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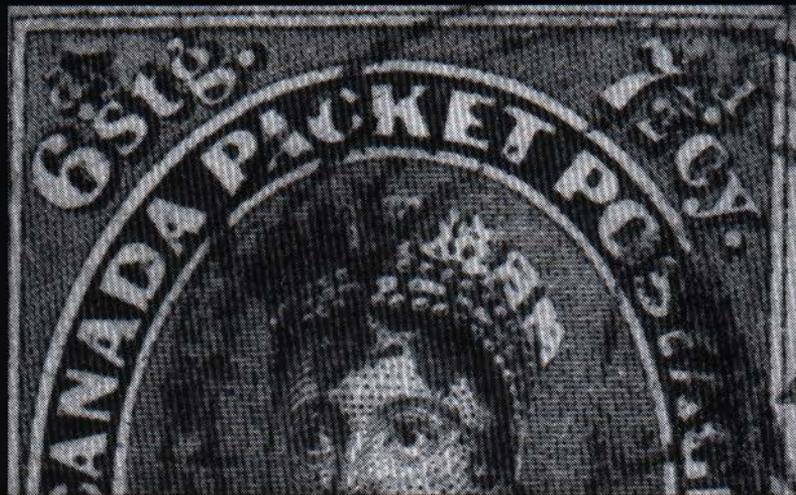
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# Topics

**VOL 52**

**NO 1**

**WHOLE NO 462**



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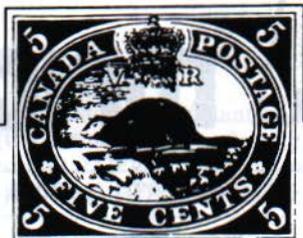
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# BNA TOPICS




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VOL 52

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(continued on page 84)

## EDITORIAL SUCCESSION

This volume will be my last as editorial consultant, and TOPICS will have an honest to goodness editor for the next (the distinction has to do with Canadian Postal Regulations). Robert Lemire has agreed to edit TOPICS beginning with the first issue of the 1996 volume. Robert has been a member of BNAPS for many years and has had previous editing experience, as well as having been editor of Postal Stationery Notes, the newsletter of the Postal Stationery Study Group, which he has continued for thirteen years. I am very pleased that Robert has agreed to take on this task, and I encourage our readers and contributors to give Robert the support he will need to put out a superior philatelic magazine.

## GET READY FOR MONEYCARDS

While phonecards and related magnetic strip prepaid cards have been hot in Europe and Asia for a decade, they are only beginning to make a wave in the North American market. This has all the makings of the baseball card market all over gain, with the same silly over production, limited edition runs, and marketing designed to part fools from their money. Sadly, government philatelic bureaus started this mess several decades ago, but there's a new lot of suckers with money to throw away every decade. Our hope is that a certain percentage of the collectors will quickly see how mindless it is to pay for colored stickers and put them in an album... wait a minute, did I just describe stamp collecting? Not exactly. At least most governments don't create rarities on purpose. They don't create endless variations and themes that have to do only with pop culture or what is deemed collectible (well, Elvis and Marilyn excepted on U.S. stamps). Finally, they don't create a product designed primarily not to be used. If the phonecard collectors chose only used-up cards, see how many varieties would be produced.

Since the Baby-Boomers indeed have the great bulk of disposable income and are entering their post-children period, philately still has the potential to capture a healthy share of their leisure interests. Our outgoing President Chuck Firby was right on target to promote ways to get our message out. These people will be collectors who continue our hobby;

## MODERN CANCELLATIONS AND RELATED TOPICS

The inkspray cancellations being used across Canada are one more technological change in mail delivery that promise use new collecting opportunities. I heard someone disparaging them and immediately thought of the codgers in 1869 who disparaged the fancy cancels, those in 1896 who trashed the flag cancel... Except I doubt that much of that occurred. Anyway, the spray cancels clearly represent the future of cancels, and as the technology gets more sophisticated, the possibilities for more complex, and even fancy, cancels increase. One reason that I am attracted to cancels (I collect 2-ring numerals, Ottawa fancies, and a few others) is that they represent a direct link to the service demanded by the stamp's appearance on the envelope. While old cancels on cover or stamp now can demand prices in the three or four digit figure, current cancels simply require keeping an eye out while going through one's own mail, or one's friends, or the waste bin at the post office (is this legal in Canada?). Dealers are not always a good source for these things; it takes a while for current material to reach their books or boxes, and

many do not mess with dime boxes anymore, more's the pity. If you are on a fixed budget, such collecting is inexpensive, open-ended, and as engrossing as you wish it to be. You can make a great contribution to future philatelic knowledge by getting in on the ground floor, much more so than placing stamps into the illustrated pages of a printed album (now don't get on me for that, I still do it too - it's fun, but not very intellectually challenging).

By the way, I get a lot of mail as editorial consultant. I have put up a number of boxes of such material for later uses, including Boy Scout Merit Badge for Stamp Collecting, local elementary school hobby day, and fellow collectors' interests. I also have this delusion that someday I will use it as the basis for new collecting areas. Quite honestly, that probably won't happen, as I seem firmly rooted in the first 75 years of Canada's stamp era. How many of us have this packrat approach to stamps? A lot is my guess. If there is something that I might have for you from the last decade (gratis, of course), drop me a line. Oh yes, I am actively seeking Canadian Express mail covers, especially those with used stamps for payment, so don't ask for any of that.

## COPYRIGHT

Chris Ryan asked for copyright to his article on the Bill Stamp in the last TOPICS and the BABN article in this one. I simply missed that it had not been so identified last issue, hence a correction in this issue. My apology to Chris. What does copyright get you if you include it? First, TOPICS itself is copyrighted, so that no article of yours can be reprinted for gain without BNAPS approval. When an article copyright is held by the individual, his approval is required before reprinting, such as in an anthology. Beyond that, I think that copyright means little. For example, I can rephrase the information presented in any piece and publish it myself. I cannot use the same illustrations without permission but could either draw my own, or in the case of covers or stamps, substitute my own if possible. Any text quoted from government documents cannot be copyrighted. While ethics require attribution for a work, a revised or rewritten article covering the same information without attribution does not violate copyright.

As a side note, when does the publication of a specific stamp or cover not owned by the author constitute copyright infringement? For example, I have many photos of classic BNA covers. I do not know who owns them, and I never did. The status of these is unclear, but I suspect that I do not have a right to publish them without ownership or owner approval. But how to find the latter? A related issue that can be resolved, perhaps, is the appearance of a cover or stamp in an auction catalog. One can refer to the catalog or request permission to reprint the relevant page. Now the issue devolves to the auction house. Depending on how long ago the auction was, the house may no longer know who owns the piece (if they ever did). Are they responsible to the buyer or current owner? To my way of thinking they own copyright to their catalog, and have implicit ownership of the photograph, which the owner at the time yielded to them. Any thoughts? It's not such an academic exercise, if my vision for a comprehensive catalog of Canadian covers available on the INTERNET begins to take form. It will be a lot easier if use of such photos is allowed, at least until current owners contribute full front and back photos. IT's coming in one form or another, dear readers.

### ★ *Special Notice* ★

The Dates of the Convention in Edmonton, Alberta, have changed.

★ See pages 29, 35, & 84. ★

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# The British American Bank Note Company: Details of Its Formation and of the Events Leading to Its First Contract With the Government of Canada

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**Christopher D. Ryan**

Very little has been written in any depth about the 1866 formation of the British American Bank Note Company (BABN). Most of the previous discussions concerning this event have consisted only of brief references to certain individuals and to the amalgamation of two competing groups.[1]

This paper, based on contemporary documents found in the National Archives of Canada and elsewhere, will present details of the motivations, the sequence of events, and the suggestions of political intrigue that initiated and shaped the founding of BABN. Also to be presented will be the reasons for the delay, from mid-1866 to early 1868, in the signing of the company's first contract with the Canadian government.

---

## PART 1: The Formation.

A desire on the part of the Government of the Province of Canada to have a Canadian steel-plate engraving company arose in 1864 soon after the introduction of the Bill and Law Stamps on August 1st and October 1st, respectively.[2] The motivations for this desire were two-fold as noted in a June 11th, 1866, report of the Board of Customs, Excise and Stamps (hereinafter referred to as the "Board").

*It was not long before some inconvenience was felt at having to derive our supplies of Government stamps from such a distance as New York, and the threatened rupture between Great Britain and the United States growing out of the Trent affair, the recollection of which was still fresh in men's memories, was strongly suggestive of other difficulties & circumstances, besides distance, that might arise from having our Government stamps & securities engraved & printed in a Foreign Country with which we might be at war.[3]*

Sometime prior to February of 1865 the task of finding a solution to the difficulties was assigned to the Board. As part of their investigations the Board consulted with the firm of Burland, Lafraicain and Company, an established Montreal printing firm with whom the government had done business.[4] Burland, Lafraicain's suggestions or assertions formed the basis of a February 3rd, 1865, report. With respect to the conclusions of the February report, the June report noted:

*.....it was recommended that the printing at least of all Government stamp etc. should be done in this Country at the seat of Government, under the immediate surveillance of the Finance Department, it being at the time considered that the limited demand for the work of the artistic description pertaining to a Bank Note Co. such as that existing in New York, rendered improbable, if not impossible, that the engraving of the plates could be executed in the Province*

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[of Canada.] That impression had been strengthened, if it did not originate with Messrs. Burland & Lafricain, whose propositions were entirely confined to printing.[3]

Burland, Lafricain is further quoted as deeming the formation of a Canadian steel engraving company to be "most hazardous & unremunerating." [3]

The inclusion of Burland, Lafricain in the discussions most certainly stemmed from their status, by 1865, as Canadian agents for the American Bank Note Company (ABN).[4,5] As such they would have been the logical recipient of the ABN plates, the transfer of which to Canada, as indicated in the June 1866 report, was under consideration in 1865. Meanwhile, given the topic, word of these discussions must have also made its way south via or independently of Burland, Lafricain and come to the attention of certain ABN engravers. The leader of this group, William Cumming Smillie, then corresponded with the Minister of Finance with a view to establish a full-fledged Canadian steel-engraving company. The June report noted:

*It was pending the consideration of these matters that Mr. W.C. Smillie's overtures for the establishment in Canada of a British American Bank Note Company, wholly unconnected with any American Company, were seriously taken up. One of his first communications on the subject addressed to the Finance Minister bears date in Nov. 1865 but it was not until March last, when the propositions of Messrs. Smillie & Mathews [sic] were formally referred to the Board, that the question was fully entered into & that the Board found that men of skill, capital and character, were prepared to meet all the requirements of the Govt. in reference to the Engraving, as well as the printing & furnishing within the Province itself, all Stamps, Debentures and other work of a like description which might thereafter be required to much larger account when greater extension would be given to the stamp tax. The proposition of the Gentlemen appeared to the Board most opportune. They came to supply a [illegible word] which it was thought impossible to realize under the circumstances of the Country, an opinion which seems to have been entertained by Messrs. Burland & Lafricain themselves.*

*Messrs. Smillie & Mathews were therefore called before the Board, and on the 6th of March last they submitted the written propositions which were canvassed, weighed and naturally considered by the Board & by it unanimously adopted and recommended in a Report to the Minister of Finance, by whom the Report was approved.[3]*

Further on, the June report notes that Matthews and Smillie were "understood" to be:

*.....so far advanced in their arrangements in Ottawa in the anticipation of the closing of their contract with the Government that they will be ready in a comparatively few months to supply as maybe required on the spot, the Board are now aware that Bill & other Stamps of various classes & denominations will speedily be wanted to supply the [illegible word] demand.[3]*

The first actual overture by Smillie to the Finance Minister was likely made even earlier than his above mentioned November communication, in September of 1865. This is evidenced by the following September 12th response from the Finance Department:

*W.C. Smillie, 95 [illegible word]*

*Sir, I am directed by Mr. Galt to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th Inst. and to inform you that it has been referred to the Board of Customs, Excise & Stamps.*

*W.A. Blackmore, Secretary[6]*

This letter is similar in its content to a December 15th, 1865, response to Smillie's November 29th letter.[7]

For unknown reasons that may have included a sense of prior obligation, the fact of their established business, or political pressure, the Board thought it "desirable" that Burland be included in formation of the British American Bank Note Company and directed Matthews to approach that group with such a proposal. The Board's June report noted:

*Although aware that the views which Messrs. Smillie & Matthews entertained as to the establishment & success of a British American Bank Note Co. in Canada, upon the basis proposed, were not shared by Messrs. Burland & Lafricain it was nevertheless thought desirable that those Gentlemen should be afforded an opportunity of reconsidering the subject, and Mr. Matthews was desired to mention to them the proposed formation of the Canadian Co. & to invite them to form part of it.[3]*

This probably occurred in March or April of 1866. Matthews' invitation was rejected. Burland, Lafricain, however, then sought to usurp Matthews and Smillie's proposals with one of their own. The validity of Burland, Lafricain's proposal — given their previous assertions — was considered by the Board to be somewhat dubious. The June report continued with:

*These overtures it would appear were declined and on the 14th May last, Messrs. Burland Lafricain & others, purporting to represent "The British American Bank Note Co." sent in the "Tender" which has been referred to the Board. This tender is nearly a transcript of that furnished by Messrs. Smillie & Matthews, with the exception of the privilege alleged to exist in Burland & Lafricain as to the use of a Patent Colour, and the underbidding for the Government Contract, by offering to do the work for 5% less than Messrs. Smillie & Matthews, that is to say, for 25% instead of 20% under the present prices, a proposition on the part of Messrs. Burland & Lafricain difficult to reconcile with a former statement of theirs in which they speak of such an undertaking as that proposed by Messrs. Smillie & Matthews as most hazardous & unremunerating even with other Govt. work. This tendering therefore for 5% less under such circumstances can not but be considered as somewhat anomalous.[3]*

Further indication of the low esteem with which the Board held Burland's tender is given by their statement that the Board was "unable to discover upon what tenable ground they could set aside the recommendations of the 6th of March last accepting of the propositions in writing of Mr. George Mathews [sic] and Mr. W.C. Smillie."[3]

Not only did Burland and associates appear to have copied the terms and conditions of the tender quite closely but, as noted by the Board, they sought to appropriate the very name of BABN itself. This appropriation was initiated on April 23rd, 1866, (only a short time after Matthews' visitation) when the following notice was filed and subsequently published in the Canada Gazette:

*Notice is hereby given that George Bull Burland, George Lafricain, Nathaniel Barber, Engravers, Brown Chamberlin and John Lowe, Printers and Publishers, all of Montreal, will apply to His Excellency the Governor General in Council, after the expiration of one month from the publication of this notice for a charter to incorporate a Company under an Act of the Legislature intituled: "An Act to authorize the granting of Charters of Incorporation to manufacturing, mining and other Companies," to be called "The British American Bank Note Company," for the purpose of carrying on the manufacturing, mechanical and chemical operations and business required in the engraving and printing of Bank Notes, Debentures,*

*Bonds, Postage and Bill Stamps, and Bills of Exchange, and the carrying on of all other branches incidental thereto at the city of Montreal, in Lower Canada, and the city of Ottawa, in Upper Canada, the places where the operation of the Company are to be carried on. The amount of the Capital Stock of the Company is to be \$100,000 in 1000 shares of \$100 each, the amount subscribed being \$100,000 and \$5000 is to be paid in before the Charter is granted.*[8]

In this notice, the group — with established operations as Burland, Lafricain & Co. in Montreal — now proposed to establish a second plant in Ottawa.

The Matthews, Smillie group countered with a similar notice on May 15th. This item listed the intended principals as: George Matthews (of Hudson, Quebec), William Cumming Smillie, Henry Earle, Francis Bourne, William Smillie Gillelan (all listed as residents of Ottawa), Alfred Jones (of Yonkers, New York), and Thomas Johnson Gillelan (of New York City). In their notice this group proposed to establish a single plant in Ottawa which would have had to have been established from the ground up without existing printing equipment or personnel.[9]

However, on June 6th, 1866, the Burland group succeeded in acquiring the desired charter. The Order in Council granting this charter made no reference whatsoever to the Matthews, Smillie group.[10]

The Board's June 1866 report was approved by the Finance Minister, A.T. Galt, and, as with their March report, was submitted to but not approved by the Government. Instead further overtures were made by the Government to the two competing groups to merge. This is evidenced by the first paragraph of the joint tender, dated August 7th, 1866:

*The undersigned having amalgamated their respective interests in compliance with the express wishes of the Government, and made application for "Letters Patent" of incorporation, under the name and style of the British American Bank Note Company, for the purpose set forth in the advertisement of application...*[11]

This merger had been deemed "desirable" by the Board but the government itself appears to have been much more persistent in its efforts to accommodate Burland, Lafricain. A discussion of the reasons behind this persistence occurred in Parliament on August 10th, 1866. The pro-government newspaper, the Toronto Leader, reported:

*Mr. GALT explained that the Government had felt for obvious reasons which the House must appreciate, it was desirable that the engravings of public debentures, stamps and currency should all be done in this country, and that the dies, plates, &c., should be kept here under the immediate control of the Government. Two parties — Messrs. Matthews and Smillie and Messrs. Burland and Lafricain [sic] — offered to do work, each contending it was best qualified to do the work. Their claims had been under consideration for some time; but at last he rejoiced to say, they had amalgamated and formed a stronger company likely to do the work more effectually. Their offer was now under the consideration of the Board of Excise and Stamps, who had not yet been able to report to the Government on it.*

*Mr. HOLTON was not sure the House and country would see so much cause for congratulation as the late Finance Minister, in the face of a union of companies and consequent loss of competition. The story, as he heard it, was, the Government had agreed to give the contract to Matthews & Co., but afterwards strong political and journalistic influences were brought to bear in favor of other parties, which had led first to a contest and then to this amalgamation. He knew both parties, both Mr. Matthews and Mr. Burland, who were very*

respectable citizens of Montreal and personal friends of his own. But these were not all the partners of the latter. There were other very respectable men, publishers of no less than three Ministerial journals. Since their appearance on the scene the battle-field was all changed, and the previous understanding with the Government was broken off.

Mr. GALT said the Government had not promised the contract to either of these parties, or any other. Tenders had been put in by both of them successively and had been considered by the board of stamps; but had never been definitely before the government for decision. For his part he thought that public interests were best consulted by the formation of a strong company able to do the work efficiently. He must confess he feared that neither company alone would have been able to do the work. The Government required the work to be done here at Ottawa, so as to be under Government inspection; but Government work was not alone sufficient to maintain the company, and this was not the best place, like Montreal, to get private work. He had, therefore, thought a union very expedient, if not necessary, to secure at once the most reasonable prices, and the greatest celerity in doing Government business. He must say that he was surprised at the attack made upon the gentlemen said to associated with Messrs. Burland & Co. Any connection formed was that of a joint stock company, and surely there was no objection to any body taking stock in such a company, and it was most unfair to attack Messrs. Lowe and Chamberlain [sic], for he could not pretend to ignore the parties aimed at in the insidious way they had done, as if the support they had given to ministers and representing the party to which they had always belonged, was in return for ministerial favors. After some years experience in public affairs he could state that he believed their journal received less patronage from the government than any other in its position. Nay, he could not remember that he had ever been but once since he had been in government, asked by either of them for the smallest bit of patronage....

