags. Evidence is given to support the theory that the *k* ensign flag cancel was used on a bickerdike machine during an earlier trial at Montreal. The revisions are unusual for our study groups in that dollar valuations are given.

The *k* people have another lengthy newsletter from editor Gray Scrimgeour. I trust they realize that there will be nothing left for postal

historians of the future to discover about Klusendorf cancels. They are amassing a tremendous amount of data. The issue is profusely illustrated. D. Hunka contributes a study of Napanee *k* cancels. G. Sangster lists errors at *k* towns. The newsletter records errors, time-marks, EKUs and LKUs from R. Alary, B. Clark, C. Cigac, R. Greer, J. Karr, E. Labiuk, R. Meek, C. Munden, K. O'Reilly, A. Rosborough, A. Steinhart, G. Tremblay and the editor. For enthusiasm and input, this group is outstanding.

Floyd McNey has taken over the editorship of the **Perforator** for the *Holey* people. This issue consists of an auction conducted by M. Hargraft. The minimums quoted astound anyone not involved with perfins. The once derided perfins have achieved a well deserved place in BNA postal history.

The **Railroaders**, so well represented by

editor Bill Robinson, report that the Galveston meeting will be chaired by J. Lehr. J. Felton will present a paper. L. Gilliam and G. Wellman will be nominated for honorary membership. T. Hillman, of the National Archives, will present a paper on railway mail cars. As this is written post Galveston, I assure you the former is now a *fait accompli*. J. McCrea illustrates and discusses a cover, *Four Times Across the Borden*. K. Eluson contributes, and illustrates, an extensive article on the Telegraph Creek and Wrangell mail service. L. Ludlow's hammer analysis of MA-110 is included. A membership list, and a financial report close the newsletter.

Bill Rockett edits the newsletter for the **Revenueers**. He and fellow revenueer H. Lussey have attended all BNAPS conventions. At the Revenue meeting, at BNAPS '90, H. Lussey showed his outstanding collection of the First Issue of Alberta. Included is an inventory sheet of the Alberta Provisional Law Stamps, and a discussion of the damaged scrolls on the First Alberta Issue. Though not so noted, I believe these are courtesy of H. Lussey.

The **Slogan Box**, editor Dan Rosenblat, won the John S. Seibert Award as the outstanding newsletter of the last year - well deserved. Jeff Switt's chairman's message describes the Galveston meeting and the goals of the study group. Jeff illustrates a *Slogan Gem* of Nelson, B.C. The issue has many excellent and fully illustrated articles. C. Coutts authors, *Sousa's Band*, *Slogan Updates* and *Back of the Book*; B. Murdock, *Toshiba Machines - An Inquiry*; D. Rosenblat, *Address your mail to street and number*, *A Problem with Muskoka* and *How Atikokan Got Its Cancelling Machine*; J. Switt, *Adding Interest to Slogan Collecting* and B. Thorne, *Buy TB Christmas Seals Fight Tuberculosis*, *Buy Victory Bonds* and *IPS Slogan Listing*. A tremendous amount of research has gone into these articles. Two scarce Strathcona slogans are illustrated.

The **Small Queens** study group editor, Bill

Burden, and R. Trimble were guests of Bill Simpson. I'm envious, I had a chance to view some of Bill's (Simpson) material at Hamilton. When editor Bill categorizes it as the mother lode of Small Queen material, he isn't exaggerating. The editor updates data on the one cent *Strand of Hair* variety, and produces excellent pictures of several Small Queen varieties. Some of these are owned by B. Simpson and some are his own. The illustrations are really fine. T. Nixon authors, *Imperforate Values of the Small Queen Issue*. This is a scholarly effort. The newsletter concludes with, *Toronto Cork Cancel Updates*, by R. Leith. Well illustrated, this is a mammoth undertaking.

Jack Arnell, editor of the **Transatlantic** study group, discussed BNAPS Galveston and decried the poor attendance at some study group meetings. He pictures and describes two *Freight Money* covers from A. Steinhart. He prints a correction to *Prussian Closed Mail Via Aachen* (last newsletter). J. Van der Linden of West Germany sent him a correct interpretation. The editor illustrates and discusses two wreck covers nearly 150 years old. A new *Ship LRE/Montreal* oval handstamp, on a cover supplied by A. Steinhart, is illustrated and described. A 1763 packet letter, very early, is pictured. A *Maiden Voyage with an Added Twist*, shows an 1840 cover carried by the *Acadia* on her maiden trip across the ocean. The newsletter concludes with an 1853 cover (again courtesy of A. Steinhart) carried by the *Arabia* on her maiden voyage. In question is the location at which a handstamp was applied.

This is my last column. Hereafter the column will be written by Peter McCarthy. Peter is an experienced writer. He will bring new enthusiasm to the review of the study group newsletters. I shall miss the newsletters, and shall miss relaying the highlights to you. I anticipate pleasure in reading Peter's Column.

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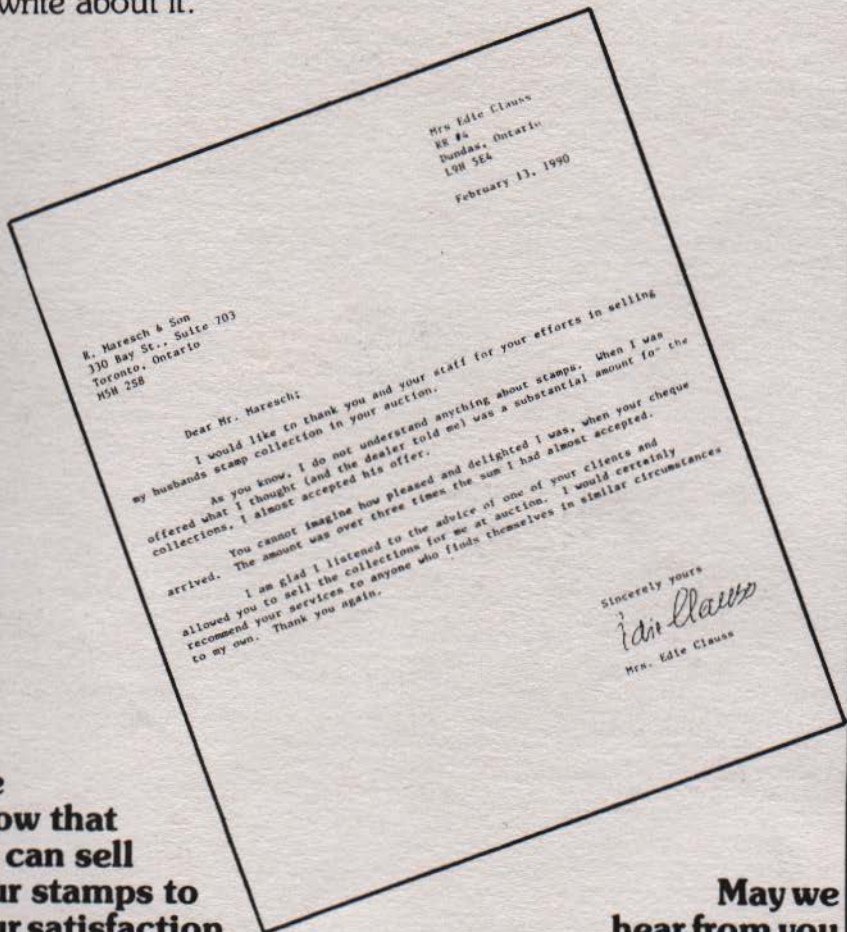
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