Mr. HOLTON had meant no attack on Messrs. Lowe and Chamberlain [sic], who were respectable journalists, with money enough for their own business, but they were not known as capitalists investing in joint stock companies. He had no objection to take to the relations subsisting between the government and their newspaper friends, but thought this contract ought not to be given because of political influence. Would ministers bring down the papers?

Mr. HOWLAND said they were not yet before the government, but were under the consideration of the board of stamps, who would report to the government. Till their report had been considered it was obvious they could not submit them to parliament. Care would be taken to secure a satisfactory contract.[12]

Of the same discussion, the pro-opposition Toronto Globe, reported:

Hon. Mr. GALT said... Two firms — Mathews [sic] & Smillie, and Burland & Lafrican [sic] — had been negotiating with [the] Government, each desirous of getting the work. The matter had been under departmental action and had not finally come before the Government for its decision. The companies at length coalesced to do the work, and he believed they yesterday sent in a tender therefor, but it had not yet been considered by [the] Government...

Hon. Mr. HOLTON charged [the] Government with having kept the contract for the work from public competition to get the two companies to agree among themselves. He understood the Government first agreed to give it to Mathews [sic] & Co. but that afterwards strong political and journalistic influence was brought to bear by a gentleman who owned three journals in Montreal, when Ministers awarded the contract to Burland, Lafrican [sic] & Co...

Hon. Mr. GALT said that the gentleman was incorrectly informed. The Government had not given to anyone the contract in question. It appeared judicious in the parties to combine,

*because neither seemed alone in a position to carry out the work as efficiently as was desirable. He told both parties that he did not believe the business of the Government alone would support one establishment, though it might form an important element. In reference to the journalistic influence spoken of by the member for Chateauguay, he (Mr. Galt) was bound to say that Messrs. Lowe & Chamberlin proprietors of the Montreal Gazette, received fewer favours, in the way of Government patronage, than perhaps any paper in Canada, and he was not aware of their ever having asked for any thing but once, and that was in regard to something in his Department to which they were perfectly entitled....*

*Hon. Mr. HOLTON — Were there offers made by those parties before they coalesced at specific rates?*

*Hon. Mr. GALT — There were partial offers which were under the consideration of the Minister of Finance, but he was not prepared to say there was any offer that could be accepted.*

*Hon. Mr. HOLTON asked which offer was the most favourable?*

*Hon. Mr. GALT — Could not say.*

*Hon. Mr. HOLTON asked the Government to bring down the papers on this case.*

*Hon. Mr. GALT believed they had been withdrawn some time ago. (laughter)[13]*

The accusation of political influence or pressure is supported by other documentary evidence, not the least of which was the entire tone of the Board's June 1866 report. This would include the strong implication that the Board did not deem it necessary to include Burland, Lafraican and the aspersions cast upon the validity of their May tender.

Further in respect to political pressure are documents which indicate that Galt was not entirely truthful when he reportedly stated that the individual, pre-amalgamation tenders *"had never been definitely before the government for decision."* A register of submissions to the Executive Council (in effect, the Government) indicates that the March 6th report of the Board, as approved by Galt, had indeed been submitted for consideration on March 8th, 1866. This submission remained with the Council for well over a month before being *"referred to the PMG"* on April 20th. This would have left more than ample time for a thorough evaluation and for a copy of the tender to be quietly supplied to Burland, who obviously had seen a copy of the papers. Similarly, the June report was submitted on the 12th of that month and was immediately (the 13th) referred to the Attorney General for Lower Canada.[14]

While these events transpired, it was this very same Council that granted Burland, Lafraican its June 6th charter for the title of BABN despite the prior, long term use of the name by Smillie.

Galt's assertion that neither of the two competing groups was fully capable of performing the required work is certainly true with respect to Burland, Lafraican. This group possessed no apparent expertise in steel engraving, despite their earlier notice of April 23rd describing three of the principals as *"engravers"*. It should be remembered, however, that they did have in their favour an established and self-sustaining printing business in Montreal.

Galt's expressed views are far less tenable with respect to Matthews, Smillie as this group possessed more than ample expertise as steel engravers and, in the person of George

Matthews, a member with years of experience in operating a printing firm. Galt's view of this group was certainly not shared by the Board who had investigated Matthews and Smillie's background regarding both their ability and their financial viability. This group, on the other hand, had no established printing plant or equipment, even in Montreal.

One item that may have been the basis of Galt's assertion is Matthews and Smillie's delay in acquiring an adequate building in Ottawa. This is evident in the August 7th, 1866, combined tender which stated:

*Should the Government require the work to be done in Ottawa, the undersigned would propose that suitable building, free of cost be provided by the Government, and furnished with the necessary safeguards for the due execution and protection of the same.*[11]

This request was declined by the government and the Toronto Globe's Ottawa correspondent, under a dateline of August 14th, reported that BABN had "*commenced to prepare a building here.*"[15]

Matthews and Smillie's lack of a building, however, is not necessarily indicative of a serious deficiency in their bid to form BABN. As previously discussed, the government had simply refused to sanction a contract prior to the inclusion of Burland, Lafricain. It seems unlikely that Matthews and Smillie would or could commit to the lease, purchase, or construction of such a building without a firm commitment from the government.

Galt's reference to the necessity of private work to guarantee the viability of BABN is valid, although it is less clear that the acquisition of such work should have required the inclusion of Burland, Lafricain. As shown in a previous paper, Matthews had been ABN's Canadian agent prior to 1865 and the agent for two of its predecessors prior to 1858.[4] As such, Matthews would have been a familiar face to the banks, municipalities, and companies who would have required printing of all types. Given this Matthews, Smillie might have been able to establish a private sector business despite Galt's concerns. However, this still did not give Matthews an established operating base in Montreal or elsewhere.

## Part 2: The Contract.

On August 7th, 1866, the amalgamated groups submitted a joint tender to the government. The items in this proposal were:

*[We] beg respectfully to submit proposals for the execution of all work arising out of the engraving and printing of Notes, Debentures, Postage, Excise, Bill, Law and other Stamps, for the term of ten years from the date of contract,—*

*FIRST.— [We] are prepared to execute all Government work in Canada, either in Montreal or at Ottawa as the Government may determine, employing a staff of skilful artists in all its various branches.*

*SECOND.— If desirable the work may be under the supervision of such Government Officer or Officers, as may from time to time be appointed for that purpose.*

*THIRD.— Whenever it is desired dies of vignettes, or lathe work, may be reserved for the exclusive use of the Government, subject to any extra cost which may be incurred in production.*

*FOURTH.— The work done to be fully equal in every respect, to anything heretofore supplied*

to the Government and at the rates corresponding to those heretofore charged or as low as the price of material or compensation of artistic skill will justify.

*FIFTH.— To that end [we] propose to use on Debentures and other work of a like kind, as also for cancelling Postage and other stamps, the patent colours, for the use of which in Canada and the other British North American Provinces, Messrs. Burland. L'Africain [sic] & Co., have the exclusive right reserved by Letters Patent, this being the only absolute protection against counterfeiting and altering Notes, Postage Stamps, Debentures and other Documents.*

*We also guarantee to introduce from time to time any improvement in the arts of engraving and printing, which experience may hereafter develop.*

*SIXTH.— Should the Government require the work to be done in Ottawa, the undersigned would propose that suitable building, free of cost be provided by the Government, and furnished with the necessary safeguards for the due execution and protection of the same.*

*SEVENTH.— As this project is entirely new and hazardous in Canada, and the enterprise a very expensive one, it is respectfully requested that the machinery, paper, and material of all descriptions used in this business may be admitted free of duty.[11]*

In this new proposal, the discount prices previously offered had disappeared.

A government counter-offer, approved by an August 16th, 1866, Order in Council, was officially made on August 17th. Quoting from this Order:

*On a Report from the Board of Customs, Excise and Stamps, dated 10th August 1866, submitting a Tender hereunto annexed from the amalgamated companies under the name of the British North American Bank Note Company for the Engraving and printing of Notes, Debentures, Postage and other Stamps for a period of ten years.*

*The Board report that this Tender differs in many material respects from those previously made by Messrs. Matthews and Smillie, and Messrs. Burland and L'Africain [sic].*

*1. That they now tender to do all Government work at the rates heretofore charged, or as low as the price of materials and compensation of artistic skill will justify. That even putting out of the question the vagueness of the last words which really amounts to no price at all being fixed, the original Tender of Messrs. Matthews & Smillie proposed to do all the work at twenty per cent below the prices of the American Bank Note Company, and that of Messrs. Burland and L'Africain [sic] proposed twenty five per cent below those prices.*

*That even if the Tender were satisfactory otherwise in respect to price, the Board is of [the] opinion that a comparison with the rates of the American Bank Note Company would be an inconvenient way of fixing this important element in the Contract. The Board has therefore called upon the Company to submit a detailed Schedule of prices at which they are willing to execute the work....[16]*

The Order also specified:

*That until some modification is made in the terms offered, the Board is not prepared to recommend that the Government should enter into a Contract with the Company but as the necessity for preparations being made for performing Government work is very pressing, and as, if any Contract is made in Canada, it would be very desirable that it should include the work now to be undertaken, the Board recommends that the Government should make a proposition upon which they will enter into a Contract...[16]*

On August 17th — the same day the government presented its counter-proposals —

BABN accepted the terms, and a report of the agreement appeared in newspapers. The Toronto Globe, under a dateline of August 17th, noted:

*An arrangement has been concluded with the British American Bank Note Co. for printing the new debentures, and also all postage, law, and bill stamps, to be used in the country, — the company to do the work at the prices charged by the American engravers.[17]*

However, a decision by the government to formally enter into such a contract was not authorized until October 22nd, 1866. An Order in Council of that date read:

*On the memorandum of the Hon. the Minister of Finance the Committee advise that the annexed minute of the Board of Customs, Excise & Stamps proposing that a Contract be entered into with the British American Bank Note Company according to the terms therein set forth, and recommending and defining certain Rules and Regulations to be established for the superintendence, custody and disposition of Provincial Notes, Debentures and Stamps be sanctioned and adopted, and that a Contract be entered into accordingly.[18]*

The minute of the Board attached to this Order in Council read as follows:

*An Order in Council having been passed on the 16th of August, offering certain terms to the British American Bank Note Company, upon which [the] Government was prepared to enter into a Contract for the execution of Government work in the preparation of Debentures, Notes, Stamps &c., and the offer of [the] Gov't having been accepted by the Company, a letter dated 17th August, it appears advisable that a Contract should be prepared and executed in accordance with the Order in Council.*

*A schedule of the prices at which the work is to be charged for forms part of the proposal of [the] Government and should be embodied in the Contract. The exact rate was not settled by the Order in Council, but the Board is of [the] opinion that the prices named in the schedule submitted on behalf of the Company to the Receiver General by Mr. Smilie [sic] are fair prices, and are not higher than the current rates of the American Bank Note Company, and would recommend that they be adopted as the schedule of prices in the Contract...[19]*

This October 22nd date corresponds exactly to the one given in the Public Accounts as the date upon which the government work and superintendence began at BABN.[20]

Secure in the view that they were guaranteed the contract, BABN placed an advertisement in a November 1866 publication in which it claimed to have "entered into a contract" with the Canadian government for all of its security printing.[21] This advertisement is reproduced in Figure 1.

However, despite BABN's optimism, the contract materialized neither at this time nor in the near future. Its preparation began only after a December 20th, 1866, Order in Council which again directed that such documents be drawn up:

*The Committee have had before them a memorandum from the Hon. the Acting Minister of Finance, recommending upon a Report of the Board of Customs, Excise and Stamps respecting the superintendence on behalf of [the] Government over the work to be executed by the British American Bank Note Company. That a Contract be immediately prepared to be executed by the Company in accordance with the terms laid down in the Orders in Council of 16th August and 22nd October 1866, and that such Contract shall clearly specify that the Company shall adopt such regulations for the proper checking of the work as shall be approved of by the Minister of Finance, and shall make such arrangements in the building as shall in the judgement of the said Minister of Finance be necessary for the safety of the Government property*

and of the work in process; and further recommending that trimming and separating machines be procured by [the] Government, the cost thereof not to exceed one thousand dollars.

The Committee submit[s] the above recommendations for your Excellency's approval.[22]

At some unknown date after January 23rd, 1867, a draft of the proposed contract was finally presented to BABN. This date is that of a letter to the Board from Smillie in which he noted:

*As you are aware, our proposition and expectation from the first has been, that our contract with the Government should be for a period of ten years, we deem it proper and fitting through your Board to bring the subject before it at this time, having been informed that the formal contract is now in the course of preparation.*[23]

A possible date for the presentation is late March of 1867. The basis for this suggestion is a comment made in an otherwise unrelated letter dated the 22nd of that month. In this letter to the Receiver General, the Deputy Receiver General commented:

*The approved Report of the Board of Customs etc. I have handed over to the proper officer, that the Engraving Company may be communicated with if necessary...*[24]

However, when presented with the contract BABN did not accept some of the details and refused to sign.[3] There then followed ten to twelve months of negotiations before the two parties could come to a mutually acceptable agreement. The points of contention between BABN and the government with respect to the fine details of the contract were summarized in a January 28th, 1868, Treasury Board Minute:

*The main points of variance between the Government and the Company seemed to be narrowed to the following:—*

*1st. Shall the contract be terminable at six months notice or be for a term of ten years, or for what other term?*

*2nd. Shall the Government reserve the right to assume the performance of the work itself, and if so on what terms as regards the outlay of the Company?*

*3rd. What prices shall be settled for the work? Shall these prices be subject to revision, and if so on what principle?*

*4th. What provision shall be made for the proper supervision of the work, and what shall be the stipulations as to the Government having the advantage of any Patents now existing or to be obtained hereafter which the Company or any of its numbers may own or control?*

*On the first point, viz: the term of the contract, the Government would appear at first to have contemplated the extension of it for a certain definite period. In the offer of the Company in August 1866 they propose to do the work under a ten year contract. The report by the Board of Stamps of that date leaves the number of years blank, and the order in Council authorizes a contract to be terminated at the option of either party by giving the other six months notice.*

*In this reference the Board of Stamps again report (October 1866) stating that there was no schedule of prices submitted on the original offer but that those then submitted were reasonable. There is no allusion in this report for the proposed term of the contract but a second order in council is passed (October 22) again authorizing the execution of a contract.*

*In December 1866 a further report [was] made by Sir Narcisse Belleau, limited apparently to provide for the exercise by the Government of a close supervision of the plates and work, and*

on this report a new order in council is passed, again authorizing a contract.

*The draft contract prepared under this order in Council makes it terminable at six months notice, but this appears to have been protested against and refused by the Company.*

*The negotiations from this time (December 1866) to December 1867 appear to have been chiefly verbal, but the whole question having been again referred to the Board of Stamps, they submit (January 1868) the draft of a new contract....[25]*

Reference to the lengthy negotiations is also made in a January 10th, 1868, letter from the Finance Department to Smillie. The copy in the letterbook is unsigned but judging from the content and date it was probably written by John Rose, the second Finance Minister of the new Dominion having replaced Galt in November of 1867.

*I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to inform you that the various negotiations which have taken place between you and the government are now engaging my attention, and I hope to be in a position to report to the Treasury Board upon them at its first meeting, which however cannot I fear be before the 20th inst.[26]*

The compromises, as discussed in the Order and embodied in the February 8th, 1868, contract, can be simply summarized. In the place of the desired ten years a four year term was agreed upon, to be followed by an indefinite period in which the contract became terminable by either party at six months notice. Within the four year term the contract also gave the government the right to give thirty days notice in the event of: breach of the contract by BABN, unsatisfactory production quality, or a government decision to have their own officials perform any or all of the work. With respect to the last point, the agreement provided for the purchase by the government of any portion of BABN's plant and machinery in Ottawa acquired for the purpose of fulfilling the contract.[25,27]

The price schedule in the contract was made subject to revision in January of each year with the basis for comparison being the then current prices in New York City. Further with respect to prices, the government was not liable for extra charges in instances where a patented item owned by BABN or its members was used. The detailed inclusion of this provision in the Order implies that BABN had previously argued in favour of such extra charges. It should also be noted that the "Patent Green" colour was specifically excluded from this provision in the 1873 contract.[25,27,28]

The October 1866 rules for the supervision of the work done for the government required that all dies and plates no longer required by BABN for daily use be delivered to and remain in the custody of the Receiver General. The 1868 contract makes the application of this provision optional and at the discretion of the Receiver General. The contract also deleted the word "daily" from this provision.[19,27]

With the conclusion of these negotiations and the signing of the first contract on February 8th, 1868, the long journey to establish a Canadian security printer, begun by the government in 1864, was finally completed.

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It is evident that the government of the Province of Canada played no small part in the formation and shape of the British American Bank Note Company. This involvement ranged from the initiation of the very idea of a Canadian steel engraving company to the political obstructions placed in the way of Matthews and Smillie's attempt to fill this role. The motivations for the government interference in Matthews and Smillie's endeavour appear to have been a combination of political influences and machinations and of concern for the economic vitality of the new company.

Whatever the reason, the result was the inclusion of Burland, Lafricain in the nascent steel engraving company. British American Bank Note was thus established as a company with roots in both Montreal and Ottawa rather than concentrated in Ottawa alone, and as a company with strong relief printing (typography) and lithographing skills rather than recess printing (intaglio) capabilities only.

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#### AFTERWORD:

The first work performed by BABN for the Canadian government occurred in late October of 1866 and was the printing of new provincial currency notes. This was done partially from plates previously prepared by ABN in New York and partially from plates prepared by BABN itself. This use of the American plates, however, was not an indication of support or cooperation between the two rival companies. The transfer of the plates by ABN was to the care and control of the Canadian government and not to BABN. In the terms of the agreement between ABN and the government regarding these plates it was expressly stated that:

*—"The plates will always be in the custody of an officer of [the] Government,"*

and that,

*—"No use shall be made of the plates excepting to take off impressions, and that any additional copies of the plates which may be required for this issue beyond those now to be furnished, shall be furnished by the American Bank Note Company."[29]*

The plates themselves were delivered by ABN directly to the Office of the Receiver General.[30] The Deputy Receiver General later, March 1867, sent 18 of the plates back to ABN for retouching with instructions that they were to returned to that same office.[31] Further details of the printing of these notes and of other pre-contract work performed by BABN can be found in this author's previous article on the First Issue bill stamps.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author would like to thank Bill Walton for his comments and suggestions regarding the drafts of this paper as well as for the photograph of BABN's 1866 advertisement. Thanks are also extended to Walter Allan for the many illustrations he kindly provided and for his proof-reading of the penultimate draft.

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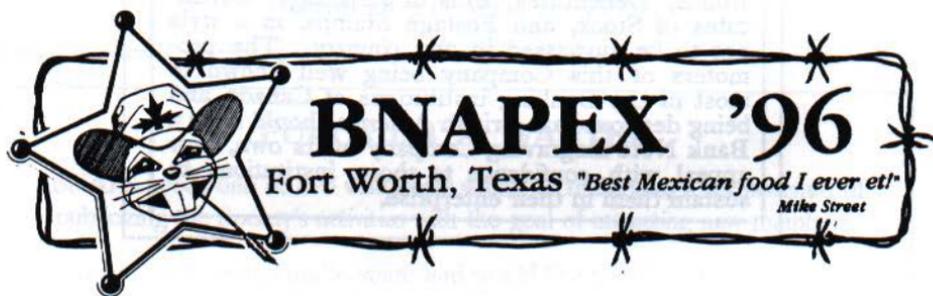


Figure 1: BABN advertisement from the Year-Book and Almanac of British North America for 1867, issued November 1866  
(courtesy of W. C. Walton)

ENGRAVERS IN STEEL, WOOD, ETC., LITHO-  
GRAPHERS.

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**T**HE BRITISH AMERICAN BANK  
NOTE COMPANY,  
Montreal and Ottawa,—Capital \$100,000.  
Capital paid up \$56,995.

W. C. SMILLIE, President; G. B. BURLAND,  
Vice-President and Manager; F. BOURNE,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

This COMPANY has now engaged in its ser-  
vice men of the most eminent talent in America  
in the engraving business; and is now prepared  
to receive orders from all parts of British America,  
from the Governments of Provinces, Banking In-  
stitutions, Railway Companies, Corporate bodies,  
and Mercantile houses.

The COMPANY having received the patronage  
of the Canadian Government, has entered  
into a contract with it for the execution of its  
work, viz. : Postage, Excise, Bill and Law Stamps,  
Debentures, Provincial Currency and all such en-  
graving and printing.

It has the sole right to use in these provinces  
the PATENT COLOURS, which constitute the  
*only absolute protection known against altering  
bank notes or counterfeiting by means of photo-  
graphy.*

It is now prepared to execute Bank Notes,  
Bonds, Debentures, Bills of Exchange, Certifi-  
cates of Stock, and Postage Stamps, in a style  
not to be surpassed in any country. The pro-  
moters of this Company being well known to  
most of the Banking institutions of Canada, and  
being desirous that British America should have a  
Bank Note Engraving Company of its own, now  
appeal with confidence to those institutions to  
sustain them in their enterprise.

---

The following additions are made to the article **The Nature of, and Circumstances Surrounding The Printing of, The First Issue of Canada's Bill Stamps** by Christopher D. Ryan, that appeared in *BNA Topics*, Vol 51, NO 4, WHOLE NO 461, the OCT-NOV-DEC 1994 issue.

The below figure supplements Figure 3: it is an enlargement which shows "British American Bank Note Co. Montreal & Ottawa" more clearly.



Also be advised that the above titled article is also copyrighted by Christopher D. Ryan in 1994.

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**BNAPS - *The Society for Canadian Philately***

# Rambling Through The Records

Allan Steinhart

Department Order No. 64 - P. O. Dept. Dec. 5, 1865

"The offense of applying to letters, etc., posted in Canada, Postage Stamps in prepayment of Postage which have been previously used for that purpose, is a very serious one, rendering the perpetrator liable to prosecution for Felony, and on conviction to imprisonment in the Penitentiary.

Postmasters will be careful to watch the condition of Stamps affixed to Letters, etc., passing through their Offices, and when such stamps bear evidence of the commission of the fraud herein adverted to, the Letters, Newspapers, etc., bearing the same are to be put under cover to the Postmaster General, with a report of the circumstances."

Department Order No. 64 - P. O. Dept. Dec. 5, 1865

Alteration in the Rates of Letter Postage between Canada, Denmark, Norway & Sweden

"Postmasters are hereby notified that, for the future, the amount of Postage to be collected on letters for the undermentioned places will be as follows:

Country	Not over ½oz Cts	Over ½oz & not over 1oz Cts	Over 1oz & not over 1½oz Cts	Every add ½oz Cts
Denmark	19	38	57	19
Sweden	23	46	69	23
Norway	27	54	81	27

Department Order No. 5 - Ottawa - P. O. D. October 12, 1870

"From and after 1st November, 1870, Correspondence between the Province of Manitoba, and the other Provinces of Canada, will pass in closed mails made up at Fort Garry, Manitoba, for Windsor, Ontario; and at Windsor for Fort Garry, respectively. These Mails will be conveyed by the United States Post Office, without opening by the way, via Detroit, St. Paul, and Pembina.

The Rates of Postage between Manitoba and the other Provinces of Canada, on Correspondence sent in these closed Mails, will be the ordinary Canada rates; and the ordinary postal regulations will apply to all mail matter.

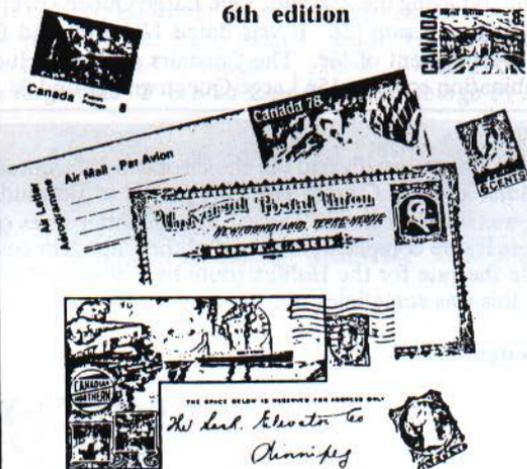
Letters may be registered for Manitoba as for other parts of Canada.

The Mails for Manitoba will be closed at Windsor, Ontario, on every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoon."

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# Early Canadian Mail to Jamaica

George Arfken

**Canadian mail in the 1860s and early 1870s.** The Firby Recording [1] lists two Decimal covers to Jamaica. One cover shows a date of arrival of June 20, 1864. The other Decimal cover is stamped JU 11 66. Each of these two covers was franked with 17¢, 5¢ and 1¢ Decimals paying the 23¢ rate. One Large Queen cover to Jamaica appeared in the Lussey Small Queen sale [2]. It was dated NO 5 68 and franked with a 12½¢ Large Queen, an overpayment of ½¢. The Carstairs sale [3] included a Large Queen - Small Queen combination cover: a 15¢ Large Queen and 2¢ and 3¢ Small Queens. It was dated OC 2 72.

Canadian writers usually had the choice of two different routes to Jamaica. One route was via Halifax and the Cunard (British) packet to Bermuda and the Caribbean. The other route was via New York. Table 1 lists the letter rates (per ½ oz.) for both of these routes. There is one complication here that the Canadian government documents do not show. While the rate for the Halifax route by British packets paid to the port of arrival (Kingston), this was sometimes not the case for the via New York route.

**Table 1.** Letter Rates to Jamaica.

	Date	Via Halifax	Via New York
	1863	23¢	20¢
	1865	23¢	-
	1867	-	10¢
(Oct)	1868	12¢	10¢
(Oct)	1870	"	13¢
July	1873 *	"	10¢
Oct.	1875	"	8¢
Aug.	1878	"	5¢ UPU
Apr.	1879	10¢	"
Jul.	1886	-	"

\* Dept. Order No. 10, July 15, 1873

Prepayment was required until the 5¢ UPU rate was effective.

The 1870 Tables, dated July, were not issued until October. The 1868 and other Tables may also have been delayed.

This article focuses on the routes taken and the rates paid by two Canadian correspondences to Jamaica. The first is the correspondence to George W. Poldon, 1874 - 1875. The second is the correspondence to Miss Musgrave, 1879 - 1881.

**The George W. Poldon correspondence - U.S. and U.K. cooperation.** Figure 1 shows a cover from Norwich, Ont. posted SP 3 74 and addressed to George W. Poldon, Plantain Garden P.O., Jamaica. With four 3¢ Small Queens the cover paid the 12¢ Halifax packet

rate. Somehow the cover took five days to get to Montreal. With three more days to get to Halifax, the cover missed the September 7 sailing of the Cunard packet "Beta" [4]. The cover waited in Halifax for the October 5 sailing. The cover was carried by the "Beta" to St. Thomas, D.W.I. where it received an OC 14 74 transit mark from the British post office on the island. The cover was transferred to a Royal Mail packet [5] which carried the cover to Kingston, Jamaica. There are Kingston OC 20 and Garden River OC 20 74 backstamps.

Figure 1. This cover was posted in Norwich, Ont. SP 3 74 addressed to Plantain Garden, Jamaica. Sent to Halifax, the cover missed the September 7 sailing of the British packet "Beta" but went on the October 5 sailing. At St. Thomas, the cover was put on a Royal Mail packet and carried to Kingston, Jamaica. There is a Kingston OC 20 backstamp. The large blue "2" is a 2d inland postage charge by Jamaica.



The cover of Figure 1 features a large blue "2" on the left. This is very similar to markings on Bermuda and Bahamas covers of this period [6]. It is probably an inland postage charge where inland means inland from the water's edge at Kingston. Actually Plantain Garden was near the eastern tip of the island, well away from Kingston. The "2" could be called a ship letter charge but it did not mean a payment to the captain of the Royal Mail packet.

Analysis of the route and rate for the cover of Figure 1 was straightforward. Arnell and Ludington provided detailed sailing tables for the Halifax packets. Stone gave guidance on the Royal Mail packets. A series of backstamps showed exactly where the cover went and when. The next cover, shown in Figure 2, lacks most of these aids.

The four 3¢ Small Queens on this second cover are cancelled with more or less illegible Norwich date stamps. There are Woodstock, Ont. and Hamilton, Ont. SP 28 74 backstamps. The cover has a red OCT 9 New York transit mark. So we expect that the cover went to the Caribbean from New York and not by Halifax packet, despite having paid the Halifax packet rate. There is a red "7," a U.S. accountancy mark crediting the U.S. with 7¢ and debiting Canada with this amount. Starnes [7] lists the U.S. rate to Jamaica as 10¢. A 10¢ charge on a U.S. letter and a 7¢ charge on a Canadian letter seem inconsistent [8]. The cover did get to Plantain Garden. There is a Plantain Garden River OC 18 1874 backstamp.

Figure 2. From Norwich, Ont. SP 27 74, paid 12¢ for the British packet out of Halifax but sent via New York, OCT 9 transit stamp. Red U.S. "7" accountancy mark and a pencil "6". Kingston, Jamaica OC 16 74 and Plantain Garden River OC 18 1874 backstamps.



This cover does not have a large blue "2" but it does show a large "6" in pencil. 6 what? By whom? Probably many readers will say "It's six pence ----- !" However, this writer's understanding of this "6" and of the route the cover followed had to wait until cover no. 3 appeared.

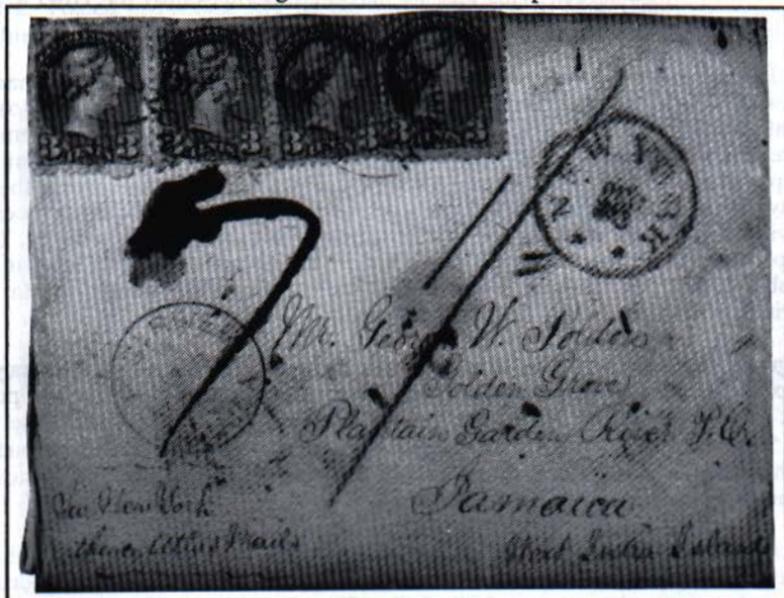
Figure 3 shows another Norwich cover to Plantain Garden, Jamaica. This cover was posted DE 12 74. Like the preceding cover, it was paid the 12¢ British packet rate from Halifax but was sent via New York. There is a red New York DEC 23 transit stamp. Again there is a red "7," a U.S. accountancy mark. This cover differs from the previous cover in two important respects. First, instead of a pencilled "6," there is a "1/-," one shilling. So this cover was found to be overweight. The identification of one shilling means that the "6" on the preceding cover must be 6 pence. This is much too high to be internal postage. There must be another reason.

The second significant difference in this third cover is the endorsement "Via New York, thence Atlas Mails." Stone [5] identifies Atlas Mails as the Atlas Steamship Co. of Liverpool. In 1873 Atlas started calling at Havana on its line from New York to the West Indies via Nassau.

No sailing tables for the Atlas Line are available so this analysis of the third cover becomes a plausibility argument. From New York, the cover was carried to Havana by Atlas. It is important to note that Atlas was not carrying the mail under British contract. The cost would have been paid by the U.S. from that 7¢ credit. At Havana, the cover was

transferred to a Royal Mail packet and delivered to Kingston. This part of the trip was

Figure 3. Mailed in Norwich, Ont. DE 12 74. This cover was paid 12¢, the Cinard packet rate from Halifax, but endorsed "Via New York, thence Atlas Mails." Red "7", U.S. accountancy mark. The cover was probably carried to Havana by an Atlas Mail packet and from Havana to Kingston, Jamaica by a Royal Mail packet. There is a pencilled 1/- for a one shilling Jamaican charge. The cover was apparently found to be overweight. Six pence (2d inland postage plus 4d British packet charge) doubled. Kingston JA 6 75 backstamp.



not prepaid. The U.S. and the U.K. had arranged in postal treaties of 1868 and 1869 for the transfer of mail between packets of the two countries. Usually the postage for the first packet would be prepaid. The postage for the second packet would be unpaid - to be collected on delivery. That was the case for the second and third George W. Poldon covers shown here.

On arrival in Kingston, the second cover, Figure 2, was charged 4d for the British packet from Havana plus 2d inland postage for a total of 6d. The second cover was declared over ½ oz. and the 6d was doubled to one shilling. The first cover, going by way of Halifax, was carried by British packets all the way to Kingston. There was no transfer from a packet of one country to a packet of another country. All packet charges were prepaid. So, the first cover was charged only the 2d inland postage.

Table 5 of the 1874 Tables of Rates of Postage lists the postal rate to Jamaica via the U.S. as 10¢. The wording is "... the rates of postage to be collected in Canada ..." This is perfectly accurate as far as it goes. However, there is no warning in this table that additional postage would be assessed if a British packet were used in addition to the packet out of New York.

This correspondence to George W. Poldon continued at least through July 1875. A

cover dated JY 27 75 is known inscribed "Left the island."

**The Miss Musgrave correspondence - Change in rate, change in route.** As shown in Table 1, the postal rate to Jamaica via Halifax packet was reduced to 10¢ in the April 1879 Official Postal Guide. Canada and Jamaica were both in the UPU at this time. One might have expected the rate to be the UPU 5¢ rate. However, Britain faced massive expenses in subsidizing these packet lines. Britain expected the letter writers to help defray the costs. The rate was set at 10¢ per ½ oz. This was the 5¢ UPU basic rate plus a 5¢ UPU authorized surtax. This was the maximum permitted by the UPU except for "extraordinary service" such as carrying mail to India via Brindisi [9].

In January 1880, the southern terminal of the Halifax - Bermuda - St. Thomas packet service was shifted from St. Thomas to Kingston, Jamaica. In 1858, the British Post Office had sent Anthony Trollope to the West Indies inspect the British postal system and to make recommendations. Among other things, Trollope had recommended transferring British postal activity from St. Thomas to Kingston, Jamaica [10]. By the 1870s, there were a variety of reasons for this change. They included hurricanes, earthquakes, decrease in trade via St. Thomas and longer steaming range of ships that made St. Thomas' geographical location less important. The factor that precipitated the shift was that on September 1, 1877, St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, joined the General Postal Union. The British post office on St. Thomas was closed.

Figure 4 shows a cover of the Miss Musgrave correspondence that took advantage of the direct packet service to Jamaica and the reduced postal rate. This cover was posted in Halifax MY 31 80. Three 3¢ and one 1¢ Small Queens paid the 10¢ rate. The Cunard packet "Alpha" carried the cover to Kingston. There is a Kingston JU 15 80 backstamp. Even though Mile Gully was in the middle of the island, well away from Kingston, there is no indication of any inland postage charge.

A second Miss Musgrave cover, shown in Figure 5, illustrates a problem and the postal practice of 1880. This cover was mailed in Halifax NO 19 80 and was addressed to Kingston, Jamaica rather than to Mile Gully. The cover was paid only the 5¢ via New York rate. However, the cover was not endorsed "Via New York" and the Halifax packet "Beta" was due to leave for Bermuda and Jamaica in two days. The cover was sent with the "Beta" which carried the cover to Kingston. There is a Kingston DE 1 80 backstamp. Still the cover was underpaid. The Halifax postal clerk stamped it with the encircled T, the T being the UPU symbol for underpayment. The 5¢ underpayment was noted below the 5¢ Small Queen as 25 (centimes). The cover should have been marked due 5d (10¢) in Kingston following the UPU mandatory doubling penalty. The money due may have been collected but there is no Jamaican due marking on the cover.

Several other Miss Musgrave covers exist. Some of these were endorsed "Via New York." The catalog illustrations and lot descriptions of two of these "Via New York" covers show no evidence of any packet charge or of any internal postage charge [10]. UPU regulations called for payment to destination and had done away with the charges that hit George Poldon.

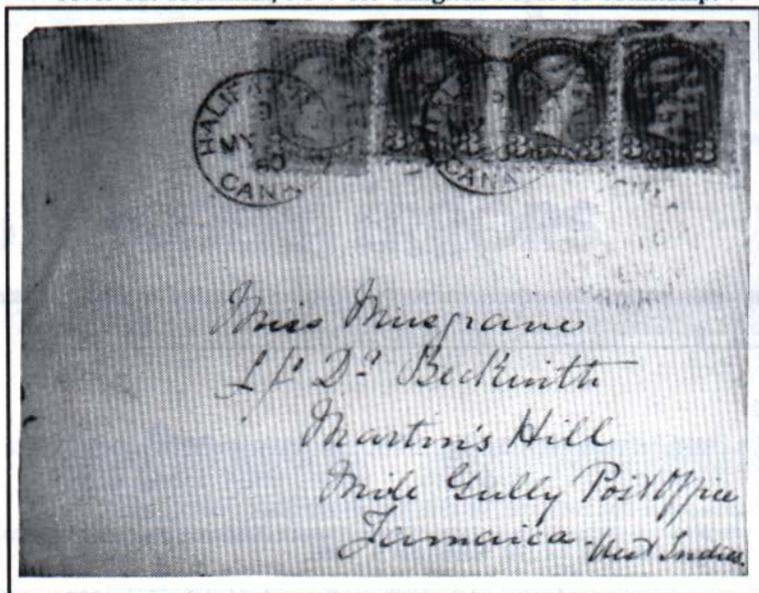
**The Halifax packets.** The Halifax packet route remained Halifax - Bermuda - Jamaica until July 1886. At that time the contract was cancelled and the Halifax packet service to the Caribbean ended. The Canada Official Postal Guides had ignored the change in the southern terminus in 1880. The Guides continued to refer to St. Thomas. The Canada Official Postal Guides also ignored the cancellation of the Halifax packet service in July

1886. In the 1887 Postal Guides we read:

Note 19. Mails are despatched from Halifax to Bermuda and St. Thomas, and to the West Indies via St. Thomas, once per month.

This amazing notice continued for nine years. A new packet service was announced in the January 1896 Official Postal Guide: "There is a monthly mail sent directly to Bermuda via Halifax, N.S., returning via St. John, N.B."

Figure 4. Posted in Halifax, MY 31 80, and addressed to Mile Gully, Jamaica. The Small Queens paid the new 10¢ rate. The British (Cunard) packet "Alpha" carried the cover out of Halifax, JU 7 80. Kingston JU 15 80 backstamp.



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Figure 5. From Halifax, NO 19 80, addressed to Kingston, Jamaica. Paid only 5¢ of the 10¢ Cunard packet rate. The cover was stamped with the UPU T for underpayment. A written 25 (centimes) specified the deficiency. The Cunard "Beta" carried the cover to Kingston. DE 1 80 Kingston backstamp.



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# The "Muddy Water" 1898 Xmas Stamp

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Bill Pekonen

The so-called "muddy water" description of the various shades of brown often seen on the Canadian Imperial Penny Post two cent stamp (map or Xmas stamp) issued in 1898 (#85 and #86) is a colourful name, but the use of the phrase is a misapplication when used to segregate the stamp as a "variety".

In reality, it is a sulphuretted stamp. It does not appear to be a colour printing error; nor is it "oxidized" nor is it a "changeling" in the strict sense of the word. It can, however, be compared to an old oil painting that has hung on the wall and accumulated dust and grime over many years, but once cleaned, the original brilliant colours are once again revealed.

The brown colour (and various shades of brown) are actually on the surface of the map stamp, and can be removed by applying hydrogen peroxide. The original printing colour of the ocean portion is then revealed. Consequently, the ocean portion of the stamp has not changed in colour as one might suspect.

Copies of the stamp on which hydrogen peroxide has been applied revealed ocean colours of grey, light blue, blue, and blue-green . . . all original printing colours used on the stamp. The lavender colour has not been found so far, but that is merely because of the limited number of muddy brown copies that have been available for testing. It is suspected that the colour will be found, and this writer is waiting for confirmation of the fact.

Richard McP. Cabeen, in his *Standard Handbook of Stamp Collecting* states "the pigments of certain orange, orange-brown, and red-brown stamps are darkened by exposure to sulphur in the atmosphere." But, wait just a minute. The ocean parts on the Xmas stamp are not the colours mentioned above nor carmine as is also used describe other stamps similarly affected. The ocean parts of the Xmas stamps are either lavender, grey, blue or blue-green. What then has caused the brown colour?

"Oxidize" is defined in the *Oxford English Dictionary* as "combine with oxygen . . . in the case of metal . . . to rust." The use of the word "oxidize" is inappropriate and demonstrates the lack of thinking the matter through to a logical conclusion.

Although a brown colour on the ocean parts is possible, considering the ink colours used on these portions, it does not appear to be a result of using the wrong combination of inks, as can be determined from the results mentioned later in this article. The brown colour is a possibility, however, because of the following reasons. Lavender is a combination of light pink (red); light blue; combined with grey. If the blue is missing, then grey and pink would combine to create a shade of brown. If yellow is added in the process to create a green (blue and yellow mixed), and the blue is left out, then the yellow, pink, and grey would produce a shade of yellow brown.

Jarrett records Xmas stamps with both the carmine and ocean colours (blue?) missing. *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* lists "red" missing and "black only."

Using logic, combined with the knowledge that colour printing errors have occurred on

other stamps, it is a definite possibility that a brown ocean colour could have escaped the inspection process. For example, the 2½ pence value of the British Silver Jubilee of 1935, printed in Prussian blue instead of ultramarine. Another example is the 3 skilling banco of Sweden which was once considered to be impossible to exist and was considered to be a changeling, but is now considered to be one of the most rare stamps in the world. Consequently, it seems to be a good idea to test each "muddy water" stamp to determine its' true characteristics.

One possible answer to the "muddy water" appearance is provided by John Easton in his book *Postage Stamps in the Making*. Easton writes "it should be noted that Flake White is a carbonate of lead, and its presence made the ink liable to sulphuretting, due to the action of sulphur, in the form of sulphuretted hydrogen, on pigments containing lead or copper."

According to Stanley Phillips (*Stamp Collecting* - 6th Edition) the natural tones can be restored by either a bath in Hydrogen Peroxide or applied carefully on the surface using a camel hair brush. Cabeen and Fred J. Melville also suggest this method, but caution against letting the peroxide coming in contact with the gum. (Apply clear water with a clean brush afterwards. Water acts as a fixative, according to the above writers.)

There are different opinions and definitions of a "changeling", adding confusion partly because people have used the word indiscriminately. The word is defined in the *Oxford English Dictionary* as "changeable, variable, inconstant." In that context, every stamp ever produced is "changeable". The word is also defined "as a substitute in exchange for another", and that seems to partly fit in with use. But, even that use of the word is imprecise. Usually, in practice, changeling seems to apply to stamps on which the colour has been permanently altered either deliberately or by accident.

Cabeen writes about some fugitive ink colours "which fade or changes colour at the slightest touch of water". He also mentions stamp issues printed on chalk-surfaced paper. Sometimes the chalk washes off during a soaking process and carries away some of the design. He also writes about glue sizing added to the paper which is damaged during soaking; the use of red aniline ink that bleeds and a few photogravure stamps which were printed in water-soluble ink. Those appear to be good candidates for the changeling label, for how could the original state be retrieved?

Otto Hurnung, in his book *Illustrated Encyclopedia of Stamp Collecting* states "Some colours are unstable and are apt to change under the influence of water, benzine, sunlight, or chemicals. Such colour changelings are not considered rare. On the contrary, this change of colour represents damage to the stamp and diminishes its value." Hornung does not clarify the issue of whether or not the original colour can be retrieved. In the context in which his descriptions are used, he seems to imply that the colour change cannot be reversed. It is common knowledge that some unscrupulous persons have deliberately used bleach and other chemicals to produce a different coloured stamp that some unsuspecting collector may believe is an "error" or "variety". Usually, the process is irreversible.

Those kinds of situations mentioned above appear to be a more accurate use for the word "changeling".

The "muddywater" description has been described by Tominson, Bradley, and others as a "changeling". This may have been done because of experiences in Britain with other stamps which went through a colour change process. There does not appear to be any evidence to support the claims other than the superficial appearance of the stamp itself.

Nor have they qualified their statements with an actual explanation of the sulphuretting process.

Considering the foregoing, this writer concludes that the use of the word changeling in relation to the Xmas stamp in the context used by other writers is inappropriate.

In the case of the sulphuretted Xmas stamp (#85 or #86), it is perhaps more accurate to apply the name "changeling" to the entire 19,927,500 printing issue because every stamp is subject to change as a result of sulphuretting under the right conditions. But it appears to be incorrect to apply "changeling" to a sulphuretted stamp (shades of brown) because THE ORIGINAL OCEAN COLOUR HAS NOT CHANGED, IT WAS MERELY COVERED. If a brown shade does NOT respond to repeated applications of hydrogen peroxide, then the possibility of a colour printing error needs to be considered. A more expert opinion then needs to be obtained.

Sulphur can occur in the atmosphere from a number of different uses. At about the same time that the 1898 Xmas stamp was printed, (and for some years thereafter), sulphur was used, among other purposes, for the following:

- gunpowder
- laxatives
- ointments for skin diseases
- bleaching agent
- disinfecting by fumigation
- fermentation in casks for beer or wine
- to prevent mould on hops
- vulcanizing rubber.

It was used in paper production to get rid of the chlorine.

Another plausible explanation, in regards to the stamp itself, can be derived from the fact that many stamp collectors smoked either cigarettes or pipes. (One can still find old envelopes that stink of stale cigarette smoke.) Think about this for a moment. Sulphur is used in making matches. Every time a match is lit, some sulphur is released into the immediate atmosphere. Consider what might happen if matches are lit over a long period of time while a collector is working on a stamp collection.

Some people claim that dampness causes the muddy brown colour. I wonder if that is only a coincidence and the result of speculation rather than of examining other reasons why the brown shades appeared. The question arises that if dampness is the only cause of the change, then why have not all Xmas stamps which have been soaked off envelopes suffered a similar fate? What about other stamps with other colours than those which might contain lead or copper in the inks?

It seems more likely to me, considering the available information, that the real cause could be the carbonate of lead in the flake white ink that must have been used to lighten the blue ink colour to create the ocean colours on the stamp. In that event, the sulphur in the atmosphere would be attracted to the carbonate of lead. The strength of the brown shades would then vary according to the length of exposure and the amount of sulphur in the atmosphere. For example, if the stamps were kept in a manufacturing town where factories emitted sulphur into the atmosphere, then the chances for a stamp to become sulphuretted were much greater than in other areas where less sulphur existed in the atmosphere. Those situations would account, partly, for the reasons why some Xmas

stamps are brilliant in colour and others are not.

As a footnote, it is also incorrect to assume that the carmine colour be sulphuretted because of mineral content. The carmine colour is derived from dead cochineal inserts which are found in Mexico. That fact raises questions about which shades of the following stamps can be similarly affected by the sulphuretting process: the three cent small queen, (Scott #41); the three cent maple leaf issue (Scott #69); and the two cent registration stamp (Scott #F1). It seems more likely that the cause is the result of some other additive; or that some other shade of red ink mixture was used; or that carmine in an inaccurate colour description.

The bottom line is that the "muddy water" Xmas stamp is NOT A VARIETY. It is simply a stamp that needs to be cleaned with hydrogen peroxide.

#### A SUBJECT FOR FURTHER STUDY:

There is one further phenomenon in relation to the 1898 Xmas stamp which requires an explanation. It is not known whether the following description is an optical illusion resulting from black colour overprinting, or whether, in fact, the carmine colour has been printed twice. When the following parts of the stamp are examined with a magnifying glass, it appears that two layers of red have been applied. (Note North America, Australia, New Zealand, India, and parts of Africa and Great Britain.) This affect is similar to the result of the recess/offset printing method used today in Sweden. Not knowing enough about the technical aspects of printing, this writer is unable to reach a positive conclusion as to the cause of the double image.

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# Collecting Canada

John Burnett

## Paper is a Munition of War

Into 1943 Canada found herself running short of raw material in many critical areas and the labor to obtain it. One such area was pulp and paper, so it was decided that internal government mailings would, wherever possible, be made in reused envelopes. Our illustrated cover this month is just such a piece.

The label, measuring 11.3 x 11.3 cm, was incorporated into the mailing system at the "Wartime Price and Trade Board" at St. John, New Brunswick, and seems to be the only internal government agency that followed this directive to reuse envelopes.

The key to using the envelope a second time was to carefully slit the envelope open at the top to remove the enclosure. The recipient then inserted a new enclosure and sealed the envelope by covering the address and folding the label over the top of the slit to reseal the letter. The sender would then reframe the letter and post it in the mail.

There are not a lot of these covers in existence as the use of these labels was limited and they generally slowed productivity in an office, what with everyone taking their time trying to open the letters carefully and also taking care when resealing an envelope. It was also argued that this label really didn't save the country much paper.

Our illustrated cover is from my WW II collection and shows two other noteworthy items. The stamp is a four hole "O.H.M.S." perfin (five holes are also known), and the stamp has been cancelled using a blackout cancel (to keep its origin a secret). The whole concept of blackout cancels was generally a flop. On this cover, by holding it up to the light, you can easily see that it was mailed to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board in St. John, and you might also note that the label bears that same marking, right on the front.





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## Information for Readers

### Volume One of the Scott Catalogue Split into two Parts for '96 Edition

A volume has been added to the 1996 edition of the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue. Due to its current size and projected growth, Volume 1 has been split into parts 1A and 1B.

Volume 1A, which will be released in April 1995, will cover the United States, United Nations, Canada, and British America. Volume 1A also will include a special section titled *Scott Annual*. The *Annual* is a collection of the hobby's most informative and entertaining articles from recent years. Volume 1B includes listings for Great Britain, British Europe, British Africa, British Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands. It will be available May 1995.

"Almost 40% of the thousands of new issues added to the Catalogue each year were going into Volume 1, making it the largest volume by more than 300 pages," according to Scott editor, Bill Cummings. "At a growth rate three or four times that of any other volume, it was time to take action." The additional volume comes only two years after the last expansion, when Volume 5 was added to the 1994 Catalogue.

The following is a breakdown of the remaining Scott Catalogues to be published; Volume 2, countries of the world A - C, will be released in June 1995; Volume 3, countries of the world D - I, will be released in July 1995; Volume 4, countries of the world J - Q, will be released in August 1995; and Volume 5, countries of the world R - Z, will be released in September 1995. The Classic Catalogue will once again be published next year and will be released in October. The United States Specialized Catalogue will continue to be released in November. Each volume of the 1996 Scott Catalogue will retail for \$34.

More information regarding each catalogue will be forthcoming as the publication date for each volume nears.

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# Renumbering The Large Queens

Roy Sass

It is obvious that neither the Scott nor the Gibbons catalogs do a thorough job listing the varieties of the Large Queens in a complete or consistent manner. I propose that we develop a listing that is clear and concise, easy to understand, and with groups of similar varieties and attributes being listed together.

The key to my numbering system is a significant change in paper, perforation, color, or place of printing. These are given major numbers. Shades are given minor numbers. Plate varieties will get a decimal suffix to the LQ number.

I have used the 1994 Scott Canada Specialized, the 1993 Stanley Gibbons, and the Fourth Edition of the Bileski Basic Catalog to identify printings, perms, and shades and the Firth and Duckworth books to help on papers. I have also used notes by H. W. Harrison and Stephen J. Menich which were sent to me by Richard Lamb. At this point, my listing is to be considered a first draft and I solicit input from collectors who are more knowledgeable than I.

It is given that the printers at the British American Bank Note Company were experimenting with different papers until they apparently settled on the medium wove paper in 1869. The First Printing in 1868 in Ottawa was on the thin papers with a perf of 11.9 on each side. Gibbons gives each value a major number. Scott, which tries to put all of the varieties except the laid papers into 10 major numbers 21-30, uses "b"s, "c"s, and "e"s. Neither lists any shades.

The paper is described by Firth as fairly thin to medium, semi-transparent, usually with a faint horizontal grain, giving a moderately sharp impression, Paper I. The Duckworths saw a vague vertical grain on the 1 cent and 2 cents values and on some of the 3 cents stamps (Paper 1) and a vague horizontal grain and less transparency (Paper 2) on all values but the 1 cent and 2 cents. Firth also describes the 15 cents in the greyish-purple shades on a fairly thin to medium, semi-transparent paper with a horizontal grain, with a moderately blurred impression, Paper II. Thus, I propose that these stamps be numbered as follows:

<u>LQ</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Gibbons</u>	<u>Demon.</u>	<u>Color</u>
LQ1	21c	46	½¢	black
LQ1a			½¢	grey black
LQ2	22b	47	1¢	red brown
LQ2a			1¢	brick red
LQ3	24b	48	2¢	grass green
LQ3a			2¢	deep green
LQ4	25b	49	3¢	red brown
LQ4a			3¢	dull red
LQ4b			3¢	rose red
LQ5	27c	50	6¢	black brown
LQ5a			6¢	deep brown
LQ6	28b	51	12½¢	bright blue
LQ6a			12½¢	deep blue
LQ6b			12½¢	dull blue

LQ7	29e	52	15¢	deep reddish purple
LQ7a			15¢	dull reddish purple
LQ8			15¢	dull violet grey
LQ8a			15¢	dull grey purple

The 15 cents eventually will be split into three color groupings, the first the reddish-purplish-lilacs, the second the greyish-violet-purples, and the third the slate-grey-blues.

At this point, let me mention that my color descriptions generally are based on the Gibbons color listings rather than the Scott, and that for shades not listed in Gibbons, I tried to find the closest match on the Gibbons Stamp Colour Key. Most likely there are other shades than the ones listed here. We can list the shades in alphabetical order, chronologically (with the help of those with dated copies), or in a continuous range (i.e. dark, medium, light).

The next section is the "common" Ottawa printings on Medium wove paper. Firth described it as medium, crisp, smooth paper with a horizontal grain, Paper IV. The Duckworths call it Paper 3, an ordinary wove paper showing faint to medium horizontal grain. These were perfed 11.9 on both sides. As this paper was exhausted, paper stocks of stouter papers were employed, evolving into the Paper 10 group.

Because this is a difference in paper from the previous thin papers, these stamps get major LQ numbers. The one-cent value also underwent a change in color from the red browns to the oranges. Scott and Gibbons both recognize that change. In looking at the copies I have, they range from a very deep orange to a yellow. I propose that we further separate these with a major number for those stamps that are orange without yellow and a major number for those stamps that have the yellow. Thus, the Ottawa Printings on Medium Wove Paper would be as follows:

<u>LQ</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Gibbons</u>	<u>Demon.</u>	<u>Color</u>
LQ9	21	53	½¢	black
LQ9a		54	½¢	grey black
LQ10	22	55	1¢	brown red
LQ10a			1¢	orange brown
LQ10b			1¢	red brown
LQ11	23a	56	1¢	very deep orange
LQ11a			1¢	orange
LQ11b			1¢	pale orange
LQ11c			1¢	dull orange
LQ12	23		1¢	yellow orange
LQ12a		56a	1¢	orange yellow
LQ12b	23i	56b	1¢	yellow
LQ12c			1¢	lemon
LQ13	24	57	2¢	green
LQ13a			2¢	deep green
LQ13b	24i	57a	2¢	pale emerald green
LQ13c	24ii	57d	2¢	bluish green
LQ13d			2¢	pale green
LQ14	25	58	3¢	brown red
LQ14a	25i		3¢	orange red
LQ14b	25ii		3¢	rose red

LQ14c			3¢	deep red
LQ14d			3¢	reddish orange
LQ15	27		6¢	dark brown
LQ15a	27i	59	6¢	black brown
LQ15b	27v		6¢	light brown
LQ15c	27a	59b	6¢	yellow brown
LQ16		60	12½¢	bright blue
LQ16a	28i	60c	12½¢	dull blue
LQ16b	28		12½¢	deep blue
LQ17	29b	61	15¢	reddish purple
LQ17a		61a	15¢	rose lilac
LQ18		61b	15¢	dull violet grey
LQ18a	29	61c	15¢	dull grey purple

As an example of how plate varieties would be listed, I will refer to the major re-entry of the 6 cent, position 93. For sake of the example, I'll call this .1 (point one). If it shows on the dark brown shade, the number would be LQ15.1. If it shows on the black brown shade, it would be LQ15a.1. I invite the specialists who know these varieties to develop the decimal suffixes.

Several values were printed in Ottawa in late 1868 and early 1869 on the thick, blotting type paper. Firth said it had a smooth, felt-like texture, but as he had not found any 15 cents stamps on it, did not number it. The Duckworths call it soft, white and absorbent, Paper 8, which gave sharp impressions with rich colors. Six values are listed in the Scott Specialized but not in Gibbons.

The Duckworths questioned the existence of the half cent and 1 cent deep orange on this paper. They quote Martin as reporting the deep orange, and did say he had seen a 15 cents, shade unspecified. Yet in the chart on page 123, the Duckworths did not show Paper 8. I don't know, so here I am just going with Scott's list.

<u>LQ</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Gibbons</u>	<u>Demon.</u>	<u>Color</u>
LQ19	21i		½¢	black
LQ20	22i		1¢	brown red
LQ21	24iii		2¢	deep green
LQ22	25iii		3¢	brown red
LQ23	27ii		6¢	deep brown
LQ24	28iii		12½¢	blue

Next come the "Bothwell" watermarked stamps, perf 11.9, Firth Paper III and Duckworth Paper 6. Stamps that show the double-lined letters of the watermark are easy to identify. Since the watermark was at the top and bottom of the sheet, stamps toward the center would not show the watermark. These can be identified by the vertical diamond pattern of the paper.

Measurements by Menich on the 15 cents show the design of the Bothwell paper stamps to be slightly narrower and slightly taller (20.0-20.3) x 25.0 mm than on the thin papers (20.4-20.5) x (24.6-24.8)mm or the medium wove 20.5 x (24.7-24.9)mm, due to the difference in paper shrinkage. These differences should prove true for the other values as well. The watermarked stamps deserve major numbers. The unwatermarked would get minor numbers.

<u>LQ</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Gibbons</u>	<u>Denom.</u>	<u>Color</u>
with BOTHWELL watermark				
LQ25	21b	54b	½¢	grey black
LQ26	22a	55b	1¢	red brown
LQ27	24a	57da	2¢	blue green
LQ28	25a	58b	3¢	brown red
LQ29	27b	59a	6¢	black brown
LQ30	28a	60b	12½¢	dark bright blue
LQ31	29ba	61ab	15¢	pale reddish purple
LQ32	29c	61ba	15¢	dull violet grey

without watermark

LQ25a			½¢	grey black
LQ26a			1¢	red brown
LQ27a			2¢	blue green
LQ28a			3¢	brown red
LQ29a			6¢	black brown
LQ30a			12½¢	dark bright blue
LQ31a			15¢	pale reddish purple
LQ32a			15¢	dull violet grey

The laid papers, of course, get their own major listings. These are Duckworth Paper 5.

<u>LQ</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Gibbons</u>	<u>Demon.</u>	<u>Color</u>
LQ33	31	55a	1¢	red brown
LQ34	32	57ac	2¢	pale emerald green
LQ35	33	58a	3¢	brown red

The Duckworths list a paper with a horizontal grain and a diagonal ribbing as Paper 4. This paper was used for the 1 cent red brown, 2 cents, 3 cents, 6 cents and 12½ cents values. As Scott, Gibbons, and the old Bileski do not mention a ribbed paper, perhaps these are too esoteric for listings here. Further, Duckworths' Papers 7, 9a and 9b are also rare enough to be beyond the scope of my objectives.

In 1873, the printing of both the Large Queens and the Small Queens was moved from Ottawa to Montreal. It appears that the first printings of both series of stamps were perforated 11½ x 12. The change in perforation alone certainly requires these to be given major LQ numbers. The five cents was a new value. The half-cent is in the size then being used for the low value Small Queens and might more properly be listed with the other Montreal Small Queens of this perforation. Convention keeps that stamp here.

The dull grey shade here (as well with its perf 12 cousin) does not have traces of blue, violet, or any other color. It can be described as a very, very light black. It is possible further shades of the 15 cents exist in this perforation. These other shades probably will be variations of the greyish-violet-purples or the slate-grey-blue groups and would be given letter suffixes to LQ38 and LQ39.

<u>LQ</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Gibbons</u>	<u>Demon.</u>	<u>Color</u>	
LQ36	21a	68	½¢	black	11½ x 12
LQ37	26	72	5¢	olive green	
LQ37a	26i		5¢	deep olive green	
LQ38	29a	75	15¢	dull grey	
LQ38a		75a	15¢	brownish purple	
LQ38b			15¢	grey violet	
LQ39	30a	75b	15¢	bluish grey	
LQ39a			15¢	slate grey	

The operation to perforate the stamps was not an exact science and minor variations exist. The five cents is found at 11.7 x 12, (11¼ x 12). From the prices I've paid for my copies, these are probably a minor variety of the LQ37, rather than a minor variation of the rare perf 12 (LQ40 below). For those wishing to number these, LQ37b olive green and LQ37c deep olive.

The Large Queens were printed on various medium wove papers and perfed 12 from about 1879 to 1889. These range from the Firth group VII to group XI. Using the basic criteria for assigning major numbers, the 5 cent perf 12 qualifies for its own number.

The 15 cents stamps were printed in a multitude of shades, which seem to fall into several identifiable groups. The first are the "muddy" brownish purple shades. The next are the violets. The "grey" again has no blue or other coloration. It is a flat grey, or a very, very light black. The next group show gradual changes in shade in the slate-grey-blue spectrum. The Robin's Egg blue is quite distinctive on its own.

<u>LQ</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Gibbons</u>	<u>Demon.</u>	<u>Color</u>
LQ40	26ii	72a	5¢	olive
LQ41	29i	76c	15¢	slate purple
LQ41a			15¢	brown purple
LQ41b			15¢	dull purple
LQ42			15¢	violet grey
LQ42a			15¢	slate violet
LQ42b			15¢	grey lilac
LQ43	30		15¢	grey
LQ44			15¢	grey blue
LQ44a	30b		15¢	blue grey
LQ44b			15¢	dull violet blue
LQ44c		76b	15¢	slate blue
LQ44d	30ii		15¢	blue
LQ44e	30i	76a	15c	slate
LQ45	30		15¢	greenish blue
LQ45a	30		15¢	greenish slate
LQ46	30		15¢	Robin's egg blue

Next come several rare stamps, but all are specifically identifiable. The Scott Specialized lists a five cent perf 11¼ (26iv) which is sometimes incorrectly identified as the rare perf 12.

In 1877, a printing of the 15 cent was made using the script watermarked Pirie paper. Stamps with the watermark can be specifically recognized. Using the example of the Bothwell paper stamps, a minor number is given to the stamps from this sheet that do not show the watermark.

The Gibbons catalog lists a 15¢ lilac grey on Bothwell paper. A copy of this stamp, described with a perforation 11¼ x 12, is pictured on the front cover of Colonial Stamp Company's Feb. 2, 1993, catalog. A similar stamp was shown in Christie's March 19, 1993, catalog, where it was described as perf 11½ x 12. Either way, it is not the same as the Ottawa Bothwells that were perfed 11.9 all around.

There was also an identifiable printing on the very thick paper in a clear, deep violet.

<u>LQ</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Gibbons</u>	<u>Demon.</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Perf.</u>
LQ47	26iv		5¢	olive	11¼ x 11¼

Printed in Montreal on Watermarked papers

on Pirie Script Watermarked paper

LQ48	30d	75ab	15¢	lilac grey	11½ x 12
------	-----	------	-----	------------	----------

without showing the watermark

LQ48a			15¢	lilac grey	"
-------	--	--	-----	------------	---

on Bothwell Watermarked paper

LQ49		75ac	15¢	lilac grey	11¼ x 12
------	--	------	-----	------------	----------

without showing the watermark

LQ49a			15¢	lilac grey	"
-------	--	--	-----	------------	---

Printed in Montreal on Thick "Carton" Paper

LQ50	30c	76	15¢	clear deep violet	12
------	-----	----	-----	-------------------	----

The printing of Large and Small Queens was returned to Ottawa, in 1889. Stamps printed in these later years are identifiable by the poorer quality paper that was used. They can also be recognized by their perf of an even 12 rather than the 11.9 in the earlier Ottawa printings. The 15 cent values thus may be given major Large Queen numbers. Although philatelic custom places the 20 cent and 50 cent Widowed Queen with the Small Queens, they are the same size as the other Large Queens and I have decided to list them here.

<u>LQ</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Gibbons</u>	<u>Firth</u>	<u>Demon.</u>	<u>Color</u>	
LQ51	29d	83a	XIIIa	15¢	brown purple	Imperf.
LQ52		83	XII	15¢	slate violet	12
LQ52a			XII	15¢	slate blue	

LQ53			XIII	15¢	blue
LQ53a			XIII	15¢	slightly greyish blue
LQ54	46	115		20¢	vermilion
LQ55	47	116		50¢	blue

Considering that the supplies of paper and ink did not exactly match press runs, there will be the occasional stamp that doesn't quite fit into these listings. My effort is not meant to be an all inclusive list of everything one might encounter, nor is it a proposal for what a Large Queen collection should contain. I also recognize that descriptions of shades are subjective. What I call blue grey might be grey blue to someone else. However, I have tried to categorize the major groupings as I see them and I hope this might allow collectors (and auction descriptions) to discuss these stamps in a bit easier manner.

If anyone wishes to make comments directly, my address is PO Box 31054, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

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# First Day Covers of the Classic Issues of Canada

Melvin L. Baron and Stan Lum

## Part 10 - First Day Covers of the King George V Admiral Definitive Issue Section III - Sc. 139-140 The Provisional Issues of 1926

Two different surcharges were applied in 1926 to Sc. 109, the three cents carmine King George V Admiral Series stamp. The two new surcharged stamps are referred to as the King George V Admiral Series provisionals. They are Sc. 139, the two cents on three cents carmine stamp with one line surcharge, and Sc. 140, the two cents on three cents carmine stamp with two line surcharge. First day covers are known for both of these stamps and they will be illustrated and discussed later in this article.

On July 1, 1926, the domestic postage rate in Canada was reduced from three cents to two cents per ounce or fraction thereof. At the time of this rate reduction, there were about 130,000,000 of the three cents carmine King George V Admiral Series stamps, Sc. 109, in stock at the Post Office Department in Ottawa, Ontario. Due to this rate change, it was felt that the use of these three cent stamps would be drastically reduced. Consequently, a decision was made to surcharge the three cents stamps in the Ottawa stock by adding the overprint "2 CENTS". These new overprinted two cent stamps would be utilized to help meet the expected large increase in the demand for stamps of the two cent denomination to prepay the new domestic rate.

To accomplish this, [Boggs, [1], Pg. 384], 140,000 post office sheets of 100 subjects each were delivered to the King's Printer to be surcharged "2 CENTS" in one line. Because of the difficulties encountered in working with sheets that had already been gummed and perforated, the overprinting was not satisfactory. All of the overprinted sheets were destroyed with the exception of 500 picked sheets which were placed on sale at the Canadian Philatelic Agency in Ottawa, Ontario. These one line overprinted stamps, Sc. 139, were sold only through the Philatelic Agency. They were not available for sale at Post Offices in Canada.

Marler [2], indicates that the majority of these overprinted sheets were from Plates 115, 116, and 117. Boggs [1] also states that sheets from Plates 162 and 163 (both Sc. 109ii, die II) were also overprinted. Bileski [4] states that of the five hundred sheets thus overprinted and sold at the Philatelic Agency, four hundred ninety eight sheets were die I - Plates 115, 116, and 117 but only two sheets were die II - Plates 162 and 163. This is also confirmed by Jarrett [5]. Overprinted stamps from die II Plates 162 and 163 are therefore considerably scarcer than those from the die I Plates 115, 116, and 117. The use of die II Plate 163 in the overprinting is confirmed by a T. R. Legault First Day Cover with a plate block of six from Plate 163. This cover will be discussed later in this article. The die II Plate 163 is verified by a mint plate block that was sold at a Maresch auction on June 20, 1990.

Marler [2] in his records, refers to a note made after a discussion with A. S. Deaville, Superintendent of the Postage Stamp Division, Ottawa which names the First Day of Issue date of Sc. 139, the one line two cents on three cents surcharged stamp to be October 12,

1926. This date is further confirmed by three First Day Covers, all of which were made by T. R. Legault.

In an attempt to surcharge the remainder of the three cent carmine George V Admiral stamps, Sc. 109, to two cents, the Post Office Department asked the Canadian Bank Note Company to surcharge an additional 1000 sheets of 100 subjects each [Boggs, [1], Pg. 385]. The Canadian Bank Note Company requested that they be allowed to place the "2" above the word "CENTS", in order to distinguish their work from the earlier one line surcharge attempts by the King's Printer. Permission was granted, thus leading to Sc. 140, the two cents on three cents two line surcharged King George V Admiral Series stamp. Again, the results of the surcharging were unsatisfactory, but 808 of these two line overprinted sheets were placed on sale at the Philatelic Agency in Ottawa. As in the case of Sc. 139, the one line surcharged stamps, these stamps were only sold through the Philatelic Agency. They were not sold at the Post Offices in Canada.

Marler [2], states that sheets from Plates 115, 116, and 117 were used in the overprinting. Hans Reiche [3], notes that Plates 135 and 136 were also used. The use of all five plates are verified by T. R. Legault First Day Covers each with a plate block of six affixed. This will be discussed later in the article.

Marler [2], in his records, refers to a note made after a discussion with A. S. Deaville which names the First Day of Issue for Sc. 140, the two cents on three cents surcharged stamp, to be November 4, 1926. First Day Covers with plate blocks of six, all made by T. R. Legault, further verify this date.

Thus, the First Day of Issue dates for Sc. 139 and 140, both available and sold only at the Philatelic Agency in Ottawa, Ontario are summarized in Table I.

**Table I**  
**First Day of Issue Dates**  
**Sc. 139, 140 - Two Cents on Three Cents Provisional Issues**  
**Official City - Ottawa, Ontario (Philatelic Agency)**

<u>Stamp</u>	<u>First Day Date</u>
Sc. 139 - One Line Surcharge	October 12, 1926
Sc. 140 - Two Line Surcharge	November 4, 1926

First Day Covers for both these stamps are very rare. Those that are known were made by T. R. Legault and are discussed below.

#### Sc. 139 - First Day Covers - The One Line Overprint

Figure 1 shows a plate block of six, Plate A 163, on a registered First Day Cover cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario. This cover was made by T. R. Legault, Accountant in Charge, Postage Stamp Division of the Canadian Post Office Department. The stamps are affixed to a large OHMS Canadian Post Office Department envelope. Legault often used these official envelopes for the First Day Covers that he prepared. This cover is very unusual and rare because the surcharge is on Sc. 139ii, the scarcer three cent carmine die II stamp, as mentioned earlier. This is the only plate block on First Day Cover that is known to the authors.

Figures 2 and 3 show First Day usage of Scott 139. Figure 2 shows a plate block of six, Plate A 115, on a registered T.R. Legault First Day Cover cancelled in Ottawa, Ontario. Figure 3 shows a block of six stamps cancelled on the First Day of Issue on a portion of a cover. While one cannot be certain, the authors feel that this cover was probably made by Legault, since all known First Day Covers for both Sc. 139 and Sc. 140 are Legault covers.

The three First Day Covers illustrated in Figures 1-3 are the only First Day Covers for Sc. 139 and Sc. 139ii that are known to the authors. First Day Covers for this stamp must be considered to be very rare.

#### Sc. 140 - First Day Covers - The Two Line Overprint

Figure 4 shows a plate block of six, Plate A 115, on a registered First Day Cover cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario. This cover was also made by T. R. Legault, using his usual OHMS Canadian Post Office Department envelope.

Figure 5 shows a plate block of six, Plate A 116, on a registered Legault First Day Cover, cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario.

Figure 6 shows a plate block of six, Plate A 117, on a registered Legault First Day Cover, cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario.

Figure 7 shows a plate block of six, Plate A 135, on a registered Legault First Day Cover, cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario.

Figure 8 shows a plate block of six, Plate A 136, on a registered Legault First Day Cover, cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario.

It is of interest to note that the First Day Covers illustrated in Figures 4-8 show all of the plate numbers that were used for Sc. 140. These five First Day Covers, together with two additional similar covers to those shown in Figures 4 and 5 are the only First Day Covers for Sc. 140 that are known to the authors. The First Day Covers for Sc. 140 must be considered to be very rare.

Table II summarizes the known Legault First Day Covers with plate block of six for Sc. 139 and 140. The authors conjecture that T. R. Legault may also have prepared First Day Covers for Sc. 139 with Plate Numbers A 116 and A 117. Readers having knowledge of these or any other First Day Covers with Sc. 139 or 140 are urged to communicate with the authors so that a complete record of the First Day Covers of these issues can be compiled.

**Table II**  
**Sc. 139-140 Plate Blocks of Six**  
**On Legault First Day Covers**

Scott No.	Plate Block No.
139ii (Die II)	163
139	115
140	115
140	116
140	117
140	135
140	136

No cacheted First Day Covers are known for these issues.

Figure 1 - Very rare First Day Cover of Sc. 139ii, the one line overprinted Die II variety King George V Admiral issue - Plate Block of Six, A 163, cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario - This is the only known First Day Cover for Sc. 139ii.



Figure 2 - Rare First Day Cover of Sc. 139, the one line overprinted King George V Admiral issue - Plate Block of Six, A 115, cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario.

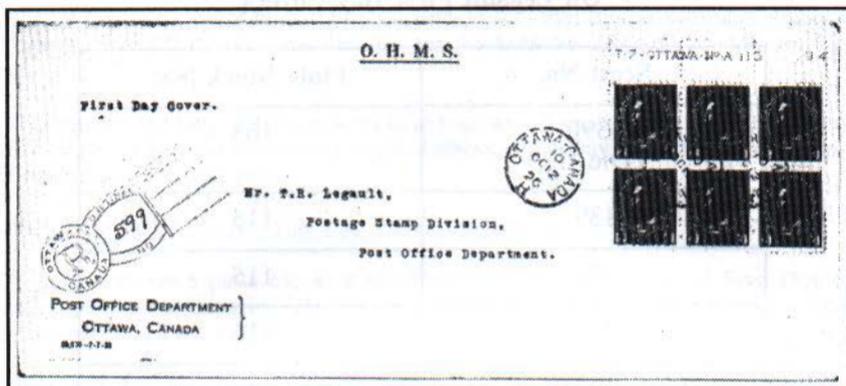


Figure 3 - Rare First Day Usage of Sc. 139, the one line overprinted King George V Admiral issue on piece of cover - Block of Six, cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario.

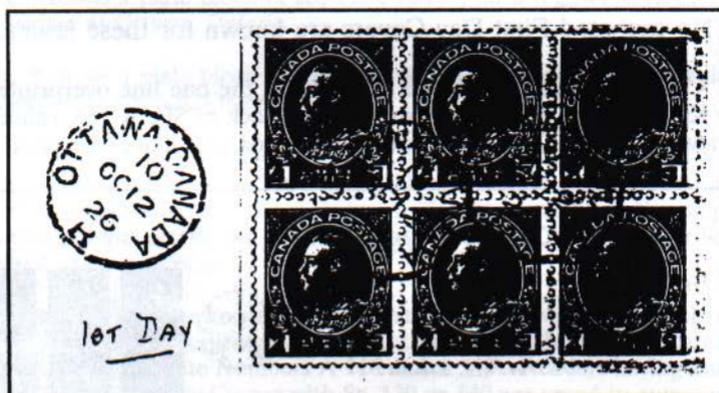


Figure 4 - Rare First Day Cover of Sc. 140, the two line overprinted King George V Admiral issue - Plate Block of Six, A 115, cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario.



Figure 5 - Rare First Day Cover of Sc. 140, the two line overprinted King George V Admiral issue - Plate Block of Six, A 116, cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario.



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Figure 6 - Rare First Day Cover of Sc. 140, the two line overprinted King George V Admiral issue - Plate Block of Six, A 117, cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario.

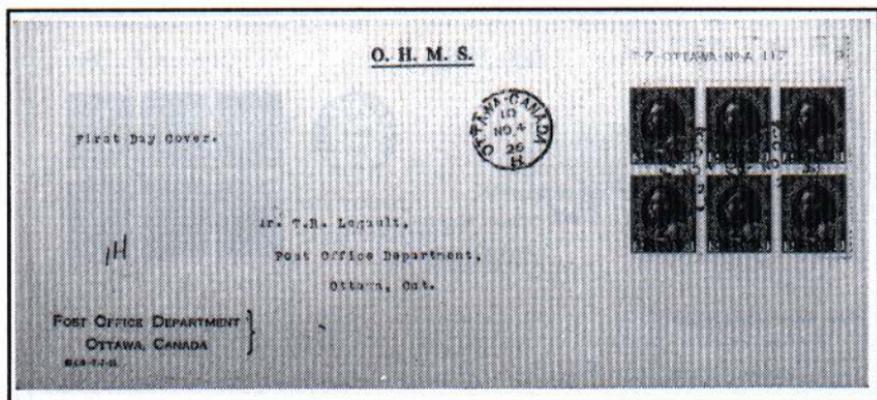


Figure 7 - Rare First Day Cover of Sc. 140, the two line overprinted King George V Admiral issue - Plate Block of Six, A 135, cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario.

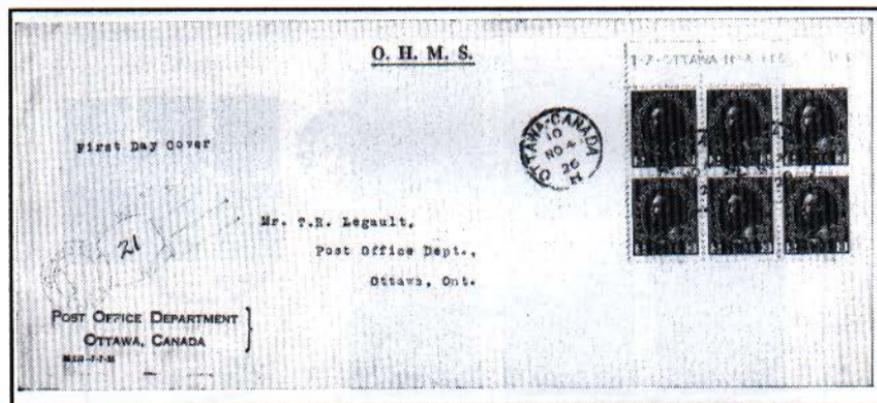
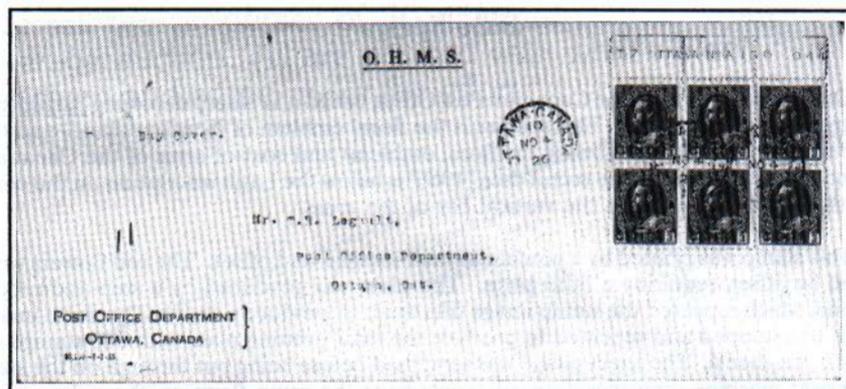


Figure 8 - Rare First Day Cover of Sc. 140, the two line overprinted King George V Admiral issue - Plate Block of Six, A 136, cancelled at Ottawa, Ontario.



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# The Broken Petals of the Pitcher Plant

Dale Speirs

On February 23, 1966, the Canadian Post Office issued a 5¢ stamp depicting *Sarracenia purpurea*, the pitcher plant. This species is the floral emblem of Newfoundland, and the stamp was part of a series showing the floral emblems and coat-of-arms of the Canadian provinces and territories. The secret date "1966" is below the Latin inscription on the coat-of-arms, directly underneath the vertical bar of the cross.

This stamp was printed by a combination of intaglio and offset. The red flowers were printed by offset, requiring a litho plate. The plate was produced by a step-and-repeat machine, which repeated the stamp image fifty times to produce a sheet. The sheet image in turn was stepped and repeated to produce the final printing plate with 300 stamps on it, that is, six sheets. The sheet image was scratched before being put through on the step-and-repeat machine, and therefore all sheets have the same flaws on them, known as "broken petals".

Of the four constant broken petal varieties, only one is at all well known, that being the "5 o'clock break" on stamp number 41 on the sheet (numbering is left to right, top to bottom). The 5 o'clock break is exactly as rare as the other three breaks, yet has achieved catalogue status when the others three are seldom discussed. One probable explanation for this peculiar state of affairs is that the 5 o'clock break is part of the lower left corner block. Collectors of matched plate blocks will therefore have this stamp. The other three breaks are dispersed over the sheet, and are more likely to have been used for postage. Even a prominent Canadian dealer was unaware of the other broken petals, and put an advertisement in the June 7, 1983, issue of CANADIAN STAMP NEWS offering one of the breaks for sale. The advertisement speculated that the stamp was position 28. The photo was indistinct but was probably position 13 or 39.

The four broken petal flaws are as follow:

Position 13 - Diagonal break on far left flower of the stamp. The break is a thin line just below the centre of the flower, running at an angle of about 20°.



13

Position 37 - 12 o'clock break on far left flower. Just above the centre of this flower is a vertical line. Where this line contacts the centre of the flower, there is a break in it.



37

Position 39 - Diagonal break on far left flower. This break is almost identical to the position 13 flaw, but is tilted upwards at a much steeper angle of about 45° and is only two-thirds the length.



39

Position 41 - 5 o'clock break on far right flower. On this flower, just to the right of centre, is a broken line. The break is several times thicker in width than the other broken petal flaws, and is much more conspicuous.



41

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Dear Mr. Sheryer:

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my sincerest appreciation for the time and care you and your associates took in the evaluation, preparation and, subsequent auction of my late husband's stamp collection.

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Your efficient and expedient management of the stamp collection certainly alleviated much concern and anxiety at what has been a most difficult time for me.

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*Jan S. Brooke*

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# The RPO Cowcatcher

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Lewis M. Ludlow, O.T.B.  
5001 - 102 Lane N.E.  
Kirkland, WA 98003

The following article has recently been found in Lew's unpublished papers. In view of the publication by Robert A. Lee of the compilation of proof strikes by J. Paul Hughes, it may be beneficial for collectors to know what is missing from these.

## PRITCHARD & ANDREWS IMPRESSION BOOKS

The first book in the Philatelic Foundation was started on September 8, 1872; however, the first sixty pages are missing. The first complete page is No. 61, dated February 26, 1876; accordingly, there are approximately three and one-half years missing at the start. Also missing is Page No. 119, probably containing August and September, 1878. The last page in the book is No. 239, dated January 2, 1884. After this, more pages are missing. Coming back toward the front of the book, the next one (No. 240) is dated April 30, 1886, so we are missing two years and four months of this period. We are also missing the back of Page No. 120 covering November, 1892. The last back page covers April 30, 1895, after which the backs of the original sixty pages are missing.

Accordingly, the missing periods can be listed as follows:

- 1st. Before February 26, 1876
- 2nd. August/September, 1878
- 3rd. January 2, 1884 to April 30, 1886
- 4th. November, 1892
- 5th. After April 30, 1895 (two years ?)

Colin Bayley had pages from the 1st and 5th periods.

In the back of the Foundation Book there are twelve unnumbered pages from some later, undefined impression book. Page 1 dates from about July, 1907, and the first R.P.O. Strike is on Page 5 - September 19, 1907. The last strike is dated November 29, 1907.

The Impression Books in the National Archives are six in number. They start on March 12, 1908, and carry continuously through to 1953 without interruption. Accordingly, we can number further missing periods as follows:

- 5th. April 30, 1895 to July, 1907
- 6th. November 29, 1907 to March 12, 1908
- 7th. After 1953.

Some further books exist in the National Archives covering later periods, up to about 1978, but they are very intermittent.

# A Very Early "Gold Rush" Cover from a Precancel Collection

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Harry W. Lussey

The photocopy was deliberately made somewhat dark to show up the type of paper used for this home made envelope. Important markings appear on both front and reverse proving the routing of this cover.

A favorite route of the Prospectors in the "Gold Rush" was by boat to Skagway then through the White Pass to Lake Bennett, B.C. (also known as Bennett) on the southern tip of Lake Bennett. The Lake extended for some forty miles in a northerly direction into the Yukon at Carcross. The "Gold Rush" got underway in the Spring of 1898 by the huge number of prospectors gathered in the Lake Bennett, B.C. area and at other points around the headwaters of the Yukon River. They had waited there for the 'ice to go out' before heading North some 450 miles to Dawson City.

When the snow melted and the 'ice went out' the water level in the lakes and rivers was very high and navigating extremely dangerous. The Woodall history of the region reported that hundreds of boats capsized in the Miles Canyon and so many died at the White Horse rapids that licensed guides became required to take the prospectors through. In a Klondike Gold Rush article Scrimgeour describes the travel as being 'relatively safe' and it may have been but only AFTER the water levels receded and the introduction of licensed guides.

The concentration of prospectors influenced the opening of a Post Office at Lake Bennett, B.C. on May 1, 1898. This rare registered cover carries the very early Lake Bennett, B.C. postmark of June 7, 1898, only shortly after the 'ice went out', reported on May 29. It was probably mailed by a prospector just prior to his departure on the journey to Dawson City. In contrast the earliest recorded Dawson postmark I know of is Aug. 7, 1898 and a Tagish Lake marking of June 8, 1898 is known.

Stamps were not available at the Lake Bennett Post Office so the 11¢ charge was paid in cash. Mail was placed in a closed bag and sent to Skagway for transfer to Victoria, B.C. The Victoria Postmaster had precanceled by Roller sheets of the 1¢ & 3¢ stamps and these were placed on the letters from the bags with the originating Post Office being charged with the cost of the stamps. In this case three 3¢ and two 1¢ stamps were placed on the cover but one 1¢ stamp was scissored off, leaving only a trace of it. It will be noted that one of the stamps covers part of the Lake Bennett, B.C. postmark. Another cover to P.E.I. is known with a 3¢ Roller precancel of Victoria which more or less substantiates the conclusion that the handling of this cover represented a normal procedure at this time.



# The 7½d Upper Triangle Flaw

---

Dr. Jim Watt

Dear Mr. Fred Jarrett and Mr. Jim Smart,

This is a "follow-up" article to your *BNA Topics* 1954 Article (Vol 11, No 4, p 121-122) by Fred Jarrett and Jim Smart. At that time I was a one year old, crawling about, and did not read the article. This is the ultimate "better-late-than-never" response...it has taken 40 years!

In 1954 you described a variable smudge in the "1" of ½ in the UR corner. In 1978 at CAPEX, I extensively examined the proofs of Sam C. Nickle's collection and made a finding which I call the "upper triangle flaw" at PP #47, (at that time I wasn't sure the "smudge" was really constant appearing on the green proofs). However, the triangle flaw was such a deep gouge - I was certain it was constant and the plating problems was solved in regards to finding a "platable entity" for that particular position.

By the way, Sam Nickle's recent passing greatly saddened me and reminded me a now middle aged radiologist- of my own mortality. I achieved "the knowledge of the gods" in the Pence issues thanks to Sam Nickle. He will be greatly missed, for thanks to him, this young student made positively fantastic notes. My wallet is poor, but my plating knowledge is unsurpassed...and it's thanks to him that I write this fitting tribute.

Critically observe fig. 1. Note this is plate pos #47; the triangle is higher in location relative to the "d" at UL. Position 47 is important for another reason - it plates one of the rarest mint multiples - a mint block to pp 35, 36, 47, & 48 (since the imprint is cut away on that particular mint block - this is new information.)

The "triangle flaws" are spectacular when seen and are at least as deep as the "gouge" on the "rock in waterfall" on the 5¢ Beaver. They deserve immediate catalogue status but are so very, very rare they are difficult to find in any condition. As far as I know these varieties were present for the life of the plate of the 7½d, present likely from day one.

Now critically observe fig. 2. The UL triangle is lower relative to the "d". It is pp #83. Note that both have re-entries above the top frame and the more I look at it, the more it appears to be a shifted transfer above and to the right somewhat. Two faint green lines go through the OS of Postage on the right side at pp #83, and to me it looks like part of the portrait oval. On pp 47 the UL top frame re-entry is much more prominent than at pp 83.

I think the UL triangle is somehow related to imprint positioning for the sheet as a whole. In the case of 47 it is one stamp down and one stamp over from pp 36 (which had the major part of the east imprint.) In the case of pp 83 - it was one stamp up + one stamp over from pp 96 (which had the major part of the east imprint.) Remember too, the "doubled imprint" at the bottom of the sheet pp 117, 118. (For a photo of the sheet, see ABN Co. Archives Sale, 1990 Catalogue Christie's p 20-21, lots 1555, 1559.)

Thus we have a solution proven as to plate positions. Is that the end of the story?... no way...read on and learn the fascinating story behind the standard "auction - prices realized."

Wednesday Dec 9th 1992, Maresch Sale 272, lot #332, Part 3 of Lubke Sale, 7½d upper triangle flaw offered, not described, Price Realized \$900.00. How absolutely depressing! - for 15 years I had searched, and now I didn't have the money. (I did not bid.) Amazingly, the lot was returned. It has got a crease that just breaks fibre at LL - seen from the front only and visible in fluid - but hidden by the Bloch + Buhler marks on reverse. My view is...so what...returning this spectacularly rare variety must surely be one of the great blunders of variety collecting! Mr. Lubke was a brilliant collector, a great student, and probably knew about the 1954 Article and died with the secret. Now the returned lot was lot 547 in Maresch Sale 275, March 31, 1993. I still didn't have enough money but Dick Lamb acted as my agent and in fact my maximum bid of \$950.00 was reached. I was able to pay him off, but it took me a few months.

Now twice the stamp was viewed and tested in the marketplace and twice it got \$900.00 or more. (After all it had a nice 4-ring 14 (RF 7) cancel.) Cancel collectors don't over-emphasize condition - so the price was solid. (This disregards the variety for which I had quietly searched the marketplace ever since 1978!) I sincerely doubt there are a half dozen sound used 4 margin copies of this rare variety about. (Don't forget that a nice top margin is especially desirable to see the re-entry clearly too.) I remain a very happy buyer at \$950.00.

Position #83 did come up, however, alas, I became the reluctant under bidder. Mr. Bill Coates, the auctioneer did kindly let me photograph it for the article. (P.S. I have a very healthy respect for the under bidder in any auction, for it is they that truly determined the market price.)

To date, I know of no collector who has ever owned both varieties in stamp form. Mr. Nickle didn't have it and neither did Mr. Jarrett. In closing, I hope that I have passed on "the knowledge of the gods" to future younger collectors. I don't really expect a reply Mr. Jarrett or Mr. Smart, but should you decide to pen one - I'm sure the whole of BNAPS would have 'raised eyebrows' at your post-humorous reply.

Sincerely, "better-late-than-never",  
Jim Watt MD, FRCPC BNAPS

Figure 1. Plate position #47 (ex. Lubke)  
Note upper left triangle near "d" is higher in location.

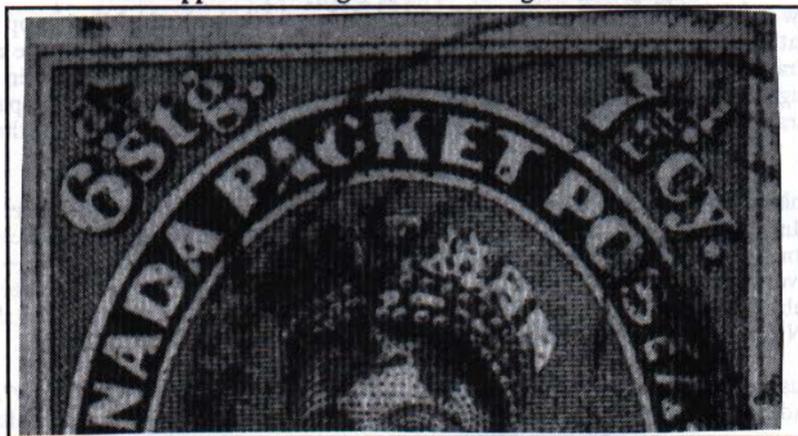
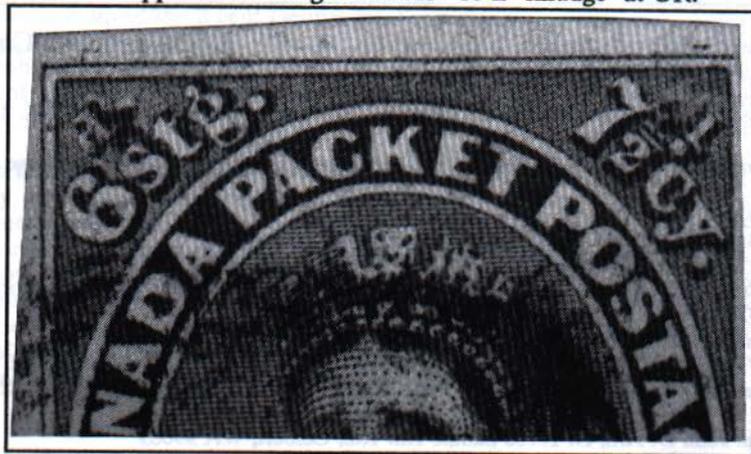


Figure 2. Plate position #83 (courtesy Bill Coates)  
 Note upper left triangle is lower - so is "smudge" at UR.



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# Study Group Centreline

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Peter McCarthy

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**Study Group Reporter:** Peter McCarthy, 182 Cleevemont, Box 688, Richmond, Quebec J0B 2H0

## Study Groups

**Air Mail:** Basil Burrell, 911 Huckleberry Lane, Glenview, IL 60025

**B.C. Postal History:** Bill Topping, 7430 Angus Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5K2

**Blackout Cancels:** Ron Leith, Box 1507, Sumas, WA 98295-1507 or Box 430 Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 5Z5

**BNA Perfins:** Steve Koning, 29 Balsam Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4W 3B5

**Centennial Definitives:** Leonard Kruczynski, 19 Petersfield Place, Winnipeg, Man. R3T 3V5

**Duplex Cancellations of BNA:** Robert A. Lee, 203-1139 Sutherland Ave., Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 5Y2

**Elizabethan:** John D. Arn, N. 17708 Saddle Hill Rd., Colbert, WA 99005

**Fancy Cancels:** Dave Lacle, 369 Fullerton Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1K 1K1

**Flag Cancels:** John G. Robertson, 10 Pergola Rd., Rexdale, Ont. M9W 5K5

**Canadian Klussendorf:** Allan Steinhart, Suite 305, 35 Church St., Toronto, Ont. M5E 1T3

**Military Mail:** Henk Burgers, 11 Elma Street, Gloucester, Ont. K1G 3N2

**Newfoundland:** J. Don Wilson, 11 Elm Place, St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 2S4

**Philatelic Literature:** Paul M. Burega, 16 Aldgate Cresc., Nepean, Ont. K2J 2G4

**Postal Stationery:** Robert Lemire, P.O. Box 2124, Deep River, Ont. K0J 1P0

**Re-Entries:** Ralph E. Trimble, P.O. Box 26556, Markville P.O., Markham, Ont. L3R 0M4

**Revenues:** Wilmer C. Rockett, 540 Overlook Ave., Willowgrove, PA 19090

**R.P.O.s:** William G. Robinson, 5830 Cartier St., Vancouver, B.C. V6M 3A7

**Semi-Official Airmails:** Bob Marcello, P.O. Box 961, Boston, MA 02103

**Slogan Cancels:** Daniel G. Rosenblat, 5300 Edgeview Drive, Byron, CA 94514

**Small Queens:** Bill Burden, P.O. Box 152, Truro, N.S. B2N 5C1

**Squared Circles:** Gary D. Arnold, 10533 Countryside Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Transatlantic Mail:** Dr. J. Arnell, Box HM 1263, Hamilton, Bermuda

## New Groups Forming

**Dead Letter Postmarks:** Gary Steele, Comp 5, Golden Birches, R.R. 1, Lower Sackville, N.S. B4C 2S6

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The Centreline is being split in two parts. Appearing in *Topics* will be portions of the newsletters that are of a philatelic nature only. *BNAPortraitS*, on the other hand, is to carry people related matter. Whatever the purpose of the Centreline, as I understand it, is to encourage people to belong to one or more study groups. How this new format will work out remains to be seen, not only from the editors viewpoint but also mine and particularly yours. The success of any change depends on open minded willingness of all concerned. However, the final say comes from you the reader. That's why your input is so very important. Therefore, after reading Centreline in both *Topics* and *BNAPortraitS* please take a few moments and let your views be known to the editors or the president.

That said, let's get down to the reason for being.

---

A new feature appears in 'The BNA Perforator' by Steve Koning entitled Auction Watch. Perfins appearing in the sales of Auction houses are listed including hammer prices. This will help in determining what one can expect to pay for or sell desired items.

The largest known block of 5 hole OH/MS was sent in by Bob Traquair and the illustration contains positions 2 to 5 with the first row being 10 copies of the broken 'S' variety. This block is made up of the 2 cent George VI, Scott # 232 and CDS cancelled Edmonton, Alberta, September 22, 1939. The feature article of the September issue, however, is a study submitted by Jon Johnson entitled 'Canadian Pacific Railway Perfins Overseas.' An excellent piece of reference material that is well illustrated with very fine covers.

---

In the July/August issue of the 'Newfie Newsletter', John Butt continues the David Piercey article on Corks and other cancellations found on First Cents Issue. This installment deals with multiple segments: Sunbursts, Cork Dots, and Leaves. It may be considered a restricted area but the information supplied certainly will assist general collectors of cork cancellations and exhibitors of Newfoundland material in identifying their material on hand. The balance of the article will continue. Peter de Groot has submitted an excellent article on 'Identifying the Waterlow & Sons Proofs of The Last Issue of Newfoundland.' Each denomination is described with a discussion and a complete appendix. Room has been left for member participation.

---

Slogans are an extremely interesting facet of collecting. What makes them so fascinating is the number of dies for each slogan and the varied cities and towns in which they were used. In the September Issue of 'The Slogan Box', Dan Rosenblat takes us through and explains a varied number of slogans beginning with the Vancouver Postal Zone Slogans and then going to Educational slogans and those related to education. The patriotic slogan 'Buy Canadian Keep Canadians Working' lists its use by six offices while the french and bilingual versions were used in Montreal and Quebec. From there Dan goes into the 'Conserve Canada's Wildlife' slogan and illustrates its use over three pages. Post Office related slogans are always interesting. The slogan 'Always Place Return Address On All Your Mail' reminded people that whatever was undeliverable could always be returned if properly adhered to. February 1, 1956 saw Canada Post issue a new policy making envelopes smaller than 4" x 2 3/4" unacceptable for mailing. The Post Office went to great pains making the public aware of this new policy including the use of slogan cancellations which are well discussed herein. The last item in the newsletter is the slogan 'Mail Early For Christmas' in all its forms. A very appropriate way to end the newsletter.

---

Jeff Switt sent a card to Bob Thorne of 'The Flagpole' with a question regarding the Toronto dater hubs used with Type 8 flags in 1901 in connection with the short "1". A listing of the short "1" dater hub use is supplied with a suggestion of more research being done on the subject. Your cooperation is solicited in establishing the true rarity of the better flags by completing the enclosed survey and returning it as instructed.

---

From the 'Canadian Military Mail Study Group' newsletter Colin Campbell submits an illustrated article of postal history from the Boer War with various field post office cancellations and stories behind them including instructions as to the routing of C.A.P.O. surface mails. John Firth submits information on APO S84 with an amendment as to its location. Then queries the double ring hammer Otterpool O.P.O. Is it an orderly room handstamp or a postal hammer? A field Service Post Card is illustrated cancelled with FPO DCI in response to newsletter 88. Dave Hanes supplies a copy of an interesting cover with Camp Borden Pie Crust cancellation both front and rear of the cover. In addition it has a Camp Borden type 4 Militia Cancel on the back of the cover. The other markings on front and back of the cover include a RETURN TO WRITER marking and

one that reads M.H.C.C. "D" Unit Toronto Ont. Dave suggests the M.H.C.C. stands for 'Militia Headquarters Canadian Contingent.' Any other suggestions? Colin Campbell sent in an illustration of a Connaught Camp cancel dated September 2, 1940. This FPO cancellation was in use from July 1939 to September 1940 making it a scarce item. Members are asked to respond with an explanation to the ship the illustrated postcard was mailed from H.M.C.S. Ross Norman or H.M.C.S. Sackville. This request from W. Whitehouse. The A.C.A.O.F cancel with explanation is sent in by Bill Robinson. The explanation of cover is supplied on the last page.

---

From the 'Revenue' newsletter two items of interest are shown. The first is a precancel FPC 1 with proof that it comes from the Brown & Bigelow Company from St. Paul, Minn. The other is an illustrated block of double background and pinperforated 1906 Alberta Law Stamp.

---

The 'Centennial Definitive Study Group' newsletter for October has produced some fine articles. John Aitken discusses drug company first day covers and the areas from which they came, opening a whole new avenue of Centennial collecting. I told you slogans were interesting to collect and Mike Painter has come up with a new twist to the subject; slogan cancels on Centennials. According to Mike there are 664 such cancels used in the period 1967 - 1973. Can you just imagine the potential. Mike also shows another flaw in the 6¢ black die II in the form of a dot in the lower margin under the "C" in Canada. Len Kruczynski and Elmore Von Hagen have combined on a nice piece of research on the 6¢ black booklet pane that is entitled 'Constant Markings On The \$1.50 (Black) P. 12½ Booklet.' In reading this article you are asked to please supply any additional information related to that supplied.

---

Those interested in early Canadian philately should seriously consider membership in the 'Fancy Cancel Study Group.' The September newsletter is such that the only way to do it justice would be to reproduce it in its entirety. There is a good article, however, on 'Fancy Shield, Crest, and Flag Cork Cancels.' The difficulty has been in identifying the post office of origin and the date.

---

The 'Transatlantic Mail Study Group' has, in its September issue, transcripts from 1840 issues of the Newfoundland 'Royal Gazette' giving postage rates and other island related information. This was submitted by Paul Burega and although not of particular interest to all it none the less is very interesting to read the way mails were handled in that era. Salvaged letters is an article speaking of letters salvaged from shipwrecks with a short history of some of the ships and the illustrated covers. The explanation of a free ship letter is given in the final article.

The November issue of the 'Transatlantic Mail Study Group' sees Jack Arnell explaining how U.S. letters were sent to Great Britain via Halifax during the war of 1812 including the illustration of a license permitting Nova Scotian trading vessels to pass through the British blockage of American ports. The newsletter continues with some Newfoundland maritime postal history and ending with a Crimean War period cover. This newsletter can always be relied upon for interesting postal history with a yearning for further research.

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The first of two newsletters from the 'R.P.O. Study Group' begins with a hammer analysis of the Saskatoon, Hardisty & Edmonton R.P.O. W-141D with requests for

submission of any variations. Bill Robinson illustrates a new steamer find and Ross Gray submitted a large number of new finds early and late periods of usage mostly from Ontario. All are well illustrated. Two Sanford Fleming covers sent in by Horace Harrison are illustrated. A bonus on one is the lovely fancy cancel. Concluding the newsletter is a never before published study of the Rivers & Wainright R.P.O. W-128 by Lewis Ludlow. The second September newsletter opens with a new listing of the Warroad & Duluth R.P.O. illustrated with a mixed U.S. and Canadian franking completely explained. Other new listings include a late date for a travelling letter box usage, a new steamer listing - Can. Pac. Rly Co. / Purser / Steamer Amur. Concluding the newsletter is an excellent article by Lewis Ludlow entitled 'Guidelines for Exhibiting in BNAPS.' It was written in August of 1966. It is good enough to be printed in *TOPICS* at the beginning of each year in preparation for the annual convention. From the November issue of the 'R.P.O.' newsletter comes a late date of usage for the C.N.S.S. Co. LTD. S.S. PRINCE RUPERT and several late dates and new listings for emergency hammers. There's also a new late date for an Eastern Arctic Patrol marking of March 28, 1965. Dave Lingard sends in a new report for the BROCK & OTTAWA R.P.O. With the help of several members, Ross Gray has been able to update a study on the London & Windsor R.P.O. Following are several illustrations of new finds, new early and late dates of usage, new train numbers, and even an oddity a single letter being used for a month. Just when these people think the well may be drying up, a rash of new material comes to light from this active study group.

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'Postal Stationery Notes' is the newsletter of the Postal Stationery Study Group. This group is unique in that while it continually researches the past it must also keep up with the almost daily changes taking place with regards to modern postal stationery. The September issue reports two more 43¢ envelopes in the Canadian Capitals series being released and a new set of Automotive Opinion Forum cards and envelopes being in use from July to November 1994. New varieties and private order issue for XPRESSPOST is discussed. Then its back to 1960 and the sheet layout of the BABNC post cards and then the addition of headings to the Cameo Issue Post Cards. Two new finds are listed. Several members have assisted in the ERP update (Earliest Reported Postmark) submitted by Bill Walton. Puzzling Admiral Issue Die Varieties are illustrated and discussed.

---

The British Columbia Postal History Research Group start the September issue of their newsletter with an illustration of the Victoria, British Columbia Provincial Exhibition Flag cancellation of 1901. The cancellation is elusive - 15 to 20 copies known. In addition, it is controversial and the story accompanying the illustration tells why. New information has been published and the whole story of the study of this cancellation is to appear in *MAPLE LEAVES*. Mike Painter writes of the smallest Post Office in the world - Ocean Park and of its disappearance. He has also done an article on the White Rock Post Office. The newsletter then illustrates the different postmarks within the White Rock jurisdiction which includes Ocean Park and Surrey. The fifteen special date stamps showing the XV Commonwealth games held in Victoria, B.C. from August 18th to the 28th are illustrated as are the newer Jet Spray cancellations. A research is being done into the opening of post offices of 1872. Your assistance in providing information is requested.

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The 'Air Mail Study Group' newsletter runs the conclusion of the article 'Maritime and Newfoundland Airways' with excellent colour reproductions of the stamps of that company. Much research and member assistance has ended up with authentication of a crash cover that was for some time doubtful. There's a new version of the Canadian section of the

fifth edition, volume 4 of the American Air Mail Catalogue being prepared for publication under the editorship of Richard K. Malott. This is to appear in 1996. There is a further catalogue covering all phases of aerophilately in the works by Murray Heifetz, Neil Hunter, and Dick MacIntosh.

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The 'Re-Entry Study Group' newsletter is always interesting and informative. Even though you may not specialize in this facet of philately, the ability of knowing such things as re-entries exist and learning how to look for them will enhance any collection. From Hans Reiche comes the first article entitled 'Further Comments on Where Are All The Admiral Re-Entries.' Ralph Trimble tells of his initiation to re-entries in the article 'A Pot of Re-Entry Gold at The End of The Small Queen Rainbow.' The Re-Entry from the position #71 on the 12½¢ Decimal follows and then it is back into the Admirals for a look at a new re-entry on the 50¢ denomination. Re-entries are shown and discussed on the half cent and 2¢ Small Queen with the last article being a 'New Major Re-entry on the 17¢ Decimal - Revisited.'

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'Corgi Times' is the newsletter of the Elizabethan II Study Group. The newsletter is well laid out in sections and covers all aspects of Canadian philately within the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The first section discusses specialized catalogues and their uses. In section II is a Bibliography of the third Queen Elizabeth II issue - the Cameos. This is submitted by Joseph Monteiro. The Caricature and Landscape definitives have become very popular. In that section is discussed an unlisted hibrite variety of the 10¢ coil. This is followed by tagging errors of the 8¢ caricature in panes of 100. Several varieties within the commemoratives are illustrated as provided by David Schmit. Harry Voss sent in illustrations of major errors on the 43¢ Flag definitive booklet. Summing up the newsletter is an article and description of the 'Thirkell' position finder, a tool philatelists should not be without.

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Well folks, there you have it. You know, if you are in doubt as to which study group you would like to belong to, ask one of the editors to send you a complimentary copy of a newsletter. You won't be bothered further than that. Or, if you wish you can write to me outlining your preference of collecting and I will give an unbiased try and assist you. In any case, whatever group you may choose to be a part of, you, your questions, and your input will always be considered as extremely important.

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Whether you are a buyer or a seller, we want you to know that we are always working towards the goal of offering you the best service possible. Over many years we have offered both a public auction service and a private treaty (fixed price) service. Unlike many other auctioneers, we do not charge a buyer's commission. With the multiple levels of taxes in Canada, we feel that a buyer's premium only causes more confusion and bidding hesitation for collector buyers and even confusion for some dealers. I like to think that this works for us and we have had our share of record prices while offering many bargains as well.

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Sales are held every six to eight weeks. Don't delay. Contact us today for pick up or shipping instructions.

Sincerely,

John H. Talman.

P.S. Canadian consignors should note that there is an advantage to selling in Canada. Under present G.S.T. rules, the 7% G.S.T. charged to Canadian buyers is refunded to Canadian consignors. In other words, the government insists that we give you, the consignor, the G.S.T. collected. Thus for Canadians selling in Canada, our low 10% commission might become only 3%.

## CALENDAR of FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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February 11, 1995 - BURLPEX '95 the 14th annual exhibition and dealer bourse sponsored by the Burlington Stamp Club will be held at the Appley Mall (Corner of Appley Line & New Street, Burlington). Hours: 9:30 to 5:30. For further information, write Frank Haller, 430 Belvenia Road, Burlington, Ont. L7L - 2G6

PIPEX 1995 will be held at the Holiday Inn, 3020 Blanshard Street, Victoria, B.C. on June 2, 3, & 4, 1995. This exhibition and bourse is sponsored by the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs. Admission is by donation. Special show cachet and cancel. An open \*WSP\* Show. 15 page (8½ x 11) frames at \$7.50 per frame. Juniors 6 page frames at \$1.00 per exhibit. Exhibit information and prospectus from PIPEX 1995 Chairman, Box 5164 Station B, Victoria, B.C. V8R - 6N4

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Thirteen years after the "A" stamp, we have the star stamp: there is a blue star instead of a value on the 38¢ Greet More Christmas stamp, along with the four-line bar code. The booklet cover has a label glued onto it saying "10 Stamps" and a blue star; but hidden under the label it says "10 Stamps x 40¢ / \$4.00". Earlier in the year there were rumours of a domestic rate increase, so evidently Canada Post ordered the Greet More packs with 40¢ stamps and then changed the order. Why they changed to a star and not to a 38 is unclear, unless they were still hoping for an increase at the time the order was changed, and wanted to leave the value open. (This was the rationale behind the "A" stamp.) The booklet cover has a notation "For use in Canada only"; without a value, there is certainly no choice there.

The four Christmas stamps are quite attractive, something which has been consistently true for the last several years.

There is an error in the November/December Canada's Stamp Details and the Winter 1994 Collections of Canada Catalogue: all 1994 Christmas stamps are listed there on Coated Paper. In fact, only the 38¢, 50¢ and 88¢ stamp packs are on Coated Paper; all sheet stamps and the 43¢ stamp pack are on Peterborough paper, according to the stamp selvage and verified by visual inspection of the paper and gum compared to other stamps on the same papers. The correct papers are listed in the table with this column.

A Philakorea commemorative sticker (pane of 5 for \$1.00) was issued on August 16, 1994, for use on the Greeting Stamps.

CBN has now printed the seven Berries definitives on Coated Paper (CP). There is still no 1¢ on Harrison (H) paper. Printer, paper, denominations and issue dates for all three printings are:

A-P	CP	1¢-25¢:	92-08-05
CBN	H	2¢, 3¢, 25¢:	94-04-22
		5¢, 6¢, 10¢:	94-03-11
CBN	CP	1¢-25¢:	94-08-19

Differences between the first two printings were described in the 3rd Quarter 1994 *Topics*. The new CP printing is similar to the A-P CP printing in UV fluorescence, gum colour and paper transparency, and to the CBN H printing in colour and sheen; but the latter differences may be too slight to be useful. There are no differences in perforation. The following information is from Canada Post's booklet *Canada's Stamp Details*. Size, perforations and number of teeth are my own measurements, and are given as (HORIZONTAL) x (VERTICAL). All stamps are commemoratives with PVA gum and four-sided general tagging.

Data for the Christmas stamp packs are listed after the table.

Issue:	Int'l Civil Aviation	Prehistoric Mammals	Christmas (Sheets)	World War II
Value:	43¢	4 x 43¢ s-t	43¢ 50¢ 88¢	4 x 43¢ s-t
Issued:	16 Sept 1994	26 Sept 1994	3 Nov 1994	7 Nov 1994
Printer:	CBN	CBN	CBN	CBN
Quantity:	15 MM	17 MM	43¢: 44 MM 50¢,88¢: 9MM	10 MM
Size (mm):	26 x 40	45 x 33	30 x 36*	48 x 30
Paper:	CP	P	P	P
Process:	6CL	6CL	6CL	5CL
Pane:	25	20	50	16
Perf.:	13.1 x 13.0	13.3 x 13.3	13.3 x 13.3	13.3 x 13.3
Teeth:	17 x 26	30 x 22	20 x 24*	32 x 20

\* Vertical format (50¢ and 88¢); the 43¢ is horizontal format, so the dimensions and number of teeth are reversed.

#### Christmas stamp packs:

38¢: CBN; 5.07MM packs; size N/A x 26 mm; CP; 6CL; pane of 10; perf. 13.0 x 13.1; N/A x 17 teeth.

43¢: CBN; 3.06MM packs; 36 x N/A mm; P; 6CL; pane of 5 + label; perf. 13.3 x 13.3; 20 x N/A teeth.

50¢, 88¢: CBN; 0.81MM packs each; N/A x 36 mm; CP; 6CL; pane of 5 + label; perf. 13.3 x 13.3; N/A x 24 teeth.

ABBREVIATIONS: 5(6)CL = five (six) colour lithography; CBN = Canadian Bank Note Company; A-P = Ashton-Potter; CP = Coated Papers; MM = million; N/A = not applicable (depends on how the booklet was trimmed); P = Peterborough; s-t = se-tenant.

There is an error in Table 1 of this column in the Second Quarter 1994 *Topics*; the perforation for the 43¢ Flag SH & SP (10 & 25) A-P should be 13.6 x 13.1, not 13.3 x 13.1.

Jack Schmidt reports that there is a new printer and perforation (CBN, perf. 13.6 x 13.1) for the 43¢ Flag stamp packs of 10 and 25, and a new tagging variety for the 88¢ Westcot Apricot sheet stamps and stamp packs: both side bar and centre bar, OP-2 5mm. My copies have not arrived from Canada Post (my slip, not Canada Post's). A phone call to Antigonish produced a release date for both of these as Nov. 14, 1994.

## Readers Speak

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*This is a new column where the readers of TOPICS can express their views, ask questions, and add information to previously published articles.*

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August 26, 1994

Dear Vic Willson:

When I forwarded the copy of D. Karakasis, Director, Stamp Products Canada Post on May 26th, I was prepared to throw in the towel on the "Multi Line OCR" cancellations.

But, here is a copy of a letter forwarded by David Sessions, editor of the "Maple Leaves" in England.

It would be wonderful if the Canada Post would talk to the Royal Mail. It appears. I particularly draw your attention to the last paragraph of Ken Lake's letter and leave it to you as our editor what should be published in "BNA Topics" to persuade the Canada Post to talk to the Royal Mail and again provide an acceptable-to-collectors cancellation.

You are our editor, I leave it to you for any action. Yes, I have relayed the information to D. Karakasis in Ottawa, Canada.

Looking forward to a brighter future in Canadian collecting.

Sincerely,  
G. H. Churley

August 2, 1994

Dear Mr Sessions,

I am currently staying at the home of Mr Colin Banfield, where I have read recent issues of "Maple Leaves."

I was most interested in Mr Gerry Churley's letters (April and August 1994) and have taken up this matter with our own Royal Mail.

In Britain, ink-jet "OCR" optical recognition readers have been in use for some years, applying the information to the cover well away from the stamps.

Now, experimental Royal Mail ink-jet printers can apply traditional cancellations - with circular datestamp and slogan - to the stamp. These machines have not at present been put into post offices, but they will be once the technology has been perfected.

The aim is to continue to provide the type of postmark that the public, and collectors, expect. Canada Post indicates that it has given up this aim, and will stick to the present primitive "Multi-Line OCR" (which gives only a single line of text) for both information and cancellation of stamps.

I think Mr Churley has good cause to go back to Canada Post, and that his complaints should be strongly backed by all philatelic organizations with an interest in Canadian postal markings.

Yours sincerely,  
Kenneth R. Lake

November 8, 1994

Dear Mr Willson,

I was most interested in the article "Gold is where you find it" by Harry W. Lussey, that the example of the 5¢ RLS used in place of the 2¢ RLS, which was the first he had found.

Until this article was printed I had never placed much importance to a similar cover I have, as I recognized it as an example where regulations had been broken, something which is not uncommon in Canadian Philately.

Unfortunately my cover being blue does not photocopy too well, but good enough to see it was cancelled three times with the Harrison Type 4 "REGISTERED MR 15 83 HAMILTON CANADA." I cannot think that such a large office as Hamilton was short of the 2¢ RLS that it had to use a 5¢ RLS as Mr Lussey suggests the reason for his example, which sounds reasonable enough for TIVERTON a much smaller office than Hamilton.

Another possibility was that it was over half an ounce, and required 6¢ in postage, the 5¢ RLS and 3¢ s.q. making up the 8¢ rate for a Registered Letter of this weight. Whatever ones thoughts may be on the reason for these covers, they are nice to have.

Thanks for my NUGGET Harry.

Yours sincerely,  
A.S. (Sandy) Mackie



Sept. 12, 1994  
Dear Editor:

In his letter to the Editor in *Topics* Whole No. 460, Jeffrey Switt points out that the perforation measurement of a stamp appears to decrease as the perforation gauge itself expands with heat. He indicates that the information contained in my article "Perforation of the Large Queen Stamps of Canada" in *Topics* Whole No. 457 suggests the opposite.

There may be a difference of opinion as to how the names used in my article should be applied, such as in "The gauges will expand as the temperature rises and shrink as the room temperature falls. A corresponding larger or smaller perf. value (number of perfs.) will be read (included), since the stamp itself will not change in size, (measurably)." Substituting "number of perfs." for "perf. value" and "included" for "read" may make the initial intended meaning of the original text clearer.

A numerical example in the original article shows how a perf. measuring gauge includes more perfs. in its p. 12 scale as the p. 12 scale expands with an increasing temperature. For example, .012 more perfs. are included in the p. 12 scale as the temperature rises from 68° F. to 98° F. As a result, when then gauging a p. 12 stamp, a perf. value of 11.988 will be incorrectly indicated. A correction addition of .012 perfs. is required, since the measuring scale has been expanded by this amount, and so is needed to produce the precise  $11.988 + .012 =$  p. 12 value of the stamp.

The most important thing a collector should realize from the above is - thermal expansion and its effect on the Kiusalas and Instanta gauges is an academic field of microscopic philately. It may safely be ignored by stamp collectors.

S.J. Menich

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November 11, 1994  
Editor  
BNA Topics

Thank you for the review of "History of the Calgary Philatelic Society" in the last issue. I know authors should not respond to reviews but I wanted to elaborate on a comment you made about not listing winning exhibitors or exhibits in the history. Listing the exhibits would be a bit much, but certainly the reason why Grand Award winners were not listed was because the information was never recorded. The data were not in club minutes and documents, and there was no club bulletin at the time.

From there, let me go on to emphasize how important it is for clubs to keep proper records. I found, for example, that the Calgary P. S. had beautifully detailed minutes from 1922 to the 1950s. But in the 1960s to 1980s, the minutes degenerated to scribbling on pieces of scrap paper. Such scribbling was most uninformative, mostly things like "The auction was discussed" or "We will look for a new meeting place". Not much use to a historian. Memory cannot be relied on, and certainly did not exist for the early years where all the then-members are long since dead. I had members strongly asset that black is white or up is down, based on faulty memory. One example occurred when the club archives were temporarily misplaced, and the club celebrated its 40th anniversary in the wrong year, because the oldest members were not around at the beginning and were going by what they thought the founding members had told them twenty years earlier.

What does this have to do with BNAPS? The first thing that springs to mind is recording the history of Regional Groups. Since most Study Groups publish newsletters, they are not such a problem, but Regional Groups are poorly documented. When I went to write the history of the Calgary Regional Group, I was only able to scrape up a page of material to cover 40 year's history (which was used as an appendix in the C.P.S. history). Many of the Regional Groups are small, informal get-togethers in members' homes, with little or no business procedure, and thus the details are unlikely to be recorded. Some groups publish a bulletin or get a few notes in Regional Group Ramblings, which serves to preserve a bit of history. I suggest that Regional Groups make it a point to get down on paper a brief sketch of their history. Even if it cannot be a full-fledged history, at least get a few of the basic facts such as founding date, names of founders, where and when the meetings were, how the group operated (annual meeting? monthly in homes?), and any special projects done. I must emphasize that it should be on paper, and should be copied widely so that if one copy is lost, then other copies elsewhere will preserve the details. There is no point in hiding one copy away in someone's desk where no one else can see it and where it might be accidentally thrown out with the spring cleaning. Computer disks, by the way, are not acceptable for long-term storage, as twenty years from now the technology may not exist to read an old floppy, just as modern PCs cannot read punchcards.

Hard to believe, but I have met up with philatelists who lovingly research obscure postal routes and rate covers, but see no point in wasting paperwork on club minutes or keeping a copy of a show program for posterity. It may not seem important to you, but forty years on someone may be glad you did keep records. If nothing else, consider the fact that your name might be preserved for future generations; history does wonders for strong egos.

Dale Speirs

---

August 10, 1994

Dear Sir,

Ref. BNA Topics Vol 50, No. 3 Whole No. 455, May-June 1993  
Experimental Aerial Service Cairo-Baghdad by Walter Plomish

Enclosed is a copy of a Postal Stationery Envelope similar to the one illustrated in the above named article.

In this case the adhesive stamp is the 8 Anna overprint. The cover is endorsed Baghdad-Cairo Aerial Mail and was addressed to Toronto, Canada. The cancellations are Shaiba R---- 16 Jan 22, backstamped Baghdad HQ (?) 16 Jan 22.

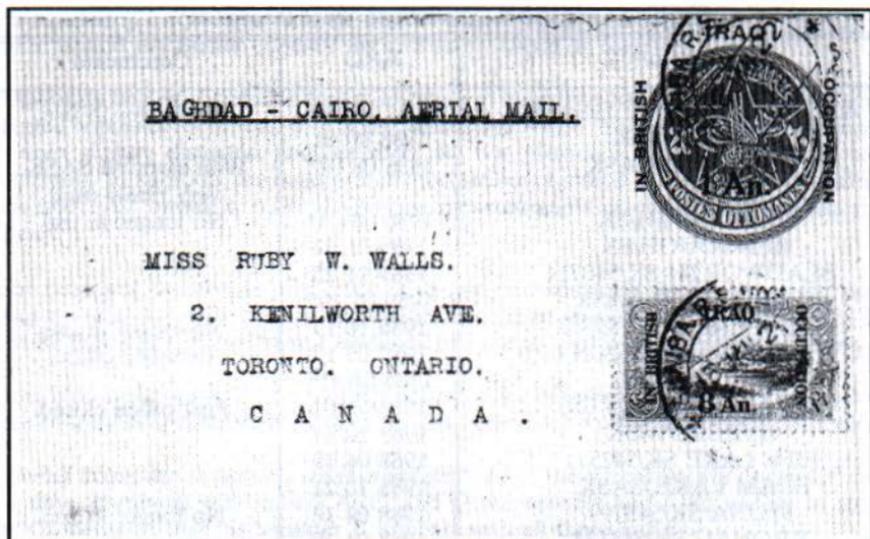
Sometime in its existence the cover had been folded in quarters so a cross-crease marks the envelope. Due, however, to the good quality card paper, the creases do not show up. Neither the imprinted stamp or the adhesive are affected by the folding.

I note the cover front shown in the article was posted at Shaiba on 10 Jan 22. It is possible that both letters may have flown on the same weekly/biweekly aircraft. As Mr. Plomish commented few items can have survived to or from Canada. I was lucky to notice the cover in, of all places, a model train shop in the Toronto area in 1992 (the owners wife collects stamps) and I made an offer to her for it.

The cover remained in my miscellaneous covers box until I could get round to sorting,

when I remembered the article.

Yours faithfully,  
A. Beecham, BNAPS Member



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The following is an update of the Table contained in the article "The Denise of the Steel Cancellor" by Bill Barry, *BNA Topics*, Whole No 458, Vol 51, No 1, JAN-FEB-MAR 1994 issue, Page 67. This update was submitted by William G. Robinson. The new dates are indicated by an asterisk (\*).

SASKATCHEWAN - New Style Steel Hammers

Inscription	ERD	Comments
ALLAN POST OFFICE/SASK	1987 10 29*	No longer in use.
ALLAN/SASK	1988 06 01	
BALGONIE/SASK	1986 08 07*	With inverted SASK., very rarely used.
BENGOUGH/SK	1986 08 05*	No longer in use.
BENGOUGH/SK.	1989 01 31	
BLADWORTH SK/540714	1989 11 25	
CARONPORT/SASK	1989 01 19*	
CENTRAL BUTTE/SK	1989 10 17	No longer in use.
CYPRESS HILLS SK/SON 0R0	1989 07 17	Summer office.
DELMAS/SK	1986 08 11*	
DOLLARD SK/SON 0S0	1988 10 01	Post office closed.
EYEBROW/SK	1989 10 17	
FIFE LAKE SK/542571	1988 04 19	
FOAM LAKE/SASK.	1985 10 21	
ITUNA SK/543799	1988 04 18	No longer in use.
KRONAU SK/544124	1988 04 19	
MACKLIN/SASK	1988 10 22	
MEACHAM/SK	1989 03 02	
MILESTONE SASK/SOG 3L0	1988 05 11	
NORTH BATTLEFORD SUB 1/SASK	1981	Date illegible, no longer in use.
PIERCELAND/SASK	1989 04 03	
PRINCE ALBERT SUB AUX 3/SASK.	1983 05 30	Post office closed.
QUINTON/SASK.	1985 07 16*	Now a franchise.
REWARD/SASK.	1986 12 01	
RICHARD SASK/SOM 2P0	1989 02 27	
RIVERHURST/SK	1989 09 19	Now a franchise.
ROSTHERN/SASK.	1985 05 07	
SCEPTRE/SASK.	1985 04 10	
SHEHO/SK	1989 08 01*	No longer in use.
SIMPSON/SASK	1986 09 24	Now a franchise, no longer in use.
SPRINGSIDE/SK	1989 02 02	Now a franchise, no longer in use.
TURTLEFORD/SK.	1988 11 28	
WATEROUS/SK	1990 01 25	No longer in use.
YOUNG SASK/549959	1988 03 13	

Following the publication of my comments on Lew Ludlow's hammer analysis of N-57 in "The R.P.O. Cowcatcher" column of *BNA Topics* Vol 50/5, I have received additional information from Bill Robinson, Ross Gray, Don Wilson, and Douglas Campbell. With their assistance I now have data on over 80 dated copies and consequently must correct and/or amend my earlier conclusions and suppositions as follows:-

\* Previously having concluded that there were at least four hammers, I have reexamined enlarged copies of more than fifty of the strikes and found that both copies of my hammer III were slightly distorted and, as such, do not provide a firm basis for my earlier conclusion. In addition, the condition of most strikes of indicia A deteriorates significantly from mid 1902 onwards, making accurate measurements of chordal dimensions rather difficult.

\* The presence or absence of the dot 'Y•T' appears spurious, depending on the quality of the strike and, on the basis of arguments previously propounded by Lew, I must share his view that a dot is insufficient evidence in itself to positively identify a hammer.

\* Don Wilson has not been able to produce evidence of indicia B; one cover with a double strike of indicia D resembles a B and the date coincides with that reported for indicia B.

\* Having taken the factors above into account, all of the strikes known to me fall clearly into three hammers with indicia A, C, and D respectively and I am unable to support Lew's conclusion that his hammer II appears with all three indicia.

\* Strikes of the reversed D indicia are dated between JY 27 02 and NO 21 02. Normal D strikes exist for JY 6 02 and JA 9 03, thus defining boundaries for the period of use of the reversed D.

\* Meyerson reported (*BNA Topics* May 62) indicia C in use from DE 15 99 to OC 25 02 and those dates have been perpetuated more recently in works by Pratt and Kidd/Cockrill. Could it be that a poor strike of the reversed D was mistaken as a C? It seems more than coincidental that the latter date falls within the period of the reversed D. Both of the August 99 dated copies of indicia C have the date and indicia slugs inverted. I suggest that the scarcity of known copies of indicia C might indicate that the hammer was destroyed in the wreck of January 27th 1900, resulting in the introduction of N-60 (N.&W. RAILWAY.T.P.O./NEWFD) some six months later.

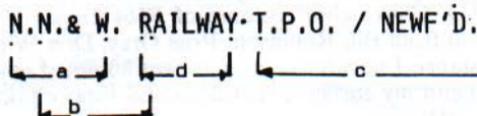
\* Investigation of the use of the three indicia identifies that A and D were used on all three sections of the line and on mail travelling in both directions. This indicates that the hammers were associated with the mail car, rather than with the mail clerks as was postulated previously.

In conclusion, may I thank Messrs. Campbell, Gray, Robinson, and Wilson for their invaluable contribution to this study. There is clearly scope for further analysis. Herewith a summary of my findings . . .

("Chordal Dimensions" and "Incidence of dated copies" on next page.)

# N-57 HAMMER ANALYSIS

## Chordal Dimensions:



HAMMER	'a'	'b'	'c'	'd'	INDICIA
I	9½	9+	8½	9½	A
II	8½	8½	9+	9½	D and rev'd D
III	9	9	8½	10+	C

Dimensions to nearest ½mm.

## Incidence of dated copies

	1898					1899					1900					1901					1902					1903									
	F	A	J	A	O	D	F	A	J	A	O	D	F	A	J	A	O	D	F	A	J	A	O	D	F	A	J	A	O	D	F	A	J	A	O
'A'						•••••						•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••			
'D'						•••••						•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••			
'O'																							•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••		
'C'																																			

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